



God Bless Our Troops
and Our Freedoms



Since 1990



My Fellow Elks,

I want to thank our members for a wonderful fiscal year, which ended on March 31st. During the last two years, I have watched our finances improve. Our donations to charities have improved and our member participation has grown.

More members are attending our functions and events, which helps us with our revenue generation and support for our charities.

One thing that has not grown sufficiently is our membership. In 2021 we had nearly 800 members. Our current active membership stands at 613. Fifty dollars of each dues payment goes towards our mortgage fund. We need about 170 more members to keep our mortgage account funded. During the past two years, a couple of our members made donations to the mortgage account, which kept it funded. Please help us by recruiting your friends and family to join us and our philanthropic endeavors and to keep our lodge financially solvent and to support our community charities.

As I begin my third year as exalted ruler, I want to inform everyone of the urgent need to recruit leaders for the next fiscal year. Our by-laws limit the terms of the Exalted Ruler and three Knights to a three-year term. Some have said just change the rules, but that works on the assumption that those in office would want to serve more than three years. Devoting three years of your life to the Elks is a task that should not be taken lightly. Most past Exalted Rulers have served one or two years at a time. Serving one year is not a difficult task, but it does require your time to attend district meetings and conventions.

I cannot be the ER next year, nor do I wish to be ER for another year. So, it is important that leaders come forward to maintain continuity. Continuity is achieved with the Exalted Ruler stepping into the 5-year Trustee position, which assures the passing on of knowledge to the next Exalted Ruler. The Elks have devised a good system with respect to leadership and continuity. As the Exalted Ruler it is my promise to the next leader to aid and assist the next ER to maintain our continuity of leadership.

A lot of people worked hard over the previous years to keep this Lodge going, especially during the period of Covid shutdowns. Many officers and members have devoted many hours to keep our lodge in existence by giving people a reason to attend. Be generous and reward their efforts with your patronage.

I believe our future has wonderful possibilities. There is great momentum and spirit within the lodge. I pray that there are members among us that have the same vision of a bright future.

It is only through a positive vision and positive attitudes that we can be successful, not only within the lodge, but in our own lives. Now is the time to come forward. Now is the time to learn. Now is the time to become the leader of our future.

Phil Boucher,
Exalted Ruler



Elks Care — Elks Share



2024-2025 Lodge Officers

Exalted Ruler	Phil Boucher
Leading Knight	Dianne Wilhelm (PDDGER)
Loyal Knight	George Bowden
Lecturing Knight	Maria Trapasso PER
Secretary	Gerri Holterhoff
Treasurer	Barbara Kneer
Esquire	Pete Thompson
Tiler	Jim Stoke
Inner Guard	Barbara Ogle
Chaplain	Carole Mancini
Mediator	Ron Hildebrandt (PDD)

Trustees

1 Year	Ron Cumming PER
2 Year	Karon Patterson
3 Year	Joe Ciresi
4 Year	Paula Rucket
5 Year	Tim Donovan

Past Exalted Rulers, Lodge #2753

Rufus Morse-Ellington	2022-2023
Darlene Seachrist	2020-2023
Steve Cicak	2020-2020
Pete Thompson	2019-2020
Dianne Wilhelm	2018-2019
Steve Cicak	2015-2018
Paul Perl	2014-2015
Pete Godshaw	2013-2014
Jeff Morse	2012-2013
Paul Carr	2011-2012
Ravis Prueitt	2010-2011
Maria Trapasso	2009-2010
Richard Cooke	2007-2009
Ronald Cumming	2005-2007
John Bauman	2003-2005
Charles Prindle	2002-2003
Robert J. Tuyls	2001-2002
Elenor Leoce	2000-2001
Roy Conrad	1999-2000
Carl Hoke	1998-1999
Elenor Leoce	1997-1998
James Douglas	1996-1997
Jimmie Sayger	1995-1996
James Douglas	1994-1995
Robert Distlecamp	1993-1994
Greg Grothe	1991-1993
E. Brent Snodgrass	1990-1991
Rex Sims	Interim-1990

PERS at other lodges, now members

William Lucek	1982
Darwin Mueller	1984
David Wiggin	2007
Deanna Wiggin	2009
Lawrence Gibbs	2019

Committees

Auditing & Accounting

Dean Martin
 Denis Avagliano
 Frank LaBletta

Activities

Phil Boucher

Entertainment

Phil Boucher

Hoop Shoot

Phil Boucher

Soccer Shoot

Phil Boucher

Drug Awareness

Phil Boucher

Flag Day

Phil Boucher

Veterans Day

Phil Boucher

Elks Memorial Day

Phil Boucher

Volunteers

Pete Thompson PER

Membership

Pete Thompson PER

Orientation

Tim Donovan

Public Relations

Shirley Thompson

Government Relations

Phil Boucher

FRATERNAL COMMITTEES

Accident Prevention

Rufus Morse-Ellington PER

Americanism

Phil Boucher

By-Laws

BOD

Elks National Foundation

Jim Rolfes

Investigating Committee

Dale Sayset

Local Charitable Projects

Dianne Wilhelm PDDGER

Judith MacGregor

Lodge Advisor

Dianne Wilhelm PDDGER

PER Association

Dianne Wilhelm PDDGER

Maria Trapasso PER

Pete Thompson PER

Rufus Morse-Ellington PER

Scholarships

Nancy Bloodgood

Standing Relief

BOD

Veteran's Services

Dale Sayset

Presiding Justice of Local Forum

Ed Toth

Harry-Anna Foundation

Phil Boucher

REGARDING RESERVATIONS

Member's Lounge dinner reservations:
 Call 239-947-2753, options #3 or 4.
 Please call no later than 2pm on the day
 before your requested reservation.

Call 239-947-2753
 Banquet Hall Rentals: Option 6
 Secretary: Option 3
 Treasurer: Option 4
 Exalted Ruler: Option 6

Beacon Boosters

Thank you for your support
 Earl Graylock
 Jane Southmore

Be a Beacon Booster

Only \$10 per Month or \$120 per Year

Per Statute Section 14.190:
 Delinquent or dropped members are
 not allowed in the lodge at any time.
 Also, current members are not
 permitted to bring former Elks as
 guests into the lodge.



May

Lounge Entertainment Schedule

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Closed	BOD Meeting 5pm Membership Meeting (BR) 7pm	Line Dance Class 11am Tacos 5pm Show me the Money 6pm Karaoke 7:30pm	Closed	Karaoke with Phil Bee 6pm QoH 8:15pm Dinner 5-7pm	Open 4pm Joe Sassarini 6pm	Open 4pm Derby Night 6pm Dinner 5pm Pop Rox 6pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Closed	 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day	Cinco de Mayo 4pm Line Dance 8pm	Closed	Karaoke with Phil Bee 6pm QoH 8:15pm Dinner 5-7pm	Open 4pm Dinner 5-7pm Joe Sassarini 6pm	Open 4pm Dinner 5-7pm Ron Spataro 6pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
 Mother's Day Brunch 10am	Closed	Closed	Closed	Karaoke 6pm QoH 8:15pm Dinner 5-7pm	 Peace Officers Day Open 4pm Joe Sassarini 6pm	 Armed Forces Day Open 4pm Manhattan Connection 6pm Dinner 5-7pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Closed	BOD Meeting 5pm Orientation 5:30pm Membership Meeting (BR) 7pm	Closed	Closed	Karaoke 6pm QoH 8:15pm Dinner 5-7pm	Open 4pm Dinner 5-7pm Joe Sassarini 6pm	Open 4pm Harry Boyle 6pm Dinner 5-7pm
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Closed	 Memorial Day Picnic 11am	Closed	Closed	Karaoke 6pm QoH 8:15pm Dinner 5-7pm	Open 4pm Dinner 5-7pm Joe Sassarini 6pm	Open 4pm Dinner 5-7pm Johnny & Patti Revue 6pm

For Reservations Call 239-947-2753 Option #3

This Month in History—The Founding of our Nation

As ER, I am starting a new article about the history of the American Revolution. I hope you will find these articles interesting and informative.

- 01 May 1776 Skirmish at Fort Johnson. British Victory. NC
General Sir Henry Clinton ordered the fort destroyed once again, while his ships remained offshore.
- 06 May 1776 Skirmish at Plains of Abraham. British Victory. Canada
- 08 May 1776 Naval Engagement at Wilmington. American Victory. DE
- 11 May 1776 Raid on Orton Mill and Kendal Plantation. British Victory. NC
Night raid on a bridge near Orton, next day attacked Col. Robert Howe's plantation - Kendal, then burned a mill.
- 12 May 1776 Skirmish at Cockspur Island. British Victory GA
- 15 May 1776 Battle of the Cedars (Les Cèdres). British Victory Canada
A minor skirmish that resulted in the American garrison being captured without a fight. Part of the Invasion of Quebec Campaign of 1775-76
- 17 May 1776 Skirmish at Nantasket Road. American Victory MA
- 17 May 1776 Skirmish at Brunswick Town. British Victory NC
Brigadier General Charles, Lord Cornwallis with 900 men on a night mission to take Brunswick Town - only to find it abandoned.
- 19 May 1776 Skirmish at Nantasket Road. American Victory MA
- 19 May 1776 Skirmish at Charlestown Harbor. British Victory SC
HMS Pensacola Packet attempted to sound Charleston Harbor.
- 23 May 1776 Skirmish at Fort Johnston British Victory NC
During a terrible storm, Patriots attacked the British who now possessed the fort once again.
- 25 May 1776 Battle of Saint-Pierre American Victory Canada
Part of the Invasion of Quebec Campaign of 1775-76

These events highlight the strategic and tactical decisions that played a crucial role in the early stages of the American Revolution.



WE WANT YOU TO VOLUNTEER

Bonita Springs Estero Elks Lodge#2753

**Contact the Lodge office
Phone: 239-947-2753 Option #3**

Kentucky Derby Day

with Bonita Springs Estero Elks Lodge #2753

Saturday May 2 2026



***Kentucky Derby Post Time
Approximately 6:57 pm ET***

***Ladies BEST HAT Competition
50/50 Raffle and A lot More Fun***

Dance to the Music of

POP RoX



6-9pm

***Antonio's Scratch Kitchen
Saturday Evening Menu***

**Call the Office for Dinner Reservations
239-947-2753 Option #3 or 4**

***Purchase Dinner From 5-7pm
Doors open 4pm Cash Bar***

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

with Bonita Springs Estero Elks Lodge #2753

Tuesday May 5, 2026

Antonio's Scratch Kitchen

**Tacos and
Quesdillas**

*Purchase
Dinner From 5-7pm*

Doors open 4pm Cash Bar

**Show Me the
Money at 6pm
Karaoke at
7:30pm**

**In honor
of Cinco de Mayo
Mexican apparel
optional**

**This will be the
Last Tuesday Night
Event Until
January 2027**





ANTONIO'S SCRATCH KITCHEN

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Celebrate Mom with a beautiful brunch experience

BRUNCH BUFFET

Roasted Turkey Breast with Savory Gravy

Fresh Green Beans

Tossed Seasonal Salad

Assorted Danish & Pastries

Dinner Rolls with Butter

Made-to-Order Omelette Station

Classic French Toast

Crispy Bacon & Sausage

Roasted Breakfast Potatoes

BEVERAGES

Freshly Brewed Coffee & Tea

Chilled Orange Juice

Mimosa Fountain

\$25 PER PERSON

PLEASE CALL FOR RESERVATIONS – ELKS LODGE

Call 239-947-2753 Ext. 4

May 10th (Mother's Day)

Bonita Springs Estero Elks Lodge
Celebrates Memorial Day
Monday May 25, 2026

\$10 per person
Members and Guests

Ceremony 11am
Meal Noon to 2pm

Hamburgers
and Hot Dogs
on the Grill

Coordinate with
the Lodge for
a side dish or
dessert to share



RSVP by May 21st
239-947-2753 Option #3 or 4

Join us for Entertaining Evenings:

Our Summer Hours

May through December

Thursdays Fridays and Saturdays

Thursday Nights 4pm

Bar Menu 5-7pm

Karaoke 6pm, Queen of Hearts 8:15

Friday Nights 4pm

Live entertainment with Joe Sassarini

Bar Menu 5-7pm

Saturday Nights 4pm

Live entertainment (See Calendar)

Dinner Served

Your Involvement Helps

If you'd like to assist with event planning or getting involve with committees or the operations of our lodge, please contact the ER by calling 239-947-2753, ext. 6 to be a part of the team.



Kentucky Derby, May 2nd 5-9pm

Cinco de Mayo - May 5th 5-9pm

Mother's Day Brunch - May 10th 10am

Memorial Day Picnic, May 25th 11am

Flag Day Ceremony June 14th 11am

See the Weekly Blast for more details.

Welcome New Members

We Welcome our new members who joined last month.

Alyce Spallone
Dr. Joseph Gradowski
Denise Poppen
Cheryl Scibetta
Mark Tonnesen
Gerald Rantanen

Bonnie Fenton
Geraldine Holterhoff
William Poppen
Mary Ann Johnson
Marcia Policastri
David Thorell

To Our Absent Members

Member	Date Passed
LaBonte, Louis A	4/16/2026
Henry Anderson	3/10/2026
Howard Gump	1/26/2026
Ronald Seink	1/23/2026
James Williams	12/7/2025
Patrick Morroney	7/30/2025

Bonita Springs-Estero
Elks Lodge #2753
3231 Coconut Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Office: 239-947-2753
Email: bpoe2753@comcast.net
Visit our website:
<http://www.bpoe2753.com>
Like us on Facebook at:
Bonita Springs-Estero Elks Lodge #2753



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Our newsletter is read by over 800 members each month

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