



God Bless Our Troops and Our Freedoms



Since 1990



My Fellow Elks,

We've made it through another year, and I have committed to another year as your Exalted Ruler. I am looking forward to this year which I expect to be better than the last. There is energy and excitement within the lodge which I would like to see continue. I want to tap into this energy and have more people become involved by taking a lead on a committee. Many of the committees are currently chaired by the ER because nobody has volunteered to help with these committees. It doesn't take a lot of effort to chair a committee, especially if you have your friends help you with it. I will be approaching many individuals in the coming weeks about these chair positions. I would like to see more people take a bit of the load.

This last year has been a very good year, financially. Our baseline finances continue to improve. We have addressed our catering needs and our entertainment needs. I believe we have everything in order to be more successful this year than last year. One important aspect of our lodge is friendliness. I am please when new members and returning members report to me how friendly and inviting the lodge is. It is up to us to share our joy about our club with others.

One of the things we need to address is our membership. Our current membership is hovering around 600, but this number needs to be at 780. This number is based on our dues structure and mortgage commitment. I encourage you to invite your friends to visit with you and become members of our organization.

It pays to be a member. The savings our members experience are often hidden. Our dues amount to about \$2.70 per week. A glass of wine at a local restaurant will cost you around \$14 plus tax and tip. A glass of wine at our lodge will cost you \$5, a savings of \$9. So, with the money you save on each glass of wine, you've saved enough to pay for your dues and you'll have free entertainment!

We do not charge our members for entertainment. When you go to dinner where there is entertainment, there is typically a cover charge, or a surcharge embedded in the cost of your food and drinks.

Businesses must cover their expenses. Our lodge is no different. The cost of entertainment is paid through your purchases at the bar. No cover charges are forced on our members. I am doing what I can to keep our costs down and our lodge profitable. Only when our lodge is profitable can we support our local charities. So, I am asking our members to please support your lodge through purchases and donations on a regular basis.

You can support our charities by donating at your lodge and even designate it to the charity of your choice. The Elks are centered on supporting our Veterans, Elk's charities and local charities. Your support is our only method of their support. Please give generously.

Let's look forward to our next year with eagerness. Together we can be a beacon to our community.

Have a Happy Easter and stay safe.

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	Karen Sizemore
Treasurer	Barbara Kneer
Esquire	Pete Thompson
Tiler	James Stoke
Inner Guard	Barbara Ogle
Chaplain	Carole Mancini
Mediator	Dale Sayset

Trustees

1 Year	Ron Cumming
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 4
 Secretary: Option 3
 Treasurer: Option 4
 Exalted Ruler: Option 6




<p><u>Beacon Boosters</u> Thank you for your support Earl Graylock Jane Southmore</p> <p>Be a Beacon Booster Only \$10 per Month or \$120 per Year</p> <p>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</p>
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April

Lounge Entertainment Schedule

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			Open 4pm Line Dance 6pm	Karaoke 6pm QoH 8:15pm Dinner 5-7pm	Open 4pm Dinner 5-7pm Chicago Heat 6pm	Open 4pm Ron Spataro 6pm Dinner 5-7pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Happy Easter	 Closed	Line Dance Class 11am Tacos 5pm Show me the Money 6pm Karaoke 7:30pm	Open 4pm Line Dance 6pm	 Karaoke with Phil Bee 6pm QoH 8:15pm Dinner 5-7pm	Open 4pm Dinner 5-7pm Lakeshore Sound 6pm	Open 4pm Dinner 5-7pm Johnny & Patti Revue 6pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Closed	Orientation 5:30pm Membership Meeting (BR) 7pm	Line Dance Class 11am Tacos 5pm Show me the Money 6pm Karaoke 7:30pm	Open 4pm Line Dance 6pm	Karaoke with Phil Bee 6pm QoH 8:15pm Dinner 5-7pm	Open 4pm Dinner 5-7pm Jersey Beat 6pm	Open 4pm Dinner 5-7pm Joe Sassarini 6pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Closed	 Closed	Line Dance Class 11am Tacos 5pm Show me the Money 6pm Karaoke 7:30pm	Open 4pm Line Dance 6pm	Karaoke with Phil Bee 6pm QoH 8:15pm Dinner 5-7pm	Open 4pm Dinner 5-7pm Harry Boyle 6pm	Open 4pm Manhattan Connection 6pm Dinner 5-7pm
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	Open 4pm	Karaoke with Phil Bee 6pm QoH 8:15pm Dinner 5-7pm		

For Reservations Call 239-947-2753 Option #3

This Month in History—The Founding of our Nation

As ER, I am hosting an article each month about the history of the American Revolution. I hope you will find these articles interesting and informative.

April 1776

April 1776 was an important month in American history, marked by significant events that contributed to the American Revolution. Here are some notable occurrences from this month in 1776:

06 Apr 1776 British Victory Brunswick County NC

Skirmish at Brunswick Town. For three weeks, British foraging parties attacked the locals, while picking up refugees from the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge.

06 Apr 1776 American Victory Washington County RI— Skirmish at Block Island

Capt. Esek Hopkins' naval fleet experienced a final encounter when the *HMS Glasgow* sailed into their midst after midnight on April 6. The ensuing pitched battle lasted for 3 hours, with British Capt. Tryingham Howe displaying superior seamanship in a series of bold moves. Though greatly outnumbered, the *Glasgow* inflicted 24 American casualties while only suffering 4 of her own, and its guns knocked out the *USS Alfred's* wheel block and raked that ship's deck with shot. During the battle, Howe threw overboard dispatches he was carrying from Gen. William Howe in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Gen. Henry Clinton. Although badly damaged, the *Glasgow* escaped.

14 Apr 1776 British Victory Hyde County NC

Skirmish at Ocracoke Inlet. Patriot Schooner Polly captured by Virginia Royalist sloop Lilly.

17 Apr 1776 American Victory VA. USS Lexington vs. HMS Edward

On April 17, Capt. John Barry, in command of the *USS Lexington*, battled with the British sloop *HMS Edward*. Although Barry's ship had more guns than the *Edward*, the British had more experience. The *Lexington* endured heavy battering and 4 casualties but inflicted severe damage to the *Edward's* sails and rigging. The *Edward* finally struck her colors, and Barry thus became the first American naval captain to capture a British ship in actual combat. A wealthy Philadelphia ship owner, Barry had been master of the *USS Alfred*, now under Capt. Esek Hopkins's command, before the Revolutionary War.

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

Tacos and Quesdillas

Served in Addition to Antonio's Scratch Kitchen Tuesday Evening Menu

*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**



Mother's Day

Elks Lodge

Sunday Brunch

Continental Breakfast Selection

- Freshly Baked Pastries & Muffins
- Assorted Bagels & Cream Cheese
- Seasonal Fresh Fruit Display

Chef-Attended Omelette & Egg Station

- Made-to-Order Omelettes & Eggs
- Selection of Fresh Fillings
- Chef on Site

Brunch Favorites

- Crispy Bacon & Savory Sausage
- Roasted Breakfast Potatoes
with Sauteed Onions

Chef's Entrée

- Chicken Entrée
- *Chef's Monthly Selection*

Seasonal Sides

- Seasonal Garden Salad
- Choice of House Dressings
- Grilled Seasonal Vegetables

Beverages

- Fresh Orange Juice
- Freshly Brewed Coffee
- Assorted Teas
- Mimosas \$5

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

\$20 plus tax & gratuity

May 10th (Mother's Day)

Join us for Entertaining Evenings:

Tuesday Nights

Tacos & More, Show Me the Money & Karaoke

Wednesday Nights

Country Night - Line Dancing

Thursday Nights

Bar Food, Karaoke, Queen of Hearts

Friday Nights

Live entertainment, Dinner Served

Saturday Nights

Live entertainment, 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.

Andrew Root
DeAnn Suchy
William Hodges
Jerry Anderson
Todd Reinhart
Robert Wigand

Richard Erdahl
Rosemary Jones
Joy Oatley
John Golon
Mathew Stinger

To Our Absent Members

Member	Date Passed
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
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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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