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January 2024  
Volume 79, Issue 2

# Colorado Elks Association

## Lucky 24

State President Geff McDaniel

Greetings Colorado Elks! We have turned the page into 2024! The Elks kicked off the year with an appearance in the Tournament of Roses Parade. I hope everyone had the chance to see the Elks float.

Once again, the CEA will participate in the National Western Stock Show. The big event puts our brand in front of hundreds of thousands of spectators, promoting the programs of the Elks.

Another image builder we can participate in is the Denver St Patrick's Day Parade. If you want to participate, send me an email.

2024 is also a leap-year! Lucky me I get to be CEA president for 1 extra day! So, on the 29th of February make an on-line donation to ENF for \$20.24 or \$24 and you will guarantee good luck for the next 4 years.

The Olympic games also return in 2024. To celebrate the CEA will have "ENF Games" at the January quarterly meeting.



## Just Ask!

1st Vice President Elevinio "JR" Cruz

Hola Members,

Hope you had a great holiday season and was able to spend time with your family. As Elks, it was a great time to volunteer and show what Elksdom is truly all about. Many lodges held fundraisers, gave food baskets, prepared boxes for our military, veterans, and homeless, along with several other great community service. Thank you each and one of you for your love of the community and your lodge. (continued p 15)



## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

### President

Geff McDaniel  
Englewood 2122

### First Vice President

Elevinio Cruz  
Leadville 236

### Second Vice President

Dennis Morgan  
Pueblo 90

### Third Vice President

Terry Gaber  
Greeley 809

### Secretary

John Hutson  
Greeley 809

### Treasurer

Frank Sommer  
Littleton 1650

### State Sponsor

PGER John Amen  
Colorado Springs 309

## DISTRICT TRUSTEES

### Chair

Robert Keyser  
Littleton 1650

### Vice Chair

John Beach  
Fort Morgan 1143

Shirley Tipton  
Aspen 224

Julie Wesseling  
Ouray 492

Dan Daigle  
Arvada 2278

Fred Sola  
Trinidad 181

## PSP, Board of Directors

Ron Carpenter  
Creede 506

### JANUARY 26

Doubletree Colorado Springs  
1:30pm State Trustees meeting  
2:00pm CEA Board of Directors Meeting

## CEA BANQUET THEME

### ENF Games

Celebrate your favorite sports teams by wearing their colors or uniforms!

In memory of the One Year Anniversary of the Club Q Shooting

**FREE SCREENING!**

Friday  
January 26th

8:30pm

Doubletree Colorado Springs

WINNER BEST DOCUMENTARY

WINNER WORLD FILM FESTIVAL

WINNER American Golden Picture International Film Festival 2022

**SURVIVING PULSE**  
Life after a mass shooting  
pulsedocumentary.com

Organization of the CEA  
Diversity, Equity,  
Inclusion, & Belonging

QR code for more information

[www.Colorado Elks Association.org](http://www.Colorado Elks Association.org)



**CEA First Lady  
Ellen McDaniel**

## Plot Twist!

Greetings!

I'd like to thank everyone who made the spouse's activities fun at the Fall Quarterly! I have thank you cards (along with Christmas cards and change of address cards) buried on my desk.

One of my favorite memes is along the lines of "whenever you're thrown a curve ball, yell 'Plot Twist!' and move on." At the time of the Fall Quarterly, Geff and I expected to be in our new house in a week, maybe two. Since then, we've had several plot twists: we've essentially moved twice and welcomed Geff's mother earlier than expected into our new home. While we've gone from five storage units down to two, I'm behind in communications and planning. Hopefully, though, we've had the last plot twist for a while.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Colorado Springs for the Winter Quarterly. The theme is "ENF Games" and in the spirit of games, we are encouraging everyone to wear their favorite sports team colors/jersey/etc. to the banquet (it doesn't have to be a professional team--if you children/grandchildren's soccer team is your favorite team--wear what you have to support them!).

The most recent plot twist was when I went to look up our Saturday activity, and I discovered that the place I wanted to visit had closed since I checked it out last year. Instead, if anyone would like to spend some time with the spouses, please bring your favorite board game, and let's plan to meet at 10am...or just show up and join one of the existing games. The theme for the brunch will be along the games line and I look forward to seeing everyone there!

### **Winter Quarterly Spouses' Activities:**

*Bring On the Board Games!, Saturday 10am, Room TBD*

*Spouses' Breakfast, Sunday 9am, Windows Room*

#### **THE COLORADO ELKS ASSOCIATION**

is a non-profit fraternal organization operated under the direction of its elected officers and trustees.

It is a part of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

The official Association mailing address is  
825 Lowrey Lane  
Berthoud CO 80513

The COLORADO ELKS NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by the Colorado Elks Association under the direction of its officers and trustees.

Lodges are encouraged to submit news articles, photos and all correspondence to:

**EDITOR**  
Cynthia Wyszynski  
PO Box 447  
Norwood, CO 81423

email: [CEApublicity@gmail.com](mailto:CEApublicity@gmail.com)

970-708-4803

## **It's Gonna Be GREAAAAAT!**

**2nd Vice President Dennis Morgan**

2024 is going to be a great year for the ELKS!

I hope that you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As we begin this new year, the next few weeks are going to be busy. The National Western Stock show begins Saturday, January 6th thru January 21st. The Colorado Elks association will have a booth this year. Come by the booth and say hello.

The Winter quarterly is January 26th thru 28<sup>th</sup>. We will have the Texas and New Mexico State presidents making a visit to our quarterly. Hope you can come and meet them. There will be breakout sessions for everyone. Drug Awareness, Business Practices, Government Relations, Ritual, E.N.F., Lodge Secretaries, Americanism, Major Projects, Hoop Shoot, Veterans Service, Soccer Shoot and many more. Hope to see you there!

The Colorado State Elks Hoop Shoot will be holding the finals competition on Saturday, February 24th, in Salida. The competition will be held at the Salida High School gym at 9am. come and support our kids.

The new year is coming for those who will be Exalted Ruler and Officers of the Lodge. Now is the time to prepare your committees and appointed officers.

It was exciting see the BPOE Elks float, in this year's Tournament of Roses Parade. I thought it was great! Hope you were able to see it.



## MEET NEW MEXICO STATE PRESIDENT ANDREW HOUSELY!

I am Andrew Housley, President of the New Mexico Elks Association and I cannot wait to spend time with the great Elks of Colorado this month!

I have been an Elk for 14 years now of the Silver City Elks Lodge 413 in beautiful southern New Mexico, and have loved every moment.

As a single Dad of four - a twenty two year old son serving as a US Marine, and three daughters—the Elks have played a special roll in my family's lives for which I am eternally grateful.

My motto for New Mexico this year has been "Pass the Torch". Passing on our tradition, legacy, values and passion for charity has been my call since becoming a member. To ensure my children, and someday grandchildren, have opportunity in being members of the greatest organization in the nation.

My primary goal has been to bring in new members and involve current members in all aspects of what we do and to see new leaders rise to the occasion and take the lead.

So as we gather this month be sure to stop me, get a pin, and light the fires of Elkdom in everyone you meet!



## A Different Way To Give 3rd Vice President Terry Gaber



Greeting to all of our Elk Friends!

Gloria and I, as of this writing, have completed eleven of

our fourteen visits.

What a super great time we have had visiting your Lodges. Thank you all for your wonderful hospitality and fun times. The visitations have been special times in our lives. Thank you all again for accepting us into your Lodges' activities .

This is a great time to let JR and Dennis and myself know if you would like to be a District Committee Chairman or a State Committee Chairman. There are many committees in our state and if one is one you would like to get involved with, let us know.

We will do our best to get you more involved with the CEA activities.

I started out as CEA Americanism Chairman in 2009, and look where I am now, going through the Vice President chairs.

Hopefully one day to be the President of the Colorado Elks Association. Remember, the more you put into the Elks the more you get back. Elks Care, Elks Share.

What better way to demonstrate this than by donating blood? Every pint of blood donated helps save three lives. Who knows, the life you save could be your own or a member of your family.

My Lodge in Greeley, has organized an Elks donation recognition site with UC Health. When we donate blood we let them know this is in the name of the Elks and the blood donor bank keeps a record of Elks donating.

I go in in to donate and they give me a list of Elks who have donated and I put that in an article in our newsletter, giving recognition to our donating members. If you are on medications and feel that you can not donate, check with your donor facility. The accept blood even if you are on medication, ie blood pressure, cholesterol and so on. Soooo... don't delay - give blood, donate today.

Have a great 2004 and in September the guy with the handle bar mustache would really appreciate your vote.

## Celebrate Diversity with Johnny Humphrey



The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Committee is excited to host Johnny Humphrey — Director of Inclusivity Services at the Center on Colfax — at **two** Winter Quarterly breakout sessions.

Mr. Humphrey will present *LGBTQ+ Basics* at 9:30am. He will discuss basic language and terminology, while creating a safe space for questions. He will cover the differences between sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as expand on the additional identities that fall under the LGBTQ+ umbrella. Johnny will also discuss the importance of pronoun usage and their impact on transgender and gender expansive people.

At 3:00 pm we'll take a deeper dive into the impacts of heteronormativity and cisnormativity, explain the "coming out" and "transition" processes, dispel harmful myths about the LGBTQ+ community, and explore ways to support the LGBTQ+ community through allyship. This may be the first time that you've had the opportunity to learn about and discuss the LGBTQ+ community in a safe, judgement-free zone. We hope that you'll take advantage of these workshops and attend both sessions.

For more information about the Center on Colfax, visit [gltcolorado.org](http://gltcolorado.org).

**Colorado Elks Association, Inc.**  
**Winter Quarterly Meeting at the Double Tree Hotel**  
**Committee Meeting Schedule**  
**Saturday, January 27, 2024**

	Teller	Pikes Peak	Peubo	Seven Falls	Royal Gorge
8:30	<b>Government Relations Business Practices</b>  2 HRS  Ann Marie Keyser Jim Keyser  <i>McDaniel/Gaber</i>	<b>Elk &amp; Officer Training</b> Steve Rysdam  <i>President McDaniel</i>		<b>Drug Awareness</b> Tom Chambers  <i>1st VP Cruz</i>	<b>VETERANS SERVICES</b>  2 HRS  Troy Erickson  <i>1st VP Cruz</i>
9:30		<b>Diversity, Equity and Inclusion</b> Art Terrazas  <i>2nd VP Morgan</i>	<b>Clem &amp; Evelyn Audin</b> David McKinney  <i>3rd VP Gaber</i>	<b>Risk Management Accident Prevention</b> Steve Nelson  <i>2nd VP Morgan</i>	
10:30	<b>Leadership Resources</b> Jeannette Rogers  <i>President McDaniel</i>	<b>Youth Activities</b> Kirk Sales Maggie Rysdam  <i>1st VP Cruz</i>	<b>Lodge Activities</b> Cindy Curry-Olson  <i>3rd VP Gaber</i>	<b>CEA Camp Laradon</b> Bob Keyser Alice Hilzer  <i>2nd VP Morgan</i>	<b>Elk National Foundation</b> Larry Herrera  <i>1st VP Cruz</i>
11:30	<b>Break for Lunch</b>				
1:00	<b>Public Relations</b> Cindy Wyszynski  <i>President McDaniel</i>	<b>NWSS Catch-a-Calf</b> Dana Priola Kenny Burns  <i>2nd VP Morgan</i>	<b>Sustainability</b> Brett Nelson  <i>3rd VP Gaber</i>	<b>Ritual</b>  2 HRS  Steve Rysdam  <i>1st VP Cruz</i>	<b>Elk/Officer of the Year</b> Kathy Yost  <i>2nd VP Morgan</i>
2:00		<b>Meetings Comm. Lodge Secretaries</b>  2 HRS  John Beach Bill Hartless  <i>1st VP Cruz</i>	<b>Hoop Shoot Soccer Shoot</b> Brandon Wilkins Cory Bungard <i>VP Cruz/VP Gaber</i>		<b>PAST STATE PRESIDENTS</b>
3:00	<b>Diversity Q &amp; A</b>		<b>Membership</b> Ruth Grainger  <i>2nd VP Morgan</i>		<b>DD/DL MEETING</b>
4:00					

- |   |
|---|
| <b>Hospitality Suite</b> Friday & Saturday 4pm to 11pm - <b>Coffee &amp; Donuts</b> -- Saturday & Sunday 7am to 8:15 am - <b>Three Creeks</b> |
| <b>Saturday Banquet -Freemont/El Paso/Douglas</b> - Cash Bar 6:30pm - Banquet 7:00pm  |
| <b>Non-Denominational Worship Service -Academy/Pikes Peak/Palmer</b> - Sunday 7:45am  |
| <b>General Session -Academy/Pikes Peak/Palmer</b> - Sunday 8:30am   |
| <b>Ladies Brunch -Windows-</b> Sunday 9:00am  |

FREE SCREENING - Surviving Pulse: Life After a Mass Shooting - Friday 8:30pm - Room TBD

**FRIDAY, January 26th**

**1:30 pm** State Trustees Meeting

**2pm** Board of Directors Meeting

All members welcome

# WINTER 2024 QUARTERLY

## Break Out!

8:30am

**Teller: Government Relations / Business Practices**

- have all your questions answered about Raffles
- on site demo of proper pours
- intro to budgeting

**Pikes Peak: Elk & Officer Training**

- election & nomination procedures
- intro to budgeting

**Seven Falls: Drug Awareness**

**Royal Gorge: Veterans Services**

- Winter Sports Clinic
- Family Readiness Program & Survivors Outreach Program



9:30am

**Pikes Peak: Diversity Equity Inclusion & Belonging**

- LGBTQ+ Basics with Johnny Humphrey (Part 1)

**Pueblo: Clem & Evelyn Audin Fund**

- presentation by Leah Audin

**Seven Falls: Risk Management & Accident Prevention**

- keeping hackers at bay & beefing up cyber security



10:30am

**Teller: Leadership Resources**

- the ongoing requirements of being a Lodge

**Pikes Peak: Youth Activities**

- scholarship season

**Pueblo: Lodge Activities**

- keeping your members active

**Seven Falls: Laradon & the CEA Camp**

- Gearing up for the April Fundraising

**Royal Gorge: Elks National Foundation**

- Putting the FUN back into FUNdraising



1:00pm

**Teller: Public Relations**

- learn how to use Canva to spruce up your graphics

**Pikes Peak: NWSS & Catch-a-Calf**

- mooooooo - wrapping it up

**Pueblo: Sustainability**

- Adopt-A-Highway & Utility Bill Reduction Program

**Seven Falls: Ritual**

- If you know, you know. If you don't, come find out.

**Royal Gorge: Elk & Officer of the Year**

- A great way to celebrate our members



2:00pm

**Pikes Peak: Secretaries & Meetings Commission**

- Y'all have So. Much. To. Do!

**Pueblo: Hoop Shoot & Soccer Shoot**

- Game On!

**Royal Gorge: Past State Presidents**

- super secret meeting of the PSPs



3:00pm

**Teller: Diversity Equity Inclusion & Belonging**

- LGBTQ+ Basics with Johnny Humphrey (Part 2)

**Pueblo: Membership**

- No more messing around! The membership clock is running out!

**Royal Gorge: District Deputies / District Leaders**

- even superer secreter meeting of the District Deputies & District Leaders



### FUN THINGS

**MOVIES!** *Surviving Pulse* screening - Friday 8:30pm - Room TBD

**GAMES!** Bring your favorite board game to play with First Lady Ellen McDaniel Saturday 10am - Room TBD

**FOOD!** Coffee & Donuts - Sat/Sun 7am-8:15am - Three Creeks Banquet - Saturday 6:30pm - Freemont - Theme: ENF Games Spouses' Breakfast - Sunday 9:00am - Windows Hospitality Room - Fri/Sat 4pm-11pm - Three Creeks

**WORSHIP!** Non-denominational worship service - Sunday 7:45am - Academy

**MEETINGS!** Business Session - Sunday 8:30am - Academy

## Welcome Our Newest Committee— Sustainability!



Brett Nelson  
Sustainability Chair

Learn more about the  
Sustainability Committee at  
our Winter Quarterly

Saturday, January 27  
1 pm  
Pueblo Room  
Doubletree Colorado Springs

### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

January 26-28	Winter Quarterly
February 5	Legacy Scholarship Deadline
February 16	Happy Birthday, BPOE!
February 24	State Hoop Shoot—Salida
March 15	Contest A due to District Deputies
March 16	Regional Hoop Shoot
March 31	2023-24 ENF donations due
April 1	Newsletter deadline
April 13	Elks Night @ Avalanche
April 26-28	Spring Quarterly
June 14	Flag Day
June 20-July 3	Grand Lodge Austin, TX

The Sustainability Committee is excited to start its first year as a state level Colorado Elk Association Committee!

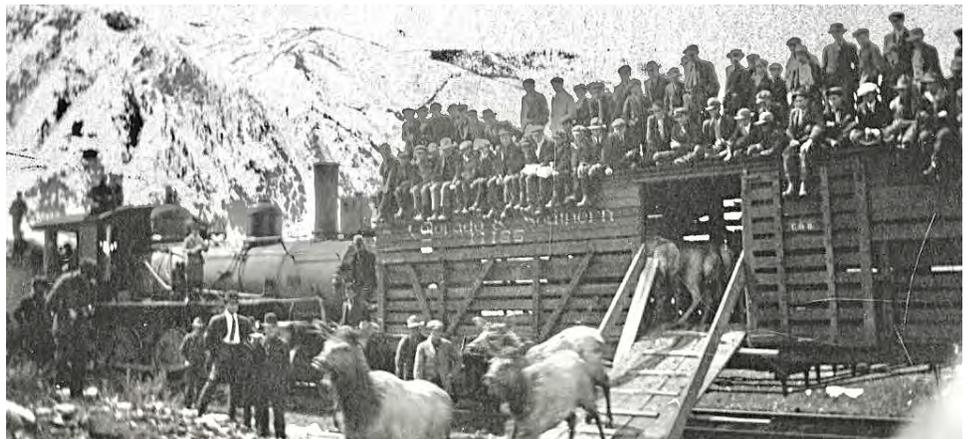
With that being said, we are looking for members in lodges from any districts to reach out to find out more about what we are doing, and how you can get involved. Brett Nelson, Sustainability Committee Chair, presented at the Fall Quarterly in Grand Junction this past November, and will be presenting at another break-out session in January at the Colorado Springs Winter Session.

Some of the inspiration for starting the committee came in February of 2020 after seeing this photo of the Elks Lodge in Aspen repopulating the local Elk Herd via train from Jackson Hole in 1913. The other pictures below are from our Adopt-A-Highway "Clean Colorado" mile outside of town that we are now stewards of.

Other projects in the pipeline involve composting at lodges, wildfire mitigation efforts, a local speaker series at lodges of your own, adoption of highway miles, and member home & lodge utility bill reduction programs through state and local grants.

Our Mission Statement is to Develop and implement strategies to improve our local environment within our Elks Lodge, our town, and our valley.

**Please feel free to give Brett Nelson a call at 970 901 5440 to talk about getting a local committee of your own going!** It could be a great way to get new members involved with volunteering at your local lodge in this great state that we all call home.



### Honoring Our Members

By Kathy Yost & Jared Crabtree, State Chairs Elk & Officer of the Year

To all Exalted Rulers and PER Chairs, I know that you are coming to the end of this year's reign, but I would like to encourage you to submit your lodge's Elk of the Year and Officer of the Year as your final duty. It is always a great honor when a member is picked for their own lodge but how exciting for them to know that they could be a District Winner and then the State Winner for 2023-24!

Please take the time to fill out the district paperwork that will be mailed to your lodge, or maybe ask another officer to help you out because it is very important. I don't know how many times I have been asked in the last 3 years of chairing this committee... "was my name submitted" and it is very heartbreaking when I have to tell them "no," we did not receive one from their lodge.

If you want to know more about it then attend our breakout session at Winter Quarterly in Colorado Springs! (January 27th, 1 pm Royal Gorge room at the Doubletree Colorado Springs)

## From the Hoop Shoot Court



**Top:** Hoop Shoot Champion Alexa Tien with Hoop Shoot Director Brandon Wilkins

**Below:** Denver Nuggets Guard Jalen Pickett, Hoop Shoot Champion Kinlee Cox, & San Antonio Spurs Center Victor Wembanyama at CEA Night at the Nuggets



*Swish. Swish. Swish.* It must be Elks Hoop Shoot season! This season marks the 52 nd Year of the Elks National Foundation Hoop Shoot youth program. More than half of the Colorado Lodges have hosted local contests and offered this opportunity to the youth on their communities.

As a result of these contests and due to the volunteerism of over 250 Elks members, over 1,300 youth have experienced the program so far.

The inevitable goal for all the shooters is to become an Elks Hoop Shoot National Champion crowned in April in Chicago, Illinois. However, while only six shooters will accomplish this feat, the remaining shooters will have to deal with defeat. I have often heard that a person learns more from losing than winning.

One of the goals of the program is to give youth the opportunity to overcome adversity and build upon those opportunities provided to them.

I would like to applaud every Elks member who has stepped up and volunteered their time to provide these opportunities to the youth. If your lodge did not participate this year, ask yourself why not? Why don't we want to offer these opportunities to our youth?

I can tell you that I participated in the Hoop Shoot program at ages 8-13 and can remember the trials and tribulations that came with winning and losing. These experiences have become a part of my life and have helped me deal with adversity, both bad and good.

The Colorado Elks State Hoop Shoot is scheduled in Salida on Saturday, Feb. 24 at Salida High School. This is the pinnacle of Hoop Shoot in Colorado and we will crown six state champions to compete against Wyoming, Nebraska, and Kansas for the opportunity to advance to the National Hoop Shoot Finals.

I invite all of you to check out the posts on the "Colorado Elks State Hoop Shoot" Facebook page as well as the "West Central Region #8" Facebook page for regional and national highlights.

- Brandon Wilkins, Region 8 Hoop Shoot Director

**Colorado Elks**  
**ENF Games!**

Represent your Sport at the CEA Banquet by wearing your best sporting outfits On Saturday night.

Compete in the ENF Games after the banquet!  
Saturday Banquet January 27, 2024 7pm!  
Register for the Winter Quarterly with your Lodge Secretary

**COLORADO AVALANCHE**  
2023-24

**ELKS**  
with the Colorado Avalanche

**COLORADO AVALANCHE VS WINNIPEG JETS**

Saturday, April 13th • 2:00 PM • Ball Arena

**TICKETS START AT \$90**

Subject to change  
\$10 of each ticket will benefit the Colorado Elks Association  
With each ticket comes a Colorado Mammoth lacrosse ticket! Please keep an eye on your email for details on how to retrieve your included Mammoth ticket to attend your group's night

**TO ORDER TICKETS:**  
[Avalanche.KSETickets.com/ELKS](https://Avalanche.KSETickets.com/ELKS)

For questions please contact Lauren Harper with the Colorado Avalanche at 303.513.2957 or email [Lauren.Harper@TeamKSE.com](mailto:Lauren.Harper@TeamKSE.com)

## Meet Your State Officers



### Geff McDaniel

State President  
Central Southeast District

#### What is your home town?

Denver CO

#### Where is your current lodge?

Englewood "Blackjack/Bust"  
2122

#### Who proposed you & when?

Charter Member Harry  
Dowler, 1988

#### What is your favorite Elks program?

I always loved the Lodge youth programs since I grew up participating in them. I also love a Parade.

#### What are you most curious about?

Life is full of curiosities and wonders. The dynamic of moving parts is highly interesting whether its people or machinery.

#### Who is your Valentine?

Kathy Ireland - Ellen doesn't know, but then neither does Kathy.



### Bob Keyser

State Trustee  
Central Southeast District

#### What is your home town?

Wheat Ridge CO

#### Where is your current lodge?

Littleton 1650

#### Who proposed you & when?

My brother, Jim Keyser

#### What is your favorite Elks program?

Veterans Services, I'm deeply involved with the Veterans Treatment Courts and Veterans Homeless programs.

#### What are you most curious about?

In ELKDOM I'm most curious about Lodge membership. Is there a point where a Lodge can have too many members?

#### Who is your Valentine?

My lovely wife of 26 years, Kathy Keyser

## Meet Your State Chairs



### Jeannette Rogers

Leadership Resources & Training  
Central Northwest District

#### What is your home town?

Golden CO

#### Where is your current lodge?

Golden 2740

#### Who proposed you & when?

Wayne Rogers, a long time ago

#### What is your favorite Elks program?

Youth Activities & Veterans

#### What are you most curious about?

How do we retain and excite members in our lodge

#### Who is your Valentine?

Better put Wayne Rogers, my husband, right?



### Matt Fernandez

Elks National Foundation  
South District

#### What is your home town?

Taos NM

#### Where is your current lodge?

Alamosa 1297

#### Who proposed you & when?

Joseph Ortega—my father-in-law, 2016

#### What is your favorite Elks program?

The Kid Print Safety Program

#### What are you most curious about?

More ways to effectively raise money to help our communities.

#### Who is your Valentine?

The love of my life.  
My beautiful wife,  
Grace Fernandez



## HOW DO I...?

### Optimize Social Media

by Becky Schmitz

We know our members love to post pictures and videos of our events, so let's help make sure we are always putting our best foot forward.

Alcohol/Beer/Wine, firearms, and inappropriate behavior, are not to be posted on an official Elks Lodge site.

When posting and sharing graphics all rules in the [Emblem Usage Manual](#) must be followed.

They included but are not limited to the usage of artists names or signature or any logos other than those in the above mentioned manual.

The Grand Lodge Marketing Committee has created numerous [shareables](#) that revolve around various themes such as: Member Orientation, Bingo, Mother's Day Brunch, Meeting Night, etc.

So please join [elks.org](#) and explore the many ways to promote Elksdom.

To learn how to make your posters pop with Canva join us at the Public Relations Winter Quarterly breakout session.

**Saturday, January 27th  
1 pm  
Teller Room**

## Veterans Programs

“As long as there are veterans, we shall never forget them”

### South Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal

Korean War Veterans who served in the Korean War may be eligible for the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal.

This commemorative medal is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to United States servicemen and women who served in the Korean War.

The Veteran Services Team is working closely with the Consul General in San Francisco to bring him to our April Quarterly to present to medals to Korean War Veterans.

If you know someone who qualifies for the medal, please email [ceavets@gmail.com](mailto:ceavets@gmail.com) for the application.

### BIG FLUFFY COWS!

This year's National Western Stock Show is wrapping up, and with that one of our most amazing youth programs—



Catch-a-Calf.

Members & Lodges across the state sponsor kids to raise their calves for a year, and compete at NWSS for scholarship money.

For more info about Catch-a-Calf, visit the National Western Stock Show's [website](#).

### 38th Annual Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic

April 1-7, 2024

The Winter Sports Clinic is returning to Snowmass this April.

There are numerous ways to help at the Aspen and Glenwood Springs Lodges.

You can watch a video of last year's program, *Breaking Barriers*, on our YouTube channel, [@CEAnews](#).

Join us at our Winter Quarterly breakout session to find out more.

Saturday, January 27th  
8:30am Royal Gorge Room



The Inaugural  
**Women Veterans of Colorado Conference**  
Honoring 50 years of the  
Women Marines Association in Colorado

**Free for all female veterans in Colorado**  
**February 10 Doubletree Aurora 10 am**  
for more information or to register visit [wmaco1.org](http://wmaco1.org)

# South District

## LODGES

### **Alamosa 1297**

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays  
6:30pm

### **Cañon City 610**

Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays  
7:00pm

### **Creede 506**

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays  
7:00pm

### **Florence 611**

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays  
7:00pm

### **La Junta 701**

Every Wednesday  
7:30pm

### **Lamar 1319**

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
7:00pm

### **Monte Vista 2456**

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays  
6:30pm

### **Pueblo 90**

Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays  
7:00pm

### **Rocky Ford 1147**

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays  
7:30pm

### **Monte Vista 2456**

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays  
7:00pm

## Americanism Essay Contest - "What the Bill of Rights Means to Me"



This year Florence Lodge had 22 entries to our essay contest.

All contestants are 5th graders from Penrose.

Florence Lodge winners are:  
1st place- Aspyynn Graser,  
2nd place- Ryli Reeder  
3rd place- McKenzie Bungard.

The winners were awarded cash prizes of \$40, \$30 and \$20. Their essays will be posted at the Lodge

if anyone would like to read them. The essays have been submitted to the district level contest. District winners will be announced later in February.



**Above:** Proud to be an Elk. JB Batulis is installed as the Two-Year Trustee for Florence Lodge

**Left:** Steve Cannon of Colorado Springs #309 presents ER Matthew Fernandez of Alamosa #1297 with a beautiful bell for the Lodge.



Congratulations to Past State President & La Junta Treasurer Tom Fraker on his retirement from Digitcom Electronics!

# South District

## The Spirit of Christmas—Not just for the kids

It was a fun filled Christmas Holiday at Florence Lodge this year.

Over 200 children received stockings stuffed with candy, toys and stuffed animals. They also had their picture taken with Santa.

Even the adults had some Christmas fun during the Christmas Cookie and Sock Exchange. Members picked socks filled with “interesting” gifts. Lots of laughs and lots of fun.



# Central Southeast & Mountain Districts

## LODGES

### **Aurora 1921**

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
7:00pm

### **Colorado Springs 309**

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
7:00pm

### **Cripple Creek 316**

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
6:30pm

### **Deer Trail 2307**

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays  
6:30pm

### **Englewood 2122**

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays  
7:30pm

### **Littleton 1650**

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays  
7:00pm

### **Parker 2873**

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
6:30pm

### **Victor 367**

Meets 2nd Mondays  
7:00pm



Littleton Elks Lodge #1650 filled backpacks with winter essentials to benefit homeless veterans in the community. Over 100 backpacks filled with winter essentials were donated to Bill Daniels Veteran Service Center and the Denver Veterans Community Resources and Referral Center.



The Littleton Elks were able to donate \$9,199.99 to Nourish Meals on Wheels, which is located just three miles from the Lodge. This year's donation will feed 1,822 elderly and homebound adults in the Littleton community.

## LODGES

### **Aspen 224**

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday  
7:30pm

### **Craig 1577**

Meets 2nd Tuesdays  
7:00pm

### **Glenwood Springs 2286**

Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesday  
7:00pm

### **Gunnison 1623**

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays  
7:30pm

### **Leadville 236**

Meets Wednesdays  
7:30pm

### **Rangely 1907**

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
7:00pm

### **Rifle 2195**

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday  
7:00pm

### **Salida 808**

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays  
7:00pm

### **Summit County 2561**

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays  
7:00pm

# Central Northwest & North Districts

## LODGES

### **Arvada 2278**

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays  
7:00pm

### **Central City 557**

Meets 2nd & 4th Mondays  
7:30pm

### **Denver 17**

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays  
7:30pm

### **Evergreen 2363**

Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesday  
6:30pm

### **Golden 2740**

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday  
7:30pm

### **Idaho Springs 607**

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays  
7:00pm

### **Lakewood 1777**

Meets 1st & 3rd Mondays  
7:00pm

### **Northglenn 2438**

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays  
7:00pm

### **Tri-City 2541**

Meets 1st Wednesdays

### **Westminster 2227**

Meets Tuesdays  
7:30pm



Longmont Lodge donated over \$6,600 to the Veterans Community Project (VCP) for their Tiny Homes construction project along with winter clothing and gear for their outreach program.

They also provided gifts and cheer to the Brookdale Senior Center.



## LODGES

### **Akron 2579**

Meets Thursdays  
7:30pm

### **Boulder 566**

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays  
7:00pm

### **Brighton 1586**

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday  
7:00pm

### **Fort Collins 804**

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
7:00pm

### **Fort Morgan 1143**

Meets Wednesdays  
7:30pm

### **Greeley 809**

Meets Wednesdays  
7:00pm

### **Longmont 1055**

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday  
7:00pm

### **Loveland 1051**

Meets 2nd & 4th Mondays  
7:00pm

### **Sterling 1336**

Meets 1st & 3rd Mondays  
7:00pm

### **Wray 2409**

Meets 1st & 3rd Mondays  
8:00pm

# West District

## LODGES

### **Cortez 1789**

Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays  
6:00pm

### **Delta 1235**

Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays  
7:00pm

### **Durango 507**

Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays  
7:00pm

### **Grand Junction 575**

Meets 1st & 3rd Mondays  
7:30pm

### **Hotchkiss 1807**

Meets 2nd Mondays  
6:30pm

### **Montrose 1053**

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays  
7:00pm

### **Ouray 492**

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays  
7:00pm



**Above:** On September 9th the Ouray Elks Lodge held the inaugural Danny Wesseling Golf Tournament, which raised over \$7,000 for trade scholarships

**Below:** On December 10th the Montrose Elks Lodge held a holiday party for local Colorado National Guard members & their families. The unit presented Montrose Lodge with a customized plaque.



# West District



On December 13th the Ouray Lodge set up a free dessert bar at the Grand Junction VA. The Telluride Lodge brought gifts for the residents of the VA Community Living Center.



**Above:** In November 1st Vice President JR Cruz helped out Telluride Lodge with their Turkey Bingo event.

**Left:** On December 6th Telluride Lodge held a holiday party for local at risk children.

**New Officers Elected,  
PERs Honored In February**  
By Randy Shook, Grand Exalted Ruler



A small group of actors and entertainers began this great Order on February 16, 1868. Look where we are one hundred and fifty six years later: We are still here to serve those in need, proving that “Elks Care—Elks Share.” What a journey!

February is a very busy month for us as Elks. Only two months remain in the Lodge year. If you still have goals you haven't met, it's not too late. Get to work on them, they can still be accomplished. Use the next two months wisely and you certainly can get a lot done. It would be quite an accomplishment to announce to all of your Members that you have successfully reached the goals you set almost one year ago.

February is when new Officers are nominated and elected for the new Lodge year. All Lodges in our Order should elect leaders who are going to be dedicated to the affairs of your Lodge and community. The success of your Lodge programs will depend upon their leadership. Lodge Secretaries should note that February is when you must upload the Lodge directory into the CLMS2 web page. This information is extremely important so that updates are done in a timely manner.

This month we recognize our Past Exalted Rulers. We must let them know their leadership and experience is invaluable to us. A Past Exalted Rulers Night is a great way to honor them for their contributions to your Lodge. Make them feel proud of their accomplishments.

During February, we recognize American Heart Month. This is when we get our Lodges and communities together in raising awareness to prevent heart disease. Proudly wear red during this month to show Elks care about cardiovascular health.

In addition to Presidents' Day on February 19, we also celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14. We remember the people we love and those who make a difference in our lives. To my wife, Wanda, thank you for being my valentine for the past forty one years.

Remember: “We Are THE Elks.”

God Bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.

**Still Time To Complete Contest A**

By Mark E. Eaton,  
Grand Lodge Committee Member

The Contest 'A' - All American Lodge year is quickly coming to an end. There is still time to enter your submission.

It's nearing time to finish up your paperwork and get it to your District Deputy by the end of March so they have time to review and make any corrections.

Prestigious awards like this are a lot of hard work by many people. I hope your Lodge is busy preparing and completing your entry.

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee would like to remind you of the dates and the process. To get started go to: [elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/files/contestALodgeCertification.pdf](https://elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/files/contestALodgeCertification.pdf). You will find everything you need in that PDF.

It is very important you read the entire form carefully with its requirements and descriptions. Make sure you have strong supporting documentation which is very critical for point value. If you are not sure you qualify for something, ask the Contest Administrator, Randall Snellenberger, for a copy of the Fraternal Committee All-American Lodge Contest “A” Supplement Manual, or check with your District Deputy. Every point is extremely important! You can use a separate sheet or the back side of the form to list all your different activities.

The Lodge Secretary must verify Lodge membership as of March 31, 2023. This will determine the division you will be judged on. Also, make sure your entry is signed by the Exalted Ruler and Lodge Secretary. It is suggested to be postmarked to your District Deputy by March 15, 2024, however the deadline for submission is March 31, 2024. This will ensure your Deputy has time to review and check it before sending it on to your State Lodge Activities Chairman. The State Lodge Activities Chair then sends winners on to Grand Lodge with a postmark no later than April 30, 2024.

This award shows your Lodge is working as a team. Officers and Members working together is how Lodges strengthen community relationships and build stronger ties. It shows your community how Elks accomplish amazing things.

If you don't qualify this year, start planning for next year. Put a committee together, go over the form, and start recording your entries. You will be surprised at how many things you can improve and build on. Things don't just happen—you have to make them happen.

**To Enter Contest A—turn in your completed form to your  
District Deputy by March 15th!**

Central Southeast—Jim Keyser	Central Northwest—Clayton Huffman
North—Mike Bartsch	South—Mack Novosad
Mountain—Shirley Tipton	West—Kerry Mayhew

## LUCKY 24 (continued from p.1)

We are looking forward to all the great things coming in 2024, but we still have challenges to conquer. 3 months remain in the Lodge year, it is time to push Membership to the finish line. Develop your “elevator speech” and tell everyone why they should join the Elks.

Everyone has busy lives, with our work, hobbies, families and the mundane tasks that need to be performed as an adult. So why would anyone add the extra duties of being an Elk Member, Lodge Officer or Heaven forbid a state or Grand Lodge officer/committee person? We as Elks have made adding Members a priority. So, we ask the people we know to join, and they usually ask, “what’s in it for me?”

Joining the Elks and volunteering offers vital help to people in need, supports our programs, and serves the community, but the benefits can be even greater for you, the Elk volunteer. Joining the Elks and getting involved, can help you to find friends, connect with the community, learn new skills, and even advance your career.

Being an Elk Volunteer can help protect your mental and physical health. It can reduce stress, combat depression, keep you mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose. While it’s true that the more you volunteer, the more benefits you’ll experience, volunteering doesn’t have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day. Giving in even simple ways can help those in need and improve your health and happiness.

You’re donating your valuable time, so it’s important that you enjoy and benefit from your volunteering.

## Just Ask! (continued from p.1)

A new calendar year has started and with this most of us make resolutions. I do hope that one of those is to try something different in your lodge. Whether it be a new committee, a new fundraiser, or a new idea to help your lodge or community. It is fun to learn and try. You may find a new passion or meet new members.

In fact, ask a member especially a new one to help you out. Sometimes a member is just waiting for the opportunity to be asked. Look at other lodges to inspire and give ideas. Look what was done in your lodge in the past and revamp those activities.

I love getting the newsletters from all the lodges. It gives me great joy to see all the work that this state is doing. If I am not on your email list for your newsletter, please add me. My email is [lexa\\_923@outlook.com](mailto:lexa_923@outlook.com). You can use this to contact me anytime as well. Hope to see what is happening at your lodge.

The Winter Quarterly will be arriving soon. Please take advantage of all the great information that is given there and don’t forget to let others know what you are doing as well. Janet and I hope to see you there.

God Bless you and your family. Hope this new year brings you much happiness and success.

## Meet Texas State President Steve Weatherly!

The Colorado Elks Association is excited to host the Man of Many Titles—Steven Weatherly—at their Winter Quarterly.

Steve is not just the Texas State President, he’s also Grand Lodge Esquire and a member of the Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting Committee.

A little bit about Steve...

### What is your home town?

Pampa TX

### Where is your current lodge?

Fort Worth 124

### Who proposed you & when?

I was proposed by Vivian Hollar, the second female Exalted Ruler for Fort Worth in 1999.

### What is your favorite Elks program?

I love working with special needs children

### What are you most curious about?

I am curious as to how we can advance veterans services through the new Texas Elks Camp on Texoma.

### Who is your Valentine?

My sweet Kerri - married for over 40 Years!



# EXPRESS YOURSELF

## HANDMADE BADGE HOLDERS

**\$15 MINIMUM DONATION**



**PROCEEDS FOR GRAND LODGE HOSPITALITY ROOM**

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### Colorado Elks Association

## CALENDAR RAFFLE



**\$20** per ticket

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CONTACT YOUR LODGE OFFICERS OR STATE TRUSTEES FOR TICKETS

PROCEEDS ARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COLORADO ELKS ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

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## SAVE THE DATES!

### Upcoming Colorado Elks Meetings

- January 26-28, 2024** ▶ Winter Quarterly  
Doubletree Colorado Springs
- April 26-28, 2024** ▶ Spring Quarterly  
Denver Marriott South
- September 5-7, 2024** ▶ State Convention  
Denver Marriott South
- November 1-3, 2024** ▶ Fall Quarterly  
Denver Marriott South

[www.ColoradoElksAssociation.org](http://www.ColoradoElksAssociation.org)

## IS MEDIA YOUR JAM?

# Volunteers needed

**CEA Newsletter Co-Editors**  
1 per district  
Need to know & have access to Microsoft Publisher

**Videographer for Quarterlies**  
equipment will be provided

**if interested, please contact**  
[CEApolicy@gmail.com](mailto:CEApolicy@gmail.com)

## GOT NEWS?

Submit by April 1st to  
[CEApolicy@gmail.com](mailto:CEApolicy@gmail.com)