



Christian County Elks #2777

# ELKS BUGLE

## February 2026

**Kevin Wolfe PDDGER**  
*Exalted Ruler*

**Bill Buening**  
*Leading Knight*

**Tom Shelton PSP**  
*Loyal Knight*

**Matt Clark**  
*Lecturing Knight*

**Janie Jackson**  
*Secretary*

**Jerry Fritchman PER**  
*Treasurer*

**Rick Hayes**  
*Tiler*

**Zane Evans**  
*Inner Guard*

**Rex Krasche**  
*Chaplain*

**Michael Sweet PER**  
*Esquire*

**Mike Klinger PER**  
*1-Year Trustee*  
*Chairman of the Board*

**Joe Edwards**  
*2-Year Trustee*

**Jason Factor**  
*3-Year Trustee*

Hello Elks!

It seems like just yesterday we were ringing in the New Year—and what a fantastic celebration it was! Guests enjoyed appetizers throughout the evening and danced their way into 2026 with Mister D and Bonita. It truly was the perfect year-end party to launch a brand-new year.

Now February is upon us—the month of candy and sweethearts! With that in mind, be sure not to miss our Sweetheart Dinner on Friday, February 6. We have a wonderful Surf & Turf menu planned, featuring bacon-wrapped filet and a large shrimp cocktail, perfectly complemented by sides, salad, and dessert. To make the evening even sweeter, we invite everyone to bring a plate of their favorite candy to share at our Candy Bar.

February also brings two more Lodge favorites: Bunco on Thursday, February 19, and our Annual Chili Cook-Off on Friday, February 20. Show off your culinary skills, “Make Your Best Chili,” and compete for the coveted People’s Choice Award—and of course, bragging rights! Contact Susan Fox to enter.

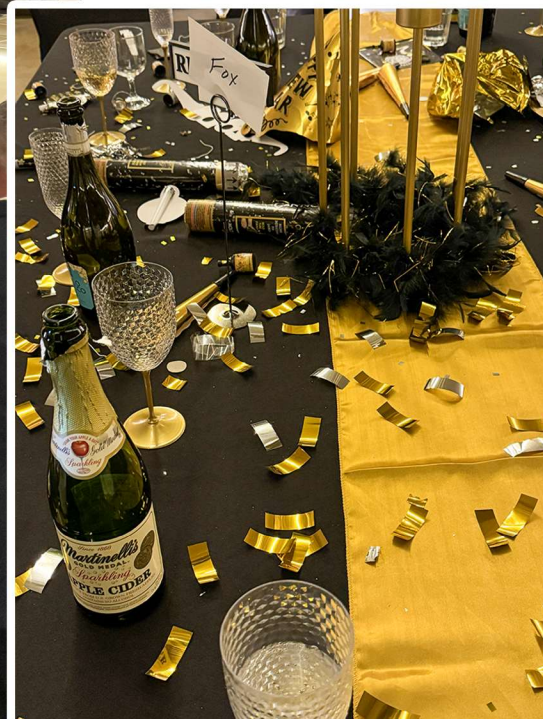
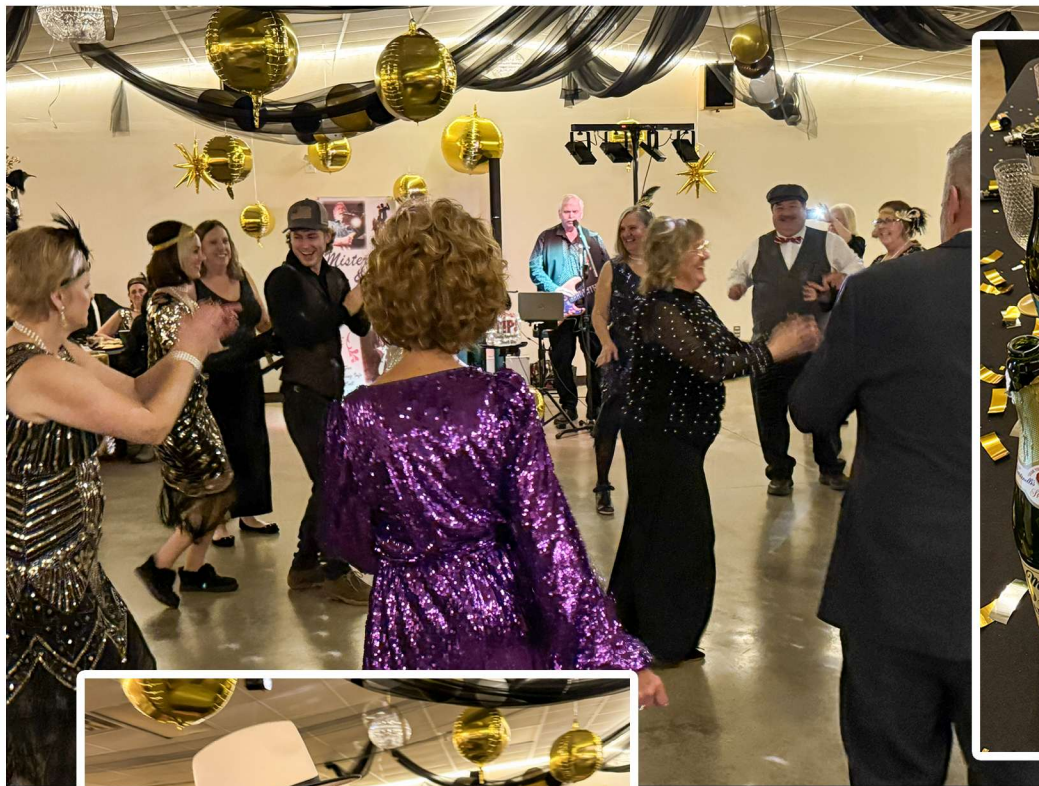
After a very busy holiday season, it’s also time to begin looking ahead to our next Fraternal Year, which begins April 1. Officer nominations will take place at the February 3 Lodge meeting, and I strongly encourage all members to attend. Any member in good standing is eligible to serve as an officer and help lead our Lodge forward.

There is so much happening at the Lodge that many members never see—the behind-the-scenes work such as painting the hall and entryway, along with countless hours spent decorating, setting up, and rearranging the hall for events. These efforts require tremendous time and energy, and we are deeply grateful to all who volunteer to make it happen.

Your newsletter, calendar, and website are the best ways to stay informed about what’s happening at the Lodge each month. Keep them handy and share them with friends and family. Increased participation at the Lodge means increased opportunities to serve the needs of the Christian County community—and isn’t that what we’re all about?

See you at the Lodge,  
Kevin





## Christian County Elks Ring in the New Year in Roaring 20s Style

(above) Gambino members Kory and Kristi rock-out at the Speakeasy

(below) The notorious Cedar Hills Gang led by Vinny Del Vouchy and his three hustlers work to “stack” the 50-50 drawing. Imagine if Grandma “Dolly” Johnson did WIN!



The Christian County Elks welcomed 2026 with a spectacular Roaring 20s-themed New Year's Eve Party that filled the Shelton Hall with energy, elegance, and nonstop fun. Live music by Mister D and Bonita kept the dance floor hopping all night as members and guests danced their way into the new year.

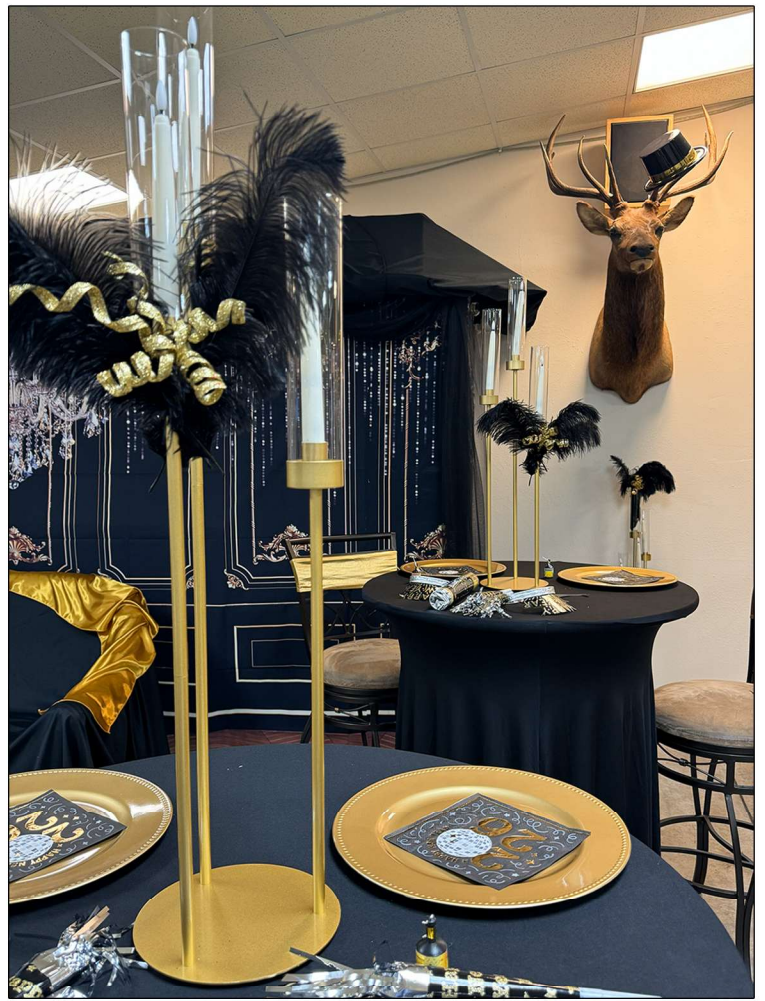
Guests were treated to gourmet appetizers throughout the evening, featuring everything from steak bites and shrimp cocktails to potato-tinis, pulled pork and onion canapés, and much more—all kicked off with individual charcuterie cups that set the tone for an unforgettable night.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to everyone who joined us to celebrate, to those who transformed the Shelton Hall with incredible Roaring 20s décor, and to the many Elks, family, and friends whose support and volunteer spirit made the night a success. It truly takes everyone giving back to the Lodge to make events like this possible.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead—Happy New Year!



(above) Sassy Shirley Ozark gang and da boyz.  
(below) Mob Boss Kevin "Wolfey" Malone with  
50-50 winner Grandma Gunner Frances "Dolly"  
Johnson



(above) Black & Gold all night (below left) Ruthless  
and Dynamic Davis Gang  
(below) Springfield gangster Billy Joe Edwards





# SCOUTING AROUND

(above) Scouts assisted the County Clerks' office with the general election.

(right) The Scouts also held their annual Christmas party at the Zenith Rock Climbing Gym



## February 2026 Edition

By Jason Factor

Hello Christian County Elks!

Troop 201B has continued its tradition of adventure, service, and leadership, and we're grateful once again for the unwavering support of the Lodge. The past few months have been filled with meaningful service projects, memorable experiences, and a truly once-in-a-lifetime campout.

In November, our Scouts proudly served Christian County during the general elections. Once again, Troop 201B assisted the County Clerk's office with transporting voting equipment and materials to and from polling locations. It is always inspiring to watch our youth step up for civic service, supporting a process that is fundamental to our community and our country. This long-standing partnership remains one of our most important service commitments each year.

December brought opportunities to serve those who have served us. Our Scouts helped assemble Veterans Food Boxes at the Elks Lodge, preparing care packages that were later delivered to local veterans in need. This project is especially meaningful to our troop, as it connects our youth directly to the Elks' mission of supporting veterans.

The Scouts also held their annual Christmas party at the Zenith Rock Climbing Gym, which included a sock drive benefiting local veterans. Admission to the party was simple — bring a pack of socks to donate. It's a fun tradition with a serious purpose, teaching our Scouts that service can be both meaningful and creative.

January delivered an unforgettable adventure. Troop 201B traveled to Hutchinson, Kansas, to camp deep underground in the Strataca salt mine — 650 feet below the surface. Yes, you read that correctly — underground camping in an active salt mine. During this unique experience, Scouts explored mining history, learned about geology, and completed the requirements for both the Geology Merit Badge and the Mining Merit Badge. It's not every day you can say you earned merit badges while camping beneath the earth's surface. This trip will be talked about around campfires for years to come.

As always, Scouting is about more than camping and badges. It's about building character, leadership, service, and confidence — all made possible through the support of families, volunteers, and community partners like the Christian County Elks Lodge #2777.

On behalf of every Scout and leader in Troop 201B, thank you for standing with us. Your support directly impacts these young men and the opportunities they experience.

Until next time - Scout On!

Troop 201B traveled to Hutchinson, Kansas, to camp deep underground in the Strataca salt mine — 650 feet below the surface.



## House Committee

Your House Committee has been hard at work behind the scenes throughout a very eventful January, and we are excited to welcome February with you!

Our New Year's Eve Party was a HUGE success, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who came out to support The Lodge. Mister D was amazing, as always, and helped bring more than 30 guests through our doors! Many of our Elks attended and brought friends and family along to share in the fun.

A very special shoutout goes to Elk Landon Davis and his wife Devon, who not only encouraged six family members to attend, but had everyone dressed to impress in flapper dresses and zoot suits! It truly made the night unforgettable. Shelton Hall was beautifully decorated by our dedicated volunteers, more than 70 partygoers enjoyed delicious appetizers, and together we raised \$800 for our Lodge.

I'll just go on record and say it—if you missed this event, you missed out... and you definitely don't want to miss the next one!

Speaking of what's next...

Join us Friday, February 6th for our Sweetheart Dinner featuring:

- Jumbo shrimp cocktail
- Our now-famous salad bar
- Your choice of entrée: bacon-wrapped filet mignon or stuffed chicken breast
- Roasted vegetables and rosemary potatoes
- A complimentary glass of champagne
- A decadent dessert to finish the evening

All of this for just \$20 per person.

Reservations are HIGHLY encouraged and can be made by calling 417-522-8708. Seating is limited to 70 guests, so don't wait!

As we begin to approach the close of our 2025–2026 Elk year, I encourage everyone to take a moment and reflect on what our Lodge means to you. We need your help to continue offering weekly dinners, cleanup days, parties, events, and rentals. We also need some extra muscle for a major storeroom and pantry cleanout.

If you're able to help in any way, please contact me—every bit of support makes a difference.

ELKfully yours, Susan Fox 417-522-8708

CHARITY ~ JUSTICE ~ BROTHERLY LOVE ~ FIDELITY

Tuesday February 3rd  
7pm Lodge Meeting

## OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Fellow Members - PLEASE CONSIDER LODGE LEADERSHIP!

ANY Lodge Member-In-Good-Standing can be nominated for any open Officer position that is elected by the membership!

► Exalted Ruler ► Leading Knight ► Loyal Knight ► Lecturing Knight  
► Secretary ► Treasurer ► Trustee

The positions of Esquire, Chaplain, Inner Guard and Tiler, plus all Committee Chairs, are appointed by the newly Elected Exalted Ruler.

### Lodge Contact Information

Exalted Ruler Kevin Wolfe PDDGER  
417-425-2675

Trustee / Board Chairman Mike Klinger PER  
417-771-9202

House Committee Chairman Susan Fox  
417-522-8708

Lodge Secretary Janie Jackson  
417-350-4528

Lodge Rental / Shelton Hall Sue Jones  
417-224-1923

Veterans Chairman  
Denny Peterson 417-379-4965  
Rex Krasche 417- 880-8523

Elks National Foundation Jerry Fritchman PER  
417-693-2090

RV Space Reservations - Lodge Office  
417-581-4190

Newsletter Editor Mike Klinger PER  
417-771-9202

Lodge Office  
417-581-4190 email ccelks2777@gmail.com

# VETERANS

Hello Veterans,

Our Veteran member, Shirley Smith, is compiling a list of all our Veteran members. If you are a Veteran, please text Shirley your name to 651-373-7653.

This will insure that the CC Elks can notify all Veterans of upcoming events.



Dear Donor,

Thank you so much for choosing me to receive the \$500 Elks Scholarship. With this scholarship I will be able to further my education without the stress of having to pay for school fully on my own. This money will make such a difference in my life with how expensive everything has become. It will make the ease of school much more meaningful with your donation. I am working towards a degree in Agribusiness or Ag Communication to helpfully become an Agriculture Loan Officer.

Sincerely Leah McHaffie, OTC College

**Elks CARE Elks SHARE**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### February 2026 Birthdays

5th Layth Ehram 9th Sue Jones 10th Jerry Mallard  
14th Richard Ege 14th Jane Jackson 17th Kelly Bohlmann  
17th Richard Kalvelage 17th Robert Witherell 20th Rick Hayes  
22nd Patty Pogue 23rd Kory Klinger 29th Bill Kistner






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# February 2026



January '26							March '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Springfield Chorus Practice 6:30pm	3 Lodge meeting 7pm Dinner 6pm \$8 Chef Zane Officer Nominations BOD Meeting 8pm	4	5 Game Night Dinner 7pm \$8	6 Sweet Heart Dinner \$20 Steak & Shrimp Cocktails 6pm Dinner 7pm	7
8 SUPERBOWL	9 Springfield Chorus Practice 6:30pm	10 HC Meeting 7pm No dinner scheduled	11	12 Game Night Dinner 7pm \$8 Prepared by Chef Shirley	13 No dinner planned	14 Happy Valentines Day
15	16 Springfield Chorus Practice 6:30pm	17 Lodge meeting 7pm Dinner 6pm \$8 Chef Zane	18	19 Game Night Dinner 7pm \$8	20 Chili Cook Off Details to come	21
22	23 Springfield Chorus Practice 6:30pm	24	25	26 Game Night Dinner 7pm \$8	27 No dinner planned	28
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9					
<div>For more information visit our website at <a href="http://www.ccelks2777.com">www.ccelks2777.com</a> or our Facebook page Christian County Elks #2777 SAVE your newsletter for reference or pass it along to a friend</div> <div> Purchase Ticket for Event at Lodge Bar</div>						

Christian County Elks #2777

PO Box 1399

Ozark MO 65721

417-581-4190

[www.ccelks2777.com](http://www.ccelks2777.com)



To a Very Important Elk

Christian County Elks 2777

A photograph of a plated meal featuring a large shrimp cocktail, a bowl of salad, a glass of champagne, and a main course of a large steak with potatoes and green beans.

**ENJOY YOUR Dinner**

**Friday Feb 6**  
6pm Cocktails 7pm Dinner

**Sweetheart Dinner**  
Your choice of Bacon Wrapped Filet Mignon  
or Stuffed Chicken Breast Plus  
a large Shrimp Cocktail  
Served with Roasted Veggies and  
Rosemary Potatoes.

Complimentary Glass of Champagne to Enhance  
your Decedent Dessert  
**All for only \$20**  
Reservations are Highly Recommended  
Call 417-522-8708 to reserve  
Seating is limited to 70  
Christian County Elks 2777



Friday  
February 20th  
Join in the  
"Bring Your  
Best"  
Competition

**Social Hour 6pm Dinner 7pm**  
**Peoples Choice Awards 8pm**  
**Taste the BEST Chili made by Members**  
**Plus Cornbread and Salad \$8**  
**Support this Lodge Fundraiser**

To enter contact Susan Fox 417-522-8708  
Details and Rules [www.ccelks2777.com](http://www.ccelks2777.com)

