



Christian County Elks #2777

ELKS BUGLE

January 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

Happy New Year!

December was such a busy month with our Annual Holiday Food Drive for Veterans, the Lodge Christmas Party, Breakfast with Santa, Wreaths for Elks Veterans, and the big one... the New Year's Eve Party. If you missed any of these events, where have you been? Participation in these activities helps us grow and continue the good work we do for our communities. Be sure to check the monthly calendar for dates and times, and come out to be part of the fun and fellowship.

This is also an important time of year for our Elks Lodge, as Officer Nominations take place in February. Who will lead our Lodge? Any member in good standing may step up and volunteer to become an officer. If you are interested, please speak with a current officer or stop by the Lodge office to discuss the opportunity. Officer nominations will be held on February 3 at our Lodge meeting.

I am asking all of our members to make 2026 the year you get involved. Many hands make light work, and we can always use more help. We can especially use more help in the kitchen. You don't need to be a gourmet chef—just volunteer to pitch in for a few hours one evening. Please bring your ideas for activities, meals, or anything you think would benefit the Lodge and our community to the House Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 PM.

It takes all of us, working together, to do the things we do for Christian County. And always remember to invite your family and friends to dinner or an event. We always have room for one more.

See you at the Lodge,
Kevin



Elks CARE Elks SHARE





2025 Veterans Holiday Food Drive



Christian County Elks #2777 proudly delivered **Holiday Food Boxes** to 30 veterans families in need across Christian County, continuing a cherished tradition of service and compassion. Over the past three months, Elks members—along with their families and friends—generously donated food to support this effort. The largest volume of food, however, was made possible through the Veterans Benefit Golf Tournament held in September, which raised more than \$7,000 earmarked for veterans projects, with a special focus on the Holiday Food Drive.

A project of this scale is only possible through teamwork and dedication. Project Chairman and Trustee Joe Edwards has been planning deliveries for months. “We work closely with Least of These Ozark Food Pantry to vet the families we deliver to. Over the years, the smiles on their faces and the gratitude they express will warm your heart,” Joe shared. Veterans Chairman Rex Krasche worked closely with Joe to help lead and coordinate the project.

Just days before delivery, Scout Troop 201 of Ozark assembled an army of volunteers to pack over 200 boxes of food, totaling more than \$200 per family. On delivery day, 25 Elks volunteers and friends hit the streets, and by noon every family was stocked with holiday favorites—including ham, eggs, milk, pie, bread, canned and boxed goods, and much more. Thank you to our delivery teams of Cherie and Shannon, Judy H and Jamie, Rex and Mike E, Kevin and Jerry, Earl and Gordon, Joe and Carolyn, Mike K and Jason, Bill and Mike M, Michael, and Joe and Rick.

The Elks Holiday Veterans Food Drive is one of two major annual community charitable efforts, alongside Back-to-School Shopping with Kids each July. Together, they stand as another proud demonstration of Elk generosity and our guiding motto: Elks Care, Elks Share.



Breakfast with Santa & more!



The Christian County Elks Lodge was filled with warmth, laughter, and holiday spirit during our 4th Annual Breakfast with Santa, a cherished tradition that continues to grow each year. As part of the Elks' commitment to giving back to the community and supporting children, the Lodge proudly served over 120 complimentary pancake and sausage breakfasts, complete with juice, coffee, and milk, to families throughout Christian County.

Santa Claus himself made a grand appearance, delighting children and adults alike as he posed for photos with every guest. He was assisted by one of his trusted Elf, who helped ensure the day ran smoothly and every smile was captured. Adding to the festive atmosphere, the Springfield Metro Chorus filled the Lodge with beautiful Christmas carols throughout the day, creating the perfect soundtrack as guests enjoyed the celebration and shopped for last-minute gifts from our holiday vendors.

The turnout was nothing short of fantastic. The parking lot was full, and the Lodge was buzzing with laughter, singing, and genuine good cheer—truly reflecting the spirit of the season and the heart of Elkdom.

A heartfelt thank you to all our guests, to Santa and his Elf, and especially to the many Elks who volunteered their time and talents. From cooking and serving to decorating the Lodge—which looked better than ever before—your dedication made this event an unforgettable success. Events like Breakfast with Santa remind us why the Elks' mission of community and caring continues to shine so brightly during the holidays.



Merry Christmas from the Christian County Elks Annual Lodge Christmas Party. Good cheer was had by all, dinner, drinks and gifts. Thank you to all that joined in the holiday FUN!



Wreaths for Elks Veterans To Our Absent Members

On a cold and misty day in December, Elks pay tribute to our fallen heroes: Dena Wolfe, Jack Kennon, Ross Anderson, Bob Mason, Paul Post, Bill Howell and Steve Angel



Thanks to ER Kevin Wolfe PDDGER, Vets Chair and Chaplain Rex Krasche, Trustee Mike Klinger PER, Leading Knight Bill Buening, Vets George McGriff and Gary Anderson for placing wreaths

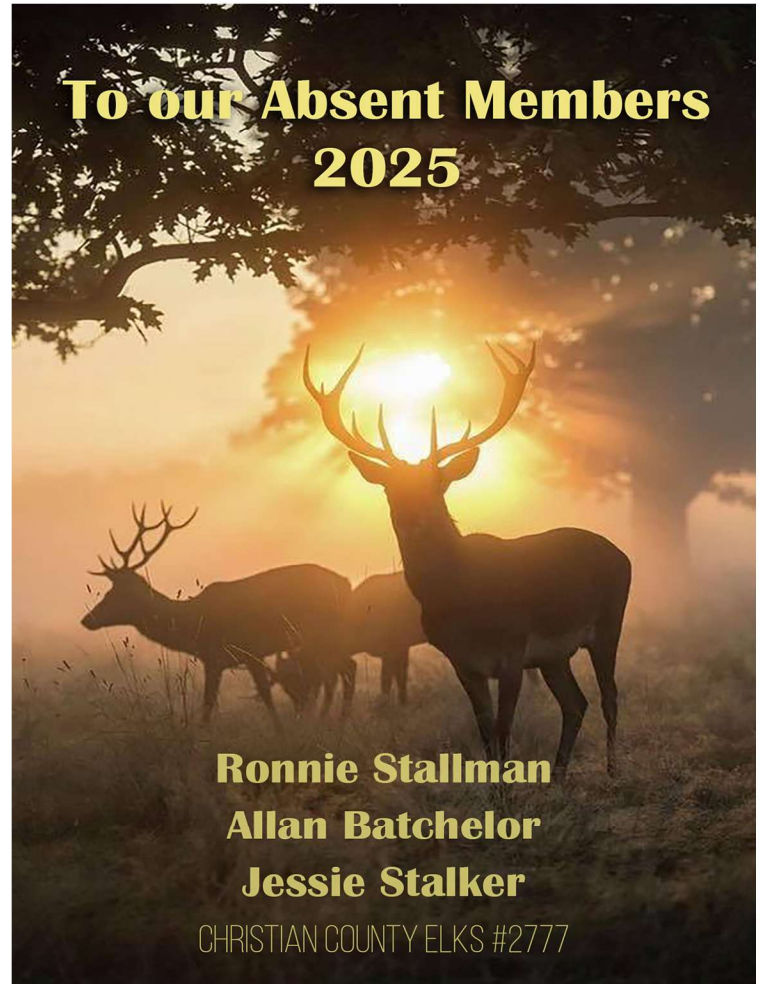


Game Night Poker & Bunco Jan 22
Kitchen & Bar Open 6pm - 7:30pm
Bunco \$10 Buy-in, Prizes to Winners

All Are Welcome
Bring Your Friends

Cook-to-order Menu
Smash Burgers & More!
Christian County Elks, Ozark

To our Absent Members 2025



Ronnie Stallman
Allan Batchelor
Jessie Stalker

CHRISTIAN COUNTY ELKS #2777

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.*

Please welcome our
 new members into our
 order for November,
 John Miller and Roger
 Wahl. Both John and
 Roger pledge to
 support the Elks
 commitment and
 mission of helping

children, veterans and our community. Thank You
 John and Roger for joining US!

WELKome New Members!

**Welcome Our Newest
 Elk Brothers**

Christian County Elks
 proudly initiated two
 new members into our
 Order in December-
 longtime friends Gary
 Sampson (left), ARMY
 Veteran, and Mike
 Mickley, a NAVY

Veteran. Together, Gary and Mike enjoy spending their
 leisure time camping and riding jet skis, making the
 most of friendship and the great outdoors.



House Committee

Happy New Year from your House Committee Chair!

As we enter 2026, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank and recognize an incredible group of volunteers who give their time, talent, and hearts to make our Lodge a fun and welcoming place to be.

This dedicated core group works tirelessly behind the scenes. They generate income for the Lodge by booking Shelton Hall rentals, help maintain and improve our facilities—including painting the Hall—prepare and serve the Veterans Thanksgiving Luncheon, decorate the Lodge for Christmas, host a FREE Christmas Party for our members, make sure Breakfast with Santa is truly over the top, and put on a festive New Year's Eve celebration. In addition, they provide meals, shop for food, cook, serve, and do dishes for you two to three times every week.

These individuals give countless hours of service and are often the first Elks to arrive and the last to leave. The next time you see **Sue Jones, Judy Klinger, Cherie Edwards, Tina Campbell, Judy Hayes, Zane Evans, Jason Factor, Joey Edwards, Rita Egge, Janie Jackson, Chris Harris, Kevin Wolfe, Mike Klinger, Rex Krasche, and Kory Klinger**, please take a moment to thank them for all they do to keep your Lodge alive and thriving.

As we move into 2026, please be aware that our meal nights may change, so be sure to watch weekly announcements—they contain important and timely information. We always welcome new volunteers in the kitchen. If you'd like to help, just let us know—we'll be happy to show you the ropes!

In closing, my message for the New Year is simple and heartfelt: **WE NEED YOU**. Your involvement makes everything we do possible. Please join us and be part of the team!

Elkfully yours,

Susan Fox

“Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm.”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 2026 Birthdays

1st Leo Langford 7th David Simmerly 12th Rex McCoy 20th Robert Bradford
21st Robert Dyer 21st Judy Hayes 22nd Lynn Morris 23rd Gene Ward
27th Michael Chambers 27th Randy Mitchell 30th Michael Pfander

VETERANS



Thank you ARMY Veteran, Rex Krasche, for your support of our Lodge as Chaplain, as Veterans Chairman, as an Event Volunteer and a Veterans Community supporter.



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.

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

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



Need Tech Help? Computer and Multiple Devices
Setup - Install - Repair - Recovery - Wifi - Networks
Kory Klinger 417-470-7853 www.ozarktek.com

January 2026



December '25

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February '26

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 Game Night Dinner 7pm \$8	2 No dinner planned	3
4	5 Springfield Chorus Practice 6:30pm	6 Lodge meeting 7pm Dinner 6pm \$8 Taco Tuesday BOD Meeting 8pm	7	8 Game Night Dinner 7pm \$8	9 Family Friday Dinner Steak Night Social Hour 6pm Dinner 7pm \$20	10
11	12 Springfield Chorus Practice 6:30pm	13 House Committee 7pm, no dinner planned	14	15 Game Night Dinner 7pm \$8	16 No dinner planned	17
18	19 Springfield Chorus Practice 6:30pm	20 Lodge meeting 7pm Dinner 6pm \$8 Taco Tuesday	21	22 Game Night BUNCO Night Smash Burgers Dinner 6pm	23 Family Friday Dinner Marinated Pork Loins & sides Social Hour 6pm Dinner 7pm \$12	24
25	26 Springfield Chorus Practice 6:30pm	27	28	29 Game Night Dinner 7pm \$8	30 No dinner planned	31
1	2	For more information visit our website at www.ccelks2777.com or our Facebook page Christian County Elks #2777 SAVE your newsletter for reference or pass it along to a friend				

Christian County Elks #2777
 PO Box 1399
 Ozark MO 65721
 417-581-4190
 www.ccelks2777.com



To a Very Important Elk



CC Elks Joe Watters delivered food to Carl Beebe, US Navy from 1974 to 1978. Carl served out of Florida on the Forrestal. His duty assignment was mostly in the Mediterranean Sea.



Elks Treasurer, Jerry Fritchman, met with Billy Coker, a NAVY Veteran. Billy did not believe in the Vietnam conflict and decided to join the service.



Richard Griffes is an ARMY Veteran serving 8 years active duty. Elks Mike Mickley and Bill Buening proudly delivered over \$200 in donated food.

Veterans We MET!



Nathan Safford, an ARMY Vietnam Veteran was pleased to receive the food donation from Elks Trustees Jason Factor and Mike Klinger. Nathan was a motor pool mechanic.



Veterans visited by Elks donating food from the Veterans Holiday Food Drive, Jamie (left) and Judy Hayes

