

Elk - - Gram

Home of Past GER Vincent R. Collura, Past GER George B. Klein, Past Grand Secretary Jack M. Jensen, & Past Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight Bobby Clinkenbeard

ELKS CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECT

If you ever wanted to know what “shop til you drop” looked and felt like, you would need to look no further than the 87th and Highway 2 Walmart on November 20th to see it for yourself.



A slew of Elks, their families and friends (more than 30 people in total) gathered to shop. Larry Schwindt and Brian Leavitt developed a system of codes and labels for each organization, family and child to make sure every gift was accounted for and would go to the right person.

After instructions from Larry and armed with clipboards, lists and labels, the Elks elves were let loose in Walmart. They first gathered in the toy aisles, helping each other track down Squishmallow toys, baby dolls, Pokemon cards (out of stock), Barbies, diamond painting kits, legos and more. New member Diane Pitchford and her husband sported jaunty Santa hats, and everyone was in a festive mood.

Troy Pederson, our ER, was seen at one point wrestling a small bicycle into his cart, and Imre Bonyhady made an executive decision to augment one

child’s request for slime by putting a small pottery wheel with clay into his cart. At least two children will be receiving small archery kits on Christmas morning. The boxes for the kits also said “Lawn Darts,” which we thought had been outlawed years ago, but somehow they’re back. Most of the children also received clothing in addition to toys and books.

Christmas will now be a little more special for kids who might otherwise not have had much under the tree, and parents/

guardians struggling to provide specific Santa requests for the little ones now can breathe a sigh of relief.

Fun fact: it took six pickups and one SUV to transport all the cartloads of gifts from Walmart to where they’ll be stored until wrapping. Thanks to Larry and Brian’s sorting system, each family’s gifts will be in separate bags to avoid mixups.

The wrapping party is slated for December 4th at 6:30 p.m. at the Lodge— Please put on your Christmas spirit and come help Santa’s elves. There will be plenty to do, and rumor has it there will be Christmas music to accompany the fun. What a great way to welcome the season—hope to see you there!

For more Christmas Giving photos, see page 9



DECEMBER DINNER

Save the date! December 13th will be a special Roast Beef Dinner at the Lodge, featuring sliced roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, Jello salad and a blueberry dessert. Dinner will be sponsored by the Jackson and Nordman families.

Make sure to bring extra money, as there will be a raffle. You can buy your tickets at the entry table.

We do need your reservations early! Call the Lodge soon so we can make sure to have enough seating.

Dinner admission is \$14. Social hour starts at 5:30, with dinner beginning at 6:30. Bring family and friends, just make sure to RSVP so we have a head count.

We welcome raffle items, also! If you have handicrafts, wine, treats or other goodies, bring them to the Lodge before the dinner.

JANUARY DINNER

Mark your calendars for January 10. Ring in the new year with a Hungarian dinner, sponsored by the Bonyhady family. As a special treat, we will be serving Hungarian Goulash with noodles, steamed veggies, cucumber salad and dessert, all for \$15. Don’t miss it!



Season's greetings from The ER and your ELK family. As the holi-

day season approaches, we are excited to announce several upcoming events at the Lodge. Check the calendar at the back of the EOG for more details.

To begin, there will be a Wrapping Party on December 4th at 6:30 PM at the Lodge, for the children getting gifts from our Christmas Giving Project. Volunteers are needed not only for wrapping but also for assisting with taping, organizing boxes, and post-event clean up.

St. Nicholas will visit the Lodge on Saturday, December 13th at 1 PM to meet children and listen to their holiday wishes. Later that evening, a festive dinner featuring roast beef and all the traditional accompaniments will be served at 6:30 PM!

Finally, please join us on Sunday, December 7th at 2:00 PM for a memorial service to honor members we have lost. As Elks, we cherish the memory of those who are no longer with us and keep their spirit alive. "The faults of our members we write upon the sand, their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory."

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as we look forward to 2026.

—Troy

Troy Pedersen

**EXALTED RULER
TROY PEDERSEN
LINCOLN LODGE #80
2025-2026**

NEW MEMBERS INITIATED OCTOBER 15



Two new members were initiated into our Lodge at our November 19th meeting. Pictured seated in front: Ronald Fink and Diane Pitchford. When you see them at dinners and other activities, make sure to say hello and introduce yourself! Welcome to Elks Lodge #80!

Editor's Note:

Thank you to contributors to this month's newsletter: photos from Laurie Montag, Harry Montag and Scott Schrage. Letters from Troy Pedersen, Laurie Montag and Vicki Logan. Articles from Scott Schrage and Harry Montag also helped round out the EOG! Elks members and other volunteers helped assemble, fold, label and tab this month's issue for mailing, and as always, The Printer does a great job printing the newsletters. Larry Klein, our Webmaster, always gets the electronic version up and running in a timely fashion.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!
-Mary Ryan

Elk-O-Gram is a publication of Elks Lodge #80 Lincoln NE and is published 11 times a year.

Elk-O-Gram Editor's Note

January 2026 Articles Due: On or (preferably) before **December 20th**

Deadline is **ALWAYS** midnight of the Saturday after last meeting of the month!
Articles can be sent to Mary Ryan, Editor, at: eog.lodge80@gmail.com

All past issues, lodge information, and more can be seen at:
www.elks80.org
Site created and managed by Webmaster Larry Klein

YOUTH FOOTBALL SEASON COMES TO A CLOSE

The 2025 football season has come to an end. As in the past, the Elks Youth Football teams did another outstanding job. All teams were highly competitive and it showed in how they played on and off the field. Our C team went undefeated through the regular season and lost a nail biter in the championship game! The Elks are proud of these young men and women.

After the season was over the teams each held their banquets to honor the players and coaches with a hearty meal and awards. This year the Schwaller award went to Ryder Brumm and Tyler Draper, and The Harvey award went to coach Randal Brumm.

Again the Elks would like to thank the coaches and players for all the time and hard work they put in while representing us. We're looking forward to next year. —Scott



THIS IS YOUR ELK-O-GRAM!

If you notice anything missing, or have suggestions or updates to share, let us know! Do you have any announcements, business advertisements, or photos from recent lodge activities you'd like us to add?

*Please contact Mary at eog.lodge80@gmail.com
Remember, if it's important to you, we want to hear about it!*

SECRETARY'S CORNER



It's getting down to the wire for those of you have not paid your 2024/25 dues and do not have a yellow membership card. If you do not pay your dues prior to 12/31/25, your 2025/26 dues statement will reflect the two years that are due. If you do not pay your dues by March 31, 2026, your membership at Lodge #80 will be terminated and you will become a "stray Elk." Please take a moment to remember why you became an Elk and send your dues in ASAP.

A new feature for our members – the electronic membership card! This requires that you establish a login at elks.org (you only need your membership number). Once you log in on your phone, tap "Menu" on the right of the screen, then tap "Member Center." Right below the Welcome, you will see "Digital Membership Card" in the blue box. Tap on that and your digital membership card will appear. While it is still advisable (and required) for you to carry your embossed membership card with you, this may be a good backup. Be aware, this is a new development, and if you travel, not all lodges may currently accept this as evidence of membership.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need assistance with all things Elk. See you at the Lodge!

—*Laurie*

Laurie Montag / secretary@elks80.org / 402.202.6673 by text or phone.

Team Up Calendar: <https://teamup.com/ks72770fc1e574f762>

**2025-2026 ELKS
LODGE #80 OFFICERS**

Exalted Ruler

Troy Pedersen

Leading Knight

Rev. Dr. William Jackson

Loyal Knight

Tami Nordman

Lecturing Knight

Dave Shoff

Esquire

Heather Poysa

Inner Guard

Mary Ryan

Tiler

Phil Pickard

Secretary

Laurie Montag PER

Treasurer

Jody Schrage

Chaplain

Maureen Sadler

Trustee 1 Year

Jen Giese

Trustee 2 Year

Harry Montag, PER

Trustee 3 Year

Scott Schrage

Trustee 4 Year

Ken Cohn

Trustee 5 Year

Milt Schmidt

Presiding Justice

Amy Jacobsen, PER

Organist

Wauneta Peterson

Trustees

Scott Schrage

Harry Montag

Milt Schmidt

Jen Giese

Ken Cohn

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION (ENF)



CURRENT STATS:

Lodge 80 '25 goal: \$5.25 per person.

As of 11/05/2025 - \$12.09

Visit www.elks.org/enf to see how you can make a difference.

Online Donations: *You can now support the ENF at any time of day from the convenience of your own home. To make your gift, go to www.elks.org/donate.*

KARAOKE AT THE LODGE

Our next karaoke night will be Friday, December 19th. Join us to sing or watch, visit and get caught up. We meet at the Jolly Cork the third Friday of each month. You don't have to sing to have a good time—heck, you don't even have to sing well to get up and belt out a tune or two. Come out for the fun, fellowship, and prizes. Bring your smiles, and some food to share with everyone else! It's always a good time.

WE CAN DO THIS COLLECTION BARREL

Please remember to bring food and personal care items for the WE CAN DO THIS RED BARREL when you come to the lodge!

Needed items are: Toilet Paper, Dish Soap, Paper Towels, Cereal, Instant Potatoes, Mac & Cheese, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables (with pull tabs if possible), Knorr (or store brand) noodles/rice, and Ramen.

These items help the kids and their families help themselves. What doesn't get used right away goes into a pantry for kids and their families.




CASH CALENDAR

One of the major fundraisers for the Lodge is our yearly Cash Calendar. It went out as a page in the October Elk-o-Gram—If you missed it or misplaced it, we will have extras at the Lodge at the Jolly Cork. You can make copies and fill them out for yourself, and encourage friends and family to do the same. You don't have to be a member of the Lodge to participate! Instructions are on the back of the calendar— it's simple and helps the Lodge!

Leaders of the Pack!

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VETERAN PROGRAMS

"So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

HIDE PROGRAM - GLOVES FOR VETERANS

Deer hunting season is upon us: archery permits started September 1 and go through December 31st, and firearm deer season went from November 15-23. Separate seasons for muzzleloaders and for antlerless deer are also approaching.

Whether you hunt or know someone who does, just a reminder that the hides should not be discarded! Ask the meat processor to save the hide so it can be donated to our hide program, where it is sent to be tanned and turned into gloves for veterans.

BEER AND BURGER NIGHT

American Legion meets at our Lodge and during their meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, we host a beer and burger meal from 6pm to 7pm, serving Legion members and Elks all together. We'd love to see more of our members at the dinners! Our next Burger Night will be on Tuesday December 10th.

Freshly made burgers, hand cut French fries, homemade baked beans and coleslaw are served, all for WAY less than you would spend on a fast food meal (and it tastes much better!). Join us, visit with your fellow Elks, and grab a drink at the bar. If you'd like to help cook and/or serve, talk to Harry Montag for more details—it's a fun evening all around!

DOES DISPATCH



December brings the DOES calendar year to a close.

We will soon be electing new officers for 2026 along with discussions on fund raising ideas for the coming year.

Annual reports will be gathered and include the activities held to help financially support the National Organization as well as member rosters and the volunteer work and hours donated to our community.

Best to all,
—Vicki
President Vicki Logan



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OUR MEMBERS

Sickness & Distress:

Karen McCain; Tom Ferneau; Sonny Lane; Maggie Schumacher; Tami Nordman, Jerry Wilson

Deaths: Diana McNeese

Proposition for Membership:

Deborah Catherall, Stephen Fowles, Mary Joan Nickell, Danny Lind, Diane Pitchford, Ronald Fink

Awaiting Initiation:
None.

Members Initiated:

Deborah Catherall, Stephen Fowles, Mary Joan Nickell, Diane Pitchford, Ronald Fink

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

The attendance drawing for the November 5 meeting was for \$250. The lucky name was Doug Rienks, who was not in attendance. At the November 19 meeting it was Jonathan Becker, who was also not in attendance. You have to be at the meeting to win. The next drawing will be \$250 and continue at that amount until someone wins.

We also have a raffle at every meeting. The raffle on November 5th was won by Mary Ryan for \$13, which she donated to the Veterans Fund. Winning on the 19th for \$13 was Sam Carter, who donated his winnings to the Christmas Fund!

SECRET NUMBER:

The secret membership number in the November issue belonged to Kim Wiseman! Don't forget to look for your number in this month's issue!

Upcoming meetings:

December 5th 7PM
January 7th 7PM
January 21st 7PM

IN MEMORIAM

On **December 4th at 2:00 p.m.** we will be holding a special memorial service to honor the memory of these Elks who passed away this last year. **Robert H. Taylor**, 72 year member; **Art Jones** 54 year member; **W. Richard Baker** 52 year member; **Larry Benac**, 31 year member; **David Rieber**, 30 year member; **Beverly Erickson**, 21 year member; **Thomas P. Hansen**, 5 year member; and **Fran Brannen**, 5 year member.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 02 Carol Greene | 20 Scott Wolf |
| 03 Laurie Montag | 21 Jack D. Campbell |
| 06 Vernon Davis | 23 Bruce Schenke |
| 09 Donald Hanway, Jr. | 24 Todd McCain |
| Rod Rozanek | Frederick Rickers |
| 10 Dewitt Harouff | James Smith |
| Robert Sindlar | Pat Wiseman |
| 12 Tami Nordman | 27 Jeff Madsen |
| 14 Xan Johnson | Ed Peeks |
| 18 Dave Meduna | 31 Angel Medina |

*JOLLY CORK
BIRTHDAY TICKET*

Come down to the Lodge to celebrate your birthday! Present this coupon and have a free drink on us.

(Coupon is good 2 days before your birthday, on your birthday, and 2 days after your birthday.)

Lapsed Members

The following members still need to pay their dues to keep their memberships active.

- Jacob Bliven
- Katherine Bohling
- Ron Bonebright
- Jason Brooks
- Matthew Brophy
- Frank Bruyette
- Eric Ebeler
- James Erickson
- Thomas Ferneau
- Chad Gustin
- Paul Holt
- Jennifer Hubbard
- Thomas Lynch
- Harry Malone
- Frederick Rickers
- Neil Stuthmann
- Kenneth TenHulzen

Our Lodge is required to pay a significant portion of each registered member's dues to the Grand Lodge, regardless of whether or not the member is current on their dues — keeping up to date on your membership is important because we front that cost for you and our resources are stretched.

We understand that sometimes, things slip through the cracks. If you're interested in paying by the month, that's also an option! Talk to Laurie, the Lodge Secretary, to make arrangements. Don't become a "stray elk!"



THE FUTURE IS OURS TO SEE

Imagine your greatest goals within reach. Together, we can create a strategy to help make fulfilling those dreams a reality—one that can guide you forward on the path to success.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM OCTOBER

2025-2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Accident: Scott Schrage
Activities: Harry Montag, DD, PER
Americanism: Vacant
Auditing: Vacant
Benevolence:
 Larry Bratt PER, PDDGER, PSP
By-Laws Changes: Vacant
Holiday Giving:
 Larry Schwindt, PER, PSP PDDGER
Children's Meal Distribution:
 Mary Ryan
Community Activities:
 Larry Bratt PER, PSP, PDDGER
Drug Awareness:
 Harry Montag, DD, PER
Elks Memorial Day: Larry Jurgens
Elks National Foundation (ENF):
 Larry Bratt PER, PSP, PDDGER
Flag Day: Vacant
Fraternal: Gerald Miles, PER
Scouting Awards: Dave Schoff
Gov. Relations:
 Troy Pedersen, ER, PER
Hide Program: Larry Jurgens
Hoop Shoot: Harry Montag, DD, PER
Investigation:
 Larry Bratt PDDGER, PER, PSP
Lapsation: Harry Montag, DD, PER
Membership:
 Larry Schwindt PSP, PER, PDDGER
PER Association:
 Larry Bratt, PER, PDDGER, PSP
Public Relations:
 Harry Montag, DD, PER
Ritual:
 Larry Bratt PER, PDDGER, PSP
Scholarship:
 Christian Biester, Bryan Reimers
Standing Relief: Laurie Montag PER
State Major Projects:
 Larry Schwindt PSP, PER, PDDGER
Teen of the Year: Mary Ryan
Veterans: Milt Schmidt
Youth Activities: Laurie Montag PER

NOTE: Contact ER Troy Pedersen or Secretary Laurie Montag if you are interested in serving on any of the committees or would consider filling a vacant committee chair position.

Americanism: No report.
Boy Scouts: Presentation on November 23rd for Troop 64.
Children's Weekend Meals: Next upcoming weekend will be Nov. 30th. Contact Mary Ryan to help.
Drug Awareness: October was Drug Awareness Month. National Prescription Drug Takeback Day was set for Oct. 25.
Girl Scouts: No report.
Hide Program: No report.
Hoop Shoot: No report.
House Committee: If there is live music, a raffle may not be done. November's dinner sponsored by Harry & Laurie Montag and Scott & Jody Schrage. We will be having turkey and noodles over mashed potatoes, peas, cranberries and pumpkin dump cake. Starting in December price for the dinner will be raised to \$15 per person.
ENF: \$12.09 as of 10/21, exceeding the G.E.R.'s ENF goal of \$5.25 per member for 2025-26. Consider joining the Fidelity Club. We are currently first in the state!
Membership: 223 members, 1 candidates, 17 lapsed members.
Lincoln Youth Football: Youth banquets held in November, with the last one on November 10th.
Scholarship: Please encourage high school seniors and lodge legacies to apply by December 30, 2025.
Social Community Welfare: No report.
Veterans Committee: Pantry for Victory Apartments is ongoing, see Milt Schmidt for information. Veterans Pantry was November 25th at 4 p.m. Let Milt know if you would like to help. Thanked Anonymous donor for a check of \$347 for the veteran's pantry. Veterans parade Tuesday, November 11th.

NOTES FROM THE TRUSTEES



The Trustees went over Septembers bill and all looked good and in 15513 order with the budget so it was approved to pay the monthly bills.

Looked at costs for the lodge and after discussion it was decided to raise our monthly dinner price to \$15.00 which will start in January of 2026. The Beer & Burger night meals will also be raised \$1.00 for the burgers and no increase on side items, this will also start in January of 2026.

It is time for lodge committees to start thinking about the 2026-2027 budget. Next year budgets will need to be given to the Trustees by Saturday January 31st so we can start working on next years budget.

Remember to support the Lodge by attending our monthly dinners, Beer & Burger, and Karaoke. With the Holidays here don't forget that Santa will be at the Lodge Saturday December 13th from 1 to 3pm. The Lodge Christmas party will be Friday December 19th.

The Trustees - Scott, Harry, Jen, Milt, and Ken



JOLLY CORKS PUB

Come on in for fun and fellowship!

OPEN HOURS:
TUES & THURS 3 - 7
FRI 3 - 9, SAT 3 - 7
NO FOOD SERVICE AVAILABLE.
CLOSED SUNDAY,
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY.

BE JOLLY!
 Have a beverage and support your Lodge.



Christmas Giving Project Shopping November 20th



**UPCOMING
VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES**

WE CAN DO THIS – Pack and distribute weekend meal kits for kids. Belmont Community Center, March 29, 2026 at 11:00a.m. Contact Chairperson Mary Ryan, 402.499.6881

VETS' PANTRY – help distribute food and hygiene products to veterans. Always the last Tuesday of the month at Victory Apartments near 70th/O. 3pm. Contact Chairperson Milt Schmidt, 402.489.7903.

MONTHLY DINNERS – Our dinners are a volunteer activity that serves the lodge. Have a favorite recipe you'd like to share with others? Food preparation (an easily-obtainable food handler's permit is required for preparation), serving and cleaning up are all part of the fun. Time spent working together helps folks to meet new friends at the lodge. Call Harry Montag, 402.990.7199.

BEER AND BURGER NITE - Second Tuesday of every month, we need extra hands for prep and serving! Call Harry Montag, 402.990.7199

CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECT – Larry Schwindt 402.416.5239

SCOUTING – Dave Shoff 402. 937.8745

SOCCER SHOOT – Ken Cohn 402.310.8526

HOOP SHOOT - Harry Montag 402.990.7199

We have many activities you can help with! If you have an activity you think would be a good fit for the Elks, come to a meeting and let us know.

ELKS VOLUNTEER NEWS

ELKS MEMBERS HELP AT HAUNTED ARMORY

In October, our Lodge helped out with the Haunted Armory, a trick or treat event sponsored by Army of Hope, which supports families of active service members. Participating from our Lodge were ER Troy Pedersen, Trustee Ken Cohn, Jim Nordman, Est. Loyal Knight Tami Nordman, Larry Schwindt PER, Larry Bratt PER, Todd McCain, Tami Bernholtz, Mike Bernholtz, Karen McCain, Candice Bryan, Todd Klinefelter, Milt Schmidt, and Harry and Laurie Montag.



A big shout out to our members who volunteered to work at the lodge in November to support our lounge, our dinners, room rentals, karaoke, newsletter, and other projects, and in general help make our lodge work: (with apologies to anyone we may inadvertently miss): Larry Bratt PER; Ken Cohn; Diane Dannelly and Dave Nelson; Todd McCain; Harry Montag PER; Laurie Montag PER; Jim and Tami Nordman; Troy Pedersen ER/PER; Mary Ryan; Milt and Linda Schmidt; Larry Schwindt PER. Big thanks go to Scott and Jody Schrage and Harry and Laurie Montag for sponsoring our November dinner. A special nod goes to Connie Moore who always helps with the raffle and cleanup. Many members donated raffle prizes, and we thank all of you, too! A huge number of members and other volunteers helped with our Christmas Giving Project shopping on November 20th, too many to name—thank you thank you thank you! If you're interested in volunteering with activities at the lodge, we welcome you with open arms; a list of volunteer opportunities is in the sidebar of this page for your reference!

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FELLOW ELKS:

Can you commit to attending just two meetings a year?

Meetings are the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Membership drawings and raffles mean it literally PAYS to attend!

We also want to see you there because meetings are where members vote and decisions are made—you don't have to be an officer to have a voice!

THE ELK-O-GRAM IS A GREAT PLACE TO ADVERTISE!

Talk to Laurie Montag, the Lodge Secretary, about advertising your business at a great rate!

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LODGE HOURS : Tues, Thurs 3-7p; Fri 3-9p, Sat 3-7p
 Closed Sunday, Monday, Wednesday

Hidden Number:
 November's hidden number was Kim Wiseman!
 Look closely in this issue; if you spot your membership number, you get a free meal at our next monthly dinner!

DECEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 <i>Feed Kids @ Belmont Community Center 11a</i>	1 Closed	2 Pitch 3p	3 Closed House 6p Lodge 7p	4 Christmas Wrapping Party, Lodge Room 630p	5 Room Rented (Legion Dinner)	6
7 Memorial Service 2p	8 Closed	9 Pitch 3p Burger Night 6p Am. Legion 7p Am Legion Aux 7p	10 Closed <i>Dinner RSVPs Due!</i>	11	12	13 SANTA VISITS! 1p Lodge Dinner 530 Social/630 Dinner
14	15 Closed Trustees 6p	16 Pitch 3p American Legion 40/8 Potluck 7p	17 Closed NO LODGE MEETING	18	19 Veteran's Coffehaus @Auld Pavilion 10a Karaoke 6p	20
21	22 Closed	23 Pitch 3p Does 6p	24 Closed	25 Closed MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26	27
28	29 Closed	30 Pitch 3p Veterans Pantry @Victory Apts 3-5p	31 Closed	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3