



VOLUME 135, ISSUE 10

JANUARY 2024

# Elk - - Gram

A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION

LODGE #80, EST. 1901

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

THE FAULTS OF OUR MEMBERS, WE WRITE UPON THE SAND—THEIR VIRTUES UPON THE TABLETS OF LOVE AND MEMORY

The first year for our new Christmas Giving Project is in the books! I am proud to say that when we asked for help, our members, their spouses and friends were quick to respond. I was overwhelmed by the number of people who volunteered to help with this project. After working with The Malone Community Center, City Impact, and We Can Do This, we compiled lists of families and items the kids wanted and/or needed for Christmas. We then generated shopping lists for each family and scheduled a shopping night. On the shopping night we had 13 Elks and 14 non-Elks come to help. We passed out shopping lists and turned everyone loose. After three hours of shopping, everything was loaded into vehicles and dropped off at my house. All of the items were then sorted into bags for each individual child and later taken to the Lodge to be wrapped. On wrapping night, we had 13 Elks and 16 non-Elks come to help, bringing boxes, tape, wrapping paper, gift bags, tissue paper, bike bags, bows, and ribbon, and in a little over two hours over 300 items were wrapped and bagged for delivery to the three sites for distribution.

All totaled we were able to make Christmas brighter for 59 families with a combined 194 children. This worthwhile and fulfilling endeavor was made possible by the time and energy supplied by the people who volunteered their time and talents to make this new program



such a success. All totaled there were 98 Elk Hours, 314 Elk miles, 105 non-Elk hours, 331 non-Elk miles, plus the Christmas Giving Project Committee added another 118 hours and 116 miles. The generosity and willingness to help with this project reaffirms why the Elks are the foremost charitable organization in the country! ELKS CARE – ELKS SHARE!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of you who took time out of your busy lives to help brighten the lives of so many families and children!

Larry Schwindt



 *Happy New Year!* 

What better way to celebrate than to join us for our Seafood Boil, January 13th! We'll be serving up Shrimp, Pollack, Potatoes, Corn, Sausage, and a seasonal dessert. \$12/ Person.

5:30 Social Hour, 6:30 Dinner served.

*Please call ahead by Jan 12th for reservations!*

*Sponsored by Mitch Becker*



**11th Annual Chili Cookoff!**

Mark your calendar for January 27th and bring your best concoction to enter in our annual Chili competition. Possession of the traveling Chili Pepper Trophy hangs in the balance... Call the Lodge or Trustee Jen Giese and let her know what you are bringing...chicken soup and cinnamon rolls will be provided for our non-chili friends.

5:30 Social Hour, 6:30 tasting begins...



Valentines Dinner - **February 10th** - Entertainment by Bert & Scott! More info next month...



**Exalted Ruler Larry Schwindt**  
**Lincoln Lodge No. 80**  
**2023-2024**  
**A New Adventure**

The beginning of a new year! Full of hope for a fresh start. It also signals the winding down of the current Lodge year. It gives us time to reflect upon all of the good work our Lodge has done and also focus on the tasks that remain. Every member should be proud of the contributions our Lodge makes to the community. So far this Lodge year we have given almost fifty thousand dollars in scholarships to high school seniors, sponsored 6 youth football teams, gave toys and clothing to needy youth through our Christmas Project, supported Eagle Scouts, and conducted our annual Hoop Shoot program. We also supported our Veterans by sponsoring a monthly pantry at the Victory Apartments on the VA Campus, the Veteran's Coffeehouse at Auld Pavilion once a month and a booth at the yearly Veterans Music Festival.

In addition to all of the things we have done in our community, our intrepid group of volunteers has also planned, organized, cooked and served all of our fantastic monthly dinners. To accomplish all of the above tasks was not easy and took many, many hours from our dedicated group of volunteers. Without their time and dedication these programs would not be possible.

As far as remaining tasks for the Lodge year, we are going to distribute thesauruses to fifth graders in schools surrounding Lincoln, and also hold our Teen of the Year ceremony. One main area we still need to focus on is membership. At this time, we have 12 members who have not yet paid their dues. If you're not paying your dues because circumstances don't allow you to participate as much as you would like to, please reconsider, as we rely on payment of dues to help pay the bills of the Lodge.

Happy New Year to everyone!

Work for the cause – Not for the applause.

Thanks, Larry

**Secretary's Corner**



I know I say this every year, but I literally cannot believe that 2023 is in the rearview mirror and that we are heading full-on into 2024! When I was a child, I remember that the 15 minutes from 3:00pm to 3:15pm seemed to take FOREVER to pass when I was listening for the school dismissal bell to ring! Now, days seem to go by in the blink of an eye, let alone a whole YEAR!

Dues statement will be going out in mid-January. These are mailed through Grand Lodge, which saves us an enormous amount of cash – they actually print and mail each statement for about half the price of a first class stamp. Grand Lodge mails statements four times a year – January, May, August, and October. ANNUAL DUES SHOULD BE PAID BEFORE APRIL 1 OF EACH YEAR!! If they are not paid by May 1, you enter delinquent status. Remember, dues help us keep the doors open, and that helps us to continue all our wonderful opportunities for fellowship and service to our community. 15612

I also want to talk a bit about the new Christmas Giving Project that we embarked upon this year. The three non-profits we partnered with were absolutely ecstatic to have our help to serve the families they assist. Like the Elks Children's Christmas Party that this new program replaced, there are many opportunities for our members to be involved – transportation, organizing, shopping, gift wrapping, and distribution were areas in which we needed lots of help. Thanks to all of those who came – and as we begin planning for next year, we hope more members will become involved. As in the inaugural year of any big new project, we need feedback so we can make next year better. If you have any ideas, please be sure to talk to Larry Schwindt or myself.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need assistance with all things Elk. There is voicemail on the lodge phone, or you may contact me as below. See you at the Lodge!

Laurie Montag / [secretary@elks80.org](mailto:secretary@elks80.org) / 402.202.6673 by text or phone

**Thank You! Thank You!**

The Nebraska Corvette Association meets monthly at the Lodge. We want to recognize the Lincoln Corvette Club for their generous donation to the Lodge in the amount of \$2,500.00. The lodge will put this donation to good use! Again, we want to say Thanks to the Lincoln Corvette Club!

**Does Dispatch**

Lincoln Drove #4 had a busy and successful year and look forward to 2024. We initiated a new member in December and honored the life of our friend and fellow DOE Jan Wieting. Installation of Officers will take place on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 with two members stepping up to help fill the chairs. We will also initiate yet another member the same evening!

Best wishes to all for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

President Vicki Logan



**We Need Your Hides...**



Let everyone you know that hunts, that Lincoln Lodge #80 is collecting deer hides again this year. The hides will be made into half gloves for wheelchair bound veterans. Hides will be collected on the south side of the Lodge in the red bin. Please put clean hides in a plastic bag. Thanks, Larry Jurgens - Hide Chairman

### A Christmas Surprise!

Once again Elks Lodge #80 was asked to be a part of something fun in our Community. The Auto Connection, owned by Elk member Kevin Anderson, gave away a car to a deserving individual for Christmas! This is the second year of this giveaway, and one he intends to repeat! Interested parties nominate deserving individuals, a selection committee from Lodge #80 reviews all the nominations, and selects a person to receive the car.

The Auto Connection includes a free year of service, and AAA contributes a year of roadside service as well. Committee Members, Ken Cohn (not pictured) Harry Montag, P.E.R., Scott Schrage, Trustee Chair, Randy King, Trustee, and Maureen Sadler, Tiler, are pictured, along with the staff of The Auto Connection, the recipient and his children. He is a single Dad of three and a disabled Veteran. His Mother nominated him, and he had absolutely no idea what a surprise he was in for!



Elks Lodge #80 Christmas Party carry-in and karaoke was held December 15th. Lots of good food to share, Christmas Carols to sing, and a great time had by all. Ken worked his wizardry at the controls

of his machine, and hosted Karaoke Bingo. (Christmas themed, of course!) It was great fun, and he provided a table full of prizes for the bingo winners! You don't have to sing to play, just



come on out and join in the fun! January karaoke is on the 19th, 6-9 pm in the Jolly Corks lounge. Bring your friends and family. Invite someone to come have fun, get them an application to become "A true and loyal member among us" ... after all, sharing is what Elkdom is all about... Might as well have fun doing it!



## ...Our Members...

**Sickness & Distress:** Harry Montag and Terry Edwards, both recovering from surgery; Ed Beins and Rita, both dealing with health issues.

**Deaths:** James Searle, December 7, 2023, 61-year member.

**Members for Consideration:** None

**Members Reinstated:** None

**Members Elected:** None

**Members Initiated:** Andrew Jensen, proposed by Mitch Becker

**Hidden Number:** November's hidden number was 15604, Dr.

Doug Rienks! Look close in this issue, the hidden number might be yours. If you spot your number, you get a free meal at the next monthly dinner!

## Committee Reports

**Boy Scouts:** Eagle Flag presented in December to a new Eagles from Troop 28.

**Drug Awareness:** Harry reported on NE State Patrol's ongoing efforts to stem the flow of drugs on the I-80 corridor.

**Girl Scouts:** No Report.

**House Committee:** No Report.

**ENF:** The 2023-2024 goal is \$4.80. Lodge #80 is currently at \$13.80 per member.

**Membership:** 218 Active, 12 delinquent, one pending

**Lincoln Youth Football:** No Report..

**Veterans Committee:** Victory Apartments January 30th, Veterans Coffeehaus January 19th. See Trustee Milt Schmidt for more information.

### COLLECTION BARREL

For WE CAN DO THIS at the F Street Community Center.

We continue to collect non-perishable food items such as single- serving foods, canned vegetables and fruit, and canned proteins, and self-care items, such as tooth brushes, tooth paste, deodorants (Axe, Sure, Secret are brands young people seem to like), body wash, etc. Remember, these items go to young people and children. There is also a need for household items, such as dish soap, Spic & Span cleaner, Comet, Windex, toilet cleaner, garbage bags, and dishwasher soap – many of these are available at the Dollar Tree.

Please consider adding one or two or a few of these items to your shopping list, and leave them in the red container at the Lodge. A BIG THANK-YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED! The need continues!

### Scholarship News...

By the time you have this newsletter in your hands, our scholarship application due date will have passed and we will be busy processing all the applications. Our lodge members will have an opportunity to review and score the applications on Sunday, February 4, 2024. Please join us at the lodge at noon to be inspired by the good stuff our young folks are doing as they head off to post-secondary education plans. Snacks and beverages will be provided!

**Membership Drawing:** The Raffle on 12/6 was won by P.E.R. Troy Pedersen, He donated his \$18 winnings to the Bartender's Christmas Fund. The name picked for the December attendance drawing was Angela Ehlers, who was not present to win. It pays to come to meetings!

**Jolly Corks Pub is closed Sunday, Monday, Wednesday.**  
**Open hours are Tues and Thurs 3 - 7, Fri 3 - 9, Sat 3- 7**  
**No food service available.**

### In Sympathy...

Lodge 80's heartfelt sympathies are extended to: The family of our absent member, Jim Searle.



### 2023-2024 Elks Lodge #80 Officers

<b>Exalted Ruler.....</b>	Larry Schwindt PSP, PER, PDDGER
<b>Leading Knight.....</b>	Troy Pederson, PER
<b>Loyal Knight.....</b>	Dr. William Jackson
<b>Lecturing Knight.....</b>	Bryan Leavitt
<b>Esquire.....</b>	Larry Bratt SP, PER, PDDGER
<b>Inner Guard.....</b>	Heather Chesnut
<b>Tiler.....</b>	Maureen Sadler
<b>Secretary.....</b>	Laurie Montag PER
<b>Treasurer.....</b>	Jody Schrage
<b>Chaplain.....</b>	Frank Bruyette
<b>Trustee 1 Year.....</b>	Randy King
<b>Trustee 2 Year.....</b>	Milt Schmidt
<b>Trustee 3 Year.....</b>	Jen Giese
<b>Trustee 4 Year.....</b>	Harry Montag, PER
<b>Trustee 5 Year.....</b>	Scott Schrage
<b>Presiding Justice.....</b>	Amy Jacobsen, PER, PDDGER
<b>Organist .....</b>	Wauneta Peterson

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## **Elk-O-Gram Editor's Note**

**Articles Due:  
January 18**

**Deadline is ALWAYS midnight of the Thursday after last meeting of the month!**

Articles can be sent to Maureen Sadler at:

**eog.lodge80@gmail.com**

All past issues, lodge information, and more can be seen at: **www.elks80.org**

Created and managed by Webmaster Larry Klein

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

Did you see something missing? Was there something you wanted to announce? Did you have an advertisement that you wanted to add? Do you have pictures from a recent Lodge activity? Have suggestions or updates to share?

Please! Contact the Editor at: Eog.lodge80@gmail.com with any tidbits you would like to see included in your Elk-O-Gram.

*Remember, if it's important, let us know!*



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. Thanks goes to those who served the lodge in December (with kudos to anyone we may inadvertently miss):

Larry Bratt PER; Ken Cohn; Diane Dannelly and Dave Nelson; Larry Jurgens; Vicki Jurgens; Randy King; Harry Montag PER; Laurie Montag PER; Maureen Sadler; Milt and Linda Schmidt; Jody Schrage; Scott Schrage; Larry Schwindt ER, and Bob Sindlar.

A particular shout-out goes to the Does for sponsoring the dinner, so that all of the proceeds could go to support the lodge, and thanks to those Does who helped serve: Vicki Logan, Ruth Arms, Randy King, Nancy Cohn, and Wauneta Peterson.

## **Notes from the Trustees**

The Trustee's went over the monthly reports and after some discussion everything is looking good.



We are in contact with Grand Lodge and waiting for a reply about when we can schedule a Lodge Appraisal.

The Trustee's will start working on next years budget in February and are asking that all budgets be turned in no later than Saturday February 10th. That is also the night of our Valentine Day Dinner.

Remember to come and enjoy our monthly dinners, Beer and Burger, and Karaoke. These are just a few of events that happen monthly in the Lodge.

Check your Elk-O-Gram for time and dates of events!

The Trustee's

Scott, Jen, Milt, Randy, and Harry

## **Karaoke at the Jolly Cork!**

Greetings, fellow Elks! I would like to personally extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone who donated to the karaoke bingo prize fund in November and December. When the call went out for help, many of you stepped up and generously donated funds and items to help provide prizes for the new bingo game that we have been playing between singers. Your support is appreciated more than you can imagine! Like my predecessor, I volunteer to provide karaoke every month for the good of The Lodge. My equipment, upgrades, bingo cards, new music, supplies, and prizes are expensed from my personal income, karaoke tips, and contributions that our patrons have so generously donated. Your attendance and generosity are what allows karaoke to continue at the Elks Lodge as well as providing improvements in the quality of the show, making each one more fun than the show before! I wouldn't be able to continue these shows without your generous support, so "Thank You" from Mr. C's Karaoke (Ken Cohn)! See you January 19th at 6 pm!



## **2023-2024 Committees**

**Accident:** Scott Schrage  
**Activities:** Harry Montag, PER  
**Americanism:** Vacant  
**Auditing:** Vacant  
**Benevolence:** Larry Bratt, President NE Elks, PER, PDDGER  
**By-Laws Changes:** Vacant  
**Holiday Giving:** Larry Schwindt, ER, PER, PSP, PDDGER,  
**Community Activities:** Larry Bratt President NE Elks, PER, PDDGER  
**Drug Awareness:** Harry Montag, ER, PER  
**Eagle Scouts:** Randy King  
**Elks Memorial Day:** Larry Jurgens  
**ENF:** Larry Bratt President NE Elks, PER, PDDGER  
**Flag Day:** Vacant  
**Fraternal:** Gerald Miles, PER  
**Girl Scout Gold Award:** Randy King

**Gov. Relations:** Troy Pedersen, PER  
**Hide Program:** Larry Jurgens  
**Hoop Shoot:** Harry Montag, PER  
**Investigation:** Larry Bratt President NE Elks, PER, PDDGER  
**Membership:** Larry Schwindt ER, PSP, PER, PDDGER  
**PER Association:** Larry Bratt, President NE Elks, PER, PDDGER  
**Public Relations:** Harry Montag, PER  
**Ritual:** Larry Bratt President NE Elks, PER, PDDGER  
**Scholarship:** Laurie Montag PER  
**Standing Relief:** Laurie Montag PER  
**State Major Projects:** Larry Schwindt ER, PSP, PER, PDDGER  
**Veterans:** Milt Schmidt  
**Youth Activities:** Laurie Montag PER  
**Youth Football:** Scott Schrage

## **Happy January Birthdays!**

- |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 01 - Thomas H. Lynch | 19 - Terry Edwards, P.E.R. |
| 02 - Radley Breuer   | Chelsea Truka              |
| 06 - Roger White     | 20 - Robert Taylor         |
| 08 - Kevin Anderson. | 21 - James M. Gray         |
| Janis Ireland        | 25 - Matthew Brophy        |
| Roxanne Thomas       | John Hansen                |
| 09 - Jason Brooks    | 26 - Larry Benac           |
| David Crouse         | 28 - Jason Warrick         |
| 12 - Linda Rienks    | 29 - Andy Jensen           |
| 12 - Carol Snyder    | 31 - Glen Riensche         |



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)

### Budget Time...

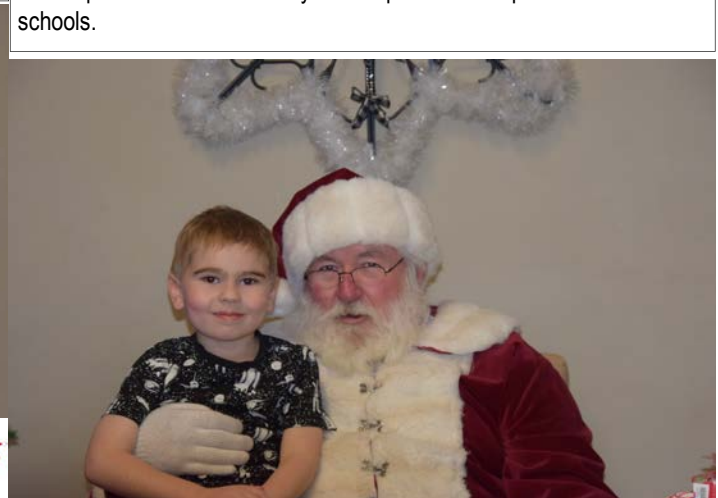
The Trustee's will start working on the 2023-2024 budget, and we are asking that budgets be submitted by February 10th. Please include the following information: what the funds are for, when the funds will be needed, and what the cost will be. Without this information it is difficult to make an accurate budget.

Please turn your budget in to one of our Trustee's and if you have any questions just contact a Trustee for help. Thanks for all the hard work everyone does to make the Lodge successful.

*The Trustee's*

### Good of the Order...

Laurie Montag announced that we were approved for the Beacon /Spot-light Grant to use for the Vet's Pantry and the support for the Veteran's Advisory Group. Laurie also made a motion that we apply for the only remaining grant, the Gratitude Grant in the amount of \$3,000, for the purpose of donating \$1,000 each to City Impact, Malone Center, and We Can Do This. Dr. William Jackson seconded. Discussion ensued. Laurie further explained that the application deadline is only a month off, and we do not have time to develop a new project. This money from the Grants will be used as the organizations see fit. The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously. Larry Bratt reported on the Thesauruses. We were able to purchase what we needed using the Smith money. The new copies do not match last year's copies. We will present them at 3 schools.



This year Santa made an early stop at the Lodge. He was able to meet with children and ask them what they wanted for Christmas. All the children were excited to see the Jolly One and Santa gave out gift bags to all that came. He then headed back to the North Pole to get ready for his upcoming trip around the world. The Lodge wants to thank all the Elves that volunteered to come and assist Santa, and we're all looking forward to his coming to visit us again next year!

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*Leaders of the Pack!*

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499-0925

**Pat**  
450-8133

**Dick**  
430-7288

**WolfProRealty.com**

**Delinquent on Dues...**

Jonathan Becker  
 Russell Bergholz  
 Jason Brooks  
 David Crouse  
 Harry Malone  
 Alisa Neff

Linda O'Connor  
 Xavier Shiu  
 Nathaniel Thedford  
 James Varner  
 George Venteicher  
 Jerry Witte

The Lodge relies on your dues to keep the lights on...your timely payment ensures we can meet our monthly budget. When you are delinquent, it takes additional time and resources to encourage you to get current. Remember, dues are due before the first of the Fraternal Year, April 1. When you are delinquent, you cannot vote at a Lodge meeting, your Jolly Cork privileges are suspended, and other benefits of membership...Please get your dues in ASAP!

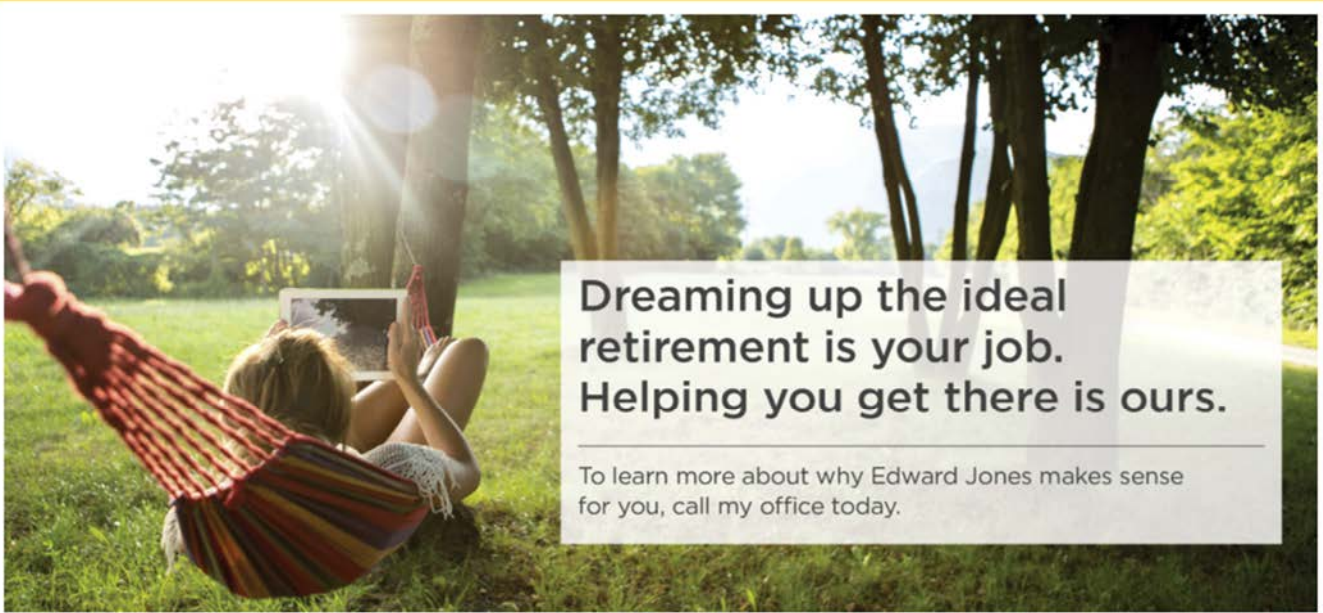


New Elks Lodge #80 member Andy Jensen, along with his sponsor Mitch Becker, and P.E.R. Troy Pedersen. Welcome Andy!

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Lodge 80 GOAL: \$4.80 Currently \$13.80

Don't forget to look for the member number in this issue. If you find yours, call the Lodge for your dinner ticket!

# January 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1 Closed 	2 Pitch 3p	3 Closed Lodge 7p	4	5	6
7	8 Closed	9 Pitch 3p Burger Night 6p Am. Legion 7p	10 Closed Corvette Club 5:30p	11	12 Room rented 5p	13 <b>Seafood Boil</b> Cocktails 5:30p Dinner 6:30p
14	15 Closed Trustee Mtg. 6p	16 Pitch 3p Am. Legion 40/8 potluck 6p	17 Closed House 6p Lodge 7p	18	19 Veteran Coffeehaus 10a Auld Pavillion Karaoke 6-9p Bass Club 7-8p	20 District Hoop Shoot Wysong 1p
21	22 Closed LEL Charitable Fund 6p	23 Pitch 3p Does Initiation & Installation 5:30p	24 Closed	25	26	27 <b>Chili Cookoff</b> Cocktails 5:30p Dinner 6:30p
28	29 Closed	30 Pitch 3p Vets Pantry 3p	31 Closed	1	2	3