



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

CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECT

Our Lodge finished out the Christmas Giving Project with a huge gathering to wrap gifts and prepare them to be delivered to the organizations distributing the presents to the families whose children will be receiving them on Christmas day. Elk and Does members and community volunteers came together to prepare these packages, with a festive air and lots of laughs. What a great way to celebrate the season and reflect on the reason our Lodge does what we do—to serve our fellow citizens with Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. If you missed out this year, we encourage you to join in the project next year—it's a great way to bring out your holiday spirit.



JANUARY DINNER!

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

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

Dinner admission is \$15. 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.

UPCOMING DINNERS AND EVENTS

January 18th from 1-4 pm we will have a **Lodge Cleanup Day** to spruce up the building and grounds—we need all hands on deck! Many hands make light work, and there will be snacks and music. Please plan on helping as much as you are able.

January 24th will be our annual **Chili Cookoff**—every year there are more and more entries and it's a great fundraiser for the Lodge! You'll pay an entry fee, taste as many entries as you like, and vote on your favorites. Have a great chili recipe? Enter to win!

Friday February 13th we'll host our annual **Valentine's Dinner** for you and your sweetheart—social hour will be at 5:30 and dinner will be served at 6:30. Will there be music and dancing? Will the tables be decorated with a romantic theme? RSVP and find out!



SANTA AT THE LODGE



Happy New Year! As we kick off 2026, January is perfect for planning—connecting with friends and neighbors, getting more active, or seeing new places and things. If you've resolved to get more involved with the Elks, we've got lots of different opportunities for you! Swing by the Lodge to join in on social events and help with group projects.

Heads up: the Hoop Shoot will be kicking off Sunday, January 11th. If you want to pitch in, reach out to Harry Montag—we need plenty of volunteers to keep things running smoothly. And don't forget, we've got a Lodge clean-up scheduled for Sunday, January 18th from 1 to 4 PM. to spruce up the building and grounds. Contact me for details about how to help.

We will have a unique menu for our Lodge dinner on January 10th: Hungarian Goulash! You won't want to miss it. Later in the month, our annual Chili Cook-Off will be Saturday, January 24th. If you think your chili is the best, come compete for a shot at the trophy and bragging rights!

The Cash Calendar event is also happening all month, so if you haven't grabbed your tickets yet, just ask—it's always a good time to jump in. Keep an eye on the EOG for updates, and we can't wait to see everyone getting involved with all these fun events!

—Troy
Troy Pedersen

**EXALTED RULER
TROY PEDERSEN
LINCOLN LODGE #80**



Pictured above: Santa hears the wish list of Miss Brynleigh Akhgari (daughter of Sami Montag and Alex Akhgari and granddaughter of Harry and Laurie Montag)



Pictured right: Andrew Truka (grandson of Scott and Jodi Schrage) with St. Nick, a.k.a. Elks member Tom Morrissey

Editor's Note:

Thank you to contributors to this month's newsletter: photos from Diane Dannelly, Elaine Howard, and Scott Schrage. Letters from Troy Pedersen and Laurie Montag. Articles from Scott Schrage 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*

DECEMBER DINNER HIGHLIGHTS

Our December dinner was well attended, especially considering the frigid temps and snow flurries. The Jackson and Nordman families sponsored the meal, with carved roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered carrots, dinner rolls, lemon pineapple dessert and Funfetti cake. Diane Dannelly surpassed herself with table decorations.

The raffle had lots of gift baskets, Christmas decorations, sourdough bread, golf accessories, home décor, beverages and snacks. Ken Cohn was the raffle emcee and Jim Nordman managed the ticket drawing. Jim and Tami Nordman's daughter, visiting from Iowa, was the Vanna White of the evening, displaying each item and delivering them to the winners. A splendid time was had by all!



SECRETARY'S CORNER



It's getting down to the wire for those of you who have not paid your 2024/25 dues and do not have a yellow membership card. If you had not paid 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>

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!

**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

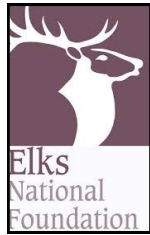
Harry Montag

Milt Schmidt

Jen Giese

Ken Cohn

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION (ENF)



CURRENT STATS:

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

As of 12/15/2025 - \$15.66 - Good job, Elks Lodge 80! Keep it up!

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, January 16th. 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!



Scott
499-0925



Pat
450-8133



Dick
430-7288

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VETERAN PROGRAMS

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

DONATIONS FOR VETERAN'S PANTRY NEEDED

When you next get groceries or make a trip to Sam's or Costco, please consider an extra container of detergent or dishwasher pods, case of paper towels, or toilet paper. If you see canned goods or dry goods like rice or pasta on sale at the grocery store you might get some extras. Every little bit helps with the monthly food pantry at Victory apartments. The folks receiving these items are on fixed or low incomes and appreciate every little bit of help. Talk to Milt Schmidt about other items that they need.

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!

LODGE CLEANUP DAY

January 18th from 1-4 pm we will gather at the Lodge to spruce up the building and grounds. After a year of dinners, gatherings, beer and burger nights, meetings and karaoke, it's important to deep clean and reset for the year to come.

The more people we have helping, the faster things get done and the cleaner it gets. Bring a snack to share, put on your comfy clothes and we'll make it a fun afternoon.

Contact Troy Pederson for more details.



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DECEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism: No report.
Boy Scouts: No report.
Children's Weekend Meals: Next upcoming weekend will be March 29th. Contact Mary Ryan to help.
Drug Awareness: No report
Girl Scouts: No report.
Hide Program: No report.
Hoop Shoot: No report.
House Committee: Bar prices going up January 1 with mixed drinks and sodas going up 25 cents and no increase in beer prices. No more happy hour, and tap beer will change from Miller Lite to Coors Lite, with Miller Lite prices down to \$2.50 until barrel is empty. Lodge Cleanup Day January 18th from 1-4pm. Need volunteer 16012 bartenders for Fridays.
ENF: \$15.66 as of 12/17, exceeding the G.E.R.'s ENF goal of \$5.25 per member for 2025-26. Consider joining the Fidelity Club.
Membership: 223 members, 1 candidate, 15 lapsed members.
Lincoln Youth Football: No report
Scholarship: Scholarship reviews upcoming.
Social Community Welfare: No report.
Veterans Committee: Pantry for Victory Apartments is ongoing, see Milt Schmidt for information.



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.



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OUR MEMBERS

Sickness & Distress:

Karen McCain; Tom Ferneau; Sonny Lane; Maggie Schumacher; Tami Nordman

Sympathies: Family and friends of our recently passed away member Diana McNeese, and former member Greg Znamenacek

Proposition for Membership:
None

Awaiting Initiation:
None.

Members Initiated:
None

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

The attendance drawing for the December 3 meeting was for \$250. The lucky name was Walt Hays, who was 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 December 3 was won by Jim Nordman.

SECRET NUMBER:

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

Upcoming meetings:

January 7th 7PM
January 21st 7PM

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Thomas Lynch
- 02 Radley Breuer
- 06 Roger White
- 08 Kevin Anderson
Janis Ireland
Roxanne Thomas
- 09 Jason Brooks
- 12 Linda Rienks
Carol Snyder
- 18 Kathleen Mullen
- 19 Terry Edwards
Chelsea Truka
- 21 James Gray
- 25 Matthew Brophy
John Hansen
- 29 Andy Jensen
Deborah Catherall

NOTES FROM THE TRUSTEES

JOLLY CORKER NEWS: As of January 1st, 2026 there will be some changes in the lounge. Due to increasing cost we are going to need to **increase** some of the pricing. The new costs will be that all liquor and soda drinks will be raised 25 cents a drink to offset the cost. Also there will be no increase in the price for beer, but we are going to discontinue Happy Hour pricing.

COMMITTEE BUDGETS: It is that time of year again to working on your 2026-2027 budget. All budgets will need to be turned into the Trustees no later than Saturday January 31st. In your budget please have what the requests are for and when you will be needing those funds. This is important so that the lodge will have accurate reporting and planning.

The Trustees will start working on budgets the first of February, if you have any questions please contact one of the Trustees. Thank you for all the work and time you put in for the lodge.

Remember to support the Lodge by attending our monthly dinners, Beer & Burger, and Karaoke.

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

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
- James Erickson
- Thomas Ferneau
- Chad Gustin
- Paul Holt
- Jennifer Hubbard
- Thomas Lynch
- Harry Malone
- Frederick Rickers
- Neil Stuthmann
- Kenneth TenHulzen

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A big shout out to our members who volunteered to work at the lodge in December to support our lounge, our dinners, room rentals, karaoke, newsletter, and other projects, and in general help make our lodge work: (with kudos 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; Bob Sindlar PIG (Past Inner Guard). Big thanks goes to Est. Loyal Knight Tami and Jim Nordman and Est. Leading Knight William Jackson for sponsoring our December dinner. Many members donated raffle prizes, and we thank all of you, too! 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!

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.

JOLLY CORKERS PUB

Come on in for fun and fellowship!

OPEN HOURS:

TUES & THURS 3 - 7

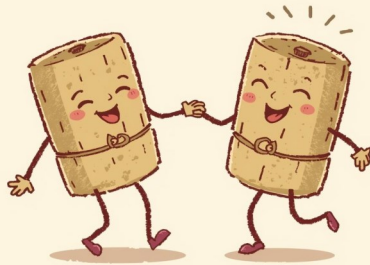
FRI 3 - 9, SAT 3 - 7

NO FOOD SERVICE AVAILABLE.

CLOSED SUNDAY, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY.

BE JOLLY!

Have a beverage and support your Lodge.



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!

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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 Larry Jurgens! Look closely in this issue; if you spot your membership number, you get a free meal at our next monthly dinner!

JANUARY 2026

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR! | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 3p: Pitch | 7 6p House Committee 7p Lodge Meeting | 8 | 9 | 10 Lodge Dinner 530 Social 630 Dinner |
| 11 1p: Local Hoop Shoot @ City Impact | 12 | 13 3p: Pitch 6p: Burger Nite 7p: American Legion | 14 Room Rented— Corvette Club | 15 | 16 10a: Veteran's Coffeehaus @ Auld Pavilion 6p: Karaoke | 17 |
| 18 1-4p Lodge Cleanup Day | 19 | 20 3p: Pitch 7p: American Legion Potluck | 21 7p Lodge Meeting | 22 | 23 | 24 530p: Chili Contest |
| 25 1p District Hoop Shoot, Falls City Sacred Heart | 26 6p Charitable Fund Meeting | 27 3p: Pitch 330p Veteran's Pantry 6p Does | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Lodge Rented |