

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 HOOP SHOOT A SUCCESS



Congratulations to the finalists from Lincoln Lodge 80 who competed at City Impact on January 11, 2026. The following local champions are moving on to the District Hoop Shoot in Falls City on January 25, 2026:

- Boys 8-9:** Burk Edwards
- Girls 8-9:** Kinsley Salsman
- Boys 10-11:** Ryan Bohling
- Boys 12-13:** Luke Bohling
- Girls 12-13:** Addison Marker



District winners will advance to the state competition in York, Nebraska, on February 14, 2026. Those who succeed at the state level will travel to Colorado Springs in March, with the goal of reaching the Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals in Chicago this April. Results of the district and state competitions will be in next month's newsletter.

We thank the 13 Elks and 3 volunteers whose support makes this event possible for the youth of Lincoln.



VALENTINE'S DINNER

Save the date: Friday the 13th
Entertainment featuring Burt and Scott.

We will be serving salad, Iowa smoked pork chops, au gratin potatoes, asparagus and dinner rolls. Dessert will be sweetheart brownie cocktails.

We do need your reservations by February 10th! Call the Lodge soon.

Dinner admission is \$15. Social hour starts at 5:30, with dinner beginning at 6:30.

There will be a 50/50 Drawing to support the Lodge.

This dinner is sponsored by all 3 Larrys (Schwindt, Bratt and Jurgens) and their families as well as Harry and Laurie Montag and Bob Sindlar.



MARCH DINNER

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 14th for our St. Patrick's Day Dinner Celebration!

Traditional corned beef, tender cooked buttered cabbage, new potatoes cooked in butter and parsley, finger carrots, rye bread with Irish butter, and dessert. RSVP by March 11th. Dinner sponsored by the Lodge Leprechauns.

Cocktails at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30. \$15.00 per person. Please call the Lodge with your reservation.



As February arrives, we look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day—a special occasion for couples

to appreciate one another and renew their bonds.

And speaking of appreciation: My term as Exalted Ruler is nearing its conclusion, and it has been an honor to witness our Lodge grow as both new and long-standing members come together to celebrate our collective achievements.

The first meeting of February will be led by the PER Association, and during that meeting nominations for new officers for the upcoming fraternal year will be gathered. The positions of Exalted Ruler and the three Knights are open for election, with voting scheduled for the second meeting on February 18. If no new Exalted Ruler is elected, the PER Association will continue to oversee meetings until one is chosen.

All members in good standing are encouraged to consider running for these elected roles; remaining officer positions will be appointed by the incoming Exalted Ruler. Serving as an officer offers valuable opportunities to connect with fellow ELKS, both within our Lodge and at state and national conventions.

Please note that this month's dinner will take place on Friday the 13th, and scholarship judging is scheduled for Saturday the 22nd. See your calendar for other events. Stay engaged, participate actively, and enjoy your time as part of our community.

—Troy
Troy Pedersen

**EXALTED RULER
TROY PEDERSEN**

SPICING THINGS UP: ELKS CHILI COOKOFF!

It was a perfect night for a chili cookoff: temperatures outside were in the single digits as we shivered through a cold snap. But inside the Lodge, it was a Hawaiian Oasis, thanks to the decorating talents of Diane Dannelly! And although the competition was fierce, a new winner took home the chili cookoff trophy: Tami Nordman! Her White Chicken Chili edged out the competition and will be the one to beat next year! Thank you to all those who entered and to all who came to taste and vote.



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

March 2026 Articles Due: On or (preferably) before **February 21st**

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

JANUARY HUNGARIAN GOULASH DINNER RECAP



Our January dinner was well-attended, and the meal was a departure from what we've had for a long time. The Bonyhady family sponsored a dinner featuring Hungarian food to honor Imre's Hungarian ancestry. Diners enjoyed traditional Hungarian goulash, with tender beef, carrots and potatoes simmered in a tomato and paprika sauce, served over noodles. There was also a dilled cucumber salad, a pineapple dessert and cake.



The raffle was unusually large as well - three tables of raffle items meant lots and lots of items for raffle tickets: Christmas decorations, wine, spirits, gift cards, gift baskets, sourdough bread, hand crocheted scarves, candy, snacks, home décor and more! RSVP soon so you don't miss upcoming dinners!



SCHOLARSHIP SCORING COMING UP

We will meet at the lodge on Sunday, February 22nd at 12:00 p.m. to score scholarship applications. Everyone who is interested is invited to attend.

This is an important function and a great opportunity to help decide which deserving students will receive Lodge 80 scholarships. The process should take no more than a couple of hours. Hope to see you there!

-Christian Biester

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



As I write this, the temperature is zero – and that's where we hope we end up in March – with zero delinquent members! Renewal notices were posted in mid-January, and members should have them in their hopefully HOT little hands by the time you receive this newsletter. Please pay your dues promptly, either by mailing your check, cash at the lodge, or via credit card on the DIRECTBILLER.COM website mentioned in the notice. If you use that website, be sure to enter "LINCOLN 80" in the search, then on the next page scroll down to the red QUICK PAY box. Enter your membership number with the leading zero. Then you're golden – and thank you very much!

Nominations for and elections of new officers will take place in February. Please let ER Troy Pedersen or myself know if you are interested in becoming an officer and/or working on or heading up a committee!

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 STATISTICS:

Lodge 80 '25 goal: \$5.25 per person.
As of 01/20/2026 - \$17.50!!

Congratulations Elks Lodge 80 and let's keep it going!

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, February 20th. 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.

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 February 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!



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.


Leaders of the Pack!



Scott
499-0925



Pat
450-8133




Dick
430-7288

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COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM JANUARY

Americanism: No report.

Boy Scouts: Phil Pickard and Dave Shoff reviewed past and upcoming courts of honor for Eagle Scouts.

Children's Weekend Meals: No report. March 29th is our next weekend to work. Mary Ryan and her brother did fill in on Saturday January 24th at Belmont due to absence of other volunteers, per program director's request for help.

Drug Awareness: Harry Montag reported on the excellent job that is being done by law enforcement in intercepting illegal drugs.

Girl Scouts: No report.

Hide Program: No report.

Hoop Shoot: No report.

House Committee: Dave Shoff reported that the Bonyhady family has sponsored the January dinner. He also reported on planned upcoming events. Dinners planned through the month of April.

ENF: \$17.50 per capita. Larry Bratt implored members to join the Fidelity Club.

Membership: 222 members, 4 candidates, 9 delinquent members.

Lincoln Youth Football: No report

Scholarship: Christian Biester reported that 5 scholarships from 2025 are still outstanding. He announced that the scholarship review will be Sunday Feb 22 at noon. Maureen Sadler thanked those who helped review 64 MVS applications.

Youth Activities: Teen of the Year is planned for March 28th. Junior Recognition will again be done this year.

Social Community Welfare: No report.

Veterans Committee: Pantry for Victory Apartments is ongoing, see Milt Schmidt for information. Veterans Pantry was January 27th, and the next will be Feb. 24th. Let Milt know if you would like to help.

TWO NEW EAGLE SCOUTS AWARDED FLAGS IN JANUARY



Eleanor Hendrickson, Troop 16, received her Eagle Scout badge and flag at a Court of Honor on January 3rd. Eleanor's Eagle project was planting a native flower garden and creating an informative brochure for Neighborhoods, a nonprofit that helps low-income home buyers in Lincoln. *Pictured with Phil Pickard and ER Troy Pedersen.*

John Paul Barger, Troop 78, received his Eagle Scout badge and flag at a Court of Honor in January. John's Eagle project was to build a fence around his church's recycling bins. *John is pictured with ER Troy Pedersen*



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 Schwandt, 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 Schwandt 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 Schwandt 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.

OUR MEMBERS

Sickness & Distress:

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

Deaths:

None

Proposed for Membership:

Clark Pitchford, Barbara Brower, Nicole Tunnison, Morgan J. Bevan II

Awaiting Initiation:

Clark Pitchford, Barbara Brower, Nicole Tunnison, Morgan J. Bevan II

Members Initiated:

None

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

Attendance drawing is still at \$250! January 7th winner drawn was Carol Snyder, who was not present. January 21st winner drawn was Dick Stephenson, who also was not present.

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 January 7th was for \$14 and was won by Larry Jurgens. On January 21st, \$13 was won by Vicki Jurgens!

SECRET NUMBER:

The secret membership number in the January issue belonged to Dave Meduna ! Don't forget to look for your number in this month's issue!

Upcoming meetings:

FEBRUARY 4TH @ 7PM
FEBRUARY 18TH @ 7PM

Membership Growth and Retention

Big thanks to those who have nominated prospective new members to our Lodge: Diane Pitchford nominated Clark Pitchford, Diane Dannelly nominated Barbara Brower, Tami Nordman nominated Nicole Tunnison, and Jim Nordman nominated Morgan Joseph Bevan II.

We encourage all our members to invite friends, colleagues and family to events to experience the lodge, and to invite those interested to become members.

Our current numbers are 222 members with 4 awaiting initiation, which will take place this month.

Unfortunately, we do have nine lapsed members who will be dropped if dues are not paid by March 18:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Jacob Bliven | Chad Gustin |
| Katherine Bohling | Paul Holt |
| Ron Bonebright | Jennifer Hubbard |
| Jason Brooks | Harry Malone |
| Matthew Brophy | |

NOTES FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees met with Mitch Becker and he provided us with an update on our accounts. Our accounts are sound and stable. Last year the accounts were up around 10 % and we are optimistic that we can continue to produce good returns. We want to thank Mitch for the good work he is doing for our lodge.

Will start working on next year's budget the first of February and will present to the members at the first meeting in March.

Thanks for supporting the Lodge by attending our Dinners, Beer & Burger, Karaoke, along with other monthly events.

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



FELLOW ELKS:

Can you commit to attending at least 2 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!

February's meetings will hold officer nominations and elections; please consider attending to help see how your lodge will be guided in the year to come, and learn about upcoming issues and events.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kathleen Holloway
Todd Speidell
- 2 Phil Pickard
- 4 Sam Carter
- 6 Ron Hoffman
David Roger
- 8 Frank Bruyette
- 11 Karen McCain
- 14 Stephen Fowles
Lyle Paul
- 16 Dave Shoff
- 18 Samuel Segrist
- 23 Clark Pitchford
- 27 Vance West

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.)



A big shout out to our members who volunteered to work at the lodge in January 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 go to the Imre Bonyhady family for sponsoring our January dinner. Many members donated raffle prizes, and we thank all of you, too! We also thank Jen Giese for stepping forward to spearhead the Chili Cookoff, and all of our members who brought chili to share and compete!

DOES DISPATCH



The New Year is off to a quick start and Lincoln Drove #4 is looking forward to planning activities for the coming months. As always, fundraising is in the forefront as we look for avenues to raise money to give back to our community.

The month of February is traditionally celebrated by Sister DOES across the United States as Founder's Day. A day to recognize the founding principles of the Benevolent Patriotic Order of DOES. Lincoln Drove celebrated with a potluck meal on February 24.

We were saddened to hear of the loss of one of our 50-year members, Donna Neal. A donation from the Drove was given in her name to the DOES Scholarship fund.

Her family was very appreciative of this gesture.

Best to all,

—Vicki

President Vicki Logan

If you're wondering how you can help out your fellow Elks or the community at large, here are some other ways:

We Can Do This is a program providing nutritious meal kits for children over the weekends when school lunch is not available. We have a collection barrel at the lodge since the program also has a small pantry for families that is always in need of the following:

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.

The Veteran's Pantry is a monthly outreach program at Victory Park apartments on the VA campus, which serves veterans who have been or are at risk of being homeless. These former service members live on limited incomes and every bit helps to stretch 15664 their food budgets. Milt Schmidt spearheads this effort. Recent needs at the pantry include paper towels, toilet paper, laundry soap pods, instant (water needed only) mac and cheese, canned vegetables, tuna, canned chicken, breakfast cereal and shelf stable items. Mainly, the pantry needs volunteers to help set up, distribute, and take down the afternoon of the last Tuesday each month.

And simplest of all: Come to the dinners each month. Donate a little something to the raffle (even a \$10 family size package of pub mix, homemade bread, golf tees and balls, or whatever your skilled craft produces). Come to Beer and Burger Nite. And come to the meetings a few times a year. It's not a lot of effort to be involved and it's good for everyone. We love to see you!

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

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.

Support Your Fellow Elks' Businesses



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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.

**Let's work together.
Contact me today to
schedule a consultation.**



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

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

♥♥♥♥ february 2026 ♥♥♥♥

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Pitch 3p	4 House 6p Lodge Meeting - NOMINATIONS 7p	5	6	7 Trustee Budget Meeting 9a
8	9	10 Pitch 3p Burger Night 6p Am. Legion 7p Am Legion Aux 7p	11 Room Rented Corvette Club 6p	12	13 Valentine's Dinner 530 Social 630 Dinner	14
15	16	17 Pitch 3p American Legion 40/8 Potluck 7p	18 Lodge Meeting - ELECTIONS 7p	19	20 Veteran's Coffehaus @ Auld Pavilion 10a Karaoke 6p	21
22 Scholarship Review and Scoring 1p	23	24 Pitch 3p Does 6p Veterans Pantry @Victory Apts 3-5p	25	26	27	28
1 March	2	3	4	5	6	7