

JANUARY 2024

LOUISIANA ELK'S NEWSLETTER



A News Publication of the
LOUISIANA ELK'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

A Five Star Publication

Hon. Millard Pickering PGER, sponsor

*Published on behalf of Louisiana Elks, in support of Louisiana Elks and for
Elks*

Published by:
Editor:
Reporters:

Louisiana Elks Association
Buddy Hartle
Exalted Rulers and LEA Chairman



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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This bulletin will only be as good as the information submitted by you, a member of the Louisiana Elks Association. Articles for the April bulletin are due by March 10, 2024.

Please send them to:

mrb.hartle3574@hotmail.com or elksolouisiana@hotmail.com

OFFICERS 2023-2024:

PRESIDENT:

Don Baye (Karen)
PDD, New Orleans #30

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jeff Wheat (Laura)
PDD, Shreveport #122

TREASURER

Andy Austin (Rebecca)
Shreveport #122

TILER

Kevin Baye
New Orleans #30

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Wayne Landry (Bella)
PDD, Slidell #2321

SECRETARY

Buddy Hartle (Judy)
PDD, New Orleans #30

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Kenneth Lafleur (Pat)
PSP, Opelousas #1048

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Brian Baye
DD, New Orleans #30

CHAPLAIN

Donell Baye
New Orleans #30

LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES:

1-YEAR:

Beulah Rodrigue
PSP, Houma #1193

3-YEAR:

Jim Cade (Lisa)
PSP, Shreveport 122

2-YEAR

Armand Buuck (Debbie)
PSP, New Orleans #30

4-YEAR

Charlesray Neight (Cathy)
PSP, Slidell #2321

5-YEAR:

Rene Pelanne (Laurie)
PSP, New Orleans #30



COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Accident Prevention Safety, Insurance & Risk Management

William Boudreaux, PSP
New Orleans #30

Advisory Chairman

Bernie Mathais, PSP
Shreveport #122

Adopt-A-School

Rene Pelanne, PSP
New Orleans #30

Americanism

James Hester, PSP
New Orleans #30

Business Practices

Chris Hymel
New Orleans #30

CLMS

Buddy Hartle, PDD
New Orleans #30

Disaster Relief

Sonya Belgard, ER
N.O. Westbank #2496

Drug Awareness

Armand Buuck, PSP
New Orleans #30

Elks National Foundation

Brian Baye, DD
New Orleans #30

Elks National Veterans Service

Don Baye, SP
New Orleans #30

Elks & Scouting

Sonya Belgard, ER
N.O. Westbank #2496

Food Bank

Tony Nations, PER
Shreveport #122

Government Relations

Terry Bruno, PSP
New Orleans #30

Hoop Shoot

Shane Garrard
Opelousas #1048

Lodge Activities

Betsy Ibos, PER
New Orleans #30

Membership

Wayne Landry, PDD
Slidell #2321

Newsletter

Buddy Hartle, PDD
New Orleans #30

New Lodge Development

Armand Buuck, PSP
New Orleans #30

Public Relations

Tom Cressione
New Orleans #30

Resolutions

Terry Bruno, PSP
New Orleans #30

Ritualistic

Jeff Wheat, PDD
Shreveport #122

Scholarship

Charlesray Neight, PSP
Slidell #2321

State Convention

Buddy Hartle, PDD
New Orleans #30

Elks Training

Webmaster

Shane Garrard, PER
Opelousas #1048

Youth Activities

Brian Baye, PER
New Orleans #30

Marketing

Ruby Blackwell, ER, Shreveport 122

LODGE DIRECTORY

New Orleans Lodge #30,
2215 Cleary Ave.,
Metairie, LA 70001-1628
504-888-8152 noelkslodge30@yahoo.com

Shreveport Lodge #122,
310 E. Preston,
Shreveport, LA 71105-5303
318-868-5301 elkslodge122@gmail.com

Opelousas Lodge #1048,
207 N Union St
Opelousas, LA 70570-1146, 337-942-2341
elks1048@gmail.com

Donaldsonville Lodge #1153,
115 Railroad Ave
Donaldsonville, LA 70346-0545, 225-715-7389
info@elksdonaldsonville.org

Houma Lodge #1193, 7883 Main St, Houma,
LA. 70364-0348, 985-232-4248,
houmaelks@gmail.com

Plaquemine Lodge #1398, 23420 Railroad Ave
Plaquemine, LA 70764, 225-921-5525
hdaigle23060@loutlook.com

Slidell Lodge #2321, 34212 Elks Road,
Slidell, LA. 70460, 985-641-1266
bpoe2321@aol.com

New Orleans West Bank #2496, 900 Monroe
St., Gretna, LA 70053, 504-367-8793
elks2496nowb@gmail.com

Louisiana Elks Association
105 General Taylor Dr.
Hahnville, LA 70057-2026
elksolouisiana@hotmail.com

STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



Greetings and welcome to 2024, I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Well, it's hard to believe that more than half of the elk year has gone by, but what half of year it's been.

I have been visiting the lodges and can't tell you how much I've enjoyed myself; it has truly been amazing. By the time you receive this message I should only have three lodges left to visit, this will complete one of my goals as State President, to visit every lodge in the state during my term as President.

On Saturday January 20th, 2024, we are holding our Mid-Season Conference at the Opelousas Lodge # 1048. The business meeting starts at 11:35 am. Hopefully you will have received this message before then. We will have lots of information to cover.

One of the most important items that will be covered is any changes to our State Constitution. We will be voting on adding a new committee to the association, (The L.E.A. Facebook, My Elk APP, and Marketing Committee). So, if you can come to the Mid-Season Conference PLEASE DO SO, come out and let your opinions be known. This is your chance to make a difference.

We will also be going over some new ideas that will be put into practice at this year's State

Convention in Lafayette, LA. These practices are being put into place to help facilitate and prevent any malfunctions within our Conventions programs.

I hope to see all of you at the Opelousas lodge #1048 on Saturday January the 20th 2024. The trustees meeting starts at 10:00 am. Until then stay safe and well.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Don L. Baye, , L.E.A. State President

PRESIDENT ELECTS MESSAGE:

"ELKS CARE ELKS SHARE"

This time of year is always special. We have about 150 people from young to very old coming to our Lodge for our annual Christmas party for STARC (Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. You can see the happiness on their faces and feel the Love when they arrive. It is also the time of year that we visit our veterans in our nursing homes to deliver baskets of goodies, throws, hats, etc. You can see the smiles on their faces and feel the warmth in their hearts.

It is also a time to reflect on ourselves. Is there love in our hearts for one another as Elks in our hearts? We are a family of men and women who care and share especially for our fellow ELKS. We take an oath with a raised open hand reaching out which is a symbol of caring and love for all that take the oath. There is no room in our hearts for indignation within our Lodge nor Elkdom itself. We should love one another. We are all ELKS. In our oath we also state we believe in God. There is no room for pride or prejudice, especially at this time of year. This is a time to focus as elks on our love and dedication to help our Youth, our Veterans and one another as Elks. We must open our hearts and receive every Elk as brothers and sisters in our goal to make others happy and fill a need in their lives. This is our character Elks care Elks share.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

3.

PRESIDENT ELECTS MESSAGE

continued:

May God bless each and every one of you and may you have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

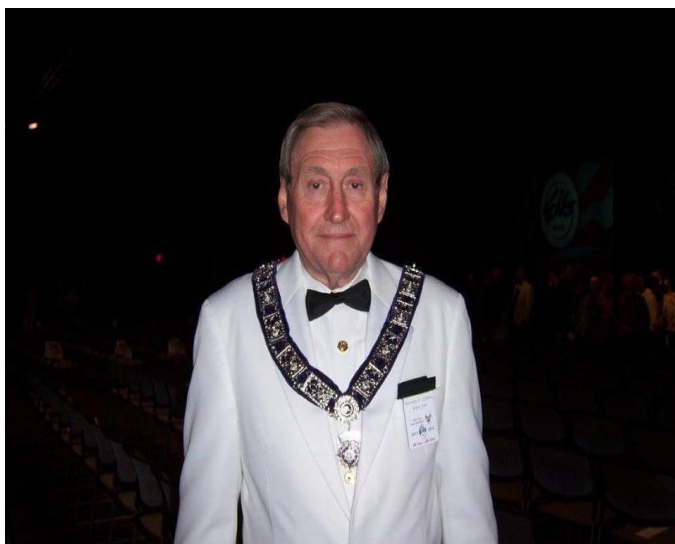
Wayne Landry, President Elect

SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE:

IN MEMORY OF

RICHARD F. CONRAN

JUNE 16, 1939-DECEMBER 12, 2023



DISTRICT DEPUTY MESSAGE:

Happy New Year!! I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas Holidays with their family and friends. I have completed my official visits to all the lodges here in Louisiana. Overall, all lodges are performing well and are on the right path of increasing membership and promoting Elkdom throughout our great state. Me and my team enjoyed visiting every lodge, meeting the members, and learning what each lodge is doing to spread the word

about what we do as Elks. Continue to do the outstanding work and we will be guaranteed an increase in membership.

Don't forget about the Mid-Season Conference being held on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Opelousas Lodge #1048. Also mark your calendars for Saturday, March 16, 2024, for my final DD Clinic. Remember, the Lodge's Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Board Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer are required to attend the DD Clinic. Also, it would be a great idea for the newly elected officers for the 2024 – 2025 year to be in attendance, as this is a great learning opportunity for them. Once again, the DD Clinic will be held at Opelousas Lodge #1048 beginning at 10AM.

As of the writing of this article, I learned of the passing of our Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Richard Conran. The LEA lost a great man and Elk. When I first met Richard many moons ago, he encouraged me to become an active member in the Elks, stating the order needed more young and active members. He was a great friend and mentor to me; he encouraged me to continue my "career" with the Elks. I was thankful that he afforded me the opportunity to become this year's District Deputy and I will be forever grateful for that. He will be missed, please keep Richard, Mrs. Sue and their family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Fraternally,

Brian L. Baye, DDGER

4.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:

Greetings,

HELLO 2024 and GOOD-BYE 2023.

Well, the last month of 2023 was not kind to the Louisiana Elks Association. During the month we lost several dedicated Elks. One of these Elks was Richard Conran.

Richard was a member of Baton Rouge Lodge 490 until the Lodge closed. He then transferred to Plaquemine Lodge 1398. For nearly 20 years, Richard was the Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for Louisiana. Richard was a true leader. If you have any problem in your Lodge, you would call Richard and he will provide the answer that you were looking for. Several years ago, Richard was honored for his hard work and leadership when he served as Grand Tiler at the Elks National Convention. Over the years, Richard and I became very close friends. He was like my big brother. We talked on the phone at least once a week about anything and everything. When we attended the Elks National Convention, we always found the time to find a good Irish Pub for dinner. I will truly miss him. Please keep Richard's wife Mrs. Sue and the family in your prayers.

Now moving forward to 2024:

Our Mid-Season Conference will be held at Opelousas Lodge 1048 on June 20.

February 16 is the Elks birthday. The Elks were founded in 1868. All Lodges should celebrate the birthday.

The month of February is also the nominations and election of our Lodge Officers. No nominations on election night unless the position is vacant, or the person nominated withdraws.

March 16 is our District Deputy Clinic at Opelousas Lodge 1048.

All delinquent members should be dropped prior to April 1.

April 1, Grand Lodge will file your annual membership report. Remember to send in your Grand Lodge Per Capita check.

The Lodge Charity report shall be filed prior to May 1.

May 12 is Mother's Day. All Lodges should host the Mother's Day program.

May 27 is Memorial Day. Please remember our Veterans.

June 7-9 is the Louisiana Elks State Convention in Lafayette.

June 14 is Flag Day. All Lodges shall hold the Flag Day Program.

June 16, Father's Day.

June 30 to July 3, the Grand Lodge Convention in Austin, Texas.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please give me a call.

Have a Super Elk Day!!

Sincerely and fraternally,
Buddy Hartle, State Secretary



GRAND LODGE CORNER:

No holiday break for drug awareness by William J. Bryan:

The last two months were busy months for the Elks Drug Awareness Program, with Red Ribbon Week activities, Drug Take Backs, the DEA's 50th anniversary celebration, and Lodges nominating law enforcement officials for the distinguished Enrigue Camarena Award.

This month seems to be equally busy. While most of us center our thoughts around the holiday season, this is no time to relax. Drugs don't take holidays! Don't take my word for it.

“Fentanyl is the single deadliest drug threat our nation has ever encountered. Fentanyl is everywhere. From large metropolitan areas to rural America, no community is safe from this poison. We must take every opportunity to spread the word to prevent fentanyl-related overdose deaths and poisonings from claiming scores of American lives every day.”----DEA Administrator Anne Milgram.

Our podcast series *Awkward Conversations* Section 3 is well underway. If you've not had a chance to do so, please take a look by going to You Tube and search for “ElksDAP.” While our podcasts are lengthy, they are worth listening to. Our experts have a great deal to offer. Why not check it out?

We look forward to 2024, and we remain mindful of the dangers young people face. We thank you for all that you do.

Growth hinges on membership retention by Rick Gathen:

Membership retention begins with a welcoming atmosphere in the Lodge.

Be sure to reach out to new Members and let them know their presence is appreciated. It's also important to give new Members the chance

to be actively involved. Let them know about volunteer opportunities and encourage them to become active in strengthening the Lodge and reaching out to assist the community. People who volunteer to help others usually will also find themselves more deeply attached to the Elks.

The next step in Elk's involvement is leadership. If there's a new Elk who has become an active volunteer, encourage them to take the next step with a leadership role by joining a Lodge committee or even become an Elks Officer.

Momentum is building for another gain in membership. Last year we attained a 19,558 net gain in membership. This has generated remarkable momentum for this fraternal year. Membership retention is the key to sustainable membership growth.

Per capita and fees set for 2024-2025 by Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt:

For the 2024-2025 fraternal year, on April 1, 2024, the following per capita and fees will be due from each Member: Grand Lodge per capita-\$6.50; Insurance assessment--**\$22.00; and the Elks Magazine assessment--\$5.50 for a total of \$34.00.

**This amount represents a \$5.00 per Member increase from last year.

Elks share meaning of 'benevolence' to students by Tracy Leopold:

In Elkdom, we offer many programs for our youth because we believe they are our future. When I think about the young kids today, I am reminded of a classic quote by Francis Bacon which states “knowledge is power.”

As Elks we have an opportunity to provide third-grade students with a dictionary to expand their knowledge and give them a chance to excel in their studies.

(Continued on page 7)

GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:

I know there has been the argument that kids can just look everything up online now, but having a book in their hand can prove to be more beneficial than one would think. It has been said we retain more information when reading from a physical book versus reading online.

Some positive things to remember with the Dictionary Project are that we are providing a source of knowledge to kids who may not have the ability to research things online when they are at home. Not every household has access to the internet, but by providing these kids with a dictionary, we are giving them an opportunity to still learn. This dictionary is theirs to keep, and I haven't found one child who doesn't enjoy getting a book. In some instances, this is the first book they have ever received.

Another great thing about this program is that you can get your Lodge's name out into the community to people who may not be familiar with your Lodge.

When reaching out to your local schools, if they are already receiving a dictionary from another organization, I suggest asking if they would be interested in receiving a thesaurus. The Dictionary Project has a couple different options to supplement the dictionary they are already receiving. Also, make sure you inform your schools of the other youth activities that your Lodge does, such as the Americanism Contest, Soccer Shoot, the scholarship program, and others. Make sure they know what we are about and that *"We Are THE Elks!"*

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION:

Veterans grant projects can be community specific by Rene Villalobos:

The great thing about Freedom Grants and Community Investments Program Grants is that Lodges can tailor their projects to meet the

unique needs of local veterans. Sitka, AK Lodge No. 1662 is a great example of a Lodge doing just that.

For the past four years, Sitka Lodge has planned and hosted safety classes for Coast Guard members and their families stationed in the area, with a focus on topics including bears, boating, and weather.

Military families stationed near Sitka at the local Coast Guard base come from all over the nation, and many have never had to deal with things like brown bear encounters or shallow rocky waters when boating. The Elks give these families the knowledge they need to feel secure and prepared in their local environment. At the same time, the Lodge was able to provide a safe space for military family members to enjoy food, resources, and connection. Elks even provided arts and crafts for the children while the parents were taking classes from the instructors and speakers.

This year's project was a big success, with more than 80 Coast Guard members in attendance, nearly double what they have seen in the past. The success of the project has inspired the Lodge not just to continue the project in future years, but to plan other events to support veterans and military members.

If your Lodge is seeking to help veterans in your community, reach out to the Elks National Veterans Service Commission. We're happy to answer your questions, exchange ideas and connect you to Lodges with similar ideas and projects.

Freedom Grants have all been awarded for this year, but don't forget to apply for Community Investments Program Grants online at elks.org/cip to fund projects for veterans, military members, and the community in the coming months.

7.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION continued:

Elks Member wins VA NAC volunteering award by Mary K. Morgan:

The Elks are proud to announce Brian Kinney of Cynthiana, KY Lodge No. 438 was awarded the VA NAC Male Volunteer of the Year for 2023!

This national award is given by the Center for Development and Civic Engagement National Advisory Committee to one man and one woman every year to recognize two outstanding volunteers from organizations across the nation.

Kinney has been a Volunteer Service Representative at the Lexington VA Medical Center since March 2018, and an advocate for veterans much longer. A Nave veteran himself, Kinney is truly dedicated to his volunteer work.

Kinney works as the Volunteer Office Supply Manager two or three days each week, averaging 100-120 hours a month. He also escorts patients to tests and appointments and has a knack for quickly making friends with the veterans he is transporting.

In 2022 alone, he gave a total of 1,358 hours and visited the Lexington VAMC 181 times to volunteer his time, donate supplies, and offer his support.

In addition to his regular volunteer work, Kinney coordinates monthly events to celebrate holidays and brighten the days of the veterans in the Community Living Center and the Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program. From handing out Valentine's candy to throwing Derby parties (complete with pies and non-alcoholic mint juleps) to planning pizza Fridays, Kinney is always caring for the veterans in his community with dedication and joy.

In January 2022, the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce awarded its inaugural Heartbeat Award to Kinney in recognition of his service to the community.

Kinney's Lodge Members wrote in their nomination, "Brian Kinney is the most devoted veteran I have ever met. Because of Brian's connections and knowledge of the VA's needs, in 2021 the Cynthiana Elks were able to donate an entire gym full of workout machines, weights, and treadmills to the VA, among other things. Brian is also an active member of the Cynthiana Kiwanis Club in the community. Brian truly loves his community and giving back to those in need."

Kinney's love of service is evident in how he spends his time, and his enthusiasm is contagious. He ends each report to the Elks office by saying, "I enjoy helping my fellow veterans and I enjoy what I do. I would do it anyway, but I am so thankful to the Elks for the support you give me to help my fellow veterans!"

We're thankful to have him as one of our volunteers, and proud to have him representing the Elks! His Lodge Members feel the same way. In the nomination letter from Cynthiana Lodge, they wrote, "Brian's love and respect helps to enrich the lives of the veterans he works with, no matter what they need. He has helped us as Lodge Members become more involved with veterans and is known around the community as the go-to person for veterans. He has made so many connections in our community. We do not believe that any VA volunteer loves his work or works harder than Brian does for his veterans."



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:

As of December 31, 2023

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	N.O. West Bank	\$1,114.40	\$ 12.95
2	Slidell	\$1,637.58	\$ 8.18
3	Opelousas	\$ 1,704.00	\$ 7.37
4	Plaquemine	\$ 345.00	\$ 7.18
5	Houma	\$ 582.50	\$ 5.44
6	New Orleans	\$ 1,459.91	\$ 3.67
7	Shreveport	\$ 250.00	\$ 0.24
8	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

**GRAND EXALTED RULER
RANDY P. SHOOK**

**ANNOUNCED THAT HIS GOAL THIS
YEAR FOR THE
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION**

WILL BE \$4.80 PER MEMBER

**STATE
ASSOCIATION**

News

MID-SEASON CONFERENCE:

The Mid-Season Conference will be held on January 20, at Opelousas Lodge 1048. The Trustees will meet at 10:00 AM and the Business Meeting will begin at 11:35 AM.

STATE CONVENTION:

The 88th Louisiana Elks State Convention will be held June 7-9, 2024, in Lafayette, LA at the Double Tree Hotel, located at 1521 West

Pinhook Road. An information letter and registration form can be found on pages 12 & 13 of this newsletter.

TIME FOR A CHANGE:

The April edition of our newsletter will be my last as Editor. I have been doing this newsletter since April 2006. I think it is time for some fresh ideas. If you are interested in taking over as the Editor of the Louisiana Elks Newsletter, please contact LEA President, Don Baye. I will help whoever assumes this position to make it a smooth transition.

HOW TO GET A
NEW MEMBER?

ASK!

COMMITTEE NEWS:

DRUG AWARENESS:

The last two months were very busy months for the Elks Drug Awareness Program, with Red Ribbon Week activities, Drug Take Backs, and the DEA's 50th anniversary celebration, and lodges nominating law enforcement officials for the distinguished Enrique Camarena Award

This month seems to be equally busy. While most of us center our thoughts around the holiday season, this is no time to relax. Drugs don't take holidays! Don't take my word for it.

“Fentanyl is the single deadliest drug threat our nation has ever encountered. Fentanyl is everywhere. From large metropolitan areas to rural America. We must take every opportunity to spread the word to prevent fentanyl-related overdose death and poisonings from claiming scores of American lives every day.”

(Continued on page 10.)

COMMITTEE NEWS continued:

That's why ELKS must and will do their part.

Our podcast series Awkward Conversations Season 3 is well underway. If you've not had the chance to do so, please look by going to YouTube and search for "ElksDAP." While our podcasts are lengthy, they are worth listening to. Our experts have a great deal to offer. Why not check it out. We look forward to 2024, and we remain mindful of the dangers young people face. Thank you for all that you do.

Armand Buuck, Chairman

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION:

These past few months have flown by, it seems like November just got here and we were all preparing to celebrate our veterans for the whole month of November and now we are celebrating the new year 2024.

On Thursday November 9th I spent the day at the SOUTHEAST Louisiana War Veterans home with our VAVS representative, Darren LaBarthe celebrating Veteran's Day. The day started off with a parade honoring the veterans, and then we served them lunch and got to hear some good old Cajun music. We also had the honor and pleasure to witness two, World War Two veterans being recognized for their service to our country. All and all, it was a day I'll remember forever, just seeing the smiles on their faces.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who submitted their candidates' names to be considered for the male and female Veteran Volunteer of The Year Award. This is a very prestigious award and should be presented to those individuals who go above and beyond Call of Duty to serve our veterans. I'm sure that all the nominees meet or exceed this standard.

Now I want to pay tribute to a Veteran, True Elk, and a Friend, Brother (Gary Yelm). Gary was a retired Air Force Veteran, who never stopped taking care of his fellow veterans.

Gary was originally a member of the Alexandria lodge # 546 and when it closed its doors, he became a member of Opelousas Lodge # 1048 where he remained a member until his demise on December 8th, 2023.

Gary served as the VAVS Representative for the Alexandria Veterans Hospital up till last year when his health would no longer allow him to perform his duties. Gary was the VAVS representative for the Alexandria Veterans Hospital for years, he was one of the longest seated representatives that the Louisiana Elks Association had.

The Alexandria VA Hospital is managed and operated under three different departments, and Gary worked with the department heads from all three departments as well as the veterans in all three departments. Gary could tell anyone off the top of his head what each department needed, how much money he spent on each one, and he made sure that one department didn't receive a red cent more than the other department. Every Veteran receives the same treatment from him, and he can tell you all their names without blinking an eye. Gary was a true friend and mentor for the Veterans.

I have known Gary for around twenty-nine to thirty years, but we had not got close until after I became the State Chairman for the Elks National Veterans Service Commission. Sometimes we would talk on the phone for hours, just speaking about everyday things.

Gary will be truly missed by his wife, family, friends, and the veterans that he dedicated his life to. Please keep Gary, his wife Mary Ann and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

(Elks Are Never Forgotten Never Forsaken)

Sincerely and fraternally,

Don L. Baye Chairman



To Our Absent Members:

In vain we call. He has passed into the light which is beyond the valley of the shadow of

Cyril L Nelson, New Orleans 30

Walter B. Smith PER, New Orleans 30

Ronald W. Madden, Shreveport 122

Ryan Fontenot, Opelousas 1048

Gary L. Yelm PDD, Opelousas 1048

Richard F. Conran, SDGER & Past Grand Tiler, Plaquemine 1398



Louisiana Elks Association
Buddy Hartle, Convention Chairman
105 General Taylor Drive, Hahnville, LA 70057
Phone: (504)615-7921

A Fraternal Organization

January 1, 2024

Members,

On behalf of the Louisiana Elks Association, State President Don L. Baye., and New Orleans Lodge #30, I invite you and your Lodge Members and guests to attend the 88th Louisiana Elks State Convention in Lafayette, LA on June 7-9, 2024.

The convention will be held at the Double Tree Hotel, located at 1521 West Pinhook Road, Lafayette, LA. The registration fee is \$60.00 per person. Convention Registration will close on May 23, 2024. **We no longer have a late registration or accept registration on the days of the convention.** All registration forms should be mailed to Andy Austin, Registration Chairman, 310 E. Preston St., Shreveport, LA 71105-2837, no later than May 23, 2024.

The Double Tree has established a room block for the Louisiana Elks that will be available until **May 23, 2024**, with a discounted room rate. The rate for a double is \$141.00 and a king is \$161.00 per night plus 12.45% tax per night. **Reservations must be made by calling 1-800-222-8733. Tell the reservation clerk you are with the Louisiana Elks Association, or you can use the hotel link that is on the Louisiana Elks Website.** Please keep in mind that the check-in time is 3 PM. If you arrive early your room may not be ready.

Opelousas Lodge #1048 will hold a Friday Night Social. The cost for this event is \$15.00 per person and the tickets must be ordered and paid for on the convention registration form. **(NOTE: If you have no intention of eating dinner at the Lodge but would like to make a donation, please mark the form accordingly).** There will be plenty of good food, refreshments, and camaraderie. We hope to see you there.

Please advise your members of the upcoming convention, perhaps include a notice in your Lodge bulletin, and make and distribute copies of the enclosed registration form to those interested in attending.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (h) 985-308-0004 or (c) 504-615-7921 or via e-mail mrb.hartle3574@hotmail.com.

Have a Super Elk Day!!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Buddy Hartle, PDD
State Secretary, and 2024 Convention Chairman



A Fraternal Organization

Louisiana Elks Association
Buddy Hartle, Convention Chairman
105 General Taylor Drive, Hahnville, LA 70057
Phone: (504)615-7921

88th Annual State Convention – June 7-9, 2024
INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM

Show member's name and lodge title, as each is to appear on the convention badge, Spouse/guest's name and applicable registration amounts on the spaces provided.

Convention registrations are \$60/member, \$60 spouse/guest: Registration fees include the Saturday evening banquet meal; Brunch for non-Elks; entertainment for members, spouses, and guests. **Friday Social tickets are \$15 each and must be ordered and paid for with this registration.**

REGISTRATION CLOSSES ON MAY 23, 2024. THERE IS NO LATE REGISTRATION. NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAYS OF THE CONVENTION.

Lodge name and number: _____

Member name and present title _____

Name of Spouse/Guest _____

Name of another guest _____

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Number of convention tickets at \$60.00 each		
Number of Friday night social at \$15.00 each		
WILL NOT ATTND THE SOCIAL BUT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION		
TOTAL		
PAID BY CASH:	PAID BY CHECK #	
PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION AND MAIL TO ANDY AUSTIN, 310 E. PRESTON ST—SHREVEPORT, LA 71105-2837		