

AUSTIN



PROGRAM

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINTH GRAND LODGE SESSION

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JUNE 30 – JULY 3, 2024
AUSTIN, TEXAS



WELCOME TO AUSTIN

WELKOME to beautiful Austin, Texas, everyone. The city has many things to do. If you are looking for activity ideas, check Austin’s online visitor guide at austintexas.org — it has tons of information.

One unique attraction that is a few short walking blocks from the Austin Convention Center is the famous flock of bats flying from their summer home under the Congress Avenue Bridge. And you can describe it with one of my favorite words: “FREE.”

We are now in the middle of bat season. Each spring the bats migrate from their winter homes in Mexico. Technically, they are Mexican free-tailed bats and are over a million strong after the babies are born during their stay here. That’s the largest concentration of urban bats in North America.

The bats are beneficial for pest control, as they feed on the pesky flying bugs that are common here in the South. They found an ideal place under the bridge (called the “Bat Cave”) after the rebuilding of the bridge in 1980.

Be ready to watch the horde come out from the bridge any time after 45 minutes prior to sunset. There’s even a special place called the Statesman Bat Observation Center adjacent to the bridge.

Again, welcome to the annual Elks National Convention. Have a great stay here in Austin.



John D. Amen
Past Grand Exalted Ruler
Texas State Sponsor



CONVENTION COVID-19 GUIDELINES AND PRECAUTIONS

Please be aware that attendance at the Grand Lodge National Convention in **Austin, Texas**, may pose a risk of exposure to and illness from infectious diseases, including but not limited to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) and its potential variants. While the CDC and federal government has lifted the rigid pandemic requirements, we recommend each attendee evaluate their risk of exposure and take such precautions as they deem necessary. Registration and/or attendance at any event constitutes waiver of any claims related to any such potential exposure.

All convention attendees are encouraged to:

- Wash their hands frequently during the convention.
- Monitor their own health on a daily basis to be alert for known symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Do not attend convention events if you are experiencing any of these symptoms.

Please refer to the Elks.org website for further information and updates concerning the 2024 Elks National Convention and the COVID-19 safety guidelines and precautions that may be in place to help ensure that everyone has a safe and healthy experience.

Enjoy your stay in Austin!

Faternally,

Arthur H. Frost III, PGER

Elks National Convention Commission Chairman

Tina M. Haran

Convention and Meetings Director

FUTURE CONVENTIONS

Year	Dates	Location
2025	June 29–July 2	Kansas City, MO
2026	July 5–8	Chicago, IL
2027	July 4–7	Denver, CO
2028	July 2–5	Baltimore, MD



City of Austin

Kirk Watson, Mayor

301 W. 2nd St., Austin, TX 78701
(512) 978-2100, Fax (512) 978-2120
mayor.watson@austintexas.gov

Welcome to Austin, and thank you for choosing Austin to host the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks 2024 National Convention!

There is something special about Austin. Our town has long embraced folks who've bucked conventional thinking in search of the next great idea. Willie Nelson came here to reinvent country music. Michael Dell hatched his big vision for the personal computer from his dorm room at the University of Texas. And John Mackey redefined what grocery stores could be—all right here in Austin.

We also love to have a good time. I encourage you to enjoy the beautiful parks and the hike-and-bike trail located within easy walking distance of your hotel. You'll also find exciting music venues, great restaurants, and other entertainment throughout downtown, including Sixth Street, South Congress, Rainey Street, and the Warehouse District. While you're out and about, I hope you can take the time to slow down and appreciate the people, the environment, and the spirit of Austin.

We want you to feel welcome while you're visiting. Austin prides itself on being a diverse and inclusive city, and Yelp has recognized us as one of the most inclusive cities in the country. It's one of the reasons our people, businesses, and institutions have been so innovative—we embrace everyone.

Austin has also launched the "We All Belong" initiative, which will empower our community to take action to keep Austin a safe and welcoming place with streamlined access to tools to report hate crimes and incidents.

Once again, I hope you all have a great time and learn why Austin is a favorite national and international destination. Thank you for choosing Austin for your convention and enjoy your stay!

Sincerely,

Mayor Kirk Watson
City of Austin



REGISTRATION

BADGES AND EVENT RESERVATION INFORMATION

All Grand Lodge Members, Exalted Rulers, visiting Elks, and their guests must be registered. Your badge must be displayed for admission into the session halls and all Elks-related functions associated with this convention.

In the interest of everyone’s safety, all attendees of the 2024 Elks National Convention will be required to preregister on the Elks.org website. On-site registration will be limited.

The registration area will open on Friday, June 28, at 12:00 p.m. at the Austin Convention Center. The registration staff will be available during the convention to address any issues with badges or voting credentials. The Austin Convention Center should be considered your information center.



Austin’s skyline and the Colorado River | Photo: DC Studios/Pexels

REGISTRATION HOURS

Hall 2
Austin Convention Center

Friday, June 28 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 29 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Sunday, June 30 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Monday, July 1 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, July 2 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

EVENT RESERVATIONS

All attendees are asked to make reservations for all seminars and workshops. Attendees are not required to make reservations. *An event reservation does not guarantee a seat in the seminar.*

REGISTRATION

EXHIBITS

Displays for the activities of Grand Lodge committees and programs, state major projects, and trademark licensees will be in the Austin Convention Center in Hall 2.



Austin Convention Center | Photo: The Austin Convention Center Department

EXHIBIT HOURS

Hall 2
Austin Convention Center

Saturday, June 29 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 30 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday, July 1 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 2 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

GRAND LODGE SESSIONS

Sessions will be held daily at the Austin Convention Center in Hall 4.

Seating map for the general sessions for Monday through Wednesday.

No assigned seating at the Opening Ceremony.

elks.org/convention/files/seatingMap.pdf



Seating Map

RITUALISTIC SCHEDULE

Ritualistic Contest finals will be held at the Austin Convention Center on Monday, July 1.

CHURCH SERVICE

A Catholic Mass will be held on Sunday, June 30, at 9 a.m. at the Hilton Austin Hotel in Salon G.

All Grand Lodge Sessions will be held daily at the
Austin Convention Center
Hall 4
500 E. Cesar Chavez Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Sessions will start each morning promptly at 8 a.m.
All attendees are required to register and requested
to make event reservations to attend seminars and
workshops. Please be sure to attend all sessions to receive
the 2024-2025 program information.

ACC=Austin Convention Center

Ballrooms A, B, and C are on Level 1.

Ballrooms D–G are on Level 4.

Meeting Rooms 1–3 are on Level 1.

Meeting Rooms 4–10 are on Level 3.

Ritual meeting room is on Level 4.

Sunday, June 30

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Elks.org Essential Topics for Exalted Rulers workshop. Director of Internet Operations Frederick Mensch will take attendees on a guided tour of the Elks.org website, with a particular focus on features of interest to Exalted Rulers. **ACC, Ballroom E.**

10 – 11 a.m. The Financial Help for Veterans seminar. Service members and veterans may find themselves in a financial and emergent crisis. Elizabeth Johnston will guide Lodges through the maze of financial resources that provide the support that helps to prevent veteran homelessness. **ACC, Ballroom B.**

10 – 11 a.m. The staff of The Elks Magazine will give a seminar on how to submit fraternal news and photos to the magazine. **ACC, Ballroom C.**

10 – 11:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Public Relations & Membership Marketing—“What’s New?” seminar. Review of new Grand Lodge membership growth slogan and artwork, “Let’s Soar with Four.” Introduction of the new GER Slogan, “Elkdom’s Heart for America,” accompanied by framed photo artwork for membership classes. Introduction to two new top proposer reports, social media strategy, and recognition program. Examination of our new GER awards recognition strategy, as we target to recruit 100,000 new Members. Presentation of our new pre-orientation video and letter, designed to encourage new Members to participate. Review our new strategy for targeting new Members with a simplified introductory GER e-greeting message. **ACC, Ballroom F.**

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler seminar. PGERs are invited to attend. **Hilton Austin Hotel, Salon F.**

11 a.m.–3 p.m. Auditing and Accounting Committee—Lodge Accounting System Update (FRS replacement software). Each session will last 25 minutes and will begin on the hour and half hour continuously. **ACC, Ballroom D.**

12 – 1 p.m. The Elks National Veteran Service Commission—Understanding veterans homelessness. Hear updates on the state of veteran homelessness, including past successes and recent trends. ENVSC Programs Associate Emily Cruz will review the data and common factors contributing to the issue while highlighting successful programs and proven solutions. We’ll also share studies showing how Elks programs are making a difference and illustrate how your Lodge can join in the fight against veteran homelessness. **ACC, Ballroom B.**

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. The staff of The Elks Magazine will give a seminar on how to submit fraternal news and photos to the magazine. **ACC, Ballroom C.**

12:30–1:30 p.m. “Discover Elks!” Learn about new and dynamic efforts in Area 8 to engage Members, embrace 21st-century technology, and invite communities to discover the Elks and what we do. **ACC, Ballroom F.**

1 – 2 p.m. The Elks National Veteran Service Commission—Welcome Home Kits. Learn how your Lodge can use Welcome Home Kits to help build stability for veterans exiting homelessness. ENVSC Programs Associate Rene Villalobos will review the program’s benefits and how it works. Elks Welcome Home Kit superstars will join us to share their tips on how to run a successful program, from recruiting volunteers to building partnerships to getting the best deals. The National Veteran Volunteer of the Year award will also be presented. **ACC, Ballroom B.**

2 – 3 p.m. Elks.org Essential Topics for Exalted Rulers workshop. Director of Internet Operations Frederick Mensch will take attendees on a guided tour of the Elks.org website, with a particular focus on features of interest to Exalted Rulers. **ACC, Ballroom E.**

4 p.m. Official Grand Lodge Opening Ceremony. Members and accompanied guests are invited to attend. Opening remarks and Introduction of the Past Grand Exalted Rulers and Past First Ladies by Master of Ceremonies Paul R. Ryan, Past Grand Exalted Ruler. Introduction of State Presidents and Presentation of Flags by the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee, William J. Lindsey. Elks National Veterans Service Commission Report, Drug Awareness Program Report, Elks National Foundation Report including Hoop Shoot® and Scholarship presentations. Principal Address by Randy Shook, Grand Exalted Ruler. **ACC, Hall 4.**

Monday, July 1

8 a.m. Opening Grand Lodge Business Sessions. **ACC, Hall 4.**

- **8 a.m.** Opening Grand Lodge Business Session Annual Report given by the Grand Exalted Ruler. Reports from Elks National Convention Commission, National Memorial & Publications, Veterans Restoration Trust (Part 1), Board of Grand Trustees, Committee on Judiciary Preliminary Report, Legislative Session Discussion, and Preliminary Ritual Report.
- **9:30 a.m.** All registered guests are invited to attend the Session.
- National Memorial & Publications, Veterans Restoration Trust (Part 2).
- Nomination & Election of Grand Lodge Officers for 2024-2025.
- **Celebration** and Grand Exalted Ruler-Elect Acceptance Speech.

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Elks National Foundation—Hoop Shoot Unleashing Gritty Kids. Learn about what’s in store for the upcoming season and how you can help develop gritty kids. **ACC, Ballroom B.**

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Ladies of the Elks workshop. Florida Ladies of Elks will host a meet and greet. Ladies affiliated with Elks Lodges across the country can share event and fundraising ideas. Return home with innovative ideas that can enhance attendance and participation. This is a social workshop, not a structured meeting or lecture. **ACC, Meeting Room 8.**

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Elks National Foundation—Fundraising Chair: Engaging and Retaining Donors seminar. This session



will demonstrate the importance of engaging donors along with a guide to do so in your Lodge. Though the content for this seminar is designed for ENF Fundraising Chairs, all are welcome to attend. **ACC, Ballroom C.**

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee—All American Lodge & Americanism Essay Contests workshop. **ACC, Meeting Room 6.**

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee—Introduction to Lodge Accounting for Officers seminar. **ACC, Ballroom E.**

12:30 – 3 p.m. District Deputy Designate orientation. SDGERS are required to attend. Box lunch will be provided starting at 12 p.m. **ACC, Ballroom D.**

1 p.m. Ritualistic Finals. **ACC, 4th floor.**

1–2p.m. The staff of The Elks Magazine will give a seminar on how to submit fraternal news and photos to the magazine. **ACC, Ballroom F.**



1:30 – 3:30 p.m. The Board of Grand Trustees will be available for questions. **JW Marriott Austin Hotel, Meeting Room 404.**

1:30 – 4 p.m. Committee on Judiciary will be available for questions. **JW Marriott Austin Hotel, Meeting room 405.**

2–2:30 p.m. Grand Exalted Ruler-Elect will be available for photos with the State Presidents. **ACC, Ballroom G.**

2 – 3:15 p.m. Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee—Advanced Lodge Accounting Topics seminar. **ACC, Ballroom E.**

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Public Relations & Membership Marketing—“What’s New? Part Two!” seminar. Exploration of the billing program advantages and opportunities. Overview of the new Grand Lodge Branding Guide. Focus on Social Shareables: utilization and best practices. **ACC, Ballroom F.**

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Elks National Foundation—Community Investments Program: #Elks Always Care seminar. This session will be an opportunity to learn more about the 2024-25 Lodge grants, including best practices for grant use. **ACC, Ballroom B.**

2:30 – 4 p.m. The Activities Committee seminar will provide an overview of the committee’s programs, including the Soccer Shoot, Student/Teenager of the Month/Year, JROTC Awards, Scouting, Dictionary Project, Antlers, Community Projects Contest, Public Safety Medals, and the Junior Golf Program. At the end of the seminar, there will be a panel discussion and the opportunity for the Members to ask questions of the committee regarding the programs. **ACC, Meeting Room 6.**

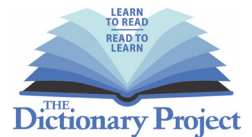
3 – 4 p.m. Grand Exalted Ruler-Elect will be available for photos with the District Deputies Designate. **ACC, Ballroom G.**

3–4 p.m. Elks National Veteran Service Commission—Suicide Prevention and the Veterans Crisis Line seminar. Veterans Crisis Line Deputy Executive Director Kyle Inhofe will share tools and resources for veteran suicide prevention. Learn how to talk to veterans about emotional health, identify warning signs, and access resources for veterans in need and those who care about them. **ACC, Ballroom C.**

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. “Discover Elks!” Learn about new and dynamic efforts in Area 8 to engage Members, embrace 21st-century technology, and invite communities to discover the Elks and what we do! **ACC, Ballroom C.**

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee—Advanced Lodge Accounting Topics seminar. **ACC, Ballroom E.**

12:30 – 2 p.m. Activities Committee seminar. The seminar will provide an overview of the committee’s programs, including the Soccer Shoot, Student/Teenager of the Month/Year, JROTC Awards, Scouting, Dictionary Project, Antlers, Community Projects Contest, Public Safety Medals, and the Junior Golf Program. At the end of the seminar, there will be a panel discussion and the opportunity for the Members to ask questions of the committee regarding the programs. **ACC, Ballroom B.**



12:30 – 3 p.m. District Deputy Designate conference. SDGERS are required to attend. Box lunch will be provided starting at 12 p.m. **ACC, Ballroom D.**

1 – 2 p.m. The staff of The Elks Magazine will give a seminar on how to submit fraternal news and photos to the magazine. **ACC, Meeting Room 6.**

1:30 – 3 p.m. The Elks National Drug Awareness Commission—Open House. Come and meet with the movers and shakers of the nation’s largest all-volunteer drug awareness education program. Learn about the current drug trends and meet and listen to this year’s Enrique S. Camarena Award recipient, Sgt. Jeff Foss-Rugan, who was nominated by the Connecticut Elks Association. Learn how you can get involved in your Lodge and make a difference in your community. Door prizes for all! **ACC, Ballroom F.**

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. The Board of Grand Trustees will be available for questions. **JW Marriott Austin Hotel, Meeting Room 404.**

1:30 – 4 p.m. The Committee on Judiciary will be available for questions. **JW Marriott Austin Hotel, Meeting Room 405.**

Tuesday, July 2

8 a.m. Grand Lodge Business Session. **ACC, Hall 4.**

- **8 a.m.** Report of Resolutions Committee, Registration (Final), Board of Grand Trustees (Final), Grand Forum/Pardon Committee, Committee on Judiciary Legislative Session, Disaster Relief Fund Report, Government Relations, and Auditing & Accounting.
- **9:40 a.m. Non-Members Admitted.**
- GER-Elect Program Remarks.
- Activities Committee and Fraternal Committee “All American Lodge Awards” Reports.
- Chicago Headquarters 2024-2025 Program.
- Legislative results.
- Final report and team awards of Ritualistic Committee.

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Gather at the Elks Memorial Clock to meet the Grand Exalted Ruler-Elect. Capture a memorable moment with a photo and have your membership card signed. **ACC, outside Hall 4.**

GRAND LODGE PROGRAM

2:15 – 3:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee—Introduction to Lodge Accounting for Officers seminar. **ACC, Ballroom E.**

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee—Town Hall Meeting on State and Local Lodge Communication Contests workshop. **ACC, Ballroom B.**

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Elks.org Essential Topics for Exalted Rulers workshop. Director of Internet Operations Frederick Mensch will take attendees on a guided tour of the Elks.org website, with a particular focus on features of interest to Exalted Rulers. **ACC, Meeting Room 6.**

Wednesday, July 3

8 a.m. Final Grand Lodge Session. Open Session, Members and accompanied guests are invited to attend. All District Deputy-Designates are required to attend. **ACC, Hall 4.**

- Memorial Service under the direction of PGER Bruce A. Hidley.
- Public Relations & Membership Marketing Presentation.
- Installation of 2024-2025 Grand Lodge Officers by PGER T. Keith Mills.
- Installation of 2024-2025 District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers.

All registered attendees are invited to attend. Grand Lodge Session will conclude by **11 a.m.**

Departure plans should be made accordingly. Late checkouts should be arranged with individual hotels in advance.



Austin-Bergstrom International Airport | Photo: Tim Griffith

RITUALISTIC SCHEDULE

EASTERN DIVISION

STATE	PRACTICE	CONTEST
	Friday, June 28	Saturday, June 29
1. OHIO	5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.
2. NEW JERSEY	5:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
3. VERMONT	6:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
4. SOUTH CAROLINA	6:30 p.m.	11:00 a.m.
5. MICHIGAN	7:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
6. PENNSYLVANIA	7:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
7. MAINE	8:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
8. NEW YORK	8:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
	Saturday, June 29	Sunday, June 30
9. FLORIDA	6:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.
10. GEORGIA	6:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m.

WESTERN DIVISION

STATE	PRACTICE	CONTEST
	Friday, June 28	Saturday, June 29
1. TEXAS	5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.
2. MISSOURI	5:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
3. NEVADA	6:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
4. [OPEN]	6:30 p.m.	11:00 a.m.
5. WASHINGTON	7:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
6. NEBRASKA	7:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
7. CALIFORNIA	8:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
8. OREGON	8:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
	Saturday, June 29	Sunday, June 30
9. COLORADO	6:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.
10. ARIZONA	6:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m.

RITUALISTIC FINALS

STATE	PRACTICE	CONTEST
	Sunday, June 30	Monday, July 1
Team 1	7:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
Team 2	7:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
Team 3	8:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Team 4	8:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m.

CALLICOTT 11 O'CLOCK TOAST CONTEST SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 30

Austin Convention Center • Austin, Texas

EAST	WEST
AREAS 1 & 2 11:00 a.m.	AREAS 5 & 7 11:00 a.m.
Maine New Hampshire Vermont Massachusetts New York Connecticut Rhode Island New Jersey Pennsylvania MD-DE-DC	Wisconsin Illinois Minnesota Iowa Missouri Utah Arizona Nevada California Hawaii
AREA 3 11:30 a.m.	AREA 6 11:30 a.m.
Tennessee North Carolina South Carolina Mississippi Alabama Georgia Florida	Nebraska Colorado Kansas New Mexico Oklahoma Arkansas Texas Louisiana
AREA 4 12:00 p.m.	AREA 8 12:00 p.m.
Virginia West Virginia Kentucky Michigan Ohio Indiana	Alaska Washington Oregon Idaho Montana Wyoming North Dakota South Dakota

FINAL FOUR TOAST TIMES

Monday, July 1

Austin Convention Center • Austin, Texas

Contestant 1	10:30 a.m.
Contestant 2	10:40 a.m.
Contestant 3	10:50 a.m.
Contestant 4	11:00 a.m.

MULHOLLAND FLAG CHARGE CONTEST SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 30

Austin Convention Center • Austin, Texas

EAST	WEST
AREA 4 1:00 p.m.	AREA 8 1:00 p.m.
Virginia West Virginia Kentucky Michigan Ohio Indiana	Alaska Washington Oregon Idaho Montana Wyoming North Dakota South Dakota
AREA 3 1:45 p.m.	AREAS 5 & 7 1:45 p.m.
Tennessee North Carolina South Carolina Mississippi Alabama Georgia Florida	Utah Arizona Nevada California Hawaii Wisconsin Illinois Minnesota Iowa Missouri
AREAS 1 & 2 2:30 p.m.	AREA 6 2:30 p.m.
Maine New Hampshire Vermont Massachusetts New York Connecticut Rhode Island New Jersey Pennsylvania MD-DE-DC	Nebraska Colorado Kansas New Mexico Oklahoma Arkansas Texas Louisiana

FINAL FOUR FLAG CHARGE TIMES

Monday, July 1

Austin Convention Center • Austin, Texas

Contestant 1	11:10 a.m.
Contestant 2	11:20 a.m.
Contestant 3	11:30 a.m.
Contestant 4	11:40 a.m.

ENF IN THE LONE STAR STATE



The Elks National Foundation has exciting events and presentations planned for you. Here are some highlights:

ENF AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES

Don't miss the Foundation's presentation during Sunday's Opening Ceremonies!

Sunday, June 30 | 4 p.m.
Austin Convention Center

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT: MEET THE ELKS SCHOLARS

Elks scholars will be at the convention center to talk to the people who have helped make their scholarships possible. Be sure to say hello to these outstanding members of the #ElksFamily.

Sunday, June 30
Austin Convention Center

STANDING IN THE HALL OF FAME: MEET THE ELKS HOOP SHOOT GETTY POWELL WINNERS

The 2024 National Finals highest scoring boy and girl overall, along with their families, will be onsite at the convention center to meet and greet adoring fans. Be sure to say hello to the best youth free throw shooters in America!

Sunday, June 30
Austin Convention Center

SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE!

Throughout the weekend, the Elks National Foundation is hosting a Spotlight Grant Drive. We're asking convention attendees to bring a pack of new socks for veterans experiencing homelessness or a new or gently used children's book to promote literacy. Your Lodge will then be entered into a raffle to double the value of its Spotlight Grant to \$4,000.

To enter the raffle, you must donate your item at the ENF booth during convention. However, anyone attending can participate—even guests! The socks and books will be donated to local organizations in the Austin area. Donations can be dropped off at the ENF booth in the Exhibit Hall on Saturday and Sunday.

SEMINARS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

When planning your schedule for the 2024 Elks National Convention in Austin, don't miss the following Elks National Foundation sessions. Seating is limited for all our seminars, and admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. **Doors open 30 minutes before seminars begin.** For more information, email enf@elks.org or call (773) 755-4728.

ELKS HOOP SHOOT: UNLEASHING GRITTY KIDS

Learn about what's in store for the upcoming season and how you can help develop gritty kids!

Monday, July 1 | 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Austin Convention Center – Ballroom B

ENF FUNDRAISING CHAIRS: ENGAGING AND RETAINING DONORS

This session will demonstrate the importance of engaging donors, along with a guide to do so in your Lodge. Though the content for this seminar is designed for ENF Fundraising Chairs, all are welcome to attend.

Monday, July 1 | 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Austin Convention Center – Ballroom C

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS PROGRAM: #ELKSALWAYSCARE

This session will be an opportunity to learn more about the 2024-25 Lodge grants, including best practices for grant use.

Monday, July 1 | 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Austin Convention Center – Ballroom B

*Rooms are subject to change. Visit our website, elks.org/enf, for more information.

VISIT Austin®

Austin, Texas, welcomes Members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks for the 159th Grand Lodge Convention. Austin is the fourth largest city in the state and has been the center of state government since 1845, when Texas was admitted to the United States. Within the downtown area, visitors will find the political and cultural centers, entertainment venues, and restaurants that make Austin a vibrant city.

Austin is home to many museums and cultural sites, and one of the most recognizable landmarks is the Texas State Capitol, located at 1100 Congress Avenue. The capitol was constructed between 1885 and 1888 within 22 acres of landscaped parkland and is based on the design of Italian Renaissance buildings. The building is open to the public for guided tours that pass through many of its most important spaces.



Texas State Capitol in Austin

Photo: Mitchell Kmetz/Unsplash

An unusual natural phenomenon can be seen south of downtown at the Congress Avenue Bridge. From early spring through late fall, this bridge is the roosting site for the largest urban population of bats in the United States. Each night at sunset, thousands of bats fly out to begin their nightly search for food. The departure of the bats has become a major tourist attraction, so be sure to arrive before sunset for the best views.

After arriving at the Colorado River, visitors might be tempted to take a boat trip or to explore the city via the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail, which extends for five miles along both banks of the river. The trail passes through the Zilker Botanical Garden and winds around Lady Bird Lake, a reservoir in the Colorado River that is a popular spot for kayakers.

Another of Austin's outstanding features is its live music scene. Many well-known music venues are located downtown on Sixth Street. Other notable venues include the low-key Cactus Cafe, located on the campus of the University of Texas; the spectacular Paramount Theatre, which boasts the decor of an old-fashioned movie palace; ACL Live at The Moody Theater, home to the popular *Austin City Limits* television show; and the Elephant Room, a renowned jazz club.



Sixth Street in downtown Austin

Photo: Jim Nix/Visit Austin

Austin is an international city with a diverse culinary scene, but it prides itself on Texas barbecue. One of the most famous barbecue restaurants in the city is Franklin Barbecue, located east of downtown at 900 East Eleventh Street. People line up by the dozen every morning to buy the restaurant's famous brisket. The spot is so popular that items often sell out within hours of the daily opening time of 11 a.m., so customers are recommended to arrive early and be prepared for a long wait. Two barbecue restaurants close to the convention center are Iron Works Barbecue, located at 100 Red River Street, and Lamberts, at 401 West 2nd Street.

Regardless of whether they're in the mood for quality barbecue, good music, cultural enrichment, or the wonders of nature, conventiongoers will find plenty to enjoy in Austin.



Franklin Barbecue

Photo: Wyatt McSpadden



Live music at ACL Live

Photo: David Brendan Hall/Visit Austin

SHUTTLE SERVICE

Complimentary shuttle service is provided between the Austin Convention Center and the following hotels.

ROUTES, HOTELS, AND BOARDING

Route 1 {Red} Boarding Location

JW Marriott Austin
Front of hotel on 2nd Street

Route 2 {Blue} Boarding Location

Stephen F. Austin Hotel Royal Sonesta
Side of hotel on Congress Avenue

Route 3 {Yellow} Boarding Location

Embassy Suites Austin Downtown/Town Lake
Front of hotel on Congress Avenue

Hyatt Regency Austin
Hotel driveway in designated bus area

Route 4 {Green} Boarding Location

Holiday Inn Austin Town Lake
Curbside at driveway entrance on Frontage Road

Route 5 {Orange} Boarding Location

Hilton Garden Inn Downtown/Convention Center
Curbside at driveway entrance on Frontage Road

Downright Austin, a Renaissance Hotel
Front of hotel on 11th Street

Walk to Austin Convention Center

- Austin Marriott Downtown
- Courtyard Austin Downtown
- Fairmont Austin
- Hilton Austin
- Hyatt Place Austin Downtown
- Residence Inn Austin Downtown



Historic Sixth Street Mural | Photo: Carmen M. Fischer/Courtesy of Visit Austin

HOURS OF OPERATION

Shuttles operate at 15-20 minute intervals, except where noted. The last bus leaves from the hotels 30 minutes prior to the published end time. The last bus leaves from the convention center at the published end time.

Saturday, June 29	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.*
Sunday, June 30	8:00 a.m. – Close of Opening Ceremony
Monday, July 1	7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.*
Tuesday, July 2	7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.*
Wednesday, July 3	7:00 a.m. – Close of Session

**Departs convention center every 30 minutes on the hour and half-hour.*

PLEASE CHECK YOUR HOTEL LOBBY SIGNS FOR UPDATED SCHEDULES

For special transportation needs, call: (310) 900-9525.

Please allow 30-45 minutes advance notice. Special transportation is available only for service and times listed above.

OFFICE INFORMATION

ROOM AND PHONE NUMBERS

Room 10A • (773) 755-4770

Accounting	Insurance
Convention	Magazine
Elks National Foundation	Shipping
Grand Secretary	CLMS

HOURS

Saturday, June 29.....	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 30.....	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday, July 1.....	7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 2.....	7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Local Support Committee — Room 2

Newsletter — Room 10C

Public Relations Membership & Marketing — Room 7

CONVENTION HOTELS

- Grand Lodge**—Hilton Austin.
- Alabama**—Downright Austin, a Renaissance Hotel.
- Alaska**—Hyatt Regency Austin Downtown.
- Arizona**—Hilton Austin. Saturday: 11:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. & 7:30–11 p.m.; Sunday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m. & 7–11 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday: 11:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. & 7:30–11 p.m.; Wednesday: 11 a.m.–TBD (depending on volunteers).
- Arkansas**—Stephen F. Austin Royal Sonesta, Room 1608. Closed during Meeting.
- California/Hawaii**—Hilton Austin.
- Colorado**—JW Marriott Austin.
- Connecticut**—Fairmont Austin.
- Florida**—Downright Austin, a Renaissance Hotel. Florida Elks only until 9 p.m. daily. Saturday through Monday: 9–11 p.m.
- Georgia**—Downright Austin, a Renaissance Hotel.
- Idaho**—Hyatt Regency Austin Downtown.
- Illinois**—Embassy Suites Austin Downtown South Congress, Suites 808 and 809. Saturday: 3–11 p.m. (Illinois Elks only); Sunday: Noon–3 p.m. & 6–11 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday: Noon–11 p.m.
- Indiana**—JW Marriott Austin. Saturday: 5 p.m.–Midnight; Sunday: Noon–2:30 p.m. & 6 p.m.–Midnight; Monday and Tuesday: Noon–Midnight.
- Iowa**—Courtyard/Residence Inn by Marriott Downtown. Saturday: 4–10 p.m.; Sunday: Noon–2 p.m. & 6:30–11 p.m.; Monday: 2–11 p.m.; Tuesday: 1–3 p.m. & 7–11 p.m. (Iowa Elks only 4–7 p.m.).
- Kansas**—Courtyard/Residence Inn by Marriott Downtown.
- Kentucky**—Hilton Garden Inn Austin Downtown/Conv. Center.
- Louisiana**—Stephen F. Austin Royal Sonesta, Room 1608. Closed during Meeting.
- Maine**—Fairmont Austin. Only Maine Elks until after Opening Ceremony. Open daily until 11 p.m.
- Massachusetts**—Fairmont Austin. Open to all Elks all days, except Tuesday from 5–7 p.m. (private reception for Massachusetts Elks and Grand Lodge only). Capacity is limited. Call (339) 222-8403 to check to see if room is full.
- MD, DE, & DC**—Holiday Inn Town Lake. Saturday: Noon–11 p.m.; Sunday: Noon–4 p.m. & 8–11 p.m.; Monday: Noon–5 p.m. & 9 p.m.–Midnight; Tuesday: Noon–5 p.m. & 7–11 p.m.
- Michigan**—Hilton Garden Inn Austin Downtown/Conv. Center, Room 1031. Friday: 7–11 p.m.; Saturday: 3–5 p.m. & 7–11 p.m.; Sunday: Noon–3 p.m. & 7–11 p.m.; Monday: 2–5 p.m. & 7–11 p.m.; Tuesday: Michigan Night 2–4:30 p.m. & 7:30–11 p.m.; Wednesday: 2–5 p.m.
- Minnesota**—Austin Marriott Downtown, 7th Floor. Saturday: 1–11 p.m.; Sunday: 1–3 p.m. & after Opening Ceremony until 11 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday: 1–11 p.m.
- Mississippi**—Downright Austin, a Renaissance Hotel.
- Missouri**—Embassy Suites Austin Downtown South Congress, Room 908. Saturday: 3–11 p.m. (Missouri Elks only); Sunday: 11 a.m.–3 p.m. (Missouri Elks only) & 6–11 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday: 11 a.m.–2 p.m. (Missouri Elks only) & 2–11 p.m.

AND HOSPITALITY SUITES

- Montana**—Hyatt Regency Austin Downtown.
- Nebraska**—Courtyard/Residence Inn by Marriott Downtown.
- Nevada**—Hilton Austin. Nevada Elks only Tuesday evening for a state dinner.
- New Hampshire**—Fairmont Austin. Saturday: 3–11 p.m.; Sunday Noon–3 p.m. & After Opening Ceremony–11 p.m.; Monday through Wednesday: Noon–3 p.m. (New Hampshire Elks only) & 3–11 p.m.
- New Jersey**—Austin Marriott Downtown.
- New Mexico**—JW Marriott Austin. New Mexico Members only after 7 p.m.
- New York**—Austin Marriott Downtown, Waterloo Ballroom 5th Floor. Saturday through Tuesday: 8–11 p.m.
- North Carolina**—JW Marriott Austin. Saturday: 5–11 p.m. (North Carolina Elks only); Sunday: 7–11 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday 5–11 p.m. May close before 11 p.m. to attend the Eleven O'Clock Toast.
- North Dakota**—Hyatt Regency Austin Downtown.
- Ohio**—JW Marriott Austin. Saturday: 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. & 8–11:30 p.m.; Sunday: 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. & 8–11:30 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday: 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. & 8–11:30 p.m. (Fire Cracker Party on Tuesday night).
- Oklahoma**—Stephen F. Austin Royal Sonesta, Room 1608. Closed during Meeting.
- Oregon**—Hyatt Regency Austin Downtown.
- Pennsylvania**—Holiday Inn Town Lake, Rooms 1405–1407. Saturday: Noon–TBD; Sunday: Noon–3 p.m. & 8–11 p.m. Monday: Noon–4 p.m. & 9 p.m.–Midnight; Tuesday: Noon–4 p.m. & 7–11 p.m.
- Rhode Island**—Fairmont Austin. Open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday (invitation only).
- Ritual**—JW Marriott Austin.
- South Carolina**—JW Marriott Austin.
- South Dakota**—Hyatt Regency Austin Downtown.
- Tennessee**—JW Marriott Austin.
- Texas**—Hyatt Place Austin Downtown, Meeting Rooms 2 and 3. Saturday: 7–11 p.m. (Texas Elks only); Sunday: 1–3 p.m. & 7–11 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday: 1–5 p.m. & 7–11 p.m.
- Utah**—Hilton Austin.
- Virginia**—Hilton Garden Inn Austin Downtown/Conv. Center.
- Vermont**—Fairmont Austin.
- Washington**—Hyatt Regency Austin Downtown.
- West Virginia**—JW Marriott Austin. Saturday: 1–4:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.–Midnight; Sunday: 1–3:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.–Midnight; Monday: 1–4 p.m. (West Virginia Elks only) & 6 p.m.–Midnight; Tuesday: 1–4:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.–Midnight.
- Wisconsin**—Courtyard/Residence Inn by Marriott Downtown. Open daily from 4–11 p.m. Closed Tuesday 4–7 p.m. (State Night).
- Wyoming**—Hyatt Regency Austin Downtown.

**ALL HOSPITALITY SUITES
REQUIRE REGISTRATION BADGES**

LOCAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE

2024 AUSTIN, TEXAS

HONORARY CHAIRMEN

CHARLES F. WILLIAMS

Past Grand Exalted Ruler

JOHN D. AMEN

Past Grand Exalted Ruler

GENERAL CHAIRPERSON

KIRK A. STOREY

*Past District Deputy
Grand Exalted Ruler,
Past Grand Esquire,
Past State President*

OPERATIONS CHAIRPERSON

DONNIE W. CAGLE

*Past District Deputy
Grand Exalted Ruler,
Past State President*

SECRETARY

ED SALAZAR

*Past District Deputy
Grand Exalted Ruler,
Past State President*

TREASURER

TOM HOUGHAM

*Past District Deputy
Grand Exalted Ruler,
Past State President*

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

- Ritualistic Michael Callahan, *PDDGER, PSP*
- Manpower Thomas Moran, *PER*
- Legislative Assistants Sean Bruce, *PDDGER, PER*
David Zint, *PER*
- Airport/Transportation ... Jim Stansbury, *PDDGER, PSP*
- Ushers Teresa Blevins, *PDDGER*
- Grand Lodge Session John Green, *PDDGER*
- Opening Ceremony Craig C. Melms, *PER*
- Printing/Media Relations..... Larry Baughman, *PER*
- Information Sales Booth Beverly S. Vesper
Kerri Weatherly, *PDDGER*
- Registration Control Ronnie Cagle, *PER*
- Green Room Shan Clark

ELKS NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMISSION

- Arthur H. Frost III, *PGER, Chairman*
- Millard C. Pickering, *PGER, Vice-Chairman*
- F. Louis Sulsberger, *PGER, Member*
- Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., *PGER, Member*
- Michael F. Smith, *PGER, Past Chairman*
- Tina M. Haran, *Director*
- Jessica M. Ruiz, *Meetings Coordinator*

Thank You . . .

To the Texas Elks Local Support Committee.

To the Borger Honor Guard, from Borger, Texas Lodge No. 1581.

To Ragan Sullivan, Convention Vocalist, from North Little Rock, Arkansas Lodge No. 1004.

To Scott Kirstein, Center Coordinator; Edgar Manwaring, Sessions Coordinator; Michael Clark, Media Coordinator; Gordon Daniels, Video Coordinator; Scott Flota, Exhibits Coordinator; Marcus Kirstein, Exhibits Coordinator; Kari Larson, Sessions Coordinator; and Roland “Smiley” Seibert, Exhibits Coordinator Emeritus.



Austin Convention Center | Photo: The Austin Convention Center Department

CONVENTION PUBLICATIONS

Go paperless! Access Elks National Convention materials online with your smartphone camera by scanning the QR codes for the Program, Daily News, and Resolutions.



Program



Daily News



Resolutions



Follow us on Social Media!
Scan the QR Codes



BPO Elks USA



BPO Elks USA



GLMEMBMARKETING

elks.org/facebook

elks.org/instagram

**Go to elks.org/SocialMedia
for all official channels.**

Get your photo taken at the Grand Lodge
Membership and Marketing Photo Booth!



We are THE Elks!
join.elks.org

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
2750 North Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614-1889
(773) 755-4700
grandlodge@elks.org
Elks.org