EXALTED RULER MESSAGE

July 2, 2026

Happy 4th of July to everyone. I hope you have a great weekend celebrating our country's 250th birthday.

Last month's "Big Bingo" drew over 100 people and raised more than $5,500. Thank you to Scott Weiss for helping plan the event, providing the audio/visual equipment at his own expense, and serving as caller. Thanks also to Carol Olzer, Paula Weiss, and Rachel Hildebrand for your hard work in planning and coordinating everything. Thanks to everyone who donated, set up, sold tickets, or helped in any way. I wish I could name you all but please know your help is truly appreciated. We are planning another "Big Bingo" for July 18th, and with everyone's help, it can be just as successful. If you can't volunteer, please plan to play.

Even though we raised over $5,500 this is only a fraction of our bills for the month. Add to that problem we still must pay our City Real Estate Taxes and School taxes for this year. We also have a $10,000 insurance deductible to repair the damage to our chimney. Don't forget to buy a brick to help pay this deductible. If you don't know what it is, ask your bartender.

We have hosted many activities at the lodge to make it more enjoyable for members while also helping increase revenue. Karaoke is one example. Ken Rhodes has generously donated his time to make karaoke a truly enjoyable evening, and he is also sponsoring a band later this year. In addition, he donated a TV to replace one over the bar that had not worked for some time. If you see Ken, please thank him for all he does for our lodge. We also offer activities such as trivia, LRC, and Thursday night Bar Bingo. Be sure to check your weekly email blasts to see what is happening at your lodge.

Finally, let's remember the goals of the Elks. While this year's fundraising will help keep our lodge open, we still have opportunities to support charities. The Salvation Army holds food drives for our community, and two donation bins are available in the lobby. They have been there for several weeks, but very few items have been donated. A can of food is a small cost that can make a meaningful difference for someone in need. There are money jars on the bar for our Home Service Program. Whenever you have spare change, please drop it in, every little bit helps. Also, ask about Yahtzee, which supports Home Service and may benefit you as well.

Our next Lodge meeting is July 14th. This is your opportunity to find out what is happening with our lodge, to voice complaints, and share ideas. See you there

Fraternally,
Tom Olzer, PDD
Exalted Ruler