

# Elks

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is one of the oldest and largest private organizations in the United States, founded on February 16, 1868 in New York City. Today there are 1.3 million members and 2,200 local lodges in all 50 states. Patriotism and disaster relief have been a hallmark of the Elks. Early in its history, the Elks have supported the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross. Today the Elks provide \$2 million in scholarships to college bound students annually. The Laredo Elks met at 617 Salinas Avenue, according to the 1923 and 1930 City Directories.