Badge, Elks – Origin of

Major Burke, a member of New York Lodge #1 and later a member of the Elks National Home, was a designer of the first Elks badge which was first made by DeWitt C. Stevens, a jeweler on Johns St. in New York City around May 1868. Burke, having formally worked for this jeweler at his trade, put in a week at the Stevens factory and actually made the first lot of badges which were stamped on the back with the name of the jeweler, DeWitt C. Stevens.

Baker, J. Edwin, President, Florida State Elks Association, 1931-1932

J. Edwin Baker is a past secretary of the Florida State Elks Association, a past exalted ruler of West Palm Beach Elks Lodge #1352 and a past district deputy of the Florida east district.

26th Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
April 12-14, 1931
Clearwater, Fla.

The Credentials Committee reported 25 Lodges present but did not list them. The president reported Secretary A. L. Cusson Jr. of St. Petersburg #1224 absent on account of the death of his father. A suitable resolution was adopted.

Distinguished guests present were Past Grand Exalted Ruler Jos. T. Fanny and Chief Surgeon of the Florida Crippled Children’s Commission, Dr. Prescott LeBretton. The Chattanooga Boys Band reported they made a tour of our state in August 1930. It was requested that they make another tour.

Mr. H. P. Miller of Eustis, Fla., offered the Elks a two-story stucco hotel building in Umatilla, Fla., the same being well-adapted for an Elks home or hospital. It was referred to Grand Lodge.

The Social and Community Welfare Committee under the able management of Dave Sholtz for the past five years recommended a survey be made to locate all crippled children in every community in cooperation with the Florida Crippled Children’s Commission. A suitable resolution was adopted approving recommendations of said committee.

The Florida State Elks Association adopted as its major objective the welfare of the crippled children of the state of Florida. The association also adopted a resolution opposing Communism.

The ritualistic contest was held between Clearwater and Daytona Beach but the minutes did not show which one was awarded the cup.

Tampa Lodge #708 was awarded first place in officers attendance.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1931-1932 term:

- President: J. Edwin Baker, West Palm Beach 1352
- Secretary-Treasurer: Harold Colee, St. Augustine 829
- Historian: E. L. Thompson, Daytona Beach 1141
- Tiler: C. Harold Hippler, Eustis 1578
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Glenn Turner, Fort Lauderdale 1517
- First Vice President: L. F. Chapman, DeLand 1463
- Second Vice President: F. E. Thompson, Lake City 893
- Third Vice President: O. P. Herndon, Sanford 1241
- Fourth Vice President: A. C. Atwater, Sebring 1529
- Fifth Vice President: F. H. Holbrook, Marianna 1516
- Executive Committee: J. Edwin Baker, West Palm Beach 1352

Fort Pierce was selected for the 1931-1932 annual session.
Banner

The first Elks banner ever used was still in existence and in the possession of New York Lodge #1 in 1898. In 1898 steps were taken to acquire this valuable memento of the past for the use and ownership of Grand Lodge. Although it was the last remaining relic of the olden time in their possession, New York #1 generously donated this valuable banner so that it might become the property of the high legislative body which represents the entire order. It is now in the possession of the grand secretary of the order at the Elks Memorial Building in Chicago.


Harty Baruch was born on a large 200-acre plantation in Gloucester County, Va., a member of one of America’s outstanding, internationally-known and prominent families headed by his uncle, Bernard Baruch, an advisor to Presidents Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman. Herman Baruch was a U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands. His father was a Broadway actor in the 1800s and later joined his brother on Wall Street. On his mother’s side, the Lennox family was prominently known for their work with Thomas Edison. It was a home environment of big business, national and international politics, high finance and southern gentility. It was here that Harty Baruch gained an appetite for business administration and also developed the fine characteristics of a gentleman, not the least of which were courtesy and diplomacy.

He attended the University of Virginia and graduated with a degree in business administration. After graduation he went to work with the New York Stock Exchange.
Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Baruch rallied to the defense of his country. He joined the Coast Guard and was commissioned an ensign. After serving for 18 months on convoy duty in the rough north Atlantic, he was transferred to the amphibious forces in the Central Pacific as commanding officer of LST 761 where he took part in several invasions including the invasion of Iwo Jima in the South Pacific. After the coming of peace and 4½ years of service, he was retired with the rank of lieutenant commander.

With the end of hostilities, Baruch returned to the business world and was soon engaged in owning and operating a cold storage warehouse. This was followed by a sojourn as owner of a residential construction firm in south Dade County. Following a stint in automotive sales for the Lincoln-Mercury Division of the Ford Motor Co., he entered the picture frame manufacturing field, owning and operating Witt’s Inc. of South Miami.

It was April 1958 that Baruch became a member of South Miami Lodge #1888 and started his career in Elkdom. He became involved immediately, served through the chairs and was exalted ruler in 1963-1964. He served on numerous district and state committees and was elected vice president of the south district in 1968-1969. Following this he was appointed district deputy for 1970-1971. He was an honorary life member and a certified ritual judge. For the Florida State Elks Association he served as a member of the board of directors and major projects board and as vice president at large for 1979-1980.

He passed away at age 78 in his south Dade home after heart failure.

“Dedication, Enthusiasm, Progress"
74th Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
May 22-24, 1980
Miami Beach, Fla.

State President Richard A. Robinson gave his annual report. Bodo Kirchhoff, longtime editor of the Florida Elks News, was named editor emeritus. Membership was 67,876. There were 103 Lodges and attendance at the convention was 1,745. DeFuniak Springs Lodge #2612 was instituted April 26, 1980 and Crestview Lodge #2624 was instituted December 13, 1980. Ocala Lodge #286 won the state ritual contest.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1980-1981 term:

President       Harty N. Baruch, South Miami 1601
Vice President at Large  Richard M. Shashy, Ocala 286
Vice President, NW District Charlie Quick, Madison 2205
Vice President, NE District  J. Carl Moore, Live Oak 1165
Vice President, EC District Hillary A. Merritt, New Smyrna Beach 1557
Vice President, NC District Roy Paramore, Winter Garden 2165
Vice President, SC District Roy L. Wilkinson Sr., Lake Wales 1974
Vice President, WC District William H. Sibson, Dunedin 1525
Vice President, SW District Victor M. Adams, Bradenton 1511
Vice President, SE District Alan Jones, Clewiston 1853
Vice President, SSE District John McLoughlin, Margate 2463
Vice President, S District Raymond Morgan, Coral Gables 1676
Secretary        Ben S. Brown Jr., Eustis 1578
Treasurer        Frank J. Holt, Miami 948
Tiler            Charles H. Ahrendt, Orlando 1079
Historian        Jess Melanson, Sebring 1529
Sergeant-at-Arms Earl Sapp, Fort Lauderdale 1517
Chaplain         Joseph Patti, DeLand 1463
Organist         Norman D. Right, DeLand 1463

Orlando was selected as the site for the 1981 convention.

Baseball, Elks and the First Night Baseball Game

Who played the first night baseball game? Many fans will tell you it was the Cincinnati Reds in 1935. They’re wrong.

In 1909, the Newport, Ky. Elks Lodge took on their Cincinnati brothers under the lights at the Reds Stadium. Reds president and future GER, August Herrmann, an early proponent of night baseball, arranged the game. Herrmann had wanted his Reds to play in a night game but he failed to impress upon his manager the merits of night baseball. Fearing the risk of injury, the manager refused to let his players play, so Herrmann scheduled the experiment, or rather, game, between the two Lodges. Cincinnati Lodge won the historic contest 8-5. Despite Herrmann’s efforts, night baseball didn’t catch on for 26 years.
In 1993, Newport Lodge celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Bates, Charles Valentine “Val”

Charles Valentine Bates was born in Leesburg, Fla. September 24, 1942. He attended public schools in Ocala and Live Oak, Fla., graduating from Suwannee High School in 1960. He attended the University of Florida and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and a regular commission in the United States Air Force in 1964. After receiving communications intelligence training, he was assigned to the National Security Agency as a communications intelligence officer serving in Texas, Okinawa and at Strategic Air Command Headquarters in Omaha, Neb. While serving in Okinawa, he was awarded the Joint Services Commendation Medal for meritorious service during the Vietnam War.

Bates left the Air Force in 1968 to return to the University of Florida Law School and graduated with a Juris Doctor degree in 1970. He joined the Elks in 1974 and was elected exalted ruler of Gainesville Lodge #990 in 1976. He served for many years as the Lodge presiding justice, served the Lodge on numerous committees, was instrumental in the construction of the new Lodge facility, was elected Elk of the Year in 1980, and became an honorary life member in 1994.

Bates has served the Florida State Elks Association in several capacities. He has been a member of the Judiciary Committee in excess of 17 years, served as its chairman for eight years, and was Legal Advisor for the Harry-Anna Investment Fund for 10 years. He served as vice president of the northeast district in 1988, vice president at large in 1992-1993 and state president in 1993-1994. He was chairman of the Past State Presidents Advisory Council in 1996-1997.

On the Grand Lodge level, Bates served as district deputy grand exalted ruler for the Florida northeast district in 1990-1991. In 1991 he was appointed to the Grand Lodge Judiciary Committee and served until 1994 when he was elected to the Board of Grand Trustees. He served the board as secretary, building applications/east member, home member and chairman.

As a practicing attorney for nearly 40 years, Val served his state as a member of the Governor’s Council on Criminal Justice and his community as chairman of the Santa Fe Work Release Center Advisory Committee. He is a recognized expert in the field of commercial law litigation, lecturing on the subject as well as writing a published text for the Continuing Legal Education lecture series. He is also a Florida Supreme Court certified mediator. He is admitted to practice before all Florida courts as well as the United States Supreme Court and the United States Court of Claims.

Val is a Mason and holds membership in the York Rite and Scottish Rite and the Morocco Shrine Temple. He and his wife, the former Claudia Prince MacKenzie, are members of the McIntosh Presbyterian Church. Both sons, Jeffrey and Jay, and his daughter, Lisa, are Elks.
Bates’ Year as President of the Florida State Elks Association: 1993-1994:

State Membership: 84,256
Loss: 2,886
Lodges: 125
Districts: 14

Motto: “Growth through Dedication and Service”

His vice president at large: Anthony J. DeLucca Sr.

Quotations during his year:
“There are no bad boys. There is only bad environment, bad training, bad example and bad thinking.” – Tom Ryan’s quotation of Father Edward Flanagan, Boys Town Founder
“Today’s concrete cities offer little hope, poor training, few positive role models and a lack of thought behind actions that too often are a way of life for today’s discarded children.” – Tom Ryan
“Build it and they will come. Come from their shattered lives in the cities, come from the hospitals and rehabilitation centers, come from civic organizations, and from all over Florida.” – Tom Ryan, talking of the proposed Florida Elks Youth Camp
“We are in for the long haul. Daily values will drive you nuts.” – Jim Richardson, Advisor, Harry-Anna Investment Trust
“The Florida Elks Children’s Hospital … a hospital where the not-so-well are made well.” – Lawrence C. Edington, President, Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Inc.
“Let me remind you that all of you Elks in this room are stockholders in our major project, not only because of your moral and financial support, but by the fact that you are an Elk.” – Ben Brown

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1993-1994 term:

President C. Valentine Bates, Gainesville #990
Vice President at Large Anthony J. DeLucca Sr., Miami #948
Secretary Frank D. Willis Jr., Eustis #1578
Treasurer Joseph B. Bryant, Sebring #1529
Tiler Louis C. Wise, St. Augustine #829
Historian Joseph Schirmer, Port Charlotte #2153
Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Franks, Gainesville #990
Chaplain Merle Sebald, South Hillsborough #2672
Organist Larry E. Myers, Miami #948
Vice President, NW District Gene Wood
Vice President, N District Drexel Agner
Vice President, NE District John E. Padgett
Vice President, NC District James W. Cothern
Vice President, EC District Jacobus C. Aleman
Vice President, C District Harold R. Steffes
Vice President, SEC District Cecil Hills
Vice President, WC District Delmon Johnson
Vice President, SWC District Brian T. Burns
Vice President, SW District Fred E. Soto Jr.
Vice President, SSW District R. William Wellbaum Jr.
Vice President, SE District Tony Madonna
Vice President, SSE District Jerold A. Mills
Vice President, S District Albert A. Sandusky

Membership:
Total Membership: 84,256
Overall Loss: 2,886
Lodges: 125  
Districts: 14  
Initiated: 4,723  
Affiliated or Reinstated: 6,123  
Dropped for Non-payment: 6,123  
Expelled: 5  
Demits: 2,823  
Deaths: 2,275

National Foundation:

Florida received $138,570 back from the Elks National Foundation for use of its major project. Florida also received an additional bequest from the Elks National Foundation through a bequest of the Carty Estate that bequeathed $741,249 to the Elks National Foundation.

Charity:

Florida Lodges contributed a total of $1,559,393.23 to charity in 1993-1994.

Hospital:

The truck bumper sticker logo program was off to a good start. Trucking companies were assisting the Florida Elks in publicizing and promoting the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital.

The hospital became the beneficiary under the will of John U. and Lena S. Aull. The estate was estimated in excess of $500,000. The Elks are in a perpetual trust of which the Elks receive 50% of net income from Mr. Aull’s estate and 10% from the estate of his wife. This should provide an income of about $25,000 annually.

The hospital budget was $3,330,300.

The outreach clinic was included with a budget of $256,000.

There were 150 surgical procedures in the previous year.

The census showed 40 inpatients and more than 3,500 outpatients.

Staff was now at 82 professionals.

The Florida Ladies of the Elks replaced the X-ray machine.

The Harry-Anna Trust Fund produced an income of 63% of operating cost of the hospital.

Indoctrination:

The new indoctrination tape was in use. Tape revision started under President Tom Elmore in 1992-1993.

New Lodges:

Greater Pine Island #2781  
Palm Beach West #2785

Lodge Suspensions:

Leesburg #1703  
DeFuniak Springs #2612

Hoop Shoot:

There were 100,000 boys and girls who participated. Jennifer Jenkins of Clearwater Lodge #1525 won the regional competition in Valdosta, Ga. and went to the national championship in Indianapolis where she won with 24 out of 25 baskets. She also won the coveted Getty Powell Award.
Florida Youth Camp:

Funds are now available to construct all of the 14 cabins. The kitchen, camp coordinator cabins and swimming pool are now under construction.

A large group camping area will provide for:

- Indian Guides
- Campfire Girls
- Campfire Boys
- Cub Scouts
- Boy Scouts
- YMCA

A multipurpose field will provide for athletic and social activities.

Pavilion construction costs:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screening &amp; inclement weather flaps:</td>
<td>$26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen equipment:</td>
<td>$83,000</td>
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This year’s donations from Elks have provided $400,810.76 toward residential cabins.

Voted on the following:

1. Build the number of cabins paid in full and put in slabs for the remaining cabins up to a total of 21 cabins.
2. Transfer $150,000 from the reserve fund to cover the cost of $58,000 for sewer and water.
3. Spend $42,500 to construct a pool pump house including restrooms and storage space.
4. Pay $30,000 in fees for architect site development and necessary permits.
5. Spend $4,600 for pathways to the cabins.
6. Spend $6,500 for electrical service to the cabin sites.
8. Confirm the employment of Charlie Lyle of Pembroke Pines as coordinator of the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

The Florida Elks Youth Camp Operating Committee is conducting a national search for a person who, as camp coordinator, can serve many functions from the beginning and through the transitional stages of FEYC development.

Softball:

The state softball tournament was instituted this year mostly through the efforts of DeLand Lodge. Ten Lodges participated. PGER Bob Grafton, pleased with a program he hopes could attract younger members, said, “any old goat can play golf or bowl. Even I can, but we need younger members. The future of our growth in Florida is to attract younger members. We have to give them something to do. I think that softball is the future of our growth in Florida.”

Veterans Memorial Building:

The Elks Veterans Memorial Building was rededicated in Chicago during the Grand Lodge convention. Florida reached its goal of $3 per member in the Elks Memorial restoration project. Over 50 Lodges reached the $5 per member goal and will be inscribed on the wall of honor.
Special representatives appointed this year:

- Bonita Springs: Bill Stone
- Winter Haven: Ed Demask
- New Smyrna Beach: Clarence Rogen
- Merritt Island: Les Owen
- Sebring: Clint Crabtree
- Jacksonville: Louis Wise
- St. Petersburg: Merle Sebald
- Cape Coral: Neal Mills
- Belle Glade: Rick Peluso

Bates as Grand Exalted Ruler

“Volunteers and Leaders”

Bates was installed as grand exalted ruler at the 1998 Grand Lodge session held in Anaheim, Calif. July 20 at 10:35 a.m.

The demonstration on the floor of the convention hall carried on and on as the Santa Anna Winds Marching Band played the Gators’ fight song. Elks from several other states joined about 600 Floridians virtually all dressed in orange as they passed out a thousand baseball caps, posters and banners. Thousands of balloons cascaded from the ceiling as they blew horns, whistled and shouted their approval of the newly-installed grand exalted ruler of the BPOE for 1998-1999.

GER C. Valentine Bates’ final message carried in the Elks Magazine:

“This is my final newsletter message as your grand exalted ruler. Claudia and I have been proud to represent the order of Elks this past year. The opportunity to travel throughout our great country representing Elkdom has made us more aware of just how great our order truly is. I would like to thank the hundreds of subordinate Lodges and the multitude of great Elks who have made my year at the helm such a pleasurable and memorable experience.

“Elkdom truly represents an honorable way of life. We are the personification of everything that is good in America. We demonstrate our leadership through encouragement, by our enthusiasm, and most importantly, by our example. Let us continue to show our pride in what we have accomplished thus far, not forgetting there are many things yet to achieve.

“As the gavel of leadership is passed to my successor in Kansas City, I ask you to give your unqualified dedication and support to those you elect to lead our order into the next millennium.

“We enjoy membership in the greatest organization in the world. Our principles are well-established and the means to implement them are firmly in place. America needs the Elks as never before; through our activities and actions let us show that ‘Elks Care – Elks Share.’

“I want to take this opportunity to convey my gratitude to all of you who worked so hard for Elkdom this year. It has been an honor and a privilege to lead our order and to meet and work with so many thousands of dedicated members and their families. You all have made this the most wonderful experience in my life – thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Fraternally,
C. Valentine Bates
Grand Exalted Ruler

Continuing achievements and positions:

2005-2006:
- Chairman of Grand Lodge Advisory Committee
- Grand Lodge sponsor: Alabama, Georgia, Puerto Rico
- Treasurer, Elks National Foundation Trustees
- Member, Elks National Veterans Service Commission – Past Chairman
On Jan. 27, 1947, Belle Glade was instituted as the 42nd Florida Lodge and is located in the southeast district. The community of Belle Glade (1997 population was about 16,858) had been incorporated in 1928 just before the tragic Labor Day hurricane struck. Lake Okeechobee’s dike crumbled, flooding this small community and killing approximately 2,000 people in one of the deadliest disasters in U.S. history. It was originally known as the Hillsborough Canal Settlement. One day a group of tourists came down the canal from West Palm Beach, Fla., and stayed at the hotel after making a trip through the Everglades. One of them remarked that the settlement was the belle of the Glades which led to referring to them as the Belle of the Glades. In 1922 it became the home to the University of Florida’s first agricultural research and education field station.

When a name was sought for the settlement for the new post office, Mrs. Ellsie Myer, a wife of the hotel proprietor, quickly added Belle Glade to the list of names, and when an informal vote was later taken it was voted the favorite.

During World War II, German prisoners of war were held east of the city and worked on area farms. The Sarah Lee dolls, the first anatomically correct dolls patterned after African Americans, started out in Belle Glade. The Miami Dolphins’ free safety Louis Oliver and golfer Calvin Peete grew up here.

The first Lodge home of Belle Glade Lodge #1716 was the home and warehouse of Shelly Connell. That mortgage was burned in 1963.

Their second building was finished and occupied during the term of Exalted Ruler John Causey. That mortgage dated Aug. 2, 1967, was for $80,000 at 6.6% interest by Peoples Federal S & L of Lake Worth. That mortgage was burned May 6, 1988.

The town motto is “Her Soil is her Fortune,” and folks like to brag about the rich, dark muck that feeds the farming industry here. The Black Gold Jubilee is the celebration of the sugar cane harvest. It’s free and everyone is invited. It is held after the harvest so everyone involved in the farming can participate. It’s very much a family-oriented festivity. The Belle Glade Elks have been very active in this annual celebration; its high point is the crowning of the sugar festival queen. They have also been active within the affairs of the community and meeting the needs of its youth.

Treasurer F. C. Dooley had the distinction of being elected the first Lodge treasurer before he had become a member. Present at these ceremonies was Grand Exalted Ruler Charles Broghton who then spoke up saying, “You cannot do that!” So Dooley was elected again after his initiation as a member.

At one time Belle Glade had eight brothers and a brother-in-law from one family. All have since deceased. A. E. Kirchman held membership card No. 1, F. A. Simmons held membership card No. 2 and F. C. Dooley held membership card No. 3.

In the 1990s Belle Glade Lodge was experiencing difficulties in filling officer chairs and committee people, both mandatory in itself and in the functioning of their restaurant and social activities. Even more difficult was surviving the summer offseason months. For years they had enjoyed one of the better Lodge facilities in the district, but now it was beginning to show disrepair and the lack of funds and interested members to reverse the trend.

Exalted Ruler Carl Seibert, also a past secretary, struggled to change its direction. He appealed for members to support the Lodge and work together in reversing the trend of a declining membership. To make matters
worse, the PER Association was non-functioning. Seibert said, “Our time upon the stage is but brief, yet in the drama each must play a part. Are you playing yours?” he asked.

Due to the lack of a quorum at a couple of meetings, the lack of commitment on the part of a few of the officers, and the resignation of a leading officer, Special Deputy Tom Elmore, Past State President required that a special committee be formed to address the situation and implement changes.

Restaurant and bar operations were now losing an average of $13,000 per year in contrast to the fact that budgeted revenue for the year exclusive of fundraising events was just $17,842.58. This required that a majority of Lodge dues had to be diverted from the Lodge to subsidize the restaurant and bar.

Seibert stated, “The focus of the Lodge leadership for the past few years had been on addressing this loss and maintaining club services at a cost of neglecting the Lodge and our programs and activities.” Siebert found himself getting caught up in the club and neglecting the Lodge.

On July 26, 1996, the trustees and Exalted Ruler Seibert made the decision to close the restaurant operations of the Elks Lodge indefinitely.

“We have eight months under my leadership and we have about 10 years of problems to solve. Our attention has got to focus on the requirements and responsibilities we have as a Lodge and this will require a lot of help,” Seibert said.

Jim Herrington, Past District Deputy from Clewiston Elks Lodge, was appointed special representative to Belle Glade as the Lodge was placed on probation. Through the efforts of Herrington, Seibert and a few of its members, a concerted effort was made to reverse the trend.

By the 1999-2000 Lodge year, with Seibert now serving as vice president of the southeast district and secretary for Belle Glade Lodge, and with dedicated members and hard work and the infusion of a positive attitude from Special Representative Jim Herrington, Belle Glade was removed from probation. The Lodge had turned around, the restaurant and bar operation resumed, chairs and committees were filled, and positive steps were being taken in improving the Lodge’s physical facilities. In addition, membership was now experiencing a positive growth.

In 2009 Pahokee Lodge #1638, never having recovered from hurricanes that destroyed their home and failure of insurance to properly compensate them and in a timely manner, finally had to close its doors. They merged with Belle Glade Lodge #1716 to be known as Belle Glade-Pahokee Lodge #1716.

The following were charter officers:

| Exalted Ruler   | A. E. Kirchman |
| Leading Knight  | L. C. Betzner  |
| Loyal Knight    | Ralph York    |
| Lecturing Knight| Sam Berry     |
| Secretary       | F. A. Simmons |
| Treasurer       | F. C. Dooley  |
| Esquire         | J. L. Gay     |
| Tiler           | Dan Padgett   |
| Chaplain        | W. J. Buck    |
| Inner Guard     | G. T. Cone    |
| Trustees:       | James A. Ball Jr. |
|                 | R. Y. Creech Sr. |
|                 | Herbert Beck  |
|                 | Cliff Green   |
|                 | Harold Rabin  |

The following officiated:

| Grand Exalted Ruler | J. Alex Arnette |
| Grand Esteemed Leading Knight | Alto Adams |
| Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight  | Nick Carter |
| Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight | O. B. Shanley |
| Grand Secretary          | Chelsie Senerchia |
| Grand Treasurer          | W. R. Jackson  |
Grand Tiler   Lloyd Hicks
Grand Chaplain   Arthur O’Hea
Grand Organist   William Whitehead
Grand Esquire   W. A. Wall
Grand Inner Guard  James Fernandez


The first organization meeting was held Oct. 28, 1946. The mortgage burned March 25 or April 1, 1963, on the first building. The mortgage was burned on the present building May 6, 1988.

There is no ladies organization.

Members who served as Vice President and District Deputy:

A. E. (Slick) Kirchman  Vice President 1952-1953
District Deputy 1953-1954

F. C. Dooley   Vice President 1960-1961
District Deputy 1961-1962

John H. Causey   Vice President 1971-1972
District Deputy 1972-1973

Donald L. Williams  Vice President 1984-1985
District Deputy 1986-1987

Carl Gilliam   Vice President 1990-1991

Carl T. Seibert   Vice President 1999-2000
District Deputy 2000-2001
State Secretary 2003-

Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, Formation of

An actor's life was quite insecure in 1868 and there was little protection for his family if beset by the misfortune of unemployment, sickness or death. This became even more evident when just before the holidays in December 1867, Charles Vivian, Hughey Dougherty, Harry Stanwood, Hugh Eagan and George Guy attended the funeral of a friend and fellow Jolly Cork, Ted Quinn, well-known in the local concert circuit. After the services they dropped into Tony Pastor’s where they found Tony and “Dody” Pastor, William Sheppard, John Fielding, Billy Gray and George McDonald.

Upon learning that the contingent of comrades had attended the funeral for one of their Jolly Corks, McDonald suggested that the organization should consider forming a benevolent and protective society. McDonald did not leave it at that; in the next week he presented the idea to several of the Jolly Corks.

A meeting was set up for Feb. 2, 1868, and was presided over by Charles A. Vivian. George McDonald offered a motion to organize the Jolly Corks as a fraternal lodge. Further discussions proposed that the lodge should be along the benevolent and protective lines and that a committee be appointed to formulate rules and regulations for its government, prepare a suitable ritual, and select a new name.

In forming the committee they were focused on the adoption of an organization with a more serious policy than mere conviviality. It was a desire for companionship that had brought these men together originally, and it was that same intimacy that gave them the impetus to form a fraternal organization, but in addition to good fellowship,
they needed an enduring organization that would serve a more noble purpose of aiding those in need. The seeds for one of America’s greatest fraternities was about to be planted.

The committee appointed consisted of Richard Steirly, George F. McDonald and Thomas G. Riggs. Charles Vivian was ex-officio member of that committee. Evidence points to the actual work of the committee being performed by George W. Thompson, Thomas G. Riggs, and William and Lloyd Brown.

One of the main issues was that of deciding on a new name. One of the more serious considerations was that of the Order of Buffaloes, an organization prevalent in Europe during the 1800s. Vivian had been a member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, (R.A.O. Buffaloes) and was familiar with their ritual. Influenced by his membership in the Buffaloes, he had set in his mind the establishing of a fraternity patterned after the English organization. The English order was named after the African buffalo, a name which Americans popularly called their North American bison. The committee, however, resisted this idea expressing their desire that it bestow a more distinctive American title.

In search of a name and emblem for the new order, a visit was made to the Barnum Museum and the Cooper Institute Library. An elk’s head was conspicuously placed on the walls of the museum. It was so impressive that they decided to research it at the institute. They read that the elk was an animal “fleet of foot, timorous of doing wrong, but ever ready to combat in defense of self or the female of the species.”

As T. R. Fehrenbach states in *Elkdom USA*, besides

“being fast and avoiding evil, the elk also avoided aggressive combat. The elk attacked no other species and destroyed nothing … but it would fight valiantly in defense of its own life and those of its females and young. The idea of an animal that lived in peace but would fight to defend its rights and to protect the weak and helpless appealed strongly to the Corks. The elk, with its spreading antlers, was not only a beautiful animal, but it seemed to symbolize the ideas and values these men most wanted to stand for and perpetuate.”

The elk seemed to define the qualities they were looking for; they were admirable qualities that the members could emulate as members of a benevolent fraternity.

(See also Naming of Elks)

William Carleton took the minutes of this organizational meeting. They were lost when Edgar Platt took them home to his boarding house. Members of the Doodworth Band also resided at the boarding house and when they suddenly moved, they took Platt’s trunk and the minutes to this session, neither to be found again.

The first formal meeting was held Feb. 16, 1868. Fifteen people turned out, most of them young and undiscovered but budding artists who had gathered for companionship and to help their work peers.

The first exalted ruler was George Thompson, elected May 24, 1868, when Vivian, who was slated for office, did not appear.

W. L. Bowron had the distinction of being member No. 1 of Lodge #1.

The new order’s benefit performances and its convivial social activities brought great popularity, and the membership grew with rapidity. Elks traveling to other cities in pursuit of their professions spread word of the order and soon there came requests for Elks Lodges elsewhere than in New York.

Responding to these appeals, the Elks asked and received from the New York legislature a charter authorizing the establishment of a Grand Lodge with the power to establish local Lodges anywhere in the country. They received their first charter as New York #1 March 10, 1871. The second Lodge chartered was Philadelphia Lodge #2 March 12, and the third Lodge was San Francisco #3, chartered in 1876.

On Feb. 16, 1868, the committee reported, recommending that the Jolly Corks be merged into the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the recommendation was adopted by a vote of 8 to 7. It is chronicled by Brother Charles W. Young that the following seven voted for the name to be Buffalo:

Charles A. Vivian
Richard R. Steirly
M. G. Ash
Henry Vandemark
Harry Bosworth
Frank Langhorne
E. W. Platt
The following eight voted for the name to be Elk:

George F. McDonald
George W. Thompson
Thomas G. Riggs
William Carleton
William Sheppard
George Guy
Hugh Dougherty
William L. Bowron

Bennett, H. A., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1926-1927

21st Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
April 6-7, 1926
Fort Myers, Fla.

The following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville No. 221, Ocala No. 286, Key West No. 551, Tampa No. 708, Fernandina No. 795, Miami No. 948, Gainesville No. 990, Orlando No. 1079, Quincy No. 1111, Daytona No. 1141, St. Petersburg No. 1224, Palatka No. 1232, Sanford No. 1241, Fort Myers No. 1288, Lakeland No. 1291, West Palm Beach No. 1352, DeLand No. 1463, Bradenton No. 1511, Fort Lauderdale No. 1517, Sarasota No. 1519 and Fort Pierce No. 1520.

President Paul M. Henderson reported that Grand Lodge created a third district, same designated as north, south and east. Lake City lost its charter May 26, 1926, but was reinstated March 1, 1927. Flag Day exercises were held by all Lodges.

The following new Lodges were instituted during the past year: Bradenton No. 1511 July 4, 1925; Marianna No. 1516 Sept. 9, 1925; Fort Lauderdale No. 1517 Sept. 15, 1925; Sarasota No. 1519 Dec. 11, 1925; and Fort Pierce No. 1520 Feb. 25, 1926.

The meeting of the tri-state convention of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina is being held at Daytona Beach April 25-26, 1927.
On the morning of Sept. 18, 1926, Florida experienced the worst hurricane ever recorded in the history of the United States. No accurate data of property loss or loss of life has ever been compiled. The Elks collected and expended $4,118 for relief.

A distinguished guest present was B. C. Broyles of Atlanta, representative of the Georgia State Elks Association, who recommended a tri-state convention of Georgia, Alabama and Florida. David Sholtz of Daytona was also present, representing Grand Exalted Ruler Atwell.

Fort Myers Lodge No. 1520 was awarded the cup for best ritualistic work.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1926-1927 term:

President: H. A. Bennett, West Palm Beach 1352
First Vice President: Geo. J. Callahan, Miami 948
Third Vice President: D. B. McKoy, Tampa 708
Secretary: L. F. McCready, Miami 948
Treasurer: Henry G. Politz, Daytona Beach 1141
Chaplain: F. A. Shore, Fort Myers 1288
Sergeant-at-Arms: Joe Reed, Tampa 708
Tiler: Harold Colee, St. Augustine 829

Executive Committee:
1-year, E. F. Beville, Gainesville 990
2-year, L. F. Chapman, DeLand 1463
3-year, Kenneally, Jacksonville 221
4-year, J. S. Shallcross, St. Petersburg 1224
5-year, P. M. Henderson, Lakeland 1291

The selection of the 22nd annual session was left to the executive committee.

Bethel, H. L., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1912-1913

Eighth Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
Feb. 22-23, 1912
Tampa, Fla.

The following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville No. 221, Ocala No. 286, Key West No. 551, Tampa No. 708, St. Augustine No. 829, Tallahassee No. 937, Miami No. 948, Orlando No. 1079, St. Petersburg No. 1224, Sanford No. 1241, St. Petersburg No. 1224 and Palatka No. 1232.
St. Petersburg Lodge No. 1224 was instituted Feb. 16, 1911, and Palatka Lodge No. 1232 was instituted June 20, 1911. H. H. Hunt of Tampa No. 708 was appointed acting secretary and G. C. Brown was appointed sergeant-at-arms.

President McKay reported that the time was not right for bringing before the Grand Lodge the question of securing suitable recognition by the Grand Lodge of state associations. He also reported a bill against Negro Elks that was presented to the state legislature. It passed by the House but did not pass the Senate.

The following resolution was adopted: RESOLVED that we are emphatically in favor of legislative action by the Florida state legislature toward prevention of Negro Lodges of Elks existing or being formed in the state of Florida, and further we do instruct and authorize our incoming executive committee to take such legal steps as are necessary to secure such legislative action.

Proceedings were typed and not printed.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1912-1913 term:

- President: H. L. Bethel, Tallahassee 937
- First Vice President: G. A. Mueller, Miami 948
- Second Vice President: W. D. Holden, Sanford 1241
- Secretary: H. M. Hunt, Tampa 708
- Treasurer: W. L. Bates, Key West 551
- Chaplain: L. A. Spencer, Orlando 1079
- Sergeant-at-Arms: H. P. Leu, Orlando 1079

Tallahassee was selected for the ninth annual meeting.

**Bingo**

In the United States, bingo was originally called “beano.” It was a country fair game where a dealer would select numbered discs from a cigar box and players would mark their cards with beans. They yelled beano if they won. The game’s history can be traced back to 1530 to an Italian lottery called “Lo Giuoco del Lotto D’Italia” which is still played every Saturday in Italy. From Italy the game was introduced to France in the late 1770s where it was called “Le Lotto,” a game played among wealthy Frenchmen. The Germans also played a version of the game in the 1800s, but they used it as a child’s game to help students learn math, spelling and history.

When the game reached North America in 1929, it was still known as beano. It was first played at a carnival near Atlanta. New York toy salesman Edwin S. Lowe renamed it bingo instead of beano. He hired Columbia University math professor Carl Leffler to help him increase the number of combinations in bingo cards. By 1930, Leffler had invented 6,000 different bingo cards. (It is said that Leffler then went insane.)

**Board of Directors, Florida State Elks Association (District Directors)**

The board of directors consists of elected officers of the Florida State Elks Association. They are the following:

1. The president of the Florida State Elks Association who serves during his term of office as president.
2. The immediate past president of the Florida State Elks Association.
3. Five members who are past presidents of the association, one to be elected each year for a term of five years.

In addition to the above directors, there will be district directors. There will be one district director from each of the Florida districts. These directors serve for a total of two years with staggered terms. District directors elected on odd numbered years are selected from the following districts: northwest, southeast central, north, west central, north central, south southwest and central. District directors elected on even numbered years are selected from the following districts: northeast, southeast, east central, south southeast, southwest central, south and
southwest. The intent is to maintain, as nearly as possible, an equal number of district directors serving the remaining one year of their terms as there are district directors serving a two-year term.

During the interim between meetings of the association, the directors have general charge of its property and the direction of its affairs. They act as the governing body of the association and perform such duties as may be necessary to protect the interest and promote the objects of the association. The directors have control of the general fund of the association and recommend ways and means for raising funds to defray the expenses of the association and set aside the same when received for the payment of such demands as are properly chargeable to it. The board reports all of its acts at the next annual meeting of the association. They annually select its chairman from the members of the board of directors and pass on all items of expense or accounts to be paid from the general fund of the association before warrants for the payment are issued and such anticipated items of expense are to be listed in the form of an annual budget and submitted to the association for approval.

Regular meetings of the board of directors are held in August and February of each Lodge year and at the annual meeting and midyear meeting of the association.

The president or chairman can call special meetings of the board of directors for purposes of handling only matters of a specific nature, and such matters shall be outlined in the notices of such special meetings.

Officers of subordinate Lodges can be invited to attend special meetings for the purpose of assisting in the discussion and handling such matters of business of a special nature so outlined.

The chairman of the board of directors can designate an executive committee consisting of five members of the duly elected board of directors, three of whom will be past presidents of the association. The committee is empowered to act on such matters requiring action by the board between regular meetings.

Ten members of the board constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting, three of whom must be past presidents.

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**Boca Raton Lodge 2166**

Florida’s 77th Lodge  
District: South Southeast  
Date of Dispensation: Oct. 31, 1959  
Date of Institution: May 17, 1960  
Charter Members: 183  
Chartered: July 13, 1960  
Installing Officer: James Vann, DDGER, Pahokee  
Charter Exalted Ruler: Robert Day  
Meets: 1st & 3rd Wednesday  
Location: 1395 N. Federal Hwy., Boca Raton, FL 33432  
Phone: 561-395-9836  
Year 2000 Membership: 262  
Year 2006 Membership: 340  
Year 2007 Membership: 338  
Year 2008 Membership: 363

The following officiated:  
Grand Exalted Ruler: James W. Vann  
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: O. Ralph Matousek  
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: J. Alex Arnette  
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Ed. Williams  
Grand Secretary: George Carver  
Grand Treasurer: Almer I. Tedder  
Grand Trustee: A. E. Kirchman  
Grand Tiler: Jack E. Carver  
Grand Chaplain: Marvin Kimmel  
Grand Organist: Gene Mahlmeister  
Grand Esquire: Charles H. Peckelis  
Grand Inner Guard: Herbert L. Payne
The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler    Robert F. Day
Esteemed Leading Knight   John D. Ricketts
Esteemed Loyal Knight   Robert I. Honchell
Esteemed Lecturing Knight  John G. Withrow
Secretary     James L. McGoldrick
Treasurer     George M. Holdsworth
Inner Guard    Paul Capp
Chaplain     James Nicholson
Organist     Ignatius Blondi
Esquire     James Nicholson
Tiler         Lucius D. Schlusmeyer Jr.
Trustees
1-year, Eric Kohtz
2-year, Michael Harhay
3-year, John P. McGowan
4-year, Crosby W. Alley
5-year, Charles J. Strauss


The building was purchased in 1966; there was an addition in 1972 and the mortgage burning was October 1968. Their ladies organization is the Does Drove No. 173. Their first exalted ruler was Robert Day, serving from July 13, 1960, to March 31, 1961.

Other past exalted rulers include:

Crosby Alley    1961-1962
Robert Honchell  1962-1963
Earnest B. Chick  1963-1964
Edward Balme    1964-1965
Ted Mann         1965-1966
Richard Stevens  1966-1967
Larry O’Carroll  1967-1968
Richard Chisholm 1968-1969
Steve Datzyk     1969-1970
Al Rosenberg  1970-1971  
Elwood Starr  1971-1972  
Steve Merena  1972-1973  
Russell Bowlby  1973-1974  
J. C. Holland  1974-1975  
James Perry  1975-1976  
Daniel Borgioli  1976-1977  
Lester Yam  1977-1978  
Harold Goldrick  1978-1979  
Henry Brown  1979-1980  
Joseph Siefert  1980-1981  
Floyd May  1981-1982  
Lester Yam  1982-1983  
Lester Yam  1983-1984  
Timothy Siefert  1984-1985  
Steve Goldrick Sr.  1985-1986  
Larry Clark  1986-1987  
William Clausen  1987-1988  
Robert Dalquist  1988-1989  
Jerry Davison  1989-1990  
Paul St. Jean  1990-1991  
Harold Goldrick  1991-1992  
Scott Miller  1992-1993  
Scott Miller  1993-1994  
Lee Paskiet  1994-1995  
Lee Paskiet  1995-1996  
William Clausen  1996-1997  
John P. Plunkett  1997-1998  
James Black  1998-1999  
Jerold Mills  1999-2000  
Bruce Ferguson  2000-2001  
Kim Merritt  2001-2002  
Denis Schumacher  2002-2003  
Denis Schumacher  2003-2004  
Chuck Schroeder  2004-2005  
David Gebhardt  2005-2006

Boca Raton, Fla. lies in southern Palm Beach County and was named for Boca Raton Sound. The name derived from the Spanish words “boca de raton” meaning rats mouth, a term used by seamen to describe hidden rock that gnaws a ship’s cable.

Addison Mizner in 1925 secretly purchased beach front property at Boca Raton and announced his ambitious plan to build the “world’s most architecturally beautiful playground.” He plotted the entire town, complete with hotels and golf courses and the layout of streets. The main street named El Camino Real was supposed to have a canal running down the middle and which Italian gondolas were expected to glide along. However, his timing was wrong. Although 1925 was enjoying a land boom like nothing ever seen before in Florida, 1926 saw the angry face of the Florida land bust and 1929 saw the stock market crash paving way for the Great Depression. The Cloister Inn completed in February 1926 never became what was expected and closed (much like the experience of the Rowebuilt Hotel in Umatilla, Fla., that would become the Elks Children’s Hospital). Mizner retreated to Palm Beach, Fla. Later the Cloister Inn became known as the fabulously successful and sumptuous Boca Raton Resort and Club.

Camino Real still exists but the canal has since disappeared. In recent years Boca Raton has seen fantastic growth with some of the most exclusive housing in southeast Florida and is home to some of the best electronic manufacturing firms. Their population in the year 2000 was right at 65,000.

Past District Deputy Steve Merena served the district from their Lodge in 1977-1978 after serving as vice president from 1976-1977.
Of special note, Harold Goldrick, state chairman of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Committee in Lodge year 1987-1988, was awarded the state association award for being the first state chairman to sell over $1 million in pledges for certificates.

Several problems occurred early in the history of the Lodge, but as often is the case, competent leadership rose and came to its rescue. They have occupied many quarters over the years, renting all the way. They became accustomed to change and remodeling. In 1968 an effort for more permanent quarters was taking hold under the direction of a building committee appointed by Richard Chisholm, then exalted ruler. In 1969 Steve Datzyk, then exalted ruler, appointed Al Rosenberg chairman of the building committee. Soon after, the present building was brought to the attention of the building committee by brother George Jeagle and subsequently purchased. This building was added onto in 1972 and their mortgage was burned in October 1986.

WHERE WE MET
(Remembrances of the Early Meeting Places of Boca Raton Elks Lodge 2166)

By Marion Pearson, Past President - Does

Smitty’s Driftwood Restaurant was an elegant restaurant on the ocean. It was located just north of Palmetto Park Road on the east side of Hwy. A1A. Smitty’s was only open during the season, from November to May. In 1961, the owner gave the use of the restaurant to the newly organized Boca Raton Elks rather than closing it for the summer.

The Elks moved in, held their meetings, had Saturday night dinners and dances, and ran the bar daily using their Elks liquor license. This location had a beautiful swimming pool, and the Elks families and children enjoyed swimming and having Sunday picnics there. Since the place was on a bluff overlooking the ocean, we could sit at the bar and enjoy the view from the beachfront windows. The exalted ruler at that time was Crosby “Bing” Allen.

Marion “Chickie” Wentworth gave the children swim lessons while the Lodge was at Smitty’s. Her father, Eric Chick, became exalted ruler in 1963-1964.

In 1962, Louis Lanflisi Sr., an Elk, owned the property on Federal Highway where the Best Western now stands. On the site was a small, run-down motel that was due to be demolished, but while it stood, Louis allowed the Elks to use it for meetings and other gatherings. Members removed walls to install a bar in the rear of the building and were able to open a large enough area to hold Lodge meetings and do their floor work in the front of the building.

It was also in 1962 that the Does Drove 173 was formed. We received our charter in a Sunday afternoon ceremony at the American Legion hall which was in the building that now houses the police department.

Following the motel location, Art Miranda, who was an Elk and the mayor of Boca Raton, let the Lodge move into the building he owned on Northwest 11th Street just east of Second Avenue. The Democratic Club of Boca was the previous tenant of the building.

At their new home, the Elks conducted meetings, had dinners and parties, played bingo, and ran a nice bar. They stayed there until 1970 when they moved into their present location.

Memories from its Members

Shared by Pauline Aylward,
Life member of Boca Raton Does Drove 173
and served as president in 1966 and 1992

My memories of the Elks in our area go back to the early 1930s. Guy Bender who owned a garage on Dixie Highway in Boca Raton was the second exalted ruler of Lake Worth Elks Lodge. That Lodge was the nearest for the men in our area, and many belonged. Their ladies became members of the Anna Miller Circle, also in Lake Worth.

When Delray Beach Elks Lodge was chartered in 1949, most Boca men demitted to the closer location, and their ladies joined the Delray Does.

My late husband, Lawrence Aylward, demitted from Rockland, Maine Lodge 1009 in 1960 when Boca Raton Lodge 2166 was chartered. He and my father, Charles Raulerson, were among the charter members of the new Lodge. Two years later my mother, Eulaa, and I became charter members of Does Drove 173.

Today our son, Charles “Bill” Aylward, is a third generation Boca Elk, and his wife, Carol, is a Doe.
In January 1970, I arrived in Florida and one of my first acts was the submission of my request to demit to Boca Raton Elks Lodge. The first person I met in this Lodge was Exalted Ruler Steve Datzyk.

The Lodge at that time was on the other side of the tracks and preparations were in progress to move to our new quarters, which we now occupy. Steve was in charge of all of the details and the other problems associated with the move, and without much hesitation, he asked me to be his chaplain. Without much hesitation, I declined, for I did not believe I was capable of the assignment. Steve was persuasive, and he prevailed as he continued to work on the new building, which was a shell and needed days of work. His dedication and energy in the task were endless, and in spite of the hours of labor given to complete, we had a dedication ceremony at the end of June without the west wall of the Lodge room being finished. In attendance were both past grand exalted rulers, Wall and Grafton.

For many years thereafter, Steve gave of himself and his time fixing, repairing and maintaining the new Lodge. Again, in 1976, he supervised and led the expansion of the new addition of the southeast corner of the building.

I know that on many occasions he neglected his domestic duties to take immediate care of the problem that arose. On behalf of the membership of this Lodge I wish to express my gratitude to his family for all of the days that we have known Steve and for the days of his life that he gave to the B.P.O.E. Pax vobiscum.

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**Shared by Harold Mangus, PDD**

My first visit to Boca Raton Elks Lodge was when it met at a warehouse facility on Northwest 11th Street just east of Second Avenue. I don’t recall the year, but Florence and I were visiting family here and being active in the South Miami Lodge, we just naturally gravitated to the local Lodge. We were welcomed by a standup group of members who were, indeed, representative of the original Jolly Corks.

Another visit I recall was after our move to Boca Raton and I was the south district vice president. It was 1976, and state president at the time, Charlie Pride, was making his official visit to the Lodge where Steve Merena was the district vice president.

Another memorable time was during Hal Goldrick’s first term as exalted ruler in 1978-1979. My favorite uncle and sponsor into Elkdom, along with my aunt, were our houseguests. We of course took them to whatever Elks affair was scheduled that weekend. The gracious welcome by Florence and Hal Goldrick began a special friendship which we still enjoy today.

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**Shared by Harold Goldrick, PER**

During my 1978-1979 term as exalted ruler, I was approached with an offer by my good friend, Hal Mangus, a past district deputy from South Miami Elks Lodge. Hal’s son-in-law, Greg Bean, who promoted the annual visit of a large rodeo at the old Palm Beach Arena, was offering to donate $1,000 to our Lodge if we furnished people to sell programs and western goods at all four performances during a three-day weekend. We gathered a group of about 30 Elks, wives and Does. We peddled their goods in the parking lots, at the entry gates and in the aisles during the performances.

Greg and his wife, Pat, were very pleased with the great number of sales we made. He said no group before had ever done as well as we did. We had a good time and many laughs during that weekend. After the final performance we received a $1,000 check which we took home for the Lodge charity fund.

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**Boca Raton’s Benevolent & Patriotic Order of Does No. 173**

The Boca Raton BPO Does were chartered in February 1962 with 64 charter members. Ida Walker, past supreme president from Lake Worth Drove No. 146, instituted the drove.
Bohon, Robert L., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1948-1949

42nd Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
April 25-27, 1948
Key West, Fla.

The following Lodges were represented: Arcadia No. 1524, Belle Glade No. 1716, Bradenton No. 1511, Clearwater No. 1525, Cocoa No. 1532, Coral Gables No. 1676, Daytona Beach No. 1141, DeLand No. 1463, Eustis No. 1578, Fort Lauderdale No. 1517, Miami No. 948, Miami Beach No. 1601, New Smyrna Beach No. 1557, Ocala No. 286, Orlando No. 1079, Palatka No. 1232, Pahokee No. 1638, Pensacola No. 497, St. Augustine No. 829, Fort Myers No. 1288, Fort Pierce No. 1520, Gainesville No. 990, Jacksonville No. 1732, Key West No. 551, Lake City No. 893, Lakeland No. 1291, Lake Worth No. 1530, Live Oak No. 1165, Leesburg No. 1703, Marianna No. 1516, St. Petersburg No. 1224, Sanford No. 1241, Sarasota No. 1519, Sebring No. 1529, Tallahassee No. 937, Tampa No. 708, Tarpon Springs No. 1719, Wauchula No. 1700, West Palm Beach No. 1352 and Winter Haven No. 1672.

President Cullen Talton gave his annual report. Membership has shown a gain of 1,513 over the previous year or a percentage gain of 9%. With the addition of Melbourne-Eau Gallie Lodge No. 1744 on May 13, the number of Lodges will be 44. There was $103,977 expended for direct charities and $72,577 for general welfare work. Bonita Marie Bachman of Andrew Jackson High in Miami received the scholarship award. Services to veterans through the State Veterans Commission again functioned well. There was $450 expended monthly for entertainment programs and an additional $4,000 was provided by the Grand Lodge for a special Christmas party held in each hospital. The largest amount ever contributed in any one year to the Harry-Anna Home was raised this year of $73,482.84. The home is in sound financial condition and is being ably run. The board of directors has complied with all their duties as stated in the bylaws.

Results of the state ritualistic contests were as follows: first place, Fort Lauderdale, score 99.317%; second place, Daytona Beach, score 99.067%; third place, Tallahassee, score 98.991%; and fourth place, Clearwater, score 98.799%.

The following amendments were made in the bylaws: Sec. 4, Article II, pertaining to per capita tax; Sec. 9, Article V, pertaining to salary of secretary; Sec. 10, Article V, pertaining to salary of treasurer; and Sec. 1, Article VI, pertaining to ritualistic fund.

Hollywood Lodge No. 1732 was instituted August 30, 1947.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1948-1949 term:

President Robert L. Bohon, Jacksonville 221
Vice President, NE District Hugh Vaughn, St. Augustine 829
Vice President, NW District L. M. Strickland, Tallahassee 937
Vice President, C District James Sweeny, DeLand 1463
Vice President, SW District Charles Pent, Tampa 708
Vice President, SE District Frank O’Connell, Pahokee 1638
Treasurer Claude L. Johnson, Tallahassee 937
Secretary Chelsie J. Senerchia, Miami 948
Historian Howell A. Davis, Palatka 1232
Tiler J. Stuart Hicks, Key West 551
Sergeant-at-arms Peter Gessner, DeLand 1463
Chaplain Father J. H. Johnson, Key West 551
Organist Harry Kudell, Sanford 1241

Pensacola was selected as the site for the 1949-1950 annual session.

Boland, George J.

George J. Boland served as vice president at large of the Florida State Elks Association in 1991-1992. He died in office, though; his term was completed by Ben S. Brown Jr.

George Boland joined General Motors in 1940 as a tool and die maker rising to head the skilled trade department with a staff of 150 employees. He retired in 1977. His time with General Motors was broken for the time he served as a naval aviator on active duty from 1943-1946. Following active duty he served in the Naval Reserve from 1946-1976, retiring with the rank of lieutenant commander.

He served as exalted ruler of Brooksville Lodge #2582 and was a PDD from the central district. He began his journey in Elkdom in 1976 upon initiation into Piscataway, N.J. Lodge No. 2414. He demitted to Brooksville in 1978 as a charter member and served as secretary for the next two years. Then as leading knight he served out the term of the then exalted ruler and the following year he was again elected to head his Lodge. His total time in office as exalted ruler was 20 months.

In addition to serving on the staff of the exalted ruler and secretary elect seminars, Boland was chairman of the state Business Practices Committee and headed the Florida Elks Drug Awareness Committee. He was well-known not only throughout the state of Florida but throughout the national drug awareness community for his work in this important Grand Lodge-sponsored activity. He was involved in the national conference of PRIDE (Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education) of which the Grand Lodge is a sponsor and which was attended by folks around the country.

He served as president of Hernando Association for Retarded Citizens, an organization which helps the mentally retarded to carry out such work as is within their capability and helps them live with pride in their ability to cope with their handicaps. He has been considered by the group as their father confessor and referred to by them as St. George.

Bonita Springs Lodge 2753

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<tr>
<th>Florida’s 134th Lodge</th>
<th>South Southwest</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>Naples 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother Lodge:</td>
<td>Feb. 4, 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution:</td>
<td>387</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>Rex Simms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>941-947-2753</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
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<td>Year 2000 Membership:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
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A Florida Lodge located in the south southwest district, Bonita Springs Lodge #2753 was the 134th Lodge. It lies in Lee County; the name of the town of Bonita Springs is derived from the Spanish word meaning “pretty.” With a population of around 13,600 in 1997, it sits at the edge of the Cypress Swamp.

It takes a lot of work and a firm dedication to Elkdom to form a new Lodge. The institution of Bonita Springs Lodge #2753 was through the efforts of PDD Kenneth McStravic of Fort Myers Lodge who was in charge of forming a new Lodge in the south southwest district. McStravic enlisted the assistance of PDD David Lake of Fort Myers Lodge, PDD Dennis Modesitt of Naples Lodge, John F. Krieder who at that time was a member of Boca Raton Lodge, and Allen Dunbar of Fort Myers Lodge. These five Elks met at the Springs Garden Restaurant in January and February 1989. As the formation progressed, they moved to TJ’s, a popular restaurant in Bonita Springs.

Naples became the mother Lodge. The organizing team consisted of the following:

- Howard Seaton, PDD
- Charles R. Carner, PER
- Russell Clothier, PER
- Charles R. Stewart, PER
- William E. Cain, PDD
- Rex Sims, PER from an Indiana Lodge
- William B. Stevenson, PER from a New Jersey Lodge
- John Cox, of East Hartford, Conn.

They continued to meet at TJ’s during the formation period.

The institution ceremony was held at Estero High School Feb. 4, 1990, with 410 members. By 1995 the fast growing Lodge had a membership of over 600.


The new Lodge territory encompassed East Golden Gate, North Naples, Fort Myers Beach, Estero and San Carlos Park.

The Lodge formed a building committee in 1993 with the purpose of acquiring land and paving the way for the construction of a new building. The Lodge was fortunate in that they had three experienced professional construction members.

Roland Amlaw, with over 60 years of experience in the construction business, was made chairman. Amlaw had supervised construction with major companies in Connecticut which included a five-story Yale University dormitory, a student center, a library, two dormitories at Trinity College, a dormitory at the University of Connecticut, major additions to a hospital, a powerhouse, a high-rise office building and three Hartford-based insurance companies.

Co-chairman was Edwin Burgoyne, who had 44 years of construction experience in New Jersey on such projects as powerhouses, crushers and conveyers for handling coal and ore, etc.

Rex Sims was made a member of the committee and came with experience in constructing several small factories and malls. Later, Exalted Ruler James Douglass, supervisor of a concrete business, served the committee.

Others who served the committee were Merle Jones who was experienced as a manufacturing engineer and Robert Distlecamp, Joseph Mazutand Vern Blodgett who were all experienced in various aspects of construction. To top off a well-rounded staff was Arthur Gertz, a man with years of experience in the food and beverage industry.

The Lodge instituted a $275,000 building bond program to pay for property and improvements.

In October 1992, the Lodge announced that it had purchased a five-acre tract of land and a 6,000-square-foot metal building on Spring Creek Road adjoining the Westinghouse Pelican Landing development and the Pelican’s Nest golf course. The property had 600 feet of frontage on Spring Creek Road and was 360 feet deep. The site had previously been used as a nursery and flower processing plant and was more recently utilized for growing ornamental plants.

The purchase price of the land was $253,597, ending a two-year search and inspection of 35 parcels. The commercial building on the land was to be converted into a Lodge home. Under consideration by the Lodge architect was the addition of a second floor to the building and a 60-by-60 addition for dining that would seat 300 people.

Apparently, the original parcel was not utilized because in April 1993, an agreement was signed for property on Coconut Road. Construction began on the building in January 1994.

A new million-dollar Lodge home was dedicated Feb. 5, 1995. Standing on 6.5 acres of land and consisting of more than 14,000 square feet, it serves a membership from Estero to San Carlos Park to Jamaica Bay. There is parking for 135 cars. It is a steel-framed building with concrete blocks. It is completely air-conditioned and has a sprinkler system and closed circuit security as well as a voice-activated fire alarm system.
The building was designed to withstand hurricane force winds of 140 mph. The dining room was designed so that it could be divided into two sections, one to seat 150 diners and the other to seat 300 guests. The room also features a stage and several smaller rooms for the storage of tables, chairs and Lodge paraphernalia. There are two service bars. The building features a built-in speaker system and dance floor in both the dining room and lounge. The kitchen is equipped with stainless steel fixtures on par with the best in the area. The lounge contains a sunken bar with 30 chairs and table seating capacity of 132 people. The Ladies of the Elks have their own meeting room. The secretary and treasurer were provided with a large room with file storage for the safekeeping of Lodge papers.

The guest speaker at the opening ceremony was PGER Robert Grafton. Also present was C. Valentine Bates, a member of the Board of Grand Trustees who later served as grand exalted ruler. American Legion Post 135 of Naples and American Legion Post 303 of Bonita Springs presented colors. The actual dedication of the new building was made by PGER Bob Grafton assisted by Grand Trustee C. Valentine Bates, Exalted Ruler James Douglas, and PERs Rex Sims, E. Brent Snodgrass, Greg Grothe and Robert Distlecamp. The Estero High School choir sang the selection, “Bless this House.”

In 1995 they had instituted an incentive program for maintenance of the Lodge. Details of this incentive are worthy of note:
1. For every hour of work performed, the worker would receive 1 point (equal to $1 in value).
2. All work was to be under control of the club manager or the exalted ruler.
3. Each worker would have a timecard and all time would be recorded. When the card was full they would be issued to the worker which could be used in the lounge for dinners or drinks or the purchase of tickets to Lodge events.
4. The program would allow the points to be used for Elk programs such as Hoop Shoot, road cleanup, etc.

Significant Events and Projects

1994 Bonita Springs Lodge 2753 started the new year by initiating 60 members within 30 days. Twenty candidates became members at the April 12 meeting. Twenty more joined April 26 and an additional 20 were initiated May 10.
1994 Exalted Ruler James Douglass reported that the Lodge building bond drive had raised $700,000 and that a contract for a new Lodge building had been signed. Total costs of the new structure and furnishings were estimated at $1,000,000.

Bonita Springs 2753 Ladies of the Elks

Instituted: May 1, 1990
Chartered: Oct. 1, 1990
Charter President: Peggie Sims
Number of Charter Members: 167

Boston’s Elks Hotel

The Elks Hotel in Boston was built in 1925 in the heart of Boston’s theater district. Later it had a rebirth as the Quality Inn Downtown Boston.
In its heyday, the 13-story Elks Hotel catered to the general public, but one floor was kept exclusively for the use of Boston Lodge members. In fact, the elevator did not even stop there. Access was only through hidden stairways, and doorkeepers stood guard to keep nonmembers from entering.
After Quality Inn Downtown Boston took over, they completely renovated the hotel but the Elks legend was maintained on the walls, doors and brass railings. Rows of elk heads remained as a sentinel from the ceiling moldings in the lobby. The Elks insignia also continued to hold a prominent position in the center of the third floor railing overlooking the stairway.
Doorknobs and push plates etched with elk heads were scattered throughout the building. Some of these were presented to two of its members, David Boston and the Lodge historian.
Memorabilia from the old Elks Hotel holds its place of honor in the Boston Lodge museum. A separate room for that purpose was included in their new Lodge building. Some of the Elks Hotel treasures removed included a stained glass window with an elk head and crossed flags, a banjo clock, some crockery and a red leather chair.

**Bradenton Lodge 1511**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 23rd Lodge</th>
<th>Southwest</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>June 16, 1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispensation:</td>
<td>July 4, 1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation:</td>
<td>H. M. Hunt, DDGER of Tampa Lodge No. 708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal opening by:</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>2511 75th Street W., Bradenton, FL 34209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2000 Membership:</td>
<td>1,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>1,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2007 Membership:</td>
<td>1,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
<td>1,125</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Bradenton is Florida’s 23rd Lodge and is located in the southwest district; it was formed under the sponsorship of Tampa Lodge #708.

In 1854, Dr. Joseph Braden, a pioneer sugar planter, moved into this area and built a home near where De Soto first landed on the Florida peninsula in 1539. The U.S. Post Office was established here in 1878. Bradenton is the county seat of Manatee County.

In the years that followed, the Lodge became the mother Lodge of Sarasota #1519, Palmetto #2449, South Hillsborough #2672 and Manasota #2734.

**Installation Officers:**

- Grand Exalted Ruler: H. M. Hunt
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: J. L. Reed
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: J. M. Armstrong
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: A. Goldstein
- Grand Esteemed Esquire: Ernest Maas
- Grand Secretary: J. J. Fernandez
- Inner Guard: G. Brown

**Charter Officers:**

- Exalted Ruler: H. T. Edwards
- Leading Knight: Peter McGuire
- Loyal Knight: J. M. Armstrong
- Lecturing Knight: Golden B. Knowles
- Secretary: Mooreland Gaines
- Treasurer: Stephen H. Fifield
- Esquire: J. E. Sutliff
- Tiler: W. J. Placie
- 1-year Trustee: Dewey A. Dye
- 2-year Trustee: E. P. Green Jr.
- 3-year Trustee: S. B. Kesler

**Past Exalted Rulers:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1925-26</td>
<td>H. T. Edwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926-27</td>
<td>S. H. Fifield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-28</td>
<td>L. E. Armstrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-29</td>
<td>P. G. Corker</td>
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<tr>
<td>1929-30</td>
<td>Lloyd M. Hicks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930-31</td>
<td>Roy A. Parker</td>
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<tr>
<td>1931-32</td>
<td>Sam H. Klemestrud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932-33</td>
<td>George R. Hitchcock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933-34</td>
<td>Sam Kirk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934-35</td>
<td>John L. Payne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935-36</td>
<td>Clarence I. Needham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936-37</td>
<td>C. Clyatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937-38</td>
<td>E. C. “Buck” Strickland</td>
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<tr>
<td>1938-39</td>
<td>W. Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939-40</td>
<td>H. English</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940-41</td>
<td>W. F. Dye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941-42</td>
<td>Sam H. Klemestrud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942-43</td>
<td>Sam H. Klemestrud</td>
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<tr>
<td>1943-44</td>
<td>J. L. Barbee</td>
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<tr>
<td>1944-45</td>
<td>Lloyd M. Hicks</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945-46</td>
<td>E. Quentin Perry</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946-47</td>
<td>Thomas Paul</td>
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<td>1947-48</td>
<td>W. W. Chastain</td>
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<tr>
<td>1948-49</td>
<td>William E. Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950-51</td>
<td>James E. Pratt</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951-52</td>
<td>David M. Dickens</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952-53</td>
<td>Gerald B. Trout</td>
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<td>1953-54</td>
<td>Marion G. Shrode</td>
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<td>J. C. Griffith</td>
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<td>1955-56</td>
<td>C. Edward Porter</td>
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<td>1956-57</td>
<td>John W. Sheffield</td>
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<td>1957-58</td>
<td>William R. Reeves</td>
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<td>1958-59</td>
<td>Claude W. Gamble</td>
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<td>1960-61</td>
<td>John W. Sheffield</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961-62</td>
<td>Harold “Pappy” Stoehrer</td>
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<td>1962-63</td>
<td>Tommy Thompson</td>
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<td>1963-64</td>
<td>Robert Schultz</td>
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<td>1964-65</td>
<td>Walter Bartels</td>
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<td>1965-66</td>
<td>Les W. Glenn</td>
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<tr>
<td>1966-67</td>
<td>Earl Enos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967-68</td>
<td>Martin J. Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968-69</td>
<td>Ibra “Bill” Gartman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-70</td>
<td>David A. Rhodes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1970-1971   A. F. “Tony” DeLaGrange
1971-1972   Harold Brookshire
1972-1973   Bradford Knapp
1973-1974   Tim R. Hurley
1974-1975   Harry E. Wingate
1975-1976   Ibra “Bill” Gartman
1976-1977   Russell B. Woods
1977-1978   Victor M. Adams
1978-1979   Robert Cooper
1979-1980   Lloyd L. Lyter
1980-1981   Phil B. Baker
1981-1982   Lane Johnson
1982-1983   Paul A. Robertson
1983-1984   George Sirois
1984-1985   Thomas L. Merrigan
1985-1986   Edward J. Pfister
1986-1987   James Ray
1987-1988   Melvin J. Schaffer
1988-1989   Earl Dallmann
1989-1990   Ken Christy
1990-1991   Keith DeYoung

District Vice Presidents:

1944-1945   Lloyd M. Hicks
1955-1956   Marion G. Shrode
1961-1962   John W. Sheffield
1967-1968   Earl Enos
1986-1987   Thomas L. Merrigan

District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers:

1945-1946   Lloyd M. Hicks
1956-1957   Marion G. Shrode
1962-1963   John W. Sheffield
1968-1969   Earl Enos
1982-1983   Victor Adams
1988-1989   Thomas L. Merrigan

Bradenton Home Sites

June 4, 1925   Odd Fellows Hall
52 members
$14 annual dues
$25 initiation fee

Nov. 20, 1925   Women’s Club
$500 per year fee for Friday night use

May 3, 1927-1957   Formerly governor’s 3-story mansion
12th Avenue West & Manatee

Oct. 1958-March 1960   No home
Club in red and infrequent attendance
Bradenton Elks Chronological History

1925

June 4 Bradenton Lodge officers installed and Lodge receives charter from Grand Lodge.
Fifty-two members meet at Odd Fellows Hall.

July 17 Fifteen candidates initiated and three-man investigating committee appointed.

Aug. 7 Lodge receives a pair of antlers from C. E. Depew of Springfield, Ill.
Mr. P. J. Flynn (restaurateur) is presented a watch for organizing Bradenton Lodge and is also appointed in charge of refreshments.

Oct. 2 Elks host a housewarming barbecue celebration on Anna Marie Island.

Oct. 16-17 Candidates initiated.

Nov. 20 Membership is at 85.
Lodge rents Friday nights at Women's Club for $500 per year.

1926

Jan. 8 New Year’s ball nets Lodge $240.

Jan. 22 Second degree team puts on a rapid fire initiation.

February Dues rose to $16 to cover Grand Lodge and state assessment.

March Float committee appointed.

March 25-26 Minstrel show held at Lodge.

April Investigating committee rejects many candidates and they reply, “We want quality, not quantity.”
Initiation fee raised to $50 and dues to $25.

June 4 First Flag Day service held.

July 4 Lodge celebrates July 4 at the beach.
Attendance of officers is dropping.
“Motion – three unreasonable absences equal suspension” carried.

November “Warning from sister Lodges against persons using stolen cards to obtain money from Lodges.”
December  Christmas dance shared with Kiwanians.
Mrs. Niel Klien to represent Bradenton Lodge in beauty pageant contest.

February  Float entered in Manatee County parade and won first prize.

Feb. 25  Declared Elks Day. Members urged to attend fair on that day.

1927

May  Elks have first Lodge home which was a former Florida governor’s mansion.
Many flowers received and were sent to local hospitals and sick.
Entertainment committee formed for promoting a monthly dance and to raise money for charity.
There were many delinquent dues so members were surveyed. They stated the reason was the lack of funds. Many families were destitute. Many officers and members resigned to look for jobs elsewhere.

September  Social & community welfare donates $100 to buy clothing for destitute children.

November  An additional $100 was donated to buy clothing for destitute children.
Thanksgiving baskets of food were made up and distributed in coordination with Salvation Army.
A drum and bugle corps was formed and the Lodge issued capes and caps and members were to furnish their own white trousers and shoes.

Dec. 10  GER Malley visited Lodge. Store merchants displayed sidewalk flags and Lodge brothers supplied a motorcade to escort the GER to the Lodge. The drum and bugle corps played at the Lodge.

February  A minstrel show was produced and the profits were used to send the corps to Miami to play at the Grand Lodge convention.
Ladies Wednesday bridge club turned into “Cervbus Alces” (Service Always), a Ladies auxiliary.

March  Clubroom financial report showed a rental income of $1,400.
Lodge now has $1,200 in checking account and $1,000 in savings account.

1928

Tamiami Trail (Route 41) opens and Bradenton now is on the map.
F. W. Peck, owner of the Lodge building, advanced $600 in rent at 8% until amount used up at his request.
Co-sponsors a junior youth baseball team with the American Legion.
NOTE: The Niagara Falls Lodge secretary was mistakenly shot and killed by the Coast Guard. All Lodges banned together to issue a government protest.

July  Drum and bugle corps is a success at the Grand Lodge convention in Miami.
The women of the Lodge decorated a car for the parade and took first place ($100). This car will
appear in Paramount movie news across the nation.

September
The Depression is starting.

Seven officers resign to find work elsewhere.

E. R. Corker replaces officers and restructures committees to meet Lodge needs.

A hurricane hits Florida’s east coast. The east coast storm relief committee is formed and collects dresses, coats, shirts, overalls and 286 pairs of shoes to send to the east coast.

December
Lodge purchased a Christmas tree and surrounded it with toys for needy children.

1929
March
Audit report shows 10 brass cuspidors, seven porcelain cuspidors, one piano, seven bugles, nine drums, three Victrolas and 14 records, and one billiard table.

Lodge loans $25 to desperate members for one year (total $400).

May 24
A caravan of autos journey to Tampa Lodge for a large initiation class. The Lodge has 50 nominees. On Friday, the new members will meet Bradenton Elks’ goat, and the degree team will blossom out with antlered ferocity and friendliness.

June
A Flag Day ceremony was held at the Lodge. The Boy Scouts participated in presenting flags with each history since 1976. Mayor Gordon B. Knowles gave remarks that the present flag is being worshipped as a fetish. He stated, “the flag is to be an emblem of spirit for self-government and as hope for future generations in better preparedness in educating future governing.” The singing of “The Star-Spangled Banner” closed the ceremony. An immense crowd was on hand.

July
Elks held a July 4 picnic in Anna Maria. Sarasota assisted as there was an open invitation to all west coast Lodges. A 9:30 a.m. trap shoot event went off under the supervision of the Sarasota Elks. Everyone attending brought picnic baskets and participated in a large fish fry. The Tampa Elks band was present and gave concerts. Bath houses were rented and available to all. Athletic games were held under the supervision of the Bradenton Elks. Some of the men’s games were sack race, 50-yard dash, three-legged race and tug of war. Some of the women’s games were 50-yard dash, potato race, nail driving contest and sawing contest. Some of the boys’ games were sack race, 50-yard dash, pie-eating contest and egg relay race. Some of the girls’ games were water race, 50-yard dash, potato race and needle and thread race. Later the drum and bugle corps gave a presentation followed by dancing to the Tampa Elks Band.

1930
Brandenton sponsored a Lodge of Antlers, a program under Grand Lodge statutes permitting boys between ages 15 and 21 to become members of an Elks auxiliary with ritual similar to that of the sponsoring Lodge. Bradenton, in fact, became the first Lodge in Florida to participate.

(See also Antlers, Lodge of)

1960
April
Lodge is demolished to build new Lodge.

1961
New Lodge home built.
Membership down to 164.

1962

General atmosphere and environment conditions are poor.

Club is in the red due to infrequent attendance and non-fraternal conduct by the members.

In August new rules were set down to correct conditions:
   1. Strict adherence to house rules regarding visitors.
   2. Discipline flagrant violations.
   3. Selection of candidates scrutinized.
   4. Plan programs of interest to all.
   5. Secure participation from Ladies.
   6. Detach bar from dining room.
   7. Add pool for young families.
   8. Add program to welcome visitors.

At this time the club was $1,100 in red.

Comments were that the “Lodge must be a fraternal organization instead of a cutthroat group bent on fratricide.”

When charges were brought against one member accused of cursing and swearing while celebrating his birthday, the Judge and forum declared that the club left an impression that such conduct (drunkenness, loud and profane language) was commonly tolerated as a course of conduct.

There was $2,133 drawn from savings account to pay for club bills.

February
   Remodeling program started and $2,000 taken from savings account to finance project.

Epidemic flu in Bedford, Va. caused death of several brothers at the national home.

1963

April
   New Lodge hours set at 3 p.m. to midnight throughout the week and 2 p.m. to midnight on Saturdays.

   There was $5,000 removed from savings to finance Lodge improvement.

July 29
   The remodeling project was complete. A new roof was installed for $1,100. The freezer was replaced at a cost of $375 and the air conditioner was replaced at a cost of $2,000.

   After improvements, the Lodge audit showed:
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Savings</td>
<td>$19,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bldg. &amp; Equip.</td>
<td>$56,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$152,000</td>
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</table>

1964

American Legion is allowed every other Tuesday for meetings until they find a new home.

1965
An official approval was received from Grand Exalted Ruler R. Bush to purchase land in the amount of $27,500 from the Bradenton Office Equipment Co. That certain land is situated in Manatee County, Fla. viz lots 1 and 2 of subdivision as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 155 of the public records of Manatee County, Fla. This land is adjacent to the present Lodge building and has a concrete building 34 feet by 64 feet with an estimated value of $47,500.

1966

A new annex to the Lodge was designated “Klemstrud Hall.”
PER Stoerer got picture of past PERs to display on walls.
Friday night dinners designated to raise funds for building improvements but show low profit.
Elks sponsor a Vietnam draftee and send off at the bus depot.
Glenn Ellenton is honored for 46 years in Elkdom.

1967

June Klemstrud Annex opened for residency.
Lodge takes second place for Florida state annual Lodge bulletin contest.

1968

Lodge receives honorable mention in state bulletin contest.

1970

Ladies molested, parked cars vandalized, break-ins and attempted robberies, one which resulted in “Pop” Shafer being shot in the arm.

Lodge broke into two factions: one wanted to abandon properties and meet at American Legion building while the other wanted to remain until they could build a new Lodge and sell the present building.

Lodge membership drops to 240; finances dropped to $5,000.

Tony De LaGrange is commended for holding the Lodge together during some very taxing times.

A winner of a car raffle at this time went into a heart attack.

1971

Charles Schaffer’s son is killed in Vietnam; military funeral held on Sunshine Skyway.

Committee finds new site on 75th Street of 30 acres for $75,000. The bank talked representatives into buying 10 acres at $33,000 with Howard Johnson lot on First Street taken as security.

November

Lodge forms corporation known as Bradenton Lodge 1511, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America Inc. with Atty. Robert Rosin, Sarasota PER and PDD, assisting.

Application for a $34,000 loan with the National Bank of Bradenton was taken using the property located on First Street & Manatee.
Bradford Knap was elected as the new exalted ruler and unfortunately suffered a heart attack, so PERs took turns running meetings until he returned.

Brother D. Croll volunteered to be architect for the new Lodge building and drew building plans.

July  
Grand Lodge approved the plans.

Their original $34,000 loan is paid. After trying three banks, a loan was obtained for $235,200 at 0.5% from Inter City National Bank of Bradenton (interest payments only January-September and afterward, October 29 monthly payments of $1,970).

Permits were obtained for restaurant and state liquor. The local health dept. and Manatee County Bldg. and Highway Dept. H. Brookshire acted as contractor.

1973

Jan. 2  
Groundbreaking ceremony for new Lodge.

Charles Schaffer was awarded lifetime membership for maintenance work on old Lodge building.

W. Harold Brookshire was awarded lifetime membership for his part in procuring a new Lodge building.

New organ procured by Mixon for the Lodge.

June  
Received an offer to buy both of their parcels of land for sale at 116 Sixth Ave. site for $80,000.

July 23  
Received Grand Lodge approval with a final closing date of April 1974.

Pearson was awarded the electrical bid of $72,000; the plumbing bid of $34,000 went to S. Cole.

August  
Restaurant, tables and chairs bid went to Sarasota Equipment.

Bob Fields, salesman and Elk member, offered to donate $7,500 toward the purchase, the total cost being below $32,000.

The old Lodge site was leased to Manatee County Advertising & Press Inc. until they could move to their new Lodge building then to be sold for $80,000. Old records were to be stored in the attic of the annex building until they needed them. The Lodge would occupy the annex while new owners assumed the responsibility of utilities, insurance and maintenance during the lease period expiring Oct. 14, 1973.

Board of directors negotiated the cost of the new building at $350,000.

1974

Jan. 28  
The new Lodge had an enclosed roof.

Due to spiraling inflation, an additional second mortgage of $128,500 was obtained (interest payment only May through July and then $1,156 monthly payments). All Lodge holdings were put up for collateral for the loan.

June  
The building was completed in the last week of June and everything salvageable was moved from the old building, which had been sold to “Shopping Guide” for $80,000.
An additional loan of $40,000 was taken to purchase restaurant and bar equipment:

- Pot sink with drain board $682
- Salad sink 810
- Walk-in cooler 5’x7’x7’ 1,662
- Ice cream cabinet 398
- 2 24’’ cocktail units 192
- 5’ under-bar stainless sink 192

Total plus tax 4,094
Office furniture 36,000
(Obtained from Southeast National Bank)

A. B. Gartman was hired as club manager.

Two pool tables, a few card tables, and pots and pans from the old kitchen were salvaged from the old dining room. They were able to salvage tables and chairs and a stock of liquor which invoiced at $200. A. B. Gartman stocked the bar and kitchen.

July 1
Their first meeting was held.

The lawn and palm trees were planted.

A luau function was held here for 900 people.

At this first meeting in the new Lodge, 80 members were initiated. Membership grew rapidly for the first year and was soon up to 490 members. An award was received from Grand Lodge for having the highest recruitment that year. A Lodge Beef-o-Rama was held in which stray Elks were given a free dinner for rejoining the Lodge.

The Lodge budget at this time was totally inadequate and badly overspent.

1975

The Lodge at this time was holding four meetings per month and at indoctrination, applicants were given a free drink and food.

They were donating $780 for seven scholarships.

New rules were established for their pool, a lifeguard was on duty, and the Lodge purchased a new resuscitator.

A PER Association formed which was open to PERs transferring in. The duties included:
- Assist Lodge officers.
- Assist committee persons.
- Draw up bylaws.
- Draw up house rules.
- Act as hosts 11-4 p.m. on Saturday & Sunday.

An audit this year showed that there were many violations, so Grand Lodge issued an audit procedure:
- Cash fund procedure.
- Beverage control.
- Rules for club operations.
- Labor control for bar and food.
- Manager duties.
Liquor and food inventory would be taken on the first of each month.

Bingo funds were to be used for charity only.

Board of directors meetings were chaos. Members were asked to submit written issues and leave. Directors would review issues during the meeting and give judgment at the next meeting.

Parking lot was paved at a cost of $17,000. Money raisers included: luau - $700, Christmas tree sales - $2,000, turkey shoot - $500 and steak night - $436. The Does donated $1,000 to the Lodge.

Tony DeLaGrange & Rosco Durham receive honorary life memberships.

Lodge budget is overspent again and Lodge borrows $10,000.

1976

A four-ton stone memorial was placed in front of the Lodge by Mrs. Hurley in memory of her husband, Tim, with a $300 charge for each name added.

Membership was now at 1,225 but has stopped its growth.

1977

Dues were now at $48 per year.

Lodge ended the year with a deficit of $20,000.

With a swimming pool budget of $900, the actual expense for operations was $3,000.

1979

Roof contractor was sued for $20,000.

Club losses were $15,000.

1981

Meetings were now twice a month.

Lodge bulletin received second place.

Roof repair cost was up to $40,000.

1982

Lodge received 10% discount to pay off mortgage early and it was accepted.

1983

January Lodge started a paving fund to raise $12,000 for parking lot.

Lodge debt was reduced to $188,721.
Membership was now at 1,004. The exalted ruler’s concern was lack of attendance by members and getting committee volunteers.

**August**
Lodge reached paving fund goal and paving of parking lot was done.

PERs held monthly dance and sponsored “One Shot Bingo” to raise funds. They recruited the Vaughn Monroe Band and Misty Trio.

**1984**

**June**
Club operations were closed due to $1,400 loss.
Paul Robertson resigned as esquire to become club manager.
All but two bartenders were terminated.
Dinners were limited to either a steak fry or potluck.

**September**
The club began to show a profit.

**November**
Attendance picked up again and club went back to hiring chef and workers.
Most work was done by volunteers who were awarded a free dinner while working.

**1985**

**July**
Treasurer Childs resigned and A. Lavier resumed post but committed large errors due to lack of accounting experience, so Childs advised Lodge to look for qualified treasurer.

**October**
Pete Elliot assumed the treasurer post.

A dispute ensued over the club operations. The house committee assumed the responsibility. Four trustees resigned. Finances improved. The Lodge voted to pay off building bonds at rate of $15,500 for three years. Raleigh Edwards donated $2,000 to the Lodge building fund. Edwards also donated $1,000 for toys to be delivered to the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital.

**1986**

The back property to the Lodge (690-by-300) was sold for $133,300 and money was applied to pay off Lodge mortgage.

The barmaid sponsored travel trips at the Lodge where a bus picked up in the Lodge parking lot and allowed non-Elks parking. Her services were terminated.

PERs donated $1,400 for new cooler.

**1987**

Lounge was undergoing renovations.

An incident occurred where the leading knight denied that he had given access to a visiting Elk who forgot his membership card. Members took offense to this and the leading knight was suspended. He was deprived of nomination to exalted ruler and resigned.

**1988**

**January**
The mortgage was paid in full from their first Lodge property purchased in 1974 with a new Lodge built at that time at an approximate cost of $300,000.
There appeared to be some problems in the chairs as the treasurer position went from Shaffer to Willets to James Butler. The lecturing knight resigned and Tom Grandys assumed the position. Trustees E. Sharick and Lloyd Lyer passed their trustee positions on to Ed Swallick and G. Anderson.

Grand Lodge Awards

1974-1975 First place for percentage gain in membership above 5%
1974-1975 Highest net gain in membership

State Association Awards

Best Youth Activities: 1964-1965
Greatest membership gain (Lodges 301-600): 1974-1975
Largest amount subscribed to Harry-Anna Trust Fund (Lodges 301-600): 1974-1975
Participation in state ritual contest: 1965-1966

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Elk of the Year</th>
<th>Officer of the Year</th>
<th>Elks Lady of the Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Andy Shutic</td>
<td>Bob Erwin</td>
<td>Dottie Shutic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bradenton Elkettes

Brandenton Elkettes Credo

Keep us from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
Let us be done with faultfinding, and leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretenses and meet each other face to face
Without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.
Let us take time for all things, make us grow calm, serene, gentle.
Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straight-forward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences;
That in the big things of life we are one.
And may we strive to touch and to know the great common woman’s heart of all and let us not forget to be kind.

The first ladies organization of Bradenton Elks #1511 was known as the Elks Auxiliary and was formed in 1949. The auxiliary existed for 13 years and was started with 36 charter members. Only one of the original charter members is still a Bradenton Elkette and after 20 years, she was made a life member.

The Bradenton Elks met at two other locations before moving into a permanent location on 75th Street West. It was after the first move to a building on Sixth Avenue and First Street that the auxiliary decided to re-organize and the majority of the ladies wished to call themselves the Elkettes.

In 1964 the Bradenton Elkettes B.P.O.E. #1511 formed with 21 charter members. Again only one of the original charter members is still with us. This lady has been a continuous member for 43 years serving twice as president of the auxiliary and four times as an officer. In the Elkettes she was elected president in 1970-1971. Without her this history could not have been written.

When the Elkettes were formed, the organization was completely reorganized with new bylaws and standing rules. New traditions were to be formed in the years to come.

In 1969 the president gave the organization the Elkette credo. She also conceived the triangle of success, the symbol on the cover of the Elkettes membership book. The triangle of success was adopted in 1969 by the president of that year, Margaret Swinson, and has since appeared on the cover of the Elkettes book. The base of the
triangle is benevolence, meaning to have an inclination to do good, to be kind. May all our efforts be beneficial to the Elks and Elkettes. They will be beneficial if we participate. The side of the triangle labeled participation means take an active part and be as helpful to the club (Lodge) as possible. The other side of the triangle is objectives, meaning if we realize our objectives and strive to that end, we will always be complete. If we remove any side from the triangle, we are without a goal and the triangle is broken.

BENEVOLENCE - PARTICIPATION - OBJECTIVES
ELKETTES

In 1985 the president of that year, Caroline Proll, thought that the cover of the book was too old-fashioned and needed updating. Since the above meaning had passed from memory of any of the active members, another design was found and used for the years 1986-1987 and 1987-1988.

Then in April 1988, Historian Elsie Merrigan rediscovered the above definition of the triangle when in the process of refurbishing the old book of the history. She then brought it to the attention of the existing president so that the triangle could be readopted as the cover of the book, realizing that the year 1989 would be the 20th anniversary of the use of the triangle.

The first Elkette of the Year was chosen in 1989.

The Elks purchased the property on 75th Street West in 1972. They started building in 1973 and moved in 1974. The Elkettes worked very hard to help raise the money needed to build. The new lounge was completed in 1986-1987.

In 1975 with the death of three of their sisters in one year, the page entitled, “In Memoriam to our Departed Sisters,” was added to their membership book and a plaque with their names now hangs in the hallway of the Lodge.

The office of historian was added in 1978 to the list of chairladies and the first historian had a monumental task on her hands. All the members were asked to bring in what they had from the past years: photographs, membership books, newspaper clippings and anything else they could find. It was then up to the new historian to make some sense and order out of the piles of material dumped on her in the space of a few months. Many of the membership books were missing for a period of six years. One hardworking lady typed out the names of the members for those years from other records and made them into books. This enabled a quick and easy reference for membership in those years. The first historian served the Elkettes in other ways too, as an officer and then Elkette president for two consecutive years, 1979-1980 and 1980-1981. Had she not done such a fine job on their album, the early years of the Elkettes would have been lost. She is now a life member. One very significant part of their history that she preserved was the definition of the triangle of success, the logo on their membership books.

When the Elkettes lost their meeting room because of enlargement of lounge facilities, they also lost necessary storage room for their best moneymaker, the annual flea market. They then sought a new fundraiser for the Lodge and its charities. One of the officers came up with the idea of sponsoring their own bingo games. Permission to conduct the games was received in the fall of 1986 from the Elks of #1511. By January 1987 they began their Wednesday afternoon game. The new vice president and her husband loaned the group money that was needed to get started, to pay off winners, etc. This lady became their first bingo chairlady and went on to become Elkette president, serving two terms from 1987 to 1989.

By 1989 the bingo games were such a success that the ladies were able to take on the largest project ever for the Lodge. They redid the hallway and main Lodge room, added new ceiling tiles, painted, installed carpeting for the hallway and the office, purchased vertical blinds for the windows, and supplied a bingo board in the main Lodge room. Volunteers, Elks, and Elkettes performed all the labor done on the redecorating.

They also were able to take on an additional charity. The No. 1 charity was the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital, but a second charity added was the Abused Children of Bradenton. These two remained major charities for several years. As bingo receipts increased they were able to take on the Manatee Association for Retarded Citizens and the Boys Club and the Girls Club of Brandenton as well as cooperating with the Salvation Army for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

However, by November 1991, they suffered what many other Lodges throughout the state were experiencing: the competition from professional bingo parlors was eroding their attendance and receipts. Like so many other Lodges, they were forced to discontinue their largest moneymaker.

Bradenton Elkettes Past Presidents:

1964-1965 Shim Bartels
1965-1966 Ella Fruchey
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1966-67</td>
<td>Wanda Pincus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967-68</td>
<td>Ester Bridgeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968-69</td>
<td>Jean Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-70</td>
<td>Margaret Swinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>Barbara Davis Haygood</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>Mabel Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>Anne Parrish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>Ester Bridgeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>Frances Schultz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-77</td>
<td>Hazel Waters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>Doris Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>Ethel Chapman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-81</td>
<td>Barbara Nolan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-83</td>
<td>Carolyn Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-84</td>
<td>Alberta DuBois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984-86</td>
<td>Caroline Proll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986-87</td>
<td>Trudy Baumruck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-89</td>
<td>Ann Watling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-90</td>
<td>Anna Mae Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>Doris Schaffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-92</td>
<td>Karen DeYoung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992-93</td>
<td>Audrey Evers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993-94</td>
<td>Elsie Merrigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994-95</td>
<td>Joan Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-96</td>
<td>Norma Stover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996-97</td>
<td>Sharon Carter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-98</td>
<td>Karen Grandys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-99</td>
<td>Audrey Evers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>Patricia Shaw</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Brandenton Elkettes of the Year:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1969-70</td>
<td>Ginger Gartman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>Ruth Hyatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>Rita Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>Mable Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>Susan Hurley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-75</td>
<td>Helen Toal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-76</td>
<td>Barbara Nolan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>Marge Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>Aimee Trout Brookshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>Carol Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>Dorothy Higgins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>Hazel Waters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982-83</td>
<td>Alberta DuBois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-84</td>
<td>Eileen Laurino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984-85</td>
<td>Onahlee Stokes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-86</td>
<td>Caroline Proll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986-87</td>
<td>Helen Heine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-88</td>
<td>Anna Mae Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988-89</td>
<td>Elsie Merrigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-90</td>
<td>Doris M. Schaffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>Gloria Starkgraf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-92</td>
<td>Fairy Ellis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992-93</td>
<td>Julieta Gradante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993-94</td>
<td>Marion Sarandria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Brandon Lodge #2383 is the centennial Lodge. It was the first Lodge to enter the second century of Grand Lodge Elkdom. It had its beginning in September 1967 with two state Elks officials and three Brandon residents attending. Just four months later on Jan. 28, 1968, sixteen state Elks association officials, including a past grand exalted ruler, instituted and presented the only charter of BPOE bearing the anniversary date of Feb. 16, 1968, to Brandon. The host Lodge, Plant City, initiated 178 charter members.

Charter Officers:

Exalted Ruler  Harold Simmons  
Leading Knight  Jack Connelly  
Loyal Knight  Albert Rothacker  
Lecturing Knight  Russell Weir Jr.  
Secretary  Arnold Miller  
Treasurer  Clinton Crabtree  
Tiler  Norman Chubbs  
Esquire  George Rogers  
Chaplain  Paul Crawley  
Inner Guard  Robert Aman  
Organist  W. Norris Prather  
Trustees  Charles Crandall  
  Raymond Reagan  
  William Lewis  
  Wilbert Prather  
  Marshall Simmons  

Meeting in a local ladies club room soon proved to be too crowded, and opportunity came knocking for the renting of a building at 122 Linsley Ave. for $250 a month. The liquor license was obtained in 1968 and with it there were no more BYOB parties, but more importantly, they were able to purchase the building. In January 1969, approval was received from grand trustees for purchase of the building. Twenty years later they celebrated the burning of the mortgage on this building.

The centennial Lodge had another first! They became the earliest that an Elks Lodge would request the organization of a Ladies of the Elks, this accomplished in June 1968.

The ladies of the Brandon Elks proved to be an immediate asset. Their contributions over the years have included Lodge officer stations and officer jewels among many other services.

Bingo started in May 1968 as a fundraiser to support their own mayor candidate for the Brandon’s Fourth of July activities. Bingo has continued over the years with the proceeds going to the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home, the subsequent Florida Elks Children’s Hospital, and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services program as well as other charitable activities.
As the Lodge grew, their needs grew and so they purchased a lot north of the original building. An addition was added with a dedication July 4, 1974. This provided a new bar and lounge for the Lodge. In 1970-1971 their one-page mimeographed newsletter was increased to an eight-page bulletin, receiving the first award from the Florida State Elks Association (honorable mention) for bulletins in 1971-1972. This became the forerunner to the present day Bugle.

Brandon became part of a realignment of state districts in 1975-1976. They were moved from the west central district to the south central district.

In 1978-1979 they added a poolroom to the existing building. In 1980-1981 a potential catastrophe was avoided when it was discovered that the room was in deteriorating condition. It was repaired at a cost of $16,000.

In 1982-1983 the Brandon Lodge raised a considerable amount of money for the Harry-Anna Hospital in a unique manner. Four Elks and two ladies from the Brandon Lodge walked from the Plant City Lodge to the Brandon Lodge (20 miles) which resulted in raising $2,800 in pledges and certificates. This was added to another $1,700 which was raised around town, making a total of $4,500.

In 1983-1984 the Lodge went into an extensive renovation of their lounge at a cost of $100,000. That same year they initiated their first student scholarship awards banquet for deserving students and planned to hold the event yearly. They received the grand exalted ruler’s award for Lodge Activities as well as taking first place in the civic division in the Fourth of July parade.

In 1985 they purchased the Brandon Twin Theater and the adjacent parking lot area. Their Veterans Services committee began monthly Wednesday night dinners for patients of the local VA hospital. They also won the grand marshal award in the annual Fourth of July parade.

In 1986-1987 they hosted the Florida Elks bowling tournament in one of the largest turnouts to date. One of their members was the State Hoop Shoot Director this year and the Lodge hosted the state hoop shoot finals at Armwood High School with the state president and vice president at large in attendance. Dinner was served at the high school for those participating.

In 1987-1988 they won first place in the state contest for Lodge newsletters.

In December 1993, Brandon moved into new quarters. After selling their previous quarters on Linsey Avenue, the Brandon Elks had temporarily occupied a storefront in the Valrico Square Mall during construction of the new building. This same year Brandon won the district ritual contest and the opening and closing award. On Feb. 12, 1994, more than 350 members and guests attended a formal dedication of a new Brandon Lodge building located at 800 Centennial Lodge Drive. The new structure sat on eight acres of land at the end of North Oakwood Avenue just two blocks north of Highway 60 and across from Nativity Church.

Duane Petry opened the ceremonies with the insertion of a time capsule donated by his family into a cornerstone plaque donated by Dick Sowers. PDD Ed DeMask of the Brandon Lodge was master of ceremonies and he introduced the 19 Brandon past exalted rulers and 18 past Elks of the Year who attended. Also present at this dedication were Past State President Tom Elmore; DDGER Jim Christmas; vice president-designate, John Holbrook; and their wives. The Petry family was awarded a plaque by Exalted Ruler James League for their contributions and work during the construction of the new building. Also recognized were Jack and Janice Mineo for providing a new Lodge sign and Terry Russell for work on a new flagpole.

Teenager of the Month was instituted and the Lodge took first place in the state Youth Activities contest. They won third place at the national convention for Flag Day observance.

At the Grand Lodge convention held in Dallas in July 2000, Brandon took third place in the ritual competition in the eastern division with a score of 93.5118.

One of their later successes was called the “Breakfast of Champions” in which the youth committee served 926 people in an all-you-can-eat breakfast in just four hours. The breakfast included pancakes, eggs cooked to order, sausage, home fries, toast and beverages.

Past District Vice Presidents from Brandon:

1973-1974 Albert Rothacker
1985-1986 Edward F. DeMask

Past District Deputies from Brandon:

1975-1976 Albert Rothacker
1981-1982 Clinton M. Crabtree
1986-1987 Edward F. DeMask
Significant Events and Projects of Brandon Lodge:

1998  Brandon Lodge raised more than $2,000 for the victims of the tornadoes in Kissimmee, Fla. and Ray & Jean Parisot and Ronnie & Esther Cantrell presented a check to Kissimmee Lodge to be used by members in need.

The Lodge bowling team donated $700 to send some kids to camp.

At the youth scholarship dinner the BLOE and Lodge golf league each awarded two $1,000 scholarships to four deserving students.

2007  The Student of the Month was chosen.

There was an active scholarship program.

2008  On Feb. 13, 2008, members gathered to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their Lodge. A meal was prepared and served by the Brandon Ladies of Elks. The evening’s program was emceed by leading knight, Don Moon, and comments and a brief journey down memory lane were provided by Clint Crabtree, PDD and Richard “Dick” Rhodes, PDD. Honored guests included charter members Robert Aman, Gary Lentz, Dick Stover, Lloyd Roberts and Clint Crabtree. Also, District Vice President Mike Carney and Past State President Mike Smith joined in the celebration. Current district deputy, Dick Rhodes, led the champagne toast.

A reverse raffle was held to support the Lodge and was sponsored by the PER Association. It was a major fundraiser for the Lodge. Two-hundred fifty tickets were sold at $100 each. Proceeds were split between the Lodge and the winner after expenses for the dinner, drinks and prizes were deducted. The maximum payout was $10,000. A ticket entitled a person to dinner, open bar and a chance at numerous prizes during the evening of fun and excitement. Guests could attend the dinner with an open bar for $20 per person.

The youth awards dinner was held to honor those who applied to the national contest for the Most Valuable Student scholarship and Student of the Month winners awarded by Brandon Lodge. The Ladies organization gave out four $1,000 scholarships and the Lodge gave out two $1,000 scholarships. Ken Martinez, PER was chairman of the Scholarship Committee for BPOE and BLOE.

On May 17, the fifth annual fishing tournament for all children ages three to thirteen was held. Prizes were awarded by age category for the biggest fish and most fish. Children were accompanied by their parents and the Lodge furnished the rods, reels, bait and tackle. Food and drinks were free to all who attended. Each contestant received a T-shirt, drug awareness literature and various gifts.

Brandon Lodge had four foursome golf teams compete in the state golf tournament in Sebring. DJ McKinney won the ladies longest drive contest.

The annual soccer shoot was held at J.R. Handley Sports Field.

Brandon Ladies of the Elks #2383

The Brandon Ladies of the Elks #2383 were organized February 1968 and located in Florida's Southwest Central District. They were much aided by Mary Lou and Bob Cameron of Holiday Isles Lodge #1912. Their initial goal was that of helping the Brandon Lodge #2383.

Mary Lou Cameron installed their first officers June 10, 1968. Charter officers were:

President  Betty Rothacker
1st Vice President  Bert Crabtree
2nd Vice President  Evelyn Judway
Secretary  Elinor Crandall
Their first order of business was to write their bylaws. Their second order of business was to initiate a series of fundraisers in order to establish a treasury. This was somewhat hampered by the fact that they had no kitchen to work from.

Dues were established at $4 per annum. By the end of their first year they had a balance of $324.62 in their treasury. One of their most notable contributions was the replacement of the Lodge orange crate stations with proper ones and to purchase jewels for the Lodge officers of Brandon 2383 to replace the borrowed ones.

By the year 1969-1970 they established their first formal budget in the amount of $800 and printed their first yearbook.

They put on a series of annual ladies shows and in May 1975 were able to pay for a working kitchen, making it possible to hold many functions that they had heretofore been unable to do.

In 1979-1980 they were able to institute several events and projects. Many of these were to become annual fundraisers. Among the more successful events were the ladies golf tournament, luau, and harvest dinner and theater production.

In 1981 their annual ladies show became the first of their annual dinner theaters to be produced. That same year they presented their first cotillion ball. The following year they combined efforts with Brandon Elks Lodge in sponsoring the presentation of Bits ‘n Pieces puppeteer theater at the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital as their Christmas gift to the children.

They continued to work for the benefit of the Lodge purchasing Lodge chairs in 1982-1983, solid oak stations in 1983-1984, and a television and VCR set to be used in indoctrinations and special presentations. They transformed the men’s room into a restroom for the handicapped and presented the Lodge with round banquet tables.

At about this time their memorial service was extended to honor deceased sisters at funeral home services.

To fund their support of the community, they instituted the BLOE Sunday breakfasts. This also helped to fund their BLOE scholarship program.

In 1986-1987 their efforts included the entertaining of veterans at Wednesday night dinners. This project was expanded to include desserts. With money made from these projects they were able to embrace another project, the Nativity Food Pantry.

Continuing their efforts to help the community in its charity efforts, they supported the New Life Dwelling Place.

In 1989-1990, Lil Tourville of the LOE of Brandon became the Florida Ladies of the Elks Chairman. Their efforts have continued in support of many Lodge, district, state and community charities.

Past Presidents:

1968-1969   Betty Rothacker
1969-1970   Mildred Hermans
1970-1971   Judy Richmond
1971-1973   Jeri Fetherman
1973-1974   Mary Ann Pledger
1974-1975   Kay White
1975-1976   Elinor Crandall
1976-1977   Rhea Martinez
1977-1978   Evelyn Castelow
1978-1979   Ann Wynn
1979-1980   Patsy Mann
1980-1981   Jean Yoho
1981-1982   Fran Miller
1982-1983   Wanda Mates
1983-1984   Betty Lyons
1984-1985   Lillian Tourville
1985-1986   Agnes Hanna
1986-1987   Marion Lynch
1987-1988   Anita Moon
1988-1989   Judy DeMask
1989-1990   Berneice Vallad
Past Ladies of the Year:

1974-1975   Lydia Newberry
1975-1976   Rhea Martinez
1976-1977   Judy DeMask
1977-1978   Jean Yoho
1978-1979   Ruth Tuten
1979-1980   Jean Barfield
1981-1982   Betty Lyons
1982-1983   Viola Blanchard
1983-1984   Marion Lynch
1984-1985   Mary Lou Schreck
1985-1986   Lillian Tourville
1986-1987   Gerri Mann
1987-1988   Irma Miller
1988-1989   Carol Weathington
1989-1990   Wanda Mattes
2007-2008   Ann Fox

Broadwater, G. M., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1909-1910

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. April 15, 1909, in the new Elks Hall by W. P. Watson, Exalted Ruler of Orlando Lodge No. 1079, who was presiding. The morning session was given up to the dedication of the new home in Orlando.

President Taylor called the afternoon session at 2:30 p.m.

The following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville No. 221, Key West No. 551, Tampa No. 708, St. Augustine No. 829, Orlando No. 1079 and Daytona Beach No. 1141.

Daytona Beach No. 1141 was instituted Jan. 15, 1909, and enrolled April 15, 1909. Quincy Lodge No. 1111 was instituted April 19, 1908.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1909-1910 term:

President   G. M. Broadwater, Orlando 1079
First Vice President  J. H. Crosley, Ocala 851
Second Vice President  J. D. Morris, Daytona Beach 1141
Secretary   Frank C. Boylston, Jacksonville 221
Treasurer   W. L. Bates, Key West 551
Chaplain   Deane Spencer, Orlando 1079
Brooksville Lodge #2582

District: Central  
Dispensation: Aug. 28, 1978  
Institution: Oct. 7, 1978  
Charter Exalted Ruler: Edward Napor  
Charter Members: 141  
1999 Membership: 1,062  
2006 Membership: 755  
2007 Membership: 780  
2008 Membership: 778  

The first death was George DiGulio Dec. 9, 1978.  

Charter officers:  
Exalted Ruler Ed Napor  
Leading Knight Nick Spirakis  
Loyal Knight Lewis Baglione  
Lecturing Knight Tom Waugh  
Secretary George Bland  
Treasurer Ralph Mathis  
Inner Guard George Stevenson  
Chaplain Jim Pacetti  
Esquire Sam Cione  
Tiler Mike Hruzak  
Trustees Adolph Zetelski  
           Richard Martin  
           T. Gordon Ray  
           Henry Kuhn  

Brooksville is the county seat of Hernando County and is named after Congressman Preston Brooks of South Carolina. It seems that in 1856 during the Kansas Nebraska debate, Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts had been unfavorable of Sen. A. P. Butler of South Carolina, at the time absent from the chamber. Butler was an uncle of Preston Brooks and Brooks did not take too lightly to Sumner’s verbal attack on one of his family members. Searching Sumner out in the chamber, Brooks struck Sumner over the head with his cane, leaving him insensible on the senate floor. A move to remove Brooks from the House of Representatives failed. Sumner never fully recovered from the blow. Thereafter Brooks was to receive the gift of several quite elaborate canes, some of gold. Anson Burlingame of Massachusetts challenged Brooks to a duel. Accepting the challenge, Brooks did not attend because he claimed he was unable to make it to the site on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls because he would need to pass through Yankee territory. Brooks lived only another year.  
The story of Brooksville Elks Lodge has a better beginning and it begins with Ed Napor and his wife, Helen, who had moved to Florida from Reseda, Calif., to their new home in High Point. Everything was great except for one thing; there was no Elks Lodge. Ed wanted to correct this, so he talked to friends and neighbors and managed to gain some interest and get the idea going.
On one of his visits to Aripeka Elks Lodge, Ed met Richard Martin. Martin invited Napor, along with his brother, Fred Martin, to meet at their garage to discuss the idea. Other meetings took place in groups of two or three. One was on Joe Ponkey’s back porch as well as various homes.

On Jan. 25, 1978, the first meeting of 13 men met in the meeting room of the Hernando State Bank in Brooksville. Les Putney got the treasury rolling by raffling off the same bottle of liquor six times.

Ed Napor, Tom Foggia, George Johnson and other members signed up 150 men and requested a charter from Grand Lodge dated Aug. 28, 1978.

Martin Barwick, DDGER of Inverness, addressed the group saying, “Oct. 7, 1978 will be a red letter day in the city of Brooksville. On this day you will be instituted as an Elks Lodge joining with over 1,700,000 American gentlemen in the good work of the BPOE. I am confident Brooksville will be a better community because of your Lodge and a part of it will play in community life.”

Dr. Leonard J. Bristol, Grand Exalted Ruler, said, “As you take part in this inspiring ceremony of institution, I know that charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity are being instilled in each of you and you will exemplify our motto: Elks Serve America!”

The institution ceremonies were held at the Hernando Fairgrounds McKethan Auditorium Oct. 7, 1978. The sponsoring Lodge, Inverness Lodge #2522, installed the members and officers and the Director of Ceremonies was Martin Barwick, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Inverness. Inverness Exalted Ruler, Jon Perry, led the installation. The initiation class sat to one side of the Lodge room because of the large number of candidates. Judge Edwin Malmquist took the oath for the entire group and was escorted around the stations by Esquire Tim Fitzpatrick of Inverness. Ed Napor was installed as Exalted Ruler along with 11 other officers. There was a large crowd to witness the installation.

Ed Royal, State President, said, “A hearty welcome to you as you enter the great family of Elkdom. I congratulate you on the institution of your Lodge. I am sure that all who had a part in the organization and institution feel very proud of achieving this goal.”

Meetings were scheduled for the first, third, fourth and fifth Mondays of the month at the VFW Hall #10209, all rent-free for the two years that they needed it. Committee meetings were held at the Hernando State Bank and Teen Hall in Brooksville. Smaller meetings were held in the homes of members.

George Johnson and George Spann put on a Valentine dinner dance in HFG’s Auditorium. The Does did a beautiful job with the decorations and Mrs. McCarthy donated an afghan. Sam “Duke” Dougherty, who was in the catering business, loaned utensils, a champagne fountain and silverware. He also assisted in obtaining supplies. In March there was a St. Patrick’s Day dinner dance, again with equipment borrowed from Duke. Gene Allen gave some equipment that was later moved to their new home. The menu was traditional Irish corned beef and cabbage served in small buckets. Members stored food before and after an event in refrigerators and freezers in their homes.

The committee started looking for a place to call home. With George Spann in charge, they looked at the Italian Fisherman, a restaurant that had gone under. T. Gordon Ray said the equipment was in such disrepair it probably could not be serviced, so a low bid was offered. It was probably lucky for the Lodge that that offer was turned down.

A building fund was established and George Spann and Henry Kuhn were made chairmen of the drive for funds. Any amount was accepted and loans of $100 or more would be paid back at 5% interest. George Spann attended a special meeting held at the Moose Lodge, and looking out the window, he saw a car bearing “BEK” on its plate. George said, “Let’s call the building fund the BEK Corporation,” and so it was born.

Another story says that BEK came from another source. Brooksville Elks was too long, so they came up with BELK, still too long, so they came up with BEK.

The BEK was chartered as a nonprofit organization to conduct business in the best interest of the Lodge. Adolph Zetelski donated the money to pay for the bill to file the BEK papers. The corporation acquired 4½ acres on state Route 50 and an $8,555 binder was paid July 3. Rezoning and a survey to establish property lines cost an additional $150. On July 7, the owner accepted their offer and the final sale required an additional payment of $5,450, or 50% of the sale price. They were really rolling because July 11 they were quoted a price of $14,355 for a 5,000-square-foot building with all erection material required. Pat Baird declined her commission and her husband, Frank, graded and leveled the parking lot plus donated several hundred dollars of material. Thanks to Henry Kuhn, they received 100 tons of lime rock for the entrance road. They estimated $1,200 for this job, but it cost only half that amount. Financing for the building and ground was through Hernando State Bank. Monthly payments were $183.50 and they paid only on the interest for the first year. The loan was for $85,000 at 11% for 15 years. The next week they started clearing the land.

During this period of time the ladies were active, helping at affairs and forming Chapter #239 of the Does. Marion Martin was selected to lead the organization. On Jan. 28, 1979, at 5 p.m., the formal installation ceremony
was held at Inverness Lodge Does #232. Presiding officers were Past President Diane Largo as deputy supreme president, Ann Beagle as deputy supreme commander and Lana Berwick as chaplain, all of Inverness. To increase their treasury, Jean Boland raffled off an afghan made by Virginia Parvin. A week was spent selling snow cones at the fiesta in Spring Hill with Lorraine Hewitt as chairman.

In the meantime the developing Elks won first place in the state for membership increase in Lodges under 300. This closed the first year with a membership at 193. Nick Spirakis was elected as their first exalted ruler.

On Sunday, April 1, 1979, they began their second year. District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Jack Loebel, assisted by Grand Lodge officers, installed Nick Spirakis and his officers at the VFW Hall. One of the first events was the Fiesta Parade and Gene Allen, his friendship truck and friends represented the Lodge. The Does convention was held in Winter Park April 20-21 with a good Brooksville attendance. The north central district golf tournament was held in Inverness with Bill Heiligann winning a new putter for low gross.

The annual Mother’s Day tribute was held May 13 in the Teen Hall in Brooksville with Jim Frain conducting the service.

In June there were two special events. They held their annual Flag Day service June 14 at the VFW Hall but it was very poorly attended. Total attendance consisted of six Elks, 11 wives and six VFW members. The other was at George Boland’s Ranch for an old-fashioned backyard picnic.

In July they put out their first Lodge newsletter, though it was not yet named. It was later named The Herd. One of its first advertisers was Harold’s Auto Center and Hernando State Bank, now Sun Bank and Trust Company.

Exalted Ruler Nick Spirakis attended the Elks national convention in Dallas, and President Marion Martin attended the Does convention in Harligan, Texas.

Jim Oliver, vice president of the north central district (also administrator of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital), made an official visitation to the Lodge Sept. 6. Ceremonies were held at the VFW Hall. Oliver discussed the program of State President Richard Robinson from Sebring Lodge. On Sept. 9, a German Fest picnic was held at Holiday-Trav-L-Park. Then they went “whole hog” at a catered first anniversary ball by Duke and Jerry.

In October they held “The Start of Something Big,” the groundbreaking for their new Lodge, just one year after they were instituted.

On Dec. 2, they held their first memorial service in Teen Hall with Tom Lorden and Jim Pacetti as chairman. This was to be an annual event. A Christmas party for the kids of Day-Star and Brooksville was held as well as a Christmas dinner dance held at the HFO Auditorium Dec. 15. They dined on spaghetti and meatballs prepared by Jim and Marge Pacetti.

Bill Brown took over as editor of the Lodge newsletter.

On Jan. 16, Jean Boland was elected president of the Does. On Jan. 19, at the HFG Auditorium, George Johnson put on a Swedish smorgasbord with several kinds of Swedish food. It was very good eating and very profitable.

The month of February saw a Valentine’s ball.

In March there was a St. Patrick’s Day celebration climaxcd by a very entertaining year in which the Lodge prospered financially, in membership and in brotherhood. In March the Lodge also elected George Spann as the new exalted ruler and finished the year with a membership of 335.

Elk of the Year for 1979-1980 was Thomas Foggia.

Their third year began with installation of officers held at the fairgrounds. Installation was conducted by PERs T. Gordon Ray, Ed Napor, Ray Davis and Jack Loebel. A country steak dinner followed by dancing ended the ceremony.

Exalted Ruler George Spann pleaded for commitment and involvement.

Still adjusting to the lack of facilities, the Does cooked and served an Elks “Aloha” dinner dance at the auditorium.

Construction of their new building was beginning to take shape by May. Inside walls were in place, electricity had been turned on and their drilled well was pumping good water. Plumbing was in process and phones were installed. When the phone had been installed with the number 596-2592, Norm Dahlin called a lady who had the telephone number 2582, the number of their Lodge, to see if she would relinquish her number so the Lodge might have it. She agreed.

Frank Baird donated lumber, doors, etc. and Henry L. Lentz donated an electric range, a 30-gallon hot water heater and a set of bifold doors. Gene Allen donated a pair of 36-inch solid core doors, Dick Allen donated a temporary electric service pole and Joe Harris donated equipment and time in grading the parking lot.

Elks Ladies Eileen Jones, Marge Pacetti, Betty Krasinski and Jean Boland prepared lunches for the working crews so they could get the building ready for inspection at their picnic. At that picnic, the first on their new
grounds, 450 people attended in perfect weather. The successful event was the result of work from both the Elks and Elks ladies, even down to loaned grills, gifts of raffle prizes, and loans of piano and music by the “Tin Pan Sallies” from High Point. Even the High Point Fire Department loaned their P.A. system.

They were able to hold their June 14 Flag Day service in their new Lodge home. As of July 7, they were able to hold all meetings in the new home not with air conditioning but to the roar of big construction fans. At this time thanks went to the VFW for enabling the new Lodge to hold meetings on their premises for two years until the Lodge home was ready.

On Sept. 16, they started their regular Tuesday night dinners.

On Oct. 1, 1980, Exalted Ruler Spann resigned because of bad health and Leading Knight George Boland moved up to fill the vacant chair. Just two years from the formation of the Lodge, formal grand opening ceremonies for the new Lodge were held Oct. 11, 1980.

Exalted Ruler Boland pleaded for help in financing and work. Twenty percent offered financial assistance and 2½ got involved in building.

That year they entered a float in the Brooksville centennial parade and gave out 600 balloons to the kids. They started their Sunday night square dance classes at about this time.

On May 7, 1981, the Does voted to disband as Does and regroup as Elks Ladies. Consequently, at an organizational meeting at HSB May 28, they met to draw up new bylaws and select officers. Jean Boland continued as president with Judy Thew as vice president, Paula Hamilton as secretary and Dot Johnson as treasurer. There were 54 charter members. The Does donated the flag pole Oct. 11, 1980.

They became a Lodge of many activities such as the following:

- Bingo
- Halloween dinner dances
- Thanksgiving dinner dances
- Children’s Christmas parties
- Snowball Dinner dances
- Hoop Shoot
- Kids’ parties
- International smorgasbord
- Plucking contest
- Annual balls
- Picnics
- Swedish smorgasbord
- Valentine balls
- St. Patrick’s Day balls

The Elk of the Year for 1980-1981 was Don Black. Membership for the Lodge year ended at 635, an increase of 300 members over the previous year. Tom Foggia received an award for his outstanding contributions to the Lodge for recruiting new members and laboring to get the new Lodge built. He also was a major seller in 50/50 tickets as well as a member of the Indoctration Committee and trustees.

George Boland was reelected exalted ruler for a full term in the Lodge’s third year. The Ladies of the Elks installed their new president, Judy Thew. A joint installation banquet was held for both organizations.

The Lodge was already building a name for itself in the community with its youth programs of boys’ soccer, Little League baseball and girls’ softball teams.

At the Grand Lodge convention in 1981, the Lodge returned with first place for highest percentage of membership attending meetings, second place for net membership gain (300) and second place for percentage gain (90%).

In 1981-1982 they held their second annual golf tournament in which 96 golfers participated. With Vern Holt acting as chairman for the event, it was climaxd with a dinner at the Lodge. Kieth Aumaugher came in with the lowest score. They also recorded two holes in one. The first was by C. Fulkerson on the 150-yard fourth hole and the second was on the 11th, 183-yard hole by Ed Clower.

In 1981 the Ladies of the Elks held their annual convention in Plantation, Fla.

In the 1982-1983 year under the leadership of Exalted Ruler Jim Pacetti, the Lodge took on a new project, which was supporting the Hernando Association of Retarded Citizens. This started out with a Lodge-sponsored bowling program and Special Olympics.

Also in that year, with a National Foundation goal set at $8,800 and under the chairmanship of Ed Napor, they came in with a total of $13,500 in new certificates.
In 1982-1983 they installed new carpeting and a more efficient hot water heater and built a canopy over the main entrance.

In the same year they entertained Hospital Administrator, Jim Oliver; 19 patients; and six adults from the children's home over lunch, followed by a visit to Weeki Wachee Springs Park.

Their fourth year closed with a membership of 1,092 and an average meeting attendance of 100. Hank Krasinski was honored as Elk of the Year.

In 1984 the Lodge game room was added. Five additional acres of land were purchased in 1985 bringing the land total to 9½ acres and a new Lodge room was added in November 1986. In 1989 a new kitchen and storage area were added and additional storage space was added in 1990. Their building was now 15,000 square feet and the Lodge hall could seat 465 people for dinner.

George Boland became vice president at large but died in office.

As of 1991 the membership stood at 1,500; by 1999 it was at 1,062. The Ladies of the Elks in the same year had a membership total of 310.

Grand Lodge Awards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1979-1980</td>
<td>Membership, first place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-1980</td>
<td>Membership gain above 5%, third place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1981</td>
<td>Lodge brochure contest</td>
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<tr>
<td>1987-1988</td>
<td>Membership, second place</td>
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State Awards:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1978-1979</td>
<td>Membership, first place</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980-1981</td>
<td>Membership gain above 5%, third place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Interlodge visitations award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Chamber of Commerce civic award</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Brooksville Lodge holds an annual turn-around awards dinner for elementary, middle and high school students. This is a joint effort with Spring Hill Bowling Lanes and the Hernando County Bowling Association. Teachers from every school in the county tell of how these special students have turned their failures in their personal and scholastic studies into success.

Ongoing activities

2007 Lodge members assisted the local Ronald McDonald House with its fundraising efforts by donating 35 pounds of pull tabs and 50 pounds of cans for recycling.
**MOTTO: “Practice Elkdom with a Purpose”**


**85th Annual Session**  
*Florida State Elks Association*  
May 30-31 and June 1-2, 1991  
Kissimmee, Fla.

State President David Luikart gave his annual report.  
The hospital booth won second place at the national convention in the major project exhibit.  
*Florida Elks News* won first place in the Grand Lodge state bulletin contest.  
Palm Bay Lodge No. 2766 was instituted Sept. 28, 1991. Ocala Lodge No. 286 won the state ritual contest.  
The following officers were elected to serve for the 1991-1992 term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Ben S. Brown Jr., Eustis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President at Large</td>
<td>Thomas E. Elmore, Okeechobee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President, NW District</td>
<td>Gerald L. Hambrick, Milton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President, N District</td>
<td>J. Sherman Frier, Live Oak</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President, NE District</td>
<td>C. Ed Graham, Jacksonville Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, EC District</td>
<td>Carlton Prevatt, Sanford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President, NC District</td>
<td>Peter K. Damon, Orlando</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President, C District</td>
<td>Harry L. Smith, Brooksville</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, SEC District</td>
<td>Walter E. Kowall, Vero Beach</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, WC District</td>
<td>Richard H. Dayes, Tampa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, SWC District</td>
<td>Robert B. Edison, Plant City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, SW District</td>
<td>Willard D. Baker Jr., South Hillsborough</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President, SSW District</td>
<td>Michaelino Amico, Charlotte County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, SE District</td>
<td>Carl Gilliam, Belle Glade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, SSE District</td>
<td>Charles W. Johnson Jr., Plantation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President, S District</td>
<td>Anthony K. Melfa Jr., Marathon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Frank D. Willis Jr., Eustis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Joseph B. Bryant, Sebring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quotations

“I believe that publicity and public relations is everyone's job and that every Elk should consider himself a member of this committee.” – Ben Brown

“Tomorrow is here for our youth in Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA youth groups or those disadvantaged youngsters in a youth detention center. Today children lacking love, guidance or caring hang out in malls or projects waiting to make a mistake. Today society is moving fast, trying too hard, wasting our youth.” – Tom Ryan

“Florida Elks recognize the needs of handicapped children and have always done something for them. Tomorrow's handicapped come in many forms. The physical are easier to see, but emotional disabilities are causing more and more of our youth to be destructive and void of traditional support. These handicaps are as real as the others and as Elks, always sensitive to the special needs of special children, we can make a difference.” – Tom Ryan

“Tomorrow’s child lacks values, moral conviction and hope caused by a poor family background and social environment plus physical and mental disabilities. You and I, as Elks, have the opportunity and challenge to change tomorrow. Marion County can be a better tomorrow for our special children.” – Tom Ryan

Harry-Anna and Children’s Hospital

Ben Brown’s goal for trust fund certificate sales was $1.25 million. The association attained less than $800,000. The Florida Ladies of the Elks contributed $249,236 to the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

The southeast district was No. 1 in money toward the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital. They contributed 124.97% of quota. Lantana-Boynton Elks Lodge #2676 in the southeast district led the state with a per-capita of $15.31.

The hospital became beneficiary under the wills of John U. Aull and Lena S. Aull. The value of the corpus was estimated at $500,000. A perpetual charitable trust was created that would pay 50% of the net income from Mr. Aull’s estate and 10% from the estate of his wife. It was expected that the hospital would derive an annual income from the trust of $25,000.

Charity


Judiciary Committee

C. Valentine Bates, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and Alvin A. Ehrlich, PSP reported that they are in the process of updating the computer system and are furnishing accurate and timely monthly reports covering all related corporations and operations with necessary budgetary comparisons.

Exalted Ruler/Secretary Seminars

The program of continuing education for incoming exalted rulers and secretaries was again a success. Contributing to its success were Ben Brown, Tom Elmore, Neal Mills, Bill Penrose, Frank Willis and Alvin A. Ehrlich.

Report on the Florida Elks Youth Camp

(See also Youth Camp)
Past District Deputy Tom Ryan, who has done most of the work, heads the Florida Elks Youth Camp committee, a committee of the board of directors. Ryan prepared and presented to the board an extensive and well-planned course for the endeavor.

The financial report on the youth camp located in Marion County between June 17, 1984, and March 31, 1992, shows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land purchase</td>
<td>$935,950.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road engineering</td>
<td>14,213.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road, fencing, engineering</td>
<td>155,682.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign engineering</td>
<td>12,574.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pump house &amp; wastewater</td>
<td>115,004.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>42,451.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth work &amp; utilities</td>
<td>117,872.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion</td>
<td>264,226.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation &amp; landscaping</td>
<td>13,979.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,671,954.95</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ryan reported that the 380-acre youth camp can provide recreation, life skills, and development and clarification of constructive values. The Elks pavilion is a large, strong and diversified facility that could be the traffic control center of any recreation program. Tomorrow this could be a place where handicapped children will have hardened pathways, patio boats with wheelchair accommodation and residential lodges planned with properly pitched ramps and extra head room in the bunks to accommodate special children. There will be specialized counselors to teach sports and activities to economically, physically and emotionally disadvantaged kids.

Florida Elks can find renewed respect in tomorrow’s plans for this program. Tomorrow we could see up to 2,000 at a time camping and learning wood lore, team sports and competitive skills while each organization provided its own staff, insurance and provisions. Ryan predicted this could provide service to as many as 55,000 to 56,000 youngsters a year.

Ryan could visualize the Florida Elks expanding the permanent facilities to develop a full skills or sports camp for charitable activities. There will be no assessment of members. There will be a standard plan for residential lodges to provide a uniform environment. These programs will be self-sufficient and will place no financial burden on our major project. Ryan said it is your association, your land, your tomorrow and hopefully now, your dream. In its present state the land has little value, but with vision, tomorrow it is priceless. It cannot be evaluated only as real estate, because it has with its rolling countryside, throughout its hammocks and around its lakes, the pathways to a better tomorrow for many.

**PSP Aubrey Callaham said with the approval of the concept, he moved that the Properties Committee be authorized to spend, from the reserve fund, a sum not to exceed $300,000 for the purpose of providing necessary camp facilities such as a handicapped swimming pool, a kitchen, a home for the caretaker and other structures which may be necessary for the camp, such expenditures to be first approved by the board of directors. This was seconded by PSP Carl Vaughn and passed by the membership.**

**Land Use Committee: Carl Vaughn, PSP, Chairman**

At the annual convention in 1984, Bob Grafton proposed to the membership that the Florida State Elks Association purchase a piece of property in the vicinity of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital for future use as an adjunct to the major project.

1. The parameters were that it should be located within a radius not exceeding approximately 10 miles from the hospital, that it be at least 250 acres at a cost not to exceed $1.5 million, and that it be paid from the home reserve fund.
2. A selection committee was appointed by the president, George Dominianii. After inspecting several areas they recommended that we purchase a piece of property located just over the Lake/Marion county line. It was approximately 975 acres and the price was $936,000. After approval by the proper authorities and boards, the property was purchased.
3. At the annual convention in 1985, State President Tom Coker appointed a land use committee. Their assignment was to formulate a plan for the use and development of our newly acquired acreage.

4. Over the next six years under pressure of governmental complicity, contractor procrastination and very healthy debates to resolve the many divergent viewpoints of the members of the Florida State Elks Association, immediate short-range and long-range plans for the use of the land were developed and presented to the membership for approval.

5. The basic utilities, water, sewer and electricity, were developed and put in place to handle the needs for the short-range and long-range projects that were recommended.

6. During this past year an all-purpose pavilion capable of seating 1,500 people was constructed.

7. At the quarterly meeting held February 1992, our committee voted unanimously to declare that our ad hoc assignment was completed and to suggest that the board of directors assign the responsibility for maintenance and future development to the Florida Elks Properties Corp. This has been accomplished.

8. Ben Brown and Frank Willis have been bearing the brunt of being point men in monitoring the progress of the construction.

Membership

In making his report for the year, Brown said, “For more than 30 consecutive years, Florida has seen a gain in membership. This year it sustained for the first time a loss of 249 in the previous year. Bob Grafton had remarked to me that if it were to happen again it would not be just a loss in membership; it would be an indication of a trend.” In this year there was a second year of loss, this time 1,466.

Brown announced that Loyal Knight William Freeman of St. Augustine Lodge #829 had personally sponsored 43 new brothers and reinstated 10 others. A resolution was drawn up of his accomplishment and read on the floor of the convention and presented to him by Brown.

Adopt-A-Highway Program

It was in Brown’s year that the Adopt-a-Highway program was initiated by the Florida Department of Transportation. Sixty percent of Florida Lodges formally adopted highways in their communities in this first year.

Nominated for Grand Inner Guard

Eustis Lodge introduced a resolution nominating Ben Brown for grand inner guard for the year 2003-2004 at the Grand Lodge convention in St. Louis, Mo. The resolution read:

Whereas, Ben S. Brown Jr. has been a member of Eustis, Fla. Lodge No. 1578 for 28 years, being initiated into the order April 1, 1975, serving his Lodge as exalted ruler in 1983-1984, followed by four years on the board of trustees, and

Whereas, He served the Florida State Elks Association on many committees: as district vice president of the north central district in 1985-1986, as state president in 1991-1992 and was an original member of the exalted ruler-elect/secretary-elect seminar staff, serving 13 years as its chairman, and

Whereas, He has ably served the Florida State Elks Association as state secretary from 1975-1983, administrator of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital from 1983-1999 and administrator of Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services since 1999, and

Whereas, He has served the Grand Lodge as district deputy grand exalted ruler in 1986-1987, presiding over the institution of Silver Springs Shores Lodge No. 2730 during his term, and as a member of the Grand Lodge Membership Committee from 1990-1991 and 1992-1995, and

Whereas, He has demonstrated his dedication to the principles of Elkdom and has accomplished all of the foregoing with the loving support of his wife of 30 years, Sherry, and his two fine sons, Greg and Jeff, now therefore
Be it resolved, That Eustis, Fla. Lodge No. 1578 is honored and privileged to present to the 2003 Grand Lodge convention in St. Louis, Mo., the name of Ben S. Brown Jr. for the office of grand inner guard of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

Brown, Jefferson B., Judge

Jefferson B. Brown served as president of the Florida Senate and chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court from 1917-1923. He was an author and a poet who had begun his career as a lighthouse keeper off the Florida Keys. He was a member of Key West Lodge #551. Judge Brown served as exalted ruler from 1907-1908 and as district deputy grand exalted ruler for two terms, from 1910-1912. He also served as a justice on the Grand Forum.

Buffaloes, Royal Antediluvian Order of

The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes was an organization prevalent in Europe during the 1800s, but they were founded in the latter part of the 17th century by George Cooper Murray. Each of Murray’s three names had six letters and their mystic emblem also had six points. Each of the letters in the higher occultism was represented by three letters, synthesizing into one, which is a symbol of a word. That in short, the entire name is Temura (six letters), which will be found embodied in stone in countless churches with six pillars in front of the pronaos of the temple.

The motto of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes came from Queen Elizabeth, “Nemo mortalium omnibus horis sapit” (Mortals are not wise at all hours).

Their government consisted of city secretary, minstrel, tiler, barber, alderman or benevolence, constable and physician.

Charles Vivian, founder of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, had been a member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (R.A.O. Buffaloes) and was himself familiar with their ritual. In the Lodge room, the right honorable primo’s station was located at the north end of the room and as much as possible was lined up on a direct line with the polar or North Star. The remaining stations in the Buffalo Lodge room were designated as shires or counties. Each of these stations had a moral purpose. Opposite the right honorable primo was a station devoted to charity. As the Elks progressed, charity became associated with the flag, the Bible with justice and the antlers with brotherly love.

The English Order of Buffaloes, a name which Americans popularly called their North American bison, was named after the African buffalo.

Buffs

In the Order of Buffaloes, members were spoken of as Buffs, an abbreviation for Buffaloes. Edward III was a good Buff who gave rise to the House of Commons upon which the liberties of the Buffs were established.

In the reign of Edward IV, a good Buff, The Duke of Clarence, had somehow offended the state. Consequently he had a choice of the means of death. He elected to be drowned in a butt of wine.

William Shakespeare and Sir Walter Raleigh, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, were Buffs.

Bulletin Contest (Lodge), Grand Lodge Award, Contest “D”

There is no better way to keep membership informed than with a newsletter or bulletin. An informed membership is an active membership. In many of the Lodges, this task is left to the Lodge secretary. It would be much better if an individual who has had experience in publishing a bulletin or newsletter were asked to do this task. This individual would then find a committee of two or three others to gather news items, solicit sponsors and set up the format for each bulletin. The bulletin should:

1. Report on the activities of the Lodge, using pictures as well as commentary.
2. Present ideas and opinions of the Lodge and its activities.
3. Act to stimulate the membership to actively participate in the activities of the Lodge.
The Lodge bulletin can become the source of information for activities and programs of the Lodge as well as the principal source for the promotion of participation and interest by the members in the scheduled activities.

The Grand Lodge bulletin contest for Lodges requires that you submit three consecutive issues of the bulletin from the period between April 1 to Dec. 31. The deadline for this contest is Jan. 15. Entries should be mailed for divisions one, two, three, four, five and six according to membership and mailed to the appropriate chairman. Divisions one, two and three are for those under 701 members and divisions four, five and six are for those over 700 members.

**Bulletin Contest (Lodge), State Association Award**

Each Lodge is encouraged to submit three consecutive issues of their Lodge bulletin to enter the state bulletin contest. Entries should be mailed to the appropriate Publicity and Public Relations state chairman. The Lodge membership number must be on Lodge stationery and signed by the Lodge secretary with submission to designate a category. In the Florida State Elks Association, membership categories are (1) 300 or less, (2) 301-500, (3) 501-700, (4) 701-1,100, (5) 1,101 – 1,500 and (6) 1,501 and above.

First and second place plaques and/or certificates will be awarded at the state convention in May. Judging is based on the following criteria:

1. 1-20 points Local Lodge news: reference to Lodge members and committees, Lodge or club activities, and youth activities.
3. 1-10 points Ladies organization news: endorsement of Ladies projects and programs, reference to individual ladies and activities.
4. 1-10 points Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services: attention to therapy and case loads, fundraising and certificate sales.
5. 1-10 points Florida Elks Youth Camp: attention to camp activities, fundraising and needs.
6. 1-10 points Elks National Foundation: news of foundation programs and certificate sales.
7. 1-10 points Writing style: articles are well-written and interesting to read.
8. 7-10 points Type, layout, photos, typesetting, heading and use of pictures are effective and the general layout and mixture of articles and advertising (if used) give a pleasing appearance.
9. 1-5 points Calendar of events: a calendar for the month showing all meetings, club activities and special functions.
10. 1-5 points List of Lodge officers: a list of all elected and appointed officers and committee chairpersons.

Maximum possible points: 100

**Bulletin Contest (State Associations), Grand Lodge, Contest I**

Judging is based on:

Maximum possible points:

- Content 0-100 points
- Layout 0-50 points
- Pictorial 0-25 points
- General 0-25 points

A five-star award system will be used. The awards will be five stars, four stars and three stars. Five-star recipients will receive their awards at the Grand Lodge convention. The four-star and three-star awards will be mailed to the respective state presidents for presentation at a state association meeting or function.
Rules for Entry:

1. Select three copies each of any two issues of your state publication published in the calendar year (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31).
2. Do not submit your entries in notebooks or binders as they are not judged.
3. Make sure your entry is postmarked no later than Jan. 15.
4. Mail entry to area GL Lodge Activities committee person.

Bullshippers, National Bullshippers of USA

The Bullshippers are a fun group of Elks who accompany their wives to the Does national convention. They exist only during the Does convention, after which they disband until the next convention. Before disbanding, they elect the next year’s officers who will get it started again. Their purpose is to enjoy their time while their wives are busy being serious.

Any money they have (except start-up funds for next year) is given to the Does in the form of cash and gifts to the incoming supreme president. They have no national or philanthropic purpose. They do not attach themselves to Elks Lodges or claim any official status of the Grand Lodge. They charge $20 dues for which everyone gets a new cowboy hat, string tie and insignia.

Burke, Major

Major Burke is remembered for promoting and wearing the first Elks badge.

Business Practices Committee, Florida State Elks Association

This committee upon request by a Lodge or by the district deputy grand exalted ruler renders advice and assistance in reviewing the business activities of a Lodge or aids through the establishing of proper business procedures, control, record-keeping, etc.

The committee distributes a 24-page bar and kitchen instructional manual to all exalted rulers and secretaries. Additional copies are available through the office of the state secretary.

They undertook a pilot program covering one complete district aimed at reducing liquor costs for all Lodges in that district through utilized liquor buying from their vendors. They felt that in the near term, this district would enjoy a profit improvement of at least $75,000 per year.

The committee has developed a number of VHS tapes and later DVDs which cover such areas as budgets, financial accounting, control of bar and restaurant operations, taxation, bingo considerations, advertising techniques, etc.

The committee has been pursuing a number of avenues to harness and expand district and statewide bargaining powers aimed at reducing purchasing costs, thereby increasing profits for the individual Lodges.

Qualifications for becoming a member of the Business Practices Committee:

1. Practice total confidentiality regarding what you learn of a Lodge’s affairs upon your visit.
2. Practice total confidentiality regarding any individual’s point of view or special information expressed to you.
3. Do not be political in the representation of yourself. You are not there to gather brownie points for personal purposes or to play favorites. You are there to do a job. Your job is very simply to help with sound advice that can assist the Lodge’s governing body in better management of their activities. You will present your recommendations in an honest and straightforward manner practicing tact, if necessary, to not step on toes.
4. Have the willingness to forego the need for personal applause for your accomplishments.
5. Have the ability not to pout or lay blame if your pet beliefs are not followed.
6. Have a professional business background in true management and preferably, but not necessarily, possess a master’s degree in business management like some committee members do.
They do not go in to dictate. They go out to give sound and business advice; the Lodge can take it or leave it. If a Lodge needs good advice or they want to know how they are supposed to do it, they will learn from the Business Practices Committee, but they are not going to mandate it. They are not going to do anything along the lines of squealing on the Lodge, because the committee reports to no one but the chairman of the committee. The chairman reports to no one but the state sponsor. The committee is not there to pick on the Lodge.

At their seminars and visits to local Lodges, the Business Practices Committee stresses the need for governing bodies to work together with a cooperative attitude achieved through communication channels. They believe that patient, harmonious and objective communication links between people are the most important milestone to any successful endeavor.

The committee states that they realistically acknowledge the futility of training Lodge members to be accountants, computer wizards or taxation experts, but they can afford a dictionary of business acumen and advice aimed at helping monitor and give growth to operations which the Lodge can utilize or forego all available through the Business Practices Committee.

1987-1988 Report on Contract Labor:

They reported that the IRS was looking at organizations and businesses that seem to have an excessive amount of contract labor showing on the tax returns. They were auditing selected organizations and in 92% of the audits, they were disallowing the contract labor status and collecting back withholding taxes along with penalty and interest. A discussion of who is contract labor vs. employees is in the Lodge accounting manual.

Notes on Business Practices:

Frequent encounters in examining operations are Lodges experiencing financial losses from the kitchen and bar operations.

Common solutions include:

- Increase prices of food or drink
- Reduce costs of goods sold
- Reduce labor costs
- Reduce entertainment or band costs
- Closely monitor the inventory of food and drinks, etc.

If a Lodge is to operate as a financial success, it must constantly keep pace with its expenditures for inventory and costs of goods sold, etc. or financial losses are sure to follow.

Bylaws, Florida State Elks Association Inc.

(These are the original laws of the Florida State Elks Association adopted in Jacksonville, Fla. Nov. 19, 1904, followed by the updated bylaws adopted in 1997.)

LAWS OF THE FLORIDA ELKS ASSOCIATION

Below is given the committee's report as finally adopted by the association.

NAME

This organization shall be known as The Florida Elks Association.

OBJECT

The strengthening of the fraternal tie, the encouragement of sociability and good fellowship among the brotherhood, and the promotion of the general welfare of the order in Florida.
MEMBERSHIP

Any Lodge in good standing in the state of Florida shall be eligible to membership upon payment of the required fee of ten dollars.

OFFICERS

The officers of the association shall be a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, sergeant-at-arms, and an executive committee consisting of one member from each Lodge belonging to the association, and the president of the association, who shall act as chairman of the committee but shall have no vote on any question excepting in case of a tie.

ELECTION

The officers of the association shall be elected at each annual meeting. The one receiving the highest vote for any office shall be declared elected to the office.

MEETINGS

A regular meeting shall be held annually. The time and place for such meeting shall be fixed by a vote of the association but may be changed by the executive committee with the approval of a majority of the Lodges of the association.

REPRESENTATION

Each Lodge shall be entitled to five votes in the association, and a majority of Lodges, members of the association, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Lodges may be represented by one or more delegates, the five votes allowed, to be cast as may be determined by the Lodge appointing such delegates, or in the absence of such instructions by the delegates themselves. Delegates are to present certificate of appointment from the Lodge electing them.

ANNUAL DUES

Each Lodge, member of this association, shall pay annually to the association the sum of ten dollars as annual dues, and any Lodge in arrears for dues for a period of six months may be stricken from the roll of membership by a majority vote of the association but may upon payment of all dues be reinstated by majority vote of the members.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The president shall preside at all meetings of the association and of the executive committee, appoint all committees not otherwise provided for, and perform all other duties consistent with the office.

The vice president shall assume the duties of the president in his absence or during his inability to act.

The secretary shall collect the dues and pay the same over to the treasurer, keep the accounts of the association and records of all meetings, and make a report annually in writing. He shall have power to purchase books, stationery, etc. needful to the offices, the bills to be paid by the treasurer. For the faithful performance of his duties he shall receive the sum of fifty dollars, payable annually.

The treasurer shall receive all monies from the secretary or other source and pay all bills when properly approved by the president and secretary; he shall make a report annually in writing.

The sergeant-at-arms shall guard the door and admit only Elks in good standing in the order and perform such other duties as may be necessary.

The executive committee shall perform such duties as may be necessary to protect the interests and promote the objects of the organization and may be called together at any time by the president of the association.

AMENDMENTS

These laws may be changed or amended by a two-thirds vote of the association at any regular meeting, upon the report of the executive committee, to whom all proposed amendments must first be referred in writing.

All parliamentary practice in conducting the business of the association not herein specially provided for shall follow the Rules of "Cushing's Manual."
ORDER OF BUSINESS

Reading records of previous meeting from the following: secretary's report, treasurer's report, reports of committees, unfinished business, new business, election of offices and good of the association.

After the vote of the temporary organization, adopting the laws as a whole, it was resolved that we do now resolve ourselves into a state association.

The resolution was adopted unanimously without discussion.

It was then moved and seconded that the laws as read and adopted by the temporary organization be formally adopted as the laws and rules of the Florida Elks Association. Adopted.

The chairman then announced the election of officers of the association the next regular order of business, and it was moved and carried that we do now proceed to the election of officers of the permanent organization.

The following officers were then chosen by ballot to serve until the first annual meeting of the association:

M. B. MacFarlane, No. 708, President
Rev. Dr. Henry Wm. Little, No. 851, Vice President
G. D. Ackerly, No. 221, Secretary
G. L. Baltzell, No. 795, Treasurer
G. O. Palmer, No. 893, Sergeant-at-arms

It was then agreed that a short recess be taken for the purpose of allowing delegates opportunity to consult before nominating candidates for the executive committee. Upon the call to order, the following candidates were placed in nomination for the office of executive committeemen and duly elected to serve in that capacity until the first annual meeting of the association:

Jacksonville Lodge W. A. Jones
Key West Lodge J. B. Maloney
Tampa Lodge H. M. Hunt
Fernandina Lodge J. G. McGiffin
Ocala Lodge George R. McKean
Lake City Lodge F. P. Cone

On motion it was ordered that Lodges joining the association previous to the first annual meeting may elect their own member of the executive committee, the secretary to make formal record of such election.

The naming of a place for the first annual meeting being announced as next order, Jacksonville and Ocala were placed in nomination, but the representatives from the former place withdrew the nomination of Jacksonville, and Ocala was selected unanimously as the place for the first annual session of the association.

It was moved and seconded that the first annual meeting shall be held on the first Wednesday of May 1905. An amendment was offered making the date the third Wednesday in May.

The amendment prevailed and the president announced that the association would meet in the city of Ocala on the third Wednesday of May 1905.

It was moved that printed copies of the proceedings be furnished to all Lodges.

Some discussion arose as to the cost etc., and it was moved as an amendment that the matter of cost and distribution of copies of the convention's action be left to the discretion of the secretary. Adopted.

It was moved and seconded that the secretary be empowered to enter the names of such Lodges of the state as may elect to join the association before the first annual meeting on the roll of membership upon receipt of the admission fee and annual dues. Adopted.

After remarks by several delegates acknowledging the courteous treatment they had received at the hands of the Tampa Lodge members, Brother Rev. H. W. Little of Ocala Lodge spoke at length of the great pleasure it had given him and the brothers from a distance to meet with Tampa brothers whose memories of life, and offered the following:

RESOLVED, that the best thanks of this convention and the visiting delegates from the various Lodges be tendered to the members of Tampa Lodge for their hospitality and cordial welcome and for the excellent arrangements made for the reception of the visiting brothers.

The resolution was adopted unanimously, the members rising to their feet when voting.
On motion, the association was declared adjourned until the first annual session to be held at Ocala the third Wednesday of May 1905. NOTE: All Lodges of the state are now members of the association; Tallahassee was enrolled Dec. 1; St. Augustine, Dec. 11; and Pensacola, Dec. 17, 1904.

Compliments of Jacksonville Lodge 221, B.P.O. Elks, and Mother Lodge of Florida.
Reprinted by: Business Suppliers, Jacksonville, Fla.

Jacksonville, Florida, November the 19th, 1904

To the Exalted Ruler, Officers and Members,
Jacksonville Lodge, Number 221, B.P.O. Elks

Brothers:

Acting under advice of the Exalted Ruler, who was by the lodge made chairman of the delegation appointed to represent the lodge at the convention called at Tampa the 16th and 17th, for the purpose of organizing a state association of the lodges of Florida, and as acting chairman of the delegation, in the absence of the Exalted Ruler, make the following report of the conclusions reached by the convention.

After a temporary organization had been effected, and a general discussion of the aims and purposes of the organization, a committee on credentials gave the following report, as to representation in the organization temporary:


It was found that a permanent organization could not be formed if the voting power was given on the basis of membership as the smaller lodges could not feel the same interest in the work or business of the organization if the larger lodges held the power of voting - and after considerable discussion it was decided to give each lodge in the organization five votes.

A permanent organization was made with the name of The Florida Elks Association. Laws and rules were adopted which will be promulgated as soon as practicable by the secretary of the association.

The following officers were elected to serve until the first annual meeting to be held in Ocala in May: M. B. Macfarlane, Tampa No. 708, President; Rev. Dr. H. W. Little, Vice President, Ocala No. 851; G. D. Ackerly, Jacksonville No. 221, Secretary; G. L. Baltzell, Fernandina No. 795, Treasurer; G. O. Palmer, Lake City No. 893, Sergeant-at-arms; and an executive committee consisting of one from each lodge, Jacksonville naming Brother W. A. Jones.

The admission fee is $10 and annual dues fixed at $10 for each lodge.

Many delegates went to Tampa prejudiced against the formation of an association at this time but the several arguments advanced convinced the larger number that it would be of benefit to the order in Florida to effect such an organization as was finally adopted.

It is hoped that each lodge in the jurisdiction will come. It was reported that lodges would soon be formed at Gainesville and Orlando.

By request of the Grand Exalted Ruler, Brother C. F. Tomlinson, Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight was present and by his advice and the representations of the working of other state associations we were convinced that the plan followed by this organization would be the best for the order in the state.

The secretary was empowered to print the proceedings and with copy of the laws etc., send them to all lodges and representatives. This will be done without unnecessary delay.

Respectfully,

G. D. Ackerly
Acting chairman of the Jacksonville delegation
Following changes made in bylaws: 1937, Alto Adams, President

Article 4, Section 1. - The officers of the association shall be a president and five vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, a historian, a tiler, a chaplain, a sergeant-at-arms and an executive committee consisting of seven members.

Article 4, Section 2. - The five vice presidents mentioned in Section 1 hereof shall be elected one each from the vice presidents' divisions respectively, as described in Article 10, Section 3 hereof.

Article 10, Section 3. - The state of Florida shall be divided into five divisions for the purposes of this association to be known as vice presidents. Divisions shall include the following Lodges in the following divisions, respectively:

Southeast Division: Key West, Miami, Miami Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Lake Worth, West Palm Beach, Fort Pierce

Southwest Division: Fort Myers, Sarasota, Bradenton, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Tampa, Arcadia, Sebring

Central Division: Lakeland, Orlando, Cocoa, Sanford, New Smyrna, Daytona Beach, DeLand, Eustis

Northeast Division: Ocala, Gainesville, Palatka, St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Fernandina, Lake City

Northwest Division: Pensacola, Panama City, Marianna, Tallahassee, Quincy

Article 4, Section 3. - The secretary, sergeant-at-arms and chaplain shall be appointed by the president.

Article 4, Section 4. - The executive committee shall consist of the president, the immediate past president, the treasurer and three members who shall be elected for a period of one, two and three years, starting from the 1930 convention. At each annual convention after 1930, one member of said executive committee shall be elected for a period of three years.

Article 4. (a) Treasurer: The treasurer shall receive and be the custodian of all monies belonging to the association. He shall pay out the money of the association only upon proper warrants countersigned by the president and the secretary and shall perform such other duties as may properly be required of him. He shall, before assuming the duties of his office, execute and deliver to the executive committee a good and sufficient bond in the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars ($1,500.00) to be approved by the executive committee conditioned to report or account in writing annually or when requested to do so by the president or executive committee for all monies received by him and for the faithful performance of his duties, the expenses of such bond to be paid by the association.

(b) Secretary: The secretary shall attend all meetings of the association, keep a true record of the proceedings of same, preserve all books and documents, attend to all correspondence, prepare and submit an annual report to the association at its annual meeting showing the condition of the association and the transaction of his office during the preceding year; to compile and furnish to the secretaries of subordinate Lodges a list of speakers for Memorial Day and other occasions requiring the services of qualified speakers; to receive and pay over to the treasurer all monies coming through his office belonging to the association. He shall have the power to purchase books, stationery, etc. needful for his office, the bills to be paid by the treasurer. He shall countersign all warrant with the president and shall perform such other duties as may properly be required of him. He shall, before assuming the duties of his office, execute and deliver to the executive committee a good and sufficient bond in the sum of one thousand dollars ($1,000.00) to be approved by the executive committee, conditioned to report and account for all monies and properties belonging to the association. For the faithful performance of his duties, he shall receive the sum of one hundred dollars ($100.00) per annum, payable semiannually.

Article 4, Section 10, Executive Committee: The executive committee shall, during the interim between meetings of the association, take general charge of its property and the direction of its affairs and be governing body of the association and perform such duties as may be necessary to protect its interests and promote the object of the organization.
It shall have control of the finances of the association and recommend ways and means for raising funds to defray the expenses of the association and set aside the same when received to the payments of such demands as are properly chargeable to it and shall report all their acts to the next annual meetings. The president shall be chairman, and the immediate past president shall be vice chairman ex-officio of said executive committee and shall be entitled to a vote when acting as such chairman, and the committee shall pass upon all bills or accounts to be paid from the funds of the association before warrants for the payment thereof shall be issued.

(See also Charter of Florida State Elks Association issued in Dade County in 1946.)

Bylaws, Florida State Elks Association Inc. (As revised May 1997)

PREAMBLE

The association of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodges of the state of Florida is formed to bring together in social communion the members of the various Lodges for the following purposes: further good fellowship among Lodges; aid in protecting the interests of the order of Elks in the state; exchange ideas that may be of benefit to Lodges in the state; establish, maintain and operate hospitals, youth camps and other places for charitable and beneficial purposes; assist the sick and needy; provide for the wants of underprivileged and crippled children; generally serve humanity by useful and worthwhile service; aid in any worthy cause and to give assistance to any distressed person whenever possible; disapprove of the introduction of any political or personal interests; exercise some of the functions of legislation vested in the Grand Lodge of the order; be bound in all particulars by the constitution and laws of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America; and to be subject to the governing authority of the Grand Lodge of the same.

ARTICLE I

Section 1. This association shall be known as the Florida State Elks Association Incorporated.

ARTICLE II

The state of Florida shall be divided into vice president districts which shall correspond with the district deputy grand exalted ruler districts. The Lodges in each vice president district shall be the same Lodges as those designated for the district deputy districts.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. Membership. Every Lodge in the state of Florida shall be eligible to membership upon compliance with the provisions of the constitution and laws hereinafter expressed. Participation in the activities of the association shall be entitled to Lodges that are members of the association, provided, however, exceptions may be granted by the board of directors.

Section 2. Every Lodge in the state having complied with Section 1 of this article shall be entitled to representation at all meetings whether regular or special, in the manner following, to wit:

(a) All Lodges shall be entitled to five (5) delegates, one of whom shall be a past exalted ruler and one of whom shall be the subordinate Lodge secretary, and five (5) alternate delegates.
(b) In addition thereto, the exalted ruler of each subordinate Lodge shall be classified as a delegate representing his Lodge and entitled to vote or otherwise participate in the proceedings at all meetings.
(c) All elective and appointive officers of the association, for the current year, and all past presidents shall be classed as delegates and entitled to vote or otherwise participate in the proceedings at all meetings.

Section 3. Delegates and alternates shall be appointed by the exalted ruler of each subordinate Lodge at the first meeting of the Lodge in the month of April. The secretary of each subordinate Lodge shall furnish the secretary of the association, not later than the 15th day of April, a list of delegates and alternates from said Lodge.
Section 4. PER CAPITA TAX. To obtain the revenue necessary for defraying the expenses of the association (except as provided in Section 5 below), each subordinate Lodge shall annually pay an amount equal to two dollars and twenty-five cents ($2.25) for each member thereof, based on the number certified to the Grand Lodge March 31 of the current year. All funds so collected shall be placed in one general account. The per capita tax as outlined in this section must be paid by each subordinate Lodge not later than May 1 of each year.

Section 5. Whenever a new Lodge is instituted in the state of Florida, that Lodge shall be entitled to membership in the association upon application therefore, in the manner provided by law, but shall not be assessed a per capita tax until the beginning of the Lodge year following the institution of the new Lodge.

Section 6. New Lodges admitted into the association subsequent to the adoption of this constitution and laws shall be assigned by the board of directors of the association to their respective district as these districts are outlined in Article II hereof.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1. Meetings. Annual meetings of this association will be held between the first day of April and the fifteenth day of June of each year. The board of directors of the state association will determine the exact time of such annual meetings.

Section 2. The board of directors shall set aside annually out of the general fund of the association a sufficient amount of money to defray the immediate expenses of the annual meeting, which amount shall be expended under the direction of the board of directors.

Section 3. At the annual meeting, two hundred (200) duly accredited delegates shall constitute a quorum, provided that at least one-half (1/2) of the Lodges shall be represented.

Section 4. The Convention Committee shall make arrangements for all meetings of the association.

ARTICLE V

Section 1. Reports to Grand Lodge. The secretary of the association shall furnish to the Grand Lodge such reports as may be required by the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1. The officers of the association shall consist of a president, vice president at large, vice president for each district, a board of directors, secretary, treasurer, historian, tiler, chaplain, sergeant-at-arms and organist.

Section 2. All officers of the association shall be elected at the annual meeting of the association for a one-year term, except the following: (a) chaplain, sergeant-at-arms and organist who shall be appointed by the president to serve during his term; (b) secretary, who shall be appointed by the board of directors for a one-year term; (c) board of directors, who shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 hereof.

Section 3. The vice presidents for each district shall be known as district vice presidents and shall be elected by the vote of the delegates of the Lodges in their respective districts at the annual meeting of the association.

Section 4. The board of directors of the association shall consist of:

(a) The president of the Florida State Elks Association Inc. for and during his term of office as president of such association.

(b) The immediate past president of such association.

(c) Five members, who shall be past presidents of the association; one to be elected each year for a term of five years.
(d) In addition to the foregoing members of the board of directors, one director who shall be a past exalted ruler shall be elected from each vice president district. These directors shall be known as district directors and shall serve for a term of two years with staggered terms for the districts. The following districts will have directors elected each odd-numbered calendar year:

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<th>Northwest</th>
<th>Southeast Central</th>
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<td>North</td>
<td>West Central</td>
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<td>North Central</td>
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<td>Central</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following districts will have directors elected each even-numbered calendar year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Northeast</th>
<th>Southeast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Central</td>
<td>South Southeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Central</td>
<td>South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Districts added after the date of the approval of this constitution and laws should be assigned either a one-year director or a two-year director at the discretion of the board of directors.

The intent of this section is to maintain, as nearly as possible, an equal number of district directors serving the remaining one year of their term as there are district directors serving a two-year term.

Section 5. Except as otherwise provided, none of the elected officers shall hold any other elective office or be a member of any other board or committee of the association except the Convention Committee; the Past Presidents Advisory Council; and the boards of Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Inc., Florida Elks Properties Inc., Florida Elks Charities Inc., Harry-Anna Investment Fund Inc., and Florida Elks Youth Camp Inc.

Section 6. Installation of Officers. The officers-elect shall be installed according to the ritual adopted by this association. The installing officer shall be a past president of the association and his assistants shall be past exalted rulers.

Section 7. President. Shall be the chief executive officer of the association; he shall preside at all association meetings, preserve order, appoint all committees not otherwise provided for, decide all questions of order subject to appeal to the association, fill all vacancies unless otherwise specified, and perform all other duties that may be imposed upon him by law and such as are customary to be performed by presiding officers. The president shall be allowed a sum to defray his traveling expenses while traveling in the interests of the association and as determined by the board of directors. In the absence or inability of the president to act, the board of directors shall select a past president to be acting president until the president is capable of resuming his duties. It shall be the duty of the president to make one official visit in each of the districts of the state and as many unofficial visits to the Lodges throughout the state as he may deem advisable and proper in the interests of the association. He shall designate one Lodge in each district for his official visit and it shall be the duty of the officers of the Lodge so designated to invite all Lodges within its district to attend the official visit of the president.

Section 8. Board of Directors. Shall, during the interim between meetings of the association have general charge of its property and the direction of its affairs; be the governing body of the association and perform such duties as may be necessary to protect the interest and promote the objects of the association. It shall have control of the general fund of the association and recommend ways and means for raising funds to defray the expenses of the association and set aside same when received for the payment of such demands as are properly chargeable to it. The board shall report all of its acts to the next annual meeting of the association. The board shall annually select its chairman from the members of the board of directors and shall pass on all items of expense or accounts to be paid from the general fund of the association before warrants for the payment thereof shall be issued, and such anticipated items of expense shall be listed in the form of an annual budget and submitted to the association for approval at the annual meeting.
Regular meetings of the board of directors shall be held in August and February of each Lodge year and at the time and place of the annual meeting and midyear meeting of the association except that such regular meetings may be held at other times and places as the president, with the approval of the board of directors, may for good reason direct.

The president or the chairman shall have authority to call special meetings of the board of directors for handling only matters of a specific nature, and such matters shall be outlined in notices of such special meetings. Officers of subordinate Lodges may be invited to attend any special meetings for the purpose of assisting in the discussion and handling such matters of business of a special nature so outlined.

There may be designated by the chairman of the board of directors an executive committee consisting of five (5) members of the duly elected board of directors, three (3) of whom shall be past presidents of the association. This committee is empowered to act on such matters requiring action by the board between regular meetings of the board.

Ten (10) members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting, three (3) of whom shall be past presidents.

**Section 9. Vice Presidents.**

(a) The vice president at large, under the direction of the president, shall assist in the promotion and implementation of the program of the association amongst the Lodges. Upon request of the president, he shall, in concert with the secretary, coordinate the activities of the state chairmen with the district chairmen and the appropriate officers and committees of the Lodges.

The vice president at large, as directed by the president, shall serve as liaison officer between the president and the district vice presidents and be available for special assignment by the president for visitations, addresses and related duties.

The vice president at large will be expected to attend meetings of the board of directors of the association, the boards of each corporation controlled by the association and the Hospital Committee. Attendance at such meetings shall be for the purpose of familiarizing the vice president at large with the functions of these various organizations.

The vice president at large shall accept and perform any other duties as may be assigned to him by the president and/or board of directors.

(b) It shall be the duty of the district vice presidents to visit each Lodge in their district and make a written report to the president concerning each of those Lodges. They shall assist in carrying out the program of the association in their district under the direction of the president and the vice president at large.

It shall be the further duty of the vice presidents on the occasion of their visits to the Lodges to encourage, by all means and efforts available, the improvements of all ritualistic work in the Lodges and to encourage and promote a competitive ritualistic contest amongst the member Lodges of the association in their district and at the annual meeting of the association.

They shall from time to time report to the president such information of interest to the association and to the order as may come to their attention and shall personally use and exert their influence to bring into closer relation the good fellowship of the members of the order.

**Section 10. Secretary.** The secretary shall act as secretary to the association, the board of directors, the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee and such other boards or committees as may be hereinafter provided and as may be designated by the board of directors. He shall attend all meetings whether regular or special, of the association, the board of directors, and Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee and all other meetings of boards of committees which the duties of his office may require or as assigned by the board of directors. He shall maintain a full and complete record of proceedings of such meetings, preserve all books and documents, attend to all correspondence, prepare and submit an annual report to the association of the transactions of his office during the preceding year, and receive and pay over to the treasurer of the association all monies coming through his office belonging to the association. He shall keep the seal of the association and affix same to all legal instruments only as may be directed...
by the board of directors. He shall have authority to purchase books, stationery, etc. needful for this office with the bills to be paid by the treasurer. He shall perform such other duties as may be properly required of him.

The salary of the secretary shall be determined by the board of directors.

The secretary shall, before assuming the duties of the office, execute and deliver to the board of directors a good and sufficient bond in the minimum amount of twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000.00) to be approved by the board of directors conditioned to report and account for all monies and properties belonging to the association; the expense of such bond shall be paid by the association.

Section 11. Treasurer. The treasurer shall maintain and be custodian of the general fund. He shall receive all other funds and deposit them to the account of Harry-Anna Trust Fund trustees who shall distribute the funds in accordance with the bylaws of Harry-Anna Investment Fund Inc. He shall keep a full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements of the general fund of the association and in books belonging to the association and shall deposit all monies and valuables pertaining to the general fund in such depositories or safety vaults as may be designated from time to time by the board of directors. He shall keep account of all deposits made in the name of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund trustees. He shall render quarterly a detailed report of the finances of the association to the board of directors and at such other times as may be required by the president. He shall annually submit to the association in convention assembled his annual financial report after his books of record have been audited by either an auditing committee appointed by the president or by certified public accountants as the board of directors may direct. He shall pay out the monies of the association from the general fund by check signed by the treasurer and chairman of the board of directors. He shall perform such other duties as may be properly required of him, and shall, before assuming the duties of his office, execute and deliver to the board of directors a good and sufficient bond in an amount to be determined by the board of directors, conditioned upon the faithful performance of his duties, with the expense of such bond to be paid by the association.

The treasurer shall be allowed a salary to be determined by the board of directors.

Section 12. Historian. The duty of the historian shall be to collect and preserve in written and/or photographic form all interesting data affecting the several Lodges in Florida and the association. Data so collected and preserved will be such as to constitute an accurate and concise history of the order of Elks in Florida, insofar as it may be possible.

Section 13. Tiler. The tiler shall have charge of the doors of the hall in which meetings of the association are held and shall perform the duties usually incident to the office of tiler in like organization.

Section 14. Chaplain. The chaplain shall seek the blessing of God upon the officers and members of the association at meetings of the association and upon call of the president.

Section 15. Sergeant-at-arms. The sergeant-at-arms shall execute the orders of the president, assist in preserving order, act as marshal on public occasions and during closed sessions assist the tiler in examining the qualifications of all persons presenting themselves for admission. He shall select such deputies as may be needed to assist in the discharge of his duties.

Section 16. Organist. The organist shall plan and carry out a program of instrumental music appropriate for ceremonies which may be performed at all meetings of the association, both regular and special.

Section 17. Curator. The curator shall be appointed by the state president for a three-year term. His duties shall include but not necessarily be limited to preserving, cataloging and ensuring the proper care and deploy of the various memorabilia of the Florida State Elks Association and the institution of an archives and museum for their continued care and preservation.

Section 18. Qualification for Office. For the offices of the president, vice president at large, district vice presidents and district directors, only past exalted rulers in good standing in the Lodges comprising this association and residing within its jurisdiction shall be eligible for election. For all other offices, elective or appointive, all Elks in good standing in the Lodges comprising this association and residing within its jurisdiction shall be eligible to any office elective or appointive, except as provided in Section 4 (c) of Article VI.
Section 19. Tenure of Office. All officers, elective or appointive, except members of the board of directors, and all committeemen except members of the Judiciary Committee and Convention Committee, shall hold office for a period of one (1) year from date of either election or appointed and/or qualified except as provided in Section 19 below. Notwithstanding the above limitations, members of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee shall serve as otherwise provided in the bylaws, and members of the board of directors of Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Inc., Florida Elks Properties Inc., Florida Elks Charities Inc., Harry-Anna Investment Fund Inc. and the Florida Elks Youth Camp Inc. shall serve according to the respective bylaws of those organizations.

Section 20. Vacancy in Office. In the event the office of the president becomes vacant before the end of his term of office, due either to death or other causes, the board of directors shall appoint a past president to the office to the remainder of the term.

In the event of a vacancy in any other office, because of death or other causes, the same shall be filled by appointment by the president for the balance of the term remaining, subject to the approval of the board of directors.

The president of the association with the consent and approval of the board of directors shall have power to remove from office any elective or appointive officer of the association when good cause is shown, provided that the said cause for removal has been previously submitted in writing to the board of directors, and the said charges in the opinion of said board of directors have been sustained. The president shall have the power to remove any committeeman who, in his opinion, is not carrying out his duties as a member of the committee to which he has been appointed, except as provided in Paragraph G, Section 2 of Article X relating to members of the Hospital Committee.

ARTICLE VII

Section 1. Ritualistic Fund. The following amounts are to be disbursed annually from the general fund for the purposes and with the conditions as noted herein:

(a) One hundred dollars ($100.00) to each Lodge ritualistic team winning its district elimination contest on the condition that such winning teams compete in the state ritualistic contest. No disbursement shall be made from the general fund to any team which does not compete in the state ritualistic contest.

(b) To the Lodge winning the state ritualistic contest, in order to defray the expenses incurred by the championship team in attending and competing in the Grand Lodge ritual contest, there shall be allowed for each of the nine (9) members, (7 officers, 1 candidate and 1 coach) comprising the team the following amounts:

(1) Round trip air coach fare from the home Lodge city (or nearest commercial airport thereto) to the Grand Lodge convention city, plus

(2) Two days travel subsistence at the rate allowed for Grand Lodge officers and committeemen, plus

(3) Three days subsistence at the rate allowed for Grand Lodge officers and committeemen while in attendance at the convention.

The total of the amounts provided for in (1), (2) and (3) above shall be advanced to the Lodge producing the championship team upon request of said Lodge, which request shall contain the commitment of the Lodge that the championship team will represent the Florida State Elks Association Inc. in the Grand Lodge ritualistic contest. Such advance of funds shall not be made, however, earlier than thirty (30) days prior to the date of opening of the Grand Lodge convention. In the event the championship team shall fail to represent the Florida State Elks Association Inc. by competing in the Grand Lodge ritualistic contest, the said Lodge shall immediately refund to the association all funds so advanced.

In the event the championship team shall be selected to compete in the finals of the Grand Lodge ritualistic contest, in addition to the sums advanced under the provision of (1), (2) and (3) above, there shall be paid to the Lodge of the championship team for each of the nine (9) members composing the team an amount equal to the per diem subsistence allowed for attendance at the Grand Lodge convention times the number of additional days above three
(3) which the team is required to remain in the Grand Lodge contest. The payment provided in this paragraph shall be made upon request by the Lodge, said request to contain certification that the team did compete in the finals of the Grand Lodge ritualistic contest.

(c) Should there fail to be a district contest in any district after a Lodge team has elected to compete, then in that event, the sum of seventy-five dollars ($75.00) will be paid to that Lodge team on the condition that the team actually competes in the state contest. Should two or more teams in any particular district so elect to compete, then in that event, a district contest must be called and awards made as previously outlined in Paragraph (a).

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1. Voting - Election of Officers. The election of officers of the association shall be elected at each annual meeting. Only duly registered delegates as certified by the Credentials Committee whose Lodges shall have paid their current per capita tax (as provided in Section 5 of Article III) shall be entitled to participate in the election of officers, and each delegate present shall be entitled to one vote. The one receiving the highest vote for any office shall be declared elected to the office. In the event of a contest for any office, the voting shall be by secret ballot and conducted along the lines prescribed by the Grand Lodge statutes. Should there be a tie vote for any office, a new ballot shall be taken immediately.

Section 2. Any Other Business. Only duly registered delegates as certified by the Credentials Committee whose Lodges shall have paid their current per capita tax (except as provided in Section 5 Article III) shall be entitled to participate in all other business proceedings of the annual meeting of the association. Each delegate present shall be entitled to one vote. Voting on all other business under this heading shall be by open balloting on a roll call of Lodges.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1. Annual Committees. The president of this association shall annually, as soon after his installation as may be convenient, appoint the members of the following committees who shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the association or until their successors are appointed, viz:

Americanism Committee
Business Practices Committee
Credentials Committee
Drug and Alcohol Awareness Committee
Elks Training Committee
Government Relations Committee
Harry-Anna Trust Committee
Hoop Shoot Committee
Indoctrination Committee
Interlodge Visitation Committee
Ladies Organization Committee
Lodge Activities Committee
Membership Committee
National Foundation Certificates Committee
National Foundation Scholarship Committee
New Lodges Committee
Officers Attendance Committee
Publicity and Public Relations Committee
Resolutions Committee
Ritual Committee
Social & Community Welfare Committee
Sports Committee
Veterans Services Committee
Wills and Bequests Committee
Youth Activities Committee
The committees listed shall consist of such number of members as the president of this association shall select except as otherwise provided herein. The president of this association with the consent of the board of directors shall have the power and authority to name such additional committees as in his opinion shall be deemed necessary to properly carry out the program of this association.

Section 2. Duties of Committees.

(A) Americanism Committee. This committee shall stress and encourage Lodges to sponsor appropriate Lodge and community programs to combat subversive activities, to sponsor and support patriotic programs, to encourage the display of the American flag, to participate in community Flag Day ceremonies, and to take part or sponsor any and all related programs supporting the traditions of our country.

(B) Business Practices Committee. This committee shall upon request by a Lodge or by the district deputy grand exalted ruler render advice and assistance in reviewing the business activities of said Lodge and in aiding through the establishing of proper business procedures, control, record keeping, etc. of said Lodge.

(C) Credentials Committee. This committee shall perform necessary services in relation to the midyear and annual meetings to assure that all in attendance are properly registered and provided indicia of status in their respective Lodges, state association and Grand Lodge. The committee shall cooperate with the Convention Committee and shall do everything necessary to see that the registration and participation of those in attendance is properly handled.

(D) Drug and Alcohol Awareness Committee. This committee shall install, implement and monitor the Grand Lodge program in the individual subordinate Lodges and shall promote the awareness of the Grand Lodge programs with the schools, parent groups and allied community groups with parallel programs.

(E) Elks Training Committee. This committee shall establish and promote a program to assist in training all Elks of the Lodges, thus enabling them to move ably and effectively to become responsible leaders of their Lodges.

(F) Government Relations Committee. This committee shall have the duties and responsibilities of implementing a government relations program of the order and the state association in conjunction with other organizations.

(G) Harry-Anna Trust Committee. This committee shall encourage Lodges to promote contributions by members and nonmembers to the trust fund through the certificate plan or other forms of donations and to keep the Lodges informed of the activities of the trust fund and its importance in financing the operation of the state association’s subsidiary corporations.

(H) Hoop Shoot Committee. This committee shall guide, promote and encourage a Hoop Shoot contest by each Lodge. The committee shall also conduct a state contest as well as assisting in every way possible with the national Hoop Shoot effort.

(I) Indoctrination Committee. This committee shall promote the indoctrination of candidates for membership in the Lodges. The program shall include information on the aims, purposes and privileges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The use of the visual information furnished each Lodge by the Grand Lodge for indoctrination of new members is encouraged.

(J) Interlodge Visitation Committee. This committee shall promote visitations among the Lodges and it shall be the duty of the member of this committee, as an example to other Lodge members, to personally visit other Lodges.

(K) Ladies Organizations Committee. This committee shall consist of a state chairman who shall act as liaison between the association and the various ladies organizations which are formed to assist the members of their work in Elkdom. It shall be the duty and function of this committee to encourage the formation of ladies organizations whose principal purpose shall be to assist in the support of the major projects of the association.
(L) Lodge Activities Committee. This committee shall assist all Florida Lodges in the promotion of and participation in all programs sponsored by the Grand Lodge committee on Lodge Activities. Examples of the Grand Lodge program include golden antler achievement awards and contests for Lodge bulletin, National Foundation per capita contributions, membership gain (numeric and percentage), Flag Day, Memorial Day, public image and Veterans Remembrance Month brochures. Other programs may be initiated from time to time. It shall be the duty of this committee to ensure that all material necessary for Lodge participation which is mailed directly from the Grand Lodge to the subordinate Lodge is properly understood and utilized. It shall further be the duty of this committee to formulate and put into effect Lodge activities of particular interest to Florida Lodges which are not specifically provided for by the duties prescribed for other Florida State Association committees, subject to approvals as required by the laws of the Florida State Elks Association Inc.

(M) Membership Committee. This committee shall continually seek quality members, conduct regular and well-organized plans to enlist new members and support the work of the respective Lodge Lapsation and Reinstatement Committees.

(N) National Foundation Certificates Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the National Foundation Certificates Committee to keep the members of the association informed as to the activities of the Elks National Foundation, to be conversant with the benefits available from the funds of the foundation and to actively advise the association members of these benefits, and to zealously promote the sale of National Foundation certificates through organized programs with the state association of the member Lodges.

(O) National Foundation Scholarships Committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to encourage the Lodges to promote participation by students in the Most Valuable Student leadership scholarship contest as outlined by the Elks National Foundation. The state chairman shall disseminate full information regarding the Most Valuable Student leadership scholarship contest including rules and regulations prescribed by Grand Lodge and transmit it to the Lodges along with application blanks, etc. The state chairman will arrange for a grading committee to grade the application blanks and prepare grading sheets showing the grade of each applicant entered. The number of scholarship contestants granted in a particular year by the foundation shall be awarded contestants graded highest, in substantially equal number of boys and girls. It is the responsibility of the state chairman to transmit the applications of the state winners to the Elks National Foundation for entry in the national contest. This committee shall also handle such other scholarship matters as may be delegated to it by the state association.

(P) New Lodges Committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to assist district deputies in the organization and institution of new Elks Lodges. This committee shall investigate communities of the state where no Elks Lodge exists and report its findings to the district deputy having jurisdiction over the area whose duty it is to secure authority of the Grand Lodge to organize. When this authority is granted by the Grand Lodge, it shall be the duty of this committee to assist the district deputy in the organizational procedures and carry out all acts and instructions as may be required to properly organize a new Lodge.

(Q) Officers Attendance Committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to encourage and promote good officer attendance at Lodge meetings. The ultimate goal of this committee should be 100% attendance of officers in all Lodges in the state. It shall be the further duty of this committee to encourage the officers of the subordinate Lodges to prepare interesting programs for Lodge meetings so that a greater percentage of Lodge members will attend the regular meetings of the subordinate Lodges.

(R) Publicity and Public Relations Committee. This committee shall promote intelligent publicity of Lodge activities. The committee shall assist the editor of the Florida Elks News in gathering material for said publication and shall aid in the effective distribution of the Florida Elks News in the Lodges. It shall be the further duty of this committee to contact all agencies dealing with child welfare for the purpose of informing them of the facilities available at the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital and of the home therapy program being conducted by the Elks of Florida with the view of having more children admitted to the hospital and to receive the benefits offered by the home therapy service.

(S) Resolutions Committee. All resolutions and proposed resolutions shall be referred to this committee, and it shall make recommendations to the annual meeting of the association on all resolutions referred to it or proposed by it.
(T) Ritualistic Committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to promote efficiency in the rendition of all prescribed forms of ritual work in the Lodges, including: opening and closing ceremonies, initiatory ritual, ritual ceremonies for public functions, and in all other types of ceremonies or meetings in which the Lodge officers participate. This committee shall conduct district contests among Lodges in each of the districts in the initiatory ritual. Each district chairman shall coordinate the work of his committee members in the district with the state chairman and shall make all arrangements for the proper conduct of the district contest, including the establishment of time and place for each contest, tabulating the grades of each team participating in accordance with the prescribed rules and regulations, and transmitting same to the state chairman. It shall be the duty of the state chairman following his appointment to disseminate full information regarding the functions of this committee including rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge and to transmit same to each of the district chairmen. He shall appoint judges for the district contests, and they shall serve in districts other than their own. He shall make all arrangements for conducting the state contest at the state convention, including establishment of date and location of the contest, providing checkers, and establishing the results. The president of the state association or his designate shall select out-of-state judges for the state ritualistic contest.

(U) Social and Community Welfare Committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to encourage and promote the development of a social and community welfare program in each Lodge. Such projects should include support of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital in Umatilla, giving assistance and aid to needy families, aiding needy members, assisting in veterans’ relief work, and other related community projects. It shall be the further duty of this committee to actively promote blood banks in each Lodge. If a blood bank is already in operation in a particular community and sponsored by another organization, the committee is to encourage the Lodge to actively assist the existing facility in every possible manner.

(V) Sports Committee. The purpose of this committee is to provide opportunity for sports events for the association. The committee will obtain approval of the board of directors for any sports events contemplated.

(W) Youth Activities Committee. The purpose of this committee is to foster, supervise and carry out all state association programs on behalf of the youth of our state, recognizing all mediums to promote the welfare physically, mentally and morally of our youth and to inculcate love and respect for God and country. This committee shall encourage Lodges to sponsor projects such as Little League baseball, youth camps, Boy and Girl Scout troops, Big Brother clubs for underprivileged children, educational programs, supporting churches in their spiritual aims, and related projects designed for the assistance of the youth of America.

(X) Veterans Services Committee. The purpose of this committee is to be certain that as long as there is a hospitalized veteran that Elks shall never forget him. This should be accomplished by raising funds to assist each of the veterans hospitals in Florida and by securing appropriate donations of time, talent and useful articles so as to make the hospitalized veterans’ lot a better one.

(Y) Wills and Bequests Committee. (See Article XIX.)

Section 3. Judicial and Convention Committees. In addition to the committees listed in Section 1 above, the president shall appoint the Judiciary and Convention Committees whose term of office and duties are set forth below:

(A) A Judiciary Committee which shall be composed of five members serving staggered terms of one, two, three, four, and five years. Those presently serving shall continue to hold office until resignation, death, completion of their term or other reason causes the office to be vacant. A member shall be appointed each year for a five-year term. Vacancies in office which occur prior to expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term.

All proposed legislation and amendments to the constitution and laws shall be referred to this committee which shall report thereon to the annual meeting of the association. The committee shall also issue advisory opinions and interpretations including appropriate recommendations together with such other matters encompassed by the intent hereof. The committee is empowered to elect its own chairman and such other officers as it deems proper and to adopt rules for its meetings and for the conduct of its business.
(B) A Convention Committee which shall be composed of five members, three of whom shall be past presidents of the association, serving staggered terms of one, two, three, four and five years. Those presently serving shall continue to hold office until resignation, death, completion of their term or other reason causes the office to be vacant. A member shall be appointed each year for a five-year term. Vacancies in office which occur prior to expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term.

This committee shall make arrangements for all meetings of the association. In addition to other duties in connection with meeting arrangements for the association, the Convention Committee shall ascertain which cities of the state of Florida have the required facilities to house the midyear and annual meetings. This information shall be provided the board of directors in sufficient time for the board to select.

Section 4. Advisory Committee. This committee shall consist of the past presidents of the association in good standing in their respective Lodges and such past state presidents from other state associations who have been recommended by the advisory committee for membership. It shall be their duty to render such counsel and advice to the officers, committees and members of this association as will promote the best interests and welfare of this association.

Section 5. Committee Expenses. Payment or reimbursement of expenses of any committee chairman for postage and telephone will be made up to $100 upon request to the secretary, accompanied by receipts for said expenses.

ARTICLE X

FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL COMMITTEE.

Section 1. The Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee shall consist of all the officers of the Florida State Elks Association Inc. both elective and appointive, all district deputy grand exalted rulers during their terms of office, and all past presidents of the Florida State Elks Association Inc. In addition to the above named, each Lodge shall have three (or more) members on the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee, one of whom shall be the exalted ruler of the Lodge, and upon the adoption of this constitution and laws, the exalted ruler then in office shall appoint two members to the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee – one for a term of two years and one for a term of one year. Each year thereafter, the exalted ruler then in office shall appoint one member on the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee for a two-year term. In addition to the above appointments by the exalted rulers of the various Lodges, the president of the Florida State Elks Association Inc. with the approval of the board of directors may at his direction appoint additional members on the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee to serve during his term of office.

Section 2. Duties of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee.

(A) The Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee (subject to the supervision and control of the board of directors) shall during the interim between annual meetings of the association advise the board of directors of Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Inc. in the operation and maintenance of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital and its related programs. It shall in all cases protect the interest of the association in addition to promoting the objects and welfare of the hospital.

(B) The committee shall by majority vote select its own chairman. The committee shall submit recommendations to the president of the association who shall appoint, subject to the consent of the convention, the board of directors of Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Inc., which shall consist of one member from each of the vice president districts of the association and one at-large member who shall be a past state president. All regular vacancies shall be filled by appointment for three-year terms; when additional vice president districts are added to the association, a member shall be appointed for a three-year term from each of said districts and the association’s board shall cause the bylaws of Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Inc. to be amended accordingly. The at-large appointment shall be for a three-year term. Vacancies which occur as a result of death, resignation or otherwise shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term by the president of the association. The maximum period which a member of this board may serve is six years, provided however, a member who has served four years or less may complete a term of office to which he has been appointed.
The board of directors of Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Inc. shall annually elect its own president, chief administrative officer, vice president, secretary, treasurer and such other officers as it deems advisable.

(C) For the purpose of transacting such business as may come before it, the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee shall hold regular meetings in August and February of each Lodge Year and during the time and place of each annual meeting and midyear conference of the association except that meetings may be held at such other times as the president, with the approval of the board of directors, may for good reason direct. Seventy-five (75) members of the committee shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting.

(D) The chairman of the Hospital Committee shall have full authority to call special meetings of the committee as may be deemed advisable for the best interests of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital.

(E) The Hospital Committee shall recommend to the board of directors the suspension of any member of the committee who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the committee without good and sufficient reasons. Vacancies thus created shall be filled in accordance with the laws governing in paragraph (H) below.

(F) The Hospital Committee shall make recommendations to the board of directors of members to fill vacancies that occur during term. Any action taken on such recommendations by the board of directors shall be ratified by the association at its annual meeting.

(G) In the event of permanent discontinuance of the function of Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Inc., all funds and other assets of the association which shall have been held or received for the establishment and operation of the hospital shall be made available for the operation of other major projects of the association or to the state of Florida, any community in the state of Florida, any national organization and/or any other responsible agency engaged in similar charitable endeavors and approved by the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee. The committee shall recommend to the board of directors the proposed disposition of the assets held by the association in reserve for the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital in which event the board of directors shall make its own recommendation to the association in convention assembled. A two-thirds vote of the total accredited delegates in convention assembled shall be necessary to empower the officers of the association to effect any disposition of the assets hereinbefore mentioned.

(H) The exalted ruler of each Lodge plus the regularly appointed one-year and two-year member of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee shall be recognized and shall function as the Lodge Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee in addition to protecting the interests of the association and promoting the objects and welfare of the hospital. This subcommittee shall be charged with performing specific duties during the interim between the four regularly held meetings of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee:

1. Attend each regular and special meeting of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee and keep their Lodge abreast with current policies and activities of that committee.

2. Actively seek and locate potential patients for Florida Elks Children’s Hospital and/or its clinics and encourage parents or guardians to communicate with a clinic or the hospital concerning the child’s orthopedic problem. As the hospital expands its program, such information shall be conveyed to the Lodge and to the public. The subcommittee shall utilize every acceptable means of communication at its disposal, i.e. news media, films and filmstrips, speeches before groups or organizations, and/or personal contact of references.

3. Submit a written report of activities ten days prior to the published meeting data for the quarter to the chairman of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital with a copy to the president of Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Inc., the district director and the district vice president. The report for the chairman of the Florida Elks Children's Hospital Committee shall be mailed to the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital administrator for compilation. Reporting forms shall be provided by the hospital administrator.

(I) The Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee shall provide written quarterly reports of the compilation of data from the Lodge subcommittee reports to the chairman of the board of directors and to the president of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Inc. for their edification.
ARTICLE XI

HARRY-ANNA TRUST

The Florida Elks Harry-Anna Trust shall be held and administered by Harry-Anna Investment Fund Inc. and the board of directors thereof who shall also act as and be known as the trust fund trustees, to consist of seven members who shall be members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Additionally, the trustees so appointed shall also be past exalted rulers and may not serve as trustees of the Harry-Anna Investment Fund Inc. beyond their eightieth (80th) birthday. Of the total membership of the Harry-Anna Investment Fund Inc., at least four (4) trustees shall be past state presidents of the Florida State Elks Association Inc. They shall be appointed by the president of the Florida State Elks Association Inc. The trustees shall continue to serve out the terms for which they have been previously appointed and thereafter at each annual state convention of the Florida State Elks Association Inc. on the last day thereof, the president shall nominate and with the consent of the convention appoint one member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks to serve as such trustees for a term of seven years. Vacancies in said board caused by death, resignation or otherwise may be filled temporarily until the next annual meeting of the Florida State Elks Association Inc. by appointment of the president of the association. At the next annual meeting of the association, such vacancies shall be permanently filled for the unexpired term by the president with the consent of the convention in the same manner as a regular seven-year appointment. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy on the board, other than the annual appointment, shall be eligible for reappointment to a full seven-year term. Said trustees shall have the power to recommend to the president of the association the removal of any member of said board for just cause; failure to attend meetings shall constitute cause for removal from office. Removal of a trustee from office by the president of the association shall be only upon recommendation of a majority of the board of trustees as constituted (four members). The trustees shall report its actions to the association at its annual meeting.

ARTICLE XII

FLORIDA ELKS PROPERTIES INC.

Florida Elks Properties Inc. has been established to hold, develop, maintain and manage all real property of the association or any of its affiliates. The board of directors of this corporation has general charge of its property and the direction of its affairs. The board of directors shall be appointed by the president of the Florida State Elks Association and shall operate according to the bylaws of Florida Elks Properties Inc. The number of such directors shall initially be seven (7) until the 1988 annual state convention of the Florida Elks Association Inc. Thereafter the board shall consist of five (5) directors. On the last day of the 1988 annual convention, the president of the association shall nominate and with the consent of the convention appoint one member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks as a director for one year, one for two years and one for five years. Each year thereafter at each annual state convention, the president of the association shall nominate and with the consent of the convention appoint one member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks to serve as a director for a term of five years. Vacancies which occur as a result of death, resignation and otherwise shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term as provided in the bylaws of Florida Elks Properties Inc.

ARTICLE XIII

FLORIDA ELKS CHARITIES INC.

Florida Elks Charities Inc. has been established to coordinate and manage the various fundraising projects of the association and its affiliates. The board of directors of this corporation shall have general charge of its property and the direction of its affairs. The board of directors shall be appointed by the president of the Florida State Elks Association Inc. and shall operate according to the bylaws of Florida Elks Charities Inc. The number of such directors shall initially be seven (7) in number. At the 1988 annual state convention of the Florida State Elks Association Inc., on the last day thereof, the president shall nominate and with the consent of the convention appoint one member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks as a director for one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, one for five years, one for six years and one for seven years. Each year thereafter at each annual state convention the president of the association shall nominate and with the consent of the convention appoint one member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks to serve as a director for a term of seven years.
Vacancies which occur as a result of death, resignation and otherwise shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term as provided in the bylaws of Florida Elks Charities Inc.

ARTICLE XIV

Section 1. Order of Business. The order of business at all meetings of the association shall be substantially as follows: (Changes and/or additions to the agenda may be made at the discretion of the board of directors if deemed necessary for the best interest of the meeting.)

- Call to order
- Invocation by the chaplain
- Tribute to flag by delegates (Singing of “America”)
- Call of roll of officers
- Address of welcome
- Response by president
- Introduction of distinguished guests
- Preliminary report of Credentials Committee
- Reading of the minutes of last annual meeting
- Report of the president
- Election of officers
- Report of the secretary
- Report of the treasurer
- Report of the Budget Committee
- Report of the committees making awards
- Report of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee
- Memorial service
- Unfinished business (Credentials & Budget final report)
- New business
- Selection of convention city
- Good of the order
- Installation of officers
- Dismissal by chaplain
- Adjournment

ARTICLE XV

Section 1. Rules of Order. The business of this association and all meetings of this association shall be conducted in accordance with “Robert’s Rules of Order.”

ARTICLE XVI

Section 1. Amendments. Proposed amendments to the constitution and laws shall be presented in writing to the board of directors at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting of the association, and the said board of directors shall submit any proposed amendment, so submitted, at its regular meeting with its recommendation, provided, however, amendments may be presented in writing at any annual meeting of the association and be referred to the Judiciary Committee and said committee shall make report thereon to the association as soon as possible and before adjournment. Such amendment or amendments shall be considered under the head of new business; a two-thirds affirmative vote of the delegates present shall be required to adopt any amendment.

ARTICLE XVII

Section 1. Provisions Not Otherwise Covered. In all cases where the subject matters are not covered by the constitution and laws, the Grand Lodge laws shall govern.
ARTICLE XVIII

Section 1. Limitations. No question of a political or sectarian character shall be introduced at any meeting of the association and no person shall be directly or indirectly endorsed or recommended for any political office, nor shall any action be taken whatever on any political, legislative or public policy matter whether general or local unless such action be in accord with previous action of the Grand Lodge or unless action taken be approved by the grand exalted ruler before such action is promulgated or made public.

ARTICLE XIX

COMMITTEE ON WILLS AND BEQUESTS

Section 1. The committee on Wills and Bequests shall be composed of five (5) members duly appointed by the president of the association to five, four, three, two and one-year terms of office. The appointed investment advisory chairman to the trustees of the trust fund shall be ex-officio member of this committee.

Section 2. Selection of committee members shall be made with circumspect and objective intent. Eligible members shall be lawyers, tax consultants, accountants, trust officers of banks, business managers, public relations experts and such other professionals who have knowledge of the complexities associated with estate taxes, laws governing estates, wills and bequests. The Past Presidents Advisory Council shall screen prospective members and make recommendations to the president.

Section 3. Duties of Committee. The committee is charged with the responsibility of increasing the number and monetary value of wills and bequests bequeathed annually to the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital. The committee will develop a program to accomplish its objectives and shall report progress to the board of directors and the association.

ARTICLE XX

Section 1. Seal. The seal of this corporation shall be circular and shall have inscribed thereon the name of the corporation, a statement that the corporation is not for profit, and such other words and figures and in such design as may be prescribed by the board of directors and may be facsimile, engraved, printed or an impression or other type seal.

ARTICLE XXI

FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP INC.

Section 1. Florida Elks Youth Camp Inc. has been established to operate the Florida Elks Youth Camp located upon property owned by an affiliate corporation of the association. The board of directors of this corporation has general charge of its property, the activities of the corporation and the direction of its affairs. The board of directors shall be appointed by the president of the Florida State Elks Association Inc. and shall operate according to the bylaws of the Florida Elks Youth Camp Inc.

Section 2. The board by majority vote shall select its own president. The board shall make recommendations to the president, FSEA, who shall appoint, subject to the consent of the convention, the board of directors, which shall consist of one member from each district of the association and three members at large who shall be past state presidents. Terms shall be for two (2) years and only two terms can be served, except an appointment of a member to fill a vacancy who can then be appointed to a full term.

Section 3. The president shall have full authority to call special meetings as deemed advisable in the best interest of the Florida Elks Youth Camp Inc. and FSEA.

Section 4. The board of directors may suspend any member of the board who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without good and sufficient reason. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as other boards of the FSEA.
Section 5. Funding to operate the Florida Elks Youth Camp Inc. will be deposited and distributed through the Florida Elks Charities Inc. with the recommendation of the Florida Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors and the approval of the board of directors of the FSEA who shall also approve the operating budget of the board on an annual basis.

Section 6. The board shall submit reports of activities and budget financial status at the February and August quarterly meetings and the midyear convention and a full report at the annual state convention.

Section 7. The board of directors shall actively work in the state and their districts to promote the financial status and operations of the youth camp, which includes promotion of groups to participate in the camp itself by using every acceptable means of communications at its disposal, i.e. news media, films, filmstrips, speeches before groups or organizations and/or personal contact or reference.

Section 8. The first year appointments to the board of directors shall be seven (7) districts for three (3) years and seven (7) districts for (2) years. Thereafter all appointments will be for two-year terms with a rotation of seven new appointments per year at the conclusion of the two year-terms. Members at large would serve two-year terms.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitution and laws were duly adopted at a meeting of the board of directors and approved by the convention May 23, 1997, at Kissimmee, Fla.

Winston M. Needham
President, Florida State Elks Association Inc.

Frank D. Willis Jr.
Secretary, Florida State Elks Association Inc.

(See also Florida State Elks Association)

BYLAW CHANGES:

Some of the bylaw changes over the years and mostly prior to the above bylaws adopted in May 1997.

1895

At the Grand Lodge session, James J. Armstrong of New York #1 presented a resolution passed on the floor. "Resolved, that the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks desires to assert that, while it is not a theatrical order, yet, it is heartily and sincerely in sympathy with said profession and earnestly desires the affiliation of all reputable male members of said profession with various subordinate Lodges and requests all Lodges to extend all possible hospitality to the members of the profession from which our order originated."

"Resolved that the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks desires to place itself on record as promising to do all in its power to promote and advance the interests of the amusement profession and, as far as compatible with its laws, to be a factor in relieving distress in said profession, thus carrying out the primary object of its institution."

May 1906

Chaplain shall perform such duties as pertain to the office and required under good of the association.

Sergeant-at-arms shall guard the door and admit only Elks of good standing in the order, verifying their right by Lodge card, and perform such duties as may be necessary.

May 1909

Order of business – Inserting new business after unfinished business.
Officers – To provide for a first and second vice president. The first vice president shall assume the duties of the president in his absence or during his inability to act. The second vice president shall assume the duties of the president in his absence or inability to act, provided the first vice president is also disqualified. Regular meetings shall be held annually between the dates of April 1 and June 30, the actual date to be fixed by the executive committee and announced not later than 90 days before the first of April.

April 1929

Vice presidents designated: Amended Section II, Article IV by adding:

There shall also be two additional vice presidents designated as fourth and fifth vice presidents who shall be elected from the state at large.

April 1929

To add state historian as officer of Florida State Elks Association. Section I of Article IV to the bylaws of the state association:

His duties shall be to collect and preserve interesting data affecting the various Lodges and to transmit interesting news of the order in Florida to the *Elks Magazine*.

April 1937

Following changes made in bylaws:

Article 4, Section 1. The officers of the association shall be a president and five vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, a historian, a tiler, a chaplain, a sergeant-at-arms and an executive committee consisting of seven members.

Article 4, Section 2. The five vice presidents mentioned in Section 1 hereof shall be elected one each from the vice presidents’ divisions respectively as described in Article 10, Section 3 hereof.

Article 10, Section 3. The state of Florida shall be divided into five divisions for the purposes of this association to be known as vice presidents’ divisions and shall include the following Lodges in the following divisions, respectively:

Southeast Division: Key West, Miami, Miami Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Lake Worth, West Palm Beach, Fort Pierce
Southwest Division: Fort Myers, Sarasota, Bradenton, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Tampa, Arcadia, Sebring
Central Division: Lakeland, Orlando, Cocoa, Sanford, New Smyrna, Daytona Beach, DeLand, Eustis
Northeast Division: Ocala, Gainesville, Palatka, St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Fernandina, Lake City
Northwest Division: Pensacola, Panama City, Marianna, Tallahassee, Quincy

Article 4, Section 3. The secretary, sergeant-at-arms and chaplain shall be appointed by the president.

Article 4, Section 4. The executive committee shall consist of the president, the immediate past president, the treasurer and three members who shall be elected for a period of one, two and three years starting from the 1930 convention. At each annual convention after 1930, one member of said executive committee shall be elected for a period of three years.

Article 4. (a) Treasurer: The treasurer shall receive and be the custodian of all monies belonging to the association. He shall pay out the money of the association only upon proper warrants countersigned by the president and the secretary and shall perform such other duties as may properly be required of him. He shall, before assuming the duties of his office, execute and deliver to the executive committee a good and sufficient bond in the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars ($1,500.00) to be approved by the executive committee conditioned to report or account in writing annually or when requested to do so by the president or executive committee for all monies
received by him, and for the faithful performance of his duties, the expenses of such bond to be paid by the
association.

(b) Secretary: The secretary shall attend all meetings of the association, keep a true record of the
proceedings of same, preserve all books and documents, attend to all correspondence, and prepare and submit an
annual report to the association at its annual meeting showing the condition of the association and the transaction
of his office during the preceding year; compile and furnish to the secretaries of subordinate Lodges a list of speakers
for Memorial Day and other occasions requiring the services of qualified speakers; and receive and pay over to the
treasurer all monies coming through his office belonging to the association. He shall have the power to purchase
books, stationery, etc. needful for his office, the bills to be paid by the treasurer. He shall countersign all warrants
with the president and shall perform such other duties as may properly be required of him. He shall, before assuming
the duties of his office, execute and deliver to the executive committee a good and sufficient bond in the sum of one
thousand dollars ($1,000.00) to be approved by the executive committee, conditioned to report and account for all
monies and properties belonging to the association. For the faithful performance of his duties, he shall receive the
sum of one hundred dollars ($100.00) per annum, payable semiannually.

Article 4, Section 10. Executive Committee: The executive committee shall, during the interim between meetings of
the association, take general charge of its property and the direction of its affairs and be governing body of the
association and perform such duties as may be necessary to protect its interests and promote the object of the
organization. It shall have control of the finances of the association and recommend ways and means for raising
funds to defray the expenses of the association and set aside the same when received to the payments of such
demands as are properly chargeable to it and shall report all their acts to the next annual meetings. The president
shall be chairman and the immediate past president shall be vice chairman ex-officio of said executive committee
and shall be entitled to a vote when acting as such chairman, and the committee shall pass upon all bills or accounts
to be paid from the funds of the association before warrants for the payment thereof shall be issued.

June 1990

Judiciary Committee and Bylaw Changes:

Bylaw change designed to increase the per capita tax effective May 1991. The purpose of the bylaw change is to
streamline procedures and eliminate requests for additional funds throughout the Lodge year for support of the
newspaper, government relations committee and the Elks Rose Bowl float, among others.

The change is an amendment under Article XVI, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Florida State Elks Association Inc.
substituting for Article III, Section 4 the following:

Section 4. PER CAPITA TAX. To obtain the revenue necessary for defraying the expenses of the association’s
(except as provided in Section 5 below) each subordinate Lodge, shall annually pay an amount equal to two dollars
and twenty-five cents ($2.25) for each member thereof based on the number certified to the Grand Lodge March 31
of the current year. All funds so collected shall be placed in one general account. The per capita tax as outlined in
this section must be paid by each subordinate Lodge not later than May 1 of each year, commencing May 1, 1991.

Bylaws – Lodge

When contemplating any amendments or revision of bylaws or house rules, first read Grand Lodge Statute
17.060.

Write to the grand secretary in Chicago requesting prescribed forms for amendments and/or revision
booklets, certification forms and instructions contained in the front of the booklet. Note that any changes or
modifications must be contained within the booklets upon revision. Do not use booklets, however, for amendments.

When revising, read form booklets modifying the language where amended and deleting extraneous
language where unnecessary or unwanted. Read the notes under the various sections for they answer many
questions.

Be meticulous in your preparation, for when you send the product to your area committeeeman, it takes time
to review the effort if not correct. It will then be returned for corrections, doubling the time and effort as well.
When forwarding material for approval, everything must be in triplicate. When approved, one copy will be returned to you, one sent to the grand secretary and one retained for the area committee man’s files.

Once the revised bylaws are approved, the Lodge should order copies printed from the grand secretary’s office in Chicago for distribution to your membership.

Paragraph 2 of Grand Lodge Statute 17.060 mandates that bylaws must be generally revised every five years. Check the date of Lodge bylaws for the last revision in the front of the booklet, and if they are due for revision, write to the grand secretary in Chicago. Failure to comply with this provision of the statutes makes a Lodge guilty of contumacy. For definition, see Grand Lodge Statute 1.010. For possible penalty see Grand Lodge Statute 9.070 (d).