Eighty-First Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association

Nominated for State President at the 81st Annual Convention
Attendance at Convention: Elks – 1,669; Ladies – 1,445; Grand Total – 3,134
Motto: “Take Pride in Elkdom”
Membership: 89,285 on January 31, 1988
123 Lodges in Florida
Dispensation for North Fort Myers Lodge

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1987-1988 term:

- President: Aubrey Callaham, Panama City
- VPAL: Arthur L. Smith, Nocatee
- Vice President, Northwest District: Dudley M. Rogers, Destin
- Vice President, North District: Nealy C. McConnell, Jr., Starke
- Vice President, Northeast District: Joseph J. Deckelman, Ormond Beach
- Vice President, North Central District: John V. Croce, Orlando
- Vice President, East Central District: Thomas D. Sullivan, Melbourne
- Vice President, Central District: William H. Wedlock, Lakeland
- Vice President, West Central District: Hugh H. Hamilton, Tampa
- Vice President, Southwest Central District: Gary Beschorner, Sarasota
- Vice President, Southwest District: David B. Lake, Cape Coral
- Vice President, Southeast District: Earle Sims Fowler, West Palm Beach
- Vice President, South Southeast District: Charles D. Kelley, Davie
- Vice President, South District: Henry Mazanek, Key Largo
- Secretary: Frank D. Willis, Jr., Umatilla
- Treasurer: Joseph B. Bryant, Sebring
- Chaplain: Tom Sanson
- Tiler: Herman S. Flowers
- Historian: W. R. Stephens
- Sergeant at Arms: James M. Brand
- Organist: Alex Keeso

Quotations:

“The great majority of men join the Order of Elks for a social reason, and then we make good Elks out of them. So you’ve got to get them in and then you imbue them with the ideals and principles of Elkdom and then you
can progress and they become fine Elks. So make a friendly atmosphere, a nice place, and it will help your membership situation.”

(Robert Grafton, PGER)

“Hospital expenses have increased. Had it not been for Wills and Bequests in the past year, they would have operated with a $900 deficit. We cannot always depend on Wills and Bequests. It can dry up. Predicting next year will be worse. We have to reassess what we are doing....If we are going to have this project, we must fund it....We need to come up with a program of financing that will carry us on into the future.”

(Robert Grafton, PGER)

Membership

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<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Lodges</td>
<td>123</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>89,285</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Gain</td>
<td>2,628</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Members</td>
<td>3,278</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initiated</td>
<td>6,873</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affiliated or Reinstated</td>
<td>3,560</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Payment of Dues</td>
<td>4,544</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
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Deceased Past State Presidents: 1988-1989

Alto Adams
A.C. Van Horn, Jr.

New Lodges Instituted

Deltona #2739
Manasota #2734

Elks Children’s Hospital

A clinic for Pompano Beach was approved.

Improvements were made at the hospital. A new roof was added at the cost of $70,000, a new telephone system was added, carpet was replaced in all halls, new drapes were added in the dining room, a new ice machine and a new convection oven were added, and numerous other small repairs and replacements of equipment were made.
Cameron, Robert B., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1970-1971

State President Robert B. Cameron died in office on March 11, 1971, twenty days prior to the close of the fiscal year. PSP Russell Saxon (1964) finished the term.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1970-1971 term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Robert B. Cameron, Jacksonville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, Northwest District</td>
<td>Matt Rigoni, Perry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, Northeast District</td>
<td>Rudy J. Fremen, Gainesville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, East Central District</td>
<td>Kenneth B. Morton, Titusville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, Central District</td>
<td>Bodo Kirchhoff, Kissimmee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, West Central District</td>
<td>Charles M. Pride, Clearwater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, Southwest District</td>
<td>Robert P. Rosin, Sarasota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, Southeast District</td>
<td>William S. Plumer, Pahokee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, South Southeast District</td>
<td>Anthony Amoroso, Plantation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, South District</td>
<td>Homer Byrum, Florida Keys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>William Lieberman, Leesburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Frank H. Holt, Miami</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>Leonard B. Miller, Riviera Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>L. M. Strickland, Sr., Tallahassee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sergeant at Arms</td>
<td>David Kersey, Seminole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>James P. Murphy, Boynton Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Edward Dwyer, Boca Raton</td>
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</tbody>
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Motto: “Achievement and Accomplishment”
The following Lodges were represented: Arcadia No. 1524, Clearwater No. 1525, Cocoa No. 1532, Daytona Beach No. 1141, Deland No. 1463, Eustis No. 1578, Fort Lauderdale No. 1517, Fort Myers No. 1288, Gainesville No. 990, Jacksonville No. 221, Lake City No. 893, Lakeland No. 1291, Lake Worth No. 1530, Live Oak No. 1165, Miami No. 948, Miami Beach No. 1601, New Smyrna Beach No. 1557, Orlando No. 1079, Pahokee No. 1638, Palatka No. 1232, Pensacola No. 497, St. Augustine No. 829, Sanford No. 1241, Sarasota No. 1519, Sebring No. 1529, Tallahassee No. 937, Tampa No. 708, West Palm Beach No. 1352, and Key West No. 551.

President Wall reported that due to wartime, travel restriction, and by a vote of a majority of the Lodges, no statewide meeting or conventions were held. However, the Executive Committee held several meetings to transact the necessary business.

Tallahassee Lodge No. 937 was awarded the Ritualistic prize.

The report of J. Edwin Baker, Superintendent of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home, was received and printed in full, pages 34 to 49 inclusive.

Upon the recommendation of PDD James Dunn as a member of a special committee of the Executive, the committee publication of a magazine was authorized.

Mr. Kueling reported on the publication of a history of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home.

A suitable resolution was adopted endorsing the Grand Lodge Rehabilitation Program.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1944-1945 term:

- President: C. G. Campbell, Lake City 893
- Vice President, Northwest District: Otis Padgett, Marianna 1516
- Vice President, Northeast District: R. G. Ziegler, Gainesville 990
- Vice President, Central District: Hubert E. Griggs, Cocoa 1532
- Vice President, Southeast District: W. R. Jackson, Lake Worth 1530
- Vice President, Southwest District: L. M. Hicks, Bradenton 1511
- Treasurer: Claude E. Johnson, Tallahassee 937
- Secretary: Geo. D. Douglass, Lake City 893
- Historian: Harold Colee, St. Augustine 829
Miami Beach was selected for the 1944-1945 Annual Session.

Campbell, Charles I., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1959-1960

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1959-1960 term:

- President: Charles I. Campbell
- Vice President, Northwest District: Fleming Folkes, Panama City
- Vice President, Northeast District: William Bartlett, Ocala
- Vice President, East Central District: George A. Mansfield, Kissimmee
- Vice President, West Central District: J. A. Sams
- Vice President, South Central District: Jack Carver, Delray Beach
- Vice President, South District: Norman P. O’Brien, Coral Gables
- Secretary: James J. Fernandez, Tampa
- Treasurer: George C. Russ, Tallahassee
- Historian: William A. Partain, Jr., Palatka
- Tiler: Edward B. Jones, Pensacola
- Sergeant at Arms: Joe Queipo, Tampa
- Chaplain: G. P. LeMoyne, Fort Myers
- Organist: Charles Doolittle, Daytona Beach
Membership showed a net gain of 935. Five new Lodges were instituted:

- Marathon 2139 September 6, 1959
- Charlotte County 2153 January 23, 1960
- Largo 2159 March 26, 1960
- Winter Garden 2165 April 23, 1960
- Boca Raton 2166 May 7, 1960

Canada Elks, Benevolent and Protective Order of

All members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America are familiar with one of the requirements for membership which is that they must be American citizens. It is on their application for membership, it is emphasized in the Indoctration program, and it is repeated in the obligation and lectures of initiation.

Few are aware though that there is a Benevolent and Protective of Order of Elks of Canada. This fraternity, although the movement was motivated by the excellent reputation enjoyed by the American Order, is completely independent of the BPO Elks of the United States.

The Grand Lodge of that Order published the following history of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Canada sometime in the 1970s. It is given space here in answer to the questions that have at times been directed to me as State Historian as to the relationship between the Canadian and American Orders and is of general interest to the rest. The Canadian fraternity, in its own right, is an Order that takes pride in a membership of earnest, sincere, and unselfish men whose principal objectives are the welfare of its members and the common good of the people as a whole. They have stressed patriotism, respect for law and order, service in its widest sense, and charity and fraternalism, principles so familiar with the Elks of the United States.

HOW THE ELKS BEGAN

The Benevolent and Protective Order of ELKS of Canada was founded on September 26, 1912 at Vancouver, British Columbia. The story of its beginnings provides a striking chapter in the history of the Order in this country.

The first Lodge was called Vancouver Lodge No. 1, and it included among its officers and members a number of men who afterwards distinguished themselves in the great task of extending the blessings and benefits of ELKDOM to the rest of Canada. Their courage, perseverance and integrity were demonstrated in the efforts they put forth to build the institution on a strong foundation. One reason why they succeeded was because they were inspired by a noble zeal which carried them through aggravating difficulties and over huge obstacles. Their objective was the only thing that counted, and they declined to linger or to lag, if at all, until it had been achieved.

The outstanding position attained by ELKDOM in the United States was the main factor in the decision to establish the Order in Canada. Many charter members of Vancouver Lodge had become familiar with the record of benevolent, protective, and charitable activities for which ELKS Lodges and their members were so well and favorably known in the great country to our south. They believed that similar results would follow here if the groundwork for the Order could be laid firmly and securely, and the principles for which it stood could be promulgated steadily among the members.

The founding of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in the United States came about through a group of actors and entertainers headed by Charles A. Vivian, a brilliant Englishman. The name was chosen and the preliminary work of organization was completed at a meeting in New York on February 16, 1868. Brother Vivian was elected as the first presiding officer; he composed, or adapted, most of the original ritual, and in his capacity as Right Honorable Primo in the First Degree he initiated several candidates into the Order. Additional information about the early days of ELKDOM in the United States will be given at a later stage of this review.

As has been stated, the excellent reputation enjoyed by the American Order provided the chief motive for the movement at Vancouver. Probably the enthusiastic "pioneers" in the organization did not realize how many and how serious were the troubles ahead of them. Mention has already been made of difficulties and obstacles, and it is appropriate now to indicate the forms in which some of these presented themselves. It appears that the first steps in the formation of the Lodge had been taken by three high-pressure promoters from Seattle, Washington, only one of who had ever been an ELK. They liked what they saw, and they decided to make the most of it, if they could. It was a matter of little difficulty to secure, from the Provincial Government at Victoria, articles of incorporation for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the Dominion of Canada; who could say them nay? An office was
opened at Vancouver, and an active campaign for members was begun. One of the trio seemed to dislike the way in which the scheme was being worked; at any rate he soon disposed of his share in the prospective harvest of fees and other emoluments, and took no further part in the business. The two survivors were undaunted; they sold a quarter-interest in the venture to a pair of hopeful, but presumably uninformed, “investors,” and continued their efforts. (One of the newcomers soon abandoned the deal and returned to England.)

In the three-month period immediately following incorporation the promoters obtained applications and fees from more than 200 prospective ELKS, many of who were prominent in business or professional life. It was, for the “insiders,” an easy “touch;” they insisted that they were acting under authority from the ELKS in the United States, and that the Order in Canada would become affiliated with the larger body. This would have been a clinching argument, if it had had any basis in fact. The truth is that it was a deliberate fraud, but as long as the going was good the promoters did not worry. Evidently they overplayed their hand, because they were soon called upon to figure out logical answers to questions asked by many of the new “members.” Of course matters came to a crisis as a result. The rest is history, but it is worth telling at some length.

Enter Charles Edward Redeker, A.M., Ph.D. A native of Philadelphia, he was a man of wide stature, as his educational titles attest. He had arrived at Vancouver in 1911, at the age of 40, and had decided to make his home there. Naturally he soon heard of the efforts to start a Lodge of ELKS, and he was one of the first to sign an application for membership. (Of course he did not then know anything about the promoters, but his participation in many forms of public activity in the United States had made him well aware of what ELKDOM meant in that country.) When the question period arrived for him, and the answers he received were evasive and unsatisfactory, he acted firmly and promptly. He went to Seattle on an errand of investigation for himself. What he learned there, from a Grand Trustee of the ELKS, confirmed his early fears and determined his future course of action. He came back with the conviction that the promoters were collecting fees under false pretenses because they had not a title of authority from the ELKS or from any other official source, except the Government Department at Victoria. It is true that these gentry had snitched some items from the Constitution of the United States ELKS and had deposited them with the Department. The fact that they lacked ritual regalia, equipment and all the other essential elements of a Lodge did not seem to bother them at all. The “statutes” which they had filed at Victoria gave them control of the Order, for the time being at any rate, and that was enough for their purposes. Or so it seemed. They did not realize that they had “caught a Tartar” when they enrolled Brother Redeker as a member.

Their ignorance on that point did not last long. They had persuaded him to act as Grand Organizer; they had plans for extending their operations almost immediately to other parts of Canada. But the new official was skeptical as a result of his trip to Seattle, and he made up his mind to force a showdown. It was finally decided to call a meeting of the applicants for membership, with the object of instituting the new Lodge, and the date was set for September 26, 1912. At the first meeting the legitimate members assumed control. One of the original promoters was ousted promptly, while the other was shackled under a promise to do, as he was told, or else. Brother Redeker was chosen as Chairman, in which capacity he proceeded to bind all the applicants present under a temporary obligation. This was done so that the members could be constituted as a Lodge and thus be given legal status in accordance with the charter. It was a consequence of this essential step that the cleanup was completed. Vancouver Lodge No. 1 was on its way. The next procedure was to formulate a list of officers. This was done by choosing a Board of Trustees and instructing it to act as a nominating committee. Its report was adopted, and the new officers were installed.

It was then necessary to form a Grand Lodge, which should take over full control and lay down policies for the future. A major problem was that of finance. The scheming promoters had made a pretense of declaring that 25% of the fees from applications could go to the Lodge, but investigation showed that they had used up all the money. With no funds, no ritual, no proper constitution, and no equipment or furniture --- indeed with nothing but the charter of incorporation, the situation appeared to be desperate. The members had to decide whether to abandon the whole enterprise and quit, or to raise sufficient money among them and build up a real organization. It was then that they showed their mettle. They determined to go ahead, and by that demonstration of courage and optimism they laid the true foundation of ELKDOM in Canada. It was a momentous step, to which the continued progress and success of the Order can be traced.

The genius and diligence of Brother Redeker were largely responsible for the enthusiasm and vigor, which marked the development of the institution. It was only natural that his talents should have been given recognition in tangible ways. He was selected as Exalted Ruler in the first slate of officers for Vancouver Lodge, but the greatest measure of appreciation was accorded to him when he was chosen as the first Grand Exalted Ruler of the Grand Lodge. It was no empty title, since all his qualities of mind and heart were needed to direct the lusty movement into channels where it could achieve its widest usefulness. He devoted himself to his tasks with the utmost enthusiasm,
and he met obstacles only to overcome them. His associates were inspired by his example, and they did their full part in helping to bring order out of chaos.

At the beginning of its career the Grand Lodge was faced by a demand from one of the original promoters for the return of the moneys he had “invested” in the enterprise. He was given no satisfaction, and later claims by him along the same lines were rejected. Soon afterwards it was learned that he had formed a syndicate of his own, the purpose of which was to “double-cross” the first promoters and establish a rival organization. In pursuance of this objective he had secured a charter in Manitoba, and had made similar applications to the Provincial Governments in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The new Grand Lodge took prompt action to nip this scheme in the bud. It called a special meeting for October 17, 1912 at Vancouver, at which it was decided to secure registration of the British Columbia charter in all the Provinces of Canada, or to obtain incorporation in those provinces where registration would not be sufficient, so that the corporate name of the ELKS should be protected fully throughout Canada. It was also agreed to proceed at once with an active campaign or organization across the country.

With these objects in view the Grand Lodge vested the Grand Exalted Ruler, Brother Redeker, with full power to act on behalf of the Benevolent and Protective Order of ELKS in carrying out the purpose and intent of its decisions. There was little time to lose, but many difficulties still stood in the way. With no money in the treasury a large measure of optimism and hope was required. Three of the Grand Trustees, Brothers Morrow, Hachmuth and Sears, gave their joint notes to a bank in order to secure a proper supply of funds. (This was only one instance of the generosity and loyalty of the Vancouver brethren in their magnificent program of constructive achievement.) It was essential that a form of ritual, together with a plan of ceremonials, a constitution, by-laws and other regulations be compiled at once. The Grand Exalted Ruler undertook this important duty, in conjunction with Brother Hachmuth, and in a relatively short space of time the task was completed. In preparing the ritual and ceremonials they had the advantage of close consultation with Judge Edwin P. Pfost, a life member of the Lodge of ELKS in Kansas City, Missouri, who was then living at Vancouver. Two of the lectures were actually supplied by Judge Pfost, and he supervised closely the other material for the degrees.

It may be well to point out here that if the applicants who attended the meeting at Vancouver on September 26, 1912 for the purpose of being instituted as a Lodge had not been obligated and thereby joined in ELKS Lodge fellowship their action in confirming by vote the election of officers, and afterwards in giving assent to the formation of the Grand Lodge, would not have been legal. After these steps had been taken, through the forethought of Brother Redeker, and the Grand Lodge had been formed, there was no question of its right to take over the British Columbia charter and to use it in subsequent negotiations with Provincial Governments in other parts of Canada.

Following up the decision to secure charters or registrations in the other Provinces, reached at the special meeting of the Grand Lodge on October 17, 1912, the Grand Exalted Ruler was requested to visit the various Capitals for the purpose. This step was all the more essential because the “displaced” promoters, as has been mentioned, had obtained a charter for their bogus organization in Manitoba, and had made applications in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Brother Redeker’s trip was strenuous, because he had to fight an uphill battle wherever he went. His perseverance and patience were rewarded, however, in full measure. In Ontario, where more than one attempt to establish ELKS Lodges had failed, he scored a notable victory when on November 25 (a little more than a month after the special Grand Lodge session) Letters Patent of Incorporation were granted by the Provincial Government at his request. He was then permitted to register the Order in New Brunswick and to secure incorporation by Acts of the Legislatures in Nova Scotia and in Alberta.

The Grand Exalted Ruler had been forced to travel about 10,000 miles in less than a month, and in winter too, but he had made every mile, and every minute, count. His most outstanding achievement was that of securing a Dominion charter through a special Act of Parliament at Ottawa. This did not come through until May of the following year (1913) but it was more than worthwhile when it did arrive. About that time the Privy Council at London ruled that any company which possessed a Dominion charter might operate in any Province of Canada regardless of whether or not it had obtained a Provincial charter, and also that Dominion charters took precedence over Provincial charters. It is interesting to note the following significant reference to the purposes of the Society, as set out in the Canadian charter incorporation: “3. (a) Benevolent, provident, moral and charitable purposes; (b) purposes of social intercourse, mutual helpfulness and mental improvement, and rational recreations; but such purposes shall not include sickness, funeral, accident or disability benefits, or any other form of insurance.”

The first meeting of the incorporators was held at Toronto, Ontario on July 16, 1913. The following were duly elected as members of the Society; E. W. Hachmuth, W. C. Warrous, A. Wells Gray, Charles E. Stong, Charles L. Barnett, J. F. Bennett, John H. Sears, A. G. Brown, Henry Freund, Frank McAlpine, William H. Morrow, J. Stillwell, A. W. Hunter, Robert Clark and F. P. Phillips. All of these were then chosen as officers, in accordance with the constitution; Bro. Hachmuth was elected as Grand Exalted Ruler, Bro. Barnett as Grand Secretary and Bro. Bennett as Grand Treasurer. As a matter of course Bro. Redeker became Past Grand Exalted Ruler. The meeting also
passed a resolution by which all acts of the B.P.O.E., heretofore unincorporated, were ratified, sanctioned, adopted and confirmed. This was important, indeed, as it gave legal status to all that had been done by the Order since it wrested control from the original promoters at the organization meeting in Vancouver during the previous September. It was particularly gratifying to Bro. Redeker, whose strenuous and valiant efforts were largely responsible for the final establishment of ELKDOM in this country.

In the meantime substantial progress had been made in the effort to build up a nationwide organization. The Grand Lodge, operating under its British Columbia charter, had held its first regular session on December 27, 1912. Only 16 members were present, and they formed a majority of the representatives who were qualified to attend. This fact is mentioned to show how great has been the expansion of the Order since the days of the pioneers.

It is now carrying on its work in nine of the ten provinces of Canada, as well as in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories with a membership of over 40,000 and its whole structure throbs with energy and vitality. The growth is the direct outcome of plans made at the first Grand Lodge session. The necessity for organization and development was given primary consideration, and the appointment of Brother Redeker as Grand Organizer was part of that program.

The first Lodge outside Vancouver was instituted at Victoria, British Columbia, on January 23, 1913, less than a month after the first regular Grand Lodge meeting. The next was at New Westminster on March 13, 1913. Both had been started with great enthusiasm and they were important additions to the Order in the Pacific Province. Through their cooperation the activities of Grand Lodge were increased and expanded, and the picture of a national organization began to assume a sharper focus. On July 28, 1913, Calgary Lodge No. 4 was instituted at Calgary, Alberta, and from that time forward the work of organizing and instituting new Lodges was continuous. A notable example of courage and determination was the establishment of Winnipeg Lodge No. 10 on August 26, 1913. There was stern opposition from a group of promoters who had secured a Provincial charter in the preceding year. Many meetings and interviews were necessary in order to overcome the obstacles, but when the Dominion charter was obtained by Brother Redeker and his associates the work proceeded smoothly, and the opposition was driven from the field.

By the time that the Grand Lodge met for its second regular session in Vancouver on September 2, 1913, Grand Exalted Ruler Hachmuth was able to report that a total of 12 Lodges, from Victoria on the west to Fort Frances, Ontario on the east had been instituted. Considering that less than a year had elapsed since the first Lodge was started at Vancouver it was realized that excellent progress had been made and that the prospect for the future was bright indeed. One important step was taken at this session when the action of the Grand Exalted Ruler in appointing a fraternal representative to convey greetings to the American Elks at their Grand Lodge meeting was endorsed. It was also agreed that every courtesy (aside from the privilege of attending a Lodge) should be extended by Canadian ELKS to any American brethren who were visiting in this country. As a matter of precaution the Grand Lodge confirmed and ratified the decisions taken at the special meeting of incorporators at Toronto on July 14, 1913, following the issuance of the Dominion charter.

As this review deals chiefly with the beginnings of Elkdom in Canada, it does not seem advisable to describe in detail or at great length the remarkable progress of the Order in later years. Essential to that progress was the elimination of promoters whose efforts to spread their false brand of fraternalism were being maintained in various parts of the country. One group capitulated at Moose Jaw on October 16, 1913, at the emphatic suggestion of Grand Organizer Redeker. Its campaign in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba was thus discontinued. Another high-pressure individual who claimed to be Western representative for a Toronto organization of “Elks” slipped out of sight when he realized the jig was up. The Grand Lodge of the B.P.O.E. in Canada, now well established gave protection to those who had unwittingly joined clandestine Lodges. As a result it became the sole custodian of the appellation ELK from the Atlantic Ocean to Vancouver Island.

The future of ELKDOM in this country seems to hold great promise of advancement and expansion. With over 345 Lodges in active operation, or in course of being established, the Order has cause for optimism and satisfaction. Through intense devotion to the principles of ELKDOM on the part of its members, especially of its officers, the pathway for the days and years to come is clearly marked -- ONWARD and UPWARD.

Reference has been made to Charles A. Vivian, the founder of the ELKS in the United States. When he arrived at New York from England in November 1867, he hoped to make his living in the theatrical field, as he had done with a fair measure of success in his native country. Although his financial resources were at low ebb, by dint of ability and perseverance he was able to carry on from the start. He was grieved to learn, however, that some of his associates in the profession were in destitute circumstances. Indeed when one of his new friends, whose illness had been aggravated by poverty, passed away, a serious situation developed. Because this man had been an actor, the dignity of religious interment was to be denied, and his body was to be buried in the potter’s field. Vivian was naturally incensed at such procedure, and he was equally determined to block it. Even within the limited range of his
appointed to draft rules and a ritual, and to select a new name.” By giving benevolence the most prominent place in their activities they set the standard for the future development of the institution; in fact, “they built better than they knew.” They had already demonstrated their charitable instincts in a variety of ways. For instance, it sometimes happened that a “Cork” would fail to show up at a weekly gathering. If inquiry disclosed that he was ill or unable to carry on, the group would “fine” every member present a couple of dollars, and immediately send the proceeds, anonymously, to the friend in distress. When a Cork would lose his job, the others would make up a purse and tide him over. With one accord they seemed to see the light of that eternal truth -- that Brotherhood is the divinely -- ordained relationship, which should actuate and govern all mankind.

The special committee devoted a great deal of time and study to the selection of a name of the Order. It was understood that they should take for their model a well-known denizen of the forest whose qualities attracted the admiration of mankind. Some of the members visited a well-known zoo for the purpose of making a real study. When their gaze rested upon a fine big buck ELK, they knew they had the right name. This species “was noted for his timidity and fleetness of foot, anxious to avoid combat but always ready to fight unto death in defense of the female, the young and the weak.” Nature lovers agreed that the ELK was endowed with many other qualities of which set him up as an example, even for human beings. The committee reported back to a meeting on February 16, 1868, with a recommendation that the Corks in future be known as the “Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.” There was a protracted discussion, and even Imperial Cork Vivian, who was in the chair, opposed the recommendation at first. Eventually he acquiesced in the decision to use the name “ELKS,” and from that time there has been no change in the official title.

Early in March the committee submitted a draft constitution of 15 clauses, together with a set of 21 rules and regulations. These were adopted and the members proceeded to strengthen and solidify their organization. It appeared that they were to have smooth sailing, especially since the meeting on May 17, 1868 added the Second Degree, known as “Devout Elders.” Vivian’s position corresponded to that now known as Exalted Ruler, and apparently his genial manner and great professional skill endeared him to all who knew him. He was proud of the new organization he had helped to create, and he foresaw a future of great usefulness for it.

This vision was shattered, as far as he was concerned, by one of those foul maneuvers which overtake many great institutions in their infancy. While Vivian was away from New York on one of his concert tours in the summer of 1868 his enemies --- he did not even know he had any --- laid their plans to oust him and his closest friends. They called a meeting, packed it with their henchmen by changing the password without any authority, and expelled Vivian together with eight other original Jolly Corks. The action was illegal and void, but it was never righted in the case of Vivian; at no time after that did he present himself at the door of an ELKS Lodge.

Vivian, to whom ELKS in both the United States and Canada owe so much, continued his professional career with great success during the next 12 years. In Leadville, Colorado, however, he contracted pneumonia, and died within two days. The funeral service was held in a large Opera House, and was attended by a great throng. Nine years later Vivian’s remains were exhumed and taken to Boston. There they were re-interred in ELKS’ Rest, Mount Hope Cemetery, where a beautiful monument marks his grave. The inscription reads “Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian, Founder of the Order of ELKS, Died March 20, 1880, aged 34 years. A lover of mankind who founded a great order and in doing so wrought much good.”

Apparently the internal friction in New York Lodge arising out of the expulsion of Vivian and his friends was of short duration. By December 27, 1868, there were 76 members in good standing, one of the most prominent being Tony Pastor, the celebrated theatrical magnate. It was on his motion on January 1, 1871, that the Grand Lodge of Benevolent and Protective Order of ELKS was founded, and steps were taken to secure a charter from New York State Legislature. In 1888 a constitutional amendment was adopted which widened the membership, hitherto confined largely to actors and entertainers, so as to include professionals and nonprofessionals alike. As a result of this action there was a rapid increase in the number of Lodges, as well as a phenomenal growth in membership, and these evidences of expansion have continued to the present day.
It may be well to conclude this review with the gratifying statement that the relations between the ELKS of the United States and the ELKS in Canada have been maintained continuously on a high level of fraternity and concord. There is no actual affiliation, of course, nor can there be under present circumstances. Membership, with the privilege of attending an ELKS Lodge, in the United States is confined to American citizens, all of whom are required to swear allegiance to the National Flag. In Canada an ELK is bound to swear that he will honor and respect the flag under which he lives. There is no suggestion that either of those rules should be changed, especially as the most cordial and intimate relationships between the respective Orders have demonstrated that the true spirit of Brotherhood prevails wherever ELKS are to be found.

Cape Coral Lodge 2596

Cape Coral Lodge #2596 was instituted June 16, 1979. It is Florida’s 99th Lodge. Cape Coral lies on the Caloosahatchee River, four miles from the Gulf of Mexico.

Cape Coral Lodge received a dispensation to form a Lodge on March 8, 1979. Their institution took place at the beautiful Cape Coral Country Club on June 16, 1979. Ken McStravic, District Deputy, and the Fort Myers Lodge officers installed 335 charter members. Rod Puleo was the first Exalted Ruler of the 99th Lodge in Florida.

Grand Lodge Installing Officers at Institution:

- Exalted Ruler: Kenneth W. McStravic
- Leading Knight: George C. Frick
- Loyal Knight: Frank S. Spadafora
- Lecturing Knight: Arthur Ballantine
- Secretary: Edward Falk
- Treasurer: Bruce Jones
- Tiler: Bedford Prescott
- Inner Guard: Earl Enos
- Esquire: Arthur L. Smith
- Organist: Morris Cunningham
- Trustees:
  - Doyle Sweeney
  - William Stone
  - William Bostick
  - David Lake
  - John Hackett

Chaplain: Bernie Woods

The following officers from Fort Myers Lodge #1288 performed the Initiation of Candidates to Cape Coral Elks Lodge #2596:

- Exalted Ruler: Donald Edwards
- Leading Knight: Howie Spear
- Loyal Knight: Belford Duffy
- Lecturing Knight: Jim McStravic
- Esquire: John Early
- Chaplain: Ronald Weller
- Secretary: Wallace G. Cain
- Inner Guard: Jerry Cibulka
- Tiler: Napoleon St. Amand

Charter Officers for Cape Coral Lodge #2596 were:

- Exalted Ruler: Rodney M. Puleo
- Leading Knight: Ronald Kasper
- Loyal Knight: Lawrence Descheneaux
- Lecturing Knight: Frank Osowski
- Esquire: Nick Ballacky
- Chaplain: Charles L. Rayburn
- Secretary: Robert L. Merriam
Treasurer   William Schick
5 year Trustee   Kenneth W. Strunk
4 year Trustee   John Koerber
3 year Trustee   Marion E. Bastian
2 year Trustee   John L. Hesse
1 year Trustee   Leonard Weiser
Inner Guard    Orrie H. Dahlke
Tiler     Joe Barone
Organist     Gerard Tommasulo
Presiding Justice of the Subordinate Forum   John B. Harrington

The new Lodge received gifts from various Lodges. Charlotte County Lodge #2153 gave them officers’ stations and the altar. Venice -Nokomis Lodge #1854 gave them jewels of office. Arcadia Lodge #1524 gave them the Esquire’s baton. Fort Myers Lodge #1288 provided them with the altar cloth and the Bible. Englewood Lodge #2378 gave them the star of fidelity. The Lima, Ohio Lodge #54 PER Association gave them an American flag set.

The first Exalted Rulers Golf Tournament was played on October 19, 1979 with Charles Patterson taking first place. Many successful tournaments were to follow. They started their first building fund bond drive in 1979 to attain a goal of $100,000. By June of 1981, their first bond drive was sold out with 245 bonds sold. At this time the Cape Coral City Council approved plans for their new Lodge site. In September Grand Lodge approved a $500,000 bond drive for their new Lodge home. By May 10, 1983 this bond drive was sold out with some 610 bonds.

On April 1, 1980, after 9½ months in existence, their membership had attained 521 with a loss of three for a net of 518. Kenneth W. Strunk, a Past Exalted Ruler from Lima, Ohio, was elected the second Exalted Ruler. In 1981 their membership had climbed to 568. In 1982 membership was at 674. That year groundbreaking ceremonies for their new home took place with the laying of a cornerstone.

The following year they had a gain of 320 and a loss of 54 to enjoy a new high of 940 members. D. B. Futrell was elected Exalted Ruler and on April 18, 1983, the Cape Coral Elks held a Grand Opening and Dedication Ball for their new Lodge. This was a real achievement for a Lodge only five years old.

By the end of their fifth year, membership had grown to 1,300 members due to the courage of their leaders and members and the tremendous task of their Bond Fund Chairman and Secretary, Marion Bastian.

When Eugene Benvenuto became Exalted Ruler on April 1, 1984 they had a membership of 1,307. In 1984-1985 they prepared a float with a large eight foot papier mâché elk for entrance in the Edison Pageant of Light and Columbus Day Parade. Kimberly Welsh, their first child accepted to the Harry-Anna Hospital, was accepted as their first float child.

Also in 1984-1985, Past Exalted Ruler John P. Early became the first District Vice President and PER Rod Puleo became State Chairman of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

On January 13, 1986, Exalted Ruler Mario Pane presented the Grand Exalted Ruler Achievement Award Pin honoring two outstanding brothers of the Lodge for their dedication to Elkdom, their willingness to help their fellow man, and for always being ready when called upon. They were Rodney Puleo, their first Exalted Ruler, and Marion Bastian, Secretary.

The Lodge celebrated a mortgage burning on August 31, 1991 with a dinner/dance. Cape Coral has been recipient of many Grand Lodge and state membership awards. Over fifteen awards from the Elks National Service Commission and the Florida Veterans Service have been received through the dedicated work of Brother Charles Covucci.

The Lodge is also the recipient of the City of Cape Coral Sharper Image Award. This award presented to Exalted Ruler John Arena read, “For creating and maintaining attractive building and grounds: Green, Clean, Beautiful Cape Coral.”

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The death of Past Exalted Ruler Orrie Dalke in February of 1991 left the first vacant chair of a Past Exalted Ruler of the Lodge.

At the State Convention in 2001, Cape Coral was awarded the most member increase for Lodges with 1,101 to 1,500 members.

In 1997 a group of members, wives, and Ladies of the Elks thought it would be a benefit to the Lodge to form a committee to have various functions for the purpose of raising money to improve the back lot. The object was to improve the grounds for the use and enjoyment of members and guests during the winter months when the weather was good, to attract younger members to the Lodge by having a place for their children to come and enjoy,
and to offer the improved facility to various youth groups so that they could have fundraisers and various functions here (thereby fulfilling the obligation in Youth Activities) while increasing the Elks’ image in the community. Among the many improvements were a back lot picnic area with several new picnic tables, a covered pavilion, a large barbecue pit, and horseshoe pits. Members in memory of loved ones donated the picnic benches and palm trees.

The Lodge members and the Cape Coral Ladies of the Elks have always worked hand in hand. In 1983 they were honored when the Ladies were host to over 700 at the Ladies State Conference held in Cape Coral. The Lodge was packed day and night with business meetings and other activities. The Ladies have supported the men in support of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and they installed carpeting throughout the Lodge and purchased kitchen equipment to replace old worn equipment such as an icemaker, steam table, commercial size soup kettle, serving trays (hot and cold), etc. They also have purchased a hot dog machine and all of the dishes, cups, and silverware as well as hanging planters. Money for these purchases has been raised through fashion shows, bazaars, bake sales, bingo, card parties, and dinner/dances.

The Cape Coral Ladies of the Elks were organized in 1979 with fifty members. In 2007, Lodge members donated their time to paint the house of a needy community resident. Seven Lodge volunteers were on the crew.

Card, Membership

In 1889 the Grand Secretary recommended the adoption of a form of certificate for members to carry in their pockets or affixed on their bylaws, such receipt certifying that the member was in good standing until such date as indicated by the amount of dues paid for would cover. This was the forerunner of the traveling card or Elks Card.

Many first Elks were issued diploma type certificates that showed the inscribed person had been initiated into the Order. Grand Lodge has in its possession one of these early membership certificates which readily shows its two major weaknesses. It was roughly 12” by 16” and had to be folded and unfolded many times. Also, the certificate didn’t show current dues status. Amazingly, the issue wasn’t well addressed for 21 years, not until Grand Secretary Arthur Moreland suggested a form of dated certificate that would show a member to be in good standing and could be carried in the pocket, wallet, or attached to the bylaw book which was often carried by active members.

At the 1880 National Convention, Grand Secretary Allen O. Myers announced that a demit card of uniform type was now to be used. It would show dues paid at least six months in advance and would be issued with a black leather back or cover. By 1891, three fourths of all Lodges were using the new card. The size, color, and shape have all changed over the years, with special designs and stickers used during World War I, World War II, and the Bicentennial.

Source: Gerald Ferguson, Historian
Massachusetts Elks Association
Massachusetts Elks News, Fall 1997
Carleton, William

William Carleton was the third man to join the Jolly Corks. On February 16, 1868, he became Recording Secretary. He acted in that capacity until the adoption of the ritual with the second degree and the new election of officers. Carleton was then succeeded by William Sheppard.

He was born on Baggot Street in Dublin, Ireland circa 1827. He was named after his uncle, William Carleton, author of “Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry” and several tales of a partisan, anti-English character. He went into the music hall line at an early age, and as an Irish dancing vocalist he made quite a hit on the other side. It was thought he might fill the place here occupied so long by the talented J. H. Ogden. After coming to this country, he made his first appearance in America at Tony Pastor’s Opera House on the Bowery on February 26, 1866, and it was made known he had been engaged by Mr. Pastor for a year. His first appearance was not as successful as it had promised to be, but this was attributed to nervousness. He improved, but not rapidly, and his engagement at that theatre was terminated at the end of three weeks, an announcement being made that because of ill health, he would travel for a time with a panorama. During 1866-1867 he was performing in the variety theatres in the west, more especially in Cincinnati. On the specialty stage, Carleton was best known by reason of his singing “Dandy Pat, Beigho.” When Augustin Daly’s “Pickwick Papers” was first produced on January 22, 1868 at the Worrel Sisters’ Theater in New York City, he was specially engaged for the role of Nathaniel Winkle for his comic or character singing, but he was a disappointment. In the courtroom scene, Carleton had a short scene with the judge and Carleton became confused and stuck in his lines. The judge, frowning, said to him, “Well! Winkle, what do you want to say?”

Carleton, with his quick Irish wit, replied, “I don’t remember what I want to say, but Mr. Dickens, the author, is sitting over there in the box; just ask him and he will tell you.”

About 1870 he went back to Cincinnati where he did newspaper work besides a little playwriting and also managed a theatre for a time. There he married Jennie Gilmore, a soubrette and variety actress, who was then Mrs. Peck, but who had been divorced from her husband, a Cincinnati merchant. She died in East Saginaw, Michigan on May 5, 1874, leaving one child. His second wife, a nonprofessional, died about 1879. He had separated from her before her death and afterward lived alone.

From Cincinnati, about 1876, Carleton went to Philadelphia, where he worked up the first play to bring him considerable money. It was a continuation of the Fritz series called “Fritz in Ireland.” J. K. Emmett paid him liberally for it besides giving him a good salary to act in the piece and manage the state. He continued with Emmett for several seasons and prepared two or three revisions of “Fritz.” Emmett made a fortune out of the play Carleton wrote for him, while Carleton received $2,000 for it. Many clever sketches were written by him and sold for a price of a good dinner, while others took credit for them and signed them as authors. He was a thorough Bohemian, a clever entertainer, and a good storyteller. His ventriloquial act, “The Talking Hand,” a unique novelty, was original with him. He finally had one or two episodes of sickness and became very despondent, in poor health, and in dire circumstances. He boarded at Mrs. Daly’s boarding house, 316 East Fourteenth Street, New York City, and on the
night of August 18, 1885, went up to his room livelier than usual and was seen reading a novel at about 10 p.m. He wrote a poem about death and stuffed the door and windows and turned on the gas. He was found dead the next morning. A few articles of clothing were found in the room, some trinkets that he could not pawn, and a manuscript of the play of “Zitka” were all that was left. Most of his clothing had been pawned, and it is thought that a fit of despondency occasioned by owing several weeks’ rent for his room prompted him to his act of self destruction. Carleton was buried in the Actors Fund Plot, Evergreens Cemetery, in Brooklyn, NY. He was 58 years old.

Carleton was a man of more than ordinary intelligence and accomplishments; he was a linguist and could paint very well in both oil and water colors and was far above many others in his calling.

Carver, George C., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1956-1957

During Carver’s term, three Association officers died. One was Arthur O’Hea, PSP from the Northwest Division and member of the Board of Directors. Victor O’Wehle, PSP was appointed to fill O’Hea’s unexpired term. Claude L. Johnson, Association Treasurer and a member of Tallahassee Lodge, also died. George C. Russ of Tallahassee was appointed by the Board of Directors as Acting Treasurer. Howell Davis, PSP from Palatka Lodge #1232 and Historian of the Florida State Elks Association from 1946 to 1956, died as well. William A. Partain of Palatka #1232 replaced Davis, serving from 1957 to 1962. Partain wrote and published the first history of the Florida State Elks Association covering 1904 to 1961.

PSP and State Secretary James J. Fernandez was taken seriously ill on March 6, 1957. The Board of Directors met following the quarterly meeting of the Home Committee and devised and approved plans for the continuation of the affairs of the Association and the Harry-Anna Home. This meeting resulted in the appointment of William “Bill” Lieberman of Leesburg as Acting Secretary and a few days later, Chelsie Senerchia, Chairman of the Home Committee, was made Acting Comptroller of the Home. At the advice of the Operating Committee and Board of Directors, Carver applied and secured a leave of absence from his employer, the Southern Railway System, and moved to Umatilla to help carry on during Fernandez’ illness. Contrary to first impressions, Fernandez did improve and was soon able to return to active, though limited, duty.

Harry Miller, a member of Eustis Elks Lodge and a donor of the Rowebilt Hotel that became the Harry-Anna Home for Crippled Children, passed away on March 30, 1957. In announcing his death, President Carver said, “His passing only removes his physical body from our midst. His memory will remain to spur us on to greater effort in our program of rehabilitating crippled children.”
The following Lodges were represented: Arcadia No. 1524, Belle Glade No. 1716, Bradenton No. 1511, Clearwater No. 1525, Clermont-Groveland No. 1848, Clewiston No. 1853, Cocoa No. 1532, Coral Gables No. 1676, Daytona Beach No. 1141, Deland No. 1463, Delray Beach No. 1770, Eustis No. 1578, Florida Keys No. 1872, Fort Lauderdale No. 1517, Fort Myers No. 1288, Fort Pierce No. 1520, Fort Walton No. 1795, Gainesville No. 990, Green Cove Springs No. 1892, Holiday Isles No. 1912, Hollywood No. 1732, Homestead No. 1754, Jacksonville No. 221, Jacksonville Beach No. 1901, Key West No. 551, Kissimmee No. 1873, Lake City No. 893, Lakeland No. 1291, Lake Wales No. 1974, Lake Worth No. 1530, Leesburg No. 1703, Live Oak No. 1165, Marianna No. 1516, Melbourne-Eau Gallie No. 1744, Miami No. 948, Miami Beach No. 1601, Miami Springs-Hialeah No. 1775, North Miami No. 1835, South Miami No. 1888, New Smyrna Beach No. 1557, Ocala No. 286, Orlando No. 1079, Pahokee No. 1638, Palatka No. 1232, Panama City No. 1598, Pensacola No. 497, Perry No. 1851, Plant City No. 1727, Pompano Beach No. 1898, St. Augustine No. 829, St. Petersburg No. 1224, Sanford No. 1241, Sarasota No. 1519, Sebring No. 1529, Starke No. 1802, Stuart-Jensen No. 1870, Tallahassee No. 937, Tampa No. 708, Tarpon Springs No. 1719, Venice-Nokomis No. 1854, Vero Beach No. 1774, Wauchula No. 1700, West Palm Beach No. 1352, Winter Haven No. 1672, and Winter Park No. 1830.

President Frank J. Holt gave his annual report. An increase of 1,591 members was reported, or an increase of 5.43 percent. One new Lodge was instituted during the year: Lake Wales No. 1974 on June 2, 1955. Governor Collins highlighted youth activities with a proclamation of Elks’ National Youth Day. He reported the Harry-Anna Trust Fund as functioning well with 860 new certificates having been sold for a total of $91,000. The Lodges expended $151,165 in direct charities and $74,105 for indirect charities, or a per-capita contribution of $7.54.

Results of the State Ritualistic Contest were as follows: Gainesville No. 990 - 94.2477, Orlando No. 1079 - 93.8377, Live Oak No. 1165 - 93.7276, Miami No. 948 - 93.4704, and Tampa No. 708 - 93.1793.

The following amendments were made in the bylaws:
- Article V, Section 1, pertaining to officers of the corporation
- Article V, Section 4, pertaining to the board of directors
- Article V, Section 5, pertaining to life members
- Article V, Section 6, pertaining to traveling expense of President
- Article V, Section 7, pertaining to official visits of President
- Article V, Section 9, pertaining to amount of bond of Secretary
- Article V, Section 14, pertaining to duties of the Harry-Anna Home Committee
- Article V, Section 14i, pertaining to Operating Committee of Harry-Anna Home
- Article V, Section 14j, pertaining to the amount of bond of Comptroller of Harry-Anna Home
- Article VI, Section 1b, pertaining to winner of Ritualistic contest sum

The amendments to these bylaws are given in detail on pages 48-50, inclusive, of the annual proceedings for the year 1956.

There were six Vice Presidents in this year in six divisions.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1956-1957 term:

President: George Carver, Live Oak
Vice President, NW Division: George Clegg, Tallahassee
Vice President, NE Division: I. D. Sams, Jacksonville Beach
Vice President, EC Division: Russell L. Saxon, New Smyrna Beach
Vice President, WC Division: D. A. Beezley, Sarasota
Vice President, SC Division: Otis R. Parker, Fort Pierce
Vice President, S Division: Martin L. Kimmel, Miami Beach
Secretary: James J. Fernandez, Tampa
Treasurer: Claude L. Johnson, Tallahassee
Historian: Howell A. Davis, Palatka
Tiler: P. G. LeMoyne, Fort Myers
Sergeant at Arms: Peter Gessner, Deland
Chaplain: Frank X. Carroll, Pensacola
Organist: George W. Hulme, Lake Worth

Orlando, Florida was selected as the site for the 1957 convention.
Catastrophes

1937 Ohio - Mississippi River floods: Lodges came to the aid of the distressed, providing $100,000 to the Red Cross to aid victims.

Centennial of the B.P.O. Elks

![Front and back of Medallion Honoring Centennial of the B.P.O. Elks](image)
Central District (Florida)

Florida’s Central District had a total membership of 5,300 as of March 31, 1998. The Lodges of the Central District and their membership as of March 31, 1998 were as follows:

- Aripeka #2520 1,291
- Brooksville #2582 1,062
- Kissimmee #1873 738
- Orlando #1079 615
- South Orlando #2694 290
- West Citrus #2693 698
- Zephyrhills #2731 506

Ceremonies, Ritual, Name, & Title of Officers, Insignia: Use of:

(See Insignia, Ritual, Names, Titles or Ceremonies: Use of:)

Certificate of Commendation

For Exalted Rulers:

A Special Certification of Commendation will be awarded to Exalted Rulers who participate in four or more of the following programs during the year:

- Community Service and Image Brochure Contest
- Hoop Shoot Program
- Elks Soccer Shoot Program
- Youth Scholarship Program
- Achieve $3.50 Elks National Foundation per-capita goal plus participating membership by all Lodge Officers
- Participate in at least three of the following:
  - A) All-American Lodge Contest
  - B) Americanism Brochure Contest
  - C) Drug Awareness Program
  - D) Elks Memorial Day Contest
  - E) Elks National Youth Week
  - F) Lodge Bulletin Contest
  - G) Ritualistic Contest
  - H) Teenager of the Month/Year Program
  - I) Veterans Service and/or Adopt -A-Veteran Program

These Special Certificates of Commendation are available through the Area Grand Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee upon receipt of a formal written request from the Exalted Ruler. The request shall be supported with dated copies of cover letters, programs, news releases, bulletin notices, etc. attesting to the participation by the Lodge and the Lodge family in the above activities. The request must be postmarked no later than March 31.

For Subordinate Lodges:

A Certificate of Commendation is awarded to each Lodge which participates in at least six of the following programs. These certificates should be ordered from the Area Member of the Grand Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee. This request should be postmarked no later than March 31.

- Community Service and Image Brochure Contest
- Hoop Shoot Program
- Elks Soccer Shoot Program
- Ritualistic Contest
A Certificate of Commendation will be awarded to each Lodge which attains at least two of the following
goals. These certificates should be ordered from the Area Member of the Grand Lodge Activities/State Associations
Committee. This request should be postmarked no later than March 31.

- Achieves the level of $3.50 per member in donations to the Elks National Foundation
- Achieves a net membership gain of at least one member
- Achieves a level at or below two percent lapsation (Grand Exalted Ruler’s Citation will be awarded to
each Lodge with a lapsation rate of two percent or less as of March 31)

Entitlement to this award shall be determined by the office of the Grand Secretary based on information
provided by each Subordinate Lodge in its final membership report for the period ending March 31.

**For District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers:**

At the end of the District Deputy’s term in office a special Grand Exalted Ruler’s Certificate of
Commendation will be awarded to any District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler who complies with the Grand Lodge
Program and qualifies based upon the completion and submission of a copy of the District Deputy Duties (the list
contained in the District Deputy Checklist). The copy should be forwarded to the office of the Grand Secretary no
later than May 15.

**Chaplain, Florida Elks Association**

The Chaplain is an appointive officer. The Chaplain in the Florida State Elks Association is appointed by
the President to serve during his term. The Chaplain seeks the blessing of God upon the officers and members of the
Association at meetings of the Association and upon call of the President.
Chapman, L. F., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1932-1933

Twenty-Seventh Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
April 17-19, 1932
FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA

No typewritten or printed copies of proceedings available.

Proceedings of the 28th session contain the following: Brother Colee: "We have an apology to make regarding the non-printing of the proceedings of the Ft. Pierce convention. As all of you know, we had a very splendid convention at Ft. Pierce last year and much was accomplished. We had a very fine Court reporter present on that occasion at the request of the good brothers of Ft. Pierce, who took all of the proceedings of the morning session. Your past president and present secretary have lent every effort to secure the minutes of that meeting. I am very sorry to report that the brother either lost the minutes or was unable to read the notes. That is a very unfortunate circumstance. I want you to understand that it was not the fault of the brothers of Ft. Pierce nor was it the fault of any member or officer of the State Association. We do have, however, reports as well as the resolutions that were drafted. We have that much available, and it will be kept as a matter of record. I do want to express the regrets of the past officers and the Ft. Pierce delegation for the failure of the shorthand writer to produce the minutes of the proceedings."

The following officers were evidently elected to serve for the 1932-1933 term:

President        L. F. Chapman, Deland 1463
First Vice President   F. E. Thompson, Lake City 893
Second Vice President  W. P. Mooty, Miami 948
Third Vice President    Geo. Beckner, St. Petersburg 1224
Fourth Vice President  C. Harold Heppler, Eustis 1578
Fifth Vice President   Alto Adams, Fort Pierce 1520
Secretary-Treasurer   J. Frank Isaac, Daytona Beach 1141
Tiler               Carl Kettler, West Palm Beach 1352
Chaplain           Rev. Father P. J. Downey, New Smyrna Beach 1557
State Historian     E. L. Thompson, Daytona Beach 1141
Executive Committee:  J. Edwin Baker, West Palm Beach 1352
                                  Curtis Lindstrom, Deland 1463
                                  L. D. Reagin, Sarasota 1519
                                  A. C. Altvater, Sebring 1529
                                  F. E. Thompson, Lake City 893

Daytona Beach was selected for the 1932-1933 Annual Session.
Charitable Contribution Pass Through Program

Note: This is not the same program as the Reimbursement Program which became effective on April 1, 2001.

The purpose of the program is to encourage local Lodges to funnel their contributions for their local charities through the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. When the Harry-Anna Trust Fund under the stipulations noted below receives funds, the Trust Fund will immediately send the funds to the designated local charity.

The following information and procedures need to be implemented before funds are transmitted to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

1. Contributions must be made only for eligible charitable causes which can be either an IRS Designated 501(c)(3) organization or to be expended for a purpose recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as appropriate for an organization defined as a 501(c)(3) organization.

2. Checks from the Harry-Anna Trust Fund will be made directly to the designated organization.

3. Checks will be either sent directly to the designated organization or back to the local Lodge for presentation to the organization. These funds may not be deposited back into the local Lodge’s operating account; they must go directly to the designated charity.

4. The process may occur at any time during the year and is not limited in the number of times it is used. However, there is a requested minimum in contributions to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in the amount of $1,000. You may designate that these funds be distributed to several different local charities.

5. A transmittal form for your use must be completed and that form with the check should be sent to the State Secretary in Umatilla.

Charity

The first record of Elkdom that shows participation in a charitable process program as a whole was in 1889. It was to help the victims of the Seattle fire and Johnstown Flood.

In 1891 the Lodges sent money to help victims of the Louisiana tornado.

In 1906 the tragic San Francisco earthquake and fire occurred and once again the Elks Lodges of America banded together to send $100,000 to the victims.

Charlotte County Ladies Organization: Charlettes

(See Port Charlotte Ladies Organization)

Charlotte County Lodge 2153

(See Port Charlotte Lodge 2153)

Charters

The first early charters issued to the Lodges were lithographed on stone and upon request of the Grand Lodge. The stone from which they were taken, the property of New York Lodge, was turned over to them.

March 28, 1868 appears to be the first record of an attempt being made to secure a charter. Sometime before this date the body petitioned the legislature for leave to become an incorporated body. Opposition was met and it failed to pass. The objection appears to have been that it was a scheme or plan to invade the excise laws in New York City.
With its new attempt, an application was made to the Supreme Court for a charter with permission to hold $50,000 worth of property, which was granted.

At this time there was only one Elks Lodge in existence and that was in New York. No thought was given to creating anything beyond a local organization in that city chiefly for the benefit of those of the theatrical profession who became members.

It was on March 10, 1871 that a charter was obtained from the legislature of the state of New York incorporating the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of New York with power to issue charters to the subordinate Lodges throughout the country. Grand Lodge thus legally instituted a charter the same day to New York #1.

**Charter, Florida State Elks Association**

A published call was made in 1904 for a convention with the purpose of organizing a Florida State Association of Elks Lodges. The meeting was held in Tampa and resulted in the adoption of bylaws dated 1904 in Dade County. (*See section on Bylaws*).

As the Association grew and progressed, circumstances deemed it necessary to consider the incorporation of the Association as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Florida.

During the Executive Committee meeting in Deland during 1946, PSP Frank Umstot of Tampa Lodge #708 requested a charter be prepared for eventual incorporation, thus making it the first charter of the Florida State Elks Association.

**CHARTER OF FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

We, the undersigned, do hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of becoming incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida, applicable to corporations not for profit, under the following proposed charter.

**ARTICLE I**

The name of this corporation shall be

**CHARTER OF FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

and its principal place of business shall be at Umatilla, Lake County, Florida, with such subordinate offices in other cities as directed by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE II**

The nature of the business and the objects and purposes to be transacted, performed and carried on, to do any or all of the things herein set forth as fully and to the same extent as natural persons might or could do, and in any part of the State of Florida, viz: to bring together in social communion the members of the various Elks Lodges of Florida; to aid in protecting the interests of the Order of Elks in Florida through the exchange of ideas that may be of benefit to said Lodges; to establish, maintain, and operate hospitals, sanitariums, and other places for charitable and beneficial purposes; the promotion of benevolent and fraternal fellowship; to assist the sick and needy; provide for the wants of underprivileged and crippled children, as well as the poor and needy; generally serve humanity by useful and worthwhile service; to aid in any worthy cause; and to give assistance to any distressed person wheresoever possible. This corporation shall not be for profit and shall not have capital stock.

**ARTICLE III**

Qualification of members of this corporation shall be as follows: Every Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America in the State of Florida shall be eligible to membership upon compliance with the provisions of the Bylaws of the Corporation.

**ARTICLE IV**

The term for which this corporation shall exist shall be perpetual.
ARTICLE V

The names and residences of the subscribers to the Charter are as follows:

DAVID SHOLTZ ................................ Miami, Florida
JAMES A. DUNN ................................... Miami, Florida
J. FRANK UMSTOT ............................ Tampa, Florida
CHELSIE J. SENERCHIA ..................... Miami, Florida
C. G. CAMPBELL ............................ Lake City, Florida
W. A. WALL ............................... West Palm Beach, Florida
M. FRANK O’BRIEN ...................... Jacksonville, Florida
JAMES J. FERNANDEZ ................. Tampa, Florida
W. P. MOOTY ................................... Miami, Florida
CULLEN TALTON ..................... Daytona Beach, Florida
ARTHUR C. O’HEA ............... Fort Lauderdale, Florida
CARL G. ROSE .................................... Ocala, Florida

ARTICLE VI

The officers of this Corporation shall be a President, Five (5) Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, Historian, Tiler, Chaplain, and a Sergeant-at-Arms.

ARTICLE VII

The business and affairs of this Corporation shall be managed by the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and a Board of Directors of not less than five (5) and not more than fifteen (15) members, of which said Board of Directors the President, Immediate Past-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be members.

The term of office for such officers of the Corporation shall be for the period from date of installation until their successors are elected and installed in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws of the Corporation.

The Board of Directors shall consist of the members hereinafter named. The terms of directors, other than officers, shall be divided into one, two, three, four, and five years, respectively, in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII

The officers and Board of Directors of the Corporation who shall conduct the business of the Corporation until their successors are elected and installed are as follows:

President ...................................... JAMES A. DUNN
Immediate Past-President ........ J. FRANK UMSTOT
Secretary .............................. CHELSIE J. SENERCHIA
Treasurer ............................... CLAUDE JOHNSON

Board of Directors

Five Years ............................... CHELSIE J. SENERCHIA
Four Years ............................... W. A. WALL
Three Years .............................. B. C. PEARCE
Two Year .................................. C. G. CAMPBELL
One Year ............................... JAMES J. FERNANDEZ

ARTICLE IX

As soon as convenient after the approval of this charter, the Board of Directors shall meet and shall adopt suitable Bylaws for the purpose of conducting the business of this corporation, which Bylaws shall provide the method by which they may be amended, altered, or rescinded, and which shall further provide for a Committee whose sole duties shall consist of the operation and management of the Harry-Anna Home, and shall provide that no real property shall be purchased, sold, or encumbered without the approval of two-thirds of the entire number of the full Board of Directors, and shall provide that all deeds or conveyances or other instruments in writing for the purpose of buying, selling, or encumbering real property, and for the purpose of executing all contracts and obligations of the corporation, shall be executed by the President and attested by the Secretary of the Corporation.
The said Bylaws shall provide for the adoption of a seal for the Corporation and shall also provide for the admission to membership, the mode, manner, and form of such admission and the conditions under which such membership shall be terminated.

ARTICLE X

The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which this corporation may subject itself shall not exceed two hundred fifty thousand ($250,000.00) dollars, but any indebtedness or liability of this corporation shall never exceed one-half (1/2) of the value of the property of this corporation.

ARTICLE XI

The real estate belonging to this corporation shall never amount in value to more than one million dollars.

ARTICLE XII

The Corporation may conduct its business in the State of Florida, or other states, and the District of Columbia, and may hold, purchase, sell, mortgage, lease, or convey real or personal property of every nature and description, both within and without the State of Florida, subject, however, to all laws and regulations where it is held.

The corporation may take, enter into, and perform contracts of every kind with any person, firm, association or corporation, municipality, body politic, state government, or subdivision of state government, and make, draw, accept, endorse, discount, execute, and issue promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange, warrants, bonds, debentures, and other negotiable or transferable instruments and evidences of indebtedness, whether secured by mortgage or otherwise, as well as to secure the same by mortgage or otherwise, and as permitted by the Bylaws of this corporation.

This corporation shall have all the powers and privileges of corporations not for profit under the laws of Florida, and may do any and all of the things herein set forth, to the same extent as natural persons might or could do, and in any part of the world as principals, agents, contractors, trustees, or otherwise, and either alone or in company with others. The private property of the subscribers, members, directors, or any of its officers or agents shall not be subject to the payment of its corporate debts to any extent whatever.

ARTICLE XIII

In the event of the permanent discontinuance of the functions of the Harry-Anna Home, all funds and other assets of the Corporation, which shall have been held or received for the establishment and operation of the Home, shall be made available 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 in the manner provided in the Bylaws.

WITNESS the hands of the subscribers of this proposed charter of FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.

DAVID SHOLTZ (SEAL), JAMES A. DUNN (SEAL), J. FRANK UMSTOT (SEAL), CHELSIE J. SENERCHIA (SEAL), C. G. CAMPBELL (SEAL), W. A. WALL (SEAL), M. FRANK O’BRIEN (SEAL), JAMES J. FERNANDEZ (SEAL), W. P. MOOTY (SEAL), C. H. TALTON (SEAL), ARTHUR C. O’HEA (SEAL), CARL G. ROSE (SEAL).

STATE OF FLORIDA (STATE SEAL)
COUNTY OF DADE

Before me, the undersigned authority, this day personally appeared JAMES A. DUNN, to me well known to be one of the incorporators named in the foregoing proposed Charter of FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC., who after being by me first duly sworn, deposes and says that it is intended in good faith to carry out the purposes and objects as set forth in the foregoing proposed Charter of FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.

JAMES A. DUNN

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 4th day of June, A.D. 1946.
CERTIFICATE OF CIRCUIT JUDGE

The foregoing charter having this day been presented to me, and after being fully advised in the premises, and it appearing to the Court that the said charter is well founded and for a purpose provided by law and covered by the Statutes of this State covering the formation of corporations not for profit, the above and foregoing charter be and the same is hereby approved and granted, and the said association known as FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC. be and the same is hereby incorporated as a corporation not for profit under the laws of the State of Florida.

DONE AND ORDERED, In Chambers, at Miami, Dade County, Florida, this 4th day of June, A.D. 1946.

MARSHALL C. WISEHEART
Circuit Judge

The charter was issued on June 4, 1946 by Circuit Judge Marshall C. Wiseheart of Dade County, and filed in the Public Records of Dade County and Lake County. Subsequent to the incorporation, the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Commission transferred all assets to the Florida State Elks Association, which means that the Harry-Anna Home and all assets became the property of the Association, of which every Elk Lodge in Florida is a member.

The building at Umatilla, housing the Association and its records, was dedicated by GER Lee Donaldson on March 14, 1963.

Harold Colee, PSP, considered Brother Taylor to be the founder of the Florida State Elks Association. Colee said,

“Brother Taylor was actually the founder of the Florida State Elks Association. There was great opposition in the Grand Lodge during his time to the establishment of State Associations. Taylor at the time he was offered a District Deputyship by Grand Exalted Ruler Melvin, who opposed any State organizations; was questioned as to which he would prefer; District Deputy of the Grand Lodge or President of the Florida State Elks Association. He pointed out to the Grand Exalted Ruler that we in Florida were far removed from the Grand Lodge's annual sessions and that many of the small Lodges needed the inspiration and the enthusiasm of some sort of an Association because of their inability to attend annual meetings of the Grand Lodge. He flatly told the Grand Exalted Ruler that if it were a case of making a decision to either accept the appointment as District Deputy or support the establishment of a State Association, he would gladly decline the appointment from the Grand Lodge.”

A footnote to the original Association History (1904-1961) on page 265 states, “According to Brother Harold Colee and many other old-timers, A. M. (Pop) Taylor of the St. Augustine Lodge No. 829 actually was the founder of the Florida State Elks Association.”

In 1941 he had the special honor of being elected a State Historian Emeritus. Finally in 1908 Taylor had the honor of being elected as Grand Lodge Inner Guard.

State organizations are voluntary organizations; membership is not compulsory, and their work is done on a statewide scale for the rank and file.

Years before their recognition by the Grand Lodge, they were engaged in various charitable, humanitarian, and community welfare works. State organizations have come a long way since the days when their time was occupied in fighting for recognition. Today, state organizations comply with the Order’s admonition to “do the duty that lies nearest thee.”

The Florida State Elks Association has progressed and expanded steadily over the years. Early members luckily had the foresight, attitude, and desire to unite Florida Elkdom. The Association’s accomplishments are many and its success can be measured by its accomplishments.

Past Grand Exalted Ruler Lester C. Hess, Jr. wrote the following in 1992:

“A recent phenomenon within our Order has been the emerging importance of our Elks State Associations. For roughly the first century of its existence, our
Order conducted its good deeds almost exclusively through its Subordinate Lodges. Our Lodges still provide the laboring oar for our charitable programs, but in the last quarter century our State Associations have assumed a growing responsibility. The Major Projects of our State Associations are now a major source of pride for all Elks.

“The lowest common denominator of each of these State Association Major Projects is that they each represent man helping his fellow man. The cornerstone of our Order is Charity, and these Major Projects have brought fruition to our purposes. Funded to a large extent by the Elks National Foundation our State Association Major Projects are proving year after year that Elkdom is a Way to Share.

“The Major Projects also produce an indirect benefit. Pride in what our State Associations are doing is a recruitment tool in our efforts to procure new members.”

Charter, Graphic Elements Of, Up to 1890

The first charter connected with the Elks was the one created for New York Lodge No. 1 after March 10, 1891, the date when the New York state legislature approved incorporation of the Order with power to issue charters to subordinate Lodges (the various older Elks histories refer to the period prior to the incorporation as “single organization”). The incorporation was the result of increasing requests from performers belonging to New York Lodge whose theatrical activities kept them in Philadelphia for extended periods. These first stray Elks understandably wished to have a branch of the newborn Elkdom in that city. The charter for New York No. 1 came from a hand carved lithograph stone which the first Lodge then donated to the parent Order for use in making additional charter documents. After some usage, another lithograph plate was created which embodied most of the elements of the first and this was used for charters issued up until 1890.

The preamble to the 1871 Constitution of the Order of Elks stated, “The undersigned members of the Theatrical, Minstrel, Musical, Equestrian and Literary Professions, and others who sympathize with and approve of the object in view, hereinafter stated in the Constitution, do hereby organize an Order to promote, protect and enhance the welfare and happiness of each other.”

Motivated by these sentiments, those delegated to create the charter document chose to represent thereupon the charter document itself “professions” above as:

A. “Theatrical” or legitimate stage by a scene from Macbeth
B. Minstrelry or Minstrelsy
C. Musical by the orchestra in the stage pit or the instruments
D. Equestrian by the circus-style horsemanship scene
E. Literary by either the author/composer/playwright writing by lamplight or the two women portraying Prose and Poetry (an Elk invention to replace the various female muses of antiquity who inspired human artistic endeavors). The other graphics depict moments or elements at the dawn of Elkdom which had a strong and permanent influence on its spirit.
F. Eleven early charter Elks (left to right: Geo. Thompson, William Bowron, Chas. Shattuck, Chas. White, Wm. Sheppard, Gus Williams, Tony Pastor, Geo. Green, John Tindale, G. W. Griffin, Tom Riggs) joining hands and singing “Auld Lang Syne” at eleven o’clock. The subsequent death of three of the group resulted in the later version only displaying eight members in toasting.
This photo of original Elks differs from the above charter.

G. The scene at the deathbed of Jolly Cork, Ted Quinn, whose destitute widow and child became the stimulus for a change to a benevolent and protective fraternity.

H. “CERVUS ALCES:” two Latin words used to designate the particular species of American Elk chosen to symbolize the character of the Order (translated “Stag Elk”). Use of these words up until the 1900s were common, even being the Order’s permanent password for several decades as one means of verifying membership.

I. Four well-known stage characterizations of the era: Clown – “Bob” Fraser (Philadelphia Lodge No. 2), kepi - or civil - war capped figure - Dave Reed (Chicago Lodge No. 4), top hatted “Salvator Magnus” - John Wild (New York Lodge No. 1), faint figure with circled eyes - Henry Mason (New York No. 1).

Citations, Special Grand Exalted Ruler

Four types of Grand Exalted Ruler Special Citation Awards can be given to deserving Elks in a Lodge or district. All you need to do is review the qualifications set forth in the Grand Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee’s brochure. If your member, Exalted Ruler, subordinate Lodge, or District Deputy has met this criteria, they are entitled to a Special Citation issued in their name from the Grand Exalted Ruler.

1. For Outstanding Members
   A. Members who bring in five (5) new or reinstated members (2 must be new). Request from the office of the Grand Exalted Ruler.
   B. Each Exalted Ruler is authorized to issue two (2) Citations to members performing outstanding service to their Lodge. (Complete blank forms sent to Lodge and mail to Area Member.)

2. For Exalted Rulers
   A. Issued to ERs who participate in four (4) or more of the programs listed in the GL Activities brochure during the year. (Complete blank forms sent to Lodge and mail to Area Member.)
Citizen of the Year

The Citizen of the Year Award is a great public relations tool for the Lodge. It is an activity that every Lodge, large or small, can participate in.

Each Lodge is encouraged to select a citizen, not necessarily an Elk, who has contributed in a special way to improving the community. This individual should be someone who has shown leadership in the community, has contributed voluntary service, and is recognized as being an all around good citizen.

Recognizing such a person shows that the Elks are concerned with maintaining a good community and demonstrates “Elkdom” American values at work. After the selection, the Lodge should honor the person by presenting the award at a dinner sponsored by the Lodge or in conjunction with a community program sponsored by a local civic organization.

Grand Lodge makes available beautiful inscribed certificates that can be presented to the Citizen of the Year. Submit the full name of the person to the Grand Secretary’s Office, 2750 Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-1889. All requests have to be postmarked no later than March 31.

Citizens Flag Alliance Committee

The Citizens Flag Alliance is a coalition to bring about Congressional consideration of a constitutional amendment prohibiting defacing the flag. The Elks have participated in the coalition.

The committee was originally headed up by William M. Justis of the American Legion; he was joined by the Elks and other civic organizations.

Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah introduced The Flag Protection Amendment with this quote: “This amendment is unique. It did not originate in Congress. It began with the people of America who have not forgotten the role of the flag in our society. This is a grassroots movement that has strong bipartisan support.”

The proposed amendment read, “The Congress of the states shall have the power to prohibit the desecration of the flag of the United States.”

Civil Rights and the Elks

In 1990 a state civil rights investigation into allegations that the Van Nuys Elks Lodge discriminated against black applicants was dropped. The attorney general’s nine month investigation found no evidence of racial discrimination, Deputy Attorney General Louis Verdugo said. Officers of the 260 member Lodge claimed that the result vindicated the Lodge, but Verdugo said the probe was hampered by the organization’s secretiveness.

“They take an oath of secrecy as to what goes on when those doors are closed. That’s part and parcel of who they are,” Verdugo had said.

Also, the Lodge admitted two black men, making it difficult to prove “a pattern of discrimination,” he said.

Clearwater Ladies of the Elks 1525

(See Dunedin/Clearwater Ladies of the Elks 1525)

Clearwater Lodge 1525

(See Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525)
Clements, Ralph W., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1972-1973

Sixty-Sixth Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
May 25-27, 1972
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Ralph Clements was born on December 17, 1912 in Ray City, Georgia. Ralph received his formal education at Fort Meade High School in Florida, the University of Tampa, and the University of Florida. He later completed graduate work at Georgetown University in Washington, D. C. He moved to Lake City, Florida in 1940 to pursue a career as a scientist with the United States Department of Agriculture. He conducted his research on the cultivation and harvesting of products from the living pine tree until his retirement 36 years later. During his career he published over seventy technical and popular articles pertaining to his research. Two of his publications were translated into three foreign languages with a distribution of over one million. He owned two patents and was co-owner of a third. In 1962 in Washington, D. C., then Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman, honored Ralph with the U. S. Department of Agriculture’s highest award for research and accomplishment, the Superior Service Award.

In 1942, Ralph married Audrey Means, the daughter of a Florida pioneer family. Ralph and Audrey had two children, Cherily and Michael. One of the great tragedies in their lives was the loss of their son who was killed in an airplane crash while serving with the United States Air Force.

Although Ralph was active in his chosen profession, he was also very active in both his community and church. The youth in the community received much of Ralph’s attention. He revealed his courage when he served as the first male president of the PTA organization in Lake City. This led to his being President of the Columbia County Council of PTAs and Vice President of the five county district of the Florida Congress of PTAs.

In 1965 the Florida Association of Future Farmers of America presented Ralph with the honorary degree of State Farmer for his fifteen years of service and work with the Future Farmer Boys of Florida. Ralph was equally active in his church, holding every lay office possible at the First United Methodist Church of Lake City, and he was a certified lay speaker of the Florida Methodist Conference.

Ralph was an honorary life member of Lake City Lodge #893 where he was initiated on October 15, 1941. He served as Vice President and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Northwest District and served two terms as District Director for the Florida State Elks Association. Ralph was serving as State Chaplain at the 66th annual convention in 1972 when he was elected President of the Florida State Elks Association. Bob Grafton was presiding as State President at that convention.

Clements died at Shands Hospital in Gainesville at the age of 82 on October 14, 1995, 54 years to the day as a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His eulogy was given by William Larry Henley, PSP.

Ralph’s motto for his year as State President, “Florida Elks Serve Their Communities,” was an extension of his commitment to the community of Lake City.
His Year as President

Motto: “Florida Elks Serve Their Communities”

Quotation: “Give me a man who has the courage to stand tall in the face of adversity and misfortune, give me a man who has compassion and is willing to help a crippled child, give me a man who sings America with love in his heart and stands with dignity to salute his flag, give me a man who reverently bows his head in prayer and says, ‘Amen’ with feeling -- and you have the characteristics which make a Florida Elk.”
(Clements in his Acceptance Speech)

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1972-1973 term:

President    Ralph W. Clements, Lake City
Secretary    William Lieberman, Leesburg
Treasurer    Frank J. Holt, Miami
Tiler        Nathaniel Barone, Miami
Historian    L. M. Strickland, Sr., Tallahassee
Sergeant at Arms Rees A. Snedaker, Lake City
Chaplain     Alvin A. Ehrlich, Orlando
Organist     Everett D. Ware, New Smyrna Beach
Vice President, Northwest District   Robert W. Lawrence, Panama City
Vice President, Northeast District  Donald Yates, Orange Park
Vice President, East Central District Frank J. Poitras, Jr., Cocoa
Vice President, Central District    Robert Howell, Marianna
Vice President, West Central District Harry L. Woolley, Dunedin
Vice President, Southwest District  Charles Bethel, Arcadia
Vice President, Southeast District  Lloyd Ellison, Stuart-Jensen
Vice President, South Southeast District Earl Sapp, Fort Lauderdale
Vice President, South District      R. A. Weber, Jr., Miami

Net gain in membership this year was 2,366 for a grand total of 51,590. Orlando #1079 won the National Ritual Championship.

Clermont-Groveland Lodge 1848

(See South Lake Lodge 1848)

Clewiston Lodge #1853

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 57th Lodge</th>
<th>Southeast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispensation:</td>
<td>March 12, 1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution:</td>
<td>March 29, 1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened by:</td>
<td>Charles H. Peckelis, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2000 Membership:</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>Every Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>216 N. Francisco Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>863-983-7471</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated: Grand Exalted Ruler, Charles A. Peckelis; Grand Esteemed Leading Knight, Frank O’Connell; Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight, James J. Fernandez; Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Walter Hawkins; Grand Secretary, Fred A. Simmonds; Grand Treasurer, J. Alex Arnette; Grand Trustee, A. E. Kirchman;
Grand Tiler, Pat LeMoyne; Grand Chaplain, Ed Poland; Grand Esquire, William A. Wall; and Grand Inner Guard, Fred Lowdermilk.

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler   Parker T. Wilson
Esteemed Leading Knight  Edgar Johnson
Esteemed Loyal Knight  Ben M. Veale
Esteemed Lecturing Knight Leslie A. Futch
Secretary   H. Stanley Connell, Jr.
Treasurer    A. L. Moorman, Jr.
Inner Guard   Verne L. Harper
Chaplain   Gaynam D. Rackstraw
Organist     Elmer Jenkins
Esquire    Charlie R. Young
Tiler   L. N. Davis
Trustees    G. E. Etherton
             William N. Martin
             Charles E. Miner
             Harry T. Vaughn
             W. S. Bowden

The following are Charter Members: A. LeRoy Alston; Carl J. Anderson; Jean T. Barrow; Carl H. Berner; Malcolm W. Bigg; Moyer B. Bishop; Ralph W. Bishop; John B. Boy; James E. Brannan; Paul Bussey; Robert E. Byrd; Hugh C. Carlton; James W. Clark; John D. Clark; George H. Coleman; Luther F. Cox, Jr.; Sidney L. Crochet; Julian M. Dickson; Earl S. Dyess; G. E. Etherton; Charles A. Fisk; C. M. Fletcher; John B. Fountain; S. C. Fry; B. R. Gantt; Ray D. Gantt; James J. Geiger; Robert G. Goedhart; Joe M. Hall; Robert M. Hare, Jr.; Verne L. Harper; Joe M. Hendry; F. W. Hodges, Jr.; R. R. Hooks; Lee Jackson; Wm. H. D. Johnson; Otis A. Jones; Ray Ketcham; William H. Lanier; George P. Lenart; James V. Lofton; J. G. MacDowell; Thos. E. Markette; Wm. N. Martin; C. A. Martinez; J. A. McGehee, Jr.; C. L. McLendon; Eugene C. Mills; Neil C. Miner; T. Coburn Moore; Roger Morrison; F. W. Mueller; T. C. Musgrave; Martin L. Oliver; W. C. Owen; Thomas B. Owens; Charlie R. Young; Broward N. Parsons; William H. P weekdays; A. A. Perez; Hubert C. Post; M. M. Prewitt; W. C. Prewitt; Gaynam D. Rackstraw; Alonzo Ray; Frank M. Rodriguez; E. N. Scott; K. O. Shows; Dennis Small; J. R. Spratt; S. K. Swayne; Montague A. Thomas; H. C. Thompson; Abraham Vann; M. C. Varnadoe; Walter E. Vaughn; A. W. Waldron, Jr.; R. B. Waldron; A. O. Ward; William S. Whidden; Malvin M. Wilder; Ernest N. Williams; Ralph E. Wood; and J. J. Wynn.

Lodge records indicate the Lodge was chartered July 17, 1952. The Clewiston Hospital was purchased in 1952 and became the Lodge quarters. Renovations were made in 1973 and 1975. In 1976, new Lodge quarters were built, and in 1985, additions were made. In 1986 the mortgage was burned.

Contributions to these remarks were made by Jim Wells & Rackstraw.

The town of Clewiston came about with the construction of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad that reached here in 1922. It was named for A. C. Clewiston, a Tampa banker who financed the construction of the Atlantic Coast Line.

Six years later United States Sugar Corporation arrived in town and Clewiston became the beneficiary of the sugar industry, often called its lifeblood. Testifying to the influence of the sugar industry on the town, the main highway through town is called the Sugarland Highway and residents call Clewiston “America’s Sweetest Town.”

B. S. Mott, who made his fortune as a founder of General Motors, organized U. S. Sugar in 1931.

Clewiston Inn is named on the National Register of Historic Places. They have a spacious dining room and serve meals on the original 1930s tables and chairs built in 1938. Many celebrities have stayed here, including Herbert Hoover, who traveled here to dedicate the levee which bears his name and surrounds Lake Okeechobee, protecting the town against flooding.

The name Okeechobee means big water to the Indians, but it became a threat to the community during flooding in 1926 and when over 2,000 people lost their lives in 1928 when a hurricane sloshed water over its banks.

The Clewiston Elks Are Born

One day Ned Hager came into a local drugstore in Clewiston and said he had something he wanted to talk about. He had made some inquiries around town and found that there were over sixty Elks in Clewiston who were members of other Lodges who did not have a place they could go. He said that he just wondered what they could do about getting an Elks Lodge started in Clewiston.

They consequently pursued the formation of a Lodge in their community. As a result of their efforts a charter for 61 members was granted on July 17, 1952 and Clewiston Elks Lodge #1853 was born. Their first official
meeting was held in March of 1952 and Parker T. Wilson, who contributed much of this information, became its Charter Exalted Ruler. This meeting held at the Sugarland Auditorium found 62 men in attendance.

Wilson served the Lodge as Exalted Ruler from 1952 to 1954. He went on to serve as District Vice President from 1955-1956 and District Deputy from 1956-1957.

Within their first year an opportunity came along that gave substance to the new Lodge. The old Clewiston Hospital, constructed and owned by Sugarland, became available. The Lodge purchased the old hospital in 1953 and the two story building served for years as a meeting room, bar area, and general all-purpose hall for members of the early Lodge.

The building was in poor shape and was in danger of falling in around its members. Chuck Hall well remembers this old Lodge and he and some of his sons, Zeigler Horton and his sons, and other volunteers literally rebuilt it as it stood.

Leota Norton, who tended bar, had fond memories over the fourteen years she was there. Leota’s sons also took an interest in the Lodge. In fact, Leota had some Formica stored under her bed that she was saving to do some work in her home. The sons removed the Formica and it became the sheathing for the wall of the ladies restroom at the Lodge.

The sun did not always shine down on the Lodge and it had some dim moments.

Chuck Hall served a number of years as Secretary and remembers instances like when there was seven dollars in the treasury and they wondered how they were to purchase liquor for the bar. Well, it was a simple matter of stopping by the liquor store, borrowing a bottle of liquor, selling it by the drink at the bar, and then returning with the proceeds to pay for it and buy another bottle.

Chuck said it was no exaggeration that there were times when bills were put into a jar and drawn out to see which ones would be paid.

There were good times and good people. “That’s why,” Chuck said, “you spend 35 years in one organization.”

In the early days of the Lodge there was only one major activity per month, a barbecue. A cook shed built in the late 1950s to the south of the main Lodge building provided the focal point of these activities. At times as many as 400 people would enjoy the ribs or chicken in the cool evening air and then go upstairs in the Lodge to dance the night away.

Money to pay off those early bills came from a variety of sources, but one of the most common was the sale of interest-free bonds. Sold in increments of $25.00 each, many of the bonds were never cashed in but rather were forgotten as the bad times were.

Gaynam Rackstraw, the first Chaplain of the Lodge; Wilson; and Hall all agreed that it seemed at times that only a few were doing all the work, but that’s the way it is with any organization, they agreed. Hall admits that his wife shared the same sentiments and adds, “...I came home one morning and my own dog wouldn’t let me out of my pickup; that’s when I knew that the dedication had gone a little too far....”, but Hall continued to remain an active member of the Lodge.

That was in the 1960s. A major renovation on the original building was done between 1973 and 1975 when the bar area was rebuilt from the ground up. The state of the old building prompted Lodge brothers to begin plans for other building additions and the Lodge room was begun shortly after in 1976. At that time the remaining portion of the original building was demolished.

By the mid 1980s the membership had begun talking of a new home, one with more parking and one with more room for the many activities the Lodge found itself involved with. In 1985 they received permission from Grand Lodge to build a new kitchen at the current location and to purchase five acres of land with an eye toward eventually building a new Lodge.

A mortgage burning the next year signified the payoff of all debts and really sparked the talk for expansion along with the fact that the membership was rising toward the 500 mark.

The ranks of the Clewiston Elks Lodge swelled during the winter season by Elks from as many as fifteen states. They became involved in all aspects of Lodge life, and according to Past Exalted Ruler Jim Wells, “...their support has helped to make this Lodge one of the top Lodges in the state....”

It is community involvement which has gained the Lodge recognition from the community in such areas as sponsorship for Little League, Junior Football, and Boy Scouts. Special projects which the Lodge has sponsored include a trip to South Carolina with relief supplies for victims of Hurricane Hugo in 1989, donations to a teenager suffering from bone cancer, and aid to victims of a fire who had no other place to go (approximately twenty men) in 1982.
The Lodge purchased a vacant five acre lot in Clewiston for future use if and when they decided to build new facilities. On September 23, 1995 they celebrated a mortgage burning ceremony on the lot with a big bonfire, music, and fun all combined with a steak dinner and free soft drinks.

Wells also feels that the constant growth of the Lodge brotherhood is “…due to the sprinkling of old and young with no animosity, without regard to age, all working toward a common goal....”

It is the same spirit of brotherhood which enabled the Lodge to win the Harry-Anna Traveling Trophy twice plus keep it for two years straight on two separate occasions. They also took ritual awards for the opening and closing at the district competition in 1988-1989.

Clewiston Combines with Others in Unusual Flag Day Ceremony

The Clewiston Elks Lodge #1853 and the Pahokee Elks Lodge #1638 combined efforts with VFW Post #4185 in a spectacular and unusual Flag Day event attended by about seventy people and held at the Clewiston Elks vacant property, at that time a park.

Ceremonies commenced when Clewiston Elks member, Mary Jones, PER, parachuted onto their new five acre site carrying a 5’ x 8’ American flag donated by Congressman Lewis. The flag was then presented to local Cub Scout Pack #1619 under the direction of Clewiston Elk, Jeff Edwards, who ceremonially marched it to VFW Commander, Ron Blackwell, who delivered it to Commander-Elect, Frank Primmer, who subsequently raised it to its place of honor upon a newly erected flagpole.

The Elks Ritual of Special Services was opened by Exalted Ruler “Bo” Pelham who led the introductory exercises along with the officers of Clewiston and Pahokee Elks. Eric Rhinehart, Exalted Ruler, and Eddy York, Chaplain, represented Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. Past District Deputy Alan Jones from Clewiston delivered the history of the flag while the Cub Scouts presented various flags among which were the pine tree, the snake, and a sequence of flags designed by the Continental Congress from 1775 to 1818. The Veterans of Foreign Wars flanked the services displaying flags honoring the Army, Desert Storm, Navy, WW II, POW-MIAs, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

Clewiston Cross Country Invitational

One of Clewiston Elks Lodge’s youth activities in the past has been the Cross Country Invitational. Sponsored by the Lodge Youth Activities Committee, it was open to high school and middle school runners who compete as teams and individuals for honors in two mile races (girls/middle school) and three mile races (boys/open). Two hundred or more runners from South Florida high schools compete. Lodge members and officers hand out awards to the leg weary champions.

Children’s Camp-Out/Cookout

Another successful Clewiston Youth Activities event was the free children’s camp-out/cookout for a Saturday and Sunday. Supervision was provided for children seven years old and up. A parent or guardian was required to accompany children under seven. Camp started on the Lodge’s five acre vacant property on South Francisco Avenue. Around dusk on Saturday, they would enjoy dinner and a bonfire. Breakfast was served on Sunday. Throughout the day various activities were planned for the children. Children were required to bring their own sleeping gear, sleeping bag, and/or blankets and pillows. A tent was supplied for those who did not have one.

Kids Halloween Party

The Youth Activities Committee has held annual children’s Halloween parties in the Clewiston Elks Lodge activities room. They serve hot dogs and hamburgers for dinner. All the children receive their first burger or hot dog free; there is a nominal charge for seconds and for adults. Children enjoy free trick-or-treat goody bags distributed by ghosts, goblins, and/or witches. Prizes are awarded for best costume in various age groups. The evening ends in a dance for the children.

A Significant Event

In June 2003, the five acre property on Francisco Avenue was dedicated to the memory of the founding members of the Lodge, Gaynam Rackstraw and George Jepson. Despite temperatures in the mid 90s, about sixty
people came out to the property for the ceremony to unveil the sign. Ben Brown, the Director of the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, drove down from Umatilla to give the keynote address.

Clinics, Florida Elks Children’s Hospital

(See Elks Children’s Hospital)

Coates, Gerald L., PGER

Gerald L. Coates was born on March 4, 1928 in rural Harnett County, North Carolina and grew up in a farming community near Garner. Duty and commitment were virtues he learned at a young age. They were the hallmarks of his personal and professional life, and they led to his election as the Elks national president in 1996–1997 under the banner, “Elks – Guiding America Forward.” For the first time in forty years, the election for Grand Exalted Ruler at this convention was challenged.

The keynote speaker at this convention was Gen. Omar Bradley, Retired, regarding the proposed Constitutional Amendment banning desecration of the flag. Also, a new lapel pin this year said, “I am an Elk because someone asked me.”

In his acceptance speech at the 1996 Grand Lodge Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, Coates called on “each Elk, each Lodge, each district, each State Association, and the Grand Lodge and all of its members…to be a ‘Beacon of Light’ in their communities and to help America meet its challenges.”

Coates made his official visit to the Florida State Elks Association in February 1997.
Coates was initiated into Greensboro, North Carolina Lodge #602 in 1970. He served his Lodge with distinction in all chairs including the board of trustees as member and Chairman.

He was elected as Exalted Ruler in 1975-1976 and received the Exalted Ruler of the Year Award in 1985. He served the North Carolina State Elks Association since 1977 through his involvement on numerous committees of the Association, most notably the Ritual and Major Project Committees and as Hoop Shoot Director. He was elected as President of the State Association in 1983-1984. Subsequently, he served on the Association’s board of trustees and was its Chairman in 1987-1988. Gerald was presented the Association’s Thad Eure Distinguished Service Award in 1989.

Coates served the Grand Lodge with distinction as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1979-1980, as Grand Lodge Special Representative in 1984-1986, and as Special Grand Deputy Exalted Ruler for three years. He
was appointed and served on the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee for three years. He was elected to a four
year term on the Board of Grand Trustees in 1990 and served with distinction; he was its Chairman in 1993-1994.

Coates was a graduate of Wake Forest University and was a high school teacher and football coach for two
years before being drafted into the Army. He served his country honorably as a member of the United States Naval
Reserve and served actively with the United States Army. Stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Coates worked
in the Adjutant General Section. He attained the rank of sergeant and was honorably discharged in 1955. He was
employed for 33 years with a major financial corporation and devoted his expertise in coaching as a youth coach
with the Greensboro Recreation Department.

He married Leatrice Purifoy; they had met in high school.

Coates died on February 18, 2007. Described to those closest to him as a “southerner, a statesman, a
teacher, a patriot, and a coach,” Coates exemplified each of those roles in his long services to the Order. In his
acceptance speech as the Grand Exalted Ruler, he concluded his remarks by reciting a popular Irish blessing:

*May the road rise to meet you,*
*May the wind be always at your back,*
*May the sun shine warm upon your face.*
*The rains fall soft upon your fields*
*And until we meet again*
*May God hold you in the palm of His Hand.*

Cocoa Lodge 1532

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<tr>
<th>Florida’s 32nd Lodge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dispensation:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instituted:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charter:</td>
</tr>
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<td>Charter Members:</td>
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<td>Formally opened by:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2000 Membership:</td>
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<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
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<td>Phone:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated: Grand Exalted Ruler, Harold Colee; Grand Esteemed Leading Knight, W. E.
Daniel; Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight, Charles A. Gontz; Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight, H. C. Gartner; Grand
Secretary, George F. Crouch; Grand Tiler, W. I. Parsons; Grand Chaplain, E. L. Thompson; Grand Organist, Dave
Sholtz; Grand Esquire, C. P. Miller; and Grand Inner Guard, A. C. Sage.

The following officers were elected and installed:

- **Exalted Ruler:** G. A. Pleus
- **Esteemed Leading Knight:** Sidney J. Root
- **Esteemed Loyal Knight:** L. L. Anderson
- **Esteemed Lecturing Knight:** T. L. Broughton
- **Secretary:** H. A. Thompson
- **Treasurer:** A. J. Beardsley
- **Inner Guard:** George Burgess
- **Esquire:** R. E. Parnell
- **Tiler:** Charles Stowell
- **Trustees:** One Year, J. C. McLeod
  - Two Years, A. R. Trafford
  - Three Years, G. W. Skelly

The following are Charter Members: L. S. Andrews, Jr.; Charles H. Beach; W. H. Bowers; B. E. Black;
George W. Burgess; T. F. Chalker; Gardner H. Gingras; J. E. Haywood; C. H. Holderman; M. E. Hubble; J. C.
McLeod; A. L. McGlaun; H. G. McAllister; R. E. Parnell; A. G. Porcher; J. J. Parrish; T. G. Ronald; I. Rubin; H. L.
PSP C. Newt Jones (1975-1976) was a member of the Lodge. Their Ladies organization is named the Elks Ladies.

The town of Cocoa had its beginning with the citrus industry. Mosquitoes made life difficult and homes had a big brush along the side of the door to retaliate against the pests.

One wealthy planter, Edward Porcher, along with his wife, Byrnina, constructed a two and a half story Greek revival mansion on the shores of the Indian River in 1916. Mrs. Porcher kept birds and tropical plants in the rear sunroom of the home. It is now on the Register of Historic Homes.

The cornerstone of the present Lodge building was laid on August 29, 1929. An extension was added in October 1973 and a building addition on the south end was added in 1982-1983.

The last charter member of the Lodge, H. G. McAllister, Sr., passed away two months prior to the Lodge’s 50th anniversary.

For the first two years of their existence, the Lodge rented the Club quarters.


In 1998 they hosted the first Florida Elks Winter Softball Tournament.

Past Exalted Rulers:

1927-1928  G. H. Pleus
1928-1931  Dr. L. L. Anderson
1931-1932  Fred MacFarland
1932-1934  J. W. Hooper
1934-1935  Charles E. Shanahan
1935-1936  James A. Jackson
1936-1937  M. R. Bucksley
1937-1938  Lowell B. Fenner
1938-1939  E. W. Smith
1939-1940  Hubert E. Griggs
1940-1941  Paul Conway
1941-1942  Robert S. Hill
1942-1943  C. Verne Roberts
1943-1944  William LaRoche
1944-1945  Frank D. Snyder
1945-1946  Arthur H. McKeown
1946-1947  Vassar B. Carlton
1947-1948  Thomas Barr
1948-1949  George E. Ackroyd
1949-1950  William T. Knight
1950-1951  Sam D. Culler
1951-1952  Felton W. Butler
1952-1954  C. Newt Jones
1954-1955  Jack C. Kaisner
1955-1956  Francis H. LaRoche
1956-1957  Thomas C. Cooper
1957-1958  Walter H. Dyer
1958-1959  William H. Brannen
1959-1960  George S. Bailey
1960-1961  Delbert D. Kreps
1961-1962  Dr. John W. Braxton
1962-1963  Henry D’Amico
1963-1964  Roy B. Donovan
1964-1965  Wesley H. Houser
1965-1966  Walter W. Scott
1966-1967  Robert P. Trosset
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967-1968</td>
<td>Frank J. Poitras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968-1969</td>
<td>Simon Fougere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-1970</td>
<td>Robert D. Storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-1972</td>
<td>Lawrence W. Cline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-1973</td>
<td>A. B. O'Hara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-1974</td>
<td>Charles E. Hunter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-1975</td>
<td>James F. Blankenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-1976</td>
<td>Fred Barnewall, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976-1977</td>
<td>Roger M. Fleming</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977-1978</td>
<td>Gerald D. Roth</td>
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<td>1978-1979</td>
<td>Nelson O. Montgomery</td>
</tr>
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<td>1979-1980</td>
<td>William J. Huffman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1981</td>
<td>Eugene Berry</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981-1982</td>
<td>James C. Hickey</td>
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<td>1982-1983</td>
<td>Steven C. Houser</td>
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<td>1983-1984</td>
<td>Barry A. Murray</td>
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<td>1984-1985</td>
<td>James B. Glass</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985-1986</td>
<td>R. Brad Hughes</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986-1987</td>
<td>C. Edwin Rowley</td>
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<tr>
<td>1987-1988</td>
<td>Russell C. Bailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988-1989</td>
<td>Albert L. Youdbulis</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989-1990</td>
<td>John T. Robertson</td>
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Past State & Grand Lodge Officers:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. L. L. Anderson</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>1930-1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. R. Buckalew, Jr.</td>
<td>District Deputy</td>
<td>1931-1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert E. Griggs</td>
<td>District Deputy</td>
<td>1942-1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William T. Knight</td>
<td>District Deputy</td>
<td>1944-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Newt Jones</td>
<td>District Deputy</td>
<td>1948-1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry D'Amico</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>1954-1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District Deputy</td>
<td>1960-1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank J. Poitras</td>
<td>District Deputy</td>
<td>1961-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State President</td>
<td>1975-1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence W. Cline</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>1966-1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District Deputy</td>
<td>1967-1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>1972-1973</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District Deputy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>1977-1978</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District Deputy</td>
<td>1981-1982</td>
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Ladies Groups:
- Anna-Miller Circle until the late 1950s
- Benevolent and Patriotic Order of Does until 1960
- Cocoa Elks of Ladies have continued since that date
Cocoa Beach Lodge 2387

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Florida’s 92nd Lodge</th>
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<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>Southeast Central</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instituted:</td>
<td>March 20, 1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chartered:</td>
<td>June 18, 1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>Jack Kirkman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2000 Membership:</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>231</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>175 N. Brevard Avenue, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>321-783-4705</td>
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</table>

Cocoa Beach is in the heart of the Space Coast and as a result it has been important in the history of the space program. The Cocoa Beach pier extends 800 feet with an observation deck overlooking the ocean. Also of interest is the Astronaut Memorium Planetarium and Observatory.

Cocoa Beach Lodge #2387 was instituted on March 20, 1968 and chartered on June 18, 1968. Jack Kirkman served as its first Exalted Ruler from May 27, 1968 to March 31, 1969.

Charter Officers:

- **Exalted Ruler**: Jack Kirkman
- **Leading Knight**: Ken Taylor
- **Loyal Knight**: Douglas Pinder, Jr.
- **Lecturing Knight**: David Parrish
- **Secretary**: Walter Crossman
- **Treasurer**: Ted Thomas
- **Esquire**: David Brown
- **Tiler**: Henry Drake
- **Chaplain**: Calvin Halverstadt
- **Inner Guard**: Philip Salutes
- **Organist**: John Haas
- **Trustees**: Robert Amos, Floyd Berry, Thomas J. O’Malley, John Ostoski, M. W. Talbert

Institution ceremonies were held at Cocoa Lodge #1532 with District Deputy Henry D’Amico acting as Grand Exalted Ruler. The Lodge initiated charter members into the Order. Cocoa Lodge led by Exalted Ruler Simon A. Fougere initiated the new candidates. Following institution ceremonies, there was dinner and cocktails followed by dancing.

Grand Lodge and state officers present were Past State President Cullen H. Talton as Grand Leading Knight; Past State President George Carver as Grand Loyal Knight; Past State President Russell L. Saxon as Grand Lecturing Knight; William Lieberman as Grand Secretary; Past State President Victor O.Wehle as Grand Treasurer; PDD Ralph O. Hardie as Grand Tiler; PDD Charles E. McConnell as Grand Inner Guard; DD Bedford Prescott as Grand Chaplain; PDD Charles Garrides as Grand Organist; and DD Clyde Brown, PDD Bob Cameron, PDD Robert Grafton, and PDD Lamar Johnston as Grand Trustees.

State President Marvin Kimmel welcomed the members and officers of the new Lodge to the State Association. Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bill Wall spoke of the wonderful achievements of the Elks National Foundation. Other dignitaries present included Past State President Tony Mallem, Member of the New Lodge Committee of Grand Lodge; Chairman Hugh L. Hartley of Oswosso, Michigan, Grand Lodge New Lodges Committee; Past State President Willis V. McColl; Vice Presidents Harold Haimowitz, Malcolm McCall, and Buddy Evans; PVP Bill May; and PDD Lou Turnbull.

Their first home was at 140 North Brevard Avenue at the site later occupied by Johnathon’s Pub. Following this they rented property at Motel 6 located at 1275 North Atlantic Avenue where the Quality Inn later occupied.
August of 1974 they purchased property at 175 North Brevard Avenue and after three capital fund drives, they were successful in paying off their mortgage in June of 1981, nine years ahead of schedule.

The early 1970s were financially difficult for the Lodge primarily because of a substantial loss in membership impacted by layoffs at the Kennedy Space Center. However, they were able to recover to enjoy a financially secure Lodge with fine investments.

In 1988 the Lodge won first place for per-capita donations to the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital at the State Convention. They were also awarded first place for Community Service and the Lodge Bulletin. “The Bugle” placed second in both the state and national competitions. Jack Wiles won a 1998 Chevrolet Cavalier at the State Convention.

Past Exalted Rulers:
- Harold Shelton 1972-1973
- Robert L. Patton 1974-1975
- Elmer Questa 1975-1976
- Elmer Questa 1976-1977
- Lorimer B. Janes 1977-1978
- Olin D. Corn 1978-1979
- Peter Spires 1979-1980
- Jerry Russo 1982-1983
- Leslie Linsenbarth 1983-1984
- David Parrish 1984-1985
- John W. Schroll 1985-1986
- John W. Schroll 1986-1987
- Elmer Questa 1987-1988
- Edward Christensen 1988-1989


Jim was born in Pensacola, Florida on March 29, 1943. He attended public schools in Pensacola. He served in the United States Air Force from 1963-1971. He was awarded numerous medals and ribbons while serving in Southeast Asia including the Armed Forces Expedition Medal.
Jim left the Air Force in 1971 and attended Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College where he received his Associate degree in Applied Science. He then joined the local police department and was promoted to detective after six months with the force. Jim was one of two detectives selected to attend the Federal Narcotics Course in New Orleans, LA.

Jim was initiated into Warrington Lodge #2108 in 1983 and was elected Exalted Ruler in 1990. He served the Lodge on numerous committees and as Secretary/Treasurer and President of the PER Association. He has served on numerous committees in various capacities of the Northwest District as well.

Jim has served the Florida State Elks Association as State Chairman of the Lodge Activities and Ladies Organizations Committees. He also served on the Florida Elks Charities, Inc. Board of Directors.


PGER Bob Grafton named Jim the District Leader of the Northwest District of the Florida State Elks Association.

Jim is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of the American Legion. He is Past President of the Association of Retarded Citizens/Escambia and the Independent Insurance Agents of Pensacola. He has been appointed to two Blue Ribbon Task Forces by Escambia County.

Jim’s wife, Sonja, is a Past Elkette President and they have two sons, Dan and John. Dan is in the intelligence field; John is a Master Chief Petty Officer in the U. S. Navy and is married to Gina.

Jim enjoys reading history and attempting to play golf.

Jim and Sonja own Coggins Insurance Agency in Pensacola, Florida which is run by their Corporate Dog, Copper.

Jim’s continuing achievements and positions are Past Grand Esquire and G. L. Auditor.

**Coker, Thomas M., Jr., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1984-1985**

State President George Dominanni gave his annual report. The convention attendance was 4,524. The outpatient clinic in Fort Myers opened in 1983. Property on Route 450 in Umatilla was purchased consisting of approximately 345 acres in November. Ocala Lodge #286 won the State Ritual Contest.

The following Lodges were instituted: Destin #2688 on September 23, 1984; West Citrus #2693 on April 20, 1985; and South Orlando #2694 on April 28, 1985.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1984-1985 term:

- President: Thomas M. Coker, Jr., Fort Lauderdale
- Vice President at Large: Harold Shelton, Merritt Island
- Vice President, Northwest District: Fred Gresham, Pensacola
- Vice President, North District: Paul R. Fouche, Perry
- Vice President, Northeast District: Doug Cooke, Jacksonville
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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, North Central District</td>
<td>Edgar H. Keller</td>
<td>Apopka</td>
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<td>Vice President, East Central District</td>
<td>Joseph A. Patti</td>
<td>Deland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, Central District</td>
<td>Charles H. Ahrendt</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
</tr>
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<td>Vice President, West Central District</td>
<td>Albert L. Sigman, III</td>
<td>St. Petersburg</td>
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<td>Vice President, Southwest Central District</td>
<td>Donald Sansoussi, Lake Placid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, Southwest District</td>
<td>Frank Malatesta, Jr., Sarasota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, South Southwest District</td>
<td>Gerald Rogne, Boynton Beach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President, Southeast District</td>
<td>Donald L. Williams, Belle Glade</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, South District</td>
<td>Quentin N. Ross</td>
<td>Miami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Frank D. Willis, Jr., Eustis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Frank J. Holt, Miami</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>James Ruff, Fort Lauderdale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>Eugene Boggs, Boynton Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sergeant at Arms</td>
<td>Clyde H. Brown, Fort Lauderdale</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Earl Sapp, Fort Lauderdale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Norman D. Right, Deland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tampa was selected as the site for the 1985 convention.

Tom’s motto for his year was “Elks Stand Tall for America.”
A quotation from this year came from Tom Coker in a speech in which he quoted U. S. Representative Bill Chappell at the 75th Anniversary of Daytona Beach Elks Lodge. Chappell spoke of Michelangelo’s painting with a group of people standing in the background and one or two in the forefront. He said, “In all of life, there are those people standing back waiting for someone else, then there are those who have been more active and those who stand out in front to build a better world ---- this epitomizes the Elks, people dedicated to a better life.”

Colee, Harold, President, Florida State Elks Association, 1929-1930

Twenty-Fourth Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
April 8-9, 1929
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
The Credentials Committee reported 25 out of 31 Lodges present but did not list them.

The Secretary reported that the Annual Convention in Miami in July of 1928 was held in a fitting manner. He escorted the Grand Exalted Ruler over the district of North Florida. They visited Lake City, Tallahassee, and Pensacola.

The deaths of two Past Presidents occurred this year. They were J. H. Trump of Quincy Lodge #111 and W. A. Joughin of Tampa Lodge #708.

Suitable resolutions were adopted. Also, a resolution pertaining to Gus A. Mills was adopted.

The Executive Committee recommended changes in the bylaws creating Fourth and Fifth Vice Presidents and a Historian. (Editor's note: bylaws were amended to state the duties of the State Historian and stated he was to be an elected officer.) Same adopted, and bylaws were printed in full; see pages 74-79 printed proceedings.

They adopted resolutions forming the Elks National Foundation and pledged $1,000 payable $200 per year for five years.

Cocoa Lodge #1532 was awarded the cup for best ritualistic work, and Tampa Lodge #708 won the cup for best percentage of officers present.

Clearwater Lodge #1525 was instituted March 26, 1929.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1929-1930 term:

- President: Harold W. Colee, St. Augustine 829
- First Vice President: Joe L. Reed, Sr., Tampa 708
- Second Vice President: Arthur C. O’Hea, Fort Lauderdale 1517
- Third Vice President: W. K. Collins, Tallahassee 937
- Fourth Vice President: A. L. Cusson, St. Petersburg 1224
- Fifth Vice President: Lincoln Fishback, Fort Myers 1288
- Secretary: J. Edwin Baker, West Palm Beach 1352
- Treasurer: H. G. Pollitz, Daytona Lodge 1141
- *Historian: W. B. Delaport, Orlando 1079
- Sergeant at Arms: F. G. Turner, Bradenton 1511
- Tiler: J. Ray Driver, Gainesville 990
- Chaplain: Rev. A. S. Peck, Sanford 1241
- Executive Committee: Five years, W. J. Kenealy, Jacksonville 221
  Curtis Lindstrom, Deland 1463
  J. B. Stewart, Fernandina 795
  P. M. Henderson, Lakeland 1291
  J. I. Viney, St. Petersburg 1224

Fort Lauderdale was selected for the twenty-fifth Annual Session.

Colors of Elkdom

The Elks colors, a combination of royal purple and white, are used at every Elks function as typical of Elkdom.

White represents absolute truth. It reflects all the luminous rays. In all cosmogonies, it is divine wisdom, eternal light, subdued primitive darkness, and makes the world issued from the bosom of chaos. In all religions, the sovereign pontiff had white vestments, symbols of uncreated light. When Joseph took the body of the Lord, he wrapped it in a white linen cloth. Heraldry copied custom and followed tradition. Its coat of arms ordained that argent (white) should donate whiteness, purity, truth, hope, and innocence. Ermine, which was at first all white, was the emblem of purity and of immaculate chastity.

The Bible represents the type of the language of colors in all its purity. Jesus says in the Apocalypse, 11-17: “I will give to the victorious a white stone, on which shall be written a name which no one can know but he who received it.” In the Testament, white is symbolic of innocence, is the raiment of angels, and is of glorified saints of joy and of victory.

Purple is a compound hue, a red azure, and signifies in the popular language of colors the love of truth. Purple was the principal color in the symbolic vestment of the Hebrew priests and predominated in the ornaments of the high priests. Paganism acquired these symbolic traditions, and the ancients perceived in colors different degrees of virtue and vice.
Philostratus gives to Love wings of purple and azure. In antiquity purple was a red color graduated with blue, and according to blazonry, purple is a compound of azure and gules. The purple toga was the garb of the emperor alone. It was the badge of kingship. Purple fabrics were very costly. Both kinds of purple were used for the carpets and curtains of the Jewish tabernacle, for the high priest’s dress, and for the curtain of the Holy of Holies in the temple. The threads of the tassels on every Israelite’s outer garments had to be made of bluish purple. At the Babylonian court the bestowal of reddish purple raiment was a work of the highest favor.

White alone signifies chastity, charity, and a clear conscience, but in company with the purple it betokens the favor of the people. Combined with gold, it means a friendly feeling even toward one’s enemies. With red, it means strong in deed and just in word. With azure, it means a kindly disposition and wisdom in counsel. With sable, it means constancy, sorrow for the loss of friends, and a religious disposition till death. With green, it means joy, love, and gladness and bad luck after good fortunes. Purple alone represents jurisdiction.

(From History of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks by Charles Edward Ellis. Self published by the author in 1910 in Chicago.)

Commercialization

In 1883 the first system to restrict what is known as commercialism in the Order was adopted.

Committees

General Guidelines for District Chairmen

After appointment the first obligation of the District Chairmen is to acquire the knowledge necessary to properly perform their duties. There is a Grand Lodge publication that addresses the program of many of the committees in the Lodge. Study the programs carefully and be completely familiar with their goals as set by the Grand Lodge, the State Association, and the Lodge. The State Chairmen are always ready to assist in any way they can.

Soon after appointment at the State Convention around the first of June, the State Chairman for a committee will contact District Chairmen and provide more information pertaining to the goals and objectives of the committee.

It is the job of the State Chairmen to communicate information through the various District Committees to the individual Lodges. Poor communication is the weakest link. It is imperative that the District Chairmen keep Lodge Chairmen informed and be ready to assist them in any way they can.

Copies of correspondence addressed to a Lodge Chairman should be sent to the State Chairman, District Vice President, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, and Past State Presidents in your district.

If you, as District Chairman, are less than satisfied with any Lodge Chairman’s performance, contact the Lodge’s Exalted Ruler with copies to the appropriate officials.

Impress upon Lodge Chairmen the importance of attending all official visitations in the district of the District Vice President, the State President, and the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. Lodge Chairmen should be encouraged to attend the August and February Quarterly meetings at the Youth Camp, the Mid-year Convention, and the Annual State Convention.

In addition to preparing a final report for the State Chairman, contacts should be made to the incoming District Chairman to apprise them of the incomplete portion and assist with guidance.

District Chairmen must always work closely with the Exalted Ruler and the State Chairman.

The following is the schedule of committee reporting to the State Chairman:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Quarter</td>
<td>April 1 through June 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Quarter</td>
<td>July 1 through September 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Quarter</td>
<td>October 1 through December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Quarter</td>
<td>January 1 through March 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Committees and Boards, Florida State Elks Association

Annually, the President of the Association, as soon after his installation as may be convenient, appoints the members of the following committees who will hold that position until the next annual meeting.

- Americanism Committee
- Board of Directors, Florida State Elks Association
- Business Practices Committee
- Bylaws
- Credentials Committee
- Drug Awareness Education Committee
- Elks Training Committee
- Government Relations Committee
- Harry-Anna Trust Fund Committee
- Hoop Shoot Committee
- Indoctrination Committee
- Interlodge Visitation Committee
- Investment Advisory Committee of Harry-Anna Trust Fund
- Judiciary Committee
- Ladies Organizations Committee
- Land Use
- Lodge Activities Committee
- Membership Committee
- National Foundation Certificates Committee
- National Foundation Scholarships Committee
- New Lodges Committee
- Officers Attendance Committee
- Publicity and Public Relations Committee
- Resolutions Committee
- Ritual Committee
- Select Study Commission
- Social and Community Welfare Committee
- Sports Committee
- Youth Activities Committee
- Veterans’ Services Committee
- Wills and Bequests Committee

(See additional information under individual committees listed)

Communism

In the Lodge year 1964-1965 the Americanism Committee subject for the annual Americanism Essay Contest was “Americanism vs. Communism” for the high schools in Florida.

J. Edgar Hoover remarked in response to a question regarding communism while speaking at the American College and University Campuses:

“…we all believe in academic freedom, but academic freedom does not grant license to deliberately present distortions or falsehoods. It requires the truth and Communists are not obligated morally or otherwise to seek for or to tell the truth. Some students are capable of recognizing and exposing Communist propaganda and propagandists --- others are not. There lies the danger because Communists have made, and are making, recruits in our schools, colleges, and universities. For that reason I do not believe that Communist spokesmen should be allowed to speak on our campuses. Parents should be close to their children and their teachers. They should know what subjects are being taught and where necessary make practical and constructive suggestions. There have been a number of states that have adopted certain textbooks to be used in teaching courses on communism in their schools. That is a step in the right direction. Adults of this country should know
more about communism, what it really is, and be able to understand it so that they, in turn, can discuss it intelligently with their sons and daughters and answer various questions which arise such as the one you cited of the student who asked about allowing a Communist to speak on a campus. It is not a matter of suppression of free speech. That is not involved. I do think it is wrong to bring on the campuses of this country individuals who themselves are prisoners to a line of propaganda and have them expound it to the youth of our country. A communist is not free! He is under strict discipline of the Communist Party in Moscow.”

Community Service & Image Contest, B, Grand Lodge

The purpose of the Community Image Contest is to make our communities a better place in which to live. Elks should be the pillars of strength within the communities. This requires that they observe their own behavior. Included in this is the need to maintain facilities in good condition at all times, as they should be a place that members can be proud to bring others who may join the membership ranks.

Without a positive image and without any worthwhile involvement in the community, it will be difficult to maintain membership levels and have a great effect on future growth.

GER Gerald L. Coates’ 1996-1997 program was “Elks Guiding America Forward.” He said, “Elks need to be a Beacon of Light by searching out the needs of our communities and then make every effort to see that those needs are fulfilled.”

Submissions must be postmarked no later than March 15.

Rules and guidelines:
- Submission of a brochure showing community involvement and keeping a good image in the community is required.
- No more than one three ring binder, 8 ½ x 11 inches by 4 inches thick, will be accepted.
- All articles must be of community interest and related to the programs and activities of the Order.
- All media articles must contain a reference to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.


Fifty-Ninth Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
May 27-29, 1965
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

Sam Compton was born in Jackson, Georgia on January 28, 1917. He was educated in the elementary school and high school of Jackson and completed his education at Middly Georgia College in Cochran, Georgia, a branch of the University of Georgia. He was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church. In the middle and late thirties, he was employed by the Farm Security Administration in the Construction Division.

He married the former Billy Patricia Smith.

He left the Empire State of Georgia and moved directly to Fort Myers where he again went into the General Construction business. In 1945 he formed the partnership, Smith and Compton, doing general contracting.

He served many civic committees and activities and on the Fort Myers City Council.

He became a member of Fort Myers Lodge #1288. He served through all of the chairs of his Lodge and was given the title of Honorary Life Member of the Lodge. He was the first Vice President of the South Southwest District, just newly formed, and he went on to serve as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. This led to his serving on the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors and the Hospital Board.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1965-1966 term:

President W. S. Compton, Fort Myers
Vice President, Northwest District Reese Brown, Live Oak
Vice President, Northeast District George W. Reeves, Gainesville
Vice President, East Central District Charles E. McConnell, Titusville
Vice President, Central District Frank E. Holmes, Sanford
Vice President, West Central District Robert H. Pride, Clearwater  
Vice President, Southwest District Robert R. Allen, Arcadia  
Vice President, Southeast District Karl H. Klaeger, West Palm Beach  
Vice President, South District Howard Sullivan, North Miami  
Secretary William Lieberman, Leesburg  
Treasurer Frank J. Holt, Miami  
Tiler Mack Jones, Fort Myers  
Historian L. M. Strickland, Sr., Tallahassee  
Sergeant at Arms Ray Daniels, Clearwater  
Chaplain Charles E. Legg, Sarasota  
Organist Everett Ware, New Smyrna Beach

Bylaws were amended concerning the Resolutions Committee and Judiciary Committee.
Tallahassee Lodge #937 won the State Ritual Contest.
North Miami Lodge #2341 was instituted on February 28, 1966. Hialeah Lodge #2352 was instituted on August 6, 1966. West Hollywood Lodge #2365 was instituted on March 19, 1967.
The Florida Elks News had been competing for ten years in the Grand Lodge State Association Bulletin Contest. During this time they won one second place, one honorable mention, and six first places (five consecutive years).
A committee made up of J. Pierce Smith, J. Alex Arnette, and William Lieberman were appointed to study the Manual of Protocol which had been prepared by Karl Klaeger of West Palm Beach and upon approval to see that they are distributed to the Florida Lodges. It was felt that there should be some official Rules of Protocol as a guide for individual Lodges and state officials.

Concord, USS

In 1924 the USS Concord made a visit to Cape Town, South Africa. While there in Cape Town, nineteen Elks members attached to the battleship held a banquet in the city. This event appeared in the June 1924 issue of the Elks National Magazine celebrating its second anniversary of publication.

Constitution & Bylaws, Florida State Elks Association

(See Bylaws)

Constitution, First Grand Lodge

A Constitution and Rules and Regulations were drafted, but owing to a delay by the printers, they were not ready for a meeting to be held on February 9, 1868. The printer in setting up the drafted copy unwittingly placed a tentative date thereon, February 10, 1868. The press proofs contained errors in spellings of names, etc. They were corrected and the next Sunday, February 16, 1868, they were formally adopted, thus fixing the natal day of the Elks.
The first Constitution contained fifteen articles that were followed with 21 rules and regulations. The preamble stated the objectives of the Elks and was signed by Richard Steirly, William Carleton, H. Vandermark, W. Bowron, M. G. Ashe, John G. Kent, J. G. Wilton, F. Langhorn, J. H. Blume, and H. Bosworth.
The title page read:


An Elks Head appeared and then the following:

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Grand Lodge organized February 16th, 1868. Officers for the year 1868: R. H. Primo, Charles Vivian; First Deputy Primo, R. R. Steirly; Second Deputy Primo; Third Deputy

Article 1. This Order shall be called the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.
Article 2. There shall be but two degrees in this Order.
Article 3. No member shall be eligible to the Second Degree until he shall have been a member at least three months.
Article 4. No person shall be admitted to this Order under twenty-one years of age.
Article 5. Candidates can only be proposed by members who have received the Second Degree.
Article 6. Members shall be elected only by ballot. Three black balls constitute a negative.
Article 7. The appropriation of all funds for relief purposes shall be in the hands of a committee of duly qualified members of the Second Degree.
Article 8. The R. H. Primo shall appoint all committees from the ranks of the Second Degree.
Article 9. There shall be two sessions of all regular meetings of the Order --- one business, the other social.
Article 10. All business transactions of this Order shall be considered strictly private, and any member divulging the same, or any part thereof, shall, on conviction, be expelled.
Article 11. The officers of a lodge of this Order shall consist of the following, viz: R. H. Primo, three Deputy Primos (First, Second, and Third in order), Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Tiler.
Article 12. Any officer violating the Constitution of Rules of this Order, or any part thereof, shall be liable to impeachment.
Article 13. The Treasurer shall be required to give bonds in at least two thousand dollars on assuming the duties of his office.
Article 14. It shall require a two-thirds vote of the members of the Second Degree then present to impeach or remove any officer of this Order.
Article 15. The unanimous vote of all the living S. D.s shall be necessary, in order that an amendment or alteration of this Constitution can be effected.

RULES AND REGULATIONS: 1. That the meetings of this lodge shall be held once every week. 2. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary to read the articles of Constitution to the Lodge previous to balloting for a candidate or candidates. 3. That the initiation fee be two dollars, and lodge dues twenty-five cents per week, payable in advance. 4. That a fee of one dollar be paid on the proposal of a candidate and the balance on the night of initiation. 5. That a notification of acceptance be sent to each candidate. 6. That the articles of Constitution be read to each candidate prior to initiation. 7. That the balloting for membership shall take place on the next regular meeting after proposition and his initiation in the following regular meeting. 8. That a member of the Second Degree can propose but one member at each meeting and no more than five candidates can be initiated at each regular meeting. 9. It shall be the duty of the R. H. Primo to preside at the meetings of this lodge, call special meetings when he deems it necessary, appoint all committees, have general supervision over all matters pertaining to the lodge, shall see that members conduct themselves properly and comply with the Constitution and Laws of this Order. 10. It shall be the duty of the Honorary Secretary to keep correct minutes of all regular meetings, all accounts between the members and the lodge, receive monies, pay the same over to the Treasurer, and receive his receipt for the same. 11. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to issue all certificates appertaining to the business of the Order, and assist the Honorary Secretary, when necessary, in the discharge of his duties. 12. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep a correct account of all monies received and expended by the lodge, and report the state of the funds at the last meeting of each month, or when called upon by the lodge. 13. It shall be the duty of the Tiler to
assume sole charge of all the property of the lodge, viz: the rooms and condition of the same, keys of the doors, attend the door at all regular meetings of the lodge, and shall be responsible for the faithful discharge of all duties attending the same. He shall also purchase all property, stationery, etc., at the request of the lodge, and all bills for same to be presented to the R. H. Primo for his signature, prior to the liquidation of the same. 14. Any member neglecting to pay his dues for four successive weeks shall be notified of the fact and failing to give satisfactory reasons thereof shall be expelled. 15. Seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. 16. The funds of this Order shall be appropriated for the following purposes: all necessary expenses attending renting of rooms for meetings, balls, concerts, or exhibitions given by this lodge; printing; books; stationery; postage; and all other materials necessary for charitable and other purposes conformable with the terms of the charter and consistent with the objects of this Order. 17. The annual election of officers shall take place at the last regular meeting of each year. 18. The roll shall be called at the termination of the first session of each regular meeting. Members being absent shall be fined twenty-five cents. 19. It shall be the duty of every member of this Order to attend the funeral of a deceased brother, on receiving notice to that effect, the relatives of the deceased sanctioning the same. 20. That no alteration or suspension of the above rules, or any one of them, be made unless two-thirds of the members of the Second Degree present shall vote in the affirmative. George F. McDonald, Chairman; William Sheppard; Charles Vivian; E. M. Platt; Thomas G. Riggs.

Corporations, Florida State Elks Association

The various corporations were reorganized during the term of President Frank J. Spadafora, 1986-1987.

Reorganization of Corporations:

Florida Elks Children’s Hospital, Inc.
Serves as a nonprofit hospital. The corporation owns all equipment used by it.

Harry-Anna Charities, Inc.
Serves as a nonprofit fundraising corporation. It disburses funds for capital expenses and charity care.

Florida Elks Properties, Inc.
Serves as a nonprofit company that owns all real estate holdings. It will disburse funds for capital improvements and repair and maintenance.

Harry-Anna Investment Fund, Inc.
Administers the Harry-Anna Trust and Reserve Fund. This nonprofit company will disburse funds for capital expenses and charity care to the other three corporations.

Courtesy Cards

During World War II, Elks members generously and willingly gave up many personal privileges of their clubs in order to make room for servicemen holding courtesy cards. The servicemen were stationed great distances from home and many Lodges converted portions of their Lodges to servicemen’s clubs holding dances, parties, etc.

Counselor in Training Program

(See Florida Elks Youth Camp)

Crazy Carol Nelson

A popular entertainer among Florida Elks, “Crazy Carol” Nelson has played, sung before many Lodges, and often has been seen performing at hospitality rooms at the Elks annual conventions.

She has performed at fairs, conventions, farm progress shows, Shrine clubs, the VFW, American Legion Posts, the Elks, the Eagles, the Moose, etc.

Crazy Carol was born in Indiana but later became a resident of Sarasota, Florida where she was employed as a medical technician in hematology. She retired in 1988 and gave herself fully to show business.
Among her loyal following, someone gave her the name “Crazy Carol” because of the madcap skits she does during the performance.

Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee is responsible for the proper registration of members and their guests at the Mid-year and Annual Conventions of the Florida State Elks Association.

The committee also provides indexes of status in their respective Lodges, State Association, and Grand Lodge. It cooperates with the Convention Committee by ensuring that the conventions’ participants are registered and are participating appropriately. It interfaces with the State Chairman and the State Secretary.

There are two types of registrations, the first being the preregistered group and the second type being the nonregistered. The preregistered are those who have sent in the necessary paperwork, fees, etc. to the State Secretary in advance of the convention. The nonregistered are those who have not filled out the necessary paperwork in advance with the State Secretary. Badges provided to the participants are color coded. One color is for the state officers and Past Presidents and the other is for the alternate delegates, visiting Elks, and their significant others.

The committee will prepare a report of attendance before the assembled convention.

Creed, Elks

(See Elks Creed)

Crestview Lodge 2624

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District:</th>
<th>Northwest</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instituted:</td>
<td>October 20, 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chartered:</td>
<td>December 13, 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>Aubrey Callahan, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>L. E. McLaughlin, III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2000 Membership:</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>127 W. Pine Avenue, Crestview, FL  32536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>850-682-2110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler       Eddie McLaughlin

* Additional information was unavailable.

The following officers initiated the new members:

Exalted Ruler       Sam Shelton

* Additional information was unavailable.

In 1980 they met in a temporary building and in 1981 they moved into their present building which was purchased in 1984.

Fort Walton Lodge #1795 is the mother Lodge.

The Ladies organization is the Elkettes.

Efforts to establish an Elks Lodge in Crestview were started in January 1980 when an organizing committee from Fort Walton Lodge #1795 led by Jack King, came to the McLaughlin funeral for a meeting with stray Elks and members of the Lodges in the area who lived in Crestview. The team gave everyone instructions on
what they must do to ensure that the Lodge was established in Crestview by obtaining applications for new members and encouraging everyone who met the Elks qualifications to join the organization. The goal was to sign up 150 members. The group continued to meet and made excellent progress. The meeting place was moved to Elberto’s Restaurant on West Highway 90 with the meeting place on Monday night. Several local and stray Elks were placed in positions of authority. Eddie McLaughlin, William Johnson, Ken Landowski, and Eddie Wilkerson were selected to fill the temporary posts. New membership applications were submitted and progress showed that the Lodge was desired in the city of Crestview. A nominating committee was established to fill the required positions for the new Lodge. By this time, Jay Love of Fort Walton Lodge #1795 had taken over the position as the Advisor for New Lodges. He kept the membership drive alive and moving to obtain the required number of members.

In the month of September 1980, a temporary home was found in the Brett Pecan Building on North Highway 85. This required a great deal of cleanup and painting but eventually provided a meeting place for the Lodge. The membership continued to grow and the committee had sufficient applicants to meet the requirements of the Grand Lodge to establish a Lodge in Crestview. A request for dispensation was submitted through the necessary channel. The dispensation was granted and preparations were made for institution of the Lodge. On December 13, 1980 at Twin Hills Park, the institution of Crestview Elks Lodge #2624 was accomplished by District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Aubrey L. Callaham and a team of district and Grand Lodge officers.

After the institution ceremonies, the initiation ritual for the new members was performed. Exalted Ruler Sam Shelton and officers of Fort Walton Lodge #1795 led this ceremony. District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Aubrey L. Callaham and his suite of Grand Lodge officers performed the installation of the charter officers of the Lodge. There were 167 applicants and demits from other Lodges to make a total of 210 members for the new Lodge.

The next Exalted Ruler for the years 1981-1982 was Russell Wieland. During his term of office, the Lodge purchased 1.57 acres on East 90 that was to be ultimately the location for a new Lodge. However, nothing materialized on this project and in 1981 a building was leased in downtown Crestview at an increase in a lease figure of 50% and was much better suited for the Lodge than the Bret Pecan Warehouse they had been meeting in. This building was the old Okaloosa New Journal Building which required a great deal of renovation to make it suitable for the needs of a Lodge.

The renovation seemed to pull the membership together in a close-knit group working to improve the atmosphere of the Lodge. By April 1, 1982, the start of a new Lodge year, they made their move from the Bret Pecan Building. Interior work would continue with the design and construction of a kitchen. During Ray Hornbaker’s term as Exalted Ruler, a new Lodge room was constructed. Improvements continued and by 1983-1984 during the term of Exalted Ruler Tony Papa, the long project was completed.

In November of 1983 the Lodge was able to purchase the building they occupied. The final negotiated price was $15,000. A bond sale would finance the purchase.

During the 1984-1985 term of Exalted Ruler George Mock, it was decided to make a major renovation of the entire building with a completion date to coincide with the visit of District Deputy Herman Flowers. They were able to obtain material for construction from the Okaloosa County Airport and several other locations. Members assisted in removing materials from the airport saving a considerable amount of money. The end result was an outstanding facility. The renovation included a new lounge with new tables, a bar, and overhead lighting. An area also provided billiard tables. The Lodge area was improved with a wainscot of birch paneling and appropriate trim. A new ceiling was installed with lighting to fit into the ceiling tile. New ceiling fans were installed with lights on each fan. This would provide additional lighting during bingo.

In September 1986, two members of the Lodge, Ray McKinney and George Whitehurst, made an offer to the Lodge for the purchase of the property on East 90 that had been previously purchased for a new Lodge. The offer was accepted and the Lodge was able to pay off the bonds on the Okaloosa News Journal building in their entirety which made the Lodge debt free.

Past Exalted Rulers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980-1981</td>
<td>Eddie McLaughlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-1982</td>
<td>Russ Wieland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982-1983</td>
<td>Ray Hornbaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-1984</td>
<td>Tony Papa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984-1985</td>
<td>George Mock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-1986</td>
<td>William Bowes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986-1987</td>
<td>Ken Landowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-1988</td>
<td>Stan Little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988-1990</td>
<td>Harlace Hoomes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Elkettes of Crestview #2624 organized in 1981. They had 36 Charter Members.

**Curator, Florida State Elks Association**

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