Eagle Scout Scholarships

The Elks National Foundation awards eight Eagle Scout scholarships each year.

Eligibility: registered Eagle Scout and high school senior

Judging criteria: SAT score of at least 1090 or ACT score of 26 and financial need

Awards:
Four $8,000 scholarships ($2,000 per year)
Four $4,000 scholarships ($1,000 per year)

Applications and deadlines: contact Scout Service Center

Filing deadline: February 28

For additional information, contact the National Office, Boy Scouts of America, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079 or visit www.bsa.scouting.org/nesa.

East Central District (Florida)

District membership total as of March 31, 1998: 5,705
District membership total as of March 31, 2006: 5,521

Lodges and Membership in the East Central District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodge Name</th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daytona Beach #1141</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>278</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeLand #1463</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>489</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merritt Island #2650</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>286</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Smyrna Beach #1557</td>
<td>836</td>
<td>538</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ormond Beach #2193</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>849</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palm Coast #2709</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>798</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port Orange #2723</td>
<td>991</td>
<td>1,055</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanford #1241</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titusville # 2113</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>1,038</td>
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</table>
The following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville No. 221, Tampa No. 708, Tallahassee No. 937, Miami No. 948, Orlando No. 1079, Daytona No. 1141, St. Petersburg No. 1224, Palatka No. 1232, Sanford No. 1241, Fort Myers No. 1288, Lakeland No. 1291, and West Palm Beach No. 1352.

P. M. Henderson was appointed temporary Secretary.
J. H. Webber-Thompson of Palatka No. 1232 was appointed Acting Chaplain.
West Palm Beach Lodge No. 1352 was enrolled April 8, 1920.
The resignation of Key West No. 551 was received and not accepted.
J. T. Mahoney of Tampa No. 708 was appointed Chairman with power to solicit other members of a committee in securing an appropriate float and advertising matter to represent Florida in the parade at the convention to be held in Chicago. Also each delegation was to report to their respective Lodges that each Lodge would be assessed $100 to cover the expense of the float, etc.
The following resolution was adopted:

“Whereas, since our last meeting the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Universe, in His infinite wisdom, has deemed it wise to take from this life our beloved brother, Louis Harrison; and
Whereas, during his useful career as life member of Jacksonville Lodge and delegate to our meetings, he did exemplify in every way the cardinal principles of Elkdom, and served this Florida Elks’ Association not only by regular attendance at our meetings, but also gave his time and talents as Chairman of the Transportation Committee of our State Association,
Therefore, be it resolved, that the Florida Elks Association in Convention assembled at Lakeland, April 9th, A.D., 1920, feel that in his passing we have lost a true and loyal brother whose wise counsel and friendly presence are sadly missed.
That a copy of this resolution be sent to his bereaved family, also Jacksonville Lodge No. 221, as well as spread on the minutes of our Association as a token of our love and esteem.”
The following officers were elected to serve for the 1920-1921 term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>O. M. Eaton</td>
<td>Lakeland 1291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Vice President</td>
<td>J. T. Mahoney</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Vice President</td>
<td>V. G. Farr</td>
<td>Miami 948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Vice President</td>
<td>J. S. Shallcross</td>
<td>St. Petersburg 1224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>H. M. Hunt</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>C. A. Faircloth</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>J. H. Webber-Thompson</td>
<td>Palatka 1232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant at Arms</td>
<td>J. L. Reed</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler (not elected)</td>
<td>O. M. Eaton</td>
<td>Lakeland 1291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>J. T. Mahoney</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H. M. Hunt</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. A. Faircloth</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E. D. Roy</td>
<td>Jacksonville 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W. W. Rose</td>
<td>Orlando 1079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E. C. Thompson</td>
<td>Lakeland 1291</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

West Palm Beach was selected for the sixteenth annual session.

Ehrlich, Alvin A., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1973-1974

Sixty-Seventh Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
May 24-26, 1973
MIAMI, FLORIDA

Motto: “Now is the Time for All Good Elks”
The following officers were elected to serve for the 1973-1974 term:

- President: Alvin A. Ehrlich, Orlando
- Secretary: William Lieberman, Leesburg
- Treasurer: Frank J. Holt, Miami
- Tiler: William Skinner, St. Petersburg
- Historian: L. M. Strickland, Sr., Tallahassee
- Sergeant at Arms: Ted Griffith, Orlando
- Chaplain: Lamar V. Hutchinson, Orlando
- Organist: Maurice Cunningham, Fort Myers

Vice Presidents:
- Northwest: Richard L. Zelius, Pensacola Beach
- Northeast: Earl O. Irwin, Lake City
- East Central: Edwin Neville, Sanford
- Central: Earl Roth, Eustis
- West Central: Albert Rothacker, Brandon
- Southwest: Edgar C. Falk, Charlotte County
- Southeast: Gene Boggs, Delray Beach
- South Southeast: Oscar P. Synder, Hollywood
- South: John Pinder, Coral Gables

Seminole Lodge #2519 was instituted on September 28, 1974. Aripeka Lodge #2520 was instituted on September 29, 1974. Inverness Lodge #2522 was instituted on December 14, 1974. Tallahassee won the state ritual contest.

**Eleven O'clock Club**

Early in the Order, a few like-minded individuals gathered as Elks but subdivided by heritage or religion or some other perceived status formed themselves into a mini club called the Eleven O’clock Club.

Membership was limited to those Elks who met the additional requirements of the mini club. It created some difficulties to the Lodge and an embarrassment and anger to the Lodge members. Two Elks brothers equal in all respects save that one is a Christian and the other is a Jew are proposed for membership in the Eleven O’clock Club and only one is accepted. The difference could just as easily have been between an Irish and Italian heritage, or even between the occupation of plumber and lawyer. Such intra-lodge politics and personal bias could tear apart the most successful Lodge.

Understanding this, Grand Lodge established the rule that there would be no “society or organization limiting its membership to Elks, which is not expressly authorized by the Constitution and Statutes of the Order.” Thus no Lodge or group of members could create a club within a club which would discriminate between fellow Elks in its makeup. To prevent any difficulties from outside the Lodge, it was legislated that no “branches, adjuncts or auxiliaries” would be created either.

**Elks**

**Selecting the Name**

One of the main issues in forming the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was selecting a distinctive name. One of the more serious considerations was that of the Order of Buffaloes. The Buffaloes were an organization prevalent in Europe during the 1800s.

Influenced by his membership in the English Order of Buffaloes, Charles Vivian had set in his mind establishing an English organization. The English Order was named after the African buffalo, a name that Americans popularly called the North American bison. The committee however resisted this idea and expressed their desire that it bestow a more distinctive American title.
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FLORIDA ELKDOM

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

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

These were the qualities they were searching for; they were admirable qualities that the members could emulate as members of a benevolent fraternity.

Other names considered were the bear, but it was thought to be a rather savage and surly animal; beavers, which were an industrious animal but also known as a destructive pest; foxes, which seemed an even greater pest; and the moose, considered a magnificent animal but lacked the sheer grace and beauty of the North American elk.

On February 16, 1868, the committee recommended that the Jolly Corks be merged into a Benevolent and Protective Order. Vivian, supported by most of his friends, still favored the buffaloes. The first ballot as to whether to merge as Buffaloes or Elks was a tie vote, but on the second ballot the Elks passed by one vote, 8-7, when William Bowron changed his mind, although some say it was Vivian who changed his vote to break the tie.

The seven who voted for Buffalo were:

- Charles Vivian
- Richard R. Steirly
- M. G. Ash
- Henry Vandemark
- Frank Longhorne
- Harry Bosworth
- E. W. Pratt

The eight voting for Elk were:

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

Considerable ill feeling developed by the adoption of the change of name and the organization divided into two camps. At the close of the meeting on February 16, the minute book of the proceedings kept by William Carleton, Secretary, was carried away from the hall by Edgar N. Platt and taken to his boardinghouse at the Dodworth Band Headquarters and placed in his trunk. Shortly after, Platt left there, taking a position elsewhere. He left his trunk and contents behind intending to send back for it when he was definitely settled in his new place. In the meantime, Dan Underhill, a drummer with the Dodworth Band, stated Platt’s trunk and contents had disappeared. Thus the first minute book of the pivotal time when the Corks changed to Elks was lost and no one after was able to recover the missing records.

Elks Eleven O’clock Toast

ORIGIN

One newsletter said the custom of the toast is over a thousand years old and is credited to the Danes who originally used it to commemorate their departed loved ones. The actual word, toast, however, is taken from the 17th century practice of dipping a piece of warm bread in wine to improve its flavor. Mike Kelly, Historian assigned to the Grand Secretary, takes exception to this supposed 1,000 year old Dane accreditation, saying that one only needs to consult an English translation of either the *Iliad* or *Odyssey* of Homer, both works written over 2,000 years ago in ancient Greece, to note that it was a longstanding tradition in all cultures B. C. to start any feast with one cupful of
wine being poured on the ground to sink down to the underworld where the shades or spirits of the dead had gone before the living partook of the feast.

One of the main contributions of Charles Richardson, the stage name of Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian and founder of the American branch of the Jolly Corks, was to deliver into the hands of newborn Elks the rituals and traditions of a fraternal organization started in England around 1010 A.D., the Royal and Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB), to which he belonged prior to coming to New York.

The RAOB, or Buffaloes as they were more commonly called, also practiced an eleven o’clock toast in remembrance of the Battle of Hastings in October of 1066. Following his victory, William of Normandy imported a set of rules, both martial and civil in nature, to keep control of a seething Norman-Saxon population always on the edge of a revolution.

Among those rules was a curfew law requiring all watch fires (basically all lights controlled by private citizens that could serve as signals) to be extinguished at 11:00 each night. From strategically placed watch towers that also served as early fire alarm posts, the call would go out to douse or shutter all lights and bank all fires. This also served to discourage secret and treasonous meetings as chimney sparks stood out against the black sky. A person away from his home and out on the darkened streets when all doors were barred for the night risked great peril from either evildoers or patrolling militia.

The hour of 11:00 quickly acquired a somber meaning and in centuries that followed became the synonym throughout Europe for someone on his deathbed or about to go into battle, i.e., “his family gathered about his bed at the eleventh hour,” or “the troops in the trenches hastily wrote notes to their families as the eleventh hour approached when they must charge to the top.”

George F. McDonald started the Eleven O’clock Toast with the fifteen Jolly Corks. Each night when the refreshments were about exhausted, which was generally about 11:00, the social meeting would break up without any special formality. As some of the brethren left, they’d use some ordinary form of adieu or friendly remark to those still remaining who were finishing up the refreshments, thereby remembering the absent ones by eating up their bread and cheese and drinking up their share of beer. Later on May 31, 1868, Brother McDonald checked this abrupt and formal adjournment by the suggestion of a toast, “To Our Absent Brothers,” and then and there was ushered into existence the Eleven O’clock Toast.

The singing of “Auld Lang Syne” at parting was likewise introduced by Brother George F. McDonald. The crossing of hands and arms and singing “Auld Lang Syne” was adopted jointly from two sources. One was the Tammany Society or Columbian Order of which it had long been a feature. The other was more probable, from RAOB, as the crossing of the arms and clasped hands at parting, thereby forming a link. This antedates the Tammany source as this was part of the ritualistic work in use many years ago with the RAOB and primarily introduced by Vivian.

Thus when the fifteen Jolly Corks (of whom seven were not native born Americans) voted on February 16, 1868 to start a more formal and official organization, they were already aware of an almost universally prevalent sentiment about the mystic and haunting aura connected with the nightly hour of eleven, and it took no great eloquence by Vivian to establish a ritual toast similar to that of the Buffaloes at the next to last hour of each day.

The great variety of eleven o’clock toasts including the Jolly Corks toast makes it clear that there was no fixed and official version until 1906-1910. Given the Elks’ theatrical origins, it was almost mandatory that the pre-1900 Elks would be expected to compose a beautiful toast extemporaneously at will.

General Pershing, an Elk and Commander of the Expeditionary Forces during World War I, was asked to arrange a time for the signing of the armistice to end the war. The thought that naturally came to his mind was the Elks Eleven O’clock Toast, and so he set the hour of eleven on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 1918.

Elk

Size: A cow elk can weigh more than 500 pounds; the average bull weighs around 800 pounds.

Antlers: These are made of fast growing bone, so fast, in fact, that scientists think studying antlers may reveal clues about many types of cancer. Antlers can grow up to an inch a day. Contrary to what most people think, the number of branches or points does not signify an animal’s age. Elk will frequently polish their antlers against trees, leaving telltale rubs on areas of trees about four feet off the ground scraped bare of bark.

Emblematical animals have had significance in blazonry: hart, skill in music; horns of an elk, fortitude; unicorn, strength; eagle, a lofty spirit; and wings, celerity and protection.
Nomenclature: Wapiti is the Shawnee Indian word for elk. It means, “white rump.” In Europe, the word elk more often refers to the animal Americans call a moose.

It is actually designated scientifically as Cervus Canadensis. Old officers’ jewels displayed in Chicago and some of the early records show what looks more like a moose than an elk or deer. The USA only fraternity has literally translated the Canadian elk as the fraternal symbol. Both words in Cervus Alces means male elk, but for those quasi educated theater folk back in the 1870s, it caught their fancy and they pasted these words on everything they owned and even used it for a permanent password for half a century as opposed to the passwords which were changed every six months for about twenty years along with the secret handshake. The European school prefers Alces which applies more tightly to the deer family of which the elk is a member. Whether Wapiti was first used in the 17th century to describe the elk animal’s butt or actually first used in the 19th century to describe the fast-receding posterior from the wrong hotel room of a brother at a convention by a Shawnee porter in Indiana is uncertain.

To protect elk calves from predators, a cow will hide her newborn in a log or shrub, or among tall grasses, for the first few weeks of its life. The calves wear camouflaging white spots and have very little which helps keep them hidden from predators. To avoid leading predators to her calf, the cow keeps watch from a safe distance, visiting only periodically during the day to let it nurse. Cows are vigilant, however, and will chase off any predators that get too close, using her powerful front hooves as weapons. After a few weeks, the calves have grown strong enough to keep up and will join the rest of the herd.

The following article appeared in the Tropical Sun, an Indian River newspaper established in 1891. Long since gone from the scene, the Tropical Sun was a pioneer paper of the southeast coast of Florida and was published in West Palm Beach. The article is dated in 1921.

Preservation of Our American Elk

The “Cervus alces” Lodge-ically regarded by the Order of Elks is the “Wapiti Deer,” commonly known since the beginning of the 18th century as “The American Elk.” Its range in pre-civilization days was from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the same as the American Indian and from Mexico to Canada. The same cause that drove the Red Man from his happy hunting grounds reduced the wild elks numbers and caused the remnant still alive to seek the best they could find in the protection of the Rocky Mountains. There they found summer range in the clouds on the snow line and in the winter they came down to the valleys and were shot to death by white civilization. Again they were forced to the mountain tops to browse while growing nature was green but when winter snows covered their food they sought the lower levels again and starved around the white man’s fenced-in-hay-stacks until in Jackson’s Hole one could walk on dead elks, like as upon stepping stones in crossing a brook.

Being brave animals of rare instinct they chose the protection of Yellowstone Park on account of its climate and location. Here they have been preyed upon by white men and predatory animals and in their final stand are slowly passing away. They are trying to withstand the ravages of severe winters and white trophy hunters who only want a couple of teeth and the choice cuts of venison. What is the fact? The history of the teeth in your Elk decorations tells the story of a departed wild elk. Only two tusks – no more, and the Indians used to sew them on their clothes to show how many they had killed. In 1870 one could buy them by the handful for a song and a drink. A jacket was offered to the writer in 1868 in Cheyenne for ten dollars and it had sewed on it one hundred and fifty teeth. Any one could wear elk teeth then, but now you have to be a high-class gentleman to have the fraternal right to wear them and be a millionaire to buy them. The wild elks are passing; but there are nearly a million tame ones and in process of taming.

Elks Children’s Hospital

During the 1920s a beautiful, three story, one hundred room resort hotel with every detail designed for comfort of the guests was built in the small town of Umatilla, nestled among the lakes of Lake County. The hotel was called The Rowebuilt. Even with all its grace and beauty, it attracted very few guests and remained open for only fourteen days.

In time, Mr. Harry R. P. Miller of Eustis became the owner of this building because he held a mortgage on all the furnishings and equipment. The hotel had in fact only remained open just a few weeks and went bankrupt.
after the great Florida land burst in 1926 and just prior to the stock market crash of 1929 resulting in what became known as the Great Depression. In 1931 the Florida State Elks Association considered an offer from Mr. Miller for The Rowebuilt Hotel to be used as an Elks home or hospital for crippled children. The minutes of the 1931 annual convention revealed the following: “Mr. H. P. Miller of Eustis offered the Elks a two story stucco hotel building in Umatilla, same being well adapted for an Elks home or hospital.”

Dave Sholtz, Governor and PGER, had headed the Social and Community Welfare Committee for the Elks and had worked closely with the State of Florida Crippled Children’s Commission. With this he conducted a survey, traveling around the state to locate all of the crippled children in Florida. It was as a result of that survey that the Florida State Elks adopted as its major objective the welfare of crippled children in the state of Florida. The matter was referred to the Grand Lodge and in April 1933, the Harry-Anna Home for Crippled Children was dedicated.

The minutes of the 1934 annual convention of the Florida State Elks Association contained the following information: The Medical Director reported that the first patients were admitted to the Harry-Anna Memorial Home for Crippled Children on April 20, 1933 and 69 children have been admitted, and 39 discharged, leaving 30 at present in our wards.” Also included in the minutes was the following: “Endowment Fund of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Memorial Home was initiated February 14, 1934, and a sponsors committee headed by Governor and Mrs. Dave Sholtz with forty-four prominent Florida visitors and residents was organized.”

Any effort such as this must have financial support, so Mr. Miller called the owner of the Hialeah race track and asked him for help to get started. The track owner wholeheartedly cooperated and solicited other race track owners to do the same. The track owners gave one day’s receipts to the home, which totaled $34,500. This seed money provided the financial support for the beginning of this charity.

In September of 1934, Miss Hattie Slaughter opened the Harry-Anna School in the east end of the south wing, the area known to all who worked in the old Harry-Anna building as “the baby ward.”

In 1939 President O’Brien called attention to the fact that all right, title, and interest in the property of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home is vested in a private corporation known as the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Commission, Inc.

By 1944 there was concern as to whether the hospital could continue operation. Financial problems had set in. The President of the Florida State Elks Association appointed a committee for the task of determining if the Lodges would be willing to give sufficient financial support to maintain continued operation. The Lodges around the state rose to the occasion and guaranteed the continued operation of the hospital.

**Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Clinics**

The Lower East Coast Clinic of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital opened its doors in 1989 using the facilities of Pompano Beach Lodge #1898.

This newest clinic was able to acquire the services of Dr. Satish Shai who previously served on the staff of the hospital in Umatilla. As a member of the staff of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital, he was familiar with the operating procedures and became a tremendous asset to the clinic.

The Operating Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Jerold Mills, O. D., included Vice Chairman, Norman Mandell (#1898); Secretary, Wally Gies (#1770); and Treasurer, Tim Myette (#2676). The members of the committee represented all the Lodges in both the Southeast and South Southeast Districts and would meet at various rotating sites on the second Sunday of each month.

The Outpatient Clinic under the co-chairmanship of “Monty” Montagno, PDD (#2463) and Bob Pastor (#1898) was open for treatment and evaluation of patients on the first Wednesday of each month at the Pompano Beach Lodge.

In 1945 James Fernandez of Tampa Lodge #708 became Hospital Administrator.

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 in 1946, Past State President Frank Umstot of Tampa Lodge #708 requested a charter be prepared for eventual incorporation.

The charter for the Florida State Elks Association, Inc. granted a corporation not for profit under the laws of the state of Florida on June 4, 1946. The charter was issued by Circuit Court 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 meant that the Harry-Anna Home and all assets were then the property of the Association of which every Elks Lodge in Florida was a member.

In 1949 a picnic ground was installed at the hospital at a cost of $1,000. These grounds were used to entertain Grand Exalted Ruler George I. Hall during his official visit to Florida in a grand old barbecue.

That same year the old drying room next to the laundry room was converted to a school for the children. The home received considerable damage when wind and rain damaged the north and south sides of the hospital on the third and fourth floors. Repairs included new metal window sashes. Brother Charlie Pride from Daytona Beach, later to become President of the Florida State Elks Association, installed a seven station speaking station radio service at a cost of $305.

In addition, the swimming pool was enclosed, scraped, and repainted and wiring in the building was updated.

In 1951 the School Board of Lake County assigned three teachers to the Harry-Anna Hospital teaching an average of 35 children in an auditorium-like room. It was hot and noisy, but under George Carver’s administration, two new classrooms were built, one for the primary group and one for the senior high group. Sixty-five children were being cared for each year with over 1,700 receiving treatment since the inception of the home.

In 1953 an Easter Seal campaign was promoted by Florida Lodges by mailing out letters for the benefit of the hospital.

The Elks hospital foundation was beginning to deteriorate and so in 1953 they finished a two year repair program to strengthen it at a cost of $310,000.

By 1955 the Elks Hospital Foundation Fund was at $1,000,000. Interest only from the fund was used to operate the hospital.

In 1958 George Carver of Live Oak Lodge #1165 became Hospital Administrator. Talk of an expansion program was going on and in 1962 the board of directors requested the Operating Committee to make a survey of the feasibility of such an expansion program.

The opportunity to report to this assembly on the operation of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home is a high honor and a great privilege. The fact that I am the man to make this report may not be fully understood or appreciated by all concerned, but I feel sure that no one else could occupy this position with any more enthusiasm, interest or concern than I, not with a deeper feeling of gratitude nor fuller realization of the tremendous responsibility placed in me. It is with a sincere desire to be of service to the Elks of Florida who have been so good to me that I go about my duties toward the ultimate end that another crippled child may some day, because of the Elks of Florida, walk again.

Fate performed in many ways resulting in my going to Umatilla; not the least of which was the attack of illness suffered by our beloved Jimmie Fernandez. Also a contributing factor, the amount of work to be done has increased much during the past two years. The number of subscribers to the Trust Fund Certificates has almost doubled since the Fort Myers convention two years ago. And, responsible to a large degree, to the growth of the Trust Fund was the successful promotion of “Operation Big Heart,” a fitting tribute to Jimmie Fernandez.

I assumed my duties at Harry-Anna officially on August 1st, 1957. On August 2nd I met with the Operating Committee in the Tallahassee office of Dr. William G. Stinger, Administrator of the Florida Crippled Children’s Commission. The meeting was arranged by the chairman of the Operating Committee, Brother Victor Wehle. At this meeting we learned first hand about our relationship with the commission, and its effect on the operation of the Home. Information obtained at the meeting left much to be desired in the business arrangement between the tax-supported organization and our charitable institution. Specific commitments were made to the Commission by the members of the Operating Committee with the end result that now we enjoy full cooperation from the commission and their several clinics all over Florida.

It is true, the geographical location of Umatilla does prevent some cases being committed to us; but this is the exception, rather than the rule. Children come to us from all over Florida. The purchasing of new and modern equipment, by making important changes in administrative staff and policy, by making some physical changes in the building itself, providing additional school class rooms, play areas and office space, by installing the standard
system of hospital accounting have convinced the Commission that we are indeed in the business of rehabilitating crippled children.

A recent visit to the Home by Dr. Stinger brought us the assurance that he would do all he can to assist us in keeping our beds filled with children who need care and treatment. We can reasonably expect continued cooperation from the Florida Crippled Children’s Commission.

Of the $33,100.00 given to us by the Ford Foundation, $20,704.18 has been spent for the construction of two additional school class rooms, a complete laundry, handling more than 5,000 pounds of laundry per week; a revamping of our boiler and steam installations; many much-needed items of equipment in our Physical Therapy Department; modern sanitation facilities in each of the wards; various pieces of office equipment and machinery. The balance of $12,395.82 in this fund will be spent as soon as the Operating Committee can determine from existing needs how we can best increase our efficiency in the care and comfort of the children committed to our care. Money laying idle in the bank while a need exists to better our facilities for aiding our specialists in carrying out prescribed treatments does not reflect the true purpose and intent of the Elks of Florida, who are dedicated to the proposition that crippled children shall be cared for, and committed in principle to an all-out rehabilitation program.

Much attention has been given to the entertainment of the children. The quality of movies shown weekly has been improved, with, of course, additional cost. Parties have been given frequently. Wiener roasts and popcorn popping at Halloween time, with all the children dressed in appropriate costume; an Easter egg hunt, birthday parties, hamburger roasts in the back yard, and many just plain, unplanned get-togethers by the older girls and boys and the helpful and cooperating members of the staff; an occasional trip to the drug store for an ice cream soda or a banana split, at the unhappy expense of envy to those children confined to their beds. Television sets and radios are provided in noisy profusion in the wards and play-rooms. Games and comic books in quantities that would stagger your imagination have been sent to us by thoughtful individuals and organizations. Outer space has been conquered more times in the west ward of Harry-Anna than at Cape Canaveral! Satellites (often referred to as “spitballs”) are projected from bed to bed with remarkable accuracy. At nightfall, the lights must finally be turned out to provide the quiet atmosphere to induce sleep so necessary after a day of whirlpool baths, exercise tables, muscle stimulators, vibrating gadgets and turning wheels, in addition to the readin’, writin’ and ‘rithmetic in the school rooms.

The entertainment of the children is now a project, carried on with precision and planning. Believing that a happy child will respond to treatment more readily than an unhappy one, we have gone all out to mask their pains with smiles and laughter.

I would like at this time to pay tribute to Gene Schramel of the Jacksonville Lodge, who by the way, is present at this convention as a member of Jacksonville’s ritualistic team. Gene came to Umatilla with his portable shortwave radio transmitter and receiver. He broadcast from a Friday afternoon until noon Sunday all over America telling people everywhere about the Harry-Anna Home. Several children talked by radio-patch with their parents in their home towns. Brother Schramel’s coming to Harry-Anna was a most outstanding feature in our entertainment program. The kids keep asking for him to come back.

On December 31st (1957) a deed was drawn up in favor of the Florida State Elks Association, Inc., for use and benefit of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home, conveying title to us on a piece of property at Daytona Beach. The property fronts the ocean and runs through the block to Atlantic Avenue. A large two-story house called “The Moorings” fronts the ocean and is completely furnished. There are several bedrooms, a large living room and a sun parlor; a spacious yard fairly attractively planted in various kinds of plants, a beautiful lawn surrounds a large front porch. This property was given to us as a vacation site for the children of Harry-Anna. Tax authorities of Volusia County have indicated to us that the property will be tax-exempt if we use it for the Harry-Anna Home. I am happy to announce that we have already carried some of the children to the beach and will from time to time during the summer take more of them who are able to go. Children taken to the beach house will go with the consent of the doctors and the parents.

Finally, I must say I am constantly impressed with the patient and loving care given the children by our nurses and nurses’ aides. As they are observed going about their duties, one cannot help but be impressed with the ever-present evidence of their devotion and loyalty. There is a certain amount of glamour even in pinning on a diaper, cleaning a bedpan or taking a rectal temperature, if by so doing a child is comforted and their health guarded.

The almost miraculous benefits manifested daily to so many of the children substantiates the faith of all Christian people in the omnipotent God, and convinces us that really and truly He has “Got the Whole World in His Hand!”
…Your Home Committee which meets quarterly is composed of two representatives from each Lodge, determines the general policy of the Home. From that Home Committee is selected each year five men to act as an Operating Committee. We actually run the Home. We meet every month, ordinarily the second Saturday of each month at Umatilla, and we usually have 100% attendance except where prevented by illness. In addition we have others who attend these meetings. Also, you are welcome to attend the meetings of the Board of Directors or the Trustees of the Trust Fund. These are open meetings, we have no secrets. The Operating Committee meets to actually determine what must be done at the Home to make it a better institution. I say this sincerely, your Home is the heart of Elksdom in Florida; without the operating of the Home, Elksdom in Florida would have little excuse for existence. Brother Donaldson stated this morning that the State Associations that are the most active and the most able throughout the United States are those who have great objectives such as ours. I wish all of you would come up to the Home more frequently to see how the Home is run. The Operating Committee is charged with the physical condition of the Home, the staff and all of the operating incidentals. That Operating Committee for many years has been practically intact; but this year Brother Otto Wettstein, who has been a devoted and valuable member, has indicated that he cannot be available for reappointment. Brothers Willis McCall, Cullen Talton and Jimmy Fernandez are the senior members of the committee. Brother Willis has gone on to higher but not better things, so we will have two replacements to make tomorrow morning. By the way, you members of the Home committee, your expenses in coming to this Convention to attend the meeting of the Home Committee are deductible as charitable contributions from your income tax, but if you don’t attend the meeting of the Home Committee tomorrow morning you can’t deduct it, so get up and be there at 8:00 o’clock.

We were faced with a very serious and almost tragic situation last spring when our great brother, Jimmy Fernandez, was stricken for many months. He has been the heart and soul of Elksdom in Florida and has been a guiding hand for many years. He had worked himself almost to death as Secretary of the Association and as comptroller of the Home. He almost succumbed; he came so close that he had put one foot in the “pearly” gates and already had his pen in hand to sign the register there, but he said, “St. Peter, excuse me, there is some unfinished business at the Harry-Anna Home and I have to go back.” He came back and I hope he will be with us for many years to come. We have gotten a very able substitute in the person of our Past President, George Carver. George, as you know, has been living most of his life in Live Oak, so at considerable sacrifice he consented to become the Managing Director of our Home, and he has done an outstanding job. The morale of the Home among the staff, employees and patients is at an all-time high….

The Operating Committee is charged with two other jobs that are not distinctively in the operation of the Home, and yet somebody has to do them. The Trust Fund, as you probably know, in addition to its cash and securities assets, has several valuable pieces of property - one is the Duff Grove, consisting of 25 acres, and the Miller Building in Eustis, a combination office and apartment building which was given to us by Harry Miller. These two properties produce very substantial income for the Home, varying as to the rentals and citrus yield, but between the two of them we receive from $12,000 to $15,000 net for the Trust Fund. Someone has to look after that building and supervise the operation of the grove. That task has been given to the Operating Committee because we are on the spot. In addition to this there is the physical maintenance of the Home and repairs to the building and the operation of the convalescent hospital. There have been many fine physical improvements made this last year. There has been a complete replacement of physical therapy equipment and now we have as fine Physical Therapy Department as any hospital in the country. That was made possible through the generous donation from the Ford Foundation. We have built two schoolrooms and equipped them - that also was from the Ford Foundation and through the cooperation of the Board of Public Instruction of Lake County. We have moved the teenage girls up to the second floor where they can have their own room. This has necessitated a little extra expense but it is a great morale factor for these girls. The Eustis Anna Miller Circle has taken it upon themselves to landscape the grounds. In that connection, we have so many fine people who do many things for the Home besides giving us money. For instance, we have women who come to the Home and give permanent waves to the girls, and that means a great deal to the girls. A fine man comes over every Saturday afternoon from New Smyrna Beach and plays Hi Fi records which he purchases himself for the enjoyment of the children. We have those dedicated groups locally who take turns every Sunday conducting Sunday school services for the children. We have various organizations who give
The year 1961 marked the beginning of a home therapy service in cooperation with the Florida Crippled Children’s Commission. The goal was to place at least one physical therapist in each of the districts of the FCCC to carry physical therapy into the homes of those families who could not utilize the services of existing treatment centers and mobile therapy units.

Later the Florida State Elks Association built a new administration building. It was north of the hospital and was joined to the new building by an enclosed passageway.

In the late 1960s the Harry-Anna Home took on the status of special pediatric orthopedic hospital and became known as the Florida Elks Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital.

By 1969, the school faculty had grown to five and the middle school and high school went into department teaching.

Its departments included X-Ray and a Laboratory, Physical Therapy Treatments, Occupational Therapy, Dental Clinic, Eye Care, and Home Therapy Service.

Highlighting the many types of cases treated were heart conditions, amputees, cerebral palsy, foot deformities, post polio, scoliosis, spina bifida, miscellaneous congenital, buns, brachial palsy, hemiplegic, paraplegia, quadriplegia, nerve injuries, and other back conditions.

The decade of the 70s brought many changes to the hospital and school. Many state and federally assisted programs came into existence. Harry-Anna was not only going through social and academic changes but physical upheaval as well.

In 1985 the name of this great charity was changed to the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital to better identify it with the Florida Elks.

Though over the years the hospital occupied three different buildings and had several name changes, the Elks never strayed from their mission of providing quality health care for Florida’s children in need.

**Head Injury Unit**

In 1987 as a result of a Select Study Commission that was charged with the responsibility of looking into other areas of treatment and headed by President Thomas M. Coker, Jr., PSP, Hospital Administrator Ben Brown was authorized to create a unit initially of ten patients specifically for the treatment of head injury problems.

At the Annual Convention in 1990, Brown reported on the Head Injury Unit implementation progress. In order to implement the program it was necessary to hire a medical director. A medical director is a physician who should be trained in physical medicine, neurology, or neurosurgery and who can coordinate the program and design each patient’s medical plan of treatment. The process of finding an appropriate medical director was a little more complex than anticipated. A young psychiatrist who was also a pediatrician was interviewed. She was interested in the program and was interested in becoming Director of the Head Injury Program. She would be associating with an Orlando physician group and would be available shortly after that. These patients would be less expensive because they require only rehabilitation and not surgery. A nursing shortage was impacting the system and Brown said it would for some years to come. It would place tremendous upward pressure on the compensation levels of these and
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FLORIDA ELKDOM

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certain other health care professionals. Nearly 50% of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital salary budget was consumed by nursing service. An additional problem was that of the Medical Malpractice crises in Florida. This increased not only the cost of all goods and services but the cost of insuring for protection from malpractice as well. The proliferation of these types of suits increased the possibility that the hospital may be the subject of a malpractice suit.

In 1992-1993 there was a total of eight admissions since the program started. The daily census was now at five patients.

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In 1998-1999 the hospital arrived at a crossroad in its proud history. The mission was to continue to offer free therapy services to Florida children. However, the method of delivery of these vital services was changing. Time brings about change, and as a result we must change our way of doing things if we are to maximize our results while providing the most cost effective method of applying the Elks resources. The hospital now embarked on a new and exciting program of delivering therapy services to the children in the comfort of their own homes.

New Hospital

Back to 1931 for a moment: Harry and Anna Miller donated the land and building for the original hospital, but what actually convinced the Elks they should open a hospital?

The following excerpts are from a letter written by Dr. R. E. Baldwin and read to the delegation of the 26th Annual State Convention April 12, 1931. He is describing the building offered by Harry and Anna Miller.

“The building is of fire-resisting construction with two floors and a basement. It has a stucco finish and is attractive in appearance. The plumbing is modern in every respect and there is a splendid steam plant with a large oil burner - a feature frequently overlooked in this latitude.”

“As a hospital for medical cases this building has great possibilities. Some of these reasons will be stated and discussed here.”

“The altitude of this section ranges from two hundred to two hundred and sixty feet, which is ideal for the average medical case.”

“The question of water is gratifyingly easy to solve as the supply furnished by Umatilla is adequate, soft and portable as well as being free from pathogenic bacteria. This is such an important requirement it is difficult to avoid stressing it. The food situation must be considered very carefully. In the care of the sick, the modern physician is demanding citrus products in greatly increased amounts. Umatilla is in the heart of the citrus belt and patients in this area could obtain free ripened fruit instead of the artificially colored product so frequently found in distant markets. In addition to the citrus fruits, all well-informed persons recognize the necessity for a plentiful supply of vegetables. As is not so well known, it is highly desirable that the vegetables should have high iodine content. Fortunately that metal is present in Florida vegetables to a very high percentage. When the research work has been completed it is most probable that Florida’s vegetables will head the list, as is the case at present with grapefruit. In addition to the mineral content it is essential that the product be fresh, and if possible, cheap. This section will provide, and does provide, for that matter, vegetables that satisfy the epicure, the medical man and the pocketbook.”

“Ambulant cases need recreation and that county offers wonderful opportunities. There are twenty-two hundred (2,200) named lakes in that region, and most of them are well stocked with fine fish. It is a paradise for the
fisherman and to those whose health is below par. It would be almost impossible for a convalescent patient to remain depressed in such surroundings. With hope replacing the blues, appetite returns, which results in fewer hospital days, thus effecting a saving. Incidentally the patient is more congenial and the work of the attendants measurably lightened."

“We, in Florida, have been slow to realize the tremendous advantages this state has in the value of sun bathing over the practice of using certain types of apparatus, by using sun bathing, a healing agent not even approached by any ultra violet lamp.”

“It is a matter to be regretted that no gifted pen has described properly the beauty of the lake region, with its sapphire lakes and rolling grove land. The patients in many hospitals have to go long distances to escape landscapes monotony, but around Umatilla and Eustis is an ever-changing vista. A person who is not delighted with an automobile ride over the smooth roads in this region might as well give up. Many of us think of a hospital as a building smelling of disinfectants and ether, with poker-faced doctors and nurses - well, at one time there may have been some justification for such ideas, but not in recent years. The matter of recreation is so important it cannot be dismissed lightly.”

“A hospital too difficult of access inflicts an unnecessary hardship on the patients. The proposed hospital at Umatilla is far enough back from the main highway to avoid the noise and dust incident to moderate traffic, yet it is no effort to reach it. The railroad is but a stone’s throw distant.”

“Orlando and DeLand are sufficiently close to send the occasional surgical patient for treatment if surgery is imperative. By receiving medical cases only the heavy overhead of maintaining an operating room with necessary personnel can be obviated. The nearness of these cities renders possible the obtaining of competitive bids on supplies.”

“Strangely enough the citizens of Umatilla and Eustis are very desirous of having an Elks’ Home or Hospital in this locality. Usually people oppose a hospital very bitterly, but these people are not only exceptional in this respect but offer to equip fifty rooms.”

“A final reason for accepting this offer is that the generous donor does not stipulate that a hospital must be started on a grand scale. He stated to the undersigned that if the Elks desired to begin in a modest way, he would offer no objection.”

Hospital Administrators

J. Edwin Baker
Jimmy Fernandez
George Carver
Jim Oliver
Ben Brown, Jr.

Between the administrations of Baker and Fernandez, a registered nurse by the name of Othella Green took over the duties of the office.

Those Helped

In 1981 there was the story of one young girl who was brought to the hospital at the age of eight months, born without feet. She went through inpatient and outpatient therapy for seventeen years. She wrote thanking the Elks and said she was starting a college career, is very active, and even dances. The Elks spent more than $30,000 to help this one young lady.

Patient Stories

(Jacob Hutcher, Tamarac)

On May 6, 1996, this former patient received his AA Degree from Broward Community College. Jacob was a young man who was afflicted with cerebral palsy and spastic quadriplegia. He spent many months at the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital after numerous surgeries performed by the Elks and worked very hard at his physical therapy programs. He not only overcame his severe physical deficits but also mental deficits as well. He is an example of the great results that can come by youngsters who receive a little help from the Elks and Ladies of Florida.
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(Jonathan Essex, Gainesville)

A thirteen year old from Gainesville, Jonathan suffered from leg length discrepancy and short stature and underwent two separate surgeries on both femurs and tibias at the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital in treatments spanning two years. In 1996 he was still being seen on a regular basis as an outpatient but doing well. He leads a very normal and active life like many teenage boys. He was doing so well that he was selected as a community hero torchbearer for the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay and he carried the torch in Gainesville in the summer of 1997.

Elks Children’s Hospital Closure

Announcement of Closure
October 1998
Ben Brown, PSP, Administrator

During the Mid-year Convention at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Board of Directors of the Florida State Elks Association voted to make a major change in the way it delivers health care services to Florida children. Since 1933, the Florida State Elks Association through the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital has provided free orthopedic services to Florida children in a hospital setting. All during this time, the focus of the hospital’s services has always been on orthopedic rehabilitation, even though many and varied ancillary services were also provided.

As the face of health care evolved over the years, most of the children who were referred to the Elks for care required surgery which was performed at other facilities. The cost of these services eventually consumed unacceptable amounts of the Elks’ resources and other solutions and alternative ways of delivering health care services were explored. Because of these dynamics, the Elks leadership began to question the long-term viability of its beloved hospital.

The orthopedic physicians from Orlando who had served the hospital so faithfully for many years advised the Elks in plain language that the services that were offered in the past through the hospital were no longer needed. The practice of medicine had changed dramatically over the past fifteen years and as a result, orthopedic inpatient rehabilitation was not often necessary for longer than a few days.

Now after 65 years of providing quality health care services free to tens of thousands of children, a decision had been made to provide services in a different manner. The Board of Directors after a great deal of deliberation made the painful but inevitable decision to close the hospital. This involved the systematic and professional phase out of the services now provided at the hospital. This process was expected to be concluded during the first quarter of 1999.

It was of the highest importance that the transfer of the patients’ care to other resources be done in a most professional manner which reflected positively on the Elks of Florida. The former patients’ welfare and their ability to obtain needed medical services in the future were of paramount importance to the Elks. The hospital’s dedicated staff saw to it that the Elks provided all the assistance necessary to see that this occurs.

As quickly as possible in 1999, an exciting new program of delivering physical therapy and occupational therapy to the homes of children in need began. These rehabilitative services were necessary to be rendered in the home because of the absence of these services locally or because of the patient being medically infirmed at home.

Therapists were hired throughout the state to provide these services. They were provided with vehicles which identified that this project is funded by Florida Elks. The therapists travel throughout their particular area rendering these vital treatments to the youngsters in their home setting. Home health care has been a trend for some time, and this will allow the Elks to participate in this accepted method of health care delivery.

One of the great benefits for the Elks of Florida is that they can observe the services that they make possible. In essence, Florida Elks will continue to be providing rehabilitative services as they have for 65 years. However, instead of these occurring in one location in the central part of the state, these services are available to children locally throughout the entire state.

Why was it necessary to close the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital?

Due to the changing face of health care delivery in America, the hospital had been seriously underutilized in its last years. This concerned not only the leadership of the Florida State Elks Association but the general membership as well. After a great deal of deliberation with heavy hearts, the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors made a decision to provide services to children in a different manner.
Will there be a new program providing free care to the children of Florida?

The Florida State Elks Association agreed to found a new program of free in-home physical and occupational therapy for Florida’s children in locations throughout the state. The therapists who render these services will serve the patients from their mobile vans and will be employed by the Florida Elks.

What will happen to the staff of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital?

Every effort will be made by the hospital’s administration to assist the employee in finding new employment. A financial severance package will be available to employees in order to assist them to bridge the gap between the current and new employment.

What will happen to the present hospital building?

As soon as practical the hospital building will be offered for sale.

When will the new outpatient therapy program begin?

The new outpatient therapy program will begin as soon as possible in 1999 as staff can be hired. It is anticipated that this will be a gradual phasing-in of the new program.

How will the new program be funded?

The new program will be funded by income received by the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Will there be therapy units in my area?

It is anticipated that all areas in the state will eventually have mobile therapy units. At least one therapy unit in each of the fourteen Elks districts in Florida is our goal.

What other action was taken with regard to closing the hospital and establishing the mobile therapy program?

(1) The present four outpatient clinics will be retained, and new ones will be established wherever possible. Children who are seen in these clinics and who require surgery will be referred to the Shrine Hospital in Tampa in accordance with the Elks - Shrine agreement.

(2) The current $5 per member quota requested of every Elks Lodge to support the hospital will be discontinued after this year (1998). The latest reports of income from the Harry-Anna Trust Fund indicate that there is currently sufficient income to operate our major projects - the mobile therapy outpatient clinic program and the Youth Camp.

(3) While the income from the Harry-Anna Trust Fund is currently sufficient to operate our major projects, it is possible because of the success of these programs that additional funding may be necessary in the future. Thus, continued emphasis is important in order to build the trust fund so that income will be available to meet future needs.

Elks Creed

Believe in the goodness of thyself as well as in others.
Protect childhood with tenderness, old age with respect.
Cherish with reverence the memory of those who have passed.
Observe faithfully the golden rule.
Enjoy the good things of earth; keep within thee the glorious sunshine.
Elks Magazine

*The Elks Magazine* started publication in 1922. In that first year Norman Rockwell created the artwork for the December cover.

In its first issue of June 1922 there appeared a letter from President Warren Harding and an article by the steel and railroad tycoon, Charles M. Schwab, as well as an article on the Elks National Memorial Headquarters Commission, the origin of the flag, the National Home, and short stories.

The salutatory in this first issue read:

“With this first number of *The Elks Magazine* the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks takes a most confident and, it is believed, a most effective step toward the accomplishment of a great purpose - the establishment and maintenance of a more intimate relationship and a more definite contact between the Order as a whole and its individual members. It has long been recognized as an unfortunate fact that the great majority of members of the Order have considered lightly, if they did not wholly disregard such relationship.

“This has not been the fault of the individual Elk. It has been the fault or rather, neglect, of the Order in permitting the continued existence of conditions, which have naturally produced this result. As a general rule the fraternal contact of members is local; their associations are largely within the subordinate lodge circle. The great Order of Elks, as an organized entity, has been but dimly visioned because it was brought to their passing attention only upon the infrequent occasions when the District Deputy paid his annual visit, or the representative related his experiences at the Grand Lodge Session, or when a communication from the Grand Exalted Ruler was read at a lodge meeting. And
even upon those occasions it was only the small minority in actual attendance that was reached.

“Little was being done to bring directly to the attention of the individual Elk the inspiring history of the Order, its marvelous growth, its splendid achievements, its patriotic and beneficent activities, and its plans and hopes for the future, in all of which he had a definite share and keen interest. It was but natural for him to drift into the belief that these things were not his concern; that the local lodge was the Order of Elks and marked the real limits of his fraternal association and obligation.

“At the annual convention held in Los Angeles, in 1921, the Grand Lodge determined to take measures to bring members into closer touch with the Order generally, and with their brothers in other lodges.

The specific ends sought to be attained were:

One. To establish a direct contact between the Order and its members - as individuals;

Two. To provide some medium of communication through which each one could be promptly reached, personally and directly;

Three. To bring to each Elk a realization that he is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, and not merely members of a subordinate lodge;

Four. To furnish to each member a reliable source of information as to the history of the Order, its notable achievements and splendid accomplishments, to which he has, all too unconsciously, contributed;

Five. To keep the rank and file of the membership advised of the community service being rendered all over the country by the subordinate lodges of the Order, as an incentive to like activities in other localities.

Six. To provide information as to the proposed activities of the Order in the future, and the reasons therefore so that individual members may form an intelligent opinion thereon and may have opportunity to express that opinion and make its influence felt;

Seven. To provide a means by which the Grand Exalted Ruler and other Grand Lodge Officers may send direct to each member communications that contain matters of interest to the whole Order.

Eight. Generally to encourage and foster that spirit of loyalty and devotion to the Order and its principles which alone can insure the maintenance of that high place in public esteem which the Order has already attained.

“As a means of accomplishing these ends it was determined that a national journal should be established to be called The Elks Magazine, to be issued monthly and sent to each member of the Order at his home address.

“It is not a mere bulletin or calendar of events, but a vigorous, high class, literary and fraternal journal of which the contents will render it worthy of a place upon any library table. It is to contain matters of interest and information to all the members of an Elk household. It is designed to be entertaining as well as instructive; but primarily its purpose is to place in the hands of each one of the million Elks in the United States a monthly volume of fraternal information that will insure recognition of the Order’s beneficent power, a keen appreciation of its uplifting mission, a deeper pride of membership, and a constant inspiration to a renewal of fraternal obligation and an incentive to greater fraternal activity.”

Its June 1924 issue, in its second year of publication, included mention of an Elks banquet held in Cape Town, South Africa which was attended by 19 members attached to the battleship U.S.S. Concord.

Norman Rockwell created the cover illustration for the July 1928 issue.

In its first 59 years it had earned over fourteen million dollars. The magazine moved from New York to Chicago in 1966 and is housed in its own modern building adjacent to the National Memorial and national headquarters in Chicago.

(See also Elks Press)
Fraternal News Guidelines

The editors of The Elks Magazine offer these guidelines to give a better idea about which news items and photographs to submit to the magazine.

News items appropriate for publication in The Elks Magazine:
- Charitable Activities
- Youth Programs
- Civic Involvement Activities
- State Major Projects
- Dedication of New Lodge Homes
- Institution of New Lodges
- Mortgage Burnings
- Drug Awareness
- Veterans’ Service Activities
- Visits of the Grand Exalted Ruler
- Obituaries of Grand Lodge Officers
- Elks Ladies Auxiliary Activities (only in connection with Lodge projects)

Submissions must be timely. Mail your submission within four weeks of the date of the Lodge event. Information should be clear and complete. Answer the five Ws (who, what, where, when, and why). Include a contact person and a daytime phone number should they need more information.

Mandatory Activities are Not Covered by The Elks Magazine

Due to space, they cannot fairly cover all of the activities of the numerous Lodges generated by mandatory activities. Submit material on the following activities only to state publications and the following Grand Lodge Committees: Christmas Program (Lodge Activities), Flag Day (Americanism), Elks Memorial Sunday (Lodge Activities), National Youth Week (Lodge Activities), Lodge Bulletin Contest (Lodge Activities), and Ritualistic Contests (Ritualistic).

Submit all material to:
The Elks Magazine
Editorial Department
425 W. Diversey Parkway
Chicago, IL 60614-6196
magneus@elks.org (Please send material as part of the e-mail message itself, not as an attachment.)

It is always courteous to send a copy of your Elks Magazine news item to your Grand Lodge sponsor.

Photographs Appropriate for Publication in The Elks Magazine:

The Elks Magazine likes to print your photographs, especially human interest photos. However, it is very important that they receive photographs of relevant subject matter and of good quality. Please do remember that decisions on photographs are made month to month and that they cannot always publish photos as they’d like due to space constraints.

Desired subject matter depicts service projects in action, NOT groups posing for the camera. Depictions should also be of donated money at work, NEVER check presentations. Photos should always depict people, but NOT more than ten people but NOT of only one.

Photos of acceptable quality are in focus, well lit (be sure they are not dark), well composed, and not grainy. Many photos are unusable simply because they will look bad when reproduced. Note: Polaroids, pre-screened photographs, and negatives cannot be used. References to alcohol use in a photo or a news item are NEVER acceptable. Photos of veterans’ activities must depict the veterans being served or it will not be accepted. Photos of drug awareness activities must depict the youths involved or it will not be accepted. Photos should be packaged properly. All individuals should be clearly identified (from left to right) with names properly spelled, there
should be no writing on the back (or else it is unusable), it should be protected in cardboard, and it should not be stapled or bound with paper clips.

News items appropriate for local publication:
- Elk of the Year or other membership awards
- State Association awards to Lodges or individual Elks
- Publicity for future events, poems, eulogies, editorials, and humor
- Lodge officer installation
- Obituaries of non-Grand Lodge officers
- Old timer recognition programs
- Student/Teenager of the Month/Year
- Initiation classes or relative initiations
- Disappearance of an Elk or members of an Elk’s family
- Non-Elks activities (even if they involve members)
- Advertising for profit or fundraising activities
- (Paid advertising must be submitted to the advertising department)

Note: Elks Hoop Shoot and Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Awards are covered on a national level only and in their own feature articles. It is not necessary to submit information to The Elks Magazine about your local, district, or regional competitions.

Elks Charities Donor Major Contribution Board

(See Donor Recognition Wall, Florida State Elks Association)

Elks Memorial Services

(See Memorial Services, Elks)

Elks National Defense and Public Relations Commission

In 1940 in Trenton, NJ, Grand Exalted Ruler Joseph G. Buch created the Elks National Defense and Public Relations Commission program. At emergency session on January 4, 1943 in New York City, the Elks National Defense and Public Relations Commission was changed to the Elks War Commission.

This was organized to help the war effort and in 1946 became the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, having already expended much money.

(See also Elks War Commission)

Elks National Foundation

Grand Lodge Constitution

Article V

Elks National Foundation

Section 1. There is established the Elks National Foundation, the corpus of which shall be invested in income producing property and securities, and the income of which shall be applied from time to time in such manner as the Trustee of such funds may determine for the furtherance of such of the charitable, educational, and benevolent activities of the Order, or of its Subordinate Lodges or associations of such Lodges, or otherwise, as said Trustees may determine; provided, that money or property may be received by the Trustees for other purposes than
accumulation in the corpus of the Fund, if the donors thereof so direct, and within the general scope of the Foundation.

Section 2: The Elks National Foundation shall be administrated by a Board to be known as the Elks National Foundation Trustees, which shall consist of seven members of the Grand Lodge of the Order. At each annual Grand Lodge Session, immediately following his installation, the Grand Exalted Ruler shall nominate and, with the consent of the Grand Lodge, appoint one member of the Grand Lodge to serve as such Trustee for a term of seven years. Vacancies in said Board caused by death, resignation or otherwise may be filled until the next Grand Lodge Session by appointment of the Grand Exalted Ruler, and at the next Grand Lodge Session, such vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired terms involved by the Grand Exalted Ruler with the consent of the Grand Lodge.

Section 3: That the Elks National Foundation Trustees are hereby granted and given plenary powers to promote, develop, and administer the said Foundation to accomplish its charitable, educational, and benevolent purposes, that said Trustees be, and are authorized and empowered to receive from any source any moneys, securities, or other property that may be properly transferred to them, in trust for the purposes for which the Foundation is established; to invest the same in such safe securities and other property, and to sell, transfer, and reinvest the same in such manner as shall best safeguard the Fund and assure the continuity of its income; and may either accumulate such moneys, securities, or other property as a part of the corpus, using only the income thereof, or may use all or a part of such moneys, securities, or other property for purposes of distribution, in case the respective donors thereof may so direct, within the scope of the charitable, educational, and benevolent purposes of the Foundation. That such Trustees shall serve without salaries or emoluments. The necessary expenses of said Trustees shall be paid by the Grand Lodge. The said Trustees shall report annually to the Grand Lodge their activities, the income and expenditures of the Fund during the past year and their prospective work and activities for the future. The disbursement of all moneys from the Elks National Foundation Fund shall be upon order of the Elks National Foundation Trustees, such order to be signed by the Chairman and attested by the Secretary of such Trustees.

Investment Counselors

The Principal Fund is managed by three Investment Counselors who are working harmoniously to increase the Foundation’s annual income from investments, in keeping with the stated desire for safety and income orientation and enhancement of principal. Respective portions of the portfolio are under the management of an Investment Advisors Group. Through wider distribution and diversification of their increasing portfolio it is anticipated that it will result in continuing enhancement of the Foundation’s principal funds.

“The Great Heart of Elkdom”

In the early part of 1927, John F. Malley, formerly Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, was attending a banquet in Meridan, CT Lodge #35. When Malley rose to address the group, he revealed a plan he had conceived in which the Grand Lodge could assist the State Associations and subordinate Lodges in the promotion of their beneficent projects.

Under Malley’s plan a permanent fund would be created under the supervision of the Grand Lodge. The income derived from the fund could be used to assist these local and state projects.

Grand Exalted Ruler Grakelow endorsed the plan in his report before the Grand Lodge in Cincinnati. A resolution was adopted to create a committee of five to be known as the Elks National Foundation Committee to make a survey of its prospects.

The following year in 1928, John F. Malley was Grand Exalted Ruler. At Grand Lodge session in Miami, Malley heard a report recommending the creation of the Elks National Foundation. Subsequently Grand Lodge adopted the recommendation and the Elks National Foundation was established. It has become popularly known as “The Great Heart of Elkdom.” The Grand Lodge gave an original grant of $100,000 to get it started.

Guidelines of the Foundation

The guidelines by which the foundation was created dictate that the principal of the fund is never to be spent, only income derived from prudent investment of monies donated to be distributed for philanthropic purposes. Contributions are not used for promotion or administrative costs of the foundation. These costs are born by the Grand Lodge of the Order. Only earnings from investments are used for charitable purposes.
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Salient features of the Foundation are:
1. It is permanent.
2. Its funds are raised by voluntary gifts or subscriptions without compulsion.
3. Entire income of the fund is available for distribution for philanthropic purposes.

The foundation is exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The foundation is not classified as a private foundation. The foundation is administered by a board of trustees comprised of Past Grand Exalted Rulers of the Order. Foundation offices are located in the Elks Memorial Building, 2750 Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614.

Original Board of Trustees

The original board of trustees was appointed by Grand Exalted Ruler Murray Hulbert in December 1928, consisting of:

PGER John F. Malley  Springfield, MA #61 (He conceived the idea.)
PGER Raymond Benjamin Napa, CA #832
PGER John G. Price  Columbus, OH #37
PGER James G. McFarland  Watertown, SD #838
PGER Charles E. Pickett  Waterloo, IA #290
PGER Edward Rightor New Orleans, LA #30
PGER Charles H. Grakelow Philadelphia, PA #2

PGER Malley was chosen as its first chairman. He occupied that position until his death on May 16, 1966. PGER William A. Wall of West Palm Beach, FL Lodge 1352 was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of Malley.

That same year the Elks National Foundation offices were moved from Boston, MA to the Elks Memorial Building in Chicago.

Field of Service

Most Valuable Student Awards

Most Valuable Student awards were established in 1934 for general excellence in scholarship achievement and extracurricular work, leadership among their fellow students, perseverance, and other admirable characteristics to help defray expenses for college courses.

Most Valuable Student Scholarship Contest information for 2009-2010:

Eligibility:
High School Senior
U.S. Citizen

Judging Criteria
Scholarship
Leadership
Financial Need

500 Four-Year Awards
Two $60,000 scholarships ($15,000 per year)
Two $40,000 scholarships ($10,000 per year)
Two $20,000 scholarships ($ 5,000 per year)
Two $16,000 scholarships ($ 4,000 per year)
Two $12,000 scholarships ($ 3,000 per year)
Four $10,000 scholarships ($ 2,500 per year)
Four $ 8,000 scholarships ($ 2,000 per year)
482 $ 4,000 scholarships ($ 1,000 per year)
Applications are available after September 1 at:
www.elks.org/enf/scholars
Elks Lodges
High schools - check with guidance counselor

STATE MAJOR PROJECTS GRANTS

A portion of the State Association contributions is returned to the state to assist in that state project. In Florida, the returned portion is received for the benefit of the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

EAGLE SCOUT AWARDS

The foundation awards four 4-year scholarships of $2,000 per year and four 4-year scholarships of $1,000 per year to Eagle Scouts, one of each amount in each of the four Eagle Scout regions. The program is conducted and administered by the national headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America.

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

These are four-year scholarships for eight Gold Award recipients to be selected by the Girl Scouts of America. Winners are announced in May. Applications can be obtained through the Girl Scouts.

LEGACY AWARDS

Established in 1998, the Elks National Foundation Legacy Awards scholarship program awards up to 250 four-year $4,000 scholarships to the children and grandchildren of active Elks members who are high school seniors, going to college, and who exhibit the values of the Elks National Foundation: knowledge, charity, community, and integrity. Children and grandchildren compete separately against other children and grandchildren in their state. Visit www.elks.org/enf/scholars for eligibility requirements. Applications are also available at this site on September 1. The contest deadline is mid January. Applications must be submitted online on or before the contest deadline.

EMERGENCY EDUCATIONAL FUND GRANT

The Emergency Educational Fund Grant was established in 1944 as a way to help the children of Elks members who lost their lives or became incapacitated as a result of serving in the armed forces during World War II. Since that time, the fund has expanded to include all children from families where an Elk parent is deceased or totally disabled. The fund provides proper and adequate education beyond and supplementary to the usual high school or preparatory courses.

To apply for assistance under this program, an applicant must be the child of a deceased Elk or an Elk who is totally incapacitated. The Elk parent or stepparent must have been a member in good standing at the time of his or her death. In the case of a child of an incapacitated Elk, the parent or stepparent must have been a member in good standing before he or she became incapacitated and must continue to be an Elk in good standing when application for assistance is made.

This is an assistance program only; it is not intended to cover the entire cost of attending college. Students must demonstrate financial need to qualify for a grant under this program. In addition, the applicant must be unmarried, under the age of 23 on the date the application is signed, and attending a U.S. American school, college, or university as a full-time (12 semester hours) undergraduate student. It is for educational assistance beyond and supplementary to the usual high school or preparatory courses. Assistance will not be extended beyond four years.

New applications should be filed between July 1 and December 31. Renewal applications must be filed between July 1 and October 31. The amount of the grant is based on the information in the application. Therefore, if the student changes his or her school and/or course of study, he or she must write to the ENF office detailing the changes, especially the change in the cost of the new program. Applicants must also investigate all sources of scholarships and grants available through school and local, state, and federal governmental agencies before submitting an application.
The grant is for one year only. However, eligible applicants may apply for up to three annual grant renewals. Renewal forms are not automatically sent to the student each year; they must be requested from the ENF Chicago office by either the student or the sponsoring Lodge. All applications, new and renewal, must be submitted to and processed by the Lodge where the Elk parent or stepparent is or was a member.

The Lodge Scholarship Assistance Committee must investigate the application, and the committee’s written report must be submitted with the application. After the vote of the Lodge, the Lodge Secretary must complete the portion of the application as noted. These three steps must be followed on all new and renewal applications.

Review the application to determine that all required information is included before sending it to the ENF Chicago office. Incomplete applications cannot be evaluated and will be returned to the student or Lodge. As soon as possible after the student has turned the application in to the Lodge, the Scholarship Committee should conduct its investigation, and the Lodge should follow up with a vote so that the application can be submitted to the ENF office.

The ENF office does not mail applications for this program in bulk quantities. With each new printing, they may make several changes to the application, so they want to be sure that the Lodges have the most up-to-date applications. The Lodge or the student may request an Emergency Educational Fund Grant application from the ENF Chicago office.

HOOP SHOOT PROGRAM

The Elks Hoop Shoot is the nation’s largest co-sports competition and the only noncommercial sporting event conducted on a national level. More than three million boys and girls participate in this program each year and the contestants advance through each level of competition until the 72 finalists meet for the national championship. The program exerts a constructive influence upon the young people of America. The program helps to build character in young Americans through competition with their peers in which there is no outside influence from parents, coaches, or teammates. It teaches the youngsters the importance of developing their own skills.

(See also Hoop Shoot and Hoop Shoot Committee)

GRAND LODGE YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Rounding out the Elks commitment to the youth of America, the Elks National Foundation is funding the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee in its efforts to continue its many programs geared to children.

(See also Youth Activities Committee)

DRUG AWARENESS

The goal of Drug Awareness is prevention education to stop drug use before it starts. Target drugs on which they place emphasis are marijuana and cocaine, the gateway drugs most prevalent among school children.

Drug abuse poses today’s greatest threat to our country’s most precious resources: its youth. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, in 1982, nearly two-thirds of all high school seniors admitted to illicit drug use. This abuse of drugs interferes with learning, alters personalities, and injures health. Drug abuse must be vanquished. The Elks have joined the battle with a vigorous program to increase awareness of the dangers of drug abuse through community education. The Elks program concentrates on marijuana and cocaine. Its goal is prevention to help youth decide not to abuse these gateway drugs and by convincing them of the adverse mental and physical consequences of drug abuse. In addition, this program informs them of the dangers of alcohol and tobacco. Accordingly, the Elks are endeavoring to reach youth from fourth through ninth grades with the message that drug abuse is dangerous. The program actively involves parents, teachers, community drug agencies, the media, and other concerned citizens.

The Elks National Foundation, since its inception, has always fostered youth programs; it is most fitting that the foundation sponsors the funding for the Drug Awareness Program of the Grand Lodge.

The Marianna, FL Elks Lodge and the Dothan, AL Elks Lodge instituted an annual event in which the two Lodges meet at the Florida and Alabama state line in what is known as the Hands Across the Border Red Ribbon celebration. The contingent of children started the red ribbon campaign as did St. Augustine, FL Elks Lodge and South Carolina who came to Florida and held their Hands Across the Border celebration.
NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Elks National Foundation began awarding scholarships in 1931. The highest at that time were $300. In 1986-1987, the highest award was $6,000 per year for four years. Congresswoman Helen Delich Bentley (R-MD) is a former Elks scholarship recipient.

ELKS NATIONAL HOME

Not far from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, the Elks National Home provides for those members who may have been overtaken by adversity.

The foundation trustees have taken into consideration the welfare of their retired members who are living out their twilight years at their beautiful Elks Home in Bedford, VA by assisting them in meeting the ever increasing costs of living.

(See also Elks National Home)

HANDICAPPED SCHOLARSHIPS - CEREBRAL PALSY

Established in 1950, appropriations are used in granting fellowships for training doctors, therapists, and other qualified personnel to treat the victims of cerebral palsy.

GRAND LODGE AMERICANISM COMMITTEE

The trustees of the Elks National Foundation have assumed the funding of the Grand Lodge Americanism Committee to further the precepts of Elkdom to honor our great country.

(See also Americanism Committee)

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

The Elks National Foundation trustees make funds available for the Grand Lodge Veterans’ Program. This program was once a Grand Lodge per-capita assessment to each subordinate Lodge. The Elks have long been strong supporters of the veterans of our nation. The philanthropy of the Elks National Foundation now supports this program.

(See also Veterans’ Services Committee)
(See also National Service Commission)
(See also Elks National Memorial Building)
(See also Elks War Relief Commission)

ELKS MEMORIAL BUILDING

The foundation is sharing in the cost of maintaining the splendid building erected to honor the Elks who have served our country.

(See also Elks Memorial Building)
The central figure emblem represents the Goddess of Benefactions.
On her right, she is feeding a little child, indicative of charity.
On her left, she is administering to a handicapped child, representing humanitarian services.
On the lower right of the central figure is the symbol of tuberculosis care and treatment.
On the left is the lamp and book of knowledge, signifying an educational program.
In the background, the rising sun with its rays shows hope and health.
At the base is the official emblem of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Honorary Founders Certificate

“Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from haven with a dome more vast.”

This quotation from Oliver Wendell Holmes’ “The Chambered Nautilus” was suggested to the artist as the theme of the Honorary Founders Certificate of the Elks National Foundation. The etching on copper which is the work of the late W. H. W. Bicknell of Provincetown, MA is symbolic of the Order’s great philanthropic institution. It depicts a temple of philanthropy in process of construction. The main structure has advanced to the point of usefulness. Its beauty is apparent. Its proportions are indicated as monumental, but its actual size is left to the imagination and idealism of each individual. In the foreground are statues representing charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity, reproductions of the heroic bronze figures which occupy the four niches in the memorial hall of the Elks National Headquarters Building.

(See also Legacy Awards for Children of Elks)
Personal Recognition for Donors

**Tribute Certificates:** These are group contributions from Lodges and members with the request that Honorary Founders Certificates or Permanent Benefactor Certificates be issued to pay tribute to a member who has performed notable service for the Order and whom the donors wish to honor in their lifetime.

**Memorial Certificates:** These are contributions by individuals and Lodges in memory of deceased friends, relatives, and members. Many Lodges and groups of individuals have introduced memorial giving as a new concept to provide service to all while benefiting respective Lodges and the Elks National Foundation. This program opens a broad avenue of financial support since neither deceased nor donor need be an Elk. An acknowledgment is dispatched to the family of the deceased with a copy furnished to the donor in acknowledgment of this kind and thoughtful gift in perpetuity.
National Foundation Certificates Committee

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

National Foundation Scholarships Committee

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

State Association Grants

Over $4,000,000 is donated each year to the State Associations. These grants help fund each Association’s state major project which includes aid for people with disabilities, cancer research, children’s hospitals, youth camps, and providing safe havens for abused families. Portions of these grants also help fund state Elks Hoop Shoot and drug awareness programs.

For example, during the Lodge year 1998-1999, the Elks of Florida donated $261,495.87 to the Elks National Foundation. The foundation gave back to the Florida State Elks a State Charities Grant of $154,000 to go toward the state’s major charitable project. A portion of this grant was used to fund the state Drug Awareness and Hoop Shoot programs.

A Special Projects Grant of $88,400 was used to enhance educational programs as well as other charitable and philanthropic programs.

A total of at least $100,000 in Most Valuable Student scholarships went to 25 high school seniors within Florida.

(See also State Major Projects)

Special Project Grants

Grants are made to the State Associations to help fund scholarship programs or other projects that will best extend an Association’s philanthropic outreach.

Miscellaneous Grants

Funds are reserved for miscellaneous grants.

Elks National Foundation Partial Administrative Funding

Funds are appropriated to help the day-to-day operations of the foundation’s Chicago office.

(See Also):

Gratitude Grants
Impact Grants
Lodge Assistance Grants: Charitable Partnerships
Promise Grants
Elks National Home

Contact Information:
Web Site:  www.elkshome.org
E-mail:  enhome@elkshome.org
Write: Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523
Call: 1-800-552-4140

The Elks National Home in Bedford, VA has been called the best kept secret of Elkdom and is often referred to as the “Crown Jewel of Elkdom.” It provides a home for Elks where they can live in complete freedom and personal dignity. It is for retired members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The home is nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Southwest Virginia on 180 acres of rolling farmland. Bedford is located on U. S. 460 midway between Roanoke and Lynchburg; from Interstate 81, it is 150A. The nearest airports are Roanoke and Lynchburg.

The home is a beautiful, classic structure that most effectively combines classic and Spanish mission features of architecture. Its main entrance is of imposing Grecian design. In view from the portico is a bronze elk statue. Beyond are well kept lawns and the nine hole golf course as well as garden plots. The D-Day National Memorial can be seen in the distance.

In the main building are the administrative offices, library, recreation room, television room, and barber shop. Glass enclosed verandas surround the main dining room off the lobby. The menus are changed daily and all meals are well balanced. Special diets are provided as prescribed by the resident’s physician.

At the end of the nineteenth century, many Elks felt that the Order should provide a home for aged members. The matter was brought up at the Grand Lodge session in 1898. After much work, a bankrupt hotel in Bedford City, VA was purchased by the Order in 1902 at a cost of $42,500 including furniture. The hotel, a rather gaudy Victorian structure, was dedicated as the Elks National Home in May 1903.

In 1911, the erection of a new home more in line with the standing and dignity of the Order was authorized. A building fund was raised through per-capita taxes of 25 cents for 1911, 1912, and a few following years. The new home was finally ready for use and dedicated in 1916.

At the 91st annual State Convention in May 1997, National Home Coordinator for Florida, Tom Elmore, reported on the home. He said the following:

The Elks National Retirement Center, like many programs in Elkdom and other organizations, are facing some serious problems. For many years we as Elks have taken the home for granted. The facility has aged with time and with other changes that have occurred. It is now time for some major changes. The issues involved need some consideration that will determine the direction we take in the near future. If we are to continue our operation as a retirement center exclusively for Elks, then we must support the Grand Lodge Trustees’ proposal that includes major renovations of modernizing our facility and providing amenities that will attract our members as we move in the 21st century. The proposal includes providing private showers and toilet facilities for all residents, redecorating and modernizing certain areas, and renovating the assisted living area section, actions that would make the Elks National Home a full retirement facility for Elks couples (husband and wife who are both members) and single Elks (both men and women).
Elmore also said,

Studies and input have been positive. The membership of the Order indicated that we should expect our membership to provide sufficient support to make the Elks National Home a viable, self-sustaining, modern retirement community. The plan is to develop and provide modern accommodations for all residents. We as Elks support many projects outside of the Order. Millions are spent annually in time and money. Our home is the only entity that helps and provides benefits to the Elks members.

We must do something to encourage our members to come. The census decline cannot continue. At the National Convention in Chicago, the Grand Lodge Trustees will present a plan of action. To finance this project each Lodge will be asked to support the Home by paying $1.00 per year per member to be used for this retirement center. (This proposal was passed.)

They entered into an extensive renovation program and in 2000 had completed the first $5 million phase. New apartments were completed allowing couples to reside in finished apartments. There was a complete renovation of the lobby, redecoration of the dining room, and enclosure of the porches that connect the buildings.

Donations from the various Lodges help to support the home. Funds that can use support are:

- General Fund To be used where most needed at any given time
- Modernization Fund For improvements, replacements, etc.
- Special Care Fund For needed items and improvements in the special care section (assisted living care)
- Entertainment Fund To finance activities for the residents

What do you get at the Home?
(With the monthly fee which varies with the type of room selected)

- A private room with daily maid service
- Three nutritious meals a day served in the spacious dining room
  (Cooking is allowed in the individual rooms and residents may have refrigerators.)
- A monthly haircut from the home’s barber
- Weekly laundry and one suit (or the equivalent) dry-cleaned monthly
- Transportation on specified days to and from medical specialties, dentists, airport, etc.
  (Appointments are made through the medical department.)
- Transportation to and from local churches for Sunday worship
  (Religious services are held at the home on Thursday evening and Bible study is on Sunday morning.)
- Residents are permitted to have their own cars. Parking spaces are at no charge in the home’s lighted parking lot.

Is There Anything to Do?
You’ll enjoy:

- A library
- A well-equipped hobby shop and individual hobby rooms (if available)
- A card room
- A TV room (but you may have your own TV)
- An exercise room
Will I be Cared For?

The Commonwealth of Virginia as an adult-care residence licenses the facility. It is not a nursing home; it is a facility designed for active residents. However, should you need temporary care for minor illnesses, recuperative surgery, or from an accident, the home’s nursing staff, aides, and orderlies tend to your every need in the special care unit. Also, once you are a permanent resident after passing a six-month evaluation period, you become eligible for day-to-day assistance from special care should you need it.

There is no charge for the services of the staff physician, but you would pay for any medicine and supplies you receive. The charge for inpatient and the special care unit is $40 per day in addition to your monthly maintenance fee.

Bedford County Memorial Hospital is near the home for residents who need hospital care. The home’s medical records department will help you in filing Medicare and other insurance claims for outside medical treatment.

The Salem, VA Medical Center is located 35 miles from Bedford.

Am I Qualified for Residency?

To qualify for admission, you must:

- Be retired
- Be at least 62 years of age and spouse must be 55 or older
- Have been a member in good standing of the Order for at least five consecutive years at the time application is submitted (including the spouse and is subject to waiver in some cases by the Board of Grand Trustees)
- Be independently mobile and physically and mentally able to care for yourself in every way without assistance or supervision with no indication that you need hospital or nursing home care or are likely to in the near future (Applicants who must use a wheelchair or walker cannot be admitted.)

Application

Applicants who have sufficient income and/or assets to assure they are and will remain financially self-sustaining and able to meet the following requirements must file a self-sustaining application:
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1. Pay the monthly maintenance charge for the type room they select
2. Maintain a balance of at least $100 in a personal account in the business office to defray the cost of small emergencies (This is not an interest bearing account.)
3. Pay their own outside doctor and medical bills, dental work, eyeglasses, etc.
4. Place a sufficient amount for contingency in an interest-earning account with the home as mandated by the Board of Grand Trustees. The amount of this deposit is determined on an individual basis, taking into consideration permanent income, medical records, etc.

The Lodge accepts no financial responsibility for a self-sustaining resident. However, the Lodge must complete a portion of the application.

Those who do have sufficient income and/or assets to meet the above financial requirements may request a partial-maintenance application which requires the Lodge to accept financial responsibility for expenses the resident cannot pay. Both types of application are available upon request from the Elks National Home or the State Association Elks National Home Coordinator.

Cost

The type of room you choose determines the monthly maintenance fee. Rates are as of January 1, 1998.

Regular Single Room - $660: These rooms are approximately 14 feet by 14 feet in size. They come with a bed, dresser, writing table, lamp, curtains, and a rug. You may add or change anything you like. Bed linens and towels are furnished. The room does not have a private bath; private shower and toilet facilities are available on each floor.

Regular Two-Room Suite - $765: This is simply two adjoining rooms. The bedroom has the same furnishings as the regular room.

Single Room with Bath in “A”, “B,” or “C” - $835: These are located in recently renovated buildings. The rooms are larger than regular rooms and have a private toilet and shower. Each room is furnished with bed, night stand with lamp, recliner, end table, desk chair, small refrigerator, carpeting, and blinds. Closet drawers and shelves are built in. The rooms have central air-conditioning.

Two Room Suite with Bath in “A”, “B,” or “C” - $1,000+: These rooms are also located in renovated buildings. They consist of furnished rooms with a private toilet and shower. The bedroom furniture includes a bed, dresser, night stand with lamp, and chair; the second bedroom has a recliner, rocker, end tables with lamp, built-in desk, and desk chair. They have carpeting, blinds, small refrigerator, air-conditioning, and built in closets, shelves, and drawers.

Status of Resident’s Income and Assets

In addition to the monthly maintenance charge, the resident is required to have a contingency trust deposit upon their arrival. The amount of the trust contingency is determined on an individual basis.

The contingency funds are used for any outstanding bills that occur after the resident’s death such as the estate charges made by the home, any outstanding maintenance, and medicine charges due.

Apartment Prices & Admission Requirements

Apartments are available to applicants who must be in good standing for at least five consecutive years at the time of application to the Elks National Home. (This tenure requirement may be waived for qualified members by unanimous vote of the Board of Grand Trustees.)

Residents, including the spouse in the case of couples, must be members in good standing with the Order of Elks. One resident in each apartment must be at least 62 years of age. A spouse may be 55 years or older.

The applicant must provide a personal health history and undergo a physical examination to demonstrate they are mobile and physically and mentally capable of caring for themselves without assistance and supervision.

Each resident must provide a financial disclosure to demonstrate they have sufficient assets and income to be financially self-supporting.
Rates and payment options are:

**One Bedroom/One Bath:**
- Number of units: 29
- Occupancy Right Fee: $25,000
- Monthly Service Fee:
  - Plan A with Occupancy Right Fee: $850 to $1,050
  - Plan B without Occupancy Right Fee: $1,125 to $1,325

**Two Bedroom/Two Bath:**
- Number of units: 5
- Occupancy Right Fee: $30,000
- Monthly Service Fee:
  - Plan A with Occupancy Right Fee: $1,100 to $1,150
  - Plan B without Occupancy Right Fee: $1,430 to $1,480

**Two Bedroom/Two Bath/Den**
- Number of units: 3
- Occupancy Right Fee: $35,000
- Monthly Service Fee:
  - Plan A with Occupancy Right Fee: $1,500
  - Plan B without Occupancy Right Fee: $1,880

Second occupant monthly service fee:
- Plan A: $450
- Plan B: $450

Plan B allows individuals to have an option to pay a higher monthly fee in lieu of paying the Occupancy Right Fee.

The Occupancy Right Fee is a one-time payment due prior to occupancy. The Occupancy Right Fee is 90% refundable to the resident or their estate when the resident leaves the Elks National Home campus. The balance of 10% is used by the home to refurbish the apartment when the resident vacates the apartment.

In addition to the Occupancy Right Fee, there is a monthly service fee based upon the size of the apartment and the number of residents living in the unit. The monthly service fee includes all utilities (except telephone and cable TV), one meal per day (the main meal), inside and outside maintenance, and access to other services and scheduled activities of the Elks National Home. Scheduled transportation will also be available for shopping, special events, and other planned activities.

GER James L. Nicholson reported on the Elks National Home in 2010. In his message in the national publication, *The Elks Magazine*, he said:

The Elks National Home and Retirement Center, the “Crown Jewel” of the Order, is now the subject of debate. On one hand, some argue that the Home is far away from Elks in the western states, houses only about 115 Elks, and needs a dollar of every member’s dues to balance the budget.

Advocates for the Home point out that our Order has maintained the Elks National Home for more than one hundred years, the Home houses generous and dedicated Elks, the Home has a waiting list of more than 180, the Home is one of just two direct benefits of membership, and the Home is a much-revered symbol of the Order.
Am I, as your Grand Exalted Ruler, out on a limb in asking for your help in supporting the Elks National Home and Retirement Center? I think not. It is my desire to focus attention on the Home and to stir interest in a Capital Campaign for the Home.

The money is needed to help make the Home self-sufficient. At the Home, Buildings H and I, with their down-the-hall bathrooms, are largely unusable. The Special Care Unit housed in H, is badly in need of an upgrade. Remodeling Buildings H and I into usable apartments would create economies of scale that the experts tell us would make the Home fully self-supporting. The $1.00 of national dues we give to the Home each year would no longer be needed if the remodeling were done. The Home could remain a place where Elks Make A Difference For Elks.

I propose a debate upon an assessment in the $20 range, spread over four or five years. Similar assessments for the home have been made in the past. In 1913 and 1914, members were assessed a quarter each year, equating to about $5.45 and $5.40, respectfully, in today’s money. In 1914, the present main building was built at a cost of $450,000, which is about $10 million in today’s dollars. The estimated cost of remodeling Buildings H and I and upgrading the Special Care Unit is about $10 million dollars, after tax credits to the builder.

While we debate, the Buy a Brick Program merits your participation.

Elks National Memorial

The Elks National Memorial was originally dedicated to the Elks who died in World War I. The dedication took place on July 14, 1926. The building was dedicated September 8, 1946 to “those of our Brothers who served and sacrificed in World War II.” On July 4, 1976, the Memorial Building was again rededicated, this time honoring the men who served and died in Korea and Vietnam as well as the hospitalized veterans of the nation.

![Elks National Memorial](image)

Artist Eugene F. Savage was commissioned to paint the ceiling of the National Memorial Building. In 1929 his work won the Gold Medal of Honor. Critics of art at the time stated that “the Elks National Memorial Headquarters Building is one of the most beautiful monumental structures in the world. In its combination of memorial and utilitarian features it is unquestionably unique.”

Its Significance

The Elks Memorial Building is first and foremost a distinctive fraternal and patriotic monument, the ultimate expression of the Order’s eternal memorial tribute to America’s veterans who have served, suffered, and surrendered their lives in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam and more lately those of Bosnia and Kosovo.

The whole aspect of the memorial building is majestic and imposing. Its architecture is stately and beautiful, its construction materials are unique and enduring, its setting is appropriate and commanding, and its memorial features are distinctive yet artistic.
Everywhere the eye turns, within or without, it beholds a superb and extraordinary work of art: great bronze sculptures, exquisite marble columns and statues, exotic woodwork, and priceless paintings and murals. They are all masterpiece creations of famous artists and artisans and are all appropriate to the memorial character of the structure. Scholars and laymen alike have praised its perfection. Competent critics have acclaimed it as one of the great memorial buildings of the world.

It is tangible evidence of the Order’s history and the expression of its cardinal principles: charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity.

Located at Lakeview Avenue and West Diversey Parkway in Chicago, the memorial is included in the area designated as the Lakeview Historical District which has landmark status and is listed on the National Register of
Historic Places. As many as 60,000 visitors annually have come to view this magnificent edifice, confirming its significance as a cultural and historical attraction.

Aside from its memorial purpose, the building houses the functional offices of the Grand Secretary and the Elks National Foundation. Perhaps more importantly it is a repository of tangible evidence of the Order’s history. Openly displayed are countless irreplaceable artifacts relating the ideals, traditions, and accomplishments which constitute the rich heritage endowed to each succeeding generation of Elks. Thus, the building creates an image of the Order to all who pass through its doors.

The Need for Restoration

Despite a comprehensive ongoing maintenance program, the ravages of time and the elements took their toll on the fine art, the building, and its accessories. Normal and customary maintenance provided within the Grand Lodge budget could no longer cope with the substantial erosion of structural integrity and the deterioration of the masterwork contents. The uniqueness of the building’s architecture, artistic embellishments, memorial purpose, and historical significance provoke a strong compulsion for preservation both for Elks and for posterity.

Approximately $4,300,000 needed to be raised to cover the cost of the complete restoration project. The world renowned art conservationist, Lido Lippi, directed the restoration of the art objects. Tradesmen experienced in restoration work were employed throughout the project. The work extended over a period of time commensurate with the fundraising achievement. In addition to this, a $1,000,000 trust was established to provide for proper future maintenance of the building and its contents.

The funding of the $4,300,000 goal was achieved through voluntary contributions from the State Associations, the subordinate Lodges, other entities, and individuals.

Elks Press

The first Elks publication in the United States was a major paper called The Elk and was first published in Hartford, CT by H. H. Dayton. Beginning publication in the spring of 1884, it ran for a short time until the owner sold it to a brother in Springfield, MA where it shortly thereafter ceased to exist. The next Elks paper was started by Richard J. McGowan in Chicago called The Elk. This publication ran for nearly a year until the office of its publication was changed to New York City. Shortly after this move, Brother McGowan sold the paper to Brother Allen O. Myers of Cincinnati, OH where the new owner removed the publication and changed its name to The Social Session. After awhile Myers parted with the paper and handed it over to George Griffith who in turn sold the paper to Byron W. Orr. Orr moved the paper to Louisville, KY; then to Minneapolis; still later to Duluth; and subsequently to New York City where it was consolidated with The Elks Antler in 1897. After Allen O. Myers sold the paper to Byron W. Orr, he started another paper called The Elks which was also consolidated with The Elks Antler in 1897. A paper was started in Cleveland, OH by Congressman Martin A. Foran called The Antler. After two issues of that paper he turned over the name to the New York publication which was continued for 1895, 1896, and until after the Grand Lodge session of 1897. It then took in Allen O. Myers’ The Elk and The Social Session, continuing publication as The Elks Antler and Social Session until 1898 when the latter title was dropped and the paper continued as The Elks Antler.
On August 4, 1878, the subject of procuring a suitable burial plot was submitted for the consideration of the New York Lodge by the Treasurer, Joseph F. Waring. The Treasurer was instructed to visit the cemeteries in the immediate vicinity of New York City and to ascertain the terms on which a suitable plot could be procured. On October 6 he reported a number of offers received from the authorities of several cemeteries. That of the Cemetery of Evergreens, East New York seemed preferable and was preferred by the college to the board of trustees, then composed of members Charles T. White, John P. Smith, and Thomas Gaynor who were instructed to make the necessary investigation and submit an official report on the matter. Several detailed reports were made to the Lodge and the subject was considered. The chief object was to secure a plot worthy of the mother Lodge of the Order of Elks without drawing too heavily on the charity fund. A very generous offer from the trustees of Maple Green Cemetery was received and suitably acknowledged, but the offer of a plot in the Evergreens, having been deemed most satisfactory, was accepted by the Lodge on November 10, 1878. The trustees were accordingly instructed to select a site and make the purchase. A pleasant site in the central portion of the cemetery commanding a view of Coney Island, East New York, New York Bay, and East Brooklyn was selected by White. Its several advantages were at once perceived, and the trustees decided on accepting it as the most fitting spot for the repose of the deceased members of New York Lodge No. 1, B.P.O. Elks. Measures were immediately taken to have the grounds cleared and put in proper condition for the enclosure and decoration.

A suitable title was the next necessity; it had to have appropriateness, simplicity, and easy remembrance. The Lodge unanimously adopted a title the same evening.

The Elks Rest was located in the most beautiful portion of the cemetery and consisted of six full lots measuring sixty feet in length by forty feet in width and covering an area of 2,400 square feet. It was enclosed by 24 handsome granite posts sustaining a double railing of vulcanized iron tubing two inches in diameter and ornamented with hanging chains and tassels. The entrance was through a beautifully designed iron gate with double doors
opening upon the main road through the cemetery. Near the gate, as if standing upon the grass and guarding the entrance, was a life-size figure of an elk resting upon a solid foundation extending six feet deep into the earth.

In the center of the plot upon an exquisitely designed pedestal of polished granite rested the statue of Spring which typified the Resurrection, the whole forming a monument sixteen feet in height. This was a life-size statue of a female figure draped in Roman costume bearing in her left hand a bunch of flowers while with her right she seems to beckon, standing in the attitude of expectancy. A branch drive ran from the main road which is directly south of the plot. Along the eastern side and to the north of the plot in the valley behind it were handsome willows shading a small lake.

The Elks Rest was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on Sunday, June 1, 1879.

From An Authentic History of the B.P.O. Elks by Ellis

Elks Tooth

Wearing the teeth of one’s church, order, or guild goes back hundreds if not thousands of years. Some historians have gone so far as to suggest that the wearing of elk’s teeth or pieces of antler was influenced by western garb which in turn was an imitation of the dress of Native Americans. American Indians often decorated their best clothes with animal teeth and bones as well as glass beads, feathers, etc. Most Elks members would wear a single elk’s tooth which would often be decorated with gold jewels and enameled emblems of the Order as a watch fob or on a chain around the neck.

Source: Gerald Ferguson, Historian, Massachusetts Elks Association

History of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

Elks Tooth

(Written by Mike Kelly, Grand Lodge Historian)

It’s either soup or some other part of your diet. But within the borders of that strange and mystical country known as YESTERELKDOM, in many cases there was absolutely no answer more acceptable than your Elks Tooth, mounted simply or ornately, given to you as a token of appreciation by a grateful Lodge or bestowed by a proud Elk father on his son at initiation into the ancestral Elks Lodge.

The increasing reappearance of these dental ornamentals has provoked considerable interest among the younger members of our herd who instantly recognize in them windows back to the order’s golden past. Aside from the provenance of each individual piece the question invariably arises as to what point in time and circumstances surrounded the birth of this uniquely Elkian tradition.

Pursuit of an answer to this mystery has found no specific incident or responsible personality in today’s files at the Chicago headquarters; thus, for the time being it must be left to our Order’s “Historian-in-the-field” to uncover the Who, When and Why of the first Elk who picked up an elk tooth and started carrying or wearing it in connection with his membership in the Order.

Given the strong and expressed emphasis on “Always Carrying Your Cork” in the Jolly Corks from whence we spring, it is almost certain that on Day One of the Elks, a similar practice was adopted, especially since it would be many years before the membership card would be the only proof of membership in good standing. Prior to this it was simply a Lodge receipt for the paid dues very tacky looking.

You can also reasonably assume that many variations were tried, since the cork does not have a simple and clear equivalent in relation to our revered animal. One or more of our founders carried an elk’s ear, tail, or items made from elk hide or horn before the teeth were settled on by popularity.

Wearing the elk teeth as decorations may even have been appropriated by west-bound Elks upon seeing the ceremonial clothing worn by American Indians in various touring Wild West shows bedecked with hundreds of teeth, adopting the practice as a fashion fad. In the early 1900s, Elk members then had to defend themselves from charges of decimating western elk herds just for teeth, and easily did explain that the supply from Indian trading and a vast stockpile existing long before the Order came into being precluded killing a single animal for decorative purposes. Although not as common since the ’30s, showing off your grandfather’s elk tooth seems to be on the rise again. With these heirlooms being seen more often at state and Grand Lodge gatherings where they become instant
conversation pieces. The favorite hunting ground to acquire these is any antique store or flea market within driving distance.

Once you have an elk tooth pin, ring, fob or whatever, it’s your choice to just enjoy wearing it or to trace its history from inscriptions or information obtained from the seller. With literally millions of elk teeth items having been crafted, any member, young or old, should have no difficulty in finding and wearing an authentic piece of fraternal history, but think twice before you commit your time and energy to tracking down its origin. As hundreds of jewelers were involved in the manufacture and sale of these “fraternal calcium oddities,” tracking down the particulars for your personal piece of elk tooth jewelry just might be a case of biting off more than you can chew.

Elks War Commission

In 1940 in Trenton, NJ, Grand Exalted Ruler Joseph G. Buch created the Elks National Defense and Public Relations Commission program. This was organized to help the war effort and in 1946 became the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, having already expended much money.

War was raging in Europe as Hitler’s Storm Troopers invaded France, Poland, and Belgium. Threats were being made to England and other countries. There was submarine warfare with German subs sinking shipping all the way to Florida’s coastline. Efforts were being made to keep America out of this war as Wilson had done at the beginning of World War I. However, it was evident to most people in America that despite the efforts of isolationist groups, the spread of subversive propaganda and endeavors to block all measures for national defense was growing. War was rapidly approaching. Poland was invaded in 1939.

Grand Exalted Ruler Henry C. Warner, presiding over the 1940 Grand Lodge Convention in Houston, TX, recognized the danger of impending war and of subtle propaganda against peace. In his annual report, Warner said,

At no time within the past century has there been greater need for patriotic activity than at the present. We have wandered far from the broad principles of Americanism upon which our nation is founded. We have been too careless in protecting our rights and privileges and we have lost much advantage that would have been retained had we been more alert to the blessings with which we were endowed.

Efforts during the past year have accomplished much towards awakening a spirit of Americanism and no one will deny the splendid influence which the Order of Elks has had in the movement toward a revived patriotism. It is safe to say that at least ten million people were contacted through the celebrations of Americanism Week, when nearly every lodge in the Order conducted patriotic services and there were hundreds of radio broadcasts and much favorable newspaper publicity. Flag Day was never celebrated with greater success and sincerity of purpose than in June 1940.

Joseph G. Buch, Grand Exalted Ruler elect, also reflected the sentiments of millions of Americans when he said in his speech of acceptance, “We must see that America is safe-guarded from within as well as from without, for in this blessed land there must be no divided allegiance.”

A motion by John S. McClelland of Atlanta Lodge #78 called for the appointment of an Elks National Defense and Public Relations Commission. The motion unanimously passed.

After being installed as Grand Exalted Ruler, Buch’s first official act was the appointment of the National Defense and Public Relations Commission, composed of the following Past Grand Exalted Rulers:

James R. Nicholson, Chairman
James T. Hallinan, Vice Chairman
John R. Coen
Michael F. Shannon
David Sholtz (of Florida)
Edward J. McCormick, MD
Henry C. Warner

After each successive year as their term of office expired, the wartime Grand Exalted Rulers were appointed to the Commission, namely Joseph G. Buch, John S. McClelland, E. Mark Sullivan, and Frank J. Lonergan. Also added was Emmett L. Anderson from Tacoma, WA.

Grand Exalted Ruler Buch requested the National Defense Commission to send a communication to the Exalted Ruler of each subordinate Lodge immediately after the Grand Lodge session asking for the appointment of a
local National Defense Committee. The response of subordinate Lodges to this request was immediate and unanimous.

The Elks National Defense and Public Relations Commission communicated with the President of the United States; Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson; Secretary of the Navy, Frank B. Knox; and Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover; offering the services of the Order and the furtherance of the national defense program.

The national preparedness program of this commission consisted of three major objectives in 1940:
1. Uphold and teach Americanism and the democratic form of government
2. Discover and report treasonable, subversive, and fifth column activities in America
3. Assist in the physical development of the youth of our country

The commission formulated a program designed to place the power and patriotism of the entire membership of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks behind the program for national defense. Included in this program was a campaign to establish vocational training in the public schools, having in mind the importance of mechanized units in modern warfare; exempting members of the Order called into the armed service from payment of dues; urging the use of Elks buildings for community patriotic purposes; promoting a general and constant display of our country’s flag; organizing mothers, wives, and daughters of members for cooperation in the general defense program; for contributing to the comfort of boys in Army camps; and organizing members of Lodges for physical culture activities that Elks might be physically fit to meet their responsibilities when the country would need the best that each had to give.

The program called upon all Elks to make every possible contribution to the defense of our country and the preservation of our democratic form of government. It set forth a specific course of action for state organizations and subordinate Lodges. It urged each of them to hold a patriotic public meeting during the week of October 21, 1940 following this meeting from time to time with others of a like character. The objective of these meetings was the awakening of people everywhere to the necessity of preparation for national defense.

The program of the Elks National Defense Commission also urged subordinate Lodges to arrange a patriotic program for school children on Washington’s birthday; to provide dinners and entertainment for men entering the United States Army under the Selective Service Act; to have a member responsible for each young man, correspond with him while in the service, remember him on his birthday and at Christmastime, and to supply medical and legal service gratis to the families of these boys; to support state legislation designed to provide uniform laws for national defense; and to secure the commitment of Lodges and individual members to a full measure of cooperation with local organizations in their communities in the campaign for funds of the United Service organization.

The commission also commended that state organizations provide Army chaplains with field altars.

Everything changed on December 7, 1941 with the infamous attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor. President Franklin Roosevelt declared in his famous declaration that a war existed between the Empire of Japan and the United States. Jointly he declared war on Germany and Italy as their armies swept across Europe and their subs were sinking shipping, some right off the coast of Florida.

At emergency session on January 4, 1942 in New York City, the Elks National Defense and Public Relations Commission was changed to the Elks War Commission. The United States was now at full war and the Elks would support and cooperate in any way they could.

War Chest

The necessity of a war chest to be administered by the Elks War Commission was recognized. Preliminary contributions were made in the sum of $25,000 by the Elks National Memorial and Publication Commission, $5,000 by the Elks National Foundation Commission, and $5,000 by Queensborough, NY Lodge #878. GER McClelland approved the Elks War Commission’s request to make an appeal to subordinate Lodges for contributions to a war fund for the Order. Cables were sent to the District Deputies in Manila, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Alaska, and the Canal Zone offering the facilities of the Elks National Home in Bedford, VA as a haven for the duration of the war for children of Elks who might be evacuated from American outlying possessions.

GER McClelland issued a proclamation designating the week of March 15, 1942 as “Win the War Week” and directed all Lodges to stage a patriotic demonstration during this period.

The Commission decided to make an inventory of the potential manpower and resources of the Order and the information gathered was made available to the government.
After December 7, 1941, the Order of Elks turned from defense to war. Every Elk was asked to serve his country in whatever capacity he was called and to meet every demand upon him and make every sacrifice necessary to complete victory.

The Grand Lodge met in session in Boston in July 1943. GER E. Mark Sullivan made some incisive remarks in his annual report:

Our country is now engaged in a World War. It is for us Americans a just and righteous war. In area and in intensity it is a total war in which the home front is as important as the battle front. In it every true American has his battle station – be it the sword or the forge – the machine gun or the riveter. This is no time for sulks or churls. Duty and danger of defeat impose strict discipline upon us all. Fomenting strikes and sit-downs in industry are blows struck against national safety – they are treason. Capitalist, merchant and laborer, all alike, are morally bound to submerge the individual in this great national effort.

The War Conference of 1944 unanimously endorsed the work of the Elks War Commission, and following the action of the delegates in Omaha and Boston, it pledged the Order to the replenishment of the war chest in the amount of $1.00 for each member on its rolls and again demonstrated by collective voice and action that the Order of Elks and its entire membership would make any sacrifice to hasten the inevitable coming of victory.

Keep ‘Em Flying Program

In July of 1941 the Grand Lodge met in session in Philadelphia. At that time a request had been received by the Elks National Defense and Public Relations Commission from the War Department to inaugurate a program of cooperation with the War Department in securing and assisting in qualifying young men desiring to take the Aviation Cadet Training Course. Assuring the War Department that the Elks would cooperate in the program, they received this letter from the Adjutant General E. S. Adams, Major General:

On behalf of the War Department it is my pleasure to express sincere appreciation to you and the Order of Elks for your splendid National Defense Program and current plan of cooperation in the procurement of Army Aviation Cadets. “KEEP ‘EM FLYING.”

E. S. Adams, Major General
The Adjutant General

Several conferences were held between the Order of Elks and the Adjutant General’s Office outlining plans and full participation of the Order in the Army’s “Keep ‘Em Flying” program. The plan involved subordinate Lodges cooperating with local recruiting offices, sponsorship of cadet rallies at the Lodge home, and the operation of special refresher course educational programs designed to enable potential aviation cadets to pass the educational requirement for enlistments in this branch of the service. More than 400 Lodges conducted refresher course schools.

Thousands of young men were recruited for the Army Air Force through this program; a large percentage of Elks trained men passing their examination.

The "Keep 'Em Flying" poster which the Elks War Commission used so effectively in recruiting young men between the ages of 20 and 26 as Aviation Cadets for the Army Air Corps
The following letter received from the War Department addressed to James R. Nicholson, Chairman of the Elks War Commission, expressed appreciation for the Elks' participation in the “Keep ‘Em Flying” program.

War Department  
The Adjutant General’s Office  
Washington, DC  

July 26, 1942

Mr. James R. Nicholson  
Chairman of the Elks War Commission  
292 Madison Avenue  
New York City

Dear sir:

May I express my appreciation for the fine work during the past year which has been done by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in connection with the procurement program for aviation cadets. I trust that we shall have the continued cooperation of the Order in this work. We shall need it for, while we have at present a goodly backlog of accepted applicants, the requirements estimated for 1943 are such that it is going to strain our resources to the utmost to secure the needed personnel.

Consequently, anything that can be done through your refresher courses to prepare young men who might otherwise fail to meet the mental qualifications will as I see it help to provide personnel when we will probably need it most.

“Keep ‘Em Flying”

J. A. Ulio  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

Below is a letter from Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, responding to a letter from Grand Exalted Ruler Nicholson offering help where needed from the Elks:

My dear Mr. Nicholson:

This will acknowledge your letter of August twelfth. I greatly appreciate the spirit and strength which is behind the offer of the Elks National Defense and Public Relations Commission to cooperate with governmental agencies in any eventuality or contingency that may arise.

We in the Navy are at present interested in two main projects:

(a) Registration of man power for its uses in national defense, so we may man the Navy (and the Army) most efficiently;

(b) Speed up in material building of the Navy, as well as our brother service, the Army.

These are our aims, and in support of the first I believe you will find specific means by which you may be of assistance to us.

Over and above the foregoing, I believe your organization can render us valuable assistance by stressing in every possible way the outstanding benefits of this country as compared with those under the totalitarian regimes. We need a stiffening of morale in the face of the many “ins” that are attacking our fundamental freedom, and are attempting to sap our moral fiber as a great nation.

Again expressing my appreciation of your offer, I remain

Most sincerely

Frank Knox
The commission had the underlying duty of keeping the Elks’ pledge, “So long as there is a disabled veteran in our hospitals, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”

Because of the success of the Elks War Commission in recruiting Army pilots, Navy Secretary, Frank Knox, appealed to the Elks to perform a like service in recruiting Naval Air Cadets. As before, the Elks responded in their typical fashion.

The Elks appointed the following committees to aid in fulfilling their objectives:

- Arrangement Committee
- Contact Committee
- Information Committee
- Publicity Committee
- Registration Committee

They communicated with the superintendents of all high schools within Lodge jurisdictions enclosing a copy of “How to Win Your Wings.” Superintendents were encouraged to furnish a list of all boys who graduated and were within the age requirements and to place a star in front of the boys’ names they thought could qualify for flight training. There were public gatherings with guest speakers from the Naval Air Corps. They outlined the procedures for the drive, qualifications of the cadets, and answered in open forum questions from the audience.

Meetings were arranged in each community within the jurisdiction of the Lodge by the Contact Committee. Navy posters were distributed and a special poster was made up which informed the boys when and where the Elks Information Committee would be in their town to explain to them how they could obtain their Navy wings.

The Publicity Committee contacted theatres, newspapers, and radios in each of the towns and arranged for local publicity on the arrival of the Elks Information Committee.

Navy personnel kept the local papers and radio stations up-to-date on all news pertaining to the drive. A motion picture short entitled Wings for Defense depicting the training of a cadet from the time of his signing of his papers until he had received his wings of gold was run at the various theatres covered by the drive.

Two men teams were selected to call at each town at the appointed place and hour to explain to the boys gathered how they could obtain their Navy Wings. A date was set for the general meeting where preliminary applications would be completed.

The Elks Information Committee reported the results of each meeting and a complete record was kept of the preliminary applications taken as well as the names of any of those who were interested but could not come to the general meeting for examination.

This program required six weeks of intensive organization work and publicity but the results obtained were warranted.

Army Air Corps Mechanic Personnel Recruiting

Impressed by success of the “Keep Em’ Flying” program, the Adjutant General of the United States in August 1942 appealed to the Elks War Commission to assist in recruiting ground crews of the Army Air Corps. The commission accepted the assignment and all Lodges were supplied with full information as to the requirements necessary for enlistment.

Each subordinate Lodge was asked to conduct a survey to find men qualified for this branch and endeavor them to enlist in the Army. The Lodges carried out local publicity, rallies, and personal contracts to secure candidates.

The Adjutant General had asked for 45,000 recruits. The Elks were so successful that in a short time they had secured 97,000 ground crew members.

Naval Aviation Recruitment Program

Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, requested assistance of the Elks War Commission to recruit Naval Flying Cadets. In a letter to James R. Nicholson, Chairman of the Elks War Commission, Knox wrote:

July 28, 1942

My Dear Mr. Nicholson;

The Navy Department is extremely gratified that the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is in a position to offer their cooperation with the Navy in its procurement of aviation cadets. A well-organized order such as the B.P.O. Elks will prove invaluable in making known to the boys throughout the country that Naval Aviation is in need of their services. For the most part, this is an educational program and one in which the Training Division
of the Bureau of Aeronautic will provide assistance in this work. The Elks always have stood to front in their war efforts, and it is a pleasure to know that again they are showing the way.

With all best wishes,
Sincerely Yours,
Frank Knox

Cigarettes to the A. E. F.

Cigarettes and pipe tobacco from back home meant a lot to the sailor, marine, and soldier thousands of miles away from family and friends. They could improve morale and let them know they were being thought of.

The Elks War Commission was well aware of this and in March of 1943 they began the purchase and shipment of cigarettes to these men in far flung corners of the globe. In response to those who requested pipe and roll-your-own smokers, popular brands of cigarettes were supplemented by tobacco and cigarette papers.

Army Engineers and Navy Seabees

The Army Corp of Engineers and Navy Construction Battalions played a major role in the war and because of the success of the Elks in recruiting Navy and Army pilots, they again appealed to the Elks in recruiting men skilled in the construction trades. This is the first time in history that the two services embarked on a joint campaign to obtain volunteers. The Elks were the only organization to participate in the campaign.

The Elks War Commission unhesitatingly accepted the assignment and immediately sent out a call to all subordinate Lodges urging them to wage an intensive drive for recruits for both the Army Corps of Engineers and the Navy Construction Battalion. The Lodges responded so well that in a short time they were three months ahead of schedule.

Their part in the war was unique as they were necessary in building airports, roads, and landing sites on what was billed the “road to victory” by their own hard labors and often at the cost of their lives.

On October 6, 1943, Captain Koch, Special Assistant to the Chief of the Navy Department, was able to inform James R. Nicholson, Chairman of the Elks War Commission, that the recruiting campaign had been so successful that it was to be ended October 30.

On October 8, 1943, General J. A. Ulio, the Adjutant General of the War Department, wrote to Nicholson giving full credit for the success of the joint Army Engineers-Navy Seabees campaign which had obtained its quota far ahead of schedule.

Elks Fraternal Centers

At its first conference the Elks War Commission decided to make a survey of Lodges located near military bases and find out what the Elks could do in their efforts to help the war effort and provide hospitality to Elks and others stationed at these bases, retain and strengthen the interest and pride of those brothers in their Elks membership even though they were distant from their home Lodge, and relieve the financial burden of several subordinate Lodges resulting from their location adjacent to large military and naval establishments.

By July 1942 it had approved the opening of sixteen Elks Fraternal Centers in several sections of the country. Later there were over one hundred others. It continued to expand until there were 137 Elks Fraternal Centers across the country supplying good fellowship, refreshments, and entertainment for hundreds of thousands of our servicemen each month.

In most of the Fraternal Centers, the wives, daughters, and sisters of members served as hostesses. Music was furnished for dancing. There were card games, bingo, and community singing as well. They also had barbecues, fish fries, and fishing trips for both deep sea and fish water, depending on their location.

An Elks Fraternal Center sign was designed in true colors: the red, white, and blue of the flag with the traditional brown of the noble elk head with purple lettering on a bright yellow background. The emblem was suspended in front of the Elks clubhouses or in their windows proclaiming to those in uniform that Elks hospitably awaited them inside.

Florida Lodges that opened their homes as Elks Fraternal Centers included:

Daytona Beach #1141  DeLand #1463
Fort Myers #1288  Fort Pierce #1520
Elks War Relief Committee

The Elks War Relief Committee was formed in 1917. Grand Lodge voted at this time one million dollars in the War Relief Funds. A second million was approved in 1918. Congressman John F. Miller speaking on the floor of Congress said, “The Elks Fund provided us the first instance of its kind in the history of the country, where a great patriotic, fraternal organization has come to aid of the Government in so timely, helpful, and substantial a manner.” The money went primarily for the handicapped veterans. Many letters were received back thanking those who were so thoughtful.

(See also War Relief Commission)
Dear Brothers:

Enclosed you will please find copy of a few reprinted newspaper articles relating to the gift of a Reconstruction Hospital by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks to the United States Government for the reception, care, training and re-education of the wounded, disabled and convalescent returned soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces. This will be the first Reconstruction Hospital in the United States and will be erected at Boston, Mass. Other hospitals of a like character will probably be established by the Government throughout the country as they may be required.

In addition to this Reconstruction Hospital, the Commission has, from the Elks War Relief Fund, completely equipped the University of Virginia Base Hospital No. 41 and the University of Oregon Base Hospital No. 46, and has other war relief work under consideration.

The Commission wishes to gratefully acknowledge the prompt response of the Subordinate Lodges to the first assessment call for the War Relief Fund.

The press of America has been very generous in its praise of the splendid patriotism displayed by the Elks, and if your local newspapers have not published an account of the recent gift of the Reconstruction Hospital, please request them to do so.

Fraternally,

JOHN K. TENER,
JOSEPH T. PANNING,
JEROME E. FISHER,
JAMES R. NICHOLSON,
EDWARD RIGHTOR,
Elks War Relief Commission.

Attest:

Fred Harper

Grand Exalted Ruler.
Elmore, Thomas, President, Florida State Elks Association, 1992-1993

Thomas Elmore is a charter member of Okeechobee Lodge #2558. He is now a member of Lake City Lodge #893. He was nominated as State President at The Omni Hotel in Jacksonville, FL at the Annual Convention in June 1992 by Past State President Carl Vaughn.

Tom was born on June 21, 1940 in Carlisle, WV. He lived and attended school in Fort Pierce, FL. He grew up in Fort Pierce with Mel Tillis. While Tillis followed a successful musical career, Tom, who began entertaining at the age of twelve, chose to follow a business career. Tom speaks fondly of George Jones, Tex Ritter, and many other country giants whose paths he has crossed throughout the years. Jones and Hank Williams influenced Tom’s country music leanings which he describes as traditional.

Tom served in the U. S. Navy from 1958-1962 and was involved in grocery sales from 1962-1964. On his 23rd birthday, June 21, 1963, he was initiated as an Elk in Fort Pierce Lodge #1520 where he served as Inner Guard, Chaplain, and Secretary. From 1965-1968 he became involved in automobile sales, migrating to Okeechobee in 1970 to become owner of a franchise to sell Chrysler, Dodge, and Plymouth cars and trucks and dabble in commercial real estate. In 1974 he opened Wise TV, Inc. of Okeechobee. In 1975 he was granted a Radio Shack franchise. He is also involved in commercial real estate investments. As demanding as his business affairs were, Tom did not shirk his community and civic responsibilities. As Director of the Chamber of Commerce he was involved in various community affairs and youth programs. In 1974 he was appointed by Governor Reuben Askew to the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee for Central Florida. In 1990 he organized the Democratic Party in Okeechobee County and served several years as Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee and represented Okeechobee County in the State Democratic Party.

Despite his active involvement in business and community affairs, he has been able to accomplish a lot in Elkdom from 1975 on. He was Chairman of the Organizing Committee to form Okeechobee Lodge #2558 in 1975 and was its first Exalted Ruler when it was instituted in 1977. He was also the second Exalted Ruler in 1978-1979. From 1979-1983 he was Chairman of the Lodge Building Committee’s first and second phase construction. From 1979-1992 he served Elkdom in the following capacities: District Chairman of Membership, State Chairman of Lodge Activities, Certified Ritual Judge, State Tiler, Lodge Secretary, Vice President of the Southeast District of the Florida State Elks Association, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Southeast District of the Florida State Elks Association, elected in 1987 to the Board of Directors of Florida Elks Children’s Hospital with two years as Chairman of that board, member of Publication Committee for Florida Elks News, honorary life member of Okeechobee Lodge #2558, original member to serve on the staff of Exalted Ruler/Secretary Elect Seminars, Vice President at Large of the Florida Elks Association, and President of the Florida State Elks Association in 1992-1993.
In 1993 he was named the Florida Coordinator for the Elks National Home as part of the 1993-1994 Grand Lodge program to make information and residency applications easier to obtain. In this capacity he was the primary contact in Florida for members who would like to apply to live there.

*Eighty-Sixth Annual Session*

**Florida State Elks Association**

June 4-7, 1992

**JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA**

Motto: “Unity - Dedication – Involvement”

State President Ben S. Brown, Jr. gave his annual report.

*Florida Elks News* won second place in the Grand Lodge State Bulletin Contest.

PSP Arthur L. Smith was killed in a farm accident on June 16, 1992.

North Palm Beach Lodge #2069 surrendered its charter on November 16, 1992.

Ocala Lodge #286 won the state ritual contest.

Convention attendance totaled 2,734.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1992-1993 term:

- **President**
  - Thomas E. Elmore, Okeechobee
- **Vice President at Large**
  - C. Valentine Bates, Gainesville
- **Vice President, Northwest District**
  - Joseph L. Walsh, Warrington
- **Vice President, North District**
  - John R. McKenna, Tallahassee
- **Vice President, Northeast District**
  - William C. Ruffin, Orange Park
- **Vice President, East Central District**
  - Lynn Warburton, Palm Coast
- **Vice President, North Central District**
  - Walter Mabie, Inverness
- **Vice President, Central District**
  - Raymond R. Weston, Orlando
- **Vice President, Southeast Central District**
  - Jimmy A. Roy, Port St. Lucie
- **Vice President, West Central District**
  - John J. Frizalone, New Port Richey
- **Vice President, Southwest Central District**
  - M. Jim Christmas, Lake Wales
- **Vice President, Southwest District**
  - John L. Maitland, North Port
- **Vice President, South Southwest District**
  - Stanley J. Caylor, Fort Myers
- **Vice President, South Southeast District**
  - Richard A. Ferguson, Sr., West Hollywood
- **Vice President, South District**
  - Harold E. Grady, Jr., North Miami
- **Secretary**
  - Frank D. Willis, Jr., Eustis
- **Treasurer**
  - Joseph B. Bryant, Sebring
- **Tiler**
  - Tony Madonna, Okeechobee
- **Historian**
  - Joseph E. Schirmer, Charlotte County
- **Curator of Museum**
  - PSP Russell V. Jurgensen, Clearwater
- **Sergeant at Arms**
  - W. E. King, West Palm Beach
- **Chaplain**
  - Larry Myers, Miami
- **Organist**
  - Michael Orlando, North Palm Beach

Kissimmee was selected as the site for the 1993 convention.

**Resolution presenting Elmore as Grand Leading Knight**

(Appearing in May 2002 issue of *The Elks Magazine* )

*Whereas,* Thomas E. Elmore has been a member for 37 years, being initiated into Fort Pierce, FL, Lodge No. 1520 in June 1963, and serving as chairman of the organizing committee, as well as Exalted Ruler for two terms of Okeechobee, FL Lodge No. 2558, and being Elk of the Year in 1979-1980 and 1999-2000, in addition to being an honorary life member of Okeechobee, FL Lodge No. 2558, and

*Whereas,* He has served the Florida State Elks Association with distinction, as Vice President Southeast District 1982-1983; State President 1992-1993; serving the Florida State Elks Association, Inc. Board of Directors for nine years, the last four as chairman; serving on the Exalted Ruler-elect/Secretary Seminar Staff; the Board of Directors of the Harry Anna Investment, Inc. Trust Fund Trustees; and is the Florida Coordinator of the Elks National Home; and

*Whereas,* He served the Grand Lodge with distinction, as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Southeast District of Florida 1985-86; the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee 1993 to present, the last two years as chairman; and
ENCyclopedia of Florida ElKdom

Whereas, He served his nation as a member of the U. S. Navy being honorably discharged, has demonstrated his dedication to his community through participation in civic organizations, and is a loving husband and father; now therefore

Be it resolved, That Okeechobee, FL, Lodge No. 2558 does hereby and henceforth give its full support in presenting to the 2002 Grand Lodge Convention in Reno, NV, the name of Thomas E. Elmore for the office of Grand Esteemed Leading Knight of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

Donna Geiser, Exalted Ruler
Ernest L. Basil, Secretary

Elm Street, New York City

A two block long street in New York City once known as Elm Street was the location of Mrs. Geisman’s Boardinghouse. In 1939 the Council of the City of New York passed the following resolution: “Be it resolved that the two blocks remaining on Elm Street be known as Elk Street to pay tribute to the famous Order of Elks.” It was really the Jolly Corks that were founded at this address in 1867.

Emblem Club, Supreme Club of America

The Emblem Club was chartered as the Supreme Emblem Club of the United States of America in Providence, RI, the outgrowth of a small group of ladies getting together in 1917 to wrap bandages for World War I. These ladies were Mary T. Duffy, Esther A. Sweeney, Alice Farrell, Mary L. Clark, and Charlotte O’Connor of the “Original Fifteen” and filed for the charter in the office of the Secretary of the State of Rhode Island on May 3, 1926.

Members were required to be related to Elks members such as wife, mother, sister, widow, daughter, or stepdaughter. Its main purpose of organizing was to unite under one head all existing and future clubs commonly known as Elks Ladies clubs. As was in the beginning, the black ball system of membership selection was prohibited.

Nine Emblem Clubs were organized during the first year in the New England states of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. Eventually the numbers increased to the point that there existed an Emblem Club in every section of the country including Alaska and Hawaii.

An Emblem Club, like other Ladies auxiliaries, is an asset for every Elks Lodge. Emblem Clubs promote sociability among members of Elks families, share community welfare work, assist in social affairs, respect the privileges accorded the Emblem Club by the Lodge, and strive to further ideals and purposes for which each was established.

Emblem Clubs develop a deeper sense of patriotism, community betterment, civic pride, concern for the welfare of others, and relief for the needy.

The name Emblem Club signifies the flag of the United States of America that is preserved and cherished as a priceless possession.

Chartered under the laws of the State of Rhode Island in Providence on November 20, 1926, its main purpose of organization was to unite under one head all existing and future clubs commonly known as Elks’ Ladies Clubs, committees, or groups. Membership is open only to wives, mothers, daughters, granddaughters, stepdaughters, sisters, and widows of Elks. A ladies identification card is required from the particular Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in which the husband, father, stepfather, brother, or son was a member in good standing.

An Emblem Club may be regarded as an auxiliary to the Elks Lodge; however, the Elks Lodge has no jurisdiction in the formation of an Emblem Club or its conduct (except where meetings are held in the Elks Lodge buildings when the Elks House Rules must be obeyed).

Emblem Clubs are entirely independent insofar as the bylaws of each are concerned. Cooperation between Elks and Emblem Clubs is most desirable. The common interest shared in social, charitable, patriotic, and civic purposes; reactions to welfare of each individually; and the burden of relief work among the needy and unfortunate has been mutually shared.

At least twenty members are necessary to form an Emblem Club.
ENCyclopedia of Florida Elkdom

The ritual for the Emblem Club was written by officers of the Grand Lodge of Elks and was adopted in the early years. The ritual includes a non-denominational prayer and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. The initiation provides for the pledge on the part of the candidate to participate in the projects and promote the endeavors of the organization.

Emblem Club meetings are held once a month. All business meetings must be opened and closed in form as prescribed by the ritual and supreme manual of the Supreme Emblem Club.

*Emblem Topics* is a national magazine established in 1932 and is mailed to the home of every member. This magazine is written by the members and published monthly.

- Mother’s Day: observed the 2nd Sunday in May
- Flag Day: Americanism Program Week of June 11
- Memorial Day: for all deceased sisters, meeting in November
- Motto: Truth - Justice - Charity

**Adopted Colors**

*Purple and Gold*

Purple, the color of royalty, denotes the highest standards and principles and is used by the Elks with whom their relationship or sponsorship establishes eligibility for membership in the Emblem Club. Gold is used to signify quality or great value and symbolizes the rich blessings and material means which they share with those less fortunate than them.

**Insignia**

The insignia of the organization, an elk’s head surrounded by a wreath, is used on pins, stationary, publications, and banners. This insignia shows that the members are related to or sponsored by members of the Order of Elks and cooperate in their endeavors when asked.

**Emblem Club Song**

*Words by Mary Sweeney McLaughlin, member of Providence Emblem Club No. 1*

- E stands for the earnest work of members,
- M stands for the mercy they have strewn,
- B stands for the blessing given others,
- L stands for the loyalty they’ve shown,
- E stands for the Elks that’s in their natures,
- M stands for mirth with charity.

Put them all together, they spell Emblem - the club that means so much to me.

**Duties of Members**

Attendance at all meetings is hoped for by all members. Members are invited to participate in debate and decision making and must address the chair to secure permission to speak. Any member may serve on any committee and may be elected to office. Loyalty to the Emblem Club is expected from all members. No member may speak for the club unless authorized to do so. Each member is expected to support the club projects, participate in charitable endeavors, bear true allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to be sisterly in fellowship with all other members.

**Community Service**

The policy of charity and community welfare service proves of inestimable value in maintaining an enviable reputation for good works by Emblem Clubs in all localities. This program is giving in the “heart” of Emblem, and the hundreds of thousands of hours and dollars given in a program of sharing together is the glue that binds them all together.

The Literacy Project has recognized that helping another person to read is one of the most rewarding contributions that can be made, and the Supreme Emblem Club has adopted literacy as a national community service project. Emblem members volunteer as tutors and donate time and monies to the literacy program in their communities, “Literacy in America - Emblem Makes the Difference,” a contribution by the members and the clubs in strengthening the United States of America.
ENCyclopedia of Florida ElKdom

The Drug Awareness Program was initiated in the national organization because of the alarming problem in this country and the need for help. Emblem members vitally concerned with all phases of human health and development and having the resources to spread the word work and assist financially in local communities in many facets of drug awareness as part of their overall community service program.

National Disaster Fund

As a result of the Alaska earthquake in 1964, a National Disaster Fund was created to give immediate relief to Emblem Club communities and members. The fund is administered through the Supreme Executive Board.

Source: National Organization of Emblem Clubs
Ormond Beach Florida Emblem Club No. 270

Emblem, Elks

Concerning the Roman Numeral IV/III

Art and graphic illustrations in books in the printing trades from 1868 to 1900 were extremely expensive, as only a plate engraver could achieve them. Various BPOE journals from the dawn of the Order are almost entirely devoid of anything except the printed word, with a rare and infrequent photo of some Exalted Grand Ruler to break the monotony. The Order’s first emblem was just any rendition of the elk animal, head or body, sideways or frontways. At some unknown point between 1868 and 1903, a clock face representing the Eleven O’clock Toast was added. As with anything not engraved in stone by the Grand Lodge, the design of lapel pins, tie tacks, or watch fobs was left to the artistry and discretion of 1,001 sundry jewelers across the country whose only guide was making their customer of the moment happy enough to pay for the desired item at the point and time of delivery. The use of “III” was not an error but a definitely acceptable Roman numeral for a BPOE clock face. An illustration in the same 1893 volume (Elks Annual Register) seems to contain the “IV” version. Under Roman numerals, Webster shows both forms of four to be viable as based on extant Roman buildings and monuments. It can only be assumed that the prevalence of “IV” usage today was caused by the adamantine convictions of some yesteryear schoolmarm who made her choice and then drummed it into the brains of her students forevermore. From an architectural standpoint, stonemasons would have preferred “IV” to “III” as it involved one less chiseled groove to convey the same numerical concept. However, typesetters and printers may have liked “III” because their inventory of “I”s was larger than the few “V”s in the drawer or they may have liked “IV” because it was less error prone to be mistaken as in the case between “III” and “III” set in small type on a crowded page. Then again, “III” is correct read even in reverse, whereas “VI” could sneak into a text where “IV” was desired due to a sleepy printer’s devil on a Monday morning.

One source published by New York Lodge No. 1 states that the “III” usage was almost universal in the Order, with one author giving the reason that the four “eyes” represent the four cardinal virtues, especially in the homonym sense of the 4 “I”s that watch the conduct of every Elk.

Until and unless it is specified in the Constitution and Statutes of the Order of Elks, the use of the numerals for four which is to appear just beneath the left ear of the elk’s head in the emblem will be optional. Either version is correct and legal just as they have been over the century.

Source: Mike Kelly, Director
Publishing Department, Grand Lodge

Wearing of the Pin

Why I Wear an Elks Pin

By Robert South Barrett, Past Grand Exalted Ruler, deceased

It is an emblem that tells the world that I am a member of a great Fraternity of over one million American Citizens who believe in God and in the destiny of this, my Country, to bring happiness to its people and peace to the world, and that I will uphold the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and will defend it against all, from without and within, that seek to destroy it.
It is an emblem whose antlers are symbolic of the Elk in the freedom of the forest and indicates that I too am free, free to worship God according to the dictates of my conscience, free to vote as I desire, free to speak as I choose.

It is an emblem that tells that I believe in charity, the charity of kindly thoughts as well as kindly deeds, a charity that feeds the hungry, heals the sick, straightens crippled limbs, opens blind eyes, and relieves the unfortunate.

It is an emblem that declares my willingness to assist the youth of our land by education, guidance and protection in reaching its highest ideal.

It is an emblem that protects womankind and is an assurance that neither harm nor tears will ever be brought to any good woman through fault of mine.

It is an emblem that shows I believe in brotherhood, that every man of every creed is my brother and that as I believe in the Fatherhood of God, so do I believe in the Brotherhood of Man.

THIS IS THE EMBLEM OF MY FRATERNITY, THE EMBLEM OF MY FAITH – GOD GRANT THAT I MAY ALWAYS BE FAITHFUL TO ALL IT REPRESENTS.

The Red Star

The red star in the Elks emblem represents fidelity which incorporates leadership and holding to a course regardless of conflict.

Meaning of the Red Star Atop the Elks Emblem

If you like to bet on sure things, ask an Elk - or the whole Lodge, for that matter - what the red star on the top of the Elks emblem is and you'll get a shrug for an answer. It is not disclosed in the indoctrinate briefing, not in Elks manuals and seemingly only on the desk of Michael “Mike” Kelly, Elks Historian and Grand Lodge Newsletters Editor.

And you really need a PhD in hieroglyphics and a couple of Master’s degrees in signs and writings of sacred symbols and mystic signs form the days of early Egyptians through the clans and sects of the Dark Ages and the mysteries of ancient Aztec and Malayan cultures.

Historically, determining one’s bearings in relation to geography was a major concern to nomads and seafarers, and the dependable orbits of the stars and constellations quickly made them the standard reference of experienced travelers.

This was even carried further into a belief that earthly creatures and doings were tied by a cause-effect relationship with the essences and movements of celestial entities, the planets and stars, as in astrology and the Zodiac.

Instead, we’ll get to the nitty gritty and skip thousands of years of “cosmic forces” and ancient rituals to such orders as the Rosicrucians, Freemasons, and especially the Royal and Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.

It’s the last one we want because, as Kelly explains it, the Buffaloes were an organization which prevailed in Europe in the early 1800s.

“The R.A.O.B. lodge had seven officers: City, Secretary, Minstrel, Tyler, Barber, Alderman or Benevolence Constable, and Physician.”

Their ritual was transplanted to America by emigrants such as Elkdom’s own Charles Vivian, himself a member of the Buffaloes. Vivian and a handful of actors formed the Jolly Corks in New York City, February 16, 1868. When the group decided to organize themselves into a fraternity, Vivian wanted to call the new organization Buffaloes. Thank God the name Elk prevailed.

Back to the European Order of Buffaloes and quoting Kelly,

In the Lodge room of the Buffaloes, the podium or station of the Right Honorable Primo had to be located at the north end of the room, as close as possible to being on a direct line with the Polar or North Star. The remaining quadrants in a Buffalo Lodge were called ‘shires’ or ‘counties.’

Each quadrant had a distinctive character or purpose. Opposite the Right Honorable Primo was a station devoted to Charity. However, as the Elks progressed, Charity became associated with the Flag, the Bible with Justice and the Antlers with Brotherly Love. There can be no question that the Star clearly represents Fidelity which
incorporates leadership and holding to a course regardless of conflict, including adherence to the point of death - hence the red star - patterned after the North Star.

In 1883, our Rituals were rewritten to improve them, but in the process we lost a great deal of the understanding into where and how some of the present-day rituals and paraphernalia evolved, and only intensive research of the archives of older societies and their rituals can provide further details of the BPOE’s own origins.

The red star in our emblem relates to the North Star? Naw, the explanation is too complicated. Why not just say...’cause it’s pretty!

The following is the description of the standard emblem of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The standard emblem is to be circular with letters “B” and “P” on the left side and the letters “O” and “E” on the upper portion of the outer ring. Within the outer circle is a clock face with Roman numerals set at 11 o’clock. An elk’s bust looking slightly to the right is centered on the emblem with antlers extending in such a manner as to not cover the BPOE letters of the hands of the clock. The Elks colors are as follows:

- The elk should be gold or yellow.
- The outer ring should be royal blue or purple.
- The star should be red.
- The hands and the roman numerals should be red.
- The clock face should be white.

Variations in the emblem and colors can be used but only with the written permission of BPOE.

**Emergency Educational Fund Grants**

* (See Elks National Foundation)
On March 5, 1967, William Lieberman, the Secretary of the Florida State Elks Association, received a letter from Thomas Dignam requesting information on how to proceed in establishing a new Elks Lodge in Englewood, FL. The letter was forwarded to Robert B. Cameron of Reddington Beach, FL who was the Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and the Chairman of the New Lodges Committee for the Grand Lodge. A meeting was held on March 31, 1967 in the Sarasota Elks Lodge with Robert Cameron, Thomas Dignam, and officials of the Southwest District laying the groundwork to proceed with details in forming a new Lodge. On May 11, 1967 a meeting was held in the new Elks building in Sarasota located on Fruitville Road for the purpose of establishing an organizational committee. It was composed of Thomas Dignam as Chairman, Charles E. Allison as Secretary, and Harry E. Merrill as Treasurer. Other members were Ernie J. Newman, George F. Dignam, Duane R. Keaser, and Alex Dunkin.

The first open meeting to sign up new members was held on June 15, 1967 at the Englewood Savings and Loan Building located at 960 S. McCall Road, now occupied by Rogers T.V. During the month of August the committee received 104 signed petitions which were enough to apply to the Grand Lodge for a dispensation. On August 31, 1967, Grand Lodge granted the dispensation and issued Englewood’s Lodge the number 2378. Plans were then underway for the final institution of Englewood Lodge #2378 to be held on Sunday, October 15, 1967 at the Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge. On that date there were four hundred Elks and their ladies in attendance when 184 American gentlemen were initiated into Englewood 2378. The installing officers were Bedford Prescott, District Deputy of the Southwest District; William Wall, Past Grand Exalted Ruler; and Marvin Kimmell, Florida State President. The following were the officers from October 15, 1967 to April 1, 1968.
The following officers were installed:

- **Exalted Ruler**: Thomas M. Dignam
- **Leading Knight**: William L. Morris
- **Loyal Knight**: Roger E. Dean
- **Lecturing Knight**: Larry D. VanTilburg
- **Secretary**: Charles E. Allison
- **Treasurer**: George F. Lathrop
- **Tiler**: Forrest Hyatt
- **Esquire**: William Miller
- **Chaplain**: Ernie Newman
- **Inner Guard**: Roman Cook
- **Organist**: Richard Williams
- **One Year Trustee**: Mark Caldwell
- **Two Year Trustee**: Dan H. McLeroy
- **Three Year Trustee**: Harvey L. Pruett
- **Four Year Trustee**: Charles Diez, Jr.
- **Five Year Trustee**: George F. Dignam

The months following the initiation were spent establishing a new Lodge building. Three sites were chosen: The Cajun Club, the Old Englewood Boat & Country Club off Placida Road, and the IGA Grocery Store located at Dearborn Street and McCall Road. Meetings were held at all three locations on a weekly basis and the final result was to lease the IGA property. A two year lease with an option to purchase the property was drawn and signed. The lease stipulated that the first year’s rent would be $200 per month and the second year’s would be $300 per month and after two years, $2,000 would be applied as payment toward the purchase price of $50,000. Following the signing of the lease, the site needed preparation for converting the building to the needs of the Lodge. Volunteers did much of the cleaning. The building was completed with contractors; there was construction of partitions, installation of a new bar and kitchen, and remodeling of the restrooms.

After the institution of the Englewood Lodge, the Ladies of Englewood Elks held an organizational meeting on November 28, 1967 with the Sarasota Lodge Does for the purpose of forming a Drove. On December 29, 1967 the charter was issued and the first President elected was Winifred Dignam. At the meeting of April 29, 1968, the membership voted for a motion that a building committee be started so that they could purchase the building. Some of the members donated money to start the fund. The membership for the Lodge was reported at 298 members.

The shortest meeting ever recorded at the Lodge was held on June 3, 1968. Because of Hurricane Abbey, the meeting opened at 8:00 p.m. and closed at 8:05 p.m.

On July 21, 1969, a motion was passed to purchase the building with a down payment of $17,522.53 and assume the mortgage of $30,477.47 at 6% interest. Payments were to be $443 a month for eight years and seven months. The closing for the purchase of the building was in November 1969 and the building housed the Lodge for the next eight years. The membership for the Lodge at this time was 491 members.

The Does made contributions to the building fund and raised money to assist in remodeling the building. They also donated time in assisting in cleaning up and serving meals.

Their third Exalted Ruler, Frank Spadafora, took office in August 1970 and completed the 1970-1971 year when Robert Stoletz resigned for personal reasons. He was reelected for the 1971-1972 year. Patricia Stoletz was the Does’ third President, and Rosemond Foster-Sloan was the fourth President.

The emphasis for the next several years was on raising funds to pay for remodeling the newly purchased building to conform to the needs of the Lodge. Their first Exalted Ruler, Thomas Dignam, was elected the Southwest District Vice President for 1971-1972 and membership was reported as of March 31, 1972 at 552 members.

The officers and the members held dinners and dances to raise money for the remodeling, gave contributions to the needy, donated to the Little League and supplied umpires, and donated to many other community functions. Membership on March 31, 1973 was at 589 members.

In July 1973 the remodeling of the Lodge was completed. At a meeting on August 6, 1973 the membership was presented a land location to purchase for building a new Lodge, and a vote was taken to make an inquiry. The property, four acres, the site of their present Lodge, would cost $23,000, and the membership voted for the purchase in October of 1973.
The Does continued to donate money for the building fund and for the purchase of equipment such as kitchen necessities and microphones for the four stations in the Lodge while continuing to contribute to charities of their choice.

Frank Spadafora was elected Southwest District Vice President for 1975-1976 and in 1976-1977 he was elected District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

As membership grew at the Englewood Elks Lodge, the building on Dearborn Street and McCall Road became too small to accommodate the members, and in 1975 plans were made by the trustees to construct a new Lodge at 401 N. Indiana Avenue. They hired an architect, Ray Griffith. However, no action was taken until 1977 when Exalted Ruler Theodore Resua appointed a building committee with Joseph Barth as Chairman. Unfortunately, Brother Barth did not live to see the building completed. Exalted Ruler Peter Koning later appointed Past Exalted Ruler Resua Chairman of the committee to see that the building was completed. The start of the construction was held up for several months to make arrangements for financing. The Lodge had approval from Grand Lodge to borrow $100,000 over and above the money that was in the building fund. Still needed were the proceeds from the sale of the old Lodge before they could start new construction, and although the Lodge before was offered for sale, there were no buyers. Brother Charles Allison proposed that the Lodge issue promissory notes bearing 7.5% interest per annum with a stipulation on the front of the note that it would be repaid from the proceeds of the sale of the old Lodge. The main part of the contract for construction was awarded to Don Leach Construction Co. in the amount of $322,500. The price reached over $400,000 when items such as drainage rock, site work, sewage plant, drain field, closing costs, abstract, stamps, water hookup, permits, landscaping, sprinkling system, architect fees, deceleration lane, parking lights, and other odds and ends were added. Items such as the bar, kitchen equipment, tables and chairs, and other furnishings brought the cost of the new Lodge to over a half million dollars. Because the cost of the Lodge was greater than expected, an appeal was made asking for donations for the furnishings, and members and Does came forth and donated over $40,000 to the fund. On December 4, 1978, the first phase of the new Englewood Lodge was completed and dedicated. The old Lodge on Dearborn Street was sold within thirteen months from the date of issue of the notes, and all the outstanding notes that were issued were paid off from the proceeds of the sale of the building.

On February 15, 1979 a ceremony was held dedicating the new Lodge. In May of 1979 the members approved the purchase of a metal storage building at a cost of $9,900, and in October of 1979 a walk-in cooler was purchased for $4,935.

On January 14, 1980 the trustees presented to the membership a proposal to start a scholarship trust fund which was approved. The fund was to sponsor a yearly scholarship of $1,500 per year ($6,000 per student) over four years giving a total of ten scholarships. The scholarship fund quickly grew to $225,000.

Past Exalted Ruler Peter Koning was elected the Southwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for 1981-1982. John Brunn was elected the Exalted Ruler on July 1, 1982 after Michael W. Martin resigned for personal reasons in June 1982.

On Saturday, April 2, 1983 the Lodge held a dinner/dance and official mortgage burning to pay tribute to those members, past and present, who were instrumental in paying off the mortgage in such a short time and who contributed so much to the growth of the Lodge.

On April 4, 1983 the membership approved the purchase of ten acres of land adjacent to the property on N. Indiana Avenue for the purpose of extending the parking lot. The cost of ten acres was $190,000 and the cost of the 154 car parking lot and retention pond was $100,000.

In 1984 a committee was appointed by Exalted Ruler Barney Fasano and the trustees to consider an expansion to the Lodge. The committee was composed of Charles Pappas, Chairman; Daniel Skelton; Lloyd Forsell; Murray McGrath; and Ken Kendrick, PER. They worked with Raymond Griffith, the architect who designed the original building. The plans for the expansion included additions to the kitchen, more seating in the dining room, storage, and a stage room. The addition was to also add sixty feet to the front of the building.

Within the sixty feet, a third bay 40’ x 58’ was to be used for a larger dining room and the remainder was to provide four rooms for storage. One room was to provide a storage area for the Does; one room was for the bingo supplies; the third was to store the Lodge stations, chairs, and tables; and the fourth room was to be used by officers of the Lodge, known as the Officers Room. This addition allowed the Food Committee to use the first bay to serve food while bingo was played in the second bay and the new bay.

With the expansion the stage had to be moved from the front of the Lodge (west side) to the north side of the new bay, and a service bar was also added on the north side of the second bay. The main entrance was
extended, giving the building a large lobby and a canopy outside. On April 15, 1985 a vote was held and the membership approved the expansion with estimated expenditures for the project of $325,000.

On May 17, 1985 at 10:00 a.m., four of the six general contractors submitted bids along with their one hundred percent security bond to construct the addition. The lowest bid was from Bennett Builders from Sarasota for $295,990, and the highest bid was $325,000. The addition was completed in December 1985. On March 8, 1986, Grand Exalted Ruler John Traynor dedicated the addition.

The last expansion was started in 1987 and provided for an additional 30’ x 96’ at the rear of the Lodge, giving a larger recreation room and making the old room an indoctrination room and a lounge. The kitchen was enlarged so that the two walk-in freezers and two walk-in coolers housed in the rear shed could be moved inside. The expansion also gave the kitchen more storage space. At the same time the entire roof was replaced. The project was completely paid for in two years.

Over the years many cosmetic changes took place including the redecorating of the lounge area and the dining room. Kitchen equipment, ovens, and ventilation hoods were also replaced.

In 1991 Englewood Lodge #2378 became the largest Lodge in membership in Florida.

Donations were collected from the membership for an elk monument which was placed in front of the building, and the dedication was March 1992.

The Lodge purchased a cabin at the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla, FL for a price of $20,000. None of the money came from Lodge funds but from donations from the membership.

Brother R. William Wellbaum was elected District Vice President for the year 1993-1994. He went on to become District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler the following year. In 1999-2000 he served as Vice President at Large and in 2000-2001 he was President of the Florida State Elks Association.

(See also Wellbaum, R. William)

Since its inception the membership of the Does Drove #203 has grown to more than 450 with benevolence a primary philosophy. They are very proud of the many scholarships they have presented to local people entering health fields and the charities to which they contribute. Although an independent, national organization, the Englewood Drove is especially fortunate to have a positive relationship with the Lodge and have always volunteered many hours to waitress, decorate, and contribute to Elks charities as well as to the Lodge itself. In turn the Englewood Elks have always provided the Does with a place to hold meetings and fundraising events and are always ready to assist the Does as needed.

The Englewood Lodge enjoys some of the greatest entertainment available; it strengthens its rising membership roles. In recent years they have enjoyed such entertainers as Stevaughn from Las Vegas celebrating the music of Englebert Humperdinck, Tony Bennet, Nat King Cole, Kenny Rogers, and others. They often enjoy the sounds of the Big Band such as Jerry White’s Big Band with twenty musicians including former Benny Goodman vocalist, Jack Searle, and Canadian baritone, John Wickenden. One of their top shows was “Liberace: The Legend Lives On,” with Martin Preston as Liberace. His two hour extravaganza has generated critical and popular acclaim throughout the world. The Mickey Finn Show added some rip-roaring old time piano and banjo comedy and other talent coming from Las Vegas to Atlantic City. His appearances included cruise ships, concert halls, national conventions, and performances at the White House for Presidents Nixon and Reagan.

The Lodge presents eight $50 bonds and one $100 bond to winners of the DARE Poster Contest held at Englewood Elementary School. Over 100 students attend and graduate from the seventeen week course of DARE under the supervision of the Sarasota Sheriff’s Department and teachers of Englewood Elementary School. About eighty students participate in the poster contest.

Past Exalted Rulers

1967-1969 Thomas M. Dignam
   District Vice President, 1971-1972
1970-1972 Frank J. Spadafora
   District Vice President, 1975-1976
   District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, 1976-1977
   State President, 1986-1987
1972-1973 Lyman E. Kendrick
1973-1974 Larry D. VanTilburg
1974-1975 Le Roy M. Nordblum
Does Drove #203

Does Drove 203 is known as Englewood Drove 203 and was instituted November 13, 1967. The charter was closed on December 29, 1967. At the time, one hundred members were required to close the charter.

Supreme President Esther McMullen reposed confidence on Sister Garland Bowden, Past President of Lodge #141, Venice-Nokomis, as Supreme Deputy for the purpose of organizing a new Subordinate Drove in Englewood on November 13, 1967.

The charter was presented to the first President of the Englewood Drove, Winifred Dignam, in Charlotte, NC by the Supreme President, Esther M. McMullen.

Past Presidents of Does Drove

1968  Winifred Dignam
1969  Annette Dignam
1970  Patricia Stoletz
1971  Rosemond Foster
1972  Evelyn Etz
1973  Elizabeth Wood
1974  Melina Lanlais
1975  Dorothy Miller
1976  Peggy Wallis
1977  Lorraine Peterson
1978  Bernice Lynch
1979  Biedella H. Henshaw
1980  Julie Whitcomb
1981  Heddy Carpenter
1982  Adelaide Turner
1983  Margo White
1984  Vivian Lawrence
1985  Naomi Henderson
1986  Hazel Terlecky
1987  Jean Fasano
1988  Emily Corson
1989  Grace Kulka
1990  Mary Gill
1991  Norma Evans
1992  Helen Rich
1993  Priscilla Taylor
1994  Evelyn Leonard
1995  Carol MacLean
1996  Julie Walters
1997  E. Jean Brauer
1997-1998  Carole Caldwell, Supreme President, B. P. O. Does

Emergency Educational Fund Grants

*(See Elks National Foundation)*

Esquire (Grand)

*(See Officers)*

Essay Contest

*(See Americanism Essay Contest)*

Eustis Lodge 1578

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>District:</th>
<th>North Central</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instituted:</td>
<td>July 10, 1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chartered:</td>
<td>February 6, 1930</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>George W. Hommel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ladies:</td>
<td>Anna Miller Circle #1578</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2000 Membership:</td>
<td>1,625</td>
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<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>1,370</td>
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<td>Year 2007 Membership:</td>
<td>1,266</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
<td>1,188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>Every Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>2540 Dora Avenue, Tavares, FL 32778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>352-343-5000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eustis was not the original name chosen for the city. The people of Eustis, on the east shore of Lake Eustis, took their time deciding on a name. First it was Highlands, then Pendryville, and finally Lake Eustis, named in about 1825 for General Abraham Eustis. The forces of General Eustis, prominent in the Seminole wars, had skirmishes with the Indians on the south shore of the lake near present Tavares.

When pioneer settlers such as the Cliffords, Smiths, Morins, Gottsches, Kings, and Levels moved to Eustis after 1850, they found an abundance of pine trees, scrub oaks, palmettos, and cypress trees. These early pioneers planted citrus groves, built homes, and raised their children.

In 1876, A. S. Pendry homesteaded land and set out a citrus grove. In the fall of 1877 he opened the Ocklawaka Hotel. The post office in the hotel lobby carried the sign, “Pendryville.” By 1877 it had grown to the extent that they had a local supply store and hotel. In 1882 they saw the addition of a post office, school, church, and rail service. They enjoyed their tropical landscapes, magnificent fishing, excellent hunting, and a near perfect climate.

Before the railroads came in the middle of the 1880s, Eustis was a busy port for steamers plying Lakes Harris, Eustis, Dora, and Griffin. In 1881 the “Lake” was dropped from the name and the town just became Eustis.

A big year was 1878 when the town’s first telegraph line connected Eustis, Leesburg, and Sanford. The first railroad came in 1880 from Astor to Fort Mason where passengers and freight could make lake steamer connections to Leesburg, Helena, Yalaha, Lane Park, and Tavares. The economy of Eustis was largely agricultural from its earliest beginnings to the freezings of the 1980s. Melon and vegetable farming added to the wealth created by citrus. The train engineers blew long continuing blasts of the locomotive whistle when freezing weather was expected, thus notifying farmers in the county of the expected frost peril of their crops.

Churches have played a vital role in Eustis’ history, beginning in the late 1870s with a Sunday school in the Crooked Lake Schoolhouse. Once the Clifford store was built in 1881, services were held in the large second floor room. The first church organized in Eustis was the Episcopal in 1881. It was followed by the Methodist in 1882, Presbyterian in 1883, and Christian in 1886. Some three to four black churches were established during this period.

By 1929 Eustis had grown and now they looked to adding an Elks Lodge. Their first meeting was held on November 1, 1929 in the office of the Eustis Lake region newspaper for the purpose of considering application to Grand Lodge for dispensation to form a Lodge. Present were George W. Hummel, Lakewood, OH Lodge #1350; M. E. Brewster, Eustis; Rufus Jackson, New Mexico Lodge #413; J. M. O’Neal; B. H. Hippler, Eustis; W. P. Dickerson, Lawrenceburg, IL Lodge; Curtis Lindstrom, Exalted Ruler of DeLand Lodge #1463; and L. F. Chapman, DDGER of Florida East. George Hummel was elected temporary Chairman and M. E. Brewster was elected temporary Secretary.

Their fourth meeting was held on January 28, 1930. In answer to a call by L. F. Chapman, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Florida East, the following Elks of Eustis met in the city of Eustis to vote on the application of proposed Elks as new members of the Order and to make such plans and take such steps as to secure a dispensation from the Grand Exalted Ruler, Walter P. Andrews of Atlanta, GA, for the institution of an Elks Lodge in Eustis. Applications of 55 men were read and approved for initiation after the institution of the Lodge.

On February 4, 1930, about forty members and proposed members were present at a meeting. February 19, 1930 was selected as the date for the institution of the new Lodge. The event started with a parade downtown at 4 p.m. followed by a fish fry for members and visitors. Institution of the Lodge was performed by DeLand Elks.

There were sixty charter members, and George Hummel served as their first Exalted Ruler.

Grand Lodge Officers were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>L. F. Chapman, DDGER, Florida East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Leading Knight</td>
<td>Frank P. Thompson, DDGER, Florida West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Harold C. Colee, State President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>Justin Van Buskirk, Past State President, Orlando</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Secretary</td>
<td>Walter Hawkins, DeLand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Chaplain</td>
<td>Father A. S. Peck, State Chaplain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esquire</td>
<td>L. Curtis Linstrom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Organist</td>
<td>Charles Rohde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Inner Guard</td>
<td>A. J. Rohde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Tiler</td>
<td>I. O. Bertron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Charter Officers of Eustis Lodge were:

- Exalted Ruler: George W. Hummel
- Leading Knight: Harold Hippler
- Loyal Knight: Ernest R. Hutchings
- Lecturing Knight: Judge E. M. Tally
- Secretary: W. E. Seacole
- Treasurer: Jacob St. John
- Tiler: Hillary B. Garvin
- Esquire: G. A. Combs
- Chaplain: Dr. D. T. Johnson
- Trustees: C. Z. Osborne, Rufus Jackson, W. P. Dickerson

The following were charter members: Robert E. Angel; F. M. Boyer; Charles E. Butler; Clarence T. Barbour; George Barnes; S. P. Beale; J. H. Bradshaw; Ben S. Crosby; Gilbert A. Combs; Adolphus Carraway; Harold L. Coleman; Bernard S. Derks; Cecil E. Dibble; George J. Dykes; J. W. Drake; William G. Davis; Lewis J. Dedrick; A. B. Dean; E. T. Williams; Barney Dillard, Jr.; W. P. Dickerson; Harry Feigin; Clarence E. Foshee; Charles M. French; Joseph B. Gibney; Hilary B. Garvin; C. V. Griffin; Henry Gaitskill; Rogers G. Giles; Fisher W. Hannum; and J. K. Houlberg.

On February 21 of that same year, Exalted Ruler Hummel called a special meeting for the purpose of paying bills and setting an amount for Lodge dues. Dues were thus set at $12 payable semiannually.

On March 7, 1930, they embarked on their first community charitable cause on record with the sponsorship of a Boy Scout troop. At this time their electric bill was an overwhelming $2.28. On the 28th of this month the officers of Daytona Beach Lodge conducted initiation ceremonies, initiating 35 new members.

On April 11, 1930, Grand Exalted Ruler Walter P. Andrews from Atlanta was present to install newly elected officers for 1930-1931. Officers of DeLand Lodge acted as Grand Lodge officers. Following the meeting, GER Andrews spoke at some length on the growth of Elkdom and congratulated Eustis on its rapid growth.

It is noted that at a meeting on September 19, 1930, Charles Butler stated that B. G. Porter made no charge for the use of a Victrola.

On January 9, 1931, an event that would have lasting impetus with Florida Elks was beginning. The Lodge received communications from State President J. L. Reed stating that he and a number of prominent physicians would be in Eustis on Saturday to look into the possibilities of the hotel building for hospital business which had been offered by Brother H. R. P. Miller. By September 4, Exalted Ruler Harold Hippler reported that after meeting in Orlando, the State Association had taken over the Umatilla hotel for a home to be used for crippled children. By October 16, Miller was reporting to the Lodge that Sam Owens had donated a block of land adjoining the home on the north. On November 6, dedication ceremonies were held in Umatilla.

On April 3, 1931, Brother Harry Miller spoke of the Lodge owning its own home which he claimed was in sight as soon as we reached 250 members. Mr. Miller and Dave Wiggins offered $1,000 each to this cause. This was the first mention of owning their own building. On September 18 Miller stated that if the Lodge should obtain a membership of 200 by February 22, 1932, he would sponsor a banquet for the entire Lodge. On December 1, 1931 they held an initiation class of 54 candidates, 45 of them residents of Umatilla. The class was named “Harry-Anna Memorial Class.”

In May of 1931, Harry Miller suggested that the Lodge sponsor the improvement of the Lake Joanna Bathing Beach. Upon a motion by Brother Hummel, the matter was referred to the community welfare committee for action. By the 29th of May, Brother Savage was able to report that the bathhouse for ladies was finished. Douglas Igou made a motion to furnish mule and man and A. B. Dean to furnish scoops to haul sand at Lake Joanna.

In 1931 Willis V. McCall was initiated into the Lodge. He later became a Florida State Elks Association President.

For the first two years they met in the Arborio Building on the corner of Bay and Magnolia in what later became the Thompson Furniture Building. It was through the good graces of John Arborio who donated the space free on the second floor of the building that they were able to enjoy this first home. Arborio was a member of New Haven, CT Lodge #25.

In 1932, W. W. Trimpi offered his property on Magnolia Street for sale. Trimpi was asking $3,500 for the property which was more than they felt they would be able to handle. Harry Miller talked to Trimpi and offered to...
donate $1,000 if Trimpi would reduce his price by $1,000. The members all got together and with various donations and contributions, they raised the $1,500 necessary to purchase the property outright. Some remodeling was done to the house, a few changes were made, and the Elks Lodge began its growth.

Miller was active in visiting Lodges in North and West Florida promoting the Harry-Anna Hospital. Full support of all of the Lodges was given except for Jacksonville, which at the time had withdrawn from the State Association.

As far back as 1933, the Eustis Elks were helping the youth of the area by providing milk for nourishment during the tough years of the Depression. Christmas baskets were also distributed to needy families, a tradition that has carried on through the years. In this year Brother Miller was instrumental in the furnishing of a glass of milk daily to undernourished children of the Eustis, Umatilla, and Tavares schools. The results were shown in a decided improvement in weight and quality of schoolwork with the children.

On December 15, Brother Hummel spoke on the coming visit of the Grand Exalted Ruler to DeLand Lodge and the Harry-Anna Home in Umatilla. He came to the Eustis Lodge and delivered his address to the members present. Brother Hippler moved that the Lodge give one dollar per member to the Harry-Anna Home annually to be used for the maintenance of the home. It passed.

The Ladies Anna Miller Circle was being discussed in 1933 and they formed for the purpose of supporting the state major project as well as those for the local Lodge. The ladies were holding discussions at the Grandview Hotel for organization purposes.

The Visiting and Relief Committee was active during the year. They furnished 24 bouquets to members and families who were overtaken by sickness and bereavement to add cheer and comfort to their home and fireside. A total of 41 Christmas baskets were delivered to needy families in towns of Astor, Umatilla, Altoona, Seneca, Cassia, Eustis, Tavares, and Mount Dora. The committee this year recorded 124 visits to members and their families who were sick or ill.

Miller was appointed as Chairman of the Home Purchasing Committee. On January 18, 1934 he made a written report to members of the Lodge:

Dear Brothers:

As Chairman of the committee appointed to investigate and recommend the purchase of a property for use as a Club Room and Home for this lodge, I beg to report the following.

Your Committee, after casting about for probable locations, centered upon and investigated the W.W. Trimpe home on the corner of Hawley and Magnolia Streets. This is an old frame residence, being about 38’ x 45’, on three full lots, running from Magnolia to MacDonald Street, taking in about one third of a block; all pavement, sidewalks and taxes paid. The paving and sidewalks alone represent an investment of $3,500.

The writer called upon Mr. Trimpe at his residence on Lake Harris, told just exactly our financial conditions. He priced the property at $3,500. Then for the purpose of an Elks Home, he said he would take $3,000. I suggested to him that it would be nice if he would give a thousand dollars toward that Home, making the property even $2,000. He looked at me with that cute Irish grin and said, “I’ll do it.” Your Committee comprised of Brothers Patrick, Chandler, Hummel, Wiggins, Gibney, Kennedy, Conklin and the writer, all voted to recommend the purchase of this property at $2,000.

If you will pardon me for going into details, I’ll give you a few approximate figures. These figures may be a thousand dollars high or a thousand dollars low, but here they are and you can digest them. With an investment of $2,000 in the property, figuring $500 for an outside screen porch, $750 for a new roof, and $300 for paint, we have a total of $3,550 invested. I added to that $1,000 for inside work, which would include a good hardwood dance floor in the lodge room. That gives us a total of $4,500 without any furniture. I estimated that the downstairs can be furnished in very comfortable overstuffed furniture for $1,500, making a total overall of $6,050. The lodge room furniture, we have, and it will necessitate no additional investment. It has been suggested by some of the committee that my figures are a little low, and that we should make arrangements to raise $7,500. I am neither a builder nor an inside decorator. These figures I have given you have been passed on to me from builders that we had look it over.

I understand we have cash on hand, $3,500. The writer obligates himself to contribute $1,000, with a string tied to it, and here’s the string - that the Lodge raise sufficient money to dedicate this Home free of all debt. It would necessitate raising a little over $2,000. I would suggest, in event that this recommendation is accepted by the Lodge, that there would be an effort made to sell ten Life Memberships at $200.00 each.

Your committee realizes that our little lodge here has outlived its present quarters. We must have a homey, comfortable home of our own or we’re on the downhill grade. We have nothing here to offer as an inducement for new members, and unless the life-saver is thrown out at an early date, personally, I feel that we’re in danger of drowning.
The writer has made a statement and wishes to verify it in this letter, that in event of purchase of this property, at any time this property should become a burden and the lodge would wish to sell it, I will reimburse them for their original investment in the property.

Respectfully submitted,

H.R.P. Miller, Chairman

On January 18, 1934, the board of trustees called a special meeting to take action on the recommendations of Chairman Miller. C. Howard Hippler called the meeting to order and a motion was made by Barney Dillard, Jr. as follows:

*It was reported by the Special Building Committee, as well as action of the Lodge in voting to instruct the trustees to purchase the Trimpe property for $3,000 with the understanding that $1,000 of the purchasing price is donated to the Lodge by Mr. Trimpe, making the net purchasing price $2,000, where-upon Barney Dillard, Jr. moved that they buy the property at $2,000 net, provided the seller furnish a warranty deed and abstract showing good clear and merchantable title, free and clear of all encumbrances, taxes and assessments to the First State Bank at Eustis, Florida. Said abstract to be examined by C. Harold Hippler as Attorney for the Trustees and title to be approved by him and he report to the Board of Trustees.*

This motion was seconded by George J. Dykes and carried by a favorable vote.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for Phase I of a proposed three phase Lodge building program were held on Saturday, September 26, 1937. Over one hundred members and their families gathered for the ceremony. The cost for construction of Phase I was approximately $160,000. There was $120,000 raised through membership bonds with the balance being financed through an institutional loan.

The Grand Opening and Dedication of Phase I took place on May 13, 1978. Past State President Willis McCall was the main speaker, and three charter members were present. An estimated crowd of 1,000 attended the Grand Opening throughout the course of the day.

In 1980, thirteen of the Lodge Elks known as the “Krazy Kitchen Krew” and their ladies had a dream. What they dreamed of was a bus that could be used to transport children of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital to functions and attractions throughout Florida.

The “Krazy Kitchen Krew” saved tips that they received from serving food in the Lodge dining room as well as donations from auctions, shows, rummage sales, the Anna Miller Circle, and many of their Lodge members. In one spectacular week they raised $16,000, and finally their dream turned into reality and they were able to purchase a 26-passenger bus.

The bus was put to work in a number of duties which included that of Lodge visitations throughout the district, VIP visitors, private parties, football weekends in Gainesville, and of course to transport the young hospital guests to outings and functions throughout the state. In 1992 the era of the bus ended when it was sold to a Lodge member, Gil Allen, and his wife, Donna.

During the years that it performed the many duties demanded, many people contributed to the operation and maintenance of the bus, but none more than Jim and Georgia Simpson (who negotiated the sale to the Allens). Jim claimed that his wife, Georgia, had spent many hours keeping the inside of the bus clean as the “greatest, shortest, little porter in the world.” The era of the bus provided many happy outings for the children at the Harry-Anna Hospital.

On March 1, 1995 a $900,000 structure located on a lakefront tract of land on Lake Saunders in Tavares, southwest of Eustis, was completed. The building was partially financed by a $500,000 building bond fund established five years previously.

**Past Exalted Rulers**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1930-1931</td>
<td>George W. Hummel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931-1932</td>
<td>C. Harold Hippler</td>
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<td>1932-1933</td>
<td>Fischer R. Hannum</td>
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<td>Herbert C. Wales</td>
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<td>Charles E. Butler</td>
</tr>
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<td>E. M. Savage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937-1938</td>
<td>C. C. Conklin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1938-1939  Zera Giles
1939-1940  M. F. Bunnell
1940-1941  Col. C. E. Lester
1941-1942  S. E. Bailes
1942-1943  W. E. Seacole
1943-1944  Franklin P. Hatfield
1944-1945  Herbert A. Babb
1945-1946  Frank E. Owens, Sr.
1946-1947  Willis V. McCall
1947-1948  Dewey H. Livingston
1948-1949  F. H. McCrae
1949-1950  Frank Stevens
1950-1951  Michael F. Carter
1951-1952  Ralph Rhodes
1952-1953  Frank L. Treen, Jr.
1953-1954  Jasper J. Wolfe
1954-1955  Roy Lee McWhorter
1955-1956  Allen P. Copeland
1956-1957  John M. Kennedy
1957-1958  Frederick L. Belton
1958-1959  Arthur L. Hampy
1959-1960  Malcolm V. McCall
1960-1961  Robert J. Koss
1961-1962  Frederick L. Belton
1962-1963  Warren C. Reynolds
1963-1964  John M. Kennedy
1964-1965  Frank L. Treen, Jr.
1965-1966  Fred E. Cross, Jr.
1966-1967  Earl N. Roth
1967-1968  Leonard B. Hammond
1968-1969  Kenneth G. Ellis
1969-1970  C. W. McCauslin
1970-1971  Keith Ellis
1971-1972  James C. Oliver
1972-1973  John T. Hauserman
1973-1974  Cohen C. Hodges
1975-1976  Noel F. Lunsford
1976-1977  Fredrick C. Belton
1977-1978  John L. Black
1978-1979  Dale Gayken
1979-1980  Robert C. Spraker

Ladies Organization: Anna Miller Circle 1578

The purpose of the Anna Miller Circle is to promote among its members a spirit of fellowship and to provide through this circle a practical means to form enduring friendships and to render altruistic service and to improve the circumstances, physical and otherwise, of unfortunate crippled children.

Mrs. Vair Schneider was the organization chairman for the Eustis Anna Miller Circle #1578. Their first slate of officers was installed on November 11, 1948, the year the Circle was organized. Their first President was Mrs. Ollie Mae Dillard.

Its name, Anna Miller Circle, was derived from the founders of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital, Harry and Anna Miller.

From a small membership of eight members it has continued to grow.
Its main purpose was to assist the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital in reaching its objective of caring for orthopedic children. As a second objective, the circle had dedicated itself to assist Eustis Elks Lodge #1578 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in all its endeavors.

One of their largest income producers was the annual Cedar Chest raffle. Each Anna Miller member was asked to purchase or sell two books of tickets and donate a gift for the cedar chest which is donated by a member of the Eustis Elks Lodge #1578. The chest would then be raffled off at the annual Holly Ball held in December.

Each year the Circle honors one of its members as “Anna Miller of the Year.” They also present an Eager Beaver award. They honor their Past Presidents and dedicate the yearbook to a very special person. Annually they memorialize their deceased members.

Some of the activities that the Circle has sponsored over the years has included the Exalted Rulers Dance, Holly Ball, Coke and Bridge parties, rummage sales, luncheons, Halloween and Christmas parties for the children, fashion shows, kitchen tours, luaus, Italian and Mexican nights, and come as you are breakfasts.

One of their more comical events was a softball game against the Lodge in which the men were attired in dresses, wigs, and high heels. Following the game, hamburgers and hot dogs were served.

In the early days of their growth they helped serve buffet dinners and waited on tables while the children washed the dishes. This was a big boost during the lean years of the Lodge.

One of their members, Mrs. Irene Bond, was awarded the “Point of Light” award in 1992 by President George Bush. Irene had been very active at the Children’s Hospital. Some called her an angel of God to these children by teaching them arts and crafts. This was a weekly endeavor and all of her time and labor were donated. Other members helped at the hospital in assisting them in making phone calls to their parents on Thursdays and for the children’s pizza parties.

(Portions of this information was obtained through the efforts of their Historical Information Committee which included Past Presidents Olga Belton, Sarah Buie, Arlie D. Carter (Charter Member), Doyne Stan, and Flora Knorr.)

Exalted Rulers/Secretaries Luncheons

For many years during the Annual State Convention, an Exalted Rulers/Secretaries luncheon was held. At the 74th Annual Convention held in Miami Beach in May of 1980, the board of directors voted to suspend the luncheons. The reasoning for this action was primarily based on the cost and attempting to stay within budgetary restraints. The directors also stated a factor in the cost was the fact that Secretaries often served more than one year and would thus be attending luncheons in each of those years.

Excise Laws

In the winter of 1866, the legislature in the state of New York enacted a rigid excise law which, at the time of the “Cork” period in the closing part of 1867 and early 1868, was so unjust in its exactions as to cause popular condemnation. At this time New York City had a Superintendent of Police by the name of Kennedy who was backed by Commissioner Acton who had nerve enough to enforce it. Every place was closed up tight on Sunday.

These excise laws made it difficult for the group which was later known as the Jolly Corks and then the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. As actors, they were busy with their occupation, but when Sunday rolled around, they were unable to enjoy spirits and relax because of these stringent laws.

It became the motivation for the group led by Vivian to organize with the purpose of meeting at the boardinghouse with friends and to partake of spirits. One of the members was designated to gather spirits and refreshments on Saturday and stock the boardinghouse of Mrs. Geisman. Then on Sunday when off from their various entertainment engagements, they could all gather and enjoy the comradeship.