Gainesville Lodge 990

District: Northeast
Instituted: August 30, 1905
Chartered: July 20, 1906
Charter Exalted Ruler: Louis C. Lynch
Charter Members: 43
Year 1992 Membership: 400
Year 1993 Membership: 420
Year 1994 Membership: 409
Year 2005 Membership: 310
Year 2006 Membership: 328
Year 2007 Membership: 342
Year 2008 Membership: 334
Meets: 1st & 3rd Wednesday
Location: 2424 NW 23rd Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32605
Ladies Organization: Elks Wives of Gainesville Lodge #990

Gainesville is the county seat of Alachua County and home of the University of Florida. Gen. Edmund Pendleton Gaines, for whom Gainesville received its name, captured Aaron Burr. When de Soto traveled through here in 1539, it was known as Potano Province, but it was later renamed Alachua when Creek Indians came into its possession after the English acquired Florida in 1763. Around 1830, the white settlement here became known as Hog Town. When the Yulee Railroad came through here on the way to Cedar Key in 1853, they thought the name was quite undignified and although Commissioner William R. Lewis offered his own name, they settled on Gainesville.

On August 30, 1905, the first officers of Gainesville Lodge #990 were installed. The institution of the Lodge took place on the third floor of the Dutton Bank Building located at the corner of University Avenue and Garden Street.

The following were charter officers:

- Exalted Ruler: L. C. Lynch
- Leading Knight: Joe Manassee
- Loyal Knight: Joseph G. Torrey
- Lecturing Knight: Robert E. Davis
- Secretary: A. M. Cushman
This was only one year after the Florida State Elks Association was organized in Tampa in November of 1904. James D. Burbridge, DDGER from Jacksonville Lodge No. 221, and James R. Walsh, Acting Grand Exalted Ruler, opened the proceedings. These men along with officers from Lake City Lodge No. 893 handled the installation of the first Gainesville Lodge.

Their first Grand Lodge honor came in 1908 when Henry S. Chubb was elected as the first District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler from the Gainesville Lodge. Chubb was the first of more than eleven District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers from the Gainesville Lodge.

Walter J. Matherly, J. Pierce Smith, and C. Valentine Bates all served as State Presidents and were from Gainesville Lodge. Bates went on to serve as Grand Exalted Ruler. When Rupert Zeigler was Exalted Ruler of Gainesville 990, he initiated Matherly and Smith into the Order.

Since their first location in the Dutton Bank Building, they have been located at the corner of University Avenue and Pleasant Street, 1001 West University Avenue, and at their present location.

Since moving to their current location, they have constructed a new Lodge building.

The following are charter members: L. C. Lynch; Joe Manassse; Henry S. Chubb; J. F. McKinstry, Jr.; Joseph G. Torrey; Marcus Endel; A. M. Cushman; Lee Graham; L. J. Burkhim; J. S. Jolly; Antoine Paul; E. J. Sheffield; J. A. Goodwin; B. K. Thower; E. A. Cooper; J. M. Turner, Jr.; J. M. Dell, Jr.; E. C. Cobb; E. Lee Hughes; A. K. Blanding; R. L. Black; C. D. Dennis; Jesse E. Burt; W. N. Benedict; Robert E. Davis; J. M. Endel; H. C. Futch; H. H. McCreary; A. F. O’Neal; B. Daugherty; F. E. Dennis; H. C. Stevens; W. R. Eddins; W. C. Summers; D. B. Morris; E. C. Pierson; J. A. Ettel; B. K. Chase; Drayton Avera; M. F. McCook; W. E. Dow; and D. D. Powell.

**Florida State Elks Association Presidents:**

- 1951-1952: Walter J. Matherly
- 1957-1958: J. Pierce Smith

**Grand Exalted Ruler:**


**District Vice Presidents:**

- 1944-1945: Henry S. Chubb
- 1954-1955: Rupert Zeigler
- 1962-1963: J. Pierce Smith
- 1965-1966: Maxey Dell
- 1970-1971: M. F. Brunson
- 1975-1976: George Reeves
- 1983-1984: Walter Matherly
- 1994-1995: Rudy Freeman
- 2004-2005: B. W. Bryant
- 1975-1976: Joe Ponzio
- 1983-1984: Larry M. Croy

**Treasurer:** Lee Graham

**Tiler:** L. L. Burkhim

**Esquire:** E. C. Cobb

**Inner Guard:** E. J. Sheffield

**Organist:** H. C. Futch
District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers:

1908-1909  Henry S. Chubb
1938-1939  J. Maxey Dell
1945-1946  Rupert Zeigler
1950-1951  Walter J. Matherly
1953-1954  B. W. Bryant
1955-1956  J. Pierce Smith
1959-1960  W. Lee Monk
1963-1964  M. F. Brunson
1967-1968  George Reeves
1972-1973  Rudy Freeman
1976-1977  Joe Ponzio
1985-1986  Larry Croy
1990-1991  C. Valentine Bates

Anna Miller Circle/Elks Wives of Gainesville

On January 22, 1946, with the help of Dr. W. H. Morton, Chairman of the Ladies Committee, eight ladies created the Anna Miller Circle. It was 1946, the beginning of the realization for the men of Elkdom that they needed women to assist in reaching their goals.

In 1946, the men of Gainesville Lodge #990 made many suggestions to the ladies and announced that the club facilities and dining room facilities would be available to the ladies as a place of meeting and for their social functions. It is continued today as it was then, men and women hand in hand striving toward common goals.

At that first meeting, Mrs. Roy Dean was elected Chairman of the group.

In an original printing dated March 27, 1946, the purpose of the organization was stated to be the following: “One of the main objects of the Anna Miller Circle is to assist the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Commission, through individual and collective service, in its program of relief for crippled children of Florida, particularly in the support of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home.”

Through the years, the ladies of the Elks Wives of Gainesville have also assisted local service oriented groups both financially and in physical service. The name of the organization has since changed to its present name, Elks Wives of Gainesville, but regardless of changes, new ideas mingle with old and a stronger, united club emerges.

Money has been raised through yard sales, card parties, variety shows, fashion shows, dances, raffles, donations, and many other projects. The wives also help the Elks with their fundraising and in-house projects to ensure an even greater success.

Past Ladies Presidents:

Organizing Chairwoman  Mrs. Roy Dean
1946-1947  Mrs. D. S. Fagan
1947-1948  Mrs. R. W. Beaty
1948-1949  Mrs. W. D. Joiner
1949-1950  Mrs. Mavis Roberts
1950-1951  Mrs. Mavis Roberts
1951-1952  Mrs. Lee Bush
1952-1953  Mrs. Leon Mims
1953-1954  Mrs. Robert Black, Jr.
1954-1955  Mrs. James Gay
1955-1956  Mrs. James Gay
1956-1957  Mrs. Harry T. Poole
1957-1958  Mrs. H. Dozier Dowling
1958-1959  Mrs. Dashwood Hicks
1959-1960  Mrs. John McNellis
1960-1961  Mrs. Clarence Collier
1961-1962  Mrs. Tom Allen
Gambling

Gambling in Florida Elks Lodges has been strictly forbidden both by Florida state law and Grand Lodge. Florida Sponsor, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Grafton, made note of some of the consequences of Lodges permitting gambling within their facilities in his Winter 2002-2003 Edition of the *Florida Elks News*:

“Two of our lodges were raided by the State authorities for the possession of illegal gambling devices. It is somewhat discouraging, because I have, over the past 10 years, advised, warned and threatened that any Lodge with illegal gambling would be laced with severe sanctions.

“The Exalted Rulers of the two lodges have been removed by Executive Order of the Grand Exalted Ruler and the lodges have been placed on probation.

“What is also facing the employees and officers of the lodges is the real possibility of criminal charges.

“There are 116 lodges in Florida that are involved, progress and prosper without illegal gambling.

“There are two lodges whose community reputation has been sullied, and whose officers face an uncertain future.

“The only assurance that my experience provides is that any income the lodges earned from the illegal activities will be expended in lawyer fees, fines and other reparations required.”

Gavel (Vivians)

Brother John Wilton, a wood turner, turned out the first gavel. It was neatly made of ebony and used by Charles Vivian as the presiding officer. The same gavel was carried away from the infant New York Lodge of Elks by Richard Stierly, and years later he personally gave it to GER Meade Detweiler for presentation to the Grand Lodge as a historical relic of the beginnings of the Order of Elks. That gavel is now in the possession of the Grand Lodge archives.

Wilton was one of the original Jolly Corks but later dropped from sight.

“G” Boxes

During World War II, the Elks War Commission sponsored the shipping of thousands of “G” boxes to Elks members serving in the armed services all over the world. These goodwill packages brought friendly messages from the home Lodge letting them know that their brothers were thinking of them.
Folding boxes were sent to each subordinate Lodge to be filled with smoking material, candy, handkerchiefs, shaving equipment, and other items. Placed at cigar counters in Lodge homes, members were asked to buy something for the boys when making their own purchases. As the boxes were filled, they were mailed to a Lodge member at a military station.

Thousands of “G” boxes were mailed to the Elks and their buddies both overseas and at home. Thousands of letters were received expressing thanks and the pleasure the boxes gave them.

**Geisman, Mrs. Arnold**

Mrs. Arnold Geisman was the owner of a boardinghouse located at 188 Elm Street in New York, later known as Lafayette Street. Mrs. Geisman’s family consisted of Arnold Geisman, a violinist; Mrs. Geisman, the wife and mother who ran the boardinghouse; Henry Geisman, a son, pianist, and prompter for parties and dances; and two daughters.

Another house nearby had similar boarders. One of these was the pretty daughter of its owner, Mrs. Ryan, at 39 Wooster Street. The daughter, Annie, became one of the chief attractions, even with the boarders at Mrs. Geisman’s. Annie was always nearby, attending the cigar stand in Butler’s American Theater at 472 Broadway.

It was at Mrs. Geisman’s that Charles Vivian, founder of the Order of Elks, had formed a group for strictly social sessions when he first arrived in New York from England. New York blue laws had forced public establishments that were suitable for gatherings to be closed on Sundays. This was the only day when those in the theatrical business were free to relax. New York was very dry. Vivian was quite disturbed with this restriction and with the fact that it caused Sunday to be a day of extreme tedium. Gathering his new American friends about him, he arranged to meet on Sundays in the attic of the Geisman boarding home for supper and whatever other diversions came up. Supper was the evening meal, a term still quite familiar in the northeast and New England.

The affairs grew in attendance and it became apparent that they would need some planning and preparation to guarantee that food and beverage would be on hand, and so a stock of beer was brought in the night before to circumvent the blue laws. They also found the need for a loose organization to make sure that stocks were on hand and that whatever else needed attention was taken care of. The group called themselves the Jolly Corks, a name derived from a trick that Vivian introduced to uninitiated persons (see Jolly Cork Trick).

As the meetings grew at Mrs. Geisman’s, they also became disturbing to other boarders. The result was that they were required to forego their Sunday gatherings although Mrs. Geisman continued to support the group and felt they were almost family; they were always interested in her welfare. A new meeting place was found over a saloon owned by Paul Summers located at 17 Delancy Street. Four weeks later they moved to Military Hall (see Military Hall).
Girard, Frank, Grand Exalted Ruler, 1876-1878

Frank Giraud, professionally known as Girard, was born in Brooklyn, NY on July 7, 1840. He was educated there in public schools. He learned his trade of blacksmith, practically with his father, and afterwards at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Early in the 1860s he became a minstrel with Dick Hooley in the latter’s opera house on Court Street in Brooklyn. The young actor made a success. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in the Navy and was in the mechanical department on one of the ships, one of the few steam vessels down in Hampton Roads at that time. When the Monitor rammed the Cumberland, the commander of the ship called the crew on deck and asked for volunteers to go on some hazardous service, a forlorn hope, and Frank and his brother were the first to offer their service. He served through his enlistment and had an honorable discharge.

He then joined a circus as a cannonball juggler and then joined a minstrel company as a balladist. After the war excitement had quieted down, he was engaged to go down to New Orleans on the ill-fated Evening Star which wrecked 280 miles off Tybee Light (near Savannah, GA) on October 3, 1866, and he wrote a very interesting pamphlet on the event.

When it was known to him that the vessel was sinking, Frank was down in the passenger cabin and saw a young girl on her knees praying, and he said to her, “come with me.” Taking her by the hand, they started for the door of the cabin but the seas rushed over the fast sinking ship. They were struck by the violent force of the inrush of waters which broke his hold on the girl’s hand. He made a quick jump through a porthole or window in the side of the cabin, but one of his legs was caught in the superstructure of the cabin deck outside the cabin of the ship which resulted in a badly injured leg in the struggle to escape. He was in the water badly injured and without food or water for five days and finally washed ashore, or was picked up, with several others. He was left exhausted, hungry, thirsty, and semiconscious on the beach for several days while the few survivors started to look for help, food, and shelter.

They found a house, approached the occupants, and told them their story and condition of the wounded man left on the beach. They were told that until they went back and brought the wounded man for supper, no help or food would be given to them. They returned and picked up Girard, bringing him to the house. When he recovered consciousness, he found himself in bed with doctors about him taking their instruments out and getting ready to amputate his wounded leg. He refused to consent to the loss of the leg. They argued that it would have to be done to
save his life. Half raising himself in bed, he gave the hailing sign of a Master Mason, which was recognized and
answered by one of the party. His brother came to his relief and taking care of him, hired two colored girls, by
relays, to keep pouring ice water incessantly on the wounded leg all night until another surgeon from a distance
could be brought there. The surgeon finally arrived, opened the leg, scraped the bone, treated it, and finally managed
to save his leg, but it always bothered him for the rest of his life.

After that he joined Hooley’s Minstrels and later the Tony Pastor forces with which he remained for a great
many years. He left Pastor to go on the road with a piece called “A Cold Day When We Get Left,” but it proved to
be an unusually bad winter. He then spent a season with Gus Williams on the road. His last engagement was with J.
K. Emmet and Lottie Gilson.

He married Martha A. Quackenbush in 1800. They had two children.

He became associated at different times with several real estate concerns and finally became the local agent
of a real estate concern handling the western Coney Island property called Seagate. There he was engaged to the end
of his career which occurred in Brooklyn in 1900. Edgar, his son, was the late manager of the Gotham Theatre in
Brooklyn, NY.

Girard’s service with the Elks is vast. He joined the New York Elks on January 9, 1870 and advanced on
April 3, being No. 155 on the membership role. He served in one of the subordinate chairs and was Exalted Ruler
for two terms. He demitted to the Brooklyn Lodge in 1884 and served as Exalted Ruler to build up that Lodge. In
1876 he was elected Grand Exalted Ruler and was reelected in 1877. He was the first Grand Exalted Ruler to sign a
dispensation for New York and Philadelphia; they were chartered by Grand Lodge without formality. San Francisco
#3 was instituted under a dispensation signed by Girard in 1876.

During his term of office, Girard signed institutions for the following Lodges:

San Francisco #3
Chicago #4
Cincinnati #5
Sacramento #6
Baltimore #7
Louisville #8
St. Louis #9
Boston #10

As District Deputy at Large, he instituted more than 22 Lodges.

Girard died at his home at 1432 Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn, NY on November 1, 1900. The funeral was
held in St. Stephen’s English Lutheran Church. The interment took place in Elks’ Rest, Evergreens Cemetery in
Brooklyn.

Tribute to Girard by Henry S. Sanderson

When Elks point with pride to the expansion of this great American fraternity, whose base is brotherly love
and whose crest is charity, “faithful unto death,” just unto all, a fraternity that in all things is American, that follows
the flag but never departs from it; an Order that has grown in a little over a quarter of a century from ten lodges to
more than a thousand, that has crossed the ocean to Hawaii and the Philippines, that extends from the snowy crests
of Alaska to the Caribbean Sea; always loving, always just, always American, seeking naught but love and kindness
to mankind, sowing the seeds of fidelity and brotherhood, it is natural we should ask what sort of men have wrought
this great work?

I shall speak for one – Frank Girard, the pioneer evangelist of Elkdom – the man who for twenty years
gave all his time and effort to the expansion of our fraternity; a man of brawn, trained to the profession of Vulcan,
yet so tender, so kind, so gentle in the sick room, that the hand trained to wield the sledge touched the sufferer with
the gentleness of the zephyr; true to every obligation, ministering to the sick, counseling the sad and the erring,
giving from his own small store to alleviate the distress of others. At times working against great odds and with
smallest of pecuniary resources, he bridled lodges where other dared not try. No journey too long, no obstacle too
formidable, if the goal was another star in the firmament of our Order. His was the glory of Sacramento, San
Francisco, Chicago, Louisville, Cincinnati, Boston, Pittsburg, and many more. He, above all men, laid the
foundations of our grand Brotherhood. It was my privilege to be with him at the birth of Boston, Pittsburg, Buffalo,
and to have his valuable assistance at Detroit, Columbus and Meriden, in my own efforts. As an Elk and as a man I
knew him better, perhaps, than any other. His faults have been washed from the sands by the tides of eternity; his work endureth, and the seed sown grows, bountiful harvests.

**Girl Scout Gold Award Scholarships**

The National Foundation’s Gold Award scholarship program is for young women who have achieved the highest ranking in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

| Eligibility: | Girl Scout Gold Award winner and high school senior |
| Judging Criteria: | Academics, activities, leadership, community involvement, and pursuit of individual interests |
| Awards: | Eight $6,000 scholarships ($1,500 per year) |
| Applications and Deadlines: | Contact local Girl Scout Council |
| Filing Deadline: | Each council must submit its top application to GSUSA headquarters |

**Goddard, William**

The following is an excerpt from *An Authentic History of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks* by Charles Ellis, 1910.

William Goddard of Minneapolis Lodge No. 44, B.P. O. Elks. “Hello Bill” of Elkdom originated with Goddard. This cheerful salutation, which has found its way around the world, originated in Minneapolis during the Elks National Reunion in that city in 1897. Brother Goddard was the junior partner of the Minneapolis firm of Barnaby & Company. He was for a great many years the treasurer of Minneapolis Lodge, No. 44, B.P.O. Elks, and was Chairman of the Finance Committee, a member of a great many other committees that were in charge of the arrangements for the Elks Reunion of that year, and he spent a great deal of his time at the Committee headquarters. When visiting Elks came to the headquarters to inquire about matters they wanted to know about, if they happened to meet anybody who was not fully posted, they were usually told to “Go over there and ask Billy Goddard,” and it was a constant strain of “Billy can tell you,” “See Billy, he knows,” etc. etc. This repeated so incessantly that the stranger Elks when they approached Brother Goddard, greeted him with the expression, “Hello Bill! I was told to see you,” etc., and so the custom started of greeting each other “Hello Bill.” In a day or two the custom spread to the streets, with Elks from all parts of the country, and passing each other they sang out cheerfully, “Hello Bill!” and they carried the greeting back to their home lodges, and so it has spread the end of the earth.

**Government Relations Committee, Florida State Elks Association**

This committee has the duties and responsibilities of implementing the Government Relations program of the Order and the State Association in conjunction with other organizations. The Government Relations Committee was instituted in 1979 because of concern over the continued and varied attacks on the constitutionally guaranteed right of private organizations to determine their own membership qualifications and rules.

Since the court ruling admitting women into the Order, the committee continues with the responsibility of monitoring and analyzing legislative, regulatory, and legal matters in areas of concern and reporting back to the Order.

One of the prime purposes of the Government Relations Committee is to establish within each Lodge a well organized grass roots network of informed members who will be responsive to calls for assistance when local contacts are required. The state and subordinate Lodge Government Relations Committee should include people who can establish and maintain communication with members of legislature, County Board of Supervisors, City Council, and other appointed or elected officials. The committee should maintain a close watch on all levels of government within the state.

A sound Government Relations program is based on the deep conviction of every member of the team that his work is indispensable for the well-being of the Order of Elks. No decisions or determination of policy affecting
the Grand Lodge of the Order of Elks should be made by any individual or group alone. All policy decisions should be made by the Grand Lodge Advisory Committee.

Grafton, Robert “Bob,” PGER, State Advisor

Robert “Bob” Grafton was the third member of Florida Elkdom to bring Elks honors to the state when he was elected Grand Exalted Ruler for 1979-1980. Bob was born in Cleveland, OH on May 7, 1927. He is the son of Thomas C. and Sara (Fitz) Grafton. The family moved to Florida when he was four years old and this has been his permanent residence since.


His other political activities were as Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Riviera Beach from 1962-1973 and as a member of the Planning Board of Riviera Beach from 1965-1970.

He married Patricia Anne Weiland in 1952 and had three children, Elizabeth, Mary, and John.

Grafton comes from an Elks family. His grandfather was a member of the East Liverpool, OH Lodge No. 258 as was his father. Later his father transferred to West Palm Beach Lodge No. 1352.

Grafton was initiated into Elkdom in July 1948 as a member of West Palm Beach Lodge No. 1352. He served in five Lodge chairs and became Exalted Ruler in 1957. Bob became a certified ritual judge in 1958 and helped institute North Palm Beach Lodge No. 2069 (its name changed April 1, 1961 from Riviera Beach). He was a member of the Antlers in 1942 when the Elks youth movement was attempting to gain membership in the Lodges throughout the country. In the latter part of 1944, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy, and like so many other members of the Antlers, this ended his membership therein.

Grafton became Exalted Ruler of Riviera Beach Lodge No. 2069 for 1962-1963. This started his long career in Florida Elkdom where he served as District Vice President in 1964-1965 and District Deputy Grand Exalted in 1965-1966.

As District Vice President of the Southeast District, Grafton made an incisive report before the Fifty-Ninth Annual Convention held at the Mark Lance Armory in St. Augustine, FL. A portion of those remarks are repeated here:
This is a report concerning my activities, observations and recommendations as Vice-President of the Florida State Elks Association, Inc. for the year 1964-65.

Subsequent to election to this office at the Love Convention in Miami Beach, Florida, I immediately ascertained from President Russell J. Saxon the nature and extent of his program for the year. The program involved Harry-Anna Hospital and Trust Fund, Membership Control, Family Participation, Americanism, Ritual and other programs of the past years.

From past experience, it was my observation that the visits of the Vice President and District Deputy were frequently too close together for the Lodges to receive the maximum benefit from both, so I therefore resolved to start my visits as early as possible and complete them as early as possible. This appeared to work quite well as the District Deputy did not commence his visits until October and thus there was no overlap.

One of the ironic things about the visit and message of the Vice-President is that seldom do the members who would be most benefited attend the meeting. Again, from past experience I recognized this problem and endeavored to direct my remarks in such a manner as to instill a greater feeling of the necessity of continued efforts on the part of those who are regular in attendance and faithful in performance of the duties and responsibilities of Elkdom.

One of the most rewarding, both for me and for the Officers of the various Lodges, were the meetings which I held with as many officers as could be present prior to the Lodge meetings. These meetings generally lasted one to one and a half hours. Once the ice was broken and everyone realized it was to be very informal, the discussion of the problems and solutions thereof was quite vigorous. While I directed these discussions into areas of interest to me, they still were free enough to include all manner of problems encountered by the various Lodges. The areas of my interest at these meetings were, (1) Financial condition of the Lodge; (2) Lodge fund raising programs; (3) How well did the indoctrination program fulfill its objectives; (4) How much actual participation was there by members of the Lodge in Youth Activities and other Lodge activities; (5) Membership and Lapsation; (6) Harry-Anna Hospital and Trust Fund Certificates; (7) Officers conduct and example for the membership.

The outcome of these discussions enabled me to pass on much useful and helpful information from one Lodge to another, particularly about programs which succeeded in various Lodges and the manner in which they could be implemented.

A significant thing about the good Lodges, and it was true in every case, was that the officers were very active, interested, and respected by the membership. This respect seemed to be an acknowledgment that these men were leaders by being in the forefront of all the Lodge’s activities; the Lodges with large problems were those in which the officers were not ‘doers’ as well as ‘talkers.’

The most frequently asked question was in relationship to the inter-relationship and functioning of the State Committees and District Committees. Before the Mid-Year meeting of the State Association I was again impressed by several apparent drawbacks in the State Committee set-up - (1) The lack of successful (in the overall picture) working relationship between the State Committee and the similar District Committee. I attribute the majority of this to the situation wherein the seven State Committee Chairmen with assigned members to serve as committeemen for specific purposes are not in close contact with the District Chairmen. In other words, the program goes from the State Secretary to the State Chairman to the State Committeeman to the District Chairman, and somewhere along the way much time is lost and considerable portions of the program never reach the District Chairman; (2) the other problem is that a State Committeeman in Orlando for instance, is attempting to work with the District Chairman in Hollywood and no one in the District is aware whether or not the Committee is functioning, because the areas of supervisory responsibility are not clearly delineated.

The subject of the direction taken by the Americanism program of the State Association was frequently raised in the Lodges, with the vast majority of the members who expressed an interest, indicating lack of enthusiasm for the type of program we have espoused the past three or four years. The principal concern was that the State
Association seemed to be entering the political field or at least propounded a program, which was more ideally suited to some other type of organization. All members were interested in Americanism and none desired to see the State Association stress this most vital area in any lesser degree; however, there were suggestions that the program might be better directed toward education of children in the basic American beliefs and re-education of adults in the American way of life, rather than tremendous stress on Communism, Socialism, Fascism, other isms and individuals, who are so inclined.

Grafton served the Florida Elks Association as a member of the State Judiciary Committee from 1958-1977, serving as its Chairman from 1968-1977. He served a long time as a member of the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors and its Major Projects Board of Directors. Grafton’s hard work in Florida Elkdom reached its zenith when he was elected State President for 1971-1972.

North Palm Beach Lodge 2069 won the State Ritual Contest.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1971-1972 term:

President    Robert Grafton, North Palm Beach
Secretary    William Lieberman, Leesburg
Treasurer    Frank J. Holt, Miami
Tiler        Ralph LeFever, Orlando
Historian    L. M. Strickland, Sr., Tallahassee
Sergeant at Arms    Edward Rowen, Lake Worth
Chaplain    Ralph Clements, Lake City
Organist     Edward Dwyer, Boca Raton
Vice President, Northwest District    Ralph O. Faircloth, Pensacola
Vice President, Northeast District    Maurice Pearce, Palatka
Vice President, East Central District  Robert Laden, Melbourne
Vice President, Central District      Herbert Burleson, Winter Garden
Vice President, West Central District  Arthur H. Cushing, Pinellas Park
Vice President, Southwest District    John Causey, Belle Glade
Vice President, Southeast District    Thomas M. Dignam, Englewood
Vice President, South Southeast District  Bernard Dolan, W. Hollywood South
Vice President, South District        Larry Hoffman, Miami Beach

Grafton then received Elkdom’s highest honor in 1979 when he was elected Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He served the term 1979-1980. He has had a long and distinguished career with the Grand Lodge. He has been able to effectively blend this with his work in Florida Elkdom along with the tremendous joy of serving by Executive Order of the Grand Exalted Ruler. He has been Sponsor of the Elks Lodges in Florida (1980-), Mississippi (1980-), Panama (1980-), Puerto Rico (1980-), Alabama (1986-), and Georgia (1991-). Since C. Valentine Bates’ term as Grand Exalted Ruler, Bates has assumed some of the areas as State Sponsor relieving Grafton of a somewhat full plate. Bates has assumed GL Sponsor of Mississippi, Georgia, and Alabama.


**Grand Lodge**

At the end of 1870, members of the Jolly Corks in Philadelphia started a movement to form a branch of Elks in Philadelphia. A committee was appointed by the Jolly Corks of that city consisting of Lew Simmons, Joseph Jackson, and Joseph Mortimer. They were charged with visiting the New York Lodge of Elks and seeking permission to establish a branch Lodge of Elks in the Quaker city. Permission was granted.
However, at that time, the Elks were not in any position to branch out because they were an incorporated body in the state of New York. In order to be enabled to expand outside of the boundaries of New York, it became necessary for the members of New York Lodge to give up all titles and rights in a Grand Lodge, as they had hitherto designated themselves, as noted by the word “Grand” placed before the names of some of their officers at previous elections. Inasmuch as the Elks, then constituted, could not well maintain a dual existence of a subordinate Lodge and Grand Lodge in the same body, they strove to form a Grand Lodge and an umbrella-like existence.

On December 4, 1870, Antonio Pastor made the first motion that measures be taken immediately to form an “Exalted Grand Lodge,” a preconceived idea of Henry P. O’Neil. The Order of Elks and Grand Lodge were born in 1871. It was no longer a single body in a single city. This was the starting year of the Elks. It came to life as an Order. No one could foretell or foresee its destiny.

A session of Elks was held on January 1, 1871 in Chicago by some members in a social session while playing with some theatrical attractions in Chicago. Also on January 1, 1871, the committee on founding a Grand Lodge, which had been appointed on December 4, 1870 by virtue of Tony Pastor’s motion, reported this resolution: “Resolved, That the first Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks consist of the following: The original founders of the Order, together with all past and present officers of the First and Second Degrees who are now in good standing in the Order, and that the above take effect immediately.”

On January 22, 1871, a preliminary meeting for the organization of the Grand Lodge was held at 512 Broadway at 4:00 p.m. George Green chaired the meeting with fourteen present, and a resolution was adopted that all further business be suspended until the Second Degree members in good standing be notified of a special communication of the Order held on January 29, 1871 to ratify the resolution as passed January 1, 1871.

On February 19, 1871, the committee on Certificates reported their work as completed and that the certificates of membership were ready for distribution.

On March 10, 1871, the legislature of the State of New York passed an act of incorporation which was immediately signed by Governor John T. Hoffman incorporating the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of New York with power to issue charters to subordinate Lodges throughout the country.

Accordingly Grand Lodge legally issued a charter that same day to New York #1. It is March 10 therefore that marks the legal commencement of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and also the beginning of New York #1. This was followed on March 12 with a charter issued to Philadelphia #2. Grand Lodge was thus organized with 289 members.

Henry P. O’Neil, a member of New York #1, served as Grand Treasurer at its first meeting of the Grand Lodge on February 12, 1871 and as Exalted Grand Ruler, as it was then called, from 1874-1876. It was O’Neil’s suggestion that caused the formation of the Grand Lodge and his political influence that obtained the charter from the legislature of New York and the signature of Governor Hoffman. O’Neil was also responsible for using the amaranth and the ivy flowers as well as for laws of the Order. He drafted a large part of the constitution and laws and did much to perfect the organization of Grand Lodge.

Hugh O’Neil, a namesake, composed the installation services.

G. F. McDonald, Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1874-1875, originated the Eleven O’clock Toast dedicated to absent brothers. In those days it was also dedicated to those who were necessarily away from home because of their theatrical engagements.

William Goddard started the practice of the widely used friendly greeting, “Hello Bill.”

M. D. Detweiler, a member of Harrisburg, PA Lodge #12 and Grand Exalted Ruler from 1896-1898, conceived and developed the idea which led to the Elks National Home.

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

A. C. Mooreland is responsible for the flag on the altar and also for the traveling card. He was elected Grand Secretary in 1881. He had the good fortune to be the first Grand Secretary to have an office and suitable records. He served until 1890.

Tony Pastor, Chairman of the Board of Grand Trustees from 1878-1879, had much to do with the formation of the Grand Lodge.

Brother H. B. Sanderson started the use of the antlers on the altar.

On Thursday, October 26, 1871, the new Order initiated one of its first benevolent acts. The Elks held a benefit on this day at the Academy of Music in aid of sufferers of the Chicago fire.

At first the growth of Elkdom was so slow that it was not until five years after the institution, in 1876, that San Francisco #3, Chicago #4, and Cincinnati #5 joined.

The large preponderance of the theatrical profession in the first Lodges instituted is evinced by the fact that Exalted Grand Ruler Green, in his first report made on June 11, 1871, stated that “the reason that so large a number of dispensations had been asked for in No. 2 was from a recognition of the necessity of having a sufficient number
of devout Elders for the transaction of business during absence of the professional brethren of the lodge in the traveling season.” (See also Green, George J.)

In 1882, Boston Lodge #10 called to the attention of the Grand body that certain unauthorized persons, formerly members of the Order, were banding themselves together under the name of the “Order of Growlers,” or “Order of Buffaloes,” and were holding meetings and conducting business in accordance with and by means of ritual heretofore prescribed by Grand Lodge and offering a new ritual with key, etc.

In this same year the Grand Lodge session authorized the funeral ritual to be used by subordinate Lodges. In 1883 they adopted the restriction of what has since been known as commercialism in the Order.

In 1889, the last Grand Lodge meeting was held, as a fixture, in New York City.

In 1890, it was recommended that each Lodge become incorporated by the state in which it was located. There was also the adoption of a universal set of bylaws. It was suggested at this time that it might be feasible to divide the various jurisdictions and appoint a deputy for each division to lighten the labors of one Deputy trying to handle all the Lodges in one state.

There followed in 1891 the question of dividing states into two districts. The result was that the matter would be left to the Exalted Grand Ruler to exercise his judgment when occasion required. Accordingly, the present Exalted Grand Ruler began the division of certain states into districts in order to lighten the labors of deputies and also increase their efficiency in looking after subordinate Lodges. The first state to be divided was Ohio. They created a North and South District and a deputy was placed in charge of each district.

In 1891, Grand Lodge officer titles, which up until this point had awkward phrasing, were renamed. Formerly they had been Exalted Grand Ruler, Exalted Grand Leading Knight, etc. The new designation would be Grand Exalted Ruler, Grand Leading Knight, etc.

At this time an attempt to extend the confines of Grand Lodge outside the United States was rejected. It would be an All American fraternity. They further ruled that in naming Lodges they must be named with titles of the place where they are located. In the numbering of Lodges, new Lodges would be given new numbers, each succeeding one greater than the number given to the last Lodge to which a dispensation had been granted. No Lodge would ever be entitled to receive the number of a defunct Lodge.

**Grand Lodge Contests**

The Grand Lodge Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee is responsible for the coordination and judging of the following contests:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contest</th>
<th>Postmark Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A All American Lodge</td>
<td>3/15*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Community Service and Image</td>
<td>3/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Elks Memorial Service</td>
<td>3/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Lodge Bulletin</td>
<td>1/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Per-Capita Contributions to the Elks National Foundation</td>
<td>3/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Elks National Foundation Percentage of New Pledge Points</td>
<td>3/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G State Elks National Foundation Per-Capita Donations</td>
<td>3/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H State Elks National Foundation New Pledge Points</td>
<td>3/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I State Association Publication</td>
<td>1/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Special Recognition Awards for Elks National Foundation</td>
<td>3/15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Lodges must submit entries to District Deputies postmarked by March 15. District Deputies must submit entries to state Lodge Activities Chairman postmarked by April 1. State Lodge Activities Chairmen must submit entries to the Grand Lodge Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee by April 15.
Grand Lodge Sessions

The last Grand Lodge session was held, as a fixture, in New York City in 1889.

Gratitude Grants

Gratitude Grants, a National Foundation Program, is a component of the Elks National Foundation’s Community Investments Program. In 2007 the foundation invested up to $525,000 in communities where Elks live and work. It is intended to encourage and support Lodges in meeting unmet community needs.

Any Lodge that reaches the Grand Exalted Ruler’s per-capita goal can apply for a grant. The grants are reimbursement grants of up to $500.

Procedures for applying:
1. ENF will notify Lodges once they reach the GER’s per-capita goal.
2. An application will be sent to the Lodge Secretary. The application can also be downloaded from the website at www.elks.org/enf/community.
3. Applications must be submitted for approval by April 20.
4. Gratitude Grants are available for use between July 1 and July 31.

A Gratitude Grant is intended to support a local charitable cause. The following list offers examples of Gratitude Grant uses and is not intended to be inclusive:
1. Purchase food or clothing for a local homeless shelter.
2. Hold a fundraiser and then donate the proceeds to a worthy cause.
3. Purchase books for a literacy program.
4. Invite seniors or veterans to your Lodge for a night of dinner, music, and games.

Reimbursement Procedure:
1. Upon receipt and approval of a Lodge application, the ENF will send a Final Report Form to the Lodge Secretary.
2. After the Lodge uses its Gratitude Grant, the Final Report form must be completed, signed by the Lodge Secretary and Exalted Ruler, and submitted, along with copies of grant related receipts, to the ENF by July 31. Be sure to keep all grant related receipts or check copies. They are required for reimbursement.
3. Upon receipt of the Final Report Form, ENF will issue a reimbursement check.

Graves and Markers Committee

(See Marker and Graves Committee)

Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 126th Lodge</th>
<th>South Southwest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instituted:</td>
<td>November 21, 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>Leroy F. Lippmann, PDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday; July/August: 2nd Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>5630 Pine Island Road, Bokeelia, FL 33922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>239-283-4388</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The South Southwest District instituted the 126th Florida Lodge on November 21, 1993 at Cape Coral Elks Lodge No. 2596 located at 4031 SE 10th Place in Cape Coral on the corner of 10th Place and 46th Lane. A banquet and dance was held at the Cape Coral Elks Lodge.

Grand Lodge Institution Officers:

Grand Exalted Ruler: Stanley Caylor, DDGER
Grand Leading Knight: William Stone, PDD
Grand Loyal Knight: David Lake, PDD
Grand Lecturing Knight: Neal Mills, PDD
Grand Treasurer: Michaelino Amico, PDD
Grand Trustee: William Wellbaum, Vice President, South Southwest District
Grand Trustee: William Cain, PDD
Grand Trustee: Fred Tvrdik, PER
Grand Trustee: Ronald Sorrentino, PER
Grand Tiler: John Hammer, PDD
Grand Inner Guard: Dennis Modesitt, PDD
Grand Chaplain: Donald Roll, PDD
Grand Esquire: Kenneth McStravic, PDD

Installing Officers:

Exalted Ruler: John Arena, PER
Leading Knight: John Soucy, PER
Loyal Knight: Charles Covucci
Lecturing Knight: Mario Pane, PER
Esquire: Kenneth Strunck, PER
Chaplain: Robert Kuck
Inner Guard: John Milliken, PER
Tiler: Rodney Puleo, PER
Organist: Edward Deresh
Ritual Coach: John Early, PDD

Charter Officers:

Exalted Ruler: Leroy F. Lippmann, PDD
Leading Knight: Lou Chamberlain
Loyal Knight: Dick Lewis
Lecturing Knight: Martin Ellis
Secretary: Jacques Cartier
Treasurer: Don Ware
Esquire: Ed McGowan
Chaplain: Paul R. Baumann
Inner Guard: “Bud” Likes
Tiler: Rene VanPoelvoorde
Trustees:
5 Year, Ernie Justynski, Chairman
4 Year, Lou Armani
3 Year, Hal Willson
2 Year, John Pancari
1 Year, Larry Guy

Absolute Demits:

Gerard D. Barnhart
Richard Beitelshees
William R. Downing

George E. Estes
Clarence A. Orange
Certificate of Release:

Robert L. Barker  Don Houser
Arthur Bartlewski  Robert Koegel
John J. Becker  David F. Long
Gerald G. Bernier  David J. Nichols
Richard Blozis  Dick Olson
Jacques Cartier  Tom L. Roberts
Jim Crum  Whitfield Sabin
Chris K. Davis  Walter Sprafka
Loreto J. DiRenzi  Raymond W. Stober
Martin G. Ellis  Jimmy D. Wise
Marion Fourman

Transfer Demit:

Joseph A. Bligtzko  Leroy Lippmann, Jr., PDD
Ted. A. Boruchowski  Robert MacIntyre
George H. Brown  John A. O’Connell
Louis Chamberlain  Dan Overton
Kenneth O. Dunbar  Chester S. Polowy
Joseph Eisenberg  George Ritenauer, Sr.
Bill First  Samuel E. Snyder
James J. Flanagan  Brian Stanford
Charles Golden  Arthur H. Streccius
Todd W. Hansford  Paul Theberge
Gordon Havey  William H. Tibball, Jr.
George A. Jackson  William Turner
Stanley S. Judd  Joseph W. Vassell, Jr.
Ernest Justinisi  Donald E. Ware
Arthur F. Law  Ludwig A. Zeller

Initiatory:

Raymond C. Aiken  Guy W. Bryan
Robert Andrews  Robert E. Buck
Louis J. Armani  Gordon W. Bullene, Sr.
Richard E. Atchison  Leslie Burkhardt
Gary W. Avery  Richard D. Burton
William H. Bailey  Patrick J. Cammisa
Robert Lee Ball, Jr.  Matt Caputo
Paul R. Bauman  Preston J. Carey
Horace E. Baylor, Sr.  Edward Carle
Herman M. Bellar  Thomas J. Carroll
John J. Bellmore  Robert W. Carroll
Bobby Benson  Thomas J. Carroll, Jr.
Ed Bleau  Donald A. Castile
Richard H. Boehm  Stuart T. Chamberlain
Ronald L. Borke  Carl J. Christiansen
Wayne W. Bowen  Donald L. Clark
Dwight Brininger  Larry B. Clough
Joseph D. Brocker  Joe Compton
Bruce Conover  James M. Dunlap
Christopher J. Cook  Raymond J. Edwards
Delmar R. Crane  Eugene L. Emmons
Frank Cretella  Lloyd D. Evans
At the State Convention held in 2001, Greater Pine Island won the honor of having the greatest increase in membership in its category of Lodge memberships between 301 and 500 for the third straight year. Also in that same year, 2001-2002, Joe Eisenberg was elected Exalted Ruler for the fourth straight year.

**Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Dispensation:</th>
<th>March 27, 1953</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date Instituted:</td>
<td>April 17, 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Chartered:</td>
<td>July 9, 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>George Carver, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>Frank H. Tipton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies Organization:</td>
<td>BPO Does Drove 138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>702 S. Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>904-284-9049</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Past State Presidents:

George Dominianni 1983

Past District Deputies:

Donald L. Yates 1974

Past Vice Presidents:

Donald L. Yates 1973

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler George Carver
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight Victor O. Wehle
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight Charles Poole
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight Frank Thompson
Grand Secretary James J. Fernandez
Grand Treasurer Willis V. McCall
Grand Trustee Howell Davis
Grand Trustee J. J. Riley
Grand Tiler J. D. Doyle
Grand Chaplain Finley Moore
Grand Esquire J. T. Lowe
Grand Inner Guard John S. Flood

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler Frank H. Tipson
Esteemed Leading Knight George McElliott
Esteemed Loyal Knight Wayne Geiger
Esteemed Lecturing Knight Harry Blackmon
Secretary J. C. Sapp
Treasurer F. O. Snyder
Inner Guard L. P. Perry
Chaplain Thomas J. Rivers
Esquire Richard Gordie
Tiler L. L. Judy
Trustees 5 Year, George Laris
4 Year, C. J. Massee
3 Year, Victor Glennan
2 Year, M. C. Mayhugh
1 Year, J. P. Hall

The following are charter members: S. H. Wyman; A. J. Rittgers; J. D. Butler; J. P. Hall, Jr.; A. T. Ivey; D. Talbot; Sam Flink; H. W. Wickenhofer; J. H. Rowell; O. J. Murhee; H. Chesser; F. L. Travis; H. G. Sharpless; W. T. Lemen, Jr.; D. C. Turner; Ben Zellner; Deward Priest; T. J. Rivers; F. O. Snyder; James Kingas; L. W. Thompson; R. L. Martin; J. P. Kiwala; S. H. James; D. S. Pyle; J. F. Rowlls; T. L. Glennan; R. W. Tucker; C. J. Massee; S. R. Hodge; E. H. Pearce; John Hatton; R. C. Gordie; C. H. Schiene; J. D. Murphy, Jr.; Ray Bolin; Charles Crue; W. T. Hull; J. M. Black; L. S. LeBlanc; M. G. Conway; C. K. Perry; J. C. Sapp; E. B. Milligan; J. B. Farashee; R. T. Burks; C. E. Stover; K. P. Larue; E. Wayne Geiger; L. L. Huntley; Chauncey Moore; A. V. Glennan; L. L. Judy; Ed L. Bradley; George S. Carlisle; F. W. Kenney; Willis Wright; Hugh E. Smith; L. H. Lancaster; C. C. Tramma; Baxter Williams; S. D. Saunders; J. E. Carswell; A. C. Pratt; J. P. Hall, Sr.; O. F. Sathre; M. C. Mayhugh; J. K. Bradley; Ray W. Mapel; Robert D. Aldrich; G. P. McElliott; L. P. Perry; C. B. Bowles; Fred M. Legrand; Frank H. Tipton; H. L. Blackmon; George Laris; H. F. Cameron; J. I. Triplett; J. Slater Smith, Jr.; Claude Smith; and R. H. Day.

Green Cove Springs was the site of live oak cutters in 1830 who established the town. Located in Clay County, it is the county seat. It is sheltered by beautiful green trees at the bend of the St. Johns River and is known for their sulphur springs. Many say it is the location sought by Ponce de Leon as the Fountain of Youth.
The original Lodge building was built in the early 1940s as an army barracks at Camp Blanding, FL. It was donated to the Elks in 1956 and moved to its present location. Additions were made in 1974. The land is on a cove off the St. Johns River having a waterfront of approximately 300 feet. There is a beautiful view of the cove and river; the other side of the property is on State Road 17 inside the city limits of Green Cove Springs. H. P. Hall, Jr. and Lena Mae Hall Lemen donated this land to the Lodge in memory of their father, John P. Hall, Sr.

Several additions have been made to the building. A kitchen and restrooms were completed in about 1973-1974. The latest was a 1,900 square foot clubroom and bar. There is ample parking space and room for more expansion when needed.

There is a creek on one side of the property that flows into the St. Johns River. Quite often, otters, manatees, alligators, and other wildlife can be observed with a myriad of water fowl all in their natural habitats. This can all be seen from the clubroom.

The new building was added beginning in 1983.

Continuing Activity:

2007 Lodge members entertained one hundred people at the Lodge’s annual Fourth of July party which featured a children’s fishing tournament and a fireworks display. The event raised nearly $400 for the Elks National Foundation. In addition, Lodge members raised $1,600 for the Elks National Foundation at a birthday party for Exalted Ruler Jodie Graves who requested that in lieu of gifts, members donate to the foundation. The Lodge contributed an additional $1,000 for a total donation of $2,600.

2008 The Lodge won 3rd place in the Grand Lodge Americanism Brochure Contest in Division II.

Ladies of the Elks

Instituted: 1956
First President: Duffell Jones

On June 27, 1956, a group of fifteen wives of members of Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge #1892 met to discuss the formation of a club. The Exalted Ruler spoke about the group, urging them to affiliate with the national organization of Does. After several more meetings and discussions, the majority of the group voted for the national affiliation.

The Grand Lodge BPO Does granted a charter for a Drove to be known as Drove #138 and to hold its sessions in the City of Green Cove Springs, FL. The petition for this charter was based on the request of 42 petitioners.

The meeting dates are the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Meetings are held in the Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge #1892.
The son of John P. and Fannie S. Green, George J. Green was born in Duchess County in Glenham, NY on November 23, 1842. He received his education in the district school. He resided here until the American Civil War when he enlisted and served for two years in the Eighteenth Regiment, New York State Volunteers, Sixth Corps from which he was honorably discharged at the expiration of his enlistment term. He returned to the house of his parents who were then living in Williamburgh in Brooklyn, NY.

He worked as a ship carpenter from 1863-1867 in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and later became manager for Lawrence & Son, bonded and free warehouses, near Corlear’s Hook, East River, in which capacity he served from 1867-1871.

In about 1871 and 1872 he was one of a stock company that financed and brought out “Lalla Rookh” at the Grand Opera House in New York City. It had a successful season but unfortunately the entire outfit comprising scenery and wardrobe were lost in the Niblo Garden fire which occurred just after the entire paraphernalia of “Lalla Rookh” had been moved there from the Grand Opera House. After that, in 1877, he went to Texas where he lived on a ranch until 1880 when he returned to New York City. He served on the excise board until 1883. He was afterwards an inspector on the aqueduct and later an inspector of ties and guard rails for the Kings County Elevated Railroad.

Mr. Green was married twice, the second time in 1881.

He joined the New York Elks and was initiated and advanced April 18, 1868, being No. 25 on the membership roll. He was a forcible speaker, strong in debate, and a good organizer, and besides being Exalted Ruler of New York Lodge No. 1, he was a Past Master in Masonry.

He became the first Exalted Grand Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks to be elected after the organization of the Grand Lodge, having just completed a term as Exalted Ruler in the then only Lodge of Elks in existence, New York. He was elected in February 1871 and served until December 17, 1871.

He was elected as Grand Secretary in December 1879 and served until 1881. Under his supervision the first minutes of the Grand Lodge were printed. Green was a man of great intellectual attainments and a pleasing personality; a lack of application was his greatest defect.

His last position politically expired in about 1883, which he lost through political changes. His abilities were extremely valuable in the inception of the Order and he gave much time and thought to its development. For a number of years previous to the end he was unaffiliated with his Lodge, having been dropped from the rolls.

He died by suicide in Central Park in New York City on June 13, 1891. He was 48 ½ years old. The funeral was private with internment at Evergreen Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY.

**Grillo, Louis James “Jim,” Grand Exalted Ruler, 2005-2006**

Louis James “Jim” Grillo was born and raised in Stockton, CA. Jim, a fifth generation Stocktonian, attended Madison Elementary School, Daniel Webster Junior High School, and Amos Alonzo Stagg High School in Stockton. He graduated from California State University in Sacramento with a degree in Criminal Justice. While in college he interned for the District Attorney’s office.
Jim was a baseball player all through high school and college and reached the semipro level. He had aspirations of becoming a professional until an injury ended his career. Jim then planned to enter the field of law enforcement but at the urging of a family friend, he instead launched a successful 27 year career as a sales representative.

In his youth, Jim served his community and church, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church. He and his brother, David, were the first acolytes ever to serve at St. Stephen’s. He also worked on numerous church committees throughout his youth and young adulthood. Ultimately, he served on the Bishop’s Committee, overseeing the operations of the church.

As a teenager, Jim worked with his grandfather, Jim Fisher, at Fisher Brothers, the family’s sixth generation house moving company. From this experience he learned the value of a hard day’s work and respect for his fellow man. He also learned the lesson to never ask anyone to do anything he would not do himself.

Jim was a member of the Bersaglieri Society, called “Campo Di Bersaglien” in Italian, one of the oldest Kitalian organizations in the United States. The society originated with a group of guards who protected the Italian royal family. Jim was a third generation member. He attended many meetings of the society with his grandfather, Louis (Luigi) Grillo, and his father, Dr. Italo J. Grillo, both now deceased. For a number of years, Jim served as “The Collector” of the society. In September 2004, his mother, charter member of the Emblem Club, Dorothy Fisher Grillo, and Past Supreme President, Betty Parsons, proposed Jim for membership in the Emblem Club. Jim was initiated into Stockton Emblem Club No. 226 in October 2004.

On February 12, 1974, Jim was proposed for Elks membership by his father who was then State Vice President of the Central District of the California-Hawaii Elks Association. On a visit home from college, Jim was formally initiated into Stockton, CA Elks Lodge No. 218 on March 26, 1974. He served with distinction in all the chairs and was elected to serve as Exalted Ruler for 1987-1988.

Subsequently in 1991, he was Chairman of the Centennial Celebration for the Stockton Lodge, a celebration which included a visit from then Grand Exalted Ruler James W. Damon. Jim also was the editor of the Lodge’s “100 Years of Elkdom” on The Today Show on NBC. Jim is an honorary life member of Stockton Lodge No. 218.

Jim has been active on various California Central District Committees and has served the Grand Lodge as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1991-1992. He served the California-Hawaii Elks Association as State Indoctrination Chairman in 1994-1995, and in 1995 he was appointed to serve on the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project Board of Trustees for three years. Jim served on various committees of the Major Project Board: the Continuing Education Committee (three years, one year as Chairman), the State Disabled Scholarship Committee (two years, one year as Chairman), the Insurance & Safety Committee (three years), and the Hospital Grant-North Committee (three years as liaison to the University of California San Francisco, Ophthalmology Department). For one year, Jim was Secretary of the Major Project Board of Trustees. In 1998-1999, Jim was First Vice President of the California-Hawaii Elks Association, and he was elected President of the Association for 1999-2000. He additionally has served as District Leader of the eleven Lodges in the California Central District.

Jim was on the Grand Lodge Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee from 2000-2001 and was Chairman of the All American Lodge Contest during that time. Currently, Jim is completing four years on the Board of Grand Trustees. He is also the general financial agent of the Order and of the Elks National Home. As a board member, he was responsible for Building Applications West in 2001-2003. He was a pension member in 2002-2003 and an approving member in 2003-2004. In July of 2004, Jim was elected Chairman of the board.

Jim met Lucia Catherine Olivieri at an Elks gathering and on December 1, 1990, they were married. Since that time, Lucia has been at his side not only in life but also in Elkdom. They live on the family ranch in Linden, CA where Lucia was born and raised. They are involved in overseeing the operations of the walnut and cherry orchards that were established by Lucia’s father in the early 1920s.

Growlers

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 Growlers. Membership was limited to those Elks who met the additional requirements of the mini club. It created some difficulties for the Lodge and caused embarrassment and anger to the Lodge members. Say that two Elks brothers equal in all respects save that one was a Christian and the other was a Jew were proposed for membership in the Growlers and only one was accepted. The difference could just as easily have been between an Irish and Italian heritage or even between the
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.

Guam – Agana, Mariana Islands #1281 Lodge Relief

Agana was the capital and largest of fifteen cities on the island of Guam. Before World War II, about half of the population of Guam lived in Agana with a 1940 census of about 10,000.

During the Japanese assault and occuaption of Guam, the city of Agana was completely destroyed, including the home of the Agana Elks Lodge No. 1281. Brother Lew Echert, a member of Florida’s Lake Worth Lodge #1530, resigned as Exalted Ruler in order to enter the service. While in the Pacific, Echert made a visit to Guam and told of how sad he felt at seeing the ruins of this once fine Elks Lodge. He stated that the Japanese took over the Lodge on December 10, 1941, the first Lodge of the Order to suffer such a fate. Many of the Lodge members were Navy, Marine, and governmental personnel. The Japanese transferred them to prisoner of war internment camps in Japan. Forty-nine members were taken prisoner and others were either missing or dead. Brother Warrant Officer George Ray Tweed of the U. S. Navy hid on the island with natives until Americans recaptured the island in 1944.

The founder of the Agana Lodge, William Johnson, was imprisoned and later died in a Japanese internment camp in Kole. Johnson had served as Exalted Ruler of that Lodge and as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

When Captain Wellborn Ellis, United States Marine Corps and Past Exalted Ruler of the Atlantic Elks Lodge, landed with the Marines on Guam, he learned that the Japanese had used the Lodge building for military purposes and later as a Japanese officers’ club. At one of the Japanese victory banquets celebrating the capture of the Solomon Islands, the American flag which had draped the altar was used to wipe spilled liquor off the floor.

The Elks War Commission sent cables and letters to them at regular intervals, and peculiarly enough, more replies were received from members in Japan than from the internees or prisoners of war in the Philippines. The Elks War Commission also attempted to send relief supplies to the members interned in Japan, but this was not successful due to the lack of cooperation of the Japanese authorities.

Guam was eventually freed but at a cost of 7,800 Americans killed and wounded: 839 soldiers, 245 sailors, and 6,716 Marines. Once Guam was again in the hands of allied forces, there was some indecision as to whether Agana would be rebuilt on its original site or moved to some other section of the island.

The Elks War Commission carried on considerable correspondence with Navy personnel on the island and it was hoped it might be possible to establish a fraternal center for the accommodation of members of the Order, both military and civilian, who might be engaged in the work rehabilitation. For some time, the outlook seemed favorable, but then all correspondence with those interested suddenly ceased on May 30, 1945.

In 1946, the Navy, then in command of Guam, along with reports from Washington, indicated that the Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy Department was receiving applications for civilian employment in connection with the rebuilding of Agana, although the actual reconstruction was not expected to begin for another four or five months.

A bill for the rehabilitation of the island was introduced and reopened to the Navy Appropriations Committee which in turn reported it out favorably. It was placed on the Union Calendar and rested there for one year with no action being taken. The Elks War Commission took the matter up with congressional leaders in an effort to secure action on the bill.

The membership of Agana Lodge No. 1281 was widely scattered and only a few were now on the island. Most of them were still suffering from their experience in Japanese prison camps. The Elks War Commission began corresponding with some of these survivors hoping to eventually reorganize the Agana Lodge.

The bill providing the city’s rehabilitation was enacted. The Guam Planning Commission was established to rebuild the capital.

In December of 1946 an unofficial survey was made of conditions in Guam by Alfred C. Latte, Secretary of the Honolulu Lodge, who spent several weeks in Agana on personal business. While there Brother Latte found that there were only ten members of Agana Lodge #1281 residing on the island and that of the ten, only four were able to attend a meeting called by him to discuss the future of the Agana Lodge. Lack of transportation was the reason given
by other members. Latte’s report indicated that there were several Elks employed on the island at that time, members from practically every state in the union. These men were on contract to remain one to two years.

The citizens of Guam were ineligible for membership. Under Navy ruling, only citizens were allowed to operate a business. This eliminated any possibility, for that moment at least, of having permanent residents on the island who were eligible for membership in the Order of Elks. Of the ten former members on the island, none of them seemed willing to assume the responsibility of leadership, and with no possibility of increasing this number under conditions present at that time, it seemed advisable to hold in abeyance the reorganization of Agana Lodge and await future developments pertaining to making the Guamanians American citizens. This would not mean that the natives would be eligible for membership, but it would open the island to American citizens who desired to do business on the island and would make it their permanent home.

Grand Lodge Directory at present shows Agana Lodge #1281 as active, so it is apparent that they were successful, at some point in time, in reorganizing.

### Guilds

A guild is a voluntary association of those who join for a common purpose paying contributions, meeting together, or feasting together; periodically helping one another in sickness and poverty; and frequently uniting for the pursuit of a special object.

Early guilds had a marked influence in the early period of European history. They were most significant in the Teutonic countries and England during the Middle Ages. However, they extended to the Romantic nations.

The essential principle of the guild was the banding together for mutual help, mutual enjoyment, and mutual encouragement in good endeavors, and the spirit which directed itself to the inner business and life of such society is what gave character to each guild.

Some of the more notable guilds are the peace guild in the 19th century based upon defense and mutual obligations, the trading guild in the 13th and 14th centuries, and the social and religious guilds in the 15th century.

Early organizations were made up principally of workmen and those in the humble walks of life. The freedom of social intercourse was particularly appreciated among the poorer organization. Each member took an oath, paid an admission fee, gave a yearly contribution, and held regular business meetings. All guilds had special rituals for funerals and strict rules for life and behavior.

Various brotherhoods that existed in the past formed the connecting link between the guilds and the modern secret societies of today.

### GUMBO Games

GUMBO, Games Uniting Mind and Body, is a track-and-field competition for disabled youths. The Lodges and its members fund the annual event as the major charitable project of the Louisiana State Elks Association. They provide housing and transportation for the athletes and volunteer their assistance in the operation of the games.

The Elks conduct fundraising events to the benefit of the young competitors. Among them is an annual golf tournament by the Baton Rouge Lodge and Ladies auxiliary.