Naples Lodge 2010

Florida’s 68th Lodge
District: South Southwest
Date of Dispensation: July 9, 1956
Date of Installation: July 27, 1956
Date Chartered: July 18, 1957
Formally Opened By: Victor Kuhl, PDDGER
Charter Members: 81
1977 Membership 300
1989 Membership 1,802
1995 Membership 2,355
1996 Membership 2,448
1997 Membership 2,480
1998 Membership 2,243
2001 Membership 1,835
2004 Membership 2,498
2005 Membership 1,807
2006 Membership 1,537
2007 Membership 1,362
2008 Membership 1,217
2009 Membership 1,017
Location: 3992D Prospect Avenue, Naples, FL 34104
Telephone: 239-643-0075

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler Victoria Kuhl
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight Earl P. Winstead
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight Charles I. Campbell
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight William Lieberman
Grand Secretary James J. Fernandez
Grand Treasurer John Rosasco
Grand Trustee Willis V. McCall
Grand Trustee Porter Tyner
Grand Trustee Wm. Headley
Grand Trustee M. G. Shrode
Grand Trustee D. B. Beezley
Grand Tiler A. E. Kirchman
Grand Chaplain Frank X. Carroll
Grand Organist James A. Roesler
Grand Esquire Victor O. Wehle
Grand Inner Guard Charles H. Peckelis

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler W. Roy Smith
Esteemed Leading Knight Ira Cappelle
Esteemed Loyal Knight Walter G. Sorokoty
Esteemed Lecturing Knight Earl Davis
Secretary Glenn B. Sennett
Treasurer Lester F. Grimes
Inner Guard     Carl Prasil
Chaplain        Frank L. Armstrong
Organist        Edwin M. Watson
Esquire         Benjamin G. Parks
Tiler           Wm. E. Hartter
Trustees  
5 Year, Leonard H. King
4 Year, Hugh Bremerman
3 Year, Wm. D. Hixon
2 Year, William T. Barrett, Jr.
1 Year, A. W. Barkau

The following are charter members: W. Roy Smith; S. S. Jolly; Wm. Mumm, Jr.; Maurice C. Lee; Ira Capelle; Frank L. Armstrong; Wm. J. Bailey; Alvin W. Barkau; W. T. Barrett, Jr.; Wm. A. Beaver; Robt. T. Benson; E. A. Bond; D. V. Bremerman; Hugh Bremerman; Roy Brack; J. L. Brown; Ralph Bostick; W. A. Burton; Thos. L. Cheek; Michael Chance; Carl A. Clemmer; Robert L. Combs; J. L. Cochrun, Jr.; Charles E. Cox; Ralph O. Clark; Joseph P. Cleary; James E. Clary; C. M. Reynolds; Earl S. Davis; James E. DeVogt; Wesley G. Downing; B. H. Bristow Draper; Wm. S. Ellis; Donald R. Gorby; Wm. H. Grant, Jr.; Lester F. Grimer; W. E. Hartter; E. A. Doug Hendry; Robt. L. Hill, Jr.; Wm. D. Hixon; Thos. B. Hutchinson; David C. Jones, Jr.; Leonard H. King; Daniel B. Langley; Leon D. McCormick; John J. Meli; H. P. Merrell; J. A. Miller; B. W. Morris, Jr.; L. A. Orick; Benjamin G. Parks; Humbert B. Powell, Jr.; Carl Prasil; Thomas L. Pace; John H. Pulling; William M. Quale; Wayne K. Roark; William J. Ryan; Norbert N. Sargent; Holland T. Salley; Harold H. Sela; Glenn B. Sennett; John A. Smith; Walter G. Sorokoty; Sam R. Tabor; Thomas Treadwell; William E. Vance; John Van Dallen; Burton C. Walworth; Henry B. Watkins, Jr.; Edwin M. Watson; Chester A. Williams; Walter M. Wolfe; Denton B. Woodward; John J. Zyck, Jr.; Wm. F. Goddard; John E. Zateckha; J. Wilson Dyckes; S. Meredith Strong; Robert Scott; J. Holmes; Barron Collier; N. Herron; and George Hurtoon.

The city of Naples enjoys 41 miles of public beaches and is a superb location for gathering seashells. It was named after Naples, Italy and is considered the Palm Beach of the west coast of Florida.

Naples Elks Lodge’s first meetings were held at the original telephone building on Fifth Avenue and Eighth Street S. until property was purchased at Seventh Street and Thirteenth Avenue S. This was their home until 1977.

At the close of their Lodge year of 1974-1975, a probation period was lifted from the Lodge following a period of considerable progress.

While Exalted Ruler Stone served as the leader of the Lodge, the members approved an action to sell the existing Lodge building and purchase an available warehouse located on the corner of Airport Road and Westview Drive in the county. The present property was purchased for $150,000 and they were able to purchase the new property for $145,000. Extensive renovation was required to make the new property acceptable as a Lodge, and this was handled by member Bud Mallory. Barnet Bank provided the mortgage money and the Lodge officially moved in on November 1, 1977. The Lodge at this time had a total membership of 300. The first initiation in this facility was held under Exalted Ruler William L. Stone’s administration and was officiated by District Deputy Arthur L. Smith with a class of 38 members.

The Lodge originally tried its old formula of renting out the lounge and dining room facilities but quickly found this was not working and operated to opt out of both of these entities themselves, a decision which was proven to be a wise one. The Lodge continued to grow to 1,802 members by the end of the 1989-1990 Lodge year with continued growth assured.

There were three additions to the original buildings over the years. When a property adjacent to the Lodge became available, it was purchased through a Southeast Bank Loan. The Lodge, located on a five-acre site at 3301 Westview Drive, was completed and on February 18, 1989, a mortgage burning ceremony was held.

The Exalted Ruler at this time was Charles R. Stewart. Present were Past State President Frank Spadafora of Englewood; Southwest District Deputy, David B. Lake, of Cape Coral; and five Past District Deputies. At this time they had about 1,600 members. They have seen three major additions at this location.

The parking lot was expanded to meet the needs of a growing membership.

The Lodge elk head was donated by Leon McCormick in 1957. A second elk head was donated by William Stone who also donated chimes.

Naples has served as the mother Lodge to Lehigh Acres Lodge 2602 and Bonita Springs Lodge 2753.

The Lodge ritual team won the state ritual contest in 1988-1989.
Significant Events and Activities for Naples Lodge 2010

1994  Naples Lodge had the largest percentage increase in the Division VI contest of the GL Membership Committee for the biggest Lodges in the nation and received the first place plaque for their achievement.

Past District Vice Presidents:

- William Stone  1979-1980
- Howard Seaton  1982-1983
- Dennis E. Modesitt  1990-1991
- Arthur L. Kozy  1997-1998

Past District Deputies:

- William B. Stone  1978-1979
- Howard Seaton  1981-1982
- Dennis Modesitt  1992-1993
- Arthur L. Kozy  1998-1999

Past Exalted Rulers:

1957-1958  Roy Smith
1958-1959  Layton Cay
1959-1960  William D. Hixon
1960-1961  Al Hackney
1961-1962  Charles Cox
1962-1963  Jack Mansipia
1963-1964  Roy Smith
1964-1965  Tom Brown
1965-1966  Bob Deason
1966-1967  John Rogers
1967-1968  Rex Misner
1968-1969  
1969-1970  Robin Anspach
1970-1971  Robert McDaniel
1971-1972  Harvey McCormic
1972-1973  Jerry Alexander
1973-1974  Donald Chesser
1974-1975  Rex Misner
1975-1976  William B. Stone
1976-1977  William B. Stone
1977-1978  William B. Stone
1978-1979  Bob Deason
1979-1980  Howard E. Seaton
1980-1981  Robert B. Fraser
1981-1982  Howard Pickle
1982-1983  Norman Armstrong
1983-1984  Leon Morrissex
1984-1985  Paul W. Ruhl
1985-1986  William Bolser
1986-1987  Dennis E. Modesitt
1987-1988  Richard Koszty
1988-1989  Charles R. Stewart
1989-1990  Charles De La Ovartey
1990-1991  Charles “Pete” Carney
1992-1993  Russell Clothier
1993-1994  Harlan Lawson
1997-1998  Andrew “Scotty” Smith
1998-1999  Louis Rockoff
2003-2004  Robert G. Lincoln
2004-2005  Paul M. Perl
2005-2006  Jack W. Hamm
2006-2007  Jack W. Hamm

The Ladies organization is the Ladies of Naples Elks. Mrs. Carol B. Stone served as the first President. The organization was formed on July 6, 1978.

Past Ladies Presidents:

1978-1979  Carol B. Stone
1979-1980  Trudy Christian
1980-1981  Allene Pickle
1981-1982  Marge Seaton
1982-1983  Evelyn Johnson
1983-1984  Ruth Modesitt
1984-1985  Ruth Overton
1985-1986  Barbara Morrissey
1986-1987  Lillie Bell Leonard
1987-1988  Cathrine L. Crede
1988-1989  Rose Anne Smith
1989-1990  Lucille Kolk
1990-1991  Joyce Stewart

National Anthem Day

March 3 is National Anthem Day, the day in 1931 when President Herbert Hoover signed a congressional resolution officially adopting it as our national anthem. During the war of 1812, a young Washington, D.C. lawyer, Francis Scott Key, had visited the enemy’s fleet off Baltimore to arrange the release of a Maryland doctor who had been captured by the British. While the doctor was released, Key had overheard information regarding British plans for an attack on Baltimore and Fort McHenry and was not allowed to leave for fear of passing on information to the Americans. He remained on the ship while the nightlong battle took place, constantly watching the flag flying over Fort McHenry in the “rocket’s red glare.” At dawn the next morning after the attack had ceased, the flag was still flying, prompting Key to write the poem that later became “The Star-Spangled Banner” and our national anthem.

National Home

The idea of a national home was conceived and developed by M. D. Detweiler, a member of Harrisburg Lodge 12 and Grand Exalted Ruler from 1896-1898. In 1902 the National Home for Aged Elks was secured by purchasing the Hotel Bedford in Bedford, VA at a cost of $42,500 including furniture. In 1903 the home was dedicated, but the old building became unsatisfactory.

On September 25, 1915, the cornerstone for a new national home on the same property was laid and dedicated on July 8, 1916 at a cost of $450,000. It was on 167 acres which included one hundred acres of farmland to be used in raising cows.

The expenditure of $4.7 million for modernization and improvements to the Elks National Home was borne by the Home Fund comprised of bequests and gifts for capital improvements. This program provides the changes that are necessary to meet the needs and expectations of current residents as well as the preparations for the acceptance of ladies and couples into the home.

In 1993 there were twenty Florida Elks residing at the Elks National Home.

(See also Elks National Foundation)
(See also Elks National Home)
National Veterans Service Commission, Elks

“So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”

With this annually renewed pledge the Elks continue, as they have since World War I, to devote a volunteer effort to those who have served in the armed forces.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission replaced the Elks War Commission.

America’s involvement in “The War to End All Wars” (World War I) brought a quick response from the Order of Elks. Establishing a War Relief Commission with a $2 million endowment, the fraternity organized and equipped the first two field hospitals in France. Near Boston, the Elks constructed a 700-bed rehabilitation hospital in 1918 that would accommodate wounded doughboys returning from Europe. It was the first veterans’ hospital.

For the home front war effort, the Order of Elks became a major fundraiser. The Elks also built a community house at Camp Sherman, OH for families visiting the 40,000 soldiers stationed there.

The Elks War Relief Commission established a revolving loan fund to facilitate vocational and educational training for returning veterans. So effective was the Elks program that the government followed the fraternity’s lead and established its own as a precursor of the GI Bill.

As war threatened again, the Elks’ record of patriotism inspired the government to seek the order’s assistance in rallying the nation to the cause of freedom. Local Lodges sided in the recruitment of flying cadets at the request of the secretaries of the Army and Navy. The Merchant Marines notified the Elks War Commission of a shortage of reading material on board ships, and the Elks responded by collecting and donating 500,000 books.

The objective of the Florida State Elks Association was to assist the war effort in speeding up recovery. The organization established 155 Elks fraternal hospitality centers around the country. More than one million GIs were guests at the New York center alone.

Providing gift boxes to overseas personnel was a major activity for the Elks in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

“That the Cold War was over did not mean the need for support of hospitalized veterans would disappear,” said Michael F. Manning, Director of the Elks National Service Commission. “Our mission, in fulfillment of our perpetual pledge, is to provide as much assistance as we can to make the lives of veterans more comfortable, happier, and as productive as possible. We promote this effort nationally, and Elks and their Lodges in communities across the country contribute their time, money, and wholehearted efforts to see that it happens.”

Past Grand Exalted Ruler Dave Sholtz, a member of Florida’s Daytona Beach Elks, received a letter from Brother James T. Hallinan who had also enclosed a letter from a boy in Korea whose father was an Elk in a Washington Lodge. It read, “The only paper we have to write on up here in the front lines is the stationery furnished by the Elks. You will never know what it means to know that somebody back home is thinking of us.”

In 1951-1952, the Secretary of Defense appealed to the Elks for blood donations. The average need of the armed forces was 300,000 pints of blood per month. The Red Cross was capable of taking approximately 350,000 pints per month. Working through the American Red Cross they hoped to meet 1,000,000 pints. A campaign put on by Miami Elks Lodge exceeded all expectations. Raleigh, NC Lodge with a membership of 485 took in over 1,500 pints. When the Grand Exalted Ruler visited Sanford, SC, he witnessed fourteen beds fully occupied for two hours while they all gave blood. There were 4,000,000 men and women in the armed forces. The Elks had a goal of one pint for every Elk. Fort Pierce gave twenty pints.

The Elks conduct events for patients of VA medical facilities, provide materials for patient therapy, treat veterans to recreational outings, and host special dinners and events at Elks Lodges for them. Donations to the medical centers for patients’ benefits have included air conditioning units, professional kitchen equipment, TV sets, specially equipped motor vans, and personal items.

(See also Elks National Foundation)

National World War II Memorial

The National World War II Memorial was a project of the Elks Americanism Committee. A fundraising effort was under way in 1999 to build the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans, many of them members of the Order of Elks, answered their country’s call to arms to fulfill their patriotic duty. While they went to war, still more fathers, mothers, spouses,
siblings, and children contributed to the war effort in different ways at home. At the end of World War II, families were reunited to continue with their lives and proceeded to build the greatest nation in the history of the world.

The Order of Elks helped in many ways such as the War Relief Commission, Elks War Fund, Uncle Sam posters, and recruited for the Army, Navy, and Air Corps. Since World War II, the Elks have continued with their commitment to hospitalized veterans through their Americanism and Government Relations programs. Though the fallen of World War II have been commemorated in bronze and marble monuments in many communities across the nation, no single national monument had been erected to honor those heroes who so willingly served our country in defense of freedom the world over. “The time has come to take the historical perspective and construct a national monument,” said former senator and World War II Memorial Campaign National Chairman, Robert Dole, in an article he wrote for Newsweek. A decorated and wounded combat veteran of the war, Dole observed, “World War II is one of those rare events of history that look even larger from a distance. For many of us who served, we did not see the big picture; we saw the small struggles. We did not hear the call of history; we heard the voices of friends.”

From the vantage point of a half century, the call of history could be heard and in answer, the planning began to situate the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to honor the sixteen million people who served in the U.S. armed forces, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions on the home front who supported the war effort. “Also, the memorial will give the country something else it very much needs,” Dole stated. “Where is the platform for America’s children to speak out for freedom, democracy, and human decency? . . . A review of history teaches us that the forces of evil are never fully vanquished. We need a reminder that just men and women can prevail.”

In 1993 Congress approved legislation authorizing the building of a national World War II memorial in Washington, D.C. or in its immediate environs. The responsibility for the design and construction of the monument was given to the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) and its Memorial Advisory Board unanimously selected the Constitution Gardens on the National Mall as the site for the memorial. On Veterans Day that year, President Clinton dedicated the site in a formal ceremony that concluded the 50th anniversary of World War II commemorations. Then on January 17, 1997, the president announced that the design for the monument by renowned architect, Friedrich St. Florian, had been unanimously selected. The design was truly awe-inspiring. A ceremonial entrance on 17th Street leads down to a lowered memorial plaza surrounding the Rainbow Pool. The oval plaza features parapet walls topped with stone and metal ornamentation as well as two 36-foot tall memorial arches. These granite arches provide passage into the plaza, and the bronze laurels suspended within them are meant to symbolize valor and victory. A ceremonial area in the plaza features a curvilinear granite wall embedded into waterfalls between the Rainbow Pool and the Reflecting Pool. Here, inscriptions honoring the fallen and all who served are incorporated into the structure as well as a light of freedom. The design of the memorial extends beyond the plaza. Curved pathways heading to the north and south of the arches lead to quiet places of contemplation.

To begin construction of the $100 million memorial which was to be funded almost entirely from private contributions, the ABMC was required by law to have all of its funds on hand. The monies needed for the project included a perpetual maintenance fund that was provided to the National Park Service before it assumed the title and the maintenance responsibility for the monument upon its completion.

The Elks wanted to help pay tribute to these veterans, their parents, and their families with a commitment of support to the National World War II Memorial. The Elks felt urgency in this effort because there were as many as 1,100 veterans a day passing away by the end of the 1900s. Therefore, the Grand Lodge Americanism Committee presented the following resolution passed at the Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City in 1999:

Resolved: the members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America pledge an amount equal to one dollar per member ($1.00) to the National World War II Memorial to be collected by voluntary donations from our membership.

The Elks’ commitment stated that they would endeavor to complete this commitment by the July Grand Lodge session in 2000.

(See also Elks National Foundation)
The Needhams are truly an American pioneer family, having come to Ocala and Marion County from England in 1860.

Winston was born in Ocala on August 4, 1942. He progressed through the Marion County public school system and graduated in 1960. He was a stellar student, a class leader, and a superior athlete who lettered in football, basketball, baseball, and swimming. In his endeavor in the field of higher education, he received his A. A. degree from Central Florida Community College in Ocala. He attended the University of Florida, transferred to Florida State University, and graduated in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation Administration.

He married another native Ocalan, Karen Fore, a sweet, talented, and devoted lady who has always been a help to him. They have two daughters, Nocelle and Regan.

Winston served his country in the U. S. Army reserve from 1964 through 1970.

Upon graduation from college, he was employed by the Ocala Parks and Recreation Department for six years. After that he entered the banking business in which he remained for twenty years until his retirement in 1995. Retirement was a little much for him to endure at his young age, so after working for Karen for six months without monetary compensation, he decided to go back to work to preserve his sanity and get a little rest. He became an investigator for the Florida Department of Revenue.

Over the years, he has continued his education and involved himself in his community. He was part of the State Golf and Tennis Tournament in 1967, 1968, and 1969. He graduated from the University of Washington in Executive Development in 1978. He graduated from Leadership in Ocala IV in 1991, is a past Chairman of the Chamber of the Marion County Board of Adjustments, is a senior member of the Ocala-Marion County Chamber of Commerce, and is a member of the Ocala Economic Development Council. He has been an active member of the First Baptist Church of Ocala. His special interests are outdoor sports, reading, boating, and open water diving.

Needham was initiated into Ocala Lodge 286 in 1978 and progressed through the chairs to his election as Exalted Ruler in 1985. That same year he was awarded All State Exalted Ruler honors and won the Eleven O’clock Toast contest. Over the years, he was All State Officer for four years, following up with seven years as All State Ritual Coach. In national ritualistic competition, he was a member or coach of three national championship teams and was All American Coach from 1989-1995.

He served the North Central District and Florida State Elks Association with distinction as State Chairman of Publicity and Public Relations, District Vice President, District Deputy, and District Director, and he was a...
member of the Florida Elks Youth Camp Organizational Committee. He served as Vice President at Large and President of the Florida State Elks Association. He was nominated for State President by PSP Richard M. Shashy.

His year as President:

QUOTATION by PGER George B. Klein during Needham’s year:

“As you can see I am not much taller than Jimmy Solana and Jimmy isn’t any taller than I am. I say even though I am short and I am not a basketball player, I have made the final four in Grand Lodge. Willis McDonald said to me, ‘You know we reseated by seniority on the stage and right now it is Frank Heise, Francis Smith, Gerald Strohm, George Klein, and I say I have made the final four.’”

*PGER Klein speaking before the Florida Elks 91st Annual Convention in 1997.*

Vice President at Large: James L. Solana

Motto: “Be Proud Of Elkdom”

Major Emphasis:

- Stressed the importance of working together as a TEAM - Together Elks Achieve More
- Asked for a membership gain of 1,500
- Asked that every member get one new member or reinstatement for the year
- Stressed individual responsibility and pride toward a gain in membership
- Lapsation to be kept to a minimum

Slogan: “2GET1ASK1”

He highlighted the new “C” certificates for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund by providing IPTAY (“I Pay Twenty A Year”).

PPP: Positive Publicity and Public Relations

He wanted to concentrate on those activities that are associated with an Elks Lodge rather than those of an Elks club. This included making sure welcome signs are placed at the entrance to each city that has an Elks Lodge. He also encouraged Lodges to join one area of the Florida Elks Adoption program by adopting one or more of the following: Adopt A Highway, Adopt a Park, or Adopt a School. He distributed bumper stickers saying, “Fla Elks Help Kids” 1-800-523-1673.

**New Hampshire Gender Discrimination Suit**

The Elks Lodge in Franklin, NH was fined more than $64,000 in a 1999 decision for discriminating against four women who tried to join. The State Commission for Human Rights concluded that the Lodge banned the women solely because they were women. The commission said there was also discrimination which included verbal and sexual harassment because they applied. Each of the women was awarded $10,000 for emotional harm plus attorney’s fees. The Lodge was also fined $24,000. Two of the three commissioners said nonmembers regularly attend social events and use the Lodge’s bar and grill, evidence that the Lodge was a public accommodation.

**New Lodges Committee**

It is the duty of this committee to assist District Deputies in the organization and institution of new Elks Lodges. This committee investigates communities of the state where no Elks Lodge exists and reports its findings to the District Deputy having jurisdiction over the area. The District Deputy’s duty is to secure authority of the Grand Lodge to organize. When the Grand Lodge grants this authority, it is the duty of this committee to assist the District Deputy in the organizational procedures and carry out all acts and instructions as may be required to properly organize a new Lodge.
# New Port Richey Lodge 2284

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 85th Lodge</th>
<th>District: West Central</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation: May 21, 1963</td>
<td>Date of Installation: June 29, 1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chartered: July 10, 1963</td>
<td>Formally Opened By: Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charter Members: 178</td>
<td>Year 1995 Membership: 832</td>
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<td>Year 1996 Membership: 810</td>
<td>Year 1997 Membership: 805</td>
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<td>Year 2006 Membership: 576</td>
<td>Year 2007 Membership: 590</td>
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<td>Year 2008 Membership: 570</td>
<td>Year 2009 Membership: 537</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meets: 2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday</td>
<td>Location: 7201 Congress Street, New Port Richey, FL 34653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:nprelkslodge2284@msn.com">nprelkslodge2284@msn.com</a></td>
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</tbody>
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The following officiated:

- **Grand Exalted Ruler**: George Barde, Jr.
- **Grand Esteemed Leading Knight**: Charles I. Campbell
- **Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight**: Charles Peckelis
- **Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: Frank Thompson
- **Grand Secretary**: Bill Lieberman
- **Grand Treasurer**: P. E. Winstead
- **Grand Trustee**: PSP Willis V. McCall
- **Grand Trustee**: Victor Kuhl
- **Grand Trustee**: Lester McClure
- **Grand Trustee**: Robert Neiman
- **Grand Trustee**: J. Porter Tyner
- **Grand Tiler**: PVP Wesley Lyons
- **Grand Chaplain**: Richard Burkhart
- **Grand Organist**: John Foltz
- **Grand Esquire**: Victor O. Wehle
- **Grand Inner Guard**: Paul Thompson

The following officers were elected and installed:

- **Exalted Ruler**: Jacob O. Jones
- **Esteemed Leading Knight**: Jack B. McPherson
- **Esteemed Loyal Knight**: David Luikart
- **Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: Dr. Frederick Grassin
- **Secretary**: James Vaughn
- **Treasurer**: Norman Binkley
- **Inner Guard**: Mike Krouskos
- **Chaplain**: Eris Huddleston
- **Organist**: Roscoe L. Goodman
The following officers initiated the new members:

**Exalted Ruler**  
J. Mason Young

Additional information is unavailable.

In the years 1975 and 1986, New Port Richey Lodge enjoyed mortgage burnings and in 1988 moved into new Lodge quarters.

David L. Luikart, Sr. brought honor to the Lodge in 1989-1990 when he served as Vice President at Large and again in 1990-1991 as State President.

According to an article on the history of the New Port Richey Post Office by Gerben M. DeVries, it was U. S. Rep. Stephen Milanchthon Sparkman (1849-1929) who served in Congress from 1895 to 1917, who suggested the name of New Port Richey. He wrote:

Six or seven years ago, there was no post office here. There was no New Port Richey, in fact. Those of us who lived in this part got our mail from Port Richey. No direct road connected what is now New Port Richey and Port Richey. There was an old wagon trail by way of the Casson house and the old Clark grove, and there was a shorter woods path along what is now Madison Street, thence on through the Casson place, and coming out at the point where the Herms floral gardens are now located. The other route was by rowboat down the river. We generally took the latter and caught our supper and breakfast by trawling as we went. I remember one day I caught 36 trout and jack fish trawling to Port Richey after the mail. Generally, the one who went got the mail for the rest of the bunch. He was also expected to bring back two fish for each letter. If there were a dozen letters it was up to him to catch 24 fish. As we increased in population, we tired of this. It was reasoned that the Star Route carrier might just as well return to Tarpon Springs on this side of the river and leave our mail in boxes instead of going back on the other side over the Old Post Road. So we set apart a day and cleared a road through the Hill place (now the Casson farm) and down part of what is now Madison Street, and along this route we put up our mail boxes. But the carrier, Driver by name, had a will of his own which we had not reckoned with, and he would not accept this as his routing, hence all our work went for nothing. This disappointment, however, did not peeve us. We said, “If we cannot be served by carrier from Port Richey we will get a post office of our own.” It was suggested by the Port Richey Company, by Mr. Holzscheiter, and others that I circulate two petitions, one for a post office here, the other for my being appointed postmaster. I really did not consider the job worth having, but the Port Richey Company, by whom I was then employed, said I could put the post office in their office building, which was then standing in the middle of Main Street, surrounded by saw-palmetto, and they would not deduct anything from my wages for the time consumed in taking care of the mail. Under these conditions, then, I set about getting everybody south of the Herms property to sign the petitions. They were presented with about eighty names, as I remember, the one seeking appointment as postmaster being the duplicate of the other so far as signatures were concerned. In due time the petitions were acted upon, and I was examined for the important position of postmaster. But a delay occurred in establishing the office on account of our not choosing a suitable name. The department contended that since there was already a Newport, Florida and a Port Richey, Florida, Newport-Richey would lead to errors and confusion. Quite a number then favored calling the place Chascotee, after the latter part of our river’s name. This too was considered
unsuitable by the land company and many of us settlers who had done so much advertising under the name of Port Richey. We got in touch with our congressman, Hon. Mr. Sparkman, and on his suggestion, got up another petition, asking that the place be named New Port Richey, dividing Newport into two words. After some correspondence the department accepted this naming. A copy of this petition is now on file in the Avery Library and Historical Society’s rooms, with the original signatures copied. I received my commission as postmaster dated July 21st, 1915, but, as I did not at once receive my supplies and regulations, the office was not established until August 30th, 1915.

This excerpt is from an article in the New Port Richey Press of January 27, 1921.

Significant ongoing events at New Port Richey Lodge

2007  The Lodge received charters form the Boy Scouts of America to be the official sponsor of Cub Scout Pack No. 145 and No. 60.

Lodge members served coffee and doughnuts to veterans at the Port Richey VA medical facility as part of the Lodge’s weekly outreach to veterans receiving medical treatment at the facility.

The Ladies organization is the Elkettes. They had six charter members and were organized on July 10, 1963.

New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557

(See Edgewater-New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557)

New York Lodge 1

The following article appeared in The New York Times on December 13, 1987 relative to the old New York Lodge Home written by Christopher Gray.

It seems like a typical, seedy West Side hotel, no different than a score of other aging buildings in the West 40s. But if you look up you can still make out the letters “BPOE” on the “Mother Lodge” of the Elks at 108 West 43rd Street. Now the Hotel Diplomat, the building sits on one of the largest assemblages in midtown, and a recent court ruling has removed the last legal obstacle to its demolition.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was founded in New York City in 1868 in a boarding house at 189 Elm Street on the northwest corner of what is now the intersection of Broome and Lafayette Streets.

An outgrowth of an informal actors drinking association, it was originally organized as the Jolly Corks in 1867 so that its members could drink on Sunday. It was a typical 19th century benevolent society, quickly developing programs for the benefit of its members.

The Elk, considered gregarious and gentle yet strong, edged out the buffalo in a vote on the symbol for the club, which remained restricted to actors until the 1880s.

Around 1910 the Elks had 250,000 members in the United States, with 10,000 in New York City. Fraternal orders were undergoing rapid expansion. The Masons were building a giant, two-section clubhouse at 23rd Street and Sixth Avenue, and big Elk clubhouses were going up in Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx. For their new Manhattan building, Lodge 1, the Elks chose a site midway between Times Square and the district of social clubs clustered near Fifth Avenue. They chose as their architect James Riely Gordon, a Texan who had just designed the clubhouse for the Bronx Elks.

Opened in 1911, the clubhouse was a rather severe neoclassic structure with two story screens of Doric columns at the top and bottom and a rusticated base set behind a deep moat.

Four statues symbolizing the Elks ideals, charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity, were planned around the door, but it is not clear if they were actually executed.
Inside, a long foyer led past a circular fountain to a grand staircase at the rear, leading up to the main ballroom with a 32-foot ceiling. The building had a grill, dining and lodge rooms, a barbershop, bowling alleys, and a gym.

Huge trusses spanned the public rooms on the lower floors, supporting the upper levels where 240 rooms awaited American Elks.

The Real Estate Board & Guide reported that the new structure “will doubtless prove a mecca for the thousands of visiting Elks,” and indeed the basic purpose of the structure seems to have been to serve as a hotel for out-of-town members.

And the order continued to expand, with membership exceeding a million by the 1940s. Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, himself a member, renamed the surviving portions of Elm Street Elk Street in 1939, and Robert F. Wagner, later Mayor, was Exalted Ruler of Lodge 1 in 1942.

But if the Elks in general prospered, Lodge 1 did not. In 1932, the clubhouse was opened to non-Elk guests, and in 1934 the Bank for Savings foreclosed. “The Lodge is not insolvent but for some time felt it could not maintain such a large building,” reported The New York Times.

The Elks moved to rented quarters at 799 Seventh Avenue and the building became the Delano, and soon after the Diplomat Hotel. Charging $6 a night for a single compared to, say, $16 at the Sherry-Netherland, the Diplomat of the 1950s was a respectable, moderately priced hotel, its ballroom available for conventions.

But at the same time Times Square began a long downhill slide and the Diplomat eventually became an S.R.O. hotel, taking long-term tenants, generally the elderly and poor. Now some rooms rent for $268 a month, although the hotel accepts some transients at $32 a night.

In 1974, the building was acquired by the Durst Organization, which now owns almost the entire block up to Broadway. The huge size and central location of the parcel, nearly 100,000 square feet of mostly low, vacant buildings, make it one of the largest midtown assemblages.

But in 1985, the city enacted a moratorium on the demolition of S.R.O. units, both vacant and occupied, and renewed it for five years last February. Even if the tenants were to move voluntarily, an owner seeking to demolish an S.R.O. hotel would have to pay $45,000 a room to a fund for more S.R.O. housing, about $9 million in the case of the Diplomat.

The Durst Organization and other owners and developers appealed to the State Supreme Court and last month the moratorium was declared illegal. If the ruling stands, the owner only needs to buy out about fifty S.R.O. tenants and the key parcel in the assemblage will be available for demolition.

**New York Lodge 1 Furniture**

Contributor: L. M. Strickland, Sr.

In 1912, Brother Lewis M. Lively, one of the founders of Tallahassee Lodge, paid an official visit to New York 1. At that time New York Lodge had just erected a new building at 119-121 S. Monroe Street and completely furnished it with new furniture. On the day Lively visited the Lodge, it was negotiating to sell the original furniture and had agreed on a price of $1,400. Lively thought that this was an opportune time to obtain furniture for Tallahassee’s Lodge room. He persuaded the members of New York Lodge to sell him the furniture at the same price of $1,400. He closed the deal immediately and gave the Lodge his personal check as payment.
Soon after, Lively was offered a substantial profit if he would cancel the purchase. He refused and had the furniture shipped to Tallahassee. In addition to the furniture, New York Lodge donated the rugs on the floor of New York 1. Some two years later, New York sent Lively, as a personal gift, a large Elk’s head which was later presented to Panama City Lodge.
The furniture was the first ever designed, built, and installed for an Elks Lodge. Many men of prominence took their obligation at its altar. Among them were Will Rogers and other famous men of the theatre and other professions.

Loyal Knight Station
Justice

The date of the original purchase has never been confirmed, but it is thought that it must have been between 1871 and 1889. There are three reasons for this conclusion.

1. In 1886 the Jolly Corks, a social organization headed by Charles A. Vivian, adopted the following resolution: “That we resolve ourselves into a benevolent order and that a committee be appointed to draft rules and a ritual and select a new name.” A constitution and bylaws were submitted and adopted. The committee for a new name recommended “Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.” This recommendation was accepted February 16. You can therefore fix February 16, 1868 as the natal day of the Order of Elks.

2. On December 4, 1870, Tony Pastor of New York made a motion that measures be taken to form an Exalted Grand Lodge. This motion was adopted and a committee reported on January 1, 1871 offering the following resolution: “Resolved that the first Grand Lodge of B.P.O. Elks consist of the original founders of the order, and that the above take effect immediately.” The resolution was ratified. The first Grand Lodge session was held February 19, 1871 in the New York Lodge room on East 13th Street. This was the location at the time the original furniture was put in place. At this meeting the first charter for an Elks Lodge was granted to New York, designating it as New York No. 1, B.P.O. Elks.

3. In 1890, the Grand Lodge voted to hold its next convention in Cleveland, OH. All of the previous sessions had been held in the New York Lodge. New York Lodge began injunction proceedings to prevent the holding of the Grand Lodge convention in Cleveland. In retaliation, the Grand Lodge revoked the charter of New York 1. The charter was reinstated in 1893.
Nichols, George C., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1961-1962

George C. Nichols was born on June 7, 1913 in Yonkers, NY. He was initiated into Elkdom in Fort Lauderdale Lodge 1517 on January 10, 1938 and was made a life member on January 16, 1956. In 1948, the Exalted Ruler of Lodge 1517, the Honorable Steven C. O’Connell (who later served as a Justice of the Florida Supreme Court and as President of the University of Florida) named Nichols his Inner Guard. In 1949, the Fort Lauderdale ritual team traveled to the Grand Lodge in Cleveland and was named as national ritualistic champions. He was the All American Inner Guard. Following that, he worked his way through the chairs and was named Exalted Ruler of Fort Lauderdale Lodge in 1951-1952. He then went on to serve on numerous Lodge, District, and State Committees and became a certified ritual judge. He served as judge in many state ritual contests and twice served as judge in national contests. He served as District Vice President in 1954-1955 and as District Deputy in 1955-1956. In 1961, he was sworn in as President of the Florida State Elks Association at the annual state convention in Fort Myers.

In his nominating speech for Nichols, Justice O’Connell, suggested the qualifications required for a president of the Florida State Elks Association, Inc.:
First his devotion to the B.P.O. Elks must be complete. Second, he must have his actions evidence of a discriminating sense of justice through brotherly love; charity in thought, word, and deed; fidelity to home, to country, and principle; and a sincere belief in his God. Third, he must have demonstrated well that he can lead, that he can inspire others to act with the same zeal as his, and equally as important, he can also follow, that he can do the small task as well as the great one, that he is willing to do his share and the share of others who will not do their share, and that he possesses the innate ability and the time to do all these things without harming his home or his livelihood. Fourth, he must be able to speak and speak well, to preside impartially and fairly, to initiate agreement, and to eliminate discord. And last, he should be one who through service in various capacities has complete understanding of the workings and objectives of the local Lodge, the State Association, and the Grand Lodge.

Nichols later moved from Florida to Chicago where he served as Director of Operations in the Grand Secretary’s office. Upon his retirement in 1974, he again relocated from Florida, this time to a retirement facility in Mount Pleasant, SC where he left his life as an Elk for 57 years. He passed away on May 30, 1994. A eulogy at the Elks Lodge of Sorrow was given by PSP Thomas M. Coker, Jr., Past Justice of the Grand Forum.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1961-1962 term:

- President: George C. Nichols, Fort Lauderdale
- Secretary: George Carver, Live Oak
- Treasurer: George C. Russ, Tallahassee
- Historian: William Partain, Jr., Palatka
- Tiler: Edgar A. Wilson, Fort Myers
- Sergeant at Arms: Harold Haimowitz, Jacksonville
- Chaplain: G. P. LeMoyne, Fort Myers
- Organist: Everett D. Ware, New Smyrna Beach

Division Vice Presidents:
- Northwest Division: William F. Sykes, Sr., Warrington
- Northeast Division: F. O. Synder, Green Cove Springs
- East Central Division: Frank C. Kauffman, DeLand
- West Central Division: Pierce J. Guard, Lakeland
- Southwest Division: John Sheffield, Bradenton
- Southeast Division: Dr. Lamar Johnston, Vero Beach
- South Division: George K. Roller, Miami

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352 took first place in the state ritual contest.

At this period in time, the first published *History of the Florida State Elks Association* came to an end (1904-1961). It showed a membership of 36,070 as of March 31, 1961 with 78 active Lodges.

Analysis of the years covered in this time period indicates that the Florida State Elks Association and its Lodges were in a cycle of formation and adjusting to the time period along with a “grooving its course” in the world of Florida Elkdom.

Having researched all available records of the Association, Lodges throughout the state, convention annual reports, back issues of *Florida Elks News*, Lodge histories, Association rosters, and discussions with long-standing Elks, members of the board of directors, Past State Presidents Advisory Council, etc., it was decided to maintain this era of the State Association history in its original format and perspective. However, in the interest of accuracy and continuity, various corrections and/or additions have been made in the original writings (1904-1961).

The long missing copy of the Third Convention Annual Report in 1907 was obtained through the courtesy of Palatka Lodge 1232 and is now written into the 1904-1961 text. At publication time, the only convention annual report unavailable was the 27th held in Fort Pierce on April 17-19, 1932.

An exhaustive search has been made to obtain a photograph of Past State President Trump (1915-1916). This is the only photograph missing from the Association records. Trump, a member of the defunct Quincy Lodge 1111, died in Cleveland, OH on March 9, 1929. The oddity of this research through funeral records, health
department records, Grand Lodge records, newspaper files, etc. has resulted in the location of a photograph for publication.

A final item that could possibly help clarify some areas of the association’s history is *A Brief History of the Florida State Elks Association 1904-1924* written by P. M. Henderson, a member of Lakeland Lodge 1291 who was serving as State Secretary at that time. He later served as State President. An extensive search was made for this history, including records of the Lodge, but without any results.

The period between 1962 and 1992 is presented in a slightly different format, but the essential phases of each year are presented in a continuity of essential facts. Various budget and financial figures, membership figures, etc. have been omitted along with various lengthy reports simply because they are contained in the yearly annual convention reports and elsewhere.

**North District (Florida)**

District membership as of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2001</td>
<td>2,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2007</td>
<td>2,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2008</td>
<td>2,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2009</td>
<td>1,974</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

North District Lodge memberships as of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodge</th>
<th>Membership (March 31)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake City</td>
<td>893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Oak</td>
<td>1165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>2205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marianna</td>
<td>1516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perry</td>
<td>1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starke</td>
<td>1802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallahassee</td>
<td>937</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Northeast District (Florida)**

District membership as of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Membership</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2001</td>
<td>2,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2009</td>
<td>2,324</td>
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</table>

Northeast District Lodge memberships as of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodge</th>
<th>Membership (March 31)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gainesville</td>
<td>990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 31, 1998: 364</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
March 31, 2009: 325
Green Cove Springs 1892
March 31, 1998: 172
March 31, 2009: 473
Jacksonville 221
March 31, 1998: 370
March 31, 2009: 339
Jacksonville Beach 1901
March 31, 1998: 284
March 31, 2009: 0
Orange Park 2605
March 31, 1998: 276
March 31, 2009: 389
Palatka 1232
March 31, 1998: 163
March 31, 2009: 157
St. Augustine 829
March 31, 1998: 886
March 31, 2009: 807

North Fort Lauderdale Lodge 2407

Florida’s 93rd Lodge
District: South Southeast
Date of Dispensation: December 5, 1968
Date of Installation: February 2, 1969
Formally Opened By: Robert B. Cameron, PDDGER
Charter Exalted Ruler: Harry E. Alexander
Charter Members: 514
Demits: 28
Ceremony Held At: The War Memorial Auditorium in Fort Lauderdale
Ceremony Opened By: Special District Deputy Bob Cameron
Principal Speaker: Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bill Wall

Dignitaries Present:

State President    Julian C. Smith
Past Grand Exalted Ruler    William Wall
Chairman of Grand Lodge Judiciary    Glenn L. Miller
Past Grand Treasurer    Chelsie J. Senerchia
Past District Deputy    Clyde Brown
Past District Deputy    Herbert Payne
District Deputy    James P. Murphy
Exalted Ruler    Harry E. Alexander
Chairman of GL Auditing Committee    George Carver

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler    Jim Murphy
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight    Frank J. Holt
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight    Marvin L. Kimmel
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight    Dr. Lamar Johnston
Grand Secretary    William Lieberman
Grand Treasurer    Chelsie J. Senerchia
Grand Trustee    Bedford Prescott
Grand Trustee    Clyde H. Brown
The following officers were elected and installed:

- **Exalted Ruler**: Harry E. Alexander
- **Esteemed Leading Knight**: Gerald S. Deutsch
- **Esteemed Loyal Knight**: Robert F. Schaffner
- **Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: Raymond J. Scholler
- **Secretary**: George C. Geweke
- **Treasurer**: Richard M. Humphries
- **Inner Guard**: Henry G. Ipen
- **Chaplain**: Joseph C. Bevilacqua
- **Organist**: Orin C. Korte
- **Esquire**: Thomas H. DeBray
- **Tiler**: Clyde E. Kaufman
- **Trustees**:
  - 5 Year, Donald E. Lea
  - 4 Year, Kenneth C. Lowden
  - 3 Year, James G. Mervine
  - 2 Year, Jessie M. Johnson
  - 1 Year, David E. Balthaser

The following officers initiated the new members (officers of Delray Beach Lodge 1770):

- **Exalted Ruler**: Robert E. Brenner
- **Esteemed Leading Knight**: Eugene Boggs
- **Esteemed Loyal Knight**: Dennis McKessy
- **Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: Gary Studer
- **Esquire**: Thomas Collins
- **Chaplain**: Louis R. Modica
- **Inner Guard**: Gerald V. Rogne
- **Tiler**: Paul Shoeman
- **Organist**: E. J. Mahlmeister
- **Secretary**: Robert G. Culhan
- **Treasurer**: Otto Ulrich

There were 550 charter members.

The first official organizational meeting was held in the clubroom of the Lauderdale Lakes Country Club on Oakland Park Blvd. in Fort Lauderdale. After several months of informal get-togethers, the Formation Committee elected Fred Liebacher as Chairman of the Committee and Harry Alexander as a member.

**Past Exalted Rulers:**

- 1970-1971: Gerald Deutsch
- 1971-1972: Robert F. Schaffner
- 1972-1973: Robert F. Schaffner
- 1974-1975: William Hilgenfeldt

Awards: Best Youth Activities, Florida State Elks Association
Awards: Best Youth Activities, Florida State Elks Association
1975-1976 John Vosburgh
Awards: Best Youth Activities, Florida State Elks Association
3rd Place Publicity & Public Relations, Florida State Elks Association
Held Flag Day Services at Yankee Stadium and honored Captain McCampbell
1976-1977 Leroy Stafford
Awards: 2nd Place, Best Youth Activities, Grand Lodge
1977-1978 Edward Radcliff
Awards: Best Youth Activities, Florida State Elks Association
2nd Place, Youth Activities, Grand Lodge
3rd Place, Publicity & Public Relations and Interlodge Visitation, Florida State Elks Association
1978-1979 James Ruff
Awards: Best Youth Activities, Florida State Elks Association
1979-1980 Robert Kindermann
Awards: Best Youth Activities, Florida State Elks Association
1980-1981 Harry Bernard
James Ruff named Vice President of SSE District
1981-1982 Henry Frick
James Ruff appointed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler
Ladies change from Does to Ladies of the Elks
1982-1983 Henry Kenny
1983-1984 Dale Angdahl
1984-1985 Joseph Burd
1985-1986 Don Graves
1986-1987 Harry Kenny
1987-1988 George Alderman
1988-1989 Anthony Damato
1989-1990 Jerry Harsh
Don Graves named Vice President of SSE District
1990-1991 George Alderman
Don Graves appointed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler
Name changed in 1978 from North Lauderdale

In 1976 they held Flag Day services at Yankee Stadium and at the same time honored Capt. McCampbell. The next several years they marched onto the field before game time and honored all of the American flags of our country. The history was read of each flag.

The ladies organized in 1970 as the Does; Iris Zimmer was their President. In 1982 the organization’s name changed to Ladies of the Elks.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 131st Lodge</th>
<th>South Southwest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>November 23, 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>June 17, 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>October 23, 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>David B. Lake, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership:</td>
<td>669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership:</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2001 Membership:</td>
<td>626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
<td>709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership:</td>
<td>677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2007 Membership:</td>
<td>657</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following officiated:

- **Grand Exalted Ruler**: David B. Lake
- **Grand Esteemed Leading Knight**: PSP Frank Spadafora
- **Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight**: Frank Malatesta
- **Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: Neal O. Mills
- **Grand Secretary**: Howard Seaton
- **Grand Treasurer**: Bruce Jones
- **Grand Trustee**: R. Edward Royal
- **Grand Trustee**: Aubrey Callaham
- **Grand Trustee**: Merle Sebald
- **Grand Trustee**: Bill Goodman
- **Grand Tiler**: Bill Stone
- **Grand Chaplain**: Don Roll
- **Grand Organist**: Bill Cain
- **Grand Esquire**: Ken McStravic
- **Grand Inner Guard**: Dick Merz

The following officers were elected and installed:

- **Exalted Ruler**: C. Donald Stevens
- **Esteemed Leading Knight**: Gerald McAuliffe
- **Esteemed Loyal Knight**: Bob Conforti
- **Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: Richard Ray
- **Secretary**: Sam Firestone
- **Treasurer**: Jack Cava
- **Inner Guard**: James Marsh
- **Chaplain**: Fred Tvrdik
- **Organist**: James Fischer
- **Esquire**: Cliff Curry
- **Tiler**: James Swanson
- **Trustees**: Edward Sappah, George Keen, Ed Arth, Rubin Clark, H. Robert Wilcox

The following officers initiated the new members:

- **Exalted Ruler**: Bill Meehan
- **Esteemed Leading Knight**: Jack Board
- **Esteemed Loyal Knight**: Martin Stevens
- **Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: Richard Taylor
- **Esquire**: Francis Flynn
- **Chaplain**: Anthony Genovese
- **Inner Guard**: Merle Thomas
- **Tiler**: Donald Deffenbach

Fort Myers Lodge 1288 initiated the officers.
Past Exalted Rulers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988-99</td>
<td>C. Donald Stevens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>Fred Tvrdik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-92</td>
<td>Jack McGrath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992-93</td>
<td>Clifford Curry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-98</td>
<td>Thomas Cleary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-99</td>
<td>Robert Petty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>Kathleen Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>Rod Irvin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>William F. Zeisler</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gifts Received From Elks Lodges at Institution:

- Fort Myers 1288: Clock and set of jewels
- Sarasota 1519: Ballot boxes
- Venice-Nokomis 1854: Star
- Naples 2010: Set of flags
- Charlotte County 2153: Altar cloth
- Englewood 2378: American flag with holder
- Cape Coral 2596: Antlers
- Lehigh Acres 2602: Stations
- Punta Gorda 2606: Baton
- North Port 2632: American flag
- Rotonda 2710: Bible

The Ladies organization is the Ladies of Elks.

North Miami Lodge 1835

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida’s 54th Lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District: South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation: May 15, 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation: June 9, 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By: James P. Wendler, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership: 576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership: 563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership: 543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership: 524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2001 Membership: 496</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2004 Membership: 359</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership: 302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership: 283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2007 Membership: 281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership: 264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2009 Membership: 215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets: 1st &amp; 3rd Tuesdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location: 12495 NE 2nd Avenue, North Miami, FL 33161-5337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office: 305-970-0510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lounge: 305-687-2132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: James P. Wendler
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Chelsie J. Senerchia
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: James A. Dunn
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Alex Arnette
- Grand Secretary: James J. Fernandez
The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler: Francis E. Day
Esteemed Leading Knight: Earl J. Plummer
Esteemed Loyal Knight: George J. Morgan
Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Thomas M. Little, Jr.
Secretary: Herbert Magnuson
Treasurer: Roland J. Blair
Inner Guard: Raymond J. Kitsteiner
Chaplain: Fred C. Case
Organist: Lawrence E. Klein
Esquire: Walter J. McFeeley
Tiler: John L. Meyers
Trustees: R. L. McBane, Howard E. Sullivan, George Kass, Donovan W. Jones, Joseph Balcumes

The following are charter members: Francis E. Day; Earl J. Plummer; George J. Morgan; Thomas M. Little, Jr.; Herbert C. Magnuson; Roland James Blair; John L. Myers; R. L. McBane; Howard E. Sullivan; George Kass; D. W. Jones; J. Balcunes; W. J. McFeeley; Fred G. Case; Raymond J. Kitsteiner; Anthony J. Stacey; Harry W. Truett, Jr.; John Dent Briscoe; Leo Holewinski; William Kafer; Ernest Risch; Marlin K. Hall; Howard Smith; Don E. Lesperance; Frank Macina; William B. Henderson; Howard Holt; Walter L. Hames; Jack Knap; Harry W. Cochran; Charles J. Winkler; William Rodger, Jr.; Joseph Pavelka; Leonard Gates; Gerard E. Pyszka; Hall M. Bates; Leo Palomino; Ken C. Brower, Sr.; Ralph J. Haws; John R. Brown; Fitzhugh L. Webster; George T. Laakso; Jack Gray; Frederick Gomes; E. F. Pinder; Eugene C. Pinder, Jr.; Lawrence E. Klein; James C. Ervin; Harry L. Greenway; Walter B. Connelly; John F. Harkness; Nick Kavos; Victor J. Miranda; Louis Romano; Henry F. Balke; Eugene E. Harvey; B. B. Kersey; E. Van Wulfen; Frank J. Baglione; Russell A. Harty; Wm. E. Kitsteiner; Anthony Macina; Ray J. Collins; Elmer L. Layton; and William F. Terry.

District Vice Presidents:

Howard E. Sullivan 1965-1966
R. Dean Graham 1974-1975
Anthony J. DeLucca, Sr. 1983-1984
Harold E. Grady 1992-1993
Joseph A. Ortiz 2003-2004

Past District Deputies:

Clarence R. Gunn 1958-1959
Howard E. Sullivan 1966-1967
R. Dean Graham 1975-1976
Anthony J. DeLucca 1985-1986
Harold E. Grady 1994-1995
Philip Ferrari 2002-2003
Joseph A. Ortiz 2004-2005
North Miami Lodge 1835 was instituted on June 9, 1951. Between 1954-1966, they purchased property and built Lodge quarters. Hialeah had originally been Miami Springs-Hialeah Lodge 1775 which was instituted in 1950 but its charter was revoked on June 21, 1963. Hialeah Lodge 2352 was instituted and chartered in January of 1967. On March 5, 1990, Hialeah Lodge 2352 merged with North Miami Lodge 1835. On May 30, 1990 Miami Beach 1601 merged with North Miami 1835.


Property was acquired at 12495 NE 2nd Avenue in North Miami with a mere promise to pay for the land in 1954 and a new Elks Lodge was built and dedicated on March 13, 1955.

The first air conditioning unit was installed in the lounge during the term of Exalted Ruler Raymond Kitsteiner in 1955. The unit was purchased at cost from the factory through a member and installation was by the general members’ voluntary help.

There have been many modifications and improvements. In 2002, Lodge members spent the summer volunteering their time to renovate the Lodge Hall. They removed paneling, changed ceiling panels, painted walls, changed electrical outlets, and cleaned from top to bottom.

The Ladies organization is the Ladies of Elks.

### North Miami Beach Lodge 2341

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 86th Lodge</th>
<th>Date of Dispensation: January 28, 1966</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation: February 28, 1966</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By: Thomas J. Smith, DDGER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members: 195</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Thomas F. Smith
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Chelsie J. Senerchia
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: PSP Frank J. Holt
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Marvin Kimmel
- Grand Secretary: Bill Lieberman
- Grand Treasurer: Chelsie Senerchia
- Grand Trustee: Howard Sullivan
- Grand Tiler: Unknown
- Grand Chaplain: Norman O’Brien
- Grand Organist: Robert Cameron
- Grand Esquire: Clarence R. Gunn
- Grand Inner Guard: Joe Bucks

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: Larry B. Friedman
- Esteemed Leading Knight: Perry Hodges
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: Ralph Lampert
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Joseph Zavaloff
- Secretary: Sidney Singer
- Treasurer: Max Sabath
- Inner Guard: Daniel Sales
- Chaplain: Ernest Burkons
- Organist: Samuel Lane
- Esquire: Kenneth Kronowitz
- Tiler: Fred Picarella
- Trustees: Martin Gruber, Sidney Crown, Frank Smith, Ben Blumenthal
The following officers initiated the new members:

- Exalted Ruler: Dean Graham
- Esteemed Leading Knight: Tony DeLucca
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: Richard A. Grass
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Robert D. Dunivan
- Secretary: Paul Walborn
- Esquire: Steve Russo
- Chaplain: Carl Hazel
- Inner Guard: Warren Carson
- Organist: Leo Platt

The Lodge’s charter was revoked on January 25, 1977. North Miami Lodge 1835 was the mother Lodge.

**North Palm Beach Lodge 2069**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 70th Lodge</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>March 6, 1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>March 29, 1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>Pat LeMoyne, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributor:</td>
<td>Carl Vaughn, Past Grand Loyal Knight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name Changed:</td>
<td>April 1, 1969 (from Riviera Beach)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Surrendered:</td>
<td>November 16, 1992</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Pat LeMoyne
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Frank J. Holt
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: L. S. McClure
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Willis V. McCall
- Grand Secretary: William Lieberman
- Grand Treasurer: Lewis J. Fraser
- Grand Trustee: Vaughan Martin
- Grand Tiler: Don Jordan
- Grand Chaplain: Charles H. Peckelis
- Grand Organist: George Hulme
- Grand Esquire: George Carver
- Grand Inner Guard: Clarence Gunn

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: John L. Remsen
- Esteemed Leading Knight: Henry R. Shirley
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: James Knight
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Jack C. Deutsch
- Secretary: Richard Frick
- Treasurer: Glenn W. Bridwell
- Inner Guard: George Poston
- Chaplain: Clyde Trammell, Jr.
- Organist: M. J. Davis
- Esquire: Steele C. Coddington
- Tiler: John O. Scotten
- Trustees: Talmadge Wilcher
The following are charter members: Willard F. Johnston; John L. Remsen; Michael F. Graffey; Richard Frick; Steele Coddington; Sterling M. Haight; William J. Collins; William R. Jeffries; George A. Boggs; Peter Hansen; Oscar Lee Etheridge; James D. Blakely; G. W. Pritchett; John E. London; Louis Zimmerman; Charles F. Tomm; Ronald R. Purdon; Dick Ross; Charley A. Root; Mahlon F. Bowen; George N. Judge; William H. Lynch; Leo A. Lindroth; John B. Henning; Fred A. Knoche; John K. Holman; D. W. Humberstone; W. J. Mahaffey; Edward Bator; William D. Adeimy; Wm. H. Robertson; John J. Byrne; Francis B. Geary; Walter B. Manhard; Thomas H. Johnson; John W. Wiles; Edward G. Hanlon; Emil Schulumberger; Harold A. Hanlon; Roy G. Weaver; Milton Lang; Edward H. Evans; Harry V. Nye; Donald J. Fieltiz; Andrew J. Thomas; C. E. St. John; Newlin L. Bauer; John A. Doran; Harry J. Henry; Matthew Smyth, Jr.; Robert A. McCarthy; Leland C. Smith; Eugene H. Pulch; J. J. Grabenhofer; Talmadge S. Wilcher; James M. Knight; Glenn W. Bridwell; Clyde Trammell, Jr.; Anthony J. Ranney; George G. Dougan; Joseph Sigmund; Malcolm L. Reed; Roy R. Jackson; Horace A. Chapman; James L. Hough; Beaumont Davison; Carl J. Minnig; Ross C. Fitz; Isaac R. Lounsberry; Everett E. Sikes; John H. Van Note, Jr.; John L. Prescott; Roy Kajander; Charles C. Czechor; Earl Zellers; Harry W. Kusters; Nicholas Cendreta; Charles S. Rowe; Henry R. Shirley; Kenneth R. Nix; Jack C. Deutsch; John O. Scotten; James J. McGinness; Stanley Sonnefeld; Anthony E. Moore; Richard F. Slominski; Everett D. Fitts; H. L. Fortner; Robert E. Lund; Thomas G. Kinney; E. Al Howe, Jr.; Havelock N. Wells; Richard Frikkers, Jr.; Joseph Nemeth; Merle R. Whitaker; Lewis D. Brinson; William F. Bachstet; Brook Carter; H. P. Knight; Edwin J. Pepper; E. Snead Alvord; George A. Pedersen; Donald K. Tillman; B. Fox Griffin; Pat J. Snow, Jr.; Maurice H. Bradfield; Wayne Vaughn; John E. Flournoy; Troy F. Dallas; Andrew H. Grigsby; Bruce Caddy; Wesley E. Soret; Charles Knam; Charles M. Hyman; George A. Baker, Jr.; Monte Bennett; Robert C. Brown; Lon Ehler; J. B. Bateman; Sherman E. Myers; Richard M. Smith; Ray A. Accetta; Robert F. Cromwell; Thomas W. McKibbin; Mose L. Cooley; Merton J. Cushman; Angelo J. Flex; Herman F. Probst; Robert J. Widmann; Arthur J. Allen; Irvine S. Owens; Thom Boger; Raymond H. Woolard; Martin Gold; Myron C. Wambaugh; Foster H. Brown; Paul J. Buschbacher; William L. Heath; Anthony F. D’Anna; T. Harry Hayfield; Andrew M. Haber; Paul J. Mitchell; Thurmond W. Knight; M. J. Davis; Max O. Hammer; Arthur Veritan; Leonard Smith; Oscar A. Holzbach; William M. Barnett; Robert R. Leahy; Everett Ward; Thomas A. Holland; Lindley Holman; Joseph J. Raffe; John Ridells; Lamar Kile; Charles R. Wilson; Earl W. Paluska; J. D. Taylor; John Vyborny; Michael Opperman; Robert Rast; James Warr; Thomas Blondell; Jerry Kelly; Patrick F. McNally; Sam Levin; Eugene Valent; Irving B. Jeffs; Joseph J. Bucheck, Jr.; George A. Poston; Roy L. Fyock; Fred E. Russell; Clyde Antoine; Theodore Brower; Frank Huttinger; Martin D. Whelan; Walter J. Kelly; Felix A. Soret; Karl D. Griffin; Irvin R. Griffin; Alvin B. Markham; C. Stewart McDowell; Jay G. Stephens; Carl W. Gass; Lawrence J. Nunn; Peaslee Streets; Jules Dorn; William A. Wilson; Lester F. Leroy; Walter L. Cummings; and Leo G. Loper.

Riviera Beach Lodge 2069 was instituted on March 6, 1958 and was chartered on July 10, 1958 with 137 members. The first Exalted Ruler was John Remsen who served 1958-1959. In 1963, land was purchased in North Palm Beach and a new building was completed in 1964. In 1968, the membership voted to change the name of the Lodge to North Palm Beach Lodge 2069. A building extension was completed in 1970.

**District Vice Presidents:**

| Robert Grafton | 1964-1965 |
| Carl Hartmann  | 1969-1970 |
| James Southard | 1989-1990 |

**District Deputies:**

| Robert Grafton | 1965-1966 |
| Carl Hartmann  | 1970-1971 |
| Carl Vaughn    | 1973-1974 |
| James Southard | 1991-1992 |
Vice President at Large:

Carl Vaughn 1981-1982

State Presidents:

Robert Grafton 1971-1972
Carl Vaughn 1982-1983

Grand Exalted Ruler:

Robert Grafton 1979-1980

The Lodge ritual team won numerous district ritual contests and the state ritual championship in 1972 competing in the national competition that same year.

Lodge bulletin entries won at the state and national level.

The Lodge surrendered its charter on November 16, 1992.

The Ladies organization was the Elkettes. They formed shortly after the Elks, on September 14, 1959, with 132 charter members.

**North Port Lodge 2632**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 112th Lodge</th>
<th>District:</th>
<th>Southwest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>November 2, 1981</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>January 31, 1982</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>401</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>537</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>394</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership:</td>
<td>331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership:</td>
<td>298</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: Stephen “Rick” Nelson
- Esteemed Leading Knight: Thomas A. Power
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: John Reihman
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Richard A. Tedrick
- Secretary: Howard Latimer
- Treasurer: Hollis D. McDonel
- Inner Guard: Salvatore Privitera
- Chaplain: James Gill
- Esquire: Alfred Ducharme
- Tiler: Alex Kranyak
- Trustees:
  - 5 Year, Alfred Wolnski
  - 4 Year, Virgil Scott
  - 3 Year, Peter McMahon
  - 2 Year, Nelson Farrand
  - 1 Year, James Dunaway

North Port Lodge 2632 became a reality early in 1982 thanks in part to the efforts of Howard Latimer, who moved into the area in 1976. A former resident of the northeast, Latimer originally became an Elk in 1952 when he was initiated into Bronx, NY Elks Lodge 871. In 1976, Latimer and his wife, Rose, moved to Florida where he demitted to Charlotte County Elks Lodge 2153. It was there that Latimer became acquainted with Wayne Arnold, Leading Knight of Charlotte County Lodge. Their discussions eventually got around to the possibility of organizing an Elks Lodge in the new community of North Port. Upon Arnold’s suggestion, Latimer completed a list of names of people who expressed interest in the organization of a North Port Elks Lodge.
In 1981, Arnold became State Chairman of New Lodges. On Memorial Day in 1981, Latimer became acquainted with Hollis McDonel of North Port. Discovering that McDonel was also an Elk, Latimer invited him to join in the effort to organize a North Port Elks Lodge. Upon receiving information from Grand Lodge, Latimer set up an Organizing Committee of which he was the chairman and McDonel was the treasurer.

In the summer of 1981, organizational meetings were initiated and received an enthusiastic response. On July 8, 1981, approximately 150 men turned out for an organizational meeting. Arnold, who was also Exalted Ruler, said that Englewood Elks Lodge 2378, which was represented at this meeting by several of its members, had offered to work closely with North Port Lodge during formative efforts. Two more organizational meetings were held in July and several more during the rest of the summer. Then, early in November, the North Port Elks, now over 200 members strong, placed a ten percent down payment on ten acres of land on which to construct a Lodge building. The ten acres were located at the intersection of Tropicaire Boulevard and Dunbarton Street.

On November 29, 1981 a benefit dinner dance for the new Lodge was held at Englewood Lodge with Latimer serving as master of ceremonies. The program included the introduction of the officers who were going to be installed at a special installation and institution early in 1982. Officers to be installed were:

- **Exalted Ruler**: Stephen B. “Rick” Nelson
- **Leading Knight**: Thomas A. Power
- **Loyal Knight**: John Reihman
- **Lecturing Knight**: Richard A. Tedrick
- **Esquire**: Alfred Ducharme
- **Treasurer**: Hollis D. McDonel
- **Secretary**: Howard Latimer
- **Inner Guard**: Salvatore Privitera
- **Tiler**: Alex Kranyak
- **Chaplain**: James Gill
- **Trustees**:
  - James Dunaway
  - Nelson Farrand
  - Peter McMahon
  - Virgil Scott
  - Alfred Wolniski

Nelson had joined Latimer and McDonel as organizers of the Lodge in the early fall of 1981. Nelson had been a Past Exalted Ruler of Olean, NY and then had demitted to Charlotte County Lodge. In late 1981, Nelson demitted to North Port Lodge. Arnold had recommended Nelson as a candidate for Exalted Ruler of the new North Port Elks. Nelson was made Organizing Secretary of Latimer’s committee while the other officers were selected based upon their previous Elksdom experience.

January 25, 1982 was set as the deadline for those wishing to become charter members of North Port Elks Lodge. On January 30, North Port Elks held an institution ball at Englewood Lodge. The next morning, Sunday, January 31, Latimer and his companion workers saw the realization of their dream when the new Lodge was instituted and charter members were initiated at Englewood Elks Lodge 2378. National, state, and local officials participated in the historic event.

Two Past Grand Exalted Rulers, William A. Wall and Robert Grafton; State President Richard Shashy; and Past State Presidents Norman Pat O’Brien, Harry Baruch, and R. Edward Royal were among those taking part in the affair. District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Pete W. Koning of Englewood; Exalted Ruler Wayne Arnold of Punta Gorda; Southwest District Chairman of New Lodges, Larry VanTilburg; Exalted Ruler William Wellbaum of Englewood; Southwest District Vice President Howard Seaton; and State Vice President at Large Carl Vaughn were also among the dignitaries present.

When the January 31 ceremonies were finally concluded, more than four hundred men had been initiated as charter members of the new North Port Elks Lodge. The first formal meeting of the new Lodge was held early in February at the William Garvey VFW Hall in North Port with an overflow crowd in attendance. Another meeting was held on February 22. The first annual charity ball by North Port Elks was held at Englewood Elks Lodge on March 28. Englewood Lodge served as the mother Lodge for North Port and sponsored the new Lodge.

During March, the North Port Elks completed the purchase of property upon which their Lodge was to be constructed. The new property consisted of ten acres located in the northern section of North Port. The newly formed Lodge staged its first initiation for new members on March 22; thirteen men were initiated into the Lodge.

Also in March, the Lodge started distributing a monthly newsletter to give its membership an insight on current and upcoming activities.
During the summer months, several special events were held to raise money for the building fund as well as for charity. In addition, the North Port Elks aided the local Little League by purchasing a sign on the outfield fence as well as donating bats to that organization. The fundraising activities peaked with a Labor Day picnic on September 7 featuring a hog roast which was donated by General Development Corp. The picnic also featured hot dogs, hamburgers, and refreshments. More than 700 people turned out for the picnic, giving the Lodge’s building fund a nice boost.

The Ladies of the North Port Elks also organized during the summer and staged several events to help raise money for the organization.

As this new Elks Lodge approached the end of its first year of operation, it did so with a membership of around five hundred and with land paid for upon which to construct a Lodge.

North Port Elks continued to hold various functions for charitable causes and to enrich the building fund. Sales of Thanksgiving turkeys raised over $800 for the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital.

On January 30, 1983, North Port Elks held its first anniversary ball, attracting a capacity house at Englewood Elks Lodge.

On February 8, the Ladies of the North Port Elks elected Theresa Creutz as President, succeeding the group’s first President, Judith Nelson. Jean Dunaway was Vice President, B. C. McMahon was Secretary, Elaine Hrycuna was Treasurer, and Jean Power was Chaplain.

On February 28, 1983, John Reihman was elected Exalted Ruler, succeeding Stephen Nelson. Art Hunnius was 5-year Trustee, James Hadden was Lecturing Knight, Ken Wade was Loyal Knight, Richard Tedrick was Leading Knight, John Creutz was Tiler, and Latimer and McDonel retained their positions as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

The Elks had a successful family barbecue picnic at Dallas White Field on March 26 and the Lodge’s second installation ball was held May 1. At this time Exalted Ruler Reihman introduced the new officers, who also included James Gill, Chaplain; James Gallo, Organist; Tom Ashe, Inner Guard; Joe Hrycuna, Esquire; and Scott, Dunaway, Ferrand, and McMahon, Trustees. Henry Gay was Elk of the Year.

North Port Elks teamed with William A. Garvey VFW Post 8203 to hold an Americanism Picnic on September 4 and the Elks held a Harvest Moon ball on November 6. On November 28, Jim Gill was installed as Loyal Knight. Sad news struck North Port Elks on January 26, 1984 when Exalted Ruler John Reihman died. Richard Tedrick became Acting Exalted Ruler.

The annual anniversary dinner was held on January 29 at Punta Gorda Elks Lodge. On March 26, 1984, Tedrick was installed as Exalted Ruler for the 1984-1985 year. Other officers installed were James Gill, Leading Knight; Harry Coolidge, Secretary; Robert Cook, Treasurer; Nelson and McDonel, Trustees; Scott, Tiler; John Donnarumma, Inner Guard; Arthur Hunnius, Chaplain; and James Edsall, Esquire.

On April 9, 1984, Don Unferth, editor of the Elks bulletin since its inception, was named North Port Elk of the Year. The annual fall picnic was held on September 29. Then on January 27, 1985, the Elks held their third anniversary ball. On March 25, Joe Jaskiewicz was named North Port Elk of the Year. A spring picnic was held at the VFW Lodge on March 30.

Gill was elected Exalted Ruler for the 1985-1986 year on February 25, 1985. The new officer slate included L. Ashe, Leading Knight; Poland, Loyal Knight; Sam Wareham, Lecturing Knight; Harry Coolidge, Secretary; Cook, Treasurer; Tom Brown, Tiler; James Gallo, Organist; Donnarumma, Inner Guard; Hunnius, Chaplain; and Kenneth Satornino, Esquire.

The 1985 installation ball was held on May 18 at the Eagles Club in Charlotte Harbor. On May 27, Wareham was installed as Loyal Knight, replacing Poland who vacated the post due to illness. On July 8, Robert McNeal was installed as Lecturing Knight.

The annual fall picnic was held on October 6. Meanwhile, the building of the new Lodge on Tropicair was well under way. During the 1984-1985 year, North Port Elks received recognition from Grand Lodge for showing a 19.5 percent gain in membership.

On November 25, Exalted Ruler Gill gave his brother Elks the good news that “the foundation is down on our new building!” He said it should be ready for occupancy in 1986. On that same date, C. A. Black was elected Treasurer, succeeding Cook, who resigned.

Meanwhile, the Bond Committee under the leadership of Larry Marciori continued its excellent work of persuading members to invest in the high interest bonds being offered. The fourth anniversary ball was held at Englewood Lodge on February 8, 1986. On March 10, Jim Inman was named North Port Elk of the Year.

Jim Inman was elected Exalted Ruler for the 1986-1987 year. Other nominations approved were Wareham, Leading Knight; McNeal, Loyal Knight; Tom Brown, Lecturing Knight; Francis Derry, Secretary; C. A. Black, Treasurer; and Harry Coolidge, 5-year Trustee.

North Port Elks celebrated the opening of the beautiful new Lodge building with a buffet dinner on August 23, 1986 and a gold ball banquet on October 11. In September, Ed Jarvis was elected as a 3-year Trustee and David
Deegan was hired as Lodge Manager. William Smith was named Treasurer. The ever popular bingo started in October with games on Tuesday nights at first; later Monday afternoons were added to the schedule. George Staniech and his volunteer workers did a magnificent job of making the games a real success.

Officers for the 1987-1988 year were Wareham, Exalted Ruler; McNeal, Leading Knight; Tom Brown, Loyal Knight; Henry Garcia, Lecturing Knight; Derry, Secretary; Herbert L. Smith, Treasurer; Salvatore Privitera, Esquire; Henry Gay, Tiler; Brian Brenner, Chaplain; Ken Satornino, Inner Guard; and Harry Coolidge, Ashe, Tedrick, Jarvis, and McDonel, Trustees.

John Roes was named North Port Elk of the Year. Al Hashemwua was recognized for the splendid work he had been doing as Drug Awareness Chairman. Howard Latimer received a lifetime membership. Eugene Phillippi’s valiant efforts as Blood Chairman and Lodge handyman were recognized.

On May 25, 1987, Wareham resigned as Exalted Ruler and Thomas A. Power succeeded him. Joe Kelley succeeded McNeal as Leading Knight, Brian Thompson succeeded Privitera as Esquire, and Robert Fuentes was named as Esquire when Thompson later replaced Deegan as Lodge Manager. William Tochterman filled the long vacated Organist position.

This 12,000 square foot Lodge sitting on ten acres of land cost them $440,000. They had their highest point in membership in 1990 with 1,054 members. They were the largest club in the city and had four waitresses, six bartenders, and two chefs; at times they filled its seating capacity of five hundred people.

However, increasing debt rose to $853,000 and membership declined to 420 members. In one year alone they lost 97 members. Exalted Ruler Robert Gobbi said “the situation is that the club portion of the Lodge is supposed to provide enough revenue to run the club. Without membership participation, we can’t do charity work and without participation we can’t meet our monthly expenses. If you don’t have the support of the members, you are dead in the water.”

The once busy Lodge saw very little activity. Its biggest draw became the 150 people who showed up to play bingo. In 1993, the club filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The club’s only hope was to sell the building and distribute whatever money was collected from the sale. At one time the city had looked at the building as a possible site to purchase for themselves but Mayor Robert Norris stated that the club had two major drawbacks. It was poorly located and the rafters were too low for a facility such as a multipurpose building. Additionally the city would have to add a gym to the building which would cost a considerable amount of money.

The North Port Elks had built a building too large for their needs and abilities to maintain. Treasurer Robert H. Blane concluded that they “could have kept it going if maybe it was half its size.”

North Port is no longer a Lodge of the Florida State Elks Association.

**North Tampa Lodge 2745**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Dispensation:</th>
<th>October 20, 1988</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>March 4, 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler  
Cal Clements

Additional information was unavailable.

Their Ladies organization was the Ladies of Elks.

North Tampa Lodge is no longer a Lodge of the Florida State Elks Association.

**Northwest District (Florida)**

District membership as of:

March 31, 2001: 4,548  
March 31, 2009: 3,826

Northwest District Lodge memberships as of:

Crestview 2624  
March 31, 2009: 104
Destin 2688
    March 31, 2009:  184
Fort Walton 1795
    March 31, 2009:  756
Holley-Navarre 2787
    March 31, 2009:  175
Milton 2377
    March 31, 2009:  279
Panama City 1598
    March 31, 2009:  203
Pensacola Beach 497
    March 31, 2009:  898
Twin Cities 2747
    March 31, 2009:  124
Warrington 2108
    March 31, 2009:  1,103

In the 1995-1996 Lodge year, two hurricanes hit the Northwest District, wreaking devastation on several of the district Lodges, especially Pensacola Beach and Milton. It was at this point that the cohesiveness of the district was most apparent. Neighboring Lodges came together to offer assistance and their facilities for meetings and planned events if they were needed. Due to the leadership and the determination of the members, both Lodges were back in operation with a minimum delay.

**Numbering of Lodges**

In the early years of Elkdom as New York Lodge 1 began to take form, the idea of expansion was given little, if any, thought at all. When Philadelphia 2 and other early Lodges were formed, the primary consideration was that they should only be formed in cities that supported a strong theatrical contingent. This, of course, resulted from the fact that the Elks had its inception within a group of people involved in the theatrical profession.

As Lodges began to form, Grand Secretary William Coffin, speaking to Grand Exalted Ruler Henry P. O’Neil, stated, “It’s a job to write the names of Lodges in full every time you have occasion to mention them in a record.” O’Neil then suggested that Coffin designate them by letters. New York would be A, Philadelphia would be B, etc.

The idea expressed that “the Elks would never pass 26 Lodges in point of numbers, if they ever reach that number.”

When Grand Secretary Arthur C. Moreland in 1882 assumed duties as Grand Secretary, he, after the institution of Indianapolis Lodge 13, retired this practice of designating Lodges and so the process of numerical numbering began.

When a Lodge loses its charter for whatever reason, that number is retired. There have been a few occasions where Lodges have surrendered charters but were later reinstituted. At the time of reinstatement they are designated by a different number, but when it is obvious that they are going to succeed, they may make application to reinstate their original number. Ocala Lodge 286 is one example of this. They were originally instituted in 1895 as Lodge 286, but in 1899 their charter was revoked. In 1903 they again applied for institution under designated charter number 851. In 1903 they applied to have their original charter number of 286 restored. This was received on July 15, 1908 and they have since been known as Ocala Lodge 286.