Oakland Park Lodge 2407

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Location: 240 W. Prospect Road, Oakland Park, FL 33309
Office/Lounge: 954-563-2407

On Thursday evening, June 28, 2001, Oakland Park Lodge 2407 was reborn. This was after the Grand Exalted Ruler had issued an executive order revoking the Lodge’s charter as of April 1, 2001. With the assistance of the majority of the active members of the South Southeast District Advisory Council, also known as the “Scrap Heap,” and Special Representative of the Grand Exalted Ruler, Wally Gies, PDDGER of Delray Beach Lodge 1770, the Lodge officers for 2001-2002 were installed.

A tenacious, determined, undaunted group of Lodge officers lined up along with members who would commit to help the Lodge conform to Grand Lodge statutes and policies if only they could get the chance. Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bob Grafton made a trip down to Oakland Park to meet with these officers and other members. Two of the hardest working members, Kathy Sinclair and Marge Wagoner, traveled up to the state convention and met with PGER Grafton to further plead their case. Consequently Grafton recommended to Grand Exalted Ruler Rumney that the order to revoke the charter be itself revoked, and PDD Gies was appointed as a Special Representative to oversee the Lodge and its operations.

Exalted Rulers:
- 2003-2004 Richard Varady
- 2004-2005 Floyd Bass
- 2005-2006 Charles E. Lack
- 2006-2007 Thomas J. Jackson
- 2007-2008 Stanley Stone
O’Brien, M. Frank, President, Florida State Elks Association, 1938-1939

Thirty-Third Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
May 9-10, 1938
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

The following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville No. 221, Ocala No. 286, Tampa No. 708, Fernandina No. 795, St. Augustine No. 829, Lake City No. 893, Tallahassee No. 937, Miami No. 948, Gainesville No. 990, Orlando No. 1079, Daytona Beach No. 1141, St. Petersburg No. 1224, Palatka No. 1232, Sanford No. 1241, Fort Myers No. 1288, Lakeland No. 1291, West Palm Beach No. 1352, DeLand No. 1463, Fort Lauderdale No. 1517, Sarasota No. 1519, Fort Pierce No. 1520, Arcadia No. 1524, Clearwater No. 1525, Sebring No. 1529, Lake Worth No. 1530, Cocoa No. 1532, New Smyrna Beach No. 1557, Eustis No. 1578, Panama City No. 1598, and Miami Beach No. 1601.

The ritualistic cup was awarded to Daytona Beach. Brother Dunn of Miami protested the awarding of the cup.

A resolution was adopted condemning the practice of some Lodges marking present, officers of the Lodge, when such officers are actually absent but who have a good excuse for being absent. Such custom is not fair and does not record the actual facts but on the contrary places on the record of the Lodge an untruth and frequently gives to a Lodge practicing this custom an unfair advantage if there be a contest in the state in attendance of officers.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1938-1939 term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>M. Frank O’Brien, Jacksonville 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>E. K. Sumner, Fort Pierce 1520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>R. L. Bohon, Jacksonville 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>Chelsie J. Senerchia, Miami 948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>A. M. Taylor, St. Augustine 829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Father John J. Kellaghan, Sanford 1241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant at Arms</td>
<td>Peter Gessner, DeLand 1463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>M. Frank O’Brien, Jacksonville 221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following committee members were elected to serve for the 1938-1939 term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Division Vice Presidents:
Southeast Division       Val C. Cleary, Miami Beach 1601
Southwest Division      Kerfoot Bryant, Lakeland 1291
Central Division        Dr. Leslie Anderson, Cocoa 1532
Northeast Division      Cecil H. Zinkan, St. Augustine 829
Northwest Division      J. R. Jenks, Tallahassee 937

Orlando was selected for the 1938-1939 annual session.
The report of J. Edwin Baker, Superintendent of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home, was received and filed.
Uncle Joe Reed, Chairman of the Directors of the Home, and Superintendent Baker presented several children who expressed their appreciation for the many benefits they had received. Also some pictures of the home and other children were shown.

The following is the organization and staff:

Superintendent          J. Edwin Baker
Medical Director         Dr. W. L. Ashton
Nurse Supervisor         Miss Sarah Bishop
Physiotherapists         Miss Corrie B. Norris
                          Miss Florence Bond
Dietician                Miss Lois Walters
Matron                   Mrs. Robert Keller
Schoolteachers           Miss Hattie D. Slaughter
                          Miss Josephine Cunningham

O’Brien, Norman P., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1974-1975

Norman Pat O’Brien’s motto was “Name of the Game is Benevolence.”

His Year as President:

Tallahassee Lodge 937 won the state ritual contest.
Seminole Lodge 2519 and Inverness Lodge 2522 were instituted this year.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1974-1975 term:

- President: Norman P. O’Brien, South Miami
- Secretary: William Lieberman, Leesburg
- Treasurer: Frank J. Holt, Miami
- Tiler: John F. Breslin, North Miami Beach
- Historian: George McConnell, Lake Worth
- Sergeant at Arms: Joseph Stern, Miami
- Chaplain: Harry F. Knight, Sr., Key West
- Organist: Norman D. Right, DeLand

District Vice Presidents
- Northwest District: Ronnie J. Repice, Warrington
- Northeast District: John D. Farmer, Jr., Jacksonville
- East Central District: Charles F. Whalen, Ormond Beach
- Central District: Ted Ostrander, Leesburg
- West Central District: Robert Hall, Largo
- Southwest District: Arthur L. Ballentine, Fort Myers
- Southeast District: Ben A. Redding, West Palm Beach
- South Southeast District: R. Dean Graham, North Miami
- South District: Armando Ramos, Hialeah

Pat O’Brien died in an accident on the morning of January 21, 2002

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**Ocala Elks Lodge 286**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District:</th>
<th>North Central</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>June 10, 1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>March 20, 1895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Membership:</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>1,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership:</td>
<td>1,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership:</td>
<td>1,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
<td>1,042</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership:</td>
<td>1,042</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2007 Membership:</td>
<td>987</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
<td>951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2009 Membership:</td>
<td>882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>702 NE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>352-732-7091 or 352-732-7092</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

Jacksonville Lodge 221 officiated. Names of the installing officers are not available.

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: Edward Hiller
- Esteemed Leading Knight: George K. Robinson
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: George R. McKean
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: James E. Chace
- Secretary: Frank L. Watson

Past Exalted Rulers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edward Heller</td>
<td>1903-1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simeon T. Sistrunk</td>
<td>1905-1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Jewett</td>
<td>1908-1909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford C. Webb</td>
<td>1909-1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howell M. Hampton</td>
<td>1912-1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John H. Spencer</td>
<td>1918-1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter R. Pedrick</td>
<td>1922-1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus Ed Carmichael</td>
<td>1928-1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. W. O’Neal</td>
<td>1934-1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John J. Denson</td>
<td>1935-1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. E. Sturgis</td>
<td>1936-1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. J. Stoffoletti, Jr.</td>
<td>1938-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. H. Timmons</td>
<td>1939-1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waldo C. Parmeter</td>
<td>1940-1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell K. Pratter</td>
<td>1941-1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank R. Greene</td>
<td>1942-1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred R. Hocker</td>
<td>1943-1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trusten P. Drake</td>
<td>1944-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles H. Rogers, Jr.</td>
<td>1945-1946</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1962-1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>John W. Knope</td>
<td>1946-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Camp, II</td>
<td>1947-1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Farris Bryant</td>
<td>1948-1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor of Florida</td>
<td>1961-1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willard Ayres</td>
<td>1949-1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Porter, Jr.</td>
<td>1950-1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clyde A. Gleason</td>
<td>1951-1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. H. Watson</td>
<td>1952-1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O. Wettstein, III</td>
<td>1953-1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hal Davis</td>
<td>1954-1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. L. Milbrath</td>
<td>1955-1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. L. Dinkins, Jr.</td>
<td>1956-1957</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
W. H. Bartlett 1957-1958
L. W. Popple 1958-1959
VP FL State Elks Assn.
C. S. McNealy 1959-1960
W. E. Sturgis, Jr. 1960-1961
J. M. Greene 1961-1962
Abraham M. Shashy 1963-1964
VP FL State Elks Assn.

District Deputy
Dr. John D. Lindner 1964-1965
Charles D. Joiner, Jr. 1965-1966
Frank C. Zarcone 1966-1967
Donald E. James 1967-1968
Newton E. Perry 1968-1969
Richard M. Shashy 1970-1971
VP FL State Elks Assn.

District Deputy
President FL State Elks Assn.
Fred H. Turner 1971-1972
J. Robert Graw 1972-1973
Edwin Charles Shreve 1972-1974
John Franklin Wickham 1974-1975
VP North Central District

District Deputy
Wayne Carlton Curtis 1975-1976
E. L. Foster, Jr. 1976-1977
A. C. Chandler 1977-1978
Troy W. Caruthers 1978-1979
Merritt C. Fore, Jr. 1979-1980
John E. Futch 1981-1982
Henry L. Lambert 1982-1983
J. R. Fort 1983-1984
G. Sheppard Dozier 1984-1985
Winston M. Needham 1985-1986
VP North Central District

District Deputy
President FL State Elks Assn.
H. Jackson Roland 1986-1987
Leslie C. Turner 1988-1989
James Willis Lee 1989-1990
Edward M. Smith 1990-1991
Ruben R. Lamb 1991-1992
Benjamin H. Ayres 1992-1993
G. B. Chappell, III 1993-1994
John Lazo, III 1997-1998
William J. Rodgers, III 1998-1999
Robert Crawford 2003-2004
Harold G. Floyd 2004-2005
Greg Coming 2005-2006
Mike Mongeluzzo 2006-2007
Harold M. Warren 2007-2008
The following have been members of Ocala Lodge:

- PSP Herbert A. Ford 1905-1906
- PSP Winston Needham 1996-1997
- Exalted Ruler C. T. Bryant & Governor of Florida 1948-1949

Ladies organization: This information was unavailable.

Outstanding Events and Projects

1994 Ocala Lodge 286 finished second in the Eastern Division preliminaries of the Grand Lodge ritual contest to advance to the final four and then was edged out for the national championship by 31/100's of a point by Union City, GA Lodge 1617 in the concluding round.

Contributors of the following information: Fred H. Turner, PER (with assistance from K. K. Kennedy, Leon Goldman, Rupert Caviness, L. B. Levett, Harry Clarkson, John Lane, and Jack Pinch)

Some editing by State Historian

Ocala Elks Lodge 286, located in Florida’s North Central District, received its dispensation to become a Lodge on June 10, 1894 and was instituted on March 20, 1895. It was the second Lodge instituted in Florida. Ocala became one of the founding Lodges of the Florida State Elks Association, the 17th State Association organized in Elkdom. It claimed 530 charter members.

Their charter was granted on July 11, 1895 and Robert Portridge served as Exalted Ruler.

Its charter was revoked in 1899. The reason for the revocation is not known. The only documentation for its existence is the charter which hangs on the wall of the Lodge room.

On March 21, 1903 an application was made seeking to grant a rerorganization of the Ocala Lodge. They subsequently were granted that dispensation to reorganize the Lodge. In May of that year, the Lodge was instituted (as Ocala 851) and a charter was applied for. Then on July 23, 1903, a charter was granted for Ocala to become Lodge 851. During the four-year lapse, 565 additional Lodges had been formed and granted charters. The Ocala members, however, wanted to retain their original Lodge number and petitioned the Grand Lodge to do so. After five years of negotiation, the original number, 286, was restored to Ocala Lodge on July 15, 1908. Charter figures cannot be verified because prior to reorganizing, the Grand Lodge Secretary lost all records in a flood in Dubuque, IA.

The minutes from August of 1911 indicate that Lodge expenses were in excess of income. A motion was thus made to reduce the salary of the Lodge Secretary from $35 to $20 per month in an effort to cut down. Later, in 1914, Lodge minutes record the setting of dues at $12 a year and payable in $6 increments on April 1 and October 1. Lodge dues have since been increased four times by vote of the membership to $50, $70, $120, and the current $150 per year.

Ocala Lodge has enjoyed six meeting locations since it began. The first meetings were held on the second floor of the Carmichael Building on North Magnolia Avenue. The original brick stores have been torn down and the now vacant plot is situated between today’s Greyhound Bus Station and the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad freight office.
The next meeting location was a room above Sam Pyle’s Funeral Home on NE 1st Street near the old post office. The funeral home changed to the Marion Hardware Annex and later became a part of the Concord Square complex. Today the building houses a small downtown eatery.

The third Lodge location was a room above Luke Underwood’s Pool Parlor which was situated between the Munroe Chambliss Bank and the Harrington Hotel on SE Broadway. The entire block was later torn down and is now the site of the downtown Barnett Bank opposite the Chamber of Commerce on SE First Avenue and Broadway.

The Lodge then moved its headquarters to a room above the Rathskeller Bar on N. Magnolia Avenue. That building later became Tomlinson’s Men’s Shop and was across the street from the old downtown J. C. Penny store. The building is now part of the Concord Square complex and houses professional offices.
The fifth meeting place was the first that the Lodge actually owned. The Ocala Elks Association purchased the Clarkson House at the corner of Tuscaloosa Avenue and Broadway on October 6, 1941 for $8,800. The location was also known as the Dobbs House and has served as a youth center known as Kats Korner. The Clarkson House was sold in 1962 for $27,000.

Their present location at the corner of Silver Springs Blvd. and NE 25th Avenue was purchased in 1960 for $55,000. It was originally the Hillside Restaurant and later the Gold House Restaurant. Since the Lodge was purchased, it has been remodeled and expanded several times and additional land has been purchased. The property is currently worth approximately two million dollars and is one of the finest facilities anywhere. It boasts a large Lodge room, large meeting and banquet room, large service restaurant, bar and cocktail lounge, and well-appointed game rooms.

The Lodge has not only changed and improved its physical facilities during the past 100 years but also its reputation and standing in the community and throughout the state. There are many tales told by older members of early tomfoolery and shenanigans carried out at the Lodge. Leon Goldman's description of his 1931 initiation includes a mock gunfight between the local sheriff and the Lodge treasurer over mismanaged funds. Candidates were found face down on the floor or hiding under tables when the lights came on, and the members were well entertained with their stunt.

By 1995 the Lodge had over 1,200 members and was well-known for its worthwhile activities and charitable contributions. The Lodge has sponsored many major fundraisers including the annual George Morgan Golf Tournament and Elks Rib Day. These activities alone produced tens of thousands of dollars annually for the Florida Elks Children's Hospital as well as other Elks charities.

Ocala Lodge is noted today for its impressive initiations, but they are far different from the caliber of 1931. Their officers have earned great respect in ritual competition at the district, state, and national levels. Ocala Lodge has competed nationally for years and scored consistently high marks. They have earned two national championships in 1983 and 1987.

The Lodge restaurant has gained a reputation for some of the finest food and service anywhere. Well-appointed and professionally staffed, “The Club” has become an institution for fine dining. They are known far and
wide for their incomparable prime rib and “garbage salad.” The lounge also features a relaxed atmosphere with fine entertainment and dancing.

All of the Grand Lodge records pertaining to Ocala 286 prior to the reorganizing were destroyed by a flood in the office of the former Grand Secretary in Dubuque, IA.

Ocala Lodge 286:
Excellence in Ritual

Ocala Lodge 286 first participated in ritual competition in 1970-1971 in the Northeast District with a team of officers headed by PSP Richard M. Shashy as Exalted Ruler finishing in 2nd place. In 1976-1977, Ocala Lodge was transferred to the North Central District and has finished in first place each year since.


Ocala first won the state ritual competition in 1980 at the convention in Miami. From 1980-1997, the Ocala ritual team has won fifteen out of seventeen state championships. Ocala has competed in the final four of the national ritual competition seven times, winning the national championship in 1983 in Honolulu, HI and in 1987 in Atlanta, GA. Ocala was national runner-up from 1982-1988 and 1994 and placed third nationally in 1980 and 1989.

Ocala has placed 5th or better in the Eastern preliminary competition in each of their thirteen appearances and has produced 29 All American performers in national competition including three All American coaches.

Winston Needham, PSP was Lecturing Knight in 1983 when the team won the national championship. In 1987 when the team won the national championship, he was on the team as Candidate. During his time on the team, Needham was in the final four for four times. He is the only person in Ocala Lodge who was on all three teams that won the national championships.

Odes

Grand Exalted Ruler Henry P. O’Neil (1875-1876) collated and put the words to many of the odes, copyrighting the same in his own name and presenting them to the order.

O’Donoghue, John, President, Florida State Elks Association, 1921-1922

Sixteenth Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
April 28-29, 1921
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA
The following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville No. 221, Ocala No. 286, Key West No. 551, Tampa No. 708, Fernandina No. 795, St. Augustine No. 829, Miami No. 948, Gainesville No. 990, Orlando No. 1079, Daytona Beach No. 1141, St. Petersburg No. 1224, Palatka No. 1232, Fort Myers No. 1288, Lakeland No. 1291, and West Palm Beach No. 1352.

Fernandina Lodge was reinstated as a member of the Association.
Live Oak Lodge 1165 surrendered its charter (revoked January 25, 1917).
The Secretary reported the present membership in the state as 5,263.
E. D. Roy reported on the float at the 1920 Grand Lodge session in Chicago (see page 132 of minutes for detailed report).

Resolutions:

In Memoriam

Whereas the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Universe has called unto Himself our late brother, J. T. Mahoney, First Vice President of the Florida Elks Association, and
Whereas his untimely death has created a void which cannot be filled and sorrow which only time can alleviate; and
Whereas by his death irreparable loss has come to his family, to his city, and to this Association,
Be it resolved that a page of our minutes be set apart for the inscription of this resolution and that a copy thereof be sent to his family and to the press.

Be it resolved by the Florida Elks Association that our secretary be instructed to write the secretaries of the state lodges requesting their respective lodges to endorse a State Good Roads Day.
Be it further resolved that the respective lodges urge the Florida Representatives to designate a day to be known as Good Roads Day and same be declared a general holiday.
Be it further resolved that all delegates to the National Convention are earnestly requested to bring this matter before the Grand Lodge with a view of making same a National Good Roads Day.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1921-1922 term:

President    John O’Donoghue, Tampa 708
First Vice President   R. L. Ray, West Palm Beach 1352
Second Vice President   C. C. Kirby, Jacksonville 221
Third Vice President   Benj. Goldenberg, Daytona Beach 1141
Secretary    H. M. Hunt, Tampa 708
Treasurer    B. A. Maxfield, West Palm Beach 1352
Chaplain    J. H. Webber-Thompson, Palatka 1232
Sergeant at Arms    J. L. Reed, Tampa 708
Tiler     R. B. DuBois, St. Petersburg 1224

No Tiler was elected at the institution of the Association, and it was not until 1917 that a Tiler was elected. Due to World War I in 1918, no meeting was held. In 1919 and 1920, no Tiler was elected. In 1921, a Tiler was elected.

Executive Committee   John O’Donoghue, Tampa 708
R. L. Ray, West Palm Beach 1352
H. M. Hunt, Tampa 708
B. A. Maxfield, West Palm Beach 1352
J. W. Ingram, Jacksonville 221
O. M. Eaton, Lakeland 1291
J. S. Shallcross, St. Petersburg 1224

Jacksonville was selected for the seventeenth annual session.

Officers (Grand Lodge)

National officers named at the time of the formation of Grand Lodge and the Order of Elks were:
Exalted Grand Ruler
Esteemed Leading Grand Knight
Esteemed Loyal Grand Knight
Grand Lecturer
Grand Secretary
Grand Treasurer
Grand Tiler
Supreme and Associate Judges

Appointed Officers were:
District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers
Grand Chaplain

Esquire (Grand)
   Added to appointive officers in 1886

Inner Guard (Grand)
   Added as appointive office in 1874

Lecturer (Grand)
   Changed to Esteemed Lecturing Grand Knight in 1886

Trustees (Grand)
   Added in 1874 and judges were dropped

In 1892 changes were made in the title of Grand Lodge Officers:
   Grand Exalted Ruler
   The Esteemed Leading Grand Knight was changed to the Grand Esteemed Leading Knight.
   The Esteemed Loyal Grand Knight was changed to the Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight.
   The Esteemed Lecturing Grand Knight was changed to the Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight.

**Officers Attendance Committee**

In 1938 a resolution was passed at the thirty-third annual convention held in Daytona Beach condemning the practice of some Lodges marking officers of the Lodge present when such officers are actually absent but who have a good excuse for being absent. Such custom is not fair and does not record the actual facts. On the contrary, it places an untruth on record of the Lodge and frequently give an unfair advantage to a Lodge practicing this custom if there be a contest in the state in attendance of officers.

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

**Officers, Florida Elks Association**

President
Vice President at Large
Vice President for each District
Board of Directors
Secretary
Treasurer
Historian
O’Hea, Arthur C., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1950-1951

The following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville No. 221, Ocala No. 286, Pensacola Beach No. 497, Key West No. 551, Tampa No. 708, St. Augustine No. 829, Lake City No. 893, Tallahassee No. 937, Miami No. 948, Gainesville No. 990, Orlando No. 1079, Daytona Beach No. 1141, Live Oak No. 1165, St. Petersburg No. 1224, Palatka No. 1232, Sanford No. 1241, Fort Myers No. 1288, Lakeland No. 1291, West Palm Beach No. 1352, DeLand No. 1463, Bradenton No. 1511, Marianna No. 1516, Fort Lauderdale No. 1517, Sarasota No. 1519, Fort Pierce No. 1520, Arcadia No. 1524, Clearwater No. 1525, Sebring No. 1529, Lake Worth No. 1530, Cocoa No. 1532, New Smyrna Beach No. 1557, Eustis No. 1578, Miami Beach No. 1601, Pahokee No. 1638, Winter Haven No. 1672, Coral Gables No. 1676, Wauchula No. 1700, Leesburg No. 1703, Belle Glade No. 1716, Tarpon Springs No. 1719, Hollywood No. 1732, Melbourne-Eau Gallie No. 1744, Homestead No. 1754, Delray Beach No. 1770, Vero Beach No. 1774, Miami Springs-Hialeah No. 1775, Fort Walton Beach No. 1795, and Starke No. 1802.

President M. A. Rosin gave his annual report. Membership in the state was given as 21,476 and three new Lodges were installed in the past year: Delray Beach 1770 was instituted April 30, 1949; Starke 1802 was instituted April 4, 1950; and Fort Walton 1795 was instituted April 11, 1950. (Editor’s Note: Governor Charley E. Johns who was the acting Governor of Florida in 1934 upon the death of Governor Dan McCarthy was the organizing Exalted Ruler of Starke 1802.)

The total of charity and social and community welfare funds expended by the Elks of Florida was $147,535 or an average of $7 per member. He reported on the Harry-Anna Home and stated that the highlight of the year’s work there was the activation of the trust fund. The Elks National Foundation scholarship was won by Michaeleen Alice Kendall.
Results of the state ritualistic contest were as follows: Tallahassee 937, 97.1919; Pahokee 1638, 97.1568; Wauchula 1700, 96.7443; and Daytona Beach 1141, 95.6077.

The following amendments were made in the bylaws: Article IX, Sec. 1 pertaining to state divisions (see page 33 of annual proceedings); Article V, Sec. 2 pertaining to the word, “Secretary” (see page 89 of annual proceedings); and Article V, Sec. 9 pertaining to the salary of the Secretary (see page 89 of annual proceedings).

*Florida Elks News* won second place in the Grand Lodge contest. There were fifty Lodges in the state. Membership was 21,476. Attendance at the convention was 833.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1950-1951 term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Arthur C. O’Hea</td>
<td>Fort Lauderdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Claude L. Johnson</td>
<td>Tallahassee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Chelsie J. Senerchia</td>
<td>Miami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>Howell A. Davis</td>
<td>Palatka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Clarence Stauffer</td>
<td>Fort Lauderdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>Clyde Trammell</td>
<td>West Palm Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant at Arms</td>
<td>Peter Gessner</td>
<td>DeLand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Harry Kudell</td>
<td>Sanford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division Vice Presidents:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President, South Division</td>
<td>Bruce Hood</td>
<td>Hollywood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President, South Central Division</td>
<td>H. F. Johnso</td>
<td>Wauchula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President, Northeast Division</td>
<td>Charles Poole</td>
<td>Daytona Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President, Northwest Division</td>
<td>George Carver</td>
<td>Live Oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President, Central Division</td>
<td>Earl Winstead</td>
<td>Tarpon Springs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Daytona Beach was selected as the site for the 1951 convention.

**Okeechobee Lodge 2558**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 103rd Lodge</th>
<th>District:</th>
<th>Southeast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>March 7, 1977</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>May 1, 1977</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>James W. Davidson, DDGER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrendered Charter In:</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>132</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>268</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>239</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership:</td>
<td>226</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership:</td>
<td>213</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2001 Membership:</td>
<td>156</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
<td>129</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership:</td>
<td>101</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>James W. Davidson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esteemed Leading Knight</td>
<td>Frank J. Holt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Lamar Johnston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>Russell Saxon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Secretary</td>
<td>Norman P. O’Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Treasurer</td>
<td>Gene Boggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Trustee</td>
<td>George McConnell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Trustee</td>
<td>N. E. Poland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: Thomas E. Elmore
- Esteemed Leading Knight: George H. Murphy
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: Herman E. Williams
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: W. R. Rennie
- Secretary: Charles W. Bush
- Treasurer: Walter J. Bourgault, Sr.
- Inner Guard: Tobias Pakozdi
- Chaplain: Ronald W. DeSalvo
- Esquire: Lloyd R. Coburn
- Tiler: Angus H. McDonald
- Lecturing Knight: W. R. Rennie
- Trustees:
  - 5 Year, William L. Gernat
  - 4 Year, Frank J. Broome
  - 3 Year, Harold B. Hiller
  - 2 Year, W. S. Young
  - 1 Year, Tony S. Madonna

The following officers initiated the new members:

- Exalted Ruler: Thomas Harkins

Additional information was unavailable.

Jupiter Lodge 2469 was the mother Lodge.

Past State President Thomas E. Elmore (1992-1993) and Past Grand Esteemed Leading Knight was a member of the Lodge.

Okeechobee is a fast growing community lying in its namesake, Okeechobee County, and alongside giant Lake Okeechobee. It is popular as a fishing community and a farming and vacation site for people from the coast of Florida. It is known also for its annual rodeo which attracts visitors from all over south Florida.

When it was a little community it was originally known as Tantie after Tantie Huckabee who was a local redheaded schoolteacher. When the Florida East Coast Railroad came through, they took over the community and named it Okeechobee.

History of Okeechobee Lodge 2558

In the summer of 1975 a letter was written by Tony Madonna and Walter Bourgalt to inquire what was needed to start an Elks Lodge in Okeechobee, FL. A letter from Grand Lodge was written to District Deputy Ben Redding of the Southeast District and a meeting was set up to investigate the interest in the area. After a couple of meetings, it seemed that Okeechobee was ready to support an Elks Lodge.

A committee of seven Elks to serve as an organizing committee was appointed. This committee consisted of Tom Elmore, W. J. “Rod” Young, Harold Hiller, George Murphy, Bill Rush, George Sherrill, and Al Fortner. The committee worked with all interested citizens and on May 1, 1977 Okeechobee Lodge 2558 was instituted in Jupiter, FL. DDGER James Davidson and other national, state, and district officials were present for this occasion.

Okeechobee started its Lodge year in a small shopping center with 2,000 square feet of space. It was instituted with 132 members of which 118 were new members to Elkdom. The officers knew they had a tough job in preparing for the future. These were great years for fellowship and brotherly love, working together and growing in Elkdom. Tom Elmore served as the first Exalted Ruler and repeated in the second year. It was during this year that ten members put up the money, interest free, to purchase 3.53 acres on Highway 70 East. The Lodge later sold
bonds to pay off the loan. A barbecue area and pole barn were built on the property and events of fellowship and fundraising were held.

In 1979 the building committee with a lot of cooperation from the membership set up an investors group to finance a new building. Plans were drawn up and approval was given by PGER Bill Wall, PGER Robert Grafton, and Grand Lodge. The plans were to be an 82 x 60 building, but the plans were changed to allow the roof and floor of phase II to be built. The building was dedicated on October 16, 1980 and continued to be the home for Okeechobee Lodge until it surrendered its charter in 2006. In 1986 an addition of 2.23 acres adjoining the property was purchased with bond funds.

Okeechobee Lodge became very involved in the community by supporting youth and other Grand Lodge programs. Dean Collinson was supportive and traveled extensively to carry children to the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital for treatment and care. Per capita, Okeechobee in the 1980s probably had more children than any other Lodge in Florida. Dean was recognized for those efforts. In 1982-1983 Okeechobee was honored with its first Vice President. Tom Elmore served with State President Carl Vaughn of North Palm Beach Lodge 2069. Again honored in 1984-1985 with its first District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Tom Elmore served with GER Frank Garland. Elmore went on to serve as State President and Esteemed Grand Leading Knight.

Okeechobee Lodge has always been proud of its Ladies organization. Two weeks after institution, this group was formed with Evelyn Rennie as its first President. The ladies always did an outstanding job regardless of the task at hand. The help extended to the membership in fundraising, general hospitality, and best interests of Okeechobee Lodge could never be equaled by anyone. The ladies group at that time was a solid part of the success of the Lodge.

Okeechobee Lodge officers were proud of the ritual and dedication it took in the work of Elkdom. Tom Elmore became Grand Lodge and State Chairman of Ritual and had much to do with the revision of the ritual ceremonies book after the admission of women into Elkdom. The Past Exalted Rulers Association worked with the officers and committees to help keep the Lodge headed in the right direction. In the year 1987-1988, Tom Elmore represented the Southeast District as a member of the Major Projects Board of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Inc., serving as its Chairman for 1988-1989 and 1989-1990. Again, Okeechobee was honored in 1991 by having Tom Elmore chosen as VPAL for the Florida State Elks Association.

In 1990-1991, Okeechobee Lodge lost Exalted Ruler David Yount. This was the first death of an officer. PER Bob Adams stepped forward to complete the year and PER Tony Madonna, while serving as Vice Chairman of Sports, was also elected as Exalted Ruler for the 1991-1992 Lodge year.

After a long battle with the Florida Department of Transportation, the Lodge won out regarding the department’s acquisition of land along the highway. Originally, the department offered $17,200. Continued negotiation finally ended with a mediation conference at Sebring on January 6, 1998. At this conference the department agreed to pay $32,000 in addition to repairing and redoing the entrance from the highway to the Lodge’s satisfaction. The conference lasted six hours. Representing the Lodge were Tony Madonna and Jack Murray (the Italian Bulldog and the Irish Fighter). Not able to be present was Tom Elmore, PSP who had been working on the project since 1995. Also assisting was Attorney for the Lodge, Charles Stratton, who was instrumental in its success.

Annual Law and Order Night

Okeechobee was community spirited for many years. One of their major functions was the Annual Law and Order Night in which they honored police, firefighters, and Corrections Department officers. Honorees were chosen from the city and county fire departments, sheriff’s department, police department, and jail staff.

Speaking before one Law and Order Night, Tom Elmore, Past State President and charter member of Okeechobee Lodge, said, “this is your night, for you who risk your lives protecting life and property in the city and Okeechobee County.”

Problems Develop

Sadly in the middle to late 90s, Okeechobee began to suffer from inner problems. Past State President Thomas Elmore, Lodge Advisor, expressed concern over the fact that in recent years a few members seemed bent on doing anything possible to cause dissension or cast doubt toward some who were instrumental in helping get the Lodge started and had continued to work and be involved to see the Lodge grow and prosper. “People will not always agree on everything,” said Elmore, “but we as Elks who believe in the principles of the order should always have the interest of the Lodge in mind, not ‘what can the Lodge do for me’ or ‘I want this to be done my way’ regardless of what the statutes and protocol of the order say. It does not work that way.”
A Special Representative to Okeechobee Lodge was appointed by the Grand Exalted Ruler as requested by Past Grand Exalted Ruler and State Sponsor, Robert Grafton. “This is necessary,” said Elmore, “because a few will not recognize the structure of Elkdom and how it works.”

The 1994-1995 Exalted Ruler of Okeechobee requested that Elmore resign as Lodge Advisor. Elmore refused, stating that he would not “even consider such a request unless proof of wrongdoing on my part could be shown or was asked to do so by those who appointed me as advisor in 1979.” Elmore said further that he would continue to be the Lodge Advisor with the assistance of District Deputy Tony Madonna of Okeechobee. “Having a Special Representative,” said Elmore, “does not change previous appointments. It does, however, notify the Lodge that we will have to be an Elks Lodge instead of trying to be an Elks club. The social functions are important to members and the family participation is necessary to be successful, but our people should not be a part of dissension and downgrading of others. The principles of the order speak for themselves, and brotherly love is what built this order from 1868 to the present time.” He expressed that he had pledged support to Grand Lodge and the sponsor to assist in restoring Okeechobee Elks Lodge 2558 to the ranks of respect throughout Elkdom and asked that the members make the same pledge.

“Nothing more can be expected of us and nothing else will be acceptable,” he said.

Okeechobee Lodge surrendered its charter in 2006.

Its Ladies organization was the Ladies of Elks.

Significant Events and Accomplishments of Okeechobee Lodge 2558

1994 Took first place in State Scrapbook Contest

Old Ironsides

Patriotism was never more evident than in 1925 when the Elks joined in a national drive to restore the frigate, USS Constitution, nicknamed “Old Ironsides.” It required $500,000. The Elks raised money and spearheaded a drive by request of the federal government.

Old Ironsides

By Oliver Wendell Holmes

AY TEAR her tattered ensign down!
Long has it waved on high,
And many an eye has danced to see
That banner in the sky;
Beneath it rung the battle shout,
And burst the cannon's roar;
The meteor of the ocean air
Shall sweep the clouds no more.

Her deck once red with heroes' blood,
Where knelt the vanquished foe,
When winds were hurrying o'er the flood,
And waves were white below,
No more shall feel the victor's tread,
Or know the conquered knee;
The harpies of the shore shall pluck
The eagle of the sea!

Oh, better that her shattered hulk
Should sink beneath the wave;
Her thunders shook the mighty deep,
And there should be her grave;
Nail to the mast her holy flag
Set every threadbare sail,
One of the first three naval vessels built in the United States, this 44-gun frigate with its solid oak hull and distinctive copper plating (courtesy of Paul Revere’s shop) was launched in 1797 and began her legendary career within that year by ridding American waters of swarms of French privateers. In the early 1800s, African pirates based in Tripoli had so disrupted international sea traffic that the United States and others were humiliated into paying an annual tribute of “protection money” to keep trade going. In 1804, we had had enough and declared war on the piratical thugs of the Barbary States. As a consequence of the long procession of pirate vessels dispatched into the murky depths of the Mediterranean by our Constitution’s pounding cannon, the Pasha of the Barbary States begged for unconditional surrender to bring “Operation Barbary Storm” to an end.

This episode alone would have been more than enough to ensure a place of honor in the annals of American naval history for this proud man-o-war, but despite having to be remasted and repaired after each intense engagement, the indomitable Constitution continued to defend our shores and sea lanes as Britain’s last attempt at regaining her truant colony, the War of 1812, reached across the Atlantic.

In August of 1812 with the British blockade of our eastern and gulf coasts strangling the flow of French trade goods, the Constitution broke free of Boston Harbor and then engaged the larger British frigate, Guerriere, in a long battle. The sight of cannonballs bouncing off her thick oak sides during this fierce contest prompted one gunner to taunt his British adversaries across the waves with “Huzzah, her sides are made of iron,” imparting a nickname she would carry forever. As final proof of the title, “Old Ironsides” reduced the Guerriere to floating rubble that wasn’t even of value as a prize and then set her carcass on fire and sank her.

While there were many battles just as fierce before and after in the War of 1812, this particular incident occurred at a point when our morale was at its lowest point. Our national spirit was still shackled by a centuries old belief in Britain’s Sovereignty of the Seas that needed to be shattered as it was on August 19, 1812 before we could see the possibility of victory.

Her exploits continued to make the USS Constitution the Grande Dame of the American fleet well into the next century, but the cost of battle had been high, and she faced new enemies: old age and bureaucracy. Faced with yet another expensive overhaul of her tradition, soaked decks, the government first toyed with dismantling “Old Ironsides” in the 1830s. A young Boston law student, Oliver Wendell Holmes, rallied the public’s patriotic spirit to preserve this treasure when his poem was published nationwide.

(See above poem.)

However, time is an implacable enemy that is never completely conquered, and in the early 1920s, faced with the most extensive reconstruction of the great ship’s lifetime, a government unable to fully fund the project once again considered tearing “Old Ironsides” apart.

This time a prominent Massachusetts Elk learned of the ship’s gloomy fate as it listed forlornly at the Boston Navy Yard docks. With the resources of the Order of Elks, the funding for repair could easily have been generated from within our ranks, but in our wisdom we saw that more was in need of repair than just the physical deterioration. Pledging the order’s support to stop any dismantling before it could begin, the Elks commenced a program throughout America’s small towns and bustling metropolises that called on millions of our nation’s children to show their reverence for this unique defender of liberty and her brave crewmen.

Through a network in 1,400 Lodges and dozens of radio broadcasts, collection drives, dramatic programs, and essay contests were carried out during the month of October in 1925 and the precious pennies, nickels, and dimes of millions of American children poured in. Of course, there was no way to prevent adult patriots from doing their part in such a noble cause, and it is understandable that the bulk of the $537,000 needed came from them. Yet, as the Elks had anticipated, $136,436.79 came from the renewed love and pride in countless young hearts and purchased for them a stronger sense of participation and dedication that would become evident as these children grew into the men and women who built and defended America in the tumultuous decades that followed.

(Content found on Elks website.)
Henry O’Neil was a member of New York Lodge 1. He served as Grand Treasurer at the first meeting of Grand Lodge on February 12, 1871, and Exalted Grand Ruler, as it was then called, from 1875-1876.

The distinctive features which make our fraternity unique in the group of similar organizations are due to Henry O’Neil. He gave it its first laws, its ritualistic formulae in extenso, and its odes, and his intellect for years directed its policy. It is due to him that this association of men under the title of Elks became an order.

He gave shape and form to the legislative work and was the first man to institute a sensible code in the order, writing the basic part of the present day Elks jurisprudence, and its development there from has been an evolution in accordance with the needs of the order itself, various laws being since framed to meet requirements.

He conceived the application of the new established principles of Elkdom: charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity. He elaborated the esoteric work of the order and made laws which are still in force and effect except such changes as the latter-day requirements of the order demanded.

He worked incessantly to spread the doctrine of fraternity in the particular form with which we are familiar, divesting an association of bigotry, dogma, and an attempt to paraphrase religious rites.

As Exalted Grand Ruler he suggested the enlargement of the boundaries of the order, then confined to two Lodges, and he provided the laws requisite to grant dispensation for No. 3 and granted such dispensation.

He originated the ritual for the annual Lodge of Sorrow and the Decoration Day service. He collated and put the words to many of the odes, copywriting the same in his own name and presenting them to the order. He selected the amaranth and ivy as funeral emblems. In short, he has left a legacy of his own personality which pervades the entire system that goes so far to make up the order.

It is 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.

His funeral was largely attended by members of New York Lodge 1 and his casket was covered with amaranth and ivy, the floral concert he had originated. He was buried in Cavalry Cemetery, Long Island City, New York.
O’Neil, Hugh

Hugh is a namesake of Henry P. O’Neil. He composed the installation services.

Orange Park Lodge 2605

Florida’s 108th Lodge
District: Northeast
Date of Dispensation: November 26, 1979
Date of Installation: December 9, 1979
Formally Opened By: John S. Shannon, DDGER
Charter Members: 135
Year 1995 Membership: 222
Year 1996 Membership: 240
Year 1997 Membership: 250
Year 1998 Membership: 274
Year 2001 Membership: 306
Year 2004 Membership: 320
Year 2005 Membership: 286
Year 2006 Membership: 279
Year 2007 Membership: 288
Year 2008 Membership: 307
Year 2009 Membership: 289
Meets: 2nd & 4th Wednesday
Location: 5920 Collins Road, Jacksonville, FL 32244
Phone: 904-771-6732
Email: opelks@opelks.comastbiz.net

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler  
John S. Shannon
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight  
J. Pierce Smith
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight  
Ralph Clements
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight  
Jim McDonald
Grand Secretary  
William McGrath
Grand Treasurer  
Cecil Blue
Grand Trustee  
Jesse Miller
The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: John D. Farmer, Jr.
- Esteemed Leading Knight: Douglas R. Cooke
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: George Sawyer
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: George Spencer
- Secretary: John S. Kapanack
- Treasurer: Ernest A. Wood
- Inner Guard: Ralph Jameson
- Chaplain: Robert W. Lockett
- Esquire: Denies Hurst
- Tiler: Ken Barnes
- Trustees:
  - 5 Year, John M. Jernigan
  - 4 Year, Charles Bergmann
  - 3 Year, James L. Tison
  - 2 Year, Johnny Allred
  - 1 Year, Denies Fedor

The following officers initiated the new members:

- Exalted Ruler: Louis Wise
- Esteemed Leading Knight: James Solana
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: Charles Robshaw
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Ted Beal
- Secretary: Prime Beaudoin
- Esquire: K. Barry Masters
- Chaplain: Henry Starling
- Inner Guard: Robert Solana
- Tiler: Richard Van Nostand
- Organist: Wayne Joranlien

Orange Park is located in Clay County. It took its name from the many orange groves in the area that were very prevalent at the time it was founded back in 1876. At one time it was known as Laurel Grove, an early plantation in the area.

St. Augustine Lodge 829 is the mother Lodge of Orange Park Lodge 2605.

In 1983, Orange Park 2605 leased and then purchased 3.8 acres on Collins Road in the southern part of Duval County. The new Lodge home was dedicated with suitable activities in 1984. Good faith bonds at 6% were used for initial financing. Later a number of Elks loaned money toward successful construction. The balance of the loans was converted to bonds. In 1994 they were able to hold a mortgage burning.

Charter Members by Initiation:

- Albury, William C.
- Alderman, Joel
- Allen, Lawrence E.
- Allred, Johnny C.
- Andrews, Roger F.
- Arnold, Charlie
- Avery, Ray O.
- Barnes, Kenneth C.
- Masters, Ronald F.
- Matthews, James N.
- McCarty, Cecil L.
- McGuines, John W.
- McIntyre, Gary C.
- Miller, D. Lamar
- Morris, Lawton, Jr.
- Neal, Roger F.
Bartlett, James E.  Nye, George
Baxley, George C., Jr.  Paddags, Albert E.
Berry, James M.  Parker, Raymond Lee
Campbell, William L.  Pass, Orien L.
Canady, Lonnie Gene  Pickering, Robert G.
Canaway, David E.  Pinkham, Frederick H.
Carter, Carson O.  Rasnake, Clifford E.
Choate, Dell M.  Reschke, Mark R.
Cooper, Jr., Charles G.  Reuffer, Stuart C.
Coppock, John T., Sr.  Reynolds, Lyndel L.
Dailey, Michael J.  Richardson, Milton E.
Deming, Curtis R.  Rochow, Robert
Dietzel, William J.  Rodgers, Jack E.
Dowling, Bert G.  Ross, Steven F.
Drawdy, R. Lee  Scammell, John W.
Eppert, Jack A.  Shaw, David
Evans, Frank  Smith, Gary A.
Farmer, III, John D.  Smith, Thomas D.
Gant, Warren J.  Spaulding, Grover M.
Giets, Irwin K.  Spaulding, Richard Edward
Gipson, Vernon A.  Stanton, Robert J.
Gough, Wilbur R.  Starling, C. N.
Haddock, Ernie  Strickland, A. R.
Hardenbrook, Ricky  Sullivan, Donald J.
Hawkins, Michael R.  Taheri, Robert B.
Heaton, Carl W.  Tate, Hugh
Hill, A. Ed  Taylor, Leonard Alfred
Holt, Jr., J. B.  Thompson, Jr., William Raleigh
Hubbard, Barry E.  Tilso, James L.
Hurst, Denies Wayne  Tippette, James E.
Irvin, Perry Dale  Torba, Jon C.
Jameson, Ralph M.  Tripi, Anthony L.
Johnston, Mannon E.  Turner, Frank
Jones, Denies J.  Van Buskirk, James
Jordan, Dale E.  Wagner, Walter F.
Kaperak, Joseph J.  Waltman, Clifton Wayne
Keene, John B.  Warner, Larry W.
Lacko, John D.  Warren, Robert S.
LeClare, James H.  Weatherford, Earl
Liddy, Charles E.  Webb, Michael B.
Liddy, Edward A.  Werner, Joseph W.
Lockett, Robert W.  Wilhite, Marvin E.
Long, Garland D.  Wilson, Charles
Lowdenslager, Vernon E.  Wilson, Emerson F.
Lynch, G. D.  Woodley, M. Manning
Lynch, Jack  Woods, Jr., C. B.
Magee, William H.  Yackalavitch, John Joseph
Mally, Earl B.  Yde, Ronald R.
Mann, William F.  Young, Ralph L.

Charter Members by Demit:

Adams, John  Masters, Virgil
Bedsold, Carlos  McDougal, Q. T.
Bergman, Charles  McGuire, Frederick L.
Boland, Jerry L.  Miller, Alfred A.
Brant, Bernard L.  Miller, Gerald L.
Cooke, Douglas  Minery, William
Cooper, Charles G.  Moore, Jerry E.
Corley, Alden  Mosley, Morris C.
Curtis, Charles M.  Murphee, Raymond D.
Ditursi, Pasquale J.  Myslivy, Guy E.
Densmore, N. E.  Nelson, Arvid S.
Driesbaugh, Carl J.  North, Gary Edward
Fedor, Denies A.  Peebles, Jerry W.  
Farmer, Jr., John D.  Phillips, Charles D.  
Gaskin, John T.  Pierce, Jr., Harry A.  
Greene, Jr., Arthur R.  Racer, Henry E.  
Hammond, Frederick J.  Robertson, George V.  
Heiton, Carl W.  Rowlands, William D.  
Holden, Richard V.  Sawyer, George  
Hulsey, Jesse Monro  Sellars, James A.  
Jameson, Robert B.  Seymore, William M.  
Jaycox, Charles E.  Snider, Clarence L.  
Jernigan, John Milton  Spencer, George  
Jones, John Paul  Steller, Charles Don  
Jones, Orville Denies  Thompson, William E.  
Jones, W. Calvin  Tillerson, Byron L.  
Kaperak, John S.  Todd, Rufus L.  
Kavanaugh, John William  Trout, Jr., John T.  
Kelly, Henry J.  Van Beck, Robert L.  
Koch, Gary L.  Vickerman, Raymond H.  
Lindstorn, Harold R.  Webb, Harry B.  
Lurenz, Frank J.  Williams, Charles H.  
MacLeod, Jr., L. John  Wood, Ernest A.  

Past Exalted Rulers:

2008-2009  Russ Fisette  

Past Secretaries:

2008-2009  Art Heintzinger  

Elks of the Year:

2008  Don Christen  

Activities

2008  Vicki Lee sang at the sock hop.  
The Lodge hosted a Mother’s Day and Father’s Day brunch.  
The Lodge held Firefighters Appreciation Night.  

Interesting activity:

When Dan Bird was Exalted Ruler, he flew over 3,000 miles from his home in Jacksonville, FL to Sammanish Lodge 1843 in Seattle, WA. He officiated as the guest Exalted Ruler. During the ceremony, he initiated four new members into their Lodge, two of which were his daughter, Kim, and his son-in-law, Grant Weed.

Ladies of Orange Park Elks Lodge 2605

First President  Mrs. Nell Farmer  

President:

2008-2009  Mrs. Richi Broaddus  

2008  Supported the Stand Down for homeless veterans and served meals to homeless veterans.
Order of Business

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

- Call to Order
- Invocation by the Chaplain
- Tribute to Flag by Delegates (Singing of “America”)
- Call of Roll of Officers
- Address of Welcome
- Response by President
- Introduction of Distinguished Guests
- Preliminary Report of Credentials Committee
- Reading of the Minutes of Last Annual Meeting
- Report of the President
- Election of Officers
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of the Budget Committee
- Report of the Committees Making Awards
- Report of the Major Projects Committee
- Memorial Service
- Unfinished Business (Credentials & Budget Final Report)
- New Business
- Good of the Order
- Installation of Officers
- Dismissal by Chaplain
- Adjournment

Oregon State Association Gift of Sight

Many social, developmental, and health problems can prevent a young child from entering school ready to learn and succeed. One of the most pervasive but overlooked barriers is amblyopia, a vision impairment that develops when a child’s eye does not get sufficient use. Many people call this disease lazy eye. If a child has crossed eyes, the problem is typically diagnosed and treated. However, many children with perfectly normal looking eyes can have lazy eye. The disease is often not detected in these children until it is too late to treat. Successful treatment depends to a large degree on how early the problem is identified. Detection prior to five years of age is critical, as early treatment can usually reverse amblyopia. If it is not reversed, permanent vision loss may result in decreased academic achievement, and the child may experience other developmental problems that can lead to socioeconomic disadvantages and a significantly reduced quality of life.

The mission of the Elks Children’s Eye Clinic at The Casey Eye Institute is to provide excellent eye care in a quality, cost-effective environment that combines education, research, clinical leadership, and service to the community. The clinic has a 58-year relationship with the Oregon State Elks Association which contributes thousands of volunteer hours to The Casey Eye Institute annually and has contributed millions of dollars over the years to the Elks Children’s Eye Clinic.

The Elks Children’s Eye Clinic is now rising to a new challenge of providing vision screening to Oregon’s preschool children. The aim of this program is to screen all children in Oregon between 36 and 59 months of age who do not otherwise have access to screening. The program makes use of the statewide network of Oregon State Elks Lodges with over 37,000 members and a statewide network of Oregon Head Starts. By partnering with local Elks Lodges, the Head Starts have access to willing volunteers who can assist in screening. The Oregon State Elks are also providing a vision screening kit that contains all of the elements for a successful screening.

Some of the children need eyeglasses and some of the children will need to patch one eye for a short time. The Oregon Elks provide $13,000 a year toward eyeglasses and contacts for Oregon’s children who cannot
otherwise afford them. All children in Oregon under age nineteen can visit the Elks Children’s’ Eye Clinic for a free eye exam by some of the top pediatric ophthalmologists in the United States.

**Organ Donor Program**

Beginning in 2002 a new option was introduced to the back of the membership card. This action was in response to a request from Tommy Thompson, Secretary of Health & Human Services and the head of the nation’s largest department of government, to enlist in his workplace partnership for life and initiative to increase public support for organ donations.

The Elks were the first national fraternal organization to join the partnership, again demonstrating the kind of leadership the Elks are known for. Thompson is a member of the Madison, WI Lodge and was the featured speaker at the 2001 Grand Lodge Convention in Philadelphia.

Thompson noted the desperate need for leadership in getting the message out because organ donations mean saving lives. He said, “more than 76,000 Americans are on the waiting list for organs and the number grows by more than three hundred people per month.” He said that fifteen people die each day while on the waiting list.

**Organist, Florida Elks Association**

The organist is an appointive officer in the Florida State Elks Association and is appointed by the President to serve during that term of office. The Organist plans and carries out a program of instrumental music appropriate for ceremonies which may be performed at all meetings of the Association.

**Orlando Lodge 1079**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 12th Lodge</th>
<th>District: Central</th>
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<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>Central</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation: May 29, 1907</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of Installation: June 28, 1907</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>H. M. Hunt, DDGER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership: 836</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership: 788</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership: 729</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership: 675</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Year 2004 Membership: 528
Year 2005 Membership: 585
Year 2006 Membership: 854
Year 2007 Membership: 857
Year 2008 Membership: 863
Year 2009 Membership: 796
Meets:  2nd & 4th Wednesday
Location:  12 North Primrose Drive, Orlando, FL  32803
Office:    407-894-5781
Lounge:    407-894-1079
E-mail:   info@orlandoelks.com
December 8, 2005: South Orlando 2094 merged with Orlando 1079 to become Orlando 1079

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler   H. M. Hunt
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight  Steven Jewett
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight  G. S. Bourne
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight  Abe Mass
Grand Tiler    Luther Campbell
Grand Chaplain    B. C. Abernathy
Grand Organist    B. H. Chase

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler    W. R. O’Neal
Esteemed Leading Knight   C. M. Broadwater
Esteemed Loyal Knight   M. O. Overstreet
Esteemed Lecturing Knight  W. L. Palmer
Secretary    Carl Jansen
Treasurer    Thomas Hopkins
Tiler     D. J. Beidler
Trustees     3 Year, M. M. Smith
             2 Year, Oscar Isaacson
             1 Year, H. P. Driver


Orlando was settled in the 1840s by the army after the Seminole War. Most likely the town was named from Orlando Reeves. Reeves had become somewhat of a hero when, as posted as a sentry along the shores of Lake Eola, he sighted a log in the lake. He soon realized that it was not just a log but an Indian creeping toward their camp. Thusly he was able to alert the camp and save it from disaster.

It became somewhat of a cattle frontier town with all of the flavor of frontier living which included many brawls and killings as well as lawlessness. The owners of the large herds finally brought law and order into the community.

Early English settlers purchased much land in the area in the 1890s and along with their railroad interests opened the area to large citrus plantations. Damaging frosts have since forced the citrus growers to move farther south. Walt Disney World changed the landscape as it moved in during the 1970s. Orlando is now the center of the tourist industry and the city is growing in leaps and bounds. The area has been the site of the Florida Elks annual conventions for the last several years.

Alvin A. Ehrlich, Past State President from 1973-1974 and Past Grand Lecturing Knight, is a member of the Lodge.

The Lodge ritual team won the 1974 national ritual championship.
The Lodge was burned in September of 1970. The new building was dedicated in 1972. The mortgage burning was held in 1975.

**Past District Vice Presidents:**

- W. R. O’Neal 1913-1914
- M. O. Overstreet 1930-1931
- L. L. Lanier 1941-1942
- William P. Buning 1948-1949
- John W. Morgan 1956-1957
- Alvin A. Ehrlich 1966-1967
- Lamar Hutchinson 1969-1970
- Richard A. Branhman 1976-1977
- Charles H. Ahrendt 1984-1985
- Raymond R. Weston 1992-1993
- Ross E. Evers 1998-1999
- Edna M. Capps 2004-2005

**Past District Deputies:**

- W. R. O’Neal 1914-1915
- M. O. Overstreet 1931-1932
- L. L. Lanier 1942-1943
- William P. Buning 1949-1950
- John W. Morgan 1957-1958
- Alvin A. Ehrlich 1967-1968
- Lamar Hutchinson 1970-1971
- Richard A. Branhman 1977-1978
- Charles H. Ahrendt 1985-1986
- Raymond R. Weston 1993-1994
- Ross E. Evers 1999-2000
- Edna M. Capps 2005-2006

**Lodge Homes:**

Corner of Church & Central in downtown Orlando

They later purchased a large frame residential building on Central Blvd. overlooking Lake Eola. That building went through three major remodeling and additions before being destroyed by fire in June of 1969.

Lodge meetings were held in Winter Park Lodge 1830 during the process of site selection and the construction of the new Lodge at 12 N. Primrose Avenue. The new home was dedicated in 1972 by Grand Exalted Ruler Gene Fournace.

**Ladies organization: Does Drove No. 66**

Orlando Drove No. 66, Benevolent and Patriotic Order of Does, was organized on January 18, 1951. There were 78 charter members.

Their activities include charitable works, patriotic demonstrations, and social entertainment to promote hospitality and a spirit of love, patriotism, and fellowship among the members.

Membership is limited to mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters of Elks.
Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

Florida’s 78th Lodge
District: East Central
Date of Dispensation: October 31, 1960
Date of Institution: December 8, 1960
Chartered: January 5, 1961
Formally Opened By: W. H. Herbert, DDGER
Charter Members: 121
Year 1995 Membership: 743
Year 1996 Membership: 695
Year 1997 Membership: 654
Year 1998 Membership: 613
Year 2001 Membership: 628
Year 2004 Membership: 798
Year 2005 Membership: 799
Year 2006 Membership: 849
Year 2007 Membership: 902
Year 2008 Membership: 947
Year 2009 Membership: 932
Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday
Location: 285 Wilmette Avenue, Ormond Beach, FL 32174
Office: 386-677-6367
Lounge: 386-677-7180

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler W. H. Herbert
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight William Lieberman
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight Cullen H. Talton
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight Charles I. Campbell
Grand Secretary George Carver
Grand Treasurer R. B. Cameron
Grand Trustee Donald C. Jordan
Grand Tiler Wm. A. Partain
Grand Chaplain Vaughan F. Martin
Grand Organist Charles Doolittle
Esquire Charles H. Peckelis
Grand Inner Guard Charles A. Poole

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler Louis Somogyi
Esteemed Leading Knight Broyles Piemmons
Esteemed Loyal Knight Charles Bailey
Esteemed Lecturing Knight Joe Lowther
Secretary Sam Melphurs
Treasurer Joe Petrock
Inner Guard E. J. Buteux
Chaplain Howard A. Brooke
Organist William J. Benton
Esquire F. Marshall Curry
Tiler John Myers
Trustees 5 Year, Albert William Howard
The following officers initiated the new members:

- **Exalted Ruler**: Robert J. Koss
- **Esteemed Leading Knight**: Malcolm McCall
- **Esteemed Loyal Knight**: Warren Reynolds
- **Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: William Baker
- **Esquire**: Dudley Prosser
- **Chaplain**: Verdual Hamlin
- **Inner Guard**: John J. Koss, Jr.
- **Organist**: Charles Doolittle

The following are charter members by transfer demit: R. Stanley Arthur; Charles E. Bailey; John B. Barber; Jim L. Barefield; George Batcher; John Berry; Howard A. Brooke; Paul M. Bryant; Oliver Bugbee; W. H. Bunkley; Ernest J. Buteux; J. M. Canakeris, M.D.; Nicholas A. Caputo; Harry W. Gaier; Fred W. Green; Ralph O. Hardie; Arnold W. Holder; Albert Wm. Howard; Richard Johnson; John C. Juras; William M. Jurgens; Max Kilmak; Keith T. Lovell; Joseph D. Lowther; Joseph A. McConville; Paul McMahon; Joseph A. McConville; Paul McMahon; Joseph M. Petrock; Broyles Piemmons; Otis W. Pruett; Jack G. Stewart; Louis Smogyi; George Ruse, III; William O. Taylor; Frank C. Transue; Edward Wadlington; Raoul Walsh; and R. A. Powell.

The following are charter members by certificates of release: William J. Benton; F. Marshall Curry; Daniel W. Dunn; Dwight Entwistle; George P. Gill; Earl J. Heil; Emory O. Lyons; Oscar R. Maass; W. K. Miller, Jr.; Robert R. Rush; John A. Secunda; Cauley S. Whitehurst; and Henry Leroy Ward.

The following are charter members by absolute demit: Jack P. Elliott, Bertram P. Ingram, and A. Edward Nyquist.

The following are charter members by initiation: Andrew Beljan; Chester Bell; John L. Boccine; Harold L. Bowers; E. William Brody; Daniel W. Brown; Allen E. Burns; Billy J. Burton; John Caparelli; Henry E. Carmichael; Edward Carville; Edmond M. Charles; Frank V. Chastain; Richard S. Clements; Jack S. Davis; Peter DeConingh; Clyde A. Dittenber; Berhard E. D rape; Paul Edward Durkin; Colburn Eastman; Fred Byron Ellinor; Joe P. Epton; Ireland E. Greene; C. M. Hayden; Lee L. Holmes; Morris L. P. Jones; Lawrence H. Knapp; James J. Kelly, Jr.; Eric Alex Lewis; Edwin A. Linville; Taylor H. McCauley; Wm. R. McCracken; Alfred E. McGurin; B. R. McNary, Sr.; Sam Malphurs; Edward A. Marosite; James E. Martin; William T. Moore; T. F. Murphy, Jr.; John C. Myers; Ralph Narducci; Lloyd L. North; James Pappas; Wm. E. Partington; Roswell C. Paul; Charles M. Petrock; Eugene J. Pfleger; Anthony J. Polozie; Lester Abner Reeves; Wm. Grobe Richter; Curtis H. Rodgers; Owen C. Shelton; Charles Sindelar; Alphonse J. Smiles; Robert L. Strickland; Marc G. Sundholm; W. Clarence Sutgeh; Chesley D. Turrentine; Jack Van Dorn; William Wall; Andrew J. Wilder; John R. Wilson; and Edmund L. Wood.

**Past District Vice Presidents:**

- Ralph O. Hardie 1964-1965
- Earl B. Bethune 1969-1970
- Charles Whalen 1974-1975
- Dick Haas 1983-1984
- Michael Chandler 1995-1996

**Past District Deputies:**

- Ralph O. Hardie 1965-1966
- Earl B. Bethune 1971-1972
- Charles Whalen 1976-1977
Early pioneers of the automobile industry, namely Charles and Frank Duryea, R. E. Olds, and others, made Ormond Beach known as the birthplace of speed.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193 was instituted on December 8, 1960. The institution took place at the Oceanside Country Club. Louis Somogyi was installed as Charter Exalted Ruler.

The Lodge met initially at the Veterans Social Club on Granada Avenue where the Volusia County National Bank later stood. For a brief time after that they met at the Crossed Palms on U. S. 1. In 1962, they moved to 40 Corbin Avenue. In August of 1968 under the leadership of Exalted Ruler Charles F. Whalen, the Lodge moved to its present home, 285 Wilmette Avenue, which had housed the United Tile and Terrazzo Corporation. The building was then razed and renovated.

At its official dedication of the 285 Wilmette Avenue facility, the five o’clock ceremonies were followed by a cocktail hour and dinner and dancing along with the music of Munn Ware. More than two hundred members and guests nearly burst the seams of the beautifully appointed new home, toured the facilities, and took part in the various events which marked the occasion.

Visiting Elks from Lodges in Daytona Beach, Gainesville, Eau Galle, Titusville, Pensacola, Sanford, New Smyrna Beach, Cocoa, DeLand, Vero Beach, Orlando, Tallahassee, Eustis, and Kissimmee were also in attendance at the big event. Keynote speaker at the dedication ceremony was George Carver, executive director of the Harry-Anna Hospital. Officers from the Elks Grand Lodge were in charge of the dedication rites. Also present was Bodo Kirchoff of Jacksonville and on the staff of Florida Elks News.

Many improvements were made over the years, but in 1980 under Exalted Ruler Charles Beynon and Building Committee Chairman, Larry Drake, Ormond Beach Lodge took on the task of a major renovation program. These improved facilities are a testimony to the many hours of hard work of the members of Ormond Beach Lodge.

There was always a warm spot in the heart of Ormond Beach Lodge for the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital. They met or exceeded their quota for contributions each year. In addition, they furnished a four-bed hospital room at a cost of $10,000.

The Elks programs have received maximum effort from the members of Ormond Beach Lodge. In addition to the national scholarship programs, the Ormond Beach Elks have created a scholarship fund for deserving local students in the amount of $1,500 to three students in their community. They also sponsor the Elks Hoop Shoot and some of the participants have gone on to the state level. Several boys have achieved the distinguished honor of Eagle Scout. A Christmas party for underprivileged children has become a hallmark in the lives of many of their members also.

2007 The 18th annual Benefit Golf Tournament was held for the Florida Elks Charities.

The second annual Santa Paws fundraiser was held to benefit the Halifax Humane Society. Guests bring pet food, litter, pet toys, newspapers, etc. for admittance.

Youth Activities collected donations of $10 toys for children twelve and under for the youth Christmas party.

Deceased members:
George Van Arnem, PER, September 3, 2007
Dr. Harold Ledbetter, August 20, 2007

2008 The Lodge and Ladies Auxiliary supported the 2008 Ormond Beach Senior Games.

Ormond Beach Emblem Club No. 370

The Ormond Beach Ladies organization is the Emblem Club No. 370. The Emblem Club No. 370 was organized in 1961 by Lela Langelier. It was chartered and formed to assist Elks Lodge 2193. Mrs. Catherine Myers was their first President. Their colors are purple and gold. Their motto is “Truth – Justice – Charity.”

A memorial plaque for the Emblem Club departed sisters in the Lodge room states the following:
“In my father’s house are many mansions. If it were no so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will receive you unto myself, that where I am you will be also. We commend the soul of our departed sisters into your loving arms. May perpetual light shine upon them and grant them eternal rest.

Past Ladies Presidents:

1961-1962 Catherine Myers
1962-1963 Edna Somogyi
1963-1964 Jeanette Mariosites
1964-1965 Lela Langelier
1965-1966 Barbara Bethune
1966-1967 Edna Molinari
1967-1968 Helen Sindelar
1968-1969 Lucile O’Briene
1969-1970 Dorothy Caparelli
1970-1971 Pat Schlosser
1971-1972 Rose Rego
1972-1973 Genie Hodges Kitching
1973-1974 Ruth Snyder
1974-1976 Margaret Green
1976-1978 Dorothy Caparelli
1978-1979 Dorothy Strang
1979-1980 June Bennett
1980-1982 Catherine Graves
1982-1984 Myra Reynolds

2007 Ladies of Elks held an Oktoberfest with sauerbraten and knockwurst, German potato salad, red cabbage, and strudel with ice cream.

Ortiz, Joseph A., President, Florida State Elks Association, 2008-2009

Joseph Anthony Ortiz was born in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico on December 9, 1947 and lived there until the age of seven. He is the second oldest of seventeen children. In 1955, he moved to Miami, FL to study and live with his Aunt Ana and Uncle Joe. He attended Immaculate Conception Catholic School and Archbishop Curley High School. At Curley High he was a member of the wrestling team and football team and in 1967 he was Senior Class President. Joe attended Miami-Dade Junior College for six months where he met Rita Di Pietro.
He married Rita on May 25, 1968. They have four children who all graduated from Curley High and at the time of this writing, 7 grandchildren. In the summer of 1968 Joe began his career in the elevator industry with Otis Elevator Company. In 1976 Joe and Rita decided to form their own independent elevator company. Today they own a family operated elevator manufacturing company, M & J Elevator, Inc., which is being run by his sons, Joe, Jr.; Nick; and Richard. Their oldest son, Matt, works as a Corporate Account Manager for a large real estate company in the New York metropolitan area.

He was initiated as a member of North Miami Lodge 1835 in November of 1994. He was sponsored by Exalted Ruler Raul Gomez. Rita; Joe, Jr.; Nick; Richard; and daughter-in-law, Barbara, are also members of North Miami 1835. In 1996 he was elected as Lecturing Knight and in 1998 he was the Exalted Ruler. In 1999 he was elected as a Lodge Trustee and was immediately appointed as the Chairman of the Trustees where he served for seven out of eight years. He served on many Lodge committees including the Investment Committee. On the district level he has worked on many committees and has presided over the institution of South Broward Lodge 2830 and he served as the South Broward Lodge Advisor for the first year.

He served the State Association for three years as Regional Chairman of Elks National Foundation Scholarships and for three years as Regional Chairman of Accident Prevention. In 2002 Joe was elected as the South District Vice President and in 2004 had the honor of serving the South District as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. In 2005 he was appointed the State Chaplain by State President Don Sansoussi and was appointed as a member of the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors by PSP Anthony J. DeLucca, Sr. At the 2006 Midyear Convention, he was endorsed as the Florida State Elks Association Vice President at Large for 2007-2008 by the Past State Presidents Advisory Council. He was elected VPAL at the annual convention at the Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, FL. In 2008-2009 he served as State President of the Florida State Elks Association.
The **Florida State Elks Association** held its 102nd annual convention May 21–24 in Lake Buena Vista with more than 1,640 members and guests in attendance.

Honored guests at the convention included State Sponsor Robert Grafton, and Georgia and Alabama State Sponsor C. Valentine Bates.

Florida Elks elected Joseph Ortiz, of North Miami Lodge, as their 2008–2009 state president. Other state officers installed at the convention were VP-at-large Vincent Como; Northwest VP Tom Rogers; North VP Tom Watson; Northeast VP Gregory Hughson; North Central VP Mike Jernigan; East Central VP Christopher Gariepy; Central VP Mary Ford; Southeast Central VP Betty Tewksbury; West Central VP Iwan Choronenko; Southwest VP Thom Dillman; Southwest Central VP Art Yanni; South VP Bob Rankin; Southeast VP Les Szirbik, South Southeast VP Kathy Holliday; South Southwest VP Richard Futral; Secy. Carl Seibert, Belle Glade; Treas. Joe Bryant, Sebring; Tiler Donald Curry, Key West; Chaplain Albert Reker, Miami; Historian Lowell Tyler, West Palm Beach.

The state Ritualistic Contest was held during the convention, and Bradenton Lodge won first place and the opportunity to represent the state association at the 2008 national convention.

The Florida State Elks Association will hold its next annual convention May 21–24, 2009, in Lake Buena Vista, FL.