Pahokee Lodge 1638

Florida’s 37th Lodge
District: Southeast
Date of Dispensation: December 9, 1940
Date of Installation: January 16, 1941
Formally Opened By: Harry Haimowitz, DDGER
Year 1995 Membership: 132
Year 1996 Membership: 106
Year 1997 Membership: 100
Year 1998 Membership: 102
Year 2001 Membership: 92
Year 2004 Membership: 94
Year 2005 Membership: 96
Year 2006 Membership: 100
Location: 691 E. Main Street, Pahokee, FL 33476
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 413, Pahokee, FL 33476-0413
Telephone: 561-924-2727

*This Lodge merged with Belle Glade Lodge 1716 to become Belle Glade-Pahokee Lodge 1716.

Past District Vice Presidents:
1948-1949 Frank C. O’Connell
1959-1960 Jimmy Vann
2002-2003 Barbara Heffernan

Past District Deputies:
1945-1946 B. Elliott (At this time the district extended from DeLand to Key West.)
1959-1960 Jimmy Vann
1971-1972 William S. “Bill” Plumer
2003-2004 Barbara Heffernan

Past State Presidents:
1966-1967 James W. Vann

The following officiated:
Grand Exalted Ruler Harry Haimowitz
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight W. A. Wall
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight Arthur O’Hea
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight Chelsie J. Senerchia
Grand Secretary Cullen H. Tulton
Grand Treasurer Ed Stumpf
Grand Tiler Jack Blair
Grand Chaplain M. S. Rosen
Grand Esquire Nick Carter
Grand Inner Guard Charles R. Walpole

The following officers were elected and installed:
Exalted Ruler Gordon Vann
Esteemed Leading Knight B. Elliott
Esteemed Loyal Knight George Mead
Esteemed Lecturing Knight Frank Bass
Secretary C. I. Vaughn
Treasurer L. L. Stuckey
Chaplain Lawrence J. Flynn
Esquire      R. W. Sanders
Tiler        John Kautz
Trustees

5 Year, W. H. Vann
4 Year, H. E. Rice
3 Year, W. A. Cross, Sr.
2 Year, T. L. Burns
1 Year, T. J. Youngblood

The following are charter members: H. B. Miller; Sebron Burns; D. M. Hillier; Leo Wroten; George Tucker, Sr.; Chas. G. Schaetz; H. M. McIntosh; J. O. Ragans; Charles H. Rice; E. C. Rice; Henry Kautz; Herman Kautz; J. C. Caffey; J. J. Chastain; Ronald Brooker; P. Paul DeMoya; W. Graham Mole; Lewis J. Fraser; A. L. Vertommen; A. P. Wimberley; J. L. Starling; Robert F. Phipps; Max E. Beverley; E. L. Pope; W. Leland Rawls; Lewis Friend; Francis Cross; W. H. Reddick; F. M. Shaughnessy; A. E. Morgan; Joe E. Thompson; Albert Snyder; Darrel Smith; W. H. May; John Bolton; C. G. Johnson; Roy A. Segree; Victor L. Geiger; Claude R. Padgett; A. J. Ludeman; T. L. Sellers; H. J. Anderson; Harry Waldschlager; H. B. Baxter; J. B. Thomas; Thos. G. Matheson; Henry Marwick; and Earl Lindrose.

In 1973 they moved into a new building.

Past Exalted Rulers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Gordon Vann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-1941</td>
<td>B. Elliott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941-1942</td>
<td>B. Elliott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942-1943</td>
<td>Tollie J. Youngblood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943-1944</td>
<td>E. L. Pope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944-1945</td>
<td>H. B. Baxter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945-1946</td>
<td>Lewis J. Fraser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946-1947</td>
<td>Frank H. O’Connell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947-1948</td>
<td>Harold Rosenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948-1949</td>
<td>Otto R. Bleech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949-1950</td>
<td>James W. Vann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950-1951</td>
<td>James W. Vann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951-1952</td>
<td>Frank H. O’Connell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952-1953</td>
<td>E. D. Sims, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953-1954</td>
<td>J. M. Elliott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954-1955</td>
<td>Perry E. Duke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955-1956</td>
<td>Leon Spooner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956-1957</td>
<td>George H. Tucker, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957-1958</td>
<td>William S. Plumer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958-1959</td>
<td>John C. Hatton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959-1960</td>
<td>J. S. Barwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-1961</td>
<td>Willliam E. Erickson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961-1962</td>
<td>Harold B. Wilkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962-1963</td>
<td>William M. Weathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963-1964</td>
<td>J. A. Lavender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-1966</td>
<td>Milton Salvatore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-1967</td>
<td>Robert M. McIntosh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968-1969</td>
<td>William R. Hatton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-1970</td>
<td>Don T. Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-1971</td>
<td>Melvin Spooner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-1972</td>
<td>Jack Herick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-1973</td>
<td>Melvin Spooner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-1980</td>
<td>Gene Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984-1985</td>
<td>C. R. Wetherington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-1988</td>
<td>Richard Funderburk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988-1989</td>
<td>Richard Funderburk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-1990</td>
<td>Dennis Hudes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1990-1991  Carl Courson
1991-1992  James L. Mills
1992-1993  James L. Mills
1993-1994  Phillip White
1998-1999  Royal York
2003-2004  Carl Johnson
2004-2005  Terry R. Adams
2005-2006  Kenneth Usher
2006-2007  Kenneth Usher
2007-2008  Kenneth Usher

Pahokee lies in Palm Beach County. It was incorporated in 1922 and was named for the Indian word meaning “grass water,” a term applied by the Indians to the everglades. On Taylor’s map of 1839, the name of the everglades is given as PAY-HA-O-KEE.

The statewide freeze in 1917 put Pahokee on the map because the rich soil of the still unincorporated area produced a wealthy crop of fruits and vegetables that year. During the 1928 hurricane when nearly 2,000 Glades residents died, hundreds were saved by fleeing to the Pahokee High School which had just been built.

San Francisco 49ers linebacker, Ricky Jackson, and Phoenix Cardinals safety, Andre Waters, went to school in Pahokee. Country singer, Mel Tillis, was raised in Pahokee and calls it his adopted hometown. He launched his career by winning a talent contest in the 1950s.

Grand Exalted Ruler Joseph G. Buch instituted Pahokee Lodge on December 9, 1940. Gordon Vann, C. J. Vaughn, B. Elliott, and eight other members of West Palm Beach Lodge 1352 were granted dispensation for a Lodge to be opened in Pahokee. The Lodge was granted a charter on July 17, 1941 by Grand Exalted Ruler Buch.

The West Palm Beach Elks and Lake Worth Elks were the driving force in instituting Pahokee Lodge, especially District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Harry Haimowitz, of Lake Worth.

Several of Pahokee’s charter members demitted from the West Palm Beach and Lake Worth Lodges. Don M. Hillier who was a fifty-three year member had previously demitted to West Palm Beach Lodge from the Elks Lodge in Boston and subsequently to Pahokee.

On the day of their institution they held a parade through the downtown area which ended at the old school gymnasium where the initiation of candidates and installation of officers was held. Grand Exalted Ruler David Scholtz of Daytona Beach, who at the same time was also Governor of Florida, gave the institutional address.

E. L. Pope remembers the terrible heat of the day and how uncomfortable it was in the dilapidated old gymnasium. Pope said that the heat, even though it was December, was so intense that some of the members actually fainted and had to be carried out of the building.

Tragedy struck very early in the history of Pahokee Lodge. At the meeting of institution, Gordon Vann was elected Exalted Ruler. Fate decreed that Vann would never preside over a meeting of his Lodge. Before their first scheduled meeting, Vann was driving near 20-mile bend just west of Loxahatchee when he was murdered for some unknown reason in an unsolved murder mystery. As a result, B. Elliott was moved up from the position of Esteemed Leading Knight to Exalted Ruler.

The old gymnasium was an impossible place to meet so efforts were made to find a more suitable place to meet, and it had to be done quickly. The answer to the Elks’ prayer was answered when B. Elliott, E. L. Pope, and W. A. Cross saw an old building that at one time had been a skating rink on East Main Street. It needed a lot of work but if it could be purchased right, it might be the answer to their problem. The owner of the building had moved to Avon Park so the three Elks took off in search of the owner. It took a little haggling, but eventually they were able to put the deal together. The Pahokee Elks now owned their own building which was their home for the next thirty-three years, from 1940 to 1973.

It had been inevitable that eventually the old skating rink would have to be replaced as the home of the Pahokee Elks. A new home had been considered at various times since 1947. In 1954, the fever got hotter. At that time, the question was whether to remodel the old building or build a new one. The supporters of remodeling won, and an extensive renovation of the old building was carried out. However, even this did not pacify those who had wanted a new home. Soon the talk of a new building was revived and plans pointing toward the new building began to take form.

The new building was a $150,000 structure that was dedicated on March 21, 1973 and financed through a bond issue. Those bonds were purchased by its members and friends. The first of these bonds were sold during the administration of Exalted Ruler William R. Hatton (1968-69). It was not until Melvin Spooner became Exalted Ruler that the Lodge got down to the serious business of building a new Lodge.

District Deputy John H. Causey presided at the dedication. PDD Bill S. Plumer acted as Grand Leading Knight, Past State President Russell L. Saxon acted as Grand Loyal Knight, Past State President Robert Grafton acted as Grand Lecturing Knight, and Past State President Jimmy Vann acted as Grand Esquire.
Francis M. Smith, Grand Exalted Ruler, was present at the dedication of the new Lodge. Smith was an outstanding Elk. Hailing from Sioux Falls, SD, he was an attorney specializing in civil trial law and had taught forensics and speech in college. He had also been a member of the debate team at Augustana College where he later taught and gained experience as a most forceful speaker. Sioux Falls Elks Lodge had made him an honorary life member. As Exalted Ruler of his Lodge he had participated in ritual and made All State four times and participated in national competition twice. He believed firmly in the “Great Heart of Elkdom,” the Elks National Foundation.

In his address, GER Smith was highly complimentary of the Pahokee Elks in building their new home. Smith spoke of the greatest principle of our order, charity, stating that $150,000, four walls and a roof, and a gorgeous cocktail lounge will not make an Elks Lodge a real home for the Lodge members unless the activities are centered around the altar as the symbol of the cardinal principles of charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity.

**Ladies of the Elks of Pahokee (LOPES)**

Service to the local Elks Lodge was the watchword and sole reason for being of the Ladies of Pahokee Elks, or the LOPES, as the organization was more popularly known. The LOPES had no affiliation with any other similar group. They were frequently contacted by representatives of national ladies organizations but held steadfastly to the position that they can make their greatest contribution by service to the local Lodge and to the community through that channel.

The organizational meeting was held on October 22, 1959, and the minutes of that session reveal that fourteen ladies were present with Mrs. Ethel Barwick, whose husband was Exalted Ruler of Pahokee Lodge 1638 at the time. The bylaws drawn by a committee appointed at that meeting and which were subsequently adopted limit membership to the wives, mothers, and widows of members in good standing of Pahokee Lodge 1638. The biggest boosters of the LOPES were the officers and members of the local Elks Lodge.

Although the LOPES did not adopt any projects independently of the Lodge, they were always in evidence when any project was undertaken by the local Elks. When the Lodge entertained special guests, the LOPES helped with preparations for it as well as with the event itself and, most particularly, cleaning up after. The projects put on by the LOPES in order to raise money to assist financially with Elks work were many and varied.

The LOPES gave strong financial support to the local Lodge and were constant and generous in their support of the Elks major projects.

**Palatka Lodge 1232**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 17th Lodge</th>
<th>District:</th>
<th>Northeast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>April 4, 1911</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>June 20, 1911</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>H. A. Love, DDGER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>206</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>103</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership:</td>
<td>191</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership:</td>
<td>187</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2001 Membership:</td>
<td>143</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
<td>154</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership:</td>
<td>155</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>141</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2007 Membership:</td>
<td>146</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
<td>154</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2009 Membership:</td>
<td>157</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>114 S. 3rd Street, Palatka, FL  32177</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
<td>P. O. Box 413, Palatka, FL  32178-0413</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>904-325-3413</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Monday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following officiated:

A. M. Taylor  
G. F. Hopkins  
W. P. Boger  
P. Rasmussen  
J. T. Pacetti

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler: Howell A. Davis  
Esteemed Leading Knight: A. A. Corcoran  
Esteemed Loyal Knight: H. M. Fearnside  
Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Henry Hutchinson, Jr.  
Secretary: H. F. Lecks  
Treasurer: J. Andrew Shelley  
Inner Guard: Leo Jacobson  
Esquire: W. Carl Davis  
Tiler: W. P. Merriam  
Trustees: 3 Year, J. H. Haughton  
2 Year, D. W. Ramsaur  
1 Year, S. J. Kennerly

The following are charter members: C. H. Kennerly; J. E. Lucas; H. M. Fearnside; J. H. Hamm; W. C. Davis; Jas. I. Griffin; H. Finley Tucker; W. S. Fry; A. R. Canova; K. M. White; C. J. Rogers; Charles E. Rowton; Joe Price, Jr.; R. A. Varnes; S. J. Kennerly; S. S. Browning; Leo Jacobson; Henry Hutchison, Jr.; Goss Mattox; A. Trombley; C. Stanton; Henry Hutchinson, Sr.; Thomas Cannon; J. E. Edmundson; F. J. Fearnside; S. J. Hilburn; Howell A. Davis; W. P. Merriam; J. Walter Hilliard; Chas. Kupperbusch, Jr.; R. J. Hancock; J. Schirard; W. P. Rasmussen; A. A. Corcoran; K. O. Reynolds; Jas. C. Ray; T. J. Barnett; Walter McNally; J. L. Austin; Robert James; J. A. Crosby; H. F. Lecks; E. P. Ross; J. A. Shelley; F. H. Wilson; W. S. Middleton, Sr.; C. G. Grimm; J. H. Haughton; George E. Gay; J. H. Yelverton, Jr.; A. S. Willard; Dr. H. A. Johnson; J. B. Flinn; and A. Usina.

Howell A. Davis, Past State President, 1911-1912, and State Historian, 1946-1956, was a member of the Lodge.

State and Grand Lodge Officers:

B. Elliott  
Frank C. O'Connell  
Lewis J. Frazier  
James W. Vann  
William S. Plumer  
Melvin D. Spooner  

Vice President  
1944-1945  
1948-1949  
1954-1955  
1958-1959  
1970-1971  
1978-1979

District Deputy  
1945-1946  
1954-1955  
1955-1956  
1959-1960  
1971-1972  
1979-1980

District Deputy  
1967-1968

State President  
1967-1968
Frank Palladini was born and raised in Peoria, IL where he graduated with honors from the Bradley University School of Accounting. Following graduation, he joined the CPA firm of Price Waterhouse in Chicago, IL and served in the U. S. Army Signal Corps, receiving an honorable discharge as a Sgt. E-5. His father retired after 41 years of service as a factory worker at Caterpillar; his mother was a registered nurse before marriage and a homemaker thereafter.

Frank, was initiated into Robinson, IL Lodge 1188 in 1968 and in 1979 demitted to Tampa Lodge 708 where he is a life member. He has been very active in Elkdom since taking early retirement as an executive of one of the Tampa based Walter Industries Companies in 1992. During his 26 years with Walter as a Chief Financial and/or Executive Officer, he specialized in the turnaround of seven distressed manufacturing companies within the organization.

He served as Lodge Audit Chairman for 15 years, between 1989 and 2003, and chaired several Lodge and District Committees between 1995 and 2002. He was Auditor to the West Central District DDGER for two consecutive years in 1993 and 1994 and remains active in the West Central District PER Association. Frank was named Elk of the Year in 1993 and Officer of the Year in 1994. He was Exalted Ruler in 1995 and Trustee Chairman in 1998. He and his wife, Ebba Jean, co-chaired the Tampa Lodge Centennial Celebration in 2002 and its planning and fundraising activities for four years prior to that.

During his year as Exalted Ruler, Tampa earned five Grand Lodge and Five State Association Awards. He won first place in the district ritual competition as Exalted Ruler and Leading Knight, the Eleven O’clock Toast competition in both of those years, and finished second place in the 1996 Eleven O’clock Toast state contest.
He is well-known for his frequent travel to Lodges and in conducting seminars throughout Florida for over thirteen years as a representative of the Florida State Elks Association Business Practices Committee, having served as Chairman or Vice Chairman of this committee for five of those years. During this time he:

- Negotiated substantial statewide savings annually since 1995 through the FSEA consolidated liquor-purchasing program
- Published a 31-page “Food and Beverage Operations” instructional manual for Florida Elks Lodges
- Developed a 2-hour “Management Accountability” film as a Business Practices instructional guide for Florida Lodges
- Carried out detailed operational examinations at six specific Lodges since 1997 as assigned by the State Sponsor

Palladini served as West Central District Vice President in 1998 and as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1999. He has been a Trustee and Director of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund for the last four years and was named leader of the West Central District in October 2002 by State Sponsor, Robert Grafton, PGER.

Frank is the tenth State President from Tampa Lodge 708. The Lodge is a founding member of the Florida State Elks Association in Tampa on November 17, 1904.

He has also served as Grand Lodge Auditor for Area 3.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 2004-2005 term:

- President    Frank Palladini
- Vice President at Large    Don Sansoussi
- Secretary    Carl Seibert, PDD
- Treasurer    Joseph B. Bryant
- Tiler    Carl L. Williamson, PER
- Historian    Lowell P. Tyler, PER
- Sergeant at Arms    Brian T. Brantley
- Chaplain    John C. Harris, PDD
- Organist    Charles Gudgel
- Museum Curator    Terry Russell

District Vice Presidents

- Northwest    Gary Johnson
- North    Richard Cruce
- Northeast    Dennis B. Squires
- East Central    Stanley E. Suess
- North Central    Charles Brown
- Central    Edna M. Capps
- Southeast Central    James Johnson
- West Central    Ronald R. Simpson
- Southwest Central    Richard A. Rhodes
- Southwest    S. Raymond Bibisi
- South Southwest    Wesley L. Phelps
- Southeast    Donna Proctor
- South Southeast    Gerald W. Carter
- South    Harry Kerslake
Conversation with Frank Palladini:

What do you consider the most significant accomplishment in your year?

“Making a difference” by helping to arrange and manage programs that resulted in a tremendous outpouring of charity and brotherly love whereby neighbor helped neighbor and fellow Elks helped fellow Elks and others in many different ways who suffered much loss and devastation from the four hurricanes that invaded Florida within a six-week period. At last estimate the total loss statewide was $17 billion.

Over 50% of our 116 Lodges were closed during this timeframe due to power outages that resulted in the loss of inventory, regular food and beverage income, and revenue from canceled special events. At the beginning of October, nine Lodges were still closed due to building, content, and personal property damage that was experienced by a substantial number of Lodges throughout Florida.

Through all of this adversity, Florida Elks in our centennial year maintained our high level of charitable donations to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Elks National Foundation, and our state major projects. Likewise, by more persistent management of our Lodge Charity Book records, FSEA reporting to the Grand Lodge represented considerable improvement.

What was your greatest disappointment?

The magnitude of the loss and devastation suffered by Florida Elks and our lodges and to the property of our seasonal visiting Elks and their families and friends. Some individuals and/or families lost everything. It is going to take a considerable amount of time to recover from the financial consequences of these storms and their impacts upon FSEA membership.

What do you see as the most significant problem of Elkdom today and particularly Florida Elkdom?

The continuing loss of membership.

a. Cause of problem?

Based upon my observations during four years on the FSEA Business Practices Committee, it is out of control negative politics that result in a malignancy that firmly divides a Lodge into two or more distinct and competing factions. Eventually one group drops out or discontinues visiting the Lodge because it is no longer a “home away from home” or a fun or desirable place to be. Unfortunately, more often than not, this division has occurred among the officers and those doing the majority of the volunteer work within the Lodge. Thus, over a period of time, after a few of these divisions of brotherhood have occurred, there remain but a few good members left within the Lodge to do all the volunteer work needed or to fulfill its statutory requirements. Consequently, we end up with some officers not familiar with Elkdom, the statutes, managing a business, etc., which further compounds the problem and exposes the Lodge to a further potential loss of membership.
b. In your opinion, what approach can we take in seeking a reversal of the problem as you see it?

For incoming members, a good indoctrination and immediate involvement program is vital, and for existing members, a timely and active lapsation plan is essential.

How would you attack the dissension which seems to be infecting many of our Lodges today?

Each Lodge Sponsor needs to have at least one member available who is good with people and can help to mediate a problem in its early stages before it becomes a management problem or worse yet, an out of control Lodge problem that infests the organization with the malignancy of negative politics that can eventually lead to the self-destruction of the Lodge internally.

What message would you have for today’s subordinate Lodge officers and committee people?

Trust your fellow members as customers and as fellow shareholders in accordance with the cardinal principles of our order because operating a Lodge and its social quarters and raising money for our charities is a business, and for a business to survive and to grow, it must operate at a profit. For a business to operate at a profit, it must be properly managed. Quality management leadership in any organization must start at the top. Lodge management must lead by example by working with their volunteers in reasonable harmony as a team in order for the Lodge and its members to have a successful fraternal and financial year. It all starts with a positive attitude and the communication thereof throughout the entire Lodge. Without a positive attitude, chances are that very little to follow will be positive.

Palm Bay Lodge 2766

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 136th Lodge</th>
<th>Southeast Central</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>June 12, 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>September 28, 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>Les Linsenbarth, PDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chart Members:</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership:</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership:</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2001 Membership:</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership:</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother Lodge:</td>
<td>Melbourne 1744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>1155 Malabar Road, Palm Bay, FL 32907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
<td>P.O. Box 100046, Palm Bay, FL 32910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>321-952-0578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Tuesday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Palm Bay Lodge surrendered its charter and is no longer on the roll of Florida Lodges.*

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Les L. Linsenbarth
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Ben Brown
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: George Dominianni
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Carl Vaughn
- Grand Secretary: William Orban
- Grand Treasurer: Thomas E. Elmore
Grand Trustee    William McCall
Grand Trustee    Russell Jurgenson
Grand Trustee    Don Netschke
Grand Trustee    Don Liese
Grand Tiler      Paul Testa
Grand Chaplain   PSP Harold Shelton
Grand Organist   Alex Kesco
Grand Esquire    PSP Al Smith
Grand Inner Guard Thomas D. Sullivan

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler    Robert Peters
Esteemed Leading Knight   Fred Lewis
Esteemed Loyal Knight    Howard Bozman
Esteemed Lecturing Knight  Terry Kerr
Secretary    Robert Lemieux
Treasurer     John Davis
Inner Guard    Bill Boxill
Chaplain     George Danchuck
Organist      Elbert Coleman
Esquire      John K. Carnes
Tiler        Bernard S. Quick
Trustees

The following officers initiated the new members:

Exalted Ruler    Harold T. Vess
Esteemed Leading Knight   Jim Wilder
Esteemed Loyal Knight    PER Lyman Boyd
Esteemed Lecturing Knight  Nick Gatto
Esquire      PER Ralph Huyck
Chaplain     Herb March
Inner Guard    Carl Muller

The organizational meeting to form the Palm Bay Elks was held at the home of Robert Peters at 486 Ward Road SW in Palm Bay on November 29, 1989. Attending this meeting were Robert Peters; George Petrasek, PER; William Fricke, PER; Thomas Sullivan, DDGER; Robert Baker; and all members of Melbourne Lodge 1744. Also in attendance was Charles Cooper of the Sebastian Lodge and Vice President of the East Central District. Robert Peters was named Organizational Chairman, William Fricke was named Treasurer, and George Petrasek was named Secretary.

Stray Elks were reviewed and it was determined that there were currently 85 stray Elks within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Palm Bay Lodge. It was agreed that a letter be prepared by the New Lodges Chairman and sent to each of the stray Elks inviting them to the next organizational meeting.

Fees were established for the new Lodge as follows:

Initiation Fee       $50.00
Certificate of Release $25.00
Transfer Demit        $5.00
Yearly Dues           $48.00

The committee’s goal was to establish a new Lodge and institute it in the February/March time frame. At a general meeting held on July 12, 1991, they voted a uniform dress for the Lodge of a navy blue jacket, light gray pants, gray bow tie, gray cummerbund, and black shoes. Meetings were held at Melbourne Lodge. Steps were taken
in preparation for the upcoming institution, initiation of candidates, and swearing in of charter officers. A logo for the Lodge pins was chosen.

Past Exalted Rulers:

1992-1993  Fred Lewis  
1993-1994  Terry Kerr  
1998-1999  William J. Dupras  
2003-2004  Carolyn Strickland  
2004-2005  Robert L. Geier  
2005-2006  Robert Casale  
2006-2007  Eugene Pilot, PER  
2007-2008  Carolyn Strickland

Significant events of Palm Bay Lodge 2766:

1998  Exalted Ruler William Dupras had the unique privilege on his first initiation ceremony as Exalted Ruler to initiate his wife, Nancy. Also initiated was Peggy Peters, the immediate Past President of the Ladies of the Elks, the wife of Bob Peters, the first ER of Palm Bay Lodge.

Ladies organization:  Ladies of the Elks  
First President:  Mrs. Peggy Peters

Palm Beach Gardens 2718

Florida’s 118th Lodge  
Date of Dispensation:  July 28, 1986  
Date of Installation:  September 20, 1986  
Formally Opened By:  Paul Testa, PDD  
Charter Members:  215  
Mother Lodge:  Jupiter 2469

* This Lodge disbanded on January 11, 1991.

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler  Paul Testa, PDD

Additional information was unavailable.

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler  Emery W. Weary  
Esteemed Leading Knight  Richard Hallstrand  
Esteemed Loyal Knight  Richard Swigert  
Esteemed Lecturing Knight  Robert Gorman  
Secretary  Wayne Keller  
Treasurer  Larry Joyce  
Inner Guard  Harry Jackman  
Chaplain  Cliff Haggenjos  
Esquire  Robert Gibson  
Tiler  Richard Tatro  
Trustees  5 Year, James Widmann  
               4 Year, Frank Gerry  
               3 Year, Mike Kuzma  
               2 Year, Paul Arsenault  
               1 Year, Bud Caldwell
The Lodge disbanded and surrendered its charter to Grand Lodge. It reached a membership of 225 in 1987 and grew to 236 in 1988 before starting its decline. Many of the members held membership in communities such as Jupiter with an established Elks Lodge and transferred their affiliations.

Palm Beach West Lodge 2785

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 126th Lodge</th>
<th>Southeast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>March 20, 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instituted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Sean Maguire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Charter Members:</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2001 Membership:</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Palm Beach West Lodge is not on the state roster. It merged with West Palm Beach Lodge 1352.*

Contributors:

- Phil Macnak
- Rev. John Mangrum, deceased March 2010
- Gary Weiss

Instituting Officers:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Donald M. Dixon, DDGER
- Grand Leading Knight: Ralph Denton, PDD
- Grand Loyal Knight: Carl Vaughn, GELK, USA
- Grand Lecturing Knight: Richard Gamache, PDD
- Grand Secretary: Alan Jones, PDD
- Grand Treasurer: Earle Fowler, PDD
- Grand Tiler: Almer Tedder, PDD
- Grand Esquire: Rick Peluso, PDD
- Grand Inner Guard: Clayton Weisner, PSP (CT)
- Grand Chaplain: Don Netschke, PSP (VA)
- Grand Trustee: George McConnell, PDD

Charter Officers:

- Exalted Ruler: Sean Maguire
- Leading Knight: John A. Faddish
- Loyal Knight: Robert C. Armstrong
- Lecturing Knight: Louis Frustaci
- Secretary: Philip P. Macnak
- Treasurer: Jerome J. Roach, Jr.
- Esquire: Robert Wheatley
- Tiler: Ralph C. Knepley
- Chaplain: Stephen Mallek
- Inner Guard: Andrew Frogel
- Organist: John Mangrum
- Trustees:
  - 5 year, Arthur B. Korns
  - 4 year, Benjamin C. Laperna
  - 3 year, Alan W. Wolf
  - 2 year, Michael W. Jost
  - 1 year, Donald Netschke, Jr.
Charter Members Initiated:

Neal A. Baluba Philip P. Macnak
Ronald A. Baluba Stephen Mallek
David L. Bean Dr. Michael Mauck
James B. Bonadio Richard L. McCoy
William C. Brasmar Gary D. Moore
Charles E. Brockway Gene R. Murray
Jeffrey T. Collett Robert L. Norton
Richard M. Driggers Ted Orphanos
Edward L. Ehmke Raymond D. Ouellette
John W. Felton Gary W. Parent
Rudy Fernandez Mark Pearson
Mickey Fried Joseph R. Picconcelli
John F. Froehlich David L. Pittard
Andrew E. Frogel Timothy J. Prescott
Louis Frustaci James G. Rafferty
Frank H. Gebhart Ray Robello
Phillip Gioia Ron Robertson
Geoffrey J. Grassette, Sr. Dale F. Scott
James E. Gribble Thomas J. Shea
Robert F. Gwozdz William J. Shukis
Dale Hammack Albert L. Sierra
James R. Hernandez Joseph C. Skender
Randy Hough Thomas G. Smith
Joseph E. Howard Robert D. Sniffen
Michael Iacona Michael E. Stanton
Michael W. Jost William Tague
Michael L. Karlo Craig A. Temple
Arthur B. Karns Anthony Viscomi
A. C. Keller Michael J. Walker
Randy L. Keller Don D. West
Joseph Kelly Robert Wheatley
Jeffery J. Knepley Mitch White
Andre T. LaCroix Ralph K. Whiteman
John P. LaCroix Arthur R. Wickman
William J. Lane Harold R. Williams
Benjamin Laperna Alan W. Wolf
David Laperna James A. Young

Charter Members by Transfer Demit, Absolute Demit, Certificate of Release, and Certificate of Status:

Robert C. Armstrong Rev. John F. Mangrum
Thomas S. Clark Donald E. Netschke, Jr.
John Cunningham Jeffery P. Raab
David Deuschle H. David Reitz
Mark T. Edlund Jerome J. Roach, Jr.
Orie Ennis Bruce L. Sande
Anthony J. Faddish Armand E. Scala
John A. Faddish Oscar Schelling
Joseph W. Giambatista Jeff Shahin
J. Barry Haslup Bobby W. Smith
Edwin J. Henderson Glenn E. Southworth
Joseph P. Hennessey Steven A. Stinson
Lloyd K. Kern Thomas R. Tarkleson
Adam Klimkowski F. David Teets
Wellington resident Don Netschke, Jr., Past State President of the Virginia Association of Elks, spearheaded the organization of Palm Beach West. Developmental meetings were held on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Wellington Trap and Skeet Club located at Fairlane Farms and Pierson Roads. The Lodge was to serve in the western communities which included Wellington, Royal Palm Beach, Loxahatchee, Wycliffe, and Greenacres.

The Institution Committee was made up of Sean D. Maguire, Chairman; Donald E. Netschke, Jr., PSP, Secretary; and Jerome J. Roach, Treasurer. Institution of Palm Beach West Elks Lodge 2785 was held Sunday, March 20, 1994 at West Palm Beach Elks Lodge 1352. The ceremony was called to order at approximately 4:25 p.m. by the Acting Grand Exalted Ruler, Donald Dixon, DDGER. In attendance were honored guests and their spouses from the Elks Grand Lodge and the Florida State Elks Association; members and their spouses from West Palm Beach Elks Lodge; members from other Lodges of the Southeast District, South Southeast District, and Southeast Central District; and the officers elect and candidates and their spouses from Palm Beach West Lodge.

The initiation of the charter members of Palm Beach West Lodge was called to order at 4:42 p.m. by Acting Grand Exalted Ruler Donald Dixon who introduced Vic Zilinek, PER as the Exalted Ruler overseeing the initiation ceremony. The initiation ceremony was conducted by the following members of Jupiter Elks Lodge 2469:

Exalted Ruler: Vic Zilinek, PER
Leading Knight: Mike Orlando, PER
Loyal Knight: Robert Buenger, PER
Lecturing Knight: Art Shepherd, PER
Esquire: Emery Weary, PER
Chaplain: Ralph Denton, PDD
Inner Guard: Eugene Hogan, PER
Tiler: Alvin Crouse, ER
Secretary: Donald Netschke, Jr., PSP

Representing the members elect in the ceremony for Palm Beach West Lodge was Robert Wheatley, Esquire Elect.

Newly Elected Exalted Ruler Maguire recognized Don Netschke, PSP who moved that Palm Beach West Lodge 2785 join the Florida State Elks Association. This motion was seconded by Loyal Knight Charlie Armstrong and unanimously approved.

Robert Grafton, Past Grand Exalted Ruler, addressed the group.

The new Lodge received contributions of altar items, jewels, and office supplies from the defunct Lodges of Land O’ Lakes and North Palm Beach.

They then began meeting at the Getaway Café in the Royal Palm Beach Shopping Plaza.

Palm Beach West Famous Hog Roast

The first social function of the new Lodge was a hog roast at the Loxahatchee Groves State Park from 11:00 a.m. to dusk. Featured items in addition to the unfortunate hog were hamburgers, hot dogs, roast pork, salads, beer, and soda. Activities included horseshoes, children's games, softball, golf, demonstrations, and special events. This very successful event turned out to be an annual affair making much money for the Lodge. Each year ten veterans from the West Palm Beach Veterans’ Medical Center were invited to the roast.

Many people enjoy Lodge social activities but many do not realize the work that goes into each function so that the general membership and guests can enjoy themselves. Mike Jost, member of Palm Beach West, had this to say about those who put all the work into a successful hog roast.

“The Men Who Roast Our Hogs”
By Mike Jost

This year (1996-1997) for the first time, I had the opportunity to participate in our Hog Roundup. I was amazed at the devotion several men had when it came to selecting and preparing our hogs for our hog roast and
family picnic. I want to explain the hours of commitment these men gave so that other members and their families would enjoy a Sunday at the park.

Let’s start on a Thursday. Make about 15-20 telephone calls locating large coolers that can be borrowed for about a week. On Friday, drive around town picking up 7-8 large coolers; you must remember that only 1-2 coolers fit in a vehicle. You must pick up a few, drop them off, and go back out. After picking up all the coolers, you must ice them down. Have you ever tried to pick up a 120-pound cooler filled with ice? You must have a minimum of two men. Well, by Friday evening all the coolers are filled with ice. On Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. your hog roundup committee meets on a canal bridge way out west. All trucks filled with iced down coolers travel on a dirt road for a few miles to a hog farm. Your committee is greeted like old friends.

You must now select the proper weighted hogs and then kill and clean them all. The cleaning and preparing of the hogs took 6-7 hours. The hogs were iced down in marinade and delivered to a large refrigerator in town. Now, take the seven coolers filled with 150 pounds of hog, ice, and marinade into the walk-in box and stack them. You’re not finished yet; arrangements were made to pick up two extremely large hog roaster ovens. One man takes his truck out to the sugar cane fields and borrows a hog roaster oven and brings it to his house. The other man goes to downtown West Palm Beach and does the same thing. Both men get home by 7:30 p.m. on Saturday night.

Now it’s the day of the picnic at 5:30 a.m. Two men meet at the walk-in refrigerator to transport the hogs to the park. At 6:00 a.m. they start the ovens, set up the cutting tables, and prepare the basting sauce. The hogs are placed in the ovens and the basting begins. The ovens are cordoned off with fire line tape to prevent children from getting burned. During the next several hours, the hogs are turned, basted, and checked. Around noon, the hogs are removed for cutting. Several more join the committee to give a well needed hand. I watched in amazement as these hogs were carved to perfection; tray after tray were delivered to our picnickers. Over 680 pounds of whole hog were consumed at our picnic. The committee even cooked up some alligator and if you were lucky enough to get some, it was delicious.

At about 7:00 p.m. it was time to start the cleanup process. At about 9:00 p.m. trucks were filled to the brim with coolers, tables, chairs, and several items which were left behind by our picnickers that the hog roasters picked up to return to you. By 11:00 p.m. your hog roasters were permitted to get a little sleep.

It’s now Monday morning. Let’s clean all the coolers with bleach and water and let’s clean the ovens we borrowed. By early afternoon we returned our ovens with many thanks. Our borrowed coolers were driven around the town to people’s houses. It’s now dinnertime on Monday and the hog roasters get a chance to sit down with their family and ask them if they had a good time at the hog roast.

Additional Fundraisers

A hot dog and Pepsi sale was held in cooperation with a local Walmart store and Pepsi-Cola distributor. Elks manned a Pepsi wagon located at the Royal Palm Beach Walmart near the entrance. The proceeds went to charity.

A Lodge blood drive bloodmobile was located at Walmart and free hot dogs and Pepsi were served to donors.

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday, they distributed food baskets to needy families.

The Lodge participated in the annual Royal Palm Beach West Fest by sponsoring a Lodge tent booth. A Southeast District Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services van was on display and manned by Physical Therapist, Valerie Edmunds. Well over 400 drug ribbons were distributed.

Veterans’ Services

The Lodge sponsored a Veterans’ Appreciation Cruise each year. In attendance were members of Palm Beach West Lodge; Royal Palm Beach American Legion Post 367 veterans, color guard, and honor guard; the American Legion Voiture No. 290; representatives of the Navy, Air Force, Marines, Army, and Coast Guard; and the cruise ship crew. Ceremonies on board included a twelve-gun salute and throwing a wreath overboard in remembrance of fallen and missing comrades.

Bond Issue

At the meeting of March 21, 1996, a resolution to provide a bond issue to raise money for a Lodge facility was presented and approved.
In April of 1999, they closed on their second parcel of property on Folsum Road. This property had previously been purchased to build a facility. Not able to get approval of zoning, the property was resold. As a result they then began another location upon which to build.

**Past District Vice Presidents:**

John A. Faddish

**Past District Deputies:**

John A. Faddish

**Past State Presidents:**

Don Netchske, Jr., Past State President of the Virginia State Elks Association

**Palm Coast Lodge 2709**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 121st Lodge</th>
<th>East Central</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>East Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>March 3, 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Institution:</td>
<td>March 29, 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>Douglas Cooke, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership:</td>
<td>609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership:</td>
<td>568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2001 Membership:</td>
<td>567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
<td>794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership:</td>
<td>796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2007 Membership:</td>
<td>843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
<td>863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2009 Membership:</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>53 Old Kings Road N., Palm Coast, FL 32135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
<td>P.O. Box 352765, Palm Coast, FL 32135-2765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>904-446-2709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Monday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Douglas Cooke
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: J. Pierce Smith
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: George Dominianni
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Norman P. O’Brien
- Grand Secretary: Russell Saxon
- Grand Treasurer: Willis McCall
- Grand Trustee: J. T. Lowe
- Grand Trustee: Charles Whalen
- Grand Trustee: George Shiebler
- Grand Trustee: William Belknap
- Grand Trustee: Charles Coole
- Grand Tiler: Prime Beaudoin
- Grand Chaplain: William McGrath
- Grand Organist: Wayne Joranlien
Grand Esquire    Richard Shashy
Grand Inner Guard   Hal Shelton

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler    William Erickson
Esteemed Leading Knight   Harold Jordan
Esteemed Loyal Knight    Alfred Tucker
Esteemed Lecturing Knight  Ralph Dodge
Secretary    Brian Hamilton
Treasurer    John Cole
Inner Guard    Frank DiGiorgio
Chaplain    Walter Wehenkel
Organist    Carlos Bortz
Esquire    George Simpson
Tiler    Thomas Horling
Trustees
5 Year, Martin Mertz
4 Year, Ernest Kutter
3 Year, Vincent Sapuppo
2 Year, Harry Shenloogian
1 Year, Peter Barone

The following officers initiated the new members:

Exalted Ruler    Ben Fleming
Esteemed Leading Knight   Donny Fraser
Esteemed Loyal Knight    Ron Borchenek
Esteemed Lecturing Knight  Robert Solana
Secretary    Prime Beaudoin
Treasurer    Karl Masters
Esquire    Carl Connell
Chaplain    Patrick Shipley
Inner Guard    Morgan Miller
Tiler    Joseph Harnage
Organist    Wayne Joranlien

Palm Coast Elks have sponsored a very successful basketball league that has carried for several years. Founded by their Youth Activities Cochairman, Phil DePalma, the idea was for a middle school youth league. When presented before the Lodge, the idea was accepted with wide approval. DePalma organized the league of six teams of boys and girls grades six through eight and registered 72 players.

In 1996 the league expanded to twelve teams with over 140 boys and girls registered. All players had to have passing grades to participate. In 1997, it was necessary to cut the league back to eight teams comprising approximately of one hundred players because of the lack of facilities and volunteers.

Cochairman of Youth Activities, Bob Burns, was highly instrumental in obtaining top-notch referees. Burns was also instrumental in obtaining an increase in the Elks’ budget to keep the league running as a top-notch professional organization. Burns, whose background was as an Athletic Director, and DePalma were still at the helm in 2001 and attracting much of the community of Palm Coast as well as the entire county. High school coaches were frequently seen in attendance at the games because the league functioned as a breeder for high school basketball.

Each year more and more adults have come forth to get involved in the league as participants. Member Elks are used as scorekeepers, timers, and coaches. There is a waiting list of area coaches and the bleachers are almost always full with fans.

Ladies organization: Palm Coast Ladies Auxiliary
Palmetto Lodge 2449

Florida’s 95th Lodge
District: Southwest
Date of Dispensation: June 16, 1970
Date of Installation: September 27, 1970
Charter Members: 130
Formally Opened By: Robert B. Cameron, State President
Mother Lodge: Sarasota 1519
Charter Members: 130
Year 1995 Membership: 630
Year 1996 Membership: 646
Year 1997 Membership: 671
Year 1998 Membership: 706
Year 2001 Membership: 699
Year 2004 Membership: 676
Year 2005 Membership: 645
Year 2006 Membership: 603
Year 2007 Membership: 581
Year 2008 Membership: 610
Year 2009 Membership: 601
Location: 4611 4th Avenue East, Palmetto, FL 34221
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 272, Palmetto, FL 34220
Telephone: 941-722-6937
Meets: 2nd and 4th Tuesday

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler       Doyle G. Sweeney
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight    R. Edward Royal
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight    Robert Allen
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight  John Sheffield
Grand Secretary             William Lieberman
Grand Treasurer             Walter I. Clark
Grand Trustee               Richard Robinson
Grand Trustee               William Dunn
Grand Trustee               Bruce Jones
Grand Trustee               Edmund V. Vladish
Grand Trustee               C. L. Van Inwagen
Grand Tiler                 Robert P. Rosin
Grand Chaplain              H. F. Johnson
Grand Organist              Titus Mixon
Grand Esquire               Bedford Prescott
Grand Inner Guard           Allen Altvater, Sr.

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler               Milton J. Sackett
Esteemed Leading Knight     Thomas C. Ferguson
Esteemed Loyal Knight       David E. Vergason
Esteemed Lecturing Knight   Joe R. Emerson
Secretary                   Louis Schleifer
Treasurer                   Claire M. Proper
Inner Guard                 Malcolm Williams
Chaplain                    Ronald Turner
Organist                    William Dawson
Esquire                     David Enos
Tiler                       Herbert Childress
Trustees                    5 Year, C. Edward Porter
                                      4 Year, Ray E. Parsons
3 Year, George Helmer  
2 Year, B. C. Mabry  
1 Year, Samuel H. Thomas

The following officers initiated the new members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Nicholas D. Poulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Leading Knight</td>
<td>Robert Fowler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Donald Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>Andy Burns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Walter I. Clark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Sam Idelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esquire</td>
<td>Floyd Bowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Theodore Carlson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Guard</td>
<td>J. Walton Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>John Rake</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Palmetto Lodge 2449 was organized under the direction of Special District Deputy R. B. Cameron. He was assisted by District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Earl Enos who became one of the 110 charter members of Palmetto Lodge.

The Lodge institution was held at the Palmetto National Guard Armory on September 27, 1970. The initiatory ritual was conducted by Exalted Ruler Nicholas D. Poulos and the officers of Sarasota Lodge 1519. The acting Grand Exalted Ruler was District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Doyle G. Sweeney of Sebring Lodge 1529. A barbecue dinner was prepared by firefighters of the North Palmetto Volunteers and served at their station house on Experimental Farm Road following the ceremonies at the armory. Grand Exalted Ruler Glen R. Miller signed the charter on December 21, 1970.

The first Exalted Ruler was Milton “Bud” Sackett who was reelected and served the full Lodge year of 1971-1972. Sackett was a retired Major of the United States Army and he passed away in 1976. Kathy Proper served as the first President of the Palmetto Elks Ladies in 1971.

Past Exalted Rulers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1972-1973</td>
<td>Joe Emerson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-1974</td>
<td>David Enos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-1975</td>
<td>Earl Enos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-1976</td>
<td>Ed Grover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-1977</td>
<td>Pete Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-1978</td>
<td>David Vergason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-1979</td>
<td>Earl Beal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-1980</td>
<td>Don Schick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1981</td>
<td>Tom Ballard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-1982</td>
<td>Hugh Igo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982-1983</td>
<td>David Vergason, (later State President)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-1984</td>
<td>Frank Garrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984-1985</td>
<td>Douglas Younger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-1986</td>
<td>Robert Quinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986-1987</td>
<td>Jack Baldwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-1988</td>
<td>Hugh Igo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988-1989</td>
<td>Lloyd Koontz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-1990</td>
<td>Russel Holmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-1991</td>
<td>Lloyd Koontz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992-1993</td>
<td>Paul P. Byrne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993-1994</td>
<td>James Gard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994-1995</td>
<td>Thomas Dillman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-1996</td>
<td>Mark O'Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-1998</td>
<td>Robert Upton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-1999</td>
<td>Donald G. Wedge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>Glen A. Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>Craig Conklin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>Leonard P. Pruss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>Sandra S. Mooney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Past Presidents of the Palmetto Elks Ladies:

1971-1972  Kathy Proper
1972-1973  Francis Valardi
1973-1974  Charlotte Prive
1974-1975  Alice Enos
1975-1976  Trecia Groover
1976-1977  Betty Miller
1977-1978  Pauline Canecchia
1978-1979  Lola Beal
1979-1980  Kitty Schick
1980-1981  Barbara Hutchinson
1981-1982  Sheri Ballard
1982-1983  Bette Garrison
1983-1984  Irma Goetz
1984-1985  Ruth Igo
1985-1986  Dorothy Quinn
1986-1987  Lola Beal
1987-1988  Louisa Bessire
1988-1989  Louisa Bessire
1989-1990  Dorothy Quinn
1990-1991  Marcia Koontz

The organization has been staunch supporters of both the Boys and Girls Clubs in Palmetto. Boy Scout Troop No. 244 which is sponsored by the Lodge has produced three Eagle Scouts. Troop 244 was given the honor of raising the American Flag for the first time over the Manatee County Civic Center as part of the building dedication on January 26, 1985. The Palmetto Elks and Ladies have been active for many years in visiting the nursing home section at the Bay Pines Veterans’ Hospital. These visits have provided video games, live musical groups, Christmas presents, chit books, and other items for the patients. The veterans have enjoyed the homemade cookies, fresh fruit, and the personal contact by the Elks and ladies.

Help has often been provided for those in the community who are less fortunate and the Lodge has an active blood bank account. Recognition received by the Lodge over the years has included The GER Foundation Award in 1972-1973, highest percentage membership gain in 1974-1975, winner of the state bulletin contest for Lodges under 300 members in 1980-1981, and the largest amount subscribed to the HarryAnna Trust Fund for Lodges under 300 members in 1981-1982.

The Lodge received an autographed picture from President Reagan and Vice President Bush in 1988 that read, “To Palmetto Lodge 2449,” and one from President Bush in 1990. These were prompted by a recommendation from new members who were impressed by the work of the Lodge and of the order. In 1989 the Lodge received a letter of appreciation from President Bush for gathering signatures on a petition during the community Fourth of July celebration against the desecration of our American flag. One of their members was employed part-time by Vice President Bush. He secured and presented to the Lodge an autographed picture of President Reagan and Vice President Bush. This picture hangs in the entrance hall.

The Past Exalted Rulers and Past Presidents of the Palmetto Elks Ladies thank the membership for the honor of serving, for their support of the programs of Grand Lodge and the Florida State Elks Association, and for the progress of the first twenty years.

PER David Vergason served as the original District Vice President of the newly formed Southwest Central District in 1981-1982 and became District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler at the Grand Lodge Convention in Honolulu, HI in 1983. He served as the District Director on the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors from 1986-1991. Vergason went on to serve the State Association as Vice President at Large and the following year as President of the Florida State Elks Association. PER Frank Garrison served as the State Vice President of the District in 1985 and became the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler at the Grand Lodge convention in Atlanta, GA in 1987. He served as the Tiler of the Florida State Elks Association in 1988.

The Lodge first met in the old Palmetto Public Library Building on 10th Avenue which was rented from the city. Soon money was raised to buy land north of town and the members approved a plan to build a Lodge home mostly with volunteer help under the direction of a building committee. Past District Deputy Earl Enos headed this committee and as Exalted Ruler he held the first meeting in the new Lodge home in 1974. The mortgage for this building was burned in April of 1987. In the meantime volunteers more than doubled the size of the original facility, again under the direction of PDD Earl Enos.

Grand Exalted Ruler Frank O. Garland dedicated this new addition on February 5, 1985. Granite was donated and volunteers installed it on the floor and steps outside the main building entry during March of 1986. A
major renovation of the original building was undertaken during Lodge year 1990-1991. This effort included an impressive property marker constructed of used bricks which were obtained from the nearby telephone company building. This project was accomplished with mostly volunteer work and with the support as always of the Palmetto Elk Ladies. An open house was held on January 20, 1991 to recognize this major accomplishment. The Lodge was greatly honored at this event by the attendance and remarks of the State Sponsor, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bob Grafton, and his wife, Pat, who led in the singing of “God Bless America” as a tribute to our service men and women and as a prayer for all of our nation and us.

One of the major charitable efforts is giving support to Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. In 2002 alone they donated $2,000 to cover expenses in raising and training guide dogs. At that time there were only ten such training facilities in the United States.

Ladies Organization: Palmetto Elk Ladies
Formed in: 1971

Panama City Lodge 1598

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 35th Lodge</th>
<th>District:</th>
<th>Northwest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>June 4, 1935</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>July 8, 1935</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chartered:</td>
<td>July 18, 1935</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>M. E. Welborn, DDGER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>396</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>376</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership:</td>
<td>371</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership:</td>
<td>360</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2001 Membership:</td>
<td>395</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
<td>310</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership:</td>
<td>290</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>266</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2007 Membership:</td>
<td>256</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
<td>242</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2009 Membership:</td>
<td>203</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>101 W. Beach Drive, Panama City, FL 32401</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
<td>P.O. Box 190, Panama City, FL 33402</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>850-769-1598</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Monday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler        M. E. Welborn
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight        A. A. Abbott
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight        George Whitehead
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight        W. H. Cates
Grand Secretary        Walter Hawkins
Grand Treasurer        Frank O’Brien
Grand Tiler        Henry Pollitz
Grand Chaplain        J. R. Jinks
Grand Esquire        M. Z. Poage
Grand Inner Guard        E. C. Spiller
The following officers were elected and installed:

- **Exalted Ruler**: J. G. Mathis
- **Esteemed Leading Knight**: Joseph W. Bailey
- **Esteemed Loyal Knight**: M. J. Daffin
- **Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: Fred Bishop
- **Secretary**: Casper E. Harris
- **Treasurer**: W. A. Oliff
- **Inner Guard**: T. E. Smith
- **Chaplain**: Fred Phillips
- **Esquire**: D. G. McQuagge
- **Trustees**: F. A. Black; J. R. Asbell; H. G. Fannin

The following are charter members: J. G. Mathis; M. J. Daffin; Joseph W. Bailey; Fred Bishop; Casper E. Harris; W. A. Oliff; D. G. McQuagge; Henry W. Johnson; Fred Phillips; Thomas E. Smith; F. A. Black; J. R. Asbell; H. G. Fannin; L. B. Jeter; Roy Van Kleeck; V. L. Roberts; A. L. Barber; Harry Harris; C. M. Harris; F. F. Holland; C. L. Jinks; E. O. Fowlkes; W. H. Laird; W. B. Hobbs; J. E. Churchwell; J. S. Wilson; A. M. Lewis; L. E. Vickery; Don S. Fraser; S. F. Morgan; E. R. Spiva; J. Will Brown; F. M. Nelson; H. A. Pledger; Y. E. Smith; B. S. Gordon; O. E. Hobbs; C. S. Russ; F. P. Williams; D. J. Bailey; H. D. Shope; W. J. Cook; C. B. Waller; C. M. Chandlee; A. G. Appelberg; J. W. Johnson; C. A. Thompson; J. A. Smith; W. F. Look; H. E. Bartee; G. S. Waller; M. A. Coleman; George W. McCall; L. S. Sharpless; Lehman F. Ogburn; Burnis F. Coleman; George Conner Shaw; W. F. Moss, Jr.; S. E. Hobbs; and George Asbell.

The Lodge burned the mortgage on July 18, 1984.

PSP A. C. Van Horn, Jr. (1962-1963) and PSP Aubrey L. Callaham (1987-1988) were members of the Lodge.

**Past District Vice Presidents:**

- A. C. VanHorn, Jr. 1953-1954
- Fleming Folks 1959-1960
- C. A. Oliver 1963-1964
- J. M. Delaney 1968-1969
- Robert Lawrence 1972-1973
- Aubrey Callaham 1976-1977

**Past District Deputies:**

- A. C. VanHorn, Jr. 1955-1956
- Fleming Folks 1961-1962
- C. A. Oliver 1965-1966
- Robert Lawrence 1974-1975
- Aubrey Callaham 1979-1980

Panama City Elks Lodge has the original outdoor Elks sign from New York Lodge #1 in front of their Lodge. It was purchased at about the same time that Tallahassee Lodge purchased the Lodge room furniture from New York Lodge #1. It is a metal sign, some six feet tall.
Elk head from New York Lodge #1 hanging outside Panama City Lodge

Their building dates back to 1915. It was Bay County’s first county library and then it changed to the Woman’s Club. In 1935 it was purchased by the Lodge and became Panama City Elks Lodge 1598.

Ladies organization: Does Drove No. 180
First President: Mrs. Margaret Fields
Organized: January 7, 1964

Passwords

Passwords were promulgated in the early years of the order. A few of them were “Undivided,” “Entertainment,” “Interesting,” “Invincible,” and “Compensation.”

Past Exalted Rulers Association

Each subordinate Lodge is required to have a Past Exalted Rulers Association. The love that each Past Exalted Ruler feels for the Lodge and Elksom’s principles can make this association the vital force for the betterment of the Lodge. A strong Past Exalted Rulers Association can be a tremendous help to the continuing strength of the Lodge. History has proven that Lodges with strong Past Exalted Rulers Associations are generally Lodges that have remained strong and active over the years.

By providing guidance and counsel, an active group of Past Exalted Rulers can be of invaluable help to a Lodge and its officers. They must be dedicated to seeing that the Lodge is well run by officers who are trained and progressive and that the good work is maintained and enhanced. The Past Exalted Rulers Association should offer helpful guidance and counsel and render every service and assistance to the Lodge and its officers. The Past Exalted Rulers Association is formed to help, not run, the Lodge.

Funds generated by the PER Association are funds of the Lodge except where members of the association pay dues; they remain as moneys of the association.

According to the laws of the order, the Past Exalted Rulers Association shall have the following duties subject to the limitations imposed by the constitution and laws of the order:

1. To elect its own officers
2. To adopt rules for the conduct of its business
3. To hold meetings and to specify the dates of such meetings
4. To make recommendations for Lodge Committee appointments and candidates for Office
5. To assist the Exalted Ruler
6. To engage in and make recommendations for other activities which will promote the good of the Lodge and of the order

Peckelis, Charles H., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1960-1961

Fifty-Fourth Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
May 26-28, 1960
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1960-1961 term:

- President: Charles H. Peckelis, Fort Pierce
- Secretary Emeritus: James J. Ferandez, Tampa
- Treasurer: George C. Ross, Tallahassee
- Historian: William A. Partain, Jr., Palatka
- Tiler: Joseph P. Mankowich, Hollywood
- Sergeant at Arms: Kenneth S. McAlfee, Vero Beach
- Chaplain: G. Pat LeMoyne, Fort Myers
- Organist: Charles Doolittle, Daytona Beach

Division Vice Presidents:

- Northwest: Harry R. Beamer, Fort Walton
- Northeast: Clarence L. Gillham, Jacksonville Beach
- East Central: C. Newt Jones, Cocoa
- West Central: W. S. Compton, Fort Myers
- Southwest: Richard Burkhart, Clearwater
- Southeast: F. C. Douley, Belle Glade
- South: Herbert Payne, Pompano Beach

Three Lodges were instituted. Ormond Beach 2193 was instituted on December 2, 1960, Madison 2205 was instituted on March 18, 1960, and Pinellas Park 2217 was instituted on May 6, 1960. There were 78 Lodges in the state. The mobile physical therapy unit was installed. West Palm Beach Lodge 1352 won the state ritual.
Pensacola Lodge 497

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 3rd Lodge</th>
<th>Northwest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 9, 1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 15, 1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received Charter:</td>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William F. Cotter, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2001 Membership:</td>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>890 Industrial Court, Pensacola, FL  32505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.O. Box 11366, FL  32524-1366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>850-476-3497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Tuesday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Merged with Pensacola Beach Lodge in 2002

Pensacola Lodge 497 was located in the Northwest District of Florida. It received its dispensation on May 9, 1899 and was instituted on May 15, 1899. It was Florida’s third Lodge. Its 100th anniversary was celebrated in 1999 with the Florida State Elks Association holding its midyear conference in Pensacola.

Initial operation of Pensacola Lodge began under dispensation on May 15, 1899. Mobile, AL Lodge 108 performed the institution ceremonies at the southeast corner of Palafox and Intendencia Streets on June 22, 1899. B. C. Tunison was the Lodge’s first Exalted Ruler.

The following are charter members: B. C. Tunison; James C. Watson; Max L. Bear; Morris Bear; George E. Smith; J. Ernest Baars; John Jones; Ed Senior; John S. Borrili; William K. Robinson; John G. Wood; George T. Morgan; George W. C. Clutter; William A. Dunham; John M. Coe; Will A. Allen; Max J. Heinberg; J. W. Whiting; V. J. Vidal; Alfred Roach; A. M. Moses; W. N. Northrup; T. E. Wells; Fanin Chipley; and H. E. Cleveland. All are deceased.

The following officers were elected and installed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exalted Ruler</th>
<th>B. C. Tunison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Leading Knight</td>
<td>George T. Morgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Loyal Knight</td>
<td>A. M. Moses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>J. Ernest Baars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>James C. Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Morris Bear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Guard</td>
<td>Max J. Heinberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Fanin Chipley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esquire</td>
<td>John Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>Ed Senior, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustees</td>
<td>3 Year, W. N. Northrup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Year, John M. Coe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Year, T. E. Wells</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pensacola Lodge is the Mother Lodge for Fort Walton 1795, Rairhope, AL 1879, Warrington 2108, and Pensacola Beach 2256.

PSP Frank Fluck (1977-1978) who also served as the first Vice President at Large was a member of the Lodge.

While in their fourth home, they could not maintain the mortgage during the depression years. The Catholic bishop of Mobile purchased the Lodge and assumed the mortgage. This is now the site of a Catholic high school. They acquired their next home at the corner of Gregory and Barcelona in 1933. They were at this location until 1946; at this time they acquired the historical home of the F. C. Brent family who had occupied it since the Spanish-American War era. Numerous improvements were made until expenses forced the Lodge to sell in 1993 to the renowned Levin Law Firm of Pensacola. It was converted to a gymnasium for Roy Jones, Jr., current holder of three world boxing championships. Commensurate with that sale, the Lodge purchased property on Industrial Court where they built their last Lodge home. They moved into this Lodge in October of 1993 and officially dedicated the Lodge on January 23, 1994. On February 27, 1994, a cornerstone was set with memorabilia and a copy of the minutes of the service.
During their essay contest in 1962-1963, the winner was Don Sutton from Molino, FL, a student at J. M. Tate High School. Sutton is now in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

History of the Several Buildings
By Richard Starling, Secretary, February 24, 1995

Seven locations and many ups and downs have marked the history of Pensacola Lodge 497 since it received its charter on June 22, 1899. The charter was bestowed by the Grand Lodge, probably at its annual convention in June of 1899. Mobile Lodge 108 carried out the institution ceremonies at the southeast corner of Palafox and Intendencia Streets in an upstairs loft on June 22, 1899, but the Lodge had been operating on dispensation since May 15, 1899.

B. C. Tunison, a prominent lawyer at the time, was the first Exalted Ruler and James C. Watson, a realtor, was the first Secretary.

The list of charter members, all deceased now, is as follows: Max L. Bear; Morris Bear; George E. Smith; Ernest Baars; John Jones; Ed Senior, Jr.; John S. Borrill; William K. Robinson; John G. Wood; George T. Morgan; George W. C. Clutter; William A. Dunham; John M. Coe; Will A. Allen; Max J. Heinberg; J. W. Whiting; V. J. Vidal; Alfred Roach; A. M. Moses; W. N. Northrup; T. E. Wells; Fanin Chipley; and H. E. Cleveland besides brothers Tunison and Watson.

After a few years, the Lodge moved to a location several doors south above the old Parlor Market near the site of Child’s Restaurant.

Another loft on Palafox Street between Government and Liberty Streets above Goldenberg’s store was the Lodge’s third home. A two-story building on West Garden Street became the next home for the Lodge. This was next door to the Osceola Club, now the site of Barnett Bank. The Lodge eventually bought the Osceola property which was at the corner of Baylen and West Garden Streets, but alas, the depression came and the mortgage could not be maintained. The Lodge could not even pay the interest on it so the bishop of Mobile made the Lodge an offer of $5,000 cash and agreed to assume the mortgage. The Lodge agreed to the offer. This was the original site of Catholic High for many years.

The Lodge acquired a building on the southeast corner of Gregory and Barcelona Streets. This site became the Pensacola Electric Garage after the Lodge sold it in 1946. The Lodge had been there from 1933 to 1946. It had been its home longer than any other until another structure was bought in 1946. That home was bought from the F. C. Brent family for $30,000 cash. The Brent family had occupied it from about the Spanish-American War until just before the start of our involvement in World War II. The YMCA leased it from the heirs of the Brent family and used the building as a USO throughout the war. During that time the present Lodge room was used as a dance hall to entertain the troops. The YMCA-USO had the bedrooms and two bathrooms converted to the 1300 square foot dance hall.

The Lodge structure was originally built as a frame building by the Keyser family. F. C. Brent bought it and had the house bricked. F. C. Brent also altered the side facing LaRue Street.

As years went by, the Elks added the Max Bear Room during the term of Exalted Ruler Peter Falzone in 1955-1956. The Widow’s Walk gables from the roof and the front porches were removed in the early years that the Elks owned the building.

In the early 1970s during the term of Jim Stephens as Exalted Ruler (1970-1971 & 1973), a lounge was installed. This was originally three rooms that were converted into one room. The game room was added during 1983 and 1984 during the terms of Gerry Cogan (1982-1983) and Richard Chavis (1983-1984) as Exalted Rulers. Later development was the purchase of the property off I-10 on Ashland Avenue in 1988.

After purchasing the five acres of land on Ashland Avenue, it was found that it would not be practical to build on this land due to the requirements for a lift station and large water line that the Lodge would have to pay for. The Lodge decided to sell the land for a new site. Many sites and buildings were looked at by the building committee and other Elks until finally the building on Industrial Court was found. After much debate it was decided that we would purchase it. Having sold the Ashland property in October of 1992 for $30,000, the Lodge agreed to buy the 890 Industrial Court property for $125,000 and closed the purchase on the 5th of February in 1993.

The LaRue Street property was for sale for over four years and at the time it was decided to put the building up for public auction. Louis Boyleston was hired to sell it. The auction was held June 17, 1993 and Stanley and Fredric Levin were the buyers. They paid $110,000 for the building. Permission was requested from the Grand Lodge to consummate the sale, permission was granted, and the sale was closed in September of 1993. Prior to this permission, it was also requested from the Grand Lodge to renovate Industrial Court and that permission was
received in August of 1993. The first cement was poured at the end of August for the 15’ x 85’ addition on the south side of the building.

During September of 1993 the moving process started as construction continued on our new home and it continued into October as we were to be out of the LaRue property at the end of the month. The lounge was closed with the last Sunday social on October 24, but bingo continued until October 29. The 30th (Saturday) was a sad day for many brother Elks as this was the final moving day and we were leaving our home of 46 years. That weekend required much labor and the move was completed by Sunday evening.

We held our first Lodge meeting on Tuesday, November 2 and started up the bingo games on the 3rd with the charity ball on Saturday the 6th. On Tuesday, November 16, DDGER Joseph L. Walsh made his official visitation to the Lodge. Everyone was impressed with our new home and the dinner went off without a hitch thanks to the ladies of the Anna Miller Circle. Our new home was dedicated on Sunday, January 23, 1994 with PSP Aubrey L. Callaham as the Grand Exalted Ruler with PDDs of the Northwest District acting as Grand Lodge officers. This was followed by a fish fry for all in attendance. Our most senior Exalted Ruler, Edward B. (Bobo) Jones (1954-1955), was a participant at these ceremonies. On February 15, 1994 the Lodge approved the proposal to purchase Lot #6 which is next door to the Lodge. At a laying of the cornerstone, a special ritual honoring the occasion was performed by the Lodge PERs. The celebration included a Sunday social.

The following article appeared in a Pensacola newspaper in 1993

Pensacola Lodge No. 497 has moved from the LaRue Street building that they had occupied for 46 years to a new facility at 890 Industrial Court. The bronze Elk which stood majestically in front of the old lodge has been moved to the new building.

The lodge bought the LaRue Street property in 1946 from the estate of F. C. Brent who had been an Elk. During World War II the building had been a USO/YMCA housing unit. It has now been purchased by Square Ring, Inc. and will be used as smoke and drug free housing and training facilities for young boxers.

The old Osceola Club building at the northwest corner of Baylen and West Garden Streets, later the Elks Club, the Catholic high school, and the site of the First Bank and Trust Company. This picture was taken in the 1920s.

Lodge 497 is the only organization that supports and sponsors a Little League baseball team on a continuous basis. The year 1999 marked the 53rd year that the Lodge was part of Little League baseball.

Major fundraisers included an annual rodeo. The first one was chaired by Patrick Paulsen and was held on November 4, 1984. Weekly bingo sessions and turkey shoots also provided funds for charitable and Lodge activities.

Past Exalted Rulers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1899-1900</td>
<td>B. C. Tunison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900-1901</td>
<td>W. N. Northrup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901-1902</td>
<td>John E. Stillman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902-1903</td>
<td>A. E. Fell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903-1904</td>
<td>R. L. Daniels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904-1905</td>
<td>Max L. Bear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905-1906</td>
<td>George W. Turton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906-1907</td>
<td>M. J. Heinberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907-1908</td>
<td>Henry Judevine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1908-1909 A. G. Fell
1910-1911 David Kugleman
1911-1912 Frank L. Mayes
1912-1913 Frank L. Mayes
1913-1914 B. M. Bonifay
1914-1915 Kirke Monroe
1915-1916 Harry P. Ball
1917-1918 Robert H. Anderson
1918-1919 Hal L. Scott
1919-1920 Oscar G. Crona
1920-1921 John G. Welch
1921-1922 Vincent J. Vidal
1922-1923 Max L. Bear
1923-1924 C. W. D’Alemberte
1924-1925 Alex O. Zelius
1925-1926 Alex O. Zelius
1926-1927 Edward W. Peake
1927-1928 Morris Levy
1928-1929 J. H. Mock
1929-1930 George D. Cowley
1931-1932 Quentin Borras
1932-1933 A. B. Dooley
1933-1934 Adrian E. Langford
1934-1935 Adrian E. Langford
1935-1936 J. N. McLane
1936-1937 J. B. Wilkerson
1937-1938 Francis W. Taylor
1938-1939 Dave T. Johnson
1939-1940 T. M. Lloyd
1940-1941 L. L. Borras
1941-1942 Julius Quina
1942-1943 L. C. Hagler
1943-1944 Charles H. Overman
1944-1945 M. M. Finman
1945-1946 T. C. Higginbotham
1946-1947 Edward McCullough
1947-1948 Orville W. Sowell
1948-1949 Whiting H. Andrews (Susp.)
1949-1950 John W. Cole
1950-1951 Bennie A. Barberi
1951-1952 Clem I. Myers
1952-1953 William E. Smith
1953-1954 Felix N. Durant
1954-1955 Edward C. Jones
1955-1956 Charles V. Bowman
1956-1957 Peter A. Falzone
1957-1958 John J. Maher
1958-1959 Edward B. Jones
1959-1960 Edward B. Jones
1960-1961 Grady Albritton
1961-1962 Edward I. Walker
1962-1963 Henry Moquin
1963-1964 Ronald O. Faircloth
1964-1965 Charles A. Nell
1965-1966 Charles Humphreys
1966-1967 Leo N. Geri
1967-1968 Bernard Evans
1968-1969 Bernard Evans
1969-1970 Roy Luttrell
1970-1971 Robert Fluck
1971-1972 James Stephens
1972-1973 James Stephens
1973-1974 James Stephens
1974-1975 Everette Minton
1975-1976 Fred Gresham
1976-1977 Dave Cowthers
1977-1978 Robert Hewitt
1978-1979 William V. Mimmack
1979-1980 Joseph L. Walsh
1981-1982 Craig McCoy
1982-1983 Gerry Cogan
1983-1984 R. W. Chavis
1984-1985 C. Meyer / Wm. Stephens
1985-1986 William R. Stephens
1986-1987 Robert A. Barnes
1987-1988 R. Doug Hancock
1989-1990 Clarence Galbreath
1990-1991 Robert Joseph Suhrheinrich
1992-1993 Roy B. Brittingham, Jr., PER
1994-1995 Clarence Galbreath
1995-1996 Clarke Kendrick
1996-1997 R. McGovern (Resigned) / S. Jeff Clopton
1997-1998 Sidney Jeff Clopton
1998-1999 Clarence Galbreath
1999-2000 David J. Woollen

It will be recalled that at the last session of this association Pensacola Lodge presented their resignation as a member, and the matter after debate, was tabled; nothing more was done in relation to it excepting the promise given by the acting chairman to take it up with the Lodge and attempt to have them remain in the association, recalling their letter of resignation. Although I called his attention to the promise, I have heard nothing more as to the matter. When I mailed Pensacola Lodge a printed call for this meeting, their Secretary wrote asking if that Lodge was a member, and I replied advising that I did not consider them a member but sent the notice as information and with the hope that they might conclude to be represented here. My reply was based on the ground that although we had not formally accepted their resignation, we could not force them to remain against their own wishes.

The Special Committee also addressed the matter of Pensacola’s reentering the association. In that report they stated that although it was gratifying that all Lodges in the state were members with the exception of Pensacola, they would recommend incoming officers of the association to use every effort to induce Pensacola to again become a member of the organization.

The Lodge received its charter at an annual convention held in St. Louis, Missouri. It was signed by Basil M. Allen, GER in 1899-1900. George A. Reynolds was the Grand Secretary and the installing Lodge was Mobile 108.

The Lodge has had seven homes.
Three state conventions have been held in Pensacola. The first was in 1949 at the San Carlos Hotel to honor Pensacola for its fifty years. In attendance at this were Claude Pepper, Symington, Bob Sikes, and military officers to assist in cutting the cake at the Lodge. The second convention was held in 1959 and again the San Carlos Hotel was the headquarters. The third convention was in 1999 to celebrate its 100th anniversary.
The Lodge merged with Pensacola Beach in 2002 to be known as Pensacola Beach 497.

Ladies organization: Anna Miller Circle 497

The following was written by Donna M. Starling
February 24, 1995

The Anna Miller Circle was formed in 1948 by wives of Pensacola Elks Lodge 497. On July 14, 1950, they received their charter. Members listed on the charter are Betty Butler, Louise Lee, Eleanor Lowery, Francis Anderson, Lillian Porter, Mary Alteri, Claudia Bowman, Lillian Durant, Vada Edwards, Ann Ellis, Avie Hatton, and Jo McCormick. Seven are still living; of these seven, six are Past Presidents and three are life members.

The purpose of Anna Miller Circle was to assist the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital (now Florida Elks Children’s Hospital) and all Florida crippled children by raising monies to help support their operations. Each year we send money to the hospital from the monies we raised from bake sales, dances, rummage sales, our rodeo booth, and dinners.

We also support local charities and schools such as Sacred Heart Children’s Hospital, Lend A Hand, Loaves and Fishes, and the Manna Food Bank. Each year we sponsor the prom for the retarded children at Westgate School. This year will be our 22nd annual prom.

We have a Past Presidents group that meets twice a year in April and October.
In January of this year (1995) we honored two of the oldest charter members with a birthday party. Louise Lee was 90 and Jo McCormick was 86. Eleanor Lowery turned 80 last November.

The Anna Miller Circle is a group of ladies who have formed a lasting bond of friendship.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 82nd Lodge</th>
<th>Northwest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>February 26, 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>May 6, 1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership:</td>
<td>493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership:</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2001 Membership:</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership:</td>
<td>780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2007 Membership:</td>
<td>862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
<td>894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2009 Membership:</td>
<td>898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>661 Pensacola Beach Blvd., Pensacola Beach, FL 32561-2027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
<td>P.O. Box 551, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562-0551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>850-932-8050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Thursday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Pensacola and Pensacola Beach 2256 merged in 2002. It is now known as Pensacola Beach 497.

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Fleming Folkes
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: A. C. Van Horn
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: Julian C. Smith
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Harry R. Beamer
- Grand Secretary: William Lieberman
Grand Treasurer    Grady Albritton  
Grand Trustee    Harry Jennette  
Grand Tiler    Unknown  
Grand Chaplain    Joe Cook  
Grand Esquire    L. M. Strickland, Sr.  
Grand Inner Guard    William F. Sykes, Sr.  

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler    John D. Kicklighter  
Esteemed Leading Knight    R. C. Smith  
Esteemed Loyal Knight    W. A. Grammer  
Esteemed Lecturing Knight    C. E. Wall  
Secretary    Frank Shields  
Treasurer    Mark Brown  
Inner Guard    M. C. Jones  
Chaplain    H. P. Keenan  
Esquire    William Shea  
Tiler    E. V. Howe  
Trustees    
5 Year, G. V. Dusenberry  
4 Year, Julius Norred  
3 Year, Steward Morrison  
2 Year, Allan Davis  
1 Year, Lewis Davis  

The following officers initiated the new members:

Exalted Ruler    Edw. I. Walker  
Esteemed Leading Knight    Charles Humphreys, Jr.  
Esteemed Loyal Knight    Henry Moquin  
Esteemed Lecturing Knight    Ronald Faircloth  
Secretary    L. W. Wells  
Treasurer    William B. Bowman  
Esquire    R. L. McConnell, Jr.  
Chaplain    Charles A. Nell  
Inner Guard    John R. Tucker  
Tiler    John Oliver  
Organist    R. G. Thomas  

In the 1995 hurricane season, Pensacola Beach Lodge was struck by Hurricanes Opal and Erin. Although there was much devastation, with the help of neighboring Lodges and the strong leadership of their Lodge as well as the determination of its members, the Lodge was soon back in operation. Pensacola Beach dedicated a new building after the destruction of the original building from Hurricanes Opal and Erin. It was dedicated on Saturday, March 24, 2007.
Pension Fund

The Grand Lodge employee pension fund is called the Elks Grand Lodge Retirement Fund. In 2005 it had a market value of $6,137,539.02 and had 89 former employees receiving pensions totaling $33,102.77 per month. The fund was under the care of US Bank of Chicago, IL. The inventory of investments was managed by the firm of Stein, Roe Investment Counsel, Inc. The Grand Secretary is the Administrator of the pension fund.

Perry Lodge 1851

| 56th Lodge | North |
| District: | |
| Date of Dispensation: | February 20, 1952 |
| Date of Installation: | April 10, 1952 |
| Charter Members: | 53 |
| Formally Opened By: | Finley Moore, DDGER |
| Year 1995 Membership: | 437 |
| Year 1996 Membership: | 408 |
| Year 1997 Membership: | 404 |
| Year 1998 Membership: | 389 |
| Year 2001 Membership: | 410 |
| Year 2004 Membership: | 416 |
| Year 2005 Membership: | 395 |
| Year 2006 Membership: | 394 |
| Year 2007 Membership: | 392 |
| Year 2008 Membership: | 366 |
| Year 2009 Membership: | 409 |
| Location: | 301 Puckett Road, Perry, FL 32347 |
| Mailing Address: | P.O. Box 986, Perry, FL 32348 |
| Meets: | Every Tuesday |
| Telephone: | 850-584-2541 |

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler | L. F. Chapman
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight | Walter J. Matherly
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight | Marvin Collins
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight | John L. McMullen
Grand Secretary | George Carver
Grand Treasurer | Frank Ott
Grand Tiler | E. R. Brown
Grand Esquire | Frank E. Thompson
Grand Inner Guard | Elmer B. Browning

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler | W. M. McGill
Esteemed Leading Knight | Lionel J. Louque
Esteemed Loyal Knight | C. Declan O’Grady
Esteemed Lecturing Knight | Willie J. Moody
Secretary | J. F. Gilmore
Treasurer | Nathan Fleet
Inner Guard | J. F. Sheffield
Chaplain | Frank B. Leverette
Esquire | L. E. Parker
Tiler | M. S. Linton
Trustees | 3 Year, Harry E. Lauland
The following are charter members: W. H. Bolton; Byron N. Butler; W. L. Carter, Jr.; L. B. Clark; W. Aubrey Cox; Jerry D. Cickett; J. B. Faircloth; Nathan Fleet; Jack E. Fowler; Isadore A. Friedman; J. B. Friedman; D. L. Frith, Jr.; J. F. Gilmore; H. S. Glickman; Donald E. Grant; W. R. Hagin; Dr. Wilson T. Hendry; O. A. Holton; J. O. Huxford, Jr.; Edwin Jackson; Ernest L. Jackson; T. A. Jackson; Marion W. Kesell, Jr.; Harry E. Lauland; I. R. Lilliot; M. S. Linton; A. L. Louque; Ferdinand Louque; B. R. Mangrum; Hal Marsh; Willie J. Moody; J. Pharo Morgan; Joe Nola; Barney O’Quinn, Jr.; J. P. Puckett; R. L. Robertson; J. F. Sheffield; J. N. Slaughter; Ogden Smith; Bill Towles; E. Leon Walker; Frank M. Warren; Ed J. Williams; Myers Wilson; S. L. Wilson; W. J. Wilder; W. M. McGill; Lionel J. Louque; Declan O’Grady; L. P. Gibson; W. E. Whitlock; L. E. Parker; and Frank B. Leverette.

The Lodge was moved to a new building in 1965 and the mortgage was burned in 1966. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2002. State President Jim Coggins and VPAL Mike Smith were in attendance.

In the Lodge year 2002, Perry won the North District ritual contest for the third consecutive year. The ritual was conducted during the visit of State President Mike Smith to the North District at Live Oak Lodge.

Also in 2002, the Lodge elected its first female Exalted Ruler, Carol Cruce. There were two other female officers elected or appointed for that year, Earline Neeley as Chaplain and Rita Thomas as Tiler.

A highlight was the finalization of plans to renovate their Lodge building. On October 10, 2003, groundbreaking ceremonies were held. Additions to the Lodge included a new game room, a renovated lounge and dining area, and new restrooms. A new and permanent Lodge room was part of the plans.

Past District Vice Presidents:

- Matt Rigoni 1974-1975
- Paul Fouche 1984-1985
- Lee Bennett 1990-1991
- Drexel Agner 1993-1994
- Richard Cruce 2004-2005

Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers:

- Peck Smith 1968-1969
- Matt Rigoni 1976-1977
- Paul Fouche 1986-1987
- Lee Bennett 1992-1993
- Drexel Agner 1994-1995

Past Exalted Rulers:

- 1952-1953 W. M. McGill
- 1953-1954 W. J. Moody
- 1954-1955 L. J. Louque
- 1955-1956 D. E. Grant
- 1956-1957 Graham Bird
- 1957-1958 R. H. Booth
- 1958-1959 E. I. Bennett
- 1959-1960 G. W. Miller
- 1961-1962 L. A. Smith
- 1962-1963 E. L. Campbell
- 1963-1964 T. B. Puckett, III
- 1964-1965 R. W. Saults
- 1965-1966 E. L. Campbell
- 1966-1967 M. A. Rigoni
- 1967-1968 L. A. Smith
- 1968-1969 R. V. Woodford
General John J. Pershing, Commander of American Expeditionary Forces during WWI, was asked to arrange a time for the signing of an armistice to end the war. Pershing was so impressed with the Elks’ Hour of Eleven, himself an Elk, that it came to mind at this time and so he set the hour of eleven for the signing of the armistice. It was not only in memory of the Elks but through the Elks in memory of every American, and so it was done on the eleventh month, eleventh day, and the eleventh hour.

In the first week of December in 1940, the 1,500 Elks Lodges in the U.S. joined in the John Pershing initiation class. Pershing had been a member of the Elks for many years. The class was a result of a program of the Elks National Defense and Public Relations Committee that had been created in 1939 by Grand Exalted Ruler Joseph B. Bush in Trenton, NJ.

General Pershing, while acting as military instructor at the University of Nebraska, became a member of the BPO Elks in Lincoln, NE Lodge 80. In 1910 Pershing became a member of El Paso, TX Lodge 187. In November of 1940 he was an honorary member of Elkdom.

**Pershing, Gen. John J.**

**Pershing, General John J. Initiation Class**

In December of 1940 the Elks National Defense and Public Relations Commissions promoted a General John J. Pershing initiation class. The national preparedness program consisted of three major objectives:

1. To uphold and teach Americanism and the democratic form of government
2. To discover and report treasonable, subversive, and fifth column activities in America
3. To assist in the physical development of the youth of the country
Throughout the United States, 1,500 Lodges had set the first week of December as the week that all Lodges would have a John Pershing initiation class. This class honored Pershing and his accomplishments, contributions, and part in ending the war. The Elks were determined to make this the largest in their history as an indication to the general of their great affection and esteem.

On November 19, Major Thomas B. Manuel of the U. S. Army and Past Exalted Ruler of local Elkdom in the Fort Lauderdale area made a brief talk on national defense and appealed to everyone to cast aside their personal feelings and unite in the national defense program. Fort Lauderdale’s class was to be an outdoor program.

Pershing, a member of El Paso, TX 187, was made famous as commander of the United States World War I Expeditionary Forces sent to France. When asked to set a time for the armistice ending World War I, Pershing, impressed by the Elks’ Eleven O’clock Toast, set the hour of eleven on the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

Harry Haimowitz from Lake Worth, Past District Deputy of Florida’s East District, attended the Fort Lauderdale class that initiated 62 candidates. This exceeded the national record of new members in any Elks Lodge in the nation.

Philadelphia Lodge 2 Furniture

Florida’s Wauchula Elks Lodge 1700 came into historical furniture when they were able to obtain the Gothic style furniture from defunct Philadelphia Lodge 2. The furniture traveled from Philadelphia to Atlanta, Jacksonville, Tampa, Arcadia, and finally Wauchula.

Wauchula’s furniture consisted of twelve pieces going back about 125 years. It was ornately carved and consisted of the center altar and the esquire, chaplain, and visitor chairs and chairs for the four stations: fidelity, charity, justice, and brotherly love.

Phillips, Michael, President, Florida State Elks Association, 2003-2004

The following officers were elected to serve for the 2003-2004 term:
President    Michael Phillips, Titusville
Vice President at Large   Frank J. Palladini, Tampa
Secretary   Carl T. Seibert, Umatilla
Treasurer Joseph B. Bryant, Sebring
Tiler Chuck Atwell, Titusville
Historian Lowell P. Tyler, West Palm Beach
Sergeant at Arms Jim Davis, Cocoa
Chaplain John C. Harris, Melbourne
Organist Charles Gudgel, Titusville
Museum Curator Don Sansoussi, Lake Placid

District Vice Presidents
Northwest Frank D. Hayes, Pensacola
North David W. Nicholson, Marianna
Northeast Richard D. Martin, Jacksonville
East Central Emma C. Becton, Port Orange
North Central John J. Sullivan, Crystal River
Central Earl C. Johns, Kissimmee
Southeast Central Paul J. Bonville, Melbourne
West Central Charles L. Barnes, St. Petersburg
Southwest Central George “Ed” Henson, Lakeland
Southwest Francis A. Pozzi, Sarasota
South Southwest Carl M. Sturm, Port Charlotte
Southeast Sean D. Maguire, Wellington
South Southeast Tony Capparelli, Delray Beach
South Albert A. Reker, Miami

Motto:  Back to our Future!

Below are excerpts of the nominating speech for State President given by George Dominianni, PSP.

Mike was born March 21, 1948 in Kentucky. His father was a coal miner and his mother a homemaker. Mike loved to play baseball and basketball. He received a baseball scholarship for Cumberland College where he excelled both in sports and in academics. His finest hour and wisest decision was when he married a good Italian girl named Kathleen. Mike and Kathy have four children and 2 grandchildren.

Mike joined Titusville Elks Lodge in 1988 and immediately became active and was appointed Inner Guard. This was in the same year that he became an Elk in his heart. In 1989, 1990, and 1991 he was elected to the Chair of Lecturing, Loyal, and Leading Knight, after which he was elected Exalted Ruler for the year 1992-1993. He was then elected to the office of five year Trustee. He did not sit on his laurels; while still a Lodge officer he was active as Lodge Chairman, District Chairman, and State Chairman.

As if that was not enough, while still a Lodge Trustee he was elected Vice President of the East Central District. After a required layover he was appointed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and shortly after, the Honorable Robert Grafton appointed Mike Special Representative for the Grand Lodge for the purpose of organizing and institution of Viera Lodge. He did such a good job that PGER Grafton then appointed him as a Special Representative to handle the financial affairs of one of our Lodges. Later, Mike became a member of the board of Florida State Elks Association. He has served as State Chaplain for the Elks year 2001-2002 and last year he was elected Vice President at Large for the Elk year 2002-2003.
Mike is Vice President and part owner of Symetrics Industries. He is a member of many civic, community, and professional organizations and is also honored by being listed in *Who's Who in Electronics* and *Who's Who in Manufacturing Management and Professionals.*

Below are quotes from Mike Phillips’ acceptance speech.

“As we work in Elkdom we are afforded the knowledge and leadership of those who have been there.”

“We are descendants of the Jolly Corks so why don’t we work real hard at making our association the best it can be and have fun while we do it?!”

Below are segments from Phillips’ State President’s Program:

We must strive to rise higher than we have ever been. We must look to our past with pride in order that we ensure the future for those who will need our help long after we are gone.

We are today what we were in the past and our future lies in never forgetting what it means to be an Elk. It is my goal to instill in all the officers, committeemen, and members of our organization that our prime responsibility is to make every new Elk understand and every old Elk remember that as long as we keep the principles of Elkdom in the forefront and the petty differences that arise in all Lodges in the shadows, our great order will continue to grow and prosper. It is every Elk’s legacy to keep the promises of the past so that we continue to have a future. …We cannot put aside the necessity of building membership and preventing lapsation within our Lodges, as members are vital to the success of all our programs.

**MAJOR PROJECTS**

Due to the foresight of our past leaders and the dedication and support of our members and ladies, we find ourselves poised for the future to continue to keep the commitments to children that have been a hallmark of our history.

Because of the good works of our beloved Children’s Hospital we have planted firm roots of service from which our commitment to the needs of the youth of Florida can continue to grow.

**FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES**

Our association is about helping others and in order to spread the word that our association is about helping others we must focus on what was important in our past. It is my hope that we accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative.

I will continue to focus on our dedication to help children and the importance of Harry-Anna certificates in making sure we can.

I will require all officers of our association to familiarize themselves with the services available through FECTS and the steps that those who need those services must follow to qualify for them....If our officers know about and believe in this project and do a good job of sharing that knowledge with the general membership then the successes we have already had will only continue to grow.

As in the past, so in the future, this most valuable tool (Harry-Anna certificates) continues to provide the financial support we need to keep this project viable.

**FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP**
Our past leaders had a vision. FSEA can further serve the youth of Florida by providing a camping experience for them which is second to none in the country. As with FECTS, this project will be a major part of the story that I will require the District Vice Presidents to spread.

Only through the love and dedication of Elks who came before do we now have this wonderful major project to ensure our future service to the children of Florida.

HARRY-ANNA TRUST FUND

Our past leaders’ foresight and courage to establish a financial arm to fund our major project and the unbelievable success that has been derived from that vision is the primary reason that today Florida Elks have two major projects!

With the purchase of a trust fund certificate we are buying a future for Florida children. My goal is to raise $500,000 in new money during 2003-2004.

MEMBERSHIP

Not just members, but Elks: American citizens who guide their course in life by the cardinal principles of our order. I will emphasize the importance of getting the right message to new members during the Lodge indoctrination program. If the Lodges do a good job on that very important night of letting the new members know what we do and how we do it, if we can instill a sense of pride in them that will make them not only want to support our work momentarily but to also share that newfound pride with their friends and neighbors, if we can tie our future to our past, we can increase the numbers and increase the involvement all at the same time.

We must…strive to share the message of what it means to be an Elk with the current membership. Many of our members are still waiting to figure out what we do! We must accentuate the positive. Part of my message on my visits will be “have a good time.” Make the Lodges a fun place to visit. Cut down on the internal petty arguments and strive to provide a place where people smile and share a positive social experience. Make it too much fun to stay away. We must make our Lodges family friendly. First it must be member friendly. No one wants to bring their spouse or children to a place where the major emphasis is finding fault with everything and everyone. Second, it must be an Elks Lodge. If the message we are selling is the work we do for children and those in need, then the finances required to operate the Lodge will take care of itself….Lapsation will go down when happy relations go up.

INDOCTRINATION

Once we have a new Elk, it is absolutely imperative that we educate them on what it means to be an Elk. We have an honorable past and the more we emphasize it, the better chance we have of making the new member want to be involved….We must communicate the message of Florida Elkdom, our Therapy Services and Youth Camp, and we must not miss this opportunity to ask them to support these projects.

Mike’s Elk Profile:

January 1988 Initiated into Titusville, FL Elks Lodge 2113
1988 Inner Guard
1989 Lecturing Knight
1990 Loyal Knight
1991 Leading Knight
1992-1993  Exalted Ruler  
1993-1998  Lodge Trustee  
1989  Lodge Youth Activities Chairman  
1990  Lodge Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairman  
1991  Lodge Elks National Foundation Certificates Chairman  
1993-1994  East Central District Hoop Shoot Chairman  
1994-1995  State Vice Chairman of Elks National Foundation Certificates  
1995-1996  State Chairman of Elks National Foundation Certificates  
1996-1997  Vice President East Central District  
1997-1998  Auditor to the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, East Central District  
1998-1999  District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler  
1999-2000  Special Representative to Grand Lodge for the purpose of organizing and instituting Viera Elks Lodge 2817  
2000-2002  Member of the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors  
2001-2002  Members of Executive Committee for FSEA Board of Directors  
2001-2002  Florida State Elks Association Chaplain  
2002-2003  Florida State Elks Association VPAL  
2003-2004  Florida State Elks Association President  

Employment:  
1969-1974  Foreman, Interlake Steel Corporation, Newport, KY  
1974-1983  Manager, Cincinnati Electronics, Cincinnati, OH  
1983-1985  Manager, Sibthorp Automation Controls Systems, Covington, KY  
1986-1991  Plant Manager, Waco Manufacturing, Edgewater, FL  
1991-present  Vice President and Part Owner, Symetrics Industries, Melbourne, FL  

Civic and Community Activities:  
Former member Boy Scouts of America  
Former member Wheelwright High School Key Club  
Charter member and Board of Directors member for the Titusville Veterans’ Memorial Foundation  
Member Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels  
Has been actively involved with Habitat for Humanity, Hospice of St. Francis, Project Graduation Titusville High School, Space Coast Early Intervention Center  
Former member and cofounder of Elkerly Brothers Band, a show band made up of members of the Titusville Elks Lodge formed to raise monies for the FSEA major projects and other charitable organizations  

Professional Associations:  
Former member of American Production and Inventory Control Society  
Senior member of Society of Manufacturing Engineers  
Member Association of Old Crows  

Honors and Awards:  
Who’s Who in Electronics  
Who’s Who in Manufacturing Management and Professionals  

Hobbies and Interest:  
Golf  
Music  

Conversation with Mike Phillips:
What do you believe to be your most significant achievement in your year as President?

Without question it is the new money we raised in support of our major projects. My goal at the beginning of the year was $500,000 and… the final report informed me that our figures (unaudited at that time) are $851,974.16. I never dreamed that we could be so successful, but I am happy for the kids that we were.”

What was your biggest disappointment in your year as President?

Loss in membership. Our numbers continue to dwindle. It looks like our final number for my year will show a loss of around 650 members. This represents less than 1% of our membership, but it is a major disappointment for me.

What do you see as the most significant problem of Elkdom today and particularly Florida Elkdom?

Loss in membership.

In your opinion, what approach can we take in reversing this problem?

I wish I knew a simple answer to this question. I think it is a combination of things. The times have changed and people don’t need organizations like ours for a place to go anymore. Because of the variety of activities available to everyone, potential members have a potpourri of options of where to spend their time and money.

Laws have changed. Like it or not, many people stay home to commit their sins these days. Smoking is banned almost everywhere and DUI arrests not only tarnish one’s reputation, but it takes a large bite out of one’s wallet.

We haven’t changed enough. Our organization still caters to its membership like it was 1950. Most Lodges still feel like what the members want is cheap food, cheap drinks, and cheap entertainment. I think we need to start looking at the members as a family, not as individual. We need to revamp our programs to make our Lodges user-friendly for young people. In today’s atmosphere if we are going to attract men and women who are in their late 20s or early 30s, we have to realize that most of these people have children and we need to find ways to include those children in our programs.

Egos. I know what our motto says, but in way too many cases, I think all of us take ourselves way too seriously. I think if we became better listeners instead of trying to always impress those around us with how smart we are and how much we have done for Elkdom, we might stop losing some of our members.

Finally, apathy. There is an absence of passion in our members that needs to be addressed. Every new Elk should be required to make a trip to Umatilla during the first year as a member. I would bet that 80% to 90% of our current membership has never seen nor has any idea what great work we do for the youth of Florida. I believe attitudes would change and Lodges would have less problems if their membership realized that we are more than a club.

Too many Lodges suffer from dissension within its membership. How would you attack this infection?

Leadership starts at the top. We need a venue much like our ER/Secretary seminars for chair officers, trustees, and House Committee members. If we formulate a weekend team building seminar at our Youth Camp to allow people to learn how to conduct meetings and work together, I think that would be a step in the right direction.

What message would you have for today’s subordinate Lodge officers and committee people?

I think I would tell them that they need to realize what a great organization they belong to and how important they are if we are to continue to be a force in helping those less fortunate than ourselves. I would ask them to take their job seriously or don’t take the job, to make decisions based on the good of the order and not necessarily good for me, and I would challenge them to put their egos on hold and become a positive force in moving their Lodge to bigger and better tomorrows.

Phillips Toast
The following is the eleven o’clock toast as delivered by PER William T. Phillips of New York One.

The Elks session of sweet, solemn thought; the moment which bridges the chasm ‘twixt time and eternity with a golden span of love!

Oh Spirit of this sacred hour! So clarify our vision that we may look backward down the pathway of time and behold in the white light of understanding the trials and vicissitudes of years agone.

Teach us to appreciate the heart hunger and longing for companionship which inspired men, doomed by their profession to wander, to lay the foundation for the religion of sympathy, kindness we call Elkdom.

Help us to contemplate with reverence and love the fidelity which gave our founders and their successors of days gone by courage to beat down the barriers of prejudice and doubt which fell across the pathway of our order’s present glory.

Keep alive the sublime truth that the golden rule is the foundation of our order today, as it was many years ago, lest we forget that only while we remain true to its precepts shall our course continue onward and upward.

Lead our thoughts to those kept from this gathering by suffering and sorrow, that they may feel the healing sympathy of our common brotherhood, enter the hearts of those abroad, and comfort them with the constancy of our love; rise upon the music of the bells which toll this hour into the realms of eternity, so that our brothers gone, even amid the perfect peace they now enjoy, may know we are reading from the tablets of love and memory.

Remain with us always to recall at this hour those who wander, those who will no more, and with hearts attuned to the melody of “Auld Lang Syne,” may we ever when eleven strokes proclaim the approaching end of day, pledge in the mellowness of friendship, the memory of our absent brothers.

(From History of the Elks, 1868 -1988, p. 76)

Physical Examinations

At one time every applicant to the Elks was required to pass a physical examination. The practice was stopped in 1919 because doctors would no longer perform these examinations gratis.

Pinckney, Joseph C., Exalted Grand Ruler, 1873-1874

Joseph C. Pinckney was born in the city of New York on November 5, 1821 in the old tenth ward of that city, and he graduated from the old No. 14 high school of which ex-judge Willis was principal. He was attached to
the Whig party in his early days, and when only twenty-five years old he was the Whig candidate for assistant alderman of his ward. He joined the Republican party at its organization and was connected with the comptroller’s office for fifteen years. Until the breaking out of the Civil War his first official position was clerk of the Bureau of Arrears and Taxes under the administration of Comptroller Robert T. Haws. He was identified with the state militia from 1851, having at that time been elected to the captaincy in the old sixth regiment of New York. He was subsequently chosen major of the regiment, and in 1866 he succeeded the late Thomas F. Peers as commandant of the regiment.

At the beginning of the Civil War he was one of the first to go to the front with his command. He was assigned to duty at the Naval Academy in Annapolis where he served the three months’ enlistment. At the expiration of this term he enlisted many of his old command and organized the Sixty-sixth New York Volunteers for the war. He was brigaded with General French and served through the Peninsular Campaign under McClellan and in the swamps of the Chickahominy he contracted a fever which impoverished his system.

He was in command at Antietam but owing to continued ill health was forced to resign from active service. He was subsequently appointed commissary. He was actively engaged in the memorable campaign at Gettysburg in that department, having been assigned to duty at Harrisburg under General Couch. He was mustered out at the close of the war with the brevet rank of brigadier general.

His term of service in the city government was long and the esteem in which he was held by citizens of both parties was remarkable. He was elected clerk of the common council and served in that capacity for two years. He was also at that time clerk of the board of supervisors. He was elected alderman in 1875. He was elected alderman at large in 1876 and 1877. He served as first vice president of the Republican Central Committee of New York and in those years he was president thereof until 1878 when he was succeeded by General Arthur. After that he was on the finance committee and transacted all of its financial business. Governor Cornel appointed him a commissioner of emigration on January 15, 1880 in place of David Manjer whose term had expired. As a commissioner of emigration, General Pinckney was a member of the Castle Garden, Ward’s Island, and other important committees and did useful service in the interests of the immigrants.

He was initiated into the Elks in New York on May 8 and advanced on September 18, 1870. He was elected Exalted Grand Ruler on December 8, 1872 and served for one term, 1873-1874, or until February 1, 1874.

He resided in his last year at 27 Stuyvesant Place in New York. He left one daughter, Mrs. W. B. Sudlow, at the time of his death which was occasioned by chronic dysentery and occurred on Friday, March 11, 1881. He was fifty-nine. His funeral took place from the Central Methodist Episcopal Church on Seventh Avenue and Fourteenth Street in New York on Monday, March 14, 1881 at 3 p.m. Dr. J. P. Newman delivered the eulogy. He was buried with the rites from various Lodges there represented, Eureka Lodge No. 243, A.F. & A.M.; Metropolitan Chapter No. 40, R.A.M.; Morton Commandery No. 4 K.T.; the Lodge of Perfection; the Council of the Princes of Jerusalem; Chapter of the Rose Croix and the Consistory of New York City; Masonic Veterans; Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks No.1; Cameron Post No. 79, G.A.R.; and Washington Chapter No. 2, Order of United Americans. Interment was in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, N. Y.

The first improvised funeral service by the Elks was performed on the occasion of the funeral of Brother Joseph C. Pinckney. Several other orders participated and gave their funeral service. The Elks assembled at the church, Brother Arthur C. Moreland acting as Exalted Ruler. The Elks were assigned to the right of line in formation and funeral. When the other orders finished their services, Brother Moreland rapped four times on the back of a pew with the gavel and every Elk in the church stood up. They filed around the casket and were hastily prompted by the acting ER to simply respond, “It is,” when called upon to respond to interrogations. Brother Moreland improvised a biblical reading or scriptural lesson extempore, the officers made their various responses to his inquiries, and they formed a circle around the casket. Frank Girard was there, a good singer, and Moreland said to him in a low tone, “the right hand over the left, start it, Frank,” and with linked circle they all sang “Auld Lang Syne” and then filed out of the church. Up to this time they had no service at all other than casting a white glove into the grave at the cemetery.

In this year:

- The Committee on Revision and Constitution on Certificates made a report.
- The Committee on Regalia made a report.
- A Special Committee was appointed to revise the secret work.
- The Constitution of the year 1874, the Statutes of 1874, and the Rules of Order of 1874 were all adopted at this session.

Ellis, Authentic History of the B.P.O. Elks, 1910

Pinellas Park Lodge 2217
Florida’s 80th Lodge  
District: West Central  
Date of Dispensation: March 16, 1961  
Date of Installation: May 6, 1961  
Formally Opened By: Robert B. Cameron, DDGER  
Burned Mortgage: August 28, 1976  
Contributor: Art Cushing, PDD  
Charter Members: 69  
Year 1995 Membership: 600  
Year 1996 Membership: 604  
Year 1997 Membership: 622  
Year 1998 Membership: 634  
Year 2001 Membership: 531  
Year 2004 Membership: 438  
Year 2005 Membership: 410  
Year 2006 Membership: 379  
Year 2007 Membership: 398  
Year 2008 Membership: 380  
Year 2009 Membership: 368  
Location: 7550 40th Street N., Pinellas Park, FL 33781  
Telephone: 727-544-2325  
Meets: 1st & 3rd Tuesday  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Robert B. Cameron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esteemed Leading Knight</td>
<td>J. Alex Arnette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Cullen Talton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>Charles I. Campbell, PSP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Secretary</td>
<td>George Carver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Treasurer</td>
<td>James J. Fernandez, PSP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Trustee</td>
<td>Victor Kuhl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Trustee</td>
<td>J. Porter Tyner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Trustee</td>
<td>L. S. McClure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Tiler</td>
<td>John S. Flood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Chaplain</td>
<td>G. P. LeMoyne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Organist</td>
<td>James A. Finnegan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esquire</td>
<td>George Nichols</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officers were elected and installed:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Walter Hullinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Leading Knight</td>
<td>Herbert Wessell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Edward Root</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>John Constandy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Jeff Marshall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Henry Kunde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Guard</td>
<td>Elwood Larson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Edward Hoffman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Russell Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esquire</td>
<td>Vernon Hennebohle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>Phillip Scheverinia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustees</td>
<td>3 Year, James Durkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Year, Claire Phillips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Year, William Bernache</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officers initiated the new members:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Charles L. Lefton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Esteemed Leading Knight      Francis C. McManus
Esteemed Loyal Knight        Wallace B. Mackay
Esteemed Lecturing Knight   John T. Hanna
Esquire                      Robert H. Pride
Chaplain                     Robert Thomas
Inner Guard                  Wm. G. Gannaway
Tiler                        Charles Thomas
Organist                     James A. Finnegar

The following are charter members:


New Candidates: Edward Barrett; Harvey Bishop; William J. Brinkley; Thomas D. Byrnes; Phillip J. Chiaverini; George H. Cook; John Erickson; Edward Hoffman; Frederick Hoffman; Lloyd Hopkins; Math M. Kaiser; William C. Kelly; Harold J. Llagassey; Elwood Larson; Ewert Larson; Jeffrey L. Marshall; Thomas E. McCloskey; Edward J. McDermott; Frederick Meyer; Kenneth E. Norton; Francis Osgood; Russell Parks; John L. Riley; James Rosati, Jr.; A. J. Shellhorn, Jr.; Edward F. Skirm; Earl J. Small; Charles L. Ward; Perry E. Weiss; and Chester M. Wilcox.

Pinellas Park Lodge 2217 held its organizational meetings at what was then known as The Teepee under the guidance of Special District Deputy Robert Cameron.

The Lodge was instituted on May 22, 1961 at the German American Club with the officers of Clearwater Lodge 1525 doing the installing. There were 69 charter members. Present at the institution of the Lodge were many dignitaries from the Grand Lodge and the Florida State Elks Association. Notable of those present were William A. Wall, then Grand Exalted Ruler; Wallis MacDonald who later became Grand Exalted Ruler; J. Pierce Smith, President of the Florida State Elks Association; and Robert Cameron who later became State President. Warren Hullinger was elected as the first Exalted Ruler but did not complete his term of office. Vernon Hennebohle was elected to finish the term and he is considered the Lodge's first Exalted Ruler. Hennebohle served as Exalted Ruler for two terms. The Lodge’s first meetings were held in a vacant store at 58th Street and Park Blvd. They later leased a garage on 58th Street.

The Lodge struggled along for several years operating on the $500 they had in their bank account by making purchases on credit against their $500. This same $500 was used as collateral several times.

Sometime later Phil Chiaverini, who later became an honorary life member, offered to sell to the Lodge the property where the Lodge is presently located and hold the mortgage himself. Chiaverini became one of the prime movers of both the Lodge and the club. He served as the Lodge’s first Tiler.

Andrew Schelhorn held the first mortgage for the Lodge building and its content. Schelhorn also became an honorary life member and for many years served the Lodge as a committee chairman.

There was a time when Pinellas Park Lodge 2217 was more club than Lodge oriented. This is no longer the case. Pinellas Park Lodge is justifiably proud of its progress and its Lodge officers, all of whom are active in the district, state, and Grand Lodge programs. Today’s officers actually seek the chairs they hold rather than have the chairs seek them. This is attributed to the strong leadership the Lodge has had in the past and still has.

Significant ongoing events at Pinellas Park Lodge:

2007 The Lodge hosted a dinner to honor five citizens for their services in the community and presented each of them with an award. Lodge honorees were Police Officer of the Year, Detective Michael Lynch; Firefighter of the Year, Nick Delgrosso; Paramedic of the Year, Mark Humiston; and Citizens of the Year, Joe Kolodziej, Jr. and Rick Butler.

Ladies of the Elks 2217:

Home Lodge Colors: Green & Gold
Date Organized: April 1961
Charter Members: 14
Elections Held: February
Elected Officers:
- President
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary
- Treasurer
- Sergeant at Arms

Past Presidents:
- 1961-1962 Pearl Hullinger
- 1962-1963 Patricia Schuler
- 1963-1964 Thelma Hennebohle
- 1964-1966 Mabel Schellhorn
- 1966-1967 Joyce Root
- 1967-1968 Alice Kelley
- 1968-1969 Helen Kuhn
- 1970-1972 Florence Dietze
- 1972-1974 Betty Perry
- 1974-1975 Dottie Kosch
- 1975-1976 Elizabeth Martz
- 1976-1977 Helen Sullivan
- 1977-1979 JoAnne Kepple
- 1979-1980 Elizabeth Martz
- 1981-1983 Ann Swain
- 1983-1984 Estella Bryce
- 1984-1985 Carol Cube
- 1985-1987 Kathy Crisar
- 1987-1989 Karen Wilson
- 1989-1990 Estella Bryce
- 1990-1991 Estella Bryce

Lady Elk of the Year:
- 1970-1971 Rose Roth
- 1971-1972 Mabel Schellhorn
- 1972-1973 Marion Linn
- 1973-1974 Ruby Cushing
- 1974-1975 Elaine Klotz
- 1975-1976 Dorothy Kosch
- 1976-1977 Cynthia Martz
- 1977-1978 Alice Halaburda
- 1978-1979 JoAnne Kepple
- 1979-1980 Dorothy Ruhl
- 1980-1981 Joyce Root
- 1981-1982 Carol Paulsen
- 1982-1983 Donna Staton
- 1983-1984 Carol Cube
- 1984-1985 Helen Meyers
- 1985-1986 Estella Bryce
- 1986-1987 Alice Johnson
- 1987-1988 Kathy Crisar
- 1988-1989 Gaynell Rickerson
- 1989-1990 May Giglio

Honorary Members:
- Cliff Perry
Plantation Lodge 2273

Florida’s 83rd Lodge
District: South Southeast
Date of Dispensation: December 12, 1962
Date of Installation: February 3, 1963
Charter members: 293
Year 1995 Membership: 753
Year 1996 Membership: 767
Year 1997 Membership: 764
Year 1998 Membership: 715
Year 2001 Membership: 919
Year 2004 Membership: 536
Year 2005 Membership: 501
Year 2006 Membership: 451
Mother Lodge: Fort Lauderdale 1517
Meets: 2nd & 4th Tuesday
Location: 7351 NW 5th Street, Plantation, FL 33317
Telephone: 954-587-6848

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler  George K. Roller, Jr.
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight  J. Alex Arnette
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight  George C. Nichols
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight  Frank C. Kauffman
Grand Secretary  William Lieberman
Grand Treasurer  Herbert Payne
Grand Trustee  Ed Williams
Grand Trustee  Almer I. Tedder
Grand Trustee  Robert B. Cameron
Grand Trustee  Norman P. O’Brien
Grand Trustee  Fuller M. Richardson
Grand Tiler  Lewis J. Fraser
Grand Chaplain  Frank J. Holt
Grand Organist  Clarence R. Gunn
Grand Esquire  Charles H. Peckelis
Grand Inner Guard  J. W. Vann

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler  James J. Ward, Jr.
Esteemed Leading Knight  William E. Moffatt
Esteemed Loyal Knight  John F. Spellacy
Esteemed Lecturing Knight  Anthony J. Amoroso
Secretary  Lewis D. Tooker, Jr.
Treasurer  Ferdinand H. Bick
Inner Guard  John J. Bora
Chaplain     Guy William Adams
Organist      Fred G. Hollowell
Esquire       James J. Linus
Tiler         R. W. Tansill
Trustees
5 Year, Norman Johnson
4 Year, W. D. Ernst
3 Year, Earl R. Crossman
2 Year, Jack E. Frost
1 Year, Fred Liebacher

The following officers initiated the new members:

Exalted Ruler    Larry Jones

Additional information was unavailable.

Members of significance:

Anthony J. Amoros Past District Deputy
Past District Vice President
Oris “Bud” Townsend Past District Deputy
Past District Vice President
Thomas J. Ryan Past District Deputy
Past District Vice President
Past Vice President at Large
Past State President
Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee
Grand Lodge Public Relations

Past Exalted Rulers:

1969-1970  Oris “Bud” Townsend
1970-1971  Sam Livingston
1971-1972  Thomas J. Ryan
1972-1973  Emmet Main
1973-1974  D. L. Gabriel
1974-1975  Robert Greathouse
1975-1976  Jack Reeves
1976-1977  D. L. Gabriel
1977-1978  Paul Pike
1978-1979  Barney Hooper
1979-1980  Paul Hubbs
1980-1981  Wes Kirkham
1981-1982  Charles W. Johnson

The history of Plantation Lodge 2273 goes hand in hand with the history of the Past Exalted Rulers. This Lodge, from the time of its groundbreaking in 1964 to the present day, was dependent upon several factors. One is the past, present, and future leadership by its Exalted Rulers, officers, and loyal members in every capacity. The Lodge has grown steadily since its inception. Each of the PERs, officers, and committee members were responsible for each particular year’s advancement of the Lodge.

At their tenth anniversary, Exalted Ruler Emmet L. Main quoted Grand Exalted Ruler Francis M. Smith as saying, “Elkdom’s Legacy: Know It - Serve It.” Main also said that he hoped the next ten years would see more progress, more members, and more community pride established in the Lodge. As the years have passed, their achievements were greater than anyone would have imagined.

Plantation Lodge has developed into one of the outstanding fraternal organizations in their community and due in large part to the foresight and planning of their charter members who had the vision to go west.

PER William Moffatt (1964-1965) said, “Elkdom is the finest form of brotherhood with friendship of one man to another, being with people you enjoy and like, whose ideals do not change.”
PER Anthony J. Amoroso (1965-1966) was quoted as saying, “Elkdom is brotherly Love where the fraternal organization is composed of a group of men.”

Presenting the history of a Lodge is more than statistics and old minutes. Memory is a tricky item and in reality it is more personal with feeling not found in books. In forming the Plantation history, one can only say the men who were responsible for its growth were the members of yesterday, today, and tomorrow and in many cases their helpful spouses.

The Lodge cooperated hand in glove with the City of Plantation, its Police Department, its schools, and many civic organizations. This kind of compatibility spells success. From that success you can expect an energized and better Lodge and a better community. They have participated in and been responsible for the Policeman of the Year Award, Teenager of the Year Award, and many others.

Plantation Youth Activities Champions

Plantation Elks Lodge 2273 has been very proud of its history of activities with the youth of the community. The Lodge began in April of 1976 with the reorganization of the Youth Activities Committee in order to cover expanding events. They increased their drug abuse program to the point where that year they actually organized fundraising events to assist financing of rehabilitation programs. They continued their education program by going into schools and assisting in a program that turned in pushers. The bingo and donations programs brought additional funds.

Elks National Youth Week has officially been proclaimed by the city of Plantation every year since 1976. A sports banquet for many boys and girls and parents is held at the Lodge each year. The annual Hoop Shoot contest has become quite famous in the area due to the efforts of PER and PSP Tom Ryan, his committee, and the members of Lodge 2273. On several occasions, they have sent finalists to the national finals. Many hundreds of boys and girls of the Plantation area participate.

Basketball is a big favorite and is well attended by the youth of the community. They are the only Lodge in the United States that has had an international exchange program. Their young people participated in a basketball contest with Puerto Rico and in return, the Puerto Rico contingent came to their Lodge for another tournament. Bill Harbour volunteered his untiring efforts with the youth in the basketball program.

The Lodge has established several outings per year at which the Youth Activities Committee acts as youth counselors while the parents enjoy the hospitality of the Lodge. The affairs are well counseled by various members of the Lodge, among which much credit must be given to Tom Ryan who has worked tirelessly every year for the youth of the community. Ryan has won many awards and served on district, state, and Grand Lodge levels for Youth Activities.

On several occasions, they have been the third largest contributor of food and toys to the needy at Christmastime in the state of Florida.

Veterans Activities

During November the Lodge historically held benefits honoring veterans. They held an annual USO Canteen Night and on other occasions they hosted up to fifty veterans from the VA Hospital in Miami for a Thanksgiving dinner with bingo. Additionally, they are given a chance to pick from clothes that have been donated.

Ladies organization: Elkettes

The Plantation Elkettes were founded in 1966 with the purpose of assisting the Elks and helping support the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital. Their first President was Mrs. Alice Mahony. Their first meeting was held on September 28, 1966. Exalted Ruler Fred Leibacher presented the first President and other officers with the jewels of their office at the first installation on December 10, 1966. Purple and gold became their colors while unity, cooperation, friendship, loyalty, and dignity became their ideals. The books were closed in 1967 with 64 charter members. A generous donation was presented to the Elks and has been increased each subsequent year.

The Elkettes have assisted the Elks socially and financially within the Lodge and also with their philanthropic works. They are very proud of cooperating with the Elks in the complete refurbishing of the Lodge. The Elkettes made generous contributions to the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital.

The Elkettes were to be the hosts for the 14th Annual Ladies State Conference in 1977 and the 18th Annual Ladies State Conference in 1981.

Charter Members:

Helen Berkley, Organizational Chairman
Louise Avery (Earl)
Anamae McDowall (Raymond)
Jane Bascome (John)
Eleanor Kessler (Charles)
Alma Benson (John)
Alice Mahoney (Michael)
Helen Berkley (Arthur)
Margaret Main (Emmet)
Millie Bora (John)
Mae Mathews (William)
Eileen Blais (Joseph)
Mary Miller (John)
Matilda Brickner (Andrew)
Carolyn Moffatt (William)
Claire Claude (Ernest)
June Montagna (Marshall)
Theresa Colangelo (Michael)
Elaine Moore (R. W.)
Mary Cunniff (James)
Jane Moore (J. Kenneth)
Alyce D’Annibale (John)
Jane Newman (William)
Helen Ellis (Charles)
Glorida Norris (Oscar)
Roberta Erskine (Clinton)
Dorothy O’Hare (John)
Margaret Flynn (Michael)
Dorothy Payne (William)
Sherry Freeman (David)
Dorothy Payton (Ray)
Selina Frost (Jack Frost)
Marion Potter (Edward)
Gertrude Gehrig (Arthur)
Treva Pray (George)
Gail Greathouse (Robert)
Genevieve Rogers (Howard)
Mildred Hamel (Blair)
Catherine Reilly (James)
Barbara Hart (Lowell)
Deane Reilly (E. Vincent)
Carol Hart (Joseph)
Jane Rosberg (E. R.)
Elsie Hollowell (Fred)
Lucille Russell (James)
Bebe Hubbs (Paul)
Virginia Sause (Julian)
Marguerite Huser (Pete)
Emily Sohns (Fred)
Ann Jackson (Alfred)
Eleanor Spong (Robert)
Hazel Jacobi (Vincent)
Doris Tourigny (Roger)
Dorothy Johnson (Harold)
Rose Tourigny
Florence Johnson (James)
Gertrude Tremble (Marous)
Helen Kirby (John)
Aldona Wallett (Arthur)
Carol Leibacher (Fred)
Dorothy Willman (Ken)
Betty Livingston (Sam)
Pauline Woodrow (Clark)
Evelyn Long
Betty York (J. D.)
Past Plantation Elkettes Presidents:

1968-1969 Doris Tourigny
1971-1972 Alice Plato
1972-1973 Genevieve Rogers
1974-1975 Mary Ann Gabriel
1977-1978 Florence Tenser
1978-1980 Florence Pellegrino
1980-1981 Val Hooper
1982-1983 Isabelle Rlehng
1983-1984 Sandy Denninger
1984-1985 Willie Mae Barrett
1985-1986 Amy Lixie
1986-1987 Norma Perillo
1987-1988 Cassie Casacci
1988-1989 Joan Meneghelli
1989-1990 Amy Placzek
1990-1991 Ann Barbera

Elkettes of the Year:

1974 Alice Mahony
1975 Peg Main
1976 Florence Pellegrino
1977 Rose Joly
1978 Val Hooper
1979 Gloria Zarrella
1980 Gertrude Roskowe
1981 Ruth Latiner
1982 Val Hooper
1983 Amy Lixie
1984 Genevieve Rogers
1985 Marilyn Chase
1986 Marie Morgan
1987 Lee Sabourin
1988 Norma Perillo
1989 Amy Lixie
1990 Isabelle Roehling
1991 Marilyn Chase

Plant City Lodge 1727

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>451</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Florida’s 44th Lodge
District: Southwest Central
Date of Dispensation: April 30, 1977
Institution: May 16, 1947
Date of Charter: July 15, 1947
Formally Opened By: Frank Umstot, PSP
Charter Exalted Ruler: Jerry M. Hopkins
Charter Members: 151 Initiated
Demits: 15
Total: 166
Past Vice Presidents:

- Henry “Pete” Poage 1964-1965
- Michael Smith 1997-1998
- Tom Ludwick 2002-2003

Past District Deputies:

- J. P. Tymer 1953-1954
- Henry “Pete” Poage 1965-1966
- Michael Smith 1998-1999
- Tom Ludwick 2003-2004

Past State Presidents:

- Michael Smith 2001-2002

Grand Trustee:

- Michael Smith 2006

Grand Exalted Ruler:

- Michael Smith Jan. 2010 GER Designate, convention in Orlando

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Fred Lowdermilk
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Loyd Hicks
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: Dr. Irving
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Earl Tool
- Grand Secretary: S. A. Brinson
- Grand Treasurer: Gerald Dobbins
- Grand Tiler: W. R. Jackson
- Grand Chaplain: Brother Yarnell
- Grand Esquire: Nick Carter
- Grand Inner Guard: Earl McBride

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: Jerry M. Hopkins
- Esteemed Leading Knight: Ray H. Kramer
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: E. H. Chapman
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: H. C. Durrett
- Secretary: Stanley Holsberry
- Treasurer: L. E. Black
- Inner Guard: C. W. McDonald
- Chaplain: G. H. McDonald
- Esquire: W. L. Patrick
The following are charter members: John A. Coleman; Earl W. Simons; E. P. Martin; Ray H. Kramer; W. L. Patrick; Edwin Hill Chapman; Lamar Earl Black; Henry C. Durrett; Eugene Davis Stuart; Chester McDonald; Stanley Holsberry; Glenn H. McDonald; E. D. Covington; Arthur R. Boring; Ralph G. Austin; Robert C. Black; O. S. Bazemore; Bigby M. Williams; Otis M. Andrews; Earl T. Barker; William H. Bender; Dr. Madison R. Pope; Gilbert I. Bowen; Edgar A. Bender; J. Y. Blake; Mickey E. Brown; Fred Edwin Barwick; Hugh C. Robinson, Jr.; Linwood D. Miles; Jas. Y. Dempsey, Jr.; Jas. D. Bruton, Jr.; Earl H. Beatty; J. Dwight Hull; Earl L. Bender; R. G. Pate; Dr. W. G. Meriweather; Earl Cobb; Frances Merrin Pou; Dwight L. Crum; S. G. McCullough; Lester B. Blain; J. Porter Tyner; Ed. J. Cunningham; Thomas H. Trent; W. R. Crawford, Jr.; Clayton Coleman; Charles E. Spann; Leo E. Miles; J. B. Lovell; William C. Hitchcock; Jesse E. Carter; M. C. Cook; A. P. Cook; C. W. Dyal; J. Russell Ennis; Earl H. Diehl, MD; Raymond Huff Crum; Denton L. Cook; Morris G. Crum; Kenneth M. Crum; J. R. Dicks; N. M. Daniels; Basil G. Dabney; A. F. Fritzke; James O. Gresham; L. K. Helms, Jr.; C. D. Herring; W. M. Henry; Jack J. Glaros, Jr.; William Glaros; Wm. Luther Gleaton; Henry Shelton Moody; W. B. Henderson; D. J. Hunter; Elmer Futch; Douglas Howe; Milton Edgar Hull; and Hiram G. Holloway.

A fire destroyed the first Lodge building in April of 1979. In December of 2000, Plant City paid off the mortgage on their building and land.

Significant events and projects of Plant City Lodge 1727:

1978 The Golf Committee raised more than $7,100 in the golf tournament to benefit the Children’s Hospital, Youth Camp, and National Foundation.

2010 In January of 2010, Michael Smith became Grand Exalted Ruler Designate for 2010/2011. The Grand Lodge convention was held in Orlando.

Ladies organization: Ladies of the Elks

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, a onetime Baptist minister who termed himself a “Christian Socialist.” He was the first cousin of Edward Bellamy who wrote such Socialist utopian novels as Looking Backward and Equality.

Francis Bellamy was forced to leave his Baptist church in Boston because of his Socialist sermons. He then was hired as an aide to Daniel Ford, owner and editor of The Youth’s Companion, a popular family magazine. The Pledge of Allegiance was published in its September 8 issue.

Bellamy was also chairman of a committee of state superintendents of education in the National Education Association and as such, he prepared the program for the schools’ quadricentennial celebration of Columbus Day in 1892. The festivities centered on a flag raising ceremony and the recitation of his Pledge of Allegiance.

He later said that he considered adding the word, “equality,” to “liberty and justice” at that time, but he decided against it because the school superintendents on his committee were against equality for women and blacks.

It wasn’t until 1954 that Congress added the words, “under God,” to the pledge after a nationwide campaign by the Knights of Columbus.

That gave the pledge a religious air Mr. Bellamy never intended, but then he probably never in his wildest dreams envisioned a bunch of right wing Republicans championing his bit of prose.

Pompano Beach Lodge 1898

Florida’s 64th Lodge  
District: South Southeast  
Date of Dispensation: April 17, 1953  
Date of Installation: April 30, 1953
Formally Opened By: John Fenn, DDGER
First Official Meeting: February 6, 1953 in the public library
Charter Exalted Ruler: W. Marion Walton (Died 6-26-70)
Charter Members: 110

Year 1995 Membership: 2,842
Year 1996 Membership: 2,886
Year 1997 Membership: 2,891
Year 1998 Membership: 2,810
Year 2001 Membership: 2,126
Year 2006 Membership: 2,056
Year 2007 Membership: 1,852
Year 2008 Membership: 1,866
Year 2009 Membership: 1,757

Mother Lodge: Fort Lauderdale #1517
Location: 700 NE 10th Street, Pompano Beach, FL 33060
Meets: 2nd & 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.
Telephone: 954-781-2300

Past District Deputies:

- Herbert Payne
- Gil Van Horn
- Donald L. Burrie
- Norman Mandel
- Robert Pastor

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Victor O. Wehle
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: James A. Dunn
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: Andrew T. Healy
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: J. Alex Arnette
- Grand Secretary: James J. Fernandez
- Grand Treasurer: Sert Madson
- Grand Trustee: John Fenn
- Grand Chaplain: Joe Phillips
- Grand Organist: Matthew Slater
- Grand Esquire: W. W. Wall
- Grand Inner Guard: Edward O. Williams

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: W. Marion Walton
- Esteemed Leading Knight: Edwin Haynie
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: E. E. Hardy, Jr.
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: E. F. Cole
- Secretary: Charles B. Keene
- Treasurer: Paul De Deo
- Inner Guard: Wilbur Armstrong
- Chaplain: Everett Averill
- Esquire: G. Sterling Wright
- Tiler: Frank S. Austin, Jr.
- Trustees: 5 Year, Bart E. Sullivan
- 4 Year, C. C. Ratcliff
- 3 Year, George Emory Jones
- 2 Year, R. R. Wright, PER
1 Year, Grady Green

The following officers initiated the new members:

Exalted Ruler          Earl Sapp
Esteemed Leading Knight    Herbert Spery
Esteemed Loyal Knight      Bert Watt
Esteemed Lecturing Knight  Walter Griffin
Esquire                   Jack Grieb
Chaplain                  Frank R. Averill
Inner Guard               L. G. Knapp
Tiler                     Lester Lee
Trustee                   Fred Whitehead
Trustee                   U. S. Cayot
Trustee                   Ervin Sharpe
Trustee                   William Guetteau
Organist                  Mathew Slater

The following are charter members: Frank S. Austin; A. F. Barwick; Robert E. Bateman; Gene Berry; Glen H. Bourne; Homer S. Bourne; O. D. Brantly; Lloyd C. Cassels; John A. Contadino; H. Ray Daley; Claude T. DeGraw; B. C. Dewitt; Lee Roy DeWitt; H. P. Edmond; Paul Robt. Edmunds; Edson J. Fifield; Louis B. Fisher; Charles W. Forbes; Joseph A. Frazier; J. L. Gearhart; Jack L. Gilbert; Roy A. Glisson; C. Goodrich; E. E. Hardy, Jr.; Everett Harman; Leon Hogan; Major Lee Hopper; G. E. Jones; Robert E. Keith; George Kleeger; Stephen Kubial; Howard H. Lane; John M. LaRosa; T. C. Mangum; C. R. Mayes, Jr.; George McLean; James McNab; Ralph J. Marotta; R. Deal Matthews; Walter L. Merton; F. S. Montgomery; Francis J. Moran; Charles W. Nielson; William J. Patrick; Herbert Payne; F. M. Perrow; Gus F. Perna; T. S. Pridemore; S. Earl Robinson; Sidney Sandler; Carl W. Shiver; Bernard S. Simbari; Edward B. Simmons; Chas. Grady Singleton; Boyd Sleeth; Donald L. Smith; George M. Stewart; Bart E. Sullivan; Robert VanZandt; Luther David Walker; Harry W. Walls; Earl G. Webb; Raleigh O. Whitfield; Edward Wilkens; C. S. P. Williams, Jr.; Harry Hardy Wright; George Edmond Yates; William K. Zinke; and Wright G. Sterling.

By Demit: Wilbur J. Armstrong; E. F. Averill; Eugene F. Bowden; J. H. Brown; Edwin F. Cole; C. C. Eastland; C. Grady Green; Virgil D. Green; Charles L. Hardy; Edwin H. Haynie; G. T. Hull; L. Jack Keenan; Charles B. Keene; James W. Lee; Merrill E. Pridemore; David S. Pruitt; C. C. Ratliffe; Finis C. Rogers, Jr.; Joseph J. Sanford; H. Vivian Sazon; A. F. Schmitt, Sr.; Dr. D. E. Sheehan; W. Marion Walton; and R. R. Wright.

Past Exalted Rulers:

1953-1954  W. Marion Walton
1954-1956  Edwin H. Haynie
1956-1957  Herbert Payne
1957-1958  Dwight W. Miller
1958-1959  Everett F. Averill
1959-1960  W. Jack Patrick
1960-1961  Dr. Charles T. Sands
1961-1962  Robert W. Arnold
1962-1963  William Sanders
1963-1964  Eugene N. Betts
1964-1965  John P. Bennett
1965-1966  Andres B. Olson
1966-1967  Donald L. Burrie, PDD
1967-1968  Donald A. Scheurer
1968-1969  Matthew S. Wronsli
1970-1971  Wilfred H. Weed
1971-1972  Everett C. Updike
1972-1973  Gil N. Van Horn, PDD
1973-1974  Frances E. Weed
1974-1975  A. B. Caponi
1975-1976  James O. Pengra
1976-1977  Charles E. Bodine
1977-1978  Dr. Jerold A. Mills
1978-1979  Michael N. Gomes
1979-1980  Wesley Whitmore
1981-1982  Albert Clinger
1982-1983  Martin Roberts
1983-1984  S. Lou Pachete
1984-1985  Henry F. Krieg
1985-1986  Russell Reaver
1986-1987  Roy Kronenberg
1987-1988  Robert Appleton
1988-1989  Joseph Lutz
1989-1990  Howard Golf
1990-1991  Raymond Damiano
1991-1992  Norman Mandel
1992-1993  Robert P. Pastor
1993-1994  Terry Perrigo
1997-1998  Charles Davis
1998-1999  James R. Trombley
2003-2004  Maurice Truss
2004-2005  Michael H. Carrafa
2005-2006  Jack Strintz
2006-2007  Earl T. Wagoner

Honorary Life Members:

John P. Bennett  C. W. Nielsen, Jr.
Herbert Payne    Gilbert Van Horn
Wilford H. Weed  Donald L. Burrie
John J. Carty    Leon E. Decker
James Shampoe    Marvin Gelatt
Donald L. Downie Frank Hayden

Past Secretaries:

Albert Appleton
Robert C. Burcker
Robert W. Davey, PER
William Dibble
Edward C. Fennessey
David Oscarson
James Shampoe
Hank Swartz
Fred Tate

Lodge Homes:

First:

The first Lodge was in the casino building on the beach owned by the city. It was built in the 1920s. In April of 1953 it was leased to the Elks. On November 27, 1954, a fire ended the history of the Lodge meeting on the beach.
Second:

The second Lodge was located at 2300 NE 10th Street, in Pompano. Land was donated by R. V. Jones and the building was dedicated on March 13, 1956.

Third:

The third Lodge was located at 700 NE 10th Street at the corner of NE 5th Avenue and NE 10th Street. It was dedicated on March 4, 1984. It is located on ten acres. The main building is 32,000 square feet and there are twelve major rooms, lounge, and dining room. The cellar is 2,000 square feet, the main ballroom seats over 500, and there are 99 seats at the free form bar. There is a picnic pavilion with restrooms, storage, and cooking facilities. The building cost was $1,300,000 and the land cost was $400,000.

Pompano Beach Lodge #1898

The following was compiled by Lodge Historian, Dewey McClure, from the “Elk Horn” editor, Bill Dibbie; from the Exalted Ruler’s messages; from Don Downie’s progress reports; and from Lodge members.

As early as 1952 there were some active Elks residing in both Pompano and Pompano Beach (which later merged, becoming Pompano Beach). “Why not a Lodge in Pompano?” This was asked by a few including C. C. Ratcliff, W. Marion Walton, H. O. “Woody” Woods, Jack Howell, and others. With C. C. Ratcliff being city judge and W. Marion Walton being city attorney, things began to jell. Then V. Paul DeFoe, Charles Keene, C. Keith Padgett, and Frank Dunstatter joined in. The meetings of these men took place in various offices, the public library, and the American Legion. Now things began to buzz and the following men became involved:

Edwin Haynie  E. E. Hardy
Bernard Simbri  Frank Montgomery
Colie Goodrich  O. D. Brantley
Frank Austin  Harry Walls
A. F. Barwick  Raleigh Whitfield
Merrill Pridemore  Finis Rogers
Dan Overton  G. T. Hull
C. C. Eastland  Virgil Green
L. D. Walker  C. W. Nielsen
Raymond Daley  Edward Wilkins
George Kleger  Grady Singleton
Roy Glisson  T. S. Pridemore
William Zinke  W. J. Patrick
J. L. Gearhart  E. F. Averill
T. C. Mangum  C. L. Hard
Herbert Payne  Leon Hogan
J. A. McNab  Bart Sullivan
Major Hopper  J. W. Lee
H. V. Saxon  George Scheigert

During this period, W. Marion Walton had negotiated with Fort Lauderdale Lodge 1517 and state officers for a charter and Lodge clearance. Fred Walker of Miami Springs Lodge, Chairman of the New Lodges Committees of the Florida South District, commissioned Fort Lauderdale Lodge to make a survey of this area. They found a most receptive group.

On February 6, 1953 the first official meeting was held. This took place in the public library. Those attending were Fred Walker, Earl Sapp, Clarence Stauffer of Fort Lauderdale, C. C. Ratcliff, W. Marion Walton, V. Paul DeFoe, Charles Keene, C. Keith Padgett, and Frank Dunstatter of Pompano. This meeting proved a success and groundwork was laid for the Lodge. A vigorous drive for membership began. Between February 6 and April 1, with the men already signed and the most able assistance of Fort Lauderdale Lodge, there were 110 names on the roster which was enough for a charter, and it was granted.

By April 1, W. Marion Walton (who by the decision of all was to be first Exalted Ruler) named April 30, 1953 as the date of the birth of Pompano Beach Elks Lodge 1898, B.P.O.E. of the United States of America.
By April 1, 1953, all 110 demits and initiates from the Pompano area had been indoctrinated according to Grand Lodge statutes by Fort Lauderdale's proper committee.

Prior to the above date, several meetings were held by the Pompano group. They had nominated and agreed on who would be the first officers of the new Lodge. Also discussed were many things pertinent to the future. All agreed to negotiate with the American Legion for a meeting place until a permanent one could be found.

Jumping the gun on Marion Walton's prediction of April 30, a special meeting was called for April 17 by Exalted Ruler Herbert Sperry of Fort Lauderdale for the institution, initiation, and installation of the new Lodge.

With great anxiety and anticipation, 97 of the 110 men on the agenda formed a cavalcade and motored to Fort Lauderdale for a very eventful night. Sperry, with the proper introduction of PDD Victor O. Wehle of St. Petersburg, ruled the Lodge into Grand Lodge session. Bob Wehle, with the assistance of the ritualistic team of Fort Lauderdale 1517, proceeded with the business at hand. The institution was very impressive and very ably executed by the officers. Next was initiation. All initiates were assembled by the altar for their oath and then ushered before each station with a solemn rendition by the officers and received their instructions. Installation of officers was the highlight of the evening. With great pride each new officer was escorted to his respective station. Each received his jewels of that office. The officers installed were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Marion Walton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Knight</td>
<td>E. H. Haynie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyal Knight</td>
<td>C. G. Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>E. F. Cole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esquire</td>
<td>Louis Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>Ed Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>F. Austin, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Guard</td>
<td>Herbert Payne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>W. J. Patrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>C. Keene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>G. T. Hull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>C. C. Ratcliff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>C. G. Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>Bart Sullivan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many delegates and members of other Lodges were in attendance and congratulations and best wishes were in order. Exalted Ruler Marion Walton and officers closed the meeting. Thus Fort Lauderdale Lodge 1517 became the sponsor of this Lodge which was destined to become the fastest growing Lodge in the state. Their charter was properly signed and delivered on April 30, 1953.

On April 23, 1953, the Lodge held its first meeting and under the leadership of ER Marion Walton the Lodge began planning for the future. Meetings were to be held weekly on Wednesday nights. Committees were appointed to establish relations with American Legion officers to organize a duel venture which involved both organizations having full facilities of the building. All approved this. In June, July, and August, initiations were held and the membership grew. Among the Legionnaires to become affiliated with the new Lodge were Ernie Crosser, Ed Downie, the Austin brothers, Harold Kercheval, the Hardy brothers, and John Whitmore. These men composed the barbecue brigade.

The Three Homes of the Lodge

The Old Casino

As the meetings progressed so did the membership. There was good attendance and there was great interest in the future of the Lodge. Visitations to other Lodges soon started. Major Hopper became chairman of this committee. Other chairmen soon appointed were Ray Daley, Entertainment; Herb Payne, Christmas and Charities; Dwight Miller, Youth Activities; and Ed Haynie, Social and Community Welfare. ER Walton seriously considered the old casino as a site for an Elks club on the beach. In a newspaper interview he stated that it would be an asset to both the city and the Lodge. He named Jack Patrick and S. E. Robinson to negotiate with city officials for a lease. After several meetings, the city proposed a lease of one year stipulating an “as is” deal. The Lodge accepted. Immediately work crews were formed by Jack Patrick, Russ Thompson, Herb Payne, Kutz Henry, and many other members who helped wherever they could. By the end of September, the work on the inside was completed and the Lodge held their first meeting in their new home.
Casino building on the beach owned by the city which became the first home of the Lodge

Built in the 1920s by the Blount brothers, the casino was an old landmark in Pompano. Withstanding all of the storms and hurricanes in this area, it became a haven for tourists as well as social and business gatherings. The Pompano Women’s Club met there for several years. Church services were also held on the premises. Saturday night dances were held and well attended. Late in 1940 the city acquired the property and it was rented several times until late April of 1953 when it was leased to the local Elks Lodge.

The old casino, now a scene of many activities, attracted the attention of many people both locally and in the surrounding areas. On October 29, the Lodge held its first initiation in its new home. This brought the membership to 170. Among those initiated and sponsored by Herb Payne was Dewey McClure who played piano for the meetings. After each meeting a repast deliciously prepared by Pete Quaglia was served.

Exalted Ruler Walton had attended the national convention to represent the Lodge and both Exalted Ruler Walton and Leading Knight Ed Haynie attended the state convention. On December 19 the Lodge held its Christmas dance. The proceeds were turned over to Herb Payne who with Ray Daley had the first Christmas party. Toys and candy were given to the kids and food baskets were given to several needy families. This party was held at Kester Park on December 24, 1953. Both Payne and Daley had contemplated a New Year’s dance but through courtesy of the American Legion, the dance was held at the Legion Hall under their auspices. Many Elks attended. Dewey McClure’s orchestra furnished the music for both occasions.

The Lodge at this time was planning some changes on the outside of the building including revamping the entrance, major repairs, etc. At one of the meetings, H. O. Woods made a motion to dispense with any more work to the building with only a year’s lease. All agreed and once more Exalted Ruler Walton appointed Jack Patrick and S. E. Robinson to again negotiate with a year’s lease. The city commission, realizing that the popularity of the Lodge had grown, that the casino offered many advantages to the people of Pompano, and the amount of money the Lodge had spent thus far, granted an extended lease. Again, with more enthusiasm than ever, work proceeded with all of the members plus many outsiders participating. It was a memorable year for Exalted Ruler Walton and the Lodge.

On the night of March 24, 1954, the election of officers was held and the following were elected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Ed Haynie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Knight</td>
<td>E. F. Cole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Herb Payne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>C. G. Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esquire</td>
<td>E. F. Averill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>John Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Guard</td>
<td>E. B. Timmons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Frank Montgomery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>W. J. Patrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>W. Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>Marion Walton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>C. C. Radcliff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>Bart Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Dewey McClure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the night of February 11 a dance was held at the casino for members and wives and it was very well attended. June 14 (Flag Day) was observed at the Lodge hall and new flags were presented to several schools by Dwight Miller and Herb Payne. Jubilant over the Lodge’s achievements, an open house party was held on June 23. Cocktails were served followed by dancing until the wee hours. Many county and city officials including members
of other Lodges attended. On July 4 the Lodge held its second annual picnic. All enjoyed swimming and games for
the kids. Members of the Lodge served sandwiches and cold drinks.

During this period the Lodge bulletin (“The Reporter”) was inaugurated. Secretary Frank Montgomery
edited it. Don Greene handled the publicity. The first bulletin was a mere pamphlet. Many programs continued for
the betterment of the community including aid to needy children and help for distressed families. Everything seemed
to be going fine until the fateful night of November 27 (Saturday) on which night the Thanksgiving dance was held
with much success. In the early hours of the following morning, fire broke out and gutted the building. Police officer
Pinky Flemming discovered the blaze and called in the alarm. The wooden building being mostly cypress and pine
had too much of a start. Asst. Fire Chief Frank Helton was severely cut by flying glass. Capt. Bill Elswick with his
men and some volunteers had the fire under control within an hour. All Pompano was shocked and members were
dismayed to learn that all their work and financial efforts had gone up in smoke. ER Haynie called a meeting of the
board of trustees and the House Committee and it was agreed to return to the Legion Hall as a meeting place and to
analyze the situation and propose ideas for the future. The fire had destroyed all Lodge records and items and
equipment used to conduct a meeting.

The Entertainment Committee had planned a Christmas party charity ball and the casino fire did not deter
them. It was held on December 18 at the Legion Hall. It was well planned and a financial success. With the help of
several merchants and farmers with their gracious gifts, the officers and their wives formed a production line loading
bushel baskets with food and toys. On December 24 about 100 baskets were delivered to the poor. Dorothy’s
(Williams) Sport Shop also suffered a fire and loads of smoke and water damaged clothes were donated. These were
also sorted and distributed.

This disastrous fire ended the history of B.P.O. Elks 1898 on the beach. However, the charitable works of
the Elks never faltered; their friends were as numerous as the sands on the beach.

2300 NE 10th Street

Immediately following the loss of the casino, plans went ahead for a new home for the Lodge. R. V. Jones,
a well-known local farmer, had been contacted regarding some real estate he held. Realizing their plight, he donated
a plot of ground. Quickly ER Haynie called for a Building Committee naming Jack Patrick as Chairman. On this
committee were Richard Brown, Elton Stetler, Ray Wacaster, Ralph Davidson, Earnest Smoak, Howard Lane, and
S. E. Robinson. These men, all being in the building game, were more than qualified to plan for a new building.

On the evening of December 24, 1954, Ray Daley held the kids’ Christmas party at Kester Park assisted by
several members of the Lodge. The New Year’s party was jointly sponsored with the American Legion. This affair
was a variety show and was produced by their very gracious friend and brother, Bill Guitteau from Fort Lauderdale
Lodge, a former theatrical producer. Under his guidance, Ray Daley and Dewey McClure held several of these
affairs during the year. With this sort of help, the Lodge owed a debt of gratitude to many Lodges in the district.
Most of the items and equipment lost in the fire were replaced, plus much financial aid was given.

In January of 1955, the Lodge received the report from the Building Committee regarding the size, type,
and general description of the proposed new building, a Colonial type building with four pillars extending to the
second floor and with a trussed roof. The Lodge agreed on the plans and directed the Building Committee to have
Guy, Platt, and Johnsons proceed with it. Financing of the building was discussed and it was agreed to the issuing of
bonds. ER Haynie named. Chas. Price as Chairman of the Bond Committee and serving the committee were James
McNab, Grady Singleton, Vivian Saxon, Geo. Scheigert, Marion Walton, H. O. Woods, Robt. Mayes, G. T. Hull,
Virgil Green, and all officers. H. O. Woods was also appointed Special Events Committee Chairman.

With many new members coming in, the Lodge progressed under the guidance of ER Haynie. The morale
was excellent. Many celebrities visited the Lodge, giving even more assurance of success.

On February 12, a Valentine’s Dance was held at Fort Lauderdale Lodge with the proceeds going to the
Pompano Beach building fund. This affair was handled by G. H. McLean and “Pop” Sterling of Fort Lauderdale
Lodge 1517. Nearly $800 was delivered personally by these two gentlemen who were given a standing ovation.

On March 21 the following officers were elected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Ed Haynie (by popular demand for a second term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Knight</td>
<td>Herb Payne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Dwight Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>E. Averill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>F. Montgomery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Lodge held its second anniversary on April 23, 1955, honoring ER Haynie for accepting the leadership for another year. Invitations were sent to all Lodges in the state. Many dignitaries were present. This affair started with the registration of visitors at the Pompano Beach County Club. A golf tournament was held in the morning followed by a luncheon at the club at noon. A tour of the city conducted by Haynie (mayor of Pompano Beach) and several Lodge dignitaries took place in the afternoon. A dinner dance was held at the American Legion Hall in the evening. Brothers C. Grady Green and Bill Williams were dinner hosts. Ray Daley, Herb Payne, and Special Events Committee Chairman, H. O. Woods, along with Dwight Miller, handled the affair. Dick Breed and his ten-piece band from Fort Lauderdale furnished music. This affair also served as a kickoff for Chas. Price and his Building Bond Committee. A replica of the new building was built by Jack Patrick, Herb Payne, and H. O. Woods. It was on display at these affairs.

By the middle of June the Bond Committee had sold $40,000 worth of bonds, enough to really start construction. Another $16,000 of bonds in smaller denominations was issued in July for outsiders who wished to participate. On Saturday evening, June 25, a victory ball was held honoring Chas. Price for a splendid job well done by him and his committee. He was awarded a beautiful gold watch. Plans for the building were approved August 9 and in the middle of August, construction was under way. The members and officers were elated to see activity at 2300 NE 10th Street. Contractors were brothers Richard Brown, Efton Stetler, Ralph Davidson, Bennie Bennedette, and Ray Wacaster. Close communications between the Building Committee and the contractors proved satisfactory. Very few changes were made. The weather hampered the workers several times but with no severe consequences.

On September 24 the Lodge held an open house dinner and variety show at the American Legion. Dancing followed. Proceeds went to the building fund. Work on the new building was progressing favorably.

On October 5, 24 new members brought the membership to 300. Reports from the state association stated Pompano Beach Lodge the fastest growing Lodge in the state. At this meeting, ER Haynie named November 19 as the laying of the cornerstone. He instructed the Secretary to invite local officials, Lodge officers, and the general public to attend. He also made arrangements for DDGER George Nichols to preside. Walter Haig was named chairman of the dedication ceremony assisted by Herb Payne and F. C. Jamison.

Wednesday evening, April 6, 1955 was quite an event. Visiting dignitaries from both the state association and subordinate Lodges were on hand to see the new officers installed. PDD Arthur C. O’Hea presided at the installation and with the usual help of the Fort Lauderdale Lodge officers consummated a most memorable night. First, the Lodge had retained the leadership of ER Haynie for another year. Charles Price and his associates were hard at work on a Bond Committee. The Lodge at this time had already received an estimated cost of its new building ($60,000). Without the work donated by the membership, though, the cost could have risen to $80,000. H. O. Woods once again became quite active on special events. He held a boat raffle and later on in the year did the same with an automobile. Both events provided great financial gain to the Lodge.

Membership continued to rise. Herb Payne, with his close association with other Lodges in the district, gained recognition from the state association and was commended for his help.

On May 1, the first May Day festivities were held at Kester Park. Dwight Miller and several members furnished the May pole and streamers for the children.

On June 14 Pompano Lodge joined with Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood Lodges for a mammoth Flag Day celebration at War Memorial Hall in Fort Lauderdale. H. O. Woods of Pompano Lodge and J. S. Fenn of Hollywood Lodge, with the aid of Wm. Gitteau, were chairmen of this momentous affair. Gitteau was master of ceremonies and O’Hea gave the history of the nation’s achievement under the different flags of the time. All Lodge officers of the district were in attendance. The Boy Scouts of Pompano, Hollywood, and Fort Lauderdale presented the different flags. The American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps furnished the music for the pageantry of the Color Guard, and Rev. Russell Williams, DD of Miami, representing the American Legion, gave an impressive patriotic address. Open to the public, it was a gala occasion attended by 800 people.
On July 4, the Lodge held a huge barbecue at the American Legion Hall. This was a duel affair handled by the steward, George Dell, and the barbecue brigade of the American Legion.

Later in July, ER Haynie and PER Walton made a quick trip to Philadelphia and presented the Grand Lodge with credentials for a new building and were warmly received. They were assured of the Grand Lodge cooperation. On ER Haynie’s return and the report of the Grand Lodge, the bonds could now be issued. Chas. Price and his committee now began their campaign for additional funds.

Overcoming the disastrous events of the preceding year and with completion of the new building at hand, everyone was jubilant.

On Saturday, February 11, the Lodge held the first Valentine dance in its new home. Roy Means was chairman of the event.

The dining room was beautiful and many parties and social gatherings were to take place there with live music for dancing. George Dell did a marvelous job promoting these activities.

On Tuesday, March 13, 1956, dedication of the building for Pompano Beach 1898 was held. Grand Exalted Ruler John R. Walker was the honored guest. Coming from Miami, he was met by a motorcade at the south city limits of Pompano. The welcoming group consisted of ER Haynie and many members of the Lodge and its officers. Grand Trustee William Wall, DDGER George Nichols, and Florida State Elks Association President, Frank J. Holt, accompanied GER Walker. They were escorted to City Hall where Mayor George McPherson presented GER Walker with the key to the city. They proceeded to the Lodge and at 3 p.m. the dedication ritual was held. Exalted Ruler Haynie introduced all of the local Lodge officers and Grand Trustee, William R. Wall, who then introduced Grand Exalted Ruler Walker. The dedication ritual was officiated by Grand Trustee Wall with the aid of both present and past Grand Lodge officers. GER Walker then gave the oration and was given a standing ovation. ER Haynie then presented GER Walker with gifts from the Lodge. It was a beautiful and enlightening event.

On Wednesday evening, March 24, the election was held and the following officers were elected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Herb Payne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Knight</td>
<td>Dwight Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Everette Averill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>Jack Patrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esquire</td>
<td>Chas. Sands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>H. O. Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Guard</td>
<td>Russell Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Robert Arnold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Earl Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>E. W. Haig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Dewey McClure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>H. O. Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>Bart Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td>Edwin Haynie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the afternoon of Wednesday, October 5, 1955, the Lodge was host to several dignitaries who took a tour of the new building, then under construction, and were present that evening during an initiation of a class of 24 new members. Those in attendance were DDGER George Nichols; his assistant, Hubert Watts, PDD; Arthur O’Hea of Fort Lauderdale; John Rocasco and John Healy of Coral Gables; and W. A. Wall, Grand Lodge Trustees of West Palm Beach. After the initiation each of these gentlemen congratulated the new members upon their officiating with the new Lodge and the officers for a splendid rendition of the ritual. They also reported that the new building would be the finest in the state. Following the meeting, a delicious repast was served under the supervision of George Dell and H. O. Woods.

On Saturday night, October 29, the Lodge had its Halloween festivities at the Legion Hall.

On Saturday, November 19, the laying of the cornerstone took place. A huge crowd of residents and visitors were on hand. The Pompano Beach High School band gave a concert. DDGER George C. Nichols presided at the ritual aided by the officers of Pompano Beach Lodge. A copper strong box containing a parchment naming the bond holders, a copy of the *Pompano Sun*, a drawing of the proposed building, the history of the Lodge compiled by Frank Montgomery, the names of all committees, and Woody’s false teeth were sealed into the cornerstone for posterity by Jack Patrick and DDGER George Nichols. Following the ritual both ER Haynie and DDGER Nichols
gave an impressive message on Elkdom and gave thanks to all involved. Plans to finish the building by the new year were in progress and all members did what they could to help.

On Saturday, December 17, the Lodge held its charity ball with food and clothing for the poor and toys for kids. The committee had set up a distribution point at Blanche Ely School and a kids’ party at Kester Park. Herb Payne and Ray Daley promoted the affair.

December 31 was a date remembered by many. In a dismal mist of rain, over 250 members joined in fun and frolic at the opening of the Lodge’s new building. On wet planks from the street to the entrance they slipped, slid, and enjoyed every minute of it. Many congratulations were received and everyone was in high spirits. Dancing started after a general inspection by all admiring the decor. Dewey McClure’s orchestra had the honor of furnishing the music for the occasion.

On Wednesday, January 4, the Lodge held the first meeting in their new quarters. This was highlighted by the initiation of 27 new members and the hosting of Frank J. Holt, President of the Florida State Elks Association. This initiation was named the state’s President Class. At this meeting it was brought before the Lodge to grant Exalted Ruler Haynie and PER Marion Walton life membership. Before the expiration of Haynie’s term, it was granted by a vote of the Lodge.

The Lodge under ER Herb Payne, although heavily burdened financially, continued to gain strength. With the careful guidance of the board of trustees, the House Committee, and the members, they never gave up hope. Everyone worked together. ER Payne not only helped set up the Lodge bulletin but was also often seen at the mimeograph machine getting the news together, addressing envelopes, and mailing them to get it out on time.

By 1964 the Lodge was outgrowing the building. Exalted Ruler John Bennett called for consideration of an addition. Remodeling and expansion proceeded.

In 1969-1970 Exalted Ruler William J. Conroy with his officers and committees sold $21,000 in bonds to complete the remodeling of the building.

In 1972-1973 Exalted Ruler Gil Van Horn saw the bonds paid off and the barbecue pavilion to the west completed.

On Sunday, October 31, 1976, the Lodge was saddened by the passing of a beloved member, Dewey McClure. He had given 22 years as an officer to the Lodge and was completing the year of 1957 in the history of the Lodge.

Thus ended the history of this building and the site. A third home was to begin.

700 NE 10th Street (corner of NE 5th Avenue and NE 10th Street)

In the mid-1970s it became apparent that this old house was no longer able to serve the Lodge. After a quarter of a century of hard use and an ever growing membership, drastic action was considered. Remodeling and zoning brought the cost to a prohibiting figure without a lasting solution.

In September of 1977, the Exalted Ruler’s message as carried in “The Elk Horn” contained this paragraph from Exalted Ruler Jerold A. Mills: “The lodge voted to have a building program. Therefore I am setting up this committee of eight consisting of builders, architects, a banker, one Trustee, one Director, a member of Grand Lodge, and myself to formulate the final plans and present them to the Lodge for final approval.”

In the July 1978 issue of “The Elk Horn,” Exalted Ruler Michael N. Gomes’ message contained this paragraph:

Our long awaited, much touted Building Committee workshop meeting was held on Friday, June 23. The committee members presented a clear and concise outline of our present situation regarding the Lodge building and the feasibility of the future alternatives open to us. Of the options considered, renovating or enlarging the present structure, razing the present structure and constructing a new building on the site, or relocating and rebuilding on a site within the limits east of Dixie Highway, the members attending, in a straw vote, overwhelmingly approved the latter course of action. Meaningful questions were asked of the committee and objective opinions were voiced. It was particularly gratifying to hear PDD Herb Payne, a charter member and among brothers who laid the brick and mortar for our present structure, express his wholehearted support for the relocation and rebuilding program. The Building Committee can now proceed forthwith. They deserve the gratitude of us all for the diligent work they have performed.
Their third home has twelve major rooms of 30,000 square feet (2,000 square foot cellar). The cost of the building was $1,300,000 and the land cost was $400,000.

It must be remembered that while the Building Committee was working so diligently, the Lodge activities continued. In September of 1978 a steak dinner dance was scheduled. At the Harry-Anna Hospital quarterly conference held in Umatilla, Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairman, Jack Trainor, presented the hospital with the Lodge’s gift of $3,000 for the purchase of an infant’s playroom. A 4-bed room was also purchased by the Elks and Does. A dinner dance followed the next day by a barbecue marked the 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee Celebration.

In June of 1979, Exalted Ruler Wesley C. Whitmore reported to the membership that PER Don Burrie graciously accepted to be Chairman of the Building Committee.

It is impossible to sort through the maze of meetings, letters, and telephone calls made by Don Burrie and his tireless committee as they pursued an ever elusive piece of real estate. In early August of 1979 the city records show Donald Burrie, attorney for the Elks, made the request to proceed with the acquisition of the present site. Don Downie also spoke to the commission on behalf of the Elks.

On August 29, 1979 a City Commission workshop was held regarding the Pompano Beach Elks’ request to lease/purchase Air Park Property:

“Decision of the City Commission: Agreed with Concept. Place on pending Workshop: Administration to get details.

“The property which the Elks have in mind is located on the southeast corner of NE 10th Street and NE 5th Avenue.

“The Air Park Advisory Board has gone on record as being in agreement with the concept of leasing this nine acre parcel to the Lodge as proposed for a term of 30 years - at a just rental.

“Mr. Ralph Moony spoke to the matter on behalf of the Elks as did Mr. James Shampoe and Mr. Donald Downie.

“They present a preliminary sketch of what is planned for the area and the matter of traffic flow.

“Mayor William Alsdorf pointed out that the Elks will have to work along with the residents in the area not to infringe on their privacy.

“Motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Betty Wistedt and passed that the City Commission endorses the concept and the administration will proceed to work out the details necessary.”

Following much research and hundreds of hours of work, it was found the city would have to declare the site excess property, go to the Federal Aviation Administration for concurrence, etc., and then go to the registered voters of the city.

On January 22, 1980, this question appeared on the ballot:

“Proposal for the Sale of Surplus Property.
Shall the property described in and declared surplus by Resolution No. 80-52 be sold to the Pompano Beach Elks Club, Inc.?”

The resolution passed 7,922 to 3,406.

On March 12, 1980, Mayor Emma Lou Olson signed Resolution No. 80-104 selling the land to the club with all requirements, restrictions, etc. stated.

To go back a bit and shed further light on this complicated land acquisition being conducted by PER Don Burrie and his committee, the Exalted Ruler, his officers, and the total membership must now join the fray. ER Wesley C. Whitmore in January in “The Elk Horn” stated:

“My brothers;
This being the first issue of 1980, the foremost thought in our minds will be to buy the 11 acres of land on NE 10th Street. We know the Building Committee has a lot of work cut out for them. This committee has really done an outstanding job. Many thanks go to PER Don Burrie, Chairman, and his committee for a job well done up to this point but we have just begun; there are many hurdles.”
UPDATE REPORT:
Our Line of Anticipated Facilities and Community Service

The eastern section of property will, when finalized, contain a softball field, tennis court, handball court, horseshoe pits, jogging path, cookout facilities, a park for picnic events, and open space.

The center to westerly section will contain a superb Lodge and clubhouse. This building will be planned so that other city clubs and organizations will be able to hold their meetings, luncheons, functions, etc., in our available areas. Monies derived from rentals plus the support via luncheons and parties will greatly support our club and dining room so that these areas of our club can be kept at reasonable fees for our members and make our venture a financial success.

Along with the above and our proposed bingo night for members and public, we feel that we can securely retire our bonds while making a great contribution toward our community.

As you know our club is very deeply involved in youth activity and this type of club and grounds will enable us to support these activities even more. We would be able to hold numerous events, award banquets, etc. under the better supervision and foresee more club participation.

The city of Pompano Beach does not have anything within its boundaries that can provide for the citizens an area such as we propose and in summation our plan can do nothing but improve the community of Pompano Beach and make #1898 the finest facility in Florida....

Bond Committee

Every member is asked to participate and buy a bond as well as sell our bond program to all members.

There will be a committee foreman to guide this bond program. We would like to have as many as possible come forth and donate their service to be on this committee. Cochairman Van Horn and Downie will also be selecting members to assist....

The following explains the pulse of the bond proposal:
1. Land purchase contingent upon the Lodge being successful bidder and approval of same by voters in said city in a referendum
2. Twenty (20)-year bonds to be issued for the purchase price by the Lodge bearing 10% interest per annum. Date of issuance of bonds, April 1, 1980; first year interest to be waived

Building Committee

The Building Committee reports that all preliminary scheduled plans were complete and one plan of action was down to placing one bid and deposit with the city of Pompano Beach for the approximate 11.2 acres.

It was announced that all members were automatically on this committee.

The public relations endeavor would be to sell this proposal to the citizens of Pompano Beach in order to get their yes vote on the city’s offer to sell us this land. The referendum will be on the ballot with the city elections in March 1980.

There will be a committee formed to guide this public relations program. Among our 1,300+ membership we must have a member of almost every civic, social, condominium, fraternal, etc. club or organization in the city of Pompano Beach. We need you to step forward and donate your service either to speak to your club or to introduce one of the committee so that we can present our plans. We must make every meeting held in the city of Pompano Beach during the months of January and February.

We expect to be advertising in the newspapers, on the radio, and hopefully on the Goodyear blimp. We are asking for some cars that can be available to carry car-top signs. If you have or know a businessperson who has a marquise type sign on his place of business and will let us have a message, please contact him or us.

From “The Elk Horn” March 1980
Building Committee

BONDS:

Tis’ the day after club elections and 143 of our members have pushed our total raised to $124,400 ($276,000 to go).

All of you who have pledged a bond are now members of the Bond Committee. We would hope this works as a chain letter inasmuch as a purchase gets another purchaser, etc.
The momentum is gathering and those of you who attended the club elections would surely attest to that fact. We had a fantastic night for the bond drive; over $14,000 pledged.

The city referendum is Tuesday, March 11. There will be an election party in the Lodge room (regular prices at the bar). On that evening we will be celebrating our almost total victory. To achieve a total victory will be when we hit $400,000.

The Building Committee and those who have purchased their bonds cannot emphasize enough that we need full cooperation from all our members to arrive at our ultimate goal.

BOND SALE RULES:

Twenty-year bonds to be issued for the purchase price by the Lodge bearing 10% interest per annum. Date of issuance of bonds is April 1, 1980. First year interest to be waived. Interest to run from April 1, 1981. First payment on interest April 1, 1982. Bonds callable any time without penalty. Retired on lottery beginning 1985 at $26,000 per year. All monies derived from bond sale to be placed in bank escrow pending closing of transaction. If closing does not occur, monies to be returned to bond subscribers. Bonds issued in $100, $500, $1,000 and multiples thereof.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

In the past thirty days the members of the Building Committee have attended numerous meetings of local civic, fraternal, etc., clubs to present our plan so that the public will be informed and hopefully gain their support for a YES vote on March 11.

Paul Hook, Walter Stone, and Ray Miller will be distributing pamphlets and talking up the issue in their condos. If any of you would like some literature to distribute in your area, please contact Don Downie. This as everything is a very important phase of our PR program.

The newspaper advertisement will break approximately ten days before elections. Al Clinger and his crew will also be placing large 4’ x 8’ billboard signs at various heavily traveled intersections throughout the city.

As most everyone knows, we received an affirmative vote from the citizens of Pompano Beach to allow the city of Pompano Beach to sell surplus property to the Pompano Beach Elks Club. The majority in favor was an overwhelming 71%.

Now the Building Committee can concentrate all its efforts toward raising the balance of the $400,000 needed. As of this publication we have subscribed and paid $150,000+.

Our first plan of action is for a telephone and direct contact committee.

The telephone committee will call every member on our roster and ask for a pledge. The Florida Coast Bank of 2850 Federal Highway has allowed us to use their block of fifteen phones two nights a week. Starting Monday and Tuesday night, March 24 and 25, and every Monday and Tuesday night the emphasis will be the phone committee. We must have volunteers to help man the phones. On these nights there will be two or three building committee members to help with calls and questions. A brief explanation session plus an information sheet will be given to all participants. The calling period will be from 6:30 to 8:30. We need members to donate two hours once a week or 4 hours for two nights to help us in this most important cause.

The direct contact committee has selected a group of members of whom the Building Committee will personally meet with.

Please give us at least one night a week on the phones.

Excerpt from newly elected ER Robert W. Davey:

This is going to be a very important year for #1898. We not only must not lose sight of the charitable purposes of our order, our state and national projects such as the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital, the National Foundation Certificates, and the Hoop Shoot, and all of the local civic and charitable causes which we help to finance and provide manpower for in order to help keep them going, but this year we must extend our efforts on yet another most important project. Having won the recent city election by a 70% - 30% margin giving us the “go-ahead” to buy the acreage we wanted on which we plan to build our new Lodge, we must now raise that $400,000 we need to make our dreams come true to build what will be the finest Lodge building in the south if not the whole country. The Building Committee and the officers will need the help of every member of the Lodge in order to
ensure the inevitable success of our dream. It can be done; it will be done! It must be done! So jump on the bond wagon and join your brothers in doing all that you can do to help.

-------------------------------

Time now stood still as the Building Committee, the officers, and the members waited for red tape to be cleared and building to begin. The Building Committee headed by Don Burrie pursued the county and city. Don Downie continued his progress reports to the membership. Gil Van Horn pursued more funds. Those leaders worked daily the continuing social events and money raising events. Administration of the Lodge went on. ER Martin Roberts steered the ship during this harried period with the main sail set for the ground breaking.

By February 1982 the following steps were ready to be taken: proposal to the Grand Lodge; proposal to the membership; gather estimates for projected revenue from rentals, bingo, lounge etc.; get bids from all subcontractors; get as much donated or at cost material and labor; work parties to do as much landscaping as possible; work parties to put our park area together; etc.

A method of creative financing in order to have the funds needed to complete the construction was of major importance. Building Committee meetings attracted more and more interested members.

A general membership meeting was called so the Building Committee could ask for a vote to proceed with actual construction and selling of the existing property. It was all a little confusing as there were steps to be taken before other steps and after other steps, etc.

During these hectic days, ER Martin J. Roberts was spread thin trying to meet with committees, overseeing the social and fundraising events, attending conventions and meetings, and generally acting as head of a large corporation in a period of fast expansion, expansion in the building and expansion in the membership of the Lodge.

By March 1982 Dr. Sands “Bob” Burcker had a plant nursery set up. Plants, bushes, and trees were ready to be accepted. Donations toward the Landscape Committee began coming in. Trees cost $50 each. Shampoe reported that as of April 1 the paper drive had netted a little over $1,056, and along with profits from some projects and donations the funds reached $31,182. The purpose of this fund is to furnish the ballroom, the largest room in the building (that will be able to seat over 500 for dinner, 700-800 for a convention). The report on the aluminum can project shows a profit of $458 toward a large screen TV. Charlie Stuart urged more members to collect cans.

In “The Elk Horn” of July 1982 is the startling announcement that the next step is to set a ground breaking date. This is possible by the membership vote to allow starting of construction and the approval of the Grand Lodge representative at a meeting in Daytona.

So it comes to pass, on Sunday, August 15th, 1982 the official ground breaking ceremony took place. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed the festivities at the new property and back at our Lodge.

By September ER Robert W. Davey was able to write this:

The big news of the past month is the fact that our bond pledges went over the $400,000 target and most of the money has been paid. There is money to be collected, so if you want to avoid being left out of our biggest project since the foundation of our Lodge, there is still time to make a pledge and turn in your money to Bus Shampoe, Don Burrie, or Don Downie. Rough plans for the new building are on display in the lounge and the Building Committee meets every Thursday night and welcomes your ideas and input.

In this same issue, the Building Committee reported they were busy with plans to sell the old building and site while their main efforts were directed to the actual layout of the future building. There have been three sets of plans by members and two sets by our architect.

In October of 1980, PER Don Burrie and his overworked committee made a report to the membership. The past five to six weeks we have gone over many rough prints of layouts and made numerous corrections, additions, deletions, etc. The general layout seems to be taking shape. Bob Riechman, owner of the Flaming Pit, has accepted the job of coordinating our kitchen area as to the size needed to serve the dining area. The kitchen is the main point of the building. It must be able to service the income producing areas. When this layout is finalized, the adjoining area can be adjusted to complete the overall layout.

Then will come the work of moving proper channels for platting, permits, etc. This will be followed by getting bids on the actual construction. The building will be of double tee frame construction and the outer shell and roof will go up quickly.

PER Don Burrie got a workout come the end of 1980 and the start of 1981. After many meetings and phone calls with the local (Miami) F.A.A. officials, they arrived at a block wall. The committee contacted and had meetings with Congressman Dan Mica and Senator Lawton Chiles, Personal Representative, and in a matter of
weeks the F.A.A. agreed to sending the release form on the property. Work continues on property platting with the county and the city.

In February of 1981, ER Davey reported the outline of the building and its location was staked out with short stakes and red ribbon.

Progress continued on the new site. On July 16 the Building Committee, Don Burrie, Gil Van Horn, Don Downie, Marvin Gellat, and Jim Smith attended a meeting at the county courthouse and appeared before the Development Review Committee in regards to our county platting. This paperwork should go to the County Commission for final approval. The next step will be to apply for city building permits.

During this same period, two pumps and wells were installed. This watering system will allow PER Charles Sands and his Landscape Committee to begin some plantings. Special “Police the Area” days were set aside to begin gathering trash, dead limbs, etc. The Building Committee called for help to get this job done. Every job that could be accomplished by the members was carefully planned to keep the cost down and stretch the available funds. In June of 1981, ER Al Clinger called for every member to participate with a few hours devoted to work on the grounds and building.

By September of 1982, Leon Decker, our superintendent of construction, had the footing under way. The contract for the precast beams was signed and returned. The memorial tree fund was rolling along. The giant TV screen had arrived before the building thanks to Charlie Stuart.

Now the Building Committee called for help to work inside the building to help contain costs. The labor hours given, cutting out intermediary profits, and actual donations gave vast help toward the ultimate goal - completion.

By the spring of 1983 the move into the new building was near. The shell was changing into a beautiful Lodge. However, the life of the Lodge went on alongside the present problems of the building. The annual Elks Golf Tournament was scheduled, Flag Day on June 18 at the new building had been approved by District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler James Ruff, the Pony and Colt League Banquet was held, the Elks Pompano Children’s Fishing Rodeo was scheduled for June 21 with Wally Gross and Les Parsons and many others involved, the Lodge Activities Committee planned a Country and Western Dance, and on June 26th and 30th the Pompano Beach 75th Diamond Jubilee was held on the new Lodge grounds.

Building Committee meetings were now held in the new building giving members a chance to see the progress. A telephone communications company was awarded to contract for an ultra modern phone and paging system. A super intercom and sound system (for music, etc.) was awarded. The board of directors agreed to pick up the cost of this equipment via the flea markets. The Does pledged $3,000 to decorate the Ladies lounge area.

The month of July pulled down the curtain at 2300 NE 10th Street. Many of the members toasted a farewell on Nostalgia Night with tears in their eyes.

By September, ER Pachete in his monthly message noted that the Lodge Committee planned a Fifty Year Anniversary Dance in commemoration of the Harry-Anna Hospital. The Bingo Committee spearheaded by PER Jerry Mills had set up temporary operations, a family picnic was held, and Don Burrie, our District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the South Southeast District, held his first DD Clinic. The pulse of the Lodge was quickening, membership was growing, and the Building Committee was aging at an ever quickening pace.

On July 17 at 1 p.m. the new clubhouse opened officially for business. Over a thousand people passed through the building on this day.

By October the old Lodge building was sold and the Building Committee began Phase II of the plan, to complete the large hall, restrooms, conference room, and main kitchen.

By November 15 the large ballroom had only the carpet to be installed. There were 500 chairs and 50 round 10-seat tables on hand. Originally the Lodge purchased $100,000 in bonds for the land purchase. In order to outfit the kitchen the Lodge began selling that amount of bonds. These new bonds would continue in the lottery draw as original land bonds. The response to this need was immediate. Hank Fischer was pushing “Buy a Chair” for the lounge and dining room area. By November 14, 82 chairs had been paid for as memorials.

The paving was done and the east and west grass parking areas were completed. The final parking layout will give us 210 paved spaces and 180 grass spaces. Joe Lutz, who donated and built the fireplace plus did all of the tile work in the building, donated the main entrance off 10th Street entrance.

Bit by bit, with more members participating, the building reached completion. The Building Committee with the Exalted Ruler, the board of trustees, and the board of directors now began planning the grand dedication ceremonies.

Committees formed, individuals volunteered, and the date was set. Much work remained to be done but the dedication weekend was firm, March 2-4, 1984. Our third home, the finest in the southeast, was ready.
Annually, the Pompano Beach Lodge has provided their picnic facility to the city of Pompano Beach for their annual employees’ picnic. The Lodge also provides the labor for the city, ticket sellers, cooks, and bus help. Around 500 employees usually attend the picnic.

In 1998 note was made that Exalted Ruler Jim Trombley and other officers provided a group of students from Pompano Middle School with a tour of the Police and Fire Departments and met with City Manager, Bill Hargett, who gave the students an impromptu civics lesson. The City Manager then offered to set up a full day’s program later in the year that would have the students work as city department heads followed by a mock City Commission meeting featuring the students as Pompano Beach City Commissioners.

Ladies organization: Does Drove No. 142
First President: Mrs. H. O. (Bille) Woods

By 1992 they had 340 members.

Past Presidents:

- Billie Woods 1957
- Thelma Wheeler 1958
- Ruth Weir 1959
- Jeanne White 1960
- Gertrude Hopper 1961
- Billie Yost 1962
- Marian MacDuffee 1963
- Catherine Collins 1964
- Lillian Zurowski 1965
- Thelma Molyneaux 1966
- Billie Woods 1967
- Kathryn Foster 1968
- Kathryn Foster 1969
- Grace Drager 1970
- Grace Drager 1971
- Mary Childress Feiten 1972
- Beatrice Weed 1973
- Billie Woods 1974
- Catherine Collins 1975
- Catherine Collins 1976
- Mary Gentry 1977
- Muriel Siegmann 1978
- Kathryn Foster 1979
- Anthonette Moylan 1980
- Ruth Weir 1981
- Elizabeth Whittle 1982
- Eleanore Gingell 1983
- Margaret Carin 1984
- LaVerne H. Roddy 1985
- Mary Schreier 1986

Significant Events and Projects of Pompano Beach Lodge #1898

1994 The Lodge was featured in a recent Miami Herald news article when the Florida Department of Transportation honored five Lodge members for picking up more than 16,000 pounds of trash during the past 18 months along I-95. The Lodge joined the Adopt-a-Highway program and took responsibility for a five-mile stretch of the Interstate Highway from SW 10th Street to Sample Road. Receiving plaques for their cleanup efforts were PER Bob Pastor, Frank Jovan, Paul Means, Gene Heck, and Joe Keegan.
Pompano Lodge sponsored a three-day Caribbean cruise which raised $1,500 for the Florida Elks Youth Camp. The funds were presented to DDGER Jerry Mills to add to the South Southeast District cabin account.

Because none of the public parks were large enough to accommodate the large number of city workers, the Lodge donated the use of its picnic grounds to the Pompano Beach public employees. The Lodge picnic facilities are designed to handle crowds of up to 2,000 and include a pavilion, cooking equipment, and restrooms.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

District: East Central  
Instituted: February 1, 1987  
Charter Members: 217  
Year 1995 Membership: 866  
Year 1996 Membership: 922  
Year 1997 Membership: 1,002  
Year 1998 Membership: 999  
Year 2001 Membership: 1,002  
Year 2004 Membership: 1,015  
Year 2005 Membership: 1,054  
Year 2006 Membership: 1,055  
Year 2007 Membership: 1,006  
Year 2008 Membership: 874  
Year 2009 Membership: 857  
Meets: 1st & 3rd Tuesday  
Location: 5207 S. Ridgewood Avenue, Port Orange, FL 32127  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 290879, Port Orange, FL 32129-0879

Port Orange Elks Lodge was instituted on February 1, 1987 after groundwork had been laid by an organizing committee consisting of Russell Saxon, PSP, PER; Charles Murphy, Secretary, PER; William Martin, Treasurer, PER; William E. Enterline, PER; and George Henderson, all of New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557. Others instrumental in formation of the new Lodge were George Petrasek, Melbourne Lodge 1744, East Central District Chairman of New Lodges; George Wolfe, DDGER, Vero Beach Lodge 1774; and Jack Blalock, East Central District Vice President, New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557.

Organizational meetings were held at the Port Orange VFW Post #3282 beginning on September 11, 1986 and continuing each week thereafter until the last week of January 1987. The initial meeting was conducted by Russell Saxon, PSP and then turned over to William E. Enterline, PER, of York, PA Lodge 213 in 1972-1973 who had demitted to New Smyrna Beach in 1983 after his retirement.
There was much cooperation among those attending the meetings. They assisted in making telephone contact to stray Elks known to be in the area from a listing procured from the Grand Lodge. They took up money every meeting night to pay for use of the hall.

The Lodge was instituted on February 1, 1987 at New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557. Dignitaries in attendance included Robert Grafton, PGER; Frank Spadafora, Florida State Elks Association President; and Aubrey Callaham, Vice President at Large of the Florida State Elks Association.

Twelve Past State Presidents filled the chairs as Grand Lodge Officers. The group included J. Pierce Smith, Willis McCall, Alvin A. Ehrlich, N Pat O’Brien, Charles M. Pride, Harry Baruch, R. Edward Royal, Richard M. Shashy, George Domininniani, Harold Shelton, Carl Vaughn, and Newt Jones. Also present were George Wolfe, DDGER of Vero Beach and William Orban, PDD of Melbourne.

The following officers were elected and/or appointed to serve the remainder of the 1986-1987 Lodge year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>William E. Enterline</td>
<td>PER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Knight</td>
<td>Ken MacGilfrey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Douglas Perkins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>Irving Morrill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>George Henderson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Curtis LaPiere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>Charles Porter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esquire</td>
<td>Eldo DeLong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Marceine Goodell, PER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Guard</td>
<td>John Scuderi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Year Trustee</td>
<td>David Wasnick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Year Trustee</td>
<td>Roland Dodge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Year Trustee</td>
<td>Philip Dionne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Year Trustee</td>
<td>Robert Rieder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Year Trustee</td>
<td>John Herbert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The new Lodge held its meetings at the VFW home for several months and then held them at the American Legion. The members reelected William Enterline, PER, George Henderson, Secretary, and Curtis LaPierre, Treasurer to their respective chairs for the 1987-1988 Lodge year.

On August 1, 1987, the Lodge entered into a lease for the properties at 5654-5660 S. Ridgewood Avenue in the Harbor Oaks Plaza. Three months later the Exalted Ruler organized 2723’s first bingo session which was later chaired by Al Rago.

Due to rapid growth, the Lodge leased an additional store room in the complex the following year. In September of 1989 after receiving permission from Grand Lodge, Port Orange Lodge instituted a successful bond drive to purchase the property at S. Ridgewood Avenue, its present location. Members of the Lodge spent countless man hours renovating both the rented property and its present home. They performed work of first quality and saved the Lodge thousands of dollars. The Lodge felt fortunate that the present property allowed for future expansion which was not too far in the future as membership soon increased from the original charter of 187 to 575.

Lodge 2723 moved into its new home on April 1, 1990. It presently runs two sessions of bingo which is instrumental in the operation of charitable and community programs. On September 5, 1990, the kitchen became fully operational and has been very successful.

An eight-page bulletin was published the first month of its institution, with Joe Cimino as editor.

One month after institution of the Lodge, the ladies formed an organization known as the Elkhearts. Ellen Enterline is credited for its rapid expansion of the organization. She attended every meeting, spoke before them, and registered all women in attendance. Ella Kelo served as the Elkhearts’ first president. Ellen Enterline was elected the following year, and then Eleanor Roberts became their third president. Membership has grown from an original 56 to 220 and is still growing. They have been recognized as being very supportive of the Elks and a great asset.

The above material was compiled and written by George Henderson and William Enterline, PER.

Ladies Organization: Elkhearts #2723
Organized: February 1987
Charter Members: 56
Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>1,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>1,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Florida’s 114th Lodge
District: Southeast Central
Date of Dispensation: February 22, 1983
Date of Installation: March 27, 1983
Formally Opened By: Alan Jones, DDGER
Charter Members: 193
Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday  
Location: 2290 Lennard Road, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8152, Port St. Lucie, FL 34985-8152  
Telephone: 561-335-3557  
Lounge: 561-335-3517

The following officers were elected and installed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Gerald Duggan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Leading Knight</td>
<td>Thereon R. Burly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Donald E. Lea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>Frank Poole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Ralph J. Annunizata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Walter Dill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Guard</td>
<td>John Gotke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Edward Burkhead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Ken Schonfeld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esquire</td>
<td>Robert Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>Jimmy Roy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustees</td>
<td>5 Year, Marty Larve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 Year, Anthony Cilurso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Year, Paul Faber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Year, Joseph Dunn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Year, LeRoy Fitzgerald</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On November 4, 1982 the first organizational meeting was held to determine if there was sufficient interest in forming a new Lodge in the Port St. Lucie-Jensen Beach area. On that evening at Langford Park, 73 men signed a petition for dispensation to start a new Lodge. Elected as organizing officers were PDD David C. Riley, Chairman; Americus Pierantozzi, Secretary; and PER Walter Dill, Treasurer.

After meeting on the first and third months thereafter, the Grand Lodge by direction of Grand Exalted Ruler Marvin Lewis granted a dispensation for 176 members to become Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658 on February 22, 1983.

Port St. Lucie Lodge was instituted on March 27, 1983 at Fort Pierce Lodge at 2 p.m. with Honorable Alan Jones, DDGER presiding, assisted by Past State Presidents of Florida. On this date they received their charter. Then at 3 p.m. on the same date, Jupiter Lodge, district ritual champions, performed the initiation of 77 new members. At this time, there were 104 transfers into the new Lodge. At 4 p.m. the installation of officers was performed by Alan Jones, DDGER, Past State Presidents, and Past District Deputies of Florida.

Their first meetings were held in a ballpark in Jensen Beach. As time progressed some meetings were held at Stuart Lodge and in Fort Pierce Lodge and then they rented the Port St. Lucie Community Center. From there things happened very quickly. They purchased four acres of land with money from a bond issue of $60,000 which was paid off in due course.

At the same time the Building Committee went looking for a mortgage. A metal building was purchased and in several months they were able to operate like an Elks Lodge. The 6,000 square foot building was located at U. S. 1 and Port Saint Lucie Blvd. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on June 30, 1983. The official opening was March 2, 1984. Dignitaries on hand were Mayor McChesney, PSP; Jack Kreiger, County Commissioner; Henry Schleselman, Police Chief; Robert Knowles, County Sheriff; Chuck Nergard, State Representative; Robert Grafton, Past Grand Exalted Ruler; Carl Vaughn, Past State President; Paul Testa, DDGER; and Ralph Denton, District Vice President, Southeast District.

The Lodge has been a sponsor of the July 4th parade and the Christmas parade. They have sponsored a Boy Scout troop, a Little League baseball team, and cheerleaders.

In 1990 they were put into the newly formed Southeast Central District as a result of Florida district realignment. The new district would include Stuart, Jensen Beach, Port St. Lucie, Fort Pierce, Vero Beach, Sebastian, Melbourne, Cocoa, and Cocoa Beach.

The first project was the pavilion erected under the supervision of Jimmy Roy; it was painted by Walter Baird, Mike Gerek, and Drew. The son of Ken Burkey did cement work. The members laid conduit for outside water and electric.

Later, with the help of chicken barbecues cooked by the members, the main building began to take shape and much more work had to be done by members. The shrubs had to be planted, sod had to be laid, the floor had to be wired and painted, and furnishings had to be purchased and brought in. This was all volunteer work. Finally, now
about to move in on New Year’s Eve, it was complicated by the lack of a certificate of occupancy, so instead it became a New Year’s work party. Then in January they moved into the new home. In the meantime, members pledged to buy various pieces of furniture for the Lodge.

The Ladies organization was formed in 1983 through the efforts of Gloria Duggan. Their time was occupied by making articles for sale, bake sales, etc. and provided enough money to help the Lodge furnish the kitchen. The Past Exalted Rulers had golf tournaments and barbecues to build the bar with the black oak donated by PER Paul Taylor. Bob McClure and Paul Taylor built the bar with their helpers.

In 1995 the 18th Boy Scout World Jamboree was held in Holland. One of the thousands of scouts to attend was Richard Giesemann, a member of Port St. Lucie Lodge sponsored by Troop 420. Giesemann was chosen by the Florida State Elks Association to attend the jamboree.

Past Exalted Rulers:

1983-1984 Jerry Duggan
1984-1985 Bob Burley
1985-1986 Frank “Bud” Poole
1986-1987 Dave Riley
1987-1988 Jim Roy
1988-1989 Ralph Annuzziata
1989-1990 Morris Warren
1990-1991 Robert Green
1991-1992 John Floridia
1992-1993 Thomas H. Heintz
1993-1994 William Harrison
1994-1995
1995-1996
1997-1998 Floyd Sputhard
1998-1999 Charles L. Reynolds
1999-2000
2000-2001
2001-2002
2002-2003
2003-2004 Myron Al Matthews
2004-2005 Leonard W. Gravius
2005-2006 Alice Manos
2006-2007 Augustus J. Simonelli, PDD
2007-2008 Mary Ann Manning

Significant events and contributions:

1997 A 25’ x 85’ addition was added. A Lodge ribbon cutting ceremony upon completion was held on November 8, 1997.
1998 They contributed 88 pairs of used prescription glasses to local Lions Club.
2007 Donated $20,000 for new vans for Elks Children’s Therapy Services.
2009-10 Won 3rd place in Community Service Image Contest for Division V.

Ladies of organization: Ladies of Elks
Formed: August of 1983

Powell, James W., Grand Exalted Ruler, February 1, 1874 - December 13, 1874

The fourth Grand Exalted Ruler of the order was the first Grand Exalted Ruler to be chosen from the second Lodge of the Order, Philadelphia No. 2, and was a prominent businessman at one time in the city of brotherly love. On February 1, 1874 he was elected Exalted Grand Ruler and his career in the order terminated shortly after
his retirement from office on December 13, 1874. He never again reaffiliated and the records concerning him are of a most scanty description.

A distant relative stated positively that Powell was never known to have had a picture taken. As there were no close relatives who could be traced, it was never known whether he was living or dead, afterwards. He seemed to have dropped out of sight.

He had been at one time a volunteer fire department member, but no records of photos could be found with his fire brigade. During the latter years of his life, so far as anything is known of him, he was engaged as a night watchman at the old museum on Arch Street in Philadelphia and also one or two other theaters.

He was described as being a tall, slim man with a thin face and a black moustache, and when last heard of used to lounge around the theaters of Philadelphia.

Shortly after his retirement as Exalted Grand Ruler he was dropped from the rolls of Philadelphia Lodge No. 2 for the nonpayment of dues.

Ellis, *Authentic History of the B.P.O. Elks*, 1910

**President, Florida State Elks Association**

The Chief Executive Officer of the Association, the President presides at all association meetings, preserves order, appoints all committees unless provided in another manner, decides all questions of order subject to appeal to the association, fills all vacancies unless provided in another manner, and performs all other duties that may be imposed upon him by law and such as are customary to be performed by presiding officers.

The President is allowed a sum of money to defray his traveling expenses while traveling in the interests of the association and as determined by the board of directors.

Whenever the President is unable to serve or is absent, the board of directors can elect a Past President to be acting President until the President is capable of resuming his duties.

It is the duty of the President to make one official visit in each of the districts of the state and as many unofficial visits to the Lodges throughout the state as he may deem advisable and proper in the interests of the association. He designates one Lodge in each district for his official visit, usually the home Lodge of the Vice President of that district.

The following comments were part of the nominating speech made by Justice O’Connell in nominating George C. Nichols as President of the Florida State Elks Association in 1961:

First his devotion to the B.P.O. Elks must be complete; second he must have his actions evidence of a dissociating 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; 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. Last he should be one who through service in various capacities has complete understanding of workings and objectives of the local Lodge, the state association, and the Grand Lodge.

**Past State Presidents**

*Florida State Elks Association*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past President</th>
<th>Lodge</th>
<th>Convention City</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*M. B. MacFarlane</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
<td>Tampa</td>
<td>1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Herbert A. Ford</td>
<td>Ocala 286</td>
<td>Ocala</td>
<td>1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*A. M. Taylor</td>
<td>St. Augustine 829</td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*A. M. Taylor</td>
<td>St. Augustine 829</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>1907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*A. M. Taylor</td>
<td>St. Augustine 829</td>
<td>St. Augustine</td>
<td>1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*C. M. Broadwater</td>
<td>Orlando 1079</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>1909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>City 1</td>
<td>City 2</td>
<td>Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George A. McKinnon</td>
<td>Miami 948</td>
<td>Daytona Beach</td>
<td>1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. I. McKay</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
<td>Key West</td>
<td>1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. L. Bethel</td>
<td>Tallahassee 937</td>
<td>Tampa</td>
<td>1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. A. Mills</td>
<td>Miami 948</td>
<td>Tallahassee</td>
<td>1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howell A. Davis</td>
<td>Palatka 1232</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. H. Trump</td>
<td>Quincy 1111</td>
<td>Palatka</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Lake</td>
<td>Sanford 1241</td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. P. Maas</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>1917-1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy V. Sellers</td>
<td>St. Petersburg 1224</td>
<td>St. Petersburg</td>
<td>1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar M. Eaton</td>
<td>Lakeland 1291</td>
<td>Lakeland</td>
<td>1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. John Donohue</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
<td>West Palm Beach</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. C. Kirby</td>
<td>Jacksonville 221</td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Sholtz</td>
<td>Daytona Beach 1141</td>
<td>Daytona Beach</td>
<td>1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Sholtz</td>
<td>Daytona Beach 1141</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. M. Henderson</td>
<td>Lakeland 1291</td>
<td>Lakeland</td>
<td>1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. A. Bennett</td>
<td>West Palm Beach 1352</td>
<td>Fort Myers</td>
<td>1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John DuBose</td>
<td>Jacksonville 221</td>
<td>Daytona Beach</td>
<td>1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. F. McCready</td>
<td>Miami 948</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Colee</td>
<td>St. Augustine 829</td>
<td>Gainesville</td>
<td>1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Reed, Sr.</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
<td>Fort Lauderdale</td>
<td>1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Edwin Baker</td>
<td>West Palm Beach 1352</td>
<td>Clearwater</td>
<td>1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. F. Chapman</td>
<td>DeLand 1463</td>
<td>Fort Pierce</td>
<td>1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. E. Thompson</td>
<td>Lake City 893</td>
<td>Daytona Beach</td>
<td>1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caspian Hale</td>
<td>New Smyrna Beach 1557</td>
<td>Tallahassee</td>
<td>1934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. P. Moody</td>
<td>Miami 948</td>
<td>Ocala</td>
<td>1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. J. Fernandez</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
<td>Tampa</td>
<td>1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alto Adams</td>
<td>Fort Pierce 1520</td>
<td>West Palm Beach</td>
<td>1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Frank O'Brien</td>
<td>Jacksonville 221</td>
<td>Daytona Beach</td>
<td>1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsie J. Senerchia</td>
<td>Miami 948</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. T. Moore, Jr.</td>
<td>Tallahassee 937</td>
<td>St. Augustine</td>
<td>1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. B. Sparkman</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
<td>Tampa</td>
<td>1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. A. Wall</td>
<td>West Palm Beach 1352</td>
<td>Lake Worth</td>
<td>1942-1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. G. Campbell</td>
<td>Lake City 893</td>
<td>Lakeland</td>
<td>1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Frank Umstot</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
<td>Miami Beach</td>
<td>1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James A. Dunn</td>
<td>Miami 948</td>
<td>Miami Beach</td>
<td>1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cullen H. Talton</td>
<td>Daytona Beach 1141</td>
<td>Tampa</td>
<td>1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert L. Bohon</td>
<td>Jacksonville 221</td>
<td>Key West</td>
<td>1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. A. Rosin</td>
<td>Arcadia 1524</td>
<td>Pensacola</td>
<td>1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur C. O’Hea</td>
<td>Fort Lauderdale 1517</td>
<td>West Palm Beach</td>
<td>1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter J. Matherly</td>
<td>Gainesville 990</td>
<td>Daytona Beach</td>
<td>1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor O. Wehle</td>
<td>St. Petersburg 1224</td>
<td>St. Petersburg</td>
<td>1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor O. Wehle</td>
<td>St. Petersburg 1224</td>
<td>St. Augustine</td>
<td>1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Alex Arnette</td>
<td>West Palm Beach 1352</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank J. Holt</td>
<td>Miami 948</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Carver</td>
<td>Live Oak 1165</td>
<td>Fort Myers</td>
<td>1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Pierce Smith</td>
<td>Gainesville 990</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willis V. McCall</td>
<td>Eustis 1578</td>
<td>Lake Worth</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles L. Campbell</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
<td>Pensacola</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles H. Peckelis</td>
<td>Fort Pierce 1520</td>
<td>Hollywood</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George C. Nichols</td>
<td>Fort Lauderdale 1517</td>
<td>Fort Myers</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. C. Van Horn, Jr.</td>
<td>Panama City 1598</td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas E. Mallem</td>
<td>Jacksonville 221</td>
<td>Tampa</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell L. Saxon</td>
<td>New Smyrna Beach 1557</td>
<td>Miami Beach</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. S. “Sam” Compton</td>
<td>Fort Myers 1288</td>
<td>St. Augustine</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James W. Vann</td>
<td>Pahokee 1638</td>
<td>Clearwater</td>
<td>1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marvin L. Kimmel</td>
<td>Miami Beach 1601</td>
<td>Fort Lauderdale</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julian C. Smith</td>
<td>Tallahassee 937</td>
<td>Daytona Beach</td>
<td>1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. R. Lamar Johnston</td>
<td>Vero Beach 1774</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert B. Cameron</td>
<td>Holiday Isles 1912</td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Grafton</td>
<td>N. Palm Beach 2069</td>
<td>North Palm Beach</td>
<td>1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Clements</td>
<td>Lake City 893</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alvin A. Ehrlich</td>
<td>Orlando 1079</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman P. O’Brien</td>
<td>S. Miami 1888</td>
<td>St. Petersburg</td>
<td>1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Newt Jones</td>
<td>Cocoa 1532</td>
<td>Hollywood</td>
<td>1975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
President, National

The designation of Grand Exalted Ruler was changed to National President. In Elks circles, the chief Elk executive will still be known as Grand Exalted Ruler but the title of President will make it easier for the media and others to identify us.

Speaking before the Annual Florida State Elks Association session in 1997 to solicit support of the change, PGER George B. Klein told of the time that Peter Affatato was visiting the Air Force Academy Chapel. As they were approaching it there were two Air Force generals standing out in front waiting to escort Loren Greene and others through the chapel and Peter Affatato, not being bashful, went up to the generals and introduced himself as Peter Affatato from New York and said, “I’m the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks.”

One of the generals looked at him and said, “I know a lot about the Elks, what they do and all the good work they do, but what is the Grand Exalted Ruler’s job?”

So then he translated, “Well, I’m the acting National President.”

“And as the Grand Exalted Ruler goes around the country, he has a lot of interviews with the media,” said Klein, “and the first thing he does when he says he is Grand Exalted Ruler, the National President of the Elks, the media understands his position. The Grand Exalted Ruler doesn’t mean anything to them and we’re not asking for a title change of anyone but the Grand Exalted Ruler.” Grand Lodge passed the proposal in 1997.
Charlie Pride was born in Fairfield, CT in 1917. Raised as a teenager and young adult during the depression years, he learned well the value of hard and honest work as an economic necessity. He learned the value of frugality and discipline that are born of such necessity.

He was married to his high school sweetheart, Bern, in 1940. He enlisted in the army in 1942 and served in the Southwest Pacific as a member of the famed First Cavalry Division. His service through the campaigns from New Guinea to the Philippines was punctuated by many citations of honor, the Soldier’s Medal, the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in action, and the Bronze Star for valor. Pride later became an officer in the General Headquarters Unit of General Douglas MacArthur. He was honorably discharged from service in 1948 with the rank of Captain.

He was initiated into Elkdom in Milford, CT in 1947, but Charlie had felt the warm Florida sun which motivated him to move to the state in 1948. He demitted to Clearwater Lodge 1525, later known as Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525. He started his service to Elkdom as Esquire and subsequently filled all of the chairs. He became Exalted Ruler in 1952 and was voted honorary life member in July of 1954. Again, during a period of stress and need, his Lodge called upon him and he served a second term as Exalted Ruler for the Lodge year 1969-1970. During these two decades he served on numerous committees and served as chairman of many district committees.

In 1970 he was elected by this association as Vice President for the West Central District serving under Robert B. Cameron, then President.

In 1971, he was tapped for a most important post, that of State Chairman for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. He distinguished himself by leading Florida to a record of $360,000 in pledges to the hospital trust fund. He was honored by Grand Lodge in 1972 by being chosen as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the West Central District. Here again he made headlines in service to Elkdom. Then Grand Exalted Ruler Francis M. Smith issued a special citation to him for excellence in promoting the Grand Lodge program and in leading the West Central District in raising 100% of its quota for the great heart of Elkdom, the National Foundation.

Excerpts from Pride’s acceptance speech May 6-7, 1976 at Orlando Hyatt House in Kissimmee, FL

This being our bicentennial year, and perhaps the only one we will ever experience, I have selected as our motto for 1976-1977, ELKDOM - AMERICANA. Mr. Webster tells us in his dictionary that Americana means facts having to do with America, its people, and its history. Elkdom has played a very important role in the history of our beautiful country for well over half of America’s existence as a free nation. When I hear the ditties being sung on radio and TV about baseball, apple pie, hot dogs, and Chevrolets, I cannot help but pause and reflect that our great order of Elks has been around as long or longer than most of these things. In turning the pages back through the years and finding all of the patriotic deeds Elks have been involved in with our veterans’
programs, our many youth oriented and scholarship programs, and our own major project, the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital, it makes us want to stand up and be counted - to know we are Elkdom - Americana.

A few highlights of our program this year are membership and lapsation, a #1 priority; we are and have been in trouble in both of these areas. We desperately need younger members who have been properly indoctrinated to become dedicated leaders and officers imbued with the principles of our order who will strengthen our Lodges from within. Lapsation is the chink in the armor of all Elkdom. We must roll up our sleeves, take the bull by the horns and serve for a net gain in every Lodge in the state. We have again set our goal at a 5% increase in membership.

Our new hospital is no longer a misty dream, an unfulfilled promise but is even now rising to become a shiny brand new reality, the sweet fruit of our loving toil and labors . . . a living shrine dedicated to all Florida Elks who have proven by their actions that no man walks so tall as he who stoops to help a crippled child. Who and where in this whole universe could be a more dedicated band of men and their ladies who just a few years ago needed over two million dollars to build our hospital . . . and here today at this convention have achieved that goal?

**His Year**

Pride was nominated for State President by PSP David Luikhart. President C. Newt Jones made his annual report. The Officer Training program was started. Bylaws were amended concerning the duties of Vice President at Large and District Vice Presidents. There were 98 Lodges in the association. The Lodges raised $500,000 so that on March 8, work started on new construction for the hospital. This money was raised in only 2 1/2 years. Robert Fluck of Pensacola Lodge 497 was elected as the association’s first Vice President at Large. On April 17, 1977, Bodo Kirchhoff of Kissimmee Lodge 1873, developer and longtime Editor of the Florida Elks News, wrote to State President Pride suggesting an addition (part 2) be added to the current History of the Florida State Elks Association 1904-1961. This suggestion lay dormant until the spring of 1985. By October 18, 1990, with the assistance of PSP Alvin Ehrlich and State President David Luikart, Sr., official sanction was given to start the rewrite of the association history. In February of 1991 all materials from previous historians and the statewide program were obtained and an update of the history was started. Tallahassee Lodge 937 won the state ritual contest.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1976-1977 term:

**President**    Charles M. Pride  
**Vice President at Large**   Robert Fluck, Pensacola  
**Secretary**    Ben S. Brown, Jr., Eustis  
**Treasurer**    Frank J. Holt, Miami  
**Tiler**    Clyde Brown, Fort Lauderdale  
**Historian**    Wm. W. Spaulding, New Port Richey  
**Sergeant at Arms**    William Trowe, Largo  
**Chaplain**    David M. Luikart, Sr., New Port Richey  
**Organist**    Norman D. Right, DeLand  

**District Vice Presidents**

Northwest    Billy D. Maple, Milton  
Northeast    Donald L. Cameron, Jr., Palatka  
East Central    Harold R. Shelton, Merritt Island  
North Central    Richard M. Shashy, Ocala  
South Central    Richard A. Branham, Orlando
Miami Beach was selected as the site for the 1977 convention.
Charles Pride passed away on March 18, 2007. Memorial services were held on March 22, 2007 at the Serenity Gardens Memorial Park in Largo, FL followed by Elks memorial services at Dunedin/Clearwater Elks Lodge 1525. PSP Frank Palladini gave his eulogy.

Principles of Elkdom

GER Henry O’Neil is credited with the application of the principles of Elkdom, charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity, but he also originated the ritual of the annual Lodge of Sorrow, Decoration Day service, and the amaranth and ivy as the Elks funeral emblem.

(See also O’Neil, Henry)

Profit Mailings

The Elks won a victory in 1999, including a refund on mailing costs, as the Postal Rate Commission reversed rules that unfairly penalized nonprofit mailings. Through a quirk in the writing of the new rate increases in January of 1999, publications by nonprofit organizations wound up paying more for postage than commercial magazines such as People and Playboy. For most basic nonprofit mail, rates increased by 22 percent while the rates for equivalent commercial mail decreased by 8 percent. Phil Claiborne, Circulation Director of The Elks Magazine who alerted members of Congress who have oversight responsibility for the U.S. Postal Service, discovered the discrepancy.

As a result, the commission issued an opinion that effectively allowed members nonprofit mailers to migrate back and forth between nonprofit and commercial rates, depending on which is cheaper for them. The fix meant about $30,000 in savings for the Elks. The Board of Governors on the Postal Service ratified the opinion and made it retroactive. After hearing from members of Congress, the board set up procedures for securing refunds back to January 10, 1999. This gave The Elks Magazine another $4,500. The ruling was a mixed victory since another rate increase was expected to be filed soon after the decision.

Prominent Elks

Lawrence Welk  Will Rogers  Jack Benny
Gov. Big Jim Folsom  Gov. Charles Henderson  Gov. John Patterson
Chief Justice Bo Tolbert  Mayor Richard Daley  Everett Dickson
Vince Lombardi  Ralph “Shug” Jordan  Barry Goldwater
Pres. Harry S. Truman  Pres. John F. Kennedy  Bobby Jones (Golfer) Atlanta, GA #78
Clint Eastwood  Gene Autry  Arnold Palmer, Latrobe, PA #907
Wyatt Earp  Pres. Ford  Al Jolson
Knute Rockne  Eddie Cantor  Yogi Berra
Charles Pabst  Whitey Ford  Charles M. Russell
Casey Stengel  Chester Gould  Eddie Rickenbacker
Dr. Charles Mayo  Barney Olfield  George M. Cohen
Houdini (Aaron Weiss)  Buster Keaton  John Phillips Sousa
Chief Justice Earl Warren  Larry Byrd  Charles Atlas

45 other Senators and 186 Congressmen and 30 other Governors
Promise Grants ENF Community Investments Program

Promise grants offer Lodges up to $400 in reimbursement to host an event that builds the character and competence of local youth by addressing one or more of five promises to youth:

- **Caring Adults**: Ongoing relationships with caring adults offer youth support, care, and guidance.
- **Safe Places**: Safe places with structured activities during non-school hours provide both physical and emotional safety.
- **A Healthy Start**: Adequate nutrition, exercise, and health care pave the way for healthy bodies, healthy minds, and smart habits for adulthood.
- **Marketable Skills**: Effective education can help youth successfully navigate the transition from school to work.
- **Opportunities to Serve**: Opportunities to give back through community service enhance self-esteem, boost confidence, and heighten a sense of responsibility to the community.

A Promise Grant is:

- A reimbursement grant of up to $400
- Available starting July 1, 2009 to the first 300 Lodges that pledge to host an event
- Intended to encourage and support Lodges working to build the character and competence of local youth

**Things to know about the Promise Grants:**

1. Grant monies are only available to the first 300 Lodges that pledge to host an event before March 31.
2. Take the first step by downloading a Pledge form:
   - Promise Grant Pledge Form (Adobe PDF Format)
   - Or contact us at ENF Programs Department.
3. Grants are available for use between July 1 and July 31.
4. Upon receipt and approval of the pledge form, the ENF will send a Final Report and Expense Form to the Lodge Secretary.
5. To receive reimbursement, the Final Report Form must be completed, signed by the Lodge Secretary and Exalted Ruler, and submitted, along with copies of grant-related receipts*, to the ENF by August 31. (*Please be sure to keep grant-related receipts, as they are required for reimbursement).
6. Upon receipt of the Final Report Form, ENF will issue a reimbursement check to your Lodge.

**Examples of Promise Grant uses (list is not inclusive):**

- Hold an educational youth seminar to build marketable skills.
- Participate in a youth outreach or mentoring program.
- Sponsor a Red Ribbon week celebration.
- Host a career fair at your Lodge.
- Sponsor an outdoor event or host a mini-marathon to get kids active as a part of a healthy lifestyle.
- Buy books for a literacy program.
- Host an awards night to draw attention to the academic and community achievements of youth.
- Evaluate the unmet needs of youth in your community and host an event that meets those needs.

Hurry. Promise Grants are only available to the first 250 Lodges that pledge! If your Lodge is interested in participating in the program, complete and submit the grant application form to the ENF Programs Department for approval.

For more program details contact the ENF Programs Department.

**Please note:**

✔ Lodges are eligible to apply for one GG and one PG per year, and for eligible Lodges, both grants can be combined. Partnerships with community organizations are encouraged.
In the event that a Lodge decides not to host its pledged event, the ENF Programs Department must be notified immediately so that the grant can be offered to another Lodge. Failure to notify the ENF may affect your Lodge’s participation in future grants.

Submit the form below to subscribe to PULSE, the email newsletter of the Elks National Foundation.

Name: 
Email Address: 
Lodge Number: 
Membership Number: Optional 
Birthday: Optional 
Lodge Activities: Optional

Subscribe

Publications (Elks)

The first Elk publication in the United States was published in the spring of 1884 under the banner called “The Elk.” It ran for a short while. The first owner sold the publication to a brother Elk in Springfield, MA where it finally ceased to exist due to a lack of interest on the readership’s part.

Publications Committee, Florida Elks News

The Florida Elks News was instituted in 1944.

Editors of the Florida Elks News:

1945-1946  Henry Claywell, Tampa 708
1946-1957  PDD James P. Wendler, Miami Beach 1601
1957-1958  William Lieberman, State Secretary, Leesburg 1703
1958-1959  PSP James Fernandez, Tampa 708
1959-1960  PSP George Carver, Live Oak 1165
1960-1981  PDD Bodo Kirchhoff, Kissimmee 1873 - awarded Editor Emeritus for long service
1982-1986  PDD Jack Shore, Arcadia 1524
1986-1997  Harold Darmer, Lake Placid 2661
1997-       Raleigh Whiteman, Lake Placid 2661

After Harold Darmer died, Raleigh Whiteman of Lake Placid 2661 was appointed as Editor.

In 1944, PDD James A. Dunn of Miami Lodge 948, who later became State President for 1946-1947, was at that time a member of a special Executive Committee that recommended the publication of a magazine that was readily approved.

On September 8, 1945 at the Executive Meeting in DeLand in discussion with State President J. Frank Umstot of Tampa Lodge 708, it was agreed and money was appropriated for the State President to publish five issues of the paper serving as an organ of the Florida State Elks Association. Quoting State President Umstot, “some of us believe that there should be some medium whereby the Lodges of this state could give expression to their
activities whereby sister Lodges could know what other Lodges are doing.” Thus, the Florida Elks News became a reality, and it can be justly said that the fathers of the Florida Elks News were State Presidents James A. Dunn and J. Frank Umstot.

In June of 1946 at the state convention, State President Umstot stated that five issues of the Florida Elks News had been published. He further stated that his “ardent hope was that future officers would feel justified in the continuation of the Florida Elks News or some similar paper. Reports do indicate that the Lodges wish the publication of the paper to continue.”

State President Umstot had selected as the first Editor of these five issues a member of Tampa 708, Henry Claywell, who volunteered his time and services without compensation. Claywell was born in Worthington, IN on February 9, 1903 and ultimately became a member of Tampa Lodge on June 21, 1944. Claywell went on to serve his Lodge as Exalted Ruler in 1948-1949 and was granted life membership on August 28, 1974. He was employed as Treasurer/Manager of the Hillsborough County Teachers Credit Union. Claywell died October 23, 1986.

State Treasurer reports stated that the expenses for the first five issues were rather minimal:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 19, 1945</td>
<td>$68.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 21, 1946</td>
<td>$73.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30, 1946</td>
<td>$92.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14, 1946</td>
<td>$42.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$275.92</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These first five issues of the Florida Elks News are missing and extensive search has failed to turn up any copies.

For some time, the Florida Elks News was sent only to officers. It was printed and distributed from the association office. In January of 1989 during the chairmanship of PSP Carl Vaughn, Lowell Tyler, reporter for the Southeast District and later State Historian and member of the Publications Committee, suggested the merits of mailing the newspaper to every member with the cost to be included in his or her dues. This would enable better communications with all of the members of the Florida State Elks Association acquainting all Elks of Florida with what the Elks do and hopefully motivate some to become active in their respective Lodges and the state association. Vaughn likewise felt it could not help but benefit Florida Elkdom far more than the cost and it was subsequently adopted and included in the budget.

Each of the fourteen state districts has a correspondent who furnishes news from their respective districts. This assures equal coverage in the Florida Elks News for the entire state association.

Over the years the Florida Elks News has changed its format and size at least five times.

Format and size of the first five issues is unknown. Later formats were as follows:

- 1954 12” x 17”
- 1958 9 1/2” x 12”
- 1962 8 1/2” x 11”
- 1989 11 1/2” x 17”
- 1992 11 ½” x 12” and folded to mail

Florida Elks News has won numerous Grand Lodge Newsletter Contests. These are judged on contents, layout and typography, pictorial usage, ratio ads to news, geographical locale, area economics, and overall population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Start-up year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946-1960</td>
<td>Period of development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959-1960</td>
<td>Florida Elks News won second place in Grand Lodge State Bulletin Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962-1963</td>
<td>Florida Elks News won first place in Grand Lodge State Bulletin Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-1966</td>
<td>Florida Elks News won first place in Grand Lodge State Bulletin Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-1967</td>
<td>Florida Elks News won second place in Grand Lodge State Bulletin Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968-1969</td>
<td>Florida Elks News won first place in Grand Lodge State Bulletin Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-1972</td>
<td>Florida Elks News won second place in Grand Lodge State Bulletin Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-1973</td>
<td>Florida Elks News won third place in Grand Lodge State Bulletin Contest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1990-1991  Florida Elks News won first place in Grand Lodge State Bulletin Contest
1992-1993  Florida Elks News won first place in Grand Lodge State Bulletin Contest
2005-2006  Florida Elks News won the Five Star Award in the State Bulletin Contest

The Publications Committee has the responsibility of bringing news, facts, and what’s happening in Florida Elkdom to each member in the Florida State Elks Association. The budget of producing the Florida Elk News is approved by the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors and is paid by that corporation (the Hospital corporation and Charities corporation) budget for the year. Publications Committee Chairman, David Vergason, PSP, passed away in 2007.

Guidelines for Florida Elks News Articles

1. COPY:
Type all copy double spaced on letter size 8½ x 11 white papers.

Do not submit newspaper articles or other published material unless you have obtained permission to reprint the story. Most publications copyright their issues and the Elks News cannot reproduce material without their consent. Most publishers will let you reprint articles if the item is attributed with a proper credit line.

2. PHOTOS:
Please submit good quality black and white or color photos of human interest whenever you can. Modern technology has made it possible to use some color photos for black and white reproduction if there isn’t too much red or orange tones in the faces of subjects. If you have only color photos, send them along with your story and we’ll see if they are suitable. Photos cannot be returned.

Please do not submit printed photos from newspapers or magazines to reproduce as they are not suitable for publication.

All persons should be identified from left to right as you view the photo. Double check the spelling of each name and office held. Attach a piece of cardboard and do not attach paper clips which may scratch the photo.

3. SCOPE:
The role of the district correspondent will be a dual job. They will be a reporter collecting items of statewide interest from Lodge bulletins in their district as well as authoring articles which will keep the more than 60,000 members of Florida informed about a variety of activities and programs.

Suggested Material

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charitable Activities</th>
<th>Civic involvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major project fundraising</td>
<td>State President visitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth programs</td>
<td>Drug Awareness projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans’ services</td>
<td>District Hoop Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship winners</td>
<td>Dedication of new Lodge homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage burnings</td>
<td>Institution of new Lodges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flag Day ceremonies</td>
<td>Christmas programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elks Memorial Sunday</td>
<td>National Youth Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies of the Elks activities</td>
<td>Personality profiles of prominent Elks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anything that you think is worthy of statewide distribution.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments and suggestions are encouraged. This is a team effort and the concept of District Correspondents was established in order to obtain fair and equal editorial coverage of all areas of the state of Florida. With help this objective will be accomplished.
The following suggestions are given to help the reporters and chairmen in submitting their news and assuring that excessive editing of the articles is not required.

The editor is not responsible for writing or composing the content of district news.

The District Reporter should prepare copy suitable for retyping into a word processor. Do not submit clippings from newsletters or newspapers; you write the article.

The district news should encompass all of the Lodges from the district whenever possible. The report should be typed and double spaced, but the total length of the article should not average more than 800-850 words per district.

Do not use all capital letters and double check for spelling of any names. How you capitalize and punctuate will be copied.

Do not submit newspaper photographs; they are not suitable for reproduction. Only good black and white glossy or color photos should be submitted. Attach a Post-it or Scotch taped note to each photo with names listed from left to right as you view the photo. Write on the photo at the very bottom on the back the name of the Lodge or contact person.

Try to avoid the “Mobile Home Park” type of news. Report the important things the Lodges are doing in the many programs Elkdom encompasses.

Publicity and Public Relations Committee

The Publicity and Public Relations Committee promotes intelligent publicity of the Lodge activities. The committee shall assist the editor of the Florida Elk News in gathering material for said publication. Its further duty is to contact all agencies dealing with child welfare for the purpose of informing them of the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and Elks Youth Camp conducted by the Elks of Florida with a view of having more children benefit from the services offered.

District Chairmen need to contact Lodge Chairmen, introduce themselves, and congratulate them on their appointment and outline the state program. Lodge Chairmen need to be encouraged to write to District Chairmen on any suggestions they may have.

The committee should conduct a Lodge Bulletin Contest and a Lodge Publicity and Public Relations Scrapbook Contest and submit them to the state and Grand Lodge to be judged. Plaques are awarded for the best Lodge bulletin in each membership division. Plaques for the Lodge Scrapbook Contest are awarded to the first, second, and third place winners.

The committee disseminates news in connection with any and all state committees and should act as a support agency for all committees.

The committee should place special emphasis on news dealing with the Florida Elks projects and its related programs.

Tools for Public Relations

The need to tell Americans about Elkdom is one of the most important tasks facing our organization. Every member needs to join in this effort. We are not all public relations experts. However, there are many tools available to all of us through the Grand Lodge which can help with our effort.

 Media Relations Handbook: The handbook details how to prepare a news story and contains sample press releases. This manual is in the possession of every Lodge Secretary and additional copies can be ordered through the Grand Lodge.

“Elks Care - Elks Share” Billboards and Vinyl Banners: These are a great way to publicize your message of “Elks Care - Elks Share” to the community. The roadside billboard material is available for $60. Vinyl banners can be used on parade floats and any other public event in which the Elks participate.
Public Service Announcement Audio Tapes: These are professionally produced 30-second radio spots about veterans’ services, reinstatement, drug awareness, scholarships, and the Hoop Shoots. These five spots are available on one cassette tape for $5 plus $1.50 shipping/handling.

Seven Easy Steps to Planning a Special Event, Elks Making a Difference through Publicity, and ABCs of Publicity: These are available through the Media Relations Handbook and Internet site.

Sample Press Releases

Grand Exalted Ruler Press Kits: These press kits are sent to area public relations people selected by the Area Sponsor prior to the GER visit.

Lodge Anniversary Kits: These kits are automatically sent to Lodges approaching their 100th anniversary. The kit contains “Making a Difference through Publicity,” “Seven Easy Steps to Planning and Staging a Special Event,” and a sample Lodge anniversary celebration news release.

Publishing an Anniversary Tabloid: This is a guideline for an anniversary tabloid.

What You Should Know: This is a great little brochure that every member should have in their possession. It explains to our members, prospective members, and to the general public the good that Elks do through charities. Brochures are available in packs of 100 for $16.50 per package.

Internet Web Site: www.elks.org

The following is a comment by Tom Ryan, PSP from Winter 2001 relative to Public Relations:

Public opinion has become a media circus when both static and motion media create rather than report controversial subjects. Today’s political parties and other institutions must create the best possible image through public relations. Every Elk has that as a challenge for the 21st century. Each Elk must become a specialist, as everything Elks do or what Elkdom stands for is public relations. The more external events that our Lodges host, the more visibility our order receives. We live in a negative world, so our attention must be focused on image enhancement by developing a positive attitude about society’s perception of Elkdom. Elks must implore sensitivity in dealing with hostile critics and adverse public opinions . . . . We must develop and support the concept of speaking with one voice and moving in one direction.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606
Date of Dispensation: January 11, 1980
Date of Installation: March 30, 1980
Charter Exalted Ruler: Donald F. Roll
3rd New Lodge in the Southwest District
Charter Members: 738
   New Elks: 490
   Transfer Demits: 248
Year 1995 Membership: 1,952
Year 1996 Membership: 1,979
Year 1997 Membership: 1,982
Year 1998 Membership: 1,951
Year 2001 Membership: 2,116
Year 2004 Membership: 2,826
Year 2005 Membership: 3,043
Year 2006 Membership: 3,319
Year 2007 Membership: 3,658
Year 2008 Membership: 3,663
Year 2009 Membership: 3,645
Property Purchased: March 1, 1980
Ladies Organization: Elkettes
Telephone: 941-639-8180
Lounge: 941-637-2606
Meets: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Location: 25538 Shore Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 511598, FL 33951-1598

The Lodge building, Eagles Nest, situated on the Peace River, is famous as a hunting and fishing Lodge for many years and is of historical value. There are also efficiency apartments.

The Peace River runs through Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, and Polk Counties. It is a river of two names: Peace and Peas. Old maps and accounts called the river R de la Paz, SUR EL RIO DE LA PAZ, and F. PACIS. The oldest name that is known therefore was Peace, but the Seminoles called the stream Peas from cowpeas or black-eyed peas which grew in wild profusion along the river. On the Taylor Military Map of 1839, the stream was shown as Talakchopko or Peace Cr. The Summerlin family, whose cattle in this area numbered in the thousands in the years between the Civil War and the Spanish American War, knew the river as Peas. Modern usage, however, has been Peace.

Early in 1883, Isaac H. Trabue, a middle aged attorney from Louisville, KY, purchased a 30-acre tract on the south side of Charlotte Harbor. “Now as for naming the place,” Trabue wrote, “if we want to bring the place into notice, we must give it a name that will give it notority (sic). I know of no name that will advertise it better than ours - will therefore name it Trabue.”

However, soon a squabble developed which resulted in the town’s incorporation under the name Punta Gorda, explained by an anti-Trabue leader as having been “chosen almost unanimously because it was the original historical and geographical Spanish name.” Trabue claimed that leader was the person who had counted the votes. He thereafter referred to the town he had birthed as Trabue, alias Punta Gorda. The Spanish had applied the name Punta Gordo, “wide point or EAT point,” to an arm of land jutting into Charlotte Bay near the present city. It is now the county seat and the only incorporated community.

Institution festivities began on Saturday evening on March 29 at the Holiday Inn and Howard Johnson Motels in Punta Gorda with several hospitality rooms. Sunday morning featured a coffee and danish breakfast. A Saturday evening banquet on March 29 was scheduled at the Civic Auditorium near the two motels. There was entertainment and dancing following the banquet. Institution of the Lodge began at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday immediately followed by initiation ceremonies for the new members conducted by officers of Charlotte County Lodge 2606.
Officiating officers at installation:

Bill Wall, PGER
Aubrey Callaham, PSP
Ed Royal, PSP
Dick Robinson, PSP
Carl Vaughn, Secretary to GER

Charter officers:

Exalted Ruler    Donald F. Roll
Leading Knight   Nick Balacky
Loyal Knight     H. Gordon Keller
Lecturing Knight Harry G. Custer
Secretary        James Christman
Treasurer        John Schibler
Tiler            Lindsay Harrington
Esquire          Tony Maresca
Chaplain         Donald Abbot
Inner Guard      Elmer George
Organist         5 year, Charles Borgstrom
                 4 year, Willard Biehl
                 3 year, Ken Haymans
                 2 year, Jim Morello
                 1 year, M. Robert Miller

Installing Officers:

Exalted Ruler    William Stone, DDGER
Leading Knight   Earl Enos, PDD
Loyal Knight     Nick Pouola, PDD
Lecturing Knight Charles Bethel, PDD
Inner Guard      Robert Allen, PDD
Tiler            James Sheffield, PDD
Secretary        C. Bruce Jones, PDD
Treasurer        Edgar C. Falk, PDD
Chaplain         Charles Legg, PDD
Trustees         Frank Spadafora, PDD
                 Arthur Ballentine, PDD
                 William Wolf, PDD
                 Bedford Prescott, PDD
                 Kenneth McStravic, PDD

Initiation of charter members performed by Charlotte Country Lodge 2153:

Exalted Ruler    Thomas Hennely
Leading Knight   Robert Reinhard
Loyal Knight     Mike Amico
Lecturing Knight Earl Martell
Secretary        Edgar Falk
Treasurer        William Glasgow
Tiler            Charles Stafford
Esquire          Ward Hill
Chaplain         Robert McCloud
Inner Guard      Charles Peculis
The Punta Gorda Annual Americanism Parade Marking the Beginning of the National Patriotism Week in February

They have sponsored an annual countywide Americanism Parade every year since 1983. Les “Woody” Wooding was one of the original organizers of the Elks Americanism Parade. He said it had grown tremendously over the years.

After the parade, hundreds of people gather at the Punta Gorda Elks Lodge for an afternoon of patriotic celebrations, food, and entertainment.

Many local dignitaries such as the Mayor, Vice Mayor, County Commissioners, and City Manager participate in the celebration.

The parade has honored such people as Gary L. Littrell who earned the Congressional Medal of Honor. As many as 100 units participate in the giant parade that steps off at the Charlotte High School and disbands at the Charlotte County Memorial Auditorium.

Those along the parade route see firsthand persons like Ken Groh, member of the Sons of American Revolution, who portrays the likeness of George Washington; Lucy Kenyon as Abe Lincoln; and Jerry Williams as Uncle Sam.

Eagles Nest a Favorite Lodge of Prominent Sportsmen

By Lindsey Williams

It is somewhat confusing to adjust one’s comprehension of an Eagles Nest being home of the Elks, but such is the case regarding the historic waterfront Lodge at Solana.

Solana, a “suburb” of Punta Gorda, was settled in 1873 by a snowbird named Frederick W. Howard of Kinderhook, NY. Census and tax records disclose that he and his wife homesteaded 132 acres and built a five-room cabin on the property.

The Howards came to Florida only in the winter. Arrival of the Florida Southern Railway in 1886 increased the value of their property tenfold. They hired Kelly B. Harvey to survey their land and lay out the town lots. The name chosen for the development was a combination of Sol (the sun) and Anna (Howard’s wife).

The Solana plat was filed at Arcadia in November of 1889 and the first lots sold a year later. Encouraged by brisk sales, the Howards moved here permanently in 1890 and built a large two-story frame house still occupied at the corner of Howard Street and Shore Drive.

Among early purchasers of Howard’s lots was C. M. Carrier of then DeSoto County. In 1919, he bought all of Block 1 which includes the present Lodge building of the Punta Gorda Fraternal Order of Elks. The property was appraised at $50 and a 60-cent tax levied on it.

The following year, Carrier built a small frame house on the site which increased the value to $550. This turned out to be a profitable investment because in 1920 Carrier sold lots 4 and 5 of his block, including the waterfront, to John Morrison of New York State for $1,200.

Morrison also was a winter visitor who came here for the hunting and fishing. He either enlarged the Carrier cottage or replaced it entirely with the sprawling Elks building in 1921. Morrison named his home Eagles Nest because a pair of these stately birds had a nest in a nearby pine tree.

Mr. & Mrs. Morrison were a wealthy couple who traveled extensively and had prominent friends who sometimes visited them here, Mrs. Thomas A. Edison, for example. They filled their home with exotic hand carved furniture from around the world, including a fireplace mantle, matching chests, and large slave fans imported from the Orient.

During the summer, when Eagles Nest was closed, local men were hired to maintain the grounds which included imported shrubbery. The last caretaker was Ulysses S. Whitaker, grandfather of Historian, U. S. Cleveland, well known to this column.

Morrison’s brother, Ed, bought a winter home, now known as the Dotzler property, at Charlotte Harbor Town.

James Morrison also speculated in Solana and Punta Gorda property during the Florida Land Boom of the 1920s. He appears to have done well despite the Great Depression. He sold Eagles Nest in May of 1937 for a sum disguised by the legal term of “one dollar and other valuable considerations.”

It is probable that Morrison had grown lonely after the death of his wife. The deed of transfer notes him as “a single man of Charlotte County.” There is no further record of Morrison here. It is assumed he moved out of the area, perhaps back to New York State to be with family.
New owners of Eagles Nest were Mr. & Mrs. James E. Kelly of Dayton, Ohio. He was a golf professional and proprietor of a sporting goods store. In 1935 Kelly developed a heart condition. The doctor advised him to spend the winter in a warmer climate.

Kelly drove his family to Florida with no destination in mind. Accompanying him was his wife, Jeannette, and their two little children. Young James was just three. His sister, Sheila, was a babe in arms. After a weary day of driving, the family reached the village of Punta Gorda.

“I went into Seminole Pharmacy to inquire about food and lodging,” Kelly recounted in later years. “The owner, Wallace Mobley, recommended the Princess Hotel across the street. I then asked him where I could go for good hunting and fishing.”

Mobley replied, “Look no farther. You’re in the heart of the best hunting and fishing in all Florida. I’ll show you tomorrow.”

“The next day he and his brother, Hugh, the pharmacist, put a sign in the store’s door, ‘Gone Fishing.’ We spent the day hauling in fish from the bay. The day after that, Wallace’s grandson, Jimmy Mobley, and Pauley Rasch took me hunting. I stayed two months.”

“The following winter, I took the family to join Dayton friends at the old hotel in El Jobean. Jeannette liked to fish and hunt also. By this time I knew all the good hunting and fishing spots and spent most of my times guiding friends. I figured I might as well get in the resort business myself, so I sold the store in Dayton and moved to Punta Gorda.”

“Lou Calder, president of the Union Bag and Paper Co., had built the beautiful Allapatchee Lodge on Alligator Creek where he entertained important customers and his friends. I heard he wanted to lease it. We agreed on terms, and the Kellys moved to Punta Gorda. My wife and I operated the lodge for four years. ‘When I heard John Morrison’s Eagles Nest was for sale, Jeannette and I got enough money together for a down payment. Then we added five cabins for guests and kennels for hunting dogs. We turned the place into a busy hunting and fishing lodge.’ Father Jim placed ownership of the Eagles Nest in Jeannette’s name, and the whole family pitched in to make the lodge one of the most popular in the area.

Young Jim grew up at Eagles Nest and naturally took to the outdoors. As an adult, he started a camp for boys and became a rifle instructor in the Army. He remembers with enthusiasm his early years at Solana.

Story of the Eagles Nest, Home of the Punta Gorda Lodge
As related by Jim Kelly

The property has been known as Eagles Nest for over half a century. When Mr. & Mrs. Morrison, a very wealthy couple who traveled all over the world, owned it, the property was even then known as Eagles Nest. Plantings still on the property as well as old oriental slave fans, antique mantle, antique chests, etc. are reminders of the Morrisons’ worldwide travels. It was originally known as Eagles Nest by the entire area because there was a beautiful eagle’s nest actually on the property. In later years a hurricane blew the old pine tree down that harbored the nest.

When the Kelly family purchased the property from the Morrisons about fifty years ago, they decided to keep the very appropriate name, Eagles Nest, for their resort operation. They also successfully maintained the natural charm and atmosphere of the property in their resort operation. Guests were made to feel right at home. When many left they said that they felt like they were all part of the family.

Many important businessmen, sports figures, and military leaders had enjoyable vacations at Eagles Nest. The Calder brothers, Bob and Lou, were guests. Lou Calder, of Union Bag and Paper, which later merged with Kamp to make Union Kamp Paper, enjoyed stays at the Nest. Brother Bob spent about ten weeks each winter during the last years of his life at the Eagles Nest with his wife. Son, Bob Calder, Jr., of Campbell Soups, joined his family at the Eagles Nest.

Frank G. Burke, Jr., of Sweetheart Soap, which later sold to Purex, spent four months at the Nest each winter. He loved the area so much and the good times he had enjoyed hunting around Punta Gorda and the fishing down at Boca Grande Pass that he requested upon his death he is cremated and his ashes placed in Boca Grande Pass. Upon his death, his wife and favorite fishing guide followed his wishes.

Mike Holmes, a successful businessman from Rye, NY, requested upon his death his ashes be placed in the Peace River from the Eagles Nest dock. He was cremated and his wishes carried out by his widow, his sister, and his brother-in-law. Mike vacationed at the Eagles Nest for thirty-two winter seasons.

Vern Den Herter, pro end with the Miami Dolphins, enjoyed quail shooting as a guest of the Nest. Golf’s Sam Snead and Dr. Carey Middlecoff (pro golfer and TV personality covering many of the country’s leading tournaments) enjoyed hunting trips from the Eagles Nest. Baseball’s Freddie Hutchinson, manager of the Cincinnati
Reds; Jimmy Bragga, coach for the Reds; and Dave Bristol, one of baseball's youngest big league managers, all enjoyed vacations here.

Generals Omar Bradley, Bedel Smith, and Cornelius Wickersham all enjoyed stays at the Eagles Nest. General Bradley was a great man and a sincere gentleman. General Smith, in addition to his military career, was also United States Ambassador to Russia. General Wickersham brings back many wonderful and fond memories of great days spent hunting and fishing with this truly great and modest man. General Wickersham was General Eisenhower's legal advisor in the occupation of Europe and a senior partner in one of New York City's largest law firms.

Admiral Eddie McDonnell and his brother, General McDonnell, were both fine men and good sportsmen. After a couple of highballs in the bar, all you had to do was ask them, “How did the Army-Navy football game come out this year?” Then sit back and enjoy the fireworks! Admiral Eddie McDonnell held the Congressional Medal of Honor, our country's highest military honor. Unfortunately, Admiral Eddie McDonnell was killed in a plane crash en route to an Eagles Nest vacation.

Mr. Kelly grew up in the resort business and was guiding parties at the ripe old age of twelve. He was at the Eagles Nest for forty years of his life. When people asked him about the great and important people he had the privilege to know over those years, he would certainly be amiss if he didn't say the three greatest people he ever met at the Eagles Nest was his mother and father, Jeannette and Jim Kelly, and his wife, Shirley. It was the combined effort of all that got the job done.

Elks Make their Home in Eagles Nest

(Another story published in the local news by Ann Henderson, 1999)

Nestled among towering trees along the Peace River in Solana is the Punta Gorda Elks Lodge 2606. The waterfront Lodge was built in 1921 as the winter home of wealthy northerner, John Morrison, and his family. Morrison bought the property in an area known for its abundant fishing and hunting for $1,200. He named the property Eagles Nest because a pair of eagles claimed one of the trees before his arrival. The tree is gone and so are the birds. When the tree was felled by a hurricane the eagles found a new nesting site.

In 1934 Jim and Jeanette Kelly purchased the property for an undisclosed amount of money. The Kellys kept the name and added five small cabins for guests and accommodations for their hunting dogs. Soon Eagles Nest became a popular fishing and hunting lodge. Some of the famous winter visitors were Gen. Omar Bradley; golfer, Sam Snead; and numerous businessmen such as Lou Calder of Union Bag and Paper, Frank Burke, Jr. of Sweetheart Soap, and Bob Clader, Jr. of Campbell Soups.

The property where the Punta Gorda Elks Lodge 2606 is was originally claimed by the Seminole and Calusa Indian tribes because of the plentiful fishing and hunting. Civilization came to the little community of Solana just outside of Punta Gorda with the arrival of the Florida Southern Railroad in 1886, and shortly thereafter in the early 1900s, much of the wild game disappeared after a large phosphate spill from a mine up the Peace River.

Purchased from the Kellys in 1980 for $500,000, the Elks began the work of cleaning up and restoring the old lodge which had been vacant for a number of years and had fallen into a sad state of disrepair. However, one remnant of the elegant history of the home remains, the fireplace mantle. The Morrisons traveled all over the world and brought trinkets and furniture back with them to their home by the river. The ornate carved mantle shows an Oriental influence; however, the records of its origin are unavailable.

Martin Jordan, Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge 2606, points with pride to the 100-foot dock that was rebuilt plank by plank by members in 1993. The Lodge now boasts 2,100 members of which many are women. Earlier this month, when Hurricane Floyd chased more than a million residents from their homes in Florida’s East Coast homes, the Lodge played host to refugees who were looking for a place to stay.

It’s fitting that the Elks would help those in distress. After all, that is a part of the creed of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. It’s also fitting that the Punta Gorda Elks Lodge 2606, a part of the historical order of the Elks founded in New York City in 1868, be housed in a historic fishing and hunting lodge.

-----------------------

The Punta Gorda Elks purchased the Eagles Nest on April 1, 1980. Their mortgage was burned in December of 1990.

A buffet of drawers left by the Morrisons was donated by the Elks to the equally historic Freeman Home at Punta Gorda, open to the public.
The eagle’s nest is gone. The old, bare tree harbor- ing the eagles blew down years ago. The eagles set up housekeeping elsewhere. Yet their presence, and 120 years of memories of the Howards, Carriers, Morrisons, and Kellys lives on with the Elks.

20th Anniversary Celebration - March 2000

In March of 2000 they were able to celebrate a weeklong series of events marking twenty years of existence in which the Lodge has proven very successful. Activities included:

Sunday, March 26:
The Annual Steak Roast with extended hours
This event was open to the public

Monday, March 27:
Chicken Night - Open to public with extended hours

Tuesday, March 28:
Old Fogies Night recognized all the people who were there at the beginning of the Lodge. Current members of the Lodge and Elkettes who were there for the past twenty years were invited. Others from surrounding Lodges who were worthy of recognition were invited, members who gave them their original antlers, Bible, etc. and the American Legion which had allowed the use of their building for their first meetings. Local media and notables were invited as well.

Wednesday, March 29:
Rather like a reenactment of a wedding, they held a reinstatement of the Lodge just as it was originally instituted. This brief ceremony allowed those who had never seen an institution to see how it is done. This was followed by the installation of the Lodge officers for the coming year. Following these events at the front porch the new officers and their invited guests held an inauguration/installation dinner in the dining room.

Thursday, March 30:
Elkettes had their Lodge birthday dance in the dining room. This was the actual Lodge birthday.

Friday, March 31:
The first Great SW Florida invitational No-Run Marathon was held in front of the Lodge home with the tiki bar open. Entry fees were $30 with the difference going to C.A.R.E. Entrants received a F.G.SW.F.N.R.M. T-shirt as well as free draft beer, munchies, and hot dogs for the duration of the event which also had music. Entrants were assigned a number to pin on to prevent cheating by any “closet runners” and anyone caught running for any reason was immediately disqualified. Rules at the event kept in mind that couch potatoes, the handicapped, the elderly, and the out-of-shape had a distinct advantage in the event.

Saturday, April 1:
Lodge members and family were invited to a picnic to conclude their week’s festivities. The picnic was catered so that volunteers who always find themselves working would be able to relax and enjoy themselves as well.

In their operation, a corporation supervises and conducts the operation, management, and control of the club subject to control and direction of the Lodge. Any control and direction is deliberately and consciously indirect to prevent the business of the Lodge from becoming business. Beyond taking real or perceived grievances to a board member or board meeting, the only club matter which may be appealed to the Lodge would be a suspension of club privileges.

In September of 2002 the Lodge announced that after some time without a dock that had been wiped out in a storm, a special meeting had been convened at which time members had voted virtually unanimously to provide up to $60,000 from the restricted building fund for reconstruction of their dock. Bayshore Construction Company had been signed by their corporation for replacement of the pilings and construction of the undercarriage. County, state, and Corps of Engineers permits had been applied for with the assurance that since it is a replacement project, the permits should be forthcoming. Volunteers will put down the planking with names of donors affixed when the contractor is finished. In the meantime fundraising was continuing.

In the meantime there had been much remodeling during a two-week shutdown. With 28 volunteers, walls were torn down in the dance area and new paneling put up. Light fixtures and large fan were all rewired and cleaned. Every drawer and cupboard was either cleaned or painted. General housekeeping was done in the lounge, dining,
and dance area as well as the kitchen. The carpet was cleaned and the floors refinished. New tile was put down in the hallway.

All cabins had been refurbished. The parking area was resurfaced and a new walkway put in around the cabins. Emergency lights were installed both inside and outside the building. The fence was moved near the cabins giving more room that can be used during steak roast time and for other special events.

A new phone system had been installed.

2007

New kitchen freezers were installed in an ongoing improvement to better accommodate members and their guests.

Two walk-in coolers and a walk-in freezer have been replaced with a new state of the art cooler/freezer combination, new glycol lines, electrical lines, and drain lines.

A new 2,500 gallon grease trap was installed.

A/C units were relocated from the roof and a new concrete floor was poured to support it all.

The majority of the windows in the cabins have been replaced.

PER fundraising was done through their annual Oktoberfest. This was their 18th year. Menu: roast pork, German sausage, potato salad, sauerkraut, red cabbage, applesauce, rye bread, apple blossom dessert, free beer, and cash bar.

Trips were taken to Hard Rock Casino.

Music was played in the lounge on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

There was a men’s Bocce League and ladies were welcome.

There was a fall picnic in October.

Two large tents were rented along with tables and chairs for their December 15th Christmas party. Staff did the cooking.

Last year they provided food baskets for 120 families.

After the Punta Gorda Elks Veterans Appreciation Parade, everyone was invited back to the Lodge.

There were 54 volunteers for the Annual Shutdown, improvement, and maintenance projects.

The Elkettes continue their generous financial donation each year.

September deceased:
Daniel Rebman  Robert Burton  Daniel Lutinski
Elmer Abram  John A. Garant  William F. Ermer

In a new approach to Veterans Day, the Lodge was open to the public for all three days of that weekend. Then on Sunday, November 11 there was a special event at the Lodge with special entertainment during the day.

A $20,000 donation was made for a new Elks Therapy Services van.

2008

This year was the 25th Annual Punta Gorda Elks Cruise on Norweigian Pearl. It was a 9-day Southern Caribbean cruise including Miami; Barbados; Castries, St. Lucia; Samana Dominican Republic; St. John, Antigua; and Rottola, BVE.
Elkettes:

The Punta Gorda Elkettes were organized on April 8, 1980. Bylaws were accepted on May 27, 1980. Elections were held in March and installation of officers was in April. Officers are President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. First year membership was at 278 members. They have an active PEP (Past Elkette Presidents) organization.

Accomplishments and events include:
The purchase of tables, chairs, linen, mattress pads, and utensils for the cabins
Drug and alcohol awareness
Support to the Kelly Hall for Young People
Card parties, fashion shows, and western nights
Support of the Children’s Hospital
They operate a thrift shop on the Lodge grounds that yields approximately $2,500 annually
Dinners
Talent shows
Working at the Fort Myers Clinic
Craft groups that earn approximately $3,500

2007  Held their Eleventh Annual Fall Silent Auction, luncheon, and Style Show.
      They ran their Elkettes thrift shop.
      They passed out Christmas teddy bears for the Salvation Army. These teddy bears were dressed up by the Elkettes. The Salvation Army distributed them to little ones in the hospitals at Christmastime.