The red star in the Elks emblem represents fidelity which incorporates leadership and holding to a course regardless of conflict. Few understand the meaning of the red star on top of the Elks emblem or how it came about. It is not explained in any of the rituals or in the indoctrination program.

Michael “Mike” Kelly, Elks Historian and Grand Lodge Newsletters Editor, offered some explanation. “You really need a PhD in hieroglyphics and a couple of Master’s degrees in signs and writings of sacred symbols and mystic signs from the days of early Egyptians through the clans and sects of the Dark Ages and the mysteries of ancient Aztec and Malayan cultures.

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

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

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

The last one is of particular significance because, as Kelly explains it, the Buffaloes were an organization which prevailed in Europe in the early 1800s. “The R.A.O.B. Lodge had seven officers: City, Secretary, Minstrel, Tyler, Barber, Alderman or Benevolence, Constable, and Physician.” Their ritual was transplanted to America by emigrants such as Elkdom’s own Charles Vivian, himself a member of the Buffaloes. Vivian and a handful of actors formed the Jolly Corks in New York City on February 16, 1868. When the group decided to organize themselves into a fraternity, Vivian wanted to call the new organization Buffaloes. The name Elk prevailed.

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

“Each quadrant had a distinctive character or purpose. Opposite the Right Honorable Primo was a station devoted to charity. However, as the Elks progressed, charity became associated with the flag, the Bible with justice, and the antlers with brotherly love. There can be no question that the star clearly represents fidelity which incorporates leadership and holding to a course regardless of conflict including adherence to the point of death, hence the red star, patterned after the North Star.

“In 1883, our rituals were rewritten to improve them, but in the process we lost a great deal of the understanding into where and how some of the present day rituals and paraphernalia evolved, and only intensive research of the archives of older societies and their rituals can provide further details of the BPOE’s own origins.”
The following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville No. 221, Key West No. 551, Tampa No. 708, St. Augustine No. 829, Lake City No. 893, Tallahassee No. 937, Miami No. 948, Gainesville No. 990, Orlando No. 1079, Quincy No. 1111, Daytona No. 1141, St. Petersburg No. 1224, Sanford No. 1241, Fort Myers No. 1288, West Palm Beach No. 1352, DeLand No. 1463, Bradenton No. 1511, Fort Lauderdale No. 1517, Sarasota No. 1519, Fort Pierce No. 1520, Arcadia No. 1524, Clearwater No. 1525, Lake Worth No. 1530, Cocoa No. 1532, New Smyrna Beach No. 1557, and Eustis No. 1578.

The following distinguished guests were present: Grand Exalted Ruler, Walter P. Andrews; Chairman, Grand Lodge State Association Committee, Robert S. Barrett; Member, Grand Lodge Committee on Good of the Order, E. M. Wharton; and Past Grand Trustee, Edward W. Cotter.

President Colee reported Florida was awarded first prize of $500 for best float in the parade at the National Convention in Los Angeles in July of 1929.

Secretary J. Edwin Baker reported New Smyrna Lodge No. 1557 was instituted on May 23, 1929 and Eustis Lodge No. 1578 was instituted February 2, 1950, making 33 Lodges with a membership of 8,927.

Bylaws were amended changing the Executive Committee to seven and combining the offices of Secretary and Treasurer.

The complete bylaws were printed in full; see pages 56-60 of the printed proceedings of the 25th session.

Cocoa was awarded the cup for the third time for best ritualistic work and was also awarded the President’s cup for the greatest increase in members.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1930-1931 term:

- President: J. L. Reed, Sr., Tampa 708
- First Vice President: J. Edwin Baker, West Palm Beach 1352
- Second Vice President: W. K. Collins, Tallahassee 937
- Third Vice President: L. L. Anderson, Cocoa 1532
- Fourth Vice President: Paul F. Randolph, Clearwater 1525
- Fifth Vice President: Geo. D. Cowley, Pensacola 497
- Secretary-Treasurer: A. L. Cusson, Jr., St. Petersburg 1224
- **Historian: W. B. Delaporte, Orlando 1079
- Sergeant at Arms: E. L. Thompson, Daytona 1141
- Tiler: John Jensen, DeLand 1463
- Chaplain: Rev. Father P. J. Downey, New Smyrna Beach 1557

Clearwater was selected for the 1930-1931 annual session. There were 33 Lodges in the state. Membership was 8,927. There were 753 attending the Convention.

** Section 9 of the bylaws was amended to outline duties of the Historian and state he is to act as Public Relations representative.

** Relief Fund, Grand Lodge**

At the 1927 Grand Lodge session, $70,837.15 was contributed for Florida hurricane relief.

(*Hurricane Floyd Disaster Relief Fund, 1999 - See reference under Hurricane Floyd.*)
Resolutions Committee

All resolutions and proposed resolutions shall be referred to this committee, and it shall make recommendations to the annual meeting of the association on all resolutions referred to it or proposed by it.

Richardson, James G.

James G. “Jim” Richardson, Jr. was born on February 18, 1917 in Walnut Ridge, AR and he died on April 1, 1995 in Gainesville, FL at age 78. Alvin A. Ehrlich, PSP gave his eulogy at the eighty-ninth annual convention.

In 1951, his boss, Walter J. Matherly, was President of the Florida State Elks Association and one of the founders of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Richardson, who had been discharged as an Army officer, was not surprised to find that he had been volunteered as shepherd of this new endeavor. It was during the polio years and the Elks had a hospital for treating the young patients. His young son, Jimmy, was afflicted. What better reason for a dedication that was to last for the next forty-five years during which he nourished the fund and educated and led those who were privileged to serve on the board of trustees.

Articles appearing in the Gainesville Sun and Jacksonville Times-Union described Richardson as “hard as a nut, case-toughened, rambunctious, contentious Jim Richardson. And it was intended as a compliment. But his real contribution is his absolute refusal to be classified and pigeonholed and his willingness to sacrifice.”

That was Jim Richardson. He didn’t make a big thing of it, but he continually gave to the Elks, the state of Florida, the city of Gainesville, the Florida League of Cities, the United States League of Mayors, Alice General Hospital, the Florida Sheriffs Association, and more. He was a hard taskmaster, always the professor, always instructing, and always the leader. He even had planned ahead for the day he would no longer be there to answer when his name was called.

He was married to Caroline and had sons named Frederick, Burges, and Barry.

Ritual

The new organization of Elks in 1868 ran along for two months or more with only the first degree, when a ball was proposed, and under the auspices of the order was given their first ball at Ferrero’s Assembly Room at Broadway and Twenty-eighth Streets in New York on April 16, 1868. Vivian attended this initial ball and made an address before the group.

On May 17, 1868 the ritual of second degree was adopted.

When it became known as the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the sessions were divided into two parts, one business and the other social. It was customary during each business session to appoint a committee, generally three, to take charge of the social session to follow. The procedure and method of carrying on this social session was taken directly from and modeled closely after the Liberty Hall of the RAOP. The scheme of appointing a chairman of imposing fines for all manners of offenses, imaginary or otherwise, and upon various pretexts, is a direct adaptation of the English organization.

In the early years, there were several different kinds of initiation ceremonies. Three of them were the third degree, the fourth degree, and thanatopsis. In 1891 the merging or consolidation of the two degrees in the order into one strong degree was adopted.

In 1882 Exalted Grand Ruler Hamlin E. Leach cited dignity and impressiveness as the first consideration of ritual work. In 1896 the stations of the Lodge were appropriately named to represent charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity.

In 1924 a complete set of rituals for special occasions included the following:
- Laying the cornerstone of a public building
- Dedication of a public building
- Laying the cornerstone of an Elks temple
- Dedication of a Lodge room
- Dedication of an Elks Rest
- Funeral services
- Mother’s Day ritual
- Flag Day ritual
Grand Lodge began its first national ritual contest for Lodges in 1930. Impressive exemplification of all ritualistic work without the aid of a printed ritual, especially during the initiation, is one of the most important features of any Elks Lodge. All Lodge officers should recognize that their duties and responsibilities go far beyond the mere commitment to memory of the ritual of their office. The whole purpose of the exemplification of the ritual is to impress the candidate with the lesson it teaches. There is no activity throughout Elkdom that more consistently and continually furthers the fundamental principles of the order than a dignified and impressive rendition of the ritual. The first impressions are usually the most lasting, and the opportunity for Lodge officers to impress the candidate with the principles of the order is on the night they are initiated. It must be remembered that the first knowledge of the aims and principles of Elkdom is experienced when a candidate is being inducted as an Elk. Therefore, one of the most important contributions the officers of all Lodges can make is an impressive induction of a candidate into the order.

Subordinate Lodge officers must realize that their paramount obligation is the importance of rendering, in an impressive and dignified manner, the principles and teachings so clearly defined in the ritual on which Elks expound.

Lodge officers should not overlook the importance of an impressive and well conducted opening and closing of the Lodge, special Lodge, and public services which are vitally important to the image and success of all Lodges. While there is a penalty on officers for the failure to memorize the ritual within thirty days after installation (Laws of Order, Section 12.130), the real penalty falls upon the Lodge, for officers evading their duty ritualistically usually fail to deliver the leadership in other activities so necessary to the success of their order.

All Lodges should participate in the district or state ritualistic contests and all state winners should enter the Grand Lodge ritualistic contest. Any team and its officers entering any contest never lose; they are always winners. They win the respect of their fellow officers, their Lodge members, and all Elks. Most of all, it builds confidence and ability in each officer and enables them to speak easily and confidently in front of any audience regardless of what their subject might be. It makes them a much better Elk because the officer has a better understanding and more knowledge of what the order really inculcates. The members will follow and respect an impressive and confident leader.

The following comments were made by Robert Grafton, PGER regarding ritual in the Winter 2001 Florida Elks News.

Our officers in the Lodges have recognized the value of the requirement (statutory) that the opening and closing and initiatory rituals must be presented from memory. I said value because there is a significant benefit to the officers for the memorization of the rituals:

1. No matter the age, no matter the occupation or profession, successfully memorizing and presenting the rituals is a great confidence builder for the individual.

2. Have you heard, ‘I am too old to memorize the part?’ Certainly you have and it is not true. My view on age is you are old when you are no longer willing to accept challenges. Until then you are simply mature or more mature. Calendar age is a fact but does not control our lives or how we live them. Pride compels us to do our best; we know when we could have done more with our ability and it gnaws at us from within when we do not take advantage of that God given ability.

In 2007 the state reported that Florida had a total of 36 certified floor judges, 51 certified word judges, and 58 certified computer judges for a total of 145 judges.

Ritual, Insignia, Name, Title of Officers, or Ceremonies: Use of

(See Insignia, Name, Titles of Officers or Ceremonies: Use of)
R ritualistic contest in each district receives $100 on the condition that such winning team competes in the state ritualistic contest. To the Lodge winning the state ritualistic contest, in order to attend the Grand Lodge ritual contest competition, it will be allowed for each of the nine members, seven officers, one candidate, and one coach one round trip air coach fare from the home Lodge city (or nearest commercial airport thereof) to the Grand Lodge convention city plus two days travel subsistence at the rate allowed for Grand Lodge officers and committeemen plus three days subsistence at the rate allowed for Grand Lodge officers and committeemen while in attendance at the convention.

The total amount provided for shall be advanced to the Lodge producing the championship team upon request of said Lodge. This request will contain the commitment of the Lodge that the championship team will represent the Florida State Elks Association, Inc. in the Grand Lodge ritualistic contest. The advance of funds will not be made earlier than thirty days prior to the date of opening of the Grand Lodge convention. If the championship team fails to represent the Florida State Elks Association by competing in the Grand Lodge ritualistic contest, the Lodge will immediately refund to the association all funds so advanced.

If the championship team is selected to compete in the finals of the Grand Lodge ritualistic contest, in addition to the sums already mentioned herein, there will be paid to the Lodge of the championship team an amount equal to the per diem subsistence allowed for attendance at the Grand Lodge convention times the number of additional days above the three days which the team is required to remain in the Grand Lodge contest. The payment provided is made upon request by the Lodge and to contain certification that the team did compete in the finals of the Grand Lodge ritualistic contest.

If there fails to be a district contest in any district after a Lodge team has elected to compete, $75 will be paid to that Lodge team on the condition that the team actually competes in the state contest. Should two or more teams in any particular district be elected to compete, a district contest must be called and awards made.

The Jolly Cork Award goes to the officer receiving the highest individual score in the contest.

R ritualistic Team Winners, Florida

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<td>97</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>St. Augustine</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>142</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Tallahassee</td>
<td>937</td>
<td>137</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Tallahassee</td>
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<td>101</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Bradenton</td>
<td>1511</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Bradenton</td>
<td>1511</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Riviera Beach Lodge 2069

Date of Dispensation: March 6, 1958
Date of Installation: March 29, 1958
Formally Opened By: Pat LeMoyne, DDGER

The name later changed to North Palm Beach Lodge, but it ultimately surrendered its charter.

The following officiated:

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

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: John L. Remsen
- Esteemed Leading Knight: Henry R. Shirley
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: James Knight
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Jack C. Deutsch
- Secretary: Richard Frick
- Treasurer: Glenn W. Bridwell
- Inner Guard: George Poston
- Chaplain: Clyde Trammell, Jr.
- Organist: M. J. Davis
- Esquire: Steele C. Coddington
- Tiler: John O. Scotten
- Trustees: Talmadge Wilcher, J. J. Grabenhofer, Kenneth R. Nix, Willard F. Johnston, Mike Craffey

The following are charter members: Willard F. Johnston; John L. Remsen; Michael F. Graffey; Richard Frick; Steele Coddington; Sterling M. Haight; William J. Collins; William R. Jeffries; George A. Boggs; Peter Hansen; Oscar Lee Etheridge; James D. Blakely; G. W. Pritchett; John E. London; Louis Zimmerman; Charles F. Tomm; Ronald R. Purdon; Dick Ross; Charley A. Root; Mahlon F. Bowen; George N. Judge; William H. Lynch; Leo A. Lindroth; John B. Henning; Fred A. Knoche; John K. Holman; D. W. Humberstone; W. J. Mahaffey; Edward Bator; William D. Adeimy; Wm. H. Robertson; John J. Byrne; Francis B. Geary; Walter B. Manhard; Thomas H. Johnson; John W. Wiles; Edward G. Hanlon; Emil Schumumberger; Harold A. Hanlon; Roy G. Weaver; Milton Lang; Edward H. Evans; Harry V. Nye; Donald J. Fieltz; Andrew J. Thomas; C. E. St. John; Newlin L. Bauer; John A. Doran; Harry J. Henry; Matthew Smyth, Jr.; Robert A. McMeninn; Leland C. Smith; Eugene H. Pulch; J. J. Grabenhofer; Talmadge S. Wilcher; James M. Knight; Glenn W. Bridwell; Clyde Trammell, Jr.; Anthony J. Ranney; George G. Dougan; Joseph Sigmund; Malcolm L. Reed; Roy R. Jackson; Horace A. Chapman; James L. Hough; Beaumont Davison; Carl J. Minning; Ross C. Fitz; Isaac R. Lounsberry; Everett E. Sikes; John H. Van Note, Jr.; John L. Prescott; Roy Kajander; Charles C. Czechor; Earl Zellers; Harry W. Kusters; Nicholas Cendreta; Charles S. Rowe; Henry R. Shirley; Kenneth R. Nix; Jack C. Deutsch; John O. Scotten; James J. McGinnes; Stanley Sonnefeld; Anthony E. Moore; Richard F. Slominski; Everett D. Fitts; H. L. Fortner; Robert E. Lund; Thomas G. Kinney; E. Al Howe, Jr.; Havelock N. Wells; Richard Frikkers, Jr.; Joseph Nemeth; Merle R. Whitaker; Lewis D. Brinson; William F. Bachset; Brook Carter; H. P. Knight; Edwin J. Pepper; E. Snead Alvord; George A. Pedersen; Donald K. Tillman; B. Fox Griffin; Pat J. Snow, Jr.; Maurice H. Bradfield; Wayne Vaughn; John E. Flournoy; Troy F. Dallas; Andrew H. Grigsby; Bruce Caddy; Wesley E. Soret; Charles Knam; Charles M. Hyman; George A. Baker, Jr.; Monte Bennett; Robert C. Brown; Lon Ehler; J. B. Bateman; Sherman E. Myers;

Richard Robinson joined Sebring Lodge in 1956 and served in many capacities. He was elected District Director of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital and was recipient of Honorary Life Membership in his Lodge. In 1966-1967 he was honored as Sebring’s Elk of the Year. He was elected Vice President at Large for 1978-1979 and State President for 1979-1980.

Robinson was a Supervisor of Maintenance for the U. S. Postal Service in Sebring. He was active in the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Sebring and served it as President in 1959-1960. He was a veteran of the Korean War, having served in the Marine Corp. Wounded in action, he was awarded the Purple Heart and after being hospitalized was discharged with a medical disability. His service to Elkdom includes filling the stations of Sebring Lodge 1529 culminating in his election as Exalted Ruler for 1960-1961. He served his Lodge as Secretary for three years and as Trustee for six years. He served Florida Elkdom as chairman of various district committees, as State Chairman of the Membership Committee, as a member of the Harry-Anna Hospital Committee, and as Vice
President of the Florida State Elks Association, Inc. He was appointed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and performed his duties with distinction for 1963-1964.

**His Year as President**

Motto: Sharing the Opportunity through Individual Involvement

Robert Grafton served as Grand Exalted Ruler this year. *(See also Grafton’s remarks before the annual convention in Miami Beach under Significant Speeches and addresses in appendix of this work relative to “Why I Am an Elk.”)*

The membership gain was 7.1% or 4,508. There were 104 Lodges.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1979-1980 term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Richard Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President at Large</td>
<td>Harry Baruch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Ted Carlson</td>
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<td>Sergeant at Arms</td>
<td>Bert Horwitz</td>
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<td>Organist</td>
<td>Norman Right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>Ted Cohen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>Al Rothaker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vice Presidents**

- Northwest: Joe Bryant
- Northeast: George Dominianni
- North Central: Jim Oliver
- East Central: Larry Cline
- South Central: Bill Fields
- West Central: Joe Ziegler
- Southwest: Bill Bostwick
- Southeast: David Riley
- South Southeast: Lewis Cote
- South: Marshall Dunn

**Six new Lodges were instituted:**

- Cape Coral 2596: Instituted June 16, 1979
- Lehigh Acres 2602: Instituted November 4, 1979
- Punta Gorda 2606: Instituted March 30, 1980
- Land O’ Lakes 2600: Instituted October 21, 1979
- Orange Park 2605: Instituted December 9, 1979
- Defuniak Springs 2612: Instituted April 26, 1980

There were only fourteen Lodges instituted in Elkdom this year and six were in Florida.

The Americanism Committee had an essay contest for the first time in the past three or four years. The essay topic was “Why I Am Proud to be an American.” There were nine out of ten districts participating with thirty students entering.

The statewide Youth Activities continued to grow. The total number of young people participating in the Elks sponsored programs was 61,516.

The Hoop Shoot under the leadership of Greg Whitmore had an outstanding year. Some eighty Lodges participated with 68,000 boys and 37,000 girls for a total of 105,000 young people from all Lodges.

The board of directors sanctioned more participation with the Elks of Florida and the Tangerine Sports Association. It was on nationwide television with the probability of the State President in attendance. It was expected to be a great enhancement to the bowl game and to the Elks image as those who sponsor the Harry-Anna Hospital.
The Exalted Rulers-Secretaries luncheon was dropped. This was done primarily because of the costs involved at these meals.

Liberty City Riots

The annual convention of 1980 was held in Miami Beach. It was the year of the Liberty City riots. At opening ceremonies, Mayor Steve Clark addressed the group with the following remarks.

I hope it doesn’t rain today; but rain would help my heart. We’ve had some problems. I want you to know that we’re no different than you are in any other county in this state or in this nation. Apparently, there’s a syndrome going through the rejection balance sheet of people, but we’re not sacred. We may have been the first one in the 80s, but I can tell you, you’ve got to look out; you’ve got to be on guard because this can happen to your city as it happened here. Of course, we have had some incidents that may have perpetrated this problem we have. And, I think that many of the people that were involved in the riots in the Liberty City, in the west part, not near the beach, were completely frustrated and didn’t really know what they were doing because they were caught up in the frenzy, not to apologize at all. At least that’s what happened. It’s caused an awful lot of damage to this community. But we will survive . . . . We have before.

We have a very different community. Our community is made up of ethnic groups of individuals, the largest composition of ethnic people in any urban community in the world. A third of our people came from a foreign nation about twelve, fifteen years ago; about 250,000 –300,000 are black Americans. And, the balances are Chelsea Senerchias, Harry Baruchs.

The President of our country will be here tomorrow or Tuesday of next week to survey damage. I hope that he gives us some relief because we didn't want this to happen.

Rosin, M. A., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1949-1950

Forty-Third Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
May 15-17, 1949
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

The following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville No. 221, Ocala No. 286, Pensacola No. 497, Key West No. 551, Tampa No. 708, St. Augustine No. 829, Lake City No. 893, Tallahassee No. 937, Miami No. 948, Gainesville No. 990, Orlando No. 1079, Daytona Beach No. 1141, Live Oak No. 1165, St. Petersburg No. 1224, Palatka No. 1232, Sanford No. 1241, Fort Myers No. 1288, Lakeland No. 1291, West Palm Beach No. 1352, DeLand No. 1463, Bradenton No. 1511, Marianna No. 1516, Fort Lauderdale No. 1517, Fort Pierce No. 1520,
President Robert L. Bohon gave his annual report. Membership in the state was given as 19,386. Four new Lodges were installed during the past year: Melbourne 1744, instituted June 3, 1948; Homestead 1754, instituted June 11, 1948; Vero Beach 1774, instituted April 27, 1949; and Miami Springs-Hialeah 1775, instituted May 6, 1949. A grand total of $192,484.90 was expended during the year for charities. The $300 scholarship award went to Albert W. Gammage, Jr. of the University of Florida. Entertainment programs were held monthly in all of the veterans’ hospitals and the Grand Lodge provided $450 per month toward financing this. The sum of $58,954.11 was contributed to the Harry-Anna Home despite adverse economic conditions during the past several months.

The following amendment was made in the bylaws: addition of Article 10-A with sections 1 to 11 inclusive pertaining to Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home Trust Fund as given in detail on pages 105-107 of the annual proceedings for the year 1949.

The ritual cup was awarded to Fort Lauderdale 1517.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1949-1950 term:

President M. A. Rosin, Arcadia
Treasurer Claude L. Johnson, Tallahassee
Secretary Chelsie J. Senerchia, Miami
Historian Howell A. Davis, Palatka
Tiler John Cole, Pensacola
Sergeant at Arms Peter Gessner, DeLand
Chaplain Father Daniel C. Haggerty, Cocoa
Organist Harry Kudell, Sanford

Division Vice Presidents

Northeast Finley Moore, Lake City
Northwest Frank Nelson, Panama City
Southeast Frank Holt, Miami
Southwest John Lang, Winter Haven
Central Willis McCall, Eustis

West Palm Beach was chosen as the site for the 1950-1951 annual session.

Rotonda Lodge 2710

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 122nd Lodge</th>
<th>South Southwest</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>District:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>March 14, 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>April 6, 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>Ray LaGoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>321</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1987 Membership:</td>
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<td>Year 1988 Membership:</td>
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<td>Year 2001 Membership:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership:</td>
<td>1,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>1,061</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Year 2007 Membership: 1,100
Year 2008 Membership: 1,117
Year 2009 Membership: 1,071
(Contributor: Jack Gibson)

The following officiated:

This information was unavailable.

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: Ray LaGoy
- Esteemed Leading Knight: Tyler Copeman
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: Don Fouse
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Brian Donnelly
- Secretary: John Gibson
- Treasurer: Paul Vanella
- Inner Guard: Charles Mauro
- Chaplain: Ed Sharkus
- Organist: John Meadows
- Esquire: Nick Andrews
- Tiler: Douglas Paulsen
- Trustees: 5 Year, William Kratzke; 4 Year, Frank Lanham; 3 Year, Richard MacCallister; 2 Year, Harvey Pruett; 1 Year, William Maroney

The following officers initiated the new members:

This information was unavailable.

There were 321 charter members.
Englewood 2378 is the mother Lodge.
They started the Lodge building in December of 1991.

Past Exalted Rulers:

- 1989-1990: Ralph Benedict
- 1990-1991: E. Emmett Colvett
- 1997-1998: Robert A. Smith
- 2003-2004: John Abeer
- 2004-2005: Ron Bupp
- 2005-2006: Rat Eifert
- 2006-2007: Larry Thomson

Past Exalted Rulers by Demit:

- Robert David: Hanford, CA #1259 1966-1967
- Norman Craig: West Warwick, RI #1697 1974-1975
- Manley Gifford: Flint, MI #222 1983-1984
Disappointment

The earliest efforts to establish an Elks Lodge in Rotonda West were met with failure and rejection. In August of 1983, John A. Brunn, PER of the Englewood Elks Lodge felt the number of members from the Rotonda community seeking entrance into that Lodge would be great enough to form the nucleus for a new Lodge there. It was decided by Robert Grafton, Past Grand Exalted Ruler on the advice of Past State President Ed Royal that because of the proximity of Rotonda West to the Englewood Lodge that no attempt be made to organize a new Lodge at Rotonda West.

New Hope for Rotonda Lodge

The efforts to establish an Elks Lodge in Rotonda were begun again in 1985 when John A. Brunn, PER, Secretary of Englewood Lodge 2378, again requested the blessings of Robert Grafton upon his efforts to start a Lodge at Rotonda West in response to key members who were asking him to start such a Lodge. He enclosed the invitational letter he was to send to Elks and non-Elk friends to a lunch on October 7, 1985 to discuss the possibility of establishing a Lodge.

A letter to John Brunn dated October 1, 1985 from Robert Grafton states he has authorized Wayne Arnold of Punta Gorda, District Chairman of the New Lodge Committee, to commence investigation and planning to organize a Lodge in Rotonda. Copies of this letter were forwarded to Edward Royal, PSP; Norman P. O’Brien, SDGER; Wayne Arnold, District Chairman of New Lodge Committees; and Harley Grace, New Lodges Committee.

A preliminary meeting was held on October 7, 1985 at the Oakland Hills Country Club chaired by John Brunn, PER. An Organization Committee known as Proposed Lodge of Elks of the Greater Rotonda Areas was next organized. Herein Brunn states that the Organization Committee shall be composed of not less than three members of the order selected by the members of the Advisory Committee assigned to the proposed Lodge. The Organization Committee shall have charge of all preliminary proceedings. Said committee shall select from its members a Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Chairman shall call all meetings, preside at meetings, and generally supervise the preparation and presentation of the petition for dispensation. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of such committee and of the ballots taken for applications. The Secretary shall receive and retain all monies collected from petitioners and pay them over to the Treasurer of the Lodge after it is instituted and of the Lodge after it is instituted. If the Lodge is not organized in due course, he shall return said monies to said petitioners.

A letter from John Brunn, PER was sent to brothers cordially inviting them to attend the organizational meeting of the proposed Lodge of Elks of the Greater Rotonda Area. This meeting was to be held on Wednesday, November 27, 1985 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Charlotte Community Center Building on Rt. 776. This was an open meeting and Elks were invited to bring non-Elk friends and hear of the possible proposed sites for a new Lodge.

Minutes of the First Meeting to Formulate a New Lodge

The first meeting to formulate a new Lodge in Rotonda was held November 27, 1985.

Presiding at the meeting was Wayne Arnold, Chairman of New Lodges of the Southwest District from Punta Gorda Lodge #2606. Acting official for Rotonda was Ray LaGoy, a member of Englewood 2378. Acting Secretary was Leonard Wending of Punta Gorda Lodge 2606. There were 42 in attendance. Arnold explained the procedures for formulating a new Elks Lodge.

A letter was read that was sent by Brother John Brunn to the Cape Cave Corporation regarding available property in the Rotonda area.

District Deputy of the Southwest District, Frank Malatesta, was introduced as was Past District Deputy Dick Merz.

Ray LaGoy read the answer to Brunn from the Cape Cave Corp. He also identified other properties that may be suitable for a new Elks Lodge.

Brother Buck Pruett of the Cape Haze Realty will look into the available properties. General Development Corporation has also been approached regarding property. LaGoy showed the prospective property on Rt. 71 that is available. This is a 10-11 acre parcel of land.

Arnold told of the bonds sold by Punta Gorda Elks at 6% per annum to mature in ten years. He suggested forming a corporation. He further explained how Punta Gorda functions regarding the restaurant, bar, and charitable programs as well as volunteer efforts.

LaGoy told of the area population and corresponding distances to area Lodges. He also told of three possible sites and that to date only one had responded. He also stated that Brunn sent out 450 letters to men taken from a Grand Lodge computer printout.
Several questions were asked such as, “at what point will we start a membership drive?” and “how many people do we have available to start an Elks Lodge?”

Arnold explained that Punta Gorda started with radio and news media releases and that on their first meeting approximately one hundred signed to join Punta Gorda Lodge. There were 226 transfers from Charlotte County Lodge. Prospective members available from the computer printout in the Rotonda area are over 700 members. He also explained that jurisdictional lines of half the distance to the nearest Lodge.

The next meeting will be December 18, 1985. The meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Leonard Wending, Acting Secretary.

Progress Despite Glitches

December 18, 1985

A meeting was scheduled to be held at the Rotonda Community Center Building but the person assigned to get a key forgot so we had to enter by a window.

Several of those in attendance were Frank Duprite, a Past Exalted Ruler from Lowell, MA; Peter Koning, PDD from Venice-Nokomis 1854; and Donald Roll, PDD of Punta Gorda 2606.

There were 54 attending of which four were non-Elks and 115 thought they might transfer. John Brunn, PER of Englewood 2378 chaired the meeting and he said it was necessary to appoint officers. Ray LaGoy said he would volunteer to serve as Assistant Chairman. Paul Vanella would be Treasurer and Jack Gibson would be Secretary. It was decided to start out with $25 for initiation and $25 for dues for charter members. A motion was made by Charles Rowe and seconded by Charles Mauro that the above would only serve until the charter is received, and the motion was approved by those in attendance.

Gibson was appointed to check for the possibility of a meeting night at the American Legion Hall in Rotonda. Mauro made a motion to call this Lodge the Cape Haze Elks in Organization and was seconded by Vanella and was unanimously approved.

The meeting was closed at 8:45 p.m. per LaGoy, Acting Secretary.

Cape Haze Elks in Organization

January 7, 1986

A meeting of the Cape Haze Elks in Organization was held at the American Legion Hall in Rotonda. John Brunn, Secretary of Englewood Lodge 2378 opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

There were 57 present, many for the first time, so Brunn recapped what had transpired to date.

He advised those present that they would be charter members if they would sign up or transference before the charter was received. Transfer fees have been set at $15 and new members will pay $25 for initiation and $25 for dues. Ray LaGoy read the minutes of the last meeting and explained the options we have on property. Buck Pruett, our real estate expert, will get together with Cliff McCaulley of Cape Cave and report at the next meeting.

A raffle was conducted to raise some money for postage expenses and $54 was collected. The lucky winners were John Shea and Bob Whitely.

The meeting was quite productive with 14 new members and 20 members transferring to the new Lodge.

Respectively submitted by Jack Gibson, Secretary

We Think We are There

January 20, 1986

John Brunn, PER, Secretary of Englewood Lodge and Chairman of developing Rotonda Cape Haze Lodge, sent out letters to members and prospective members calling a general meeting to be held February 4, 1986.

John Brunn also wrote to Robert Grafton that they had signed 53 new members and that it was anticipated that more than the 150 members needed to apply for a dispensation would be obtained at the February 4, 1986 meeting. Copies of this letter were sent to dignitaries in the district.

No, We Aren’t There!

January 22, 1986
A letter dated January 22, 1986 from Robert Grafton, Past Grand Exalted Ruler from the Grand Lodge was received by John Brunn. The letter contained forms for signing up new and transferring members to the new Lodge and a Petition for Dispensation for the formation of a new Lodge. His comments on the process were as follows:

1. When you receive the three sheets mentioned above, number copies on one of the blank sheets. I must have the original handwritten sign-up sheets plus a typed copy of the same names and other information on another sheet.

2. The first thing I will need is the name, address, and Lodge numbers of the three members of the Organizing Committee who will be Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. As indicated they must be Elks in good standing. Send me those three names and information as soon as possible.

3. Be sure you keep good minutes of each of the organizing sessions. A copy of these minutes must be furnished to the Grand Secretary at the time we request dispensation and a charter.

4. The minutes should reflect the vote of the group on each of the men who will become members.

5. I note that you are initially calling it Rotonda-Cape Haze Elks Lodge. At some point in time you should settle on a name for the Lodge. Just as a suggestion, if the primary area of residence of the members will be Rotonda, then that is probably an appropriate name. I would not make an issue of the name until you are much further along in the organizational process.

6. The minimum acceptable members for a new Lodge is 150 members. Experience indicates that a Lodge with 250 members has a much easier or better opportunity for success.

This letter had a very disquieting effect. The demand for an added 100 signatures to the 150 already obtained created a scramble of activity to secure this end. The petitions were requested by the Grand Lodge and were sent with 210 signatures.

Rotonda Elks Lodge is Organized

An organizational meeting of the Rotonda Elks was held February 4, 1986 at the American Legion in Rotonda. John Brunn, Chairman of the Organizational Committee, opened the meeting.

Dignitaries present were Howard Seaton, PDD of Naples Lodge; Don Roll, PDD of Punta Gorda Lodge; and Richard Merz, PDD of Venice-Nokomis Lodge.

Each man spoke about the meaning of Elkdom, its key programs (i.e. scholarships, children’s hospital, and clinics), community activities, and the benefit of being a charter member.

What Will Our Name Be?

Dick Merz suggested that the Grand Lodge favored a name that represents the area in which the Lodge will be located and where the majority of the members will come from. A vote was taken and the name of Rotonda Elks was unanimously chosen.

The attendance at this meeting was outstanding. Sixty-nine new members signed up and 42 transferred to the new club.

Following this meeting, in a letter dated February 6, 1986, John Brunn, PER reported to Robert Grafton that the first organizational meeting of Rotonda Lodge had been held on February 4, 1986 with 125 men attending. The officers were listed thus:

John A. Brunn, Chairman, Englewood 2378
John Gibson, Secretary 2378, Rotonda
Paul Vanella, Treasurer 2378, Rotonda

Copies were sent to William A. Wall, PGER; Edward Royal, Past State President; Norman P. O’Brien, South District Grand Exalted Ruler; Harley Grace, New Lodges Committee; and Wayne Arnold, District Chairman, New Lodges Committee.

John Brunn predicted that the enthusiasm generated at this meeting would assure the Elks Lodge for Rotonda.
Press Proclaims, “New Elks Lodge in Rotonda”

The press release that appeared in the local newspapers explained the procedure for forming a new Lodge and outlined the geographical area over which it would have jurisdiction. This included Rotonda, Cape Haze, Placida, Boca Grande, Gardens of Gulf Cove, East Englewood, and sections of Grove City.

A Very Active Time for a Club

The second meeting in February of 1986 registered 147 men present. Plans for a fundraising dinner dance were developed and a committee was selected for running it.

LOCAL PRESS RELEASE

New Elks Lodge in Rotonda Names Officers

At a meeting of the new Rotonda Elks Lodge held at the American Legion Hall on Tuesday, March 4, 1986, the following officers were named:

- **Exalted Ruler**: Ray LaGoy
- **Leading Knight**: Tyler Copeman
- **Loyal Knight**: Don Fouse
- **Lecturing Knight**: Brian Donnelly
- **Esquire**: Nicholas O. Andrews
- **Secretary**: John Gibson
- **Treasurer**: Paul Vanella
- **Tiler**: Douglas Paulsen
- **Chaplain**: Edward Sharkus
- **Inner Guard**: Charles Mauro
- **Organist**: John Meadows
- **Trustees**: William Kratzke, Frank Lamham, Richard MacCollister, Harvey Pruett, Bill Maroney

Committee members are House Committee - Donald Fouse, Vince Desio, Richard Curran, and William Maroney; Entertainment - Richard Curran, William Taylor, Carl Young, Roy Clites, Ray Jones, Pat Luciano, and Anthony Celucci; Americanism - George Karl; Bylaws - Tyler Copeman, William Greir, and Thomas Sesta; Building Committee - William Housley, Ralph Benedict, and William Lombard; and Bonds and Property - Harvey Pruett.

Wayne Arnold of Punta Gorda Lodge 2606, Southwest District Chairman of New Lodges, spoke on Elkdom. Past District Deputy Peter Koning from Englewood Lodge 2378 presented the 121 men present with an outline of the program required for the institutional ball that will be held at the Englewood Elks Lodge on Saturday, April 5, 1986.

On Sunday, April 6, 1986 at 10:00 a.m., initiation of over 150 Elks will take place with many national and state dignitaries conferring the initiatory degree.

The new Rotonda club grew in membership and in Elkdom. Its meetings were held in Rotonda Community Center on Cape Haze Drive. On December 27, 1986 Rotonda Elks moved into the north end of Rotonda Partners Building, the area known as Gallagher’s Restaurant. This building also houses Barnett Bank, Cape Haze Realty, a post office, and a travel agency. This set off a cleaning project to set the kitchen and restaurant into order and to
make the adjoining room into the Lodge hall. After weeks of preparation, a temporary liquor license was received in January of 1987. This was an extended club liquor permit, COP (Consume on Premises).

The Second Year

The second year beginning on April 1, 1987 and ending March 31, 1988 finds Rotonda Elks membership to have grown to 450 members.

The officers were as follows: Exalted Ruler, Ray LaGoy; Leading Knight, Nick Andrews; Loyal Knight, Don Fouse (Don resigned September 15, 1987 and Ed Colvett took this office on October 6, 1987); Secretary, Jack Gibson; Treasurer, Bob Shaw; Esquire, Charles Kincer; Chaplain, Ernest Krempler; Tiler, Harry Kaar; Inner Guard, Lamar Cardin; Organist, John Meadows; and Trustees, E. Day, W. Kratzke, Lanham, D. MacCollister (expired in office), and Ty Copeman.

Award

Rotonda Lodge wins the first place award for membership in its size range in the state. There are now 450 members and the Lodge is growing.

Third Year

The membership has now grown to 552 members. New officers are installed on the 3rd Tuesday of March to take office April 1, 1988.

Officers are: Exalted Ruler, Nick Andrews; Leading Knight, Ralph Benedict; Loyal Knight, Ed Colvett; Lecturing Knight, Cliff Douglas; Secretary, Jack Gibson; Treasurer, Sam Synder; Esquire, Howard Simpelaar (replaced by Ken Baron in August of 1988); Inner Guard, Joseph Coleman; Chaplain, Ernest Krempler; Tiler, Louis Silvia; Organist, John Meadow; and Trustees, Fred Lawton, Elton Day, Harry Kaar, Frank Lanham, and Ray LaGoy.

In 1992 Wentworth “Bud” Prentis, Exalted Ruler, announced the ground breaking for their new building near the east entrance to Rotonda.

On hand were Past State President of the Florida State Elks Association, Frank Spadafora, and about fifty members of the Rotonda Lodge.

Dedication of New Home

On Sunday, May 16, 1993 the Lodge dedicated a new Lodge home. Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held on the portico entrance. The address is 303 Rotonda Blvd. East.

The Building Committee consisted of the following:

Francis Troncony, Chairman
Bryan Donnelly
Rodney Hanskin
Ted Hildebrandt
Harry Kaar
Bill Kratzky
Ernie Krempler
Fred Lawton
Pat Luciano

Charter Members:

Baker, Joseph  Bedel, Roy
Bibens, George  Bohnet, John
Bryant, Bradford  Bulwan, C. Alan
Capizzi, Sal  Carder, LeMar
Clark, Paul  Clifford, Thomas
Copeman, Tyler  Corr, George
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ENCYCLOPEDIC REFERENCE OF FLORIDA ELKDOM

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McGee, Clyde
Melvin, Robert, Sr.
Miller, Henry
Miller, Ivan, Rev.
Montgomery, Richard
Morsch, John R.
Neff, Theodore
Newfer, Alvin
Olsen, Robert
Panetta, Bruno
Park, Stephen F.
Petty, Howard
Plamondon, Noah
Pucknell, Lee
Quinn, Melvin
Radtke, Marlin
Ratcliff, Haven
Rice, Richard
Rossi, Abraham
Schaeffer, John
Schulze, Walter
Schweitzer, Ray
Scott, Robert
Serio, Joseph
Shaw, Robert
Sheppard, Paul
Silvia, Louis
Simkins, Charles
Sisco, Donald
Sissea, George
Snyder, Samuel
Spring, Harold
Stella, Charles
Stockdale, Esmond
Stracuzzi, Anthony
Swab, Gerald
Talley, Marion
Teller, Leonard
Tetraault, Alfred
Valo, John
Weber, Elmer
Whiteley, Robert
Willis, John C.
Wolthoff, George

McKenzie, Gordon
Kesarick, Frank
Miller, Hilbert
Mitchell, Michael
Moran, Frank
Mumpower, Herbert
Neville, James J.
Ohmen, Herbert
Palfy, Joseph
Parent, Edmund
Paulsen, Douglas
Pianta, Arthur
Pond, Charles
Quaile, Robert
Quinn, Thomas
Ragazzone, Louis
Raeser, Raymond
Riley, R. F.
Russell, Jeff
Schull, Samuel
Schwartz, Isadore
Schworm, Earl
Sepak, Donald
Sharkey, Charles
Sherman, Benjamin
Silva, Jose
Simington, Stacy
Sirota, Leonard
Sisco, George
Smart, Dale
Sommers, William
Stadle, Floyd
Stevens, Clifford
Stojak, Edwin
Strass, Frederick
Talley, Marion
Taylor, William
Tesarz, Charles
Villanti, Sam
Waicker, George
Weprin, Charles
Wickham, Eugene
Wilson, Robert
Yanavich, John

Significant Events & Projects

1994  Rotonda Lodge 2710 was second in Division 3 in GL membership achievement.

2007  Lodge members sent several hundred packages of toiletries, personal items, and snacks to U. S. troops stationed in Afghanistan. In recognition of their support, members were presented with a U. S. flag that had flown over an army installation in Afghanistan.

Ladies Organization: Elkettes
Organized: 1987
Charter members: 122

R. Edward Royal was born in Stockton, GA on October 31, 1923 and moved to Sarasota in 1925. He graduated from Sarasota High School and attended the University of Florida on a football scholarship. In 1950 he went to work for the Sarasota Police Department and then joined the Sarasota Bank and Trust Co. and became a Vice President. Moving on, he went to work for the Florida State Employment Service in 1963 and held the position of manager of the Sarasota district office until his retirement in 1986. He was a Past President of the Florida Employment Assn. and was a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Sarasota Civil Service Board, the Sarasota County Advisory Board, and the Sarasota Housing Authority Board. He was an honorary member of the Sarasota 1519 Lodge. He became a District Vice President and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1977. He served as a member of the Advisory Council and at various times he served on the board of directors of the association and from 1982-1988 on the board of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital.

His Year

Motto: “There is a Place in Elksdom for You”
State President Robert Fluck made his annual report.
The Better Business Practices Committee started as this is now a Grand Lodge requirement.
All 97 Lodges in the state now belong to the State Association; currently eight do not have a Ladies organization.
The State Association computer program started in the accounting department.
The State Historian made a report to the assembly convention. This is only the second time in 74 years a Historian was called upon for a report.
Tallahassee 937 won the state ritual contest.

Seventy-Second Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
May 18-20, 1978
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA
The following officers were elected to serve for the 1978-1979 term:

- **President**    R. Edward Royal, Sarasota
- **Vice President at Large**   Richard Robinson, Sebring
- **Secretary** Ben S. Brown, Jr., Eustis
- **Treasurer** Frank J. Holt, Miami
- **Tiler** Jasper Nichols, Orlando
- **Historian** William W. Spaulding, Clearwater
- **Sergeant at Arms** Elmer Ball, Sarasota
- **Chaplain** Ted Carlson, Sarasota
- **Organist** Norman D. Right, DeLand

**District Vice Presidents**

- **Northwest**    Earl W. Richbourg, Pensacola
- **Northeast** John S. Shannon, Jacksonville Beach
- **East Central** Lester R. Owens, Jr., Vero Beach
- **North Central** Henry Lee, Clermont-Groveland
- **South Central** J. Pierce Guard, Lakeland
- **West Central** W. C. Swanson, Largo
- **Southwest** William B. Stone, Naples
- **Southeast** Melvin Spooner, Clewiston
- **South Southeast** Thomas M. Coker, Jr., Fort Lauderdale
- **South** Jesse Woodruff, Key West

Kissimmee was selected as the site for the 1979 convention.

**Rosasco, Johnny**

Johnny Rosasco was a member of Coral Gables Lodge. In 1958 at the fifty-second annual convention held in Lake Worth, Rosasco was placed in nomination for State President in opposition to Willis V. McCall of Eustis. When the final vote was tallied, Willis McCall had received 239 votes and Rosasco 116 votes.

**Rose Bowl Parade (Elks)**

Held annually in January in Pasadena, CA, the Rose Bowl Parade is viewed by 125 million television viewers and a crowd of more than a million spectators lining the curbs along the parade route.

The Elks participated for several years but in 1995 Grand Lodge decided to discontinue participation in the Tournament of Roses parade because of unsatisfactory national public exposure despite winning several trophies over the years.

The Elks Rose Bowl float had been financed by contributions of $0.10 per member from the State Associations. In its last year, 1995, there was enough money left over from previous years to finance the project without contributions.
Rumney, Dwayne, E., Grand Exalted Ruler, 2000-2001

Born in Sandwich, IL on May 17, 1937, the youngest of three children, Dwayne E. Rumney was raised in a small town where everyone knew each other by name and friendships were close and lasting. During his early years, Rumney learned the true importance of family, community, volunteering, and a strong work ethic. Not surprisingly, the values and ideals that he learned to cherish as a child would later lead him to join the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

In 1955 Rumney graduated from Sandwich High School, one of a class of fifty students, and the following year he entered the U. S. Air Force. While stationed at a base in Willmar, MN, he met Sandy Lindquist whom he married in 1959. For more than forty years, her wisdom, counsel, and love have been a source of strength for him in every aspect of their lives together.

Upon receiving his discharge from the Air Force in 1960, they moved to Minneapolis where he pursued a degree in accounting at the Minnesota School of Business; he graduated in 1963.

Bringing together discipline and teamwork learned in the military, an ability to understand others, and the knowledge acquired in college, Rumney quickly became a powerful force in the business community. Through the years, his strong leadership and creative problem solving skills proved to be key in making floundering businesses successful. Those traits also made him a valued and distinguished member of his community. His professional and public life have included such highlights as serving as President of the Willmar Area Chamber of Commerce; President of the Willmar Area Quality Council, which he was instrumental in forming; President of the Willmar Technical College Foundation; ten-year board member of the Ridgewater College Foundation; Director of West Central Industries, an organization which assists the physically challenged; and Vice Chairman of the Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, a state agency that provides career training and employment to the unemployed, the underemployed, and youths. Not surprisingly, he was also named as a finalist for the Minnesota Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 1991.

On October 14, 1967, Rumney was initiated into Willmar, MN Elks Lodge 952. He joined the order, he explains, after becoming excited by “the camaraderie of people getting together, volunteering, and doing things to help others.” That enthusiasm, coupled with the many friendships he forged at the Lodge, led him to become very active in the Elks and an avid supporter of its many programs. After progressing through all of the elected chairs, he was chosen to be Exalted Ruler of the Lodge in 1975-1976, and later he served the Lodge as the Chairman of its Board of Trustees.

Over time, Rumney’s dedication and enthusiasm led him to serve the order in a number of positions, both elected and appointed, including certified ritualistic judge, Central District President for four years, President of the
Minnesota Elks Association in 1990-1991, and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Central District of Minnesota in 1992-1993. In 1992-1993, he was also appointed as a member of the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee, a position that he held until 1955 when he was elected to the Board of Grand Trustees on which he served for four years with the last year as Chairman. In this capacity, he used his strong managerial skills and keen insight on behalf of the order of Elks, paying particular attention to the order's operations. In recognition of the vital role that he has played in all levels of the order, he was elected as an honorary life member of Willmar Lodge and was designated as Willmar Lodge’s Elk of the Year in 1998-1999.

For Rumney, the most rewarding thing about being a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has been the warming of the heart he has felt when lending a hand to others. “When I look at the future of our order,” he states, “I see Elks enthusiasm (for helping others) building and the support we give our communities growing stronger than ever.” It is his hope that as he fulfills his duties as Grand Exalted Ruler he will carry this message, the true spirit of the order, to the people and places he visits.

Rumney visited the Florida State Elks Association in February of 2001 at which time he dedicated the new gymnasium and headquarters building at the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

**Ryan Drive**

At the conclusion of the August quarterly meeting, the entrance road to the Florida Elks Youth Camp was dedicated to and named in Tom Ryan’s honor for his many years of dedication in getting the youth camp built. Ryan’s motto for the camp was “build it and they will come” and this was proven true, as tens of thousands of children have experienced the pleasure of using the camp’s many facilities.

**Ryan, Thomas J., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1999-2000**

**Ninety-Third Annual Session**
**Florida State Elks Association**
May 27-29, 1999
KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA

Quotations by Tom Ryan:

“The foundation of our order is our Lodges. Here we must change for the future.”

“The 21st century will be more accommodating as the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services will almost cover the entire state of Florida. Elks will utilize their resources to send vans, therapists, and treatments into the warmth and familiarity of the children’s own homes.”

“The key to Elkdom’s future is change; the way we handle it will determine first our survival and then our success.”
“Stand tall, walk the walk, talk the talk, know we can change for the good of all.”

The following is from Winter 2001:

   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.

Tom Ryan was born on May 28, 1942 in Brooklyn, NY and came to Florida when he was about three months old. His father was stationed at Pensacola, FL during WWII flying the submarine patrol off the shores of Florida. When growing up he thought he would become a part of the military service or an athlete. His younger school years were spent in public and parochial schools.

Education:

- Florida Southern College   1959-1963
  Bachelor of Science
  Major: History

- University of Alabama   1963-1970
  Major: Latin American History

- University of Miami   1966-1970
  Postgraduate work – Inter-American Studies

- Nova University   1983-1987
  Doctor of Education
  Major: Higher Education

- Florida Atlantic University 1985-1986
  Recertification Course

- Florida Atlantic University 1994
  Recertification Course Work

While attending school he was teaching and coaching. He coached basketball for 23 years and states his record as 667 wins and 105 losses. He is proud of the fact that he coached a basketball team that won two international basketball competitions for the United States record of 9-0.

He has always been involved with young people ages 9 to 25, feeling strongly that the development of youngsters’ academic, athletic, cultural, and social interactions are the future of what we as a society will be.

He is an educator and has served in many capacities from teacher to Professor of the Year in 1998. He has held a Second Generation Community Leader Endowed Teaching Chair. His specialty is Latin American History. He has received many community awards. He has taught at the Broward Community College since he graduated in 1966.

He came alive and a complete person when he became a third generation member of Plantation Elks Lodge 2273 in 1966. Immediately he was appointed Chairman of Youth Activities and remaining Lodge Chairman of Youth Activities until 1994.
Over the many years, the big kid, as he was known in Plantation Elks Lodge, was given the help and complete support of the Lodge members and the required finances necessary to fulfill the youth activities programs. He was elected Exalted Ruler of Plantation Elks Lodge for 1970-1971.

He served as:
- Chairman of the Board of Trustees, 1972-1976
- FSEA State Chairman of Hoop Shoot, 1975
- FSEA State Chairman of Youth Activities, 1982
- Vice President of FSEA for the SSE District, 1986-1987
- District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, 1987-1988
- Member of the Board of Directors of FSEA, 1990-1994
- Member of Grand Lodge Publicity and Public Relations Committee
- Member of the Florida Elks Youth Development Committee, 1992
- Chairman from the inception of the Florida Elks Youth Camp Corporation

He was elected FSEA Vice President at Large and State President while continuing to serve on the Board of Directors for the Youth Camp.

PSP Anthony J. DeLucca, Sr. nominated Thomas Ryan as President PSP.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1999-2000 term:

- President: Thomas J. Ryan, Jr., Fort Lauderdale
- Vice President at Large: R. William Welbaum, Jr., Englewood
- Secretary: Frank D. Willis, Jr., Umatilla
- Treasurer: Joseph B. Bryant, Sebring
- Chaplain: Wally Gies, Delray Beach
- Historian: Lowell P. Tyler, Lake Worth
- Tiler: John “Jay” Borra, Plantation
- Sergeant at Arms: Joseph B. Rogers, Sanford
- Organist: Shirley J. Rukes

District Vice Presidents

- Northwest: Jerry Garner, Pensacola
- North: James E. LaValle, Perry
- Northeast: Raymond “Ray” Murphree, Jacksonville
- East Central: John C. Harris, Melbourne
- North Central: Charles A. Trinowski, Casselberry
- Central: Paul Wetzel, Orlando
- Southeast Central: Thomas J. Heintz, Port St. Lucie
- West Central: Charles E. Urello, St. Petersburg
- Southwest Central: Dale E. Young, Lake Placid
- Southwest: Thomas W. Grandys, Brandenton
- South Southwest: Daniel C. Langham, Englewood
- Southeast: Carl Seibert, Belle Glade
- South: Manuel A. Cuadrado, Coral Gables

District Deputies

- Northwest: Jerry Jenkins, Crestview
- North: Ronald E. Hussey, Marianna
- Northeast: Roger D. Zeigler, Green Cove Springs
- East Central: Alex H. McKibbin, Lake Mary
- North Central: Duane Whatley, Ocala
Excerpts of Ryan’s program:

Florida Elkdom needs to go back to our basics. The complexity of today’s society requires we control our own destiny and conserve our assets. The concept of change will provide us with many new challenges and opportunities in the new millennium. The societal factors inside and outside of Florida’s 122 Lodges will continue to impact our future. We must do what is in our individual Lodges’ and state association’s best interests. This will differ region to region and Lodge to Lodge. Your state association must be more flexible in helping Elks to adapt to their communities’ changing needs. However, we must maintain credibility and a certain amount of consistency in keeping with the dictates of our order.

The “sharers and carers” who continue to support our order are all volunteers, from the individual Lodge member to our association President. They need guidelines to give them direction. Policies and procedures are the most important hows and whys for the networking of our order, its state association, fourteen districts, and 122 Lodges.

The new millennium will be a threat to all fraternal, civic, and charitable organizations. Now we face membership control and maintenance. Not only organizations but also employment and family will compete for time that will equate to fewer members. Be that the case, Elks must persist in obtaining quality members to aid our order and its projects.

The essence of our concern for recruitment and/or retention is education, activities, and communication. The issues that must be addressed are many; they include:

- Demands of work, family, and social obligations on individuals
- More competitive environment for civic, charitable, and fraternal organizations
- Diverse leisure activities available for families
- Dysfunctional and broken families’ effects on society’s development
- Cultural differences
- Costs of belonging, forcing members into other choices
- Redefine roles of auxiliary organizations, trustees, and committees

An ideal marketing plan would work throughout the entire state by using association leadership, committees, districts, and a cadre of committed teachers. The continuation of proper training is paramount for Florida Elkdom’s success in the 21st century. Other public relations tools include district sponsorship or a luncheon or breakfast for local media representatives and written thank you notes to local to local media when they do support your programs.

The reeducation of Elkdom is necessary as policies, procedures, and traditions are forgotten or ignored. The Past State Presidents, Past District Deputies, and Past Exalted Rulers are necessary to take our order, the Florida State Elks Association, our districts, and individual Lodges into the future.

Motto: “A New Millennium - Adapt and Innovate for Elkdom”

Providing service will be our bridge from the 20th century’s information age to the 21st century’s service orientation. As our society continues in its high tech mode, the need for a high touch, humanistic approach will be greater than ever. The sharing and concept will become criteria for judgment of who Elks are and what they do. Unfortunately, with diminishing membership and resources Elks can no longer ask what Elkdom can do for them; they must ask what they can do for Elkdom. The new millennium will challenge Elks to proceed with great vigor to survive.
The foundation of our order is our Lodges. Here we must change for the future. New competitiveness between club and Lodge, ladies and auxiliaries and Lodge officers, the Bingo Committee and Youth Activities, or the House Committee and the Lodge trustees can only detract from our success and survival. Put aside those separate agendas, gather your friends and their friends, and remember the cardinal principles of our order. Then head into the future.

Collectively with the community our Lodges and their members must enter a new millennium; adapt and innovate for Elkdom.

Major Emphasis

Comprehending, analyzing, and expressing the need for changes for not only a surviving but a thriving Elkdom.

The world, this country, your community, our order, and association along with your Lodge has to find a course of action that will overcome the social, economic, political, and cultural factors within and outside of our Lodges. The causes remain basic: rehabilitation of children’s handicaps, scholarships for deserving college students, youth camp support, opportunities for children, and assisting the veterans in our communities. You need to start at the local level with what you feel comfortable and can consistently maintain. Above all be credible with each cause you choose to support.

As an Elk, you must be all that you can be. Never forget that we need our Lodges in order to continue being Elks.

Orientation

Most members who lapse during the first eight months did not experience the type of indoctrination that offered a retention ring from the Indoctrination Committee, officers, and committee chairpersons as well as their individual sponsor. Each new candidate must have a sense of belonging or they will be gone during the first eight months. Their response will be about their everyday trials and tribulations and our current membership decline will continue. These candidates need to be educated about the variety of levels of support in which they can participate. But, our current members need to be reeducated so that they can educate the new members. Remember there has to be different strokes for different folks, different methods and opportunities for young or old, singles, couples, or families, professionals, or blue collar workers.

Lodges must foster education so our new members can decide their pace of involvement, their social interaction to attain a sense of belonging, and establish a level of commitment. This will help the new member with continuity so that their names will be much less likely to appear on the lapsation list or becoming a stray Elk; it is imperative to help these candidates become the best Elk through activities, attitude, and commitment, something all Elks should strive for.

Indoctrination must now become orientation and more. It must be expanded to emphasize marketing. We must educate for survival. Our committees must ascertain what the individual candidate’s needs, interests, and abilities are in order to align them with the most appropriate committees and activities. The first month after their initiation there should be an event or meeting scheduled where each member and their spouse are made welcome. Every committee and project should be represented and be actively recruiting these members with dates of meetings and projects available so they can jump right in. Other methods for improving indoctrination include providing a new member manual to each new member including basic leadership concepts into the program and also providing a mentor, preferably their Lodge sponsor.

This year Indoctrination Committees need to continue the statewide contest idea conceived by President Sebald to show the types of marketing excellence that is utilized by successful Lodges so they can learn from each other. This interaction will promote and develop new ideas and work to enhance membership on the Lodge, district, and state level.

Activities

It is time to merge entertainment and Lodge activities with social and community welfare so as to use public relations strengths to encourage participation. The Lodge must become a home away from home, a place where an attitude adjustment reflects a positive and caring atmosphere that encourages sharing and caring for our own members, their families, and the local community to foster involvement in our Lodges and programs. Back to basics, back to our leaders past and present to talk the talk, walk the walk, and stand for Elkdom. Our Lodges must
offer a true variety that will enhance all of the Lodge members’ enjoyment so that these projects and activities will promote meeting attendance.

Lodges must let the members select those activities and procedures rather than tell their members what to do and to help them with how to do them. This way all members will find a comfort zone that will permit their development as good Elks. The leadership must have suggestions and options to help the members in understanding how to plan, facilitate, and carry out successful activities and programs. This will develop pride and a sense of accomplishment. There are very successful Elks who avoid confrontation by being absent. They must hold the true value of their Lodge and community at heart to appreciate what Elkdom can do in and out of the Lodge.

Three specific suggestions for improving activities at the Lodge and district level:

1. District leaders should follow up from state ER and Secretaries Seminars with district workshops to discuss specific implications of the GER and State President’s programs and how best to implement at the Lodge and district level.
2. Develop Lodge round table discussions to establish goals for the Lodge that are comfortable, consistent, and credible.
3. Exalted Rulers should provide monthly assessments to officers and committeemen regarding their performance toward meeting these goals.

Ladies

The status of female Elks is of great concern to our superior ladies auxiliaries. An unusual situation exists for the new millennium to adapt and innovate Elkdom to minimize differences that would cast an unfavorable light on a potentially fantastic opportunity to increase the size of our organization allowing us to accomplish more for our projects and programs. I suggest that we provide support for both our male and female members as we transition from an all male organization to one that is coed.

Members

“The New Millennium - Adapt and Innovate for Elkdom.” The order, the Florida State Elks Association, the fourteen districts, the 122 Lodges, and 74,600 members all need perpetuation. The new millennium will make a difference in societal factors. Our community’s residents will no longer be looking for fraternal organizations unless they are second and third generation Elks. It is going to be extremely competitive for both service and social organizations.

Quality is so necessary as our 21st century commitment of excellence has to be in the attainment and retention of a nucleus of members for the next century. Elks who believe have pride in Elkdom. As a new service oriented society we will need to find a great deal more attractions, activities, and services to compete for the attention of members. This will cause great pressure on the Lodges to provide superior social activities. New members need a return on their investment of time and money. The altruistic attitude of helping is not enough anymore. It can only be precipitated by our current, past, and future leadership who must lead by the example of their involvement.

I am suggesting the following approaches to reverse our membership decline:

1. Increase membership via targeting specific populations, especially young families and young professionals. There needs to be a specific campaign with clearly defined strategies. I am proposing a statewide ad hoc committee to establish and facilitate the implementation of these strategies.
2. Decrease lapsation by providing an improved indoctrination/orientation program with committee members and Lodge officers and PERs and also an ongoing education program to keep members up to date with changes and future programs. Improved communications are imperative to a successful organization. I am going to continue the efforts of President Sebald with regard to indoctrination. The final piece to the lapsation puzzle is public relations. I believe members want their fellow citizens to know what the Elks do and how well they do it. Our credibility is critical to a good public relations campaign.
3. Develop membership perks for families, incentives to get them to join and ultimately participate.
Parents’ appreciation nights, recognition for children of members on the honor roll, and partnering with elementary schools are just a few suggestions. A regional or statewide workshop will help to firm this concept up.

4. At the district level membership should be the priority. Any project initiated should have a tie to membership and recruitment. District leaders should continue to stress the importance as well as educate members and facilitate new ideas. If all Lodges are speaking with one voice, the message to potential members will be much clearer.

5. Sponsors of new members should act as mentors for at least the first year of membership. If they are unable to do so, an officer or PER should take on the role. Just having a contact, a recognizable face, or someone with knowledge of the Lodge would go a long way toward getting a new member involved. Lodge officers should call the sponsors of each member on the lapsation list to find out what the problem is and hopefully solve it.

Business

The business of Florida Elkdom is business for the 21st century. The new direction of our Lodges, the clubs, and the special activities is resource development. The leadership of Elkdom must be available to establish a professional businesslike environment and criteria to show you the hows of doing business and meeting our Business Practices guidelines.

The need for financial stability has become one of the driving priorities for Elkdom’s survival. Our Lodges are becoming financial liabilities. The Business Practices Committee is available for immediate assistance and annual audits to identify problems.

I am recommending the following strategies to improve our Lodges’ financial stability:

1. Past District Deputies’ analysis of possible mergers or assistance to Lodges in their districts that are in a financial crisis. District leaders should play a proactive rather than a reactive role in problem solving. If problems are anticipated it is easier to head them off than to clean them up.
2. Lodge fundraising activities should be used to heighten community awareness regarding the Lodge’s presence and its social and community welfare program.
3. The House Committee must use the Business Practices workbook and conduct clinics or workshops for members on our accepted practices.
4. Combine committees to flatten our structure. Other committees including ways and means, Lodge activities, and house committees should be considered for combining. A statewide recommendation will be made after proper research.

Trust for the Future of Florida’s Children

A New Millennium - Adapt and Innovate for Elkdom will see Florida change direction, beginning a new emphasis. The 21st century will be more accommodating as the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services will almost cover the entire state of Florida. Elks will utilize their resources to send vans, therapists, and treatments into the warmth and familiarity of the children’s own homes.

The Elks outpatient clinic will continue to assist orthopedic cases through the Shriners’ agreement. The Albertus “Boots” and Eleanor Van Duren Educational Complex will serve as the clinic facilities in Lake and Marion Counties. There will be a continued effort to develop new clinics in the Northwest and the South Southwest Districts.

The establishment of the assessment for new monies creates a need to sell Harry-Anna certificates to enhance the work on behalf of Florida’s disabled children who need our help. We will sell shares of stock to promote the C, D, and M certificates.