Sandalfoot Lodge 2741

Some material was submitted by Lodge Historian, Gerry Enscoe.

Sandalfoot was originally instituted as Southwest Palm Beach County Lodge. Its name was changed in 1990.

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler: Lawrence C. Clark
Esteemed Leading Knight: Cyril Becker
Esteemed Loyal Knight: William Burke
Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Robert Martin
Secretary: James M. Pride
Treasurer: Roger Hosfield
Inner Guard: Salvatore D’Benedidto
Chaplain: William Hogentogler
Organist: Joseph Pettit
Esquire: Peter Bellucci
Tiler: Chester Brock
Trustees: 5 Year, Jos. Barker
4 Year, Edwin Cook
3 Year, William P. Zarrella
2 Year, Paul Pike
1 Year, Jack Cammilleri

In the summer of 1987, Charles W. Crosswhite, Sr., Owner/Manager of Sandalfoot Golf and Country Club in Boca Raton; James M. Price, former Secretary of Boca Raton Elks Lodge; and Roger Hasfield, a retired judge, all Boca Raton Elks Lodge members, held discussions relative to the possibility of forming a new Lodge. Crosswhite suggested that a portion of the Sandalfoot Golf and Country Club could be used as a Lodge room and lounge.

Discussions soon determined that there was a sufficient number of prospective members showing interest in the proposal. A series of meetings were scheduled and all interested parties were invited to attend. During that winter and spring of 1988, over 280 people participated in these meetings and showed interest in becoming a member of such a Lodge.

An application for dispensation to form a Lodge was made and on May 13, 1988, they received approval from Grand Lodge.

Soon a lease agreement was signed with the Sandalfoot Golf and Country Club for a section of the upper floor of the club to be used as the Lodge meeting room and club lounge.

The Lodge was instituted on September 10, 1988. The institution and initiation ceremonies were held in the meeting room of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Boca Raton with Grand Lodge Officer Charles Kelly, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Lodge 2741, presiding. There were 155 charter members included 33 transfer demits and one absolute demit.

During the first year, a number of resignations took place and new Lodge officers were elected or appointed. Peter Belucci resigned as Esquire soon after the institution due to ill health and was replaced by Charles Mancuso who served as both Presiding Justice and Esquire for most of the first year. D’Benedidto resigned as Inner
Guard for similar reasons and was replaced by Michael Brosso, Jr. Four-year Trustee, Edwin Cook, resigned and was replaced by Samuel Mancuso in a special election. James M. Price became terminally ill and died in office and was replaced by Thomas J. Kelly in a special election. Cyril Becker resigned as Leading Knight late in the year and the office remained vacant until the election of new officers in 1989.

In March of 1989, Lodge 2741 held its first election of officers with the following elected:

- Exalted Ruler: Paul Pike, Jr.
- Leading Knight: William Burke, Jr.
- Loyal Knight: Robert Martin
- Lecturing Knight: Charles Mancuso
- Treasurer: William P. Zarrella
- Secretary: Thomas J. Kelly
- Tiler: Chester Brock
- 5 Year Trustee: George Dooley
- 2 Year Trustee: Jack Cammilleri
- 1 Year Trustee: Fred Hofer

The following officers were appointed:

- Esquire: William J. Zarrella
- Inner Guard: Michael Grosso, Jr.
- Presiding Justice: Albert Jacobson
- Chaplain: William Hagentogler
- Organist: Joseph Pettit

These officers were installed at their first installation ceremony on April 14, 1989. PDD Gene Boggs of Delray Beach Elks Lodge 1770 presided.

In March of 1989, the Lodge received approval from Grand Lodge to publish a Lodge bulletin. In April the first issue of the bulletin, “ELKNOTES,” was published.

The women of Lodge 2741 began discussions of forming a Ladies organization late in the year of 1988 and were formally established as the Southwest Palm Beach County Elkettes in January of 1989. Elections were held late in March with installation of their charter officers on April 22, 1989.

The charter Elkette officers for 1989-1990 were as follows:

- President: Gloria Zarrella
- Vice President: Dorothy Tetreu
- Treasurer: Shirley McAvoy
- Chaplain: Bette Barker
- Guard: Nancy Booze
- Trustees: Betty Pike
- Jacqui Dooley
- Yolando D’Amrosio

In the late 1990s the Sandalfoot Golf and Country Club was sold and the new owners canceled the lease with the Elks. Without a home, they held their meetings at the Boca Raton Elks while looking for a new facility.

**Sanford Lodge 1241**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 16th Lodge</th>
<th>District: East Central</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Institution:</td>
<td>May 19, 1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>Jeff B. Browne, DDGER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
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<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
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Year 1997 Membership: 234
Year 1998 Membership: 225
Year 2000 Membership: 211
Year 2004 Membership: 178
Year 2005 Membership: 181
Year 2006 Membership: 190
Year 2007 Membership: 190
Year 2008 Membership: 187
Year 2009 Membership: 175
Meets: Every Thursday
Location: 1006 E. 2nd Street, Sanford, FL 32771
Telephone: 407-322-2703

Contributor of much of this material: PDD Frank E. Holmes

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler: Jeff B. Browne
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: B. C. Abernathy
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: M. O. Overstreet
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: J. H. Jones
Grand Secretary: H. M. Hunt
Grand Treasurer: Cas. Sartigue
Grand Trustee: M. M. Smith
Grand Trustee: J. P. Warlow
Grand Trustee: Wm. Martin
Grand Tiler: George W. Wright
Grand Chaplain: L. A. Spencer
Grand Esquire: W. J. Sims
Grand Inner Guard: E. D. Kemp

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler: W. D. Holden
Esteemed Leading Knight: C. M. Broadwater
Esteemed Loyal Knight: W. H. Underwood
Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Harold Haskins
Secretary: O. L. Taylor
Treasurer: W. L. Morgan
Tiler: Felix Frank
Trustees
3 Year, H. P. Driver
2 Year, R. N. Marks
1 Year, Forrest Lake


Their Lodge burned in 1924 with the loss of many older records.
Past State President Forrest Lake (1916-1917) was a member of the Lodge.
History

Sanford lies on the southern shore of Lake Monroe at a point where the St. John’s River widens to form Lake Monroe, named after President James Monroe. Because of its strategic location on the St. John’s River, the army established Fort Mellon as its main supply point into central Florida with nine steamboats servicing it. Several roads emanated from this point and run though Fort Maitland and Fort Gatlin (Orlando) and to Fort Brooke on Tampa Bay. That route was very close to the present day I-4.

Native Indians would gather at Fort Mellon and in 1837, Osceola reestablished his friendship with Lt. John Graham during an interlude in the Second Seminole War.

Henry Sanford arrived in 1871. He had been a brilliant student and sent to Heidelberg University where he obtained a position with the American Diplomatic Corps. He was the son of a wealthy northern manufacturer. President Lincoln had appointed him as minister to Belgium in 1861. With the coming of the Civil War, Sanford became a noncombatant officer and in donating three cannons to the Minnesota militia, he was given a General’s commission.

Sanford later learned of land that was for sale in the Lake Monroe area and purchased 23 square miles with the idea of building a city that was named after him. Although his vivacious wife, half his age, despised the place, he imported 30,000 trees including 140 varieties of citrus set on his ambition. He experimented hoping to produce the best citrus in Florida and has been considered the father of the orange industry.

He built the Sanford Hotel, a magnificent 200-room structure and a six hundred foot pier. Henry Plant, quite impressed, brought his railroad into town. The town never prospered and his wife never warmed to Sanford’s dream. She called Florida “a vampire that sucked the very repose, beauty, dignity, and cheerfulness out of our lives.” As an old man, Sanford was harassed by his creditors and died in 1891 at the age of 68.

Sanford Lodge Home as it was in 1890s
Courtesy of Joe Rogers

Today, Sanford is a progressive town and an exit for I-4. Henry Plant’s railroad hotel can still be seen at Commercial and Oak Streets, visible by its Turkish mosque. Cruise boats now leave the Sanford wharf for scenic excursions of Lake Monroe and the St. John’s River.

On March 19, 1911, just twenty years after Henry Sanford’s death and unfortunate experiment, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks sowed the seeds of Elkdom in the city of Sanford through the efforts of a group of American men from Orlando Elks Lodge 1079. The Lodge became known as Sanford Elks Lodge 1241.

The population of Florida was at 750,000 and Seminole County did not yet exist. Henry’s dream was beginning to take hold and Sanford was now a thriving city of almost 6,000 people. Miami in Southeast Florida had a population of almost 30,000.

The newly organized Lodge convened in the old city hall located over the present fire station. Shortly after this, the Lodge leased the second floor of the building which about thirty years before had been occupied by the
Smith Brothers furniture store. Somewhere in this period, the Lodge held meetings on the third floor of the Valdez Hotel.

The Lodge prospered from the start and they soon had visions of owning a home of their own. Lots were purchased along the unimproved lakefront where a future Lodge home was erected.

In 1915 the Lodge announced the construction of a new Lodge on Park Avenue. An article appearing in The Sanford Herald on October 8, 1915 read:

Elks Lodge Will Be Ready Next Spring

The officers of the Sanford Lodge of Elks, forming the corporation, rejected all bids for the new building at the meeting held for the purpose last Monday afternoon. It was decided to appoint contractor George Venable of this city to take entire charge of the work of the erection of the new home under the supervision of Architect Hutton and the building committee of the Lodge, comprising of the trustees, Forrest Lake, R. J. Holly, and S. Maxwell and the four members appointed by Exalted Ruler Neal as follows: C. F. Williams, W. J. Hill, Fred Williams, and Frank L. Woodruff.

The building will represent an investment of about twenty thousand dollars when completed and equipped and this undertaking at this time of year demonstrates that the Elks have faith in their Lodge and their city and the building will be completed and ready for occupancy in the early spring.

Sanford Lodge has over two hundred members, the membership is constantly increasing, and the members think that there should be no delay in raising of sufficient funds to complete the building once begun.

The beginning of this building will be an event in Sanford, as it will be one of the finest Lodge rooms in this part of the state and every detail for comfort of the members and their families has been worked out in full. The building will be erected on the two lots owned by the Lodge on Park Avenue opposite the Dinkins stable and will be close to the bulk headed lake font with board porches and roof garden effect on the east side of the building where it will always be shady.

The building will have one of the finest dance floors possible to build as the members believe in the art of terpsichore and will do everything possible to make the building meet all requirements of comfort and pleasure.

Note: Terpsichore is one of the nine muses of ancient Greece. Terpsichore is the muse of dancing and the dramatic chorus and later of lyric poetry, hence the word terpsichorean.

Later, America entered World War I and because of the absence of many of its members serving in the military, resulting financial reverses, and hard times, the Lodge was forced to relinquish the property to the county. This site is now the location of Seminole County Courthouse.

Following this setback, the Lodge acquired temporary quarters over the Seminole Bank and began to recoup its strength. In a short period, they purchased a building owned by the Rod and Gun Club which had been built during the boom years. At this new location, the Lodge again began to prosper and enjoy new growth.

Again, disaster struck. The building was destroyed by fire on October 12, 1924. During this fire, many of the older Lodge records were destroyed. Following this setback, lakefront property to the west side belonging to Walter Hand was leased as temporary quarters. In 1924 the property formerly owned by the Fraternal Order of Eagles on Oak Avenue was purchased. The Lodge enjoyed several years at this location but as the boom years began to develop into the bust years resulting in great strains placed upon the Lodge and its members, a decision was made to relinquish this property along with the lots where the old lakefront home had burned.

In 1930 in the midst of the great depression, the Lodge moved to the second floor of the Bishop Building on East 1st Street and Palmetto Avenue. Past Exalted Rulers, W. D. Spencer and the Honorable E. F. Householder, along with a Building Committee headed up by W. M. Toll, began to look into purchasing a new home.

The Lodge finally entered into negotiations to acquire the Walker property on East 2nd Avenue and San Juan Avenue. It was a successful effort; the purchase of the building took place in February of 1936 and the Lodge was occupying it in that same year. It is today still the home of Sanford Elks Lodge. The Russian Count Wassilieff had originally built the building and he called it “Villa Shoora.” It became the home of C. R. Walker.

The building was now remodeled to fulfill the needs of both a Lodge and club functions.
Pictured is B. P. O. Elks Lodge 1241 at 1006 E. Second Street located two blocks from beautiful Lake Monroe, fisherman’s paradise. It is one block from New York Giants Mayfair Inn Hotel and ten blocks from the Sanford business district.

Today, the Sanford Elks take great pride in this nostalgic landmark and one of the beauty spots in the city.

Things went well and in 1942, Sanford Lodge was honored when Past Exalted Ruler Leo Butner was appointed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. This honor was not bestowed for another ten years when another Past Exalted Ruler, Al Coe, who later became Secretary of Orlando Lodge 1079, was accorded the honor.

In 1958 the Lodge was saddened with the passing of E. F. Householder. Householder was a man dedicated to the principles of the order, charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity. He had done so much for all that the members thought it only fitting and proper to establish a lasting memento. Today, the Elks playground in Fort Mellon Park stands as a tribute to that great leader.

The Sanford Elks Clock

There is a clock standing at the outside of the Sanford Elks home. This clock had originally decorated the outside of the Sanford Atlantic Bank. One of the members of Sanford Lodge, Morris Moses, purchased the clock years ago. Moses placed a concrete pedestal at the junction of First Street and Park Avenue and for many years residents and visitors set their watches from this timepiece, whose hands faced north, south, east and west.

However, as time passed, Sanford grew. With growth, traffic increased and now the clock became more of a detriment than the convenience it offered passers-by. Consequently, the city decided that it should be dismantled and placed in the city warehouse.

Moses passed away and the Elks Lodge decided that it might be a fitting tribute to him to secure the clock and erect it on the grounds of the Lodge in his memory. The Moses family granted permission for the tribute and City Manager, Pete Knowles, gave his assistance. The clock was removed to the lawn of the Lodge. Its inner workings were removed, the four sides were painted with the Elks logo, and the hands were permanently set at the hour of eleven. Passers-by now often ask why the clock is set at the hour of eleven and the story of the Jolly Corks and the hour of eleven toasting is explained. The Sanford Herald has a column it entitles “Round the Clock” and the famous clock heads the column as its symbol.

In 1962 the Lodge lost its last charter member, Arthur E. Yowell, affectionately known as Cap. He is affectionately remembered for his philanthropic nature and a great asset to Elkdom.

In 1966, Frank E. Holmes was appointed District Deputy. Holmes also served the Lodge on three separate occasions as Secretary. Although the Lodge was honored by the appointment of Holmes to the position, it was stunned when its reigning Exalted Ruler, Milton Tolbert, perished in a fire. Tolbert had been a dedicated Elk ever concerned with the welfare of the Lodge and described by one as a very humble person.

Gene Walter placed the Lodge’s Social and Community Welfare Committee within the top three Lodges in the nation and on one occasion was awarded first prize in the nation by the Grand Lodge. This program, together with their Youth Activities Committee, has placed Sanford Lodge well in the eyes of the citizenry. Lou Girard headed this committee up.

Seminole Safe House has been a beneficiary of Sanford Lodge’s fundraising. The house provides temporary shelter and counseling for battered women and their children. Lodge donations have provided refrigeration and microwave equipment and $7,000 toward a much needed commercial kitchen.

Good leadership has been able to help the Lodge repeatedly when it has risen to meet hard and stormy trials and setbacks. This leadership has always restored its strength, success, and standing in the community. From its
first Exalted Ruler, William D. Holden, its roll of Past Exalted Rulers is one of Elks who have played a large part in the history and development of Sanford Lodge.

Past District Deputy Frank Holmes, a Sanford Elk deeply committed to the mission of Elkdom, stated the following:

Many times there seems to be a misunderstanding concerning just what the Order of Elks stands for. Many believe it to be an organization with no design or plan. The Order of Elks is a nonprofit organization with its surplus funds being used for the betterment of mankind through charity, the relief of suffering of crippled children, the development of our youth, the care of indigent children, and the remembrance of our elderly folks. The Elks are a God fearing organization and truly American. Our meetings are always opened and closed seeking the divine blessings followed by the remarks, ‘as our flag is first in our hearts as loyal Americans, so it is close to our altar as loyal Elks.’ Therefore, those of us who are Elks are fortunate Americans indeed. Belief in God and country is unquestionable and the fact that you can proclaim that you are a member of one of the greatest organizations in the world makes you proud indeed. May this proud possession of our membership stimulate the members, present and future, to emulate those two great principles of Elkdom, brotherly love and charity, and its further growth and success will be assured.

Past Exalted Rulers:

William Holden
E. W. Roland
C. Barnes
R. L. Dick
F. A. Neal
J. G. Hurley
O. L. Taylor
G. DeCottles
H. B. Lewis
P. Weinburg
W. W. Wright
C. J. Marshall
R. I. Peck
Forrest Lake
A. S. Peck
Fred Dorner
P. Thurston
E. F. Householder
J. Ludwig
H. B. Odham
C. W. Spencer
F. C. McMahon
George Thurston
Andrew Carraway
J. J. Kellagllhan

Edward Meisch
Leo Butner
Dr. L. T. Doss
R. P. Sharrock
J. E. Rowland
Joel S. Field
Earl Higginbotham
Jesse Lodge
Al Coe
O. P. Herndon
Robert Billhimer
John H. Williams
Don Bales
Roy Green
D. Guy Allen
William Hardin
Richard Mapes
James Hoolehan, Sr.
Russ Spencer
Frank E. Holmes
A. P. Bowersox
Wade S. Snyder
D. H. Green
Milton Tolbert
William P. Hedrick

Past Vice Presidents and District Deputies:

Leo Butner 1942-1943
Al Coe 1953-1954
Frank E. Holmes 1966-1967

Ladies organization: Anna Miller Circle.

San Francisco Lodge 3

San Francisco Lodge 3 was instituted on April 11, 1876. By 1878 there were over 200 members meeting every Sunday. Later Grand Lodge rules eliminated Sunday Lodge meetings nationwide. It became a very successful
and prosperous Lodge. In the early years internal dissention showed its face. This resulted in a group of their members forming California Lodge 12 under a charter issued in December of 1879. This was the first time in the history of Elkdom and the last time that two Lodges were chartered in the same city. Ironically the two Lodges met at Red Man’s Hall at 510 Bush Street. By 1885, six years later, the two Lodges resolved their differences and were merged as Golden Gate Lodge 6. The new Lodge became moderately successful and as time went on they were able to purchase some land as a burial plot for their members.

However, dissention again reappeared at Golden Gate 6. Some of this dissention centered around moral violations, gambling, and activities that came about through what was initially a very successful annual carnival.

Grand Exalted Ruler Detweiller determined that the two factions were just too polarized to make reunification possible. GER Detweiller approved the reinstatement of San Francisco 3 after some discussion with business and civic leaders in the city who became charter members and selected members from Golden Gate 6. Official reinstatement took place on August 24, 1896.

The old members of Golden Gate 6 who did not go with San Francisco 3, having lost their charter, continued to meet as Golden Gate 6 for a spell while some others chartered a fraternal organization with the state of California. Later lawsuits resolved the matter with San Francisco 3 maintaining its charter.

Prior to the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, the Lodge had been meeting at 223 Sutter in that city. With the earthquake everything in the city was devastated from the quake damage itself and the subsequent fires that swept the city. Lodge records were burned and with it a bit of its history that could not be recovered.

The Lodge, without its own facilities, now proceeded to set up tents where they were able to set up soup kitchens to feed the citizens along with distributing clothing and household items to so many who now had nothing. Grand Lodge came forth with a grant of $10,000. An Elks operations center, one of the first to come forth, was set up by Grand Exalted Ruler Robert W. Brown in Oakland Elks Lodge 171 and soon volunteers exceeded 1,000 Elks.

San Francisco Lodge then moved their Lodge to 818 Hayes Street.

San Francisco Lodge 3 is now located at 450 Post Street, 2nd floor, in Union Square. Built in 1924 by renowned architects of the time, this building was exclusive to the Elks for a number of years. Now a cotenant with Kensington Park Hotel, The Light Opera Gallery, Farallon Restaurant, and the Post Street Theatre, this historic building with Spanish Gothic influences has an amazing set of facilities hidden within. The Post Street Theatre was the original Lodge room for the Elks Lodge. In fact, you can see an officer mural on the eastern and western walls. The Grand Ballroom is used for Lodge meetings and events and is available for private and charity functions. Across the foyer from the ballroom is a fantastic restaurant bar and lounge. These rooms feature intricately painted ceiling panels, exquisite period chandeliers, 15’ windows overlooking Union Square, and a mahogany inlaid wood bar. The bar and restaurant are open Tuesday through Thursday for lunch and cocktails and open for both lunch and dinner on Friday. Blending the old with the new, the lounge has free wireless access for members.

Athletic facilities are one of the unique and best benefits of San Francisco 3. There is a full gym hidden below the Lodge for you to discover with modern equipment. An indoor pool includes salt-chlorine water conditioner versus traditional chlorine. This method of cleaning and conditioning the water is not only better for the environment but better for your skin. The spa area has both men’s and women’s locker rooms, a cardio room, weight room with Nautilus equipment, and sauna, steam room, and two cool down rooms for a complete therapeutic temperature change. The billiard room has standard billiard tables and pocket billiard tables are available in several rooms. On the 5th floor the handball courts are available.

Visiting members and guests are invited to join in with San Francisco 3 located off the Powell Street Cable Car line just steps away from the heart of Union Square.
Don Sansoussi’s nomination as State President
By Michael F. Smith, PSP

Don Sansoussi was born in Boston, MA. He was raised and educated in Hillsboro, NH. In 1958, Don met and later married his biggest fan, Gail. Their son Jeff, and his wife, Paula, have two daughters, Stephanie and Brittany. Stephanie is a CIT at the Elks Youth Camp. Jeff retired from the Air Force after twenty years and has been an Elk for 23 years. Don initiated him while he was Exalted Ruler at Sebring.

Don served our nation in the Air Force twenty years before receiving an honorable discharge as a Technical Sergeant E-6. He then successfully built Don’s TV Service, serving the five counties surrounding Lake Placid for over 28 years. Don’s efforts help his community in many ways, including twenty years of membership in the Rotary Club where he was President in 1988-1989, along with serving on the board of directors. Don also served three years on the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

He joined Sebring Lodge 1529 in 1976 and served through the chairs becoming Exalted Ruler in 1981-1982. In 1983, he founded Lake Placid Lodge 2661 and was elected Exalted Ruler that year. Lake Placid honored him with honorary life membership in 1988 and is currently serving as their Lodge Advisor. Don is a very active member of the SWC District Advisory Council.

His contributions and participation have led him to many committees on a district and state level. He was SWC District VP in 1984-1985 and the SWC DDGER for 1985-1986. He served multiple terms on the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services Board of Directors. Another contribution to the Florida State Elks Association is his service as curator of our museum from 1998 cataloging and displaying the artifacts in the Grafton Center.
Below are excerpts from Sansoussi’s acceptance speech.

For the past year, through the leadership of State President Frank Palladini, we have been “Celebrating a Century of Making a Difference.” I know all of us assembled here today share the same pride of association in an organization with our history of accomplishments and we will continue to show that “Elks Care - Elks Share” as we carry the legacy of making a difference into the future. This is what Elks have always done. This is what Elks will continue to do. We all share the same ache in our hearts for the devastation caused by four hurricanes in the span of six weeks in Florida this past year. Elks opened their hearts, their wallets, and numerous hours of their time and energy. Relief donations came from all over the country, a testament of Elks caring and Elks sharing.

All of our programs of Grand Lodge and our State Association are significant in our quest to help humanity. In one way or another, they all will play a part in the State President’s program this year. However, our main emphasis will be promoting the well-being of our children.

Although Florida Elks have devoted much of their time, energy, and money to helping others less fortunate, we have reserved a special place in our hearts for our children. We know that when you change a child’s life, you change the world. Because of the foresight and leadership of our predecessors, the Florida State Elks Association proudly supports two major projects that have profound influence on children’s lives.

A permanent bond between Florida Elks and children was established in 1933 with the opening of the Harry-Anna Home for Crippled Children, later named the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital. Free care was available to disadvantaged children until the closing of the hospital in February of 1999. On March 1, 1999, the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services commenced. This program offers free in-home physical and occupational therapy to physically impaired children. Also on a limited basis, speech therapy is offered. When the hospital closed, we were caring for about thirty children in a 100-bed hospital. Today I am proud to say that we are caring for over three hundred children a week in the comfort of their homes.

We must use all of our resources to get the message into all of the communities of Florida that as long as a child is in need of help, the Florida Elks will be there.

Build it and They Will Come and Have They Ever

It was a dream of our leadership in 1984 to build a camp and recreation facility to be enjoyed by all children regardless of their physical abilities or financial status.

Responding to their hearts, the Elks of Florida, their friends, and Ladies organizations built it and now approximately 1,500 children spend a safe, fun, and happy week at the camp each summer. Several youth groups, such as churches and scouting, utilize the campus, and now the Elks Hoop Shoot and soccer events are held on campus. Twenty thousand children are now utilizing this facility throughout the year. We want as many children as possible to have this wonderful camping experience. It provides values that will impact these children for the rest of their lives.

His Year as President:

National Foundation

The Elks exceeded the $4.00 per-capita for Elks National Foundation by coming in with $4.82 per-capita. Twenty-five Florida seniors received scholarships valued at $100,000. Fourteen students received Legacy Scholarships valued at $14,000.

Harry Anna Trust Fund

The Elks exceeded the goal of $750,000 in new money for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund with a total of $949,473.32 or $13.38 per-capita.

Membership

There was a membership decrease of 1,031 to 69,899, a decrease of 1.5%.
Hurricanes

Hurricanes reaching our state resulted in 33 of our Lodges sustaining some sort of property damage. Damages included damage to roofs, patios, signs, awnings, fencing, and gutters. There was much water damage and damage from falling trees. Power outages resulted in food spoilage. The estimated damage was $2,863,802.00.

An additional $107,613.65 came to the trust fund and on to Grand Lodge for the Elks Katrina Disaster Relief Fund.

Of Florida's 114 Lodges, 44 held relief type activities involving 2,385 participants. There were 11,812 hours donated and 11,627 miles traveled.

Conversation with Don Sansoussi:

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

The accomplishments of the State, Vice, Regional, and District Chairpeople demonstrated that the works of our order are in place. In spite of the devastation resulting from two years of hurricanes, we were able to surpass our goals for Harry-Anna Trust Fund and Elks National Foundation. We had a million dollar year for Harry-Anna. It has been many years since this was last accomplished.

What would you consider your greatest disappointment?

We experienced another year of recording a membership loss.

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

We must increase our membership and recruit officers who will maintain progression through the chairs. The officers administer the affairs of the Lodge. The few Lodges that have been able to maintain this progression have demonstrated this importance through their accomplishments.

What do you think is the cause of this problem?

Florida is pretty much a retirement state. It is difficult to maintain young members who have the time to dedicate to running the affairs of a Lodge. They are busy running the affairs of their families. In today’s world it usually takes both husband and wife working to make ends meet. With children in school, there are always activities that have to be attended. The majority of the older members just want to be retired.

What approach do you feel can be taken in seeking a reversal of the problem as you see it?

We must promote programs that will attract the younger members as well as promoting programs for the older members. There is room for both. We must establish ritual teams and lift the burden from our officers. We have many retired management people who would make good officers if we would lift this burden.

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

I would do this by promoting as many volunteer programs as possible, establishing that when people work together in harmony toward common goals they will be successful. Success promotes satisfaction which leads to less dissension.

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

“Elks Care - Elk’s Share” and “We are Guided by Our Hearts.”

Coming together is a Beginning.
Working together is Progress.
Staying together is Success.
Sarasota Lodge 1519

Florida’s 26th Lodge
District: Southwest
Date of Dispensation: October 13, 1925
Date of Installation: December 13, 1925
Formally Opened By: W. S. Irwin, DDGER
Year 1995 Membership: 2,066
Year 1996 Membership: 1,916
Year 1997 Membership: 1,725
Year 1998 Membership: 1,467
Year 2000 Membership: 1,009
Year 2004 Membership: 872
Year 2005 Membership: 874
Year 2006 Membership: 798
Year 2007 Membership: 730
Year 2008 Membership: 663
Year 2009 Membership: 574
Meets: 2nd & 4th Wednesday

* This Lodge is no longer on the Elks roster.

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler: W. S. Irwin
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: H. T. O’Neal
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: H. F. Bartow
Grand Esteemed Deputy as Grand Chaplain: J. M. A. Armstrong
Grand Secretary: J. C. Hughey

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler: L. D. Reagin
Esteemed Leading Knight: John F. Burkett
Esteemed Loyal Knight: Thomas L. Livermore
Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Silas Juliar
Secretary: J. C. Hughey
Treasurer: Louis C. Strong
Tiler: Roy J. Schneider
Trustees: 3 Year, George H. Day; 2 Year, A. B. Edwards; 1 Year, Franklin W. Burton

The following are charter members: L. D. Reagin; John F. Burkett; J. C. Hughey; Thomas L. Livermore; Silas S. Juliar; Louie C. Strong; James T. Flynn; George H. Day; Frank M. Smith; A. B. Edwards; Roger C. Rice; L. H. Thompson; John R. Scully; W. S. Hurst; W. G. Kenney; Franklin A. Kuhn; Frank Cates; Hugh West; Harry B. Wier; Wallace A. Thomas; T. F. M. O’Danell; Edgar E. Skillin; Ben F. Kagay; Jos. A. Sansoucy; Frank H. Sturman; John E. Reagan; John M. Murray; L. D. Gay; Al F. Wheeler; Vernon Reaver; Capt. F. W. Burton; Alton C. Perkins; E. O. Burns; Owens Burns; Bernard C. Cohn; J. Edward Snyder; Albert Langsner; James Halton; George B. Connor; Sam A. Idelson; Edward D. Shoor; Julius Goodzert; William M. Walker; C. H. Rounds; Carl S. Wise; E. S. Williams; W. Fred Sills; W. H. Stephens; H. R. Schwab; George Holliday; F. Perry May; O. C. Peterman; H. H. Hutchings, Jr.; J. A. Fein; H. F. Walker, Jr.; M. O. Mead; Herman S. Hale, Jr.; Jesse Speight, Jr.; A. H. Hill; R. Lee Overbay; Roy J. Schneider; G. Edward Morgan; H. D. Geothing; Frank C. Gilbert; C. H. Dean; W. R. Nesbitt; N. M. Cohn; H. G. Shoptaugh; Edward G. Pyle; Dan F. Ryan, Jr.; Ralph Saltzman; Fredk. P. Schlett, Jr.; J. A. Hann; Lester Ellis; T. M. Kuykendall; J. W. Dannard; E. L. Weiderkehr; H. S. Seacy; William L. Northern; Leroy Wall; Harold M. Barton; William Augustin; Hayes Brummitt; Fred C. King; Joe Simon; E. S. Williams; Frank P. Walters; Fred R. Dervend; Elmer E. Morgan; and John Gorman.
J. C. Hughey, first Lodge Secretary, stated that the entire charter membership contained no new members, and the entire membership held transfer demits from every state in the union except one. No initiates were admitted into the Lodge until February of 1926.

Past State President R. Edward Royal (1978-1979) was a member of the Lodge.

October 26, 1935 was the mortgage burning. They built an extension to the Lodge in 1948 and remodeled in 1973.

Town of Sarasota

Sarasota was originally called Sara Sota. Although no one is certain of the origin of this name, it may be considered to come from the daughter of Hernando de Soto. Sarasota was founded on July 27, 1886 by Scottish and American settlers but never really developed. These Scots introduced golf to America and built the first golf course in Sarasota.

The arrival of the Tamiami Trail in the early 1920s seemed to get the town off the ground. The Tamiami Trail was to be a road something like Military Trail on the east coast of Florida and was to run from Tampa to Miami. Talk of this began about 1914. Some ridiculed the idea as “like a bunch of tin cans tied to a dog’s tail.” However, by April 26, 1928 the road was completed. It took thirteen years to complete.

Sarasota is often referred to as the circus town because John Ringling, who came to Sarasota in the 1920s, built a palatial home there and it became the winter headquarters for his circus and the construction of the Ringling Museum of Art. Built in Italian Renaissance with a garden courtyard, sculptures, and paintings, it has become a major attraction in Tampa.

The Circus Museum consists of gilded parade wagons, calliopes, costumes, posters, photographs, and other memorabilia.

Sarasota is also the home of Chicago White Sox exhibition games.

Significant Dates and History of Sarasota Lodge 1519

The birth of Sarasota Lodge came about when approximately 50 to 65 Elks living in the area and belonging to Lodges all over the United States decided to get together for good fellowship. Meetings were held in various places and several social gatherings for Elks only were held on a boat named The Black Cat which was docked at the city pier. This sometimes resulted in one or two happy ones losing their footing and falling into the bay.

1925 Institution of this Lodge was December 11 with every man already an Elk from another Lodge. This was held in the old Golf Club Hotel rented from Charles Ringling and built by Col. J. Hamilton Gillespie on the grounds reputed to be the first golf course in America.

1926 They received the charter for the Lodge in July.

1933 Mrs. Edith Ringling, Administrix of the Charles Ringling Estate, deeded the Golf Street home to Sarasota Elks in memory of her late husband. All rent payments to date were applied to the purchase price. The trustees in turn signed a mortgage to her for $1,250.
A Christmas party for children was given by Elks Lodge 1519 in 1929. J. C. Huey was Exalted Ruler. Rev. B. L. Bowman gave the invocation. Walter Sachucht was Santa Claus.

1935  The above mortgage was fully paid on October 26.

1936  The dedication of a memorial tablet on January 29 honored Charles Ringling for his gift of the Golf Street home.

1938  Trustee, Ben Handler, was first installed on April 6 and excepting for three years in service has served every year since. They remodeled the west side of the building for a new bar in November.

1940  They acquired a lot west of the home in September by the tax deed from the city.

1947  Treasurer, Sam Idelson, was first installed in April and had been elected every year since. They voted April 16 to close membership at 400 until adequate facilities could be supplied.

1948  They built on the large addition to the west side and remodeled. They voted to have open membership again on October 6.

1952  They voted to purchase lots 1-7 from Mrs. Edith Ringling for parking on March 19.

1966  They sold Golf Street property to the city of Sarasota and Roberts Funeral Home and purchased the Fruitville Road land. Ground breaking ceremonies were November 17.

1967  The new home was completed.
On March 21, Grand Exalted Ruler Robert E. Boney dedicated the new home.

The beautiful new lounge, expanded parking facilities, library, and recreation area were dedicated.

They remodeled the kitchen and game room.

They redecorated the lounge, dining room, and foyer.

They fenced, landscaped, and paved the parking lot.

Exalted Ruler Ray Bibisi announced that things were moving right along with the pending move to new quarters. Committees were established to accomplish the following duties. The committee is called the “Stone’s Throw Committee” and it has a variety of subcommittees. One is working on a floor plan for the new facility and another is looking for an interim social and meeting site. Another is deciding what furnishings and equipment should be sold or retained. Another is to handle the sale of the present Lodge site. Still another is to handle the moving and storing of equipment. Another is someone to investigate the purchase of land for the new facility and yet another is to handle the legal aspects of the move.

On November 15, 1988 the Elks, Sarasota County, and school officials switched property in a swap that involved land worth millions of dollars.

After two years of negotiations, Riverview High School acquired six acres of riverfront land formerly known as Elks Park. In return, the school board assigned fifteen acres of Camp Hamilton property on Proctor Road to the Elks Lodge. Riverview High School principal, Ed Brown, said that “the school has gotten a wonderful deal from the Elks. The school has very little land for recreational use around the buildings. Now we’ll be able to put a dock on the river for the marine biology students. We’ll be able to have a small boat so the marine biology students can go out on the river and get water samples.” The Elks clubhouse was put to use for agricultural classes and the 4-H club would meet there.

When negotiations started, it appeared that Elks Park might end up in the hands of the County Commission. The county had given the valuable waterfront property to Elks Lodge 1519 with the provision that it be maintained as a public park. If it was used for any other purpose, the county could claim the property. “We were planning to claim Elks Park until the Elks explained that they wanted to donate the land to Riverview for the use of the school and the students,” said Sarasota County real property officer, Jack Clark. “We decided not to muddy the water,” Clark said. “We relinquished our claim to the park so that it could be transferred to the high school.”

Property valued in the millions of dollars was involved in the land trade. “The Sarasota School Board paid $1,200,00 for 90 acres of land at Camp Hamilton,” Melvin D. Petit, Director of Construction Service, pointed out. “It used part of the property to build Lakeview Elementary School. The rest of it was valued at $13,339 an acre. In return for the Elks Park property at Riverview High School, the school board would deed fifteen acres of Camp Hamilton land to Elks Lodge 1519. That added up to about $200,000. However, no money is being exchanged. Just land.” The Elks Park property, which the school board was receiving from Elks Lodge 1519, had been appraised at about $1,000,000.

The question came up as to why the Elks would be willing to trade a million-dollar piece of real estate for something of much less monetary value and why the school board be would willing to relinquish fifteen acres of unspoiled woodland in a highly desirable residential area. Pettit said, “The environmentalist is raising a fuss about the development of Camp Hamilton land. They want the property to remain in a natural state, the way it was when it was a YMCA camp. The Elks will keep it that way.” The Elks were willing to get rid of Elks Park because they could never own the land outright. If they used it for anything but a park, the county could claim the land.

“The county was willing to give up its claim to the land because it would prove so much more value to the community if it was added to the Riverview High School property,” said David Olson, a 16-year member of the Sarasota school board.
## Past Exalted Rulers:

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Exalted Ruler</th>
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<tr>
<td>1925-1926</td>
<td>L. D. Reagin</td>
<td>1926-1927</td>
<td>John F. Burket, Sr.</td>
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<td>1927-1928</td>
<td>Thomas L. Livermore</td>
<td>1928-1929</td>
<td>F. W. Burton</td>
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<td>1929-1930</td>
<td>J. C. Hughey</td>
<td>1930-1931</td>
<td>Gerald Van Orden</td>
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<td>Harrison E. Barringer</td>
<td>1932-1933</td>
<td>Ira William Robertson</td>
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<td>1933-1934</td>
<td>John F. Burket, Sr.</td>
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<td>E. L. Weiderkehr</td>
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<td>1935-1936</td>
<td>Francis C. Dart</td>
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<td>John J. Murphy</td>
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<td>1939-1940</td>
<td>Charles R. Walpole</td>
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<td>Glen C. Whitlatch</td>
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<td>George L. Oxman</td>
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<td>1945-1946</td>
<td>Alfred B. Shogren</td>
<td>1946-1947</td>
<td>Gerald E. Ludwig</td>
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<td>1955-1956</td>
<td>John M. Saba, Sr.</td>
<td>1956-1957</td>
<td>Joseph E. Barth</td>
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<td>1972-1973</td>
<td>James D. Friday</td>
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<td>Andrew J. Burns</td>
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<td>1978-1979</td>
<td>Elmer C. Ball</td>
<td>1979-1980</td>
<td>Harvey W. Buckmaster</td>
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<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>Beth Hocking</td>
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### Past Exalted Rulers by Demit:

- J. Leroy Fortner
- Walter I. Clark
- Manuel Brickel
- Charles W. Scott, Jr.
- James W. Moynihan
- John V. McNab

- Gilbert E. Tesar
- Raymond P. Sibley
- William A. Hatfield
- Edward F. Dufficy
- James H. Kline
- Edward E. Darling, Sr.
Past Secretaries:

- 1925-1928: J. C. Hughey
- 1928-1932: Charles F. Greene
- 1932-1937: F. J. Franke
- 1937-1938: Horace Hitchings
- 1938-1941: Philip M. Davis
- 1941-1945: Ralph F. Voight
- 1945-1962: R. Barnett Curry
- 1962-1970: Chester A. Newell
- 1972-1973: Chester A. Newell
- 1973-1986: Elwood E. Jarnagin
- 1990-1991: Roger H. Myers
- 1997-1998: Donald LaFrance
- 1998-1999: Donald LaFrance
- 2004-2005: S. Raymond Bibisi
- 2006-2007: S. Raymond Bibisi

Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers:

- 1927-1928: L. D. Reagin
- 1940-1941: Charles R. Walpole
- 1948-1949: Gerald E. Ludwig
- 1960-1961: Joseph E. Barth
- 1964-1965: R. Edward Royal
- 1965-1966: R. Edward Royal
- 1968-1969: Charles E. Legg
- 1971-1972: Robert P. Rosin
- 1975-1976: Nicholas D. Poulas
- 1998-1999: Hod O’ Hern
- 2005-2006: S. Raymond Bibisi

Past State President:

- 1978: R. Edward Royal

Ladies organization: Does Drove No. 157
First President: Mrs. Selina Frost

Sarasota Drove 157, Benevolent and Patriotic Order of Does, received their charter from the Grand Lodge on June 18, 1959 with sixty charter members. There are twelve elective officers who include three trustees and there are eleven appointive officers.

The Exalted Ruler at the date of institution was Robert Edward Royal, later to be State President.

Other guests at institution were Victor O. Wehle, PSP, Florida State Elks Association; Walter H. Mather, Vice President; and John B. Gould, State Chairman of Ladies Organizations.

The installing officers were members of Orlando Does Drove 66:

- Deputy Supreme President: Betty Funderburke
- Deputy Supreme Conductor: Esther Le Fever
Their activities include charitable works, patriotic demonstrations, and social entertainments to promote hospitality and a spirit of patriotism, charity, loyalty, and love among their members.

Maurine Poulos joined the Sarasota Drove in 1960 and served as its President in 1963. In 1964, Maurine received her first appointment to a Grand Lodge office and held an appointed or elective office until 1970 when she was elected Supreme President. In June of 1971, Maurine presided as Supreme President at the Golden Anniversary Convention of the Benevolent and Patriotic Order of Does held in Omaha, NE.

Sarasota South Lodge 2495

Florida’s 99th Lodge
District: Southwest
Date of Dispensation: May 30, 1973
Date of Institution: June 30, 1973
Charter Exalted Ruler: Robert P. Rosin
Charter Membership: 183
Year 1995 Membership: 464
Year 1996 Membership: 515
Year 1997 Membership: 562
Year 1998 Membership: 639
Year 2000 Membership: 713
Year 2004 Membership: 777
Year 2005 Membership: 792
Year 2006 Membership: 830
Year 2007 Membership: 855
The Lodge was formed in 1973 by Elks who liked to play cards and bet on it, which could no longer be done at Sarasota Elks 1519. PER Ken Heitel thinks it was the first Elks Lodge ever formed with all existing Elks. Typically, new Lodges are formed with a handful of existing Elks plus people wanting to become Elks for the first time.

The first Lodge home was located on Glengary Street where the Best Buy Store later located. They operated like a “bottle club” and enjoyed their card games and the camaraderie of Elks. When that was sold, the Lodge moved to another location near Sarasota Square Mall before acquiring their property on Rosin Way. In the 1984 era, PER Robert Cochrane had the new Lodge pin designed depicting the famous clown, Emmett Kelly. Cochrane, an avid grower of orchids, was a friend of the like-minded widow of Emmett Kelly. She gave permission to use the image.

When Gary Beschorner, PDD had been asked to join, he was told about the new building on Clark Road where he could meet nice people and buy food and drinks inexpensively and that there would eventually be tennis courts, a swimming pool, etc. As it turned out, there were less than 100 members facing a huge debt for a new building. Often it was necessary to borrow money from members to pay bills and a financial projection showed the Lodge needed a membership of 600 to survive.

Fortunately, the Lodge had an excellent Ladies Auxiliary and that was an invaluable source of funds and improvements for the Lodge. When women became eligible to be Elks, the Ladies Auxiliary membership began to dwindle to the point that it had to dissolve. In 2003 the Lodge had a committee entitled “Helping Hands” which organizes fun functions, decorates, organizes the children’s Christmas party and helps where needed. Many people on that committee were former members of the Ladies Auxiliary but all Elks and spouses/widowers of Elks have been welcome to join.

The Lodge has become more focused on its charitable duties and the officers have become focused on their duties of office.

This information was taken from the Sarasota South “Bugling Bulletin” and information in that article provided by Gary Beschorner, PDD and PER Ken Heitel.

2000 Making improvements to their lodge, Sarasota South demolished the wall between the lounge and main hall and in its place installed frosted glass doors so that when they have entertainment, everyone has the opportunity to enjoy it.

2007 The Lodge hosted a fundraising breakfast for the Lodge sponsored Boy Scout Troop No. 2495, a troop for scouts with disabilities and raised $1,065.
Russell Saxon was born on September 1, 1909 in New Smyrna Beach, FL. After graduating from high school in New Smyrna, he worked as an auto mechanic and service station manager. He was later employed by the U. S. Postal Department from which he retired after holding the position of Postmaster of New Smyrna Beach for many years.

He was initiated into New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557 on November 14, 1935 and elected Exalted Ruler in 1952. He served as Secretary of New Smyrna Beach Lodge both before and after serving as Exalted Ruler for a total of eighteen years. He was presented an honorary life membership in his Lodge in 1954 and was appointed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the East Central District in 1958.

He was elected President of the Florida State Elks Association and was installed at the Miami Beach Convention in 1964. He also finished out the 1970-1971 term of Brother Bob Cameron when Cameron passed away while in office. He served on the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors for seventeen years as well as on the board of trustees for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund for many years. He became a member of the Past State Presidents Advisory Council.

In 1976 Saxon was very instrumental in New Smyrna Beach Lodge obtaining property where they are now located and he was Chairman of the Building Committee in 1990-1991 when the addition to the building and remodeling was done. These are but a few of the committees and boards on which Saxon served at the Lodge, district, and state levels during his years in Elkdom. He was selected Elk of the Year in 1991 by the members of New Smyrna Beach Lodge.

He died on June 2, 1992 at the age of 82.

His Year as President

Motto: “Elkdom’s Forward Look through Progress and Unity”

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1964-1965 term:
President Russell L. Saxon, New Smyrna Beach
Secretary William Lieberman, Leesburg
Treasurer Frank J. Holt, Miami
Tiler Eric Watson, New Smyrna Beach
Historian L. M. Strickland, Jr., Tallahassee
Sergeant at Arms Charles Usina, St. Augustine
Chaplain G. P. LeMoyne, Fort Myers
Organist Eugene J. Mahlmeister, Boynton Beach

Vice Presidents
Northwest Milton Cave, Madison
Northeast Adolph R. Mangels, Palatka
East Central Ralph O. Hardie, Ormond Beach
Central James R. McIver, Winter Haven
West Central Henry F. Poage, Plant City
Southwest T. M. Wrede, Jr., Venice-Nokomis
Southeast Robert Grafton, Riviera Beach
South Thomas F. Smith, Miami Beach

Quotations in this year:

“You know any man, if he is the right kind of a man, will not be content to spend all of his time and all of his energy simply in the pursuit of his own personal ambition. Now there is nothing wrong with that because it is the American way of life for any man to capitalize on his talent and to improve his own lot and the lot of his family to the best of his ability and within the realm of fair play. If he is the right kind of a man he has an inner urge to do something for somebody else, to do something to help those who are less fortunate, and that is where our order provides a perfect vehicle for such a man to associate himself with others of like intent and transform that desire into many, many wonderful leads. You know, an ordinary man working alone could hardly rehabilitate a single person, but by joining with others in an organization such as ours, he can participate in the rehabilitation of thousands, and that is done every day in the order of Elks. It is done here in Florida, in my state of Georgia, and all over the country.

That is the work of Elks; that is what binds us together so pleasantly in our bond of fraternal brothers.”

(Robert Pruitt, Grand Exalted Ruler from Georgia during his official visit to Florida)

Man is feeble and perishable! His best laid plans are subject to disappointment and failure. Death terminates the combat, the grief and joy, success and failure; all are ended. The master and the servant, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, the wise and the simple, all are equal in God’s sight. When cherished ties are broken, faith and courage lightens the heaviness of the heart. Not unavailing is our grief if it sends us back to the living. Let us lift up our hearts in hope and summon our strength for duty.

(Spoken by Charles Peckelis in his memorial address at the Lodge of Sorrow at the Convention in St. Augustine, 1965)

“A few short years ago it was sufficient just to have a meeting place where we could go and enjoy the fellowship of each other, but America has changed. Family participation is important to today and the Lodges who don’t cater or assist the ladies in joining with us in our charitable and our patriotic and social activities are losing some of the things that can be very important. Some of our Lodges are not taking advantage of increasing or modernizing their facilities, or painting or facing up and doing the things that will make it attractive for new members to come to. I have been in Lodges where actually it was a disgrace to go into. Now I am hoping that there is no Lodge in Florida that will not recognize the trend that exists today to improve our physical properties, to make sure that members will want to come and join with us. So let’s make sure now that each and every Lodge in the state of Florida that we operate has attractive quarters. I don’t mean for the Lodges to go out and build a million dollar facility or something like that, but I think you should stretch the dollar to meet the fact. I think you should have the type of facility to attract the members, especially the younger members because the younger members will want more and they do have more in the way of social and other recreational activities to join with us and we cannot continue to maintain a middle age or an old membership in average age Lodge. We need younger members to join with us and take over from us the responsibility we have assumed in the past years. Therefore, we need the new with
the old and I am hoping that every Lodge in Florida will see to it that their facilities meet these requirements. . . . Take a good look at your financial condition of your Lodge. If you don’t and if you don’t follow up the increased and better facilities to meet the requirements of membership, some of you are going to go out of business, for that is just what you are going to have to do. The days of easy money are gone and we might just as well recognize it in our Lodges, for the Lodges that are carrying out the program of the community services are the ones that are progressing because the membership figures show that.”

(Remarks by PGER William Wall before the convention floor in St. Augustine re: membership and growth)

Improvements were made on the exterior of the Harry-Anna Hospital in the form of painting and minor repairs. The board of directors authorized a minimum maintenance program.

The board of directors recommended the appointment of a Legal Committee which had been previously authorized so that there would be one State Chairman and a member of this committee in each of the districts of the state association to look after legal problems arising in the various sections of the state, principally regarding bequests under wills which are probated in various parts of the state in which the interest of the association needs to be protected and information kept current.

The hospital board authorized the printing of 100,000 new brochures on the Crippled Children’s Hospital with the format of the brochure to be prepared with the assistance of competent public relations counsel. It would be distributed to the individual Lodges and to see that every new initiate into the order be handed a copy of this brochure at the time of their initiation.

The trustees of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund instituted a new type of program which it believed would have a long term value to the trust. A large number of colleges and charitable organizations had successfully used it. An elderly person desiring to make a gift at death to the Harry-Anna Trust will turn over cash or securities to the state association and the association will enter into a lifetime contract to pay them a specific monthly income which is appropriately calculated on a sound actuarial basis to give them income but will guarantee the trust fund a substantial profit. By this arrangement the person could be freed of worry and care of investments and give them lifetime satisfaction of contributing to the work of Harry-Anna.

The Lodges were encouraged to develop different and unique methods of presenting their open ritual services, namely Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Mother’s Day. Reports showed that 75 Lodges celebrated memorial services, 77 Lodges observed Flag Day, and 58 Lodges paid tribute to Mother’s Day.

The Lodges were requested to advise the President as to the number of persons attending these services and the promotion used. The Lodge that did the best job on open ritual would be presented with a perpetual trophy to be held for one year, unless re-won. Replies from the Lodges were very disappointing as only a few Lodges bothered to furnish any information. On the information received, Daytona Beach Lodge 1141 was the winner of the trophy.

Mrs. Bobo Kirchhoff was writing a column for the Florida Elks News entitled, “When the Ladies Get Together.” It said that only eleven Lodges were without Ladies organizations.

Florida Elks News took first place in the Grand Lodge State Publication Contest.
Sanford Lodge was given Grand Lodge’s Most Outstanding Community Award in Lodges under 500 membership.
Coral Springs Lodge 2463 was instituted on August 7, 1971. It was later known as Margate Lodge. Jupiter Lodge 2469 was instituted on November 7, 1971. Miami West Lodge 2479 was instituted on May 21, 1972.
Tallahassee 937 won the state ritual contest.
Membership was a net gain of 1.567%.
Schirmer, Joseph E.

Joseph E. Schirmer was a Past State Historian of the Florida State Elks Association. He served from 1988 to 1995; he died in office. He was a member of Charlotte County Elks Lodge 2153 in the South Southwest District.

Schirmer wrote and edited the second History of the Florida State Elks Association: 1904-1992. (This updated and corrected the first history.)

Lowell P. Tyler of Lantana/Boynton Lodge 2676 was appointed to replace Schirmer by State President David Vergason. The following year Tyler was elected to the position.

Scholarships, Florida Elks Youth Camp

2008 Winners

Highest Scoring Male Applicant:
Jesse A. Phillips, Titusville

Jesse is the son of Mike and Kathy Phillips of Titusville, FL. He is a 2008 graduate of Astronaut High School and graduated with a 4.42 (weighted) GPA. He plans to attend the University of Florida in the fall and will seek a double major in Music and Chemistry. He then plans to earn a postgraduate degree in Pharmaceutical Research.

Highest Scoring Female Applicant:
Nicole C. Adams, Lakeland

Nicole is the daughter of Stephen and Lynn Adams of Lakeland, FL. She is a 2006 graduate of George Jenkins High School and is currently attending Florida State University majoring in Apparel Design and Technology. She plans to graduate in 2010 and then seek a career in the fashion industry as a buyer, designer, or stylist.

Other Winners:  Sasha F. Griffin John P. Sacks
                Ann N. McLemore Andre N. Salhab
                Lindsey B. Mackin Stephanie L. Sansoussi
                Crystal R. Mannino Joseph Q. Tchen
Scholarships, Grand Lodge

The Elks National Foundation provides more than $3 million in college scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors. The Most Valuable Student, Eagle Scout, and Girl Scout Gold Award scholarships are open to any graduating high school senior. Legacy Awards and Emergency Educational Fund Grants are available only to children of Elks. The application process and deadlines vary for each of the programs. All applications, except for the scouting scholarships, must go through a local Elks Lodge before reaching the Elks National Foundation office.

- **Most Valuable Student Scholarships**
  - 500 four-year scholarships, ranging from $1,000 per year to $7,500 per year, for graduating high school seniors based on financial need, leadership, and scholarship

- **Eagle Scout Awards**
  - Four-year scholarships for eight Eagle Scouts selected by the Boy Scouts of America

- **Gold Awards**
  - Four-year scholarships for eight Gold Award recipients by the Girl Scouts of America

- **Legacy Awards**
  - One-year merit based scholarships for children or grandchildren of Elks who are members in good standing and two years of membership

- **Emergency Education Fund Grants**
  - One-year educational grants available to children of deceased or totally incapacitated Elks

In 2002 it was announced that 26 children in Florida had received college scholarships of $1,000 per year for four years from the Elks National Foundation. In addition, 20 children were receiving a Legacy Scholarship.

*(See also Elks National Foundation.)*
*(See also Elks Grand Lodge website, www.elks.org)*

Sebald, Merle L., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1998-1999
Merle Sebald was born in Santa Monica, CA and was introduced to Elkdom by his father who was a member of Santa Monica Lodge. He was initiated by Moultre, GA Lodge in 1973 and transferred to South Hillsborough Lodge as a charter member. Since that time, he has been a very active and involved Elk and a leader in his Lodge, the Florida State Elks Association, and Grand Lodge.

He became the third Exalted Ruler of his Lodge. He served as State Chairman for National Foundation Certificates in 1987-1988, District Vice President in 1988-1989, District Deputy Exalted Ruler in 1990-1991, State Chaplain in 1993-1994, District Director for 1992-1994, and he was appointed Grand Lodge Special Representative for 1993-1995. He served on the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Board of Directors from 1994-1997, the last years as President of the board. He served as the Vice President at Large and President of the Florida State Elks Association. He was nominated by PSP Dave Vergason.

Sebald served in the United States Army and in the Air National Guard. His work and professional life have been very successful and diverse. He has owned and managed operations as follows: Elegant Cleaning Services for four years while attending UCLA, Bay City Tax Services for three years during tax season, MLS Trucking Corporations for five years, Admiralty Office Services for six years, ERA Admiralty Realty Corporation for ten years, and Relocation Realty for seven years. He worked for GTE where his experience and education included GTE Human Resource Corporation with a graduate Master’s degree Management Training Program, Cable TV Corporation Telephone Operations, and GTE World Headquarters Corporation from which he retired. When reading the position descriptions for these various jobs, one finds them all to be very complex carrying with them a high degree of responsibility.

Although busy with career and business matters, Sebald never neglected his civic responsibility. He was a member of the Technical Advisory Committee EEOC State of California. In Moultre, GA, he was Chairman of the Industrial Committee, Chairman of United Fund, Chairman of the Accreditation Committee, Director of United Fund, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Heart Fund, and President and Vice President of the Pineland School Athletic board. He was Vice President of the Northern Athletic board in Durham, NC and while in Novato, CA he served as Chairman of the Legislative Committee and Director of the Chamber of Commerce. He was Director of the Chamber of Commerce in Thousands Oaks, CA and for four years was Director of the Economic Development Council of Hillsborough County, FL. He has been a member of Rotary International for 33 years serving as President, Vice President, and twelve years as a Director. Some more of his experience includes Junior Achievement Coordinator, Coach of Pop Warner Football, Director of Little League Baseball, Vice President of the Moultre Tennis Association, Chairman of a Cub Scout pack, member of the National Drag Boat Association, Vice President of the Novato Race and Ski Club, Director of Spinaker Club, and an officer of Apollo Beach Yacht Club.

He has been married to Wanda who has served as President of the Florida Ladies of Elks.

Motto: “Elks - Making the Dream a Reality”

Quotations:

“Cherish your visions and your dreams as they are the children of your soul, the blueprint of your ultimate achievements.”
(Merle Sebald, President)

“If we’re going to move on into the 21st century, we’ve got to instill more pride in Elkdom.”
(Robert Grafton, PGER)
Sebastian Lodge 2714

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Charles Cooper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>561-589-1516</td>
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The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Wm. F. Orban
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Willis V. McCall
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: Alvin A. Ehrlich
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Norman P. O’Brien
- Grand Secretary: Carl Vaughn
- Grand Treasurer: Harold R. Shelton
- Grand Trustee: Hillary A. Merritt
- Grand Trustee: Frank Malatesta
- Grand Trustee: Paul Testa
- Grand Trustee: Thomas D. Sullivan
- Grand Trustee: M. R. Buckalew
- Grand Tiler: Lawrence W. Cline
- Grand Chaplain: Nick Foreso
- Grand Organist: George T. Wolfe
- Grand Esquire: C. N. “Newt” Jones
- Grand Inner Guard: Les L. Linsenbarth

The following officers were elected and installed:
Exalted Ruler: Charles Cooper  
Esteemed Leading Knight: Bartholomew Campbell  
Esteemed Loyal Knight: Joseph M. Reese  
Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Walter L. Cunningham  
Secretary: Frank R. Ward  
Treasurer: David B. Moore  
Inner Guard: Arthur C. Scheeren  
Chaplain: Irving W. Doyle  
Esquire: Herbert R. Lee  
Tiler: Daniel Walker  
Trustees:
- 5 Year, Ralph Guarino  
- 4 Year, Donald W. Rowley  
- 3 Year, Charles Heitzman  
- 2 Year, O’Neil B. Mathews  
- 1 Year, Philip J. Miller

The following officers initiated the new members:

Exalted Ruler: Wm. H. Fricke  
Esteemed Leading Knight: Lyman L. Boyd  
Esteemed Loyal Knight: Miles Reiley  
Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Gerald Hartman  
Esquire: John K. Carnes  
Chaplain: Oscar “Jim” Taylor  
Inner Guard: Thomas D. Sullivan  
Tiler: Unknown  
Organist: Unknown

Melbourne Lodge 1774 is the mother Lodge. Lodge quarters opened February 28, 1987.

Past State President:

Howard Emerson 1970-1971

District Deputies:

Howard Emerson 1961-1962  
Harvey Holmgren 1974-1975  
Charles L. Cooper 1991  
Bart Campbell 1997-1998

District Vice Presidents:

Charles Cooper 1989-1990  
Bart Campbell 1995-1996

Sebastian was named for Saint Sebastian, a Roman soldier martyred as a Christian about 288. It lies in the county of Indian River.

In 1715, eleven ships floundered off Sebastian Inlet during a hurricane. Fifteen hundred men, women, and children survived and established a camp to recover for the Spanish Crown the gold and silver that had been lost to the storm. Ais Indians residing in the area helped the survivors.

Their first Lodge meeting was at the VFW Post #10210 of Sebastian in June of 1986. After the first month, they had their own Lodge building which was rented until June 1993. They purchased three acres of land at Chesser Gap on County Road 512 and Fleming Street in Sebastian in 1991 and Capp Custom Builders started construction on their new Lodge building in February of 1993. It was completed in June of 1993. Contractor Mickey Capp was also a member of the Lodge.

Continuing activities:
2007    Lodge members celebrated Youth Week by hosting 62 young people and their family members at a dinner at the Lodge. Among Lodge guests were Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, and Americanism Essay Contest participants plus local Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and members of Lodge sponsored Boy Scout Troop No. 590. Members presented a $500 U. S. savings bond to Americanism Essay Contest winner, Haley Murto, on behalf of the Florida Ste Elks Association for her second place win at the state level.

Ladies organization: El-Does

Sebring Lodge #1529

Florida’s 30th Lodge
District:     Southwest Central
Date of Dispensation: June 11, 1926
Date of Installation: October 20, 1926
Formally Opened By: Dr. W.S. Irvin, DDGER
Charter Members: 26
Year 1995 Membership: 471
Year 1996 Membership: 430
Year 1997 Membership: 424
Year 1998 Membership: 402
Year 1999 Membership: 602
Year 2004 Membership: 801
Year 2005 Membership: 824
Year 2006 Membership: 821
Year 2007 Membership: 828
Year 2008 Membership: 809
Year 2009 Membership: 820
Meets: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Location: 2618 Kenilworth Blvd., Sebring, FL 33870
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 333, Sebring, FL 33871
Telephone: 941-385-8647
Fax: 941-385-0544

Contributor: Secretary William L. Peters
Grand Lodge Installing Officers:

- Exalted Ruler: P. M. Henderson
- Leading Knight: Leon H. Thompson
- Loyal Knight: Paul Watkins
- Lecturing Knight: Charles R. Curran
- Secretary: Ed Wolf
- Tiler: M. Blate
- Chaplain: Anderson Allen
- Esquire: W. B. Howard, Jr.
- Inner Guard: Thomas D. Contner

Charter Officers of the Lodge:

- Exalted Ruler: Ed Wolf
- Leading Knight: A. E. Lawrence
- Loyal Knight: G. T. Nelson
- Lecturing Knight: William Broderick
- Secretary: Allen C. Altavatar
- Treasurer: R. N. Durrance
- Tiler: P. G. Gearing
- Trustees: G. V. Hudson, L. W. Steiner, George B. Walker

Charter Members:

- Phil Abrams
- W. J. Amy
- Aronson
- C. C. Cobb
- Joe W. Hawkins
- Michael Kahn
- Frank Manley
- Tom Mitchell
- W. J. Moyer
- H. F. Rauls
- A. Varena
- Thomas Whitehouse
- George Wyant
- Harry M. Wynne
- Wade H. Williams

Past State President Richard A. Robinson, 1979-1980, was a member of Sebring Lodge.

Sebring Lodge 1529 is one of the Lodges in the ten districts of Florida that joined together to form the Florida State Elks Association.

Many Lodges have father and son combinations, but Sebring boasts of a sequence of grandfather, father, son: J. Lee Johnson, Kenneth S. Johnson, and Dr. K. S. Johnson.

History

Located in Highlands County, Sebring was founded in 1912 and named after George Eugene Sebring, a pottery manufacturer of Sebring, OH who first saw Lake Jackson on a fishing trip and was the first to recognize the potential in the rolling hills. He bought 9,000 acres by the lake and decided to build a town. The unusual design, inspired by the ancient Egyptian city of Heliopolis, featured a circular park with its Temple of Sun at the center and six avenues radiating from the center. It is the county seat of Highlands County.

At one time or another, Sebring has played to many nationally recognized persons, some for only short vacations, others for extended visits, and still others who have made their homes there. During that dramatic period which is remembered as the Great Boom of the 1920s, great numbers of famous people moved to Florida with the intention of staying but the collapse of that boom and the subsequent great Depression of the 1930s changed those intentions and some took such capital funds as they could salvage and returned to their former homes.

Like so many other history making epochs in the state of Florida, Sebring Lodge was a product of the famous Florida boom of the 1920s. Ed Wolf, one of Sebring’s foremost developers and civic leaders, had been a
member of the Elks in Bluffton, IN and he saw the potential for an Elks Lodge in Sebring. It was primarily through his efforts that a dispensation was granted for a Lodge here.

Wolf was a dynamic personality in his early 30s and quickly moved into the main stream of community life. He was a powerful influence in establishing the Chamber of Commerce of which he was president in 1927. He promoted a synagogue and the Sebring Lodge of Elks of which he was its first Exalted Ruler in 1926.

Together with his brother and father, Wolf plunged into the real estate boom. They bought a choice tract of land on the southeast side of the city limits and managed to have it brought into the city limits and then platted it into lots. The subdivision is known as Sebring Highlands. The sale was opened with a big bang, including a barbecue, a drawing for a free automobile, and an auction. When the boom collapsed, the Wolf family left Sebring and entered a completely new life which was described in a Miami paper as follows:

“Ed was one of TV and radio’s leading producers and known as Mr. Prime Time, having brought to fame such personalities as Bert Parks; Jimmy Dorsey; Joey Bishop; Bud Collier; the street singer, Arthur Tracy; and Vincent Lopez. He originated soap operas and produced highly rated TV shows including Break the Bank, The O’Neil’s, Masquerade Party, and Keep Talking.

“His late brother was the world famous songwriter, Wolfe Gilbert, creator of such hits as ‘Ramona,’ ‘Waiting for the Robert E. Lee,’ ‘Green Eyes,’ ‘The Peanut Vendor,’ ‘Marta,’ ‘Mama Jinny’s Jubilee,’ ‘Down Yonder,’ and ‘Mama Inez.”’

Ed Wolf, at 93, died at his North Miami Beach home in December 1982, survived by a daughter, Janice, and three grandchildren.

On October 20, 1926 under the sponsorship of Lakeland Lodge 1291 and Dr. W. S. “Doc” Irvin, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Sebring Lodge was formed with a class of 23 new initiates and three transfers, Ed Wolf, R. N. Durance, and W. H. Williams, as charter members. The charter was granted in July of 1927.

The 26 original members were from a representative cross section of the professional and business hierarchy of the county and, with a charter membership of men of that high standing in the community, other men immediately evidenced a desire to join in the association for the betterment of the community. At the second meeting, the Lodge accepted 23 applications for membership and by the end of the first six months, the roster stood at 105.

Good leadership and active committees prompted good attendance at meetings and social hours. The small Lodge room and club facilities on the second floor of the Harder Hall building soon became inadequate, so Brewton’s Tea Room was rented. This was a unique structure on the south shore of Lake Jackson; it was a two-story building built over the water about a hundred feet from the shore. Clubrooms were on the lower deck with the Lodge room above.

The space was more than adequate but there were disadvantages to the move. All sides of the Lodge room were windows that could be opened to admit the cooling breezes off the lake. This was a welcome feature in those days before air conditioning, especially after a scorching summer in a midtown office building. The Tea Room was rented in September of 1927 but, by December of the same year, the cooling breezes proved to be too cool as there was no means of providing heat for the clubrooms or the Lodge hall.

The south end of the lake was in the boondocks in 1927. It was very remote from the residential section of town and consequently the patronage of the Lodge dropped so drastically that a more central location was sought. Early in 1928, the Lodge moved to the Arrowhead Hotel with the intention of buying the building for $30,000 but the deal was not consummated. Negotiations to purchase the Masonic Hall were also unsuccessful so, after a short stay there, the Lodge moved back to the original location in the Harder Hall building.

Purchase of the Tobin Block

The purchase of the Tobin Block on the corner of Center Avenue and the Circle proved to be an excellent business venture. The entire upper floor was used for Lodge and clubrooms and the street level was divided into spaces for stores and offices. The income from these rentals provided funds for the maintenance and other expenses as well as the installments on the purchase price. After the payments for the building were completed, about a third of the lower floor was converted to accommodate the club facilities.

Freedom from debt and other financial stress did not prove to be an advantage to the Lodge. Lacking inspirational challenges, the members became lax in Lodge activities and social functions and, as a result, membership dropped and became static at around 200 where it remained for some years. Loss of interest in the affairs of the Lodge, together with the objection of some of the older members having to climb stairs, reduced attendance at meetings to a point where it was not uncommon to have barely enough members to fill the chairs. A
shortage of parking facilities, at times, became a strong argument in favor of building a new home, one that would attract more members and provide more adequate facilities if properly designed to meet the needs of a Lodge and a club.

The suggestion of building a new home was received with marked disinterest. At first, there was no great effort to promote the idea while at the same time, there were few arguments against it. The principal argument by those opposed to the plan was that it was not good for the Lodge to go into debt when the corporation and the Lodge were comfortably housed on the Circle, conveniently located to so many members.

Serious talks about a new home for Sebring Elks began in 1963 during the administration of Exalted Ruler Earl Majors. After many lengthy discussions both pro and con, the membership voted to proceed with a building program and to issue $100 certificates to finance construction. Nineteen members pledged at least $1,000 each to start the program. Brother Carl Lavoreta was named to head a committee to sell the certificates.

Committees were appointed to handle the various phases of the program, one of which negotiated with the banks for construction loans. This group found the banks very cooperative so the Lodge was assured of financing to begin construction. Brother Walter McGrath was awarded the contract to build the home and Brother John Towns was appointed to serve as Lausanne between the board of directors and the contractor.

Ground was broken and work started in 1965 and the Lodge moved to the new location in August of 1966. At a gala celebration with Grand Exalted Ruler Raymond Dobson as the honored guest, the present home was dedicated in March of 1967.

When George E. Sebring came to the area in 1911 to establish a new community, the only building for many miles in any direction was a cow hunter’s or fishing camp shack made of sheet metal which stood on the exact spot where the Sebring Elks Lodge now stands.

Only a few days before Sebring Lodge was formed, South Florida was the victim of a devastating hurricane, one of the most destructive in the state’s history. The membership of the newly formed Lodge reacted spontaneously and vigorously to the need of the victims of the catastrophe. It seems that this event set a pattern of activities for the Lodge since that time. It has become a tradition to take an active role in the Mississippi Valley in 1927, another devastating hurricane in 1928, and many others continuing through the years including the major cataclysm, the Honduran earthquake.

However, participating in relief efforts in national and international disasters were mere footnotes to the activities of the Lodge and its members in local charities and community welfare movements throughout the county that had long been needed but had not been undertaken by other organizations.

Soon after the organization of the Lodge, a committee began work to make certain that no children in the county would be forgotten at Christmastime and that deserving poor families had a substantial Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner. Serving on the Christmas Basket Committee was considered a privilege by the members and as the great depression of the 1930s developed, the work of the organization extended around the year. Destitute or needy families were helped over rough spots and as the relief work became heavier, the Lodge adopted a policy practiced by the Grand Lodge during World War I by teaming up with the Salvation Army, an organization that has been a potent influence in Sebring since the town was founded.

Nor were the members of the Lodge ever forgotten. When sickness or other misfortune has visited a member’s family, help has always been promptly afforded.

Early in its humanitarian efforts, the Lodge found that some families were receiving aid from several charitable groups while others who were equally deserving were being neglected. The committee was instrumental in initiating a movement to consolidate efforts of groups doing this type of charitable work.

A charity ball was an early social undertaking and the receipts were donated to aid in the formation of a boy’s band. The following year, the band marched in the parade at the Elks National Convention representing Sebring Elks Lodge.

One of the most heartwarming and benevolent activities of Sebring Lodge over the past forty years has been the practice of loaning medical equipment to citizens of the jurisdiction whether they are members or not. Under this plan, any person in need of such equipment may borrow (without any cost) hospital beds, wheelchairs, crutches, or walkers. These are delivered at any hour of any day to one in need.

As a young Lodge, the members wanted to identify their children’s home by having a life size statue of an elk on the lawn of the hospital and headquarters building. When the hospital was established in Umatilla, the statue was given a place of honor at the entrance of that home, where it remained for many years.

A leading factor in the Sebring Elks program has been the love of children and a deep desire to help them become more valuable citizens, especially the unfortunate and handicapped. The annual budget provides funds in support of a Little League baseball team; the Grand Lodge sponsored Hoop Shoot; aid to school programs in Avon
Park, Sebring, and Lake Placid; Boy and Girl Scouts; improvements to athletic facilities; and other youth activities. The Lodge provided the funds for building a field which has been named in honor of the Lodge.

Even before the Harry-Anna Home was adopted as an Elks project, Sebring Lodge made regular and substantial contributions to a children’s home in Jacksonville. In addition, after Harry Miller’s great gift to the state, Sebring assumed a full working partnership in promoting and sustaining the Harry-Anna Home.

The completion of their new Lodge home in 1966 signaled an immediate and steady rise in Lodge membership which had hovered around 200 for several years. This increase was a nice balance between active young businessmen and successful older retirees.

The more cheerful decor of the meeting hall invited greater attendance and participation in Lodge meetings and the beautiful lounge and dining rooms which were described as the most attractive in the community and stimulated greater club activity.

Varying degrees of business success in the operation of the club facilities have been experienced depending largely upon the selection of the employed personnel and the volunteer managers or stewards. Probably the most gratifying results have been achieved following the appointment of Brother Al Keen who has devoted untold time and effort in applying better business methods.

Formation of a Corporation to Manage the Club

Years ago, groups designated as The House Committee were appointed by the Exalted Ruler to manage the affairs of the organization that were not the responsibilities of the elected officers of the Lodge and subject to Grand Lodge statutes. These committees made periodic reports on the floor of the Lodge meetings and derived such authority as they might wield by motions passed in open session. If the committee desired to hold a dance, change the provisions of a lease, or raise the salary of the steward, action was taken on the Lodge floor.

The purchase and ownership of the Lodge home in the 1930s forced the change from the committee form of operation so a corporation was inaugurated to govern the club and property affairs. Under this arrangement, members have elected the officers of the corporation in session other than Lodge meetings. The corporation charter outlines their responsibilities and authority.

Every member of the Lodge is also a member of the corporation and is welcome at the business sessions which are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

This method of business administration has proven highly successful. The officers are not chosen in a popularity contest but are selected more for their business ability. As a result, the obligations of the organization have been so skillfully managed that the general membership has been unaware of the many complexities.

Dedication of the Harry-Anna Hospital

In 1931 following a gift from Harry R. P. Miller and Anna Miller, the Harry-Anna Home for Crippled Children was dedicated. Members of the Sebring Lodge attended the dedication ceremonies. Those from Sebring attending this history making event were A. H. Jilson, Art Kaugh, W. Evans, Sam Dimberline, Harry Brown, W. B. Parker, C. F. Saunders, L. T. Farmer, Charles Stevens, L. C. Pearce, Allen Altvater, R. J. Rippberger, Payne Sebring, and Alfred Varena.

Each Lodge in the state was asked to furnish one or more rooms in the building that was expected to be ready by April 1. Several thousand persons, including delegations from practically every Elks Lodge in the state, witnessed the dedication ceremonies.

Harry H. P. Miller of Eustis presented the building to the Elks on behalf of himself and his wife, Anna Miller. He spoke, too, for Samuel M. Owens, Umatilla, a friend who donated nearly six acres of adjoining land.

J. Edwin Baker, West Palm Beach, President of the State Elks Association, accepted the $250,000 building and land in the name of 33 Florida Lodges and its 800 members. Baker said, “Elks have long needed tools to carry on their work among children and this is the most important we have received.”

Harold Colee, Orlando, Secretary of the association, read telegrams of congratulations from National Elks officers and state officials who were unable to attend.

There are few agents more potent than food that can be employed to encourage convivial spirit. Sebring Elks took advantage of this in a period when attendance seemed to diminish. Arrangements were made to serve snacks after regular sessions. Sometimes it would be shrimps and sometimes cold cuts and other times ham or corned beef. It was found that interest was renewed, but these were stag affairs.
**District Deputies:**

Allan C. Altvater, Sr. 1981-1982, Fort Walton
Joseph B. Bryant 1981-1982, Fort Walton
Bert Horwitz 1990-1991
Claude Howerton 1990-1991
Doyle G. Sweeney 1990-1991
Donald E. White St. Joseph, MO

**Continuing activities:**

**2007**  Lodge members visited veterans at the Fairway Pine Retirement Home, a private facility, to host a patriotic ceremony.

The Lodge held a Fourth of July Salute to our Veterans, welcoming about 110 veterans, community members, and other guests to the Lodge ceremony. Sebring Mayor, George Hensley, was the guest speaker. Attendees were treated with refreshments and presented a $300 donation to the Veterans Council Relief Fund which provides assistance to local homeless veterans.

Ladies are an Asset

After the ladies became important factors in club life, covered dish dinners became popular and are a regular monthly function and are sometimes followed by a dance or a visitation of state or Grand Lodge officers. The club furnishes the meat course while the ladies bring their fanciest salads and desserts. Even as tasty and popular as they are, there is always more than can be consumed. These events always draw the crowds.

To these occasions have recently been added an occasional luau and the traditional Labor Day celebration. The latter is a family affair with a delicious meal preceded and followed by games and entertainment for the children.

**Ladies Organization:** Ladies of the Elks

In January of 1965, wives of the members of Sebring Lodge 1529 began to feel that the forming of a Ladies organization, with an aim toward assisting the men in furthering the programs of Elkdom, would be a valuable asset to the Lodge.

Six women were present at the first organizational meeting and as succeeding meetings were held, it brought increased interest until in March of 1965, 24 women held the first official meeting of the Ladies of the Elks. With the help and guidance of members of the Ladies Auxiliary of Arcadia Lodge, a constitution and bylaws were drawn up and adopted by the new group.

Their first of many fundraising projects was held very soon after their organization. It found itself in a card party followed by many other projects such as a bingo snack bar, rummage sales, bake sales, and white elephant sales. In later years, a fashion show and participation in the Sebring and Avon Park Art Festivals were particularly successful. The purpose of all of the activities has always been the same, to help local charities, Florida Elks Children’s Hospital, and Sebring Elks Lodge.

Their pledge states, “we pledge to our offices our loyalty; our support in thought, in word, in deed; and we, as members, will give generously of our time and talents to promote the goals of our club.”

On the cover of their organizational book it says, “The Organization with a Heart,” and on the inside cover it states:

**COMPASSION - CONCERN - CHANGE**

Instead of anger, let me feel COMPASSION.
Instead of rage, let me show CONCERN.
Instead of hate, let me seek CHANGE.

For, if to a warring, wondering world each of us will bring

**COMPASSION – CONCERN - CHANGE**

Then perhaps there will be love.
The Ladies of the Elks have been a valuable asset to Sebring Lodge 1529 and are proud of their accomplishments. When the present Lodge building opened, the women purchased the first organ for presentation to the Lodge. During some of the lean years of the Lodge, the women were always ready to help in fundraising to provide financial help whenever possible.

Charter members:

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<tr>
<td>Ruth Allen</td>
<td>Myrtle Alderman</td>
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<td>Gertrude Avery</td>
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<td>Cora Serantes</td>
<td>Grace Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Sweeney</td>
<td>Virginia Zinser</td>
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Secretary, Florida State Elks Association

The Secretary is an officer of the Florida State Elks Association. The board of directors appoints the Secretary for a one-year term.

The Secretary acts as Secretary to the association, the board of directors, the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Committee (now the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services), and such other boards or committees. The Secretary attends all meetings whether regular or special, of the association, the board of directors, and Florida Elks Children’s Hospital (now the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services) and all other meetings of boards or committees which the duties of his office may require or as may be assigned by the board of directors. He will maintain a full and complete record of proceedings of such meetings and preserve all books and documents and attend to all correspondence, prepare and submit an annual report to the association of the transactions of his office during the preceding year, and receive and pay over to the Treasurer of the association all monies coming through his office belonging to the association. The Secretary keeps the seal of the association and will affix it to all legal instruments only as may be directed by the board of directors. He has the authority to purchase books, stationery, etc. needful for his office with the bills to be paid by the Treasurer.

The board of directors determines the Secretary’s salary.

The Secretary is required before assuming the duties of office to execute and deliver to the board of directors a good and sufficient bond in the minimum amount of $25,000 to be approved by the board of directors and conditioned to report and account for all monies and properties belonging to the association. The association shall pay the expense of such bond.
Seibert, PDD, Carl, State Secretary

Carl Seibert was born in Kansas City, MO on October 22, 1960, the second of four children. When he was eleven his family moved to the small rural farming town of Harrisonville, MO where he further realized his innate love for the outdoors, animals, and agriculture. These interests led him to pursue agriculture as a career and he graduated with a degree in horticulture from the University of Central Missouri in 1983. He remembers the early 1980s to be a particularly difficult period for family farms in the midwest and decided that if he was to realize his dream to farm, he would have to head to areas where a new concept in farming was emerging, that of corporate farming. In the summer of 1983 he accepted a job as an assistant farm manager with South Bay Growers, Inc., a subsidiary of the United States Sugar Corporation located in the heart of the Everglades Agricultural Area in south Florida on the shores of Lake Okeechobee. At South Bay Growers, he realized his dream to farm the land with a company that counted its production in the hundreds of thousands of acres. Within six months he was promoted to Farm Manager and oversaw the annual production of over 2,000 acres of crops such as lettuce, cabbage, and even sod. In 1989 he was given the opportunity to expand his horizons with the company and was offered the management of the company’s salad processing operations. This state of the art facility was a pioneer in the development of the processes and techniques for cutting and bagging the precut produce that is so prevalent in grocery stores today. It was a dramatic departure from the day-to-day farming that he loved so much. However, he saw it as an opportunity to take the production knowledge he had learned and integrate it in a completely different arena.

Also in 1989, Seibert married the former Kimberly Redd, a local girl who had grown up on the shores of Lake Okeechobee and who through her father understood the long hours and seasons involved with farming in the Glades. Over the next few years, he embraced the industry involved with produce processing as he made numerous trips to California and other large production areas to purchase produce in the off-season and collaborate with other processing facilities as well as meeting many of the industry players through trade meetings and associations. This resulted in 1992 in with him being asked to lead up a new company effort to sell Florida produce to processors mostly in the eastern United States. This effort kept him very busy making sales calls and site visits. The late 1980s and early 1990s were very trying for farmers in the United States as labor laws were being rewritten, pesticides were being outlawed, and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) had opened the Mexican border to farming production that was not held to the same standards as domestic farmers. For this reason, Mexico was able to deliver produce into the eastern United States cheaper than Florida farmers. In 1994, caving to market pressure and the dim prospects for any major improvement, U. S. Sugar made the painful decision to divest its produce operations and they closed South Bay Growers. Never being one to accept defeat, Seibert, benefiting from the many contacts he had made through his community involvement, was offered a job with the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County. He assumed the role of a community development manager and was assigned to the farming communities around Lake Okeechobee where he had worked and still lived. He then spent the next four years working with business leaders and politicians from across South Florida in an effort to introduce new economic
opportunity to the farming communities in Palm Beach County. In 1997, he was given the opportunity to further hone his economic development skills and more intensely focus on the development of new businesses in his community. Through a partnership with the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, he created a new nonprofit company named the EDGE Center. The EDGE Center was a business incubator and EDGE stood for Enterprise Development for Glades Entrepreneurs. The EDGE Center provided businesses with assistance and training in every aspect of business management and provided small business loans through collaborative funding efforts by banks and lending institutions.

In 1985, Seibert joined Belle Glade Elks Lodge 1716. He served his Lodge in various capacities from 1986-1990. He quickly ascended through the chairs becoming Exalted Ruler in 1989 and again in 1996. In 1997 he served as the State Chairman for the Social and Community Welfare Committee. He served as Southeast District Vice President in 1999-2000 and as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2000-2001. He also served two years as Lodge Treasurer and six years as Lodge Secretary. In July of 2002 he was hired by the Florida State Elks Association, Inc. as the assistant to the State Secretary, Youth Camp Director, and Therapy Services Administrator. In 2003 as a result of the retirement of longtime State Secretary, Frank Willis, Seibert became the State Secretary of the Florida State Elks Association.

The nation has experienced a period of growth and with the advent of computer technology and modern ways of doing business, it has revolutionized the structure of business, the way it operates, fast communication, and modernization of tools enabling a more efficient approach to its many facets. It has allowed business to keep its fingers on the pulse of its operation and the approach to its customer client base.

Seibert is a man who has always been forward looking and has taken advantage of the tools available in the 21st century technology and applying them to the Florida State Elks Association. He was the right man at the right time and the man well qualified to lead the Florida Elks into the exciting future. With his affiliation, the Florida Elks have gone forth into the new age developing ideas and methods never before dreamed of. He is never idle; his mind is ever reaching to seek improvements in the approach the State Elks Association takes in doing business in the competitive world that includes charitable nonprofit organizations. He has streamlined committee reporting and minimized reporting techniques of its committees while providing accuracy and a more efficient way to analyze its operation and showing ways to improve upon it. His mind is open to the idea that there is always a better way to do the job, recognizing that there are new opportunities and challenges in the future. Some are by choice and some are set upon us by influences beyond our control. He has developed an office staff of competent personnel able to adapt to the new ways and methods of operation thereby guaranteeing that improvements initiated will be efficiently carried out.

Carl and Kim were blessed in 1993 with their first son, Conner, and again in 1998 with a second son, Colton. Carl resides in Eustis, FL. He was bestowed with an honorary life membership in Belle Glade Lodge shortly after departing for his job with the State Association. He later became a member of Eustis Elks Lodge.

Select Study Commission

(See Elks Children’s Hospital and President Spadafora)
Article 6, Section 1 was amended to read as follows:
That each Lodge shall be entitled to five votes in this association and five Lodge members of this association shall constitute a quorum for business, providing that twenty-five members of Lodges in good standing in this association be present for the transaction of business. The Lodges may be represented by one or more delegates - the five votes allowed to be cast as may be determined by the Lodge appointing such delegates or in the absence of such instructions, by the delegates themselves, delegates to present certificates of appointment from the Lodge electing them.

J. T. Mahoney, Tampa 708, was appointed temporary Secretary.
West Palm Beach Lodge 1352 was instituted on January 23, 1918.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1919-1920 term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Roy Sellers</td>
<td>St. Petersburg 1224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Vice President</td>
<td>W. W. Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second Vice President</td>
<td>Turner, Jacksonville221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third Vice President</td>
<td>Oscar Eaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>H. H. Hunt</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Charles Faircloth</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>James A. Douglas</td>
<td>Jacksonville 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant at Arms</td>
<td>V. N. Ridgely</td>
<td>St. Petersburg 1224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>Not elected</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>Roy Sellers</td>
<td>St. Petersburg 1224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W. W. Rose</td>
<td>Orlando 1079</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>H. H. Hunt</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles Faircloth</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E. E. Naugle</td>
<td>Jacksonville 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edward T. Lewis</td>
<td>St. Petersburg 1224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jack Mahoney</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lakeland was selected for the fifteenth annual session.
Seminole Lodge 2519

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 100th Lodge</th>
<th>District: West Central</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>July 31, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Institution:</td>
<td>September 28, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>Earl “Buzz” Wasson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership:</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership:</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
<td>395</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership:</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2007 Membership:</td>
<td>448</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2009 Membership:</td>
<td>471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>170717 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone (Lounge):</td>
<td>727-397-4541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone (Lodge):</td>
<td>727-397-7253</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Glenn Shoupman
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Rousey Clark
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: Charles Pride
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Dick Burkhart
- Grand Secretary: Bill Lieberman
- Grand Treasurer: Bodo Kirchhoff
- Grand Trustee: Al Rothacker
- Grand Tiler: Robert Howell
- Grand Chaplain: Art Cushing
- Grand Esquire: Bill Skinner
- Grand Inner Guard: Earl Roth

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: Dave Kersey
- Esteemed Leading Knight: Earl Wasson
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: Victor Bellin
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Tony Blair
- Secretary: J. J. Maroncelli
- Treasurer: George T. Clark
- Inner Guard: Chas. E. Smith
- Chaplain: Wilfred Quinlan
- Organist: Wm. Duncan
- Esquire: John Porsaska
- Tiler: Wm. LaFrance
- Trustees: 5 Year, Robt. Martin Jach
- 4 Year, Jos. LaClaire
- 3 Year, Arthur Brunte
- 2 Year, Howard Grishat
- 1 Year, Huxley Reid
The following officers initiated the new members:

Exalted Ruler Ray Williams

Additional information was unavailable.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224 is the mother Lodge.

District Vice Presidents:

Clarence Chorney 1981-1982
Delmon “Del” Johnson 1993-1994

District Deputies:

Clarence Chorney 1983-1984
Delmon “Del” Johnson 1994-1995

Every new idea is born from a creative mind and Seminole Elks Lodge 2519 was the creation of Joseph LeClaire, now deceased. The first organizational meeting was held in November of 1973 in “Buzz” Wasson’s shop with five men present. Those five were Joseph LeClaire, Huxley Reid, Earl Smith, Earl “Buzz” Wasson, and Leonard Mitchell. Meetings continued every other Sunday in Art Brunka’s tavern. Much of their wisdom and knowledge about Elkdom and its virtues came from their first Lodge Secretary, the mirthful and lovable J. J. Maroncilli, an Elk for over fifty years. Ten months after the first meeting, with the constant aid of a special friend, the “Godfather” of Seminole Lodge, Glen Shoupman, and a membership of 151, they were ready for charter.

The true meaning of Elkdom was shown to them when St. Petersburg Lodge graciously hosted a charter party on September 28, 1974, and at this time, several district Lodges made donations of much needed items such as the jewels of office and promises of furniture for when they had their own home.

Accepting the charter were the acting officers of Seminole Lodge: Exalted Ruler, Dave Kersey; Leading Knight, Earl “Buzz” Wasson; Lecturing Knight, Vic Bellin; Loyal Knight, Tony Blair; Secretary, J. J. Maroncilli; Treasurer, George Clark; Tiler, Bill LaFrance; Esquire, John Porsoscka; Chaplain, Bill Quinlan; Inner Guard, Chuck Smith; Organist, Bill Duncan; and Trustees, Joe LeClaire, Huxley Reid, Howard Grishkat, Art Brunke, and Richard Martinjak. Shortly after receiving their charter, meetings were moved to the VFW Hall where much of their history takes place.

Within a few months, Howard Grishkat along with his many other duties began two of their very important projects. First, on October 14 with Jack Burrows, he began a 10-year love relationship with the Community Blood Bank. Then on November 25 he published the first Lodge newsletter turned bulletin which quickly became one of the finest in the state and later continued in the capable hands of Tom Henningson followed by Don Minnie.

The men’s first annual bus trip to the Harry-Anna Hospital was in February of 1975, and this event turned into the annual Easter party that Harry-Anna reserved exclusively for Seminole Lodge.

The Ladies organized two months after the Lodge received their charter and quickly became an asset and complement to the men. Working together, they continued to grow bigger and better.

Finding a home became a primary goal and became a long and tedious job. The immediate need was to raise money. Brothers Don Francis, Fred Cutillo, and later “Bing” Matson helped make the canteen popular by keeping the beer icy cold at a makeshift bar. This paid the rent. In May of that year, Otto and Vola Pavel made a generous donation of $100 to start a building fund.

Many a long night is remembered as they held party after party at the American Legion hall, toting, decorating, cooking, setting up, cleaning up, and toting back, usually stopping by Sambo’s for breakfast at about 2 a.m. Early masters of the kitchen were Jack Numan, Joe Malesky, and Jim Mullin. It was not long before they discovered several other members had choice culinary talents, especially Jack Chandler and George Androny. More members began acquiring these skills under the expert tutelage of these great Chefs.

Holiday Isles Lodge was a gracious host for their U-Tote-Em BBQ swim parties. Other popular moneymakers were garage sales, sailing subscriptions to the local courier, pig roasts, and wheelchair basketball games.
In February of 1976, the first joint function, the annual Harry-Anna ball, was held. The famous Red Heart was made and donated by Ricky Scaglia and Jose and Vicky Lima.

After an exhaustive search for the right place at the right price with a lot of footwork expertly done by Brother Bill Quinlan, they finally leased a home with the option to buy, moving in on May 3, 1976.

Now the need for raising money really showed its head in earnest. Donations of equipment, materials, workers and money were needed. Paper drives, rummage sales, golf tournaments, dinners, selling ceiling tiles, and of course, the bar sales, did just that.

The little house out back was a chef’s dream kitchen. Some fantastic meals came out of that little palace!

Mainly through the efforts of Huxley Reid, PER Bill Quinlan, and ER Lefty Canterbury, they finally acquired a club license for the bar in late January of 1977. The event was marked by having a flag flown over the U. S. Capitol on that day and presented by Brother Elk, Congressman C. W. “Bill” Young, at their fourth anniversary party along with a beautiful handmade flag crocheted by Peg Linder, wife of brother Ken, known to most as “Snow.”

In December of 1979, Seminole’s first elected Exalted Ruler, Earl “Buzz” Wasson, passed away. He had done much to establish this Lodge and make it grow. Many remembered his friendly manner and famous “Tom and Gerry” parties.

On February 10, 1980, another milestone was passed. A ground breaking ceremony was held for the new building under the able direction of Bill Cheetham. On July 5, the membership held their first dinner/dance. The official dedication ceremonies were held on September 20 with Grand Exalted Ruler Bob Grafton and his lovely wife in attendance. The new building was completely paid for and there was a certain pride in having been a part of this exciting accomplishment.

The first part of 1981 was spent remodeling the lounge area and then attaching two buildings. By the end of the year, the kitchen was about finished with much of the major pieces of equipment donated through the efforts of Ron Ekbert.

With rehearsals for the first Bong Show, they discovered more hidden talent, this time in the form of high steppers, “Dean’s Dancers.”

The new piano bar was built and was responsible for the increase in camaraderie in the lounge. The new meeting room, donated by the Ladies, helped tremendously with all of the committee and board meetings. A new service bar and kitchen addition did much to alleviate the crowding problem.

With new activities added to an already busy Lodge (fish fries, breakfasts, theme parties, Las Vegas Nights, Crazy Carol, and Roman Night with their own Roman God, John Sylvester), the building fund was on the increase.

Seminole BPOE Firsts

1973 November
They held their first formative meeting. Joseph LeClaire, Huxley Reid, Chet Smith, Earl “Buzz” Wasson, and Leonard Mitchell attended.

1974, October 4
They held their first regular meeting following installation on September 28, 1974 that was held at VFW Hall. At this meeting on a motion of Huxley Reid with a second by Art Brunkee, they agreed to purchase a $1,000 National Foundation certificate and a $1,000 Harry-Anna certificate each payable at $100 per year.

1974, October 20
They held their first blood bank in conjunction with VFW of Madeira Beach. Suggestions and preliminary arrangements were made by Chairman Howard Grishkat. VFW arrangements were made by Jack Burrows. Joe Malesky assisted Grishkat at this first blood drawing and later took over as Chairman.

First Blood Donors

Howard Grishkat       Joe Malesky
Roy Kicklighter       Robert Martinjak
Miles Kreider         Bernie Cockrell
Ed “Lefty” Canterbury Earl “Buzz” Wasson
1974, November 6
The first meeting of the Seminole Ladies of the Elks was held.
Sara Porsoska presided as President.

1974, November
They gave their first Thanksgiving baskets (donations of members).

1974, December
They gave their first Christmas baskets (donations of members).

1974, December
They gave their first Christmas gifts to hospitalized veterans at Bay Pines Hospital (donations of members).

1974, December thru March 1975
They published the first Seminole Elks newsletter. The first mailing date was November 25, 1974, two months from installation. It was prepared by Howard Grishkat with assistance from J. Maroncilli.

1975, February 16
They had their first Harry-Anna bus trip.

1975, March
They gave their first Elk of the Year award to Joseph Malesky.
They gave their first scholarship awards.
They sponsored their first Little League soccer. The team finished as champions of the league.

1975, March 10
They held a recognition service for charter members of Seminole Ladies of Elks at the Seminole VFW Hall. Erma Cutillo presided as President.

1975, April
Their first publicity booklet was submitted to the Florida State Elks Association by Publicity Chairman, Howard Grishkat.
Savings bonds were presented to scholarship winners at the POW-WOW booth at the Seminole Mall. The first Americanism Essay awards (U. S. savings bonds) were given.

1975, April through June
The first Seminole Elks bulletin was printed with format arranged by Howard Grishkat plus material from Secretary Maroncilli.

1975, May 30
Seminole Elks attended their first Florida State Elks conference at the Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood, FL.

1975, September - June 1976
They awarded their first Teenager of the Month awards and their first Teenager of the Year awards (Chairman of Teenager Program: W. Quinlan).

1975, October
They held their first Italian party.
1975, November
   They sponsored their first Little League football team.

1975, December
   The first Elks and Lady Elks volunteer to be bell ringers for the Salvation Army and they gave Christmas baskets.

1976, February 14
   They held their first garage sale (Chairman: Chuck Smith).

1976, April
   Their second publicity booklet was prepared by Wilfred Quinlan and received a Florida State Elks Award for contents publicizing Youth Activities.

1976, May 10
   Their first regular meeting was held at 10717 Seminole Boulevard (previous meetings had been at Seminole VFW Hall).

1976, June 13
   Their first Flag Day services were conducted by Seminole Elks in their own Lodge. Previous services required by the Grand Lodge were observed by Seminole Elks attending the services jointly in other Lodges in the district.

1976
   Americanism Chairman, Jack Chandler, supplied a 20-year plaque with the names of 1975 and 1976 essay winners inscribed.

Ladies organization: Ladies of Elks.
   First meeting: November 6, 1974
   President: Sara Porsoska

**Senerchia, C. J., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1939-1940**
The following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville No. 221, Ocala No. 286, Pensacola No. 497, Tampa No. 708, St. Augustine No. 829, Lake City No. 893, Tallahassee No. 937, Miami No. 948, Orlando No. 1079, Quincy No. 1111, 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, 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, Eustis No. 1578, Panama City No. 1598, and Miami Beach No. 1601.

Distinguished guests present were George B. Helmer of Jacksonville, the President of the Southern Vigilant Intelligence Association who talked on Americanism; Hon. Dave Sholtz representing Grand Exalted Ruler; and Dr. Edward McCormick.

President O’Brien reported that donations from the various subordinate Lodges were received and used to erect a memorial at the grave of Brother Caspian Hale. The same was unveiled the previous Sunday with fitting ceremonies. The inscription was as follows:

_In Memory of_  
_Caspian Hale_  
_A Real Man - A Real Elk_  
_One of God’s Beloved Noblemen_  
_Born November 9, 1888 - Died May 24, 1938_  
_District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Florida East - 1932-1933 and 1935-1936_  
_President Florida State Elks Association - 1934-1935_  
_Chairman Grand Lodge Activities Committee - 1936-1937_  
_Presented by the Elks Lodges of Florida_  
_1939_  
_HALE_  
_His Year as President_

President O’Brien called attention to the fact that all right, title, and interest in the property of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home are vested in a private corporation known as the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Commission, Inc.

Suitable resolutions of sympathy were adopted on the passing of Past President Caspian Hale; Past President Joseph Lawrence Reed, Sr.; and Vice President Kerfoot Bryant.

A resolution was adopted authorizing the President to appoint a standing committee called the Marker or Graves Committee whose duty it shall be to investigate the graves of the Past Presidents and see that they are properly cared for.

Palatka Lodge 1232 offered a resolution recommending that the subject of Americanism be taught and instilled into the minds of all schoolchildren and that the association take the necessary steps and make necessary arrangements to contact the proper state and county officials to have set aside a period during each day to be utilized in instilling upon the minds of all schoolchildren the subject of Americanism. It was adopted.

St. Augustine Lodge 829 offered a resolution endorsing and pledging the support of the Florida State Elks Association to the restoration and preservation of the city of St. Augustine. It was adopted.

The ritualistic cup was awarded to Daytona Beach 1141.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1939-1940 term:

- **President**: Chelsie J. Senerchia, Miami 948
- **Secretary**: Roy E. Norcross, Miami 948
- **Treasurer**: R. L. Bohon, Jacksonville 221
- **Tiler**: Tom Sheridan, Ocala 286
Historian
A. M. Taylor, St. Augustine 829
Chaplain
Father M. J. Nixon, Ocala 286
Sergeant at Arms
Peter Gessner, DeLand 1463

Division Vice Presidents

Southeast
W. A. Wall, West Palm Beach 1352
Southwest
R. Vivian Lee, Fort Myers 1288
Central
Leslie Anderson, Cocoa 1532
Northeast
C. G. Campbell, Lake City 893
Northwest
W. H. Cates, Tallahassee 937

Executive Committee

President
Chelsie J. Senerchia, Miami 948
Immediate Past President
M. Frank O’Brien, Jacksonville 221
Secretary
Roy E. Norcross, Miami 948
Treasurer
R. L. Bohon, Jacksonville 221
J. A. Rostan, Lake Worth 1530
A. C. Altvater, Sebring 1529
Quinn Cates, Tallahassee 937

The report of J. Edwin Baker, Superintendent of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home, was received and printed in full.

The following is the organization and staff:

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

St. Augustine was selected for the 1939-1940 annual session.

Sept. 11, 2001

Following the terrorist attack on the twin towers of the World Trade Center, Arthur Mayer, Jr., Grand Exalted Ruler, wrote the following letter to President George W. Bush.

Dear Mr. President,

As National President to the more than one million men and women of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, I am writing to express our organization’s deepest sympathies for the victims and their families of the cowardly and horrific assault of September 11 on our nation.

Mr. President, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will pledge its considerable resources of cash and non-cash items and volunteer support to aid the nation in any manner you and your advisors deem necessary and appropriate. With members in more than 2,100 communities across the nation, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is prepared to help the call of the nation as we have previously during times of war and disaster.
In immediate response to this unfathomable tragedy, our members and their families across the nation have already been directed to give blood and encourage others to do so as well. Additionally, the Elks are prepared to fulfill any other needs as they become clear in the coming days and weeks.

I cannot begin to stress to you our order’s willingness and preparedness to lend any further assistance as directed. We are committed to doing everything that you request of us to aid the people stricken by this heinous and disgusting assault. Mr. President, we want you to know that the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is here for the nation.

Pledging you the full support and concern of the more than one million Elks members, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
Arthur Mayer, Jr.

Sergeant-at-Arms (State Association)

The Sergeant at Arms is an officer of the Florida State Elks Association. The Sergeant at Arms is appointed by the President to serve during his term. This officer executes the orders of the President, assists in preserving order, acts as Marshall on public occasions and during closed sessions, and assists the Tiler in examining the qualifications of all persons presenting themselves for admission. The Sergeant at Arms may select such deputies as may be needed to assist in the discharge of the duties.

Shashy, Richard, President, Florida State Elks Association, 1981-1982

Richard Shashy was a native of Ocala, FL and a partner in the family business, Moses Auto Parts, founded by his father and uncle. The business flourished in Ocala for over 75 years.
Shashy was involved in Ocala Elks Lodge where he served in many capacities rising to the high office of Exalted Ruler for 1970-1971. He served the Florida State Elks Association with distinction. While President, he was particularly proud of leading a fundraising campaign which raised over a million dollars for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

He was initiated into Ocala Lodge 286 on November 10, 1960. He was elected North Central District Vice President in 1976-1977 and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler the following year. He was elected Vice President at Large for 1980-1981 and was elected President of the Florida State Elks Association in 1981-82. His slogan was, “To Help a Child Walk is Worth a Million.” He served seven years on the Harry-Anna Investment Fund Board of Trustees. He served the Grand Lodge on the State Associations Committee from 1986-1991 and the last three years as Committee Chairman. He was elected Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight in 1995-1996.

After many years in Ocala, Dick and Gayle relocated to Maggie Valley, NC in 2002 where they had a summer home for many years. They immediately became very involved in their community, devoting many hours to St. Margaret’s Catholic Church and the Maggie Valley Civic Association. He had a lifelong love of golf and in Maggie Valley became a member of their country club. They never forgot their friends in Florida who were all invited to their mountain home to stay at what they called Shashy Shackup. For many years he held a season ticket to the Florida Gators games and rarely missed a home game.

Dick and Gayle had three daughters, Leslie, Terry, and Kimberly, and four grandchildren, Carter, Mackenzie, Grant, and Addison.


His Year as President

State President Harty N. Baruch gave his annual report.
PDD Jack Shore, Arcadia 1524, was named Editor of the Florida Elks News.
The association now has 105 Lodges and is divided into twelve districts.
The attendance at the convention was 2,070.
Bylaws were amended to include a committee for Wills and Bequests.
Ocala 286 won the state ritual contest.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1981-1982 term:

President Richard M. Shashy, Ocala
Vice President at Large Carl Vaughn, North Palm Beach
Secretary Ben S. Brown, Jr., Eustis
Treasurer Frank J. Holt, Miami
Tiler Thomas E. Elmore, Okeechobee
Historian Jesse Melanson, Sebring
Sergeant at Arms Larry Jones, Largo
Chaplain Ted Cohen, Miami
Organist Norman D. Right, DeLand

District Vice Presidents

Northwest Harry W. Dunaway, Marianna
North William Larry Henley, Tallahassee
Northeast George A. Schiebler, Jacksonville
East Central William F. Orban, Melbourne
North Central John C. Holloway, Leesburg
Central Gregory G. Wetmore, Winter Haven
West Central Clarence E. Chorney, Seminole
Southwest Central David E. Vergason, Palmetto
Southwest Howard E. Seaton, Naples
Southeast Don C. Sinclair, Lake Worth
South Southeast James H. Ruff, Fort Lauderdale
South David Goldberg, Hialeah

Daytona Beach was selected as the site for the 1982 convention.
Sholtz, David, Grand Exalted Ruler, 1936-1937

David Sholtz was the first Florida Elk ever elected as Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Born in Brooklyn, NY on October 6, 1891, his parents were Michael and Annie (Bloom) Sholtz. His father came to America from Germany at the age of fifteen with little education, but with hard work he became a success in business. The family moved to Daytona Beach and later settled in West Palm Beach, FL.

Sholtz was educated in the public schools of Brooklyn, NY and at Yale University, graduating in 1914. By 1915, he had earned his degree of Bachelor of Law from Stetson University and began practicing law in Volusia County. In 1916 he was elected as a representative in the Florida legislature from Volusia County.

He was commissioned an Ensign in the U. S. Navy and until and after the close of World War I, he represented the Navy Department on the Censorship Board stationed in Key West and Havana, Cuba. In 1921, he was appointed State’s Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit for two years.

From 1921-1932 his law practice flourished. He helped organize the Daytona Beach Rotary Club and was a member of the Seminole Club of Jacksonville, the Army-Navy Club in Washington, and the Yale Club of New York. He served two terms as President of the Daytona Beach Chamber of Commerce and two as President of the East Coast Chamber of Commerce. In 1927, he was elected President of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce for a two-year term.

Sholtz was initiated into Daytona Beach Lodge 1141 in 1914. Working through the chairs, he was elected Exalted Ruler in 1920. In 1922-1923 he served as First Vice President of the Association and in 1923 he served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for Florida East. In 1924 he was elected President of the Florida State Elks Association and was reelected in 1925. He also served on the State Social and Community Welfare Committee and was Honorary Chairman of the Harry-Anna Committee. Sholtz was also a Mason and Shriner, being a member of both rites, Scottish and York.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1923-1924 term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>David Sholtz</td>
<td>1141</td>
<td>Daytona Beach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Vice President</td>
<td>Chas. A. Mills</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Vice President</td>
<td>John W. DuBoise</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Vice President</td>
<td>Justin Van Buskirk</td>
<td>1079</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>1079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>P. M. Henderson</td>
<td>1291</td>
<td>Lakeland</td>
<td>1291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>W. P. Mooty</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>948</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Miami was selected for the nineteenth annual session.

Nineteenth Annual Session  
Florida State Elks Association  
April 25-26, 1924  
MIAMI, FLORIDA

The following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville No. 221, Ocala No. 286, Pensacola No. 497, Key West No. 551, Tampa No. 708, Fernandina No. 795, St. Augustine No. 829, Tallahassee No. 937, Miami No. 948, Gainesville No. 990, Orlando No. 1079, Quincy No. 1111, Daytona Beach No. 1141, St. Petersburg No. 1224, Palatka No. 1232, Sanford No. 1241, Fort Myers No. 1288, Lakeland No. 1291, and West Palm Beach No. 1352.

Distinguished guests present were Jefferson B. Brown, Key West 551, representing James C. McFarland, Watertown, SD, Grand Exalted Ruler; and W. H. Mastaine, Nashville, TN, Past President of Tennessee Elks Association.

President David Sholtz made an exhaustive report and several recommendations were accepted.

St. Augustine 829 was awarded the cup for best percentage of officers present.

Miami 948 was awarded the cup for best ritualistic work; no other Lodge competed.

On a motion by A. M. Taylor of St. Augustine, seconded by George A. McKinnon of Miami, the present officers were unanimously reelected as follows to serve the 1924-1925 term:

- President: David Sholtz, Daytona Beach 1141
- First Vice President: Chas. A. Mills, Miami 948
- Second Vice President: John W. DuBoise, Jacksonville 221
- Third Vice President: Justin Van Buskirk, Orlando 1079
- Secretary: P. M. Henderson, Lakeland 1291
- Treasurer: W. P. Mooty, Miami 948
- Chaplain: F. W. Ramm, St. Petersburg 1224
- Sergeant at Arms: Jos. LeVay, Lakeland 1291
- Tiler: G. J. Callahan, Miami 948
- Executive Committee: David Sholtz, Daytona Beach 1141, P. M. Henderson, Lakeland 1291, W. P. Mooty, Miami 948, C. C. Kirby, Jacksonville 221, G. O. Bennett, West Palm Beach 1352, A. M. Taylor, St. Augustine 829

Lakeland was selected for the twentieth annual session.

Secretary P. M. Henderson submitted a brief history of the Florida State Elks Association from 1904-1924. Sholtz served as Governor of Florida from 1933-1937, one of those years while also serving as Grand Exalted Ruler.

David Sholtz was married twice, first to Agatha M. Roberts of Key West on June 30, 1919 and then to Alicia Mae Agee of Norfolk, VA on December 28, 1925. Three children resulted from the second marriage, two daughters and a son. Sholtz was of the Congregationalist religion.

Sholtz served on the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee for five years, two years as Chairman and two years on the Grand Lodge Board of Trustees. He also held the offices of Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight and Grand Esteemed Leading Knight.
He did much to help establish the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital, and his work for Florida Elkdom established him as one of the finest leaders of Florida Elkdom. He headed the Social and Community Welfare Committee for the Elks and worked closely with the Florida Crippled Children’s Commission conducting a survey to locate all of the crippled children in Florida. Because of this survey the Florida Elks adopted as its major objective the welfare of the state’s crippled children.

In 1936, Sholtz was elected Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the first Florida Elk to achieve such high honor. In his acceptance speech as Grand Exalted Ruler at the 77th national convention in Los Angeles in 1936, he recognized the threat of Hitler:

I call upon the thousands of the order to join in any necessary movement to preserve personal liberty in America. It is the appalling truth that many persons in this country today admire European dictators who administer a form of government that denies the personal liberty granted and guaranteed American citizens through sacrifices of founders of the nation. . . . Thank God, men of Elkdom, that we enjoy the privilege of American citizenship. It is only by the grace of God Almighty that you were born in this land of freedom or were given the privilege and right to become a citizen of this great country. It is worth fighting for.

After his tenure as Grand Exalted Ruler, he served on the Elks National Service Commission and the Grand Lodge Advisory Board.

Sholtz was often characterized by more than one biographer as one of the most brilliant men ever to take part in the public affairs of Florida and certainly his career as an Elk speaks for itself. He received an honorary degree of Master of Arts from Stetson University in 1921 and the Municipal Judgeship of the city of Daytona Beach also in 1921.

In 1932 Sholtz was nominated and elected to the Governorship of Florida and served from 1933-1937, receiving the largest primary majority ever given a Democrat nominee. His record of Governor was none less than brilliant; in fact, it is often mentioned as one of the most outstanding in the nation.

Some of the numerous projects Sholtz worked with and helped establish were free textbooks to schools, Workmen’s Compensation Law, Florida Citrus Commission, State Forestry Service, Everglades National Park, establishing the first State Highway Patrol, increased the state payments to schools, and reduced costs for automobile tags.

Sholtz had a long running private war with the city officials of Daytona Beach and believed that the mayor and his colleagues were corrupt. He demanded their resignation; they refused and then barricaded themselves in the City Hall. Sholtz won the war by having the Florida National Guard recapture the institution for the people.

He loved pomp and ceremony and appointed many prominent Floridians as honorary colonels, providing colorful uniforms with sabers and having them around for various state functions.

Sholtz’s tenure as an Elk and a Florida politician was outstanding and he will always be remembered for his hard work for Elkdom and the people of Florida.

David Sholtz died in the Florida Keys on March 21, 1953 at the age of 62.

Shelton, Harold R. “Hal”, President, Florida State Elks Association, 1985-86

![Shelton, Harold R. “Hal”, President, Florida State Elks Association, 1985-86](image)
Seventy-Ninth Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
May 23-26, 1985
TAMPA, FLORIDA

Harold Shelton was born in Delano, Tenn. He had moved from Slidell, LA to Florida’s Brevard County and became an inspector in the Council Civil Engineering Department. He had attended the University of Southern Mississippi and was a veteran of World War II as a member of the Army Air Corps.

Hal joined Cocoa Beach Elks Lodge and was appointed Chaplain in 1970, serving thereafter in all of the chairs and becoming the Exalted Ruler. He served as District Vice President in 1976-1977 and District Deputy in 1978-1979. PSP Russell Saxon nominated him for Vice President at Large in 1984-1985 and as State President in 1985-1986 where he was installed as President at the convention in Tampa. He was a member of the organizing committee of Merritt Island Lodge 2650 and became a charter member. He later transferred to New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557 and was a member there at the time of his death.

Before moving to Florida, Shelton had been employed by the Rocketdyne Division of Rockwell as a technical representative. He was married to Mary Shelton of Merritt Island.

He was 72 years old at his passing. PSP Thomas M. Coker, Jr. gave his eulogy.

His Year as President

Motto: “Elkdom is Love and Concern”
State President Thomas M. Coker, Jr. gave his annual report.
The convention attendance was 2,757.
The bylaws were amended to change the name from Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital to Florida Elks Children’s Hospital.
The first annual Florida/Georgia High School All-Star Football Game was held June 22, 1985 in Orlando Stadium. Mr. Butch Vonweller, Orlando businessman, was the creator of the games along with the Florida Citrus Sports Association.
Charlotte County Lodge 2153 won the state ritual contest.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1985-1986 term:

President
Harold R. Shelton, Merritt Island
Vice President at Large
Frank J. Spadafora, Englewood
Secretary
Frank D. Willis, Jr., Eustis
Treasurer
Joseph B. Bryant, Sebring
Tiler
Thomas D. Sullivan, Melbourne
Historian
Patrick R. Schmitt, Merritt Island
Sergeant at Arms
Porter E. Rossner, New Smyrna Beach
       (died in office)
       Charles Cooper, Melbourne
       (served out term)
Chaplain
Oscar R. Taylor, Melbourne
Organist
Norman D. Right, DeLand

District Vice Presidents

Northwest
Arthur G. Platts, Panama City
North
Stanley R. Nettles, Tallahassee
Northeast
Raymond H. Burger, Daytona Beach
East Central
George T. Wolfe, Vero Beach
North Central
Ben S. Brown, Jr., Eustis
Central
Edward F. Demask, Brandon
West Central
Charles H. Mitchell, Largo
Southwest Central
Franklin H. Garrison, Jr., Palmetto
Southwest
John P. Early, Cape Coral
Southeast
Ralph T. Denton, Jupiter
South Southeast
Lester Yam, Boca Raton
South
Grady Hinton, Coral Gables
Kissimmee was selected as the site for the 1986 convention.

Silver Springs Shores Lodge 2730

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 126th Lodge</th>
<th>North Central</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>North Central</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>April 15, 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Institution:</td>
<td>May 9, 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>Ben S. Brown, Jr., DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother Lodge:</td>
<td>Ocala 286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>218</td>
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<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>601</td>
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<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>526</td>
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<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
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<td>Year 2005 Membership:</td>
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<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
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<td>430</td>
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<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
<td>412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2009 Membership:</td>
<td>391</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meets 2nd &amp; 4th Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>7655 E. Highway 25, Belleview, FL 34420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
<td>P.O. Box 3100, Belleview, FL 34421-3100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>352-245-3535</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Ben S. Brown, Jr.
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Willis V. McCall
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: Alvin A. Ehrlich
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: J. Pierce Smith
- Grand Secretary: Frank D. Willis, Jr.
- Grand Treasurer: Thomas M. Coker, Jr.
- Grand Trustee: Abe Shashy
- Grand Trustee: Nick Foreso
- Grand Trustee: Jack Holloway
- Grand Trustee: Ed Keller
- Grand Trustee: Terry Nolan
- Grand Tiler: Tom Karns
- Grand Chaplain: George Dominianni
- Grand Organist: Unknown
- Grand Esquire: Richard M. Shashy
- Grand Inner Guard: Harold R. Shelton

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: Harry Tucker
- Esteemed Leading Knight: Phil Casale
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: Wayne Pierce
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Bob Zukrigl
- Secretary: Bill Carter
- Treasurer: James Booth
- Inner Guard: Ed Auld
The following officers initiated the new members:

- **Exalted Ruler**: Jack Roland
- **Esteemed Leading Knight**: Clay Ashbrook
- **Esteemed Loyal Knight**: John Futch, PER
- **Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: Les Turner
- **Esquire**: Jim Lee
- **Chaplain**: Ed Smith
- **Inner Guard**: Jerry Hill

**Gifts donated at time of institution:**

- **Bible**: Apopka 2422
- **Altar Star**: Clermont-Groveland 1848
- **Flag & Stand**: Eustis 1578
- **Baton**: Leesburg 1703
- **Altar Cloth**: Inverness 2522
- **Antlers**: Winter Park 1830
- **Gavel**: Ben S. Brown, Jr., DDGER

**Organizational Committee:**

- **Chairman**: Phil Casale
- **Vice Chairman**: Harry Tucker
- **Secretary**: William A. Carter
- **Treasurer**: Wayne Pierce
- **DDGER**: Ben Brown
- **District Vice President**: John Croce
- **Past State President**: Richard Shashy
- **Grand Lodge Sponsor**: Robert Grafton

**Past Exalted Rulers:**

- Phil Casale 1988-1989
- Wayne Pierce 1990-1991

In December of 1987 they purchased eleven acres with an existing building. Extensive renovations have resulted in a lounge, an ‘L’ shaped bar, Secretary’s office, secure liquor storage, fully equipped kitchen, and an addition which was dedicated in May of 1990 and gave them an all purpose room 60’ x 50’ which was used as a Lodge room, dining room, and social functions.

**Charter Members by Demit:**

- Lyle C. Allen
- John Boome
- Davis J. Burdick
- William A. Carter
- Gerald F. Bendit
- Jack Brunton
- Joseph Carbo
- Phil Casale
Arlan F. Cook  
Paul C. Crider  
Charles G. Graf  
Robert Hardiman  
Frederick J. Klotz  
Harry A. Tucker  
Walter E. Lewis  
Emil G. Moncovich, Jr.  
Wayne B. Pierce  
Allen R. Reinke  
Robert B. Stack  
James R. Sotherden  
Stephen Uronwey  
James I. Sotherden  
Robert Kelchner  
Robert Zukrigl  

Charter Members by Initiation:

Scott D. Alexander  
Carroll E. Lee  
D. D. MacCartney  
Vincent G. Mascolo  
Richard S. McAteer  
David Aubick  
James H. Booth  
Glen Roger Breedlove  
Patrick J. Burgio  
William J. Campbell  
Michael N. Catado  
Ronald R. Ciampi  
R. Gordon Craig  
Richard Lee Dean  
Calvin Derousse  
Timon Elliott  
Raymond J. Frame  
Murray E. Fugate  
Allen L. Gilmore  
Jerry G. Griffin  
Russell E. Hansen  
Kenneth L. Heaton  
John F. Hoban  
Larry D. Houston  
Heram Gifford Jones  
Robert C. Knowles  
Andrew Kropinak  
Frank Latchare  
Fred B. Lewis  
John Mare  
Howard E. Mathews  
H. J. McDonald, Jr.  
Dr. Chris W. McKenney  
Olen L. Miller  
Michael Mowery  
Philip V. O’Hara  
Michael Paglia, Jr.  
Pete Peterson  
Herbert W. Powers  
Frank Rappold  
Richard B. Root  
Robert Scardo  
Edward A. Schultz  
Thomas Smith  
James R. Tardy  

Edward Auld  
Stan Levien  
David C. Machler  
Joseph Del Mastro  
David L. McDonald  
Joseph M. Basso  
Chester S. Boruta  
Ed Briggs  
Raymond L. Byers  
Peter C. Camuso  
Tony Cauthen  
Pasquale A. Ciampi  
Homer J. Crownover  
William D. Defrenn  
Phil R. Devaul  
Edward B. English  
Rodney L. Freeland  
Wilmot R. George  
Dr. Dean W. Gordon  
David E. Guynn  
Robert D. Hardiman  
William A. Hill  
Milton Hoos  
Robert T. Hunt  
Jack Kaufman  
Gustave Kott  
Herbert Lainhart  
Jay C. Lawson  
Bradford Lucas  
Philip W. Martin  
Stephen May  
James R. McGough  
Timothy McKeown  
Kenneth F. Mitchell  
Christopher M. Murphy  
Duane C. Oelberg  
Michael Paglia, III  
Frank L. Piznarski  
Robert G. Pruss  
Wayne E. Reffner  
Murry Ross  
Lawrence W. Scavetta  
Dr. Dennis R. Seese  
David Jay Smith  
William I. Taylor  
Fred B. Lewis  
John Mare  
Howard E. Mathews  
H. J. McDonald, Jr.  
Nicholas V. Benineasa  
William R. Bosh  
William C. Britt  
Daniel D. Byrne  
Joseph E. Carrara  
Fred Chaires  
James P. Cole  
Jack B. Crumine  
Andy Degeorge  
Ludwig Edgar Dlouhy  
Felix Falconi  
Thomas C. Freitag  
William D. L. Giles  
Max Goree  
Eugene A. Haase  
John Dennes Harmon  
Ronald W. Hill  
Dr. Timothy K. Hope  
David H. Ireland  
Carl Kaufman  
George Kraker  
Robert W. Lane  
Carroll E. Lee  
D. D. MacCartney  
Vincent G. Mascolo  
Richard S. McAteer  
Patrick J. McGrath  
Gerald W. McKinney  
Theodore F. Morris  
Arthur R. Nash  
Alfred J. Quelette  
Carmine Passero  
Wesley W. Ponce  
Clarence Quast  
James R. Riker  
Loren Russell  
Edward Schaefer  
James R. Silvoa  
James I. Sotherden  
Led Burton Taylor  
Jay C. Lawson  
Bradford Lucas  
Philip W. Martin  
Stephen May  
James R. McGough  
Herman Birth  
Robert Bray  
Leonard S. Bump  
Pasquale Caltagirone  
Veryl W. Cashman  
James R. Childress  
George M. Cooper, M.D.  
Ralph J. Damcott  
Thomas W. DeMarco  
James H. Dlouhy  
Paul O. Foster  
Virgil T. Fudge  
Harold W. Gillis  
John E. Gozzio  
Jack H. Hall  
Don D. Harrell  
Gary John Hills  
Kenneth R. Horne  
Robert L. Johnson  
Eldon H. Keck  
Nicholas A. Kraus  
Robert W. Lanz  
Stan Levien  
David C. Machler  
Joseph Del Mastro  
David L. McDonald  
John F. McGuire  
Pat M. Mendillo  
Douglas W. Morton  
Victor Natale  
Michael Paglia, Jr.  
Robert S. Patrick  
James T. Popp  
Lew Rabun  
Anthony Rinaldi  
Joseph I. Ryan, Jr.  
William S. Schroeder  
John C. Smith  
Steven W. Summers  
Robert W. Teems
Robert M. Thomas  Garland Thompson  Roy C. Thompson  Andrew Thompson  
Paul Thriemer  Ted Tidwell  William B. Tierney  Ray E. Todd  
William G. Traylor  Albert G. Voytek  Robert G. Wade  Robert Walker  
Robert M. Westcott  Joseph J. Whalen, Jr.  Veral L. Whitney  Alvin E. Wiley  
William P. Williams  Timmy Willis  Edward W. Wingerter  Clyde R. Wise  
J. J. Wujick  Guido Ziltani  Louis A. Zook  

Ladies organization:  Ladies of Elks  
First President:  Mrs. Mary Jane Braddock  
Organized in:  1988  

Past Presidents:  
  Mary Jane Braddock  
  Helen Lewis  
  Phyllis Benoit  
  Sara Graff  

**Simpson, Enid, President, Florida Ladies Auxiliary, 2009-2010**

Enid Simpson was born in St. Petersburg, FL to Ellis and Pauline Green. She has lived in Pinellas County, FL all of her life except for two years in Green Bay, WI in 1972-1973. In 1999 she married Ronald R. Simpson. She raised two daughters and one son and has five stepsons. One son served in the Marine Corps. Two sons served in the Army. Two sons had a career in the military. Three sons have Master’s degrees and one is working on a PhD in Education. One son holds a master plumbing license. Together they have twelve grandchildren and three great grandchildren.  

Simpson attended Roser Park Elementary, South Side Junior High, St. Petersburg High School, Tomlinson’s School of Cosmetology, and St. Petersburg Junior College for Professional Guardians. She worked as a cosmetologist and from 1974-1980 she owned and operated Hair Shack, a unisex salon, in St. Petersburg. In 1983 she was associated with a dental office as Office Manager and Receptionist. From 1993-2002 she worked in Dr. Bell’s Dental Centers. Additionally she assisted her husband with accounting and data entry and became a Guardian Advocate for Mental Health.  

Her first husband was a member of Pinellas Park Lodge 2217 and later demitted to Green Bay, WI Lodge. Her second husband, Ron, was a member of St. Petersburg Lodge 1224 and later demitted to Seminole Lodge 2519.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>President of the Seminole Ladies Auxiliary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>President of West Central District PLP Association</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Joined Florida Ladies of the Elks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td>Served West Central District as alternate, junior, and senior delegates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2009</td>
<td>Served as Chaplain, Treasurer, and Vice President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>State President, Florida Ladies Auxiliary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Colors:  Gold and purple  
Symbol:  Butterflies  
Theme:  Little Angels Guiding our Future  

**Slipper Program**

With the end of World War II, many wounded servicemen were returned to the United States where they became patients in hospitals closer to home and continuing treatment and care until their health had been restored. This created the demand for bedroom slippers.  

The Elks War Commission located in Columbus, OH commenced a program for supplying this need. They were assisted in this endeavor through the assistance of the State Elks Associations in Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, and Washington. Through these efforts several hundred thousand slippers were furnished to the hospitalized veterans.
Arthur Smith was born in Arcadia, FL on July 10, 1929. He resided in Nocatee, a suburb of Arcadia, all of his years with the exception of the time he served in the U. S. Navy and the time he was going to college. He joined the U. S. Navy in 1948 and served two years overseas in the Korean War. He played football for four years with the armed forces amphibian team and was honorably discharged in August of 1952. He attended Cal State Poly and played football with them for another four years. He graduated in 1957 with a B. S. degree in fruit production with a minor in chemistry. While attending Cal State Poly he worked for three years on floats that were in the Rose Bowl Parade.

He joined the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in Lancaster, CA Lodge 1625 in July of 1953. He then came home and transferred to Arcadia Lodge 1524 on April 8, 1963. He was Exalted Ruler of Arcadia Lodge in 1974-1975. He served as Vice President of the Southwest District in 1978-1979 and was District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1979-1980. He served as District Director for the Florida Elks from 1980-1985 and was on the Major Projects Board of Directors in 1986-1987. He was appointed District Coordinator for the Elks Southwest Central District after the death of Dick Robinson. He served as Vice President at Large in 1987-1988. He was nominated for State President by R. Edward Royal, PSP for the year 1988-1989.

Smith was a member of the Nocatee Baptist Church, the Arcadia Rotary Club, and the Florida State Cattlemen’s Association. He retired in January of 1988 after thirty years of civil service with the United States Department of Agriculture.

Additionally he ran a family business, W. A. Smith, Inc., which was a cattle, hay, and citrus operation.

His Year as President

Motto: “Dedication and Enthusiasm for Elkdom and America”

Program: E L K D O M

E - Stands for Enthusiasm
   Inspired, intense, eager, interest, zeal
   You cannot influence people without showing some enthusiasm.
L - Stands for Leadership
   Guiding hand
The success of Elkdom boils down to you as individuals. You are responsible if you are to have a good Lodge. . . .
You are responsible to see that the Lodge is operated under good business practices.
The officers you elect in your Lodge are your responsibility. They should be leaders.

K - Kindred Spirit
Kind, sympathetic, gentle, benevolent, in the same way or similar
This is the heart of the foundation of Elkdom. . . .
There should be a feeling toward each other that makes this operation spark.

D - Dedication
A giving up wholly or earnestly to some person or purpose

O - Opportunity
A good chance, favorable time, convenient occasion

M - Membership
Members as a group

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1988-1989 term:

President Arthur L. Smith, Nocatee
Vice President at Large William Larry Henley, Tallahassee
Secretary Frank D. Willis, Jr., Umatilla
Treasurer Joseph B. Bryant, Sebring
Tiler Franklin H. Garrison, Jr., Ellenton
Historian Joseph E. Schirmer, Port Charlotte
Sergeant at Arms Frank Malatesta, Jr., Sarasota
Organist William E. Enterline, Port Orange

District Vice Presidents

Northwest Kenneth E. Landowski, Crestview
North Scott F. Munroe, Tallahassee
Northeast C. Valentine Bates, Gainesville
East Central Les L. Linsenbarth, Satellite Beach
North Central Winston M. Needham, Ocala
Central Jack Sproul, Lutz
West Central William P. Sarris, Palm Harbor
Southwest Central Merle Sebald, Appollo Beach
Southwest William E. Cain, Englewood
Southeast Alan P. Hart, Lantana
South Southeast Roger L. Morse, Boynton Beach
South Stephen B. Rogers, Miami

Two years ago, trust fund earnings supported right at 50% of the expenses of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital. Presently trust fund earnings are supplying roughly 37% of expenses for the cost of surgery, operations, insurance, and everything else. If it weren’t for Wills & Bequests, we would be in trouble. The need to sell certificates is imperative.

Smith, Francis M., Past Grand Exalted Ruler

Francis M. Smith was born on September 15, 1910 in Mitchell, SD, one of five children born to Mr. and Mrs. John Francis Smith. The family moved to Sioux Falls in 1912 where he received his education through high school. He entered Augustana College in 1928 but was obliged to drop out in 1930 because of the depression and the serious illness of his father. He was out of school from 1930-1934 when he worked for the “grand sum of $60 a month,” maintaining a home for himself, his father who was then an invalid, and his youngest sister who was in school.
After his father died in 1934, Smith returned to Augustana College where he received his AB degree in 1936. He was a member of the debate team at Augustana College and won state and national honors with his forceful presentations. He then went to Washington, D. C. with the idea that he would get a job which would allow him to attend law school. He became a Senate policeman on Capitol Hill and entered George Washington University Law School in 1937. After one year, he went to work for the Federal Housing Administration for the balance of time he was in Washington and attending school. He was in the Comptroller’s Department of FHA until October of 1942. Meanwhile, he attended night law school at George Washington and received his LLB (now JD) degree in 1941.

He joined the Navy in 1942 as a Lieutenant, Junior Grade, attached to the air service as nonflying personnel. He was assigned duty with a Cadet Selection Board in Los Angeles and later became Resident Naval Officer of a flight training school in Cottonwood, AZ. At his request, he was assigned duty in the South Pacific, serving in the Admiralty Islands and the Philippines. He was overseas for eighteen months and attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He received a Commendation Ribbon for combat participation in the recapture of the Philippine Islands.

Smith married Loretta R. Aikens (Rae) and they had two daughters. His sons-in-law both became members of Sioux Falls Elks Lodge 262.

Smith was an attorney specializing in civil trial law and taught speech and forensics at Augustana College in the 1948-1949 academic year with the understanding that he could work in such a manner as to allow him to practice law. Four of the partners in his law firm served as Exalted Rulers of Sioux Falls Lodge.

He was a member of the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce. He served two terms as President of the United Fund in Sioux Falls, was instrumental in getting a mental health center there, served on its board for several years and was President for two terms. He was also a member of the American Legion.

He was a member of the county Bar Association, the South Dakota Bar, the American Bar Association, and the American Judicature Society. He was active on several committees of the state bar and on several occasions was Chairman of the Medical-Legal Committee on Continuing Legal Education. He lectured extensively in both fields. He was appointed by the Governor to serve on the court reform commission.

He was a member of the Minnehaha Country Club, he was a Mason, and he belonged to the Methodist Church.

Smith was a member of Sioux Falls, SD Elks Lodge since 1949 and was an honorary life member. He soon became active in the Lodge’s affairs and served as an officer for several years. He was Exalted Ruler in 1956-1957. In ritualistic competition, Smith made all state four times and twice participated in national competition. He served as a Trustee of his Lodge for six years and was active on other Lodge committees. He served as District Deputy in 1961-1962, served on the Americanism Committee from 1962-1967, and then was elected to the board of Grand Trustees in 1967.

He firmly believed in the Great Heart of Elkdom, the Elks National Foundation, and was a member of the Century Club. Twice the South Dakota Elks Association made contributions of $1,000 to the foundation in his honor.

He was a strong believer in Elks Lodges maintaining by wise selection of dedicated officers, attention to fiscal affairs so vital to Lodge strength, and adherence to what he termed “the legacy of Elkdom - charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity.” We have to take a close look at ourselves and be sure our house is in order. Then we can go out and devote ourselves to other projects we know are so vital to our country.

Smith is considered one the most forceful speakers in Elkdom.

He was present at the dedication of Pahokee Elks Lodge 1638 in Florida’s Southeast District.
J. Pierce Smith was born on a farm in the Wacachoota Community on January 26, 1914. He attended grade school in a one-room schoolhouse built by his father. After graduation from Williston High, he attended and earned his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Florida.

In 1942 he was called to active duty in the U. S. Army, serving with such distinction that he earned the Purple Heart Medal with two clusters as well as several other awards for gallantry in action. He remained in the reserve and retired with the rank of Colonel.

After a stint in the construction industry and real estate business, he was appointed Alachua County Tax Assessor in 1963 and served in that position for eighteen years until retirement. In retirement he lived on his farm in Wacachoota where he was born. He was married to Arie Tillman and they had two sons and a daughter.

Pierce was an active member of his church and of numerous military, civic, and fraternal organizations. At the time of his death he was a fifty-year member and PER of Gainesville Lodge 990, a Past State President and Vice President, a Past District Deputy, and a Past Grand Lodge Committee Member.

He was involved with the Harry-Anna Trust Fund for over forty years.

Smith passed away at age 77 at North Florida Regional Medical Center. His eulogy was given by Alvin A. Ehrlich, PSP.

His Year as President

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, Miami No. 948, Tallahassee, No. 937, Gainesville No. 990, Orlando No. 1079, Daytona Beach No. 1141, Live Oak No. 1165, St. Petersburg No. 1224, Palatka No. 1232, Sanford No. 1241, Fort Myers No. 1288, Lakeland No. 1291, West Palm Beach No. 1352, DeLand No. 1463, Bradenton No. 1511, Marianna No. 1516, Fort Lauderdale No. 1517, Sarasota No. 1519, Fort Pierce No. 1520, Arcadia No. 1524, Clearwater No. 1525, Sebring No. 1529, Lake Worth No. 1530, Cocoa No. 1532, New Smyrna Beach No. 1557, Eustis No. 1578, Panama City No. 1598, Miami Beach No. 1601, Pahokee No. 1638, Winter Haven No. 1672, Coral Gables No. 1676, Wauchula No. 1700, Leesburg No. 1703, Belle Glade No. 1716, Tarpon Springs No. 1719, Plant City No. 1727, Hollywood No. 1732, Melbourne-Eau Gallie No. 1744,
President George Carver gave his annual report. He reported the Harry-Anna home has continued to mushroom in importance in its overall operations. A decided increase in charitable donations to the trust fund has kept the home in sound and profitable condition. Membership has shown a net increase of 1,189 members or 3.95%. Total membership as of March 31, 1957 was 32,090. In general welfare work, the Lodges in the state expended a total of $73,917 or about $2,000 less than last year.

Two new Lodges were instituted in the last year, Naples 2010 on July 27, 1957 and South Jacksonville 2014 on September 8, 1956, for a total of 67 Lodges.

Results of the state ritualistic contest were as follows: Jacksonville 221 - 90.84024, Fort Lauderdale 1517 - 89.90505, West Palm Beach 1352 - 89.59448, Clearwater 1525 - 89.58219, Tallahassee 937 - 89.38610, and Cocoa 1532 - 88.17510.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1957-1958 term:

President J. Pierce Smith, Gainesville  
Acting Secretary William Lieberman, Leesburg  
Treasurer George C. Russ, Tallahassee  
Historian William A. Partain, Jr., Palatka  
Tiler Guy C. Linder, Orlando  
Sergeant at Arms Graham Bird, Perry  
Chaplain Frank X. Carroll, Pensacola  
Organist W. P. Hollinrake, St. Petersburg

Division Vice Presidents

Northwest J. L. Cole, Lake City  
Northeast Donald C. Jordan, Jacksonville  
East Central Vaughn F. Martin, Winter Park  
West Central Otis Bice, Jr., Winter Haven  
South Central Almer I. Tedder, West Palm Beach  
South C. R. Gunn, North Miami

Lake Worth, FL was selected as the site for the 1958 convention.

One new Lodge was instituted on March 29 at Riviera Beach, making a total of 68 Lodges in the state. George Carver accepted the position of Managing Director of the Harry-Anna Children’s Home. West Palm Beach 1352 was the winner of the ritualistic contest.
Smith, Julian, President, Florida State Elks Association, 1968-1969

Julian Smith was born on September 4, 1907 in the farming community of Arapulgas, GA to Drane and Emma Taylor Smith. He obtained his early education in the Arapulgas schools and after graduating from high school he entered Georgia Tech and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Julian and Merle were married March 1, 1930 and to this union were born three children, Drane, Bill, and Judy. In 1936, the family moved from Atlanta where he was employed by the Georgia Power and Light Company to Tallahassee at which time he became associated with Flint River Mills, Inc., manufacturers of farm and feed products. For many years, he served the company as part owner and secretary-director.

He was elected to membership in the order of Elks on April 20, 1938. After serving in the lower chairs, he was elected Exalted Ruler in 1943. Tallahassee 937, then as now, being extremely interested in ritual, represented Florida at the Grand Lodge Convention in 1944 where he scored the highest score of all competing Exalted Rulers.

His service to the Elks over the years is a tribute to his desire to be a leader and not a follower. He served as chairman of many state committees prior to being elected as a member of the board of trustees from 1957-1968. He was elected President of the Florida State Elks Association in 1968, Chairman of the Harry-Anna Hospital Committee for two years, member of the Convention Committee for five years, reelected to the board of trustees in 1973 for two years, and reelected again in 1975 for a seven-year term. He served as District Deputy in 1947 when the Northern District of the state association covered the territory from Saint Augustine to Pensacola. In 1975 he served as Grand Lodge Committeeeman on the State Association Committee.

In addition to his service in Elkdom, he was recognized and served as a leader of other fraternal, civic, and business organizations to which he belonged.

He passed away on June 18, 1978 at the age of 70. Joe D. Cooke, PDD, gave his eulogy.

His Year as President

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1968-1969 term:

President Julian C. Smith, Tallahassee
Secretary William Lieberman, Leesburg
Treasurer Frank J. Holt, Miami
Tiler J. L. Plummer, Miami
Historian L. M. Strickland, Sr., Tallahassee
Sergeant at Arms  Joe Cooke, Tallahassee
Chaplain  Norman P. O'Brien, Coral Gables
Organist  Eugene Mahlmeister, Boynton Beach

District Vice Presidents

Northwest  James M. Delaney, Panama City
Northeast  William G. Dailey, St. Augustine
East Central  Robert W. Anthony, Daytona Beach
Central  Edward W. Ehlers, Leesburg
West Central  David M. Luikart, Sr., New Port Richey
Southwest  Earl Enos, Palmetto
Southeast  George McConnell, Lake Worth
South  Harty Baruch, Miami

Motto: “Operation $200,000”
The association was now divided into nine districts.

*Florida Elks News* was 25 years old. It won first place in the Grand Lodge State Bulletin contest.

Apopka Lodge 2422 was instituted on September 24, 1969.

Orlando 1079 won the state ritual contest.

**Smith, Michael F., President, Florida State Elks Association, 2001-2002**

Michael Smith went to high school in Plant City, FL where he was captain of the state championship basketball team. He was also state captain of the All Star team and captain and MVP of the North-South All Stars. He attended St. Leo College on a full basketball scholarship. He is married to Sandra, his high school sweetheart, who is an elementary educator. They have two children, Todd and Jennifer, and three grandsons. Their son and son-in-law are active members of Plant City Lodge 1727. Todd was Hoop Shoot Chairman and Steve was the Exalted Ruler.
Smith was initiated into Plant City Lodge in 1977 and has held numerous positions including Exalted Ruler for two terms between 1992-1994, Lodge Trustee for five years, and Trustee Chairman for three of those years. He has served the Southwest Central District as committee chairman on various committees. He served as State Vice Chairman and Chairman of the National Foundation Certificates. As Chairman, Florida attained the national quota. In 1997-1998, he was the Southwest Central District Vice President. He was the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and the State Chaplain in 1998-1999. He served the Southwest Central District as Advisor and on the Board of Directors for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Inc. In addition, he has served on the Florida State Elks Golf Committee and on the Grand Lodge’s Lodge Activities/State Association Committee.

Smith works in the insurance business, primarily in the self-insurance field. His practice consists of plan design and administration of self-funded and partially self-funded benefit programs for corporations throughout the United States.

In addition to the insurance industry, he has an active interest in a hotel on St. Petersburg Beach where he is a partner. He serves on the board of directors for the management company. He has served as President of the Beach Resort Condominium Association for the past twelve years.

In his leisure time, he enjoys golf and boating. His affiliations are BPOE, Florida Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, National Association of Health Underwriters, NRPA, National Association of Professional Employer Organizations (NAPEO), First Baptist Church of Plant City, Walden Lake Country Club, St. Petersburg Yacht Club, and Pasadena Yacht Club and Country Club where he serves on the board of directors.

His motto as State President was “Bound by our Beliefs.”


Continuing Achievements and positions:

- Southwest Central District Esquire to DDGER, 1996-1997
- Southwest Central District Vice President, 1997-1998
- District Deputy, 1998-1999
- Appointed Special Representative by Grand Exalted Ruler, 1999-2000
- Served as District Chairman of Elks National Foundation
- Serves as Southwest Central District Advisor
- Served as State Elks Assn. Vice Chairman & Chairman of Elks National Foundation, 1995-1997
- State Chaplain, 1998-1999
- Served as Chairman of Grand Lodge’s Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee, 2004
- Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services board member, 1999-2002
- State President, 2001-2002
- Florida Elks Board of Directors Vice Chairman
- Member of the Harry-Anna Investment Fund Board of Trustees
- Member and Chairman of the Board of Grand Trustees
- Past Grand Lecturing Knight
- Past Grand Exalted Ruler

Social and Community Welfare Committee

It shall be the duty of this committee to encourage and promote the development of a social and community welfare program in each Lodge. Such projects should include support of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital in Umatilla giving assistance and aid to needy families, aid needy members, assist in veterans’ relief work, and other related community projects. It shall be the further duty of this committee to actively promote blood banks in each Lodge. If a blood bank is already in operation in a particular community and sponsored by another organization, the Lodge is encouraged to actively assist the existing facility in every possible manner.
Soccer Shoot Competition

Soccer began to show some interest in Elkdom back in the 1980s when they began to support it with league sponsorships and the developing of different skill contests. The Grand Lodge Youth Committee saw in it an opportunity to expand the activities of the committee and began to sponsor the World Cup and other contests.

When Grand Lodge met in Chicago in 1997, the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee met to discuss the various programs then in place. They agreed upon a two-stage contest that best represented the skill levels of four age groups: 7 and under (U-8), 8-9 (U-10), 10-11 (U-12), and 12-13 (U-14). The three older age groups would compete in state, regional, and national Elks competitions.

The Five Goal Contest with its smaller target goal lets younger groups (U-8 & U-10) build their confidence as they move up the line to the older age groups. It matches both physical and skill abilities to the challenge they present.

The Grid Goal Contest uses the penalty kick distance and an eighteen-inch kickboard height to challenge the older participants (U-12 & U-14) to lift the ball from the field while aiming it for a score, thus developing advanced skills.

The contests are run either indoors or outdoors depending on location, weather, or climate. Close cooperation with the local soccer associations ensures growth in the annual participation in this youth activity by involving the full community with the program.

This program, as well as other Youth Activities programs, has the common goal of allowing children to have fun and occupying them with positive, character-building, role model activities as well as providing an alternative to drug use.

2008 State Winners:

Girls:

- Under 14: Sara Sweatland
- Under 12: Carley Park
- Under 10: Kendra Johnson
- Under 8: Savanna Nease

Boys

- Under 14: Devin Feretti
- Under 12: Brock Ramer
- Under 10: Shimell Blot
- Under 8: Matthew Dobson

Social Sessions

In early Elkdom, social sessions followed the business session. It was customary during each business session to appoint a committee, generally three, to take charge of the social session to follow.

This procedure and method of carrying on this social session was taken directly from and modeled closely after Liberty Hall of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalo. The scheme of appointing a chairman of imposing fines for all manners of offenses, imaginary or otherwise, and upon various pretexts, in order to finance the social session, was also a direct adaptation of the English organization.

On November 27, 1870, Antonio Pastor made a motion that prevailed stating “that the Lodge set apart an evening for the purpose of inviting our mothers, wives, sisters, and female friends to our social sessions and that no male friends be admitted on that evening.” On December 25, the regular order of business was suspended, and Tony Pastor and his committee took charge of the entertainment. This date marks the first ladies social ever held in the annals of Elkdom.
Softball Tournament, State of Florida

The Florida State Elks Softball Tournament started in 1993 in Palm Coast Lodge social quarters with just a few members who wanted to get together and have fun with an interLodge softball tournament. Those playing in this first event were Ormond Beach Lodge, Palm Coast Lodge (a relatively new kid on the block looking for their own identity in Florida Elkdom), and DeLand Lodge, which was searching for a way to encourage young men in the community to join their ranks and capture the spirit of helping kids and giving to the local community.

The tournament started early on a Saturday morning with young and old alike from each of these Lodges. The air was filled on this morning with a zest for winning and being part of a team for the Lodge and for Elkdom. Injuries were fast coming and spared no one. DeLand Lodge ended up with a center fielder aged 74. At the end of the day, winners and losers and the walking wounded all gathered together at DeLand Lodge to agree that all had enjoyed themselves, thus giving birth to what is now the Florida State Elks Softball Tournament.

It is an event in which all Elks from your Lodge may participate and meet other Elks from across the state. It is also a positive way for a Lodge to recruit younger new members and help bring enthusiasm to their Lodge. This was the primary goal of the first tournament. In addition to this, charity, the greatest of all of the virtues, has been the true winner of this event.

There is a Gold Sponsor VIP package. A Gold Sponsor receives a beautiful glass Elk stein with their name engraved on it and a top quality golf shirt with an Elks logo and personally designating the sponsor as a Gold Sponsor. Additionally, there is a personal invitation to the exclusive Gold Sponsor’s special VIP hospitality tent on the tournament grounds. Beverages and hors d’oeuvres are served free of cost on Gold Sponsor Night. Gold Sponsor cost is $150 (1997).

Phil Watercutte is considered the founder.

By its tenth annual tournament held on April 25-27 and hosted by the Deland Elks, there were 22 teams registered representing fifteen Lodges. Special effort was made in its tenth year to put on a great Gold Sponsor meal; the softball committee served a complimentary Sunday morning breakfast.

Attending were PGER Bob and Pat Grafton; PGER Val and Claudia Bates; President James and Sonja Coggins; VPAL Mike and Kathy Phillips; VPAL Designate, Frank and Ebba Jean Palladini; and Florida Elks News Editor, Raleigh and Joya Whiteman.

Winter Garden 2165 won the “A” Tournament; DeLand 1463 was second and Fort Pierce 1520 was third. Winter Garden 2165 also won the “B” Tournament; Plant City 1727 was second and Fort Pierce 1520 was third.

Delray Beach 1770 won the “C” Tournament with Ormond Beach 2193 second. Winter Garden 2165 won the Camaraderie trophy.

Five thousand dollars was donated to the Florida Elks Youth Camp in the name of the winning Lodges. The food that was left from the Sunday lunch was taken to the DeLand Police, Fire Department, and a local homeless shelter.
The Solana name means “of the sun” and the Solana family traces its heritage to the year 1594, the oldest documented family in the United States of America. He was born on February 18, 1946 and is a native and lifelong resident of St. Augustine, FL. He attended local schools and graduated from St. Joseph Academy in 1964. He married Diane Hunter on July 10, 1965.

He is an electrical contractor and received his journeyman license in 1968 and his master license for the State of Florida in 1971. He became a partner in Morley & Solana Electric and served the St. Johns County area. He is also a duly licensed general contractor and mechanical contractor.

His enthusiastic community spirit led to active involvement in serving three terms on the city of St. Augustine Electrical Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Additionally, he has served four terms on the St. Johns County Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Jimmy was also active on various school committees and is a past President of the Cathedral Parish PTA Association. He is a member of the Cathedral Basilica Catholic Church of St. Augustine.

He was initiated in St. Augustine Lodge 829 in March of 1975 and served on several committees before being appointed Esquire in 1976. He was elected to serve as Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, and, in 1980-1981, Exalted Ruler. He served for two years as the Lodge ritual coach, three years as District Ritual Chairman, twelve years as Director of St. Augustine Elks Club, Inc. of which he was Vice President for four years, and twelve years as Treasurer of his Lodge. He was elected honorary life membership in October of 1994.

Solana was appointed the Lodge Advisor for Southside Jacksonville Lodge 2014 from 1992 through April of 1995 when they merged with Jacksonville Lodge 221. He was then appointed as the Lodge Advisor for the merged Jacksonville Lodge 221 until September of 1996. He also served for two years as the Secretary for the Northeast District Advisory Council and was the Founder, Chairman, and Treasurer for the Annual Northeast District Golf Tournament, the primary fundraiser in the Northeast District. In all appointments, he exceeded total confidence in his abilities.

He has been very active in the Florida State Elks Association, Inc. and has served the association in the following capacities: State Vice Chairman for Veterans Services; three years as State Vice Ritual Chairman; State Ritual Chairman; Northeast District Vice President in 1990-1991; Northeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for 1992-1993; three years as an official computer judge for the state of Florida ritualistic contest; a three-year term on the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors, of which he served as Vice President and President; seven years for Harry-Anna Charities, Inc. Board of Directors; and in 1996-1997 he served as Vice President at Large and in 1997-1998 as President of the Florida State Elks Association. He was nominated by C. Val Bates.

He has been a state of Florida certified ritualistic judge for fifteen years and has also represented Florida as a ritualistic judge at the following state conventions: Tennessee in 1986, South Carolina in 1987, and Georgia in

He plays golf and enjoys cooking and hunting.

**His Year as President**

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1997-1998 term:

- **President**: James Solana
- **Vice President at Large**: Merle Sebald
- **Secretary**: Frank D. Willis, Jr.
- **Treasurer**: Joseph B. Bryant
- **Tiler**: Michaelino Amico
- **Historian**: Lowell P. Tyler
- **Sergeant at Arms**: Karl B. Masters
- **Chaplain**: Brian T. Burns
- **Organist**: David L. Heney

**District Vice Presidents**

- **Northwest**: Jerry Jenkins, Crestview 2624
- **North**: Stephen M. Witt, Lake City 893
- **Northeast**: Gregory Hughson, Sr., Palatka 1232
- **East Central**: Alex McKibbin, Sanford 1241
- **North Central**: Wilber T. Jones, Eustis 1578
- **Central**: William “Ed” Brown, Zephyrhills 2731
- **Southeast Central**: Don Coble, Fort Pierce 1520
- **West Central**: Elmer Messerschmidt, Dunedin/Clearwater 1525
- **Southwest Central**: Michael F. Smith, Plant City 1727
- **Southwest**: Hod O’Hern, Sarasota 1519
- **South Southwest**: Arthur L. Kozy, Naples 2010
- **Southeast**: Jim Herrington, Clewiston 1853
- **South Southeast**: Lawrence Shields, Margate 2463
- **South**: Carmen P. Palma, Miami 948

**District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers**

- **Northwest**: James A. Coggins, Pensacola
- **North**: Donald Watson, Live Oak
- **Northeast**: Richard S. Hamel, Green Cove Springs
- **East Central**: Michael W. Chandler, Holly Hill
- **North Central**: Laurence P. Bowdren, Casselberry
- **Central**: Roger Santa Maria, Orlando
- **Southeast Central**: Bart Campbell, Barefoot Bay
- **West Central**: Eugene K. Hagmeyer, New Port Richey
- **Southwest Central**: James A. League, Valrico
- **Southwest**: Peter Alexander, Venice
- **South Southwest**: Nicholas O. Andrews, Rotonda West
- **Southeast**: Emery W. Weary, Jupiter
- **South Southeast**: Harry R. Avogardo, Boca Raton
- **South**: Nathaniel L. Barone, Jr., Miami

**Children’s Hospital Administrator**: Ben Brown, PSP
**Florida Elks Youth Camp Coordinator**: Jimmy A. Roy
South Broward Lodge 2830

South Broward Lodge 2830 was instituted on December 14, 2002 at North Miami Lodge 1835. Past Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Grafton acted as institution officer.

South District (Florida)

The South District had a membership of 3,208 as of March 31, 1999. The South District membership in 2000 was 3,022. The furthest southern district in the Florida State Elks Association is the South District stretching from the Miami area to Key West, the most southern point in the United States.

The Lodges of the South District and their membership as of March 31, 1999 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodge Name</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida Keys 1872</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homestead 1754</td>
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<td>Miami 948</td>
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<td>520</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Miami/Coral Gables 1676</td>
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</tbody>
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Southeast Central District (Florida)

The Southeast Central District was formed as a result of a redistricting in 1990. At that time they picked up five Lodges from the old East Central District and three from the Southeast District.

Lodges placed in the Southeast Central District at that time were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodge Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fort Pierce</td>
<td>Stuart-Jensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa</td>
<td>Cocoa Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Pt. St. Lucie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vero Beach</td>
<td>Sebastian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prior to the redistricting there had been four State Presidents. They were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodge Name</th>
<th>President Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fort Pierce</td>
<td>Charles H. Peckelis</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Pierce</td>
<td>Alton Adams</td>
<td>1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa</td>
<td>C. Newt Jones</td>
<td>1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vero Beach</td>
<td>Dr. R. Lamar Johnson</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The district membership in 1998 was 6,291. The district membership in 2000 was 6,136.

The Lodges of the Southeast Central District as of March 31, 1999 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodge Name</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa 1532</td>
<td>432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa Beach 2387</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Pierce 1520</td>
<td>714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne 1744</td>
<td>834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Bay 2766</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port St. Lucie 2658</td>
<td>1,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian 2714</td>
<td>417</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stuart-Jensen 1870  1,220  
Vero Beach 1774  732

In 2002-2003, the Southeast Central District formed a PER Association. Meetings are held every three months on the day the district clinic is held.

On October 20, 2002, members of Port St. Lucie, Stuart- Jensen, Fort Pierce, and West St. Lucie made a joint effort to promote community awareness in the fight against drugs by joining hands across a bridge that was a mile and a quarter long. Various law enforcement agencies, veterans’ groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and community leaders participated in the event in the hope of sending a strong message to the community that by working together, we can keep our youth drug free. More than 1,000 people joined hands. Port St. Lucie Lodge at this time was continuously holding Drug Awareness breakfasts twice a month and having country dance lessons every week with all proceeds going to Drug Awareness.

Southeast District (Florida)

The Southeast District had a membership of 2,914 as of March 31, 2000.

The Lodges of the Southeast District and their membership as of March 31, 1999 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodge</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belle Glade 1716</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clewiston 1853</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jupiter 2469</td>
<td>942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lantana 2676</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okeechobee 2558</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pahokee 1638</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach West 2785</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Palm Beach 1352</td>
<td>685</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

merged with West Palm Beach 1352 in 2007
surrendered charter in 2007
merged with Belle Glade 1716
merged with West Palm Beach 1352

On May 7, 1917, President Wilson signed the declaration of war against Germany in a war to “end all wars,” World War I. With this, America’s long tradition of isolation in the world community had ended.

In 1918 President Abe Maas of the Florida State Elks Association wired President Woodrow Wilson, “We endorse your policy of preparedness and pledge our support to you and to the flag of our country.”

President Wilson appointed General John J. Pershing to command the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) that marched off to the tune of “Yankee Doodle Dandy” and “The Yanks are Coming.”

While acting as military instructor at the University of Nebraska, Pershing had become a member of the Elks of Lincoln, NE Lodge 80. Later Pershing became a member of El Paso Lodge 187 from which he was honored with honorary life membership.

Pershing was impressed with the Elks’ hour of eleven used for the Elks toast. When asked to arrange a time for signing the armistice ending WWI, he set the hour of eleven for the signing, and so it was the 11th month, 11th day, and 11th hour.

It was a time in the history of Elks when every applicant was required to have a physical examination. It was stopped in 1919 because doctors would no longer perform their examination free gratis.

A worldwide influenza epidemic struck and by 1920 there were nearly 22 million dead. It hit Florida with tragic consequences.

It was also at this time that the first Lodge in the present Southeast District was born. They had received their dispensation from Grand Lodge just days after Wilson’s declaration of war. Because of the war, there was no annual meeting of the Florida State Elks Association and President Abe Maas and state officers served two terms. At the time there were only two Florida divisions, the North Division consisting of ten Lodges north of Ocala and the South Division which included ten Lodges from Ocala south. The Florida South Division included Ocala 286, Key West 551, Tampa 708, Miami 948, Orlando 1079, St. Petersburg 1224, Sanford 1241, Fort Myers 1288, Lakeland 1291, and its newest Lodge, West Palm Beach 1352 instituted on January 23, 1918. So, West Palm Beach is the oldest Lodge in the present Southeast District. In less than a year this new Lodge sacrificed two of its charter members killed in action. They were Leo Williams who died on October 23, 1918 and A. H. Mallott who died on October 26, 1918. Eight of its members served in the conflict alongside 70,000 other Elks.
Although formed in the midst of WWI, the institution of the Lodge became a festive celebration as Florida Elks from Miami, Tampa, Lakeland, and other Lodges gathered to share its institution ceremonies. It was a big day in West Palm Beach.

WWI was followed by the Florida boom years from 1922-1926, an era of unbridled real estate speculation during which northern residents sought the sunshine and dreamed of making fortunes in land development. However, this boom went bust in 1926. The West Palm Beach Elks had prospered in these boom years; they saw a membership growth and a strengthened Lodge. With a solid foundation, they were able to ride out the Florida land bust, subsequent great depression of the 1920s and 1930s, and the traumas of World War II.

From its inception, West Palm Beach Elks Lodge became a major influence in Florida Elkdom. Among its members was the Attorney General, Phil O’Connell, who became a very active Elk for over fifty years. West Palm Beach hosted the Florida State Elks Association annual sessions in 1921, 1937, and 1950.

Two of its members became Grand Exalted Rulers. They were William Wall in 1961-1962 and Robert Grafton in 1979-1980. Four of its members became State Presidents. They were H. A. Bennett, 1926; J. Edwin Baker, 1931; William A. Wall, 1942-43; and J. Alex Arnette, 1954. Past State President Baker later became the first administrator and superintendent of the Florida Elks Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital when it was founded in 1933.

There were only six incorporated towns in Palm Beach County and no roads linking the lower coast to the farming communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee, towns that now support additional Elks Lodges in the present Southeast District.

By 1926, there began a movement to add another Lodge in neighboring Lake Worth which they felt would dramatically improve their social life as well as meet the charitable needs of the community. They could gather socially, enjoy picnics, and bring some variety into an otherwise dull lifestyle. South Florida was booming, people were moving in, and they were making big money on their land deals. Therefore, in 1926, ten miles down the road, Lake Worth Lodge 1530 received a dispensation to form a Lodge. On February 2, 1927, 600 Elks from around the state and Palm Beach County gathered to celebrate the 59th birthday of Elkdom and the institution of its newest Lodge, Lake Worth.

However, the timing of its institution could not have been worse. The land boom was beginning to show that most of its profits were merely paper profits and the bottom dropped out of the market. People who once had collected great profits went broke, and a number of banks failed.

The Lake Worth Elks, only a few months old, lost all of its money in one of those collapsed banks, but a persistent group of members, mostly professional people, politicians and businessmen, managed to hang on. Before they were able to make a full recovery, they were hit again by the stock market crash of 1929 which triggered more bank failures and resulted in the loss of all Lodge funds once again. This was followed by the greatest depression in America’s history.

However, they prevailed and became compatible neighbors with the West Palm Beach Elks, often combining efforts to bring relief to many of the unfortunate in those trying times. They often worked as a team during WWII. In the early days, they visited each other’s Lodge on a regular basis enjoying meals and the hospitality that each offered. It was a great time for Elkdom in south Florida.

In 1942-1943 during the two-year Presidency of Bill Wall and again in 1958, Lake Worth hosted the Florida State Elks annual session, but in 1990 tragedy struck Lake Worth. As they were preparing for their annual PER night, a fire enveloped the Lodge destroying the facilities and most of its historical artifacts, hopes, and dreams. The struggle to survive became increasingly difficult, and finally it just seemed to make more sense to create a marriage with their mother Lodge, West Pam Beach 1352. So in February of 1997 Florida’s 21st and 31st Lodges, the two oldest in the Southeast District, merged. They had been founded just ten years apart.

Lake Worth’s jurisdiction during its early years extended from the West Palm Beach Canal south halfway to Fort Lauderdale and west to the middle of the state. In the days of few improved roads and 1926 Fords and Chevrolets, it was a gigantic territory. In 1927, motorcades were organized at Lake Worth Lodge and journeyed to Clewiston, Belle Glade, and Pahokee recruiting new candidates. Belle Glade Rotary Club entertained them.

Children from as far away as Belle Glade, Pahokee, and Boca Raton were invited to Elks functions at Lake Worth.

Finally, on January 16, 1941, less than eleven months before the attack by the Japanese Empire on Pearl Harbor, one of the Glades communities, Pahokee, was instituted as Florida’s 37th Lodge with 62 charter members.

The Indians of the Everglades named Pahokee for the “Hitchiti Indian” word meaning “grass water.” On Taylor’s map of 1839 the name of the everglades is given as PAY-HA-O-KEE. In 1917 a statewide freeze 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, fleeing to the just-built Pahokee High School saved hundreds. Country singer Mel Tillis launched his career in this, his hometown.

For several years the affairs of the Florida State Elks Association were handled by the Secretary and Executive Committee varying in membership from five to eleven members.

In 1937 the association bylaws were changed to establish five divisions, each to be headed by a Vice President. There were a total of 35 Lodges and Pahokee was instituted into the South Central Division.

Gordon Vann, a young man, was voted as the Lodge’s first Exalted Ruler. Unfortunately, before he was able to run his first meeting, Vann was shot near twenty-mile bend on the highway to West Palm Beach in a murder that was never solved.

In 1973 Pahokee dedicated a new $150,000 Lodge and club facility. Among those attending the dedication were Grand Exalted Ruler Francis M. Smith and Past State President Bob Grafton.

In his address before the Pahokee Elks, GER Smith spoke of the greatest principle of the 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 brothers unless the activities are centered around the altar as the symbol of our cardinal principles, charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity.

On January 27, 1947, Belle Glade was instituted as the 42nd Florida Lodge. The community of Belle Glade had been incorporated in 1928 just before the tragic Labor Day hurricane struck. Lake Okeechobee’s dike crumbled and flooded this small community and killed approximately 2,000 people in one of the deadliest disasters in U. S. history. Originally known as the Hillsborough Canal Settlement, it had been known as the Belle of the Glades and in 1922 became home to the University of Florida’s first agricultural research and education field station. When a name was sought for the settlement for the new post office, Mrs. Ellsie Myer, wife of a hotel proprietor, came up with Belle Glade.

The first home of Belle Glade Lodge 1716 was the home and warehouse of Shelly Connell. Treasurer F. C. Dooley had the distinction of being elected the first Lodge Treasurer before he had become a member. Present at these ceremonies was Grand Exalted Ruler Charles Broughton who then spoke up saying, “you cannot do that!” So Dooley was elected again after his initiation, as a member.

Living in a town whose motto is “Her Soil is her Fortune,” folks like to brag about the rich, dark muck that feeds the farming industry. Each year they celebrate the Black Gold Jubilee at the end of the sugar cane harvest. Belle Glade Elks have been very active in this annual celebration and have become active in the affairs of the community and meeting the needs of the youth.

In 1952 Clewiston Lodge 1853 out of Hendry County joined the folds. In addition, in the following year, the Southeast District lines were reformed with the addition of the South Division. Florida now had six divisions.

The community of Clewiston and the Clewiston Elks have a history of its own that could cover hundreds of pages. Perhaps the most important piece of history is that it remains what made many Elks Lodges in the past important pillars in the community, a Lodge that is dedicated to the welfare of the community and its youth. It seems that hardly a community project, need, celebration, or activity is complete without Clewiston Elks having some important part in it.

A plaque set at the Lodge’s vacant parkland that will someday support a new Lodge facility pays tribute to their first Exalted Ruler, Parker T. Wilson, PDD. Wilson, now deceased, was one of the principal influences in the growth of their Lodge. Fortunately, Wilson left many notes on Clewiston Elksdom before his death.

Leota Norton who tended bar at the club for some fourteen years or more lost a piece of formica that she was saving under her bed for her own home when her son, Zeigler, took it and installed it in the Lodge ladies restroom.

Wilson tells of those poor times when they had $7 to get them through. They would stop at the liquor store, borrow a bottle of liquor, sell it by the drink, and then return with the proceeds to pay for the first and buy another. Brother Hall and Rackstraw agreed that at first it seemed like only a few were doing the work. Hall remembers coming home one morning after working at the Lodge “and my own dog wouldn’t let me out of my pickup. That’s when I knew that the dedication had gone a little too far.”

The present Lodge building is on the site of the old hospital owned by U. S. Sugar. Purchased by the Elks, it served as their home until the present facility was built on the same location. Ironically, PDD Jim McDuffie was born in the hospital that became their Lodge home and which he served as Exalted Ruler.

In 1960, the state bylaws change created districts instead of divisions. In 1969 the Southeast District lines again changed with the addition of the South Southeast District.

In 1971, Jupiter Lodge 2469, the home Lodge of Past Grand Loyal Knight, Carl Vaughn, was added to the Southeast District as the 97th Lodge in the state. Jupiter soon became the growing area in Palm Beach County and
th little activity around them. The town of Jupiter was still acting. Three Lodges, Stuart 1870, Palm Beach West Lodge 2785, and Okeechobee 2558, were instituted as the 103rd Lodge on May 1, 1977. Okeechobee Elks started in a small shopping center with 2,000 square feet of space. In its second year, ten members put up the money, interest free, to purchase 3.53 acres of land on Hwy. 70 East. Bonds were later sold to pay off those notes and build a barbecue area and pole barn to allow activities on the property.

In 1979 members helped fund the construction of a Lodge building 82 x 60 feet which was dedicated in 1980. There were 2.23 acres added with bond funds in 1986. This clearly illustrates what a membership working together can accomplish. For years, Okeechobee was involved in the community and annually awarded outstanding citizens and deserving law enforcement, fire, and medic personnel plaques of appreciation at an annual banquet in their honor. Additionally they were supportive of the hospital, transporting many children out of the area to Umatilla.

However, as the years passed, the Lodge began a decline in membership and it became increasingly difficult to get volunteers and officers. Eventually, it just became unfeasible to continue and so they surrendered their charter in the Lodge year 2006-2007. A great Lodge became victim to a problem that seems to be affecting many Lodges, how to keep going in times of heavy expenses, competition from other activities capturing the time of prospective members, and the need for two income families causing less time for outside activities.

Boynton Elks Lodge 2676 was instituted on November 12, 1983 at ceremonies held at the Holiday Inn in Palm Beach. It was a unique ceremony in that it was attended by PGER William “Bill” Wall, PGER H. Foster Sears, PGER Robert Grafton, and PSP Carl Vaughn.

Their first home by the railroad tracks was a sharing experience between their ceremonies and the passing of Flagler’s gift to south Florida, the present Florida East Coast Railroad. Lodge ceremonies were held on an outdoor patio only a few feet from the railroad. As a train came through, ceremonies were put on hold until its passing. One could see stars in the heavens above emphasizing the American flag fluttering in the coastal evening breezes over the patio and star upon the altar. The Tiler stood outdoors as one could hear traffic passing on U. S. #1.

In 1989-1990 there was a redistricting. Three Lodges, Stuart 1870, Fort Pierce 1520, and Port St. Lucie 2658, were moved to the Southeast Central District. Delray Beach 1770 moved to the South Southeast District.

In 1990 after moving to a location in Lantana, the name was changed to Lantana/Boynton, more clearly reflecting its geographic location. In a time of Elkdom’s membership and retention problems, Lantana/Boynton appeared to be experiencing steady membership growth. Over the years the Lodge had been unable to purchase their own facility and as a result of a series of moves necessitated by landlords not renewing leases and selling in the path of growth and the eventual purchase of property in an area not compatible to their membership, the Lodge in 2006-2007 merged with West Palm Beach 1352. Membership had declined and volunteers and officers were difficult to obtain. It seemed that those who did work for the good of Elkdom could become more effective in a more stable environment.

Palm Beach West Lodge 2785 was instituted on March 20, 1994. Like Lantana/Boynton Lodge, they had difficulty in locating a permanent home. They were an enthusiastic group who made their presence felt and were active, ambitious, and growing.

In the new communities lying to the west, Royal Palm Beach and Wellington, they were unable to obtain a permanent home to call their own. It seemed like each time they found suitable property, the city or county would
for some reason deny their requests for a home. It seems strange that these communities would not have welcomed a fraternal order that can do so much for the good of the town and its citizens.

After several years of concerted effort, they merged with West Palm Beach Lodge 1352.

Following all of this, Florida was hit by a series of hurricanes that damaged many Lodge homes across Florida. Pahokee Lodge had serious damage. Problems with insurance company adjusters and other issues resulted in the longtime Pahokee Lodge merging with Belle Glade Lodge and became Belle Glade-Pahokee Lodge 1716.

This is the Southeast District in 2010. It is now composed of four Lodges; it once had thirteen Lodges. None was an island unto themselves; each one was necessary to assure the success of the Southeast District and its position in Florida and Grand Lodge Elkdom. Four Lodges at this writing must support what thirteen Lodges once shared.

It is a history not yet complete. It is still being written. The Lodges of the present district cover a period of ninety years. In these 90 years they have seen the 19th amendment giving women voting rights and the striking of “male only” as a requirement for membership in the order. They have seen the electric washing machine, electric iron, and electric refrigerator; packaged or canned goods; and the evolution of the automobile and air travel. They have witnessed the Lindbergh nonstop flight from New York to Paris and with the popularity of radio, people all over America turned on their radios to the same programs while critics were disturbed that it might ultimately ruin man, without the knowledge that TV was in their future.

They saw the opening of the Elks Children’s Hospital and the construction of the new facility. They saw the adoption of the Americanism Committee as a Grand Lodge mandate and the organization of the National Foundation as the charitable arm of Elkdom. They saw President Truman declare the official observance of Flag Day as a national observance after its introduction in Elk Lodges throughout the U. S.

They will, as throughout their history, regain the strength they once had with a full strength of Lodges in their district. It may result in reorganizing older Lodges with new energetic and enthusiastic members and it may result in a redistricting as has happened several times over its history, but it will regain its original strength and continue to be a vital member of the Florida State Elks Association.

Lowell P. Tyler, State Historian

South Hillsborough Lodge 2672

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 116th Lodge</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>October 18, 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Institution:</td>
<td>December 10, 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instituted at:</td>
<td>Bradenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>Dave Vergason, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>Bob Ogen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>526</td>
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<td>Year 2007 Membership:</td>
<td>582</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
<td>571</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2009 Membership:</td>
<td>481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Tuesdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>1630 U. S. Highway 41 South, Ruskin, FL 33570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>813-645-2089</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Past State President Merle Sebald is a member of South Hillsborough Lodge.
District Vice Presidents:

Merle Seibert 1998-1989  
William Neal 1994-1995  
John J. Boa 2001-2002

District Deputies:

Merle Seibert 1990-1991  
William Neal 1996-1997  
John J. Boa 2003-2004

Prior to acquiring their own Lodge home in August of 1985, South Hillsborough met at a social club in Apollo Beach known as the Dolphin House. Their new home is located at 1630 Tamiami Trail (Highway 41) in Ruskin, FL. It is comprised of a 5,400 square foot building on three acres of commercial property.

A vast majority of the work associated with the construction of the Lodge was accomplished through volunteer labor provided by the Lodge members. On February 9, 1986, Grand Exalted Ruler Jack Traynor formally dedicated the South Hillsborough Lodge. Serving as Exalted Ruler of South Hillsborough was Merle Sebald, later to serve as State President.

In its first two years of operation, South Hillsborough Lodge more than doubled its membership.

Ladies organization: Ladies of Elks

Elections are held in March. Officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary.

South Miami Lodge 1888

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Dispensation:</th>
<th>March 12, 1953</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Institution:</td>
<td>March 20, 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>John S. Fenn, DDGER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

John Boyer  
Walter Wigman  
Andrew Healy  
Claude Campbell  
Victor O. Wehle  
William A. Wall  
Chelsie J. Senerchia  
James Fernandez  
William P. Mooty

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler A. J. Rebozo  
Esteemed Leading Knight Julian Arroyo, Jr.  
Esteemed Loyal Knight Delbert D. Woodburn  
Esteemed Lecturing Knight George L. Hollohan, Jr.  
Secretary William L. Garrison  
Treasurer Robert M. Lane  
Inner Guard Donald L. Stang  
Chaplain Ralph A. Fossey  
Esquire Norman P. O’Brien  
Tiler Henry J. Fox  
Tiler Omar Stang  
Trustees Charles Contopoulo  
Martin Hauri
The following are charter members: A. J. Rebozo; Julian Arroyo, Jr.; Delbert Woodburn; G. L. Hollahan, Jr.; Wm. L. Garrison; Robert M. Lane; Henry J. Fox; David Bloom; Russell G. Howard, Jr.; Alfred W. Pierson; Tom H. Youngblood; Isadore Markowitz; Mark E. Heck; Charles E. Swank; Russell D. Marsh, Sr.; Neil Jeffrey; Edward L. China, Sr.; George B. Fox; Edwin C. Mills; G. W. Larkins; Walker Miller; Norman P. O’Brien; Harry W. Prebish; Omar Stang; Charles Contopoulo; Martin Hauri; Lucian Proby, Jr.; H. Dunstan Smith, Jr.; Donald L. Stang; Ralph A. Fossey; W. E. Christensen; P. A. Williams, Jr.; Clinton R. Kidd; Elmer W. Lee; John H. Lynch; Emmet Conroy; Norman L. Green; R. B. Goeser; Kenneth D. Gathings; Chas. D. Ranson; Eugene N. Betts; Robt. L. Mason; Frank Berry; Wm. J. Stalcup; James B. Burgin; John H. Wallin; Hersel Armstrong; Walter S. Wilhelm; Louis J. Nass; Robt. N. Jackson; Henry F. Taylor, Jr.; Basilio Gonzales; Robt. H. Heiker; Charles Bieber; Eric Grant; Jesse E. Breyer; Gino Borzacchini; Edw. R. Longo; Andrew A. Nettlow; Emil M. Moss; Julian L. Carballo; Steve Ligeikis; Tom R. Fossey; Ralph Coker; Edw. C. Saunders; Omer T. Edwards; Richard D. Bailey; Wallace B. Board; Robt. G. Rosenbaum; Valery D. Wehler; James A. Boyd; Arthur F. James; Henry J. Fox, Jr.; Raymond Coblentz; John J. Olters; H. Everett Nason; W. W. Matunas; H. W. MacDonald; James E. Boedeker; Charles B. Hayes; Samuel Dreisen; Emil L. Cotton, Jr.; J. Victor Martin; Harold N. Evans; John G. Dauber; Joseph Y. Willis; E. H. Pudgett; W. L. Mussett; Z. F. Bassa; Frank P. Snirpunas; Dirk E. Trusty; Robt. E. Henshaw, Jr.; James R. Pierce; E. L. Cotton, Jr.; Charles E. Beeman; Manuel Figueroa; Thomas L. Campbell; Fred B. Fleming; William Talbott; Robert M. Gdula; Joseph Arena; Ralph Helms; Donald E. Price; Emil R. Krajicek; M. R. Thue, Jr.; and Joseph Kavlak.


In January of 1953, a group of members from Coral Gables Lodge decided that the time had come for the institution of an Elks Lodge in South Miami. In the amazingly short period of nine weeks, after organizational meetings at the Riviera Presbyterian Church and the South Miami Community Building, this Lodge was instituted at Coral Gables Lodge 1676 on March 19, 1953. Eighty-four candidate applications and twenty-two transfer demits brought the total charter membership to 106. The prime mover and first Exalted Ruler of the Lodge was Al Rebozo who passed away in the early part of 1983. They have immortalized Rebozo by placing a portrait of him in the lobby of the Lodge.

In June of 1953, Exalted Ruler Rebozo was called to the home of Brother Joe Kavlak who was recuperating from a heart attack. Kavlak had put a $1,000 deposit on the land which is the site of the Lodge. The purchase price was $10,000, which Kavlak offered to advance. While these negotiations were going on, Kavlak passed away on August 11, 1953. His widow, aware of the plans, agreed to it all and on September 12, 1953, they bought this site which consists of over two acres. The building was built piecemeal over the years and thanks to the efforts of countless good members, all of the property is free of any indebtedness. The last addition to the building was completed in 1969. There was a lounge, large Lodge hall, game room, pool room, and a room for the Ladies organization.

Ladies organization: Shelks
Date Started: January 13, 1954
Charter Members: 112

South Miami Lodge 1888 merged with Coral Gables Lodge 1676 to become South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676.
South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676 (Formerly South Miami 1888)

Florida’s 62nd Lodge
District: South
Instituted: March 19, 1953
Charter Exalted Ruler: A. J. Rebozo
Year 1998 Membership: 500+
Year 2007 Membership: 199
Year 2008 Membership: 191
Year 2009 Membership: 164
Meets: 2nd and 4th Wednesday
Location: 1630 SW 78th Street, South Miami, FL 33143
Telephone (Lounge): 305-666-2495
Telephone (Lodge): 305-668-1676

In 1998, Coral Gables Lodge 1676 merged with South Miami Lodge 1888. This resulted in a combined membership of more than 500 members. The new Lodge became South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676.

South Miami and Coral Gables are both in Southeast Florida’s Dade County. Until the land boom of the 1920s, South Miami was called Larkins after a pioneer family whose descendants and friends still take a dim view of the change in its name to South Miami. James Deering built his famous Vizcaya mansion in South Miami, now known as Coconut Grove. Vizcaya is a thirty-four room luxurious mansion filled with priceless paintings, furniture, and tapestries. President Ronald Reagan entertained Pope John Paul II here during his visit in 1987.

Coral Gables is the home of the University of Miami. During Florida’s land boom of the 1920s, George E. Merrick, son of the Rev. Solomon Merrick, subdivided the area. In the early 1900s, the Merricks were vegetable farmers and young Merrick traveled via shell rock roads and mule wagon to the Miami Royal Palm Hotel, a five-mile trip, to sell his produce. Attending law school, George Merrick left in 1911 when his father died. In 1921 he purchased several surrounding acres of land increasing his acreage from 160 to 1,600 acres. This was when he started promoting “the city beautiful,” Coral Gables. Three thousand salesmen promoted his property and a fleet of buses was instituted to carry enthusiastic buyers to the perfect community. William Jennings Bryan gave enthusiastic sales briefings beside a Venetian pool fashioned from an old quarry. With his growing wealth and success, Merrick constructed the Biltmore Hotel. This opened in January of 1924. However, like many other south Florida promoters, the great land bust that followed the boom hit him. Within three years he was bankrupt, but he was not alone. Merrick and his wife went on to the Florida Keys where they opened a fishing camp, but in 1935 they lost their camp along with the Flagler railroad that was destroyed.

George Merrick was an aspiring writer, and it was said that he did a fairly good job at it. His father, the Rev. Merrick, built a home which the son perpetuated in the name of the community from the coral rock walls and many gables of his father’s home.
In January of 1953, a group of members from Coral Gables Lodge decided that the time had come for the institution of an Elks Lodge in South Miami. In the amazingly short period of nine weeks, after organizational meetings at the Riviera Presbyterian Church and the South Miami Community Building, this Lodge was instituted at Coral Gables Lodge 1676 on March 19, 1953. Eighty-four candidate applications and twenty-two transfer demits brought the total charter membership to 106. The prime mover and first Exalted Ruler of the Lodge was Al Rebozo who passed away in the early part of 1983. They have immortalized Rebozo by placing a portrait of him in the lobby of the Lodge.

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The building was built piecemeal over the years and thanks to the efforts of countless good members, all of the property is free of any indebtedness. The last addition to the building was completed in 1969. There is a lounge, large Lodge hall, game room, pool room, and a room for the Ladies organization.

In 1999 they completed a construction project that included a new floor in the ballroom. Ladies’ and men’s restrooms were completely remodeled with floor to ceiling tile and modern fixtures. The game room was enlarged, the roof was repaired, and new air conditioning was installed.

In addition, about this time, the Lodge began their annual Junior Orange Bowl Sports Ability Games, a developmental meet consisting of sailing, swimming, and track and field competition for athletes aged 8 to 18 years who had some form of physical disability. These disabilities are classified as amputees, blind, deaf, cerebral palsy, spinal lesion, and les aut autres (which mean all others). Many of the athletes competing in these games go on to compete in the Paralympics and have earned world records in so doing. The Lodge hosts the awards banquet for these kids and a dinner dance is held as a culmination of the weekend’s activities. McDunnough awards are given to athletes for their extraordinary spirit during the competitive events. Once all awards are given out, the kids dance to a DJ while photographs capture the excitement.

Two State Presidents, Norman P. O’Brien, 1974-1975, and Harty Baruch, 1980-1981, came from South Miami Lodge. O’Brien served as a Special DDGER for five years and Baruch served on the National Ritualistic Committee for four years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ladies organization:</th>
<th>Shelks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date Started:</td>
<td>January 13, 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Ladies organization, the Shelks, as of 1991, had donated over $37,000 since the inception of Lodge 1888. Over the years, they have refurbished the kitchen of the Lodge completely, furnished new Lodge officers with jewels several times, and each year consistently help the Lodge in various ways with cash donations.

**South Orlando Lodge No. 2694**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 120th Lodge District:</th>
<th>Central</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>April 15, 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Institution:</td>
<td>April 28, 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>John McNairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership:</td>
<td>422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership:</td>
<td>427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2000 Membership:</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* On December 8, 2005, South Orlando merged with Orlando 1079 to become Orlando 1079.

The following officers were elected and installed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exalted Ruler</th>
<th>John McNairy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Additional information was unavailable.

Initially they met at the American Legion Post 286 in South Orlando. At their meeting of October 24, 1985 they voted to lease a building at 6345-6355 South Orange Avenue.

Ladies Organization: South Orlando Ladies of the Elks 2694
Date organized: January of 1996

Southside Jacksonville Lodge 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Dispensation:</th>
<th>August 31, 1956</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Institution:</td>
<td>September 8, 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>Victor Kuhl, PDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Merged with Jacksonville 221</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Thomas E. Mallem
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Victor O. Wehle
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: Frank J. Holt
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: J. T. Lowe
- Grand Secretary: James J. Fernandez
- Grand Treasurer: J. Porter Tyner
- Grand Trustee: Willis McCall
- Grand Trustee: Al Coe
- Grand Trustee: Cullen Talton
- Grand Trustee: J. J. Reilly
- Grand Tiler: J. Pierce Smith
- Grand Chaplain: J. P. Riordan
- Grand Esquire: Ed Simon
- Grand Inner Guard: Alan C. Winter

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: Raymond M. McCormick
- Esteemed Leading Knight: E. L. Crossett
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: L. H. Turnbull
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Joseph I. Pieper
- Secretary: Carl Langston
- Treasurer: L. L. Barber
- Esquire: Kent Lewis
- Tiler: William T. Doro
- Trustees: 3 Year, H. M. Chambless; 2 Year, A. W. Woodworth; 1 Year, O’Neal Mattox

The following are charter members: Joseph B. Abram; Joseph Adeeb, Jr.; Charles J. Armbruster; John Armes; L. L. Barber; John P. Barry; David T. Beattie; Herman A. Berner; Theodore J. Black; Arthur Lee Bowers, Jr.; Phillip B. Brent; Merle A. Brosche; Haydon Burns; Meyer Martin Caplan; George Edwin Carey; J. Archie Carter; L. E. Cearnal; H. M. Chambless, PER; William T. Cooper, Jr.; Richard G. Cowley; E. L. Crossett, Jr.; James N. Crozier; Charles W. Davidson; Robert W. Davie; Sam R. Debarthelemeis; William T. Doro; Louis Wilson Duffy; John R. Edelen; Jeff F. Eyster, Jr.; James David Fernandez; John B. Williams; Murray Schneider; John W. Gill; Max S. Glickstein; Clark W. Graham; Edward E. Gross; Harold W. Gunter; Kenneth I. Henne; John W. Herbert; Charles G. Hill; Robert R. Imfield; Bernard B. Johnson; M. V. Joiner; Louis T. Kalan; William P. Kapp; Francis E. Kearns; John C. Keegan; Justin J. Kramer; William L. Kuhn; LeRoy M. Land, Jr.; Carl D. Langston; M. W. Lawrence; James T. Leaport; H. Kent Lewis; Pete Lieberman; Thomas E. Lockhart; Reinard N. Lynggard; R. Wyatt McCormick; Carl H. McKenney; Carl H. Martin; O’Neal Mattox; Clarence Harvey Meir; Arthur W. Woodworth; J. Herbert Miley; Julian Paul Moore, Jr.; Andrew Moore, Jr.; Reginaida A. Norris, Jr.; Herbert C. Perlman; Joseph Price Perry, Jr.; Joe I. Pieper; John L. Powell; Leonard E. Radcliffe; Alton S. Saeger; Thos. E. Satchwell, Jr.; Norman B. Scott; John Seebacher; W. Lee Shave, Jr.; Ellis P. Skolfield; Louis A. Taxier; Harry C. Terrell; Howard Thom; Robert E. Thomas; Gordon Thompson, Jr.; Shelby Harold Trager; Lou H. Turnbull; Richard W. Van Brunt; R.
William Vogel; John R. Watkins; Otis Wilson Watts, Jr.; Lawrence H. Wehmeyer; Lonnie C. Westberry; William P. Whitcomb; William B. Wilcox, Jr.; and Hubert A. Womack.

Past Exalted Rulers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1956-1957</td>
<td>Raymond W. McCormick</td>
<td>1957-1958</td>
<td>William T. Doro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ladies organization: Elkettes

South Southeast District (Florida)

Membership in the South Southeast District was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>6,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>7,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>6,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>6,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>5,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>4,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>4,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>4,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>4,208</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Lodges of the South Southeast District are as follows:

- Boca Raton 2166
- Delray Beach 1770
- Hollywood West 2365
- Margate 2463
- Oakland Park 2407
- Pompano Beach 1898

South Southwest District (Florida)

The South Southwest District membership was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>18,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>16,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>16,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>15,316</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This is the largest district membership in the Florida State Elks Association.

The Lodges of the South Southwest District are as follows:

- Bonita Springs 2753
- Cape Coral 2596
- Port Charlotte 2153
- Deep Creek 2763
- Englewood 2378
- Fort Myers 288
- Greater Pine Island 2781
- Lehigh Acres 2602
- Naples 2010
- North Fort Myers 2742
- Punta Gorda 2606
- Rotonda 2710

**Southwest District (Florida)**

The Southwest District membership was as follows:

- 1995 6,123
- 1996 5,952
- 1997 5,799
- 1998 5,663
- 2000 5,108
- 2005 4,676
- 2006 4,844
- 2007 4,786
- 2008 4,809
- 2009 4,655

The Lodges of the Southwest District are as follows:

- Bradenton 1511
- Manasota 2734
- Palmetto 2449
- Sarasota 1519
- Sarasota South 2495
- South Hillsborough 2672
- Venice-Nokomis 1854

**Southwest Central District (Florida)**

The Southwest Central District membership was as follows:
The Lodges of the Southwest Central District are as follows:

Arcadia 1524
Brandon 2383
Lake Placid 2661
Lake Wales 1974
Lakeland 1291
Plant City 1727
Sebring 1529
Wauchula 1700
Winter Haven 1672

Southwest Florida Elks Clinic

The Southwest Florida Elks Clinic was located in Fort Myers. The clinic, which was started in 1983, was housed in the first four months of its existence in the Fort Myers Elks Lodge.

The clinic has since dissolved.

Spadafora, Frank J., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1986-1987
President Spadafora appointed PSP Thomas M. Coker, Jr. to head up the Select Study Commission committee.

The census of the hospital increased and was the highest year the hospital had ever experienced. The budget topped $3 million.

With this committee, they were looking for other areas of treatment. Ben Brown was authorized to create a unit initially of ten patients to the treatment of head injury problems.

Reorganization of corporations:

Florida Elks Children’s Hospital, Inc.
Serves as a nonprofit hospital
The corporation owns all equipment used by the hospital.

Harry-Anna Charities, Inc.
Serves as a nonprofit fundraising corporation
It disburses funds for capital expenses and charity care.

Florida Elks Properties, Inc.
Serves as a nonprofit company that owns all real estate holdings
It will disburse funds for capital improvements, repair, and maintenance.

Harry-Anna Investment Fund, Inc.
Administers the Harry-Anna Trust and Reserve Fund
This nonprofit company will disburse funds for capital expenses and charity care to the other three corporations.

Motto: “Let’s Work Together for Elkdom”

State President Harold Shelton gave his annual report.
The convention attendance was 2,841.
Harold Darmer, Lake Placid 2661, was named Editor of Florida Elks News.
The following Lodges were instituted: Palm Coast 2709 on March 29, 1986; Rotonda 2710 on April 6, 1986; Sebastian 2714 on May 29, 1986; Palm Beach Gardens 2718 on September 20, 1986; Silver Springs Shores 2730 on May 9, 1987; and Zephyrhills 2731 on May 16, 1987.
Fort Walton 1795 won the state ritual contest.
The convention bylaws were amended to include the Business Practices Committee and Drug Awareness Committee.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1986-1987 term:

President Frank J. Spadafora, Englewood
Vice President at Large Aubrey Callaham, Panama City
Secretary Frank D. Willis, Jr., Eustis
Treasurer Joseph B. Bryant, Sebring
Tiler William Stone, Naples
Historian David B. Lake, Fort Myers
Sergeant at Arms Roy L. Wilkinson, Lake Wales
Chaplain Peter W. Koning, Englewood
Organist Alex Kesco, Melbourne

Vice Presidents
Northwest Jay C. Love, Fort Walton
North R. H. Sanderson, Madison
Daytona Beach was selected as the site for the 1987 convention.

Southwest Division’s Pahokee Lodge was moved to the Southeast Division.

Sparkman, L. B., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1941-1942

The following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville 221, Tampa 708, Fernandina No. 795, St. Augustine 829, Lake City 893, Tallahassee 937, Miami 948, Gainesville 990, Orlando 1079, Quincy 1111, Daytona Beach 1141, Live Oak 1165, St. Petersburg 1224, Palatka 1232, Sanford 1241, Fort Myers 1288, Lakeland 1291, West Palm Beach 1352, DeLand No. 1463, Bradenton 1511, Marianna 1516, Fort Lauderdale No. 1517, Sarasota 1519, Fort Pierce 1520, Arcadia 1524, Clearwater 1525, Sebring 1529, Lake Worth 1530, Cocoa No. 1532, New Smyrna Beach 1557, Eustis No. 1578, Panama City 1598, Miami Beach 1601, and Pahokee 1638.

The President reported that Pahokee 1638 was instituted January 16, 1941.

Lakeland Lodge 1291 presented a resolution requesting all delegates and representatives of the Florida State Elks Association to the Grand Lodge to use every effort to make a change in Section IV, Article 3 of the constitution and statutes for the election of representatives to the Grand Lodge, as follows:
“An alternate representative shall be elected from the Past Exalted Rulers or other Grand Lodge members in good standing on its rolls or the Esteemed Leading Knight to serve in the place of the Exalted Ruler should he for any reason fail to attend the session of the Grand Lodge.” The resolution was not adopted.

Miami Beach Lodge 1601 presented the following resolution:

“That the delegates of the various Lodges in the state of Florida be selected in proportion of the membership of the various Lodges who are paid up in the said state association.” The resolution was not adopted.

Lakeland Lodge 1291 presented a resolution that in the ritual under “closing” the Exalted Ruler says, “My brothers, repeat after me the Elks’ pledge,” that the delegates and representatives memorialize the Grand Lodge to request the ritualistic committee to change the wording of the ritual to read, “My brothers, repeat with me the Elks’ pledge” and that this be submitted to the Florida State Elks Association for its approval. The resolution was adopted.

The National Defense and Public Relations Committee reported that there were seventeen contestants in the essay contest on Americanism and the winners were as follows: Natalie True, Seminole High School, Lake Mary; Betty Jane Barnett, Ketterlinus High School, St. Augustine; and Annie Mae Pitts, Greensboro, FL. The committee recommended that the essay of Natalie True be made a part of the permanent record of the state association. (Instead 1,000 copies of the winning essay were printed and distributed to the Lodges.)

Judges gave favorable mention to the essay submitted by Marian Najarian, Port Orange Junior High School, and Elaine Lucas, Ernest Ward High School, Walnut Hill, FL.

Miami Lodge 948 was awarded the ritualistic prize.

Resolutions of sympathy on the passing of Roy V. Sellers, Past State President, were adopted.

The following changes were made in the bylaws:

An amendment to Article 2 of Section 4 fixing a definite date on which to base state association dues by striking out the words “of the current year” appearing after the words “March 31” in line 6 of the printed bylaws of 1940 and substituting in lieu thereof the words “in the year the last convention of the state association was held.”

An amendment to Article 6 changing Sub. Paragraphs a and b, Section 1 of said Article 6 to read as follows:

(a) Fifty dollars to each Lodge winning its district elimination contest and also fifty dollars to the defending state champions on the condition that the winning teams and state champions compete in the state ritualistic contest; otherwise the sum of twenty-five dollars will be presented.
(b) Four hundred dollars to the Lodge team winning the state championship on the strict condition that this ritualistic team, without penalty for substitution of officers, competes in the national ritualistic contest.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1941-1942 term:

President L. B. Sparkman, Tampa 708
Secretary C. G. Stalnaker, Tampa 708
Treasurer Claude L. Johnson, Tallahassee 937
Tiler James Millican, Jr., Palatka 1232
Historian Emeritus A. M. Taylor, St. Augustine 829
Historian John “Red” Davis, Lake City 893
Chaplain Frank Gee, Daytona Beach 1141
Sergeant at Arms Peter Gessner, DeLand 1463
Division Vice Presidents
East Frank B. Carmichael, Fort Lauderdale 1517
Southwest Sidney Nelson, Clearwater 1525
Central Herbert Fuller, New Smyrna Beach 1557
Northeast J. T. Lowe, Jacksonville 221
Northwest J. C. Duck, Quincy 1111
Executive Committee L. B. Sparkman, President, Tampa 708
Lake Worth was selected for the 1941-1942 annual session.

Special Committees

Under Laws of the Order, Section 13.020, “special committees may be appointed for special purposes as the Lodge may direct.”

A: Bulletin Committee (Laws of the Order, Section 16.150)
B: Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Recognition Committee
C: Ritualistic (Laws of the Order, Sections 2.020, 4.460, and 12.130) (See Ritual)
D: Stray Elks
E: Others may be required (Laws of the Order, Section 13.020)

Special Representative

A Special Representative is appointed by the Grand Exalted Ruler to help a Lodge because it is having problems. Lodge problems can start from financial problems or lack of unity in the Lodge.

1995-1996
PDD Lynn Warburton appointed to help New Smyrna Beach
PDD Merle Sebald appointed to help St. Petersburg
PDD Merle Sebald appointed to help Sarasota

Sports Committee

The purpose of this committee is to provide opportunity for sports events for the association. The committee will obtain approval of the board of directors for any sports events contemplated.

Standing Relief Committee

The Exalted Ruler; Esteemed Leading, Loyal, and Lecturing Knights; Secretary; and Treasurer shall constitute the Standing Relief Committee of the Lodge which shall examine the merits of all cases suggesting the necessity of aid or relief.

(Laws of the Order, Section 13.010)

Starke Lodge 1802

Florida’s 52nd Lodge
Date of Dispensation: March 18, 1950
Date of Institution: April 4, 1950
Formally Opened By: J. T. Lowe, DDGER
* This Lodge is no longer on the roster of Lodges.
The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler: J. T. Lowe
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: M. A. Rosin
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: Robert Bohon
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Claude S. Johnson
Grand Secretary: J. A. Budd, Sr.
Grand Treasurer: Howell A. Davis
Grand Trustee: Cecil Zinkan
Grand Trustee: B. W. Bryant
Grand Trustee: Willis B. McCall
Grand Trustee: H. F. Johnson
Grand Trustee: J. R. Jinks
Grand Tiler: Rupert Zeigler
Grand Chaplain: Julian C. Smith
Grand Esquire: John P. Riordan
Grand Inner Guard: W. A. Partain

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler: Charley E. Johns
Esteemed Leading Knight: T. Frank Landrum
Esteemed Loyal Knight: H. E. Tucker
Esteemed Lecturing Knight: T. H. McNeal
Secretary: A. J. Thomas, Jr.
Treasurer: Phil P. Titsky
Inner Guard: J. R. Wainwright
Chaplain: R. T. Rastatter
Esquire: Jefferson D. Doyle
Tiler: A. Y. Covington
Trustees: 3 Year, E. M. Brinson
2 Year, J. P. Roberts
1 Year, S. E. Simmons

The following are charter members: Charlie E. Johns; Harry E. Tucker; S. E. Simmons; J. B. Alexander; A. J. Thomas, Jr.; Fred F. Stump; T. H. McNeill; Phil P. Titsky; Guy Andrews; J. P. Stubbings; A. Y. Covington; S. R. Marco; J. H. Dupree; W. E. Dowling; W. T. Coram, Jr.; L. H. Gibson; A. L. Crosby, Jr.; Inman D. Green; Jack L. Trawick; C. H. Driggers, Jr.; J. Frank Landrum; James L. Cooper; Geo. Kopelousos; A. E. McKinney, Jr.; A. E. McKinney, Sr.; Marvin Hazen; Lester T. Crews; S. D. Saunders; Guy H. Sales; H. A. Bishop, Jr.; Irvin Robbins; Carl Johns; Frank Hollingsworth; Ben F. Hall; L. O. Hazen; E. M. Brinson; J. R. Kelly; Mack S. Futch; M. C. Wells; J. W. Andrews; J. D. Doyle; C. B. Bowles; W. H. Graham; J. R. Wainwright; Bill Mundy; K. G. Duncan; Carson M. Roberts; Tom Gordy; J. C. Constant; R. T. Rastatter; J. P. Roberts; Carl M. Ritch; H. L. Hough; A. H. Carrott; H. H. Houston; H. C. Wall; J. W. Brownlee; and Seeba D. Goodman.

PER Charley E. John served as Acting Governor of Florida for 1953-1954.

Past Exalted Rulers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Exalted Ruler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950-51</td>
<td>Charley E. Johns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951-52</td>
<td>Jefferson D. Doyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952-53</td>
<td>Edwin M. Brinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953-54</td>
<td>Inman Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954-55</td>
<td>Robert Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955-56</td>
<td>J. R. Kelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956-57</td>
<td>Irvin Robins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957-58</td>
<td>Jefferson D. Doyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958-59</td>
<td>Jerome C. Johns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959-60</td>
<td>Owen Vaughn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-61</td>
<td>James D. Seymour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961-62</td>
<td>Robert M. McRae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962-63</td>
<td>L. M. Gaines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963-64</td>
<td>Mead Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964-65</td>
<td>L. M. Gaines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-66</td>
<td>Jefferson D. Doyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-67</td>
<td>Charles E. Hutcheson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gainesville Lodge 990 sponsored the formation of the new fifty members of Starke Lodge 1802. Organizational papers were signed on April 4, 1950. The Grand Lodge charter was dated July 13, 1950. Charley E. Johns was the organizing Exalted Ruler. Charley E. Johns served as acting Governor of the State of Florida for 1953-1954 upon the death of Governor Dan McCarthy.

Honored Lodge members have been Jefferson D. Doyle, Vice President of the Northwest District; George Dominian, District Vice President in 1980-1981, District Deputy in 1981-1982, and later President of the Florida State Elks Association; and Nealy C. McConnell, Jr., Vice President in 1987-1988 and District Deputy in 1988-1989 of the North District. Under the leadership of Exalted Ruler Jefferson D. Doyle in 1952, Starke Lodge had the honor of sponsoring the formation of a new Lodge in Green Cove Springs, FL.

Starke Lodge meetings were held on the first and third Monday nights of each month. Meetings were held in Lodge rooms on N. Temple Avenue at the corner of U. S. 301 and SR 16 until the building was torn down to make way for a gas station. The Lodge moved to rented rooms in the old hospital building on East Madison Street behind Dr. Sonny Hayne’s office. In 1963, E. A. Winkler spearheaded the move to buy the Lodge building at 2030 N. Temple Avenue in Starke. The deed was signed on August 5, 1963.

Under the leadership of Exalted Ruler Vernon Nichols, the Starke Elkette 1802 Ladies group was organized on March 4, 1974 with Dorothy Starling as President. The ladies assisted in all Lodge projects, planning, and providing food for visitations and meeting nights. The Elkettes supported the Harry-Anna Hospital projects and have twenty framed Harry-Anna Trust Fund certificates on the wall while paying for two more.

St. Augustine Elks Lodge #829

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s Seventh Lodge</th>
<th>Northeast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>December 26, 1902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Institution:</td>
<td>Jan. 29, 1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>B. C. Tunison, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsoring Lodge:</td>
<td>Jacksonville 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>D. J. Draude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>936</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year 1997 Membership: 903
Year 1998 Membership: 874
Year 2000 Membership: 865
Year 2004 Membership: 850
Year 2005 Membership: 855
Year 2006 Membership: 832
Year 2007 Membership: 792
Year 2008 Membership: 788
Year 2009 Membership: 807

The following officiated:

The officers of Jacksonville Lodge 221

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler
D. J. Draude
Esteemed Leading Knight
A. H. Mickler
Esteemed Loyal Knight
C. F. Hopkins, Sr.
Esteemed Lecturing Knight
L. C. Elkins
Secretary
W. D. Pitchford
Treasurer
J. D. Rahner
Inner Guard
H. D. Leaton
Chaplain
J. H. Pritchard
Esquire
W. F. Brown
Tiler
F. H. Holmes
Trustees
E. W. Howatt
A. L. Rogero
Wm. P. Genovar

The following are charter members: A. E. Baya; W. F. Brown; D. J. Draude; L. C. Elkins; Wm. P. Genovar; F. H. Holmes; C. F. Hopkins, Sr.; E. W. Howatt; W. E. Hutson; H. D. Leaton; H. D. Lester; J. O. Lumsden; W. A. MacWilliams; C. D. Manucy; A. H. Mickler; W. D. Pitchford; J. H. Pritchard; J. D. Rahner; A. L. Rogero; and A. M. Taylor.

Jacksonville Lodge 221 is the mother Lodge.

PSP A. M. “Pop” Taylor served as State President for 1906, 1907, and 1908, the only three-time State President. Taylor also served 1935-1940 as State Historian and was made Historian Emeritus and was the only person to obtain that honor.

PSP Harold Colee (1929-1930) was also a member of the Lodge.

(Editor’s Note: According to Harold Colee and many other old-timers, A. M. “Pop” Taylor of St. Augustine Lodge actually was the founder of the Florida State Elks Association.)

History

On January 29, 1902 there came into being a fraternal organization which through the past decades has been a continuous and integral part of life in the ancient city of St. Augustine, FL. Despite the many inescapable problems which time erected as a barrier to test its right to survival, this organization has survived. Each succeeding generation has been fortified with the same principles and ideals which originally inspired its creation.

The Lodge’s beginning was the outgrowth of an idea conceived by some eighteen local men who banded together and petitioned the Grand Lodge for authorization to form a subordinate Lodge in St. Augustine. Under the regime of Grand Exalted Ruler George P. Cronk, a dispensation was granted in December of 1902.

On that eventful evening, January 29, 1903, twenty-one citizens of St. Augustine, men who achieved renowned reputations in their professional and business lives, were initiated as the charter members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of St. Augustine Lodge 829.
The following are charter members: A. E. Baya; W. F. Brown; D. J. Draude; L. C. Elkins; Wm. P. Genovar; F. H. Holmes; L. G. McDowell; E. W. Howatt; W. E. Hutson; H. D. Leaton; H. D. Lester; J. G. Lumsden; W. A. MacWilliams; A. M. Taylor; C. D. Manucy; A. H. Mickler; W. D. Pitchford; J. H. Pritchard; J. D. Rahner; A. L. Rogero; and C. F. Hopkins, Sr.

The following were the first officers:

- **Exalted Ruler**: D. J. Draude
- **Esteemed Leading Knight**: A. H. Mickler
- **Esteemed Loyal Knight**: C. F. Hopkins, Sr.
- **Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: L. C. Elkins
- **Secretary**: W. D. Pitchford
- **Treasurer**: J. D. Rahner
- **Esquire**: W. F. Brown
- **Tiler**: F. H. Holmes
- **Chaplain**: J. H. Pritchard
- **Inner Guard**: H. D. Leaton
- **Trustees**: E. W. Howatt

St. Augustine was the first Lodge on Florida’s east coast south of Jacksonville. Installation ceremonies were under the direction of B. C. Tunison, DDGER of Pensacola Lodge 497. Members of Jacksonville Lodge, their sponsor, assisted him.

Elkdom in Florida was then in its infancy. In 1903, St. Augustine was the seventh Lodge in the state. The state’s aggregate membership was 516.

It is regretted that a complete and chronological account of happenings in St. Augustine Lodge 829 during those earlier years cannot be accomplished. Years ago many of the records were destroyed in a fire and later again in the 1990s, taking with it many of the recorded documents. The available records now at hand, supplemented by memory, have supplied a few interesting details and highlights.

The first meeting of the Lodge was held at the K of C Hall located in the Model Land Company building. The need for permanent facilities of their own was soon apparent to the membership and in 1904 the General Worth House at 16 Marine Street was acquired. It was disposed of some time after 1908, during the era that their records were destroyed.

For many years the Lodge occupied the Lew Building at 50 Cathedral Place and again arose the desire for a permanent home. It was satisfied with the purchase in May of 1932 of a three-story home on Bay Street, now called Avenida Menendez. The building was acquired from Bartola Genovar, a man who joined the order in 1904. He was the same man who founded the neighborhood community of Elkton and named it in honor of the organization of which he was so fond. The mortgage was burned as a public gesture signifying that they were the owners free and unencumbered on the golden anniversary celebration on January 29, 1953.

The golden anniversary was dedicated to A. E. Baya, honorary life member, the only surviving charter member at that time. Honorary life members were A. E. Baya; Harold Colee, PER-PDD; Lawrence Lewis; and Cecil Zikan, PER-PDD. The Lodge’s three life members were W. Phil Genovar; Kelly George, Jr., Exalted Ruler 1952-1953; and E. B. Korst. On January 29, 1953, the eleven o’clock toast honored 152 absent brothers. The golden anniversary class consisted of 29 new members, bringing membership to 350.

From the early minutes, they learned of several interesting and sometimes amusing incidents reflecting the times:

- **May 1903**: The Lodge realized a profit of $41.15 from an excursion to Jacksonville.
- **September 1904**: The Mabel Paige Opera Company entertained the Lodge.
- **October 1904**: Brother P. F. Carcaba was elected as the first honorary life member of the Lodge. The beautiful memorial tablet in the Lodge room was given in his memory.
- **November 1904**: Telegraph wires for reception of the election returns were installed in the Lodge.
- **October 1905**: Congratulations were extended to Brother C. Meltin on the arrival of twins, Jessie and C. Meltin, Jr., and he was thanked for the two boxes of cigars.
- **November 1905**: The amusement committee made its report on the musicale and cakewalk.
February 1906
The Barn Dance at the Alcazar Casino netted a profit of $250.

April 1906
The Secretary was granted a salary of $1 per meeting.

February 1907
A motion prevailed that six linen dusters be purchased for the degree team.

April 1917
President Woodrow Wilson was sent the following telegram, “St. Augustine Lodge #829 B. P. O. Elks at our last meeting voted unanimously for preparedness and full support for your stand for American rights and justice for humanity,” by Exalted Ruler D. Bennett.

February 1921
A distinguished Elk, President-Elect Warren G. Harding, who presented American flags to the candidates during the initiation ceremony, attended this meeting.

1928
The Grand Lodge national convention was held in Miami, FL. St. Augustine received two first place award trophies for representation in the parade, Florida section.

October 1941
The Lodge sponsored and conducted a campaign to raise funds for the purchase of an iron lung. The sum of $2,800 was contributed. The lung was purchased and placed in Flagler Hospital for the use of citizens of St. Johns County without charge. During the war years the Lodge was vacated in favor of the military for use as an officers’ club. The Lodge met in the Lew Building.

January 1953
The Lodge celebrated its golden anniversary and was honored by the presence of:

- David Sholtz, Past Grand Exalted Ruler
- Edward A. Dutton, Former Governor of Florida
- H. C. Eberhardt, Grand Treasurer
- Victor O. Wehle, President, Georgia State Elks Association
- Charles A. Poole, President, Florida State Elks Association
- James J. Fernandez, Past President, Florida State Elks Association

1953
Funds were provided for the purchase of two hospital incubators, one for Flagler Hospital and one for the East Coast Hospital.

Dec. 17, 1969
The last meeting was held in the Lodge on Bay Street. The new facility located on SR A1A was completed, and the first meeting in the new Lodge was held on January 7, 1970. The new Lodge was free of debt.

1975
The Lodge directed a financial campaign which raised $23,000 for the local participation in the statewide Elks drive for construction of the new Florida Elks Children’s Hospital in Umatilla. During the past years over thirty children from St. Johns County have been beneficiaries of medical and hospital care at no charge to the families.

Diamond Jubilee
January 28, 1978

The Lodge celebrated its diamond jubilee. Exalted Ruler James F. DuPont addressed the members present stating, “I would like to salute all of the dedicated members, living and dead, who worked so hard in the past to make this Lodge what it is today. We of the present sometimes forget that it was the members of the past who struggled, sacrificed, and cared for so many years to keep this Lodge a prosperous and viable citadel of brotherhood.”

Caleb S. Sim, a 55-year member of the Lodge, was called upon to extinguish the 75 candles aglow on the tiered purple and white birthday cake as some 300 Elks and their guests looked on.

Hubert Carcaba, Past President of the St. Augustine Historical Society, was guest speaker for the occasion, providing some sidelights which many were not aware of. Carcaba stated that there were two father and son teams who had served the Elks as Exalted Rulers, Charles F. Hopkins, Sr. and Charles F. Hopkins, Jr. and C. C. Hill and Raymond D. Hill.

Master of ceremonies was A. J. “Drew” DuPont, a Past Exalted Ruler.

Cecil Zinkan, a longtime Elk and chairman of the 75th anniversary celebration, was given a standing ovation for his service.
Others who had served 50 years in Elkdom were Frank Helm, Vincent Amato, S. C. McDaniel, Robert Small, and Raymond Sim.

Because of its unusualness, it should be mentioned that in 1925 the Lodge initiated a class in the Castillo de San Marco, then Fort Marion. They were probably the only Lodge in the entire nation ever to have been accorded the use of a national monument for an initiation.

Distinguished Visitors

In 1905 on a stopover visit in St. Augustine, President Theodore Roosevelt visited the Lodge facility resulting in a casual and informal fellowship chat with those fortunate members who were present on the unexpected occasion.

In February of 1921, the Lodge meeting was attended by President-elect Warren G. Harding. A class was initiated in his honor. He personally presented each new member with an American flag. A photo in the Lodge room bears his autograph and message that read, “To St. Augustine Lodge #829 BPOE, with fraternal greetings and good wishes. Sincerely, Warren G. Harding.”

Many of the order’s national leaders during and after their terms of office as Grand Exalted Ruler have made stops passing through for a “hello “ visit, luncheon, etc., including the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Distinguished Visitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph G. Buck</td>
<td>David Sholtz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Kyle</td>
<td>Sam Stern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Edward McCormick</td>
<td>Gerald Strohm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter F. Meier</td>
<td>Floyd Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Fruit</td>
<td>William Wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Grafton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over the years eleven Presidents of the Florida State Elks Association have chosen St. Augustine Lodge as host for their official visits to the Lodges in the Florida Northeast District:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Willis McCall</td>
<td>1958-1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Campbell</td>
<td>1959-1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Peckelis</td>
<td>1960-1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. C. Vanhorn, Jr.</td>
<td>1962-1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert B. Cameron</td>
<td>1970-1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Grafton</td>
<td>1971-1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Clements</td>
<td>1972-1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alvin Ehrlich</td>
<td>1973-1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Fluck</td>
<td>1977-1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas M. Coker, Jr.</td>
<td>1984-1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David L. Luikart</td>
<td>1990-1991</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Inner Guard:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. M. Taylor</td>
<td>1907-1909</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

District Vice Presidents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cecil Zinkan</td>
<td>1938-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugh W. Vaughn</td>
<td>1948-1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William G. Dailey</td>
<td>1968-1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecil B. Blue</td>
<td>1977-1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime A. Beaudoin</td>
<td>1982-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1983-1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Solana</td>
<td>1990-1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis C. Wise</td>
<td>1995-1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Catuto</td>
<td>2001-2002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
District Deputies:

Gaines Worley 1905-1906
A. M. Taylor 1906-1907
Harold Colee 1922-1923
Harold Colee 1926-1927
1927-1928
Cecil Zinkan 1939-1940
Hugh W. Vaughn 1950-1951
William J. McGrath, Jr. 1962-1963
Jesse O. Miller 1974-1975
Cecil B. Blue, Jr. 1978-1979
Prime A. Beaudoin 1984-1985
James Solana 1992-1993
Louis C. Wise 1996-1997
Robert Catuto 2002-2003

Past State Presidents:

A. M. Taylor 1906-1907-1908
The only President to serve three terms
Harold Colee 1929-1930
James Solana 1991-1992

Vice President at Large:

James Solana 1990-1991

Past State Historians:

A. M. Taylor 1935-1941
Harold Colee 1944-1945

Host Lodge for Florida Conventions

St. Augustine Elks Lodge 829 has had the honor of entertaining the convention of the Florida State Elks Association on four occasions: 1908, 1940, 1953, and 1964.

Highlights of their Activities:

1998-1999 The ritual team won the state ritual contest at the state convention.
2003 State officers won the state ritual contest.
2007 Lodge members hosted 98 guests at bingo games held to benefit four local law enforcement and fire rescue departments. Members donated $500 to each group.

Ladies organization: Eland Club of 829 (St. Augustine)
Organized: 1938
Disbanded: December 1964
Reorganized: May 10, 1966
Margie Blue, President
Charter Members: 1938 Unknown
1966 8

Election of officers is held in March and they are installed in April. Officers elected are President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Appointed officers are Chaplain, Sergeant at arms, Parliamentarian, and Committee Chairpersons.
St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

Florida’s 16th Lodge
District: West Central
Date of Dispensation: January 23, 1911
Date of Institution: February 16, 1911
Chartered: July 12, 1911
Charter Exalted Ruler: Ernest Maas
Formally Opened By: Jeff Browne, DDGER
Charter Membership: 39
Year 1995 Membership: 886
Year 1996 Membership: 818
Year 1997 Membership: 802
Year 1998 Membership: 786
Year 2000 Membership: 751
Year 2004 Membership: 754
Year 2005 Membership: 732
Year 2006 Membership: 744
Year 2007 Membership: 794
Year 2008 Membership: 792
Year 2009 Membership: 807
Meets: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Location: 2675 66th Street N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710
Telephone: 727-344-6551
Lounge: 727-344-6553

The following officiated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Ernest Maas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esteemed Leading Knight</td>
<td>A. L. Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight</td>
<td>J. L. Reed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>J. Ed Bryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Secretary</td>
<td>H. M. Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Treasurer</td>
<td>B. C. Bonfoey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Trustee</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Tiler</td>
<td>J. A. Colwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esquire</td>
<td>W. A. Joughlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Inner Guard</td>
<td>W. M. Sipe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officers were elected and installed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Edward T. Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Leading Knight</td>
<td>A. T. Blocker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Loyal Knight</td>
<td>John D. Peabody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteemed Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>J. S. Davis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Secretary
Treasurer
Tiler
Trustees

G. L. Brown
George Weller
B. M. Latham
3 Year, T. A. Chancellor

The following are charter members: A. T. Blocker; F. W. Wilcox; J. E. Bevill; F. A. Lathrop; B. M. Latham; R. W. S. Latham; G. B. Hayward; M. L. Stoner; W. T. Mathers; C. M. Gray, Jr.; J. G. Foley; D. W. Budd; A. P. Avery; Wm. B. Carpenter; F. H. Carpenter; J. C. Whitford; W. C. Burton; Robt. J. W. Taylor; H. C. Dent; Noel A. Mitchell; Carl Brown; W. F. Baker; J. S. Davis; T. A. Chancellor; L. J. Waters; Wm. H. Jones; W. L. Straub; Roy S. Hannah; Lew B. Brown; W. J. Overman; R. H. Thomas; F. A. Wood; A. B. Davis, L. C. Hefner; Tracy Lewis; Edward Lewis; George L. Brown; George Weller; and John D. Peabody.

The Lodge held a mortgage burning on March 7, 1992.

Past Exalted Rulers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1911-1912</td>
<td>Edward T. Lewis</td>
<td>1912-1913</td>
<td>A. T. Blocker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913-1914</td>
<td>John D. Peabody</td>
<td>1914-1915</td>
<td>Will H. Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917-1918</td>
<td>William J. Longman</td>
<td>1918-1919</td>
<td>Roy Victor Sellers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-1920</td>
<td>Charles Robert Carter</td>
<td>1920-1921</td>
<td>James S. Shallcross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921-1922</td>
<td>Will Ramm</td>
<td>1922-1923</td>
<td>F. J. Mack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923-1924</td>
<td>E. A. Donovan</td>
<td>1924-1925</td>
<td>Frank P. Moshier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925-1926</td>
<td>John D. Peabody</td>
<td>1926-1927</td>
<td>T. H. Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-1928</td>
<td>Charles DuBois</td>
<td>1928-1929</td>
<td>J. A. B. Madden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929-1930</td>
<td>V. N. Ridgely</td>
<td>1930-1931</td>
<td>Jay E. Koning</td>
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<td>1931-1932</td>
<td>George N. Bickner</td>
<td>1932-1933</td>
<td>S. Henry Harris</td>
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<td>1933-1934</td>
<td>Harry R. Hewitt</td>
<td>1934-1935</td>
<td>J. B. Guinness</td>
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<td>1937-1938</td>
<td>John J. Viney</td>
<td>1938-1939</td>
<td>Joseph R. McBath</td>
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<td>1939-1940</td>
<td>L. G. Ramsay</td>
<td>1940-1941</td>
<td>Clyde L. Webster</td>
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<td>1941-1942</td>
<td>Victor W. Kuhl</td>
<td>1942-1943</td>
<td>Lawton Swan Sr.</td>
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<td>1943-1944</td>
<td>Harry R. Hewitt</td>
<td>1944-1945</td>
<td>Jack H. Conover</td>
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<td>1945-1946</td>
<td>Lee H. Haymen</td>
<td>1946-1947</td>
<td>Harold Howard</td>
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<td>1947-1948</td>
<td>Lawrence D. Brumit</td>
<td>1948-1949</td>
<td>James J. Hearne</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951-1952</td>
<td>Al E. Clements</td>
<td>1952-1953</td>
<td>Horace W. Bittenbender</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2007-2008  Judy Barnes  2008-2009  Toni L. Goodrich
2009-2010  Rudy J. Masi Sr.  2010-2011  H. Thomas Shriver, PER
2011-2012  James Rasmussen  2012-2013  Mike Gilson
2015-2016  Rudy J. Masi Sr., PER  2016-2017  Joanne Matos

* Deceased

District Vice Presidents:

W. J. Longman  1917-1918
J. S. Shallcross  1920-1921
A. L. Cusson  1929-1930
George N. Beckner  1932-1933
Lee Haymen  1946-1947
John Foltz  1963-1964
A. R. Barthelette  1966-1967
David G. Anderson  1976-1977
Albert L. Sigman, III  1984-1985
Douglas J. Hendricks  1989-1990
Charles L. Barnes  2003-2004

District Deputies:

A. T. Blocker  1913-1914
William J. Longman  1920-1921
George N. Beckner  1933-1934
J. B. McGuiness  1939-1940
Victor O. Wehle  1943-1944
Victor Kuhl  1950-1951
John Foltz  1964-1965
A. R. Barthelette  1967-1968
David G. Anderson  1978-1979
Albert L. Sigman, III  1986-1987
Douglas J. Hendricks  1990-1991
Charles Barnes  2004-2005

State Presidents:

Roy Sellers  1919-1920
(He also served as Exalted Ruler of St. Petersburg.)

Victor O. Wehle, 1952-1953 and 1953-1954, was a judge who was initiated in St. Petersburg Lodge 1224 on June 6, 1926. He served as Exalted Ruler from 1936-1937 and as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler from 1943-1944. Judge Wehle is known as Mister Harry-Anna due to his many years of work and support of the State Major Project, the Florida Elks Crippled Children’s Hospital, formerly known as the Harry-Anna Home. During their 75th anniversary celebration (diamond jubilee) in 1986, the Lodge dedicated its 75th anniversary memorial book to the Honorable Victor O. Wehle.
Their History

St. Petersburg was a sleepy town of only 8,000 people in 1911 when St. Petersburg Elks Lodge #1224 was installed Feb. 16, 1911, in the Fraternity Hall at the Pheil building on the south side of Central Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets. Through the kindness of the Woodmen Circle of which Mrs. T. A. Whitted was guardian, she obtained permission from the Odd Fellows to use Fraternity Hall for an hour. St. Petersburg Lodge was initiated by officers of Tampa Lodge #708 around 5 p.m. and the presiding District Deputy was Jefferson B. Brown of Key West who later became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida.

Prior to installation, the candidates for charter membership paraded down Central Avenue to the Detroit Hotel and back to Pheil block. The procession was led by St. Petersburg Mayor A. T. Blocker. At the conclusion of the installation ceremonies, a banquet was served in the auditorium by W. F. Beverly and Emil Latham of the Hollenbeck who were assisted by caterers Smith and Son of Tampa. Music was furnished by the King’s Orchestra.

At the time, Tampa Lodge was the only lodge on the west coast of Florida and some Elks members living in St. Petersburg as well as many Elks from northern states wintering in St. Petersburg finally tired of traveling two hours over dirt roads to attend meetings and functions. There were 10 or 11 lodges already in existence in Florida.

S. E. Winfield, known to his close friends as “Dad,” took the initiative and large amount of work, time and money to bring the installation into fruition. There were 39 charter members of which 35 were initiates and four were transfers from Tampa #708. The charter members included many of the most prominent men in the city, including the owners and editors of both newspapers and three bank presidents who became the first trustees.

Some of the charter members were Mayor A. T. Blocker of Blocker Transfer Company which was a subsidiary of Allied Van Lines; Dr. John B. Peabody, a leading physician; and Joseph S. Davis, a St. Petersburg attorney. Many in the initial membership became very prominent in St. Petersburg circles, namely C. M. Gray Jr., prominent musician and realtor; J. G. Foley, head of Foley Carter Insurance Agency; Dave W. Budel, a drug store owner on Central Avenue; William B. Carpenter, a prominent realtor; Harry C. Dent, owner of a leading men’s clothing store; Noel Mitchell, founder of St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and installer of St. Petersburg’s famous green benches. Other members were Roy S. Hanah, a power in the Republican political circles and later postmaster; W. J. Overman, a leading paving contractor who paved many city streets; and Lew B. Brown and William L. Straub, owner and editor of St. Petersburg Times and Evening Independent.

The first Exalted Ruler was Edward Lewis, 1911-1912. Lewis was a wealthy industrialist in St. Petersburg and owner of Lewis Island, now known as Coquina Bay. The Lodge rented a meeting room from another fraternal order but soon bought a house (formerly a small hospital) at 108 2nd St. N., now part of the block of Maas Brothers Store. It formally opened Feb. 16, 1912. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the new lodge was open for inspection for gentlemen only and to whom a light lunch and refreshments were served. Ladies were only allowed into the lodge for the evening’s ball. The opening of the new home was held to coincide with the first anniversary of the installation of the lodge.

The lodge membership grew rapidly because the lodge was the social center of town as there were no golf clubs, country clubs or yacht clubs to offer competition. Dues were $1 from February to April of 1911 and $6 from April to October of 1911. If a member wished to have the $6 refunded to him, it was refunded.

The northwest corner of 4th Street and 3rd Avenue S., now the site of the Chamber of Commerce, was bought about 1923 and a large clubhouse was constructed. It included a basement theater seating 500, club rooms and dining facilities on the first floor. There was a large meeting room on the second floor and rental rooms on the third floor for bachelor Elks. By 1926 the lodge had 1,750 members (25% of the entire state membership), the largest marching band of the state and the largest mortgage. The depression years came and by 1936 the membership was down to 400, 200 of whom were dropped for nonpayment of dues, and the clubhouse was given to the bondholders. With $10 in the bank, they bought the first three floors of an unfinished bank building at Arlington Avenue and 7th Street N. for $30,000, payable out of the rentals of a few small apartments on the third floor. That year the legislature authorized slot machines and they paid the mortgage.

After some years, the downtown location became undesirable and they purchased the present home on 66th Street N. in 1969. Alton W. Smith was Exalted Ruler at the time. It had been a clubhouse erected by the developer-builder of most of the local homes as an attraction for the use of homebuyers. Having completed his construction development, he had no real use for the building and was happy to sell it to the lodge when William Skinner was Exalted Ruler.

Under the leadership of Ron Bigalski, the building was radically remodeled and the membership increased rapidly. A succession of dedicated and capable lodge officers restored it to its old position of community respect and recognition.
Diamond Jubilee Celebration

The 75th anniversary gala banquet and ceremony was held in 1986.

The banquet program consisted of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Person(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Anthony G. Turturiello, Exalted Ruler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invocation</td>
<td>Marvin E. Gustafson, Chaplain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledge of Allegiance</td>
<td>Anthony G. Turturiello, Exalted Ruler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Tossed Salad, Baked Potato, Dinner Rolls, Wine, Roast Rib, Au Jus, Vegetable, Cake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction of Master of Ceremonies:</td>
<td>Anthony G. Turturiello, Exalted Ruler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remarks</td>
<td>David G. Anderson, PER, PVP, PDD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction of Special Guests:</td>
<td>David G. Anderson, PER, PVP, PDD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction of Head Table:</td>
<td>David G. Anderson, PER, PVP, PDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Presentation:</td>
<td>David G. Anderson, PER, PVP, PDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remarks</td>
<td>Hon. Harold Shelton, PER, PVP, PDD, State President, Florida State Elks Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remarks</td>
<td>Hon. George Klein, PGER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remarks</td>
<td>Hon. Victor O. Wehle, PSP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remarks</td>
<td>Hon. Robert Grafton, PGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Address</td>
<td>Hon. John Traynor, GER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Edward M. White, PER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Remarks</td>
<td>Anthony G. Turturiello, Exalted Ruler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benediction</td>
<td>Marvin E. Gustafson, Chaplain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Schedule of Events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>February 1, 1986</td>
<td>L. O. E. International Dinner Dance and Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>February 5, 1986</td>
<td>Special 75th Anniversary Bingo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>February 6, 1986</td>
<td>L. O. E. Western Dance Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>February 7, 1986</td>
<td>West Central District PER Dinner Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>February 8, 1986</td>
<td>Golf Tournament - 75th Anniversary Gala Banquet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>February 9, 1986</td>
<td>Special Brunch - 1911 Style</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>February 11, 1986</td>
<td>Sing Along</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PER and Old Times Night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

75th Anniversary Committee:

Chairman: David G. Anderson, PDD  
Anthony G. Turturiello, Exalted Ruler  
William J. Lieber, Loyal Knight  
Edward M. White, PER  
Coy T. Clay, Jr., PER  
Allen R. Stevens, PER  
Douglas J. Hendricks, PER  
Robert D. Mason  
Philip Franz  
Earl W. Farver  
J. Tom Denham, Leading Knight  
William Hull, Inner Guard  
Albert L. Sigman, III, PVP  
Victor O. Wehle, PSP  
James E. Hink, PER  
Janet Hink, President of Ladies of Elks  
Norman W. House  
Robert L. Kepple
Dottie G. Hakala, Secretary

History:

1913 Receipts of sessions for Jan. 3, 1913, read $6.
1914 Meeting attendance on May 29, 1914, was recorded as 4.
1917 A home guard battalion was organized. This was founded by Major Lew Brown who was owner and editor of the Evening Independent and a charter member of Lodge 1224. The Lodge maintained a 30-piece band which won the state championship in competition. It sponsored the first Florence Crittenton Home and organized the Associated Charities of St. Petersburg, the forerunner of the United Fund.

For many years, a Kiddies Picnic at Pass-a-Grille was held with over 500 in attendance.

1923 On May 11, 1923, St. Petersburg Lodge adopted a resolution condemning the use of Lash in Florida. On instructions from the Exalted Ruler, E. A. Donovan, Lodge Secretary V. N. Ridgely sent a telegram to Senator John B. Taylor and Representative M. W. Ulmer “urging them to vote in favor of bills to abolish the convict lease system and prohibit the use of the lash.”

1925 On Sept. 3, 1925, St. Petersburg Elks hosted as many as 12,000 kids at Pass-a-Grille. The children from all parts of Pinellas County started to gather at 12:30 p.m. in front of the lodge to join a motorcade to the gulf. They were accompanied by the Sunshine City Band which furnished the entertainment for the day. Events for the children included foot races, a hoop race, a crab race and a pie-eating contest. All kids were served “a bottle of pop, ice-cream cone, sandwiches, a banana and an apple.”

1928 “If you haven't seen St. Petersburg, you haven’t seen Florida.” was the slogan used by St. Petersburg Lodge to invite other Elks attending the Elks Convention in Miami May 29 to come to the Sunshine City both before and after convention. At the time, St. Petersburg Lodge had the largest membership of any lodge in Florida.

1928 On July 12, 1928, “St. Petersburg Times” wrote that “St. Petersburg Elks band, under the directions of “Doc” Brisbane, former solo trombonist with Sousa’s band, won first place in state competition among Florida musical organizations at the 64th annual Elks convention in Miami, Wednesday afternoon, according to telegraphic dispatches received from Sid Harris, band manager.”

1929 On Oct. 19, 1929 in “Evening Independent,” the following was printed: “Open House is Held During Season for Visiting Brothers. Florida’s Largest Organization is Royal Host.” The lodge boasted a 50-piece band and every member of the band was a lodge member. The lodge planned a series of free concerts during the winter months on the lawns of the clubhouse.

1931 On Jan. 7, 1931, “Evening Independent” reported that St. Petersburg Lodge held a six-day Mardi Gras event. The winner of the popular girl contest was awarded a new Ford Deluxe Roadster. Another Roadster was given away as a prize.

1935 The first Anna Miller Circle in Florida was organized by St. Petersburg Lodge 1224, and a prominent club woman was employed to visit all Lodges in Florida to organize the ladies. The Lodge was moved to Arlington Avenue.

1936 In the depression years, membership was down to 400 members. The depression years had such an impact that the mortgage on the clubhouse was surrendered to the mortgage holder.

1936 St. Petersburg Lodge celebrated its 25th anniversary with a special meeting at which many dignitaries of the order were present. “A highlight of the meeting was presentation of gifts to Commander Robinson, 91-year-old Elk, who celebrated his birthday at the meeting.” Also very impressive were the numbers of congratulatory telegrams received. Telegrams were received from President Roosevelt, Grand Exalted Ruler James T. Hallinan, Grand Secretary J. Edgar Masters and Governor David Sholtz, member of the Board of Grand Trustees.

1938 On Feb. 15, 1938, the lodge celebrated its 27th anniversary in grand style with a feature program by Ms. Meta Gilmore who had an engagement with a dance orchestra in New York City. She appeared at the lodge as a “compliment to Charles A. Vallee, father of Rudy Vallee, who has spent his winters” in St. Petersburg for several years. Ms. Gilmore sang a medley of Rudy’s songs.

1945 On April 13, 1945, the lodge gathered at 8 p.m. for a special memorial service dedicated to the memory of President Roosevelt. Grand Exalted Ruler Dr. Robert South Barrett who was vacationing in St. Petersburg delivered the eulogy. Exalted Ruler Lee Haymen presided and conducted the ceremony.
On March 17, 1950, New York Federal District Judge George Murray Hulbert, PGER and trustee of the Elks National Foundation addressed Elks at Lodge 1224. The topic of his speech was “Americanism vs. Communism.” Judge Hulbert was introduced by PGER Robert S. Barrett, a permanent resident of St. Petersburg.

On Feb. 16, 1951, the lodge observed its 40th anniversary along with a celebration of the 83rd anniversary of the order at their 735-737 Arlington Ave. Lodge. The lodge initiated a large class of candidates on this occasion. The chairs were filled by Past Grand Exalted Rulers who opened the lodge, conducted business, initiated candidates and closed the lodge. A buffet supper was served afterwards.

On Feb. 16-17, 1961, the lodge marked its 50th anniversary with a two-day celebration at 735-737 Arlington Ave. The celebration began with a cocktail party at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, under the direction of Chairman John T. Sutelittle. A buffet dinner and dancing to the music of Dean Williams and the Bath Club Orchestra followed. On Friday, Feb. 17, the program began with a memorial dedication. A social program was held immediately following the service. The lodge opened its meeting at 8 p.m. honoring all Past Exalted Rulers. The principal speaker was Charles H. Peckelis, FSEA President. The speakers highlighted that among the many endeavors of the lodge was the sponsorship formation and financing of the Florence Crittendon Home as well as establishing the original Juvenile Court in Pinellas.

After many years, the downtown location became undesirable and the lodge purchased its present home on 66th Street N. in 1969. Alton W. Smith began negotiations at the time. The future home of the lodge was a clubhouse named Holiday Country Club constructed by the developer-builder of most of the local homes as an attraction and for the use of the homebuyers. Having completed his construction development, he had no real use for the building and was left for the lodge.

On Jan. 30, 1970, dedication ceremonies for the new lodge home at 2675 66th St. N. began at 4 p.m. with District Deputy David Luikart presiding. Guest of honor was FSEA President Dr. Lamar Johnston and his wife at a 5 p.m. reception followed by a dinner at 6:30 p.m. A dance followed with music by the Harvey Rogers Orchestra.

From Feb. 1-11, 1986, a seven-day Diamond Jubilee Celebration (75 years) was held by the lodge. The Exalted Ruler was Anthony G. Turturiello. Events were planned for Feb. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11. In attendance at the gala were Grand Exalted Ruler John Traynor who gave the main address as well as PGERs George Klein and Robert Grafton.

On March 7, 1992, a mortgage burning ceremony was held at a dinner with PDD David G. Anderson serving as chairman. Guests included Past State Presidents Charles M. Pride, Victor O. Wehle, David Luikart and Russ Jurgensen.

On March 26, 1996, the first female member of St. Petersburg Lodge, Evelyn Acker, was admitted.

The first female Exalted Ruler for St. Petersburg Lodge was Patti J. Iverson in 2004.

Lodge members participated in a three-day 60-mile breast cancer awareness walk sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and raised $5,000 for cancer research and community programs for cancer survivors.

In July, they repaired the pool and replaced parts of the roof, they repaired and upgraded the air conditioning and refrigeration systems, and they repaired and replaced kitchen equipment such as the toaster and fryers. They examined the pool for water leaks that caused a rise in water bills which were around $3,000 per month. They experienced a financial crisis and transferred $5,500 more than they should have at a total of $10,000 out of their reserve fund to pay bills, leaving a balance of $12,000 to carry on for the remainder of the year.

They considered cutting live entertainment in the off season, raising prices for dinners and drinks, charging a door fee for entertainment on Friday evenings, and raising the membership dues. They examined food and beverage costs and negotiated lower live entertainment costs during the off season. They met with other Exalted Rulers in the West Central District to address costs.

The lodge adhered to a Grand Lodge request to use signage to promote Elkdom, installing electronic marquis.
On Nov. 3, 2011, the Hon. C. W. Bill Young of Florida rose in the House of Representatives and asked the Speaker to recognize the 100th anniversary of St. Petersburg Elks Lodge. Page E1998 Congressional Records

On Nov. 11, 2011, St. Petersburg Lodge held the celebration of the 100th anniversary to coincide with the number 11/11/11. James Rasmussen was the Exalted Ruler. The lodge had a catered dinner buffet by Banquet Masters and was entertained by the music of Dazzler. Among many congratulatory letters were letters received from Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr, Governor Rick Scott and City of St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster.

On Feb. 23, 2016, the lodge held its 7 p.m. lodge meeting with the initiation and election of officers. For the first time in the history of the lodge, the elected Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Loyal Knight and Lecturing Knight were all females. The elected 2016-2017 officers were Joanne Matos, Exalted Ruler; Bonnie Barnes, Leading Knight; Cathy Shriver, Loyal Knight; and Dawn Lieber, Lecturing Knight.

In July 2016, the Grand Lodge convention was held in Houston. St. Petersburg ER Joanne Matos received a plaque for the lodge having finished second place in the nation for All-American Lodge in Division 5 for 2015-2016.

In 2017, the lodge did well in all categories including All-American Lodge earning second in the nation for points and placement for Division 5 for 2016-2017.

Ladies organization: St. Petersburg Ladies of the Elks

There is a saying that behind every successful man is a good woman. Well, behind St. Petersburg Lodge is a great organization, the Ladies of Elks Auxiliary (LOEA). It was originally called the Anna Miller Circle to honor Anna Miller who with her husband, Harry R. P. Miller, a retired financier, were instrumental in starting the Harry-Anna Home for Crippled Children in Umatilla, Fla. The name was later changed to better identify itself with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE). To be eligible for membership in the LOEA, you must be a spouse, surviving spouse, or a member of the BPOE; 21 years of age or older; and in good standing with the lodge.

The St. Petersburg Ladies of the Elks have been active since their inception in 1924; they are the oldest ladies organization in the state. Started with ten members, they have increased over the years to a healthy group in numbers.

They started their life membership award in 1982 and have awarded this to 15 ladies having a continuous membership of 25 years. They also have a Lady Elk of the Month award. The Exalted Ruler at the regular monthly meeting each month presents a certificate. They also honor one outstanding lady with a Lady Elk of the Year award. The Exalted Ruler of St. Petersburg attends a regular meeting each month with a short message, giving the women an opportunity to communicate with him or her.

History:

1924 The St. Petersburg #1224 LOEA was organized March 24, 1924, and was later chartered by articles of incorporation June 19, 1929.

1929 On Sept. 16, 1929, Judge George N. Bickner signed before Notary Public A. L. Cusson Jr. and it was approved by Circuit Judge T. Frank Hobson that the St. Petersburg Ladies of Elks have the “honor to have the first and only Ladies of Elks organization to be legally incorporated and to be given a legal charter.”

Meetings were held in the Elks building on Fourth Street and Third Avenue S. which at the time was the largest lodge in Florida. During this era, the ladies organized lodge card parties and also the Festival of States card parties.

1933 In 1933 during the Depression Era when the lodge ran into financial difficulty, the ladies presented the lodge with $3,500. To show their appreciation, the lodge presented the LOEA the gavel that is still used today during their regular meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Officers’ meetings are held the first Monday of the month.
The lodge then moved into a new building at 735-737 Arlington Ave. N. and gave the LOEA permission to use their back room to hold meetings. The ladies were instrumental in completing the painting and furnishing of the new lodge.

Over the past 65 years, fundamentally the same types of moneymaking affairs have run. They have run Stanley parties, Tupperware parties, waterless cookware parties, white elephant sales, rummage sales, card Brunch, Arabian nights, pool parties, Hawaiian night, fashion shows, silent auctions, holiday parties, yard sales, bingo, international night, hobo nights, ‘50s dances, bake sales and craft club activities. These various projects and affairs have earned thousands of dollars over the years for the lodge.

Through the efforts running these many functions, the Ladies of the Elks have purchased such things as drapes, chairs, tables, carpeting, dishwashers, lodge officer jewels, tape recorder, bar stools, entire hall acoustical ceiling, brick ovens, microphones, convection ovens, renovation of the lobby, meat slicers, cash registers, renovating of restrooms, sliding wall divider, organs, copy machines, new entrance doors, total sound systems, vinyl dance floor, outside marquis, 80 captain chairs for lounge, complete rebuild of bar back, hundreds of dinner plates and cups, three outside Tiki huts, steam toasters, deep fryer, popcorn machine, smoke eaters, card tables, bingo machines and serving trays. The total amount given for the purchase of the above, and there are probably many items not recorded, was $81,377.

In the very early days of the ladies (1936), the lodge needed dishes, silverware, furniture, a new sink and an oil stove. The Ladies of the Elks purchased these and paid $10 plus a $2 service charge to Florida Power and Light to turn on their electricity. In 1945, the ladies purchased an altar for the meeting room as well as a piano.

In 1940 the LOEA instituted an Honorary Past President (HPP) title. Any Secretary or Treasurer serving three years in their office is pinned as an HPP.

In 1947, Past President Lena Thomas presented the first installation of the Ladies of Elks including the Line of March which was used through 2005.

In 1952 the Ladies of the Elks hosted the L.O.E. state conference which was extremely successful. In 1983 they again hosted the L.O.E. state conference. Their bylaws stipulate that two delegates will attend the state conference. Their Junior and Senior Vice Presidents are sent along with the President each year to both the state conference and the monthly district meetings. They have had two major charities since their inception. One is to assist the lodge both physically and monetarily; the other is to support the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

In March 1959, the formal memorial service began. Every March at their regular meetings, this memorial service is held. In 1977, Edna Whiting revised the service with the help of the Ladies State Chairman. Each year the Ladies of the Elks have participated in the lodge special services which include the memorial service, Flag Day service and Mother’s Day service. Lady officers in formal white act as escorts on these occasions. A ritual book covers rituals and regalia, monthly meetings, order of business, balloting on candidates, initiation, annual business, memorial service, nomination of officers, funeral service, and all installations. Their official bylaws cover discipline, various duties, meetings, committees, etc. The ladies designed and had officer jewels made in pewter and velvet. These are worn at all meetings and installation ceremonies.

In 1963, President Urma Ferguson with the help of Exalted Ruler A. Valthelette re-silvered and made new jewels for the officers of the lodge. During this era, the LOEA served the lunches for Lodge #1224 after all their meetings and also cooked and served buffet meals every Friday and Saturday night.

In September 1969, St. Petersburg Ladies of Elks Auxiliary hosted their first ladies conference. It was the Florida Ladies of Elks sixth conference. Chairlady was Mrs. Alton Smith and Co-Chairlady was Mrs. Russell D. Woods.

In 1970, the lodge purchased the building that it now occupies and made various and extensive improvements.

During a September 1982 meeting, a proposal was made to have life membership awards to ladies who had been members of the LOEA for 25 years or longer. The proposal was voted on and
accepted as a bylaw. During the October 1982 regular meeting, the proposed bylaw was reread, voted on and accepted. Nine ladies who have been members of the St. Petersburg LOEA for 25 years or longer were mailed letters inviting them to the November 1982 meeting to be presented with a life membership certificate and card. The first life members to be presented with a certificate were Sybil Smith, Genereve Paceleep, Selma Newhard, Edna Whiting, Urma Ferguson, Marion Hitchens, Ethel Rothblatt, Carrie Lopez and Tess Forsythe. The presentation was made by Lorraine Tuturiello, LOEA President.

1990
On July 5, 1990, ladies organizations were finally officially recognized at the Grand Lodge convention when an amendment to Article III, Section 18 of the Grand Lodge constitution was ratified by the subordinate lodges and is now published in the Laws of the Order. A subordinate lodge, by appropriate amendment to its bylaws, may recognize a ladies organization as an auxiliary to that lodge provided its aims and purposes are consistent with those of the order.

2001
On March 12, 2001, Charles Barnes became the first male inducted as a member of the LOEA, ending a 77-year tradition of exclusively female membership. The ladies recognized that male members are an asset to the organization and are needed for membership to grow.

2006
In 2006, the “Bucks to Boots” fundraiser was started by Cathy Shriver, Terri Rasmussen and Sue Mulligan and was planned and completed in about four weeks. These ladies sold boot hangers to be placed around the bar and the large windows. The ladies also had a beef stew dinner and collected underwear, socks and toiletries for veterans. The ladies raised around $600 cash and $400+ in supplies. This idea kickstarted what has become the LOEA sponsored event, Lodge 1224 Camp USA Show. At this event, LOEA and lodge members display their musical, singing and acting talents for one evening, raising money for veterans. One hundred percent of the profits are presented to Bay Pines VA Center during the lodge’s yearly Veterans Day dinner. Since 2012 the show has generated over $2,000 in profit.

2012-2013
During 2012-2013, the LOEA took its wildly popular show that is always sold out, “Variety Show,” on the road for the first time. This show was presented at Bay Pines Community Living Center once in 2012 and again in 2013. The show also went to Cascades Mobile Home Park in 2013. The latter was a way to introduce the ladies and lodge to the community. The show was so successful at Cascades that the Park donated $150 to the LOEA and bought over 20 tickets to the lodge’s next event. The LOEA strives to further the interests and activities of the lodge as well as provide organized assistance in any possible way that it can. As a tradition, the LOEA President has ceremoniously given a check to the outgoing Exalted Ruler for the betterment of the lodge during the installation of new officers at the beginning of the new Elk Year.

2014-2015
The LOEA takes its successful Lodge 1224 Camp USA Show to C. W. Bill Young VA Hospital several times to entertain the veterans who are not able to attend the show held at the lodge on a yearly basis. The LOEA also visits nursing homes, taking a mixture of variety show acts to entertain the patients at these homes.

2015-2016
During 2015-2016, the LOEA concentrated their efforts to remember our veterans. Among the many things they did was partnered with VAVS Deputy Representative to C. W. Bill Young VA Hospital, Johnny Miller, and other Elks to provide some gently used high-end electric powered wheelchairs to veterans from CWBYVA. Four used motorized wheelchairs valued at a total of approximately $9,560 were provided to veterans in need of mobility assistance. They also donated two 7’ Christmas trees to the VA’s PRRC program, donated to Stand Down for Homelessness at CWBYVA and donated to Heaven on Earth for Veterans Inc. which provides a safe place to stay for homeless veterans. In addition, many donations of clothing and hundreds of lap blankets and hats were donated to the veterans. The ladies also continued to assist with yearly monetary donations to the Children’s Therapy Services, Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Elks National Foundation and the Florida Elks Youth Camp where additionally they also sent five children in need to FEYC for the summer of 2016.

2016-2017
The LOEA continued the support of veterans by supporting VAVS Representative to C. W. Bill Young VA Hospital, Johnny Miller, and other Elks to provide excursions for the veterans along with their annual USA Show with Bob Hope and many acts raising funds to purchase movie tickets, toiletries, dinner gift cards, fishing poles and an additional motorized wheelchair. The LOEA supported the Stand Down for Homeless Veterans and donated lap blankets, clothing and gift cards to Heaven on Earth for Veterans. The ladies also continued to assist with yearly monetary donations to the Children’s Therapy Services, Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Elks National
Information was compiled from various documents; the writings of Edna Whiting, PLP 1960-1961; verbal and written information received from Joan Vignoul, PLP, LM and current Membership Chairman; and Cathy Shriver, PLP, LM and current Parliamentarian. New introduction, updated verbiage, additional LOEA research, documentation and closing remarks of this small accounting of the St. Petersburg LOEA history and distinguished past was done by Maylene Graci, LOEA Historian, 2012-2013 and 2014-2015. Last update was in 2016 by May Graci, PLP.

State Elks Associations

Talk of forming state associations started in the 1890s. At the time, Grand Lodge banned the formation of associations. Members began to work on the formation of associations that would conform to the statutes and benefit the order of Elks.

A small minority felt that because of the rapid growth of Elksdom, Grand Lodge would become overwhelmed. They felt the only solution was to create state Grand Lodges much like the Masons had done. These would see to the governmental and legislative need of each individual state or territory under the supervision of a Supreme Lodge. This idea was debated between the two sides but was never considered as a serious consideration by the general membership, and as a result it was not taken to the floor of the Grand Lodge.

Many thought it would not be a good idea to give a state association their right to take part in legislative and governmental questions in a national forum.

However, the idea had been planted and it was thought that if a state could be used to facilitate and increase the communication between Lodges and the Grand Lodge or increase the sociability of its members, then a state association could be a good idea.

By the end of the century and despite the statutory ban, state associations were being created. The first state association created was Ohio in 1898. In 1904 the Michigan Elks Association started.

Referring to the formation of state associations, Grand Lodge Statute, Section 215 was amended in July of 1907 in Philadelphia. It read, “No Elk shall organize or become a member of any society organization limiting its membership to Elks which is not expressly authorized by the constitution or statutes of the order. Any Elk organizing or becoming a member of any such organization shall upon conviction thereof be expelled from the order.”

The amended Section 215 read, “Nothing herein contained, however, shall prevent the members of Lodges in the various states from holding reunions which shall be open to all Elks in good standing, provided that they shall not, in any manner, assume any of the functions or powers of government or in any manner attempt to influence or control by endorsement or otherwise the legislature of the Grand Lodge or the election of its officers or any other matter involving the policy of the order.”

In light of the special committee’s report in 1907 at the Florida State Elks meeting held in St. Augustine during President Pop Taylor’s term of office as State President, the Florida State Elks Association suggested that the state of Florida stay strictly as a social organization.

By 1914, there were 23 state associations in existence although they were illegal. During the 1914 Grand Lodge convention in Denver, the movement to bring them into the order gained momentum.

At the Grand Lodge session the following year in Los Angeles, a comprehensive report on state associations recommended necessary constitutional revisions to allow recognition of state associations. Delegates approved the changes, and the amendment was then sent to the subordinate Lodges for ratification. Upon acceptance by the subordinate Lodges, state associations became legal.

Since their formation in 1915, Elks state associations’ major projects have helped children with disabilities. They have sponsored clinics and run hospitals and youth camps. They have awarded scholarships and taken care of youngsters with cerebral palsy. These charitable expenditures have totaled well over $200 million in 75 years. Annually these associations now spend more than $26 million on charitable works.

The oldest Elks state associations are from Ohio, started in 1898; Wisconsin, started in 1902; and Michigan, started in 1904. Today there are 48 state associations, with California and Hawaii forming one association and Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia comprising another.

There were eight provisions for state associations:
1. Subordinate Lodges join state associations on a voluntary basis
2. State associations be empowered to propose new statutes or amendments to the constitution
3. Each state association be allowed to draft its own constitution and bylaws subject to review by Grand Lodge authorities
4. Applications for dispensation for a new Lodge be referred to state association for approval
5. Officers of the state associations be subject to call by Grand Exalted Ruler for advice, recommendations, or information
6. The secret work of the order not be subject to state association conference
7. Separate state association delegates to the Grand Lodge not be permitted
8. Public displays, parades, and similar festivities be permitted at state association meetings or reunions

Dates State Associations were Formed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>1949</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1910</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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<tr>
<td>California-Hawaii</td>
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<td>Colorado</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>1930</td>
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<td>Idaho</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Indiana</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Michigan</td>
<td>1904</td>
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<td>Mississippi</td>
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<td>Missouri</td>
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<td>Montana</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tennessee</td>
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<td>Utah</td>
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<td>Virginia</td>
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<td>West Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>?</td>
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</table>

(See also Florida State Elks Association for its formation as an association in 1904.)
(See also Missouri State Elks Association for an excellent treatise on the formation of state associations by Missouri State Association Historian, Lee Sparks.)

State Major Projects

Alabama State Elks Association:
   Alabama Elks Memorial Center
Alaska State Elks Association:
   Alaska Elks Youth Camp
Arizona State Elks Association:
   The Steele Memorial Children’s Research Center
Arkansas State Elks Association:
   State of Arkansas Human Development Centers
California-Hawaii State Elks Association:
   Their in-home therapeutic service provides a preschool vision screening benefit.
Colorado State Elks Association:
Laradon Hall

Connecticut State Elks Association:
- Supports the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center
- Sponsorship of the new Safe Kids Program which provides such safety items as bicycle helmets and car seats
- Lodge sponsored clinics teach youngsters how to prevent injuries to themselves.

Florida State Elks Association:
- Florida Elks Youth Camp
- Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services

Georgia State Elks Association:
- Elks Aidmore Children’s Clinic which provides long term residential care to troubled adolescent females and their families or custodians.

Idaho State Elks Association:
- Elks Rehabilitation Hospital
- Idaho Elks Food Caravan

Illinois State Elks Association:
- Illinois Elks Crippled Children Corporation
- Cancer Research

Iowa State Elks Association:
- Easter Seal Society of Iowa Craft Sales Program

Kansas State Elks Association:
- The Kansas Elks Training Center for the Handicapped, Inc. (KETCH)

Kentucky State Elks Association:
- Lifeline for the Elderly Emergency Phone Hook-up

Louisiana State Elks Association:
- Games Uniting Minds and Bodies

Maine State Elks Association:
- Supports the Maine Children’s Cancer Program which works to provide care to children with cancer as well as its outreach program to aid their families

Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia State Elks Association:
- Elks Youth Camp Barrett

Massachusetts State Elks Association:
- Massachusetts Elks Scholarship Fund which distributes more than $400,000 in scholarships to 725 deserving students

Michigan State Elks Association:
- Therapy Services and special equipment to disabled children
- Instituted an effort to support the National Marrow Donor Program setting a goal of having at least one Elk from each Lodge register to become a bone marrow donor

Minnesota State Elks Association:
- Minnesota Elks Youth Camp

Mississippi State Elks Association:
- Camp Special

Missouri State Elks Association:
- The Missouri Elks Dental Care Program

Montana State Elks Association:
- Rural Hospitals

Nebraska State Elks Association:
- E.N.T.E.R., Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership, KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Nevada State Elks Association:
- Project Safe Haven

New Hampshire State Elks Association:
- Copper Cannon Lodge, a summer camp for underprivileged children

New Jersey State Elks Association:
- Elks Camp Moore
New Mexico State Elks Association:  
- New Mexico Elks Cerebral Palsy Commission

New York State Elks Association:  
- Home Service Program of the UCP Association of NY State

North Carolina State Elks Association:  
- Elks Camp for Boys and Girls

North Dakota State Elks Association:  
- Elks Camp Grassick

Ohio Elks Association:  
- Cerebral Palsy Treatment Centers

Oklahoma State Elks Association:  
- Oklahoma State Elks Association

Oregon State Elks Association:  
- Elks Children’s Eye Clinic and Visual Program

Pennsylvania State Elks Association:  
- The PA Elks Home Service Program

Rhode Island State Elks Association:  
- Rhode Island State Elks Association

South Carolina Elks Association:  
- Alzheimer’s Association

South Dakota State Elks Association:  
- South Dakota Elks Major Project, Inc.

Tennessee Elks Association:  
- Nursing scholarships

Texas State Elks Association:  
- American Camping Association - accredited therapeutic camp for children with disabilities

Utah State Elks Association:  
- Camp Wapiti

Vermont State Elks Association:  
- Silver Towers Camp for Exceptional People

Virginia State Elks Association:  
- Virginia Elks Youth Camp, Inc.

Washington State Elks Association:  
- Washington Elks Therapy Program for Children

West Virginia Elks Association:  
- Disabled Children’s Camp & Scholarships

Wisconsin State Elks Association:  
- Respite Care facility in cooperation with the Wisconsin Easter Seals Society

Wyoming State Elks Association:  
- 50/50 Raffles

**Steirly, Richard R.**

Richard Steirly was one of the original fifteen Jolly Corks and the first man in America to become acquainted with Charles A. Vivian. Steirly became the second in command, so to speak, of the first Elks Lodge at organization on February 16, 1868. He presided over the new organization in the absence of Vivian until June 14, 1868 when there became a division in the organization. Steirly then dropped out for a number of years, but his membership was restored in the Elks by a vote of the Grand Lodge in session in Detroit, MI in June of 1893. He was at that time a member of Hoboken Lodge 74.
Steirly, like Vivian, had been born in England. His birthplace was London on July 29, 1832. He received his early education in London and his musical education as a chorister at the Chapel Royal, St. James, London. He became a chorister for nine years to her majesty, Queen Victoria, and was present at the christening of three of the royal children, Princess Alice, Prince Arthur, and Princess Louise. He sang at Westminster Abbey from 1851 to 1852 and at the London exhibition at the Crystal Palace, Hyde Park.

He sailed to America in 1853 and located himself in New York City. Early on he took up his profession as an organist and teacher of music, continuing in that line until his death on May 8, 1910 at the age of 78. His interment is in Grove Church Cemetery, New Durham, New Jersey.

(Source: Ellis; An Authentic History of BEO Elks, 1910)

Stray Elk Program

PGER Horace R. Wisely originated the Elks Stray Elk program. The program is one of fraternalism and of brotherly love. A stray Elk is one in good standing who has moved permanently from the jurisdiction of his home Lodge and now resides in the jurisdiction of another Lodge. Such stray Elks make up a major part of members dropped by the order for nonpayment of dues each year and represents a needless loss of membership.

Begin by consulting the list of stray Elks notices sent to all Lodge Secretaries by the Grand Secretary. Then by contacting them, either through a personal visit, a letter of welcome, or even a telephone call, these stray Elks will be made to feel at home in the Lodge of your community and wanted in the order. The chance of retaining their membership in Elkdom is considerably improved. In many cases they may demit to your Lodge.

Strohm, Gerald, PGER

Gerald Strohm was born on October 19, 1910 in Kingman, AZ. When his father, Elmer, died in 1923, Strohm and his mother, Mabel, moved to Los Angeles, CA. Strohm graduated from the University of California in Los Angeles in 1932 with a bachelor’s degree in economics and a minor in accounting. He was also given a reserve commission in the U. S. Army as a second Lieutenant of infantry.

In 1934 Strohm entered government service in the U. S. Treasury Department. Four years later he moved to Fresno to take a position in the Alcohol Tax Unit. He lived in Fresno for the rest of his life, becoming a very active and highly respected member of the community. In 1948, after leaving public service, he earned the title of certified public accountant and became a partner in the firm of Strohm, Hills, and Renaut, CPAs.
During the World War II years, Strohm was called to active duty and served courageously in the 103rd Infantry Division Artillery, which was stationed in the European theater. After the war he remained involved in reserve affairs and retired as a major of finance.

It was in 1947 that Strohm first set foot on the path of Elkdom by joining Fresno Lodge. The journey took him far. He immediately became an active member of the Lodge and was later elected as Exalted Ruler for 1954-1955. Ritual in particular was of great interest to him, and he was both a coach and a judge.

Soon Strohm devoted himself to the work of the California-Hawaii Elks Association. He was appointed to its state major project in 1957 and later served as president and chairman for three years. He became State President in 1966-1967.

Strohm’s service to the Grand Lodge began in 1959 when he was appointed as a District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. He was a member of the GL Auditing and Accounting Committee from 1969-1971 and was Grand Esteemed Leading Knight in 1972-1973. In 1973-1974 he was Secretary of the Board of Grand Trustees.

At the 1974 Grand Lodge convention, Strohm was elected as Grand Exalted Ruler for 1974-1975. He chose as his slogan “Better Elks - Better Americans,” explaining in his acceptance speech that he was “dedicated to the proposition that, God willing, you and I and Elks everywhere are going to make America better tomorrow.”

Strohm fulfilled the duties of the office with admirable excellence. In his report of the Grand Exalted Ruler given at the 1975 Grand Lodge convention, he called his year in office “the highlight of my life.” He also said that on his travels “from border to border and coast to coast, visiting all fifty states and the Panama Canal Zone, we have been tremendously impressed with the caliber of the people who are heading our order. Wherever we have traveled, Elks . . . are outstanding in their enthusiasm for the things that Elks do for other people, and we are aware that in every community the local Lodge is an important, vital institution.”

For nearly two decades after his term as Grand Exalted Ruler, Strohm continued to give of himself for the advancement of the order by sitting on a number of Grand Lodge commissions and committees. These included the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, which he chaired for two years; the National Memorial and Publications Commission; the Elks National Convention Commission; and the Grand Lodge Advisory Committee, with State Sponsorship of the California-Hawaii Elks Association, the Arizona State Elks Association, the Utah State Elks Association, and the Nevada State Elks Association.

Strohm passed away during the morning hours of April 3, 2000 at the age of 89. He was survived by his wife, Kay, whom he married in 1935. They had no children, but Strohm once said that their childlessness may have been a large factor in their dedicating themselves so completely to Elks charities that benefit youths.

Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

Florida’s 59th Lodge  
District: Southeast Central  
Date of Dispensation: November 28, 1952
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Institution:</th>
<th>December 6, 1952</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chartered:</td>
<td>July 9, 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>Judge A. O. Kanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>G. P. LeMoyne, DDGER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>1,175 (Considered the largest charter membership in Florida)</td>
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<td>Year 1979 Membership:</td>
<td>1,278</td>
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<td>807</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2009 Membership:</td>
<td>722</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>1001 Kanner Highway, Stuart, FL 34994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
<td>P.O. Box 391, Stuart, FL 34995-0391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>772-287-0278</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: G. P. LeMoyne
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Victor O. Wehle
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: M. A. Rosin
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: J. Alex Arnette
- Grand Secretary: James J. Fernandez
- Grand Treasurer: A. E. Kirchmann
- Grand Trustee: George Carver
- Grand Trustee: Howell Davis
- Grand Trustee: Otto Wilkerson
- Grand Trustee: Pat McCormick
- Grand Trustee: Robert Skanes
- Grand Tiler: Ralph Rubin
- Grand Chaplain: Victor Kuhl
- Grand Organist: George Hulme
- Grand Esquire: W. A. Wall
- Grand Inner Guard: Broward Poppell

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: Judge A. O. Kanner
- Esteemed Leading Knight: James D. Friend
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: Richard A. Hupfel
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: A. Ward Albertson
- Secretary: Harry B. Donley
- Treasurer: Frank Novacassa
- Inner Guard: Harry T. Prior
- Chaplain: Timothy Geary
- Esquire: James J. Barnes
- Tiler: Edward L. Coy
The following officers initiated the new members:

- **Exalted Ruler**: Charles Peckelis
- **Esteemed Leading Knight**: C. M. Hunt
- **Esteemed Loyal Knight**: Joseph E. Tierney, Jr.
- **Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: Harold Walker
- **Secretary**: Clifford M. Gaffney
- **Treasurer**: Marion A. Cellon
- **Esquire**: Charles W. Wilson
- **Chaplain**: Joseph H. Dullet
- **Inner Guard**: Herschel Dunn
- **Tiler**: John T. Dolvin
- **Organist**: Ralph Gustafson

Charter members:

- A. O. Kanner
- James D. Friend
- Joseph P. Quigley
- Richard G. Hupfel
- Ernest L. Higbee
- Orin B. Cadwell
- Harold E. Hinkle
- William Pries
- Seymour Godeon
- Phil Pence
- Stanley Smith
- Raymond D. Smith
- Edgar M. Higbee
- Leo A. Martin
- Carl Pauly, Jr.
- Richard P. Gideon
- H. L. Willoughby, Jr.
- Henry Cabre
- Charles F. Dirr
- Edgar A. Hare
- Walter L. Davies
- Charles Conrad, Sr.
- Robert Stanfield
- Elwood C. Griffiths
- Charles F. McNulty
- Raymond G. Ross
- James J. Barnes
- John R. Herzig
- Roy T. Davies
- John Woggon, Jr.
- James E. Brock
- Gerald L. Knouse
- W. Vincent Stewart
- Louis Soter
- Roy A. Segree
- Otto J. Mattusek
- Elmer G. DeWitt
- Ervin C. Voltz
- Martin Gnad
- Charles D. Schelling
- Jim V. Langford
- T. G. Casey

- C. P. Trowbridge
- A. Ward Albertson
- Harry F. Pryor
- Marvin H. Rowell
- Harry B. Dobley
- Joseph E. Dugnay
- Mack Costello
- Paul Witham
- Louis J. Gideon
- J. S. Simcoe
- Julius Rossnagel
- Linwood L. Simmons
- Clifford M. Luce
- Paul S. Morphew
- Merton D. Chase
- Charles W. Leighton
- Harris R. Lowery, Jr.
- Jesse H. Whitfield
- Glen F. Ulmer
- Edward L. Coy
- Joseph W. Browse
- Rev. Timothy Geary
- Edward S. Coyle
- H.A. Chamberlain
- H. M. Godfrey
- Donald L. Williams
- T. J. F. Kennedy
- George Dooley
- Edward J. O’Connor
- Earl J. Green
- Percy Fuge
- Edward D. Murphy
- Albert Welch
- Michael Zarrella
- Ernest Tyner
- Earl A. Daniels
- Herbert G. Gass
- J. F. Henry, M. D.
- George O. Thoren
- R. B. Ulmer
- George A. Zarnits
- Charles O. Yankowitch
Max Auerbach  
George W. Conrad  
Huber T. Speedy  
Ralph W. Hartman  
Edward Gaffney  
John W. Scranton  
Earl M. Davis  
Otto G. Hupfel  
H. L. Bock  
A. J. Whiticar  
John R. Wold  
Floyd L. Tracy  
Sam H. Austin  
Archie J. Faille  
John A. Lynch  
Kirby D. Chilton  
Richard A. Hoke  
Joseph Schlessinger  
Dr. W. F. Davey  
Fred A. Stafford  
John G. Lukens  
Evans Crary  
B. O' Steen, Jr.  
Roland E. York  
Stephen H. Lytle  
Anthony E. Lukowski  
Edward Peckelis  
Frank Novacasa  
Grover C. King  
Arthur J. Brannan  
Fred L. Hall  
C. W. Moore  
Hank Walters  
W. A. Smith, III  
J. W. Gilson  
Earl Tillman  
C. R. Ashley  
Arle Stuart  
Lee Higbee  
D. H. Hudson  
William J. Weiss  
Henry W. Rose  
George W. Lavene  
Clayton Brewer  
Allan N. Decker  
Arthur Ruhnke  
James Clefft  
George O. Thoren  
Harry D. Donley  
Frank Novacasa  
N. P. Nelson

The Lodge won the state ritual championship in 1954.

Fort Pierce Lodge 1520 is the mother Lodge.

Their History

Stuart-Jensen Lodge #1870 came into being on December 6, 1952 at the Stuart Civic Center.

On October 23, 1952, M. A. Rosin, Past District Deputy of Sarasota Lodge 1519, in charge of the organizing procedure for a proposed Stuart Lodge, met with interested Elks at the Tropic Hotel. Also speaking was R. J. Skanes, PER, of Lake Worth Lodge 1530 whose advice for the local organizing committee was to select a chairman and secretary. This resulted in the choice of Richard G. Hupfel as chairman and Herbert G. Gass as secretary. Charles Peckelis, Past District Deputy of Fort Pierce Lodge 1520, presided. Hupfel named Clifford R. Luce, Cecil W. Moore, and Ward Albertson as a nominating committee.

On October 30, 1952, the Elks of Stuart held its first organization meeting and accepted into membership Lee Higbee; Stanley Smith; John Woggon, Jr.; Arle Stuart; Edward S. Coy; Raymond D. Smith; George O. Thoren; George Dooley; Earl Green; and Charles W. Leighton.

On November 24, 1952, election of the first set of officers featured the sixth organization meeting Monday night at 8:00 p.m. at the Tropic Hotel. With 75 members present, Circuit Judge A. O. Kanner was elected Exalted Ruler; James Friend, Esteemed Leading Knight; R. G. Hupfel, Esteemed Loyal Knight; Ward Albertson, Esteemed Lecturing Knight; Harry D. Donley, Secretary; Frank Novacasa, Treasurer; and Edward Coy, Tiler. Trustees were One Year, Dr. Walter F. Davey; Two Year, Joe Quigley; Three Year, T. G. Casey; Four Year, C. W. Moore; and Five Year, C. P. Trowbridge.

On December 6, 1952 the keys of the city were turned over to the delegation of Florida Elks on their arrival to institute a new Lodge to be known as the Stuart-Jensen Beach Lodge 1870. The day’s program began at 2:00 p.m. in the marine room in the Tropic Hotel with the signing of the charter and bylaws. A buffet supper was served for Elks and their wives at the Stuart Civic Center from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Initiation and installation ceremonies started at 8:00 p.m. A dance followed the ceremonies.

Grand Lodge officers took their stations and Grand Exalted Ruler G. P. LeMoyne called for nomination of officers for the newly instituted Lodge. Edward Peckelis nominated the slate which was seconded by Hubert Gass. It was then carried.
The first regular meeting of Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870 was held at the Tropic Hotel on December 8, 1952.
On February 14, 1953, Exalted Ruler A. O. Kanner appointed a five-man building committee. They were O. G. Slessinger; O. C. Smith; H. R. Lowery, Jr.; Stephen Peabody; and T. G. Casey.
In 1953 it was announced that proposed plans for the construction of a new Lodge building south of Stuart on U. S. 1 on property donated by Ralph B. Ulmer would be announced when the Grand Lodge made an inspection and approved the plan.
On September 14, 1953 members voted on the proposal of four different properties for the site of their future home. The Cabre property was voted favorably and is the site of the present home. There were 76 members present for this vote.
In February of 1954 Stuart-Jensen won district honors in the rendition of the ritual. On February 27, 1954 the Lodge team went on to win the state contest in Orlando and went on to compete at the Grand Lodge convention in California. They had the distinction of being the youngest Lodge to ever win the Florida contest at seventeen months of age. The team was composed of:

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<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>J. Freind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Knight</td>
<td>R. Hupfel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyal Knight</td>
<td>W. Albertson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>L. Simmons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esquire</td>
<td>A. Brannon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>G. Conrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Guard</td>
<td>A. Decker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidate</td>
<td>R. J. Randolph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Coach</td>
<td>Charles Peckelis</td>
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In June of 1954 Stuart-Jensen instituted a fund drive to raise $8,000 to finance their trip to California to compete in the national competition. In July, ten members of the ritual team flew to California from Miami for the national convention Los Angeles. They finished 23rd of 35 teams in the country.
In August of 1954 the Lodge moved its meetings to the Holleran building.
On June 24, 1954 the first child to receive direct aid from Stuart-Jensen Lodge under its social and community welfare program was Ronald Robinson, 8, son of Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Robinson of Palm City Loop Road. He was taken to the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home in Umatilla.
In January of 1955, the Lodge approved the construction of a barbecue pit at the new Lodge property on Indiantown Road and construction was to start soon. At the same time, they began the construction of the foundation of the new Lodge.
During Washington’s birthday celebration on February 24, 1955 at State Road 76, site of the new Lodge building, Robert J. Twyman presented a flag to Stuart-Jensen. The flag was flown over the Capitol in Washington on February 12 as attested by a certificate also presented to the Lodge. Exalted Ruler Richard Hupfel accepted the flag for the Lodge and said it would only be flown on special occasions. It was raised on a staff donated by Hugh L. Willoughby, III.
On June 13, 1955, the Building Committee reported an estimated cost of $9,833.46 to build the new building. The Building Committee and board of trustees were empowered to negotiate a loan of $10,000. First Federal Savings and Loan approved the loan on September 12.
March 5, 1956 was opening night in the new Lodge building. On March 8, they held their first social event, a barbecue supper, and drew about 150 members and guests. The building contained a 40 by 50 foot Lodge room for meetings and dances and a 30 by 40 foot cocktail lounge and bar with a small kitchen at the side.
On March 25, 1956, Glenn Ulmer, Chairman of the Building Committee and a trustee, was presented with an honorary life membership card in recognition of his successful effort in engineering and construction of the new home. On October 29, 1956, Lewis Weis, Chairman of the Building Committee, moved that the Lodge spend up to $2,500 to build a 20 by 40 foot addition to the building.
On September 20, 1956 the Elks auxiliary organized. The Anna Miller Circle women’s auxiliary of Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870 was organized for assisting the Lodge in its support of the Umatilla Crippled Children’s Home. Mrs. John Gould of Fort Walton Beach conducted installation of officers Thursday night in the Lodge. Their charter officers were:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Mrs. Linwood Simmons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Mrs. Ward Albertson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recording Sec.</td>
<td>Mrs. Floyd Tract</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
On May 27, 1957, Brother Murphy contributed an Elks head to the Lodge. Exalted Ruler Decker presented a motion that passed to place a suitable plaque beneath the head.

On September 12, 1957, the Lodge voted formal approval for an expansion and alteration program that called for a five-room building addition to cost between $8,500 and $10,000.

In 1961, the Stuart-Jensen Little League won the trophy, the Lodge placed second in the ritual contest, and unfortunately the Lodge was broken into resulting in a theft of about $1,400.

On April 13, 1967, A. O. Kanner, the first Exalted Ruler of the Lodge, passed away. He was also the first Past Exalted Ruler to pass away.

On October 9, 1967, L. M. Johnson, Chairman of the Building Committee, submitted a comprehensive report on the proposed expansion program calling for a new dining room and a swimming pool, the cost not to exceed $50,000. The Lodge hall and lobby were paneled with the work done by volunteers of the Lodge.

Permission was granted from Grand Lodge for their building expansion. Membership was presently at 400. By 1973 membership had grown to 700.

In June of 1974 Exalted Ruler Dallas Luce reported as follows to the Lodge:

For over two years now we have been talking about needing a new addition to be used as a permanent Lodge room to help accommodate our ever growing membership. The trustees have hashed it over in committee meetings, and I’m sure by many of our brothers. It was agreed that this would be of great benefit to the Lodge. It would also save time and labor because we could then leave our dining room set up all of the time thus saving a lot of wear and tear on the tables and chairs which sometimes have to be moved several times a week, not to mention wear and tear on the playboys and others who help set up the dining room.

So, while PER Harry Curran was in office as trustee, he kept pushing for the new Lodge room and he finally prodded the Lodge to action.

Plans were made and rejected until they came up with one that they liked. In addition, there were consultations with building contractors and building inspectors. The membership voted in favor of the new building and later approved the selection of Ed Harvey as contractor.

In 1974, Exalted Ruler Dallas Luce passed away while in office and PER Harry Curran completed his term.

The Lodge was now buzzing with activity. They had their Friday and Sunday night entertainment, holidays were celebrated with special activities, and attitude adjustment period was placed in operation with reduced costs for drinks. A big draw was instituted where one could win up to $1,000. A new service bar in the former Lodge room was built. Membership by 1976 was 1,030.

That year Jesse James became a member of the Lodge. The interior of the Lodge was painted and an annual golf tournament was a popular event.

In 1977 the Building Committee laid out a progress report:

1. A new ceiling was installed in the bar, including insulation.
2. The well in the new parking lot was utilized for a pump and sprinkler system.
3. Because of several break ins of the Lodge, several changes were made:
   A. Because of the ease of the break ins and to better comply with the fire ordinance, eight steel covered doors were installed in addition to resetting the Lodge meeting room doors and those that were damaged on the inside.
   B. Because the sound system was stolen, a new one was in the process of being installed.
4. New air conditioners were installed in the game rooms and dining area.
5. Louver vented fans designed to draw out smoke were being installed in the game rooms, bar, and dining room.
6. A new ice machine was installed.
7. Water drains were installed to facilitate draining the roof.
8. A larger water line was installed to increase the water pressure.
9. Additional emergency lights were installed in the dining area and the ladies restroom. The recent
blackouts had pointed out the need for this.
10. Existing termite infestation required the extermination of the building.

In 1979 membership was at 1,278 members. In that year they initiated 145 new members, accepted 82 by
affiliation, and reinstated 5 members for a gross gain of 232. There were 35 dropped for nonpayment of dues.
In August of 1981 a fire knocked out the kitchen for a two-month period.
In 1988 Philip Sameck was installed as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Southeast District.

Significant events and contributions:

1998 80 pairs of used prescription eyeglasses with an estimated value of $4,800 were donated to the local
Lions organization.

Ladies organization: Anna Miller Circle
First President: Mrs. Linwood Simmons

Student Volunteer Opportunities, VA

See Veterans’ Services

Sullivan, John L. Affair

In 1891 the John L. Sullivan affair came up when the Newark, NJ Lodge admitted the 12-year undefeated
boxing champion into its folds. The event raised such a storm of protest that he was expelled. Later, the charges
against the Newark Lodge for admitting Sullivan were dismissed and his name was stricken from the roles.

Symbols, Elk

In 1896 the Elks symbols were love of God, country, and countrymen; the bible; the flag; and the antlers.
Their colors are purple and white, a combination having its origins from the history of the clergy, nobility, and the
people.