Tallahassee Lodge 937

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 9th Lodge</th>
<th>District: North</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>September 22, 1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>November 2, 1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>James D. Burbridge, DDGER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother Lodge:</td>
<td>Jacksonville 221</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>276 N. Magnolia Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>850-877-1652</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

This information was unavailable.

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: W. H. Ellis
- Esteemed Leading Knight: E. D. Rainey
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: A. H. Ginsberg
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: W. C. Forsythe
- Secretary: W. L. McGriff
- Treasurer: W. B. Crawford
- Inner Guard: W. D. Appling
- Esquire: W. N. Sheats
- Tiler: I. B. Hilson
- Trustees: Julius Herschberg, R. J. Phillips, J. S. Lewis

The following are charter members: Lewis M. Lively; Louis Hoff; S. T. Williamson; R. Cantey; S. E. Key; J. L. Davidson; E. J. Hutchinson; S. E. Tegue; J. L. McFarlin; J. W. Strange; Aaron Levy; W. L. McGuyrt; W. V. Knott; F. A. Burch; A. H. Ginsberg; W. B. Crawford; R. J. Phillips; J. S. Lewis; W. C. Appling; E. Glover Johnston; G. W. Lamar, Jr.; R. J. Love; M. H. Wilson; P. H. Ward; R. H. Buford; G. E. McGriff; E. C. Downs; M. F. Burghard; W. O. Hogge; C. W. Richardson; R. K. Mullikin; W. L. Jennings; W. H. Ellis; W. C. Forsythe; J. R. Hilson; W. N. Sheats; Julius Herschberg; J. A. Forsythe; Lawrence W. Harley; R. H. Thomas; H. A. Love; J. G. Sharon; J. G. Moore; A. C. Spiller; J. H. McFarland; E. S. Malone; W. L. Murrow; L. D. Love; F. L. Robertson; R. J. Mays; E. D. Rainey; and W. V. McGriff.

They were state ritual champions in 1944, 1946, 1947, and 1950.

Their mortgage burning was 1947.

Tallahassee has the first furniture ever designed, built, and installed for an Elks Lodge. In 1912, New York City Lodge 1 wished to sell the furniture and Lewis M. Lively, one of the founders of Tallahassee 937 who was visiting the Lodge at the time, purchased the furniture for $1,400 and had it shipped to Tallahassee Lodge. All of the floor rugs from New York Lodge were donated with the furniture sale. Checking Grand Lodge History of the Order of Elks, it can be reasonably concluded that the furniture could not have been purchased before 1870 or after 1889. The Retting Furniture of Grand Rapids, MI manufactured the furniture.

One of their fundraising events was held on August 23, 2002. They put on a Guys and Dolls dinner and skit followed by dancing for the evening reminiscent of days gone by. Folks dressed in outfits from the 20s, 30s, and 40s with gangsters and their gun mauls were a prominent scene. The couple who stole the show were Rick and Denise Peckham who wandered in wet with seaweed hanging from their heads and shoulders and Styrofoam cement blocks on their feet as if they had just been dragged from the East River.

Past Exalted Rulers:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1904-1905</td>
<td>W. H. Ellis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905-1906</td>
<td>W. C. Croom</td>
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<tr>
<td>1906-1907</td>
<td>L. M. Lively</td>
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<td>1907-1908</td>
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<tr>
<td>1908-1909</td>
<td>E. Glover Johnston</td>
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<tr>
<td>1909-1910</td>
<td>O. C. Collins</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910-1911</td>
<td>B. A. Meginniss</td>
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<td>1910-1912</td>
<td>H. L. Bethel</td>
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<td>1912-1913</td>
<td>A. Z. Brown</td>
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<td>1913-1914</td>
<td>R. E. Rose</td>
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<td>1914-1915</td>
<td>J. R. McDaniel</td>
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<td>1915-1916</td>
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<tr>
<td>1916-1917</td>
<td>Irvin Gates</td>
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<td>1917-1918</td>
<td>J. H. Tench</td>
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<td>1918-1919</td>
<td>Irvin Gates</td>
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<td>1919-1920</td>
<td>E. H. Alford</td>
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<td>1920-1921</td>
<td>L. M. Lively</td>
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<td>W. K. Collins</td>
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<td>1930-1931</td>
<td>W. T. Moore, Jr.</td>
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<td>1931-1932</td>
<td>Marvin Collins, Jr.</td>
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<td>Fred R. Wagner</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946-1947</td>
<td>H. A. Brinkley</td>
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<td>J. C. Cwynn</td>
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<td>R. Buford, Jr.</td>
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<td>R. Lettin</td>
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<td>S. Munroe</td>
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<td>1978-1979</td>
<td>L. Wolfe</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979-1980</td>
<td>Buzz Wright</td>
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Pictured is Tallahassee Lodge showing furniture from the first Elks Lodge in the U. S. which was instituted in 1867. The furniture was obtained by PER L. M. Lively in 1910 when New York Lodge was being remodeled and refurbished. Visiting members are invited to see No. 1 furniture in Tallahassee Lodge at 276 N. Magnolia Drive, Tallahassee, FL.
Tallahassee Lodge 937 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America had its inception in the summer of 1904. The population of Tallahassee at that time was not large enough to meet the requirements of the Grand Lodge so fifteen men applied for membership in Lake City Lodge and were accepted and initiated into that Lodge. These men soon thereafter made application for dispensation to organize a Lodge in Tallahassee.

The dispensation was granted by Grand Exalted Ruler William J. O’Neil, Jr. in October of 1904, and on November 2, 1904, Tallahassee Lodge 937 was duly instituted by the officers of Jacksonville Lodge 221 with 52 members.

This meeting was held on the third floor of what was the Park Hotel.

Permanent quarters were secured on the second floor of the building located at 119-121 South Monroe Street and this location was used until the erection of the permanent building in 1912. The site of this building was originally occupied by a livery stable which was destroyed by fire. This lot was purchased from the State Savings Bank (later the Lewis State Bank) on September 16, 1909 for $1,600 and the Lodge gave a note at 8% interest for the full amount payable one year after date. The money was raised and the note was paid off at the end of the year.

A building committee adopted a plan for financing the building of a home by issuing $10,000 in twenty-year 5% coupon bonds of $20 denominations to be sold in so far as possible within the Lodge. All were sold to members except one $20 bond which was lost before it was sold. Additional funds were needed for the completion of the building so several members turned in twelve bonds each in exchange for life membership. These bonds were resold and an additional $2,500 secured this way.

Title to the property was vested in the Elks club of Tallahassee, Inc. with G. E. Lewis as President, John E. Perkins as Secretary, and L. M. Lively as Trust Officer. The building, with the exception of the basement, was completed early in 1912 at a cost of $12,480 and was dedicated on April 16, 1912.

On Sunday afternoon, October 8, 1933, a fire originating in the southeast corner of the Lodge room did an estimated damage of $3,300 which was fully covered by insurance, but in making the repairs some changes and improvements were made bringing the total repair cost to $4,300.

During 1938 it was decided to remodel the building so as to have rental space on the ground floor and provide more adequate quarters for club activities on the second floor. Approximately $35,000 was expended in the addition to the building and modernizing the original structure.

They had four rental buildings on the ground floor. In the basement they had an up-to-date bowling alley and quarters for their Sea Scout troop. The first floor was divided into a lobby, a lounge room, a dining room, and a kitchen. On the second floor you could find a club room, library and reading room, Secretary’s office, and Lodge room.

The history of an organization is incomplete without a record of the men who made such an organization possible and who have guided its destiny.

Judge W. H. Ellis served the Lodge as the first Exalted Ruler from November 2, 1904 to March of 1905. During this time the membership increased from 52 to 90.

E. D. Rainey was elected the second Exalted Ruler but only served a short time when, for business reasons, it was necessary for him to move away from the city. W. C. Croom was elected to fill Rainey’s unexpired term.

Their fourth Exalted Ruler, L. M. Lively, served during 1906-1907. Lively was the first Exalted Ruler to serve a full term. Lively served a short period in 1911 and a full term again in 1920-1921. During the periods he served as Exalted Ruler, 165 candidates were initiated into the order.

F. A. Burch was elected as the fifth Exalted Ruler and served during 1907-1908. Burch was also Secretary and Custodian of the Lodge for several years. He was a guest of the Elks Home at Bedford, VA at the time of his death.

In 1908 Glover Johnston was elected as the sixth Exalted Ruler of the Lodge. During his administration the Lodge continued to grow in membership.

Seventh on the list is O. C. Collins who administered the Lodge affairs in 1909-1910. You will find the name Collins all through the history of Tallahassee; four different Collins were Exalted Rulers. Collins served in all the chair offices, was Secretary several terms, and was a trustee of the Lodge on numerous occasions. He was made an honorary life member of the Lodge.

In 1910 B. A. Meginnis became the eighth Exalted Ruler and served the Lodge with distinction. He was recognized by the Grand Lodge in 1913 and became the second Grand Exalted Ruler from this Lodge.

L. M. Lively was asked again in 1911 to take over the duties of Exalted Ruler, but in a few weeks he resigned and H. L. Bethel was elected to fill his unexpired term and thereby became officially the ninth Exalted Ruler.
Ruler. Bethel was also recognized by the Grand Lodge and became District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1915 and again in 1918 from Tampa Lodge.

A. Z. Brown, the tenth Exalted Ruler, served during 1912-1913. According to the minutes of that time he had a smooth year. He was later elected Secretary and held this position for two years.

The eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth Exalted Rulers were, in order, R. E. Rose, J. R. McDaniel, and C. F. Pierson. All of these Exalted Rulers had a successful administration and contributed to the growth of the Lodge.

The fourteenth Exalted Ruler, Irvin Gates, served during 1916-1917 and again in 1918-1919. “Dad” Gates, as he is affectionately known among the membership, is the oldest member of the Lodge in length of time that he was an Elk. He joined Muncie, IN Lodge in April of 1987 and demitted to Tallahassee Lodge in October of 1912. Dad was District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1925, Historian of the Florida State Elks Association and on the Executive Committee of the association in 1937-1938 and 1939. For several years he acted as Exalted Ruler, and R. J. Phillips acted as Esquire in putting on the ritual work not only in Tallahassee Lodge but in other Lodges in the district, and these two became quite famous in their stations. Dad had a wonderful, resonant voice and was called upon to conduct numerous funerals for deceased Elks and others who were not Elks. In fact, he did so much of this that he was finally dubbed the Bishop of Attapulgus. He was made an honorary life member.

J. H. Tench was the fifteenth Exalted Ruler. He administered the affairs of the Lodge during the war years of 1917-1918. According to available records he kept the Lodge on an even keel during his term of office.

Irvin Gates was again elected Exalted Ruler in 1918. Only four Exalted Rulers at the time of this writing had served more than one term, namely L. M. Lively, Irvin Gates, J. R. Jinks, and W. H. Cates.

The sixteenth Exalted Ruler was E. H. Alford, a bachelor at that time, and so he had the time and took the time to devote a lot of it in the interest of the Lodge. Then came John Choate who served in 1921.

W. A. Bass, with his soft and kind voice, served as the eighteenth Exalted Ruler. His term was noted for the lack of friction in the Lodge. Several men were initiated into the order and according to the records he let Dad Gates, R. J. Phillips, and L. A. McCants do the work.

L. A. McCants, their nineteenth Exalted Ruler, was a hardworking Elk loved by everyone. He served several chairs of the Lodge but is noted for being the Inner Guard and Esquire. He served as Exalted Ruler in 1923-1924 and the Lodge prospered under his administration.

R. J. Phillips was elected Exalted Ruler in 1924. Phillips was apparently an outstanding member. They say that every initiation they had in the Lodge, Phillips served as Esquire, and for the famous job he did in this station he was elected Exalted Ruler. He continued to be an outstanding figure in the Lodge during the 1920s.

J. F. McIntosh served as Exalted Ruler in 1925-1926. Times were good and McIntosh just let nature take its course.

J. W. (Day) Collins, Jr. was elected Exalted Ruler for 1926-1927. Day served in several of the chairs of the Lodge and for two years as Secretary.

H. H. Cooper administered the Lodge affairs during 1927-1928.

A. J. Dalton who served as the twenty-fourth Exalted Ruler during 1928-1929 stated that he did not do anything outstanding but then says that during his administration he began to emphasize the importance of learning the ritual. Grand Exalted Ruler Murray Hulbert visited the Lodge and had his photograph taken in the Esquires chair, the same chair that he used when he was Esquire of New York Lodge 1.

With Exalted Ruler W. Kenneth Collins, the Lodge promoted a good many social activities and was very active in social and community welfare. His term was 1929-1930 and he was appointed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1931. He remained active in the Lodge and became an honorary life member.

During the term of Walter T. Moore, Jr. (1930-1931), the officers for the first time were able to perform their rituals and this was the start of the Lodge officers becoming interested in ritual work. However, it was sometime later before the Lodge had a degree team. Moore served on the board of trustees and in 1941 was elected President of the Florida State Elks Association. He performed his duties as President in a dignified and business like way.

Marvin Collins, Jr., the twenty-seventh Exalted Ruler of the Lodge, states that the most important event that occurred during his administration was that he married a wonderful girl. Collins’ term is noted for housecleaning. More than fifty members were dropped from the rolls for nonpayment of dues. However, he did not show a big loss in membership for quite a few men were initiated into the order. He became Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association, Chairman of the State Ritualistic Committee, Trustee of the Lodge, and a District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. He also became an honorary life member.

Another hardworking Elk was Claude L. Johnson who served as the twenty-eighth Exalted Ruler in 1932-1933. Johnson shyly claims that nothing important happened during his administration. During his administration for the first time in the history of the Lodge they participated in a ritualistic contest and won the state championship.
He served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Lodge, holding the latter position for several years. He served as Vice President and Secretary of the Florida State Elks Association and thirteen terms as Treasurer of the Florida State Elks Association. He is a Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and an honorary life member of the Lodge.

J. R. Jinks became the twenty-ninth Exalted Ruler in 1933 and again in 1940. Jinks ranks among the most proficient Exalted Rulers of the Lodge in ritualistic work. During his first term of office his degree team won the state ritualistic contest and participated in the national contest. His 1941 team won the district contest but lost the state contest by just a few percentage points. He served on the board of trustees and President of Elks Club, Inc. for ten years and was chairman of the building committee when the Lodge was remodeled in 1938-1939. He was an active member of the state association and a Vice President one year. At the time of his death he was an honorary life member of the Lodge.

The thirtieth Exalted Ruler was C. C. Gordon who served in 1934-1935. Cecil Gordon had a hardworking degree team which won the state contest and participated in the national contest but failed to win.

A. A. Abbett was elected as thirty-first Exalted Ruler. His administrative year was spent mostly in improving the work of the degree team and at the end of his term, his team won the state ritualistic contest and participated in the national contest. Abbett was a profound scholar and he did much to increase the enthusiasm of the Lodge in fraternal work in Tallahassee. He was an honorary life member at the time of his death.

George A. Whitehead followed Abbett as the thirty-second Exalted Ruler. Whitehead continued the interest in the ritualistic work that had been started during Johnson’s administration. He was a member of the teams that competed and won the state contest in 1933-1934 and 1935, and it was partly through the initiative that the Lodge won permanent possession of the Joe Reed Trophy.

W. H. “Bill” Cates became the thirty-third Exalted Ruler and he served for two years, 1937-1939. It was during his first administration that the Lodge decided to remodel the building and Cates was responsible for appointing some of the outstanding members of the Lodge to make plans for the remodeling. Among them were J. R. Jinks, Fred Lowry, Payne Midyette, Marvin Collins, Claude Johnson, and E. D. Fitchner. Governor Dave Sholtz was elected Grand Exalted Ruler during his administration and paid several visits to Tallahassee Lodge. Cates was an active bowler and at one time his team defeated the then world’s champion, Joe Falcaro, team in Tallahassee. He became a trustee, past President of the Elks Club, Inc., and a Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association. He was an orator and when a good speaker was needed they called upon him.

During the term of Howard L. Cranston, who served at the thirty-fourth Exalted Ruler in 1939-1940, the remodeled building was dedicated. He was another ritual man and his degree team competed in the state contest in St. Augustine in 1940.

L. M. Strickland served during the years of 1942-1943. During his term the Elks Fraternal Center was put into operation through the help of the Elks War Commission. A Flag Day service was held with twenty-four organizations taking part in the program and fifteen hundred people witnessing the ceremony. A Ladies night program and banquet was held during his term with their new nominee for Governor, LeRoy Collins, acting as chairman. At this banquet several thousands of dollars of war bonds were auctioned off to the members present, a ten-cent cigar bringing $100 or more. He served several years as a trustee of the Lodge. He is a past President of Elks Club Inc. and a past President of the Past Exalted Rulers Association. He remained very active in the Florida State Elks Association. He was State Chairman of the Officers Attendance Committee one year. He served as a member of the Youth Activities Committee for three years, serving as State Chairman for two years and was a Vice President of the association. He became an honorary life member of the Lodge.

Julian C. Smith took over the reins of office in 1943. He was another wartime Exalted Ruler and his administration was so filled with war work that it is hard to know where to start or end the different episodes that transpired during his term of office. Tallahassee Lodge had a closed membership and as the previous Exalted Ruler had filled the roster it was essential that the bylaws be changed to increase the limit on membership. This was done and thirty-four new members were initiated into the order during his term of office. His degree team won the state ritualistic contest in 1944 and competed in the national contest in Chicago. He was a trustee of the Lodge, a past President of the Past Exalted Rulers Association, and a former member of the board of directors of the Elks Club, Inc. He was also a Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

Fred R. Wagner was elected Exalted Ruler in 1944 and spent most of his efforts, besides keeping the Lodge running smoothly, on ritual work. His degree team competed in the state ritual contest and only lost by a very
narrow margin. He served the Lodge as Treasurer for several years. He is a Past President of the Elks Club, Inc., a past President of the Past Exalted Rulers Association, and was the head coach of the degree teams for seven years. Three of the teams he coached entered the state contest. He became District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

In 1945 George Russ became the thirty-ninth Exalted Ruler. Russ had the honor of having two Grand Exalted Rulers visit the Lodge during his administration. He was another ritual minded Exalted Ruler and his team won the state ritual contest in Miami Beach and participated in the national contest in New York in 1946. The Past Exalted Rulers Association was organized during his term and he served as Secretary of that organization for some time. He was very active in scout work and it was not uncommon to see him driving the Lodge’s scout bus on weekends transporting scouts to their different activities.

The fortieth Exalted Ruler, who was elected in 1946, was Homer A. Brinkley. A blood bank was started and an iron lung was purchased for the community during his administration. One of the high points of his term was the burning of the mortgage on the Lodge home. His degree team won the state ritualistic contest in Tampa and competed in the national contest in Portland, OR in 1947.

Leo Foster, their forty-first Exalted Ruler, was elected in 1947. It was during his term that he and the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Julian C. Smith, met Grand Exalted Ruler W. A. Lewis in Pensacola, FL and escorted him to Tallahassee. His degree team competed in the state ritual contest in Key West in 1948. He was a trustee of the Lodge and a former director of Elks Club, Inc.

Fred Strickland was elected in 1948-1949. During his term of office, the Lodge underwrote $1,000 of insurance in favor of the boys participating in high school athletics in Tallahassee. He is responsible for the Lonnbladh of Tallahassee donating two $250 scholarships through the Lodge year. These were known as Lonnbladh scholarships.

His degree team competed in the state ritualistic contest in Pensacola in 1949. He was elected Secretary of the Lodge in 1950 and held the position for several years. He also served as Vice President of the Elks Club, Inc.

Charles Gray was elected in 1949. During his administration the Lodge took over the operation of Silver Lake Camp. This camp was operated for the benefit of underprivileged children, church groups, and Boy and Girl Scouts. Gray’s degree team won the state ritualistic contest in 1950 and put on a good performance at the Grand Lodge convention in Miami. He was a former member of the Social and Welfare Committee of the Florida State Elks Association, serving as chairman in 1951 and District Chairman of the Youth Activities Committee of the association.

R. W. “Butch” Ahmore, Jr. was elected the forty-fourth Exalted Ruler in 1950. He instigated the idea of having their Flag Day service at Silver Lake Camp, which was attended by hundreds of grade school, high school, and college students. During his term the Lodge dining room was renovated and opened. Past Exalted Ruler keys were purchased and presented to all Past Exalted Rulers. He started a reading room and library for the Lodge. His team participated in the state ritualistic contest in Daytona Beach in 1951. He was a trustee of the lodge, the President of Elks Club, Inc., and Secretary of the Past Exalted Rulers Association. He was a hardworking Elk.

Wilson Cogswell was forty-fifth and was elected in 1951. After serving a few weeks he resigned on account of ill health. He went on to be active in the Lodge. He became Treasurer of the Lodge and of Elks Club, Inc.

John Bond succeeded Cogswell and became forty-sixth Exalted Ruler. He had the privilege of being inducted into the Lodge in the Judge Hallihan class, and Grand Exalted Ruler Hallihan and the incoming Grand Exalted Ruler, Dave Sholtz, were present at the initiation. Several controversial issues arose in the Lodge and between the Lodge and the state association during his term of office, but all were settled amiably. His ritual team competed in the district elimination contest but lost to a fine team from Gainesville. Bond became trustee of the Lodge and President of the Past Exalted Rulers Association. He was District Chairman of the Ritualistic Committee of the state association.

In 1952 Murray Crawley was elected the forty-seventh Exalted Ruler. It was during his term of office that the Lodge purchased a school bus to be used for transportation of the Little League baseball team, the Boy Scouts, the Sea Scouts, and the Girl Scouts who are sponsored by the Lodge. A respirator was also bought and donated to the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. The Lodge was awarded a trophy by the Grand Lodge for its outstanding work in Youth Activities. His ritual team competed in the state ritual contest in St. Augustine in 1953.

Their forty-eighth Exalted Ruler, Joe Cooke, was elected in 1953. During his administration the interior of the Lodge was renovated. A lounge room was provided for the Elks and their wives and the entertainment room for Elks only was moved to the second floor. More visitations were made to other Lodges than in any other year in the history of the Lodge.

Due to the construction of swimming pools by the city of Tallahassee and to the necessity of signing a long term lease with the United States Forest Service for the occupancy of the Silver Lake Camp site, the terms of which
were found to be unacceptable for the best interest of the Lodge, the operation of Silver Lake Camp under the sponsorship of the Lodge was discontinued.

Exalted Ruler George R. Clegg, elected for 1954-1955, had as his goal to be accomplished during the tenure of office, the celebration of their golden anniversary in an appropriate manner, planning and at least starting work on a youth building in Myers Park which would partly replace the former activity in connection with Silver Lake, and renovate their Lodge room including refinishing and reupholstering the Lodge room furniture.

Story of Tallahassee Lodge 937 BPO Elks Furniture

By L.M. Strickland, Sr.

L. M. Strickland, Sr.

Brother Lewis M. Lively, a member and one of the founders of Tallahassee Lodge, while Grand Esteemed Leading Knight paid an official visit to New York Lodge 1 in the summer of 1912. At that time the New York Lodge had just erected a new building and completely furnished it with new furniture. On the day of Brother Lively’s visit the Lodge was negotiating with the Redding Furniture Company of Grand Rapids, MI to sell the original furniture and had agreed on a price of $1,400. Tallahassee Lodge had just completed the building at 119-121 S. Monroe Street, so Brother Lively thought this was an opportune time to obtain furniture for the Lodge room. Inasmuch as the Redding firm had no use for the furniture he persuaded the members of New York Lodge to sell him the furniture at the same price of $1,400. He closed the deal immediately and gave the Lodge his personal check in payment.
Brother Lively was offered a substantial profit if he would cancel the purchase. This he refused to do and had the furniture shipped to Tallahassee. In addition to the furniture all of the rugs on the floor of New York’s Lodge floor were donated. Some two years later New York Lodge sent Brother Lively, as a personal gift, a large Elk’s head which was later presented to Panama City Lodge.

The furniture was the first ever designed, built, and installed for an Elks Lodge. Many men of prominence took their obligation at its altar. Among them were Will Rogers and other famous men of the theatre and other professions. Murray Hulbert of New York Lodge verified this statement when he made an official visit to Tallahassee Lodge while Grand Exalted Ruler.
I have written several times to the Secretary of the New York Lodge for the date that the furniture was first purchased but have never been able to ascertain it. By going back to early history of the order of Elks, I have reached the conclusion that it must have been between 1871 and 1880. Here are some reasons on which I base the dates.

No. 1: In 1886 the Jolly Corks, a social organization headed by Charles A. Vivian, adopted the following resolution: “That we resolve ourselves into a benevolent order and that a committee be appointed to draft rules and a ritual and select a new name.” The committee for a new name recommended Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. This recommendation was accepted February 16. You can therefore fix February 16, 1868, as the natal day of the order of Elks.

No. 2: On December 4, 1870, Tony Pastor, a member of New York Lodge, made a motion that measures be taken to form an Exalted Grand Lodge. This motion was adopted and a committee was appointed on founding the Grand Lodge. The committee reported back on January 1, 1871 and offered the following resolution: “Resolved that the first Grand Lodge of B. P. O. Elks consist of the original founders of the order together with all past and present officers of the first and second degree who are now in good standing in the order and that the above take effect immediately.” The resolution was ratified. The first Grand Lodge session was held February 19, 1871 in the New York Lodge room on East 13th Street. This was the location when the original furniture was installed. At this meeting the first charter for an Elks Lodge was granted to New York Lodge, designating it as New York Lodge No. 1, B. P. O. Elks.”
No. 3: In 1890 the Grand Lodge voted to hold its next convention in Cleveland, OH. All of the previous sessions had been held in New York Lodge. New York Lodge began injunction proceedings to prevent the holding of the Grand Lodge convention in Cleveland. In retaliation the Grand Lodge revoked the charter of New York Lodge. The charter was reinstated in 1893.

My conclusion from the above is that the furniture could not have been purchased before 1871 or after 1889. Taking into consideration the fact that all Grand Lodge sessions were held in New York during the 1870s, my guess would be that the age of our furniture is between 95 and 101 years.

Notes on Tallahassee

Former Governor LeRoy Collins was a member of Tallahassee Lodge 937 from January 26, 1938 until January 29, 1962 and during the years that he served as Governor (1957 to 1961).

His much lesser known brother, Marvin Collins, Jr., who had been a member of Tallahassee Lodge since November 4, 1925, proposed Collins. He was Exalted Ruler in 1931-1932 and continued to be very active for many years and usually served as Exalted Ruler every year when they had a PER night.

One of Governor Collins sponsors was the Honorable R. A. Gray who served as Secretary of State of Florida from 1930 to 1961.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ladies organization:</th>
<th>Elkettes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Organized:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charter members:</td>
<td>142</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elections:</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers:</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two directors for two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two directors for one year</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Talton, Cullen H., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1947-1948**
Forty-First Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
May 19-20, 1947
TAMPA, FLORIDA

The following Lodges were represented: Arcadia 1524, Belle Glade 1716, Bradenton 1511, Clearwater 1525, Cocoa 1532, Coral Gables 1676, Daytona Beach 1141, Deland 1463, Eustis 1578, Fort Lauderdale 1517, Fort Myers 1288, Fort Pierce 1520, Gainesville 990, Jacksonville 221, Key West 551, Lake City 893, Lakeland 1291, Lake Worth 1530, Live Oak 1165, Leesburg 1703, Miami 948, Miami Beach 1601, New Smyrna Beach 1557, Ocala 286, Orlando 1079, Palatka 1232, Pahokee 1638, Pensacola 497, Plant City 1727, St. Augustine 829, St. Petersburg 1224, Sanford 1241, Sarasota 1519, Sebring 1529, Tallahassee 937, Tampa 708, Tarpon Springs 1719, Wauchula 1700, West Palm Beach 1352, and Winter Haven 1672.

President James Dunn gave his report, relating that the state association incorporated and that all Harry-Anna funds were transferred to the state association, that Florida was represented at the Grand Lodge convention in New York by an appropriate float and a Florida breakfast was held, that the Harry-Anna Home is being ably managed and its finances are sound, that membership has shown a marked increase with a gain of 2,021 over the previous year, that charities and general welfare work indicate that the Lodges in the state not only extol the virtues of charity but actually practice charity in the true meaning of the word, that the state association completed the heaviest program in its history in connection with the Elks National Foundation scholarship and that a $300 scholarship award went to Miss Marven Vaughn of Winter Haven, and that work in veterans’ hospitals and also ritualistic work have shown a remarkable activity and progress.

A change was made in the bylaws, Sec. V, Article 5, pertaining to the Harry-Anna Home Committee, as explained fully on page 84 of the annual proceedings for the year 1947.

Wauchula 1700 was instituted June 25, 1946; Leesburg 1703 was instituted May 17, 1946; Belle Glade 1716 was instituted January 27, 1947; Tarpon Springs 1719 was instituted April 3, 1947; and Plant City 1727 was instituted May 16, 1947.

The ritual cup was awarded to Tallahassee 937.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1947-1948 term:

President    Cullen H. Talton, Daytona Beach
Treasurer    Claude L. Johnson, Tallahassee
Secretary    Chelsie J. Senerchia, Miami
Historian    Howell A. Davis, Palatka
Tiler        C. O. Gabbert, Tampa
Sergeant at Arms    Peter Gessner, DeLand
Chaplain     W. M. Hargess, Leesburg

Division Vice Presidents

Northeast    William A. Partain, Palatka
Northwest    Ed McCullough, Pensacola
Central      Leo Butner, Sanford
Southwest    Gerald Ludwig, Sarasota;
Southeast    Edward Williams, Fort Lauderdale

Key West was selected as the site for the 1948-1949 annual session.

Tampa Lodge 708

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 5th Lodge</th>
<th>West Central</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>West Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>May 28, 1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Institution:</td>
<td>January 22, 1902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>B. C. Tunison, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1907 Membership:</td>
<td>441</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year 1950 Membership: 1,713  
Year 1959 Membership: 1,656  
Year 1960 Membership: 1,401  
Year 1970 Membership: 729  
Year 1972 Membership: 571  
Year 1973 Membership: 610  
Year 1980 Membership: 428  
Year 1995 Membership: 576  
Year 1996 Membership: 672  
Year 1997 Membership: 667  
Year 1998 Membership: 625  
Year 2001 Membership: 495  
Year 2004 Membership: 383  
Year 2005 Membership: 348  
Year 2006 Membership: 359  
Year 2007 Membership: 378  
Year 2008 Membership: 393  
Year 2009 Membership: 390  
Location: 3616 Gandy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33611  

* Tampa Lodge is one of the founding Lodges of the Florida State Elks Association.  
Meeting held in Tampa November 16 & 17, 1904  
The 17th state so to organize

The following officers were elected and installed:  

Exalted Ruler: Abe Maas  
Esteemed Leading Knight: F. L. Wing  
Esteemed Loyal Knight: W. G. Mason  
Esteemed Lecturing Knight: M. B. McFarlane  
Secretary: H. M. Cohen  
Treasurer: Charles Wright  
Inner Guard: J. T. Boykins  
Esquire: A. C. Drenna  
Tiler: W. M. Chapman  
Trustees: H. H. Stebbins  
S. W. Allen  
J. L. Reed  


Tampa is one of the founding Lodges of the Florida State Elks Association. Jacksonville 221 is their mother Lodge.

The following PSPs were members of the Lodge: M. B. MacFarland, 1904-1905 (first State President); K. I. McKay, 1911-1912; Abe Maas, 1917-1918; Dr. John Donoghue, 1921-1922; J. L. Reed, Sr., 1930-1931; J. J. Fernandez, 1936-1937; L. B. Sparkman, 1941-1942; J. Frank Umstot, 1945-1946; and Charles I. Campbell, 1959-1960.

On December 4, 1944, the mortgage was burned.  
Frank Umstot while State President helped to institute the Florida Elks News. PER Henry Claywell served as the first Editor of the Florida Elks News.
Abe Maas was the first Exalted Ruler of Tampa Lodge in 1902. He was a founder of Maas Department Store and was a prominent merchant. He died in 1942.

In 1884 H. B. Plant brought the railroad to Tampa, and in 1891 he built a luxurious tourist hotel now occupied by the University of Tampa. In 1886 the cigar industry started. In 1897 a very large contingent of military personnel was stationed in Tampa and included Leonard Wood and Teddy Roosevelt, leaders of the Rough Riders enroute to Cuba to secure a victory in the Spanish American War. When the war ended in 1898 many soldiers relocated to this area, and by 1900 the population of Tampa had increased to 15,838. The leaders of the community, many of whom were to become members of the B. P. O. Elks, were positioned for growth and expansion.

The organizational meeting which was held in the Hampton Building located at the southeast corner of Franklin and Polk Streets, was headed by Abe Maas who shortly thereafter was elected as the first Exalted Ruler.

On January 22, 1902, a delegation of fourteen from Jacksonville arrived by train and conducted the initiation ceremonies with 37 charter members that started that afternoon and lasted into the wee hours of the next morning. Tampa was one of 81 new Lodges instituted by the B. P. O. Elks in 1902. The charter dated August 14, 1902 was issued at the ensuing Grand Lodge convention which was the custom of that time.

Masonic Lodge 25 at Franklin and Whiting Streets erected in 1852
It was used also as a school and served as the first meeting place of Tampa charter members.
Tampa Lodge’s first home was a frame structure.
It was the residence of Dr. H. H. Stebbins before being acquired by the Elks.
A livery stable adjoined the building at Madison and Marion Streets.

Tampa Lodge had its first home in the old Masonic Temple, lower Franklin Street, and then moved to the third floor of the Giddens building. The first permanent home was a residence owned by Dr. H. H. Stebbins, who was a charter member, located at Florida Avenue and Madison Streets. The Lodge moved into the residence. A livery stable adjoined the building. K. L. McKay, a PDD and Past State President of the Florida Elks, was instrumental in securing funds for the first permanent building. The Lodge room and facility, when completed, was considered one of the most beautiful in the country. While the building was being completed the Lodge temporarily occupied the top floor of the Hillsboro Hotel. The Lodge facility was completed in 1914 and was four stories tall. It had club facilities on the second floor, a ballroom on the third floor, a comfortable Lodge hall on the fourth floor, and a number of private rooms for visiting Elks.

The facility grew too small over the years and in 1960 a new location and building was secured at 5013 Bayshore Boulevard overlooking Tampa Bay. The new facility was once the Crystal Ball Night Club. It had a balcony which seated 150 and a ballroom with 66-foot ceilings. In 1980 the building was sold and replaced with condominiums. The building was in need of renovation and was not cost efficient to operate. During 1980 a new facility was sought and during the interim the Lodge met at the Legion Club on Dale Mabry. Renovations and remodeling were completed on the new location, located at 3616 Gandy Boulevard, and the Lodge was occupied in the spring of 1982. In addition, land was sold in the early 1970s for use in securing a new Lodge home. The present facility is near the Tampa Jai Alai facility and has easy access from the cross-town express linking Pinellas County and Dale Mabry linking Interstate 275. The present facility is a modern one-story brick building with a large Lodge room. In addition, it houses a fine kitchen facility, lounge area, private meeting rooms, and dining room.

In November of 1904, some 23 months after the first Lodge was established, Tampa hosted the organizational meeting of the Florida Elks Association that was attended by six of the nine existing Florida Lodges at that time. Attorney M. B. Macfarlane of Tampa was elected as the first association President establishing the precedent for a longtime involvement of future Tampa members in leadership and activities of the Florida State Elks Association.

In 1906 Tampa had two newspapers and 165 cigar manufacturers that employed 10,300 individuals. By 1907 Tampa had become the largest Elks Lodge in Florida with a membership of 441, representing slightly over 21% of the total association membership at that time.

Three years later Tampa boasted a population of 37,782.

In 1917 and 1918, the United States engaged in World War I. A total of 56 members from Tampa Lodge 708 served during this time. C. S. Wilson made the supreme sacrifice. The Lodge supported the war effort in numerous ways and lent support to the Grand Lodge project of constructing and financing the Boston Reconstruction Hospital in 1918 at the conclusion of the war. This facility served as the model for the first U. S. Veterans Administration Hospital. During the war, the B. P. O. E. nationally financed the Salvation Army overseas services.

Tampa continued to grow through major projects such as the Grady Bridge, erected in 1924, and the Lodge continued to expand and prosper during the 1920s. Local charities included raising funds to build the Salvation Army Citadel and donations were made to the Grand Lodge for construction of the Veterans War Memorial and Chicago headquarters facility in 1926 and establishment of the Elks National Foundation in 1928.
Beginning with the stock market crash in October of 1929, continuing with the bank failures of the 1930s, and lasting until 1941, the Great Depression had taken its toll on the country. Despite this adversity, the Lodge met its mortgage payments, remained fraternally and socially active, and expanded its charitable and community involvement to the University of Tampa (effectively started in 1933) through donations to its Endowment Fund, scholarships, and athletic programs.

Among these was the Elk Fraternal Center. Tampa Elks Lodge was one of the most active Elk Fraternal Centers in the country. The fraternal center was initiated in 1943 and functioned continuously until the last part of 1945. It served as a center for enlisted men and commissioned officers. In addition to activities at the local Lodge facility, the Elks furnished a room at the local Drew Field Base.

Tampa Lodge’s principal charity has been the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home and subsequently the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. Elks and their women do continuous work for the children at all levels. Three of Tampa Lodge members, all Past State Presidents of the Florida State Elks Association, worked untiringly for the children’s hospital. They were J. L. Reed, Sr.; James J. Fernandez; and J. Frank Umstot.

Tampa Lodge has been involved with the University of Tampa over the years. In addition to many scholarships and trophies donated by the Elks, they have always responded to any need the college may have. The Tampa Greyhound Track has graciously designated an Elks night for over fifty years. All admissions into the dog track were turned over to the Elks charity fund.

In the early years of the Lodge, a call was made by the city to help in securing a children’s home for Tampa. D. B. McKay solicited solely among members of the Lodge and collected over $65,000 to start the children’s home. The home is still active and is now involved with helping battered and abused children. In the early 1950s a children’s Christmas party was started for migrant workers in the area. Buses from MacDill Air Force Base would deliver the children to the Elks and back. For several years more than 500 children were given a Christmas party and gifts. The children’s party is still an active function of the Lodge. However, today children from the local homes and orphanages are now given a happier holiday by the Elks.

Tampa Elks Lodge has sponsored bowling leagues, Little League baseball teams, Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops, and many youth programs including the drug awareness program instituted by Grand Lodge in 1983. The local Veterans Hospital has seen activity from the Elks since World War I. Each year many special events are held at the VA Hospital. In addition, Elks and their ladies make weekly visitations and immediate needs of each service man or woman are taken care of.

Tampa Lodge in the early years had its own Tampa Elks band under the direction of James F. Doyle who participated in local Lodge events and civic events and parades.

During World War II Brother Mayor Hixon issued a proclamation at the request of Tampa Lodge requiring the Pledge of Allegiance be given at all public gatherings. Tampa Lodge led the pledge in front of the grand stand at all performances during the 1944 Florida State Fair.

Between 1950 and 1953 the country was engaged in the Korean War. The Lodge joined other Lodges nationally in obtaining over one million pints of blood to aid our troops.

In 1950 the Lodge celebrated its 50th anniversary golden jubilee celebration. At this point membership stood at 1,713 in a city that now had grown to 250,000.

During these years the Lodge building was showing some decay and was in need of repair. It seemed more practical to sell the building and move to a new location. Tampa itself was growing and beginning to spread out into the suburbs. The old downtown facility was demolished in 1962.

Tampa member Charles I. Campbell, a local attorney, was elected as President of the Florida State Elks Association in 1959. Campbell was born in 1900 in Henry, IL. Serving as Exalted Ruler in 1940, he went on to serve as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. He was the ninth Tampa member to serve as State President.

Henry Claywell, PER of Tampa Lodge 708, edited the first printed Elks-ize, official publication of Tampa Lodge. He had the distinction of being the first editor of Florida Elks News, which proved to be popular with Elks throughout the state.

According to the October 1957 Lodge bulletin, the target that year was for 2,000 members even though the December 1956 Elks-ize indicated 142 delinquencies. The January 1958 bulletin contained an article taken from Time wherein fraternal leaders nationally recognized that their Lodges had lost their old appeal of exclusiveness and their local VIP leaders. Their prestige had dwindled because of home television, the automobile, the country club, etc. resulting in the apathy of members to attend Lodge meetings especially after returning from work downtown to a home in the suburbs. The March 1958 bulletin referred to lack of patronage in the club and a high cost of operations. In July of 1958, the Lodge voted to buy new land for relocating.

By the end of fiscal 1959, membership had dropped to 1,656 and by the end of 1960, it dropped to 1,401 members. Except for fiscal year 1973, when membership increased from 571 to 610, the yearend count continued to drop to a level of 729 at the end of 1970 and to 428 at the end of 1980 when the decision was made to sell the Bayshore property and to move to the present Gandy Blvd. location less than a mile away.
Past Exalted Rulers from this period have often indicated that the Lodge had serious financial and cash flow problems beginning in the late 1960s and continuing throughout the 1970s. The continuing inflationary costs to operate this large facility, now in need of major repairs and replacements, along with a continuing decline in membership, led to sizable cutbacks prior to the vote to sell in 1980.

The price commanded from the sale of the prime, on-the-water Bayshore property was enough to purchase the Gandy facility debt free with some leftover investment funds to boot.

With this move came a sizable increase in membership to the extent that the Lodge received first place honors for both net membership gain and percentage gain at the Grand Lodge convention of 1983. Likewise, social quarter business increased significantly, often resulting in a waiting list for dinner on weekends. A second place national award was received in 1996 for net membership gain.

The Ladies of the Elks were formed in 1972. The first officers were President Helen Beeler, Vice President Merle Fiveash, Secretary Irene Lopez, and Treasurer Toni King. Approximately thirty ladies joined and today over one hundred ladies are members. The ladies have worked over the years providing needed funds and helping hands for the many Elks projects.

(Some of the above was contributed by Georgene Jurgensen.)

Tampa Celebrates 100 Years

On Wednesday, February 6, 2002, Tampa 708 observed their centennial anniversary. Present were Grand Exalted Ruler Arthur Mayer, Jr.; Tampa Mayor, Dick A. Greco, Jr., Robert Grafton, PGER; Val Bates, PGER; State President, Mike Smith; Vice President at Large, Jim Coggins; State Secretary, Frank Willis; and other dignitaries around the state.

A professional chef served a choice of chicken Mediterranean or broiled grouper with orange and cognac cream sauce, Caesar salad, potato, vegetable, roll, coffee, dessert, and complimentary wine. There was a piano reception with complimentary cocktails and hors d’oeuvres.

Tampa’s Homes

Tampa Elks Lodge has occupied four permanent and four temporary facilities over the past one hundred plus years.

The first home was Masonic Lodge 25 located on Franklin and Whiting Streets. This building erected in 1852 also served as a schoolhouse. The Lodge later moved to the third floor of the Giddens building at Franklin and LaFayette (Kennedy) Streets.

The first permanent home was a residence purchased in 1906 from Charter Member Dr. H. H. Stebbins located at Florida and Madison Streets. A livery stable adjoined the building.

Within a few years, most of the prominent men of the community joined together to raise funds for the construction of a new four-story building on the same site at the southeast corner of Florida and Madison Streets. During construction, the Lodge met on the top floor of the Hillsboro Hotel.

When completed in 1914, the building, which cost $80,000, was considered one of the foremost Lodges in the country and one of the finest structures in the south. The first floor housed the offices, library, visiting rooms, and several private rooms available for rent for visiting Elks. The club room was situated on the second floor and included billiards and bowling alleys. The ballroom was located on the third floor, and a beautiful and comfortable Lodge room occupied the fourth floor. The roof garden was frequently used for social functions.

Money for the new building was raised by a bond issue with all but $50,000 of the offering being purchased by the membership.

While the mortgage was burned in 1944, by the late 1950s the Lodge was in need of many repairs, and the growth of the community was to the suburbs and beyond. The building was demolished in March of 1962. The Northern Trust Bank is now located at this site.

In 1960 the Lodge was relocated to 5013 Bayshore Boulevard overlooking Tampa Bay. The building was originally the very elaborate Crystal Ballroom. It had a balcony that seated 150 and a ballroom with 66-foot ceilings with plenty of space for Lodge offices, meetings, functions, and social events. A formal opening was held on Sunday, September 24, 1961.

Because the ballroom had become difficult to operate and the facility was in need of major repairs, the building was sold in 1980 and eventually replaced by high-rise condos. Pending the move to the new location, the Lodge temporarily met at the American Legion Post 139 on S. Dale Mabry.

In the spring of 1982 the Lodge moved to its present location at 3616 Gandy Blvd. Renovations and repairs were completed, some other land owned by the Lodge was sold, and this property was purchased debt free. The facility was formally dedicated on November 28, 1982.
The 100th anniversary publication of Tampa Lodge provides excellent material on influences who had an effect on the formation and growth of this Lodge.

Discussing their founders, it explains that several people came to America and became U. S. citizens, having been born in countries such as Germany, Italy, Scotland, and Spain. Most were American born and raised in the east, midwest, and in other southern states before migrating to Tampa.

By 1902, most were prominent, well-known, and established men within the Tampa area. They were businessmen engaged as merchants, cigar manufacturers, contractors, real estate developers, and newspaper publishers. They were doctors, dentists, druggists, undertakers, attorneys, and judges. One was a barber and another was mayor of Tampa.

Their average age was 37 with a range between age 22 (LeDuc) and age 55 (Stebbins and Wright). The original leaders of the Lodge were already or were to become leaders in other civic, government, commercial, professional, fraternal, or charitable organizations within the city and, in many cases, their leadership extended to the national level.

Additionally, most were members and/or Directors of the Board of Trade, the predecessor to the City Chamber of Commerce organization. Many were members of the Masonic and/or Shrine organizations. They were well connected politically in Tampa and statewide. Some were high-ranking Florida members of the Democratic and Republican national parties. With few exceptions, between 1900 and 1969 the Mayor of Tampa was a member of the Lodge.

All of these characteristics were well established in the foundation of the Lodge and set the precedent for the leaders and members of Tampa 708 for years to come.

**Important People in Tampa Lodge’s History**

**Abe Maas**

Born in 1855 in Dolgesheim, Germany, he was the organizer, first Exalted Ruler, and cardholder #1 of Tampa 708. Having been Treasurer of the Hillsborough Masonic Lodge for over thirty years, he was instrumental in securing their facility as Tampa Lodge’s first meeting place. He was a Past Vice President and then served as President of the Florida State Elks Association for two consecutive years in 1917-1918.

He came to the U. S. in 1875 and joined his brother, Sol, in the mercantile business in Georgia. He moved to Tampa and became a prominent pioneer merchant and civic leader. Along with his brother, Isaac, he established the well-known Maas Brothers Department Store in 1886. Both Isaac and Sol later became members of Tampa Elks. He was a longtime Director of the Board of Trade (now known as the Chamber of Commerce) as well as a director for several other civic and commercial organizations. He died in 1941.

His brother, Julius Maas, was also a charter member and his cousin, Ernest Maas, Sr., served as Exalted Ruler in 1911, as did the latter’s son, Ernest Maas, Jr., in 1938.

**Francis L. Wing**

Born in 1868 in New Bedford, MA, the same year as the organization of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of America, he was the second Exalted Ruler of Tampa in 1903, the charter Leading Knight, and held card #2.

He was prominent in Tampa’s political affairs for many years and served two terms as Mayor, 1900 to 1902 and again from 1908 to 1910. For over 39 years he was in the real estate business and, as a contractor, erected a large number of bonuses and commercial establishments including a hotel in Hyde Park.

**Edwin Dart Lambright**

He was born in 1874 in Brunswick, GA. Upon moving to Tampa in 1899, he joined the Tampa Tribune, was named Editorial Director in 1925, and held that position until his death. He is pictured at the fiftieth anniversary golden jubilee celebration in 1952 at age 77 as one of the six charter members still living and still writing for the newspaper.

He served on numerous commercial, civic, and governmental boards for years including the Board of Trade, Tampa Library, the committee that established the Memorial Highway, and several other city development committees. In 1912 he was a delegate and in 1924 he was Chairman of the Florida Delegation to the Democratic National Convention. His service with the Tribune was interrupted between 1917-1923 when he served as Postmaster of Tampa.

**Dr. H. H. Stebbins**
Born in 1847 in Grand Rapids, MI, he was one of the original trustees and the person who sold his personal residence to the Lodge in 1906 that served as the Lodge’s first permanent home and the site for its second expansion building.

He conducted a highly successful medical practice in Tampa until 1911 when his family moved to an estate in Thonotosassa to engage in the orange growing business. He was a member of the Board of Trade and all of the county medical societies and he was an early promoter and leader in the movement that resulted in a vastly improved road system throughout Hillsborough County.

J. L. Reed, Sr.

He was born in 1870 in Centerville, MD. While he was one of the original trustees, it was not until 1929 that he served as Exalted Ruler. He was a PVP, PDD, and President of the Florida State Elks Association in 1930. During this era, he was one of the most dedicated, influential, and productive members within Florida Elksdom.

He was one of the organizers of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home and Hospital in Umatilla. It was J. L. Reed who persuaded Eustis retired financier, Harry Miller, and his wife, Anna, in 1931 to donate the land and a hotel to the FSEA for use as a hospital. He remained active on the committee through the renovation period, at which time the facility was officially opened in April of 1933. For years thereafter, he directed the annual Christmas party at the hospital for the children, frequently playing the role of Santa Claus.

As with three generations of the Reed family, he was actively engaged as a funeral director for over forty years, of which thirty years were spent in Tampa. He was prominently identified with many phases of development throughout the county, in particular as a citrus grower. He was the first football coach in Hillsborough County, a sport that he followed with interest throughout his life. He was an active civic leader, a sponsor and contributor to numerous humanitarian projects, one of the founders of Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla, and a member of several professional undertaking associations and fraternal organizations in and out of Tampa until his death in 1938.

Morris Wolf

He was born in 1871 in Mannheim, Germany. Upon moving to Tampa from Kentucky he worked three years for Maas Brothers and then established his own store, along with his brother, on South Franklin Street. Wolf Brothers Men’s Clothing Store is still a landmark name in Tampa.

He was affiliated with several enterprises outside of his business to include President of the Florida Retail Clothiers Association and a Director of the Tampa Board of Trade.

Wallace F. Stovall

He was born in 1869 in Elizabethtown, KY. Beginning with practically nothing, Colonel (as he was usually known) Stovall became one of the leading financiers in Florida and his spirit and constructive work on behalf of Tampa in many ways was well-known.

He came to Tampa in 1893 and established the Tampa Morning Tribune, which he sold in 1925. Under his direction, the Tribune became one of the most outstanding newspapers in the south. His achievements during the period as a publisher were countless, but he was most proud of the part he played in the establishment of the Florida State Fair in 1916, construction of Tampa’s Union Railroad Station, and the founding of the Old People’s Home and the Hillsborough Humane Society.

Following the sale of the newspaper he became a contractor and did more to change Tampa’s skyline than any other builder. He built the 12-story Tribune building on the corner of Tampa and Twiggs Streets and several other multi-story office buildings which he owned. As was the case with many of Tampa Elks original members, he was an early member of the Tampa Board of Trade.

Ernest Berger

Born in 1874 in New York, NY, Berger was a resident of Tampa for 75 years before his death in 1967. He was a multifaceted and highly successful businessman. Starting out as a druggist, he later founded the Tampa Drug Co. in 1905 and was credited with organizing the first drug store chain in the USA in Tampa. Additionally, he was an importer, stockbroker, and, in later years, an investment advisor. He founded the American Druggist Fire Insurance Co. and the American Flag Association of the USA.

He was a member of the Tampa Board of Trade and served on the boards of several drug and pharmaceutical associations nationally and in the state of Florida.

He served seven years as Tampa Consul for the Republic of Panama and four years as Consul Agent in Tampa for the German Consul in New Orleans. He was also a charter member of the Tampa Rotary Club.

He is pictured at the fiftieth anniversary golden jubilee celebration in 1952 at age 78 as one of the six charter members still living.

Dr. James M. Grantham
Born in 1873 in Marion, SC, Dr. Grantham moved to Tampa in 1898 and started his practice specializing in gynecology. He served as port surgeon at Port Tampa for one year, health officer for the city of Tampa for three years, President of the Hillsbourough County Medical Association in 1905, and was a member of the American and State Medical Associations. Like many of the charter members, he was both a Mason and a Shriner.

William G. Mason
Born in 1866 in Wrightsville, GA, he moved to Tampa in 1895 and practiced dentistry until his death in 1927, at which time he was the oldest practicing dentist in Tampa in length of service. He was the charter Loyal Knight. He was a member of the state of Florida Board of Dental Examiners for 21 years, having served as both President and Secretary of this body. He held membership in the American Dental Association and belonged to the State and County Associations. In 1904 and 1905, he was the first member of Tampa ever to serve as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

M. B. MacFarlane
Born in 1861 in Pollak Shaws, Scotland, he was the charter Lecturing Knight and two years later, in 1904, was one of the key organizers of the Florida State Elks Association and served as its first President. He came to Tampa in 1884, worked as a collector of customs in the Port of Tampa between 1897 and 1913, and then became a well-known criminal attorney in Florida before retiring in 1921 due to health reasons. He was the only customs collector ever assigned to four terms, having been appointed by U. S. Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft. He was a leading Republican in the south who attended every Republican National Convention for more than a quarter of a century.

James F. Taylor
Born in 1877 in Morristown, IN, he was the original real estate developer of the Palma Ceia area of south Tampa and one of the principal organizers of the Palma Ceia Golf Club.

Dr. John S. Helms
Born in 1871 in Ashland, MS, he gained a reputation as one of the outstanding surgeons in the south. He was Chief of Staff of the Bayside Hospital in Tampa and was President and/or held high office in numerous local, state, regional, and national medical associations. He was Chief Surgeon of the Tampa Children’s Home and one of the founders and the First President of the Lions Club of Tampa.

M. Henry Cohen
Born in 1872, he was the charter Secretary of the Lodge, a position that he held for several years. As a lawyer, he served as an Assistant City Attorney and as a municipal judge. He was a longtime, well-known, and respected active member within the Jewish Community until his death in 1943.

Henry I. McKay
Born in 1881 in Tampa, FL, he was the sixth Exalted Ruler of Tampa serving in 1907. He was a PVP, PDD, and President of the Florida State Elks Association in 1911. McKay is a third generation native of Tampa, the grandson of James McKay, a prominent pioneer of Hillsborough County. He was the senior partner of the law firm of McKay, Withers, and Ramsey which was formed in 1925 and was a brother of PER D. B. McKay.

Donald (D. B.) McKay
Born in 1868 in Tampa, FL and referred to as “a Grand Old Elk,” he was elected Exalted Ruler in 1926. Previously he served as Chairman of the Building Committee, responsible for erecting the downtown Lodge building that additionally raised all but $50,000 of a bond issue from Lodge members for its financing. When the Tampa Children’s Home was destroyed by fire (the pet charity of Tampa Elks at that time), McKay headed a committee to construct a fireproof replacement home and raised $65,000 in donations from Elks before making an appeal to the general public. He continued as board member of the home for over 25 years.

A self-educated man with no formal education, he went to work for the old Tampa Times (now the Tribune) in 1882 at age fourteen. He progressed rapidly, eventually becoming city editor in 1891. He purchased most of its stock in 1898 and developed it into one of the leading newspapers in the south.

He was a three-term mayor serving for ten consecutive years between 1928-1932 for a total of fourteen years. He vastly expanded the city sidewalk, street, and sewer systems, and during this era a new city hall, police station, public library, the LaFayette Street Bridge, and the main state fairground buildings were built. Bayshore Boulevard opened in 1914.
He served as a longtime Director and as President of the Tampa Board of Trade and as a trustee of the University of Tampa from its founding.

The memberships that he maintained, the boards and committees upon which he served, and the awards that he received go on and on and support the fact that he was one of the most popular and influential men in southwest Florida.

The on-campus McKay Auditorium at the University of Tampa is named in his honor.

Wallace A. Joughlin
Born in 1878 in Memphis, TN, he served as Exalted Ruler in 1916 and later as a second Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association and was a PDD.

He owned and operated a major plumbing and heating company. He was a veteran of both the Spanish American War and World War I and was a member of the Tampa Board of Trade.

J. Frank Umstot
He was Exalted Ruler in 1944, a PDD, and President of the Florida State Elks Association. In 1945, during his tenure as President, the FSEA was incorporated under the statutes of Florida, the first state newsletter was published by Henry Claywell of Tampa, and the hospital was restored to good health. Plagued by apparent management problems, he visited every Lodge in the state to solicit pledges that ensured the hospital’s financial support. He then placed longtime Tampa Secretary, J. J. Fernandez, PSP, in charge of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital as Administrator in Umatilla in order to accomplish a proper turn around in operations.

He worked as an attorney upon moving to Tampa in 1927, served as Assistant City Attorney, and was a longtime high ranking official in the Democratic party.

William Henry Claywell
He was born in 1903 in Worthington, IN. In 1945 when Tampa PER J. Frank Umstot was serving as President of the FSEA, Henry Claywell volunteered to publish the first five issues of Florida Elks News. He was also the first Elk-ize editor of Tampa 708. Later, in 1949, he was elected Exalted Ruler.

After coming to Tampa in 1927, he taught and served as principal at various Hillsborough County schools for fourteen years. In 1941, he became Treasurer-Manager of the Hillsborough County Teachers Credit Union and remained in that capacity until retirement in 1944. He was appointed by the Governor to the Hillsborough County Budget Commission and was active in the Credit Union National Association for years.

James J. Fernandez
Born in 1887 in Brooklyn, NY, his family moved to Tampa when he was six years old. In 1909, at age 22, he joined the Elks (card #607) at which time he was already engaged, with various family members, in the cigar manufacturing business.

On and off, he was Secretary of Tampa 708 for many years and was elected Exalted Ruler in 1928. He was a PVP and PDD before becoming President in 1936. He later served on and off as State Secretary for nine years and as Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Administrator for three years. He published Florida Elks News for one year in 1958. He was well-known throughout the state of Florida as one of the most knowledgeable and dedicated members of our order for a great number of years.

Charles I. Campbell
Born in 1900 in Henry, IL, he was elected Exalted Ruler in 1940, was a PDD, and was President of the FSEA in 1959, the ninth from Tampa 708.

After receiving a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Florida in 1925, he moved to Tampa and established a general civil law practice and eventually became known as one of the most public spirited citizens of Tampa. He universally earned the esteem and respect of his fellow attorneys for his accomplishments in the legal and civic affairs of southwest Florida. This was evidenced by the number of civic government, Bar Association, school, fraternal, and charitable organizations on which he served as a board member and by the numerous local, state, and national recognitions that he received.

In 1935-1936 he was Vice President of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce and years later in 1952, the Governor appointed him Director of the Hillsborough County Library board.

He was credited as doing an outstanding job in refinancing the downtown Lodge building in 1940. He was a major longtime promoter and supporter of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital.
Dale Mabry
He was another well-known member. A major street (highway) running north and south in Tampa was named in his honor. Mabry, a World War I hero, was commander of the huge U. S. Army blimp Roma when it crashed in Norfolk, VA in 1922. He was one of the 34 victims killed.

Charles B. Parkhill
He served as a State Senator, a judge of the Supreme Court of Florida, and later as a Tampa City and State Attorney. Along with Mayor D. B. McKay, he presided over the 1914 dedication ceremonies of the newly elected downtown Lodge.

William Howard Frankland
A member of Tampa Lodge, Frankland was a very successful, high profile businessman and civic leader. The Howard Frankland Bridge connecting Tampa and Pinellas Counties was named in his honor. He moved to Tampa in 1925.

Col. Hugh C. MacFarlane
He was a member of Tampa Lodge who became known as the founder of West Tampa beginning with the donation of land and buildings to attract several cigar manufacturers to locate to that area.
When the Tampa Children’s Home burned to the ground, he donated a valuable tract of land as a site for a new home prior to the Elks raising funds for rebuilding. He was a partner in a law firm and a former City and State Attorney.

Peter O. Knight
Tampa member Knight was honored with the naming of the Davis Islands airport in his honor. He donated the site and helped raise a building fund for the Old People’s Home and was President of the Hillsborough Humane Society for many years. As an attorney, he played an important role in 1926 in getting the Davis Islands development completed and, eight years later, in helping the city to acquire land for a municipal airport. He helped organize or served as officer or counsel for numerous companies including what is now Tampa Electric, where he served as President from 1924-1946.

Alfonso R. Lopez
This Tampa member was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1977. His major league career encompassed 36 of his total of 42 years in professional baseball as a catcher with the Dodgers, Braves, Pirates, and Indians and as manager of the Cleveland Indians and Chicago White Sox. Born on August 28, 1908 and initiated on March 7, 1931, he is the oldest member in terms of both age and affiliated time.

Between 1902 and 1969, with minor exceptions, the Mayor of the City of Tampa was a member of the Lodge.

Tampa 708 and the Florida State Elks Association

In 1904, the Florida State Elks Association (originally known as the Florida Elks Association) was the 17th state association formed. Started in 1898, Ohio is the oldest state association. However, it was not until 1905 that state reunions were recognized by the Grand Lodge and not until 1915 that state associations were authorized.

Savannah, GA 183 is the mother Lodge of Jacksonville 221. Jacksonville 221, the mother Lodge of Florida, instituted Tampa 708 on January 22, 1902. Tampa is the fifth oldest Lodge in Florida and a founding Lodge of the Florida State Elks Association.

Founding Lodges:   Instituted:

Jacksonville 221  December 12, 1891
Ocala 286  March 20, 1895
Key West 551  February 14, 1900
Tampa 708  January 22, 1902
Fernandina 795  July 29, 1902
Lake City 893  January 20, 1904
Tampa 708 played a key role in the formation of the Florida State Elks Association and its leadership through 1960. The organization meeting of the FSEA was held in Tampa in 1904 and M. B. MacFarlane, a charter member of Tampa 708, was elected its first President. Through 1960, nine members of Tampa had served a total of ten years as State President. Tampa members filled several other state offices during this time.

In 1945 when PER Frank Umstot of Tampa 708 was serving as FSEA President, the first Florida Elks newsletter was published by Editor Henry Claywell of Tampa, who later became Exalted Ruler of the Lodge in 1949. Under Umstot’s direction, the FSEA was incorporated under Florida statutes in 1946.

Tampa has hosted a number of midyear conventions and was the location for seven annual conventions in 1912, 1936, 1941, 1947, 1963, 1983, and 1985.

The nine members of Tampa who have served a total of ten years as FSEA Presidents and the year in which they were installed are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>M. M. MacFarlane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>K. I. McKay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Abe Maas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Abe Maas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Dr. John O’Donoghue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Joe L. Reed, Sr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>James J. Fernandez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>L. B. Sparkman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>J. Frank Umstot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Charles I. Campell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paraphrasing from PGER Lester C. Hess’ comments in April of 1992, the lowest common denominator of each state association major project is man helping his fellow man.

Three members have served a total of seventeen years as State Secretary and two members have served a total of six years as State Treasurer of the FSEA.

Secretaries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1912-1915</td>
<td>H. M. Hunt (7 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-1921</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>C. G. Stainaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945, 1950-1956</td>
<td>J. J. Fernandez (9 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Treasurers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1906-1909</td>
<td>T. J. Sculley (4 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-1920</td>
<td>Charles Faircloth (2 years)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other officers from Tampa serving in state positions were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant at Arms</td>
<td>Joe L. Reed, Sr.</td>
<td>1920, 1926-1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiler</td>
<td>C. O. Gabbert</td>
<td>1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSEA News Editor</td>
<td>Henry Claywell</td>
<td>1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J. J. Fernandez</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSEA Administrator</td>
<td>J. J. Fernandez</td>
<td>1945-1946, 1957</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fourteen members have served a total of seventeen years as District Vice Presidents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. Clarence Glen</td>
<td>1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. I. McKay</td>
<td>1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abe Maas</td>
<td>1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. T. Mahoney</td>
<td>1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. A. Joughlin</td>
<td>1927-1928</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Joe L. Reed, Sr. 1929
J. J. Fernandez 1933-1935
Charles Pent 1948
George F. Hickey 1954
William B. Fields 1979
Hugh H. Hamilton 1987
Richard H. Dayes 1991
Allen Miller 1995
Frank J. Palladini 1998

Seventeen members have served a total of nineteen years as District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers:

Dr. W. G. Mason 1904-1905
H. M. Hunt 1906
R. I. McKay 1908
Walter Detwiler 1912
Henry E. Snow 1915
Jack T. Mahoney 1918
H. M. Hunt 1923
W. A. Joughlin 1926
J. J. Fernandez 1929-1930
Joe L. Reed, Sr. 1932
J. Frank Umstot 1944
Charles I. Campbell 1949
George F. Hickey 1955
William B. Fields 1980
Richard H. Dayes 1992
Allen Miller 1996
Frank J. Palladini 1999

Past Exalted Rulers:

1902 Abe Maas
1903 Frank L. Wing
1904 W. G. Mason
1905 Harry M. Hunt
1906 D. Y. Brinker
1907 K. I. McKay
1908 L. T. Baldrick
1909 George S. Bourne
1910 A. L. Allen
1911 Ernest Maas, Sr.
1912 Walter Detwiler
1913 Charles E. Tufts
1914 Charles E. Tufts
1915 Henry E. Snow
1916 W. A. Joughlin
1917 Paul J. Van Pelt
1918 J. T. Mahoney
1919 James N. Bryan
1920 Martin Caraballo
1921 F. Badger Wilder
1922 John O. Donohue
1923 Morris M. Givens
1924 Anson M. Squires
1925 Alfred S. Metzner
1926 D. B. McKay
1927 M. Henry Cohen
1928 James J. Fernandez
1929 Joe L. Reed, Sr.
1989   Allen Miller, PVP, PDD
1990   R. J. Salter
1991   William Edwards
1992   Henry “Hank” Spooner
1993   Gerald “Cajun” Lambert
1994   Carl L. Williamson
1995   Frank J. Palladini, PVP, PDD
1996   Steven Harmon
1997   Brian T. Brantley
1998   Melvin Chew
1999   Henry “Hank” Spooner
2000   Larry Quire
2001   Nancy Keesler
2002
2003   Frank N. Sellers
2004   Sally Heider
2005   William T. Edwards
2006
2007   Williams Edwards, PER

Significant Events of Tampa Lodge 708

1998   The Lodge held a retirement party for Charlie Fiveash and his wife, Merle, after 26 years of continuous service as the Elks National Veterans Service Committee Representative for the 29 Lodges providing volunteer service to the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa. Charlie served with General Patton in the Third Army as a combat medic and retired from Mass Brothers after thirty years of service and is a PER of Tampa Lodge. Over thirty of his friends and relatives traveled from Georgia to attend the banquet with over 200 members and officials from the hospital in attendance. Charlie became acquainted with VA Hospital services as a patient for several years after WWII and had limited vision (legally blind) during his entire dedicated tenure with the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.

2007   Lodge members visited veterans of Tampa VA medical facility where they treated sixty veterans to pizza and arranged bingo games for the veterans to play.
The Lodge committed to donating cleaning supplies for one year to the newly opened Fisher House which provides housing to family members visiting veterans at the Tampa VA medical facility.
The Lodge hosted its monthly dinner for over thirty veterans and their family members.
The Lodge hosted a fundraiser for the Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County and raised $1,300 for the coalition’s programs to help homeless members of the community.
There were 94 Lodge members and guests who raised $1,000 at an outing to the Tampa Greyhound Track and donated the money to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The fund supports the state’s two major projects: the Florida Elks Youth Camp and Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

Ladies organization:   Ladies of Elks
First President:       Mrs. Helen Beeler

Tampa Bay Lodge 2255

Florida’s 81st Lodge
Date of Dispensation:   February 19, 1962
Date of Installation:   March 11, 1962
Formally Opened By:    Richard Burkhart, DDGER
* Charter revoked in 1967
The following officiated:

- **Grand Exalted Ruler**: Richard Burkhart
- **Grand Esteemed Leading Knight**: Charles Campbell
- **Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight**: Victor Wehle
- **Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: J. Pierce Smith
- **Grand Secretary**: William Lieberman
- **Grand Treasurer**: Almer Tedder
- **Grand Trustee**: Robert Cameron
- **Grand Tiler**: P. George Nichols
- **Grand Chaplain**: Karl Klaeger
- **Grand Esquire**: George Carver
- **Grand Inner Guard**: J. Alex Arnette

There were 84 charter members.
Clearwater 1525 was the mother Lodge.
Their charter was revoked February 2, 1967.

Ladies organization: This information was unavailable.

**Tangerine Bowl Football Games**

The Tangerine football games had been held in Orlando for many years. This started out as a project of Orlando Lodge and it drifted off into some other hands. It finally ended up being called the Tangerine Sports Association.

In 1979-1980 they called the Elks back with the desire of working closer. At the annual convention of the Florida State Elks Association in Miami Beach in 1980, the directors sanctioned more participation with the Elks of Florida and the Tangerine Sports Association. This meant that the Elks would get nationwide television coverage, probably with the then State President in attendance. The directors felt that coverage throughout Florida would enhance awareness of the Harry-Anna Hospital.

*(See also the Florida-Georgia High School All-Star football games.)*

**Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>41st Lodge in Florida</th>
<th>District:</th>
<th>West Central</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>March 28, 1947</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>April 3, 1947</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>Dr. Robert S. Barrett, PGER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>Robert K. Cooper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributor:</td>
<td>Mahton S. Farron, Lodge Secretary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Membership:</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>506</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>508</td>
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<td>Year 1997 Membership:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2001 Membership:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
<td>480</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership:</td>
<td>516</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
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Year 2009 Membership: 547  
Location: 237 S. Pinellas Avenue, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 447, 34688  
Office Telephone: 727-937-1431  
Lounge Telephone: 727-934-7514

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler       Dr. Robert S. Barrett  
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight  Fred M. Lowdermilk  
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight  G. K. Taylor  
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight  Charles Pent  
Grand Secretary            J. A. Land  
Grand Treasurer             Harry Heweitt  
Grand Tiler                L. D. Brumit  
Grand Chaplain             Ernest Green  
Grand Esquire              Frank Umstot  
Grand Inner Guard          Harold Howard

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler              R. K. Cooper  
Esteemed Leading Knight    P. E. Winstead  
Esteemed Loyal Knight      Douglas S. Harter  
Esteemed Lecturing Knight  Frank Ziegler  
Secretary                 A. P. Beckett  
Treasurer                 Michael Bouchlas  
Inner Guard               Joseph C. Smith  
Chaplain                  Pasco Morris  
Esquire                   Fred M. Howard  
Tiler                     Philip McCabe  
Trustees                  3 Year, Michael Samarkos  
                          2 Year, Dan Aide  
                          1 Year, J. L. Baynard

The following are charter members:  
Daniel Byron Aide; T. D. Alissandratos; Joseph F. Baya; Jesse Lee Baynard; A. P. Beckett; Wm. E. Beckett; David Black; Geo. S. Bouchlas; Michael S. Bouchlas; Peter P. Botzis; Ivan A. Brady; Edgar W. Burgess; Oscar L. Burruss; William I. Brush; Cecil A. Carey; Walter H. Carey; Wilber A. Chalkias; Wilham J. Clough; Stal G. Cretekos; George Cladakis; Robert K. Cooper; Hugh Ivan Decker; Wilham R. Fink; M. G. Gianesakis; Jas. Murry Gilchrist; Douglas S. Hartner; Fred C. Howard; Fred H. Howard; Arnold Humphrey; Hugh D. Jones; Manuel P. Johnson; George S. Kalemeris; Rudolph R. Kelly; Everett L. Klotz; Michael Koulianos; N. B. Kennedy, Jr.; Dallas R. Kinney; Edmund La Vertu; Oscar Harry Larsen; Judd Q. Lloyd; John Wesley Lyons; Philip A. McCabe, Jr.; E. Pasco Morris; Charles G. Mitchell; W. V. C. Moutsatsos; Michael L. Pappas; Chas. H. Richelieu; Henry McKie Salley; Milon D. Shear; Rocker F. Salzer; Nicholas Stevens; James E. Thompson; James M. Thompson; E. G. Tsongranis; Marvin W. Walker; J. Frank Waldorf; Everett M. White; Guy R. Windisch; Paul E. Winstead; Winfield H. Winslow; and J. Frank Ziegler.

Tarpon Springs is the oldest municipality in Pinellas County, going back to before the turn of the century. The sponge industry that started around the turn of the century brought in many Greek immigrants to work as divers and help the sponge business grow. For that reason there is a large Greek community and one of the largest Greek Orthodox churches in North America. Tarpon Springs is a tourist community with many snow birds. A visit to the Tarpon Springs area is to enjoy boating and fishing and many fine restaurants, not the least of which is the famous Pappas Restaurant on the water at the sponge docks. The owners of this restaurant are three brothers who have been longtime members of the Lodge.

The community still builds wooden hull boats, a disappearing art today. Stamas Yachts are built here and the home of the Stamas family is here too. Their matriarch was 103 years old and still going strong in 1992. They are proud of their history, their community, and their Lodge.
The Lodge is as cosmopolitan as a Lodge can be. Members come from all walks of life, trades, and professions.

They first met in a one-story home on the corner of Bayer Street and Pinellas Avenue in downtown Tarpon Springs. The large attic of this home served the members after some renovation as their Lodge meeting room until termites and the ladies spike heels when climbing the stairs to serve the Elks refreshments made it necessary to improve.

A new club room was constructed next to the existing building and was officially opened May 3, 1956. This room served as an all-purpose room while the original building was torn down and a new Lodge hall constructed. This new facility was completed and dedicated in 1960 by Bill Wall, PGER from West Palm Beach.

In 1977-1978 the building was enlarged by about 50 percent including a new Lodge room, refurbished hall, remodeled club room, and a small meeting room plus an improved kitchen and Secretary’s office.

Ladies organization: Ladies of Elks

Taylor, A. M. “Pop”

A member of St. Augustine Lodge 829, A. M. “Pop” Taylor is considered one of the cofounders of the Florida State Elks Association. He was elected State Historian Emeritus.

In a statement by Past State President Harold Colee, he said of Taylor:

Brother A.M. “Pop” Taylor was actually the founder of the Florida State Elks Association. There was great opposition in the Grand Lodge during the early attempts to establish State Associations. Taylor at the time was offered a District Deputyship by Grand Exalted Ruler Melvin, who opposed any state organizations. He was questioned as to which he would prefer, District Deputy of the Grand Lodge or President of the Florida State Elks Association. He pointed out to the Grand Exalted Ruler that we in Florida were far removed from the Grand Lodge’s annual sessions and that many of the small Lodges needed the inspiration and the enthusiasm of some sort of an association because of their inability to attend annual meetings of the Grand Lodge. He flatly told the Grand Exalted Ruler that if it were a case of making a decision to either the appointment as District Deputy or support the establishment of a state association, he would gladly decline the appointment from the Grand Lodge.
Taylor was elected at the second annual session of the Florida State Elks Association on May 16, 1906 in Jacksonville, FL.

President Ford was unable to attend this session so Past President M. B. MacFarlane was elected as President Pro Tem.

In his report at this session, the State Secretary called attention to the delegates of a matter of Negro Lodges bearing the name of Improved Order of Elks of the World. Secretary Ackerly said that while we do not wish to debar any race of men from profiting by the experience of our loved order, we should take notice of this very improper use of a part of our name for an order or supposed order that does not at its inception require the upholding of the constitution and flag of the United States of America. This association should take such steps to prevent encroachments of this kind as they may think available or that will prevent such unauthorized use of the name of Elk. Several states, he said, had already in addition to having laws passed to prevent such organizations, taken the matter to their state courts and have won signal victories by preventing the use of our name or emblems by such unauthorized parties, notably New York and Georgia.

Ackerly said that one Lodge in our association (Jacksonville) had taken the matter in hand and would no doubt be glad to cooperate with such committee or persons as might be designated to act for this association.

The Florida State Elks Association appointed a committee consisting of Maxwell, Hartridge, and Ackerly to present a memorial and law before the next legislature preventing the use of emblems, etc. of our order. The resolution read that “each Lodge of B. P. O. E. in Florida be requested to appropriate the sum of $50 if it shall be necessary to assist in carrying out this work, said monies to be subject to the order of said committee.”

Florida membership this year was reported to be 1,760.

Pensacola Lodge 497 tendered its resignation from the association this year but the action was deferred until the next annual meeting.

Gainesville 990 was instituted on August 31, 1905.
Past State President Herbert A. Ford died on February 2, 1907.
The Executive Committee changed to two members.

This year there was introduced into the Florida state legislature a bill that covered the B. P. O. Elks to “prohibit the unauthorized use of the name, titles of officers, insignia, ritual, or ceremonies of certain orders and societies.”

In the following year during Taylor’s second term of office an appointed committee entered the following statement:

To the Florida Elks Association:

Brothers - The undersigned, your committee appointed at the last meeting held in Jacksonville, beg leave to make report of progress and have attached herewith copy of bill for passage at the present term of our state legislature, which has been handed by our own representation from Duval County, and ask that each member of this order do what lies in his power to assist in its passage, by conference or correspondence with the local representative from their respective sections. This bill is on the same lines as the law adopted by the New York legislature.

Respectfully submitted,
J. S. Maxwell
J. E. Hartridge
G. D. Ackerly

A Bill to be Entitled

An Act to Prohibit the Unauthorized Use of Name, Titles of Officers, Insignia, Ritual, or Ceremonies of Certain Orders and Societies.

Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Florida:

Section 1. Any person who willfully wears the badge or button of the Grand Army of the Republic, or the badge of the United Confederate Veterans or the Sons of Confederate Veterans, or the badge or button of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the United States of America, or the Knights of Pythias, or of any society, order, or organization of ten years standing in the state of Florida, or uses the same to obtain aid or assistance within this state, or willfully used the name of such society, order, or organization, the titles of its officers, or its insignia, rituals, or ceremonies, unless entitled to use or wear the same under the constitution and bylaws, rules, and regulations of such order or of such society, order, or organization, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not more than $500 or imprisonment not more than six months in the county jail.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor.
The following officers were elected to serve for the 1906-1907 term:

President: A. M. Taylor, St. Augustine 829
First Vice President: Rev. C. Lindsay, Ocala 851
Second Vice President: J. G. McGiffin, Fernandina 795
Secretary: G. D. Ackerly, Jacksonville 221
Treasurer: T. J. Scully, Tampa 708
Sergeant at Arms: Marcus Endel, Gainesville 990
Chaplain: Rev. M. Campbell Stryker, Jacksonville 221
Executive Committee: Dr. E. H. Clarkson, Jacksonville 221
W. H. Harris, Key West 551
Kenneth I. McKay, Tampa 708
William Anderson, Ocala 851
J. D. Rahner, St. Augustine 829
F. F. Bardin, Lake City 893
James B. Calkins, Fernandina 795
Louis M. Lively, Tallahassee 937
W. M. Brown, Miami 948
Henry S. Chubb, Gainesville 990

Taylor was again elected President for 1907-1908 at the third annual convention held in Miami, FL on April 15-16, 1907 with 48 members present.
Fred Schwalerberg of Lodge 948 was appointed to serve in the absence of the Sergeant at Arms.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1907-1908 term:

President: A. M. Taylor, St. Augustine 829
First Vice President: William M. Brown, Miami 948
Second Vice President: James W. Crosby, Ocala 851
Secretary: G. C. Ackerly, Jacksonville 221
Treasurer: T. J. Scully, Tampa 708
Chaplain: Rev. M. Campbell Stryker, Jacksonville 221
Sergeant At Arms: Marcus Endel, Gainesville 990
Executive Committee: J. G. McGiffin, Fernandina 795
Eugene Masters, St. Augustine 829

Taylor was again elected President on April 2, 1908 at the fourth annual session held in St. Augustine, FL.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1908-1909 term:

President: A. M. Taylor, St. Augustine 829
First Vice President: C. M. Broadwater, Orlando 1079
Second Vice President: James W. Crosby, Ocala 851
Secretary: G. D. Ackerly, Jacksonville 221
Treasurer: T. J. Scully, Tampa 708
Chaplain: Rev. M. Campbell Stryker, Jacksonville 221
Sergeant at Arms: M. Endel, Gainesville 990
Executive Committee: A. M. Taylor
C. M. Broadwater
G. D. Ackerly
T. J. Scully
Tax Exempt Status, Federal (Unrelated Business Income)

In 1999, the IRS challenged the federal tax exempt status of several American Legion posts because they permit members of the Legion Auxiliary and members from other posts to participate in activities and use their facilities. Some IRS agents have determined that amounts generated by such persons are taxable as unrelated business income (UBIT). Agents also questioned whether the operation of a bar or restaurant is consistent with the federal tax exemption purposes of a Legion post. The national organization holds a group exemption for its state associations which are called departments and for its 15,000 local level posts.

Audits of posts were being made with increasing frequency for the previous two years. The Legion claimed that the IRS was taking an “intimidating and accusatory approach” that attempted to construe the law so narrowly that very few social or recreational activities on its post could qualify as tax-exempt purposes that are not subject to UBIT. The fear was that this would spread like wildfire to such organizations as the Elks, Moose, Eagles, etc.

“Thanatopsis”

William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878), a New Englander by birth, attracted attention in his 23rd year when the first version of his poem, “Thanatopsis,” appeared. This early poem showed as later ones did that his first training had been in the 18th century school of poetry.

It has been adopted by the Elks as an optional part of the ritual of initiation. If used it should be recited by the Exalted Ruler or by some member whom he designates immediately following the initiation. The members remain seated and each Lodge can work out its own plan of presentation so long as it is in keeping with the solemnity of the poem and the dignity and impressiveness of the initiatory work.

“Thanatopsis”

To him who in the love of nature holds Communion with her visible forms, she speaks A various language; for his gayer hours She has a voice of gladness, and a smile And eloquence of beauty, and she glides Into his darker musings, with a mild And healing sympathy, that steals away Their sharpness, ere his is aware. When thoughts Of the last bitter hour come like a blight Over thy spirit, and sad images Of the stern agony, and shroud, and pall, And breathless darkness, and the narrow house Make thee shudder, and grow sick at heart - Go forth, under the open sky, and list To nature’s teachings, while from all around - Earth and her waters, and the depths of air, - Comes a still voice - Yet a few days, and thee The all-beholding sun shall see no more In all his course; nor yet in the cold ground, Where thy pale form was laid, with many tears, Nor in the embrace of ocean, shall exist Thy image, Earth, that nourished thee, shall claim Thy growth, to be resolved to earth again, And, lost each human trace, surrendering up Thine individual being, shalt thou go To mix forever with the elements, To be a brother to the insensible rock And to the sluggish clod, which the rude swain Turns with his share, and treads upon. The oak
Shall send his roots abroad, and pierce thy mould.

Yet not to shine eternal resting-place
Shalt thou retire alone, nor couldst thou wish
Couch more magnificent. Thou shalt lie down
With patriarchs of the infant world - with kings,
The powerful of the earth - the wise, the good,
Fair forms, and hoary seers of ages past,
All in one mighty sepulchre. The hills,
Rock-ribbed and ancient as the sun, - the vales
Stretching in pensive quietness between;
The venerable woods - rivers that move
In majesty, and the complaining brooks
That makes the meadows green; and, poured around all,
Old ocean’s gray and melancholy waste -
Are but the solemn decorations all
Of the great tomb of man. The golden sun,
The planets, all the infinite host of heaven,
Are shining on the sad abodes of death,
Through the still lapse of ages. All that tread
The globe are but a handful to the tribes
That slumber in its bosom. Take the wings
Of morning, pierce the Barcan wilderness,
Or lose you in the continuous woods
Where rolls the Oregon, and hears no sound,
Save his own dashings - yet - the dead are there;
And millions in those solitudes, since first
The flight of years began, have laid them down
In their last sleep - the dead reign there alone,
In silence form the living and no friend
Take note of thy departure? All that breathes
Will share thy destiny. The gay will laugh
When thou art gone, the solemn brood of care
Plod on, and each one as before will chase
His favorite phantom; yet all these shall leave
Their mirth and their employments, and shall come
And make their bed with thee. As the long train
Of ages glides away, the sons of men,
The youth in life’s green spring and he who goes
In the full strength of years, matron and maid,
The speechless babe, and the gray-headed man, -
Shall one by one be gathered to thy side?
By those, who in their turn shall follow them?
So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan, which moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry - slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.
Thanksgiving

Each year in November we give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. Most Lodges in some way observe this special time of the year.

The proclamation declaring Thanksgiving as a national day of observance was first declared during the Civil War by President Abraham Lincoln. Herein is that proclamation issued in 1863.

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION
1863

It is the duty of nations as well as of each man to own their independence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.

We know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father Who dwelleth in the heavens.

Abraham Lincoln
The President reported the absence of Secretary-Treasurer J. Frank Isaac on account of sickness and appointed Harold Colee as Acting Secretary. The Secretary reported twenty-six out of thirty-three Lodges represented but did not list them. The Credentials Committee reported a registration of 381 members and 132 ladies.

Distinguished guests present were PGER Walter P. Andrews and Hon. Dave Sholtz, Governor of Florida (Past State President).

A very gratifying report from the Harry-Anna Home for Crippled Children was read. Resolutions of sympathy on the passing of Harry A. Bennett, Past President, were adopted. Another resolution adopted recommended that each Elk write a will in which an amount is bequeathed to an Endowment Fund for the Harry-Anna Memorial Home for Crippled Children. A suitable resolution was adopted thanking the following for their contributions and work performed on behalf of the Harry-Anna Memorial Home for Crippled Children: Joseph E. Widener, President Miami Jockey Club; Miami Beach Kennel Club; Tropical Park Racing Association; St. Petersburg Kennel Club; Biscayne Kennel Club; Florida Federation of Women’s Clubs; Mrs. W. P. Slayton; Garden Club of Eustis; City Council of Umatilla; J. Alex Morrell; Rubin Hatcher; Board of County Commissioners of Lake County; and Carl Rose. There was also a resolution adopted calling upon the Governor and the members of the 1933 Legislature of Florida to appropriate the sum of $50,000 annually for the purpose of carrying out the work of the Florida Crippled Children’s Commission.

The ritualistic contest was held between Tallahassee, New Smyrna, West Palm Beach, and Clearwater. Tallahassee was awarded the prize.

All Past Presidents were made ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1933-1934 term:

- **President**: Frank E. Thompson, Lake City 893
- **First Vice President**: W. P. Mooty, Miami 948
- **Second Vice President**: J. J. Fernandez, Tampa 708
- **Third Vice President**: Al Dooley, Pensacola 497
- **Fourth Vice President**: Fred Lowdermilk, Fort Myers 1288
- **Fifth Vice President**: Tom Heaney, Jacksonville 221
At the 28th annual session held in Daytona Beach in 1933, Brother Colee stated the following:

We have an apology to make regarding the non-printing of the Fort Pierce Convention. We had a very fine court reporter present on that occasion. I am very sorry to report that the brother either lost the minutes or was unable to read his notes, a very unfortunate circumstance (evidently too much fire water). There being no records of the 27th annual convention held in Fort Pierce, 1932, your Historian is at a loss to state exactly what were the various actions taken there. However, it is assumed that suitable resolutions were adopted thanking Mr. and Mrs. Miller for their generous donation and creating a commission for the proper operating of the home.

Tallahassee was selected for the 1933-1934 annual session.

Tiler, Florida State Elks Association

The Tiler has charge of the doors of the hall in which meetings of the association are held and performs the duties usually incident to the office of Tiler in like organization.

Titusville Lodge 2113

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<td>Historian and Contributor: Russ Batchelder, PER</td>
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In the fall of 1958 Titusville was a boom town. Missile workers, construction workers, and camp followers all descended on the sleepy little town on the banks of the Indian River. The U. S. Army was experiencing great success with the Red Stone Missile. Martin Marietta was in great trouble with the Vanguard Missile and was expanding the work force to activate four launch pads for the Titan Missile and General Dynamics was moving along with the Atlas Missile.

Members of the Elks who were residents of Titusville were compelled to drive to Cocoa or New Smyrna Beach to attend meetings or functions.

Vaughn Martin of Winter Park Lodge, Al Coe and Lamar Hutchinson of Orlando Lodge, and Tom C. Cooper, a member of Cocoa Lodge residing in Titusville, encouraged the formation of a Titusville Lodge. A group of Elks organized to investigate the possibilities. This group consisted mostly of members from the Cocoa and New Smyrna Beach Lodges. The first meeting of this committee was held on February 5, 1959 at Cutters Drug Store.

On February 11, 1959 they met again with the Florida State Elks Association Vice President Vaughn Martin and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Russell Saxton in attendance. Also in attendance were the Exalted Rulers of the Cocoa and New Smyrna Beach Lodges.

By the time of their third meeting, which was held on February 27, there were thirty Elks in attendance. At this time, 38 new applications were acted upon. By March 24, 1959, a little over a month from the initial meeting to look into a Titusville Lodge, they had reached the one hundred members needed to request a charter from Grand Lodge. At this same meeting, plans were completed to allow the new Titusville Lodge to meet at the Whispering Hills Country Club.

At their April 17 meeting, the group had reached 170 approved applications. Winter Park Lodge conducted the indoctrination of all new candidates.

A dateline on April 27, 1959 announced the possibly largest Lodge of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks to be chartered to date at the institution of Titusville Lodge 2113. Whispering Hills Country Club was crowded with a class of 101 new initiates, plus 90 members demitting from other Lodges, forming an institution night of 191 members. One visiting Elk said, “We usually consider a Lodge lucky to have a charter listing 35 or 40 members.

Your presence is requested at the institution of Titusville Lodge No. 2113, B. P. O. Elks on Monday, April 27th, 1959 at Whispering Hills Country Club (3 Miles West on Highway 406) Dinner at 6:00 P.M. $2.00 per plate Willis V. McCall, President Florida State Elks Association, Inc. R.S.V.P. Russell L. Saxon, DDGER P.O. Box 625, New Smyrna Beach, Fl

Visiting Elks from all over spilled onto both porches and out onto the lawn as well as crowding the main ballroom with an attendance in excess of 450 persons. Presiding over the affair was Al Coe of Orlando, Co-chairman of the new Lodge Committee of the East Central District and DDGER Russell Saxton of New Smyrna Beach. Officers of Cocoa Lodge conducted the initiation of new members.

Among the dignitaries present were William Wall, Grand Lodge Trustee, and Willis McCall, President of the Florida State Elks Association.

The Orlando Lodge attended with the largest delegation of sixty Elks.

The following officers officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler Russell Saxon, DD
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight J. Alex Arnette
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight George Carver
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight W.M. Herbert
Grand Esquire A. Coe
Grand Chaplain Frank Carroll, Jr.
Grand Secretary William F. Bunning
Grand Inner Guard                           William Lieberman

The following were sponsoring officers of Cocoa Lodge 1532:

Exalted Ruler                  William H. Brannen
Leading Knight                George S. Bailey
Loyal Knight                  Delbert Kreps
Lecturing Knight              John W. Braxton
Esquire                       Henry D’Amico
Chaplain                      Joseph Kowalski
Secretary                     Lowell B. Fenner
Inner Guard                   George Tkacs
Tiler                         Oliver Emerson
Organist                      Joseph Lozito

The following were charter officers:

Exalted Ruler                  Tom Cooper
Leading Knight                 J. D. Nash, Sr.
Loyal Knight                   Dr. W.L. Carter
Lecturing Knight               Ed Rice
Secretary                      Milton Martin
Treasurer                      Doug Futch
Inner Guard                    Bill Hickman
Tiler                          Bill Argenbright
Esquire                        J. R. Stradley
Chaplain                       Doug Barnehart
One-year Trustee               C. E. McConnell
Two-year Trustee               T. C. Knight
Three-year Trustee             Vaughn Evans

The following were Grand Lodge installing officers:

Grand Exalted Ruler            Al Coe, PDD
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight  Charles H. Peckelis
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight    William Lieberman
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight W. M. Herbert
Grand Secretary                Cullen H. Talton
Grand Treasurer                Jules A. Morris
Grand Chaplain                 Vaughan F. Martin
Grand Inner Guard              Charles Campbell
Grand Tiler                    Frank Thompson
Grand Organist                 John W. Morgan
Grand Trustee                  Lamar Hutchinson

The following are charter members initiated on April 27, 1959:

Charles R. Andrews               Richard W. Haskell
William D. Argenbright           Melvyn W. Higgs
George M. Barley, Jr.            Norman W. Hickey
Paul Beasley                     Norman F. Hurlbert
Frank A. Barnes                  John W. Hickman
Gary Brewer                      Herbert S. Johnson
Russell S. Batchelder           Wallace E. Johnson
Robert C. Brady, Jr.             Samuel D. Jones
W. Tate Brown, Jr.               Nelson Earl Jones
Philip A. Crannel  Paul Spence Justice
Cornelius F. Corill  Daniel O. Kieffer
Herman B. Crane  Frank H. Kessen
Clemence J. Chase  Sylvio G. LaCroix
James R. Cooper  Robert L. Lindermann
James L. Carlile  Robert R. Lowe
Charles D. Cordial  John J. Lennon
Glenn S. Chapman  Arthur F. Losley
James A. Cooper  Ronald G. Moretto
Anthony J. Cobella  James G. Munnis
Ben W. Closky  David D. Myers
Donald Clawson  Michael A. Morrow
John Donn  William R. Morgan
John S. Draper  Robert S. Miller
Edward J. Dunlap  John V. Moquin, Sr.
William A. Davis, Jr.  D. Topper Mazzalo
Kenneth R. Derringer  Fred B. Mattox
John K. Drake  Howard L. Marr
C. W. Dannenburg  Charles H. Nelson, Jr.
Robert L. Bright  Oscar B. Outhouse
Casto Gus D’Emilio  Jery K. Peters
Joseph E. Engstrom  Ronald E. Pine
George R. Ellis  George Partlow, Sr.
Dale E. Freeman  Frank W. Richards
Doyle H. Frisbie, Jr.  Joseph A. Sheridan
William M. Funk  Sidney Smith
John F. Fortenberry  Peter W. Snowden
W. Tate Gilbert  Rodney S. Thompson
Vaughn C. Gilbert  David A. Taylor, Jr.
Robert M. Gibson  Herman E. Wattwood
D.C. Hornbeck, Jr.  E. C. Yeary
Hugh S. Herring  Joseph M. Hudick
William F. Herndon  George Howe
Bill Hall

The following were charter members by transfer demit on April 27, 1959:

Thomas C. Cooper  R. Bernard Parrish
Milton F. Martin  Sion A. Faulk
John D. Nash, Sr.  Robert C. Brady
J. R. Stradley, Jr.  William E. Laing, Jr.
Winfred T. Brown  William J. Darden
Charles E. McConnell  Lyle E. Duff
Douglas D. Futch  Roy F. Roberts, Jr.
Thomas L. Henderson  Burton D. Waters
Ed L. Rice  S. Reece Bowen
J. Paul Conway  Robert B. Crawford
A. S. Cherrington  Robert H. Hudson
Emil E. Schoenke  J. R. Thibodeau
Lee Cluer  Howard G. Forrester
T. Cecil Knight  Tommy H. O’Steen
Wiley A. Jarrell  Harry Minor
David F. Ramage  R.A. Cutter
William R. Radar  James W. Dunn
Bertie L. Merckson  W. O. B. Chittenden
In 1999 Titusville Lodge honored a member of their sponsored Boy Scout Troop 721 who achieved the high honor of Eagle Scout. Through the earning of many merit badges and devotion to the principles of scouting, Christopher McGovern was able to accomplish what many scouts aspire to but few succeed in. Ceremonies took place at Titusville Lodge on June 6. Chris received congratulations from President Clinton and Hillary; Presidents George Bush, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy Carter; and B. P. O. Elks Grand Exalted Ruler C. Valentine Bates. 

Ladies Organization: Does Drove No. 183.

Continuing Events at Titusville 2113

2003 Titusville Lodge 2113 joined the U. S. Navy but not to see the world. Members from Titusville Lodge at the request of the Navy assisted with the Post Commissioning reception for the U. S. S. Mason (DDG 87), the nation’s newest Arleigh Burke Class Aeigis Type Guided Missile Destroyer, at the Naval Ordnance Test Unit Trident Basin Pier at Port Canaveral, FL. Nine members and their spouses spent the day helping to cook for and serve the estimated 5,700 guests who attended the commissioning ceremony and reception that followed.

Tomb of Unknown Soldier

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is the site of a Memorial Day ceremony in Virginia on the Potomac River directly across from Washington, D. C. This site had once been part of the estate of Martha Washington’s son. In 1864, while the Civil War was still on, Arlington became a military cemetery. More than 240,000 service men and dependents are buried there. In 1921, an unknown American soldier of WWI was buried there. Additional unknown American soldiers, one from WWII and one from Korean War, were buried there in 1958. Now known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, it is a monument to the American service men and women killed in the wars.

The unknown serviceman of Vietnam was buried there in 1984. In June of 1998 the body was disinterred; DNA testing identified him as an Air Force pilot. Technology may keep another unknown from ever being buried in the tomb.

The inscription carved on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier reads:

HERE RESTS IN
HONORED GLORY
Tooth, Elks

*(See Elks Tooth)*

**Training Course, Grand Lodge Officer/Member**

The Elks Training Program is designed to help Lodge officers and other interested Elks members become familiar with the reference books of Elkdom.

The Grand Lodge Officer/Member Training Course is presented to increase the knowledge level of all concerned and interested members and to provide the opportunity to become familiar with the rules and requirements under which the Elks must function.

All questions in the Elks training test are based upon contents of current Grand Lodge annotated statutes and Grand Lodge manuals. By presenting pertinent and factual information from a variety of Grand Lodge publications, it is hopeful that this program will help develop a better understanding of the order.

History has shown that the successful Lodges are those that have officers and members who are knowledgeable about Elkdom.

Upon completion of the course, answer sheets are mailed to the State Training Chairman to be graded. The State Chairman issues a Grand Exalted Ruler Special Citation Certificate to each participant who completes the course with a score of 85% or better.

Those state associations with the greatest percentage of Lodges participating and the state associations with the greatest percentage of membership participating will receive awards at the next Grand Lodge convention.

The deadline for submitting completed tests to the State Training Committee is March 15.

**Traveling Card**

*(See Card, Membership)*

**Treasurer, Florida State Elks Association**

The Treasurer maintains and is the custodian of the General Fund. He receives all other funds and deposits them to the account of Harry-Anna Trust Fund Trustees who distributes the funds in accordance with the bylaws of Harry-Anna Investment Fund, Inc.

He is to keep a full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements of the General Fund of the association and in books belonging to the association and deposits all monies and valuables pertaining to the General Fund in such depositories or safety vaults as may be designated from time to time by the board of directors. He keeps account of all deposits made in the name of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Trustees. He renders quarterly a detailed report of the finances of the association to the board of directors and at such other times as may be required by the President. He annually submits a financial report after his books of record have been audited by either an Auditing Committee appointed by the President or by Certified Public Accountants as the board of directors may direct.

He pays out the monies of the association from the General Fund by check signed by the Treasurer and Chairman of the board of directors. He must deliver to the board of directors a good and sufficient bond in an amount to be determined by the board of directors, continued upon faithful performance of his duties, with the expense of such bond to be paid by the association. The Treasurer is allowed a salary determined by the board of directors.
Trinowski, Jr., Charles A., President, Florida State Elks Association, 2006-2007

Charles A. Trinowski, Jr. was born and raised in Riverhead, NY which is located in Eastern Long Island. He attended the local school system and graduated from Riverhead High School. While in New York he was active in his local community and was a thirteen-year member of the local volunteer fire department. He attended Stetson University in DeLand, FL but received his Bachelor of Science in American Studies from Dowling College in Oakdale, NY. In his earlier years he worked in the family business. Upon receiving his degree he became employed as a Social Worker by Suffolk County, New York Children Services and spent approximately ten years with that organization.

His wife, Mary Ann, is also from Eastern Long Island and attended the local school system in Riverhead, NY. She is retired from AT&T management. Both enjoy cooking. Mary Ann is an avid quilter. They have two cats named Frankie and Forrest.

They moved to Florida in 1979 when Mary Ann took a position with AT&T. He has worked in the swimming pool industry in Florida at the retail, wholesale, and manufacturing level. However, the majority of his work experience has been with the Florida Department of Children and Families. He worked with abused and neglected children specializing in the area of abuse investigation and foster care. He retired from the department after sixteen years of service.

He claims his introduction to Elkdom was quite by accident. “My wife had a friend by the name of Nancy Foster whom she worked with at AT&T. They were forever arranging mystery trips. One day we were told to dress in red and white in preparation for a mystery trip. The trip was to Winter Park Elks Lodge 1830 where they were having ‘Polish Night.’ We were the guests of Steve Goldbach, Nancy’s brother-in-law. Steve showed us around, told me what the Elks were about, and asked me if I wanted to be a member. The rest was history.”

The Elks fit Trinowski’s philosophy with their care and concern about children and community. The majority of his life’s work centered on abused and neglected children and their families.

“I have had the occasion to see some of the worst that children and their families have had to endure,” he said during his acceptance speech as President of the association.

Trinowski was initiated into Winter Park Lodge 1830 on September 24, 1985. He began serving the order as Tiler of his Lodge. He continued through the chairs until he became Exalted Ruler in 1994-1995. He also served on numerous Lodge committees and assisted in many Lodge events. In the past he has served as Secretary to the Lodge Board of Directors, Chairman of the Lodge Bylaw Revision Committee, and President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer for the Lodge PER Association. He was also President of the District PER Association and Chairman of the Lodge Membership Committee. He has served on the Investigation and Indoctrination Committees and as Lodge Ritual Coach. He has also been a frequent facilitator at District Deputy Clinic breakout sessions.

In addition to his Lodge, he has also served his district and state association utilizing his background in social work with children. He served for six years as a Director on the Board of the Florida Elks Youth Camp. While on the board he was Chairman of the Personnel Committee, was a member of the Operations Committee, and served as both Vice President and President of the board of directors. He has also been a guest trainer at the camp staff orientation program addressing the issue of child abuse and neglect. He and his wife spent many years assisting in
the development of camping at the youth camp. For a period of time she served as volunteer coordinator of camper registration and contract preparation.

Trinowski was a member of the Val Bates Convention Committee, chaired the Val Bates Convention Committee, and chaired the Val Bates Youth Camp Fundraiser. He was District Vice President of the North Central District in 1999-2000 and District Deputy in 2000-2001. He served as Vice President at Large prior to assuming the Presidency of the Florida State Elks Association for 2006-2007.

In his acceptance speech he said:

We as Elks have an obligation to make a difference in the lives of the citizens in our communities. The children, the families, the elderly, and the veterans all need us. They need us now.

We have many examples in our history of those who founded our great order helping our fellow man. Generations of Florida Elks have left us a legacy of caring and sharing and have given us the programs to accomplish this. We need to remind ourselves of our heritage, reassemble our direction, and make plans to have Florida Elks known for serving our communities. The Florida Elks with their two major projects and our local Lodge programs have done much to provide a better existence for the children and citizens of Florida, but we need to improve and expand upon them.

I am proud to be nominated as President of an association that cares deeply for children. One only has to be at summer camp registration and look at how disadvantaged some of the campers are at arrival and then see them a week later when they leave with shoes, clothes, and smiles on their faces. It is a visual documentation of how much good we are doing and a reminder of how many more children we need to help. Helping these children is why everyone in Florida should want to be an Elk or be associated with an Elks Lodge and to fully support the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

My motto for this year is ‘Serving Our Community.’ I believe the motto is the direction that we need to go in if we are to prosper as a fraternal organization and be around for the next century.

We need to develop plans now that will become blueprints for how we are to succeed. We need these blueprints if we are to entice people to join our organization. The supply of potential members has changed. Their demographics have changed. The demographics of what interests them have changed. If we do not recognize these changes we will not be around for the next century.

Lodges need to take an introspective look at why they can’t get and keep members. It may be hard to face the reality of what we see, but we must, and adapt to the interests of potential members. Other fraternal organizations are facing a similar dilemma and new members will go to the organization that takes the steps to meet changing interests. This does not mean that we should compromise quality.

Everything from the physical condition of our Lodges to the music we play should be under the microscope. We need to be financially sound and fiscally responsible. We need to run our clubs as one would run a business and run programs that make people want to come to our Lodges.

‘Serving Our Community’ asks every Lodge to make a definitive plan to do a community project and to ensure that the community is aware of what we are doing. Distribute flyers about this event. Wear T-shirts with Elks in large letters emblazed on them. Take photos and submit them to any responsible publication that will print them. The focus of these programs should help the less fortunate members of our own Lodges and the less fortunate in our communities. In a word, demonstrate that we are ‘Serving Our Community’ and making sure that the citizens of our communities and local governments realize that they need the Elks.

The following were officers for the 2006-2007 term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Charles A. Trinowski, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President at Large</td>
<td>David B. Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Carl T. Seibert, PDD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We have always been committed to charity and patriotism and a belief in God. Throughout our history we have provided hospitals for veterans. We have provided assistance in such disasters as the Chicago fire of 1871; the flooding of Johnstown, PA; and the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. Our history is filled with documentation of assistance to the men, women, and children of our communities.

As we enter the twenty-first century, we need to recommit ourselves to the works of the past if we are to continue into the next century.

Unfortunately we sometimes lose our way, and instead of giving to the community, as we profess in our initiation, we look to satisfy our own needs. This attitude will cause us to lose our destiny; if we are not careful, it will lead to the end of Elkdom much as the excesses of the Roman empire had to its demise.

We need to rededicate the largest American fraternal organization and ourselves to the principles that have made us great. We need to take on the slogan, “Serving Our Community.”

First we must assess where we have placed our priorities. Have we placed them in serving only ourselves? If so, we might stop and think if the path we have chosen will attract new and involved members. Remember, membership is the food that sustains us and allows us to grow.

Why do we need to reassess the direction we are taking? The answer is simple. If the Lodge is not a cross-section of the community where it is located it will not attract new members. Thus it will wither and die on the vine. As one travels the state of Florida, one can quickly see that our population is changing. Residential communities are coming to life at a furious pace. The majorities of our new citizens is no longer of southern heritage and are no longer predominately retired. Do our Lodges reflect those changes? Have we prepared for the new Florida? The answer is probably not.

When we honor the outstanding students in our Lodges, we are quick to realize that these young men and women are not only very intelligent but also very involved in...
community activities. It is what they believe in as future leaders of our communities and as potential members of our order. If we are interested in them joining our order, we need to gain their interest in what we do for the community and in what our image is in that community.

His Year

There was a membership gain as of March 31, 2007, reversing the trend of annual membership loss that peaked in 1990 at 93,213. He ended the year at 69,979, a gain of 80 members. The one previous gain since 1990 was a 10% increase with numbers of 109 in 2001.

Lantana Boynton Lodge 2676 of the Southeast District merged with West Palm Beach 1352.
Okeechobee Lodge 2558 of the Southeast District surrendered its charter.
The state Lodge census dropped two Lodges reducing it to 112 for the state association.
The Major Projects Donor Recognition Wall in the office of the Florida State Elks Association was installed to recognize those donating $5,000 to over $90,000.
Donations to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund came in at $883,870.
Exalted Ruler/Secretary Elect seminars attendance showed 95 Exalted Rulers and 76 Lodge secretaries present.

Florida Elks Youth Camp:

The board of directors approved the purchase of new lightweight tables and folding chairs for the pavilion to replace the old damaged and heavy metal chairs.
The walkways around The Oaks were resurfaced and upgraded lighting was installed.
The old pole barn was dismantled to make room for an extension of the maintenance barn. The wood from the old pole barn was used for the nature trail.
The first phase of the nature trail was approved and started.

Harry-Anna Investment Trust:

| Earnings   | $5,576,752 |
| Total Assets | $245,245,287 |

Florida Elks Properties Board:

The Florida Elks Properties Board of Directors approved the sale of a small parcel of property known as River Ranch located in Polk County. They approved the sale of four acres of property in Umatilla that was finalized in 2006. They also approved the construction of the outside warehouse after appropriate bids for labor only.

**Tri-State Association Conference**

In 1927 the Florida State Elks Association, at that time twelve years old but being an effective association for only the past four years, met at Daytona in a Tri-state Association which included the state associations of Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida.

To finance the Tri-state meeting the state association printed a booklet of the affair offering advertising space. Individual Lodges purchased ads in the booklet. In March an additional appeal for funds went out to the individual Lodges because it was felt they would be about $3,000 short.

Five thousand Elks and their wives attended the conference, many in motorcades with car banners and painted badges. Some stayed at the Morgan Hotel as well as other area hotels.
True, Roger R., Grand Exalted Ruler, 2002-2003

Born on March 2, 1948 in Manhattan, KS, the middle of three children, Roger R. True spent most of his younger years in the small community of Perry, KS about eighteen miles east of Topeka. When he was fourteen, his parents, Phil and Shirley True, moved the family to Richland, WA where True resides today.

True graduated from Richland High School in June of 1966 and one year later entered the United States Army where he served a tour of duty in Vietnam. Receiving several awards and citations for meritorious service, he was honorably discharged in 1969 and returned to Richland to marry his high school sweetheart, Marilyn.

They had two sons, Thomas and Anthony, who both are members of the Order of Elks. During their years of marriage, Marilyn has stood by Roger and supported all of his efforts, whether professional or personal. As his level of involvement with the Elks has steadily increased, Marilyn has taken on all of the challenges and sacrifices that go along with it. Marilyn, an Elk herself, has understood the great work that the order is involved with and all of the good things they are accomplishing. Her charm and positive attitude have been an inspiration to all who know her.

He and his wife have worked fundraising activities for the Catholic Church where they are both members. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and also holds membership in the America Legion and Loyal Order of Moose. He is also a past member of the National Management Association and is a past president of his homeowners association.

Early on True developed a work ethic of loyalty and duty while holding down a forty-hour a week job while still in high school. This work ethic has remained with him and is still a motivating force in his everyday life. During his twelve years of employment in the family business, he attended Columbia Basin College in Richland where he majored in Business Administration.

In 1981 he decided to pursue a career in quality assurance. Over the next three years he served in management positions at nuclear facilities in Texas and Washington, finally accepting employment with Rockwell International in Richland, WA. He holds a security clearance and is contracted to the Department of Energy through CH2M Hill Hanford Group to perform quality assurance oversight on nuclear waste cleanup.

In 1974 he joined Richland Elks Lodge 2339 and was sponsored by his father, Phil, a Past Exalted Ruler. He immediately became involved with committee activities within the Lodge, was elected as an officer, and became Exalted Ruler in 1980. After serving as Exalted Ruler, he maintained an active roll in his Lodge by serving on the board of trustees, seven years as its chairman. Due to his dedication and participation in his Lodge, the membership unanimously awarded him an honorary life membership.

In 1984 True became active in the Washington State Elks Association, serving on committees including Elks National Foundation, Lodge Development, Membership, and Officers Training. In 1990 he was appointed to the position of District Deputy for the Southeast District in the state of Washington. In 1991 he was appointed as a Special Representative of the Grand Exalted Ruler and served in that position until 1993. He was elected as Vice President of the association and served as its President in 1995-1996. Upon completion of his term as President, he was elected as Chairman of the Past State Presidents Association and served in an advisory position to the Executive Committee of the Washington State Elks Association. He was elected to the Board of Grand Trustees in 1996 and has served as Building Applications West, Secretary, Approving Member, and Vice Chairman.

Trump, J. H., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1915-1916

Eleventh Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
April 6-8, 1915
PALATKA, FLORIDA

The following Lodges were represented: Jacksonville 221, Ocala 286, Key West 551, Tampa 708, St. Augustine 829, Tallahassee 937, Miami 948, Gainesville 990, Orlando 1079, Quincy 1111, Daytona Beach 1141, Palatka 1232, Sanford 1241, and Lakeland 1291.

J. E. Lucas of Palatka 1232 was appointed Acting Chaplain.

The Secretary reported that at the Grand Lodge convention held in Denver in July of 1914, the incoming Grand Exalted Ruler appointed a committee of three to devise and report to the next Grand Lodge a plan for the
organization and official recognition of State Association of Elks, the Grand Lodge having outlived its jealousy of state associations.

Also, the Secretary reported having received several bylaws and rituals for installation of officers from other associations and recommended that a committee be appointed to study the same, especially some ritual for the installation of officers.

The resignation of Pensacola 497 was accepted.

H. L. Bethel of Tallahassee 937 reported that he found a colored Lodge of Elks in existence in Jacksonville and that he had the sheriff make arrests and that the case would come up in the May session of criminal court. Jacksonville representatives reported that that Lodge would defray all expenses of a lawyer in prosecuting the case.

Bylaws were amended as follows: “Executive Committee of this association shall consist of the President, First Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three members to be elected by the association annually.”

President Davis addressed the meeting and read extracts from the *Jacksonville Metropolis* regarding colored Elks in that city, after which the following motion was adopted: “That the Secretary be instructed to write the *Jacksonville Metropolis* asking them to discontinue printing any notice or references to colored Elks or colored Elks’ Lodges.”

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1915-1916 term:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge/Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>J. H. Trump</td>
<td>Quincy 1111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Vice President</td>
<td>M. M. Smith</td>
<td>Orlando 1079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Vice President</td>
<td>O. M. Eaton</td>
<td>Lakeland 1291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>H. H. Hunt</td>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>W. L. Bates</td>
<td>Key West 551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Dean Spencer</td>
<td>Orlando 1079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant at Arms</td>
<td>J. A. Conrad</td>
<td>Miami 948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>J. H. Trump</td>
<td>Quincy 1111</td>
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<td>W. L. Bates</td>
<td>Key West 551</td>
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<td></td>
<td>M. B. Craig</td>
<td>Jacksonville 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Howell A. Davis</td>
<td>Palatka 1232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. M. Taylor</td>
<td>St. Augustine 829</td>
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Jacksonville was selected for the twelfth annual meeting.

**Twin Cities Lodge 2747**
Florida’s 126th Lodge
District: Northwest
Instituted: February 26, 1989
Members Initiated: 90
Demits: 28
Year 1995 Membership: 142
Year 1996 Membership: 141
Year 1997 Membership: 142
Year 1998 Membership: 137
Year 2004 Membership: 99
Year 2005 Membership: 108
Year 2006 Membership: 115
Year 2007 Membership: 121
Year 2008 Membership: 122
Year 2009 Membership: 124

The Lodge is located in Valparaiso-Niceville, FL. It was instituted on February 26, 1989 as the 126th Lodge. Dignitaries present included PSP Robert Fluck; PSP Aubrey Callaham; State Chairman of New Lodges, Charles Johnson; VPAL, Larry Henley; and State President, Arthur Smith. Ceremonies of institution started at 1:00 p.m. in the hall of Fort Walton Beach Elks Lodge 1795 followed by the initiation of the new candidates by the Fort Walton Lodge officers and the installation of Lodge officers for Twin Cities 2747 by Grand Lodge officers. A luncheon was served after the ceremonies. Each Lodge in the Northwest District was present and each Lodge presented the new Lodge with a gift.

One of Twin Cities’ proud programs is their “Adopt a Vet” program and in 2002-2003 they provided a special need for veterans in their own backyard who were residing in four convalescent homes. Upon visiting the vets, they quickly identified items of need, one being small refrigerators for their rooms. In speaking with the vets they asked who would be interested in receiving a free refrigerator. Five placed orders. A call went out within the Lodge for donations to purchase these refrigerators and in less than a month, they were purchased and delivered, fully stocked with their favorite nonalcoholic beverages. The VFW also purchased one of the refrigerators. The local Disabled American Veterans, Bay Area Chapter 112, upon hearing of the initiative, donated $200 for the Lodge to use toward supplying the veterans.

Instituting officers:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Jay C. Love, DDGER
- Grand Leading Knight: George Ruzich, PDD
- Grand Loyal Knight: Robert Lawrence, PDD
- Grand Lecturing Knight: Fred Gresham, PDD
- Grand Secretary: Dudley Rogers, PDVP
- Grand Treasurer: Earl Richbour, PDD
- Grand Tiler: Charles A. Nell, PDD
- Grand Esquire: Frank T. Richards, PER
- Grand Inner Guard: J.C.Connell, PDDGER
- Grand Chaplain: Kenneth E. Landowski, NWDVP
- Grand Inner Guard: J. C. Connell, PDD
- Grand Trustees: Alton Garnard, PDD
- Grand Inner Guard: J. Dennis Martin, PDD
- Grand Trustees: William F. Sikes, PDD
- Grand Trustees: Herman Flowers, PDD
- Grand Trustees: Arthur G. Platts, PDD

Subordinate Lodge officers:

- Exalted Ruler: Gordon Blenis
- Leading Knight: Earl Elledge
Loyal Knight    Jack Kirwin
Lecturing Knight    Paul Fox
Secretary    James M. Jennings
Treasurer    Chester Shaver
Esquire     James Gibson
Tiler     Thomas Whitley
Chaplain    Al Hinds
Inner Guard    Ed Senterfitt
Trustees     Billy S. Corbitt
Bill Hodge  Morgan Spangle
Bob Rhinehardt  Herb Cobb

Charter members:

Harril Barber  William Benzenhafer
Robert Berwanger  Henry Brault
James Burroughs, Jr.  Fred Carlso
Charles Corbitt  Kenneth C. Corbitt
William Cornelison  Maurice Crepau
Albert Cunningham  John Cunningham
Dennis Forsythe  Bobby Frazier
Patrick Fujioka  Terry Ganey
Fred Garner  Harry Garner
Jack E. Gatewood  James Gilbreath
John W. Givens  James T. Godwin
Howard Golden  Richard Hahn
Robert E. Hamm  Bernard Harvey
Douglas Hayes  Paul Heinz
William Hodge  Robert Howell
William F. Johnson  John Joneson
Joseph Kramer, Jr.  Joseph Lambert
John Lanning, Jr.  John Lea
Paul Lewis, II  James McGee
James McKenna  Scott McNeill
C. R. Mattiford  Hubert Metcalf
Aarron Mickle  Larry Minor
Jack Mojecki  James C. Mosely
Albert Motely, Jr.  Robert A. Nicholson
Stanley Olszewski  Leo D. Paddie
John X. Payne  Harold F. Peek, Jr.
Ernest W. Peele  Jerry R. Perry
Donald Plummer  Chester Prickett
Franklin Rankin  Edward Ray
Robert Reinhardt  Philo Rhinehart
Benjamin Russell  T. E. Senterfitt
Boyd Shelton  John Simms
Gordon R. Smith  Roland Smith
Ralph Smitha  Sam Spangle
Clayton Spencer  Kenneth Stack
Neil Taylor  George Tapper
Hairl Thacker  Michael Tisa
Loren Waldon  Thomas Wall  
Harry Ward  John Weed  
Paul Whitaker  Elliott Williamson, Jr.  
Roger Wilson  

Charter members by transfer demit, absolute demit, certificate of release, and certificate or status:  

William Allen  Gordon Blenis  
Herb Cobb  Billy S. Corbitt  
Jerry Daniels  William Dunn  
Earl J. Elledge  Jeff Fitzpatrick  
James E. Fritsch  James Gibson  
John Hennessy  Alan Hinds, PER  
Kenneth Hosking  George K. Huggins  
James M. Jennings  Keith Jerome  
Richard T. Kirk  John Kirwin  
Wayne Landen  Donald Miller  
Jerry Minor  Paul Noffke  
Larry Ridge  Chester Shaver  
Morgan Spangle  S. L. Thomasson, Jr., PER  
Robert Von Kliest  Thomas Whitley  

At first meetings for the new Lodge were held at the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 112 hall in Niceville.  

**Tyler, Lowell P., State Historian, 1995 to -**  

Lowell P. Tyler was born in Dover-Foxcroft, ME. He attended Foxcroft Academy, a land grant private school. He received a Bachelor of Laws from Blackstone. He completed courses in electronics from National Radio Institute, Dale Carnegie Human Relations, and Business Management from LaSalle.  

He served in the United States Air Force from August 4, 1948 to July of 1952. He served in Air Borne Radio with the Air University. He attended Radio Mechanics School at Scott Field in Belleville, IL. He completed courses with the Air University in Civil Law, Morale and Ideology, Psychology, and Air Force Management.  

He served as Production Control Manager for the Independent Lock Company of Selma, AL. He also worked in electronics with McDonnell Aircraft in St. Louis, MO and as an Insurance Agent for the Prudential Insurance Company in Bangor and Dover-Foxcroft, ME. He specialized in Stock Redemption, Cross Purchase Agreements, Buy-Sell Agreements, Key Man Compensation and Group Insurance, and Employee Benefit Programming.  

He is a past President of the Foxcroft Academy Alumni Association. He was active in the Maine Department of the American Legion serving as Post Commander for two years, County Commander for two years, and District Commander. He also served on the State Executive Committee and the Governors Highway Safety
Council and Personal Representative to the National Commander. He served as Post Commander for Greenacres City, FL, American Legion, and Judge Advocate for the American Legion Post 47 in Lake Worth, FL for some six years.

He moved to Florida in 1973 where he became a life insurance agent and licensed real estate broker. He was one of the organizers of the Palm Beach County Civil War Roundtable Associates, serving as its President for seven years followed by Advisor and member of the Executive Committee. He received the Robert T. Godwin Award for Exemplary Service and Contribution to the Civil War Roundtable.

Tyler became a member of the Elks in 1974. He served as Exalted Ruler of Lake Worth Lodge 1530 after progressing through the chairs and serving on most committees. He received honorary life membership for writing the history of the Lake Worth Elks and the community of Lake Worth. He was also editor of the Lodge bulletin.

Later he demitted to Lantana/Boynton Elks Lodge 2676 where he became the editor of the Lodge bulletin. He served as Chairman of Trustees and President of the Past Exalted Rulers Association. He was awarded Elk of the Year.

In 1998 he demitted to West Palm Beach Lodge 1352, the Lodge that he was initially initiated into. He served here as trustee and editor of the Lodge bulletin. He is currently serving as Lodge Secretary.

He served the Southeast District for four years as Chairman of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee. He served as Reporter for Florida Elks News for five years.

He became the longest serving State Historian in the Florida State Elks Association from 1995 and is still serving.

In 2004 he was appointed to the Florida Elks Publications Committee.

He was awarded a life member in 2008.

Tyler is married to Elisabeth Allen with two children, Valarie, Manager of a Super Walmart in Rockledge, and Joyce, who resided in Maine.