Walker, Ida

Ida Walker is a Past Supreme President (Grand Lodge Office) of the Benevolent and Patriotic Order of Does. She was a member of Lake Worth Does Drove 146 in Lake Worth, FL. She died on January 29, 2003.

Wall of Honor, Elks Charities Major Donation Recognizing Board

The wall of honor is located in the office of the Florida State Elks Association at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. This wall recognizes those who have contributed in categories between $5,000 to over $90,000 to the Florida major projects. It was installed in 2006-2007.


On October 12, 1904, William A. Wall was born to Rosa Ramsey Wall and Leo Henry Wall in Eufaula, OK. In 1911, the family moved to Jacksonville, FL. Their family financial situation forced him to leave school while in the seventh grade in order to support himself and two young sisters. He was employed as an office boy, sold newspapers and magazines, and worked as a truck driver, shipping clerk, and counter salesperson. In 1922 he joined a plumbing supply company and worked his way up through the ranks to become a branch manager of the firm in 1929. This firm was one of the nation’s largest manufacturers and distributors. He became owner and manager of his own retail stores, real estate, and other investments.

On January 5, 1929, he was married in St. Augustine, FL to Lois Brown of Jacksonville, and shortly after the family moved to West Palm Beach, FL. In West Palm Beach, he and his family became members of the First Methodist Church. It was in this city where he first became actively involved in civic work. In a few short years he had served as President of West Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce, as Director of the West Palm Beach Community Chest, as Chairman of Disaster Relief Committee, as Chairman of the City Recreation Committee, as President of the National Aeronautical Society, and as President of the Kiwanis Club.

In 1931, he became a member of West Palm Beach Elks Lodge 1352. From the beginning he took to heart the rituals of Elkdom. He moved rapidly through the chairs to become Exalted Ruler during the 1934-1935 year. In 1935 he was also elected five-year Trustee of Lodge 1352 and in 1937 was granted an honorary life membership.
In 1935-1936 he served as Tiler for the Florida State Elks Association and served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the East District in 1936-1937. In 1939-1940 he was elected as Vice President of the Southeast Division of Florida. (Today an Elk is usually elected as a Vice President first and later as a District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.) Wall served two terms as State President, 1942-1943 and 1943-1944, when there were fewer active Elks to carry on with so many Elks serving on active duty during the WWII days.

Thirty-Seventh Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
April 19-21, 1942
LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA

The following Lodges were represented: Arcadia 1524, Bradenton 1511, Clearwater 1525, Cocoa 1532, Daytona Beach 1141, DeLand 1463, Eustis 1578, Fort Lauderdale 1517, Fort Myers 1288, Jacksonville 221, Lake City 893, Lakeland 1291, Lake Worth 1530, Miami 948, Ocala 286, Orlando 1079, Pahokee 1638, Palatka 1232, Panama City 1598, Pensacola 497, Quincy 1111, Sanford 1241, St. Augustine 829, St. Petersburg 1224, Tallahassee 937, Tampa 708, and West Palm Beach 1352.

President Sparkman’s report is the most complete of any previous. West Palm Beach Lodge 1352 was awarded the ritualistic prize. No other Lodge competed.

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

Bylaws amended as follows:

Article II, Section 4, be amended by adding thereto the following, “In the event any subordinate Lodge waives the payment of annual dues for those of its members who are in the military or naval service of their country, the state association shall waive the payment to it by such subordinate Lodge of the per-capita tax for said members.”

Section 4, Article II, be amended to read as follows: The per-capita tax as outlined in this section must be paid by each subordinate Lodge not later than the 15th day of March of each year hereafter.

Section 1, Article III, of the bylaws be amended to read as follows: The Executive Committee of the association shall have the power, for the duration of the present war, to cancel or suspend any annual meeting of the association. Amended to provide that the Lodge having the convention be notified at least sixty days in advance.

The committee recommended that authority be given the President to appoint a committee to define the duties of the various committees provided for under Section 1 of Article III of the bylaws and to recommend to the next meeting of the association the abolition of such committees as are found not to be necessary for the work of the association.

The Officer Attendance Committee reported Lodges meeting weekly: Lake Worth with percentage of 92.52, West Palm Beach with percentage of 91.24, and St. Petersburg with percentage of 88.75. For Lodges meeting twice a month: Fort Myers with percentage of 84.80, Bradenton with percentage of 83.70, and Arcadia with percentage of 82.40.

The following resolutions were adopted: Be it resolved that for the purpose of the officers attendance records only regular meetings of the Lodge be considered and that fifty-two be the factor to be used in determining the percentage of Lodges meeting weekly except the rare occasions when the meeting might occur fifty-three times, then that figure be used and the Lodges that meet only twice a month figure twenty-four be used and

Be it further resolved that each secretary when submitting his report execute the following certificate: “I hereby certify that the above is a true record of the attendance at regular meetings of the officers of Lodge No. _____ and I further certify that no officer was marked present who was not actually present in the Lodge room at some time during the session.”

Signed,
Secretary

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1942-1943 term:

President    W. A. Wall, West Palm Beach 1352
Treasurer    Claude L. Johnson, Tallahassee 937
Historian    Irvin Gates, Tallahassee 937
Tiler: W. R. Jackson, Lake Worth 1530
Secretary: E. F. Stumpf, West Palm Beach 1352
Sergeant at Arms: Peter Gessner, DeLand 1463
Chaplain: Thomas Colreavy, Clearwater 1525
Organist: W. H. “Billy” Whitehead, New Smyrna Beach 1557
Executive Committee:
  W. A. Wall, President, West Palm Beach 1352
  L. B. Sparkman, Immed. Past Pres., Tampa 708
  Edward F. Stumpf, Secretary, West Palm Beach 1352
  Claude L. Johnson, Treasurer, Tallahassee 937
  J. A. Roston (one year), Lake Worth 1520
  Chelsie J. Senerchia (two years), Miami 948
  Harold Colee (three years), St. Augustine 829

Division Vice Presidents:

Northwest: A. E. Langford, Pensacola 497
Northeast: Wallace Sturgis, Ocala 286
Central: Areal C. Sage, Daytona Beach 1141
Southeast: Otto Stegeman, Miami Beach 1601
Southwest: John C. Brown, Clearwater 1525

From 1944-1945 he served on the State Executive Committee and the Harry-Anna Hospital House Committee. In 1944 he was a member of the Grand Lodge State Association Committee, and in 1949 he was named to the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee and served as their Chairman for 1950-1952.

He was elected Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight of the Grand Lodge in 1953, and in 1955 he was elected as Grand Lodge Trustee for five years and then Chairman of the Board of Grand Lodge Trustees in 1958-1959.

Wall was elected Grand Exalted Ruler at the Grand Lodge convention in Miami Beach in 1961. U. S. Senator George S. Smathers nominated him and Florida Supreme Court Justice, Stephen C. O’Connell, seconded the nomination. Another seconding address was given by L. Thornton Owen, Jr., Exalted Ruler of West Palm Beach Lodge 1352.

Interestingly, at the Grand Lodge convention in Philadelphia in 1955, Past State President Chelsie J. Senerchia, who had nominated Wall for Grand Lodge Trustee, advised the delegates that Wall “was Florida’s candidate, at the proper time, for Grand Exalted Ruler.”

Wall worked long and hard for Elkdom and adapted his slogan as: “Let’s Get Down to Business,” and over the many years encouraged Lodges to adapt better business practices and improve their physical properties. He remained active in the affairs of the order well into the 1980s.

He served ten years on the Elks National Service Committee and was a member of the Elks National Foundation Board of Trustees for seventeen years, serving as its Chairman from 1981-1984. For many years he was the Grand Lodge Sponsor for Florida, Puerto Rico, and Panama.

Bill Wall died on November 2, 1991 in Merritt Island after a long illness, and was survived by his wife, Lois, and two daughters, Beverly Hauser and Alma W. Carr, along with grand and great-grand children. Fifteen Past Grand Exalted Rulers attended his memorial held at Jupiter Lodge 2469 on January 11, 1992. PGER Bob Grafton gave his eulogy.

War Commission

See Elks War Commission

War Relief Commission

During World War I, the Elks patriotism and generosity helped the nation to victory. In 1917 the Grand Lodge created the War Relief Commission and endowed it with two million dollars to finance activities. The commission organized and equipped the first two base hospitals to reach France, Unit 41 staffed by faculty and alumni from the University of Virginia and Unit 46 with the same group from the University of Oregon.
To accommodate the maimed and wounded, the Elks built a 700-bed reconstruction hospital and gave it to the federal government in 1918. That same year, the order built a 72-room community house to take care of the families visiting the 40,000 soldiers stationed at Camp Sherman, OH. They also volunteered to build another hospital in New Orleans but the government declined the offer saying that it wasn’t needed at the time.

During the war, the Salvation Army was severely handicapped in their great work for the servicemen by lack of funds. To make sure that this work continued, the Elks War Relief Commission and the subordinate Lodges of the order undertook campaigns to raise funds for the Salvation Army and on many occasions assumed the entire cost of these undertakings. In addition, the commission at Christmastime in 1918 gave the Army $60,000 to continue its work.

The commission made 40,000 rehabilitation, vocational, and educational loans to disabled veterans who were ineligible for government help or awaiting approval of their applications. All loans were repaid except in a few cases where death or other intervening causes made it impossible. This service was so effective that the government followed the order’s example. They set up a revolving fund and took over this activity.

More than 70,000 Elks served in the armed forces during World War I. More than one thousand paid the supreme sacrifice.

During World War II, the Elks directed by its National Defense Commission and its War Commission gave total effort throughout the war. By the time hostilities ceased, the Grand Lodge had spent more than $1,500,000, while the subordinate Lodges spent hundreds of thousands of dollars more.

Local Lodges aided in the recruitment of army flying cadets. More than four hundred Lodges conducted refresher courses that qualified thousands of young men for training.

In 1942 the Adjutant General asked for help in recruiting 45,000 men for Air Corps ground crews. Again, the Lodges responded and set up a program that recruited 97,000 men. Because of their previous record, the Secretary of the Navy asked for help in recruiting for the Naval Air Corps. Once again, the Elks came through.

During 1943 there was a critical shortage of construction specialists in the armed services. Once again, because of their record, the Elks were asked to help recruit construction personnel. Because of the efficiency and enthusiasm of the Elks, the only organization to participate in this program, the required numbers of Army Engineers and Navy Seabees were obtained three months ahead of schedule.

The Merchant Marine notified the Elks War Commission that there was a shortage of reading materials for their men on board ships. Once again the Elks, with the characteristic unselfishness of their subordinate Lodges, accepted the challenge. Within a short time, over a half million books were collected and donated to the Merchant Marine.

Servicemen who enjoyed the hospitality of the 155 Elks fraternal centers were stationed throughout the country. More than one million GIs were guests at the New York City Center.

Thousands of gift boxes containing smoker’s supplies, candy, and personal hygiene items were sent to the fighting men, while thousands of slippers were distributed to hospitalized servicemen.

In 1946 the Elks War Commission became the Elks National Veterans Service Commission. The name was again changed in 1949 to the Elks National Service Commission.

**Warrington Lodge 2108**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 71st Lodge</th>
<th>District:</th>
<th>Northwest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td></td>
<td>February 17, 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td></td>
<td>February 28, 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td></td>
<td>John S. Flood, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Membership:</td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership:</td>
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<td>1,590</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1998 Membership:</td>
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<td>1,611</td>
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<td>Year 2001 Membership:</td>
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<td>1584</td>
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<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
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<td>1,592</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership:</td>
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<td>1,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,419</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year 2007 Membership: 1,289
Year 2008 Membership: 1,215
Year 2009 Membership: 1,103
Meets: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
Location: 727 S. 72nd Avenue, Pensacola, FL 32506
Telephone: 850-453-3825

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler: John S. Flood
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Frank E. Thompson
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: George Carver
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Eugene F. Chase
Grand Secretary: Max J. Kaner
Grand Treasurer: Leonard M. Nelson
Grand Tiler: George Moody
Grand Chaplain: Luther Clary
Grand Esquire: William Lieberman
Grand Inner Guard: Joe Cook

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler: William F. Sykes, Sr.
Esteemed Leading Knight: John H. Hussey
Esteemed Loyal Knight: Milburn S. Nance
Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Eugene F. Chase
Secretary: Max J. Kaner
Treasurer: Leonard M. Nelson
Inner Guard: William J. Porter
Chaplain: George H. McGuire
Esquire: Thomas Carmody
Tiler: George W. Andress
Trustees:
- 5 Year, Louis A. Seiffert
- 4 Year, David L. Bellew
- 3 Year, Charles L. Van Etten
- 2 Year, Robert C. Gonzalez
- 1 Year, Carl P. H. Anderson

The following are charter members: Carl P. H. Anderson; George W. Andress; Wm. E. Babington; Samuel A. Bradshaw; Harold M. Drier; Eugene F. Chase; Dewey A. Colley; Clark M. Curtis; Louis F. Faedke; Henry J. Fos; John Wm. Frye, Jr.; William Frye, III; Robert O. Gonzalez; Ralph L. Harmon, Jr.; William R. Harris, Jr.; Lee B. Henderson; Edward Hobart; Max J. Kaner; Pierce B. Kiker; Philip J. Killen; Dymetri Krynitzky; Eric Larson; Robert H. Larson; Louis R. Lindenborn; William H. Manning; George H. McGuire; Charles McSwain; Harold C. Murray; Milburn S. Nance; Leonard M. Nelson; Edward O. Oyler; William J. Porter; Wm. R. Rosique, Jr.; Louis A. Seiffert; R. C. Sims; John P. Tucker, Jr.; Arthur W. Waite, Jr.; Robert B. Weeks; James D. Webb, Jr.; William H. White; C. W. Williamson; Thomas M. Wyse; Howard E. Bathurst; David L. Bellew; Vodie Brock; James C. Camp; Thomas F. Carmody; Frank A. Carroll, Jr.; Marshall A. Glass; John H. Hussey; Axil A. Jensen; N. V. Jeffcoat; R. T. Johnson; Norman W. Kelly; F. J. McLaughlin; James H. Palmer; Norman S. Rusher; Wm. F. Sykes, Sr.; Charles L. Van Etten; Peter G. Wahlstrom; Paul L. White; Thomas L. Wilfong; and Wesley F. Woodland.

Warrington is located in Escambia County adjacent to Pensacola and the Pensacola Naval Air Station. It was established as New Warrington when the original town was moved to make way for the Naval Air Station, but natives have dropped the New and call themselves Warrington. The town was named by a naval officer, Commodore Lewis Warrington.

On October 6, 1958, 21 men gathered at a restaurant in Pensacola to discuss the possibility of forming an Elks Lodge in the Warrington area. The Honorable George R. Clegg, State Committeeman, who informed the group on the proper procedure to be followed, called the meeting.
Brother Carroll was elected Chairman of an Organizational Committee to form the new Lodge and Brother William F. Sykes was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the group. In addition to Carroll, J. D. Bellow, Charles Van Etten, and William F. Sykes, Sr. were appointed to the committee.

This initial group of men recruited sixty charter members and was instituted on February 17, 1959 and granted a charter as Warrington Elks Lodge 2108 on July 9, 1959. William F. Sykes, Sr. was elected as the first Exalted Ruler.


The Lodge first met at the home of the Disabled American Veterans until 1969 when property was purchased on Bainbridge Avenue in Warrington. The Lodge met there until 1977 when a new Lodge was built at the present location, 727 South 72nd Avenue. Following seven years of growth, the Lodge was expanded to twice its original size in 1984. Membership grew from the original sixty members to over 1,000 by April of 1989.

Warrington Elks are ably assisted by the Warrington Elkettes who were granted a charter in March of 1962 with 42 original members.

In 1998 the Warrington R. V. Club installed eight R.V. hookups behind the Lodge; the cost amounted to $2,000. They now have twelve spots available for R.V.s and visiting Elks.

At the Florida State Elks convention in 2001 Warrington won the state ritual contest with a score of 96.082. The winning ritual team was made up of Frank Cabigting, Sr., Exalted Ruler; Joel Drew, Leading Knight; Sarah Clement, Loyal Knight; Lou Rawls, Lecturing Knight; Frank Cabigting, Jr., Chaplain; John Peters, Esquire; John Garner, Inner Guard; Chris Woods, Tiler; Harry Welter, Candidate; and Jerry Garner, Ritual Coach, then serving as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

In 2001 they donated $8,000 to the Sherriff’s Department to update cruisers. Sherriff Ron Nesby said he would use the money to place cameras in the cruisers.

Sarah Clement became the first female Exalted Ruler of Warrington; she was installed in March of 2003.

A Jolly Corks group is made up of members of Warrington Lodge who also make up the cast for variety shows. One such performance in 2003 took on a Disney theme.

A note on its facility as of 2003 states that the Lodge is located at 72nd Avenue and Highway 98 near the Warrington Campus of Pensacola Junior College. It sits on nineteen acres and at that time had a membership of 1,700.

Hurricane Ivan (September 2004) and Katrina (August 2005) damaged the Lodge extensively; there was almost $100,000 damage inside and outside and just about all of the trees were destroyed. The elk on the roof was broken up, the Elks sign was demolished, and the “Elks Meadow” dining room was closed with exception to hold volunteer dinners due to the cost of operations.

Ladies organization: Elkettes

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**Wauchula Lodge 1700**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 40th Lodge</th>
<th>District: Southwest Central</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation: March 29, 1946</td>
<td>Date of Installation: July 11, 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By: Lloyd Hicks, DDGER</td>
<td>Sponsoring Lodge: Arcadia Lodge 1524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership: 376</td>
<td>Year 1996 Membership: 380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1997 Membership: 416</td>
<td>Year 1998 Membership: 405</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2001 Membership: 462</td>
<td>Year 2004 Membership: 411</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2005 Membership: 412</td>
<td>Year 2006 Membership: 396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2007 Membership: 383</td>
<td>Year 2008 Membership: 352</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Arcadia Lodge 1524 was the mother Lodge.

The following officiated:

Grand Exalted Ruler    Lloyd Hicks
Grand Esteemed Leading Knight   W. A. Wall
Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight    J. Alex Arnette
Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight  Fred Lowdermilk
Grand Secretary    James J. Fernandez
Grand Treasurer    Charles I. Campbell, PER
Grand Chaplain    Nick Carter
Grand Esquire    W. I. Boggs
Grand Inner Guard    L. D. Reagin

The following officers were elected and installed:

Exalted Ruler    Russell Farmer
Esteemed Leading Knight   Luther Finley
Esteemed Loyal Knight    Raymond Mincey, Sr.
Esteemed Lecturing Knight  W. D. Rushing
Secretary    R. L. Park
Treasurer    H. S. Perin
Inner Guard    Perry M. Raines
Chaplain    C. A. Barker
Esquire    H. F. Johnson
Tiler    Harry A. Yetter
Trustees
  3 Year, L. Grady Burton
  2 Year, Frank Bass
  1 Year, B. T. Hagan

The following officers of Arcadia Lodge 1524 initiated the first class:

Exalted Ruler    J. L. Newton
Esteemed Leading Knight   Otto C. Wilkerson
Esteemed Loyal Knight    Ray Clement
Esteemed Lecturing Knight  James B. Alsobrook
Esquire    Lloyd D. Harley, Jr.
Chaplain    A. B. Lauenborg
Inner Guard    C. H. Johnson
Tiler    D. J. Pringle

The following are charter members: J. W. Crews; Frank Moseley; L. L. Linder; E. H. Posey; A. B. Pearce; E. Saffer; S. P. Daughrty; H. O. Coker; John C. Allred; Joe M. Chambliss; C. H. Taylor, Jr.; H. F. McDonald; W. L. Warren, Jr.; A. F. Cosey; E. R. Harman; Sam Weiner; Edgar L. Dressler; M. Weiner; Harry Gibbs; Kenneth M. Gibbs; J. W. Lessley; Edw. A. Sockalosky; W. J. Kelley; L. E. Williams; J. D. Booher; Dewey Walker; J. H. Hendry, Jr.; Louis Parrish; F. H. Pruitt; Leslie Hord; J. R. Allen, Jr.; C. T. Ratliff; Ralph Carlton; M. T. Cosey; Dale A. Knight; George R. Bolton; Max R. Smith; M. A. Collier; J. S. Schweigart; C. J. Gay; Frank Studstill; Wm. B. Beeson, Jr.; and Frank Palmer.
Past Exalted Rulers:

B. Russell Farmer 1946-1948
H. F. Johnson 1948-1949
T. Hoyt Carlton 1949-1950
Shirley P. Daughtry 1950-1951
Joel Evers 1951-1952
H. S. Priem 1952-1953
Talmadge Jowers 1953-1954
R. B. “Bob” Downing 1954-1955
L. Dale Carlton 1955-1956
Eric Bennett 1956-1957
Earl A. Rumbley 1957-1958
Joe L. Davis, Sr. 1958-1959
C. J. “Katch” Mroczka 1959-1960
Frank E. Conner 1960-1961
Philip E. Glorius 1961-1962
Martin Pearson 1962-1963
Bedford A. Prescott 1963-1964
Don B. Johnson 1964-1965
Frank E. Conner 1965-1966
Frank J. Mancini 1966-1967
Ralph J. Carlton, Sr. 1967-1968
Harry Milbrath 1968-1969
John R. Dorsey 1970-1971
Kenneth Nicholson 1971-1972
R. J. Conner 1972-1973
Herman T. Ratliff 1973-1974
S. R. Barganier 1974-1975
W. Wayne Johnson 1975-1976
H. A. “Dave” Davis 1976-1977
Dexter Barkley 1977-1978
William “Buck” Grainger 1978-1979
Frank W. Tayntor 1979-1980
Gilbert Polk 1980-1981
Frank W. Tayntor 1981-1982
Philip E. Glorius 1982-1983
Edward Benton 1983-1984
James T. Montgomery, Sr. 1984-1985
Fred Moye 1985-1986
Charles J. King 1986-1987
John W. Burton 1987-1988
John W. Burton 1988-1989
Herman T. Ratliff 1989-1990
Edward E. Topaz 1991-1992
Bob Gill 1993-1994
Jack D. Smith 1997-1998
Jack Smith 1998-1999
John Woodburn 2003-2004
David Knutson 2004-2005
John Woodburn 2005-2006
Donna Carlisle 2006-2007
**District Vice Presidents:**

- H. F. Johnson  1957-1958
- Bedford A. Prescott  1966-1967
- Dexter Barkley  1982-1983
- Bob Gill  1998-1999

**District Deputies:**

- H. F. Johnson  1959-1960
- Bedford Prescott  1967-1968
- Dexter Barkley  1984-1985
- Bob Gill  1999-2000

In the beginning, the Lodge met upstairs in the Beeson Building located on the southeast corner of Main Street and Seventh Avenue with furniture given by the sponsoring Arcadia Lodge. The Gothic oak furniture was originally from the now defunct Philadelphia Lodge 2 which was instituted in 1871. During its long history, the furniture was given to Lodges in Philadelphia, PA; Atlanta, GA; Jacksonville, FL; Tampa, FL; Arcadia, FL; and Wauchula, FL. Composed of twelve pieces, the approximately 130 year old ornately carved furniture include the central altar and Esquire, Chaplain, and visitor chairs together with chairs with the four stations, fidelity, charity, justice, and brotherly love.

The tall case clock used in the Lodge’s ritual made in 1946 by James S. Schweigart who served the Lodge as Chaplain for 32 years

Measuring 8 feet high and 20 inches wide, the maple clock features a scroll bonnet. Located beneath the central finial of the clock is the figurehead of an elk carved by its maker.
Wauchula Elks Club, Inc. was chartered on May 31, 1946 with the following subscribers listed: J. W. Crews, Sr.; Frank Studstill; A.F. Cosey; Horace McDonald; Frank Bass; A. B. Pearce; and B. R. Farmer. First officers were J. W. Crews, Sr., President; B. R. Farmer, Vice President; A. B. Pearce, Secretary; and Horace McDonald, Treasurer. Frank Moseley was the first Club Manager. Other managers have been Talmadge Jowers, Don Johnson, Dexter Barkley, Norman LeClair, and George Clark.

Ground was broken for the present Lodge building, 318 West Main Street, on September 15, 1955. Built by volunteer labor and supervised by H. S. Priem, the $80,000 cost was financed through donations and the sale of bonds. The Lodge dedicated its new home on April 18, 1956 and celebrated with a barbecue and dance. The ground floor of the masonry building which was faced with yellow brick was 60 x 106 feet and the second story holding the Lodge room was 50 x 70 feet.

Since its inception, Wauchula Lodge had been part of four different districts:

- **West District**
  Composed of Tarpon Springs, Holiday Isles, Tampa, St. Petersburg, Bradenton, Sarasota, Fort Myers, Venice-Nokomis, Wauchula, Arcadia and Sebring

- **Southwest District**
  Composed of Naples, Fort Myers, Charlotte, Englewood, Venice-Nokomis, Sarasota, Bradenton, Palmetto, Arcadia, Wauchula and Sebring

- **South Central District**
  Composed of Tampa, Brandon, Plant City, Lakeland, Winter Haven, Lake Wales, Sebring, Wauchula, Kissimmee, and Orlando

- **Southwest Central District**
  South Hillsborough, Palmetto, Bradenton, Sarasota South, Arcadia, Wauchula, Lake Placid, Sebring and Lake Wales

Lodge bingo games were started in 1977 and each succeeding year brought an increase in players. Plans were initiated in 1988 to build an addition to the Lodge to accommodate these players.

Other ways that the Lodge has made money is through its bingo concession stand and through the sale of dinners, barbecue dinners for charities, and the regular fourth Tuesday and Friday night dinners. The Lodge has made money also from its wild game dinners and from the sale of meals at the annual Pioneer Days Celebration in Zolfo Springs made possible from 1987-1989 by the donation of the mobile trailer and kitchen to the Lodge by the Elkettes.

Over the years the Wauchula Elks organized Little League games and sponsored teams, provided band uniforms and band instruments to the schools together with a motor van to carry these to out-of-town sports games, organized a bowling league and eighteen teams for children, sponsored teenager of the month, supported Boy and Girl Scout troops, provided wheelchairs for the disabled, supported veteran causes and the Bay Pines Hospital, donated to Hardee Memorial Hospital and the Leon Sharp Youth Center, and received national recognition for its drug awareness program. They provided charity for the needy by donations to disaster funds and Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets and donated each year to the Sheriff’s Boys Ranch and Girls Villa. They supported the youth programs of Grand Lodge by sponsoring the Hoop Shoot for elementary and junior high school children and the Americanism essay contest for high school students. It sponsored Youth Week by providing educational tours of county and city facilities which included the Wauchula Fire Department, Wauchula City Police Station, City of Wauchula, City of Wauchula Electric Power Building, Wauchula Water Works, Hardee County Sheriff’s Department, and tours of the New Medico Head Injury Center.

As of 2001-2002 Wauchula had initiated 56 ladies into the Elks. With the change in laws, Wauchula was no longer a dry county and the Lodge was no longer a bottle club.

Wauchula Elks were very supportive of those in local nursing homes. On one busy July 4, 2002 when serving 500 meals of barbecued ribs, baked beans, and coleslaw, Exalted Ruler Lenora Hooten and her grandson, Daniel, delivered forty meals to Resthaven Nursing Home.

Ladies organization: Ladies of Elks
Organized: 1977
First President: Mrs. Helene Mancini
Past Presidents:

1977-1979   Helene Mancini
1979-1980   Joan Tayntor
1980-1982   Bernie Albritton
1982-1983   Anne Weiner
1983-1984   Lou Barkley
1984-1985   Gladys Barley
1985-1986   Ruth Cuthriell
1986-1987   Joanne Moye

Wehle, Victor O., President, Florida State Elks Association, 1952-1953

Victor Wehle was known as “Mr. Wehle,” “Judge Wehle,” “Judge,” “Vic,” “Victor,” “Brother Wehle,” and “Mr. Harry-Anna.” He was born on June 19, 1902 in Manhattan, New York City. The family moved to Hollis, Long Island and then to Jamaica, Long Island. He graduated from Jamaica High School and entered Cornell University’s School of Engineering and a short time later transferred to Cornell Law School. After graduation, he practiced law in Jamaica for a short time before moving to St. Petersburg in 1925. One year later he was admitted to the Florida Bar and set up his practice. In 1932 he met and married Irma Anschuetz.

He was initiated into St. Petersburg Lodge 1224 and was a member there for seventy years. He was elected Exalted Ruler in 1936 and served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler from 1943-1944. In recognition of his many contributions to St. Petersburg Lodge and to the community, he was awarded life membership on June 2, 1935.

He served the Florida State Elks Association in numerous capacities over a span of some fifty years. He was a member of the Major Projects board, later called the Florida Elks Children’s Board of Directors, for over thirty years, 1944-1976. He was elected for two terms as State President, 1952-1953 and 1953-1954. He was Chairman of the Harry-Anna Hospital Committee from 1954-1976. Mr. Harry-Anna had the monumental task of Chairman of the New Hospital Building Committee from its inception in 1956 until the completion and dedication
of the new hospital on March 26, 1977. His committee and the Elks of Florida raised $2,146,000 in cash so that on dedication day, March 26, the hospital was paid for in full. After remarks by State President Charles Pride, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bill Wall gave a short but emotional recap of the twenty years of planning and fundraising for this major project.

Past State President Victor Wehle was an active participant in the affairs of Elkdom, from Grand Lodge and the Florida State Elks Association to the West Central District and his home Lodge, St. Petersburg for sixty of his seventy years as a member. In 1992 he was designated as a member emeritus of the Florida State Judiciary Committee. Declining health in later years required him to take an inactive part.

Professionally he had his beginning in St. Petersburg as a practicing attorney, an assistant city attorney, county prosecutor, and then many years as a circuit judge.

He had service on the faculty of Stetson University Law School, was a trustee of the Florida Law Review, and was a member of the Florida Circuit Judges Association and the Trial Lawyers Association.

His commitment to his community was also outstanding. He served as Vice President of the Pinellas Boy Scout Council as well as the Children’s Service Bureau. He was Past President of the Army-Navy Club of St. Petersburg. He was a Mason and a Lutheran and a member of the Lutheran Brotherhood of Florida and the United Churches of St. Petersburg.

Wehle passed away on August 20, 1996. David L. Luikart, Sr., PSP gave his eulogy.

The following Lodges were represented: Arcadia 1524, Belle Glade 1716, Bradenton 1511, Clearwater 1525, Cocoa 1532, Coral Gables 1676, Daytona Beach 1141, DeLand 1463, Delray Beach 1770, Eustis 1578, Fort Lauderdale 1517, Fort Myers 1288, Fort Pierce 1520, Fort Walton 1795, Gainesville 990, Hollywood 1732, Homestead 1754, Jacksonville 221, Key West 551, Lake City 893, Lakeland 1291, Lake Worth 1530, Leesburg 1703, Live Oak 1165, Marianna 1516, Melbourne-Eau Gallie 1744, Miami 948, Miami Beach 1601, Miami Springs-Hialeah 1775, New Smyrna Beach 1557, North Miami 1835, Ocala 286, Orlando 1079, Pahokee 1638, Palatka 1232, Panama City 1598, Pensacola 497, Plant City 1727, St. Augustine 829, St. Petersburg 1224, Sanford 1241, Sarasota 1519, Sebring 1529, Starke 1802, Tallahassee 937, Tampa 708, Tarpon Springs 1719, Vero Beach 1774, Wauchula 1700, West Palm Beach 1352, Winter Haven 1672, Clermont-Groveland 1848, Perry 1851, and Venice-Nokomis 1854.

President Walter J. Matherly gave his annual report. Membership in the state was given as 24,170 and five new Lodges were instituted in the past year: North Miami 1835 on June 9, 1951; Clermont-Groveland 1848 on May 8, 1952; Clewiston 1853 on March 29, 1952; Perry 1851 on April 10, 1952; and Venice-Nokomis 1854 on April 12, 1952.

There was $121,304 expended for direct charities and $40,202.94 for general welfare work, an average of $6.66 per member. The Harry-Anna Home received $75,758 from the Lodges and $16,000 gross from the experimental Thanksgiving Seal Campaign. The Elks National Foundation scholarship was won by Ambrose B. DePaoli.

The following amendments were made in the bylaws: Article V, Section IV, Pertaining to elective offices (p. 53, annual proceedings); Article X-A - To be eliminated upon adoption of Article XIV; Proposed addition of Article XIV to Charter (p. 51-52 annual proceedings); Proposed additional item to Section XIV, Section V (p. 53 annual proceedings).

The ritual cup was presented to Miami 948.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1952-1953 term:

President    Victor O. Wehle, St. Petersburg
Treasurer    Claude L. Johnson, Tallahassee
Historian    Howell A. Davis, Palatka
Secretary    James W. Fernandez, Tampa
Tiler     Horace W. Bittenbender, St. Petersburg
Sergeant at Arms    Peter Gessner, DeLand
Chaplain    Rev. W. Piper Jones, Palatka
Organist    George Hulme, Lake Worth

Division Vice Presidents

Central    J. Porter Tyner, Plant City
South Central    A. E. Kirchman, Belle Glade
St. Augustine, FL was selected as the site for the 1953 convention.

**Forty-Seventh Annual Session**  
**Florida State Elks Association**  
**May 22-25, 1953**  
**ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA**

The following Lodges were represented: Arcadia 1524, Belle Glade 1716, Bradenton 1511, Clearwater 1525, Clermont-Groveland 1848, Clewiston 1853, Cocoa 1532, Coral Gables 1676, Daytona Beach 1141, DeLand 1463, Delray Beach 1770, Eustis 1578, Florida Keys 1872, Fort Lauderdale 1517, Fort Myers 1288, Fort Pierce 1520, Fort Walton 1795, Gainesville 990, Green Cove Springs 1892, Hollywood 1732, Homestead 1754, Jacksonville 221, Key West 551, Kissimmee 1873, Lake City 893, Lakeland 1291, Lake Worth 1530, Leesburg 1703, Live Oak 1165, Marianna 1516, Melbourne-Eau Gallie 1744, Miami 948, Miami Beach 1601, Miami Springs-Hialeah 1775, North Miami 1835, New Smyrna Beach 1557, Ocala 286, Orlando 1079, Pahokee 1638, Palatka 1232, Panama City 1598, Pensacola 497, Perry 1851, Plant City 1727, Pompano Beach 1898, St. Augustine 829, St. Petersburg 1224, Sanford 1241, Sarasota 1519, Sebring 1529, South Miami 1888, Starke 1802, Stuart-Jensen 1870, Tallahassee 937, Tampa 708, Tarpon Springs 1719, Venice-Nokomis 1854, Vero Beach 1774, Wauchula 1700, West Palm Beach 1352, Winter Haven 1672, and Winter Park 1830.

President Victor Wehle gave his annual report. He reported Elkdom growing rapidly with 2,000 new members and six new Lodges. The new Lodges were Stuart-Jensen 1870, instituted on December 6, 1952; Florida Keys 1872 instituted on January 17, 1953; Kissimmee 1873 instituted on January 24, 1953; South Miami 1888 instituted on May 20, 1953; Green Cove Springs 1892 instituted on April 17, 1953; and Pompano Beach 1898 instituted on April 30, 1953.

He reported that the Harry-Anna Home had a fine year with over $85,000 being donated through per-capita contributions and endowment certificates. Over $10,000 was raised for the home by the Tangerine Bowl game. Clermont-Groveland Lodge 1848 had the highest per-capita contributions, donating over $18 per member. He commented on the Florida Elks News functioning well throughout the year.

The following amendments were made in the bylaws: Article IX, Sec. 1. Pertaining to state divisions (p. 28 of annual proceedings), Article II, Sec. 4. Pertaining to per-capita tax (p. 29 of annual proceedings).

The results of the state ritualistic contest were as follows: Miami 948 - 92.4031, West Palm Beach - 92.2230, Jacksonville 221 - 92.1211, and Tallahassee 937 - 91.0376.

Orlando, FL was selected as the site for the 1954 convention.

PGER David Sholtz, former Governor of Florida, died on March 21, 1953.
Welbaum, R. William, President, Florida State Elks Association, 2000-2001

William Wellbaum was born October 3, 1943 in Waverly, OH. He was raised in Lima, OH. His father was a truck driver and his mother was a homemaker. He attended Ohio State University and graduated in 1966 with a degree in Business Administration. He attended Ohio Northern University and graduated in 1973 with a Juris Doctor degree.

He has been married Sue Clemans since March 20, 1966. They have three children. Their daughter, Carrie Steward, is a social worker with Charlotte County, FL public schools and is married to Dr. Michael Stewart, an optometrist in Venice, FL. They have two sons, Blaine, born in April of 1997 and Riley Payne, born February 24, 2000. Their daughter, Lori Wolff, an attorney who practiced with her father in Englewood, FL, is married to James Wolff, a baseball coach and teacher in Fort Charlotte, FL. Their son, Robert Wellbaum, is employed by Auburn University in Auburn, AL. His wife is a schoolteacher. They have two daughters, Hannah, born in January of 1998, and Madeline Grace, born February 22, 2000. Robert is a member of Auburn-Opelika, AL Elks 1834 and is a former member of Englewood Elks Lodge. Their sons-in-law, Michael Stewart and James Woolf, are members of Englewood Elks Lodge.

Wellbaum is a Past Exalted Ruler of Englewood Lodge 2378. Through his dedication and leadership, the Lodge grew to the largest membership in the Florida State Elks Association as well as the fourth largest Lodge in the United States. He served as District Vice President and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the South Southwest District from 1993-1995. He served as Chairman and Vice Chairman of Resolutions and the Judiciary Committee of the Florida State Elks Association. At the national level, he served three years on the Grand Lodge Judiciary Committee and as a justice of the Grand Forum.

Motto: “Step Forward and Extend the Hand of Elkdom”

Elks Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 1977</td>
<td>Initiated into Englewood, FL Elks Lodge 2378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Esteemed Lecturing Knight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Esteemed Loyal Knight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Elected Exalted Ruler when previous Exalted Ruler passed away</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1981-1982 Exalted Ruler
1982-1999 Lodge Scholarship Chairman
1980-1997 Presiding Justice
1982-1983 Southwest District Membership Chair
1989-1991 Southwest District National Foundation Scholarship Chairman
1991-1992 Southwest District Visitation Chair
1990-1992 Florida State Elks Association Chairman and Vice Chairman of Resolutions
1990- Member of Florida State Elks Association Judiciary Committee
1993-1999 Chairman of Florida State Elks Judiciary Committee
1993-1994 Vice President of South Southwest District
1994-1995 District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler
1994-1997 Area 3 member of Grand Lodge Judiciary Committee
1997- Justice of Grand Forum - Chief Justice in the Grand Lodge
1999-2000 Vice President at Large, Florida State Elks Association
2000-2001 President, Florida State Elks Association
Lodge Scholarship Chairman
Lodge National Foundation Committee
Lodge Committee for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services

Employment

1966-1968 Foreman of Transportation Department United States Steel Corp., Braddock, PA
1974 Attorney, Wellbaum and Wolff, PA, Englewood, FL (law practice concentrates in areas of real estate, probate, wills and estate planning, and small business advice)
Admitted to practice before United States Supreme Court, the Fifth and Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and United States District Court for Middle District of Florida

Civic and Community Activities

Former Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America
Former member of Englewood Kiwanis Club for 25 years serving as President in 1988-1989
Former member Englewood Jaycees for ten years serving as President 1975-1976 and as National Award Winning Project Chairman in 1977
Member of Englewood Chamber of Commerce for 25 years serving on Transportation and Education Committees and is currently a member of the Emerald Club
Former Chairman of the Joint Committee for Roads and Bridges for Englewood
Former member of Englewood-Sarasota County, Parks and Recreation Council
Former Director of First National Bank of Englewood and Exchange Bank of Charlotte County
Member of Englewood United Methodist Church and former member of administrative board

Honors and Awards

Who’s Who of Florida
Who’s Who of the Legal Professions
Who’s Who of Business and Professions
Listed “AV” (highest rating) by Martindale-Hubbell Legal Rating Service
Listed in the Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers in the United States since 1995
West Central District (Florida)

The West Central District has a membership of 5,804 as of March 31, 1998.

The following are Lodges of the West Central District and their membership as of March 31, 1999:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodge</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clearwater 1525</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunedin 2275</td>
<td>433</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Holiday Isles 1912</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>746</td>
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<tr>
<td>Largo 2159</td>
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<td>1,013</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Port Richey 2284</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>537</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinellas Park 2217</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>368</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminole 2519</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>471</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Petersburg 1224</td>
<td>779</td>
<td>807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa 708</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarpon Springs 1719</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,804</td>
<td>5,809</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

West Citrus Lodge 2693

Florida’s 119th Lodge

District: Central
Date of Dispensation: April 8, 1985
Date of Installation: April 21, 1985
Charter Exalted Ruler: William Bunch
Charter Members: 197
Year 1995 Membership: 751
Year 1996 Membership: 719
Year 1997 Membership: 690
Year 1998 Membership: 703
Year 2001 Membership: 681
Year 2004 Membership: 611
Year 2005 Membership: 555
Year 2006 Membership: 607
West Citrus Lodge is 75 miles north of Tampa and St. Petersburg and 90 miles northwest of Orlando. When visiting the Lodge, you will find a warm and friendly atmosphere. They serve dinner Wednesday and Friday in the lounge (4:00 to 8:00 p.m.) and Saturday in the ballroom during functions (5:30 to 7:30 p.m.). They also have elkie burgers (Castle style hamburgers) on Monday afternoons from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays are Karaoke night 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. They serve a variety of menu items including tacos, reubens, fried fish, hamburgers, and wings. This is a very popular night. On Thursdays they offer a light menu from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. of hamburgers, hot dogs, corn dogs, buffalo wings, pizza, and weekly specials.

They are within one mile of the Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park which is a showcase for Florida wildlife. It offers visitors an excellent opportunity to observe native animals, birds, and plants in their natural setting. Walk along a naturally beautiful boardwalk and view many Florida species such as cougars, bear, white-tailed deer, bobcats, otters, and fox. It is one of Florida’s most visited parks. To get to the Lodge, go to the first traffic light north of the Wildlife Park (Grover Cleveland Blvd.) and turn right (east) and go about ¾ of a mile. Their sign is on the right.

Installation was performed by officers of Aripeka Lodge 2520:

Exalted Ruler Wm. C. Bunch
Esteemed Leading Knight W. E. Greet
Esteemed Loyal Knight Jean C. Chandonnait
Esteemed Lecturing Knight Chas. H. Hinkle
Secretary Geo. J. Chipchase
Treasurer Robt. H. Holmstrom
Inner Guard Winston W. Gordon
Chaplain Darryl Markee
Organist Robt. S. Holmstrom
Esquire Henry A. Nolte
Tiler Robert E. Kolmel
Trustees
5 Year, Jos. C. Sheffield
4 Year, Richard H. Budd
3 Year, Leonard T. Rubright
2 Year, Okey Ryan
1 Year, Robert T. Glass

Officer jewels were donated by Aripeka Lodge 2520. The altar and officer stations were donated by Land O’ Lakes Lodge 2600.

Past Exalted Rulers:

William C. Bunch April 1985-June 1985
William E. Greet July 1985-August 1985
Charles H. Winkle September 1985-March 1987
Okey Ryan 1988-1989
Charles W. Henry 1989-1990
Jean G. Chandonnait 1990-1991
Joseph Morse 1992-1993
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Brown</td>
<td>1993-1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Czechowski</td>
<td>1997-1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel A. Badger</td>
<td>1998-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regis D. Steighner “Skip”</td>
<td>2003-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regis D. Steighner “Skip”</td>
<td>2004-2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Seitler</td>
<td>2005-2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grover Keeney</td>
<td>2006-2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In August of 1983, William E. Greet attended the funeral of his brother in Paramount, CA. His brother was an Elk who received the ceremonial rites by his parent Lodge members. Greet was so impressed with all aspects of the ceremony and of the Elks themselves that he contacted the Grand Lodge to request information to enable him to charter a Lodge in Homosassa Springs, FL. Months passed, and correspondence became quite voluminous, but with the able assistance of three members from Aripeka Lodge 2520 in Hudson, FL, the effort was well on its way.

On November 12, 1984, sufficient personnel had been recruited to hold the initial Lodge meeting at the old Pyramid Restaurant (later known as Caprio’s) in Homosassa Springs. Potential members voted to meet every Monday evening. Meetings were held wherever possible and wherever the space was offered free of charge.

The dedication of the first members and diligent work being performed by the initial nucleus of members culminated in the Lodge receiving its charter on April 20, 1985. The first Lodge officers were installed by members of Aripeka Lodge 2520 in Hudson, FL.

Starting approximately in July of 1985, the Lodge began to solicit monetary pledges in an amount sufficient to purchase property and for the construction of a building suitable to and complementing the brotherhood. When sufficient funds were pledged, a corporation was formed by the pledges and named West Citrus Elks, Incorporated (WCE, Inc.). Bonds were issued in accordance with the amount pledged; interest was to be paid to the bondholders as determined by WCE, Inc. Construction began on a building and most of the work was accomplished by qualified members. Finally, on August 1, 1986, the Lodge building was dedicated. The temporary meeting places were a thing of the past. The Lodge is located at 7890 W. Grover Cleveland Boulevard, Homosassa Springs, FL 34446.

In the Lodge year 1987-1988, West Citrus Lodge, under the leadership of Okey Ryan, was named the fastest growing Elks Lodge in Division IV in the United States at the Elks national convention in Las Vegas.

A few of the charities that West Citrus has supported have been Daystar Center, Child and Spouse Abuse Center, Lakeview School for Special Children, Key Training Center for Handicapped Children and Adults, Silver Shield Sheriff’s Benevolent Association, Citrus United Basket, Hospice of Citrus County, and Youth Homes of Florida.

They are active in the Elks drug awareness efforts. West Citrus has one of the most comprehensive Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs in Florida (Florida Elks News, June 1986). They are affiliated with Chemical Task Force in Crystal River, Tough Love Program, Just Say No Club, Florida Informed Parents, and National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth.
They have worked with the Chemical Task Force with a Just Say No Booth at the Citrus County Home Show. Over 800 signatures from children were received pledging their support and membership in the Just Say No Club.

West Citrus Americanism Billboard

A billboard operator donated a board for the Lodge to use free of charge for six months to advertise National Patriotism Week. A local builder, Louie Lott, paid for the artwork done on the board. This publicity along with other publicity helped to involve other local organizations that asked to be included in this very ambitious and worthwhile program. These organizations included American Veterans (AMVETS), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Veterans Alliance of Citrus County (VACCO), POW-MIA Organization, American Legion Post 155, WAC Veterans Organization, Shrine’s, Vietnam Vets, Scottish Pipers, Homosassa Springs Chamber of Commerce, and Girl Scouts.

As part of National Patriotism Week, the Lodge sponsored an essay contest with the subject being patriotism. Winners were announced and honored during the special week. A poster contest was also conducted and winners were recognized during Patriotism Week.

All branches of the service are recognized and at one, a female general, Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, was on hand to review the troops and address those assembled.

Governor Bob Martinez who was at one of these wrote the Lodge commending the Elks for their patriotism activities. In 1988 the Homasassa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce honored the Lodge as Civic Organization of the Year.
The Lodge in 1989 gave twelve year old Tricia Micanti a specially equipped tricycle giving her a new outlook. Confined to a wheelchair, the specially equipped tricycle allowed her to trike around easily. The funds to purchase the tricycle were raised through their annual charity ball.

A major project of the Lodge Social and Community Welfare Committee drew much attention from the local press. The Lodge approved a committee project to (at first) repair a home belonging to Mrs. Leona Havens, an 87 year old native resident, Homosassa’s oldest. Then when work started it was learned that the home was beyond repair for various reasons which included severe termite damage to the major structure. The committee then brought a proposal before the Lodge to obtain a mobile home, renovate it as needed, and place it on Mrs. Haven’s property. Her old house would be razed. This proposal was approved by the membership, and work began in earnest. It took several months, but Mrs. Havens and her disabled son moved into her new home early in 1990.

Many of the members gave a lot of their time and effort to see the Lodge become a reality. They have seen it grow from 196 charter members to, in just four years, almost 1,000.

Ladies organization: Ladies of West Citrus Elks

The West Citrus Ladies of the Elks were chartered on April 20, 1985 with 57 charter members. They have been a very supportive and imaginative group. Not only have they given generously of their time and talent in support of the Lodge, they have also supported it financially as well. They also have reached out into the community and have been a potent force in subsidizing charity groups in the county.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Southeast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>December 14, 1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Institution:</td>
<td>January 23, 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chartered:</td>
<td>July 10, 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>O. M. Eaton, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Exalted Ruler:</td>
<td>Edgar Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1995 Membership:</td>
<td>385</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1996 Membership:</td>
<td>373</td>
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<td>Year 2001 Membership:</td>
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<td>Year 2004 Membership:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
<td>635</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2009 Membership:</td>
<td>619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>6188 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone, Secretary:</td>
<td>561-686-6118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lounge:</td>
<td>561-686-1352</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: G. A. Mueller
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: G. A. McKinnon
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: R. E. Hall
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: W. K. Mizell
- Grand Secretary: E. R. Tuttle
- Grand Treasurer: F. T. Beauford
- Grand Tiler: Walter Detwiler
- Grand Chaplain: A. J. Kolb
- Grand Esquire: A. J. Cleary
Grand Inner Guard  
B. T. Bardin

The following officers were elected and installed:

- **Exalted Ruler**: Edgar C. Thompson
- **Esteemed Leading Knight**: R. L. Ray
- **Esteemed Loyal Knight**: S. T. Lainhart
- **Esteemed Lecturing Knight**: Rufus M. Robbins
- **Secretary**: J. B. O’Hara
- **Treasurer**: Frank G. Lewis
- **Inner Guard**: George E. Brown
- **Esquire**: Dr. T. S. Kennedy
- **Tiler**: Robert C. McGriff
- **Trustees**: R. J. Kishpaugh, Dr. L. A. Peek, M. E. Bruger

The following are charter members: A. M. Lopez; A. P. Sadler; George E. Brown; James Asher; W. A. Dutch; F. G. Lewis; L. A. Peek; F. A. Gutelius; R. C. McGriff; Harry C. Fugate; William E. Frost; T. M. Rickards; M. H. Brewer; S. T. Lainhart; J. Duhme; Edgar C. Thompson; R. L. Ray; T. J. Campbell; J. B. O’Hara; E. N. Dimick; S. P. Compher; Frank H. Matthews; R. J. Kishpaugh; Alfred A. Tano; Carl Kettler, Jr.; Rufus M. Robbins; W. E. Compton; T. S. Kennedy; M. E. Gruber; J. B. Davidson.

**Past District Deputies:**

- H. A. Bennet 1922-1923
- J. Edwin Baker 1928-1929
- William A. Wall 1936-1937
- J. Alex Arnette 1946-1947
- W. E. Poland 1950-1951
- Almer Tedder 1958-1959
- Karl Klaeger 1966-1967
- Edgar Armstrong 1978-1979
- Earle S. Fowler 1988-1989
- Enrico Peluso 1992-1993 From Lake Worth merger
- Donald Dixon 1993-1994 Expelled from order
- John Faddish 1999-2000 From Palm Beach West merger
- Carl Williams 2002-2003 From Lantana/Boynton merger
- Sean Maguire 2004-2005
- Donna Berkowitz 2005-2006
- Leslie Szirbik 2009-2010

**Past State Presidents:**

- H. A. Bennett 1926-1927
- J. Edwin Baker 1931-1932
- Wm. A. Wall 1942, 1943, and 1944
- J. Alex Arnette 1954-1955
- Robert Grafton 1971-1972 (now a member of Gainesville 990)

Wm. A. Wall served as GER in 1961-1962 and Robert Grafton served as GER in 1970-1980. Their original building was dated 1972. Their new building was erected in 1975. They burned the mortgage in 1990.

West Palm Beach was the product of Henry Flagler and the extension of his railroad from St. Augustine and the establishment of Palm Beach as the haven for the rich. West Palm Beach lays across Lake Worth from Palm Beach and was built by Flagler to house his workmen and hotel employees. To get to work, his workmen at first would reach the island of Palm Beach by rowing across the lake. Flagler named the streets of West Palm Beach after...
trees and flowers. Palm Beach County was originally part of Dade County and later broken away to form Palm Beach County.

The Birth of West Palm Beach
By Lowell P. Tyler, PER, State Historian

It was a quiet Sunday afternoon in November of 1916, but then every day was quiet in West Palm Beach, FL, an infant town of some 8,500 persons if you counted the population at the height of the winter season. By now the searing heat of summer had given way to a perfect fall day.

Two men, Richard L. Ray and R. W. Cooper, were seated in Cooper’s modest Prosperity Farms real estate office. With only six incorporated towns in Palm Beach County, no roads linking the lower east coast to the farming communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee, and the Florida land boom some eight years into the future, it was a lonely existence in this small city.

Lying along the beautiful shores of Lake Worth and what is now the Intra-Coastal Waterway with water so clear the bottom of the channel was visible, boats were the most common form of transportation. Homes were spaced miles apart and in this small world residents had to make their own excitement. Sandlot baseball, fishing, and picnics were the most popular forms of entertainment.

Life was idyllic and Woodrow Wilson had promised peace and prosperity during a successful campaign which led to his election as President of the United States. Both Ray and Cooper had been a member of Elks Lodges in the north and they had met a number of West Palm Beach residents who had also been Elks in their home states.

“What we need,” said Ray, “is an Elks Lodge of our own here in town. We are a growing community and I believe it would go over.”

Although previous efforts at founding a Lodge in the area had failed, this did not discourage Ray and Cooper. They agreed to call a meeting of all of the B. P. O. Elks residing in the vicinity.

Soon others had caught the enthusiasm of the two organizers and they met at the office of Judge Edgar Thompson to discuss the procedure for chartering a new Elks Lodge. Ray was appointed as chairman of the meeting and Cooper acted as secretary.

Ray explained the benefits that could be derived from forming a West Palm Beach Lodge and informed the group that the community met the Grand Lodge requirement of a population base of at least 3,000 persons. City Clerk A. M. Lopez was sworn in and verified the accuracy of the town census.

On May 7, 1917, just days after President Wilson signed the declaration of war against Germany, Cooper dispatched a letter to the Grand Lodge seeking dispensation for a Lodge in West Palm Beach.

On Christmas Day in 1917, the organizing committee elected the charter officers who would be installed at the institution ceremony. Judge Edgar Thompson was named Exalted Ruler and Richard Ray became the Leading Knight. District Deputy O. M. Eaton of Lakeland Lodge 1291 notified Judge Thompson on December 28, 1917 that he had been instructed to institute West Palm Beach Lodge on January 23, 1918.

The dreams of Ray and Cooper formulated in that small West Palm Beach real estate office some fourteen months earlier now became a reality. The town witnessed one of its most festive celebrations on January 23 as Florida Elks from Miami, Tampa, Lakeland, and other Lodges gathered to institute the state’s newest Lodge, Florida’s 21st. It took another ten years for Florida Elkdom to reach 39,000 members and the state association had only two ten-Lodge districts, Florida North and Florida South.

West Palm Beach 1352 was formed in the midst of World War I and eight of its members served in the conflict along with 70,000 other Elks from throughout the country. The American Expeditionary Forces were led by General John J. Pershing, a member of El Paso Lodge 187. West Palm Beach charter members Leo E. Williamson and A. H. Marion were among the 1,000 Elks killed in action during the war.

Pershing was asked to arrange a time for the signing of the armistice to end the war. Pershing had been so impressed with the Elks’ hour of eleven toast that it came to mind at this time and so he set the hour of eleven on the eleventh day of the eleventh month for the signing of the armistice not only in memory of the Elks but through the Elks in memory of every American.

By 1926 neighboring Lake Worth, only some ten miles south of West Palm Beach, began a campaign to organize their own Lodge. South Florida was booming as a result of the notorious land boom. People were moving in; they were making big money on land deals and sometimes sold several times a day, each deal bringing the buyers and sellers huge profits on the transactions.

West Palm Beach Elks responded to this desire for another Lodge in the area and joined in the efforts of the organization committee to form Lake Worth Lodge 1530. The enthusiasm took hold and on February 2, 1927, six
hundred Elks from throughout the state and Palm Beach County gathered to celebrate the 59th birthday of Elkdom and the ultimate institution of Lake Worth as the 31st Florida Lodge. West Palm Beach was its mother Lodge.

The timing of the establishment of the new Lodge couldn’t have been worse. The land boom was beginning to show that most of the profits were paper profits and the bottom dropped out of the market. People who once had collected great speculative land deal profits went broke, and a number of banks failed. The Lake Worth Elks, then only a few months old, lost all of their money in one of those bank collapses, but those Lake Worth people were a persistent group, mostly professional people, politicians, and businessmen and somehow they managed to hang on.

Before they were able to enjoy a full recovery, tragedy hit again in the form of the stock market crash of 1929 which triggered more bank failures and resulted in the loss of all Lodge funds again. This catastrophe was followed by the greatest depression in American history. The Lake Worth Elks prevailed and became compatible neighbors with West Palm Beach, often combining efforts to bring relief to many of the unfortunate. In the early days the two Lodges visited each other on a regular basis enjoying meals and the hospitality that each offered. At one time they were pared off opposite each other in a spelling bee aired over WPBR Radio. They often worked as a team during World War II.

During those boom years of the mid 1920s, the West Palm Beach Elks prospered. The year following their charter membership under the leadership of Exalted Ruler H. A. Bennett grew from 119 to 203. They continued to grow until the land bust but were able to sustain themselves as an influence in the community.

The impact of those years on the citizenry was often devastating, and both the Lake Worth and West Palm Beach Elks were major influences in bringing aide and relief to those in need.

At about this time, there was a movement in Grand Lodge to create a junior organization of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. It was planned to consist of Lodges of Antlers created by and directed by the individual subordinate Lodges of the order. The Elk who conceived, founded, organized, and promoted this movement was C. Fenton Nichols of San Francisco Lodge 3. The forerunner to the Antlers was the Junior Elks, organized in July of 1926 and dissolved in April 1, 1929 when it became the Lodge of Antlers under Grand Lodge resolution.

The idea for this new organization originated in Fenton’s mind from a statement made by a well-known writer some centuries before this time. When asked how long it took to make a model citizen, this wise old writer said, “You should start with the training at least three generations before he is born.” With this thought in mind, Fenton’s idea grew. In 1929 the program was adopted to form the organization of Antlers to be composed of youths from fifteen to twenty-one years of age. Its cardinal principles would be nonsectarian and nonpolitical. It would teach love of parents, country, home and friends, reverence for womanhood, the exemplification of truth, morality and fair play, and respect for organized government. It sought to aid in the development of character and the formation of clean and humane habits.

So, in 1933, the West Palm Beach Elks instituted the Lodge of Antlers. It was one of the more active and successful Antler Lodges. They were invited to participate in Elks Lodge services such as Mother’s Day. Antler officers sat by Lodge officers at their respective stations actively participating in the service. Interlodge visitations were encouraged and the West Palm Beach Antlers responded. In 1936 the West Palm Beach Antlers handled, entirely on their own, the raising of money for a successful Christmas tree festivity at which approximately 3,000 presents were given to children under twelve years of age.

At the annual Florida State Elks convention in 1937, President Fernandez introduced Brother Youmans of West Palm Beach Lodge 1352 who introduced the West Palm Beach Antler officers. They then exemplified the Antlers ritual of initiation. Those West Palm Beach Antlers performing the ritual were Exalted Antler, Thomas Young, Jr.; Leading Antler, Arthur Kerns; Loyal Antler, Fred Kiehle; Lecturing Antler, Jimmy Cox; Chaplain, Albert Witt; Recorder, Robert Douglas; Guide, Max Auerback; Guard, Jack Garvey; and Sentinel, Marvel Gallentine. After the ceremony, Brother Metcalf of West Palm Beach made a short talk covering the work of the order of Antlers.

Interestingly, PGER Robert Grafton, Grand Lodge Advisor for the Florida State Elks Association, was a member of West Palm Beach Lodge of Antlers.

Early in 1941 Lake Worth Lodge 1530 initiated a Lodge of Antlers consisting initially of 23 members between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one. Lake Worth Lodge of Antlers was organized at a dinner meeting in the Lodge. Exalted Ruler Jackson spoke of the aims and ideals of the Antlers and said that a member Antler need not be related to an Elk to become a member of the organization.

Officers installed in Lake Worth were Exalted Antler, James Calyitt; Leading Antler, Mac Stone; Loyal Antler, Albert Andrews; Lecturing Antler, David Feltz; Recorder, Bob Eberhart; Treasurer, Bob Arpin; Guide, George Stiedley; Chaplain, Larry Rackstraw; Guard, John Engram; and Sentinel, Orle Doty. Other members were
Attorney Phil O’Connell, a member of West Palm Beach Elks for more than fifty years and who became Florida Attorney General, related one of his fondest memories to me before his passing. It seems that one day following World War II, a woman came into his law office seeking advice. Although a resident of a northern state, she had traveled to Florida to retain him as her attorney because the West Palm Beach Elks had provided food, clothing, and financial assistance to her family during the land bust of the late 1920s and depression of the 1930s when they lived there. When the lady became prosperous in later years, she vowed to do business whenever possible with men who were members of West Palm Beach Lodge and kept her word by consulting O’Connell.

O’Connell related another memory that involved Bill Wall back in 1936 when Wall was Lodge ritual coach. Of course Wall later went on to become Grand Exalted Ruler. At the time, Grand Exalted Ruler James T. Hallinan, an Irish judge from New York, made an official visit to West Palm Beach Lodge and publicly predicted that the Lodge would win the Grand Lodge ritual contest in Los Angeles that year. His forecast came true as Wall’s team won the national championship and accepted the trophy from GER Hallinan who recalled his prognostication during his visit. O’Connell was the Loyal Knight and the ritual team came home to celebrate with a barbecue and dance at the George Washington Hotel.

One of the more interesting projects in Lodge annals is Operation Airlift. A nephew of F. H. Willhite shot a twelve-point elk with a four foot span of antlers and donated it to the Lodge. However, the trophy would not fit into the elevator so that it could be transported to the third floor Lodge room. The problem was solved by calling the fire department that hoisted the mounted elk’s head up the outside of the building and through a window.

Richard Ray, the charter Leading Knight, became the second Exalted Ruler of the Lodge and went on to become the South District Vice President in 1921-1922. West Palm Beach hosted the Florida State Elks Association convention in 1921, 1937, and 1950. Lake Worth hosted the Florida State Elks convention in 1942, 1943, and 1958.

Two members of West Palm Beach Lodge have become Grand Exalted Rulers. William Wall, who was initiated in 1931, became Exalted Ruler in 1934 and District Deputy in 1936-1937. Wall was appointed District Deputy by Grand Exalted Ruler Dave Sholtz who was also Governor of Florida at the same time. In 1939 Wall was elected South District Vice President and in 1942 was elected President of the Florida State Elks Association. Because of the effects of World War II and the many Elks serving in the armed services, Wall served two consecutive terms as State President. After a term as Grand Loyal Knight and two years as Chairman of the Board of the Grand Trustees, he became Grand Exalted Ruler in 1961. Alma Tedder became Wall’s Administrative Assistant. Wall died in 1991.

Bob Grafton is a third generation Elk whose father and grandfather were members of East Liverpool, OH Lodge 258. Grafton started his career leading into Elkdom when as a youth he became a member of the Lodge of Antlers. He was initiated at West Palm Beach in July of 1948 and became Exalted Ruler in 1957. In 1958 he helped form Riviera Beach Lodge which later became North Palm Beach Lodge 2069 in 1961 and transferred his membership to that Lodge. He was elected State President for 1971-1972 and served as Grand Exalted Ruler in 1979-1980.

In 1990 tragedy struck Lake Worth. As they were preparing for their annual PER night, a fire of unknown origin enveloped the Lodge, totally destroying the facilities and many of its historical artifacts, hopes, memories, and dreams. The struggle to survive with an aging membership became increasingly difficult, and finally it just seemed to make more sense to create a marriage with their mother Lodge, West Palm Beach. So in February of 1997, Florida’s 21st and 31st Lodges, the two oldest in the Southeast District, merged. They had been founded just ten years apart. The merger combined the assets of both Lodges, putting the one in a stronger financial position. The membership of Lake Worth automatically became members of West Palm Beach. Life and honorary life memberships continue to enjoy their status.

JOINT MERGER RESOLUTION
WEST PALM BEACH LODGE 1352
LAKE WORTH LODGE 1530

Whereas, West Palm Beach BPOE 1352 Board of Trustees recommended the Lodge merge with Lake Worth Lodge 1530 and the membership by proper Lodge vote according to Grand Lodge Statute 11.060 approved the merger.
Whereas, Lake Worth BPOE 1530 Board of Trustees recommended the Lodge merge with West Palm Beach 1352 and the membership by proper vote according to Grand Lodge Statute 11.060 approved the merger.

Whereas, West Palm Beach BPOE 1352 and Lake Worth BPOE 1530 Joint Board of Trustees approved the merger to become effective January 31, 1997.

Whereas, the following resolutions are presented by Joint Board of Trustees.

1. The merged Lodge will retain the West Palm Beach BPOE 1352 charter
2. The merged Lodge name will be West Palm Beach BPOE 1352
3. The membership numbers of each Lodge will be retained by the Lodge members. If a duplicate occurs the member of Lake Worth Lodge will have his number adjusted up to the next unused number.
4. New membership to the merged Lodge will have a membership number assigned starting with 3800.
5. The Bylaws of West Palm Beach BPOE 1352 will govern the merged Lodge until properly changed.
6. Assets of both Lodges will be combined in accordance with Grand Lodge statues.
7. As stated in Grand Lodge Statute 11.060, the length of service, Past Exalted Rulers, charter members, honorary life members, life members, etc. currently in good standing in their respective Lodges shall receive the same status in the merged Lodge.
8. Meetings of the merged Lodge shall be weekly on Wednesday of each month, at 8:00 p.m.

Therefore, be it resolved that the membership of West Palm Beach BPOE 1352 and the membership of Lake Worth BPOE 1530 requests Grand Lodge approval of a merger between the above mentioned Lodges.

West Palm Beach had two additional Lodges merge with them, Lantana/Boynton Lodge 2676 and Palm Beach West Lodge 2785. Palm Beach West merged with West Palm Beach Lodge on December 1, 2003 while Lantana/Boynton Lodge merged on March 31, 2007.

Long Time Secretary Accused of Theft

Around the year 2000, Donald Dixon, a Past District Deputy and twelve-year Secretary of the Lodge, was arrested, charged with embezzlement, and engaged in an organized scheme to defraud the Lodge in excess of $240,000. Additionally, the film projectionist who was Treasurer of his International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists, and Allied Crafts was investigated by the U. S. Department of Labor relative to theft of union funds.

The unfolding of Dixon’s embezzlement came to light when one of their union members died in October of 2000. It was learned that upon the death of the union member insurance to cover the costs of his funeral did not exist. It seems that Dixon had dropped the insurance as he had dropped workman’s compensation insurance covering the Elks Lodge.

The union called Exalted Ruler Joseph Mamone advising him to be wary of his Lodge Secretary and what had happened with the union. Mamone went to the bank asking for a balance in the Lodge account. It showed a balance of $250 when it should have been $250,000 or more.

The Exalted Ruler, District Advisor Thomas Elmore, and District Deputy Carl Seibert were called in and when Dixon returned from attending a wedding up north, they were waiting and faced Dixon with the evidence. After first denying any wrongdoing, Dixon confessed, was later convicted as a felon, and took up residency in the Florida prison system.

The Bill Wall historical room provides a display of artifacts of the old Lake Worth Lodge along with those of West Palm Beach, including its charter. The old Lake Worth American heritage wall, designed by that Lodge’s PER, Harold Koschnick, is displayed in the lobby.
West Palm Beach, always a stalwart leader in Florida and Grand Lodge Elkdom, has seen four of its members become President of the Florida State Elks Association. They were H. A. Bennett in 1926, J. Edwin Baker in 1931, William A. Wall in 1942 and again in 1943, and J. Alex Arnette in 1954. Past State President Baker later became the first administrator and superintendent of the Florida Elks Harry-Anna Hospital when it was founded in 1933. In making his annual report on the Harry-Anna Hospital before the Florida State Elks Association at Tampa in 1941, Baker read a passage from *The Challenge*.

It is not what destiny does with us but what we do with destiny that determines what we shall become. When a man is determined, what can stop him? Cripple him and you have a Sir Walter Scott. Put him in a prison cell and you have a John Bunyan. Bury him in the snows of Valley Forge and you have a George Washington. Have him born in abject poverty and you have Abe Lincoln. Load him with bitter racial prejudice and you have a Disraeli. Stab him with rheumatic pains until for years he cannot sleep without an opiate and you have a Steinmetz. Put him in a grease pit of a locomotive roundhouse and you have a Walter P. Chrysler. Make him a second fiddler in an obscure South American orchestra and you have a Toscanini.

The hardships of life are sent to you, not by an unkind destiny to crush you, but to challenge you. Our humanity is not our weakness but our strength.

Of course, West Palm Beach can also count two of its members becoming Grand Exalted Rulers, Bill Wall and Bob Grafton.

West Palm Beach was instituted during World War I, the war to end all wars. Its members served and gave the ultimate sacrifice in that major test to world democracy. It suffered and survived, as did Lake Worth, the test of strength during the great Florida land bust. Both Lodges went on to prove that the great Depression could not break those with a purpose. Not only did they survive these two economic crises, they helped the poor and the unfortunate, the homeless and the hungry, and the old and the young survive also. They helped to feed the unfortunate and the desperate and they helped to clothe them. They gave them hope.

They were shaken, as was our entire nation, with the attempt at world domination by those who sought power and domination and the threat to the freedom of peoples around the world during World War II, the war to end all wars. Their members served the cause and died for the cause. And they supported the home front and those in the far off trenches and beaches and in the air and on the sea.

They survived the hurricanes of 1926 and 1928, 1945, and Hurricane Andrew.

Edwin Markham wrote, “There is a destiny which makes us brothers. None goes this way alone.” Lake Worth Lodge and its mother Lodge, West Palm Beach, have added meaning to Markham’s words. They have met their destiny by hard work, dedication, and cooperation of many members. The marriage of these two Lodges was a monument to what cooperation, sacrifice, hard work, and working together can accomplish. They are an uncommon Lodge that had a dream, accepted the challenges that presented themselves over the years, and are enjoying the thrill of fulfillment.

Emil Basil Honored

Emil Basil of West Palm Beach Lodge 1352 was honored at the annual session of the Florida State Elks Association in Kissimmee in 1996 for his volunteer work at the VA Clinic in Riviera Beach, FL. Basil at that time had devoted over 8,000 hours as a volunteer. Since that time he has exceeded 10,000 hours.

Basil did things that needed to be done and hospitalized veterans were always in his mind. He kept the right people informed as to the veterans’ everyday needs. Whenever homeless veterans showed up at the front door of the medical center, Basil made sure that they got the attention needed and directed them to the proper departments for their care.

He was a rare individual who took it on his own to do those things that needed to be done. At Christmas and Thanksgiving he distributed food baskets to the poor in the community. He provided the funds, did the shopping, packed the baskets, sought out and found his own needy families, and delivered the food to them.

He was presented with the Grand Lodge National Veterans Service Commission’s first Volunteer of the Year Award.
Olympic Torch

The Olympic torch made its way to West Palm Beach rain or shine on Friday evening, July 5, 1996 and West Palm Beach 1352 was very proud that Boy Scout Troop 199, sponsored by the Lodge, joined with other troops to make up some 300 Boy Scouts of America who formed the honor corridor for the flame to make its grand entrance to Meyer’s Amphitheater. The Boy Scouts were called upon to keep the pathway clear as they lined both sides of the entrance while Wayne Cunningham made his way to the center stage where he was joined by Mayor Nancy Graham in the lighting of the caldron about 11:30 p.m.

The Olympic flame which started its relay in Greece made its way throughout Florida over the July 4th weekend and on to Atlanta, GA on July 19 where the flame was greeted for the opening of the Olympic games in 1996.

In 1998 under the chairmanship of Ella Gajauskas, the Lodge stuccoed the front of their metal building to look like plaster and stone. The foyer was remodeled to look like a living room with the American heritage wall on the right as you enter.

Ladies organization: Ladies Auxiliary

White, Charles T., Exalted Grand Ruler, 1872-1873

In 1872 Charles T. White became the second Exalted Grand Ruler. Other than progress along lines of work laid out previously, little was accomplished during this year. No reports from the two Lodges (New York 1 and Philadelphia 2) which alone then constituted the order as to their status of their respective membership, finances, etc. were received. The action of expelling A. H. Mulligan was confirmed. The death of William Sheppard on June 9, 1872 (the first Secretary of the first crude Elks Lodge) was announced and ordered to be recorded in the minutes. The Grand Lodge this year convened five different times, all under the generic head of the fourth regular communications. They were divided up into sessions and numbered: June 8, 1872, the tenth session; June 16, eleventh session reopened; December 8, 1872, the twelfth session, at which time Charles T. White was succeeded by the election of Joseph C. Pinckney as E.G.R., after which they took a recess, reassembled after recess, continuation of the twelfth session, on December 13 which marked the close of their deliberations for this year.

Charles T. White was born in Newark, NY on June 4, 1821 but lived in New York after reaching the age of two years. He received a liberal education, and having a fondness for horses, he resolved on being a rider. His first employment was in the racing stables of Robert L. Stevens. Severely kicked by a horse, he left that occupation and
took a situation with Moss, druggist in New York City. He then was employed in the chair factory of Oliver Edwards of the same city and later became employed by Jacob F. Oakley, assistant alderman of the fourth ward of New York City, and later with George Troutman and Jeremiah Lounsberry. At one time he was with the city customs department. Then he was with John Florence, George Spicer, and the celebrated sportsman, Hiram Woodruff, where he had charge of a number of celebrated trotters. He had a taste for music and, chance threw him in the way of an accordion, upon which he diligently practiced until he became quite proficient on that instrument. At this time he had a great idea of becoming attached in some manner to the stage. As early as 1843 at Thalian Hall, 42 Grand Street, New York City, he was regaling his audiences with his accordion. In the summer of that year, at Vauxhall Garden Theater (Fourth Avenue), he opened with a commonwealth minstrel organization in which were Barney William, William Whitlock, and Tom Booth. They were called the Kentucky Minstrels and they remained a part of one season at that house. In 1844 he organized and played in the Kitchen Minstrels at Palmo’s Concert Room subsequently playing then at P. T. Barnum’s assembly rooms, Philadelphia. He then went on tour of the eastern and middle states with the Virginia Serenades. He afterwards associated himself with the Ethiopian Operatic Brothers, a band comprising considerable talent, prominent among who was Barney Williams. He did end business with tambourine and also a single act, Dandy Jim of Caroline. He played at Palmo’s Opera House, Vauxhall Gardens, then in its height of popularity, under P. T. Barnum’s management. There White, along with Dan Gardner, danced the first double polka in character. The Ethiopian Brothers disbanded after a short time, and White joined the Sable Sisters and Ethiopian Minstrels. They included three lady vocalists, Pauline, Annette, and Angelique. They were popular for a time and then disbanded. From that time until 1846 he was engaged in various prominent and popular organizations. On November 24, 1846 he opened his Melodeon at No. 53 Bowery, at which place he gave a highly miscellaneous performance, and it was then he introduced those, which, as concluding acts, were then so popular. The price of admission being very small, the show lively and attractive, his business proved very lucrative. While proprietor of the Melodeon he was burned out twice, but each time he rebuilt it and returned to his triumphs. He closed there on April 22, 1854. On August 7 of that year he opened White’s Opera House at No. 49 Bowery and their success reached its climax.

The theater burned on January 27, 1857. In June of 1860, he opened old Washington Hall (598 Broadway) as Charley White’s Opera Houses with Kate Partington and others with a variety entertainment. In the same year he accepted an engagement with R. W. Butler, proprietor of the American Concert Theater, New York City. He was a good Uncle Tom in the war days and he was a useful member of Hooley’s Minstrels on tour. For eight years he was a member of the White House Deer Company on their annual tours, and finally he died in harness as he had always hoped to die. White died at home in New York City on Sunday, January 4, 1891, aged 69. He had contracted a severe cold which was much aggravated by exposure incurred by his presence at the burning of the Fifth Avenue Theater the morning of the previous day, and he died of pleural pneumonia. He was playing Mrs. Jackson, an aged negress, in Reilly and 400 at Harringans’s Theatre in New York at the time of his last illness.

He joined the New York Elks on January 16, advanced June 5, 1870, being No. 158 on the membership roll.

On December 17, 1871 he was elected Exalted Grand Ruler and served in that office until December 8, 1872.

An Authentic History of the B. P. O. Elks
Charles Edward Ellis
Whiteman, Jr., Raleigh W., Editor, *Florida Elks News*

Raleigh William Whiteman, Jr., son of Raleigh and Ada Belle Whiteman, was born on February 9, 1935 in Mansfield, OH. They moved to Chattanooga, TN in 1940 where he graduated from Central High School in 1953. He attended the University of Maryland and joined the Air Force in 1954 where he was trained to be an Air Traffic Controller. After his service he finished a year of college at the University of Chattanooga.

He began a career in Air Traffic Control in Tulsa, OK becoming a Journeyman Radar Controller and Radar Instructor. He moved to Florida in 1970 and worked in the Palm Beach Control Tower and then the Daytona Beach Tower. He was promoted to Supervisor at the Opa Locka Tower and after the PATCO strike was sent to Key West Tower as the Tower Chief. He retired from Air Traffic Control in 1987 after 32 years of service.

While working as a controller in Daytona Beach, he began a second career as a newspaper photographer for the *Orlando Sentinel*. He has won several first and second place photography awards and awards from the *New York Times* for excellence in photography. He worked for almost ten years for the *Sebring News-Sun*, the *New York Times* newspaper as photographer and columnist, and is currently a weekly columnist for the *Tampa Tribune, Highlands Today* edition.

He was initiated into Elkdom in 1990 at Lake Placid Elks Lodge 2661 and a year later began a three-year stint as the Lodge Secretary. In 1993 he started writing the Southwest Central District news for the *Florida Elks News*. He has served as Esquire, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, President of the PER Association, Lodge Publicity and District Publicity and Public Relations, and is currently three-year trustee and Chairman of Government Relations.

In 2002 his Lodge presented Whiteman with the Officer of the Year award for his many years of dedication to the Lodge.

He has been married to Joya since 1982. They have lived in Lake Placid since 1990 and have between them six children from prior marriages and eleven grandchildren.

He has been Editor and Publisher of the *Florida Elks News* since 1997.
Frank D. Willis, Jr. was born in Bude, MS on December 30, 1932. However, when he was four years old the family moved to New Orleans, LA. There he attended the public schools and graduated from Metairie High School in 1951. He attended Tulane University from September of 1951 to January of 1954, but his schooling was interrupted when in February of 1954 he joined the U. S. Marine Corps. There he served three years processing aerial photographs.

While serving on active duty with the Marine Corps, he met the person who would be his wife at the USO. He and Barbara were married on February 11, 1956.

He went on to attend Stetson University from September of 1957 to January of 1960 receiving his B.S. in Business.

The couple moved to Eustis, FL in May of 1960 where he became associated with the First State Bank & Trust Company which later became Atlantic Bank and now is known as First Union. Following this he associated with the Umatilla State Bank as Vice President and Branch Manager.

Willis was initiated into Eustis Elks Lodge 1578 in March of 1969. He became an active member and served every chair in the Lodge with the exception of Tiler and Lecturing Knight. In 1981-1982, he served his Lodge as Exalted Ruler.

On January 2, 1984, he began his career with the Florida State Elks Association and in May of 1984 became Secretary.

He and Barbara have two sons. Michael lives in Worthington Springs, FL where he is supervisor for area 2 of the Florida Parole Commission. Stephen lives in Tampa, FL and is owner of a food brokerage business.

Willis has been a member of the Lions Club, Optimist Club, Faith Lutheran Church & School, and the Open Door. He also served as treasurer of Ice House Theater.

Willis retired in 2003. Carl Seibert was appointed to the vacant position.

Wills and Bequests Committee

Section 1. The Committee on Wills and Bequests shall be composed of five members duly appointed by the President or the Association to 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 year terms of office. The appointed Investment Advisory Chairman to the Trustees of the Trust Fund shall be ex-officio member of this committee.
Section 2. Selection of committee members shall be made with circumspect and objective intent. Eligible members shall be lawyers, tax consultants, accountants, trust officers of banks, business managers, public relations experts, and such other professionals who have knowledge of the complexities associated with estate taxes, laws governing estates, wills, and bequests. The Past Presidents Advisory Council shall screen prospective members and make recommendations to the President.

Section 3. Duties of Committee. The committee is charged with the responsibility of increasing the number and monetary value of wills and bequests bequeathed annually to the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital. The committee will develop a program to accomplish its objectives and shall report progress to the board of directors and the association.

Testamentary Giving:
Present asset availability is unimportant. A commitment is current, but the actual cash payments are in the future.

Gift Annuities:
The program provides for an irrevocable agreement by which the donor makes a gift to charity and receives fixed payments for life. The amount of income received is based on the amount of the gift and the age of the donor. The older the donor, the higher the gift annuity rate. Additionally, there are immediate tax benefits.

How not having a will can affect your family and your estate:
1. The state, not you, will decide how your assets are distributed.
2. Most people think their spouse will automatically inherit everything. This is not true.
3. The courts, not your family, will be in control. Your money and your property (estate) will be distributed according to firm state laws, not your desires.
4. The courts can choose a stranger or someone whom you would not want to serve to handle the settlement of your estate, and it may be expensive.
5. If you have minor children, you may not have a say in who will be granted custody of them, or how their inheritance will be distributed to them.
6. You will not have the opportunity to leave a charitable bequest to your favorite charities like the ENF.

Winter Garden Lodge 2165

Florida’s 76th Lodge
District: North Central
Date of Dispensation: March 10, 1960
Date of Institution: April 25, 1960
Formally Opened By: Vaughn F. Martin, DDGER
Charter Members: By Demit - 55
                By Initiation - 88
Year 1995 Membership: 379
Year 1996 Membership: 387
Year 1997 Membership: 406
Year 1998 Membership: 418
Year 2001 Membership: 432
Year 2004 Membership: 392
Year 2005 Membership: 395
Year 2006 Membership: 396
Year 2007 Membership: 397
Year 2008 Membership: 401
Year 2009 Membership: 389
Meets: 1st & 3rd Mondays at 7:30 p.m.
       Board and Trustee meetings: 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Location: 700 S. 9th Street, Winter Garden, FL 34787
Telephone: 407-656-2165
The Lodge club hours are Monday-Friday, 3 p.m. - 10 p.m.; Saturday, 1 p.m. - 12 a.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Vaughan F. Martin
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Cullen H. Talton, PSP
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: H. F. Johnson
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Lee Monk
- Grand Secretary: George Carver, PSP
- Grand Treasurer: Russell Saxon
- Grand Trustee: L. F. Chapman, PSP
- Grand Chaplain: Charles H. Peckelis
- Grand Organist: Charles Doolittle, State Organist
- Grand Esquire: William P. Bunning
- Grand Inner Guard: Charles Poole

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: Eldon Johns
- Esteemed Leading Knight: M. E. Dodd
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: Jack Paul
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Chester Delp
- Secretary: Hal Donahey
- Treasurer: Tom Cox
- Inner Guard: V. W. Reid
- Chaplain: Billy Maltby
- Organist: John Harding
- Esquire: Paul Smith
- Tiler: Carl Boyles
- Trustees: 5 Year, Neil McMillan
- 4 Year, W. G. Fairchild
- 3 Year, W. L. Borders
- 2 Year, Lester Arnold
- 1 Year, G. W. Kennedy

Eustis Lodge 1578’s district ritual winners initiated the new members:

- Exalted Ruler: Malcolm V. McCall
- Esteemed Leading Knight: Robert Koss
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: Charles A. Dillard
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Frederick L. Belton
- Esquire: Warren C. Reynolds
- Chaplain: Arthur L. Hempy
- Inner Guard: John A. Williams

The following are charter members:

By transfer demit: Gibbs Ashley; M. C. Archiball; Lester F. Arnold, Jr.; John Merrill Bradford; Henry Britt; Carlyle F. Boyles; William L. Borders; Selby R. Burch; Earl Bozeman; C. L. Ballant; Tom Cox; J. C. Childs; Ben Carpenter; Ralph W. Dixon; Maelyon E. Dodd; Hal B. Donahey; Chester Delp; Dayl W. Donahey; Otto Duncan; John T. Ezzard; Hubert E. Fain; A. W. Ficquette; Leonard H. Harper; Jack V. Hudson; Perry Frazure Hull; B. P. Harter; Byrd Kenneth Ison; Chas. W. Irrgang, Jr.; Eldon O. Johns; Geo. W. Kenneday; Jas. J. Kenneday; Edward H. Kinzey; Joe Keller; Francis E. Loomis; Donald J. Mattioda; Burl Monk; W. C. Fairchild; H. A. Ficquette; Roy T. Maitimore; Emory M. Meredith; Neil McMillan; James McKelvey; Richard S. Patrick; James M. Pitchford; Russell Pounds; Jack Paul; R. J. Patrick; Jack W. Reid; James M. Russ; R. K. Rowe; K. C. Rowley; John
H. Schultz; Harold L. Shaw; James M. Stout; Paul Smith; C. R. Stevenson; Stanley Scott; Herbert S. Starr; Gerald B. Thompson; Edward H. Vick; Bobby Wambles; John C. Wingard, Jr.; Tom West; and John C. Wingard, Sr.


By absolute demit: W. D. Pease and J. F. Wilmeth.

New candidates: Gordon W. Adams; L. A. Anderson; J. Z. Anderson; Joe Story Burch; Grady L. Bennett; John N. Branch; Robert R. Brown; Leonard G. Burrow; Robt. W. Carmichael; W. B. Carleton; Donald G. Cloughley; John F. Creson; Spencer C. Cross; Jos. D. Calhoun, Jr.; Archie L. Campbell; Carl Christoff; T. E. Cloud; Paul Clanton; Albert E. Cowart; Russell H. Darling; Forest E. DeReus; R. E. Davis; W. C. Davis; D. E. Duppenthaler; Robert D. Ellis; George T. Foote; Harold E. Fowler; C. E. Grooms, Jr.; Benjamin Griffin; George M. Howard; George S. Hall; Mark C. Hipps; Boyce P. Hannon; Carl Holloway; Richard C. Howard; Edward J. Hudson; Gerald E. Hussey; W. J. Igou; Hillary Jowers; J. F. Keller; Vernon J. Kannerer; Joseph Palmer Luff; Carl E. Meece; Frank McKee; Virgil Nettles; Raymond W. Newman; Arthur P. O’Neill; E. J. Pearson; Jack E. Patrick; Edwin Pounds; Thomas N. Russ; Gilbert LeRoy Riles; J. E. Redmond; Clarence Richard; Hoyt H. Roberts; Stuart Smith; John J. Scanlon; Joseph C. Sayer; Horace L. Simmons; J. L. Shaw; Ben F. Smoak; Henry E. Thorne; Robert S. Thomas; T. M. Van Horn, Sr.; R. L. Vaughn; Ronald Weitz; Haven J. Williams; L. R. Williams, Jr.; Elmer Youngblood; and Hardee B. Webb, Jr.

Eustis Lodge 1578 is the mother Lodge.

Past Exalted Rulers:

- Eldon Johns 1960-1961
- M. E. “Buster” Dodd 1961-1962
- Chester Delp 1962-1963
- Paul Smith 1963-1964
- Chuck Richards 1964-1965
- Billy Maltby 1965-1966
- David Haler 1966-1967
- Herb Burleson 1967-1968
- L. M. Folsom 1968-1969
- Garry Swain 1969-1971
- Jim Cothern 1971-1972
- Tom Goddard 1972-1973
- Julian Revels 1973-1974
- Gary Holden 1974-1975
- Donald Jackson 1975-1976
- Pat Patterson 1976-1977
- Albert Nettles 1977-1978
- Roy Paramore 1978-1980
- Rex Anderson 1981-1982
- Stan Roper 1982-1983
- Jim Ragan 1983-1984
- Pat Patterson 1984-1985
- Mike Kennedy 1985-1986
- David Loew 1986-1988
- David Smith 1988-1989
- Allan Wilson 1989-1990
- Stan Roper 1990-1991
- Mark Wallick 1991-1992
- James Cothern 1992-1993
- Julian Revels 1993-1994
- George Laberee, Sr. 1998-1999
Many Florida residents and tourists are familiar with Winter Park and its many beautiful flowers. It was this along with its mild climate that has attracted many to this Orange County town.

Winter Garden Elks Lodge 2165 began when Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers from Orlando, Al Coe and Vaughn Martin, came to Winter Garden and approached Eldon O. Johns, Tom Cox, Hal Donahey, and M. E. “Buster” Dodd who were Elks members saying that there were enough Elks members in West Orange County to start a local Lodge.

Many meetings were held and interest mounted to such a pitch that the requirement of fifty members to apply for a charter was easily obtained. Members who signed these petitions were mainly from the Orlando and Clermont-Groveland Elks Lodges.

The next step was to get a list of Elks members residing in Ocoee, Winter Garden, Oakland, and Windermere. Many of these were citizens who had retired and still retained their memberships in Lodges all over the United States. They responded amazingly and before much time elapsed the Grand Lodge granted a dispensation on March, 1960.

The initiation and installation ceremonies were held at the Winter Garden City Auditorium and there were forty-seven Elks members present to begin formation of the new Lodge. With other existing members the Elks totaled seventy members.

Past Grand Exalted Ruler John S. McLellan from Atlanta, GA was present for the memorable occasion.

The new Lodge moved into the old Masonic Lodge room in the Black Building over Tom Cox Men’s Wear, Inc. in downtown Winter Garden on Plant Street. Minor repairs were needed and members donated paint and labor to redo the interior of the rooms. This was the summer of 1960.

After a year and a half in these quarters, Jim Russ, a member, had a residence on East Plant Street in Winter Garden which was available for renting and more desirable because it was on the street level. In 1962, the Elks moved to this location. Remodeling again took place with the enthusiastic members donating everything. A room was needed, though, large enough to put a Lodge room for club facilities. It was in the heart of the city that was desirable for visitors passing through.

During this period the Lodge trustees looked for a location that they could buy and finally decided on the old Bert Woodley place on 9th Street in Winter Garden. They were offered the property for $12,500 and the bank president, knowing many of the Elks for many years, obtained eight members to endorse a note until bonds were sold. These bonds sold like hotcakes and 1963 saw the Elks move into another location. Then, as in prior locations, alterations were necessary for Lodge and social functions. The main projects became that of taking out walls and moving the bathroom and kitchen. Operating under close restriction in a tiny room, members again pitched in to add a spacious Lodge room as quickly as possible. Now a handsome addition, it is 65 feet by 25 feet. Members of the Elks skilled in so many crafts of the building industry did the Lodge proud. A plastering contractor, an electrical contractor, etc. saved the Lodge money.

Willie Goff, the Elks club steward for nineteen years, kept a close watch on activities of the Lodge which made Central Florida proud, making the statement in 1968, “Now we are planning and thinking of the future for a modern new structure on our own property, but the future alone will tell.”

True to his prediction, in 1979, a new 80’x 80’ modern structure was built affording the Elks members new club facilities, bathrooms, game rooms, offices, and a dancing and dining hall. The Elks did most of the interior of the building with fellow Elk member, “Red” Folsom, as the contractor. The building was also paid for in full when finished.

Ladies organization: Ladies Auxiliary
# Winter Haven Lodge 1672

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 38th Lodge</th>
<th>District:</th>
<th>Southwest Central</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>April 15, 1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>July 16, 1945</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>Nick Carter, DDGER</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother Lodge:</td>
<td>Lakeland 1291</td>
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<td>Charter Members:</td>
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<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
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<td>Year 2007 Membership:</td>
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<td>Year 2009 Membership:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>322 Avenue B SW, Winter Haven, FL 33880</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>863-299-7789</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: Nick Carter, Lakeland
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: J. Frank Umstot, Tampa
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: Dr. W. S. Irvin, Lakeland
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Paul Henderson, Lakeland
- Grand Secretary: William Steitz, Lakeland
- Grand Treasurer: James J. Fernandez, Tampa
- Grand Chaplain: William P. Clark, Tampa
- Grand Esquire: William I. Boggs, Tampa
- Grand Inner Guard: Lloyd Hicks, Bradenton

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: John A. Lang
- Esteemed Leading Knight: Harry E. King
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: George L. Burr, Jr.
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Sidney J. Smith
- Secretary: Charles V. Peterson
- Treasurer: Roger W. Clapp
- Inner Guard: George W. Partin
- Chaplain: James D. Hill
- Esquire: Collier Jones
- Tiler: James B. Harrington, Jr.
- Trustees: George Andrews

The following are charter members: Robert W. Erwin; J. M. Sample; M. E. Schoenthaler; M. L. Snead; Eugene Acree; Wm. W. Allen; J. E. Allsopp; Felton H. Bacon; E. R. Baker; A. S. Bass; W. D. Boyette; Cecil Brewer; R. B. Brewer; P. G. Cole; Clark B. Davis; R. H. DeMott; Claude Donaney; L. W. Dunson; Robert C. Ellis; W. A. Gay; James A. Goff; Walter G. Howard; N. V. Huff; W. E. Huyck; Henry L. Jollay; A. H. Jones; Francis J. Kennedy; Heo. Lee Kramer; C. R. Linebaugh; T. D. Massee, Jr.; J. F. Mays; Irby McDaniel; C. N. McElvey; D. C.
McInnis; Hart McKillop; F. L. McNeer; J. Hunter Hyer; A. T. Parks; John M. Pate; J. R. Paul; F. J. Poitras; R. B. Presnell; Wm. V. Proctor; E. E. Raasch; A. T. Race, Jr.; Geo. W. Roberts; W. C. Ross; J. A. Rountree; John B. Rust; F. T. Sanchez; Robert Savage; A. L. Scarbrough; Kyle Sellers; J. H. Shope; Paul B. Smith; Walter. Smith; C. H. Swartz; Sam Telford; B. C. Turner; Alex Warren; Alan R. Wile; Roy E. Williams; Lorenzo A. Wilson; and J. H. Fuller.

Some say the naming of this town is quite obvious. Winter Haven became just that, a haven for escape from the severe northern climates. Its Cypress Gardens has become a major attraction with its water ski shows, flowers, and botanical gardens.

In June of 1994, Plato J. (Pete) Carlin, a life member of Winter Haven Lodge who had celebrated his 100th birthday on February 5, 1994, died in Vero Beach where he had resided for the few years before passing away. He had been the oldest retiree of the Florida Power and Light Company.

**Winter Park Lodge 1830**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 53rd Lodge</th>
<th>North Central</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>North Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>January 3, 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>February 5, 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally Opened By:</td>
<td>Hugh W. Vaughn, DDGER</td>
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<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>4755 Howell Branch Road, Winter Park, FL 32792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following officiated:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: David Sholtz
- Grand Esteemed Leading Knight: Arthur C. O’Hea
- Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight: Cullen H. Talton
- Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Daniel K. Roche
- Grand Secretary: M. A. Rosin
- Grand Treasurer: J. T. Lowe
- Grand Tiler: James J. Fernandez
- Grand Chaplain: Robert L. Bohon
- Grand Organist: Harry Kudell
- Grand Esquire: Wm. P. Bunning
- Grand Inner Guard: Leo. Butner

The following officers were elected and installed:

- Exalted Ruler: Harrison B. Stewart
- Esteemed Leading Knight: James E. Keezel
- Esteemed Loyal Knight: Philip A. Hoche
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Frederick W. Roche
- Secretary: C. C. Cole
Treasurer    Bedford Leighton  
Inner Guard     C. W. Holmes 
Chaplain    Daniel C. Haggerty 
Organist      Cornelius Aizpuru  
Esquire      Harlow G. Frederick, Jr.  
Tiler       A. G. Merritt  
Trustees
3 Year, R. Francis Harper  
2 Year, C. H. Bishop  
1 Year, W. R. Rosenfelt

The following are charter members: Tony J. Andary; Elbert J. Baggett; J. A. Baggett; Carl D. Buchanan; John H. Burrell; LeRoy B. Coffman; Mardon E. Cook; Andrew J. Cooper; Henry R. Cox; E. B. Cunningham; Wm. J. Cotter; Carl M. Derryberry; Harold T. Emptage; Wm. B. Edwards, Jr.; Wm. C. Englert; Merritt C. Farrar; Guy Ferlita; Ellis E. Foust; Billy B. Fuller; John Green; Gary Ivan Garapic; C. H. Galloway; John P. Griffin; Eldon C. Goldman; F. E. Good, Jr.; Webber Haines; John C. Hall; Chas. Rush Hair; Earl Y. Harpole; Peter F. Hendrick; Philip A. Hoche; W. A. Hogue; C. R. Hurley; Robt. J. Irwin; Wm. S. Jenkins; Donald E. Johnson; Neal W. Kaye; J. G. Kirchgesness; C. E. Tomlinson; R. J. Woodham; Frank W. Kessler; Gladstone Kohloss; Henry J. LaCroix; G. B. Malterer; Arnold Menk; A. R. Miller, Jr.; Robert R. Miller; Roswell H. Noegel; Neil O’Brien; Glenn G. Parker; Herb E. Poole; Morris D. Parker; Glenn Plummer; R. S. Pollard, Jr.; Fred E. Quance; T. A. Righetti; W. R. Rosenfelt; R. L. Schweizer; Harrison W. Shelden; David C. Smith; John Gerald Smith; J. L. Stecher; Otto A. Stevens; T. H. Stump; John R. Sutton, Jr.; James R. Varner; Ralph Z. VanWert; Paul A. Wagner; E. W. Webster; F. H. Webster, Jr.; H. H. Wesson; Jack Wesson; F. L. Williamson; W. E. Windерweede; Arthur C. Zahn; Cornelius Aizpuru; W. M. Alexander; Harold H. Baxter; Carilyn A. Bibb; N. M. Turnbull; C. H. Wright; Clarence H. Bishop; George R. Boll; Frank W. Bulger; Roland F. Castle; C. C. Cole; Clarence Devlin; George C. Devine; Edw. F. DeNike; Irving H. Felder; H. G. Fredrick, Jr.; Kenneth A. Gennett; M. L. Gann; Daniel C. Haggerty; R. F. Harper; Thos. W. Harper; George E. Harper; Francis T. Harper; F. A. Hasenkamp; C. W. Holmes; L. R. Houghton; Jack F. Howden; James E. Keeyes; Tim Leroux; John T. Lamb, Jr.; Bedford Leighton; Vaughan F. Martin; Edwin J. Maswra; Stanley Maynard; A. G. Merritt; Kenneth F. Meyers; J. V. Rapetti; F. W. Roche; R. G. Read; E. R. Simon; Elmer Staugler; H. B. Steward; M. W. Stukey; George Swartout; W. M. Thompson; and John R. Watt.

District Vice Presidents:
Jim Neal 1969-1970
Nick Fereso 1977-1978
John Croce 1988-1989
Charles Trinowski, Jr. 1999-2000

District Deputies:
Jim Neal 1972-1973
Nick Fereso 1977-1978
John Croce 1989-1990
Lawrence P. Bowdren 1997-1998
Charles Trinowski, Jr. 2000-2001

State President:
Charles Trinowski, Jr. 2006-2007

Elk of the Year:
2008 Frank Stephens  For all of his hard work on bingo and all of the other hard work he performs behind the scenes around the Lodge
Officer of the Year:

2008 Louise Dykstra  For digging in and getting involved and getting work on the kitchen cleanup organized

Citizen of the Year:

2008 Randy Harper  For taking on the 3rd grade dictionary project and for her work on the special law enforcement and fire department personnel awards

David Mizell settled Winter Park in 1836. Two New Englanders, Loring A. Chase and Oliver E. Chapman, laid the town out much like towns located in New England and Winter Park became their park away from the harsh New England winters.

During the summer and fall of 1950, a group of Elks now living in the vicinity of Winter Park, Orlando, and nearby towns but still holding membership in their hometown Lodges felt that a Lodge in Winter Park was a real possibility and a committee was formed to prepare a petition to the Grand Lodge.

During the summer and fall of 1950, a group of Elks now living in the vicinity of Winter Park, Orlando, and nearby towns but still holding membership in their hometown Lodges felt that a Lodge in Winter Park was a real possibility and a committee was formed to prepare a petition to the Grand Lodge.

In September of 1950, a petition signed by Charles Holmes and Richard Reed, both of Orlando Lodge 1079, and Frederick Roche of DeLand Lodge 1463, along with 43 other Elks from various out-of-state Lodges presented this petition to Grand Exalted Ruler James B. Kyle to form a Lodge in Winter Park.

A dispensation was granted by Grand Exalted Ruler Kyle to formulate this possible Lodge and upon certain requirements, a charter might be granted. This document was signed on January 3, 1951. Among those signing and asking for waivers or those holding absolute demits from their home Lodges were:

- Harrison B. Stewart, PER, Gary, IN Lodge 1152
- Bedford Leighton, Binghamton, NY Lodge 852
- Vaughan F. Martin, Syracuse, NY Lodge 31
- E. H. (Sheriff) Simon and Edward R. Simon, Alleghany (Pittsburgh), PA Lodge 339
- C. H. Bishop, Clarksburg, WV Lodge 482
- Joseph Campbell, Pittsburgh, PA Lodge 339
- Rev. David Haggerty, Cocoa, FL Lodge 1532
- C. C. Cole, Fairmont, WV Lodge 294
- Carlyle Wright, Orlando, FL Lodge 1079
- Francis Harper, Orlando, FL Lodge 1079
- Harlow G. Fredrick, Jr., Orlando, FL Lodge 1079
- E. A. Long, Orlando, FL Lodge 1079
- Stanley Maynard, Baltimore, MD Lodge 7
- George Swartout, Muskegon, MI Lodge 274
- Roland Castle, Garrett, IN Lodge 1447
- M. J. Zimmerman, DeLand, FL Lodge 1463
- William Thompson, Watertown, NY Lodge 496
- L. R. Houghton, Davenport, IA Lodge 298

While under this dispensation, meetings were held and applicants for new membership along with those wishing to affiliate with the new Lodge from other Lodges were invited to unite with the organizing committee. The first meetings were held in Richard Reed’s shop on Fairbanks Avenue in Winter Park and in the lounge of the Florida Power Company on Park Avenue in Winter Park.

The applications for new members and those transferring on demits totaled well over a hundred and the committee was ready to report to Grand Exalted Ruler Joseph B. Kyle. On July 5, 1951 the charter was granted and Winter Park Lodge was given No. 1830 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

The organizing committee now appointed various committees and nominated the following officers which appear in the charter:

- Exalted Ruler: Harrison B. Stewart
- Leading Knight: James B. Keezel
- Loyal Knight: Philip A. Hoche
As is customary, the forming of a new Lodge was to be sponsored by a nearby Lodge and Winter Park was sponsored by Orlando Lodge 1079. The dedication services and installation of the new Lodge officers were held in the Lodge rooms of Orlando Lodge. Attending were many state association officers including Past State President Cullen Talton; State Secretary, James Fernandez; Harry-Anna Hospital Manager, George Carver; and Harry-Anna Hospital Director, Willis McCall.

At this meeting, Winter Park Lodge was accepted by the Florida State Elks Association as a member and was added to Lodges in the East Central District consisting of Orlando 1079, Daytona Beach 1141, Sanford 1241, DeLand 1463, Cocoa 1532, New Smyrna Beach 1557, Eustis 1578, Leesburg 1703, and Melbourne-Eau Gallie 1744. These Lodges in the district assisted Winter Park Lodge in securing the necessary equipment by presenting a new American flag, star for above the altar, altar covering, bible, elk head, two gavels, chimes, officers’ jewels, and other items.

Their application to the Grand Lodge for the purchase of property was approved and trustees arranged to purchase the property on North Orlando Avenue just north of Fairbanks Avenue with Lots, 5, 6, and 7 on Orlando Avenue with two wooden buildings with Lots 17 and 18 in the rear listed as Lake Island Estates from Mrs. Gladys Murphy for $25,000.

These buildings were in fair condition but needed cleaning, painting, and reconditioning for Lodge meetings. The members did most of the work. The two buildings that were separated were brought together and they then had a fair sized large room and a clubroom. Money was raised by the members and with contributions from others, chairs, tables, and clubroom furniture made the first home complete. Members made the altar and officer stations. A small building in the rear of the Lodge room used as a laundry was cleaned, painted, and furnished with a stove, refrigerator, and cabinets making a first class kitchen. Among the members were several good cooks and for many years meals were served before or lunches were served after meetings.

At the first meeting in April of 1952, James Keezel was elected Exalted Ruler. The membership continued to grow, and many projects were started to fund the charity fund with a collection of piggy banks that were distributed with various merchants showing that donations were for the Elks’ Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital. These were continued for a number of years and a sizable amount was raised. Orlando Lodge for many years had sponsored the Tangerine Bowl football games between conference-winning football teams and Winter Park Lodge was asked to help as the profits were for the Harry-Anna Hospital. Many members sold tickets, worked at the gates, ushered, and sold cushion seats. This was carried on for many years. The Lodge continued to grow with the additions of new members and demits from other Lodges.

At the first meeting in April of 1953, Vaughan F. Martin was elected Exalted Ruler for the Lodge year 1953-1954. They were then invited to join with Orlando Lodge to hold a joint memorial service and an excellent program was arranged. Winter Park Lodge was also invited by Orlando Lodge to participate in their Flag Day services when the Boy Scout troop sponsored by Orlando presented the United States flags from the original flag to the present-day flag. It was a most impressive service. In these services, Winter Park officers joined with Orlando.

One of the outstanding achievements of this year was the formation of the Winter Park Elks’ Little League group. Nearly one hundred boys ages eight to twelve were recruited as possible players and a league of four teams, complete with a few substitutes, were equipped with complete uniforms. Members of the Lodge organizing this new league were Fred Roche, Bill Jones, Peter Sankovich, Vaughan Martin, Fred Sanfort, Ray Woodham, Max Armantraut, Fred Kane, and all the Lodge members.

Businessmen in the area were contacted with a promotion to advertise their business by furnishing a complete uniform for one or more players on each of four teams with their name on the back of each uniform they furnished. The response was terrific and soon the teams were equipped. Lodge members well qualified were selected as umpires. A regular diamond was built behind the Lodge on lots behind the Lodge building, dugouts were built, and the league was in full play. Balls, bats, bases, masks, and other equipment were furnished by members and by contributions. Many projects produced additional money for the charity fund including gas sales at Weider’s Station
In 1955, the Lodge had a successful year with their sponsors, the Ben White Raceway during the positive and for years was one of the Lodge's most popular programs. Chairman. This proved to be an excellent opportunity to get to know some of their district Lodges. The response was Harrison Steward, PER was appointed by the Florida State Elks Association as State Interlodge Visitation E. James.

Bank Chairman and many pints were secured. The Lodge was honored by a short visit by Grand Exalted Ruler Earl Under Social and Community Welfare, Edward Simon, Esteemed Leading Knight, was appointed Blood Officials for a Day. Letters from high school and city officials proved this practice beneficial.

During the year, the Lodge held a May Day celebration at Union Park Elementary School with food, drinks, and prizes for different events on the eight-acre playground with over 200 youngsters taking part. Supervision was under the direction of Walter Frye, Union Park Education Director.

At the first meeting in April, Edward R. Simon was elected as Exalted Ruler for 1955-1956. Good committees were appointed and an aggressive year was expected. Lodge Visitation Chairman, Carlyle Wright, made several visitations around the district with many members attending. Sickness and Relief Committees reported regularly. Several visitations were made to the Harry-Anna Hospital and gifts were given for the children from members of the Lodge and the Does. Several blood bank clinics were held and many pints of blood were secured for the members. A Ben White Raceway program was again proposed and accepted. As usual a small group volunteered, but a good race with fair receipts was obtained. A March of Dimes party was held in conjunction with Winter Park City Chairman, Sarah Howden, and a check for $50 was presented to her.

Winter Park had the honor of entertaining Grand Exalted Ruler John L. Walker and Grand Trustee William A. Wall as well as attending the official visit of these two Grand Lodge officers to the Harry-Anna Home. Past Exalted Ruler Martin was again elected a member of the Home Committee. Exalted Ruler Simon asked PER Martin to act as the Lodge ritualistic judge. He had recently been reappointed as state ritualistic judge.

Party and club kitchen space was small and continued growth of Winter Park had for some time created considerable concern among its officers and members and a Building Committee was appointed by the officers on a motion sustained by the Board of Trustees to look into the possibility of a new and larger building. This committee was composed of Elton Goldman, Gamble Rogers, Robert Miller, L. E. Stevens, W. L. P. Poulton, Curtis Buchanan, Larry Warrick, Tony Andary, Billy Fuller, William Jenkins, and Vaughan Martin, PER as Chairman.
suitable for new construction were carefully explored as against tearing down and rebuilding on the present property.

In February, Edward H. (Sheriff) Simon presented to the Lodge a nomination in writing for election of PER Martin to honorary life membership. This was for activities to the Lodge outside of his Lodge offices but also for his work on the Harry-Anna Home Committee, state and Grand Lodge committees, and his interlodge visitations which at that time were a district record. The motion was seconded and laid over two weeks after membership had been notified. On February 23, 1956, PER Vaughan F. Martin was unanimously elected to honorary life membership.

Several building sites were looked at by the Building Committee but they agreed unanimously to suggest to the Lodge membership that the new home be built on their present property and that plans be drawn for a building to cost around $65,000 and that complete plans with present financial status of the Lodge be presented to the members. This was necessary for the approval of the Grand Lodge Judiciary Committee Chairman, Brother Blackledge. The figures as shown by Chairman Martin were total assets of $38,950 with $1,144 liabilities of sewer lien and net worth of $37,806. The Grand Lodge with the understanding that all sales of bonds be placed in escrow until sufficient funds were available to ensure success of the promotion approved the application.

The Chairman was instructed to have suitable bond applications drawn for each $100 certificate with interest at 5%. In the event of failure to secure the required amount necessary, all of the funds were to be returned to certificate holders. Certificates were printed and money for the new building started coming in goodly numbers.

During the year, a delegation went to the Harry-Anna Home to help welcome Grand Exalted Ruler Fred L. Bohn and State President Frank Holt. At the April 1 meeting, Fred Sandfort was elected Exalted Ruler for 1956-1957. Jack Morgan, Past Exalted Ruler of Orlando Lodge 1079 and presently serving as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, was asked to help Winter Park and those in the district sell National Foundation certificates. This request came about because there was a lack of interest in this district program. Grand Lodge was spending more in their district in the form of scholarships, prizes in cash for most valuable student awards, and other funds given through the state than they were receiving back in contributions. Through D. D. Morgan’s personal efforts and with the help of many of Winter Park members, he was able to turn over to Grand Exalted Ruler H. L. Blackledge ninety $100 certificates, a record for the year.

George Carver, Past Exalted Ruler and Past District Deputy, was elected State Association President for 1957-1958. The Grand Exalted Ruler and President Carver were welcomed by a delegation at the Harry-Anna Home. In June of 1957, the Florida State Elks Association held its yearly convention in Orlando, FL and Orlando Lodge 1079 was the host Lodge. Brother Blackledge paid a visit to Winter Park Lodge and a delegation attended the dinner at Orlando Lodge during his official visit. At this session, Past Vice President and Past District Deputy J. Pierce Smith was elected State Association President for 1957-1958. Also at the convention, PER Vaughan Martin was nominated and elected Vice President of the Florida East Central District for 1957-1958. During the Grand Exalted Ruler’s visit to the district, he was honored with a dinner at Leesburg Lodge with all district members invited. A good delegation represented Winter Park Lodge.

At the first meeting in April of 1957, Jules Morris was elected Winter Park Exalted Ruler for 1957-1958. For the first three years, the Lodge entered their regular officers in the district ritualistic district contest and while not winning first place, they did finish second and several individual officers won first place. Early in the year, Winter Park lost the first of its charter members, C. C. Cole, first Secretary of the new Lodge. Cole was given an honorary life membership for his devotion and service.

Under PER Fred Sandfort’s chairmanship, the Lodge was represented by four teams in the Winter Park Lanes bowling league with the only cost to the Lodge the annual entrance fee of $40. The drive for selling building certificates had been very successful and the building went up rapidly. This was due to the help and workmanship of many of the loyal members including Curtis Buchanan, Elton Goldman, Clayton McCarthy, Glenn Parker, Milton Luke, Charles Shaddix, L. E. Stevens, Sidney Hires, and most of the regular members. While the new building was not far enough along for meetings, it was ready for the presentation of the building key and the cornerstone ceremony. These services were held on Monday afternoon, July 15, 1957 on a rainy day with services inside the building. Over 100 attended the service with an opening prayer by Father Amiro of St. Margaret Mary Church and a welcoming address by Exalted Ruler Jules Morris. Curtis Buchanan of the Building Committee and Merrit, manager of the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce, both gave short addresses. Past Exalted Ruler and present District Vice President, Vaughan Martin, unveiled the cornerstone. The stone, beautiful white and black granite with an elk’s head carved in bold relief was cut and donated to the Lodge by Harold Hunt.

Dedication of the building was to be held when completed with national and state officers present. On September 26, 1957, the new building was dedicated with state and Grand Lodge officers attending.

Early in 1958, Vice President Martin received a letter from George Carver, managing Director of the Harry-Anna Hospital, telling of a letter he had received from an elderly widow living in Winter Park who had been a yearly contributor to the home who would like to visit the home and children. Carver suggested that Mrs. Martin
contact this friend of the home and if suitable, drive her up. They met with Mrs. English and drove her to the home. She was so impressed with what she saw that she increased her yearly contribution and changed her will and left some to the home.

At the regular meeting in April, 1958, Clayton McCarthy was elected Exalted Ruler for 1958-1959. Interlodge visitations were increasing. At his home Lodge, Vice President Martin welcomed State President Pierce Smith at a dinner with over 100 Elks from the district attending. At the Grand Lodge convention in New York, Horace R. Wisely was elected Grand Exalted Ruler for 1958-1959. At the Florida State Elks Association meeting at Lake Worth, PDD Willis McCall, a longtime member of the board of the Harry-Anna Home, was elected State President for 1958-1959.

Late in the year, the Lodge received a letter from Jack Morgan, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and Chairman of the Tangerine Bowl Committee, inviting Winter Park Lodge to assist the Bowl Week by sponsoring a soccer football match between a select group of All-College stars in a South vs. North match with players representing Penn State, Pittsburgh, Navy, Army, Ohio State, Indiana, Illinois, Bucknell, University of Akron, and a few Olympic stars. This match was held at Harper Sheppard Field on December 16. Many tickets were sold in advance, but due to a cold, rainy, miserable day, attendance was slim. The South defeated the North 6 to 4.

Early in 1959, Winter Park Lodge officers and members visited the Harry-Anna Home to visit with and welcome Grand Exalted Ruler Horace Wisely and Grand Trustee Bill Wall.

President Fred Kane of the Little League advised the Lodge that the growth of the league needed to expand their playing fields and asked the Lodge for permission to apply to the Winter Park Recreation Department for the use of or purchase of Lots 1 through 12 of the Lake Island Estates adjoining their other back lots. This was approved and the lots were cleared for the coming season. Through the efforts Rosenfelt, good member, First Trustee, and President of the Winter Park Bank, he arranged with the executors of the property for the sale of these twelve lots for $750.

On March 26, Winter Park donated $300 to the new building drive of the Winter Park Memorial Hospital.

Under the sponsorship of Cocoa Lodge and through the organizing efforts of New Lodge Cochairmen, PDD Al Coe of Orlando Lodge and Past Vice President Martin, Titusville Lodge 2113 was instituted on April 27, 1959. The charter members totaled 192. Dignitaries included Grand Trustee Bill Wall, State President Willis McCall, several Past State Presidents, State Secretary Jimmy Fernandez, seven PDDs, and a large delegation of Winter Park Lodge members.

On June 14, Winter Park held its Elks Flag Day ritual in the Lodge room with the Winter Park Does assisting the Lodge officers. The address was given by Winter Park Mayor, Lynn Pflug. Refreshments were served by the Does. Arrangements were under the direction of Lecturing Knight, Gerry Blessing. A testimonial dinner was held on June 26, 1959 for Anthony Andary, a charter member and honorary life member of the Lodge. His financial assistance and support will long be remembered. Bob Miller, Edward Simon, and Exalted Ruler LaCroix extolled his many good deeds. Andary was presented a plaque suitably inscribed. DDGER Russell Saxon and George Carver, Harry-Anna Home Director, were honored guests.

On the 4th of July starting at noon, under the chairmanship of Jack Jenkins, a Little League game was held as well as games for young and old. There was barbecue at 5:30 p.m. and fireworks and a dance at 9:00 p.m.

Starting September 5th, Curt Rissman again started his dog obedience training class, an eight-week training period with trophies and ribbons; all was free of charge to youngsters eight to sixteen.

At the regular meeting in April, Sidney Hires was elected Exalted Ruler for 1960-1961. The 1960 state convention was held in Hollywood, FL. Charles H. Peckelis was elected State President for 1959-1960, and at the Grand Lodge convention in Chicago, William S. Hawkins was elected Grand Exalted Ruler for 1959-1960. As his official representative, he appointed PER and Vice President Vaughan F. Martin as District Deputy for the East Central District.

At the state association meeting in 1959, Charles I. Campbell was elected State President for 1959-1960, and at the Grand Lodge convention in Chicago, William S. Hawkins was elected Grand Exalted Ruler for 1959-1960. As his official representative, he appointed PER and Vice President Vaughan F. Martin as District Deputy for the East Central District.
School, Primrose School, Forest Park School, and the Harry-Anna Home. Under the direction of Bob Cheek, George
Crum, and Frank Downesborough, a series of square dances was held weekly.

Open installation for the new officers of Winter Park Does was observed with many visitors from other
droves and with Winter Park and other Elks present. District Deputy Martin was the guest speaker whose subject
was Family Participation in Doe and Elk Functions.

On October 9, 1960, Winter Park lost by death one of its first members, E. H. (Sheriff) Simon, a life
member. He was the father of Past Exalted Ruler Edward Simon.

On September 15, Winter Park Lodge along with other Central District Lodges was asked to assist the
Marine Corps Reserve in their campaign to secure soap to be shipped by the Corps to Vietnam as a gesture of good
will to the natives there in an effort to help combat a very serious condition. Thousands of bars were collected by
placing signs made up by the Lodge and putting them on display in large shopping areas.

Late in 1960, the 76th Lodge in Florida was instituted at Ormond Beach. This was the third Lodge
instituted in the East Central District in two years. Ground work was again by Cochairmen PDD Al Coe and
Vaughan Martin, PDD. On December 2, 1960, Ormond Beach Lodge 2193 was instituted at the country club with the
following officers present: Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Judge John McClellan; Past Chairman Grand Trustee, Bill
Wall; State President, Charles Peckelis; five Past State Presidents; and many other state and local officers. The
charter members were initiated by regular Lodge officers from Winter Park and Eustis Lodges. As had been
customary, Winter Park and other Lodges in the district contributed various necessary items for Lodge room use.

At the first meeting in April of 1961, Fred Kane was elected Exalted Ruler of Winter Park for 1961-1962.

Early in 1961, a committee consisting of Max Armantrout, Herbert Robinson, Sidney Hires, Exalted Ruler
Fred Kane, Jules Morris, Vaughan Martin, Edward Pasco, and many others held a weekend sale of blooming
azaleas to the public. Newspaper ads and large signs were posted in the parking lot in front of the building to benefit
the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home. It was so successful that the sale was extended another week.
Armantrout and Robinson arranged for the plants.

At the state association convention in May of 1961 in Fort Myers, George C. Nichols was elected President
for 1961-1962. As always, the Lodge was represented by a delegation of five selected by the Exalted Ruler to attend
the yearly convention. The Lodge has always allotted the necessary funds for the trip.

The 1961 Grand Lodge convention held in Miami Beach July 9-13 was attended by Winter Park delegates
and a good number of the members and their wives. Florida was greatly honored by the election of William (Bill) A.
Wall, West Palm Beach Lodge 1352, as Grand Exalted Ruler for 1961-1962. This was only the second time since
the order of Elks was founded that Florida was honored with a Grand Exalted Ruler.

At the first meeting in April, William Baker was elected Exalted Ruler for 1962-1963. On Thursday, April
5, 1962, Winter Park Lodge held its first open ritual installation of Lodge officers. This new method approved by the
Grand Lodge was very successful for it gave the wives and friends of the order of Elks the opportunity to observe
some of its inner workings. Dinner was served and a night of dancing followed.

On Thursday, May 31, a dinner was held honoring charter member, Treasurer Bedford Leighton, a fifty-
year member of the Elks. After dinner, a Bedford Leighton class was initiated.

On April 26, 1962, Robert Miller, one of the first who helped form Winter Park Lodge, a fifty-
year member of the Elks. After dinner, a Bedford Leighton class was initiated.

At the state convention held May 25, 1962 in Jacksonville, A. C. Van Horn was elected President for 1962-
1963. Jules Morris, PER was elected Vice President of the East Central District for 1962-1963.

The usual 4th of July picnic was held with a barbecue and games and refreshments for the kids and
fireworks at night.

Vice President Jules Morris visited all of the Lodges in the district and was accompanied by a good group
of members on each visit. On September 20, 1962, the Lodge welcomed Morris at his homecoming visit with
dinner. Present were many of the state officials and visiting members from other districts and Lodges. At the Grand
Lodge convention, former Grand Secretary Lee Donaldson was elected Grand Exalted Ruler.

Early in 1963, the Azalea Committee again offered to the public plants and some other scrubs. Proceeds
were for the Harry-Anna Fund. The Harness Racing Association again offered the Lodge a matinee meet which put
some more money in the fund.

At the first meeting in April of 1963, Thomas Collins was elected Exalted Ruler for 1963-1964. Early in
March, the Lodge received word that Grand Exalted Ruler Donaldson would visit the state, stopping first at the
Harry-Anna Hospital. An invitation was extended to Donaldson and to Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bill Wall to a
reception and dinner on March 14. A guard of honor was appointed by Exalted Ruler Baker to escort the dignitaries
to the Winter Park home. A large caravan also made the trip. Both the Grand Exalted Ruler and Past Grand Exalted
Rulers complimented Winter Park for their new building and programs for both Grand Lodge and state association
efforts.
At the state association meeting in Tampa May 23-25, Thomas E. Mallem was elected President for 1963-1964. It was decided that the present districts were too crowded and that another district should be added. The districts would still be called East Central, but the following were transferred to the new district: Cocoa, Daytona Beach, Melbourne-Eau Gallie, New Smyrna Beach, and Ormond Beach. Lake Wales and Winter Haven were added to the East Central.

During the year, State President A. C. Van Horn made his official visit to Winter Park Lodge and was entertained at a dinner meeting. At the Grand Lodge meeting in San Francisco in 1963, Ronald J. Dunn was elected Grand Exalted Ruler for 1963-1964. He appointed Past Vice President and Past Exalted Ruler Jules Morris as his District Deputy for Florida Central for 1963-1964. This had given Winter Park Lodge two District Deputies in a ten-year period.

Winter Park Lodge was also recognized for its excellent work for many years. Under the leadership of Tom Collins and his officers, they won the district title in ritual and went on to the finals in Miami Beach where they finished fourth out of nine teams.

At the first meeting in April of 1964, Dudley Prasek was elected Exalted Ruler for 1964-1965. At the state association convention in 1964, Russell Saxon of New Smyrna Beach was elected State President for 1964-1965, and PER James R. McIver was elected Vice President for 1964-1965. The Grand Lodge convention was held in New York in July and they elected Robert G. Pruitt Grand Exalted Ruler for 1964-1965. He appointed Past Exalted Ruler and Past State Vice President, Paul Smith of Kissimmee Lodge, as his Central District Deputy for 1964-1965. Early in 1965, the Lodge received an invitation to join with Orlando Lodge in welcoming State President Russell Saxon on his official visit to the Central District. This was to be an open meeting with a social from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and a dinner at 7:30 p.m.

At the first meeting in April, Jimmie Neal was elected Exalted Ruler of Winter Park Lodge for 1965-1966. Again the Lodge officers did a fine job at the district ritualistic contest. Some of the officers placed either first or second, but the team total was not enough for first. Esquire Paul Gutwald, a member of the Harry-Anna Home Committee, had noticed at a quarterly meeting that the American flag on the platform of the home was not bright and was frayed and upon return to the Lodge suggested that the Lodge present the association with a new flag. The Exalted Ruler gave Vaughan Martin the job of securing the same. Having been friendly as well as a business connection with a U. S. Congressman from their district, he wrote Gurney for his assistance in securing a flag that had been flown over the Capitol building. Gurney advised that he had purchased this flag, 5 feet by 8 feet, and as soon as the flag had been flown, it would be sent by the architect of the Capitol to be forwarded to the Lodge. The flag was received and presented to the state association at its semiannual fall conference meeting in September by PDD Martin. This flag was dedicated by reciting the Elks pledge. The Lodge Secretary was instructed to thank Gurney for his gift to the Lodge and state association.

At the state association convention in St. Augustine in June of 1965, W. “Sam” Compton was elected President for 1965-1966 and Frank Holmes of Sanford was elected Vice President for the Central District for 1965-1966.

The Grand Lodge held its 1965 convention in Miami Beach electing R. Leonard Bush Grand Exalted Ruler for 1965-1966. A large delegation of Lodge officers, members, and their wives attended the week’s activities.

Early in 1966, Exalted Ruler Neal appointed a committee of who wanted to start a Little League bowling team. Eddie Metz, Bill Scarlice, and Emil Kuntz were appointed. Also the golf tournament was started among the district Lodges for those members wishing to play.

At the first regular Lodge meeting in April, Carlton Rehfuss was elected Exalted Ruler for 1966-1967. At the state convention in June of 1966 held in Clearwater, FL, James M. Vann was elected State President for 1966-1967 and Alvin A. Ehrlich from Orlando Lodge was elected as Central District Vice President. Winter Park again lost one of its first charter members and its second Exalted Ruler, James Keezel, who died in June of 1966.

The national convention for 1966 was held in Dallas, TX and Raymond B. Dobson was elected Grand Exalted Ruler for 1966-1967. Past Exalted Ruler Frank Holmes of Sanford Lodge was appointed Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. During the year, Martin received a letter from the estate of Jane H. English, the widow mentioned some years back, who had visited the home and children with the Martins. The estate had donated $15,414 to the home.

The first regular meeting in April 1967 placed Fred Kane as Exalted Ruler for 1967-1968. In June, the state association held its convention in Fort Lauderdale and elected Marvin Kimmel as State President for 1967-1968. They also elected Past Exalted Ruler Malcolm McCall of Eustis Lodge Vice President of the Central District. The district was again changed by transferring Cocoa Lodge from the Central District to the East Central District. The Lodge was also again sorrowed by the death of Past Exalted Ruler Clayton McCarthy on May 29, 1967.

The national convention was held in 1967 in Chicago and elected Robert E. Boney as Grand Exalted Ruler for 1967-1968. Central District again was favored by the appointment of Past Exalted Ruler Alvin A. Ehrlich of Orlando Lodge as District Deputy for 1967-1968. Exalted Ruler Kane during his second term as Exalted Ruler, with
the help of Neal, Joe Campbell, Baker, Martin, and with a yearly check from the Lodge, continued to hold a Christmas party for the underprivileged children. The Winter Park Fire Department furnished a fire truck with Kane dressed as Santa Claus and toured to the joy of the youngsters. Donations were made by various merchants as well as toys and dolls furnished by member contributions. Late in September, another Lodge was added to the Central District.

At the first meeting in April of 1968, Martin Rudich was elected Exalted Ruler for 1968-1969. The state association convention was held in June of 1968 in Daytona Beach with Julian Smith elected as State President for 1968-1969 and Edward Ehlers of Leesburg Lodge was elected Central District Vice President.

Early in 1968 the Grand Lodge convention was held in New York City and elected W. W. McCabe Grand Exalted Ruler for 1968-1969. He appointed Malcolm McCall his Central District District Deputy for 1968-1969. On June 13, 1968, Winter Park Lodge paid special tribute to Treasurer Sidney Hammond by presenting him with an honorary life membership. His extra efforts in securing certificates for the Harry-Anna Home plus free services on Lodge yearly financial statements was greatly appreciated.

On February 10, 1969, Winter Park Lodge lost another honored and faithful member, William Resenfelt, one of the first organizers of the Lodge, trustee, President of the Winter Park Bank, and a true friend of the Lodge in many ways. On May 18, another charter member responsible for many new members, Lodge Treasurer, and honorary life member, Bedford Leighton, died.

In June of 1969 Samuel Moore was elected Exalted Ruler for 1969-1970. He resigned midterm and was replaced by Past Exalted Ruler Fred Sandfort.

At the state convention in Miami, Dr. Lamar Johnston was elected State President for 1969-1970. Jimmy Neal of Winter Park Lodge was elected as Central District Vice President for 1969-1970. The Grand Lodge convention for 1969 was held in Dallas, TX. Frank Hise was elected Grand Exalted Ruler for 1969-1970 and he appointed Vice President Edward Ehlers as Central District District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for 1969-1970.

Winter Park Lodge was honored by the official district visit of State President Dr. Lamar Johnston with a dinner reception and meeting attended by representatives of the Lodges in the district. It was announced that the district lost Sanford Lodge by transfer to East Central District and gained a Lodge by addition of Lakeland to the Central District. The new Lakeland Lodge held a dinner for Vice President Neal’s visit on August 7. On September 28, Apopka Lodge 2422 was instituted at the Apopka City Auditorium with Past State President Willis McCall acting as Grand Exalted Ruler and other chair officers represented by Past District Deputies. On February 22, 1970, Winter Park Lodge was host to the Central District ritualistic contest with seven Lodges entered. Orlando 1079 won and went on to represent the district at the state convention in Jacksonville.

At the first meeting in April of 1970, Nicholis Fereso was elected Exalted Ruler for 1970-1971.


At the first regular meeting in April of 1971, Earl Christman was elected Exalted Ruler for 1971-1972. Under the guidance of Leading Knight, Chester Cornwall, the Lodge again began a monthly bulletin that proved very successful.

The state association convention was held May 27-29, 1971 at North Palm Beach. Past Exalted Ruler and Past District Deputy, Robert Grafton, was elected as State Association President for 1971-1972. PER Robert Howell of Lake Wales Lodge was elected Vice President for the Central District.

The Grand Lodge convention for 1971 was held in San Francisco. E. Fournace was elected Grand Exalted Ruler for 1971-1972. He appointed Past Exalted Ruler and Past Vice President, Bod Kirchhoff, as his District Deputy for the Central District.

At the first regular meeting in April of 1972, Winter Park elected Leading Knight, Chester W. Cornwall, as Exalted Ruler for 1972-1973. The 1972 state association convention was held in Orlando and they elected Ralph W. Clements as State President for 1972-1973 and Earl Roth of Eustis Lodge as Vice President for the Central District. The 1972 Grand Lodge convention was held in Atlantic City and elected Franklin N. Smith as Grand Exalted Ruler for 1972-1973. He appointed Past Exalted Ruler Jimmie Neal of Winter Park Lodge as District Deputy for the Central District for 1972-1973. During Deputy Neal’s visits to Winter Garden, Kissimmee, and Orlando Lodges, he had fine support from his own and the other Lodges. Orlando Lodge welcomed him with a dinner and a class of candidates totaling 24 new and transfers. On November 26, 1972, Winter Park Lodge was sorrowed by the death of one of its first organizing members, an honorary life member, Trustee, and a member revered by the entire membership, Anthony Andary.
Early in 1973, Grand Exalted Ruler Francis Smith was welcomed at the hospital by a Winter Park delegation on his official visit to Florida. In 1973, Winter Park Lodge lost two more members who both assisted in the early days of the Lodge’s growth, Edward Pasco and Horace (Shorty) Wesson.

In 1974, the death of PER Fred Kane (twice Exalted Ruler) who died on January 22, 1974 and PER Chester Cornwall who died August 7, 1974 thinned the Lodge’s ranks of Past Exalted Rulers.

In 1975, Winter Park was again sorrowed by the death of two more of the original group who instituted the Lodge. One was Elton Goldman, one of the first Trustees and a new building committee member, who died August 11, 1975. The other was Carlyle Wright, Lodge Chair Officer on many occasions and also a trustee for five years, who died on October 23, 1975.

In 1976, another Past Exalted Ruler, a five-year trustee, a member of the Home Building Committee, and a member who was in a good measure responsible for the new building, Sidney Hires, died on February 9, 1976.

Significant Events in Winter Park Lodge 1830

2007 Lodge donated $1,500 to the DeLand Police Department’s Explorer Unit to provide assistance to tornado victims.

1998 Winter Park started a tradition that was intended to allow members to become better acquainted with one another. Each first Tuesday of the month the Lodge sponsors a fellowship night. Usually between 40-50 members and guests attend and get a superb steak dinner. The purpose of fellowship night is to provide an opportunity for the members to meet in a friendly and congenial atmosphere without having to be concerned with conducting the business of the Lodge as would be on a regular meeting night. Occasionally members bring guests and introduce them to the Lodge. This gives a large number of the members a chance to know them and affords the Lodge an opportunity to recruit new members.

Central Florida was experiencing many fires raging in the area. Pat Fuehrer, Winter Park Does Drove 86 President, thought it was a good idea to have the Lodge act as a collection center for supplies and donations to be provided to the firefighters and victims. Pat solicited the assistance of the Lodge. Exalted Ruler Augie King asked PER Hans Fuehrer to help coordinate the Winter Park Lodge efforts. By word of mouth, telephone calls, and broadcasts on the local television stations, the Lodge became a collection focal point. This all started on July 3 and by July 6 there was such an outpouring of contributions that it became necessary to rent a truck to deliver the supplies. Monetary donations from individuals, the Does Drove, Lodge PER Association, and the Lodge itself totalled over $1,200. In addition, supplies donated included 1,000 T-shirts, 548 bottles of water, 281 bottles of Gatorade, and sodas. HC/Gatorade and apple juice added 126 containers of liquids. There were 70 pairs of socks, 18 towels, 15 face cloths, 10 pounds of apples, and 50 pounds of bananas received. Finally, much needed items were included, such as eye drops, body powder, aspirin, soap, tooth brushes and paste, shaving cream, glad bags, Off! bug spray, chips, cookies, candy, and raisins.

Ladies organization: Does Drove 86
Chartered: November 19, 1952
Charger members: 61
Instituted by: Supreme President, Jeanne Christensen

Does Presidents

2008 Barbara Moyer
More Legal Pressure on Elks to Admit Women

By Steve Jones

A woman who claims she was rejected for membership simply for being a woman is now suing the Elks Lodge. On Friday, Bonnie Orendorf filed a petition in State Supreme Court in Utica to sue both the Lodge and the State Division of Human Rights, which rejected her discrimination complaint, according to Orendorf and her lawyer, Karen DeCrow.

“I want to be able to be a member of the Lodge and for the other women to be able to get in,” said Orendorf.

Orendorf applied for Lodge membership several times only to be turned down each time in a vote. Orendorf’s husband, Roger, has been a member for 22 years at the Rome Lodge but has since left for Boonville Lodge where women are allowed as members. Bonnie originally worked in the Rome Lodge’s kitchen for ten years but left on good terms to become the head cook at Strough Junior High School.

The petition comes as the State Division of Human Rights rejected the next step after Orendorf’s discrimination complaint against the Rome Lodge. The state ruled that the Lodge is incorporated under the benevolent orders law and is not a place of public accommodation. Now Orendorf is suing the division because she claims its rejection of her complaint was “irrational and unconstitutional,” DeCrow said, reading from the petition. DeCrow’s appeal to reconsider the complaint was also rejected. Now the petition, DeCrow said, will challenge the constitutionality of such an exemption.

In addition to DeCrow, a New York Civil Liberties Union lawyer who is also a former president of the National Organization for Women, another group is involved in the effort to win the fight for women to be members of the Rome Elks Lodge.

The American Civil Rights Liberties Union’s women’s rights project, DeCrow said, asked to be involved on August 11 and has been involved in the petition as well as working on ideas for the legal fight.