ABC Lounge

Elks member Jack Holloway, owner of ABC Cocktail Lounges, annually arranged for a Florida Elks Children’s Hospital cocktail hour. This took place at every ABC Lounge in Florida on a designated day from 4-6 p.m. During this time all ABC Cocktail Lounge registers were locked and all lounge sales were donated to the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital. In addition to the gross receipts generated, the ABC Employees Charity Fund made a donation to the hospital.

Accident Prevention Committee

This committee was conceived and born as part of the Insurance Department of the Grand Lodge under the guidance and assistance of Executive Director Sheldon Staubiz. Lodge chairpersons are to be one of the trustees appointed for an indefinite period.

Seventy percent of claims are from slip & fall. Over 75% of the slip & fall claims occur while dancing.

Accounting Committee

(See Auditing and Accounting Committee)

Ad Hoc

You will often hear reference to the establishment of an ad hoc committee. Black’s Law Dictionary defines ad hoc as “for this special purpose.” So, an ad hoc committee would be one appointed for a special purpose or in the particular action in which the appointment is made.

Adams, Alto, President, Florida State Elks Association, 1937-1938

Alto Adams was born in DeFuniak Springs, Fla. Jan. 31, 1899. He graduated from the University of Florida Law School in 1921 and practiced law for three years in Pensacola, Fla. before moving to Fort Pierce, Fla. in 1924. Adams founded the Adams Ranch Inc. in St. Lucie County, Fla. which became a renowned cattle and citrus operation with holdings in New Mexico and Texas as well as Florida.

In 1925, Adams was instrumental in establishing Fort Pierce Elks Lodge #1520. He became a charter member and the Lodge’s first esteemed lecturing knight. From there he continued in the chairs, serving as exalted ruler in 1928-1929. In 1934-1935 he was appointed district deputy grand exalted ruler. At the 1937 state convention held in West Palm Beach, Fla., Adams was elected president of the Florida State Elks Association. He then served in the high position of chief justice of the Grand Lodge forum in 1949-1950.
In his professional career, Adams served three years as circuit court judge until receiving an appointment to the Supreme Court of Florida. He served in that capacity until 1952 at which time he resigned to campaign unsuccessfully for governor of the state of Florida.

In 1967 the governor of Florida again appointed Adams to the Supreme Court where he served with distinction for almost three years before mandatory retirement at age 70.

He passed away in Lodge year 1988-1989. J. Pierce Smith gave his eulogy.

32nd Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
April 25-27, 1937
West Palm Beach, Fla.

Distinguished guest present: Hon. David Sholtz, Grand Exalted Ruler

The following changes were made in the bylaws:

Article 4, Section 1. The officers of the association shall be a president and five vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, a historian, a tiler, a chaplain, a sergeant-at-arms and an executive committee consisting of seven members.

Article 4, Section 2. The five vice presidents mentioned in Section 1 hereof shall be elected one each from the vice presidents’ divisions respectively, as described in Article 10, Section 3 hereof.

Article 10, Section 3. The state of Florida shall be divided into five divisions for the purposes of this association to be known as vice presidents. Divisions shall include the following Lodges in the following divisions, respectively:

Southeast Division: Key West, Miami, Miami Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Lake Worth, West Palm Beach, Fort Pierce
Southwest Division: Fort Myers, Sarasota, Bradenton, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Tampa, Arcadia, Sebring
Central Division: Lakeland, Orlando, Cocoa, Sanford, New Smyrna, Daytona Beach, DeLand, Eustis
Northeast Division: Ocala, Gainesville, Palatka, St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Fernandina, Lake City
Northwest Division: Pensacola, Panama City, Marianna, Tallahassee, Quincy

Article 4, Section 3. The secretary, sergeant-at-arms and chaplain shall be appointed by the president.

Article 4, Section 4. The executive committee shall consist of the president, the immediate past president, the treasurer and three members who shall be elected for a period of one, two and three years, starting from the 1930 convention. At each annual convention after 1930, one member of said executive committee shall be elected for a period of three years.

Article 4. (a) Treasurer: The treasurer shall receive and be the custodian of all moneys belonging to the association. He shall pay out the money of the association only upon proper warrants countersigned by the president and the secretary and shall perform such other duties as may properly be required of him. He shall, before assuming the duties of his office, execute and deliver to the executive committee a good and sufficient bond in the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars ($1,500) to be approved by the executive committee conditioned to report or account in writing annually or when requested to do so by the president or executive committee, for all moneys received by him, and for the faithful performance of his duties, the expenses of such bond to be paid by the association.

(b) Secretary: The secretary shall attend all meetings of the association, keep a true record of the proceedings of same, preserve all books and documents, attend to all correspondence, prepare and submit an annual report to the association at its annual meeting showing the condition of the association and the transaction of his office during the preceding year, compile and furnish to the secretaries of subordinate Lodges a list of speakers for Memorial Day and other occasions requiring the services of qualified speakers, and receive and pay over to the treasurer all moneys coming through his office belonging to the association. He shall have the power to purchase books, stationery, etc. needful for his office, the bills to be paid by the treasurer. He shall countersign all warrant
with the president and shall perform such other duties as may properly be required of him. He shall, before assuming
the duties of his office, execute and deliver to the executive committee a good and sufficient bond in the sum of one
thousand dollars ($1,000) to be approved by the executive committee, conditioned to report and account for all
moneys and properties belonging to the association. For the faithful performance of his duties, he shall receive the
sum of one hundred dollars ($100) per annum, payable semiannually.

Article 4, Section 10. Executive Committee: The executive committee shall, during the interim between
meetings of the association, take general charge of its property and the direction of its affairs and be governing body
of the association and perform such duties as may be necessary to protect its interests and promote the object of the
organization.

It shall have control of the finances of the association and recommend ways and means for raising funds to
defray the expenses of the association and set aside the same when received to the payments of such demands as are
properly chargeable to it and shall report all their acts to the next annual meetings. The president shall be chairman,
and the immediate past president shall be vice chairman ex-officio of said executive committee and shall be entitled
to a vote when acting as such chairman, and the committee shall pass upon all bills or accounts to be paid from the
funds of the association before warrants for the payment thereof shall be issued.

Miami Beach Lodge #1601 was instituted July 2, 1936.
The ritualistic cup was awarded to Daytona Beach Lodge #1141. The officer attendance record was won by
Arcadia Lodge #1524.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1937-1938 term:

President  Alto Adams, Fort Pierce #1520
Secretary  E. K. Sumner, Fort Pierce #1520
Treasurer  R. L. Bohon, Jacksonville #221
Tiler  Joe Cunningham, Fort Lauderdale #1517
Historian  A. M. Taylor, St. Augustine #829
Chaplain  Father John J. Kellaghan, Sanford #1241
Sergeant-at-Arms  Peter Gessner, DeLand #1463
Vice President, SE Division  Tom Kelley, Miami #948
Vice President, SW Division  M. A. Rosin, Arcadia #1524
Vice President, C Division  Frank Carboy, Orlando #1079
Vice President, NE Division  George Douglas, Lake City #893
Vice President, NW Division  J. G. Mathis, Panama City #1598
Executive Committee  Alto Adams, Fort Pierce #1520
                     J. J. Fernandez, Tampa #708
                     E. K. Sumner, Fort Pierce #1520
                     R. L. Bohon, Jacksonville #221
                     A. C. Altvater, Sebring #1529
                     M. Frank O’Brien, Jacksonville #221
                     J. A. Rostan, Lake Worth #1530

Daytona Beach was selected for the 33rd annual session in 1937-1938.

The report of J. Edwin Baker, Superintendent of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home, was received
and filed. The organization staff is as follows: Superintendent, J. Edwin Baker; Medical Director, Dr. W. L. Ashton;
Nurse Supervisor, Miss Marie D. Stacey, R.N.; Physiotherapist, Miss Corrine B. Norris; Matron, Mrs. Robert
Keller; School Teacher, Miss Hattie D. Slaughter; and Dietician, Miss Lois Walters.

**Advisory Council, Past State Presidents, Florida State Elks Association**

*(See Past State Presidents Advisory Council, Florida State Elks Association)*
Albert “Boots” & Eleanor Van Duren Scholarship for the Counselor in Training Program – Florida Elks Youth Camp

(See Florida Elks Youth Camp)

Albertsons Community Partners Program

Albertsons food stores initiated the Community Partners Program to help the community. The program is directed to those who wish to raise money to benefit youth. After approval by Albertsons, the organization is issued 100 cards; more may be obtained at a cost.

If the card is given to any Elk who shops at Albertsons, the cashier at the time the card is presented will scan it and return it to the shopper. The youth organization that is designated on the card will get a percentage of the amount spent quarterly.

Albertsons Provides Way for Harry-Anna School Computer Purchase

In 1990, Ruth A. Toner, a math teacher at the Harry-Anna School located at the Elks Children’s Hospital, needed a computer for her high school students.

She found the solution with Albertsons food stores which provided the way to get the computer at no cost. As a school, all they needed was receipts from any Albertsons store in Florida. When they had a total of $100,000 in receipts, Albertsons would provide the computer free of charge.

Ben Brown, hospital administrator, acted as coordinator for the project.

All-American Lodge

The All-American Lodge honor was first awarded in 1983. The first All-American Lodge was Clawson Troy, Mich. Lodge #2169.

An annual award is given by Grand Lodge under Contest “A” – All-American Lodge. The official entry form is mailed to the Lodge in January of each year. This completed form must be mailed to the district deputy by March 15.

(See also Contest “A”)

Amaranth and Ivy

GER Henry O’Neil is credited with the origination of the amaranth and ivy as the Elks’ funeral emblem. O’Neil was a member of New York Lodge #1 and served as Grand Treasurer at the first meeting of Grand Lodge Feb. 12, 1871, and as Exalted Grand Ruler from 1874-1876. At his funeral, largely attended by members of New York #1, his casket was covered with amaranth and ivy, the floral concert he had originated.

In the funeral service, reference is made to the unfading amaranth encircled by the clinging ivy. These tokens are deposited with the deceased in enduring friendship; the amaranth typifies the belief in the immortality of the soul and the ivy symbolizes brotherly love.

(See also O’Neil, Henry)

American in Nature

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a thoroughly American fraternal organization and membership is confined to citizens of the United States. Lodges can also be found in the Philippine Islands that were once a protectorate under America until they were granted independence after World War II.

At one time there were two Lodges in the Panama Canal Zone formed prior to that republic’s gaining independence. Later there was only one Lodge in the Panama Canal Zone, the two having merged into one Lodge. Tom Elmore, PGELDGK was special representative to that Lodge. Now, though, this Lodge no longer exists.
is a Lodge in Guam and one in the Marianas Islands which are under American protection. A Lodge is also found in
Puerto Rico.

Florida’s PGER Robert Grafton has been sponsor to the Panama Canal Zone and Puerto Rico. Florida’s
PGER C. Valentine Bates assumed sponsorship of Panama Canal after serving as Grand Exalted Ruler. Florida’s
Past Grand Loyal Knight, Carl Vaughn, once served as special GL representative to San Juan, Puerto Rico Lodge
#972. Jimmy Solana is now special representative to San Juan, Puerto Rico Lodge.

**America’s Promise**

General Colin Powell led a group called The Alliance for Youth which was headlined as America’s Promise. Powell said:

“Young people need to learn that when we help others, we get back far more than we contribute.

“We worry a lot about kids today, about keeping them safe from poverty, neglect, drugs and violence. We
worry about them getting the education and the skills they need to find good jobs when they grow up. We worry
about them learning self-respect and moral values.

“Our kids have essential needs that it is our duty as a society to meet. Every child needs a caring adult role
model in his or her life, a safe place to learn and grow, a healthy start and a good education. As chairman of
America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth, I am currently leading a national crusade to help meet all these needs,
and one more: the need to give back through service to the community.

“Young people need to learn the paradox of giving – that when we help others, we get back far more than
we contribute. Teens who tutor elementary school kids, or spend a few hours a month at a hospice, or give up a
Saturday to clean up an empty lot, get to know the satisfaction that comes from making a difference in someone
else’s life.

“They learn to value themselves by a more mature standard that their worth is not determined by having a
flashier wardrobe but the contribution they make to the world.

“National Youth Service Day honors young volunteers and is an invitation to others – adults as well as
youth – to join hands and do our part as Americans.”

In support of this crusade, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has made a strong commitment to
youth through America’s Promise, The Alliance for Youth.

**Elks Commitment**

The B.P.O. Elks of the U.S.A. promised to sponsor drug-free proms in 2,000 communities by the year
2000, to develop after-school programs at 1,000 Elks Lodges, to develop mentoring relationships with at least ten at-
risk kids in each local Lodge community, and to make 275,000 young people partners in community service
programs. In addition, Elks promised to increase support for scouting and youth athletic programs to $34.9 million,
for drug education and treatment for disabled children to $12.1 million, and for college scholarships to $6.5 million.
(See also Drug Awareness)
(See also Elks Drug Awareness Program manual for Subordinate Lodge Chairman’s Guide. DAP 125 in
Secretary’s office)

**Progress**

The Elks National Drug Awareness Program estimated that by July 1999 about 70% (1,540) of all Elks
Lodges would have sponsored drug-free parties. Attendance at these events was estimated to be between 150,000
and 200,000.

The Elks National Hoop Shoot free throw competition has attracted more than three million participants
between the ages of 8 and 13. In addition, more than 660,000 children participated in Elks sponsored after-school
activities, including Little League Baseball, basketball, swimming and other programs, fulfilling their commitment
through the participation of the majority of 2,200 Lodges.

The Elks established informal mentoring relationships with more than 250,000 children in 1998 alone
through Elks sponsored youth activities, dramatically exceeding the targeted total of 20,000.

An innovative new program was also designed and established to enlist the help of children in the care of
hospitalized veterans. In addition, Junior Elks programs have been established nationwide to encourage young
people to participate in community service programs.
The Elks’ support for scouting and youth athletic programs totaled $51.69 million for the year 1997-1998 alone, easily exceeding the $34.9 million commitment as well as the previous year’s $44.53 million. Up to the year 1997-1998, more than five million children have been estimated to have participated in these activities.

The Elks’ support for drug education and the treatment of children with disabilities topped $14.9 million, exceeding an estimated $12.1 million commitment and the previous year’s total of $11.9 million. The Elks Drug Awareness Program distributed close to 20 million pieces of drug education literature in 1998 and is estimated to have reached 5.4 million youths during the 1997-1998 Lodge year.

The Elks National Foundation distributed 500 Most Valuable Student scholarships as well as scholarships for Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award winners. The total cash value of these scholarships plus scholarships distributed by local Lodges exceeded $8.5 million, surpassing the order’s $6.5 million commitment as well as the previous year’s total of $6.56 million.

**Future Plans**

The Elks have established a partnership with Safe Night USA to further their commitment to drug-free events for children. All Elks Lodges have been encouraged to participate and will be reimbursed for expenses through the Elks National Foundation. In addition, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission works to expand participation in the Elks Veteran Youth Volunteer program, designed to involve children in the lives of veterans in nursing homes and VA medical centers. The Elks are also using the internet to promote mentoring opportunities and resources to their membership.

**Showcase**

In Des Plaines, Ill., the local Elks Lodge has instituted a pilot program where Lodge members travel to local schools and read to the children there. Each week, fifteen Elks mentors read with the students one-on-one in an effort to hone the students’ reading skills. Both the Elks mentors and students are delighted with the results of the new program. Volunteer Ron Zuraski relates that “the program is well-received by the students.” On his last visit, he overheard one of his students ask if he could read first.

Don Rush added, “Where would the students be without the ability to read? It is one of the most important skills in life, no matter what career path they follow.”

**American Theater**

This was a theater in New York at the time of Charles Vivian’s arrival in America in 1867 (Vivian was the founder of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks). On Vivian’s first night in America, Robert Butler, manager of the American Theater, caught his performance and the thunderous enthusiasm that followed. Recognizing a winning entertainer, Butler signed on the young man for a three-week run at his theater at a sum of $50 per week. This was later extended for another six weeks.

It was Vivian’s first job in America and supplied the needs of a 25-year-old man in a strange land with little cash and few friends.

**Americanism Committee**

The order of Elks became highly specialized in every field of protection to our human rights as citizens of the United States when it established the Americanism Committee during the term of Florida’s William “Bill” Wall as Grand Exalted Ruler in 1961. It is one of the greatest strengths in Elksdom.

However, as early as 1940, Palatka Lodge #1232 offered a resolution that was adopted by the Florida State Elks Association recommending that the subject of Americanism be taught and instilled into the minds of all schoolchildren and that the association take the necessary steps and make necessary arrangements to contact the proper state and county officials to have set aside a period during each day to be utilized in instilling upon the minds of all schoolchildren the subject of Americanism.

The following year at the annual state convention held in St. Augustine, Fla., a resolution was adopted approving the principles of the Florida Congress in Democracy which have been instituted for the purpose of preserving and defending the fundamental principles of Americanism, democracy in the state of Florida, and
pledging support, assistance and cooperation. Palatka Lodge #1232 presented a resolution that said the program on
Americanism be continuing and perpetual. This was adopted.

The ambition and goals of the Americanism Committee are to quicken the spirit of Americanism patriotism
and to stimulate an awareness, a genuine feeling of pride and respect toward patriotism, so that the members of the
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will become constant reminders to the people of our nation that truly
America means freedom and that Elks Care and Elks Share.

The committees on Americanism – Grand Lodge, state and local – are charged with implementing the
patriotic activities of the order and its subordinate Lodges. Each Lodge should take part in as many of these
programs as possible in order to accomplish a diversified impact for Americanism in their area.

The order of Elks has always prided itself on its Americanism. One of the requirements for gaining
membership into the fraternal brotherhood is that they must be American citizens. The national organization and its
subordinate Lodges foster Americanism in many ways.

The order promotes American principles of individual freedom, opportunity and dignity. They also make a
valiant attempt to motivate people to safeguard these principles and develop pride in and understanding of the
United States.

In 1964-1965 the state Americanism bulletin was being subscribed to by 45 Lodges for their members and
represented a circulation of 12,030. Requests for these state Americanism bulletins came from all over the United
States. They came from as far north as Maine and as far west as California. Excerpts from the January-February
1965 bulletin were read over WEAT-TV in West Palm Beach, Fla. by Jack Ledden, a member Elk and
commentator. Ledden wrote that after he read the bulletin, the station switchboard lit up like a rocket explosion and
that never before had so many people asked for copies of a program. This resulted in excellent publicity and public
relations for the Elks Americanism program.

Elks Lodges furnish or display what they term the heritage corner, replicas of such historic documents as
the American Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, Monroe Doctrine, Gettysburg Address
and the Elks Resolutions of Law and Order and Declaration of American Principles.

At the Grand Lodge session in 1907, the members adopted a resolution designating June 14 as Flag Day. In
1911 the Grand Lodge mandated all subordinate Lodges to observe Flag Day and the use of the ritual adopted in
1908.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was the first fraternal organization to require observance of
Flag Day with appropriate ceremonies.

Many Lodges give or sell flags to worthy groups and educate them in proper flag etiquette. Some Lodges
even provide flags for newly sworn citizens, while other Lodges give flags to their local schools for display in the
classroom.

The Elks salute law and order through special programs and awards, honoring law enforcement officers for
their unselfish work. Additionally they recognize the news media for fairness and objectivity in reporting.

These programs, along with their youth work, Drug Awareness Program and charitable endeavors, permit
the order to justifiably proclaim, “The Elks are distinctively American.”

Each Lodge Secretary has copies of the Americanism Committee manual which is available to all
Americanism Committee chairmen.

At the Grand Lodge convention held in Kansas City, Mo. in 1999, a resolution was passed to assist in
raising funds to build the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Americanism Committee Manual

The Americanism Committee manual is full of material that will help each Lodge have a successful year. This
includes the Heritage Corner kit, parade of U.S. history poster, flag decals and a flag history display. It also has
community programs which include Get Out the Vote, Outstanding Citizen, classroom flags and Law and Order
Night. These are just a few of the items available in the manual that can help the Lodge with activities and
membership and increase the awareness of patriotism in the community.
The Lodge secretary should order extra copies for the committee to use in planning and evaluating their progress. The exalted rulers and state association chairmen should review the manual and programs with their committees periodically. Leading knights and state committees should assess their budget requirements for the next Lodge year.

Americanism Essay Contest

Rules:

1. Eligible participants must be U.S. citizens enrolled in grades fifth through eighth at the time of the contest.
2. Essay length is not to exceed 250 words.
3. Essay must be typed or legibly written or printed in ink.
4. Essay must be submitted for judging to the Elks Lodge nearest the address of the entrant.
5. All Grand Lodge winners must have a social security number before submitting their entries to the Grand Lodge for national judging.
6. Cover sheet must be attached to each essay.

Timeline:

1. Entries must be submitted to the local Lodge on or before Jan. 10.
2. The top three essays from each division must be received by the district chairman by Jan. 30 or the date selected by the state chairman.
3. The top three essays from each division must be sent to the State Americanism Chairman by Feb. 15 or the date selected by the state chairman. (Do not separate first, second and third place.)
4. Select the first, second and third place winners for your state and send the first place winner from each division to the Grand Lodge contest administrator by March 31.

Judging Criteria:

1. Originality: avoids the use of trite or worn out words and phrases.
2. Development of theme: stays focused on ideas and thoughts don’t stumble.

Divisions:

1. Division I will consist of the fifth and sixth grades.
2. Division II will consist of the seventh and eighth grades.

There will be three winners in each division receiving savings bonds:

First place is $1,000.
Second place is $500.
Third place is $250.

State association winning entries must be postmarked on or before March 31 for final judging and mailed to the Grand Lodge Americanism Committee.

The state awards are as follows:

- First prize $700 savings bond
- Second prize $250 savings bond
- Third prize $200 savings bond
Winners 2007-2008

Theme: “What is an American?”

Fifth & Sixth Grade Division

First place  Mikaela Zoucha, sixth grade, of Hernando, Fla.  
Submitted by Inverness Lodge #2522

Second place  Reilly McCabe, fifth grade, of Port Charlotte, Fla.  
Submitted by Englewood Lodge #2378

Third place  Catherine Lower, sixth grade, of Jacksonville, Fla.  
Submitted by St. Augustine Lodge #829

Seventh & Eighth Grade Division

First place  Luke Ruhl, eighth grade, of Mt. Plymouth, Fla.  
Submitted by Eustis Lodge #1578

Second place  Jennifer Renee London, eighth grade, of Port Orange, Fla.  
Submitted by Port Orange Lodge #2723

Third place  Cameron Thomas, seventh grade, of Bradenton, Fla.  
Submitted by Bradenton Lodge #1511

Winners 2008-2009

Fifth & Sixth Grade Division

First place  Conner Gallimore, sixth grade, of Miami, Fla.  
Submitted by Miami Lodge #948

Second place  Brien Polter, fifth grade, of Lynn Haven, Fla.  
Submitted by Panama City Lodge #1598

Third place  Alexander Bakshi, sixth grade, of Melbourne, Fla.  
Submitted by Melbourne Lodge #1744

Seventh & Eighth Grade Division

First place  Vincent Riera, eighth grade, of Daytona Beach, Fla.  
Submitted by Daytona Beach Lodge #1141

Second place  Savannah Young, eighth grade, of Port Orange, Fla.  
Submitted by Port Orange Lodge #2723

Third place  Mikaela Zoucha, seventh grade, of Hernando, Fla.  
Submitted by Inverness Lodge #2522

The winning entries in each division will be announced at the Grand Lodge session.
Anna Miller Circle

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

The Anna Miller Circle derived its name from the founders of the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital, Harry and Anna Miller.

The Anna Miller Circle chose as its main objective to assist the Florida Elks Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital in reaching its objective of caring for children with orthopedic problems.

Antlers

On Dec. 8, 1878, Esteemed Leading Knight Henry B. Sanderson of New York Lodge #1 made a motion for the introduction of placing a set of antlers upon the altar which was adopted at that business meeting.

Antlers, Lodge of

Organized: July 1929
Dissolved: July 1967

A well-known writer a few centuries ago, when asked how long it took to make a model citizen, said you should start with the training at least three generations before he is born. With this thought in mind it was recommended that the constitution of Grand Lodge be amended to make possible the formation of the Antlers organization, a spinoff from the Junior Elks formed in California in 1926. Also recommended was the drafting of a simple ritual for an Antlers organization, said organization to be composed of youths from 10 to 21 years of age with membership to cease when the youth attains his majority. Details would be worked out from recommendations by committees all working toward the one thought of the teaching of the youth cleanliness of body and thought, the developing of initiative and the making of a better-equipped man for tomorrow by the Big Brother attitude of the time.

This was all the result of the efforts of Fenton Nichols in California to have the Antlers endorsed and adopted by Grand Lodge. In his report to the Grand Lodge in 1928, GER Grakelow recommended that amendment of the constitution of the order to make possible the formation of Lodges of Antlers under the sanction and guidance of the Grand Lodge and the drafting of a ritual for such Lodges.

An amendment read, “The Grand Exalted Ruler shall have power to grant permits to subordinate Lodges to institute organizations of young men under 21 years of age in the manner provided by statute.”

Finally, at the Grand Lodge session in Los Angeles in July 1929, it was passed, and on Aug. 29, 1929, G. L. Section 183A was issued pertaining to “the organization of young men, to be known as the Antlers, between the ages of 15 and 21 years. Their name and number would be the same as their sponsoring Lodge and governed by a constitution, bylaws and ritual as prescribed by Grand Lodge.”

An Elk could recommend any young man between the ages of 14 and 21 years to a club membership for $6 per year. On April 1, 1929, the Junior Elks were abandoned as a separate entity and all became eligible for Junior membership in the Lodge.

GER Hulbert endorsed the movement in 1929. There were now 24 Antlers Lodges in California and 10 Lodges in other states for a total of 34 Lodges.

Hulbert said that the constitution on work and ritual was in preparation and they would submit to the convention a ritual for the institution of the Antlers, the installation of the officers thereof and the initiation of candidates therein.

Then in 1930, Florida’s Bradenton Lodge #1511 was issued a permit to have an Antlers Lodge. St. Petersburg Lodge #1224 and Lakeland Lodge #1291 had also applied for a permit.

The 1932 Grand Lodge convention was held in Birmingham, Ala. At this session, brother Nichols was made the Antlers councilor. The councilor would be authorized to prescribe and promulgate rules and regulations for the government of Lodges of the Antlers and the members and advisory councils.

A manual of instruction relative to organization procedure was printed and sent to each inquiring Elks Lodge. Much care was used in preparing a code of rules and regulations covering a general governmental setup,
uniform bylaws and rules of the order. It was printed and copies were sent to each Lodge of Antlers, Grand Lodge officer, committeeeman and district deputy.

THE ANTLERS OF THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

January 1933

The Antlers originated in San Francisco in 1922 as a part of the Big Brotherhood program. That the organization has merit is proved by the fact that at this time (January 1933) over 45 Lodges are in existence. Substantial expansion will follow the now active Grand Lodge sponsorship and bring with it material benefits to our fraternity.

Requirements: Section 183a, Grand Lodge statutes, provides that any subordinate Lodge may institute a Lodge of the Antlers. Membership is confined to white, male citizens between the ages of 15 and 22 years, of sound mind and body, of good character and who believe in the existence of a supreme being. Relationship to an Elk is not required, nor is membership open to delinquents or wards of the juvenile court. Such an organization carries the name and number of the sponsoring Lodge, to-wit: “The Antlers of ____________ Lodge NO. _______ B.P.O. Elks.” The Antler does not automatically become an Elk upon reaching his majority.

Nature: The order is nonsectarian and nonpolitical. Love of parents, country, home and friends; reverence for womanhood; the exemplification of truth, morality and fair play; and respect for organized government are among its cardinal principles. It seeks to aid in the development of many character and the formation of clean and humane habits.

Operation: The organization functions as does any Lodge. Impressive rituals are in use. The Lodge operates under a regular order of business and is governed by a code of laws. Officers serve for six months and are elective and appointive, elections being held in March and September. This short term provides the opportunity for more boys to serve in the chairs. Activities are carried on through committees. Candidates for membership are rigidly investigated before being balloted upon. Meetings are held in the Lodge room of the sponsoring Lodge, certain building privileges (optional with the sponsor) being extended at such times. Lodges are self-governing and act under the guidance of Antlers advisory councils, one or more members of which must attend meetings and social functions. The minimum initiation fee is $2.50 and the minimum dues $3 per annum, payable April and October.

Activities: Activities include those purely Lodge in character, such as ritualistic contests, exemplification of the ritual before Elks Lodges, interlodge visits, etc. Members cooperate with the sponsoring Lodge at Flag Day and other observances and participate in civic and patriotic activities. Dances, picnics, hikes, radio broadcasting, father and son banquets and other like affairs are held. The Antlers laws provide for a proper annual observance of Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Constitution Day and Patriots Day. Dramatics, debating, bands, orchestras, drill teams and glee clubs are supported. Athletics include all branches. Lectures on social, civic and other timely subjects are arranged.

Advantages: The institution of a Lodge of the Antlers is merely the first step. Your interest must be maintained; you cannot expect to organize a group and then turn it loose to shift for itself. The boys need your guidance and encouragement. Patience and application are required. Show your interest by attendance at meetings. The Antlers idea is not entirely unselfish: we hope that many of these boys, trained as they are in the ideals underlying, may later become members or our own great fraternity. If we expect this, we must not make strangers of them. More than 300 former Antlers who are now Elks (some of them Lodge officers) testify to the fact that the Antler-trained Elk is a working Elk, having a keen appreciation of the principles upon which the order is based. Through Antlers coming into our own organization and growing up with it, we shall have secured to us the continued services of the member while he is young and enthusiastic and through the days of maturity to that wisdom which comes only with experience. We need the strength and enthusiasm of youth to carry the burdens of our order.

Advisors: Each Lodge of Antlers is supervised by an advisory council of five members appointed in accordance with the terms of Section 183a, Grand Lodge statutes. An advisor should be a leader, sympathetically and understandingly interested in the modern boy and his problems. He should possess the ability to instruct and lead with tact and diplomacy. He should be able to tell the boys how and when to do things and yet create the impression that they themselves are mapping their course. He must not be an autocratic critic. The council supervises, counsels,
guides and directs but should not dictate to the Antlers individually or as an organization unless such action becomes necessary.

**A Typically Elk Activity:** There is no finer work in which Elks may engage than that of moving interest in American boyhood. Many have given years to Big Brotherhood work among dependent and delinquent youths. Here, however, is offered a different type of endeavor – an activity dealing with the sort of boy we meet in our homes. Antlerism affords an opportunity for pleasant, refreshing and profitable service to yourselves and your order. A Junior organization in which the members may meet their Big Brothers on a common ground provides a wonderful solvent to the barriers often existing between youth and maturity. Adult interest is a challenge which the boy will meet!

Provide tomorrow’s men with a Lodge room where they can gather and you encourage the perfecting of an organization which will go a long way toward preparing them for their duties as good citizens and future Elks.

**Procedure:** Bring the matter of the Antlers before your Lodge; consider and discuss the question from all angles, asking yourselves this question: “What can we lose by instituting a Lodge of the Antlers?” The answer is “Nothing, but we stand to gain much.” If you decide to go ahead, propagandize your plans and make proper announcements in your bulletin. Do not expect results out of proportion to the efforts expended. Discuss the order and then take steps to organize in accordance with the suggestions contained in the manual which will be furnished by my office. Induce your members to bring to the preliminary meeting all eligible boys in their families and the friends of these boys.

Do you believe in the youth of America? Are you interested in the future of our order? If so, you must be interested in the Antlers. Remember, the Antler is an apprenticed Elk and the Antler-Elk is a trained Elk!

Further details will be furnished by the undersigned.

C. Fenton Nichols, Antlers Councilor
405 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, Calif.

**Officers and their Duties:**

Officers for the Lodge would be:

| Exalted Antler | Recorder |
| Leading Antler | Guide |
| Loyal Antler | Sentinel |
| Lecturing Antler | Chaplain |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Guard |

**Officer Duties:**

**Guide:** The draping of the altar with the flag of our country, resting upon it the Bible – the book of law and our guide of faith, emblematic of Antlerdom’s pledge to uphold the principles and ideals of our nation.

**Lecturing Antler:** To practice fortitude and to exemplify the motto of this station, courage, always bearing in mind the truth that a good citizen is ever ready to spring to the defense of his country and the ideals for which it stands.

**Loyal Antler:** To act as custodian of the Holy Bible, the book of law; to admonish our brothers to be zealous in their daily practice of the Golden Rule; and to live morally and cleanly. To urge them to play the game of life courageously, never taking advantage of a weakness to gain an end, and to endeavor to attain all those things which their parents wish for them, thereby exemplifying the motto of this station, morality.

**Leading Antler:** To assist the Exalted Antler in conducting the business of the Lodge and to preside should he be absent. To aid distressed and worthy brothers and to urge charity in thought as well as in deed. To
impress upon the brothers that unselfishness, charity, loyalty and fidelity are the fundamental attributes of a true Antler. To teach them to be loyal to those they love, country, ideals and friends. To reverence the flag of our country, symbol of loyalty, the motto of this station.

**Exalted Antler: The motto of this station, the principal station of the Lodge, is justice, that quality which embraces all human virtues. It teaches us to be true to ourselves and to each other, to practice brotherly love and above all, to be true to the ideals of home and fireside. It implies a strict adherence to the vows we assumed as Antlers and it demands that each in his daily association with his fellows shall exemplify courage, morality and loyalty. It is the duty of the Exalted Antler to preside over the proceedings of the Lodge without prejudice, to maintain decorum and see that justice is done to all.**

**Initiation Ceremony of Antlers**

**Chaplain Prayer at opening:**

Let us pray: Our father who art in heaven, we humbly ask thy divine blessing upon this gathering of thy children. Nourish in us the ideals of our fraternity – courage, morality, loyalty and justice. Grant, we beseech thee, that thy gracious benediction fall upon those we love, our country and our Lodge. Give us the strength so to live that our daily acts may ever be a credit to them and to ourselves. All this we humbly ask in thy name. Amen.

**The Obligation taken at Initiation:**

I ____________, of my own free will, do hereby solemnly promise that I will support the rules and regulations of the Antlers of ________ Lodge No. _______ of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; that I will be and remain a true and steadfast brother to every member of this Lodge; and that I will aid and assist any and all its members to the best of my ability. I will always protect and defend the flag of the United States of America and uphold the great principles for which it stands.

I will uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and the government founded thereon. I will not divulge any of the secrets of the Antlers Lodge unless it be to a brother lawfully entitled thereto.

I will honor and respect womanhood and live up to the highest ideals of young manhood.

I will regard wholesome cleanliness in thought, speech and deed as a great object of life.

I will exemplify the motto of this Lodge, “Do unto others as you would they should do unto you.”

If I break this pledge made before my God and my brothers, may I become an outcast, unworthy of the consideration and respect of my fellows.

Amen.

Before proceeding further with the initiation, the new brothers were told by the Exalted Antler:

As Antlers, they strive to prove that the present day youth is not cold or indifferent to the higher and better things of life. Like all good American citizens, we love our country and the principles upon which it is founded. But there is one role greater than citizen – that of son. Each moment of the day is sacred to the name of mother. The Antlers designate a certain hour of each day as a memorial to her who gave us our being and who taught us at her knee some of the great truths of life. The day wanes, the sun sets, evening passes into night and comes “Twilight, and then the hour of ten, that brilliant point on the dial of time which, with Antlers, is the setting for the most precious of all gems, the jewel of motherhood.”

If mother be living, endeavor today to see all that she is and has been to you and let her know of it. Be kind to her while you may. If mother has passed from this sphere, venerate her memory in your every action and thought. At this sacred hour of Antlerdom let each of us breathe the sweetest sentiment of all: “to our beloved mothers.”
COURAGE: The station of the Lecturing Antler. This station is representative of courage. Courage enables us to encounter danger and surmount difficulties without fear. The word brings to mind the aspect of heroism, largely represented by the military. There is not only a physical but a moral phase to courage. The knowledge of what to do and the courage to do it are among the noblest of qualities with which we may be endowed. Courage to be right and to do right, even without praise, means more than applause for an act which conscience will not sanction. Action is required for the attainment of success, but it must be moral as well as courageous. God is always on the side of moral courage. Be afraid to do wrong and you will take unto yourselves the spirit of courage, the virtue which solves the everyday problems of life.

MORALITY: The station of the Loyal Antler. This station is representative of morality. Morality means cleanliness in thought as well as in deed, for without the thought there can be no act. Intimately associated with the virtue of morality is the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship. This should abide with you through life. Endeavor to be not only a good winner but a graceful loser. Should a questionable situation arise, ask yourself this question: “What is the fair thing to do?” Conscience will answer that you must not take any advantage but that your act must be fair even though it may seem sacrifice.

Youth should cultivate love of fair play and sportsmanship. The poor sportsman is never truthful. The man of ideals dares be right. Courage, no matter what the inducement, refuses to do wrong. Be truthful!

LOYALTY: The station of the Leading Antler. This is the station of loyalty. Charity, fidelity and brotherly love: they are truly glorious attributes but none of these would have strength were it not for the support of loyalty. Loyalty means devoted allegiance, fidelity means reliability, and charity and brotherly love typify unselfishness. To be charitable one must be loyal to the great moral teachings of the sages; to love one’s brother is to be sincere and steadfast in fair weather and foul. To be loyal to our parents, our country and our friends … should be our great objective. A good citizen, such as we hope to become, practices equality and tolerance, the foundation upon which the American government is based. To give it devoted allegiance is the privilege accorded to you and to me. Nothing greater can be asked than that one be loyal to those he loves, to the nation which claims him and to the flag which protects him. The American flag, emblem of this station, symbolizes those great principles for which all American citizens stand and to which each one of us must be loyal. As it ripples in the breeze it broadcasts the starry message of a great people’s loyalty to ideals.

A FINAL MESSAGE FROM THE EXALTED ANTLER

Although the Antlers is a nonsectarian social organization, it has a serious purpose. The lessons it teaches are intended to help you to perform such acts as will make you better sons and better citizens. The true Antler will live up to those teachings and ever conduct himself in a manner reflecting credit upon his parents, his order and himself. The problem of the young American is a serious one.

You have been instructed in the virtues of courage, morality and loyalty. Rare qualities are these, but none so rare as justice. In itself it is the essence of all virtues. If you are just in all your dealings with your fellows, then it may well be said that your better self stands forth. If a problem presents itself and you want to decide in favor of self, though conscience cries to you to judge otherwise and you heed her voice, then you have gained a great victory, that of a self-conquest.

Be individual; let your personality stand forth; dare to initiate and be not afraid to hold your own opinion in the face of jeers and opposition if in your honest judgment you feel you are right. A well-developed sense of moral responsibility is one of the greatest weapons with which you can be equipped for the battles of the future.

Resolve to stand by your brothers throughout the days that follow and should occasion present itself, combat by your counsel any temptation which might lead them from the path of right.

And now take unto yourselves one closing thought: before our altar you stated your belief in the existence of a supreme being; you later declared your love of parents and respect for country. Let me therefore admonish you to love God, and not to fear him; to respect your parents and let their love for you and your love for them fill your hearts; and to be patriotic and under all circumstances love the American flag and cherish the principles for which it stands.

Purpose: To quicken the spirit of American patriotism, to teach respect for parents and love of home, to inculcate the fundamentals of good citizenship, to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members, to aid in any worthy cause, to establish foundations of character, to cultivate good fellowship, to instruct its members in right
thinking and in the knowledge that the best citizenship is based upon the recognition of God as the ruling and leading power in the universe and that to respect the convictions of others in matters of worship and religion is true Americanism.

A 1934 analysis of Lodge of Antler activities included:

1. CHARITABLE:
   Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets of food and clothing distributed among the needy. Contributions made to Elk charity funds, milk funds, homes for crippled children, community chests, social affairs and athletic contests were a means through which funds were raised.

2. LODGE:
   Interlodge visits, public installations, exemplification of ritualistic work before sponsoring and neighboring Lodges of Elks and state association, ritualistic contests, public observances of Mother’s Day and radio broadcasts of the Antlers “Toast to Mother” joint Mother’s Day services.

3. CIVIC:
   Cooperation with Big Brother committees, playground work, patriotic programs on Constitution and Patriots Day, and city and county offices assumed one day annually by the members of certain Lodges who also sit with superior and municipal court judges. Reports on all such activities, and impressions and reaction received, were made to the membership. A widespread participation in public patriotic observances was evident. All such functions led toward a better appreciation of the responsibilities and privileges of American citizenship.

4. EDUCATIONAL:
   Dramatic, debating and oratorical contests were sponsored. Cooperative conferences were held with members of the boards of public education.

5. ATHLETIC:
   Comprehensive programs including all branches of athletics were engaged in. Interlodge, inter-district and, in some instances, state convention contests were held.

6. EXPANSION:
   Lodges realize the necessity for contact and are endeavoring to interest nearby Elk Lodges. Visits were made, the rituals exemplified and short talks made by members of the Antlers about the organization and its ideals and purposes.

7. SOCIAL:
   Dances, theatricals, stage, picnics, hikes, radio broadcasting, movies, parents nights, mothers nights and other open house affairs to which prospective members, friends and relatives were invited.

8. PUBLICITY:
   Many Lodges published their own bulletins. In other cases, Lodges provided space in their bulletins for the Antlers.

9. GENERAL ACTIVITY:
   Visits to the sick, lectures by prominent citizens, illustrated lectures on sex hygiene and kindred subjects, instruction in police and fire department methods, talks by college and university coaches, old timers night, father and son gatherings, Boy Scouts nights, etc.

A patriotic program was essentially a part of the Antlers idea. One of the finest features during the 1930s was the concentration of effort against communism. One example comes to light that occurred in February 1936 in which there appeared in a San Francisco newspaper a statement by a young Communist leader to the effect that what was needed was a broad united front against such organizations, among others, as the Elks, the Antlers and the like. While it was, no doubt, a compliment, at the same time it was a challenge the Antlers of San Francisco could not overlook. Its members at once declared open warfare on the Young Communist League. The Exalted Antler sent the
editor an open letter which featured a large portion of a page in the following Sunday edition under the heading, “Junior Elks Combat Reds. Young Patriots Rally, Antlers Declare Open Warfare Against Communist League.”

One short article had a line that said, “We Antlers want the public to know we are first and foremost Americans, and that should we discover one of these ‘borers from within’ in our Lodge room, his eviction will be swift, certain, and not without embarrassment.”

A subsequent article in the Elks Magazine dealing with the boys and the good gang stated in part, “Boys are readily amenable to good influences wisely exerted upon them. Therein lies the value of such organizations as the Boy Scouts, De Molay and the Antlers. Through such instrumentality the boys’ tendency to form groups of congenial companions is encouraged; but it is also guided so that the selection may be helpful, not hurtful; and so that their activities may be character-building but nonetheless attractive. When a Lodge of Antlers is formed and supervised along such lines and with such purposes in view, it is a potent agency for developing good citizenship. It is a boys gang in a sense, but it is a good gang. It seems the desire of boyhood as well as its need.”

NOTES ON FLORIDA LODGES OF ANTLERS:

1928 As of this year there had not yet been a Lodge of Antlers adopted by any of the Lodges in the state, and it was suggested that as soon as the standard for ritual was adopted that the growing boys of the respective communities be afforded the opportunity of membership.

1930 Bradenton #1511 was issued a permit to have an Antlers Lodge.

St. Petersburg #1224 was issued a permit.

Lakeland #1291 was issued a permit.

1932 New Smyrna Beach #1557 was issued a permit Dec. 29, 1932.

1933-34 St. Augustine #829 was issued a permit.

Orlando #1079 was issued a permit.

Daytona Beach #1141 was issued a permit.

West Palm Beach #1352 was issued a permit.

DeLand #1463 was issued a permit.

1935 Miami #948 was issued a permit April 15, 1935.

Sanford #1241 was issued a permit May 15, 1935.

1937 Miami #948 voluntarily suspended its charter in 1937.

1938 Orlando #1079 suspended its charter for local and other conditions.

St. Petersburg #1224 suspended its charter due to local and other conditions.

1939 Jacksonville #221 member Robert L. Bohon was appointed as assistant to the Grand Lodge Antler councilor.

1941 Lake Worth #1530 started their Antlers Lodge.

1942 Gainesville #990 applied for a permit. Results not known.
1943 There were four active Antlers Lodges in Florida. They were Sanford #1241, West Palm Beach #1352, Lake Worth #1530 and New Smyrna Beach #1557.

Over these years they encouraged the subordinate Lodges that sponsored Antlers Lodges to perform and exemplify the Antler ritual before other Lodges.

At the annual Florida State Elks convention held 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 co-sponsor for the Florida State Elks Association, was a member of the Lodge of Antlers.

The Orlando Antlers Lodge was instituted March 14, 1934, with 34 boys by officers of Orlando Lodge #1079. Immediately after the close of the regular session of #1079, Exalted Ruler Arthur took the principal chair, E. C. Davis took the second, D. W. Gleason took the third, H. F. Motta took the fourth, C. H. Rouse acted as Chaplain and E. N. Ensign acted as Esquire. Five-minute talks were given by PERs G. A. Plius, M. D. Bailey, E. B. Conory and Victor Hutchins. The first meeting of the Lodge of Antlers was held Thursday night, March 26, 1934.

At Mother's Day Services on May 13, 1934, the St. Augustine Antlers Lodge participated in the Sunday evening program. Each of the Antler officers sat with the Lodge officers at their stations.

Of 24 states represented with Antlers Lodges in 1935, Florida was second in the number of Lodges with a total of nine.

The Sanford, Fla. Lodge of Antlers No. 1241 was chartered in 1935. The following is a sample of the charter issued them.

---Permit---

Order of Elks of The United States of America

To all whom these presents may come:
Be it known that I Michael E. Shannon,
Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, pursuant to the authority in me vested by the constitution and laws of said order and upon the application of Sanford, Fla. Lodge NO. 1241 have issued this permit for a Lodge of Antlers to be known as The Antlers of Sanford, Florida Lodge No. 1241, BPO Elks.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and official seal this 15th day of May 1935.

Michael E. Shannon
Grand Exalted Ruler

Attest:
J. E. Masters
Grand Secretary

C. Fenton Nichols
Antlers Councilor
In 1937, St. Augustine and Miami suspended their Lodge of Antlers. Then in 1938, St. Petersburg and Orlando suspended theirs.

The Grand Lodge Antler councilor added brother Robert L. Bohon of Jacksonville Lodge #221 as his assistant.

The 1938 census of Lodges showed the following number of active Lodges of Antlers by state:

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<th>State</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
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<td>California</td>
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<td>Colorado</td>
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<td>West Virginia</td>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
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Membership was restricted to sons or relatives of Elks but open to all young men between the ages of 15 and 21.

At about this time, Chairman Nichols proposed an amendment that would raise the minimum age from 15 to 16. The opinion was that a boy of 15 is really too young to take an active interest in Lodge work and that he does not readily mix with the older fellows. A large number of members dropped by Lodges were between the ages of 15 and 17.

They endeavored this year, out of experience of the past, to throw certain safeguards about the issuing of permits for Antlers Lodges. Among other things, they called for a detailed investigation requiring specific answers to a questionnaire from the exalted ruler and the district deputies. Permits were issued only where this investigation satisfied the chairman of the Antlers council and the grand exalted ruler that conditions were favorable, that the right group was available and the proper adult leadership would be maintained.

Antlers Lodges were growing at a satisfactory rate. The Antlers always had in sight as one of their principal objectives and ambitions the membership in the order. Former Antlers had come to fill many of the chair offices in their parent Lodge.

Annual reports from Lodges of Antlers and district deputies revealed certain weaknesses in the program:

1. Failure of advisory councils to maintain steady contact with the Antlers councilor.
2. Failure of the exalted ruler to appoint men properly qualified or sincerely interested.
3. Failure of the men appointed to cooperate with the Antlers Lodge.

There were many activities enjoyed by the boys:

- Interlodge visitations proved interesting and profitable.
- Antlers had appeared before state association meetings in Arizona, Florida, Colorado and California with much success.
- Thanksgiving and Christmas charities.
- Cooperation with police traffic squads and safety drives.
- Observance of Mother’s Day (using their own ritual as well as in conjunction with the sponsoring Lodges).
- Participation in Flag Day ceremonials.
- Crippled children work.
- Elks charities, civic affairs and pageants.
- Radio programs (one Lodge nightly broadcasts the Antlers ten o’clock toast to mother).
- Memorial Day aid to the G.A.R.
- Cooperation with Boy Scout committees.
- Contributions to Fresh Air, Red Cross baskets and tubercular association funds.
- Interlodge activities such as ritualistic contests, socials and athletics in all branches.
- Organizations such as bands, orchestras, drill teams, glee clubs, dramatic societies, debating groups and the like.
Lectures on timely subjects, talks by prominent citizens and public officials and other proper features are presented.

West Palm Beach Lodge sponsored a Christmas tree party at which approximately 3,000 presents were given to children under 12 years of age. The Antlers raised the money and handled the entire affair which was a great success.

One of the young men who had just graduated from the Lodge of Antlers into the Elks told his senior brothers that they should pay more attention to the youth of the land, particularly in view of the fact that other organizations which do not believe in the great principles for which Elks stand were anxious to educate the boys in anti-Americanism doctrines.

Boys and gang spirit are synonym. Whether the gang the boys belong to is going to be an influence for good or evil is a question which should concern us. If we neglect him, he, like other growing things, can easily go bad, but give youth something practical to do, and ideals in which to believe, and he will go far. The Antlers idea was for the direction of the gang spirit into proper channels. Boys must have something upon which to work. The Elks could assure them no better plaything upon which to work. It is a school of instruction. Antlerdom hopefully took no proper joy of a boy’s life but kept him healthy, clean-minded and well-directed. Its principles are a material part of that foundation whereon patriotism and morality are laid as the stones upon which, in turn, are erected the structures of character. A boy of impressionable age is easily taught an understanding of American ideals and those other principles for which our Antlers stand.

In 1937 St. Augustine Lodge #829 and Miami Lodge #948 went on voluntary suspension of their Antlers. The following year Orlando Lodge #1079 and St. Petersburg Lodge #1224 became inactive. DeLand Lodge #1463 was suspended.

Events were looming in Europe and the Pacific that would influence the future of the Lodge of Antlers program. Chairman C. Fenton Nichols said,

"May we ever see in our beloved country hordes of war-minded youth such as march the streets of Italy, Spain, Germany and Russia! Let us never permit youth regimentation in the United States of America! Let us make certain that when our boys march behind the flag it will not be as a challenge to fight but in honor of the glories of America. Let the day never come when our children will be organized into blocks of humanity and marched through our streets and squares, frozen smiles on their faces and their arms uplifted in salute to the representative of an unsympathetic and un-American doctrine. Let us, adult and youth alike, see that the free speech we are all guaranteed under our form of government is not used against that government ... for there can never be the right of that sort of speech which is directed toward the destruction of the democratic ideals of our great nation. Let us be alert. Let us be actively American."

Nichols also said,

"Since I founded the Antlers in 1922 (Junior Elks), it has always been easy to keep the infant warm against the icy winds of indifference, depression and recession. But the struggle has become less intense with the growth of Antler-conscious among our membership. Thousands now share an interest in youth and are commissioned to the principle that we must create a supply of trained young men from which we may draw an increasingly large part of our future membership. As an organization we cannot afford to grow old. Let urge upon you the thought that the Antlers are opportunity knocking at our doors. Do not, I beg you, keep them closed."

In 1938 a resolution was introduced to amend Section 183a of Grand Lodge statutes that the minimum Antler age be reduced from 16 to 15. A few years ago it was raised from 15 to 16, but experience indicated that if the organization was to give all that they expected of it, that they must lay emphasis upon boys in the lower brackets. They found that upon reaching 18, the usual high school graduation age, many boys become immediately matured adults, at least in their estimation, and to judge from their mannerisms and bearing. This was somewhat disconcerting and created a distinct problem for the Antlers council. If a boy starts at 15, maybe by 16 he would be serving on committees or in a minor official capacity and by 17 acting as an elected officer.

By 1939 there were 54 Lodges in existence in Grand Lodge, five of them in Florida. St. Petersburg Lodge #1224 was dropped from the list that year.

In his report to the annual Elks convention, Nichols said,

"There had been some complaints that the boys were a bit difficult and not living up to the Antler code. In every group of boys there will be one or more who, if
given the opportunity, will try to put one over and take advantage of their elders. That is part of smartness inherent in the average wide-awake boy. Fear the silent thumb twiddler …. But smartness may easily be turned to advantage and converted into a desire for open and spirited competition. Youth characteristics are much the same as the raw materials from which are manufactured fine products …. I have seen the material in pretty raw shape, but I have also seen it end up, in some instances, as officers in our Lodges.

“There is more than soil erosion in our land today. There is a constant washing away of American ideals from youth through the infiltration of communistic and fascist principles, even in our schools. To counteract this somewhat, I suggest that you, whether or not you sponsor the Antlers, arrange that your Lodge take the lead in scheduling meetings of all junior activity such as Boy Scouts, DeMolay, YMI, Antlers, et cetera, for a thorough discussion of these foreign ‘isms’ to the end that they be brought out into the light where you can get a good crack at them.

“If democracy is to be saved, education in free and clear thinking, not war, will do the job. How often do we hear a youngster, full of hope and desire, say, ‘When I grow up?’ See to it that he will not later draw aside the curtain to the future and face disillusionment. Teach him how to work with others … and here enters Antlers. Service as officers and committeemen teaches the value of cooperative effort and the wisdom of working with the other fellow. Our junior organization has a definite place in the educational scheme of our country. In its service the member develops character, a social instinct and the ability to engage in mass enterprise.

“We cannot sit idly by and permit the unrestricted growth of a spirit of indifference toward youth. If we would later be served by youth, we must serve him today – and who is there to say we shall not require such service? The Antlers are the young of the Elks.

“What does this junior organization mean to us? It provides a proper contact with the right kind of boys, those inherently qualified later to become Elks. It is a medium for our rejuvenation, perhaps the gland we have been seeking and the element which if used, will ensure us countless tomorrows. But it is still regarded by some as a hobby or plaything.”

(As mentioned before, Robert Grafton of West Palm Beach would become an officer in the Lodge as well as go on to be state president of the Florida State Elks Association, grand exalted ruler and ultimately state sponsor.)

Early in 1941, Lake Worth Lodge #1530 initiated a Lodge of Antlers consisting initially of 23 members between the ages of 16 and 21. The 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.

The following officers were installed in Lake Worth:

- 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
- Sentinel  Orle Doty

Other members were Wendell Wagner, James Twokey, Jimmy Remson, Paul Thompkins, Paul Harris, Eddie Doherty, Donald Lockwood, Harry Stafford, Charles Rupp, Gus Arnold, George Frazel, Alton Greene and Jimmy Stafford.

Space was given to the Antlers at the end of the bingo room for use in meetings. Early in the war they assisted as runners for the observer towers, messengers for civil defense and other useful services.
However, they were short-lived. War broke out within their first year of organization and because of their age group, 16 to 20, most of the members entered the military service. On May 12, 1942, the Antlers committee was instructed by the Lodge to adjourn the Antlers meeting and turn the funds and records over to the trustees.

During the war years of the 1940s, Antlers membership cards were recognized by all Lodges in the United States. Virtually all Antlers Lodges became dormant due to World War II. At the Grand Lodge session in 1943, Homer F. Potter, then chairman of the Antlers council, expressed regret of the members of the council that it was necessary to report that practically all of the members of the Order of Antlers had found it necessary to drop their membership for the time being due to the fact that so many of them were going into the armed services, their ages having been 17, 18, 19 and 20 years. Many subordinate Lodges had asked permission to abandon this activity for the remainder of the war. The committee recommended that under those circumstances, the Order of Antlers be dropped as a special Grand Lodge activity.

The Antlers council in 1944, reviewing its 17-year history of the Antler program, found that at the height of existence it was composed of 72 Lodges with a membership of over 4,500. The council stated that even at the height of their strength the percentage of membership lapsation was too high. They felt that it could safely be said that the reason for the failure of an Antler council, in an overwhelming majority of instances, can be laid to one of four reasons:

1. Lack of supervision by Big Brothers councilors, leading to boys either overrunning the club and coming into disfavor with the members or themselves losing faith in the parent Lodge.
2. Having a member of the Lodge assume the station of exalted ruler who is not in sympathy with the Antlers program.
3. The starting of a council by a subordinate Lodge without having the proper men to act as councilors.
4. The subordinate Lodge, which similar to many people, picks up something because it is new and drops it when the newness wears off.

By 1944, 75 percent of the Antlers were in the armed services with most of the balance being engaged in defense work of one type or another. Palo Alto, Calif. Lodge #1471 led the list in Antlers who had given their lives to their country, a total of four.

Many Lodges throughout the country sponsoring Antlers councils had become indifferent. This also held true with state associations. This indifference was defeating the cause of the Antlers program as much as anything.

Boys from 17 and up were almost entirely in the armed forces or in military preparatory schools of one kind or another. This left the active Antlers group entirely in the 16-year class which did not leave enough personnel to keep a subordinate council active.

The councilors of those councils admitted the younger boys, after several months of experience, were almost unanimous in their opinion that the Antlers ritual and work were too much for the 14-year-olds to carry. The only alternative left would have been to alter the ritual and aims to fit the capacity of the younger boys. This was considered neither practical nor feasible at that time, so as a result, the activity of most councils, to all intents and purposes, was at a standstill for the duration of the war.

After the war years, the Antlers activities lessened and just never seemed to come back. The Antlers council reported that from a questionnaire sent to the 83 Lodges that had sponsored councils of Antlers, replies from 60 indicated that of that number, 53 had disbanded and seven were still functioning.

Section 47a and 183a of the Grand Lodge statutes were amended to provide that no new Antlers Lodges should be organized but that such Lodges as were then in existence might continue their activities with the approval of the grand exalted ruler, and then they should be subject to the rules and regulations as might be adopted by the subordinate Lodge sponsoring such Antlers Lodges, providing that such rules and regulations should first be approved by the committee on judiciary.

In 1967, the Grand Lodge repealed Section 183a in its entirety. At the same time, Section 161 was amended to delete the reference to waiving the initiation fee for Antlers joining an Elks Lodge.

(See also Junior Elks)

Apopka Lodge #2422

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 90th Lodge</th>
<th>District: North Central</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dispensation: July 11, 1969</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution: Sept. 28, 1969</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Apopka is Florida’s 90th Lodge and is located in Orange County. Most agree that the Indian word from which Apopka is named derives its name from something to do with eating, but just what was eaten is uncertain. Others give its name, tsala Apopka, as meaning trout eating place. It had a 1997 population of around 13,500.

Apopka Lodge #2422 was sponsored by Winter Garden Lodge #2165. Cooperating their efforts with District Deputy Malcolm McCall and George Roller of Apopka, a dispensation to form a Lodge was issued July 11, 1969, during the national convention in Dallas.

Festivities of the afternoon got underway with the official opening remarks by Chairman Robert B. Cameron and with opening ceremonies by Grand Lodge officers.

The following were Grand Lodge officers:

- Grand Exalted Ruler: PDD Malcolm V. McCall
- Grand Leading Knight: PDD Hank D’Amico
- Grand Loyal Knight: PDD George Roller
- Grand Lecturing Knight: PDD C. Newt Jones
- Grand Secretary: Bill Lieberman, State Secretary
- Grand Treasurer: PSP Russell L. Saxon
- Grand Tiler: PDD Paul Smith
- Grand Inner Guard: PDD Dan Satin
- Grand Esquire: PDD Al Ehrlich
- Grand Chaplain: PDD William Herbert
- Grand Organist: Everett Ware and Sam Carofalo
- Grand Trustees: PSP Victor O. Wehle, PDD Bill Buning, PDD Al Coe, PDD George Borde Jr., Editor, Florida Elks News, Bodo Kirchoff

The following charter officers were installed:

- Exalted Ruler: George H. Roller
- Leading Knight: Robert G. Hill
- Loyal Knight: Jerry D. Hance
- Lecturing Knight: Ronald W. Pifer
- Secretary: Stanley F. Berisford
- Treasurer: Russell J. Stutsman
- Tiler: Ealie McCafferty Jr.
- Inner Guard: Bob Napierata
- Chaplain: Russell H. Unger
- Organist: Sam Garafalo
- Esquire: Robert B. Stoddard
- Trustees: F. E. Hobbs, Leonard M. Hurst, Raymond Thompson, Albert Mikolajcik, Cloyd Lust

State President Lamar Johnston welcomed the officers and members of the new Lodge to the family of Elkdom. Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bill Wall also welcomed the officers and members of the new Lodge.
After ceremonies, they all took off to the country club. When leaving there was a drenching rain and most got soaked for the trip home.

George Roller, an Elk who had demitted from Miami, was elected as their first exalted ruler, serving in that position for the next three years. In 1975 Roller was appointed vice president of the north central district and the following year as district deputy grand exalted ruler.

Institution ceremonies were held at the Apopka City Auditorium.

Apopka Lodge began its Lodge sessions in the old city school auditorium. Later, a building in Plymouth, Fla., formerly used as a restaurant, was rented. Members donated their time and funds to add an addition to the building which became the club lounge and storeroom.

On April 24, 1973, it was decided to move the Lodge into the city of Apopka, Fla., the chosen property being the old Ustler home located at Orange and Washington streets in Apopka.

A $40,000 bond drive resulted in their successful drive to purchase the residence on May 1, 1973. By the end of July 1973, all zoning, permits, Grand Lodge approval and financing by building bonds had been accomplished. The Ustler building was completely remodeled but proved too small for the membership. A 30-by-50-foot Lodge room was built in 1974 strictly from materials and labor donated by the membership. Another facility was completed in 1978 and the old Ustler building was removed in 1979. Six years later, an additional 2,100 square feet were added.

In 1994-1995 the Lodge initiated its first annual bowl-a-thon netting over $3,000 for the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Apopka Elkettes #2422

The Apopka Elkettes were organized May 12, 1971, with 16 charter members.

Arcadia Lodge #1524

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 28th Lodge</th>
<th>Southwest Central</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>April 16, 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispensation:</td>
<td>January 7, 1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Granted:</td>
<td>July 15, 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>1028 West Oak St., Arcadia, FL 33821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2000 Membership:</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2007 Membership:</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arcadia is Florida’s 28th Lodge and is located in DeSoto County. Arcadia was originally known as Waldron’s Homestead, later as Tater Hill Landing and finally as Arcadia. There is some disagreement as to how Arcadia was named. Some say it was named by the Rev. James (Boss) Hendry who as an early settler had built a sawmill there in 1884. On his 45th birthday it is said that Arcadia Albritton, the daughter of earlier pioneer settlers on Horse Creek, had baked him a cake. So it appears the name derives from Arcadia Albritton.

Arcadia is a cow town snuggled in a bend of the Peace River and surrounded by pastures and Texas-sized ranches. Affluent cattlemen and orange growers built the town in the last century and so there is a degree of sophistication in this small rural town. The historic downtown has an unbelievable 374 historic buildings on the National Register of Historic Places and more than thirty antique shops.

Arcadia’s 1998 population was at 6,488.

The following are past state presidents from Arcadia #1524:

M. A. Rosin 1949-1950
Arthur L. Smith  1988-1989  
Brian T. Burns  2013-2014  

The following are past district vice presidents from Arcadia #1524:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Sams</td>
<td>1959-1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert R. Allen</td>
<td>1965-1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur L. Smith</td>
<td>1976-1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Shore</td>
<td>1983-1984</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following are past district deputies from Arcadia #1524:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G. M. Austin</td>
<td>1935-1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. A. Rosin</td>
<td>1938-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Bethel Jr.</td>
<td>1973-1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur L. Smith</td>
<td>1977-1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Shore</td>
<td>1985-1986</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following were charter officers:

- **Exalted Ruler**: John Treadwell  
- **Leading Knight**: Lovick Holtzendorff  
- **Loyal Knight**: G. P. LeMoyne  
- **Lecturing Knight**: L. E. Eigle  
- **Secretary**: D. J. Thomas  
- **Treasurer**: Lowndes Treadwell  
- **Tiler**: John Blake  
- **Trustees**:  
  - W. I. Polk, 1-year  
  - S. Rosin, 2-year  
  - A. Williams, 3-year


PDD Jack Shore served as editor of the *Florida Elks News*.
They won second place in the state ritual contest in 1989.  
The Ladies organization is the Anna Miller Circle.  
The Lodge was formally opened by W. S. Irwin, DDGER of Lakeland Lodge.

**Aripeka Lodge #2520**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida’s 101st Lodge</th>
<th>Central</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispensation:</td>
<td>Aug. 26, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution:</td>
<td>Sept. 29, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Aripeka is derived from the Aripeka Saw Mills Corporation which ran a logging operation in the area in the late nineteenth century. The company took its name from a Seminole leader of the 1830s named Aripeka (Historic Places). According to a state of Florida website, Aripeka is “named after Sam Jones, a famous Miccosukee chief, who was called Aripeka or Aripiaka. The name is possibly corrupted from Muskogee ‘abihka’ (pile at the base or heap at the root), which was a contest for supremacy among warriors who piled up scalps, covering the base of the war-pole.” Jones died in 1866. The earlier name for the town was Wheeler, or, according to Historic Places, Hammock Creek.

In 1974, between Clearwater and Tallahassee, Fla., U.S. 19 in Hudson was considered hardly more than a pit stop for travelers. Land developers who were just beginning to put the sun coast on the map as a mecca for northern retirees set their sights on Port Richey, Fla. as the ultimate border for expansion in the foreseeable future. With the exception of tourist attractions such as Weeki Wachee and Homossassa Springs, Fla., anything north of Port Richey and south of Perry would warrant interest only by those who had a fancy for cattle, horses, rabbits and a covey of quail.

Early in 1974, that opinion was shared by Elks officials who had been approached by two Pasco County Sheriff’s deputies, Dan Noda and Joe Peak, along with a cabinet maker, Mike Reisen, who proposed establishing an Elks Lodge in Hudson. The three had more vision and faith in the future of Hudson than the land speculators. They were convinced that the sun coast development would expand faster and farther north and that the relatively rural area around Hudson could indeed support its own Lodge.

Meeting at the home of Past District Deputy David Luikart, the trio pleaded with him, Past District Deputy Ramsey Clark, State District Vice President Robert Hall, New Lodge Chairman Clarence LaFrenier and Clarence Crumm of the Pinellas Park Elks Lodge for a chance to prove their case. It wouldn’t be easy they admitted, but they were convinced that enough members could be found in the area to establish a new Lodge in rural Hudson.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location:</th>
<th>9135 Denton Ave., Hudson, FL 34667</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone #:</td>
<td>813-863-2529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets:</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2000 Membership:</td>
<td>1,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Membership:</td>
<td>1,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2007 Membership:</td>
<td>1,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2008 Membership:</td>
<td>1,731</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Founding Fathers L-R: Clarence LaFrenier, District New Lodge Chairman; Mike Reisen; Dan Noda; and Joe Peak.*

Their enthusiasm won over the Elks officials who authorized formation of a New Lodge Committee which held its first meeting March 11, 1974. The site of the first meeting was the former Red Marker Inn, located on Hudson Beach, which owner Jim Lynch offered to the group. Over 50 men attended, an indication of the initial recruiting efforts of Dan Noda, Joe Peak and Mike Reisen. Only 10 had prior affiliation.

The first order of business was electing officers. Dan Noda was made chairman, John Manger was made secretary and Hermann Poh was made treasurer. It was an unexpected turnout and it immediately became obvious that larger meeting facilities would be needed. There are not very many buildings in Hudson and that made the job a tough one, but luck shined on them when Howard Austad, manager of the Ramada Campground located on the Hernando-Pasco county line, offered them the use of his facility for subsequent meetings.
Secretary John Manger found it necessary to resign his position and Lee Kolander was elected to replace him.

The next discussion became a lively one, and that was what to name the new Lodge. The men from Hudson wanted it to be called the Hudson Elks, while the men from Spring Hill wanted it to be called the Spring Hill Elks or even the Brooksville Elks. They finally settled on the name Aripeka Elks. Aripeka is a small community located between Spring Hill and Hudson. At this time their bank account was $12.14.

On April 11 of that same year, William A. North of the North Funeral Home donated their first American flag. That flag is now on display in the Lodge heritage corner.

Efforts to pay Howard Austad rent for the use of his campground was to no avail. Austad stated that it was his way of contributing toward the development of what he felt would become the birth of a great Lodge.

The first official bill presented before the still-to-be formed Lodge was in the amount of $10 for postage and 91 cents for a receipt book. The membership voted to pay the bill but informed William Delaney, who had presented the bill, that his extravagance was unwarranted.

Very early on, even before they were instituted, the Lodge made its first trip to the Harry-Anna Hospital for Crippled Children in Umatilla, Fla. That was June 9, 1974, and they were able to donate $250 in cash and 35 books for the hospital library.

Their first Flag Day held June 13, 1974, was quite unique. Led by District Deputy David Luikart and aided by Cub Scout Den #55, the ceremony was held at the Ramada Campgrounds followed by an old-fashioned picnic on the grounds. Grand Lodge required 150 members to be able to apply for a charter. At their 22nd meeting held Aug. 8, 1974, they had attained that goal with William Moore becoming the 150th member. The ladies of the new group, under the leadership of Mary Noda, held a spaghetti dinner at New Port Richey Elks Lodge #2284. At the meeting Aug. 15, 1974, Mrs. Elva Ribovich presented a check in the amount of $500 to the men to aid in the purchase of a set of officers’ jewels. At this same meeting it was voted to rent the old Babcock building on Hudson Ave. in Hudson as a temporary home beginning Jan. 1, 1975. It was also agreed upon that the official attire for Lodge officers would be green jackets, white trousers and white shoes. The first organ and several music books were donated by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Stanley.

Institution of the new Lodge was held Sept. 29 at the Seven Springs Country Club, located on S.R. 54 in New Port Richey. Over 500 people attended. Buck Miller, owner of Rapid Printing Company, donated the tickets plus printing of the first newsletter. Pinellas Park Lodge #2217 led by Exalted Ruler Keith Klotz performed the initiation of 217 new members. The Lodge was officially instituted Sept. 29, 1974, by District Deputy Glenn Shoopman who installed the first officers. Honored guests present included Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bill Wall, Grand Trustee Robert Grafton and State President Pat O’Brien.

The following were Grand Lodge installing officers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Glenn Shoopman, DDGER West Central District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Leading Knight</td>
<td>Dave Luikart, PDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Charles Pride, PDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Lecturing Knight</td>
<td>Dick Burkhart, PDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Esquire</td>
<td>Art Cushing, PDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Chaplain</td>
<td>Bill Skinner, Past State Tiler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Trustee</td>
<td>Al Rothacker, PVP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bob Howell, PDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Secretary</td>
<td>Bill Lieberman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Treasurer</td>
<td>Rousey Clark, PDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Inner Guard</td>
<td>Earl Roth, DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Tiler</td>
<td>Bodo Kirchhoff, PDD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ritual team from Pinellas Park Lodge #2217, under the leadership of Exalted Ruler Keith Klotz, took over for the initiation of 175 charter members in addition to 35 members by transfer.

The following were charter officers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
<td>Dan Noda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Knight</td>
<td>William Delaney Sr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyal Knight</td>
<td>Lee Kolander</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State President Pat O’Brien, speaking before the group, spoke of the endeavors of the state association in building a new hospital in Umatilla and the need of raising the necessary funds to make it a reality. He introduced Hospital Administrator Jim Oliver.

Trustee Keith Reisen was issued card No. 1.

Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bill Wall had bet the Lodge $5 that they would not have 200 charter members. On this night Wall paid his $5 bet because they had, not 200, but 210. Wall autographed the $5 bill admitting his loss gracefully. Plans were for the bill to be auctioned off for the benefit of the Harry-Anna building fund.

Their monthly newsletter was named the Aripeka Elks Tribe with Tiler John Nejedlo as editor.

In a show of appreciation for the work that David Luikart did in forming the Lodge, they instituted Annual David Luikart Day, always held at the anniversary of the Lodge.

On March 27, 1975, they honored their charter exalted ruler, Dan Noda, by voting him honorary life member, the only such honorary life member of the Lodge as of the date of this treatise.

In 1975 the Lodge purchased two acres of land in Aripeka for $8,800 with an option to purchase four additional acres at a cost of $4,400 per acre. However, in October of that year the Lodge voted not to build a new Lodge on the Aripeka property but instead to improve the building owned on Hudson Ave. Consequently the building was remodeled numerous times.

As a side note, on Oct. 18, 1975, Aripeka Lodge held what is believed to be the second Elks wedding in the history of Elkdom by uniting member Frank White and Josephine Kranz in front of the altar with the officers at each station delivering a special wedding ritual.

By 1982 it became apparent that because of their rapid growth, they were in need of facilities that would better adapt to their needs. Five and a half acres of land were purchased on Fourth Ave. with plans to erect a new home in the near future. George Gesnaker was placed in charge of a building committee and was responsible for much of the planning for the new building. In 1983 they sold their Hudson Ave. property to the Montessori School and began construction on the Fourth Ave. property in Hudson. Carl Hurst was appointed to carry on the work of George Gesnaker and bring it to completion. Construction began June 23, 1983, and was completed one year later, June 23, 1984. The building is approximately 15,000 square feet and in 1985 was valued at $1.3 million. The lounge and bar area were capable of seating 500 for dinner.

During the period of construction, the Lodge rented office space to hold their meetings at the former Son-Mar Travel Park on U.S. 19. Then on Sept. 9, 1983, it was voted to change offices and rent a storefront on North County Line Road a half a mile east of where they originally started (Ramada Campground).
In August 1983, at the time their ground was being prepared for construction, it was brought to their attention that a gentleman who lived in North Carolina owned approximately 1½ acres of property and a small unfinished house on the east side of their land and would be interested in selling it for $29,000.

Because of their financial condition it was impossible for the Lodge to borrow any additional money, so 18 members of the Lodge formed a consortium called the Tribe Co-op and purchased shares for $500 each and offered the owner of the property $16,000 cash which was accepted.

On Oct. 7, 1983, they rented a little house next door to the new Lodge site to be used as temporary offices for the secretary and treasurer. On November 10, 1983, the Aripeka property was sold for $8,000.

After extensive improvements on the house, the co-op sold the property to the Aripeka Elks for the amount of money invested. The Past Exalted Rulers Association made the payments for approximately one year until the Lodge was able to pay off the co-op in full.

Their first Elk of the Year was Allen Michniak.

The Lodge boasts a Broadway-sized stage and electronic sound and lighting systems that are used for shows and entertainment spectaculars each year, including guest appearances by top-rated performers. Proceeds had been earmarked for the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital.

For many years, Aripeka Lodge and its ladies auxiliary have held an annual Halloween party for mentally and physically handicapped children and young adults and their family members. To guarantee a ghoulishly good time for close to 500 guests, the Lodge decorated the facilities to resemble a miniature village and the youths go from house to house to trick-or-treat for holiday goodies, toys and stuffed animals. Clowns with painted faces have made balloon animals, wowing their guests; McGruff the Crime Dog has also traveled from the Pasco County Sheriff’s Office for the party. Money is donated to the sheriff’s office and the Angelus Home, a residence for the mentally handicapped.

PER Dan Noda, charter exalted ruler, became the first district vice president and district deputy from Aripeka Lodge.

The Lodge won the Grand Lodge and state awards for greatest increase in percentage of membership for the years 1984-1985 when it went from 635 members to 902.

On March 10, 2001, the Lodge celebrated the mortgage burning ritual for their Lodge. The Lodge was 27 years old and approximately 150 people attended the ceremony. Guests attending were the charter members; Past State President Dave Luikart and his wife, Kaye; Vice President of the central district, William Pazur, and his wife, Dot; and a member of the Florida State Elks Board of Directors, PDD John Hopkins, and his wife, Freida. Introductions were made by Exalted Ruler Mary Ford and PDD Jack Sproul gave the oration.

The following are past exalted rulers of Aripeka Lodge #2520:

- Dan A. Noda 1974-1975
- William Delaney Sr. 1975-1976
- Jack Loebel 1976-1977
- Jack Greene 1977-1978
- John Nejedlo 1978-1979
- Mike Simprini 1979-1980
- Dallas Bailey 1981-1982
Mike Simprini  1982-1983  
Harley Grace  1983-1984  
Ralph C. Smith  1984-1985  
Ralph C. Smith  1985-1986  

Aripeka Lodge 2520 Ladies of the Elks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District:</th>
<th>Central</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Dispensation:</td>
<td>Aug. 26, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Installation:</td>
<td>Sept. 29, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally opened by:</td>
<td>Glenn Shoopman, DDGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Members:</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2000 Membership:</td>
<td>1,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies Organization Name:</td>
<td>Ladies of Aripeka Elks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter President:</td>
<td>Mary Noda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ladies organization of Aripeka Lodge #2520 is the Ladies of the Elks. They came into existence at the same time as the institution of Aripeka Lodge, Sept. 29, 1974, but their work began a long time before the institution. They worked beside their husbands to raise funds to make the realization of the men of Aripeka come true. Among other things, they helped in the building of a float which was entered in the Hudson, Fla. parade, taking first place.

They went to New Port Richey Elks Lodge asking for use of their Lodge facilities to have a spaghetti dinner for the purpose of raising funds for officer jewels.

Mary Noda became their first president. Some of the charities they have supported are the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital (toys and clothing), the Spouse Abuse Center, the Salvation Army food pantry and a Halloween party each year for mentally and physically handicapped children.

In 1989 they presented Pasco County Sheriff Jim Gillium a McGruff costume for use in their fight against drugs.

The following are past presidents:

Mary H. Noda  1974-1975  
Diane Austad  1975-1976  
Marty Hayward  1976-1977  
Marion De’Angelo  1977-1978  
Elva Ribovich  1978-1979  
Ruth McCormick  1979-1980  
Mary Noda  1980-1981  
Marty Hayward  1981-1982  
Phyllis Grace  1982-1983  
Ann Hurst  1983-1984  
Ann Hurst  1984-1985  
Carolyn Gieda  1985-1986  

In 2007, members awarded $500 scholarships to four Hudson High School students. They also donated $2,000 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Army of Hope

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks instituted the Army of Hope program in 2008 to help families of the National Guard and Reserves who were called upon for service during the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. More specifically, the mission of the Army of Hope is to provide aid assistance to the families of deceased, disabled and deployed members of our military.
The fiscal year for the operations of the Army of Hope project is from July 1 to June 30. All donations to the Army of Hope and the net proceeds of fundraising for the Army of Hope are held in reserve until dispersed under the direction of the Florida Elks Charities Board of Directors.

Policies and procedures for control and disbursement of Army of Hope funds are set forth and approved by the Florida Elks Charities Board of Directors.

Funds available as of midnight June 30 of each year will be allocated equally for disbursements among the 14 districts of Florida (ex. $50,000 available - $3,571 per district). Any district that has expended all its funds may make an emergency request through the Army of Hope (AOH) Committee which has the authority to reallocate unused funds from another district based on its judgment of the situation.

Any funds collected after July 1 of each year will not be available for allocation until the following year. The distribution of funds will be limited to assisting all Florida active duty military personnel, military reservist, Coast Guard, the National Guard and their dependents when they have been called to service due to the current crisis in Afghanistan or Iraq or in the case of any future conflict or in the case of a major disaster in our state. An active duty member stationed in Florida with his or her dependents would qualify as a Florida resident.

The AOH Committee will consist of one PSP appointed by the PSP Advisory Council, one member of the Florida Elks Charities Board of Directors appointed by that board’s current president, the chairman and vice chairman of the state Veterans Services Committee and the Florida State Elks Association state secretary. This group will review and approve or reject in writing all requests for disbursements of available funds. The decision to allocate funds and in what amount and for what purpose will totally be at the discretion of the AOH Committee.

The Army of Hope Picnics Committee will be a subcommittee of the AOH Committee. The Army of Hope Picnics Committee chairman will be appointed by the chairman of the AOH Committee. There will be three regional chairmen who will be appointed by the Army of Hope Picnics Committee chairman. The AOH Committee and the Army of Hope Picnics Committee are under the control of the Florida Elks Charities Board of Directors.

The following are some examples that qualify for use of AOH Committee funds:

- Provide phone cards to contact their loved ones
- Provide funds for school lunches
- Provide funds for medical or dental emergencies not covered by insurance
- Provide funds for minor home repairs such as plumbing, painting, etc.
- Provide funds for auto repairs or transportation when needed
- Provide funds for either full-time or backup babysitting services
- Provide funds for lawn mowing, landscaping or sprinkler repairs
- Provide funds for A/C repairs
- Provide funds for needed clothing or shoes, etc.
- Provide repayable loans to Lodges as seed money to run fundraising events for larger expenses

All requests for funds, with the exception of emergency (immediate need) requests, should be initiated in writing through the Lodge chairman of Veterans Services through the district Veterans Services chairman to the AOH Committee. This allows the Lodge chairman and district chairman to vet the request and pass it on to the AOH Committee with their recommendations. Once the AOH Committee receives the request, a final decision to approve or reject should be reached by them in no more than two weeks.

A full report of all transactions of the AOH Committee will be submitted to the Florida Elks Charities Board of Directors and the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors annually at the state convention in May.

Since some of the available funds will be needed very quickly to fulfill an emergency request of a military family in one of our Florida communities, the Lodge chairman of Veterans Services in concert with the Lodge standing relief committee will be responsible for reviewing these emergency requests and if they feel the request is valid, they will contact someone on the AOH Committee to find out if funds are available for that district. If funds are available, they will then be responsible for getting approval to proceed in honoring the request. These written emergency requests will be handled at the Lodge level and upon receiving proof that the funds were disbursed, it shall be the responsibility of the AOH Committee to reimburse the Lodge. In no case will the AOH Committee be responsible for any Lodge disbursement where the committee did not give written approval in advance or when the disbursement exceeds funds available for that district.

Any available funds that are not used each year will be transferred for use to the following year. As defined in this policy, an AOH Committee year runs from July 1 of one year through June 30 of the next year.
These rules for governing the Army of Hope were approved as amended at the 2008 quarterly meeting held at the Florida Elks Youth Camp Aug. 15, 2008, by the Past State Presidents Advisory Council and the Florida Elks Charities Board of Directors.

The program's first big effort in Florida took place on May 3, 2008, from 12-4 p.m. when Lodges around the state gathered together at several locations to have picnics in memory of those brave men and women. All proceeds from the event were distributed to the families.

Bands, military vehicles, equipment displays, the avenue of flags and a few significant speeches by military heroes along with plenty of food and beverages were part of the event.

Arnette, J. Alex, President, Florida State Elks Association, 1954-1955

48th Annual Session
Florida State Elks Association
May 21-24, 1954
Orlando, Fla.

The following Lodges were represented: Arcadia No. 1524, Belle Glade No. 1716, Bradenton No. 1511, Clearwater No. 1525, Clermont-Groveland No. 1848, Clewiston No. 1853, Cocoa No. 1532, Coral Gables No. 1676, Daytona Beach No. 1141, DeLand No. 1463, Delray Beach No. 1770, Eustis No. 1578, Florida Keys No. 1872, Fort Lauderdale No. 1517, Fort Myers No. 1288, Fort Pierce No. 1520, Fort Walton No. 1795, Gainesville No. 990, Green Cove Springs No. 1892, Holiday Isles No. 1912, Hollywood No. 1732, Homestead No. 1754, Jacksonville No. 221, Jacksonville Beach No. 1901, Key West No. 551, Kissimmee No. 1873, Lake City No. 893, Lakeland No. 1291, Lake Worth No. 1530, Leesburg No. 1703, Live Oak No. 1165, Marianna No. 1516, Melbourne-Eau Gallie No. 1744, Miami No. 948, Miami Beach No. 1601, Miami Springs-Hialeah No. 1775, North Miami No. 1835, South Miami No. 1888, New Smyrna Beach No. 1557, Ocala No. 286, Orlando No. 1079, Pahokee No. 1638, Palatka No. 1232, Panama City No. 1598, Pensacola No. 497, Perry No. 1851, Plant City No. 1727, Pompano Beach No. 1898, St. Augustine No. 829, St. Petersburg No. 1224, Sanford No. 1241, Sarasota No. 1519, Sebring No. 1529, Starke No. 1802, Stuart-Jensen No. 1870, Tallahassee No. 937, Tampa No. 708, Tarpon Springs No. 1719, Venice-Nokomis No. 1854, Vero Beach No. 1774, Wauchula No. 1700, West Palm Beach No. 1352, Winter Haven No. 1672 and Winter Park No. 1830.

President Victor O. Wehle gave his annual report. He reported a net gain in membership of 2,098 or an 8% gain. This is approximately twice the percentage gain throughout the nation.

Two new Lodges were instituted this year: Jacksonville Beach #1901 was instituted June 19, 1953 and Holiday Isles #1912 was instituted Aug. 14, 1953.
Interlodge visitation reached a new peak this year. Contributions to the Harry-Anna Home reached the highest amount in Elks history. Practically every Lodge met its suggested quota in full. The home itself was substantially remodeled this past year and a sprinkler system was installed.

The governor proclaimed May 1, 1954, Elks Youth Week.

Results of the state ritualistic contest were as follows: Stuart-Jensen - 91.6339, Gainesville - 90.7418, Miami - 90.6695, Live Oak - 90.2988 and New Smyrna Beach - 90.0870.

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1954-1955 term:

- President: J. Alex Arnette, West Palm Beach #1352
- Vice President, NW Division: R. W. Clements, Lake City #893
- Vice President, NE Division: J. Pierce Smith, Gainesville #990
- Vice President, EC Division: William Lieberman, Leesburg #1703
- Vice President, WC Division: George F. Hickey, Tampa #708
- Vice President, SC Division: Lewis J. Fraser, Pahokee #1638
- Vice President, S Division: George C. Nichols, Fort Lauderdale #1517
- Secretary: James J. Fernandez, Tampa #708
- Treasurer: Claude L. Johnson, Tallahassee #937
- Historian: Howell A. Davis, Palatka #1232
- Tiler: Guy C. Linder, Orlando #1079
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Peter Gessner, DeLand #1463
- Chaplain: Rev. W. Pipes Jones, Palatka #1232
- Organist: George W. Hulme, Lake Worth #1530

Miami was selected as the site for the 1955 convention.

Assistance for Needy Member

Needy Elks members can qualify for up to $1,000 in an emergency 50-50 matching grant from the order under Section 5.070 of the Grand Lodge statutes.

The assistance would be available to “worthy and needy members of the order who are suffering from diseases of an incurable character or from total disability, and who are without funds or property or relatives able or willing to care for them,” the statute states.

The statute also provides that the Lodge of an assisted member “shall contribute toward the relief of the member an amount not less than one half of the sum that is contributed by the order.”

The assistance program is administered by the Board of Grand Trustees which is authorized to appropriate up to $10,000 annually for the program. The board by resolution may give the grand exalted ruler up to $1,000 so that authorized payments may be made regularly by him.

The statute also states that “the monies so appropriated shall be administered by the grand exalted ruler with the consent of a majority of the Board of Grand Trustees.”

Athena Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Female Veterans

Tampa Crossroads Inc., through a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, instituted the Athena Transitional Housing Program for homeless female veterans. A two-story building was donated. A contractor remodeled the building, grounds and interior free of charge and several corporations and individuals contributed to furnishing the facility for residential use.

The purpose of this program is to get these female veterans off the streets; provide them with shelter, clothing, and nutrition; help them to counter substance abuse; and provide training for future employment and other life skills so that they may return to their communities as self-supporting, productive members of society and reunited as a family unit with their children who are currently living with other family members or in foster care facilities.

Tampa Lodge’s involvement is to keep these women in touch with their minor children while enrolled in the Athena program and to accommodate some of the children’s needs such as clothing, shoes, school and classroom supplies, lunch money and other basic necessities. Transportation will be arranged through Tampa Crossroads for minor children to reuinte with their mothers during scheduled visiting times, for the mothers to attend Parents’ Night at the child’s school and to shop for items for the kids to be paid for by the Lodge.
Tampa Lodge will periodically prepare meals, barbecues and cookouts for the enrolled women and their children and plan other activities especially during the holidays and for birthday celebrations. They pay for gifts selected by the mothers so that the gifts will be from the mothers to their visiting children in honor of the occasion. The intent is to keep these families bonded during the transitional period. Upon a woman’s completion of the program, they assist in her family’s move to independent housing.

Tampa Lodge in conjunction with the Elks National Foundation and with support from a Walmart program is implementing a matching fund program up to $11,500 for contributions received from other Florida Lodges.

The Athena program is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization.

The following are supportive services provided:

- Safe, secure, and drug- and alcohol-free housing with 24-hour supervision by Tampa Crossroads Inc. support staff
- Large bedrooms shared by two women
- Nutritious meals designed by a licensed dietician
- Counselor-led therapeutic groups on substance abuse, mental health management, domestic violence, trauma/PTSD, and marriage, family and parenting issues
- Counselor- and staff-led groups on life skills building, leisure and recreational activities, stress reduction, nutrition, art appreciation and recovery support groups
- Employment preparation and placement assistance
- Educational and technical training, including GED preparation
- Transportation to outside appointments when needed

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates there are more than 194,000 homeless veterans on any given night nationwide. An estimated 8,000 female veterans are homeless in the U.S.

When a homeless individual happens to be a veteran with exacerbating problems associated with substance abuse, mental illness such as PTSD and trauma, or a physical disability, the service gap widens and there is a lack of available community support to help those heroes. Homelessness becomes a national tragedy.

The transformed role of women in the military, from nursing and administrative positions to the front lines, experts say, is the reason for the increased trauma they experience after war. Female veterans are often “silent” victims of war trauma, and for female veterans who find themselves on the streets, the problem of locating adequate shelter is often compounded by fear of sexual abuse and violence. Only a handful of veterans’ services around the U.S. have programs designed for women despite the fact that separate facilities for homeless female veterans are crucial for their recovery.

**Attendance of Officers**

In 1938 a resolution was passed at the 33rd annual convention held in Daytona Beach, Fla. condemning the practice of some Lodges marking as present the officers of the Lodge when such officers are actually absent but who have a good excuse for being absent. Such custom is not fair and does not record the actual facts. On the contrary, it places an untruth on record at the Lodge and frequently gives to a Lodge practicing this custom an unfair advantage if there is a contest in the state in attendance of officers.

**Audit, Annual**

Section 13.040 of the annotated statutes requires each subordinate Lodge to have an annual audit, review or compilation performed by an independent accountant. This examination is to include all books and financial records of the Lodge and its officers and committees, home, club or separate corporation of the Lodge. It should be performed as soon as possible following the close of the fiscal year, which is March 31. The completed financial report should be in the hands of the Lodge Auditing & Accounting Committee by June 1. No later than June 15, the Auditing & Accounting Committee should deliver the accountant’s report to the membership at a regularly scheduled Lodge session. No later than June 30, the transmittal letter, financial report forms (all 12 pages), copy of the annual membership report and a copy of the federal tax return should be submitted to the area member of the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee.

The statutes provide that if this report is not postmarked to the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee by June 30, the Lodge may be subject to an immediate fine of $200 and a subsequent fine of an additional $200 each 30 days thereafter, not to exceed $1,000. Payment of a fine does not relieve any Lodge of the duty to file the report, and continued refusal will be considered contumacy.
Once the full report is completed, make duplicate copies for the district deputy grand exalted ruler and Lodge office. The originals go to the Grand Lodge Auditing Committee.

Section 13.040 (i) of the statutes sets forth the requirements that a subordinate Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee is to perform a minimum of three financial reviews a year.

Form 990 Federal Income Tax

Form 990 – Return of Organizations Exempt from Federal Income Tax must be filed with the appropriate Internal Revenue Service center on or before Aug. 15 by subordinate Lodges as of the end of their fiscal year, which is each March 31. This return is required of all Lodges whose gross receipts are normally more than $25,000. A copy of the completed Form 990 must be submitted with each Lodge’s annual audit/financial report.

If the Lodge has an income of $1,000 or more which is not related to the purpose for which the Lodge was organized, Form 990 – T – Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return must be filed separately at the same time. Unrelated business income usually occurs where the facilities of the Lodge are open to the public. Generally this will not apply if Lodges restrict access to the Lodge and club facilities to members and bona fide guests. Also, certain passive income received by the Lodge, such as dividends, interest, royalties and certain rents from real property, are considered related (non-taxable).

Section 513(f) of the Internal Revenue Code removes proceeds from certain bingo games from term “Unrelated Trade or Business.” In order to be eligible for exemption, the bingo game must neither violate state or local law nor compete with any commercial activity.

There is a possibility that section 513(a)(f) of the Internal Revenue Code will apply in those cases where bingo is not legal in the state but the proceeds are used for Lodge purposes and substantially all of the work in operating the bingo game is performed without compensation.

On the Form 990 return, under (J), “Type of Organization,” check applicable box Exempt under 501(c) “( )” (enter “8”). To the question in line H(a): “Is this a group return filed for affiliates?” check no. To the question in line H(b): If “yes,” enter the number of affiliates for which this return is filed, leave blank. To the question in line H(d): “Is this a separate return filed by an organization covered by a group ruling?” check yes. To the question in line I: enter four digit group exemption number (GEN): enter Group exemption No. 1156.

A penalty of $10 per day can be imposed on each organization that fails to file FORM 990 up to a maximum of $5,000 for each year’s unfiled return. If the return is filed late, a statement should accompany the return showing the reason for delay which must constitute a reasonable cause.

In addition, where required, each Lodge should file Form 941 for Social Security and withheld income tax and Form 940 for Federal Unemployment tax, covering wages, commissions and other forms of remuneration paid to employees for service rendered. Forms W-2 and W-3 must also be filed.

NOTE: The secretary, treasurer and any other Lodge officers or Lodge employees (club manager, bartenders, etc.) being compensated are to be included in the Lodge payroll system.

Form 1099 – Information Return: It is mandatory that this form be used to report income paid for non-employee compensation and for any members being compensated $600 or more per year. Note: Form 1099 is to be issued at the end of the calendar year and NOT of our Lodge year.

Some state governments also require reports or returns similar to the federal requirements on an annual basis from all 501(c)(8) organizations. Clarification can be obtained from the accountant, attorney, secretary or State of the Internal Revenue Service.

(Persons involved in Lodge accounting and taxes should first check for new regulations which might invalidate this information.)

Auditing and Accounting Committee

(Laws of Order, Section 13.040 and Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Manual)

This committee is specifically charged to engage a qualified accountant with the approval of the Lodge to conduct an audit and review the compilation of all books, records and activities of the Lodge, home, club or separate corporation of the Lodge for the fiscal year ending March 31.
In addition, it shall, in the months of July, October and January, review the required recordkeeping of the financial affairs of the Lodge and club for the year-to-date including compliance with the approved budget and report at the last regular meeting of the Lodge during those months.