

Volume 2021 Issue 5 – August 2021 Official Publication of Tampa Elks Lodge #708, Founded 1902, Published monthly at 3616 W Gandy Blvd, Tampa FL 33611 Office: 813-831-4280 - Lounge: 813-839-8928



LODGE OFFICERS:

EXALTED RULER - Paul DeLand
LEADING KNIGHT - Rita Smith
LOYAL KNIGHT - Paula Rousselle
LECTURING KNIGHT - Suzanne Moore
SECRETARY - Rick Schneider, PER
TREASURER - Debbie Brennan
ESQUIRE - Melissa Bertoch
INNER GUARD - Edie Hanley
TILER - Richard Florance, PER
CHAPLAIN —Crystal Johnson
5 YEAR TRUSTEE - Wendy Hall
4 YEAR TRUSTEE - Bob Orcutt
3 YEAR TRUSTEE - Tommy Moore
2 YEAR TRUSTEE - Courtney Weil, PER
1 YEAR TRUSTEE - Shelagh Gombarcik, PER

House Committee Chair

Camden Lynn - camdenlynn07@msn.com
House Committee Members:

Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, Wendy Hall, Jacquie LoCicero, Tommy & Suzanne Moore, George Hilficker

Bar Managers

Courtney Taylor Weil - 813-484-0123 Wendy Hall - 813-500-9433

Hall Event & Rental Chairman:

Jacquie LoCicero - 813-245-6458

Elksize Editor:

Georgia Hilficker georgiahilficker@gmail.com

Tampa Web Address - Tampaelks.com

Club Hours:

Mon - Thursday 4:00pm - 11:00pm Friday 4:00pm - 12:00am Saturday 4:00pm - 11:00pm Sunday 4:00am - 9:00pm

Lodge Secretary email: elksecretary708@outlook.com

A Message from Your Exalted Ruler,

Paul DeLand

NEVER HAS SO MUCH BEEN DONE BY SO FEW WITH SUCH SUCCESS!



And that my fellow Elk #708 Members is my brief description of the week-long Grand Lodge Convention held here in Tampa. Sometimes, with the crowds at 708, it felt almost as if the actual Convention was being held at the Lodge.

I am using this message to describe the convention, at 708, and its many faces. Next month I plan an issue insert that will hit the nitty-gritty of our income and how it impacts the Lodge. For this month I give a warm and hearty shout to the hardest-working, most resilient crew I have seen. LONG hours, a string of days, bouncing when we ran out of beer, liquor, food, pins, shirts, and almost everything else. YET, every day when the doors opened (or shortly thereafter) we were set to go once again for another long, arduous day. Literally hundreds of conventioneers came through the front door every day from July 1st thru at least July 8th.....A few showed up pre and post that time period.

NO ONE went hungry, thirsty, or lacked for an entertaining time as long as our doors were open.

I will never be capable of assembling a list of those who worked....there were too many over those many days. However, I shall single out a few people and groups for acclaim!

Event Chair, and my Esteemed Leading Knight, Rita Smith......KUDOS! You organized the entire event, begged and cajoled volunteers, and made it happen!

Bar Co-Managers Courtney Weil and Wendy Hall divided their responsibilities with Courtney stocking the bar and backups as well as scheduling the regular and volunteer bartenders. Wendy was the "floor manager", being there for everyone as needs arose for more liquor, beer, ice, etc. and in the off hours running banks, setting new banks, etc.

Lest I forget....THANK YOU BARTENDERS! Our regular folks, Jessica, Paul and Delana were yeoman in their efforts. Thank you to the many add-on and volunteer bartenders! You stayed with it through out the many long hours of continuous effort.

Beyond those few it was further evident to all that our efforts in Bar Renovation impacted all visitors and members alike. Comfortable new chairs; a new bar face; the new bar floor; a well-organized group of pirates welcoming and signing in visitors....roaming officers greeting the guests (I was fortunate to get in three trips to the Lodge from downtown and greeted every visitor there when I was in the Lodge).

Now the office is buried in tabulating our success in \$ form. That info will be a few more days yet.

THANKS TO ALL! JOB WELL DONE!!!!

Your 2021-22 Committee Chairs

◆ Americanism Committee To Be Determined
◆ Army of Hopeshannonwheatley1@gmail
◆ Community Projects & Activities Camden Lynncamdenlynn07@msn.com
 ◆ Drug Awareness Education Committee Tommy Moore tommoore4109@gmail.com
◆ Elks National Foundation Certificates Bob Suhrheinrich bob.suhrheinrich@gmail.com
◆ Elks National Foundation Scholarships Rita Smithapwurita@hotmail.com
• Elks Training Committee Christine Harrischarris709@gmail.com
Government Relations
Harry-Anna Trust Fund Committee Camden Lynncamdenlynn07@msn.com
Hoop Shoot Committee
◆ Interlodge Visitation Committee
◆ Ladies Of The Elks pjlocicero@gmail.com
◆ Lodge Activities Committee To Be Determined
◆ Membership Committee Christopher Mileslegalmiles@gmail.com
◆ Orientation Committee Camden Lynncamdenlynn07@msn.com
◆ Co-Chair shelaghg1@yahoo.com
◆ Public Relation Committee To Be Determined
◆ Ritual Committee To Be Determined
◆ Soccer Shoot Committee To Be Determined
◆ Sports Committee To Be Determined
 ◆ Veterans' Service Committee Kristie Mathews fanoftampa@hotmail.com
◆ Youth activities Committee Patty & Mike Volpe Pattyandmrfox@gmail.com

THE TAMPA, DUNEDIN, CLEARWATER VISITATION AT TAMPA 708

Theme is CHANDER SO wear your colors!

Sunday, August 1st

2pm Cocktails - 3pm a Short Program Followed by a \$5.00 BBQ Pork Tailgate

Please text or call Rita at 813-431-3020.

A Warm Welcome To Our Newest Elks



Noah Bolin Sponsor Rick Schneider



Roshaun Gendrett Sponsor Rick Schneider



Christopher Mulville Sponsor Rick Schneider



Tristan Reiber Sponsor Teil Allen



Joseph Sampsor Sponsor



Kara Stout Sponsor Dee Cisneros



David Tulsiak Sponsor Rick Schneider



Dean Valenti Sponsor Paula Rousselle



Elizabeth Valenti Sponsor Paula Rousselle

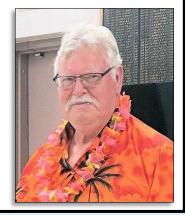


William Wilkie Sponsor Paul DeLand

August Elk Recognitions

ELK OF THE MONTH...GEORGE HILFICKER

This month I choose George Hilficker as my Elk of The Month. I learned a long time ago that George is one of the usually-quiet folks who just listens and then GETS THE JOB DONE! No fanfare, no chest thumping, just effort applied where it is needed and particularly where the situation demands action and movement has stopped. From being there to climb under the bar sinks and apply a patch to showing up and dedicating himself whether he is serving as an officer or sitting on a committee. George is a go-to guy in my eyes. Salute George with a handshake and some nice words next time you see him.



OFFICER OF THE MONTH ... SHELAGH GOMBARCIK

All I can say about this month's Officer of the month is, WOW!I have known Shelagh Gombarcik for many years. We have agreed, long ago, to acknowledge our politics are mostly at opposite ends of the spectrum. This cleared the way for us to agree on Elk-efforts. I've seen lots of efforts from Shelagh. Then came a month before the Grand Lodge Convention and a list of "must do" items as long as your arm! Very few either had the time, or could invest the time to get the list closed down. I watched as Shelagh cajoled, urged, pushed and spend hours just "Getting It Done!" Painting, obtaining and then getting the new face of the bar bought, transported, and installed. She seemed to be there round the clock, and put forth an effort that amazed me. Thanks Shelagh for setting the stage for a beautiful Lodge to present to our visitors from all 50 states...WELL DONE!



National Convention Report

The 2021 Elks Grand Lodge National Convention is Over

"We are too small...We don't have enough active members...We will never get enough volunteers...We don't know how to do this...We started too late!" These were the warnings we heard regularly about trying to be the host lodge for the Elk's National Convention.



Well hold on to your Beer, because we did it!

Congratulations to every member of our Lodge for pulling off a feat that some said couldn't be done. From Grand Lodge staffers- "I can't believe how many things you have going on." From PGER's – I don't think any host Lodge has gone to this much trouble." From the 2020 & 2021 ER's – "We will be back!"

There were hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours given. And every single one of them was appreciated. Starting with the advance planning meetings, renovating and decorating, training volunteers, advertising, food and merchandise purchasing, advance sales and volunteer scheduling, food prep, raffle sales, alcohol and bar ordering, storage, as well as interacting with the Grand Exalted Rulers upon their arrival, and their packages before their arrival, there was a lot of advance work done.

Finally, we were ready, it was Thursday July 1st. We opened at noon. Would they come? We all stood there looking at each other for about an hour – maybe two- then there was a trickle of visitors, then a few more, then a steady stream, and by Saturday, a torrent of visitors! By Tuesday we were exhausted, and pretty much sold out of everything, but they continued to come, to eat, to drink, to party with the BEST PEOPLE ON EARTH at the Tampa Elks Lodge. Miraculously, the volunteers continued to dress up, to show up, to greet, sell, smile, feed, satisfy their thirst and entertain all these visitors. The paid performers stayed late, working for tips and the love of an audience. The visitors stayed, loving the hospitality of our lodge, and then, by Friday afternoon, it was over.

I personally owe a debt of gratitude to a whole lot of people, some of whom suffered greatly following the convention. I have most of the names on a spreadsheet. Please remind me if you pitched in without being scheduled, as there will be an invitation only celebration at a later time, when I can individually acknowledge your contributions and we can recount our stories and memories, "About that time Grand Lodge held the convention in Tampa!"

Nine days – at times it felt like 90, but looking back, it was gone in a flash.

Rita Smith Leading Knight Tampa 708

As just one of the many volunteers that helped to pull off this outrageously exciting and singular event it must be said that its success would never have been possible without the leadership of our Leading Knight, Rita Smith. She was an example to us all as she worked every single day of the convention to keep the food coming and the volunteer positions filled. Though there were many other dedicated Elks that manned the convention everyday, I believe they will all agree with me that she went over and beyond the call of duty to make this, Lodge 708's, shining hour. Thank you Rita

Georgia Hilficker, Elksize Editor

National Convention Photo Gallery

They say a picture is worth a thousand words! Find more on Kim Van Walker's Facebook Page.

















































Supporting Reports



Ladies of the Elk:

Finally, we can take a deep breath and relax...if life is a marathon, July was a sprint! The LOE hit the ground running with their participation in the

lodge's Pirate Fest and finished it off with our LOW COUNTRY BOIL. Robert Bordonaro - Parliamentarian

Executive Board

Jacquie LoCicero - President Shelagh Gombarcik - Vice President Bonnie Atwood- Secretary Laura Jones - Treasurer Suzanne Moore - Chaplain Robert Bordonaro - Parliamentarian

Thank you to the Ladies who stepped up and helped with attending to our merchandise table at the Pirate Fest. We could not have been successful without your help and support.

The LOE supplied the funds and Shelagh supplied the creativity and hard work to complete the restroom makeover. If you have not had a chance to look at the men's and women's restroom, you should take a look. The lady's restroom is in the motif of Old Florida and the men's restroom gives a nod to Old Tampa. The transformation is incredible.

Before our monthly meeting, we like to gather, have a meal, and enjoy the company before we get down to the business at hand. If you would like to make (or order) a dinner for the LOE, please see the sign-up sheet on the LOE board. As always, you can also call/text me to sign up.

Upcoming happenings for the LOE. Save the date October 17th (this is a date change) for a members (or non-members) fashion show and tea. In October Candi Suhrheinrich is coordinating a dinner for the families at the Ronald McDonald House at TGH. We are tentatively scheduled for October 27th, pending their reopening to volunteer groups.

Our next meeting is August 4th, dinner at 6:15, meeting at 7pm. Hope to see you there!

August Birthdays

Lisa Snyder 8/7, Dave Partlow 8/14, Vera Wright 8/16, Vera Almsted 8/28



Please Note: We have several upcoming hall rentals this month so please remove any objects you may have stored in the back hall before August 6th. Thank You!!



Change is inevitable, but growth is optional. Even though change is guaranteed in this life, no one will ever force you to improve. That part's up to you.

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19

Upcoming Events and Projects

Our yearly

BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY

August 3rd - 6 to 8pm

Comes just after a large volunteer commitment.

But our kids still need us!
Please consider Volunteering to
make this a success for all
the families that
NEED OUR HELP

Contact Patty at pattyandmrfox@gmail.com



Christmas on August 6th At the Stepping Stone Community Center















This year we are using the spotlight grant to provide Covid relief to the families that utilize Stepping Stone community services in Sulfur Springs. Tampa lodge member Christina Sanchez works with these kids and families every Wednesday, and has first hand knowledge of their needs. She has asked that the lodge provide shoes and socks for the school age students, as well as some hot meals, which can be crucial in a neighborhood that lacks the variety of grocery stores, or department stores, that more the affluent neighborhoods enjoy.

The Spotlight Grant has been approved, but - We need your help! No experience required! **Donate** - Now until August 6th. We are still looking for small gifts, toys and game prizes. **Friday, August 6th:**

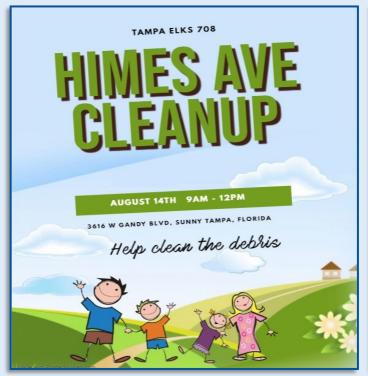
11-3 - Cooking with Courtney. This will be like a cooking class - learn how to make two dishes for a crowd, while performing community service. Even an hour of help would be appreciated.

3:00—Load and go. We will have to transport everything to the service center, located off N Nebraska at 1101 E River Cove St. Does your vehicle handle a load?

4-6 PARTY TIME - Come and assist with games, prizes, gifts and serving the lasagna to the 40 kids and their families. This should take 6-8 people.

Questions - Call or text Rita - 813-431-3020,

Upcoming Events and Projects





HOUSE COMMITTEE'S Pasta on the 3rd

JOIN YOUR HOUSE COMMITTEE

FOR A PASTA DISH ON THE 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.

PASTA STARTS SERVING @ 6:30PM

August 18th – Pasta Bolognese
September 15th – Puttanesca
October 20th – Going Old School
Sunday Gravy & meatballs

Your pasta dish is free to members.

Donations GLADLY accepted.



Calling All

Epicurean Elks...

2021 Gowrmet Club Finale

Chef's Choice

Sunday, August 22nd 5:00 p.m.

Bring us your impressive dishes, or just come with an appetite and a donation ...trivia...trivia...trivia...

Upcoming Events and Projects

YOUR HOUSE COMMITTEE BRINGS YOU BUCS PRE-SEASON POTLUCK TAILGATES!







1 Hour Before Each Game Come Impress Us With Your Potluck Delights! Enjoy the action on our 150 inch TV and

WATCH THE SEASON BEGIN IN THE BEST AIR CONDITIONED SEATS IN CHAMPA BAY!

Lodge Business and Projects



IN MEMORY OF OUR MISSING MEMBERS



It is my sad duty to inform our membership of the passing of WILLIAM EDWARDS, a 35 year member who was 3 times a PER, as well as a LOE President, WILIAM H. MASON a 19 year member and JOHN M. FLOWERS a 16 year member.



A LODGE of SORROW will be held on August 11th, 2021 during our regular lodge meeting.





Our very own Frank Palladini, PSP, Opens the Grand Lodge Convention

With the rap of the gavel, Frank Palladini PSP, Grand Lodge Esquire for 2020 – 2021, started the opening business session of the 156th Grand Lodge Convention at the Tampa Convention Center. As GL Esquire, he performed the long form for the opening of the convention to perfection. (This opening is very similar to the long version of the opening for a lodge meeting; the wording is just somewhat different.) He became an over-night celebrity because of his exemplary performance.

During the course of the convention, he escorted PGER Paul Ryan, his wife Stacey, and the newly elected GER T. Keith Mills and his wife Amy to the stage. He made convention announcements, including lost and found items such as convention badges, debit cards, and collected the reward fees for ENF.

The 2020 – 2021 team of GL Officers was the first ever to be installed via Zoom. Frank was surrounded by Tampa #708 Lodge Members when he was installed. He is so proud to have been chosen as GL Esquire and of his home lodge Tampa #708.

Article Submitted by Jeannie Reinhart, PER

Lodge Business and Projects

Below you will find the Grand Lodge 2021 <u>PASSED</u> resolutions. Please review them as we will be voting on them in our <u>September 8th General Meeting</u>.

	Elks Grand Lodge Resolution, Voting Results			7/6/2021 12:40
2021	Tamp, FL	Ballots Cast		268
Number	Description	YES	NO	% Messag
2021-01	To return to the Laws of the Order the requirement that a Local Lodge conduct a long form Initiatory Ritual for the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler at the time of his/her official visit.	919	1727	35% FAIL
2021-02	To allow Local Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Associations to incorporate for the purpose of raising, receiving, and distributing funds for such charitable, educational, and scientific purposes that are supported by its Lodge, State Association, and/or Grand Lodge.	1305	1352	49% FAIL
2021-03	To require incorporated Local Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Associations to obtain Grand Lodge approval before taking certain actions.	1272	1368	48% FAIL
2021-04	To allow Local Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Associations to incorporate for the purpose of charitable fundraising.	1329	1329	50% FAIL
2021-05	To clarify that the Grand Exalted Ruler shall have the authority to remove any officer of a corporation formed pursuant to the new section 16.035 who neglects the duties of his office, or is guilty of contumacy or conduct injurious to the order.	1678	958	64% FAIL
2021-06	To allow a Lodge to provide for the waiver of dues and fees of any Applicant who is a current or former Elks scholarship recipient with a goal of encouraging membership.	2053	606	77% PASS
2021-07	To allow the Grand Exalted Ruler to grant full membership in the Grand Lodge to Past Exalted Rulers, otherwise qualified, who are prevented from attending a Grand Lodge Convention by reason of the convention having been cancelled or in the event a convention fails for lack of a quorum.	2392	257	90% PASS
2021-08	To codify the policy of preventing the over service of alcohol and to require Local Lodges to establish a House Rule consistent therewith.	2237	421	84% PASS
2021-09	To clarify the burden of proof and standard of review in the case of an appeal from an Executive Order.	2392	263	90% PASS
2021-10	To codify fair process practices that are currently being followed in those circumstances where the rights of Members, Lodges, State Associations, or officers of any entity formed under the Laws of the Order may be impacted.	2389	266	90% PASS
2021-11	To delete the requirement that the Lodge Secretary prepare the November membership report on forms provided by the Grand Secretary since the November membership report is now automatically generated and submitted through CLMS; and to eliminate the requirement that the Lodge Secretary give bond if the Grand Lodge Insurance Program provides such coverage.	2524	126	95% PASS
2021-12	To eliminate the requirement that the Lodge Treasurer give bond if the Grand Lodge Insurance Program provides such coverage.	2454	203	92% PASS
021-13	To clarify the duties and responsibilities of the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee and the duties and responsibilities of the Local Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee as a result of the use of the new Grand Lodge online Financial Reporting System (FRS).	2413	246	91% PASS
2021-14	To allow District Deputies to be appointed to Districts other than their home District.	1042	1594	40% FAIL
2021-15	To increase the amount subject to immediate distribution by the Trustees in the event of the liquidation of a Lodge in orde	r 2314	314	88% PASS

AUGUST LODGE MEETING SCHEDULE

- 2nd LOE Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 4th LOE Dinner 6:15, General Meeting 7pm
- 10th Board of Directors Meeting 7:15
- 11th Member Committee Meeting 6pm
- 11th Elks General Meeting 7:30pm
- 24th House Committee Meeting 6:30pm
- 22nd New Member Orientation 4pm
- 22nd New Member Initiation 5pm
- · 25th Elks General Meeting 7:30pm
- · 30th LOE Board Meeting 6:30pm

Honoring Departed Elks

Abe Maas

1855 to 1941

Founder of
Mass Brothers
Department Stores
and the
First Exalted
Ruler of

Tampa Lodge #708



Tampa Elks Lodge #708

AUGUST 2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2021 CALENDAR OF EVEN 15									
Sun	Mon	tues	wed	thur	fri	sat			
VP HOME VISIT TAMPA/ DUNEDIN/ CLEARWATER AT TAMPA	2 LOE BOD MEETING 6:30 PM BAR 6:30PM 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	3 6pm to 8pm	4 LOE GENERAL MEETING 7PM LOE DINNER 6:15PM	OUEEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	6 Christmas in August At the Stepping Stones	7 HALL RENTAL 12 to 5PM Name: Holtzman			
8 NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION 3PM NEWWEVEER INITIATION 4PM	BAR 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	10 BOD MEETING HALL RENTAL 5 - 9pm Boy Scouts	11 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 6PM 7:30PM GENERAL MEETING	OUEEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	13	HIMES 1 4 CLEANUP 9AM TO 12PM Info on pg 8 HALL RENTAL 5-11pm 7:30pm Buc's v. Cincinnati Bengals Pre-season			
VP VISIT SEMINOLE/ LARGO AT SEMINOLE	BAR 6: 30PM \$3 DONATION	17 HALL RENTAL 5 - 9pm Boy Scouts	PASTA 6:30pm to 8PM PASTA BOLOGENES	QUEEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	20	21 HALL RENTAL 5 to 11pm Name: Hall 7:30pm Buc's v. Tennessee Titans Pre-season			
22 Gourmet Club 5:00pm	BAR 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	24 house committee meeting 6:30PM	7:30 PM GENERAL MEETING	26 OUCEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	27	28 8:00pm Buc's v. Houston Texans Pre-season			
29	30 LOE BOD MEETING 6:30 PM	31	KITCHEN IS CLOSED FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST PLEASE ENJOY OUR SELECTION OF PIZZAS						
	BAR 6:30PM \$3 PONATION								



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Tampa Elks Lodge #708



Support the Elksize and Be an SOB - Smiling 'Ole' Booster

\$10.00 a year defers some of the publication cost, allowing us to direct more of our income to the charities & organizations we support.

In memory of John F. Morris - 3/2021 Jerrye, Patrick & Cheryl Fennel - 6/2021 Pat & Mariyln Fennel - 6/2021 Donna Halsey - 6/2021 Frances Aberle - 8/2021



Shannon Wheatley - 6/2022 Robert Bordanero - 7/2022 South Tampa Chamber of Commerce - 2/2023 Vera Wright -In Memory of Harold Wright - 6/2023

Friends of 708

OUR CURRENT MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

Marty Quire - Linda & Jerry Reid - Theresa Seibert - Carl Seibert - Bonnie Atwood - Nanette Quire Mr & Mrs Moore - Mr & Mrs Orcutt - Sharon Ford - Mr & Mrs Schneider - Christopher Miles Mr & Mrs Suhrheinrich - Susie Harlow - Steve Harmon - Lisa Snyder - Julie Wooley Paula Rousselle - Candy Venable - Chris Ragusa - Mr & Mrs Hilficker - Crystal Johnson Shannon Wheatley - Laura Jones - Ladies of the Elks 708

OUR CURRENT ANNUAL SUPPORTERS

H. Smith - S. Washington - R. Florance - S. Owens - S. Wheatley - K. Higgins - L. Snyder J. Megular - M. Flowers - J. Slater - E. Clark - R. Reiselt - L. Jones - V. Bihoral - A. DeQuesada F. Williams - E. Smith - B. Atwood - J. Wooley - V. Thomas - Mr & Mrs Volpe

This local program focuses solely on improving our lodge through generous member donations.

All members are encouraged to sign up for the "Eleventh Hour Pledge".

Your recurring pledge of \$11 a month will help maintain our lodge.