



## **LODGE OFFICERS:**

**EXALTED RULER** - Rita Smith  
**LEADING KNIGHT** - Camden Lynn  
**LOYAL KNIGHT** - Paula Rousselle  
**LECTURING KNIGHT** - Edie Hanley  
**SECRETARY** - Laura Jones  
**TREASURER** - Christopher Miles, PER  
**ESQUIRE** - Melissa Bertoch  
**INNER GUARD** - Kara Stout  
**TILER** - Richard Florance, PER  
**CHAPLAIN** –Crystal Johnson  
**1 YEAR TRUSTEE** - Vacant Post  
**2 YEAR TRUSTEE** - Tommy Moore  
**3 YEAR TRUSTEE** - Bob Orcutt  
**4 YEAR TRUSTEE** - Wendy Hall  
**5 YEAR TRUSTEE** - Doug Grant

## **House Committee Chair**

George Hilficker - georgehilficker@gmail.com

**House Committee Members:** Wendy Hall, Jacquie LoCicero, April Holtzman, Bonnie Atwood, Daniel Armentrout, and Kim Benzing

## **BAR LEAD & INVENTORY CONTROL**

Dee Cisneros, PER

## **KITCHEN MANAGER**

Georgia Hilficker

## **Hall Event & Rental Chairman:**

Jacquie LoCicero (tampa708rentals@yahoo.com)  
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  
"Open Early for Bucs Games"

**Lodge Secretary email:**  
tampa708secretary@outlook.com

## **A Message from your Exalted Ruler, Rita Smith**



Happy Holidays! December brings us moments of both joy and sadness, and as Elks, we always remember our absent members with a special Memorial Service on the first Sunday of the last month. This year, it will be on Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> at noon. While the service is to honor all of our passed away members, we will especially remember those that passed since November 30, 2021. A Light lunch will follow.

We all get a bit busier during this month. While gathering to celebrate with family and friends, please try to take time to also enjoy time with your fraternal family at the Lodge. On Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> we will have our annual Christmas Party. Please join us for a shared meal and a fun show. Bring a dish to put on the table, appetizer, side, or dessert, and I will be providing Holiday ham and a Christmas brisket. Dinner is at 6:30, but plan to stay after 8:00 for a rollicking Dual Piano show.

If you prefer more somber moments, join us at American Legion Post 5's Veteran's Cemetery for the laying of the Wreaths upon the tombstones of the fallen soldiers. The ceremony starts at noon, but the gates to the parking open at 11:30. There are some off-site spaces available, but you will want to get there early.

Later that afternoon, Tampa Elks will be hosting the children's Christmas party. It's not unusual to have a hundred children and their parents in attendance. If you can help out by donating a toy or gift or by being there to help with a game or serve the food, you will find the children's excitement infectious. Our youth activity group maintains a list of children, many of whom are in families that barely get through each month. The parents will have the opportunity to select gifts for their kids and secure them in their trunk during the party. That way the family can create their own traditions. Finally, that night, the Lodge will host the December Birthday bash, complete with Karaoke.

Instead of a huge New Year's Eve Party, Tampa 708 is going with a beautiful New Year's Eve buffet dinner this year. Reservations Required! You may choose to remain for dancing and a champagne toast, or to pop in for a drink before or after another engagement.

We will start January off with a service project in conjunction with Elk Scholars from around the country. Please don't dispose of any clothing this month. Save it for January 1-3 when we will be collecting for hurricane victims.

Look for details on these events, and many more elsewhere in this newsletter, and make it a point to stop in Your Lodge this month to see the beautiful decorating job by our LOE Auxiliary.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

## Your 2022-23 Committees

Americanism - Richard Florance, PER (rhflorancel0@gmail.com) Chairman  
 Army of Hope - Daniel Armentrout, Chairman (Odannyboy@aol.com)  
 Auditing Committee - Melissa Bertoch Chairman, Robert Bordonaro, Sue Dortch  
 Communications Commando - Theresa Seibert, PER (Tampaelkads@gmail.com)  
 Community Activities - Wendy Hall (nini336152@yahoo.com )  
 Drug Awareness - Jason Brown (CFdad1205@gmail.com)  
 ENF Fundraising - Shelagh Gombarcik, PER (Shelaghg1@yahoo.com)  
 ENF Scholarships - Rick Schneider, PER (broric708@aol.com)  
 Elks Training - Crystal Johnson (palamino79@yahoo.com)  
 Government Relations - Laura Jones (Tampa708Secretary@outlook.com)  
 Harry Anna - Edie Hanley(ehanley73@tampabay.rr.com)  
 Hoop Shoot - Melissa Evener (mevener85@yahoo.com)  
 Interlodge Visitation - Richelle Nickle (rin0730@gmail.com)  
 Lodge Activities - Rita Smith, ER (apwurita@hotmail.com)  
 LOE Liaison - Jacquie LoCicero (Pjlocicero@yahoo.com)  
 Orientation - Laura Jones (tampasecretary708@outloo.com)  
 Soccer Shoot - Mike Volpe (mvolpel1980@gmail.com)  
 & Christien Elkins (christienelkins97@yahoo.com)  
 Sports - Camden Lynn (Camdenlynn07@msn.com)  
 Veteran's Services - Jose Remon (joseremon@gmail.com)  
 Youth Activities - Patty Volpe (Pattyandmrfox@gmail.com)

*Walgreens*



*Elks*



Message from Dan Masi,  
 FSEA Development Director

"It is that time of year with the hustle and bustle of the holidays! For the Florida Elks in Tampa Bay and an addition this year along the coast to Naples it is time to gear up for the Walgreens/Elks Community Gift Drop. This year more than ever the Elks will need to help make the holidays happy for children and families within our communities. All volunteers are much appreciated and that is what helps to make this program a success!"

Greetings Tampa Lodge #708 Elks,

Tampa Elks Lodge #708 has 15 Walgreens stores that will be collecting toys from November 15, 2022, through December 15, 2022. The toys collected at each of the 15 local stores will be brought back to our lodge and distributed during our Annual Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 17, 2022.

Last year we saw our gift drop boxes coming back in almost empty in some cares. We need to get those boxes stuffed! Here are some of the ways you can help us stuff the boxes at Walgreens.

- Tell a friend about the donation boxes.
- Take a friend Christmas shopping at Walgreens.
- Thank the cashier at your Walgreens for supporting us by promoting the boxes
- Remind the cashier of the 1,2,3rd place prizes for the stores that collect the most.
- Point out the signs in the toy aisle to passersby.



# Membership Recruiting Award



## CONGRATS! TO OUR MEMBERSHIP RECRUITERS

Exalted Ruler Rita Smith presented Grand Exalter Ruler Award Pins for membership to Leading Knight Camden Lynn and Lead Bartender, Dee Cisneros, PER at the November membership meeting.

This award is earned by sponsoring 3 new, reinstated, or transferred members during the period from July 1st-June 30th.

# November Elk Recognitions

## ELK OF THE MONTH...APRIL HOLTZMAN

Elk of the Month – April Holtzman Each year we are fortunate to get one or two Elks that really love to be a part of everything the Elks do. She is always that trusted extra pair of hands you need. The one who answers when you say, “I need help!” She stood out from the crowd last Gasparilla when she volunteered to take sodas to the island, and she just has never stopped. As a House Committee member, she is quick to assist in the kitchen, dining room or bar. This month, I think she spent every weekend, and many evenings, working at the lodge. April also participates in every LOE event, she even showed up at 6:30 AM to transport food and feed the homeless. And yes, April has a full-time job, too.



## OFFICER OF THE MONTH...CAMDEN LYNN

Officer of the Month- Camden Lynn. Camden is a second-generation Elk. When you evaluate a Lodge year, there are two things that stand out: Money and membership! Camden just brought in 4 new members. Camden is our Leading Knight, which is the training position for Exalted Ruler. He also is the Secretary for the Board of Directors. I take advantage of his computer skills. He was on the team of three that did most of the work on the budget. He also assisted with the inventory and has been faithful in the ritual performances for both initiation and the special services like Mother’s Day. He is currently representing the lodge in an insurance claim and investigating the Point of Service equipment to see if we are getting the best value for our money.



## Supporting Reports



Envy's definition of "good" is "whatever they have."  
Counting your blessings will help combat that nonsense.

"For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice." James 3:16



### Ladies of the Elks:

The holiday season is in full swing! The lodge is decorated, and there is a chill in the air (maybe...). The Ladies will be hosting their Annual Christmas Bazaar on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 6pm-8pm.

Need a gift for a loved one, friend or co-worker, the Ladies can help you with that.

This year the Ladies of the Elks are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year of service to our lodge and community. On January 14<sup>th</sup> the Ladies are having a lunch to celebrate our accomplishments over the years. We will start taking reservations for our lunch on 1/2/23, with the last day to reserve a spot is 1/11/23. To reserve your place for our lunch, you can sign up (see LOE board for sign up sheet) or you may text/call 813-245-6458. Do you have to be a Lady to attend, absolutely NOT! We welcome all who have supported our group over the years. Without your support, we would not have accomplished all that we have and all that we will. Details for our upcoming celebration will be released soon.

Have you ever wondered, how did the lodge get decorated so quickly and beautifully? Well, that was the LOE. Every year we decorate our lodge the day after Thanksgiving. Thank you to all who rolled out of bed after a day of eating and football watching. As always, we had a great time coming together, decorating, and enjoying each other's company.

Thank you to all who came out to support the Ladies and Childrens Therapy Services on our Top Gun movie night. It was a great night, we ate, we drank, and we raised funds for the Ladies favorite charity.

Happy Holidays and I hope to see you around the lodge soon.

Jacque LoCicero, PLP

President, Ladies of the Elks

### December Birthdays

Antonio Cruz 2/5 Betty Pickenpaugh, PSP, PLP 12/13 Carolyn Miller, PLP 12/22 Shelagh Gombarcik, 12/24

#### Executive Board

Jacque LoCicero, PLP - President  
Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, PLP - Vice President  
Crystal Johnson - Secretary  
Laura Jones - Treasurer  
Suzanne Moore, PLP - Chaplain  
Tracy Horrell, PER, PLP - Parliamentarian

### Speaking of Elections...

The 1 Year Trustee position has become vacant.

We will hold nominations and should there be more than one candidate, the election by secret ballot will be held at the December 7, 2022 Lodge meeting which opens at 7:30am.

This Trustee position includes a seat on the Board of Directors.

The term of office expires on March 31, 2023

Should a current elected Officer successfully obtain this position, the then vacated office will be filled by the same procedure that same night.

(Statutes 12.150)

Sadly, Courtney Weil, PER has resigned her position due to the demands of her new adventure as the owner of Courtney's Café and Custom Catering. WE WISH HER MUCH SUCCESS!

In your service,  
Rita Smith, Exalted Ruler





## Grants & Donations

# Club Chivalry Report

Club Chivalry's November meeting was held on November 14<sup>th</sup>. We arrived early, and when we were admitted to the auditorium, we discovered another Club was also there for the period. At that point we directed our students up to the nosebleed seats. With the construction going on, we have learned to be flexible.

Being early allowed me to get a picture of the Elk Volunteers with the student officers.

To our surprise, the Club officers were less prepared for this meeting. So of course, the Elks took over.

Luckily, PDD Theresa Seibert was already scheduled to be the guest speaker. Her Career path story really resonated with the students. Theresa started working part time at Burger King while a student at Robinson. She remained with the company through college, steadily advancing from cashier to line cook to shift manager to store manager and eventually, degree in hand, she was offered an executive position with the nationwide company. The moral of the story – that any job can lead to a career- hit home.

With no other plans for the students that day, Theresa also talked about the job opportunities for high school students at the Florida Elks Youth Camp, and how those jobs could lead to college scholarships.

Finally, to fill in the gap in time before the bell rang, we started talking about Relay for Life. Very few of the students even knew what that was. Theresa volunteered to donate \$100 to the cancer society account of the first student to sign up. As of now, three members have signed up. Kenzie was first, and Theresa came through for her! Theresa also came through for us. We were lucky it she was there when the students came empty handed.

At our December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting we will be privileged to have Elk Kristina Chowning as our guest speaker. She is going to be the Event lead at the 2033 Relay 4 life. Elk Becky Sullins will be the Survivor Lead.

We will also have special refreshments and a I hope to have a Christmas gift for each student. At Relay 4 Life we will need a big showing of support for these Elks and this club, so save the date – April 28<sup>th</sup>. It is a Friday night and goes all night until 5:00 in the morning. Rita Smith, ER - Project Manager



## Our Poppy Day Donation



Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, remembers “Poppy Day” while growing up in England. It meant a lot to her as a child, since her father was in the military. For the last several years, she has taken it upon herself to partner with Pat Pastore, the Poppy Chair from American Legion Auxiliary Unit 139, who provides perfume baskets to use in the fundraising. Anyone who donated to the poppy fund did not only receive their poppy, but also a raffle ticket towards the perfume baskets. The drawing was done on Veteran’s Day, and the baskets were won by Tracy Horrell, PER and House Committee member Kim Benzing. This year, Shelagh raised \$735 for the American Legion Poppy Fund. By Legion rules, Poppy Fund money is restricted to be used only for Veterans, Active Duty Military, and their families.

# Grants & Donations

## HURRICANE RELIEF FROM 708

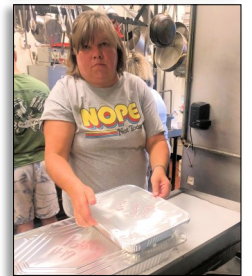
Tampa Elks donated a \$2000 Spotlight Grant for Hurricane Ian relief. The donation went to a special fund set up by their partners at Hyde Park United Methodist Church that will be used to purchase tarps furring strips and roofing nails to be utilized by a work crew of Methodists helping Hurricane Ian Victims.

Tarps are not available in the affected areas but the Tarp Fund is being used to purchase tarps through an agreement with a nationwide distributor and the tarps are being shipped to a church in the affected location.



## THANKSGIVING FOR THE HOMELESS

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving Tampa Elks Lodge sponsored a full Turkey dinner for over 80 homeless or needy guests of Open Arms Ministry, the Outreach division of Hyde Park United Methodist Church. The meal, prepared with funds from the ENF Beacon Grant, was prepped on Saturday by Jennifer Trantham and her adult children, Shelagh Gombarcik, Per, Douglas Grant, Trustee, House Committee members April Holtzman and Bonnie Atwood and me. The meal, consisting of Turkey Breast, dressing mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, sweet potato souffle, roll with butter and a piece of pumpkin pie, was then cooked starting at 4:30 AM Sunday morning on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and at 6:30 AM transported to the Open Arms location in Hyde Park by Jennifer Trantham, April Holtzman, Douglas Grant and me. Upon arrival we were met by our new partners- the Academy of the Holy Names Rowing team, who had 10 members ready to assist us in the serving line. There was a delay in serving due to a problem at Metropolitan Ministries, but by 7:30 the line formed and the dinners, still piping hot from the igloo coolers, was served to a most appreciative crowd! We have been in partnership with Open Arms Ministry to provide holiday cheer to the homeless for about 9 years, adjusting as we go, but never forgetting our duty to those less fortunate!



## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Please pause for a moment on December 17th, at 12pm and join your Tampa Lodge Veteran's Committee in honoring the fallen. At that hour, at every Veteran Cemetery across America, wreaths are being laid on the headstones of the fallen heroes whose sacrifices allow us to continue our traditions.

We will participate at the American Legion Cemetery at 3810 W Kenney Blvd. - the only privately owned Veteran's Cemetery in America. The Veterans from Liberty Manor and the Haley VA Domiciliary have been invited to join us for breakfast at Pach's Place in the Tahitian Inn at 9:30, then participate in the wreath laying with us.



# Past Events and Projects



## MEET TAMPA'S OWN WWII VETS



### Malen

Malen Griep was born on April 27, 1926. He was one of 9 children living on a farm in rural Minnesota. In August of 1944, at the age of 18, Malen was drafted into the army and sent to Texas for training. That must have been quite an experience for a farm boy from Minnesota.

When he got to Europe he was assigned a motorcycle and was responsible for guarding German Prisoners of War. On his nineteenth birthday, Malen walked into a concentration camp and will never forget what he saw and experienced there. He hopes future generations will study and learn about the Holocaust and make sure it never happens again. He ended his time in the army on July 12, 1946.

Malen then went back to the farm in Minnesota to help his mother and siblings. Malen got married and they often spent summers in Kentucky with her family. They had four children: 3 sons and 1 daughter.

In 1982 Malen and his family moved to Ft Myers, Florida where they owned and operated a Dairy Queen for many years. Tragically, a fire occurred and the Dairy Queen was destroyed. Malen now lives in Tampa with his daughter Kathleen, and his wife Marjory is living nearby in an assisted living center.

Malen has only been an Elk for one year, however, he is a life time member of the American Legion. Along with Manny, Malen went on the Elks sponsored anniversary trip to Normandy, France. Malen enjoys bingo and board games and still drives himself wherever he wants to go.

### Manny

Angel M. Maldonado, better known to us as Manny, was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico on April 29, 1927. Sadly both his parents died when he was still an infant, and his two sisters helped to raise him.

He moved to Connecticut at age 14 to stay with one of his sisters and her family. At the age of 17, Manny decided to enlist in the US Army. He trained to become a paratrooper in the 11th Airborne, and was stationed in Japan. He made 33 jumps during the war, often carrying part of a machine gun. After landing on the beach or in the jungle, he would have to find the other two paratroopers who carried the other part and the ammunition and put it together. It was only then that they had a weapon that would function.

After the war, Manny married, and fathered 2 daughters and one son. He now has 5 grandchildren living in Virginia. He also has spent a lot of time in New Hampshire where he has a summer home.

His parachuting adventures lasted well beyond the war and his last jump (out of a perfectly good airplane) was his 89th which he accomplished on his 91st birthday. He has lived in the Homes of Regency Cove for 30 years, and he remains active and fit by walking around the park everyday. At the age of 95, Manny is our youngest WWII veteran.

Manny has been an Elk for 26 years, and he appreciates the Elks sponsoring his trips to Washington DC, Pearl Harbor, and Normandy. These trips brought back many memories of his time in the service. Manny appreciates all that he has and feels that we still need to support and fight for our country.

### Tony

Anthony Marino, who we know as Tony, was born on September 4th, 1926 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Sadly his father passed away when he was 2 years old.

Tony's mother enrolled him in Gerard College, a boarding school for fatherless boys, where he attended school from 1st to 12th grade. His mother and two sisters would visit often, and Tony excelled in academics. He also enjoyed sports including bowling and baseball. He played second base and was a very good hitter. Tony has many fond memories of his time at Gerard College, and he made many lifelong friends including his best friend Rocky.

When Tony was 17, he wanted to join the Navy, but his mother would not sign his papers. Later he was drafted into the US Army and was sent to Texas and Arkansas for training. He was assigned to the 724th Light Maintenance Crew where he served as a staff sergeant in Japan and the Philippines as part of the American assault.

After the war, Tony came home and continued his education at La Salle, Temple, and Drexel Universities earning 3 different masters degrees. Tony had a long career in education where he taught and counseled many students. He also served as an educational leader for teachers, and at one point had 16 teachers to supervise at the same time.

When Tony retired, he visited family in the Tampa area and decided to move here. That was 33 years ago. He has lived in the Homes of Regency Cove for 31 years, and his niece Maria now lives across the street. His other niece Gloria visits often.

Tony has been an Elk for over 31 years and we used to see Tony nearly every day when he could often be found savoring a pint of Guinness. Unfortunately we don't see him as often because he does not drive anymore. Instead he has become quite an artist working on amazing patterned works in colored pencil.

# Past Festivities and Events

## HALLOWEEN PARTY 2022

The lodge hosted yet another spooktacularly sensational Halloween party on Friday, October 28, 2022. Advance tickets were sold by Lisa Hayes, Paula Rousselle, Susie Harlow, Edie Hanley, Laura Jones, Treasurer. Over 65 costumed members and guests enjoyed a great time posing for pictures in the Photo Booth and dancing to the great music played by our guest DJ, Eric, of Nuric Productions. Most took an opportunity to snap pictures under the evil tree or with the thirteen-foot ghost who decided to crash the party.

The costume contest judges had a tough time selecting winners from all of the awesome contestants. Winners of the three categories: male, female and duos ... Won \$50 cash!!!! A Corpse Bride, and the Bubonic Plague victim won best female and Male, while the couple category was won by Fred and Daphne from the Archie series. Rita Smith, ER, with the help of Trustee Doug Grant and Shelagh Gombarcik, PER put out great appetizers, a three table Mexican buffet, and a dazzling dessert array. A special thanks to House Committee members Daniel Armentrout, who took tickets and handled ticket sales at the door, and Bonnie Atwood who bussed tables, to Shelagh Gombarcik, PER and Trustee Tommy Moore who put together the jail and decorated the lodge, and all members and guests whose attendance made this event a great one.-





## Upcoming Events and Projects

# LOE Christmas Bazaar



**Dec. 1st & 2nd - 6pm to 8pm**

Here's your chance to do that last minute Christmas Shopping, enjoy holiday treats and support the many charities your LOE supports.

On Friday the 2nd you can enjoy A Fisherman's Platter Dinner with French Fries, or Grits, Coleslaw, Hush Puppies and Shrimp Gumbo

**\$18.00**

**Music by: Loose Cats 7 to 10pm**

If you would like to donate to the bazaar

Please contact Jacquie LoCicero at

[loetampa708@yahoo.com](mailto:loetampa708@yahoo.com)

# Upcoming Events and Projects



## LET'S DO FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER AT THE LODGE

**DEC. 2ND**



**SEAFOOD  
PLATTER  
WITH**

**FRIED SHRIMP, FISH &  
CLAMS, HUSH PUPPIES,  
COLESLAW & SHRIMP GUMBO  
\$18.00**

**APPETIZER: ONION RINGS  
\$3.50**

**DESSERT: CHEESECAKE**

**ENTERTAINING US:  
LOOSE CATS**

**DEC. 9TH – NO DINNER**



**Annual Christmas Party  
Saturday Dec 10th**

**Bring an Appetizer,  
side dish, or dessert and  
enjoy the ERs  
Christmas Brisket & Ham  
6:30pm  
Dueling Pianos  
Show at 8pm**

**DEC. 16TH**



**FRIED  
CHICKEN**

**MASHED POTATOES, CORN  
ON THE COB, ROLLS AND  
WHITE BEAN SOUP  
\$16.00**

**APPETIZERS: FRIED ZUCHINI  
DESSERT:**

**APPLE PIE A LA MODE  
ENTERTAINING US:  
KEVIN HURLEY**

**DEC. 23RD**



**COOK'S  
NIGHT OFF  
POT LUCK  
DINNER  
6:30 TO 8PM**

**DEC. 30TH – NO DINNER**

*Come Celebrate*

Join us for a  
Sumptuous  
New Year's  
Eve  
Buffet Dinner  
Saturday, December  
31st at 7pm

Menu: Escargot or Calamari w/ Aioli,  
Carving Station:  
Herb Roasted Beef or Pork, Tenderloins,  
Citrus Roasted Salmon,  
Loaded Mashed Potatoes, Roasted  
Vegetables, Honey Carrots, Strawberry  
Feta Salad, and Cheesy Herb Yeast Rolls  
Dessert: Crème Brûlée

**\$30.00**  
Reservations  
Required



**PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL BE OFFERING HALF A CHICKEN AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE WEEKLY MEAL AT A COST OF \$13.00. IT WILL COME WITH THE SAME SIDES AS THE ADVERTISED DINNER AND MUST BE SELECTED WHEN MAKING YOUR RESERVATION. SORRY, NO LAST MINUTE ORDERS AVAILABLE FOR THIS ENTREE. THANK YOU**

**PLEASE SIGN UP BY EMAILING 708meals@gmail.com OR TEXT 813-294-6200 OR ON THE LODGE BULLETIN BOARD TO ASSURE YOUR MEAL!  
DINNER SERVED FROM 6:30PM TO 8:30PM**

## BAR BINGO

**Served Mondays 6pm to 7:30pm**

- Dec 5th – Chili Dog or Hot Dog  
with chips \$8.00**
- Dec 12th – Chicken Salad Croissant  
with Chicken Noodle Soup \$10**
- Dec 19th – Rubeen Sandwich  
With Chips \$9.00**
- Dec 26th – NO BINGO**



## QUEEN OF HEARTS

**Donation by 6:45pm  
Drawing at 7pm**

**Thursday Nights  
Served 6pm to 7:30**

**\*Nov 3rd –  
Spaghetti Dinner, w/Salad &  
Bread \$7**

- \*Nov 10th – Grill Night**
- \*Nov 17th – Grill Night**
- \*Nov 24th – Grill Night**



## Upcoming Events and Projects



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

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HOLIDAY PARTY

SATURDAY, DEC 10TH - 6:30PM

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BRING AN APPETIZER, SIDE DISH OR DESSERT  
AND ENJOY THE ER'S CHRISTMAS BRISKET AND HAM

FOOD - FUN - FELLOWSHIP

STAY TO ENJOY  
DUELING PIANO'S MUSIC SHOW 8PM

## Upcoming Events and Projects



# Children's Christmas Party

Join us for the  
Tampa Elks 708 Christmas Party  
For Children Ages 1 to 17  
December 17th - 2pm to 5pm

3616 W. Gandy Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33611

Please send your child's  
Name and Age to  
[pattyandmrfox@gmail.com](mailto:pattyandmrfox@gmail.com)



# Upcoming Events and Projects



**December Members...  
Happy Birthday**

Saturday, 17 December 7pm  
Potluck/Karaoke Bash

Join us as we celebrate our member's Birthdays with a Potluck dinner, cake and singing to karaoke favorites.

**KARAOKE**

(Members with a birthday within their month will receive (1) FREE drink during that month)  
Please bring a covered dish in by 6:30pm. Karaoke to begin at 8pm



Help us Celebrate **50** Years

The LOE Celebrates 50 years of service to our Lodge and our Community with a celebratory luncheon.

**Save the Date**  
**Saturday, January 14th**

All welcome - More to Come  
Reservations Required. Sign up between Jan 2nd and 11th on the LOE Board or  
Text: 813-246-6458



**TAMPA BAY  
BUCCANEERS**

**BIG SCREEN, COLD A/C AND  
TASTY TAILGATES  
WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR!**

CONSIDER SPONSORING A TAILGATE  
TEXT PAUL AT 813-376-5401

DEC. 5TH BUCS V SAINTS 8:15PM  
RFTA'S BANANAS FOSTER

DEC 11TH BUCS V 49S 4:25PM  
PAUL DE LAND

DEC 18TH BUCS V BENGALS 4:25PM  
TRACY HORELL

DEC 25TH BUCS V CARDINALS 8:20PM  
RFTA'S TAILGATE




**THE INVASION  
HAS BEGUN**

On November 18th Tampa Elks Lodge 708 began its Invasions of other area lodges to promote our upcoming Gasparilla 2023 event. These visits to our sister Lodges go a long way to gathering reservation and helping to raise funds for our Lodge, and They're Fun! If you would like to join this Krewe of Jolly Corks on an adventure, contact Paul DeLand, PER and Co-Chair of 708's Gasparilla Invasion 2023 at 813-376-5401.

## Upcoming Events and Projects

# Come Celebrate

Join us for a  
Sumptuous  
New Year's  
Eve

Buffet Dinner

Saturday, December  
31st at 7pm

Menu: Escargot or Calamari w/Aioli,

Carving Station:

Herb Roasted Beef & Pork, Tenderloins,  
Citrus Roasted Salmon,

Loaded Mashed Potatoes, Roasted  
Vegetables, Honey Carrots, Strawberry  
Feta Salad, and Cheesy, Herb Yeast Rolls

Dessert: Crème Brulee

# \$30.00

Reservations  
Required





# Upcoming Events and Projects



21 / BRAYDEN POINT

Elks On Ice

# TICKET OFFER

March 19 | 7:00 PM



**\$43 | 300 LEVEL**

A portion of each ticket will be donated to the FSEA  
The ticket includes a commemorative pin.



To purchase tickets please click on the link:

<https://floridaelks.org/>

For Questions contact Steve Harmon at 813-508-2315

or email [sharmon708@gmail.com](mailto:sharmon708@gmail.com)

[TampaBayLightning.com](http://TampaBayLightning.com)



## BE THE THUNDER



# Upcoming Events and Projects

# BAR BINGO

DECEMBER 19TH

6:30PM

Here's your chance to break out that old sweater you thought you'd never wear again!

Wear one and receive 1 free card in the first round!

# Ugly Sweater Night!



# Lodge Business and Projects

## Gibsonton Elementary School



**THANK YOU**  
for supporting our school!

November 2022

The Elks Lodge,

Thank you for partnering with Gibsonton Elementary to support families this holiday season. I wanted to share with you some pictures taken during our pantry distribution yesterday. Your donation made an amazing impact on our efforts to support families this holiday season.

I have posted pictures on our Facebook page to highlight yesterday's remarkable event (where 76 families and 346 individuals!) and will also include pictures in our end-of-month November Newsletter. Thank you for partnering with us and supporting our families.

<https://www.facebook.com/GibsontonBulldogs>



## YOUR HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

In our last house committee meeting several important votes were taken. The results of those votes are listed below:

- 1) Voted to reverse/discontinue the \$.25 per drink entertainment charge.
- 2) In the event any house rule is broken, the bartender must make an entry in the bar book.
- 3) Discontinue Wednesday night 2 for 1 drinks effective December 7th. Until then 2 for 1 applies to well drinks only.
- 4) The motion to add house wine and draft beer to the 2 for 1 did not pass.

We'd like to welcome our new member, Kim Benzing to the House Committee.



# Lodge Business and Programs



Elks  
National  
Foundation, Inc.

## Elk Scholars Come to Tampa And They Need Your Help!

Elk Scholars Service Trip is scheduled for  
**Tampa!**

The Elk Scholars are coming to Tampa to do Community Service, YOU are invited to work by their side.

Elks Scholars are all the current college students from all over the country who have received an Elk's Scholarship. These are some of the brightest students in the nation, and the one thing they all have in common with the Elks is the desire to give back.



Last year's Elk Scholarship trip to Chicago

They will arrive from their various cities by 4PM on January 3rd, and we will transport them to Tampa Lodge #708. They will be under the supervision of Elks Scholar Fellow, Raleigh Curry, who is an Elks Scholar that has at least a 4 year degree and is now an employee of the ENF division of the Elks.

While at the Lodge, the students will help sort clothing for Hurricane Victims. YOU are invited to both provide clothing, and to come help sort clothing. Food will be provided for the students and the workers that night, and we will also make our "Gasparilla Invasion Lunches" for the students to take with them the next day, when they jump on a bus to do service work and deliver the clothing to Pine Island. Pine Island, you may recall, is the hard-hit community in SW Florida where the only road on or off the island was washed out. Though a road has been reestablished, Pine Island is still lagging behind other areas in recovery, so both the clothing and the youthful extra hands will be put to good use.

The scholars have a busy schedule working Wednesday to Friday with Feeding Tampa Bay and Meals on Wheels, but they will be back in the Lodge on Friday night for dinner and fellowship.

Please help in one or more of the following ways:

1. Collect clean, usable clothing, and bring it in sorted by size, if possible, Tell your children, or adult grandchildren, that we need the outgrown but serviceable clothing. Hang on to those clothes until at least January 1st- then bring them to the lodge by 4PM on the 3rd.
2. Help us make the Gasparilla lunches. This will include a Cuban Sandwich making lesson. It's mostly sit-down work. That will start at noon on Tuesday Jan 3rd.
3. Help us sort clothing. The plan is to get everything sorted by sex and size, then delivered in 4 or 8 gallon bags with the sizes clearly marked on the outside so that the hurricane victims in need can just grab a bag and go. There are few large buildings in good condition on the island. The distribution will likely be outdoors.
4. Come to the Friday night fish fry on January 4th and meet these talented young people who one day may very well change the world.



# Lodge Business and Projects



## 2022 MEMORIAL SERVICE

It's time to recognize the members we lost in 2022. Please join our officers as they gather to commemorate their passing.

**December 4th at 12PM**

**In the Lodge Hall**

**To Our Absent Members:**

- |                               |                  |                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| ◆ <b>Raymond D Royston</b>    | <b>Born 1928</b> | <b>57yr Member</b> |
| ◆ <b>Brian Brantley, PER</b>  | <b>Born 1946</b> | <b>31yr Member</b> |
| ◆ <b>Nancy Keesler, PER</b>   | <b>Born 1953</b> | <b>26yr Member</b> |
| ◆ <b>William L Helsel Sr</b>  | <b>Born 1937</b> | <b>26yr Member</b> |
| ◆ <b>Forrest Patrick Boyd</b> | <b>Born 1954</b> | <b>14yr Member</b> |
| ◆ <b>John Deese</b>           | <b>Born 1945</b> | <b>9yr Member</b>  |
| ◆ <b>Austin Knight</b>        | <b>Born 1968</b> | <b>1yr Member</b>  |

Refreshments will be served following the service.

## EXALTED RULER



You didn't have to do it, but I'm so grateful you did!

Shout outs for December Elksize:

Patty and Mike Volpe – another successful quarter auction!

Secretary Laura Jones, Treasurer Chris Miles and Trustee Tommy Moore - They nailed the DD Visit.

Georgia Hilficker – Her culinary reputation grows through the district!

Shelagh Gombarcik, PER – wowed us with the decorations for Halloween, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving .

Additionally, Shelagh raised over \$700 from her Poppy Sales to help Veterans.

Bonnie Atwood, Crystal Johnson, Susie Harlow and Dee Wilson- mastering the new amusement procedures.

Jose Remon – Master Fundraiser!

Dee Cisneros, PER – mechanical genius – Who knew?

Jacquie LoCicero, Shelagh Gombarcik and the LOE – Fantastic job on the decorations this year.

### DECEMBER LODGE MEETING SCHEDULE

- 5th - LOE Board Meeting - 6:30
- 6th - Veteran's Meeting - 6:30
- 7th - LOE General Meeting - 7:00 - Dinner 6:15
- 13th - BOD Meeting - 7:30
- 14th - Membership Meeting - 6:00
- 14th - Elks General Meeting - 7:30
- 20th - House Committee Meeting - 6:30
- 27th - New Member Orientation & Initiation - 6:30
- 28th - Elks General Meeting - 7:30

### Honoring Departed Elks

**Danny Thomas**

**1912-1991  
Entertainer,  
Singer,  
Comedian**

**Toledo, OH  
Lodge #53**





# Tampa Elks Lodge #708

## December 2022

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<p>1   <b>LOE Christmas Bazaar 6pm-8pm</b>                      See Page 9</p> <p>SPAGHETTI DINNER                      NIGHT \$7.00                      6PM-7:30</p> <p>                      DONATIONS by 6:45PM                      DRAWING at 7PM</p>	<p>  <b>LOE Christmas Bazaar 6pm-8pm</b>                      See Page                      Dinner on page 9                      Entertainment by Loose Cats</p>	<p>3 Hall Rental                      3:00-6:00pm                      Johnson</p>
<p>4   <b>Elk Memorial Service</b>                      12pm                      See pg 18</p>	<p>5   <b>LOE BOD MEETING 6:30 PM</b>                      CHILI DOG OR HOT DOG W/CHIPS \$8</p> <p>                      Bucs V Saints 8:15pm                      Tailgate: Rita's Banana's Foster</p> <p>                      6:30PM                      \$3 DONATION</p>	<p>6 <b>VETERAN'S COMMITTEE MEETING - 6:30PM</b></p> <p>7PM TO 9PM                      IMPROVAHALICS REHEARSAL</p>	<p>7 <b>LOE GENERAL MEETING 7PM LOE DINNER 6:15PM</b></p> <p>                      Hump Day...2 for 1 Well Drink Specials                      Loaded Nachos \$6.00</p>	<p>8 <b>GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE</b></p> <p>                      DONATIONS by 6:45PM                      DRAWING at 7PM</p>	<p>9 <b>No Dinner</b>                      Join us for the Lodge Christmas Party tomorrow night</p>	<p>  <b>Lodge Christmas Party</b>                      Pot Luck Dinner &amp; Entertainment                      By Dueling Pianos                      See pg 11</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Bucs V 49rs 4:25pm                      Tailgate by Paul</p>	<p>12 <b>CHICKEN SALAD ON CROISSANT WITH CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP \$10</b></p> <p>                      6:30PM                      \$3 DONATION</p>	<p>13  <b>7:30PM BOD MEETING</b></p> <p>7PM TO 9PM                      IMPROVAHALICS REHEARSAL</p>	<p>14 <b>MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 6PM</b></p> <p>  <b>7:30PM GENERAL MEETING</b></p>	<p>15 <b>GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE</b></p> <p>  <b>Calendar Meeting 7:30pm</b></p> <p>                      DONATIONS by 6:45PM                      DRAWING at 7PM</p>	<p>16 <b>FRIED CHICKEN MASHED POTATOES. CORN ON THE COB. WHITE BEAN SOUP &amp; ROLLS \$18</b></p> <p>APPETIZER: FRIED ZUCCHINI \$3.50                      DESSERT: APPLE PIE ALA MODE</p>	<p>17 <b>Children's Christmas Party</b>                      See Page 12</p> <p><b>Wreaths Across America</b>                      See pg 6</p> <p><i>December Birthday Bash</i>                      See pg 16</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Bucs V Bengles                       4:25am                      Tailgate by: Tracy</p>	<p>19 <b>RUEBEN SANDWICH W/CHIPS</b></p> <p><b>Ugly Christmas Sweater Night</b></p> <p>                      6:30PM                      \$3 DONATION</p>	<p>20  <b>HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30PM</b></p> <p>7PM TO 9PM                      IMPROVAHALICS REHEARSAL</p>	<p>21 Hall Rental                      Decorating                      Time TBD</p>	<p>22 <b>GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE</b></p> <p>                      DONATIONS by 6:45PM                      DRAWING at 7PM</p>	<p>  <b>COOK'S NIGHT OFF POT LUCK 6:30-8PM</b></p>	<p>                      Christmas Eve</p>
<p>25   <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b></p> <p>Bucs V Cardinals                       8:30pm                      Tailgate by Rita</p>	<p>26 <b>LODGE CLOSED</b></p>	<p>27 <b>NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION 6:30pm</b></p> <p><b>NEW MEMBER INITIATION</b>                      Following Orientation</p> <p>7PM TO 9PM                      IMPROVAHALICS REHEARSAL</p>	<p>28   <b>7:30PM GENERAL MEETING</b></p>	<p>29 <b>GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE</b></p> <p>                      DONATIONS by 6:45PM                      DRAWING at 7PM</p>	<p>30 <b>No Dinner</b>                      Join us for a Sumptuous New Year's Eve Buffet tomorrow night                      See page 14</p>	<p><b>NEW YEAR'S EVE BUFFET DINNER</b>                      SEE PG 14</p> <p></p>

# Elks Tampa 708 size

3616 Gandy Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33611

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ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TAMPA, FL  
PERMIT #32



Ask to join our group on Facebook to receive updates and late breaking news. Tampa Elks Lodge #708



Please remember to send any change of address to:  
[Tampa708secretary@outlook.com](mailto:Tampa708secretary@outlook.com)

## 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.

Bill Deen - 3/2023  
Vera Wright -  
In Memory of Harold Wright - 6/2023  
Pat Fennell - 6/2024



## *Friends of 708*

### OUR CURRENT MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

*Marty Quire - In Memory of Bonnie Quire - Bonnie Atwood - Nan Quire  
Mr & Mrs Moore - Sharon Ford - Mr & Mrs Schneider - Christopher Miles - Mr & Mrs Suhrheinrich  
Steve Harmon - Marty Quire - Julie Wooley - Paul DeLand - Paula Rousselle - Candy Venable  
Chris Ragusa - Mr & Mrs Hilficker - Melissa Bertoch - Debbie Osterbrock - Shannon Wheatley  
Susie Harlow - Laura Jones - Ladies of the Elks - Marty Quire - Bill Deen*

### OUR CURRENT ANNUAL SUPPORTERS

*R. Florance - K. Higgins - M. Flowers - M. Cooper - J. Nunez - G. Chiani  
W. Odonnell - D. Taylor - B. Deen - J. Johnson - F. Palladini - P. Fennell - R. Millaway*

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.