



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 - Courtney Weil, PER
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



I have just returned from spending the weekend with the State President Danny Tabor, his wife Rachel, and the district dignitaries. Our Chairman for Public Relations, Kim Van Walker, volunteered to be the photographer for the weekend. I was lucky to get invited to join in as Kim's "Plus One." It was a fun and educational weekend. The District VP serves as host and chooses the venues and activities. The cars remain parked at the designated hotel, and the herd of Elks travel by bus. Kim did a great job, and you can see her pictures on FB at either her page or mine. For me, the highlight was when we were awarded a \$500 State Presidents Grant based on the work we have done in our community and for the Elk Charities. When I wrote it all down, I knew I had to share it with you- the members. So enjoy the list, see how much you contributed, and pledged to continue our good works in the community.

That's who we are; That's what we do!

Team Tampa is truly working together to improve our Lodge and our community.

April-

-Led by the Lodge's Veterans Committee, Tampa hosted the Gold Star Riders (Motorcycles) overnight prior to their ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Downtown Tampa.

-Successfully sponsored \$4000 MVS scholarship for Maxwell Wenzel – Tampa Prep.

-Ice cream social for the students at Bridgeprep Charter K-8 that participated in the DAP poster contest

-Donation of \$1225.00 to Camp Idlewild of Florida from the remaining Beacon Grant funds.

-Club Chivalry Club Day meeting,

-Club Chivalry senior luncheon

-Relay for Life – Tampa Elks raised over 1500 to sponsor students in their fundraising for the American Cancer Society

-LOE's Pasta on the third Wed for FECTS

-JROTC certificate and medal to a Plant high student, Cadet Sage Stark.

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ER MESSAGE - Continued from page 1

May

The Mayor's Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful Street clean-up project.
 LOE fundraiser for FECTS during Kentucky Derby
 Mother's Day Ceremony and Luncheon
 Friday the 13th party for ENF
 Pet supply drive during bingo
 LOE's Pasta on the third Wed for FECTS
 Had 9 Veterans from the James A Haily domiciliary join us for dinner
 Youth week Certificate to teen of the year
 Youth week dictionaries to 3rd graders at Holy Trinity Lutheran School
 Memorial Day Wreath posting at Post 5 American Legion Cemetery.
 Flag lowered to half-staff for Uvaldi School massacre, then raised at noon on Memorial Day.

June

2 Veterans participated in the V Day trip to Normandy- (ABC News)
 Flag Day ceremony with Hot Dog Bar – open to the public –(Fox news)
 LOE's Pasta on the third Wed for FECTS
 Successful fundraiser for youth activities committees.
 LOE fed all father's on Father's Day, regardless of membership.
 FECTS fundraiser at bar bingo.
 Pasta on the third for FECTS
 Fishing trip for Veterans from James A Hailey Domiciliary & from Liberty Manor for Veterans at Ballast Point pier.
 June/July – sponsored 33 campers to FEYC. 3 scholarships, 6 military, and 6 of the 22 self-pay went 2 weeks.

July

Certificate given at Eagle Court of Honor to Will Richter
 4th of July fundraiser for Veterans Committee
 LOE's Pasta on the third FECTS fundraiser
 Back to school party – 98 kids 47 family members
 Hosted 3 Veterans from the James A Haley VA Domiciliary to a Low Country Boil.
 LOE had a 50/50 for Fects at Low Country Boil.
 Tampa Lodge became a pet supply collection site for Pet Food for the Homeless

August

Helped our Club Chivalry sponsor ready her classroom for the year.
 The Mayor's Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful HWY clean-up project.
 LOE's Downton Abbey FECTS fundraiser.
 Hosted 11 Veteran's from James A Haley for a Friday night dinner of Baby Back Ribs.
 Our Lodge is Hillsborough County elections Precinct 116
 Donated Jewelry to David Barksdale Senior Center for their use as game prizes.
 Certificate presented to Eagle Scout Ethan D'India
 Donation of \$500 to Wreaths Across America at the American Legion's Veterans' Cemetery in Tampa.
 *Surpassed our HATF Goal
 *Surpassed our ENF Goal

September

Took Veterans from the James A Haley Domiciliary and from Liberty Manor for
 Veterans to Picnic island for games and a BBQ.
 Lowered Flag from 9/8/22-9/19/22 in honor of Queen Elizabeth's death.
 First Club Chivalry for Successful Students meeting for the 2022-2023 school year.
 Chaperoned a Club Chivalry Field Trip to University of Tampa.
 \$5000 donation to James A Haley Veteran's Administration Medical Center to purchase
 computers for Rehabilitation of Vets suffering from brain trauma and homelessness.
 Had Veterans from James A Hailey and Liberty Manor for Veterans for dinner at the lodge.
 Held an Elk's National Foundation 'Pick a Pasta' fund raiser dinner.
 None of this happens without YOU – the dues paying members. Thank each of you for all you do.

Your 2022-23 Committees

Americanism - Richard Florance, PER (rhflorance10@gmail.com) Chairman

Army of Hope - Daniel Armentrout, Chairman (Odannyboy@aol.com)

Auditing Committee - Melissa Bertoch, Chair (missbertoch@gmail.com)

Robert Bordonaro, Sue Dortch

Communications Commando - Theresa Seibert, PER (Tampaelkads@gmail.com)

Community Activities - Melissa Bertoch (Missbertoch@gmail.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 (mvolpe1980@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)



Share the new
Veterans Crisis Line number
 with your Veteran loved ones.

Dial 988 then Press 1



Welcome Our Newest Elk Members

OCTOBER

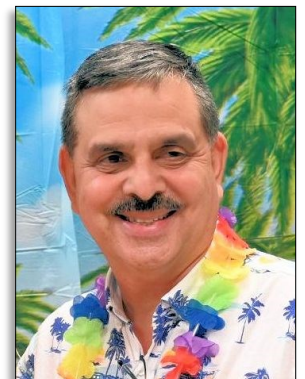
\$1 APPLICATION FEE MONTH

TELL A FRIEND...A GREAT TIME TO BRING IN NEW MEMBERS!

October Elk Recognitions

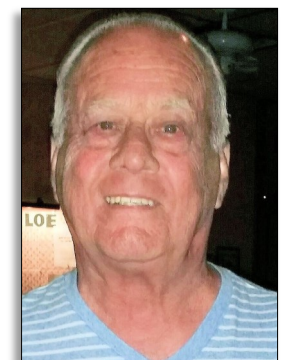
ELK OF THE MONTH...JOSE REMON

Jose took hold of the reins of the Veterans' committee less than a year ago and has become a true champion of Tampa Veterans in need. Jose is a Veteran himself and understands what it means to serve our country and how that experience affects everybody differently. Jose has amassed a decent sized committee of Elks, and he guides them through an activity or two a month. He is also a prolific fundraiser. Jose owns his own company and travels frequently for work, but he is not afraid to delegate to keep the Veterans programs he established moving forward, and ensures the committee is focused on both short- and long-term goals. Thank Jose for revitalizing our Veteran's Committee when you see him or join his committee. He is making a difference in our community.



OFFICER OF THE MONTH...TOMMY MOORE

Officer of the Month - Tommy Moore- Tommy is our Two Year Trustee and is our safety officer on the Board of Directors. Every month he does an inspection of the Lodge and files a report with the Secretary and the Chairman of the Board. Tommy comes in every morning and stocks the bar. Yep - every morning. He mans the kitchen's fryer on every Thursday grill night, and he helps Georgia almost every Friday.. He opens the Lodge for deliveries, elections, repair men and other early morning access needs. Tommy does so much of his work behind the scenes that you may not realize the number of hours he puts into our lodge, while at the same time raising a teenager. Thank Tommy when you see him.



Supporting Reports



Failure isn't the opposite of success - it's the most important part of it. When you get it wrong, you're one step closer to getting it right next time.

"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."



Ladies of the Elks:

We are halfway through our year, and I am overwhelmed at all the Ladies have accomplished so far. Our year started off with a GOLDEN bang. The Ladies celebrated their 50th YEAR of service to the lodge and our community. Up next was our annual Kentucky Derby Horse Race, followed by a Father's Day picnic. In July the Ladies gave our queen of our kitchen, Georgia, a much needed Friday night off. We pulled up our sleeves and brought in the crowds for a Low Country Boil. August came and the Ladies brought a little bit of England to our lodge. We hosted a Downton Abbey movie night as a fundraiser for Childrens Therapy Services. Our VP, Sonia Lopez, visited our lodge and the Ladies stepped in and made appetizers for the head table as well as centerpieces. But wait, there's more...on the 3rd Wednesday of each month the Ladies make pasta for the lodge. In return we ask that you make a donation to Childrens Therapy Services. Our dedication to our lodge and our community continues to guide us as we enter into the second half of our year.

The annual FLOE Convention has come and gone. It was my honor to present \$2500 to Childrens Therapy Services. A lot of blood, sweat and tears went into raising the funds we donated. But in the end, knowing that it will help children in our state makes it more than worth it.

The Ladies continue to host Pasta on the 3rd each month. Our pasta for October 19th is a Philly Cheesesteak Pasta, all the yumminess of a Philly cheesesteak in a pasta dish. In November we are mixing it up and hosting another movie night. Top Gun Maverick will show on the BIG screen. Keep your eye on the LOE board for more details.

Upcoming events for the Ladies: Brotherhood Ride on Oct 16th, the Ladies will host dinner for the riders. All are welcomed to join us. We ask that you make a donation for your dinner and in turn the Ladies will donate the funds to the Brotherhood Ride. Sign up sheet on the LOE board. On Saturday, October 1st at 10am, the Ladies will have a planning meeting for decorating the lodge for Christmas. All are welcomed, you need not be a LOE member to attend.

The Ladies were saddened to hear the Vera Wright passed away in August. At our September meeting, several members shared memories of Mrs. Wright. Although, some members never had the pleasure of meeting her, the memories shared made us feel as though we had. May her memory be a blessing to those who loved her.

Jacque LoCicero, PLP
President, Ladies of the Elks

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

OCTOBER Birthdays

Bonnie Atwood 10/18, Patty Jankiewicz 10/10, Donna Halsey 10/25

Grant Reports

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

On August 30th Tampa Elks Lodge donated \$500 to the American Legion Post 5 Cemetery Corporation to sponsor wreaths for their Wreaths Across America Program. Wreaths across America is one of the largest simultaneous event in the country. At every Veteran's Cemetery in the United States, from well know ones like Arlington to this tiny one with only 730 graves in Tampa, on December 17, 2023, at noon a brief ceremony will be held and then volunteers will place wreaths on each grave, while saying the name of the deceased soldier aloud. Their mission is to spread the important message of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms. The funds to provide the wreaths were part of the Tampa Elk Lodge's charity fund budget for the year.



A PICNIC FOR OUR VETERANS FUN, FISHING AND GAMES

On September 10th, The Elks of 708 Veterans Committee hosted a picnic for veterans from the VA Domiciliary (4) and Liberty Manor for Veterans (7).

They enjoyed games such as horseshoes, cornhole, ring toss and fishing; they also enjoyed breakfast and lunch. Joe and Edie did a great job cooking the hot dogs and hamburgers. The vets were treated to a full adventure as the weather didn't disappoint us. (The weather was beautiful between 9am and 12pm, then you know what happened next...)

The following members were present and did a wonderful job of taking care of the vets and helping to make the event a success:

Rita Smith, ER, Joe LoCicero, Edie Hanley, Debbie Brennan, Evelyn Hemingway, Richard Florance PER, Michelle Remon and myself.

Special thanks to Joe LoCicero for putting the event together,
Thanks Joe!

Both organizations asked me to pass on their appreciation for all you do.
Jose Remon, Veteran's Committee Chairman



Grant Reports



Club Chivalry News

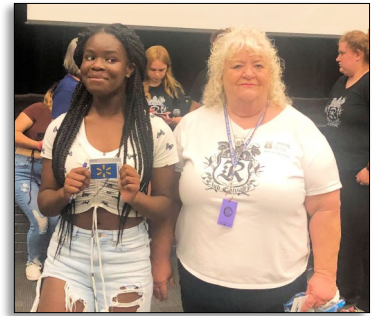
We started out the school year with our first Club meeting on 9/19, though we have 55 students enrolled in the club, there were only about 35 in attendance. We met in the Auditorium during 4th period from 10:52-11:32. That 40 minutes goes by quickly. There is also a no food or drink policy in the auditorium.

Our school sponsor, Ms. Hand, said that part of the reason the attendance was low was that the students had to show their teacher a club card to get released, but she still had a stack of them on her desk that the student's had not picked up. She also pointed out that a few of the students that did attend are not on the official Club roster. During the meeting, we asked the students to use their cell phones to enroll in an inhouse text program, made all the necessary announcements, collected T-Shirt sizes, and drew a raffle ticket for a \$25 gift card at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Senior Jasmine Martin, the Club President, organized an ice breaker game that is like speed dating. The finale was the students could grab a drink and 2 snacks as they headed out the door. Whew – lots of action in 40 minutes! Thank you to Elma Kelly, Bonnie Atwood, Robert Bordonaro, Carolyn Miller and Melissa Bertoch for your much needed help during that meeting.

Just two days later, we had our first field trip. The students were taken on a tour of the University of Tampa. We anticipated 40 students would be on the tour on Friday. By Monday, it was down to 25. On the last day to turn in permission slips the number dropped to 13, but we ended up with 18 students, 4 Elks and Ms. Hand, who is also an Elk. We had an exciting start - the bus arrived a few minutes after 10, instead of at 9:30 as we had planned. Then, instead of going directly to our first stop. The driver got on the crosstown. She was supposed to be heading to the Himes Breakfast House so we could feed the students since they would not be at school for lunch. Kudos to the management at Himes breakfast house for shipping that food out so fast that the students got a chance to eat it before boarding the bus at 11:05 to get to their 11:30 tour. Due to the reduced number of students, we cut the number of volunteers in half after the meal, and just Ms. Hand, Tom Hofer, and Melissa Bertoch accompanied the students around the beautiful campus. Robert Bordonaro and I took a pass and headed home. Before leaving, I handed Ms. Hand a large box of granola bars, since the students had their lunch break so much earlier than normal and might get hungry before the end of the day.

Our next Club meeting is on October 10th. We will be bringing in an Elk speaker- Robert Maloney. Our next field trip is a doozy - a 12-15 hour trip to Tallahassee to tour FA&M & FSU. Volunteers must be registered with the Hillsborough County School Board as a Daytime supervised volunteer.

Rita Smith, PER
Project Manager



Past Festivities and Events



IMPROVAHOLICS G-RATED SHOW

On Saturday, September 10, the Improvaholics had their family-friendly "Back to School" show, which helped raise money for the Elks organization. A big thank you goes out to the invaluable help of Susie Harlow, Betty Orcutt, and Barbara Sanchez who welcomed guests, collected entry fees, set up the food tables, contributed food items, and ran the 50/50 raffle. In addition, a thank you goes out to Sue and Tommy Moore who provided the delicious sausage dip that was such a big hit. Lastly, thank you to all the Elks who came out to support the show by attending the event.

Sandy Lake, Improvaholic Member

Upcoming Events and Projects

Brotherhood Will be our Guests



On Sunday October 16th & Monday October 17th THE MEN OF BROTHERHOOD RIDE,

a group of first responders who have dedicated an 8 day, 550 mile ride through Florida, covering 70 to 90 miles a day to the 85 fallen heroes who died in the line of duty in 2021 protecting their communities, will stay overnight in our Lodge. We will provide them with dinner, breakfast and a safe place to sleep. Come say hello and enjoy their company!

Upcoming Events and Projects

MEMBER MINGLE ALA PEANUTS

Bring an
Appetizer to
Share!

Sharpen up your
Peanuts Trivia
Information

Cornhole
Tournament
\$5 Per Team

Games
&
Prizes

Let your inner child
Come out to play!

DID YOU KNOW THAT 72 YEARS
AGO OCT 2, CHARLES SCHULTZ'
PEANUTS WENT TO PRINT FOR
THE 1ST TIME.

**COME CELEBRATE
WITH YOUR ELK FAMILY
SUNDAY, OCT 2, 2022
2PM TO 5PM**

Call Candi Suhrheinrich
813-835-5658 if you have questions

Upcoming Events and Projects



LET'S DO FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER AT THE LODGE

OCT. 7TH



FISH FRY NIGHT

WITH FRENCH FRIES OR GRITS COLESLAW, HUSH PUPPIES, AND VEGETABLE SOUP \$16
 APPETIZER: FRIED MUSHROOMS \$3.50
 DESSERT: STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE \$4

ENTERTAINING US:
THE MIXX

OCT. 14TH



PORK SCHNITZEL

WITH POTATO PANCAKES, RED CABBAGE, BEER CHEESE SOUP AND YEAST ROLLS \$19
 APPETIZER:
 FRIED ZUCCHINI W/AIOLI \$3.50
 DESSERT: APPLE CRISP \$4

ENTERTAINING US:
KEVIN HURLEY

OCT. 21ST



MIKE IS BACK ON THE GRILL 8OZ FILETS

WITH BAKED SWEET POTATO, CORN ON THE COB, WEDGE SALAD AND CHEESE BISCUITS - \$21.00
 APPETIZER: FRIED ARTICHOKE HEARTS W/AIOLI SAUCE \$3.50
 DESSERT: PEACH COBBLER
 ENTERTAINING US:
HARRISON JAZZ TRIO

OCT. 28TH



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

- Oct 3rd – SANDY LESSARD – Ham & Cheese Sliders & Potato Soup \$9.00
- Oct 10th – Chicken Salad on a Croissant with Chips \$8
- Oct 17th – DAVID RIPLOGIA – BLT Sandwiches with Chips \$8
- Oct 24th – Meatball Sub with chips \$9
- Oct 31st – Italian Sausage Sub w/chips \$9



QUEEN OF HEARTS

Donation by 6:45pm
 Drawing at 7pm

Thursday Nights
 Served 6pm to 7:30

- *Oct 7th – Spaghetti Dinner, w/Salad & Bread \$7
- *Oct 14th – Shelagh's Grill
- *Oct 21st – Dee's Open Grill
- *Oct 28th – Shelagh's Grill

Upcoming Events and Projects

HALLOWEEN PARTY 2022
FRIDAY, OCT 28TH
7:00 PM LIGHT APPETIZERS
8:00 PM MEXICAN BUFFET
9:15 PM SWEET TREATS
COSTUME CONTEST - SCARY OKEY
AND MORE
\$20.00

VETERANS DAY

Help us help our Veterans

FRIDAY, NOV 11 2022

Join us for dinner and silent auction

Tampa Elks Lodge # 708
3616 W Gandy Blvd,
Tampa Fl 33611

6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Dinner - \$25 Donation
 Dinner and 3 drinks - \$40 Donation

Upcoming Events and Projects

YOUR LOE PRESENTS



MOVIE NIGHT

Wednesday, November 16th
 Featuring American's Best Munchies!
 Appetizers at 6pm - Movie at 7pm

\$10.00 Per Person

Menu: Meat Balls, Deviled Eggs, Corn
 Dogs, Sweet Potato Fries, Spinach
 Artichoke Dip, Apple Pie & Brownies

Top Gun Trivia

Sign up sheet on the LOE board
 Proceeds to benefit the Children's Therapy Services

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

Upcoming Events and Projects



TAMPA BAY
BUCCANEERS

BIG SCREEN, COLD A/C AND TASTY TAILGATES

WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR!

OCTOBER 2ND – RITA SMITH, PER
 OCTOBER 9TH – TONY, TRISTAN & JODI
 OCTOBER 16TH – TO BE DETERMINED
 OCTOBER 23RD – TRACY HORRELL
 OCTOBER 27TH – RITA SMITH, PER
CONSIDER SPONSORING A TAILGATE PARTY...IT'S FUN TO SHARE!



Queen of Hearts

AS THE ♠ QUEEN ♡ OF HEARTS ♢ DOT INCREASES, THE CROWDS GROW! ♠ DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE AT THIS LARGE WINDFALL.

Tickets Drawn
each Thursday at 7pm
Get your tickets anytime
before 6:45pm Thursday.
GOOD LUCK!

Ladies of the Elks

Pasta on the 3rd

3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.

PASTA STARTS SERVING @ 6:30PMish

We make the pasta, you make a donation to Children's Therapy Services.

September 21st– Eggroll Ramen Skillet
(All the flavors of an eggroll in a skillet)

October 19th– Philly Cheesesteak Pasta
(Philly Cheesesteak Pasta combines ground beef, onions, peppers, mushrooms, provolone & penne pasta into a delectable creamy pasta)

November 16th– TOP GUN: MAVERICK
 Details coming soon!

Pasta served on a first come first serve basis.

When it's gone, it's gone.

Donations benefit Children's Therapy Services



Join us for a "Modified" Pot Luck

Thanksgiving Dinner

Your Lodge will provide

Turkey, Ham, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Thanksgiving Day

November 24th, 2pm to 5pm

\$8.00 - With your Side Dish to Share

Advance sign-up and dish to share mandatory.

Sign-up sheet on Lodge Bulletin Board after Nov. 1st

Lodge Reports



Team Tampa



Aced the Annual VP Visit

Tampa's 2022 VP Visit continued the tradition of being exceptional hosts this year and our Wild, Wild West theme was a hit! I am so proud of how Team Tampa came together to welcome our VP Sonja Lopez and our District Leaders to our lodge. It was definitely a Team effort and there are a lot of people to thank!

I'll start with the group that set up tables on the Wednesday night prior – I'm not sure I can name everybody that helped, but I do recall seeing Lodge Esquire Melissa Bertoch, new member Norm Benzing, Trustees Bob Orcutt and Tommy Moore and our Treasurer, Chris Miles, PER in that group. On Thursday, Trustee Doug Grant and PER's Shelagh Gombarcik and Dee Cisneros cleaned out a lot of space in the very back of the lodge. Meanwhile, our kitchen manager, Georgia Hilficker, with the assistance of her husband, House Committee Chair George Hilficker was shopping, and pricing, planning, and shopping some more. Doug Grant, Richard Florance, PER and I moved the tables into position, LOE President Jacquie LoCicero, Vice President Shelagh Gombarcik and Wendy Hall were making centerpieces donated by the LOE. The President Jacquie LoCicero was also planning and purchasing groceries for the head table's appetizers. Trustee Tommy Moore and Shelagh Gombarcik, PER put up the Jail on Friday. On Saturday, Trustee Wendy Hall and Treasurer Laura Jones spent 2 hours each washing and chopping vegetables, Elma Kelly and Jack Stater came in to roll silverware in the napkins donated by Tracy Horrell, and under Shelagh Gombarcik, PER's supervision stayed to help dress the tables. Shelagh gave the head table her special touch, and the room was, miraculously, ready to go!

I arrived at the lodge at 11:15 for the 1:00 officer meeting the next day. Richard Florance, PER, was already there to help with the parking situation, by 12:30 or so we had Melissa Bertoch on the front door, Jan Bertoch and House Committee member Bonnie Atwood on the 50/50, Susie Harlow selling the \$5.00 food tickets, Dee Cisneros, PER on the front bar and new hire Heather Lyden on the back bar. Patty Volpe played cocktail waitress for the head table. The additional fundraising was successful, thanks to Lodge Chaplain Crystal Johnson selling pony rides and Lecturing Knight Edie Hanley and Tommy Moore playing sheriff. The DDGER, Tom Moran, was a good sport when he got thrown in jail. At 2:00, the program started. Frank Palladini, past Florida State President from our Lodge is the District Sponsor and does the introductions. Theresa Seibert, Past District Deputy from our Lodge was the guest speaker, and along with help from Tampa's Secretary Laura Jones and Treasurer Chris Miles, PER, she explained that we would soon have a new interactive website for the Wonderful West Central District. The District VP gave us the biography of the Stater President, Danny Tabor, has by now visited the WWCD District, but not the Tampa Lodge.

As soon as the Program was over, we pulled the 50/50, then the Starlet Team from Robinson High School, with direction from Chris Miles, PER, started serving the food. Within minutes the compliments started piling up. Georgia and her crew outdid themselves with a fantastic, slow cooked pot roast dinner. The Starlets had to hustle to keep up with clearing the empty plates, the food was devoured so quickly. Dessert was peach cobbler with an ice cream topper.

Once dessert has been served, it is customary for the guests to pass down the head table and greet everybody in a receiving line of sorts. The common refrain was, "This was the best VP visit so far." Or sometimes, "That was the best dinner we have been served yet!" (We were number 7 out of 8) Most of the guests soon departed, while LOE Chaplain Sue Moore, April Holtzman, Richard Florance, PER and others cleared the tabletops so the starlets could break down the room. The parking cones were put away, the kitchen cleaned up and Tommy Moore took the jail down the next day. And that was it for the 2022 VP Visit.

Lodge Reports



Lodge Business & Projects

Nomination for Honorary Lifetime Membership

Theresa Seibert, PDGER



Theresa is still a fairly new newlywed wife, having been married to the FSEA COO/State Secretary for two years now. She has a teenaged daughter in her second year of college at Florida State University who has made the Dean's list since she has been there. She also has another daughter who was recently married living close by and her only son, also a member of Tampa Elks Lodge, joined the Coast Guard and quickly got certified as a Boatswain Mate and is now stationed in California. Theresa's widowed mother, who is also a Tampa Elk, lives in her Tampa home full time with the two cats, while Theresa travels back and forth between the Tampa Condo and the home she and Carl share in The Villages.

Theresa is employed full time by Bloomin' Brand, and must be available 24/7, 365 days a year to help with emergencies and offer support to over 1019 restaurants across the country. Theresa has been promoted to Senior Manager of Facilities Program management and Design Project Manager. She is part of a team rolling out the biggest project the Outback Team has ever taken on with new cooking equipment. In addition, she is a member of WIN (Women's Interests Network) and has worked on projects to include an internet project called "Women Changing the Landscape." She helped select the woman to be highlighted each day, participated in a podcast talking about being a female in a male dominated field, and was also a participant in a company-wide question-and-answer format.

Theresa is also a highly active Elk. Her father was an Elk, and Theresa frequently participated in the youth programs as a child, as have her children. Theresa has been a member for 26 years. She is active in the Florida Ladies of the Elks, attending every convention, and served as a Tampa LOE President twice, retaining the title of PLP. Theresa also served as the Treasurer of the Tampa LOE. She has served as Exalted Ruler of Tampa 708, and was on the Board of Directors 6 years, serving as chairman 4 years.

In the six years that she has been on the BOD, Theresa has implemented many positive programs at Tampa Lodge, raising both our profile and our finances and working to ensure the long-term success of the Lodge. Some of the highlights include implementing "The Friends of 708" which is a sustaining member type of program in which members make an 11th hour monthly pledge that goes directly to the Lodge operating account. It currently provides about \$400 a month income. It also is a source of pride, especially for members who are able to participate in that program even when they were hunkered down at home during the pandemic. Theresa researched and implemented a Queen of Hearts program at the Lodge, which has helped stabilize both the kitchen and the lounge sales and brings in additional operational income too. Theresa started a program with a for-profit Bingo Hall where they donate some of their proceeds each month to the Harry-Anna Investment fund on behalf of Tampa 708. This program brings an average of \$800/month to Harry-Anna and has donated over \$40,000 since its inception in 2016 when Theresa was ER.

She had the foresight to start a Tampa 2021 fund - which is 100% donations - to help us prepare for the imminent convention. There were thousands of dollars on standby which funded many improvements throughout the lodge. Though not the duty of the Chairman of the BOD, Theresa has chaired our biggest events over the past years - including the annual FSEA convention committee and Gasparilla Invasion parties. The 2020 Gasparilla was the most successful ever - bringing in over \$20,000 in much needed revenue.

Unfortunately, the next year the City of Tampa cancelled Gasparilla - twice! Luckily, Theresa had the foresight to apply for a forgivable PPP loan. Though money was tight, all our bills were current, and we made it through the year without touching our investment fund, the Partners in Progress (PIP).

Whenever possible, Theresa still finds time to participate in the Tampa Community Investment programs, especially Club Chivalry for Successful Students, the Impact Project she helped implement at her alma matter when she was the Exalted Ruler. Theresa was nominated to serve another five years as Trustee but had too much going on with her career and her children to be confident about committing the time necessary to the position.

This year she has become our Communications Commando, a new role that helps new members navigate the varied social media, email, and newsletters and web site. She has now agreed to step into the just opened position of Bylaws Chair, where her experience and foresight will help shape our Lodge for another 5 years. She maintains an unofficial advisory role and is always available for questions, advice and support. Her help is invaluable.

(Continued on page 13)

Lodge Business & Projects

(Continued from page 12)

A hectic home life and two big jobs at Tampa 708 would be enough for most, but Theresa is also active in the West Central District, currently a member of the Lodge and District PER associations. Theresa Chairs the Public Relations for the District Advisory Council, and serves as the Lodge advisor for New Port Richey Lodge 2284. She is the PDD advisory Council Chaplain and frequently presents at DD Clinics and VP visitations. Theresa has also actively worked on and just recently launched the Wonderful West Central District Website to help foster Collaboration and Communication within the WWCD.

Theresa is also active in the Florida State Elks Association serving as Vice President of the Youth Camp Board, Chair of the Public Relations Committee twice and now serving her second year as Chair of the Asset Committee. She may be elected as President of the Youth Camp Board of Directors next year.

She is also on the Van Duran scholarship committee, and perhaps most importantly, she served as State Chair of the Harry Anna fundraising committee during Rudy Masi's year as State President. As chair of Harry Anna, Theresa collected more money than expected during a pandemic, not even stopping at receiving a pie in the face! She has presented reports at the Midyear convention and the Feb Quarterly, and Theresa has attended and spoken at 10 State President's Visits. She combined two of her state duties by making a new video of the Youth Camp to be used on social media and at lodges to show where those Harry Anna dollars are going. She also helped develop and co-star in a new video for the Florida Elks Therapy Services which is currently broadcast on social media and available for download from the FSEA website.

Theresa attends and supports all the FSEA functions, from conventions, quarterlies, and mid years to the annual Golf tournament, Softball Tournament, Hoop shoot, Soccer shoot and Officer Training seminar. Theresa was the trainer for the District VP's and spoke to the entire group on Effective Leadership.

In her spare time, Theresa enjoys working on home improvement projects with her new husband, cooking for her family, exploring new restaurants, and spending time with her circle of girlfriends she had known since junior high school. She is an avid reader and reads no less than 3-4 books a week. She is now working on advanced certifications in her career and completing the application to join the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Theresa has certainly proved herself to have gone above and beyond the duties to which she has been elected. We are very fortunate to have Theresa as a member of Tampa 708, and I strongly feel that an Honorary Lifetime Membership should be awarded to her.

Rita Smith, ER



Partners in Progress or PIP

Platinum Investors \$100+

In Memory of

Waldbart, Martin 4/2023

Fennell, Jerrye,

Patrick & Cheryl 3/2023

Frank Palladini 3/2023

Fennell, Pat & Marilyn 3/2023

Hilficker, George & Georgia 3/2023

Smith, Rita 3/2023

To increase the financial strength of Tampa Elks Lodge #708, ensuring that our Lodge will be around for another 100 years. We will accomplish this by rebuilding our capital through investments made by Lodge Partners who are determined to secure Tampa Elks Lodge #708 future. Interest earned on the investments will remain in the investment account and help to increase the overall financial strength of our Lodge.

Gold Investors \$51-\$99

Bordonaro, Robert 3/2023

Silver Investors \$21-\$50

Bronze Investors \$10 - \$20

Lodge Business and Projects

TAMPA 708 BY-LAWS COMMITTEE UPDATE

As per Grand Lodge Statute 17.060 "Not later than during the fifth year following the adoption of its original By-Laws and Rules of Order, or a general revision thereof, each Lodge shall prepare and file a current general revision of the By-Laws, Rules of Order, and House Rules. The Lodge shall use the latest form of By-Laws and Rules of Order prepared by the Grand Secretary, and house rules in a form approved by the Lodge. Any general revision of By-Laws and Rules of Order shall be accompanied by a general revision of House Rules." Tampa 708 By-Laws, Rules of Order, and House Rules were last approved by the Grand Lodge on November 27, 2017 and will need to have a general revision submitted to Grand Lodge for approval prior to November 27, 2022.

The By-Laws Committee is working on these changes now. We will have a copy of the By-Laws posted on the bulletin board for you to review. If any Member would like a copy of the By-Laws, please send a request to Lodge Secretary Laura Jones and she will provide you a copy. If you would like to suggest any By-Law, Rules of Order, or House Rules changes, please send your ideas to theresaseibert19@gmail.com and the By-Laws Committee will review these suggestions. We will post the timing of the reading of the proposed changes and what meeting the vote will take place as we get closer. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Fraternally, Theresa L. Seibert, PDDGER
By-Law Committee Chair, Tampa 708

EXALTED RULER



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

Chris Miles and Laura Jones for completing the required converting of the charity accounts AGAIN.

Richard Florence, PER, for his work as the Americanism Chairman- keeping the flags at full or half staff and engaging public schools in the essay contest.

George Hilficker for dumpster diving in the rain to save some tables he could repair.

Dee for wading through water to protect our assets.

Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, Wendy Hall, Trustee, and Jacquie LoCicero, LOE President for the decorations that started at the VP visit but brightened up our lodge all month.

Georgia Hilficker - they are still talking about your Pot Roast -it will be a District Legend...

Susie Harlow for her efforts behind the curtain.

Camden Lynn and Laura Jones for the Excel help.

Sue Dortch, Auditing and Accounting; A committee - looking for transparency with our vender,

Tracy and Addison Horrell, PER's both, for cooking a Friday night meal

Doug Grant, Trustee, for grilling some steaks.

Chris Miles, PER - for Being the Late Night OIC.

Tommy Moore, who does more than even I realize.

OCTOBER LODGE MEETING SCHEDULE

- 5th - LOE Board Meeting - 6:30
- 6th - Veteran's Meeting - 6:30
- 7th - LOE General Meeting - 7:00 - Dinner 6:15
- 11th - BOD Meeting - 7:30
- 12th - Membership Meeting - 6:00
- 12th - Elks General Meeting - 7:30
- 18th - House Committee Meeting - 6:30
- 19th - New Member Orientation - 6:30
- 26th - General Meeting - 7:30
- 26th - New Member Initiation - During General Meeting

Honoring Departed Elks

**Buffalo
Bill**

1846-1917

**American
Showman**





**Denver, CO
Lodge #10**



Tampa Elks Lodge #708

October 2022

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 HALL RENTAL CPR TRAINING 10AM TO 12PM
2  SEE PG 9 Bucs V Chefs 8:20 Tailgate by Rita	3  LOE BOD MEETING 6:30 PM HAM & CHEESE SLIDERS AND POTATO SOUP \$9 BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	4 VETERAN'S COMMITTEE MEETING - 6:30PM IMPROVAHOLICS REHEARSAL	5 LOE GENERAL MEETING 7PM LOE DINNER 6:15PM Hump Day...2 for 1 Well Drink Specials Loaded Nachos \$6.00	6 SPAGHETTI DINNER NIGHT \$7.00 6PM-7:30  QUEEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	7 SHELAGH & TOMMY FRIED FISH. FRENCH FRIES OR GRITS. COLESLAW, HUSH PUPPIES, & SHRIMP CHOWDER \$16 FRIED MUSHROOMS \$3.50 \$4 MUSIC: THE MIXX	8
9 Bucs V Falcons 1pm Tailgate by: Tony Tristin & Jodi	10 CHICKEN SALAD ON CROISSANT W/CHIPS \$8 BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	11  7:30PM BOD MEETING 7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHOLICS REHEARSAL	12 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 6PM Hump Day...2 for 1 Well Drink Specials Crock Pot \$6.00 BAR CLOSED DURING MEETING  7:30PM GENERAL MEETING	13 SHELAGH'S GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE  QUEEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	14 PORK SCHNITZAL WITH POTATO PANCAKES, RED CABBAGE, BEER CHEESE SOUP, & YEAST ROLLS \$19 FRIED ZUCCHINI \$3.50 APPLE CRISP \$4 MUSIC: KEVIN HURLEY	15
16 HALL RENTAL Brotherhood RIDE Bucs V Steelers 1pm Tailgate TBD	17 BLT'S BY DAVID W/CHIPS \$8 BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	18  HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30PM 7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHOLICS REHEARSAL	19 NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION 6:30PM LOE PASTA ON THE 3RD PHILLY CHEESESTEAK PASTA	20 DEE'S GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE 6PM-7:30  QUEEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	21 8OZ FILET BAKED SWEET POTATO, CORN ON THE COB, WEDGE SALAD & CHEESE BISCUITS \$21 FRIED ARTICHOKE HEARTS \$3.50 PEACH COBBLER \$4 MUSIC: HARRISON JAZZ TRIO	22 HALL RENTAL Chilsom
23 Bucs V Panthers 1pm Tracy Horrell	24 MEATBALL SUB W/CHIPS \$8 BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	25 7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHOLICS REHEARSAL	26 NEW MEMBER INITIATION During Meeting Hump Day...2 for 1 Well Drink Specials Crock Pot \$6.00 BAR CLOSED DURING MEETING  7:30PM GENERAL MEETING	27 SHELAGH'S GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE  QUEEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM Bucs V Ravens 8:15pm FREE DESSERT AT HALF TIME	 HALLOWEEN PARTY FOOD, PRIZES LIVE MUSIC AND MORE SEE PG 11	29  Drug Awareness Program at the Riverwalk 4pm to 7pm
30	31 ITALIAN SAUSAGE SUB W/CHIPS \$8 BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION					

Elks Tampa 708 size

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Tampa, FL 33611

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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

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.

William Dean - 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 - Julie Wooley - Paul DeLand - Paula Rousselle - Candy Venable - Chris Ragusa
Mr & Mrs Hilficker - Melissa Bertoch - Debbie Osterbrock - Shannon Wheatley
Laura Jones - Ladies of the Elks - Marty Quire*

OUR CURRENT ANNUAL SUPPORTERS

*R. Florance - K. Higgins - M. Flowers - M. Cooper - J. Nunez - G. Chiani
W. Odonnell - D. Taylor - W. Dean - 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.