



## **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** –Susie Harlow  
**1 YEAR TRUSTEE** - Chrystal Johnson  
**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:**

TBD

## **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**



February is an EXCITING Month for the Elks, as this is when we learn who our new Officers will be for the 2023-2024 Lodge Year. There will be nominations for Officers at the February 8th meeting. If there is more than one candidate for any office – that position's election is held at our meeting on February 22nd. By February 23rd, the transition period begins. The incoming Exalted Ruler, Treasurer, Secretary and somebody on the House Committee will go to mandatory training in Orlando from Friday March 10th through Sunday March 12th. Don't bother taking your swimsuit – its all work and no play.

Every member is eligible for every vacancy. The Elks prescribe for a 4-year training program starting as Lecturing Knight and moving through the Loyal and Leading Knight chairs to Exalted Ruler, but that is not always the case, and perhaps no longer even the norm.

Both the 4-year and the 5-year Trustee position will be available. Like the name implies – if elected, you would be a Trustee and sit on the Board of Directors for 4 or 5 years. The Secretary and Treasurer jobs are up for election, too. The persons holding these positions must be bonded, so there is a little – very little – bit of salary. These positions are usually best filled by more experienced Elks, but there is no specific requirement for either job. Both require heavy money handling and computer skills, including excel.

Please come to these meetings and take part in selecting the best available officers for the long-term future of our Lodge. Maybe the best available is you!

On February 17th we will have our Membership and Awards Night. Come enjoy a free meal and see who stood out from the crowd this year. Please sign up in advance so we prepare enough food. This night is happening unusually early this year- For that, I'm blaming Hurricane Ian for setting off a string of changes in our calendar.

As for me, on April First I will move into the status of "PER": Past Exalted Ruler. It is a title with no authority within the lodge whatsoever unless I become a part of our PER association. I can be called upon to sit in for an absent officer, or to participate in future Installations of Officers. Maybe I will occasionally be asked to give the 11 O'clock toast. And lucky me -I get to wear an orange jacket if I go to a National Convention – always held in July. Hmm - I might need one this year, since the convention is in Minneapolis!

Look for the 2022-2023 Lodge year in review next month, as my final

Yours in Service, Rita Smith, ER

## Your 2022-23 Committees

Americanism - Richard Florance, PER (rhflorance10@gmail.com) Chairman  
 Army of Hope - Daniel Armentrout, Chairman (Odannyboy@aol.com)  
 Auditing Committee - Chair Position Open, 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 (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)



## IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP!

Nomination of officers is the first meeting in February, February 8th. Think about the folks you would like to be nominated to run your Lodge in 2023-2024.



Be there to vote! If there are elections they will be held at the second February meeting, February 22nd.



Membership & Awards night February 17th!



# Welcome Our Newest Elk Members



Anthony Ekonomides  
Sponsored By  
Misty Hendry



Choco Sherman  
Sponsored By  
Julie Wooley



John Lasek  
Sponsored By  
Debbie Brennan



Robert Pistole III  
Sponsored By  
David Replogle



Tina Dunsford  
Sponsored By  
Julie Wooley



Yanett Sabat  
Sponsored By  
Jose Remon

# February Elk Recognitions

## ELKS OF THE MONTH...

These individuals have a tremendous impact on how well our Lodge operates. You may have never met them, but you have heard from them, perhaps with out realizing it! They have certainly earned my thanks this year. If only there were more months to sing their praises.

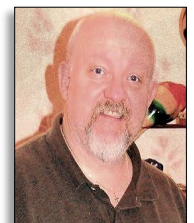
**Candy Venable** – Candy runs the online web calendar. Created by Steve Harmon over a dozen years ago, this fairly difficult to update calendar makes it possible to plan ahead, or look for the perfect date to hold your function. It requires making entries several times a week, and that’s on a good week. Some weeks its changing entries multiple times. You can access the web calendar through [Tampaelks.com](http://Tampaelks.com)



**Rebecca Sullins** – This busy lady is our social media guru. If you go to the Tampa Elks Facebook (FB) page or the FB Group she started this year – you are interacting with Becky! The page is open to the public to view. The group is private- by invitation. She makes sure there is at least one new group post daily. The page is more about advertising to the public. She also fields inquiries from the public. She has certainly been a loyal Elk, though she rarely makes it in for social events. Just for fun – post a “Thank you, Becky” on the group page!



**Marty Quire** – This man would have a lot more time on his hands if it wasn’t for his dedication to our Lodge. He maintains our Webpage. He sends out the emergency notices like cancellations or late breaking changes to events. He emails about sickness and distress. Marty creates the “This Week” flyer each Sunday. If you aren’t receiving communication from him – send him an email at [Mquire@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Mquire@tampabay.rr.com) and tell him you are an Elk and want on his list. He also takes the officer photos at installation and can be counted on to pitch in when requested – if he is in town.



Continued on page 4

# February Elk Recognitions Continued

## ELKS OF THE MONTH...

**Georgia Hilficker** – Technically, she is a spouse and not an Elk. But you would never guess. Georgia makes most of our event flyers, designs any banners, and is the editor and creator of the Elksize newsletter. She manages to get that newsletter out on time every month unless there is a hurricane! She is multi- talented, as she is also our kitchen magician. Georgia enjoys creating the newsletter when she gets the info on time. That's on me! I apologize for dampening her fun on occasion and thank her for the excellent job she does.



**Theresa Seibert** – This busy girl agreed to take on the position of Communication Commando – your one stop shop! If you are having an event, need to report a death, or anything in between- you can just send the information to Tammpaelkads@gmail.com and Theresa will disburse it to the entire team listed above. There were a few glitches when I printed the wrong email address at first, but now this process is working very well. Theresa was Chairman of the Board of Directors for many years, so she knows what information needs to get to whom and in what format. If you are bypassing Theresa – you are working too hard!



All 5 of you should come to the second meeting in February and receive your pin but please share the parking spot!

## OFFICER OF THE MONTH...

Officer of the Month: Our new chaplain, Susie Harlow, is on the amusement machine committee. That alone is a sizable commitment. I have learned she is a master organizer, as those skills were on full display this month when we accepted a bid for new floors at the January 11 th meeting. We had a super strong deadline of having the lodge room ready for an event on the 19 th and many thought it couldn't be done. But Susie and I were convinced, but oops- my back went out. Susie took charge and she worked both smart and physical every day to ensure that with our crew of volunteers we could make that happen. That was lifting and carrying for hours each day for 8 days straight! But wow- the results are worth it! Susie has earned her Officer of the Month pin her first full month as an Officer



## Grant Report

### Club Chivalry Report



Club Chivalry met on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:45 AM. January is Club photo month, so there was not much else on the agenda. We delivered some Christmas gifts to students who were absent in December. Ms. Hand gave out permission slips for the big February field trip. I was unavailable, and I thank Carolyn Miller, Betty Orcutt and Elma Kelly for attending. They will be in the school yearbook! Thanks to Lecturing Knight Edie Hanley for delivering the drinks.

We are gearing up for our all-day field trip to the Florida Elks Youth Campa on February 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be leaving the school at 8:30 AM, and not returning until at least 7:00 PM. This allows for 6 hours at the camp, plus the commute. We have reserved for 35 students. If you would like to chaperone, contact me ASAP. Space is limited. The next regular meeting is February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:45.



# Supporting Reports



## Ladies of the Elks:

The year was 1972, Helen Reddy's anthem for a new generation of young women "I Am Woman" was released. Maxie dresses, hot pants, and tube tops were all the rage. Leaving many parents wide eyed at their teenage girl's fashion choices. We gathered around the tv to watch in amazement as Mark Spitz won a record seven gold medals in swimming at the Munich Olympics. We cheered the Miami Dolphins as they played a historic undefeated season. My grandmother's beloved Cincinnati Reds lost to the Oakland A's in the world series. But most importantly, at least to some of us, the musical group Abba was formed. And somewhere on Bayshore Blvd. overlooking Tampa Bay a group of ladies came together to form what is now known as the Ladies of the Elks.

Little did these ladies know that 50 years later, what they started would still be thriving. Over the years our membership has fluctuated, sometimes growing in numbers, sometimes, not so much. But no matter our size, always having an impact on our lodge, our community, and our charities. Our ladies have spent countless hours volunteering. We've cooked, we've cleaned, we've decorated, one of us has organized the lodge's closets so many times she probably has nightmares about them. We have pulled up our sleeves and helped in any capacity necessary to get the job done. Over the past 50 years, our ladies' impact has been inspiring. Our hard work has benefited our lodge, we purchased kitchen equipment, revamped the ladies and men's bathrooms, helped to purchase a much needed shed, make a monthly donation to our lodge's Friends of 708 and so much more. We are proud to say that over the years we have continued our unwavering support for Childrens Therapy Services. Our Ladies have donate thousands of dollars over the years to CTS. In just the last few years, our ladies have been recognized by FLOE as having the highest per capita donations for a ladies' organizations in our state and last year we were recognized as having the second highest donations in the state for the ladies' organizations. Did our Ladies stop there? I don't think so. Our community is equally important to the Ladies. Through the years we made dinners for parents at Ronald McDonald House, donated to the American Legion's poppy fund, and supported Southeastern Guide Dogs (an organization that trains guide dogs for disabled vets). This has been our joy and our mission.

Our history is rich and colorful. We are proud to say we opened our Ladies organization to men. Leading to our iconic (in our opinion) saying, for \$15 we can make you a Lady. We were honored to have had a FLOE state president Betty Pickenpaugh. She pushed to allow lady auxiliary members who were Elks, voting rights in FLOE. Some of our Ladies moved on to a higher calling, many becoming ERs of our lodge, Tracy Horrell (our first LP to become ER), Shelagh Gombarcik, Theresa Seibert, and now Rita Smith. One PLP has climbed heights that in 1972 were never imagined. Moving from LP to ER to Vice President of the West Central District and then District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

The positions Theresa Seibert has held was not attainable in 1972, in fact she, or any of the Ladies, would not be welcomed to become Elks until 1995. Mother-daughter LPs, we have them. Barbara Huffman and AnnaMarie Bishop, Carolyn Miller and Barbara Miller and Susie Harlow and Theresa Siebert. Multi-generational membership is still thriving today, Crystal Johnson, our current secretary, is a 4 th generation Elk and a 3 rd generation LOE member. Her grandmother Elenore Dayes served two terms as ladies president. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Elenore, her daughter Edie Hanley shared that Elenore was fantastic cook and enjoyed sharing her love of cooking with the lodge.

Looking back on our 50 years, I think about the ladies and men who have proceeded me, and the memories sprinkled throughout our lodge. Helen Beeler, our first ladies' president. Did she know what was started so long ago would continue to grow, supporting our lodge and charities? Or that a group that was conceived because we wanted to contribute to our community and lodge and were not welcomed to become Elks, would allow men into our fold, in a shorter timeframe than we were allowed to become Elks. This led to our most colorful, ladies' president, our beloved and unforgettable, Bill Edwards. His time as our Ladies president raised more than a few eyebrows across the state. Then there's Carrie Short who made and donated to the lodge a beautifully crocheted American flag.

After more than 30 years we still look to her flag when we recite the pledge of allegiance. Rita Smith and Shelagh Gombarcik, who wanted to commemorate and congratulate our LOE's only FLOE state president Betty Pickenpaugh. They hosted what may have been FLOE's first hospitality room. Knowing Rita and Shelagh, I'm sure their hospitality room gave new meaning to the phrase partying with a purpose. These are but a few of our Ladies that have impacted our lodge in a memorable way. On a personal note, when I was encouraged by Sue Moore to run for LOE president, I was unsure if I was up to the task. Sometimes I still feel that way. But I hink back over my years as LP I am in awe of all that we have accomplished. In that time, we have raised and donated over \$11,000 to CTS, spruced up our breezeway, donated yearly to ENF and many other accomplishments I know I have forgotten. For me, the greatest accomplishment is the wonderful Ladies I have met over the years, many who have guided and supported me, Ladies who I now consider lifelong friends. This makes what may have seemed daunting at one time, easier with these Ladies to help guide the way.

Jacquie LoCicero, President, Ladies of the Elks

### Executive Board

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



# Past Events and Festivities

## Children's Christmas Party

On Saturday, December 17, 2022, The Youth Activities Committee hosted another Super Successful Children's Christmas Party. We had just under ninety children and their families arrive at Tampa Elks Lodge #708 for an afternoon of fun. As the families arrived, they were given an assortment of crafts to do at their tables. Santa (George Hilficker) & his Pirates (Rodney & Riley Kayton) and Elf (Candy Venable) arrived shortly afterward. Santa had a lengthy line of kids making their last Christmas wishes & our favorite photographer (Kim VanWalker) was there to take pictures.

The kids played games and the parents shopped for toys in our Antler Room. Thank you to the LOE for their wonderful pirate game! After fun and games, and when the parents were done shopping and wrapping, we had a bountiful feast, thanks to Dee Cisneros, PER. His spaghetti dinner is always a hit with the kids! Once the kids had full bellies, it was time to say good-bye. We cannot wait to see them all again at Back to School! We did have a surplus of toys, thanks to donations from our very generous Elks. Those toys leftover were donated to Robles Park PTA, and four families that were signed up to come to our event but could not make it. As always, we had a lot of volunteers. We are continuously overwhelmed at the support our committee gets for our Youth.

Thank you to everyone that came to lend a hand, bought a 'Share the Wealth' ticket, picked up the toys from Walgreens, donated a toy(s) at the Lodge, and gave us the support we needed.

Patty Volpe, Children's Activity Chairman





## Past Events and Festivities

# ENF SCHOLAR CLOTHING DRIVE SUCCESS !

### The Elks Scholars Came and Conquered!

On Sunday January 1 st through Tuesday January 3rd, Tampa Elks collected gently used clothing from Lodge members, members of the community, and to my surprise from members of the local high school where we sponsor Club Chivalry for Successful Students. One Elk brought in 8-9 bins of clothing from their storage unit! There was a lot of Elk participation. The PTA President at Robinson HS offered community service hours for teens that cleaned out their closets That combination resulted in a very large collection. Tuesday morning, we had our Iconic Tampa Cuban Sandwich assembly line composed of Georgia Hilficker, Sharon and Joe Dobson, Betty and Trustee Bob Orcutt, Bob Orcutt and Jan Bertoch preparing 50 brown bag lunches for the scholars to take with them on Wednesday. By Tuesday evening, when we were fortunate enough to have 16 Elk Scholars from all over the country come into Tampa Lodge to help us sort clothing, there was a mountain of bags, bins and boxes, and our walk in refrigerator was full of coolers of sandwiches and drinks. A few scholars suffered flight delays and didn't make it to the Lodge that night.

Thank you to House Committee George Hilficker and Chaplain Susie Harlow for helping to transport the students back and forth from their hotel. The Robinson PTA president, Ami Granger, Elk members Jan Bertoch, Bonnie Atwood, Lodge Trustee Doug Grant, Sharon and Joe Dobson, Tiler Richard Florence, Leading Knight Camden Lynn, Shelagh Gombarcik PER, Elk Scholar Fellow Raleigh Cury and even Past State President Frank Palladini all joined in the fun of folding and sorting that mountain of clothing. Debbie Doyle, Assistant Director of Elks National Foundation and Meaghan Morris, Senior Associate for Lodge Grants, stopped by for a visit. The 4 th ENF staff member, Mckenna Cannon , Manager of Youth Programs, remained at the hotel to greet the scholars with flight delays. My worries about having too many clothes were unfounded, as the job was completed in about 3 hours.

The students ate some pizza, wings and salad and said goodnight. But all 20 scholars, and 4 staff members were back the next morning at 6:45- this time with a large travel bus. They quickly loaded the hundreds of bags of clothing into the luggage compartment of the bus, grabbed the coolers of drinks and sandwiches, and were on their way to Pine Island Center to deliver the clothing and do more community service for victims of Hurricane Ian. Although I did not accompany them, I was told that a Baptist church in Bokeelia was waiting for the clothing, The church had tables set up and a free clothing sign outside by the time the students arrived. After setting up the clothing distribution, the students were divided into two groups, with one group working on removing the storm damaged furniture and fixtures from an elderly person's home, while the other group did similar work at what is left of the Pine Island Elks Lodge. Before rejoining us for dinner on Friday Night, the scholars also served at Metropolitan Ministries, which runs a huge outreach program for the homeless and needy, and at Feeding Tampa Bay. I was very impressed with the Elk Scholar Service Trip Program. While other organizations give a student a scholarship and say "Goodbye" or "Good luck", the Elks give out a scholarship and say, "Hello".



## Past Events and Festivities

# Today is Someday



Today is Someday!- Phil and Stacy Farley (new members) held the event to benefit our Veterans at Tampa Lodge 708 on January 20th. They sold tickets for a meet and greet for an upcoming TV reality show: RV Unplugged. It will air March 2023.

The event was well received with over 300 attendees. Mostly RV enthusiasts who are mostly full time RV'rs and who are very passionate about helping veterans.

They raised over \$3,400 to help Tampa Lodge #708 hold events, dinners, fishing events, clothing and essentials to make our veterans lives better. We also had information on becoming Elks and received 5 applications by the nights end.



## Upcoming Events and Projects



*Calling All  
Epicurean Elks...*

### 2023 Gourmet Club

*Kick-off*

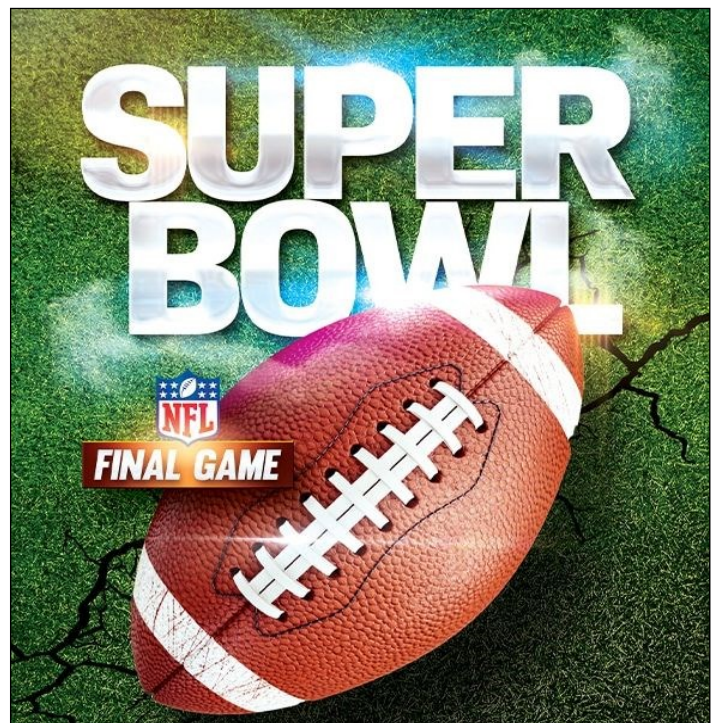
**APPETIZERS**

*Sunday, February 26th  
5:00 p.m.*



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

*...trivia...trivia...trivia...trivia...*



**COME WATCH THE ACTION  
WITH US - FEB 12TH 6:00PM  
CHILI COOK, OFF POT LUCK  
AND SUPER SUNDAE BAR!**



# Upcoming Events and Projects

JOIN US FOR ANOTHER

## SUPER BOWL CHILI COOK-OFF & POTLUCK



FEBRUARY 12, 2023

ELKS LODGE 708

CHILI MUST BE DROPPED OFF "READY FOR JUDGING"  
(NO TOPPINGS ALLOWED) BY 3:30PM TO COMPETE.

\*\*LODGE WILL PROVIDE CHILI TOPPINGS FOR POTLUCK\*\*

Make the best chili to win cash prizes



Super Sundae Bar @ Halftime



## SAVE THE DATE!

# St. Patrick's Day

Friday,  
March 18th....



Tickets go on sale Feb 25th

**CORNER BEEF DINNER & IRISH DANCERS**  
**\$18.00**

# Upcoming Events and Projects



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

**FEB. 3RD**



**SEAFOOD  
PLATTER  
NIGHT**

**FISH, SHRIMP & CLAM STRIPS  
WITH FRENCH FRIES OR GRITS  
COLESLAW, HUSH PUPPIES,  
AND POTATO SOUP \$16  
APPETIZER: FRIED MUSHROOMS \$3.50  
DESSERT: STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE \$4**

**ENTERTAINING US:  
CHARLIE IMES**

**FEB. 10TH**



**LAMB SHANK  
W/VEGGIES  
IN A RED WINE  
SAUCE**

**GARLIC MASHED POTATOES,  
COUSCOUS SALAD, AND YEAST ROLLS  
\$19**

**APPETIZER:  
ONION RINGS \$3.50  
DESSERT: CRÈME BRULÉ \$5**

**ENTERTAINING US:  
RICHARD HARRISON**

**FEB. 17TH**





**2022-2023  
Membership  
Appreciation**

**JOIN US AS WE  
RECOGNIZE THE FOLKS  
THAT HAVE BEEN  
THERE FOR US!**


**6:30PM COCKTAILS  
7PM DINNER  
PROGRAM TO FOLLOW  
Menu: White Bean & Ham Soup  
Pork Chops over  
Sage Dressing, Glazed  
Carrots, and Yeast Roll  
Dessert:  
Black Forest Cobbler  
1/4 Chicken Alternative**

**FEB. 24TH**

**Fundraiser  
Pick Your  
PASTA PARTY**

**FRIDAY, FEB. 24TH - 6:30pm**  
Food, Music, 50/50 and More!  
Your Unlimited Choice of  
3 Sauces and 3 Pastas plus,  
Salad, Cuban Bread and Dessert  
support ENF and Love Doing it!  
\$20.00



Enjoy as  
**KRIS PIERCE**  
Sings your favorites  
and dance the night away  
(on a full stomach!)  
Sign up to attend at  
georgiahalficker@gmail.com  
or purchase tickets at the bar



**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**

- Feb 6th - Grilled Cheese and Campbell's Tomato Soup \$8**
- Feb 13th - BLT Sandwich w/Chips \$7**
- Feb 20th - Meatloaf Sandwich with Chips \$9**
- Feb 27th - Spanish Bean Soup & Cuban Bread \$7**



## QUEEN OF HEARTS

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

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

- \*Feb 2nd - Spaghetti Dinner, w/Salad & Bread \$7**
- \*Feb 9th - Grill Night**
- \*Feb 16th - Grill Night**
- \*Feb 23rd - Grill Night**



## Upcoming Events and Projects

# BE OUR GUEST AT THE 2022 - 2023 MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION BANQUET

**FRIDAY**

**FEBRUARY  
17TH**

**6:30PM**

Dinner Reservation  
can be made at  
708meals@gmail.com  
or on Bulletin Board

Come & recognize  
the people that  
have supported  
our Lodge



**Lodge awards  
Including:**



**Elk of the Year  
Officer of the Year  
Citizen of the Year  
Plus  
LOE Awards and  
More**

**6:30pm Cocktail Hour**

**7pm Dinner**

**Program to Follow**

**Menu:**

**White Bean & Ham Soup  
Pork Chops over Sage  
Stuffing, Glazed Carrots,  
Yeast Rolls**

**Dessert:**

**Black Forest Cobbler  
1/4 Chicken Alternative**



# Upcoming Events and Projects



THE ELKS LODGE #708 PRESENTS



## HOMELESS VETERANS *Donation Drive*

A charity event to give donations to our veterans in need of support.



Donation items include:

Giftcards, non-perishable food, towels, twin size bed sheets, clothing, personal hygiene items



PLEASE BRING ALL DONATIONS TO LODGE #708 BY

**MONDAY FEB 6TH 2023**



ELKS LODGE #708

3616 W Gandy Blvd  
Tampa FL 33611



PLEASE CALL 813-831-4280 WITH ANY QUESTIONS



## Upcoming Events and Projects

**Elks National Foundation and Tampa Elks Lodge #708 are happy to present the**

# Second Annual Pet Show



**On Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023 at 3pm**

This is a fun event to raise community awareness about the animal services available to local residents of Tampa Bay. The Humane Society of Tampa Bay volunteers will be in attendance as well as animals available for adoption.

\*Beginning now Tampa Elks 708 will be collecting pet food, treats, beds, collars, leashes, accessories, toys, clean towels, and any other pet items. These will be donated to the Humane Society of Tampa Bay at the end of the event.

Monetary donations will be welcomed and appreciated.

## Upcoming Events and Projects



# Fundraiser Pick Your PASTA PARTY



**FRIDAY, FEB. 24TH ~ 6:30pm**

Food, Music, 50/50 and More!

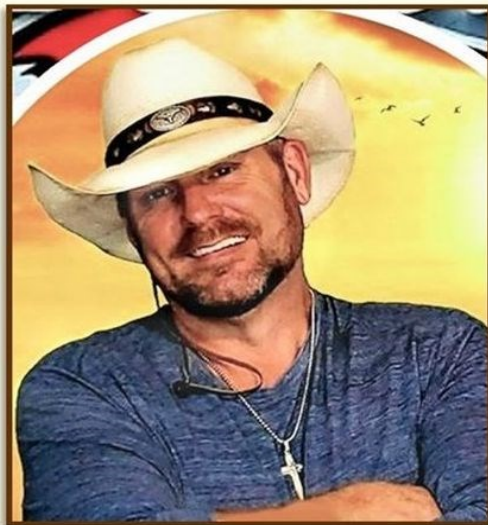
Your Unlimited Choice of  
3 Sauces and 3 Pastas plus,  
Salad, Cuban Bread and Dessert  
Support ENF and Love Doing it!

**\$20.00**

Enjoy as

**KRIS PIERCE**

Sings your favorites  
and dance the night away  
(on a full stomach!)



Sign up to attend at  
[georgiahilficker@gmail.com](mailto:georgiahilficker@gmail.com)  
or purchase tickets at the bar.



# Lodge Business and Projects

**PLEASE  
LOOK  
DOWN**

## THE NEW HALL FLOOR IS IN!

The new floor is in, and what an impact it makes on the Lodge Room. With the new paint, new floating bar and the reappropriated storage spaces, it has gone from drab to fab. It wasn't easy, and I have a whole lot of Elks to thank For making this happen. Bonnie Atwood and our new Chaplain Susie Harlow brought in lots of bids for the floor – several different types of floors. Ceramic tile, luxury vinyl tile, carpet squares, carpet and luxury vinyl planks were all considered by our Board of Directors. Once the vinyl plank was chosen, the next challenge was to find a spot on the calendar. When the saleslady told us it would take 6 days, it looked impossible. But there was one opportunity – if we could get moving fast enough.!

We voted for the floor at the meeting on December 28<sup>th</sup> and agreed to installation starting on January 12<sup>th</sup>. That was certainly an "All Hands on Deck" decision. The back hall and all the closets were loaded to the max with items being stored. The whole room needed to be painted, all the outlet covers replaced, the old wet bar needed to be disassembled and that plumbing system needed to be capped. But we were still in holiday mode- decorations were up, parties were planned. The work started on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Member Dee Wilson sent her friend Mike Devos to our rescue, and I called on our Veteran friend we met through the domiciliary – Mike Sexton. We had two professional painters, and the hall was painted in just 3 days. Trustee Bob Orcutt handled the plumbing, Nelson Grahn took a saw to the old bar. A Pod storage rental was crucial to our success, and along with the shed. Under the direction of Susie Harlow it was filled with the help of Leading Knight Camden Lynn, Patty Volpe, Betty Orcutt, Sharon and Joe Dobson, Trustees Doug Grant, Tommy Moore and Bob Orcutt, Whiz, and House Committee Chair George Hilficker. When the shed and POD were filled, we utilized the Antler Room. PER Shelagh Gombarcik had dibs on using the back Ladies' bathroom for LOE storage, and Trustee Wendy Hall and PER's Paul Deland and Dee Cisneros utilized the men's room to store stuff from the liquor room. We had a Lodge meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>, after which the attendees – Officers and others- helped with the alters and remaining chairs and tables being moved into the bathrooms, too. We were ready.

The installers had to be let into the building and supervised each day. These duties were handled by Trustees Bob Orcutt, Tommy Moore, Wendy Hall, and Crystal Johnson, Lecturing Knight Edie Hanley, Esquire Debbie Brennon, Tiler Richard Florence, House Committee Members George Hilficker, Bonnie Atwood and April Holtzman and Secretary Laura Jones. The installation company decided to work on Sunday at no extra charge, so they were done sooner than expected!

Now, it was time to carefully reload all the supplies and equipment back into the Lodge. Again, we counted on Susie Harlow to lead the way, She was assisted by Trustees Bob Orcutt, Doug Grant and Tommy Moore, Sharon and Joe Dobson and Jessica Hood, Meanwhile, Trustee Wendy Hall put the Liquor Office back together. PER Shelagh Gombarcik put the LOE closet back together. And Mike Sexton and I made a trip to Kissimmee to pick up the newly built floating bar. By the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>, we were ready for our huge 3 events in a row weekend!

*Team Tampa is certainly working together to improve our Lodge this Year!* This major improvement should, in turn, increase our income from Hall Rentals which may domino into extra income for more upgrades. I thank each and every person that helped in any way, especially the ones that helped but I neglected to mention.



# Lodge Business and Projects

## 708 By Laws Committee Proposal 2023

Recommend a gender rightsizing and change all reference of "he" to "they", "his" to "their", and any other gender rightsizing as needed.

**A. Article V, Section 4 – Of the Secretary:**

For the faithful performance of his duties, he shall receive as compensation \$5,000 per annum, payable every two weeks.

Change to \$10,400 per annum, payable every two weeks.

**B. Article V, Section 5 – Of the Treasurer:**

For the faithful performance of his duties, and shall receive as compensation for his services the sum of \$3900 per annum, payable every two weeks.

Change to \$7,800 per annum, payable every two weeks.

Rational for both is the salaries of the Secretary and Treasurer have not been changed in at least the last 5-years and maybe longer. The roles are much more extensive and require additional work and computer skills. They are both members of the Board of Directors now and required to attend additional meetings. There used to be a bookkeeper that was paid \$10/hour to do a lot of the work the Secretary and Treasurer are doing.

**3. Article IX: Club Management and Management:**

Section 1. The operation, management and control of the Home, Club or other facility owned and/or occupied by this Lodge shall be supervised and conducted by: A House Committee consisting of seven members to be appointed by the Exalted Ruler.

Change: A House Committee consisting of nine Members to be appointed by the Exalted Ruler.

Rational – Based on membership, to get new ideas, new people involved, and mixture of old and new members.

**4. Article X: Fees and Dues:**

Section 1, paragraph 3, The Lodge shall have a reduced initiation fee of one dollar (\$1.00) for the months of October and March.

Change – The Lodge shall have a reduced initiation fee of one dollar (\$1.00) for the months of February and September.

Rational: This will allow us to get new members in and initiated during the GER month and the last month of the year. Typically, they do not get initiated in time for this now.

Section 2, (b) Regular Lodge Dues, paragraph 2, The regular Lodge dues shall be \$80.00 per year, which shall not include the Grand Lodge per capita fee, the Grand Lodge capita insurance assessment, and State association dues.

Change: The regular Lodge dues shall be \$85.00 per year, which shall not include the Grand Lodge per capita fee, the Grand Lodge per capita insurance assessment, and State Association dues.

Section 2, (b) Regular Lodge Dues, paragraph 3, Beginning in the 2018-2019 Lodge Year, Annual Dues will be \$80.00. Dues will increase by \$1.00 per annum for the next four years.

Change: Beginning in the 2023-2024 Lodge Year, Annual Dues will be \$85.00. Dues will increase by \$1.00 per annum for the next four years.

Rational: Based on current by-laws, the new annual dues for 2023-2024 are \$85.00 and we are extending the \$1.00 per annum increase over the next 4 years.

Section 2, (c) Life Membership, In addition to the amounts set forth under (a) above, each Life member and/or Honorary Life Member shall pay \$10.00 towards Lodge administration expense.

Change: In addition to the amounts set forth under (a) above, each Life member and/or Honorary Life Member shall pay \$20.00 towards Lodge administration expense.

Section 2, (d) Associate Membership, Each Associate Member shall pay an annual fee in the amount of \$10.00 in advance.

Change: Each associate Member shall pay an annual fee in the amount of \$20.00 in advance.

Rational for both- the fees have not been increased in a long time and administrative fees continue to rise.

We must keep up with inflation.

Section 3, The reinstatement fee

Continued on page 17



# Lodge Business and Projects

## 708 By Laws Committee Proposal 2023 -cont.

### 5. House Rules:

House Rule #6, Tampa Lodge #708 is a Non-Smoking Lodge.

**Change:** Tampa Lodge #708 is a Non-Smoking Lodge (this includes any type of E-Cigarette), except in designated outdoor areas.

#### House Rules Changes Recommended by Current House Committee:

**House Rule #10** – Loud, boisterous or obscene language, or conduct unbecoming an Elk, is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Violations are subject to House Committee action, up to and including suspension of **Lodge** privileges.

**Change:** Violations are subject to House Committee action, up to and including suspension of **Club** Privileges.

**Rational:** Correct Wording to specify social privileges as opposed to Lodge (membership) privileges.

**House Rule #12** – No animals are allowed in the Lodge except for those trained to assist disabled persons or for the purpose of a special demonstration.

**Change:** No animals are allowed in the Lodge except for those trained/training to assist disabled persons or for the purpose of a special demonstration.

**Rational:** Not provided by House Committee, not sure why change requested.

**House Rule #15** – It will be at the discretion of the Bartender and/or House Committee Member to stop serving alcohol to anyone who they feel has consumed enough alcohol to impair their judgement.

**Change:** It will be at the discretion of the Bartender and/or House Committee Member to stop serving alcohol to anyone who they feel has consumed enough alcohol to impair their judgement. **The Bartender SHALL NOT** over serve alcohol to any Member or guest of a member, as defined by local law or ordinance.

**Rational:** **Required per Statute 17:052** - Each Lodge shall enact and have in force a House Rule prohibiting the over service of alcohol as defined by local law or ordinance.

**House Rule #19** – The responsibility for the compliance of these House Rules belongs to all Members of Tampa Lodge #708.

**Change-** Remove this line in its entirety.

**Rational** – Not provided by the House Committee. The By-Laws Committee does **not** agree with this recommended change as it **IS** the responsibility of **ALL** Members of Tampa #708 to comply with these established House Rules. Why remove this??

## January Deceased Members



Jan Schneider (Wife of Richard Schneider, PER)  
8/27/1944 to 1/17/2023 a 20 year member  
Celebration of Life to be held in our Lodge on Sunday, Feb 19th at 1pm



Elinor P. Smith (Wife of Anthon Holbrook)  
8/01/1951 to 1/03/2023 a 17 year member



**Note:** Peter Lopez, our VP's husband, passed recently and a visitation will be held from 7 - 10 p.m. on Friday, February 17 at the Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5750 49th St. N, St. Petersburg 33709. An Elks Memorial Service will be held at the same location on Saturday, February 18 at 10 a.m. followed by military honors on site.

# Lodge Business and Projects

## EXALTED RULER



- Adrian & Tina Higgins – Adrian asked for toys for older children for his birthday, then donated them for our Children’s Christmas Party.
- Jackie Jacobs – brought about a thousand dollars’ worth of gifts from her office’s collection to share with our needy families.
- Sharon and Joe Dobson – Out Christmas morning at 7AM providing Christmas gifts to the homeless. They also volunteered with the lunch and dinner for the scholars, the floor project, and more.
- Chris Miles, Tristan Reiber, and others, Saved New Year’s Eve when the Hillficker Team got sick!
- Everyone who donated clothing for our Elk Scholar project. Crystal and Edie – That was an amazing amount!
- Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, Trustee Tommy Moore, and Sharon and Joe Dobson- great job on the Elks Scholar Fish Fry night. (They weren’t an easy crowd with their diverse tastes – but they all left stuffed and happy)
- The two Mikes who painted the entire lodge room in just three days– Mike Devos , a friend from the Legion, and Mike Sexton – my friend known as “Mike the Vet”. Excellent work by these two pros!
- The entire team that helped get the Lodge room ready for the new floor. (Listed in Article)
- Linda and Jerry Reid – donated the new floating bar.
- Tommy Moore and George Hilficker – we have clean ice!
- The LOE for the dinner and dessert for the Brotherhood Ride.
- Laura Jones and Georgia Hilficker for taking on the Brotherhood Ride breakfast and coming in at 5:30am to put that together, as well as all the folks that made breakfast casseroles.
- Norm Benzing for the changing the sign, lowering the flag, and joining the sleepover.
- Yavett Sabat, a new member that jumped in to in the kitchen to help with Brotherhood Ride dinner and breakfast, even before she was initiated.
- Danny Martinez – for going above and beyond with our new Floor.
- Tommy Moore - who is always there for us, cooking, decorating, chaperoning & more.

### FEBRUARY LODGE MEETING SCHEDULE

- 1st - LOE General Meeting - 7:00 - Dinner 6:15
- 7th - BOD Meeting - 7:30
- 7th - Veteran’s Meeting - 6:30
- 7th - House Committee Meeting - 6:30
- 8th - Membership Meeting - 6:00
- 8th - Elks General Meeting - 7:30
- 15th - New Member Orientation - 6:30
- 21st - House Committee Meeting - 6:30
- 22nd - Elks General Meeting & Initiation - 6:30

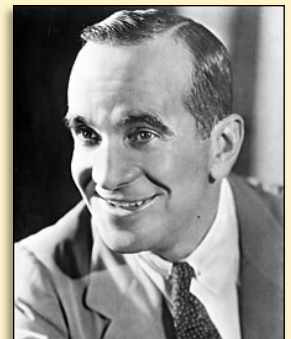
### Honoring Deceased Elks

**Al  
Jolson**

**1886-1950**

**American  
Entertainer**

**New York, NY  
Lodge #1**


























# Tampa Elks Lodge #708

## February 2023

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p><b>1</b> LOE GENERAL MEETING 7PM LOE DINNER 6:15PM</p> 	<p><b>2</b> SPAGHETTI DINNER \$7</p>  <p>QUEEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM</p>	<p><b>3</b> SHELAGH &amp; TOMMY SEAFOOD PLATTER, FRENCH FRIES OR GRITS, COLESLAW, HUSH PUPPIES, &amp; POTATO SOUP \$16 FRIED MUSHROOMS \$3.50 STRAWBERRY SHORT CAKE \$4 MUSIC: CHARLIE IMES</p>	<p><b>4</b> 8am to 4pm District Training All Officers &amp; Committee Members Largo Lodge - Carpool form Lodge at 7:15am</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH &amp; TOMATO SOUP</p>  <p>BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION</p>	<p><b>7</b>  7:30PM BOD MEETING  HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30PM VETERAN'S COMMITTEE MEETING - 6:30PM 7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHALICS</p>	<p><b>8</b> MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 6PM Nomination of Officers &amp; By Laws Change Vote</p>  <p>7:30 PM GENERAL MEETING</p>	<p><b>9</b> GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE</p>  <p>QUEEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM</p>	<p><b>10</b> Umatilla Quarterly LAMB SHANKS WITH VEGGIES IN A RED WINE SAUCE, GARLIC MASHED POTATOES, COUSCOUS SALAD AND YEAST ROLLS \$19 APPETIZER: ONION RINGS \$3.50 DESSERT: CREME BRULEE \$4 MUSIC: ROGER HARRISON</p>	<p><b>11</b> Umatilla Quarterly CPR TRAINING IN BACK HALL February Birthday Party Bring a Covered Dish 7pm</p> 
<p><b>12</b> Umatilla Quarterly 2023 SUPER BOWL AND CHILI COOK-OFF</p> 	<p><b>13</b> BLT WITH CHIPS \$7</p>  <p>BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION</p>	<p><b>14</b> HAPPY VALENTINES DAY</p> 	<p><b>15</b> NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>16</b> GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE</p>  <p>QUEEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM</p>	<p><b>17</b> 2022-2023 Membership Appreciation 6:30PM COCKTAILS 7PM DINNER PROGRAM TO FOLLOW Menu: White Bean &amp; Ham Soup Pork Chops over Sage Dressing, Glazed Carrots, &amp; Yeast Roll Black Forest Cobbler 1/4 Chicken Alternative</p>	<p><b>18</b> Elks National Foundation and Tampa Elks Lodge #708 are happy to present the Second Annual Pet Show  On Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023 at 3pm This is a fun event to raise community awareness about the animal services available to local residents of Tampa Bay. The Humane Society of Tampa Bay volunteers will be in attendance as well as animals available for adoption. *Beginning now Tampa Elks 708 will be collecting pet food, treats, beds, collars, blankets, accessories, toys, leashes, leashes, and any other pet items. These will be donated to the Humane Society of Tampa Bay at the end of the event. Monetary donations will be welcomed and appreciated.</p>
<p><b>19</b>  Celebration of Life for Jan Schneider 1pm Watch for more details</p>	<p><b>20</b> MEAT LOAF SANDWICH WITH CHIPS \$9</p>  <p>BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION</p>	<p><b>21</b>  HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30PM 7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHALICS REHEARSAL</p>	<p><b>22</b> NEW MEMBER INITIATION During the meeting Election of Officers During the Meeting</p>  <p>7:30 PM GENERAL MEETING</p>	<p><b>23</b> GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE</p>  <p>QUEEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM</p>	<p><b>24</b> Elks National Foundation Fundraiser Pick Your PASTA PARTY FRIDAY, FEB. 24TH - 6:30pm Food, Music, 50/50 and More! Your unlimited choice of 3 sauces and 3 Pastas plus. Salad, Cuban bread and Dessert Support BW and Love Doing It! \$20.00 Enjoy as  KRIS PIERCE sings your favorites and dance the night away (on a full stomach) Sign up to attend at gourmetclubtampa.com or purchase tickets at the bar</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> 2pm to 5pm Cub Scouts in Back Hall  5pm</p>	<p><b>27</b> SPANISH BEAN SOUP WITH CUBAN BREAD \$9</p>  <p>BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION</p>	<p><b>28</b> 7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHALICS REHEARSAL</p>				

# Elks Tampa 708 size

3616 Gandy Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33611

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ORGANIZATION  
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TAMPA, FL  
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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](mailto:Tampa708secretary@outlook.com)

## *Friends of 708*

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### OUR CURRENT MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

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*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*

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### OUR CURRENT ANNUAL SUPPORTERS

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*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.