



## **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

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## **House Committee Chair**

Jacquie LoCicero - pjlcicero@gmail.com

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

## **BAR LEAD & INVENTORY CONTROL**

Dee Cisneros, PER

## **KITCHEN MANAGER**

Georgia Hilficker

## **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](mailto:tampa708secretary@outlook.com)

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



**It was a good year.**

This is my final article as your Exalted Ruler. I will spend the next month trying to tie up loose ends, clean out my desk, and do what I can to make the transition as easy as possible for Wendy Hall, your next Exalted Ruler. Last February Paul Deland, PER, challenged me to give a "State of the Lodge" final report, so I will try. The first quarter of the year is very hectic, and all your new officers and chairs are trying to learn their new roles. We had a triple Lodge of Sorrow at our first meeting. The Board of Directors had to put together a budget within the first month, when some of them had never before seen detailed lodge financial reports. A complete physical inventory must be performed, too.

The new shed and bathroom projects from the previous year were brought to fruition in this year's first month. And we brought in some new ways to earn charity and remodeling funds. Despite these challenges, Tampa's Elks were able to do enough fundraising to put on a great hospitality room at the state convention for our members, and all of the Florida delegates, to enjoy.

I was honored to have been chosen as the Female Veteran's Volunteer of the year, which tied up a bit of my time at the convention. Those accomplishments in our first quarter required a lot of teamwork from the officers and members. In spite of all this fraternal activity, we never lost sight of the need for lodge revenue. In April we had our first successful Quarter Auction of the year. May saw the Mother's Day program, a Friday the 13th fundraiser for ENF, and an Improv Show. In June we had Flag Day and that tremendous Luau put on by the Youth Committee. During the summer we had eight District Vice President Visits – one visit to each lodge in our District.. That is at least 2 per month from June through September. The Veteran's Committee was active with some new partners and held a 4th of July BBQ to raise funds. I attended the state convention in Atlanta, where the vote was to add the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board of Directors. We had a Christmas in July Party, complete with Elvis. In August, we hosted the District's VP Visit with a Wild West dinner and program.

Continued on pg 2

## Your 2022-23 Committees

Americanism - Richard Florance, PER (rhflorancel0@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 - Vacant Post  
 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)

**NOTE: The above committee chairs have their 4th quarter online reports due by April 10th.**

### MESSAGE FROM OUR ER...Continued from pg 1

September had another Improv Show, and the Elk's Day at the Rays; both were well attended. We also had the State President's Visit to the West Central District. Then, we had Hurricane Ian! The Lodge was in an evacuation zone and shut down. Luckily, the storm turned east earlier than expected, and we suffered only minor damage. Late September and early October plans were affected, but things fell into place in time for an epic Halloween party. The Veteran's Committee followed that up two weeks later with an amazing Veterans Day Fundraiser. We had our second Quarter Auction of the year, and then I was proud my family agreed to prepare Thanksgiving for the membership this year, We served about 50 grateful guests, in December we held the annual Elk's Memorial Service, had our Annual Christmas Party, and a well-attended New Year's Eve Party.

The fourth quarter kicked off New Year's Day with Football and the Clothing Drive and the visit from the Elk Scholars, but the biggest fundraiser of the year – The annual Gasparilla Invasion Party – had everybody's attention for the rest of the month. It was a spectacular party – a lodge full of Florida Elks, a beautiful day, bountiful food and excellent entertainment. February had our annual Chili Cook off, and elections. Awards night this year was held in the middle of February too. In March we begin the peaceful transition, and we are looking forward to the Irish Dancers at the annual St Patrick's day party. The Installation of the officers for the 2023-2024 Lodge year is set for March 25.

At the end of the year- the most important questions are: Did membership increase? Did you leave a little money for the next year? Did you support the two fraternal charities – Harry Anna and ENF? If you can answer yes to these 3 question – and we CAN answer yes - It was a good year!

## Welcome Our Newest Elk Members



Debra Burton  
Sponsored by:  
Karen Purser



Sita Monti  
Sponsored by:  
Rachel Weissman



## March Elk Recognitions

### ELK OF THE MONTH...SANDRA LAKE

Elk of the Month – Sandra Lake has been an Elk for 12 years now. She is in the Lodge almost every Tuesday night, where she has brought us new members and practices with the Improv Group. This year, the Improv Show was held twice. This show is almost no work for the Lodge, yet we are the recipients of half of the proceeds. Sandra also served on the Bylaws Committee, and served as a judge on the Americanism Essay Contest. Last month, Sandra was the Co-chair of our very successful Pet Show. She is so funny on the microphone that some people stayed to the very end just to enjoy her comments. Congratulate Sandra on being the March Elk of the Month



### OFFICER OF THE MONTH...DEBBIE BRENNAN

Officer of the Month – Debbie Brennan is one of our newest officers. She is very good at her job of Esquire, faithfully performing her duties. There have been some long meetings, but she stands guard throughout. She also serves as the Secretary of the Veteran's Committee, and reports their activities. Debbie works bingo every other week, works as our server on Thursdays, and just accepted an appointment to the House Committee. By her second meeting, you could tell she was invested in the role and was reading the HC manual. Debbie has earned her spot as the March Officer of the Month.





# Supporting Reports



## Ladies of the Elks:

As our year ends and we gear up for a new year with new adventures, I look back and beam with pride at all the Ladies accomplished. Our year started in celebration of our 50th anniversary. We took that momentum and ran into May without

looking back with a Kentucky Derby Horserace. The summer months were not a time to bask in the sun when there was still work to be done. The Ladies had another successful Father's Day picnic and our always popular Low Country Boil was better than ever. The fall season opened with FLOE's Annual Convention in Daytona Beach where it was my pride and joy to present a \$2500 check to Children's Therapy Services. This was a culmination of hard work and dedication.

At the FLOE convention, the Ladies were honored to be recognized as having made the second highest donation in the state of all the Ladies organizations for 2021-2022. We rounded out our fall season with decorating our lodge for the holiday season, Top Gun movie night and Pasta on the 3rd to benefit Children's Therapy Services.

Winter came and the Ladies were just warming up. Queue our annual Christmas Bazaar. Thanks to the many who shopped, this was our most successful bazaar yet. In January the Ladies came together to celebrate our rich and colorful 50 years of service to our lodge and our community. We were all blown away by the support we received!

Once again, our pirate pop-up shop at our Gasparilla event was a hit! Ladies love a sparkle!! What a fantastic year we had! Our partying with a purpose benefits not only our charities, it also benefits our lodge. The Ladies were able to: keep up the breezeway, purchase a much needed freezer, assist with the kitchen clean up, donate to the American Legion's Poppy Drive, participate at the Children's Christmas Party, donate funds towards the award's dinner, installation, VP visit, participate in Friends of 708 and much more. It has been my honor to serve as the president of the Ladies once again. I am humbled by those who stepped up to help when extra hands were needed. Without you we would not have been able to achieve all that we did. See you around the lodge!

### MARCH LOE BIRTHDAYS

Tommy Moore 3/6 - Kathy Hall 3/6 - Sandra Brantley 3/8 Ziggy Ziegler 3/13 - Francis Salter 3/24

**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

## SAVE THE DATES

**YOUR HOUSE COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO**

**SPEND EASTER WITH US!**

**EASTER BRUNCH**  
**APRIL 9TH**  
**11:30AM TO 2PM**

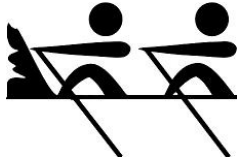
**LOE CONVENTION FUNDRAISER!**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH - 6PM**

**NOT YOUR MAMA'S GRILLED CHEESE & TOMATO SOUP**

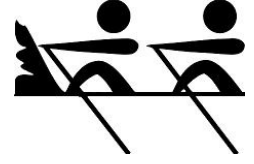
**KRIS PIERCE WILL BE IN THE HOUSE!**



# Grant Reports



## TAMPA 708 DONATES \$500 TO A LOCAL ROWING TEAM



On February 6th, 2023, members from Tampa Elks Lodge 708 visited the Academy of the Names (AHN) Rowing Team at their riverfront home away from home at the Julian B. Lane Boathouse. The purpose of the visit was to see the facility and to deliver a \$500.00 donation made as part of the Lodge's Gratitude Grant. Our past interactions occurred when students from the Rowing Team assisted us in feeding the homeless at 7AM on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, and then when they assisted us by wrapping hundreds of presents the week before Christmas during our toy distribution for the needy in our community. This is the first year we have partnered with the AHN Rowing Team, which is registered as a 501C3 charity. While there are some single rower competitions, their emphasis is on success through teamwork. Rita Smith, ER Tampa 708



## Cancer Survivors wanted! Join Club Chivalry on the Walk!

Relay for Life of Tampa takes place April 28th at the Robinson High School Football field.

It is a civic event but not a school event, so participants and volunteers don't have to go through the prescreening process..

*(Alcohol and guns are prohibited)*

The kickoff will be the Robinson drum team leading a survivor only lap at 7 PM

Prior to kick off, a celebratory dinner is offered to cancer survivors and their caretakers who have signed up to join fundraising team.

If you are a cancer survivor, we would love for you to join our team-Club Chivalry. Golf carts may be available if you prefer to ride the survivor lap. Caretakers join in on the second lap-and all participants start walking for a cute by the third lap.

To join Club Chivalry's Relay Team online do a search for Relay for Life of Tampa choose "Join this Relay then search for Club Chivalry and choose "Join this Team" or call 1-800-227-2345 then select menu option 2 and you will be assisted as you sign up. Be sure to choose survivor. I'll be watching for your name to pop up on the Team Roster.



# Grants Report

## ANOTHER GREAT DAY FOR 708

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>, Debbie Brennen, Joe LoCicero and I, delivered the donated items we collected from our members to New Beginnings of Tampa. These donations consisted of over \$ 1,000 was in clothing, person hygiene items, gift cards and bed linens.



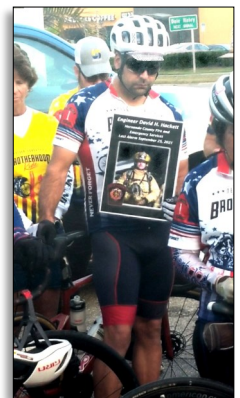
The veterans assisted us in offloading the donations and although Ian, the director of New Beginnings, was on vacation, he did call to thank us. Thank you to all the committee and Elk members who donated and participated in the collection.

Jose Remon, Veterans Committee Chairman

# Brotherhood RIDE 2022

Tampa Elks Lodge had the honor of hosting The brotherhood Ride on January 22nd. The cyclists, who are all first responders themselves, arrived at 5:20 escorted by motorcycle police with flashing lights, each wearing the helmet of their profession. It was an awesome sight to see them coming down Gandy boulevard.

Objective number one was to get them and their support staff showered. George Hilficker, driving a rented van, shuttled groups back and forth to Crunch Fitness on Dale Mabry. Once that was accomplished, Jacquie LoCicero and the LOE set about to feed the 90 or so riders, support staff, visitors, and local Elk members. Overnighting with our guests was Tampa Elk Norman Benzing Jr, himself a 20+ year volunteer firefighter and ER Rita Smith. Monday's breakfast was coordinated by Georgia Hilficker and after a small ceremony honoring a specific group of fallen first responders they formed a huddle and said their motto in unison... "God bless our fallen heroes". That was followed by a second huddle where they all shouted "God bless the Tampa Elks". By this time many local police officers, sheriff's department personnel, and motorcycle units had arrived to escort them out of Hillsborough county.



If you are not familiar with this ride please look them up at [brotherhoodride.com](http://brotherhoodride.com). Their objective is to provide financial and emotional support to the families of Florida's fallen first responders. They cycle 600 mi over an 8-day period every year raising money and awareness. This, the 2022 event, they were honoring the 85 first responders that passed in 2021. (The 2022 ride was postponed due to hurricane Ian.) Laura Jones, Lodge Secretary



# Grant Reports

## Club Chivalry Report



Club Chivalry embarked on an 11- hour field trip to the Florida Elks Youth Camp(FEYC) on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Joining the students on this trip were Elks Mike Volpe, Robert Maloney Jr, Melissa Bertoch, Caroline Hand (teacher and club sponsor and Rita Smith, ER. The bus was at the school a little early, so we were able to load the underneath luggage compartment before the students arrived. As they embarked, each student was handed a DAP bag with a Danish pastry, a plum, a granola bar, and a Rice Krispy treat, 2 napkins, a red ribbon, and a piece of candy inside. They also chose an apple or orange juice from the cooler at the front of the bus. The drive takes just over two hours, and during the drive the students were asked to fill out their order form for dinner from Subway Sandwich shop. A brief stop was made on the way to drop off the orders, and we arrived at the camp at about 11:20. We were grateful when the bus stopped next to an open restroom facility at the camp. By 11:30 we were in place on the seats in the only ropes course shelter. There were three FEYC staff facilitators/instructors waiting for us. We had arrived with 29 students and a cooler full of water and juices.

After initial instructions on what to expect and the importance of adhering to all safety instructions, the students were taken in one group to start working on low element teamwork. They were passing a large loop rope with the directions and instructions changing every few minutes. Then, they were divided into 3 groups, where they had to either run through a moving jump rope, balance on a long pivot platform, or reverse a tarp- all as a team of about 10. Each time one failed – they all had to start over, so team strategy was on full display. After 20 minutes or so, they were divided into two teams- and these team had to compete in a hilarious game involving jumping through hula hoops and playing rock paper scissors with the goal of one whole team changing sides. It is hard to describe how this game worked, but it was certainly fun to play, and fun to watch. At 12:30 we walked to the dining pavilion and enjoyed a lunch consisting of a chicken breast sandwich, French fries, a salad a cookie, ice cream, along with a selection of ice water, grape drink or coffee. Not bad for only \$7.00.

We finished lunch and were back on the ropes course by 1:15. The students were again divided into two groups, and outfitted in harnesses and helmets. It was time for the high elements! One group did an exercise in which they pulled a classmate into the air by using a pulley, then the classmate was released for a wild swinging ride through the sky. They would be slowly lowered until they could be caught by the instructors on the ground, brought to an upright position and lowered some more until their feet were on the ground.

The other group was climbing a pole tower that was at least 4 stories high, using rock wall pieces as climbing steps. When they got as high up as they dared to go- they rappelled back down. Most made it to the very top. This one took an incredible amount of upper body strength, so I am sure the kids were all sore the next day! After each student had completed their assigned teamwork, they switched activities so that everybody that wanted to give it a try did both of the high elements. Now it was 4:00, and time to wash up, pose for one last picture, then hit the road. After a detour caused by a train at full stop, we picked up our dinner from Subway, This time each student got off the bus to fill their drinks- but they ate on the bus headed back to Tampa. The ride back was much quieter that the ride to camp. The students were tired! We arrived at the school just after dark at about 7:45. The parents were waiting, so we unloaded the bus and called it a day. This was a field trip the students will remember for a long time, and hopefully they learned a bit about the value of teamwork and cooperation. Rita Smith, ER





# Past Events and Festivities



## Thank you to the 2023 Gasparilla Crew



Our sincere thanks to all who extended typical Tampa #708 hospitality in making a very fun day for the guests who attended our 22nd annual Gasparilla Boat Parade Party. While this was one of the coolest event days on record the entire day was very successful.

A special thanks to the volunteers of this year's Gasparilla event which included eight Past Exalted Rulers of Tampa Lodge #708 and five PERs from other Lodges:

**FROM TAMPA:** Frank Palladini, PSP; Steve Harmon, PER, PDD; Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, PLP; Richard Florence, PER; Tracy Horrell, PER, PLP; Paul DeLand, PER; Dee Cisneros, PER; Chris Miles, PER

**FROM OTHER LODGES:** Rudy Masi, PSP of St. Petersburg, FL; Jeanne Reinhart, PDD of Largo, FL; Tony Fratello, PDD of Tarpon Springs, FL; Tom Moran, PDD of New Port Richey, FL; Michelle Clayton, PER of Hampton, VA

Those other members and non-Elks who graciously volunteered their time and efforts before, during and after the event are deeply appreciated and include (forgive us if we missed anyone):

- Rita Smith, ER, PLP
- Sue Moore, PLP
- Tommy Moore
- Laura Jones
- Jacquie LoCicero, PLP
- Elma Kelly
- Jack Slate
- Jessica Hood
- Kim Van Walker
- April Holtzman
- Debbie Palladini
- Rose DuRant
- Sue Scotti
- Joe Saker
- Deb Ogston
- Mike Sexton
- Wendy Hall
- Edie Hanley
- Crystal Johnson
- Bob Orcutt
- Robert Jacobowski
- George Hilficker
- Georgia Hilficker
- Debbie Brennen
- Mary Sperios
- Doug Grant
- Tommy Miller
- Ed Palladini
- Vicky Feuver
- Joe Dobson
- Sharon Dobson
- Susie Harlow, PLP
- Betty Orcutt, PLP
- Jake Slater
- Bonnie Atwood
- Kathy Hall
- Jon Leehr
- Seth Osborne
- Delana Coffman
- Dave Replogle
- Jose Ramon
- Mike Sexton
- Nina Carroll
- Yanett Sabat

Again, our very sincere thanks to all for a job well done!

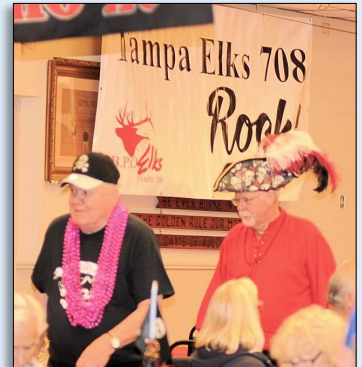
**Frank J. Palladini, LM, PER, PSC, PVP, PDD, PSP, PGLC, PGLESQ**  
Gasparilla Chairman

**Paul DeLand, PER, SC**  
Gasparilla Vice-Chairman





# Past Events and Festivities





# Upcoming Events and Projects



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

**MARCH 3RD**



**SEAFOOD  
PLATTER  
WITH**

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

**APPETIZER: FRIED  
MUSHROOMS \$3.50  
DESSERT: LEMON MOUSE \$4**

**KEVIN HURLEY**

**MARCH 10TH**



**NEW  
YORK  
STRIP  
WITH**

**BAKED POTATO, FRESH CORN  
ON THE COB, HOUSE SALAD  
AND GARLIC BREAD \$19.00**

**APPETIZERS: \$3.50  
FRIED ARTICHOKE HEARTS  
DESSERT:  
BLUEBERRY CHEESE CAKE \$4**

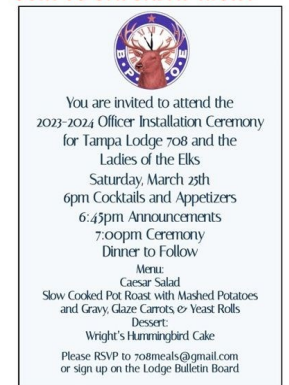
**CHARLES MELIN**

**MARCH 17TH- NO DINNER  
JOIN US SATURDAY NIGHT**



SEE PAGE 13

**MARCH 24TH- NO DINNER  
JOIN US SATURDAY NIGHT**



SEE PAGE 16

**MARCH 31ST**



**Georgia's  
Farewell Buffet  
March 31st - 6:30pm**

*Choice of Appetizer...*  
Escargot or  
Coconut Shrimp w/ Asian Sauce  
(Please choose when making your reservation.)  
*Carving Station...*  
Grilled Beef Tenderloin  
*More Meat...*  
Herb Roasted Fork  
Fried Chicken  
*Sides...*  
Loaded Mashed Potatoes  
Herb Roasted Potatoes  
Buttered Corn on the Cob  
Roasted Vegetables  
Spinach, Strawberry & Feta Salad  
*Dessert...*  
Chocolate Lava Cake  
**\$30.00**  
Make your reservation at  
708meals@gmail.com or text  
813-294-6200

**CHARLIE IMES  
SEE PAGE 13**



**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**

**March 6th - Chicken Salad Croissants  
With Chips \$8**

**March 13th - Italian Sausage with  
Peppers & Onion w/chips \$8**

**March 20th - Roast Beef w/Bow Tie  
Pasta and Shrimp Salad \$9**

**March 27th - Chili with Fritos and  
Cheese \$7**



## QUEEN OF HEARTS

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

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

**\*Feb 6th -  
Spaghetti Dinner, w/Salad &  
Bread \$7**

**\*Feb 13th - Grill Night  
\*Feb 20th - Grill Night  
\*Feb 27th - Grill Night**



# Past Events and Festivities

## 2023 CHILI COOK OFF IN REVIEW!

The annual Super Bowl Chili Cook Off was a huge success this year, with seven contestants competing for the coveted first-place cash prize...and bragging rights for the rest of the year. Thank you to the judges- Rodney Kayton, Jackie Jacobs, and Jodi Allison for lending their taste buds and meticulously sampling all the entries to narrow down to the top three winners. After much deliberation, the results were in!

Bob Orcott claimed the first-place cash prize (\$100) with his mouth-watering recipe that had just the right amount of spice and depth of flavor. His chili was a delightful surprise with its unique blend of ingredients. I think the win was also quite a surprise, as the look on Bob's face said it all as he graciously accepted his winning apron. He assures me that his chili entry next year will be a new mix of ingredients...Bob, we are ready for it! Coming in at a close second was Candy Venable, whose chili was a near perfect consistency, and a tasty blend of shredded meats that made it stand out. Not only were the judges impressed, Candy took home the coveted Taster's Choice award as the overall crowd favorite, pocketing an additional \$20 to her \$50 2nd place winnings. Congrats Candy...although you're holding your secret recipe close, we will be earmarking your chili as one not to miss next year!

Rounding out the top three was Dave Replogle in third place (\$20), whose chili had a comforting warmth and hearty texture...not to mention an eclectic, vintage crock pot that had the judges thinking it was from a much older contestant. Maybe it was a mind trick (it worked), as his chili had a unique blend of ingredients that left many of the event-goers wanting more. That yellow crockpot was scraped bone dry as I checked for the taster's choice tickets!

A special thanks to all of the contestants who worked hard to create their delicious chili recipes, resulting in a successful potluck and event! We're already looking forward to next year's competition and hope to see some new faces entering for a chance to win.



## OUR 2nd ANNUAL PET SHOW WAS A ROARING SUCCESS!



Thanks to all who attended the Pet Show which was made possible with a gratitude grant. Seventeen dogs competed in nine different contests such as Best Trick, Best Tail, and Quickest Licker. Many people did not have a pet, but just came to see a fun event. A special thanks goes to Susie H. for getting the food and drinks, and to Bonnie for acquiring the gift cards. Our judges Doug, Dave, and Debbie did a great job choosing the winners for each competition, and Lisa and Sandra enjoyed being the emcees. Thanks also to Betty, Sharon, Joe, Jessica (who brought treats and toys for all dogs), Crystal, Edie, Natalie, Linda and Jerry, Miles, Rita, and Candy V., who ran the art contest and gave a moving speech about the importance of pets in people's lives.

The most exciting part of the day was when one of the puppies brought there by volunteers from the Humane Society was adopted and found her forever home. Congratulations to Rena and Rachelle!





# Past Events and Festivities



# TAMPA 708 AWARDS NIGHT



**ELK OF THE YEAR**  
**APRIL HOLTZMAN**



**OFFICER OF THE YEAR**  
**TOMMY MOORE**



**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**  
**CHRIS RAGUSA**

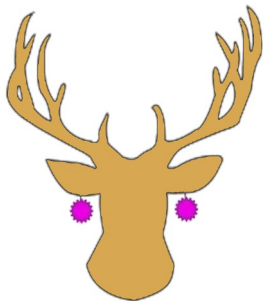


**OUTSTANDING SERVICE**  
**JOSE REMON**

**A night of all-stars!** Congratulations to the dedicated volunteers that our ER, Rita Smith recognized Awards night. Our Lodge couldn't run without the help of these wonderful members. From the general running of the Lodge to special events, it takes a village to make it all happen! Think about joining these folks next year.



## ...LOE AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS...



April Holtzman  
Lady Elk Of the Year



Shelagh Gombarcik  
Officer of the Year



Laura Jones  
Honorable Mention



Paul DeLand  
Honorable Mention

Another great year for our Ladies of the Elks! These volunteers help support our Lodge and contribute much of the money they raise to the Children's Therapy Services. Congratulations to them for a job well done and to Jacquie LoCicero for completing her 5th year as a Lady President.



## Upcoming Events and Projects

*Lodge 708*

*St. Patricks*

**PARTY**

LETS EAT, DRINK AND BE IRISH

**MARCH 18, 2023 - 6:30PM**

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY**

**IRISH DANCERS PLUS  
BY POPULAR DEMAND**

**LOOSE KATS BAND**

**50/50 & MORE**

**CORN BEEF & CABBAGE**

**& TRACY'S BREAD PUDDING**

**\$18.00**



# 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 Tampa Bay Lightning 30th anniversary pennant.



To purchase tickets please visit:  
<https://floridaelks.org/lightning>  
 For Questions contact Steve Harmon at 813-508-2315 or email [sharmon708@gmail.com](mailto:sharmon708@gmail.com)

TampaBayLightning.com | 

**BE THE THUNDER**




*Calling All Epicurean Elks...*

## 2023 Gourmet Club



**Rolling in Dough**

Bring in your dishes featuring frozen or refrigerated dough products: appetizers, entrees or dessert!

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

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

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



## Georgia's Farewell Buffet

March 31st ~ 6:30pm

*Choice of Appetizer...*

- Escargot or Coconut Shrimp w/Asian Sauce (Please choose when making your reservation.)

*Carving Station...*

- Grilled Beef Tenderloin

*More Meat...*

- Herb Roasted Pork
- Fried Chicken

*Sides...*

- Loaded Mashed Potatoes
- Herb Roasted Potatoes
- Buttered Corn on the Cob
- Roasted Vegetables
- Spinach, Strawberry & Feta Salad

*Dessert...*

- Chocolate Lava Cake

**\$30.00**

Make your reservation at [708meals@gmail.com](mailto:708meals@gmail.com) or text 813-294-6200




PRESENTS



## UNMASKING AUTISM GALA

*The Power of Love*

PURCHASE TICKETS AT [FLORIDAEELKS.ORG](http://FLORIDAEELKS.ORG)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023**  
 6-11 p.m.

HILTON ST. PETERSBURG BAYFRONT  
 333 1ST STREET • SE. PETERSBURG, FL 33701



# Just another reason to be a Proud Elk!

FAX: (773) 755-4905

PHONE: (773) 775-4904



MEMBERSHIP PUBLIC RELATIONS

—  
Rick Gathen  
Manager

*A Fraternal Organization*

2750 N. Lakeview Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60614-1889

## **MEDIA ALERT - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **155TH Anniversary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks**

#### **THE ELKS WERE FOUNDED ON FEBRUARY 16, 1868**

Chicago, IL - Local Elks Lodges throughout the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and the Panama Canal will be celebrating 155 years of community service on February 16, 2023.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks have made more than \$12 Billion dollars in donations since we first started 155 years ago. Last year alone, the Elks donated approximately \$368 million dollars in cash, gifts and time to make our communities better places to live. The Elks are one of the premier patriotic and charitable organizations in the United States of America.

Elk Volunteers will visit thousands of hospitalized Veterans that have protected our freedoms. The Elks vow "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." The Elks support both active military forces and retired veterans. Elks furnish food, comfort care items, therapeutic items, provide gifts, host holiday celebrations, and recreational activities at bases and hospitals and stand ready to fulfill any need when called upon. Last year alone, the value of Elks' contributions to the nation's heroes provided more than \$39 million dollars to more than 300 Veterans Administration Medical Centers, clinics, and state care facilities.

Annually, the Elks award college scholarships across the nation totaling nearly \$5 million dollars. The Elks Community Investment Program will award nearly \$16 million towards enriching our communities.

There are nearly 1,800 Elks Lodges across the country, with a total membership of around 800,000. Elk's members must be American citizens at least 21 years of age and believe in God. To learn more and to join us in service, visit [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org). For membership information, visit *Join.Elks.Org*.

# Lodge Business and Projects



You are invited to attend the  
 2023-2024 Officer Installation Ceremony  
 for Tampa Lodge 708 and the Ladies of the Elks  
 Saturday, March 25th  
 6pm Cocktails and Appetizers - 6:45pm Announcements  
 7:00pm Ceremony - Dinner to Follow

Menu:  
 Caesar Salad  
 Slow Cooked Pot Roast with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy,  
 Glaze Carrots, & Yeast Rolls  
 Dessert:  
 Wright's Hummingbird Cake

Please RSVP to [708meals@gmail.com](mailto:708meals@gmail.com) or sign up on the Lodge Bulletin Board.



## 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

## Important Notice:

### Potential Bylaw changes affecting Dues and Compensation.

These two proposed by law changes were tabled during the Bylaw committee report on February 8, 2023, and will now be voted upon at the regular Lodge meeting on March 22, 2023. No Bylaw change is in effect until it has been approved by the member of the Grand Lodge Judiciary Committee for Area 3.

Results of all Bylaw changes will be published at that time.

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.

Proposed Amendment from the Committee

For the faithful performance of his duties, he shall receive as compensation ~~\$5,000~~ \$10,400 per annum, payable every two weeks.

Amendment from the Floor

For the faithful performance of his duties, he shall receive as compensation ~~\$5,000~~ \$6,250 per annum, payable every two weeks. (25% Raise)

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.

Proposed Amendment from the Committee

For the faithful performance of his duties, and shall receive as compensation for his services the sum of ~~\$3900~~ \$7800 per annum, payable every two weeks. (100% raise)

Amendment from the Floor

For the faithful performance of his duties, and shall receive as compensation for his services the sum of ~~\$3900~~ \$4800 per annum, payable every two weeks. (25% raise)

.....  
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.

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.

Proposed Amendment from the Committee

Section 2, (b) Regular Lodge Dues, paragraph 3, Beginning in the 2018-2019 2023-2024 Lodge Year, Annual Dues will be ~~\$80.00~~ \$85.00. Dues will increase by \$1.00 per annum for the next four years.

Proposed Amendment from the Floor

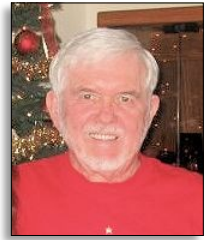
Section 2, (b) Regular Lodge Dues, paragraph 3, Beginning in the 2018-2019 2024-2025 Lodge Year, Annual Dues will be ~~\$80.00~~ \$85.00. Dues will increase by \$1.00 per annum for the next four years.

# Lodge Business and Projects



**Pat Fennell - 8/11/1934 to 1/30/2023 a 40 year member**

Pat volunteered for many committees, ran several events, had a crew for Sunday breakfast, led the bell ringers, helped organize an Elks bowling league and did many other things to help our Lodge. There will be no services.



## Kim Williams has requested Life Membership...

Kim is a 35 year member. He has worked in the kitchen and helped to decorate many events. There will be a vote at the next general meeting.



# EXALTED RULER

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



- Tristan Reiber – Managing the Chili Cook off.
- Christien Elkins and Norm Benzing – thanks for the timely sign changes
- George Hilficker- Assembling the new shelves.
- Phil & Stacy Farley – Big donation for Veterans
- Shelagh Gombarcik, Wendy Hall – Awards Night set-up
- Bob Suhrheinrich – Office supply donation.
- Debbie Brennan – new House Committee member - jumping right in at meetings and behind the bar.
- Lisa Snyder & Sandra Lake – Chairing the pet event.
- Georgia Hilficker – a Wonderful Membership Night Dinner.
- The volunteers for the 11-hour Club Chivalry event. (Listed in Article)
- Laura Jones – Working from home when sick.
- Doug Grant and Susie Harlow – Continuing the closet clean outs.
- Paul Deland, PER – first time calling Bingo!
- Shelagh Gombarcik, PER – pulled of the Pick a Pasta with a broken wing.
- April Holtzman - for her continued help in any function she is asked to help with.
- Yanett Sabet - for her constant assistance in the kitchen.

## FEBRUARY LODGE MEETING SCHEDULE

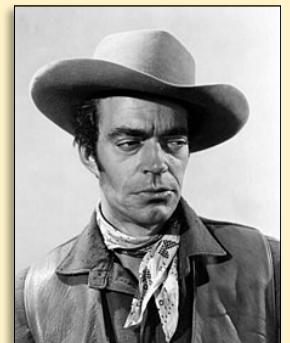
- 1st - LOE General Meeting - 7:00 - Dinner 6:15
- 7th - Veteran's Meeting - 6:30
- 7th - BOD Meeting - 7:30
- 8th - Membership Meeting - 6:00
- 8th - Elks General Meeting - 7:30
- 15th - New Member Orientation & Initiation- 6:30
- 21st - House Committee Meeting - 6:30
- 22nd - Elks General Meeting -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

## Honoring Departed Elks

**Jack  
Elam**

**1920-2003  
Actor mostly  
in Westerns**

**Ashland, OR  
Lodge #944**





# Tampa Elks Lodge #708

## March 2023

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
			1 <b>LOE GENERAL MEETING 7PM</b> <b>LOE DINNER 6:15PM</b> 	2 SPAGHETTI DINNER NIGHT \$7.00 6PM-7:30  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS</b> DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	3 SHELAGH & TOMMY SEAFOOD PLATTER FISH, SHRIMP, CLAMS, FRENCH FRIES OR GRITS, COLESLAW, HUSH PUPPIES & SHRIMP CHOWDER \$16 FRIED MUSHROOMS \$3.50 LEMON MOUSE \$4 MUSIC: KEVIN HURLEY	4  <b>March Birthday Party</b> Karaoke, Potluck Dinner, Cake Bring a Covered Dish 6:30pm			
5 <b>SUNDAY DINNER SPECIAL</b> RIBS & SAUERKRAUT, POTATO PANCAKES, RED CABBAGE, YEAST ROLLS & APPLE PIE \$14.00	6 CHICKEN SALAD ON CROISSANT W/CHIPS \$7  <b>BAR BINGO!</b> 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	7  <b>7:30PM BOD MEETING</b> VETERAN'S COMMITTEE MEETING - 6:30PM  <b>Municipal Elections</b> Back hall	8 <b>MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 6PM</b>  <b>7:30PM GENERAL MEETING</b>	9 GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS</b> DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	<b>OFFICER TRAINING IN ORLANDO</b>				
	10 NEW YORK STRIP BAKED POTATO CORN ON THE COB HOUSE SALAD GARLIC BREAD \$16 FRIED ARTICHOKE HEARTS \$3.50 CHERRY CHEESECAKE \$4 MUSIC: CHARLES MEIN	11 <b>HALL RENTAL WITH KITCHEN USE</b> LINDA REED	12 <b>OFFICER TRAINING IN ORLANDO</b>	13 ITALIAN SAUSAGE SUB WITH PEPPERS & ONIONS W/CHIPS \$9  <b>BAR BINGO!</b> 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	14 7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHALICS REHEARSAL	15 NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION & INITIATION 6:30pm	16 GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS</b> DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	17 <b>NO DINNER</b> JOIN US TOMORROW NIGHT FOR ST PAT'S PARTY FOOD, FUN & ENTERTAINMENT	 <b>St. Patrick's Day Celebration</b> Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner Irish Dancers & More! \$18.00
19	20 ROAST BEEF & PROVOLONE W/BOW TIE SHRIMP SALAD \$8  <b>BAR BINGO!</b> 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	21  <b>HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30PM</b> 7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHALICS REHEARSAL	22  <b>7:30PM GENERAL MEETING</b>	23 GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS</b> DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	24 <b>NO DINNER</b> JOIN US TOMORROW NIGHT AS 708 AND OUR LOE INSTALL THE 2023-2024 OFFICERS	 You are invited to attend the 2023-2024 Officer Installation Ceremony for Tampa Lodge 708 and the Ladies of the Elks Saturday, March 25th 6pm Cocktails and Appetizers 6:45pm Announcements 7:00pm Ceremony 8:30pm Dinner Menu: Caesar Salad Slow Cooked Pork Ribs with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Glaze Carrots, & Voie Robs Dessert: Wright's Hamminging Gale Please RSVP to 708meals@gmail.com or sign up on the Lodge Bulletin Board			
26  <b>Gourmet Club</b> 5pm	27 CHILI WITH FRITOS & CHEESE \$7  <b>BAR BINGO!</b> 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	28 <b>FINAL NEW MEMBER INITIATION</b> 7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHALICS REHEARSAL	29	30 GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS</b> DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	31 GEORGIA'S FAREWELL BUFFET GRILLED BEEF TENDERLOIN-ROAST PORK - FRIED CHICKEN-LOADED MASHED POTATOES, HERB ROASTED POTATOES, CORN ON THE COB, ROASTED VEGGIES, SPINACH, STRAWBERRY & FETA SALAD APPETIZER: COCONUT SHRIMP OR ESCARGOT DESSERT: LAVA CAKE W/ ICE CREAM MUSIC: CORNBREAD WHISKEY				

# Elks Tampa 708 size

3616 Gandy Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33611

NON-PROFIT  
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)

## *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.