

Volume 2021 Issue 3– June 2020 Official Publication of Tampa Elks Lodge #708, Founded 1902 Published monthly at 3616 W Gandy Blvd, Tampa FL 33611 Office: 813-831-4280— Lounge: 813-839-8928



We reopened on Thursday, May 14th...in limited fashion; no bar and serving food and drinks in dining areas. The response has been GREAT as many members are happy to be back. The future, while unknown, seems headed toward a bar reopening sometime in June. To stay in touch with changes, check our website: <a href="http://tampaelks.com/">http://tampaelks.com/</a> or join our email blast group for notices, promotions and news by contacting our webmaster Marty Quire @mquire@tampabay.rr.com. SEE YOU AT THE LODGE!

There be nuggets inside!....

**Exalted Duler's Message** 

Convention Update—Plans Change!

**Online Lodge Meetings (How to connect)** 



#### LODGE OFFICERS:

**EXALTED RULER - Chris Miles LEADING KNIGHT - Camden Lynn** LOYAL KNIGHT - Paul DeLand **LECTURING KNIGHT - Shannon Wheatley SECRETARY - Rick Schneider, PER TREASURER** - Laura Jones **ESQUIRE -** George Hilficker **INNER GUARD**— Bob Suhrheinrich **TILER**— Jake Slater **CHAPLAIN** - Melissa Bertoch **5 YEAR TRUSTEE** - Bob Orcutt 4 YEAR TRUSTEE—Tommy Moore 3 YEAR TRUSTEE - Courtney Weil, PER 2 YEAR TRUSTEE—Shelagh Gombarcik, PER 1 YEAR TRUSTEE - Theresa Matthews, PDDGER **DISTRICT LEADER** - Frank Palladini, PSP, PDDGER **LODGE ADVISORS** - Steve Harmon, PDDGER Theresa L. Matthews - PDDGER, WCD

#### **HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

CHAIR—Shannon Wheatley
Members: Wendy Hall, Candy Venable,
Paul DeLand, Sue Moore,
Jacquie LoCicero & Tommy Moore

#### **LODGE COMMITTEES:**

Hall Activities—Jacquie LoCicero
Auditing Committee—Chair, Melissa Bertoch,
Bonnie Atwood
Elks National Foundation—Shelagh Gombarcik
Harry Anna Trust Fund—Taylor Taylor
Veteran Services—Patty Jankiewicz
Elksize Editor—Paul DeLand

# **EOTM**

Elk of the Month: Jacquie LoCicero.

Jacquie was instrumental in assisting with the collection and distribution of food for Elks in need during the quarantine. Of course she is also our Hall Rental Coordinator, for what I think is the 3rd or 4th year, has run multiple LOE craft events, is a member of the House Committee, and she and Joe have volunteered to cook Friday meals in the past. We appreciate all you do and all you have done for the LOE and Tampa Lodge.

# OOTM

Officer of the Month: Paul DeLand.

It was only 3 months ago Paul was Elk of the Month, but as our Loyal Knight he can now add Officer of the Month to the mantle. Despite continuing on as our Elksize Editor Paul has upped the ante and become an officer as well as our Bar Manager. Paul of course is also a member of the House Committee. A heavy load for a young man of just 77 years!



#### OUR MEETINGS WILL BE JUNE 10TH & 24TH

MEETING TIME IS, AS ALWAYS, 7:30pm

# The Meetings MAY BE online!\*

(See \* BELOW!)

ER Chris Miles is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic: Lodge Meeting** 

Time: June 10th & 24th, 2020 @ 07:30 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81863605625?pwd=d2xzWWpiQldZNXJsak10eWt2Y2FKdz09

# Meeting ID: 818 6360 5625 Password: TampaElks

One tap mobile (Phone, not video)

+16465588656,,81863605625#,,#,782944# US (New York)

+13126266799,,81863605625#,,#,782944# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) +1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 818 6360 5625

Password: 556533

Find your local number: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbCyuUZMxv">https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbCyuUZMxv</a>

\* If the rules change, meetings may be regular Lodge Meetings in the meeting room! Please check online, email blasts or call office day of meeting to be sure!





Unfortunately, this Corona Cloud is still raining on Tampa Lodge, therefore for the month of June we will be conducting our BOD and Lodge Meetings by Zoom. Everyone is invited to call or video conference depending on your comfort with technolo-

gy. So far we've had very few issues so I hope everyone can attend since there is really no excuse when you can "call it in". There is a full page flyer in Elksize with the information both to enter the meeting by the video app or by calling in. For June I have set the Meeting ID and Password to the same for the meetings to avoid any issues with people logging into the wrong meeting or not being able to connect, which was one of the issues in May.

As many may have heard by now, we have been able to re-open the dining room and lounge and see some familiar faces. Social distancing has kept us at bay, but at least we can sit in small groups and enjoy each other's company from a few feet away. In addition, we have food every night and have been able to watch movies and TV as well.

This could not have happened without House Committee and Bartenders who I want to thank for really stepping up. Shannon, Wendy, Candy, Sue, Jacquie, Tommy, and Paul have put a tremendous amount of work in. In addition, a huge amount of help came from Courtney, Shelagh and Dee (all PERs) and that has not gone unnoticed. You all have earned a BIG THANK YOU for the work you've put in and I know you'll be putting in while we wade through his pandemic.

I'm glad to see members in the Lodge, and hope you all appreciate the work members and staff are putting in to open the Lodge for you. I can assure you the volunteers and employees appreciate being able to open the doors to you so please make sure to thank them, or even better, give them a hand and put in some volunteer time yourself.

For those who have not renewed their membership yet we need your help. Open or close the Lodge has significant expenses during the first few months of every Elk year which starts April 1. Per capita state and national dues is estimated at \$7,200, then there is liability insurance of \$5,718. The total is nearly \$13,000 and that's before we even open the doors, turn on the air and TVs, and get your beer cold and turn the ice machine for drinks. So please, if you have not yet paid your dues please contact Rick in the office. If for some reason you are having a bad time financially, let us know what you can pay and we'll see if there is a way for us to help.

This Corona Cloud can't last forever and I don't accept it will be our "new normal". The United States, the city of Tampa, and Tampa Lodge #708 survived the pandemics of the last century and we'll make it through this one as well.

I look forward to seeing you at the Lodge soon.

Miles



# state Sommention 2020



We're open again, and when you arrive you will be asked to use your card to gain entrance to the Lodge. If you buzz in your will be asked for your current card, and lacking one (they are yellow) will be required to pay your dues prior to being seated and served food or beverage.

HELP YOUR LODGE DURING THIS SLOW
TIME BY PAYING YOUR DUES!

As of press time the Florida State Elks Association Convention was still planned at the rescheduled date of June 18th-21st. However, most if not all Lodges have chosen to forgo the usual "Hospitality Suites"....including Tampa 708 and St. Pete 1224. Regular General meetings and the election and installation of new State Officers will be held with Rudi Masi, PER, PDDGER, VPAL nominated for State President for the ensuing year. Rudi's WCD home Lodge is St. Pete 1224.

Current info on the convention can be found

at the state website; floridaelks.org.





Hello again my fellow Ladies,

Sorry to say that there is absolutely no business to report because we have not been allowed to do any thing because of the Corona Virus. Compounded by the fact that the Lodge has been mostly closed. We thought we could have a meeting in May but the Officers decided we didn't have anything pressing that can't wait until the June 3rd meeting

All of us are safe and well and we truly pray that you all are too.

Please remember to pay your dues of \$15.00 with checks payable to Ladies of the Elks 708 attention Laura Jones, Treasurer on the envelope if mailing or you may drop it off at the Lodge.

Can't wait to see you at the June 3rd meeting and don't forget Bob O will be cooking us something special. (dinner at 6:45 PM) and the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Thank you everyone.

Respectfully, **Betty Orcutt, Lady President**  LOE

2020-21

#### **Officers**

President **Betty Orcutt Vice President Susie Harlow Bonnie Atwood** Secretary Laura Jones **Treasurer** Robert Bordonaro Parliamentarian

Lisa Snyder

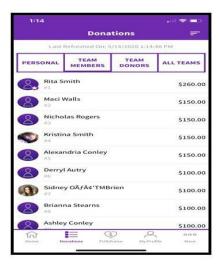
Chaplain

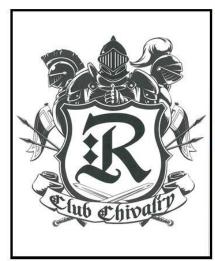
## Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services....

Face to face therapy may be temporarily stopped, but the Florida Elk's Children's Therapy Service is still serving families through real time "Facetime" interactions with parents and patients, through new activities being emailed to the parents, and through previously taught therapy techniques the parents can encourage the patients to do themselves. The therapists are busy catching up their patient record and in some cases taking online continuing education classes, in addition to supporting their assigned patitents from afar. Each child will still get 26 weeks of In person therapy- the goal right now is to prevent backsliding until that is again possible! Your donations are definitely needed as much now as ever! The wheels may not be rolling, but the need is increasing every day. FECTS has treated over 9000 patients, but the /Florida Department of Children and Families estimates there are still 25000 children that have not received needed therapy. If you know one of them - direct them to Flelks.org to apply. You can make a donation to the Florida Childrens Therapy Services online, also.

**Rita Smith** 365 Chair









#### Club Chivalry For Successful Students

In my last Article, I foretold of the Club Chivalry events to come, then BAM! The governor shut down the state and we will end the current school year under the safer at home quarantine. In a flash, the rest of our plans for the year went up in the air.

The biggest event of the year-The Relay for Life of Tampa – did not take place as planned. Instead, we had a "virtual" Relay. We were given less than a week's notice to send in videos to be included in the Facebook event. I would like to give a special shout out to Patty Volpe, Mike Volpe and Shelagh Gombarcik for their help on a Sunday afternoon, . Though I notified the students, none of them sent in videos. Tommy Moore and I were featured during the event though, talking about the Olympics. (Summer Olympics was to be our theme.) We would have been equestrians. We also recreated some of our luminaries and uploaded them in the video. Unfortunately, the originals were locked in the office of the American Cancer Society's local office and could not be accessed. In total, The Club Chivalry Relay Team raised \$1490.00, which put us in the top 10% of entries this year. All 4 of the seniors on our team raised their \$150.00 to get an honor cord, and all other members hit \$100.00. Of course, most of that money was donated by Tampa Elks Lodge and members. You can go on Facebook and research Relay of Life of Tampa to see parts of the virtual relay.

We had 13 seniors in our Club this year, and our plans included a new feature this year- to have a Senior Dinner at a local restaurant. The seniors voted to eat at Olive Garden. Because it would involve a table larger than 10, Ms. Hand and I have decided it cannot happen this year. Instead, Georgia Hilficker designed a terrific graduation card, and we are enclosing a gift card to Olive Garden in each card.

The decision on whether or not to reopen schools in the fall will be critical to the future of Club Chivalry.

Rita Smith, Project Manager











# Friends of 708

Friends of 708 is a recurring program that enhances the monthly operating account. This program was created to increase the financial strength of Tampa Elks Lodge 708, helping to ensure that our Lodge will be around for another 100 years. We will accomplish this by rebuilding our capital through donations made by Lodge Partners who are determined to secure the future of Tampa Lodge 708. These donations become part of the Lodge operating budget to help save for a "rainy" day and/or to be better prepared for the unexpected. Our goal is to increase our overall financial strength and therefore strengthening our future.

Friends of 708 is a lodge-based program where members can make donations either one time or sign up for recurring donations with a credit card. The credit card set up can be done through a PayPal account which will not require you to put your credit card number here. Donations can be done on-line or mailed to the Lodge Secretary's office. We are encouraging all members to sign up for the #1th Hour Pledge! This pledge is a recurring pledge of \$11.00 per month. You can put your name on this pledge, or you can put "In Memory Of" since the 11 O' Clock toast is to honor our absent members! You can even make your donation anonymous if you choose. Together we can make a difference in the stability of our Lodge!



Editor's Note: Each month we will be highlighting a Lodge Officer to help our newer members, and those who are remote, to better know them,

#### **EXALTED RULER, CHRISTOPHER HAINES MILES**

Tampa Native. Attended Dale Mabry Elementary, Roland Park 6th Grade Center, Coleman Jr. High School, and graduated with honors from Plant High School

Attended Florida State University and graduated with an Associate in Arts Degree and Bachelor of Science in Management. While attending FSU I was a member of the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity where I served as Houseman, Chaplain, and Treasurer.

Attended Stetson University College of Law, made the Dean's List and graduated Cum Laude

Licensed by the Florida Bar since April 2003, and with the US District Court for the Middle District of Florida since 2005. Employed at Gibbs & Parnell, P.A. since 2009 after previously working for myself for 5 years.

Relatives who are Elks: Courtney Weil, PER, Cole Miles, Taylor Taylor, Caprianna Sanchez, Christina Sanchez, and Richard Whisenhunt

2nd year as ER at Tampa Lodge #708, have also served as Trustee, House Committee Chairman, and Chairman of the Board of Directors.



### Gratitude Grant 2021

Our 2021 Elks National Foundation (ENF) Gratitude Grant was a bit unusual this year. As you may remember, Elk involvement has always been a required part of any ENF grant. This year all the grants were schedule to open on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Then, the shutdown of most states and quarantines of individuals began just weeks before that deadline. Jim Kelly, the Director of ENF in Chicago, had to act quick, and he did. There were two big problems he was facing. Many of the 2020 grants had not been completed



and were being disrupted (Like our spotlight program- Suds and Stories.) and Second- many of the lodge grants that would be requested in 2021 grant requests might not be viable during the time frame requested. Jim smartly decided to put on the brakes and delay the grant opening date until June 1, 2020 for all Lodge grants except the Gratitude grant. That would give lodges time to close out their remaining grants without risking being disqualified from new ones and would give lodges time to see if their plans for the new grants were still realistic in the age of a pandemic. ENF did a complete about face on the requirement for Lodge participation for the Gratitude Grant, and instead suggested that it be used as a donation to an agency that was relieving families during the Covid 19 shutdowns.

The Lodge voted to give the \$2000.00 dollar grant to Hope on the Horizon, a 301C3 charity based in South Tampa. The President, Lisa Chesser, says that they deliver groceries to 28 families every week, and make sure the homeless living in the camps in the woods eat every day. She can and does accept, store and transport furniture for homeless Veterans receiving housing, and others in great need as they transition from homelessness. Hope on the Horizon also provides clothing, showers and laundry bi monthly for the homeless who attend the free dinner at the Gandy Civic Center each Thursday, provides school uniforms and school supplies to families that need them, and has even donated a refrigerator and stove to a family that did not have one. Pretty much, if there is a desperate need in South Tampa, they find a way to fill that need. In addition to the money, the Lodge donated 40 of the Blessing Bags from Christina Sanchez's project to be distributed to the homeless serviced by Hope on the Horizon.

Lodge Loyal Knight Paul Deland and Lodge Trustee, Public Relations Chairperson, and Past Exalted Ruler Shelagh, Gombarcik presented the check to Lisa Chesser on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Gandy Civic Center. When investigating the grant, I asked about funding. Ms. Chesser said, "We get a few cash donations here and there, but I'm used to having to pay for most things out of my paycheck! " When I commented it won't go very far, Ms. Chesser said, "To me, it's like hitting the lottery."

You can find Hope on the Horizon on Facebook. A webpage is under construction.

Rita Smith

**Gratitude Grant Coordinator** 



# **On-Going Calendar**







Soon!!! We are eager To resume!



# **Lodge Business and Programs**



# Partners in Progress or PIP

#### Platinum Investors \$100+

Fennell, Jerrye & Patrick 7/20 Fennell, Pat & Marilyn 7/20 Appel, Jackie 7/21 Palladini, Frank 2/21 Schneider, R & J 2/21 Suhrheinrich, Bob & Candace 1/21 Miller, Scott & Beth 10/20 Florance, Richard 11/2021 Waldbart, Mark 8/23 Bertoch, Melissa 2/21 Atwood, Bonnie 2/21 Smith, R 2/21 Miles, ER, Chris 2/21 Jones, Laura 2/21 Brennen, J. 3/21 Edwards, Bill 5/21

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. Our goal is to increase our overall financial strength determined to secure the future of Tampa Elk's 708

#### **Gold Investors \$51-\$99**

McLaughlin, Susan & Mark 10/20

#### Silver Investors \$21-\$50

Lake, Sandra (Member) 10/20 Lake, David & Carol 10/20 Tuttle, Peggy 10/20

#### Bronze Investors \$10 - \$20

Wheatley, Shannon 2/21 Buikema, Douglas & Carol 10/20 Piser, Carol 10/20 Lynn, Camden 2/21









EVENTS MAY BE CHANGED OR ADDED...WATCH EMAILS & OUR WEBSITE!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:30-8:00p Georgia's Panini Monday 6:30p - House Comm.	7:00p - LOE BOD 7:30p - Movie Night	3 7:30p - LOE Gen. Mtg. 6:45p - Dinner	Queen of Hearts - Donate by 6:45p	5	6
7	5:30-8:00p Georgia's Panini Monday	9 7:15p - Lodge BOD 7:30p - Movie Night	10 7:30p - Lodge Meeting	Queen of Hearts - Donate by 6:45p	12	13
14 3:00p - Flag Day Ceremony	15 5:30-8:00p Georgia's Panini Monday 6:30p - House Comm.	16 7:30p - Movie Night	17	Queen of Hearts - Donate by 6:45p	19	20
21 Father's Day	22 5:30-8:00p Georgia's Panini Monday	23 7:30p - Movie Night	24 7:30p - Lodge Meeting	Queen of Hearts - Donate by 6:45p	26	27
28	29 5:30-8:00p Georgia's Panini Monday	30 7:30p - Movie Night	3 4 10 11 17 18	May 2020 T W T F S 1 2 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T  1 2  5 6 7 8 9  12 13 14 15 16  19 20 21 22 22  26 27 28 29 30	3 4 10 11 5 17 18 3 24 25



NON-PROFIT
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Like us on Facebook to receive updates and late breaking news. Tampa Elks Lodge #708

In Memory of Tom Stanton - 9/2018
Rebecca Sullins - 2/2019
Debbie Osterbrock - 4/2019
Donna Halsey- 6/2019
Jerry & Patrick Fennell 6/2019
Robert Bordonaro 7/2019
Mrs. Helen Stanton,
Bonnie Attwood - 9/2019
Brenda Stokking and Bob Norton 11/2019
Suhrheinrich, Bob & Candi 4/20
Shannon Wheatley 6/2022



Please remember to send any change of address to: lodge708secretary@outlook.com

Bill Deen - 6/2020
Deborah Cassels 6/2020
Berni Turpin,
In Memory of Robert Connor 7/2020
Bud Cash 11/2020
In memory of
John F. Morris - 3/2021
South Tampa Chamber of Commerce
2/2023
Vera WrightIn Memory of Harold Wright 6/2023

Support the Elksize
Be an SOB - Smiling 'Ole' Booster
\$10.00 a year helps to defer the cost of our publication and allows
us to direct more of our annual income to the charities and organizations we support.
Thank you!

# Friends of 708

#### **OUR CURRENT SUSTAINING SUPPORTERS**

Marty Quire Bonnie Quire Linda Reid Theresa Matthews Bonnie Atwood
Nanette Quire Mr & Mrs Orcutt Sharon Ford Richard Schneider Jacquie LoCicero
Christopher Miles Mr & Mrs Suhrheinrich Susie Harlow Steve Harmon
Lisa and Bob Snyder Pat Fennell Bill Deen Candy Venable Chris Ragusa
Mr & Mrs Hilficker Shannon Wheatley Camden Lynn Laura Jones LOE 708

#### **OUR CURRENT ONE-TIME SUPPORTERS**

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

This local program focuses solely on improving our lodge through generous member donations. **All members are encouraged to sign up for the "Eleventh Hour Pledge".** Your recurring pledge of \$11 a month will help maintain our lodge.