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Volume 2023 Issue 4 – July 2023 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



LODGE OFFICERS:

EXALTED RULER - Wendy Hall LEADING KNIGHT - Tracy Horrell, PER LOYAL KNIGHT - Edie Hanley LECTURING KNIGHT - Kim Van Walker SECRETARY - Rick Schneider, PER TREASURER - Crystal Johnson ESQUIRE - Debbie Brennan INNER GUARD - Dee Cisneros, PER TILER - Kim Benzing CHAPLAIN – April Holtzman 1 YEAR TRUSTEE - Tommy Moore 2 YEAR TRUSTEE - Tristan Reiber 3 YEAR TRUSTEE - Norman Benzing 4 YEAR TRUSTEE - Paul DeLand, PER 5 YEAR TRUSTEE - Laura Jones

> House Committee Chair Jacque LoCicero, PLP

House Committee Members: Daniel Armentrout, Dave Riplogle, Debbie Brennan, Jason Brown, Paul DeLand PER, Suzanne Moore

> BAR MANAGER Paul DeLand, PER KITCHEN MANAGER To Be Determined

Hall Event & Rental Chairman:

Jacquie LoCicero (tampa708rentals@yahoo.com) 813-245-6458

Elksize Editor: Georgia Hilficker georgiahilficker@gmail.com

Tampa Web Address - Tampaelks.com

Club Hours:

Mon - Thursday 4:00pm - 11:00pm Friday 4:00pm - 12:00am Saturday 4:00pm - 11:00pm Sunday 4:00am - 9:00pm "Open Early for Bucs Games"

Lodge Secretary email: tampa708secretary@outlook.com

A Message From your Exalted Ruler, Wendy Hall



Wow! What a month!

Late in May we opened our most successful hospitality suite at the State Convention in Orlando. The suite produced an income of nearly \$2,800 and was, as usual, sought out for visit by most convention attendees.

The Memorial Day wreath ceremony at Post 5, was attended by myself with Past State President Frank Palladini and Past Exalted Ruler Paul DeLand. This very moving ceremony was attended by several hundred people.

Our annual Flag Day ceremony was held Sunday, June 18th, with Tampa Lodge Officers joined by Cub Pack #1381 and St. Pete Challenger Little League as flag bearers. The Flag history was presented by Paul DeLand, PER and the Response was delivered by Shelagh Gombarcik, PER.

Summer is here and our Vice President's visits are underway. The 1st visit was for the Largo and Seminole Lodges and held at Largo. Upcoming July 23rd is New Port Richey and Tarpon Springs at the New Port Richey Lodge. The Tampa Lodge VP Visit will be for Tampa and Dunedin/Clearwater Lodges and will be held at here in our Tampa Lodge on August 13th. Check the Lodge bulletin board to volunteer for the Tampa visit. We need help insuring a great visit. Next VP Visit will be held on Sept. 9th and is for the Holiday Isles and St. Pete Lodges which will be the homecoming visit for WCD VP Rhonda Smith. Theme for all the visits will be "Cruising" and meals will be \$5. In addition attendees are asked to bring along a donated canned good. Visits begin with cocktails at 3, program at 4 and meal to follow.

Other events ahead include "Day at The Rays!" August 27th , the State President's Visit September 15-17 and the FLOE Conference September 22-24th Enjoy our cool lounge through the long hot Summer. Watch the Lodge website and this newsletter for special events and activities. Stay involved and enjoy your Lodge!

<u>I'll see you at the Lodge!</u>

Your 2023-24 Committee Chairs

Accident Prevention - Tommy Moore (tommoore4109@gmail.com) Americanism - Norman Benzing, Chairman (norm-kim@rtcol.com) Army of Hope - Daniel Armentrout, Chairman (Odannyboy@aol.com) Auditing Committee - Jackie Apple, Chairman (Jackie.apple@yahoo.com) Drug Awareness - Edie Hanley, Chairman (ehanley73@outlook.com) ENF Fundraising - Shelagh Gombarcik, PER (Shelaghgl@yahoo.com) ENF Scholarships - Rita Smith, PER (apwurita@hotmail.com) ENF Grants - Rita Smith, PER (apwurita@hotmail.com) Government Relations - Rick Schnieder, PER (broric708@aol.com) Harry Anna - Kim VanWalker, Chairman (kmvanwalker@hotmail.com) Hoop Shoot - Patty Volpe (pattyandmrfox@gmail.com) LOE Liaison - Paul DeLand - (dukeofdeland@hotmail.com)) Lodge Activities - Crystal Johnson (palamino79@yahoo.com) Membership Committee - Tracy Horrell, PER (tracywayh@gmail.com) **Orientation** - Shelagh Gombarcik, PER (Shelaghgl@yahoo.com) Public Relations Committee - Kim VanWalker (kmvanwalker@hotmail.com) Ritual Committee - Frank Palladini, PSP, PGE (fjpal56@yahoo.com) Soccer Shoot - Patty Volpe (pattyandmrfox@gmail.com) Veteran's Services - Joe LoCicero, Chairman

Jose Remon, Co-Chair (joseremon@gmail.com) Will & Bequests - Tracy Horrell, PER Chairman (tracywayh@gmail.com) Youth Activities - Jackie Jacobs, (Jackie.jacobs1086@gmail.com)

Lodge Clean up Part 1

On Saturday, July 8th your House Committee

is organizing the first in a series of cleaning endeavors to ensure our Lodge is safe and sanitary.

From 10am to 12pm

we will be checking the Lodge chairs for damage, and determining if they should be kept or discarded, then cleaning those that will stay.

With help this job is sure to take no more than the 2 hours allotted and your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Please text Jacquie at 813-245-6458 with questions or to volunteer. Feel free to just show up even if you can only give an hour!



Many hands make light work!

Velcome Qur Newest Elk Members



David Franklin Sponsor Dee Cisneros. PER



Diane Kelly

Sponsor

Rick Schneider, PER



James Gregory Sponsor **Jack Johnson**



Kristin Downer Sponsor Kim Van Walker



Sponsor

Kim Boussy



Rea Ann Boyle Sponsor **Teil Allen**



Robert Harkulich Sponsor **Dee Cisneros. PER**



Stephen Czerwonka Sponsor



Suzanne Timmerman Sponsor Rick Schneider, PER Rick Schneider, PER



Tomas Boyle Sponsor **Tristan Reiber**



Wayne Timmerman Sponsor **Rick Schneider. PER**

July Elk Recognitions

ELK OF THE MONTH...

Patty and Mike Volpe share this month's Elk of The Month award. Their combined efforts were huge in making this one of the most successful State Conventions ever for Tampa Lodge. Their work picking up the truck, loading it and then overseeing its unloading at the convention was followed by numerous hours in the hospitality room selling and bartending. Then they reversed the track getting all the material back to town and returning the truck. Congratulate them on a job well done.



OFFICER OF THE MONTH...KIM VAN WALKER...

Kim Van Walker is this month's Officer of The Month. Elected this year as Lecturing Knight she has been there for almost every event and activity since April 1st, and is always there to help. Of course one cannot say Kim's name without thinking of the hundreds of pics she takes of every event at the Lodge, and for events in the West Central District. Say thanks to her next time at the Lodge.



JULY

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Supporting Reports



Ladies of the Elks:

If it's July, you know it's Low Country Boil time! On Friday, July 14 th, the LOE is having their annual Low Country Boil. This is always a popular dinner for the Ladies. Chris Pierce will be

in the house wooing us with his tunes. Tickets are \$30 per person and are on sale July 1 st . See your bartender or any LOE board member.

Executive Board Jacquie LoCicero, PLP- President Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, PLP - Vice President **April Holtzman - Secretary** Laura Jones - Treasurer Suzanne Moore, PLP - Chaplain Tracy Horrell, PER, PLP - Parliamentarian

Notice anything different about the Ladies Childrens Therapy Services Bank? Yep, we have new ones, thanks to a generous donation from Tracy Horrell, PER, PLP. Now you can drop in your change or dollars into our new banks. All funds received to go Childrens Therapy Services. What is up next with the Ladies? We are working on our annual LOE Christmas Bazaar and our Gasprilla pop up shops.

Once again, I'd like to thank those who support the Ladies. Our group may be small in numbers, but we are mighty in our mission to support our lodge and our charities.

See you are the lodge. Jacquie LoCicero, PLP

JULY Birthdays

Candi Suhrheinrich 7/8, Jacqueline Appel 7/15, Wendy Hall 7/24, Elma Kelly 7/25, Edie Hanley 7/30

Grant Reports

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MANACER	NEEDED

The Elk's Benevolent and Charitable Trust - The Elk's National Foundation, wants to send us \$2000 to help Shine a Spotlight on a need in our community. There are a lot of choices, and they all have parameters, but I think this year we should throw a community baby shower with a literacy element. I am looking for somebody who can



find as a partner a local social program that helps newborns; one that will share some contacts or send us some referrals. We would then throw a shower to help the new parent(s) out with basic supplies and books.

Early fall would be an ideal time to hold this community baby shower, so getting partners and ideas together now would give us the ability to apply for the grant and make our plans. I will assist the project manager by explaining the rules and writing the grant, All Elks will be invited to contribute to the infant basics and books collection. Can you step up to chair the committee to throw this party? If this appeals to you, text me at 813-431-3020 and let's arrange to have a drink and a chat. Some baby love could be in your future!

Rita Smith. PER

Past Events and Festivities



As we gathered at Ballast Point Park, the sun was shining and there was a gentle breeze coming off the bay. Little did we know what was to come.

Our walk started out easy, a slow leisurely walk. We chatted, we learned about the history of the area (thank you Shelagh) and we enjoyed the beautiful scenery and quirkiness of Ballast Point. Midway through our walk, the sky opened, and the rain came down. Did that stop our little group,

OH HÉCK NO! We bravely continued, ignoring the possibility of frizzy hair, soggy shoes, and lightning. There may have been a pitstop at an estate sale, solely to get out of the downpour. But in the end, the Ladies, once again, had a successful walk a thon.

Thank you Shelagh Gombarcik and April Holtzman for keeping me company as we forged our way through the rain. I could not have asked for better friends to get drenched with. During our walk, we thought of all our sponsors and your generous contributions. Our Walk a thon would not happen without you.





Another Sucessful Loe Night at the Movies

Hot dogs, popcorn, football, awesome cocktails (courtesy of

our bartender, Dee) and great friends. The Ladies had another successful Movie Night at the Lodge to benefit Childrens Therapy Services. In the huddle to help the team win this movie night was Shelagh Gombarcik, Sue Moore, and Tracy Horrell.

Thank you, Ladies, it would not have happened without you. Also, a BIG Thank You to all who came out on a rainy Wednesday night to watch 80 for Brady. We have enjoyed hosting Movie Night at the Lodge.

If you have any suggestions for our next movie night. Let the Ladies know, we will make it happen. Jacquie LoCicero, PLP

President, Ladies of the Elk

Past Events and Festivities





Sunday, June 18th Tampa Elks Lodge joined the many Lodges of Florida and the United States as we all celebrated Flag Day 2023. The Ritual of Flag Day was given by Tampa Lodge Officers and Exalted Ruler Wendy Hall. Presentation of the 7 flags our nation has flown was by Cub Pack 1381 and The St. Petersburg Challenger League players. Reading the story of our flag's history was by Paul DeLand, PER and the Response was by Shelagh Gombarcik, PER. Norman Benzing did a fine job as chairman of the event and organized the flags and the procession while assuring things ran smoothly. Following the ceremony the Lodge celebrated Father's Day with a lunch presented by the Ladies of The Elks (LOE).



This year's Father's Day Picnic was a roaring success with wonderful food, a generous crowd and lots of fellowship. The LOE sponsored the event and hosted not only our resident father's but the boy scout group that performed at the Flag Day ceremony. A big thank you goes out to Kathryn Hall for the baked beans, Tracy Horrell, PER, for the fruit, Suzanne Moore, PLP, for the potato salad, Edie Hanley & Crystal Johnson for the dinner rolls and Shelagh Gombarck for all her help in preparing and serving. Jacquie LoCicero, LP





Memorial Day 2023

Following a long tradition Tampa Elks Lodge #708 was well represented at the city-wide celebration of Memorial Day held at American Legion Post 5. Representing the Lodge were (left to right in the picture at right) Paul DeLand, PER; Wendy Hall Exalted Ruler; and, Frank Palladini, Past State President and Past Grand Lodge Officer. The Lodge wreath was placed at a grave in the private Legion Cemetery.







Florida State Elks Convention 2023, the most profitable for Tampa Lodge #708 for several years. ER Wendy Hall reported a profit of \$2,777 after all expenses were taken. She said the accomplishment was possible only because of the nearly 30 Lodge Members and volunteers who helped. That help was at the Lodge and at Convention including baskets, hats and other items, loading and unloading the truck at both the Lodge and the Convention, and long

hours of work in the Tampa #708 Hospitality Suite.

The ER stated, "We in Tampa Lodge are known state-wide as 'The Pirate Lodge!' In addition our hospitality suite is recognized as the place to be!" Our room transforms into a pirate den complete with pirates and wenches. You'll find great entertainment, great food, wonderful prizes and loads of fun!

If you did not attend please consider going next year for a weekend of good times and Elk fellowship. You will meet fellow Elks from all over the State of Florida. A HUGE

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED US ACHIEVE THIS GREAT YEAR!....

ER Wendy Hall, Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, Paul DeLand, PER, Tracy Horrell, PER, Rick Schneider, PER, Mike & Patty Volpe (Co-Chairs at Convention), April Holtzman, Laura Jones, Melissa Helfer, Jason Brown, Kris Pierce, Georgia Hilficker, George Hilficker, Teddy & Jen Vasquez, Paul & Heidi Simone, Edie Hanley, Crystal Johnson, Jackie LoCicero, Kim Van Walker, Tommy & Sue Moore, Robert Bordenaro, Yanett Sabat, Ruth Levin, Norman Jones, II, Debbie Brennen, & Richard Florence. If we forgot your name....please forgive us!





Here's a fun new idea...each day a 2 digit number will be posted at the Lodge. If the last 2 numbers of your membership card matches these numbers you win a drink of your choice. Stop by and try your LUCK!

Must show your card to win.

JOIN US FOR ANOTHER SPECTACULAR LOE LOW COUNTRY BOIL

JULY 14TH 6:30 TO 8:30PM

SHRIMP, CRAWFISH, CLAMS, SMOKED SAUSAGE, ANDOUILLE SAUSAGE, CORN AND POTATOES DESSERT: LOUISIANA CRUNCH CAKE \$30.00 A TICKET TICKETS ON SALE NOW! 813-245-6458

50/50 TO BENEFIT CHILDREN'S THERAPY SERVICES REMEMBER TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKET EARLY FOR THIS POPULAR EVENT!



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Onions, Chip, Pickle & Cake Pop Bite Sides are subject to change depending upon availability.

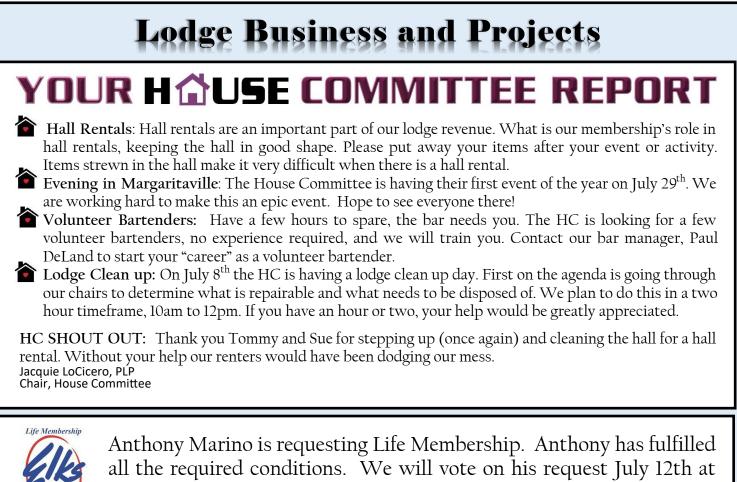








Saturday, Sept. 9th...... St. Pete & Holiday Isles at Holiday Isles



our regular meeting.

EXALTED RULER



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

- George Hilficker for working his magic by doing the wood frame edging around the PER Pictures.
- Susie Harlow, Bonnie Atwood and Rita Smith...for their behind the scenes work to keep the income stream going for Queen of Hearts and Pull Tab.
- Richard Florance for all his help around the Lodge including setting up for Friday Night Dinner.

JULY LODGE MEETING SCHEDULE

- 3rd LOE Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 5th LOE General Meeting 7:00 Dinner 6:15
- 10th Veteran's Meeting 6:30
- 11th BOD Meeting 6:30
- 12th Membership Meeting 6:00
- 12th Elks General Meeting 7:30
- 18th House Committee Meeting 6:30
- 19th New Member Orientation/Installation 6:30
- 26th Elks General Meeting -7:30

Honoring Departed Elks

Jack Benny 1894-1974 FAMOUS ENTERAINER NEW YORK, NY Lodge #1



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Tampa Elks Lodge #708							
July 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	7ri	Sat	
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2	3 LOE BOD MEETING 6:30 PM DEE'S 4TH OF JULY BAR 0:30 PM 53 DONATION	7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHALICS REHEARSAL	5 LOE GENERAL MEETING 7PM LOE DINNER 6:15PM	6 SPAGHETTI DINNER NIGHT \$7.00 6PM-7-30 Ouer of Hearts Donations by 6:45pm Drawing at 7pm	7 SOUTHERN FISH FRY HONEY BUTTER FRIED FISH & SHRIMP. FRENCH FRIES OR GRITS. COLESLAW. FRIED OKRA. HUSH PUPPIES & LEMON BARS \$18 MUSIC: LEA BRAUN	8 Lodge Cleaning Day 10am to 12pm	
9 Georgia's Sunday Dinner At the Lodge Serving 5 to 6pm Lamb Shanks	VETERAN'S 10 COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30PM MARINATED CHICKEN SPIEDIES. LEMON 0870 SAILAD PICKLE & MINI BROWNIE \$9:50 BAR S: JOPM S: JOPMATION	7PM TO 9PM	12 COMMITTEE MEETING 6PM 7:30PM GENERAL MEETING	13 GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE 6PM-7:30 Outer of Hearts Donations by 6:45PM Drawing at 7PM	JOIN US FOR INVOLVER SPECTROLLAR LOC LOU COUNTRY BOIL	15 July Birthday Party Karaoke, Potluck Dinner, and Cake Bring a Covered Dish 7pm	
Good and a second	17 ITALIAN MEATBALL HOAGIE CHIPS PICKLE & COOKIE \$9:50 BAR COOKIE \$9:50 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	18 COMMITTEE MEETING COMMITTEE MEETING 630PM 7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHOLICS REHEARSAL	19 Sea Solution Sea Solution S	20 GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE 6PM-7:30 CUEW OF HEARTS DUMATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	2 TEAK NIGHT NEW YORK STRIP WITH SWEET POTATO FRIES. BLUE CHEESE & BACON COLESLAW & ROLL \$19.00 ONION RINGS \$3.50 CHEESE CAKE WITH OREO TOPPING \$3 MUSIC: MRS TSDJ & KARAOKE	22 6PM TO 8PM CPR TRAINING PARTY SEE PG 9 FOR DETAILS	
23 VP VISIT New Port Richey & Tarpon Springs at Tarpon Springs See Pg 14	24 TEXMEX SLOPPY JOE. CHIPS & SALSA CHEESECAKE BITE BAR \$9.50 S3 DONATION	7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHOLICS REHEARSAL	26 7:30PM GENERAL MEETING	27 GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE 6PM-7:30	28 BEEF RAGU SAUCE WITH PASTA, FRESH FOCACCIA BREAD, & A House Salad \$15.00 FRIED RAVIOLI \$3.5 CANNOLI \$3	SEE PG 12 FOR DETAILS	
3 Gourmet Club 5pm	31 BACON SANDWICH WITH CARAMELIZE ONIONS. CHIPS. PICKLE & CAKEPOP BAR BITE \$9.50 C: 30pm S3 DONATION			GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE 6PM-7-30 Colet of Hearts Donations by 6:45pm Drawing at 7pm			



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: ampa708secretary@outlook.com

Support the Elksize and Be an SOB - Smiling 'Ole' Booster

\$10.00 a year defers some of the publication cost, allowing us to direct more of our income to the charities & organizations we support.

William Deen - Richard Florance, PER, - Bob Norton - Sandra Brantly Vera Wright - In Memory of Harold Wright - Pat Fennell - Robert Norton



Friends of 708

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

OUR CURRENT ANNUAL SUPPORTERS

R. Florance, PER - K. Higgins - M. Flowers - G. Chiani - J. Brennan - R. Millaway R. Norton - B. Deen - J. Martin - S. Mackey - S. Owens - F. Smith - M. Waldbart - E. Clark C. McMullen - R. Millaway - J. Hall - A. DeQuesada - R. Bradshaw - In Memory of J. Schneider 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.