

Volume 2023 Issue 2 – May 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 - TBD

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



April proved a busy start to our Lodge year. Our Easter lunch was a huge success with our state convention volunteers providing and serving a wonderful meal to 67+ people. Thanks to all who provided the food, volunteered, served and cleaned up. The event also brought in a significant amount toward our state convention fund.

A great Birthday Bash and Karaoke on April 15th with KJ Fly and his assistant Crystal Johnson. A great time was had by all!

In May we continue with lots of activities including the LOE Kentucky Derby, May Birthday Bash, Mother's Day and The Gourmet Club. Check your Lodge calendar and the bulletin board for dates and times.

May 25th thru the 28th is Florida State Elks Convention at the Rosen Centre, Orlando. If you've never been you won't want to miss this event....even if you choose to go for only a day. Food, Fun and entertainment! Tampa's Hospitality Suite is the premier place to be each evening during convention. The 2nd floor of the Rosen Centre is dedicated to Elks Hospitality Suites, each providing food, fun, games, and the opportunity to meet fellow Elks from across the state. Be sure not to miss this great Elks event!

As I look around the Lodge it is encouraging to see members of all ages volunteering to help in the kitchen, and helping with setups and breakdowns of events. The great camaraderie within the Lodge is encouraging, bringing with it new members who are excited about joining this great organization. A friendly welcome to both old and new members as they come through the door brings with it a positive feeling. If you have not visited the Lodge recently, please do so and experience the "Strength and Growth through Unity!" which is my motto this year.

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 Appel, Chairman (Jackie.apple@yahoo.com)

Drug Awareness - Edie Hanley, Chairman (ehanley73@tampabay.rr.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)



Welcome Our Newest Elk Members



Cynthia Williams Sponsored by Kim Williams



Anne Dills Sponsored by Tracy Horrell



Lisa Davitt Sponsored by Sam Washington



Craig Ferguson Sponsored by Sam Washington

May Elk Recognitions

ELK OF THE MONTH...DAVE REPLOGLE

Dave Replogle is a newer member of the House Committee. He doesn't hesitate to volunteer his time and efforts helping set up and break down tables and chairs for several events. He has also stepped up to help in the kitchen and to serve in the dining room. His efforts are greatly appreciated. Please take time to thank Dave for volunteering.



OFFICER OF THE MONTH...PAUL DeLAND, PER

Paul DeLand, PER has been a dedicated member of the Elks for 30 years. He has held every office including Exalted Ruler (2021-2022) serving now as 4 Year Trustee and BOD Chairman. Along with this impressive list of duties he is dedicating his time to several committees. Greet Paul with a thank you for all he does.





Ice Cream Social
Stop in for a Free Ice Cream

Tampa Elks Lodge 108 Youth Week Celebration

Sunday, May 7th - 1pm to 3pm Kids under 18 and 1 adult eat free. Unaccompanied Adults \$3.00 3616 W. Gandy Blyd., Tampa, 33611

Executive Board

Jacquie LoCicero, PLP- President Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, PLP - Vice President

April Holtzman - Secretary

Laura Jones - Treasurer

Supporting Reports



Ladies of the Elks:

One month down and the LOE is full steam ahead! Up first is the LOE's Annual Kentucky Derby Horse Race. Join the Ladies on May 6th for some "horsing around". Ed Lessard is our Master of Ceremonies this year.

It's movie time! On June 21st, the Ladies will host movie night with a cause. Ladies, looking for a little eye candy, we got you. 80 for Brady is

Suzanne Moore, PLP - Chaplain Tracy Horrell, PER, PLP - Parliamentarian

our movie for the evening. Look for more information in June's Elksize and on the LOE board. Remember, all proceeds benefit Childrens Therapy Services.

Looking for a place to take Dad for Father's Day, look no further, your LOE is planning something special for all those hard-working Dads. Look for more details in your June Elksize.

Finally, your LOE is once again hosting a Low Country Boil on July 14th. If the last one is any indication of how this one will be, expect a rip-roaring time. Look for the sign-up sheet and details on the LOE board, sign up early.

Our next meeting is May 3rd, dinner at 6:15, meeting at 7pm. Hope to see you there! Jacquie LoCicero, PLP President, Ladies of the Elks

MAY Birthdays

5/5 Bob Orcutt 5/12 Rita Smith, PER, PLP

Grant Reports



Club Chivalry Report



On April 13th the Tampa Elks 708 treated the Club Chivalry graduating Seniors to a special luncheon at Fred's Country Buffet. 21 Students and 3 Elks attended what is the easiest field trip of the year. It's the end of the school year, so all the students

know each other and are well behaved. All the students are 17 or 18 and can be trusted to mind their manners at a buffet. The Club Officers are there to take the head of the table and steer conversations. And it is a great buffet- lots of food options. The teens ate until they couldn't eat another bite. Before leaving the restaurant, we presented honor cords which are worn during graduation to the Club Officers, and Ms. Hand presented honor cords to the students that had been in her Avid class for 4 years. Thanks to Tommy Moore for joining us as the required male chaperone.

Grant Reports

NEW AND IMPROVED VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

OPEN ARMS MINISTRY - OUR PARTNERS AT HYDE PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

Tampa Elks has been partners with this group in their efforts to feed the Homeless for over 10 years now. Courtney Weil (formerly Taylor) was a member of the church and started volunteering in their kitchen. Then, when ENF started offering the community investment grants. Courtney, who was the Bartender at Tampa 708, Paul Deland, Lodge Secretary and Tracy Horrell, the Exalted Ruler applied for a Beacon Grant asking for the maximum amount of \$1000 to contribute to this weekly homeless endeavor for purchases and gift cards." Tampa Lodge also committed to once a weekly meal serving on Sunday mornings.

The size of the grants and the crowd of homeless at the ministry grew over the years. Tampa Elks Lodge struggled to get enough members for each Sunday since we had to arrive between 7:30 and 8:00 AM. The ministry now had more groups as partners, our schedule was reduced to just the third Sunday each month, Courtney was now the kitchen lead on that Sunday. The Elks, with their larger grants, now asked for funds to purchase the food to make Christmas and Thanksgiving meals.

In 2020 we asked for \$2,500 to purchase the food for preparing Thanksgiving and Christmas. Though Elk participation was down throughout the year, we still had a core group of volunteers including Courtney in the kitchen and Patty Volpe in the Clothing closet on Sunday once a month. Frequently, friends of our core group, that were not Elks, would ask to participate and that would increase our volunteer ranks. The plan was to spend the money to serve Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner to about 200 homeless or needy guests.

You know what came next, The Pandemic. There were so many changes. The Sunday morning food line thinned to under 60 guests that first year. In 2022 they were back up to 80-100 guests, but they were serving outside on a few picnic tables. All the extra services like the clothing closet, haircuts, and bike repairs were gone. Food was handed out in a paper bag. Through all the changes Tampa Elks managed to keep the Holidays special. We cooked at the Lodge and transported the food, or we bought gift cards and personalized greeting cards, but we never faltered in our commitment to make the Holidays brighter.

I stopped by Open Arms Ministry on Sunday the 15^{th} to drop off some disposable razors that Tampa Elks purchased and I have GREAT NEWs!

This spring Open Arms has not only moved back inside, but they have changed their hours. Volunteers now report at the more reasonable hour of 10:30am. Volunteers reserve their day and their specific duty online by using sign up genius. The web address is https://hydeparkumc.org/volunteeropenarms

You can copy that into your URL, or text me at 813-431-3020 for a link.

Rita Smith Grant Coordinator, PER











LET'S DO FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER AT THE LODGE

MAY 5TH



MAY 12TH



FRIED CHICKEN DINNER

SERVED WITH MAC & CHEESE, COLESLAW AND DINNER ROLL \$15.00

APPETIZER: FRIED MUSHROOMS \$3.50

DESSERT: APPLE PIE \$3



CORNBREAD WHISKEY

MAY 19TH



STEAK NIGHT NEW YORK STRIP

WITH SEASONED POTATO WEDGES, CORN WITH BACON, A HOUSE SALAD AND DINNER ROLL \$19.00

APPETIZERS: ONION RINGS \$3.50
DESSERT: CHEESECAKE W/FRUIT \$3

ENTERTAINING US:

MAY 26TH

KITCHEN CLOSED JOIN US AT



MAY 26TH TO MAY 28TH ROSEN CENTRE, 9840 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE ORLANDO, FLORIDA,

PLEASE SIGN UP AT 708MEALS.COM OR ON THE LODGE BULLETIN BOARD TO ASSURE YOUR MEAL!
ONLY A FEW EXTRA MEALS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR WALK-INS.

DINNER SERVED FROM 6:30PM TO 8:30PM



Served Mondays 6pm to 7:30pm

May 1st – Ham & Swiss Panini w/Pasta Salad & Cookie \$9

May 8th -3 Homemade Deviled Ham
Sliders, Dill Pickle w/chips &
a Mini Cupcake \$8

May 15th – Fried Chicken Chicken Salad on Pita w/Mac & Cheese, Cookie \$9

May 22nd – Pulled Pork Sandwich, Chips Coleslaw. & a Cookie \$8

May 29th – Memorial Day Picnic for details see page 12

QUEEN OF HEARTS

Donation by 6:45pm Drawing at 7pm

Thursday Nights Served 6pm to 7:30

*May 4th – Spaghetti Night w/Salad and Cuban Bread

*May 11th - Grill Night

*May 18th – Grill Night

*May 25th – Grill Night

Upcoming Events and Projects



YOUR LOE BRINGS YOU THEIR ANNUAL "DAY AT THE RACES" SATURDAY, MAY 6TH - 7:08PM

DINNER SERVED FROM 5:30PM TO 7PM

MC - ED LESSARD

DICE SPINNERS - JESSICA & DAVID

HORSES ON SALE NOW \$10 PER HORSE (SEE LOE BOARD MEMBER TO PURCHASE)

BETTING WINDOWS OPEN AT 6:30

LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION - DERBY HAT CONTEST SPIN THE WHEEL TO WIN A GIFT CERTIFICATE EACH SPIN \$5 – CERTIFICATES FROM \$5 TO \$50 \$1 JELLO SHOTS FOR THE CHARITY

50/50 FOR THE CHARITY

MENU - BOURBON PORK SLIDERS,
PIMENTO CHEESE PASTA SALAD AND DEVILED EGGS
(TO BENEFIT THE LOE AND THE CHILDREN'S THERAPY SERVICE)

Upcoming Events and Projects

Come Celebrate Memorial Day at Lodge #708

Monday 29 May 2023





4-5 games, \$1 donation, Winner takes all!

(Regular Bingo to begin at regular time)

(And a Special toast at the end of Bingo to remember our fallen)

Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans and chips.
\$5 donation

Jessica will be serving up great Memorial day drink specials



Calling All

Epicurean Elks...

Sunday, May 28th at 5:00 pm

No Need to Feel Depressed!



We're Kicking Depression Era Recipes Up a Notch

Bring us your Impressive Dishes, made from Depression - era Recipes (easily available on the Internet), but with a Modern, Gourmet Twist

Or...just bring an appetite and a donation!

...trívía...trívía...trívía...trívía...



Friday, May 5 2023 6-9pm

Everyone likes Nachos, Tacos and Margaritas!

Come down to the lodge for this Mexican celebration & enjoy tasty Tex-Mex, Margarita drink specials.

Margaritas (regular or fruity)...<u>\$4</u>

Chips & Salsa - \$2

Regular – chips, cheese, jalapenos slices...\$5
Supreme – chips, meat, beans, tomatoes,
cheese, jalapenos, sour cream...\$7

(Beef or Chicken/ Hard or Soft)

- 1 Regular Taco ...\$3
- 3 Regular Tacos...\$7
- 3 Taco Dinner served with rice and beans ...\$10

 Beef or Chicken Chimichanga/Taco combo Dinner served
 with rice and beans...\$15

(Extra sour cream - \$1)

Lodge Business and Projects

2023~24 Wonderful West Central District PER Association



On Saturday 4/15 District Leader Frank Palladini, PSP, Tampa, installed the new officers for the Wonderful West Central District PER Association. Theresa Seibert, PDD, Tampa was installed as District Chaplain. Paul Deland, PER, (Tampa) was installed as the VP Liaison to Tampa. The new District President of the PER association is Stan Hickrod, PER, Holiday Isles.

YOUR HAUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Messages from the House Committee:



In the Kitchen: The kitchen is a vital and important piece of your lodge's success. The House Committee has been in the kitchen making sure that we continue to provide our members and guests with meals at a reasonable price. What part do members play in the success of the kitchen? At the lodge on Monday or Thursday, order a sandwich or a burger. Fridays are our BIG night in the kitchen. Stop by to have a meal, listen to live music and enjoy the friendly and relaxing atmosphere. The kitchen is also looking for volunteers. If you would like to lend a helping hand, you can contact Jacquie at 813-245-6458.



Front of the house service: The front of the house needs servers for Friday Night dinner. Daniel Armentrout will head the effort staffing/training the front of the house. If you are interested in helping, please TEXT Daniel at 727-641-8197.



Around the bar: The bar is looking for volunteer bartenders. No experience is necessary. This is a fun way to get to know your fellow lodge members while lending a helping hand. Volunteer bartenders would rotate on Tuesday evenings. If you feel like this is a good fit, you can contact Paul DeLand, PER at 813-376-5401.

Jacquie LoCicero, PLP Chair, House Committee

Lodge Business and Projects



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

EXALTED RULER

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



- Marty Quire for his diligent work on our weekly calendars, email blasts, special notification and for being our photographer hero at the installation of officers.
- Jacquie for her first successful month managing our kitchen. You go girl.
- Georgia Hilficker, Yanett Sabet, April Holtzman, Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, Norm Benzing, Tommy Moore, and Kyle Jackson for doing a stellar job of cleaning the kitchen.
- George Hilficker for deep cleaning the kitchen fryers, and cutting up and dumping the wood in the back of the Lodge.

MAY LODGE MEETING SCHEDULE

- 4th Veteran's Meeting 6:30
- 5th LOE General Meeting 7:00 Dinner 6:15
- 11th BOD Meeting 6:30
- 12th Membership Meeting 6:00
- 12th Elks General Meeting 7:30
- 17TH Orientation & Initiation 6pm
- 18th House Committee Meeting 6:30
- 26th Elks General Meeting -7:30

Honoring Departed **Elks**

Andy Devine

1905-1977 American Entertainer

San Fernando, CA Lodge #1539



Tampa Elks Lodge #708

MAY 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 HAM & SWISS PANINI W/PASTA SALAD & A COOKIE \$9	2	3	LOE GENERAL MEETING 7PM LOE DINNER 6:15PM	4 SPAGHETTI NIGHT \$7 6 TO 7:30PM	5 THUI	D'ER'B'Y
	BAR 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHOLICS REHEARSAL			OUEEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	SEE ALL DETAILS ON PG 8	SEE ALL DETAILS ON PG 7
7 YOUTH WEEK IPM TO 3PM SEE PG 3	8 3 HOMEMADE DEVILED HAM SLIDERS W/CHIPS & A MINI CUPCAKE \$8	9 6:30 BOD MEETING	10	MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 6PM	11 GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE 6PM-7:30	12 FRIED CHICKEN MAC & CHEESE. COLESLAW & ROLL \$15	13
Ice Cream Social	VETERAN'S COMMITTEE MEETING - 6:30PM BAR 6:30PM S3 DONATION	7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHALICS REHEARSAL		7:30 PM GENERAL MEETING	OUEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	APPETIZER: FRIED MUSHROOMS \$3.50 APPLE PIE \$3 Music: Cornbread Whiskey	May Birthday Party Karaoke, Potluck Dinner, and Cake Bring a Covered Dish 7pm
MOTHERS	15 FRIED CHICKEN CHICKEN SALAD W/MAC& CHEESE & A COOKIE \$9	16	17 6PM	MEMBER .	18 GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE 6PM-7:30	19 STEAK NIGHT NEW YORK STRIP W/ BAKED POTATO. CORN W/BACON. HOUSE SALAD. DINNER ROLLS \$19.00	$20_{\scriptscriptstyle{\mathrm{TRAINING}}\atop\scriptscriptstyle{\mathrm{9AM}}}$ TO 11AM
Mother's Day Ceremony at 11:30pm See pg 2 for details	6: 30PM S3 DONATION	7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHOLICS REHEARSAL	IMME FOLL	NTATION DIATELY OWED ITIATION	OUEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:45PM DRAWING at 7PM	ONION RINGS \$3.50 CHEESECAKE \$3 MUSIC: LADY AND THE OUTLAW	
21	22 PULLED PORK SANDWICH W/ CHIPS COLESLAW & A COOKIE \$8	23	24		25 GRILL NIGHT BURGERS AND MORE 6PM-7-30	26 kitchen closed join us at the	27
	BAR 6:30PM S3 DONATION	7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHOLICS REHEARSAL		7:30PM GENERAL MEETING	OUSEN OF HEARTS DONATIONS by 6:459M DRAWING at 79M	Florida Elis State Convention ROSEN CENTER ORLANDO. FL	
28	29 BAR BINGO MEMORIAL DAY SPECIAL PICNIC SEE PG 8	30	31				
Gourmet Club	BAR 6: 30PM S3 DONATION	7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHOLICS REHEARSAL					



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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 <u>Deen</u> - Richard <u>Florance</u>, PER, - Bob Norton - Sandra <u>Brantly</u> 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 - Marty Quire - 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.