EKSIZE

Volume 2023 Issue 7 – October 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 - Kristie Horst 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

KITCHEN MANAGER To Be Determined Hall Event & Rental Chairman: Debbie Brennan (nanadebbie4@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



October approaches (as I write this) and cooler weather signals the beginning of a number of activities, the life blood of our Lodge's income creators. We got through the State President's visit, and other September events like the FLOE Conference.....Now fasten your seat belts and hang on for an outstanding October and November!

* Blues, Bourbon and BBQ – Friday, October 6th A great time of fellowship and relaxation as we enjoy great music, tasting a series of fine bourbons, and lip-smacking good BBQ Ribs and Chicken cooked right here by your "Country Boys!"....ALL FOR \$20! Tickets available at the bar or from a house committee member.

* **Casino Night** - October 14th See the many flyers around the Lodge or buy your tickets from those you will find walking around the Lodge tickets in hand.

* **Halloween!** - October 28th See page 8 and flyers around the Lodge !

* Quarter Auction - Nov. 4th Come join the fun as we auction lots of items you might like and vendors display their products.

* **Godfather Show!** - Nov. 11th A live show by a man who IS the Godfather, Joe Biddea.....Lots of Music, impersonations, and "An offer you can't refuse!" You won't want to miss the Italian dinner, and show all for \$30. Be the 1st to buy a table of eight and choose your table!

All these events are an important part of your Lodge's income which allows us to continue our charitable ways. Without the income events we cannot maintain our Charity activities...Join us for great times at Tampa Lodge #708!

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 - Melissa Bertoch, Chairman (missbertoch@gmail.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)

Interested in Serving with Open Arms Ministry for the Homeless?

It's 85 days until Christmas! Plan to show your love for your neighbor! Save these dates!

The ENF Beacon Grant and its FSEA Matching Grant fund the Holidays at Open Arms Ministry for the Homeless. On the weekend of **November 18 & 19**, (Thanksgiving is early this year) we will be cooking a full Thanksgiving meal in the Lodge kitchen. At 10 AM on Sunday we load it into the back of cars and head



to Hyde Park Methodist Church where we will feed up to 100 homeless men and women. We are finished by 12:30. I will need a lot of volunteers to make this happen.

This is so much easier than previous years when we had to show up before 8 AM, but I will still need a good number of volunteers to prep on Saturday afternoon and then need help to bake, transport and serve on Sunday.

For Christmas, the Elks will be giving the guests at Open Arms 100 Christmas cards with a gift card inside. I don't add the Christmas Cards in the grant budget, so please save your extras for me. These will be distributed on **December 24th**, and it only takes a couple of people to hand out the cards, but there are a lot of other jobs available to feed the guests at Open Arms.

Rita Smith, PER, Project Manager



October Elk Recognitions

ELKS OF THE MONTH...REBECCA SULLINS & MARTY QUIRE

Elk of the Month for October is a combination of two members who rarely see one another but keep the communication between the membership and Lodge activities solid. **Rebecca Sullins** is our Facebook guru...bringing a quick response to calls for alerting the membership of events and happenings at the Lodge.

Marty Quire provides a number of services....a weekly calendar, the online Elksize, email communication to the membership and flyers for events. The two make a strong communication combination for the Lodge and deserve recognition for their service to Tampa Lodge!



OFFICER OF THE MONTH...TRACY HORRELL

Officer of the Month for October is Tracy Horrell, PER & PLP. This year she is the Esteemed Leading Knight and our membership chairperson. She is one of our more outgoing members, always smiling and greeting our members. In addition she has demonstrated her culinary skills with several delicious meals for both the Ladies organization and the Lodge. Always willing to lend a helping hand, if she's in town, she is an asset to our Lodge. Let her know she is appreciated for her efforts when next you **see her.**



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Supporting Reports



Ladies of the Elks:

We, the members of the Tampa Lodge LOE are proud to announce that we were able to present a check for \$2,500 to Children's Therapy Services at this year's Florida Ladies of the Elks **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

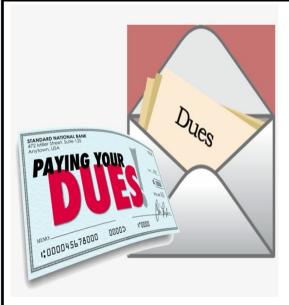
Conference in Daytona Beach. Wendy Hall our ER, and a member of the LOE, presented the check to Colleen Gallant the director of Children's Therapy Services. We have consistently met our goals in fundraising for this worthwhile organization and are looking forward to continuing the tradition.

Please keep in mind that the holidays are almost upon us and we will be looking for help in decorating the Lodge the day after Thanksgiving. It's great fun and we share leftovers and wonderful memories. Think about joining us...you will be welcome.

We are currently working on our Christmas Bazar and creating handmade items to sell at that time. Keep us in mind for your Christmas shopping needs.

October Birthdays

10/10 - Patty Jankiewicz - 10/18 - Bonnie Atwood



Haven't renewed Your membership? No Worries

IT'S EASY AS ONE, TWO, THREE! 1. You can go to the tampa elks 708 Website and scroll down to "Renew your Lodge membership online with paypals".

 2. Stop by the lodge & pay your bartender while enjoying a librion.
3. Call or stop by the lodge office and Rick will take care of it for you.

Grant Reports



Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of United States of America A Fraternal Organization

RITA SMITH, PER, STATE CHAIR ENF FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Because you are an Elk, I am sure that you contribute to nonprofit charities throughout the year. Maybe it's your grandchild's PTA fundraiser, the annual appeal to purchase a meal for the needy at Thanksgiving, the Salvation Army red bucket in-front of the store at Christmas. Do you say yes when the grocery store or restaurant asks you to "round up" for the charity they decided to support? Of course, you support Harry Anna. But what do you know about Elk's National Foundation?

When you support The Elks National Foundation (ENF), you are supporting a charity that supports the communities where Elks live and work. Last year, the members and lodges in Florida donated \$433,292.23 to ENF. It sounds like a lot of money. But I bet you did not realize ENF sent more than \$1,638,400 back to Florida. I say, "more than" because there were 16 scholarships awarded to Florida students that were not projected in these numbers, most of the relief to the victims of Hurricane Ian are also not reflected in these numbers, the travel expenses of those staff who attended our schools and seminars are not included, and neither is the Drug Awareness Program.

To accomplish that kind of return, the Elks National Foundation must invest its capital carefully, and keep its operating costs low. In fact, the ENF spends 92% of their income on direct mission expenses. Less than 8% is spent on advertising and administration. Compare that to the administrative and advertising expenses of the top charities in the country – according to Charitywatch.com, Feeding America spends 21%, Toys 4 Tots spends 21%, Salvation Army spends 18% and even the beloved American Red Cross spends over 9%.

Florida was nowhere near the top of the heap when it came to reaping benefits of our top-rated charity. There are a lot of different formulas for the different programs, but it is simple to understand that the more your state gives, the more your state gets in return.

So I ask : "Can you make a donation today?"

Can you log in at Elks.org/enf and make a recurring donation by joining the Fidelity Club? \$15 per month is the default, but they will accept a \$5 donation if that is all you can budget. If that does not appeal right now, you can also log in and make a one-time donation. You can choose which ENF program you want to support. YOUR donation will help YOUR Lodge get bigger grants, YOUR community get more services, and YOUR state get more money for our major projects. And, for some of you, it will help YOU pay less in taxes. When you hear the word Benevolence – Think, "ENF!"



"Florida Elks Shine Bright"

Upcoming Events and Projects



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS RED HOT EVENT! OCTOBER 6TH- 6PM TILL ? Dinner 6:30 BBQ Extravaganza

Entertainment 7:30 Doug Deming & the Jewel Tones

Bourbon Tasting Cornhole Contest 50/50 and More \$20.00

More info to come! Tickets on sale at the bar or from a House Committee Member Sept. 1st Proceed to benefit our Lodge Operating Account.

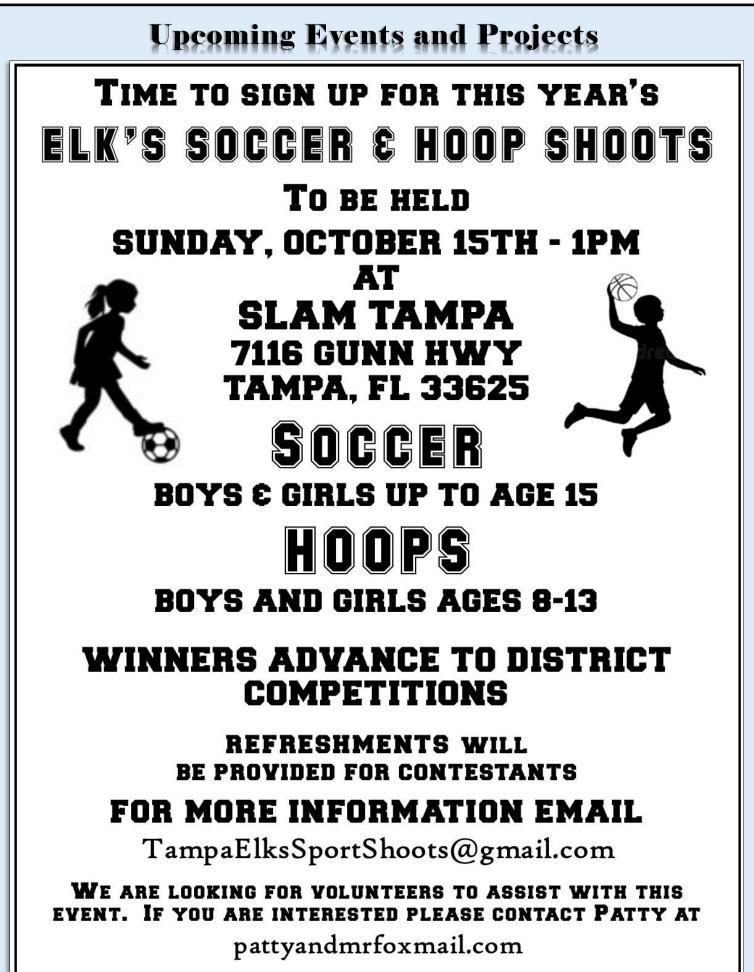


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Upcoming Events and Projects







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Upcoming Events and Projects



Upcoming Events and Projects



YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS

From the moment the Godfather, entertainer Joe Beddia, walks on stage, you are helplessly captured by his mystical presence. With something for everyone, impressions of famous long ago singers like; Jimmy Durante, George Burns, Ray Charles, Louis Armstrong or famous comics like Rodney Dangerfield or George Carlin, The Godfather's show is mixed with song, musical instruments and "off the wall" audience participation. This award winning show will take you on a journey to a place "The Godfather" himself can only take you.

2023 NEW YEAR'S EVE AT 708 JOIN THE WORLD AS YOU PERSONALLY WITNESS

THE LONG AWAITED OPENING OF HOLT MOXIE'S FAMOUS SAFE

IS IT HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE VALLEY OF KINGS OR PRICELESS MANUSCRIPTS...IT'S FINALLY TIME TO FIND OUT! ONLY 100 GUEST WILL BE PART OF THIS SPECTACULAR EVENT

Watch for more!

Lodge Business



Don't Let Your Friends & Family Miss Out October

is the best month to sign up to be an Elk Member \$1 Application Fee and only \$67 for the balance of the 2023-2024 Dues. **Talk to your People!**

Partners in Progress or PIP

Platinum Investors \$100+

Jan Bertoch 9/2022

Pat Fennell 3/3/2023

Richard Florance 5/2023

Frank Palladini 5/2023

Mr. & Mrs. Hilficker 7/2023

Jackie Apple 8/23

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

Silver Investors \$21-\$50

Bronze Investors \$10 - \$20

Lodge Business and Projects

YOUR HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Mark your calendar for the Blues, Bourbon and BBQ on the 6th. It promises to be an exciting evening with an exceptional Blues band and some unusual brands of bourbon for the tasting...not to mention the food!
- A If you're hungry while sitting around the bar, remember we have bar food available any night the kitchen isn't open. Check out page 11 of this publication for a menu.

EXALTED RULER

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



- Christien Elkins, for volunteering to serve the Monday Meal.
- The Bingo Committee; Dee Cisneros, Debbie Brennan, Ed Lesard, Melissa Bertoch and Nelson Grahn.
- Joe LoCicero and Jose Remon and the entire Veteran's Committee for the incredible Veteran's Day BBQ.
- Georgia Hilficker and her kitchen crew, Shelagh Gombarcik, April Holtzman, and Norm Benzing for preparing and helping to serve the Veteran's BBQ.
- Chris Ragusa and Tom Knotts, along with their friend and family, for putting on a spectacular Oktoberfest
- Daniel Armentrout & Richard Florance for their constant help in the dining room.

OCTOBER LODGE MEETING SCHEDULE Honoring Departed Elks • 4th - LOE General Meeting - 7:00 - Dinner 6:15 Abe 9th - Veteran's Meeting - 6:30 โลลต 10th - BOD Meeting - 6:30 11th - Membership Meeting - 6:00 i to 1941 • 11th - Elks General Meeting - 7:30 Founder of **Jaas Brothers** partment Store: 17th - House Committee Meeting - 6:30 24th - New Member Orientation/Installation 6:30 irst Exalted Ruler of 25th - Elks General Meeting - 7:30 Tampa 26th - Elks General Meeting -7:30

OCTOBER

Tampa Elks Lodge #708 October 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	7ri	Sat
1 Bucs vs New Orleans Saints 12pm	2 BEEF NACHOS & A SWEET TREAT \$9.50	7РМ ТО 9РМ IMPROVAHOLICS REHEARSAL	4 LOE GENERAL MEETING 7PM LOE DINNER	5 SPAGHETTI DINNER NICHT \$7.00 6PM-7:30	Blues, BARBEQUE See page 6 for details	7
8	9 VETERAN'S COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30PM ITALIAN MEATBALL SANDWICH. SIDE & A SWEET TREAT \$9,50 \$300 \$300 \$300 \$300 \$300 \$300 \$300 \$3	10 BOD MEETING BOD MEETING TRIVIA MIGHT At 7pm with Jason & Crystal 7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHALICS REHEARSAL	11 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 6PM 7:30PM GENERAL MEETING	12 GRILL NIGHT	<i>13</i> Kitchen Closedi Please Join US Tomorrow Night And Try Your Lucki	ARE YOU LUCKY? LET'S FIND OUT. 6PM SEE PAGE 7
15 K S Combined Soccer Shoot & Hoop Shoot 7116 Gunn Hwy Tampa FL 33625 Bucs vs Detroit Lions 1pm	16 CHICKEN PHILLY CHEESE SANDWICH, SIDE & A SWEET TREAT	17 COMMITTEE MEETING 630PM 7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHOLICS REHEARSAL	18 6:30pm NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY INITIATION	19 GRILL NIGHT BURGERS & MORE 6PM-7:30 CUEN OF HEARTS DUNATIONS by 6435PM DRAWING at 7PM	20 STEAK HOUSE Special Night Loaded Baked Potato Soup. New York Strip. Bleu Cheese Coleslaw & Corn on the Cob \$19 Onion Rings \$3 50 Cheese Cake \$3	21 HALL RENTAL SISTERS IV SISTERS OCTOBER Birthday Party Karaoke, Potluck Dinner, and Cake Bring a Covered Dish 7pm
22 Bucs vs Atlanta Falcons 1pm	23 SPANISH BEAN SOUP A HALF A BLT & A SWEET TREAT \$9.50	7PM TO 9PM IMPROVAHOLICS REHEARSAL	25 7:30PM GENERAL MEETING	CRILL NIGHT BURGERS & MORE 6PM-7:30 Outer of Hearts Downings by 6:45PM Downings by 6:45PM Bucs vs Buffalo Bills 8:15pm	27 KITCHEN CLOSEDI PLEASE JOIN US Tomorrow Night For the Haunted Lodge Party	28 HALLOWEEN PARTY HAUNTED LODGE
29	30 GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH TOMATO SOUP & A SWEET TREAT \$9.50 BAR \$3.50 S3 DONATION	31				



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: mpa708secretary@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 Brantley Vera Wright - In Memory of Harold Wright - Pat Fennel



Friends of 708

Marty Quire - In Memory of Bonnie Quire - Bonnie Atwood Mr & Mrs Moore - Sharon Ford - Rick Schneider, PER - Mr & Mrs Suhrheinrich Steve Harmon - Marty Quire - Julie Wooley - Paul DeLand, PER - Paula Rousselle Chris Ragusa - Mr & Mrs Hilficker - 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 - C. Venable - R. Bradshaw - F. Palladini R. Scheider, 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.