Ocala Elks Lodge 286

Chartered July 11, 1895

Volume 26 **June 2026** Issue 6

THE 2026 STATE RITUAL COMPETITION

Fred Wright, IV, PER with Phillip "Phil" Watercutter, PDD

At this year's Spring Convention, our North Central District (NCD) competed in the State's District 2 Ritual Competition held at the Rosen Centre in Orlando, Florida. The Team performed the Ritual of Initiation from memory.

The Team consisted of the following members:

Fred Wright PER Ocala #286 - Exalted Ruler, Cheryl Collins PER Eustis #1578 - Leading Knight, Bob Warren PDD Winter Garden #2165 - Loyal Knight, Ken Doster Winter Park #1830 - Lecturing Knight, Andy Long PDD Ocala #286 - Esquire, Bruce Henry PDD Inverness #2522 - Chaplain, Bo Borwegen PER Eustis #1578 - Inner Guard, Dave Aherns ER Eustis #1578 - Candidate. Coaches - Fred Wright and Bob Warren.

The NCD Team finished in 3rd Place with an overall score of 93.2430. Approximately, 1 point from 1st Place.

For the Individual All Star Awards, the NCD Team had three (3) 1st Places, which were as follows:

Fred Wright PER Ocala #286 - Exalted Ruler with a score of 94.0220

Cheryl Collins PER Eustis #1578 - Leading Knight with a score of 93.5480

Ken Doster Winter Park #1830 - Lecturing Knight with a score of 93.5250

The NCD Team also had 2nd places as Individuals, they are as follows:

Andy Long PDD Ocala #286 - Esquire with a score of 89.2370

Bo Borwegen PER Eustis #1578 - Inner Guard with a score of 89.3260

Finally, there two (2) Individual Contests for the 11th Hour Toast and the Flag Charge. The winners will represent Florida State at the Grand Lodge Ritual Contests this year in Chicago. The following are the Winners for each category: Fred Wright PER Ocala #286 - Flag Charge Contest with a score of 98.9648

Davina Watercutter Sandford #1241 - 11th Hour Toast Contest with a score of 97.6738

The NCD Team will be again competing next year and is always looking for anyone within the District that would like to compete. If interested, please contact Fred Knight.

OCALA LODGE HAS RECORD ATTENDANCE AT STATE

If you didn't attend this year's State Convention, you missed quite a show. The convention saw the largest attendance in years, with members from across the state coming together for an unforgettable event.

Volunteers worked tirelessly in the hospitality suite, decorating and preparing the North Central District's space to make a lasting impression on visitors. Serving this year as State Vice President, Lodge 286's own David Clayton collaborated with all seven lodges in the district to create what may have been the best-themed suite of the year.

FROM THE EXALTED RULER

The month of May has been filled with significant activity and successful events for our lodge, led by the house committee. Thank you for all the work you do to make this the place to be!

Many of our members attended the Florida State Convention, dedicating numerous hours to its success. Our lodge proudly represented the North Central District, and I am pleased to share that we hosted one of the most active hospitality rooms at the event. This achievement was a true testament to our teamwork.

I would like to personally thank all of our members for your contributions. Your efforts have made my second month as your Exalted Ruler highly productive as we continue to work together toward building a better lodge for everyone. I look forward to our upcoming initiatives and to building upon the progress we have made as a lodge family.

Let us remain mindful of the Elks Creed: “The faults of our members we write upon the sand, their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory.”

Thank you for your continued dedication, fellowship, and support.

Best regards,

Carlos A. Quiles
Exalted Ruler
Ocala Lodge #286

VETERANS NEWS

Wood Crafts, Baseball, and a Mad Scientist

All year, Voluntary Service Representatives visit hospitals, State Veterans Homes, clinics, courts, USOs and Vet Centers to talk with veterans, host social activities, and provide needed supplies. Many volunteers are very busy, going above and beyond the expected with additional projects, extra supplies, and more activities.

The Boost Grant is available once each year to help these volunteers enhance their programming with some extra funds. At the end of the Elks year, certified Representatives can apply for up to $1,000 to boost their activities with a project that may not be possible without additional funding.

Last year, the Boost Grant enabled Voluntary Service Representative Tracie Wells to purchase supplies for new wood turning program at the VA Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee. Veterans got the chance to learn a new craft and create their own wooden pen. The class was so popular that now there’s a wait list to participate.

At the Chicago Veterans Home, Voluntary Service Representative and Deputy Brian and Sandy Supancic continued their tradition of using the Boost Grant to take residents out to a baseball game. Veterans who could not travel to the game enjoyed a pizza party back at the home, and an ice cream truck also made a visit.

Other volunteers used the grant to provide adaptive sports equipment, gardening projects, resource distribution events, and even a Mad Science experiment demonstration for veterans. The Boost Grant's flexibility allows volunteers to get creative with their activities.

Boost Grants applications are open online now on the Voluntary Service dashboard. If you are a Voluntary Service Representative, this is your chance to fund an extra project for the veterans you serve. If you're a Deputy Representative or a fellow Lodge member of a Rep, ask how you can get involved with supporting veterans through Voluntary Service.

Elks National Veterans Service Commission

Click here to visit the ENVSC on Elks.org

FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN THERAPY SERVICES

Hudson is a 4 year old little boy diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. He started PT for extreme toe-walking due to contractures of his heel cords. He underwent surgery to lengthen his heel cords in December of last year and was cleared to resume therapy in February. Since then, we have been working on normalizing his gait pattern, improving strength to support the surgical intervention, and also working on balance, coordination, and motor planning to accomplish age appropriate gross and fine motor skills. Shown in the picture, he is working on figuring out the appropriate way to climb the slide and go down safely.

[Click Here to see all the our Therapists]

Samantha Yox, PT, DPT
Physical Therapist
Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services
m: (352) 257-9670
f: (352) 247-4822
w: floridaelks.org/children
e: samantha@floridaelkscts.org

Florida Elks CHILDREN'S THERAPY SERVICES Mobile In-Home Therapy since 1999

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANTS UPDATE

Ocala Elks Lodge #286 has been proud to put Elks National Foundation grant funding to work in meaningful ways throughout our community. These grants allow our Lodge to do more than simply make donations; they help us take action, serve others, and strengthen our connection with the people and organizations making a difference in Marion County.

Through ENF grant funding, our Lodge has supported several important Community Investment Projects, including providing meals and pantry items for Interfaith Emergency Services, assisting veterans through Vets Helping Vets, the Ritz Veterans Village Pantry, and Welcome Home Kits, supporting therapeutic riding programs at Stirrups 'N Strides, helping children and families through Arnette House, and supporting Kimberly's Center for Child Protection.

Each of these projects reflects the mission of the Elks in a very real way. Whether we are helping feed families, supporting veterans as they rebuild their lives, assisting children in need, or partnering with local organizations that provide hands-on services, our Lodge continues to show that Elks Care and Elks Share.

We are grateful to the Elks National Foundation for making these grant opportunities available and to our Lodge members who help turn grant funding into direct community service. Because of their efforts, Ocala Elks Lodge #286 continues its long tradition of making a positive impact in our community.

Members who would like to help make these programs possible are encouraged to support the Elks National Foundation by becoming Fidelity Club members. Even a small recurring monthly donation helps the ENF continue funding grant programs that allow Lodges like ours to serve our communities in meaningful ways.

For more information about the Fidelity Club, Click here for more Information.

ENF DOESN'T WORK WITH OUT YOU

You can help by becoming a Fidelity Member of ENF or make a one time donation. This years' goal is $5.00 per member. Current membership support for ENF is only 1.03% of our members. Imagine where we could be if we were at just 10% Please scan the QR Code or Click on the logo to sign up.

Elks National Foundation, Inc.

OLEO

June is just around the corner along with the hot summer weather.

OLEO is taking their summer break with no meetings in June or July., Our next meeting is in August 20, 2026 at 5:30.

Carol Smith and Bonnie D'Andrea delivered diapers to the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County. We also donated $500 to The Fostering Foundation.

We continue to think of additional fundraisers for the near future.

June OLEO birthdays are Gail DeVilling, Maria Quiles, Diane Watson. Booster Birthdays are : Jack Mattheus and David Morrill

Have a Great Summer Everyone
Kim

HOUSE COMMITTEE - *Celebrating Our Past Success & Looking Ahead*

The month of May at the Ocala Elks Lodge #286 was filled with fellowship, fun, and community spirit. We enjoyed several successful events that brought members and guests together and showcased the strong camaraderie within our lodge.

Our Mother's Day Breakfast was a wonderful celebration honoring the special mothers in our lives with great food and fellowship. The Kentucky Derby celebration was another exciting event, filled with festive attire, fun activities, and plenty of laughter. Members also enjoyed participating in our Stained Glass Workshop, where creativity and learning came together in a fun and welcoming atmosphere.

We also celebrated Cinco de Mayo with delicious food, great company, and an evening full of fellowship and community spirit.

These events would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers, officers, and members. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported our lodge activities. Together, we continue to make the Ocala Elks Lodge #286 a welcoming place where fellowship and community thrive.

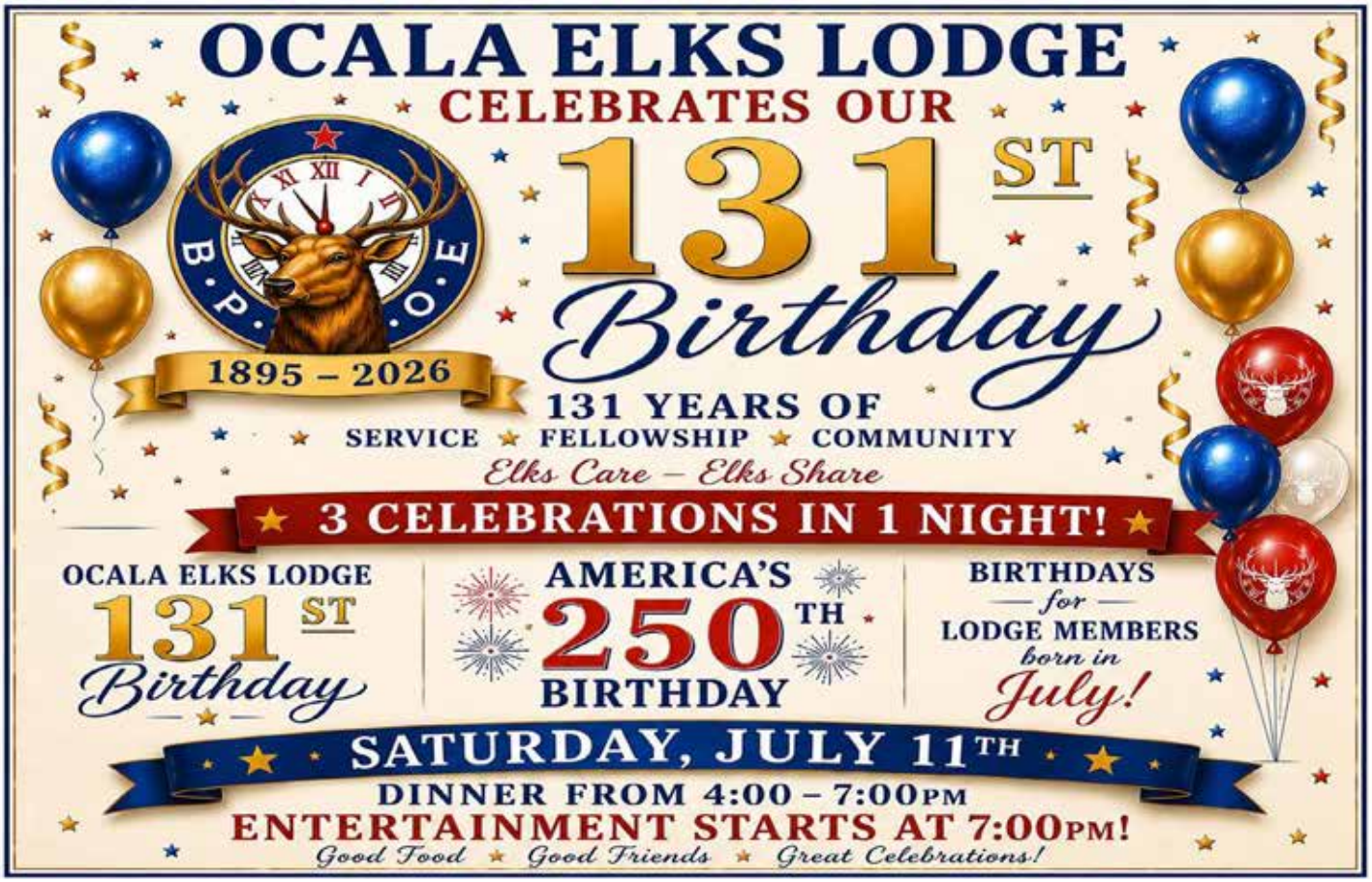
Respectfully,
Maria D. Quiles
House Committee Chairman

FLAG DAY
SATURDAY
JUNE 13TH
AT
OCALA ELKS LODGE 286
CEREMONY STARTS AT
4:00PM
MEMBERS OF SCOUTING AMERICA
AND FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY
HONORING OUR FLAG • RESPECTING OUR HEARTH
Elks USA

OCALA ELKS
B.P.O.E.
EST. 1868
HONORING DADS TODAY & EVERY DAY
Happy
FATHER'S DAY!
SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026
TIME: 4 – 7 PM
ENTERTAINMENT STARTS AT 7 PM
ONLY $24,99
RIBEYE STEAK
BAKED POTATO
SIDE
FATHER'S GET A FREE DESSERT!
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
JOIN TODAY! MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
DINNER AT OUR LUXURIOUS DINING ROOM
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
CALL: 1 (352) 732-7091 EXT. 3
OR EMAIL AT: HOUSE@ELKS286.ORG
OCALA ELKS LODGE
GREAT FOOD. GREAT FELLOWSHIP. GREAT DADS.

State President's Visit
to the North Central District
Florida State Elks Association
FSEA PRESIDENT LENNY DiLORENZO
& FIRST LADY LAUREN DOWD-SHEDLOCK
Official Visit Dinner
Saturday, July 25, 2026
Location: Ocala Elks Lodge #286
Bar Opens: 4:00 p.m.
Social Hour: 6:00 p.m.
Appetizers: Available prior to dinner
Dinner: Baked chicken with salad, vegetable sides, roll, and dessert
Cost: $20.00
Suggested Dress: Jacket and tie for men, cocktail attire for women
Ocala Elks Lodge looks forward to hosting all Elks wishing to attend.
RSVP
Please RSVP for Saturday dinner by July 8, 2026
Scan the QR code to RSVP
Community • Friendship • Charity

STARS, STRIPES & WIN
FIRECRACKER SCRATCH-OFF DRAWING
FIRST PRIZE:
$500
in Florida Lottery scratch-off tickets
SECOND PRIZE:
$300
in Florida Lottery scratch-off tickets
THIRD PRIZE:
$200
in Florida Lottery scratch-off tickets
SUGGESTED DONATION:
$20
PER TICKET
DRAWING:
Friday, July 3, 2026 at 8:00 PM
DRAWING LOCATION:
Ocala Elks Lodge #286
702 NE 25th Ave
Ocala, FL 34470
See your Lodge Officers to obtain tickets for your chance to win one of three Florida Lottery scratch-off ticket prizes.
Must be 18 or older to participate.
Winner need not be present to win.
Winners do not need to be Lodge members.
Open to members, guests, and supporters.
Districtwide advance sales close:
Sunday, June 28, 2026.
Limited in-person ticket sales may continue at the drawing location prior to the drawing.



FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Summer Camp Schedule

2026 - 7 Day Schedule

Session 1	:	June 14-June 20
Session 2	:	June 21-June 27
Session 3	:	June 28-July 4
Session 4	:	July 5-July 11
Session 5	:	July 12-July 18
Session 6	:	July 19-July 25
Session 7	:	July 26-August 1

Session 7 is Free for military families

2026 - 14 Day Schedule

Session 1	:	June 21-July 4
Session 2	:	July 5-July 18
Session 3	:	July 19-August 1

Click here to register

Join us for

Ocala Elks Club #286

Holiday Fundraiser Bahama Cruise

Open to the Public great getaway for family and friends

Sunday Nov 29th 2026 to Thursday Dec 3rd 2026

5 Days 4 Nights

MSC Seashore

Balcony Cabin 790.79 Per Person

Inside Cabin $690.79 Per Person

Pt Canaveral -Nassau Ocean Cay-Pt Canaveral

FREE PREMIUM DRINK PACKAGE AND WIFI

MSC Voyager Members 5% off

Includes Port Charges and Taxes

$200.00 PP Deposit Due NOW

Does Not include Gratuities or Insurance

Call Cheri Nikzad for information and to secure your cabin

386-864-4767

ELECTED LODGE OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler
Carlos A. Quiles
352-999-0592
CarlosElks286@gmail.com

Leading Knight
TBD

Loyal Knight
Pat Gilbert
352-355-0533
gilbertp1@cox.net

Lecturing Knight
David Tousseau
913-680-9987
Vavetelks286@gmail.com

Secretary
Bobbi Kassick
352-732-7091
Secretary@elks286.org

Treasurer
Barbara Shepard
352-207-5231
Treasurer@elks286.org

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Esquire
Patrick Jacob
352-494-9605
Dr.Jacob@icloud.com

Chaplain
Ginger Tousseau
913-702-4921
gingert58@gmail.com

Inner Guard
Bonnie D'Andrea
352-817-3560
bonnievinny@gmail.com

Tiler
Ken Davis
352-237-0718
kdavisauto@aol.com

Organist
Ken Sarsony
352-857-6441
tlv3@live.com

SPJ
Dan Hicks
352-351-3353
lindsey@danielhickspa.com

TRUSTEES & LODGE ADVISOR

One Year
Kevin Gage
845-417-8808
sparky3274@msn.com

Two Year
Dan Hicks
352-351-3353
paula@danielhickspa.com

Three Year
Sandra Harton
352-895-3042
sandraharton@yahoo.com

Four Year
Vinnie Crispino
352-581-3602
Vcrispino@outlook.com

Five Year
David Clayton
404-409-9785
davidelk286@gmail.com

Lodge Advisor
Nick Miller
352-602-0441
nick@feyc.org

LODGE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Committee	Chairman	Email
House	Maria Quiles	house@elks286.org9
Flag Day	Alan May	cmmay51@yahoo.com
Veterans	Nancy Walser	nancywalzer@yahoo.com
Investigations	Ken DeVilling	sram814@aol.com
Co-Chairman	David Morrill	DLMRacing@gmail.com
Elks Memorial Day	Bobbi Kassick	bobbikass@yahoo.com
Entertainment	Maria Quiles	house@elks286.org9
Sporting Clays	Ken Davis	kdavisauto@aol.com

Committee	Chairman	Email
ENF Grant Coordinator	George Griffin, III	
Fundraising	Emery Shepard	Emery@Elks286.org
Scholarships	Emery Shepard	Emery@Elks286.org
Hoop Shoot	Emery Shepard	Emery@Elks286.org
Membership	Fred Wright, IV	fwwright@hotmail.com

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS	
Secretary	352-732-7091 Ext 1
Lounge	352-732-7091 Ext 2
Catering	352-732-7091 Ext 3
Treasurer	352-207-5231

ENF and HATF as of 3/31/2026	
ENF	**$7,094.8**
Fidelity Club	**5 members**
Harry Anna	**$17,306.00**
Sustaining Donors	**20 members**

Current Lodge Membership as of 5/01/2026				
Total	Candidates	Reinstated	Delinquent	% Delinquent
530	**11**	**1**	**82**	**15.36**

Lodge Rental Rates	
Warner Wilson	$75.00
Card Room	$100.00
Patio	$100.00
Lounge	**$200.00**
Lodge Room	$200.00
Dining Room	$300.00

OCALA ELKS WEEKLY SCHEDULE		
Secretary	Monday-Friday	2:00PM-5:00PM
Catering Office	Tuesday-Friday	1000AM-3:00PM
Sunday & Monday	***Closed***	
Tuesday	Lounge & Kitchen Open ***BINGO***	4:00PM **5:30PM**
Wednesday is volunteer night		
Wednesday ***Trivia & Queen of Hearts***	Lounge & Kitchen Open **Trivia**	4:00PM **6:00PM**
2nd & 4th Thursday	Meeting Nights Lounge Open	6:00-7:00PM and after the meeting
Friday	Lounge & Kitchen Open	4:00PM
Saturday	Lounge & Kitchen Open ***BINGO***	4:00PM 6:00PM

Read the Elks Magazine
Log on or create your Elks.org user account by clicking here.
You can update your information to receive the Elks Magazine online instead of receiving it in the mail.

July 5 - July 8, 2026

Join us in Chicago for the 2026 Elks National Convention as we celebrate one of the most powerful moments in our Order's history-the 100th Anniversary of the Elks National Memorial. Experience a week filled with inspiring events, Grand Lodge sessions, exhibits, and unforgettable celebration honoring a century of service, unity, and Elkdom pride. Check back for the latest news and updates on the convention as we get closer.

For more information on Chicago, visit www.choosechicago.com

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Robert E. Gordon	01
Thomas Lea, III	01
Hermann Winters	03
Maria D. Quiles	03
Bradley E. Richell	05
James Rylander	06
James R. Sheffield	07
Wayne Argo, PER	08
Ralph Shollenberger, Sr.	08
Glen Goodwin	09
Fred S. Jackson	09
David Lamar Morrill	10
Donald G. Williams	11
Jacques Ford	12

Joan K. Connell	13
Michael Miller, PER	13
Morgan S. Evans	16
Doreen Penn	16
Louise M. Haddock	17
William C. David	18
Michelle Marsh	18
Donald C. Parr	18
Christine A. Bradshaw	19
Daniel Hicks	19
Thomas W. Schaefer	19
Francis John Cerruto	20
John E. Futch, PER	20
Frankie J. Roberts	20

Atha M. Andrews	21
Gene B. Camp	21
Clarence Quast	22
Terry E. Bovaird	24
Elijah Allison	25
Steven T. Arnold	25
Teddy Feaster, Jr.	25
John D. Hatfield	25
Roy R. Wimmer	27
Robert C. Luke	28
Jack L. Mattheus	28
Theodore Houck	29
Terry McCormack	30

It Pays to Attend Lodge Meetings

Date	Drawings	Amount	Member/Winner	
05/14/2026	Previous Meeting	$50.00	Ken Davis	Present
05/14/2026	50/50	$135.00	Brenda Cornelius	
05/14/2026	20/20	$150.00	Chuck Neal	
05/14/2026	20/20	$100.00	Mary Defrenn	
04/23/2026	20/20	$150.00	Della Tuck	
04/23/2026	20/20	$100.00	Donald Baker	

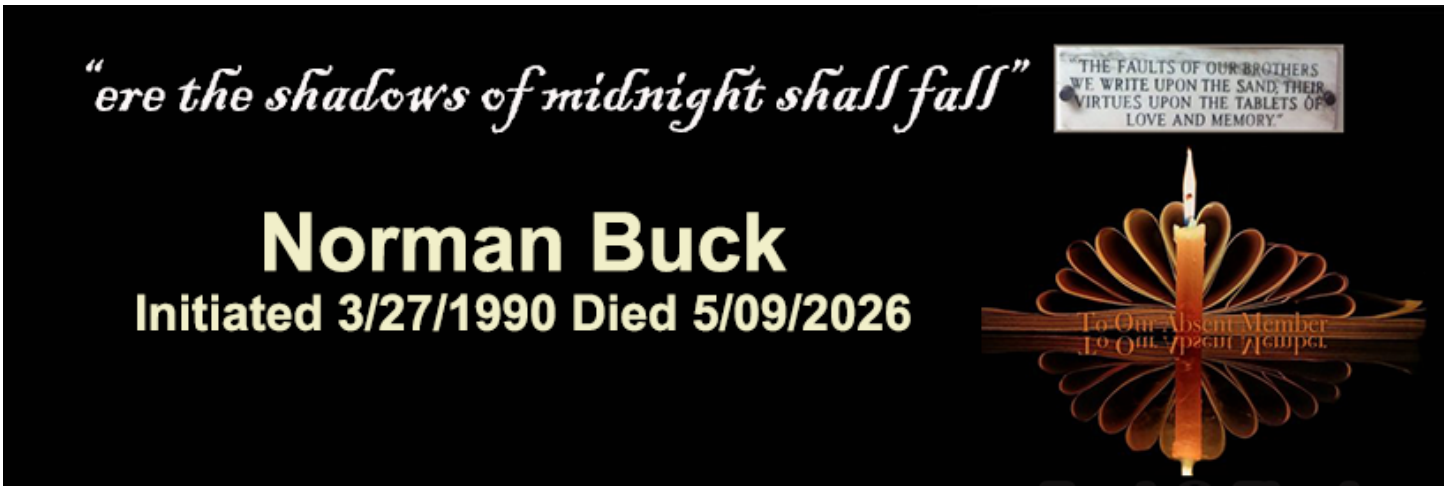


PHOTO GALLERY

SPORTING CLAYS FUNDRAISER

OCALA Elks SPORTING CLAYS 286

September 19, 2026

Our 6th annual fundraiser for the Harry Anna Trust, with all net proceeds going to the youth camp for scholarships.

Please join us and help with this year's event.
We need our members to:

- **Recruit teams & individuals to participate**
- **Identify & recruit station sponsors**
- **Identify & recruit other event sponsors**
- **Help with the sale of the shotgun raffle tickets**

The event will again be held at the Blackjack Sporting Clays

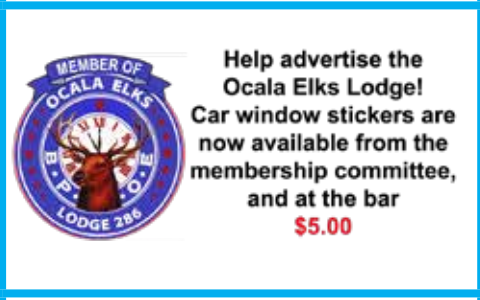
Contact Connie or Ken Davis for more information

E-Mail Scam Alert for Lodge Members

Dear Members,

We continue to have email scam attacks by criminals that are trying to exploit you, the members of Ocala Lodge 286. The latest was a really targeted email that appeared to be asking you for help. ***Please remember that no officer, member, or OLEO will ever ask you to help with paying the expenses of the lodge.***

A THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORS: CLICK ON THEIR CARD TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITES



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June		
Thursday	4th	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00PM
Thursday	11th	Lodge Meeting 7:00PM
Saturday	13th	Flag Day 4:00PM
Saturday	20th	Father's Day Steak Dinner
Thursday	25th	Lodge Meeting 7:00PM

July		
Thursday	2nd	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00PM
Saturday	4th	*Lodge closed Happy 4th*
Thursday	9th	Lodge Meeting 7:00PM
Saturday	11th	Lodge Birthday Celebration
Thursday	23rd	Lodge Meeting 7:00PM

FLOE	
Conference	9/24-26/2026

Florida State Elks Association	
Day at the Rays	9/13/2026

OLEO	
Meeting	08/20/2026

June Entertainment	
Friday 5th	Dave & Vicky Trezak
Friday 12th	Mark Raisch
Friday 19th	Lonnie
Friday 26th	Chris Diamon

Elks Care - Elks Share