Volume 23 January 2024 Issue 1

Angel Trees

Arnette House Angel Tree Christmas Party

On Monday, December 4th, the Ocala Elks hosted a Christmas party at the lodge for the children of the Arnette House. The party was primarily funded through donations from members, the OLEOs, and a minor contribution from our lodge's State Beacon fund.

During the month of November, members of Ocala Elks and the OLEOs shopped for stocking stuffer-type gifts, which were presented to the children at the party. We served a variety of foods, including



hamburgers, chicken wings, tater tots, and pizza, complemented by

cookies and treats for dessert. The evening was enlivened with dancing to music by DJ Mike Miller and several entertaining games. A highlight of the event was a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, thanks to George Cooke PER and his wife Agnes, who used their special connection to make this happen.

The Arnette House, a 501c (3) charitable non-profit organization, plays a crucial role in supporting atrisk youth and families. They provide a 24-hour emergency youth shelter for children aged 10-17 and operate a state-certified group home. The organization's impactful work is heavily reliant on community contributions, emphasizing the importance of events like ours to make these children feel valued and supported.

Thanks to all the members and OLEOs who donated gifts, funds, and their time, the party was a huge success, and the children had a great time. I would also like to thank Lodge Esquire Keith Gage, who served as this year's Arnette House Christmas party chairperson.

Between January and the end of March, we will expand our lodge's charitable footprint as we launch our

His House for Her and Kimberly's Center projects. If you would like to participate by volunteering, please let me know. I have provided my contact information below.

Cheers,

David Clayton – Leading Knight Email: davidelk286@gmail.com

M: (404)409-9785

Equas audae con enectusda sectem nis moditasperum dis



LODGE 286 NEWS

Hello, my Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year and we are hoping that 2024 continues to bring growth and success to our Lodge as we continue to improve and grow as a Lodge and a family. In the coming year we are going to be doing many things to help get back on track and increase not only our membership but our presence in the community. We have made huge strides in making our Lodge the best in the North Central District and will continue to do so in 2024.

We had many great events in December, and you can get all if that info in my ER letter being sent to you. We did have a very successful Pre-New Years Eve party on

December 29. We had a great attendance of more than 125 members and guests, and everyone had an exciting time.

The catering department did an excellent job in December with Holiday parties. Big thanks to Linda Butler Molten and Ashley Pauley on a fantastic job.

January will see some changes. The Queen of Hearts drawing is moving to Friday night. We are hoping for an increase in ticket sales and as a result the jackpot will grow faster. Our Tuesday night Bar Bingo continues to be well attended. Wednesday's trivia night could use some more participation.

We are sending out a members' survey to all present as well as former members. These will be confidential but will be read carefully so that we can know what you are thinking and would or would not like to see continue. We are doing this for many reasons. We want to get our membership numbers back up. We are going to make Ocala lodge the star of the North Central District. To do this we have to increase membership as well as correct any problems we are having. Lodge Leadership has been in close contact with district and state leadership on ways to keep Ocala on course. We have and are using their guidance to make corrections as needed. Thank you, Colleen Gallant, in your guidance in this.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our Elk of the month for January, I have never nominated an individual for Elk of the Month more than once. However, I have never seen a person work harder at this Lodge than Linda Butler Molten. She has helped the catering department run flawlessly. For this reason, Linda Butler Molten is the Elk of the month for January. Thank you, Linda, and congratulations.

Remember my Brothers and Sisters, Elks Care Elks Share.

Fraternally Yours, Mike Miller Exalted Ruler

VETERANS



Happy New Year to all. Hope this year brings you all you hope for along with good health and happiness. The month of December was busy for the Veterans Committee. Starting with a Christmas party at the Ft. McCoy Veterans Home in connection with the OLEOs and Santa. Everyone attending enjoyed the delicious snack and always fun to see if you get a special door

prize.

Then we had the annual Christmas party for the Veterans we have served this past year along with the agencies that make it possible for us to keep



lending a helping hand. Also all the volunteers that helped in various events where we represented the Elks. I couldn't do anything without their help. a big Thank You to them. We had a record number in attendance this year. It was a fun time with great food and gifts for all the Veterans in attendance.









We only took one Veteran shopping using the Welcome Home Kit program. Jeff E. (Army) was a very pleasant young man that was a trooper with the shopping. He was still recovering from some surgery, but wasn't going to let that stop him. He was excited to be able to start making thing more like a home.

I want to Thank all that have supported the

Veterans this last year and look forward to being able to reach more Veterans with your help in 2024.

Remember the Elk's Pledge, "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Pam Kinard - Veterans Service Chairperson

FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN THERAPY SERVICES



Hoping you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! The holiday season is one of my favorite times of the year, not only because of the festive lights and joyful decorations that go up around town, but also because FECTS graciously gives us the opportunity to purchase gifts for the children we work with, as well as their siblings. Being able to play Santa Claus and hand pick out gifts, wrap, and deliver them brings so much

joy and happiness to the children and families we serve, and to me as well! This year we were also able to give out gift cards to families to use as needed thanks to the generosity of past state president wives, friends, and FLOE. Thank you all so much for the continued support of FECTS! Without all of you, none of this would be possible! Attached are a few photos of one of my patients Chloe opening her



Christmas gifts from FECTS. I just recently started working with Chloe in November, and she has already started to show growth and improvement in many areas! I look forward to another great year with FECTS, and sharing more with you about the wonderful families and kiddos I get to see for occupational therapy! Thanks again!

Pearl Johnson Henry, OTR/L Occupational Therapist

m: **(352) 789-9527** f: **(352)** 329-1210

w: htttps://floridaelks.org/childrene: pjohnson@floridaelkscts.org





HARRY ANNA TRUST & ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION



Many of you know that I have been the ENF Chairman for the Ocala Lodge for several years now. As such I've kept my eye on the donations amounts making sure that we meet our goals. When we do reach our goals we qualify for grants that you read about in David Clayton's articles. These grants we use in our community to help fund many worthy projects. What you may not know is that we receive back in excess of four times what we donate.

I had never really focused of the scholarship side of ENF until this year. I agreed to serve as the District Scholarship Chairman.

Now imagine you are opening your email account and you find this email from the Grand Lodge "You have been appointed as a District MVS Coordinator for District No. 1760, effective immediately. As a District MVS Coordinator, you'll judge and appoint other judges for your District ENF MVS Scholarship Competition." This is what happened to me on December 29th. I really didn't know what to expect, I just dove in. After reviewing the information and reading some of the applications, I had and idea what needed to be done. I reached out to a couple of our lodge Ocala members and then recruited two more Judges, one each from two different lodges in our district.

There are 35 applications that have made it to the district level to be judged, by January 10th. After reading all 35 I can tell you that there are no two the same. I can also tell you that so far this has been an eye opening experience and given me an opportunity to see into a small portion of where our donations to the Elks National foundation go. The applications came from 20 female and 15 male high school seniors, all schools in the North Central District. Ocala Lodge had six students in the judging.

There are multiple areas that we are being asked to judges these young people in. Academics & Financial are both automatically scored. Judges are scoring with a scale of 1 - 10 for Community Service, Extracurricular Activities, Honors and Awards, Employment and finally an Essay. Reviewing and judging these applications is not as easy as you think, deciding on the scale we were given how someone you have never met stacks up.

Thanks for your donations that support these scholarships and the youth that will be the leaders of our country some day.





Emery Shepard ENF Chairman It's a new calendar year but in the Elks it's the final quarter of our year. As we close in on the end of the year, Elks National Foundation and the Harry Anna Trust donation numbers need a push. Last year we were number 1 in the state for per capita with Harry Anna and currently we are number 9. As for ENF our goal to meet is \$3,000 (\$4.80 per member) as of this article we are \$946 short at just \$2,054. Consider a one time donation or joining other Ocala Member that are in the ENF Fidelity Club at https://www.elks.org/ENF/FidelityClub.cfm. To support Harry Anna, you can make one time or monthly (sustaining donor) donation at https://web.charityengine.net/floridaelks-donate



OLEO



Greetings,

Happy New Year to everyone. Each new year, we have before us a brand-new book containing 365 blank pages. Let us fill them with all the forgotten things from last year; the words we forgot to say, the love we forgot to show and the charity and kindness we forgot to offer. Forget the negative and accentuate the positive this year.

December was a very busy month for the OLEOS. We participated with Pam Kinard to host a Christmas party for the Ft. McCoy Veterans. They were many desserts and gifts for the veterans. Many of our OLEOS also helped at the Sunday Breakfast with Santa.

Our Christmas Dinner Dance was a huge success.

The food was delicious with great service. The band, "Salt Run Creek", provided us with wonderful music that evening. Some people were even dancing in their seats. Our chairperson for this event was Linda Crawford.

That evening we had our drawings for our Christmas tree raffles. One of the nice things about the winners were that they were all in attendance. Michele Maier won the Purple/Gold Tree; Gary Smith won the Elegant Tree and Jack Mattheus won the Red Family Christmas Tree. Seeing the joy and

success.

surprise on their faces made it all worthwhile. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets. This will go a long way with our charities. And a "big" thank you to all the OLEOS who donated and gave their time to making this such a success. See pictures attached.

Our OLEO Christmas Luncheon was held at Betty Kutz's home. We had a great attendance and the food was delicious and the gift exchange was fun. Thank you, Betty, for hosting.

Coming up on Saturday, February 10, 2024 will be the OLEO Valentines Sweetheart Dinner Dance. Our music for the evening will be "Trish and the Party Train". Everyone had a fantastic evening with them last year so we expect an even bigger party. The tickets for the evening will be \$50 each and will include assigned seating in the lounge and dining room. Tickets will be available by January 8. See attached flyer for information.

Saturday, March 9, 2024, we will be having Bunco. Write this down on your calendars now. Saturday, May 18, 2024, we prepared to be entertained at our Variety Show. Adella Ashton is chairperson and may be contacting you to entertain at the show.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 5:30 PM. Come and bring a guest.

Happy January birthdays to: Karen Wisdom (7th); Tracy Armstrong (12th); Suzanne Ingrao (15th); and Darla Smith (31st).

Sincerely, Sandra Harton, President

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE LODGE

North Central District



State President's Visit January 26-28 2024 Winter Garden Lodge 2165

Saturday, January 27th

Celebrating all January Birthdays. Free Dance Lesson 5:30. Party starts 6:30 pm.



Complimentary cake and ice cream for everyone!





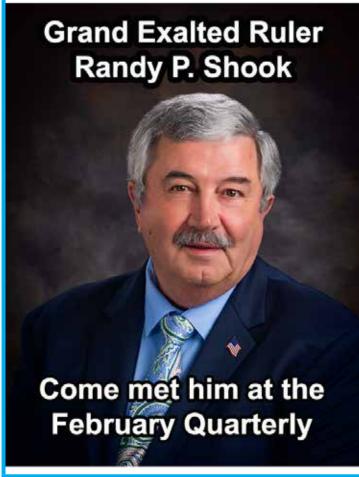
FREE
DANCE LESSON
IN THE LOUNGE
5:30 - 6:30 PM
Open Dancing
& Karaoke
6:30 - 9:30 PM





DJ Music & Karaoke by *Dennis*

Ocala Elks Lodge 702 NE 25th Ave, Ocala, FL





Florida Elks Youth Camp 24175 SE Hwy 450 Umatilla, Florida

February 8-10, 2024

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE LODGE



OCALA LADIES OF ELKS

"VALENTINE'S SWEETHEART BALL"

OCALA ELKS LODGE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024

DRESSY ATTIRE

\$50.00 Per Person

Reserved Seating in Lounge and Dining Room

Doors Open 5 PM

Dinner is served in the dining room

between 5:30-7:30 PM

HIGH ENERGY GROUP TO GET YOU IN THE MOOD

"TRISH AND THE PARTY TRAIN"

FOR TICKETS: Linda Crawford 352-572-9783, Sandra Harton 352-895-3042 or Rusty at the Elks Lodge



Registration is now open for this summer click here to start

Session 1: June 9-June 15
Session 2: June 16-June 22
Session 3: June 23 – June 29
Session 4: June 30 – July 6
Session 5: July 7 – July 13
Session 6: July 14 – July 20
Session 7: July 21 – July 27

Session 7 is free for Millitary Families





March 15-17 2024

Rosen Centre
9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819
This seminar is especially designed for:

Exalted Rulers, Secretaries, Leading Knights and Treasurers

Also encouraged to attend are:

Secretary/Treasurer Office Assistants, Board of Director Members and House Committee all members can attend

"THE LODGE, YOUR SECOND HOME"

ELECTED LODGE OFFICERS



Exalted Ruler Mike Miller 352-598-5820 286per@gmail.com



Leading Knight
David Clayton
404-409-9785
clayton.david.tpa@gmail.com



Loyal Knight Michael Saxe 516-732-5867 msaxe01@gmail.com



Lecturing Knight Jimmy Kash <u>kathrynkash@yahoo.com</u> 352-266-6520



Secretary Sarah Graf 352-732-7091 Secretary@elks286.org

APPOINTED OFFICERS



Treasurer Connie Davis 352-239-0711 treasurer@elks286.org



Esquire Keith Gage 309-855-9197 Kgage1@juno.com



Chaplian Bobbi Kassick 908-295-2370 bobbikass@yahoo.com



Inner Guard David Breitenbecker 352-351.5618 tbirdallso@yahoo.com



Tiler Kathy Barkley 352-237-0718 <u>chatkat98@aol.com</u>



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



SPJ Judge Dan Hicks 352-351-3353

TRUSTEES & LODGE ADVISOR



One Year Ken Davis 352-816-5781 kdavisauto@aol.com



Two Year Dennis Rose 352-629-0837 dennisrose1@earthlink.net



Three Year Alan May 352-239-0588 cmmay51@yahoo.com



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



Five Year Wayne Argo 352-361-4650 argo78@embarqmail.com



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

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Committee	Chairman	Email
House	Brenda Cornelius	bmsrichar@yahoo.com
Flag Day	Alan May	cmmay51@yahoo.com
Veterans	Pam Kinard	pammanella@ embarqmail.com
Investigations	Ken Devilling	sram814@aol.com
Co-Chairman	David Morrill	DLMRacing@gamil.com
Elks Memorial Day	Bobbi Kassick	bobbikass@yahoo.com
Entertainment	Kathy Barkley	chatkat98@aol.com
Sporting Clays	Ken Davis	kdavisauto@aol.com
Soccer Shoot	Ken Davis	kdavisauto@aol.com
Hoop Shoot	Need	

Committee	Chairman	Email
Widow's Appreciation	Mike Miller	286per@gmail.com
Scholarships	Tracy Stockel	tstockel@hotmail.com
Grant Committee	George Griffin, III David Clayton	clayton.david.tpa@gmail.com
Special Events	Dennis Rose	dennisrose1@earthlink.net
Elks National Foundation	Emery Shepard	Emery@Elks286.org
Harry Anna Trust	Emery Shepard	Emery@Elks286.org
Presiding Justice	Dan Hicks	Call 352-351-3353
Lodge Mediator	Ron Slonaker	rsw@slonakerlawfirm.com
Lodge Auditor	Pat Gilbert	gilbertp1@cox.net

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS

Secretary Phone	352-732-7091 Ext 1
Lounge	352-732-7091 Ext 2
Catering	352-732-7091 Ext 3
Treasurer	352-239-0711

OCALA 286	2023-2024
ENF	\$2,054.00
Harry Anna	\$13,183.00
Harry-Anna Sustaining	13 members \$2,202.00

Click here to sign up now for Harry-Anna

You can become an ENF sustaining donor,

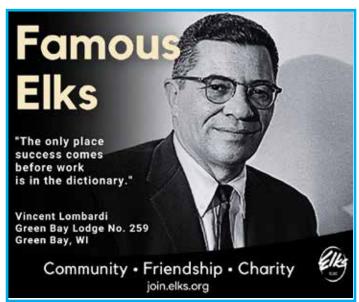
just click on the Elk or go to elks.org/enf

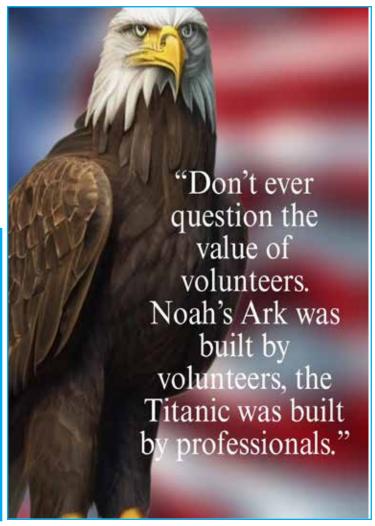
Our ENF goal this year is \$4.80 per member

OCALA ELKS WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Secretary	Monday-Friday	1:00-5:00PM
Catering Office	Monday-Friday	8:00AM-1:00PM
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	Lounge Open Dining Room	4:00-9:00PM 5:00-8:00PM
BINGO	In the Lounge	5:30-8:00PM
Wednesday <i>Trivia</i>	Lounge Open Dining Menu Dining Room	4:00-9:00PM 5:00-8:00PM <i>Closed</i>
2nd & 4th Thursday	Meeting Nights Lounge Open	5:30-7:00PM and after the meeting
Friday Queen of Hearts	Lounge Open Dining Room	4:00-11:00PM 5:00-8:00PM
Saturday	Lounge Dining Room	4:00-10:00PM 5:00-8:00PM
Sunday	Closed	







JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

John G. Lorito	01
Steven F. McWhirter	01
Robert F. Schlegel, Jr.	02
H. Alan Tripp	02
Kim E. Wolters	02
Larry D. Huennekens	03
Richard L. Eubanks	04
Penny Canamas	05
Frank Deluca	05
Dudley P. Kortright	05
Ronald Keith Smith	05
R. Susan Smith	06
Joseph Warren Bullard	07
Robert John Martel	08
Victor J. Musleh	
James F. Owings	
Lanford T. Slaughter, Jr.	10
Victoria P. Ehlers	

Billie J. Johnson	12
Leon E. Norregaard	12
Lori Parada	12
Len Christopherson	13
Thomas M. Needham	13
Michael A. Klackle	14
Robert W. Crawford, PER	16
C. Dale Borrowman	17
James L. Lucas, Sr.	
Susan F. Daugherty	
Wesley A. Wheeler	19
David Woolf	19
Larry R. Railing	20
Michael Elliott	
James Moxon Jackson	
Jody A. Wilson	
Katherine A. Woodbury	
Gloria Jean Etheredge	24

Kenneth W. Kelley	26
Rocky Dean Rowe	
Richard P. Arnold	27
Robert C. Fortier	27
Donald R. Baker	29
Jerry R. Bunn	29
Earon T. Dahl	29
Russel T. Dingman	29
Roberta France	29
William Randal Kalfs	29
Lamar W. Knepp	29
Larry Lee Mack	29
Ronald G. Stewart	29
Debra Poole	30
Craig C. Carpenter	31
Allen D. Crabtree	31
Steven D. Redrick	31

It Pays to Attend Lodge Meetings				
Date Drawings Amount Member/Winner				nner
12/142023	Previous Meeting	\$50.00	Pat Gilbert	Present
12/14/2023	12/14/2023 50/50 \$57.00 Bobbi Kassick			





Ocala Lodge Logo shirts are now available for you to order. These shirts are \$32 each for sizes small through extra large and \$34 for sizes 2XL and up. The net proceeds goes to our ENF donation.

You can place your order by contacting David Clayton or Pat Gilbert.

This is a great way to show your lodge spirit and benefit ENF at the same time.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total Members	Delinquent Members	Percentage Delinquent
625	52	8

A THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORS



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Edward Jones



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SHAMROCK SECURITY SYSTEMS, LLC Post Office Box 783 (352) 629-3223 Ocala, Florida 34478 Clark Yandle Managing Director Clark@shamrock.com Since 1987 EF20001352



luckedawayfarm@yahoo.com



Jody Wilson Construction, Inc. Aluminum Contractor Jody A. Wilson

Lie. Contractor's # CRC029272

P.O. Box 1377 Silver Springs, FL 34489

(352) 622-4640 Mobile: 812-8000 Fax: 401-3792

IEMBERSHIP A PRIORITY

Attention

Please remember outside food or alcohol are not allowed in the lodge





OCALA ELKS NO 286

702 NE 25th Ave Ocala, Florida 34470

A FREE MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PRST STD NON PROFIT U.S. POSTAGE PAID EARNEST MAIL

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January		
Thursday	4th	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00PM
Thursday	11th	Lodge Meeting 7:00PM
Thursday	25th	Lodge Meeting 7:00PM
Saturday	27th	Birthday Bash

February		
Thursday	1st	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00PM
Thursday	8th	Lodge Meeting 7:00PM
Thursday	22nd	Lodge Meeting - Elections

North Central District	
State President Visit Winter Garden Lodge 2165	01/26-28/2024

OLEOs		
OLEO Meeting	1/11/2024	
Valentines Day	12/10/2024	

Florida State Elks Association		
State Soccer Shoot	1/06/2024	
State Hoop Shoot	2/17/2024	
February Quarterly	2/8 -10/2024	
Officer Training Orlando Florida - Rosen Centre	3/15-17/2024	
State Convention Orlando Florida - Rosen Centre	5/23-25/2024	

January Entertainment			
Friday 5th	John Dixon Band	Top notch classic, danceable, upbeat country music.	
Friday12th	Dino	Music from the 50's to the 90's	
Friday 19th	2 for Show	Popular music from the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's	
Friday 26th	Tim Hargis		

