



**GREATER PINE ISLAND ELKS #2781**

**5630 PINE ISLAND ROAD**

**BOKEELIA, FL 33922**

**THE ELKHORN**

**April 2024**

**EXALTED RULER**

**LODGE OFFICERS**

John Hotzfield PER

**LEADING KNIGHT**

Tommy Kramer

**LOYAL KNIGHT**

Bob Hoogstra, PER

**LECTURING KNIGHT**

Nancy Di Bennetto

**SECRETARY**

Donna Stone

**TREASURER**

Carl Jervis

**TILER**

Tom Kopec

**ESQUIRE**

Jack Rovaldi, PER

**CHAPLAIN**

Terry Smayda

**INNER GUARD**

Lorre Thibeault

**LODGE ADVISOR**

Leroy Lippmann PDDGER

**MEDIATOR**

Leroy Lippmann PDDGER

**TRUSTEES**

5 Year—Lee LeMay

4 Year— Ben Madey

3 Year — Glen Tiedeman

2 Year— George Smith, PER

1 Year — Denise Hoogstra



**Message from the Exalted Ruler John Hotzfield**

I look forward to the upcoming year serving you, The Greater Pine Island Elks Lodge #2781 members, as your Exalted Ruler. It is an honor I do not take lightly and promise to do my best to lead our lodge that reflects the values of charity, brotherly love, justice, and fidelity of our Order of the Elks.

This leads me to the goals I have for the upcoming year:

**Goal #1 - We need a building folks.** The VFW, Salty Girls Cafe, Eagles Nest, Pine Island Baptist Church, St. James City Civic Association and Cape Coral Lodge have all been gracious to help us out and we are thankful for their hospitality. But we need a building. Working with our Building Committee to see that is achieved this year is my goal as it was last year's Exalted Ruler Judy's goal from last year. We have run into delays but not because our ER and Building Committee did not do their jobs. They were on top of every one of their deadlines. But we are not in control of others and so we will do our best this year to see a new lodge built to **GATHER THE HERD.**

**Goal #2 - Maintain our membership numbers and see if we can't bring them back up.** Hurricane Ian didn't just crush buildings but a lot of people's lives here on Pine Island were changed forever. Let's just not rebuild a building but our Herd as well. The chips are down but it's those who work together to stick through the downtimes that will come out of this closer and stronger than ever. That's the message we get to share with our members and potential members.

**Goal #3. Start preparing to open our doors.** My goal this year is to work closely with the House Committee to come up with a plan of action so when the building is ready, we will be ready to serve up a **QUALITY** experience for our members.

**Goal #4. Continue our outreach to the Pine Island community and opportunities to support efforts like the Harry Anna Foundation.**

**Goal #5. Continue to build a strong financial foundation for our lodge.** We already have a strong financial foundation that our past leaders have established for us and once the lodge is constructed and equipped, it is the goal of the leadership to be debt free. This won't change on my watch.

**Goal #6. Train new leaders.** We have very good leaders established in our lodge. But who is going to follow up after them? Who is going to lead our lodge in the future? My goal is to get to know you all and prepare you for taking over future leadership positions by pairing you up with our current leaders. That way when a leader moves on from their position, they can feel good about passing the torch onto the next person. We have great people in our lodge who are talented and gifted...sometimes they just need to feel invited to step up and share those talents.

In the wild, when the Elk herd works together, they prosper. So will we as we work together to make 2024-25 another year to carry on the great tradition of **SHARING and CARING.**



**CONGRATULATIONS 2024-2025**

**OFFICERS OF THE GRATER PINE ISLAND ELKS LODGE**

**FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:**

**LECTURING KNIGHT NANCY DIBENEDETTO , INNER GUARD  
LORRE THIBEAULT**

**LEADING KNIGHT TOMMY KRAMER, EXALTED RULER JOHN  
HOTZFIELD**

**CHAPLAIN TERRY SMAYDA, 2 YEAR TRUSTEE PER GEORGE SMITH**

**TILER TOM KOPEC, SECRETARY DONNA STONE**

**BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT**

**LOYAL KNIGHT PER BOB HOOGSTRA, 5 YEAR TRUSTEE LEE  
LEMAY**

**ESQUIRE JACK ROVALDI, 4 YEAR TRUSTEE BEN MADEY**

**TREASURER CARL JERVIS,**

**LODGE ADVISOR PDD LEROY LIPPMANN**

## A Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

### RANDY P. SHOOK



#### Teamwork relies on communication, cooperation

Officers, you are now part of the team. Strengthen it by building relationships with one another. This is an opportunity to make new friends and learn from experience during your service to your Lodge. The Exalted Ruler cannot do everything alone; you should be proactive by seeking opportunities to contribute to the advancement and success of your Lodge. Those opportunities will allow you to develop your own leadership and management skills. Approach all your activities with a positive frame of mind. Goodwill towards others will be extremely invaluable in the coming years when you may be relying on them to help. The diverse skills demonstrated by you and your fellow Officers will enable your Lodge to succeed and prosper. As you lead and support Lodge activities, please remember that your actions create a perception of who we are. As Officers, we must be exemplars of Brotherly Love. Embrace these concepts when working alongside other Officers and Members, and you will advance the interests of your Lodge within your community. Use the resources provided by Grand Lodge, your state association, and your district. April begins with change. New Officers must get to work at once. It is time to plan and pass a budget for your Lodge that each committee can work with. This budget must keep your Lodge financially sound throughout the new Lodge year. Get all the Officers, Board of Directors, and committee members together to review your Lodge budget. Discuss any ideas to make your Lodge programs even better. Plan your goals for the Elks National Foundation, your State Major Project, and any other community activities that your Lodge may be involved with. Brainstorm with your Members and listen to suggestions. Membership is the life blood of our Order. Work with your appointed Membership Retention Chair as a team. All Members are a part of your membership committee. It is important to reach out to delinquent Members to bring them back into your Lodge. It may only take one phone call. There is a chance that by speaking with that person, you may get them to renew their dues and become an active Member again. The Lodge Secretary plays a very important role for Members who were dropped for nonpayment of dues. I encourage you to review Statute 14.180. This Statute is very clear that your Lodge Secretary shall advise the unaffiliated of his/her right to re-affiliate within 60 days. Make +1 in membership a priority during your term. Finally, appoint statutory committees. Budget to be posted by second meeting of the month. Remember, “Elks Care—Elks Share” and “We Are THE Elks.” God Bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.

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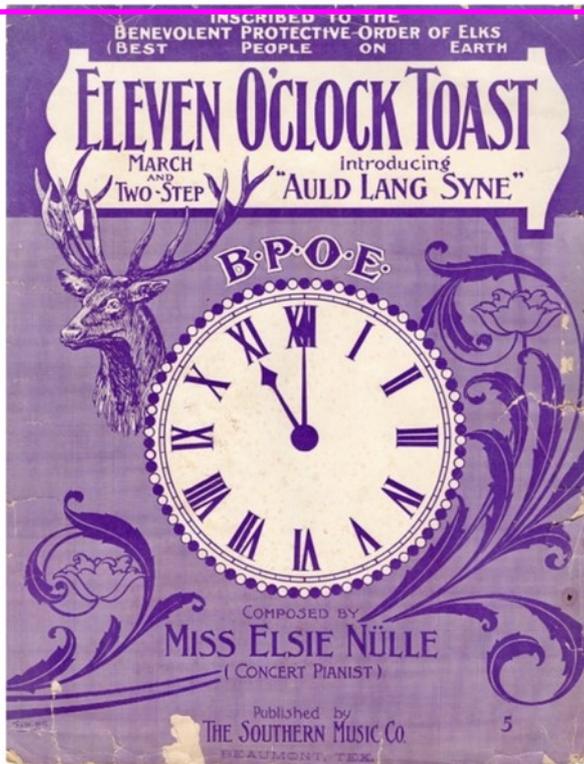
### **It's Dues Renewal Time—Have you paid your dues yet?**

#### **Thank you to everyone that have returned their payments!**

It's time again to renew your Greater Pine Islan Elks Lodge membership. The annual membership dues are only \$5.00 more than last year. All member should have received an invoice for dues in early January. If you did not receive a dues invoice contact Donna Stone @ [lunvroc@gmail.com](mailto:lunvroc@gmail.com)

When you pay your dues, PLEASE, PLEASE make sure the Secretary has your current address.





## ELEVEN O'CLOCK TOAST

YOU HAVE HEARD THE TOLLING OF 11 STROKES.  
THIS IS TO REMIND US THAT WITH ELKS,  
THE HOUR OF 11 HAS A TENDER SIGNIFICANCE.

WHEREVER ELKS MAY ROAM,  
WHATEVER THEIR LOT IN LIFE MAY BE,

WHEN THIS HOUR FALLS UPON THE DIAL OF NIGHT,  
THE GREAT HEART OF ELKDOM SWELLS AND THROBS.

IT IS THE GOLDEN HOUR OF RECOLLECTION,  
THE HOMECOMING OF THOSE WHO WANDER,  
THE MYSTIC ROLL CALL OF THOSE WHO WILL COME NO MORE.

LIVING OR DEAD,  
ELKS ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN, NEVER FORSAKEN.

MORNING AND NOON MAY PASS THEM BY,  
THE LIGHT OF DAY SINK HEEDLESSLY IN THE WEST,  
BUT ERE THE SHADOWS OF MIDNIGHT SHALL FALL,  
THE CHIMES OF MEMORY WILL BE PEALING FORTH THE FRIENDLY MESSAGE.

*"TO OUR ABSENT MEMBERS"*

# The Origin of the Toast

In regard to the Elks' 11 O'clock Toast and its origin, we have to go back long before the BPOE came into existence. One of the main contributions of Charles Richardson -- in stage name of Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian and founder of the American branch of the Jolly Corks -- was to deliver in the hands of newborn Elks the rituals and traditions of a fraternal organization started in England around 1010 A.D., the Royal and Antedeluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB), to which he belonged prior to coming to New York.

The RAOB, or Buffaloes as we shall henceforth refer to them, also practiced an 11 o'clock toast in remembrance of the Battle of Hastings in October of 1066. Following his victory, William of Normandy imported a set of rules, both martial and civil in nature, to keep control of a seething Norman-Saxon population always on the edge of a revolution.

Among those rules was a curfew law requiring all watch fires, bonfires (basically all lights controlled by private citizens that could serve as signals) to be extinguished at 11 each night. From strategically placed watchtowers that also served as early fire-alarm posts, the call would go out to douse or shutter all lights and bank all fires. This also served to discourage secret and treasonous meetings, as chimney sparks stood out against the black sky. A person away from his home and out on the darkened streets, when all doors were barred for the night, risked great peril from either evildoers or patrolling militia.

The hour of 11 quickly acquired a somber meaning, and in the centuries that followed, became the synonym throughout Europe for someone on his deathbed or about to go into battle: i.e. "His family gathered around his bed at the 11th hour," or "the troops in the trenches hastily wrote notes to their families as the 11th hour approached when they must charge over the top."

Thus, when the 15 Jolly Corks (of whom seven were not native-born Americans) voted on February 16, 1868, to start a more formal and official organization, they were already aware of an almost universally prevalent sentiment about the mystic and haunting aura connected with the nightly hour of 11, and it took no great eloquence by Vivian to establish a ritual toast similar of the of the Buffaloes at the next-to-last hour each day.

The great variety of 11 O'clock Toasts, including the Jolly Corks Toast, makes it clear that there was no fixed and official version until 1906-10. Given our theatrical origins, it was almost mandatory that the pre-1900 Elks would be expected to compose a beautiful toast extemporaneously at will. Regardless of the form, however, the custom is as old as the Elks.

At every meeting of the BPOE, and every social function, when the hour of 11:00 p.m. tolls, the Lodge conducts a charming ceremonial known as the "Eleven O'clock Toast." In fact, the clock tolling the eleventh hour is part of the BPOE official emblem and is directly behind the representation of an elk's head in the emblem of the Order.

Regular meetings of Subordinate Lodges have always been held a night. In the earlier days, they were usually held on Sunday nights and were concluded about eleven o'clock. As the participants departed, the Brothers made inquiries about the absent Brothers and expressed sympathetic interest in the causes of their absence.

It soon became a custom for some member to propose a toast to the Brothers who were not present. And in the course of time, this custom was quite generally observed whenever a group of Elks were together at eleven o'clock. Eventually, the Grand Lodge specifically provided for such a ceremony to be observed during Lodge sessions; and designated it as "The Eleven O'clock Toast". Under this provision, whenever a Lodge was in session at that hour, the regular order of business was suspended for a few moments while the Exalted Ruler recited the beautiful ritual prescribed, concluded with the words: "To our absent Brothers." Since women were permitted to join the Elks since 1995, the toast is now pronounced as "To our absent Members."

# Florida Elks Charities Unmasking Autism Gala

St. Petersburg, Florida

Saturday, April 27th



UNMASKING  
AUTISM  
GALA

The Florida State Elks  
"Unmasking Autism Gala"  
is the premier  
fundraising event for  
Florida Elks Children's  
Therapy Services

Join in the Fun!

## Florida State Elks Association State Golf Tournament Sat. April 6th and Sun. April 7th

All proceeds go to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund which supports equally our two state major projects: FL Elks Children's Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp.



<https://floridaelks.org/golf>



# TRIVIA NIGHT

MONDAYS APRIL 22ND AND 29TH



**THANK**

**YOU**

**TO THOSE**

**WHO**

**VOLUNTEERED**

**TO CLEAN UP**

**THE ELKS**

**PROPERTY**

START YOUR SUNDAY THE RIGHT  
WAY!

# Breakfast

AT THE VFW POST 4353



9AM TO 11AM  
BEST OMLETE'S ON THE  
ISLAND



THE GREATER PINE ISLAND ELKS NEEDS YOUR HELP IF  
WE ARE TO CONTINUE SERVING BREAKFAST AT THE  
VFW ON THE 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH.

WE NEED ELKS WHO CAN COOK EGGS & OMELETS

ELKS WHO CAN DELIVER THE BREAKFAST

ELKS WHO CAN WASH DISHES

ELKS WHO CAN MAKE PANCAKES & WAFFLES

TEXT JUDY IF YOU CAN HELP ON APRIL 7TH OR 21ST

425-346-7226

GREATER PINE ISLAND  
ELKS #2781  
PRESENTS



**SHOW  
ME THE  
MONEY  
WEDNESDAY  
AND  
FRIDAY NIGHTS  
6PM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION 425-346-7226

**VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT SHOW ME THE MONEY  
WE NEED CALLERS, COLLECTORS AND  
COUNTERS  
CONTACT PER JUDY HOPKINS IF YOU CAN LEND A  
HAND  
TEXT 425-346-7226**



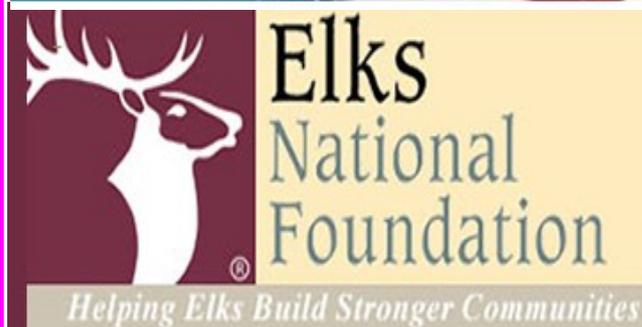
**SHOW ME THE MONEY  
ON EASTER EVE**



We would like to wish our snowbirds a safe trip home and a safe and happy summer. Thank you for supporting our lodge.

We look forward to your return in the fall.

- 01 LINDA BROWN, DEBBIE IANNUCCI
- 02 DWAYNE BLAIR, PATRICIA HART
- 04 TERRY BANDEMER, DARCY CONNER
- 05 VINCENT CAMILO
- 06 JOSEPH BLITZKO, CHRISTY HARRISON
- 07 KELLY KRICK
- 11 THOMAS MCCULLOUGH, LORRE THIBEAULT
- 12 ARTHUR MOESLER
- 13 WILLIAM POTTER
- 15 WILLIAM GARLAND
- 16 LEWIS COLLIN
- 17 ROBERT RITZ, DAN WIEDERHOLD
- 18 FRED DAMEROW]
- 19 ROLF RODTANG
- 23 NORMAN WILLEBRANDT
- 24 SILVER ANGEL, TOMMY KRAMER  
DEANNA MARTELL, JOHN WILSON
- 25 SUZANNE KRAMER
- 26 DAVID BOAL, DONALD PETTTIT
- 27 RAYMONG GEHRIG
- 28 MELVIN BRINSON, ELIZABETH DAVIS
- 29 JOHN HOTZFIELD



**DISTRICT DEPUTY CLINIC**  
**SUNDAY APRIL 21ST**  
**10AM AT THE DEEP CREEK LODGE**  
**MANDATORY –EXALTED RULER**  
**LEADING KNIGHT, SECRETARY**  
**TREASURER & CHAIRMAN OF**  
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Membership—First off, congratulations to the newly installed Officers for 2024–2025! I wish you much success this year and always. Remember, Elkdom is a journey that allows all members to continue to learn and give along the way. This journey allows us to invest in our communities through our Charity programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free, meet the needs of today's veterans, and improve the quality of life for those in need. But we need new members added to our rolls each year along with maintaining those current members. All are vital to the success of our Lodge and Elkdom in general. Our focus throughout the year will be to monitor our progress and make sure this goal can be met and that we are a 'plus one' come next March 31st. Invite a friend or family member to join our Order. It's a great way to be a part of promoting and practicing the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity

## LODGE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

AMERICANISM

AUDITING

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

DRUG AWARENESS

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

HARRY ANNA TRUST

HOOP SHOOT

INVESTIGATING

MEMBERSHIP

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

ORIENTATION

PER ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC RELATIONS

RELIEF

SCHOLARSHIPS

VETERAN SERVICES

ROB HOBMIER

DENISE HOOGSTRA

TERRY SMAYDA

PER JUDY HOPKINS

PER GEORGE SMITH

PER BOB HOOGSTRA

PER JUDY HOPKINS

CHAIR OFFICERS

PER JACK ROVALDI



### HOUSE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE IF YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF WHAT HAPPENS AT THE LODGE JOIN THIS COMMITTEE TELL YOUR ER THAT YOU WANT TO BE ON THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

# TIME TO RENEW



Don't let your membership lapse!  
Too many great things are happening at 708 and you don't want to miss the fun!

## The Elkhorne

is published by

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Editor: Judy Hopkins, PER

**All articles must be submitted as attachments to the Editor via e-mail prior to the 15th of each month:**

[juhopkins@msn.com](mailto:juhopkins@msn.com)

