



## Exalted Ruler

*Lodge 497*

### 2024-2025 Slate Of Officers

This is my first article as Exalted Ruler for some time. I want to thank all of you for putting your confidence in me and my officers for the coming year, and we will do everything we can to ensure we have a fun filled and productive one! First though, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Wayne and the rest of the officers for their leadership over the past 12 months. As they are all aware, volunteering to be leaders of this lodge is not an easy endeavor. However, they did a fantastic job, and we should all give them a pat on the back for a job well done!

My motto for this year is One Team. This means that we, as Elks, are all part of the same team and we need your help to make that vision a reality! There are so many new members that have expressed an interest in doing something more, and we certainly have plenty of places for YOU to make a difference. Volunteering for one (or more) of our causes is the single greatest way to prove to yourself that YOU are an integral part of the greatest organization in the world. Remember, YOU have the power to positively impact lives and contribute to a cause bigger than yourselves. The officers cannot do this alone, and we're counting on EACH and EVERY one of you to help make our lodge better every day.

Once again, thanks for the confidence you've instilled in your officers. We will do our best to continue showing why our lodge is the friendliest lodge in Florida.

**See You at  
the Lodge**

**Fraternally,  
Jim Rodriguez, ER**

ER **Jim Rodriguez**  
Leading Knight **Greg Eddins**  
Loyal Knight **Ingo Starke**  
Lecturing Knight **Shane Blackford**  
Secretary **Lisa Levchik**  
Treasurer **Shannon Fell**  
Esquire **Need A Volunteer**  
Tiler **Johnny Graves**  
Inner Guard **Hiram Hill**  
5 Year Trustee **Ken Burkner**  
Chaplin **Tammy Eddins**

## Welcome February New Members

New Members (in no particular order): John Corvo, Denmar Dixon, Patti Droese, Mary Garrow, Cynthia Keifer, John Samek, Stephen Shields, Taylor Thomson, David Warren, Anmarie Wright.



# Ladies of the Elks

First of all, I want to express how honored I am to take over the reins of the Ladies of Elks 497. It will be difficult to fill the shoes of our outgoing president, Jennifer Strickland, but I intend to give it my best effort! Fortunately, I have a talented board of officers with which to work. I know they will support me, and the lodge, in ways that will further the mission of the BPOE. Our group includes enthusiastic and capable members who are eager to serve this lodge in a variety of ways.

You will notice we have another raffle drawing just around the corner. LOE members have created a beautiful basket for Mother's Day. It will be put on display near the kitchen on April 4th. In it are some wonderful gifts: wine, chocolates, Walmart gift cards, Chillout Cryospa gift certificate; custom-made 3D Elks items, and much more. The highlight of the collection is a ring which is pictured below. It is set in 14K white gold and contains three princess cut diamonds with twenty-eight round cut diamonds of different sizes. Total weight of the stones is .99 carats. The appraised value of the ring is \$2,800. What a GREAT Mother's Day gift it would make!!

The drawing will take place on Thursday, May 2nd at 7:00pm during

our monthly LOE meeting, just in time for Mother's Day. Tickets will be sold by LOE volunteers each week during Bingo and on Taco Tuesday. In addition, you can purchase tickets any time from the bartenders. They cost \$1 each or six for \$5. All proceeds from the raffle support our lodge, local charities, the Florida Elks Children Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp so **please be generous!**

This month, several L.O.E. members will travel to the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla for the Florida Ladies of Elks Weekend Retreat. I'm certain they will return refreshed and full of new and exciting ideas for fundraising for our charities along with fun activities to host at Lodge 497.

If you are a female Elk or the spouse of an Elk, I would like to extend an invitation to you. Please be our guest at our next meeting on Thursday, April 4 at 7:00pm in the 3rd floor meeting room. Come see for yourself what a great group of gals we are! It is a great place to make new friends and have fun being involved in the lodge. I hope to see you there!!

**Jamie Ferbezar**  
LOE President

Exalted Ruler	Jim Rodriguez
Leading Knight	Greg Eddins
Loyal Knight	Ingo Starke
Lecturing Knight	Shane Blackford
Secretary	Lisa M. Levchik
Treasurer	Shannon Fell
Esquire	<b>Need A Volunteer</b>
Tiler	Johnny Graves
Chaplain	Tammy Eddins
Inner Guard	Hiram Hill
Presiding Justice	John Unzicker
Lodge Advisor	Toni Palmer

BOD Chairman	TBD
5 Year Trustee	Ken Burkner
4 Year Trustee	Debra Patroni
3 Year Trustee	Dan Smith
2 Year Trustee	Paul Ross
1 Year Trustee	OPEN

Accident Prevention	Ramsey Landry
Americanism	CK Dupuis
Asst. Dock Master	Dave Dalton
Auditing	Cathy Hendrix
Blood Bank	Celeste Whisenant
Club Manager	David Christian
Community Activities	Ron Christian
Dock Master	David Dalton
Drug Awareness	Sandra Hansen
Entertainment	Celeste Whisenant
Flag Day	Robert Randall
Harry-Anna	Chris Wells
Hoof Prints	Steve Dupuis
Hoop Shoot	Clyde Busbee
Investigation	Ron Castle
Lapsation	Shelli Branch
LOE President	Jamie Ferbezar
Maintenance	Will "Dude" Hausmann
Marketing	Steve Dupuis
Mediator	Ramsey Landry
Membership	Lisa Levchik
Memorial Service	Beryle Farmer
Nat'l. Foundation	Sandy Milburn
Nat'l Vet. Service	Pam McGinty
Orientation	Cap Pratt
Therapy Services	Chris Wells
Training	Vacant
Under 40	Slater Dance
Webmaster	Steve Dupuis
Youth Camp	Larry Bragg



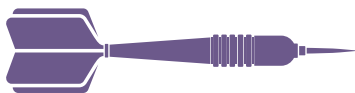


# Past Exalted Rulers (PERs)

Our Elk out front has seen better days, after all he is over 100 years old. Your PER Association has ordered a replacement ELK which should arrive in May. This Elk has a different stance and should keep people off it. There will be a concrete pad with a platform in front for pictures. DO NOT climb on the ELK or the platform! Cameras will be watching.

Next month, May 22-25, 2024, is the Florida State Convention in Orlando at the Rosen Center. You should think about going, the Convention is open to all Elks in Good Standing. More information can be found at <https://floridaelks.org/state-convention>. Be well and have FUN...

## Ken 'KB' Branch Past Exalted Rulers



# Dart League



Thanks to everyone who participated this year, we welcome everyone to join in next season!

# Florida Elks Youth Camp June 16th-22nd, 2024 Open for Registration



The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, would like to invite your child to our summer youth camp. The camp is located in Umatilla, Florida and available for boys and girls between the ages of 9 through 13. Our week is June 16-22 Transportation to the camp is being provided by Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge, #497 for NWD Bus. This bus is provided by the Elks Lodges of the Northwest District.

Permission to ride on the bus **must be obtained from the representative** of the lodge that you are in contact with. The deadline for applying is March 1, 2024 For information and application information, please contact:

**Larry Bragg**  
850-380-9275  
[spot476@yahoo.com](mailto:spot476@yahoo.com)

## Elks Care

A heartfelt thank you to the 26 donors who showed up on a cold, blustery February day to donate blood. We collected 27 units which has the potential to save 81 lives! We are grateful for the donors who rolled up their sleeves and shared the gift of life-the epitome of "Elks care, Elks share." Thank you for continuously making the blood drives so successful.

**- Celeste Whisenant**

## Honor Roll

**Blood Drive  
Sunday, February 18**

ABE SINGH	EDWARD SANDERS	KAREN KRIEGL
ALEC BREAUD	EDWARD ZAMBETTI	KAREN YOUNG
ANDRES ALONSO JR	FRANCES POWELL	KENNETH BRANCH
BRUCE HOLLADAY	GINAH ERTZ	MICHAEL DLUGOS
CARL ARNOLD JR	JOHN HOBAN	WERTZ MICHAEL
GRAVES CATHY	JOHN OERTING	RICKEY WHISENANT
CHARLES TUGWELL	JOHNNY GRAVES JR	STEPHEN HENDRIX
DEBORAH	JULIAN LOY	SUSANNE HOBAN
CAMPANELLA	KAREN HENDRIX	WILLIAM GRINSELL



# Elks Having Fun, Karaoke Night!





# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>Bingo</b> 6:00 PM	2 <b>Taco Tuesday</b> 5:00 - 7:00 PM	3	4 <b>PER Meeting</b> 6:30 PM  <b>LOE Meeting</b> 7:00 PM 3rd Floor Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	5 <b>DINNER</b>  <b>The Koolerators</b> (Paul & Jeff) 6:00 - 10:00 PM	
7 <b>BREAKFAST</b> 9:00AM - 1:00PM	8 <b>LOE Officer Mtg</b> 10:00 AM Library  <b>Bingo</b> 6:00 PM	9 <b>Taco Tuesday</b> 5:00 - 7:00 PM  <b>New Member Interviews 6PM</b>	10	11 <b>Lodge Meeting</b> 7:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	12 <b>BUNCO</b>  <b>DINNER</b> <b>Soul Man</b> James Proctor 6:00 - 10:00 PM	13 
14 <b>BREAKFAST</b> 9:00AM - 1:00PM	15 <b>Bingo</b> 6:00 PM	16 <b>Taco Tuesday</b> 5:00 - 7:00 PM	17	18 <b>BOD Meeting &amp; Governing Body</b> 6:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	19 <b>DINNER</b>  <b>Platinum Premier Duo</b> (Misty & Loren) 6:00 - 10:00 PM	20
21 <b>BREAKFAST</b> 9:00AM - 1:00PM	22 <b>Bingo</b> 6:00 PM	23 <b>Taco Tuesday</b> 5:00 - 7:00 PM  <b>New Member Orientation 6PM</b>	24	25 <b>Lodge Meeting &amp; Initiation</b> 7:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	26 <b>BUNCO</b>  <b>DINNER</b> <b>BangARang Duo</b> 6-10 PM (Billy & Joanna)	27
28 <b>BRUNCH</b> 9:00AM - 1:00PM	29 <b>Bingo</b> 6:00 PM	30 <b>Taco Tuesday</b> 5:00 - 7:00 PM				

## MOTOWN NIGHT SATURDAY APRIL 6TH

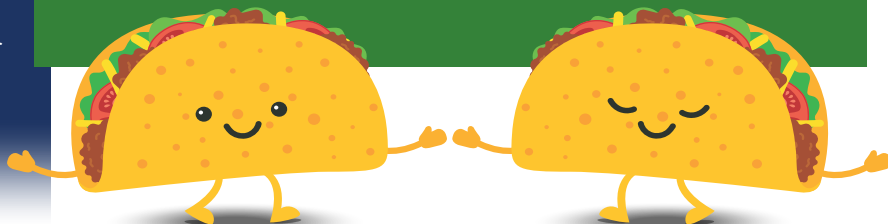
Live Motown band,  
**"GROOVE CONTROL"**  
 Dinner-Baked Chicken, Pulled Pork, Sides,  
 and Dessert served 6-7PM

60s or Motown themed dress highly encouraged. Door prizes for best theme dressed couple, and also male and female. Elk members may now purchase tickets for their non-Elk guests. Reminder that Elk members are responsible for their guests and guests may not purchase liquor.

## TACO TUESDAY

Just Show Up...  
**We Can Always Use Help!**

There's a Signup List at the Lodge as well...



"Ask me how to earn 4.99% APY on your money!"



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## Elks Do's and Don'ts

*No food brought into the Lodge on  
Bingo night, or any other when food is  
being served. Scheduled events i.e.  
birthday parties ect. are OK.*

- *Popcorn will not be served when we are serving food in the Lodge.*
- *All guests must be signed in by a member and can NOT pay for liquor.*
- *No liquor will be brought in or taken from the Lodge.*
- *Doors are not to be left open for anyone to walk inside.*



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# From the Secretary

Everyone should have paid their dues. Beginning April 1st the readers will be swapped out and you will no longer be able to gain access to the lodge with your tan card. If you paid by March 27th your cards were mailed via bulk mail. If you have not paid, you will need to pay and pick up your cards at the Lodge because you missed the bulk mail out.

Please review the applications for prospective new members that you propose before submitting them to the Membership Committee. Make sure they are filled out legibly and completely. They must be signed/dated by the Proposer and the Applicant and we must have a middle initial for the background check. There is also a \$200 application fee which needs to be turned in with the application. We cannot process until everything is complete. Please keep in mind that it can take 4- 6 weeks to complete the process of getting initiated depending on when you turn in the application.

## April

**Interviews:** Tuesday, Apr 9th on the 2nd floor beginning at 5:30pm. Please sign in on the sign-up sheet by the library.


**Orientation:** Tuesday, Apr 23th 3rd floor 6pm.  
**Initiation Meeting:** Thursday, Apr 25th, Meet on the 2nd floor at 6:15pm for further instructions.

**Lisa Levchik**  
SecretaryElks497@gmail.com

Office Hours Mon & Thurs 1-5pm

<b>Club Hours</b>	Mon-Thurs : <b>Noon - Til</b>	Phone: <b>(850) 932-4444</b>
	Friday : <b>Noon - Til</b>	Secretary: <b>(850) 932-8050</b>
	Saturday : <b>Noon - Til</b>	Reservations: <b>(850) 932-4444</b>
	Sunday : <b>Noon - Til</b>	Club Manager: <b>beach.elks497@yahoo.com</b>
		<b>www.elks.org/Lodges/home.cfm?Lodgenumber=0497</b>

**Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks**  
P.O. Box 551  
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Please attend Lodge meetings.  
Project 50 Percent: One meeting a month, 12 hours a year. It's not too much to ask.

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