

Sebring Elk of the Month January-June 2024

June 2024

Elk of the month is Clara A. Fonseca. When Clara was 14, her father moved his family of six from Cuba to New York City. After finishing High School Clara took a job in bookkeeping for a large company. She married in 1963 and had two daughters, Cris and Ely. They moved to Miami, FL in 1972, where she got her real estate license. Clara sold real estate, owned a real estate title insurance company, and sold heavy equipment to construction companies in Venezuela. In 1974 her son Henry was born.

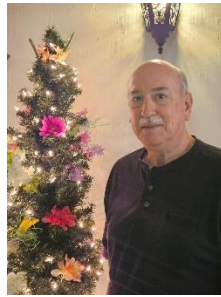
Clara loves to travel. She has visited Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Spain, Portugal, Italy, China, Hong Kong, and Newfoundland. Clara has also traveled across the USA including Alaska and Hawaii. Clara moved to Sebring in 2021 then joined the Elks in 2022. She moved in with her daughter Elaine who has recently passed. Her Elks membership was with her in her darkest days, and she will never forget the love she received from everyone. All the members have been very helpful and will cherish the friendships made.

Clara volunteers a lot of her time in the kitchen, helping wherever needed. On Friday steak nights you will find her pouring soup into the bowls and has earned the nickname The Soup Lady.



May 2024

Elk of the month is Martin Bowers. Martin joined the Elks to become active in the Lodge and in the community being initiated in October 2023. Martin was encouraged to join by some community neighbors who are Elks. He has met countless nice people who have offered advice and encouragement as well as their hand in friendship. Martin volunteers for booked events, Monday night Bingo, and as cashier on Taste Tuesdays whenever needed. Martin has also been appointed Inner Guard at the Lodge for this current term. Martin is a native Floridian, born into a US Navy family and lived in several locations before settling back in Pensacola. He worked and lived in Pensacola, Sarasota, Key West, and Ft. Lauderdale, as a Probation Officer with the Department of Corrections. He then was a high school Teacher here in Sebring then moved to Miami as an Investigator for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He retired after a total of 38 years of service moving (back) to Sebring to join a family who have lived here for over 40 years. Thank you for all you do Martin. The lodge greatly appreciates dedication.



April 2024

The Elk of the month for April 2024 is Dawn Bartolomeo, Dawn is one of our newer Members. Dawn is really stepping up in a big way for the lodge. She started cashiering on nights we serve food whenever needed, helping on our bingo nights, and will start helping with the open Public Relations position. Dawn was Born in Massapequa NY and spent 41 years in banking. Now retired, she is a stay at home "cat mom" and owns a small business from home, "Wax Shoppe Candles and More". She loves to craft and create, and attends craft shows and events. Dawn has a sweet spirit and a genuine willingness to help others. Thank you, Dawn, for all you are doing for the lodge.



March 2024

The Sebring Elks #1529 has many people to thank for its success and our Exalted Ruler has chosen well again this month to appoint one of them, Joe Stockenberg, as the March Elk of the Month. Joe was born in Worcester, Massachusetts and his parents moved to Ft. Lauderdale in 1978, and after 8 years they relocated to Avon Park. Joe has two daughters, Megan and Carlie; Megan who now lives and works in Norfolk, Va. and Carlie who attends Lake Placid High School. He has worked in the agriculture industry most of his adult life and currently works for TriEst Ag Group. Having been the President of the Highlands Archery Club, he continues to enjoy the sport in his spare time and is an archery and shotgun instructor for Highlands County 4H Shooting Sports. He is currently on the Board of Directors for the Florida Watermelon Association.

Joe is currently the Lodge Leading Knight and has been elected to the position of Exalted Ruler starting March 1st. He is there when help is needed for special events; and assists with lodge maintenance and repairs. His true talent is at the kitchen grill!! He is our Grill Master and cooks all the rib eye steaks, both beef and pork, to perfection each month. Joe also runs our Ship, Captain, Crew game on Wednesday nights. Thank you, Joe, for all you do and for your love and commitment to the Sebring Elks!



February 2024

In choosing February's Elk of the Month, our Exalted Ruler chose a man who is a Lifetime member of the Elks and who has given his heart and mind to its success. Bob Lewis was elected 1 year Trustee in 2009, and 3-year Trustee in April 2021 and will be fulfilling his obligation on March 31, 2024. Statues state that the Lodge is the supreme power and the Board its agent. The Trustees control funds, investments, and real property and execute all leases and contracts. Through the years Bob has worked the dining room, special events, and he and his wife Deanna attend all social events. Bob is originally from the Pontiac, Michigan area where he worked with the A&P grocery chain before owning an IGA store. Bob and Deanna have raised 6 children and share 12 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Thank you, Bob, for your years of dedication!



January 2024

The Sebring Elks Lodge #1529 has named Sheryl Teachout Elk of the Month for January 2024. Sheryl is a self-motivated person who seems to excel in any task. She requested permission from the BOD last summer to have a New Years Eve party. She and her partner Ed Kwasnick, worked diligently to have one of the most successful parties with a complete sell out. Sheryl has graciously accepted the responsibility of selecting the musicians for our Friday night dances starting in April 2024, bakes for Friday night meals, is one of the Friday night servers and she is a member of the decorating committee.

Sheryl was born and raised in Southwest Michigan. She has one daughter and four grandchildren. As a testament to her self-motivation, she went to college when she was 48 years old and graduated with a degree in physical therapy and then moved to Indiana to work in Home Health and Nursing Home care. In 2021 she moved to Sebring and promptly joined the Elks to meet people and to help her new community. Sheryl, thanks for all you do and thanks for your way of greeting members and guests at the Lodge with a happy and smiling face.

