

The Beginnings of the Sebring Elks Lodge #1529
(Written by Lowell Allen, Bill Dunn & Gene Nason in 1977)

“Like many other history-making epochs in the State of Florida, Sebring Lodge was a product of the famous Florida boom of the 1920’s. Ed Wolf, one of Sebring’s foremost developers and civic leaders, had been a member of the Elks in Bluffton, Indiana and he saw the potential for an Elks Lodge in Sebring. It was primarily through his efforts that a dispensation was granted for a lodge in Sebring. On October 16, 1926, under the sponsorship of Lakeland Lodge #1292 and Dr. W.S. “Doc” Irvin District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, the Sebring Lodge was formed with a class of 23 initiates and 3 transfers, Ed Wolf, R.N. Durance, and W.H. Williams as charter members. The charter was granted to the Sebring Lodge #1529 in July 1927. The twenty-six original members were from a representative cross section of the professional and business hierarchy of the county and, with a charter membership of men of high-standing in the community, other men immediately evidenced a desire to join in the association for the betterment of the community. At the second meeting, the lodge accepted another 23 applications for membership and by the end of the first six months, the roster stood at 105.”

This article was previously submitted by Ronna Mason, Past Exalted Ruler, of the Sebring Elks Lodge. It is being resubmitted as we prepare for the Sebring Lodge’s 100th Year anniversary to be held on December 12, 2026. This event will be an evening of Celebration as we remember our past and embrace what the future of our lodge holds. Throughout the years, the lodge has gained and unfortunately lost many members. But today the lodge has an active membership of approximately 700+ members and is growing steadily as newer and younger members are being initiated into our lodge. Mark your calendars for this important event on Saturday, December 12, 2026.