



Ocala Elks Lodge 286

Chartered July 11, 1895

Charity • Justice • Brotherly Love • Fidelity

Volume 26

April 2026

Issue 4

OFFICER INSTALLATION



Ocala Lodge's 2026-2027 officers were installed on March 21, 2026. The event was attended by over 70 members and guests. Your new officers are looking forward to a great year and have ideas for leading the lodge into the future.

There was a well attended meal also after the installation that allowed for some great social time and reflection on the past and the year ahead.

Past State President and Past Grand Lodge Board member Winston Needham lead the installation with other Past Exalted Rulers conducting the ceremony.

Our lodge member, Florida State Secretary, and Lodge Advisor Nick Miller was there to install PER David Clayton as Five Year Trustee.



Congratulations to David Clayton who has been chosen to serve as the next District Vice President for the North Central District. Please look at attending the State Convention in May and help support David.

SUNDAY EASTER BREAKFAST



The house and Membership Committee are again hosting a Sunday Easter Breakfast. **Membership Matters** and you as a member of the Ocala lodge have a chance to bring friends, co-workers, or just people you would like to invite to the lodge on Sunday April 5th.

The Easter Bunny will be there for photos; there will also be gifts for the kids who attend. This event has been extremely popular over the past few years and continues to grow. This is a great chance to promote the lodge and introduce others to what the Ocala Lodge and Florida Elks are doing in our local community as well as the state.

There will be a breakfast buffet as well as the always popular omelette station where you can get your eggs anyway you like them. Price is \$16.00 for adults \$8.00 for youth ages 6 -14, 5 and under eat for free.

See you Sunday at the Lodge

Elks Care - Elks Share

EXALTED RULER'S FINAL UPDATE



As we look back on this past fraternal year, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing Exalted Ruler David Clayton (PER) for a truly magnificent year. His tireless dedication and the significant work he accomplished have left an indelible mark on our Lodge, setting a high standard for us all to follow.

As I step into this role, I am deeply honored to continue our rich traditions. My commitment to you is to serve following David's pledge with continued pride, honor, fairness, and respect.

I am proud to share that our incoming officers are equally committed to working alongside me, the House Committee, and the entire Lodge. Together, we will ensure that every action we take is rooted in integrity and commitment.

Our collective goal is to make our Lodge the best in the state, a place where community service and brotherly love thrive. I look forward to a productive year ahead as we continue to serve our community and each other.

Respectfully,

Carlos A. Quiles
Ocala Elks Lodge #286
Exalted Ruler



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Lodge Initiation March 12th

Left to Right: Amy Johnson, Frank Falbo, Ginger Tousseau, Sandra Cleghorn, Anne Jacob, Patrick Jacob, Lee Wonders, Frankie Roberts.

VETERANS



As we end the Elks year and start the new 2026-2027 year there are lots of changes as with every year. One of those changes is I'm retiring as the Veterans Service Committee Chair. I have enjoyed helping the Veterans and other Veteran related programs over the years also the support of the membership.

During March we shopped with four new housed Veterans. First was David D. (Army) with his service dog, Luka. Along with the household items he took advantage of the food allowance that is part of the Welcome Home kit.

With the help of Bob Cox we shopped with Jim B. (Army). His need was a convection oven that also is an air fryer, along with the basic items. Next, Karen Severs helped with Johnnie C.(Army) as we shopped for the basics with emphasis on cleaning supplies. Last but certainly not least was Michael W.(Air Force). His focus was on storage and cleaning supplies, along with a chair to be able to sit inside or outside.

The Welcome Home Kit is my favourite program the Elks have, as it helps a newly housed Veterans get set up in their new place after being homeless.

I have enjoyed the many different programs over many years and look forward to see what a new Chair does.

Thank you all that have supported the Veterans Service Committee over the years.



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



Good afternoon!

Val is a sweet 3 year old girl who has been receiving PT for a few months now. She attends a local Preschool and teachers referred her for general clumsiness, difficulty transitioning between tasks, and having frequent

meltdowns. She also receives speech therapy due to a language and comprehension barrier. Since initiating therapy, she has shown improvement in

coordination, balance, muscle strength, gross motor skills and sensory processing skills. In the pictures shown, she is practicing many skills at once! She is 1/2 kneeling on a vibration plate while crossing midline to reach for an object to complete a fine motor task. Just during this one activity she is working on sensory processing, visual motor skills, bilateral motor coordination, balance, fine motor manipulation and muscle strengthening!



Samantha Yox, PT, DPT

Physical Therapist

Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services

m: (352) 257-9670

f: (352) 247-4822

w: floridaelks.org/children

e: samantha@floridaelkscts.org





HELPING ELKS BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANTS UPDATE

On March 24, 2026, members of Ocala Elks Lodge #286 went shopping for Easter hams and donated them to the Interfaith Emergency Services pantry to help support local families during the Easter season.



Then on Friday, March 27, 2026, a group of Ocala Elks volunteered their time at Stirrups 'N Strides to assist with a Special Olympics event. It was another good opportunity for our members to support an organization that makes a meaningful difference in the lives of participants and their families.



Through projects like these, Ocala Elks Lodge #286 continues putting our commitment to community service into action by supporting local organizations and lending a hand where it is needed most.

ENF DOESN'T WORK WITH OUT YOU

You can help by becoming a Fidelity Member of ENF or make a one time donation. This years' goal is \$5.00 per member. Current membership support for ENF is only 1.03% of our members. Imagine where we could be if we were at just 10% Please scan the QR Code or Click on the logo to sign up.



WHERE YOUR DONATIONS GO

During the 2024-25 Lodge year, the Elks of Florida donated \$452,716.41 to the Elks National Foundation. This year, the Foundation will give back the following: **The total returned in grants was \$847,050.00** (\$1.87 for every dollar donated)

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | <p>These grants support your state's major charitable project, as well as other philanthropic projects. Portions of these grants will also support your state's Drug Awareness Program, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot and educational programs.</p> | <p>State Charities Grant: \$315,020.00 Special Projects Grant: \$262,180.00 Bonus Grant: \$68,750.00</p> |
| | <p>We will award a total of 33 Most Valuable Student scholarships to high school seniors from your state. (Click here to check out your recipients.) In addition, we will award up to 10 Legacy scholarships to children, grandchildren and stepchildren of Elks. (Click</p> | <p>Most Valuable Student: \$132,000.00 Legacy Award: \$40,000.00</p> |
| | <p>We also provide the Elks National Veterans Service Commission with funding to support its volunteers working in veterans hospitals and medical centers.</p> | <p>Funding for VAVS Volunteers: \$29,100.00</p> |

OLEO

April is here and we are all hoping for April showers and May flowers.

Elections were held in March. The new OLEO officers are: Kim Morrill; President, Betty Kutz; Vice President, Tracy Armstrong; Treasurer, Sandra Harton as Recording Secretary and Peg Mc Warter as Corresponding Secretary. A big congratulations to all.

The OLEO Spring Fashion Show is May 2, 2026. Tickets are now available for sale, The next meeting is Thursday April 9, 2026 at 5:30. If you know of anyone interested in becoming an OLEO, please invite them to the meeting.

April birthdays are Sandy Dingler, Patricia Hyatt, Dev Vogt and Booster Andy Long. We are all looking forward to a wonderful and exciting new year.



President
Kim



HOUSE COMMITTEE - Celebrating Our Past Success & Looking Ahead



I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the previous Elks House Committee for their outstanding service and dedication over the past year. Their hard work, commitment, and leadership have made a lasting impact on our lodge, creating a welcoming environment and ensuring the continued success of our programs and events. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we are truly grateful for the strong foundation they have built.

As we move forward, I am excited to continue that momentum with upcoming events designed to bring our members and community together.

Join us on April 5, 2026, for our upcoming Easter Breakfast, where friends and families can gather to celebrate the holiday with great food and fellowship. This special event is a wonderful opportunity to connect, share traditions, and enjoy the spirit of the season.

In addition, we are proud to announce our Open Membership Drive Weekend taking place on April 3, 2026. This is the perfect time to invite guests, introduce prospective members to our lodge, and showcase everything we have to offer. Whether you're bringing a friend or simply looking to get more involved, we encourage everyone to participate and help us grow our Elks family.

Come for dinner and drinks and support your Elks Lodge. We look forward to seeing you all!

Thank you again to our previous House Committee for their service. I look forward to building on their success and making the coming year even more memorable.

Stay tuned for more details, and I hope to see you at these exciting events!

Thank you Respectfully
Maria D. Quiles

STARTING APRIL 1ST RESERVATIONS WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED FOR THE LOUNGE

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE LODGE & IN THE STATE



Sunday April 5th
9:00AM - 1:00PM
Easter Breakfast
at the Lodge

Membership Drive, invite
 your friends to meet the
 Easter Bunny

Your Choice of:

Omelette station,
 scrambled eggs,
 sausage, bacon,
 potatoes, pancakes,
 orange juice, coffee

\$16.00 for Adults

\$8.00 ages 6-14

kids 5 & under eat free

Includes a gift for the kids

Bloody Marys & Mimosas
 Available for purchase



702 NE 25th Ave, Ocala, FL

Ocala Elks
Country Western
Exhausted Rooster Party
Saturday, April 25th



No Admission Charge

Doors Open - 4:00pm

Dinner Starts - 5:00pm

Menu Choices:

8oz New York Strip \$21.99

or Pork Chop \$17.99

Each meal includes: Salad,
 Baked Potato, and Roll
 Prices are plus tax & tip.
 Dessert is extra.

Enjoy an evening of fun,
delicious foods plus
Chris Diamond's music,
and a Special Dance Exhibition by
Jason & Trish McMillan

For info, seating and reservations:
Contact: Sandy Dingler 352-427-6044

Sign up NOW!!!
May 1st to May 3rd, 2026



Fourth Annual
Florida Ladies of Elks
RV Rally Fundraiser
OPEN to ALL!



Champions Run RV Resort

4213 NW 27th Place, Ocala, FL 34482

(352) 322-2992 Large sites! FHU

24'x70' level concrete sites!

Special Discount Rates Apply

CALL (352) 322-2992

Rates valid Thursday through Sunday.

JOIN us for a weekend of FUN, games, music, 50/50, raffles and
 fellowship.

Proceeds to benefit our Florida Elks Youth Camp!

JOIN us as we go "Camping for the Kids"

Event Registration \$30 per person (under 6 free).

Register online at floridaelks.org

NO CAMPER? NO PROBLEM!!!

Rentals available through Jolly Rogers

Call Drew Rogers (352) 871-5598

2 Night Rental \$400 plus camp site fee.

3 Night Rental \$500 plus camp site fee.

Additional (optional) Fees: Linen Rental \$50 per stay (or bring your
 Pet Fee \$50 per stay



The Ocala Ladies of the Elks

PRESENTS

SPRING

Fashion Show

Fashions By Jasmine Boutique

Saturday
 May 2, 2026
 \$35.00

PER PERSON

Formerly known as The Beadstrand

SHOPPING 10:00 AM
 FASHION SHOW 11:00 AM
 LUNCHEON 12:30 PM
 SHOPPING UNTIL 2:30 PM

CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES
 AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
 ON SITE

Deadline for tickets is April 25

For Tickets:

Suzanne Ingrao 352-266-5328 Sandra
 Harton 352-895-3042 Sandy Dingler 352-
 427-6044

Or Rusty or Bobbie at the Lodge

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE LODGE & IN THE STATE



Orlando, Florida
May 21-23, 2026
Rosen Centre

Join us for
Ocala Elks Club #286
Holiday Fundraiser Bahama Cruise
Open to the Public great getaway for family and friends
Sunday Nov 29th 2026 to Thursday Dec 3rd 2026

5 Days 4 Nights
MSC Seashore
Balcony Cabin 790.79 Per Person
Inside Cabin \$690.79 Per Person



Pt Canaveral -Nassau Ocean Cay-Pt Canaveral
FREE PREMIUM DRINK PACKAGE AND WIFI
MSC Voyager Members 5% off
Includes Port Charges and Taxes
\$200.00 PP Deposit Due NOW
Does Not include Gratuities or Insurance

Call Cheri Nikzad for information and
to secure your cabin
386-864-4767

Officer of the year
Pat Gilbert

Elk of the year
Linda Moulton



ELECTED LODGE OFFICERS



Exalted Ruler
Carlos Quiles
 352-999-0592
CarlosElks286@gmail.com



Leading Knight
Bill David
 352-406-5904
wcdavid54@gmail.com



Loyal Knight
Pat Gilbert
 352-355-0533
gilbertp1@cox.net



Lecturing Knight
David Tousseau
 913-680-9987
Vavetelks286@gmail.com



Secretary
Bobbi Kassick
 352-732-7091
Secretary@elks286.org



Treasurer
Barbara Shepard
 352-207-5231
Shepard.Barbara.r@gmail.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS



Esquire
 TBD



Chaplain
Ginger Tousseau
 913-702-4921
gingert58@gmail.com



Inner Guard
Bonnie D'Andrea
 352-817-3560
bonnievinny@gmail.com



Tiler
Ken Davis
 352-237-0718
kdavisauto@aol.com



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



SPJ
Dan Hicks
 352-351-3353
lindsey@danielhickspa.com

TRUSTEES & LODGE ADVISOR



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



Two Year
Dan Hicks
 352-351-3353
paula@danielhickspa.com



Three Year
 TBD



Four Year
Vinnie Crispino
 352-581-3602
Vcrispino@outlook.com



Five Year
David Clayton
 404-409-9785
davidelk286@gmail.com



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

LODGE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

| Committee | Chairman | Email |
|-------------------|---------------|--|
| House | Maria Quiles | house@elks286.org |
| Flag Day | Alan May | cmmay51@yahoo.com |
| Veterans | TBD | |
| Investigations | Ken DeVilling | sram814@aol.com |
| Co-Chairman | David Morrill | DLMRacing@gmail.com |
| Elks Memorial Day | Bobbi Kassick | bobbikass@yahoo.com |
| Entertainment | Bill David | wcdavid54@gmail.com |
| Sporting Clays | Ken Davis | kdavisauto@aol.com |

| Committee | Chairman | Email |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| ENF Grant Coordinator | George Griffin, III | |
| Fundraising | Emery Shepard | Emery@Elks286.org |
| Scholarships | Emery Shepard | Emery@Elks286.org |
| Hoop Shoot | Emery Shepard | Emery@Elks286.org |
| Membership | Fred Wright | fwwright@hotmail.com |


| CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Secretary | 352-732-7091 Ext 1 |
| Lounge | 352-732-7091 Ext 2 |
| Catering | 352-732-7091 Ext 3 |
| Treasurer | 352-207-5231 |

| ENF and HATF as of 2/28/2026 | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| ENF | \$6,874.50 |
| Fidelity Club | 6 members |
| Harry Anna | \$16,963.00 |
| Sustaining Donors | 17 members |

| Current Lodge Membership as of 4/01/2026 | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Total | Candidates | Reinstated | Delinquent | % Delinquent |
| 533 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 0 |

| Lodge Rental Rates | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Warner Wilson | \$50.00 |
| Card Room | \$100.00 |
| Patio | \$100.00 |
| Lounge | \$150.00 |
| Lodge Room | \$150.00 |
| Dining Room | \$150.00 |

THE FAULTS OF OUR BROTHERS
WE WRITE UPON THE SAND, THEIR
VIRTUES UPON THE TABLETS OF
LOVE AND MEMORY™



To Our Absent Member
To Our Present Member

Frank G. Floyd
Initiated 4/28/1984 Died 3/03/2026


Kathryn Barkley
Initiated 01/10/2013 Died 3/15/2026

| OCALA ELKS WEEKLY SCHEDULE | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Secretary | Monday-Friday | 1:00PM-5:00PM |
| Catering Office | Monday-Friday | 8:00AM-1:00PM |
| Sunday & Monday | Closed | |
| Tuesday | Lounge & Kitchen Open BINGO | 4:00PM 5:30PM |
| Wednesday is volunteer night | | |
| Wednesday Trivia & Queen of Hearts | Lounge & Kitchen Open Trivia | 4:00PM 6:00PM |
| 2nd & 4th Thursday | Meeting Nights Lounge Open | 6:00-7:00PM and after the meeting |
| Friday | Lounge & Kitchen Open | 4:00PM |
| Saturday | Lounge & Kitchen Open BINGO | 4:00PM 6:00PM |

Read the Elks Magazine
Log on or create your Elks.org user account by clicking here.
You can update your information to receive the Elks Magazine online instead of receiving it in the mail.



Jack Elam
Ashland, OR Lodge 944



Famous Elk

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Frank Intino | 01 | Ray T. McNeal, Esq. | 09 | Tonya Jones | 21 |
| Sandra Marek | 02 | Jon Marek | 11 | Vincent Bonomo | 22 |
| Carol Lee Watkins | 03 | Connie Davis | 13 | Helen R. Greene | 22 |
| Sose Gaudet | 04 | David W. Lewis | 13 | Edward L. Holbrook | 22 |
| Sarah E. Graf | 05 | Tammy H. Albright | 14 | Rock E. Hooker | 24 |
| Nicholas Navetta | 05 | Walter E. Krumm, Jr. | 15 | Robert L. Highbaugh | 29 |
| James A. Wright, III | 05 | James E. Tomaszek | 15 | William L. Owen, Jr. | 29 |
| John P. Everett | 06 | Jimmy Chambless | 16 | Charles Alphonso | 30 |
| Scott Interdonato | 06 | Donald R. Sparkman | 17 | Andy Long, PDDGER | 30 |
| Larry R. Tinsley | 08 | Debra L. Hicks | 20 | Barbara Payne | 30 |
| Nancy E. Walzer | 08 | Frank N. Falbo | 21 | | |

It Pays to Attend Lodge Meetings

| Date | Drawings | Amount | Member/Winner | |
|------------|------------------|----------|--------------------|---------|
| 03/12/2026 | Previous Meeting | \$50.00 | Andy Long | Present |
| 03/12/2026 | 50/50 | \$107.00 | George Cooke | |
| 03/12/2026 | 20/20 | \$150.00 | Mike Miller | |
| 03/12/2026 | 20/20 | \$100.00 | Sandy Dingler | |
| 03/26/2026 | Previous Meeting | \$25.00 | David Tousseau | Present |
| 03/26/2026 | 50/50 | \$77.00 | Brenda Cornelius | |
| 03/26/2026 | 20/20 | \$150.00 | Katherine Woodbury | |
| 03/26/2026 | 20/20 | \$100.00 | Laverne Hope | |



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

When it's time to renew your Elks membership, a question may cross your mind: Does my membership really matter? **Yes. It does.**

When you walk into your Lodge, you walk into a place where veterans are honored, children are protected, and communities are lifted. You stand shoulder to shoulder with Elks across this nation—past, present, and future—who believe in service, compassion, and doing the right thing.

Your membership is not symbolic. It feeds families. It funds scholarships. It supports veterans. It changes lives.

You may not always see the impact—but it's there, every day, in every community we serve. Being an Elk means showing up. It means caring. It means belonging to something bigger than yourself.

So, renew with pride. Move forward with confidence. You are an Elk. And that matters. Leave your doubt at the door.

**A THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORS:
CLICK ON THEIR CARD TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITES**



DeLUCA TOYOTA
TOYOTA MAKES THE CAR...
DELUCA MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!

FRANK DELUCA
OWNER/PRESIDENT

SR 200 - OCALA

352-732-0770
DELUCATOYOTA.com

Edward Jones



NICHOLAS NAVETTA, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

814 E Silver Springs Blvd
Suite B
Ocala, FL 34470
Bus. 352-629-2165 • Fax 877-326-7085
Pag. 352-620-9651

nick.navetta@edwardjones.com
edwardjones.com/nick-navetta
California Insurance License OC24309



Susan Tate
Elic Licensed Sales Agent

Tate & Associates
352-207-6607
stata@tate.net
www.myhcaagent.com/susan-tate

8810 SW Hwy 200
Unit 104
Ocala, FL 34481

United Healthcare

Authorized to offer **AARP Medicare Plans**
UnitedHealthcare


Walts Brake & More
"Guardian of Your Safety Since 1965"

Auto • RV • Truck • Repairs
Gas & Diesel / Storage • Covered & Uncovered

3890 NW Gainesville Rd - Ocala

352.629.3134

WaltsBrake.com Like Us on Facebook.com/WaltsBrake



Help advertise the
Ocala Elks Lodge!
Car window stickers are
now available from the
membership committee,
and at the bar
\$5.00



Mike Porter
14 SW 1st Ave
Ocala, FL
352-629-7891

Mike@americanpawnocala.com

WWW.OCALABUSINESSBROKERS.COM



OGALA BUSINESS BROKERS INC
2935 SE 58th Ave • Ocala, FL • 34480

Gary Smith
Business Broker

352-615-5752
GSmith3894@cox.net



Ask your friends
to join.

every member matters

**Advanced Welding
Fabrication and Design**

13540 31st Ave
Summerfield, FL 34491
(352) 203-4515
OFFICE.AWFD@GMAIL.COM

SPORTING CLAYS FUNDRAISER



September 19, 2026

Our 6th annual fundraiser for the Harry Anna Trust, with all net proceeds going to the youth camp for scholarships.

Please join us and help with this year's event.

We need our members to:

- Recruit teams & individuals to participate
- Identify & recruit station sponsors
- Identify & recruit other event sponsors
- Help with the sale of the shotgun raffle tickets

The event will again be held at the Blackjack Sporting Clays

Contact Connie or Ken Davis for more information

E-Mail Scam Alert for Lodge Members

Dear Members,

We continue to have email scam attacks by criminals that are trying to exploit you, the members of Ocala Lodge 286. The latest was a really targeted email that appeared to be asking you for help. **Please remember that no officer, member, or OLEO will ever ask you to help with paying the expenses of the lodge.**

OCALA ELKS NO 286
 702 NE 25th Ave
 Ocala, Florida 34470

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

A FREE MONTHLY
 PUBLICATION

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

| April | | |
|----------|------|--------------------------------------|
| Thursday | 2nd | Board of Directors Meeting 6:00PM |
| Thursday | 9th | Lodge Meeting 7:00PM |
| Thursday | 16th | Lodge Meeting 7:00PM |
| Saturday | 25th | Exhausted Rooster |

| Florida State Elks Association | |
|---|--------------|
| FSEA State Convention Orlando, FL Rosen Centre | 5/21-23/2026 |

| OLEO | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Meeting | 04/14/2026 |
| Spring Fashion Show | 05/02/2026 |

| May | | |
|-----------|------|--------------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 7th | Board of Directors Meeting 6:00PM |
| Thursday | 14th | Lodge Meeting 7:00PM |
| Thursday | 28th | No Meeting - State Convention |

| April Entertainment | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Friday 3rd | Dave & Vicky Trezak |
| Friday 10th | Two for Show |
| Friday 17th | Mike Kohn |
| Friday 24th | Tim Hargis |