



Ocala Elks Lodge 286

Chartered July 11, 1895

Charity • Justice • Brotherly Love • Fidelity



Volume 23

August 2024

Issue 8

Ocala Lodge Featured on Grand Lodge Veterans Web Site



Elks National Veterans Service
Web Post July 25, 2024



Elks from Ocala, Fla. Lodge No. 286, one of the many Lodges awarded a Freedom Grant, worked diligently to stock pantry shelves of Veterans Helping Veterans and Ritz Veterans Shelter. With the charitability of the Elks, veterans in need throughout central Florida won't have to go without food.

Members playing **BINGO** on July 27th were joined by a special visitor.



Dayna Miller is the current Florida State Elks Association Chaplain. Dayna has served as the ER of Gainesville Elks Lodge 990, Northeast District State Vice president, and District Deputy Grand Exalter Ruler. Dayna also served as the State Harry Anna Chairman for PSP Suzi Simonelli raising a record amount that year. Dayna and her Fiancé, Monty Williams (past Trustee for Lodge 990) are pictured here with our ER David Clayton.

Ocala Elks Lodge presented on July 20th
Al Spumoni's **"OOPS! HE'S DEAD!"** During a special Saturday Night Dinner Theater



From The Exalted Ruler Join the Membership Drive: Help Us Grow the Elks Community!



It's hard to believe August is already here, but I am excited to share updates and news with you. Here's a look at what's been happening and what's coming up in our lodge:

Murder Mystery Dinner:

We recently had an amazing success with our "Murder Mystery" fundraiser dinner. Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen and to those who came out to join in the fun. A special shout out to Lodge Esquire Debra Pool for organizing the event and Trustee Vinny Crispino-
PER for preparing an amazing dinner. It was so



much fun, and who would have thought that sweet "Polly Hanna" (aka Suzanne Ingrao) would have been the guilty one! If you did not come, you sure missed a good time, but do not fret—the House Committee has many fun new activities coming up on the horizon for you to come out and participate in.

Report from the Grand Lodge Convention in Austin, Texas:

I had the pleasure of attending the Grand Lodge convention in Austin, Texas, in July, where Douglas A. Schiefer of Bucyrus, OH Lodge No. 156, was elected as the Grand Exalted Ruler (GER) for the 2024–2025 year. Schiefer's vision and strategy for the coming year aim to reinforce Elksdom's core values, enhance community engagement, and foster unity within our Order. Here's a summary of his key focus areas:

- 1. Community Engagement and Visibility:** Emphasizing Elksdom's presence and impact within local communities by supporting various programs and initiatives.
- 2. Membership Growth and Retention:** Encouraging lodges to attract new members and retain existing ones through dynamic and engaging local programs.
- 3. Patriotism and Civic Responsibility:** Promoting daily acts of patriotism and supporting programs that instill patriotic values.
- 4. Support for Veterans:** Strengthening our commitment to veterans through programs like the Emergency Assistance Program and the Veterans Leather Program.
- 5. Youth Programs and Education:** Supporting youth engagement through Elks National Foundation initiatives, scholarships, and educational contests.
- 6. Financial Stewardship and Transparency:** Ensuring transparent and accountable financial management within the Grand Lodge.

*Let's work together to bring this vision to life in our own lodge
and continue making a positive impact in our community.*



Cheers,
David Clayton
Exalted Ruler DavidElk286@gmail.com

VETERANS



July marks the half way point for the year. Hard to believe we are already there. This month was slower on the shopping trips for the Welcome Home Kits. But I'm sure that will change soon. Every Veteran we take shopping means that Veteran is now in a home after being homeless. That is a giant thing to celebrate and we are happy we have a means to help these Vets with their trip to future security.

Karen Severs and I first took Robert F. (Army). He is living at the Ft McCoy Veterans Village and his needs are a little different than some of the others. He needed more in the way of hygiene items and took advantage of the new part of the kit where they can get food up to \$50 of food and a gift card.

Next we took Henry J. (Army). He was lucky enough to have a place with a yard and really wanted to be able

to do some gardening. So along with the normal items we managed to get him a rake and shovel to help with that goal.

Each one of these trips are rewarding to us and each Veteran is so appreciative. One of the best programs the Elks have in my opinion.

I need to recognize Jack Mattheus for all he has been doing for the Veterans. I'm sure he doesn't need it, but I want to give him a special Thank You for taking it upon himself to make a poster with a list of suggested items for the Veteran's pantry box located next to entrance to lounge area. Plus buying multiple items for the box. All donations for the 2 pantries we help supply are always appreciated. Hygiene product are also needed.

We are participating in the Wreaths Across America again this year. I have had several people ask and already sponsor wreaths. Last year we didn't make our goal, but I have faith this year will be better. The goal is still 300. The wreaths are \$17 ea. You can see me or Bobbie, our Secretary. If using a check, make it out to Ocala Elks Lodge # 286 and in memo area mark it for Wreaths. We serve our Veterans, but we need to remember and honor them as well. Something that was reinforced to me on my trip to the Normandy American Cemetery. Also need to teach our children and grandchildren about our history and what the Veterans have done to keep this country free.

Thank you to all that help support our efforts to help our Veterans.



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



Quinn is a 5 year old little girl who attends a private preschool and will be transferring to public school for kindergarten. She is nearing the end of her FECTS journey with physical therapy, and has shown significant improvements in strength, balance, coordination, and motor skills. Prior to therapy,

she occasionally toe-walked and was clumsy with her movements. She enjoys playing soccer and is a very active little girl. She is showing more safety awareness with her gross motor movements and is tripping less frequently on the playground and soccer field. As shown in the photos, Quinn is working on balance and strengthening on a vibration plate while completing a fine motor task.



Samantha Yox, PT, DPT
Physical Therapist
Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services
w: floridaelks.org/children
e: samantha@floridaelkscts.org



ENF GRANTS

The Grants' Committee met together on Monday July 1, 2024. At the meeting Pam Kinard, committee member, briefed the committee on the Marion County PTSD Awareness Day event held in June. If you'd like to hear more about the event please reach out to Pam.

The committee's focus for the month of July was to reach out to our community partners that we have supported in the past with previous grant monies. As of this writing, Stirrups and Strides, Kimberly Center and His House for Her have been consulted regarding possible needs for the coming year. As always Pam is working diligently with all matters regarding our veterans.



On Wednesday, July 17, our lodge provided dinner to the residents at Interfaith Services. Approximately 30 meals were served to the women and children that reside there.

The current committee members are: PER George Griffin III, PER Michael Miller, Pat Miller, Pam Kinard, Linda Moulton, and Bobbi Kassick. If you are interested in being a part of the committee or volunteering to help support our local recipients, please feel free to contact a committee member or attend our monthly meetings the first Monday of each month.

Our next meeting will be Monday August 5, 2024 at 5pm.

Your continued support of the Elks National Foundation allows us to receive the grants that help us support of local community. This year the ENF goal is \$5.00 per member.



LODGE, STATE & ENF SCHOLARSHIPS



Ocala Lodge is now offering scholarships for students that have a GPA less than 3.59 - students that deserve help but can't qualify for many of the scholarships available from other sources. The application and details are now available at our website <https://elks286.org/scholarship/>

In addition to the Ocala lodge scholarships, other Elks National and State Scholarship will have information and links to the scholarship applications as well. Please take a minute to visit our website and feel free to forward our page to families and students that could use help paying for college.

The Elks National Foundation is the 2nd largest source for scholarships in the country. This is all because of you. Elks members and their gifts are what makes this happen. Since 1931, the Elks National Foundation has helped students recognize their academic dreams. Each year, the Elks National Foundation awards more than \$3 million in college scholarships to at least 850 outstanding, service-minded high school seniors. Once you're an Elks scholar, you're family. Click on the logo below for more information. <https://www.elks.org/scholars/about.cfm>



WHY WE DO FUNDRAISING

Being a member of a Benevolent Organization comes with many opportunities to help make this world a better place. As a member of the Elks we have two main areas of assistance. We focus on Youth and Veterans. We assist Youth-serving organizations with direct donations to local agencies from the lodge. Through donations to the Harry Anna Trust Fund, we support the Florida Elks Children Therapy Services and our Youth Camp. The Florida State Elks Association also has the Army of Hope, support for families of deployed and recent honorable discharged veterans in need. Donations are accepted through the Florida Elks Charities a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Donations are tax deductible for both Harry Anna and Florida Elks Charities.

Donations to the Elks National Foundation also are tax deductible. Please help us by participating in our lodge fundraising events and consider becoming a Sustaining Donor for Harry Anna and a Fidelity Member for ENF.



OLEO



Greetings,

It has been a wonderful summer but now it's time to get back to the business at hand for all our hard-working OLEOS.

Our first big function we have is the Florida Ladies of Elks Conference September 19-22 at Daytona Shores Resort and Spa. Our ladies have been busy putting together a huge raffle which involves lighthouses which is the theme this year. We have a scrapbook committee that has been working hard all summer getting it ready for the competition. We sell jewelry and scarves. One of our ladies helps with different ways to wear the scarves. We also have grab bags that we sell. And it all starts with a lot of time and hard work for our ladies. This is one of our big fund raisers.

Then the week after we return, we are participating in the Junk in the Trunk sale at the lodge on Saturday, September 28. When we cleaned out the trailer, we came across many wonderful items that we no longer use that we are selling. So come out and find that special item at a great bargain.

That same evening, we are having Bunco. The doors open at 5 PM and the dice roll at 5:45 PM. This is an evening of great fun and a chance to meet some wonderful people. The tickets are still on \$30 each which includes food. See the flyer in this newsletter for more information.

October brings our Fall Fashion Show on Saturday, the 12th. The tickets are \$35 and includes Brunch. We are looking forward to seeing the new fashions for Fall. See the flyer in this newsletter for more information.

Saturday, December 14 will be our Christmas Dinner Dance with a great menu and music for your entertainment and dancing. Mark this date on your calendar.

These events are all fundraisers that help toward the Elk charities, so come and support us. Put these dates on your calendar now as reminders.

We had a wonderful OLEO luncheon at Milano's Italian Restaurant in July. The August OLEO luncheon will be at Todd & Shelly's Farm Fresh Restaurant on 200 next to Walmart on Wednesday, the 21st at 11:30. The address is 2800 SW 24th Ave. Call Carole Knight at 352-875-7100 if you would like to attend. Everyone is welcome.

Our next OLEO meeting is Thursday, August 22 at 5:30 PM.

Welcome to our newest member, Charlene Ingram. We are so happy to have you in our great organization. We are always looking for new members. If you would like more information on what we do or to become a member, please contact Carole Knight, Membership Chairman at 352-875-7100 or me at 352-895-3042.

Our August birthdays are: Sandra Harton (9th); Nancy Loundes (12th); Betty H. Kutz (13th); Anne Lewis (17th); Michele Wehner (23rd); Teena Kindberg (26th); Connie Davenport (26th); Cathy Huennekens (31st); Boosters: Jose Torres (10); and Duwayne Kutz (11th); Richard Ashton (29th)

Sincerely,
Sandra Harton, President

The Race Is On



90 Day membership challenge

Be the member that brings in or reinstates the most members in the next 90 days

PROM WEEKEND SPECIALS
 Friday & Saturday
 August 30, 31
 Dinner 5-8 pm
\$23.99

Shrimp Scampi
 over angel hair pasta
 SALAD

OR

8oz NY Strip
 Baked Potato
 SALAD

DJ: Mike Miller
 "Saturday"

DON'T MISS THE BUS !!
 TICKET FOR THE BUS RIDE IS \$...
 PERSON
 BRING A... OUR FRIENDS

We need at least 40 but can hold up to 56
 Pay Kathie... to guarantee a seat. First... pay gets a seat !!

CASINO DAY TRIP
 bus ride to HARD ROCK in TAMPA

Postponed

September 7, 2024
 8:30 am-6 pm

Deadline is JULY 31, 2024

It's almost time!!

JUNK-in-the-TRUNK and FALL CRAFT SALE

Saturday
 September 28
 8am-1pm

Rent a parking spot for \$15 or two for \$25
 At The ELKS 702 NE 25th Ave.

RSVP your spot by September 1st
 Brenda Cornelius 352-208-6879
 Debbie Poole 352-299-3040

OPEN to the PUBLIC

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



OCALA LADIES OF ELKS
PRESENTS

“An Evening of Bunco”

Saturday, September 28, 2024
Ocala Elks Lodge

5:00 PM Doors Open
5:45 PM Dice Roll

\$30.00 Per Person
Appetizers, Dessert,
Tea and Coffee
Cash Bar

Limited Number of Tickets Available

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Tickets must be purchased by Saturday, September 21

Lotto Tree, 50/50 Drawing, Door Prizes
Great Pay Outs for Winners and Biggest Loser

For Tickets Call or Text:
Sandra Harton @ 352-895-3042
Email: sandraharton@yahoo.com
Tickets will also be available at the Elks Lodge.
See Rusty or any OLEO



Blackjack Sporting Clays

For more information please contact

Emery Shepard at 352-207-3323

or Ken Davis at 352-816-5781

Email: Clays@Elks286.org

Click Here to visit website



The Ocala Ladies of the Elks

Present

Annual Fall

Fashion Show and Brunch

Fashions by Accessories & More of Sarasota

Saturday, October 12, 2024

9 AM Shopping

10 AM Fashion Show

11 AM BRUNCH

Shopping After Brunch Till 3 PM

\$35 Per Person

Tickets may be purchased from any OLEO
Member or by calling Gail DeVilling at 352-895-0747

Tickets must be purchased by Saturday, October 5.

No tickets sold after that date.

There will be door prizes, 50/50, Lotto Tree and great food

And fashions

ELKS DAY AT THE BUCS



Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs Atlanta Falcons

Sunday October 27th @ 1PM

Ticket Options in 100 level and 200 level:

Section 131	Section 201
- \$206.75 per ticket	- \$162.68 per ticket

Secure your seats ASAP due to limited inventory by contacting
Steve at 813-508-2315 or steve@floridaelks.org.



YOUR LODGE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

ELECTED LODGE OFFICERS



Exalted Ruler
David Clayton
404-409-9785
davidelk286@gmail.com



Leading Knight
Michael Saxe
516-732-5867
msaxe01@gmail.com



Loyal Knight
Open



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



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



Treasurer
Connie Davis
352-239-0711
treasurer@elks286.org

APPOINTED OFFICERS



Esquire
Debra Poole
309-855-9197
dspoole3@cox.net



Chaplin
Carlos Quiles
352-999-0592
asi924@aol.com



Inner Guard
David Breitenbecker
352-351.5618
tbirdallso@yahoo.com



Tiler
Kathie Barkley
352-237-0718
chatkat98@aol.com



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



SPJ Judge
Dan Hicks
352-351-3353

TRUSTEES & LODGE ADVISOR



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



Two Year
Alan May
352-239-0588
cmmay51@yahoo.com



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



Four Year
Dan Hicks
352-351-3353



Five Year
Barbara Shepard
352-460-7209
Barbara@floridaelks.org



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

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Committee	Chairman	Email
House	Brenda Cornelius	bmsrichar@yahoo.com
Flag Day	Alan May	cmmay51@yahoo.com
Veterans	Pam Kinard	pammanella@embarqmail.com
Investigations	Ken DeVilling	sram814@aol.com
Co-Chairman	David Morrill	DLMRacing@gmail.com
Elks Memorial Day	Bobbi Kassick Carlos Quiles	bobbikass@yahoo.com asi924@aol.com
Entertainment	Kathie Barkley	chatkat98@aol.com
Sporting Clays	Ken Davis	kdavisauto@aol.com

Committee	Chairman	Email
ENF Grant Coordinator	George Griffin, III	
Elks National Foundation Fundraising	Emery Shepard	Emery@Elks286.org
Harry Anna Trust Fundraising	Emery Shepard	Emery@Elks286.org
Scholarships	David Renau	avidseek839@centurylink.net
Membership	Dina Gage	dinarella2@msn.com

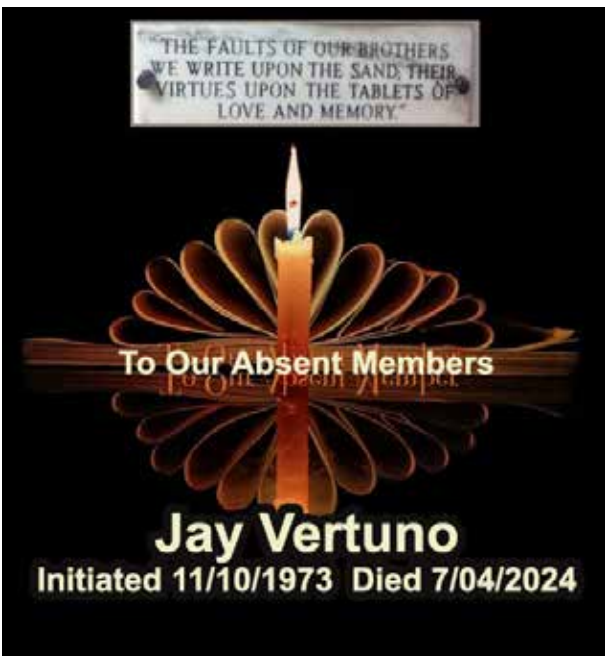
CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS	
Secretary Phone	352-732-7091 Ext 1
Lounge	352-732-7091 Ext 2
Catering	352-732-7091 Ext 3
Treasurer	352-239-0711

[Click here to sign up now for Harry-Anna](#)



You can become an ENF sustaining donor, just click on the Elk or go to elks.org/enf
Our ENF goal this year is \$4.80 per member

HATF and ENF as of 6/30/24	
ENF	\$940.00
Harry Anna	\$1,681.00
Harry-Anna Sustaining	17 members \$1025.00



OCALA ELKS WEEKLY SCHEDULE		
Secretary	Monday-Friday	1:00PM-5:00PM
Catering Office	Monday-Friday	8:00AM-1:00PM
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	Lounge Open Kitchen Open BINGO	4:00-9:00PM 5:00-8:00PM 5:30-8:00PM
Wednesday	Trivia or Games & Queen of Hearts	Lounge Open Kitchen Open 4:00-9:00PM 5:00-8:00PM
2nd & 4th Thursday	Meeting Nights Lounge Open	6:00-7:00PM and after the meeting
Friday	Lounge Open Kitchen Open	4:00-11:00PM 5:00-8:00PM
Saturday	Lounge Kitchen Open	4:00-10:00PM 5:00-8:00PM
Sunday	Closed	

Current Lodge Membership as of 6/30/2024					
Total	Life	Candidates	Associate	Delinquent	% Delinquent
583	106	11	3	83	14.26

Elk of the Month - Jack Mattheus



I am proud to recognize Jack Mattheus as the Elk of the Month for July. Jack's dedication to supporting veterans in our community is truly commendable. He designed and purchased the signs posted by the veterans' donation box and is frequently known to personally fill the box with non-perishable goods. Additionally, Jack donates countless hours of his time to supporting our vets.

Thank you, Jack, for your unwavering commitment and exemplary service. Your efforts make a significant difference in the lives of many.

David Clayton, ER

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Julie Nicole Stull	01	Lynn John Cramer, Jr.	13	Stephen E. Barrett	22
Donald M. Willingham	01	Jack A. Davis	13	Frank Scudder, Jr.	22
Charles Vincent Arnold	02	Elizabeth F. Kutz	13	T. Richard Barber, Jr.	23
Mark Hahn	02	E. Keith Seyler	13	Charles A. Savage, III	23
Phillip O. Knoblock	02	Brett L. Swigert	13	Cecelia T. Wilson	23
Robert Namislo	02	Thomas Hill	14	August J. LiCari	25
Sandra S. Watt	02	Ronald Blake	15	John M. Davis	26
Jerry S. Wilson	03	Edward S. D'Avi	15	Ted W. Feaster, Sr	26
Robert E. Hunter	04	Robert V. Dumond	15	Ashley R. Pauley	26
Winston M. Needham, PSP	04	Michael Finnegan	15	Frank Amatea	27
Joseph G. Voge	05	James Russell Kuntz	16	Fred N. Walker	27
George J. Lizius	06	H. Raymond Terrell	16	Tony Gurdak	28
Patricia Watson	06	Brenda Watson	17	Charlie H. Krazit	28
John Franssen	08	Norman Buck	19	Richard H. Ashton	29
Elbert W. Wilkinson	08	Florence M. Hoffman	20	James F. Honhart	29
Sandra M. Harton	09	Ralph Glen McLeod	20	Rosa M. Roberts	29
Mark Temple Schol, PER	09	Michael DeMarco	21	Muriel Sue Shank	29
James W. Phillips	10	Dennis M. Ross	21	Terry E. Trexler	29
Jose J. Torres	10	Michael J. Saxe	21	William A. Carter, PER	30
Duwayne A. Kutz	11	Denise B. Alexander	22		

It Pays to Attend Lodge Meetings

Date	Drawings	Amount	Member/Winner	
7/25/2024	Previous Meeting	\$50.00	Emery Shepard	Not Present
7/25/2024	50/50	\$65.00	Ruben Lamb	



COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

The membership committee has been working hard to retain our current members and to recruit more. For the next 90 days they would like to offer a challenge. The member that recruits the most new members will be featured in our newsletter. Watch for your opportunity to help with upcoming member recruiting events.

Please contact Dina Gage Chairman for more information for ways you can help you can email Dina at dinarella2@msn.com.

PLEASE STAY SAFE ON THE INTERNET

There are three simple things to remember when you are on the Internet:



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Ocala Elks Lodge 286
Scholarship for
Marion County, FL
Students




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SAVE THE DATE!
NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY
SATURDAY, DEC. 14, 2024



Drawing will be at the
Ocala Elks 286 Sporting Clays, October 5, 2024



A chance to win a Stevens 555 Over Under
20 gauge shotgun for your suggested donation of \$20.00

Ocala Elks Lodge 286
702 NE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34470 352-732-7091



BIG SUN SOCCER

SOCCER'S #1 Soccer Program

Visit Our Website
elkssportingclays.com



**OCALA
Elks
SPORTING CLAYS
286**

Ken Davis
352-816-5781
kdavisauto@aol.com

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



Ocala Lodge Logo shirts are now available for you to order. These shirts are \$32 each for sizes small through extra large and \$34 for sizes 2XL and up. The net proceeds goes to our ENF donation. You can place your order by contacting David Clayton or Pat Gilbert.



Place your business card here for just a \$250 donation per year. Any special one-month ads for birthdays or other special announcements are \$25 each. Thank you for helping support the cost of distributing the monthly bulletin.

UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Soccer Shoot

September is our Soccer Shoot at Big Sun Soccer. Ken Davis is needing volunteers to help with the planning and the day of the event. Whether you're a returning volunteer or a new one for this event, you can contact Ken at 352-816-5781 or email kdavisauto@aol.com



We want to share your Elks stories whenever we can. If you have a story to share, please submit it and photos to: NEWS@Elks286.org

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

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 PUBLICATION

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August		
Thursday	1st	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00PM
Thursday	22nd	Lodge Meeting with Initiation
Saturday	31st	Prom Night/Birthday Bash

OLEOs	
Luncheon	8/21/2024
Meeting Night	8/22/2024
FLOE Conference (Daytona Beach)	9/19-21/2024
Bunco	9/28/2024
Fall Fashion Show	10/12/2024
Christmas Dinner Dance	12/14/2024

September		
Monday	5th	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00PM
Thursday	12th	Lodge Meeting 7:00PM
Thursday	26th	Lodge Meeting 7:00PM
Saturday	28th	Junk-In-The-Trunk

Ocala Fundraising Events	
Sporting Clays at Blackjack Sporting Clays	10/05/2024

Florida State Elks Association	
Elks Day at the Rays - St Petersburg	8/18/2024
Elks Day at the Bucs Tampa	10/27/2024
FSEA Mid-Year Conference	11/14-16/2024

District Deputy Visitation Dates		
Sunday	September 8th	Ocala Lodge 286
Sunday	September 15th	Inverness Lodge
Sunday	October 6th	South Lake
Sunday	October 20th	Winter Park
Saturday	November 2nd	Winter Garden Lodge
Sunday	November 24th	Apopka Lodge
Saturday	December 7th	Eustis Lodge

August Entertainment		
Friday 5th	Chris Diamond	New to the lodge
Friday 9th	DINO	Music from the 50's to the 90's
Friday 16th	Party with Arty	
Friday 23rd	Donna J	Music from Patsy Cline to Elvis
Friday 30th	DJ Donna	New to the Lodge