Volume 25 **October 2025** Issue 10

SOCCER SHOOT 2025

On September 6th the Ocala Lodge held a soccer shoot at Big Sun soccer. At the event we also presented a donation of $1,000 to support the youth in Marion County. We have winners that now will be going to on to the district shoot. Thanks go out to members Bill David and Dave Tousseau for organizing the day. Congratulations to Andy & Becky Long's grandson for winning his U-12 age group.

OCALA LODGE #286 SHINES AT THE 62ND FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 62nd Annual Conference of the Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE) convened September 19–20, 2025, at the Hard Rock Hotel in Daytona Beach, bringing together ladies across Florida's Elks lodges to share, learn, and renew their dedication to service. The event's theme, "Sisters United for Children," reflected FLOE's long-standing mission to support and uplift the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services, the Florida Elks Youth Camp, and related charitable initiatives.

Ocala Lodge #286 was proudly represented by a delegation of 28 members from the Ocala Ladies of Elks (OLEO) and Elk members. Their strong turnout not only reflected the enthusiasm of the group but also earned them the distinguished award for "Most Members in Attendance," a recognition of their commitment and active participation.

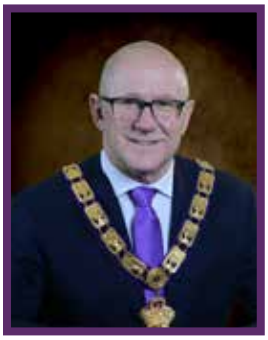
In addition to their outstanding presence, OLEO was honoured with an Award for the Scrapbook competition, two certificates of recognition for monetary donations totalling $3,000, underscoring the group's dedication to supporting our two Major Projects, the Florida Elks Youth Camp and the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services. OLEO has a reputation for having the best Craft tables in our Marketplace and this Conference was no different. OLEO works hard all year preparing gifts, crafts and many other items to sell at our tables during Conference. A big thank you to Brenda and Ted Cornelius for their donations of our large double planter raffle and Brenda's wreaths to sell. They were both great hits! Thank you Brenda & Ted!!

For Ocala Lodge #286, the weekend was not only about awards but also about deepening friendships, celebrating accomplishments, and reaffirming their commitment to service. The recognition received serves as a proud milestone for OLEO and a reminder of the positive impact they continue to make.

With another successful conference behind them, the Ocala Ladies of Elks look forward to the year ahead with renewed energy and dedication—continuing to embody the values of charity, justice and brotherly love.

Becky Long PSP FLOE

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXALTED RULER



Ocala Elks Lodge #286 – September Recap and October Preview

Greetings, my fellow Elks,

September was a great month at Ocala Elks Lodge #286, and I would like to give a special shout-out to everyone who helped make our Soccer Shoot such a successful event. I also want to thank those who cooked for Guest Chef Wednesday, helped with serving, pitched in with dish-washing, and supported our community investment program charity functions. Your efforts reflect the spirit of Elkdom and the strength of our Lodge.

On a side note, the House Committee needs members to sign up for October Guest Chef Wednesday. Please contact Linda Moulton and pick your Wednesday.

As the weather finally begins to cool, October is bringing plenty of opportunities for fellowship, fun, and community service. On October 4th we we hosted our annual Sporting Clays Fundraiser in support of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, our Lodge's largest event for this important cause.

Be sure to mark your calendar for October 12th when we welcome our District Deputy for his official visitation. Social hour begins at 3:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 4:00 p.m. If you plan to attend, please RSVP using this link: RSVP Form or QR Code

And don't forget, October closes out with our annual Halloween Party on the 31st. Costumes are encouraged, so bring your creativity and join in the fun.

The strength of our Lodge lies in the people who call it home. Every new member brings fresh energy, new ideas, and added support for the charitable work we do together. Our Membership Committee has been busy spreading the word about Elkdom at community events and fundraisers, and we have seen a growing interest in what we do.

You can play a vital role as well. A personal invitation is often the best introduction, so invite your friends, family, and neighbors to visit the Lodge with you, share in the fellowship, and experience the fun of our events. When they see firsthand the camaraderie and purpose that make the Elks unique, they may be inspired to join us. For anyone ready to take the next step, share this link: https://floridaelks.org/join.

Together, we can continue to grow and ensure that our Lodge remains strong for generations to come.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the 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, PER, Exalted Ruler
DavidElk286@gmail.com

VETERANS

As Fall starts so does the activities coming up to the Holidays. The lull of summer will be a thing of the past soon.

The Veterans Service Committee went shopping for the Veterans Helping Veterans and Ritz panties. The items people bring in to donate are a big help. Also the help with gas cards are appreciated. Remember non-perishable foods and hygiene products are needed. Some regularly needed items include canned goods, soups, pasta and pasta sauce, peanut butter and jelly, pancake mix and syrup, canned meats, cereals. Please donate the smaller sizes of items. If you want to donate gas cards please buy them in the amount of $20.00 or see me.

Thank you all for your support.

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

This is "H". She is a 3 year old little girl who has difficulty with sensory processing, low muscle tone, balance, coordination and general strength. She attends a local preschool and teachers have noticed difficulty with focus and attention to task and safety issues with tripping while on the playground. She uses English as a second language at home, so communication and comprehension is also a challenge for her. In the pictures, she's shown on a whole body vibration plate which provides sensory input throughout the whole body. She's squatting and using fine motor manipulation to grab individual beaded necklaces then rising to standing to put each necklace on. This activity is working on sensory processing skills, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, strengthening, and balance reactions all at the same time!

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

Harry-Anna Trust Fund

25th Florida Elks ANNIVERSARY

OCALA LODGE AWARDED ENF GRANTS

Gratitude Grant Project: Supporting Interfaith Emergency Services

Ocala Elks Lodge #286 is proud to announce that this year's ENF Gratitude Grant will be dedicated to supporting Interfaith Emergency Services in Marion County. The Lodge will use the grant to provide essential groceries, pantry staples, hygiene supplies, diapers, and other necessities to help relieve hunger and hardship for homeless families, low-income households, and children in need.

From September 2025 through March 2026, Lodge members will carry out monthly shopping trips to stock the Interfaith pantry with these critical items, ensuring the shelter can continue its mission of serving hundreds of households each year with food, clothing, shelter, and hygiene support.

Our project is already underway. On September 22, members purchased and delivered non-perishable food and hygiene products to the Interfaith pantry. A few days later, on September 27, George Griffin III, PER, collected the clothing items donated to the Interfaith collection box in the Lodge lobby and delivered them to Interfaith, further extending the impact of our efforts.

Through this ongoing partnership, the Ocala Elks will continue to play an active role in helping our neighbors in need, living up to our commitment to community service and care.

ENF - DOESN'T WORK WITHOUT 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.

Elks National Foundation, Inc.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Today's Elks scholars can be tomorrow's Elks, but we have to make that happen by engaging them and welcoming them to the #ElksFamily. To foster their relationship with the Elks, we will again fund three Elks Scholar Service Trips.

Most Valuable Student Scholarship Competition

Designated $2.9 million to fund the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, which includes 502 four-year scholarships of at least $4,000. The contest features 20 top awards—10 for men, 10 for women—of $30,000. These 20 finalists will attend the MVS Leadership Weekend in April to learn all about their #ElksFamily.

ENF Legacy Awards

Designated $1.6 million for the Legacy Awards scholarship program, which includes 350 four-year, $4,000 scholarships for children and grandchildren of Elks.

Emergency Educational Fund Grants

Reserved $130,000 for the Emergency Educational Grants program. Emergency Educational Grants are one-year educational grants to the children of deceased or totally disabled Elks.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Member Initiation on September 25th
Paul Nehring, Terry Shollenberger, Edward Mayfield,& Clemente Palacios

OLEO

HAPPY FALL TO EVERYONE!!! It's nearly time for "dress up"… HALLOWEEN is almost here. Don't forget, you will have two chances to win the best costume prize and scare people. Yes, the Elks are having two Halloween parties, one on the 31st of October and another on Saturday, November 1. Come on out to both times for a spooky good time.

The FLOE Conference has passed and we all had a wonderful and informative time with other members from around the State. We also came away with several awards and a very special feeling in our hearts in knowing that we are a part of such a special Elks Ladies Group. Thank you to everyone that helped to make it such a lifting event.

Our OLEO Bunco on September 6 was a great success and everyone had a fun time playing and joining friends. If you have never played, you really should give it a try. We will have another one in the Spring and we will be sure to let you know the date and time.

Don't forget the annual Fall Fashion Show is November 8. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased from any OLEO member or at the Lodge.

Another date to save is for the 2025 Christmas Dinner/Dance in December. Those tickets are available now and we have only limited seating for this event.

It's time to make our Lodge a Winter Wonderland once again!! The ladies will be decorating the Lodge with the glamour and festivities of Christmas holidays as only our ladies can do. Lodge 286 looks so beautiful and welcoming to all those who come in. And adding to the beauty we will be having our Christmas Tree Raffle Trees decorated and surrounded with gifts for everyone in the family. They make it difficult to choose which tree you would like to win for yourself and your family. The next OLEO meeting is Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Please come and join us and perhaps you would consider becoming a part of our group and join our very special OLEO organization. We do many things to help our community and neighbours as well as support the Lodge.

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS TO: Linda Moulton, Carol Smith and Barbara Swift.
We have no BOOSTER BIRTHDAY BOYS celebrating in October.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES
Carole Knight, President

2025-2026 District Deputy Visitation Dates Starts at 3:00PM with social hour

North Central District DD Visits	
Ocala Lodge #286	10/12/2025
South Lake Lodge #1848	10/18/2025
Inverness Lodge #2522	10/25/2025
Apopka Lodge #2422	12/13/2025

Ocala Lodge 286 DD Visit this Sunday October 12th

October 25th at the Veterans Park

Lodge Members can drop off candy for this event at the lodge. There is a cauldron outside the lounge. If you'd like to help as well please contact Connie Davis.

The Ocala Ladies of the Elks Present

The Annual Fall Fashion Show and Luncheon

Fashions by: Accessories & More of Sarasota

Saturday, November 8, 2025

The Ocala Elks Lodge, 702 NE 25th Avenue, Ocala, Florida

Fashion Show and Luncheon $35 per person

Shopping opens at 9:00 am, Fashion Show starts at 10:00 am

lunch is served promptly at 11:00 am

For tickets or questions contact
Sandy Dingler at 352-427-6044
Limited seating; buy tickets by November 4th
There will be a lotto tree, 50-50, plus
a complementary mimosa or wine and lots of fun.

ELECTED LODGE OFFICERS

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

Leading Knight
Emery Shepard
352-207-3323
emery@elks286.org

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

Lecturing Knight
Carlos Quiles
352-999-0592
asi924@aol.com

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

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

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Esquire
Bill David
352-406-5904
wcdavid54@gmail.com

Chaplain
Elijah Allison
352-209-9605
Allison.elijah1999
@gmail.com

Inner Guard
Melinda Miller
585-490-2755
melindajonemiller@gmail.com

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

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

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

TRUSTEES & LODGE ADVISOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

LODGE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Committee	Chairman	Email
House	Linda Moulton	house@elks286.org
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	bobbikass@yahoo.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
Hoop Shoot	Emery Shepard	Emery@Elks286.org
Membership	Carlos Quiles	asi924@aol.com

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS	
Weekly Events	**352-732-7091 Ext 0**
Secretary Phone	352-732-7091 Ext 1
Lounge	352-732-7091 Ext 2
Catering	352-732-7091 Ext 3
Treasurer	352-239-0711

HATF and ENF as of 8/31/2025	
ENF	**$838.00**
Harry Anna	**$4,480.00**
Harry-Anna Sustaining Donors	**21 members $3,446.00**

Current Lodge Membership as of 10/5/2025				
Total	Candidates	Reinstated	Delinquent	% Delinquent
576	**10**	**0**	**62**	**10.93**

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

Application deadline is February 2, 2026, 11:59 a.m. Pacific Time. NOTE: This is NOON, mid-day, Pacific time

The 2026 MVS application closes on November 12, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time

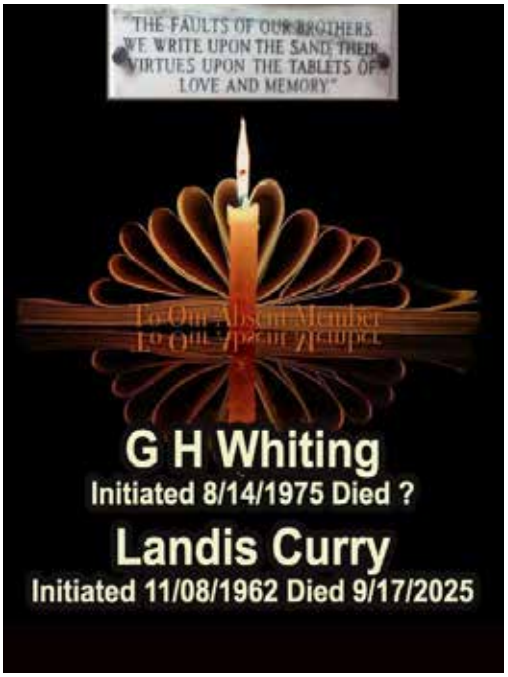
Emergency Educational Grants provide undergraduate college financial assistance to children of deceased or totally disabled Elks in the form of renewable, one-year grants of up to $5,000

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	4:00PM

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.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ollie Glenn Feaster	01
David M. Shashy	01
Teresa D' Angelo	02
Emery Shepard	02
William M. Bennett	03
Michael P. Collins	03
Lesley Clay Ashbrook	04
John L. Dozier	04
Roger D. Gill	04
Gary Lee Linn	04
Sharai J. Pittman	04
Steven F. Cerruto, Sr.	05
Robert E. Landt, PER	05
Clemente Palacios	05
Christine S. Donald	06
Robert W . Shipp	06
Lisa Wyatt	06
Darryl Eli Drew	08
Donald H. Kay, Jr.	08

Darryl M. Lopez	08
Herbert J. Hansen	09
John J. Hennessy	09
Tom Gaver	12
Thomas A. James	12
Michael J. Kash	12
L. T. Manning	13
Barnett P. Hatchett, III	14
Deena Martin, PER	14
Fred D. Wright	15
Nancy N. Earnest	16
Robert Terry Hunt	16
Scott Mitchum	16
Chris E. Pasteur	17
Louis R. Dosh	18
Charles B. Stokes	18
Gil Hays	19
John Horton	20
Larry Leed	22

Jeffrey D. Marr	22
Walter R. Elliott, III	23
Phillip R. Brown	24
Richard S. Cockrell	24
Nancy Carol Priest	24
Casimiro Tavares	24
Steven Westgate	24
Robert Wheeler	24
Linda Sue Moulton	25
Ricky T. Sparkman	25
D. Craig Curry	27
Charles W. Keith	27
Carol A. Smith	27
Stephen R. Mikler	28
Joseph R. Lopez, Jr.	29
Rodney Galloway	30
Richard D. Ridgway	30
John C. Simkins	30
Bob J. Santucci	31

It Pays to Attend Lodge Meetings

Date	Drawings	Amount	Member/Winner	
9/11/2025	Previous Meeting	$50.00	Richard Howard	Not Present
9/11/2025	50/50	$110.00	Jack Mattheus	
9/11/2025	20/20 1st Drawing	$150.00	Kevin Gage	
9/11/2025	20/20 2nd Drawing	$100.00	Alvis Summers	
9/25/2025	Previous Meeting	$75.00	Elijah Allison	Present
9/25/2025	50/50	$92.00	Brenda Cornelious	
9/25/2025	20/20 1st Drawing	$150.00	Sandra Watt	
9/25/2025	20/20 2nd Drawing	$100.00	Jack Mattheus	

CHARITY

The sporting clays tournament was a great success, I'd like to thank all the members who purchased raffle, and shotgun tickets or participated in the event. We already are working on a date for next year's event.

We will be focusing on the Elks National Foundation over the next few months. we have been able to meet our goals over the last few years allowing us to apply for and have received $16,000 in grants.

Our goal this year is just $3,000 ($5.15 per member).
This is a great return on our donations.

Emery Shepard, Leading Knight

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

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

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.*** David Clayton, Exalted Ruler

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

A FREE MONTHLY
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PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October		
Thursday	2nd	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00PM
Saturday	4th	Sporting Clays
Thursday	9th	Lodge Meeting 7:00PM
Thursday	23rd	Lodge Meeting 7:00PM
Saturday	25th	Ruck or Treat (Veterans Park)
Friday	31st	Halloween Parties at the lodge
Saturday	1st	

November		
Thursday	6th	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00PM
Thursday	13th	Lodge Meeting 7:00PM
Thursday	27th	Lodge Closed - No Meeting Happy Thanksgiving

Elks Care - Elks Share

OLEOs	
Meeting	10/9/2025
Fall Fashion Show	11/08/2025

Florida State Elks Association	
Midyear Conference Rosen Centre Orlando	11/13-15/2025

North Central District DD Visits	
Ocala Lodge #286	10/12/2025
South Lake Lodge #1848	10/18/2025
Inverness Lodge #2522	10/25/2025
Apopka Lodge #2422	12/13/2025

October Entertainment	
Friday 3rd	Guitar George
Friday 10th	Mystic Winds - Tim Peterson
Friday 17th	Lonnie
Friday 24th	Rocky & Michelle
Friday 31st	Chris Diamond