



Exalted Ruler

Well this is my last article for the Hoof Prints. I would like to thank all of you, the Officer's, the Board members and the membership for making it a GREAT year for me. I really appreciate all the help and volunteering from all of you. It is nice to see all the things we've accomplished this year and hope to see it continue. I'll see you all in and around the Lodge. Thanks again.

We attended the February Quarterly Meeting in Umatilla FL and presented three checks: to Harry Anna Trust Fund for \$1800.00, Florida Elks Youth Camp for \$3,500.00 and ENF for \$6,922.00. Pictured is the Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook, Wayne Levchik, Will Berry and the Florida State President Joe Cooper.

Crawfish season is starting a little rough with the prices being so high right now. When they start to

come down we'll be having a few Crawfish Boils. I'll keep you posted.

I want to put out a warm welcome to all the new ER, Officers and Board members. I know you all will have a great year and will do an outstanding job.

Please remember, no one is allowed behind the Bar, supply room, or the Cash Register at the front of the Lodge, unless they are an Officer or have been asked by the Bartenders. No DRINKS are permitted to be brought in or to be taken off property at any time as this is a violation of the State laws.

See You at the Lodge | **Fraternally, Wayne Levchik, ER**



Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook, Wayne Levchik, Will Berry and the Florida State President Joe Cooper

Please Attend, Everyone is WELCOME!
LODGE Officer Installation
Mar 24th 3rd Floor 2pm
(LOE Officer Installation 1pm)

Welcome January New Members



L To R: Judy Brinkley, Mark Brown, Jean Chodoscoff, Ryan Dunaway, Kandi Foley, Oscar Garcia, Houston Jones, Bryce Karcher, Patrick Mahoney, Karen Millimaki, Matt MOoneyham, Michael Romeo Jr, Robert Rushing, Raymond Wedell.

Ladies of the Elks

There is a lot going on in the LOE world, so let's get right to it!

Jennifer Strickland

LOE President, FLOE Sr. Delegate, NW
District FLOE Advisory Board Member

First up, the new slate of LOE Officers for the Elk year 2024-2025. We had nominations at our February meeting and the nominees won by a vote of acclimation: Jamie Ferbezar- President, Alice - Vice President, Joy Jackson- Secretary, Harriet Gossett- Treasurer, Jennifer Strickland - Chaplain. Congratulations to all! Jamie Ferbezar has served as LOE Treasurer this past year and has done an outstanding job. I have complete confidence in her ability to keep the LOE momentum going! Let me say that it has been my honor and privilege to not only be an Elk, but also to serve as the LOE President of 497 for the past 3 years. During that time we have grown our membership from less than 20 to now close to 60! What an accomplishment! I am so very proud of every one of my ladies in this organization: female Elks, wives of Elks and widows of Elks. Everyone has had a hand in our amazing growth and achievements. Let me also add that at each LOE meeting, we have at least half of our membership attend. That is a big feather in our cap! It is proven that lodges who have a ladies organization are stronger and more successful than those who do not. Lodge 497 is proof of that fact!

Our drawing for the winners of the Mardi Gras raffle baskets was done on February 5, by David Christian, our club manager. Congratulations to the winners: 1st prize- Kimberlee Bell, 2nd prize- Mary Ellen Dixon, 3rd prize - Dave Dozier (they are all pictured below). A HUGE thank you to all who supported this raffle by purchasing tickets. We raised \$2277, which is more than double what we raised last year! All monies raised through our various fundraisers are donated to helping our lodge, our LOE charities, and the 2 major Elks state projects.

On March 23 from 11am-2pm we will be hosting our annual LOE Easter Party for the kids and grandkids of Elks. This is always a much anticipated event and we hope to have a great turnout again this year! This event is open to children 2-10 years of age. We will have an Easter egg hunt, a visit from none other than the Easter Bunny himself, and will be providing lunch for each child which will consist of hot dogs, uncrustables, chips, cupcakes/cookies and juice boxes. If you plan on your child/grandchild attending you MUST sign them up on the sign up sheet which is on the bulletin board outside of the lodge kitchen. We have to have an accurate head count in order to purchase the correct amount of food for each child. Also, please make sure each child has their own Easter basket in which to collect eggs from the egg hunt. We are asking the Elks for donations of bagged candy for this event as well. The donation bin is set up on the second floor of the lodge outside the elevator. Please no hard candy as it is a choking hazard, and we would also appreciate nut free options of chocolate candy. Thank you so much and we look forward to seeing you at this event!

I would like to extend an invitation to you if you are a female Elk or spouse of an Elk to be our guest at our next meeting, which will be Thursday, March 7 at 7pm in the 3rd floor meeting room. Come see for yourself what the LOE buzz is all about! It is a great place to make new friends and have fun being involved in the lodge. We hope to see you there!!

Exalted Ruler	Wayne E. Levchik
Leading Knight	Ken Branch
Loyal Knight	Milton P. Address
Lecturing Knight	Paul G. Eddins
Secretary	Lisa M. Levchik
Treasurer	Deborah K. Address
Esquire	Cap Pratt
Tiler	Patrick J. Imhof
Chaplain	Patsy Ledford
Inner Guard	Ingo Starke
Presiding Justice	John Unzicker
Lodge Advisor	Toni Palmer
BOD Chairman	Jim Rodriguez
5 Year Trustee	Debra S. Patroni
4 Year Trustee	Dan L. Smith
3 Year Trustee	Paul Ross
2 Year Trustee	Jim Rodriguez
1 Year Trustee	Will Berry

Accident Prevention	Ramsey Landry
Americanism	CK Dupuis
Asst. Dock Master	Dave Dalton
Auditing	Cathy Hendrix
Blood Bank	Celeste Whisenant
Club Manager	David Christian
Community Activities	Ron Christian
Dock Master	David Dalton
Drug Awareness	Sandra Hansen
Entertainment	Celeste Whisenant
Flag Day	Robert Randall
Harry-Anna	Chris Wells
Hoof Prints	Steve Dupuis
Hoop Shoot	Clyde Busbee
Investigation	Ron Castle
Lapsation	Shelli Branch
LOE President	Jamie Ferbezar
Maintenance	Will "Dude" Hausmann
Marketing	Steve Dupuis
Mediator	Ramsey Landry
Membership	Lisa Levchik
Memorial Service	Beryle Farmer
Nat'l. Foundation	Sandy Milburn
Nat'l Vet. Service	Pam McGinty
Orientation	Dan Smith
Therapy Services	Chris Wells
Training	Cap Pratt
Under 40	Slater Dance
Webmaster	Steve Dupuis
Youth Camp	Larry Bragg



Florida Elks Youth Camp June 16th-22nd, 2024 Open for Registration



The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, would like to invite your child to our summer youth camp. The camp is located in Umatilla, Florida and available for boys and girls between the ages of 9 through 13. Our week is June 16-22 Transportation to the camp is being provided by Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge, #497 for NWD Bus. This bus is provided by the Elks Lodges of the Northwest District.

Permission to ride on the bus **must be obtained from the representative** of the lodge that you are in contact with. The deadline for applying is March 1, 2024 For information and application information, please contact:

Larry Bragg
850-380-9275
spot476@yahoo.com



Bingo at the Lodge Come Join Us on Mondays Nights

5 people won, 4 out and 11 games and the 50/50!!! Tom and Dorian Schaefer ,Elaine and Brooks Davis.



Elkdom at Work: ELKs Officer Installation

Please join us on Sunday, March 24th as we swear in the new slate of officers for both the Ladies of the Elks Association (LOEs) and the Lodge Officers for the 2024/ 2025 Elk Year. The ceremony will be held on the Third Floor, starting at 1PM for the LOEs, followed at 2PM with our Lodge Officers. This is a public ceremony open to members, family and friends. (And yes, you may bring your favorite beverage to the ceremony!) See you there!

Please Attend, Everyone is WELCOME!
LODGE Officer Installation
Mar 24th 3rd Floor 2pm
(LOE Officer Installation 1pm)



Fraternally,
Don Padget, PER

The Benevolent And Protective Order Of Elks a Fraternal Order founded "To promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship."

Past Exalted Rulers (PERs)

This is my last letter as PER and maybe my last article ever, so I want to take this chance to go back to when I was trying to speak to the crowd in the meeting room, when I was inducted as ER. I was going to say this when Wayne was being inducted, but didn't get the chance to speak. If you were there, you saw I could hardly talk, as I was overcome with emotion. This was not due to me becoming the ER, believe me. It was because I have so much respect for the men and women in our group that served our Country to protect the rights and freedoms we sometimes take for granted, and serving with them in any capacity

was very humbling for me. I won't name names as I don't want to leave anyone out, but I want to thank you all again for all you have done for us and our Country.

I also want to thank the LOE's for all they do for our Lodge, I never think you ever get enough credit. I'm sure if the guys had to decorate the Lodge it would be a mess, so just letting you know we really appreciate all you do.

Thanks also to Wayne for getting us through a tough time without a manager and all the work you've done.

Fraternally,
Scott Field, PERs





Notification of Capital Expenditure



Pursuant to Grand Lodge statute 16.050, this notification is to serve that the Board of Directors is proposing to have a sea wall constructed on our property. 4 vendors were brought in to bid on the project, and ultimately the Board voted to have Gulf Marine Construction perform the work. The total cost of the project is \$83,260, and this amount will be voted on during our regular lodge meeting on 14 March.

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 DINNER The Koolerators (Paul & Jeff) 6:00 - 10:00 PM	2
3	4 Bingo 6:00 PM	5 Taco Tuesday 5:00 - 7:00 PM	6 DART LEAGUE Checkin Before 6:50 PM	7 PER Meeting 6:00 PM LOE Meeting 7:00 PM 3rd Floor Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	8 BUNCO DINNER BangARang Duo 6-10 PM (Billy & Joanna)	9 KARAOKE Singing with Shannon and Mar Birthday Bash
10	11 LOE Officer Mtg 10:00 AM Library Bingo 6:00 PM	12 Taco Tues 5:00 - 7:00 PM New Member Interviews 6PM	13 DART LEAGUE Checkin Before 6:50 PM	14 Lodge Meeting 7:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	15 DINNER Platinum Premier Duo (Misty & Loren) 6:00 - 10:00 PM	16
17  HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 Bingo 6:00 PM	19 Taco Tuesday 5:00 - 7:00 PM	20 DART LEAGUE Checkin Before 6:50 PM	21 BOD Meeting & Governing Body 6:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	22 BUNCO  'Tomato' & DINNER 6:00 - 10:00 PM	23 Kids Easter Party 11am-2pm
24 LOE Installation of Officers 1:00PM 3rd Floor LODGE Installation of Officers 2:00PM 3rd Floor EARLY BIRD DINNER 4PM - 7PM	25 Bingo 6:00 PM	26 Taco Tues 5:00 - 7:00 PM New Member Orientation 6PM	27 DART LEAGUE Checkin Before 6:50 PM	28 Lodge Meeting & Initiation 7:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	29 DINNER Platinum Premier Duo (Misty & Loren) 6:00 - 10:00 PM	30

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HAPPY Easter



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Elks Do's and Don'ts

*No food brought into the Lodge on
Bingo night, or any other when food is
being served. Scheduled events i.e.
birthday parties ect. are OK.*

- *Popcorn will not be served when we are serving food in the Lodge.*
- *All guests must be signed in by a member and can NOT pay for liquor.*
- *No liquor will be brought in or taken from the Lodge.*
- *Doors are not to be left open for anyone to walk inside.*



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From the Secretary

Everyone should have received their dues notices. Please pay before the 3/31/2024 deadline. If you don't pay before 3/27 when the bulk mail is sent out, you will need to pickup your card at the lodge. Beginning April 1st the readers will be swapped out and you will no longer be able to gain access to the lodge with your tan card. Early Bird Dinner will be held on March 24th from 4-7pm for those members that paid their dues by March 1st. Members are free, spouses are \$5.

If you are not planning on renewing, you should email me that you want to absolute limit. You will then be an inactive member in good standing. You must do this prior to March 31st. If you are dropped for non-payment you will not be allowed to enter any lodge as you will be considered delinquent.

Please review the applications for prospective new members that you propose before submitting them to the Membership Committee. Make sure they are filled out legibly and completely. They must be signed/dated by the Proposer and the Applicant and we must have a **middle initial** for the background check. There is also a \$200 application fee which needs to be turned in with the application. We cannot process until everything is complete. Please keep in mind that it can take 4- 6 weeks to complete the process of getting initiated.

March

Interviews: Tuesday, Mar 12th on the 2nd floor beginning at 5:30pm. Please sign in on the sign-up sheet by the library.

Orientation: Tuesday, Mar 26th 3rd floor 6pm.


Initiation Meeting: Thursday, Mar 28th, Meet on the 2nd floor at 6:15pm for further instructions.

Lisa Levchik
SecretaryElks497@gmail.com

Office Hours Mon & Thurs 1-5pm

Club Hours	Mon-Thurs : Noon - Til	Phone: (850) 932-4444
	Friday : Noon - Til	Secretary: (850) 932-8050
	Saturday : Noon - Til	Reservations: (850) 932-4444
	Sunday : Noon - Til	Club Manager: beach.elks497@yahoo.com
		www.elks.org/Lodges/home.cfm?Lodgenumber=0497

Please attend Lodge meetings.
Project 50 Percent: One meeting a month, 12 hours a year. It's not too much to ask.



Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks
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