



## LODGE OFFICERS:

EXALTED RULER - Courtney Weil  
LEADING KNIGHT - Shelagh Gombarcik, PLP  
LOYAL KNIGHT - Nanette Quire, PLP  
LECTURING KNIGHT - Becky Sullins  
SECRETARY - Rick Schneider, PER  
TREASURER - Melissa Bertoch  
ESQUIRE - Tommy Moore  
INNER GUARD - Laura Jones  
TILER - George Hilficker  
CHAPLAIN - Christine Harris  
5 YEAR TRUSTEE - Theresa Matthews, PER  
4 YEAR TRUSTEE - Robert Suhrheinrich  
3 YEAR TRUSTEE - Robert Norton  
2 YEAR TRUSTEE - Richard Florance  
1 YEAR TRUSTEE - Brian Brantley, PER

---

DISTRICT ADVISOR - Frank Palladini, PSP, PDDGER  
LODGE ADVISORS - Steve Harmon, PDDGER  
Mike Pierson, PDDGER  
VAVS REP FOR JAMES A HALEY - Brian Brantley, PER

### Exalted Ruler

Courtney Weil (solidfuture@ymail.com)

### House Committee Chair

Bob Suhrheinrich (bob.suhrheinrich@gmail.com)

### Bar Manager

Nancy Keesler, PER (ncody2253@gmail.com)

Hall Event Inquiry: 813-205-1762  
or susieharlow76@yahoo.com

### Lodge email:

lodge708secretary@outlook.com

### Elksize Editor:

georgia@hilficker.com

### Club Hours:

Mon - Thursday 4:00pm - 11:00pm  
Friday 4:00pm - 12:00am  
Saturday 4:00pm - 11:00am  
Sunday 12:30pm - 9:00pm



A Message from your  
Exalted Ruler

## A Poem for the Season

'Twas the month of December and all thru the lodge halls,  
Elks were busily planning and wrapping, just having a ball.

The decorations are hung on the walls with great care,  
in hope that everyone would enjoy the Christmas cheer.

Libations pour freely, decadent goodies abound,  
and the laughter of friendship is easily found.

The ER is in the kitchen, the Elks around the Bar,  
when out rang the buzzer, a sound from afar.

The bartender turned to see who it could be,  
when in walk more Elks to add to the festivity,

More toasting and rejoicing the season is here.  
Let everyone join us and lift a cup of cheer.

The children, the Vets, the homeless too,  
no one is forgotten, that's just what we do.

When Elks make commitments they always stand firm.  
We're loyal and giving which all can affirm.

Brotherly Love, Justice, Charity, and Fidelity live here!  
We're proud of our heritage and we hold it so dear.

Now the hands on the clock fall on 11pm,  
and the Leading Knight calls for us all to come in

"Now Theresa, now Bonnie, now Susie and Chris,  
now Rita, now Bob, now Patty and Nan"

It's time to honor our absent members and to pray for our lost,  
it's time to remember what our freedom has cost.

All glasses are lifted as we take this time each night  
to remember those gone before us and bask in their light.

As we depart for the evening  
we hear from just out of sight...

**"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!"**

I pray that all our members have a wonderful holiday  
seasons and that the new year brings you  
health, wealth and happiness.

God Bless You!

Fraternally Yours, *Courtney Weil*, Exalted Ruler

# A Warm Welcome To Our New Elk



Maj. Keshia  
Pearson US Army  
Sponsored By:  
Nancy Laine



Joann Griffiths  
Sponsored By:  
Rick Schneider



Only one more initiation ceremony for 2016!

Let's see how many we can recruit to finish out the year.

We have so much to offer and so many charities that can use more helping hands.

## December Elk Recognition

### OFFICER OF THE MONTH: NAN QUIRE

Nan hails from one of the oldest families in Lodge 708, and she works diligently for the good of our Lodge in more ways than many people know. Not only does she chair the Harry Anna Fund, which is #1 in the district, but she volunteers her time for all the mundane jobs we find so hard to fill. Nan wears whatever hat our organization needs whether it be cooking, bartending, waiting tables or the set up and breakdown of our many events; Nan is there with bells on! She recently hosted an over-the-top Outer Space Halloween Party that was not only a financial success, but a lot of fun as well. *(Pictures of the phenomenal costumes on page 6 of this newsletter.)* Thanks "Nano" for all you do!



### ELK OF THE MONTH: JERRY & LINDA REID

This dynamic duo is "All In" no matter what they do. Always happy to contribute to the cause whether it be financially or with their time and energy. We are so blessed to have them in our Lodge and truly appreciate all they do to help us meet our charitable obligations. The Reids aren't only supportive, they're fun! Wonderful costumes, great event ideas, and an uplifting attitude are just part of what they add. This past month they brought us a Murder Mystery Dinner Party that everyone enjoyed and added to the Harry Anna and ENF contributions. Linda is the daughter of Bonnie Quire and the sister of Nan Quire so you can see this is a long lived Elk relationship. Add Jerry to the mix and you have everything you need to accomplish any goal you set forth. These two people are "Elks" in every sense of the word!



### VOLUN "ELK" OF THE MONTH: ASHLEY SMITH

This little sweetheart is the granddaughter of Rick and Jan Schneider. For the past several months she has been serving in our dining room with a smile on her face and a wonderful attitude to boot. Finding people to serve has been a challenge all year and it's a real pleasure to have such a nice young lady committed to our Lodge and our dining room. Ashley is married to a young man currently in boot camp, and she has a beautiful baby girl 13 months old. As you can imagine she has her hands full and is very grateful for her grandparents who watch her little girl while she works. Please say hello next time you're in for dinner, and remember she's a working mother and needs all the support we can give her. Keep up the good work, Ashley!



# Supporting Reports



## LADIES OF THE ELK

Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving  
Merry Christmas!

I hope these holidays bring good health and much love to all your families and friends. Congratulations to our very own Laura Jones for being named Elk officer of the month last month. Her smile and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all those who attended the Improvaholics night. It was a great success. We had about 65 people in attendance and I think everyone had a good time. Laughter is good therapy for the soul after all!

Don't forget December 9th is our Christmas Bazaar. Bring a friend for dinner and music and buy those last minute Christmas gifts.

This is the time of year to share with others and be thankful for all that we've been given and are able to give back. May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, joy and happiness and may God's love keep you and your family safe.

In God's Love, *Suzanne Moore*, Ladies of the Elk President

### Executive Board

- Suzanne Moore - President
- Susie Harlow - Vice President
- Jacquie LoCicero - Secretary
- Robert Bordonaro - Treasurer
- Donna Halsey - Chaplain
- Lisa Snyder - Parliamentarian



### LOE December Birthdays submitted by Donna Halsey



12/8 - Jack Johnson    12/13 - Betty Pickenpaugh    12/22 - Carolyn Miller    12/24 - Shelagh Gombarcik



# 365

## Happy Thanksgiving

On the last day to turn in my article I was a little depressed that I had no donations. Then I walked into the lodge and the donations came! I want to thank Laura Jones, Wendy Woo, Betty Orcutt, Ben and Candy Venable and George and

Georgia Hilficker who save their change to turn in each Friday night. I'd also like to give a big thank you to everyone around the bar and in the dining room that continue to drop their coins in our little green houses.

Thank you to all who helped and I hope more will join.

As always, hope everyone stays happy and healthy. Love you guys, *Berni Turpin*

# Committee Communications



**Elks  
National  
Foundation**

Glad tidings of great joy, members. Tampa Lodge #708 has been awarded the Impact Grant for the second year in a row to support the Club Chivalry Program at our very own local Robinson High School. This has to make all you Robinson HS alumni proud to be contributing members.

If you have not considered donating to this awesome charity...PLEASE do so. This is the season for caring and sharing especially in your own local community. Remember that you can get a tax deduction for your contributions. This is also the season to remember others that are in need and the kids in the Club Chivalry program are having tremendous success. Wish all of you my brothers and sisters, a wonderful Christmas Holiday Season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



*Shelagh Gombarcik*, Leading Knight, ENF Chairperson

# Committee Communications

## Drug Awareness, Hoop and Soccer Shoot Report

Hello everyone. Hope you all had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. Time has flown by this year, and Christmas is right around the corner. Our annual Hoop Shoot is in the works and we will not have the results till next month due to the Elksize timing.

As for our drug awareness program, Rick Schneider was kind enough to forward an email request from the Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance requesting brochures produced by the Elk's Drug Awareness Program. They have been using the brochures for a while and ran out of them and needed more. We immediately sent them the brochures so they could keep up their good work. They were very happy and thankful to Tampa Elk's Lodge#708. Hopefully we can do more for them in the future.

Fraternally yours, *Tommy Moore*, Chairman for Drug Awareness



**YOUTH  
EVENTS**



The Youth Camp Committee members want to wish you and your family a Joyous Holiday Season and the Happiest New Year.

There will be a pre-camp get together in Feb 2017, when the lodge receives the new 2017 Camp applications. Let's have another great Tampa 708 year!

Fraternally yours, *John Wayne*, PER, Youth Camp Chairman



Happy Holidays to my favorite Angels.

Our children's Christmas party is almost here, are you doing your part to spread good cheer?

Our Angels are being hung, donations being given to help the young.

Just a \$10 donation to make the day bright, to help the child of a family in a plight.

Together as Elks, we will make the kids happy, Our community together, acting like family.

We are now in the heavy planning stage of our Elks Youth Christmas Party. We are selling Elk Angels for \$10 at the bar. Donations will be used to help offset the cost of the party; we anticipate another large crowd. It is Saturday, December 17, 2016 from 12:00noon-3:00pm. Registration begins December 1, 2017 and there is a signup sheet for volunteers and children in the lobby. The BE AN ANGEL, BUY AN ANGEL Fundraiser is in full effect. Buy your Angel behind the bar or from one of the many committee members, add some color to it, and we will add it to the Angel wall at the lodge. Our first nine angels are from: Bonnie Quire, Bonnie Atwood, Jeff Diamond, Betty Gnad, John Flowers, Wendy Woo, Rita Smith, Rachel Gombarcik, and Mike Volpe.

Thank you everyone for your continued support.

*Patty Elkins*, Youth Activities Chairman



## Club Chivalry for Success - Is a Success

The big announcement! Tampa Elks have been approved for a second \$10,000 impact grant to continue our project - Club Chivalry for Successful Students - at Robinson High School. The grant year is January through December, so we are just finishing up the first year's grant. It has been a successful year overall, though the mentoring program is not where we would like for it to be yet. If you would like to be a mentor for a high school student, please go to the Hillsborough County Public Schools website and hit the green APPLY button to fill out an application. It takes a few weeks to get approved.

In November, we had a regular club day meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> and then we had our first ever On Campus Field Trip on the 17<sup>th</sup>. This field trip started with a breakfast meeting in the cafeteria, then the students had a 'Passport' to take with them to the job fair and have them initialed by the professionals at the job fair. There were more than 40 job fair participants in the gymnasium, so the students had plenty to learn about and they were quite busy for a couple of hours. Next, we enjoyed lunch "al fresco" in the bleachers at the baseball field. It was a beautiful day to be outdoors, and Ms. Chowning took advantage of that fact to lead them in an after-lunch kickball game. It was a good opportunity for the students in the club to get to know each other better, and to finish off the extra drinks and snacks the Tampa Elks had provided. The students comfort level was noticeably improved, as was their cooperation, when we tried for a group photo session. The day ended in the auditorium with a talk by FBI agents that was attended by as many of the high school classes as the auditorium could hold.

Thank you to our Elk volunteers - Major Kesha Pearson US Army, Elma Kelly, Becky Sullins, Laura Jones, Caroline Miller, and of course, the unflappable Ms. Kristina Chowning, for helping to keep tabs on the students and the supplies all day.

Rita Smith, Club Chivalry for Successful Students, Project Manager



## Committee Communications



### November was Veteran's Remembrance Month -and Elks Remembered!

The Veterans and the Athena Committee held a joint meeting on Nov 8<sup>th</sup> and acted on several items.

It was decided that the Tampa Lodge members at the meeting on Wednesday night would be solicited for donations to buy McDonald cheeseburgers for the Veterans on Nov 10<sup>th</sup> when we did our monthly bingo night. We quickly raised about \$83 dollars, and the cheeseburgers sure brought big smiles to the Veterans that night. They were treated to the cheeseburgers, a bag of chips, punch, and a dessert of cake and candy the evening before Veterans Day.

Veterans Day fell on a Friday this year. The committee approved purchasing the Lodge's Friday night dinner for any Elks that could show their proof of service at the Lodge. We often neglect to say thank you to Elks among us that not only served, but continue to serve the community through their membership in our Lodge. The free meal was appreciated by those that attended.

The Athena Veterans were again invited for Thanksgiving. We also extended the invitation to those veterans that have transitioned out of the Athena house but have stayed in touch with us. Committee members will be providing transportation. Our Athena Christmas plans are for a Sunday afternoon at the University of Tampa enjoying the Victorian Stroll and then a catered dinner enjoyed al fresco on the riverfront.

The Veteran's Committee will hold another fundraiser on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> in the hopes of raising enough money to complete the project that was submitted for the Freedom grant, but subsequently denied. A contract has been signed to bring in the professional song and dance troupe, **Re-Creation**. This troupe from Pennsylvania tours the country playing at Veteran Hospitals and private venues alike. Please look for our flyer about this event and come out and enjoy an evening while supporting this cause.

Rita Smith, Veteran's & Athena Chair



### Operation Stand Down

On October 28<sup>th</sup> the Tampa Elks Lodge participated in James A. Haley's Operation Stand Down. This one day event provided social services and necessities to almost 400 Veterans that the Veteran's Administration considers homeless. The date of the Stand Down had been delayed for 2 months due to safety concerns surrounding Hurricane Hermine, but the delay did not negate the need. We just stored all the items and were ready to go on the new date.

Tampa Elks Lodge #708 members donated all the cash and supplies, with no monies coming out of the general fund or the Veteran's account. Cash donations were received in August from Earl Clark, Bonnie Quire, Debbie Cassels, Sharon Ford and Bonnie Atwood. In kind donations of requested individually wrapped toilet paper, cloth bags, and emergency ponchos were made by Lena Farris, Tommy and Sue Moore, Hank and Patricia Bellairs, Shelagh Gombarcik, Rick Schneider and me. I apologize if I am unaware somebody snuck some in.

On Thursday night, October 27th Brian and Michael Brantley assisted me with the prep for all the vegetables for the BBQ hamburgers – lettuce, tomatoes and onions – a whole lot of them!

On Friday morning Elma Kelly, Berton Newbill, John Brennan and I arrived prior to 8 o'clock to set up our table and unload all the supplies. Candi and Bob Suhrheinrich and Exalted Ruler Courtney Weil took our mid-day shift, arriving by 10, and Carolyn Breit, Carolyn Miller and Patty Jankiewicz finished out the day, arriving before noon. By 1:30 the crowd had pretty much dispersed. We had the empty coolers loaded up and were back on the road before 2.

You can be proud of the fact that the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a partner with the Veterans Administration in its fight to end Veteran Homelessness.

Rita Smith, Veteran's Chair



# Last Month's Fantastic Festivities & Events



Hi, "Nano Jetson" here. I arrived on planet Earth on Oct. 29 to host the 2016 Halloween in Outer Space The Sci-Fi Adventure fundraising event.

This turned out to be a fun, festive and successful Halloween party. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets to support this event which was held to raise money for our lodge's general fund. The Outer Space themed decorations turned out great. I want to thank the following for their hard work by selling tickets, donations and/or helping set up and tear down decorations: Bonnie Quire, Tommy Moore, Sue Moore, Rebecca Sullins, Brenda Stoking, Nancy Keesler, Sharon Ford, Linda Reid, Jerry Reid, Rita Smith, Susie Harlow, Patty Jankiewicz, Shelagh Gombarcik, Nelson Grahn, Pat Fennell, Lynn Szeliga (who flew in from out of town to help and attend this event), Chris Miles, Betty Faulkner, Michael Brantley, Carol Newman and Karine Newman. The roast pork loin dinner was absolutely delicious, so let me extend a huge thank you to Chef Lonnie Koonce and his kitchen assistants Debbie Rohm and Tommy Moore. I also want to thank our DJ for the evening, Marty Quire, who did a great job with the music and his collection of classic sci-fi movies clips which were displayed on the big screen during the party (everyone loved this feature as well as the robots he brought). There were a lot of great Outer Space and Halloween costumes which enhanced the ambiance of the theme. Thanks to our costume contest Judges Chris Miles, Bonnie Atwood and Max Jones (Sherral Jorgensen's friend from Merritt Island Elks Lodge) who all selected Candy Venable as best Outer Space costume, Bonnie Quire as best Halloween costume and Becky Sullins' guests "the cone-heads" as best couple costume who all received cash prizes.



Door prizes were also given out but the first set of door prizes required the three winners to participate in a Sci-Fi Trivia Game Show which included Lisa Snyder as a contestant who made the game most enjoyable with her funny answers. A special thank you goes out to Bonnie Quire for helping me with the shopping and the planning for the event, greeting guests and selling 50/50 and necklace raffle tickets all during the party. Also an extra thanks to Susie Harlow for manning the auction table all through the event, Theresa Matthews for donating the beautiful necklace, and Nancy Keesler for helping me bake and decorate over 100 galaxy cupcakes. I also want to thank my daughter Chelsie who helped me with a lot of the decorating ideas and the Veterans Committee for donating Halloween tablecloths. Our Alien bartenders Jeannie and Jeff were fantastic. I hope you enjoy the pictures along with this article as well as the ones on the monitor displayed in the lounge area. Thanks, Georgia and to those who sent me additional pictures.



Fraternally, Nano Jetson a/k/a Nanette Quire,  
Esteemed Loyal Knight, Halloween Committee Chairperson



# Last Month's Fantastic Festivities & Events



## A Murder Mystery on Budget Cruise Lines

The Murder Mystery Dinner Show on November 5th was a wonderful night of outrageous antics and hilarious audience participation. The cast of the "Murder She Wrote" group did a great job of including the guests in their mystery as well as providing hysterical costumes for them to parade. It's safe to say there wasn't a person present that didn't get a kick out of seeing their friends and family strutting the runway in those outfits.

In the end it was only Theresa Matthews, PER, who figured out that there had not been a murder after all, and that the detective character, who was in disguise, was actually the person purported to have been the victim. All in all it was a great plot and I believe that everyone enjoy themselves immensely. I know we did.

Thanks to Courtney and her crew for providing the fabulous and plentiful food. A Big Thanks to our family and friends for helping with the setup and the cleanup. These are such time consuming and tedious jobs and you were all such a tremendous help!

In the end the profits from this event made it possible for us to donate \$200.00 to both the Elks National Foundation and to the Harry Anna Trust Fund. The bar had a good night as well, which is a great help to the lodge in general as Saturday nights are typically not very profitable.

I'd also like to thank all those who purchased tickets and attended. Your support of lodge events makes it possible for us to meet our charitable obligations.

Linda Reid



## Last Month's Fantastic Festivities & Events



### THE IMPROVAHOLICS JUST CONTINUE TO IMPROVE!

On Nov. 12th the Ladies of the Elks sponsored a live performance by the Tampa Improv class known as the Improvaholics. You never know what the show will be about – and neither do they! Each show is entirely different. The secret to Improv is to be quick witted and creative. This time, they asked each person in the arriving audience to complete a fill in the blank phrase, then worked their sketches from those short sentences. Approximately 50 people paid \$10.00 a piece to come in and watch the show and enjoy some free appetizers. The show is billed as "Adults Only", and though I wouldn't recommend it for children, I did not find anything very offensive. The audience was in stitches most of the night.

This has been a great partnership for our Lodge and Ladies, as about 25 % of the performers have become Elks and we have a ready source of laughter available. Watch for their next show – because we all know that laughter is the best medicine.



### The New Mr. & Mrs. Orcutt celebrated their union with us November 19th

Friends and family gathered together to rejoice in the marriage of long time Elks, Betty and Bob Orcutt. This couple has been, and continues to be a wonderful support to our lodge when they are with us through the winter months. Kind hearted and always with a welcoming spirit, everyone agrees this is a perfect match.

Courtney Weil, our Exalted Ruler, prepared a glorious table of tasty hor d'oeuvres and delectable desserts. The tables were full, the conversation spritely and the libations plentiful. Everyone had a wonderful time, not the least of which were the happy couple!

*Georgia Hilfiker, Elksize Editor*



### PLP DISTRICT TEA

Tampa Lodge 708 LOE hosted this month's district meeting. Shelagh Gombarcik, our Leading Knight and ENF chairwoman, prepared a delightful tea that was not only beautiful, but successful as well. Pastries, cakes, scones, chicken salad and cucumber trimmed sandwiches were on the menu and everyone was truly impressed with the event.

The ladies held their PLP meeting and discussed upcoming projects and events as well as the past year's accomplishments. As 2016 comes to an end and 2017 is upon us, the Ladies will continue to support their lodges and their charities.

*Georgia Hilfiker, Elksize Editor*



## Last Month's Fantastic Festivities & Events

# Thanksgiving at Tampa Lodge 708

This year may not have been as populated as last, but the food was wonderful and the company was even better. Lynn Brown, Adrian Higgins and Tommy Moore did an exemplary job of serving and keeping the buffet loaded with Lynn's delicious offerings. As usual Lynn's turkey and cranberry sauce stole the show and everyone left too full to do more than waddle out.

Shelagh Gombarcik, Leading Knight, was our hostess and decorated the room so the atmosphere was warm and welcoming. Her talented and loving hand is always a blessing to our events. Rita Smith and Suzanne Moore were there to help where ever needed so the dinner went off without a hitch.

Most of my family were in attendance and all 20 of us had a wonderful time from start to finish. Thank you to all that made this holiday dinner possible!

*Georgia Hilficker, Elksize Editor*



## From the Ladies of the Elks

Thanks to our lovely Ladies of the Elks, our social room is decked out in full holiday regalia. Friday, November 25th the Ladies spent their evening working hard for our benefit, making the holiday season festive and beautiful for our members and guests. Tommy Moore was in the kitchen heating up the pot luck dinner and Chris Miles, Brian and Michael Brantley joined them to add the masculine touch to the decorations and to enjoy the pot luck dinner.

Please take a moment to thank these elves for all their hard work and to complement them on a job well done.

*Georgia Hilficker, Elksize Editor*

# Last Month's Fantastic Festivities & Events



## MEN IN DRAG

November 26th Elks Lodge 708 hosted the West Palm Beach "Men in Drag" ensemble for an uproarious night of songs and impersonations. The show drew groups from the St. Petersburg Lodge and the West Palm Beach Lodge as well a large number of 708 members.

As the saying goes "a picture is worth a thousand words" and if that's true, these pictures are sure to tell you what a wonderful time everyone had. Stunning costumes, moving and funny numbers, great food and lots of comradery made this event a roaring success.

There was something for everyone at the Lodge this night. In the bar area, those that were not joining the fun in the back hall watched the Gator/FSU Game on the big screen and cheered their team on. The bar was busy, the kitchen was busy and the entertainers were working their hearts out, all for the good of our lodge.

The performance ended on a serious note as one of the performers sang "See Me" as he changed from his costume to his street clothes illustrating that no matter what his appearance, he was the same person.

The St. Pete and West Palm members stayed for the toast and they were able to hear our Tampa Toast, written by Larry Quire, PER. All proceeds will go to the Lodge improvement fund helping to pay for our new A/C system.

*Georgia Hilfiker, Elksize Editor*



## Upcoming Events and Projects



### 2016 MEMORIAL SERVICE

It's time to recognize the members we lost in 2016. Please join our officers as they gather to commemorate their passing.

**December 4th at 3:00pm in the Back Hall**

List of members that will be recognized.

Theodore W. Heider Sr 7/18/1938 to 11/5/2016

H. Kelly Sapp 8/14/1933 to 8/06/2016

Craig Newberg 9/06/1955 to 3/23/2016

Charles W Rice 6/14/1940 to 3/11/2016

Vernon D. Pickenpauh 10/07/1934 to 3/05/2016

Isaac Owen 11/20/1925 to 2/27/2016

Clyde Godsey (Jessie) 8/04/1933 to 12/21/15

Refreshments will be served following the service.

# Upcoming Events and Projects

**QUEEN OF HEARTS IS OVER \$600**

**Time to buy those tickets**

**Drawing Thursdays 7pm...Tickets sold up to 6:45pm**



## Boston Globe Special Edition

### CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

Please join us for a  
Birthday Celebration  
Honoring

**BOSTON  
BOB**

Saturday, December 3rd  
6pm Cocktails  
7pm Dinner  
- ELKS WELCOME -



Elks Lodge 708  
3616 Gandy Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33611  
Please RSVP by  
November 25th to  
Brenda Stokking  
at 813-226-2126 or  
rnorton3@tampabay.rr.com  
or sign up on the bulletin  
board at the lodge.  
NO PRESENTS PLEASE



What a great idea  
**A Lodge Gift Card**  
For Christmas!

The perfect gift for a  
friend, a family  
member, someone  
you'd like to recruit or  
another member that's  
been especially helpful  
this year. No matter  
who receives it, they  
will enjoy the many  
opportunities the  
Lodge provides.

Load any amount you wish!

## LOE

Christmas Bazaar  
Friday Dec. 9th  
6pm

Christmas shop till you drop, grab  
a few baked goods and enjoy a  
beverage or two while you do it!

Can you think of a better way?



## A CHRISTMAS GARNIVAL

December 17th from 12pm to 3pm

Ages 1 to 13 are welcome.

Sign kids up on the bulletin board by 12/14  
so an age appropriate gift is purchased for each child.

Volunteer sign up is requested as well.

Please contact Patty Elkins at 941-580-7201 or  
Email her at [elkinspatty@yahoo.com](mailto:elkinspatty@yahoo.com)



## Upcoming Events and Projects

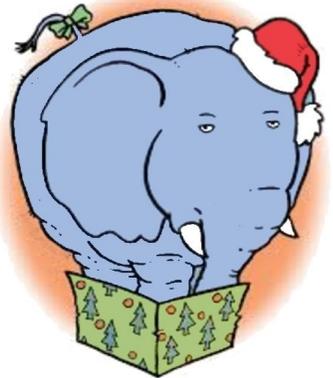
# Annual Adult Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange

It's that time again...

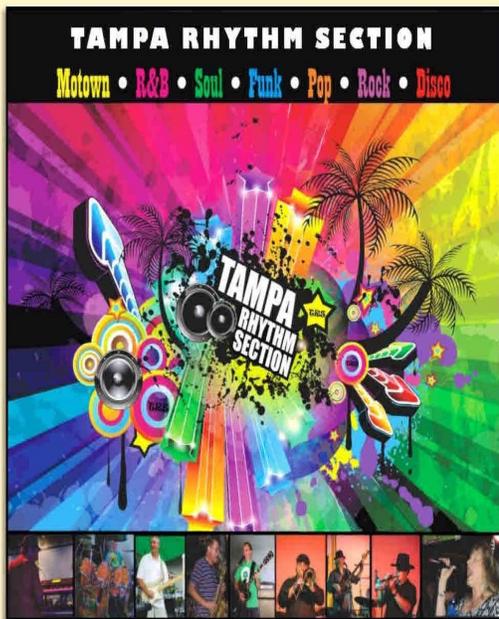
Time to lift a glass of Christmas Cheer and come up with the perfect classless gift for that oh so hilarious and embarrassing, White Elephant Gift Exchange.

Join us for Heavy Hors d'oeuvres  
and Christmas Karaoke  
Saturday, Dec. 17th at 6pm

You and your clever gift exchange are all you need to attend!



# NEW YEAR'S EVE 2016



DECEMBER 31ST

7:00PM

TICKETS

\$30.00

INCLUDE  
DINNER,  
DANCING,  
FESTIVE HATS,  
AND NOISE MAKERS,  
CHAMPAGNE TOAST  
AND BREAKFAST

Dinner available from 8:00pm to 9:30pm  
Menu: Caesar Salad, 8oz Bacon Wrapped Filet,  
or Cornish Hen a la Orange, Baked Potato, Broccoli  
in Cheese Sauce, and Chocolate Raspberry Surprise

Breakfast Served at 12:30am  
Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Sausage Gravy, Grits,  
Biscuits and Coffee

Tickets will be available November 1st  
LIMITED SEATING

When purchasing you will make your  
dinner selection and choose your seat.

NOTE: This is a closed Lodge event...  
anyone without a ticket will be asked to leave at 7PM

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW...**

**Nancy Kessler will be at the Lodge to take your reservations  
on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1pm to 7pm**

# Upcoming Events and Projects



TAMPA ELKS LODGE  
IS PROUD TO PRESENT  
NATIONALLY REKNOWN ENTERTAINMENT ACT

**RE-CREATION**  
JANUARY 21, 2017

FOR ONE SHOW ONLY!

Great entertainment at a great price!

Tickets available December 20th at the Lodge.  
A great Christmas gift for the Elk who has everything!

**\$25**

A Tampa Elks Veteran's Committee Fundraiser To Benefit MacDill AFB Youth

5:30 cocktails • 6:30 dinner • 8:00 show • 9:00 dessert and drawings

Tampa Elks Lodge, 3616 Gandy Blvd



**GASPARILLA  
INVASION ADVENTURE**

**SAVE THE DATE - JAN. 28TH**

IT'S TIME TO PARTY LIKE A PIRATE AND JOIN IN THE  
FUN AS WE CELEBRATE THE 2017 INVASION

Buses will pick up from select lodges at 7am

You will enjoy:

- ☛ All you can eat breakfast
- ☛ Lunch and Boat Invasion viewed from Davis Islands waterfront, bring a lawn chair.
- ☛ Pirate Beads
- ☛ All you can eat dinner
- ☛ Live Music and
- ☛ Loads of fun activities

**\$60.00**

# On Going Monthly Activities



**SUNDAY - FUNDAY!**  
Wii Bowling  
4pm Most Sundays  
Bragging rights and  
your name on the  
winners bowling pin!

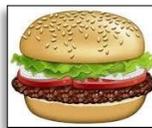


**BUCS  
FOOTBALL**

ON OUR 144" SCREEN!

DECEMBER  
BUCS SCHEDULE

Sun. 12/4 - 4:25 - Chargers  
Sun. 12/11 - 1pm - Saints  
Sun. 12/18 - 1pm - Cowboys  
Sat. 12/24 - 1pm - Saints



**SHORT ORDER  
GRILL  
Every Monday  
Night 5:30  
To 7:30**

Burgers, Patty Melts, Reubens,  
Grilled Cheese, BLT's  
French Fries, Tater Tots, or  
Onion Rings included with all  
sandwiches or as appetizers.



Tuesday Night Movie  
7:30 pm  
Jeff brings in the most  
recent Redbox Movie



**WIENIE  
WEDNESDAY**  
2nd & 4th  
Wednesdays  
Meeting Nights  
\$1.00  
\$.50 CHIPS

Hot Dogs Served from  
6:15pm - 7:15pm and for  
1 Hr after the meeting

**Thursday Night  
ONE DISH MEALS**

6pm to 7:30pm - \$8.00  
Dinners served with  
salad, roll & dessert

Dec. 1st - Pork Pot Pies  
Dec. 8th - Stuffed Chicken Rolls  
Dec. 15th - Beef Stew  
Dec. 22nd - Bacon Mac & Cheese  
Dec. 29th - Spaghetti & Meatballs &  
Italian Sausage Spaghetti Bake



Dec. 8th  
this Month  
3rd Thursdays after  
Queen of Hearts.  
\$2.00 to play  
All proceeds go to offset the  
cost of the Veteran's meals.  
Fabulous prizes & Great Fun!  
Multiple Choice Questions.  
Hosted by: Lisa and Sandra



**Every Friday Night  
Dinner & Dancing**  
See Menus on pg 18

# Lodge Business and Programs



## Partners in Progress or PIP

### Platinum Investors 100+

In Memory of Vern Pickenpaugh  
from the Reids 3/17

Also from the Pickenpaugh Family 4/17

Osterbrock, Debbie 5/17

Walbart, Mark 6/17

Suhrheinrich, Robert & Candice 6/17

Fennell, Pat & Marilyn 6/17

In Memory of Jerrye & Patrick Fennell 6/17

Speach, Michael 6/17

With sincere thanks for the transportation  
Schneider, Rick & Jan 6/17

Appel, Jackie 6/17

In Memory of Tom Stanton

From Mrs. Helen M. Stanton 9/17

Florance, Richard 9/17

To increase the financial strength of Tampa Elks Lodge #708, ensuring that our Lodge will be around for another 100 years. We will accomplish this by rebuilding our capital through investments made by Lodge Partners who are determined to secure Tampa Elks Lodge #708 future. Interest earned on the investments will remain in the investment account and help to increase the overall financial strength of our Lodge.

### Gold Investors \$51-\$99

Bordonaro, Robert 7/2017

### Silver Investors \$21-\$50

Shelagh Gombarcik 6/2016

Howard James 11/2017

### Bronze Investors \$10 - \$20

YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE!

## Recruiter of the Month

# Nancy Laine

Enjoy your parking space for the month of December

## Buy an Elk

## Tee Shirt

Tee Shirts \$15.00



Show  
Your Elkdom!



Ask your bartender.

### DECEMBER LODGE MEETING SCHEDULE

6th - STCOC Military Affairs 3:00pm

7th - LOE Meeting 7:30pm

7th - BOD Meeting 6:30pm

13th - House Committee Meeting 7:30pm

14th - General Elks Meeting 7:30pm

18th - Orientation & Initiation 11am

19th - Veteran's Meeting 7:00pm

21st - BOD & Officer's Meeting 7:00pm

# Lodge Business and Programs Cont.



## Courtney and Sammy want to THANK YOU ALL!

We can't begin to tell you how much we appreciate the outpour of support we have received since our stressful ordeal began. The fear for Sammy's life, the concern over our financial obligations and my ability to maintain my Mary Kay directorship were almost overwhelming. There didn't seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel we found

ourselves in. Then all of a sudden the well wishes, bundles of food, prayers and money began to pour in. It is humbling to be on the receiving end of such kindness and love.

To those of you that do not know, Sammy was diagnosed with a severe strain of pneumonia which attacked his right lung and wrapped an infection around it. He underwent surgery to remove the infection, that antibiotics were unable to kill, and it was found that his lung was attached to his diaphragm and the inside of his chest wall. The surgery was successful and with God's help and your support he is on the mend. The stress levels are manageable now that our bills are paid for the month and this is without a doubt contributing greatly to his recovery. It will be an uphill battle for him, but I'm sure now that he will be fine. He's already sassy as ever!

Thank you seem to be such a insignificant phrase for the peace of mind you have given us. However, it is meant from our hearts.

Courtney Weil, Exalted Ruler

## FOR ANY OCCASION...THINK OUR PARTY ROOM

Weddings, Receptions, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Club Meetings, Company Dinners...our back hall will accommodate a large number of guests and can be decorated for any occasion. In addition we offer kitchen privileges for a token cost. Check out the available hall rentals in the area and you will see how very reasonable our fees are. Remember, the funds derived from our proceeds are used to support our Lodge and its charities.

For more information please don't hesitate to contact Susie Harlow at  
[susieharlow76@yahoo.com](mailto:susieharlow76@yahoo.com)



## EVER THINK OF ADVERTISING IN THE ELKSIZE?

Your business, Your Service...or Something to Sell  
You would be advertising to fellow Elks and like minded people.

Low Fees, Large Audience....

Contact Georgia Hilficker at [georgia@hilficker.com](mailto:georgia@hilficker.com)

# Lodge Business and Programs Cont.

## BEACON GRANT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!



The Beacon Grant is our ongoing project with the Open Arms ministry at Hyde Park United Methodist Church. We use the \$2000.00 grant to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to the homeless on the Sunday morning closest to the holiday, and to buy enough socks and underwear and used pants to get them through the winter months. About 30 Elks were on hand to serve turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, yams, Green bean casserole, corn and salad to 174 homeless on November 20<sup>th</sup>. This year, Christmas falls on a Sunday, so the Elks need to find enough volunteers to serve on Christmas morning. What a great way to start the day! We also get a matching grant from Florida Elks Charities that we use to help the homeless through the summer months. Here is how you can help!

1. Clothing drive – winter wear in all sizes is needed. Shoes, belts, and purses can also easily find a new home. You can put them in the antler room, but alert me or Courtney so they don't linger there...
2. Meal Prep – we will be going in on Thursday, December 22 at about 11:00 to prepare some of the side dishes and store them in the walk in refrigerator for heating on Sunday. This is a great opportunity for those that can't bear to see the sunrise but would like to get involved. We usually spend about 3 hours in the kitchen at Open Arms.
3. Serve – On Christmas morning, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Courtney will be managing the kitchen at Open Arms, and we are suppose to have enough Elks to fill the serving line at 7:30 AM. There is plenty of parking in two big lots at Magnolia and Azeele. Go in the door marked kitchen entrance – Courtney will be right inside to direct you from there. Please let me know you are coming and I will have a name tag waiting for you. You will be finished by about 9:30.

## GRATITUDE GRANT NEEDS HELP TOO!

The **Gratitude Grant** is the one we earned by meeting our per capita for ENF. The first part of our project took place Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, when we had a professional mime and motivational speaker come to BridgePrep Academy and talk to the kids about bullying. He gave two shows – one for about 200 elementary kids, and a second for about 100 middle schoolers. They LOVED him! They thought he- and by extension the Elks – were super cool.

The second part of the grant will take place at 6PM on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> when we will be catering a *Modern and Multicultural Holiday Feast*. Students and their parents will be invited, so there may be a really big crowd.

What can you do?

Ethnic dishes will be the focal point, so if you have a great and inexpensive recipe, please let me know. If we include it, please come help us prepare it. Food prep will probably be a multi day event starting Saturday. There will be a lot of schlepping involved on the evening of the event.

- Can you pick up a prepaid order at an area restaurant and deliver it to the school? Can you haul a load of paper supplies from the lodge to the school?
- Can you put on some Elks logo clothing and help serve the meal?
- Can you be at the lodge upon our return to help clean up and put things away?

Rita Smith, Grant Coordinator



# Lodge Business and Programs Cont.



## AMERICAN CELEBRATION



### FUNDRAISER FOR FLORIDA ELKS WWII VETERANS TRIP TO THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR



The ALL AMERICAN CELEBRATION Fundraiser was held at Largo Elks Lodge #2159 on Sunday, November 20 to help offset some of the costs of sending 25 Florida Elk WWII Veterans to the Commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. This event will be held on December 7, 2016 in Honolulu, HI.

The event was attended by members and guests of 7 of the 8 lodges in the WCD, and 14 members of Tampa attended. Seven of the WWII veterans who will be making the trip were present and honored. They include the following: Manny Maldonado, Tampa Lodge (Army); Peter Lopez, Largo Lodge (Navy); Hector Hipa, Largo Lodge (Army); Louis Serrabella, Largo Lodge (Navy); Bill Davis, Largo Lodge (Navy); Bill Lynch, Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge (Army); and Paul Stark, Holiday Isles Lodge (Air Force). While in conversation, Manny and Hector realized that they were in the same place during the war but did not remember each other. Howard James, Tampa #708 member and WWII veteran, was unable to attend this event but will be going to HI with his daughter Debbie Osterbrock.

Rudy Masi PDDGER from St. Petersburg Lodge, Florida State Elks Association Liaison with the Historic Commemorative Programs and coordinator for the trip to Hawaii, was so surprised and appreciative of the additional donations of \$500 from Tampa Lodge #708, presented by PER Theresa Matthews, and the \$300 donation from the Tampa LOE, presented by Sue Moore, President of the Ladies Association.

The evening which was charged with patriotism with Carlo, the musician, playing a medley of patriotic songs and a medley of the branches of service theme songs, and very emotional for all. The festivities were complete with PSP Frank Palladini, Tampa Lodge, performing the 11 O'Clock Toast.

Thank you Tampa Lodge #708 for your participation, your donations, and your support for this very worthwhile event.

Coordinators Sonja Lopez, Largo Lodge Trustee, and Jeanne Reinhart, DDGER of the WCD

Jeanne Reinhart, DDGER of the WCD



## COME WELCOME OUR GUYS HOME!

At the fundraiser on Sunday, November 20 at Largo Lodge, several people asked if there was going to be a coming home celebration for the WWII vets that are attending the 75th Commemoration of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. And, the answer is "yes." It would be wonderful for all Elks to gather at the gate when they come in to Tampa Airport. I know when we returned from Washington DC last year with the vets, it was a very wonderful, emotional end of a perfect trip.

Therefore, I would highly recommend that all come to welcome them home. The first group of vets will return on United Flight #1890 from Newark arriving in Tampa on Sunday, December 11 at 2:46 p.m. The second group will return on Sunday, December 18 on United Flight #1890 arriving at Tampa Airport at 2:30 p.m. from Newark.

Please come in patriotic shirts and carrying US flags, if possible. Please bring your friends and fellow Elks. The vets will be so happy to see you! Please share this information; I don't have everyone's emails. Thanks!

Thank you for your support!

Jeanne Reinhart PER

WCD Deputy

727-743-1387

# Friday Night Menus at a Glance



Your ER's Specialties Night  
December 2nd - 6:30 to 8:30

<b>Appetizer</b>	
Fried Cheese Sticks .....	\$3.50
Fried Cheese Ravioli .....	\$4.95
<b>Dinner Choices</b>	
Served with Italian Salad and Garlic Bread	
Chicken Parmesan .....	\$ 9.95
Italian Sausage and Pasta .....	\$ 8.95
<b>Kid's Menu</b>	
Kid's Pasta .....	\$ 1.50
<b>Dessert</b>	
Cheese Cake .....	\$3.50



## Special Holiday Dinner Menu

December 9th - 6:30pm to 8:30pm  
Georgia Cooks  
Melissa & Nelson Serve

<b>Appetizer</b>	
Jumbo Shrimp Cocktail .....	\$5.50
Escargot with Garlic Crips .....	\$5.50
<b>Dinner Choices</b>	
Served with Salad, Mixed Vegetables and Yeast Rolls	
Slow Roasted Short Ribs with a Sage Gorgonzola Sauce .....	\$ 11.50
Grilled Shrimp and Scallops Pasta .....	\$ 10.25
<b>KID'S MENU</b>	
Hot dog & Chips .....	\$ 1.50
<b>DESSERT by LAURA</b>	
Crème Brule.....	\$ 3.85

## Bob & Betty's Prime Rib



## Dinner Night

December 16th - 6:30 to 8:30

<b>Dinner Choices</b>	
Dinners served with choice of Baked Potatoes or French fries, Broccoli, Salad and Rolls	
12oz Prime Rib.....	\$15.95
1/4 Roasted Chicken .....	\$ 7.95
<b>Kids Under 12</b>	
Hot Dog with Chips .....	\$1.50
<b>Dessert</b>	
New York Cheese Cake .....	\$3.50

## Spectacular Steak & Salmon



December 23rd  
6:30pm to 8:30pm

<b>DINNER CHOICES</b>		<b>SPLIT PEA SOUP</b>	
All dinners served with choice of potato, baked, mashed, or fried, Elk Green Beans, Salad or soup, butter and rolls			
12oz Rib Eye Steak .....	\$13.99	Cup.....	\$ 1.50
Pan Seared Salmon .....	\$13.99	Bowl .....	\$ 3.50
Roast Chicken Dinner.....	\$ 9.50	Soup, Salad & Roll.....	\$ 5.50
		<b>Kids' Menu</b>	
		Chicken Nuggets w/French Fries And Green Beans.....	
		\$ 5.95	
		<b>Dessert</b>	
		Rum Cake with Vanilla Ice Cream.....	
		\$ 4.50	

## DEC. 30TH IS HOT GRILL NIGHT

Don't cook...come put your feet up, relax and let Shelagh and Rita cook for you while enjoying the fantastic sounds of the 5 piece band "FACILITY"

Menu to be determined...but we know you'll love it!



# TAMPA ELKS LODGE #708

## DECEMBER 2016 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				<p>1 One Dish Meal 6pm to 7:30pm Pork Pot Pie Salad, Roll &amp; Dessert</p> <p>Queen of Hearts Drawing 7pm</p> 	<p>2 Dinner &amp; Dancing 6:30 to 8:30 MUSIC BY: Keith and Ruby Plus Tommy Johnson on piano</p>	<p>3  Boston Bob's 80th Birthday Party 6pm Cocktails 7pm Dinner</p>
<p>4 Breakfast 8:30am to 12pm Memorial Service 3pm Bucs vs Chargers 4:25pm</p> 	<p>5 Short Order Grill 5:30 to 7:30 <b>BINGO</b> 6:30pm Club Chivalry Meeting 8:30am Robinson High</p>	<p>6 Improv Class 6:30pm Movie Night 7:30pm STCOC Military Affairs Meeting 3:00pm</p>	<p>7  LOE Dinner 6:45 Meeting 7:30pm BOD Meeting</p>	<p>8 One Dish Meal 6pm to 7:30pm Stuffed Chicken Rolls Salad &amp; Roll ? Trivia Night ? Lisa &amp; Sandra 7pm Queen of Hearts Drawing 7pm</p> 	<p>9  <b>Christmas Bazaar 6pm</b> Dinner &amp; Dancing 6:30 to 8:30 MUSIC BY: Voices</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Breakfast 8:30am to 12pm 1st Group of WWII Vets Return United Flight 1890 2:45pm Bucs vs Saints 1pm On the Big Screen</p> 	<p>12 Short Order Grill 5:30 to 7:30 Gratitude Grant Project 6pm at BridgePrep Academy</p>	<p>13 Improv Class 6:30 Movie Night 7:30pm House Committee Meeting 7:30</p>	<p>14 Elks General Meeting 7:30pm Weenie Wednesday</p>	<p>15 One Dish Meal 6 to 7:30pm Beef Stew Salad &amp; Roll Queen of Hearts Drawing 7pm</p> 	<p>16 Dinner &amp; Dancing 6:30 to 8:30 MUSIC BY: Ms T Karaoke</p>	<p>17  Children's Christmas Party 12pm - 3pm Adult Christmas Party &amp; White Elephant Exchange 6pm</p>
<p>18 Breakfast 8:30am to 12pm New Member Orientation &amp; 11am 2nd Group of WWII Vets Return United Flight 1890 2:30pm Bucs vs Cowboys 1:00pm On the Big Screen</p> 	<p>19 Short Order Grill 5:30 to 7:30pm <b>BINGO</b> 6:30pm Veterans Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>20 Improv Class 6:30 Movie Night 7:30pm</p>	<p>21 Officer and BOD Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>22 One Dish Meal 6pm to 7:30pm Bacon Mac &amp; Cheese Salad &amp; Roll Queen of Hearts Drawing 7pm</p> 	<p>23 Dinner &amp; Dancing 6:30 to 8:30 MUSIC BY: Paul Needles</p>	<p>24 <b>Open Arms Feed the Homeless Christmas Dinner</b> Lodge Hours 4pm to ?  Christmas Eve</p>
<p>25  <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b></p>	<p>26 Short Order Grill 5:30 to 7:30pm</p>	<p>27 Improv Class 6:30 Movie Night 7:30pm</p>	<p>28 Elk General Meeting 7:30 Special Dispensation or this meeting is being requested. Watch for updates.</p>	<p>29 One Dish Meal 6pm to 7:30pm Italian Sausage Spaghetti or Spaghetti &amp; Meat balls Salad &amp; Roll Queen of Hearts Drawing 7pm</p> 	<p>30 Dinner &amp; Dancing 6:30 to 8:30 MUSIC BY: FACILITY</p>	<p> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> Music by: Tampa Rhythm Section</p>

# Elks Tampa 708 size

3616 Gandy Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33611

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TAMPA, FL  
PERMIT #32



Like us on Facebook to receive updates and late breaking news.  
Tampa Elks Lodge #708



Remember to send any change of address to: [lodge708secretary@outlook.com](mailto:lodge708secretary@outlook.com).  
If you know an Elk that isn't getting the newsletter or announcements. Email Marty Quire at [mquire@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mquire@tampabay.rr.com)



## OUR CURRENT SUPPORTERS

Bob & Candi Suhrheinrich 9/16

Shelagh Gombarcik 3/2017

Rosie & Roger LaChance - 4/2017

Leopold Wiesler - 4/2017

Robert Bordonaro - 5/2017

Mrs. Helen Stanton,

In Memory of Tom Stanton - 9/2017

Donna R. Morris - Halsey - 9/2017

In Memory of

Harold Siddens, Linda & Richard 3/2018

Vera Wright 3/2018

Bud Cash - 4/2018

In Memory of

William (Bill) Atwood - 5/2018

Berni Turpin In Memory of

Robert O'Connor Berni - 5/2018

Bill Dean - 6/2018

Deborah Cassels 6/2018

Rita Smith 10/2018

Debbie Osterbrock - 04/2019

John F. Morris - 3/2021

Howard James - 10/2021



**Support the Elksize**

**Be an SOB - Smiling 'Ole' Booster**

\$10.00 a year helps to defer the cost of our publication and allows us to direct more of our annual income to the charities and organizations we support.