EKSIZE

Volume 2024 Issue 1 – April 2024 Official Publication of Tampa Elks Lodge #708, Founded 1902, Published monthly at 3616 W Gandy Blvd, Tampa FL 33611 Office: 813-831-4280 - Lounge: 813-839-8928



LODGE OFFICERS:

EXALTED RULER - Tracy Horrell, PER LEADING KNIGHT - Edie Hanley LOYAL KNIGHT - April Holtzman LECTURING KNIGHT - Wendy Hall, PER SECRETARY - Rick Schneider, PER TREASURER - Kristie Horst ESQUIRE - Debbie Brennan INNER GUARD - Dee Cisneros, PER TILER - Kim Van Walker CHAPLAIN – Crystal Johnson 1 YEAR TRUSTEE - Tristan Reiber 2 YEAR TRUSTEE - Norman Benzing 3 YEAR TRUSTEE - Paul DeLand, PER 4 YEAR TRUSTEE - Laura Jones 5 YEAR TRUSTEE - Shelagh Gombarcik, PER

> House Committee Chair Jacque LoCicero, PLP

House Committee Members:

Daniel Armentrout, Dave Riplogle, Debbie Brennan, Jason Brown, Janet Hill, Suzanne Moore, Ruth Levin

> KITCHEN MANAGER Courtney Weil (pjlocicero@gmail.com)

Hall Event & Rental Chairman: Debbie Brennan (nanadebbie4@yahoo.com) 813-245-6458

> Elksize Editor: Georgia Hilficker georgiahilficker@gmail.com

Tampa Web Address - Tampaelks.com

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

Lodge Secretary email: tampa708secretary@outlook.com

A Message From your Exalted Ruler, Tracy Horrell



It is a great honor to be Tampa Lodge #708 Exalted Ruler! I am very proud of our Lodge and its members. I want to send out a special thanks to our Ladies Auxiliary for their monetary contribution to help with the cost of food and decorations that made Installation night an awesome event! We could not do without our Ladies! Also, a huge thanks goes out to Shelagh Gombarcik, and the team of Officers for making the hall look so beautiful for such a special night. Great team-work! Thanks go out to Paul DeLand for all his hard work in putting together the programs and all the other thousands of tasks I had him do. You are amazing! And we can't forget to send out kudos to Georgia and her team for the fabulous meal we had - it was delicious! A huge thanks goes out to Marty Quire for all his hard work on the website, and for being there to take the pictures of our Installation! You are truly a special person and a fine Elk! To my wonderful husband Addison, I could not do this without your love and support. Thanks for being there! To those working hard on projects or events for our Lodge keep up the good work and know that it is greatly appreciated.

It takes time and energy to make our Lodge run smoothly and be successful, but I know if we all work together we will achieve great things! If you would like to get involved or volunteer for a project or event please contact me by phone or email, or see any Lodge officer. Any suggestions are always welcome. Help is always needed and appreciated. I will end this month's news article with my motto for the year:

ELKS, STEP UP, and STAND PROUD!

In your service, Tracy Horrell, ER

Your 2024-25 Committee Chairs

708 Board of Directors - Tracy Horrell, PER, Edie Hanley, Wendy Hall, PER, April Holtzman, Paul DeLand, PER, Laura Jones, Shelagha Gombarcik, PER, Tristan Reiber, and Norman Benzing

Accident Prevention - Tommy Moore (tommoore4109@gmail.com) Americanism - Norman Benzing, Chairman (norm-kim@rtcol.com) Army of Hope - Daniel Armentrout, Chairman (Odannyboy@aol.com) Auditing Committee - Melissa Bertoch, Chairman (missbertoch@gmail.com) Drug Awareness - Edie Hanley, Chairman (ehanley73@outlook.com) ENF Fundraising - Shelagh Gombarcik, PER (Shelaghg1@yahoo.com) ENF Scholarships - Paul DeLand, PER (dukeofdeland@hotmail.com) ENF Grants - Paul DeLand PER (dukeofdeland@hotmail.com) Government Relations - Rick Schnieder, PER (broric708@aol.com) Harry Anna - Kim VanWalker, Chairman (kmvanwalker@hotmail.com) Hoop Shoot - Patty Volpe (pattyandmrfox@gmail.com) LOE Liaison - Paul DeLand - (dukeofdeland@hotmail.com)) Lodge Activities - TBD Membership Committee - Tracy Horrell, PER (tracywayh@gmail.com) Orientation - Shelagh Gombarcik, PER (Shelaghgl@yahoo.com) Public Relations Committee - Kim VanWalker (kmvanwalker@hotmail.com) Ritual Committee - Frank Palladini, PSP, PGE (fjpal56@yahoo.com) **Soccer Shoot** - Patty Volpe (pattyandmrfox@gmail.com) Veteran's Services - Joe LoCicero, Chairman, Chris Ragusa Jose Remon, Co-Chair (joseremon@gmail.com) Will & Bequests - Richard Florance, PER Chairman (tracywayh@gmail.com) Youth Activities - Jackie Jacobs, (Jackie.jacobs1086@gmail.com)

Calling all 708 Members to the 2024 Florida State Convention We need Volunteers!

TO MAN OUR FAMOUS HOSPITALITY SUITE BY RUNNING THE BAMES-SELLING ITEMS-KEEPING THE FOOD SERVICE FILLED-BARTENDING AND MORE

IT'S A FUN WAY TO SERVE YOUR LODGE!

LIQUOF DONATIONS AFE ALSO NEEDED. BEEF, WINE, LIQUOF, WE NEED IT ALL! PLEASE CONTACT KIM VANWALKEF AT 813-352-7880 CONVENTION INFORMATION ON PAGE 11

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members



Alto Barker Sponsor Dee Cisneros, PER



David Clark Sponsor Rick Smith



Douglas Fishman Sponsor Wendy Hall, PER



Jon Yon Sponsor Tracy Horrell, ER



Richard McClannan Sponsor Wendy Hall, PER



Robert Dill Sponsor Tracy Horrell, ER



Mark Roper Sponsor Tracy Horrell, ER



Roxann Yon Sponsor Tracy Horrell, ER

APRIL ELK RECOGNITIONS

ELK OF THE MONTH...JAN BERTOCH

Elk of the Month: Jan Bertoch- She is an amazing woman who has volunteered in our lodge and community for years! She has stepped up this year to volunteer wherever she is needed. You will find her helping with the bingo machines, helping serve food for events, and being on the auditing committee. Please help me celebrate this fine woman!



OFFICERS OF THE MONTH...DEE CISNEROS, PER

Officer of the Month: Dee Cisneros, PER - He is a jack of all trades and I am grateful for his time and energy! Besides working as our bartender you can find him in the kitchen creating some tasty bites. He is always helpful in setting up for lodge events and lodge meeting nights. This officer goes above and beyond when no one is there to see him! I am thankful for his efforts, please help congratulate him!



APRIL

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Supporting Reports

Chaplain's Corner by our chaplain, Crystal Johnson:

"Feelings are much like waves; we can't stop them from coming, but we can choose which ones to surf." - Martensson - Go ahead. Feel it. Just don't drown in it.

"Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered." Proverbs 28:26

Spribegi to v

Ladies of the Elks:

Spring is in the air and a new year is on the horizon. As we begin our journey into our 2024/2025 year, I look forward to working with our board and members to keep our LOE viable and relevant to the lodge.

The Ladies will be busy this year, starting off with their annual Kentucky Derby Horse Race on Saturday, May $4^{\rm th}$. This is a great

event! Dinner starts at 6pm. Betting windows open at 6:30pm, with the first race at 7pm. Horses are only \$10, see any LOE board member or your bartender. Look for more information on the LOE board.

Interested in what the Ladies (men are welcomed) do and how we do it? Join us for a meeting. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month. We have dinner at 6:15pm and the meeting starts at 7pm. All are welcome. Already a Lady, don't forget our dues are due, \$20.

I'd like to end my article with thanking the LOE for allowing me to be your President. I am honored and humbled by your faith in me. I look forward to a wonderful, fun filled and productive year with the LOE.

Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day."

April Birthdays

Jacquie LoCicero 4/6 Carolyn Williams 4/7 Carolyn Breit 4/19 Barbara Miller 4/25



Greetings from the Florida Ladies of Elks.

We are happy to announce that the Smith Conference Center for the Ladies Weekend, being held April 12-14th 2024, is sold out. It is going to be a great time and for those who missed registering, there is always next year, and we hope you join us then.

The 2nd Annual FLOE RV Rally "Camping for the Kids" benefiting the Florida Elks Youth Camp will be May 31-June 2, 2024. The weekend promises to be full of fun, food and friendship. This is a family friendly event with activities planned for the kids as well as for adults. Visit floridaelks.org for more information and to register. The RV Rally is open to everyone (not just Elks families). It is a weekend you won't want to miss. We hope to see you at the Ocala North RV Resort.

The FLOE Angel Reverse Draw tickets benefiting the Florida Elks Childrens Therapy Services are now on sale. There will be 300 tickets sold at a donation of \$20 each. We are pleased to say we have sold over 100 tickets as of the time of this article. If you would like tickets, they will be available at the FSEA State Convention or please email us at floeinformation@gmail.com

Our next meeting will be held at the FSEA State Convention on Saturday morning 5/25/2024. Election of Officers for the 2024/2025 term will be held at this meeting. Stop by our hospitality room and say "Hi". We will have adult slushies and other goodies for you to enjoy. We are looking forward to seeing everyone.

Please check <u>https://floridaelks.org/floe</u> for more information relating to FLOE or email floeinformation@gmail.com with any questions or ideas. Together we can make a difference in the lives of children throughout Florida.

Just a reminder, **EVERY** lady Elk, wife of an Elk and widow of an Elk are members of FLOE. There are no applications to complete nor dues to pay.

We would like to say "Thank You" for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you.



Executive Board

Jacquie LoCicero, PLP- President Shelagh Gombarcik, PER,PLP - Vice President April Holtzman - Secretary Laura Jones - Treasurer Suzanne Moore, PLP - Chaplain Ruth Levin - Parliamentarian

Grant Reports and Information







708 - Fun Boat, Fun Bay for Our Vets

On February 24th, 2024, the Tampa Elks Veteran's Committee hosted 28 Veterans for a trip on the Hillsborough River. At 10:00am, twenty-eight Veterans and four Elks met up in the parking lot at Rick's on the River. The veterans were from Liberty Manor for Veterans, The Salvation Army, and New Beginnings of Tampa. This was the final event for the Freedom Grant. Tampa Elks had received special permission from the manager at Rick's to Board the Tampa Fun Boat from their riverside dock instead of downtown. That eliminates parking issues. The Fun Boat is owned by seven-year member Shannon Wheatley, who was able to give us a great deal. The boat arrived at 10:00 sharp, and we were soon on board and on our way down river. We passed Blake HS and Jullian Lane Riverfront Park, but by the time we got to the University of Tampa and passed the Straz Center for the performing arts, we found out it was an extra exciting day on the riverfront. The Gasparilla 5K or 10K Run had just been completed. There were a lot of runners and spectators that waved to us as we went under the bridges and along the riverwalk. After clearing downtown and Harbor Island, we veered east and did a complete circle of Davis Island, all the while learning some great historical facts from the crew. The top attractions were the dolphins that ran around and under the boat as we hit the delta, but a close second was the huge mansion that Derek Jeter had built for his family then leased to Tom Brady! It is hard to imagine that it is now being torn down and replaced, but from our vantage point we could see there was not any privacy at all. After circling the island, we headed back upriver and docked at Rick's at about 11:45 – just in time for lunch.

We had let everybody choose their meal while they were still on the boat, using a special menu with plenty of variety but a price point that fit our budget. That system made things very easy for the waitress at Ricks on the River, and we were soon eating in small groups of 4-6 per table. After lunch, as the Veterans were leaving, we held Salvation Army back and presented them with a \$500 check from the Gratitude Grant.



Club Chivalry Report

In February our meeting fell on President's Day. Past Exalted Ruler Shelagh Gombarcik held a rousing game of President's Day Trivia – and the rest of the volunteers rewarded correct answers with candy. The questions were hard, but there weren't that many that nobody could guess. Of course, we started with refreshments. Since we didn't get a chance

to pull the raffles at the January Club meeting due to yearbook photos, we had 2 extra tickets to raffle off at this meeting. I didn't get a lot of pictures, as the game was fast paced and we struggled keeping up with the candy. Thank you to the great volunteers – Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, Betty Orcutt, Tommy Moore, and Carolyn Miller.

Grant Reports and Information

American Legion 138 Unserviceable Flag Ceremony

On Saturday, March 2nd there was a ceremony held at American Legion Post 138 in South Tampa to dispose of over a dozen unserviceable American Flags.

> The Ceremony for the Disposal of Unserviceable ÚS Flags was passed by the



19th National Convention of the American Legion in New York In 1937 and has been

an integral part of the American Legion ritual Since that date.

The purpose of The American Legion in adopting this Ceremony was



to encourage proper respect for the Flag of the United States and provide the disposal of to unserviceable flags in a dignified manner.

Although this day was sponsored by the American Legion Posts 138 & 139 and Boy Scout Troop 53, Tampa Elks 708 had about a dozen or so members that either participated or attended the dignified service.



Elks National Foundation "The Great Heart of Elkdome"

On February 23rd our Lodge hosted an ENF fundraising dinner that was very well attended. I'd like to thank, Georgia Hilficker for cooking the meal and Debbie Brennan along with Ismeny Rodriguez for serving. Last but not least Rita Smith, PER for gathering member donations.

Our Elk year has ended and with great thanks to you our members we

have been able to procure many grants that help to improve our south Tampa community. From the student program "Club Chivalry" at Robinson High School, the transitional Veteran's Program, Southeastern Guide Dogs, to the Gandy Community Garden and many more. Without donations from to the Elks National Foundation from members like you, these programs would not be possible.

We look forward to the new Lodge year and the continued generosity of our members to this outstanding organization as well as helping our South Tampa Community, our nations veteran's and our youth. Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, ENF Chairman

Past Events and Projects

A True St Patrick's Celebration

On March 15th Tampa Lodge 708 hosted an authentic St. Patrick's Day celebration complete with Irish Dancers ages 7years to 17years of age. The event included a great band, "The Saddle Tramp" as well as the traditional dinner of corned beef and cabbage and Tracy Horrell's famous Bread Pudding of which many had seconds and thirds.

I'd like to thank Shelagh Gombarcik, Wendy Hall, Debbie Brennen, Jan Bertoch, Dee Cisernos, and Addison Horrell for making sure it all went smoothly. Tracy Horrell, ER



VOLUME 2024 ISSUE 1

Past Events and Projects 2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS NIGHT RITA SMITH, PER PAUL DELAND, PER JACQUIE LOCICERO, LP CITIZEN OF THE YEAR OFFICER OF THE YEAR ELK OF THE YEAR HONORABLE MENTION—FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

FRANK PALLADINI, GLESO

Georgia Hilficker

SUSIE HARLOW

BONNIE ATTWOOD DEE CICNEROS, PER

Debbie Brennan

This has been a wonderful year, and I had so many individuals to thank for making it such a success. On March 9th I recognized many of our members for their outstanding service. However, I could not recognize all the wonderful people that stepped up in times of need. I'd like to thank everyone that donated their time and financial assistance in support of our Lodge.

Elks truly are the best people on earth!



BINGO COMMITTEE



THANKS TO OUR BARTENDERS



CHRISTIAN ELKINS/BINGO



RITA SMITH. PER AND HER CLUB CHIVALRY CREW

Past Events and Festivities Membership Awards Night Continued













Ladies of the Elks Awards Dight

It took many hands for our group to be as successful as it was this year. From April meticulously taking notes of our meetings, even when we went off course to Sue leading us in thoughtful prayer every month, often hitting the mark of something we may not have known we needed to hear. This made choosing only a few of our Ladies for recognition difficult. Our LOE member of the year was Edie Hanley. Edie has been instrumental in the success of the LOE for many years. Ruth Levin was recognized for her excellent baking skills, our secret weapon to a successful event. Tracy Horrell and

Shelagh Gombarcik were given a shout out for the many times they stepped up and cooked dinner for the Ladies monthly meeting. Last, but not least, our LOE Officer of the year was Laura Jones. Laura has been keeping the Ladies' books in tip top order, a job that is not always easy. Thank you to all who took the time to lend a hand, we are truly grateful.



Member of the Year Edie Hanley



Officer of the Year Laura Jones



Shelagh Gombarcik PER & Tracy Horrell PER Thanks for Cooking Dinners



Ruth Levin Thanks for her Great Baking Skills











Upcoming Events and Projects

2024 FLORIDA ELKS STATE CONVENTION



"Together we're doing great things"

May 23-26, 2024

I hope you are planning to attend the 118th Annual Convention of the Florida State Elks Association. The convention is being held at the *Rosen Centre*, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida, 32819, May 23-26, 2024. Individual reservations are now being accepted through the Rosen Centre reservations link on our website at <u>www.floridaelks.org</u>.

A one-night deposit or credit card guarantee will be required for each room you are reserving. Rooms sleep a maximum of four people and the standard room rate for a **double or single** is \$139.00 plus 13.63% tax, or \$157.95 per night. Our group rate for rooms may be used May 18th through May 29th subject to availability. Reservations may also be made by phoning **(866)** 996-6338 Please request the Group rate for the Florida

Reservations may also be made by phoning **(866) 996-6338**. Please request the Group rate for the Florida State Elks Association, Inc. You must request it to obtain our group rate.

The cutoff date for reservations is 5:00 p.m. April 22, 2024, or when sold out. Please do not wait as we <u>WILL</u> sell out before April 22, 2024!

On our website you will find the following:

The link to the Rosen Centre Online Reservations Website - *Preferred way to make your reservation!*

- The Preliminary 2024 State Convention Agenda
- The link to Preregister for the Convention & Order Your Required "Free" Convention ID Badge
- The link to Purchase Tickets (\$25) for the Friday Luncheon hosted by the FL Ladies of Elks (Men & Women Invited)
- The link to Purchase Tickets (\$10) for the Saturday Awards/Major Projects Luncheon (Elks & Guests)
- The link to the Silent Auction Donation Form (needed when dropping off an item for the silent auction)

The Rosen Centre Resort Map & Driving Directions

Please be advised, neither the Lodges nor the Florida State Elks Association is exempt from paying the 13.63% tax on rooms. Please do not waste the Rosen Centre's time trying to convince them otherwise at check-in or check-out.

I am pleased to inform you that the Rosen Centre provides **complimentary basic Wi-Fi in guest rooms** and public areas excluding the meetings/convention area.

Hospitality Rooms will operate on the following schedule: T_{1}

Thursday Night 5/23 – 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Friday Night 5/24 – 5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Saturday Night 5/25 – 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

All hospitality rooms are located on the 2^{nd} floor of the Rosen Centre. There is also access from the 2^{nd} floor to an outdoor patio area.





Lodge Business and Projects

YOUR HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

The House Committee is in place and ready to get to work. We would like to welcome Courtney Weil, PER, to the kitchen. She will use her skills and talents to keep our kitchen moving in a positive direction. Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, will lead the effort as our bar manager. Shelagh has an extensive background in the hospitality arena. Our kitchen and bar are a vital part of your lodge and member support is essential to our ongoing success.

See you around the lodge, Jacquie LoCicero, PLP, Chair, House Committee



CALLING ALL HANDS

Please, Please, Please...if you have a little time you can spare, your Lodge sure could use your help. At the beginning of each Lodge year we try to put things in tip top shape.

At this time we are looking for members that could help with the cleaning of our kitchen which will happen May 14th through May 16th. A man or two that can do some light lifting and latter work would be greatly appreciated. Not yet scheduled is the organization of our outdoor shed, the utility room, and the tools closet as well as the cleaning of the breezeway, back hall and storage areas.

On a regular basis we need of people who are handy and can change lightbulbs, A/C filters and other monthly chores needed around the Lodge. It isn't necessary that one person does this work. We will be putting together a list of folks willing and able to help so no one is overworked.

If you are interested in lending a helping hand, please text Tracy Horrell, ER at 813-453-2268

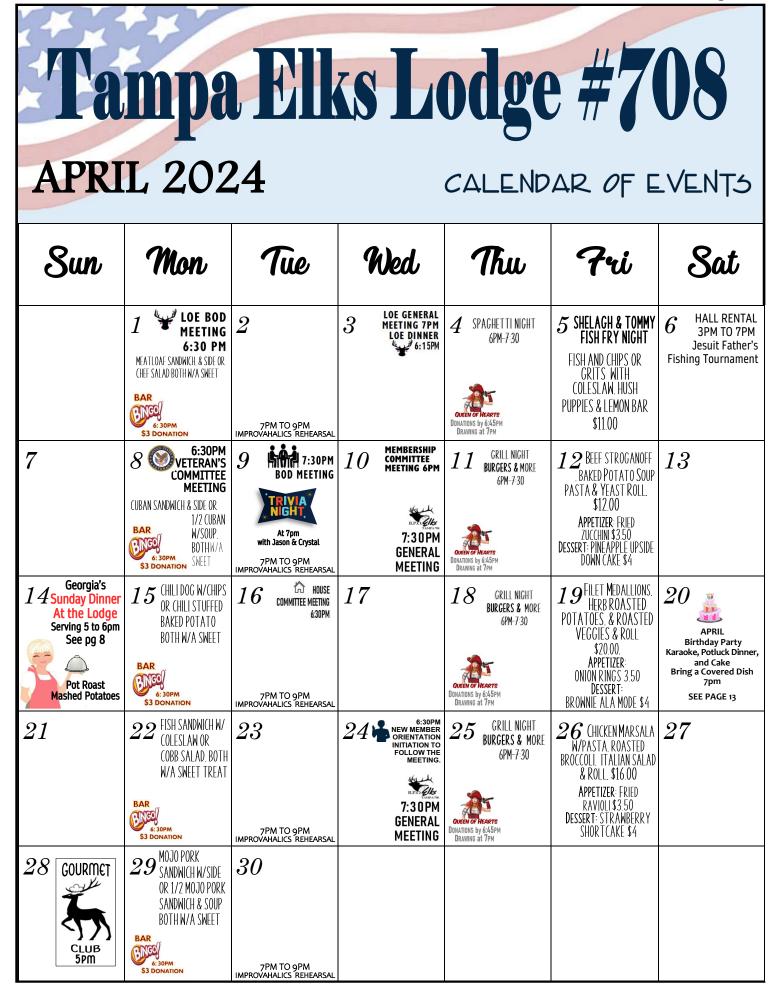
APRIL LODGE MEETING SCHEDULE

- 3rd LOE General Meeting 7pm Dinner 6:15
- 8th Veteran's Meeting 6:30
- 9th BOD Meeting 6:30
- 10th Membership Meeting 6:00
- 10th Elks General Meeting 7:30
- 16th House Committee Meeting 6:30
- 24th New Member Orientation 6:30
- 24th Elks General Meeting & Installation 7:30

Honoring Departed Elks

Vince Lombardi 1913 to 1970 Famous Football Coach Green Bay, WI Lodge #159







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



Ask to join our group on Facebook to receive updates and late breaking news. Tampa Elks Lodge #708



Please remember to send any change of address to: ampa708secretary@outlook.com

Support the Elksize and Be an SOB - Smiling 'Ole' Booster

\$10.00 a year defers some of the publication cost, allowing us to direct more of our income to the charities & organizations we support.

William Deen - Richard Florance, PER, - Bob Norton - Sandra Brantley Vera Wright - In Memory of Harold Wright - Pat Fennell



Friends of 708

Marty Quire - In Memory of Bonnie Quire - Bonnie Atwood - Thomas Boyle Mr & Mrs Moore - Sharon Ford - Rick Schneider, PER - Mr & Mrs Suhrheinrich - Cynthia Edwards Steve Harmon - Marty Quire - Julie Wooley - Paul DeLand, PER - Paula Rousselle - Kim Williams Chris Ragusa - Mr & Mrs Hilficker - Debbie Osterbrock - Shannon Wheatley - Jason Brown Susie Harlow - Laura Jones - Ladies of the Elks - Theresa Seibert PDDGR - Mackinley Zewalk

OUR CURRENT ANNUAL SUPPORTERS

R. Florance, PER - K. Higgins - M. Flowers - G. Chiani - J. Brennan - R. Millaway R. Norton - B. Deen - J. Martin - S. Mackey - S. Owens - F. Smith - M. Waldbart - E. Clark C. McMullen - R. Millaway - J. Hall - A. DeQuesada - C. Venable - R. Bradshaw - F. Palladini R. Schneider, PER, In Memory of J. Schneider

This local program focuses solely on improving our lodge through generous member donations. All members are encouraged to sign up for the "Eleventh Hour Pledge". Your recurring pledge of \$11 a month will help maintain our lodge.