



LODGE OFFICERS:

EXALTED RULER - T-Michael Boyle
LEADING KNIGHT - Christopher Ragusa
LOYAL KNIGHT - Ruth Levin
LECTURING KNIGHT - Cindy Allen
SECRETARY - Rick Schneider, PER
TREASURER - Kim Benzing
ESQUIRE - George Hilficker
INNER GUARD - Dee Cisneros, PER
TILER - Robert Maloney
CHAPLAIN – Tracy Horrell, PER
1 YEAR TRUSTEE - Norm Benzing
2 YEAR TRUSTEE - Paul DeLand, PER
3 YEAR TRUSTEE - Laura Jones
4 YEAR TRUSTEE - Shelagh Gombarcik, PER
5 YEAR TRUSTEE - Wendy Hall, PER

House Committee Chair

Paul DeLand, PER

House Committee Members:

Dave Ripogle, Debbie Brennan, Janet Hill,
Dave Reno, Dave Miller, Wendy Hall, PER

KITCHEN MANAGER

Courtney Weil, PER
(courtney@courtneyscustomcatering)

Hall Event & Rental Chairman:

Wendy Hall, PER (nini336152@yahoo)
813-500-9433

Elksize Editor:

Georgia Hilficker
georgiahilficker@gmail.com

Tampa Web Address - Tampaelks.com

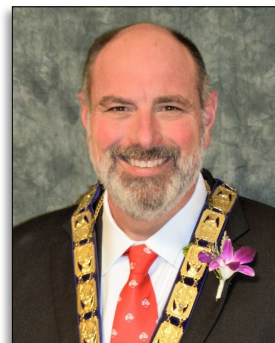
Club Hours:

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

Lodge Secretary email:

tampa708secretary@outlook.com

A Message From your Exalted Ruler, T-Michael Boyle



Can you believe that Christmas time is here?!? This is truly the perfect time of year to come up to the Lodge with family and friends, enjoy the warmth of our community, and celebrate everything that makes Tampa Elks Lodge 708 such a special place. November was a tremendous month for our Lodge. We hosted a wonderful dinner in honor of Veterans Remembrance Month, taking time to recognize and appreciate the brave men and women who have served our country. Our Casino Night, benefiting the Elks Kids Christmas Party, was an enormous success thanks to the incredible support from our members and guests. The Lodge Veterans Committee also stepped up in a big way with a delicious BBQ fundraiser that drew a fantastic turnout. To top it off, we had a very successful District Deputy visit with Amanda Baldwin, DDGER. Thank you to all who helped make these events meaningful and memorable. Looking ahead, December is filled with festive fun and opportunities to come together. The Ladies of the Elks will be hosting their annual Christmas Bazaar, offering holiday treasures, gifts, and treats. On Sunday, December 7th the Lodge will hold it's annual Memorial Service honoring our members that passed this past year. Hope you will join us. On Friday, December 12th, we'll celebrate the season island-style at the ER Christmas Party, themed *Christmas in the Caribbean*. Break out your tropical holiday gear and join us for a night of food, music, and fellowship. On Friday, December 19th Georgia Hilficker is preparing a Christmas Buffet with all the trimmings. And of course, we'll close out the year in style with the Elks New Year's Eve Party, a lodge tradition you won't want to miss. I want to thank each of you for making this year so great. I appreciate your hard work, dedication, and commitment to our Lodge and the mission of the Elks. You truly exemplify BPOE—the Best People On Earth.

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Cheers!!

Your 2025-26 Committee Chairs

708 Board of Directors - Chairman of the Board Laura Jones, T-Michael Boyle, ER, Chris Ragusa, Wendy Hall, PER, Shelagh Gombarcik, PER, Paul DeLand, PER, Norm Benzing, Ruth Levin, Cindy Allen

Accident Prevention, Tommy Moore	(tommoore4109@gmail.com)
Americanism, Dee Cisneros, PER	(cecisjd@hotmail.com)
Army of Hope - Daniel Armentrout	(odannyboy@aol.com)
Auditing Committee, Melissa Bertoch	(missbertoch@gmail.com)
Drug Awareness, Roseann Garcia	(rosanngarcia104@gmail.com)
ENF Fundraising, Rita Smith, PER.....	(apwurita@hotmail.com)
ENF Scholarships Paul DeLand, PER.....	(dukeofdeland@hotmail.com)
Elks National Veterans Service Committee Edie Hanley.....	(ehanley73@outlook.com)
Government Relations - Rick Schneider, PER	(broric708@aol.com)
Harry Anna Trust Fund Committee	vacant
Hoop Shoot - Laura Bell.....	(mrs ladybell15@gmail.com)
LOE Liaison - Paul DeLand, PER	(dukeofdeland@hotmail.com)
Lodge Activities - Rae Ann Boyle.....	(rasboyle@gmail.com)
Membership Committee - Rick Schneider, PER.....	(broric708@aol.com)
Orientation - Laura Jones.....	(laj6687@gmail.com)
Public Relations Committee - Kim Van Walker.....	(kimvanwalker@hotmail.com)
Ritual Committee - Frank Pallidini, PSP PGE	(fjpal56@yahoo.com)
Soccer Shoot - Patty Volpe	(pattyandmrfox@gmail.com)
Veterans' Services Committee - Chris Ragusa.....	(ragusachristopher@gmail.com)
Wills & Bequests - Richard Florance, PER	(rhflorance10@gmail.com)
Youth Activities - Jackie Jacobs	(Jackie.jacobs1986@gmail.com)



2025 MEMORIAL SERVICE

It's time to recognize the members we lost in 2025. Please join our officers as they gather to commemorate their passing.

**December 7th at 12PM
In the Lodge Hall**

To Honor Our Absent Members:

R.W. Palmer (Ardis)	Born 1931	51yr Member
Anthony Marino	Born 1926	33yr Member
Jan Bertoch	Born 1935	20yr Member
Peggi Tuttle	Born 1962	12yr Member

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members



Rebecca Obert
Sponsor
Fran Aberle



Tammy Beason
Sponsor
David Miller



Holidays at your Lodge

So many wonderful events to attend!
Invite a Friend to join...bring the whole family
the more the merrier!

December Recognitions

ELK OF THE MONTH...JACKIE JACOBS

This young lady has put together several successful and well run events in support of our youth. Her Casino Nights raise money for the Children's Christmas Party, and she actively raises money to supply school supplies. She is unassuming and yet a real dynamo when it comes to making people happy, showing kids a good time. We are blessed to have her in our Lodge and appreciate all she does to give our kids a good start to their school year and a very Merry Christmas.



OFFICER OF THE MONTH...CHRIS RAGUSA

Chris Ragusa is our Leading Knight as well as being the Lodge Veterans Committee Chairman. He is fiercely dedicated to the Lodge and is always ready to organize, sponsor or just be part of events and panels. From organizing 2 successful Oktoberfests, Thanksgiving fundraisers and one event after another for our veterans. He is truly a great asset to our Lodge. Thank you Chris.





Chaplain's Corner by our chaplain, Tracy Horrell, PER:

"The spirit of Christmas is Christlike love. The way to increase the Christmas spirit is to reach out generously to those around us and give of ourselves. The best gifts are not material things but gifts of listening, of showing kindness, of remembering, of visiting, of forgiving, of giving time." - Bonnie L. Oscarson

Please send prayers for Rae Anne Boyle as she recovers from surgery and continue to pray for Tommy Moore as he is making great progress in healing.

Lodge Support Group



Ladies of the Elks:

The holiday Season is in full swing! The LOE Christmas Bazaar is Thursday, December 4th and Friday, December 5th from 6pm-8pm. Come out and enjoy a cocktail or two while

browsing what the Ladies have curated for your holiday shopping pleasure. We have handmade items, baked goods, a silent auction and Gasparilla goodies. Our Gasparilla game has been amped up this year. Stop by and see what the Ladies have to offer to accessorize your Gasparilla experience.

If you are not able to make it to our bazaar, don't worry. The Ladies will have their Gasparilla Market, in conjunction with our lodge, at our Gasparilla Event on January 31st. Hope to see you around the lodge soon!

Jacquie LoCicero, PLP, President, Ladies of the Elks

Executive Board

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

DECEMBER Birthdays

Shelagh Gombarcik 12/24 Ed Lessard 12/4



Downton Abbey 3 Grand Finally

Last month the Ladies showcased the last (we are currently in mourning) Downton Abbey movie. We feasted on wonderful English delights made by our own English rose, Shelagh Gombarcik. Some of our guests dressed for the occasion, which made the evening even better. We laughed, we cheered when our favorites came on screen and we cried at the end knowing that this was the last time the Downton Abbey family would be together onscreen.

What a wonderful movie and a wonderful time with friends and fellow Elks.
Thank you to all who came out, I hope you had as great a time as we did.

Grant Reports and Information

IF YOU'VE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION...

YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED THAT OUR GRANTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND COLLECTIVELY IN OUR NATION. FROM HELPING OUR VETS TO PROVIDING FUNDS AND AN AWARD WINING SUMMER CAMP TO HELP OUR YOUTH, YOU CAN BE PROUD TO BE AN ELKI



Elks National Foundation There's more than one way to support this worthwhile charity!

There are so many ways to donate to Elks National Foundation, and although this year I have emphasized the Fidelity Club, it is definitely not a one-size fits all choice. You can always go on Elks.org and make a secure one time donation. Here are a couple of ideas you may not have heard about.

Join the John F. Malley Society

One interesting way is by leaving a legacy. By naming the ENF in your will, planning a gift of life insurance or transferring appreciated stock, you will be eligible for membership in the John F. Malley Society. Members of the Malley Society are dedicated to ensuring the ENF continues its charitable works well into the future. Malley Society members receive a pin, medallion, their name listed in Heartbeat, the ENF donor newsletter, and an invitation to a special event held each year at the Elks National Convention. Visit enf.elks.org/MalleySociety to join today.

Donate your Retired Minimum Distribution Tax Free!

If you are over 73 and have pretax investments, Like a 401k or traditional IRA, you are required to withdraw a minimum amount each year. That withdrawal is taxable, and in many cases sends you into a higher tax bracket. I have heard several retirees say, "We don't need it, and it just messes things up. The solution - Donate all or part directly from your investment fund to the Elks National Foundation, tax free! This is called a QCD - Qualified Charitable Distribution. This can actually lower your tax liability instead of raising it! You must initiate the transfer during the tax year. Check with your tax consultant or investment firm on when to initiate a QCD.

Rita Smith, PER, ENF Chairman

Grant Reports and Information



Madison Middle School Motivated Mustangs

The Motivated Mustangs are our Beacon Grant project and will run the entire school year. It is an official school function at Madison Middle school, and our club meets monthly, under the supervision of the school's guidance counselor. We usually meet in the school cafeteria, but this month we were routed to an outdoor picnic area between classroom wings. The 8th Graders were having an ROTC rally in the cafeteria. Luckily, it was a beautiful Florida Fall Day – sunny and cool. We always feed the kids first – and this month they had a choice of a chicken sandwich or nuggets lunch box from Chick-fil-A.



Five of the students in the club were 8th graders, so they chose their food, and we set it aside while they ran to the cafeteria for the rally. Our main activity was addressing Thanksgiving cards to their parents or guardians. For some reason, addressing an envelope is not taught in elementary school anymore, and this was more difficult and time consuming than we expected! The 8th graders returned before the others finished this task. Many students did not know their zip code, and one student, whose single parent recently passed, had no idea where she would be spending Thanksgiving break. It was eye opening for us volunteers to see how badly these students really did need some extra support. As the students completed that task, they moved on to one of the Win It in a Minute games – blowing up a balloon, but instead of tying it off releasing the air from it to knock over red solo cups. If successful, they were rewarded with candy, of course. After the bell rang, and the students left, project manager Patty Volpe inserted a \$50.00 Walmart gift card into each of the envelopes. The social worker will check the addresses and mail them in time for the adult in the family to get them early on the week of Thanksgiving. We were grateful the ENF CIP staff agreed to allow us to help the family with food since there was no guarantee of food stamps and the students will not be receiving free breakfast and lunch at school. (When you are using a Grant, any changes must be approved by ENF in advance.)



Past Events and Projects

THE FREEDOM GRANT PROVIDES A FUN DAY FOR OUR VETERANS ON THE FUN BOAT

On November 1st, Tampa Elks used their Freedom Grant to treat homeless Veterans from Salvation Army and Liberty Manor for Veterans to a narrated sightseeing trip through the Downtown Tampa Waterways, followed by lunch at a waterside café. 9 Elks also participated, allowing for much socializing with the Veterans.

The day started at 10 AM when we boarded the Tampa Fun Boat from the dock at Rick's on the Rivers, a waterside café on the Hillsborough River just north of downtown. That location worked well, as the Café was not yet open and parking at the dock and at the café was ample- and free! We were lucky to have perfect Florida fall weather – Sunny and cool!

As the boat pulled in, we noticed that Liberty Manor for Veterans had not shown up, and a quick call established they were still 15-20 minutes out. The captain of the boat, husband of a 12 year Tampa Elk, said that he could not wait due to a large charter booked right after us. He was, however, agreeable to re-routing the Liberty Manor van to a dock downtown, and we did pick them up there. We certainly appreciated his ability to adjust!

The tour went around Harbor Island, Through the Garrison Channel past the Port of Tampa (which we learned was now the largest port in Florida) and down as far as the Peter O'Knight airport on Davis Islands, which is a small airport serving privately owned planes and medivac helicopters,

On our return we passed close to the University of Tampa, home to the iconic spires and the Henry B Plant Museum, and we learned of its unique role in making Tampa a prized destination for rail travelers.

We created a fixed price menu to distribute to everybody while we were still on the boat, and when we sat down, we had already chosen our entrée and beverage and only had to add the table number. Lunch went smoothly at the outside riverfront café, which accommodated us by offering us a dessert from their dinner menu. Every participant agreed it was a pleasant and relaxing morning, and both groups were profuse in their gratitude.



Grant Reports and Information



Spotlight Grant Project

Harvest of Happiness Drive Through Event

When the government reopened, Tampa Lodge 708 learned of a great opportunity to use our Spotlight Grant. Suzanne Malloy, President of Blue Star Families at MacDill AFB, was trying to give 350 military families the ingredients needed for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Her plan, which turned out to be a great success, was to do a drive by event on a weekday, so the service members or their spouse could just pull up in their car, receive a LOT of food, and move on. No need to park, walk, drag the kids through a store, or anything like that. For the military, it would be as easy as the pumpkin pie they were going to receive.

The problem for us was timing- it was already November, and her planned and approved date for distribution was the 19th. When called, the Community Investment division of ENF was quick to say that they liked the project. With no opportunity to present it at a Lodge meeting the Executive Board was polled. The vote came back affirmative, and Mrs. Malloy was notified we were in for both funds and volunteers. This was on Thursday the 7th, she said she would need the names, phones DL #'s and emails for the volunteers by Monday the 10th, which was a very small window to get the word out. Somehow, by Monday, 10 volunteers had committed, and the names were submitted for approval for base access. On the 16th, just 2 days before the event, the Lodge was able to present Ms. Malloy with the check. She spoke to the members present, explained that while it may not appear that active-duty military would need assistance, those in the lower ranks that arrived with a family were struggling in our high-cost area. The sign-up sheet was rank restricted, at least for the first couple of hours. After all the lower ranked was served, the base notified those veterans that had gone unpaid that they could participate.

The first couple of hours we sorted and packed boxes, then at noon the cars arrived, first a trickle, then a swarm. Each car was loaded with dry goods, produce, refrigerated items, a turkey and a pumpkin pie. The last half hour was clean up. Thank you to those Tampa Elks who voted for the project, and to those who volunteered. 382 families received Thanksgiving meal items. Over the course of the two-days it took to execute, over 130 volunteers were utilized. The Blue Star Families- Blue for Active Duty-will be a great contact.

Upcoming Events and Projects

CASINO Night FOR THE CHILDREN

This year's Elks Casino Night Fundraiser was a resounding success, raising vital funds to support local underprivileged children this Christmas. Hosted by the Youth Committee, the event brought together members & friends for a night of professional casino games, raffles, and holiday cheer, all in support of a great cause.

A Night of Fun and Generosity

The event featured popular casino games like blackjack, poker, roulette, and craps, with expert dealers ensuring an exciting and festive atmosphere. Guests also enjoyed raffle baskets filled with amazing prizes, including signed sports memorabilia, golf packages, and spa experiences, generously donated by local businesses & individuals.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of attendees, the fundraiser raised significant funds for the Kids' Christmas Fund, which provides gifts to children who might otherwise go without.

The Need for More Support

While the event was a great success, there's still work to be done. Unfortunately, the Walgreens sponsorship fell through, leaving a gap in gifts for children, particularly those ages 9-17, who are often overlooked in donation drives. The need for items like gift cards, sports gear, self-care items, electronics, etc. is urgent. These children deserve to experience the same joy and excitement as younger kids this holiday season.

How You Can Help

Here's how you can still make a difference:

Donate Gifts or Gift Cards: We are particularly in need of gifts for ages 9-17.

Monetary Donations: Every dollar helps! Cash donations will be used to buy additional gifts for children in need.

Corporate Sponsorships: Local businesses can support by donating items, organizing drives, or matching contributions. If you know of a company interested in helping please let us know.

Volunteer: Help out at the Christmas for the Kids Party on December 21st, where we'll distribute gifts and spread holiday cheer.

Gratitude for Our Supporters

A huge thank you to everyone who made Casino Night possible, including the participants, sponsors, and volunteers. Special thanks to Courtney, April, Betty, Susie, Kristie, and Patty for their hard work in making the event run smoothly.

While Casino Night was a fantastic success, there's still time to help ensure every child has a special Christmas. Let's come together to make this season brighter for every child in our community.

Thank you for your continued support!



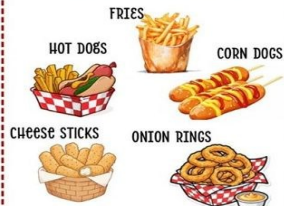
Upcoming Events and Projects



LET'S DO DINNER AT THE LODGE WITH COURTNEY

DEC 5TH

**DEE'S
BASKET NIGHT**
6PM TO 7:30PM
**COME IN AND
GRAB A BITE**


DEC 12TH

2025 ER PARTY
DECEMBER 12TH 6:30PM

*Christmas
in the Caribbean*

POT LUCK DINNER
YOUR ER WILL PROVIDE

BAKED HAM

**YOU BRING THE SIDES AND
A WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT**
(NOT OVER \$20 PLEASE)


DEC 19TH

Tampa Elks 708
Christmas Dinner Buffet

Friday, December 19th

6:30pm to 7pm - Cocktails and Carols

Escargot & Shrimp Cocktail

(Kim Benning will play keyboard as
we sing traditional Christmas Carols)

7pm to 8pm - Dinner

*Carving Station: Beef Tenderloin, & Cranberry Orange

Pork Tenderloin *Buffet: Baked Salmon with Dill Sauce,

Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Green Beans,

Glazed Carrots, Corn on the Cob, Strawberry Pecan Salad,

Pork Gravy & Yeast Rolls

Desserts: Egg Nog Pie, Pumpkin Pecan Pie &

Chocolate Mousse Cake

\$30.00

Please purchase your tickets at our

bar and join us as we celebrate this

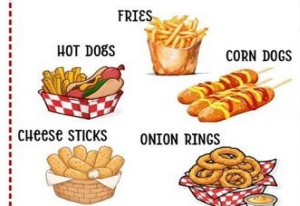
Beautiful Holiday Season.

*Thank you, Georgia

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE LODGE.

DEC 26

**DEE'S
BASKET NIGHT**
6PM TO 7:30PM
**COME IN AND
GRAB A BITE**



PLEASE SIGN UP AT 708MEALS.COM OR ON THE LODGE BULLETIN BOARD TO ASSURE YOUR MEAL!

ONLY A FEW EXTRA MEALS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR WALK-INS.

WANT TO GET ON THE REMINDER EMAIL LIST? SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO GEORGIAHILFICKER@GMAIL.COM

DINNER SERVED FROM 6:00PM TO 8:00PM

**BAR
BINGO**

Served Mondays 6pm to 7:30pm

Dec 1st

**OPEN FACE TURKEY SANDWICH WITH
MASHED POTATOES \$9**

Dec 8th

**HOT OR COLD HAM & SWISS ON RYE
WITH CHIPS \$8.50**

Dec 15th

TURKEY CROISSANTS W/CHIPS \$9

Dec 22nd

Cuban w/Chip \$9.00

Dec 29th

**Buffalo Chicken Tender Sub (or no
sauce) w/chips \$9**

QUEEN OF HEARTS

Donation by 6:45pm

Drawing at 7pm



Thursday Nights
Served 6pm to 7:30

***Dec 4th - Dee's Open Grill Night**

***Dec 11th - LOE - Not your Mama's
Grilled Cheese**

***Dec 18th - Jamie Poole Grill Night**

***Dec 25th - MERRY CHRISTMAS**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Upcoming Events and Projects

Tampa Elks 708 Christmas Dinner Buffet

Friday, December 19th

6:30pm to 7pm = Cocktails and Carols

Escargot & Shrimp Cocktail

(Kim Benzing will play keyboard as
we sing traditional Christmas Carols)

7pm to 8pm = Dinner

*Carving Station: Beef Tenderloin, & Cranberry Orange
Pork Tenderloin* Buffet: Baked Salmon with Dill Sauce,
Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Green Beans,
Glazed Carrots, Corn on the Cob, Strawberry, Pecan Salad,
Pork Gravy & Yeast Rolls

Desserts: Eggnog Pie, Pumpkin/Pecan Pie &
Chocolate Mousse Cake

\$30.00



Please purchase your tickets at our
bar and join us as we celebrate this
Beautiful Holiday Season.

Thank you, Georgia

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE LODGE.

Upcoming Events and Projects

ER CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 12TH 6:30PM

CHRISTMAS IN THE CARIBBEAN

POT LUCK DINNER

YOUR ER WILL PROVIDE

BAKED HAM

YOU BRING THE SIDES AND

A WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT

(NOT OVER \$20 PLEASE)

BREAKFAST

WITH

Santa

2025 Tampa Elks Lodge 708



Pajama Party

Sunday, December 21st - 9am to 12pm

for Children Ages 1 to 17

If you are willing to help out at this wonderful event, we are looking for folks to distribute gifts and spread holiday cheer.

Please text Jackie Jacobs at

813-765-9897

Upcoming Events and Projects



TAMPA 708
NEW YEAR'S EVE
POT LUCK PARTY
DEC. 31ST 6:30pm to 12pm

Bring your favorite dish
 & enjoy Karaoke
 with KJ Tim Rowland
 Specialty Drinks
 & Fellowship
 A Warm & Cozy
 beginning to the New Year!



THE LOE BRINGS YOU
NOT YOUR MAMA'S
GRILLED CHEESE
SANDWICH &
TOMATO SOUP

Thursday, December 5th 6:00-7:00
 Join us for the **QUEEN OF HEARTS**
 Have a bite to eat!

On the Menu
Homemade Tomato Soup- Bowl \$5.00
Gourmet Grilled Cheese Sandwich- \$5.00
Cookie- \$1.00

Combo Meal- \$8.50
Homemade Tomato soup -cup
Gourmet Grilled Cheese Sandwich
Cookie

Choice of Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
Traditional Grilled Cheese
 (American cheese on "Wonder Bread")
Pesto Grilled Cheese
 (Pesto, tomato Parmesan and Mozzarella cheese on Italian bread)
Bacon Gouda Grilled Cheese
 (Apple slices, Bacon and gouda cheese on Italian bread)
Basil Prosciutto Grilled Cheese
 (Garlic butter, Prosciutto, basil and provolone cheese on Italian bread)
Grilled Cheese Donut- Limited Item
FEELING ADVENTUROUS
 (Krispy Kreme Glazed Doughnut with cheddar cheese)



LADIES OF THE ELK

HOLIDAY
BAZAAR

THURSDAY DECEMBER 4TH
& FRIDAY DECEMBER 5TH
TIME: 6PM TO 7:30PM

HOMEMADE ITEMS &
BAKED GOODS
Packaged to take to a party
or give as a gift.

GASPARILLA ESSENTIALS,
WREATHS, BASKETS & MORE
Grab unique gifts and delicious
treats while you support
the LOE...a great holiday combo



Dinner & A
Christmas
Movie
Night

Join us for our 2nd Annual
Dinner and a Christmas Movie Night!

A festive evening featuring themed food, seasonal
 cocktails, free popcorn, and a classic Christmas movie.

Tuesday,
December 23, 2025

Dinner Starts at 6pm
 Movie Starts at 7pm

Lodge Business and Projects



Bucs Season AT 708



BIG SCREEN - COLD BEER - TAILGATING!

SUNDAY, DEC. 7	NEW ORLEANS	1:00PM
THURSDAY, DEC 11.....	ATLANTA	8:15PM
SUNDAY, DEC. 21.....	CAROLINA.....	1:00PM
SUNDAY, DEC 28.....	MIAMI.....	1:00PM

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

As we enter the very busy holiday season your House Committee asks the membership to help by keeping the back hall clear. We will be having groups constantly renting the hall over the next two months. This rental income is important to the Lodge and there is no staff to clear the hall. **IF YOU HAVE ITEMS IN THE BACK HALL PLEASE REMOVE THEM IMMEDIATELY OR I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT WE MUST DISPOSE OF THEM OURSELVES.**

In addition to keeping the hall clear we also remind everyone that if they use linens for an event or meeting they are responsible for taking them home and washing them. They need to be returned clean in a timely fashion as others may be using them as well.



EXALTED RULER



- Lodge Veterans Committee for a great Veterans Day Remembrance Dinner in honor of all of our lodge veterans
- The Casino Night Committee including, Jacki Jacobs, Courtney and Sam Weil, April Holtzman, Betty Orcutt and Susie Harlow, Patty Volpe, Kristie Horst and Elks Helpers Jeanette & Stephen Maniscalco, Jackie & Ryan McMullen, Melissa Dewitt and Jessica Zimmerman did an exceptional job organizing the casino games, decorating the Lodge, and keeping the excitement throughout the night with hourly raffles.
- Dee Cisneros PER, Rick Schnieder PER, Kim Benzing, Paul Deland PER, Wendy Hall PER, Courtney PER and Sam Weil, and Debbie Brennan for helping to make us look so good for DD visit!! Thank you!!!!

DECEMBER LODGE MEETING SCHEDULE

- 1st - LOE Board Meeting - 6:30
- 3rd - LOE General Meeting - 7pm Dinner 6:15
- 10th - Elks General Meeting - 7:30
- 16th - House Committee Meeting - 6:30
- 17th - New Member Orientation & Installation to follow - 6:30
- 18th - BOD Meeting - 6:30
- 22nd - Lodge Veterans Meeting - 6:30
- **THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETING THE 25TH**











DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 2,000 active Elk lodges in the United States, though some sources state slightly different numbers. This network includes thousands of local lodges and nearly one million members united by their commitment to charitable work, community involvement, and patriotism.

Tampa Elks Lodge #708

DECEMBER 2025

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  LOE BOD MEETING 6:30 PM Open Face Turkey Sandwich w/Mashed Potatoes \$9 BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	2	3 LOE GENERAL MEETING 7PM LOE DINNER 6:15PM 	4  Dee's Open Grill Night LOE HOLIDAY BAZAAR 	5  DEE's Basket Night LOE HOLIDAY BAZAAR 	6 Janet Hill Christmas Party 5pm to 9pm
ANNUAL MEMORIAL 12PM 	8 Hot/Cold Ham & Swss on rye With Chips \$8.50 BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	9	10  7:30 PM GENERAL MEETING	11  LOE NOT YOUR MAMA'S GRILLED CHEESE & TOMATO SOUP PG 12 BUCS V FALCONS 8:15PM 	12 2025 ER PARTY DECEMBER 12TH 6:30PM Christmas in the Caribbean POT LUCK DINNER YOUR ER WILL PROVIDE BAKED HAM YOU BRING THE SIDES AND A WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT (NOT OVER \$20 PLEASE) 	13 Military Party 6pm to 11pm Back Hall
14 Craft Fair 10am to 3pm Back Hall	15 Turkey Salad Croissant w/Chips \$9 BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	16  HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30PM	17 Military Party 12pm to 4pm Back Hall 6:30PM NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION INITIATION TO FOLLOW	18  JAMIE POOLE GRILL NIGHT 	19 ELK RIDER MEETING 5:00 Tampa Elks 708 Christmas Dinner Buffet Friday, December 19th 6:30pm to 7pm - Cocktails and Carols 7pm to 8pm - Dinner 8pm to 9pm - Entertainment \$30.00 Please purchase your tickets at our bar and join us in celebrating this Beautiful Holiday Season. Thank you, George. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ELKS. 	20 Cornerstone Plumbing Party 6pm to 9pm Back Hall
BREAKFAST WITH Santa 2025 Tampa Elks Lodge #708 Pajama Party Sunday, December 21st - 9am to 12pm For Children Ages 1 to 17 If you are willing to help out at this wonderful event, we are looking for kids to distribute gifts and spread holiday cheer. Please text Jackie Jacobs at 813-765-9897	22 6:30PM LODGE VETERANS COMMITTEE MEETING Cuban w/Chips \$9 BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	Dinner & A Christmas Movie Night Tuesday, December 23, 2025 7:00pm to 9:00pm Movie: The Christmas Movie Food: Cuban w/Chips Drinks: Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks Donations: \$5.00 Movie Starts at 7:00pm	NO GENERAL MEETING 		26  DEE's Basket Night	27
28 BUCS V DOLPHINS 1:00PM 	29 Buffalo Chicken Tender Sub (or no sauce) W/ Chips \$9 BAR BINGO! 6:30PM \$3 DONATION	30	TAMPA 708 NEW YEAR'S EVE POT LUCK PARTY DEC. 31ST 6:30pm to 12pm Bring your favorite dish & enjoy Karaoke with KJ Tim Kowland Specialty Drinks & Fellowship A Warm & Cozy beginning to the New Year!			

Elks Tampa 708 size

3616 Gandy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33611

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:
Tampa708secretary@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
Mary Louise Perusse



Friends of 708

Marty Quire - In Memory of Bonnie Quire - Bonnie Atwood - Thomas Boyle
Mr & Mrs Moore - Sharon Ford - 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
David Miller - P Jacquelyn LoCicero - Liane Ford

OUR CURRENT ANNUAL SUPPORTERS

R. Florance, PER - K. Higgins - M. Flowers - G. Chiani - R. Millaway
R. Norton - B. Deen - J. Martin - S. Mackey - S. Owens - F. Smith - M. Waldbart - E. Clark
C. McMullen - J. Hall - 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.