

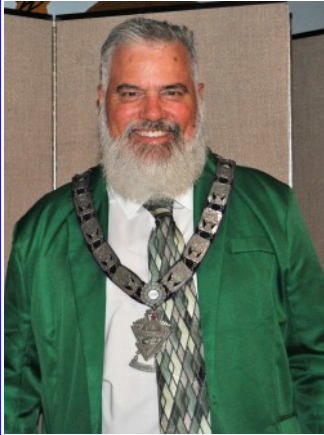


August

**GREATER PINE ISLAND
ELKS #2781**

**5630 PINE ISLAND ROAD
BOKEELIA, FL 33922**

THE ELKHORN



Message form the Exalted Ruler

What is going on with the building? That is the #1 question I hear about our Greater Pine Island Lodge #2781. Here is an update: we're waiting on getting the permit. It's the same answer you have heard now for the past year.

To getting to specifics I will do my best to summarize all the work that is happening behind the scenes. Recently our plan was submitted by an engineer that will remain nameless. The plan showed that our building capacity for people would not exceed the 200 person limit. Anything above that requires us to install a fire suppression system (sprinklers). This is a cost that would break the bank for us in meeting our goal of paying for the new building with no debt.

We have had much frustration with this engineer in doing work that was not acceptable and in a very long and unacceptable timeframe. In the last two weeks, the head engineer that had been assigned to our project, the nameless engineer replaced this person after much frustration on our part.

This most recent plan was submitted before the unnamed engineer was replaced and once again had errors. Even though it said it showed occupancy for less than 200 people, when the reviewers did the math based on the ratios allowed in the various rooms (e.g. different ratios for the dining room than the offices), it showed we exceeded 200 people.

Simon Gonzalez, our builder, quickly responded to the issue and worked with the architect to make the necessary adjustments to bring us back to conformity to keep the occupancy under 200 people and re-submitted the drawings this week. Today he spoke with the head reviewer who requested Simon send the revised drawings to him (even though this had already been done a few days ago). Simon sent the revised plans to him again as he had cleared his inbox and said he did not notice them.

Simon requested to the head reviewer that we not start at the beginning of the process since the other plans had been submitted two weeks earlier. Why is this important? Because when you start over, the plans have to go through all the reviewers again in case the changes affected their individual permit. For example, the plumbing reviewer has to be assured the changes did not affect the plumbing so he now has to again sign off on the plumbing permit. Each sub-reviewer has to now go through the approval process for their area of expertise. The county is supposed to take the plans and have an answer in 4 weeks but it has been typically taking 7 weeks. If we can get the credit for the two weeks, it reduces the timeframe for review.

Exalted Rulers Message Continued:

Another example of part of our delays is the fire permit was approved three different times. (Why three? Because we have had our plans submitted and sent back that many times). The person who had approved the fire permit no longer works for Lee County and a new person has taken his place. She has been adamant that we put in a fire suppression system and will not approve the fire permit like the other person did. She did say if our local fire chief gave the OK to approve the fire permit, then she would have to approve it. Our local fire chief said if it is in compliance (under 200 person occupancy), then it is not necessary for him to approve it; it was up to the reviewer to approve it. He only can approve something if it is out of compliance and needs a variance (which the fire department has a standing policy they will not do).

This summarizes some of the activity from the past 10 days. There is much more. We have been running into an inconsistent process and an engineer that was not doing professional work. Our builder is confident in our new engineer. Now we are at the mercy of the county reviews and inconsistent set up standards.

Ben Madey, who has diligently represented our lodge, and our building committee under the direction of Bob Hoogstra have worked very hard to get our permits approved. Simon Gonzalez, our builder, has also worked very hard to personally go to the county office and visit with the reviewers. Between Ben and Simon hundreds of calls and texts have been shared.

What is next? We are waiting to see what the head reviewer will do with this latest submission of our plans. Will we go to the "end of the line" or will we be allowed to be a priority so we can complete the permitting process and break ground and get our new building constructed?

Our new building will be an Insulated Concrete Foam building rated to withstand winds up to 200 mph. It will be worth the wait and will be a real asset to our Pine Island community. Thank you all for hanging in there with your membership and for your patience. This is not a pleasant experience for any of us but we are not going anywhere and we will persevere.

Fraternally,

Exalted Ruler John Hotzfield

239-922-6835 hotzfield@gmail.com.



THE ELKS COLORS* ...

The Elk colors are Royal Purple and White, a combination deriving its origin from the history of the Clergy, Nobility and the People. Throughout Europe, the Orient and in Rome the symbolism of colors was associated with severity of laws and customs. Each color in each pattern was identified religious, or political, and to change or alter it was a crime of rebellion, a desertion of principles, party or cause.

White denotes purity and absolute truth. When combined with Royal Purple it signifies the love of truth and the highest degree of virtue. Purple is the badge of Kingship, the color for the robes of Emperors and High Priests, and signifies highest favor. Blending of White and Royal Purple indicates the favor of the people, which bespeaks the status of Elkdom.



**GREATER PINE ISLAND ELKS
LODGE 2781**

Exalted Ruler: John Hotzfield
239-922-6835, hotzfield@gmail.com
Secretary: Donna Stone
585-354-1667, luvnroc@gmail.com



LODGE OFFICERS 2024-2025

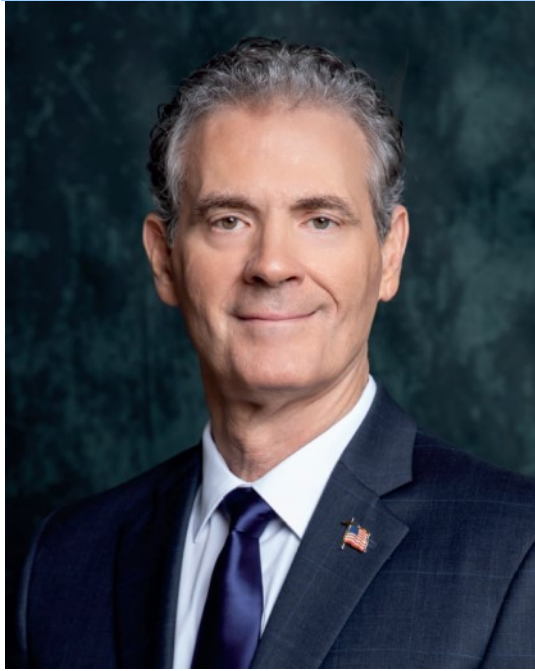
Exalted Ruler.....John Hotzfield	House Committee,,,,,,Nancy DiBenedetto
Leading Knight.....Tommy KramerSandy Madey
Loyal Knight.....Bob Hoogstra, PERCheryl Combs
Lecturing Knight.....Nancy DiBenedettoLisa Wade
Secretary.....Donna StoneLinda Henry
Treasurer.....Carl Jervis	Lodge Activities.....Nancy DiBenedetto
Tiler.....Tom Kopec	Membership.....Terry Smayda
Esquire.....Jack Rovaldi, PER	Investigations.....Denise Hoogstra
Chaplain.....Terry Smayda	PER Association.....Bob Hoogstra, PER
Inner Guard.....Lorre Thibeault	Public Relations.....Judy Hopkins, PER
Trustee 1 Year.....Denise Hoogstra	RitualJohn Hotzfield
Trustee 2 Year.....George Smith, PER	Standing ReliefJohn Hotzfield
Trustee 3 Year.....Glen TeidemanTommy Kramer
Trustee 4 Year.....Ben MadeyBob Hoogstra, PER
Trustee 5 Year.....Lee LeMayNancy DiBenedetto
Lodge Advisor.....Leroy Lippmann, PDD	Soccer ShootJohn Hotzfield
Mediator.....Leroy Lippmann, PDD	Veteran Services.....Jack Rovaldi, PER

COMMITTEES

Accident Prevention.....	John Hotzfield
Americanism.....	John Hotzfield
Auditing.....	Rob Hobmier
Drug Awareness.....	Ed Wisniewski
ENF Fundraising.....	Judy Hopkins, PER
ENF Scholarships.....	Judy Hopkins, PER
Government Relations.....	John Hotzfield
Hoop Shoot	John Hotzfield



A Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler



COMMUNITY PROJECTS SHOW ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA

What an unbelievable opportunity to serve our great Order! I need to first thank my wonderful wife, Julia. Without her love, support, and commitment this experience would not be possible. We both are so grateful to have been chosen to take this amazing journey. We have been so blessed by the support of our family, friends, and our Elks family. We are so thankful for everything you do.

My theme this year is “Elkdom’s Heart for America.” It means recognizing all the honorable and charitable things Elks strive for and want to accomplish in their quest to make their communities and America a better place. I chose this theme because it exemplifies what our founding Members learned when they came to the aid of a fellow Elk’s widow 156 years ago. It was that spirit that changed the local social club into the amazing organization it is to-

day by demonstrating charity and brotherly love.

As we travel the country, Julia and I will be promoting our Elks programs administered by our Grand Lodge Committees to make our Lodges stronger and improve our image throughout our great Order. We will be promoting local community service projects. Here’s an opportunity to engage with your schools, help children who need it by providing critical school supplies, and lay the groundwork for other Elks youth programs. These programs can build stronger communities while stimulating a response that motivates worthy members of the public to seek Elks membership. In this way, our community service builds the foundation for our future.

Successful Lodges create and develop local projects that can become signature accomplishments in the eyes of their community. In turn, members of the community will see these projects mature over time and want to become involved.

If we work together toward our charitable pursuits and remain faithful to our programs, I’m confident we will see an increase in membership. It will not be just temporary gains, but a new time of growth where participation becomes commonplace.

A great source of funding community projects is the Elks National Foundation, known as the “Great Heart of Elkdom.” For 2024-25, the ENF allotted \$16.3 million to the CIP to help build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet the needs in areas where we live and work. The support we provide makes the Foundation’s work possible.

The goal established for 2024-25 is \$5.00 per Member. Here’s an idea for this week: Visit elks.org, go to the Fraternal Committee page, and print off a copy of the “Patriotism Week Proclamation.” Have your mayor sign it to proclaim September 9-15, 2024, as National Patriotism Week in your town. Then, use this opportunity to encourage new Members to join our great Order.

Remember “Elks Care – Elks Share” by showing “Elkdom’s **Heart** for America.” God bless you all, God bless our troops, and God bless America!



Grand Lodge Statutory Resolutions 2024

TUESDAY'S RESOLUTIONS BALLOTING RESULTS

2024-01—To remove the word indoctrination, which has negative connotations linked to forced acceptance of certain values or beliefs and amend it to the term orientation, which is a familiarization with the organization's principles and beliefs. **2,164 YES, 291 NO. PASSED.**

2024-02—1) To move the control of the assets from the Grand Exalted Ruler's appointed Defunct Lodge Trustees to that of the State Sponsor(s). 2) Lodges and State Associations are both 501(c)(8)s. This change will allow funds to be given to State Associations without placing a restriction on their use if so deemed by the State Sponsor(s). **2,203 YES, 249 NO. PASSED.**

2024-03—To remove the word indoctrination, which has a negative connotation linked to forced acceptance of certain values of beliefs and amend it to the term orientation, which is a familiarization with the organization's principles and beliefs. **This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-01.** **2,183 YES, 275 NO. PASSED.**

2024-04—To allow the ability to download and print a current membership application directly from Elks.org. **2,239 YES, 220 NO. PASSED.**

2024-05—To make participation in the physical loss and crime coverage policy procured by Grand Lodge optional for the local Lodges. **970 YES, 1,470 NO. FAILED.**

2024-06—To allow a Lodge to satisfy the bond requirement for the Lodge Secretary through an outside insurance company. **This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-05.** **1,072 YES, 1,384 NO. FAILED.**

2024-07—To allow a Lodge to satisfy the bond requirement for the Lodge Treasurer through an outside insurance company. **This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-05.** **1,079 YES, 1,379 NO. FAILED.**

2024-08—To remove the requirement for the Lodge Treasurer to attend all District Deputy Clinics. **1,577 YES, 869 NO. PASSED.**

2024-09—To give the Local Lodges the opportunity to add or not add the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board of Directors. **1,892 YES, 567 NO. PASSED.**

2024-10—To clarify and make uniform the standard of proof at trials before the Grand Forum resulting from any appeal of an Executive Order. **2,265 YES, 186 NO. PASSED.**

2024-11—To clarify and make uniform the standard of proof at trials before the Grand Forum resulting from any appeal of an Executive Order. **2,247 YES, 203 NO. PASSED.**

2024-12—The purpose of this resolution is to clarify and make consistent the process for nominations following the requirement that two meetings be held. **2,222 YES, 233 NO. PASSED.**

2024-13—To make the year-round entry of the charitable service statistics a formal duty of the Secretary. **2,139 YES, 316 NO. PASSED.**

2024-14—Add Section 13.025: To formalize a standing Government Relations Committee. **2,019 YES, 437 NO. PASSED.**

2024-15—Amendment to Section 13.020: To formalize a standing Government Relations Committee. **This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-14.** **2,017 YES, 432 NO. PASSED.**

2024-16—Amendment to Section 13.021: To formalize the Soccer Shoot Program within the Laws of the Order. **2,153 YES, 298 NO. PASSED.**

2024-17—Amendment to Section 18.020: To formalize the Soccer Shoot Program within the Laws of the Order. **2,141 YES, 306 NO. PASSED.**

2024-18—To clarify the role of the Exalted Ruler as an *ex officio* member of the Board of Trustees and a voting member of the Board of Directors of an incorporated Lodge. **2,243 YES, 211 NO. PASSED.**

2024-19—To provide a right of due process, hearing, and appeal to a member who is subject to expulsion from membership for an undisclosed felony conviction. **1,962 YES, 273 NO. PASSED.**

2024-20—To clarify the appellate jurisdiction and review process of the Grand Forum over appeals of an Order entered under the revised GLS 9.090. **This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-19.** **1,986 YES, 233 NO. PASSED.**

2024-21—To make a record of the preliminary hearing. **2,124 YES, 89 NO. PASSED.**

2024-22—To codify what flags or other insignia may be displayed within the Order. **Rescinded by the Committee on Judiciary.**



Elks
National
Foundation

Building Stronger Communities

A Legacy of Service and Impact The Elks National Foundation (ENF) stands at the heart of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE), embodying the spirit of charity, unity, and community. Let's delve into what makes the ENF a beacon of hope and transformation:

1. **Origins and Purpose Founded in 1928:** The ENF emerged as the charitable arm of the BPOE, with a mission to uplift communities and support Elks' initiatives. Endowment and Donors: Today, the ENF boasts an impressive endowment valued at over \$750 million, fueled by the generosity of more than 183,000 active donors.
2. **Making a Difference Investing Locally:** The ENF channels its resources into communities where Elks live and work. From scholarships to veterans' programs, its impact is far-reaching. Hoop Shoot National Finals: The recently concluded 2024 Hoop Shoot National Finals showcased young athletes' skills and sportsmanship. The ENF keeps the action alive with results, photos, and highlights.
3. **Local Impact Spotlight Grant:** The Spotlight Grant shines a light on three issues facing American communities: early childhood literacy, veteran homelessness, and hunger and essential needs assistance. GPI Elks Lodge was awarded this grant along with the Beacon grant in the amount of \$6000 and will be used to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas Meals through the Pine Island Pantry .
4. **How You Can Get Involved Donate:** Consider contributing to the ENF's mission. Every dollar makes a difference. Spread the Word: Share the ENF's impact stories within our lodge and beyond. Let's inspire others to join this noble cause.
5. **Elks Fidelity Club The Fidelity Club** is the Elks National Foundation's (ENF) monthly giving program. It's designed for Elks members who want to contribute regularly without having to think about it. By enrolling in the Fidelity Club, you become part of a community of sustaining supporters. Remember, the ENF isn't just an organization; it's a testament to the Elks' commitment to building a better world—one community at a time.

MAKE GIVING EASY & JOIN THE CLUB!

Sign up for our monthly, sustaining giving program—the ENF Fidelity Club!

- › Give automatic, regularly scheduled donations each month from your credit card or bank account.
- › Receive special membership benefits and recognition pieces.
- › Update, adjust or modify your gift any time online or by calling us.
- › Sign up by scanning the QR code and make a sustaining difference in Elks communities today!



Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.

Use the QR code to sign up today.



Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.

ELKS MOST VALUABLE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

ACADEMICS | SERVICE | LEADERSHIP | FINANCIAL NEED

ELIGIBILITY: High school senior and United States citizen.

IMPORTANT DATES

- ▶ **APPLICATION OPENS:**
August 1, 2024
- ▶ **APPLICATION DEADLINE:**
November 12, 2024

500 FOUR-YEAR AWARDS

- ▶ **20 AWARDS WORTH**
\$30,000
- ▶ **480 AWARDS WORTH**
\$4,000

**Awards paid over four years*

FOR DETAILS

- ▶ Visit enf.elks.org/MVS to apply.
- ▶ Contact your local Lodge by visiting elks.org/Lodges.
- ▶ Ask your high school guidance counselor.

The Elks National Foundation awards **\$2.52 million** in college scholarships to a total of 500 high school seniors nationwide through its Most Valuable Student scholarship contest.

Visit enf.elks.org/MVS for complete details.



Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.

Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities

2750 N. Lakeview Avenue | Chicago, IL 60614-2256 | 773/755-4732 | scholarship@elks.org | elks.org/scholars



C. VALENTINE BATES MEMORIAL

HOPE



SCHOLARSHIP

Inspiring the pursuit of knowledge

**FSEA
SPONSORED
SCHOLARSHIP**

**Florida Elks:
Student Scholarships for a
Better Life**

Enabling deserving students the opportunity of success instead of a lifetime of what might have been.

The mission of the Florida State Elks Association C. Valentine Bates HOPE Scholarship is to provide financial support for the educational needs of Florida High school seniors without which they would not be able to achieve their educational goals.

The scholarship targets students who have a 2.30-3.59 un-weighted GPA

The 2025 application period opens August 1, 2024 with applications due by January 17, 2025

For more information and application dates, please visit

FLORIDAEELKS.ORG/HOPE-SCHOLARSHIP

2024-2025 DELINQUENT DUES

Dues can be mailed to Greater Pine Island Elks #2781

5630 Pine Island Road

Bokeelia, Florida 33922

We look forward to you continuing as a Member of the Lodge. Your Membership is important to us. Keep in mind you cannot participate in the lodge or its activities if your dues are not current. Please make every effort to bring your dues up-to-date if you want to be a participating member. Also it is important that you please communicate with us if you do not wish to continue your membership in the Lodge.
pineislandelks@gmail.com

Thank you

We have only one Lodge meeting in August on

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

September we will get back on schedule with meetings being held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month

We will continue to hold our lodge meetings at the Cape Coral Lodge

850 Lafayette St, Cape Coral

Lodge will open at 6pm

Elks Day at the Rays

Sunday, August 18th

Lower Level Tickets are \$40 (\$80 Value)

\$5 from every ticket sold will benefit the Harry Anna Trust Fund

Ticket Includes a New Rays/Elks co-branded Hat

Go to
www.floridaelks.org/rays
For Tickets
(Cutoff for Tickets is Aug 1st)



Elks Care - Elks Share

More than 6,500 members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America and guests gathered in Austin, Texas, from June 30 to July 3 for the BPO Elks National Convention. During the convention, Judy Hopkins of Greater Pine Island Elks Lodge #2781 was installed as a district deputy for the 10 Elks lodges in the South Southwest District of Florida.

The BPO Elks is a patriotic and charitable organization committed to making our communities a better place to live. Last year, the order donated more than \$499 million in cash, goods and services to the needy, students, people with disabilities, active-duty members of the U.S. armed forces and their families, veterans and their families, and charitable organizations.

In the 156 years since the order's founding, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has made charitable donations totaling approximately \$12 billion. As part of the Elks' ongoing commitment to help students achieve their goals, the Elks National Foundation awards annual college scholarships worth a total of more than \$4.5 million each year to students across the country. To help local lodges make positive changes in their communities, the Elks National Foundation's Community Investments Program provides local Elks lodges with more than \$15.9 million each year to help them build stronger communities.





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION AUSTIN 2024





HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY BILL CLAXTON



GREATER PINE ISLAND ELKS

SHOW ME THE MONEY

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

6 PM AT THE

PINE ISLAND VFW POST 4353



THE ELK VOLUNTEERS ARE OFFERING A

LIGHT DINNER MENU

PROCEEDS FROM THE GAMES

GO TO THE LODGE RECOVERY FUND

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

COOKIES

for a

CAUSE



Support Pine Island kids,
veterans and seniors by
supporting ENF
Available for purchase at
SHOW ME THE MONEY
Starting July 10, 2024

START YOUR SUNDAY THE RIGHT
WAY!

Breakfast

AT THE VFW POST 4353



9AM TO 11AM

1ST AND 2ND SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH
BEST OMLETE'S ON THE ISLAND

**Naples Eks Lodge # 2010
&
Bonita Springs/Estero Lodge # 2753**

Invites you to attend the visit of



**South-Southwest District
Vice President
Roger Spencer**

**Saturday, August 14, 2024
at the Naples Lodge**

**Horsd'oeuvres: 5-6 PM
Dinner: 6 PM
Sliced Steak Marsala
or Chicken Bryan w/Goat Cheese
Cost \$20.00 per person**

**Call the Lodge @ 239-643-4368
Monday - Thursday 12 PM to 5 PM**

RSVP by August 9, 2024

GREATER PINE ISLAND ELKS
2781
BONITA SPRING/ESTERO 2753



2ND ANNUAL
CHARITY
GOLF
TOURNAMENT

PLAY
GOLF
FOR A
CAUSE

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 12TH

VILLAGES OF COUNTRY CREEK
GOLF CLUB
BONITA SPRINGS
SHOTGUN START AT 8:00AM
4 PERSONS TEAM
SCRAMBLE FORMAT

SAVE THE DATE



- 03 LEAH BOWEN
- 04 KATHIE SIDESo9
- 09 SUSAN SOLOMON
- 10 ELIZABETH DUCHAINE (LIZ)
- 10 DENISE HOOGSTRA, ROBERT PEYER
- 10 JANET ROVALDI (JAN)
- 11 STEVEN BOCZ
- 11 MICHAEL SHARER
- 15 DONALD WOODS
- 17 GERALD KREIGER
- 18 KEVIN HAUTER
- 18 MICHAEL MOHNACK
- 19 STEPHEN CLAY
- 19 MICHAEL ENKE
- 19 CHARLES POSNANSKI
- 20 ROBERT HOBMEIER
- 21 HEDY LARSEN
- 21 JANE SENST
- 22 GLORIA QUINTAL
- 25 SARAH BRUNER
- 25 PHILLIP RUSSELL
- 27 KIRK CANTRELL
- 27 JOHN LIBERTY
- 27 ARNOLD STRANG
- 28 CHARLES COPE
- 29 FRES SCHLICHTING
- 30 THOMAS CONSIDINE
- 30 JAMES MCCONNELL
- 31 JOSEPH HARTER



The Elkhorne

is published by

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Editor: Judy Hopkins, PER

All articles must be submitted as attachments to the Editor via e-mail prior to the 15th of each month:

juhopkins@msn.com

All articles are subject to editing.

Visit: <https://www.gpielks.org> Like us on [Facebook!](#)

