



Kissimmee Elks Lodge #1873

# The Antlers

Volume 227  
October 2023

## Message To The Members From Chuck Lassabe , Exalted Ruler

Hello Elks

Our lodge honored Osceola County first responders with a nice dinner that was served by the Seabees and our members. The main room was decorated very nicely. The members of 1873 are awesome people that help with anything that needs to be done.

Now that the weather is getting cooler we will be making progress on the kitchen renovation project.

Remember the lodge birthday party and Veterans Day Celebration are on 11/11/23. I hear Chef has a good meal planned.

Please come to the lodge meetings and get involved with your lodge.

Keep the Membership drive going as we are on a good roll so help keep the train moving.



Chuck Lassabe  
407.709.0789

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bryan Brewer, Roger White  
And Joel Rivera



## ENF Beacon Grant awarded to ...

Lorraine Barker shared that one of our grants has been approved! Our lodge will support the animals in need at the Osceola Animal Shelter using the Beacon Grant. The best part? The Grand Lodge upped the amount to the full Beacon Grant amount of \$4000. It was suggested by the Grand Lodge to upgrade and request the full amount. Lorraine reported that after talking to the Osceola Animal Shelter, we will order more beds and give more funds for emergencies. These are higher priority than the Amazon wish list where we will spend up to \$1200. Upgrades were at shelter request.

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**HAUNTED HALLOWEEN**  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023  
6 PM - 10 PM  
ADULTS \$15 CHILDREN \$10  
15 AND UNDER

**DJ**  
**BUFFET AND DRINK SPECIALS**  
**RAFFLES AND 50/50**

**COSTUME CONTEST**  
\$50 - FIRST PRIZE - \$25 - SECOND PRIZE  
\$10 - THIRD PRIZE

Tickets must be purchased by Tuesday, October 24, 2023

## ELK OF THE MONTH Marianne Tithof

For all that you do, we thank you!!

## October Birthdays

Thomas David	07-Oct	Albert Weber	27-Oct
Theodore W. Johnson	07-Oct	Michael Stimpson	29-Oct
Richard F. Sambuca	08-Oct	RC Crotty	30-Oct
Robert D. Griffis	09-Oct		
Lee Mendez	12-Oct		
Jeremy Burrow	14-Oct		
Helen Robinson	14-Oct		
Dennis Miller	15-Oct		
James E. Phillips	21-Oct		
Douglas Richard Kinner	22-Oct		
Corinne Riley	23-Oct		
Philip Wagoner	23-Oct		
Gerald Sylvester	27-Oct		

**Kissimmee Elks Lodge #1873  
Birthday Drink Coupon**

This coupon entitles you to 1 Free Drink of your choice any dinner night of your birthday month.

One coupon per member  
Coupon good for  
October 2023 Birthdays Only



## **Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America**

A Fraternal Organization

**Rita Smith, PER, State Chair  
ENF Fundraising Committee**

3812 N Oak Dr M61 • Tampa, FL 33611-6541

(813)4313020(c) • apwurita@hotmail.com

### **Benevolence is in our Name.**

Because you are an Elk, I am sure that you contribute to nonprofit charities throughout the year. Maybe it's your grandchild's PTA fundraiser, the annual appeal to purchase a meal for the needy at Thanksgiving, the Salvation Army red bucket in-front of the store at Christmas. Do you say yes when the grocery store or restaurant asks you to "round up" for the charity they decided to support? Of course, you support Harry Anna. But what do you know about Elk's National Foundation? When you support The Elks National Foundation (ENF), you are supporting a charity that supports the communities where Elks live and work. Last year, the members and lodges in Florida donated \$433,292.23 to ENF. It sounds like a lot of money. But I bet you did not realize ENF sent more than \$1,638,400 back to Florida. I say, "more than" because there were 16 scholarships awarded to Florida students that were not projected in these numbers, most of the relief to the victims of Hurricane Ian are also not reflected in these numbers, the travel expenses of those staff who attended our schools and seminars are not included, and neither is the Drug Awareness Program. To accomplish that kind of return, the Elks National Foundation must invest its capital carefully, and keep its operating costs low. In fact, the ENF spends 92% of their income on direct mission expenses. Less than 8% is spent on advertising and administration. Compare that to the administrative and advertising expenses of the top charities in the country – according to Charitywatch.com, Feeding America spends 21%, Toys 4 Tots spends 21%, Salvation Army spends 18% and even the beloved American Red Cross spends over 9%. Florida was nowhere near the top of the heap when it came to reaping benefits of our top-rated charity. There are a lot of different formulas for the different programs, but it is simple to understand that the more your state gives, the more your state gets in return.

So I ask : "Can you make a donation today?"

Can you log in at [Elks.org/enf](http://Elks.org/enf) and make a recurring donation by joining the Fidelity Club? \$15 per month is the default, but they will accept a \$5 donation if that is all you can budget. If that does not appeal right now, you can also log in and make a one time donation. You can choose which ENF program you want to support. YOUR donation will help YOUR Lodge get bigger grants, YOUR community get more services, and YOUR state get more money for our major projects. And, for some of you, it will help YOU pay less in taxes. When you hear the word Benevolence – Think, "ENF!"



**"Florida Elks Shine Bright"**









**RENTAL EVENTS**

If you know of anyone interested in renting one of our beautiful rooms please have them call

**Marianne Tithof**  
**303-704-3415**



Note: Items scheduled in the calendar may change after publication. To check on any Lodge function, please call the Lodge (407) 847-2444

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CLOSED	Lodge Opens 4pm Kitchen Open 5 pm - 6:30 pm Charity Bingo 6 pm-8pm	Lodge Opens 4pm* Kitchen Open 5 pm - 6:30 pm *closed during lodge meeting	Lodge Opens 4pm Kitchen Open 5 pm - 7 pm	CLOSED EXCEPT 5/18/2022	Lodge Opens 4pm Kitchen Open 5 pm - 8pm Queen of ♥  Drawing 7:00 pm	CLOSED
1 White Team	2	3 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00 PM (moved to Thursday)	4 Karaoke w/Cory 5-9	5 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00 PM	6 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	7 Rental Main
8 Blue Team	9 GTS Travel 1-3 PM 	10 BOD MEETING 6pm LODGE MEETING 7pm \$1 Hot Dogs after meet	11 Trivia w/Eileen 6:30 pm	12	13 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	14 Rental Main
15 Gold Team	16 Guido Travel 10-2:30 	17 BINGO  W/ THE VETS	18 Karaoke w/Cory 5-9	19	20 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	21 District Visitation 
22 Platinum Team	23 	24 Orientation 5:3pm LODGE MEETING W/ INITIATION @ 7PM \$1 Hot Dogs after meet	25 Trivia w/Eileen 6:30 pm	26	27 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	28  6 pm -10 pm
29 Red Team	30 	31	11/1 Karaoke w/Cory 5-9	11/2	11/3 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	11/4



Public Safety Night was a great success. I'd mention some names but I'm sure I'd forget some one so i will just say thanks to the group of volunteers who helped Friday and Saturday and all the members who came out to the event. You all made it happen. Bob Barry



**Public Safety Night**  
Honoring our First Responders

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**Saturday, September 16, 2023**





# **The American Legion and The Veterans of Foreign Wars**

*Submitted by Pat Harker*



In the September issue of the Antlers we promised to attempt to explain the difference between the American Legion (AL) and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). These are perhaps two of the “most famous” associations and they are also the oldest.

The AL started out in World War I as a group of 20 officers asked to find ways to improve the troops' morale. The AL was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' association. The AL has grown from a group of war-weary WWI veterans to one of the most influential non-profit, public service organization in the United States of America. The AL currently employs over 4 million people in 14,000 positions worldwide.

The VFW traces its roots back to 1899 with 2 veteran organizations: The veterans of the Spanish American War (1898) and the Philippine American War (1899-1902). These two were created as local organizations to provide rights and benefits for service. Many veterans arrived home wounded or sick and there was no medical care or pensions for them. They were left to care for themselves. The VFW was formed on September 17, 1914, where the two organizations merged into one. By 1915, membership had grown to 5,000, and by 1936, when it became a government-funded, non-profit organization the membership was nearly 200,000. Membership today is about 1.4 million people.

Originally the clubs' purpose was to help veterans and service members navigate their military benefits and get the respect they deserve. Fighting for better active duty pay, improving housing for active duty families and ensuring that the VA's medical systems could properly care for veterans. They provided assistance programs such as free, professional help filing or appealing a VA claim, scholarships, emergency financial relief, student veteran support and mental health wellness resources.

As you can see these two clubs are a lot more alike than they are different. Their major differences are evident in their eligibility to join.

The requirements for membership for the VFW are more demanding. Members must have received a campaign medal, served 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days, or received imminent danger or hostile fire pay at any time. The VFW also restricts membership to members on the battlefield on foreign soil or hostile waters. This can be proven by a full list of qualifying medals or badges or a receipt of Hostile Fire Pay or Imminent Danger pay.

To join the AL you must have served at least one day of federal active duty in the US Armed Forces since Dec 7, 1941, and were honorably discharged or are still serving honorably. The AL also opened membership to Merchant Marines, AL Auxiliary (female immediate family members) and the Sons of the AL, because of the looser requirements for membership the AL is larger and has greater resources.

Both the AL and the VFW have gone beyond just veterans helping veteran companions. From their beginning to provide financial, social, and emotional support to veterans and their dependents...to being the leaders of community involvement in areas such as mentoring youth groups, assistance in community kitchens and volunteering for blood donations (to name a few).

## **Beacon Grant awarded to the Kissimmee Elks**

*Continued from page 1.*

Emergencies include pets needing surgery at an outside vet, pet food for people struggling financially, and in-house emergencies outside normal operating expenditures. Stay tuned for more grant information and how members can support the shelter and get involved.

GIT READY FOR A HOOTIN' HOLLERIN' SHINDIG  
KISSIMMEE ELKS 1873 IS CELEBRATIN' ITS

# 70TH ANNIVERSARY



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023  
4:00 – 9:00 PM

Veterans Recognition  
@ 4:45

Cornhole Tournament  
@ 5:00

Buffet  
5:30 – 7:30

DJ Cory  
5:00 – 9:00 PM

Chef Steve's  
Buffet:  
Ribs, Chicken,  
Cheesy Potatoes,  
Veggie &  
Dessert

\$20 FOR ADULTS \* FREE FOR LODGE 1873 VETERANS  
\$10.00 FOR 15 AND UNDER  
ELK MEMBERS ONLY

Kissimmee Elks Lodge #1873  
1655 Kings Highway, Kissimmee, FL. 34777 \* (407) 844-4444

**Military and Veterans of #1873 that are in good standing as a member, please enjoy your dinner compliments of your lodge. As American citizens, we are grateful for your service and sacrifice.**



# Antler's Booster Club

**October 31, 2023**

Bob & Fran Barry (IMO) Wayne Sorrell

**October 31, 2023**

Randy Musser PDDGER (IMO) Jesse and Ina Musser

**December 31, 2025**

Addison Walker (IMO) Eric Bock

**January 31, 2024**

Robert & Karen Slater (IMO) Eric Slater

**January 31, 2024**

Jim & Jeannie Platt (IMO) Merle & Toby Mountz

**February 28, 2028**

Dot Johnston (IMO) Les Johnston

**February 28, 2024**

Jane Couture (IMO) Rene Couture Jr

**March 31, 2024**

Fred & Fran Hammer (IMO) Amanda Anderson

**May 31, 2027**

Lee Hershner (IMO) Ella Flynn

**June 30 2024**

J Wayne Wrightstone (IMO) Melvin Constant

**June 30 2024**

J Wayne Wrightstone (IMO) Wayne Farmer

**June 30 2025**

Addison & Sandy Walker (IMO) Heather Bock

**August 31, 2028**

John & Carol Hamilton (IMO) Paul & Louise Daniels

**August 31, 2024**

Bob & Marianne Tithof (IMO) Phyllis Jean Kirchner



## 11 O'Clock Toast

*"You have heard the tolling of 11 strokes. This is to impress upon you that with us the hour of 11 has a tender significance. Wherever an Elk may roam, whatever their lot in life may be, when this hour falls upon the dial of night, the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs. It is the golden hour of recollection, the homecoming of those who wander, the mystic roll call of those who will come no more. Living or dead, an Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken. Morning and noon may pass them by, the light of day sink heedlessly in the West, but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall, the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message,*

## To our Absent Members

Please consider using this Antler Booster Page to assist our Lodge with a personal contribution or to eulogize or memorialize someone near and dear to you. For \$20 per year, your name can appear here to acknowledge that extra contribution.

**Please contact the Lodge Secretary to make a \$20 Antlers Booster donation** for yourself and/or also make a donation In Memory Of (IMO) a loved one or friend.

**\*Tax Disclaimer:** Kissimmee Elks Lodge #1873 is a not-for-profit organization 501(c)8.

# Americanism



Learn about our military history for FREE !! Our lodge has a corporate membership for the **Museum of Military History**. You and your family are invited to visit anytime during the year. Please see our secretary Jeannie Platt for the pass and use it as often as you like. All we ask is that you return the pass so the next members have a chance to use it.

5210 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway in Kissimmee, 34746



**Kissimmee Elks Lodge #1873**

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Kissimmee, FL 34744  
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OFFICE: (407) 785-1610  
EMAIL: BPOE1873@gmail.com  
Or on Facebook @  
Kissimmee Elk's Lodge #1873  
[www.KissimmeeElksLodge.com](http://www.KissimmeeElksLodge.com)



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US POSTAGE  
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**CONTACT NUMBERS;**  
**Bob Barry 407-414-1718**  
**Chuck Lasabbe 407-709-0789**  
**Jim Platt 717-580-5039**  
**Jeannie Platt 717-580-1016**  
**Steve Hebior 407-927-9301**  
**Terry Hebior 407-927-9303**  
**Eileen Barrett 240-449-9842**  
**Joe Waskelis 727-560-5482**  
**Marianne & Bob Tithof 303-704-3415**  
  
**Office of the Secretary Hours**  
**MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 10AM—2 PM**

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



**LODGE MEETINGS**

**2nd and 4th TUESDAY**  
**(except July, August & December)**  
**OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 pm**

**Members are encouraged to attend!**

Please submit all articles for publication by email to [thebior.elk@gmail.com](mailto:thebior.elk@gmail.com)  
Please include your contact information.

**2023-2024**  
**Lodge Officers**

Exalted Ruler	Chuck Lassabe
Leading Knight	Rick Theriault
Loyal Knight	Joe Waskelis
Lecturing Knight	Robert Husband
Lodge Secretary	Etta Jean Platt, PER
Lodge Treasurer	Steve Hebior
Esquire	Derek Bartolli
Tiler	Dennis Miller
Chaplain	Robert Hatchell
Inner Guard	RC Crotty

**2023-2024**  
**Board of Trustees**

1-year Trustee	Brian Light
2-year Trustee	Mark Waskelis
3-year Trustee	Janice Kirsch
4-year Trustee	James Platt, PER
5-year Trustee	Frank Husband

**Central District Sponsor**  
PSP Victor McClellan

**Central District D.D.G.E.R.**  
PER Anthony "Tony" Schiappa - Orlando

**Central District V.P.**  
PER Etta Jean Platt –Kissimmee

**2023/2024**  
**Central District Visitation Schedule**  
9/9/23 Aripeka & Brooksville  
10/7/23 West Citrus  
10/21 Kissimmee & Orlando

**2023/2024**  
**Central District DD Clinics**  
April 6, 2024 Zephyrhills

**Past Exalted Ruler Association (PER)**

President	Robert Barry PDDGER
Vice President	Etta Jean Platt, PER
Secretary/Treasurer	James Platt, PER

**2023-2024**  
**House Committee**

Member	Eileen Barrett
Member	Linda Bartoli
Member	Terry Hebior, PER
Member	Lee Mendez
Member	Robbie Pinkston
Member	Karen Roper
Member	Judy Schmidt
Member	Vivian Theriault
Member	Joe Waskelis

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Lodge Advisor	Robert Barry PDDGER
Lodge Attorney	Addison Walker, ESQ.