

# SPOTLIGHT

**BPOE St. Petersburg Lodge No. 1224**

2675 66th Street North | St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
Office: 344-6551 | Fax: 344-6552 | Lounge: 344-6553  
Lodge Website: <http://www.bpoe1224.com>

1911-2026 *115 Years of Service to the Community*  
Elks National Foundation  
Elks Children's Therapy Services  
Elks Youth Camp

\*\*\*\* ALL AMERICAN LODGE • DIVISION VI • 2020-2021 1ST PLACE \*\*\*\*

Volume 232, Issue 1

Monthly Publication of St. Petersburg B.P.O.E. #1224

FEBRUARY 2026

St Petersburg Elks #1224 PERs present

## Meat Bingo!

BENEFITING FLORIDA ELKS CHARITIES

**Sunday, February 1st - 1:00pm**

WIN YOUR GROCERIES!  
\$1.00 PER CARD

Open to Elks members and guests only

*Saturday • Feb 21st • 6:00 pm*

## Law & Order Night

### DINNER and PROGRAM

**\$10 Menu Lasagna Dinner**

Dinner @ 6:00pm  
Program to follow

Honor the Men and Women of Law Enforcement & Fire Prevention

The dinner will be served by the Pinellas Park High School Criminal Justice Academy.

**WELCOME...**  
State Attorney's Office  
Sheriff's Department  
Police Departments:  
St. Petersburg • Kenneth City  
Gulfport Police • Pinellas Park  
Fire Departments:  
Lealman  
Pinellas Park  
St. Petersburg

**K-9**  
Demonstration will be done by the St. Petersburg Police K-9 unit.

ST PETERSBURG ELKS LODGE #1224 PRESENTS

## A NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE SHOW

**SATURDAY MARCH 7 2026**

This special one-night show features Keith Allyn - The Diamond Image performing the songs and story of the iconic singer.

OPEN TO ELKS MEMBERS AND GUESTS

## STUDIO 1224

### After Dark

FEATURING  
*Smooth D and The Boyz*

Formerly "The Hunks of Funk"

Enjoy a night of smooth groovin' with the **ULTIMATE FUNK** band!

**FEB 28 | SATURDAY**  
7PM - 10PM

ST. PETERSBURG ELKS LODGE  
Open to Elks members and guests

**\$15 ADVANCE TICKETS**  
UNTIL SOLD OUT

HAPPY PATTI'S Kitchen  
Open until 10PM

**50/50 JACKPOT**

A portion of the proceeds to benefit Autism Awareness

## 2025-2026 Officers, Directors, Committees & Chairs

OFFICERS		COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS		Chairman of the Board	Pool Maintenance
Dan Masi, PER, ER	Exalted Ruler	Bonnie Barne, PER, PLP	Americanism	Brian MacDonald	Pool Monitor
Adrianne Sproul	Leading Knight	Heidi Green, PER	Army of Hope	Alexandra Kaan	Presiding Justice Forum
Mark Bonneau	Loyal Knight	Dolly Masi, PER, PLP	Auditing	TBD	Public Relations
Brian Lewandowski	Lecturing Knight	Sherrie "Midge" McNeil	Bar Chair	Virginia Warfield, PLP	Social Media
Toni Goodrich, PDD	Secretary	Charlie Stroup	Boy Scouts	Rosemarie Dion	Queen of Hearts
Brian Polk	Treasurer	Dan Masi PER, ER	Building	Mark Mettetal, PER	Ritual
Margie Schulz	Chaplain	Dawn Stidham, PER	By-Laws	Jan Musgrave	Safety
Eric Slez	Esquire	Adrianne Sproul	Children's Christmas Party	Toni Goodrich, PDD	Scholarships
Stephen Masi	Tiler	Mark Bonneau	Christmas Baskets	Adrianne Sproul	Sickness & Distress
Calvin Tate	Inner Guard	Adrianne Sproul	Community Activities	Brian Haverfield, PER	Soccer Shot
<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>		Brian Lewandowski	Drug Awareness	Charlie Stroup	Youth Activities
Rick Marks	Chairman	Mark Bonneau	ENF Chair	Johnny Miller	VAVS Grand Lodge
Dan Masi, PER, ER	Exhalted Ruler	Linda Musgrave	Entertainment Committee	John Gilis	VAVS Deputy Rep
Adrian Sproul	Leading Knight	Mark Bonneau	Flag Day / Flag Retirement	Gene Berry	VAVS Deputy Rep
Mark Bonneau	Loyal Knight	Margie Schulz	Funeral Services	Mark Bonneau	Visitation
Brian Lewandowski	Lecturing Knight	Dolly Masi, PER, PLP	Government Relations	Bonnie Barnes, PER, PLP	Vol. Activity Cood
Bobby Barber	5 year Trustee	Dawn Stidham, PER	Grant	TBD	Webmaster
H Tom Shriver, PDD	4 year Trustee	Brian Lewandowski	Harry Anna	<b>SPOTLIGHT</b>	
Michael "Doc" Cook, PER	3 year Trustee	Ruth Green	Historian	Carol Bressler	Editor
Rick Marks	2 year Trustee	Adrianne Sproul	Hoop Shoot	cbressler59@live.com	
Jan Musgrave	1 year Trustee	Mark Bonneau	Inter-lodge Visitation	TBD	Distribution
Toni Goodrich, PDD	Secretary	Gretchen Keehn	Investigation Chair	<b>LADIES OF ELKS AUXILIARY</b>	
Brian Polk	Tresurer	Patty McKinney & Joe Packard	Kitchen	Kim Laskey	President
<b>HOUSE COMMITTEE</b>		Toni Goodrich, PDD	Lapsation & Strays	Kerrie Green	Vice President
Kim Ganoie	House Chair	Toni Goodrich, PDD	Law & Order	Bonnie Mettetal, PLP	Secretary
Theresa Sims	Secretary	Rudy Masi, PSP	Law & Order Co-Chair	Deseray Masi	Treasurer
Adrianne Sproul	Leading Knight	Dan Masi PER, ER	Liaison to the Ladies	Sandy Mailey	Membership
Mark Bonneau	Loyal Knight	Rhonda Smith	Lodge Advisor	Vivian Gustafson, PLP	Chaplain
Brian Lewandowski	Lecturing Knight	Rob Davis	Maintenance	Margie Schulz	Friendship
Lesia Porter, Margie Schulz,		Robert Pitney, PDD	Mediator	Bonnie Barnes, PLP	Parliamentarian
Ruth Greene, Jennifer Lumsden		Dawn Stidham, PER	Membership	Virginia Warfield, PLP	1 Year Trustee
<b>KITCHEN</b>		Dan Masi PER, ER	Memorial Service	Dolly Masi, PER, PLP	2 Year Trustee
Happy Patty's Kitchen		Brian Lewandowski	Mothers Day	Janet Barrick, PLP	3 Year Trustee
		Adrianne Sproul	New Year's Eve		
		PER Association	Old Timer's Night		
		Adrianne Sproul	Orientation		
		Brian Haverfield, PER	PER Association		
		Margie Schulz	Photographer		

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22ND**  
**STARTING AT 5PM SHARP**



**Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament**

YOUR \$20 DONATION GETS YOU A SEAT AND CHIPS  
THERE ARE ONLY 20 SEATS AVAILABLE!  
TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE BEHIND THE BAR.

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22ND**  
**STARTING AT 5PM SHARP**

PRESENTED BY

**Elks Lodge #1224**  
2675 66th Street N,  
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

**\$5.00 to play**  
benefiting  
Florida Elks  
Charities

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8th**  
**2-4pm**



**MIXTAPE**

**Bingo**

SING ALONG TO THE SONGS

THE MUSIC YOU LOVE TO HEAR!

Open to Elks members and their guests





Members All,  
February is a special month for our Order as we proudly celebrate the birthday of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. This year marks 158 years of Elkdom—158 years of charity, service, and steadfast commitment to our communities. It is a meaningful time to reflect on the principles that unite us and the responsibility we share in carrying

them forward.

As we look ahead to the future of our Lodge, I want to emphasize the importance of your attendance at our scheduled February General Meetings.

Nominations for Officers for the 2026–2027 Elk Year will take place on February 3rd during Old Timers Night, proudly hosted by our Past Exalted Rulers and Past Officers. The nomination and election process will proceed in accordance with Statutes Annotated Sections 3.080 and 3.090. Your participation is essential—

strong leadership begins with engaged members who care deeply about the direction and success of our Lodge.

February also brings several exciting events:  
Meat Bingo – February 1st, sponsored by the PER Association  
Law and Order Night – February 21st, as we honor and thank those who serve and protect our community  
Studio 1224 – February 28th  
Please refer to the event flyers for full details.

I would also like to wish each of you a Happy Valentine's Day. May it be filled with friendship, kindness, and appreciation for one another—values that truly reflect the heart of Elkdom.

Thank you for all that you do for our Lodge and our community. I look forward to seeing you at our February meetings and events.

Fraternally,  
Dan Masi

### Kim Laskey | LOEA President Message



February brings a season of warmth, kindness, and community — qualities our Ladies of Elks Auxiliary demonstrate month after month.

As we enter this month of connection and service, I want to recognize two women whose dedication continues to strengthen our Auxiliary.

December Lady of the Month - Sandy Mailey  
January Lady of the Month - Christine Kohut

Thank you both for all your hard work and dedication to our Auxiliary. We appreciate all that you do!

We kicked off 2026 with two successful events. Boots & Bourbon – Country Night was a hit, thanks to Kerrie Green and Joann Matos for all your hard work and dedication. Everyone at the Lodge always enjoys music by Kris Pierce.

The LOEA Quarter Auction was a fun and successful fundraiser with more items than time allowed. Thanks to everyone who donated, volunteered, or supported the event, it would not have happened without you.

Coming up in February:

- February 4: Ladies Who Lunch at the Lodge at noon.
- February 9th LOEA Monthly Meeting. We will have final nominations for the 2026 – 2027 Board of Officers.
- February 14: Scallywags & Sweethearts Valentines Party. Tickets are \$10 per person, and you can get them at the Bar.
- February 17: Bunco at 6:30pm

– February 28: LOEA Arts, Craft and Bake Sale. Please contact Sandy Mailey for Vendor information and Susan Dill for the Bake Sale details.

As we celebrate the month of love, may we continue to support one another, strengthen our sisterhood, and bring positivity to every gathering and event. Thank you for your continued dedication and involvement in our Auxiliary.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and meaningful February.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

St. Petersburg Lodge #1224 welcomed 22 new members in Dec. & Jan.



## MEMBERSHIP RE-INSTATEMENT

If you are or know a former member who has dropped his/her membership (NO TIME LIMIT) tell the former member that you would like to sponsor them to rejoin (reinstate) at St. Petersburg Lodge #1224.

The process is simple and it involves submitting a reinstatement application to be read at our Lodge meeting and voted on.

There is a \$25 fee with the application and the payment only of the current dues for the year. Depending on the date the reinstatement is made, the dues are pro-rated according to the number of months left in the current Lodge year.

Although a reinstatement is gaining back a former member, our Lodge is also gaining a new member!

We look forward to re-introducing you into ELKDOM

## Search for the **QUEEN OF HEARTS** Drawing **EVERY Sunday this month @ 4:00pm**



*Tickets Available  
through our  
automatic ticket  
dispensing machine*  
**Only 1 Ticket Drawn**  
**You must be an Elk,  
an Elk Spouse or  
Widow of an Elk  
to enter.**



## ... IMPORTANT PLEASE READ ...

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** Annual dues deadline - APRIL 1st.

**SPOUSE CARDS:** The bylaw will require a **valid marriage certificate** in order to obtain a \*spouse card beginning in the Elks calendar year 2026/2027.

*\*No Spouse cards will be issued going forward until this bylaw is approved or disapproved by G/L.*

## PROPOSED CANDIDATES

CANDIDATES	SPONSORS	OCCUPATION
Tina Cade	Cary Wimer	Financial Analyst
Lonnie Dushane	Kirk Martin	Retired
Anna Pudlak	Kim Laskey	Fast- Sign Admin
Charles Caputo	Barry Dotson	Retired
Cynthia deSilva	Barry Dotson	Realtor-Caldwell Banker
Jennifer Gallo-Lee	Anrienne Sproul	Owner-Hair Salon
Carol Gregory	Lisa Dobson	Retired
Stratton Leo	Timothy Gettig	Marina Service Mgr
Timothy Lewis	Robert Kelzer	Purchasing Agent
Elizabeth Maroney	Suzette Gieschen	Retired
Brennan Merrick	Adam Ratcliff	A/C Service Mgr

TRANSFERS	FROM
David Wacker	Naples #2010

REINSTATEMENT	
Steve Pope	#13172
Gary Diminico	#13646

**As a reminder, the  
St Petersburg Elks Lodge #1224  
is a members-only organization.**

**In accordance with Florida liquor laws  
and Elks statutes, the sale of  
alcoholic beverages is limited to  
members in good standing.  
Non-members and guests may NOT purchase  
alcoholic drinks from any of the Lodge bars.**

You may be asked to show your current, signed membership card at any time.

## REMINDER!

**Political clothing, slogans,  
hats, discussions and  
comments are NEVER  
allowed at the Lodge**



PRESENTED BY LOEA

# SCALLYWAGS



## Sweethearts

February 14<sup>th</sup> | 7pm - 10pm

Music by  
American Pickup Band



Tickets \$10 Per Person

### Costume Contest!

St. Petersburg Elks Lodge #1224  
2675 66<sup>th</sup> Street North

Open to Elks Members and Guests  
benefiting FL Elks & LOEA charities

ST PETERSBURG ELKS LODGE #1224 PRESENTS

# SUPER BOWL PARTY



VS



## SUNDAY FEB 8TH

### 6:30PM

Tailgate menu  
available until 8pm



OPEN TO ELKS MEMBERS AND GUESTS

SAVE THE DATE



## UNMASKING AUTISM GALA

*"Together in Kindness"*

Sponsored by  
Florida Elks Charities  
to benefit



We cordially invite you to join us for an evening of glamour and philanthropy as we unmask autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This year's gala will be held at the beautiful Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront, and will feature cocktails and a silent auction, a full-course dinner, entertainment, and an exciting program.

Help us raise funds and awareness about ASD as we put a face on this disorder and show how Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services is successfully treating the symptoms of ASD.

Saturday, April 25, 2026  
6:00-11:00 p.m.

HILTON ST. PETERSBURG BAYFRONT  
333 1ST STREET SE • ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701

For more information, please contact Dan Moss at 352-805-0823  
or visit [www.UnmaskingAutism.com](http://www.UnmaskingAutism.com)

ST PETERSBURG LADIES OF ELKS PRESENTS



## Dancing through the DECADES

SATURDAY MARCH 14

6-9 PM



Groove to your favorite music  
of the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s




TICKETS  
\$10

benefiting  
FL Elks & LOEA charities

OPEN TO ELKS MEMBERS AND GUESTS

**C. VALENTINE BATES MEMORIAL HOPE SCHOLARSHIP**

**SCHOLARSHIP TARGETS STUDENTS WITH 2.30 - 3.59 UNWEIGHTED G.P.A.**

**SCHOLARSHIPS RANGE FROM \$3,000 to \$20,000 per recipient**

**OUR MISSION**  
The mission of the Florida State Elks Association C. Valentine Bates Memorial 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.

**ELIGIBILITY**  
• High School Seniors  
• Resident of Florida  
• United States Citizen

**SCAN HERE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY, PLEASE VISIT  
**FLORIDAEELKS.ORG/HOPE-SCHOLARSHIP**

## Prayer Chain Requests

If you or someone you know is in need of prayers at a difficult time in their lives please call me and I will notify all the people on this prayer chain. Can you imagine how many prayers will be lifted up with just one call? Many of us are on or have prayer chains in our churches so the power of prayer will be magnified many times over.

If you have a calling to be a part this rewarding experience call me and sign up for the prayer chain. We are few but we are powerful. Please email me soon and sign up.

Dolly Masi, PER | masidolly@gmail.com  
H. Tom Shriver, PDD | tomcat1224bpoe@aol.com

**LOOKING FOR MORE PRAYER VOLUNTEERS!!  
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE AN ELK.**

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**

**1-800-273-TALK (8255)**

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

The **NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE** is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**1-800-273-8255**

## St Petersburg BPOE # 1224 Deceased 2025-2026

Angele Davies. ....	02/07/25
Robert A Boylan . ....	03/11/25
LuAnne K Frolick . ....	03/25/25
George Povelitis, PER LM . ....	03/29/25
William J Lieber, PER, LM . ....	04/25/25
Ila Guggino . ....	04/30/25
Robert Campbell III . ....	05/31/25
Wendell L Creager, LM . ....	06/23/25
John A Bourque LM . ....	07/03/25
Elizabeth Balcombe . ....	07/25/25
Doug Breyette LM . ....	11/05/25
Bobbie Wycoff . ....	11/17/25
Douglas Lalino . ....	12/24/25
Cathy Shriver PER. ....	01/19/26

*Living or dead, Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken.  
Morning and noon may pass them by, the light of day sink heed-  
lessly 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."*

## Platinum Spotlight Boosters

In Memory of Al Goodrich. ....	7/26
In Memory of William A Schulz. ....	12/26
In Memory of Phyllis Povelitis. ....	5/26
In Memory of George Povelitis PER . ....	5/26

## Gold Spotlight Boosters

Alexandra Kaan . ....	12/26
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## Silver Spotlight Boosters

Betts Roberts . ....	12/26
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## BE A SPOTLIGHT BOOSTER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**SILVER \$10** \_\_\_\_\_ **GOLD \$25** \_\_\_\_\_ **PLATINUM \$50** \_\_\_\_\_  
**OTHER \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
St. Petersburg Lodge No. 1224

Mail to:  
BPOE St. Petersburg Lodge No. 1224  
2675 66th Street North | St. Petersburg, FL 33710



St Petersburg Elks Lodge #1224



benefiting Florida Elks charities

**3RD THURSDAY EACH MONTH**

Open to Elks members and guests only

**THURSDAY NIGHTS  
AT THE LODGE**

**February**

**5. Got It!**  
**12. Karaoke**  
**19. Bingo**  
**26. Game Night**



**2ND & 4TH SUNDAY  
of the Month**

**9AM TO NOON**

**ENJOY  
SUNDAY  
BREAKFAST**

All your breakfast favorites  
the way you like it:

- French Toast • Hot cakes •
- Eggs & Omelettes •
- Biscuits & Gravy •



**GOT  
IT!**

**MONDAYS AT  
THE LODGE**

**2:30PM**




**The  
Piggies  
are  
hungry!**



Your spare change at the bar will help our  
Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services  
provide physical and occupational therapies  
to Florida children who do not have easy access to  
these services.

*Thank you for contributing to the  
Ladies of Elks 365 Club  
to help these children.*



**Upcoming FSEA Events**

**FEBRUARY QUARTERLY  
UMBRELLA FLORIDA  
FEBRUARY 5 - 7, 2026**

**STATE HOOP SHOOT  
COMPETITION  
PALM BEACH, FLORIDA  
FEBRUARY 14, 2026**

**FSEA OFFICE TRAINING  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
MARCH 13 - 14, 2026**

**LEGISLATION AUTISM GALA  
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA  
APRIL 24, 2026**

**FLORIDA ELKS RALLY  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
MAY 1-4, 2026**

**FLORIDA ELKS CLASSIC  
SEBRING, FLORIDA  
MAY 2-4, 2026**



VISIT [FLORIDAEKLS.ORG](http://FLORIDAEKLS.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



## Veterans Chairman Message



**JOHNNY L. MILLER**  
Grand Lodge Representative  
Bay Pines VA Healthcare  
System VAVS REP.

Email  
[johnnyleem@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:johnnyleem@tampabay.rr.com)  
Phone : 727-642-8004



## VETERAN'S CORNER

This brand new electric wheelchair (photo below) made this veteran very happy! Very seldom does something like this occur. It was with the help of Jill Schall, a caring Elk, that put me in touch with the person who had the chair.

The VA is still revamping and I was told to stay patient that the councilor's had no idea when things would get back to normal. They still plan on the Veterans Baby Shower which should be March 14th. The Stand Down I am waiting for the date for that event.

The veterans still come to the elks office for used clothes. It is very much appreciated. Belts are one thing if you happen to check your closet plus anything else that doesn't fit.

I was asked about a veteran in need of an electric recliner. Thought I would mention it just in case someone has one not in use. Hopefully things will get back to normal! I talk to the veterans out there and they miss leaving campus to Bowl and for Pizza and Karaoke.

In Comradeship  
Johnny Miller



**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

### VA HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Medial Center and Northern clinics Phone Contacts:

C.W. Bill Young VA Medial Center (24hrs.) 727.398.6661  
Bradenton 941.721.0649 Sarasota 941.371.3349  
Palm Harbor 727.734.5276 St. Petersburg 727.502.1700

### SOUTHERN CLINICS PHONE CONTACTS

Lee County HCC - 239.652.1800 Naples - 239.659.9188  
Port Charlotte -941.235.2710 Sebring -863.471.6227

### VA HEALTHCARE ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

1.877.222.VETS(8387) Visit [www.1010EZmed.va.gov](http://www.1010EZmed.va.gov)  
Or visit the Bay Pines VAHCS online at [www.baypines.va.gov](http://www.baypines.va.gov)  
In the event of a medical emergency, always dial 911!

### VA benefits hot-line...

**(800) 827-1000**

Monday through Friday | 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET  
go to: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)



Call VA's Caregiver Support  
Line toll-free today.

**1-855-260-3274**

### Veterans Crisis Line



The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.



**YOUR DUES  
POWER  
PROGRAMS  
THAT HELP  
VETERANS EXIT  
HOMELESSNESS**

Please contact  
your  
Lodge  
Secretary  
*today*

"So long as there are Veterans the  
Benevolent and Protective Order of ELKS  
will never forget them"

ELKS SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORK

### Attention Veterans!

A copycat CHOICE program phone line has been  
set up to steal your credit card information



The OFFICIAL National CHOICE program line is:

**1-866-606-8198**





## FEBRUARY 4TH IS THE OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY OF THE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS OR USO.

The USO has been a fixture in military life for more than seven decades. Founded in 1941, the agency is a private, not-for-profit organization working in cooperation with the Department of War (previously known as the Department of Defense).

The USO has a congressional charter and receives funding through donations, philanthropy, and corporate support. More than 12,000 volunteers work with the USO at locations worldwide including military bases, airports, and major metro areas.

The USO, compared to similar non-profit organizations, has a unique and complex history. It actually has roots in six separate organizations including the Salvation Army, the YMCA and YWCA, Catholic Community Services, National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board.

These six agencies combined resources to begin the USO, and troops fighting in World War Two were the first to benefit from the existence of the organization.

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE USO: WORLD WAR TWO AND BEYOND

When the USO was formed, organizers wanted program events and services with an eye on boosting troop morale while promoting American involvement in World War Two. As these plans unfolded, the idea of a traveling USO show performing at forward deployed locations would not only prove successful, but would at times be the main activity some associated with the agency.

These traveling shows were held in China, Russia, Burma, and elsewhere during the war; the same kind of USO shows were offered to troops in later conflicts including Vietnam and Korea.



PHOTO CREDIT: Everett Collection

*From left: Neile Adams McQueen, Jerry Colonna, Frances Langford, Bob Hope, Patti Thomas, Tony Romano, Steve McQueen, Peter Leeds, on their way to Asia to film the TV special that aired in January of 1960*

About seven thousand performers took part in the early USO traveling shows and featured some of America's greatest star power at the time. The late comedian Bob Hope would eventually become synonymous with the USO thanks to his continued efforts with the agency. His legacy stretches all the way to the first Gulf War where Hope did his final USO tour.

### THE USO SHUTS DOWN AFTER WORLD WAR TWO

History is full of lessons about the nature of impermanence. After Axis powers surrendered at the end of World War Two, some felt the USO mission had been fulfilled and it had finished the job it set out to do. In the wake of the surrender of both Germany and Japan, the USO was disbanded.

But in 1949, America was seeing the beginnings of what would come to be known as the Cold War; the six founding organizations responsible for creating the USO got together once more to revive the agency and begin serving U.S. troops. But funding issues kept the agency from continuing; the USO fell dormant again until the advent of the war in Korea. The Defense Department needed the USO once more; \$13 million was earmarked for USO operations as a result. Once the war was over, similar funding issues plagued the agency. Yet again, it went dormant until Vietnam operations started.

Vietnam was a new beginning of sorts, but the agency learned that peacetime operations would have the USO keeping a lower profile. At the end of the 1970s, the USO received a government charter. Over the coming decades a greater emphasis would be placed on adding quality of life improvements for military families while retaining the entertainment and morale boosting activities it was famous for.

Today the USO offers help for military families including being an emergency contact resource for troops stationed overseas. If there is a death in the family or other crisis, family members can contact troops stationed overseas via the USO and get financial assistance with travel back home to attend funeral services, be present for sick or injured loved ones, and more.

### CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF THE USO

During the month of February, the USO itself will organize activities and events to honor its long history, and military bases all over the world-more than 200 locations-will have local activities to show their appreciation. From Darwin, Australia to Afghanistan, there are likely to be hundreds of individual local celebrations.

One of the best ways to help celebrate the USO birthday is to attend a USO-programmed or supported event at a military base, at a USO location in a major airport, etc. But the USO also needs volunteers, donations, and participation.

Donations to the USO may be tax deductible, but you can also participate or volunteer to organize fundraising efforts for the USO, which is a good choice for those who want to help raise a larger amount of funds than their individual contributions may provide.

Did you know that the USO is one of the many charitable organizations that are supported by the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)? Through CFC, federal employees donate to the nonprofits of their choice through the annual Combined Federal Campaign.

Military members and family who are federal employees can designate contributions to the USO via the Combined Federal Campaign as well as volunteering time, resources, etc. ■

**STORY SOURCE: [veteran.com](http://veteran.com) and [remindmagazine.com](http://remindmagazine.com)**

# WHOLE\$ALE CARPETS, INC

TRUST & RELIABILITY SINCE 1957

40 YEARS SAME LOCATION

FREE ESTIMATES

WIDE SELECTION OF STYLES & COLORS FOR HOMES, MOBILE HOMES, MOTELS, ETC.  
IN PLUSH & COMMERCIAL CARPETING

CERAMIC  
TILE

VINYL  
FLOORING

SAVE WITH OUR OWN EXPERT INSTALLATION SERVICE

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**6:30pm**

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Phase 10

**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Month**

# GAME NIGHT

**6:30 pm**

Pick a game out of a hat and play that game with either people you know or get to know new people!

Sample Games include:  
Phase 10, Rummikub, Play 9, Dice, Cribbage



Open to Elks members and guests

# GOT IT!

**AT NIGHT!**

**FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH**

**6:30PM**



# KARAOKE NIGHT

**2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH**

**STARTS AT 5:00PM**



# FRIDAY NIGHT Unwind

**MUSIC 6:30 -- 9:30PM**

**FEBRUARY**

- 6<sup>TH</sup> • Cruise Control**
- 13<sup>TH</sup> • Carla Hines**
- 20<sup>TH</sup> • Al Ruggeiro**
- 27<sup>TH</sup> • Coyote Moon**

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# SPOTLIGHT

St. Petersburg Lodge #1224

## February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Tiki Open – Noon Queen of Hearts 4PM PER's Meat Bingo 1PM	2 Got it! 2:30PM	3 BOD Meeting 6:30PM Lodge meeting 7:00 PM 1st nominations for Lodge Officers for 2026-2027 Old Timers Night	4 Tiki Open – 5PM Trivia 6:30PM Dart League 7PM	5 House Committee Meeting 6:30PM Got it 6:30PM	6 Tiki Open – 5PM MUSIC by "Cruise Control" 6:30-9:30PM	7 Tiki Open – 3PM
8 Breakfast 9-Noon Tiki Open – Noon Mixtape Bingo 2PM Queen of Hearts 4PM Superbowl Party 6PM	9 Got it! 2:30PM LOEA Meeting 7PM	10 Lodge meeting 7:00 PM 2nd Nominations for Lodge Officers for 2026-2027	11 Tiki Open – 5PM Trivia 6:30PM Dart League 7PM	12 KARAOKE 5PM	13 Tiki Open – 5PM MUSIC by "Carla Hines" 6:30-9:30PM	14 Tiki Open – 3PM Scallywags & Sweethearts MUSIC by "American Pickup Band" 7-10PM
15 Tiki Open – Noon Queen of Hearts 4PM	16 Got it! 2:30PM Orientation/Initiation 6:30PM	17 PER Meeting at 6PM Bunco 6:30PM	18 Tiki Open – 5PM Trivia 6:30PM Dart League 7PM	19 Bingo 6:30PM	20 Tiki Open – 5PM MUSIC by "Al Ruggiero" 6:30-9:30PM	21 Tiki Open – 3PM Law & Order Night
22 Breakfast 9-Noon Tiki Open – Noon Queen of Hearts 4PM Texas Hold'em Poker 5PM	23 Got it! 2:30PM	24 Lodge Meeting 7:00PM	25 Tiki Open – 5PM Trivia 6:30PM Dart League 7PM	26 Game Night 6:30PM	27 Tiki Open – 5PM MUSIC by "Coyote Moon" 6:30-9:30PM	28 Tiki Open – 3PM LOEA Spring Arts, Crafts & Bake Sale 10AM-2PM Studio 1224 After Dark 7-10PM MUSIC by "Smooth D & The Boyz" (formerly of Hunks of Funk)
Stay informed! FIND us on Facebook or visit our website www.bpoel1224.com	Coming soon: 3/7 Neil Diamond Tribute Show 3/14 Dancing Through the Decades	Office: 344-6551 • Lounge: 344-6553 LODGE HOURS Sun 10AM–10PM • Mon 11AM–10PM • Tues-Sat 11AM–11PM OFFICE HOURS Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 10AM–2PM, Thur 3–7PM POOL Open Daily 7AM–10PM TIKI Sat & Sun–Noon, Wed & Fri @ 5PM				HAPPY PATTI'S KITCHEN Monday - Saturday 11AM to 10PM Sunday 11AM to 8PM 2nd and 4th Sunday Breakfast from 9AM to Noon

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## You Should Be PROUD!

St. Petersburg Lodge #1224 Past Exalted Ruler and Ladies of Elks Auxiliary Past Lady President Cathy Shriver passed in January. Her Elks Memorial Service & Celebration of Life is being held at noon, February 26 in our Lodge. Cathy recently served as a Lodge Trustee. Cathy's contributions are numerous, some include hosting the Lodge Talent Show for years, serving on our 100th Anniversary Team, volunteering in our Kitchen, supporting her husband Tom as Wonderful West Central District Vice President and District Deputy, and working in our Lodge Office. Rest well Cathy! We are proud of you and as your look down on us, YOU SHOULD BE PROUD!

Our Lodge hosts the longest and only active event honoring our First Responders and State Prosecutors from Pinellas County, St. Petersburg, Lealman, Gulfport, Kenneth City, and St. Pete Beach on our annual Law & Order Night. This year's event takes place on Saturday, February 21 at 6pm. The driving force behind Law & Order Night is Lodge Secretary PDD Toni Goodrich who picked up the torch for over 20 years. Thank you, Toni! We are proud of you, and YOU SHOULD BE PROUD!

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