Jackson the Champion:
Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services CHAMP of the Year

Meet the District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers

Community Investment Program:
Green Cove Springs Lodge #1892
As I write this message, Florida Elks have just returned from a grand celebration of Elkdom’s 150th anniversary in historic San Antonio. Our own PGER, Mike Smith, was in charge of the anniversary celebration, and he and his committee really put on a celebratory event all Elks in attendance could enjoy and remember for years. Immediately after the opening ceremonies, the attendees were escorted to a large area of the convention center where we were treated to actor/singer Gary Sinise and his Lt. Dan Band, named for his character in the movie Forrest Gump. There was food galore as well as sufficient libations to ensure all celebrants would stay and celebrate.

One of the highlights of the opening ceremony was to witness our FSEA President, Frank Malatesta, present the state flag of Florida and PSP Larry Henley serve as Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight throughout the entire Grand Lodge session. PSP and PAAGER, Winston Needham, ended his four-year term on the most coveted and distinguished Board of Grand Trustees. We thank Winston and Larry for their service to Grand Lodge.

Our world-class COO and State Secretary, Carl Seibert, not one to rest on his many laurels, once again showed all of Elkdom in attendance at the Grand Lodge convention how to plan and carry out an exceptional Florida Dinner. In an effort to be more inclusive, we have been touting this traditional Tuesday night dinner-dance at the Grand Lodge convention as the Southeast Coastal States Dinner. We were happy to welcome Elks from Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi, the four states Mike and I sponsor, as well as Elks from Puerto Rico and Panama. In addition, we were happy to welcome 11 of the 21 Past Grand Exalted Rulers in attendance at Grand Lodge and Grand Secretary, Bryan Klatt and Sue, who took time from their busy schedules to spend time with the Florida Elks. The annual Florida Grand Lodge Dinner has become a coveted invitation among Past Grands and other Grand Lodge dignitaries, and we are proud and happy so many want to attend.

We got to know our newest national President, Mike Luhr, and his gracious wife, Barbara, from Petersburg, Alaska. He is the only Elk from Alaska to attain our highest office. You will enjoy meeting them in February.

The legislative session was not as contentious as in years past. There were a total of 15 resolutions and 12 passed. The more significant of those resolutions which passed are as follows:

- To allow incorporated lodges with a Board of Directors to assign the duty to manage the club to the Board of Directors
- To ensure the return of all records and other materials by lodge officers and employees upon completion of their service to the lodge
- To allow a lodge to react to sudden emergencies without prior approval of the Board of Grand Trustees
- To give lodges permission to select local forum members using CLMS
- To protect the assets of the members and the order from frivolous lawsuits

The three resolutions which failed were: to require the officers of the lodge to perform the initiation ritual during the official visit of the DD, to allow lodges to amend their bylaws to provide for a different rate of dues for married couples residing at the same address, and to allow initiations to be held in a special service where nonmembers can attend as guests.

Once again, I’m proud to report our summer camp is at full capacity. Every Elk in Florida can take pride in and ownership of our exceptional youth camp. You should hear Elks from other states describe our youth camp; they call it a youth resort. All are in awe of what we do here in Florida. When we tell them about our mobile therapy program that employs over 25 therapists serving over 500 children every week, the Van Duren scholarships, our Hope scholarships, our Ben Brown scholarship, and what we do for our veterans and their families, they are awestruck! All these programs are the direct result of the hard work, dedication and generosity of all of you, and we sincerely thank you!

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your enthusiastic support of and dedication to the Florida State Elks Association. You make our state association shine in all things!

C. Valentine Bates, PGER, State Sponsor
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**WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

To share lodge news in between Florida Elks Magazine issues, please email articles and photos to rachael@floridaelks.org. They will be posted to the Florida Elks News Online section of the state website and to the state Facebook page: Facebook.com/floridaelks.
I would like to say how proud and honored I was to be elected as your President of the Florida State Elks Association. I want to thank everyone for the confidence and trust that you have placed in me. Sally and I will never forget my nomination by Past State President Danny Tabor or the fabulous demonstration that followed on Friday. We give all the credit to Brett Davis and Sarah Wakefield for getting our year off to a running start. I was also pleased that all six of my sisters and brothers, both of our children and all five of our grandchildren were present Saturday to see me installed as your President.

This year with a new format on Saturday combining the major project luncheon and the award banquet, it gave everyone a chance to see firsthand the great work we do with our state programs. Hearing from our scholarship winners and seeing our Hoop Shoot and Soccer Shoot winners makes it a little easier to ask for donations to our Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Everyone was so proud to see and hear from the first responder winners.

My motto this year is “Make the Best Better” and as you can see, our State Secretary, Carl Seibert, and his staff have started the year off by demonstrating this with the new agenda.

We have already had two district visits. The first was the Central District where District Vice President Roger Bristol hosted a great weekend. Sally and I arrived Friday afternoon for a meet and greet at the Orlando Crown Plaza. We had a wonderful dinner at the hotel. After Saturday breakfast we toured the Morse Museum in Winter Park. The tour was very informative about the lovely collections from Louis Tiffany. Lunch was at Panera Bread and was enjoyed by all. Saturday evening dinner was held at Orlando Lodge and was served by Boy Scout Troop #823 sponsored by the lodge. All lodges in the district are working on many youth and veteran programs.

Our next visit was to the South District where we were hosted by District Vice President Helen Garcia. She was the first District Vice President from Key West in 28 years. Sally and I arrived a day early and were able to attend the Flag Day service at Key West Lodge. Past National President, Mike Smith, was the guest speaker at the ceremony. The service was attended by many Elks and guests including three Past State Presidents. The flags were carried by the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts who are sponsored by the lodge. Friday’s meet and greet was in the Sanctuary Lounge at the Doubletree. Prior to dinner, City Commissioner and Vice Mayor Clayton Lopez presented me with a challenge coin with the seal of the city of Key West on one side and the Conch Republic on the other side. After breakfast in the hotel we were picked up by the Conch Train and given a tour of the city. Everyone enjoyed hearing about the history of Key West. After the tour we went back to the hotel for lunch and a little free time before we were picked up for dinner at the Key West Golf Club House. We enjoyed a delicious dinner and this was well attended by the members of the lodges of the South District. The lodges of the South District are also active in veterans’ programs and youth activities. All have been busy helping with the hurricane cleanup and supporting the first responders by serving many meals to them.

Sally and I along with Tom and Joyce Ludwick are looking forward to seeing many of you as we continue our district visits around our great state. Please come out and support your lodge and district and share with us how you plan to help “Make the Best Better.”

Frank Malatesta, State President
Florida State Elks Association
CARL SEIBERT, COO/STATE SECRETARY

Five Steps to a Better Lodge: Five Changes you can Make Today that will Give your Lodge a Fighting Chance

Membership in the Florida Elks peaked in 1990 at 93,213 members. Twenty-nine years later our membership has fallen almost 40% and stands at 55,285. In 1990 we had 127 lodges; today we have 96. Of the 16 lodges added since 1990, only seven remain as stand-alone lodges; the other nine were forced to merge or have someone merge with them to survive. Since 1990 we have lost 47 lodges. In 29 years we have eked out four very small membership gains, and each was erased the following year. These statistics are reflected in the Elks nationally and in fraternal/service organizations the country over. So, what have we learned from all this? Will the 30th year since our membership peaked be a repeat of the same? Or, will 2019 be the year of the turnaround?

In the many years I have studied membership and the lodge dynamic, including even the human factor, I have written often about my thoughts on what it will take to turn the ship around! Short of another world war (yes, our 45 years of growth began in 1945 after WWII), WE are going to have to make it work with the numbers we have is not the way! At best and doing the same old, same old, in 10 years our membership will be down to 45,000 in 76 lodges. Today we are at 55,000 in 96 lodges. If we were a corporation, the 19 under-performing lodges that would take us to 76 would be closed today, and many believe we would be better off shedding those 10,000 members. But shedding dues-paying members is not good for the bottom line and will just cause the lodge to have to raise even more money to support the ever-burgeoning fixed costs of maintaining the building and subsidizing prices at the bar. We all know the same 20-25 people do all the work in the lodge anyway so to think we don’t have just dues-paying members today is preposterous.

So, what do we do? We focus on five main themes, five long-term and sustainable fixes using the leadership and members we have today.

1. Get a handle on the lodge finances. Understand where every penny comes from and where every penny goes.
2. Ditch the ER-appointed House Committee and let the elected officers and trustees run the lodge and house.
3. Reelect your ER and make service as ER a two-year term, or even longer if you find a good one.
4. Eliminate all the ancillary meetings; they are burning out the officers and turning away new prospects.
5. Adopt a Member Bill of Rights – we must stop the membership revolving door!

Get a handle on lodge finances. Few of us understand the lodge audit and tax return. Make a deal with their preparer to schedule a delivery conference with the board and interested members to explain in layman terms what all the numbers mean and where help is needed. Treasurers and Secretaries must develop QuickBooks reports that are accurate and meaningful to those making operational decisions. If you aren’t getting them, demand them, and if elected personnel haven’t the ability, hire them done!

Ditch the House Committee. Can you say politics? There’s no room for this. We must run our business like a business and it requires continuity!

Repeat ERs. Elect good ones to start with and this will be easy! No business can survive changing the CEO annually. We are a business and we no longer run officers through the chairs to get their experience.

Way too many meetings. Elect capable, business-minded officers and trustees and then let them run the lodge. An officer or trustee should chair every committee and engage members. Force members to become an officer if they wish to run the lodge! Members should attend meetings to stay informed and to provide the checks and balances. Trust but verify!

Give members the right to be just dues-paying members if that’s all they desire. Therefore, every lodge should raise its dues. Most members are just dues-payers so if that’s all they want to do, have them contribute more to the bottom line. The 25 doers in the lodge contribute way more in money than just their dues. Spread the burden and quit making the 25 raise all the money to operate the lodge. Dues should provide every penny to cover the fixed costs of the lodge. Every activity that opens the lodge doors MUST pay its way. Every lodge-related hall usage or rental MUST contribute to the additional costs. The bar and restaurant must produce a profit and get not a penny from dues. Heck, if we did this, we could lower dues! Dues can’t be set by just taking today’s total expenses and dividing it by the number of dues-paying members since most every lodge is subsidizing the bar and restaurant.

We must allow members to be members first; then put them to work. Teach them our ways and it will stop all the bickering and mistrust. Our current model of putting them to work on day one causes them to quit. By throwing them to the wolves on day one, they become frustrated and they soon see that’s all we wanted!

These are the five main themes, five long-term and sustainable fixes, using
I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. I know the weather has been very hot, so please be careful when spending time outside. Remember, sunblock is our friend!

My thanks go to everyone who attended the state convention in May. Our luncheon and Chinese auction were well received and many of the attendees were happy to see the luncheon come back and look forward to it continuing to be a regular event at the convention each year. A special thank you goes to Barbara Carroll and Diane Sharp from the West Central District for running the Chinese auction for us this year. They worked very hard and raised money that will go toward FLOE’s Harry-Anna Trust Fund donation for this year.

Our hospitality room was a big success. The safari theme was brought to life by the decorating skills of Heather Scott, Advisory Council member, and most of my giraffe collection which adorned the room. We were open on Thursday and Friday evenings and had many visitors. Our delicious banana daquiris brought many of our visitors back for a second or third time! I thank everyone who helped set up the hospitality room and take it down, especially my husband, Al, who turned out to be a darned good bartender!

Our big event is looming on the horizon! The 55th annual FLOE conference this year will be in Orlando at the Lake Buena Vista Resort Sept. 20-22, 2018. This is a lovely hotel with two pools and a separate conference center. Rooms are selling out quickly, so if you are planning to attend, be sure to call and make your reservation soon. There is a special link on the Florida State Elks Association website, floridaelks.org, in the Florida Ladies of Elks section which will take you directly to the booking site for FLOE.

On Friday evening there will be a delicious buffet dinner and a show by the talented band Sequel that will perform a Vegas revue for us and some dancing music afterward. There will also be a luncheon Saturday. These events can be booked and paid for on the registration page of the conference packet which is also located on the Florida Elks website in the FLOE section. FLOE will again have a hospitality room and those delicious banana daquiris. My committees are working hard to be sure that everything goes off without a hitch. When you pick up your registration packet at the hotel, it will contain a schedule so you will know when and where everything is going to happen. I hope many of you will attend and join in the fun.

Our FLOE meeting will take place Saturday, Sept. 22. The business session, which is open to FLOE members only, will begin at 8 a.m. Lunch will take place from 12-1:15 p.m. The afternoon session, which is open to all, will begin at 1:30 p.m. with our memorial service arranged by our Chaplain, Melaney McHale. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting. My officers and I have tried to put together an informative and enjoyable meeting for you.

I hope to see everyone in Orlando in September!

Mary McCoy, President
Florida Ladies of Elks
It's hard to imagine we are already halfway through the summer.

So many great things are happening with Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services.

Our new occupational therapist, Camille Arevalo, started July 11 in the Miami area. We are excited to have Camille with us and give us an occupational therapist in the Miami area along with our longtime physical therapist, Chantal Salnave. We are all very pleased that Camille will be treating children as far south as Marathon and I know that everyone in the Keys will welcome Camille. We have waited a long time to be able to offer services in the Keys.

On May 12, we attended the Harry-Anna Trust Fund gala in Daytona Beach. Our FECTS CHAMP of the year, Jackson Barth, along with his parents, Mick and Kati, and his brother, Everett, joined us for the event. As you can imagine, Jackson was an instant hit with our members and distinguished guests at the gala.

This year’s state convention was held at the Marriott World Center again. It was exciting to meet so many people and to talk about our amazing therapy program to our members and guests. Jackson and his family were our guests and they sincerely appreciate meeting our members and talking about Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

A special thank you goes to Paula Tarver, occupational therapist from the Southwest Central District, who spoke about sensory processing issues as well as the Autism spectrum at the major projects luncheon. She also showed a brief video of a young man who could not walk when she first started working with him and at the end of the video, he took his first steps. There was not a dry eye in the room. Always remember that it is you, the Elks of Florida along with our Ladies organizations, who make therapy services possible.

We have once again started traveling the state for the state president’s visits. The first stop was at the Central District in Orlando where Jane Russo, physical therapist, spoke Saturday evening, June 9. She had a great success story to share with everyone in attendance.

At the South District visit, Tressy Guadagno, occupational therapist from the West Central District, represented the south as the regional coordinator in that area. As you would expect, Tressy’s presentation at the dinner Saturday night was excellent. On our way to Key West, Tressy and I stopped in Marathon to meet with the first family we will treat in the Keys.

I sincerely appreciate both Jane and Tressy taking time from their busy schedules to speak at these visits. This gives our therapists an opportunity to meet with our members and answer any questions they have and to speak about their patients and the amazing success we are having treating children in their homes.

During some of the board of directors meetings at the state convention, you may have heard conversation about the family that Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services was sending to the time-share vacation for a week. This is a family of six with a 13-year-old girl who have been treating. Due to her illness with complications including paralysis and partial amputation as well as her father’s illness, the therapists felt like this family was appropriate for the week at the time-share. Adding to their decision to choose this family was the fact that her older siblings were not injured, they were nonetheless traumatized. At the board meetings we asked for funds to help this family of six with theme park tickets and the balance was used on a gift card to be used for food. The family returned from their vacation Friday, June 22. Our therapist was at their home today to treat our patient and her mother said to our therapist, “Because of you, Erica; your boss; and the Florida Elks, our family bonded. Thank you.” I don't know about you, but I can tell you that when I hear from a family that has been through so much say that they had a week together to be able to bond, that makes me so proud to be a Florida Elk. So, for all of you Florida Elks and members of Ladies organizations, this family sends you a special thank you. Thanks also go to Florida Elks Charities and Florida Elk Properties for their help in making this amazing week possible for this family.

If you would like to have a therapist at your lodge for an event, visit our website, floridaelks.org, and under the Therapy Services section, complete the therapist participation form and we will do our best to have a therapist at your event.

Several lodges are having special events for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. Please know how much we appreciate what you are doing for our program and we will do everything we can to make your event special.

On behalf of our 27 therapists and myself, thank you for being the best Elks in the nation and for your amazing support of Florida’s major projects and especially Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

Have a safe and happy rest of the summer!

Colleen Gallant, Director
Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services
I decided to run the sand as well. It was tough, but I have to admit, it was somehow encouraging to look back and see tracks of my own being left behind.

The run was going well, and I had already decided to continue in the sand even past where the original tracks stopped. As I reached where the tracks usually stopped, however, I was surprised to find that they didn't stop. Being off the pavement, I could now see that the tracks continued – though not as defined – in the dirt on the other side of the bushes. Without a second thought, I hopped the bushes and followed the tracks.

The new path was not cleared very well, and you could tell that whoever had been making it had really struggled to fight through the roots and branches of the surrounding trees. Half a mile later, though, a break in the woods appeared at the top of a small hill. There, I came to a stop.

The clearing at the top held a small creek with an incredible view. There wasn't a mother and baby deer lapping at the water beside a lion or anything, but it was beautiful. It became a very special place to me, and after that day, I went there often when I needed time to myself.

More importantly, though, the entire experience provided me with a valuable lesson. I realized that while paved paths serve a purpose, they always lead to the same places. Sometimes we need to leave those paths in order to get to something better, even if it's tougher going. The result benefits not only us but also those who come after us – especially those not able to make a new path themselves.

As a freshman in college, I played soccer and, consequently, ran a great deal. One of my favorite routes was along the asphalt paths that trekked through the woods around the campus. It was along those paths that I learned a lesson that has stuck with me ever since.

You see, to either side of the tidy, paved path was Florida dirt – what the rest of the world calls sand. As those runs became a routine, I noticed that most days there were tracks in the sand from some madman running off the path. The tracks lasted about halfway through my run, and then they just... stopped.

For weeks, I ran next to those tracks and wondered why someone would punish themselves by running through sand when there was a perfectly easy path just inches away. Nor could I figure out why they ended only halfway through the course.

Then, on a morning following a particularly awful game, I set out to run and clear my mind. The tracks were also out that morning, and needing to burn off my frustration, this philosophy that led the Elks of Florida to build this incredible facility. I mean, two state projects? How much easier would it have been to just stick with one? No one would have ever faulted us, and we still would have helped kids.

The Elks of Florida are a special breed, though. Almost 30 years ago now, we stepped off the path and forged a new one, here, through the Marion County wilderness. That decision to build this camp has led us to touch the lives of more than 100,000 children in the last 30 years.

I am truly proud to be a part of this great organization, and I am beside myself with excitement for what we'll do over the next three decades.

So, please take a moment with me to look back over your shoulder. Smile. Take pride in the tracks we've left – at all the children following those tracks to something better. And then, join with us in making new ones.

Nick Miller, Director
Florida Elks Youth Camp
25th Annual Florida State Elks Softball Tournament

On April 27-29, approximately 150 players participated in the 25th annual Florida State Elks softball tournament held at Sterling Sports Complex in DeLand, Fla.

Proceeds of $6,500 were raised for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Chris Chatham of Eustis Lodge #1578 serves as the tournament chairman.

Port St. Lucie
First Place
Under-50 Division

DeLand
Second Place
Under-50 Division

Tarpon Springs
First Place
Over-50 A Division

Tarpon Springs
Second Place
Over-50 A Division

Green Cove Springs
Second Place
Over-50 B Division
The 2018 state convention was held May 24-26 at the Orlando World Center Marriott. Along with the many meetings and workshops, many guests attended the Florida Elks Awards Celebration Luncheon & Major Projects Meeting where the 2017-2018 award winners were recognized.

Lodges were also generous as usual, delivering more than $44,000 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund which benefits our two major projects: Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Donations were also given to the Army of Hope and Elks National Foundation.
The members and lodges of Florida’s Northwest District are honored to present to the 2018 national convention in San Antonio the name of William C. “Bill” White as a candidate for the office of Northwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Bill White was born in Stillwater, Okla., in 1957. After earning some college credits, he served 21 years in the USAF, retiring in 1997. He was stationed in Florida in 1988 and decided to stay. He worked 42 years in aircraft maintenance and is still working as an independent contractor.

White joined Holley-Navarre Elks Lodge #2787 in 2003 after seeing their good work and was sponsored by a friend in another local lodge. He has served as Inner Guard, Lecturing Knight, Leading Knight, Treasurer, Exalted Ruler and District Vice President.

In addition to the Elks, White is a member of the American Legion, VFW and AMVETS.

He and Marguerite have been married 40 years. They have three daughters and two grandchildren.

The members and lodges of Florida’s North Central District are honored to present to the 2018 national convention in San Antonio the name of George Sevast as a candidate for the office of Northeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

George Sevast was born and raised in Lancaster, Pa., in 1942. He graduated from McCaskey High School in 1960 and completed two years of advanced trade school for HVAC. He served in the U.S.M.C. for 13 years and moved to Florida in 1992.

He worked in heating, A/C and refrigeration for Immaculata College in Pennsylvania and Coca-Cola in Orlando, Fla.
Sevast joined the Elks in 1984 in West Chester, Pa. He demitted to Apopka Lodge #2422 in 1992 and to Silver Springs Shores Lodge #2730 (now named South Marion-Villages) in 2000. He has been Chaplain, Trustee, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight and Exalted Ruler. He has served on the Board of Directors and House Committee. He has been District Chairman of Government Relations and Vice Chairman and State Chairman of Elks National Foundation Certificates. In 2017-2018 he served as District Vice President.

In addition to the Elks, Sevast is a member of the American Legion, Moose, WPV and DAV. He is a charter member of Vietnam Veterans, Marine Corps League and PVA. He also volunteers his time at soup kitchens and Salvation Army.

He and Fran have been married since 1984. He has five children and seven grandchildren.

Angelo Cretella was born in Manhattan, N.Y., in 1941. He grew up in New York City's Lower Village until 1955 and then moved to Staten Island. In 1999 he moved to Florida. He graduated from New Dorp High School in 1959 and went on to attend night school for three years at the College of Staten Island.

He started working for Citybank in New York City in 1959. When he retired in 1979, he was assistant manager of the New Dorp branch in Staten Island. He then became president of Yorkville Business Center Accounting until April 2000. Currently he is the owner of Accounting and Tax Services of Central Florida, LLC.

In 2000, a friend invited Cretella to Port Orange Elks Lodge, and he became a member. He served as lodge treasurer from 2001-2011. He was Exalted Ruler and has been president and secretary of the lodge PER Association. He has served as Lodge Chairman for Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Elks National Foundation Certificates, Major Projects, and Accounting and Auditing. He has been District Chairman for Elks National Foundation Certificates, Harry-Anna Trust Fund and Veterans Services. He has served on the state Business Practices committee since 2009 and was Vice Chairman for 2016-2017. He has been auditor to the DDGER six times and served on the state Accounting and Auditing Committee from 2013-2017. He served on the Officer Training staff from 2014-2017 and was the District Vice President for 2016-2017.

In addition to the Elks, Cretella is a member of the Sons of Italy of Deltona, Fla. He was also on the board of directors and was president of Stillwater Lakes Pennsylvania HOA.

James joined the Florida Highway Patrol in 1975. He worked in Orlando and Daytona Beach and was promoted to Corporal in 1983 and transferred to Miami. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1984 and transferred back to Daytona Beach. He transferred to Madison in 1989 and retired in 2000.

James joined Madison Elks Lodge #2205 in 1994. For Madison Lodge, he served as Chaplain, Loyal Knight, Esquire, Exalted Ruler and Trustee and on the Major Projects Committee. For West Citrus Lodge #2693, he served as Esquire, Trustee, Flag Day Committee Chairman, Memorial Day Committee Chairman, Lodge Bylaws Revision Committee Chairman, Harry-Anna Trust Fund District Chairman, and Youth Activities Vice Chairman and State Chairman. He also served as Central District Vice President.

James is also a member of the Florida Masons and enjoys golf and scuba diving.

He has been married to Dana for 29 years. They have two children. Their daughter, Jennifer, and her husband live in Tucson, Ariz., with their three children. Their son, Kristopher, and his wife live in Tallahassee.

Marge Spera was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and grew up in Lake Ronkonkoma, N.Y. She went to Port Jefferson High School and attended Molloy College and Suffolk Community College. In 1984 she moved to Florida.

Spera taught parochial school.
Theresa Matthews was born in Jacksonville, N.C., in 1966, but the family moved to Florida when she was six months old when her father got out of the Marines. She has lived in Florida ever since. She received her bachelor’s degree in business management from the University of South Florida.

Matthews worked for Burger King Corporation for 28 years. Her last position with them was senior project manager for company operations in the U.S. and Canada. Then she worked at Publix headquarters in Lakeland, Fla., as a senior project manager in the facilities project office. For the last four years she has worked for Bloomin’ Brands (they own Outback, Bonefish Grill, Carrabba’s and Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse) under development in the facilities department as a regional facilities and project manager.

Matthews has been a member of the Elks for 22 years. Her father was an Elk and was the House Committee Chairman for many years, so if she wanted to see him, she had to have dinner at the lodge. He later suggested she join.

She has served as Exalted Ruler, House Committee Chairman, President of the Ladies organization (twice), Board of Directors Chairman and President of the Lodge PER Association. She has been District Chairman and Vice Chairman of Community Projects & Activities. She served as District Vice President for 2017-2018, is a member of the Van Duren Scholarship Committee and is a member of the Officer Training staff.

Along with Elks activities, Matthews has been involved in PTA, scouting, her children’s many activities, South Tampa Chamber of Commerce and Champions for Children.

She is in a relationship with Carl Seibert, PDD. She has three children: Logan (23), Courtney (20) and Hailey (15). She initiated Logan as an Elk and is now waiting on Courtney to turn 21 and come home from college. Her parents, brother, and aunt and uncle are all Elks, too.

In her spare time, Matthews is an avid reader. She also enjoys traveling, mostly with Carl, and attending Elks functions across the state.

The members and lodges of Florida’s Southwest Central District are honored to present to the 2018 national convention in San Antonio the name of Jacquie Rehner as a candidate for the office of Southwest Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Jacquie Rehner was born in Amherst, Ohio, in 1964. The family moved to Punta Gorda, Fla., when she was four, and she moved to Lakeland, Fla., in 1992 for work. She graduated from Charlotte High School in 1982 and earned an AS degree in network systems engineering technology from Polk State College in 2000.

Rehner started at Publix Store 116 in Punta Gorda in 1980 and transferred to corporate in Lakeland in 1992 and has held various positions within information systems. Her current position is Windows architect.

Her father, Don Roll, PDD, was very active in the Elks. He helped start Punta Gorda Lodge in the early 1980s. She has helped with many events and attended many conventions over the years. At the Elks state convention in 2001, her father and Larry Copperman, PDD decided it was time she joined and an application was filled out.

She is a member of Lakeland Elks Lodge #1291. She was part of the House Committee Communications from 2008-2015. She has been House Committee Chairman, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, Chaplain for three years and Exalted Ruler. She served as Orientation Lodge Chairman from 2012-2017. She has been District Chairman for various committees since 2009. She served as State Chairman of Ladies Organizations and has been State Coordinator for Elks National Foundation Grants since 2013. She was named Officer of the Year in 2009-2010 and Southwest Central District Outstanding Elk of the Year in
2014-2015. She served as District Vice President for 2017-2018.

In her spare time, Rehner enjoys traveling and helping others. She has been on the local United Way Community Investment team since 2013 and is serving as chairman of the team this year. She has headed a program for the Salvation Army Christmas Angel Tree program since 2002.

She has been married to Ron for five years. Her mother, sister and brother are members of Punta Gorda Elks Lodge.

Len and Kathy have been married 23 years and enjoy traveling the country in their RV. He also has collected sports memorabilia for over 25 years. Their son and his wife live in Maryland with their four sons. Their daughter and her husband live in Seattle with their three children.

The members and lodges of Florida’s Southeast District are honored to present to the 2018 national convention in San Antonio the name of **David Monsour** as a candidate for the office of **Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler** of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

**David Monsour** was born in 1946 in Butler (Pittsburgh), Pa., and graduated from Butler High School in 1964. He earned his BS in education in 1968 and his MS in education in 1971 from Slippery Rock University of PA. In 1987 he earned his doctorate in education from Indiana University of PA. He attended Capital University Law School in 1999 and Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service in 2004 for labor relation seminars.

Monsour was a public school teacher, assistant principal, assistant superintendent, superintendent and university instructor. He is currently employed as a federal labor arbitrator, realtor and property manager.

He moved to Florida in 2005.
His uncle, an active Elk, encouraged him to join the organization. Monsour, a member of Jupiter Elks Lodge #2469, has been trustee, kitchen manager, bar manager, and chairman of the Bingo Committee and the golf tournament. He has served on the Membership Committee and House Committee and as Lecturing Knight, Exalted Ruler (twice), Veterans Services District Chairman and Southeast District Vice President.

In addition to Elks activities, Monsour is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a federal program monitor, president of Brookville Chamber of Commerce and Brookville Kiwanis, Vice President of Butler ARC, United Way and Special Olympics volunteer, Vice President of the PA Association of Rural and Small Schools, president of Midwest Region, and state board member of PSEA.

He has a son, David Monsour II, a 19-year Elk, and a sister, Linda Bodesheim, a past treasurer and auditor of Jupiter Lodge and current Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Auditor.

Monsour has authored or coauthored several publications: Legislative Implications: Professional Self-Governance and Career Ladder Concepts, Student Teacher Effectiveness and Job Satisfaction: An Analysis of Personality and Cognitive Variables in Relation to Performance (an unpublished doctoral dissertation), and Successful Facility Planning (a school construction handbook).

Over the years, Monsour has received several honors. They include the 2015-2016 Grand Exalted Ruler’s Making-a-Difference Special Citation, the 2013-2014 Grand Exalted Ruler’s Service Commendation, 2013-2014 and 2015-2016 Jupiter Lodge #2469 Hardest-working Elk of the Year, and the 2004 Service Award for the PA Association of Rural and Small Schools.

Pat Maher was born in Scranton, Pa., and grew up mainly in Pennsylvania. In 1979 she earned a B.S. from the University of Scranton with a degree in human services and psychology. In 1997 she graduated summa cum laude from Florida Atlantic University with a degree in elementary education.

She moved to Florida in 1979.

Maher has been a middle school social studies teacher for the past 19 years at Silver Lakes Middle School in North Lauderdale. Before that, she was a pediatric nurse. She has also been the musician and music director for the past 33 years at St. Vincent’s Catholic Church.

In 2001 she joined the Elks and is now a member of Boca Raton Elks Lodge #2166. She has been Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary, Exalted Ruler and organist for her lodge. She has been District Chairman of Elks National Foundation Scholarships and Americanism and State Chairman of Americanism, Elks Training and Lodge Activities. She served as District Vice President for 2017-2018.

In addition to the Elks, Maher has been part of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at her church for the past four years. She served on the Board of Adjustments and the Planning and Zoning Board for the city of Margate. She also coaches volleyball at her school.

Maher was married to Jerry for six years and they were together for six years prior to marriage. He has since passed away. She has two sons, Josh and Jeremy, and two grandsons, Dominic and Anthony. Her 94-year-old mother also lives with her.
a member of the Shriners. He is an ambulance driver and takes the children from Miami to the Shriners Hospital in Tampa, Fla., for their procedure and drives them home that same night. He is also a member of the Freemasons and Knights Templar.

He and Pamela have been married 40 years. He proposed on their third date. They have two children, Nikki and Pete, and three granddaughters, Priscilla, Abigail and Sarah.

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District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers being sworn in at the national convention

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Oath for District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers

“I, (NAME),
-- having received the appointment
-- of District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for 2018-2019
-- do solemnly swear
-- that I will faithfully execute
-- the duties of District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler
-- and will to the best of my ability
-- preserve, protect, defend and enforce
-- the Constitution and Laws
-- of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.”

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District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers being sworn in at the national convention

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SUMMER 2018

15
2018 Elks Grand Lodge Convention

San Antonio

1868 - 2018

USA

Celebrating 150 Years of Service
Jackson the Champion: FECTS CHAMP of the Year
By Rachael King

All children who receive in-home therapy from Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services (FECTS) are champions. They and their families face some of life’s most difficult challenges and somehow find the bravery to overcome it every day. It takes an incredible strength many will never know firsthand. Each year at the therapists’ conference, FECTS chooses to spotlight one of these amazing CHAMPS (Child Having Achieved Magnificent Progress), and this year the light shines on nine-year-old Jackson Barth. Their decision was unanimous as Jackson has been excelling in his treatments and working hard to reach the goals he and his therapist, Nikki McAnary, OTR/L, set. They knew he would be great as this year’s CHAMP and he is certainly loving his role!

On March 10, 2018, Jackson was introduced to the Florida Elks at the East Central District State President’s visit in Merritt Island. McAnary accompanied Jackson and his mother at this event and said that he certainly wasn’t shy. At one point, he told a Past State President that he wanted his job, which the crowd loved! When the audience applauded him, “he put his hands in the air and said, ‘and the crowd goes wild!’ He certainly has a sense of humor. Maybe that’s why his favorite character is the Joker in Batman. When he recently got a new wheelchair, he chose a green and purple one like the Joker. He got his first wheelchair when he was three.

Jackson was born with spina bifida, a birth defect where a developing baby’s spinal cord doesn’t develop correctly, often leaving the spinal cord exposed or closed in the back. McAnary explains that a person’s spine forms “like a ream of paper layer by layer and then rolls up into a column or closed tube. Jackson’s formed all the layers but did not close up properly.” Nobody knows why this happened to Jackson. It is often caused from a lack of folic acid but his mother was not deficient.

While some people with spina bifida can manage the side effects with just therapy, Jackson needed both surgery and therapy. To date, he has had nine surgeries, the first one just hours after he was born. The surgeries were for his defect closure, shunt placement, two revisions, two eye surgeries and two more revisions. He will need three more surgeries in the next year: one for a tethered cord release, another eye surgery, and one for his bowels and bladder.

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Jackson does a weekly 60-minute occupational therapy session with McAnary. Because Jackson has several goals in different areas of development, they work on core/stomach strength, upper body strength and coordination. “This all helps with learning to be independent in his daily activities including feeding, dressing, managing his medical care, transferring (being able to go from one place to another – from wheelchair to bed, bed back to wheelchair, wheelchair to car seat, etc.) and anything else he wants to do on his own.

We work on cognitive skills to improve memory, problem-solving, visual perceptual skills and processing skills as well as school-readiness skills.”

Luckily for Jackson, McAnary has a variety of fun methods to help improve
his skills, and she changes them almost every week to keep it interesting. When asked his favorite part of therapy, Jackson says, “Everything! I love when Ms. Nikki comes; we always do awesome things.”

Between Jackson’s weekly therapy sessions, McAnary gives the family an exercise program to continue at home during the week. She compares this reasoning to exercising. Going to the gym once a week won’t produce as good of results as going five or six times a week would give. “So, we encourage families to work daily toward goals. It also allows us to teach the tools they will need to continue their child’s success after they have been discharged.”

Jackson’s mother seconds this opinion and says that having therapy in the home has made such a positive difference for Jackson and the family. “Because this service is provided in the home, the entire family is involved. We learn from his therapist how to help him practice and continue to improve. Even his little brothers love to play therapy “games” with him which gives him more exposure, practice and exercise than he could ever get from a once-a-week appointment without family involvement.” During these home sessions, not only can his mother watch the entire session to learn how to continue them throughout the week but his younger brothers also participate in some games during the session which helps them learn how to work better with Jackson and feel involved.

Contrast that with the family experience for Jackson’s physical therapy sessions. Physical therapy works his lower body even though he can’t feel it; it helps maintain his body alignment, develop bone growth and decrease deformities. (Very simply, OT works the top half of his body including the brain, arms and hands, and PT works the bottom half.) The only office that their insurance will cover is in Melbourne, a 45-minute drive, and they only cover PT, not OT. Twice a week, Jackson’s mother, Jackson, and his two younger brothers take the trip, and while Jackson is in the back working with the physical therapist, Jackson’s mother and the boys are left in the waiting room. She does not get to see what he is doing the entire hour and the boys don’t get to participate. For these PT sessions, insurance decides what therapies will be covered, not the therapist.

“McAnary will complete the rest of Jackson’s current set of 26 visits and then they will determine the next step for him. Today, Jackson is most proud that he can now dress himself in pull-on clothing and that he can transfer. When he was six and being seen for school therapy, his mother recalls that he always sat in his wheelchair at school and didn’t have strong balance while sitting, but after receiving therapy from McAnary and practicing at home, he now climbs out of his wheelchair to sit on the floor to play with his brothers.”

McAnary travels with a variety of toys, games and equipment to adapt to a variety of ages and abilities.

Jackson often transfers out of his wheelchair to the floor by himself to play with his brothers.

“We have an amazingly unique program,” says McAnary. FECTS “allows me to walk into a home, school or program and treat the whole child. I am not limited to insurance guidelines stating what I can and can’t work on. FECTS provides us with excellent resources for equipment and to help families with their needs that would never be covered by a regular for-profit therapy company.” Unlike using private insurance or a school system’s services, McAnary and the other FECTS therapists are not restricted by insurance billing codes dictating what areas of care they can provide. They decide what is best for their patients and provide that care.

Jackson celebrated his ninth birthday in July. Every year before his birthday, his parents encourage him to set a new goal for himself. Previous goals have been to dress himself and to handle bathroom tasks independently. “My goal this year is to unfasten my car seat and other fasteners,” Jackson says. Fasteners include buttons, zippers, door latches, tie strings and seatbelts. McAnary and his mother also want him to be able to dress himself in more difficult clothing such as clothing with buttons and zippers, jackets, and his braces; to be able to cut his food (he

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can already feed himself); to achieve faster processing skills and improve his memory and recall; and to have improved visual motor and perceptual skills which will help him work independently on his schoolwork.

McAnary explains that Jackson’s current level of visual motor skills makes it difficult for him to “copy a sentence from a book because he has to transfer the information from his eyes to his brain down to his hand. He also has difficulty with visual processing games and puzzles where he has to understand spatial relationships to make decisions about which way to turn things to fit together.”

To achieve all the other goals, he will need improved hand muscle strength and fine motor skills which is what he and his therapist will continue to work on in their sessions. McAnary explains how they do this. “We use a lot of “old-school” games and play as tools in therapy. Many kids don’t realize that they are working their muscles, brain and body when engaged in fun activities.” For Jackson, she will use games like Perfection, Lite Brite, Jenga, Bop It!, marble games and strategy games as well as drawing, coloring and making shapes with Theraputty (a stronger form of Play-Doh). “Many toys have a dual purpose. For example, the Lite Brite is good for fine motor strengthening and coordination having to put those tiny pieces in the holes. At the same time it is good for visual perceptual skills by having to follow a pattern and making a design. We can also add in memory/cognitive work by asking the child to only find certain colors or asking them to find colors in a specific order or pattern. Then if a child like Jackson is working on core strength/upper-extremity strength and balance, we would vary the place he is sitting or lying while doing this activity to engage those muscles as well. OT looks like all fun and play but there is a lot of hidden work in each of those activities.”

Jackson is already a powerhouse in upper body strength, though. His arms have had to become his legs essentially, so whenever he wants to get himself around, his arms must do all the work. His arms lift him in and out of his wheelchair, they lift him into and out of the car, and they pull him while he scoots around the floor. He can do complete pullups if someone places him on the bar. In the last year or two, he has made great strides in his sessions with McAnary working on his upper core so that he has the strength to get himself around. His muscles are worked with games and exercises with weighted balls, throwing and catching, aiming at targets, and using a TheraBand for resistance training. In the past, he did chair pushups and he would lie on his stomach on a scooter board and use his arms to propel.

Swimming is Jackson’s favorite part of the day which is a wonderful method of strengthening his upper body. He and his brothers swim in their family pool almost every day. His mother or father take him into and out of the pool, but everything else is all Jackson. He can swim for a long time without using any devices, but when he exhausts himself with this and needs a break, he will then use a float. He doesn’t like to take breaks, though! Like in all other aspects of his life, he swims, too, just using his upper body and his core instead of his legs; in other words, it is like treading water without using your legs, and that requires tremendous strength.
Another activity that Jackson enjoys doing that also builds his strength is Taekwondo. He started in early 2018 and has already earned his orange belt, and he is proud that he has one belt higher than his father! He is also ever-ready to show off his skills to anyone who will watch. He belongs to the Black Belt Club, too, and attends additional classes of his choosing each week. Jackson’s mother says that “Taekwondo challenges Jackson to improve his core and upper-body strength. The American Taekwondo Association has specific forms (or moves) for people who use wheelchairs, so Jackson has been able to participate without any confusion or difficulty.”

As one might imagine, everyday life for a family member with special needs can be challenging at times. Jackson’s mother homeschools him and his brother, Everett, who is six, and she will homeschool three-year-old Liam when he reaches school age. Many days are filled with therapy appointments, doctor appointments, hospital visits and surgeries. Jackson’s father, Mick, works for NASA at the Space Center so he doesn’t regularly get to participate in Jackson’s therapy sessions, but he is still very active in Jackson’s care and enjoys helping him with his home exercises. When the family goes anywhere like restaurants and playgrounds or when they travel, they have to ensure beforehand that these places can accommodate Jackson. However, his mother says that all that is a “tradeoff” for the fact that her three other sons are learning to advocate for and help people with special needs. The family has learned so much and gets to meet people they’d never have met if it weren’t for Jackson.

Jackson’s strength is also due in part to his family encouraging him to be as independent as possible with transferring on his own and doing things for himself. As McAnary explains, “Jackson becomes frustrated when he can’t do things like other kids so his family is a huge advocate for doing all the things his brothers do with small adaptations and push him to learn to do it by himself.”

Jackson and his family are passionate about teaching people that the only difference between him and others is his body. Many people assume Jackson has permanent cognitive challenges because he is in a wheelchair. While he does need extra time to learn certain skills, he eventually masters them. “I want everyone to know I can do things just like everyone else,” Jackson says. His favorite subjects to study are math and science; he earned a score of 95 on his comprehensive math final at the end of second grade. He likes to sing, dance, play basketball and play video games with his family. He and Everett want to be firefighters when they grow up and he wants to have a family of his own. Jackson’s heroes are firefighters, paramedics and lifeguards because they save lives, and that’s why he wants to be a firefighter. He also adores his older brother, 19-year-old Mike, who is in the Army, and his daughter.

Jackson’s mother says he “is a very talkative, social kid. He loves meeting new people. If you give him the chance, he’ll talk your ear off, show you his dance and challenge you to a race.” In fact, talking to new people is his favorite part about being this year’s FECTS CHAMP, while his mother appreciates the chance to educate the Elks about Jackson. In addition to Jackson’s introduction in Merritt Island, he and his family also attended the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Gala in Daytona Beach and the state convention in Orlando. They will also be attending the West Central District State President’s visit Sept. 8 in Tarpon Springs, and Jackson will officially start the Day at the Rays game Sunday, Sept. 9, by making the “Play Ball!” announcement.

“I want everyone to know I can do things just like everyone else.”
- Jackson
In Jackson’s nine years, he has overcome so much and has made significant advances while remaining a happy and determined young boy. His mother says that “his independence and confidence have grown significantly thanks to this service (FEETS).” Everyone’s final goal for Jackson will be for him to be completely independent. Having come this far already, there’s little doubt that he will meet that goal, too, just like he’s done up to this point.

Reflecting on her time with Jackson on a professional and personal level, McAnary says, “People often comment when I tell them I work in pediatrics how sad my job must be. That could not be any further from the truth. From the first day of meeting Jackson he has been smiling, laughing, playing and wanting to go to the next level. Jackson is always willing to try something new, never gives up and does it the entire time with a smile. I help him as a therapist but he teaches me every session that you can do anything you put your mind to, to never give up and to do it all with a smile.”

For someone so young to be able to impart such wise and invaluable life lessons, he is truly a champion in every sense of the word.

-- Rachael King

* Nikki McAnary was invaluable with providing content and photos for this article.
How long have you been an occupational therapist?
I became licensed in October 2001. I have treated pediatrics from day one. Some therapists try other areas of OT but I knew I wanted to be a pediatric therapist more than anything – 17 years strong.

What schooling/training did you need to become an OTR/L (Occupational Therapist Registered/Licensed)?
I earned my AA at Miami Dade Community College and then applied for the OT program at Florida International University and was accepted. There were 300+ applications and they only took 65 students. I graduated with honors with my Bachelor’s degree in OT. Then I finished six months of internship. Programs are now a minimum Master’s program.

How did you become registered and licensed?
Graduates of an OT program are required to take a national test and then apply for a state license. We are then required to take continuing educations courses throughout the year and renew our state license every two years.

How did you decide this is what you wanted to do?
I grew up my whole childhood wanting to be a lawyer. I interned with a lawyer in high school and thought it was the most boring thing ever. I was always good with kids and loved volunteering at the Miami Children’s Hospital cancer unit and the hospital radio program. Soon after, I was in a car accident and needed PT for my leg and jaw. I went through a windshield. This led me to volunteering at the hospital's PT unit. I came in one day and the PT I helped was out of the office so they sent me to help on the other side, the OT room. I walked in and a therapist was working with an eight-week-old baby with Down syndrome and I fell in love with being an OT.

What is your favorite part about being an occupational therapist?
My favorite part is working one on one with all these special kids and helping them achieve independence and goals that improve their and their families’ quality of life.

Our program is very involved with each family and allows us to create a special bond with families that lasts forever. I still keep in contact with families from many years ago and love when I get updates on progress or they reach out five years later to reapply for more service needed at a new stage in life.

What is your least favorite part about being an occupational therapist?
Honestly there isn't much I don't like except I wish I had more time in the day and week and could fit in more sessions and more kids on my schedule. I want to stay with families all day to help sometimes.

Please visit floridaelks.org to find out more about Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and how you can help more children like Jackson.
Support Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp by becoming a monthly sustaining donor!

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ON June 5, Green Cove Springs Lodge used an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to promote the Green Cove Springs Public Library’s opening of the summer children’s program. This was the lodge’s third year of promoting this program. The event’s purpose was to encourage children to sign up for the special library programs for children of all ages.

There were 119 children accompanied by 49 adults in attendance and 25 volunteers. After registering, each child went through the following stations: registration for summer programs, a book station where they received a free age-specific book, an ice cream station, a craft station, a balloon toy maker’s station, a face-painting station and a corn hole game area.

Green Cove Springs Lodge members Karen Pitts, Willie Pitts and Joe Boyd give out age-specific books to each attendee at the opening of the local library’s summer children’s program.

Green Cove Springs Library began their MeeperBot Training Program using MeeperBot robots also provided by Green Cove Springs Lodge through ENF Beacon Grant matching funds from the Florida State Elks Association. The first training session included building Lego block tops for the robotic platforms, instruction on controlling the platforms with Kindle Fires and driving their bots down a table to knock down bowling pins. The next sessions included learning to program the platforms to perform different tasks automatically. Librarian and lodge member, Jennifer Parker, was the main instructor of the 26 attendees while parents and siblings observed.

* Current submission by Gene Rittenhouse, PER & Tracy Carroll, PER
Planting their Feet: 
Conviviality Made Room for More Serious Principles

As the Jolly Corks meetings grew, they also became quite disturbing to other boarders and Mother Geisman finally laid down her foot and asked them to forego their Sunday gatherings. Eventually she asked them to move.

A new meeting place was found over a saloon at the invitation of Paul Summers who owned the location at 17 Delancy Street. The building had a big hall on the top floor and he would provide a keg of beer. Bob Fulgora of the Madrigals was sent to nearby halls to notify the Corks of Summers’ invitation. A meeting was held here on Sunday, Nov. 17, with over 50 in attendance. Vivian was voted chairman and he proved to be good at fining each member either as being too good or too bad at something. These fines would finance food and drink. At midnight, Tom Riggs sang an emotional rendering of “Auld Lang Syne.” Temporary treasurer, George Thompson, in announcing the fines collected, suggested the money be held and at the next meeting each member should bring the name of a family in need of food for the distribution of future food baskets.

However, at 1 a.m., just before closing this session, John Bloom, Henry O’Neil and Harry Vandemark came in and said that Big John Robinson was very sick and needed some help. A quick vote was taken to take care of his immediate needs. With this, the first meeting of the Jolly Corks at this location came to a close.

Their main purpose continued to be entirely convivial and their membership was made up of professional and semi-professional entertainers and actors. However, evidence shows that with giving assistance to the indigents (see Spring 2018 BPOE History article) and assisting Big John Robinson that there was already a sense of benevolence within this group that would forever be one of the principles of Elkdom: that of charity.

A visit was paid to the ill Robinson. They found the doctor had given orders that he was not to be left alone. One consented to remain with him that night and was relieved in the morning. After about a week of constant attention, Robinson began to show improvement. The committee received acclaim for their attention to Robinson.

A Benevolent and Protective Order

Just before the holidays in late December 1867, Charles Vivian and four other gentlemen stopped by Tony Pastor’s for a drink after the funeral of a friend, Ted Quinn, a well-known local concert player. There they found five more of their theater friends. It was more vivid occurring just before the holidays.

McDonald suggested that the organization should consider forming a benevolent and protective society. Up to now, Vivian’s idea of charity was receiving a free drink. McDonald, secure in his mind of the need for such a society, did not leave it at that. In the following week he presented the idea again to several of the Jolly Corks and again suggested a permanent beneficial organization that would include care of the sick and needy and proper memory to the departed: the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks.
Wage and Hour Division (WHD) Compliance Assistance – Wages and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA):
An Overview of the Law Governing Overtime Pay Claims

One of most important rights afforded by federal and state employment laws is the right to overtime pay. Generally speaking, overtime pay means the extra pay that an employee is owed for working more than 40 hours in a workweek.

When is an employee entitled to overtime pay?

Assuming an employee is eligible for overtime pay, the law normally requires the payment of overtime whenever the employee works more than 40 hours in a workweek (defined as seven consecutive 24-hour periods). Importantly, overtime pay is not owed for working more than eight hours in a day or for working on weekends or holidays; it only applies when the employee works more than 40 hours in a workweek.

How much overtime pay is required?

Employees must be paid overtime on their regular rate, not their base rate. Many employers make the mistake of paying overtime based on an employee's base rate rather than the regular rate. If other forms of pay, such as nondiscretionary bonuses and shift differentials, raise the employee’s regular rate, the overtime rate must be raised. There are forms of compensation that do not increase the regular rate. These include vacation pay, sick pay, holiday pay, entirely discretionary bonuses, and health and welfare benefits.

Are all employees entitled to overtime?

No. Many categories of workers are exempted from the overtime requirement, meaning they do not receive any extra pay for working more than 40 hours in a workweek. The most common categories of exempt workers include:

- Executive employees (who manage business operations and supervise at least two other employees)
- Professional employees (who perform intellectual work requiring advanced knowledge and specialized training)
- Administrative employees (who exercise responsibility and discretion related to the business operations of the company)
- Computer professionals (who perform high-level work involving computer systems and programs)

However, to qualify for the administrative exemption, an employee's “primary duty” must be the performance of office work “directly related to the management or general business operations.” To qualify for exemption, employees generally must be paid at not less than $455 per week on a salary basis. Exempt computer employees may be paid at least $455 on a salary basis or on an hourly basis at a rate not less than $27.63 an hour.

Administrative, professional and computer employees may be paid on a “fee basis” rather than on a salary basis. If the employee is paid an agreed sum for a single job, regardless of the time required for its completion, the employee will be considered to be paid on a “fee basis.” To determine whether the fee payment meets the minimum salary level requirement, the test is to consider the time worked on the job and determine whether the payment is at a rate that would amount to at least $455 per week if the employee worked 40 hours.

How is overtime defined?

Overtime must be calculated on a workweek basis. Many employers pay employees biweekly, semimonthly or monthly. Consequently, employers often calculate overtime based upon hours worked in a pay period. Some employers, for example, pay...
employees overtime only if they work in excess of 80 hours in a two-week pay period. This practice is illegal under the FLSA regardless of whether an employee requests it or signs a waiver.

“Comp time” cannot offset overtime pay requirements.

Compensatory time or “comp time” generally is not permitted for non-exempt/hourly employees – even if they request it.

Unauthorized overtime is still overtime.

Make sure your employee attendance policy states that all overtime must be pre-approved by management. However, if an employee works overtime without approval, you are still required to pay him or her for the work performed. You may discipline an employee for unauthorized overtime, but you may not adjust his/her time records or refuse to pay for the hours.

Off-the-clock work is still work.

Many employers mistakenly believe that an hourly employee may volunteer to work “off the clock,” or that work taken home is not compensable. Although it may defy logic, employers are obligated to pay non-exempt employees for all time worked, even under these circumstances. As a general rule, if a non-exempt employee performs any work on the employer’s behalf, the employee must be compensated for his/her time.

Why nonprofits shouldn’t fret over the new overtime rule

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), the law that governs who is eligible for overtime (and the minimum wage), does not extend to all employees or all employers.

Unless coverage is established for the employer or employees, FLSA protections, including the new overtime rule change, do not apply.

FLSA coverage is determined in one of two ways.

First, employers who are engaged in business that generates annual business or sales revenues of at least $500,000 per year are covered by the FLSA and must pay overtime and the minimum wage.

Most nonprofits including the charitable organizations are not engaged in business; they are providing charitable services. Therefore, their employees are not typically covered by the FLSA. There are certainly some nonprofits that, in addition to their core charitable activities, also manage revenue-producing activities that may bring that part of the organization, and only that part, within the scope of the FLSA. If this side business produces revenues of at least $500,000 annually, those employees engaged in that covered commercial business are entitled to FLSA protection.

The second way the FLSA could extend to employees of nonprofits involves only those employees whose work regularly involves them in commerce between states (“interstate commerce”), which for our purposes means individual workers who are “engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce.” These employees include those who, on a regular basis, write letters that will be sent out of state, make telephone calls to persons located in other states or handle records of interstate transactions.

Overtime and contracting issues

If your nonprofit has grants or contracts with local, state, tribal or federal government, policy changes coming out of Washington, D.C., have the potential to affect the costs and operations of nonprofit organizations that provide services to the public pursuant to grants and contracts with any local, state, tribal or federal governments. The Department of Labor may soon put into place new overtime regulations that will require most employees (including nonprofits) to pay overtime to all employees earning less than approximately $50,000 regardless of whether they are considered salaried or hourly employees.
Crestview #2624

On May 12, Crestview Elks Lodge #2624 held its fifth annual Exceptional Children’s Day for children with special needs and their family as well as the public to celebrate children overcoming adversity. They used a $2,000 Beacon Grant along with $500 in donations. Nineteen volunteer Elks hosted 125 visitors. The Captain Davy Show and Reid Soria of Autism Sings performed for the guests. Children enjoyed a waterslide, bounce house, Lego table and face-painting. Food, drinks and snacks were provided as well.

Lake City #893

Lake City conducted an Easter Egg giveaway to the local Columbia County elementary schools. Thousands of plastic eggs filled with candy were distributed and the kids were thrilled.

Live Oak #1165

On Friday, May 11, Live Oak Elks Lodge #1165 in partnership with the Suwannee County Sheriff’s Office held a “Back the Blue” fundraiser at the lodge serving chicken and rice, green beans, coleslaw, bread and dessert for $6 each. This effort allowed the lodge to donate $3,600 to the families of fallen Sheriff Deputies Sergeant Noel Ramirez and Taylor Lindsey who were ambushed and tragically lost their lives in neighboring Gilchrist County.

Perry #1851

Perry Lady Elks hosted the Easter egg hunt this year attended by more than 200 kids, parents, grandparents and volunteers. On June 9, the Lady Elks also sponsored a Drug Awareness/Summer Safety Expo emphasizing bicycle safety and the dangers of drugs. Every child received a bike helmet. There was a bicycle rodeo, free car seat checks in automobiles, boating safety tips and free food. The Perry Police Department, Taylor County Sheriff's Department and Perry Fire Department were in attendance and allowed kids to explore the emergency vehicles they brought to the event. Prizes awarded to attendees included bicycles.

Perry Lodge Exalted Ruler, Tommy Mauldin, presented the lodge’s Citizen of the Year award to Sheriff Wayne Padgett. The sheriff’s “knock the door down” and “see something – say something” actions are making a difference in Taylor County.

Perry Lodge’s scholarship annual awards event was held June 7. Members and guests were invited to participate in the program and join in the meal that was served. The lodge awarded this year’s scholarships to Justin Eckel, Connor Stengel, Kinley Dorman and Katie Mays.

Perry Lodge’s annual Flag Day program was held June 14. Boy Scout Troop 600 assisted with the presentation of our country’s flags. An all-American meal of hot dogs, chips, apple pie and ice cream was served after the program and the event was open to the public.

Tallahassee #937

In April, Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 hosted Gretchen Everhart School’s dinner and prom with in-kind donations of floor space and food for the event. This is an annual occurrence at the lodge.

Green Cove Springs #1892

FLOE Junior Delegate Linda Rittenhouse of Green Cove Springs Lodge #1892 with the help of FLOE Senior Delegate and Past Lady President Judy Reyes of St. Augustine Lodge #829 combined talents for a second year to raise money for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Green Cove Springs Lodge hosted the show June 4. Tiffany Ruff of Resort Fashions presented the fashions for sale and was assisted by six Green Cove Springs ladies who modeled the casualwear. The lodge setup and decoration, meal preparation and serving was accomplished by 14 volunteers. There were 88 lodge ladies and guests from both lodges present. The event raised $1,538.83 for the two major projects.
The second annual Charles E. Bennett Elementary School sixth-grade classes' luncheon was hosted with funds from the Green Cove Springs PERs' Elks charity bingo June 1. Ninety-seven students and school personnel were present. The luncheon concluded with the presentation of two lodge citizenship awards to Celia Lombardi and Devan Carney. They were selected by their teachers for the award based on their behavior, ability to work well with others, grades and helpfulness. A highlight of the luncheon was Tatyana Floyd singing a song she wrote. The luncheon chairman was PER Gene Rittenhouse, Bingo Vice Chairman. The luncheon was served by 14 lodge members and helpers.

Five Elks and eight Anna Miller Circle ladies met May 3 at Eustis Elks Lodge #1578 to pack $5,178-worth of items for The Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties. The packing included 305 adult welcome kits (travel-size toiletries, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.) and 54 children's welcome kits with a small toy included, 24 suitcases, over $1500-worth of gently worn clothes, 32 Beanie Babies and seven sets of towels. As a new addition to the program, the packing included 22 birthday kits (cake, frosting and candles) so mothers can bake a birthday cake for their child when they find themselves in the shelter for their birthday. This was added to the program at the request of The Haven staff.

The Anna Miller Circle is proud to continue this very worthwhile program which helps abused women, children, teens and rape victims start a new and safe life. The ladies appreciate the continued support of the lodge.

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Ocala #286

In honor of National Police Week, Ocala Elks Lodge #286 showed the community that Elks care and Elks share by providing lunch for Marion County Sheriff’s deputies as well as Ocala police officers. A group of volunteers delivered fried chicken, baked beans and potato salad to their respective headquarters.

DeLand #1463

DeLand Elks Lodge #1463 celebrated all mothers in style May 13. A beautiful plant was given to the mother with the most children, the youngest mother,
the oldest mother and the mother with most grandchildren. Red and white carnations were given to all who attended and a lunch was served following the ceremony.

**Edgewater-New Smyrna Beach #1557**

Marci Skates is the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairman for Edgewater-New Smyrna Beach Elks Lodge #1557 and is always finding a way to raise money. This spring she sold paper Easter eggs and raised nearly $500.

**Merritt Island #2650**

Merritt Island Elks Lodge #2650 recently held their annual kids’ fishing tournament. PER Nick Skibba was the event chairman. This year it was held at the Veterans Memorial Center and they had 130 participants. Prizes were awarded to the boys and girls in three age groups.

Merritt Island Lodge used a $3,500 Beacon Grant from the Elks National Foundation to support the Challenger District Day Camp. This is a program where Cub Scouts (girls & boys) have access to a local camp in their county to learn scout skills.

Merritt Island Lodge sponsored David Von Steinmetz of Edgewood Jr./Sr. High School who won second-place in the 2017-2018 Americanism essay contest. The essay topic was “Why our Veterans are America’s Heroes.” David’s essay won first place at the lodge level in Division II (seventh and eighth grades) and was then forwarded to the district level and later to the state level. This is truly an outstanding accomplishment for him. He and his parents were guests of the lodge June 15 where he was presented a check for $750. It was an exciting evening for David and his parents as well as the guests who were present to hear the 14-year-old read his essay. Not only is he a good writer but he is also a good speaker.

Port Orange Elks Lodge #2723 recognizes worthy students every month by presenting them with a Student of the Month award. Pictured with Spruce Creek High School Principal, Dr. Todd Sparger, are Jose Lora and Mira Gladstone. Also pictured are Guidance Counselor, Carrie Cappiello; Louise Lauthain; and Paul Leonard, Scholarship Chairman.

**Port Orange #2723**

Port Orange Lodge prepared and delivered about 70 meals to low-income senior citizens in the Port Orange area on Memorial Day, May 28. The Council on Aging does not work on all holidays so over the past 30 years, lodge members have been providing this service. Every year, on average, the Elks prepare and deliver over 500 meals with 184 volunteers who spend over 500 hours and drive 1,600 miles delivering meals.

Port Orange Lodge hosted a 90th birthday party for Don Rambert who has been the chairman of this worthwhile community service. The members made a large donation to the Council on Aging Meals on Wheels program knowing that it would touch the heart of every giving person and honor Rambert for his years of dedicated community service.

**Kissimmee #1873**

Kissimmee Elks Lodge #1873 held its annual student awards night May 19. Two winners of the Most Valuable Student scholarship winners were Elliot Bodre and Mackenzie Buckholz. These two young people have known each other since elementary school and have developed a strong friendship which is about to be strained because Mackenzie will become a Gator and Elliot will become a Seminole!

The lodge also honored their Hoop Shoot finalists, two of whom went on to the national finals in Chicago, Madison Vazquez and Malayna Stevenson.
West Citrus #2693

On Sunday, May 6, 40 seniors from Crystal River and Lecanto high schools and about 150 family members gathered at West Citrus Elks Lodge #2693 for the annual Elks scholarship dinner. The students and their families were treated to dinner followed by an awards presentation. Each was chosen by their respective school as a male or female student of the month throughout the school year. The students were individually introduced with a synopsis of their accomplishments including grades, volunteering and extracurricular activities and were awarded a plaque. After all were introduced, the top two male and female students from each school were presented with a $1,000 scholarship from West Citrus Lodge.

Zephyrhills #2731

Zephyrhills Elks Lodge #2731 conducted their kickoff meeting for the Feed the Kids program. Many families do not have the resources to provide healthy meals during the summer months when school is not in session, so the Elks welcome them at the lodge. There the Elks read to the children and help them find books to borrow for the week. The lodge is in dire need of new or mildly used books for the children to read and take home. They can always use volunteers to assist with the children and the program in general. They partner with other fabulous organizations including Thomas Promise and East Pasco Meals on Wheels for their food for the children, the Zephyrhills police and fire departments, and the Pasco County Sheriff.

Zephyrhills Lodge member Judy Osgood applied for and received the Anniversary Grant from Elks National Foundation which made possible the presentation of a Frigidaire stove, 28 twin sheet sets and $700 in meat and kitchen supplies to the Everyday Blessings program.

Zephyrhills Lodge also donated 43 children’s fleece hoodies and 16 backpacks to Woodlands Elementary.

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Fort Pierce #1520

Fort Pierce Lodge's food backpack community program presented a special award to St. Lucie Draft House because their program was chosen by Draft House to be the charity bingo game recipient for May. They raised over $1,000 for feeding and helping kids in need.

Lenny Smallacombe of Fort Pierce Elks Lodge #1520 contacted Fort Pierce Mayor, Linda Hudson, and requested a city proclamation to help the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks celebrate its 150th anniversary in San Antonio.

Lenny and Barb Smallacombe along with members and friends of Fort Pierce Lodge presented the manager of Draft House with a plaque as they received their donation for the lodge backpack program.
There are 20 schools in the Southeast Central District that have JROTC programs. Each unit has an annual awards presentation ceremony during which outstanding cadets are given awards by various civic, professional and fraternal organizations. The cadet to be honored at each school is selected by the unit advisors, and each organization offering an award is notified of the name of the cadet to receive the award. Each participating organization is then asked to send a representative to the awards ceremony to make the presentation. Viera Elks Lodge #2817 decided to make the Elks a participant in these ceremonies. An email was sent to the schools in the district asking each unit if they would like to have the BPOE added as an active participant in the program. Viera Lodge designed a certificate and medal that will be awarded to a deserving cadet in each unit. The certificates and medals are mailed to each school in advance of their ceremony.

The lodge then made this a district program and asked all the lodges in the Southeast Central District to get involved by sending a representative to the awards ceremonies in their area. Any lodge or any individual from any lodge wishing to make the presentation at any of these schools has been asked to contact Jerry Hoff at 321-751-2599 or email him at elks-rotc@cfl.rr.com. He will send the details of each ceremony to the involved lodge if there is someone who wishes to participate. Also, a $10 donation to the ROTC fund will get the donor’s name printed on the certificate as a sponsor. Donations should be sent to Viera Lodge earmarked for ROTC Awards Fund. As dates become available, he will advise the lodges in the district.

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee is currently working on making this a nationwide program and had information available at the Grand Lodge convention in San Antonio.

Elks Lodge hosted their monthly birthday party at Genesis House. Genesis House provides transitional shelter for homeless women and their children, long-term housing for student mothers and their children, and shelter for homeless pregnant women and their children. Genesis House Inc. is committed to providing a safe, supportive, caring environment which promotes independence from the welfare system through education, self-discipline and self-reliance. The lodge has supported Genesis House by providing computers and assisting in their thrift shop. Funding for Genesis House support is provided by an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant.

Viera Lodge #2817

West St. Lucie #2823

On June 14, West St. Lucie Elks Lodge #2823 with the aide of the Marine Corps League performed their Flag Day Ritual. Member Marge Huntsberry and PER and trustee, Mickey Scalfani, presented the history of the flag.
St. Petersburg #1224

On Friday, March 30, St. Petersburg Elks Lodge #1224 visited A Kid’s Place of Tampa Bay Inc. located in Brandon. Lodge member Jan Gens; Tiler, Ann Marie Bongiorno; Leading Knight, Cathy Shriver; and Exalted Ruler, Bonnie Barnes, delivered 60 Easter baskets for the kids and also presented Kid’s Place team member Mary Douser with a $500 check to assist with their Easter celebration.

A Kid’s Place of Tampa Bay is located on five acres and has five 3,200-square-foot homes on an expansive tree-lined campus that provide a safe, home-like environment in a neighborhood setting. A Kid’s Place is a haven for abused, neglected or abandoned children. The children range from newborns to kids ready to age out of the foster care system at 18.

Easter baskets delivered to A Kid’s Place by St. Petersburg Lodge

On Saturday, March 31, young ladies members of the Pinellas Park Youth Park Fast Pitch (YPFP) softball league were the meal servers after St. Petersburg Lodge held its installation of the new 2018-2019 officers. The young ladies also assisted with the cleanup after the meal. A donation of $220 was presented to Coach Theresa Sims by newly installed Exalted Ruler, Cathy Shriver, for their fast and courteous service.

Coach Sims was grateful for the donation and explained that the money will be used to pay umpire fees and to purchase equipment and softballs. The YPFP softball league had been dismantled in 2016 since the city seemed to be going in a different direction with what they wanted to do with the property. However, Coach Sims and others worked very hard for these young ladies to be able to participate once again in the team sport they love.

St. Petersburg Lodge is happy to assist the Youth Park Fast Pitch softball league achieve their goal. Softball is a great sport for our community’s youth since it promotes sportsmanship, develops individual skills, encourages friendships, and provides leadership opportunities via a fun and positive athletic experience.

Matthew Beal, son of Robert and Jennifer Beal of St. Petersburg, Fla., has achieved the Boy Scouts’ highest rank, Eagle Scout. His award was based on his accomplishments as a scout and his service to the community. Beal, 18, is a member of Boy Scout Troop 337 and has held numerous leadership positions including Quartermaster, Troop Guide, Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader. For his journey to attain the rank of Eagle Scout, Beal earned 41 merit badges, served a minimum of 16 months in a leadership position, went camping for a minimum of 24 nights, attended a minimum of seven Scoutmaster conferences, and attained five boards of reviews as well as proposing, planning, and carrying out an Eagle project.

Beal received many congratulatory letters not only from the state of Florida but also letters from throughout the U.S. Those letters included congratulations from all U.S. military branches, Florida State Senator Bill Nelson, United States Submarine Veterans and Pinellas County Sheriff, Bob Gualtieri. Included in the audience and presenting awards were Pinellas Park Mayor, Sandra Bradbury; Edwin Dewitt from the Korean War Veterans Chapter 14; St. Petersburg Lodge Exalted Ruler, Cathy Shriver, who read and presented Beal with a congratulatory letter, certificate of merit and pin from Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm J. McPherson Jr.; and West Central District Deputy, H. Tom Shriver, who read and presented Beal with a Grand Exalted Ruler certificate of merit and a pin.
Matthew Beal reached his goal of Eagle Scout in December 2017 and received his Eagle badge during a Court of Honor ceremony held at St. Petersburg Lodge April 28. Master of Ceremonies was scoutmaster, Jeff Mills.

On May 8 before the opening of the St. Petersburg Lodge meeting, two scholarship winners were awarded $1,500 each and congratulatory cards. Their families were on hand for this occasion. The seniors receiving scholarships were Sophia Augyst-Laulette, age 18, a senior at Boca Ciega High School who will pursue a degree in nursing in the fall at State College of Florida, and Tyler Grohn, age 18, a senior at Osceola High School who will pursue a degree in marine biology at Florida International University. Scholarship Chairman Joan Vignoul, PLP, is a retired teacher and reviewed and evaluated the scholarship applications.

St. Petersburg Lodge Scholarship Chairman, Joan Vignoul, PLP, and PER Bonnie Barnes presented scholarships to Sophia Augyst-Laulette and Tyler Grohn.

On Sunday, June 17, Exalted Ruler, Cathy Shriver, started a 20-minute remembrance service poolside honoring all fathers present, those who have passed, future fathers and those men who although are not fathers take us under their wing and guide us as fathers. Shriver spoke of the importance of honoring our fathers and reflecting on how they have shaped our lives. After the service, fathers received a free lunch.

Gibbs High School JROTC members Uhlman, Redding, Stakee and Smith presented the colors during St. Petersburg Lodge’s Flag Day ceremony.

On Sunday, June 10, St. Petersburg Lodge held its 107th Flag Day service and was open to the public; all ages were encouraged to attend. The program was held with the direction of Exalted Ruler, Cathy Shriver, and the lodge officers. Gibbs High School JROTC, whose mission is to motivate young people to become better citizens, performed the presentation of colors. Troop #334 Boy Scouts were the flag bearers during the history of the flags read by H. Tom Shriver, PDD.

Gibbs High School JROTC members Uhlman, Redding, Stakee and Smith presented the colors during St. Petersburg Lodge’s Flag Day ceremony.

On April 10, Club Chivalry had what may have been the best field trip yet. After making sure all the club attendees had breakfast, they loaded the bus at 8 a.m. and headed downtown to the Straz Center for Performing Arts. Billed as the 2018 Build Tampa Bay Event, this initiative is in its third year and getting bigger and better. More than 1,000 students from across Tampa Bay had the chance for one-on-one meetings with employers ready to hire the students directly from high school and offer them full four-year scholarships. The students would work full time and attend classes two nights a week. They would begin as laborers but in four years they would be journeymen or experts in their field. There were also some amazing motivational speakers. John Ratzenberger, the actor from Cheers, spoke about how he was a carpenter and had peace of mind because he could always fall back on that skill if his acting career fizzled out. Sally C. Harris, local school board member, spoke about how she was penniless when she started out in early education but she just kept learning and earning. One of the speakers pointed out all the teachers in the audience and told the

Tampa #708

Carolyn Miller, Elma Kelly and Bert Newbill attended the last meeting of Club Chivalry for the school year April 9 and handled the refreshments and raffles. Elks member Courtney Weil and her daughter Capriana Sanchez, and son, Taylor Taylor, attended as guest speakers. The meeting was very successful with the students in the club particularly relating to the younger Elks’ message about bullying and domestic violence. That awesome Elk family trio, often accompanied by daughter Christina, have been making the rounds of high schools and their speeches are impacting young lives across Tampa Bay.

Tampa Elk Courtney Weil and her daughter Capriana Sanchez, and son, Taylor Taylor, spoke at a Club Chivalry meeting.
students that in four years they could be earning more than their teacher. The teachers did not disagree.

Amazingly, the event sponsors paid for the club students’ lunch and the bus! That is a big savings for the club. The volunteer chaperones, Tommy Moore, Laura Jones and Antonio Cruz, were very impressed and hope to repeat this trip next year since it is a perfect fit for the club demographic.

Club Chivalry’s final club event of the 2017-2018 school year was participating in the Relay for Life of Tampa April 20. The relay is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society and is held on the track at Robinson High School. It is a popular event for schools in south Tampa. Club sponsor and lodge member Kristina Chowning was the event lead and lodge member Rita Smith was team captain.

One of the stipulations of the Impact Grant is that grant money cannot be donated to the American Cancer Society so they used the funds to purchase items needed to participate. The club sold luminary bags for $10 each. Thanks to the help from Tampa Lodge, they surpassed their goal of $1,000 and raised $1,610, placing 23rd among the 96 participating clubs. They sold so many luminary bags that they had to change the normal procedure and place theirs across the track against the fence! The lodge also voted to become a signature sponsor, so they had signs around the track as people walked. All seniors at the school who participated and raised $150 for the American Cancer Society were awarded a purple honor cord to wear at graduation. Even though some signed up just days before the event, several lodge members donated on their behalf.

Patty Jankiewicz, Elma Kelly, Joe LoCicero, Christien Elkins, and Robert Bordonaro with his daughter and granddaughter all spent time helping with French fries and soda sales at their tent. Other event helpers included Tommy and Sue Moore, Bonnie Atwood, and Logan Matthews and his friend Darby. The students did the track walking since there is supposed to be somebody from each team on the track at all times. At night there was a very impressive remembrance walk; the luminaries were all lit, the stadium lights were turned off, the music was hushed and the word HOPE was displayed in giant letters on the bleachers. Day or night, there was plenty to see and do. Most of the 96 teams had fundraising going on such as food, drinks, games and crafts.

Tampa Lodge’s Patricia Jankiewicz and Elma Kelly took charge of sales while Joe LoCicero cooked the fries for Club Chivalry’s participation in Relay for Life.

**SOUTHWEST CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**Brandon #2383**

The Brandon Elks Lodge #2383 bus trip on April 21 was a great success. There were 23 riders from Brandon Lodge joined by seven riders from Plant City Lodge and three from Lakeland Lodge. The first stop was the beautiful Holiday Isles Lodge that prepared a delicious breakfast buffet. They are located on a canal with docks for boats and have an outdoor tiki bar and a gorgeous pool. Next on the bus route would have been Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge, but due to the bus having engine problems, the tour members were stranded roadside and were forced to cut that lodge from the route. Imagine the odds, though, that a bus full of Elks would be stranded roadside right in front of a neighborhood bar, the RhonDavous! They welcomed the Elks with open arms and even turned on the air conditioning. After two and a half hours, the backup bus arrived and took them to St. Petersburg Lodge where each rider was offered a free drink. The guests were amazed at the size of their pool as well. After a nice visit they headed to Tampa Lodge where food had been prepared for the weary travelers. They also had a 50/50 raffle, played bingo and raffled off a bottle of scotch. While everyone had a great time riding and chatting and having their own 50/50 raffles on the trip, the purpose was also to earn money to donate to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. When all the math was done, they had $500 to donate to the camp. Jacqui Rehner from Lakeland Lodge and Nicholina Wells helped make this venture a success.

Engine problems couldn’t stop Brandon Elks’ bus trip to local lodges and fundraising for the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

**Lakeland #1291**

On April 14, Lakeland Elks Lodge #1291 was out in force supporting the local American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life event held at Munn Park in downtown Lakeland. Members manned a booth serving hot dogs and chips to all the hungry participants and raising money for the American Cancer Society. Even Elroy the Elk got into the action participating in the mascot races.

Elroy, ER Vicki Baker, Char Fisher and Sandy Fuschetti of Lakeland Lodge participated in the local Relay for Life.

On Saturday, April 21, Lakeland Lodge supplied hamburgers and hot dogs for the Lakeland SPCA Walk for the Animals, an annual fundraiser held on Lake Mirror in downtown Lakeland. Elks volunteers manned the SPCA/Elks food booth and through their efforts raised $876 for the animals at the Lakeland SPCA shelter.
Sebring #1529

The Special Stars is a recreation club which provides sports and recreational activities for more than 250 children and adults with mental and physical disabilities in Highland County, Fla. On Saturday, April 7, Ronna Mason, PER from Sebring Lodge presented a check for $650 to Jack Garnet who is a member of the Special Stars during their annual softball classic. These monies were part of the charity bingo tip donations. Lecturing Knight, Johnny Reed, PER, threw out the first pitch.

Lakeland Lodge sent 14 children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp this summer in Umatilla. Elks National Foundation supported the Florida State Elks Association major project by offering to pay for six camperships at the cost of $180 each to all Florida Elks lodges. The remaining eight were paid for by the tips from the Sebring Elks charity bingo players. Campers were chosen from Elks members’ families and children from the Highlands County Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Plant City #1727

On May 23, Plant City Exalted Ruler, Marty Carroll, and his wife, Shelly, presented 14 checks amounting to $2,400 to Sharon Morris, Superintendent for Area VI Hillsborough County Schools on behalf of the principals of those schools. The donation is to cover outstanding lunch balances for students. The Elks Gratitude Grant provided $2,000 and the remaining $400 was donated by lodge members. Morris was very appreciative and explained the delinquent lunch balances have consequences for the children. The schools can withhold report cards and diplomas for unpaid balances. She also explained that these balances are not from the families that qualify for free or reduced lunch costs but from families that could be struggling.

Sebring Lodge sent 14 children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp this summer in Umatilla. Elks National Foundation supported the Florida State Elks Association major project by offering to pay for six camperships at the cost of $180 each to all Florida Elks lodges. The remaining eight were paid for by the tips from the Sebring Elks charity bingo players. Campers were chosen from Elks members’ families and children from the Highlands County Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Larry Gustafson, Rick Littlejohn, Sandy Fuschetti, Barb Malone, Jean Gustafson, Bob Fuschetti, ER Vicki Baker, Garry Malone (seated) and Tom Rivard represented Lakeland Lodge at the SPCA Walk for the Animals.

Lakeland Lodge awarded 11 scholarships totaling $12,000 at the 2018 scholarship banquet held at the lodge. Approximately 65 people attended. The guest speaker was Dr. Elaine Thompson, President and CEO of Lakeland Regional Health Center.

Pictured are Exalted Ruler, Bob Fuschetti; Reese Overholt, Lakeland Christian; Tarik Graham, Auburndale; Bethanie Budlong, Santa Fe Catholic; Madalyn Werd, Santa Fe Catholic; Alyssa Harley, Santa Fe Catholic; Karter Thomas, Polk State Collegiate; Taylor Langley, Lakeland Christian; Ahmrii Johnson, Harrison School for the Arts; Mandi Chen, International Baccalaureate; Greeshma Venigalla, International Baccalaureate; and Dave Norwine, Scholarship Chairman. Not pictured was Amelia Barski from Roswell, Ga., who was unable to attend the banquet.

On May 26, Vicki Baker, Lakeland Lodge Exalted Ruler, presented a check for $7,000 to Jeff Morse of the Brotherhood Ride at the Florida Elks state convention. These funds are a result of fundraising efforts this past year from the members of the lodge. Lakeland Lodge is proud to be the home lodge for the Brotherhood Ride.

On June 5, Lakeland Lodge received a Community Service Award presented by the Lakeland SPCA for appreciation for years of dedication and service to the animals of SPCA Florida. The award was accepted by Sandy Fuschetti, a lodge member who has dedicated many hours each year in support of the Lakeland SPCA.

On May 23, Plant City Exalted Ruler, Marty Carroll, and his wife, Shelly, presented 14 checks amounting to $2,400 to Sharon Morris, Superintendent for Area VI Hillsborough County Schools on behalf of the principals of those schools. The donation is to cover outstanding lunch balances for students. The Elks Gratitude Grant provided $2,000 and the remaining $400 was donated by lodge members. Morris was very appreciative and explained the delinquent lunch balances have consequences for the children. The schools can withhold report cards and diplomas for unpaid balances. She also explained that these balances are not from the families that qualify for free or reduced lunch costs but from families that could be struggling.

Ronna Mason, PER of Sebring Lodge presented a check to Jack Garnet of Special Stars.
**Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota #2855**

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Elks Lodge members dressed in bee colors and costumes and read books about safety to first-graders in two local schools. The children were given a book and a plush bee to take home to remind them of the lessons they learned about stranger danger, good touches and bad touches, when not to keep a secret, and many other reminders to keep them safe. The books and bees were provided through a Gratitude Grant.

**South Hillsborough #2672**

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge sponsored Lola Johnson, an eighth-grade student at Haile Middle School, who won first place at the state level in the Americanism essay competition. She received a check for $1,500 from the Florida State Elks Association.

While the lodge has had some second- and third-place winners before, this was the first time one of their students won first place. She was presented with her check at a special meeting by Americanism Chairman, Rick Thorson, PER.

**Englewood #2378**

On May 9, Englewood Elks Lodge #2378 hosted an awards luncheon for Lemon Bay High School student scholarship recipients and award winners and their families.

The lodge awarded scholarships to Yamileth Gonzalez and Tara Quinn each for $3,000 per year for four years. Also awarded were three $1,000 scholarships to Madison Taylor, Adriana Basile and Kaylee Lombard to attend any vocational/academic institution of their choice. New scholarships awarded this year totaled $27,000.

Awards were also given to each student of the month in the amount of $100 and to the two students of the year who received an additional $300. These awards totaled $2,200.

**SOUTH SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**

**Venice-Nokomis #1854**

Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge #1854 donated 150 dictionaries to local elementary schools and $750 in food for needy children at a summer program at a local community center thanks to an Anniversary Grant. Dave Gillum, Exalted Ruler, left, helped with the delivery.
Yamileth Gonzalez, Tara Quinn, Madison Taylor, Adriana Basile and Kaylee Lombard. Students of the Month were Lauren Maheu, Michael Ainsworth, Hunter Scott, Tyler Caron, Sarah Bedford, Jeffrey Fazler, Melenie Torres, Deven Chavez, Ana Beltran Heredia, Austin McDonald, Francesca Gallucci, Cade Huber, Madison Ragazzone, Tyler Caron, Ron Feril, Hyasha Crompton and Michael Reid. Students of the Year were Madison Ragazzone and Tyler Caron.

Greater Pine Island #2781

Greater Pine Island Elks Lodge #2781 held its annual Flag Day celebration June 14. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has celebrated the holiday since the early days of the organization. Members of Boy Scout Troop #20 were on hand at the lodge to assist.

Punta Gorda #2606

On April 8, Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 hosted a picnic for the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Department staff and their families.

On April 10, Punta Gorda Lodge awarded students of Charlotte County high schools a total of $24,000 in scholarships – 20 $1,000 scholarships and two $2,000 scholarships. On May 28, the Elkettes awarded four more $2,000 scholarships to Charlotte High School seniors.

On April 21, Punta Gorda Lodge’s 15th annual charity golf tournament, the Chuck Blackhurst Memorial, was held to benefit Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. With prizes donated by local merchants, the tournament raised $6,203. This brings the total raised over the past 15 years to $71,000.

At the end of April, six volunteers from Punta Gorda Lodge refurbished a bathroom in the Education Building at Crossroads, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit home and charter school for foster boys who have had multiple failed placements in the Florida foster care system. The Elkettes also donate desserts monthly to the facility in conjunction with the lodge donation of chicken.

Punta Gorda Lodge entertained 130 fourth-graders from Sallie Jones Elementary School at a picnic focused on drug awareness. The Elkettes showed a film and there was a poster contest with the two best from each class receiving a gift card.

In June, 84 boys and girls attended the Florida Elks Youth Camp at no cost to their families. Members of the Punta Gorda Elkettes served as chaperones on the bus trip.

On Saturday, June 16, Punta Gorda Lodge once again hosted a fishing tournament for children in the Punta Gorda area. The event is supported by many private sponsors as well as approximately 50 volunteers. Each participant is presented with a hat, sunglasses and fishing rod. Two bikes are presented to the boy and girl who show the most sportsmanship during the tournament. Additionally, family members attend and are served lunch; the event usually hosts 300-400 guests.

Rotonda #2710

Rotonda Elks Lodge #2710 commemorated Flag Day Sunday, June 10, with an Honor Guard from American Legion 113 that served as guardians of the colors by displaying and escorting flags from all branches of the military. Lodge veterans escorted 13 replicas of U.S. historical flags. Readings were done by Phil Sommers, Exalted Ruler and organizer of the event. Lee Hale gave insight into wars, heroes and the adoption of the flag in 1777 and provided patriotic music.

Clewiston #1853

Clewiston Elks Lodge #1853, scouts and their families celebrated Flag Day by performing the Elks Flag Day ritual at the lodge. The evening
started with a meal that was prepared by volunteer Elks Trip and Brenda Whidden and Esteemed Loyal Knight, Danielle Soles. The ceremony started with a rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner” followed by the lodge officers telling how the American flag was representative of their respective stations. The scouts then took over the celebration by performing a parade of the flag's history. Flags representative of different eras of the country’s history were presented one at a time. The history was read by Cubmaster, Mathew Aldana. The ceremony was closed by a prayer from Father Samuel Thomas.

Clewiston Lodge Exalted Ruler, Linda Allen, presented a check in the amount of $3,400 to Debbie Howell, Executive Director of the local chapter of the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation. The Clewiston Elks used the funds from last year’s President Grant to host a fundraiser with all proceeds donated back to the UCP. The lodge is grateful to 2017-2018 President, Carl Gerace, and Kathy for making a difference in their community.

**Lake Okeechobee #2871**

Lake Okeechobee Elks Lodge #2871 continues to enrich the lives of students, veterans and the community with fun and exciting events. The lodge hosted ice cream socials at local elementary schools for 545 second-grade students as a reward to kids who read the book gifted to them by the lodge, “B is for Buckaroo,” purchased with the Beacon Grant.

Most recently, Lake Okeechobee Lodge has been working with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office to ensure the local D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program remains in the community. The D.A.R.E. program is administered in all elementary schools, both public and private, for the fifth grade. This year, a $2,000 Gratitude Grant is helping the D.A.R.E. program with the local budgeting needs.

Jupiter Elks Lodge #2469 holds a monthly fish fry membership drive the third Friday of the month and charity bingo every Monday. They also presented six well-deserving high school graduates each with a $500 scholarship.

Jupiter Lodge has a close working relationship with the local scouts and hosted an open house recruitment for the local Cub Pack and also conducted an Arrow of Light ceremony honoring a local Cub Scout for completing the requirements to earn the highest rank in Cub Scouting.

**West Palm Beach #1352**

On June 6 at a meeting of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, Vice Mayor, Mack Bernard, presented to West Palm Beach Lodge Exalted Ruler, Ed Morey, a plaque proclaiming July 28 as the 100th anniversary of West Palm Beach Elks Lodge. It recognizes the lodge’s continuous service to veterans, children and those in need in the community.

Vice Mayor, Mack Bernard, presented a 100th anniversary plaque to West Palm Beach Lodge Exalted Ruler, Ed Morey; Sean Maguire, PSP; Loyal Knight, Elaine Maes-Morey; Hector Gegenheimer, PER; Luis Oms, PER; District Vice President, George Zocchi; and Mary Sessa.
Delray Beach #1770

Florida Keys Lodge recently held the sixth annual Ladies Dolphin Tournament with 44 boats and 113 anglers. It was a great day on the water. Each year, this event proves to be the best charity fundraiser for the lodge. The combined weight of three fish determines the winners.

Pompano Beach Lodge also participated with the Broward Sheriff in community policing and bringing the drug awareness trailer to an event at Quiet Waters Elementary School.

Pompano Beach #1898

Pompano Beach Elks Lodge #1898 has continued working with Crest Haven Elementary using the Beacon Grant received last year to create a butterfly garden for the school. The first planting was to attract butterflies to leave a chrysalis. Now they are changing the plants to encourage butterflies. They are also expanding the area into the school’s atrium with more plants.

Delray Beach Lodge also made several donations: $100 for each of their 14 deceased members to Elks National Foundation, $500 to the Kids Rule Summer Golf Camp, $1,000 to the MGM Fishing Tournament and $500 for a student scholarship.

Hollywood West #2365

On May 18-20, Hollywood West Elks Lodge event chairman, Benny Stravato, coordinated a motorcycle run to Naples in support of children and veterans. On May 18, riders from Hollywood West Lodge and visiting lodges caravanned to Naples. The ride ended with a barbecue and a $100 donation to the Elks National Foundation.

Oakland Park #2407

Oakland Park Elks Lodge #2407 hosted a Mother’s Day brunch, celebrated Flag Day with Girl Scouts and ROTC participating, had a Father’s Day breakfast and picnic, and held a district-wide picnic celebrating 150 years of Elks service.

Nicholas Hougardy, age 17 from Delray Beach, designed and purchased new signage and landscape for Milton-Myers American Legion Post #65 with the help of family, friends and a $1,500 donation from Delray Beach Elks Lodge #1770 for his Eagle Scout project for Boy Scout Troop 301. Pictured with Nicholas is PER Mike Sinneck.

Florida Keys #1872

Florida Keys Lodge had a good crowd at their Flag Day ceremony with Boy Scout Troop 912, the Tavernier Fire Department, members and friends. After the ceremony and flag retirements, members and guests dined on hot dogs and hamburgers on the patio.
Rebecca Brito, Michala Laufle and Brittany Block, all from Tavernier, won the Florida Keys Lodge’s Ladies Dolphin Tournament. Abigale Varela, fishing with her cousin, was the top junior angler.

Florida Keys Elks Lodge #1872 awarded $7,000 for 2018 scholarships. U.S. Navy Master-at-Arms Stephen Dombroski Ferguson presented the awards to Lorena Perez, Angelle Kelly, Julie Prieto and Jeffrey King. Ferguson previously attended Coral Shores High School and is the grandson of members Dan and Jane Ferguson.

The pictures you take during lodge events are vital to the success of our magazine, and we rely on your photos to enrich our magazine content. If you submitted photos along with your district news but they did not make it into the magazine, it means they were submitted in the wrong format or at too low of a size or resolution. Please use the following guidelines when submitting your event photographs:

**SEND THE ORIGINAL FILE**
There is no need to crop or edit the photos. Send the full resolution picture directly from the camera files, or upload your photos into a Google images or Dropbox account and send a link to the gallery. The bigger the file size, the better!

**SEND ONLY IMAGE FILES**
Please send only files with a .jpeg or .jpg extension, not PDF or .png files.

**DO NOT SEND A WORD DOC**
Images embedded in a Word document are not suitable for print. Instead, email each individual photo .jpg file directly from your camera files.

**SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS**
Send all photos and district news to Rachael King, Editor, at rachael@floridaelks.org.
In May, Ocala Elks Lodge #286 participated in “Flags for Fallen Veterans” at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. Even though there was rain in the forecast, their volunteer numbers doubled to 20 from last year, including two children. Many new members got involved as well.

On the following Saturday, 17 volunteers returned to pick up the flags which will be dried and stored until next year.

Winter Park Elks Lodge #1830 installed a reserved parking space to honor members and visitors who are Purple Heart recipients. Elks National Veterans Service Committee (ENVSC) Representative, Ron Goluba; Sue Jovi; Lodge Veterans Affairs Chairman, Nadine Hardin; Trustee, Ron Cunningham; and Exalted Ruler, Pat Kortum, all played a part in completing this project. The Wounded Warriors Purple Heart sign was donated by woundedwarriorsfamilysupport.org.
Sanford Elks Lodge #1241 hosted the East Central District Army of Hope fundraiser April 21. There was live music and great barbecue prepared by Sanford’s members. Port Orange and Titusville lodges donated food. Members from every lodge in the district were in attendance to support this worthy cause. Soldiers from the Sanford Army Reserve Center displayed equipment and greeted guests. A therapist from Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services talked with guests about the program. A car show was held in the street with over 20 antique and exotic cars on display. Sanford Lodge was proud to host an event to help make a difference in the lives of military families. Through donations from local businesses and individuals, the East Central District raised $11,000 for the Army of Hope.

West Citrus #2693

During the annual Memorial Day dinner and dance, the West Citrus Elks Lodge Veterans Committee presented a missing-man table in memory of fallen POW/MIA heroes. Pictured during the ceremony are committee members Jack Stewart; Joanne Hepner, co-chairman; and Jack McKowen. The table will be permanently displayed in the lodge vestibule.

Sanford #1241

Sanford Elks Lodge #1241 used their Elks National Foundation Freedom Grant to purchase and deliver supplies for the Tampa Domiciliary including two laptop computers, Microsoft Office software for all the computers in the resident computer room, and polo shirts and shoes for the residents. The Tampa Domiciliary serves over 100 homeless veterans each year.

Fort Pierce #1520

The Treasure Coast Homeless Veterans Stand Down was held May 17 at Veterans Memorial Park in Fort Pierce, Fla. Fort Pierce Elks Lodge #1520 had a booth and used an Elks...
St. Petersburg #1224

On Saturday, April 14, St. Petersburg Elks Lodge #1224 participated in The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System Stand Down for homeless veterans that took place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Veterans’ Courtyard at the C. W. Bill Young VA Medical Center. Over 700 homeless veterans attended this event this year.

St. Petersburg Lodge had a table with 205 double-sided fleece blankets that were made by a group of volunteers. The project was spearheaded by Americanism Chairman, Kat Chaplin. The hope of the lodge was that one of our blankets would make someone living on the street or sleeping in their car more comfortable. The total cost of the project was $2,950 and took a year to complete.

On April 19, the veterans from C. W. Bill Young VA Domiciliary were St. Petersburg Lodge’s guests for dinner and karaoke. Eleven veterans and one staff member attended and five Elks were on hand to serve the veterans their dinner and soda and gave each veteran coupon books for their on-site store. The total spent on the veterans that evening was $209.

St. Petersburg Lodge continues its monthly bowling program with veterans. On May 1, eight veterans bowled two games and were provided lunch and a beverage. Three Elks assisted the veterans.

On May 28, St. Petersburg Lodge celebrated Memorial Day by taking part in the National Moment of Remembrance, an act signed in 2000 by President William Clinton.

Viera #2817

On April 15, the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall made its annual visit to Brevard County. Members of Viera Elks Lodge #2817 gathered at the lodge for the parade and then traveled to Wickham Park in Melbourne to witness the placing of their wreath at the wall.

With the funds from the Freedom Grant left over after the Stand Down event, Fort Pierce Elks donated tents, flashlights, bug spray and personal items for homeless veterans living in the woods.

Port St. Lucie #2658

U.S. Congressman Brian Mast (FL-18) accepted an invitation to attend the Port St. Lucie Elks Lodge #2658 patriot breakfast April 29 and meet with veteran members of the lodge and their guests to share a breakfast and camaraderie as a veteran. Also, in honor of the new Purple Heart

Congressman Brian Mast is pictured with Rick Barth, Port St. Lucie Exalted Ruler, to officially open the Wounded Combat Parking space at the lodge.

Kat Chaplin, St. Petersburg Lodge Americanism Chairman, holds one of the blankets given away at a Stand Down for homeless veterans.

On April 19, the veterans from C. W. Bill Young VA Domiciliary were St. Petersburg Lodge's guests for dinner and karaoke. Eleven veterans and one staff member attended and five Elks were on hand to serve the veterans their dinner and soda and gave each veteran coupon books for their on-site store. The total spent on the veterans that evening was $209.

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On May 28, St. Petersburg Lodge celebrated Memorial Day by taking part in the National Moment of Remembrance, an act signed in 2000 by President William Clinton.
which designates 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day each year as the National Moment of Remembrance in honor of the men and women of the United States who died in the pursuit of freedom and peace. After the one minute of silence, “God Bless America” was played by the Southern Nights Band and sung by all present.

Tampa #708

From April 3 through June 19, St. Petersburg Lodge donated the use of its facility to the PRRC Arts Therapy class from C. W. Bill Young VAMC every Tuesday morning from 10-12:30. The class was attended by 11-12 veterans. The class is now on hiatus for the summer but as a parting gift, the veterans attending the art therapy classes created a memorable painting for the lodge with imprints of their hands and special messages as a thank-you gift for donating the use of their hall for their class.

St. Petersburg Exalted Ruler, Cathy Shriver, asked everyone to observe a moment of silence on Memorial Day. Eric Matos held the American flag.

Captain Edwin N. Colon Jr. of the 6th Contracting Unit at MacDill AFB stopped in to Tampa Lodge to pick up another $100 donation for their booster club from Lodge Treasurer, Rita Smith.

SOUTHWEST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Plant City #1727

In January, Plant City Elks Lodge #1727 was advised about the coming departure April 25 of 25 National Guard members from the Plant City Armory. The lodge gave them a nice dinner at the armory and Judy Wise was given the opportunity to talk about the Army of Hope and the Elks’ ongoing support of veterans and active military personnel. A few months later, she was contacted regarding a soldier who was having air-conditioning problems and had just spent most of their disposable income making sure his wife's car was in good shape. Their air-conditioning had been patched but they were warned it would not last. Wise applied for Army of Hope funds to help him out and it was approved just days before he left. His appreciation was overwhelming for the burden the Elks took from his shoulders. The lodge also packed 25 bags full of travel goodies for the guards to take with them and six Elks attended the moving departure ceremony.

Veterans attending art classes at St. Petersburg Lodge made this painting as a way to thank the lodge for the use of their building at no charge.
Southwest District

Greater Pine Island #2781

Greater Pine Island Elks Lodge #2781 honored WWII veteran Ed Snyder at the lodge Flag Day ceremony by designating a special parking place for him. Snyder served as a bombardier on B-24s and flew 30 missions over Nazi Germany and France.

Punta Gorda #2606

At the Florida Elks state convention, Punta Gorda Lodge members Bill and Ann Jameson received the Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service Male and Female Volunteer of the Year awards. They have been serving on the Veterans Committee for over five years. Each month they recruit members to entertain veterans at the Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Home. In addition, they arrange for veterans and caretakers to visit the lodge once a month for a luncheon. Quarterly, they provide a homecooked meal at Veterans Village, a local transitional care facility.

South Hillsborough #2672

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 entertains veterans from the James Haley VA Hospital every second and fourth Friday of the month. They can order anything off the menu. Personal items provided by lodge members are also presented to the veterans.

Venice-Nokomis #1854

Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge #1854 served lunch to 65 local veterans with the help of the Gratitude Grant. With the Freedom Grant, the lodge supplied the C. W. Bill Young VA Medical Center Nursing Home with comfort pack items, t-shirts, socks and $600 in canteen vouchers.

Plant City Lodge member and veteran Fred Lee asked Judy Wise, Veterans Chairman, if she could obtain an American flag that had flown over the Capitol. She contacted Congressman Dennis Ross who not only obtained the flag but also came to the lodge May 2 to present it to Lee. Lee wanted it for all the veterans at the lodge, not just for himself. Lee’s family was present to see him honored for his unselfish desire to share with his band of brothers.

Congressman Ross presented a flag flown at the Capitol to Marty Carroll, Fred Lee and Judy Wise of Plant City Lodge.

SOUTH SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Trustees of Greater Pine Island Lodge are pictured with WWII vet Ed Snyder and his newly designated parking place.

The American Military Vets were on hand to weigh fish at the Greater Pine Island Elks Lodge’s first fishing tournament. Thirty-seven fishermen took part in this one-day tournament which raised over $900 for the lodge’s veterans programs.
housing program for homeless veterans. They are also instrumental in providing veterans information at the Punta Gorda Air Show, participating in the Punta Gorda veterans parade and delivering gifts to veterans at the Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Home and Veterans Village.

Jupiter #2469

Jupiter Elks Lodge #2469 is hard at work putting various grants into action including feeding veterans and their families assisted by the Renewal Coalition. The lodge also made a $1,000 donation to assist Wreaths Across America. Jupiter Lodge was also awarded $19,700 from Home Depot to help fix up the lodge for all the great work the Elks do for veterans.

Boca Raton #2166

Boca Raton Elks Lodge #2166 hosted their annual appreciation dinner for the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) student veterans. Forty-one veterans from the university enjoyed dinner and karaoke. The lodge also provided playing cards and socks for the veterans at the Miami VA Hospital.

Hollywood West #2365

On May 20, Hollywood West Elks Lodge #2365 hosted their monthly brunch with veterans from the Sandy Nininger Veterans Nursing Home. On May 28, they held a Memorial Day celebration picnic.

May was the Lodge Veterans Committee’s last flea market until Oct. 6. The flea market as well as their charity quarter auction generates the money that is used to send a guardian on an Honor Flight with a WWII veteran and Korean War veteran to Washington, D.C., to see the monuments that are dedicated to their service as well as several other events. The Veterans Committee also donated over $500-worth of toys and clothing to the Susan B. Anthony Woman’s rehab center.

PLANNING CALENDAR

NOTES (see Page 50)

* Notes for Due Dates for Non-Grand Lodge Reports & Taxes

Florida sales taxes, if filed and paid by paper, are due on the 20th day of each month. Many, if not all, lodges are required to pay and file electronically. Due dates for electronic payments are moved back to ensure that funds are received by the state on the tax due date. See each month’s due date noted on the planning calendar.

Quarterly reemployment tax returns (Form RT-6), if filed on paper, are due on the last day of April, July, October and January. If electronic filing is required, the due dates are noted on the planning calendar.

Depository dates of taxes to the U.S. Treasury are noted on the planning calendar. An earlier date may apply depending upon whether your payment is directly deposited through your bank or through a bank utilized by the payroll program of your lodge’s choice. PLEASE DETERMINE FROM YOUR BANK OR YOUR PAYROLL PROGRAM HOW SOON BEFORE THE DUE DATE YOU NEED TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT.
The 11th annual Florida Elks Day at the Rays Fundraiser

Sunday, Sept. 9
VS. BAL
GATES OPEN: 11:40 a.m.
START TIME: 1:10 p.m.

DON'T MISS:
- Free parking for cars with 4 or more people
- Snack and drink cup (kids 14 and under)
- Kids run the bases post-game
- Choice of a Rays hat or Elks tote bag

Lower Corner Tickets are $29 (up to a $40 value)
Portion of each ticket sold will benefit the Florida Elks' Harry-Anna Trust Fund
Deadline to order: Monday, Aug. 27, 2018

SAVE THE DATE
This exclusive offer includes your choice of a Rays hat or Florida Elks Rays tote bag.

For questions or to purchase tickets, please contact your Harry-Anna Chairman or Richard Jacobs at 727-430-1584 or cejemj0205@aol.com.

Participating lodges that purchase 20 or more tickets will be enrolled in the Rays Group Leader Rewards Program.

RaysBaseball.com 888-FAN-RAYS

Offer not available through Tropicana Field box offices. Tickets subject to availability. No refunds or exchanges. Prices subject to change. Any returned tickets subject to $10.00 charge.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUGUST DEADLINES</th>
<th>STATE PRESIDENT VISITS</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER DEADLINES</th>
<th>OCTOBER DEADLINES</th>
<th>STATUTES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>South Southeast District – Pompano Beach #1898</td>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>West Central District – Tarpon Springs #1719</td>
<td>• Secretary Report to lodge ($12,050)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>9/25</td>
<td>South Southwest District – Fort Myers #1288</td>
<td>• Trustee Report to lodge ($12,070)</td>
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<td>9/30</td>
<td>Lodge Website Award with FSEA Marketing Manager</td>
<td>• ER Reports on GL sessions ($12,120)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>State Lodge Activities Chairman to register for GL State Association Website Award with GL Fraternal Committee</td>
<td>• Lodge’s Auditing &amp; Accounting Committee to review lodge books and report at last meeting of month ($13,040)</td>
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**STATE PRESIDENT VISITS**

- **9/10** - Fort Myers #1288
- **10/10** - Fort Myers
- **10/12** - North Central District – Crestview #2624
- **10/25** - South Central District – Winter Park #2687

**SEPTEMBER DEADLINES**

- **9/1** - Lodge Website Award with FSEA Marketing Manager
- **9/15** - Submissions to Florida Elks Magazine – Fall edition to Editor
- **9/30** - State Lodge Activities Chairman to register for GL State Association Website Award with GL Fraternal Committee

**OCTOBER DEADLINES**

- **10/15** - Lodges to register for FSEA Lodge Website Award with FSEA Marketing Manager
- **10/31** - District Deputy to submit request to Grand Secretary for GER Special Citation to lodge for new officers & chair progression (DD must verify and confirm the full slate of officers)

**STATUTES**

- **10/5** - North Central District – Crestview #2624
- **10/12** - East Central District – Sanford #1241

**NON-GL REPORTS & TAXES DUE DATES**

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/15</td>
<td>Form 990 to U.S. Treasury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/15</td>
<td>Form 990-T – report UBI to U.S. Treasury (Form 990-T is required when gross income from unrelated business income is $1,000 or more.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/17</td>
<td>Deposit payroll taxes for prior month to U.S. Treasury (Lodges may be eligible to pay quarterly if certain conditions are met.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/17</td>
<td>Deposit withholding to U.S. Treasury from gambling winnings if more than $2,500 cumulative for the year</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/17</td>
<td>Sales tax for prior month to Florida Department of Revenue (e</td>
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