FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES:  
Our Heritage Since 1933  
p.13

LOWELL TYLER:  
FSEA Historian Emeritus  
p. 19

DON SANSOUSSI, PSP:  
A Memorial Tribute  
p. 18
February is coming, and once again we look forward to the arrival of our national president and Grand Exalted Ruler, Malcolm McPherson, and his wife, Pat, at the Florida Elks Youth Camp for our February quarterly. They are from the great (and loud!) state of New Jersey, the state that loves to make a lot of noise and drown out all the other states at Grand Lodge conventions. The McPhersons are scheduled to arrive in Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 7, and will be greeted by a large contingent of Florida Elks. After touring Saint Augustine Thursday, the official party will travel to the Florida Elks Youth Camp and FSEA offices for a weekend of rest, relaxation and meetings to acquaint our guests with Florida Elkdom at its finest and to show off our world-class Youth Camp and Therapy Services.

Malcolm McPherson is a great friend of Florida Elks and has been a very active Elk for many years. He has been active in his lodge as an officer and as a committeeman in his district and state association. On the Grand Lodge level, he has served on the Ritualistic Committee, Judiciary Committee, the Pardon Commission, and the Grand Forum as Justice and then Chief Justice. Malcolm and Pat have been dedicated to our order for many years. Please introduce yourself to them both. You will find them friendly, down to earth and very glad to meet you.

We ended 2017 with many blessings. We have the two greatest major projects in all of Elkdom guided by very outstanding leaders and staff. We have a trust fund second to none that was set up many years ago by forward-thinking Elks to help fund these and many other projects. Florida Elks are proud to sponsor the Army of Hope to assist our military families, the Hope Scholarship to help second-tier high school graduates attend college or a vocational school, and the Van Duren scholarship for outstanding youth camp staff members to attend college. We do all this in addition to what is done at the lodge and district levels. You are all to be congratulated for your donation of time, energy and resources to help Florida Elks be at the very top tier of our national order.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for your cards, emails, texts and especially prayers during my recent medical ordeal. My doctors (one of them our son, Jeff, in Texas) assure me I am on the mend and I will be in celebration shape by the Grand Lodge convention in San Antonio, Texas, this summer to celebrate BPOE’s 150th anniversary.

God bless our service members all around the world, all of you and your families in 2018.

C. Valentine Bates, PGER, State Sponsor
Florida State Elks Association

McPherson met Patricia “Pat” Schember in high school and they were married Aug. 15, 1981. They have two daughters, Meghan and Mallory, and both are officers of Lyndhurst Lodge #1505.

Upon graduation from law school, McPherson joined the law firm of Edwards and Antholis as an associate and became partner in 1986. He remained there until 1990. In 1991, he opened his own private practice specializing in civil law including matrimonial, municipal land use, wills and estates. He was also a former attorney for the Passaic County Elks Cerebral Palsy Treatment Center. In 1992 he was appointed as the attorney for the Lyndhurst Rent Leveling Board and still holds that position.

McPherson was initiated into Lyndhurst Lodge #1505 in March 1981 and was proposed by his future father-in-law, Walter Schember Sr. He was installed as Lodge Esquire in March 1982 and continued on as Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Esteemed Loyal Knight and Esteemed Leading Knight. He was elected Exalted Ruler for 1986-1987. Following that, he served his lodge in many capacities including Justice of the Subordinate Forum from 1987-2005. He achieved honorable life membership in April 1997.

On the state level, he served as chairman for the North Central District’s Ritual Committee and is still a certified ritualistic judge. He served as attorney for both the New Jersey State Elks Association convention and Special Children’s Committee. He was also chairman of the New Jersey State Laws Committee. He was elected president of the New Jersey State Elks Association for 1999-2000.

At the Grand Lodge level, McPherson was appointed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of New Jersey’s North Central District for 1995-1996. He was a Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committeeman for 2002-2003, served on the Grand Lodge Judiciary Committee from 2003-2005, was a member of the Grand Forum from 2005-2010 serving as its Chief Justice, and was Chairman of the Pardon Commission for 2009-2010. He has been a Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for New Jersey since 2009.

On a personal level, McPherson was a member and coach of the Little Falls Athletic Club. He coached basketball and softball in Little Falls from 1989-2001. He was a member of the American Bar Association. He and his family are parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel R. C. Church.
Our year is halfway done, but what a great year we have been having! We just need a strong finish now! We had a great midyear convention in Crystal River. It was great to see everyone and hear all the great works the Elks lodges and members have been up to throughout our great state. You all make me so proud to be the state president. Please keep up the hard work that makes this the greatest state in Elkdom.

Cathy and I attended the Mississippi Elks convention. It was great to see how another state carries out their work of Elkdom. They are doing a great job. We have met so many great Elks, made a lot of new friends and have learned so many things about their state association.

With us entering the second half of the year, we really need to do a big push to achieve our goals for the year. We need to push hard on our membership. Remember, once an Elk, always an Elk! So, let’s call those members who have not renewed their memberships. Find out if they are doing well. If there is something wrong, perhaps your lodge can help them. Maybe they want to become more active. Talk to your members! Let them know that we always care about them. It would be great if we were back up front at the Grand Lodge convention for the 150th birthday bash in San Antonio, Texas! This would make it two years in a row for Florida to lead the way on membership!

We also need to continue our donations to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund so we can hit our goal! This makes such a big difference in children’s lives with our Florida Elks Youth Camp and our Children’s Therapy Services. If you can find it in your heart to become a monthly donor, please do. We could help so many more children with your support.

With the holiday season just over, we wish all of you a new year filled with health, happiness and prosperity!

We look forward to seeing everyone in the new year!

Take care and God bless.

Carl Gerace, State President
Florida State Elks Association
Has anyone noticed just how much technology has crept into our lives these days? I sure have, and I have also noticed how much technology has crept into our Elks lodges! Think about it. The Secretary manages membership and dues through a computer program (CLMS), the Treasurer keeps the books through a computer program (usually QuickBooks), the bar and restaurant sales and inventories are managed through some sort of point of sale (POS) program, and on and on!

Fortunately, I am young enough to have the resolve to embrace technology and wonder how I lived without it! On the other hand, I am old enough to remember my many years as a Lodge Secretary and remember when membership and dues tracking were done on ledger cards and when the Treasurer actually reconciled the checkbook by hand!

So, is the use of technology helping or hurting our lodges? I suspect the answer to this is unique to each individual and more than likely has to do with your personal views on technology. I recall an experience I had recently in a medical office. Upon entering, I went to sign in and was directed to a computer to scan my appointment confirmation or enter my name and birthdate so my information could be looked up. I had no problem utilizing the technology but as I took a seat, I wondered how this was going over with those more technology-challenged. It didn’t take long for me to get an answer as in the door walked two somewhat “mature,” if you will, ladies! I suspected the young woman behind the counter would be an option but when asked, she immediately directed the ladies to the tablet. What transpired was nothing short of entertaining and the two ladies made it so quite willingly! Suffice it to say, they were challenged by the touchpad and entering a name. Their comments surrounding their vulnerabilities soon had the entire waiting room laughing along with them! The torture for the two ladies continued for a few moments until the attendant finally intervened. The ladies could have easily lashed out at the attempt to force them to conform, but it was the gregarious nature in which they approached the challenge that made it somewhat tolerable for them, and once they had succeeded in signing in, you would have thought they had conquered the world! It is this spirit that we too must embrace technology if we are to not let technology beat us! But, should we do this at the expense of the lodge?

Take the Treasurer’s office and our requirement to use the Elks chart of accounts, the framework upon which the accounting system is based but also a most confusing concept to a layman. Used properly, the Elks chart of accounts would make every lodge comparable on an apples-to-apples basis, but using it properly is the problem. Most lodges are struggling to get their accounting systems operating properly and because of this, many lodges are not getting the financial reports they need to adequately manage their operations. Not knowing if you are making or losing money or in what areas you are having problems is a recipe for disaster. To fix this, many lodges are bringing in “new” members as treasurers who have a working knowledge of QuickBooks. Often, they have little knowledge of nonprofit accounting and can make no sense of our balance sheets or profit-and-loss statements. Their attempts to deal with restricted versus unrestricted funds (nonprofit accounting) cause them to create a bigger mess than they inherited.

Is it Time to Resort Back to How We Used to do It?

Is it time to return to simplicity while we work to get a handle on the lodge’s finances? Should we perform the old-fashioned account reconciliation on the back of the bank statement so we at least know how much money is in the bank? Should we go back to doing a physical inventory of our food, liquor and supplies to determine its value so a real profit or loss can be determined? My nature is to forge ahead with technology until I have mastered it, but I cannot be in every lodge! My nature is to encourage you to not let technology get the best of you, but if it is, why keep repeating the same mistakes? The financial success of the lodge is of much greater importance than having and using the latest technology! Until we can master technological aids, we must do things in a comfortable manner especially when the survival of the lodge might depend on it! Sometimes the latest and greatest is not always the best, and this might just be one of those times!

In the coming year, I have asked our staff CPA/CFO/Accounting Director, Barbara Shepard, to immerse herself in the accounting for lodges and our use of technology. She will advise us on the best way forward. It is time for us as an association to get involved and help our lodges. I hope we are not too late! In the interim, I strongly recommend that lodges send their Treasurer-elect to our officer training seminar in Orlando, Fla., March 16-18. This training is not required but is highly recommend for Exalted Rulers, Secretaries and Treasurers.

My aim in these articles is to inform, educate and instill a sense of responsibility in our success. I do this by sometimes offering ideas that are not your normal run-of-the-mill thoughts and ideas. We are not perfect and sometimes we have to look at ourselves as others see us before we realize the need to improve. So, how am I doing? Let me know what you think and let me know how your lodge is overcoming the challenges of technology. Email me at carl@floridaelks.org.

Carl Seibert, COO/State Secretary
Florida State Elks Association

Florida State Elks Association Magazine
I would like to take this opportunity to wish a healthy and happy new year to all the members of FLOE and to all the Elks of our beautiful state of Florida.

Our midyear convention this year took place at The Plantation on Crystal River. What a serene location this was! The grounds were lush and green and it is situated along the banks of the peaceful Crystal River, so spending time outdoors between meetings was a joy. Some of us took time to go on a boat ride down the river. The scenery was beautiful and it was a fun social event. Saturday evening there was a picnic which was unfortunately moved indoors because of rain, but we hardly missed the sunshine which was more than made up for by the great food and friendship.

As many of you know, FLOE hosts a ladies event at the midyear convention each year. We have had many special and fun events and this year was no exception. Our Vice President, Felicia Vuletich, prepared a jewelry-making class for our enjoyment. She is a talented jewelry designer and put her talents to work for us by offering six necklace choices to choose from including my favorite, a giraffe. She had each project assembled in a plastic bag containing all the material necessary to put the necklace together and a small sheet of paper with directions. She answered questions and offered assistance if needed. The ladies were amazed at how easily their necklaces came together. Coffee and cake were provided and it turned out to be a delightful two hours! Thank you so much, Felicia, for providing our ladies with this pleasant time!

Our FLOE meeting took place at 8 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 11. As our meeting opened, Chaplain Melaney McHale was officially installed by Past State President Beverly Messerschmidt and delivered her first opening prayer. Past State President Connie Kalel Poage presented a wrap-up of her very successful 54th FLOE conference at Sheraton Orlando North in Maitland, Fla. At her conference, she presented several special awards to longtime conference attendees and members who were attending the conference for the first time. She also shared with us the prayer book presented to her at the conference by her chaplain, Judy Schall. A vote was passed by the membership to donate $4,000, which is the proceeds of PSP Connie Kalel Poage’s year, to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in equal parts to the Florida Elks Youth Camp and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. This presentation will be made at the February quarterly meeting at the Florida Elks Youth Camp Feb. 10.

Our Nominating Committee chairperson, Past State President Becky Long, announced that anyone interested in running for office for 2018-2019 should email her at rebeccalong330@gmail.com with their request. This includes ladies who are currently officers and want to move up to the next chair and ladies who wish to apply for treasurer or four-year advisory. The election of new officers will take place at the May 2018 meeting. Our Bylaws Committee Chairperson, PSP Connie Kalel Poage, informed us that she will take requests for bylaw and standing rule changes by email at ckalel@verizon.net or by mail. Bylaw and standing rule changes will be voted on at the conference in September 2018. Both committees will meet before our business meeting in February, so we encourage you to submit your request as soon as possible.

Here are a few announcements of interest. FLOE will have a Chinese auction and will assist with the silent auction at the state convention in May, and we will again host a luncheon at the state convention. Of course we will have our hospitality room, so please don’t forget to come and visit us. More about the state convention activities will be available at our February meeting.

I hope to see everyone at the February meeting in Umatilla where we will be honored to meet our Grand Exalted Ruler, Malcolm J. McPherson, and his wife, Pat. Our meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10. Some of our agenda items for our meeting will include voting on a hotel location for the 2018-2019 conference and the progress of our new FLOE logo. Packets will be presented for the 2018 Florida Elks state convention. Immediately following the meeting there will be a major projects meeting where we will have the honor of hearing an address from the Grand Exalted Ruler. You won’t want to miss that!

This is promising to be a busy year and I want to thank all the wonderful ladies who have volunteered to help with the work, because without your help all of this would not be possible. Thank you for your confidence in me and if you haven’t had the opportunity before to come to a meeting, I hope you will make an effort to come in February and enjoy our beautiful camp and see what FLOE is all about.

Mary McCoy, President
Florida Ladies of Elks
I sincerely hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. It is hard to imagine that we are already past the holidays.

I am very pleased to announce that we have hired a new therapist, Samantha Yox, a physical therapist who lives in the Crystal River area with her husband, Shane, and daughter, Makenzie, along with their fur baby, Roscoe, a black lab. We are so happy to have Samantha as part of our amazing team of therapists.

For those of you who were at the midyear convention and attended the major projects meeting, you heard occupational therapist Argie Criner speak. Like many of the stories our therapists share at these meetings, I think this one needs to be told again so that all our Elks and ladies organizations can hear this amazing story.

Argie shared a story about Leah, her 15-year-old patient who is a typical teenager who loves pop music, texting on her phone, painting her nails and arguing with her older sister.

In early 2016, Leah was diagnosed with a cyst on her brain. As recommended by her doctor, the cyst was removed in June 2016. When Leah woke from her surgery, her family was there to greet her, but Leah was unable to speak or move her right arm, hand or leg.

Leah's parents were told that she had a stroke after her cyst was removed. Leah immediately began speech, physical and occupational therapies in the hospital. She was transferred to a rehab facility near her home and received therapy services until October 2016. Her therapy services abruptly came to an end before she was ready to be discharged and her medical insurance no longer covered the therapy she needed.

Once Leah was back home, she received schooling from the Pasco County School System through their hospital homebound program because she was unable to manage independently in the school setting. Leah was no longer eligible to receive the much-needed therapy in her home because of their insurance. Leah's mother was extremely worried because she was not able to get any of the services that she so desperately needed. A caseworker suggested that Leah's mother call the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services program to see if she would qualify for our services.

We received the application in our state office and forwarded it to Argie Criner, OT to contact the family to see if Leah qualified. After Argie spoke with Leah's mother, she returned the application with her comments indicating that Leah did indeed qualify.

From October 2016 to May 2017, Leah had no therapy at all. Since May 2017, Leah has been receiving occupational therapy once a week for 60 minutes. After six months of intense occupational therapy, Leah is now able to greet Argie with a smile in the driveway of their home. Leah is anxious to tell Argie what has happened over the past week and then they go to work.

Leah spends up to 15 minutes on the Belgau Balance Board and completes a series of exercises from the Balametrics program designed to increase her visual tracking skills, awareness of the right side of her body and processing speed of information between both sides of her body. She walks in a figure-eight pattern known as The Infinity Walk that is 10 feet wide to increase symmetry between the right and left sides of her body for up to 20 minutes. After this, Leah works 20 minutes completing neuromuscular reflex integrating exercises to open and close the fingers of her right hand, strengthen her right shoulder, and activate the muscles in her right leg and foot.

Leah is motivated and has the desire to do well in her therapy sessions. This has made all the difference for Leah and as a result, she has made great progress in her treatment. Her family is extremely grateful for the therapy she receives each week and wants to thank you, Florida Elks and ladies organizations, for making this possible for Leah.

Remember, without us, so many children would have to go without much-needed therapy. There continues to be a real need in Florida for our children and the therapy that Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services provides.

On behalf of Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services, thank you for your support of this awesome program that helps us provide in-home physical and occupational therapy for the children of Florida. Please keep up the good work.

Colleen Gallant, Director
Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services
Happy New Year from your Florida Elks Youth Camp! We hope you’re as excited for 2018 as we are. By the time you’re reading this, we’ll be approaching our first two milestones for the year. The first will be Feb. 1 when we open registration for Summer Camp 2018. As with last year, all applications will be completed online. We learned a lot from our initial onboarding last year, and we hope to have an even smoother process this year. So, spread the word to your families and campers. On Feb. 1, go to feyc.org and click “Sign up for Camp!” You can also get to the signup via our page on floridaelks.org.

Every lodge will again be granted six scholarships. Each scholarship provides a free week of camp to one camper, and we hope that you will use them to make an impact on a child or family in your community. Please remember that each lodge can and should send more than six campers! If the camper’s family or your charity account can afford it, the cost is $180 for each camper beyond your first six. If neither the camper’s family nor the lodge has the money, please send them anyway! We’ll find an Elk somewhere to cover the cost. Dates for this summer’s sessions are listed at the right. There is no cutoff date for registration, but it will be first come, first served. Last year, we reached our capacity by April 30. I expect to fill up even faster this year, so please, don’t wait!

As always, if you have any questions regarding camper registration, please contact our registrar, Jen Miller, at the camp. You can reach her by email at jen@feyc.org or by phone at 352-431-8701.

The second milestone is the annual FSEA February quarterly meeting at the camp. It’s a great opportunity for you to meet other Florida Elks from across the state, to learn the latest about your major projects’ operations, and to hear from our Grand Exalted Ruler who will be here throughout the event. We’ll also have great food and entertainment Friday night as Re-Creation once again takes the stage here at FEYC. While lodging at the camp is currently full, you can still make reservations in Eustis, Tavares, Mount Dora or Leesburg.

As always, thank you for all you do, and we hope to see you in February!

Fraternally,

Nick Miller, Director
Florida Elks Youth Camp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>10-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>17-23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>24-30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>01-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>08-14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>15-21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 *</td>
<td>22-28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Military Week: Dependents of veterans and/or active military attend for free!
Bags of Brotherly Love Project
Hosts Outreach Clinic for Brandon Homeless

Dec. 12, 2017, was a great day in the Brandon area and also for Brandon Elks Lodge #2383. This was the last homeless outreach clinic for the year. The event began early in the morning with hot coffee and doughnuts compliments of the Salvation Army and 12 dozen bagels and pastries donated by Brandon Bagel and Einstein Bagels.

The Elks Bags of Brotherly Love project with assistance from the local Moose lodge offered much-needed clothing, towels, linens and blankets along with bags filled with toiletries and other items for 128 homeless individuals. Brandon Elks also served a very nice Christmas dinner of ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, corn and dessert all compliments from the Bags of Brotherly Love project.

Bags of Brotherly Love project manager, Bob Blair, stated, “What a wonderful feeling it was to see so many smiling faces from individuals who were treated with a little dignity.”

The outreach clinics are held the second Tuesday of each month with a large outreach clinic held quarterly by each compass point (north, south, east and west) in the county region to assist the more than 400 homeless women, men and children.

For more information on the Bags of Brotherly Love project, please email Robert Blair at str8up777@verizon.net or call Brandon Elks Lodge at 813-654-2968.

Please see the spring 2017 edition of the Florida Elks Magazine for the feature article on the history of the Bags of Brotherly Love project inspired by 10-year-old Edwin Font.
LODGE PLANNING CALENDAR

NON-GL REPORTS & TAXES DUE DATES

- February 15: Deposit payroll taxes for prior month to U.S. Treasury (Lodges may be eligible to pay quarterly if certain conditions are met.)
- February 20: Sales tax for prior month to Florida Department of Revenue

FEBRUARY DEADLINES

- February 2: By 11:59 a.m. Central Time – GL to receive ENF Legacy Scholarship applications
- February 10: State Chairman to complete judging of received ENF MVS Scholarship applications and forward to GL

FEBRUARY 2018

- February is Harry-Anna Trust Fund Month
  - February 9: Postmark deadline for lodges to submit a candidate for the GL Marvin M. Lewis Scouting Award to GL Activities Member
  - February 15: Van Duren Scholarship winners announced
  - February 16: FSEA announces winner of FSEA Drug Awareness Poster Contest
  - February 17: FSEA announces winner of FSEA Drug Awareness Essay Contest
  - February 23-24: South Southwest District – Deep Creek #2763

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- February 8-10: February Quarterly – FEYC – Umatilla, Fla.
- February 8-10: Hope Scholarship applications judged
- February 12: Hope Scholarship winners announced
- February 28: District Americanism Chairman to submit top 3 essays per division to State Americanism Chairman
- February 28: State Veterans Chairman to submit selection of Male & Female Veteran Volunteer of the Year to NVSC

MARCH 2018

- March 1-18: Officer Training – Orlando World Center Marriott
- March 31: Year-end Membership Report is recorded at GL

- March 1-18: Lodges to submit applications for ENF Beacon Grant to ENF
- March 1-18: Lodges to submit applications for ENF Beacon Grant to ENF
- March 1-18: Lodges to submit applications for ENF Beacon Grant to ENF
- March 1-18: Lodges to notify FSEA that they received an ENF Beacon Grant in order to receive their FSEA Matching Grant
- March 1-18: Postmark deadline for lodges to submit names for Citizen, Elk & Officer of the Year Certificates to the Grand Secretary
- March 1-18: State Americanism Chairman submits top essay per division to GL
- March 1-18: Lodges to submit names (2 members max) for GER Special Certificates for Outstanding Service to Area GL Fraternal Committee Member

MARCH DEADLINES

- March 1: Postmark deadline for lodges to submit a candidate for the GL Marvin M. Lewis Scouting Award to GL Activities Member
- March 9: Members/New officers to register for the FSEA Officer Training Seminar on FSEA website
- March 9: Lodges to submit results of FSEA Elks Training Program Testing to State Elks Training Chairman
- March 9: Lodges to submit entries for the FSEA Lodge Scrapbook Contest to State Lodge Activities Chairman
- March 15: Lodges to submit entries for GL Contest “A” – State All-American Lodge to DDGER
- March 15: Lodges to submit contributions to ENF to count toward GL Contest “E” – Lodge Per Capita Contributions to ENF
- March 25: Submissions to Florida Elks Magazine – Spring Edition to Editor

STATUTES

- February - Nominations and election of officers ($3,080, $3,090)
- February - Local lodge directory information filed through CLMS2web ($3,090)
APRIL 2018

NON-GL REPORTS & TAXES DUE DATES

- **4/10** List of new officers and bar manager to Alcohol, Tobacco
- **4/16** Deposit payroll taxes for prior month to U.S. Treasury (Lodges may be eligible to pay quarterly if certain conditions are met.)
- **4/20** Sales tax for prior month to Florida Department of Revenue
- **4/30** Form 491 – report wages for prior quarter to U.S. Treasury
- **4/30** Deposit FUI (Federal Unemployment Insurance) tax for prior quarter to U.S. Treasury (Quarterly deposits of federal unemployment insurance tax are required when cumulative amount owed exceeds $100.)
- **4/30** Form RT-6 – report wages for prior quarter to Florida Department of Revenue

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- **4/01** ENF Certificates Chairmen must register themselves every year through the ENF Fundraising Chairs homepage: enf.elks.org/volunteers
- **4/01** ENF Learning Center is available to all registered ENF Fundraising Chairmen upon online registration
- **4/07-08** ENF Chair Challenge guidelines can be viewed at enf.elks.org/volunteers
- **4/15** State Golf Tournament – Sebring, Fla.
- **4/15** ENF MVS & Legacy Scholarship winners posted on GL website
- **4/21** State Golf Tournament – Sebring, Fla.
- **4/21** FSEA announces State All-American Lodge Winners
- **4/27-29** State Softball Tournament – DeLand, Fla.

APRIL DEADLINES

- **3/15** Lodges to submit entries for GL Contest “A” – State All-American Lodge to DDGER, then to State Lodge Activities Chr. postmarked by 4/1
- **4/01** State Drug Awareness Chairman to submit state winning Drug Awareness Essay and Drug Awareness Poster to GL National DAP Director
- **4/01** Lodges to submit state convention delegate names and state convention registration fee to FSEA
- **4/06** Deadline for District VPs to submit list of District Chairmen to FSEA Secretary
- **4/06** Lodges to complete FSEA online committee reporting for the quarter ending 3/31
- **4/06** Deadline to order plaques through FSEA for presentation at state convention
- **4/13** Deadline for hospitality room reservations through FSEA for 2018 state convention
- **4/13** Lodges to update online lodge information for FSEA Roster of Lodges
- **4/15** Lodges to submit their state membership report and dues payment to FSEA
- **4/20** District VPs to return unsold reverse draw tickets to FSEA
- **4/20** Deadline to reserve a room for state convention at Orlando World Center Marriott
- **4/30** Lodges to submit their names of deceased members (April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018) for the state convention memorial program to FSEA
- **4/30** Lodges to update online lodge information for FSEA Roster of Lodges

STATUTES

April – Installation of officers ($12.010)
April – Appoint statutory committees ($13.020)
April – Secretary Report to lodge ($12.050)
April – Trustee Report and BUDGET to lodge ($12.070)
April – Lodge annual membership and Charity Report due with dues payment to GL May 1 ($16.010 – Subject to $100 Fine)
Unrelated Trade or Business Income (UBI): What Qualifies as UBI

Even though an Elks lodge is recognized as a tax-exempt 501(c)(8), it still may be liable for tax on its unrelated business income (UBI).

Unrelated trade or business means any trade or business the conduct of which is not substantially related to the exercise or performance by the organization of its charitable, educational, or other purpose or function constituting the basis for its exemption under section 501.

General Rules

The federal income tax exemption for lodges applies to its exempt function income which IRS defines to mean “the gross income from dues, fees, charges or similar amounts paid by members of the organization as consideration for providing such members or their dependents or guests goods, facilities or services in furtherance of the purposes constituting the basis for the exemption of the organization to which such income is paid.”

Sales of goods or services to members are automatically tax exempt and are not UBI. Sales of goods or services to nonmembers will be presumed by IRS to be taxable UBI, although there are several exceptions discussed below that if met will make those sales tax exempt.

The IRS point of view is that the nature of the sale is determined mainly by who makes payment for the goods or services. If a member pays the bill, it will ordinarily be considered income from members.

Comparing this actual progress to the budget will point out variances of material amounts that require action or further investigation. It is important that management decisions be made at this time to adjust for shortfalls in income or excess expenses such as implementing conservative measures, eliminating nonproductive hours of club operation, reducing labor costs, raising selling prices, etc. to prevent a loss at the end of the year.

Typical Forms Of UBI

- Food and beverage paid by nonmembers
- Room rentals
- RV parks if open to nonmembers
- Visiting Elks if not signed in
- Revenue from advertising in bulletins
- Gaming (excluding bingo)

The following activities are specifically excluded from the definition of unrelated trade or business.

1. Bingo games. Certain bingo games aren’t included in unrelated trade or business. To qualify for this exclusion, the bingo game must meet the following requirements: it meets the legal definition of bingo, it is legal where it is played and it is played in a jurisdiction where bingo games aren’t regularly conducted by for-profit organizations.

2. Gambling activities other than bingo. Any game of chance conducted by an exempt organization isn’t an unrelated trade or business if conducting the game doesn’t violate any state or local law. A wagering game that doesn’t meet the legal definition of bingo doesn’t qualify for the exclusion, regardless of its name. For example, instant bingo, in which a player buys a prepackaged bingo card with pull-tabs that the player removes to determine if he or she is a winner, doesn’t qualify.

3. No for-profit games where played. This exclusion applies only if for-profit organizations can’t regularly conduct bingo games in any part of the same jurisdiction. Jurisdiction is normally the entire state; however, in certain situations, local jurisdiction will control.

4. Convenience of members. A trade or business conducted by a 501(c)(3) organization or by a state college or university primarily for the convenience of its members, students, patients, officers or employees isn’t an unrelated trade or business.

5. Convention or trade show activity. An unrelated trade or business doesn’t include qualified convention or trade show activities conducted at a convention, annual meeting or trade show.

6. Qualified sponsorship activities. Receiving qualified sponsorship payments isn’t an unrelated trade or business, and the
payments aren't subject to unrelated business income tax.

7. **Advertising.** A payment isn't a qualified sponsorship payment if, in return, the organization advertises the sponsor's products or services.

8. **Selling donated merchandise.** A trade or business that consists of selling merchandise, substantially all of which the organization received as gifts or contributions, isn't an unrelated trade or business.

9. **Volunteer workforce.** Any trade or business in which substantially (85%) all the work hours are performed for the organization without compensation isn't an unrelated trade or business and must be documented. See the form provided on the FSEA Business Practices website.

   - The volunteer workers exemption applies to activities that otherwise are considered UBI.
   - Providing other compensation such as food, drink and especially tips is not permitted.
   - Accepting tips by volunteers will be considered compensation and will jeopardize their volunteer status and subject the lodge to the minimum wage law.
   - Applying the volunteer exemption will require accurate and complete documentation.

**Elks Statute, Section 14.130, concerning the nature of membership in the order:**

Subject to local laws, the use of the home or club facilities shall be limited to members in good standing in the order; their spouses, widows and guests; and those receiving identification cards under section 14.140 as provided in the House Rules so as to preserve the privacy of the use of such facilities to the members of the order. Guests are individuals who have been signed in by a lodge member.

**FAQs**

- **Q:** Can a lodge rent out their facility and charge for adult beverages or food without being in violation of Grand Lodge statutes or IRS regulations?
  
  **A:** First, the lodge must comply with 14.130 GLS, third paragraph: "Subject to state and local laws, the use of the home or club facilities shall be limited to members in good standing in the order, their spouses, guests of members and those receiving identification cards."
  
  - Once in compliance with 14.130 GLS, then look at IRS requirements. Is this "regular trade or business" carried on by the lodge? If so, then it's UBI.
  
  - Advertising an event makes it all UBI and may make you a "place of public accommodation."
  
  - The sale of food or beverage to nonmembers results in the whole transaction (event) UBI.
  
  - Payment for the use of the lodge "goods and services" received by the lodge must come from a member.
  
  - In all situations where payment is made to the lodge, a host-guest relationship is not assumed but must be proven.

**Records:** The club must maintain adequate records to substantiate the amount of people in the group and the percentage that are members and that payment was received by the club directly from members. These records must contain:

  - Date
  - Number in party
  - Number of nonmembers
  - Total charge
  - Charges attributable to members
  - Charges made by nonmembers

- **Q:** Can we advertise that we are open for events (room rental) in the local newspaper?
  
  **A:** Advertising to the public is strong evidence that you are conducting a taxable “trade or business.”

- **Q:** What must we do to prepare for an IRS audit?
  
  **A:** Keep accurate and complete records.

- **Q:** If our bartender works for a private function, is that considered UBI?
  
  **A:** No. In that example the bartender is not your employee, hence not UBI.
with 44 prominent Florida visitors and residents was organized. Harry Miller called the owner of the Hialeah race track and asked him for help to get started. The track owner wholeheartedly cooperated and solicited other race track owners to do the same. The track owners gave one day’s receipts to the hospital which totaled $34,500. This seed money provided the financial support for the beginning of this charity.

By 1944 there was concern as to whether the hospital could continue operation. Financial problems had set in due to the lack of patients and the facility almost closed. It appeared that much of the blame was being placed upon the lodges. The president of the Florida State Elks Association appointed a committee for the task of determining if the lodges would be willing to give sufficient financial support to maintain continued operation. The lodges around the state rose to the occasion and guaranteed the continued operation of the hospital.

In 1945, James Fernandez of Tampa Lodge #708 became State Secretary and comptroller of the hospital replacing J. Edwin Baker who left to

Elks Children’s Hospital – The Early Years

During the 1920s, a beautiful three-story, 100-room resort hotel with every detail designed for the comfort of guests was built in the small town of Umatilla, Fla., by businessman Hugh Rowe. Completed in 1924, the hotel was called The Rowebuilt. Even with all its grace and beauty, it attracted very few guests. The hotel only remained open just a few weeks and went bankrupt after the great Florida land boom real estate bubble burst in 1925.

Financier Harry R. P. Miller of Eustis, Fla., became the owner of the hotel as he held a mortgage on all the furnishings and equipment. In 1931 the Florida State Elks Association considered an offer from Mr. Miller for the Rowebuilt Hotel to be used as an Elks home or hospital for crippled children.

Dave Sholtz, governor and PGER, had previously headed the Social and Community Welfare Committee for the Elks and had worked closely with the state of Florida’s Crippled Children’s Commission. Sholtz traveled around the state conducting surveys to locate all the crippled children in Florida. As a result of that survey, the Florida State Elks adopted as its major objective the welfare of crippled children. The matter was referred to the Grand Lodge and in April 1933, the Harry-Anna Home for Crippled Children was dedicated. Sixty-nine patients were admitted April 20, 1933, under the medical care of the director, W. L. Ashton, MD, and the superintendent, J. Edwin Baker of West Palm Beach Lodge #1352.

An endowment fund was initiated Feb. 14, 1934, and a sponsors committee headed by Governor and Mrs. Sholtz

This article would not have been possible without the efforts of Lowell Tyler, Historian Emeritus and author of the “Encyclopedia of Elkdom” and “The History of the Florida State Elks Association.” Thank you, Lowell, for keeping the story of Florida Elkdom alive!
fill an unexpired term in the Florida Senate and was later elected State Senator from Lake County in 1947. From 1946 to 1957 the hospital was directed by an Operating Committee.

To help ease operating costs, an Easter Seal campaign was promoted by Florida lodges in 1953 by mailing letters for the benefit of the hospital. The Elks Hospital Foundation was beginning to deteriorate and so in 1953 they finished a two-year repair program to strengthen it at a cost of $310,000. By 1955 the foundations fund was at $1,000,000. Only interest from the fund was used to operate the hospital.

The Harry-Anna School

Hattie Slaughter opened the Harry-Anna School in 1934 in the east end of the south wing of the hospital. In 1949 the old hospital laundry drying room was converted to a school for the children. In 1951 the School Board of Lake County assigned three teachers to the hospital teaching an average of 35 children in an auditorium-like room. Eventually two new classrooms were built, one for the primary group and one for the senior high group. At this time, 65 children were being cared for each year with over 1,700 receiving treatment since the facility’s inception.

New Approaches to Therapy Services

At the 1957 annual meeting, it was reported that James Fernandez had taken ill. An emergency meeting of the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors was held and William Lieberman was appointed acting State Secretary and hospital comptroller to replace Fernandez.

In 1958 George Carver of Live Oak Lodge #1165 became hospital administrator. Talk of an expansion program had been going on for some time and the year 1961 marked the beginning of a home therapy program in cooperation with the Florida Crippled Children’s Commission. The goal was to place at least one physical therapist in each of the districts to carry physical therapy into the homes of those families who could not utilize the services of existing treatment centers.

In the late 1960s the Harry-Anna Hospital took on the status of a special pediatric orthopedic hospital and became known as the Florida Elks Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital.

A Decade of Change

The 1970s brought many changes to the hospital and school. Many state and federally assisted programs came into existence. Harry-Anna was not only going through social and academic changes but physical upheaval as well.

The state fire marshal and insurance liability carriers condemned the existing hospital building. To bring the building in compliance with the law would cost $75,000, so the Elks decided to bring into fruition a long-held dream. This dream was to build a hospital designed, equipped and staffed specifically to care and enhance the lives of crippled children.

On Dec. 28, 1971, the hospital with all departments, patients and personnel moved to a vacated eye clinic building in Eustis while the new hospital was being built on the old Umatilla site. James Oliver of Eustis Lodge #1578 who joined the hospital staff in 1966 and who served as assistant administrator beginning in 1969 was appointed administrator in 1972 when George Carver retired.

Under Oliver’s supervision, the hospital operated at the Eustis location until 1977, at which time the initial dream was realized with the completion of the new hospital. The new facility was a modern, sprawling, one-story Spanish villa of 60,000 square feet. The cost of this beautiful facility was $2,146,000. These funds were raised entirely by the generous Elks of Florida, and there was not one penny of debt on the first day of patient care. James Oliver served as administrator until his death Sept. 12, 1983. He was succeeded Oct. 1, 1983, by Ben Brown who had been serving as State Secretary since 1976. Brown served as the program’s administrator until his retirement in 2015.

In 1985 the hospital’s name was changed to the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital to better identify it with the Florida Elks.

Elks Hospital Closure

Due to the changing face of health care delivery in America during the 1980s and 1990s, the hospital once again began to be seriously underutilized. This concerned not only the leadership of the Florida State Elks Association but the general membership as well. Something had to be done.

Since 1933, the FSEA provided free orthopedic services to Florida children in a hospital setting. All during this time, the focus of the hospital’s services had always been on orthopedic rehabilitation, even though many and varied ancillary services were also provided.

As the face of health care evolved, most of the children who were referred to the Elks for care required surgery which was performed at other facilities. The cost of these services eventually consumed unacceptable amounts of the Elks’ resources and other solutions and alternative ways of delivering health care services were explored. Because of these dynamics, the Elks leadership began to question the long-term viability of its beloved hospital.
Orthopedic physicians from Orlando, Fla., who had served the hospital so faithfully for many years advised the Elks that the services that were offered in the past through the hospital were no longer needed. The practice of medicine had changed dramatically over the past 15 years and as a result, orthopedic inpatient rehabilitation was not often necessary for longer than a few days.

During the midyear convention of 1998, the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors finally voted to make a major change in the way it delivered health care services to Florida children. After 65 years of providing health care services to thousands of children in a hospital setting, the decision was made to provide services in a different manner. The board of directors after a great deal of deliberation made the inevitable decision to close the hospital. This process was expected to be concluded during the first quarter of 1999.

**New Beginnings – Mobile Therapy Services**

On March 1, 1999, a new program of delivering physical and occupational therapy to the homes of needy children began. Home health care had been an accepted practice for some time. Modeling the new program after the California-Hawaii Elks Association’s mobile therapy program, therapists were hired throughout the state. The new program named Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services provided therapists with vehicles decorated with graphic elements identifying that this project was funded by Florida Elks. Starting with just a handful of vehicles, the program has morphed to 26 mobile units with Florida Elks therapists treating over 450 children a week throughout the state. To date, over 8,000 children have been treated via mobile therapy.

The services received by patients who meet eligibility requirements are absolutely free. The program does not receive financial assistance from any government agency. Instead, it receives funding from the Harry-Anna Investment Fund, Elks lodges, various Florida Elks Ladies organizations, the Elks National Foundation and most importantly from generous public donations.

For more information on the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services program, visit our website at floridaelks.org.
Harry and Anna Miller donated the land and building for the original hospital, but what actually convinced the Elks they should open a hospital? The following excerpts are from a letter written by Dr. R. E. Baldwin and read to the delegation of the 26th annual state convention April 12, 1931. He is describing the building offered by Harry and Anna Miller.

“The building is of fire-resisting construction with two floors and a basement. It has a stucco finish and is attractive in appearance. The plumbing is modern in every respect and there is a splendid steam plant with a large oil burner – a feature frequently overlooked in this latitude. As a hospital for medical cases this building has great possibilities. Some of these reasons will be stated and discussed here.

The altitude of this section ranges from two hundred to two hundred and sixty feet, which is ideal for the average medical case. The question of water is gratifyingly easy to solve as the supply furnished by Umatilla is adequate, soft and portable as well as being free from pathogenic bacteria. This is such an important requirement it is difficult to avoid stressing it. The food situation must be considered very carefully. In the care of the sick, the modern physician is demanding citrus products in greatly increased amounts. Umatilla is in the heart of the citrus belt and patients in this area could obtain free ripened fruit instead of the artificially colored product so frequently found in distant markets. In addition to the citrus fruits, all well-informed persons recognize the necessity for a plentiful supply of vegetables. As is not so well known, it is highly desirable that the vegetables should have high iodine content.

Fortunately that metal is present in Florida vegetables to a very high percentage. When the research work has been completed it is most probable that Florida’s vegetables will head the list, as is the case at present with grapefruit. In addition to the mineral content it is essential that the product be fresh, and if possible, cheap. This section will provide, and does provide, for that matter, vegetables that satisfy the epicure, the medical man and the pocketbook.

Ambulant cases need recreation and that county offers wonderful opportunities. There are twenty-two hundred (2,200) named lakes in that region, and most of them are well stocked with fine fish. It is a paradise for the fisherman and to those whose health is below par. It would be almost impossible for a convalescent patient to remain depressed in such surroundings. With hope replacing the blues, appetite returns, which results in fewer hospital days, thus effecting a saving. Incidentally the patient is more congenial and the work of the attendants measurably lightened.

We, in Florida, have been slow to realize the tremendous advantages this state has in the value of sun bathing over the practice of using certain types of apparatus, by using sun bathing, a healing agent not even approached by any ultra violet lamp.

It is a matter to be regretted that no gifted pen has described properly the beauty of the lake region, with its sapphire lakes and rolling grove land. The patients in many hospitals have to go long distances to escape landscapes monoton, but around Umatilla and Eustis is an ever-changing vista. A person who is not delighted with an automobile ride over the smooth roads in this region might as well give up. Many of us think of a hospital as a building smelling of disinfectants and ether, with poker-faced doctors and nurses – well, at one time there may have been some justification for such ideas, but not in recent years. The matter of recreation is so important it cannot be dismissed lightly.

A hospital too difficult of access inflicts an unnecessary hardship on the patients. The proposed hospital at Umatilla is far enough back from the main highway to avoid the noise and dust incident to moderate traffic, yet it is no effort to reach it. The railroad is but a stone’s throw distant. Orlando and DeLand are sufficiently close to send the occasional surgical patient for treatment if surgery is imperative. By receiving medical cases only the heavy overhead of maintaining an operating room with necessary personnel can be obviated. The nearness of these cities renders possible the obtaining of competitive bids on supplies.

Strangely enough the citizens of Umatilla and Eustis are very desirous of having an Elks’ Home or Hospital in this locality. Usually people oppose a hospital very bitterly, but these people are not only exceptional in this respect but offer to equip fifty rooms.

A final reason for accepting this offer is that the generous donor does not stipulate that a hospital must be started on a grand scale. He stated to the undersigned that if the Elks desired to begin in a modest way, he would offer no objection.”
Of everything that the Florida Elks do, perhaps nothing is more important than our work with the state's youth. Sowing the seeds of accomplishment and commitment through our two state major projects, the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services and Florida Elks Youth Camp programs, children are given the opportunity to grow and learn beyond their wildest imaginations.

The trust fund, started in 1951, was named after Harry and Anna Miller who donated land and a building to establish the original Florida Elks Hospital for Crippled Children. Its purpose was and continues to be the collection of donations and the acceptance of endowed gifts.

The trust fund is restricted, which means that only the income derived from it may be used to support our major projects.

MAKING YOUR DONATION

Although all donor gifts are greatly appreciated, we hope that you will consider joining our most devoted supporters by becoming a monthly donor. Sustained monthly giving provides a predictable funding source that allows us to plan ahead knowing that we have your support.

PREFERRED SUSTAINED GIVING LEVELS

$19/mo. Chairman’s Donor Level
Your gift will purchase shoes for eight needy summer campers or a platform swing for a therapy patient to learn balance and movement skills.

$15/mo. Legacy Donor Level
Your gift will feed four campers for a week at summer camp or purchase a pediatric walker to help a child learn to walk.

$10/mo. Heritage Donor Level
Your gift will purchase a weighted blanket for one child with Autism to improve sleep and calm behavior.

Visit the Florida Elks website at floridaelks.org for more information.

Together we can do great things!

A contribution to the investment fund is a tax-deductible donation to a U.S. tax code 501(c)(3) organization. Continuing changes in the federal tax code make the counsel of professional tax and legal advisors essential to a donor who may benefit financially from a well-structured plan.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR HARRY-ANNA INVESTMENT FUND INC., A FLORIDA-BASED NONPROFIT CORPORATION (REGISTRATION NO. CH1929), MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OR VISITING THEIR WEBSITE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.
Don Sansoussi was born in Boston and was raised and educated in Hillsboro, N.H. He married Gail in 1958. Their son, Jeff, and his wife, Paula, have two daughters, Stephanie and Brittany, and a great-granddaughter, Baylee. Stephanie was a counselor and Brittany was a CIT at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Jeff retired from the Air Force after 20 years and has been a longtime Elk. Sansoussi initiated him while he was Exalted Ruler at Sebring.

Sansoussi served our nation in the Air Force 20 years before receiving an honorable discharge as a Technical Sergeant E-6. He then successfully built Don’s TV Service, serving the five counties surrounding Lake Placid for over 28 years. He also helped his community in many ways, including 20 years of membership in the Rotary Club where he was president in 1988-1989 along with serving on its board of directors. He also served three years on the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

In 1976, Sansoussi joined Sebring Elks Lodge #1529 and served through the chairs, becoming Exalted Ruler for 1981-1982. In 1983, he founded Lake Placid Lodge #2661 and was elected Exalted Ruler that year. Lake Placid Lodge honored him with honorary life membership in 1988 and he served as their Lodge Advisor.

Sansoussi served on many committees on a district and state level. He was Southwest Central District Vice President for 1984-1985 and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for 1985-1986. He served multiple terms on the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services Board of Directors. From 1998 until recently, he served as curator of the Florida Elks museum cataloging and displaying artifacts in the Grafton Center.

In 2005, Sansoussi was elected state president with “Guided by our Hearts” as his motto. He later served as PSP Advisor to the Elks Training Committee, Lodge Activities Committee and the Florida Elks News Publication Committee. He served on the Grand Lodge Activities Committee for five years, the last two serving as chairman.

Don Sansoussi will be deeply missed.

Don Sansoussi, PSP
1939-2017
Florida State Elks Association Historian Emeritus, Lowell Tyler, accomplished much during his tenure as state historian. He wrote two books, “Charles Algernon Sidney Richardson Vivian and the Birth of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks” as well as “The History of the Florida State Elks Association from 1891.” In his spare time, he completed “The Encyclopedia of Florida Elkdom” which is available on the FSEA website. Perhaps more importantly, though, is the passion he brought to this position. Whether you were listening to him give a report, talking to him one-on-one or reading a piece of his work, you could not help but be inspired. Tyler made history come alive for people and showed you why history mattered.

Tyler wrote in the introduction to “The History of the Florida State Elks Association from 1891” that “history can be entertaining. It can be instructive. It can be a guide to the future. History can give meaning and purpose in what we do today as well as plan for our future….What history tells us is that they have triumphed over their difficulties just as we must triumph over ours.”

What makes Tyler’s approach to Elks history additionally useful is that he employed the method of historicism. This is a method that examines historical events in the context of their time and place and explains how events are influenced by current beliefs and cultures. Much of Elks history can be viewed as a reflection of the times, and Tyler related Elk actions to events happening in the country and around the world. Wars prompted Elks to start many volunteer movements that would have been unnecessary otherwise. Political regimes with which Americans did not agree inspired Elks to pursue a passionate commitment to Americanism. Our state major projects did and still do reflect the needs of the time, and as we know, these needs are ever-changing. By presenting Elks history in this form, we can see just how connected Elks history has been to social and political history for nearly a century and a half. We can see our current efforts continuing the legacy of our order and opening opportunities for future and improved volunteer possibilities. This connection enhances our role in the organization.

In his 2007 annual report, State Historian Tyler said, “After one has served as long as I have in this position and reached the age of ancient as I seem to have done...you begin to question just how successful you have been in trying to instill others with the value of history and in accomplishing problems of today and its link to our future. I just hope that in some way I have succeeded.”

Not only have you succeeded, Lowell Tyler, but you are keeping the story of Elkdom alive. You have given Florida Elks a priceless gift, one which everyone can and should partake of so that they gain a full appreciation of this worthwhile order. History proves that we are not perfect, but like you reported in 2010, “It is not enough to know and understand; we must consciously and conscientiously improve ourselves and how we address the problems that present themselves to us. We have a duty and it is always with us.”

In May 2014, Lowell Tyler was honored as Historian Emeritus.
DISTRICT REPORTERS

**Northwest**
James R. “Jim” Wright  
Crestview #2624  
jamesthewelk@gmail.com

**West Central**
Maylene “May” Graci  
St. Petersburg #1224  
maygraci01@yahoo.com

**North**
Thomas J. “Tom” Walden, PDD  
Tallahassee #937  
tjwalden@cs.com

**Southwest Central**
Mary Lou Scribner  
Brandon #2383  
perelkmls@hotmail.com

**Northeast**
Phyllis M. Bonser, PER  
Orange Park #2605  
news@opelks.comcastbiz.net

**Southwest**
Charles R. “Chuck” Stieb  
South Hillsborough #2672  
charlesstieb@aol.com

**South Central**
Lisa Travis  
North Cape Coral #2874  
ltravis508@gmail.com

**South Southeast**
Donna L. Powers  
Boca Raton #2166  
donnapowers6402@comcast.net

**Southeast**
Lauren Dowd-Shedlock  
Jupiter #2469  
laurendowdshedlock@gmail.com

**South Southeast**
Donna L. Powers  
Boca Raton #2166  
donnapowers6402@comcast.net

**Southeast Central**
Jack A. “Tex” McClurken, PDD  
Vero Beach #1774  
texelk1@hotmail.com

**South**
Glenn J. Tekerman, PER  
Miami #948  
glennzo24@gmail.com

Two of our District Reporters have resigned due to other commitments: Lisa Travis of the South Southwest District and May Graci from the West Central District. This is the last issue with their submissions. We are certainly sad to see you go, but we wish you all the best in your other endeavors. Thank you for sharing your district news with Elks across the state!

Carol Aitchison from Deep Creek Lodge #2763 will take over the South Southwest District reporting duties. A West Central District reporter has not been named yet.
Pensacola Beach #497

Members of the North District lodges donated large amounts of clothing, nonperishable food, water, toiletries and other needed items for hurricane victims in Puerto Rico who were left devastated by the disaster. Dawn Johnson from Lake City Lodge was the brain child for the project and PER Christopher Lydick, also from Lake City, handled the logistics with his contacts within the U.S. Forestry Service to get the materials delivered. So many others donated and lent a helping hand to make it all possible.

Live Oak #1165

Twenty Live Oak Lodge volunteers were trained and worked the Party in the Pines Music Fest, a two-day event in October whose participating musicians included Keith Urban and Miranda Lambert. The lodge was a food and beverage vendor and used the event as a fundraising endeavor.

Live Oak Lodge received an ENF Gratitude Grant for $2,000 plus an additional $1,500 from the Anniversary Grant. This money will go to the Patti Nixon School Nurse Fund to help the kids in her program who are less fortunate than others. The $2,000 Beacon Grant awarded along with a matching grant for $2,000 from the Florida State Elks Association will allow the lodge to help LOVE, INC. feed and clothe needy people in the community.

Live Oak Lodge assembled Christmas baskets for distribution for the holiday season. This is an annual event and the lodge was focused on providing more than 100 families with food for Christmas. Lodge members are always generous for this project.

Lake City #893

Members of Lake City Elks Lodge #893 worked diligently collecting food, assembling Christmas baskets and handing them out Dec. 23 to needy families. The lodge arranged with local restaurant Marion Street Café where folks could bring a 12-pound turkey or larger to donate for the baskets. At the lodge, donors who brought in five cans of food received a raffle ticket. Members also pitched in and sold raffle tickets; the response to this effort is always tremendous which allows the lodge to make many baskets for distribution. Raffle prizes included $500 cash and a rifle as well as multiple door prizes available to those present Christmas Eve. Santa Claus also gave toys away at the lodge Christmas Eve.

Live Oak #1165

Twenty Live Oak Lodge volunteers were trained and worked the Party in the Pines Music Fest, a two-day event in October whose participating musicians included Keith Urban and Miranda Lambert. The lodge was a food and beverage vendor and used the event as a fundraising endeavor.

Live Oak Lodge received an ENF Gratitude Grant for $2,000 plus an additional $1,500 from the Anniversary Grant. This money will go to the Patti Nixon School Nurse Fund to help the kids in her program who are less fortunate than others. The $2,000 Beacon Grant awarded along with a matching grant for $2,000 from the Florida State Elks Association will allow the lodge to help LOVE, INC. feed and clothe needy people in the community.

Live Oak Lodge assembled Christmas baskets for distribution for the holiday season. This is an annual event and the lodge was focused on providing more than 100 families with food for Christmas. Lodge members are always generous for this project.

Perry #1851

A kickoff meeting for re-establishing the Perry Lady Elks Auxiliary was held Nov. 2. It has been many years since Perry Lodge had a ladies organization.

Perry Lodge held a Hearts for Hometown Dogs event Nov. 26 on the lodge front lawn for photos with Santa. The community was invited to bring their kids and their pets to see Santa and enjoy fun activities. The event was a fundraiser for the furry friends.

Green Cove Springs #1892

Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge #1892 used ENF Beacon Grant matching funds from the Florida State Elks Association to continue its support of the Green Cove Springs Public Library’s children’s outreach programs. They purchased a Nintendo Switch plus four additional controllers and a left right Joy-Con along with two games for the teenagers to use at the library. They
also purchased 20 Kindle Fire 7 Kids Edition Tablets for the library to use in its Early Literacy Program’s after-school story hour. They will utilize early literacy applications for parents to help children with their reading at the library.

Green Cove Springs Lodge supported Quigley House’s 18th annual Purple Ribbon golf tournament Oct. 26. Quigley House is Clay County’s domestic violence and sexual assault center which provides shelter and services for 2,000 women, men and children each year. Elks charity bingo was an advocate-level donor with its $1,000 contribution. It has been a tradition to have a first responder team play for the lodge each year. This year the team was from Clay County Fire & Rescue Station #20 in Green Cove Springs.

On Nov. 16, Green Cove Springs Lodge used its ENF Anniversary Grant to continue its tradition of providing the first-graders at Charles E. Bennett Elementary School, a Title 1 school, with an Elks sweatshirt and a book to read.
Member Clyde Mixon has been the project director for over 10 years. The ENF Anniversary Grant made possible the addition of a second book for this year’s 96 students and a donation of $750 to the school’s art program which is in its first year. The money will be used to add much-needed art supplies for the entire school.

**Mandarin-St. Johns #2866**

Mandarin-St. Johns Lodge gave Thanksgiving baskets containing a turkey, nonperishable foods, fresh fruits, vegetables and assorted meats to six needy families. The lodge also sponsored one of the families at Christmas, providing gifts for the four children as well as gift cards to help fill their pantry.

**Orange Park #2605**

Orange Park Elks Lodge #2605 sponsored the JAX NAS Sea Cadets’ car wash to help them raise money for their annual field trip to visit a historical site. The lodge previously presented this group with a $2,500 ENF grant to help defray expenses for the annual trip.

**Jacksonville #221**

Jacksonville Elks Lodge #221 donated 50 of their annual barbecue dinner tickets to the Jacksonville Fraternal Order of Police. The dinner consisted of barbecue chicken, beans, slaw and a roll. This annual dinner raises over $3,000, which the lodge uses for their various charities. FOP distributed the tickets to local patrol officers.

**Inverness #2522**

Inverness Elks Lodge #2522 continues to sponsor a poster contest at Hernando Elementary School and an essay contest at Lecanto Middle School for drug awareness education. Pictured are the winners along with teacher Jennifer Berbert and Drug Awareness Chairman, Jim Manos.

Using a Beacon Grant from the Elks National Foundation, Inverness Lodge partnered with West Citrus Lodge for...
For 20 years, South Marion-Villages Lodge member Patty Connolly, with the help of Winter Park and Winter Garden lodges, has hosted a children’s Christmas party. Helpers shop, wrap gifts, stuff stockings, cook and donate their time to help children have a very merry Christmas. The party included riding a rocking horse, enjoying lunch with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, having their face painted, having balloons made into animals, and hanging out with Star Wars characters. The children are asked to send Santa a letter telling him what they would really like for Christmas. The goal is to make sure that all the children open gifts that would make their Christmas memorable.

On Dec. 2, BPO Does Drove #86 participated in the 65th annual Winter Park Christmas parade. This was a first for the drove and a great opportunity to expose them to the community. The weather was great and all had a wonderful time.

After being inactive for several years, Daytona Beach Elks Lodge #1141 has reopened at their new location at 3674 W. International Speedway Blvd. The lodge purchased and refurbished the former Gene’s Steak House, a well-known fixture in the Daytona Beach area. Lunch and dinner are served Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. with days and times subject to change. A full liquor bar is available. The lodge offers a meeting the third year to serve dinner and throw a Christmas party for Citrus County Foster Parents Association. Along with music, a coloring area, face-painting and a balloon artist, Santa and Mrs. Claus and their elves made an appearance and gave each child gifts from their wish lists.

Inverness Lodge donated $500 to the Citrus County Education Foundation which meets the educational needs of students in Citrus County. Pictured are lodge officers Bill McAvay, Richard Grosnick and Anthony Kopka presenting the check to Shaundra Burdett, Executive Director of CCEF.

As part of Inverness Lodge’s participation in the Elks’ 150th anniversary celebration, the lodge will hold a raffle for a piece of Elks history. PER Ray Fink generously donated a Jim Beam 100th anniversary Elks decanter that is still sealed and in perfect condition. The winning ticket will be drawn as part of their anniversary open house and membership drive.

During the holiday season, South Lake Elks Lodge #1848 actively supported the community while renovating their new lodge facility. The lodge hosted a Christmas party for over 200 children and their families and gave out gifts. The new lodge is now open and membership is climbing.
DeLand #1463

On Saturday, Oct. 14, DeLand Elks Lodge #1463 held its seventh annual PER Mark & Parke Memorial Golf Tournament at Victoria Hills Country Club. This year, 20 teams competed with approximately 80 players. Afterward, everyone met for lunch and awards at the lodge. This tournament would not be possible if not for the many volunteers involved and the generous donations of the 64 hole sponsors. The DeLand PER Association received $9,000 in donations and an additional $2,700 from the players. Phil Watercutter, PDD put the event together. Volunteers included PER Bob Sari, PER Tom Hopp, PER Ray Haverty, PER Dean Yeager, PER Bernie Korwes, Barbara Thompson, Debi Dunn, CJ Haverty, PER Randy Long, PDD Joe Rogers, David McCranie, PER Rick Phelps, Larry Beech and photographer Linda Witt.

On Oct. 20, Troop 531 sponsored by DeLand Lodge held a ceremony to make C. J. Otten an Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program. The designation of Eagle Scout was founded over 100 years ago. Only four percent of Boy Scouts are granted this rank after a lengthy review process. Requirements include earning at least 21 merit badges. The Eagle Scout must demonstrate scout spirit, an ideal attitude based upon the scout oath and law, service, and leadership. This includes an extensive service project that the scout plans, organizes, leads and manages. Eagle Scouts are presented with a medal and a badge. Additional recognition can be earned through Eagle Palms, awarded for completing additional tenure, leadership and merit badge requirements.

DeLand Lodge held their annual kids' Halloween party Friday, Oct. 27. Members brought in candy during the month and on the day before the party, members and their families packaged the candy and set up the Tunnel of Terror. As the children and their families arrived Friday night, they were spooked by the goblins and other scary characters as they entered the tunnel. Afterward, the lodge treated them to hot dogs, chips and a drink.

DeLand Lodge's Hoop Shoot took place Saturday, Nov. 18, at DeLand Middle School. Boys and girls from schools all over Volusia County participated. The first-place winners from the three age groups for both boys and girls moved on to the district Hoop Shoot which was held Jan. 13, also at DeLand Middle School.

A fun and festive evening put a smile on the faces of 50 neighborhood children who came to the lodge to receive a gift donated by the members of DeLand Lodge. The gifts were handed out by Mr. & Mrs. Santa
Claus. Hot dogs and soft drinks were provided and a variety of games made it a fantastic evening for this annual event. Helen Lynch put the event together.

**Edgewater-New Smyrna Beach #1557**

The Past Exalted Rulers of Edgewater-New Smyrna Beach Elks Lodge #1557 hosted an appreciation luncheon in honor of the area’s first responders. Over 35 responders attended as did Edgewater mayor Mike Ignasiak and Chief David Arcieri. PDD Larry Skates presented a Thin Blue Line flag to the police department and a Thin Red Line flag to the fire department. These flags honor those men and women who bravely serve and for all first responders who have been injured or fallen.

**Merritt Island #2650**

On Dec. 16 for the 11th year in a row, Merritt Island Lodge held their annual Bootstrap project of delivering food baskets to needy families for an entire week during Christmas.

**Sanford #1241**

Sanford Elks Lodge #1241 participated in the Sanford Christmas parade Dec. 9. They have been in the parade for six years running with a bigger and better float each year. Kids and grandkids of the members rode on the float while members walked and handed out over 100 pounds of candy to the kids. The writeup about the lodge for the parade grand stand included information about the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Sanford’s 100+ years of service to the community through Little League sponsorships and their commitment to Boy Scout Troop 543 were also mentioned.

**Port Orange #2723**

On Dec. 10, Merritt Island Lodge sponsored the Country Christmas party at Kiwanis Island Park in Brevard County for citizens who are handicapped or mentally challenged. The lodge supplied and served food and drinks for over 300 people.

Port Orange Elks Lodge #2723 held a fundraiser to support breast cancer awareness. A check for $1,700 was presented. Pictured are Chairman, Ann Hurst; Co-chairmen, Dee Peterson, Mickey Rauch and Elaine Kuczkowski; ER Dan Theodore; and Community Manager of the American Cancer Society for the Florida Division, Cheryl Sullivan.

**Edgewater-New Smyrna Beach Lodge honored police and fire departments at an appreciation luncheon.**

**It’s never too late to become an Elk! Merritt Island Lodge’s initiation held Nov. 28 was extra notable because among the initiates was Sam Bovalino, a 101-year-old first-time Elk. Seated are Michael Fagan, Versiellen Driver, Sam Bovalino, Barbara Bowman and Amantha Murphy. Standing are DDGER Robert Swink, ER Kermit Forbes and VP Rod O’Connor.**

**Sanford Lodge participated in the Sanford Christmas parade Dec. 9.**
Titusville #2113

Titusville Elks Lodge #2113 gave donations to two of its annual charities Friday, Dec. 1. Doris Becraft, Exalted Ruler, gave a check in the amount of $1,000 to Todd Hutchinson, Deputy Chief of Operations of the Titusville Police Department, for the Shop with a Cop program. Hutchinson indicated that they would be taking 60 kids shopping for presents for themselves and family members. Each child is given $100 to spend.

Vero Beach #1774

Vero Beach Elks Lodge #1774 had another successful Toys for Tots dinner dance in conjunction with the local Marine Corps. This lodge is known to be the top contributor for the last six years in donating bicycles, scooters and helmets to area children.

Kissimmee #1873

Kissimmee Elks Lodge #1873 held their annual Public Safety Night Nov. 11 where they recognize outstanding members of local law enforcement, fire rescue and correction departments. Pictured are Sheriff’s Deputy James Froelish, Trooper Robert Roxbury of the Florida Highway Patrol, Chaplain Rev. Peter Zieg of the Kissimmee Fire Department, Officer Matthew Redditt of the Saint Cloud Police Department, Lieutenants John Cooper and Victor Ruiz of the Osceola County Corrections Department, Detective Andrew Holmberg of the Kissimmee Police Department, and Firefighter David Miller of the Osceola County Fire/Rescue Department. Missing from the picture is Lieutenant Robert Clark of the Saint Cloud Fire/Rescue Department. The lodge also honored the memory of two Kissimmee police officers who were killed in the line of duty, Sergeant Richard Sam Howard and Officer Matthew Scott Baxter.

Kissimmee Lodge used a Promise Grant to take over 100 Exceptional Student Education students and chaperones from Osceola High School and Pleasant Hill Elementary School to Legoland. Sixteen of the chaperones were from the lodge.

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Orlando #1079

Orlando Elks Lodge #1079 held their annual “Guys and Dolls” Christmas show Dec. 5. They had 128 members, family and friends in attendance. Historically the 25 members of this cast have put on this show without requesting monies from the lodge which includes costumes and decorations. A total of $612.46 was brought into the lodge for the general fund. Also, the Does sold desserts and made over $100 for the general fund. Also donated were 76 items for Toys for Tots. Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. The program was founded in 1947 by reservist Major Bill Hendricks.

Orlando Lodge donated $2,500 to the Shop with a Cop program which is an event to foster positive relationships between youth and officers. Young children from kindergarten through sixth grade are selected each year during the end of the year holiday season to shop at one of the local area stores to purchase gifts for members of their immediate family. This year 150 children enjoyed shopping at Target. Each child was given a small amount of money to spend, normally $50-$100 depending on the size of the child’s immediate family. One or two children are assigned to each police officer who then escorts them around the store and assists in selecting appropriate gifts for each family member. The children are told that the money is not for personal use and must only be spent on family members. After shopping, the children will eat lunch, wrap their gifts and continue to get to know the police officers.

Vero Beach Elks Lodge #1774 had another successful Toys for Tots dinner dance in conjunction with the local Marine Corps. This lodge is known to be the top contributor for the last six years in donating bicycles, scooters and helmets to area children.

Distributors were Kathi Karinja and Margaret Hearndon from Vero Beach Elementary; Michele Köger, Lodge Impact Grant manager; and Debra Catapano from the Hope for Families Center.

Vero Beach Elks Lodge #1774 had another successful Toys for Tots dinner dance in conjunction with the local Marine Corps. This lodge is known to be the top contributor for the last six years in donating bicycles, scooters and helmets to area children.
Viera #2817

With a Promise Grant, Viera Elks Lodge #2817 hosted a Christmas party for the SOAK organization (Support Our Autistic Kids). Gifts were provided for 49 children as well as lunch for the children and their parents. Lodge member Bill O’Dell provided Christmas music while PER Paul Bonville played Santa and handed out goodie bags to each child.

**Santa visits with a child during Viera Lodge’s Christmas party for SOAK.**

Viera Lodge hosted a fun day for 10 children from the Wheelchairs for Kids organization along with their parents and siblings. The kids were introduced to two Brevard County Sheriff’s officers and their K-9 partners and had a visit from firefighters and their fire engine from Brevard County Fire & Rescue Station #80. Lunch and games were provided by the lodge.

**West St. Lucie #2823**

On Oct. 22, West St. Lucie Elks Lodge #2823 held their Hoop Shoot. Participants received achievement awards and trophies were given to winners. The winners advanced to the next round of the Hoop Shoot competition.

For Halloween, West St. Lucie Lodge filled 900 drug awareness bags with candy donated by members. Elroy the Elk greeted costumed children as members handed out the treats and informational pamphlets.

**New Port Richey #2284**

New Port Richey Elks Lodge #2284 spent a lot of time helping local children recently. They donated $500 to the Pasco Fire Department to provide fire safety education materials for 200 children in Pasco County. Elroy the Elk visited Calusa Elementary School in October to reinforce the message of “Say No to Drugs.” Also, the lodge donated $1,000 to the school fund for family emergencies because the school serves an impoverished area. Members also donated school supplies and clothing to the school. Four local elementary schools also received 420 dictionaries from the lodge.

**New Port Richey Lodge paired with CARES (Community Aging & Retirement Services Inc.) to provide gently used or new shoes which are sent to impoverished countries and used to start small businesses to help lift people out of poverty and provide sustainability for themselves and their families. A donation of $1,000 was also given to assist with their programs for the elderly of Pasco County.**

**Dunedin/Clearwater #1525**

On Sunday, Dec. 10, Dunedin/Clearwater Elks Lodge #1525 provided a lunch with Santa Claus. Children ages 12 and under received a present from Santa.

**Holiday Isles #1912**

On Sept. 30, Holiday Isles Lodge member Katie Walker organized a bus crawl to four lodges to benefit the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The event raised over $700. The first stop was Tampa Lodge for a made-to-order breakfast. Next was Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge where an appetizer buffet was enjoyed. Coffee and cookies were next at Largo Lodge. The final stop was at Seminole Lodge which was in the midst of celebrating their 43rd anniversary, but they still provided a warm welcome to their Holiday Isles guests. Thanks to the extra generosity of the lodge members, Walker was able to present a check for $1,000 to State President Carl Gerace during his visit to the lodge. The donation will benefit the Florida Elks Youth Camp and Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

**New Port Richey Lodge did much for local elementary schools recently, including their delivery of dictionaries. Pictured are trustee, Keith Hilchen; Schrader Elementary principal, Lee Anne Yearkey; and dictionary project chairman, Margaret Smith.**

**St. Petersburg #1224**

Late on Sunday, Sept. 10, Hurricane Irma crawled up the middle of Florida, slowly spinning toward the Tampa region, shoving heavy rain and strong winds into many parts of Florida not initially expecting to feel the brunt of the storm. Unfortunately for Skyview Elementary, the hurricane caused serious damage to the roof.

**Dan Masi, Florida State Elks Development Director, and St. Petersburg Lodge Exalted Ruler, Bonnie Barnes, presented a hurricane-relief check to Sophie Smith, Megan Cawley and Megan Turner, the Skyview Elementary teachers whose room computers were destroyed.**
and destroyed all computers in three classrooms. St. Petersburg Lodge #1224 was able to assist the school by donating $1,000 to help with the replacement of their computers.

On Saturday, Oct. 7, oohs and aahs were coming from classic car fans attending the St. Petersburg Elks' fourth annual car show. All cars, trucks, makes, models and years were welcome to the show and as 9 a.m. rolled in, so did the cars that varied in hues more vibrant than a Crayola box. The cars started to line up, car hoods were propped open to show shiny motors and car doors were opened to give a glimpse of their immaculate interiors. Great DJ music, food and beverages enhanced the attendees' mood and experience. While the show was free to the spectators, there was a fee to enter the cars in the show. Tours of the lodge were given by officers and several applications were handed out. Thanks to the hard work of chairperson and Loyal Knight, Dawn Lieber, and her team of volunteers, this event raised $1,357. The money is being split evenly between the Florida Elks Youth Camp and Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

Every Monday, Bill Murphy of Bay News 9 profiles a local person who is making a difference in the Tampa Bay area and beyond on “Everyday Heroes.” On Thursday, Oct. 12, Murphy interviewed Ted Wagner, founder of Music Sweet Music Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides music therapy to address physical, emotional, cognitive and social needs of children in the Tampa Bay area. The segment aired Oct. 30. St. Petersburg Lodge is proud of their lodge member. He is dedicated and committed to making a difference for others as part of his daily life. For further information about this organization, you can visit musicsweetmusic.org.

St. Petersburg Lodge donated $1,000 to be the 13th hole sponsor at St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation's eighth annual golf classic at Innisbrook Copperhead Friday, Oct. 27. Dan Masi, chairman and president of St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation board and golf committee chairman, was also representing the Florida State Elks Association as their Development Director. The lodge set up a table on the 13th tee box handing out water, crackers and flyers about the Florida State Elks Association's charitable programs. Toni Goodrich, Jan Jens and Chris Little worked the event. The event raised $100,000 to support St. Anthony's Hospital's many projects.

Soccer is more than an exciting game; it's a great way to instill valuable traits to kids. At St. Petersburg Lodge, they do everything they can to encourage the involvement of youth in extracurricular activities that are fun and exciting, and soccer is one of the fastest-growing sports today. During November, the lodge donated $1,000 to Azalea's Youth Soccer League and $100 to Southside Youth Soccer League, both in St. Petersburg.
Dixie Hollins Civitan Club members were the servers for St. Petersburg Lodge during the Night of Comedy Nov. 18. These young men and women volunteered so they could earn extra cash. Their goal is to save money so they can purchase Christmas presents for kids who are staying at Sallie House. Sallie House is a safe haven for children from infant to 17 years of age who have been removed from their home because of abuse, neglect or abandonment. Children may stay there as long as needed, for a few hours or several months, until they can be safely reunited with parents, placed with relatives, taken into a foster home, or adopted by a loving family. Attendees donated $333 that evening to assist them in reaching their goal of purchasing Christmas gifts.

St. Petersburg Lodge donated $250 to Music Sweet Music Inc. (MSM). The money will go toward the fundraising efforts of their 16th annual Bear Cares gala dinner and silent auction held Nov. 4. The funds received will be used to pay MSM’s contracted board-certified therapists. Although the main focus of MSM is to provide music therapy for children in the community, they also continue to serve the children for as long as they need music therapy. Some of MSM’s children are now adults and have been receiving therapy for 10 years or more. MSM also provides music therapy for veterans and members of the military. There are positive effects and healing abilities for soldiers with invisible wounds of war such as PTSD. MSM has been called by families to use their music as medicine for patients in hospice for their spiritual, physical and emotional comfort on the end-of-life journey.

On Dec. 2, St. Petersburg Lodge ER Bonnie Barnes presented MSM founder, Ted Wagner, with $984 worth of toys to be distributed to kids in the program and to families in need of toys. The donation was a total surprise to Wagner, and he was genuinely grateful for their generosity, time and effort. The gifts were purchased with funds from the Promise Grant.

On Saturday, Dec. 2, with their ongoing efforts of giving back to the community, St. Petersburg Lodge hosted their annual kids’ Christmas party using the $2,500 Promise Grant. With the grant and deep discounts from Walgreens, lodge volunteers went Christmas shopping for educational toys, electronic cars, doll houses, soft and cuddly toys, and much more for kids ages 12 and younger.

The lodge set the mood with Christmas music provided by elf Johnny Miller and had activities for the kids such as face painting, decorating cookies, coloring and making balloons. Free lunch and dessert were served to the 137 kids in attendance and to the 143 parents, grandparents and elves who were present. Soon afterward, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived dressed in red fur from head to toe when they heard the sound of sleigh bells being rung by the excited boys and girls. Mrs. Claus called each child by name and Santa spent time with each child and gave them an especially selected toy bearing their name. During their vacation time, Mr. and Mrs. Claus are better known as Len Fromel and Tina Martell. The chairperson for this event was Cathy Shriver, Leading Knight.

On Saturday, Dec. 2, with their ongoing efforts of giving back to the community, St. Petersburg Lodge hosted their annual kids’ Christmas party using the $2,500 Promise Grant. With the grant and deep discounts from Walgreens, lodge volunteers went Christmas shopping for educational toys, electronic cars, doll houses, soft and cuddly toys, and much more for kids ages 12 and younger.

St. Petersburg Lodge donated $250 to Music Sweet Music Inc. (MSM). The money will go toward the fundraising efforts of their 16th annual Bear Cares gala dinner and silent auction held Nov. 4. The funds received will be used to pay MSM’s contracted board-certified therapists. Although the main focus of MSM is to provide music therapy for children in the community, they also continue to serve the children for as long as they need music therapy. Some of MSM’s children are now adults and have been receiving therapy for 10 years or more. MSM also provides music therapy for veterans and members of the military. There are positive effects and healing abilities for soldiers with invisible wounds of war such as PTSD. MSM has been called by families to use their music as medicine for patients in hospice for their spiritual, physical and emotional comfort on the end-of-life journey.

On Dec. 2, St. Petersburg Lodge ER Bonnie Barnes presented MSM founder, Ted Wagner, with $984 worth of toys to be distributed to kids in the program and to families in need of toys. The donation was a total surprise to Wagner, and he was genuinely grateful for their generosity, time and effort. The gifts were purchased with funds from the Promise Grant.

On Saturday, Dec. 2, with their ongoing efforts of giving back to the community, St. Petersburg Lodge hosted their annual kids’ Christmas party using the $2,500 Promise Grant. With the grant and deep discounts from Walgreens, lodge volunteers went Christmas shopping for educational toys, electronic cars, doll houses, soft and cuddly toys, and much more for kids ages 12 and younger.

The lodge set the mood with Christmas music provided by elf Johnny Miller and had activities for the kids such as face painting, decorating cookies, coloring and making balloons. Free lunch and dessert were served to the 137 kids in attendance and to the 143 parents, grandparents and elves who were present. Soon afterward, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived dressed in red fur from head to toe when they heard the sound of sleigh bells being rung by the excited boys and girls. Mrs. Claus called each child by name and Santa spent time with each child and gave them an especially selected toy bearing their name. During their vacation time, Mr. and Mrs. Claus are better known as Len Fromel and Tina Martell. The chairperson for this event was Cathy Shriver, Leading Knight.

On Saturday, Dec. 2, with their ongoing efforts of giving back to the community, St. Petersburg Lodge hosted their annual kids’ Christmas party using the $2,500 Promise Grant. With the grant and deep discounts from Walgreens, lodge volunteers went Christmas shopping for educational toys, electronic cars, doll houses, soft and cuddly toys, and much more for kids ages 12 and younger.

The lodge set the mood with Christmas music provided by elf Johnny Miller and had activities for the kids such as face painting, decorating cookies, coloring and making balloons. Free lunch and dessert were served to the 137 kids in attendance and to the 143 parents, grandparents and elves who were present. Soon afterward, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived dressed in red fur from head to toe when they heard the sound of sleigh bells being rung by the excited boys and girls. Mrs. Claus called each child by name and Santa spent time with each child and gave them an especially selected toy bearing their name. During their vacation time, Mr. and Mrs. Claus are better known as Len Fromel and Tina Martell. The chairperson for this event was Cathy Shriver, Leading Knight.

On Saturday, Dec. 2, under the direction of chairman Martin Sharp, St. Petersburg Lodge volunteers put together 300 food baskets. The baskets were distributed to the following organizations:

Carol Barkalow’s Heaven on Earth for Veterans Inc. was given eight food baskets for their eight homes. Heaven on Earth focuses on providing high-quality living space for veterans in need.

Two food baskets were taken to families at Sequel Care of Florida which provides mental health and children’s services for approximately 1,000 children and families in Pinellas, Pasco, and Hillsborough counties.

Twelve food baskets were delivered to families of whom St. Petersburg Elks sponsored.
The balance of the baskets went to Northside Baptist Church Food Ministry which the lodge has had a partnership with for many years. Northside Baptist has a food pantry that provides food to more than 2,400 families per year.

The excess food that was not included in the 300 baskets went to CASA’s food pantry, the pantries of the eight homes at Heaven on Earth for Veterans Inc. and the Northside Baptist Food Ministry pantry. Extra toys went with the lodge-sponsored food baskets collected from Walgreens and donated by lodge members.

In order to fill the 300 baskets to give additional foods to the different organizations, the lodge used $6,500 in grants from the Gratitude Grant, Beacon Grant, Anniversary Grant and the State President Grant. The balance of food that was still needed was donated by lodge members which equated to well over $1,700 in food donations and gift cards for a total of $8,200 donated to the community.

Tampa #708

The kids in Club Chivalry for Successful Students had a great time on their field trip to the ropes course at the Florida Elks Youth Camp sponsored by Tampa Elks Lodge #708. On Sept. 30 at 7:30 a.m., Kristina Chowning, Jeanne Reinhart, Tommy Moore, Rita Smith and two new administrative coaches from the school loaded the charter bus with kids, snacks and drinks and headed north. They worked on some ground teambuilding skills until lunch. They then took a short tour of some of the facilities and returned to the ropes course. They spent some more time on the ground activities involving strategic planning and teambuilding. Though at first glance they seemed quite simple, the kids were challenged to their limits without leaving the ground. Finally, the helmets were on and the sky was literally the limit. They cheered on their teammates and overcame their fears as they went up. It was a fantastic start to the school year.

This is the fifth year for Tampa Lodge’s partnership with Hyde Park United Methodist Church and the Open Arms Ministry for the homeless. Every Sunday morning up to 180 men, women and sometimes children come through their door looking for safe harbor and a hot meal. While the Elks take charge on the third Sunday of each month, Elk volunteers are called in or just show up for duty most Sundays. In addition to a hot meal, each week has a special offering such as a clothing closet, haircuts, VA screenings, health screenings, dental care or a bicycle repair shop. The needy are also given any leftovers plus fresh fruit, bread and peanut butter sandwiches to take out the door with them for another meal. There are surge protectors on every wall outlet to provide enough outlets for cell-phone charging. The homeless may use the church address to receive mail and packages but can only check for mail Sunday mornings.

Tampa Elks apply for the Beacon Grant each year to help fund the program. The grant specifically funds the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday meals plus some new and used items for their clothing closet. Lodge members shop on a Monday, prep many of the side dishes and cook the turkeys on a Tuesday, and PER Courtney Weil and her crew show up very early on Sunday to get everything ready by 8 a.m.

In addition to feeding the homeless, Tampa Lodge donates to the Open Arms clothing closet. To supplement the members’ donations, they watch...
Major Jeffrey Young was presented with a donation from Tarpon Springs Lodge for a youth program by Chaplain, Nancy Gorby; ER Stephen Lindhorst; and trustee and grant writer, Paula Twaits. Members from Tampa Lodge participated in the lunch and learn training with students from the Club Chivalry program at Robinson High School in Tampa. The Impact Grant will be used for the third year to help provide training, education, life skills and mentoring to at-risk students.

Tarpon Springs #1719

Tarpon Springs Elks Lodge #1719 received the $1,500 Anniversary Grant and used it to support Tarpon Springs’ Cops ‘n Kids program. ER Steven Lindhorst presented a $1,300 check to Major Jeffrey Young for the program. The remaining $200 will be used to provide snacks at the Cops ‘n Kids Youth Center. The Cops ‘n Kids program is a partnership between the city of Tarpon Springs and the Tarpon Springs Housing Authority. The program center opened in 1994 with the purpose of becoming a role model program staffed by the Tarpon Springs Police Department officers and youth development educators. The program offers no-cost after-school child care for all eligible participants. Children must be between the ages of 9-12 and must live and go to school in Pinellas County, and the family must qualify for either free or reduced lunch, section 8 or public housing.

Bradenton #1511

Bradenton Elks Lodge bar bingo hosted by PSP Danny and Rachel Tabor provides fun and entertainment for members and guests while raising money for local charities. Recently, the bingo players voted to donate $500 for requested items for two local elementary schools. PSP Danny Tabor and ER Janet Mitchell delivered shopping bags filled with socks and underwear to Sea Breeze Elementary School and sacks filled with number 2 pencils, facial tissue and hand sanitizer to Bayshore Elementary School.

Manasota #2734

Manasota Elks Lodge #2734 held a breakfast with Santa Dec. 17 for 80 needy children. Santa arrived by fire truck to the children’s excitement and passed out gifts of clothing and toys to all children. The families also received Publix gift cards.

Lakewood-Sarasota #2855

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Elks Lodge #2855 sponsors Pirates baseball, a group of players who are physically challenged. The motto of the league is “Each child deserves the chance to play ball.” A player has a buddy at the plate with them and when they hit, the buddy makes sure they get around the bases. This year was for the adult members ages 26-75 years old. Lunch was served and they all played games before Santa arrived. Santa and three elves passed out gifts. There were 45 players, coaches and relatives who attended the Elks “miracle league” Christmas party.

Southwest District

PSP Danny Tabor and ER Janet Mitchell deliver needed goods to Bayshore Elementary principal, Jackie West, and assistant principal, Todd Blackmore.

PSP Danny Tabor and ER Janet Mitchell deliver items to Sea Breeze Elementary counselor, Nikki Fortner (center).

The Ladies of Elks of Tarpon Springs Lodge recently held a fashion show fundraiser. The money raised was used to sponsor two classrooms at Tarpon Springs Elementary. Pictured are ER Steven Lindhorst, Kathryn Conrad and Jennifer Monteverde.

Major Jeffrey Young was presented with a donation from Tarpon Springs Lodge for a youth program by Chaplain, Nancy Gorby; ER Stephen Lindhorst; and trustee and grant writer, Paula Twaits.
Palmetto #2449

South Hillsborough #2672

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 held their first Shoes for Christmas fashion show to benefit abused children, veterans, homeless and children at Ruskin Elementary. The cost to put on the show was all donated and over 20 volunteers helped. Those receiving money to purchase shoes were St. Vincent de Paul, St. Anne Catholic Church, Mary and Martha House, and the Allison family who lost everything when their home was destroyed by a fire. The total raised was $3,000. Priscilla Mixon was the chairman.

Sarasota South #2495

Venice-Nokomis #1854

Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge #1854 made good use of their Elks National Foundation grants. They gave Thanksgiving dinners to 80 families and Christmas dinners to 25 families along with toys and bicycles. This was all done with the help of a Beacon Grant and the Harry-Anna matching grant. With the help of a Freedom Grant, the lodge held three lunches for veterans bringing in 80 local veterans from assisted-living facilities. Comfort package items were also purchased for patients at C.W. Young Medical Center using $1,000 from the Freedom Grant. With the same grant, they also donated a 50" television to the Sarasota Sheriff’s Youth Ranch for the children.

Englewood #2378

On Oct. 14, Englewood Elks Lodge #2378 celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dinner dance. Estelle Dizzi, Exalted Ruler, presented a plaque to Tom Dignam, the lodge’s first Exalted Ruler. Dignam and his family donated a bench and walkway to the lodge.

SOUTH SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

For the past 15 years, Sarasota South Elks Lodge #2495 has been spearheading the annual Toys for Tots drive throughout Sarasota County. PDD Jim Lamb is the area coordinator. As of mid-December, collection drive efforts represented over 4,000 volunteer hours and 4,000 miles.

South Hillsborough Lodge models participated in the Shoes for Christmas fashion show.

Pictured are some of Englewood’s 22 Hoop Shoot contestants.
**Punta Gorda #2606**

Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 donated over 250 24-packs of water to the relief effort for victims of Hurricane Harvey. The PER Association hosted an Octoberfest with proceeds going toward scholarship funds, Florida Elks Youth Camp and Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services. They also held six blood drives and collected 150 pints of blood.

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the BPOE, Punta Gorda Lodge used its Anniversary Grant to help the Crossroads Hope Academy, a home and charter school for foster boys. They installed new flooring and are working on getting new impact windows for the school. The Elkettes also donated $1,000 to help repair hurricane damage.

**North Cape Coral #2874**

North Cape Coral Elks Lodge #2874 used its Promise Grant to host a Powder Puff football game and homecoming dance for the Lee County Hawks youth football and cheer program. Pizza and soft drinks were provided for the game, and a buffet and music were provided for the dance. Over 200 red ribbons were handed out over the weekend. North Cape Coral sponsors the youth football and cheer program every year.

**Naples #2010**

Members of Naples Elks Lodge #2010 celebrated Christmas early Dec. 11. Even though the members of the lodge are dealing with problems and flooding caused by Hurricane Irma, they did not let it dampen their spirit. Sixty children from East Naples Manatee Elementary School along with six teachers and 36 members including District Deputy Ron Heldebrandt celebrated at the annual Christmas party at the Enchanted Lakes clubhouse with Santa giving gifts to the children. Ann Marie and Ray Honan organized and coordinated the event. It wasn’t clear who had more fun, the children or the adults! This is what the Elks are all about – giving back to the community.

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.
Army units were assisting and providing meals to first responders and survivors every day. In four days, they prepared and distributed 265,000 meals.

Tracy Slaughenhaupt received $8,500. This lineman from Pennsylvania who volunteered to come to Florida as part of Hurricane Irma relief was in an accident. He made contact with a 7,200-volt electrical line. He lost his right arm and has burns over 40% of his body. He is still hospitalized in Florida after many surgeries. His son responded, saying “before anything else, thank you. The support we’ve gotten from people has been amazing and frankly quite helpful in the midst of all this as costs in life go on.”

Guadalupe Social Services Immokalee received $5,000. They opened their school rooms to those who lost their homes and everything the victims owned due to Irma. They offered subsistence relief to help families with repairs to the damaged homes.

Gulf Coast Humane Society received $1,500. If you evacuated because of the hurricane, you know how stressful it can be on your pets. Now imagine doing that with more than 300 animals who had nowhere to go. These heroes made sure those animals survived the storm.

Rotonda Elk members received $1,000. Most of the Rotonda-Englewood area escaped the wrath of Irma, but donations were made to those who had damage and were without insurance.

The Southeast District held their annual barbecue at Jupiter Elks Lodge #2469. The barbecue serves as a backdrop to introduce community members to charitable works performed by Florida Elks and as a membership recruitment event. Funds raised support the district.

All district lodges participated in one or more of the following categories: ribs, chicken and chili. Attendees purchased meals and raffle tickets and
In December, Clewiston Lodge partnered with the local United Cerebral Palsy chapter (UCP) to plan and deliver an unforgettable Christmas experience for local Cerebral Palsy clients. The local UCP worked with their clients to help them write their Christmas wish lists to Santa. The Clewiston Elks gathered all the wish lists, hung them on a decorative Angel Tree, and asked their members to select a list and be a special Santa for the client they selected. Within a week, all the cards from the tree were selected and within another few weeks, all the Santas returned with gifts for their special clients. On Dec. 20, the Elks invited all the UCP clients to visit with Santa, enjoy a nice meal, and collect their gifts, stockings, and other treats. Linda Allen, Leading Knight, and Roxanne Engel from UCP planned this special evening.

In the chicken category, Neck Down BBQ led by Clewiston member PDD Les Baucum won first place; Tall, Dark & Smokey led by Jupiter member James Wilkenson won second place; and Team Irma led by Jupiter members Steve and Jenn Brancazio won third place. In the ribs category, Rubbin’ Racks led by Clewiston member DDGER Greg Westberry won first place, Team Irma won second place, and Jupiter member Juanita North’s team won third place. In the chili category, the People’s Choice award went to Greg Westberry’s team. PDD Les Baucum, current Clewiston Exalted Ruler, was the overall high points winner and earned the 2017-2018 designation as “Beast of the Southeast.”

First-place winners in the Clewiston Lodge Halloween costume contest were from Belle Glade-Pahokee Elks Lodge.

Clewiston Lodge won first place in each category of the district barbecue.

Belle Glade-Pahokee #1716
Belle Glade-Pahokee Lodge hosted Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services therapist Teri Stocking. She shared with members some of the great work done by the Florida Elks therapists. The lodge also hosted the Chamber of Commerce’s 53rd annual awards banquet and dinner while showing off their Roaring ’20s outfits and recognizing the shining stars of their community. The fall vendor fair was also held at the lodge providing a great opportunity to get some early holiday shopping done.

In December, Clewiston Lodge partnered with the local United Cerebral Palsy chapter (UCP) to plan and deliver an unforgettable Christmas experience for local Cerebral Palsy clients. The local UCP worked with their clients to help them write their Christmas wish lists to Santa. The Clewiston Elks gathered all the wish lists, hung them on a decorative Angel Tree, and asked their members to select a list and be a special Santa for the client they selected. Within a week, all the cards from the tree were selected and within another few weeks, all the Santas returned with gifts for their special clients. On Dec. 20, the Elks invited all the UCP clients to visit with Santa, enjoy a nice meal, and collect their gifts, stockings, and other treats. Linda Allen, Leading Knight, and Roxanne Engel from UCP planned this special evening.

Jupiter #2469
Jupiter Elks Lodge #2469 held their sixth annual Haunted Lodge where 13 fright spaces were constructed in the lodge by local students. During the two-day event, nearly 1,000 people ventured through the maze for a scary good time. All public spectators got to vote on their favorite fright space and the Elks awarded $500 for first place, $250 for second place and $200 for third place. Each group was awarded $100 by the Elks just for participating.
Thanksgiving was truly a time for giving. Boca Raton Lodge provided a free Thanksgiving dinner for members, firefighters, EMTs and police officers on duty. A member donated 16 turkeys to provide for the meal. The lodge also provided Thanksgiving food baskets to the Broward Children’s Center. Sixty-one baskets including turkeys were distributed by lodge members and FAU veterans. The Broward Children’s Center serves children in the Broward and Palm Beach counties who need assistance. This is the lodge’s second year working with this wonderful center.

Boca Raton Lodge invited family members of deceased members to their memorial service and presented them with an artist’s rendering of memorial bricks placed in their loved ones’ honor at the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Delray Beach #1770
Delray Beach Elks Lodge’s biannual golf tournament had a great turnout with a profit of $4,000. The lodge also gave recent donations of $1,000 each to the Children’s Healing Institute, Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization, Juvenile Diabetes Research, Elks Disaster Relief Program, Help our Wounded, City of Delray’s Grade Level Reading and City of Delray’s One Soldier at a Time. They also gave $1,100 to the Palm Beach School of Autism and $2,500 to Heroes and Helpers.

The city of Delray Beach was awarded
All-American City for the third time. This prestigious national civic award recognizes the city’s efforts for encouraging youth literacy. The National Civic League, a nonprofit organization founded by President Theodore Roosevelt, has sponsored the All-America City Award for nearly seven decades. Of the 53 communities that applied for this year’s award, the civic league honored 15. This year’s award recognized communities for helping low-income children achieve early reading success. The community’s work has contributed to a 25 percent improvement in grade level reading for kindergarten through third grade across Delray public schools. Delray Beach Elks Lodge has been part of the youth literacy program for years. Delray Beach received this award in 1993 and 2001 as well.

Pompano Beach #1898

Pompano Beach Elks Lodge #1898 donated and delivered $1,000 in food and supplies for Hurricane Harvey relief. The drop-off location was the Hard Rock Stadium, home of the Miami Dolphins.

Using funds from the Beacon Grant and a matching grant from the state association, a butterfly garden will be created at Cresthaven Elementary School. This will be an ongoing project and can be enjoyed by students and faculty. The garden will be used by science classes studying butterflies and flora.

Florida Keys #1872

Florida Keys Elks Lodge #1872 held a community appreciation hurricane survival party Oct. 8. The complimentary buffet and entertainment was a thank-you to all the fantastic first responders, volunteers and residents. More than 30 local musicians donated their talents to perform on stage for approximately eight hours. It was fun for locals to relax, unwind and have a good time while they are still coping with the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Seniors from Coral Shores High School volunteered to help with serving. Elks worked long and hard to ensure that everyone had a good time and brought the community together.

Hollywood West #2365

Hollywood West Elks Lodge #2365, in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club of Hollywood, hosted the annual Hoop Shoot in the club’s gymnasium. Sixty-five boys and girls ages 6-13 competed in the event. An awards ceremony was conducted after the competition and participants were given trophies and ribbons. Pictured on the left with participants is chairman, Paul Houser.

Miami #948

Miami Lodge #948 had a great turnout for their Hoop Shoot. Pictured are contestants, parents and volunteers.

SOUTH DISTRICT

Robert Spencer sang during Florida Keys Lodge’s all-day community gathering after Hurricane Irma.

On Dec. 3, Florida Keys Lodge held a buffet breakfast on the patio. This event will be held on the first Sunday of each month until March. Members will be served a fantastic spread of breakfast goodies including omelets made to order. Their northern visitors will get a taste of southern cooking including biscuits and sausage gravy. The funds raised will help offset Hurricane Irma repairs.

Florida Keys Lodge hosted local children to milk and cookies with Santa and Mrs. Claus in mid-December. The kids decorated cookies and Christmas ornaments, took pictures with Santa and enjoyed lunch.

PHOTO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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 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 the camera files.

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS

Send all photos and district news to Rachael King, Editor, at rachael@floridaelks.org.
**NORTHWEST DISTRICT**

Crestview Lodge members Jim Wright and Ann Moore and Twin Cities Lodge member Gary Pelham assisted with the Okaloosa-Walton Homeless Veterans Stand Down in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Nov 3. Over 250 volunteers assisted more than 130 homeless veterans with medical, dental, housing and VA benefits. Crestview Lodge ordered moccasins, simple wallets and nail clipper kits from the Elks Veterans Services to hand out to the veterans.

**Live Oak #1165**

Live Oak Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler, John Cowan, came to the rescue for a veteran, Chris Geary, who had been hospitalized in Live Oak’s Shands Hospital while he was in Florida working on an electric line crew after Hurricane Irma. Geary’s crew had already returned home and Geary needed a ride to Lake City to catch the Greyhound home to Barnstable, Mass. Cowan got him to the bus station on time.

**Perry #1851**

Perry Elks Lodge #1851 held their annual Veterans Day banquet Sunday, Nov. 5. While all veterans present were considered honored guests, the program was focused on Vietnam veterans this year. The banquet service was followed by a program hosted by member Ed Harvey in which each veteran was introduced and a short summary of his service time was shared. Veterans’ meals were free.

Perry Lodge certainly remembered veterans and those less fortunate during Christmas. Six veteran families each received a box and two bags of nonperishable groceries and a $75 gift certificate for Christmas. The lodge also provided Christmas for three female veterans residing at the Robert Jenkins Veterans Domiciliary in Lake City. Several less fortunate families in the community received Christmas boxes as well.

**St. Augustine #829**

Each September, the St. Johns County Veterans Service Office hosts a Stand Down for homeless veterans. This annual event is now in its 11th year. The Stand Down is led by VSO Tammy Shirley and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County under the leadership of Chairman Bill Dudley. It is hosted by St. Augustine Elks Lodge #829 which funds the event through a $2,000 Beacon Grant.

**NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**Winter Park #1830**

Once again, Winter Park Elks and Does met at the historic Greenwood Cemetery in Orlando to lay wreaths at the graves of veterans from as far back as the Civil War. The lodge donates to Wreaths Across America, an organization that provides Christmas wreaths from the Maine woods to Arlington National Cemetery and others across the nation to remember our veterans.

**EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**DeLand #1463**

Lee Jackson-King and Mark Panageotes tied the knot on the 11th minute of the 11th day of the 11th month, the time when the WWI armistice took place. Bells from DeLand city churches and civic buildings rang out to honor this important occasion. The wedding took place in DeLand at the Veterans Day parade. Jackson-King, a member of Sebring Elk Lodge #1529, contacted DeLand Lodge #1463 requesting that the couple participate with DeLand Lodge in the Veterans Day parade and be married at the historic 11 o’clock
collection location so attendees were encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, the lodge broke ground and dedicated a Veterans Memorial site. The memorial is Boy Scout Troop 270’s Casey Leeman’s Eagle Scout project and is a monument honoring all those who served in the U.S. armed forces, past, present and future in war and peace.

Also on Saturday, the lodge hosted a classic car cruise-in. Admission was free and open to the public. There was also live entertainment, and food and refreshments were available for purchase.

On Sunday, Nov. 12, the lodge held its annual veterans motorcycle fun run. All riders were welcome. There was a $20 donation per bike and a $10 donation per additional rider and that included lunch at the lodge.

Port Orange #2723

PER Jerry Peterson, Port Orange Lodge Veterans Chairman, with ER Dan Theodore accepted a $75 donation for veterans from Lexi Kuczkowski, granddaughter of PER Frank Kuczkowski, and Ariel Minor at a cookout the lodge sponsored at the Emory Bennett Veterans Nursing Home. The girls raised the money

Merritt Island #2650

On Nov. 19, Merritt Island Elks Lodge #2650 provided Thanksgiving dinner to veterans from the Veterans Transition Center and their families.

Palm Coast #2709

Palm Coast Elks Lodge #2709 opened its doors Veterans Day weekend to introduce the Elks to the community and raise funds to support veterans charities. On Friday, Nov. 10, members gave tours of the lodge and shared their historic commitment to children and veterans. The lodge is a designated Marines Toys for Tots

Lee Jackson-King and Mark Panageotes were married during the DeLand Veterans Day parade.

hour. The groom wore his perfectly fitting 1970s dress Army uniform and the bride was appropriately dressed in a white mid-thigh shift with mesh stockings.

Pictured at the groundbreaking for an Eagle Scout project at Palm Coast Lodge are scout Casey Leeman (front, center) along with Elks, fellow scouts, family and city dignitaries.

PER Jerry Peterson and ER Dan Theodore of Port Orange Lodge accept a donation for veterans raised by Lexi Kuczkowski and Ariel Minor.
Holiday Isles #1912

Holiday Isles Elks Lodge #1912 Board of Directors chairman, John Wilson, led his gang of merry men and women over to C. W. Bill Young Hospital once more to cook a great lunch. Ron DeLuca provided music. About 150 veterans and caregivers enjoyed burgers, hot dogs, sides and soft drinks.

Largo #2159

In October, Largo Elks Lodge #2159 mailed $489,620 worth of manufacturers’ coupons to Germany, the U.K., South Korea, Italy and Guam. The lodge is now receiving numerous thank-you notes from around the world for their efforts.

Orlando #1079

Orlando Elks Lodge #1079 donated $1,000 to the Fisher House Foundation which is best known for a network of comfort homes where military and veterans’ families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. These homes are located at major military and VA medical centers nationwide close to the medical center or hospital they serve. Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, dining room and living room. Fisher House Foundation ensures that there is never a lodging fee.

Largo Lodge also held their annual visually impaired luncheon at the lodge hosting 74 veterans from the Lake Nona facility.

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

West St. Lucie #2823

There were 240 blessing bags provided through grant funding from the Elks National Foundation to West St. Lucie Elks Lodge #2823. The bags were given to homeless veterans living in the Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce areas. Bags were distributed each month from August 2016 through March 2017. Each bag contained bottled water, juice, soap, a razor, toothbrush and toothpaste, lotions, breakfast snacks, and other nutritional snacks. November and December bags also contained blankets, knit caps, gloves, t-shirts, sweatpants and underwear.

March bags included a knapsack/backpack that contained most of the above with the addition of a rain poncho.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, West St. Lucie Lodge held a Veterans Day dinner dance to thank them for their service. Member Denise Stover came up with an idea to take then-and-now pictures of members. It was one of the highlights of the evening.

West Central District

A celebration to honor Korean War veterans and the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War took place Nov. 9-11, 2017, in Washington, D.C. Elks from the West Central District traveled to attend the Parade of Heroes. St. Petersburg Lodge members Richard Ashton; Lodge Secretary, Toni Goodrich, PDD; and Nick Pusta were selected to be the FSEA group leaders for the three-day event. The group departed from Tampa IA and was escorted through the airport by the TSA and their honor guard. The district had one WWII veteran, five Korean War veterans and 28 Vietnam veterans in attendance.

Every name was read at the Vietnam Memorial and at 10 a.m. the Parade of Heroes Ceremony began. During this ceremony, Peter Lopez, Tiler of Largo Lodge #2159 and who was the only WWII veteran attending, was a keynote speaker and assisted in the laying of the wreath at the WWII Memorial. Bob Gorby of Tarpon Springs Lodge #1719 was also a keynote speaker and assisted in the laying of the wreath at the Vietnam War Memorial. Joe Slatton, PER of St. Petersburg Lodge #1224 was another keynote speaker and assisted in the laying of the wreath at the Korean War Memorial.

CENTRAL DISTRICT

Orlando #1079

Orlando Elks Lodge #1079 donated $1,000 to the Fisher House Foundation which is best known for a network of comfort homes where military and veterans’ families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. These homes are located at major military and VA medical centers nationwide close to the medical center or hospital they serve. Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, dining room and living room. Fisher House Foundation ensures that there is never a lodging fee.

Orlando Lodge also held their annual visually impaired luncheon at the lodge hosting 74 veterans from the Lake Nona facility.

Holiday Isles members provided lunch to veterans and caregivers at C. W. Bill Young Hospital.

Holiday Isles Lodge donated more than $4,000 so that two veterans and their caregivers could participate in the Parade of Heroes in Washington, D.C., for Veterans Day.

Doris Becraft, Exalted Ruler of Titusville Elks Lodge #2113, gave a check in the amount of $2,000 to Cathy McMullen, Finance Director for National Veterans Homeless Support of Brevard County. George Taylor, the Executive Director and founder of this organization, is also a member of Titusville Lodge.

LARGO #2159

In October, Largo Elks Lodge #2159 mailed $489,620 worth of manufacturers’ coupons to Germany, the U.K., South Korea, Italy and Guam. The lodge is now receiving numerous thank-you notes from around the world for their efforts.

Largo Lodge members and Boy Scouts wrote Christmas cards to deployed service men and women. The lodge sent 1,699 cards to bases in Germany, the U.K., Japan, Belgium, Guam, South Korea, Italy and Spain.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, Ervin Stark was one of several WWII veterans and Largo Lodge members honored as

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

West St. Lucie #2823

There were 240 blessing bags provided through grant funding from the Elks National Foundation to West St. Lucie Elks Lodge #2823. The bags were given to homeless veterans living in the Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce areas. Bags were distributed each month from August 2016 through March 2017. Each bag contained bottled water, juice, soap, a razor, toothbrush and toothpaste, lotions, breakfast snacks, and other nutritional snacks. November and December bags also contained blankets, knit caps, gloves, t-shirts, sweatpants and underwear.

March bags included a knapsack/backpack that contained most of the above with the addition of a rain poncho.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, West St. Lucie Lodge held a Veterans Day dinner dance to thank them for their service. Member Denise Stover came up with an idea to take then-and-now pictures of members. It was one of the highlights of the evening.

A celebration to honor Korean War veterans and the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War took place Nov. 9-11, 2017, in Washington, D.C. Elks from the West Central District traveled to attend the Parade of Heroes. St. Petersburg Lodge members Richard Ashton; Lodge Secretary, Toni Goodrich, PDD; and Nick Pusta were selected to be the FSEA group leaders for the three-day event. The group departed from Tampa IA and was escorted through the airport by the TSA and their honor guard. The district had one WWII veteran, five Korean War veterans and 28 Vietnam veterans in attendance.

Every name was read at the Vietnam Memorial and at 10 a.m. the Parade of Heroes Ceremony began. During this ceremony, Peter Lopez, Tiler of Largo Lodge #2159 and who was the only WWII veteran attending, was a keynote speaker and assisted in the laying of the wreath at the WWII Memorial. Bob Gorby of Tarpon Springs Lodge #1719 was also a keynote speaker and assisted in the laying of the wreath at the Vietnam War Memorial. Joe Slatton, PER of St. Petersburg Lodge #1224 was another keynote speaker and assisted in the laying of the wreath at the Korean War Memorial.

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

West St. Lucie #2823

There were 240 blessing bags provided through grant funding from the Elks National Foundation to West St. Lucie Elks Lodge #2823. The bags were given to homeless veterans living in the Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce areas. Bags were distributed each month from August 2016 through March 2017. Each bag contained bottled water, juice, soap, a razor, toothbrush and toothpaste, lotions, breakfast snacks, and other nutritional snacks. November and December bags also contained blankets, knit caps, gloves, t-shirts, sweatpants and underwear.

March bags included a knapsack/backpack that contained most of the above with the addition of a rain poncho.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, West St. Lucie Lodge held a Veterans Day dinner dance to thank them for their service. Member Denise Stover came up with an idea to take then-and-now pictures of members. It was one of the highlights of the evening.

A celebration to honor Korean War veterans and the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War took place Nov. 9-11, 2017, in Washington, D.C. Elks from the West Central District traveled to attend the Parade of Heroes. St. Petersburg Lodge members Richard Ashton; Lodge Secretary, Toni Goodrich, PDD; and Nick Pusta were selected to be the FSEA group leaders for the three-day event. The group departed from Tampa IA and was escorted through the airport by the TSA and their honor guard. The district had one WWII veteran, five Korean War veterans and 28 Vietnam veterans in attendance.

Every name was read at the Vietnam Memorial and at 10 a.m. the Parade of Heroes Ceremony began. During this ceremony, Peter Lopez, Tiler of Largo Lodge #2159 and who was the only WWII veteran attending, was a keynote speaker and assisted in the laying of the wreath at the WWII Memorial. Bob Gorby of Tarpon Springs Lodge #1719 was also a keynote speaker and assisted in the laying of the wreath at the Vietnam War Memorial. Joe Slatton, PER of St. Petersburg Lodge #1224 was another keynote speaker and assisted in the laying of the wreath at the Korean War Memorial.

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

West St. Lucie #2823

There were 240 blessing bags provided through grant funding from the Elks National Foundation to West St. Lucie Elks Lodge #2823. The bags were given to homeless veterans living in the Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce areas. Bags were distributed each month from August 2016 through March 2017. Each bag contained bottled water, juice, soap, a razor, toothbrush and toothpaste, lotions, breakfast snacks, and other nutritional snacks. November and December bags also contained blankets, knit caps, gloves, t-shirts, sweatpants and underwear.

March bags included a knapsack/backpack that contained most of the above with the addition of a rain poncho.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, West St. Lucie Lodge held a Veterans Day dinner dance to thank them for their service. Member Denise Stover came up with an idea to take then-and-now pictures of members. It was one of the highlights of the evening.

A celebration to honor Korean War veterans and the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War took place Nov. 9-11, 2017, in Washington, D.C. Elks from the West Central District traveled to attend the Parade of Heroes. St. Petersburg Lodge members Richard Ashton; Lodge Secretary, Toni Goodrich, PDD; and Nick Pusta were selected to be the FSEA group leaders for the three-day event. The group departed from Tampa IA and was escorted through the airport by the TSA and their honor guard. The district had one WWII veteran, five Korean War veterans and 28 Vietnam veterans in attendance.

Every name was read at the Vietnam Memorial and at 10 a.m. the Parade of Heroes Ceremony began. During this ceremony, Peter Lopez, Tiler of Largo Lodge #2159 and who was the only WWII veteran attending, was a keynote speaker and assisted in the laying of the wreath at the WWII Memorial. Bob Gorby of Tarpon Springs Lodge #1719 was also a keynote speaker and assisted in the laying of the wreath at the Vietnam War Memorial. Joe Slatton, PER of St. Petersburg Lodge #1224 was another keynote speaker and assisted in the laying of the wreath at the Korean War Memorial.
Ervin Stark from Largo Lodge #2159 was the oldest veteran present. He is 95 years young and had the honor of cutting the cake representing all branches of the military. The youngest veteran was Ret. Marine Corporal Daniel Clark, 49 years young, from St. Petersburg Lodge.

A combined total of $6,529.85 was raised via ticket sales and donations. The FSEA Historical Programs for the Parade of Heroes will receive $2,000 and the remainder of $4,529.85 is going to be given to C. W. Bill Young VAMC.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, the St. Petersburg Lodge members Jimmy Suvoy and Kevin Hodill. These men entertained veterans who are not able to go out and enjoy themselves as others can. Suvoy and Hodill like to see the veterans bop their head, clap their hands and sing along to a song they recognize. Both members are letting these men and women know they are not forgotten and that we remember how they gave of themselves selflessly to protect the freedoms we hold dear.

Veterans are treated to live music by Jimmy Suvoy and Kevin Hodill of St. Petersburg Elks Lodge.

On Nov. 11, a dozen Tarpon Springs Elks and ladies cooked hamburgers and hot dogs for the community. They brought Christmas spirit and desserts.

On Friday, Dec. 8, Seminole Elks Lodge #2519 went to the Community Living Center at Bay Pines to play bingo with the veterans. They brought Christmas traditions is their visit to Liberty Manor for Homeless Veterans.

On Sept. 25, veterans at the Community Living Center at C. W. Bill Young VAMC were treated to an evening of music by St. Petersburg lodge members Jimmy Suvoy and Kevin Hodill. These men entertained veterans who are not able to go out and enjoy themselves as others can. Suvoy and Hodill like to see the veterans bop their head, clap their hands and sing along to a song they recognize. Both members are letting these men and women know they are not forgotten and that we remember how they gave of themselves selflessly to protect the freedoms we hold dear.

On Nov. 11, a dozen Tarpon Springs Elks and ladies cooked hamburgers and hot dogs for the community.

One of Brandon Lodge's annual Christmas traditions is their visit to James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. Each December, the Elks and Ladies of Elks collect donations from members to purchase gifts for the veterans.

Mission BBQ also offers their services at various fundraising events for veterans. Last year at their expense, they catered a Brandon Lodge golf fundraiser for Brandon's Adopt-a-Vet, Liberty Manor for Homeless Veterans.

One of Brandon Lodge’s annual Christmas traditions is their visit to James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. Each December, the Elks and Ladies of Elks collect donations from members to purchase gifts for the veterans.
Jean Barfield, Past Lady President shopped for the gifts. Stephanie Shirey, Past Lady President along with her husband, Howard, and Past Lady Presidents Colleen Harmon and Eileen Subko assembled the gift bags. Current Lady President Julie Ebert did the shopping and assembling on behalf of the lodge. Barbara Matthews made arrangements with the hospital.

On Sunday, Dec. 17, Elks and ladies delivered 100 Christmas bags full of goodies to patients of the Spinal Cord Injury Unit. Most recipients are in wheelchairs or confined to bed. Ebert said “our veterans are so happy for the gifts but even more happy to interact with the Elks who deliver. Each veteran is personally thanked for their service to our country. Some of the veterans have no visitors so just the company is the best gift we can give.” Cookies and treats are also provided to the nursing staff as a token of gratitude for taking care of our most valuable assets, our veterans.

Plant City #1727

Plant City Elks Lodge #1727 put their values into action for Veterans Day. They sent one of their members, Vietnam veteran Bob Johnson, to Washington, D.C., for the Parade of Heroes. Johnson, overwhelmed at the honor it was to be chosen, had recently undergone open heart surgery but was determined to make the trip. The lodge paid all expenses for his journey.

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT

Manasota #2734

Manasota Elks Lodge #2734 attended the Manatee County Stand Down at Manatee County Fairgrounds in Palmetto Nov. 4 for homeless veterans and their families. Lodge members worked the booth passing out hygiene kits including shaving equipment, soap and shampoo which had been donated by the lodge. The lodge also manned the Elks drug awareness trailer and handed out literature, coloring books and Red Ribbons.

Sarasota South #2495

James Lamb of Sarasota South Elks Lodge #2495 was nominated for the 2017 Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame class. Out of 500 applicants, Lamb was one of 20 selected by Governor Rick Scott and the members of the Florida cabinet for induction. He is a retired Air Force Master Sergeant and Vietnam veteran.

The Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the state through civic, business, public service or other pursuits. It is not a traditional military hall of fame as it focuses on post-military contributions to the state. Lamb was nominated by PER Rose Wujcik, District PR Chairman, on behalf of the Southwest District for his work with veterans, Army of Hope, Operation Second Chance and Toys for Tots.

The ceremony and reception took place Monday, Nov. 27, at the governor’s mansion.

Bonita Springs-Estero #2753

Bonita Springs-Estero Elks Lodge #2753 used its Beacon Grant to provide some Christmas cheer in the form of holiday meals for homeless veterans and homeless members of
the Fort Myers community. Twenty-seven Elk volunteers met and assembled Christmas meal bags, and each bag contained a gift card for ham or turkey. The volunteers delivered the bags to the Lee County Veterans Office in Fort Myers where they were readied for distribution.

**Punta Gorda #2606**

Punta Gorda Lodge’s Veterans Committee entertained 84 veterans with three shows at the Douglas T. Jacobson Nursing home. Eight veterans and six caregivers were also brought to the lodge for lunch. They also delivered homecooked meals and presents to 19 residents at Veterans Village.

Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 raised $3,935.68 through charitable donations to send eight veterans to Washington, D.C., for the national Parade of Heroes for Veterans Day. Pictured are five of those veterans: Bill Andrade, Javier, Richard Frattarelli, Gary Lubitz, Dene King and George Anderer.

**SOUTHEAST DISTRICT**

**Clewiston #1853**

Clewiston Elks Lodge #1853 held a veterans appreciation ceremony and dinner for their veteran members and families prior to their regular Wednesday meeting Nov. 15. During the ceremony, Boy Scout Troop 619 presented the lodge with a folded flag and asked that they fly it over their lodge in honor of their veteran members both past and present. Exalted Ruler, Les Baucum, shared a short bit of history recounting how the Elks’ commitment to our nation’s veterans started in 1917 during World War I. The tribute song “Arlington” by Trace Adkins was played and the ceremony was closed by reminding everyone that the price of freedom is not free. The event was well attended with over 40 veterans, friends, family and Elks participating.

**West Palm Beach #1352**

West Palm Beach Elks Lodge #1352 hosted a poker run and family picnic for Wreaths Across America. Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the organization’s mission to remember, honor and teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery as well as over 1,200 locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. A local news station covered the event. Several thousand dollars was raised. Lodge ER Cheryl Edwards presented James “Rabbi” King, Wreaths Across America South Florida Cemetery Coordinator, with a $500 donation. The funds originated from a grant approved by State President Carl Gerace for ongoing community programs.

**Punta Gorda #2606**

Boca Raton Elks Lodge #2166 continued their work with and for veterans. They donated 200 decks of playing cards to the Miami Veterans Hospital. They also presented a Florida Atlantic University veteran student with a $1,500 scholarship for tuition and school expenses.

**Hollywood West #2365**

The Veterans Committee and volunteers of Hollywood West Elks Lodge #2365 accompanied veterans from Sandy Nininger Nursing Home to the Davie Rodeo. During the program, the veterans were acknowledged and thanked for their dedicated service to our country. The lodge also held their monthly community flea market in the lodge parking lot. All proceeds benefit veterans charities. The committee attended the Veterans Day celebration at Sandy Nininger Nursing Home and delivered cards to every veteran and thanked them all for their service. The afternoon was filled with entertainment, food and fellowship. The highlight of the day was the appearance of retired Miami Dolphins player Ronnie Brown.

**Florida Keys #1872**

The Florida Keys Elks Lodge’s Vets on the Water program is back up and running after Hurricane Irma. They offer outdoor water-based activities that promote the welfare and happiness of U.S. military veterans and active military personnel. Please contact the lodge for any information or visit vetsonthewater.us.
Florida Keys Lodge prepared boxes for shipping to deployed troops for Christmas. The boxes were sent to the security units at Camp Lemmonnier in Djibouti, Africa. This is a naval expeditionary base on the Red Sea. It is primarily made up of marines and naval personnel plus some Army units on their way to the Middle East. The lodge collected Christmas decorations, candies, cards and lots of homemade cookies.

On Veterans Day, Boy Scout Troop 912 assisted with Florida Keys Lodge’s ceremony and flag retirement. Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner and dessert. All veterans ate for free. Member and veteran Lee Kibbey entertained with music for dancing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February Quarterly
Feb. 9-10, 2018
Umatilla, Fla.

State Hoop Shoot Competition
Feb. 17, 2018
Umatilla, Fla.

Officer Training Seminar
March 16-18, 2018
Orlando World Center Marriott

112th State Convention
May 24-26, 2018
Orlando World Center Marriott

Grand Lodge Convention
July 1-4, 2018
San Antonio, Texas
2018 SOCCER SHOOT WINNERS

UNDER 8 GIRLS
First Place
Skylar Colas
Eustis #1578
Second Place
Mckenzie Lansford
Clewiston #1853
Third Place
Julianne Aragus
Clewiston #1853

UNDER 8 BOYS
First Place
Jackson Sprehe
Dunedin/Clearwater #1525
Second Place
Wildes Reddish
Clewiston #1853
Third Place
Kyle Lancing
Ormond Beach #2193

UNDER 10 GIRLS
First Place
Lauren Lancing
Ormond Beach #2193
Second Place
Sebastian Aragus
Clewiston #1853
Third Place
Gray Reddish
Clewiston #1853

UNDER 10 BOYS
First Place
Colby Schaneville
St. Petersburg #1224
Second Place
Sebastian Aragus
Clewiston #1853
Third Place
Gray Reddish
Clewiston #1853

UNDER 12 GIRLS
First Place
Arely Salgado
Plant City #1727
Second Place
Maylene Vazques
Punta Gorda #2606

UNDER 12 BOYS
First Place
Oliver Pena
Plant City #1727
Second Place
Jaylin Aragus
Clewiston #1853

UNDER 14 GIRLS
First Place
Avon Bennett
Punta Gorda #2606
Second Place
Cole Miller
Ormond Beach #2193

UNDER 14 BOYS
First Place
Avon Bennett
Punta Gorda #2606
Second Place
Cole Miller
Ormond Beach #2193

UNDER 16 GIRLS
First Place
Katelin Aragus
Clewiston #1853
Second Place
Hannah Arnold
Ormond Beach #2193

UNDER 16 BOYS
First Place
Sean Silva
Punta Gorda #2606
Second Place
Blake Stanley
Eustis #1578

FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE 46
Youth Camp
Summer 2018

Week 1  June 10 - 16
Week 2  June 17 - 23
Week 3  June 24 - 30
Week 4  July 1 - 7

Week 5  July 8 - 14
Week 6  July 15 - 21
Week 7  July 22 - 28
Dependents of Military / Army of Hope Week

Each lodge now has 6 FREE Camperships!