The Florida Elks
Youth Camp and Volunteerism:
How Summer Camp Fun Translates to Increased Community Service at Home

2019-2020 Endorsed State Officers:
Meet the President, VPAL and District Vice Presidents

2019 Unmasking Autism Gala of Hope

Hoop Shoot Winners
Welcome in the New Elk Year!

What a fabulous time in Elkdom – membership is booming, grants are growing and community activities are expanding! Come join us at the Florida State Elks convention in Orlando, Fla., and our national convention in St. Louis. The Florida hotel is a great property at the base of the Gateway Arch where the Fourth-of-July fireworks will be featured. Feel the excitement to be an Elk, especially a Florida Elk! Attend, enjoy and absorb the information.

To the new officers and committee members, in the words of Warren Buffet, one of the world’s most successful businessmen, “Surround yourself with people that push you to do and be better. No drama or negativity. Just higher goals and higher motivation. Good times and positive energy. No jealousy or hate. Simply bringing out the absolute best in each other.” We all should work to achieve. Best wishes for a record-setting year of success. Enjoy the trip.

Are you aware that our Children’s Therapy Services has 28 full-time therapists? They treat over 500 children weekly. Thank Colleen Gallant, Therapy Services Director, for her leadership as well as our therapists.

Are you aware that our Florida Elks Youth Camp had its best summer camp ever? We had 2,355 children during our summer camp and this is only for the summer. Please show your appreciation to Nick Miller, Camp Director, and his entire staff for the enjoyment they spread to our children.

Are you aware that our new Smith Conference Center hosted 91 groups this past year and we are constantly booking new groups to share our diamond in the forest? Be sure to thank Dana Beatty, meeting and events coordinator, for her effort and energy to promote our retreat.

Extend a special appreciation to Rachael King, state magazine editor, for this great publication. Thank Laz Suarez for our public relations.

I hope you are aware that the BPOE is in an accelerated growth mode. Going into the 60-day reinstatement period beginning April 1, our state association is at a +456 in membership growth for the year. What a fantastic reflection on our proud membership. We owe many thanks to Rod O’Connor, FSEA Membership Chairman, and his team.

You must be aware of the service the Florida State Elks administrative offices offer our membership. We continue to grow and manage the growth thanks to Carl Seibert, COO/State Secretary, and his efficient and friendly staff. We are very fortunate to have the leadership and attitude to answer the challenges. Please make sure you extend your appreciation. They recently finished orchestrating the Elks officer training, and Bob, Val, and I were overwhelmed by the progress and participation. The information delivered is a valuable asset to lodges.

Be loud, be proud and be visible!

Michael F. Smith, PNP
State Sponsor
Florida State Elks Association

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2019 Elks National Convention

America’s Center Convention Complex • St. Louis • June 30 - July 3, 2019
DISTRICT REPORTERS

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

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

Northeast
Tracy Carroll, PER
Green Cove Springs #1892
tracyacarroll@att.net

North Central
Richard E. “Dick” Bardsley, PDD
Winter Park #1830
staghorn@cfl.rr.com

East Central
Robin Gammill
Merritt Island #2650
robingammill@gmail.com

Central
Brian A. Estus, PER *
West Citrus #2693
jupiterper@gmail.com

Southeast Central
Jack A. “Tex” McClurken, PDD
Vero Beach #1774
texelk@gmail.com

West Central
Courtney Weil, PER
Tampa #708
solidfuture@ymail.com

Southwest Central
Mary Lou Scribner, PER
Brandon #2383
perelkmis@hotmail.com

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

South Southwest
Carol Aitchison
Deep Creek #2763
caitchison@aol.com

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

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

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

*** ALL address changes, requests for only one magazine per household, and cancellations MUST be given to the member’s lodge secretary, not the Florida Elks Magazine Editor. ***

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**Editor / Writer / Layout**
Rachael King
r.king@floridaelks.org

**Additional Artwork**
Laz Suarez
laz@floridaelks.org

**Advertising**
Dan Masi, Development Director
dan@floridaelks.org
Laz Suarez
Rachael King

**Production & Distribution**
Hickory Printing Solutions
an RR Donnelley Co.
jack.c.swyers@rrd.com

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I
t is very hard to believe that our year is almost over! Sally and I have enjoyed traveling around our great state to see all the wonderful things our lodges are doing for our children, veterans and the communities.

Since our last message, we traveled to the North Central District where our hosts were DVP Bill Hall and Nancy. Dinner Friday at Winter Garden Lodge was wonderful and the hospitality was great. Saturday we had an interesting and enjoyable tour of the Lakeside Winery and a delicious lunch at South Lake Lodge. The dinner Saturday at Eustis Lodge was outstanding and the decorations were awesome.

Next we had the privilege of attending the Alabama Elks Association winter meeting and helping them welcome GER Michael Luhr and Barbara. We had a tremendous weekend and enjoyed the hospitality of great Elks.

Our next visit was to the Northeast District where we were hosted by DVP Phyllis Bonser. Friday evening we enjoyed a fabulous meal at Green Cove Springs Lodge. After a terrific breakfast Saturday at Jacksonville Lodge, we helped pack snacks for our deployed troops. Then we had a very interesting and informative tour of Safariland, a U.S. company that makes body protection for the military and first responders. We were also provided a delicious lunch at Safariland. Saturday night we enjoyed the hospitality and delicious dinner at Orange Park Lodge.

We kicked off the February state quarterly meeting with a group of dignitaries welcoming GER Mike and Barbara Luhr at the Jacksonville airport. We toured the city of St. Augustine before we arrived at the camp for a great Florida reception. The attendees at the quarterly enjoyed visiting with Barbara Luhr at the Friday lunch and with Mike and Barbara that evening. Re-Creation presented a fabulous program! They are an outstanding group traveling to engage Elks everywhere. Mike's keynote address was inspiring.

The next weekend, Sally and I were privileged to attend the state Hoop Shoot in Umatilla, Fla. It was my honor to present the winners with their trophies, ribbons and my pin to each of the participants. Thank you, Eric Johnson, for chairing a great contest.

Our next stop was to the North District where we were hosted by Susan and Mike Lynn. Friday night we had a wonderful dinner at Perry Lodge. After breakfast Saturday, we toured the Big Top Structures, another U.S. company that sends its products all over the world. We then went to the Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Taylor County. Before going to Perry Lodge for a lasagna lunch, we visited the Historical Society of Taylor County and heard more about the city of Perry and Taylor County. Perry Lodge hosted dinner and a luau, and the decorations were fantastic. The officers, members and volunteers did a super job of entertaining us all weekend.

Next we visited the Georgia Elks Association midwinter meeting in Savannah, Ga. After breakfast Friday we toured the Bethesda Orphan House and Academy, the Wormsloe Estate and the Pin Point Heritage Museum. Savannah Lodge hosted delicious meals all weekend. The Saturday evening banquet gave us an opportunity to meet and greet many Georgia Elks. Our many thanks go to the officers and members of the Georgia Elks Association for a wonderful weekend.

Our final visit was our homecoming to the Southwest District. Our sincere thanks go to DVP Joe and Allie Cooper for executing a fabulous weekend. The dinner Friday at Venice-Nokomis Lodge was awesome. Saturday we took a tour of the Southeastern Guide Dog facility. The changes that have been made since our last visit are unbelievable. South Hillsborough Lodge hosted a wonderful lunch. The welcome Saturday night at Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge was spectacular! The friendly faces of so many friends and the baseball decorations were awesome. The dinner and efforts of so many were terrific. It was indeed great to have such a memorable homecoming.

It was an honor and a privilege to participate in the institution of a new lodge in Florida. East Polk Lodge #2882 was instituted March 24, 2019, in the Southwest Central District. The officers and members are committed and enthusiastic about their new roles and will be a great addition to the Florida State Elks Association. They will grow and prosper! With the addition of this new lodge and the help of all the lodges in Florida, we will have a membership gain of at least 456 new members. This is quite an accomplishment! I thank all who made this lofty goal possible. Once again, we took the best and with a lot of effort we were able to “Make the Best Better.” Florida stands tall and proud!

Sally and I would like to thank all the lodges and members of our great Florida State Association and especially the Southwest District for the support shown to us this year. Special thanks go to the officers and members of Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge, our home lodge, for the cooperation and encouragement throughout this year.

Again, it is a privilege and honor to represent you as the president of the Florida State Elks Association. Thank you for your confidence and the kindness shown to us this year. Each of you indeed has demonstrated “Make the Best Better.”

May God bless our troops, the Florida State Elks Association and America.

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

Are we Finally Starting to Turn the Corner? - Part II

Four years ago, in the Spring 2015 edition of the Florida Elks News, the title of my article was “Are We Finally Starting to Turn the Corner?” In that article I championed how close we had come to a statewide membership gain (195 members) and noted that we had started the year with 55,851 members. I also wrote about my observation of the new officers for 2015-2016 from the officer training seminar and remarked that the year’s crop was “one of if not the best” I had ever seen. I wrote about respecting members as volunteers and owners and reminded that a lodge is its members, not the lodge building. I wrote about inviting members who were not team players or who could not work with others or for the good of the lodge to find other pursuits where teamwork is not important. I wrote that we should not give a forum to those who seek to do nothing but profess their knowledge of the statutes or who attempt to only enforce a statute or a rule when it favors them. And, I wrote about the time it takes for an organization to enact organizational change, at the time suggesting my perception was three years.

Now fast-forward to Spring 2019 and allow me to stray a bit from the hard-hitting introspection I usually write about to suggest that it was four years, not three, but nonetheless, I think we are doing it! I believe we are finally starting to turn the corner!

For the year ending March 31, 2019, our statewide membership is 55,741, this even after losing seven lodges since 2015. For the year we have gained 456 members or .82%. Contrast this to a loss last year of -1.10% or 616 members. From 2008 to 2014 we lost 19% of our members (13,346), but for the last five years we have lost only 319. Since our membership decline began in 1990, we have experienced only four membership gains in that 29 years, the highest of which was only .63% in 2017.

This year we exceeded that with a gain of .82%. The contrast year to year is stark:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Gain/-Loss</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>56,096</td>
<td>-409</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>56,405</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>58,957</td>
<td>-3,552</td>
<td>-5.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>62,509</td>
<td>-3,552</td>
<td>-5.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>66,061</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-5.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>76,717</td>
<td>-3,552</td>
<td>-5.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>80,279</td>
<td>-3,552</td>
<td>-5.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>83,831</td>
<td>-3,552</td>
<td>-5.42%</td>
</tr>
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<td>87,383</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>55,741</td>
<td>-3,552</td>
<td>-5.42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have you any doubt we are finally starting to turn the corner? What else drives my optimism? Look at the statewide growth of our, hopefully, TRUST Fund and major projects.

For the year ending March 31, 2017 - $643,923. Last year - $610,284. This year - $685,650 - is the best in three years! Look at our statewide giving to the Elks National Foundation, provider of the grants that have brought new life into our lodges: $6.47 per member in 2017, $6.17 last year and $6.50 this year per member, greatly exceeding our national president’s goal of just $4.75 per member!

I talk with a lot of our members across the state and visit with them often in their districts and at events. After 17 years of on-the-job learning, trust me when I tell you that I hear about the problems that beset our lodges. Naturally, I apply a filter that for each compliment I hear, there are usually 10 complaints. Most revealing this past year has been the lack of complaints! This tells me things are settling down in our lodges and perhaps contributing to the optimism we are seeing in the numbers. Finally, there are the managers and leaders of our lodges. A few articles ago I challenged lodges to extend the term of a good Exalted Ruler for a second year if you have one. Twenty-eight of our 94 lodges, or 30%, chose to do just that for the coming year, perhaps at the detriment of moving officers forward and through the chairs, but hopefully it’s a good move as we slow the pace of our operations and focus more on training great leaders and promoting teamwork and achievement.

Looking at the membership chart above once again, it bears this question: what happened in 2015 that changed the tide and began the revolution? The answer began in 2011 after the state suffered its largest ever one-year loss of over 5% of our membership. Urged by then-national president, Jim Nicholson, to “throw some money” at addressing our membership losses, the Florida Elks embarked on a five-year campaign to do just that. It began with the promotion of our then-State Membership Chairman, Don Moon, to a paid, part-time staff position. Then, off we went. Don began a listening tour and visited lodges and districts across the state to learn more about the problems and to educate our members on what was happening. This led to a think-tank initiative utilizing innovative movers and shakers and members from across the state and later to a liaison effort made up of representatives from every lodge in the state. Those efforts culminated in the first ever 29-page Florida Membership Development Guide written to supplement the Grand Lodge Membership Program & Planning Manual. This Florida guide is still in use today. Find it at floridaelks.org/imedia/FSEA/pdf/liaison_book_may_2012.pdf. Soon thereafter, the Grand Lodge, too, launched an effort to address membership by creating the position of Membership & Marketing Manager on the national level. We know him as Rick Gathen, a dynamo who has brought new life into our lodges: $6.47 per member in 2017, $6.17 last year and $6.50 this year per member, greatly exceeding our national president’s goal of just $4.75 per member!

The saying that it takes a village to raise a child applies also to Elks in that we must all work together to continue the revolution that will propel our lodges to prosperity, but, more importantly, sustain the good works we are doing in our community in support of those less fortunate than ourselves. The order of Elks has been in existence for more than 150 years. We may change slowly, but change we do, and it is why we will be around for another 150 years!

Jim Nicholson, to “throw some money” at addressing our membership losses, the Florida Elks embarked on a five-year campaign to do just that. It began with the promotion of our then-State Membership Chairman, Don Moon, to a paid, part-time staff position. Then, off we went. Don began a listening tour and visited lodges and districts across the state to learn more about the problems and to educate our members on what was happening. This led to a think-tank initiative utilizing innovative movers and shakers and members from across the state and later to a liaison effort made up of representatives from every lodge in the state. Those efforts culminated in the first ever 29-page Florida Membership Development Guide written to supplement the Grand Lodge Membership Program & Planning Manual. This Florida guide is still in use today. Find it at floridaelks.org/imedia/FSEA/pdf/liaison_book_may_2012.pdf. Soon thereafter, the Grand Lodge, too, launched an effort to address membership by creating the position of Membership & Marketing Manager on the national level. We know him as Rick Gathen, a dynamo who has brought new life into our lodges: $6.47 per member in 2017, $6.17 last year and $6.50 this year per member, greatly exceeding our national president’s goal of just $4.75 per member!

The Spring 2015 article referenced above is included in an archive of my articles accessed through our website at https://floridaelks.org/carls-corner. While there, join the conversation by logging in and posting your comments.

Carl Seibert, COO/State Secretary
Florida State Elks Association

Florida State Elks Association

FLORIDA ELKS MAGAZINE 04
I t seems like yesterday we were at the FSEA quarterly meeting at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. The FSEA presidents’ wives hosted a beautiful ladies luncheon and gave us the opportunity to meet Barbara Luhr, wife of Grand Exalted Ruler, Michael T. Luhr. She shared her and her husband’s unique two-part nesting pins. The FEYC staff provided a delicious meal that we all enjoyed. Friday evening, we enjoyed an entertaining show by Re-Creation USA show, you don’t know what you’re missing! They are a group of very hardworking young men and women who volunteer to take a year out of their lives to travel around the country to honor and entertain our elderly veterans who are often forgotten by putting on shows at veterans’ nursing homes. They are proof that there are many amazing youths in our fine country. Their patriotism and gratefulness to our veterans is a joy to experience.

Saturday morning was our FLOE meeting and FSEA President, Frank Malatesta, and FSEA endorsed VPAL, Rudy Masi, spoke to us before their meeting. Thank you, gentlemen.

Highlights of the meeting were:

• Our Chinese auction at the state convention in May will be open all day Thursday and Friday morning. The luncheon menu is available in the May packet. If you do not have computer access, please contact PSP Judy Reyes for the information.

• The nominating committee presented a slate of officers for the upcoming FLOE year. Nominations will be accepted at the May FLOE meeting followed by elections.

• Vice President Adella Ashton presented her choices for the 2020 FLOE conference site. It was decided that the 2020 FLOE conference will be held at Lido Beach Resort in Sarasota, Fla., Sept. 24-26.

• The membership approved the final FLOE donation for the 2017-2018 FLOE year in the amount of $4,000.

The FSEA major projects meeting was inspiring; we saw just how much the Elks earn for our major projects throughout the year. We also heard from GER Luhr. PSP Mary McCoy presented the last proceeds for the previous FLOE year. There were many amazing reports given.

The FLOE officers, committee chairladies and members are working hard to prepare for the Elks state convention May 23-25. The Chinese auction will again be set up and running near the Elks silent auction Thursday and Friday morning. If you are bringing your item donation to the state convention, we need to have it by Wednesday evening. There will be a table as close to the registration area as possible staffed by the Chinese auction committee and FLOE members for you to drop off your items. Winners will be drawn during the FLOE luncheon. The luncheon is open to all Elks, FLOE members and guests. Tickets for the luncheon will be available on the FSEA website. If you do not have computer access, you can call me and I will mail you one. My number is 386-965-5594.

Soon after the state convention, FLOE will start working on our 56th annual conference which will be held Sept. 19-21 at Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort. This is an amazing place! Onsite are two pools, two Jacuzzis, a spa, seven bars and restaurants, a fitness center, and a very nice gift shop. You can walk to the Daytona Beach pier and boardwalk and the oceanfront shops and movie theatre and down to the beach. There is so much to do that you don’t even need your car once it is parked.

This year’s conference promises to be another great one. The fundraising store will be open Thursday through Saturday. Friday evening there will be a murder mystery dinner open to Elks and guests sponsored by the Tallahassee Elketts. Thank you so much, Elketts! Saturday morning will be our FLOE business meeting followed by a luncheon. We welcome Elks and guests to our luncheon and afternoon session. The afternoon session starts with the memorial service. FLOE will present several annual awards for the 2018-2019 year. The session will end with the installation of the 2019-2020 FLOE officers.

We invite all Elks, FLOE members and guests to attend our conference. Almost all activities are open to all. Information about conference events and hotel rates will be handed out at the May FLOE meeting and will be available soon after under the FLOE tab on the FSEA website. If you would like a packet but don’t have a computer, call me and I will mail you one. My number is 386-965-5594.

We have some openings for FLOE district delegates. Our delegates have an important role in enhancing FLOE and our many activities and fundraisers. If you would like to become a FLOE delegate for your district, you may talk to any delegate, advisory council member or officer for more information.

See you in May!

Felicia Vuletich, 2018-2019 President
Florida Ladies of Elks
Welcome to spring. 2019 promises to be an amazing year for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

We recently said goodbye to one of our longtime therapists, Teri Stocking, who has been an occupational therapist in south Florida for many years. She had an opportunity to retire and spend more time with her son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren after their move to Nashville, Tenn. Teri was with FECTS for 18 years and was a wonderful therapist who also served as a regional coordinator for the south region. She will be missed, but we wish her well in her new life of retirement.

On March 4, we welcomed Donna Revera who is taking over Teri Stocking’s territory in the West Palm Beach, Fla., area. She is an extremely experienced therapist and will do well. I know you will make her feel welcome.

April was Autism Awareness month. Our therapists have found that over the years, they are treating more and more children on the autism spectrum. They work with these children in the hope that they may someday be able to function as independently as possible within their abilities. Two of our long-term therapists, Paula Tarver and Jeanne Martin, were awarded the Humanitarian of the Year award at the Harry-Anna Trust Unmasking Autism Gala of Hope in St. Petersburg, Fla., April 13 for their work in writing the book “Advance My Baby.”

Tarver and Martin are two of the first therapists hired by PSP Ben Brown and they each consider it an honor to treat the children of Florida in the name of the Florida Elks for the past 20 years. Once they joined FECTS, they both took an interest in the continuous rise in the number of children with developmental delays. This caused them concern and precipitated the co-writing of a developmental handbook which gives caregivers a comprehensive resource that allows early detection of developmental delays in infants and babies from birth to three years. After several years of compiling information for the handbook, “Advance My Baby” was completed. The manual was designed to guide parents in promoting all areas of development. It provides all the best activities and exercises for caregivers to create the ultimate environment to build the foundations for academic achievement, physical prowess, and emotional and social success.

Tarver and Martin are both strong advocates of involving the parents or caregivers in their child’s therapy services. This enables them to be part of the solution and to partner with FECTS to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child. Their goal has been to educate parents on the importance of tracking early development, how to assist their child with their therapy needs via sensory integration activities and techniques, and to empower them with the knowledge to advance their child to their full potential.

I am so proud to have the honor to work with both these therapists as well as our other 26 very fine therapists.

Our CHAMP of the Year, Jackson Barth, is nearing the end of his year as our CHAMP. Jackson and his family have been amazing promoting our program and getting out to meet our members whenever we asked. It has been a pleasure spending time with the entire family - dad, Mick; mom, Katie; and brothers Liam and Everett. Our therapists have grown so fond of Jackson that we have made a place for him as our ambassador for FECTS, and he will be at the state convention.

The 2019-2020 FECTS CHAMP of the Year is five-year-old JJ D’Angelo. According to his physical therapist, Samantha Yox, he loves spending time with his parents and little sister and going on walks, going to the park, and riding the Elks adaptive bike. “He has many medical diagnoses which affect his balance, coordination, motor skill development and communication. He works very hard and loves the praise and excitement when he accomplishes something new. He is always smiling, even when he is protesting his PT activities! JJ is a fighter and true champ!” says Yox.

JJ’s mother, Katis, describes him this way: “JJ is a true champion who has been fighting big battles since day one. His very first day he had to be resuscitated immediately after birth. He has been working extremely hard for every milestone he has gained on his own timeframe. He spends every day of the week doing an eight-hour neurodevelopment program. Through the Elks program with Ms. Sam, JJ most recently learned how to ride an adaptive bike at five years old. He is diagnosed with an ultra-rare genetic disorder called CHAMP1.

There are only 51 more people diagnosed with CHAMP1 worldwide. It is associated with epilepsy, autism, severe speech delay, and overall global development delay. To learn more about CHAMP1, visit champ1foundation.org. JJ is a true CHAMP1ON.”

On behalf of all of us at Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, thank you for all you do to help Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. We continue to treat in excess of 500 children per week and we could never do it without each of you. Please keep up the great work!

Colleen Gallant, Director
Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services
Congratulations to all new lodge officers across the state! The officer training seminar in March is always one of my favorite Elk events, and this year was no exception. The energy and passion of new officers is a welcome boost for me just as we get ready to hit the camp season. Thank you in advance for all you’ll do this year!

Let’s start with an update on summer camp 2019. By the time you read this, we will be 100% full. Now, while this is a good thing for those 2,352 campers who will be enrolled, it will also be a great frustration to the hundreds of kids who still wish to attend. This is where we need YOU! Campers can still apply for session wait lists even when we’re full. Many people hear wait list and think, “There’s no chance,” but we need you to spread the word.

Last year, we placed over 300 children from our wait list as kids who were already enrolled either cancelled or didn’t show up. Also, we are expecting anywhere from 50-100 spots to open up May 1 when our bus reservations are solidified and all unused spots are released to regular campers. I challenged our staff last year to make sure that no more than 60 beds went unfilled due to cancellations or no-shows. In response, your youth camp team got all but 17 of 2,352 beds filled. This year, I expect us to do even better. So, spread the word! Anyone interested in summer camp 2019 needs to apply today, and they should not be discouraged by the wait list option! We will of course always prioritize campers who are on their last year, campers who are dependents of active-duty military personnel or military veterans, and campers who have never before attended camp.

This leads to my second point. Summer camp enrollment now opens in November of every year for the following year. So, enrollment for next year, summer camp 2020, will open Nov. 1, 2019. This is a major change from past years when we opened enrollment Feb. 1. For the last three years, we have filled all open summer camp spots by May 1 prior to camp. So, it will be critical for your members to get the word out ahead of time even as this year’s camp is in session. Please be sure to tell all parents and Elks interested in summer camp 2020 that they need to apply as early as possible to ensure they can get their preferred week of camp.

Along with this change, all six ENF camper scholarships will be released to lodges much earlier than normal. Instead of receiving them at the February quarterly, we plan to get them to you by Nov. 1. Also, instead of lodges receiving the ENF scholarships directly from the youth camp, you will now get them from your district appointed FEYC Board of Directors member. Your District Director will be in contact with each lodge via email, phone calls or District Deputy clinics.

As always, it is an honor to serve as your youth camp director, and I am thankful every day for the opportunity to be a part of what Florida Elks do for kids!

Nick Miller, Director
Florida Elks Youth Camp

SUMMER CAMP 2019 SCHEDULE

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<td>July 14-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7*</td>
<td>July 21-27</td>
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</table>

*Military Week: Dependents of veterans and/or active military attend for free!
Several Walgreens representatives who were involved in the 2018 Walgreens-Elks Toy Drop attended the February quarterly. The Florida State Elks Association recognized the three store managers of the stores that collected the most toys. In 2018, select Florida Walgreens stores collected 5,200 toys with a retail value of $46,000. This was an increase of $33,300 from the 2,000 toys collected in 2017.

John Lyon’s store #15518 in Clearwater collected the most gifts with over 20 boxes of gifts on the collection day and another seven or eight from an early pickup. When told he would be given a $100 Visa gift card to celebrate with his team, he refused it and wants the Elks to use that money to further their causes instead. In second place was Kimberly Paukert’s store #4800 in Largo, and in third place was Megan Verrett’s store #9297 in Riverview.

During the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services presentation, occupational therapist Argie Criner told how treating one of her patients led to the recognition of the patient’s brother also needing occupational therapy. Criner was treating Hannah, 5, in the family’s home for her 26 sessions and therefore was introduced to her brother, Caleb, also 5, as well. Hannah was born with a cleft palate and was being treated for fine and gross motor delay. She was diagnosed with ADHD after she began treatments. Criner soon noticed some issues Caleb was having with his fine motor skills and his sensory processing skills, so she informed the family that he, too, may benefit from OT. Although not officially diagnosed, he shows signs and symptoms consistent with the diagnosis of sensory processing disorder, but he was referred for fine motor delay. Once approved for the program, she began treating Caleb with techniques including a balance board, therapeutic listening, fine motor activities and reflex integration. Because the therapy sessions are performed in the home, the family learns how to help Caleb continue working on these skills throughout the week, and because of the extra work his parents are doing with him, Caleb is making great progress and is near the end of his 26 sessions as well. A measurable achievement is seen in the fact that at the beginning of treatment he could not write any letters, but now he is writing his first and last name. Without the in-home services of FECTS, he could have gone undiagnosed until he starts kindergarten next year.
**2019-2020 ENDORSED STATE OFFICERS**

The members and lodges of Florida's Southwest Central District and Plant City Lodge #1727 are honored to present to the 2019 Florida state convention in Orlando, Fla., the name of **Thomas “Tom” Ludwick** as a candidate for the office of **State President** of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

**Tom Ludwick** was born in Warren, Ohio, July 19, 1946. He graduated from Howland High School in 1964 and studied engineering for two years at Purdue University. He graduated from the University of South Florida after moving to Florida in 1969 to start a family business.

Ludwick co-founded SEO Enterprises Inc., a microscope sales and service company which has been in Lakeland, Fla., for 50 years. Thirty years ago, he bought out his partners and later added the Nikon microscope distributorship. The company's main customers are universities, clinical laboratories, hospitals, doctors, and educational facilities as well as many industrial companies throughout Florida and southern Georgia. Ludwick is owner and President/CEO.

He and his wife, Joyce, moved to Plant City, Fla., after they were married in 1991. They have four children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

On May 23, 1994, Ludwick was initiated into Plant City Elks Lodge #1727. From 1994-1997, he served as Chaplain, Treasurer, Loyal Knight and Leading Knight; he was elected Exalted Ruler in 1997. He was the Veterans Services Vice Chairman and State Chairman for 1998-2000 and Harry-Anna Trust Fund Vice Chairman and State Chairman for 2000-2002. He served as the Southwest Central District Vice President for 2002-2003 and District Deputy for 2003-2004. He has been a Plant City Lodge trustee for 15 years and has served as trustee chairman eight times. In 2014, he was awarded honorary life membership by his lodge for 20 years of exemplary work and fundraising. He currently serves as co-Lodge Advisor. He was State Tiler for 2005-2006. He served on the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors from 2006-2009. From 2009-2015, he served two terms on the Florida Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors and one year as its President. He has been on the Florida Elks Properties Board of Directors for the past four years, serving as President in 2019. He served as the Florida State Elks Association Vice President at Large for 2018-2019, and at the 2018 midyear convention, he was endorsed by the Past State Presidents Advisory Committee as the State President for the Florida State Elks Association for 2019-2020.

In addition to the Elks, Ludwick is a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Plant City, Fla. He spent nine years coaching Little League baseball and served as president of the Lakeland Patriots Youth Football Organization and commissioner of the Sunshine State Football League for four years. He was also head coach of the Polk County Youth Basketball League. He enjoys golf, boating, fishing, skiing and being with his family.

**Rudy Masi** was born in Pittsburgh in 1952 and moved with his family to St. Petersburg, Fla., in 1954 where he grew up and still resides. He graduated from Dixie Hollins High School in 1970. He attended St. Petersburg Junior College and graduated with honors in 1995 from National Louis University with a degree in applied behavioral sciences. He attended and received certifications from the University of North Carolina's Kenan-Flagler Business School for Leaders.

In 1973, Masi began his career with Florida Power Corp. (Duke Energy), retiring in 2012. He helped establish and manage Progress Energy's residential and small commercial non-regulated businesses and channels in North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. Upon retirement from Duke Energy, he started working for Convergent USA as VP of product development and channel management. He was soon promoted to VP of operations responsible for consulting with utilities around the nation and setting up and managing businesses similar to those he ran for Progress Energy and Duke Energy.

Masi holds certifications and licenses as a level-3 thermographer, power quality consultant, residential building contractor (for Florida) and a commercial/industrial energy auditor.

Masi joined St. Petersburg Elks Lodge #1224 in 2004. He has served as Lecturing Knight and Leading Knight and twice as Exalted Ruler. He has also been chairman of Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Elks National Foundation Certificates, Youth Activities, Investigations, Membership and Indoctrination, Government Relations, Law and Order Night, the building fund and fundraising committee, the bylaws committee, the All-American Lodge committee, and the kitchen committee. He was a two-time House Committee chairman, a two-time Entertainment chairman, and a two-time president of the Lodge PER Association.

On the district level, he was District Chairman of Drug Awareness Education, Government Relations, and Publicity and Public Relations. He has
served as District Esquire, West Central District Vice President and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. He is a member of the West Central District PER Association as well as the West Central District PDD Advisory Council of which he served as chairman for 2018-2019. He serves as Lodge Advisor for Holiday Isles Lodge #1912 and was District Chairman of Orientation.

For the state, he was Vice Chairman and State Chairman of New Lodges. He has served on the Florida Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors as well as the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors and its Executive Committee. He also serves as the Historical Commemorative Programs Liaison.

Masi received the following Elks awards: Elk of the Year, 2006-2007; Grand Lodge membership award, 2008; GER membership award, 2009 and 2016-2017; GER Outstanding Service Award, 2009-2010 and 2012-2013; GER Commendation for Excellence, 2014-2015; and GER Outstanding Service Commendation, 2016-2017. He also led St. Petersburg Lodge to earning the All-American Lodge award as second in the nation for division 5 for 2015-2016.

He and Dolly have been married 28 years and have two sons, Rey III and Rudy Jr. (deceased); a grandson, Rey IV; and a granddaughter, Aurelia. They raised Rey IV who is an Elk graduating from the University of West Florida.

Toni Palmer was born in Metarie, La., and moved to Florida in 1958. She graduated from Plantation High School. She worked for morale, welfare and recreation at NAS Pensacola for 28 years; for 10 years she has been working part time.

Palmer joined Warrington Elks Lodge #2108 nine years ago after she was involved with the ladies organization for nearly 20 years and was president three times. She felt she could do more and get more involved by becoming an Elk. She has served as Inner Guard, Chaplain, Leading Knight and Exalted Ruler. She served as District Chairman of several committees and has been Vice Chairman and State Chairman of Orientation and State Chairman of Sports.

In addition to the Elks, she is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

She has been married to Paul for 30 years. She has one daughter, Angie Lynn Cecil, also an Elks member.

The members and lodges of Florida’s North District are honored to present to the 2019 Florida state convention in Orlando, Fla., the name of Christopher Lydick as a candidate for the office of North District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Christopher Lydick was born Sept. 25, 1979, in Jacksonville, Fla. He grew up in Jacksonville Beach, Fla.; Washington, D.C.; Baltimore; and Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

He graduated from Allen D. Nease High School in St. Augustine, Fla., in 1997. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in both anthropology and classical civilizations from the University of Florida in 1997 and a Master of Science degree in anthropology/archaeology from Florida State University.

From 2002-2006, Lydick was an archaeological technician for the United States National Park Service (NPS) at the duty station of the NPS Southeast Archeological Center in Tallahassee, Fla. From 2006-2007, he was a deputy forest archaeologist for the United States Forest Service (USFS) at the duty station of the National Forests in the Florida supervisors’ office in Tallahassee, Fla. Since 2007, he has been the USFS district archaeologist at the duty station of Osceola National Forest in Olustee, Fla. Also since 2007, he has served as a USFS wildland firefighter and has been called for duty on hundreds of wildfire missions both in Florida and nationally as ordered by the government.

Shortly after being assigned to the Osceola National Forest, he was asked by an Elks member if he would like to join the order. This year, he will be a nine-year member. He has served as Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Esteemed Loyal Knight, Exalted Ruler, trustee for five years, chairman of the board of directors, chairman of the board of trustees, and chairman or member of various lodge and district committees.

In addition to the Elks, Lydick serves as the chairman of the Planning & Zoning Board and the Board of Adjustment for the city of Lake City, Fla. He also serves as the chairman of the local Historic Preservation Authority for Lake City.

He and Dawn were married in 2013. Their first child, Isabella, was born Jan. 9.

A few years after he joined Lake City Elks Lodge #893, his parents, Michael and Karen Lydick, relocated to Lake City, Fla. He was an officer in the chairs and attended to both their initiations. A few years later, he was also able to participate in the initiation of his grandfather, Frayne Lydick (now passed), after he relocated to Lake City. Therefore, in a backwards manner, Lydick is a third-generation Elk. In his free time, Lydick enjoys restoring

The members and lodges of Florida’s Northwest District are honored to present to the 2019 Florida state convention in Orlando, Fla., the name of Toni Palmer as a candidate for the office of Northwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.
In 1971, Rittenhouse had a direct commission as second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He retired in 1995 as a lieutenant colonel after 20 years of active duty and earned the Legion of Merit award. Following retirement, he worked as a computer technician; assistant safety and training officer at VAW in St. Augustine, Fla.; and an adjunct instructor at the Jacksonville, Fla., University of Phoenix campus.

Rittenhouse joined St. Augustine Elks Lodge #829 in 2005. He had been looking for a community service organization to join; PDD Wayne Reyes told him about the Elks and proposed him for membership. For St. Augustine Lodge, Rittenhouse served as chaplain, Secretary, Treasurer, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, Americanism chairman, Ladies Organizations chairman and Elks National Foundation grant coordinator. He is now a member of Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge #1892 and has served as Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, Vice Chairman of PER bingo, and Elks National Foundation grant coordinator. For the Northeast District, he has served as District Chairman of Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Americanism and Ladies Organizations. On the state level, he was a membership liaison and Vice Chairman of Elks National Foundation Scholarships.

Rittenhouse has earned several recognitions including Lodge Elk of the Year for 2007-2008, Lodge Officer of the Year for 2008-2009, District Elk of the Year for 2015-2016 and State Outstanding Elk of the Year for 2015-2016. In the 2006-2007 ritual competition as chaplain, he won first place in the district contest and second place in the state contest.

In addition to the Elks, Rittenhouse is a member of the Reserve Officer Association, Cascades (a veterans service group) and American Legion.

He and Linda have been married since 1996. She is FLOE’s Treasurer this year. His son, Garret, of Burlington, Vt., is a software engineer.

Their 1906 historic home. He also enjoys camping, hiking, canoeing, and participating in Civil War reenactment and living history events throughout the state and country. He currently serves as the 1st Sgt. of the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, Company H, which is a reenactment group headquartered in Florida.

**Gene Rittenhouse** born in Highland, Kan., in 1946. He grew up in Kansas City, Mo., and move to Florida in 1997 upon his and his wife’s retirement from the U.S. Army.


In 1971, Rittenhouse had a direct commission as second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He retired in 1995 as a lieutenant colonel after 20 years of active duty and earned the Legion of Merit award. Following retirement, he worked as a computer technician; assistant safety and training officer at VAW in St. Augustine, Fla.; and an adjunct instructor at the Jacksonville, Fla., University of Phoenix campus.

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In addition to the Elks, Rittenhouse is a member of the Reserve Officer Association, Cascades (a veterans service group) and American Legion.

He and Linda have been married since 1996. She is FLOE’s Treasurer this year. His son, Garret, of Burlington, Vt., is a software engineer.

**Russ Smith** was born Dec. 23, 1956, in Youngstown, Ohio. He grew up in Berlin Center, Ohio, and moved to Florida in 1980.

He served in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1975 and in the U.S. Army from 1975-1980. He also took classes at Liberty University from 2001-2005.

During his career, Smith was a machinist and manufacturing production manager. He is semi-retired as of 2018; he owns R.J. Smith & Associates Home Inspections.

In 2011, he was proposed by Denise Kalman; they later married Jan. 7, 2012. He is a member of South Lake Elks Lodge #1848 and served as Lecturing Knight and Exalted Ruler for 2011-2012. He was chairman of the board of directors for 2012-2013, Leading Knight for 2016-2017, and Exalted Ruler for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. He served on the Florida Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors for 2018-2019.

**Russ Smith** was born Dec. 23, 1956, in Youngstown, Ohio. He grew up in Berlin Center, Ohio, and moved to Florida in 1980.

He served in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1975 and in the U.S. Army from 1975-1980. He also took classes at Liberty University from 2001-2005.

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During his career, Smith was a machinist and manufacturing production manager. He is semi-retired as of 2018; he owns R.J. Smith & Associates Home Inspections.

In 2011, he was proposed by Denise Kalman; they later married Jan. 7, 2012. He is a member of South Lake Elks Lodge #1848 and served as Lecturing Knight and Exalted Ruler for 2011-2012. He was chairman of the board of directors for 2012-2013, Leading Knight for 2016-2017, and Exalted Ruler for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. He served on the Florida Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors for 2018-2019.

**Russ Smith** was born Dec. 23, 1956, in Youngstown, Ohio. He grew up in Berlin Center, Ohio, and moved to Florida in 1980.
Hopp joined Kissimmee Elks Lodge #1873 in 1996 after his neighbor sponsored him to join. He later became a member of DeLand Elks Lodge #1463. He has served as chaplain, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, trustee and Esquire. He has been president of both the lodge and district PER Associations. He has been District Chairman of Sports, Ritual, and Lodge Activities and was Esquire to the East Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. He has been a drug awareness trailer manager and Vice Chairman and State Chairman of Lodge Activities.

In addition to the Elks, Hopp is a member of the Moose, Eagles, Amvets, American Legion and Jaycees. He enjoys karaoke, golf and travel.

He and his partner, Felicia Reber, have been together 19 years. He has five children and eight grandchildren.

The members and lodges of Florida’s Central District are honored to present to the 2019 Florida state convention in Orlando, Fla., the name of John Gudavich as a candidate for the office of Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

**John Gudavich** was born in Providence, R.I., in 1947 and grew up in Rhode Island and New Hampshire. He moved to Florida in 2006.

He attended St. Leo University from 1977-1981 and earned a bachelor’s degree in criminology. From 1997-1999 he attended the University of Baltimore and earned a master’s degree in law and ethics.

Gudavich served in the U.S. Army from 1965-1985. He was an infantryman, military police officer and a special agent criminal investigator specializing in white-collar fraud.

He worked for Sanders Associates in Nashua, N.H., as a security manager supervising classified and black world U.S. government contracts. For the U.S. Army CID, he was a special agent in charge of the civilian white-collar criminal investigation agency. For the U.S. Department of the Treasury, he was a senior criminal investigator conducting criminal investigations of national importance. For the U.S. Department of Justice U.S. Attorney’s Office, he worked in the criminal division in Concord, N.H., as a criminal investigator and conducted criminal investigations in support of criminal prosecutions. He retired in 2006.

In 2007, Gudavich joined Aripeka Elks Lodge #2520 after a friend sponsored his application. He has served as chairman of the board of directors, Exalted Ruler for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, and District Chairman of Government Relations for 2018-2019.

In addition to the Elks, he is a Grand Knight in St. Michael the Archangel Knights of Columbus and a District Deputy for the Knights of Columbus.

He has graduated from numerous specialized law enforcement courses. He is also a volunteer Guardian ad Litem for foster children in Pasco County and a volunteer civilian law enforcement officer in Pasco County.

He and Donna have been married 51 years. He has two children and five grandchildren.

In 2006, Lentine became a member of Port St. Lucie Elks Lodge #2658. He had been a snowbird for two years prior to moving to Florida and met a few Elks in a golf league. They would take him to whatever lodge was near the golf course as a guest for lunch. Once he moved to Florida permanently, a friend of his from New Jersey who was an Elk for many years sponsored him and also demitted to Port St. Lucie Lodge.

He has served as Leading Knight and Exalted Ruler and has been a volunteer cook, bartender and assistant bar manager. He served on the House Committee and as a trustee before becoming chairman of both. He is a member of the state First Responders of the Year Award Committee. He was District Chairman of Lodge Activities and Vice Chairman of Community Projects & Activities.

In addition to the Elks, Lentine is a third-degree knight of the Knights of Columbus and a member of the Sons of the American Legion. He enjoys shooting sporting clays and spending time with family and friends.

Lentine has a daughter, Cheryl, and a son, Robert. Both live in New York.
Tom Mortka was born Aug. 26, 1954, in Philadelphia. His family moved to Bellmawr, N.J., in 1959 because of his father’s business, a sheet metal manufacturer for kitchen equipment. He graduated from Camden County Vocational and Technical High School and earned a degree in commercial baking as well as a high school diploma. He also graduated from Glassboro State Teachers College in Glassboro, N.J.

He purchased a neighborhood bakery when he was 18 and spent two years as owner, manager, and baker and overseeing everyday operations. He accepted a teacher position at Camden County Vocational and Technical High School in Sicklerville, N.J., and spent the next 10 years teaching commercial banking to students in ninth-12th grade. At night, he taught adults baking and cake decorating.

In 1983, Mortka moved to Sebastian, Fla., and worked for numerous local bakeries. He secured a position with Hilton Hotels in Orlando, Fla., as a pastry chef. He then returned to Vero Beach, Fla., working for Publix Corporation as a bakery manager and was in charge of new Publix store openings for their Florida east coast bakeries in Indian River County to Miami-Dade County.

In 1999 he relocated to the west coast of Florida. In 2013 after being a guest of his friend Bert Bouvier at some West Central District lodges, he was sponsored and joined Largo Elks Lodge #2159. This is where he met Deborah Farris who is now his wife. She was serving as Exalted Ruler and was a guest of his friend Bert Bouvier at some West Central District lodges. They were married Dec. 30, 2016. As a baking as well as a high school diploma. He also graduated from Glassboro State Teachers College in Glassboro, N.J.

He served as Lodge Chairman of Elks Training. Elks National Foundation Certificates, and Drug Awareness Education and was Elroy the Elk. In addition, he was chef for Wednesday and Thursday bar bingo and line dancing and was bar inventory control chairman. In 2019, he joined Dunedin-Clearwater Elks Lodge #1525.

On the district level, Mortka has performed as Elroy the Elk since 2013. He is an active member of the West Central District PER Association and was District Drug Awareness Chairman for 2017-2019. He served as District Deputys Esquire for 2017-2018. On the state level, he served as Vice Chairman of Elks Training for 2018-2019.

In addition to the Elks, Mortka is a member of the Sons of the American Legion #273 in Madeira Beach, Fla. He attends St. Raphael’s Catholic Church in St. Petersburg, Fla., and is an avid saltwater fisherman and gardener.

The members and lodges of Florida’s Southwest Central District are honored to present to the 2019 Florida state convention in Orlando, Fla., the name of Thomas “Tom” Mortka as a candidate for the office of West Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Steve Carruthers was born in Grove City, Pa., in 1948; three months later, the family moved to Coral Gables, Fla. He attended two years of college at Miami Dade Junior College.

From 1966-1970, Carruthers served in the USMC as a sergeant and served one tour in Vietnam. He was also a sergeant in the Army National Guard.

He worked his 40-year career with FPL managing the construction and maintenance of high-voltage transmission lines.

Eleven years ago at the suggestion of a Past Exalted Ruler from Miami Lodge, Carruthers looked into joining the Elks. He was initiated into Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge #1854 but is now a member of Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Elks.

Higginbotham also a member of the Arcadia All-Florida Championship Rodeo Association.

She and Alfred have been married 48 years and have one son, Tate, who is married to Julie, and two granddaughters, Landyn, 13, and Piper, 9.

The members and lodges of Florida’s Southwest Central District are honored to present to the 2019 Florida state convention in Orlando, Fla., the name of Steven “Steve” Carruthers as a candidate for the office of Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Nancy Higginbotham was born in Sebring, Fla., in 1949 and grew up in Zolfo Springs, Fla. She graduated from Hardee County High School in 1967 and attended Edison Community College in Fort Myers, Fla., majoring in commercial banking and accounting.

Her banking career started during her senior year of high school and continued after she moved to Fort Myers, Fla., in 1971. She retired from SunTrust Bank after 28 years. She moved to Arcadia, Fla., while working at Farm Credit of Southwest Florida and retired from banking and started bartending at Arcadia Elks Lodge.

In March 2007, she joined Arcadia Elks Lodge #1524 after she was approached to become a member to serve as Secretary. She was in this position until 2018. She was Exalted Ruler for 2018-2019. She served as District Chairman of Lodge Activities for 2013-2014.

Higginbotham is also a member of the Arcadia All-Florida Championship Rodeo Association.

The members and lodges of Florida’s Southwest Central District are honored to present to the 2019 Florida state convention in Orlando, Fla., the name of Nancy Higginbotham as a candidate for the office of Southwest Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

In 1999 he relocated to the west coast of Florida. In 2013 after being a guest of his friend Bert Bouvier at some West Central District lodges, he was sponsored and joined Largo Elks Lodge #2159. This is where he met Deborah Farris who is now his wife. She was serving as Exalted Ruler and conducting initiation of new members. They were married Dec. 30, 2016. As a baking as well as a high school diploma. He also graduated from Glassboro State Teachers College in Glassboro, N.J.

He purchased a neighborhood bakery when he was 18 and spent two years as owner, manager, and baker and overseeing everyday operations. He accepted a teacher position at Camden County Vocational and Technical High School in Sicklerville, N.J., and spent the next 10 years teaching commercial banking to students in ninth-12th grade. At night, he taught adults baking and cake decorating.

In 1983, Mortka moved to Sebastian, Fla., and worked for numerous local bakeries. He secured a position with Hilton Hotels in Orlando, Fla., as a pastry chef. He then returned to Vero Beach, Fla., working for Publix Corporation as a bakery manager and was in charge of new Publix store openings for their Florida east coast bakeries in Indian River County to Miami-Dade County.

In 1999 he relocated to the west coast of Florida. In 2013 after being a guest of his friend Bert Bouvier at some West Central District lodges, he was sponsored and joined Largo Elks Lodge #2159. This is where he met Deborah Farris who is now his wife. She was serving as Exalted Ruler and conducting initiation of new members. They were married Dec. 30, 2016. As a baking as well as a high school diploma. He also graduated from Glassboro State Teachers College in Glassboro, N.J.

He purchased a neighborhood bakery when he was 18 and spent two years as owner, manager, and baker and overseeing everyday operations. He accepted a teacher position at Camden County Vocational and Technical High School in Sicklerville, N.J., and spent the next 10 years teaching commercial banking to students in ninth-12th grade. At night, he taught adults baking and cake decorating.
Lodge #2855. In his Elks career, he has served as Inner Guard, Esquire, Lecturing Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler and five-year trustee.

In addition to the Elks, he is a member of the DAV (Disabled American Veterans), VFW, American Legion, Eagles and Moose. He has also volunteered with Toys for Tots for seven years.

Carruthers has a sister, Sandra, who lives in Westville, Fla., and two nephews who each have three children.

The members and lodges of Florida’s South Southwest District are honored to present to the 2019 Florida state convention in Orlando, Fla., the name of William “Bill” Dryburgh as a candidate for the office of South Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

**Bill Dryburgh** was born in Pittsburgh in 1941. After graduating from Turtle Creek High School, he joined the Air Force and served all his time at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

When Dryburgh was discharged from the Air Force, he moved to Orlando, Fla., and lived with his aunt and uncle while he worked at a number of jobs until a chance meeting with a member of the fire department changed his life. He joined the fire department in 1964 and moved to south Orlando in an area called Pine Castle. One of his friends from the fire department asked him if he wanted to help at a golf tournament, and it was there that he met Arnold Palmer. Later, when the tournament was moved to Bay Hill, Dryburgh was made chairman of the front nine. Five years later he was asked to serve on Arnold Palmer’s board of directors, a position he held for 15 years. Each year in October, Palmer had a golf outing with his board. “I was so nervous I thought I was going to pass out,” remembers Dryburgh of his first time golfing with Palmer. The next year, Disney contacted the board and asked them to help set up their golf tournament.

Dryburgh worked as the on-course tournament director for Disney for 42 years. Somewhere along the way, he learned to call alligators and liked to demonstrate this skill on the golf course. His friends refer to him as the gator whisperer.

Dryburgh retired from the fire department and started his real estate career. He became the president of the Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte Board of Realtors and vice president of district 13 of the Florida Realtors Association.

In 2011, Dryburgh joined Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 after he was introduced to the Elks by PDD Don Roll. He served as Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, audit chairman, and president of the PER Association as well as on the board of trustees and the big band weekend committee. On the state level, he served as State Veterans Services Chairman.

He and Cathi have been married for nine years and they have four children and eight grandchildren.

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In 2011, Dryburgh joined Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 after he was introduced to the Elks by PDD Don Roll. He served as Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, audit chairman, and president of the PER Association as well as on the board of trustees and the big band weekend committee. On the state level, he served as State Veterans Services Chairman.

He and Cathi have been married for nine years and they have four children and eight grandchildren.

The members and lodges of Florida’s South Southeast District are honored to present to the 2019 Florida state convention in Orlando, Fla., the name of Laurence “Larry” Littell as a candidate for the office of Southeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

**Larry Littell** was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1952. He attended elementary school in several towns in central New Jersey before moving to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in 1961.

He graduated from Cardinal Gibbons High School in 1970 and studied two years at Catholic University’s schools of business and music in Washington, D.C. He also studied one year at Broward College.

Early in his career, Littell worked in finance. He was a bond trader for a Bear Stearns firm and a bond broker and VP for managed programs at Prudential Securities until 2001. He then worked as a consultant and a yacht captain covering most of the North Atlantic until 2005. Following this, he was a marine consultant and project manager until 2017. Currently, he is a technical service support manager for Brunswick Corp.

Originally a member of the now-closed Fort Lauderdale Elks Lodge, he joined Jupiter Elks Lodge #2469 in 2005 after moving to the area in 2004. He has served as Chaplain, Esquire, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler and bar manager. He has also been Lodge, District and State Chairman of Ladies Organizations.

In addition to the Elks, he is a member of the ABYC, NMEA and MIAPBC, all marine trade organizations. He is also a retired licensed officer for USCG offshore towing and sailing for 200 tons. He is the founder and past director of the Fort Lauderdale Sailing Foundation and was a 30-year member of the Gulfstream Sailing Club of Fort Lauderdale.

His spouse of 25 years, Mary Jeanne Baldwin Littell, passed away in April 2009. He has one daughter and one son who live in Hollywood, Fla., and one daughter, Rebecca Fenner, a Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services therapist, and three grandchildren living in Apopka, Fla.
District are honored to present to the 2019 Florida state convention in Orlando, Fla., the name of Donna Powers as a candidate for the office of South Southeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Donna Powers was born in Jersey City, N.J., and grew up in New Jersey. After years of being a snowbird, she moved to Florida permanently in 2011.

Powers earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education in 1972 and a Master of Arts degree in educational technology in 2004. She was an elementary teacher for 25 years and a computer applications teacher in middle school for three years, both in New Jersey. She is a past president of the Rutherford, N.J., teachers’ union and the New Jersey retired educators of south Florida.

In 2006, Powers was initiated into Hollywood West Elks Lodge #2365; her husband, a New Jersey Elk at the time, sponsored her. She served as Lodge Secretary for six years and as Exalted Ruler for 2017-2018. She was also the lodge grant coordinator. For the South Southeast District, she has served as a district reporter for three years. On the state level, she has been a drug awareness trailer manager, a member of the Officer Training staff for two years, a CLMS coordinator and State Elks Training Chairman.

She has been married to Charles for 45 years. They have three children – Charles, Kelly and Brianne – and five grandchildren – Maxwell, Katherine, Aiden, Abigail and Michael.

Milton Muller was born in Fort Smith, Ark., in 1957 and grew up in Orlando, Fla. He graduated from Papa Juan XXIII High School and has an associate degree in general studies, a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice administration, and master’s degrees in management and public administration.

Muller served in the U.S. Army from 1978-1995. His basic training was in Fort Knox, Ky., and his advanced individual training was in Fort Benning, Ga.

Upon his retirement from the Army, Muller worked for Circuit City Stores Inc. from 1995-1997. From 1997-2018, he worked for Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Since 2018 he has worked for Claims and Risk Management Services LLC.

Muller joined Miami Elks Lodge #948 in 1998 after he was asked to join by a lodge member. He has served as Esquire, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight and three terms as Exalted Ruler. On the district level, he has served as District Vice President and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. For the state, he has been State Chairman of Sports, Vice Chairman and State Chairman of Orientation, and Vice President of the Florida Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors. He is also a Special Representative for Miami Lodge.

In addition to the Elks, Muller is a member of the Knights of Columbus, American Legion, Wiley Wright Military Lodge #705 (Masonic) and Knights of Peter Claver.

He and Barbara have been married 20 years. He has two daughters, Janelys and Jocelyn, and one son, James.
2018-2019 HOOP SHOOT WINNERS

Champion of Champions

Joe Huang
Boys 8-9
Naples #2010

Yinuo Wang
Girls 10-11
Boca Raton #2166

Additional First-Place Winners

Samiyah Singleton
Girls 8-9
South Hillsborough #2672

Leonardo Rodriguez Lopez
Boys 10-11
Fort Myers #1288

Nicole Marshall
Girls 12-13
Deep Creek #2763

Lucas Newcomb
Boys 12-13
Englewood #2378

Second-Place Winners

Annabella Damiano
Girls 8-9
Jupiter #2469

Louisen Desinor
Boys 8-9
Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota #2855

Avery Grace Chatman
Girls 10-11
Arpieka #2520

Lucas McCrimon
Boys 10-11
Kissimmee #1873

Malayna Stevenson
Girls 12-13
Kissimmee #1873

Yasin Abdul Salaam
Boys 12-13
Eustis #1578

Third-Place Winners

Isabella-Grace Villabona Gonzalez
Girls 8-9
Ocala #286

Treyson Dozier
Boys 8-9
Holley-Navarre #2787

Janiyah McCoy
Girls 10-11
Ocala #286

Nate Meissner
Boys 10-11
Holley-Navarre #2787

Emily Baker
Girls 12-13
Crestview #2624

Logan Brown
Boys 12-13
Port Orange #2723
On April 6-7, 81 players participated in the 38th annual Florida State Elks golf tournament at Spring Lake Golf Resort in Sebring, Fla. Proceeds of approximately $9,500 will go to Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. John Holbrook, PDD and Jim Lind, PDD serve as co-chairmen and Mike Smith, PNP serves as advisor.

All pictures include co-chairmen, Jim Lind (far left) and John Holbrook (far right), and State President, Frank Malatesta (second from right).
This year’s Harry-Anna Trust Gala of Hope, “Unmasking Autism,” was a great success! The black-tie event was held April 13 at the Carillon Hilton in St. Petersburg, Fla. Spectrum Bay’s morning anchor, Erica Riggins, was the Mistress of Ceremonies. The mission of this premier fundraising event for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services (FECTS) was not only to raise funds for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) but also to unmask ASD and raise awareness about it by teaching others what ASD is, putting a face on the disorder and showing how FECTS is successfully treating the symptoms of ASD. This event was held outside of an Elks lodge to expose others in the philanthropic community to all the great things we do as Florida Elks.

FECTS has 28 therapists who treat over 500 children weekly, and the therapists have found that nearly 50% of their patients have ASD. Two of our therapists, Jeanne Martin and Paula Tarver, wrote a book titled “Advance My Baby – The Ultimate Secrets of Healthy Development for your Baby – Birth to Three Years” and it had all the milestones babies and toddlers should be reaching. Its distribution within multiple communities was so instrumental in showing the need for bringing awareness to this disorder that Martin and Tarver received the Humanitarian Award at this event. Early detection with early intervention is the key to helping these children reach their full potential, whatever that may be for them.

Very special thanks go to our committee of volunteers who worked countless hours to make this event something to remember as well as to our event sponsors, table hosts and in-kind donors. Together, we are working to put the pieces together to treat the suffering caused by autism. I look forward to seeing everyone at next year’s gala!

Dan Masi, Development Director
Florida State Elks Association
The Florida Elks Youth Camp and Volunteerism: How Summer Camp Fun Translates to Increased Community Service at Home

By Rachael King

When you think about summer camp, more than likely, visions of campers having fun at campfires, outdoor games, group meals and cabin time come to mind. These are accurate images, but what’s also becoming an accurate description, at least of campers at the Florida Elks Youth Camp (FEYC), is that while campers are enjoying these activities, they are simultaneously learning life skills and being inspired to make positive impacts in their own communities.

“Our mission as a youth camp is to mold the next generation of children into adults we’d be proud to have as American citizens and as Elks,” says Nick Miller, camp director. “Some laugh at this as being overly ambitious, but we go on to work every single day unashamedly working for nothing less than this goal.”

FEYC’s motto is “Inspire. Connect. Expand.” Putting this motto into action is what Miller says makes their mission obtainable. “There are three things that need to happen in order to change the direction of today’s youth. First, in a world of multitasking and short attention spans, you must grab their attention — you must inspire them. With the support of the Florida Elks at our youth camp, this is easy. We inspire our campers with the quality of our facilities, of our staff and of our programming. The second step is to connect. Just as we are disconnecting the kids from their phones, social media and the World Wide Web, we are connecting them to their peers, their staff members and to nature. These connections give them a reason to look beyond the self-serving habits created by their everyday influences. Finally, they are ready to expand. This critical step is possible now that they are engaged and invested in their own growth. To this end, we expand campers’ self-confidence, their compassion for others, and, most importantly, their ability and desire to impact the world around them.”

These concepts are taking root in the campers and are blooming when they return home, as is evidenced by the following five campers.

**Alyssa Hansen**

Alyssa, 11, of Melbourne, Fla., attended FEYC for two summers. Her parents, who had attended Merritt Island Elks Lodge’s annual fishing tournament, heard Miller give a presentation about the camp, and when they told Alyssa about it, she was fired up to attend. Alyssa remembers that there was a lot of walking and fun activities to do all day. Her favorites were art activities and the campfire stories. When asked what she learned at camp, she said it taught her how to cooperate with other people. “You need to learn how to get along and be a team in order to have a great week of camp.”

In addition to Alyssa’s grandmother, FEYC inspired her to help her community’s service project known as Kids Without Christmas (KWC) because “you see a completely different side of people at camp. Sometimes the kindest and helpful people are the ones in a rough situation.” Alyssa volunteered to help provide children who were less fortunate than herself with a special Christmas. The kids provided their Christmas list and the organization shopped for the items as well as for clothes. The organization spends $125 for each child. Alyssa was introduced to this organization by her grandmother who previously held fundraisers for the organization.

She also put together gift baskets to be sold or raffled.

Alyssa chose to help this organization in part because it is based in her community and she’s able to help kids her own age. She also believed people would be likelier to donate if they felt a connection to and trust of an organization with ties to the community rather than to a larger, less personal organization.

When Alyssa reflects on her achievements, she says she feels good but doesn’t boast about it. She is humbled and stunned that she was able to raise so much. She likes that the community gets to meet the families who need this organization to give their kids a great Christmas. Alyssa ensures that she’ll be helping this organization for a very long time.

Alyssa says attending FEYC helped give her the skills she needed to volunteer with this organization. She says being at summer camp improved her social skills because she is a shy person, but “it isn’t possible to be shy at camp. You have to talk to people and get to know others.” Plus, she notes that all the walking at camp helped her be able to carry all her supplies for the raffles!

**Sarah Abdul Aziz**

Sarah Abdul Aziz, 15, of DeLand, Fla., is a sophomore in high school and was a camper at FEYC for three years. Her cousin Jasmin had been a counselor at FEYC and recommended it as a way for Sarah to avoid having a boring summer! Sarah recalls that time at camp was always active every day; she was never just sitting down doing nothing and she wasn’t on her phone. Instead, she was having fun with the many new friends she had made at camp. Having been active at camp stayed with her when she got home; “I didn’t want to sit down. I wanted to get involved.”

Sarah is a member of the DeLand High School AFJROTC and is on the project committee, so she helped with putting up her service project – the DeLand Bulldog bazaar. This was a fundraiser for DeLand
High School but mostly for the AFJROTC. She says even if she hadn’t attended FEYC, she would have been a part of this project because she had volunteered at the yearly bazaar before. However, having been to FEYC not only inspired her to help more people and do more for her community; it also gave her the skills to be on the project committee which was a leadership position, something she had not done before attending camp. Coming to camp helped her become a leader.

At the bazaar, Sarah helped with setup for the rummage sale and with food sales. She was also one of four cadets who participated in the color sequence downtown for Deland’s bike week event that day. The group had a goal to raise $800 at the bazaar for AFJROTC and they exceeded this by earning over $1,000.

Because AFJROTC is a community service group, Sarah sees fundraising as a way to help better her community. The money will be used to defray the cost of competitions for the drill team to participate in regional competitions and in Washington, D.C. It will also assist with making ROTC free to join, making uniforms free for members and hiring more instructors. Sarah says this is a good thing because the more people who join, the more assistance the group can provide to the community. The group does various volunteer work such as assistance at athletic event concession stands, providing a color guard at events, and school campus cleanups including pressure washing, general cleaning and repainting. “It makes me happy to help the community,” Sarah says.

Sarah notes that camp games and activities such as the ropes course taught her a great deal about communication, which is really important in ROTC. The camp schedule such as needing to be on time to meals also allowed her many opportunities to put an ROTC principle into practice: “To be early is to be on time.”

When asked if she will want to do more projects like this in the future to help others, Sarah says, “Yes. I do and I will. I have another volunteer project coming up to help the community.” She will be volunteering at the water festival; this event’s goal is to teach attendees about the earth’s waters and how to protect them.

Ian Sardella

Ian Sardella, 15, of Merritt Island, Fla., attended FEYC for five years. His god-brother had been to camp and recommended it to him. “I had a blast and the counselors were really nice. The campers I met were a lot of fun, and the activities just rounded it all off,” says Ian. His favorite things at camp were the campfires for singing songs and having s’mores and the ropes course because he likes rock climbing.

Ian has been coaching in a hockey league for the past five years. The organization’s mission is to introduce hockey to kids in the community with special needs and provide them with the skills and tools needed to fall in love with the sport beyond just watching it. He chose to volunteer with this group after the coaches asked him if he’d like to help coach the kids because the coaches who taught him how to skate run this program, and he wanted to help and give back to this organization and his community.

Being at FEYC taught Ian many important lessons and inspired him to volunteer with the hockey organization. “You need to be open to everybody. People may be different, but you need to learn how to get along with them and to have fun together. You have to be able to accept everybody. Our camp accepts everyone and doesn’t allow people to feel left out. So, I wanted to reach out and help those feeling left out in my community.”

Even though Ian feels he still would have volunteered with this organization if he hadn’t attended FEYC, he says he “probably wouldn’t have been as patient with the kids and felt the desire to make sure everyone can be involved.” When asked if he will volunteer in the future, he says he is always looking to help others.

Sophia Sardella

You may remember reading about this next camper in a featured piece from the Spring 2018 edition of Florida Elks Magazine. Sophia Sardella, 16, also of Merritt Island, Fla., and Ian’s sister, attended FEYC for five years. She says that a great aspect of camp for her was the interaction with other campers and counselors. Even during downtime, she had fun spending time with her cabinmates, and the counselors made camp extra fun with their involvement.

After spending time at FEYC, Sophia wanted to give back to the Florida Elks. Because she also wants to work in the medical field, she contacted Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services (FECTS) to see how she could help their program. The therapists’ request was for more sensory toys for their patients, so Sophia got to work making sensory boards as part of her Girl Scouts project that patients could use to practice skills such as opening doors and tying shoelaces. She contacted her local Elks lodge, Merritt Island #2650, and they donated wood for the boards and money for supplies. Her goal was to make enough sensory boards for each therapist to have two, one to travel with and one to keep at a patient’s home. In total, she made 62 boards which included a few extras.

Her mission was to help kids develop the ability to do things that many people take for granted. “Opening doors is so simple for us. Some of these kids struggle to do it in their daily lives, though,” says Sophia. She feels really good that she was able to make a positive change for the kids. She even got to witness some kids practicing with the boards when she attended a family camp weekend at FEYC. Each year, FEYC hosts a weekend at camp just for FECTS patients, family members and therapists.

Sophia definitely wants to volunteer more at hospitals in her area. Currently she volunteers with her local “One Blood
Club" which solicits blood donations for hospitals because she wanted to help others get involved beyond herself.

Attending summer camp at FEYC allowed Sophia “to learn about myself, that I could be a leader, that it’s good to be social and to not hold back who you are as a person. My personality was something to be valued.” When asked if she would have thought to do this project or had the ability to carry it out if she hadn’t gone to FEYC, she says, “I have no idea what I would’ve done. Camp really helped me figure out what I wanted to do with my life.” The nurses at summer camp inspired her because she had to visit the infirmary every day for her medication and she saw how they helped the kids so they could get back outside to have more fun.

**Angel Collins**

Angel Collins, 13, of Lake Wales, Fla., was a five-time FEYC attendee. Her grandparents are Florida Elks members, so for years, she visited the camp with them and looked forward to being able to attend summer camp. “My time at the camp was absolutely amazing,” she says, “I was nervous at first but after the first day at camp, I was already enjoying it and my counselor and CIT helped me get settled and my fellow campers made me not nervous anymore. Throughout the week, my cabin did many fun activities such as the ropes course, canoeing and swimming. Every day, I bettered my friendships with all the other campers like myself. One primary detail about camp that is special to me is about how the staff helped the kids not be nervous and how they supported the kids in everything and how they taught us life lessons as the week went on. Also, another big part was meeting new friends because I still have friends from camp that I still talk to and I have a very tight friendship with them still. Overall, my time at camp was very exciting and is something I will remember forever.”

After Angel’s positive experience at FEYC, she wanted to help them because she thought the camp deserved more recognition for the great work they do. So, her service project mission was to inform and inspire others about the camp and to encourage others to support the camp and sponsor campers since many members hadn’t heard directly from campers before. Angel had entered a speech contest at school and used FEYC as her topic. She also read her speech at her grandparents’ lodge meeting. Along the way, she made presentations to Elks and Florida Ladies of Elks members on the lodge, district and state level. After her speeches, many people were moved to learn more about the camp, to donate and to sponsor campers.

“It feels great knowing that I could help one of the most important special organizations to me,” says Angel. She thinks she will want to do more service projects in the future. “At camp, I learned how to build friendships, very important life skills, and most importantly, I learned that I can be confident in myself without worrying about others judging. FEYC inspired me to do this project because the staff always looked out for everyone and made all the campers happy and taught us valuable life skills.”

“More.”

Campers are going beyond the personal enjoyment of attending camp and are quickly realizing that it is also an opportunity to learn more about themselves and others and to become inspired to make a positive difference in the lives of the people in their community. Elliott Gilbert, FEYC program director, shares what he believes makes FEYC the unique place it is to foster such growth in its campers.

“We're not a camp where kids just get to choose the activities they want to do and they don't get to choose the kids they bunk with. Rather, we're a camp that exposes them to all kinds of activities and people – activities they might not be particularly good at and people they might have never tried to get along with or had the opportunity to meet back home....Kids leave their homes to come to camp and find out who they truly are and discover their ability to overcome outside and internal obstacles. This is why campers who serve their community do so with a vigor unseen by those who haven't driven through our gates.

“At FEYC, we have kids across the entire state from all walks of life coming together and building a deep connection in a world outside their own. Other places may raise money to donate to buying kids presents for Christmas, but our campers are sharing a cabin and playing with these kids. Our campers are becoming best friends with kids living a struggle that they might have never been exposed to. Many times, I have heard a camper say, 'Wow, I had no idea people lived like that.' When we ask them what that makes them feel like doing, they all reply with ‘More.’ No one wants to see a friend struggle in life, and after our campers connect and find that they aren’t very different than their new friend who lives 100 miles away, they feel that desire to help those who are close to them because they know what that kindness and charity means to those who receive it. They’ve been able to see the impact it makes by just a week in the cabin with their new best friends. They know they might not be able to help their friend living across the entire state, but they can help those like their friend.”

These rapid breakthroughs with kids are what brought Miller, camp director, to FEYC full time instead of remaining in a tenured position after teaching in public high schools for eight years. He recalls, “every summer I would go to work at the youth camp and I would begin to question my effectiveness as a teacher. Consistently, I was seeing more personal growth in kids during a single week of camp than in nine months in the classroom.....I finally realized that I was making more of an impact at camp.”

The Florida Elks Youth Camp is teaching its campers to be thankful and to then pay that thankfulness forward by giving others a reason to be thankful as well. It’s a process that’s working well for FEYC. Not only is the camp making a difference in the lives of campers; that positive impact spreads to so many others when the campers return home. With the support of Florida Elks, Ladies of Elks and friends of the camp, FEYC will continue to deliver its life-changing mission for so many.

"You see a completely different side of people at camp. Sometimes the kindest and helpful people are the ones in a rough situation.”

- Alyssa Hansen

“I didn’t want to sit down. I wanted to get involved.”

- Sarah Abdul Aziz

“Our camp accepts everyone and doesn’t allow people to feel left out. So, I wanted to reach out and help those feeling left out in my community.”

- Ian Sardella

“My personality was something to be valued.”

- Sophia Sardella

“I learned that I can be confident in myself without worrying about others judging.”

- Angel Collins
Brandon Elks Lodge #2383 ended their yearlong celebration of the lodge's 50th anniversary, Feb. 16, 2019, with a party. As part of the lodge's continued support of and interaction with youth, the lodge partnered with the Newsmen High School band whose members served and busied the event so all lodge members could attend the celebration instead of working as volunteers.

Thirteen students arrived full of excitement to be servers, a new experience for them. Prior to the event, PER Mary Lou Scribner met with them and explained Elkdom. They were extremely interested to hear about Elks’ dedication to children and veterans. It was news to them that the Florida Elks sponsored Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. When she mentioned the scholarships, everyone wanted to know how to apply!

At the end of the event, the students asked if they could come back and volunteer again, and, in Elks style, the members donated $838 which will be used for the expenses of the students' upcoming tours.

Brandon Lodge #2383 is the centennial lodge as it was the first lodge to enter the second century of Grand Lodge Elkdom. It had its beginning in September 1967 with two state Elks officials and three Brandon residents attending. Just four months later, Jan. 28, 1968, 16 state Elks association officials, including a Past Grand Exalted Ruler, instituted and presented the officials, including a Past Grand Exalted Ruler, for bulletin, receiving the first award (honorable mention) for bulletins in 1971-1972.

By Lowell P. Tyler, PER, State Historian (now Emeritus)

Brandon Lodge #2383 is the centennial lodge as it was the first lodge to enter the second century of Grand Lodge Elkdom. It had its beginning in September 1967 with two state Elks officials and three Brandon residents attending. Just four months later, Jan. 28, 1968, 16 state Elks association officials, including a Past Grand Exalted Ruler, instituted and presented the only charter of BPOE bearing the anniversary date of Feb. 16, 1968, to Brandon Lodge. The host lodge, Plant City, initiated 178 charter members.

Meeting in a local ladies club room soon proved to be too crowded, and opportunity came knocking for the renting of a building at 122 Linsley Ave. for $250 a month. In January 1969, approval was received from Grand trustees for purchase of the building. Twenty years later they celebrated the burning of the mortgage.

The centennial lodge had another first. They became the earliest that an Elks lodge would request the organization of a Ladies of the Elks, this accomplished in June 1968. The Ladies of the Brandon Elks proved to be an immediate asset.

Bingo started in May 1968 as a fundraiser to support their own mayor candidate for the Brandon's Fourth-of-July activities. Bingo has continued over the years with the proceeds going to the Harry-Anna Crippled Children's Home, the subsequent Florida Elks Children's Hospital, and the current Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services as well as other charitable activities.

As the lodge grew, their needs grew, so they purchased a lot north of the original building. An addition was added with a dedication July 4, 1974. This provided a new bar and lounge.

In 1970-1971 their one-page newsletter was increased to an eight-page bulletin, receiving the first award from the Florida State Elks Association (honorable mention) for bulletins in 1971-1972.

Soon after the building addition, a flagpole was erected outside the lodge. From this flagpole, a flaming star was the symbol of the building.

In 1982-1983, Brandon Lodge raised a considerable amount of money for the Harry-Anna Hospital in a unique manner. Four Elks and two ladies from Brandon Lodge walked from Plant City Lodge to Brandon Lodge (20 miles) which raised $2,800 in pledges and certificates. This was added to another $1,700 which was raised around town, making a total of $4,500.

In 1983-1984, the lodge underwent an extensive lounge renovation at a cost of $100,000. That same year they initiated their annual student scholarship awards banquet.

In 1985 they purchased the Brandon Twin Theater and the adjacent parking lot area. Their Veterans Services Committee began monthly dinners for local VA hospital patients.

In December 1993, Brandon moved into new quarters. After selling their previous quarters on Linsley Avenue, the Brandon Elks occupied a Valrico Square Mall storefront during construction of the new building.

On Feb. 12, 1994, more than 350 members and guests attended a formal dedication of a new Brandon Lodge building located at 800 Centennial Lodge Drive. The new structure sat on eight acres of land at the end of North Oakwood Avenue just two blocks north of Highway 60 and across from Nativity Church.

Duane Petry opened the ceremonies with the insertion of a time capsule donated by his family into a cornerstone plaque donated by Dick Sowers. PDD Ed DeMask of Brandon Lodge was master of ceremonies. The Petry family was awarded a plaque by Exalted Ruler, James League, for their contributions and work during the construction of the new building. Also recognized were Jack and Janice Mineo for providing a new lodge sign and Terry Russell for work on a new flagpole.
COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS PROGRAM: Gainesville Lodge #990 Uses Freedom Grant for Veterans Stand Down

On Feb. 21, Gainesville Elks Lodge #990 participated for the second time in the Alachua County Veterans Stand Down held at the Martin Luther King Center in Gainesville, Fla. The lodge partnered with the Alachua County Veterans Services Department and several other veteran and civic organizations to provide support for 76 veterans, mostly homeless. Using their Elks National Foundation Freedom Grant along with member donations, the lodge provided much-needed supplies including sleeping bags, backpacks, flashlights, bug repellent, sunscreen, socks, gloves, caps, blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, soap and lots of other personal-care items. They also included a variety of books, playing cards, and word search and crossword books. Over 50 backpacks, 60 blankets and 100 of each personal-care item were given out. The small portion of the personal-care items left were taken to area veteran services organizations for distribution to other veterans.

There were many other services provided to the veterans at the stand down including medical screenings, employment assistance, housing resources, legal services, food stamp information, and assistance with VA medical enrollment and claims. Other organizations in attendance included church organizations, employment assistance agencies, food vendors who donated lunch at the event, and a variety of community and civic organizations.

IN EACH ISSUE OF THE FLORIDA ELKS MAGAZINE, A LODGE WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED TO SHOW HOW THEY ARE USING ONE OF THEIR ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANTS.

To be considered, please submit a description of the project and several pictures of the grant being put into action to Rachael King, Editor, at r.king@floridaelks.org.

While gifting grants to other organizations and causes is allowed for several grants, ENF strongly urges lodges to use the grants for Elk-involved functions so they can be seen in the community and hopefully garner new members, so lodges that gift their grants will not be showcased in this feature.

Send in your submission so the state can see the fantastic impact your lodge is making in your community!

* Current submission by Linda Califf & Dayna Miller, PER
* Photos/Dina Attalig
An exception to Florida gambling law is allowed for the Queen of Hearts random drawing by chance fundraisers conducted by 501(C)(8) IRS-approved lodges provided they comply with all provisions detailed in 849.0935 of Florida Statutes as communicated by ABT Prosecutor Robert L. Ehrhardt Feb. 14, 2014.

By law, the language in your rules is very important, i.e. lodges do not sell nor do members buy entry tickets. Voluntary contributions cannot be required for entry; a member in good standing may request a free entry ticket, a minimum donation may be suggested, rules must be prominently displayed, and specifics in the law must be followed in detail to qualify for the exception.

To satisfy ABT requirements and comply with IRS 501(C)(8) rules, voluntary donations should be from only members in good standing and their spouses or widow(er)s with Secretary-issued cards. To treat all donors equally, for example, a $2 suggested minimum entry would provide a $10 contributor five entry tickets for the drawing.

Unrelated business income tax may be involved. This gaming generates income; it is carried on weekly at the same location and same time; and gaming is generally not an IRS-exempt activity and obviously not a major purpose for the existence of the BPOE nationwide.

To avoid UBI taxes, each lodge must understand the 85% volunteer labor rule exception, ensure that actual hours worked at each session meet the 85% rule, and require accurate reports and records regarding hours worked for every function or event. IRS Form 990, Part III, Schedule G provides a good indication of information required by the IRS that should be the basis for daily reports that accompany cash receipts to the Lodge Secretary.

IRS Form W-2G must be issued to winners over $600 and winners over $5,000 federal income tax of 24% must be withheld from each payment. Organizations in violation of this section of the law could be charged with a misdemeanor of the second degree.

For more detailed information, see the FSEA Business Practices Committee section at https://floridaelks.org/elks-business-practices#link-library.

NOTE: Risk of losing our tax-exempt status or incurring taxes on UBI from gaming and other activities can be avoided if all Elk members uphold the obligation they assumed when accepted as a member – to obey the statutes, rules, and regulations within the BPOE and the laws within the USA. This includes having lodges open only to bona fide members and their guests and allowing only members to pay for food, drinks, other goods and services, and gaming activities sponsored by the lodge as provided by IRS, ABT, and other national, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations.

Frank Palladini, PSP, Advisor
FSEA Business Practices Committee

Disclaimer: The Florida State Elks Association and its affiliates do not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. The material herein has been prepared for informational purposes only, and it is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on for tax, legal or accounting advice. You should always consult your lodge’s tax, legal and accounting advisors before engaging in any endeavors or transactions.
Recently, the Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge #497 Board of Directors challenged the 1,200 lodge members to raise funds to donate to Hurricane Michael relief by offering to match cash donations from the membership up to $3,000. As Exalted Ruler, Rick Reynolds, said, “Charity is the centerpiece of our work. Our members have helped in many ways, from volunteering to feed first responders to hosting a wedding for two evacuees who lost their home. We began collecting cash donations around the lodge and it didn’t take long for us to reach our goal. We knew the coast received the brunt of the storm and the media attention. We were also aware that areas north of the coast in the Panhandle were also greatly impacted but didn’t have the focus and support that areas along the water did.”

With that in mind, lodge trustee Phil Gambrell was charged with finding a charity that could quickly get the funds in the hands of those families and individuals most affected by the storm. Gambrell contacted Rodney Anderson, EMS Director in Jackson County, who recommended the Chipola Family Ministries in Marianna, Fla., that was doing a lot for the people of the surrounding communities to get back on their feet.

Gambrell presented a check for more than $6,000 from the lodge to Coba Beasley, Director of Chipola Family Ministries. Beasley said, “Initially, we will use some of the money to repair electrical service to homes, replace appliances and purchase roofing supplies to those who are in dire need of those items.”

New Lexington Elks Lodge #509 in Ohio gave $1,000 to Pensacola Beach Lodge to help with the relief effort. Such cooperation between lodges is very common as Elks across the U.S. practice their motto, “Elks Care – Elks Share.”

Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 hosted the north regional Hoop Shoot Jan. 19 with nearly 30 youngsters competing. It took 20 volunteers to staff the courts and registration tables, to process the results and to give awards. Winners in each age category moved on to the state finals.

In February, Tallahassee Lodge made an in-kind donation of its kitchen and dining room to the Leon-Wakulla Retired Teachers Association to allow them to host a fundraising spaghetti dinner and silent auction. The LWRTA conducts several dinners a year to raise money for scholarships to award to local students studying to be teachers. Several thousand dollars were raised.

In March, Tallahassee Lodge was the sole food purveyor at the Civil War battle reenactment at Natural Bridge State Park, located just south of Tallahassee, Fla. A variety of sandwiches were offered as well as large homemade cookies. A portion of the proceeds was shared with the Natural Bridge Historical Society to help that group finance improvements to the state park.

Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge #1892

On Jan. 12, Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge #1892 used funds from an Elks National Foundation Promise Grant to host a kids’ fair for the youth of the community. Participants spent...
a fun-filled afternoon learning the importance of fire safety, bike safety, exercise, nutrition, goal setting and drug awareness. They also had their pictures taken with Elroy the Elk. Twenty-four lodge members and volunteers, including Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services therapist Janet Bryant and members of the Clay County Sheriff’s Office and Clay County Fire Department, were on hand to assist the children and their parents. Lunch was provided, and participants left with educational materials including Elks drug awareness education items and prizes to encourage active lifestyles.

Inverness Lodge

Inverness Lodge held their award presentation March 1 for Ava Rueck, winner of the state Drug Awareness essay contest. Ava is a sixth-grader at Lecanto Middle School. She and her family were invited to the lodge for dinner and the award presentation of a Kindle Fire, a framed certificate and a $50 check.

Winter Park Elks Lodge #1830

Winter Park Elks Lodge #1830 donated $1,500 to this fundraiser.

Eustis #1578

Nine Eustis Anna Miller Circle members and four Eustis Lodge members met March 29 to pack a $4,397 donation for The Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties. The donation included 277 adult welcome kits and 118 children’s welcome kits. The Haven, a shelter for women who have been abused and their children as well as teens and survivors of rape, provides a welcome kit of toiletries to each new client when they arrive at the shelter. The children’s kits also contain hand sanitizer, a small toy and lip balm. This packing also included 69 items for school children, 17 birthday cake packets for children who find themselves in safe housing on their birthday, and 169 full-size toiletries.

On Feb. 11, Eustis Elks Lodge #1578 donated $2,883 for Lake Hills School of Howey-in-the-Hills, Fla., to purchase a pacer gait trainer which assists in training children who are wheelchair-bound to use their legs with the possible outcome of walking. Pictured at the check presentation are Patsy Despain, Exalted Ruler; Robin Meyers, principal; Brandy Brown, school PTA; Dee and Bo Borwegen, lodge members; and a Lake Hills student.

Inverness Elks Lodge #2522

Inverness Elks Lodge #2522 presented their annual $1,000 donation to Citrus United Basket Inc. (C.U.B.). Pictured are Mike Orndorf, Loyal Knight; Juanita Emerick, lodge trustee; Kelly Selph, C.U.B. Executive Director; and Richard Grosnick, Leading Knight. C.U.B. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization created in 1978 to assist Citrus County families facing temporary hardship.

Winter Garden #2165

On March 2, Winter Garden Elks Lodge #2165 held a fundraiser at the lodge for Orlando, Fla., police officer Kevin Valencia. He was shot in the line of duty June 18, 2018, while responding to a domestic violence call in which the suspect killed four children and then himself. Valencia had been at Good Shephard Hospital in Atlanta for treatment for his head injuries but was recently brought back home to Orlando to an undisclosed facility so he could be closer to his family. His recovery does not have a very promising future. He has a wife and two young children. The lodge fundraiser included barbecue dinners, raffles, and private donations and raised $21,000 for his family to help with the ongoing costs they will have for a very long time.

Winter Park Elks Lodge #1830 donated $1,500 to this fundraiser.
Winter Park #1830

Winter Park Elks Lodge #1830 is sponsoring 10 camperships at $180 each for children to attend a summer session at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. The lodge also purchased two tables at the Florida State Elks Association Harry-Anna Trust Unmasking Autism Gala of Hope at $2,500 each and was a gold sponsor for the softball tournament.

Edgewater-New Smyrna Beach #1557

Gifts of Love, the local distribution center of Second Harvest for the Edgewater-New Smyrna Beach, Fla., area, received two truckloads of food. Last year, Second Harvest provided nearly 58 million meals to families, children and seniors in central Florida. Their distribution and community partners make it possible for them to get food to people who need it the most. Edgewater-New Smyrna Beach Elks Lodge #1557 is one of these partners with Gifts of Love and many lodge members volunteer Tuesdays and Thursdays to distribute food to those in need. On Jan. 19, lodge members helped unload and distribute this unscheduled food delivery to families of U.S. Coast Guard members located in New Smyrna Beach who needed food assistance during the government shutdown.

Merritt Island #2650

Merritt Island Elks Lodge #2650 has supported Emma Jewel Charter School for the past five years. For parents, children and educators, these schools provide a valuable alternative to the conventional public school system and avoid much of the red tape that comes with it. They allow schools to innovate with new education approaches while largely remaining accountable to the same academic standards to which public schools are held. Merritt Island Lodge received an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and Anniversary Grant and then asked the counselors at Emma Jewel what their students needed most. Once again, 35 kids whose parents could not afford them needed new school uniforms. The grant checks were presented to the school administration who then ordered and received the uniforms. On Jan. 24, Wendy Watters, Kermit Forbes, Robin Gammill and Bill Hazelett Sr. went to the school to hand out new uniforms to the students. They were surprised beyond belief and started jumping and singing!

Port Orange #2723

On March 12, Port Orange Lodge presented $400 to Atlantic High School in Port Orange, Fla. The donation will be used for the after-school/Saturday tutoring program and the senior remediation program which accounts for Atlantic’s high graduation rate. These programs encourage students to put forth effort toward their studies for hours on end. Most of these students receive free or reduced-cost lunches. These programs generally occur outside times in which the cafeteria can provide food, so in those times, snacks, drinks and incentives are provided to the students when possible. The lodge’s donation will be used to purchase these items. This not only fuels their brains but also provides a motivating factor for students to attend regularly.

Zephyrhills #2731

On Feb. 12, Shirley Crawford of Zephyrhills Elks Lodge #2731 and Terry VanAlstine of New York’s Canojoharie-Fort Plain Elks Lodge #2621 delivered more than 170 pounds of pop tops to the Shriners Hospital in Tampa, Fla. Canojoharie Moose Lodge #853 also collected tabs. As always, the hospital was thankful for the donation which will be returned to them as cash to fund their programs.

On March 19, Zephyrhills Lodge donated $500 to the Zephyrhills JROTC for their basketball program. Shirley LeClair, Loyal Knight, and Ken Fabiani, Exalted Ruler, presented the check to Sgt. Smith.
**WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**St. Petersburg #1224**

On Feb. 7, St. Petersburg Elks Lodge’s Esquire, retired Army Lt. Col. Carol Barkalow, was the guest speaker at Athenian Academy in Clearwater, Fla., for Girl Scout Troop 911. She spoke about the young girls’ leadership potential as well as the meaning of being a veteran. She explained that when a soldier’s mission ends, they return to civilian life, but sometimes they don’t have a home to come back to, and that is when she and her team of volunteers at Heaven on Earth for Veterans Inc. (HOEV) come in. She described how this organization helps veterans transition to civilian life so they can find and retain jobs so they can avoid becoming homeless again. HOEV assists Pinellas County’s veteran homelessness by providing quality, low-cost, safe living spaces for veterans in need. The veterans get a furnished private bedroom and shared common space, internet and cable, all utilities, laundry facilities, linens and a kitchen stocked with cookware. All they pay for is food.

During the 108th anniversary celebration at St. Petersburg Lodge and its variety show event Feb. 16, the Dixie Hollins Rebels softball team members acted as servers. The lodge offers high school clubs, teams and other nonprofits the ability to earn community service hours, learn life skills and have the opportunity to interact with a diverse demographic. The Rebels’ team swapped places with other schools in the lodge’s volunteer lineup because of the team’s immediate need. The Rebels’ softball team was in fundraising mode because they recently discovered that their field maintenance equipment had been stolen from their secured concrete storage unit during their off-season. It cost them $500 to replace the stolen equipment and they had to borrow from money raised for their other needs such as travel and sports equipment. Exalted Ruler, Cathy Shriver, presented Coach Robin Brady with $406 received in donations from lodge and family members attending the evening’s event.

**SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**Fort Pierce #1520**

On Jan. 8, Lenny Smallacombe and his wife, Barb, attended the St. Lucie Public Schools board meeting. At the meeting, the good works of the Fort Pierce Elks’ backpack program were shared with the board and everyone in attendance. Smallacombe later accepted a special appreciation award from Superintendent E. Wayne Gent and board members on behalf of all the dedicated team members of the backpack program and on behalf of all those who donate to the program. The program utilizes an Elks National Foundation community grant which helps Fort Pierce Lodge make a difference in children’s lives in their community.

**Seminole #2519**

Seminole Elks Lodge #2519 held their first West Central Florida Spirit of Harmony Foundation instrument drive at the lodge. Their mission is to provide opportunities for personal development and self-expression through the support of music and music education. The event brought...
in approximately 60 attendees, and a multitude of instruments were donated.

**Tampa #708**

Using part of the Elks National Foundation Promise Grant, Tampa Elks Lodge #708 treated 16 teens to a day of fun that included a boat trip around Tampa Bay, lunch at a restaurant and playing video games. Inner Guard Taylor Taylor planned the day and the teens were invited to help found Tampa Lodge’s Antlers Club. The event was open to all kids the lodge had a connection with and the lodge was able to take all who were interested. The teens were from local Tampa Bay middle and high schools and homeschooled students. They included campers the lodge had sponsored and kids who had attended lodge events such as the back-to-school party and Christmas party.

For the fourth year, Tampa Lodge received a $5,000 Elks National Foundation Impact Grant. This year, they used this grant to provide 20 new laptops to be utilized in Kristina Chowning’s classroom by the members of Club Chivalry for Success who don’t have technology available at home. These computers will be used for the mandatory online class requirement and to research and apply for scholarships as well as for everyday schoolwork.

**Brandon #2383**

For more than 16 years, Brandon Elks Lodge #2383 has hosted the annual prom night for the children of the Willis Peters Exceptional Center. Willis Peters is a school for students ages 3-22 with profound disabilities. On Feb. 13, the lodge utilized the Elks National Foundation Promise Grant to again host the prom for students and faculty. The 2019 theme of “Let’s Blame it on the Boogie” was chosen by the students. The lodge hall was transformed into a disco and everyone came wearing their platforms, leisure suits, bell-bottoms and boogie shoes. And these kids can dance! This prom provides these children the opportunity to be just like other teenagers, dressing up, dancing and just enjoying their special prom night.

Lodge member Dorinda Rountree has been spearheading this annual event for years at the lodge. She is dedicated to these children and each year pulls together a team to transform the lodge into whatever theme the children come up with.

On March 13, Brandon Lodge put on their first Brandon Elks/Boy Scouts clay shoot benefit to raise funds to help their dedicated Boy Scout Troop #627 attend their camp. There were 51 shooters, numerous “Brandon Boys” volunteers, lodge members and at least 12 Boy Scouts from Troop #627 who helped make this first benefit a wonderful success. Held at Fishhawk Sporting Clay’s, the event earned a net profit of $4,600 for the troop. With Boy Scout camp costing $350 per scout, the troop will now be able to sponsor numerous scouts to camp this year. Jim Randall, chairman, and Mark Vargo, co-chairman, have promised to hold the event next year as well.
Lakeland #1291

On Feb. 9, Lakeland Elks Lodge #1291 hosted member Sandy Fuschetti’s 15th annual birthday party/Lakeland SPCA benefit. Members donated an array of appetizers to feed the human guests. SPCA volunteers were in attendance with a dog from the shelter who was up for adoption. A silent auction was held with items donated by lodge members. After dinner, the Focus Group Band supplied music for everyone’s dancing and listening enjoyment. The following was raised: $3,528.22; 958 lbs. of dog food; 320 lbs. of cat food; and loads of blankets, toys, kitty litter and peanut butter.

Approximately 80 people were present for the awarding of 12 scholarships totaling $13,750 at the 2019 scholarship banquet held March 18 at Lakeland Lodge. Serving as emcee for the evening, scholarship chairman, Dave Norwine, announced each student and shared their accomplishments including community service, school and community involvement, leadership positions, and honors and awards received.

Plant City #1727

Plant City Elks Lodge #1727 donated $75 gift cards to each of the 28 children and five caregivers at Everyday Blessings in Eastern Hillsborough County Feb. 3. Everyday Blessings is a home-like atmosphere for children who have been abused and neglected and with unsafe home issues. It is one of the few locations where siblings can stay together. The cards were purchased using an Elks National Foundation Promise Grant. The children, who have had a rough time in their short lives, were so excited when told they could spend their money on anything they wanted!

Sebring #1529

Sebring Lodge donated $3,500 in part from the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to the Sebring High School show choir. Zack Thompson, choir director, and 23 students performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City March 21. The students represented Florida and performed with other choirs from around the country. Throughout the year, the varsity choir and the show choir participate in local, district and state competitions and are rated good, excellent or superior. In addition to a voice competition, they are also rated on poise, the ability to read music, diction, projection and performance. Additional judging criteria for the show choir are choreography, personality and stage presence. Similar to the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade that presents the all-American band, this Carnegie Hall performance was an all-American choir featuring the best of the best from each state. Always ranking superior in solos and ensembles, Sebring is the best in Florida. The Elks donation was used for travel, lodging, sheet music and food while each student and their chaperones were responsible for their own fare. Many of these same students have previously benefited from the Beacon Grant through participation at Highlands Little Theatre Summer Institute which Sebring Lodge also supports.

Members of Sebring Lodge wanted to make a donation to the SunTrust Foundation to aid the families of the five women who were killed by a gunman at a SunTrust bank in Sebring, Fla., in January. The lodge held a charity breakfast that was open to the public with all proceeds going to the families through the SunTrust Foundation. More than 30 volunteers set up and broke down the dining rooms and bar area, cooked, cleaned...
read “Let’s B Safe” books to 173 first-graders in both Gene Witt and Freedom elementary schools in February. In March, they presented a program to fourth-graders at both schools called Kids on the Block, a puppet show about bullying and stereotypes.

Sarasota South #2495

On Feb. 3, Sarasota South Elks Lodge #2495 hosted a buffet luncheon for the winners of the Americanism essay contest. This year’s theme was “What Makes you Proud to be an American?” Ray Peetz, Lodge Americanism Chairman, introduced the winners of the 2019 contest, all of whom were from Pine View School in Sarasota, Fla. – first-place winner, Sidney Brann; second-place winner, Oleg Frankowski; and third-place winner, Emily Fung. He shared with them “What it means to be an Elk” from the Elks creed.

South Hillsborough #2672

On March 9, South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 used their Elks National Foundation Promise Grant to host a prom for students with special needs from Earl L. Lennard High School at the lodge. Pizza, wings, cupcakes and soft drinks were served to over 30 students. A DJ provided dancing music with the principal, teachers, family and Elks joining in the fun.

Venice-Nokomis #1854

Using an Elks National Foundation Promise Grant, Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge #1854 donated $2,000 in food, after-school snacks and a weekend backpack program to a local community civic center for 75 homeless children.

Venice-Nokomis Lodge donated three bicycles and helmets to a local family whose children needed rides to school.

Deep Creek #2763

Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763 used its Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to take two groups of nine children from Genesis House homeless shelter shopping at Walmart for school clothes and shoes. The lodge used its Elks National Foundation Anniversary Grant for The Academy, an alternative school for high-risk students. School spirit T-shirts and gift cards were provided for their positive reinforcement program.

Greater Pine Island #2781

In December 2018, Pine Island Elementary School hosted the Hoop Shoot sponsored by Greater Pine Island Elks Lodge #2781. During the competition, SRO Cpl. W. Rivera noticed that the school’s basketballs were worn and in need of replacement. After the Hoop Shoot,
Rivera was speaking with a lodge member about the school's need for new basketballs. Lodge Exalted Ruler, Judy Hopkins, overheard the conversation and agreed to help with the purchase of 10 new basketballs. The balls were presented to the school Jan. 24.

Punta Gorda #2606

Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 held its 12th annual bocce tournament with 19 teams and 70 players. Proceeds from the sign-ups and raffle tickets totaling $1,002 were donated to Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services.

Punta Gorda Lodge hosts a blood drive every 56 days. Recently, 48 pints were donated. One pint saves three lives, so lodge members saved 144 lives.

The Punta Gorda Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Association donated $500 in January to the 40th annual Powder Puff charity golf classic which benefits Tidewell Hospice.

Punta Gorda Lodge donated $1,000 in food products to St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. Additionally, the proceeds from bar bingo of $1,400 were added to the lodge scholarship fund.

Punta Gorda Lodge purchased and installed three security doors at Hope Academy at Crossroads using $2,000 from an Elks National Foundation Anniversary Grant. Hope Academy is the school at Crossroads, a nonprofit 501(c)3 home and charter school for foster boys who have had multiple failed placements in the Florida foster care system.

Rotonda #2710

Rotonda Elks Lodge #2710 used their $2,000 from the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and the $2,000 from the Florida State Elks Association's matching grant to help C.A.R.E., the Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies. Their mission statement is "to help victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes in Charlotte County. C.A.R.E. works to create safety in our community by helping survivors and by promoting nonviolent and healthy relationships by education and example." Lodge members' spouses shopped for women's and children's clothing for the center's clients.

Clewiston #1853

Clewiston Elks Lodge #1853 hosted their annual community and Elks awards ceremony; this year's Citizen of the Year was member Marty Espinoza who has been actively involved with various youth groups for over 30 years. His first project was building a wrestling program in the community. Along the way he has helped mentor youth in baseball and basketball, and this year he helped run the local Hoop Shoot. His latest passion is soccer; he helps prepare the children for the local, district, state and tri-state regional shoots. Clewiston has more than a dozen state champions, and when the kids make these trips, he is usually traveling with them, making the kids feel more secure and confident.

Clewiston Lodge continued its long-standing tradition of hosting a community-wide barbecue benefit to raise funds to send scouts from Clewiston Boy Scout Troop 619 to summer camp. The Elks worked closely with the scouts to plan a successful event and the scouts blanketed the community to advertise the event. Together the Elks and scouts raised over $4,000 that will go directly to the troop.

Jupiter #2469

Katheryn Rodriguez from Tequesta, Fla., represented Jupiter Elks Lodge #2469 in this year's Elks Soccer Shoot. She won the local contest at Jupiter Farms Park, the district and regional contests at Sugarland Park in Clewiston, and the state championship held at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. She then moved on to the southeast regional contest, also held at the Florida Elks Youth Camp, Jan. 20.

Lake Okeechobee #2871

Lake Okeechobee Elks Lodge #2871 utilized an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to purchase new equipment for the Brahman Battalion JROTC including mannequins to display proper attire and decorations of a cadet, new flag equipment for the honor guard, a new canopy for shade, a new ruck sack and a length of special rope called a kernmantle.

Using the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant, Jupiter Lodge hosted a Shoot-2-B-Drug-Free event to promote drug awareness in the community and included a basketball shoot-off. More than 200 attended including 150 kids. The event took place at the Riviera Beach Parks and Rec.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Clewiston Boy Scout Troop 619 to summer camp. The Elks worked closely with the scouts to plan a successful event and the scouts blanketed the community to advertise the event. Together the Elks and scouts raised over $4,000 that will go directly to the troop.

Sponsored by Jupiter Lodge, Katheryn Rodriguez won first place in the girls U-10 division at the state Soccer Shoot held Jan. 5 at the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Lake Okeechobee Elks Lodge #2871 utilized an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to purchase new equipment for the Brahman Battalion JROTC including mannequins to display proper attire and decorations of a cadet, new flag equipment for the honor guard, a new canopy for shade, a new ruck sack and a length of special rope called a kernmantle.

Using the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant, Lake Okeechobee Lodge provided each student in second grade at all five elementary schools in the district the beautifully illustrated book “B is for Buckaroo.” Each letter of the alphabet portrays an informational subject about cowboys and the western way of life. The Elks attended the presentation with the court of the Miss Rodeo Okeechobee queens. This
ties into the 78th annual speckled perch festival and spring rodeo. The Elks rewarded each child who read the book and took the accelerated reader quiz with an ice cream social.

**West Palm Beach #1352**

West Palm Beach Elks Lodge #1352 hosted the Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization Valentine dance that was well attended and the lodge presented them with a check for $1,000 to help their cause.

**South Southeast District**

The South Southeast District Past Exalted Rulers Association ran a reverse draw to benefit FSEA employee Amanda Frosch after her auto accident. Sales began in the district and culminated at the February state quarterly meeting at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. The winning tickets were drawn and several winners, including State President, Frank Malatesta, donated their winnings. In total, $4,000 was raised.

**Boca Raton #2166**

Boca Raton Elks Lodge #2166 held a chili cook-off to bring in new members. Lodge members and local firefighters, paramedics, and police officers brought their best dishes to be judged. Veterans from Palm Beach State College judged the chili dishes and named the first-place, second-place and third-place winners. The People’s Choice award was named by the members. The lodge gained two new members as a result of this event.

Using an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant, Boca Raton Lodge donated $500 to the Boca Raton High School marching band, $300 to Island Dolphin Care and $300 to the Florence Fuller Child Development Center.

**Delray Beach #1770**

Delray Beach Lodge maintains community visibility in a variety of ways. At Delray Beach Lodge’s annual awards dinner, awards were presented to the Police Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Ocean Rescue of the Year, Elks Officer of the Year, Elk of the Year and Citizen of the Year.

The lodge also participated in the St. Patrick’s Day parade. Additionally, the lodge donated $1,000 to the Miracle League, $1,000 to the Sandoway Discovery Center and $500 to AVDA (Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse).

**Florida Keys #1872**

Child Safety Day was held at Florida Keys Elks Lodge #1872 Jan. 12. The Masons prepared child ID kits to take home which included fingerprint, DNA and additional information about each child. Free bicycles, fitted helmets and drug awareness pamphlets were given out. There was an educational drug display for parents. Free hot dogs, chips and cookies were enjoyed by all.

On March 2, Florida Keys Lodge held a fundraiser with a Blues Brothers theme with 265 tickets sold. Fifteen students from Coral Shores High School served dinner and dessert to earn community service requirements. The lodge made $9,083 for scholarships, veterans, the Florida Elks Youth Camp and Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.
of the room. She stood up and came our way, 110 lbs. soaking wet, a cap of soft gray-black curls. She moved with the grace of a cat. She walked to within 10 feet of us, stopped, went back and sat down, then she got up again, and came all the way up to Baloo. She gave him a small pet, then walked away.

We told her goodbye and left, walking on down the hallway. We noticed that we were being followed by this same woman. A tiny voice asked, ‘May I tell Baloo goodbye?’

“She walked up, the obedience exercise of catching the dog’s eye and repeating, ‘ME! ME! ME!’ as you tap your nose, was her first action. Then she reached over and ran her hands along the dog’s body, a dog handler or a dog judge perhaps at one time. Then she hesitated, stepped back and stood there for a moment. She then kneeled, threw both arms around the dog and held on. Baloo froze in place as he had been taught. She did this three times. Then she started to walk off, turned back, and threw her arms around the dog one last time. The lady then got up and walked back to her room, never looking back.”

Twin Cities Lodge Exalted Ruler, Rick Woelfl, and House Committee chairman, Kathy Casey, present a $2,500 check to Mike Arena, co-founder and executive director of Healing Paws for Warriors.

Lake City #893

Lake City Elks Lodge #893 takes veterans from the Lake City VA Domiciliary and the VA golfing on Tuesdays and bowling on weekends.

Tallahassee #937

Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 continues its support of the North Florida Veterans Stand Down, an annual event where homeless veterans obtain free meals, haircuts and legal advice in concert with several local agencies. The lodge used the $2,000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to provide breakfast and a $2,500 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to provide lunch and T-shirts.

Gainesville #990

Pam Croy has been doing pet sharing with her dogs for more than 20 years. She has been sharing at the Gainesville VA hospital’s community living center, their psych ward and at one of their halfway houses for the past 10 years. Pet sharing has many benefits, especially for veterans with PTSD. The following is written by Croy and occurred at the psych ward with her Great Pyrenees dog, Baloo.

“The sign on the door stated ‘group room – welcome.’ I opened the door to darkness, no lighting at all. Then a small figure moved over in the corner

Healing Paws for Warriors relies solely on community support such as that provided by Elks.

Inverness #2522

Inverness Elks Lodge #2522 used their Elks National Foundation Freedom
Grant to treat some Purple Heart recipients, members of the Aaron Weaver Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), to a guided fishing outing. The lodge with assistance from some local businesses provided shirts to participants. After the outing, participants and volunteers were treated to a fish fry prepared by the guides and several lodge members. Awards were provided for the biggest fish, most fish and the fisherman voted the best sport by the guides. Richard Hunt from the MOPH was the unanimous winner of the alternative sport award, a badminton set.

On behalf of Zephyrhills Lodge, member Shirley Crawford delivered blankets to veterans at Baldomero Lopez Veterans Nursing Home Feb. 7. The Happy Hookers is a group of five women not affiliated with the Elks who volunteer to make the blankets. Yarn is donated and each blanket takes about 15 hours to make. They have made 28 so far. The home administrator, Marlies Sarrett, expressed her sincerest gratitude for the donation which increases residents’ morale.

A veteran arrived at Zephyrhills Lodge in dire need of financial assistance to return to his home base of Bay Pines VA Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla., so on March 19, Ken Fabiani, Exalted Ruler, presented him with a gift card for $100.

Purple Heart recipients were treated to a fishing trip and fish fry by Inverness Elks Lodge.

**CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**West Citrus #2693**

West Citrus Elks Lodge #2693 named Jim Sleighter Citizen of the Year in recognition of his work as founder and director of Mission in Citrus which provides help and housing to veterans who are homeless. The lodge supports Sleighter’s efforts and provides as much aid to the Mission as possible.

Jim Sleighter, founder and director of Mission in Citrus, receives West Citrus Lodge’s Citizen of the Year award from Brian Estus, Exalted Ruler.

**Zephyrhills #2731**

On Jan. 27, Zephyrhills Elks Lodge #2731 made a donation to the Veterans Golf League in Temple Terrace, Fla., of a full set of golf clubs and a golf bag that were donated by Paul and Patsy Thornton, Elks members in Michigan. The Veterans Golf League allows veterans to play at a reduced rate for a round of golf or a reduced rate on golf apparel. They can also use the golf range at no cost for buckets of golf balls. Additionally, they also have a few single-rider golf carts for veterans who are unable to walk; the cart seat turns and tilts the veterans into a standing position and is held to the seat by a seatbelt making it possible for them to drive the ball and continue on playing the round of golf.

Zephyrhills Lodge donated a 65” television for the residents’ activity room at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital domiciliary. Coffee was provided as well. These gifts were purchased using funds from lodge 50/50 raffles and generous members. Pictured at the presentation are Roy Leonard, RN, nurse manager; Judy Cogdill, Elks National Foundation chairman; Alexandria Novogodka, clinical coordinator; and Ken Fabiani, Exalted Ruler.

A veteran from the domiciliary attend dinner March 15 at Tampa Lodge. They are pictured with Tampa Veterans Committee member, Carolyn Miller.

**National Foundation Freedom Grant**

To treat veterans from the domiciliary to meals and live music at the lodge on a regular basis for the last seven months. The grand finale was a surf and turf dinner held March 15. The dinner was cooked by lodge members and served by members of the lodge’s Veterans Committee. The grant is spent, but the Veterans Committee plans to take over financing opportunities for these veterans, many of whom have become friends, to continue to come enjoy the company of Elks.

**Dunedin/Clearwater #1525**

Dunedin/Clearwater Elks and Ladies of Elks each made a $500 donation to help the Wounded Warriors project.

**Tampa #708**

Tampa Lodge #708 utilized the Elks

**SOUTHWEST CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**Brandon #2383**

Brandon Elks Lodge #2383 adopted Liberty Manor as their official adopt-a-vet program four years ago under the guidance of PER George R. Scribner, trustee. Liberty Manor is a nonprofit organization founded by Connie
Lindsay to fill the much-needed void in housing and caring for homeless veterans. Through the years, veterans of Liberty Manor have been guests of Brandon Lodge's monthly veterans' dinners as well as picnics and special events. The lodge also assists with monetary donations. On Jan. 23, Liberty Manor was given a $1,000 donation from the Elks National Foundation Freedom Grant.

Lakeland #1291

Lakeland Elks Lodge #1291 donated 40 cans of creamer, a box of sugar packets, two boxes of sweetener, 10 cans of coffee, eight cases of water and 15 cases of soda to the Lakeland Veterans Center. The facility does not have a provision for this in their budget. This donation will be used by local veterans during group and individual counseling sessions. Pictured at the donation presentation are Char Fisher, Veterans Lodge Chairman; Kristen Franks, Veterans Lodge Co-Chairman; and Sherri' Alip, Veterans Center office manager.

Lakeland Lodge made a donation to the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital for the immediate needs of the homeless veterans they serve. The donation worth $850 included 39 pairs of shoes, 13 rain jackets, 27 packs of baby wipes, 93 bars of soap, 68 toothbrushes, 64 boxes of toothpaste, 33 packs of antibacterial wipes and 20 pairs of socks. An additional 32 personal-care kits were donated from member Dan Wait's Sandpiper community. The kits included toiletries, socks, hats and puzzle books.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Sarasota South #2495

Sarasota South Elks Lodge #2495 hosted 72 veterans for lunch March 11. Stephanie Kern, Associate Director of Philanthropy from Southeastern Guide Dogs, was present and gave a brief introduction to what they do in preparation of assigning a guide dog to those in need. Ed Burton, a 28-year Navy veteran, told the attendees how helpful his guide dog, Sammy, is to him. Burton was an engineer and did three tours in Vietnam as well as in Nicaragua, Panama, Granada and Desert Storm. Injuries received during his service caused the inflammation of his optic nerve and led to his vision loss. Sammy is his second dog from Southeastern Guide Dogs. Since he has had him, he has been able to live an active life and adapt to life on a sailboat spending time with his wife boating in the Florida Keys and the Bahamas.

Venice-Nokomis #1854

Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge #1854 provided lunch to 65 veterans from local assisted-living facilities using funds from the Elks National Foundation Freedom and Gratitude grants. Sixty lodge members attended to help serve and entertain the troops. Venice-Nokomis Lodge donated T-shirts, socks and hygiene products to the VA medical nursing facility and 15 blankets made by volunteers.

Deep Creek #2763

Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763 used its Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to take a group of veterans from the Douglas Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home to a preseason baseball game at Charlotte Sports Park between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Miami Marlins. Lunch and drinks were provided as well as snacks and drinks during the game. Each of them also

South Hillsborough #2672

On the fourth Friday of every month, veterans from the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital visit South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 for dinner. They can order anything off the menu thanks to an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant.

Lakeland Elks Lodge #1291 presented supplies for veterans who are homeless at James A. Haley VA Hospital are Marty, VA Hospital Voluntary Services; John McArthur, Lakeland Elk; Janice Rodriguez, VA Hospital Voluntary Services; and Steve Masterton, PER.

Presenting Brandon Lodge's Freedom Grant at the Jan. 23 lodge veterans dinner to Connie Lindsay, founder and CEO of Liberty Manor, and her husband, David, are George Scribner, 2018-2019 District Vice President and State Veterans Chairman, and Bob Booker, Lodge Veterans Chairman.

Ed and Judy Wise of Plant City Lodge's Veterans Committee present a lodge donation for Operation Outdoor Freedom to Daniel Lacy, forest ranger.

Stephanie Kern from Southeastern Guide Dogs attends a veterans luncheon March 11 at Sarasota South Lodge to speak about the organization's guide dogs. Also pictured are Richard Bouchard, Exalted Ruler, and Ed Burton, a Navy veteran, with his dog, Sammy.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Sarasota South Elks Lodge #2495

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
Veterans Committee then treated the performers to dinner.

Pompano Beach #1898

Pompano Beach Elks delivered food baskets and gift cards to female veterans at the Bill Kling VA Center.

SOUTH DISTRICT

Marathon #2139

In conjunction with the Dolphin Research Center (DRC), Marathon Elks Lodge #2139 prepared and fed over 50 veterans and staff from the Wounded Warriors project and DRC. The DRC provided their grounds for the day’s events where the veterans participated in teambuilding exercises as well as time with the dolphins. The lodge used its Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to purchase the supplies and food for the luncheons they host about six times a year.

Punta Gorda #2606

The Veterans Committee of Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 hosts monthly luncheons for residents of the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Home and served dinners to 25 veterans at the Veterans Village, a transitional housing program for homeless veterans.

The Punta Gorda Elkettes have created a New Beginnings program in which they provide an American flag-themed tote bag containing household items, cleaning supplies, toiletries and a $50 Walmart gift card to residents of the Veterans Village who will be transitioning to their own residence.

Punta Gorda #2606 & Rotonda #2710

Twelve members of Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 assisted Rotonda Elks Lodge #2710 with a benefit to support the Army of Hope which provides aid and assistance to the families of deceased, disabled and deployed members of the military.

Rotonda #2710

Veterans at the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home received new clothing, shoes and personal care items from Rotonda Elks Lodge #2710. The lodge used $1,800 of the Elks National Foundation Freedom Grant for supplies and $200 for veterans’ meals at the lodge.

Boca Raton #2166

Using the Elks National Foundation Freedom and Beacon grants, Boca Raton Elks Lodge #2166 sponsored two groups of young veterans from Florida Atlantic University and Palm Beach State College to Key Largo, Fla., for dolphin therapy at Island Dolphin Care. At the end of the day, they visited the lodge for a complimentary dinner.

Miami #948

On Feb. 22, Miami Elks Lodge #948 in conjunction with the Miami Veteran Center Department of Veteran Affairs hosted a veterans’ job fair with more than 80 employers including the FBI, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, DEA, police and sheriff departments, Publix, and Macy’s. There were 203 registered veterans and 78 family members in attendance. Lodge volunteers served breakfast and lunch; T-shirts were given to attendees. The lodge used an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant.
LODGE PLANNING CALENDAR

May 2019

FYI:

5/23-25 • State Convention – Orlando World Center Marriott

Deadlines:

5/1 • ENF Emergency Education Grant applications available at GL website
• Lodges to submit annual Membership & Charity Report with dues payment to Grand Secretary
• Campers to submit summer camp camper applications to the FEYC (Registration is first come, first served, so it’s likely to be full before 5/1)
5/15 • DDGERs to submit checklist to Grand Secretary for GER’s Certificate of Appreciation for DDGER

Due Dates for Non-Grand Lodge Reports & Taxes:

5/1 • Annual report listing officers to Florida Secretary of State
5/15 • Deposit payroll taxes for prior month to U.S. Treasury (Lodges may be eligible to pay quarterly if certain conditions are met.)
• Deposit withholding to U.S. Treasury from gambling winnings if more than $2,500 cumulative for the year
5/17 • Sales tax for prior month to Florida Department of Revenue (electronic payment and filing no later than 5 p.m.)

Statutes:

• May – Lodge Annual Membership & Charity Report due with dues payment to GL May 1 ($16,010 – Subject to $100 Fine)

State President’s Visits:

5/31-6/1 • Southwest District – South Hillsborough #2672

June 2019

FYI:

6/2-8 • Summer Camp staff training
6/9-15 • Summer Camp Week 1
6/16-22 • Summer Camp Week 2
6/23-29 • Summer Camp Week 3
6/30-7/6 • Summer Camp Week 4

Deadlines:

6/14 • Flag Day (Mandatory Service – Sec. 2.030)
6/15 • Deadline for lodges to submit request form for GL GER Award Pins – three new or reinstated members – to Grand Secretary (7/1/18 to 6/15/19)
• Deadline for lodges to submit request form for GL Recruiter’s Watch – 11 new or reinstated members – to GL Membership Member (7/1/18 to 6/15/19) – Limit two watches
• Lodges to submit list of recruits for GL Recruiter’s Clock – 33 new or reinstated members – to GL Membership Member (7/1/18 to 6/15/19) – Limit one clock
6/19 • Sales tax for prior month to Florida Department of Revenue (electronic payment and filing no later than 5 p.m.)

July 2019

FYI:

7/7-13 • Summer Camp Week 5
7/14-20 • Summer Camp Week 6
7/21-27 • Summer Camp Week 7 (Dependants of Military/Army of Hope Week)

Deadline:

7/15 • Lodges to complete FSEA online committee reporting for the quarter ending 6/30
7/31 • ENF Impact Grant intent to apply closes

Due Dates for Non-Grand Lodge Reports & Taxes:

7/15 • Deposit payroll taxes for prior month to U.S. Treasury (Lodges may be eligible to pay quarterly if certain conditions are met.)
• Deposit withholding to U.S. Treasury from gambling winnings if more than $2,500 cumulative for the year
7/19 • Sales tax for prior month to Florida Department of Revenue (electronic payment and filing no later than 5 p.m.)
7/30 • Form RT-6 – report wages for prior quarter to Florida Department of Revenue (electronic payment and filing no later than 5 p.m.)
7/31 • Form 941 – report wages for prior quarter to U.S. Treasury
• 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.)

Statutes:

• July – Lodge’s Auditing & Accounting Committee to review lodge books and report at last meeting of month ($13,040)

State President’s Visits:

7/19-20 • Central District – Aripeka #2520
7/26-27 • Southeast District – Jupiter #2469

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

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

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

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