HOSPITAL IS SOLD

The building and land in Umatilla, which formally housed the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital has been sold. The hospital was closed in 1999 and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services was started to reach out state wide to provide physical therapy and occupational therapy to Florida children who do not have easy access to these services.

The property had been on the market for several years. The property was sold for $1,350,000.00. It will be completely renovated and will house the Umatilla Girls Youth Academy, which will be operated by Central Florida Youth Services.

Proceeds from the sale were invested in the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Reserve Account.

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES

Assistance given to lodges because of the past hurricanes

Dear Friends,

Another year of Elkdom in Florida will be over be the time you read this. The year is April 1 to March 31st but because of publication dates and thus time restrictions on submission of this article. I am unable to provide information about membership (gain or loss), contributions to the Elks National Foundation and a lot of other aspects of our Elk activities.

What we do know is there are still a few of our Lodges that are in a state of disrepair from the storms to the extent they are unable to open.

Likewise, we still have a number of our members, primarily in the Northwestern part of the state that are still in temporary housing.

When you have the opportunity, please give them much needed help; whether it be a donation of money, work or companionship to let them know you care.

With regard to those lodges still not in operation, your active membership has never been more of a necessity. Mortgage payments and a lot of other expenses such as water, sewer and electricity must be maintained.

While on the subject of caring for others, let us not overlook the outstanding accomplishments of our volunteers who go to the VA hospitals and nursing homes on a regular basis to bring comfort and cheer to our veterans. I know as a fact that the pleasure the Veterans exhibit is its own reward to these volunteers; however, anytime you can thank them or even make a small contribution to aid their efforts, will be appreciated.

There are about a half a dozer Special Representatives working with lodges with difficulties. They are members with a history of activity and knowledge in Elkdom, and the capability to ascertain the basic problems involved and do something about it.

A Special Representative is appointed by an Executive Order of the Grand Exalted Ruler and is given broad authority to attempt to set a faltering lodge on the right track.

In Florida we have had some notable successes with this method of correcting problems. Understanding of the necessity and cooperation by the lodge Members has been the key to success. When those two elements are lacking, then the specter of the loss of the lodge Charter becomes a central element in the picture.

In closing this message, it occurs to me that the thoughts to which you are exposed in Church are always interesting, intriguing and enlightening.

Recently I was impressed by a suggestion with regard to heaven and the way we live our lives.

All of scripture indicates heaven is the most desirable destination; a place where there is contentment, happiness and no anger or friction amongst those blessed with residence. It certainly is a remarkable opportunity for a final destination.

Makes a person puzzle over why we don’t do a lot more to prepare ourselves for this joy by treating each other with greater respect and concern.

The help of God is always available for the asking.
Since my last article, Ebba Jean and I attended the superb tree lighting ceremony at the Elks National Retirement Home in Bedford, VA with PSP Tom Elmore and Pep. Over 25,000 cars drive through the grounds each year to witness this sensational display of Christmas lights proudly presented by the residents and staff of the home. A record number of Past Grand Exalted Rulers attended this year’s program. Each year Tom, with the genuine support of our Florida Ladies of Elks organization, presents wonderful gifts to our Florida members that believe, make them the envy of the other residents.

Enroute to Tampa following our visit with family and friends during the holiday season in Peoria, IL, we stopped in Ft. Bragg, N.C. to attend the final Airborne jump and Retirement Ceremony and parties for our middle daughter, U.S. Army Major Deborah Palladini. She retired as a Special Operations Civil Affairs Officer after 20 years of active duty, and upon return from her assignment in Afghanistan where she earned the Bronze Star. We thank everyone for the masses that you had read and for your many prayers that were answered with her safe return home.

The State President’s party visited the Northeast District during the second week of January where we were hosted by Vice President Dennis Squires and his lady Randye, District Leader PSP James Solana, his wife, and Diane, and by PGER Bob Graffon and Pat and PGER Val Bates and Claire. After being greeted upon arrival by several Elks and guests prior to checking into our comfortable motel room, we enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the spacious hospitality room. We were then transported to Twin Oaks, the residence of PGER Val and Claudia Bates, who hosted cocktails and a delicious outdoor barbeque prepared by Chef, PDDGER Brian Burns from Arcadia.

On Saturday, we were treated to a personalized tour of various sections of the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium at Florida Field followed by an enjoyable lunch at Dennis Squares’ local favorite, The Club House Grill, while the ladies enjoyed a luncheon by Pat Graffon at Bob and Pat’s home.

On Saturday evening we were guests of Gainesville E.R. John Eversen and his wife, Leslie, for an excellent dinner prepared by professional Chef Elmo and the lodge’s many volunteers responsible for great service, decorations and hospitality. After dinner we enjoyed the crowded pleasuring, live entertainment by an Elvis impersonator from Georgia.

The following weekend we visited Perry, where we were hosted by the North District VP Richard Cruce and his wife, PER Kalena, and District Sponsor, PSP Larry Henley and his wife, Pam. Following cocktails and hors d’oeuvres at the Days Inn Hospitality Room on both Friday and Saturday evenings, we enjoyed excellent dinners, service, decorations and karaoke entertainment at the Perry Lodge, compliments of Exalted Ruler Kyle Jones, his wife, Theresa and their many volunteers, particularly Kathy Connell, PDDGER Roscoe Sheffield, Wayne and Darlene Lago and Lou Pinson and PDDGER Tom Waldon from Tallahassee.

Between breakfast and lunch at the Perry Lodge on Saturday, we were taken on very informative, personalized tours of the Forest Capital State Museum and of local Buckeye Technologies, Inc., while several of the ladies joined Carol Cruce at His, Hers and Ours Salon and Spa for a morning of pampering. A scheduled scenic flight over the coastal area for VPAL Don and me in a private plane was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. We certainly appreciated the “safety first” approach by all involved in the North District.

The following week Ebba Jean and I co-chaired and co-hosted the annual Gasparilla festivities for the seventh consecutive year at Tampa Lodge #708, where we had five full busloads of customers from other lodges and a record-breaking capacity crowd of 315 in attendance.

Next up, we were guests of E.R. Art French and his wife, Lee and Chairman Roberta Schuler and Grand Lodge Special Representative Charlie Urello, PDDGER, and their many volunteers at the Dunedin-Clearwater Lodge #1525 75th Anniversary Celebration and Banquet.

The next week we spent five days in Umatilla as the FSEA hosted Grand Exalted Ruler Jim McQuillan and First Lady Karen at our Quarterly Meeting. Also in attendance were our guests, Georgia State President Tommy Thompson and his wife, Harriet. Ebba Jean and I appreciated the opportunity to develop a closer friendship with both couples and the chance to personally thank GER McQuillan for his kind generosity in providing financial support to Florida Hurricane victims over the past several months.

State Secretary Carl Seibert did a tremendous job in helping to plan and organize this session and Lynn Warburton and his staff did an incredible job, once again, in making everyone feel welcome with the great service and utmost hospitality, in particular the Saturday night barbeque in the pavilion, which was enjoyed by the large crowd attending. This, most likely, set a fine precedent for future get-togethers at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Many thanks to our Host and Hostess, PER Charlie and Mary Jane Avignon, and PER Joe O’Brien and Doris on another well run hospitality room through-out the week. Also thanks to First Lady Ebba Jean for hosting two off premise lunches for Karen McQuillan and the PSP and other Officer’s wives. VPAL Don and I are grateful and thankful for the Florida Elks who contributed a final total of $102,788 in new money to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund during the State Major Projects Meeting on Saturday.

The following weekend, our September Hurricane Frances rescheduled visit to Fort Pierce was completed was hosted by Southeast Central District VP Jimmy Johnson and his hostess, Sara Dessureau. It was a very busy weekend, as the State President’s party was chauffeured to several different lodges for very enjoyable visits.

After being greeted by a large number of Elks, guests and friends, and checking into our comfortable motel accommodations, we were afforded cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in a spacious patio hospitality room before being transported to the PortSt. Lucie Lodge, where we were hosted to an exquisite dinner by E.R. Ed Gravious and his wife, Lois and their many volunteers who also treated us to breakfast before our departure on Sunday.

On Saturday morning we had an impressive tour of the local Navy Seal Museum while the ladies opted to do some shopping with Sara and Jimmie Ann Yates, who together with husband, PDDGER Buddy Yates, were substituting for our good friends, District Leader PSP Merle Seibald and his wife, Wanda, as Merle was having to contend with some serious back problems at home. Everyone hooked up for lunch at Stuart-Jensen Lodge where E.R. Betty Tweksbury and her Officers and volunteers provided us with a delightful luncheon complete with beverages and personal gifts. She also provided an extra copy of the booklet In The Path, representing a glimpse of the 2004 Hurricane Season Invasion of the Treasure Coast of Florida that I presented, with PGER Val Bates, to GER McQuillan during our visit to the Georgia Elks Association Conference in March for his kindness extended to Hurricane victims in Florida this past year. We then...
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert

The 2005 Exalted Ruler Elect and Secretary Elect Seminars were held the first two weekends in March. I am happy to report that the attendance was above average and judging from the comments of those in attendance, one of the best and most informative seminars yet! Exalted Rulers from 101 of our 116 Lodges were in attendance, as were 77 Secretaries Elect and 8 other officers. The Holiday Inn at Universal proved to be an affordable and sufficient facility for the Orlando seminar and will therefore be the location for our next year’s Orlando seminar. The Lake City Seminar will remain at the Quality Inn.

Our 99th Annual State Convention will be held May 26th through the 28th at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. We are expecting a great crowd this year as we continue the search for our new State Convention home. Our Convention Committee has worked very hard to find an affordable hotel and meeting space for our State Convention and we believe Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort will serve our purposes well! Currently we are contracted for two years with the Coronado Springs Resort.

It disappoints me that some of our members have chosen to not even give the Coronado a chance, choosing instead to seek hotel rooms outside of Disney. What disappoints me even more is the reasons that these decisions were based on were unfounded rumors! YES, there will be musical entertainment this year in the outdoor courtyard; it will just be provided by a Disney DJ (it has to do with Disney’s performer’s union regulation) and at their cost! YES, you will be able to walk around with a drink in your hand! NO, we are not going to be surrounded by a bunch of kids and tourists. Our 850 rooms are located in a section of the resort nearest to the convention center. Essentially we are separated from the more vacation-oriented sections of the resort by the convention center and a large lake. Now this is not to say that we will have our area exclusively as we cannot deny Disney the right to sell their rooms especially if we do not use them. Therefore, as in any hotel or resort we have ever used, including the Hyatt, there will be non-Elk guests in our presence. The number is up to us. We can rent the rooms or they can! NO, hospitality rooms do not have to close at 10:00 p.m. YES, the musical entertainment in the public areas will conclude at 10:00 p.m. but this does not mean we have to clear the area or shut down our hospitality rooms! NO, cooking is not allowed on Disney property, but for that matter, it is not allowed at any hotel! YES, hospitality rooms will be allowed to conduct sales and raffles. The activity must take place inside of their hospitality room. Additionally, for those hospitality rooms requesting it, a booth space will be provided in the convention center for use in selling items and tickets.

Twenty Lodges and Districts have been assigned parlor suites for use as hospitality rooms. Each is located in the building nearest the convention center. Some open into the open courtyard, several face the lake, and a couple face an exterior courtyard. Often the rooms are located one on top of the other as the same room but on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floor. Please don’t worry though, elevators are conveniently located in each building and most rooms are accessible through covered walkways in the event of inclement weather. Location guides will be provided in the program booklets that you will receive at the registration desk. All-in-all the resort is magnificent, the rates are affordable, the meeting space is unbeatable, and the entertainment options are limitless! I hope you are planning on attending the 2005 State Convention at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort.

Reservations for the Grand Lodge Convention in Reno are coming in strong and it appears that we will have no problem selling our 220 rooms at the Peppermill Resort Hotel and Casino. The convention is being held July 10th through July 14th. The cut-off date for reservations is June 30th or when our room block is sold out. Information regarding tickets for the Florida Dinner and breakfast as well as the Florida Hospitality room will be available the 1st of June. This information will be sent to all Lodges, as well as those who have made reservations at the Peppermill and those who have notified me that they are going but have made their own arrangements for housing. As always this information will be available first on our website at www.fleks.org.

Speaking of our website, over the past few months I hope you have had an opportunity to visit the Florida Elks website and marvel at the many changes that have been made to it! With much help from our Webmaster Jerry Mills, I am becoming more proficient with using the website as a powerful communication tool. With few exceptions, just about anything you are looking for with regard to statewide upcoming events can be found at our website. In March we began experimenting with on-site State Convention pre-registration and with any luck you were able to complete your purchase of State Convention President’s Banquet tickets online! In the near future we hope to align with a web commerce partner so future purchase and registrations will allow you to input your credit card information and eliminate the need for us to process those transactions in-house. Please continue to keep me updated with your email addresses and contact information and visit our website often for the most up-to-date information on the activities of the Florida State Elks Association and our Major Projects.

Finally, I wish to congratulate the newly installed leaders of our Lodges! I know that the months of March and April were especially busy for them, yet through it all, our Exalted Rulers and Secretaries did a tremendous job of providing our office with all of the new information regarding their officers and committees. Because of this outstanding response, the Lodge Directory has already been made available at our website, and the printed version should be available in late June! Our database of information is only as accurate as you make it, so please keep us informed of address and personnel changes throughout the year so that we can keep the lines of communication open and working!

It has been another extraordinary year in Florida Elkdom and it has been an honor and a privilege serving once again as your State Secretary! Space does not permit me to personally thank everyone for their unbounded support and cooperation, so thank you one and all!

Florida Ladies of Elks

Lee Weigel
President, FLOE

“Spring cleaning should begin with the head and end with the heart!”

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks,

Our luncheon to be held at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando during the Elks State Convention on Saturday, May 28, 2005, promises to be a pleasant event. I’m told some ladies look forward to renewing friendships formed over the years. Tickets are available from your District Delegate or your own Lodge. If you are unable to obtain a ticket, kindly contact Joan Fritz - (386) 760-9626.

The Chinese Auction being coordinated by Betty Groff, SEC District is an additional highlight of the luncheon.

The 2005 Conference will be held at the Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs October 5-9. We had a wonderful Conference there last year.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!

Conference packets will be ready for distribution at the business meeting May 28. Any Delegate who needs to be excused should arrange for someone to pick up your packet for you.

The Nominating Committee will be presenting their recommendations of FLOE Officers and Advisory Board members for 2005-2006. If you are interested in being considered for an office please submit a letter to the Chair lady of the Nominating Committee, Barbara Reker ASAP. The slate will be voted on at the August meeting.

The next FLOE meeting is Saturday, May 28th at 8:30AM. Vice President, Betty Pickenpaugh, will be presenting locations for the 2006 Conference site. Delegates, your vote counts!

Keep well and have a safe journey.

Auf Wiedersehen (Till We Meet Again),
Lee Weigel
FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES

Ben S. Brown, Jr.
Administrator

Another year of accomplishment by Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services has been registered in the storied history of the Florida State Elks Association. Our program of free therapy for children continues to improve the quality of life for them as well as their families.

One of the highlights of my job is to hear of the great things accomplished by our wonderful group of therapists. I also receive many letters and phone calls from grateful parents. Of course these communications are intended for the Elks who make our program possible.

Periodically, I mail surveys to the parents of our patients in order to find out ways to improve our program. This is valuable input to be sure, but it is also gratifying to read the many positive comments. I thought you might be interested in reading some for yourself, so here are some actual quotations:

“Your therapist was down to earth - Really was able to be on a one-to-one level - understanding, kind and offered great information on where to get extra assistance. She was knowledgeable and caring. She will be missed.”

“Our therapist is awesome. She is the best OT Patrick has ever had. She is a superior and knowledgeable O.T. I was so impressed with her knowledge and how caring she is!”

“We have a large family and couldn’t afford physical therapy for our son. The services given, bless families lives that need the extra help that doctors don’t give. Thank You so much! This was a great blessing for our son!”

“Our therapist has helped me understand my son’s disabilities. She works very well with my son and she works with me also. Yours is an excellent program. Thank you so much for working with my son. Our therapist is wonderful. She is very knowledgeable about her job and resources to help.”

“I am so grateful for this program. My son is improving tremendously. Thank you so much!!”

“It is very helpful to have one-on-one therapy in my home. My child bonded and trusted and did his best for his therapist. She made learning fun. She is our Angel. So great with Noah and we love her dearly. She is amazing and wonderful- so very informative and helpful! She is an asset to your organization!!”

“Wonderful, convenient, very professional, helpful, non-intrusive. Our therapist is terrific! We call her the Games Lady.”

“This is the first therapist who has helped us form a “home” treatment plan. By far the best therapy we’ve ever received. Our therapist is a HUGE asset to your program. She obviously has a heart for these needy kids and it shows. She has changed our lives (greatly) for the better. What a precious gift!! Thank you for this wonderful program!”

“Your therapist is providing excellent therapy to my child. Having a house full, with 7 children, the Elks therapist is very accommodating to my schedule and the need to have in-home therapy. Excellent program and Therapist!”

“Our therapist is Great. She works very well with my daughter and helps her accomplish so much. She educates myself and family on exercises and information we can use between sessions.

These services are so valuable to the children and families. Many children would probably not receive the therapy they need without the Elks. Thank you so much for your services. It is so important to have this available in the home. Our therapist is excellent, very professional, and interacts wonderfully with my child. She is an asset!”

“Thank you so much - you were a blessing to my daughter. Keep up the wonderful program. I was very pleased. I would love to see more of this for a single parent in need of so much help.”

“This is a superb program. The Elks are to be greatly commended for their efforts. Keep up the good work.”

“Our therapist has given me more useful info than any M.D. She is remarkable, extraordinary. I feel blessed to have her for my daughter and your organization has made it possible. Thank You!”

“Great results! Excellent program! The different approaches used proved highly useful for our child. Better than other methods tried in the past. Our therapist teaches the parent how to help as well, when she is not there. The listening therapy is amazing! Thank You!”

“My child’s therapist is very professional and informative. She is very knowledgeable about several areas, which made it easy to talk to her about different things going on with my child and school. I really appreciate the Elks for providing this support. I don’t know where I would have turned if it was not for this help. Many Thanks.”

“My son only will work with your therapist! He didn’t work with any other therapist from other therapy services. Your services are superior. This is the best program I have ever seen.”

“I’m a Latin woman, so my English is bad, but our therapist did her best. She worked hard to understand me. She worked hard and excellent with the kids. She was kind. I don’t have the words to explain how satisfied I am. You really have the best therapist in the world. Thank you so much.”

“This has been a great service to my child and I am learning new ways to help my son. Our therapist is fabulous. He knows, understands and works well. He is excellent with my son. Thank you so much.”

“Our therapist is extremely professional and knowledgeable. If all your therapists are like her, then we know they are excellent.

‘As a parent I want the best for my little ones and I feel confident that I am getting the best with the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.”

This is a donation of $8,000 ($4000 each to FEYC and FECTS), from Clermont Lodge PER Joey Eberline, to FECTS Administrator Ben Brown at the Grafton Center.

This contribution results from a music festival called “Swing for the Kids” which is an annual event held in Clermont, supported by the Clermont-Groveland Elks Lodge. Joey a PER of that Lodge started the festival about 10 years ago and has donated over $50,000 to the two major projects during that time.

Joey is a musician with his own band (Baby Blues) and recently founded a music school for youngsters who aspire to become musicians. He originated the festival and most of the musicians are friends of his and donate their time. He does the lion’s share of the work, and literally spends thousands of hours of his time in putting it together. The lodge members run various concessions that contribute to the proceeds.

Tony Scotch and Terry Russell collected almost $101,000 in donations to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund from more than two dozen lodges that lined up at the last Quarterly Meeting. These donations brought President Frank Palladini’s goal of $500,000 to almost $560,000 with three months to go.
Sarasota Lodge 1519
At the Major Projects Quarterly Meeting, Sarasota 1519 presented Ben Brown a $20,000 check for the purchase of an additional van for the Children’s Mobile Therapy Services Program. The gift was made possible from the estate of Elizabeth C. Much to be spent for children’s programs.

Our ENF Donations are at an all time high! Sarasota 1519 will pass the ENF call for a donation of $3.85 per capita for the first time in history by donating $1,700 raised at the February Charity Ball; bringing the Lodge per capita donation to $4.00.

The 2005 Fund-Raiser for D.A.R.E. was a huge success thanks to all the support received from Elks and members of our community. A special thank you goes to Joe Buren for his generous cash donation.

The Grand Exalted Ruler’s Award was presented at a meeting January 24th. Tom McCabe was presented with a beautiful wristwatch from the Grand Exalted Ruler in recognition of the great job Tom has done in securing new members.

Bradenton Lodge 1511
The Lodge Charity Ball held in January was a huge success. While monies raised exceeded expectations, a wonderful meal, talented entertainment, and eye-catching decorations (done by our own Elkettes) highlighted the evening.

The Cruise Raffle, which culminated at the Charity Ball, also drew great support from the Lodge. Tickets were sold throughout the late fall and beginning winter months. Many thanks were given to the Cruise Committee for their tireless efforts in making the Raffle a great success.

The Lodge hosted a District fundraiser that featured “da Pineapples”. The events was widely attended by members and guests from throughout the district and were treated to various skits and singing performances with the proceeds from the 50/50 drawing going to the District.

Palmetto Elks Lodge 2449
Submitted by Calvin Hendrick
The lodge Annual Children’s Christmas Party with approximately 50 children attending was held in December. Each Child received a gift form Santa Claus, who arrived on a fine truck. Also, each child received a complete outfit of clothing, including shoes. Food was served with beverages and a lot of love from the volunteers.

Our Annual School Teacher of the Year Award was held, honoring Carolyn Gilbert. She is the Ag Teacher. Carolyn is Past Vice President of Cattlemen’s Association and is now their Historian. She is a Creative Memories Consultant. She reactivated the FFA Federation Chapter in Manasota, Manatee and Sarasota Counties. She is state qualified as Judge for cattle, etc. She works in and takes children to show their animals at the County Fair and in State Competitions and as far away as Kentucky. She also oversees many fund raising projects. She is involved with so many children’s activities too numerous to mention.

Palmetto Elks donated their hall for a fundraiser for Southwest Guide Dogs, with approximately 100 attending. Nine dogs were present and performed for the attendees. Music was provided, as well as food raising activities. It was very informative and we hope to have more next year.

Presidents message continued from page 2
attended a reception at the West St. Lucie Lodge conducted by E.R. Mickey Sciafani and his wife, Annette and PER Lenny Smalacombe and his wife, Barb.

We thank Fort Pierce Exalted Ruler Frankie Frolio for the tasty and plentiful buffet breakfast on Saturday morning and the delicious Italian dinner on Saturday evening at the Lodge and for providing the volunteers at the motel hospitality room. The Fort Pierce Lodge did a wonderful job all weekend and the Southeast Central District did an absolutely amazing job in donating to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund during our visit, especially in light of the significant loss and damage suffered by our lodges and members in this district during the awful hurricane season. Thanks also to Ken Carrier for being a very involved photographer during the entire weekend.

Our Homecoming visit to Largo was truly outstanding as hosted by West Central District VP Ron Simpson and his wife, (Enid) Sam and their large number of volunteers. After being greeted by a large group of Elks and friends from both within and outside the West Central District, and after checking into our large suite at the LaQuinta, we enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in a huge hospitality room with an attached patio.

The following weekend we attended the Georgia Elks Quarterly Convention at the Savannah, GA Lodge where we were hosted by State President Tommy Thompson and his wife, Harriet, State VPAL Vance Rhodes and his wife, Loretta and State Sponsor PGER Val Bates and his wife, Claudia. On Friday evening we attended a cocktail reception and the Past State President’s Meeting at the residence of PSP Charlie Hendricks and his wife, Sarah before adjoining to the spacious Savannah Lodge where elaborate buffet meals were served on both Friday and Saturday evenings in addition to accommodating the State Elks and Ladies Aidsmore Auxiliary meetings.

Throughout the entire weekend we were made to feel very welcome by the friendliness, courtesy, generosity and hospitality extended by the Elks of Georgia and by the large number of Ladies attending their State Aidsmore Auxiliary meetings. We also appreciated the chauffeuring of long-time friend, PER Bill Cook and his wife, Billye. The major attraction during this conference was the official visit of GER McQuillan and First Lady Karen to the Georgia Association.

As I write this final article as FSEA State President, there remains on the calendar the Exalted Ruler-Secretary Elect Seminar at Lake City, the State Golf Tournament at Sebring, the Bowling Tournament at Lake Placid, the Softball Tournament at DeLand, the Quarterly Harry-Anna Trust Fund Meeting at Umatilla, the Punta Gorda Anniversary Banquet, the WCD DD Clinic and Ritual Contest and the installation of Tampa #708 Officers.

We are very thankful and enormously impressed by the generosity this past year of Florida Elks, our Ladies and our friends, especially in light of the immense loss and devastation incured by our lodges, Florida and visiting seasonal Elks and their neighbors, that was generated by the 4 hurricanes that invaded our State over a 6 week period of time. The last estimate of total damage statewide by government sources was 17 billion dollars. Yet, the total money that you contributed to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, the Elks National Foundation and the Hurricane Relief Fund will approximate $1,060,000, and when the money received from other states for Hurricane Relief is added, the grand total raised is estimated at $1,250,000. This is really who we are and what we do.

FLORIDA ELKS CARE AND FLORIDA ELKS SHARE
There are so many people to thank that I will defer this project to my State Convention Report. Between State Conventions Ebba Jean and I will have driven about 14,000 miles and will have been out of town 32 of 52 weekends. We do thank repeat Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairman Terry Russell, PER and his wife, Shelia, who accompanied the State President’s party on all 28 official visits to the 14 districts over the past two years, and repeat FSEA Chaplain John Harris, PDDGER and his wife, Angel, who joined us on the large majority of those visitations.

VPAL Don Sansoussi and Gail are working very diligently in preparing for next year, along with Endorsed VPAL Charlie Trinowski and Mary Ann. Ebba Jean and I will ensure a smooth transition in leadership as they carry the torch of Florida Eldkorn into its second century.

We thank everyone for allowing me to serve as FSEA State President and Ebba Jean as First Lady. We have enjoyed the 30-month commitment, especially the opportunity to visit with old friends and to make new friends, and to witness first hand the good things we do for the less fortunate and in need adults and children throughout our communities.

May God bless each and every one of you. May He continue to shed His grace upon the Florida State Elks Association and our two State Major Projects. May He ever protect our brave military men and women serving in harm’s way and may GOD BLESS AMERICA!
Deland Lodge 1463

As we look to the future and prepare to install our new officers we must applaud the outgoing officers and chairmen for all their hard work this year. Deland has seen a substantial increase in members this year and we are please to have some of them holding offices and chairmanships this year. On January 29 Deland held an appreciation dinner to honor Emergency Services Personnel. Deland Fire Captain John E. McDaniel, Deland Police Officer John Anderson, Volusia County Sheriff’s Officers Todd Smith, Kimberly Partington, and Christopher Teague were chosen by their Commanders to receive plaques for our Lodge based on their outstanding service to our community over the past the year. This is an event that we hope to continue for many years to come. The Deland Officers took part in the District Ritual competition coming in second place all around. Inner Guard David Thompson took first place in his division and Phil Watercutter took first place for Candidate.

On January 15 the Deland Lodge hosted the East Central District Hoop Shoot Competition. Members from Deland, Deltona and Sanford lodges were on hand to officiate the competition with a field of 49 competitors. Following the competition a lunch was prepared and served at the Deland lodge by the women of the Deltona lodge. We have also started Friday Night Fish Fry in conjunction with the members of the Deltona lodge. It is a joint effort to bring members of both our lodges out and still provide fund raising opportunities for our fellow Elks from Deltona.

The Deltona Elks Lodge has made a formal request to merge with the Deland Lodge. The members of the Deland Lodge and it’s Officers wish to extend our hand to all of the members of Deltona Lodge 2739 and welcome them into our lodge. We look forward to seeing more members of the Deltona lodge over the coming months. We also know that the choice to merge came with a very heavy heart.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

Ormond Beach Lodge presented appropriately engraved plaques to six area youngsters who participated in this years Elks Americanism essay contest. Additionally, the first place winners in each of the two grade categories received a $50 U. S. Savings Bond.

The Lodge Secretary and Treasurers office is in the process of being remodeled. Water intrusion and mold caused by the hurricanes of last fall have made this a necessity. In the interim our Secretary, Treasurer, and office volunteers are utilizing part of our Lodge room to complete their daily tasks.

Deltona Lodge 2739

Deltona has been participating in Friday night Fish Fries at the Deland Lodge. We thank Deland for the opportunity to participate and raise funds for our lodge. On January 22 we hosted the District Vice President’s homecoming at the Deland Lodge. We would like to again thank the members of Deland for opening their doors and welcoming us in, thereby exemplifying the principles of our obligation to Elksdom. We held our annual awards dinner with the Deland Lodge on the 19th of March. Ginny Nasworth was named Officer of the Year, Gary Wessel, Elk of the Year.

It is with great sadness that Deltona Lodge 2739 has voted to give up our charter. We have made a formal request to our Brothers at Deland Lodge 1464 to merge with them and continue our work in Elksdom. We thank the members and officers of Deland Lodge 1463 for so warmly extending their hand in fellowship and accepting our request to merge our lodge with theirs as Deland Lodge 1463.

Titusville Lodge 2113

PSP Mike Phillips and several members of Titusville Elks Lodge have formed an advisory council for the purpose of starting an “Antlers” organization in their Lodge. The group has met on several occasions and has received some very good press in the local newspaper. Mike hopes they will have enough young people by the end of summer to institute the new lodge.

Titusville Lodge 2113 provided a vast assortment of hard cover books to Department of Veterans Affairs, Orlando VA Healthcare Center that was welcomed by the residents of the Nursing Home and patients. The Healthcare Center provided a written evaluation of the value of the books we donated to them. That figure was $6,851.50.

On Veterans Day, the Lodge hosted a dinner to a group of homeless veterans involved in the WIN/VET Program located here in Titusville.

Titusville Lodge provided $200 assistance to the Disabled American Veterans, Titusville Chapter 109, in support of the needy and homeless veterans Stand Down. Lodge members also contributed new articles of clothing in the value of $80.00.

In January, the Lodge provided a donation of $200 to the Orlando VA Nursing Home to help defray the cost of an entertainment special for the veteran residents.

During the year, the Lodge Veterans Committee provided Blue Star flags to families with members on active duty.

At a minimum, the Lodge contributed $7,331.50 to veteran’s assistance. This does not include the time and travel involved in these activities. Also, we now have POW and Blue Star Flags for our flagpole.

Lodge member Tanya Kulik has a mission and she works hard at it. The ex-marine sends care packages weekly to our troops overseas. She sends them the things they ask for and need. These are the items the troops are asking for now. Professional knee pads (roofer, tile layer and sport types); school supplies for children, books; Destin ointment; foot powder; hard candies, small stuffed animals and letters of good wishes to the troops.

Tanya has placed an email on the bulletin board from a soldier on the front lines for members to read. She asks that we keep all military personnel in our prayers.

A small singing group of four singers known as “Technical Difficulties” travels to two different assisted living centers in Titusville to sing World War II era sing-along music to the residents of those centers. The residents not only sing along with the singers but also express what a moral lift it gives all the residents even from the first announcement of the performance dates each month.

On March 5th the Titusville Elks Lodge sponsored an event focused on raising funds and collecting shoes for the needy children of the community. The event was very well attended and raised a significant amount of funds for this very worthy cause.

The Titusville Elks Lodge sponsored the annual Hoop Shoot for the youth of Titusville. Many contestants participated and Elks volunteers staging this annual event received considerable compliments.

The Titusville Elks sponsored a 75th Anniversary scouting banquet for Pack 700. The Elks donated their large hall, the food for the event as well as sodas. The scouts were very appreciative and have hailed the Elks for their generosity.

New Oddyssey Course

Proposed Convention/ Mid-Year Sites and dates

2005 State Convention, May 25 – 28. Coronada Hotel, Disney World - $89 + tax. Contract is signed with 1,000 rooms committed (no over flow necessary). Covered walkways, elevators with several stretched golf carts running at all times. Food Court with individual outlets run by Disney World. Discount Disney Park certificates available.

2005 Mid Year: Nov. 9 – 13, Doubletree, Tampa - $69 + tax. Contract is Signed and all appears to be in order as of this report.


2006 Mid Year, Nov 8 –12, Florida Mall Hotel (formerly Adams Mark Orlando) and soon to be renamed. - $77 + tax. The committee has been advised that future rates at this facility are likely to increase dramatically and will depend on it's future affiliation.

David E. Vergason, PSP & Chairman
F.E.E.A. Convention Committee

The newest addition to our ROPES complex, presenting multiple challenges as they traverse the course, it ends with a spectacular zip line. Building self confidence in a safe environment is the ultimate goal. The design is to handle more children, safely in the air, at one time.
Aripeka Lodge 2520
Aripeka Elks Lodge was host to Central Districts DDGER Earl Johns and his wife Phyllis. The DD made his inspection of the Lodge and Officers and found all favorable. Dinner was served with music for dancing following. Among the dignitaries attending were PDDGER William Pazur, PDDGER Ross Evers and Past State President Peter Naranjo. Approximately 125 attended.

Aripeka Elks Lodge held their blood bank under the leadership of chairman Bill Toussignant collecting 8 pints of blood.

Our Veterans chairman Jeff Churchill and volunteers served a complete meal for approximately 225 veterans and staff at the James Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa. The Lodge donated food. A total of $4,318.87 in cash, bed size Afghans and other sundries were donated. Annie and Lodge members preformed Karaoke, singing and skits. Brigadier Jeffery W Foley attended and visited with each veteran present.

December 1st, Aripeka Elks Lodge held their Memorial Service for their departed members. PDDGER Harley Grace officiated. The ladles of Aripeka Elks Lodge held their Memorial Service to their departed sisters. President Martha Severns officiated. Approximately 100 attended.


Jan. 23, 2005 under the leadership of Chairman Jeff Churchill, 31 Elks and volunteers served cookies, cake, pie, juice and sodas provided by the Lodge, members and the Ladies of Aripeka Elks to approximately 40 to 50 veterans at Baldemero Lopez veterans nursing home. Annie Riley provided Karaoke for all that volunteered to sing and entertain the veterans. $245.00 in baked goods and cash was donated.

Jan. 29, 2005 Aripeka Elks #2520 held the Central District Hoop Shoot under the direction of PER John Nedjelo Regional Chairman and was assisted by Aripeka Elks and the Ladies of Aripeka at Hudson Sr. High School following the competition the contestants and their families returned to the Lodge for presenting of the trophies and lunch. Approximately seventy-five attended. Among those attending was the DDGER of the Central District Earl Johns. This is an annual event with the first place winners competing at the Fl. Elks Youth Camp.

Through Aripeka Elks Lodge the following donations were made from the Bingo Charities account: $250.00 to Toys for Tots, $250.00 to the Holy Ground (a homeless shelter), $500.00 to the Salvation Army, $500.00 to the National Veterans Service, $1000.00 to the Harry - Anna Trust Fund, $250.00 to the Quelette Family whose home and contents were lost in a fire, $100.00 for a party at Baldemero Lopez Veterans Nursing Home, $200.00 to the Special Olympics, $150.00 to Boy Scout Troop #86 and $1000.00 to the Elks National Foundation. $1000.00 from the Pool Fund was donated to the Harry - Anna Trust Fund.

Zephyrhills Elks Lodge 2731
A Member of Zephyrhills Elks Lodge, who wishes to remain anonymous made a $500 donation to send a 5th Grade student of Zephyrhills Christian Academy, Chaz Miller who was recently interviewed and accepted to participate as a member of the People to People Student Ambassador Program to California this summer. The objective of the program is promoting national and international understanding. President Dwight D. Eisenhower funded the organization in 1956 to promote peace, he believed that if people from different cultures could come together in peace and friendship, so eventually would countries.

Chaz will be traveling to Yosemite National Park to study the ecology, environment, history and geography. Things he will be learning about in San Francisco are the Wetlands and Tide pools, the Coastal Redwoods, the Golden Gate Bridge and Chinatown. From a member who believes - “Elks Care - Elks Share”.

Zephyrhills Elks Lodge was host to the Zephyrhills High School “Jazz Band Concert”, performed by The Zephyrhills High School Students to raise money for their Travel Expenses. Through ticket sales and donations $610 was raised to benefit the High School Band Boosters. All had a great time.

Through the Bingo Charity Fund donations were made to the following: $1,100 to a patient of the James A. Haley Hospital to participate in the 25th National Veterans Wheelchair Games to held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in June/July 2005, $100 to the Elks National Hoop Shoot Free Throw program’s ‘Hoop Shoot/Hall of Fame Fund, $200 to the Elks National Home in Virginia for their Recreation & Entertainment Community Fund.

Apopka Lodge 2422
In September Apopka Lodge hosted 25 tree workers from Rome, New York, who were here almost eight weeks helping clean up after the four hurricanes. They were treated to a steak dinner with all the trimmings.

Apopka Lodge had two VA cook outs at the Orlando Hospital and have raised over $2000 to help with their shuffleboard project. This was raised with Sunday night dinners. Apopka Lodge collected food for the food drive for needy families at Christmas to make their Holiday complete.

Over $2000 was raised at the ER'S Christmas party by passing the hat. Apopka Lodge had a float in the Apopka Christmas Parade with eight of the lodge children presenting a Nativity Scene. This is an annual event. The Children’s Christmas party was a hit once again.

Apopka Lodge Hoop Shoot was a great success as two of four students finishing 2nd in the district.

Apopka Lodge raised $710 for the Hurricane Relief Fund.

Apopka’s Elks annual St. Patrick’s auction is slated for March 17,2005. The funds will be used for Elks National Foundation. Apopka raises over $1000 every year for the foundation.

Inverness Elks Lodge 2522
The “Sweetheart Ball” in February was a great success and the proceeds will go to local charities.

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT
Reporter: Bill Connolly, PDDGER

Our officers for the 2005-06 year were elected and the Installation of the Officers was held on Saturday, April 2, 2005. Our new Exalted Ruler is Dan Chun; Leading Knight Tom Graham; Loyal Knight Al Smithand Lecturing Knight Mike Wagenblast.

Ocala Lodge 286
January 29th, 2005 Ocala held their annual Elks National Hoop Shoot City Championships. Over seventy school champions, eight to thirteen years of age, from local schools competed.
Okeechobee Lodge 2558

Some damage from the Hurricanes still remains to be corrected reports PER Gary Casperson. Gary has become the newly endorsed Vice President for the Southeast District and will take office at the State Convention in May. The Officers of the Lodge are trying to make a deal with a local Bluegrass Group to put on a show once a month at the Lodge. This is hoping to bring the Lodge back to the fore front in the community which would lead to increased membership.

Pahokee Lodge 1638

As of this reporting date our new roof has been completed and we are now in the process of working on our Lodge room floor. Seems like we are just getting back to normal and another hurricane season is getting closer!

The Lodge’s Charity Account has paid to have Aiden Silvers wheelchair repaired. For over six months medicare would not or could not approve. This is a 12 year old child with an electric wheelchair specially made to meet his needs. To date medicare still has not approved of fixing this handicapped child’s wheelchair. This boy lives in the outskirts of Okeechobee, and relies on his chair for everything. It is completely motorized and this little boy can do nothing for himself. He even has to be turned when laying down. Through the generous donations from the committee, the wheelchair was repaired for $1,451.80, with our Lodge donating $850.00 of the cost.

Clewiston Lodge 1853

Our local Scholarship applicant, Shelby Bond, has advanced from the local to the State competition. We wish her well.

A Barbecue Benefit was held on Feb. 12th and it was a huge success. Many good Elks gave of the time and energy to make it an enjoyable affair. The swamp cabbage was a real treat.

Elk Sheri Mace-McDonald donated her winnings from the liquor box to the veterans, another sign that Elks Care, Elks Share.

Jupiter Lodge 2469

The Lodge has received positive results from all governmental boards in January for the permission to pull the permits to start the new Lodge in Jupiter Farms. The ground breaking should take place in mid-June 2005. It has been a long, often upsetting time, but they will soon see their final effort come to conclusion.

Lodge scholarship applicants, Melissa Chi and Adam Maliek, have advanced through local, district, and regional judging and are now at the State level. We wish them success.

Elk George Baldwin was voted to Life Membership.

On March 26th the Lodge held its Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The children were treated to a visit by the Easter Bunny. Eggs were hidden for the children to find and games with prizes went along with food for everyone.

The Elkettes had their Annual Fashion Show at the Admiral’s Cove on Sunday, March 20th. The show had the theme “Sea Shells by the Seashore”. The chefs at Admiral’s Cove prepared a fine feast for the ladies.

Lantana/Boynton Lodge 2676

Most affairs at the Lodge have been put on hold for the time being due to the sale of the building. We have stopped all events at the end of March, leaving the next month to sell off excess kitchen and lodge equipment. The closing date is April 20th. In the meantime, ER Audrey McNamara and Secretary Joy Booth are trying to locate a new place for a Lodge. All members are also on the lookout. We may be using the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Worth to hold our meetings until a new Lodge is located.

Our installation of new officers was on Saturday, April 2nd. A light buffet will be held after the installation.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

The Lodge hosted the District Picnic on March 26th. There were games, food, and music for the entertainment of those present. DDGER Sean Maquire and VP Donna Proctor were there to participate in all activities.

The West Palm Beach Elks Lodge held a special function in March to honor Lyman Thorbecke, PER, who has devoted himself for the last 30 years to Elkdom. He has been there wherever he has been needed—as an officer, setting up dining room, cleaning the lodge, manicuring the outside, as a public relations man and greeter of everyone in the lodge making them feel at home. If its good for the lodge he is there promoting. He says whatever grudges you have when you go through those doors you forget them. The function included a dinner with his favorite meatloaf dinner and music to dance by which he loves to step to. A man loved by everyone and loves everyone.

Lodges of the

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Reporter, Cindie Griesel-Wade

The Lodge has been holding 8 ball and shuffleboard tournaments each month to raise money for Children’s Therapy Services. They have raised almost $600.00 for our Therapist Stephanie Hanes. Rich Loux has coordinated this event with help from Vicky Thornberg.

The Lodge participated in the annual St. Augustine Lions Club Seafood Festival with a food booth, serving amazing Minorcan Clam Chowder, prepared by Keith Bailey. They also manned the beverage tent. This is always a great fundraiser for the Lodge. Keith Bailey and Pat Shipley chaired the event.

Long time member and true Elk Brother Harry Pawlick passed away. He will be missed by all.

Orange Park Lodge 2605

25 Elks and friends visited Veterans at Lake City. They played bingo, provided snacks and took toiletries and other needed items. In February a fish fry was held at the Lodge for visiting Veterans from the Robert H. Jenkins Domiciliary. They also provided books and other needed items to the visiting Veterans.

The DD/VP Clinic was held at the Lodge. A wonderful meal was served to all those attending.

The Ladies of Orange Park toured the Ronald McDonald house and also held an Easter Egg Hunt for Children of the Lodge. All who attended had a great time!

Gainesville Lodge 990

The State President’s visit was hosted by Gainesville Lodge, the food and entertainment were great. They even had “Elvis in the House”!

The Lodge sponsored the group “Recreation” for the VA Hospital in Gainesville. This is a high-energy show, which was opened to all vets, Elks and their families. The Lodge provides refreshments during the show and provides room and board for the cast members.

A fundraiser for Elks National Foundation was held by raffling off tickets to the Gatornational Drag Races.
The 25th Annual Florida State Elks Golf Tournament, hosted by the Sebring Elks Lodge 1529, was held April 1-4, 2005 at the Spring Lake Golf Resort on the Cougar and Panther Courses, each a par 72.

Golf Committee Chairman Marvin Mauer, with cooperation of the golf course management, extended the tournament to two days earlier than the planned start in order to accommodate 20 participants who did not get their teams signed up before the 288-golfer limit had been reached. Five teams participated on April 1 and 2.

The official start of the tournament was delayed about four hours due to a frontal system passing through the area with a good bit of rain. The shotgun start was at noon with clearing skies but very windy.

Prizes were to overall low gross, photo far right, then six flights received first and second place low gross in the four-person best ball scramble. “A” and “B” flights are shown below.

“C” Flight First Place — William Nix, James Hall, Walt Smith and Mark Kutz from Punta Gorda, scoring 66/61 total 127.

“C” Flight Second Place — Tim Garner, Bob Ware, Jesse Carr and Daryel Young from Bradenton, scoring 66/61 total 127, tie broken with #1 handicap hole score.

“D” Flight First Place — Ed Siska, Shane Siska, Chris Siska and Winston Goddard from Boynton Beach, scoring 68/61 total 129, tie broken with #1 handicap hole score.

“D” Flight Second Place — Terry Miller, William Humphrey, Bill Knorr and Ernie Robinson from Sarasota, scoring 69/60 total 129.

“E” Flight First Place — Terry Davis, Len Pruss, Sam Fuller and Ed Fern from Palmetto, scoring 72/62 total 134.

“E” Flight Second Place — Tom Neligan, Clarence Yando, Norm Huxman, Dave Deschane from Sebring and Lake Placid, scoring 70/65 total 135.

“F” Flight First Place — Donald Lehto, Garry Koster, Lyn Gruber and Rich Tomask from Kissimmee, scoring 73/66 total 139.

“F” Flight Second Place — Raleigh Whiteman, from Lake Placid, with Bob Davis, Jack McGrail and Ray Stevens from Bradenton, scoring 75/65 total 140.

308 golfers on 77 teams shot a total of 40,488 shots for an average score of 65.73 on the two courses. The highest team score was 158 by Joyce Blaisure, JoAnne Lamere, Beverly Kimball and Alice Perry who took home the four gallons of baked beans.

Men’s closest to the pin was won by Hal Hutchinson, Francis McKinnon, Dan Black and Bill Sununu.

Men’s longest drive was John Hooper, Jason Howald, and Adam Sherrard.

Women’s closest to the pin was Suzie Christen, Sandy Kuzniar and Sue O’Brien. Women’s longest drive was Angie Sliter, Juanita McNeese, Sue O’Brien and Jackie Hartzell.

“A” Flight First Place — Todd Smith, Steve Schneider, Johnny Whittenton, and Dale Fortune from Plant city, scoring 62/55 total 117.

“B” Flight First Place — Bill Sununu, Larry Carter, Pete Cattabriga and Garry Lambert from Delray Beach, scoring 65/61 total 126.

“A” Flight Second Place — Ron Coleman, Chris Coleman, Jake Piper and Nick Wunderlich, from Lake Placid, scoring 59/60 total 119.

“B” Flight Second Place — Paul Pawlowski, Sandy Kuzniar, Charlie Faron and Sheila Russell from Plant City, scoring 64/64 total 128.

“Raindrops keep falling on my head.” Paul Danish stays as dry as possible during the rain delayed Saturday morning staring time.

Low Gross “A” Flight — team of Richie Uber, David Wenner, Murel Tedhams and Jerry Hanson, from Zephyrhills, scoring 56/59 total 115.
WHAT A YEAR!!

Your board of directors made a spectacular choice when they decided to add an element to our ropes course. What a spectacular addition it has already proven to be. Construction was complete in late February. Staff training completed, the element has been utilized each weekend in March. Groups asked to convey a great big ‘thank you’ to the Elks of Florida for this addition to the course.

In many ways we have completed a very difficult year. Our usage of the campus was down a little from previous years due to the hurricane season. You will notice the difference at the camp with the number of trees lost. Now you see things you have never seen in the past. Those who fly into Orlando know the campus is very noticeable from the air. The ball fields especially identify our property. For the first time is our history, the canopy of trees in the Oaks has thinned so much you can actually see the cabins from the air. That was never possible in the past.

We are excited about Summer Camp 2005. Staffing for camp is complete. Each year the applicants just seem to get better. Again we expect record attendance during our camping season.

Continue to send your applications for Summer Camp. Each Lodge can be of an assistance in education this year. We have found through interview that many of our no shows are created because the recipients of camperships or sponsorships from the Lodges believe that transportation is included. They have no way to be their children to camp. I am sure each of our Lodges has some retired folks who would enjoy a day with the children bringing them to camp and would also enjoy the opportunity to visit our great campus. We have come so far in promoting and utilizing the facilities. Help get the children here to camp.

Each year brings with it some very memorial moments. The board of directors is proud that our campus is chosen by our Therapy Services for their annual seminars and continuing education program. This year everyone had a great time. We look forward to the opportunity to host another special time this year for the CP children in therapy services. It was just such a special event in the past.

We are in discussion now with several groups of special needs children from our State that could benefit from our safe camping experience. We will try to partnership with these groups providing some of the program activities while they provide the special care givers required by the children. If you know of any special group, in your community, that the times to tell them about the camp and have them contact us. Although our resources are limited, we will always strike to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you so much for your continued support of our summer camp and also the year around camping programs. These are made possible through your continued support of our Florida Elks Charities and our Harry-Anna Trust Fund. If you don’t have a current active certificate, wouldn’t today be a great day to purchase one?

SUMMER CAMP 2005

Don’t forget the dates and certainly do not make the children of your community victims. If you have not mailed your applications for summer camp, please bring them with you to the State Convention.

Remember the dates for Summer Camp:
Session 1 - June 12 to June 18
Session 2 - June 19 to June 25
Session 3 - June 26 to July 2
Session 4 - July 3 to July 9
Session 5 - July 10 to July 16
Session 6 - July 17 to July 23

Although we do accept partial applications to help get everyone registered, remember that the entire application MUST be at camp prior to the arrival of the campers. This includes the medical and release forms. If we do not have these forms in advance, we will be unable to accept the child for camp and will be forced to send them home. The board of directors of the Florida Elks Youth Camp extends a great thank you to all our Lodges for their support. We encourage you to continue to submit applications knowing that we do have no shows and a lot of campers are placed the last minute.

Let the children of your community enjoy the benefit of a safe camping experience.
FLORIDA HOOP SHOOT FINALS

By Raleigh Whiteman, Editor

The Hoop Shoot final shootout was held February 26, 2005 at the Grafton Center with 18 finalists from all over Florida. More than 150,000 Florida children signed up for the Florida Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest at the states 116 lodges. First place winners from the local lodges advanced to the district contests then on to the regional contests then the 18 remaining competed in the state finals. The six first place winners shown on this page now advance to the Southeast Regional contest to be held in Valdosta, Georgia, those winners from the Southeast United States then go to Springfield, MA to determine the six overall Hoop Shoot Champions.

To get to the Florida Finals requires a good bit of determination, perseverance, practice and more determination. These young folks are all winners and each deserves our acclaim and admiration.

The Champions of Champions this year in Florida demonstrated that each had the determination and dedication to go high in life. It was reported that young Christian Colon was number 300 in line at the Kissimmee Lodge to register for the contest. A friend who was behind him in line waited a short while and stated that he wasn’t going to put up with this any longer and left. Christian stayed in line and went on to win, win, win, and win again he had a 10 ball shoot out with 13-year old Brandon Rivera who also had the same 20/25 score, Christian shot nine of ten and Brandon shot eight of ten. The highest Girl Shooter, Sara DiLeonardo, made 23 of 25 shots, many just swishing the net. She was really good.

As a side note the girls out scored the boys with 153 baskets made against the boys 146. The girls in the 12-13 age group made 60 of the possible 75 baskets.

This was Gerald Kudla’s final year as State Chairman; Vice Chairman John Nejedlo will take over with Pete Cattabriga, from Delray Beach, as Vice Chairman. This year’s event went very smoothly with some 22 Elks and spouses assisting. The Lake Wier Future Farmers of America served meals at breakfast and lunch.

Those attending this years Shoot-Out got to witness some of the extensive training given by various County Sheriff’s Departments to the Sheriff’s Explorers during a five day stay at the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Florida Finalists Scores

Boys 8 and 9 years old
*Christian Colon  Kissimmee  20/25 & 9/10*
Adam Demetree  Jacksonville  15/25
Sean Farray  Miami  13/25

Boys 10 and 11 years old
Keith Shamrock  Eustis  18/25
Aaron Scare  Boca Raton  17/25
Rodney Gavin  Bradenton  15/25

Boys 12 and 13 years old
Brandon Rivera  Claremont/Groveland  20/25 & 8/10
Michael Pont  Miami  18/25
Kyle Kunnen  Dunedin/Clearwater  10/25

Girls 8 and 9 years old
Brooke Rosenberg  Miami  20/25
Benetria Robinson  Silver Springs Shores  17/25
Kayla Scianna  New Port Richey  10/25

Girls 10 and 11 years old
Kahler Fletcher  New Port Richey  18/25
Cynthia Moyer  North Ft. Myers  16/25
Emily Troell  Fort Walton  12/25

Girls 12 and 13 years old
*Sara DiLeonardo  Kissimmee  23/25*
Chelsie Storr  Key West  19/25
Holly Pole  Ocala  18/25

* Denotes Champions of Champions

By Raleigh Whiteman, Editor

Hoop Shoot volunteers
The North District was delighted to host a visit to our district by State President Frank Palladini on January 21-23 in Perry. The district’s host was District V. P. Richard Cruce from Perry Lodge #1851. President Palladini was accompanied by VPAL Don Sansoussi and his wife Gail, and, VPAL designate Charlie Trinowski and his wife Mary Ann. At the dinner banquet on Saturday the 22nd, the district ritual plaques were awarded to the Tallahassee Lodge ritual team. Tallahassee’s officers will go on to compete in the state competition at the FSEA Convention in May.

PER Night was held in all the lodges in February, with PERs performing the initiation ceremony. The guys did a great job, and it helps to remind everyone that you never lose the memorization of the ritual.

We are proud in the North District to have a $9.57 per capita contribution to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Live Oak leads the district with a per capita of $29.16 per member.

**Lake City Lodge 893**

Lake City Lodge is pleased to brag about the success of its Christmas Charities program. There was an increase in the corporate donations this year, and the lodge set a new record in spending for the program. When you have more money, you can do more things.

The lodge was especially grateful to the members and guests who attended the New Years Eve Gala, and to the ladies of the lodge who put up all the holiday decorations.

The lodge held a Super Bowl party on Feb. 6. This is also WILD GAME DAY at the lodge where several members bring in and share with the membership. The delicacies include dove, quail, pheasant, and alligator.

Lake City Lodge was proud to have six winners from its lodge Hoop Shoot contest go on to the district competition in Live Oak on January 15th. Five of these contestants scored well enough in Live Oak to advance to the North Regional Hoop Shoot in Ft. Walton Beach.

**Marianna Lodge 516**

Marianna Lodge 1516 held its Hoop Shoot contest on Saturday, December 18. Contest results were posted in the local paper, the Jackson County Floridian.

The Marianna Lodge held its annual appreciation dinner for the PER Association on February 3rd. Then on February 7th, the PERs filled the chairs for that lodge meeting.

A Valentines Dance was held February 12th, the closest Saturday to Valentines Day. Live music was provided by the band Southern Impact, and the dining room was open for dinner. The band was great, and the sweetheart dinners served were fabulous. Prior to Valentines Day, member Carl Wesson and his wife Gail provided dance instruction to members interested in learning the “Two Step” and “Swing” dance steps. Instruction was available every Thursday evening in February at the lodge.

The lodge conducted another annual event, the Awards Banquet, on March 12th. This event is held to give the members a chance to thank the outgoing officers for the lodge year that ends March 31, and to welcome the new officers for 2005-06. Recognized were Officer of Year Ron Egan and Elk of Year Paul Johnson. Congratulations to these guys for efforts well appreciated.

Friends of former lodge secretary Ed Holmes, who recently passed away, contributed $1200 in Ed’s memory to the Harry-Anna Trust and the Florida Elks Charities. Ed’s widow Julia, and the rest of the Holmes’ family are very appreciative of these donations in Ed’s memory.
Cocoa Lodge 1532

Cocoa Lodge lost a “Great Elk” on Feb 22, 2005. We are sad to report the passing of “Charlie” Flood. Charlie was relentless when it came to helping the Lodge and more importantly the members in times of need. He will be sadly missed.

Cocoa Elks held one of our best Hoop Shoots ever with 57 free throw shooters participating. Bob & Lori Backus again organized the event and other volunteers from Cocoa Lodge assisted in the shootout.

Cocoa Lodge, after over $100,000 in hurricane damage, is slowly recovering. After considerable negotiations with the insurance company, contractors, and sub contractors, repairs are now getting under way. Additionally, a recently formed “Lodge Beautification Project” is making excellent progress in improving the landscape of the property and building aesthetics.

Cocoa Lodge received a plaque in appreciation for their contributions to meals on wheels volunteers at the annual awards ceremony at the Lodge.

Cocoa Beach Lodge 2387

Cocoa Beach Lodge held its annual St. Patty’s Day corn beef and cabbage dinner. We served 65 dinners and the food was great. Thanks to our loyal kitchen help.

Renovations have been started on the building we purchased in 2000 to convert it to a Lodge room. Donations have been raised and many of the members will be helping with the work.

Former Leading Knight and 24-year member Frank Cimino passed away. Our members will dearly miss him.

Thanks to Bud Janes, PER for stepping in and handling the reins as Exalted Ruler again this year.

Melbourne Lodge 1744

Exalted Ruler Charley Greene has the heartfelt gratitude of the Lodge as he completes his term of office. Under his able direction, our lodge, which sustained destructive damages, was restored. A team of loyal Lodge members made it possible to reopen in early December.

Tom Sullivan, PDD expressed a special Thank You to all who made cash donations to the Melbourne Elks Hurricane Fund, Elks National Foundation, Harry-Anna Trust and Westhoff Hospital Hospice in memory of Marion Sullivan, a 10 year Elk who passed away. She will be missed.

Veterans Memorial Service and breakfast was held that resulted in donations of $400 for the Brevard VA Outpatient Clinic and $200 to the Vietnam Veterans of Brevard and $1600 to the Elks National Veterans Service Commission of East Florida.

Most recently, two schools participated in the Americanism contest. A special awards night was held and $300 in scholarships were presented. Four scholarships, for Most Valuable Student applications were forwarded for further competition, and one Legacy application through our Lodge.

We have exceeded the Elks National Foundation quota and have made major contributions to Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Gunther Weigel, PER, sold 98 hearts and raised a special donation of $490.

Blood Bank results, through donations, have resulted in 297 credits available for Melbourne Elks Lodge.

On a final note, good luck to incoming ER Sam Casella, and the officers.

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

On December 11th the Lodge ran the Annual Port St. Lucie Elks Christmas Parade. There were 42 units comprising over 1000 marchers. Bucky Clark, PER once again was Santa. Over 1500 children, parents, families and spectators lined the route of the march.

Our Tuesday night dinners and our Italian Feast prove to be both socially and financially successful.

Our Friday Night Charity Bingo, under the direction of the Jimmy Finn who is its Chairman continues to draw unbelievable crowds resulting in sizeable donations to charity.

We gave out four scholarships totaling $2000 to local Port St. Lucie youths planning to attend Indian River Community College.

Friday evening, February 18th our Lodge was visited by our State President Frank Palladini and his wife Ebba-Jean and Vice President Don Sansouissi and his wife Gail along with other members of the official party. It was a great opportunity for the members to meet and greet our State Officers and everyone had a great time. The State President and his party once again returned to our Lodge at the invitation of ER Ed Gravius to enjoy a DARE Breakfast before they began their journey back home.

Our Exalted Ruler for 2005-06 is Alice Manos.

Sunday March 13th brought us our Annual Volunteer Recognition & Special Awards Luncheon. Awards were presented to Citizen of The Year, Alice Manos, Elk of The Year, Ed Izzo, Officer of The Year, Tom Douglas and a Special Recognition Award to Charlie Damanio for his Youth Activities.
Cape Coral Lodge 2596
The Cape Coral Ladies of the Elks started a “Package from Home” Program last fall to provide holiday treats for our service men serving overseas. Since that time the program has grown with more boxes being sent each month. The Ladies have also been very generous with their donations to support causes. Monies were donated to The Elks National Foundation, Partners for Breast Care, Tender Loving Care, Life Line, The Mayor’s Scholarship Fund, Elks Children’s Therapy Service, Feed the Children’s Foundation, Habitat for Humanity and the Boy Scouts.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763
Deep Creek held a modified New Years Eve Party around the bar to start the year. They finally reopened for business on January 28th, 2005. Even with the destruction caused by hurricane Charley, Deep creek still managed to provide three families with Thanksgiving Baskets and five with Christmas baskets. Deep Creek recently adopted an Air Force Unit in Iraq and is now sending candy, snacks, movies phone cards, let ters and many more items to the members of the unit.

Englewood Lodge 2378
The 9th Annual Community Service awards Luncheon was held on January 21st, 2005 with The Citizen of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, as well as the Firemen and Police Officers from both Sarasota and Charlotte Counties being recognized. In all nine awards were given out with Citizen of the Year going to Dr. Bill Coy. The Lodge Veterans Committee recently delivered over $700.00 worth of books, clothing and games to Bay Pines Veterans Hospital along with $1000.00 toward The Bay Pines Elks Hospital Fund. This fund has suffered recently due to hurricane damage to the Lodges that normally provide support. Englewood continues with their many monthly activities to raise funds for charity, and to send children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288
On Saturday morning, December 18, 2004, eleven volunteers from the Fort Myers Elks Lodge adopted 50 families at the Pink Citrus Mobile Home Park on Pine Island for Christmas, they were devastated by the eye of Hurricane Charley, August 13, 2004.

Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781
In addition to helping Fort Myers with the Christmas Baskets, continue with their monthly support to feed the homeless veterans and others. The Greater Pine Island Elks Charitable Trust is well on its way to another great year with 48 individuals already contributing a significant amount of the annual goal. The trust is used to support Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Florida Elks Youth Camp, Drug Awareness programs, Scholarships, Little Florida Elks Children Therapy Service and many more Charities. The Lodge in conjunction with Pine Island United Methodist Church recently donated shirts, shoes jackets jeans, pants and sweaters to Bay Pines Veterans Hospital.

Lehigh Acres Lodge 2602
Lehigh Acres Lodge provided food to the needy for the holidays and funds for their Veterans programs. The Lehigh Acres Ladies of the Elks celebrated their 25th Anniversary on February 26th, 2005 with an afternoon party. The Lodge continues with its many fund raising efforts and is looking forward to a good and busy year.

Tarpon Springs Elks Lodge 1719
The Lodge hosted a children’s Christmas party complete with lunch, gifts and even Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus who came to the lodge on the City’s Fire Truck complete with horns and sirens. The Ladies of the Elks sponsored the party to make sure the all children were able to sit on Santa’s lap and talk to him and have their picture taken with the man himself. It was a huge success and we will make it an annual event free of charge to the children.

Englewood Lodge 2378
The 9th Annual Community Service awards Luncheon was held on January 21st, 2005 with The Citizen of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, as well as the Firemen and Police Officers from both Sarasota and Charlotte Counties being recognized. In all nine awards were given out with Citizen of the Year going to Dr. Bill Coy. The Lodge Veterans Committee recently delivered over $700.00 worth of books, clothing and games to Bay Pines Veterans Hospital along with $1000.00 toward The Bay Pines Elks Hospital Fund. This fund has suffered recently due to hurricane damage to the Lodges that normally provide support. Englewood continues with their many monthly activities to raise funds for charity, and to send children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288
On Saturday morning, December 18, 2004, eleven volunteers from the Fort Myers Elks Lodge adopted 50 families at the Pink Citrus Mobile Home Park on Pine Island for Christmas, they were devastated by the eye of Hurricane Charley, August 13, 2004.

Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781
In addition to helping Fort Myers with the Christmas Baskets, continue with their monthly support to feed the homeless veterans and others. The Greater Pine Island Elks Charitable Trust is well on its way to another great year with 48 individuals already contributing a significant amount of the annual goal. The trust is used to support Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Florida Elks Youth Camp, Drug Awareness programs, Scholarships, Little Florida Elks Children Therapy Service and many more Charities. The Lodge in conjunction with Pine Island United Methodist Church recently donated shirts, shoes jackets jeans, pants and sweaters to Bay Pines Veterans Hospital.

Lehigh Acres Lodge 2602
Lehigh Acres Lodge provided food to the needy for the holidays and funds for their Veterans programs. The Lehigh Acres Ladies of the Elks celebrated their 25th Anniversary on February 26th, 2005 with an afternoon party. The Lodge continues with its many fund raising efforts and is looking forward to a good and busy year.

Tarpon Springs Elks Lodge 1719
The Lodge hosted a children’s Christmas party complete with lunch, gifts and even Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus who came to the lodge on the City’s Fire Truck complete with horns and sirens. The Ladies of the Elks sponsored the party to make sure the all children were able to sit on Santa’s lap and talk to him and have their picture taken with the man himself. It was a huge success and we will make it an annual event free of charge to the children.

Submitted by Nancy Gorby Ladies Vice President

Largo Elks Lodge 2159
On March 24, 2005, Largo Lodge held a Patriotism Essay Contest for young people from the local 4-H Club and Scout Pack 417.

Christopher J. Smith, right front, was the recipient of the first place, Brittany Gail, left front, was honored with a second place, and Lee Fritz was selected as the third place winner. The judges from the Lodge were in rear L-R, Jackie Homer, Paul Winfield, PER and Jan Rogers. This was another successful event sponsored by Largo Lodge.
NW District PER Association
A Bowl-A-Rama was held at the Avalon Bowling Lanes in Milton Florida on March 5 as a fund raiser. We had 32 lane sponors and 73 bowlers ages three to seventy. Leo Allen of Holly Navarre received the oldest bowler Trophy.

Twin Cities Elks Lodge 2747
We held our Annual Community Services Dinner on Saturday 26 February honoring firefighters and police officers from the cities of Niceville, Valparaiso and an Okaloosa county EMS paramedic. Following a steak dinner served by the ladies of the lodge Bob Reinhardt, Master of Ceremonies, presented each honoree with a plaque for their dedicated service to our community.

The Lodge recently held their Americanism Essay contest. The theme being “What Old Glory Means to Me.” The three top winners were in the 5th and 6th grade and allowed $100 to 1st, $75 to 2nd. Our third place winner interestingly is not an American citizen and was awarded a U.S. Savings Bond.

Warrington Lodge 2108
For the 4th year Lodge members surprised 86 “special needs” children at Warrington Elementary School with Christmas gifts and refreshments—all donated by members.

Lodge Veterans’ Committee members have an on-going program with the local veterans nursing homes, Biloxi, Gulfport, Keesler Air Force Base Veterans, and Clifford Chester Sims Florida Veterans Nursing in Springfield, Florida. Committee Chairperson, Bill Pearson, Bob Burt and his wife have logged hundreds of hours, and thousands of miles assisting 130 veterans. They have delivered books, clothes, magazines and other items the members donated to the cause. They also have had pizza and beverage parties. Our lodge salutes this highly dedicated committee for their deeds in servicing our veterans.

The lodge missed out on the Soccer Shoot this year due to Hurricane Ivan. On a short notice and thanks to Mike Castro, Bob Dimonte, Dr. Mike Vuksta and many other lodge volunteers, the Hoop Shoot was held. We raffled donated bicycles, and 13 children went home with trophies. Also our Drug Awareness Committee, Agnes and Wayne Doering, ever present with trophies. Also our Drug Awareness Committee for our youth activities, distributed Drug Awareness Committee, Agnes and Wayne Doering, ever present with trophies. Also our Drug Awareness Committee with numerous health care supplies, reading materials, therapy supplies, writing materials, stamps and ill-occasion cards to the Veterans at Biloxi, Ms.

We also donated numerous phone calling cards to the injured active duty soldiers at Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D.C., with more to arrived shortly!

Panama City Lodge 1598
In addition to $500 the Does gave to Charlie’s in November, they voted to give four $600 scholarships and a donation of $300 to a needed community member toward a computer. They further gave $200 to each of the following charities: Mental Health Project Cheer, Girls Inc., St Andrews Bay Center, Beach Care Services, Family Services Teen Program, Bay County Teen Court, Rescue Mission, Salvation Army Empty Stocking, Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

The Does announced that in 2004 they sent to Grand Lodge $710 for Dogs for the Deaf and the National Heritage Center. Some of this money comes from our sponsorship at Bingo Paradise.

Our lodge purchased five outdoor benches, approximately $2500, for the local Sims Veterans Home. We also sent $360 to Sims Veterans Home to help purchase 120 plaques, one for each room.

Our members gave three used computers valued at $100 to the Veterans Home. Some of the members and their wives delivered three large boxes of new pocket books and magazine, valued at $150, to the Vet’s home.

Recently, two members made the 200 mile trip to Lake City Veterans Hospital with five boxes of books, magazines and playing cards. We received a nice letter from the Sims State Veterans Nursing Home Administrator thanking our Lodge for our generous support for the Veterans.

Crestview Lodge 2624
Last year, we proudly celebrated our 75th anniversary and made it a year to remember by setting a new tradition of charity for the years to come. For the first time ever the Elks ENF capita per member giving surpassed $5.00. Our Lodge more than doubled that figure. Also our Harry-Anna per member capitations $12.1229.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497
Our lodge sponsored a trip to the VA Nursing Home in Biloxi, MS. It gave a new meaning to Christmas for the Veterans. On the bus we rented there were 16 LOE’s and Elks. We loaded, and I mean loaded the bus with boxes and bags of everything from stuffed bears, candy, cookies, clothes and everyday essentials, for every patient. A total of about $1100 in goodies were delivered. We visited each Veteran’s room which they thoroughly enjoyed just seeing and hugging the ladies. We listened to their stories and how much they appreciated our visit. We turned over $1000 to the Volunteer/Recreation Service, plus another $600 to the canteen for the patients. Since this was our second year visit they know who the Pensacola Beach Elks are! It’s a great feeling to help those guys that put their life on the line for us.

The Lodge donated $250 to the Gulf Breeze Drug Awareness Program, headed up by Gulf Breeze Policeman, Mark Lyster. Mark is also our Lodge Drug Awareness Chairman. He takes this program as dual sponsorship to all the local schools.

Everyone should be aware by now that Ivan destroyed our Lodge. We are now renting a space next door to our old damaged Lodge. We have cleared the old lot and have a bid of $2,219,730.00 to build our new Lodge. We are still the “Friendliest Lodge in Florida” and hope to build one of the most beautiful lodges in Florida! Come and see Eldkom growing!

Milton Lodge 2377
A quote from the letter from PER Bill Allen’s son “As my soldiers and I near the end of our long deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom I wanted to thank you for all the support you provided to us. On more than one occasion you phone cards to unit members.

The Army teaches all of us the three principals of combat, which have stood throughout the generations of our military: Shoot, Move, and Communicate. Communication is vital to the soldiers both on the battlefield and in the base camps. Your donations allowed the soldiers to communicate when they had down time. Not only did you improve the morale of those soldiers but also all the family members and friends the soldiers were able to communicate with.

As a Elk with a past Exalted Ruler for a father, I was proud to tell the soldiers where the cards came from. Your donations made the war disappear for some of them at least for a few minutes. Your support was greatly appreciated. I look forward to thanking you in person. Sincerely CPT William D. Allen, Jr. —Commander 362nd MP Anaconda, Iraq.

For everyone’s information, Capt W.D Allen, Jr. was awarded the Bronze Star “for Heroic or Meritorious Achievement of Service, Not Involving Aerial Flight in Connection with Operation Against an Opposing Armed Force.

Mt. Walton Lodge 1796
Recently, Bill Zell P.E.R., Chairman of Veteran Affairs Committee, and 1 Year Trustee Joe Taylor journeyed to Lake City VA Hospital with donations on behalf of our Lodge, along with Daughters of the American Revolution, Disabled American Veterans, Bob and Joyce Lathrup and Ms Anna Sells. Among the truckload of donations were 85 lap robes, 100 ditty bags, packages of white shirts and socks, 127 ball caps, $140.00 in calling cards, 144 packs of playing cards, numerous large boxes of books which included 271 large print Readers Digests, and a check for $500.00. This donation totaled $5,211.00 in gifts and cash.

Early last year, Bill Zell managed to collect and deliver to the hospital a total of $7,735.50 in gifts and cash. When we arrived at the hospital, we were met by Ronald Joyner, the Assistant Chief of Volunteer Services for the Department of Volunteer Affairs. Mr. Joyner escorted us through the numerous wards in the hospital and expressed his appreciation of the much needed delivery.

Recently our young Antlers organized and operated a Pancake Breakfast and a Rammage Sale. The Pancake Breakfast raised $2,795.00 and the Rammage Sale an additional $1,175.00 for a total of $1450.00. The Alters will purchase a brick at the Youth Camp plus provide some thing required on the Youth Camp “wish list.” They also presented a check to Kathy Grimes, Public Relations Manager of Okaloosa County Head Start.

The Antlers were formed to give pre-teens and teens an active role in our Elks Lodge in hopes that they will continue as members of the organization when they become adults. The Antlers raise their own money by having several fundraising projects during the year. The Alters are also helping to sponsor the N.W.D. P.E.R. Association Bowl-A-Rama and seven of the group will participate in the competition.

Northwest continued page 18
By PER Raleigh Whiteman, Editor

Loyal Knight Bob Moran received Officer of the Year for his support in the operation of the lodge and exceeding the goal in the Elks National Foundation donations by members.

Bruce Kurek received Elk of the Year for always offering to help wherever necessary. A Special Recognition Award went to Vince Avery for his work with the veterans and a Special Appreciation Award to Nina Mullins of the Ladies of the Elks for her never ending help.

Lake Placid, with PER John Russo as Chairman, hosted the FSEA Bowling Tournament with 31 teams and 124 bowlers over two weekend ends in April. State President Frank Paladini and VPAL Don Sansoussi were in attendance with Frank bowling the first ball with a strike. State Chaplain John Harris had a 805 series in the opening session. Final results of the winners and money raised will be in the next issue.

Plant City Elks Lodge 1727

It appears that Jerry Yates is hopping into another year as Exalted Ruler. His goal is to continue to make the lodge grow and making a difference in the community through the hard work of volunteers.

His motto for the year is “Hop to It”.

Jerry will be assisted by the ladies with Sandra Smith at the lead of the Ladies of the Elks. The ladies have plenty of cookbooks with original recipes for sale.

The lodge participated in three veterans cookouts, a luncheon for the Plant City Police Department and a dinner for the plant city Fire Rescue.

Our biggest fund raiser was the Wild Game Cookout and Truck Drawing with chairman Charlie Bennett, Frank Labarbera and Jim Hall making it a great success.

Winter Haven Elks Lodge 1672

As Nona Gerlach looks back at the previous year’s activities as Exalted Ruler she can be very proud of her accomplishments. This year we have a net gain of seven members so far, met and exceeded the goals for National and State Elks’ organizations and managed to survive three hurricanes.

The Tuesday Tea Dance has broken all attendance records and the Bingo is reaching its budget in spite of having to cancel because of the storms.

At the beginning of February, a Super Bowl party was held and over 100 people enjoy the game, prize money, food and fellowship. The party spilled over to the Bingo room and the TV monitors for Bingo were pressed into service as TVs.

We are looking forward to the delivery of the new shuffleboard and having activities for our members to enjoy.

We are still negotiating with the insurance adjuster about the damage from the storms and getting quotes on the repairs and upgrades.

Don Sansoussi and his wife Gail
Arcadia Elks Lodge 1524

The drug awareness trailer was set up at the Desoto County Fair from Jan. 20 to Jan. 30. Drug Awareness Chairman Sue Freeland filled 200 drug awareness bags with literature, bookmarks, pencils and ribbons. Elk balloons were then blown up attached to ribbons and tied to the bags and handed out to the younger attendees at the fair. An RCA Boombox was purchased and children 5-16 put their names in for the drawing that was held on Jan 30. Arcadia Elk members manned the trailer from 2-9pm on both weekends and from 5 to 9 on weekdays.

Brandon Elks Lodge 2383

Brandon has elected their first female Exalted Ruler for 2005-06, she is Kim Marinez. She states her goal is to make Brandon Lodge stronger and prosperous. The President of the Brandon Ladies of Elks is Linda Hinkle.

Brandon will soon have a sign posted in Saddle Park showing that the Brandon Lodge has adopted the park and will be making sure the park is always clean. A couple of hours by a few volunteers every month or so will keep the park looking good.

In early March the lodge held an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony to honor two new Eagle Scouts, Stephen Johnson and Scott Cutshall.

Tony Scotch reports that as of Feb. 28th, Brandon Lodge is 13th in the State, 3rd in the SWC District and 2nd in their division in per capita donations to the Harry-Anna Trust fund with $15,967 per member.

Sebring Elks Lodge 1529

PER Barbara Peters reports that the lodge is 3rd in the State in per Capita Donations to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund at $23,3608 per member. Her husband Bill is taking over the reins from her for the year 2005-06.

Sebring will have an increase in membership this past year primarily by the membership asking their friends and neighbors to join and enforcing the 3-visit rule.

The first place winner in the Americanism Essay “What Old Glory Means to Me” contest is sixth grader, Taylor Wentlandt.

As in the past the Sebring Elks hosted the FSEA Golf Tournament and exceeded the past years participation with $18,500 generated for the Harry Anna Trust Fund.

Virtually all the Hurricane damage has been repaired with a new roof, new aluminum siding on the outside and a new paint job.

Lake Placid Elks Lodge 2661

Lake Placid Elks Community Award recipients from left, James Niles, Ruth LaGrow, Marie Claire Hoy and Corporal Mark Schneider.

Town Employee of the Year is James Niles for being a dedicated employee since 1998 and for his work during and after the hurricanes working every weekend for many weeks to clean up the debris, putting the town far ahead in cleanup efforts.

Lake Placid Elks awarded Ruth LaGrow the Citizen of the Year Award for her endeavors at making Lake Placid not only a great place to visit but to also a great place to live.

The Business of the Year was awarded to MC2000 Realty and Marie Claire Hoy the owner of that business, received Proprietor of the Year. She has been recognized many times as the top producer and promoter of Lake Placid.

The Police Officer of the Year is Corporal Mark Schneider who during the hurricanes prepared the department automobiles, adjusted schedules, performed police duties, set up safety perimeters and stayed in the shelter during the entire storm to ensure the safety of others.

Ruth LaGrow also received the Elk Citizen of the Year for her work with the lodge and promoting Elkdom in her travels.

Pictured at the booth are Sue Freeland Drug Awareness Chairman, 2 young fair goers and member Bill Amos and his wife Joanne.

Southeast Central continued from page 13

Sebastian Lodge 2714

Sebastian Lodge held a three day open house to let the community know what Elks are all about and to benefit the Elks Children’s Therapy Services. The festivities began with music and hor d’oeuvres on Friday night. Saturday continued with a “Rock & Roll” dinner dance attuned by over 200 people. A car show and picnic was held on Sunday. Information pamphlets and our Indoctrination tapes were featured all weekend.
South Southwest Continued from page 14

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742
The Lodge finished December in good fashion, giving out to 31 families and 90 children, food baskets and gifts. The Lodge continues with its Homeless Veterans Program by distributing donated food and clothing every Tuesday at the Elks Cookout. On December 15th the Lodge made its annual trip to Bay Pines Veterans Hospital with 121 boxes of clothing, books, puzzles & toiletries. The Annual Hoop Shoot Program won First Place and advanced to the State Finals in Umatilla.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606
The usual Ho;iday Food Basket Program grew a bit this busy season with many fund raisers, Lodge Activities and holidays. The Americanism Essay Contest Winners were present with there awards.

Rotonda Lodge 2710
Rotonda collected food and distributed six food baskets to needy families during the holidays. In January the Lodge provided and distributed the book “All About Me” to the first graders at Vineland Elementary School. January saw the loss of Fred Lawson, PER and husband of ER Carolyn Lawson. Fred was a charter Member of Rotonda and Exalted Ruler in 1995-1996. Our condolences to Carolyn.

As with most Lodges in the SSW District, this is the busy season with many fund raisers, Lodge Activities and Charity events.

South District Continued from page 14

Lodges of the
SOUTH DISTRICT
By Don Queralto, PER

Miami Lodge 948
The City of Coral Gables held the 58th Junior Orange Bowl Parade and as in previous years Miami Elks Lodge entered several entries. The Florida Elks Therapy Service Van was driven by Glen Rust, PDDGER, and Mary Rust, his wife and PER of Miami Lodge. The Drug Awareness Trailer was driven by Al Reker, PER and Trustee of the lodge. ER Richard White walked the parade route handing literature and packets to the children. Also in the Parade were Delbert Butcher, PER, in his beautiful Corvette and the AL Roscoe Classic, representing the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Key West Lodge 551
Key West Lodge presented 38 New American Flags to Key West High School students for each of their classrooms. Harry F. Knight PDDGER from Key West Lodge and Randy Acevedo, Key West Superintendent of Schools presented the flags in the new Key West High School Library. Other Elks present were: E.R. Jack Leonard, Leading Knight Louis Pimeda, Loyal Knight Sebastian Cabrera III, Tiler Fred A. Losley, Secretary Donald R. Curry, PPGER.

Marathon Lodge 2139
Marathon Lodge participated in the South District Hoop Shoot Competition and one local winner placed third in their category. The Valentine’s Dinner was held February 14th with everyone having a great time. Marathon Lodge is having a Fund-raising Dinner on Sunday, May 1st in order to raise enough money to send 50 local kids to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.
ELKS NATIONAL HOME

CHOOSE YOUR SEASON TO VISIT

NOW is a good time to visit the Elks National Home in Bedford, Virginia. Every season in Virginia has its beauty and advantages. You do not have to be an Elk member to visit for a tour and/or meals. You do have to be a member to stay overnight at the Home.

SPRING is a time of new life with dogwood and cherry blossoms, and with daffodils and tulips showing their colorful heads. The air becomes balmy and songbirds are plentiful. Everyone feels a lift in spirits as we leave winter behind.

SUMMER brings the green trees, bright summer flowers, and warm sunshine. Days can be spent in the shade of a tree or visiting some of the many historic and scenic attractions nearby. (See our website for links to local areas of interest and information on the Bedford community. www.elkshome.org) The warm evenings are perfect for taking a walk or sitting outside enjoying the summer sky and sounds.

FALL attracts many visitors to our area as they travel the Blue Ridge Parkway to see the colorful display of autumn leaves. The color peak is usually in mid-October. Even though we know winter is on the way, the beautiful foliage display and smell of fall in the air are invigorating.

WINTER has a charm of its own. Residents of the Home can enjoy this season from the comfort of the enclosed heated porches, and there is always something to do here. Christmas is one of the highlights of the year with the Home’s splendid lighting display and the many visitors who come to bring treats and sing carols. If you haven’t seen our lighting display, you owe it to yourself to make a visit during that time. Winters in Virginia are fairly short and before you know it, spring is on the way!

So make your plans for a visit to see for yourself what we have to offer. Any Elk in good standing may stay at the Home for up to five days in anyone month for a charge of only $40.00 per day plus tax, room and meals included ($60.00 for a couple). Or if you prefer, there are two excellent motels nearby where you may stay and make day visits to the Home and nearby attractions. For more information on a visit or residency call us at 1-800-552-4140 or write to Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Ave., Bedford, VA 24523. You can ask for Nellie Martin, Sharon Jones, or Linda Zimmerman. We look forward to seeing you.

Lodges of the

SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Margate Lodge 2463

Margate Lodge elected its first female Exalted Ruler. Rose Witkowski will take over the reins on April 1st. The Lodge completed its last Student of the Month Program with three schools and seven students being honored.

Plantation Lodge 2273

The first function after leaving the Plantation Lodge, a Valentines Party, was arranged at the El Dorado Clubhouse in Plantation.

The Annual Kenny Moore/Howie Franklin Catfish Fry was held at the West Hollywood Lodge on Superbowl Sunday.

Boca Raton Lodge 2166

Boca Raton Lodge held an Arts and Craft Fair with over 300 participants and produced $1000 for the Lodge and Harry-Anna.

372 kids participated in Annual Local Hoop Shoot. That tripled the number of participants this year. All six finalists went to the State Regional Contest.

An annual donation of $200 was made to the Salvation Army. Another donation of $200 was made to Boca Helping Hands.

The Elks Police Run for Harry Anna was held on February 2nd, the check will be presented at the next Quarterly Meeting.

Pompano Beach Lodge 1898

Over 50 children ages 8 to 13 participated in the Pompano Beach Hoop Shoot on January 8th. Awards were given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each age category and T-shirts were distributed to each person. These participants went on to the District Hoop Shoot in Delray Beach on January 2200.

The 50’s Dance was scheduled in September, but due to the hurricanes, was postponed until January 28th. We had a full house and a great evening was had by all. As usual, the food and music were both great.

The South Southeast District Ritual Contest was held in the Pompano Beach Lodge on Jan. 30th. Three lodges attended and 1st place went to Pompano Beach Lodge. Due to extenuating circumstances, we will not be able to participate at the State Conference so the South Broward Ritual Team will represent our district.

February 26th the District PERs held a Winterfest for the VP designate for the South Southeast District, Charlotte Burrie, to help with the expenses of the visit of the State President Don Sansoussi and wife Gail in June at Pompano Beach.

March 18 and 19th will once again find members and guests enjoying St. Patrick’s Day Dance. Due to the huge turnout the last few years, we have had to go to 2 separate nights in order to have room for everyone. An Irish Buffet will be served by volunteers and dancing to lots of Irish music.

Pompano Beach Installation of Officers was on March 31st and the Inaugural Ball for our new Exalted Ruler Jack Strintz and his officers for the 2005-2006 year was held in the Ballroom on April 9th. Music by Sundown again guaranteed a great evening for all who attended.

Mother’s Day ceremonies will again be held on May 8th in the Lodge room with the assistance of the Doe’s reciting their Momilies. Flowers will be given to Youngest and Oldest Mothers and other-categories.

Northwest District Continued from page 15

Our annual Heart Ball was held was held on February 12th and was a tremendous success. Several longtime members indicated that it was the best Heart Ball they had attended in many years. The Ball was hosted by Esteemed Lecturing Knight Kevin Clemons and his lovely Wife Jamie.

Two hundred Dinner tickets were sold for a total of $3000.00 in addition $700.00 in direct donations and $1129.00 in raffled prizes. The funding raised goes to the Elks National Foundation for Student Scholarships, Drug Awareness and Americanism Programs, our Veterans.

Our dock was ravaged during “IVAN THE TERRIBLE” and since insurance is not available for these structures, we had to pay out of our pockets. In order to accomplish this we initiated a program called B.A.B.E. (Buy A Board Elks) which generated $3300.00 to complete construction of a new dock.
Preliminary Agenda
99th Annual Convention of the
FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION
at the
Disney Coronado Springs Resort
May 26-29, 2005

Thursday - May 26, 2005
8:00 am to 5:00 pm State Ritual Contest
8:00 am to 4:00 pm Registration
8:30 am to 10:30 am Past State Presidents Advisory Council (closed meeting)
10:30 am to 11:30 am Florida Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors
(Reorganizational meeting immediately following)
11:30 am to 12:00 am Florida Elks News Publication Committee
12:00pm to 12:30pm Convention Committee
1:15 pm to 4:00 pm Harry-Anna Investment Fund Board of Directors -
(Reorganizational meeting immediately following)
**The following meetings will convene in order immediately following the Investment Fund Board Meeting**
Florida Elks Charities Board of Directors-
(Reorganizational meeting immediately following)
Florida Elks Properties Board of Directors-
(Reorganizational meeting immediately following)

Friday - May 27, 2005
8:00 am to 4:00 pm State Ritual Contest Continues
8:00 am to 4:00 pm Registration Continues
8:30 am to 9:30 am Florida Elks Childrens Therapy Services Board of Directors
(Reorganizational meeting immediately following)
10:00 am 11:30 am Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors
(Reorganizational meeting immediately following)
11:30 am to 1:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm to 4:30pm Convention Session I - Elk Members Only
*Non-members are invited for the Presidents Demonstration and Acceptance Speech at approximately 3:00 pm - Please assemble outside the convention hall.
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm Take photos of the Endorsed DDGERs and 2005-06 Vice Presidents
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE) Advisory Council
3:30 pm to 6:00 pm Meeting of 2004-05 and 2005-06 District Deputies (Closed Meeting)
4:00 pm to 5:30 pm Question and Answer Session with the Business Practioces Committee
4:30 pm to 6:00 pm Lower East Coast Clinic Meeting
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm Business Practices Committee
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm Memorial Service - Elk members and Guests- Appropriate Attire Suggested

Saturday May 28, 2005
7:00 am to 9:00 am Major Projects Brekfast (Invitation Required)
8:30 am to 11:00 am Florida Ladies of Elks Meeting
9:00 am to 11:00 am Registration Continues
9:00 am to 12:00 pm Convention Session II - Elk Members Only
9:30 am to 1 am Meetings with Bob Grafton
10:00 am to 12:00 pm Business Practices Seminar for Officers, Trustees,and House Committees
11:30 am to 12:30 pm Soccer Shoot Committee
11:30 am to 12:30 pm Drug Awareness Committee
11:30 am to 1:30 pm Florida Ladies of Elks Luncheon
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 pm to 4:00 pm Convention Session III - Elk Guests are invited to attend
2:30 pm to 4:00 pm Meeting of District Vice Presidents ( Closed Meeting)
2:30 pm to 4:00 pm Meeting of State and Regional Committee Chairmen (Closed Meeting
7:30 pm to 10:00 pm Presidents Banquet and installation of Officers
Dress semi casual (white dinner jacket suggested)
Ritual Shootout immediately following

That’s just what a group of young entertainers known as “Re-Creation USA” does day after day, week after week and year after year by volunteering and providing entertainment to our nation’s veterans. And they have been since 1976. Then in 1986 our Elks National Veterans Service Commission partnered up with Re-Creation USA and they became a vital part of our program to serve our nation’s heroes. They have traveled countless “MILES” throughout America and left behind an infinite amount of “SMILES” on the faces of both veterans and Elks alike.

The commitment we also made to Re-Creation was to provide lodging if required and meals while they were on site entertaining. This is another reason why it’s so important to include these types of expenses in your Lodge budget. Should any Lodge or VA/VS Representative experience any financial difficulty in fulfilling this obligation, contact the National Director at (773) 755-4736 to help solve the problem. If we do a little, we can accomplish much in assisting Re-Creation USA to help us keep the pledge we made many years ago.

In case you personally haven’t experienced or had any contact with these “Outstanding Young Americans”, you are missing out on quite a wonderful thing. What they do for our veterans can only be counted in “MILES OF SMILES”. Isn’t it our sworn duty as an Elk to provide this to the countless “HEROES OF AMERICA”??
MISSION STATEMENT
The goal of Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services is to provide Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy to Florida children who do not have easy access to these services. These services shall be provided in the patient’s home without regard to the ability to pay for such services. This program shall strive to render the highest quality services possible to this special population.

HISTORY
Since 1933 the Elks of Florida have dedicated themselves to serving children with special needs. During that year they founded the Harry--Anna Crippled Children’s Home, a unique facility that offered free treatment to Florida children who suffered from orthopedic diseases and disabilities. During the next 66 years the name of the hospital changed several times and it occupied 3 different locations.

Now, after providing quality healthcare services free to tens of thousands of children, the ELKS decided to provide services in a different manner. Wanting to continue to serve children’s needs, a new program of in home Physical and Occupational Therapy commenced on March 1, 1999.

THERAPY PROGRAM
Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services provides in home physical and occupational therapy to Florida children in need of such services. This rehabilitation is necessary to be rendered in the home because of the absence of these services locally, or because of the patient being medically infirmed at home. Priority is given to children who do not have ready access to therapy as a result of financial considerations.

The therapists who render services are employed by the Florida Elks and are either OTs or PTs licensed to practice by the State of Florida. Upon receiving the patient application or referral, the therapist will arrange a home visit for evaluation purposes. If the patient is accepted into the program, a regular weekly home visitation schedule is established. Parents are required to be present so they can carry out treatments between visits by the therapist.

THE ADMISSION PROCESS
The first step in being considered for admission to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services program is to complete the application and return to the therapist serving the area where the patient lives. To obtain an application, contact the Elks lodge in your community, or call the program administrator at 1-800 523-1673 and request an application. As soon as the application is received, it will be reviewed in order to determine if the therapy program is appropriate for the patient’s needs. The patient’s family will be advised whether or not the patient is accepted into the program.

SERVICES PROVIDED
- Evaluation
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Neuro-Developmental Treatment
- Sensory Training

Therapy services are provided for children to:
- facilitate normal development and stimulate learning.
- decrease the effects of pathology through neurodevelopment and perceptual motor treatment.
- improve motor developments
- promote independence

LENGTH OF SERVICE
Patients are seen until the therapy goals have been met and/or the child’s needs can best be met in another way. Much time and effort on the part of the therapist is necessary to make this process a smooth transition for the child and family.