STATE RITUAL WINNERS

St. Augustine Lodge 829
Florida State Elks Ritual Contest winners from left, Ted Beal, Candidate; Geoff Dobson, Coach; Doug Matheisen, Chaplain; Ed Watson, Esteemed Lecturing Knight; Bruce Kather, Esteemed Leading Knight; Bob Kershner, Exalted Ruler; Susan Avon, Esteemed Loyal Knight; Mike Skowton, Inner Guard; Wayne Reyes, Esquire; Keith Bailey, Coach; Pat Shipley, Head Coach. The team finished second in National competition.

Florida Elks 99th State Convention

The final Credentials Committee report had 1,067 Elks and 351 guests for a total of 1,418 in attendance, including the Florida State Sponsor, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Grafton, and the State Sponsor of Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina, Past Grand Exalted Ruler C. Valentine Bates.

Guest speakers at the Convention were two of the Therapists of the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. Bruce Nathan, Physical Therapist located in the Southeast Central District spoke on his successful radio program and his experiences with the children he is assisting. Beth Theirs, an Occupational Therapist for the East Central District told the audience of her therapy work with the children and told several interesting stories of her experiences.

The Delray Beach Lodge 1770 Color Guard presented the colors for the tribute to the American Flag at all of the opening sessions of the convention.

The Delray Beach Lodge 1770 Color Guard presented the colors for the tribute to the American Flag at all of the opening sessions of the convention.

The Goal of the Elks National Foundation of $3.85 per capita was surpassed with total statewide donations of $299,344 or $4.12 per capita.

WHAT DOES MY MEMBERSHIP MEAN TO ME?

No doubt there are times in the course of membership of everyone in question arises.

For members who have young children, you are a part of an organization devoted with both interest of children.

From the local youth football, baseball, soccer, to the funds each from the Elks National Foundation programs, major Florida Mobile Therapy, educated professional Camp (which was introduced last year), there is no doubt that the Elks do a lot for kids, for veterans, for many others in need.

Yes, we do a lot for kids, for veterans, for many others in need.

Does this give you a good feeling inside to know that you are part of all of it thorough your membership?

The way to see better about all of the programs and the good they do (both for you and those you help) is to become active in your lodges.

You will find enjoyment, friendship and mutual admiration with those with whom you do great things.

After all, there is only so much golf, so much fishing and so much hunting one can do before it becomes more like a job, than a recreation.

It was not by chance that the Order of Elks adopted the slogan, “Elks Care, Elks Share”. It expresses what we are all about in a few concise words.

The month of July will be the last month of the term of our Grand Exalted Ruler, James McQuillan, who is of Irish heritage, so I will close with an Irish Friendship Wish;

“May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always have a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May a friend always be near your side;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.”

Inside this issue
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Note: There was no report from NE-NC & SEC districts-Bios of VP/DDS will be in the next issue.

Continued Page 4
2005–2006 OFFICERS OF THE FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.

PRESIDENT
Donald Sansoussi—Gail
136 Lake Francis Dr.
Lake Placid, FL 33852-6292
Lake Placid Lodge 2661

VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE
Charles Trinowski—Mary Ann
56 S. Winter Park Dr.
Casselberry, FL 32707-7732
Winter Park Lodge 1830

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS:
Northwest.............David D. Wiley..............Milton Lodge 2377
North.................Ron Holbrook.............................Tallahassee Lodge 937
Northeast.............James E. Hurst, Jr. ..........Jacksonville Lodge 221
East Central..........Phil Watercutter, Jr.....Deland Lodge 1463
North Central.......Bruce Henry..............Silver Springs Shores Lodge 2730
Central................Wayne Sorell..............Kissimmee Lodge 1873
Southeast Central....Robert Coker..............Viera Lodge 2817
West Central........Mario Ferfoglia.........Pinellas Park Lodge 2217
South Central......John Russo..............Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Southwest..........Danny Tabor..............Bradenton Lodge 1511
Southwest Central..Truman A. Bass ..........Deep Creek Lodge 2763
Southwest........)..Gary Casperson ....Okeechobee Lodge 2558
South..............Charlotte Burrie...........Pompano Beach Lodge 1898
South.............Marcie Duehn. So. Miami Coral Gables Lodge 1676

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
1 Yr.....Michael Phillips..............................Titusville Lodge 2113
2 Yr.....James A. Coggins.............................Warrington Lodge 2081
3 Yr.....Michael F. Smith,Vice Chairman...Plant City Lodge 1727
4 Yr.....Merle L. Sebald...............................So. Hillsborough Lodge 2672
5 Yr.....Thomas E. Elmore,Chairman......Okeechobee Lodge 2558

2005–2006 DISTRICT DIRECTORS:
Northwest......James L. White-2 yr..............Holley/Narvare Lodge 2787
North.............. Stanley Cox-2 yr..............Lake City Lodge 893
Northeast......Robert Catuto-1 yr............St. Augustine Lodge 829
East Central....John S. "Jack" Parker-1 yr....New Smyrna Beach 1557
North Central...Jodie Crews-2 yr.................Eastside Lodge 1578
Central............ Ross Evers-2 yr..................Orlando Lodge 1079
South Central.....Buddy Yates-2 yr..............Pl. St. Lucie Lodge 2658
West Central.....Charles E. Urello-1 yr........Dunnellon/Clearwater Lodge 1525
Southwest Central..Clinton Crabtree-1 yr........Branchon Lodge 2383
Southwest........Fred McDougall-1 yr........Sarasota So. Lodge 2495
Southwest.........Daniel G. Langham-2 yr.....Englewood Lodge 2378
Southeast........W. H. "Jimmy" McDuffie-1 yr...Clewiston Lodge 1853
South Southeast....Fred Bennington-1 yr.......Boca Raton Lodge 2166
South.............Joe Ortiz- 1 yr..................North Miami Lodge 1835
FSEA Secretary...Carl T. Seibert...................Bellevue Lodge 1716
Treasurer..........Joseph B. Bryant...............Sebring Lodge 1529
Tiler...........................Tom Ludwigisiert...........Plant City Lodge 1727
Historian..............Lowell P. Tyler...........W. Palm Beach Lodge 1352
Curator Of Museum...........Lloyd Russell............Brandon Lodge 2383

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS:
Chaplain~~~~~~~~~Joe Ortiz..........................North Miami Lodge 1835
Sgt.-at - ArmsS...John Holbrook................Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Organist..................Charles Gudgel...........Titusville Lodge 2113

HARRY-ANNA INVESTMENT FUND, INC.
Anthony J. DeLucca, Sr., President North Miami Lodge 1835
Ben S. Brown, Jr., Vice President Eastside Lodge 1578

FLORIDA ELKS CHARITIES INC.
Winston M. Needham, President Ocala Lodge 286
James L. Solana, Vice President S. Augustine Lodge 829

FLORIDA ELKS PROPERTIES, INC.
David B. Lake Director-5 yr Sarasota Lodge 1519
James E. Hurst Director-4 yr Jacksonville Lodge 221

FLORIDA ELKS MAJOR PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Winston M. Needham Chairman Ocala Lodge 286

FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP, INC.
Lynn Warburton, Director Palm Coast Lodge 2709
Alex McKibben President Sanford Lodge 1241
Ron Christian Vice President Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES, INC.
Ben S. Brown, Jr. Administrator Eastside Lodge 1578
Michael W. Chandler President Ormond Beach Lodge 2193
William S. Wilson Vice President Jacksonville Lodge 221

GRAND LODGE SPONSOR
Robert Crafton, PGER 10523 S.W.12th Terrace, Micway 32667-9447

The 2005 Annual State Convention in May was held at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando. What a wonderful facility! It is with a great deal of pride and humility that I accept the honor of serving as your President of the Florida State Elks Association. And as I follow in the footsteps of the Past President’s who guided us through the first century, I promise that I will serve you to the best of my ability and will uphold the high standards and principles of my predecessors.

Gail and I will never forget the warmth and support you extended to our family and us. It will go down as one of the most memorable days of our lives.

Our thanks to PDDGER John Holbrook and his wife, Marge, and DVP John Russo and his wife Geri, the Officers, Members, and Ladies of Lake Placid Lodge 2661, and the Southwest Central District for all their support with my preparation for this office.

For the past year Gail and I have been traveling with our good friends Past State President Frank Palladini and Ebba Jean up and down and across this great State of Florida visiting Elk Lodges and participating in all sorts of good things that Elks do. We were helping Frank and Ebba Jean celebrate a “A Century of Making a Difference”. The hospitality extended to us was fantastic. We enjoyed renewing old friendships and making new friends. It was an exceptional year.

Gail and I are now starting our year of travels and we welcome our travel companions VPAL Charlie Trinowski, and his wife Mary Ann. We are looking forward to many enjoyable experiences together.

My motto this year is “Guided By Our Hearts”. The heart unites us regardless of our differences and if we are going to be successful we must put our petty differences aside, pick up our similarities, and work together toward common goals.

One of my objectives this year is to emphasize that success is attained through unity.

"Heart and Soul" - What an appropriate theme Lee Weigel has selected for the Florida Ladies of Elks (F.L.O.E.) this year.

I want to express my appreciation of the Florida State Elks Association to the F.L.O.E. organization for all they do. I look forward to working with, and ask for the support, of all the Ladies Organizations throughout our State. The success of many of our programs can be attributed to their contributions. Their commitment to our programs through their generosity of time, money, and talents epitomizes the meaning of "Guided By Our Hearts".

The accomplishments of these two major projects are the envy of State Associations across the nation. 1500 children spend their summer at our camp not only provides the summer time camping experiences that our youth, additionally, groups such as scouting, churches, athletic associations, community leadership programs, special needs children, ROTC, bands and just about any youth group you can imagine now use the camp year round.

Approximately 20,000 children are utilizing the camp throughout the year.

And how can your heart not swell with pride as our twenty physical and occupational therapists provide needed treatments in the comfort of the children’s homes. Currently over 300 children are treated weekly all over the state. Most of these families are without insurance or funding.

These two major projects are supported by the interest generated through the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and the Elks and Ladies Organizations of Florida have always stepped up to the plate and went to bat for our children.

Even with the devastation caused by four hurricanes last year your response was outstanding. I am asking that you continue to be “Guided By Your Hearts” insuring that the needs of our children will always be available.

My goal for new money this year, through certificate sales and donations, is $750,000.00. This is raising the bar just a bit, but as you know through your own budgets the cost of everything is going up. If we can survive a year without the devastation of hurricanes I feel this is a very attainable goal. It represents a Per Capita of just over $10.00 per member. It is a small price to pay to put a smile on a child’s face. So please give me your help and together let see how many smiles we can generate.

As I am writing this article Gail and I along with the VPAL Charlie Trinowski and Mary Ann are preparing for our first visit. Our host will be District Vice President Charlotte Burrie and the South Southeast District. We are looking forward to renewing old friendships and establishing new ones. I will give you a full report on our visits in my next article.

We are also very busy getting ready for our trip to the Grand Lodge Convention in Reno. We are looking forward to the convention proceedings and festivities. I hope the money we leave in Reno is intentionally spent.

We are looking forward to visiting with many of you out there.

Please remember the FSEA Quarterly Meeting at the Youth Camp in Umatilla, August 12-13. For those of you who have not visited our Youth Camp, this is a great opportunity to see first hand what a wonderful facility Florida Elks and Ladies have provided for our children.

On Friday evening there will be a great barbecue and live entertainment at the pavilion. Come and enjoy great food, fun and fellowship.

There will be informative meetings on Saturday morning in the Grafton center followed by lunch at the pavilion. I urge you all to attend.

God Bless you and your families, God Bless our State Association, God Bless America and may He continue to provide for our youth.
FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS

Lee Weigel
President, FLOE

“Our duty is not to see through one another but to see one another through.”
—Author Unknown

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks,

Over 250 attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch, a superb Chinese Auction and great door prizes at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in May. It is a pleasure dealing with FLOE ladies who accepted their responsibilities and certainly gave 100% plus to make the event perfect. The centerpieces were cute and colorful. Many thanks for all the wonderful Chinese Auction gifts donated. With over a $2,500 profit realized, we are on our way to be able to make a great presentation for the children.

Packets pertaining to our Conference to be held at Altamonte Springs in October were perused. There are deadlines for many of the inserts. Make your hotel reservations early. We want to see you all there - the more, the merrier!

All delegates received packets for their individual district. Anyone wishing an additional packet may contact me at (321) 253-2769.

The Nominating Committee presented their recommendations for 2005-2006 officers as: Betty Pickenpaugh, President, WC District, Dolores Casella, Vice President, SEC District, Beverly Messerschmidt, Secretary, SWC District, and Joan Fritz, Treasurer, EC District. Advisory Council recommendations for the Advisory Council were Lee Weigel, S District and Sandy Sorrell, C District.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the August 13, 2005, meeting followed by a vote by the delegates for the new slate of officers.

By-Law Chairlady, PSP Elizabeth Wise has met with her committee. Proposed recommended changes will be presented at the August meeting and re-read and voted on at the conference in October.

Sincere thanks to outgoing Ladies Organizations Chairman, Lenny Smallacombe for his final report for the 2004-2005 year. The overwhelming figures are 404,767 hours, $577,356.92 monies contributed and 652,269 miles traveled for a grand total of $7,788,667.34. Ladies, if you ever have doubts as to the importance of the Florida Ladies of Elks organization to the Elks, remember these figures. Your involvement, no matter how small it may seem to you, helped to attain this goal. I look forward to working with the new Ladies Organizations Chairman, Charlie Walker and Vice Chairman, Tony Scott. Congratulations to you both upon your appointments.

Our next meeting will be August 13, 2005, at 9:00 AM at the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Deadline for Articles for the Fall issue is September 25, 2005
Once again the accomplishments of our therapy program and youth camp were on display during the Annual Grand Lodge Convention. This year our major projects were depicted on a beautiful new exhibit purchased just for this purpose. Our old exhibit served the Florida Elks well for almost 10 years. It should be noted that many Florida Elks volunteered to spend a little time at the exhibit telling the story of Florida Elksdom and our many charitable works. I extend my sincere and grateful thanks to all who volunteered their time.

On July 1st we added a new therapist to our team bringing the total number of therapists to 20. Jacintha Griffith, an occupational therapist, comes to us with outstanding credentials and will be a real asset to the team. She resides in Ocala, and will serve patients in the North Central and Central districts. When you have the opportunity to meet her, please give her a big Florida Elks welcome.

As has been stated many times in the past, without the generous support of the Florida Elks and Ladies Organizations, our major projects could not accomplish all the great things they do.

Recently, we have received some unique ways to donate to our program.

An Elk and his wife donated one of their billboards located on a high traffic highway in Ocala. The theme of the donated billboard depicts information about the Elks two major projects.

A new member from a Miami Lodge donated her timeshare to be used for a needy family receiving therapy services from one of FECTS therapists. The following is taken from a journal of the activities enjoyed by this family.

The family chosen is a family of seven; Mom, Dad and 5 siblings ages 6 to 16. Dad works as an EMT and Mom works part-time in a doctors office. Their home had suffered significant damage during the hurricanes rendering it uninhabitable. While waiting for completion of repair, they lived in a small travel trailer located in the front yard. So now that we had a nice vacation home for them, we wanted to make it really special. I wrote the Lodges in the Southeast District (where the family resided) and asked if they would donate some funds to buy tickets for the family to visit the theme parks. Thanks to donations from West Palm Beach Lodge #1352, and Jupiter Lodge #2469 we were able to purchase a four day pass which granted them admission to all the Disney theme parks.

Saturday, March 19, 2005 9:14 AM

Well, yesterday, Tuesday, the 22nd, we actually stayed at the resort and relaxed all day. We needed it. The kids went in the pool and went swimming all day. They had fun just doing that. Big Tim had a cold on his birthday, so he was happy just sitting around. At night I took the kids to Pleasure Island and The Market Place and Down Town Disney. Kara and Kalli’s favorite was Pleasure Island. That's where the cute guys were hanging out, so they stayed there while I took the other kids to the market place where this big Lego store was. We spent several hours there. The kids were able to build things and play all they wanted, so, of course, we had to buy some Legos for little Timmy. He loved playing with them. We also celebrated Tim's birthday and made him a cake.

Please tell Mr. Brown and Mrs. Slepian that we are having so much fun and we couldn’t appreciate it more. This is such a great trip. We are five minutes from everything and the place we are staying in is so nice and huge. We are taking good care of it and keeping it very clean. Well, I will update you later on what we are doing today. I think it is going to rain so we might go to Disney Quest.

The Family

Friday, March 25, 2005 8:48 AM

Hi, Sorry it took so long to write. Other e-mail address is not working. I am using mine.

On Wednesday we went to Magic Kingdom again. The first time we went, we only made it through half of it. This park you really need two days to go through it. This time we saw Mickey’s house and Minni’s house. We went through Toon Town and went on the Buzz Light Years ride and Space Mountain. We went to several 3d movies which are my favorite. I like to watch the kids try to grab things flying at them. The kids really enjoy this park. We were there 12 hours. On Thursday we went to Blizzard Beach. Although it was overcast all day, the kids really had fun. We went on several tube rides and a family raft ride. The kids went on the summit plummits, which you slide down on your body 55 mph on the tallest slide. They loved it. Timmy was 1 inch to small to go. We went on the Toboggan Race, and we raced each other down the slide. I won both times. We really had a lot of fun this past week and we spent quality family time together, which we haven’t done for a long time. This trip was the best vacation. Everybody had a really great time. We can’t thank you guys enough. Well, today we are checking out and we hate to leave. It really is nice here. We are leaving here and going to Disney Quest, the interactive adventure. I will give you pictures when I see you.

Bye for now, The Family

Note: After hearing the above story, an Elk from Lady Lake Lodge 2793 donated his time share.

99th FSEA Convention continued from page 1
South Hillsborough Lodge 2672

South Hillsborough Lodge 2672 thanks all those who helped our lodge this past year and to all our members for their support. A special thanks goes out to our volunteers for making our activities and delicious meals possible. We would like to extend our invitation to all who would like to join us for our excellent dinners. On Wednesday nights we have “all you can eat spaghetti”, and on Friday nights its fish fry night, with a selection of either shrimp or grouper. We also have on a Saturday night, once a month, prime rib or baby back ribs dinner. Please call our lodge at: 813-645-2089 for reservations and details on this one!! Aside from our meals, we have Bingo every Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons! This is for anyone, and is open to the public. Please stop by, come on in and say Hi. We would love to see you.

Our lodge has been quite busy this year, both with our events and donations.

Here are some of our past events, and happily they were all a huge success. We had a Kentucky Derby! This was a sell-out with standing room only. We had a Memorial Day picnic. There were over a hundred members and guests in attendance. We had both Mother’s and Father’s Day breakfasts. Both had a great turn-out and the food was delicious. On June 11, we hosted our D.V. P. visit honoring Danny Tabor and his wife Rachel. All Southwest District Lodges were represented.

Here are just some of the donations made by the South Hillsborough Lodge.

Mary Martha House (for abused women and children), we donated our hall and kitchen for a silent auction, South-Hillsborough Lodge.

Danny E. Tabor
Vice President
Southwest District

Born in New Castle, Indiana on July 25, 1954, he played sports through school and graduated in 1972. Went to college only to visit his bride to be, Rachel. They married in 1977 and 2 years later moved to Bradenton.

This is where he started his career in the insurance business. They have two sons, Matthew age 22 who, as a senior, attends the University of South Florida and Adam, age 18, who graduated from high school this year.

He became an Elk because his son had gotten involved in our Hoop Shoot Program. Younger son, Adam, went all the way to the National Finals in Springfield, MA in the 8-9 year age bracket. After joining in 1994 he immediately got involved with the Ritual Team. He started as the candidate and went through all of the chairs. As Loyal Knight he placed 1st in the State competition and had the highest overall score of all of the competitors. He placed second as Exalted Ruler and has helped to coach his team to a first place win in the State.

He became a District Chairman for the Hoop Shoot when he was an Inner Guard and still has that duty. He was appointed the first ever State Chairman for our Soccer Shoot Program when he was the Loyal Knight and held that position for four years. He has also been the State Chairman for the National Foundation.

Southwest District Continued from page 16

School Band, chairmen Ron Rager and Frank LaBarbara.

2004-05 Awards were presented to Most Improved Officer, Troy Springer; Most Outstanding Chairman, Mark Edelman; Most Charitable Member, Lamar Porter; Citizen of the Year, Michael Sparkman; Officer of the Year, Jerry Yates and Elk of the Year, Gene Lyons.

Brandon Lodge 2383

With a “Seafood Fest” prepared by Don and Judy Cornett and Steve Sawdey almost $1,000 was raised for our Drug Awareness Committee to sponsor the “Hooked On Fishing Not drugs” Tournament in which 87 kids aged from 3 to 13 caught over 600 fish.

The Grand Prizes for the Most fish Caught went to Chris Bosek age 9 with 33 fish and Daryton Pelham, 11, won the Largest Fish Caught, a 21 inch gar.

Brandon Lodge won the District Best Opening and Closing Award at the State Convention.

Phil Hinkle and his volunteers entered a great looking float in the 4th of July Parade.

Lakeland Lodge 1291

Lakeland Elks had a wonderful program this year for education scholarships, with 24 entrants from 13 area schools. Our committee consisted of Ira Hayes, John Necessary, Ed Hayes, Monty Hill, Hal Rivers, and Ned Vanderbunt. Who worked tirelessly to provide every child with a prize. At the dinner for students, family and councilors, we awarded $11,000.00 in scholarship money. We forwarded six to district, who forwarded four to state, who forwarded two to national. We are very proud of our kids and keeping our fingers crossed for them.

S. Raymond Bibisi
District Deputy
Southwest District

Ray Bibisi was born in Middletown, Connecticut on October 27, 1942, attending local schools and the University of New Haven majoring in Criminal Justice. Ray enlisted in the United States Army in 1961 and was honorably discharged in 1963, as a Military Policeman.

Ray married Grace Guarinacci in 1962 producing 3 great sons, Raymond, Steven and John along with 6 fantastic grandchildren. Ray retired as a Detective Lieutenant from the Middletown, Connecticut Police Department after 22 years of service in May of 1991, receiving numerous letters and awards for accomplishments of services provided.

Ray joined the Middletown, Connecticut Elks Lodge #771 on Feb 5, 1974, and transferred to Sarasota, Florida Elks Lodge on April 15, 1994. Ray served Sarasota Elks Lodge as Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, Lodge Secretary and Exalted Ruler for two separate terms. Ray was awarded Elk of the Year in 1997 and Officer of the Year in 2005.

Ray served the Florida State Elks Association as district chairman for Indoctrination and the Florida Elks Youth Camp, District Director of the Florida Elks Youth Camp from 1999 to 2002, President of the Board of Directors for the Florida Elks Youth Camp 2001-2002 and was elected Vice President of the Southwest District for the 2004-2005 year, being honored with the prestigious President’s award for his service.
DeLand Lodge 1463

Congratulations to Phil Watercutter his recent election to Vice President of the East Central District.

Deland Lodge began this year by voting to accept the merger of our fellow Elks from Deltona Lodge 2739. We have welcomed the addition of these members to our lodge and look forward to a great year with our new members.

Once again the DeLand lodge hosted the 12th Annual Florida Elks Softball Tournament. The tournament was a great success again this year thanks to the tireless efforts of Phil Watercutter, Joe Rogers and their entire committee who. Over twenty-three teams from around the state the DeLand lodge had four teams participated this year. We raised about $9,000 for the Florida Elks Youth Camp and had a blast doing it. Thank you to everyone who came out and participated again this year, we look forward to seeing everyone again next year for the 13th Annual Florida Elks Softball Tournament.

Dean Yeager has stepped up to the plate and is organizing the volunteers for Bingo night at the VA Home in Daytona Beach. Members from the lodge go to the VA Home the third Tuesday of every month. At the nursing home, they play bingo with the vets, provide snacks during the games as well as giving money to the winners. Veterans are always waiting for them, bingo cards in hand. When they saw the Elks, their faces light right up. They are so happy to see the Elks and they say thank you when we leave. They know when the Elks are supposed to be there. One time they were late and boy, did they hear about it. Dean now no longer consider it a bother to go to the VA home but an honor.

On May 5th Dean Yeager, Joe and Carol Marmo and Ed Madigan for a job well done. On Tuesday night Bar Bingo. Proceeds from Bar Bingo go to help send children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Participation has increased at this event over the year. Thanks to their efforts the DeLand Lodge was able to sponsor 28 children at camp this summer.

And finally, the DeLand lodge is continuing to renovate the lodge. We are finishing up on the renovations to the lounge area. Lodge Secretary Joe Marmo will be getting a newly renovated office in the social quarters of the lodge, which should be completed in the coming months.

Daytona Beach Lodge 1141

Roger Johnson has once again stepped up to the plate to be our Exalted Ruler for 2005-2006. The lodge held their annual Mother’s Day Ceremony on Sunday, May 8th. Attendance were ladies of the auxiliary, The Emblem and elk members. Gift certificates were given to the youngest mom, the most senior mom, and there was a tie for the mom with the most children. Light hors d’oeuvres, coffee and cake were served after the ceremony. The lodge sponsors a horse racing and shuffleboard tournament the first and third Sunday of each month. April shuffleboard honors went to several of our members. Lodge officers attended the State Convention held at the Colorado Springs Resort in Disney World this year. A beautiful day in April presented itself for our lodge’s second annual “highway” pickup.

The lodge held their annual Flag Day Ceremony on Sunday, June 12th at 2:00 pm followed by refreshments.

On Tuesday, June 21, counselors from “Project HOPE” will do a presentation on pre

EC District Continued Page 19

After graduating college Phil moved to DeLand, Florida where his mother was originally from.

Phil has a son Eric who is twenty one years of age and is the youngest Inner Guard in the state for DeLand Lodge 1463. Eric is well versed in the Ritual.

Phil was a physical education teacher and basketball coach for four years after moving to Florida.

Phil is employed at Tarmac America as a Sales Supervisor. He has been with Tarmac for 18 years and in the construction industry for 26 years.

In his spare time Phil also works with the Volusia County Teen Court Program for the past eight years helping teenagers deal with everyday problems in life working off community service hours to get off probation.

Phil is on the Membership and Events Committee with the Flagler County Home Builders Association for the past two years.

Phil joined the DeLand Elks 1463 in 1991 and has served in every chair except the Inner Guard at DeLand Lodge 1463, which his son is starting out in.


Phil has held many district chairman offices since becoming an Elk.

Phil is the Founder of the Florida Elks State Softball Tournament held each year in DeLand, Florida.

Graduation was followed by receiving her American Citizenship papers and a succession of jobs and moves. Oklahoma City; Lima, Ohio; Boston, Mass; Opelika, Ala. and Atlanta, Ga.

Emma held the position of Director of the Spanish Program for the Atlanta Public Library from 1977 to 1980. Much of her time was spent in assisting the Hispanic communities and in translating letters and legal documents from Spanish to English and vice versa.

In 1980, Emma married A. Leland Becton, an I.R.S. agent from Florida. She moved to Daytona Beach, Fl. and became a real “Florida Gator” fan - to appease Leland, of course.

To keep busy, Emma was Executive Secretary to the General Manager of Burdines in Daytona Beach until she retired in 1997.

Emma joined the Elks in 1995 and quickly began going through the chairs. She became Exalted Ruler in 1999 and has stayed extremely active as a P.E.R.; Chairman of Trustees, Chairman of P.E.R. Association, State Vice Chairman and Central Regional Chairman of National Foundation Scholarships, Chaplain of E.C.D. P.E.R. Association and various other E.C.D. chairmanships.

Emma and Leland have five sons and five grandchildren to spoil.

Emma served as Vice President of the East Central District 2003-04...
Brooksville Lodge 2582

On March 26, 2005, Janet Bowman was installed as Exalted Ruler of our Lodge. Suzanne Ferguson was installed as President Of Elk Ladies. Elk of the Year is Hazel Grover, Officer of the Year is Ralph Risley, and Citizen of the Year is Nancy Stubbs.

On March 6, 2005, we had our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. 96 Elks and new members attended. On Feb. 18, 2005, we had our Awards Dinner for our essay contest. Awards were presented to students in the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades. $100 savings Bonds were awarded to the 1st place winners in each grade. $50 bonds to 2nd place winners and $25 bonds to 3rd place Winners. The 1st place winners in 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades were forwarded to the state for additional judging.

On May 8th, our Mothers Day Ritual was held at the lodge. We served a luncheon after the ceremony, 42 attended.

Eighteen members in Hernando County were awarded the Turnaround Achievement Awards. This event recognizes our students whom have made a “turnaround” in their attitude, achievement and attendance this past year.

We donated $5,700 to the tsunami relief fund, $500 to the Salvation Army, $260 to the Florida Special Olympics, $100 to Arc Bowling and $100 to the American Cancer Society.

Orlando Lodge 1079

On April 1, 2005, we had installation of officers. William Townsend was installed as Exalted Ruler. Elk of the Year is Russ Calvet, Officer of the Year is Bill Feldmeyer and Citizen of the Year is Tom Miller.

Our Mother’s Day Ritual Service was held on May 8. A buffet followed the service.

We have awarded bicycles and gift certificates to school children who had written the best essays in their schools about drug prevention. We also honored Elks who have been members for 49 years or more. State President Frank Palladini and his wife Ebba Jean also attended this great service. We have many volunteers in our lodge who have generously donated $ 295 to the Elks Children’s Therapy Services. Drove President Nancy Lowe has let us know that the Drove will sponsor two children to the youth camp this year.

They have also received a letter from Arnold Palmer Hospital thanking them for running the “Healings Act Program”. Drove #66 sent $380 to the Grand Lodge for “Doors to the Deaf” fund. Grand Lodge has informed us that drove 66 was the biggest contributor in the nation for the “Does Heritage Center”.

Lodge 1079 was pleasantly pleased to receive three awards at the Convention held at the Coronado Springs Resort, Orlando, in May 2005.

A National Foundation Contributions Award, Chairman Bill Lindsey convincing members to contribute. A Membership Award because of increased membership, under Chairman Sadie and Allen Herbeck. A Community Activities Award with Leading Knight Tom Miller spearheading numerous projects: Veteran needs, food for poor collections, free dance lessons, and the list goes on...

In addition, Orlando Lodge is committed to funding and supporting many charities. It is this extra effort to help others less fortunate that has made this Lodge outstanding and vibrant.

Edna M. Capps
District Deputy
Central District

Edna Capps was born in the Raleigh, North Carolina area, grew up on a farm and was educated in North Carolina.

She has been in sales most of her life. In 1976, she became a licensed insurance agent in the State of Florida and joined her husband in his Insurance Agency.

She was initiated into Orlando Lodge No. 1079, April 1997 and soon thereafter appointed Lodge Esquire in 1997-1998. At the State Ritualistic Competition, she placed third as Esquire.

She has served as Loyal Knight and Leading Knight. She was elected Exalted Ruler for the years of 1999-2000 — 2001-02 and 2002-03 and as Vice President of the Central District 2004-05.

She has been State Vice Chairperson and State Chairperson of the National Foundation Scholarship Program, District Membership Chairperson and as of 2001 appointed Elk Area Representative for the Orlando VA Healthcare Center and Nursing Home since 2001.

Edna has been married to Harold for 32 blissful years.

Kissimmee Lodge 1873

We have installed our new Exalted Ruler Richard Hiemenz at our Installation Dinner. Our Elk of the Year is George Petrovich, Officer of the Year is Richard Hiemenz and Citizen of the Year is George Devillers. Our Lady Elketti’s President is Jeannie Platt. Congratulations to all of you.

April 19, 2005, we will have our student awards night. Awards will be given to our most valuable student and our student of the month and year. We are also expanding our awards to include our Hoop Shoot winners who have advanced to the State Championship and the Americanism Essay Contest, also our Drug Awareness Poster Contest.

We had our Mothers Day Ritual with dessert and beverages being served after the ritual. On June 4, 2005 we held our Flag Day Ceremony. The Boy Scouts presented the flag and DD Earl Johns participated in the ceremony.

Our Elketti President Jeannie Platt presented a $1000 scholarship to a high school student.

Annual Elk Drug Awareness Poster Contest winners received trophies. ER. Hiemenz presented trophies to students at Partin Elementary School.

Zephyrhills Elks Lodge 2731

In case you haven’t heard, our lodge now has a Virtual Website!!! I hope many of you have had the opportunity to check it out and see what a handy tool it can be if we utilize it. For those who have not heard, you can reach it by going to the following url: http://elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?id=lodgenumber=2731 just type it into the “address” area of your browser. (be sure to save it in your favorites for future use!) You can also reach the website by going to the National Elks Web Page at www.elks.org and click on the button on the left-hand side of the page labeled “local lodges”. On the next page that comes up, type in our lodge number (2731) in the box next to lodge number, click the search button, and our lodge page will appear.

Zephyrhills Lodge made a $1,500 donation to the Zephyrhills High School Jr. R.O.T.C. to help with funds to assist them in their travel to competitions. Also, Elks Bingo Charities donated to the following: $1,000 To Hernando Pasco Hospice building fund, $1,000 to the Florida Elks Youth Camp, and $1,000 to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

Zephyrhills Lodge was host to Apopka Lodge for lunch and refreshments on their 1st Centennial.

Central District Continued Page 19

Wayne A. Sorrell
Vice President
Central District


2004/05 – Esquire to the DDGER 2005/06 – Vice President – Central District.


Goals, Retire from Osceola School District. FSEA President (someday). Spend more time with my family.

Hobby # 1: Teach my grandson how to work with wood and how to repair various items around the house. Hobby # 2: Woodworking.
The Southeast District would like to highlight a very special Elk who lives in our district. This special person is Sam Berkowitz who is a member of the West Palm Beach Lodge. He has been a businessman all of his adult life. He was initiated in Chelsea, Mass. in 1954. This makes Sam an Elk for 51 years. During his years in Elksdom, he has served as Inner Guard, Lodge Veteran’s Chairman, District Veteran’s Chairman, Chairman of the House Committee and Trustee. This year Sam is the District Chairman of Veteran’s Affairs. As you can see, Sam is very active with the veterans. “I enlisted in the Army Air Corps at the age of 17 on April 3, 1943, and I understand all the sacrifices that the servicemen and women make to keep this country the greatest in the World.” His favorite Elk’s program is the Veteran’s Hospital in West Palm Beach and the Florida’s Lower East Coast Clinic. As Sam says, “I am proud to be a part of all the great charitable work that the Elks do for the children, veterans, and needy.” The Southeast District salutes this great Elk.

**Lantana/Boynton Lodge 2676**

Even though we are still without a home, we are still doing the work of Elksdom. We recently held a Fashion Show hosted and organized by our ER Audrey McNamara at a nearby church. The DOES Drove helped out by modeling the clothes from Beall’s. Everyone partook of cheese and wine and cakes baked by our Treasurer Sandy Doyle. The profits were used to buy Harry-Anna Certificates.

Our Flag Day Ceremony was held at the Lantana Recreation Center with about 40 people in attendance. The Scouts carried the flags as the history of the flag was read. The officers did a fine job. Ted Olson, PER, organized the event.

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**AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST**

**“WHAT OLD GLORY MEANS TO ME”**

**Rachjael Patnode**
*Tarpon Springs Elementary School* - Fifth Grade

Old Glory is another name for the American Flag. The first flag was made in 1776 when the United States won its independence from Great Britain. Over the years the flag has changed about 27 times.

Old Glory means many different things to different people. When I think of Old Glory the first thing that comes to my mind is freedom. Old Glory is a symbol of the constitution that protects my rights and sets limits on what the government can and cannot do.

Another thing Old Glory reminds me of is Americanism. I enjoy celebrating Flag Day, the Forth of July and other celebrations that honor and respect the country for which it stands.

In conclusion, Old Glory can symbolize a variety of ideas for each and every person, but the Americanism and Patriotism people feel is most important to me because that is what we fought for and what we will continue to fight for.

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**David Waldy**
*Seffner Christian Academy* - Eighth Grade

Whenever I see my flag, Old Glory waving in the breeze it gives me a feeling of safety and security. I know that I have nothing to worry about because behind that flag is a history of life, death, war, peace, hate and love. Innumerable men and women have died fighting for this country. I know they didn’t know it at the time but their bravery gave me a chance to live.

What if George Washington had died in the Revolutionary War? What if Francis Scott Key had not been captured, and never saw the flag still waving above Fort McHenry? What if? It is inconceivable to think of what would have happened if any of these people were unwilling to fight for our flag.

I know that my forefathers trusted in the Lord and put Him at the head of our county. Every time I look at or think about the flag, it gives me a sense of gratitude. I’m not only pledging allegiance to the flag but to my “One Nation Under God.”
Hollywood West Lodge2365
The Seminole District of the Boys Scouts of America was awarded a Guardian Membership. Cell phones were collected for Women in Distress. Hollywood West and Plantation Lodge had a joint Mother’s Day Program.

Plantation Lodge 2273.
SSE District V.P. Gerald Carter presented $4000 scholarships to three local High School students.

Member Phil Barber through the Outreach Program arranged for the Lodge to donate $500 towards the purchase of telephone cards for soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gifts donated by members were distributed to various local Children’s Hospitals.

South Broward Lodge 2830
The Lodge hosted an Americanism Dinner honoring returning from Afghanistan Lt. Pete Bermudez who also serves as a sergeant in the Miramar Police Dept. A 14-year-old youngster had been arrested for shoplifting. When Officer Bradley Srito found out the boy had been ridiculed in school for not having nice clothes, talking to fellow officers he collected $600. When Officer Srito told the Lodge the boy could use a bicycle the Lodge donated a bicycle with helmet.

I wanted to become more involved with the Elks Organization. During my 16 years as a member of North Miami Lodge I have served as trustee moved through the chairs and became Exalted Ruler in 1989. I was district Chairman for Harry-Anna Trust Fund, and The Elks National Foundation.

After serving as Vice Chairman I was State Chairman for HATF Certificate sales in 1994-95 when we reached sales of over $700,000. This was the year that Dr. Tom Ryan was starting the initial fund raising efforts for the Elks Youth camp.

My employment required me to demit to the Plantation Lodge 2773 in the South Southeast District in 1996 where I served as head of the house committee and was auditor for DDGER Francis Lixie in 2000. I have held several sate and district chairmanships.

As Vice President of the South Southeast District my goal will be to emphasize the importance of each lodge to contact the local newspapers and government entities to bring the Elks to the forefront. We cannot continue to grow in membership and new lodges if “no one knows we are here.”

Margate Lodge 2463

At the visit of State President Don Sanssouci and wife Gail, Exalted Ruler Rose Witkowski and Hanns Kundler, far right, presented the President and Harry Anna Chairman Tony Scotch, far left, with a check for $1000 for the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

Together with the City of Margate the Lodge celebrated the traditional Memorial Day Service.

A moving Mother’s Day Service was performed at the Lodge.

Flag day was celebrated on June 11 with some 120 members and guests witnessing the parade of American Flags in our history.

Charlotte J. Burrie
Vice President
South Southeast District

Charlotte J. Burrie was born in Brooklyn New York, December 1, 1944. Her education includes Northport Senior High School, East Northport, LI, New York.

AA Degree in Public Administration-
Broward Community College, BA Degree in Business Administration, JD Degree: St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami.

She is married to PDDGER Donald L. Burrie, July 27, 1983.

She has two children: Sharon Tamayo (43) and Roger Koesling (42).


She belongs to Florida Association of City Clerks and has served as Secretary, Vice President and President in 1980-81. Member of International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Served as District 3 Director and conducted seminars on Microfilm and Records Management.

Published Article: Mice, Microfilming and the Flood.


Became a member of Pompano Beach Elks Lodge in 1994. Served as Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight and Exalted Ruler in 2000-2001. Served the State Association as Vice Chairman and Chairman of New Lodges Committee and served as District Chairman of Credentials. Presently serving as District Chairman (SSE District) on the Youth Camp Board.

North District Continued from Page 12

Events continued into June, where a Flag Day ceremony was held on June 14th. The Boys Scouts assisted with the ceremony, presenting each of the flags that have flown over the United States, including the current flag, the fifty star flag. Again, the lodge was fortunate to have the local ABC affiliate, who filmed a bit of the ceremony for the evening broadcast.

Tallahassee Lodge 937
Tallahassee Lodge kicked off May with a fried fish after the Kentucky Derby Race. The next day the lodge served a fabulous Mothers Day Brunch, almost 200 persons were served. Fresh flowers are given to each of the moms who attended.

The lodge was proud to host the North District therapist, Denise Ostean, at the lodge on Wednesday, May 18th, during the weekly Bingo game, where the Bingo players could meet her.

A charitable event we host in the community is the Gretchen Everhart Prom. Gretchen Everhart is a county school for the developmentally challenged, and for many years we have hosted their prom at the end of the school year.

May wound up with a Memorial Day service commemorating our country’s veterans in the lodge room on Monday May 30th. The lodge had a bit of newspaper coverage.

Gerald W. Carter
District Deputy
South Southeast District

I have been an Elk for 24 years and was initiated into the North Miami Lodge 1835 in March 1980. After my indoctrination I realized...
Florida Elks are proud of the activities they present each year at summer camp. Our greatest pride is our dedication to our Country’s Flag and all it stands for. At the Florida Elks Youth Camp, our Flag is always the foundation for our activities.

This year is the very best ever. We take great pride in the fact that we send surveys to our campers and continue to improve our program.

Invite campers to lodge functions to speak about their experiences at the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

The smiles we see in all our Campers at Florida Elks Youth Camp are made possible through your generous support of our Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Only through your continued donations can we bring so many children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp for a safe camping experience. A smile on the face of a child is what we as Elks are all about.

Please continue to support the Harry-Anna Trust Fund through the purchase of a subscription certificate. The corpus is protected and never spent so the impact of your donation is forever.
The Twelfth Annual Florida State Elks Softball tournament was again hosted by DeLand Elks Lodge 1463, April 22-24, 2005.

We had twenty teams entered this year representing thirteen Florida Elks Lodges.

The tournament was attended by President Frank and Ebba Jean Palladini, VPAL Don and Gail Sansoussi, VPAL-Designate Charles “Charlie” and Mary Ann Trinowski, Past State President Mike Phillips also attending District Deputies - Charlie Barnes, John Sullivan, Joe Ortiz and District VP’s - James “JJ” Johnson and Stan Susz.

We had thirty nine contestants in this years contest.

The twelfth annual tournament raised $9,000 that was donated to the Florida Elks Youth Camp in the names of these lodges.

The Home Run contest winners were Allen Westfall (6-10), DeLand Lodge and Over 50 was won by Ken Hudak (5-10), Inverness Lodge.

This tournament has become an annual trip for Delray Beach as they brought over 130 people with them and Ft Pierce had over 100 with them. Both lodges sponsored three teams in the tournament, so if you haven’t attended our tournament ask someone from one of these lodges about it and then plan on attending in 2006.

The food that was left after each function was taken to the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia. Robert Barbieri, Executive Director of the Neighborhood Center replied in a thank you letter which said “Without such sharing by people like you Elks, our task would be impossible.”

Phil Watercutter, Tournament Founder has been working with the Volusia County Teen Court in DelLand by having children with Community Service hours work these hours off.

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“Home Run Under 50” contest winner Allen Westfall (6-10), DeLand Lodge.

The boys and girls help out with keeping the softball complex clean and helping out in the concession stand during the tournament and doing task around the lodge on weekends during the year. The Teen Court accumulated 324 hours Community Service during this years Tournament. Our tournament is helping the Florida Elks Youth Camp and the boys and girls of Volusia County.

Founder Phil Watercutter, Chairman Joe Rogers and the softball committee wishes to thank the twenty teams, the Gold Sponsors and everyone that attended making this another successful year for the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Phil and I especially want to thank the many volunteers that supported this tournament with their many hours worked, donations and miles traveled to accomplish this successful tournament.

We would love to have twenty five to thirty teams for our Lucky Thirteenth Annual tournament April 28, 29, 30, 2006.

Plan on attending, it’s a greatest weekend for Elkdom and the children.

No suits, no ties, just a casual weekend.

This is really a great Elk family function.
Our district is proud to have our District Vice President, Ron Brown from Tallahassee spreading the message from State President Don Sansoucci and news of the Florida State Elks Association to each of the lodges in the district. Ron has already begun his visits to the lodges, and anticipates having them completed by early August. The district is also looking forward to visits later this year from Richard Cruce from Perry, the DDGER who was installed at the Grand Lodge convention.

The district is especially proud of Tallahassee Lodge 937, and its performance at the state ritual contest, with three of its officers bringing home individual plaques from the state contest.

Lake City Lodge 893

The Lake City lodge is working on more renovations to its building, including the installation of a new television in the pool table room. The lounge is scheduled for repainting and wallpapering, and dining room renovations are planned.

Exalted Ruler Stanley Cox is urging members to step forward and volunteer to help spread the word in the community of the good things the Elks do. Sharing the slogan from the Grand Exalted Ruler, ER Cox notes that “BE THAT ELK” helps to provide initiative to let the community know what we do.

Lake City Lodge’s annual golf tournament was held May 7th. There were 19 hole sponsors and lots of volunteer help, but the best news was that the lodge netted over $1700 from the event. It was a great addition to the charity account. Keep reading to see what some of this money was spent on.

After the golf tournament, the Lake City lodge was proud to award four $500 scholarships to Joshua Simons, Reba Solomon, Rebecca Carswell, and Catherine Pueschel – all graduating seniors from Columbia County High School. Catherine is the daughter of an Elk, and was fortunate to also receive a Legacy Scholarship from ENF.

The lodge conducted a Flag Day Ceremony on June 14th and thanked all those who helped and those that attended this important commemorative event.

Live Oak Lodge 1165

Live Oak Lodge sponsored a Mothers Day celebration in its lodge room, and served refreshments after the event. A Memorial Day service was conducted at the Live Oak City Cemetery, the Veterans section, at the location where the lodge refurbished the area and installed new flag poles and flags this past year. The lodge continues to honor our veterans who have given so much to protect our country and our way of life. The lodge is proud to be the recipient of the top award for the highest contribution per capita for donations to the HATF at over $29 per capita. South Broward Lodge 2830 has challenged Live Oak this lodge year, and Live Oak is up for the challenge!

A Flag Day ceremony was held at the Live Oak Lodge which included a flag retirement service in the parking lot outside.

Richard Cruce
District Deputy
North District

I have lived in Taylor County, Florida all my life and graduated Taylor County High School 1971.

After graduating I attended North Florida Junior College.

Carrol and I have been married since 1974, we have two daughters & 6 grandchildren.

I have been a member of Perry Lodge 1851 since 1975, worked through the chairs and was Exalted Ruler in 2000-2001.

Participated in Ritual contest each year in chairs and was Leading Knight when Perry won first district competition ever. Repeated as District winner for the next two years. Received 3rd place plaque at state for Eleven O’clock Toast.

Offices held: State Vice-Chairman of Indoctination, District Chair of Indoctination, InterLodge Visitation, North District Vice-President 2004-05

Left Newberry Lodge 517, was made an Associate Member of Perry Lodge 1851 and was Exalted Ruler in 2004-05.

I have been an active Elk for 25 years.

I was born in Tampa in April 1944. I attended my first FSEA Convention at the age of five as the guest of my grandfather, Garvin Brown, who was a member of Tampa Lodge 708. I graduated from Plant High School and then attended Florida State University where I received a BA and MS in government. I served in the US Naval Reserve as a Radar man on active duty from 1967 to 1968 and was honorably discharged in 1970.

My wife Dorothy and I were married in December 2002 and three days later I had the honor of initiating her into the Elks. We have a total of six children and six grandchildren.

I have been employed in purchasing for 29 years with Florida State University, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Management Services where I am currently serving as an Operations Manager for the Division of State Purchasing.

I joined the BPOE in April 1987 at Tallahassee Lodge 937. I served as Exalted Ruler in 1998-1999 and have served as a Trustee, Chairman of the Youth and InterLodge Visitation Committees and as Ritual Coach and as President of the PER Association. Prior to joining the Lodge, I served as Scout Master of the Lodge’s Boy Scout Troop. I have served the North District as Chairman of the InterLodge Visitation and Ritual Committees. I have served the FSEA as InterLodge Visitation Chairman and on the Board of Directors of the Youth Camp. I am currently certified as a Computer and Word Judge.

I am proud to serve as North District Vice President. My goals for the year are to help the lodges increase in membership and increase participation in the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, the Elks National Foundation and ritual contest.

My other interests are walking, reading, playing computer games and yardwork.

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Lodges of the
SOUTH SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

By Carl Rehling, PER

Cape Coral Lodge 2596

Cape Coral Elks Lodge was recently recognized for its contribution of $2445.65 to Save the Children for the Asia Earthquake/Tsunami Fund. According to Charles MacCormack, President, Save the Children, donations collected will be used in organizing health, nutrition and child protection activities. Some of the funds will be used to rebuild and stock schools destroyed by the tsunami.

Cape Coral Elks Lodge is the only fraternal organization which holds a permanent seat on the Lee County Coalition for a Drug Free Southwest Florida. Cape Coral Lodge received the National Kiki Kanamarana award, for the best drug awareness program in SouthWest Florida.

Englewood Lodge 2378

This year’s Mother’s Day was again a Day of Inspiration. The PERs, dressed in white dinner jackets, looked great, as well as their ladies. The smiles and “Thank Yous” form the dinner jackets, looked great, as well as their ladies. The smiles and “Thank Yous” form the North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

N. Ft. Myers Lodge placed 1st in the Division 4 Veterans Program at the Florida Elks State Convention and Division 4 Best Youth Activities Program.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

Nine months after “Charley’s” visit, Port Charlotte celebrated the new Lodge facilities Grand Opening on June 12th. Port Charlotte has been through a lot in the last year and we are glad to see them back.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

Punta Gorda Elks celebrated its 25th Anniversary on March 30th 2005. Various Energizers were held throughout the month. The celebration culminated with the Reinstitution of the Lodge and Installation of the Officers. Both State President Frank Palladini and Vice President at Large Don Sansoussi and their Ladies were in attendance for the ceremonies.

Englewood Exalted Ruler Jim Cochran presented the Englewood Elks Scholarships at the Senior Awards Night at Lemon Bay High School. Two $8000.00 scholarships were awarded. They will be paid at the rate of $2000.00 per year for the next four years. During the 2005-2006 school year, Englewood will be providing scholarships for nine (9) Lemon Bay High School graduates with a payout of $16,500.00.

Punta Gorda #2606 held its Annual Scholarship Banquet on April 27th, 2005

Twenty-one $1000.00 Scholarships were awarded to seniors from Charlotte High School. In addition $1000.00 awards were given out for special programs and continuing grants for college students.

Students of the Year from Charlotte High School were presented $500.00 Savings Bonds and 13 additional students were awarded $100.00 Savings Bonds as Students of the Month. Two Students from Punta Gorda Middle School also were awarded $100.00 Savings Bonds as Students of the Year.

The Lodge in conjunction with the Drug Awareness poster contest, held a picnic for the combined 4th grades of Sallie Jones and Eastside Elementary Schools. Over 250 children were in attendance for the picnic and demonstration by the Sheriff’s K-9 Unit.

In May the Lodge made a special presentation to three local charities. Habitat for Humanity, The Police Athletic League and the Charlotte High School Tarpon Boosters each received $1,000.00.

Rotonda Lodge 2710

On Sunday, April 10th Rotonda held a very ambitious Drug Awareness Fund Raiser for the Charlotte County Alliance for a Drug Free Community. Everything did not go as hoped, but they still managed to raise over $1,200.00 for the Alliance.

I was born, raised and schooled in West- ern Kentucky. I worked for 31 years on the L&N/CSX railroad. In 1992 took advantage of an early retirement offer and moved to North Ft. Myers FL.

I worked four years as a golf cart technician repairing electric golf carts. After that, I started at LYNX Services processing vehicle glass insurance claims. Where I am now working part-time.


Other Elks positions, Chaplain, served in the Esquire position several times, served on several different Lodge Committees: Bingo Committee, Indoctination Chairman, Elks National Foundation Chairman, Harry-Anna Trust Chairman, Member of Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Association, Member of SSW District PER Association.

District Appointments: SSW District Chairman FSEA Youth Camp, SSW District Chairman Youth Activities.

State Appointments: State Vice Chairman Community Activities. I served as Vice President of the South Southwest District 2004-05

Married to Carol Pason from Pine Island NY since 1985. Together we have five children and seven grandchildren.

My hobbies include photography and computer editing of photos.
Largo Lodge 2159

On May 6, Largo Lodge sent four youths to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

On May 5th Burger King meal tickets were presented to Flo Henry, Chairman of “Operation Military Kids” Regional Coordinator by the Lodge Public Relations Chairman Jackie Homer. These coupons will be used at the two-day event at McDill AFB on June 13th weekend. Mentoring activities and meals are for deploying soldier’s children and will be supplied by the program sponsored by University of South Florida.

Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

The West Central District held a golf tournament at East Bay Golf Club in Largo on May 14 to raise money for Frank Palladini, Florida State Elks President to help defray his expenses during his term. 88 golfers entered generating over $3,500.

In attendance, in addition to Frank Palladini, were Don Sansoosui, PSP; Mike Phillips, PSP; Tom Emore, PSP & PGELDGK & Charles Trinowski, VPAL. The team of Palladini, Sansoosui, Phillips & Emore finished second to the team from Sarasota South. An awards banquet was held at the Holiday Isles Elks Lodge.

Holiday Isles Elks Lodge hosted a “fun-day”for Special Needs & Burn Victim children on June 18. More than 200 guests, including 87 children enjoyed a day of food, entertainment & boat rides. Member guests volunteered their boats for a dolphin-watch cruise on the intercostals. After lunch clowns entertained & special prizes were presented to the children. One of the highlights was a motorcycle stunt exhibition.

Annual Student Of The Month Awards
On May 7 Holiday Isles Elks Lodge hosted a picnic lunch for 64 Madeira Beach Middle School students & their families. Two students from each grade level are chosen every month for their outstanding academic achievement and behavior. This year 150 guests attended the luncheon to laud the honorees as they accepted their certificates and “Role Model” T-Shirts.

Tampa Lodge 708

In honor of National Elks’ Youth Week, Tampa Elks Youth Activities and Drug Awareness Committee chaired by Linda Reid sponsored “Bow-A-Rama, a fun competition for children of the local community ages 7-15 years. Two free games and shoes were provided for all who participated along with a free lunch and an awards ceremony. Certificates were provided for all Bowlers with trophies awarded to the highest score in the following categories: Girls 7-9; 10-12; 13-15 and Boys 7-9; 10-12; 13-15.

Tampa Elks Youth Activities Committee sponsors numerous Free Youth Activities throughout the year to give the youth in the in our community a fun, educational, rewarding and safe haven, that allows local children to just be themselves. Our Drug Awareness program through by-monthly parties and dances, field trips and speakers helps are local kids learn to JUST SAY NO. These events encourage kids to get active, meet new friends, and build character through friendly competition.

At the Annual Convention an 82 year old patient from Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center located in St. Petersburg Florida entered a Military Plaque made with rope and string and won a $250 First Place prize in the Arts & Craft contest at the Florida State Elks Convention.

“Art’s and Craft’s from Bay Pines” were taken to the Convention by Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service including volunteers Malcolm Mooney, VA VS Elks National Representative, Tom Coleman Deputy VA VS Elks National Representative and Jim Hink PER, All members of St. Petersburg Lodge 1224 carried the arts and crafts to the State Convention so Bay Pines Veterans Patients a chance to compete for the five money prizes. All the entries from Bay Pines won at least $5.

St Petersburg Lodge 1224

The Elks sponsored four students to volunteer at the Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center located in St Petersburg Florida. The students will work with the other volunteers around the hospital assisting with the care of the Veteran patients. This program not only helps the Veterans, but also helps builds character and responsibly for the students.

Lodge members present a $1000 Scholarship award to Kathryn Candeza. She will attend Florida State University. Kathryn was Valedictorian of St Petersburg High School Kathryn was also a finalist in the Most Valuable Student competition in the National Foundation and will receive a scholarship of $1,000 per year for four years. There are eight high schools in the Lodge’s jurisdiction and five of them entered students, eleven applications were reviewed and two of them made it to the National competition.

Ronald R. Simpson
District Deputy West Central District

Ron was born and raised in Warrick County, Indiana. Following graduation from Reitz High School in Evansville, Indiana, he worked for a plastic factory until 1961. In 1961 he was employed by the Courier Journal and Louisville Times. He held the position of District Manager in the Circulation Department.

He moved to Jacksonville, Florida in 1963, and worked and managed a Seven Eleven Store, until 1966. In 1966 he went to work for Chrysler Corporation in the Parts Division. Upon receiving a B.A Degree in Business Administration, in 1976, he was promoted into management.

After leaving Chrysler Corporation, He created Administrative Management Services, processing and preparing financial statements, payrolls, and taxes for individuals and small business owners.

He and his wife Enid (Sam) have 6 sons, 2 daughters, and 12 grandchildren. Sam is a Past Ladies President and Junior Delegate for F.L.O.E., this year. Son, Keith is a member of Orlando Lodge 1079.

Ron was initiated into the Order at Seminole Lodge 2519 in 1988. He was elected Exalted Ruler in 1991-1992. He has served as Leading, and Lecturing Knight, Trustee and Chairman of Trustees. Lodge auditor and chairman, and served on numerous committees for the last several years at both Seminole and Largo Lodges. Was President of Lodge Past Exalted Rulers for Two Years.

Additionally, he has served as District Vice-Chairman and Chairman of Scholarships, and District Chairman of Sports. He has served on the State Business Practice Committee for the last three years.

Ron assisted PDDGER Charlie Urello, a Special Deputy of New Port Richey, for three years.

Last year, Ron was Vice-President of the West Central District.
Lodges of the
NORTHWEST DISTRICT
Robert “Dan” Randall

The Great Northwest District Remem-
bers: Forty-three years of dedication to
to Elksdom.

The District Elks held a dinner and sur-
prise party in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey
Callaham to commemorate the 43 years they
gave to the Elks organization. PSP Callaham
is a member if the Crestview Lodge PSP Jim
Coggins and DDGER Frank Hayes hosted the
event. Also attending was PSP Mike Phillips
and his wife Kathy, Past State Secretary Frank
Willis, the Florida Elks State President elect
Don Sansoussi and his wife Gail, DDGER elect
Gary Johnson and his wife Faye, and NW
District VP Elect Dave Wiley.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497: The Ex-
alted Ruler and Secretary Training Program
were held in March. I (Dan Randall) was so
impressed with the wealth of information that
I feel every Elk should experience these ses-
sions at one time or another. It gives one a
great inside as to what Elkdom is all about.

A fish fry was held by Fritz, a Past Elk of
the Year, over $400 was donated to our Vet-
eran Services program. Over $45 was donated
to our local Hospice, by past the hat! Our
Lodge also hosted a golf tournament that
raised $3,543 for the American Cancer Soci-
ety Relay for Life. There were 15 members
who walked in the event. Our Lodge also donated
$340 for this cause.

The Lodge held a dinner in honor of our
Law Enforcement personnel, including
Escambia County, Santa Rosa County Sher-
iff Deputies, Policeman, Fireman and Park
Rangers. About sixty people attended the
dinner.

A letter from Nashville Lodge 72 in
Franklin, TN. Said, “when our Lodge heard
about the hurricane devastation in Florida we
were concerned about all lodges but espe-
cially the two lodges that lost everything.”
They collected money and asked that $1,100
be dispensed to the Lake Wales Lodge and
$1,100 to the Pensacola Beach Lodge to help
rebuild in some small way. It was signed, “
Carol B. Burgett, Exalted Ruler – Elks Care—
Elks Share “Our Groundbreaking Ceremony
will be in July, 2005.

Several of our members received finan-
cial aid from the Elks Grand Lodge Hurricane
Relief Program of approximately $30,000, of
which they are very thankful.

Warrington Lodge 2108: Our lodge
placed third in the Grand Lodge bulletin con-
test for lodges in our size.

Grand Exalted Ruler’s Outstanding Ser-
vice Awards go to PER Harry Welter who on
any given day can be seen at the Lodge rak-
ing leaves, mowing the lawn and many other
small maintenance jobs around the lodge. In
addition, PDDGER Joe Walsh keeps the con-
cession up and running. He rebuilt the lodge
bulletin boards and keeps them in order. As
in both cases, they stand ready to help any-
time.

The Elkettes have given $1,200 to the
scholarship fund and made a large donation to
Fire Chief Lewis Ward to help him in his
battle with cancer.

Congratulations to: Elk of the Year
Stephen Stockdale, Jr. He has been an Elk
since 1986. He served on the Bingo Commit-
tee for over four years. As Chairman, he has
shown his leadership abilities and his skill in
bookkeeping. Steve’s end of year revenues
this past year total more than $53,000. With-
out his efforts, there would be no responsible
charity programs.

Officer of the Year Juan Fejeran. He was
initiated into the lodge in 1999. He began vol-
unteering by bussing tables, cooking and
serving. In 2001, he was appointed Lodge
Chaplain, and later recognized as Elk of the
Month. In 2003, he became Esteemed Lec-
turing Knight. In 2004 became Esteem Lead-
ing Knight with many more responsibilities.
He recently received a Grand Exalted Ruler
Award for setting a modern day record for
the Lodge, initiating 12 new Elks into our
lodge. His dedication to his lodge and coun-
try are only exceeded by his love for his fami-
ly. Juan is now serving as the Exalted Ruler

Panama City Lodge 1598: Note that our
Lodge donated $7,600 to charity this past
year.

The Does granted one $600 scholarship
to Gulf Coast Community College as well as
$100 for Relay for Life For cancer. Addition-
ally they donated $100 to the Florida Elks
Children’s Therapy Services.

Recently the lodge donated $100 to the
Boys & Girls Club of Bay County and $150 to
the County United Fellowship of Christian
Athletes to send athletes to a special sum-
mer camp.

The Lodge continues to assist veter-
ans by sending $500 to Operation Helping
Hand to help families of wounded troop visit
their veterans at the Veterans Hospital in
Tampa, Florida. They also donated $300 to
purchase nameplate covers for the residents
of Sims Florida State Veterans Nursing Home.
The Lodge has adopted this facility, working
with the home by providing benches, books
and cards, toiletries and other items. In addi-
tion, the Lodge donated $300 to build the
Florida WWII Memorial in Tallahassee. In
addition, the members donated $300 to the
troops in Iraq and Sam’s donated $25 more.
We never forget our Veterans!

The Does voted to send $600 to the
National Heritage Center. This building will
be built to house all the Does records and
Memorabilia... A donation of $500 was made
to the Dogs for the Deaf program and four
$600 scholarships were approved to be given
at the four high schools to be used in Florida
schools.

Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787: In March,
our lodge sponsored Cub Scout Pack 105 and
Northwest continued page 18

David D. Wiley
Vice President
Northwest District

David Wiley was born July 10, 1946 in
Llevelland, Texas. His family moved to Dal-
las, Texas when he was at a young age. David
graduated from High School and attended a
vocational education program at Memphis
State.

David served twenty-four years in the
US Navy and retired at the rank of Chief Petty
Officer. He has one son who lives in Alabama.
He is the owner of Gulf Coast Geni a rental
service company in Northwest Florida.

David lives in Pace Florida and is en-
gaged to Edith Hardee a school teacher in
Pensacola.

David’s Elk career started in Milton
Lodge 2377 in 1997. In 1998 he was installed
as Esteemed Leading Knight and Exalted Ruler
the following year. David was appointed to
the Board of Directors of the Florida Elks
Youth Camp in 1998 where he served until

He was appointed Vice Chairman of the
Harry-Anna Trust Fund in 2001 and Chair-
man in 2002.

David has held the position of Vice Presi-
dent and President of the Northwest District’s
Past Exalted Rulers Association. David has
served as District Hoop Shoot Chairman and
District Adult Sports Chairman. David has
been involved in many committees in his
Lodge and the Northwest District.

Gary Johnson
District Deputy
Northwest District

Gary Johnson born August 27th 1950 at
Escambia Farms Florida. Married to Faye
Johnson For 30 years. Together they have five
children and 11 Grandchildren.

He is currently employed as a Scale In-
spector with The Florida Department of Agri-
culture and Consumer Services Bureau of
Weights and Measures, where he has worked
since January 1988.

Gary joined the Crestview Elks Lodge 2624
in 1983. Since that time he has served as Tyler,
Lecturing Knight, and two years as Exalted
Ruler and five years as a member of the Board
Of Trustees. Gary Has always served as the
Charter Representative for our Cub Scout Pack
530 since it was charted in 1996.

Gary served the Northwest District as Vice
President of the PER Association in 1997. He
served as President of the Northwest District
PER Association in 1998.

Gary served the State Association as Vice
Chairman of Lodge Activities in 1988 and as
State Chairman in 1999. In 2001-02 he served
as stat Sergeant of Arms. In 2003-04 he served
as North Regional Chairman of Government
Relations and served as Vice President of his
district in 2004-05.
Arcadia Lodge 1524

Arcadia Elks Sent 14 children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp this past year, thanks to Joe Newton who saw to it that all had their physicals. We treated them to a Spaghetti Dinner and gave each a $30 Wal-Mart Gift Card.

Arcadia also awarded Sheri Hampton and Tyler Gary each a $1,000 to the college of their choice.

Things are really looking up this year with lots of volunteers assisting around the lodge cleaning up and getting firewood for the BBQ pit, putting in new carpet at the entrance and repairing the back porch roof.

Lake Wales Lodge 1974

Lake Wales Lodge celebrated Fathers Day with a great buffet furnished by the Elkettes.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

Home Lodge of Don Sansoussi, the 2005-06 President of the Florida State Elks Association, and his wife Gail.

Lake Placid Lodge combined Fathers Day with Flag Day and had a dinner/dance with the Ladies of Lake Placid Elks presenting the history of past flags of the United States of America.

The Soccer Shoot had 70 contestants competing for our third contest under the leadership of J. F. Plunkett, PER.

The FSEA Bowling Tournament, with the leadership of VP John Russo, raised $500 for the Harry-Anna Trust fund, which wasn’t bad considering that we only had 31 teams bowling. On the plus side many Bowlers expressed their satisfaction with the Tournament and would return again next year. I urge all Elks that bowl to join them as it is fun and also raises money for our Major Projects.

Listed are the 1st place winners in each event:

Singles- Bernie Zak 752
Doubles- Jesse Alvarez & Phil Hinkle 1420
Team- Marty & Virginia Loula, Joanne & Bernie Zak 274 2
All Events- Bernie Zak- 2142

 Shortly after I was honorably discharged in 1986 after seven years as a Tank Commander, I went to work for General Motors as a forklift driver and moved up the ladder to General Supervisor in charge of Shipping and Warehouse Operations.

I met Geri Laurin in 1960 and married her in 1963, we have two children and three grandchildren.

I joined the Lake Placid Elks in 1998 and soon after took a chair and became Lodge Chairman for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

I became Exalted Ruler in 2002-03 and repeated in 2003-4.

I served at a local level as Hoop Shoot, Harry-Anna and Drug Awareness Chairman. I am also part of our Lodges Indoctrination team.

I have served the District as Hoop Shoot and Drug Awareness Chairman and the State as Drug Awareness Vice-Chairman.

I am very proud to have the opportunity to serve the Southwest Central District as Vice-President this year.

My goal this year is to support the State President and help him reach his goals while working within our District to meet goals needed to help Elkdom grow.

Congratulations to all winners but then again you were all winners for supporting this event.

Our Mother’s Day tribute was just a little different this year. We held a breakfast/brunch and nobody knew what to expect, especially me. Thanks to input from many of you on how to best host this event, it turned out to be a giant success. Our Lodge Officers served a feast fit for a queen followed by the reading of our tribute to Mother’s. I was very happy to see so many of our Lodges’ Mothers and Grandmothers able to celebrate this special day with their families. I don’t know what Vince Connell has planned for next year, but if you would like to do it again, let him know.

Lake Placid sent five children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp this summer.

Dick Rhodes
District Deputy
Southwest Central District

Dick was born in Medina, NY and raised in the Buffalo Area of Western NY where he attended school.

In 1950 he joined the Air Force and served for 20 years retiring as First Sergeant in 1970. He then took a position with the Customs Service as one of the first Sky Marshal’s to fly as a Security Guard on US Airlines.

Upon completion of that program he went on to serve with the Customs Service in many positions working out of the Tampa office where he again retired in 1988 as Captain of the Patrol Division.

Dick was initiated into Elkdom by Brandon Lodge 2383 in 1977 and was the first officer to serve in all of the chairs becoming Exalted Ruler in 1984.

He has served on many committees within his lodge, the Southwest Central District and the State Association.

He was voted Elk of the Year in 1989-90, Officer of the Year in 1997-98 and 2004-05.

His Lodge voted him an Honorary Life Membership in 1998, and because of his very active participation in Scouting Programs in the Lodge and Community, in 2002 he was awarded the Marvin L. Lewis Scouting Award at the Grand Lodge Session in Reno.

He served as Vice Chairman of Elks Training in 2002-03 and Chairman 2003-04.

During all of this he has served with great honor and distinction as the Secretary of his Lodge since 1990. He married his lovely wife Barbara fifty years ago and during those years they lived a very active life while raising two great sons and two lovely daughters. They have five grandchildren whom they love dearly.
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY LYNN WARBURTON, DIRECTOR FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP

We continue to struggle to define our very special and very safe camping experience. What we do, as Elks, may be put in a pretty simple form. Having the opportunity and privilege to make a better world for the children and youth we serve, is what we are all about.

As the world around us continues to change, we continue to recognize those changes and adjust our programs.

Consider, as mentioned in the past, what our children are subjected to. Computers, ipods, cell phones, palm pilots, and video games, yet there is something missing. It was recently pointed out in an article by Peg Smith of the ACA what is missing. Listen carefully, where are the voices? Where is the laughter? Where are the frolicking groups of children? Where are the opportunities to confront challenge and change?

Amongst the silence there is some distant noise. At FEYC you can hear the splash of a paddle in the water. At FEYC you can hear the laughter at the campfire with smores. At FEYC you can hear the voices of children developing new friends. At FEYC you can hear the camper’s telling stories of their time and courage on the ropes course. Can these be just some silly insignificant moments or is it all part of the basic human contact that is our camping experience?

We have continuing opportunity to adopt to change, to make that special difference to a child. The camp experience is human. Sharing, struggling, negotiating, discovering, challenging, questioning, failing, growing, and succeeding are all part of the experience.

As Summer Camp 2005 concludes, we are already planning our programs for Summer Camp 2006. Activities, as in the past, will be modified in response to our exit survey.

Technology will play a larger part in our future. We are developing internet programs for registration. We are reviewing and will modify our camper application. We are developing a web site where you may view each day’s activities at camp. New pictures of campers in action will be posted each day for Elks and Parents to view.

Utilizing our technology we hope to respond immediately when applications are received to acknowledge and verify receipt. To facilitate this, we will no longer accept cabin mate request. Campers, as in the past, will track in similar age groups during activities. Part of the camping experience is meeting those new friends at camp. Cabin assignments will be randomly selected.

Lengthy delays occur during registration when you arrive at camp. This is caused in a large part by missing or incomplete paper work. We are creating an award for families who complete their applications timely and completely. They will receive an express check in pass to reward their efforts.

We hope to have the opportunity to continue to make a difference. Continue to support our Harry-Anna Trust Fund to help all the children from Florida.

Marcie Diehl
Vice President
South District

Marcie was born in Bronxville, New York, August 16, 1952. She graduated High School at the Ursuline Academy in 1970, and Emerson College in Boston in 1974.

Marcie started her TV Broadcasting career as a News Producer in 1974 at WNAC-TV in Boston. She has continued her career in South Florida as an independent Producer/Writer/Director and Editor working for NBC, CBS, ABC and other broadcast outlets. In her 32 years in the TV Business, she has won 9 regional Emmy Awards and numerous other national and local awards.


Marcie also served as District Auditor in 2003-2004 and State Vice-Chairman and State Chairman of Publicity and Public Relations in 2004-2005.

In addition to serving the Elks, Marcie is very involved in a theatrical performing group, “The Gold-Diggers”, that raises money for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society of America/ Southern Florida Chapter and The Food For Life Network. Marcie served as President of The Gold-Diggers in 2004-2005.

Lodges of the
SOUTH DISTRICT

By Don Queralto, PER

South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676

South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge held a “Bike Safety Helmet” in June. It was a great success and we fitted 100 helmets, 52 for children 12 and under and 48 for adults. As we all know getting the parents to wear helmets is half the battle in educating children to wear them all the time. The State of Florida SAFE KIDS Coalition provided helmets through a grant and Fed Ex one of our state SAFE KIDS partners shipped the helmets free.

This was a unique partnership between the State SAFE KIDS Coalition, the Jackson Health System and the GATE program based at the hospital. The young men were instrumental in recruiting the event participants. The partnership extended to the South Miami community to include the South Miami Police Department and Officer Jesus Aguilar who was a strong advocate and supporter. The members of the South Miami/Coral Gables Elks Lodge did indeed step up to the plate to fulfill their mission of supporting children. They provided the wonderful space to store and fit the helmets.

The members also participated in the fitting of the helmets for the children from toddlers to adults in their senior years. Joey Gickman, Lodge Treasurer, Ralph Cocker PER and Lodge Trustee and Caryl Cocker, Lodge Member, helped in the fitting of helmets.

Marathon Lodge 2139

Marathon Lodge held their Annual Youth Camp Fund Raising Dinner this past May 1st. We expect to send 50 local kids to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Thanks to everyone who participated in the Blood Drive on April 21st. The Bartender’s Scholarship Fund was increased by $500.00 thanks to a generous donation. Lyn Graham and the Bartenders have done an incredible task of raising over $1800 for their Scholarship Fund.

These Scholarships will be awarded to deserving Marathon High School recipients.

Director in his church.
A friend invited Al to join the Elks in 1995, and the rest “is history”. He served in all the chairs, becoming Exalted Ruler in 1999. He has been president of the PERS for three years, works on the yard crew, served as Chairman of the Budget Committee, worked on the House Committee, is presently Chair- man of the Trustees, and was State Vice-Chair- man of Americanism in 2002-2003. He served as South District Vice-President in 2003-2004. Al’s major interests are his family, his church, and the Elks.

FLORIDA RITUAL SCORES

St. Petersburg 1224 94.8415
Brandon 2113 90.7954
Bradenton 1511 95.2992
Titusville 2113 95.6655
St. Augustine 829 96.3920
Aripeka 2520 92.3222
So. Broward 2830 88.8961
Miami 948 94.2151
Tallahassee 937 94.6424
Ft. Pierce 1520 92.0244
Warrington 2108 96.0872
11 O’clock Toast
John Garner--Warrington

State Ritual Clinics

Sept. 10 & 11  St. Augustine
Oct. 15 & 16  Pompano Beach
Oct. 29 & 30  Brandon
Starting times for all clinics will be 10am on Saturday and 9am on Sunday.
A. Mark Knechtel, Chairman of the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee will be conducting the St. Augustine session.
How much do you know about the Elks National Home, the retirement community for Elk members? Some folks have preconceived ideas about retirement homes. They think the retirees who live there sit in rocking chairs and snooze all day; that there's nothing more to do than watch TV and nothing to look forward to but the next meal.

Our residents do look forward to the meals, because they are delicious and they share them with their friends in our gracious dining room. And if they want to snooze in a rocking chair, that is OK. But there is so much more to do!

First of all, the Elks National Home is located in a beautiful area of Virginia, near the Blue Ridge Mountains. The scenery is amazing and there is lots of room for walking and gardening. We have a full-time activities director, who does a wonderful job of keeping everyone busy. Some of the regular activities are shopping trips, trips to the "Y", Bingo, birthday parties/dances, bowling trips, chorus, golfing (on our own executive course!), Bible study, Pinochle games, Bridge games, exercise class, and more. The activities director plans many special excursions for lunch outings at area restaurants, to historical sites in the area, to specialty shops, and scenic drives, as well as arranging for many individuals and groups to come here to entertain. We also have an active Elks lodge, and many of our residents pursue their personal hobbies of painting, sewing, woodworking, etc.

So, as you can see, there is really no time to be bored. Your lifestyle can be as active as you choose. And if you get to the point that you need assistance, there is a capable and caring staff to see to your needs.

Come see what you are missing. Arrange a visit to the Elks National Home by calling 1-800-552-4140 during regular business hours, or write to Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Ave., Bedford, VA 24523. If you can’t make a visit right now, check out our website at www.elkshome.org. There you will find photos as well as information on residency and the costs involved.

Call now. We look forward to talking with you.

Northwest District continued from page 15

their Blue and Gold Banquet. We presented them with a check and packets of information from the National Veterans Youth Program. They also celebrated their 75th Scouting.

Exalted Ruler, Pasty Bugg attended Shaun Sizemore’s Eagle Scout Court of Honor and presented Shaun with an Eagle Scout Certificate of Merit and a check.

Our Exalter Ruler, Pasty Bugg and Drug Awareness Chairman, Russ Wilby presented a check to the Navarre High School Drug Free Graduation Night ceremonies. This is the third year the Lodge has donated to this program.

The Lodge presented a check to the Relay for Life at the Navarre High School, where the event was held, in the name of our departed Elks.

On Elks Youth Week, our Lodge held their 9th Annual Children’s Fest and Safety Fair at the Baptist Medical Park. There was food, sodas, games for the children to enjoy, door prizes, two bicycles given away, a bake sale, many information booths for parents and children and many surprises. Navarre High JROTC supervised the games. Included in the festivities were the Santa Rosa Sheriff’s Crime Prevention Unit promoting safety and the local Fire Dept., Rural/Metro Ambulance, Baptist Hospital Life Flight, DARE, Santa Rosa Search and Rescue, Dept. of Forestry, Navarre Pediatrics, and Santa Rosa Emergency Communications. In addition, numerous mascots from the above listed.

Local sponsors provided the funding to support the community activities allowing the Lodge to fund the youth activities and raise approximately $1,800.

The lodge sponsored their 1st Annual Spring Fest Golf Tournament at Hidden Creek Golf Club. Awards included Hole-in-one, all par 3's drinks on course, door prizes, gifts, closest to pin, longest drive and 50/50. Top and bottom teams received $5 awards. All profits went to Elks children charities. All were treated to an excellent steak dinner provided by the Outback steakhouse. Approximately $3,000 was realized for charity programs.

Father’s Day: Gary Forester's Grandson, Kyle Bailey, 13 years old wrote this to poem to his Great Grandfather, John W. Forester, this past past Memorial Day:

Through dangers you ran
And watched life slip through your hands
Throughout protests you fought
And peace patches they bought
Mothers cried for their sons long gone
And Fathers put a cross in remembrance on the lawn
Your friends lives they gave
So another one's country you could save
You went through a living hell
As your brother in arms they fell
Your comrades felt the grim reaper’s breath
While you walked through the valley of death
Sometimes by luck sometimes by skill
You always managed to make it over the next hill
All the pain you went through
And yet your loyalty to your country still so true
That’s why this memorial day I honor you.

Milton Lodge 2327: Our Lodge was severely damaged by Hurricane Ivan. Bill Allen, PER, was chosen by the lodge to be the insurance coordinator. Our Lodge is pleased to report; the lodge has a new look. Because of roof damage and rain entering the building, the county code required extensive repairs. All repairs have been made except for the sign out front, which is on back order. We would alert all Elks traveling East on Interstate 10 from Mississippi to use Highway 90 from the first exit in Florida, past the Milton Elks Lodge, on Highway 90 East, (Good time to make a pit stop at our Lodge) because; of the one lane travel on I-10 over Escambia Bay where Hurricane Ivan seriously damaged the interstate bridges limiting travel east bound to one lane, traffic backs up most of the time for many miles. Look forward to seeing you!

Twin Cities Lodge 2747: As a small Lodge we are very proud of our “Elk of the Year,” John Givens. John is a charter member and has always been there when we needed an extra hand. In addition, “Officer of the Year” went to our Lecturing Knight, Rick Wilson.

Rose Maries Bolton, Veterans Chairman, and her committee make regular rounds each month to the Veteran Homes, Twin Cities Pavilion and The Manor, Bluewater Bay, in the area. They listen to their stories, and make sure they have the small necessities of life.

The Lodge paid tribute to the Fire-fighters and Police Officers of the year, from both Valparaiso, Niceville and the Okalaska Parmedic of the year. They all received awards for their dedicated service to their community. They were served steak dinner with all the trimmings. Each received a plaque.

Destin Lodge 2688: Members and officers of the Lodge went out in support of the American Cancer Society under the direction of member Margaret Somogi to walk for 18 hours at the Destin South Walton Relay for Life. Hoping to make at least $2,000 by selling shirts, food, and soliciting donations from friends, the Lodge made $3,400, and won a trophy for the Rookie of the Year. All had a great time and they hope to make it an annual event. Members and guest are congratulated for “sharin’ of the Green” on St. Patrick’s Day. Our tally for the night was $700 raised for Muscular Dystrophy in Okalosa and Walton counties. An additional $680 was raised by Exalted Ruler, William Carrol, who showed what a good sport he was as he was taken away in handcuffs by the local sheriff.

Deadline--Deadline

Articles for the Fall

Edition are due on or before

September 25, 2005
Harry-Anna Trust Fund
Recognition Pins
Awarded March 24, through June 30, 2005

Gold Pins for Paid-In-Full
$1,000 Certificate

Silver Pins for Paid-In-Full
$500 Certificate

Apfelbaum, David R.  Kissimmee 1873
Bell, Charles D.  Ocala 286
Bickel, James S.  Miami 948
Brooks, Gary R.  Lake Placid 2661
Brown, Richard L.  Perry 1851
Chapates, Alexander J.  Lady Lake 2793
Futch, Alvin C.  Plant City 1727
Gaetano, Palmer  Pompano Beach 1898
Kaminska, Donald  North Miami 1835
Parrish, Steve  Plant City 1727
Russell, Terry  Brandon 2383
Steighner, Skip & Heather  West Citrus 2693
Tewkbury, Betty  Stuart-Jensen 1870
Zinser, John J.  Deep Creek 2763

Eifert, Raynard W.  Rotonda 2710
Finigan, William  Titusville 2113
Kundler, Hans H.  Margate 2463
McCarthy, Robert  Lady Lake 2793
Palladini, Frank J.  Tampa 708
Ritter, John  Live Oak 1165
Rossburg, R. A.  Marianna 1516
Strachan, Lois Mae  Deep Creek 2763
Whitaker, Robert W.  Sanford 1241

East Central District continued from page 6

and post hurricane stress. Project Hope is an outreach and crisis counseling group that deals specifically with hurricane issues for all age groups and is supported by a grant from FEMA. The House Committee donated a free dinner for everyone. All Elks and the public were invited to attend this worthwhile event.

Our lodge and its members would like to thank the ladies auxiliary, The Emblem Club, for all their support in running our Bingo Snack Bar and other contributions to the lodge.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709
Palm Coast Elks is off and running again. The difference this time is the Exalted Ruler is our First Woman Chief Executive. As the District Elks get to know her they will be glad they met her.

Continuing our tradition of awarding a $1,000 higher education scholarship to Scouts from Troop 270 (sponsored by our Lodge), we again were pleased to present the award to another newly made Eagle Scout, Casey Bosman. Just a few years ago Casey’s brother, Richard Bosman also earned Scouting’s highest award. There are 6 scouts that earned Eagle Scout rank from the membership of Troop 270.

Palm Coast started last year to provide our Troops in Iraq with much needed personal items. This year we have joined with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Palm Coast in continuing providing necessities to our Troops.

Our Flag Day Ceremony at the Lodge drew large crowds, in spite of the first tropical storm of the season. There were almost 200 members and guests in attendance. The Elks that participated did a fine job. What made it so special was the help of the Ladies Auxiliary, scouts from Troop 270, The VFW Fife and Drum Corp, the support of the Marine Corp League and others who participated.

We anticipate that by time you read this we will be up and running at the Elks Virtual Page on the Elks Web Site. You can add our address to you “favorites” on your computer and see what’s happening in Palm Coast.

The address is: http://elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?lodgenumber=2709

Our Exalted Ruler attended the State Convention in Orlando. She was very impressed with the conduct of the meetings and was pleasantly surprised at the accommodations at the Coronado Resort and the many hospitality rooms she had a chance to visit.

The membership was also very pleased that a candidate from our Lodge was given an ENF Scholarship.

Palm Coast now sports an Elk statute outside our building, thanks to the donation of several generous members. If you haven’t seen it make it a point to come visit.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650
On May 7th the Lodge held a Kids Carnival for over 60 children. We had Elroy the Elk and the Drug Trailer at the event. Elroy gave each child a bag with just say no to drug literature. There were booths and games and they were fed hot dogs, they got to make there own cotton candy & ice cream sundies.

On June 11th members made a trip to the VA clinic in Orlando and put on a spaghetti dinner for over 130 veteran patients & staff... Those who cooked and entertained the patients were ER Carol Mitchell, John & Marcella Lesko, Phil Hansen, Russell Seavers, Betty Ash, Bryon Loveland, Suzanne Calhoun & Ada Rainbow.

On June 12th the lodge held a Flag Day ceremony with a buffet following the ceremony,and on June 19th the Lodge & Ladies put on a Fathers Day program.

stop of their 5th Bus Tour with 39 officers and members & driver.

Aripeka Elks Lodge 2520
Installation of 2005-2006 officers was officiated by PDDGGER Jack Srool at the 31st Installation Ceremony, PER Mary Ford was installed as Exalted Ruler. PDDGGER Srool also installed the Officers of the Past Exalted Rulers Association and the Ladies of Aripeka. After the Installation, PER Joseph Wybierala presented the Elk of the Year Award to PER John Nedjelo, Officer of the Year to Lucille Marino, and Citizen of the Year to Annie Riley.

The lodge recently competed in the Central District ritual Contest. They took first place and will now compete in the State Contest.

Bill Boruss and 17 Aripeka volunteers, collected 36 bags of rubbish totaling 504 lbs, from US 19.

On May 9th our Mothers Day service was held.

Exalted Ruler Mary Ford gave four of our mothers pots of lovely mums. L-R Barbara Bingeman, Joyce Cambell, Exalted Ruler Mary Ford, Violet Stimmel, Ethel Andes.

The Past Lady Presidents presented the lodge with a check for $4,101.28 and the Ladies of Aripeka presented a check in excess of $7,000. Our Blood Bank Chairman Bill Tousignant collected 12 pints of blood. Veterans Chairman Jeff Churchill, collected $1,205.85 in bed size afghans, deodorant, white socks, and other sundries to be distributed to Vets.

Member Carl Dabbs collected 5,000 golf balls and 51 golf clubs all in good condition to be donated to the Florida Elks Youth camp.

Walter Grove, Bingo Charities Chairman, donated $150 to Boy Scout Pack #86, $1000 to the Elks National Foundation and $225 to Hudson High School to assist in their cookie and ice cream social for students that have attained a grade point average of 3.5 throughout the year. Ladies of Aripeka donated $500 to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Service, $500 to the Florida Elks Youth Camp, $200 to the veterans, $1000 to Hudson Spouse Abuse Center, $100 to the Dawn Center of Spring Hill, $100 to Holy Ground in Hudson (a shelter for the homeless) and $100 to the Pasco County Sheriffs Youth Ranch. PER John Nedjelo presented four young men from Hudson high School with $500 Scholarships each. The Lodge also presents different students $25.00 a month for nine Months. Barbara Benson, President of Ladies of Aripeka, presented four ladies of Hudson High School with $500 Scholarships.

West Citrus Elks Lodge 2693
At the closing of our lodge books April 1st, a summary was made of the total charity gifts from the Lodge and the Ladies of the Elks. There were more than 50 individual gifts.

This report, groupings were developed. First, scholarships: local students, $2,000, Elks National Scholarships - $2,000. Next, student of the month program and hoop shoot $1,327. Elks therapy vans and Florida Elks Youth Camp sponsoring local children $2,300. Elks State Charities (hurricane relief etc.) $1,120. Christmas, Halloween, and Easter parties for local children $3,273. Holiday turkeys to Salvation Army and CUB $1,085. Young Marines, Veterans, and Boy/Girl Scouts $1,752. Use of the lodge facilities by non-profit groups (AARP, etc) $3,900. Local charities (Daystar, CASA., and Homosassa Elementary School) - $1,736. Total giving for the year from the lodge and our ladies was $20,493.

On June 11th the Lodge hosted a dinner to honor District V. P. Wayne Sorrell and his wife Sandy. The attendance was well over one hundred which included visitors and guests from six other Lodges in our district.

We had our Flag Day ceremony on June 14th, with over 70 in attendance. The Young Marines assisted in presenting the Colors and brought in the flags displayed during various periods in our Country’s history. Our guest speaker was County Veteran’s Affairs Officer J. J. Kenney who spoke of the importance of our Flag and the need to support our veterans who are responsible for giving us the freedom we enjoy. Those who attended were invited to a nice luncheon buffet after the ceremony.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 141ST GRAND LODGE CONVENTION

The 141st Elks National Convention was held in Reno Nevada July 10-14, 2004, with a final count of 8,696 Elks and guests in attendance. This was 1,078 more than attended last years BPOE Convention. Most of the Florida Elks were housed at the Peppermill Resort and Casino, a beautiful, cool and very accommodating place to relax after the days work at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

This Convention installed a California Elk as the 2005-06 National President or as we of the Elks refer to him, the Grand Exalted Ruler.

Louis J. Grillo, is a member of the Stockton, Ca. Lodge #218 where his father initiated him in 1984. GER Grillo stated his father used to practice his Exalted Ruler Obligation part when he was just a child so he really grew up with the Elks. He took the office of Exalted Ruler in 1987, held every chair and was District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1991.

His leadership abilities earned him the California State President job in 1999.

GER Grillo gave his father the credit for “laying the foundation that I have been able to build upon.” His goals are to ensure that we continue our programs for the children, “The youth of today are the Elks of tomorrow.”

“Our Order provides programs that help to instill the necessary skills for good citizenship and future leadership.”

He has set a goal for Elks National Foundation donations at $4.00 per capita. He advises us that the it is the “Great Heart of Elkdom,” that helps to fund our great programs.

“We can no longer be the ‘Best Kept Secret” it is imperative to make our Order visible to our respective communities. Holding our ceremonies in our lodge deprives the community of the knowledge of Elkdom.

“I feel two programs are vital to our goals, Public Relations and Indoctrination. They are the secret of obtaining and retaining our new members.”

At the demonstration, which the California State Elks and the 240 invited endorsed DDGERs performed, it seemed that almost every available California Elk had crossed the mountains in order to put on a great celebration for their Past State President, nicknamed “Cricket,” which his last name translate to.

During the Opening Ceremony, Florida State President Donald Sansoussi proudly carried the Florida State Elks Association Flag to the stage during the Parade of all State Flags.

A beautiful Memorial Service was held at 11:00 AM Wednesday Morning. A Special Eulogy was given for Past Grand Exalted Ruler Frank Wise. Sharon Pray, a Past Exalted Ruler from the Sanford, Maine Lodge 1470, had the honor of giving the 11:00 O’clock Toast.

The Ritual Team from St. Augustine Lodge 829 won the Eastern division of the competition and competed again for the National title on Wednesday against the other three top teams of the Eastern and Western United States.

Paper ballots work smoothly

Resolution 2005-1: Defeated: To allow persons eighteen years of age or older the privileges of Elks membership.
Resolution 2005-2: Defeated: To allow persons eighteen years of age to become members of the Order.
Resolution 2005-3: Defeated: To allow persons eighteen years of age or older the privileges of Elks membership, subject to state and local laws.
Resolution 2005-4: Defeated: To permit a Lodge to issue an ID card to a Member’s, or deceased Member’s, child or stepchild under the age of 18.
Resolution 2005-5: Passed: To ensure that Lodges meet at least once a month.
Resolution 2005-6: Passed: To allow nominations in January for Lodges that meet once a month.
Resolution 2005-7: Passed: To allow elections at the February meeting for Lodges that meet monthly.
Resolution 2005-8: Defeated: To allow a candidate’s family to be present during the initiation ritual.
Resolution 2005-9: Passed: To allow an increase in the transfer of net assets of a defunct Lodge from $5,000 to $10,000.
Resolution 2005-10: Passed: To allow a reduction from 10 years to 5 years for the conveyance of trust assets with State Sponsor approval.

Resolution 2005-11: Passed: To allow Lodges to award small prizes to members for securing applications for membership and reinstatements.
Resolution 2005-12: Passed: To allow membership applications to be included in a Lodge bulletin or mailed to members.
Resolution 2005-13: Passed: To attribute any part of a member’s first year in the Order as a full year for purposes of Life Membership.
Resolution 2005-14: Passed: To allow Lodges to waive application fees and dues of active duty Armed Forces members to increase membership.
Resolution 2005-15: Defeated: To provide for a family membership.
Resolution 2005-16: Passed: To increase costs from $15,000 to $25,000 before a permit is required to purchase real estate.
Resolution 2005-17: Passed: To increase costs from $15,000 to $25,000 before a permit is required to make additions or alterations.
Resolution 2005-18: Passed: To increase costs from $15,000 to $25,000 before a permit is required to contract for services, etc.
Resolution 2005-19: Passed: To allow an “Accuser” to withdraw a Subordinate Forum Complaint.
Resolution 2005-20: Defeated: To allow performance of the Initiatory Ritual by a degree team during the District Deputy visit.
Resolution 2005-23: Passed: To allow a Lodge, via By-Law amendment, to meet less frequently in December.
Resolution 2005-24: Passed: To add $1.00 to the Grand Lodge per capita fees for the maintenance and operations of the Elks National Home.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Neither the Florida State Elks Association Office nor does the Editor of the newspaper maintain the mailing list for the Florida Elks News. The mailing list is obtained from the Elks Magazine Circulation Department at Grand Lodge Headquarters in Chicago.

All address changes must be delivered to your home lodge Secretary and should include your current and new address along with your Lodge membership number.