Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, the Holiday Season has passed. After a difficult summer and early fall, hopefully you were able to enjoy your family and friends and look forward to a great year.

Grand Exalted Ruler James McQuillan and Karen will be with us for the February meeting. Jim and Karen are from the Midwest, (Nebraska), and possess all of the positive attributes of great Americans from that area. Sometimes lawyers seem kind of stiff and stuffy, but Jim is anything but. You will enjoy them, so take advantage of the opportunity to greet and say hello.

While we are in the first couple of months of the new calendar year, we are in the last few months of the Lodge year.

There is a lot of unfinished business to accomplish before April 1st. Officers to elect; National Foundation quota to achieve; increasing our membership in order to enable us to continue to help people in need. We do not seek new members simply to have greater numbers. We do it because new members replace those who have served and served, but now need relief. When asked, those members who have been so active will tell you that they enjoyed their activity and were rewarded by the joy and thanks so those who were given assistance; also by the friendships developed working together.

We have been recipients of over $200,000.00 in hurricane relief donations from generous members and State Associations from around our country and its possessions. We will always be grateful to all of these generous donors.

All of the funds have been used to help individual Elks, many of whom are still living in temporary quarters.

Remember, God smiles on all of us in different ways.

Grand Exalted Ruler, James M. McQuillan, and his wife Karen, will be arriving aboard Delta Airlines Flight 6324 at the Orlando Airport at 3:05 pm, Wednesday, February 9, 2005, to attend the Fourth Quarterly Meeting of the Florida State Elks Association.

They will be greeted upon their arrival by PGER Robert Grafton and wife Pat, PGER C. Valentine Bates and wife, Claudia; Florida State Elks Association President Frank Palladini and wife Ebba Jean; Past State Presidents and wives, Mike and Sandra Smith, Merle and Wanda Sebald, Jim and Sonja Coggins, Mike and Kathy Phillips, Tom Elmore, State President Elect Don Sansoussi and wife Gail and VPAL Elect Charles Trinowski and wife Mary Ann.

They will travel to the Florida Elks Youth Camp where they all will be lodged for the duration of the Quarterly Meeting.

All board and committee meetings will be held in the Grafton Center, the dress code is coat and tie.

Inside this issue

2-----Officers...President * 19
3-----Secretary-FLOE-P&PR
4-----FECTS-Pres-VPAL elects *
5-----FEYC*
6-----N District*
7-----EC District-*
8-----SE-NE District-*
9-----SSE-Districts-*
10-----Soccer--Golf--Bowling*
11-----WC District-
12-----NC-*
13-----SEC District*
14-----SSW District *
15-----NW and S Districts *
16-----SW
17-----C District *
18-----SWC*
19-----Continued
20-----

WWII COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Lakeland Lodge was the site for the dedication of the new first class postage stamp honoring our countries WW II Veterans.

Many WW II Veterans were on hand to receive special commemorative stamps depicting the likeness of the new WW II monument in Washington DC.
Since my second article, Ebba Jean and I, along with VPAL Don Sansoussi and Gail, have just completed nine consecutive weekends of travel.

We started in Delta and ended at the Holiday Inn where we were hosted by East Central District VP Stan Suess and his wife Mary, and District Leader PSP Mike Phillips and Kathy. Friday evening we were treated to dinner at Sanford Lodge #1241 by E.R. John Colbert and his wife, Sue, and their members. Following a relaxing boat excursion on Lake Monroe hosted by District Leader PSP Joe Rogers, we returned to the Sanford Lodge and its comfortable surroundings for viewing the NFL football games.

Fortunately, we were able to resume the visit and complete the President's Program during the last weekend in October as hosted by New Smyrna Beach Lodge #1557 and the East Central District PER Association. At this banquet, a surprise retirement testimonial was given to PSP George Dominini and his wife, Ada, to include a complimentary cruise for their enjoyment. It was a truly enjoyable evening planned by PER Tom Pollard, PDD John Parker, PSP Watercutter, DDGER Joe Rogers and PSP Mike Phillips with the help of their many Lodge and Ladies' Organization volunteers. On the on-water suite at the New Smyrna Holiday Inn provided a very nice view of the ocean beaches.

We next visited Altamonte Springs where we were hosted by West Central District VP Dick Rhodes and his wife, Barbara, and District Leader PSP Mike Smith and Sandra. After being greeted by a large contingent of Elks and their guests, several of which were from outside the District, we were chauffeured to the Plant City Lodge #1277 where we were treated to delicious hors d'oeuvres and dinner, along with great music and service by E.R. Jerry Yates and his wife, Carol, and a large number of their Lodge and Ladies' Organization volunteers. On Saturday, we enjoyed a personalized “Behind the Scenes” tour of the Florida Aquarium and lunch at Beef O'Brady's Sports Bar and Grill.

Saturday evening we departed our spacious suite at the Holiday Inn for a limousine ride to the banquet at Brandon Lodge #2383, where we were greeted by E.R. Len Brown and his wife, Helga, and Lady President Mary Lou Schreck and her ladies, who did a wonderful job in decorating the hall, preparing the hors d'oeuvres and assisting the numerous Lodge volunteers in preparing and serving a great meal that was accompanied by delightful music for dancing. We were very impressed by Missy Sawday, daughter of State Membership Chairperson, Steve Sawday, with her beautiful renditions of the National Anthem and God Bless America. Several of her Durfl High School Classmates helped to serve the meal.

Our next weekend stop was Altamonte Springs where we were guests of President Elizabeth Wise and incoming President Lee Weigel and the members of the Florida Ladies of Elks at their 41st Annual Conference. These Ladies certainly lived up to their “Angels on Earth” conference theme with their donations to the HATF, our state Major Projects and other donations and work that they do throughout the year for their Lodges, Districts, the State Association, Grand Lodge, and those, the less fortunate and in need within the communities in which they reside. The motel accommodations, social functions, luncheon and very impressive Program and Memorial Service, a very elaborate banquet with delightful music for dancing and their gracious hospitality and friendship throughout the weekend was deeply appreciated and enjoyed by Ebba Jean, Gail, Don and me.

We next visited Ocala, where we were hosted by North Central District VP Charlie Brown and his wife, Cheryl, and District Leader PSP Winston Needham and Karen, and PSP Ben Brown and Sherry. After being greeted by a large number of Elks and their guests, from both within and outside the District, we checked into the beautiful Historic Ritz Inn, where each room is “theme decorated”, i.e. “jungle”, “English Garden”, “Safari”, etc. After cocktails and hors d'oeuvres around the pool area, we were transported (as we were all weekend) by Ocala E.R. Harold Floyd and his wife, Barbara, in their spacious motor home to the Appleton Museum for a wonderful and informative personalized tour of their artwork and exhibits.

We then proceeded to Ocala Lodge #286 for cocktails, dinner, and great service and music for everyone’s dancing pleasure.

Following breakfast on Saturday morning at the elaborate Carmichael’s Restaurant, we viewed Ocala’s downtown theme “Horse Fever”, before being taken on a personalized tour of the Don Gallits Antique and Race Car Museum. The tour of the work area was very informatively conducted by Don Gallits himself, and the District purchased for me a souvenir t-shirt that “Big Daddy” Don autographed and that will eventually be framed. Also, Winston and Ben presented the VPAL and me with miniature souvenirs from the “Horse Fever” Limited Edition Collection representing the greater Ocala area, which are prominently displayed in our homes.

We were then treated to lunch and beverages by Silver Springs Shores “7230 E.R. Clarence Siler and his many volunteer members and Ladies as we toured their new building addition. On Saturday evening, E.R. Harold and Barbara hosted an enjoyable banquet complete with a great meal and service, elaborate decorations, excellent entertainment and hospitality by VP Charlie and Cheryl and all those in attendance.

The following weekend was spent in Umatilla at the Quarterly meeting of the Trustees and Directors of the HATF. At this meeting, presentations were made to the Board and other Florida Elk executives by our Northern Trust Bank Administrators and by representatives of the various professional firms.

Continued on page 19
Thank you to everyone who attended our November mid-year conventions at the Hilton in St. Petersburg. In their final report, the Credentials Committee reported the registration of just at 500 Elk members, spouses, and guests, about the same as last year’s attendance. My sincere thanks to everyone who assisted in making our mid-year meetings a success, and a special thanks to Jim Lind, and his entire Credentials Committee and their helpers for all of their hard work during the convention.

Thank you to everyone who picked up their convention proceedings and annual report books at the mid-year convention. The cost savings to the State Association were tremendous! We still have a supply of the book if anyone would like a copy and they will also be available at the February Quarterly.

The 2005 State Convention will be held May 25-29 at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. This is a magnificent facility for a convention and best of all, our entire room block will be located at the resort and for the first time in years, it will not be necessary for anyone to stay at an overflow hotel! Reservation information is available on our web site at www.flelks.org and was also mailed out in January.

Since loosing the Hyatt, the convention committee has found it increasingly difficult to make hospitality room arrangements similar to those we had at the Hyatt. These difficulties contributed to our inability to return to the Wyndham Resort of 2004 and are again a factor with the Disney Resort. The bottom line is that we will never find a resort that was as accommodating to our hospitality as the Hyatt was and therefore we will need to continue to find ways to adapt our hospitality arrangements. The folks at Disney are very much aware of our concerns and although limited in their ability to assist us they have actually come up with several ways to help make this aspect of our convention workable.

A few highlights:
• All meetings including the ritual competition will take place at the same location.
• Our rooms at the Coronado Springs Resort will be located near the convention center with the furthest rooms about a 7-minute walk.
• All buildings contain elevators and most provide covered access to the convention center. There is ample parking near each room and golf carts circulate throughout the property at all times to assist guests in getting around.
• The resort has two restaurants, a gift shop, and a convenience type store. Guests are also provided free access to the Disney bus system that can take you to all Disney Parks, attractions, and hotels.
• We are planning a “hospitality” guide/map that will be available at registration and will list all of the open “hospitality” rooms and their locations.
• All guest rooms contain a refrigerator and everyone staying at the Coronado will receive free access to the resort’s spa.
• Reduced price theme park tickets are available to convention attendees through our web site.

If you have never stayed at a Disney Resort you are in for a treat! Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your stay.

This month our Lodges will be electing new leaders for the coming year. Probably one of the best investments of time and money a Lodge could make would be seeing that their new leaders are properly indoctrinated for their jobs. To accomplish this, the Florida State Elks Association will be holding a seminar for all Exalted Rulers Elect and all Secretaries Elect. The dates and locations of these seminars are as follows:

- March 4th & 5th – Orlando, FL – Holiday Inn Universal
- March 11th & 12th – Lake City, FL – Quality Inn

If you are fortunate enough to be bestowed with the honor of Exalted Ruler Elect or a Secretary Elect this month, please make every effort to attend one of these seminars. You really won’t regret it! Information has already been mailed to each Lodge and it is available on our web site at www.flelks.org. Incidentally, a seminar for Lodge Treasurers, Trustees, and House Committee Chairmen is held each year at the mid-year meeting. Please consider this when preparing your Lodge budgets for next year and see that these officers are afforded the ability to attend this very important training.

Grand Lodge Convention will be held in Reno, NV July 10th through the 14th. The Florida delegation will be housed at the Peppermill Resort and Casino. Watch your mail, Lodge bulletins, and our website for all of the latest information and registration information as it becomes available.

The next few months will be especially hectic at the State Association offices as we prepare for conventions, seminars, and a new slate of officers, directors, etc. One way that you can help us to maintain a little bit of sanity is to be timely in your responses to our requests. Forms and information requests might change from what you have been accustomed to over the years, so read everything carefully and follow the instructions. We will attempt to put everything on the website as it becomes available and I will happily respond to your e-mail at carl@mpinet.net. Of course our phones work quite well too and I can more often be reached at contact extension 230.

It is our hope to have the annual directory information on-line at our website as close to April 1st as possible to assist in the planning and preparations of our new committee chairmen.

“GOOD MEDIA”

What are “THE MEDIA,” and what exactly are Good Media? According to Webster, one of the meanings in the singular form of medium is a form of communication. Communication is telling people the news and what is happening. It is done everyday by each and everyone of us. However, what is GOOD MEDIA as it relates to your local Lodge? It is your Lodge Newsletter with its reminders of the upcoming events relating to your Lodge and your Lodge Members. It is the announcements in your local newspaper for social events and news of your Lodge. It should be the first means of notifying your Members about the “Most Valuable Student” Scholarship, the Americanism Essay Contest and the “Hoop Shoot” Contest. This is just one form of good communication that you should use.

Another good tool to use is your local newspaper. Use it as a way of telling everyone in the community what the Elks are doing for the community. Use pictures of the news events: newspapers are more likely to print a picture with a short article than just an article. Now you are telling yourself that I have tried that but with little success. Keep trying. Use the newspaper when you recognize your local police and fire departments, when you donate the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to the elderly, have the children’s Christmas party and especially when recognizing the youth of our community. By communicating through the media, you are telling everyone that you care and that you care.

Now THAT’S Good Media!

Verne Jarvela, Member, G/L Public Relations Committee

**FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS**

Lee Weigel, President

"When Love & Skill Work Together, Expect A Masterpiece." John Ruskin

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks,

Sincere greetings to all! Past State President, - Elizabeth Wise, conducted the wrap-up meeting at mid-year. WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE YEAR! It was a pleasure working with her.

The 2004-2005 year is off to a good beginning. With all the hardships encountered by many in Florida, the ladies went above and beyond by attending the meeting to show their support to FLOE and the Elks. The Officers along with myself are committed to do everything possible to insure a beneficial year for our children.

All committees have been filled and enthusiasm is shown everywhere. DELEGATES kindly contact Secretary, Dolores Casella, with any corrections, phone numbers, addresses, etc., so we can be in touch as necessary.

The 2005 Elks State Convention will be held at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando. A ladies luncheon is planned for Saturday, May 28th. Attention Luncheon Committees, all information concerning the luncheon needs to be sent to Joan Fritz, 725 Park Ridge Circle, Port Orange, Fl. 32127, for insertion into the packets which will be distributed at the Feb. Quarterly. Sr. Delegates or their representative are requested to pick up all packets for their districts.

The theme for 2004-2005 is “Heart and Soul.” The color will be purple or any variation thereof.

Keep well and have a safe journey.

Lee Weigel

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Verne Jarvela, Member, G/L Public Relations Committee
Dear Elks:

2004 was a very productive year for our Major Project, Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Inc. The Elks program of free in home Physical and Occupational Therapy provided therapy to more than 500 children during the year. These free services where carried out by our 20 full time employed therapists.

More than 2,400 children have been treated since the program began on March 1, 1999. Our therapists have traveled over 2,000,000 miles to the homes of their patients using vans provided by the Florida Elks, Elks Lodges and Ladies Organizations. The therapeutic equipment used during these treatments has also been provided courtesy of Elk members. Without this support, it would not be possible to provide the level of care our therapists render. Elks support is offered in numerous ways, such as support of our Holiday Card program, donations to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, gifts in kind from Lodges, Ladies Organizations, gifts through Wills, and the all important volunteering of ones time.

Speaking of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, it is important to note that the fund provides nearly 100 per cent of the funds necessary to operate Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. The Trustees of the Trust Fund have recently instituted a recognition pin program for those who contribute to the fund. Please check with your Elks Lodge for details on how to be part of this program or call 1.800.523.1673 x230.

One of the highlights of my job is the opportunity to ride along with a therapist to the home of a patient to observe the treatment session. I can tell you that these young professionals represent the Elks in a most positive way. In addition to exhibiting great technical skills of their craft, they have a tremendous capacity for patience and compassion. This was never as evident as during the days and weeks following the devastating hurricanes, which affected almost all Floridians in some way.

I visited several of the therapists during this time and went with them to see some of those patients in what was left of their homes. In the most severe instances, the therapist provided families with gift cards to purchase vitally needed supplies such as food, water and gasoline. It was a humbling experience. All who received this help, wanted the Elks to know grateful they were.

During the past year, two of our therapists left the program to pursue other interests. We hired one replacement but we are still looking to hire a PT or OT to serve the Ocala area. If you know of a therapist with a desire to join our program please have them call 1.800.523.1673 ext 241.

A special note of thanks to Fore Media of Ocala for the generous donation of a billboard promoting the Florida Elks Major Projects. The billboard is located on highway 200 just west of downtown Ocala.

On behalf of our staff of caring professionals, we wish all you a happy and healthy 2005.

Ben S. Brown, Jr., Administrator

Donald Sansoussi

Endorsed FSEA President 2005-06

Donald Sansoussi was born February 3, 1939 in Boston Massachusetts. He was raised and educated in the small New England town of Hillsboro New Hampshire, with a population of approximately 3000.

Don served 20 years in the U.S. Air force as an electronic technician. He received an honorable discharge with the rank of technical sergeant E-6.

Don served the final 8 years of his Air Force career at Mac Dill Air Force Base in Tampa Florida. By this time his blood had thinned down and he decided Florida was going to be his home.

He moved his family to Lake Placid where he founded and operated a very successful television sales and service business for 28 years.

Don has made some wise decisions in his life and has been very successful, but he will tell you that the real beginning of his success story started when he married Gail Wilson from New Brunswick Canada on June 6, 1958.

They have one son Jeff and two granddaughters, Stephanie and Brittany. Their daughter-in-law Paula is a Florida girl from Panama City. Her dad also served 20 years in the military.

Don’s son Jeff followed in his dad’s footsteps. He served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force and is a charter member of Lake Placid Elks Lodge 2661.

Don also found time to serve his community. He was a member of the morning Rotary Club of Lake Placid for 22 years.

He served several terms on the Board of Directors and as President in 1988-1989.

Don also found time to serve 3 years on the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He was one of the original members of the town beautification committee.

His Elk career started in 1976 when he was initiated into Sebring Elks Lodge 1529. His potential was immediately recognized and he was asked to become an officer of the lodge. He served through the chairs of Sebring Lodge, becoming Exalted Ruler in 1982.

In 1983 Don became the founder of Lake Placid Lodge 2661 and was honored with serving as the first Exalted Ruler of the Lodge.

He served as District Vice President from 1984-1985, and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler from 1986-1987.

He served on many Lodge and District Committees. He served three terms as District Director of the Florida State Elks Association and also served as District Director of the Florida Elks Children hospital.

In 1998 he became the Museum Curator of the Florida State Elks Museum and served in that capacity until he was installed as Vice President at Large of the Florida State Elks Association in 2004.

Don has received many awards for his service to his Community, Lodge, District and State Association. He received an Honorary Life Member of Lake Placid Lodge in 1988. To date the only recipient of this award in his lodge.

Charles A. Trinowski, Jr.

Endorsed VPAL 2005-06

Charlie Trinowski was initiated into the Winter Park Elks Lodge No. 1830 on September 24, 1985.

Charlie began serving the Order as Tiler. He then proceeded to serve in every chair in the lodge until becoming Exalted Ruler for the year 1994-95. In his quest to become Exalted Ruler he served on numerous lodge committees and assisted in many lodge events. He has served as Secretary to the Board of Directors, Chairman of the Lodge By-law Committee, Lodge Induction Chair, President, Vice President and Secretary Treasurer for the Past Exalted Rulers Association.

In addition to serving his lodge, Charlie has served the District and State in various capacities. He has utilized his life long interest and employment in the field of child welfare to serve the District and State organization. He served as District Youth Activities Chairman for three years. Charlie has also served as Chaplain of the North Central District Past Exalted Rulers Association.

Charlie has served the Camp as Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Vice President of the Youth Camp Board of Directors, President of the Florida Elks Youth Camp and Chairman of the Board of Directors. Currently he is serving on the Operations Committee of the Florida Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors. Charlie was also on the Val Bates Convention Committee and chaired the Val Bates Youth Camp Fund Raiser. Charlie, and his wife Mary Ann, spend many hours of their own time visiting the camp to assist with the summer camp program and other events at the camp. During the year 1999-2000 Charlie served as District Vice-President, a nd as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2000-01.

Charlie Trinowski was born in Greenport, New York and lived in Riverhead, New York until 1979, when he and his wife Mary Ann moved to Florida. He attended Riverhead High School and received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Adelphi University Suffolk College. He has been a social worker involved with children for approximately 24 years. He was previously employed by the Suffolk County Department of Social Services as a social worker for 10 years when he resided in Riverhead, New York. Charlie is currently employed by the Florida Department of Children and Families as a Foster Care Case Manager in Sanford, Florida. He was also a Volunteer Fireman for 13 years when he resided on Long Island. Charlie and his wife Mary Ann currently live in Casselberry and have been married for 36 years. Mary Ann is also from Riverhead, New York and is retired from AT&T. They both enjoy cooking, fishing and golf.
“Can you hear me now?”

Can you hear me now has become a world renown phrase. Part of our magnificent camping experience is the fact that you can not hear me now.

Folks when they come to the Florida Elks Youth Camp give up some of the conveniences and revert back to the old days when we actually spoke to each other face to face. The special attention that each camper receives is part of the ‘camping experience’.

The Florida Elks Youth Camp is better than ever. A strong survivor of the hurricanes, we as Elks were here to serve and help those in need. As you might imagine, there were some cancellations of groups who had intended to be here in August and September.

After our massive clean up, we went back to our long term program of reforestation stronger than ever. Our Board of Directors is always forward looking and planning for future generations. We don’t see the immediate results from a lot of our labors, but smile from within knowing that thirty or forty years from now children will be laughing and playing in the shade that we have created.

In the next two years we will be creating the FEYC nature trail. As with all that we do, our design is planned to last for generations wherever possible. If there is a viable option between wood and concrete, we will wait until the funds are donated to make it last using the concrete.

Our plans for the nature trail are very extensive. A winding path that will experience dense forest, swamp, open plain, and rolling hills. Areas are being developed with feeders to hold our native wildlife, quite viewing areas will be developed, and reforestation will bring in all native trees to this area of Florida, a butterfly garden is in the plan, exercise stations for the hardy, and naturally rest areas with facilities. We are very excited our nature trail. Soon the Florida Trail Association will be holding their annual gathering our Camp and have offered their help with our trail design.

Summer Camp 2005 is shaping up to become the best ever. Each year we strive to improve our program. This year is no different. Our expectation is that registration will fill faster than ever before. Don’t delay on distributing applications within your Lodge. Remember that we are a private organization and not a public accommodation. Be proud to be involved and insure your Lodge sponsors children from you area. Each year we do receive some direct inquires from folks who can afford to send their children to camp. Those calls are always referred back to the Local.

Discuss our Summer Camp Program with your Officers and members at your meetings. Insure that when the phone is answered, your Lodge will have the correct information for the caller. Don’t make the children of your community the victims who could not attend camp because of misinformation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors we extend to every Elk a sincere thank you for you continued support of the FEYC Wish List. There are some very expensive, meaningful items on the list. Through your generosity the funds are available for some major upgrades to our Adventure Based Education Course (ROGES Course). Looking forward and remaining on the leading edge, we are the best and will soon become the example of perfection that everyone else will strive to reach. We will be the facility people visit to learn how to develop a camp and how to best utilize their money.

Once this becomes a reality in the near future we will truly be the very best camp of our type.

By the time you read this message, FEYC will have hosted sessions for the American Camping Association on accreditation. We will provide the facility for training visitors for inspections. They will look at our campus, our policies and procedures, our excellent risk management program, our record keeping, and our business plan. We are so proud to become the example for the industry. Every camp that is applying for initial accreditation or are due recertification this year will be in attendance. FEYC is proud to have two members who will be training to become qualified as visitors.

Our Camp is the best but we can only remain that way with the full support from all the Elks in Florida. Certainly we will continue to solicit money to support our Wish List but also your continue support of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The balance of the “full” support is the most important. You as Elks have built our outstanding campus and you as Elks will see that it is utilized. Build it and they will come was the foundation of our development as presented by Dr. Ryan. We have built and yes they are coming but there is room for more. The balance of your ‘full’ support is the sponsor of campers to summer camp, sponsoring groups from your community throughout the year that can benefit from our camping experience, and insuring that everyone within your Lodge jurisdiction knows about the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Members of your community should know what is available and how to contact us through your Lodge. Spread that good word to everyone in your community.

Our Summer Camp program requires some very special attention at your Lodge. Our promotions cross and Elk year and involve two sets of officers. One would believe that this would give us twice as many members promoting our project. Sometimes the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing. As your new officers are elected and awaiting installation, help them learn about the programs in progress. Insure that they know all the facts about Summer Camp. Make sure they know who has the applications for summer camp, how your members have voted to utilized their free camperships, the dates and the times and the contacts for camp.

Through a smooth transition you will be able to sponsor more children than every to summer camp. As an Exalted Ruler Elect, make one of your goals for the coming year to sponsor more children to camp that ever before. Remind your membership that we are certainly here for the fellowship but each Elk in their heart has a very special spot to help the children of Florida not only through our camping programs but also with Therapy Services. Make part of your acceptance speech a reminder to your entire membership that Florida Elks have a Youth Camp and we help kids.

The best way to rally support for our project is a visit to the camp. If you are driving through the area, call ahead and visit the camp.

Within your Lodge, organize a bus trip to the Camp. Visit and tour the facility. Have a luncheon at the camp. Once members have seen our campus they understand what we really do and what a camping experience can do. Our membership, after a visit, understands and is proud that we are the best.

Can you hear me now?

Carry with you throughout the year the spirit of our just past holiday season. Give to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund to help children in perpetuity.

SUMMER CAMP 2005

We are excited to announce the following dates for Summer Camp 2005.

There will be six camping sessions this year each lasting for six days.

It is a co-ed camp for children nine through 13 years of age.

Session 1 June 12 through June 18, 2005
Session 2 June 19 through June 25, 2005
Session 3 June 26 through July 2, 2004
Session 4 July 3 through July 9, 2005
Session 5 July 10 through July 16, 2005
Session 6 July 17 through July 23, 2005

FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP

Lynn Warburton, Director

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Through a smooth transition you will be able to sponsor more children than every to summer camp. As an Exalted Ruler Elect, make one of your goals for the coming year to sponsor more children to camp that ever before. Remind your membership that we are certainly here for the fellowship but each Elk in their heart has a very special spot to help the children of Florida not only through our camping programs but also with Therapy Services. Make part of your acceptance speech a reminder to your entire membership that Florida Elks have a Youth Camp and we help kids.

The best way to rally support for our project is a visit to the camp. If you are driving through the area, call ahead and visit the camp.

Within your Lodge, organize a bus trip to the Camp. Visit and tour the facility. Have a luncheon at the camp. Once members have seen our campus they understand what we really do and what a camping experience can do. Our membership, after a visit, understands and is proud that we are the best.

Can you hear me now?

Carry with you throughout the year the spirit of our just past holiday season. Give to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund to help children in perpetuity.

JOBS AVAILABLE SUMMER CAMP 2005 FLORDIA ELKS YOUTH CAMP COUNSELOR AND COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING POSITIONS

Positions are available for Summer Camp 2005 for Camp Counselors and Counselors-in-training. Employment is for seven weeks starting June 6th, 2005 and ending July 23rd, 2004. You must be available to work with entire period (with no exceptions).

We are very excited about our program for this summer. As in the past, we are sure the positions will fill very rapidly. Applications are available at our web site flelks.org or you may call the camp 800-523-1673 extension 232.

If you have a family member or know of someone who would like to work at the camp, please call him or her today. Each year, so many are disappointed because they apply to late.
The DDGER in the North District, David Nicholson from Marianna, has completed visits to all the lodges in the district. The district is now preparing to host State President Palladini’s visit, scheduled for January 21-23, to be hosted by Perry Lodge #1851. District Vice President Richard Cruse from Perry will welcome the State President and his entourage, and show them a great time for the weekend in the North District.

Lake City Lodge 893

Lake City Lodge had a clean up day on October 23, trimming trees, bushes, and sprucing up the yard around the building. Thank goodness for the volunteer hours given by five lodge members who came to give of their time. Later that evening, the lodge hosted a Halloween Costume and Dance Party. Prizes were given for the best costume and most original costume. Decorations were again contributed by volunteers, as well as food and desserts for the event.

The Lake City lodge was pleased to host the visit of North District DDGER David Nicholson on November 3rd. Members of other lodges in the district attended this visit to hear Dave’s message from the GER, and to witness four new members initiated into the lodge.

For its Memorial Service on Sunday, December 5th, the lodge was proud to feature celebrated Lake City flutist, Jenny Rowan, who played the musical tribute as part of the program.

Lake City Lodge conducts an annual Christmas Charities program, providing toys and goodies to over 300 area kids on Christmas Eve. In addition, the lodge prepares about 200 and 500 food baskets, with an additional 300 toys for community families. The annual toy night this year was December 10, when members were invited to bring in a new toy with a value of $10 or more, and receive a free dinner. Goodie bags and Christmas cheer will be delivered to the Veterans Nursing home and State Domiciliary on Saturday, December 18th. Food baskets to the needy families were assembled on December 23rd, and then delivered on Christmas Eve when the perishable food was added to each basket.

The lodge also has a new big screen television, donated by Secretary, Ski Wawrzynski. A big thank you to Ski for his generosity toward the lodge.

The New Years Eve Party and dance is being planned now, with tickets priced at only $10 per person. Early that evening, the lodge is serving its regular Friday night dinner, featuring a prime Rib dinner special.

Live Oak Lodge 1165

Live Oak Lodge was glad to host DDGER Dave Nicholson’s visit to the lodge on October 12th. The lodge always prepares a feast of catfish and fried chicken for the visiting Elks from the district.

The following week the lodge’s Americanism committee held a flag dedication at Surry Place, a local nursing home, and presented the home with an American flag. There are four veterans living in Surry Place. The Americanism committee also provided two American flags to the local elementary school.

In the monthly lodge newsletter, Live Oak has begun printing a list of members who have made a donation to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. It’s a great way to give recognition and thanks to those members who have been generous to the fund, and to encourage other members to get their name on the list of those who sent a few bucks to the Fund.

The Live Oak lodge continues to work on the veterans memorial. Seven flag posts are on order and should arrive in mid-December. Shrubs will need to be planted too.

The lodge is working on the annual Christmas package program for the VA hospital in Lake City. Volunteers from the lodge prepare these goodie packages through donations solicited from the members.

Right after the holidays, the local Hoop Shoot tournament is set for January 8th at Suwannee Middle School gym.

Madison Lodge 2205

Madison Lodge held its annual Law Enforcement Appreciation night on October 14th. The dinner was well attended, and featured PER Mike Littleton’s famous mojo barbequed chicken. Trustee Glendyle Littleton presented Certificates of Appreciation to the various law enforcement agencies.

The Madison lodge is proud to announce that Grace Prenkle is a new bartender, and Bonnie Bowen is now preparing food for the enjoyment of the lodge membership. The lodge complimented and thanked Donna Risoli for all her hard work in the lodge’s lounge and kitchen for the last few years.

The lodge conducted a Halloween Trick or Treat Party on Thursday, October 28th for the kids and grandkids of members. Costumes were encouraged, and all kids received a bag of goodies and prizes were awarded for the best costumes.

A Fall Frolic was held November 13th, and as part of that event, the lodge held a poster contest advertising the event. Kids between the ages of 6 and 12 were invited to participate in designing posters. Cash prizes for the best posters were awarded at the Halloween Party on October 28th.

Christmas with Santa occurred on Friday, December 3. Refreshments were served, and Santa gave gifts and goodies to all the kids who attended. Parents and grandparents were asked to bring a gift with their child’s name on it, so that each child was assured a gift from Santa.

Marianna Lodge 1516

Marianna’s lodge Secretary, Aaron Kohn, has relocated to Alabama and has resigned his position. Aaron has been Secretary for more than five years, and has performed way more than just secretarial duties. He has written and mailed the lodge’s newsletter; held district offices; and, helped out with lodge functions. The lodge and the North District will certainly miss Aaron and the many hours that Aaron and his wife gave as volunteers. Meanwhile, we welcome George Cone as the new Secretary, and wish him luck in taking on the task of that job.

DDGER Carl Sullivan orchestrated another Red Ribbon Week celebration between the Alabama and Florida Elks with its annual “Hands Across the Border ceremony at the Florida/Alabama state line on October 27. Sheriffs’ of both Jackson County (FL) and Houston County (AL) participated, as well as school representatives from both counties and 5th graders from Cottondale Elementary School. Both sheriffs as well as PER Shirley Robinson (Dothan, AL) addressed the audience. The national anthem was sung, and the pledge of allegiance was conducted.

DDGER Dave Nicholson had his homecoming to the Marianna Lodge on November 22nd.

The first round competition for Hoop Shoot was held December 11. Final rounds were held December 18 at the Marianna High School gym.

The lodge held its annual members only Christmas Party on December 11. Only current members and their spouses (or significant others) are invited. The band, Second Time Around, played for the crowd’s listening pleasure.

The lodge is busy planning its New Years Eve party, with the live Band, Zero Conspiracy. For this event, members and guests are invited. The end of the evening features a breakfast buffet.

Perry Lodge 1851

The North District Soccer Shoot was held at the Perry lodge on October 16th.

Perry Lodge sponsored its annual Forest Festival Dance on October 23, in conjunction with the Forest Festival held annually in Taylor County. The following week, the lodge held a Halloween party, with a Best Costume Contest.

Perry Lodge, with the help of its Lady Elks hosted a Halloween gala for about 250 youngsters, complete with games and exhibits for those in attendance. A similar event is being planned for Christmas. Speaking of youngsters, Boy Scout Troop 600, sponsored by Perry Lodge, recently honored a new Eagle Scout. Joshua L. Goodman was awarded his National Eagle Scout of America karchief and subscription to the National Association of Eagles Scouts by Perry’s ER, Kyle Jones.

After the ceremony, the ER presented the troop leader with a check in support of the troop and its worthy program.

A rummage sale was held November 6th to raise funds to help with lodge improvements. Members donated some wonderful items to be offered for sale.

Perry continues to offer Bingo on Monday evenings. The annual Bingo Thanksgiving dinner was held November 22nd, with the lodge providing roast turkey and dressing, and the Bingo players bringing covered dishes to share. It was a great feast, and was repeated for the Bingo Christmas dinner on December 13th.

Perry Lodge collected books for the veterans in Lake City VA hospital, and delivered them in time for Christmas. The lodge also established a Breakfast with Santa program this year, and filled up all the spaces at the breakfast table with kids. The program proved to be so popular, the lodge plans to expand it for next year.

A New Years Eve dance was held beginning at 9 pm, serving tasty finger food, followed with champagne at midnight. With the great band, and the great group of Elks attending, it was a great time. Many New Years resolutions were made. One of those resolutions by the lodge is to hold a Maine lobsterfest in February. Of course, steak is planned for those non-seafood eaters.

The Perry Lodge continues with its renovations, including painting and a little more updating in the bathrooms. These items will be complete by the time of the State President’s visit.

Tallahassee Lodge 937

Tallahassee Lodge held a Halloween Party on October 29th, and hosted a costume contest. Many of the costumes were unique and brought many a chuckle to those attending the party. Special congratulations go to the winner of the contest, “Charlene”, a/k/a Chuck Turner, who swooned many before he spoke and we realized she was a he.

In continuing the celebration of Tallahassee Lodge’s Centennial, the lodge conducted a Centennial Ball and dance on November 6th. The event was black tie, and cocktail prices were 10 cents for beer, 15 cents for wine, and 25 cent cocktails – 1904 prices!! About a hundred persons attended, and the waiters/waitress crew were the Exalted Rulers from Live Oak and Madison, and other officers from Live Oak. The program included quips from lodge minutes by the decade, beginning in the first decade of 1900, when the lodge was formed. It was a
The members of the East Central District gathered at the New Smyrna Beach Lodge, on Saturday, October 20th, to pay their respects to Past State President George Dominiani and his wife Ada. George passed the torch of District Sponsor to the East Central District earlier this year to Past State President Michael Phillips.

The event was put on by the East Central District PER Association, and The Master of Ceremonies for the occasion was PSP Phillips. Also on hand were Past State President Frank Palladini and his wife Ebba Jean, PSP James Coggins and his wife Sonja, PSP Phillips wife Cathy, DDGER Joe B. Rogers, District VP Stanley Susay and his wife Mary, and many other dignitaries from around the state, as well as those from our district.

A fabulous dinner prepared by the New Smyrna Beach members was served by members of the PER Association under the guise of the State President’s Visititation. PSP Dominiani and his wife were presented with a ‘Cruise for Two’, which was funded by the members present, many who sent in contributions, and the East Central District PER Association. Also, George and Ada were given a huge, 3’ x 4’ hard that was signed by all those who contributed to the event. The card was designed and made by Sharon Hill of the DeLand Lodge.

It was truly a great evening and on behalf of the East Central District PER Association, I wish to thank all those who attended and lent their support, and a special thanks to the PER’s that took time from their evening to be waiters, and serve the meals.

DeLand Lodge 1463

As hurricane season finally closed we drew a collective sigh of relief and thanked God that we were still here and we could repair the damages. On Sunday, October 17th, the twice postponed DeLand Elk’s Charity Golf Tournament finally took place. Mother Nature made the waiting worthwhile and provided us with an outstanding day for golf. Eighty two golfers put their skills to the test and a great time was had by all. Tournament Chairman, Tom Pollard had a great supporting cast of helpers to make this event a success. Many thanks go out to Joe Marmo, Ed & Carol Madigan, Joe Brown, Dean Yeager, Jake Aleman, Phil Watercutter, Matt Pieper, Larry Webber, Tina Pollard, Felicia Reber, Sharon Hill, Amy Cheney and Bernie Korwes. After the golf, all players came to the lodge for a superb luncheon prepared by Matt Pieper, Mark & Barbara Thompson, Christian Scherr, and Bob Sari. Trophies and prizes were awarded to the winners in each division, but the real winner was our charities as we raised some $4000.00 on this day.

In addition to our monthly bingo night at the VA retirement home in Daytona Beach, members of the lodge grilled burgers for the residents on Saturday November 27th, Entertainer Banjo Bob and his band also descended upon the Veteran’s home in Daytona Beach providing great down home entertainment for approximately 140 residents and 20 staff. A wonderful time was had by all. Kudos to Joe Marmo and Ed Madigan for heading this event.

Heading into the holidays we have taken the time to reflect on the past year and remember the members who have gone on before us. We look forward to the year to come and the fellowship it will bring to us all.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

Boys and girls 20° bicycles were presented to the Ormond Beach Elementary and Tomoka Elementary schools in Ormond Beach by the lodge. The bikes, at the discretion of each of the schools guidance departments were to be given to an exceptionally deserving youngster during the Christmas holiday. The bicycles were unselfishly donated by an anonymous Lodge member. Bless you.

The Lodge held its annual Christmas party for children and grandchildren of members on Saturday, December 18th. As has been the Lodge’s custom for over twenty years, over 100 deserving youngsters from throughout the community were invited and attended. All were treated to lunch, treats, and sodas. Then a moment on Santa’s knee, a gift, and a Polaroid photograph. Entertainment included Christmas music, a clown, a petting zoo, and pony rides. A great time was had by all.

The Lodge’s Drug Awareness Committee distributed 140,000 pieces of drug awareness material during this years observance of Red Ribbon Week. This year 17 area schools and nearly 20,000 youngsters were included. The Lodge supplied 20,000 red ribbon week stickers, and is grateful to National Drug Awareness Director, Kent Gades, who was instrumental in helping the Lodge procure the large amount of material that was supplied through the Elks National Foundation. The bulk of that material included various pamphlets, bookmarks, and coloring books, all aimed at deterring the use of drugs and alcohol by our community’s young people.

The Lodge has distributed this year’s Americanism essay contest materials to seven grade schools and three middle schools. In addition to the savings bonds that will be awarded by the Florida State Elks Assn., the Lodge will be presenting a $50 bond to our local winner in each category. This year’s topic is: “What Does Old Glory Mean To Me.”

Titusville Lodge 2113

We have a number of activities to report that have taken place, are ongoing, and many of which will continue into next year. Below is a summary of some of the activities the Titusville Lodge is involved in:

On December 3rd we held our Annual Youth Camp Dance. Over 160 people showed up for this very worthy cause with many others mailing in donations. For those who came, they participated not only making their donations on the way in, but also participating in a Chinese Auction. Later in the evening, lead by our Past State President, Mike Phillips, a jug was placed on the stage in front of where Mike was singing and one by one attendees came up to the stage and dropped money into the jug, mostly $20’s, which resulted in an extra $265 being collected in about a 5 minute period. The outpouring of generosity by the large crowd was most heartwarming and will provide a place for at least 10 children at the camp. Another member, hearing about the event came forward a few days later and donated cash to send an additional 4 children to the camp.

The Titusville Lodge also has a singing group of 4 people led by Sam Haddad, that every month to 2 Assisted Living Centers in Titusville to sing for the elderly. We found sing-a-long music from the 1930’s-1940’s era and perform those songs for the residents of the two facilities. The amazing thing that happens at both places every month is when the residents, who are usually very quiet, yet appreciative, start singing along with us, at the top of their voices. By the time we finish the room full of smiling, cheerful faces, many of whom approach us as we’re closing up and thank us for coming. Last week they threw a Christmas Dinner at one of the facilities and the whole group was invited as their special guests. All in all we contribute approximately 200 hours per year to this cause but the affection we get in return is priceless!!

We also have one of our Trustee’s who is also a PER that participates on the Flag and Memorial Committee for the City of Titusville. He represents the Elks Lodge and also does the flyers that are handed out at the Astronaut Memorial and the Flag Day Memorial ceremonies. In addition, Barbara McGillicuddy, one of our lady Elks and also a member of the singing group mentioned above, donates her time and talents by singing inspirational and patriotic songs for both of these events.

Also, we have a past officer, Mr. Jim Harnish, who is involved with many community causes on behalf of Titusville Lodge 2113. 1) Adopt-A-Highway program - Performed for the State Department of Transportation by Lodge 2113. They pick up trash on both sides of highway 405 from Rt. 50 to Rt. 407 on a quarterly basis. (2) He volunteers to do fingerprinting for Titusville Police Department. (3) He is also The Chapter Service Officer (CSO) for the Titusville, Florida Disabled American Veterans Chapter 109. The CSO is an integral part of the services provided to veterans by Titusville, Florida Disabled American Veterans Chapter 109. The Service Officer provides one of the most important links in the organization. The CSO is responsible for gathering information to assist in the obtaining the benefits and services available to veterans, their dependents and survivors. The primary function of the CSO is to advise and instruct claimants and to forward all pertinent claims communications to the DAV National Service Office of Jurisdiction. To perform these actions the CSO must be thoroughly knowledgeable of the many varied report forms utilized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Each year, the Service Officer attends a week long, out-of-town, course of instruction sponsored by the DAV and DVA to ensure that he is well informed of changes in the DVA requirements and regulations. The Service Officer of Chapter 109 stands ready to assist all honorably discharged veterans, dependents and their surviving family members. Appointments are not necessary just contact the Chapter to determine what days and time frame the Service Officer is available. Finally Lodge 2113 Veteran Service Committee Chairman ensures that all required veteran service reports are forwarded to the Elks National Veterans Service Office. The Chairman also has responsibility in planning and activating veteran activities in the Lodge, such as, veteran dinners, issuance of Blue Star Flags, writing and providing to the HEARD, monthly articles of veteran’s interest, etc.

Deltona Lodge 2739

Our Lodge would like to thank the DeLand Lodge 1463 for extending an open hand to us and allowing us to use their building for our meetings and functions. With the help of many of the officers of the DeLand lodge we were able to move out of our old building. We have raised money through raffle sales at the DeLand Lodge for our Charities. Once again this year Rick Phelp’s “SOCK IT TO ME” program raised over 500 pairs of socks and 21 lap blankets for our veterans. On December 22 the Deltona Elks went to E. L. Bennett Veterans Nursing Home. We sang Christmas carols and passed out socks and blankets to the veterans. A good time was had by all.
Lodges of the
SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

By Joy A. Booth, E.R.
Okeechobee Lodge 2558

The District Deputy, Sean Maguire and the District VP Donna Proctor came to the Lodge on Thursday, December 9th to inspect the Lodge and see the rendition of the Ritual.

Barbara has been in the hospital twice since the hurricanes with a back problem. She is feeling better, but still not able to return to work. Get better, Barbara.

Clewiston Lodge 1853
The Lodge held a toy drive for the needy children in the area. The Annual Lodge Hoop shoot was held Dec. 4th at the Clewiston Middle School gym. ER Sutt Austin reports that plans are underway for pool and poker tournaments and the New Year’s Dinner and Dance.

Lantana/ Boynton Lodge 2676
Due to declining interest and lack of finances, the membership voted to try to sell the Lodge Building and either find a less expensive place to buy or rent or to keep our charter find a place to have our monthly meetings. Many people have worked long and hard to keep the Lodge going but we have gotten NO support from the members.

Even in the situation we are in, the lodge has been open and continuing to do our scheduled program. We had a blood drive and gave over 10 pints of blood, thanks to Joannie Carlson, Inner Guard for her help.

Our rendition of the Ritual was held Dec. 1st. And everyone in attendance from the DD to VP can tell you it was most “enjoyable”. Let’s just say we left them laughing, including Lowell Tyler who had just come out of head surgery. (Nothing serious)

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352
Lowell Tyler reports that the Lodge will be hosting the DD, Sean Maguire, and VP Donna Proctor’s home-coming on Saturday January 15th. Music will be provided by Rene Casey with the dinner being surf and turf.

Two major fund raisers are coming up. On January 29th, Johnny DeRose will appear as “Elvis” at the Annual Harry Anna Benefit Dinner/Dance. On February 27th Johnny and the Heartbreaks return for the Annual Make A Wish Foundation Benefit which traditionally raises between $7,000 and $8,000.

Construction of 500 homes to the rear of the Lodge is progressing and in conjunction with this the Lodge will soon be hooked up to the County Sewer System.

The Elks lodge sign at the front of the building was damaged by the hurricanes and is in the process of repairs being made by Paul C. Kuhnen and Kitty Waldron, the lodge’s artist in residence. Kitty recently present the lodge secretary with a beautiful portrait. Paul has been doing work around the lodge and sprucing it up. The Sac Pac continues to keep the lodge looking good inside while the grounds crew are always making the outside presentable, an extra effort after the hurricanes.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT NEWS

Cindee Griesel-Wade

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892 has had a very busy “hurricane” and holiday Season. The Lodge did sustain some damage from the storms, Woody Weltzbarker and crew are working on repairs.

The Lodge delivered food baskets and other needed articles to needy families at Thanksgiving.

Gainesville Lodge 990 held homecoming for District VP Dennis Squires. The food and entertainment were excellent. Members of District Lodges, that had not recently visited Gainesville were extremely impressed with all of their renovations.

ER John Everson has kicked off a 60 day membership drive and contest. The member who proposes and has accepted the most new members in January and February gets his/her dues paid for the next year. What a great idea! They hope to see great results and a big increase in membership!

The Lodge held a Christmas Party for the Children and Grandchildren of Lodge Members. Santa was there with gifts for all! Hamburgers and hotdogs were also ready for the kids to enjoy. A great time was had by all, but mostly by Santa himself.

Jacksonville Lodge 221 has a new Flag Pole in front of their Lodge by Bill Steele and Doug Alger.

The Lodge held a very successful Oyster Roast in November. These fund raising events help to support their charities.

The Lodge Members rang in the New Year “beach style” with a Luau. All who attended had a great time.

Orange Park Lodge 2605 held a Christmas Party at the VA Domiciliary in Lake City. A large group participated in the visit. Pizza and soda were served and the Ladies presented Christmas gifts and Holiday Goodies to the Vets.

The Lodge held their Annual Hoop Soot Contest in November. The winners will advance to the District Contest to be held in Jacksonville in January. Dan Musielak was the chairman for this committee and had support from many members of the Lodge.

The Lodge celebrated their 25th Anniversary in December. All in attendance shared good food and good memories.

St. Augustine Lodge 829 fed our service personnel and their families during PAL Day. The Lodge served hot dogs, chips, slaw, drinks and desert to all of the Service Personnel who visited St. Augustine to take in the sights.

On this day, all attractions in St. Augustine are free to members of our Armed Forces and their families.

A Christmas Party was held for the Adult Retarded Citizens of St. Augustine. 100 of our Special Friends attended to see Santa, receive gifts, eat pizza, and dance to the music of Dave and Karen. Thanks to Mike and Donna Halle for coordinating this event.

38 Children and Grandchildren of Elks attended a Christmas Party at the Lodge. Santa arrived with gifts for all the Children. Hotdogs, chips and Christmas Cookies were served.

In honor of our Veterans a Stand-Down was held at the St. Augustine Lodge. Many local groups, from lions Club, Work Source, Health Department, VFW, American Legion and the Homeless Coalition were involved. Eligible vets were signed up for VA Benefits. A quick health screening was done as well as vision screening. Podiatrists were on hand to do foot examinations. Showers, clean clothes and new socks were given to all who needed them. It was truly an amazing day and will be an annual event for the Lodge. Thanks to Heather Andrews who coordinated this event!

CHARITY - - - JUSTICE - - -
BROTHERLY LOVE - - -
AND FIDELITY.
Pompano Beach Lodge 1898

Lodge Veterans Affairs traveled to West Palm Beach VA Hospital to deliver 95 lap robes and 95 Christmas gift bags, containing underwear, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pens, paper and other miscellaneous items. Also numerous boxes of books and other donated items were also distributed to our veterans. December is always a special Christmas visit, but the veterans make monthly visits to the hospital all year. In addition to the VA hospital, 12 complete turkey dinners at Thanksgiving and 10 canned hams for Christmas were given to the VA Outreach program.

Pompano Beach Lodge distributed 40 Thanksgiving dinners to the needy and at Christmas 34 full ham dinners were also distributed, as well as the 10 canned hams donated to the Veterans Outreach Center.

Toys for each child in 5 Day Care Centers, for a total of over 150 children, plus 10 tricycles and 4 bicycles were also delivered, along with wrapping paper and trimmings. This is done every holiday and many churches were also given food.

This year, he has fed over 1500 people, brought in non-cash donations to them of food, clothing, and personal hygiene supplies in the amount of $2435 plus cash donations from the Lodge and individuals totaling $3772.00.

The Hoop Shoot competition saw a total of 35 kids this year with some very good shooters. The Ladies, Lodge and PERS working together adopted 50 families of the Pink Citrus Challenge on November 6th to raise money for charity. The Ladies, Lodge and PERS working together adopted 50 families of the Pink Citrus Mobile Home Park in Bokeelia, which was devastated by hurricane Charley. The boxes delivered contained turkeys, food and other goods.

Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781

With many repairs still to be done, the Lodge opened, after Charley, on October 8th. The Lodge resumed normal operations on November 1st.

Greater Pine Island conducted its Michael English Golf Challenge on November 6th to raise money for charity.

The veterans committee continues to provide meals for the homeless veterans as well as packaging clothing and canned goods for local agencies and to be sent to Bay Pines Veterans Hospital.

Lehigh Acres Lodge 2602

Golf between storms, Lehigh Acres finally got their 8th Annual Golf tournament completed, in between the storms. 87 players showed up and the event raised more than $400 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Lehigh Acres celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a ball on November 13th. It was a tremendous success, the men...so neatly dressed. in tuxedos, were, as always outdone by the ladies dressed in their finest.

The Ladies made a donation to the Lodge as well as conducting a very profitable Christmas Bazaar.

Shown with Veteran Ray Kowal, center, in the West Palm Beach VA Hospital from left, Santa, Pompano Beach Elks Larry Pecerna, Andy Buglione, George Carney, Jack Smith and Bob Paylay.

South Southwest District

Cape Coral Lodge 2596

The Ladies organization donated $1000 to the Salvation Army Disaster Relief Fund and $500 to the Visually Impaired Angels Flight Program. Their continuing fund raisers included a Bazaar in October and a Fashion Show in November.

The Lodge held a two day Oktoberfest on the 1st and 2nd which was very successful. The Veterans Dance held on November 20th was quite an event with the Ballroom decorated to salute Veterans and the ceiling above the dance floor decorated with uniforms of the Armed Forces from many different eras.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763

Deep Creek continues with repairs following hurricane Charley. The lounge is open, but the restaurant continues to be worked on.

Englewood Lodge 2378

Englewood held their Annual Hoop Shoot Contest at Lemon Bay High School on November 6th with participation from Englewood and Myakka River Elementary Schools.

The Does decorated and rode on the Elks float for the Englewood Pioneer Days Parade. On November 11th the Lodge held its annual Veterans Day Dinner Dance with all proceeds going to the Bay Pines VA Hospital and the Douglas Jacobson Veteran’s Nursing Home in Port Charlotte.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288

National Veterans Service Chairman Warren Manhardt of the Ft. Myers, FL. Lodge #1288 represents the Lodge twice monthly in a weekly feed the homeless and Veterans support program at a local church. Hot food is prepared, by him, at the Lodge and transported to the church.

This year, he has fed over 1500 people, brought in non-cash donations to them of food, clothing, and personal hygiene supplies in the amount of $2435 plus cash donations from the Lodge and individuals totaling $3772.00.

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North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

Members of the Lodge organized a Halloween Party at the Pine Manor Community Center in Fort Myers for about 50 children. Each child was given a book or game, candy, stuffed Halloween toys, and lots of food.

The Lodge delivered 50 Thanksgiving Baskets to families in the area. On a sad note, Tom Cleary passed away. Tom was the backbone behind the veterans programs in the SSW District for many years. His dedication and inspiration will be missed.

SSE District Continued Page 18

South Southwest District

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

Members of the Lodge organized a Halloween Party at the Pine Manor Community Center in Fort Myers for about 50 children. Each child was given a book or game, candy, stuffed Halloween toys, and lots of food.

The Lodge delivered 50 Thanksgiving Baskets to families in the area. On a sad note, Tom Cleary passed away. Tom was the backbone behind the veterans programs in the SSW District for many years. His dedication and inspiration will be missed.

North Fort Myers hosted Florida State Elks President Frank Palladini and his wife Ebba Jean on November 20th. The weekend included a welcome reception at the Ramada Riverfront, Friday Fish Dinner at Fort Myers Lodge 1288, a tour of Babcock Wilderness and caped of with dinner on Saturday at North Fort Myers.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

Port Charlotte continues to work toward getting into their new facilities. As of this writing they have moved the offices into the new building and the old phone numbers work once again. They plan to hold their first meeting in the new facility in January.

Punta Golda Lodge 2606

After lots of hard work the lounge reopened on October 24th with the restaurant following with limited service on November 1st. Operations are back to normal now, although some roof work remains. The cabins are still full of members who lost their homes and need housing.

The bartenders organized a tribute to David Parker, the past general manager and fellow Elks, who has terminal cancer. The event held on November 14th raised over $11,000. In

SSW District continued page 11
FLORIDA STATE SOCCER SHOOT FINALS

Florida Soccer Shoot finals were held in the Grafton Center on Nov. 6, 2004. State Chairman Brian Brantley had ten assistants helping run the 30 minute delayed kicking contest due to some missed communication with regional chairman. The start time was delayed in hopes the missing contestants would arrive. A total of 30 contestants competed.

THE WINNERS

Andrew Greenwood
Under 13 boy
High shooter-26 points

Emily Cremisio
Under 13 Girl
High shooter-23 points

Garrett George
Under 12 Boy

Sarah Howell
Under 12 Girl

Michael Cox
Under 10 Boy

Natalie Smith
Under 10 Girl

Patrick O’Shea
Under 8 Boy

Isabel Borjon
Under 8 Girl

The 25th Annual Florida ELKS State Golf Tourney

The Silver Anniversary Florida Elks State Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, April 2nd and Sunday, April 3rd, 2005 at the Spring Lake Golf Resort.

The tournament is open to all Elks and their guests. Ladies are also encouraged to participate. The tournament will be a four person scramble. Teams will be flighted after Saturday round.

Awards will be presented as follows:– Low Gross - 1st & 2nd place in flights A thru F The first 288 entries received prior to March 15th will be accepted and processed in the order received. Late entries will be accepted, placed on file and processed if opening occurs. NOTE: Last year, 288 entries were received by the 1st week in February.

Entries will be received and accepted only as follows:

Each player’s name with check totaling $100 per person. The tournament fee includes: Two days of golf with cart. Saturday Banquet, Sunday Lunch, a golf cap and team photo.

Mail entries and direct questions to: Marvin Mauer, 5 Austin Dr., Lake Placid, FL 33852, 863-699-6884

Florida Elks State Bowling Tournament

The State Bowling Tournament will be hosted by Lake Placid Lodge 2661 this year.

The tournament will be open to all Elks, wives of Elks and Widows of Elks. This promises to be two fun weekends as the Lodge is planning an event each Saturday to keep everyone entertained, so mark your calendars for the weekend of your choice.

Dates are April 9th & 10th or April 16th & 17th.

Packets will be mailed to each Lodge soon.

For early information contact John Russo at 863-699-2549.
ELKS PROTECT MEMBERS
On Dec. 8th, 2004, 35 members of Largo Elks 2159 met at their Lodge with four members of the Largo Fire Department who demonstrated CPR and use of the Elks Lodge newly purchased heart defibrillator. The Fire Department members used doll manikins to demonstrate both heart treatments and ten of the members were certified to administer the defibrillator and CPR treatment during that meeting. Additional training will be held again at the Lodge at a later date and the defibrillator will be kept on hand at the Lodge for any future life-saving emergency. Largo Lodge 2159

Largo Lodge had an exciting day with our six volunteers and two convertibles, decorating our cars with streamers, balloons, flowers and the like, for the parade and heading for the staging area in the early afternoon. On route, the two cars tossed candy and remaining drug awareness items to the throngs of anxious children lining the route which was about a mile long. Although, we ran short on items, we continued giving out brochures and coloring books and even our decorated balloons. Since this was another first for our Lodge, we hope that this will become an annual event for us.

Take a look at the image of the parade driver Jim Grisson, Trustee, rear seat, Jackie Homer, PR, Jan Rogers, Youth Activities, Nikki Millot, member relative.}

NORTH DISTRICT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

fabulous party, and everyone attending experienced a night to remember. In attendance that night was a member who has just reinstated, Benson Skelton. Benson was a member in the 1940s and dropped out in the mid-1960s. Mr. Skelton, like the Tallahassee Lodge, celebrated his 100th birthday in November. As a side note, the local newspaper, the Tallahassee Democrat, did a feature article on Mr. Skelton in November, noting his sharp memory, excellent hearing, and his interest in civic boosterism.

Also in November, we had a visit to our lodge by DDGER David Nicholson. There was a big crowd of visitors to our lodge that night due to the active lodge visitation program we have in the North District.

The Tallahassee Lodge has a tradition of serving raw oysters on the half shell (we will steam them if preferred) on Saturdays in the lounge. There was some bacterial contamination threat in November, when we began, so oysters were discontinued. The Apalachicola Bay seems to have cleansed itself, so oysters are once again available, and should remain available through at least March and perhaps into April.

A Veterans Day program was held November 11th at the lodge, commemorating those veterans who have served and those who are serving our country. A complimentary meal was provided to veterans, and the public was invited to attend. Between 60 and 70 persons attended.

A long standing Memorial Day tradition of Tallahassee Lodge 150 live poinsettias were sent to widows of Elks. This year the poinsettias were especially full of blooms. Then on Sunday, December 19th, the lodge held its annual Kids Christmas Party with Santa, and, followed that later in the early evening with our annual members’ Egg Nog Party. Both events had larger crowds than we recalled from last year. Also on the 4th, the lodge assisted in hosting Sergeant Majors Helping Hands annual charity barbecue and auction. Sgt. Majors is a local event that raises money to help in the fight against cancer. The lodge was proud to be an active participant again this year.

On October 23, 2004, Largo Lodge set up a booth at the Fall Festival sponsored by the City of Largo, Florida. The purpose of the booth was to promote the Lodge’s drug awareness program aimed at students and adults alike. Along with the literature on drugs, the Lodge participants offered the public “red ribbons”, pencils, rulers, and balsa gliders, coloring books with crayons and candy. Additionally, John Bauer, enthusiasm-drivenly promoted the Children’s Therapy Services and the Youth Camp at Umatilla. Many Elks and local citizens stopped by to say hello and appreciated the efforts of Largo Lodge 2159.

The very next week on November 10th the Lodge provided a complimentary spaghetti dinner, with the theme of “If you enjoy your freedom, thank a Veteran” to all members of the Lodge who are Veterans and their families and/or families who have someone currently serving in the Armed Forces. Exalted Ruler, Rick Butcher, thanked the Veterans and their families for their service to our Country and for our freedom because of them. The Lodge presented each Veteran and/or family member with an Honoring Those Who Served lapel pin purchase from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.

HOLIDAY ISLES LODGE 1912
Madeira Beach Middle School and Holiday Isles Elks’ Lodge 1912 joined to celebrate Red Ribbon Week

Holiday Isles Elk Lodge donated 1600 red ribbons to Madeira Beach Middle School. Each student and faculty wore the Red Ribbons during the Drug Awareness week, October 18th - 22nd, many special events are planned including poster and essay contests

Ready to leave for the parade’ driver Jim Grisson, Trustee, rear seat, Jackie Homer, PR, Jan Rogers, Youth Activities, Nikki Millot, member relative.

Largo Drug Awareness Chairman John Bauer at the booth for drug awareness.

Tarpon Springs Elks Lodge 1719
Denise Lemon, Secretary reports that on Saturday, November 6th, 17 members of the Tarpon Springs Elks Lodge 1179 loaded up food and cooking supplies and headed to the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital Nursing Home to prepare and serve a picnic lunch to the veterans and staff. We served hot dogs and hamburgers, lemonade, cole slaw, baked beans and member, Lynn Pvoir’s “Famous Chili”, to 100 Veterans and staffers. The Veterans at Bay Pines are always very grateful to the Elks of Tarpon Springs for taking the time to remember them.

Front row left to right: Faith Roddy, Elks Drug Awareness Coordinator, Hannah Lowe, 7th Grader, Audrey Morgan, Exalted Ruler. Back row, left to right: Brett Volland, Teacher Brenda Poff, Principal.

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SW District continued
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Winter Park Eagle Scouts

L-R; Michael Thompson, Tory Savona, Lodge Community Affairs Chairman Ken Baker, Amadeo Belloti, Spencer Trickler and Mathew Pressley.

The children of the community were the recipients of the toys collected by the lodge and distributed by the Marine Corps Reserves in the Toys for Tots program.

The Lodge collects money from activities throughout the year, ending with a day of Santa Claus greeting people that come in with donations and enjoying a complimentary meal. Bicycles and toys purchased by the committee are added to the donations that go to making a child happy at Christmas.

Dick Knapp made the Toys for Tots train that was put up on the Lodge’s marquee to bring attention to the community that we are a drop off site. Also, two students from Trinity Prep School brought in over 100 toys showing true community involvement. Chairman Conrad McAllister credits the many involved members and the community for donations valued well over $10,000.00. This program reaffirms that “Elks Care and Elks Share.”

Silver Springs Shores Elks 2730

Lodge members participated in ringing the bell for the Salvation Army on November 29th and December 3rd and December 9th. PER Bruce Henry had a boombox there with a mike and sang and played Christmas songs all day. They all had a great time and raised a lot of money.

The Lodge also had a benefit for a local family. A goodly sum was raised to help the family through a trying time, after the mother and son do a Kidney transplant. I might add the North Central District as a whole chipped in a nice sum also. The family was very grateful to all the Elks. Elks Care - Elks Share.

Winter Garden Lodge 2165

After hurricane Charlie, Exalted Ruler Russ Pelaquin and his wife Susie along with his officers and other Elks, went to Punta Gorda Elks Lodge 2606 to help. Winter Garden Elks brought Food and Ice. When Winter Garden Elks arrived they rolled up their sleeves and began to help inside and outside the Lodge with the clean up.

Exalted Ruler Tyrone Mac Kenzie said: “I never felt more pride and a sense of togetherness than I did that day. Winter Garden Elks will always hold a special place in the hearts of all the Punta Gorda Elks. Brotherly Love and Charity was in full bloom that day.”

Lady Lake Lodge 2793

Exalted Ruler Russ Pelaquin invited Lady Lake Lodge and Exalted Ruler David Reylea to come and hold a Turkey shoot at their Lodge. With the help from Winter Garden Elks and the co-operation of Lady Lake Elks, the cool weather and the little rain did not stop the shooters. The Turkey Shoot was a great success and all process went to the Lady Lake Building Food.

NC District Continued next page
Cocoa Beach Lodge 2387
Members delivered 12 Thanksgiving Baskets to needy families and in December will donate 12 Christmas baskets along with gifts for the children. Members have already donated over $900 towards the gifts.
Sue Kinahan is holding her annual Christmas Craft Class with the children. They make ornaments and Christmas gifts for their families. Sue is also working with the elementary school kids on the Drug Awareness poster contest.

The ladies held their Annual Fashion show and Rummage sale in November. The money raised will be used to purchase gifts for needy children at Christmas.
The Lodge has voted to payoff the mortgage on the building purchased in 2000. We have already started renovations as this will double the size of our Lodge.

Cocoa Lodge 1532
During the last quarter, the members of Cocoa Lodge have moved forward to make the necessary repairs to the Lodge caused by this hurricane season and to continue their commitment to the community.
The 8th Annual Bill & John, Sr. Fletcher Softball tournament, held in October, proved to be a successful event. For the past eight years this event has provided funds to the Florida Elks Youth Camp through the proceeds received from the tournament.
Members of the Lodge have provided drug awareness programs, on a weekly basis, throughout the community and will continue to meet with representatives at local community centers to assist with their needs. Contributions to civic organizations and the local High Schools have provided a source of income for organizations to continue programs that other wise would not be available.

This year a member of the Lodge donated their time and financial support to help provide a Thanksgiving dinner for one of the senior groups in the community. Cocoa Lodge has made a commitment to work in the community to show that ‘ELKS CARE AND ELKS SHARE’.

Fort Pierce Lodge 1520
October 30th was our Halloween dinner and party for the best costume, weidest costume and the most original. Dinner was Chicken Cordon BOO with monster mashed potatoes and vegetables grown right here in the graveyard. Attendance was not up to pat as many of our members were still recovering from the hurricanes.

Our Annual Thanksgiving dinner was held on November 25th from noon to 5PM. We served 232 turkey dinners including pumpkin pie for dessert and music for the after dinner dancers.
Saturday, November 27th we had a variety show and dinner. All of the performers in the show were volunteers hoping to have a good time while doing their best to please the audience. We served 136 dinners and all the proceeds, approximately $2000. Went to our scholarship fund.

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658
Port St. Lucie Lodge is back to normal after the visit of our “unwelcome guests” Frances and Jeanie. During October we held our “sellout” Octoberfest Party with a show put on by our own German Dancers attired in lederhosen. We also held our Halloween Party with many of the attendees in costumes.
On November 6th the Lodge hosted the Homecoming Visitaton of District Deputy, Grand Exalted Ruler Augustus J. Simonelli and his wife Arlene. Past State President Merle Sebald and Southeast Central District VP James “JJ” Johnson and numerous dignitaries and delegations from SEC Lodges were in attendance. Our Officers and 108 members and their guests were also there to honor Gus for his dedicated and hard work behalf of the Order, the District, and our Lodge.

In November we also held our popular monthly “Candlelight Dinner” with 250 people in attendance. This affair is prepared and cooked by our House Chairman Ed Izzo, his wife Jeanette and Americanism Chairman Gary Hughes. Over 200 people attended our traditional “THANKSGIVING DINNER” with Leading Knight Alice Manos reporting that she gave out 12 “THANKSGIVING BASKETS” to the needy.

Jimmy Finn continues to do a great job as Chairman of our Friday Night Charity Bingo with the proceeds earmarked for Harry Anna Ball and Americanism. Our Sunday DARE breakfasts are doing well with proceeds going to PSL Police DARE program.

We are now getting “in tune” for the December holidays with decorating, eggnog parties and a Special Christmas Party Dinner and a Gala New Year’s Eve Party.

Sebastian Lodge 2714
After devastating hurricane damage the Sebastian Lodge is almost completely renovated and a normal schedule has resumed. The smokers are now enjoying the outdoor smoking area, which was completed shortly before the storms.
On December 4, the Eldoes held the first social function, a Christmas Dinner Dance. Attendance was great and it was a wonderful way to reopen our Lodge. On Sunday, the Memorial service to remember our absent members was held.

Bingo, long awaited by the Bingo players, resumed Wednesday afternoon, December 8 and Thursday evening, December 9.

Plans are in the works for a New Year celebration and the Harry Anna Ball on January 29. It’s great to be back in business.

Viera Lodge 1774
Our annual golf tournament, co chaired by Bob Coker, PER and John Gallagher, was held on December 5, 2004 to raise money for the building fund. This was postponed from September because of the hurricanes. The tournament raised $2300. The New Building Committee is in negotiations to purchase property in Viera to construct a new building.

The Fourth annual Elks Ride for Children to benefit the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services is rescheduled for Sunday January 30, 2005. It was postponed from the fall because of the hurricanes.

The Lodge held its Veterans luncheon on November 22. Attendance was great and proceeds will go to help our local veterans.

Vero Beach Lodge 1774
It was very unnerving to witness all the devastation caused by the two ladies known as Hurricane Frances and Jeanie. They managed to rip off our roof, causing complete destruction to the entire building. Both dance floors were torn-up due to flooding. The kitchen and pantry along with storage areas and the Lounge were wiped out completely.

We are very grateful to the Vero Beach Moose Club who graciously has allowed us to hold our two meetings each month.

At this time we are not able to say just when we will be able to open our doors, but work is progressing and hopefully we can look forward to having a grand opening the early part of next year.

West St Lucie Lodge 2823
Thanks to the generous donations from our members of food and money, we were able to donate five Thanksgiving Baskets to needy families. We are now working on our Christmas Baskets. To date, we have accumulated enough articles from our members for our servicemen to ship 18 boxes.

The PER’s had their first annual cookout and served 81 dinners. A Chinese auction was held. The money raised will be used to help defray expenses incurred by our future ER’s and Officers. All had a great time. The Elks Memorial Service recognizing our departed members was well attended.

A luncheon/fashion show was held with donations going to Safe Space, which is a center for battered women and children. Thirty-five boxes of clothing for women and children were donated. Nancy Delia was kind enough to donate a sewing machine. Nancy also organized our first blood drive, which was a success.

Our members participated in the Elks Annual Holiday Parade, and handed out 500 Drug Awareness Bags to families along the parade route. Our membership is continuing to grow, and several of our new members are becoming very involved in the Lodge. On behalf of the members of West St. Lucie Elks Lodge, we wish all Elks and their families a Healthy, Happy, and Safe New Year.
The Annual Eggnog party had the best turnout. Every year it gets bigger and bigger. Everyone had a good time and Santa brought along Mrs. Claus this year.

Our Veterans committee had Christmas parties for the veterans at the local nursing homes and took along Christmas gifts for them.

The lodge is gearing up for a great New Year’s Eve party followed by a spaghetti dinner, our Foundation Follies Variety Benefit Show for the National Foundation and ending the month with our Second Annual Exalted Ruler’s Ball. Looks like January will be a full month at the lodge.

**Plant City Elks Lodge 1727**

Our district Therapist, Paula Tarver honored us with a visit to the lodge in November. She brough along a few of the families she is currently treating. Our members really appreciated her visit and we were made even more aware of the importance of how Elks Care—Elks Share with financial donations to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

We were also busy in November with visits to the Baldomero Lopez Veterans Nursing Home and Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center by several of our members.

Our main fund raiser the Plant City Elks 17th “Wild Game Cook Out” will be on Feb. 12th at the Cattlemans Building 1 mile south of Hwy 60.

**Lakeland Elks Lodge 1291**

The home Lodge of Ed Henson, the District Deputy Rand Exalted Ruler of The Southwest Central District had a few very dedicated volunteers standing out in the heat in front of Wal-Mart handing out red ribbons and literature on drug prevention for children. They each had more fun things to do but each felt this was something that was useful in drug prevention by our youngsters in the Lakeland area.

We had a “Fallen Tree Cleanup Day” on December 4th with a good turnout of several volunteers with rakes, chainsaws, heavy equipment, back hoes etc, afterwards we served the volunteers BBQ Pork with all the fixins and refreshments.

**Sebring Elks Lodge 1529**

Sebring Elks received a phone call recently that we had been voted by the readers of the Highlands Today Newspaper as the “Peoples Choice” Award for the best place in Highlands County to dance and play bingo.

Our official visitation by Vice President Dick Rhodes and DDGER Ed Henson went extremely well and we received an excellent rating on our performance of the Ritual.

Thanks giving and Christmas cheer baskets were distributed to many need families in our area.

Bill Ringo continues to teach dancing on Tuesdays between 3-4 PM. We are even learning some Latin steps.

October was the month for our Annual Visitation and a great time had by all in attendance. The lodge had a very well attended delicious Thanksgiving Dinner. We had a collection of donated canned food items that were made up into baskets for needy families. During the Christmas season we sent out four food basket to families in the Sebring area.

Elks from the SWC District Cookout for Veteran’s

Pictured along with Veterans and clowns from left are: Southwest Central District V.P. Dick Rhodes, DDGER Ed Henson, Elks National Veterans Service Commission Regional Representative Pat Fennell and Florida State Elks Association President Frank Palladini. Elks from Lodges all over the SWC District were on hand help Lakeland Lodge show their appreciation for our Veterans at the James A. Haley Veteran’s Hospital in Tampa FL. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and all the fixins’ were served to more than two hundred Veterans, visiting family members and Staff.

**Arcadia Elks Lodge 1524**

Many lodges throughout Florida are facing some form of financial difficulties. Arcadia is not alone in that area. This lodge is having difficulties in getting more than a few volunteers to help with the many activities that are necessary for financial stability.

Despite having reduced income, Arcadia lodge will, in conjunction with the Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Competition, select six applicants and award from them one male and one female student a $1,000 Scholarship. Then advance the six applicants to state and national judging.

The lodge is also sponsoring Boy Scout Troop 98 and is in need of male leadership volunteers to help them meet on Monday evenings.

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**Lakeland Lodge ended this year of 2004 with flying colors!**

As our entry in the Lakeland Christmas Parade we pulled the “Elks Care, Elks Share” Drug Awareness Trailer. We had “Elroy” the Drug Awareness Elk with us, entertaining all the children along the way! Which was highlighted on TV by our local cable station and really put Elksdom and its programs out front.

**Brandon Elks Lodge 2383**

In early November the lodge held it’s Annual Hog Roast. After all an night of roasting dinners were available at the lodge and takeout dinners were delivered to all who wished to have them delivered. All the proceeds were used to support our hospitalized veterans.

We held the homecoming of our own Vice President of the SWC District, Dick Rhodes on November 20th. On the following Monday we had our annual audit from the VP and DDGER and passed with good scores in all areas.

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas season the lodge distributed dinners and toys to the less advantages in our community.

For any one interested in investing into good paying bonds the lodge is offering lodge mortgage bonds with an annual interest of 4.98%.

Lodge members provided over $5000 in Christmas gifts and packages of personal care items to the veterans at the James A. Haley Veterans Center in Tampa. The veterans were also provided with lap robes made by the ladies. The Lodge also distributed gift packages provided by Brandon High School National Honor Society.

Lodge members donated Christmas gifts to two needy families in the annual Adopt-A-Family program. The two families were delighted to receive the gifts because without the Elks, the children would have had a very sparse Christmas. The Lodge also delivered Christmas gifts to the Family Ministries of Florida, a home for homeless children, located at Seffner, FL.

**Lake Placid Elks Lodge 2661**

While our lodge did not suffer any extensive damage, much of the fence alongside our property on the west side was flattened. Darrell Brankamp and a host of volunteers took on the task of mending the fence and now has it back up as if nothing had happened. Harold Hoke our lodge artist and craftsman, got to work repairing our entrance signs and Tom Fesholz and friends reinstalled both signs that were knocked down.

A “Chain Saw Gang” headed by PER John Russo offered their services to anyone needing to get trees cut up or down for donations to the Don Sansoussi VPAL elect fund.

Our Indoctrination is rated as one of the best in the state and gives all new members a real feel for what we are all about and why, and yet only a few end up supporting our state major projects or our National Foundation, which is the source of our very purpose. If you are a new member reading this and have not contributed to these projects please contact an officer so you can become a supporter of our main reason for existing.

The lodge, under the leadership of Leading Knight Vince Avery, was in the process of aiding a young fellow, Wesley Powell, who was stricken with Muscular Dystrophy. We regret that we could not have done more before he passed away suddenly on Nov. 10, 2004.
Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

Ivan completely destroyed the Lodge, most of its contents, and the boat docks. Worse than the damage to the Lodge is the fact that many members are homeless, their homes completely destroyed. We are slowly getting back on track. At present we are renting the facility next door to our Old Lodge. We are located on the third floor overlooking the inlet to Bird Island. (Take the Elevator.) Although we are back to normal hours and meetings, we are still operating one day at a time and trying to get our community events back on track! We thank everyone for their thoughts, support, those that donated to our rebuilding fund and your prayers. We hope to be rebuilding within 12 months. All the other Lodges in the Great Northwest District are back in business despite Ivan.

We contributed $1000 to the Florida Elks Hurricane fund, prior to Ivan!

Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787

We are proud to announce that Brenda Bean, Our Esteem Lecturing Knight among many other hats in this lodge, was selected as the Great Northwest District “Elk-of-the-Year,” by the District PER Assn.

Fort Walton Lodge 1795

Exalted Ruler David Cagle was pleased to present to Ms Chris Wood, the District Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairperson, $3,671.00 in new certificates, and cash donations during the December 11th DDGER/VP visit at Warrington.

The Antlers program of Fort Walton Lodge #1795 is progressing exceptionally well. They completed their first Charity Donations by purchasing a $100.00 Harry-Anna Trust Fund Certificate., which will be presented at the Quarterly meeting in February at the Youth Camp. Grand Exalted Ruler, James McQuillan will be present and this will really give our Antlers a boost. They have also donated $200.00 to the Head Start of Okaloosa County, plus a $100.00 to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital.

Our Lodge contributed: $1500 to Salvation Army empty Stocking Fund, $1500 to Water Front Mission, $1500 to Sharing and Caring, $7500for Christmas shopping for 9 Families with a total of 29 children plus 4 Seniors, $200 in phone cards for the African & Iraq vets at Walter Reed hospital $1000 to the family of Kelly Davis a 11 year old Destin girl with cancer. She had 13lb 9 oz tumor removed. $100 for ball caps for vets at Lake City Hospital $1000 to the Florida Hurricane Relief Fund We served 106 hungry members and guests at our annual Thanksgiving Buffet.

Ivan destroyed our docks so we started a program called B.A.B.E. (Buy A Board Elks) in which members purchase a board, or several, for $100.00 each. We have collected close to $3000.00 to date, with more contributions daily.

Our Lodge will be entering the Champion Chili Competition to be held February 5th at the Santa Rosa Mall. Proceeds from the sale of samples go to the United Way of Okaloosa and Walton counties. There is a total amount of $1300.00 in prize money awarded in various categories. Any prize money we win will be donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Panama City Lodge 1598

The Lodge voted to send $1000 to FSEA in support of the Elks recovery efforts of Hurricane Charley. Our Does Drove #180 sent an additional $500. In September the Does voted to grant a $600 scholarship and give $500 toward Hurricane Francis relief fund. To assist with Thanksgiving the Does donated $100 to the Rescue Mission and $200 to the Beach Care Services. We believe “Elks Care and Elks Share.”

Crestview Lodge 2624

The Crestview Lodge celebrated their 24th birthday with a party on December 10th. One of the largest crowds in recent years helped to make it a gala occasion. Plans are already underway to celebrate their Silver Anniversary next December.

James R. Summerlin, a forty two year Elk, was honored with election to Life Membership status.

Twin Cities Lodge 2747

Twin Cities and Crestview Lodges held a joint Memorial service at the Twin Cities Lodge on December 5th. Officers from both Lodges participated in the program. Selections by John Leatherwood contributed greatly to the success of the affair.

South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676

The Annual Charity Ball was held on Saturday, November 30th and this year’s theme was “Proud To Be An American”. We had ladies wearing their best Red, White, and Blues. The men looked dashing in their formal wear. The Gold Diggers had a spectacular performance. The Silent Auction provided lots of items to bid, as well as the Chinese Auction.

$5,000 was raised to be used by various charities. We would like to thank the Charity Ball Committee for their hard work and dedication which resulted in a great evening and to all the Donors and Sponsors as well as those who attended.

On November 14, 2004 the lodge held a PartyLite Candle Party, proceeds from this event will be donated to the Florida Hurricane Relief Fund. Thanks to all the Elks for their support. The Junior Orange Bowl Sorts Ability Games were held on Saturday December 4th.

South District

By Don Queralto, PER

That evening the Lodge hosted over 200 participants and volunteers to their Annual Awards Banquet. It was great fun for the young with a D.J. and games providing entertainment.

Miami Lodge 948

At our Elks Lodge, veterans rank high on the list of priorities. Under the direction of John Chorlog, Chairman of Veteran Services/National Affairs, and his assistant Patrick Murphy; and John Garcia, Committee Chairman of Americanism.

More than seventy veterans from the V.A. Hospital were brought to the Lodge for a great Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings. The veterans were entertained throughout the event with the holiday caroling by Lee Williams and her group of Elkettes. After the meal, a game of Bingo under the direction of Art and Mickey Rauch. As the veterans departed for the Hospital they were given red apples for their enjoyment.

We would like to thank all the Elks, Elkettes and volunteers that provided a wonderful day for the veterans.

Warrington Lodge 2108

The recently held 42nd annual Charity Ball raising close to $10,000. We are grateful for this successful event, in spite of Ivan, and mostly for the generous contributions of local businesses, members, and friends. The proceeds went to local charities and the two major Florida Elks charitable programs—the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

The Lodge recently hosted a gala Halloween dance for 180 ARC guests. Lodge members provided food, beverages, prizes for best costumes, and dance music by Larry Kennedy and Lill.

The Lodge Veterans’ Committee has an on-going program with the Clifford Chester Sims Florida Veterans Nursing in Springfield, Florida—a new facility caring for 120 patients. Lodge members have helped stock their library with books and an anonymous donor contributed funds for the purchase of magazine racks placed throughout the facility. The Warrington Elkettes contributed clean-up materials for the patients’ arts and crafts classes. The latest lodge effort is to create a “Wall of Honor” in the main lobby of the home. The wall will display plaque for each patient showing his/her name. Lodge, through donations, purchased the wooden base for 128 plaques. Panama City Elks Lodge and Tyndall Air Force Base will provide equipment and labor for engraving. The patients are very excited about his project honoring their service to the country. Lodge is also sponsoring a monthly pizza and beverage party.

The Lodge recently held its 22nd Annual Widows Banquet. PDDGER Joe Walsh was the host for this event. Exalted Ruler John Garner welcomed the guests, and PSP Jim Coggins was the guest speaker.

Our Lodge recently provided 62 needy families with its Annual Christmas Baskets. Each family received all the fixings for preparing very abundant and healthy meals for the holidays.

Lodge Elkettes have an on-going program to visit and assist in sister Elkettes who are no longer able to attend lodge functions.
The following are excerpts from the Membership Seminar at the Florida State Elks Association Mid-year Convention:

The first step to improving your membership acquisition and retention is self-evaluation:
- How comprehensive is your Lodge lapsation investigation and indoctrination programs? Compare your actions to the manuals available regarding membership.
- Are you making your older members aware of how much you appreciate their continued membership?
- What is the perceived image of your Lodge in the communities within your jurisdiction?
- Does dissension in your social quarters keep members/spouses from attending social events and ultimately drive members from your Lodge?
- Do you have a sufficient number of social activities and do your members seem to enjoy these activities? Compare level of activities, attendance and member participation in planning and implementing the social activities with that of previous years.
- Is there a formal plan to insure that your new members are made welcome and do you include them in Lodge and social activities?

What steps are you taking to insure being a member of your Lodge has a tangible value/privilege not available to non-members?
- The following is a list of the current activities that some Lodges utilize to attract and retain members:
  - Being consistent with your scheduled activities works best for many Lodges. Pick a day for a specific activity and stick to it.
  - Covered dish dinners once a week.
  - Ice cream socials and dances on Sunday afternoons.
  - TV sporting events – happy hour format.
  - Mixers with other service organizations.
  - Spaghetti dinners before meetings – free to those who attend the meetings.
  - Date night dinner dances – featuring free baby sitting for members children.
  - Hire teenage children of members to baby sit at Lodge functions.
  - Charter member nights - renew old friendships.
  - All new members encourage to bring in two new members within a year.
  - All new members initiated with a designated period are put on a team to put on a Lodge event to raise money for charity.
  - Make Lodge kitchen available on Sunday afternoon to members who wish to provide food to share with other members and promote fellowship.
  - Invite community leaders to participate in Youth Award/Recognition nights – make sure event is published in local newspapers.
  - Have a special “Stray Elk” night.
  - Establish a lapsation strategy – make personal calls to make sure members know they are missed and determine why they have dropped out – better yet – be proactive by keeping in touch with members who have stopped attending events.
  - Have fund raisers to pay dues of members who are truly unable to pay.

- Have family nights for parents of youth sports teams sponsored by the Lodge – set up tables showing our community charitable activities.
- Sponsor adult sport teams for members only to attract younger new members.
- Enforce the three visit rule. First time a guest, second time a friend, third time a member to maintain membership value – it works for us.
- Let everyone in your community know your events through the news media, etc.
- Participate in school activities. Provide trophies to school athletes.
- Have Hoop Shoot and Soccer Shoot programs appreciation nights.
- Use scholarship programs to attract teachers to join Lodge.
- Put all new members on membership committee.
- Invite non-Elsks to participate in Flag Day, Mothers Day, etc. ceremonies.
- Make sure every active and new member is on a committee.
- Invite potential members to Veterans events at the Lodge and take them with you to visit Veterans Hospitals. Ask every member to bring a non-member to our Youth Camp
- Something for everyone events – from formal dances to depression dinners and Karaoke. Make members feel welcome – have a greeting/introduction committee.

Stress what we do for others to everyone you see – show them what we do – and, ask them to join – we average one out of ten for every person asked.
- Recognize those who bring in new members at each Lodge meeting and selective social events. Introduce the new members at their first social event.

These ideas represent some of the methods/strategies used by Lodges to promote new membership and retain our valued members. These are offered in bullet format to provide you with “food for thought/actio

The Department of Veterans Affairs was not initially prepared and these homeless veterans fell through the cracks. They instituted Stand Downs to try and assist these veterans. Veterans, who attend these Stand Downs, are given showers, haircuts, personal hygiene products and clean clothing. Doctors give them physical exams so they can be aware of any maladies they may have and how to treat them. Counselors are also available to inform these veterans what services are available to them which will help them mainstream back into society. Some of these services are drug and alcohol rehabilitation, job training just to name a few. Usually these days conclude by feeding them a meal before they go back on the street. As we enter the New Year, let us all make a resolution to help the homeless veterans who attend these Stand Downs. When you hear of a Stand Down in your area, contact the local VA Medical Center. They are always looking for volunteers.

We see quite a few of them, especially in our larger cities. They are usually dirty, unshaven and wearing tattered clothes. They can be found on street corners or traffic lights begging for money. They sleep in doorways, underpasses and even abandoned buildings. They are our homeless veterans.

This phenomenon burst upon us after the Viet Nam war and there are many reasons for it. Some came home and couldn’t set aside the horrors of war. They were haunted by what they had been through. Others came home addicted to drugs and or alcohol. Still others, because of the trauma, no longer trusted the system and withdrew from society. Many suffered Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

Remember! Our veterans deserve the best. It is our responsibility to help them achieve it.
Aripeka Elks Lodge 2520

October 28, 2005 Aripeka Elks Lodge held their 16th Halloween Party for the mentally challenged children, young adults, siblings, parents and care givers.

Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Hal Steffles initiated this program idea 16 years ago and served as chairman since its inception. A miniature Village wheelchair-accessible Store Fronts was set up and candy, toys, fruit and other treats were distributed from the store front windows.

Hot Dogs, Pizza, French Fries and Sodas were served to all. The Clown Towners and Luv-A-Clown groups provided face painting and balloon figures. Volunteers from the All Saints Lutheran Church group assisted with games, passing out prizes and assisting wheel chair bound partygoers. Beautiful door prizes were drawn and all received a door prize. The Pasco County Sheriff’s Office through it’s crime prevention department was represented by Mike DeMatteo and John Syron of the crime prevention department (a.k.a. McGruff the crime prevention dog).

Bingo Charities Chairman Walter Grove presented Sheriff Robert White a check in the amount of $750 for the Pasco County Sheriff’s Youth Ranch and $1,000 to Joe Neri of the Angelas House for the severely handicapped. Also recently, $50 each to Carol Wiegand and Inez Osallame to purchase yarn for bed size Afghans they make for the Veterans, $100 to the Childhood Leukemia Foundation, $500 to the Heart Walk, $1,000 to the Florida State Elks Disaster relief Fund, $250 to the Hudson Middle School Band, $500 for a cook out at the James Haley Veterans Hospital in November, $750 to the Pasco County Sheriff’s Youth Camp, $1,000 to the Angelus Home, $150 to the Springstead High School Band, $150 to the to the Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program, to the Kids wish network, and $250 to Baldomero Lopez Veterans Nursing Home.

This party can only happen through the generosity of merchants, doctors, churches, department stores, banks, funeral homes, supermarkets, restaurants, small businesses, beauty shops, wholesale companies, the news media of Pasco and Hernando Counties, golf courses and last but not least the own member’s, volunteers, Ladies of Aripeka Elks and many others that donated their time, donations of many gifts and money.

Our sincere thanks to all that donated and assisted in any way.

Aripeka Elks Lodge had their 30th Anniversary Dinner/Dance hosted by Exalted Ruler Joe Wybierala with approximately 200 in attendance.

Aripeka Elks Adopt-A-Road Program with fifteen faithful volunteers cleared a two mile area of US 19, collecting twenty-eight bags of rubbish.

November 4, 2004 Aripeka Elks was honored by a visit from Frank J. Palladini, President of the Florida State Elks Association and Pat Fennell, Elks National Veterans Service Committee-Representative for the Central District. Pat Fennell presented a plaque to Member Lorrie Fisher assistant to the Lodge Veterans Chairman for her dedication and service to the Veterans at James A Haley Veterans Hospital and Baldomero Lopez Nursing Home in Land-O-Lakes.

Zephyrhills Elks Lodge 2731

Drug Awareness Chairman of Zephyrhills Lodge had three grades at the West Zephyrhills Elementary School do a “Say No To Drugs” poster contest. The 1st. Place Winners of each grade receive a $50 Savings Bond and the 2nd. Place Winners of each grade received $15 shopping gift card to spend on something of their choice.

Lodge 2731 gave 31 Thanksgivng Food Baskets to the needy Families of Zephyrhills.

December 4th., 2004 Zephyrhills Lodge Hoop Shoot Chairman along with 20 Members and spouses held the yearly Hoop Shoot program in the Zephyrhills High School Gymnasium: All players and their families went to the Zephyrhills Lodge for hot dogs, shakes and sodas, coffee for the parents.

Zephyrhills Elks and Elkettes collected new unwrapped Toys and Games for the Children at Tampa Children’s Hospital at St. Joseph’s Santa Claus with Elk members and staff of St. Joseph’s held a Christmas Party on December 16th 2004, there were a lot of Happy Children.

Zephyrhills Elks Lodge Donated 25 Christmas Food Baskets to the needy Families in Zephyrhills.

Zephyrhills Elks Lodge donated the following thru their Bingo Charities: $1,000 to Hemando/Pasco Hospice new building fund, $500 to Florida Elks Therapy Services, $500 to Florida Elks Youth Camp, $200 for turkeys for Thanksgiving baskets, $1,000 for Christmas food baskets, $500 to the Elks National Foundation, $500 to the Neighborhood Care Center of Zephyrhills, $75 to the Veterans Memorial Walkway, $1,000 To East Pasco Meals on Wheels and $500 to the Women’s Care Center Zephyrhills, also $150 to purchase Toys for the children at St. Joseph’s Christmas Party, $500 to Florida Elks Charities, $500 to Florida Disaster Relief Fund.

The Elkettes of Zephyrhills Elks Lodge 2731 made donations of $100 for toys for the Children’s Christmas Party at St. Joseph’s, $300 to the Florida Children’s Therapy Services and $200 to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

November 11, Veteran’s Day ceremony was performed by the Officers and members of Zephyrhills Lodge with the Zephyrhills High School JROTC Team presenting the Color’s and gave a demonstration on folding our Flag. The guest speaker was Lt. Colonel John Lubbers Retired. Pictured Zephyrhills High School Jr. R.O.T.C. In black coat Robert Carper, Americanism Committee Chairman, next to Bob, right end JROTC Commanding Officer Colonel John Lubbers.
ELKS NATIONAL HOME CHRISTMAS LIGHTING
DECEMBER 2004
By Tom Elmore, PSP

As the Elks National Home Coordinator for Florida, I was honored to attend the Christmas Lighting Ceremony on December 10th and meet with the Florida residents to present gifts on behalf of the membership of Florida. This is a wonderful time of the year for all who attend, to see the entrance and grounds light up when the switch is pushed to turn on over 50,000 Christmas lights and displays.

On Friday morning a meeting was held with the Florida residents, State President Frank Palladini, Ebba Jean, PGER Val Bates and I presented gifts from our State President, the Youth Camp, Florida State Elks Association. Also present were beautiful stockings filled with various items prepared by the Florida Ladies of Elks. What a joy to see the smiles and excitement in the eyes of our residents. They appreciate the thoughts of all Florida Elks who do not forget them especially at this time of the year. The Florida Ladies of Elks have provided stockings of gifts since the coordinator program began and I want to personally thank them for their kind deeds.

The fruit was shipped and had arrived in time for the visit, we know the Florida residents remind those who eat the fruit with their breakfast, where the fruit comes from. They brag a lot about Florida Elksdom.

As we delivered the gifts and news about Florida Elksdom, the major projects and their lodges, the residents were very thankful for the gifts, Christmas Card Program, birthdays and entertainment donations throughout the year. They ask that we extend their thanks to all who participate.

As I received those thanks I thought about how great it is to be an Elk, helping others and how wonderful it would be if all the faults that may have taken place could be forgiven and written upon the sands and carry the atmosphere of the holiday season into the future all the year long. Would that not be the best gift we could give each other?

Your past and continued support of the Elks National Home Retirement Center is appreciated and requested.

God Bless all with good health and happiness
Sincerely and Fraternally,
Tom Elmore, PGLK

February Quarterly Agenda

Saturday, February 12, 2005
7:00 am to 8:30 am Breakfast in the Youth Camp Pavilion
7:00 am to 8:30 am Lower East Coast Clinic - Rm 124
8:30 am to 10:00 am FSEA Board of Directors - Rm 131
9:00 am to 11:00 am Florida Ladies of Elks Meeting – Rm 124
9:00 am to 10:00 am Business Practices Committee Meeting – Rm 130
9:00 am to 10:00 am Soccer Shoot Committee – Rm 133
9:00 am to 10:00 am Hoop shoot Committee in the Gymnasium
10:00 am to 11:00 am Question and Answer session with PGER Robert Grafton – Rm 131
10:00 am to 11:00 am Ritual committee – FEYC Building 9 enter by parking lot side door.
10:00 am to 11:00 am Induction Committee - Rm 133
10:00 am to 11:00 am Accident Prevention Committee Rm 130
10:00 am to 11:00 am Drug Awareness Committee Building 9, enter by center door.
11:00 am to 12:45 pm Florida Elks Major Projects Meeting – Gym 12:45- 2:00 pm Lunch in the Pavilion

The February Quarterly Meetings of the Florida State Elks Association will be held February 11-12, 2005 at the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

During these meetings we will have the special pleasure of having Grand Exalted Ruler James M.; McQuillan address the assemblies all of which will be held in the Grafton Center and are open to all Elks unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of meetings are as follows:

**Friday, February 11, 2005**
7:00 am to 8:30 am Breakfast in the Youth Camp Pavilion
7:30 am to 8:00 am Convention Committee - Rm 130
8:00 am Past State Presidents Advisory Council - Rm 131 (closed meeting)
11:00 am FEYC Board of Directors - Rm 131
Noon to 1:00 pm Lunch in the pavilion
1:00 pm Harry - Anna Investment Fund BOD - Rm 131

The following meetings will be held in order following the close of the preceding Investment Fund meeting in room 131:

**Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services BOD**
**Florida Elks Charities Board of Directors**
**Florida Elks Properties Board of Directors**
2:00 pm Florida Ladies of Elks Advisory Council – Rm 124
2:00 pm Harry - Anna Trust Fund Committee Rm - 133
3:00 pm Florida Elks News Publication Com - Rm 130
5:00 to 9:00 pm Centennial Celebration Barbecue in the Youth Camp Pavilion

The ENF staff and Board of Trustees would never ask our chairs to do something that we wouldn’t do ourselves. That’s why when we ask you to lead by example; we put our money where our mouths are.

This year, we added the ENF staff and trustees to the Leadership Challenge, and we’ve answered with 100 percent participation from both groups. So far, only 46.3 percent of Lodge chairs, 52.5 percent of District chairs and 61.7 percent of State chairs have donated.

Last year, Lodge and District chairs fell short of the participation goal. Don’t let it happen again this year. We’re certain that you can reach 75 percent participation.

We’ve asked that you make your gift early this year to inspire other Elks to give. Time is running out! With less than four months left in the 2004-05 fiscal year, it’s more important than ever to lead by example. How much you donate is not important; it’s that you show others that you believe in the ENF and its programs. If hyou donate, they will follow!

Stay informed of current Leadership Challenge figures at www.elks.org/enf/leadershipchallenge.cfm. Do your part by visiting www.elks.org/donate to make a gift today. Your gift will not only contribute toward your Lodge’s per capita, but it will also help children, families and veterans in need.

SSE District Continued

Margate Lodge 2463
Vincent Como, Lodge Secretary, in his capacity as DDGER continued his visitations to the district lodges stressing the importance of the Ritual.

The Lodge recently held a Hoop Shoot contest in which 38 local children participated.

In the latest Student of the Month Program three seniors from a local high school were honored. E.R. Robert Juckniewitz presented each student with the Elks framed certificate of achievement.

At a local Fall Festival, Drug Awareness chairperson Rose Witkowski arranged for a tent to publicize the Lodge’s program for young people.

P.E.R. Chuck Monroe raffled off a TV set and brought in $581 for the Harry-Anna Trust.

Boca Raton Elks Lodge 2166
The Lodge honored the local NJRCTC with the E.R. Chuck Schroeder and PER Denis Schumacher presenting the Commander of the Boca Raton Rich School Junior Naval Reserve Officers Training Corp. with a check for $500 raised at a breakfast fundraiser. A Craft Show was held where hand made crafts and home made baked goods were sold.

P.E.R. Chuck Monroe raffled off a T.V. set and brought in $581 for the Harry-Anna Trust.
that manage our HATF investments. As always, the hospitality and accommodations afforded by FEYC Director Lynn Warburton and his staff and the excellent food and service by Ed See and his staff for all in attendance was outstanding.

Our next visit was to Orlando, where we were hosted by Central District VP Edna Capps and her husband, Harold, and District Leader PSP Pete Naranjo and Pat. After being greeted by several Elks and their guests and checking into our room at the Ramada, we enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the spacious hospitality room and again at the South Orlando Lodge #2694, where we were treated to a very tasty buffet dinner and great service and entertainment by E.R. Ron Cepregi and his wife, Kathy and their many volunteer Elks and Ladies Organization members.

Following breakfast at the motel Saturday morning, we were taken on a very informative private tour of the impressive V.A. Healthcare Facility in Orlando, where VP Edna Capps and her ENVSC Staff conduct an on-going program. Many Elks and members of their Ladies Organization, who were not otherwise working the Elks parking lot concession at the Central Florida University Homecoming game across town, served us a buffet luncheon, along with the Veteran patients. Orlando Elk Tom Yost and members of his Central Florida Accordian Club provided choice entertainment during lunch.

Saturday evening’s banquet was held at the beautifully decorated Orlando Lodge #1079, where we were greeted by E.R. Bill Townsend and his wife, Ann, and their members and Ladies Organization volunteers who provided fantastic hors d’oeuvres and an excellent dinner with great service and musical entertainment.

On Sunday, we attended the annual Veterans’ Day Program and picnic hosted by Kissimmee Lodge #1873 and E.R. Bill gratulations to Endorsed VPAL, PDDGER Charles Trinowski and Mary Ann. VPAL Don and I and our ladies look forward to your joining us in our travels.

We next visited North Fort Meyers, where we were hosted by South Southwest District VP Wesley Phelps and his wife, Carol, and District Leader PSP Bill Wellbaum and Sue. After being greeted by a large gathering of Elks and guests and after checking into our luxurious suite at the Fort Meyers Ramada, we enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the spacious and scenic hospitality room overlooking the watersway. E.R. Dick Conley and his wife, Diane, and their numerous volunteer members and Ladies of Fort Meyers Lodge #1288 then treated us to a fine dinner with great service and musical entertainment.

Following a very informative and enjoyable private swamp buggy tour of the Babcock Wilderness Adventure on Saturday morning, we were provided lunch and beverages at Cape Coral #2596 hosted by E.R. Walt Williams and his wife, Coletta, and their volunteer members and Ladies.

Saturday Night’s banquet, hosted by North Fort Meyers #2742 E.R. Kathy Murphy-McDonald and her many member and Ladies Organization volunteers, included superb hors d’oeuvres, service and musical entertainment and a well-prepared prime rib dinner. All of the decorations of that evening in the hall, the table settings, floral arrangement, program, napkins, silverware holders and the State President’s welcoming banner were superbly done in my Bradley University alma mater red and white colors. Thanks to PDDGER Art Kozy and members of Naples #2010 for your $5,000 donation to the HATF and to all others who made donations throughout this highly entertaining weekend.

In December, we will join our retired Florida Elks and other members who reside at our National Home in Bedford, VA for their Annual Christmas Lighting Ceremony. We’ll join FSEA National Home Coordinator, PSP Tom Elmore and Pep at this visitation. We’ll then journey to Peoria, IL to join relatives and friends during the holidays.

As I turn this draft over to Ebba Jean, ENVSC Representative Pat Fennell and I are embarking for a cookout at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital that is being sponsored by all of the good folks associated with Lodges in the Southwest Central District.

Ebba Jean and I hope that each of you and your families have had a very safe and enjoyable holiday season and will have a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous New Year! Our hearts and our prayers continue for those who painfully suffered loss and damage from the four hurricanes that earlier invaded our state. May God bless each of you; may He ever protect our troops serving in harm’s way; and may God Bless America!

Celebrating a century of making a difference!

Many Elks have asked for many years as to when the Elks National Convention will return to our state. The Grand Lodge Convention Committee has answered the question. — July 2006.

The Florida State Elks Association, Florida Lodges and members will be the host for the many visitors who will come to the Sunshine State for this wonderful occasion. For two weeks we will be very busy and must be prepared to demonstrate that Florida Elkdom and Southern Hospitality is the best in the United States of America.

State Sponsor, PGER Robert Grafton is a super leader and is well respected by the leadership in Elkdom, he accepts the responsibilities that come with the position he serves. He has requested that I serve as the Chairman of the local Support Committee for this very important and exciting undertaking.

I have accepted this assignment on behalf of every Florida Elk and their spouses as this job ahead will require many volunteers for various areas that will need attention, not only at convention time but planning of events, fund raising to offset costs that are required of the State association: we must “Plan our work, and work our plan.”

I certainly realize this will not be an easy task especially when I read the 25 pages of initial instructions that I was given; the challenge is ahead of us and will be met. I know Florida Elks and have witnessed many times the efforts, time and energy put in place to complete a successful assignment when needed.

I know that we will get the volunteers and be prepared to carry out those assignments as needed and requested by the Grand Lodge Convention Committee and its director. We cannot wait until the last minute; the time to plan is now, your ideas for fund raising is requested.

Volunteers to assist is the key words to being successful, we will have plenty of jobs as not pay, but we as Elks and volunteers are familiar with that, we need to have names, addresses, phone numbers and E-mails of those who will be available to assist, especially in the Orlando area. If you will submit that information to me, we will start putting our plans in place. I will be meeting with other states who have hosted a Convention for ideas and thoughts that may be helpful to us. As always your support is critical to being successful and will be appreciated very much.

As a team working together we will demonstrate that Elks Care-Elks Share.

I thank each of you for your consideration and support.

Send information to:

Tom Elmore
1125 SE 21st St.
Okeechobee, FL 34974
Phone 863-763-3197 (W)
863-763-7470 (H)
863-801-3142 (cell)
863-763-7605 (Fax)
Information can also be sent to our State Secretary, Carl Seibert.
February 11, 2005
From 5pm to 9pm
$4.00 in advance
$5.00 at the door
Call 800-523-1673 ext 249 to order