CHARITY REVEALED

Palmetto Elks Serving their Community

Publicity/Public Relations – Youth Activities - Veteran’s Services; all these and more in recent months!

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, Inc. ran a story in the local newspaper in which they thanked Palmetto Lodge 2449 for going out of its way over the past year to help them in numerous ways such as Thanksgiving baskets, holiday clothes, gifts, and a holiday party for the kids they serve.

They made a point about the generosity of the Elks in providing several children with their first opportunity to experience a fun filled week at the Florida Elks Youth Camp, creating little camp moments in big magic for these fortunate children.

Palmetto Lodge also became involved financially and emotionally in a Southeastern Guide Dogs' new program known as Paws for Patriots whose spokesman is retired Gen. Tommy Franks.

The program provides guide dogs for returning veterans who were blinded by war. The Lodge raised the necessary funds to sponsor and name a puppy.

There was a lot of excitement as the members of the Lodge were waiting for the puppy to be born, running a contest to choose a name, and later meeting a beautiful Black Lab puppy. The prospective guide dog who will hopefully provide freedom to a hero and a patriot was named Charity, the greatest of all of the virtues.

Paws for Patriots is a great program. The cost to sponsor and name a puppy is now $2,500.

Neil Woolson and his wife, Lynelle, are dedicated Elks who are very active with the guide dog school and have done a wonderful job getting Palmetto Lodge involved in this program.

Hopefully the Lodge will have a permanent partnership with Southeastern Guide Dogs whose facilities are just up the road from the Lodge. Maybe some other Lodges will want to get involved also.

HOW TO FORM A NEW LODGE

Robert Grafton, PGER

Dear Friends:

This will be a little shorter message this time. Those who know me realize that I become very involved once college football season begins. It is a love (or failing, depending on how the Gators are performing) that has been with me for many years.

Last edition I wrote about formation of new Lodges. There already is interest in Homestead and the area east of Bradenton.

I suspect there are a number of you who also have additional suggestions. If so, please send them to our State Secretary, Carl Seibert, P.O. Box 49, Umatilla, FL 32784, and he will relay them to me.

A new Lodge does not suddenly materialize when there is an area that shows promise. It requires direction, and Tom Elmore will supply that facet. It also requires a local committee which is familiar with current members of other Lodges and with other residents in the area.

Once the process has begun in an area, it can move quickly with an active committee. When the organizational work has progressed by obtaining the signatures of the members for the new Lodge, then the Lodge can obtain a name and Lodge number assigned by the Chicago office.

A date is set for institution of the new Lodge and the feeling of pride and accomplishment is radiated after the institution.

This is not a perfect world and the organizational process sometimes has bumps and detours, but as in any situation where many are working together, the problems that occur are overcome and progress is certain.

It is about half way in the Lodge year and checklists should be consulted by the Lodge officers. Have we achieved, or can we predict we will have a gain in membership? How are our contributions to the Elks National Foundation and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund? Are the National Foundation Scholarships, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Drug Awareness and Veterans programs going to be active and successful?

Review carefully now, take action where indicated, and your Lodge members will be proud they are a member of our order.

I am told that some non-Elks believe we are simply a social organization. There can only be one reason for that point of view; your Lodge must project that image. When your social activities dominate your activities to help those in need, primarily our children and veterans, then you are on your way to no longer having a Lodge. It can descend to the realm of the corner bar, and when that happens, the Lodge will most assuredly lose its charter.

While this rarely occurs in Florida, there are some early indications of problems which may soon need to be addressed.

May God bless and protect you and your family.

CORRECTION

On page 1 of the Summer issue, the Exalted Ruler of Tallahassee Lodge was misidentified. His name is Carl Ledig. The editor regrets the error.

Inside this issue

2-----Officers…President
3-----Secretary & FLOE
4-----Ladies Donations–Pins
5-----SWC District
6-----NW–NE Districts
7-----C District
8-----FLOE Conference Photos
9 --- Elks National Home Visit
10----SEC District
11----SSW–SE Districts
12----WC District
13----N District
14----NC District
15----EC District
16----Letters From the Children
I would like to start my article by thanking the hundreds of volunteers who worked so hard to make the National Convention such a success. Everyone did a fantastic job of caring for the needs of the guests to our State. I have received numerous letters thanking me for the fraternalism displayed at the National Convention. It was not just but all of you making Florida Elks shine.

Well after the National Convention, your President, VPAL, and our wives started traveling the roads visiting the various districts. It has been a demanding but a very enjoyable trip thus far.

Our first stop after the National Convention was the Southeast District where we stayed in a haunted hotel and had an enjoyable visit to the Seminole Indian Reservation. We got close to some gators on the airboat ride and other wild beasts while in the swamp buggy. They sure have plenty of sugarcane in Clewiston. The gift of a sugarcane knife with a scene hand painted on it provided a remembrance of our visit.

The next stop was the South District where we saw how the other half lives in their multimillion dollar homes and have a close-up look at the Port of Miami. We were also treated to a true Polish soul food dinner complete with pierogies, kielbasa, and sauerkraut for dinner with Polish music in the background.

Then came the August Quarterly Meetings where we took care of the business that needed to be done. The weather cooperated and everyone had a great time, especially at the Friday night barbecue. To those who did not come, you really missed out on finding out what is happening within the State Association and it various boards and committees. More importantly, you missed out on a great opportunity to network and bond with Elks members and the leaders of your Association. Also, for me, it is an opportunity to visit the camp and see what is the plan to be revitalized and want to go out and tell everyone about the mission of the Florida Elks.

Our next visit was to the West Central District. While there we went to the Salvador Dali Museum but the highlight of the trip was the visit to the V.A. nursing home. All the Lodges in the district prepared lunch for the patients at the facility, and from what the patients told me it is something that occurs quite often. Two elderly veterans playing songs on harmonicas entertained us. On Saturday evening we were presented with a donation of more than 200 pairs of sneakers from the members of the district that they designated for the Youth Camp. The Mayor of the City of Seminole also presented me with a key to the city.

Next was our trip to the great Northwest District, or as District Advisor/PGE Don Sansoussi calls it, “Lower Alabama.” They again tried to convince me that I can play golf and again I proved them wrong. We did however have a great time in the Northwest District and were witness to the resilience of that area. Yes there are still some blue tarps but they are working hard to return to normalcy. The district presented Mary Ann with a memory quilt displaying my pin and the pins of all Lodges in the district. There was also a rack for display of the quilt.

We visited the Southeast Central District next. In addition to the fantastic meals and a visit to the Elliot Museum, we were able to participate in two other events. The first was the dedication of the Elk statue in front of the Port St. Lucie Lodge. After some difficulty in removing the covering, the event went on without a hitch. On Saturday morning Vice President Lenny Smallacoma had us out before breakfast (I am talking 8:00 a.m.) to visit a park. This park is the result of three years work by the members of Port St. Lucie Lodge convincing the City of Port St. Lucie to build the park. It is a beautiful park in the middle of a residential area full of children. Jack Kelly, Port St. Lucie Council Member, presented your State President with a Proclamation from the Mayor of Port St. Lucie; it was very gratifying. The park has also been named in honor of the Port St. Lucie Lodge, truly an honor and truly demonstrating my motto of “Serving Our Community.” Way to go.

What has been inspirational to me has been the enthusiasm that we have been witness to during our trips to the districts. Yes, there are problems and disagreements between members, but everyone has put those aside during our visits. More importantly, I am continually witnessing Lodges working to raise money for our major projects. Every district has been generous in their donations to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. In every district the Lodges are working on projects that exemplify my motto, “Serving Our Community.” It is very gratifying to see so much dedication and spirit in the Lodges. Keep it up.
Dear members and all,

One Florida Ladies of Elks year has closed and another has opened. Hopefully this will continue for a very long time. At our 43rd Annual FLOE Conference in September in Altamonte Springs, Joan Justynski, PSP installed our new officers for the year 2006 - 2007: Dolores Casella, President; Beverly Messerschmidt, Vice President; Joan Fritz, Secretary; Enid “Sam” Simpson, Treasurer; Carol Deresh, Chaplain; Betty Groff, Parliamentarian; Carol Yates, Historian; and Joanna Kudla and Betty Pickenpaugh, Advisory Council.

I was excited to see so many ladies, spouses, and guests attending the conference. I even got to visit with some friends from the past days. The splash of color of red and white was striking. We were honored to have several Elks Dignitaries and their spouses also attend the conference.

Our guest speaker was Ed McCaffrey, an Elk from Tampa Lodge 708, who touched all our hearts with his topic, “What Is a Lifetime.” He spoke about his heart transplant, progress on medical research, and organ donations. Thank you Ed.

Michael Chandler, PDD, President of the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, with the assistance of Robert Lee, PER Vice Chairman of Ladies Organizations, gave out the awards and certificates for FECTS donations. First place for the most money contributed to FECTS went to Holiday Isles with $101,890 and second place went to Warrington with $8,608.

Lynn Warburton, PDD, Director of the Florida Elks Youth Camp, presented the awards and certificates for the donations to the Youth Camp. First place for the sponsorship of the most campers went to Cape Coral and second place to Eustis. The most money contributed to the Youth Camp was by Live Oak, second place was by Cape Coral, and third place was by Warrington.

Christopher Carlisle, PER, Chairman of Ladies Organizations, presented the plaques to the winners of the yearbook contest, with first place to Miami, second place to Punta Gorda, and third place to Holiday Isles. He presented the Conference Awards to Punta Gorda for the Most Cumulative Miles Traveled to conference, to Punta Gorda for the Most Ladies in Attendance, and to Live Oak for the Largest Percentage of Membership Present at Conference.

Other awards were presented to Punta Gorda for the most money for ads in the program book and to Fort Pierce for the most money for booster ads. Also, craft table awards were given for first place to Ocala, second place to Naples, and third place to Punta Gorda.

All the committee chairladies did an outstanding job of preparation for the conference. Without their fine work, the Conference would not have so successful. On behalf of FLOE, I want to thank everyone for their support this past year. Please continue to support FLOE in the future, enabling us to further support the Elks charities.

The August Quarterly Meetings were held at the Youth Camp August 17th -19th. The meetings were well attended and very informative. Thank you to all who attended! Once again the Past State Presidents hosted a barbecue on Friday night. We had a great crowd and it was enjoyed by all. The February 2007 meetings will be held the 9th & 10th. It is recommended that reservations for the February meetings be made early, as room availability is always limited in the Umatilla area during that time of the year.

In late September, I was privileged to attend the annual conference of the Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE). This conference recognized the ladies’ achievements over the prior year, a highlight of which was their never ending support of our major projects. During 2005/06 our Ladies Organizations donated over $258,000 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and our major projects! Congratulations go to FLOE State President Betty Pickenpaugh and her officers for a great year, and best wishes are given for an even better year to incoming 2006/07 State President Dolores Casella and her officer team! Ladies, we thank you!

The cutoff date for reservations for the Mid-year Convention has now passed and I am happy to report that we exceeded the number of rooms we had reserved for this event. The response for pre-registration for name badges was tremendous and I thank everyone who completed the pre-registration process. The convention will be held November 9-11, 2006 at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center – Orlando.

The 2007 State Convention will be held once again at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort May 24-27. More information on the State Convention will be available in late December/January.

Speaking of conventions, plans are now underway for the 2007 Grand Lodge Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina July 8-12. Once our hotel assignment is made, Tom Elmore and I will journey to Charlotte to make the arrangements for our delegation. As details become available they will be provided.

The Trust Fund Report for the six months ended September 30, 2006 was posted on the website on October 3rd. Elsewhere in this publication you will find a list of those persons who have completed the purchase of a gold or silver certificate since our last report. We are well on our way to meeting our State President’s per-capita goal for giving this year! Keep up the great work!

I hope you will visit our website often and that you have seen the continuing improvements that are being made to it. My thanks go to our Webmaster, Jerry Mills, who has been working so hard to accommodate every suggestion and request that comes in. Believe it or not, many of the additions and modifications to the website occur as a result of suggestions made by our members! If you haven’t visited lately, please take a look and keep your suggestions coming! The website address is www.felks.org.

The office of the Florida State Elks Association is here to serve our association and its members. If at anytime you can be of assistance or service, please don’t hesitate to contact us. My phone number is (800) 523-1673 extension 230 and the e-mail address is fsea@mpinet.net.
FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS DONATIONS TO FLORIDA ELKS CHARITIES, TRUST FUND, FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES, *** & FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP**

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**Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Pins Awarded**

June 26, 2006 through September 25, 2006

**Gold Pins for Paid-in-Full $1,000 Certificate**

C. Valentine Bates Gainesville Lodge 990
Dale Custis Fort Pierce Lodge 1520
John D. Fayard Warrington Lodge 2108
Ron Foltz Tallahassee Lodge 937
Glenn D. Hancock Lakeland Lodge 1291
Mr. & Mrs. John Inserra Plantation Lodge 2272
Frans Jansen Sebring Lodge 1529

**Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate**

Francis E. Bruns, PER Ariepka Lodge 2520
Robert Dowling Eustis Lodge 1578
Jim Glowczynski Pompano Beach Lodge 1898
Alex H. McKibbin Sanford Lodge 1241
Joseph E. Morrow Brooksville Lodge 2582
William C. Pelham, Jr. Clewiston Lodge 1853
Charles C. Scruggs, III Pensacola Beach Lodge 497
Michael Warren Pensacola Beach Lodge 497
Lake Placid Lodge 2661

Jerry Kinsey, Esteemed Leading Knight, is the Blood Drive Chairman and has devoted countless hours to insuring a steady blood supply for Highlands County. He has held five blood drives since the first of the year and collected some 133 units of Blood.

Ladies of Elks President Marge Holbrook has donated at every bloodmobile visit to the Lodge. Total units collected this year so far is 133. (We have one more drive this year, Dec. 15.) The 2005 total was 122 which was the most in a year since 1998.

Members of the Lodge have donated funds to purchase 150 new upholstered chairs for the Lodge. Another ninety chairs that were purchased still need to be paid for, so donations are still needed.

The Lodge members, during the past year have been successful at making the kitchen staffed with volunteers except for paid dishwashers on lodge dinner evenings.

The Lake Placid Elks Lodge is hosting George Hamilton IV, a well known Grand Ole Opry entertainer, in “A Country Christmas” on December 3, 2006 at the Lodge located at 200 CR 621 East in Lake Placid, FL. Call (863)465-2661 or (863)465-4221 for additional information.

Arcadia Lodge 1524

Tom Anderson, the Exalted Ruler of Arcadia Lodge, in reflecting back upon the beginnings of Arcadia Lodge in 1926 is very impressed in the devotion through the years of the leaders of the lodge. Over the past eighty years the Lodge that was formed in the hard times of the depression has contributed greatly to the community and to improving the lives of many children.

Tom’s goals are to continue the tradition, to increase the membership by at least 100, and to build a closed in front porch for the smokers. The Lodge has started a cooking class one evening each week to familiarize interested volunteers with the kitchen and food preparation.

Plant City Lodge 1727

With the help of many volunteers Plant City Elks’ 4th of July Barbecue was a complete fundraiser success with approximately 500 take-out dinners sold.

Tom Crews, Exalted Ruler, and Plant City Lodge give special recognition to Richard Ohden and his employer, International Paper, for donating $3,200 to the Lodge for the Children’s Therapy Services.

The steering committee for the lodges our biggest fundraiser, the “Wild Game Cookout” is preparing for the event in February.

Lake Wales Lodge 1974

Lake Wales Flag Day was held with the mayor of Lake Wales in attendance and the Winter Haven VFW assisting in the ceremony.

Scholarships were presented to six deserving students from Lake Wales High School; Sara Norton, Kristen Nelson, Samah Abukhodier, Austin Love, Antonio Feliciano, and Walter Oliff, II; all seniors of Hardee High School.

The Lodge looks brand new with the outside painted and a new roof. Donna, thanks those who donated to these improvements.

Wauchula Lodge 1700

Donna Carlisle Exalted Ruler, continues to assure that the Lodge contributes to the community, state and Elks programs. They are involved in many youth programs such as the Soccer Shoot, Hoop Shoot, Drug Awareness, and the Boy and Girl Scouts.

The Lodge recently presented $700 scholarships to deserving students Martin Gainous, Jr.; Brett Jarnagin; and Walter Oliff, II; all seniors of Hardee High School.

Bingo Committee headed by Jeff Hastings.

Donations of the Lodge contributed to the men and women of the armed forces serving throughout the world in the Brandon July 4th Parade. The float depicted the history of our flag.

Brandon Lodge 2383

Brandon Lodge entered a very patriotic float dedicated to the men and women of the armed forces serving throughout the world in the Brandon July 4th Parade. The float depicted the history of our flag.

Brandon Lodge 2383 holds the distinction of being the first lodge to be instituted on the 100th birthday of Elkdom. On January 28, 1968, sixteen State Elks Association officials including the Past Grand Exalted Ruler instituted and presented the only charter of BPOE bearing the anniversary date of February 16, 1968 to Brandon Lodge. Plant City, the host Lodge, initiated 178 charter members.

Sebring Lodge 1529

There are a lot of activities and fun being had at the Sebring Lodge; bingo, dances, darts, golf outings, and scores of socializing events. To encourage more couples to attend the dances, the Lodge has dance classes for those with two left feet. So far the attendance has been very good with an average income for the lodge of around $150 a session. Single guys are needed to assist with the lessons.

From the letters from members being published in the bulletin, it sounds like the Lodge meetings are very interesting with discussions about how the Lodge business is being handled. The Exalted Ruler resigned and Bill Peters was nominated to finish the year.

The Veterans Committee had one yard sale and made $1400 which they have used for items for the veterans, as well as purchasing flags. They are having another yard sale in October. They are visiting veterans in a total of nine nursing homes in the area.

They have installed new carpet and tile for the lakeside dining room and are currently looking at replacing the carpet in the lounge with tile.

The Lodge is also in the process of revitalizing the Adopt-A-Highway program with Paul Kemple in charge. The Lodge has given a total of $1,050 to youth baseball, Sebring Fastpitch Softball, and ARC Special Stars. The bingo players donated a total of $1,134 to the HATF.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

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The Lodge recently presented $700 scholarships to deserving students Martin Gainous, Jr.; Brett Jarnagin; and Walter Oliff, II; all seniors of Hardee High School.

Bingo Committee headed by Jeff Hastings.

Donations of the Lodge contributed to the men and women of the armed forces serving throughout the world in the Brandon July 4th Parade. The float depicted the history of our flag.

Brandon Lodge 2383

Brandon Lodge entered a very patriotic float dedicated to the men and women of the armed forces serving throughout the world in the Brandon July 4th Parade. The float depicted the history of our flag.

Brandon Lodge 2383 holds the distinction of being the first lodge to be instituted on the 100th birthday of Elkdom. On January 28, 1968, sixteen State Elks Association officials including the Past Grand Exalted Ruler instituted and presented the only charter of BPOE bearing the anniversary date of February 16, 1968 to Brandon Lodge. Plant City, the host Lodge, initiated 178 charter members.

Sebring Lodge 1529

There are a lot of activities and fun being had at the Sebring Lodge; bingo, dances, darts, golf outings, and scores of socializing events. To encourage more couples to attend the dances, the Lodge has dance classes for those with two left feet. So far the attendance has been very good with an average income for the lodge of around $150 a session. Single guys are needed to assist with the lessons.

From the letters from members being published in the bulletin, it sounds like the Lodge meetings are very interesting with discussions about how the Lodge business is being handled. The Exalted Ruler resigned and Bill Peters was nominated to finish the year.

The Veterans Committee had one yard sale and made $1400 which they have used for items for the veterans, as well as purchasing flags. They are having another yard sale in October. They are visiting veterans in a total of nine nursing homes in the area.

They have installed new carpet and tile for the lakeside dining room and are currently looking at replacing the carpet in the lounge with tile.

The Lodge is also in the process of revitalizing the Adopt-A-Highway program with Paul Kemple in charge. The Lodge has given a total of $1,050 to youth baseball, Sebring Fastpitch Softball, and ARC Special Stars. The bingo players donated a total of $1,134 to the HATF.
NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Reporter, Karen Knight

Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787

August turned out to be another very busy month with the VP visits, DD clinic, and Quarterly at the Youth Camp in Umatilla. In addition to all of this, we have the upgrades to the Lodge room going on. There has not been a lot of time to breathe. The Lodge is running smoothly. If you feel that there are problems with the way things are being handled, that is why we have a governing body and we go by the Grand Lodge statutes. Remember, this is our Lodge and we would like to keep our Lodge and the ER out of trouble.

Brian Feehan was the Officer of the Month for July for the outstanding services as the Esteem Loyal Knight. Brian not only attended all the meetings for the month, but he also went above his normal duties and worked on some of the upgrades in the lounge along with helping the trustees with the maintenance of the building. Brian has been and will be instrumental in keeping this Lodge running to its fullest potential.

The Florida Elks State President, Charles Trinowski, was in our district Sept 8th & 9th. He visited Fort Walton Lodge for dinner and there was a State President’s golf outing the morning of Sept 9th at Hidden Creek.

Coming events we are looking for volunteers to help collect donations for the Kids Fest grab bags. Anything and everything will work.

Twin Cities Lodge 2747

We had a very important visitation on September 14th. The DDGER David Wiley and his team inspected our Lodge. If you were responsible for anything here at the Lodge, there were probably many questions for you. A meeting followed with an initiation.

We had our State President’s visit on September 8th and 9th. There was a welcome party on the 8th at the Destin Lodge and a dinner on the 9th at the Fort Walton Lodge.

Lastly, let me remind you to check the status of your Harry-Anna and ENF certificates. This is a very important part of our Lodge work. Let’s all be up to date. If you are in doubt about yours, check with the Secretary.

Fort Walton Lodge 1795

The Veterans Service Committee of Fort Walton Lodge 1795 was invited to attend an afternoon of food and friendship at the Clifford Chester Sims V.A. Nursing Home in Springfield, FL on Wednesday, September 20, 2006. A barbecue was hosted by U.S. Air Force military personnel from Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City FL. Lodge 1795 donated nearly 100 boxes of assorted baked goods courtesy of Entenmann’s Bakery and spent the afternoon visiting with the residents.

Panama City Lodge 1598

On Friday, September 22nd we had a Teachers Appreciation Night in honor of our hardworking teachers at Mosley and Bay High Schools. Teachers from these two schools were invited to a shrimp or chicken dinner at no cost to them. Other schools will be honored at a later date.

At our last meeting we donated $300 to the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Foundation.

There is good news from the Grand Lodge about recruiting new members into the Elks. If you bring in three new members or reinstated members, you will receive a GER pin. Bring in 11 new members and you will receive an Elks watch. Bring in 33 members and win an Elks clock. In addition, all winners will have an entry in the vacation cruise drawing.

Warrington Lodge 2108

The items that were donated for the veterans at the “Clifford Chester Sims” State Veterans Nursing Home were delivered September 14 by committee members June Renfro and Bob Burt. The committee thanks each of you for your donations! You did great!

One other donation, we are sure you’ll agree, deserves special recognition, so let us tell you about it! Committee member “Chuck” Myers has a group of friends in Dayton, Ohio who at his request, knitted 41 24 inch by 24 inch lap robes and sent them down here to be delivered to the “Sims” home! A Thank You letter will be sent to that group of wonderful people from your committee.

Update: The Lodge received the following in the mail recently and it should be shared:

“Please accept this letter as my sincere thanks for the Lodge sponsoring me in the National Scholarship competition. Through your support and recommendation I was awarded an Elks Legacy Scholarship. In the fall, I will attend Samford University in Birmingham, AL and will study Pharmacy. After completing the six year program, I plan to pursue a career in hospital Pharmacy. I am truly grateful for the financial assistance during my freshman year. Thank you again for your support and sponsorship. You are truly devoted to helping others, and for that I am truly appreciative.”

Meredith Russo

Recently a flag was purchased for presentation to the Escambia County new branch library to be opened this fall. Our Lodge made a similar presentation when the Southwest Library was opened.

The Elkettes have donated $ 3,580 to Harry-Anna, $463 to ENF, $1,600 to community organizations, $1,500 to BPOE 2108, and $500 to our Boy Scout Troops. This years total is $7,643.00. We have worked approximately 3,200 hours, driven 2500 miles, and each has donated financially. As of this article we have donated enough money to Harry Anna to purchase our 2nd van.

Crestview Lodge 2624

The Elks National Convention in Orlando went very well. There was lots of information to be gained at each session. Congratulations to Gary Johnson, PDDGER on completing a very successful year as the NW District DDGER.

Gainesville Lodge 990

A casino night was held on July 22nd. It was a huge success. Linda and Hollis’ hard work and dedication to the Elks can set an example that a successful event benefits the Lodge and the community.

We are continuing weekly with our fishing tournament on Wednesday afternoon, hamburgers and hot dogs on Saturdays, Wing Night on Tuesday, and of course our regular scheduled Friday night dinner. It sounds like all we do is eat, its all in the name of a good cause.

Jacksonville Lodge 221

We are so proud to have the Northeast District DDGER, Jim Hurst, be from our Lodge. He is now in his visitation phase of each lodge and it is an honor for us to accompany him on his official visits.

We are continuing to accept used computers and monitors for the Children’s Homes and the Lake City veterans. They will be rebuilt and distributed to needy organizations.

Our new Lodge building has begun to take shape. We are so excited and look forward to moving in by early next year. Tuesday continues to be pizza night. This is a chance to step forward and volunteer to cook pizza. We will teach you all you need to know and it is a fun experience that gets you involved.

St. Augustine Lodge 829

We are so fortunate to have the Northeast District VP, Ted Beal, from our Lodge. We know he will do a great job and we look forward to supporting him. He has begun his visits to each Lodge and is thoroughly enjoying the hospitality afforded him from each Lodge.

Pasta Nite is back on Mondays, Bingo Nite on Thursdays, and Tiki Bar and Trivia on Saturdays.

We held a “Night at the Races” to benefit St. Francis House. It was a huge success generating in excess of $6000.

Orange Park Lodge 2605

On August 6th we hosted the Florida/Georgia Blood Alliance Blood Drive. We had members from Moose Lodge

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SEMINAR

For all Exalted Rulers, Reporters and P&PR Persons
Nov. 10th- Friday Afternoon 3:00 - 4:00 PM
Speaker-Raleigh Whiteman, Editor of the Florida Elks News
Aripeka Lodge 2520

On June 14, 2006 Aripeka Elks Lodge 2520 in Hudson under the leadership of Past Exalted Ruler Philip Franz held their Flag Day service at Baldemero Lopez Veterans Nursing Home in Land O’Lakes. Members of the Ladies of Aripeka Elks were flag bearers, and members of Marine Corps League Detachment 708 served as honor guard. Robert Stoner, Trustee gave the history of the Flags and Hal Steffes, PDD gave the response.

Recently Chairman of Aripeka Lodge’s Adopt-A-Road Program, Bill Borusch, and nine volunteers cleared a two-mile area of U. S. 19 collecting eight bags of rubbish totaling 120 pounds.

On June 17, 2006 Exalted Ruler Judie Stoner and Aripeka Lodge honored the new Vice President of the Central District, Donna Zuk, with a dinner-dance. Approximately 120 attended.

Dignitaries attending were Peter Naranjo, Past State President; and his wife, Pat, Edna Capps, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and her husband Harold.

Our Bingo donated monies to Shriners Hospital, $500 and $500 to a fund set up for the children of Exalted Ruler Tony Komor of the Clinton, MO Elks Lodge 134. Brother Komor died when the lodge building collapsed while he was on the third floor studying for initiation that night.

Veteran’s Chairperson, Frieda Deane, treated 12 veterans from Baldemero Lopez Veterans Nursing Home to hamburgers, potato chips, dessert and beverages at the Lodge. Karaoke was proved by Annie Roo Roo who lead the singing in which some veterans partook. Chairperson Deane also had a pizza party at the Nursing Home for 50 people plus the staff. The veterans really enjoy the attention and the Karaoke.

We observed our 32nd Anniversary, Exalted Ruler Judi Stoner hosted a dinner dance for 250 members and guests. Bingo Chairman Wayne Getz stated that they donated $750 to the American Cancer Society, $100 to Child Abuse Prevention Program of Pasco County, $500 to Elks National Home Entertainment Program, $100 for Veterans’ Pizza Party, $100 to St Vincent De Paul Arts Council, $250 to ARC of Pasco County, $500 to Hudson Youth Soccer Group and $750 to the Alzheimers Family Organization.

Orlando Lodge 1079

Orlando Elks Lodge 1079 members recently honored new Eagle Scout Anthony Netti of Troop 823. Anthony’s Eagle project was to construct a butterfly garden at a local school. The study and meditation area is visited by students and teachers daily.

The Lodge presented Anthony with The Elks Certificate of Achievement, a $100 savings bond, an American flag, and a luncheon for the troop, family, and friends.

Our Lodge is proud to sponsor Troop 823 and to have been a part of this Eagle ceremony.

Zephyrhills Lodge 2731

Our Lodge works closely with the V.A. Hospital in Tampa and with the State Nursing Home in Land O’ Lakes. We host patients from the hospital on the first and third Friday night each month. We also host vets from Edwinola Assisted Living facility of Dade City the fourth Friday each month.

We gather and supply books and puzzles to both facilities. This past year we used an ENF grant to purchase toiletries for both places plus items donated by the members.

We feel honored that we are able to contribute in all of these ways and are checking into the possibility of helping the younger vets and their families.

West Citrus Lodge 2693

West Citrus 2693 has been very busy so far this year. In April we honored 40 Students of the Month and their parents. Four lucky seniors were awarded scholarships for $500 each. We had our annual Children’s Easter Egg Hunt for approximately 200 parents and children. We also had Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Breakfasts. During our Flag Day Ceremonies the Ladies of the Elks held a flag folding ceremony which was very touching. We served lunch to approximately 100 attendees along with the Young Marines who were the flag bearers.

One of our Lodge projects is a little gal named Meghan McGahey who has had quite a rough time of it, she was brought to our attention by one of our own therapists. Our Lodge members volunteered to pay and build her a new ramp and railings for her home so that she could maneuver her wheelchair a lot easier. This little gal and her mom are very grateful to the Elks for what they have been able to do and we in turn are very happy to do what Elks say “Elks Care - Elks Share.”

On another note, our Ladies of the Elks, through their various functions, have donated money to their various charities, some of which are ENF, Hospice, Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, and Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Central District Vice President Donna Zuk, visited our lodge on June 24th and DDGER Wayne Sorrell, who made his annual audit visit on September 16th, both were honored with a delicious dinner.

Brooksville Lodge 2582

Brooksville is involved with the ARC program that helps those who are mentally challenged. A spaghetti dinner for approximately 100 disabled ARC members is prepared and served every 3rd Tuesday. Funding for this program is provided out of the bingo funds.

We honored two seniors with scholarships of $1000 each. Saving can tabs is a way that we help the Ronald McDonald House program. This program helps children with health problems.

One of our Elks children receives benefits from this; we call it “Cassandra’s Dream” for Cassandra Noreen, nine years old. We also sponsor a Cub Pack.

Our lodge bulletin, “The Herd,” under the editing of Hazel Grower, won first place for Division IV for Lodge News Bulletins. Hazel was given an award by ER Ralph Risley.

Northeast District continued from page 6

2020 and Fleet Reserve 291 donate. We had a total of seventeen donors. Breakfast was also served to the donors.

We held our youth soccer shoot on September 23rd with a large turnout.

On August 5th we participated with the veterans Stand Down to support homeless veterans. We need to continue to support Veterans in our local community.

Palatka Lodge 1232

In an unofficial and definitely unscientific survey of Putnam County’s largest consumers of hamburgers and pizza, our Lodge’s Wednesday night hamburgers and twice monthly pizza nights have been given the coveted “I Can’t Believe I Ate the Whole Thing” award by area gastroenterologically challenged gourmet diners. The burgers prepared by Chef Bryan and the pizzas by Coopers Cooking Crew are just downright delicious.

On October 21st we will hold our seventh annual golf tournament. We have raised over $40,000 over the past six years and our goal this year is to raise $12,000.
Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp Awards at the Florida Ladies of Elks Conference

Mike Chandler, President of the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, presented Awards to Holiday Isles Ladies of Elks. From left: Past President Sandy Hall for Third Place Yearbook, Past President Elizabeth Ryan for Most Money Donated, Past President Alice Von Arzigen for Most Per-Capita, and Martha Fiester received a Certificate of Appreciation.

From left: Gwen Shaw of Eustis Anna Miller Circle received the Second Most Children to Camp Award from Camp Director Lynn Warburton, and Tess Pearl and Laura Katolske of Cape Coral Ladies of Elks won the First Place Award for Most Children Sent to Camp Award.

Geraldine Kenon, PLP of Punta Gorda Elkettes accepted the Conference Awards for the Most Cumulative Miles Traveled to Conference, and for the Most Ladies in Attendance.

The Live Oak Anna Miller Circle, or as the Chairman of the Ladies Organizations liked to call them, “The Live Wire Ladies,” received the Highest Percentage of Members Present at the Conference Award.

President Dolores Casella was awarded this bouquet of flowers from her husband, Sam.

Live Oak Anna Miller Circle Ladies received the Florida Elks Youth Camp Award from Lynn Warburton for the Most Money Donated.

Mike Chandler and Christopher Carlisle, Chairman of Ladies Organizations, presented the First Place Winner of the Yearbook Contest to the Editor of the yearbook, Mickey Rauch, Past President of Miami Elkettes.

First Place Craft Table Awards were given to Linda Crawford of Ocala Ladies, Second Place to Naples Ladies of Elks, and Third Place to Punta Gorda Elkettes.
A Visit to the Elks National Home

By PER Paul H. Daniels, Kissimmee 1873, and wife, Louise

Louise and I visited the Elks National Home and stayed overnight on September 25, 2006. We had dinner with about 80 residents. Some choose to miss the meal and others are away from the home at any given time. I tried at your suggestion to interview a single family. I invited Fred and Betty Hanning and their son, Chipper (the only family at the home), into the library for the interview, but it wasn’t long before other former Florida residents kept coming into the room and joining in the discussion. I know you asked for a photo of just the couple, but the energy of the moment took over.

Several who formerly lived in Florida and are now residents of the Elks National Home gathered in the library. They were eager to share their experiences as residents of the National Home. Everyone couldn’t speak at once, but those who were able to get a word in were very enthusiastic about their stay at the National Home. I have been trying to find something wrong, but I haven’t been able to find anything. This comment was volunteered by Elks National Home resident, Fred Hanning. Warren (“we call him Mac”) McLaughlin of the Fort Myers Lodge 1288 spoke immediately saying there aren’t enough young women. Everyone in the room laughed, but “Mac” looked serious. Fred; his wife, Betsy; and their son, Chipper; all members of Tampa Lodge 708, became residents of the home in November, 2005. They are the only complete family living there. Fred and Betsy have a suite with living room, bedroom and bath. Chipper lives next door in a single room with bath. One of the ladies who identified herself as, “Grandma” said, “This place is a palace.” Carmen Donato of Brooksville Lodge 2582, a resident for 6 years, was recently interviewed at length and he will appear on the new DVD the home will soon have available for distribution.

The monthly cost of the rooms includes meals and many, many, many activities. Residents were in the card room, exercise room, several more in the library, a couple shooting pool, and others sitting and visiting in the large entrance foyer. There were more than enough easy chairs and rockers inside the broad corridors for those who wish to visit or just look out at the pleasant vistas which surround the buildings and well manicured grounds of the home. They have many organized excursions to interesting events away from the home. Residents may come and go as they please using their personal vehicles.

Nellie Martin, Executive Secretary to the Executive Director, Dr. Ronald L. Plamondon, said that there are a total of 111 residents and 29 of those reside in the special care wing for assisted living. She informed us that 108 year old Frank Kowaleski of North Miami Lodge 1835 and the others requiring assisted living receive round-the-clock care as needed. This includes doctor and nurse care. Monthly room charges include meals for all residents and extra costs for assisted care or apartment style living space. If a resident doesn’t show up for meals, someone goes to his or her room to check on the resident. There is a security guard on duty 24 hours a day. Each resident of the Elks National Home must continue to maintain membership in an active Lodge. The home residents have a Lodge which is uncharted by the Grand Lodge, but they have all the officers and stations and conduct rituals usual to an active Lodge.

They do not install new members of the order. Responsibility and authority for the conduct of the Elks National Home is a duty of the Grand Trustees. After dinner Betty Good of Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870 invited my wife, Louise, and I to visit her apartment. It had a very cheery, roomy combined living room, dining table, and kitchen; a large bathroom; and nice big bedroom with a spectacular view out the window of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the well maintained gardens of the home. Betty said, “I was the first female to move into the home.” She is a high energy 83 years young and very much into the daily activities. She told us that she has written to the Grand Trustees with suggestions to enhance the living experiences at the home. She added that the Grand Trustees now schedule a session of questions and answers with residents when they meet at the home to conduct routine business.

Complete, detailed information packets are available and will be sent to anyone interested in becoming a resident. Contact address by mail: Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523. Telephone numbers: 1-800-552-4140 or local 540-586-8232.

E email: enhome@aol.com. The National Home Web Page: WWW.ELKSHOME.ORG. This is an excellent source of information. If you don’t use a computer, please ask a friend who has one to visit their web page for you. You’ll be glad you did.

The flag was at half staff and Nellie advised that was in honor of a resident who had just passed away.
Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

Our Lodge hosted the 15th annual Port St. Lucie 4th of July Parade (with over 1500 onlookers) and took part in the Freedom Fest 2006 activities in Lyngate Park. We also held our annual 4th of July Picnic and Bake Sale at the Lodge hosted by our House Committee. The Elkettes held a very successful Black & White Dinner Dance.

In August we held our District Visitation for VP Lenny Smallacombe and his wife, Barbara, with 125 members and guests in attendance. PDDGER Robert Coker, VP Lenny Smallacombe, District Auditor, and District Esquire held their inspection.

We have our Charity Bingo every Friday night with the proceeds going to The Children’s Therapy Program.

We also open our Lodge to the ladies every Thursday for them to play mah-jongg.

We also continue to hold our famous Tuesday Night Dinners.

West St. Lucie Elks Lodge 2823

On Saturday April 15th, our Lodge sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt for children and grandchildren of Elks members and over 100 children from Family Services. One hundred fifty Easter baskets, assembled a week earlier, were distributed. Included in the celebratory afternoon were a puppet show, an egg hunt, and food. For those welfare children unable to attend, baskets were delivered to their homes. We continued our commitment to community outreach with an extremely impressive Flag Day Ceremony. The DAV of PSL dressed in full revolutionary and military attire presented a most educative program in which all learned how and why each phase of our flag has developed. After the ceremony a potluck luncheon was served. Our organization can make, should make, and does make a positive contribution to our community, our state, and our nation.

On September 15 and 16, our Lodge hosted the visitation of State President Charles Trinowski and his wife, Mary Ann, and our District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Betty Tewksbury. Mr. Trinowski was selected as one of the four recipients in the nation for his significant contributions to the Boy Scouts of America. He has been a member of Lodge 1870 in good standing for over 23 years and 29 years as a Boy Scout volunteer.

Florida State Elks Association President Charles A. Trinowski, Jr. and VPAL David B. Lake and their wives visited the SEC District on September 15th and 16th and unveiled the new Elk statue at the Port St. Lucie Lodge where a dinner/dance was held in their honor.

Early Saturday morning the visiting dignitaries visited the Port St. Lucie Elks Lodge 2658 Friendship Park and were very impressed. From left: PSP Frank Palladini, VPAL David Lake, PDD Gus Simonelli, Port St, Lucie Council Member Jack Kelly, FSEA President Charlie Trinowski, VP Lenny Smallacombe and PDD Mike Chandler.

The PERs hosted the Labor Day Picnic with 200 members and guests in attendance. We held our Annual Oktoberfesta, Polish Night, and Special 7 Course Dinner Night. We started our Sunday Football Special serving snacks and finger foods and have 4 TVs playing different games and we are drawing large crowds.

We continue to hold our Drug Awareness Breakfast on every other Sunday of the month.

We also have a very active Operation Desert Elk program with 12 boxes a month being mailed out.

During the West St. Lucie Lodge visit of State President Charles Trinowski, PER Betty Tewksbury donated $5,000 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Cocoa Beach Lodge 2387

A few months back Cocoa Beach held their 81st birthday celebration. All of the proceeds we raised during this event went toward buying a new golf cart for the Cocoa Beach Jr./Sr. High School, to help move supplies and people during their functions on the athletic fields.

Special thanks go to Community/Youth Activities Chairman Martin (Tope) Phillips for coordinating everything to make this happen.

The other huge project we are currently working on is helping out the Eryn Cooper family. Eryn is a five year old girl from our communities who has lost both her kidneys due to a virus infection and has to travel to Orlando three times a week for dialysis treatments. Our lodge along with other organizations has held two car washes that have raised in excess of $8,000. We also have other functions planned in the near future to help offset the cost of the treatments.

Stuart-Jensen Elks Lodge 1870

Ken Tolve, a member of Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870 and Boy Scout Troop 840, was awarded the Marvin M. Lewis award at the Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando this past July. Mr. Tolve was selected as one of the four recipients in the nation for his significant contributions to the Boy Scouts of America. He has been a member of Lodge 1870 in good standing for over 23 years and 29 years as a Boy Scout volunteer.

Ken Tolve, center, with the 2005 Marvin Lewis Award recipients, PGER Dwayne E. Rumney and Suzi Gordon, Lodge Secretary of Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870.
Cape Coral Lodge 2596

A bartender at Cape Coral Lodge learned of a neighbor stricken with cancer who is physically unable to perform maintenance or repair to his home. The Lodge House Committee members volunteered to help by cleaning and painting the entire exterior of his home.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763

During the month of August, Deep Creek Lodge #2763 donated $1,710 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in support of both major projects. They also donated $1,464.75 to the Elks National Foundation and sent $1,000 to Missouri Elks Charitable trust for the family of Exalted Ruler Ken Komer.

The Lodge also hosted several veteran Jack Kellyrans from the local Veterans Nursing Home. The vets enjoy a hot lunch and the highlight of their visit is playing bingo. On September 12th, a group of Peer Mediators of Port Charlotte High School visited the Lodge for lunch. This group of students has a positive way of settling conflicts through mediation. This gives their class time to resolve problems.

She is an example of the future of Elkdom that “Elks Care-Elks Share” wherever their community is. She and her friends spend every Thursday with about 40 children at the Gusan Orphanage that is about 15 miles from the base. Deep Creek Lodge has sent her chalk, bubbles, crayons, and even jump ropes which the children didn’t know how to use, so she spent a day teaching jump rope 101. They all caught on. Marge Faulks made 40 little duck heads for the children, and when you squeeze it, the beak opens where she hid candy; they were loved by all.

The lodge will be sending Ashley money at Christmas to buy balls. The balls the children have now for basketball and soccer are so worn out they don’t bounce correctly, and shipping would be too expensive.

Ashley became a member when she turned 21. She was indoctrinated at her home lodge and initiated at the Roy Utah Lodge (Golden Spike). Her father is the Inner Guard at Deep Creek. Her mother is the Leading Knight at Deep Creek. Ashley also has a brother, 20, a marine stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA, who will be joining the Elks sometime next year.

A war veteran! An Elk! A 22 year old lady!

Airman Ashley Deschamps, originally from Salem, MA, now of Florida, is a member of Deep Creek Lodge 2763. She has been stationed at Kunsan AF Base Korea for 2 years. She was deployed once to the war, Iraqi Freedom, for 6 months.

A special surprise visitor coming all the way from Connecticut was Art Sheppard, a PER of the Lodge and a former PDDGER of the district. He is an example of the future of Elkdom that “Elks Care-Elks Share” wherever their community is.

Florida Elks News

Southeast District

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

Punta Gorda participated in Charlotte County’s Three Day Drug Awareness Fair. The Elks Drug Trailer was used and over 600 packets of information were passed out. During the last quarter the Lodge donated $5000.00 to Harry-Anna and the PER Association donated $3128.00 to Harry-Anna. A truck load of clothes and personal care items were delivered to Bay Pines V.A. Hospital and the Lodge participated in a “Shoes-For-Kids” project providing shoes for school children.

Rotonda Lodge 2710

The lodge sent a $1000 check to the estate of E.R. Tony Komer who was killed when the building of Clinton, MO lodge collapsed during a storm. The Lodge awarded a $1000 scholarship to a Lemon Bay high school student. Elkettes are in the process of making 25 lap robes for patients at local assistant living facilities.

The lodge has completed plans for a two day celtic festival to benefit the charity committee.

Southeast District continued on page 12
All nine lodges held a cookout for the Bay Pines V.A. Hospital Nursing Home Veterans on August 26th. Approximately 120 veterans were served. The Seminole and Tarpon Springs Lodges provided the food. The other Lodges served and cleaned up. The hosts for this event were WCD VP Mike Pierson and his wife, Becky. We were honored to have State President Charlie Trinowski, VPAL David Lake, PSP Frank Palladini, Veteran’s Services State Chairman Dick Bardsley, and their spouses in attendance. They were in the district for the State President’s Visit. There was a lot of fun and good fellowship had interacting with these veterans.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

On August 5th, the Lodge held an auction to raise money to purchase phone cards for our troops in Iraq. Event Chairman Bill Silva, stated there were about 200 people in attendance and approximately $6,000 was raised. There were so many items to auction that event was carried over to the next afternoon.

Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

The Lodge held a make-believe baby shower. All in attendance brought baby gifts. Approximately 1,200 items were donated. The gifts were given to the Haven, a mission for abused women and children.

A clothing drive was held for Bay Pines Veterans Hospital and 1,000 pounds of clothing were donated.

Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719

The Lodge is pleased to announce we are actively participating in the State President’s program goals by providing the following community sponsorships: Sunset Hills Elementary School—$150 Classroom Sponsorship teacher & fellow Elk, John Magoulis; Tarpon Springs Elementary School—$150 Classroom Sponsorship teacher and spouse of a fellow Elk, Loraine Helbig; Tarpon Springs Fundamental School—$150 Classroom Sponsorship; Tarpon Springs Youth Soccer Association—$250 Team Sponsorship under age 11 girls, coached by Jeff Young; and Tarpon Springs Jr. Spong-ers Youth Football—$350 Team Sponsorship.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

Lodge officers went to Safety Town, run by the Pasco County Sheriff’s Dept. The Lodge presented Cpl. Spicuglis 2,500 Drug Awareness coloring books. Safety Town is a miniature town for kids from kindergarten to 3rd grade. All the buildings are on a “kid size” scale. The Sheriff’s Dept. teaches them street safety, fire safety, and how to react in an emergency situation. We also gave them pamphlets on alcoholism and methamphetamines to be distributed in the local schools.

Aripeka Lodge challenged us to match their donation of $500 to the Shriner’s Crippled Children’s Fund. We not only met their challenge, but topped them by raising $600. We sent the challenge back to them to raise an additional $100.

In September, we donated our hall to the Boys & Girls Club of Pasco County for a luncheon fundraiser.

Largo Lodge 2159

Largo Lodge received the DONOR OF THE YEAR AWARD from the Operation Military Kids Program in July. The presentation was held at the Pinellas County Extension Center. Representing the Lodge was ER Steve Cardoso and his wife, Robyn.

Jan Rogers, Youth Activities Chairperson, Carol Stevens, Veterans’ co-chairperson; and Flo Hervey attended the 4-H youth development program at the Pinellas County Extension Center on July 27, 2006. They observed the work done by the youth involved in the Operation Military Kids Program. They were surprised and delighted to observe the fine work done by the children this summer.

Pinellas Park Lodge 2217

The Lodge raised $250 to send to the family of the ER who died in the building collapse in Clayton, Missouri. The Lodge donated $250 worth of shoes for the Youth Camp, $75 for the WCD Soccer Shoot, and $50 to the Pinellas Park T-Birds Youth Football Team.

We continued our support of the Bay Pines Hospital Veterans by contributing several bags of clothing and personal need items. In addition, we took part in the WCD cookout during the State President’s visit.

Seminole Lodge 2519

The Lodge had the honor of being the HOME of Mike Pierson, VP of the WCD, as Mike hosted the State President’s visit on August 25th and 26th. State President Charlie Trinowski and his lovely wife, Mary Ann, had a very busy time on the 26th visiting the Dali Museum, the Bay Pines V.A. Hospital Nursing Home cookout, and the dinner that evening at our Lodge. At Bay Pines, it was the WCD’s honor to serve those who gave so much that we may be free. Our Lodge is so proud of Mike and his wife, Becky, in the outstanding way they have represented the WCD this year. Thanks go to our Lodge members for maintaining our reputation as the “Friendliest Lodge in the District.”

Tampa Lodge 708

On August 26th, the Lodge hosted the annual “Night Out with the Dogs.” A total of 76 Elks and friends went to the Tampa Dog Track. The proceeds of the 6th race were donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

The Lodge hosted a “Back to School” party on July 30th. There were 50 children and 22 parents present. The children wrote anti-drug poems which were read and judged. Ashley Moriarty took 1st place, Christien Elkins was 2nd, and Trey Higgins was 3rd. Each of the children who read a poem received a stuffed animal. Each student in attendance received a pack of paper, a composition book, crayons or colored pencils, glue and a glue stick, three folders, three pencils, five erasers, a ruler, and a red, a blue, and a black pen. Food was served including homemade ice cream sundaes. The children came from the Everyday Blessing Home in Brandon and the Camelot home in Tampa.

On September 3rd, the Lodge held a Labor Day Celebration at which time we honored the Tampa Fire Rescue Squad. The Fire Department brought a fire engine for display. All had a great time.

Each month our Lodge hosts Bingo at the James A. Haley V.A. Hospital. Due to a bacteria problem in the food at the hospital, the serving of refreshments has been temporarily put on hold. As a result, on September 14th, we gave 70 can-teen books as prizes and we passed out an additional 70 books to the 35 veterans participating. We had seven Elks and Ladies helping as volunteers.

Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525

The Lodge provided a cookout for the veterans housed at the Baldemero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home, in Land O’ Lakes, Florida on July 23rd. The Elks fed over 80 veterans plus the facility staff. The Lodge donated books and magazines to the veterans’ library.

The Lodge donated over $1,000 of school supplies to the San Jose Elementary School in Dunedin. We also had a “Drug Awareness Day” at the school working with the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Resource Department.
The Tallahassee Lodge was proud to represent the lodges in the state of Florida at the GL Ritual competition. While placing third in the Eastern Division is a noteworthy accomplishment, it was a great experience for the lodge officers, and they appreciate the support of the Florida lodges and the FSEA.

Did you see the letter on the GL website from the Exalted Ruler at Marianna Lodge? If you missed it, you missed a fine example of what an Elks Lodge is all about—helping others.

Our District Vice President, James Hollingsworth, has completed his visits to all but his home lodge, and the District Deputy, Ron Brown, has already begun his visits. Lodges in our district look forward to seeing these guys come to the respective lodges.

Lake City Lodge 893

The Lake City Lodge held its annual golf tournament on June 24. Many local sponsors contributed to the success of the event, as did the efforts by lots of volunteers.

The lodge has made more improvements to its dining room. Volunteers have given sweat equity, and there have been financial contributions by members to fund the improvements. The card room experienced some water damage to the exterior wall (remember this lodge is a wood building more than a hundred years old) and that was a priority item for repair. Exterior walls have been replaced and new windows and a new roof over that room are planned. Once those items are finished, the interior walls, ceiling, and floor will be redone.

A memorable summer event is the Lodge Family Picnic, held this year on August 19 at the home on the Ichetucknee River of Jim and Carol Martin. The lodge provided food and beverages for all to enjoy and was once again a success.

Live Oak Lodge 1165

Live Oak Lodge and its Ladies Organization, the Anna Miller Circle, are working together to revitalize the lodge's bingo game. Bingo is conducted twice a week at the lodge. Some of the bingo proceeds this year were used on scholarships for several high school seniors. Awards were given at a dinner on June 17.

The lodge conducted a fundraiser raffle in July and August to help with lodge improvements. The item to be won at the drawing on September 2 was a firearm.

Madison Lodge 2205

Madison Lodge held a special dinner in July with the theme of swamp and bird. Members donated the food including gator tail, frog legs, and quail for the dining pleasure of the patrons. The food was reported to be absolutely wonderful.

The lodge conducted a fundraiser in early September for the Harris family and their new babies—triplets. There have been big medical bills and the lodge stepped in to help. A ham supper was scheduled on a night when the lodge also had bingo. All the food was donated, so the donations for dinner and the proceeds from bingo which all totaled $1,300 were given to the Harris family to help with expenses for the new babies.

Marianna Lodge 1516

In the last article from this district, it was noted that the new ER, Randy Ward, has issued a challenge to the members of the Marianna Lodge to listen for a cry for help from the community and to remember the closeness of the membership that helps all to work together as a team to offer assistance. The lodge has historically built many wooden ramps for wheelchair folks to make it easier to get in and out of a home that had steps to the door. Randi is working on some ideas for more visibility in the community so that folks on the street might be heard to whisper, “He’s an Elk you know, from that lodge down on Highway 90 that has donated time, resources, and money to help those in need.”

Maybe you saw the letter that ER Ward sent to Grand Lodge, that was posted on the GL website. If you did not see it, the Marianna Lodge found an 89 year old veteran in the community who was behind in house payments due to health issues (a brain aneurysm), and the lodge raised money to catch the payments back up, pay the electric bill, and a few other bills. The veteran wrote a humble note of thanks to the lodge.

In August, ER Ward initiated a fundraising effort to send donations to the Komer boys trust fund (sons of ER Tony Komer who died in the Missouri lodge building collapse).

The lodge’s monthly pancake breakfast in July was a successful endeavor netting the lodge over $500 which is enough to build a wheelchair ramp for an individual in need in the community and to help fund a banquet for veterans later in the fall. Pancake breakfasts continue on Saturdays in the middle of each month.

Marianna Lodge has a long history of awarding college scholarships to members’ children and grandchildren. This year was no exception with $3,700 being handed out by the lodge to five students. As a matter of fact, the lodge has spent $32,800 so far this year on charitable endeavors when counting money, man hours, and mileage. Marianna Lodge is INVOLVED in the community. Community officials have even come to join the Elks to participate in events recognizing community achievement such as the state baseball team champs.

Karaoke is big at the Perry Lodge on Friday nights. If you are visiting in the area, be sure to warm up your voice and come by the lodge and sing. Recognize the competition ahead of time and don’t try to monopolize the stage!!

Tallahassee Lodge 937

Tallahassee Lodge is busy planning its annual Chili Cookoff Contest set for October 14th. Proceeds from the event will be given to HOOAH, Honoring Our American Heroes, which is an arm of the Florida National Guard. HOOAH helps the families here at home with minor home repairs when a parent is stationed overseas. Last fall the lodge gave $2,200.

The lodge celebrated July 4th with a cookout, a brief program, and a cake walk. It was the Ladies Organization, the Elketts, who planned the cake walk, netting more than $200 for themselves. There were more than 75 people attending, and it was a grand time.

The Ladies gave a generous donation of $5,000 to the lodge to help with the cost of a new AC condenser unit two weeks after the cake walk.

Perry Lodge 1851

Perry Lodge celebrated Flag Day with flag presentations by Boy Scout Troop 600, sponsored by the lodge. Also in June the lodge held work days to refinish the wrought iron fence along the front of the property.

The lodge held a dance to raise money for the Newmans. It was such a success that $1,500 was contributed to the family. Randy and Deidra Newman are both members of the Perry Lodge and both were very instrumental in getting the lodge started with the Breakfast with Santa program several years ago. Randy was recently diagnosed with liver failure and his health deteriorated. He has been put on a liver transplant list but while waiting has started to show some signs of improvement. His health is still touch and go, but he is back to work for up to four hours daily.

The community has been praying for this family, and prayers from Elks are welcomed.

A Poker Run in July raised $1,400 which was donated to the new Veterans Memorial Park in Perry. Over 60 riders participated in the event including a fish dinner after the run.

Scholarship awards were given by the lodge to Taylor County High valedictorian Natalie York and Salutatorian Jennifer Reams. Cash amounts awarded were $500 and $250.

The Tallahassee Elks Lodge was awarded, from the Governor of the State of Florida, a Florida Commendation Medal for “outstanding service and support to the soldiers and families of Alpha Company 3rd Battalion 124th Infantry” of the Florida National Guard. We received this award for our “untiring support, selfless service, and hard work” which is the symbol of true patriots. It was a very proud moment for those of us in attendance.

The Tallahassee Lodge has three members on active duty in military service: Donald Reeves, Jay Sample, and Robert Buckley. One of our youngest members, USAF 2nd Lt. Robert Buckley recently graduated from flight school at Moody AFB (Valdosta, GA) and is now stationed at Columbus AFB in Mississippi. Robert flies a T1 Jayhawk, an aircraft with twin jet motors.

It was our pleasure to act as host for one of the state ritual clinics held August 12-13. The Tallahassee ritual team performed for the judges. A number of folks were certified or recertified in all three fields of judging.

The lodge has just completed a trip to the Florida Elks Youth Camp with a local school, Gretchen Everhart. This school is attended by physically and mentally challenged youth, and 55 kids took the trip with their parents and some Elks from our lodge as chaperones. It was a heartwarming experience for the kids and the adult kids too enjoying the youth camp and all it has to offer. The lodge did fundraising events for months to pay the nearly $6,000 cost of the trip and was fortunate to have community donations as well as from the Gretchen Everhart school to help defray the cost.
**Lady Lake Elks Lodge 2793**

Lady Lake Elks Lodge 2793 recently presented Billy Holmes with a plaque and flag at his Eagle Scout ceremony. Billy is the son of Mr. & Mrs. William M. Holmes of Fruitland Park, Florida. Billy is a senior at First Academy in Leesburg and a member of Scout Troop 213. His Eagle Scout project was building a memorial garden including an engraved bench in memory of three teachers from First Academy who had passed away.

![Picture on the left is Don Diamant, PER, Youth Activities Chairman and on the right Bill Bookin, President of the Elks Lodge.](image)

Lady Lake Lodge is planning several upcoming events. Saturday, Oct. 29 will be the district picnic at the Elks property. January 13 will feature a presentation by Re-Creation at the Savannah Center and Feb. 3 bring the funny antics of “Crazy” Carol at Laurel Manor. Feb. 23-25 we will host the State President and on the right Bill Bookin, President of the Elks Lodge. Feb. 23-25 we will host the State President.

**Apopka Elks Lodge 2422**

We held our annual Corned Beef Cabbage Dinner and Silent Auction March 17th raising $1,200.00 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Every Sunday a tireless Elk named Ruthie Walls cooks up vittles for our Sunday bingo crowd. The money collected from the sale of these dinners is used to put on a cookout at the veterans home in Orlando. We had our first one of the year in March and the next one is planned for September.

We recently renewed that obligation and held an Orange Blossom Trail Highway Cleanup in July and September.

Members of our Lodge participated in the nationwide Habitat for Humanity Building Blitz June 5th-10th. Habitat for Humanity planned to erect three houses in Apopka that week. The Lodge donated the use of tables, chairs and “The Goose.”

In addition we supplied and served cake to approximately 500 people during the final day of celebration.

We are in the process of painting the interior and exterior of the Lodge. We also held a contest to “Spruce up the Goose.”

The Goose is our concession trailer. It got its name because it was originally made it looked like a big white goose. In the past it has appeared at many community events and we are attempting to bring back this tradition, but the Goose needed a new look. We opened the contest up to the local community and offered a cash prize for the best design. We’ll send in a picture when it’s finished.

In our efforts to serve our community we donated school supplies to the Wheatley Elementary School in Apopka. We will continue to help wherever we can.

**Ocala Lodge 286**

The members of the Ocala Lodge donated $1,000 to the Fort McCoy Veterans of Foreign Wars Retirement Home for the construction of a new room.

On May 13th the Ocala Lodge participated in a Court of Honor ceremony honoring new Eagle Scout Michael J. Manasterski of Boy Scout Troop 72.

**ER Michael Mongeluzzo presented a framed certificate of accomplishment, a U.S. Flag, and an American Flag pin to Michael Manasterski.**

Ocala Elks held its annual Youth Appreciation Night Banquet drawing more than 100 community residents including youth volunteers, civic leaders, adult coordinators, and parents. The lodge was proud to present the Golden Key Award, Elkdom Award, and certificates and honors to Meridith Dukes who contributed to humanitarian projects in the county.

**Winter Garden Lodge 2165**

Two Ocoee High School honor students received $1,000 scholarships from the Winter Garden Elks Lodge 2165.

The Winter Garden Lodge recently held its Annual Charity Ball, an event that raised funds for the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Harry-Anna Trust Fund, and the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

At the banquet, Exalted Ruler Mike Jernigan presented the Community Awards and Elks Awards.

The awards and recipients were Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Sherry Wise; Outstanding Police Officer of the Year, Will Shoemaker; Outstanding Educator of the Year, Charles Thomas; Outstanding Firefighter of the Year, Steve Ellis; Outstanding Veteran of the Year, Tom Murphy; 2006 Elk of the Year, George Laberee Sr.; and 2006 Elk Officer of the Year, Charlie Crane.

Carleigh Sales, a 5th grade student at Whispering Oak Elementary School in Winter Garden, recently won 3rd place in the Elks State Americanism Essay Contest. Alice Armstrong of the Winter Garden Elks presented Carleigh with a $400 savings bond as the 3rd place state winner.

**Winter Park Lodge 1830**

After hurricane Katrina and the Florida hurricanes, PDD Larry Bowdren decided that it was time for the Elks of Winter Park Lodge 1830 to do some advance preparation for the 2006 hurricane season. Last year, Larry formed Winter Park Elks Disaster Relief Program. Here are some of the formative activities. The Disaster Relief Committee with forty-two volunteers is believed to be the first Lodge committee within Elksdom to be formed before a disaster strikes.

The Disaster Relief Committee is also proud to announce that PDD John Famulare has had success in gaining approval in having Winter Park Lodge designated as a pre-positioned distribution point for disaster relief supplies. John has been corresponding with appropriate officials to have semitrailers containing relief supplies parked at The Winter Park Elks Lodge.

Members Pete Maupin and PER Dick Bardsley composed a news article for distribution to 13,000 Goldenrod residents to publicize the efforts of the Winter Park Elks and their Disaster Relief Committee.

PDD Bowdren stressed that the purpose of the Disaster Relief Committee will be devoted towards a second response effort in assisting those requiring help. This dedication and effort follows the objectives of Elksdom in their efforts to be good neighbors within a community.

Winter Park Lodge is serving our community thru cell phones. Louise Dykstra, a new member of our Lodge, investigated a unique way to serve the community. Cell phones that have been replaced or ceased working can be donated to the Lodge for recycling. It doesn’t matter what brand of phone or if it is accompanied by a battery, charger or case; all cell phones can be donated. Louise found a cellular company that will clear the phone’s memory and restore the phone to work only with 911. The phones will then be donated to needy people in our community.

The second project was from the Lodge’s Veterans’ Services Committee under the direction of Walter “Ski” Stolarski who has a wealth of ideas for serving our veterans. The most recent idea was to honor 17 veterans, men and women, of which seven were ex-prisoners of war. They were invited with their spouses to the Labor Day barbecue where over 200 people would recognize them and their extra sacrifice.

The ex-prisoners of war were Ed Izicky (Air Force), John Bruce (Air Force), Sterling Tuck (Air Force), Gerry Walter (Air Force), Herb Ossusky (Air Force), Roger Wilson (Army), and Dan Balinski (Air Force).

The committee had the honorees sign the POW / MIA flag that is on permanent display in our Lodge. All in attendance witnessed the signing.

The third activity was to support the Central Florida Blood Bank. Rick Robbins arranged the bloodmobile to be located at the Lodge during the 4th of July and Labor Day barbecues. This was a “win-win” opportunity with the community receiving badly needed blood and the donors receiving a free barbecue meal and a gift card or other award. The result was that there were 33 donors at both barbecues.
Daytona Beach Lodge 1141

Congratulations to Daytona Beach bingo workers who have helped this Lodge carry on their charitable works in the community. This year the Lodge donated $14,326.00 to 22 different organizations. Their Scholarship Award of $2,000 went to Frank Barnes, a Father Lopez student.

Members of the Lodge all pitched in over the summer to do some repair work and cleaning. Cathy Rogers, a member of the Emblem Club, donated a much needed air conditioning unit for the Exalted Ruler’s office.

Members and their guests enjoy every Thursday night with Kenny and Saturday night Karaoke. “Cowboy Bob” had all the members and their guest tapping their feet on Saturday night.

Deland Lodge 1463

Matt Pieper, Exalted Ruler and approximately 200 members and friends held a memorial service at the Lodge to pay their last respects to Edward Madigan.

Matt attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando this year to watch Phil Watercutter get installed with his jewels of office as the new East Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for 2006-2007. Congratulations go to Phil from all the members.

Our Lodge has a new flag in front thanks to members Russell and Walter Koplin. They donated the flag in memory of their father, Walter E. Koplin. Thanks guys.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650

“Thanks, Mom!” In a unique Merritt Island Elks Lodge Officer Installation ceremony, Exalted Ruler Carol Mitchell (right) passed the gavel of authority to her daughter, Robin Mitchell, who will serve as Exalted Ruler during the 2006-2007 Lodge year.

Exalted Ruler Robin Mitchell attended the Grand Lodge Convention this year with much enthusiasm. John and Marcie Lesko kept themselves busy at the convention by volunteering at different venues.

July 4th was our Firecracker Derby. Jockeys were in rare form. Special thanks to Ed, Jo, and Judy for making the event so successful. The Lodge took their traveling kitchen staff, ER Robin Mitchell, Est. Leading Knight Nick Skibba, Est. Lecturing Knight Kathy Skibba, and Ladies Auxiliary President Tina Barber to serve their gourmet “Lunch Italiano” food to 25 veterans at the Veterans Transitional Facility where veterans have found a temporary haven and a way back to society.

The Lodge continues to mail personal items for distribution for our troops to their adopted chaplain, Captain Dougglas Yates who is stationed in Northern Baghdad, Iraq. The Lodge collects household coupons for military families based in Germany to use at their commissaries.

New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557

Exalted Ruler Dot Durni and husband, Doc, attended the Grand Lodge Convention this year for their Lodge. They both had a rewarding experience. Dot reported there were approximately 5,249 members and approximately 2,932 guests who attended the convention.

The construction of the new building is moving along at a good pace.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

The Lodge hosted a Christmas in July party. A needy family of four brothers was chosen by their school to receive a donation of $700 from the members of Ormond Beach Lodge.

There was a great turnout for this event. Exalted Ruler Jerry Brunson and Lodge Secretary Patricia Gehring had invited Sonny Armstrong, Vice President of the East Central District to be a part of the festivities.

The Ladies Auxiliary presented Nicholas Rishel, a major in music and drama, with a scholarship award.

The Social Quarters reported 51 players at the last poker tournament on July 18th.

The Lodge, once again, is planning a 3-day cruise to Nassau that is scheduled for March 15, 2007.

The Lodge is preparing a visitation/carnival on Saturday, September 16, 2006 for Sonny Armstrong, Vice President of the East Central District, and other dignitaries. Come visit us on our website at http://www.elks2193.com.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709

The Lodge is in their final stages of completing their facility expansion. The new walk-in freezer and refrigerator are being fabricated for installation by the end of September.

The fall season is almost upon us and with the number of new members coming in, we will be able to continue to provide for our members.

The Lodge’s Hoop Shoot Chairman, Bob Osborne, has started to organize the event for our local competitors. He always goes that extra mile to ensure the event is memorable for all the participants. The Lodge would like to thank Treasurer Frank Quinn, and Secretary Tom Hoffman, for taking on these responsibilities for the Lodge. Both Frank and Tom have replaced longtime Treasurer and Secretary Burch Kane and Mike Hannus.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

The Lodge held their annual July 4th cookout. It was a great turnout by members and guests.

There were 13 entries for the Americanism Essay Contest this year with the theme being ‘What I Feel When I Look Up at the American Flag.’ Family members of the two students who won the essay were present.

New Smyrna Beach Lodge and Port Orange Lodge held a combined Flag Day Observance Ceremony on Sunday, June 11th. Assisting in the ceremony were the American Legion Post 270 Color Guard, Cub Scout Pack 429, and the Ladies Auxiliary of Port Orange Lodge. A guest article written by Capt. John S. McCain, USN (Ret.), U.S. Senator, was posted in the “Orange Peel.” We have a website that is managed and maintained by our Lodge webmaster, Susan Lent. Come visit us at http://home.cfl.rr.com/elks2723.

Vivian Rauer, our new Lodge Secretary, is no stranger to our Lodge. Her husband, Al Rauer, was Elks of the Year in 1998, and Vivian, was Elkhart of the Year in 1999. Kudos, Vivian on a fine job you’re doing for our Lodge.

Exalted Ruler Ed Jackson reminds us that we have several events scheduled these next few months and asks that everyone come out and have fun. The Lodge is sponsoring an October cruise to the Bahamas and is hosting some “great” nights; for the months of July and August: Hawaiian Night, New Orleans Night; New York, New York Night; and San Francisco Night.

The Ladies Auxiliary held their annual card party on July 12th.

Congratulations to our new Chairman of Trustees, Vic McClellan, PSP, DDGER of Alabama. Vic joined the Elks in Montgomery, Alabama 35 years ago. He has served in the Air Force and as an Alabama State Trooper.

Our Lodge is having a fundraiser for the Spruce Creek Jazz Band on Saturday, October 14, 2006. The students have been invited to perform in China on November 6-15, 2006. Paul Leonard, our organist, is the chairman for this worthwhile fundraiser.

Sanford Lodge 1241

The Lodge held their annual Flag Day ceremony with Boy Scout Troop 543 as the honor guard. Exalted Ruler John Colbert, PER Gary Conway, and approximately 57 persons were present.

The Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a pasta dinner/Father’s Day function on June 17th. Felicia Coleman was presented with a trophy in the Hoop Shoot contest as being the female with the most free throws made.

Boy Scout Troop 543 held a “Court of Honor” and dinner at our Lodge that was attended by plenty proud scouts and their parents. Congratulations go to Dick and Sue Ingle who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, August 19th at the Lodge.

Titusville Lodge 2113

The Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a Christmas in July Party Sale on July 15th and a Chinese Auction/Dance on August 12th. They plan on having their annual rummage sale on October 6th.

The Lodge held a Vice President visitation country western dinner/dance in honor of Sonny Armstrong and other dignitaries.

The Lodge will have their next highway pickup (Adopt A Highway Program) on Saturday, September 23rd starting at 8 a.m. Our Exalted Ruler, Paul Brant, asks that we remember our local charities.

The Does held their annual Chinese Auction/Dance which proved to be a success. They are planning their annual Fall Rummage Sale for October 6-8 at the Lodge.

Our special thanks to David and his customers, for spearheading a special program for our men and women serving the armed forces. Kilwin’s Fudge Shop in Melbourne has donated 45 pounds of fudge to the armed services.
Thank You for all the Letters...

Both of your Major Projects help so many people in so many different ways. We receive hundreds of cards and letters from kids that enjoyed summer camp, parents whose child is receiving physical therapy and many others. We just wanted to take the time to express our thanks to you, our members, that make it all possible. Keep up the good work.


ADDRESS CHANGES

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

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