HUGE INITIATION

As a result of a membership drive, Sebring Lodge 1529 initiated 40 new members at the February Initiation. The class was named “The Don Sansoussi Class” in honor of the State President, a Past Exalted Ruler of Sebring Lodge. President Don Sansoussi, SWC District Deputy Dick Rhodes and Exalted Ruler Bill Peters are standing at far left.

Dear Friends:

I hope everyone read the article in USA TODAY about Elksdom. It was in the March 16, 2006 edition and cited several instances of Elks Lodges as the focal point of younger members who enjoy participation in our many, many programs for children and those less fortunate.

These younger members also like the mix of ages of the members, which provides the ability to hear of the life experiences of the more mature members. All of that mix makes socializing more interesting.

As I write this, Tom Elmore and I are preparing to meet with the Grand Lodge Convention Committee in Orlando for more detailed preparations for the July Convention. Tom has accomplished a lot of our goals for the Convention, including seeking your volunteer help. We can always use a little more assistance; if you can volunteer, please do so.

It is still too early to know if the Elks of Florida have achieved the goals set in the beginning of the year. However, we do know our fundraising expectations for the Elks National Foundation and the Youth Camp and Mobile Therapy Service are so close to reality that it is safe today they will be met.

Relating back to the first part of this message, it is important for us (and for them) to bring in younger members. If your Lodge has few, then do it in a way those younger members are initiated and retained.

The approach that works best is to bring a group of at least 8 or 10 in at the same time. Then give them something to do, but do it gradually. Let them absorb the history and successes of Elksdom, and then be sure they become a part of the future activities of the Lodges. Your city, your state and your country rely on the work of Elksdom, and the perpetuation of that work needs these younger members as the future.

May God provide you with health, happiness and a close and loving family.

PGER Robert Grafton

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2005-2006
OFFICERS OF THE FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

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

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS
Northwest..............David D. Wiley..................Milton Lodge 2377
North...............Ron Brown ......................Tallahassee Lodge 937
North Central.....James E. Hurst, Jr. ............Jacksonville Lodge 221
East Central........Phil Watercutter ..............Deland Lodge 1463
North Central....Bruce Henry.....................Silver Springs Shores Lodge 2370
Central................Wayne Sorrell ..............Kissimmee Lodge 1873
Southeast Central.....Robert Gorman ............Viera Lodge 2084
West Central........Mario Ferfoglia .............Pinellas Park Lodge 2217
Southwest Central....John Russo .................Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Southwest..........Danny Tabor ..................Bradenton Lodge 1511
South Southwest.....Truman A. Bass .............Deep Creek Lodge 2763
Southeast................Gary Casperson ...........Okeechobee Lodge 2558
South East...............Charles Trinowski ..........Pompano Beach Lodge 1898
South........Marcie Diehl ......................So. Miami Coral Gables Lodge 1676

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
5 Yr.....Michael Phillips.........................Titusville Lodge 2113
4 Yr.....James A. Coggins.............................Warrington Lodge 2108
3 Yr.....Michael A. Smith, Vice Chairman...Plant City Lodge 1722
2 Yr.....Merle L. Sadow ..........................So. Hillsborough Lodge 2672
1 Yr.....Thomas E. Elmore......................Okeechobee Lodge 2558
Imed. Past State President........Frank Palladini ......Tampa Lodge 708

DISTRICT DIRECTORS
Northwest.....James L. White-2 yr..............Holly/Navarre Lodge 2787
North.........Stanley Cox 2 yr ..................Lake City Lodge 893
North Central....Robert Caluto-1 yr.........St. Augustine Lodge 829
East Central....John S. "Jack" Parker-1 yr........New Smyrna Beach 1557
North Central........Jodie Crews-2 yr........Eustis Lodge 1578
Central ............Ross Evers-2 yr .............Orlando Lodge 1070
Southeast Central.....Buddy Yates-2 yr..........Pt. St. Lucie Lodge 2658
West Central.....Charles E. Urello-1 yr........Dundee/Clearwater Lodge 1525
Southwest Central.....Clinton Crabtree-1 yr.........Brandon Lodge 2383
Southwest........Fred McDougall -1 yr........Sarasota So. Lodge 2495
South Southwest.....Daniel C. Langham-2 yr ......Englewood Lodge 2378
Southeast.......W. H. “Jimmy” McDuffie-1 yr ....Clewiston Lodge 1853
South Southeast....Fred Benninger -1 yr..........Boca Raton Lodge 2166
South..............Joe Ortiz-1 yr ...............North Miami Lodge 1833
FSEA Secretary.....Carl T. Seibert...............Belle Glade lodge 1716
Treasurer..........Joseph B. Bryant...............Sebring Lodge 1529
Tiler.................Tom Ludwig..................Plant City Lodge 1722
Historian................Lowell P. Tyler ..........W. Palm Beach Lodge 1352
Curator of Museum..........Terry Russell ..........Brandon Lodge 2383

APPOINTED OFFICERS
Chaplain ..................Joe Ortiz ....................North Miami Lodge 1835
Sgt-at - Arms........John Holbrook ............Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Organist........Charles Gudgel ................Titusville Lodge 2113

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

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

FLORIDA ELKS PROPERTIES, INC.
David B. Lake Director 5 yr Pt. Myers Lodge 1288
James E. Hurst Director-4yr Jacksonville Lodge 221

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

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

FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES, INC.
Ben S. Brown Jr. Administrator Eustis Lodge 1578
Michael W. Chandler President Ormond Beach Lodge 2193
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Robert Grafton, PGER 10523 S.W.12th Terrace, Micaynopy 32667-9447

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Donald Sansoussi, FSEA President
“Guided By Our Hearts”

It is with mixed emotions that I write this final article as your State President. You have honored Gail and me with hospitality and support beyond our greatest dreams. Everywhere we have visited you have demonstrated that Elks are really “Guided by our Hearts.” From the bottom of our hearts we thank you.

Since my last article Gail and I, along with VPAL Charlie and Mary Ann, have completed our District visitations.

Our first visit following the Christmas holiday season was to the South Southwest District. District Vice President Truman Bass and Linda and District Leader PSP Bill Wellbaum and Sue hosted us. We arrived Friday afternoon and enjoyed camaraderie with a large gathering of Elks. Friday evening we were welcomed to Punta Gorda Lodge 2606 by Exalted Ruler Tom Gorman and Lois. As usual the lodge was very busy. We enjoyed a delicious meal and the duo in the lounge was very entertaining. Saturday morning the guys played golf at the King’s Way Country Club while the ladies went to Fisherman’s Village shopping. We all met at Port Charlotte Lodge 2153. We enjoyed a lovely lunch in their new lodge. Exalted Ruler Carl Gerase and the officers made us very welcome. Saturday evening the banquet at Deep Creek Lodge 2763 was outstanding. Exalted Ruler Bob Pell and Janice, the officers, members, and all the volunteers provided us with a wonderful evening.

Our next visit took us to the North District. We were hosted by District Vice President Ron Brown and Dorothy and District Leader PSP Harry Henley and Pam. Friday evening we enjoyed dinner and dancing at Tallahassee Lodge 937. Exalted Ruler Harry Symons provided us with a tour of the lodge. The lodge room furniture which was originally from Lodge #1 is very impressive. It is absolutely beautiful. You just stand there and look at it in awe. If furniture could talk can you imagine the stories to be told? Saturday our tour at Mission San Luis was a historical treat and the mini tour of the three War Memorials meant a lot to me, being a veteran.

What a gala event our visit to the Northeast District was. Our hosts were District Vice President Jim Hurst and Julia, and District Leader PSP Jim Solana and Diane. We arrived Friday afternoon and were welcomed again by a large greeting party. We were very honored that in attendance were PGER Bob Grafton and Pat and PGER Val Bates and Claudia. In addition to the Elks greeting party, the hotel staff was also there to greet us. What an honorable afternoon. Friday night we were hosted by Orange Park Lodge 2605. Exalted Ruler Bob Morse and Cathy greeted us. The volunteers, aided by the Scouts, did an exceptional job. We had a very enjoyable evening. After a great meal, magicians, again aided by the Scouts, entertained us. Saturday morning at a reception in the hotel I was very honored to be greeted by Officials from the City of Jacksonville. A very impressive welcoming letter from the Mayor was read and presented to me by several members of the City Council. Another highlight was meeting

Miss Florida, Mari Wilensky. She is a delightful young lady. I really enjoyed our picture taking session.

The luncheon cruise aboard the Jacksonville Princess Saturday afternoon was very relaxing. Saturday evening the Jacksonville Lodge was beautifully decorated. The meal and entertainment were wonderful. All enjoyed a great weekend.

The final visit was our homecoming in the Great Southwest Central District hosted by our own Lake Placid Lodge 2661. Our hosts were District Vice President John Russo and Geri and District Leader PSP Mike Smith and Sandra. What a wonderful weekend. We arrived Friday afternoon at the historic Kenilworth Lodge. The greeting party was exceptional. It was a very emotional few minutes for me, one that I will never forget. Friday evening we went to Sebring Lodge 1529. Thank you Exalted Ruler Bill Peters and Barbara and all the officers, members and many volunteers for a lovely evening of dining and entertainment. State Treasurer, PDDGER, Joe Bryant and his volunteer kitchen crew prepared a wonderful buffet enjoyed by all.

Saturday morning golf at Spring Lake County Club was enjoyable, although our foursome didn’t win any money. While we were playing golf the ladies had a successful shopping trip in downtown Sebring.

The Saturday evening banquet at Lake Placid Lodge 2661 was outstanding, and again very emotional. The Lodge was elegantly decorated and displayed all of the welcoming banners from all of the Districts we visited. Exalted Ruler Vince Avery, the officers, members, ladies and many, many volunteers made our homecoming a very special event. The Italian food, most of which Geri Russo, wife of DVP John Russo, spent many hours preparing at home, was brought to the lodge, and by her instructions final preparations were handled by the talented volunteer kitchen staff. The food was fantastic. I was honored to receive a proclamation from Mayor John Holbrook (a PDDGER from Lake Placid Lodge) and the Town of Lake Placid, proclaiming February 18, 2006 as “Don Sansoussi Day.” It was a grand homecoming and Gail and I will forever grateful. Thank you.

February the FSEA had the honor of hosting our Grand Exalted Ruler L. "Jim" Grillo and First Lady Lucia at our quarterly meeting. Also in attendance were our guests, Georgia State President Vance Rhodes and his wife Loretta.

The meetings were very informative. Saturday morning at the Major Projects meeting, a very impressive speech from our Grand Exalted Ruler inspired everyone. He is a true statesman and speaks from his heart.

A second highlight for me was the donations received that day for the H.A.T.F. which allowed us to exceed my goal of $750,000. At that meeting we exceeded $800,000 in new money for the Trust Fund for the year, demonstrating to our Grand Exalted Ruler that the Elks of Florida are an integral part of the “Elks Care Elks Share” team, and we are “Guided By Our Hearts” I am so proud of you. You are the ones that made it happen. Thank you.

Our final journey found us in beautiful Savannah Georgia. We were the guests of Georgia State President Vance President's Message Continued Page 19
The 2006 Exalted Ruler Elect and Secretary Elect Seminars were held the second and third weekends in March in Orlando and Lake City, respectively. I am happy to report that the attendance continues to remain above average and that we actually had a one-person increase in the attendance from last year! Our efforts to continually improve this seminar are quickly making it a “not-to-be-missed” event, and almost three quarters of the attendees chose to incur the added expense of arriving the night before the seminars due to the earlier Saturday start time approved for the seminars this year. Exalted Rulers Elect from 95 of our 114 Lodges were in attendance, as were 85 Secretaries Elect and 8 other officers. The 2007 seminars will be held March 10-11 and March 17-18 once again in Orlando and Lake City.

The 100th Annual Convention of the Florida State Elks Association will be held May 25th through the 27th at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. Reservations will be held March 10-11 and March 17-18 once again in Orlando and Lake City. The 100th Annual Convention of the Florida State Elks Association will be held May 25th through the 27th at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. Reservations will be held March 10-11 and March 17-18 once again in Orlando and Lake City.

The 2006 Orlando Grand Lodge Convention and that we actually had a great crowd this year and for the most part, the convention and related activities will run much as they were last year. The “tunes in the courtyard,” a very popular attraction last year, has been expanded somewhat and will this year be offered in the evenings (weather permitting of course) on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Another small change this year will be the start time of the President’s Banquet. This year the doors will open for the banquet at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served promptly at 6:30 p.m. With this earlier start, the banquet, Ritual presentations, Officer Installation, and even the Ritual shoot-out should conclude around 9:00 p.m., which will give everyone an opportunity to participate in the closing activities in the courtyard at 10:00 p.m. It is hoped that this small change will result in a record attendance for our President’s Banquet! Finally, for those arriving on Wednesday, May 24th and especially the ritual teams who will compete in the State Ritual Contest, the registration booth will be open from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Please be informed that many of the meetings of this year’s convention will be held in the more distant areas of the convention center, back in the area where the ritual contest was held last year. We have asked the Coronado to provide more transportation assistance between the rooms and convention center this year, but even with this, you will still have a little walking to do once inside the convention center. Information on the State Convention is located on our website at www.flelsks.org and will continually be updated as information becomes available. Tickets for the Saturday night President’s Banquet and the MGM & Epcot special nighttime events may be purchased up until the day of the event as long as they are available. If you need more information on ticket availability, please contact the state office. I hope you are planning on attending this year’s annual convention of the Florida State Elks Association!

Reservations for the 2006 Orlando Grand Lodge Convention have been coming in strong and have surpassed all expectations. By early March the Florida delegates and volunteers had already spoken for the 225 rooms we had booked at the Rosen Centre Hotel. By early April we had obtained another 50 rooms at the Rosen Centre and were holding out for another 35 to 40 rooms. With over 325 convention volunteers and our expected 250+ delegates, we expect that over 600 Florida Elks and their guests will attend this year’s Grand Lodge Convention. The convention is being held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando July 9th through the 13th. Rooms may still be available by contacting the state office at (800) 523-1673. Information regarding tickets for the Florida Dinner and Breakfast, as well as the Florida Hospitality Room, will be available the 1st of June. This information will be sent to all Lodges, as well as those who have made reservations at the Florida delegation hotel, those signed up to volunteer at the convention, and those who have notified me that they will be attending but have made their own lodging arrangements or are commuting. As always this information will be available first on our website at www.flelsks.org. A brief note about the Rosen Centre and the Orange County Convention Center: both of these facilities are very large and will require a great deal of walking to get from one to the other even though they are located right next to one another! It may be advisable to use a car to provide transportation for those who require assistance. This, however, will lead to several other problems which will include parking, traffic congestion on International Drive, and the stifling summer heat. I mention this, not to scare anyone away, but so you will come prepared. Hopefully after this mention, it won’t be so bad, and everyone will have a very pleasurable experience!

Have you seen or heard about the very positive press Elks U.S.A. has received as of late? The first was an article that appeared in the March 16th edition of USA Today and the latest was a segment on NBC’s Today Show broadcast on April 4th. We have been in contact with the Grand Secretary’s office and will soon be receiving a tape of the broadcast. Our plan is to have both items available for viewing at the State Convention.

Finally, I wish to congratulate the newly installed leaders of our Lodges! I know that the months of March and April were especially busy for everyone, yet through it all, our Exalted Rulers and Secretaries did another tremendous job of

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Dear Members and all,

The Florida Ladies of Elks’ (FLOE) Quarterly Meeting was held at the Florida Elks Youth Camp on February 11, 2006. We were honored to have GER Louis Grillo speak at our meeting. He thanked the Ladies for all that they do to help not only the Florida projects, but the support for Grand Lodge programs as well. He was very complimentary of the Florida Elks and Ladies for the fine work that is done through our two major projects.

A presentation was made at the FL Elks Major Committee Meeting to Don Sansoussi, FSEA President and Ben Brown, Jr., FECTS Administrator by FLOE Past State Presidents Elizabeth Wise and Lee Weigel. Presented were monies to purchase a new Therapy Van and equipment for that van. This is the fourth Therapy Van purchased by FLOE.

The next FLOE Meeting will be at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort on Saturday, May 27, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. All Senior Delegates will need to pick up the packets for their districts for the FLOE Conference to be held at the Hilton/Altamonte Springs Hotel. The FLOE Conference will be held September 27th through October 1st, 2006. The deadline for hotel reservations will be August 28, 2006 in order to get the reduced rate of $69.00 plus 10% tax. There are many deadlines to be met and are all listed in the packets to insure that everything is ready for the Conference. If you do not receive a packet and would like one, please contact me at 813-653-3087 and I’ll see that you receive one. Please plan to attend the Conference. It is always informative of what everyone has done all year, and a great time to make new friendships and renew old ones.

Also at this meeting in May, Dolores Casella, FLOE Vice President, will be presenting site options for our 2007 Conference. Be sure to attend and cast your vote. The nomination of FLOE Officers and Advisory Council members for 2006 - 2007 will be presented by the Nominating Committee, chaired by Past State President Joan Justynski.

The Luncheon and Chinese Auction sponsored by FLOE will be at 12:00 p.m. and the doors will open at 11:30 a.m. Table seating arrangements will be posted out side the entrance to the Luncheon and it would be helpful if tickets for the Chinese Auction were purchased before entering the Luncheon. The monies raised at this auction will help to support the Elks Charities.

The upcoming FLOE Quarterly Meeting will be held on August 19, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. If you haven’t seen the camp or all the improvement and additions that have been made, this is your chance. I hope to see you there.

Again the theme for 2005 - 2006 is “Courage.” The Key to Happiness is Freedom. The Key to Freedom is Courage. The colors are red and white, red for courage and white to tone it down a bit.

Thanks to everyone for your hard work on behalf of FLOE. This enables us to still be able to support the Elks charities.

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FOR THE STATE CONVENTION INFORMATION AND SCHEDULES
GO TO www.flelsks.org
Then print the pages you need.
FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES

Ben S. Brown, Jr.
Administrator

Once again this year a generous Elk member, Mrs. Georgene Slepin (Miami Lodge #948) has donated her time share to be used by a deserving family whose child is being treated by Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. This time share is located adjacent to Walt Disney World. Mrs. Slepin provided the accommodations for this vacation and FECTS provided a three day pass to visit the WDW theme parks for the family.

This family of four (Mom, Dad, 4 year old boy and a 7 year old girl) resides in the panhandle town of Cantonment. They lost their home in Hurricane Ivan and have been living in a FEMA trailer ever since. Dad is on disability, suffering from a rare disease of the blood. Recently, he suffered a seizure while driving his car resulting in a total loss of that vehicle. Mom is a nurse and works double shifts to support this young family. They have not had a vacation in years and they have been under almost unbearable stress as a result of these circumstances which are beyond their control.

Please enjoy the following journal of their vacation as told by the whole family. This is a heartwarming story which demonstrates that “Elks Care – Elks Share.”

Saturday, March 18, 2006
We drove all day to get to Orlando (from Cantonment, Florida) to the Resort where we were staying. This was a long day in the car. Carly and Jake watched a couple of movies on the portable DVD player – this helped a little.

We got to the resort and checked in. Carly and Jake got into the Jacuzzi to bathe and had a great time! We were all beat so we headed to bed early, about 8-9 PM. (Jake’s writing to you.)

Sunday, March 19, 2006
We all got up, dressed, had coffee, and we were off again. We went to Disney to pick up our tickets, then we went to Sea World. This was our “splurge” at Orlando. We had a great time with all of the animals and we purchased a dolphin and a whale. We also rode the Journey of Atlantis water ride. This was amazing – then we headed back to the condo.

When we got back to the condo, we went to the heated outside pool and swam for about 2 hours. We then came inside and bathed in the Jacuzzi. We then went to the Angus Steak & Seafood for dinner. We had combo meals so this was inexpensive for us and the kids. It was great food and we also had enough food for a to-go box. We are going to bed for now as we plan to do Magic Kingdom tomorrow! We are having a grand time so far!

Monday, March 20, 2006
We got up early, had breakfast and coffee and we were off to the Magic Kingdom.
We road the monorail first, saw the Disney Characters and then began to ride all the rides. We rode the “Stitch’s Great Escape,” then the Indy Speedway. This was one of Jake’s favorites. We went to Mickey’s Toontown Fair and visited all the attractions in this area, including the Barnstormer at Goofy’s Wiseacre Farm. We then proceeded on to Liberty Square for the Parade and then on to Fantasyland. We went to Frontierland where Jake rode the Big Thunder Mountain Railroad.

This was fun. He refused to ride Splash Mountain so Carly and Jamie rode that ride while Jake and I walked around!

Tuesday, March 21, 2006
Tuesday is our rest day from the trip down and all of our activities so far. We are having breakfast and then going to the pool. The kids are really enjoying the pool!
We took snacks and spent the day by the pool. The kids had a great time playing in the pool.

Wednesday, March 22, 2006
We went to Epcot today. This was great! We visited all the things in the Future Land, then went to all the countries. Mexico is my favorite. The kids are tired today so we are going to the pool to swim. After swimming we had dinner, then off to bed.

Thursday, March 23, 2006
We went to Animal Kingdom today and rode the Safari Ride and saw lots of animals in the wild. This was one of the kid’s favorites. We rode the train, toured through the Nature Observations, etc. It began to rain so we headed back to the condo.

After resting, we went to Don Pablo’s for a Mexican Dinner. This was a great trip for the kids and for us; very good food and lots of entertainment for the kids. We are going back to the condo for our last night.

Friday, March 24, 2006
We are packing for our trip home. We really hate to leave. We have had a great time at the Condo and Disney World. This was a Special Trip for the family.

There are not words to explain how this was therapy for us after all we’ve gone through the last few years. This was also something we could not have afforded on our own.

We will always cherish the memories we made on this trip!!
Much thanks to the Florida Elks and Mrs. Georgene Slepin for all ya’ll have done.

Roxanne, Jamie, Jake & Carly

LOWER EAST COAST CLINIC

A meeting of the LECC Operating Committee was held at the West Palm Beach Lodge on February 11, 2006.

Clinic Manager’s Report: Dr. Cohen saw no new patients and fifteen returning patients, and Dr. Romano saw no new patients and three returning patients. A copy of the Clinic Manager’s report for January is on file.

Bills totaled $4,872.18 including $628.00 for patient visits and x-rays from Dr. Romano, $400.00 for patient visits to Dr. Cohen, $2,987.32 for orthotic devices from Mahnkes, and $703.50 from Orthospot, Inc., no charges from Pediatric Therapy Association, no charges from Comcare Pharmacy, $153.36 to Custom Mobility, and no charges from Solstice Neurosciences.

Eleanor Pastor reported that Gabriella Masiack would be the child presented at the Major Projects breakfast at the State Convention in May.

The following are nominees for Officers of the LECC Operating Committee for 2006/2007: Eleanor Pastor for Chairman, Lisa Potvin for Vice-Chairman, Rose Witkowski for Secretary, Phil Macnak for Treasurer. No nominee was identified for Chaplain.

Voting on the nominees and swearing in the Officers will occur at the meeting on March 12th at the Margate Lodge.

LECC Fiscal Year 2005-06 as of February 2006

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<th>Patients discharged</th>
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**HISTORICAL DATA SINCE 1988**

- Patients discharged: 650
- Referred to Shriners: 26
- Referred to FECH: 108
“OPERATION SANTA KNOWS”

Florida Elks Team with Marines

Once again we have faced another hurricane season, another challenge for hurricane survivors and another challenge for the Florida State Elks Association and all Florida Elks. Immediately following “Katrina’s & Rita’s” visits, PER Jim Lind from the South Broward Lodge 2830 formulated an idea to provide help for the littlest victims of these storms, the children. With Christmas fast approaching Jim realized that although there was a nationwide fundraising effort being conducted by the B.P.O.E. he asked the question; What about Christmas and the kids”? Children are very resilient and will adjust and move on from the damage and relocation but they would never understand Santa not knowing where they were.

Jim presented an idea to State Advisor Bob Grafton and State President Don Sansoussi that the FSEA conduct a toy drive state wide with the toys to go to the victimized children. Well it didn’t take too long for Bob and Don to decide it was a great idea and named him State Coordinator for “Operation Santa Knows”.

The name came from a partnership created with the U.S. Marine Corps “Toys for Tots” campaign. Jim knew that our members would deliver in a big way but needed a method of delivery for the toys so he sought out the Marines and

Marines, CPL. Daniel Berman and Sgt. Valdemar M. Sequeira, shown here with Betty Tewsbury, PER, SEC District Chairman of “Operation Santa Knows”, arrived in a huge U-haul truck and loaded up toys with great surprise about how many toys had been donated.

presented his idea and “Operation Santa Knows” was operational. The District Vice-presidents were tasked with providing a chairman for their individual district to assist Jim with this enormous task. From there, Jim coordinated with his chairman and the Marines over the next two months culminating with a statewide toy pick-up at a specified lodge within each district on December 2nd.

Hurricane “Wilma” surprised us all and once again added to the difficulty of this operation. However, our Elks and the Marines took it all in stride and continued their efforts. As it turned out the toys collected actually stayed right here in Florida. This was due to the our Florida Marine “Toys for Tots” Units gave up their budget monies to the devastated Gulf Region Marine Units so that they could buy the toys needed for their “Toys for Tots” as there was no one left to collect from in their area. All the toys collected here then supplemented the missing money for our State Marine Units.

At the time of this writing, six of the thirteen participating districts have reported and the numbers are staggering.

The FSEA should be very proud, our efforts produced over 8,750 toys, with 2,720 Elk hours expended and 15,370 Elk miles driven for a total of $140,166.00 in goods and services.

Christmas 2005 was a whole lot brighter because ELKS CARE!

President Sansoussi is extremely pleased and feels that this effort truly fits his current motto “Guided by our Hearts” and demonstrates what Elks do for others and the communities we serve.

Your Place in History

Lowell P. Tyler, State Historian

In the proper and complete recording of the history of the Florida State Elks it is most desirable and necessary that we assimilate and record as much information as we can on each of our Florida Lodges.

It is in our lodges that the programs of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks are successfully carried out. Without our lodges and their workers, nothing would work. They are the fuel that energizes the entire machinery and makes us what we are. When our lodge fails to carry out their programs, our programs fail. When the lodges get behind our various projects and puts a concerted effort into it, success is possible.

In addition, the founding of our individual lodges, the motivations behind the movement to charter a new lodge, the successes of that lodge which require it to expand it’s facilities is history that should be recorded.

No lodge or Elk program ever came into being without many outstanding individuals who made it possible. They are the heroes that exist in every lodge and they are the heroes that make Elkdom and all its programs succeed.

These individual heroes are the ones who come to the aid of those more unfortunate than us; they are the ones who come to the aid of those in desperate needs. They are the heroes that make it possible for us to fulfill our many commitments to the community, State Association or Grand Lodge.

And while all of this is happening, there are other amusing and unusual incidents that just make history interesting. We need to record all of this in the History of the Florida State Elks Association. Your lodge should be recognized. There is no reason for it not to be represented among the lodges of the State of Florida who are part of our total history.

Many of our lodges are represented, but in great need of updating. History does not stop at some point in time. What you record today, and becomes history tomorrow, makes way for that which comes forward and the only way to have an accurate history is to keep it constantly updated. It goes on for eternity.

With today’s computers and other modern means of communication, updating files (which used to be a major activity) can very easily be affected. And it should. No matter how new or how old your lodge, you are making history.

Elkdom has not seen it necessary to create the position of Historian in each of its lodges. As prejudicial as it might be on the matter, it still amazes me that they have so long been neglected this issue. I strongly urge each lodge to appoint a Historian, a qualified one, to record your history.

Often we fail to realize that a knowledge of the history in each of our lodges is so vital to its success today. Objectives that each lodge sets at the beginning of each year are better assessed with the knowledge of what you have been able to accomplish before. It can be a measuring stick for establishing our goals. Have you ever attempted to prepare a budget with no knowledge of income or expenses in the previous year, or years?

History gives you a sense of tradition, or meaning that has helped in our development. Our past is kind of a model for the present and a gauge for the future. We gain the wisdom of how things were done and maybe, even though our circumstances may not be the same today, how we can approach our problems today. We do not wish to return to the good ole’ days but there is much wisdom and experience that we can draw on today. If we want to improve on our yesterday, to make Elkdom, we have to have some knowledge or gauge in where to start.

When you study our past history of Elkdom you sometimes find answers to what I have often heard, — “What is wrong with Elkdom today?”

Please forward to your State Historian, historical data on your lodges and your heroes and your amusing and interesting activities.

Address all communications to:
Lowell Tyler, State Historian, 3590 Via Poinciana, Apt 212, Lake Worth, FL, 33467.

Phone Home: 561-439-8668, Lodge office: 561-686-6118 or to LTyler2775@aol.com.
DeLand Lodge 1463

DeLand has the rare opportunity of having four generations of living members in our lodge. In March, Exalted Ruler Mark Thompson passed the gavel to PER Tom Hopp, allowing him to initiate his daughter, Melissa Jordan, into DeLand Elks Lodge 1463.

The lodge is also deep into planning this year’s Florida State Softball Tournament. We are expecting as successful an event as last year.

Sanford Lodge 1241

Sanford Lodge sent six kids to FEYC at a cost of $1,080.00 plus the four free camperships for a total of 10 children.

Palm Coast Elks Lodge 2709

Palm Coast Elks Lodge had a very impressive Installation of Officers on April 1, 2006. District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Emma Becton officiated. It is interesting to note that all of last year’s officers moved up the chairs and one member entered the chairs for the first time. Raymond (Ray) Leon is a second time ER.

Berry Elman, now a PER, is staying active in the lodge. Under her administration we started and now have completed the extension to our building by adding much needed storage space.

We at Palm Coast are quite proud of the turnout we got for our Hoop Shoot. Although we are sure every lodge has a story the long and short of it is we had a shooter over six feet tall and an other boy just under four feet tall.

The Ladies Auxiliary of Palm Coast Elks Lodge had a very successful year with Nita Hinkle at the helm of a very wonderful group of officers. Joan Cole, a very lively hard working lady is the new Auxiliary President. Good Luck Joan.

Our Florida Elks Youth Camp Chairperson is Mary Miele, she has been very active getting this year’s candidates.

Daytona Beach Elks Lodge 1141

The members and outgoing officers of this lodge would like to thank our Emblem Club ladies and the numerous volunteers, who, throughout the year, have spent many hours helping with our lodge functions and social activities.

In February DeLand hosted the homecoming dinner for Vice President Phil Watercutter. It was a toga themed dinner that was enjoyed by all, capping off a very successful year. Congratulations Phil on a job well done.

On January 28th members of the lodge had a Highway Pickup. They collected 13 bags of trash and one good foot.

The lodge held its Charity Ball on Saturday, February 25th. Among the honorees of the evening were Carolyn Schultz, our Lodge Treasurer, who was named Officer of the Year for 2006-07, and Vince James, member and Bingo volunteer for our Lodge, was named Elk of the Year for 2006-07, as well as recognizing volunteers and Past Elks of the Year. Bob Ditman, PER, Trustee and Joe Gorsic, Loyal Knight were awarded the Grand Exalted Ruler’s Outstanding Service Commendation for their exceptional contributions to the lodge and to the Order.

The lodge sponsored Connor Knepper for the Division Hoop Shoot Contest on January 14th and won the Boys 8-9 year old division. Thanks to our Hoop Shoot Chairman Mark Jones for all his time and commitment to this event.

Proceeds from our Sunday Horse Races and Poker Tournament were used to defray the expenses of our lodge participation in this event.

Our Ladies Emblem Club held their annual Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon on Tuesday, February 28th at the Lodge. Lots of members and guests showed up and made many, many purchases.

During the month of February we were reminded that it was the 138th year of Elkdom. We also recognized the numerous contributions of our Past Exalted Rulers.

On Sunday, March 12th, the Lodge held an Appreciation in recognition of all volunteers, during which time our Exalted Ruler, Roger Johnson, presented Connor Knepper, winner Boys 8-9 Division of the District Hoop Shoot Contest, with an official size basketball.

Our Exalted Ruler presented Frank Barnes with a $2,000 scholarship. Frank is a senior at Father Lopez and has served on various community organizations. Frank plans on going to Embry Riddle to take up studies in Aerospace.

Herman Hopp (aged 89 and a life member) was unable to attend. Pictured are: Harold Hopp (aged 76 and a life member), Melissa Jordan (Tom’s daughter), and PER Tom Hopp.

The flowery theme continues to grow at the Lodge. A dozen roses were exchanged afterwards.

Palm Coast officers from the lodge presented Largo Lodge 2159’s Public Relations Chairman Jackie Homer met with Lodge Secretary Freda Crossley of the Stuart-Jensen Elks Lodge in Stuart, Florida while Jackie was attending her annual class reunion held at the Stuart Lodge. Lodge Secretary Crossley was kind enough to show the lodge facilities, including the lovely meeting room to Largo Publicity Chairman. Hospitality pins and E-mail addresses were exchanged afterwards.

Secretary continued from page 3

providing our office with all of the new information regarding their officers and committees. Because of this outstanding response, much of the information found in the Lodge Directory has already been made available at our website, and the printed version should be available in late June! I will remind you that our database of information is only as accurate as you make it, so please keep us informed of address and personnel changes throughout the year so that we can keep the lines of communication open and working!

My how this year has flown by! It has been another extraordinary year for the Florida Elks and our Major Projects, and it has been an honor and a distinct privilege to again serve our Association as the State Secretary! Space does not permit me to personally thank everyone for their continued support and cooperation, so thank you one and all!

North District continued from page 12

Elk of the Year Rodney Stelter is to be congratulated on a job well done. Rod is semi-retired and has some time to donate in making repairs around the lodge. He also plays music with his sound system and will sing if he gets hold of the microphone. Rod donates some time working in the dining room as a volunteer waiter. Our hat is off to you Rod for the work you do at the lodge and for winning this prestigious award.

A major fundraiser for the lodge in March is the Springtime Tallahassee Breakfast. The lodge once again came through serving scrambled eggs, grits, sausage, and a biscuit to 1400 hungry folks. The sausage and biscuits are baked at the lodge in the oven beginning in the wee hours of the morning. Eggs and grits are cooked on site under a tent in a downtown park.

The lodge held its officer installation on April 1st, which was a joint ceremony with the Elkettes of Tallahassee doing its installation that evening too.
Aripeka Lodge 2520

Exalted Ruler Mary Ford of Aripeka Elks presented a check in the amount of $22,000 to Therapist Jacintha Griffith of the Florida Elks Therapy Service’s to purchase a new van.

The van is equipped to administer physical and occupational services to children new born thru 18 years of age in their homes. The funds for the van were from donations of members of Aripeka Elks, Wal-Mart, proceeds from a cruise and a Dinner Dance. Lodge chairperson Lucille Marino introduced a young child, his mother and a therapist at the dinner showing the guests some of the therapy necessary for these children.

Aripeka Elks Lodge through Bingo Charities and donations delivered $1,775 in money and goods to the Baldomero Lopez Veterans Nursing Home. Other donations from the Bingo Charities were $500 to the Pasco County Sheriff’s Christmas Food Basket for the needy, $500 to Toys for Tots thru Marine Corp. Detachment #708, $500 to the Salvation Army of Pasco County, $500 to Holy Ground, a shelter for the homeless, $1,000 to the Elks National Foundation, $100 to Hudson High School Community Project for their football team, $250 to Toy Makers Inc. to assist with the expense for this group of volunteers that make wooden toys and distribute them to hospitalized children, $1,000 to the Elks National Foundation, $200 to Baldomero Lopez Veterans Nursing home located in Land O’ Lakes to purchase McDonald’s certificates, $2,000 to the Florida Elks Youth Camp, $100 to St. Vincent De Paul for the Mitchell High School St. Patrick’s Walk in the Wilderness, $250 to Kids Wish Network, $250 to the Special Olympics of Florida, $500 to the Elks National Veterans Service Committee.

During the past quarter Aripeka Elks Lodge Adopt-A-Road Program Chairman Bill Borrusch and 15 volunteers cleared a two mile area of US 19 collecting 53 bags of rubbish weighing 967 lbs. Bill Tousignant, blood bank chairman for the Lodge, collected 23 pints of blood.

Recently Aripeka Elks Lodge under the leadership of the Lodge’s Drug Awareness chairperson Lorraine Lovett gave a presentation of the Elks Drug Awareness Program at Shady Hills Elementary School in Pasco County. Fifty-six elementary children were present. Each student was presented with a Red Ribbon, Bookmarks and Elks Coloring Books. The students were very enthusiastic about the program asking many questions about drugs. After the presentation Kool-Aid and cookies were served. The teacher was so impressed with the Elks program she requested more Elk Awareness materials for approximately thirty more children.

WAL-MART located in Spring Hill gave a check for $1,000 towards the physically and mentally challenged children and young adults’ annual Halloween party and to assist in purchasing a van.

Presenting the Wal-Mart check left to right: Carol Smith, personnel manager; Aripeka Elks Lodge Therapy Service Chairperson, Lucille Marino; Store Manager, Kathy Scanland; PDDGER Hal Steffes, and PER Frank Marino.

Hooper Shoot winners from the Central District reading left to right front row: Sam Jones, Richard Rizzola, Stephen Pollock ( he is trying to hide ), Maggie Gordon, Allison Delbridge. Back row: Central District Chairman Wayne Getz and Exalted Ruler Aripeka Elks Lodge 2520 Mary E. Ford.

Zephyrhills Lodge 2731

This has been a very good year for our Lodge. We have brought in a number of new members and hope that they will volunteer to help out. We had a volunteer appreciation dinner on Feb 12th. Thanks to all of our volunteers.

As of Dec. 1st our lodge is #1 in the state for per capita donations at $10.95. Emilie Mastin who is chairperson has done an outstanding job of getting us there. Emilie is also # 1 in the state for the Chairman’s Challenge contest.

Kissimmee Lodge 1873

On Feb 4th, we had an exciting event at our Lodge. We hosted a Family Festival. Some of the activities were a blood mobile, health screening, Elks membership table, Elks therapy van and drug awareness trailer. The Osceola Sheriffs and Fire Rescue Departments and the Boy Scouts had demonstrations. We had entertainment by local students in dance and music.

Bruce and Isabella Simpson had a fund raiser for member Sandy Hawley who needs a liver transplant. A total of $6730.00 was raised. Thank you to all of our members who contributed. Sandy really appreciated your help.

West Citrus Lodge 2693

We are finishing up a successful year with finances in generally good condition, membership has increased, and the House Committee has made great strides in bringing in diversity in entertainment and more frequent events. The addition of more women in our membership has increased our base of volunteers and given us a source of new ideas. Some examples of trying new kinds of events are: In January we had a well attended “50s $OCK HOP”, with a DJ playing songs of the 50s and waitresses dressed as car hops and many attendees wore clothes and sported hair styles of that era. Twice each month we have what we call TACO TUESDAY.

Lucille Marino informs us that this will be her last article for this district. She has served the Florida Elks News and the Central District faithfully, thoroughly and accurately, we will miss her.

Thanks Lucille, for a job well done.
Our district is still struggling with the results from Hurricane Wilma. Several lodges are out of operation due to extensive damage and others are working to repair minor problems; therefore, this will be a rather short article.

**Okeechobee Lodge 2558**

The lodge is in process of getting our building repaired and back into shape again after the hurricane damage from the last two years.

Our Annual Law and Order Night went very well. They honored local and county law enforcement officers who spend thankless long hours protecting us. Retired Sheriff O.L. Raulerson was the guest speaker for the evening. A steak dinner was served followed by the awards. The outstanding Police Officer and Firefighter in each category received a plaque as an appreciation of their work.

**Jupiter Lodge 2469**

The old lodge building on US Highway 1 has been declared uninhabitable and has forced them to hold their meetings at the American Legion building in the Jupiter/Teequesta area.

In the meantime, their new lodge building in Jupiter Farms is progressing nicely. The structure is fully enclosed and interior work is continuing in spite of adverse weather conditions. It is hoped that they will have a grand opening sometime in May.

**Clewiston Lodge 1853**

On Saturday, March 11, the lodge held its annual Fundraiser/Dinner/Dance which was a huge success. In fact, many people tried to buy tickets even after they were all sold out. Everyone had a great time at the event.

On March 31st, the lodge will be honoring the local Firefighter of the Year, Deputy and Police Officer of the Year, Teacher of the Year, EMT and Emergency personnel of the Year, along with Officer, Elk, and Citizen of the Year. A dinner will be held, and plaques will be presented to all of the winners.

The lodge is preparing for our annual Sugar Festival and preparing the booth the Elks will staff for the festival. The proceeds of the booth will act as a fundraiser. All veterans and current members of the Armed Forces will be served free of charge.

**Pahokee Lodge 1638**

It is sad to report that Pahokee’s good member, Harry Usher, passed away on January 11, 2006. Harry had lost his home during Hurricane Wilma on Oct. 24, 2005. Then he became ill and finally passed. He will be greatly missed by everyone in his lodge. The lodge donated a brick in his memory at the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

After Hurricane Wilma destroyed the inside of the lodge, they were forced to hold their meetings at the Exalted Ruler’s house. They met there every Thursday night until the middle of February, when the Insurance Company gave them permission to rent a cabin up on the lake. This is the only place they could find since the hurricane hit. They are awaiting roofing supplies and then the contractor can get started.

**Belle Glade Lodge 1716 and Pahokee will have a combined Installation of Officers at the Belle Glade Lodge on Friday, March 31st. Cocktails will be served at 6:30 with dinner at 7:00. Installation will follow dinner.**

The lodge donated $400 to Megan and Josh Usher whose house burned down in Georgia and they lost everything. ER Kenny Usher is their uncle. They also donated $400 to Dinah Williams whose parents are ER Kenny and Diane Usher because the trailer she was living in in Indiantown burned down and she also lost everything.

**Lantana/Boynton Lodge 2676**

ER Audrey McNamara will present awards to the Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and a Special Award.

The awards were presented at a dinner on March 30th at the Bohemian Gardens Restaurant in Lake Worth.

Despite the fact that they have no home, the lodge is proud to have the largest per capita donation to the Elks National Foundation in the district coming in at a little over $6.00.

Their members have not given up and are sending in their dues at an incredible rate. Hopefully, a new home will soon be on the horizon.

**West Palm Beach Lodge 1352**

District Deputy Donna Berkowitz’s homecoming was held in January with several dignitaries in attendance including PDD Sean Maguire, Grand Lodge Auditor and PER Lyman Thorbecke, Grand Esquire.

Also in January the lodge held a very successful Harry-Anna Dinner-Dance with music by Johnny and the Heartbreaks featuring Johnny Derose and “Elvis.”

The lodge honored Sam Berkowitz as Elk of the Year and Ronald Pick as Officer of the year. DD Donna Berkowitz installed Celeste Ehrlich as the West Palm Beach Lodge Exalted Ruler for 2006-07. Donna will be installed as the Esquire at a later date.

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**ELKS NATIONAL HOME INVEST IN THE FUTURE**

Make an investment in your future. The Elks National Home retirement community is the only part of Elkdom that is a direct benefit to you as a member of the Order.

Someday, it could be your choice for an active, carefree retirement in the company of others with the same interests and values.

But the future of the Home depends upon the members of the Order. If we are to continue to provide this excellent, active, and attractively priced retirement choice for Elk members, we must have your support. The $1.00 annual membership assessment that was passed at the Grand Lodge Session last July is a great start and we hope you will voice your support that it be continued. Please let your delegates to the 2006 Grand Lodge Session know that you are in favor of supporting the Elks National Home in this way. This is only $1.00 per member each year. Where else can you be assured that your dollar will be used for such a good cause?

In addition, the Home is in need of funds for ongoing projects and maintenance, as well as periodic renovations. Donations to the Home are tax deductible. Following is a list of funds you may specify. A check to any of these will be an investment in the Home’s future - and perhaps yours as well!

* Modernization - For renovations and upgrades to the Home.
* General - To be used as needed at any given time.
* Special Care Benefits - For needed items and renovations in the Special Care Section (Assisted living care).
* Entertainment - To finance various activities for the residents.
* Home Fund - For capital improvements, such as major renovations and new equipment.
* Endowment Fund - The interest is used to Supplement the operating budget.
* Checks should be made payable to the Elks National Home and mailed to: Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Ave., Bedford, VA 24523. Donations are tax deductible.

To learn more about the Elks National Home retirement community, visit our website at www.elkshome.org.
The first quarter of 2006 has been very busy at the Youth Camp. We have hosted some varied groups and some distinguished guests. During the February Quarterly we were honored with a visit by the Grand Exalted Ruler "Jim" Grillo (top). The camp has hosted several rough camping and adventure groups such as theYMCA Adventure Guides (right) and we were proud to host the 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting of the Florida Trails Association (center). School organizations were part of the activities as well including the Magic Drum and Bugle Corps (left). As you can see the camp is always busy and is always in need of your support.
The 26th Annual Florida State Elks Association Golf Tournament sponsored by the Sebring Elks Lodge 1529 was held at the Spring Lake Golf Resort on April 1st and 2nd, with 308 players competing over the two courses. State President Don Sansoussi, center in the photos, handed out the trophies.

**Low Gross**
Zack McGrath, Bill Swatzell, Steve McGrath and Charlie Stevens from Bradenton. They had a two-day score of 33 under par.

**“A” Flight**
1st - Zack McGrath, Bill Swatzell, Steve McGrath and Charlie Stevens from Bradenton. They had a two-day score of 33 under par.

2nd - Mike Hodgkinson, Don Einwag, Dan Hall, Chris Van Noose, 28 under.

**“B” Flight**
1st - Bill Fearney, Grover Keeney, Wallace Rowe and Pat McLaughlin, 23 under.

2nd - J. P. Plunkett, Rich Taylor, Michael Panzella and Andy Delia, 21 under.

**“C” Flight**
1st - Don Olivenbaum, Bob Everly, Geoff Kinder and Tony Lankford, 21 under.

2nd - Tony Davis, Don Aminta, Kevin Allon and Mike Reilly, 25 under.

**“D” Flight**
1st - Ted Wright, Bill Nix, Harry Gustafson and William Jameson, from Punta Gorda, 19 under.

2nd - Bill Sununu, Pete Cattabriga, Garry Lambert and Lanny Carter, 18 under.

**“E” Flight**
1st - William Orllich, Bob Coker, John Gallagher and Jimmy Davis, Viera Lodge, 18 under.

2nd - William Orllich, Bob Coker, John Gallagher and Jimmy Davis, Viera Lodge, 18 under.

**“F” Flight; No Photo**
1st - Jerry Bauman, Fred Mesler, Len Jacob and Fordon Woodward, 12 under.

2nd - Scott Mostolle, Steve Hogg, Craig Reynolds and Ted Peace, 12 under.

Four cans of beans went to the team from Punta Gorda, Carl Rehling, William Deason, John Walsh and Frank Stuczynski shooting even par.

The “All Women” team from Zephyrhills, Alice Perry, Peg Hart, Joannie Lemere and Gail Descent shot 1 under par for the 36 holes; last year they won the beans.

**1st Place “A” Flight**
Ron Coleman, Chris Coleman, Jake Piper and Nick Wunderlich from Lake Placid, with 31 under par.

**“B” Flight**
1st - Tony Davis, Don Aminta, Kevin Allon and Mike Reilly, 25 under.

2nd - Bill Fearney, Grover Keeney, Wallace Rowe and Pat McLaughlin, 23 under.

**“C” Flight**
1st - Don Olivenbaum, Bob Everly, Geoff Kinder and Tony Lankford, 21 under.

2nd - J. P. Plunkett, Rich Taylor, Michael Panzella and Andy Delia, 21 under.

**“D” Flight**
1st - Ted Wright, Bill Nix, Harry Gustafson and William Jameson, from Punta Gorda, 19 under.

2nd - Bill Sununu, Pete Cattabriga, Garry Lambert and Lanny Carter, 18 under.

**“E” Flight**
1st - Chris Nelson, Scott Rohn, Eddie Gaban and Walter Bandyke, 19 under.
The final Hoop Shoot contest in Florida was held February 25, 2006 at the Grafton Center on the Florida Elks Youth Camp grounds outside of Umatilla, Florida.

There were 17 competitors; one boy from Boca Raton was not able to attend.

There were about 95 family, friends and Elks in the audience and another 19 volunteers running the very smooth event. All of the floor workers were from Aripeka and a ball retriever from Delray Beach. This year’s Chairman was John Nejedlo assisted by Vice Chairman Peter Cuttubriga.

The shooters demonstrated that they had practiced and displayed their skill with six of them shooting 20 or more baskets. The Champion of Champions trophy will be awarded to second year shooter, Felicia Coleman, shooting 21 baskets, sponsored by the Sanford Lodge and Kyle Thompson from Live Oak, shooting 23 baskets. In the 10 and 11-year bracket David Hannon and Jimmie Lee Taylor had two five shot shoot-outs to break their tie of 19 baskets with Jimmie Lee winning with five in the second shots. He won the gold trophy with 28 out of 35 shots.

Results

Girls 8-9

1st Sabrina Verdes Miami 20
2nd Megan Gorman Vero Beach 19
3rd Julia Morrissey Jacksonville 18

Boys 8-9

1st Maxx Bleecher Boca Raton 19
2nd Emanuel Minsal Ocala 18
3rd Tyler Carr Lake Placid 17

Girls 10-11

1st Felicia Coleman Sanford 21
2nd Benetria Robinson Silver Spgs Shrs 16
3rd Mikayla Stansbury Key West 6

Boys 10-11

1st Jimmie Lee Taylor Live Oak 19/28
2nd David Hannon Boca Raton 19/27
3rd Brandon Starrett Deland 18

Girls 12-13

1st Haleigh Spaulding Silver Spgs Shrs 18
2nd Samantha Drane Tampa 17
3rd Sara Dawson Boca Raton 16

Boys 12-13

1st Kyle Thompson Live Oak 23
2nd Joseph Castillo Palm Bay 20
3rd Dov Needleman Boca Raton No-Show
Melbourne Lodge 1744

Melbourne Lodge took part in fund-raising and related goodwill activities rolling toward the winter months.

Two breakfasts honoring veterans were given in November and December. The lodge’s new entertainment troupe, the Kopy Katz, performed. Santa Claus, played by Ken Jacques, presented the veterans with holiday gifts. The lodge PER Association invited members to its traditional eggnog party.

The proceeds of our various events and programs always help the needy. Significant was our huge holiday gift box that overflowed with toys. These gifts came from our members and families. They were delivered to young survivors of the hurricanes through the lodge’s participation in the Santa Knows program. Additionally, members raised $1500, and the Ladies Auxiliary gave $300 towards the Katrina Hurricane Fund.

Our financial support to the Police Athletic League’s Explorer Scouts enabled several scouts to attend a special session held at the Florida Elks Camp at Umatilla. The Florida Elks Therapy Services and the Youth Camp at Umatilla received our financial support.

Tuesday night lodge dinners again were offered. Free dance lessons after Tuesday dinner are now open. Member Ron Goetzman and his wife, Barbara, are our professional instructors.

Meantime, the lodge has been highlighted by the media. In Melbourne, TV 31 interviewed our Kopy Katz, lodge officers, and ladies auxiliary officers. Howard Drexler recorded a public service announcement. The Kopy Katz got wide coverage with a group photo and story in FLORIDA TODAY.

During December, the Chief Medical Officer of the Viera Veterans Clinic spoke about health and medical services. We observed our annual Elks Memorial Service. New Year was celebrated with music, dinner, dancing, and breakfast.

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

Once again the Port St. Lucie Elks Lodge will sponsor the 15th Annual Elks Christmas Parade on December 10th. The Drug Awareness Breakfast is held at the Lodge every other Sunday. The PER’s Labor Day Picnic and the Oktoberfest were huge successes thanks to all the members who supported the event. December functions included the Light Festival, Children’s Christmas Party, Memorial Service as well as the New Year’s Eve celebration.

Viera Lodge 2817

Vice-President Bob Coker welcomed 103 guests for his Homecoming Visitation. The attendees enjoyed a great meal and camaraderie. Thanks go to Karen, Holly, Don and a number of other members and ladies. Thanks to member Jason Duhamel, the Viera Elks Lodge now has a web site which is vieraelks2817.com. The Exalted Ruler Christmas Party was held on Dec. 10th and the first Children’s Christmas Craft Party was held on the 11th.

Sebastian Lodge 2714

October 29th we held our annual golf tournament. It was a tremendous success, having one of the biggest fields ever. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the event.

Vero Beach Lodge 1774

October 7th - 9th the officers and members cordially invited all to attend the celebration of the lodge’s grand re-opening festivities.

Pt. Pierce Lodge 1520

The Pt. Pierce Elks Golf Tournament was another great success this month. Through the efforts of Chris Nelson, a sellout gathering of 138 golfers participated in this year’s event and a net profit of $6,990 was made for our charities. A total of $5,475 was donated by members of the lodge to support victims of Hurricane Katrina. Elks National Foundation Certificates total $5,736. This amounts to 57 certificates of $100 each that have been purchased by our members.

West St. Lucie Lodge 2823

The lodge accepted donations of non-perishable food items which they used to make up baskets and distribute them to needy families.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Increased Funding for Community Investment Programs

In 2006-07, the Elks National Foundation will increase funding for the Community Investment Program. The ENF Board of Trustees were impressed with the improvements in Elk communities and believed more could be done.

That is why they approved a $100 increase in each of the program grants. Starting July 1, 2006, qualifying Lodges will be eligible for up to $300 each for a Gratitude Grant and Promise Grant.

The Elks National Foundation’s Community Investments Program invests directly in Lodge communities and is designed to have a lasting impact in the areas where Elks live and work. Lodges know and understand the needs of their community best; that’s why they decide how to use the grant funds. Last year, more than 400 Lodges participated and improved the communities around them. Elks bought dictionaries for elementary school students, built a ramp for a child with cerebral palsy, and went bowling with teenagers to teach them alternatives to drugs and alcohol. The increase in funds this year is sure to show even more impressive results.

The Community Investment Program distributes funds to Lodges through Gratitude Grants and Promise Grants. Gratitude Grants are given to encourage and support Lodges in addressing any unmet community needs. These grants are available to Lodges that reach the Grand Exalted Ruler’s per-capita goal. Promise Grants support Lodges that host an event that builds the character and competence of local youth by addressing one or more of five promises to youth: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, marketable skills, and opportunities to serve. The first 250 Lodges that pledge to host an event will be eligible for Promise Grants. Visit www.elks.org/enf/community, or call 773/755-4954.

Grand Exalted Ruler Jim Grillo was the featured guest speaker at the February Quarterly of the Florida State Elks Association held in the Grafton Center at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. He challenged the delegates to find a way to stop the downward spiral of membership.

He thanked and congratulated the Florida Elks for exceeding his per capita goal of $4.00 to the Elks National Foundation with $4,212 P/C as of the last of February.

The Southeast Central District leads the Per Capita to the ENF at $6,130 and Palatka Lodge 1232 with 155 members leads with $19,355 P/C. Most monies per district is South Southwest District with 15,363 members who donated $61,444.25.

Although Florida Ranks 29th in per capita donations, we are second with $453,749.61 and follow California/Hawaii ($638,540.63) in total donations and bequests. They have almost 26,000 more members than Florida.
Englewood Lodge 2378

The Englewood Lodge held a Charity Golf Tournament late last year and raised $4000.00 which was distributed to the Elks Scholarship Fund, FSEA Children’s Therapy Services, D.A.R.E. and the FSEA Youth Camp. In February the lodge sent a group of members to the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Home in Port Charlotte to entertain the Veterans.

The lodge also adopted a service person serving in harm’s way overseas and sent a package of personal care items and food to him. It was noted that Toll House Cookies would not stand the heat and would therefore be eaten by the Veterans Chairman.

On a very sad note, Exalted Ruler Jim Cochran passed away in March 2006. He will be greatly missed.

Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781

Greater Pine Island Lodge Charitable Fund Drive for 2006 is off to a good start with sixty-three loyal Elks and friends donating $7,720.

Lehigh Acres Lodge 2602

Lehigh Acres Dart League purchased Publix Gift Cards for eight needy families at Christmas which were distributed by Lehigh Community Services. The same group of Brother and Sister Elks also donated $100 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and approximately 260 pounds of canned foods to the needy.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288

Fort Myers held a Super Bowl party for charity and on February 11th the Ladies of the Elks held a Pig Roast for charity. On February 25th they held a “Men in Drag Fashion Show” to raise funds for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. On March 25th they conducted their Annual Charity Ball, followed the next day with their Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

Port Charlotte held a teen dance that was attended by over 200 young adults. They also held a Christmas Party for the younger children and a Big Brothers & Big Sisters party as well.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

North Fort Myers continues with their Homeless Veterans Program serving 45 to 50 meals every Tuesday and providing clothing, personal care items and canned goods to those attending. The lodge also sent 56 boxes of clothing to Bay Pines VA Hospital. The lodge held a Xmastree program providing gifts for local children and a Xmastree Basket Program providing food. The Youth Group has been very active this year. For Thanksgiving they adopted 30 families and supplied them each with a turkey and trimmings. The kids had a great time shopping and putting together the dinners. On December 10th, the Juniors joined the Lee County Sheriff Department in the 2nd annual “Adopt a Family For Christmas.” This was followed on the 18th with a dinner dance. The youth ended the year with their 2nd Annual Hog Roast fund raiser.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

Punta Gorda Lodge prepared and delivered 85 Food Baskets to needy families just before Christmas. Many of the families are still victims of hurricane Charley. The lodge has had the Drug Awareness Trailer out to several youth activities and more are planned.

Several different fund raisers have taken place, including the Conquistadors Landing, Elks Night at the Races, a triathlon and a Bocce Tournament.

The veterans committee took clothing and personal care items to Bay Pines Veterans Hospital and gave $1000.00 to the Douglas Jacobson State VA Nursing Home Residents Fund.

Rotonda Lodge 2710

In January the Rotonda Lodge held a note burning ceremony to celebrate the retirement of the building mortgage. It was attended by Vice President Truman Bass, District Deputy Wesley Phelps and PDDs Ron Bupp, Nick Andrews and Ron Sorrentino.

At the quarterly meeting in February, Exalted Ruler Ray Eifert presented checks from the lodge and the Elketts in the amount of $3800 to the Harry-Anna Fund.

During March the lodge Boy Scout Troop added 10 new members to the troop and sponsored their 19th Eagle Scout. The lodge held a spaghetti dinner to benefit the troop. The Elketts sponsored a Goofy Golf tournament for the benefit of the Elks Youth Camp. The Elketts also presented the lodge with new jewels for the officers.

Cape Coral Lodge 2596

In January Cape Coral held a Dinner Dance to raise funds for the Elks National Foundation and in February a Dinner Dance for the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. In March they conducted a successful Harry-Anna fund raising two day casino cruise.

Cape Coral also co-sponsored the “Lee County Drug House Odyssey 2006,” a realistic walk through that teaches children the importance of making good choices to stay away from drugs and alcohol.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892

We remain busy with so many activities. We recently formed a Ladies Auxiliary, with Gail Sweatland and Earline Gamble as leading officers. They are doing so many wonderful things for our lodge, pruning it up with new tables and tablecloths. Thank you both and all your members. We had 24 members attend the quarterly meeting at Umatilla. Unofficially, we had the largest contingent of members there. We were presented an award at Jacksonville 221 when the State President was visiting for outstanding visitation this year. It was an honor to be in the presence of the State President, and our lodge was well represented. Another Elks year is coming to a close, and we look forward to another successful year.

Gainesville Lodge 990

February was a big month for us; we celebrated 100 years with honored guest Grand Exalted Ruler, L. “Jim” Grillo. Prime Rib was served and we had a full house. It was an exciting time for us. We look forward to another 100 years of Elksdom. Forty-seven members and guests went on the cruise to the Bahamas. A great time was had by all. We are already planning the next one. We will host one night of lodging for the entire cast and crew of “Recreations” who will be performing at the VA Hospital. This high energy show features college performers from around the US who volunteer their personal time and energy for an entire year, honoring veterans.

Jacksonville Lodge 221

We were honored to have State President Don Sansoussi and his wife Gail make their official visit to our district on January 27th and 28th. Vice President at Large Charles Trinowski and his wife Mary Ann also attended. Their visit included a President’s Party at the Radisson Hotel, dinner at the Orange Park Lodge, Saturday morning buffet breakfast at the Radisson Hotel, and a reception followed where they were welcomed to the City of Jacksonville by the Mayor, the Honorable John Peyton, as well as Miss Florida, Mari Wilensky. We hosted the Saturday night dinner which was well attended. This was a fun-filled, packed weekend, but we loved having him here. We are continuing to sell engraved bricks for our Walk of Fame which will be placed at the entrance portico of our new 10,000 square foot building.

Palatka Lodge 1232

We are striving to meet our goal of 30 new members this year. We are not quite there yet, but we are working diligently. We are continuing to have Burger Night each Wednesday; come out and enjoy good food and fellowship with your fellow Elks. Americanaism Chairman Frank Crosby conducted a book drive for our veterans. He took hard back and paperback books and magazines to our Veterans Hospital. This is a small sacrifice on our part for those who sacrificed so much.

St. Augustine Lodge 829

We have been busy with Porkies Pig Roast, garage sales, PER Ball and Super Bowl Party. We continue to have breakfast on Sundays, spaghetti on Monday Nights and home-cooked meals on Wednesday night. Jack and Dot continue to gather and distribute items to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Thank you both for the time and effort you put forth for our youth.

Orange Park Lodge 2605

January found us busy preparing for our special honored guest, State President and his lovely wife; we prepared their Friday night dinner. Richard Martin and his crew prepared an excellent meal. Cliff Claypool of #221 and his wife provided the entertainment, a magic show. A check for $1000 was presented to the State President for Children’s Therapy Services. We also hosted Miss Florida 2005, Miss Mari Wilensky for a couple of hours. She signed autographs and took pictures.
Ocala Lodge 286

The Ocala Lodge recently held the Annual Officer of the Year Awards Dinner honoring Law Enforcement and Firefighters of Marion County. The lodge hosted a dinner for nearly 175 guests including state and city dignitaries after which awards were presented.

Our lodge recently held its annual Christmas Project for our residents, the goodies and donations you brought with that. Thank you Lady Lake Elks Lodge 2793 for your visit with our residents, the goodies and donations your brought with that afternoon as they certainly were appreciated.

Apopka Lodge 2422

Lodge member Gary Francisco has donated a second numbered and framed print of an Elk matching the one in our front hallway which will be sold at our next auction.

The Second Annual “Mac Walters” Golf Tournament was held with 58 golfers; we cleared $1,108 that was donated to the Children’s Therapy Services.

The lodge put on another VA cookout in October for the veterans and hospital staff.

Exalted Ruler Eric Kretschman received a handmade thank you plaque from Cub Scout Pack 357.

Silver Springs Shores Lodge 2730

The PER Association put on a great Halloween party with dinner, dancing, and costume prizes. Our District VP Bruce Derocher served the meal dressed as a pirate. We had too many costumes to name, from south sea islanders to West Virginia hillbillies. It was a great night with a lot of fun.

The ladies had their annual spaghetti dinner for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in November. They raised almost $800. Great job girls.

The lodge held a special dinner in January for a young lady with MS who needed a hitch and lift on her car for a great job.

Winter Garden Lodge 2165

Congratulations to Mike Jernigan for 1st place in Eleven Lady Lake Lodge recently donated two bikes to the Leesburg Elementary School Dare Program as prizes for their top essay contest winners.

A group of 9 Lodge members visited The Fort McCoy VFW Home with a delivery of fresh fruit, cakes and other food. They held a door prize drawing for the vets at the home and awarded $250. In February the V.F.W. Home featured the Lady Lake Elks group on the front page of their newsletter.

On Thursday, December 15th the Lady Lake Elks Lodge 2793 presented a check to the V.F.W. Home, brought bags of fruit and fancy cakes, and handed out cash door prizes.

Thank you Lady Lake Elks Lodge 2793 for your visit with our residents, the goodies and donations your brought with that afternoon as they certainly were appreciated.

ORDER OF RITUAL COMPETITION

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**Milton Lodge 2377**

The lodge was severely damaged by Hurricane Ivan. The members and contractors did over $167,000 in repairs and bringing the lodge up to code. PER Bill Allen and the Trustees worked long hours to accomplish this.

We have gone to Biloxi and Gulfport Veterans Hospital and cooked hamburgers for the patients at their hospital fair.

A Past Exalted Ruler had severe tree damage from Hurricane Dennis. His home and driveway were blocked and not accessible. Exalted Ruler Vernon Borders with a team of Elks went to the rescue with chainsaws, trucks, winches and with a lot of muscle they cleared the way for the PER and his wife to get into their home. This is an example of what the Milton Lodge and the Elks are all about.

**Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787**

The lodge provided a talking Buddy Bear which comes complete with voice recording that talks about her illness to a terminally ill little girl.

The lodge held and provided trophies for the Hoop Shoot contest and Soccer contest and co-sponsored a high school drug-free graduation night at Sam’s Fun City. We also instituted and sponsor Cub Scout Pack 105 and provide a meeting place.

We held the Annual Children’s Fest for the community that included the fire department, sheriff’s department, Smokey Bear, emergency medical services, clowns, games, food, contests and prizes.

We donated 50 calling cards to the National Veterans program for troops in Iraq. We held a fundraiser for a family that lost everything in lightening strike.

We visit the veteran’s frequently in the local rest home and provide goodies.

We sponsored two Eagle Scout induction ceremonies.

**Panama City Lodge 1598**

The lodge started our 10th year on the Florida Adopt-A-Highway program. Four times a year we clean up 2.2 miles of Airport Road.

One lodge member works a day a week as a volunteer at the Bay County Humane Society Thrift Shop.

We supported the Operation Helping Hand Program - $500. Purchased a $100 Harry-Anna Trust Certificate in the name of PSP Aubrey Callahan, a Lodge Life Member for years. We supported the Bay County Sheriff Dept. Youth Program- $50. Supported the Bay County Fire Dept. Youth Safety Program, $150. We supported the Bay County Fire Dept. Youth Safety Program- $300. We supported the Bay County Boys and Girls Clubs-$100. The Lodge purchased and sent hard-to-get items to our troops in Iraq. We purchased, packed and mailed these items- $345. We sponsored a county girls team for Soccer-$300. We supported the Bay County Boys Scouts Troops-$300.

The lodge gave our computer (we got a new one) to a teacher from Rosenwald Middle School for his class this year.

**Pensacola Beach Lodge 497**

Pensacola Beach Lodge was completely destroyed by Hurricane Ivan on Sept. 16, 2004. In November 2004 we began renting at a new location. The Santa Rosa Island Authority canceled all activities on Pensacola Beach for many months. We were unable to have some of our major events such as the Veterans Day Parade, Mardi Gras Parade and Flag Day ceremony that we typically have on the beach.

We provided support to many members from our lodge who lost everything. We continue our visits to the Veterans Hospital in Biloxi, MS.

We continue our financial support of the ROTC program at the Gulf Breeze High School.

Margaret Lodge adopted a family, the mother, Cindy Lamas, left received a $100 gift card for PUBLIX and some personal gifts, the night before X-Mas in Tamarac.

**Destin Lodge 2688**

Destin Lodge is first in state for our division in Harry-Anna contributions and in 4th Place overall in the state in Elks National Foundation.

Our members walked in the Relay for Life raising $3,600 for cancer. We also donated $2,000 to the Harvest House and another $2,000 for “Jerry’s Kids” MD.

After the Hurricanes we had over $28,000 in Lodge improvements.

**MEMORIAM**

The loss of Dan Randall, the Northwest District’s Reporter for the Florida Elks News, shocked and saddened everyone who knew him.

As the Editor, I knew him only briefly but came to know that he was a very good and conscientious reporter. He attended every Quarterly and State Convention from the time he took on the job and always had more than a full page of news for his district.

All of us in Elkdom will miss him.

The Publication Committee and the Editor extend our sincerest condolences to his family.

This compilation of Lodge accomplishments was gathered by District Vice President David Wiley for use by State President Don Sansoussi at his visitation that was cancelled because of the hurricanes. Editorial privilege was used in writing the article.

and continue our financial support of youth sports association teams in Gulf Breeze and Pensacola.

We raised and donated approximately $4,000 to the Cancer Society Relay for Life and Covenant Hospice.

**Twin Cities Lodge 2747**

Twin Cities Lodge was one of only two lodges in Florida with three $4,000 scholarships. In the Under 300 category we also received first place in state for Community Activities and in Veterans Activities.

**Crestview Lodge 2624**

Crestview Lodge hosted Twin Cities and Destin Lodges for the Flag Day Ceremony.

Crestview received a first place award for our Lodge Publication and we are fourth in state in Elks National Foundation per capita.

**Warrington Lodge 2108**

Warrington Lodge has donated $1,989 to the Elks National Foundation this year. We also gave out more than a $3,500 value in Christmas Baskets, and the Christmas Party for the kids was valued at more than $3,000.

We have four young men who hope to earn their Eagle Scout badges this year.

**Pompano Beach Lodge 1898**

SANTA ELK OF POMPANO BEACH LODGE 1898

LISTENS AND DELIVERS

A 9 year old Haitian boy, Jeff, and his sister, Jennifer, 8, attended the Elks Lodge 1898 Children’s Christmas Party on Saturday, December 17. Santa came in on his sleigh and gave presents to all the children and then listened to their special requests. Jeff whispered into Santa’s ear what they wanted but weren’t sure he could deliver it. The year before they did not even have a tree.

Christmas Eve, their Sunday School teacher, Miss Lynne, picked them up to take them to the church children service. Then they had a dinner reception at the church, then the teacher

Margaret Lodge adopted a family, the mother, Cindy Lamas, left received a $100 gift card for PUBLIX and some personal gifts, the night before X-Mas in Tamarac.

The three children, Ashley, Katlyn and Cameron received their gifts from Santa, Elk member Charles Quinn.

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**Lodges of the NORTHWEST DISTRICT**

**Lodges of the SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT**

Articles by Hanns Kundler and Lynne Warrick

Margaret Lodge 2463

We completed our Student of the Month Program. Students of the Year were honored in February.

Two walkers and 25 paperback books were delivered to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Palm Beach.

Because of heavy damage by Hurricane Wilma, many programs have been delayed. Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year and a Veterans program will be done in March.

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The North District was proud to host the visit of State President Don Sansoussi and First Lady Gail, as well as the rest of the entourage on January 20 and 21. Our district packed a bunch of activities in that weekend including the district ritual contest, the President’s banquet, and a DD/VP clinic. District Vice President Ron Brown breathed a sigh of relief when the weekend was over.

Lake City Lodge 893

Lake City had a bountiful December giving away 57 food baskets and over 400 gifts to those less fortunate during the holiday season. Fruit and stuffed toys were given to a local retirement home and $500 was donated to the V.A. hospital in Lake City. Lodge member Dewitt Cason and his office chose the local lodge to be the recipient of their Christmas donations because of the great charitable work that the lodge does at the holidays. It was these donations that helped the lodge spread so much cheer in the holiday period.

The Lake City officers participated in the district ritual competition held in Tallahassee. While they did not win the contest, it was obvious that the officer team worked hard in preparation for competition.

The lodge was open on Super Bowl Sunday, and wild game cooked by lodge members was served. A Valentine’s Day dance was held February 11th, featuring a prime rib dinner before the dance. The food was superb and those attending had a great time.

From the local Hoop Shoot contest, Lake City had three winners go on to Ft. Walton Beach for the regional contest. All the winners were girls, with one winner in each of the age groups 8-9, 10-11, and 12-13.

A banquet was held on January 23rd for the local youth football team. With help from the lodge and parents, each player and coach was given a jacket with the Elks logo and name embroidered on the jacket, along with a sports bag.

The Lake City Lodge continues to make improvements to its building. The dining room enlargement has been completed and the lounge has a new ceiling and fresh paint on the walls. Last year the lodge celebrated its centennial, and this upcoming year it will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its lodge building. The building was constructed for Lake City Lodge, who has its sole occupant.

Marianna Lodge 1516

An idea for encouraging members to come to the lodge occurred at Marianna Lodge on January 9th – free food. New member Philip Rhodes was appointed to a committee to conjure up some new ideas for improving the club operation. Philip kicked off the committee’s work with a meal for lodge members and spouses on the night of the first lodge meeting in January. The idea caught on, because several other members bought and prepared food for the meeting two weeks later. With the ball rolling pretty well, other members signed up to provide the meal for every meeting night in February. Volunteer waiters and waitresses have signed up to help in the dining room, too. Working with the House Committee, money was raised by selling tickets for a drawing for a color television on Valentine’s Day.

The lodge held a Valentine’s dance on Saturday, February 11th, with the band Second Time Around providing music. The color television drawing was held, and the winner was the granddaughter of one of the lodge’s Ladies of the Elks.

A fish fry fund raiser for the HATF was conducted on March 10th. The lodge cooked 255 pounds of fish and served 523 plates. Eighteen Elks and ten Ladies of the Elks worked many hours preparing and serving the food. The event netted $2289 for the HATF.

Officer installation was held on March 20th, conducted by DDGER Richard Cruce. The lodge served a fine meal (their famous roast pork loin with mustard sauce) before the meeting, and everyone attending the ceremony had a full stomach. Those who assisted Richard in the installation were glad to make the trip to get a plate of the great food and to join in the fellowship.

The annual Exalted Ruler Awards Banquet and Dinner was held March 25th. It was a great event with dinner, a short program, and dancing to music by the band Second Time Around.

Madison Lodge 2205

Madison Lodge held its 12th annual Senior Citizen Young at Heart festivities on Saturday, March 4th. The largest crowd ever – 192 people – came out to enjoy the event. The theme this year was a Mexican Fiesta and the food was great. Trustee Glendy Groton chaired the event and once again it was deemed a huge success.

The lodge held a “50s Sock Hop” dance on March 25th. Admission was charged for members, but as an incentive to sponsor a new member, guests were admitted for free. Each member that sponsors a new member through this dance was given a ticket for a free meal at a later date. Tables for the dance were set up honoring a popular business in town from the 1950s. Tables could be reserved for only $10.

Officer installation took place on April 6th, with DDGER Richard Cruce conducting the ceremony.

Perry Lodge 1851

Perry Lodge got into the Christmas spirit by donating lodge space to a local firm to raise money for United Way. Approximately $2400 was raised. The lodge’s Breakfast with Santa was a very successful event with more than 200 kids who came to eat breakfast and then have a little chat with Santa Claus. Each child went home with a gift. A local dairy provided the milk and orange juice, and other local businesses gave their support to defray the cost of the event.

As a fundraiser, the lodge sold tickets for a drawing for a custom made tool box. A local firm that makes tool boxes did the job of fitting the box to the winner’s truck. Proceeds from the event netted $885, with that money earmarked for the V.A. hospital in Lake City.

The lodge held its Memorial Service like all other lodges and had the good fortune of music and a singer – Jamie Portwood – who sang a cappella, giving a stirring performance. Before the service, the lodge served a meal featuring turkey, ham, vegetables, scalloped potatoes, and peach cobbler.

The lodge hosted a farewell breakfast on March 30th. All Elks were invited and guests were encouraged to attend. It was a great way to show support to the men and women who protect lives in the community.

Live Oak Lodge 1165

Live Oak Lodge also was active in the community over the holiday season ringing the bell for the Salvation Army and preparing Christmas baskets for those in need. The lodge also conducted its Hoop Shoot contest in December.

The lodge competed in the district ritual competition, finishing second. The team gave a great performance and was edged out by the Tallahassee Lodge. Super Bowl Sunday was a significant enough event to cause the lodge to be open for business. Snacks and refreshments were served.

The lodge’s PERs performed initiation on February 28th. It was a fun-filled evening watching the PERs put to task at the lodge meeting. A spaghetti dinner was served prior to the meeting.

The lodge held its officer installation and awards banquet on March 31st.

Tallahassee Lodge 937

Tallahassee Lodge was pleased to be the hosting lodge for State President Sansoussi’s visit to the district. It was a busy weekend with the district ritual competition occurring on Saturday morning. The State President’s Banquet was that night, and the district’s DD/VP clinic was held on Sunday morning. The Tallahassee officer team won the district competition with a score of 96.3468, and was obviously elated with that score. ER Harry Symons won the Eleven O’clock Toast competition in the ER/Leading Knight class, and the open class was won by Tallahassee Chaplain Jan Thorburn. The team is looking forward to the state competition in May.

The lodge received nine applications for the MVS scholarship contest. Applications from three females and one male student advanced to the district level of competition.

The lodge’s PERs sat in the chairs on February 7th, conducting the lodge meeting. Each PER had a chance to share a story from his or her year as Exalted Ruler. One of the more humorous stories from a PER from 1962 was that the lodge meeting was still underway when it was time for the 11:00 toast.

The Tallahassee Lodge had a fundraising idea to print a calendar for 2006, with photos on the calendar from Elks and their families. The calendars have been a successful fundraiser, and it has been great fun to share and to see pictures of Elks family members.

One of the boys who participated in the local Hoop Shoot contest and then in the district contest in Live Oak advanced to the regional competition in Ft. Walton Beach. Sean O’Halloran won the 8-9 division in the district. At the regional, he tied with another competitor with 21 out of 25 baskets. In the sudden death shoot out, he made four of five baskets, losing to the young man who shot five of five.

The lodge meeting was held March 30th. The lodge’s Breakfast with Santa was a very successful event with more than 200 kids who came to eat breakfast and then have a little chat with Santa Claus. Each child went home with a gift. A local dairy provided the milk and orange juice, and other local businesses gave their support to defray the cost of the event.

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The lodge hosted a farewell breakfast on March 30th for the Florida Junior Miss Pageant contestants and their guests. The contest was held in Perry the week before and a breakfast was an easy way to show support of the contest by the lodge.

For the folks who enjoy the sport of shooting, the lodge sponsored a skeet and turkey shoot on March 10th and 11th. In the skeet shoot, there was a Hunter’s Class, with first, second, and third place trophies awarded to males and females. There also was a National Skeet Shooting Association class, with the winner getting the first place trophy. Door prizes were awarded both days.

An appreciation dinner for the Emergency Services staff was held March 30th. All Elks were invited and guests were encouraged to attend. It was a great way to show support to the men and women who protect lives in the community.

North District continued on page 6
Bradenton Lodge 1511

An Elk statue was dedicated in a ceremony at Bradenton Lodge on March 12, 2006. Pictured are lodge officers and members who donated funds, time, and effort to erect the 650 pound statue.

Manasota Lodge 2734

We doubled the amount that Grand Lodge requested for per capita this year with $8.11 per capita. Our project to place a flag in every elementary and middle school in our area was also met this year. It was sad to see the number of classrooms that didn’t have an American Flag.

We have donated over $3000 in scholarships and had a Drug Awareness program for the last four years that has given out a lot of information to hundreds of children and their parents. The volunteers who worked these programs thoroughly enjoyed the time they spent talking to all those who attended.

There was a hugely successful Spaghetti Dinner Benefit for the brother of one of our members who was a cancer victim.

We have Trivia contests twice a month that are very well attended. From 22 players the first time we tried it to 95 this month. Everyone has a ball, there are lots of laughs and volunteers, (usually a Trivia team) work in the kitchen preparing and serving the food.

Even though we lease our property, we are still able, through our dedicated volunteers and the many functions supported by our members, to practice the motto of our State President, “ELKS CARE - ELKS SHARE.”

South Hillsborough Lodge 2672

Members and friends of So. Hillsborough Lodge packed and distributed two Christmas boxes to each of 75 families in the Ruskin/Wimauma area. The boxes contained enough food for a sumptuous Christmas dinner plus more for days to come. Jack Allender, PER has coordinated this program for the past nine years.

Sarasota Lodge 1519

We put on a benefit for the Katrina Hurricane victims and assisted in collecting toys for the children victims of Hurricane Katrina for Christmas.

We had a Christmas party for the Easter Seals Group, furnishing them with dinner and gifts.

We donated $2,000.00 to a young man named Lucas for a leg brace. He has Lymphedema and has to wear the brace at night because his leg fills up with fluid. We also held a benefit barbecue for him on March 26th. His parents are finding it financially difficult to pay for all of his medical needs.

We also have the “Army of Hope” for our servicemen and their families. We had a Christmas dinner for the families in December and have been sending care packages with personal items, phone cards, and treats throughout the year. We also helped one of our own Elk military families as they were transferred to another state which is extremely cold and they had no winter clothing and were in need of warm clothing.

This is why we’re known as “The Little Lodge With A Big Heart”.

Venice-Nokomis Lodge 1854

Our “Welcome Mat” is finally out in our new location: 1021 Discovery Way, Nokomis, FL 34275. We invite all our fellow Elks to drop in and sample our lunch and dinner menus along with our many fund raising activities continuing our “ELKS CARE AND ELKS SHARE” message. Our meetings are 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Music is in our lounge Friday evenings 7-10PM.

Officers in front of the new Venice-Nokomis Lodge

The Hurricane Wilma victims toy drive chaired by Betty Frenzel was a huge success as well as the Holiday Adopt-a-Family program for families in our local area under the direction of Betty Frenzel and Carolyn Reichard. The Elks Rest Service December 4th with our lodge officers and those of Does Drove #141 brought to mind the contributions that have been made by our deceased members. All enjoyed a joyous welcome to the New Year in our beautiful new facilities with dinner and music. We look forward to seeing all of you soon.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Establish a Budget for the Veterans

“Say fella, can you spare a dime?” is a familiar quote that we may all remember from years past. A dime in those days could buy you a hot cup of coffee. Today, “Say fella, could you spare $2.50?” might be more appropriate. I mention this bit of trivia because as spring approaches and the new Lodge officers for the 2006-2007 fraternal year have been elected, it is time for each Exalted Ruler and Lodge Veterans Chairperson to plan together to fund activities for your Lodge’s veterans programs for the upcoming year.

I could take this opportunity to expound for pages on all the wonderful programs that our Order has developed to honor our veterans, but I know that I would be preaching to the choir. However, I would like to take a moment to remind you that just as the price of coffee has risen throughout the years, so has the cost of veteran’s services. Therefore, it is very important that we take this time to plan and budget appropriate funding that will allow us to outwardly show our veterans that we honor and respect them and their families for the sacrifices they made. Programs such as the “Army of Hope,” “Comfort Care Kits,” “Adopt A Vet,” “Student/Veteran Volunteer Program,” and the “Veterans History Project” have been developed as tools to allow our members to pay tribute to those veterans who have given so much to allow us to live free.

I encourage you to plan your programs, prepare your budget, and put the appropriate teams in place to allow your Lodge and its members to show your veterans that you care. Give a little bit of your time now and it will go a long way as you prove throughout the year that Elks never forget.

Fraternally,
Roger R. True
PGER Secretary/Treasurer
Lodges of the

SOUTHWEST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Reporter, Raleigh Whiteman, PER

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

Our Elk-Mate ladies have agreed to continue for another year in the hope of trying to regroup and recruit new members who will serve as officers.

At our Awards Dinner we gave out a total of $9,200 to 22 local high school seniors from 10 schools in our district. Four of these Most Valuable Student Awards were sent to State for the ENF Scholarship Competition.

Arcadia Lodge 1524

Arcadia Elks had the drug awareness trailer at the Desoto County Fair for 10 days. Balloons were blown up and each one was tied with a long ribbon to a bag of drug awareness pamphlets and given to the children as they came to the trailer. A free drawing was held for children ages 6-16 for a $100 Wal-Mart gift certificate. Twenty Elks and spouses took turns keeping the trailer open during the fair.

Lake Placid citizens receiving awards were, from left, Ted Clay, Volunteer Fireman of the Year for his many accomplishments since joining in the department in 1983; Detective James Fansler, Police Officer of the Year for solving many burglary cases in the past year; Gary Freeman, Town Employee of the Year and David Austin, Citizen of the Year.

The Owners of Placid Lakes Country Club, Jeff and DeeDee Harstine and Rodney and Lisa Davis, received Business of the Year for their improvements and renovations of the course and country club.

Lake Placid Ladies of Elks under the leadership of President Ev Shideler had a very successful year. They donated $25,312 to the Lodge, and the Ladies bingo snack bar earned more than $4,000 which was donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Major Projects. The ladies honor an Elk member each year with the Honorary Lady Elk of the Year that went to Bruce Kurek for his many hours of help in the kitchen. The Lady Elk of the Year went to Past President Vicci Grant. Lady Officer of the Year is Paula Fabik.

Lakeland Lodge 1291

An extra special thanks goes to Diane Dittmar and her son Bobby for their 15 years of service on our Breakfast Sundays serving up as many as 175 omelets and Bob Powers for his many varieties of pancakes; they feel it’s time to turn it over to others.

Brandon Lodge 2383

In the Lodge Adopt-A-Family program we adopted several families that included 11 children. After collecting gifts and money and wrapping gifts, everything was distributed. The families could not believe all that was received.

The Children’s Christmas Party had 38 children in attendance; they were thrilled with Mr. and Mrs. Santa handing out gifts.

Under the leadership of Jim Turner and with the school’s participation in the local Hoop shoot contest there were over 3000 children participating in the start of the contest. We wound up with 25 finalists in the local Hoop Shoot.

Kim Martinez leaves the Exalted Ruler job in the hands of Jim Turner with the following credo, “If you think you’re too small to make a difference, you haven’t been in bed with a mosquito.”

Sebring Elks Lodge 1529

The Membership Committee of Sebring Elks Lodge #1529 had a 3-day Membership Drive Day during December. An open house license allowed the lodge to be open to the public for our 3-day activities: Wacky Wed. - food and music; Thurs. - karaoke, and Fri. Night Buffet Dinner and Dance. During the day members conducted tours of the building and informed visitors of the great things Elks do for our youth, veterans, and community. We had display tables showing our various charitable and social activities, plus the videotape on the Elks and our State Major projects. This 3-day event produced 47 new members being initiated into our lodge almost resulting in a plus membership for the lodge, with deaths and demits we lost 3. This class was named the “Don Sansoussi Class” in honor of our State President who was also present at the initiation together with the DDGER Dick Rhodes.

We also had a fundraiser for ENF which resulted in $602 being sent to ENF. In addition to this we will have monies from a slot machine aboard the Sun Cruz Casino ship. Our bingo players donated $2462 to the Safe House in Sebring.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672

This past year Winter Haven Lodge sent five kids to the Youth Camp. We just received another $360 from Phil Steffey, an Illinois Elk, to sponsor another two kids this coming camping session.

Bob Hagler is taking the reins as Exalted Ruler; this year he has a lot of events in the works. He reports that Winter Haven Lodge has met the goals for Elks National Foundation and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund while at the same time meeting the lodge annual budget and paying off the pool table.

Wauchula Lodge 1700

Wauchula Lodge hosted the District Deputy Clinic on April 8th. At this clinic Wauchula had only two Past Exalted Rulers in attendance. Why so few? Over the past 12 years the lodge had only three Exalted Rulers. They have been experiencing the increasing trend of officers having to repeat the job of leadership in order to keep the lodge from losing its charter. Jack Smith served for four years starting in the late 80s, John Woodburn also served for four years, and Lenora Hooten, the first female Exalted Ruler took the gavel for four years. This coming year, Donna Carlisle who was initiated two years ago is taking the leadership as Exalted Ruler.

Adrian Cervantes of Wauchula is seen in the picture receiving the certificate from Sue Feeland, Drug Awareness Chairman of the lodge. Watching the presentation are several of the Elks who worked in the trailer including Sue and Exalted Ruler Carl Gause.

Exalted Ruler Carl Gause had a slogan that he mentions in each Lodge bulletin, “Please work one event in the lodge this year and propose one new member.” It seems it worked to some extent as the lodge had a gain of some 19 members as of February. The lodge initiated 40 members with 21 who had not paid their 2005-06 dues, but as with many other lodges, getting new officers was a much more difficult task. As of the February bulletin a full slate of officers had not been achieved. As of the February bulletin a full slate of officers had not been achieved.

Plant City Lodge 1727

Plant City Lodge will be proud to present the name of Michael F. Smith at the Grand Lodge Convention as a candidate to the office of Board of Grand Trustees of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Jerry Yates reports that the Wild Game Cookout and the Raffle of a 2006-1/2 ton Silverado worth $36,000 were total successes.

The lodge is also proud to announce that Jerry Yates won the District 11:00 O’clock Toast.
President’s message continued from page 2

Rhodes and Loretta at the Georgia Elks Spring Meeting. We had a taste of true Southern Hospitality. It was a rewarding experience to see Elks of another state working together toward their common goals. We thank Vance and Loretta and State Sponsor of Georgia PGER Val Bates and Claudia for this opportunity.

I want to express my gratitude to our host and hostess, PDDGER Brian Burns and Mary Kay and their able team; PDDGER Tom Ludwig and Joyce and DVP John Russo and Geri. Their expertise and time in planning and taking care of all of the hospitality needs this year have been outstanding. Thank you so very much.

I would also like to thank State Secretary Carl Seibert, Director Lynn Warburton, and Administrator Ben Brown and their staffs. Their behind the scene tasks are responsible for making us out in front look good. Thank you.

I would like also to say thank you to all of my Officers and Committee Chairmen for an excellent job. I also thank the dedicated Elks and Ladies of the FSEA. Because of your continued support we will never have to say “No” to a child.

Thank you PGER Bob Grafton and Pat, PGER Val Bates and Claudia, and PSP Mike Smith and Sandra for your guidance, encouragement and friendship.

The one who really kept me together this past year was my wife Gail. She clothed me, fed me, and took care of all my mistakes. I never would have made it without her. Gail I love You.

We now look forward to the FSEA Golf Tournament and the FSEA Softball Tournament which we will be attending.

In May we will have our annual State Convention at which time I will turn the gavel over to our new State President. I ask that you please extend the same hospitality and support to the new President and VPAL and continue to show that Elks are “Guided By Our Hearts.”

God bless you and your families, God bless our State Association, God bless America and may He continue to protect our troops in harm’s way.

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Pins
Awarded December 20, 2005 Through March 31, 2006

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

Charles & Gail Best Wauchula #1700
Charles & Gail Best Wauchula #1700
Charles & Gail Best Wauchula #1700
Charles & Gail Best Wauchula #1700
Charles & Gail Best Wauchula #1700
Mark E. Bonawitz South Broward #2830
Gerald W. Carter Plantation #2273
Dick Chapman Bradenton #1511
Robert Florio Pompano Beach #1898
Robert Frieg Gainesville #990
E. Howard Halpin Englewood #2378
Jeannie & Billy Harris Destin #2688
Virginia Hunter Miami #948
Barbara & Al Pareira Miami #948
Ray & Alice Parsons Palmetto #2449
Benjamin P. Rich Ocala #286
Dan & Teri Wagnon So.Miami/Coral Gables #1676
James I. Watson Destin #2688
William O. White Ocala #286
Allan R. Wood Pompano Beach #1898

“Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate”

Carolyn A. Ball Tallahassee #937
Florence M. DeMarco Silver Springs Shores #2730
Jack A. Grrabrant Winter Park #1830
Floramy Holmes Warrington #2108
Albert Lockwood Naples #2010
Michael Phillips Titusville #2113
Frank Retman Lehigh Acres #2602
Richard I. VanTilburg Lake Placid #2661
Lisa Wilson Destin #2688

Lodges of the SOUTH DISTRICT
Reporter, Don Queralto

Miami Lodge 948
Sabrina Verdes, a Hoop Shoot winner from Miami Lodge #948, won at the Regional Hoop Shoot held in Umatilla, Florida. The Gulliver Prep Student will compete at the national Hoop Shoot held in Umatilla, Florida.

The Miami Elks Lodge is having a fund raising cruise at which time the ship will be out in the front look good. Thank you.

The RCL Jewel of the Seas ship departs on December 2nd from Fort Lauderdale on an eight day trip to san Juan, Puerto Rico, St. Maarten, Antigua, St. Thomas, and Nassau. This ship is only two years old and will provide good accommodations for everyone. For more information please call Rita at (305) 221-8851 or e-mail MarieElks@aol.com.

We are also having ballroom dancing lessons from April 10th in the Crystal Room Ballroom every Monday night from 8 P.M. till 9:30 P.M. They are five week sessions.

South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676
South Miami / Coral Gables Lodge 1676 held its Annual Golf Tournament on Sunday, March 12th at Killian Greens Golf Club. Seventy-two golfers and hackers shined their spikes for a good cause, The Florida State Major Projects. Approximately $3,000 was raised by golfers, sponsors and donors. Many thanks go to all of those helped: Chuck Ankurn, Gary Cummings, Carol Dryden, Dolores Leach, PC & Marilee Mills, Tony Roncones, Joan Walker, Wendy Walter, and Fred Zipse. An awards and dinner ceremony was held afterwards at Miami Lodge #948.

I wish to thank the South Miami/Coral Gables Elks Lodge 1676 for their ongoing support of the GATE program. The lodge agreed to apply for a grant to continue the program and with the tremendous assistance of your Chair of Trustees, Frost Walker, I am pleased to say the grant application was approved.

Marathon Lodge 2139
Marathon Lodge 2139 has begun a new project. We have adopted a Marine platoon stationed in Iraq. One member of that platoon is Lt. James Andrew Brobyn who is the son of Elks members Bo & Meg Brobyn. We are obtaining the names of other members of that platoon, and we will publish their names in the lodge bulletin. We hope individual lodge members will adopt a soldier and sponsor them. You can also help by attending our fundraiser. Our fundraiser for the scholarship program to benefit Marathon High school seniors has started. Tickets are available at the lodge or from Harry Wagner.

Beginning in April, four numbers will be drawn each week for the next four weeks. Sixteen winners will win from $50 to $1,000. Numbers who are pulled will be placed back allowing you to win again. Only 300 tickets will be sold at $25.00 each. This includes a buffet dinner and entertainment on April 22nd when the big money numbers will be drawn.
A Message From The Grand Exalted Ruler

Louis J. Grillo

TO ALL DISTRICT DEPUTIES, EXALTED RULERS, OFFICERS AND MEMBERS:

Congratulations are in order for all you newly-installed Officers. Thank you for your service to this Great Order. You will have the opportunity to show your dedication to your Lodge and to our Order by putting forth your dreams and desires to help make your Lodge a better place. This is your opportunity to wear the mantle of leadership. Embrace it and show you are worthy of the tasks that lie ahead, and always remember, DO THE DUTY THAT LIES NEAREST AT HAND.

To the Exalted Rulers: Many books and manuals are available to you that give years of experience. Use them to keep your Lodge on the true and proper course for Elkdom, and remember, April was the month that your Lodge was required to finalize your budget and complete the Annual Report that was due May 1st.

The strongest Lodge in our Order is the one that has its programs up and running from year to year. It is the Lodge that reaches out into its local community. It lets the general public know how deeply committed its members are to charity, helping the city or town become a more compassionate and caring place for those in need. This can be accomplished with a good Public Relations Program. We must make the general public aware of the importance of having an Elks Lodge in its community. It is because the reporter did not receive your lodge bulletin or other information about your lodge. Please put the following District Reporters on your Lodge Bulletin mailing list.

It would be helpful to the reporters if you would put your accomplishments and other items of interest in the bulletins.

Northwest District—Karen Knight; 62 Narrow Ln. Ct., Pensacola, FL 32506. PH and Fax 850-455-8831

North District—PDD Tom Walden; 1067 Merritt Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32301. PH 850-877-9110

Northeast District—“Kathie” Thompson; 123 Kingfish Ave., Palatka, FL 32177. PH 850-877-9110

Central District—Shirley Crawford-Cahalin; 3849 William N Rd., Zephyrhills, FL 33541. PH 813-788-0534

East Central District—Sharon Hill; 1383 Lydia Dr., Deltona, FL 32725. PH 386-574-1785

West Central District—Ed Gilbertson; 112 Royal Palm Circle, Largo, FL 33778. PH 727-586-6476

South Central District—PER Raleigh Whiteman; 109 Eventide Ave., Lake Placid, FL 33852. PH 863-699-2487

Southwest District—Steve Wyr; 7917 43rd Ave. West, Bradenton, FL 34209. PH 941-795-8048

South South West District—PER Carl Rehling; 5750 Almar Dr., Punta Gorda, FL 33950-8707. PH 941-639-6024

Southeast District—PER Joy A. Booth; 2100 Springdale Blvd. Y107, Lake Worth, FL 33461

Southeast District Vacant—Contact District VP Charlotte Burrie; E-mail--spikey954@aol.com

South District—PER Don Queralto; 11455 SW 57th Terrace, Miami, FL 33173. PH 305-595-8303


Herman Heydinger, PDD of the Southeast Central District gets his Elks card signed and gives a donation to Grand Exalted Ruler Jim Grillo. The GER collected over $600 for the Elks National Foundation during his visit to Florida.