NEW LODGES NEEDED

Dear Friends:

I wish I could write about the success of the National Convention in Orlando, but unfortunately it has not yet occurred (as I write this). However, I am certain of one thing; the Elks of Florida and their spouse volunteers did a tremendous job and all the credit goes to this great group.

The August Quarterly gives us the opportunity to be casual at all the meetings. My suggestion is comfortable. Attend the barbecue and all the festivities. There you will hear a report about the convention.

Several of you have written and talked to me about the formation of a new Lodge near your residence area. With the growth of the Florida population, it is past time we afford everyone who meets our requirements the benefits of membership in Florida Elkdom. Our goal is to form two new Lodges by this time next year. In the years following, to increase our efforts until we again have at least 125 Lodges.

If you know of an area that you believe is appropriate for a new Lodge, call or write me about it. Once we have reviewed the areas, we also will need local people involved in the formation of the Lodge.

Yes, it requires some effort, but a new Lodge, closer to where you live, will be a source of pride, charitable works and social activities.

With the price of gas and the strong enforcement of all traffic laws, a Lodge location closer to our residence simply makes sense.

My motto when I served as National President (GER) was “Build a Better Elkdom;” a new Lodge is one great way to do that.

May your joys be abundant and your disappointments minimal.

State Ritual Scores

Tallahassee 937 96.570
Ocala 286 96.130
Bradenton 1511 96.049
Titusville 2113 95.142
Fort Walton 1795 95.124
St. Petersburg 1224 94.085
Pt. Pierce 1520 94.001
Jacksonville 221 93.625
Miami 948 93.608
Aripeka 2520 93.490
Brandon 2383 89.465

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The Florida State Convention has come and gone and so has the National Convention. We are now in preparation for the August Quarterly. It is hard to believe that a fourth of the year is almost over.

The State Convention went very well thanks to the planning of our State Secretary, Carl Seibert. The meetings were on time; the items needed for the meetings were ready. Not one to rest on his laurels, Carl is constantly working on the programs trying to refine them to be even more exact. Let’s just say he is a tremendous help to everyone.

I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful demonstration at my nomination. Everyone did such a fantastic job, including the band. My home Lodge, Winter Park #1830, and the committee consisting of ER Fred Kortum, Chaplain Penny Banas, Esquire Pam Martin and DOES President Karen Trachsel are to be complimented.

The Installation Ceremony was both inspiring and fun. It was wonderful to see so many Elks and their guests networking with one another celebrating the changing of the guard of the Florida State Elks Association. It makes one proud to see the interest in Elksdom in our state.

By the time you read this article, Mary Ann, David, Kathy and I will have made three or four district visits and we will have been to the National Convention in Orlando. Hopefully we did not have any interference from the weather. I will report on our visits in the Fall Edition of the newspaper. To get the complete story, why not join us at the District visitations?

There is one visit to report on. We traveled to the South Southeast District and had an incredible weekend to start our visits to the fourteen districts of our state. Vice President Jim Lind, his wife Karolyn, and the members of the District were absolutely great. As usual PSP Dr. Tom Ryan and Penny were there to aid in the festivities. Some of the highlights were the police escort to the banquet and the Miramar Police Color Guard along with the Police bagpipes.

By now the Lodges should be implementing the various aspects of my program and planning fundraising for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and the Elks National Foundation. It is essential that we meet our objectives so we can continue to help the children of Florida. In order to grow and expand, we need to be even more generous.

Remember, by our actions we will be known for “Serving Our Community.”

Charles A. “Charlie” Trinowski, Jr.
President of the Florida State Elks Association
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert, PDD

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual State Convention at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort. Judging from the attendance and feedback from many Elks, the location and its amenities contributed to yet another great State Convention.

The attendance as reported by the Credentials Committee was 1,258 Elks (1,067 in 2005 & 986 in 2004) and 327 guests (351 in 2005 & 354 in 2004) for a total of 1,585. Many thanks go to everyone who assisted in making our State Convention a success and special thanks go to Mike Pierson, Peggy Henley, and the entire Credentials Committee and their helpers for all of their hard work during the convention. I would also like to thank Dave Vergason, Bill Wellbaum, Bob Shell, Jack Sproul, and Don Watson of the Convention Committee for their support and assistance before, during, and after the convention. Plans are already under way for the 2007 State Convention which will be held once again at the Coronado. In addition, a meeting will be held at the August Quarterly meetings to begin discussing the hospitality room arrangements for 2007. If you are interested in having a hospitality suite at the 2007 convention, you must have someone from your Lodge or District attend this meeting.

The Grand Lodge Convention was held in Orlando, Florida July 9th through the 13th. Attending from Florida were over 600 Elk members and their guests. Florida delegates occupied 290 rooms in the Rosen Centre Hotel and 40 rooms in the Embassy Suites Hotel. A highlight of the Grand Lodge Convention for Elks across the nation was the Florida Hospitality Room. As is the custom, the Elks of Florida were most generous in volunteering their time to assist in the Florida hospitality room, and many were especially generous by assisting with personal donations to help defray the added expense we incurred this year as the host state and with the record number of Florida Elks attending the convention. To everyone who volunteered and provided financial assistance, I thank you! Thank you also to Ben Brown and the volunteers who display the Major Projects Display at the convention center. With their assistance we were able to once again sell our ever-popular Florida themed blinking light pins in support of our hospitality room. Finally, a big thank you goes to my hospitality room team; without their help and support, the hospitality room and Florida functions would not be nearly as successful. These wonderful people work with me throughout the entire year coming up with the ideas and plans for our functions and I thank them for everything they do! They are Carol & Jerry Yates, Faye & Joe Bryant, Linda & Frank Hayes, Carolyn & Mike Ritchie, Big Joe Rogers, and of course my wife Kim!

The 2006 Grand Lodge Convention is now one for the record books and will undoubtedly be remembered for many years as a result of the work of many volunteer Florida Elks. I had no idea the amount of work that went into hosting such an event, but from my perspective I was able to see many of the hard work that went on and the countless hours of meticulous planning and detail work that went into making it such a huge success. At every turn the planners were met with obstacles and challenges, yet no one proved to be insurmountable. Over 300 Florida Elks gave of their time and money to be in attendance at the Grand Lodge Convention and lend a hand. Nowhere could you turn and not see someone in the distinctive bright orange vest providing directions or lending a hand to the effort. As Florida Elks we should all be proud of the job that was done and be reassured in the fact that we have definitely raised the bar for future states and their volunteer committees when it comes to hosting a Grand Lodge Convention! I am sure that I speak for many when I say thank you for a job well done!

The Lodge Directories went to print on June 29th and have now been distributed throughout the state. Extra copies are available by contacting the state office and will also be available at the August Quarterly. In an attempt to ever strive for improvements in the usefulness of the book, several new items were added to the directory again this year and we once again used a spiral bind so it can be opened and laid flat. Portions of the directory are published on our website and will be updated periodically as information changes throughout the year.

Your feedback on our website, www.flelks.org, is very important to us and as we continue to increase our use of it, your assistance is appreciated even more. My thanks as always go to our Webmaster Jerry Mills, who is doing a tremendous job of keeping the website updated amidst the flurry of requests I make of him. I also wish to thank our Editor and Publisher of the Florida Elks News, Raleigh Whiteman. To date, Raleigh has not added one word I have asked him to print and I thank him for that and for the space he provides for me in our publication. Like Jerry, Raleigh is always willing to try new things with the newspaper and he is always willing to accommodate my requests. Thank you Jerry and Raleigh!

The August Quarterly meetings will be held August 18th and 19th at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. A barbecue will again be held at the Youth Camp on Friday evening for Elks members and their guests. There will be a nominal charge for food and beverage to help defray the cost of the event. I hope you will consider attending the August Quarterly meetings to learn more about the work of the Florida State Elks Association and our two great major projects.

The Mid-Year Convention will be held November 9th through the 11th at the Florida Mall Hotel in Orlando. The preliminary agenda and reservation information will go out in September.

Thank you for your continued support, and please don’t hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance.

FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS

Betty Pickenpaugh, President

"Courage is being afraid but going on anyhow"  Dan Rather

Dear members and all,

The Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE) Meeting was held at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort on Saturday, May 27, 2006. The packets were handed out to the FLOE Delegates, Officers, Advisory Council, and Past Presidents concerning the 43rd Annual FLOE Conference. The Conference will be held at the Hilton Altamonte Springs Hotel September 27th through October 1st, 2006. As a reminder, August 28, 2006 is the hotel deadline date in order to receive the reduced rate and it is important to adhere to all the deadlines that are in the packets. Coffee and water stations will be available outside the meeting room.

The Nominating Committee chaired by Joan Justynskiy, PSP-FLOE presented the following recommendations for 2006-2007 FLOE Officers: Dolores Casella, President, SEC District; Beverly Messerschmidt, Vice President, SWC District; Joan Fritz, Secretary, EC District; Emil "Sam" Simpson, Treasurer, WC District. Selections for the Advisory Council were Betty Pickenpaugh, WC District and Joanna Kudla, WC District. Other nominations for Officers will be accepted from the floor at the August 19th meeting and a vote will be taken.

Vice President Dolores Casella presented three possible site options for the 44th Annual FLOE Conference in 2007. By vote of the Delegates, Officers, and Advisory Council present at the meeting, the Conference will be held at the Hilton Rialto Place on October 4th through October 7th, 2007. Thank you Dolores for your efforts in researching these sites.

The Luncheon and Chinese Auction hosted by the Florida Ladies of Elks was a great success. At this time I do not know the final results from the Luncheon. We sold over 330 tickets and made over $2,900.00 on the Chinese Auction which benefits the Elks Charities. The Tickets Sales and Seating Committee was chaired by Joanna Kudla and Mary McCoy from the WC District and the Chinese Auction Committee was chaired by Darla Boyd from the SSW District. Faye Bryant and Pat Grafton assisted us with the ticket sales and seating. Thanks go to all these ladies for their hard work.

There were many Door Prizes given out at the Luncheon. This Committee was chaired by Mary Fejeran form the NW District. The Decorations were really beautiful and the committee was chaired by Betty Groff from the SEC District. Our thanks go to Mary and Betty. The food was delicious, colorful, and ample.

The Entertainment presented by "The Fractured Fairy Tale Group" from Tampa Lodge #708 was really funny and well done. The fairytale was narrated by Lesley Nikkinen. My heartfelt thanks go to this group for adding some laugh out loud material to our day. The Elks dignitaries could not help but speak at the FLOE morning meeting but were able to speak to the attendees at the Luncheon. Ladies Organizations Chairman Charlie Walker shared with us his final report for the year on the Ladies Organizations.

The ladies spent $430,106.16, worked 344,291 hours and traveled 741,545 miles. With only 4,528 members this equates to $8,850,860.21 or $1,513.00 per member. The district with the highest totals again this year was the SSW District. Just think what the figures would be if every lady reported her hours worked, money spent, and miles traveled on behalf of the Elks.

Congratulations and welcome to our new Ladies Organizations Chairman Christopher Carlisle and Vice Chairman Richard Lee. Thank you to outgoing Ladies Organizations Chairman Charlie Walker for all his hard work on behalf of FLOE and all the Ladies.

Our next FLOE meeting will be at the FSEA Quarterly at the FL Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla on August 19, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. The 43rd Annual FLOE conference at the Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs Hotel on September 30, 2006 will begin at 8:30 a.m. Mark your calendars for the FLOE meeting at the Mid-Year Convention at the FL Mall Hotel (formerly the Adam's Mark) in Orlando on November 11th at 8:30 a.m. I hope to see all of you at these meetings and thank you again for all your support.
The 142nd Grand Lodge Session had 21 resolutions that were voted upon at the Wednesday Legislative session. There were six Judiciary resolutions that passed, four Grand Trustee resolutions that passed, six resolutions were submitted by Lodges and four passed, and all five resolutions that were submitted by the State Associations failed to pass.

There was much heated discussion regarding several of the failed proposals. Space will only permit a brief description of each proposal and the results of the votes. All successful resolutions must be ratified by the BPOE members at later Lodge meetings and are not immediately effective. Paper ballots that were used for voting during the legislative session on Wednesday morning again proved to give the correct final results on all questions voted upon during the session in a short period of time. The following are the results of that election:

Resolution 2006-1-Passed-2625-312-Changing the quorum requirement from five to three for PER association transaction of business. Submitted by Newport News, VA Lodge 315.

Resolution 2006-2—Failed-816-2122-Allowing the immediate family to attend Initiation. Submitted by Lake Placid, FL Lodge 2661.


Resolution 2006-4—Passed-2362-580-expanding the months available for the required District Deputy clinics to be held. Submitted by the Duluth, MN Lodge 113.

Resolution 2006-5—Passed-2460-477-allowing the assets of a defunct lodge to be used in the Chartering of a new lodge within the same state or territory. Judiciary submission.


Resolution 2006-7—Passed-2121-813-Regarding the Vocalist position and his/her duties as required in the By-Laws of the lodge. Westminster Lodge 2227.

Resolution 2006-8—Passed-1496-1437-Removed the requirement that rewards for getting new members be in the lodge By-Laws. Submitted by Arlington, TX Lodge 2114.

Resolution 2006-9—Passed-2384-555-Regarding the privileges of 18 or older Elks. Nebraska State Elks Association.

Resolution 2006-10—Passed-2565-376—Removing the requirement that a lodge provide information regarding an applicant to the National Home. Grand Trustee proposal.

Resolution 2006-11—Passed-2439-495-Allowing the removal of an officer to be serviced by regular mail with certificate of mailing. Judiciary submission.

Resolution 2006-12—Passed-2520-411-Allowing the filing of a motion to dismiss at any time after the filing of a complaint in the Subordinate Forum. Grand Trustee.

Resolution 2006-13—Failed-1405-1534-The Initiation Ritual may be performed by a degree team authorized in the lodge By-Laws. Submitted by the Florida State Elks Association.

Resolution 2006-14—Passed-1197-1744—Removing the requirement that a lodge approve an applicant to the National Home. Grand Trustee proposal.

Resolution 2006-15—Passed-2435-595—Removing the requirement that a lodge approve an applicant to the National Home. Grand Trustee proposal.


Resolution 2006-17—Passed-2548-381—Allowing a permit from Board of Grand Trustees if the cost of new facilities is more than $25,000. Grand Trustee proposal.

Resolution 2006-18—Passed-760-2178—Allowing persons 18 years of age or older to be a member of BPOE. Nebraska State Elks Association.

Resolution 2006-19—Passed-770-2160—Regarding the 18 or older amendment of Section 14.010 Of the Laws of the Order, Nebraska State Elks Association.


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**Donald Schwartz**

**Vice President South District**

I was born in Brooklyn, NY in August, 1936. I have lived in Miami, Florida since 1937. I graduated from Florida State University. I have a Master’s degree from the University of Miami and a Specialist degree from Nova University.

I worked in the Dade Co. school system for 33 years and retired as a building administrator.

I served for six years in the USAF and have an honorable discharge.

I have been married to Shirley for 48 years we have two daughters and three grandchildren.

I have been an Elk for eight years and served as Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight and Exalted Ruler in 2003-2004.

I have served as a District Chairman in the South District and on the Scholarship Committee. I have also served as District Auditor and on the Lodge House Committee.

I am presently the Vice President for the South District. I was Officer of the Year in 2001-2002.

My goals are to continue to work for charity with an emphasis on helping children.

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**North Miami Lodge 1835**

More than $2,000.00 was collected at the Youth Camp Luau to raise funds for campers to attend this summer. We would like to thank everyone who participated in this important event. The Blood Drive was also a great success with over 20 pints of blood donated. Dennis and Shirley Osborne were Co-chairmen of this event. The Rummage Sale was held on Saturday, June 10, raising close to $500. Many thanks go to everyone who helped to set up and take down and those who donated items.

**South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676**

South Miami Lodge held its Annual Flag Day Ceremony on June 14. Boy Scouts of America participated in this beautiful ceremony to honor our Flag as they have in the past. This included a flag burning ceremony where several flags were retired.

**Mission Statement**

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**Marathon Lodge 2139**

Marathon Lodge sent 28 individual boxes to our troops in Iraq. They have sent back thank you letters of appreciation. We encourage all Elks to send them a letter; we have adopted several servicemen who need our support. Mother’s Day was attended by 70 members and their guests and we had a large number for a great Father’s Day Buffet. The American Legion Color Guard, the band camp kids, and Elks presented our flags during Flag Day ceremonies. We want to thank our guest speakers who provided inspiration for this event.
HOLIDAY ISLES LODGE 1912

The 6th Annual Student of the Year Luncheon was held May 13th at the lodge. This year 76 students were honored for their academic achievements. ER Bill Eldridge, Youth Activities Chairman Brett Volland, and Madeira Beach Middle School Principal Brenda Poff presented the students Good Citizenship Certificates and Role Model T-shirts. We served lunch to 175 students, parents and siblings.

On June 3rd, the 3rd Annual William “Bill” Lewis Memorial Special Needs Kids Day was held at the Lodge. We had 94 Special Needs Kids along with 66 parents and siblings participating. The special needs kids came from the Elks Therapy Services, PARC, the Florida Children’s Burn Center, and other special needs kids. They were taken out on boats to relax and watch dolphins. We had 15 boats, both private and commercial, 66 Elks, including several from Largo Lodge 2159, and 8 non-Elks participating. There were clowns from Morton Plant-Mease Hospital and 60 motorcycle riders and Motorcycle Patrol Officers from St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park, and the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Department who let the kids look at and sit on their cycles. Red Extreme, a motorcycle stunt team, performed and “Bam,” a professional wrestler, performed.

Motorcycle Patrol Officers from St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park, Morton Plant-Mease Hospital and 60 motorcycle riders and Motorcycle Patrol Officers from St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park, and the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Department who let the kids look at and sit on their cycles. Red Extreme, a motorcycle stunt team, performed and “Bam,” a professional wrestler, signed autographs. Many Elks dignitaries attended.

NEW PORT RICHEY LODGE 2284

In partnership with Gulf High School and their ROTC program, John Collar, ER presented to Heather Martin, Gulf High School’s Cadet of the Year, a certificate and a $500 scholarship for tuition at Pasco/Hernando Community College. Lt. Wysocki, who is in charge of the ROTC program, is a New Port Richey Lodge member. The presentation took place at Gulf High School. ER Collar thanked those students who have served at the Lodge, giving of their time in return for donations to their programs.

Mike Pierson
Vice President
West Central District

I was born in Beech Grove, Indiana on September 30, 1960.

Upon graduation, I was an electro-chemical line technician; my final position was Chief Quality Control and Customer Service Supervisor. During this six year period I married my wife of 26 years, Becky, and we have two children.

We moved to Florida when DuWell closed. I was self-employed until I was hired by Winn-Dixie and after 6 weeks was moved to the meat department. I was promoted to Market Manager in 1990. I left Winn Dixie after 11 years to care for my ailing father.

When I again returned to the workplace in 1999, I began with LineCom as a cable technician. When the company closed in 2003 I was hired by a competitor, BCI Communications where I am currently employed as a Telephone Systems Specialist.

I was initiated in 1998 into Seminole Lodge 2519 and immediately was appointed Tiler. I served as Lecturing Knight, Leading Knight, and then as Exalted Ruler in 2002-03 then served as Trustee for three years. I was Chairman of House Committee, District Chairman of Harry-Anna for two years and Vice Chairman for one year. State and Vice Chairmen Credentials and District Auditor to DD Ron Simpson in 2005-06.

Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719

Our Lodge partnered with the Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce to revive a tradition in Tarpon Springs, the Tarpon Springs Water Carnival and Illuminations Parade, on June 2nd and 3rd.

On June 10th, we operated a food booth at the Palm Harbor Parrot Head Party. This was a big party and our share of the proceeds went to our roof replacement fund.

The Lodge held a charity benefit for Don Worley, a Tarpon Springs resident and a veteran. Don was involved in an auto accident, caused by a drunk driver, which left him paralyzed from the waist down. However, there is promise, as there is new stem cell therapy that could help Don walk again. Unfortunately, Don’s insurance will not cover this type of treatment. Our Elk member, Bill Laursen of Laursen Construction sponsored a BBQ chicken dinner and dance with live music by Coldshot. We raised almost $3000 to help Don with his medical expenses, and hopefully, he will walk once again.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

The St. Petersburg Lodge made the following donations: $300 to the Bay Pines Veteran Hospital $100 to Boy Scout Troop 334 to thank them for participating in our Flag Day Service, and $500 to help send 12 veterans to Washington, D.C. to see the war memorials.

Pinellas Park Lodge 2217

We had an Easter Egg Hunt for children in our neighborhood. We raised enough money to give 10 Easter baskets to Haven House, an abuse center for children.

On Memorial Day, we sold yellow ribbons. The monies raised were sent to Bay Pines Veterans Hospital, along with clothes and toiletries.

Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525

On May 10th during an awards dinner the “Honor Student of the Year” award from Dunedin High was presented to Daniel Alessandro. The JNROTC “Cadet of the Year” award from Dunedin High was presented to MCPO Steve Noto by Gn. Sgt. Ron Wilson, USMCR.

The “Honor Student of the Year” award from Countryside High was presented to Xinya “Rain” Nan by Gary Scherlof Principal of Countryside High. The Marine Corps JNROTC “Cadet of the Year” award from Clearwater High was presented to Cadet Col. Ronald Duguema by Col. Michael Davis USMCR Retired.

Scholarships of $1000 each were awarded to Chelsea E. Bunman from Palm Harbor University and James P. Hurst from Dunedin High School. The applications from these students were submitted to the Elks National Competition for further scholarship consideration.

Largo Lodge 2159

Largo presented five Girl Scout Award Certificates with American flags to Scouts Samantha Hill, Samantha Weeks, Alyssa Parrish, and Kimberly Lansing of Troop #364 and Erica Johnson of Troop #320 on May 20th at the Radisson Hotel.

Youth Activities Week included our annual Student of the Year Banquet on May 6th. Angela Jewett and Dennis Eroh from Largo High were the students of the year. The Lambright Scholarship Fund awards were also presented that evening.

Our Veterans Activities, under Deputies Vernon Pickenspaugh, Marge Surgoine, and Mark Moss, with incredible support by all the VA Team Players, have been very positive. Bingo is played monthly, servicing over 40 veterans each month.

The annual Arts and Crafts show was a huge success, with over 10 entries going on to the State Contest. Jose Penalver won 1st place with his “Born Free” Scratch Art. Tied for 4th place were Mindy Eger for “Calmness in Color” and “Cowboy Leather” by William Kinzer. Tampa Lodge is proud to serve our youth, our community, and our veterans.

Tampa Lodge 708

Tampa Elks had a very successful Drug Awareness Flea Market in April. The proceeds will help support our youth for several months.

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Mario Feroglia
District Deputy
West Central District

I was born in Brooklyn, New York on May 29, 1952.

I earned a Master of Arts in Architecture from the University of Florida in 1976, and a Bachelor of Design from the University of Florida in 1974, and an Associate of Arts from St. Petersburg College in 1972. I married Kathy in 1972; we have two sons, Mario and Anthony.

I am a Florida Registered Architect employed by Pinellas County Government since 1991 and now have the position of Senior Registered Architect. My responsibilities include project management for new construction and renovation projects totaling several million dollars annually.

I was initiated October 4, 1994 at Pinellas Park 2217. I served as Chaplain, Esquire, Lecturing Knight and Loyal Knight. I was Exalted Ruler for two years 2000 and 2002 and have been Lodge Trustee 2002-present.

I am a Certified Word Accuracy Judge and Certified Computer Judge and was Elk of the Year 1998-99, Officer of the Year 2001-02 and Auditor to the DDGER in 2004-05.

I have held numerous Lodge chairmanships and District and State chairs. I was President of the Florida Elks Youth Camp 2003-04 and 2004-05, and was West Central District Vice President in 2005-06.
**New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557**

The Lodge is moving forward with their new building plans in Edgewater. PSP Michael Phillips is assisting the Lodge in taking care of the legal aspects of this project.

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**Daytona Beach Lodge 1141**

Saturday, April 8th, the lodge had a highway pick up drive. A good turn out of Elk members collected 20 bags of trash.

Mother’s Day was celebrated on Sunday, May 14th with all lodge officers in attendance.

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**W. D. “Sonny” Armstrong**

**Vice President**

**East Central District**

Sonny was born on May 18, 1935, in Hot Springs, Virginia. He was born into a family of six girls and one boy. Sonny attended Valley High School, where he graduated with an average, the best citizenship medal, and a scholarship for electrical engineering. Sonny graduated from American University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He then obtained his law degree from LaSalle University Law School.

From 1953 until 1958, Sonny worked for the Virginia State Police but in 1958 he transferred to the Fairfax County Police Department, where he worked until 1977, when he retired.

In 1958, Sonny married the former Patricia Jenkins from Winchester, Virginia. They have a son, Michael, and a daughter Gina and five grandchildren.

From 1958 until 1961, he served in the U. S. Army in Germany and was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant.

In 1978, after moving to Florida, two great things happened. Sonny went to work for the Florida Parole and Probation Services, and he became an Elk. He worked with Probation until 1995 when he retired.

After joining the Elks in 1978 where he immediately became an officer, he continued through the chairs and has held the office of Exalted Ruler three times. He has served as District Chairman and currently serves as State Vice Chairman and State Chairman for Indoctrination.

Sonny enjoys playing golf, hunting, fishing, and traveling.

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**Phil Watercutter**

**District Deputy**

**East Central District**

Phil Watercutter was born June 9, 1954 in Peoria, Illinois. He graduated from Anna High School in 1972. Phil attended Northwestern Business College in Lima, Ohio on a full scholarship in basketball for two years before transferring to Findley College in Findley, Ohio. Phil was given a full scholarship in basketball and baseball at Findley College where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business with a minor in Elementary Education.

Phil has a son, Eric, who is twenty-three years of age.

Phil was a physical education teacher and basketball coach for four years after moving to Florida. Phil is employed at Tarmac America as a Sales Supervisor. He has been with Tarmac for 19 years and in the construction industry for 27 years.

Phil joined the Deland Elks in 1991 and has served in every chair except the Inner Guard at Deland Elks Lodge.

He has been Exalted Ruler for three years; 1995-96, 1997-98 and 1999-00. He was Elk of the Year 2004-05, Elk of the Decade 2002-03, and is an Honorary Life Member in Deland Lodge. He was House Committee Chairman for two years and was State Vice Chairman and State Chairman for Sports in 1998-00.

Phil has held 13 district chairman offices in his 16 years as an Elk. Phil was All District in 5 of the 6 chairs and participated in the State ritual competition 4 years in which he placed third as Exalted Ruler. He has been serving as the ritual coach for the past 5 years in Deland Lodge 1463.

Phil is the Founder of the Florida Elks State Softball Tournament held each year in Deland, Florida which has raised over $100,000.00 for the Youth Camp.

Phil was the East Central District Vice President 2005-06.
**Aripeka Elks Lodge 2520**  
Submitted by Mary Ann Steffes

Looks as if summer is here, all we need is some rain. I am so thankful when we built we had a well put in for irrigation, so we have green grass. Guess I will be doing the publicity for the Lodge until I can get released from the doctor. so I can fly to Las Vegas and look for a condo.

Aripeka Elks Lodge installed new officers including Exalted Ruler Judie Stoner.

Following the installation, PER Mary E. Ford presented the Elk of the Year award to PDGDGER Harold (Hal) Steffes. Officer of the year was presented to Wayne Getz. Couple of the Year was presented to Joyce and Chuck Burnett and Citizen of the Year was presented to Lt. Phyllis Davis of the Pasco County Sheriff’s Department.

PER Mary E. Ford was presented with a certificate from Grand Lodge for fulfilling all duties expected of her during her year as exalted ruler. PDGDGER Jack Sproul officiated at the Lodge’s 32nd. Installation ceremony and also installed the officers of the PER Association. PDGDGER Harley Grace installed the Ladies of Aripeka Elks Lodge #2520. Approximately 125 attended the installation, dinner and dance.

Ladies of Aripeka Elks Lodge #2520 presented the lodge with a check in the amount of $6,129.00 toward the purchase of new carpet and also purchased a new commercial can opener, toaster and two large spaghetti cookers and they also donated $2,055.00 to charities.

Aripeka Elks Lodge 2520 in Hudson Adopt-A-Road Program chairman Bill Borrusch and ten volunteers cleared a 2 mile area of US 19 collecting 22 bags of rubbish.

Recently Jeffery Churchill, Aripeka Elks Lodge Veterans Chairman through donations of members delivered $835 in socks, dental articles and sundries to the Baldomero Lopez Veterans Nursing Home located in Land O’ Lakes.

The officers of Aripeka Elks Lodge won the Central District Ritual Contest. They will compete in the state Ritual Contest in May.

**Donna Zuk**  
Vice President Central District

I was born in Detroit Michigan, education: high school, some college married 48 years when my husband Alex passed away we had two daughters, five grandchildren.

I worked for the Federal Reserve Bank Detroit Branch of Chicago, in the Securities department retired after 28 years.

I was the Ladies Auxiliary for three years and have been a member of the Elks for nine years. I served as Tiler and Chaplain. I was Exalted Ruler 2003-04 and Treasurer 2003-present.

I was Central Regional Chairman National Foundation Scholarships for two years and District Chairman of Lodge Activities for three years.

I was a member of the Veterans Committee, worked the bingo, was on the House Committee for two years as well as Secretary of the House Committee, Drug Awareness Chairman, Community Service, Indoctination, Investigation, Lapsation, Sickness & Distress, I was Chairman of our P.E.R. Association for one year, and then became the Secretary.

I received the Officer of the Year Award 2005-06 and Volunteer of the Year Award 2005 from ARC. My plan is to continue to be involved with the Elks.

Recently Bill Tousignant chairman of the blood bank collected 11 pints of blood.

May 2006 PER John Njedlo representing Aripeka Elks Lodge #2520 presented four young men attending Hudson High School with $500 scholarships each. They were Matthew Sofarelli, Christopher Connell, Vincent Fretilia and Shane Sweezy. The Lodge also presents $25.00 for nine months to deserving students. The Ladies of Aripeka Elks represented by president Phyllis GraceE presented four young ladies with $500 scholarships each.

May 20 Aripeka Elks Lodge had their Mother’s Day ceremony. Exalted Ruler Judie Stoner presented three ladies with flowers. Approximately 75 attended the ceremony, dinner and dance.

PER Phillip Franz, Americanism Chairman, assisted with the Memorial Day Service at Grace Memorial Gardens. Approximately 370 people attended and 266 returned to the Lodge for a luncheon. Fifty 4x6 American Flags donated by Aripeka Elks were flown. Guest speaker was Lt. Col. Tom Castriota, retired and several County and State dignitaries attended.

Aripeka Elks Lodge won the Central District Opening and Closing under the leadership of PER Mary E. Ford. The trophy was presented at the Florida Elks Convention in Orlando.

**Zephyrhills Lodge 2731**  
Submitted by Shirley Crawford

Zephyrhills Lodge welcomed 36 veterans during the month of April and treated to a great fish dinner. The lodge donated toiletries, puzzles, books and magazines to veterans at the VA hospitals in Tampa and Lopez VA Hospital.

In May the Lodge donated $500 to the Alzheimer Family Organization, the Lighthouse, James A Haley Veterans Hospital, the Lopez State Veteran’s Hospital including $200 in toiletries to both. We were able to accomplish this be cause of a grant from the Elks National Foundation for exceeding the Per Capita, chairman Leading Knight Emile Maston.

The lodge also presented a check for $1,500 to the Zephyrhills Jr. ROTC program.

The lodge received an award for Elks National Foundation Highest Per Capita Lodges 701-1,100.

A $500 donation was made to God’s Pantry of Shiloh and a $150 donation was given to the Zephyrhills Fire Department. A mother’s Day tribute and buffet was held on May 14.

**Kissimmee Lodge 1873**  
Submitted by Paul Daniels

The Elkettes presented a $1000 scholarship check to Jamie Rinehart of St. Cloud. Jamie is presently enrolled in Valencia Community College, for an Associates of Arts degree, then on to the University of Florida medical program with a goal of becoming a doctor.

Is this a first?? Central District Vice President and our District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler are both female.

District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Wayne Sorrell, State President, Charles A. Trinowski, DDGER, Edna Capps, Exalted Ruler, Richard Hiemenz and many members and Lodge officers from Central District welcomed newly elected Central District Vice President, Donna Zuk on her official visit to the Kissimmee Elks Lodge.

From left: DDGER designate, Wayne Sorrell, Florida State Elk President Charles A. Trinowski, DDGER Edna Capps, CDVP Donna Zuk, ER Richard Hiemenz.

Wayne A. Sorrell  
District Deputy Central District

I was born in Youngstown, Ohio January 29, 1944.

I graduated from Winter Haven Senior High School and earned an AS Degree at Valencia Community College

I have been a Law Enforcement Officer with the Kissimmee Police Dept. since 1966 and retired as Commander in 1996. I am with the School District of Osceola County in the Criminal Justice Academy of Osceola that is one of 40 certified police academies in Florida.

I have been the Academy Director from 1996 to present.

I was initiated at Kissimmee Lodge in 1979. I served as Inner Guard, Esquire, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight. I was Exalted Ruler 1992-93 and as Trustee 1995-96.


I married Sandy November 3, 1997 we have two daughters and a son and two grandchildren.

My goals are to retire from Osceola School District and be the FSEA President (someday). I want to spend more time with my family.
The District held its Annual BBQ picnic on May 20th at the Okeechobee Lodge. All Lodges participated in the affair and had a good time. There were Beanie Baby puppy races, golfing the longest drive contests, and karaoke singing by VP Gary Breakfield and PGELDGK Tom Elmore. Everyone dined on a great BBQ dinner cooked and served by soon-to-be DD Gary Casperson and his crew. A District Golf Tournament is being planned for July.

**Jupiter Lodge 2469**

The membership of the Jupiter Lodge is looking forward to the opening of their new Lodge building sometime in July. See the picture included below.

The new building housing the Lodge will be 7,000 square feet located on the southwest corner of Indiantown Road and Jupiter Farms Road in the Publix Plaza. The old Lodge location will be converted into 35 three-story townhouses. ER Mike Orlando was quoted in the newspaper saying that “right now, our average age member is about 60. I hope with this move, we can get new members and bring down the average age closer to 40.” This is the hope of Lodges all over the state. The Lodge is still holding its meetings at the Tequesta’s American Legion Hall. The Lodge was well represented at the State Convention in Orlando and was awarded the Best Opening and Closing for the District, which was accepted by ER Orlando.

I was born August 9, 1967 at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland and graduated from Ohio State in 1988 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration.

I earned a Master’s Degree in Education from the University of South Florida in 1997.

I am a National Board Certified Teacher.

My girlfriend is Linda Pelham, the President of Everglades Federal Credit Union.

I work as an Administrator of Exceptional Student Education for Hendry County Schools; also as an Adjunct Professor for Edison College and Technology Instructor for The Endeavor Academy.

I was initiated into Clewiston Elks Lodge in August 1999. I served as Loyal and Leading Knight before becoming Exalted Ruler in 2003; I served as District Chairperson for Hoop Shoot and Interlodge Visitation before becoming Regional Soccer Shoot Chairperson in 2005.

My hobbies are Music, sports, and travel.

**Lantana/Boynton Lodge 2676**

Still without a Lodge home, meetings are being held at the Lantana recreation center. Due to this fact, we combined with West Palm Beach to do the annual mandatory Flag Day Ceremony. Our ER Audrey McNamara read the history of the flags as the WPB scouts presented the flags in order. Joy Booth, Secretary of Lantana, read the response as requested by West Palm Beach’s ER Celeste Ehrlach. Their officers conducted the rest of the ceremony. Everyone enjoyed a spaghetti and meatball dinner afterwards. We were very thankful that they included us in their program.

**West Palm Beach Lodge 1352**

On Saturday, June 10th, the public was invited to an Open House at the Elks Lodge. It was done to help neighbors meet neighbors and make new friends. The Elks Drug Trailer was there along with the Palm Beach County Substance Abuse Coalition Program. The Bloodmobile was present for those wishing to donate. The Lodge served hot dogs, hamburgers, and chicken. Activities included golf putting, cake walks, and horses.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation wrote a letter to Lynn Brown, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, thanking them for their donation of $2,350 to help make a terminally ill child’s wish come true. The ladies donated this money through their annual chicken barbecue. These funds helped a five year old boy named Nicholas who is a lung transplant recipient. His wish was to have a shopping spree at Wal-Mart where his one big dream was to get a Nintendo PlayStation and games to go along with it. This has always been a special program for PER Joe Mamone, who passed away last year. The ladies continued their efforts in his memory.

I was born in Pisgah, Iowa on March 24, 1955.

I graduated from East Monona Community High School in Moorhead, Iowa in 1973.

I married the former Pam Beck on November 23, 1979. We have three boys: Ryan (wife Miranda and daughter Elissa) Kevin, and Cody.

My major occupation has been a diesel mechanic. I am presently self-employed with a mobile repair business specializing in the repair of farm and construction equipment and heavy-duty trucks.

I was initiated into Okeechobee Lodge #2558 in November 1997. I served as a Trustee, the Chairman of Trustees, the House Committee Chairman, the Leading Knight, and three terms as Exalted Ruler from 2002 through 2005.

I served as the SE District Membership Chairman and as both Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Officers Attendance Committee for the Florida State Elks Association.

I received the Officer of the Year Award at Okeechobee Lodge in 2003-04.

My hobbies include woodworking, following NASCAR racing, and collecting toy tractors.

**Pahokee Lodge 1636**

The members of this Lodge are still meeting in a cabin by the lake due to last year’s hurricanes that destroyed their newly renovated Lodge. ER Kenny Usher, his wife Diane, and Secretary Barbara Heffernan, PDDGER represented their Lodge at the State Convention in Orlando.

**Clewiston Lodge 1853**

VP Gary Breakfield, PER is busy these days planning the District’s visitation schedules and the District’s Golf Tournament.

He is also involved in planning the State President’s Visitation to our District which will take place the weekend after the National Convention. Did you know that Gary has a great singing voice and he enjoys doing karaoke, as evident at the Annual Barbecue?

**A SINCERE THANK YOU**

From Tom Elmore, PGELDGK
Florida Grand Lodge Chairman
Florida Volunteers

The 2006 Grand Lodge Convention held in Orlando, Florida was a super event for Florida Elkdom; it was very rewarding to see the volunteers who gave so much of themselves in their orange vests and jackets taking care of business and assisting Elks who needed it.

This project was a huge undertaking as I said when the planning started in November 2004. We asked the Florida Elks to support the Local Committee financially and that happened, and we asked for volunteers to assist with our many assignments and you came forward to work any job necessary. Needless to say a lot of time, paper work, e-mails, phone calls, personal contact, and team effort were used to make this convention very special. I am more convinced than ever before that Florida Elks are second to none when a job needs to be done. All we have to do is be involved and ask for their help, and it gets done.

In my years of Elkdom I have personally worked on many projects and I have enjoyed all of them, but this challenge was by far the largest assignment; it required a lot of detail while working a lot of different areas that needed to come together to make the end result successful. The cooperation, guidance, involvement, and dedication of many were needed to bring the final result to a successful conclusion, and that was accomplished by our volunteers.

I want to thank PGER Robert Grafton and Momma Pat for having enough confidence to appoint me as Chairman of the Local Committee.

I will not attempt to list those who were so important as the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the various committees or the entire list of volunteers; they signed up and did the job very well.

I do want to use this report to say to each volunteer that I appreciate your assistance more than you will ever know. I will never forget your dedication as you made Florida Elkdom shine like the sun. You did as I asked: “Git Er Done.”

May God bless each of you with good health, happiness, and safety as we move forward in a positive direction.
Boca Raton Lodge 2166

For the second time in three years, Boca Raton Lodge #2166 has placed first in Florida with the highest per-capita donations to the Elks National Foundation (ENF).

By raising $15.80 per member during the 2002-03 Elks fiscal year, we also finished number 78 among all Lodges of all sizes in the entire country.

Exalted Ruler Denis Schumacher, who chaired last year’s ENF drive, told members they can be proud of this accomplishment. As he begins his second year as ER and as ENF Chairman, Denis hopes members will continue to show through their deeds and generosity that Elks Care...Elks Share!

Our Past Exalted Rulers Association inaugurated Blood-mobile visits to our Lodge some 25 years ago. From the beginning, the chairman of this project has been Harold Goldrick, PER, who has personally donated over 140 pints of blood.

Prior to the Bloodmobile visits to our Lodge, our members donated blood during the American Legion Blood Drives in November of each year.

Boca Raton Lodge has donated upwards of 3,000 pints of blood since the visits began. On two occasions a number of visits were held.

Many of our donors have given anywhere from 75 to well over 100 units since the 1970s.

South Broward Lodge 2830

The Lodge has finally begun gathering construction quotes for its renovation process. The final permitting hurdles have been resolved and renovation will begin shortly.

South Broward has partnered with the City of Miramar Social Services Division by serving as an intermediary for the “Helping Hands” project. This is a service to people who are in immediate need of relief, whether monetary or equipment. Monies are raised throughout the business community to fund the project and the Elks manage the distribution.

Margate Lodge 2463

The Lodge suffered heavy damage from last year’s hurricane and renovations have been under way. We are happy to report that the renovations have been completed and our first event was a success.

Plantation Lodge 2273

Our Lodge is about to complete construction of our new Lodge with our Grand Opening hopefully within the next few months. Currently we are sharing Hollywood West’s Lodge and facilities and cannot thank them enough for caring and sharing.

Pompano Beach Lodge 1898

Charlie Fisher, National Foundation Chairman, presented Exalted Ruler Earl Wagoner with a plaque from Grand Lodge commemorating Ben Stotts’ gift of $155,000 to the Elks National Foundation. Many may remember Ben as the gentleman who spent most evenings quietly sitting at the bar with his drinks and snacks until a taxi took him home. Ben passed away in 2005.

Pat Basileo, Cruise Chairman, presented the Lodge with a check for $4,255.85, representing the Lodge’s profit from the Spring Cruise.

Once again the Lodge paid tribute to our mothers. Our Does recited “Momilies.” We presented flowers to many of our mothers including the youngest mothers and our oldest mothers, the oldest grandmother, the youngest grandmother, and to the mother with the most children. After this beautiful ceremony, a light repast was served in the lounge room.

Oakland Park Lodge 2407

Approximately 50 veterans and active members of the military and civil protective services (Police and Fire) and Elks and visitors gathered at the Oakland Park, Florida BPOE facility on Prospect Avenue for an inspirational celebration honoring the flag of the United States of America. The ceremony was called to order by PER Floyd Bass and started with an inspiring solo of “The Star Spangled Banner” by Trustee Tom Gallagher. The veterans and members of the military and Civil Protective Services were then recognized and applauded.

VOLUNTEER HOSTS MADE IT A GREAT CONVENTION

Florida Elks received many accolades of appreciation for the work the volunteers did in making the 2006 BPOE National Convention a more enjoyable event. More than 325 Elks and spouses had signed up for volunteer work.

Tom Elmore, PGELDGK, was the General Chairperson and was assisted in the Manpower Room by PDD Joe Ortiz and John Harris.

PDD Ross Evers was the Operations Chairman as well as the Transportation Chairman.

The Ritualistic Committee was supervised by PDD John Harris, Chairman and PDD Walter Marie Vice Chairman. The Opening Ceremony staff was headed up by PDD Joe Rogers and the Chairman of dozens of ushers for the Grand Lodge Sessions James Lind.

Raleigh Whiteman took over the Printing and Public Relations responsibilities in the absence of Bob Shell.

Registration Control volunteers was headed up by Charlotte Healy assisted by Vince Como as Vice Chairman.

VIP Security Chairman was Robert Coker.

The dozens of Elks working the Sales and Information Booth in the Exhibition Hall was chaired by Bob Pitney, his Vice Chairs were Jonnie Pitney and Lillian Riley.

PDD Gus Simonelli and his crew saw to it that the Exalted Ruler Ball and the Exalted Ruler Luncheon ran smoothly with attendees having the proper credentials.

Nothing but OOH’s and AHH’s was heard from those ladies attending the Ladies Entertainment that was set up and Chaired by Tom Elmore assisted by PDD Joe Ortiz.
Deland Lodge #1463 again hosted the Florida Elks State Softball Tournament the weekend of April 28 - 30, 2006. For thirteen years we have benefited the Florida Elks Youth Camp. This tournament was another success for the children of Florida.

The Founder is ECDVP Phil Watercutter; his basic ideas behind this function were to bring camaraderie to the members, get younger members into our organization, and build support for the Youth Camp. In the past thirteen years, we as Elks feel we have accomplished all of this.

This year’s tournament was attended by State President Don Sansoussi & Gail, VPAL Charlie Trinowski & Mary Ann, VPAL Designate David Lake & Kathy, PGELDGK-PSP Tom Elmore & Pep Riley, PSP Frank Palladini & Ebba Jean, PSP Mike Phillips & Kathy and the boys, State Secretary Carl Seibert, State Chaplain Joe Ortiz & Rita, and State Tiler Tom Ludwick. Also attending were DDs James “J. J.” Johnson, Wesley Phelps, and Emma Becton and Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairman Tony Scotch.

In twelve years, the Softball Tournament has raised over $100,000; this year is no exception with $9,000 again going to the Youth Camp in the name of the winning Lodges. There have been over 6,300 participants playing, and attendance in the thirteen tournaments has been in excess of 15,200 people. With all the sincere interest displayed from the Lodges that participated this year, we are looking for an even bigger and better Fourteenth Annual Tournament April 27-29, 2007.

A new team appeared this year from Rotonda Lodge #2710. This is the first team from the South Southwest District; they also won the “Over 50” Tournament. I know they’ll be back next year with even more teams and supporters.

This year there were twenty teams from ten different lodges.

**This is the payout to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in these lodges’ names.**

**A / B DIVISION**

<table>
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<th>Place</th>
<th>Lodge</th>
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<tr>
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<td>COCOA #1532</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>TARPON SPRINGS #1719</td>
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**C DIVISION**

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**OVER 50 DIVISION**

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<tr>
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<td>TARPON SPRINGS II #1719</td>
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**COMRADIERY AWARD**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DELRAY BEACH #1770</td>
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Delray Beach had over 150 people attending this year’s tournament; they plan all year for this great weekend.

Again this year Phil has worked with the Teen Court in Deland with thirty-four kids working off community service time. These kids worked a total of 140 hours. Their jobs during the tournament are working with the softball committee to keep the grounds clean, assisting in the concession stand, and anything else to help out. We also sent the extra food to the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia and the Deland Fire Department.

This is the State function where you can have lots of fun.
The 142nd Elks National Convention was held at the recently completed Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida July 9-13, 2006 with a final count of 8,281 Elks and guests in attendance. This was 415 less than last year’s BPOE Convention attendance in Reno, Nevada. The Elks were welcomed to Florida by Governor Jeb Bush and the Grand Exalted Ruler L. J. “Jim” Grillo.

This Convention installed a Tennessee Elk as the 2006-07 National President, or as we of the Elks refer to him, the Grand Exalted Ruler.

Arthur H. “Jack” Frost, III. is a member of the Oak Ridge, TN Lodge 1684. He became an Elk in 1977. He and his wife Sharon have two daughters, Michelle and Jennifer, and one grandson, Johnny.

Jack is an engineer who has worked for NASA, Martin Marietta Corporation, Science Applications International Corporation, and Bechtel Jacobs company LLC. He has set a goal for Elks National Foundation donations at $4.00 per-capita. He advises us that it is the “Great Heart of Elkdom” that helps to fund our great programs, and although the goal was exceeded last year, he challenges the Elks to surpass last year’s achievement.

He paraphrased the words of President John F. Kennedy, saying “ask not what the Elks can do for you, but rather, ask what you and the Elks can do for others.”

He challenged each Lodge to have at least an increase of PLUS one member.

A beautiful Memorial Service was held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday morning. A Special Eulogy was given for Past Grand Exalted Ruler Vincent R. Collura by Honorable Jack M. Jensen, Grand Secretary and member of Lincoln, NE Lodge 80. James V. McQuillan, a Past Exalted Ruler from the Ogallala NE Lodge 1760, had the honor of giving the Eleven O’clock Toast.

The Ritual Team from Tallahassee Lodge 937 competed in the Eastern division of the competition and finished in third place with a score of 94.7251, narrowly missing the Final Four contest. Their rendition appeared flawless but the scores that were announced the following day were disappointing when Florida was judged third place with just over half a decimal point below the winning team. South Carolina’s score was 94.7811.

The winning team was the Kenton, OH Lodge 157, scoring 96.0465. Ogallala, NE Lodge 1760 was second with 96.0037. Idaho Falls, ID Lodge 1087 placed third with 95.6788. Sumter, SC Lodge 855 was fourth, scoring 95.3329.

Florida was represented at the station of Grand Trustee when Past State President Michael Smith of Plant City Lodge was installed.

Florida Elk Ken Tolve from the Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870 was one of four Marvin M. Lewis Award recipients. These are rewarded to those who most exemplify the level of dedication by Elks all across America to the Boy Scouts of America. The other three were Timothy Knotts of Arlington-Fairfax VA Lodge 2188, Donald Drew of Cameron MO Lodge 2615, and George Oliva, III. of Rafael CA Lodge 1108.

A terrible and sad occurrence happened on the Friday before the sessions began while the Ritualistic Contests were being held.

The Franklin, Indiana team was awaiting their contest when one of the teams’ members learned his 16 year old son had died in his hotel room of unknown causes. Unimaginable devastation must have been on this father’s mind, but not wanting to let his fellow team members down, he went on 16 hours later and competed in the ritual contest. Their rendition appeared flawless but the scores that were announced the following day were disappointing when Florida was judged third place with just over half a decimal point below the winning team. South Carolina’s score was 94.7811.

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Unimaginable devastation must have been on this father’s mind, but not wanting to let his fellow team members down, he went on 16 hours later and competed in the ritual contest. Their rendition appeared flawless but the scores that were announced the following day were disappointing when Florida was judged third place with just over half a decimal point below the winning team. South Carolina’s score was 94.7811.

The winning team was the Kenton, OH Lodge 157, scoring 96.0465. Ogallala, NE Lodge 1760 was second with 96.0037. Idaho Falls, ID Lodge 1087 placed third with 95.6788. Sumter, SC Lodge 855 was fourth, scoring 95.3329.

Florida was represented at the station of Grand Trustee when Past State President Michael Smith of Plant City Lodge was installed.

Florida Elk Ken Tolve from the Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870 was one of four Marvin M. Lewis Award recipients. These are rewarded to those who most exemplify the level of dedication by Elks all across America to the Boy Scouts of America. The other three were Timothy Knotts of Arlington-Fairfax VA Lodge 2188, Donald Drew of Cameron MO Lodge 2615, and George Oliva, III. of Rafael CA Lodge 1108.

A terrible and sad occurrence happened on the Friday before the sessions began while the Ritualistic Contests were being held.

The Franklin, Indiana team was awaiting their contest when one of the teams’ members learned his 16 year old son had died in his hotel room of unknown causes.
Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892

We have begun another year and we welcome our new ER, Ron Snow, and his wife Susie. We are looking forward to another great year. Our membership continues to grow each month.

On March 24th we fed 30 college students who spent their spring break working with Habitat for Humanity. They interviewed our superb BBQ.

Congratulations to our Officer of the Year, Bill Dixon, and Elk of the Year, Danny Sweatland. Without them our Lodge would be nothing; thanks guys.

We had a good turnout for our Flag Day Ceremony. We continue as Elks to honor “The Grand Old Flag,” a time honored tradition.

St. Augustine Lodge 829

We have begun our year with ER Wayne Reyes and his great officers.

We will have a booth at the Council on Aging Air Show in St. Augustine with an expected visitation of 30,000 people, so we will be busy. It should be a good community relations affair for us.

We continue to serve breakfast on Sunday, have Spaghetti night on Monday, and come cooked meals on Wednesday. Recently Chef George Szicson joined the kitchen crew; he will be preparing some fantastic meals for us.

May 17th we honored the last three years’ Americanism Award Winners and their families for dinner, followed by a special presentation.

Gainesville Lodge 990

We remain busy as we begin another year in Elkdom. Our newly elected ER is Frank Cooper; we know he will do an outstanding job for us.

In March we held a “Kids Fishing Tournament.” It was a huge success, and the kids truly enjoyed it.

Our Mother’s Day Brunch was an overwhelming success, especially to those cooking. We ran out of food on a couple of occasions when over 75 people showed up for free food.

Palatka Lodge 1232

It is with a great deal of pride that we announce our number one standing in the state of Florida in donations to the Elks National Foundation.

We were the state leader in donations to the National Scholarship Fund. We donated $1,000 to the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, $1,000 to Rodeheaver Boys Ranch, and $500 to Boy Scouts on a local level. All this was possible from our Annual Charity Golf Tournament.

Jacksonville Lodge 221

We had our “Flag Day Ceremony” on June 11th. The flags were presented by the Antlers youth group; the ladies of COPS, an organization for families of police officers killed and disabled in the line of duty; the Jacksonville Sheriff Department Honor Guard; and the Marine Corps Honor Guard.

We also honored two families who lost service members in Iraq last year. We followed with lunch and good fellowship. John Hamel, ER will be leading us this year.

Our Ritual Team placed 8th in the state with a score of 93. We are so proud of them. Keep up the good work.

Orange Park Lodge 2605

Dan Bird, ER will be setting the pace for us here at the Lodge. We look forward to his leadership.

Congratulations to the Officer of the Year, Bob Morse, and Elk of the Year, Bob Watkins.

We continue to participate in community blood drives. A Youth Week Celebration was held and was a huge success. There were approximately 50 Non-Elks in attendance. The celebration included a dunk tank, a 3 in 1 inflatable, clowns, and face painting. All had fun.

Ted Beal

Vice President
Northeast District

Ted was born in New Kensington, PA in 1939.

He was in the first graduating class of Forrest High School in Ocala, FL.

He received an Associate Degree with Vincennes University.

He had a two year stint in the Navy.

His profession has been in newspaper printing and photojournalism. He was in the Florida National Guard as a part-time soldier and this eventually led to a full-time position with the Guard.

His specialty was photojournalism and he spent an enjoyable and rewarding career in the field of publicity and public affairs. Willie Nelson, Vanna White, Howard Schnellenberger, Big Daddy Don Garlits, Joe DiMaggio, and Gordie Howe were just a few of the celebrities he met and worked with! He retired in 1999 as a Sgt. 1st Class with 32 years combined military service.

Ted’s affiliation with the Elks began in July of 1976 and this July will mark his 30th year in our organization. He has served his Lodge in many capacities, i.e. ER, Trustee, several chairmanships, etc. He was Exalted Ruler in 1982-83.

“One of my proudest moments was standing on the stage in Anaheim, CA with my team when we won it all in 1998 – National Champions!”

James E. Hurst, Jr.
District Deputy Northeast District

Jim was born August 5, 1943 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Upon completion of high school, Jim attended the Florida State University where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in American History and later a Master’s Degree in Education. He earned a Doctor of Education Degree at Nova Southeastern University in 1985.

He served two years active duty in the United States Army.

Jim was an elementary school principal in 1978 and continued to serve at four different schools in Duval County; he has been called back to work by the school system in administrative positions numerous times since his initial retirement in 1997. He is currently an Adjunct Instructor for Nova Southeastern University in Jacksonville and Tampa, Florida.

Jim and his wife Julia have one daughter, Jessica, a graduate of the University of North Florida.

He has been an active member of Jacksonville Elks Lodge #221 since 1987 when he joined Southside Jacksonville Lodge #2014 prior to the merger of those two Lodges. He progressed through the officer chairs in both elected and appointed positions.

As Leading Knight he received the Officer of the Year Award in 1999. He was Exalted Ruler for the 1999-2000 year. He has been both Vice and State Chairman of the Youth Activities Committee. Jim is now a Trustee in his Lodge and he also presently serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Florida Elks Properties, Inc. He was Vice President of the Northeast District last year.

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There are several ways to get the complete information or request an application.

Write to Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Ave., Bedford, VA 24523.

Telephone 1-800-552-4140 during regular business hours and ask for Nellie Martin, Robin Wood, or Sharon Jones.

E-mail enhome@elkshome.org

Visit our website at www.elkshome.org.

Contact us today to see how you can begin enjoying the friendly, secure, and active lifestyle at the Elks National Home. It could open the door to a completely new and wonderful world for you.
Naples Lodge 2010

Naples Lodge presented $1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors at each of the six area high schools in May. The Lodge also donated $1,000 to the local Salvation Army’s summer day camp program for needy children and $500 to the Elks National Home in Bedford, VA for their residence summer programs. All of this was made possible through the profit from our bingo program.

On May 11th Naples Lodge hosted a banquet for the 8th Grade Student of the Year from each of the participating schools in the area. Nine students were in attendance and were presented an award plaque for their achievements. Also in attendance were the parents or guardians and school representatives and their spouses.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

North Fort Myers Elks Lodge continues feeding homeless veterans with as many as 150 meals served each week. In addition to the clothing and personal care items being sent to Bay Pines, the Lodge has also arranged for toothpaste, Fixodent, and denture cleanser tabs to be delivered to Bay Pines Veterans Hospital. The Veterans Committee is making booties and mittens for our returning military personnel who have wounds.

Bonita Springs Lodge 2753

On June 11th the Bonita Elks held their annual Flag Day Ceremony at the Lodge with the assistance of Boy Scout Troop #30. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is the first and only fraternal body to require formal observance of “Flag Day.” In July of 1908 the Grand Lodge of this Order at Dallas, Texas, then assembled, provided for the annual nationwide observance of “Flag Day” on the 14th of June in each year.

After the impressive ceremony, everyone stepped outside to present a new trailer to Scout Troop #30. L-R: Richard Cooke, Lecturing Knight; Ron Cumming, ER; Jessie Davis, Sr., Patrol Leader; Chris Connerton, Assistant Patrol Leader; and Ed Davis, Scout Master.

This trailer will be used to haul their equipment for different events they hold throughout the year. A free picnic was enjoyed by all in the lounge afterward, again put on by our caring volunteers.

Our Bingo Charity Fund chaired by Al Eckberg and his volunteers made this presentation and another $1,000 to the American Cancer Society possible.

Our whole Lodge is proud of this group of men and women to give so unselfishly of their time. They are the true meaning of our motto, “ELKS CARE - ELKS SHARE.”

American Cancer Society donation, from left: Frank Scandelle, Trustee; Carl Hoke, PG; Dick Masters, Secretary; Erica Behrens, RN; Bonny Kensing, Loyal Knight; Michele Bennett, RN; George Lampropoulos, Trustee; Ron Cumming, ER; Dick Majors, Lecturing Knight.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

The Scholarship Awards Dinner on April 26th had 18 scholarships awarded by the Lodge and Elkettes. In addition, one People-to-People Ambassador sponsorship was awarded, along with the Student of the Year Awards. The Most Valuable Student Essay winners were also awarded.

Earlier in April the Lodge held its Annual Picnic for Sallie Jones Elementary School’s Fourth Grade and awarded Savings Bonds to the winners of the Annual Drug Awareness Poster Contest. Additionally, a check for $400 was presented to the teachers for teaching supplies.

The Lodge and Elkettes combined to send 39 deserving kids to the Florida Elks Youth Camp for one week.

Truman A. Bass

I was born in Birmingham, Alabama October 14, 1944

I graduated from the University of Alabama Birmingham with a BA. I received a Masters of Education from Auburn University and a Masters of Arts in History from Jacksonville State University.

I was in the United States Air Force from January 1963 until September 1966.

While attending college I was full time with the Alabama Air National Guard, after college, I transferred to the Alabama Army National Guard and retired in October 1983.

I am retired as a Parole Officer State of Alabama after 25 years and now employed as an Adjunct Professor at Edison College where I teach American History and Florida History.

I married the former Linda Sheffield, March 23, 2005, we have five children and seven grandchildren.

I received the Junior Chamber of Commerce “Outstanding Boss” in 1975 and Outstanding Young Man of America in 1977. I was Volunteer of the Year with the Association of Retarded Citizens. In College, I was selected to Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities.

I joined Deep Creek Lodge in 1999 and served as Esquire, Loyal Knight, and Leading Knight. I was Exalted Ruler 2003-04 and now a Trustee. I have served on numerous lodge chairmanships and committees.

I have been State Chairman of Americanism, Officer of the Year 2001-2002, Word and Computer Judge for Ritual and have passed the first test for Floor Judge.

I want to find ways to increase our membership and participation in Elk events. My desire is to make the SSW District the number one District in the state.

CLINTON MISSOURI TRUST FUND

A Trust Fund has been set up for the family of the Clinton, Missouri Exalted Ruler Ken Komer, who died when the lodge roof collapsed as he was studying the ritual on an upper floor of the lodge. Anyone wanting to make donations can forward checks to Missouri Elks Charitable trust, c/o Gary O’Hare, 1113 SW 13th Street, Oak Grove, MO 64075.
Inverness Elks Lodge 2522

The Inverness Lodge recently held a Student of the Month luncheon at the Lodge. All students of the month for the past year were in attendance with their parents and the Student of the Year for each school was honored at that time.

The Scholarship Committee at the luncheon awarded three $500 scholarships. Schools represented were Inverness Middle School, Hernando Middle School, and Citrus High School. There were over 100 in attendance at this annual affair. Scholarships were awarded to Katie Gruman and Kristina Trentacosta, and the third was given to Vocational Technical Institute to award to a needy student.

On Flag Day, June 14th, the Inverness Elks Lodge was invited to participate in the City of Inverness Flag Day Ceremony. PDDGER Walter Mabei, assisted by Americanism Chairman PER Don Goclon and Youth Chairman Steve Eppele, presented the History of the Flags, assisted by Boy Scout Troop #302 which the Lodge sponsors. The ceremony was well received by a large audience.

Lady Lake Elks Lodge 2793

Lady Lake Elks Lodge #2793 recently held an awards ceremony for local citizens. In attendance was Detective Rita Butz of the Lady Lake Police department. She was nominated as a role model in the department, at home, and in the community. The Student of the Year Award from The Villages Charter School was presented to Whitney Windham. She carries a 4.2 GPA and is in the National Honor Society. She is credited with 255 hours of volunteer work in the community. She plans to attend UCF in the fall.

The Fireman of the Year Award was given to Gary Polizzi of The Villages Fire Department for his commitment to the department and his fellow firefighters.

Amanda Domagala was selected Citizen of the Year for performing the Heimlich maneuver on a man at R. J. Gator’s where she worked as a server. She has still not been located.

Ocala Lodge 286

Ocala Lodge held an awards ceremony to honor the winners of the Lodge’s Americanism Essay Contest. The winners and their parents were guests of the Lodge for an awards dinner. Each winner was presented a $200 savings bond and a certificate of achievement.

Pictured from left: Exalted Ruler Michael Mongeluzzo, Katie Cooley, Blake Winterbotham, and Americanism Chairman Bill King.

On April 1st the Ocala Lodge participated in a Court of Honor ceremony for New Eagle Scout Clark Roland of Boy Scout Troop 18. The Lodge presented a framed certificate of accomplishment, a U.S. flag, and an American flag pin to Clark Roland.

Pictured from left: Duane Whatley, PDD; Clark Roland; his father, Jack Roland, PER; and Michael Mongeluzzo, Exalted Ruler.

Winter Park Lodge 1830

Lodge activities have been off to a good start this year with the participation that would make any Lodge proud of the results.

Beginning with the FSEA Convention, Charles A. Trinowski, Jr., a Past Exalted Ruler of Winter Park Lodge #1830 and a Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the North Central District, became the State President for 2006-2007.

Following his election, Charlie’s wife Mary Ann was introduced to the convention and a parade of members from several Central Florida Lodges, including Winter Park, Sanford, and Orlando, joined a band from the Tampa area playing joyous music.

In celebration they passed mementos and trinkets to the audience and carried large photos of the new president.

At the President’s banquet, Charlie was formally installed along with David Lake, the Vice President at Large; and Charlie’s suite of state officers, board members, and District Vice Presidents.

Good luck during your term Charlie!

At a barbecue and dance following the FSEA Convention, Winter Park Lodge paid tribute to those who served in our country’s armed services. Over 75 male and female veterans who served in the military were honored. Also, the widows and spouses of veterans were present at the Lodge’s annual Memorial Day celebration.

In attendance were additional honored guests State President Charles Trinowski and his wife Mary Ann and State Vice President at Large David Lake and his wife Kathy. Exalted Ruler Fred Kortum introduced them.

Many memories were stirred by the Now & Then Band as attendees recalled sounds of the times that included Franklin Roosevelt’s December 7th announcement, along with bagpipe and the buglers’ calls. Salutes to members of each service were greeted with applause and cheers.

On a lighter side, the Lodge’s banner that touted Winter Park as the home of VPAL Trinowski was “borrowed” from the 2005 convention hospitality room. Apparently, it had found its way to the Apopka Lodge where members from Florida to Maine penned well wishes. The banner was returned to the Lodge at the 2006 FSEA convention hospitality room and was formally displayed during the celebration with President Trinowski, ER Kortum, Leading Knight Pat Fuehrer, and Trustee Tom ‘Turtle’ Moyer.

Flag Day was also celebrated at the Lodge with a multi-faceted program that included over 60 veterans. Ceremonies began with the officers of the Does Winter Park Drove #86, led by President Karen Trachsel, performing their ceremony that included a reading of “Old Glory” by First Counselor Carolyn Laverty.

The officers of Winter Park Elks performed their Flag Day ceremony led by Exalted Ruler Fred Kortum with a reading by Trustee Ed Lusardi, PER. Also included was the historical flag presentation by Troop 823 of the Boy Scouts of America.

Members of Troop 613, Boy Scouts of America, performed a very impressive flag retirement ceremony. Scout Master Doug Reese and Advancement Chairman Mike Speck led the Scouts in the ritual stripping of the stripes.

Ralph D. Wiley
Vice President
North Central District

I was born in Port Murray, New Jersey on May 20, 1937. I graduated from Newton, N. J. High School in 1955. From 1955 to 1959 I was in the U. S. Navy Submarine service.

I have been married to Beverly Marie Vantassell for 47 years. We have five children and ten grandchildren.

I am self-employed as a subcontractor for the home building trades.

In 1971 I joined the Elks in Flemington, N.J. and served in the chairs. I was Exalted Ruler in 1978-1979.

I was first State Chairman in N.J. for the Drug Awareness program. I was a Ritual Judge for many years in New Jersey and North Carolina. I served three terms as District Vice President before moving to Florida.

I have served the Florida State Elks Association as Ritual Judge, District Chairman of the Government Relations Committee, and State Vice Chairman of the Soccer Shoot Committee for two years. I have held several Lodge Chairman positions in the Lady Lake Elks and was Exalted Ruler for Lady Lake in 2005-06. I have been Lodge Secretary for five years.

Bruce Henry
District Deputy
North Central District

I was born in the cold climes of Michigan’s upper peninsula. After high school I joined the Army in January of 1953 and served in Korea and Germany. I was discharged as SSgt. In 1958 I attended Community College in Lansing, Michigan. For the next 25 years I worked for Reo Motors, General Motors, and the last 18 years for P&H Crane.

I came to Florida in 1983; I retired from Driltech Inc. in 1997 as production control coordinator.

I became a member of Silver Springs Shores Lodge 2730 in 1999. I served as Chaplain, Leading Knight, and Exalted Ruler twice.

I was Officer of the Year in 2000-01. I have been Vice and State Chairman for the Interlodge Visitation Committee. I was District Chairman for the Indoctration Committee for two years. I have served on and chaired many committees in the Lodge.

I believe strongly in what the Elks stand for and strive to promote our slogan wherever I go.
**Pensacola Beach Lodge 497**

“Sixteen pints may not sound like very much, but if you’re in need of blood, 16 pints can literally save many lives,” said Daria Richardson.

Elks members have been longtime donors to the blood bank, and on April 4th, the Northwest Florida Blood Center made its first stop of 2006 at the Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge. “I’m very pleased at the turnout. Several people tried to give but were turned away due to the strict compliance of donor requirements,” said Richardson. In total 24 Elks members attempted to donate.

The event was termed a big success by the blood center and by Richardson. NWFBC staff commented, “it was the best ever and we had a great time.” This event was Richardson’s first since assuming the role of Lodge blood bank chairperson, aka “Lodge Vampire.”

During the blood drive a Basket O’Goodies raffle was conducted. Generous donations from Creative Designs, Daria Permenter, Greg Woods, and the Lodge were greatly appreciated. A $150 donation was made to the NWFBC for their new building. In return for the donation the NWFBC will add Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge’s name on a plaque of donors. The raffle also netted $200 for the purchase of furniture in the new Elks Lodge. Darla thanks all those who participated and those who donated to the baskets. The next visit from the bloodmobile will be in June.

**Holly-Navarre Lodge 2787**

Jim Fix and the Golf Committee want to thank everyone for their support, especially our sponsors, for a great turnout at our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament.

Holly-Navarre’s adopted veteran and Patsy Bugg enjoyed a wonderful Easter lunch of ham, cabbage, mashed potatoes, and homemade cornbread and soft cookies. The table was decorated with a tree with lovely eggs.

Stephanie Karlson who is in the sixth grade and attending Woodlawn Beach Middle School won first place in the Northwest District Americanism Essay Contest. Holy-Navarre Elks had the honor of Stephanie and Mr. and Mrs. Karlson attending the April 11th meeting. We were honored with Stephanie reading her essay, “What I Feel When I Look Up at the American Flag.” Congratulations to all of the more than 300 students who entered this essay contest.

Brother and sister Elks of Holly-Navarre have donated $1,525 to different charities and we have just started.

To those of you who are not attending your membership meetings and events, you are missing (what it means to be an Elk). Come and attend these meetings and get the true information of what is and has been done and the goals of what will take place. We work very hard and many hours in planning these events just for each of you. We encourage each of you to attend these meetings and events as you can.

**Milton Lodge 2377**

There are many people to thank this month. First are the members who continue to come out and support the Lodge during our hard times. The club needs your support now more than ever. Thank you to the ladies for the Children’s Easter Party. Twenty kids had a great time with the Easter Bunny. Also, thanks go to all the members who volunteered at the fair. There are too many to mention by name, but you know who you are. The Lodge made $600 plus a $50.00 donation. It was fun for all.

The Milton Lodge newsletter will be coming out every two months to save costs on printing and mailing fees. If you have anything you would like to put in the bulletin, please get it to Kathi Grant. The mailings will be sent out in May, July, September, etc., and thanks again Kathi for the great job on the newsletter.

**Warrington Lodge 2108**

Dr. Ronald L. Plamondon, Executive Director of the Elks National Home, sent a thank you letter for the recent article printed in the Warrington WEB publication. Publicity by the local Lodge is the best means of informing our members about the Home.

“Committee” is the key word now since seven Lodge members have indicated an interest in representing Warrington Lodge for Veterans Services. They are Bobby Andress, Michael McGreevy, Betty Murphy, Charles Myers, Charles Nichols, Bea Wallace, and Robert Weigant. A number of these people were initiated into this Lodge in the last few months and already have volunteered.

Although not everyone could attend the two “get acquainted” type meetings that were held, some good ideas were presented for future consideration when the entire committee can meet together, which hopefully will have happened by the time you read this.

In the meantime, for those of you wondering what to contribute for the veterans, here are some suggestions: stationary and postage stamps; ballpoint pens; games, such as dominos, checkers, and monopoly; and personal hygiene items, such as disposable safety razors, foot powder, body talc, and deodorant. Where should you stow these things? The answer is in the corner of the meeting room, first door to your right in the north hallway as you leave the lounge. Please put your name on the container your contribution is in so you can be thanked when the committee makes our monthly report to the Lodge.

ARC Gateway Pensacola held their 5th annual Valentine Dance at Warrington Lodge #2108 on April 10th, 2006. Lodge members and Albertson’s on Mobile Highway donated snacks and soft drinks. Local DJ Jody Fejeran entertained the crowd of over 100.

ARC Gateway Pensacola has been opening doors for people with developmental disabilities since 1954. Formerly the Association of Retarded Citizens, this organization began as a small grassroots organization founded by parents who wanted opportunities for their children to attend school and live in the community. What started as a small classroom has become an agency that serves over 900 children and adults in a wide array of programs and services that begin at birth and reach senior adult level.

Master Chief John L. Coggins, son of Grand Lodge Esquire and Past State President James A. Coggins and wife Sonja, enlisted in the U.S. Navy on Nov. 21st, 1983 and has retired from the Unites States Navy. He became and Elk at Warrington on January 14th, 1998. He will reside with his wife, Gini, and their two daughters, Heather and Sierra, in Pensacola. He will assume the position as Vice President of Coggins Insurance, Inc.

**Twin Cities Lodge 2747**

Anthony N. Le has won an Elks National Foundation 2006 Most Valuable Student scholarship. Anthony Le was the only winner of this scholarship from our Northwest District. During the next two months, judges will review and score national finalist applications. The top male and female national finalist will receive $15,000 a year for four years, totaling $60,000.

This outstanding Rutherford High Senior was also named to the 24 member Florida HS Athletic Assn. Academic All State Team and is also a runner up of the Scholar/Athlete of the year. Anthony holds a 4.0 GPA and ranks 1st among a class of 366 students. He earned varsity letters in swimming in his sophomore, junior, and senior years, in soccer in his junior and senior years, and in tennis this season. His plans are to attend the University of North Carolina and study pre-medicine. The Elks congratulate Anthony.

David D. Wiley
District Deputy
Northwest District

David Wiley was born July 10, 1946 in Levelland, Texas.

At an early age, his family moved to Dallas, Texas. He graduated from High School and later attended a vocational education program at Memphis State Vo-Tech.

David served 24 years in the United States Navy and retired at the rate of Chief Petty Officer. He has one son who lives in Alabama.

He is the owner of Gulf Coast Geni, a rental service company in Northwest Florida.

David’s Elk career started in Milton Lodge 2377, Milton, Florida in 1997.

In 1998 he was installed as Esteemed Leading Knight and Exalted Ruler in 1999. David was appointed to The Board of Directors of the Florida Elks Youth Camp in 1998 where he served until 2001. He has served as District Hoop Shoot Chairman and District Adult Sports Chairman. He was appointed Vice Chairman of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in 2001 and Chairman in 2002. He has been involved in many Lodge and Northwest District Committees. David has held the positions of Vice President and President of the Northwest District’s Past Exalted Rulers Association. He served the Northwest District as Vice President in 2005.
The North District is ecstatic to be the home of the winning team in the state ritual contest – Tallahassee Lodge #937. It is indeed a thrill for the district to have one of our own Lodges represent the state in this contest.

The District is also proud to introduce our District Vice President, James Hollingsworth, from Lake City Lodge #893. All the Lodges in the North District celebrated Flag Day and Mother’s Day.

**Lake City Lodge 893**

The Lodge is pleased to announce its 2005-06 Officer of the Year, Bill Van Gorder, and Elk of the Year, Jim Prevatt, PER. Bill is the Leading Knight this year, and Jim is a trustee with three years remaining on his term. In addition to being Leading Knight, Bill is also the chair of the House Committee and announced in April that the current maintenance project was painting the outside of the Lodge building. With a structure that is 100 years old, maintenance is always a necessity.

Lake City Lodge held its annual Golf Tournament on June 24th using the four-person scramble format.

Four Lake City students were the recipients of scholarships. One of these winners is an MVS winner, guaranteed at least $1,000 a year for her four years of college. The other winners each garnered a smart $500 from the Lodge toward college expenses.

**Live Oak Lodge 1165**

Accolades go to the Live Oak Lodge for once again taking home the honor of the North District Ralph Clements PSP Memorial Membership Award trophy for the greatest membership gain for 2005-06.

**James Hollingsworth**

**Vice President**

**North District**

James was born June 7, 1948 in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. He graduated from Columbia High School in Lake City, FL in 1966 and received his AA Degree from Lake City Community College and his BS in Criminology from Florida State University.

He served honorably in the United States Air Force. He married Barbara Libby on April 2, 1970. They have two sons, two daughter-in-laws, a grandson and two granddaughters.

He retired from the Federal Government in May, 2005. James was initiated into Lake City Elks Lodge 893 on March 29, 1979. Serving as Chaplain, Esquire; Loyal Knight; Leading Knight and was serving as Exalted Ruler in 1986, when he moved to St. Petersburg, returning to Lake City in 1999, and served as Exalted Ruler in 2001-03, Chairman of the Trustees and the House Committee. He was Co-Chairman of Lake City’s Centennial Committee. He received Elk of the Year in 2004-05.

On the District and State Levels he has been District Chairman of Americanism and Elks Training, State Chairman of Americanism, State Vice-Chairman of Elks Training, and Chairman of Elks Training.

James enjoys playing golf and he and his wife enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren.

His goal for Elkdom is growth through MEMBERSHIP.

Live Oak Lodge is proud to have sponsored Kyle Thompson of Suwannee County who won the National Regional Hoop Shoot Contest and finished fourth in the national competition. At the state convention in May, Kyle was honored as a Champion of Champions.

The Lodge selected five recipients for scholarship awards of $500 to help with college expenses. Winners were Whitney McGrew from Lafayette High, Elishe Aderholt from Bradford High, Patricia Taylor from Hamilton High, Jennifer Watson for the Lloyd McCall Scholarship, and Jonathon Newell for the Everett Vanwy Scholarship.

Live Oak Lodge, in conjunction with the Drug-Free Coalition of Suwannee County, sponsored an “After Prom Party” with 165 students from Suwannee High School attending.

**Madison Lodge 2205**

Madison Lodge began its year with a full slate of officers. Not all Lodges are so fortunate. The Lodge has a few repeat officers, but as we all know, those are the kinds of folks who keep on keeping on and hold the Lodge together.

The 50s night was a whole lot of fun. Hula hoops, hot dog eating, and peanuts in a bottle of cola contests all proved to be great fun. The DJs were Randy Littleton and his wife Sheri; they provided the guests with plenty of the hits from the 50s. There were even a few people in the 50s mood seen wearing poodle skirts and rolled up blue jeans.

Madison Elks Lodge held its first Secretaries Luncheon and the event was a success; the Lodge was glad to give recognition to secretaries.

**Mariani Lodge 1516**

New ER Randy Ward has issued a challenge to the members of the Mariani Lodge to listen for a cry for help from the community and to remember the closeness of the membership that helps all to work together as a team to offer assistance. The Lodge has historically built many wooden ramps for wheelchair folks to make it easier to get in and out of a home that had steps to the door. Randy is working on some ideas for more visibility in the community so that folks on the street might be heard to whisper, “He’s an Elk you know, from that Lodge down on Highway 90 that has donated time, resources, and money to help those in need.” Wouldn’t we all want to hear than compliment about our own Lodge?

Mariani Lodge is establishing a Student of the Month Program that will begin in August. Lodge Member Jan Quigley has volunteered to head up this new program.

The Lodge held a garage sale offering donated items from members. The net proceeds from the sale generated $450. Leftovers were donated to the local church ministries.

**Perry Lodge 1851**

Perry Lodge surpassed the $4.00 goal per member in donations to Elks National Foundation. Attaining this goal enabled the Lodge to be awarded a $200 Grant of Gratitude.

The Lodge was pleased to host the first DD/VP clinic of this Lodge year on April 22nd. Representatives from every Lodge in the district attended.

The Lodge already has an active bingo game held every Monday that netted a significant amount of money for charitable work this past Lodge year. The Lodge donated $500 of its proceeds to the Relay for Life this spring and then more money for the local Project Graduation.

**Tallahassee Lodge 937**

Tallahassee Lodge’s Carl Ledig has set three goals for himself as Exalted Ruler this year: to increase membership, to maintain harmony in the Lodge, and to support the charitable works of the Elks, specifically the HATF and ENF. Carl chose to have an officer installation ceremony on a Saturday night this year. It was a well attended event that included installation of the Elk officers. Special thanks go to PSP Larry Henley for organizing and chairing the installation and securing eleven PERs to assist. Food after the installation was fabulous, and music for dancing was provided by Elk of the Year, Rod Stelter.

Congratulations to Leading Knight Keith White who was chosen as the Officer of the Year. Take note too of two other awards – Citizen of the Year to Bob Thorburn, spouse of Lecturing Knight Jan Thorburn, and the “Go-To-Man”, Trustee Jim Berlin, who can always be counted on to step up to the plate and get the job done.

The Lodge held an Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th for kids, with a separate hunt for kids less than four years old. Festivities included a whipped cream sponge toss at a Lodge officer (who had his head poked through a hole in a sheet of plywood), and those attending enjoyed a good time.

Tallahassee Lodge is planning to sponsor a trip to the Florida Elks Youth Camp in the fall for kids who attend the local Gretchen Everhart School. These kids have physical and other special challenges they face, and for some it will be their first trip on a bus. Tallahassee has adopted this school and showers it with in-kind donations, including the use of the ballroom for graduation and the prom. The prom was held May 12th with the guys in black tie and the girls in formal gowns. The Tallahassee Elketts donated money for decorations and other needs for the prom. The following week, May 18th, the Lodge once again donated the use of its ballroom, this time for graduation, filling the room with families and friends congratulating the graduates.

Ron Brown

**District Deputy North District**

Ron was born in Plant High School and then attended Florida State University where he received a BA and MS in government.

Ron served in the US Naval Reserve as a Radar man on active duty from 1967 to 1968 and was honorably discharged in 1970.

He married Dorothy in December, 2002. They have six children and six grandchildren.

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

He was initiated in April 1987 at Tallahassee Lodge 937 and served as Exalted Ruler in 1998-1999. He has served as a Trustee, Chairman of the Youth and Interlodge Visitation Committee, Ritual Coach, President of the PER Association, Chairman of the Interlodge Visitation and Ritual Committees. He has served the FSEA as Interlodge Visitation Chairman and on the Board of Directors of the Youth Camp. He is currently certified as a Computer and Word Judge.

His other interests are walking, reading, playing computer games and working in his yard.

**Reporter, Tom Walden, PDD**
Sarasota Lodge 1519
The Lodge hosted the Easter Seals Clients Senior Ball with over 50 participants who were treated to dinner and dancing. The Lodge also had a pig roast which raised over $2,000 for local charities. Thank you Kathy Lavender, Patty Murphy, and Gloria Brown for a great event. Nashville recording artist Cass will be performing on July 15th with all proceeds going to local charities.

Venice-Nokomis Lodge 1854
Brittany Ring, a student at Laurel-Nokomis Elementary, was a first place winner for the Southwest District and was given a $100 Bond. She was also a first place winner for the state of Florida and was able to read her essay at the State Convention, “What I Feel When I Look Up at the American Flag.”

Members of the Lodge spent Mother’s Day morning at the Venice hospital where they presented flowers to the mothers who could not be home.

Bradenton Lodge 1511
The Lodge came in 3rd Place for the State Ritual Contest and had a couple of All-State winners: Adam Sherrard, All-State Loyal Knight and Bob Erwin, All-State Lecturing Knight who was also the winner of the Jolly Cork Award. Exalted Ruler Tim Gardner was the winner of the 11 O’clock Toast. The Lodge also contributed around $1,900 in clothing, laptops, books, and various other items. Terry Costellow, Drug Awareness Chairman, taught 800 youngsters about our Drug Awareness program.

S. Hillsborough Lodge 2672
John Breslin was honored at the State Convention with a plaque noting that he had brought 43 new members into the Lodge, the most in the state. The Lodge treats veterans from the James Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa to their Lodge for the third Friday fish dinner each month.

Palmetto Lodge 2449
During the 2005/2006 Elks year, Palmetto Lodge #2449 donated a total of goods and services to the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital equaling $24,737. The Lodge has also contributed $2,000 to both the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and the Elks National Foundation. The Lodge has purchased from the Seeing Eye Guide Dog Program “Paws for Patriots,” a dog that will be given to a blind veteran. The name of the dog is “Charity.”

Manasota Lodge 2734
Manasota received a first place plaque for the Lodge in the size group of 301-500 for participation in Community Activities. Carol Sircianni, PER, District Chairman of ENF received a pin for representing the only district in the state for which all of our Lodges met the ENF per-capita.

During this last quarter Manasota donated over $350 for goods and services to the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital.

Sarasota South Lodge 2495
Sarasota South Lodge through the “Army of Hope” sponsors four GHs in Iraq and sends four care packages every week. One soldier was home on leave and the Lodge had him over to meet everyone. The Lodge also contributed monies and goods valued in the amount of $1,175. In addition, the Lodge sponsors the handicapped Boy Scout Troop that presented the Colors for their Flag Day Ceremony.

All Lodges in the district held their Flag Day ceremonies in June. They also presented flowers to the mothers in their Lodges for their Mother’s Day Program. All Lodges participated for the fathers on Father’s Day.

Dan Hutchinson
Vice President
Southwest District
Dan was born in Cleveland Ohio in 1941. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1959 and retired as a Chief Medical Service Corps Warrant Officer in 1978. He has a BS degree in Health Science from the George Washington University and is a Board Certified Physician Assistant.

He served two tours in Vietnam and upon his return to the States he held the position of Director of the Executive Medicine Clinic at the National Naval Medical Center. He was assigned additional duty at the White House in both the Nixon and Carter administrations. Upon his retirement from the Navy he held several senior management positions including Vice President General Manager of McDonnell Douglas Federal Systems. He was also the founder and CEO of Diversified Business Systems, a utility auditing firm.

Dan was initiated into the Elks in 1999. He is only the second person in the history of the Venice-Nokomis Lodge to serve consecutive terms as Exalted Ruler. He served five years as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and was the Project Officer in charge of building the new lodge facility. He has held several Lodge and District Committee Chairs an served as State Chairman for new lodges in 2003. Dan was appointed Lodge Advisor in 2005. Dan likes all sports and remains active in softball when time permits.

Danny E. Tabor
District Deputy Southwest District
Dan was born in New Castle, Indiana on July 25, 1954, he played sports through school and graduated in 1972. Went to college only to visit his bride to be, Rachel. They married in 1977 and 2 years later moved to Bradenton, FL.

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

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

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

$60,000 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The top female Most Valuable Student Award was won by Tracy L. Meng, sponsored by the Cuyahoga Falls-Akron-Barberton, Ohio Lodge 1923.

Tracy Meng led anti-tobacco youth advocates as they climbed Capitol Hill on a summer day. They created a temporary memorial with shoes representing the 1,200 Americans who die every day from tobacco use. Tracy spent her entire high school career fighting tobacco. While other students attended pep rallies, she spoke at symposiums. When other students griped to their principals, Tracy complained to her senator.

“My parents taught me to embrace America’s freedoms and opportunities, including education,” says Tracy, whose parents grew up during China’s Cultural Revolution era. “Education is crucial to be open-minded and to not succumb to oppression.”

Tracy will attend Harvard in the fall to study humanities, public policy, international relations, or any other topic she’s inspired to explore.

Robert T. Ryan, sponsored by Mesa-Buckhorn, Arizona Lodge 2656, won the top male Most Valuable Student Award. While driving through Puerto Pefiasco, Mexico, the Ryan family paused to read a weathered sign for La Casa Esperanza Orphanage. They then drove six miles up a winding dirt road. At the end of the road they found an orphanage housing 80 children with few toys, no carpet or window coverings, some sheet-less beds, and poor air conditioning. After returning home, Robert mobilized his neighborhood by creating the “Fill a Bag with Hope” program. Robert and his parents stapled flyers explaining the orphanage’s needs to grocery bags and placed the bags on neighbors’ steps.

On the first round, they picked up 50 stuffed bags. For his second request, Robert set out to collect 50 industrial-sized cans of staple foods so that the kids could share the same meals. Before he knew it, Robert was on his first of many trips to Mexico. Two trucks delivered 500 gigantic cans of food, two couches, and enough toys to supply Christmas gifts to all the orphans.

This summer Robert will intern for his congressman and join his older brother at Brigham Young University to take summer courses and get a head start on college. Just like three years ago in Mexico, Robert heads down another unfamiliar road as he starts his freshman year at Stanford.
Lake Wales Lodge 1974
On May 29th, 2006, Lake Wales Elks Lodge participated in the annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Lake Wales Cemetery. We had 24 Elks present, along with the Lake Wales Mayor, Kathy Manary; three American Legion Posts with auxiliaries; three VFW Posts; the Daughters of the American Revolution; the United Daughters of the Confederacy; the Moose Lodge; and POW/MIA representatives. Each group posed a wreath on the headstone. There was then a 24-gun rifle salute by the Jr. ROTC & Taps.

The Lake Wales Lodge came to the aid of PER Donald Schultz. Don has been battling cancer and both he and his wife use an electric scooter to get around. The Lodge supplied the funds; the “construction crew” consisted of ER “Chip” Seay, James Prentiss, Ron Tardanico, and John Dunn.

The Lake Wales Lodge conducted its Flag Day Ceremony on June 11th, 2006 with the assistance of the Lake Wales and Winter Haven VFW Posts. The Winter Haven VFW Honor Guard posted the colors, Exalted Ruler Henry Seay conducted the Flag Day ritual, and Flag Day Chairman Joe Bullock gave the history of the flag during the procession of the flags. A member of the VFW escorted by a Lake Wales Elks Eks in car each flag. The Mayor of Lake Wales, Kathy Manary, gave the keynote address.

Wauchula Lodge 1700
Wauchula Elks donated the use of their hall to the Hardee County EMS/Fire Department for a farewell luncheon. One of their members was leaving for Iraq. Attendance was about 100 plus ten Elks. The cost to the Lodge was $642.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Vince Connell, Exalted Ruler, organized and the Lodge held a Child Fingerprint and Photo Identification Day on May 7th in cooperation with the Lake Placid Police department. More than 150 children and families participated.

John W. Russo
District Deputy Southwest Central District
I was born in Syracuse, New York on October 25, 1940. I graduated from North High School and joined the U.S. Marines. I am married to Geri, we have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. I worked for General Motors for 28 years and Seneca Foods for 6 years before moving to Florida in 1998 from upstate New York and settled in Lake Placid.

I was initiated at Lake Placid Elks Lodge in 1999, served as Loyal Knight and Leading Knight In 2002 I was Exalted Ruler and served for two years.
I have been Lodge and District Chairman for Drug Awareness Program, Lodge and District Chairman for Hoop Shoot, Regional Chairman Drug Awareness Program, State Vice Chairman Drug Awareness Program, Lodge and District Chairman Hoop Shoot, Fund Raising Chairman for State President FSEA, Southwest Central District Vice-President 2005.
My goal in Elkdom is to help Elks and Elkdom grow across the State. We all need to continue to work on Membership and the support of our Major Projects.

MEMORIAM: The Southwest Central District and Florida Elkdom are saddened with the passing of Robert “Bob” James, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and Lodge Advisor of Lake Wales Lodge 1974, in late June. A Memorial Service was held on July 2, 2006, at the Lake Wales Lodge. Our sympathies go out to Bobbi and the family.

Retiring Exalted Ruler Vince Avery lost his hair when his challenge to the chairman of the Elks National Foundation (Bob Moran) and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund (John Russo) to surpass the Lodge per-capita by one dollar was achieved. Every well-groomed lock of his hair fell to the floor of the Lodge when they shaved his head bald. He is recovering from the loss.

Connor Williams of Lake Placid Elementary School won a $100 savings bond for his essay, “What I Feel When I Look Up at the American Flag.”

Lakeland Lodge 1291
Josh Garcia, a member of Lakeland Boy Scout Troop 765, held a flag burning ceremony Saturday, June 3rd, 2006 in his quest for his Eagle Scout Ranks. His Scout Advisor, family and friends, and fellow Boy Scout members represented Josh.elliott Long, Esteemed Loyal Knight, represented his local sponsor, Lakeland Elks Lodge #1291. The merit badge he received for this ceremony completed his requirement to receive his Eagle Scout badge.

Josh collected 73 worn American Flags in the Lakeland and Orlando area. With the help of his fellow troop members, Josh gave a presentation on the history of the American flag, the proper display of our flag, and the proper disposal of the flag.

All Elks can be proud of young citizens like Josh and all Boy Scouts everywhere.

Arcadia Lodge 1524
Exalted Ruler Carl Gause had a slogan that he mentioned 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 05-06 dues.

Plant City Lodge 1727
Plant City gives special recognition to Elk of the Year, Mike Smith, GELK, PSP; Officer of the Year, Frank LaBarbera, PER; Members Most Charitable Award, Lamar Porter; and Most Improved Officer, Troy Springer.

One thousand dollars was raised at a breakfast for the Plant City High School Band. Plant City Lodge Scholarship Chairperson Kristie Gilford presented $1,000 scholarships to Alexandria Futch and Kyle Eason.

Brandon Lodge 2383
Exalted Ruler Jim Turner and Brandon Lady President will be leading the Lodge through the 2006-07 Elk year.

Kim Martinez selected Elk of the Year 2005-06 as Jacquie Attari for her consistently being on hand to help out in any task. Officer of the Year is Jim Turner who fulfilled his responsibilities as Leading Knight in assisting the Exalted Ruler.

The Lodge held its 3rd annual “Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs” fishing tournament with 110 children between the ages of 3 and 13 participating. They caught a total of 250 fish with the largest fish caught measuring 21” and the smallest measuring 1”. Each child was provided with an Elks drug awareness t-shirt, Elks drug awareness information, drug awareness frisbee, and an airplane. The winners were Kelsey Skorup (smallest fish caught), Ryan Petry, Josh Cockrell, Jimmy Rentz, Nick Nappi, Drayton Pelham, Noah Cummings (most fish caught), Wil Dickerson (largest fish caught), and Michael Rivera. Age group winners were Caleb Hayes, Truman Noble, and Sebastian Massaute.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672
In the eyes of this district reporter, Winter Haven Lodge gets the nod for Most Improved Lodge in the district. Their Lodge bulletin is full of news of events and improvements in the Lodge. The ER, PERs, and officers are making everything enjoyable and profitable.

An example is a Pancake Breakfast held in February. They planned to serve 100 but 204 showed up, requiring several trips to the grocery store for more supplies. Instead of making a few hundred dollars, they generated $600.

George and Marge Shaughnessy bought a pool table taking only money inserted back until it’s paid for. They also financed the replacement of air conditioning at half normal interest rates.

Ed Hughes found a date to have a fish fry and netted $300 for the Lodge to pay off game machines.

Bingo is making enough to donate $500 toward the air conditioning.

William A. “Tony” Scotch
Vice President Southwest Central District

Tony was born at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Maryland on May 19, 1962.

He graduated from King High School in Tampa, Florida in 1980 and joined the U.S. Coast Guard in June 1981 and was honorably discharged in June 1995 after serving both active and reserve duty.

He has been with his lady Gerri Mann for 13 years. Between them they have four children and three grandchildren.

He has worked in the parts sales industry in both marine and automotive, and is currently the Parts Manager for Lott-Mather Buick Pontiac GMC in Plant City, Florida of which both owners are members of Plant City Lodge 1727.

He joined Brandon Lodge on May 28, 1990. He went through all of the chairs, except Lecturing Knight, and was Exalted Ruler 2002–03. He was All District Officer in all of the chairs, and was All State Esquire.

He was on Brandon Lodge’s two Florida State Ritual Champion teams, and competed in two Grand Lodge Ritualistic Contests.

Tony has been the Lodge’s HATF Chairman for several years. He has been the District Ritual Chairman for the SWC District for three years, PER Association President, and is currently the Trustee Chairman.

He served as Esquire to DDGER Ed Henson in 2004-05. He served as the State Vice Chairman and then State Chairman of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Committee.

Tony’s goals are to continue to support this great Fraternal Organization, and to support the Florida State Elks Association in whatever capacity to continue to help.
Melbourne Lodge 1744

Congratulations t Lodge Brother Paul Danish. He received a citation from Congressman Dave Weldon that noted Paul’s contributions to Elksdom. Weldon said that “chef” Danish, a full-time volunteer cook, has presented the Lodge with thousands of meals for all occasions.

Weldon wrote, “The volunteerism exhibited by the Melbourne Elks is representative of the heart and spirit of our great American Society.” Paul was recognized as Elk of the Month for May and has been twice bestowed “Elk of the Year.”

Melbourne Lodge also has been successful with the Most Valuable Student competition. Johnnie Derrick, a 2006 graduate of the Melbourne Catholic High School, is our most recent winner. Johnnie will attend the University of California and major in Physical Science.

We also gave an “in-house” $1,000 scholarship to Melbourne High School 2006 graduate Alison James. Alison is now majoring in pharmacy at the University of Central Florida.

Three traditional Elks events, the Mother’s Day Breakfast, the Memorial Day Picnic, and the Flag Day service and dinner, were celebrated.

Lenny Smallacombe
Vice President
Southeast Central District

Lenny Smallacombe was born January 29, 1940 in Plattsburg, NY to Burt and Florence. He graduated from Mount Assumption Institute, and attended Quinnipiac College.

Lenny was General Manager with AT&T Credit Union, and later became CEO of CUABS, Inc., a company specializing in servicing credit union.

He has been an Elk for 29 years, first joining the Meriden, CT Lodge 35 in 1977. He retired to Florida and transferred to Port St. Lucie Elks Lodge 2658.

A new Lodge was forming in St. Lucie West, and he was asked to be on the Committee. He was Chairman of the Building and Finance Committee. Lenny is a past Trustee, and later served as Chairman of the Trustees.

He was Exalted Ruler from 2002 to 2004, and is a Charter Member of the Lodge. He is currently the Lodge’s only elected Honorary Life Member. He was also Elk of the Year, served as President of the PER Association, which he formed, and is currently the Assistant Lodge Advisor and the Lodges Ritual Coach. During his tenure as Exalted Ruler, the Lodge placed 1st in the Grand Lodge National award for Membership, Division II for 2003/2004, for adding 239 new members to the Lodge membership, along with several other state awards. He also served as State Chairman 2003-04 and State Vice Chairman 2004-05 of the Ladies Organizations.

Lenny has been married to his first lady Barbara since 1985, and has two sons, one daughter, and two grandchildren from a previous marriage.

Lenny is a lifetime charter member of the National WWII Memorial in Washington, DC.

Flag Day was distinguished by a decision to celebrate on June 13th. Moreover, our Ladies Auxiliary marched into the stage area of our dining room holding high our various national flags, leading to the present day Old Glory. Tom Sullivan, PER, assisted by his lovely new bride, Mary, from Orlando, chaired the event.

Kudos go to Charles “Charley” Greene who answered a request to deliver a Friday night “Recollection.” He wowed everybody with his delivery that was highlighted by eye contact and walking through and around the gathered circles. Charley copied this technique from another Lodge. When called upon again, Charley promises an encore!

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

Exalted Ruler Gus Simonelli reports that the Mother’s Day celebration was a well attended event and the officers did very well with the help of Chuck Stein, our Organist. It was an impressive ceremony that was followed by a delightful buffet. As always our food was outstanding. This year we gave gifts to three mothers. A gift was given to the oldest mother, the youngest mother, and the mother with the most children.

Our Lodge received two awards for a Lodge in Division V. One award was for the best Community Activities Program and the other was for the Highest Per-Capita Donation of $11,179 per member for the Elks National Foundation.

The Port St. Lucie Elks Lodge Friendship Park is finished. Kids are playing basketball and people are utilizing the covered picnic areas and fishing off the pier. The park is located on Blackwell Drive. Come see our park.

Palm Bay Lodge 2766

The Memorial Service and Flag Day Service were very impressive. Courageous Division of the Sea Cadets admirably served as Color Guard for Flag Day. LCDR Rich Waddell, Lodge Esquire, is Commanding Officer of the Cadets, who are sponsored by our Lodge. The Troup did a fantastic job and our thanks and appreciation go to them for an outstanding job well done!

Our Lodge was founded September 21st, 1991. We are planning a big celebration for that weekend this year.

Viera Lodge 2817

We are now in our new Lodge home located at 5820 S. U.S. Highway #1, Viera, FL. The Lodge is on a roll and things are happening fast at our new Lodge. We have gone Wi-Fi for those of you who want to have Internet access while enjoying your friends at the Lodge. Blinds have been installed on the windows, a flagpole is in place, and our sign is up. Our Lodge received an award at State Convention for Best Community Activities Program in Division I (Lodges 300 & under). The 6th Annual Viera Golf Outing was a huge success. Special thanks go to Karen Renzi for pulling it off another year. Thanks are also extended to Don Saunders and his cooking team for a delicious rib dinner.

Fort Pierce Lodge 1520

Congratulations to our Ritual Team for placing seventh out of thirteen teams competing at the Florida Elks State Convention. We scored 94.007 out of a possible 97.000.

Our Flag Day service guest speaker was Petty Officer First Class James T. O’Conner of the United States Navy. He spoke of his experience in the Gulf War and the hardship that a family goes through when on active duty.

Our physical address has changed. As you know, our old address was 615 S. U.S. Highway 1. Our new address is 608 South 5th Street. Our mailing address did not change.

To our Desert Elk program, thanks to you we mailed 150 lbs. of items to Iraq during May & June. In addition we were able to donate $200 to the VA Hospital for purchase of “comfort care kits” for the veteran patients.

During the Grand Lodge Convention Opening Ceremony, Florida State Elks Association President Charlie Trinowski proudly carried the Florida State Elks Association Flag to the stage during the Parade of State Flags.

Sebastian Lodge 2714

Our Lodge received an award for the best Opening and Closing in the SEC District. Congratulations. We also received an award for the best Youth Activities Program in Division II (Lodges 301-500 members). Thanks go to Chris Carlisle, PER; Phil Huddy; and all their helpers. Thank you for a job well done.

Each of us, whether a member, committee person, or an officer of the Lodge, must step forward and show our enthusiasm, dedication, and pride in our organization if we are to continue our good work.

Robert Coker
District Deputy
Southeast Central District

Bob was born in Valdosta, Georgia on June 7, 1939. He graduated from Valdosta High School in 1957 and entered the U.S. Army in 1957. He served with the 101st Airborne Division as a communications technician and as a para trooper. He honorably discharged in 1960.

He has been married to Donna for 20 years and they have four children and six grandchildren.

He worked in the aerospace industry for 26 years before retiring in 2002.

Bob joined the Greenfield, Mass. Lodge 1296 in June 1972. He served as Secretary/Treasurer of the organizing committee for the Viera Lodge 2817. He was the first full term Exalted Ruler of the Lodge. He has been Lodge Chairman for Public Relations, Government Relations, Adopt-A-highway, Bingo Chairman and Trustee. He also was chairman of the PER association. He is an Honorary Life Member of Viera Lodge.

His ambition is to continue working with the FSEA in whatever capacity to help continue making our Major Projects even more successful than what it already is.
Therapists Conference
2006

Deadline for the Fall Edition--Sept. 25, 2006

ADDRESS CHANGES

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

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

therapists in order from left to right:
Elizabeth Maina, OTR/L
Tressy Guadagno, OTR/L
Stephanie Haynes, PT
Patricia McInerney, PT
Jacintha Griffith, OT
Elizabeth Thiers, OTR/L
Nicole McAnany, OT
Diane Norton, OTR/L
Paula Tarver, OTR/L
Larry Lester, PT
Yvette Lambert, PT
Bruce Nathan, PT
Terese Stocking, OTR/L
Lynanne Koenig, OTR/L
Chantal Salnave, PT
Christina Walker, OT
Margot Baker, OTR/L
Jeanne Aggrippino, OTR/L