FROST is guaranteed to hit the Central Florida area during the second week in February.

It’s a true statement but not in the exact sense it appears.

The National President of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is Arthur “Jack” Frost, III, a Tennessean who was elected to the Grand Exalted Ruler position at the Elks National Convention held in Orlando last July, will visit the Florida State Elks Association at the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla, February 9th and 10th, 2007 during the Quarterly meeting.

He will arrive in Orlando On February 7th and will be greeted at the airport by Past Grand Exalted Rulers Robert Grafton and wife, Pat; C. Valentine Bates and wife Claudia; Florida State Elks Association President Charles Trinowski and wife Mary Ann, and several other dignitaries. Frost and his wife, Sharon, are arriving in Florida in time to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Orlando Elks Lodge 1079 on Wednesday evening February 7th. After dinner and festivities at the Orlando Lodge they will depart for the Florida Elks Youth Camp for the remainder of his Florida visit with Florida Elks.

A tour of the Youth Camp is on the agenda and he will meet with staff of the Florida Elks Youth Camp and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services including several of the therapists who provide therapy throughout Florida. He will attend many of the board meetings of the Florida State Elks.

On Saturday morning he will address Elk members, who come from all over Florida, in the Gymnasium-Auditorium of the Grafton Center at 11:00 AM.

Known to his friends as “Jack,” he received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, his career included working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration where he contributed to the Sky Lab Mission and 24 years with Martin Marietta Corporation.

He was initiated into the Oak Ridge Lodge 1684 in 1977. He has served as Chaplain, Esquire and all the chairs. He was Exalted Ruler 1982-83. He was Lodge Secretary from 1990 through 1997. He served as Vice President of the East Tennessee District in 1984 and State President of the Tennessee Elks 1998-99.

His key goals for the Elks are to champion community service; provide help and hope to the underprivileged and the disabled; encourage family involvement in the Elks at every level; provide for the needs of the nation’s veterans and increase sponsorship of youth activities and programs.

Frost and his wife presently live in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He stated in his acceptance speech, “The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is an amazing organization that makes a difference in thousands of communities across the nation each day. I’m proud that the one million men and women who make up the Order of Elks are real leaders devoted to caring and sharing.

“The work that the Elks do, nationally and locally has touched many lives for the better.

“We are an organization that is immensely proud of the differences we make.”

Dear Friends

We are looking forward to the visit of Grand Exalted Ruler Arthur H. Frost III and Sharon at our February Quarterly Meeting. “Jack”, as he is known, is a native of Oak Ridge Tennessee and has had a long and successful career as an engineer with a specialty in computer and computer programming.

The new lodge organizational efforts are proceeding with Organizational Committees in the area east of Bradenton called Lakewood Ranch, Cutler Bay Homestead and South St. Lucie Tradition.

After the Holidays, Tom Elmore and these three Committees will be in position to move forward with full physical and mental efforts. We all will benefit by the addition of new people and new ideas for Elkdom.

When Lodge members allow their Lodge to become deficient in areas such as financial, lack of participation in the programs of Elkdom, disputes which alienate the members and others, it is necessary to ask the Grand Exalted Ruler to appoint a Special Representative (SR). The SR is given very broad powers and the members and officers are admonished to cooperate and assist the SR in his efforts to rehabilitate the Lodge. Failure of the SR efforts can lead the loss of the Lodge Charter.

I often ask myself would it not be far better if the lodge members, without an SR, did the rehabilitation themselves?

Surely, the prospect of an outside person directing the manner in which a Lodge operates must be a little bothersome to the members.

I keep hoping the Lodges that have the serious problems will take matters into their own hands and the appointment of SR’s will be a thing of the past.

The end of our Elk year (March 31, 2007) is fast approaching. Now is the time for completion of your membership increase efforts, contributions to the Harry Anna Trust Fund and the Elks National Foundation, plus offering assistance to your newly elected officers.

Health, happiness and good will toward one another makes your life complete.
I hope that everyone made it through the Holiday Season and you had a chance to spend some quality time with relatives and friends. Mary Ann and I had the opportunity to travel to the Elks Nation Retirement Home and take part in the Christmas Lighting Ceremony. It was very impressive and inspirational and put us in the holiday spirit.

Now I don’t want anyone to think that your President, VPAL and our wives have just been sitting home since my last article. Not so. We have continued to travel promoting our State’s Major Projects and Elkdom.

We first attended the Florida Ladies of Elks Convention in Altamonte Springs and were able to see about the many good works done by our ladies organization. Also observable was the enthusiasm and dedication of the ladies to help our State’s Major Projects and the local Lodges.

Our next stop was to the Southwest Central District where Tony Scotty is the District Vice President. The Presidential Party was able to tour the traveling Viet Nam Wall on display at the Brandon Mall. It was very moving to see the names of those who served so much so we could continue to live free. The District also treated us to a gourmet luncheon boat cruise that was just fantastic.

I was then afforded the opportunity to attend the Fall Trust Fund Seminar at the Florida Elkdom Youth Camp. The Seminar was educational in allowing me to witness how the Advisory Board, in a professional and organized manner, reviews the productivity of each investor. They are dedicated individuals who are sincere about their job. From my observation the Harry Anna Trust Fund is in excellent shape but still requires additional funding to expand our Major Projects.

Central District Vice President Donna Zuk was our next host. We toured the nearby springs and were able to see a number of manatees in their natural habitat. We also saw other flora and fauna in our tour up and down the river. We had lunch on Saturday at a popular waterside restaurant. Friday night’s dinner was at the Aripeka Lodge. The Saturday banquet was at the Brooksville Lodge.

The Mid Year Convention was at the Florida Mall Hotel in Orlando. You are correct there was a Florida Mall entrance right inside the Hotel. This did not disappoint many of the Convention attendees. Serious business did take place at the Mid Year Convention. The various State Committee reports were presented for acceptance and other business necessary for the Association’s operation was conducted. One of the more important decisions was the endorsement of Joseph Ortiz of North Miami Lodge # 1835 as Endorsed VPAL.

Congratulations to Joe Ortiz on his endorsement and we are looking forward to having Joe and his wife Rita join us in our travels around the state.

We visited the East Central District the first week in December where Sonny Armstrong is the District Vice President. Your Presidential Party cooked 120 hamburgers and two boxes of hot dogs for the veterans in the nursing home. We handed out to the veterans a variety of gifts and they were grateful of our efforts. Dinner on Friday night and breakfast on Saturday morning was at the Port Orange Lodge. It was a great breakfast and they had one of my personal favorites biscuits and sausage gravy on the menu. The Saturday night banquet was at the Ormond Beach Lodge.

I want to thank all the members and volunteers who have cared for us during our visits. You all have treated us superibly and the entire Presidential Party thanks you again for your efforts.

I mentioned earlier that Mary Ann and I traveled to Bedford, Virginia to witness the display of Christmas lights. Our own State Advisor PGER Robert Grafton performed the official lighting ceremony. Afterwards a steady stream of Bedford area residents drove by to view the decorations.

We were advised that this nightly parade of cars continues until the end of the holiday season.

The stories are correct that the Elks Retirement Home is one of the best-kept secrets in Elkdom. Mary Ann and I were able to tour the facility and speak with the residents. The residents love the Home and are enthusiastic about the services they receive and the cost of residing there. Their biggest worry is that the Elks will not understand the Home’s importance. I strongly suggest that if you are considering moving to a retirement facility that you travel to Bedford and consider what is available. You will be pleasantly surprised.

We did take part in the Christmas gift distribution for Florida residents. They were very thankful for the boxes of fruit and the gift bags they received. I was very interested to hear the residents talking about what was going on in Florida Elkdom and how closely they monitor our activities. They are in touch with their old Lodge Members and read the Florida Elks State Newspaper religiously. They greatly appreciate cards from Florida Elks at any time of the year.

In conclusion, I want to remind the Lodge Exalted Rulers that their turn at the helm is quickly ending and soon it will be time for another to take their place. Finish the job you started in April. Let your legacy read that he worked to the very end to accomplish the goals that were set. I know that some of you have had a difficult year but no one said that it would be easy. Our kids and the community need your help but do not forget them.

Let us continue my motto of

“Serving Our Community”

Charles Trinowski, Jr.
President FSEA

Secretary continued from page 3

assistance. Most everything we do is now published on our website so please get in the habit of checking there first when looking for the latest event information and updates. Also, if you would like to be notified by e-mail when new event information is posted on our website, please e-mail us with the address or addresses you would like to have added to our database. Please remember, if you have your e-mail address, you will not receive information by regular mail.

The staff of the Florida State Elks Association is here to serve our association and its members. We value your opinion and recommendations always. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at (800) 523-1673 extension 230 or by e-mail at carl@mpinet.net.
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert, PDD

Thank you to everyone who attended the November mid-year meetings at the Florida Hotel & Conference Center in Orlando. In its final report, the Credentials Committee reported the registration of 495 Elks members, spouses, and guests, up from 483 recorded at last year’s convention.

I also wish to extend a big thank you to everyone who assisted in making our mid-year meetings a success and especially to Peggy Henley and her entire Credentials Committee and their helpers for all of their hard work during the convention.

The 2006 convention proceedings and annual reports books have been received and distributed. We still have a supply of the books if anyone would like a copy, and they will also be available at the February Quarterly.

The 2007 State Convention will be held May 24-27 at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. Reservation information is available on our website at www.flelks.org and was also mailed out in January.

The Coronado Resort is proving to be a well liked location for our State Convention. The accommodations are comfortable, the meeting facilities are spacious, and the hospitality room arrangements seem to be working out quite well. You will also be happy to know that the courtyard area will again be available to us for evening music and entertainment, weather permitting of course!

Please make your reservations as early as you possibly can and please understand your room assignment has nothing to do with when you make your reservation. Your room is not selected for you until you arrive at the resort and then it is chosen from those rooms ready and available.

Last year 179 of our 815 rooms checked in on Wednesday and 539 were occupied by Thursday. Since there are approximately 200 rooms in each of the five buildings we are normally housed in, the closest buildings (1, 2, & 3) are full by Thursday. If you arrive on Friday, chances are you will be housed in one of the farther buildings. It is no guarantee, but if you arrive by Thursday, you probably have a better chance of being assigned a room in one of the closer buildings. Our reserved block will sell out so please plan accordingly and do not wait until the last minute to make your reservations for the 2007 State Convention!

This month our Lodges will be electing new leaders for the coming year. I believe that one of the best investments of time and money a Lodge can make is in seeing that their new leaders are properly indoctrinated about their jobs. To assist in that endeavor, the Florida State Elks Association will be holding seminars for all Exalted Rulers Elect and all Secretaries Elect. The dates and locations of these seminars are as follows:

- March 10th & 11th – Orlando, FL – Wyndham Resort
- March 17th & 18th – Lake City, FL – Holiday Inn

The seminars will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and conclude by noon on Sunday. If the distance prevents you from traveling Saturday morning, you will want to plan to arrive for the seminar on Friday evening. If you are fortunate enough to be bestowed with the honor of Exalted Ruler Elect or Secretary Elect this month, I hope you will make every effort to attend one of these training seminars.

Information has already been sent to your Lodge, and it is also available at our website at www.flelks.org. Our goal for this training is 100% participation, and each year we come very close to attaining this goal. Let’s make 2007 the year we reach it!

Incidentally, a seminar for Lodge Treasurers, Trustees, and House Committee Chairmen is held each year at the mid-year convention. Please keep this in mind when preparing your Lodge budgets for next year and see that these officers and committeemen are afforded the ability to attend this very important training.

The 2007 Grand Lodge Convention will be held in Charlotte, NC July 8th through the 12th. The Florida delegation will be housed at the Hilton City Center Hotel which is located within walking distance of the Convention Center and the Headquarters Hotel, the Westin. Hotel registration information and order forms for event tickets have been mailed and are available at our website at www.flelks.org.

All hotel reservations for the Florida delegation hotel must be made through the State Association office. There is no pre-registration for the Grand Lodge Convention as it takes place on-site at the convention center. If you will be attending the Grand Lodge Convention and will be making your own lodging arrangements, and if you would like to be informed of the activities and events of the convention, please notify the State Office so we may add you to our attendance list.

As in the Lodges, the next few months will be especially hectic at the State Association offices as we prepare for conventions, seminars, and a new slate of officers, directors, and committeemen. Please be timely, prompt, and accurate in your responses to our requests for information and assistance.

Secretary message continued bottom of page 2

FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS

Dolores L. Casella, President

Love: Unselfish, loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another.

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

This F.L.O.E. year is really off to a great start. Our Mid-Year meeting was held at the Florida Mall Convention Center in Orlando on November 11, 2006.

Betty Pickenpaugh, PSP-FLOE conducted the wrap-up portion of the meeting for the 2005-2006 year. She had a very successful year and there were some very helpful recommendations given for the future. Congratulations, Betty, for a job well done!! Carol Deresh, Historian, presented Betty with her lovely yearbook. Tom Elmore, PGELDGK stopped by and Betty presented him with twenty Christmas Stockings for the Elks National Home Florida residence. The stockings this year were done by Carol Tarallo, Advisory Council member, from the Southeast Central District.

The FSEA dignitaries visited the meeting and, as always, were very complimentary to FLOE. Chris Carlisle, State Ladies Chairman, presented Carol Phelps, South Southwest District, with the engraved Traveling Trophy given to the District that donates the largest amount of money during the past Elk year.

I am so pleased to announce that all the Committees for the May Luncheon and Chinese Auction and the 2007 Conference are filled. Thank you so very much Ladies for your support.

The luncheon will be held Saturday, May 26, 2007, at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando. Last year the Elks started attending the luncheon and contributed greatly to its success. I hope this year will draw and even larger attendance. The only people unhappy about the luncheon last year were those who did not attend.

Those of you who have Committees involved in the luncheon or auction need to get the flyers and information to me by January 15, 2007. The packets, as usual, will be given out at the February 10, 2007, Quarterly meeting held at 9:00 AM at the Youth Camp in Umatilla. Remember, Grand Exalted Ruler Arthur H. Frost will be visiting the Camp at that time.

I am looking forward to a very exciting and fruitful year. So far Sam and I, on top of other things, have attended the State President’s visits in the Southwest Central and East Central Districts. In both districts we were entertained very graciously and have some treasured memories—also, some new friends. Sebastian Lodge celebrated their 20th Anniversary with a lovely dinner dance which we also attended.

Delegates and prospective Delegates remember we will have a short, informative Orientation following the February 10th meeting. Also, give the Secretary, Joan Fritz, or me any additions, deletions or changes to the Delegate information. We can only keep it up to date if you tell us.

Please mark your calendars, the Conference this year will be held at the Hilton, Melbourne Rialto Place, from October 4th thru the 7th. I understand they already have a number of reservations. We have very enthusiastic committees and we hope to have the best Conference ever. The theme for the 2006-2007 year is The Dove: For Love and Peace. The colors are burgundy and beige.

I hope to see you in Umatilla. Stay healthy and safe. If you are a Delegate and are unable to attend, please write a letter to the Secretary or me so that you may be excused. If I can be of assistance to anyone, feel free to contact me. If you know of anyone with a serious or life threatening illness, let me know.
Happy New Year!!

My name is Stephanie Haynes and I am your physical therapist that serves the Northeast District. I live in Jacksonville Beach with my daughter Samantha, my husband Walter, Ziggy (the golden retriever), Zoe (chocolate lab puppy) and Roxanne, (moody calico cat!). I began working for the Elks in April 2000 and am thoroughly satisfied and blessed to work for your organization!

I grew up in Orlando and received my degree from the physical therapy program at University of Central Florida. I entered the program knowing that I would be doing pediatrics. When I graduated I moved to Franklin, West Virginia and was based in a nursing home. I was in charge of providing all of the physical therapy services to the public school system, working with inpatient medicare patients and doing outpatient orthopedics in the afternoons. It was a great experience and provided me with some pediatric experience so that I could apply for a position with the Elks. I kept in touch with my friend Jane who served the Orlando area at the time and she called me when a position became available. I flew down to meet Mr. Brown and it’s history from there.

I have 2 children, Chris who is 23 and Sami who will be 19 on New Year’s Eve. My son Chris has been in the Army for 3 years. He is the lead sniper for his battalion in the 82nd Airborne. He has special-ized training with Special Forces and the Delta Force and is leaving in January for his second tour of duty. He will be gone 1 year and our family would greatly appreciate you keeping him in your thoughts and prayers.

My daughter Sami is in her first year of college at FCCJ and will finish her AA degree this summer. She will transfer to UCF in the fall. She is trying to get into the Speech Pathology program and hopes to work in the pediatric field in the future. Maybe for the Elks!! That would be great! She also manages a sandwich/coffee/dessert shop called One Hot Cookie in Atlantic Beach.

The Northeast district is a large one and I cover from the Georgia border west to Glen St. Mary, down through Orange Park, Green Cove Springs, and Palatka and as far as Satsuma and Palm Coast and everywhere east of these areas. There are a lot of rural areas in my district so I usually carry a caseload of 16-19 at one time. I really enjoy the areas that I cover and many of my driving routes are quite scenic!

I love most everything about working with the pediatric population but I do have some areas that I enjoy most and am trying to continue my education and improve my skills in these areas. I really enjoy making splints and being involved in decisions and fabrication of braces and splints. I have also received some specialized training on movement disorders, spasticity and various other neurologic disorders. This training is on going and has included trips to Chicago and Minneapolis to learn about the new cutting edge technology that is at our fingertips. This education and training has given me great hope in the future with new treatment options and interventions to help this special population of children. Without our great continuing education program, flexibility and full support of our local and state Elk members, it would be nearly impossible to pursue more advanced interests that in turn benefit our families.

I would like to share with you why I am so proud to work with these children through the Elks program. We truly provide a very unique service to our children and families. We are able to see into their lives in a special way because of our home-based therapies. These families have many challenging issues and we are able to provide more moral support, one-on-one encouragement and hands on training to empower these families to make the most of their situations. Our service encourages and requires the families to be actively involved in the care, treatment, progress and successes of their own children. It is very overwhelming to families when they first find out their child has issues. It is frustrating, depressing and as one parent described it “a never ending roller coaster.” I feel that the very nature of our services provide our families with comprehensive care physically and emotionally that cannot be found anywhere else in the state of Florida. I am proud and honored to be part of this high level of care that we provide. Thank you again for all of your hard work and continuing support of this fantastic program.

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Pins
Awarded October 6, 2006 through December 29, 2006

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

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<th>Patricia Heller-Jackson, PVP</th>
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Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate

| Tom Arnold                     | Daytona Beach #1141 | Oct-06 |
| Elenore Beck                   | Bonita Springs #2753 | Dec-06 |
| Donald A. Blue                 | Perry # 1851        | Oct-06 |
| Jeffery R. Brewington          | Clewiston #1853     | Nov-06 |
| Bruce R. Brozek                | Sarasota South #2495 | Dec-06 |
| Christine E. Guild             | North Fort Myers #2742 | Oct-06 |
| Patricia Heller-Jackson, PVP   | Port Orange #2723   | Nov-06 |
| A. L. Helms, Jr.               | Panama City #1598   | Oct-06 |
| Jeffrey Hooker                 | Belle Glade #1716   | Dec-06 |
| Virginia E. Hunter             | Miami #948          | Dec-06 |
| Dana Hurbut                    | Lake Placid #2661   | Dec-06 |
| Edward Jackson, PVP            | Port Orange #2723   | Nov-06 |
| Jorge Pelaez, Jr.              | S. Miami/Coral Gables #1676 | Oct-06 |
| Warren B. Robinson             | Miami #948          | Dec-06 |
| Gene Tillis                    | Englewood #2378     | Oct-06 |
| Charles Van Buskirk            | Zephyrhills #2731   | Nov-06 |
Memoriam

The Southwest Central District is saddened by the passing of Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Edward DeMask of the Brandon Lodge 2383 on October 7, 2006. Our condolences are extended to his family.

Brandon Lodge 2383

Florida State Elks Association President Charles Trinowski and his wife Mary Ann along with Vice President at Large David lake and his wife Kathy honored the Southwest Central district with his visit to the Brandon Lodge On October 20th and 21st.

The President and his party and several Elks and guests were entertained on Saturday morning with a cruise around Tampa downtown and waterways aboard the Lady Tampa Bay.

Brandon Lodge is sponsoring a Boy Scout Troop and honors Eagle Scouts throughout the area.

The lodge delivered Christmas presents to the veterans in the James A. Haley Veteran’s Hospital and in February will go to the hospitals each Sunday, providing the veterans with food and refreshments.

The Brandon Ladies of Elks donated $150 each to New Life Dwelling Place, ECHO (Emergency Care Help Organization), and The Spring.

Brandon Elks Lodge members along with members of the Brandon High School National Scholarship Honor Society distributed over 150 Christmas gift bags to veterans at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa Florida on Sunday December 17, 2006. The Brandon Elks and Ladies of Elks held fundraisers to fill the gift bags from the Elks, and the Brandon High School National Honor Society members raised the money for their gift bags. Nine Elks escorted twenty-two Honor Society members in distributing gifts throughout the Hospital.

Brandon Lodge PER's in the kitchen, with Col. Scott Brumbaugh of MacDill in the background.

The Lodge had help from the Latin Club of Brandon High School ROTC.

Brandon Lodge PER's in the kitchen, with Col. Scott Brumbaugh of MacDill in the background.

Sebring Lodge 1529

Sebring Lodge held a yard sale and with the assistance of the Sebring High School ROTC students raised more than $1,500 for the Veteran’s of Highlands County. For the Students participation, the Lodge donated $100 to the Sebring High School ROTC.

On December 6th Sebring Elks worked for an hour and a half cleaning up a stretch of the Sebring Parkway.

Lake Wales Lodge 1794

Lodge members made up eight baskets of Thanksgiving food and distributed them to the needy in the Lake Wales area.

On November 9th nine of Lake Wales members traveled to the Bay Pines V. A. Hospital to participate in the SWC District Cookout. Lodge members contributed 72 of the 118 hours of volunteer time to this event.

Lodge members built a float and loaded it with “Snow People” and kids for the December Christmas parade in Lake Wales.

Plant City Lodge 1727

The Plant City Police Department was treated to a holiday lunch at the Lodge prepared by the crew of Mike Smith. They honored David Millich as the 2006 Police Officer of the Year.

The Wild Game Cookout is still in the preparation stages with more than 25 businesses making donations valued at more than $500 each, there will also be a Gun Raffle, and the $48,000, 2007 Chevrolet Duramax Diesel 4-Door 4-Wheel Drive Truck that will be given away to one lucky ticket holder.

Lakeland Lodge 1291

Lodge Veteran’s Chairman Chris Buhrmeister was in charge of the Veteran’s Day activities on November 11th. Some 14 volunteers helped serve some 400 Vets breakfast at Veterans Park.

At the Lodge there were speakers, singers, poetry readings and testimonies at the Veteran’s Day Program. Then members and Boy Scouts took the float and entered the Plant City Parade. After the parade everyone went to Kryger Park at Lake Mirror for a car show and to see the Viet Nam Traveling Wall. A real old time USO Tribute Show was presented later that evening in the Lodge.

Twenty-five Lodge members attended the visit to the James A. Haley V. A. Hospital and fed more than 200 Vets with barbecue chicken and hamburgers.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

The Ladies working the Bingo Snack bar earned more than $4,000 which was donated by the LOE to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund for distribution to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Youth Camp.

Grand Old Opry star George Hamilton IV performed to a crowd of about 220 at the Country Christmas Special that included a ventriloquist event that was open to the public. This event was headed by Lodge Esquire Len Chapel. This successful event had one of the largest number in attendance that the Lodge had for the past year.
Fort Walton Lodge 1795

Thanks go to everyone for helping with the 2006 Chili Cook-Off. Congratulations go to all of the winners; thank you for your delicious entries. Thank you also to everyone who came out in support of the Chili Cook-Off in honor of National Veterans Remembrance Month. A big thank you is given to Maj Sluscheski and the Choctaw High School J.R.O.T.C. for their Color Guard and in helping with everything from setting up to assisting the Rangers during their judging. The Lodge was able to put over $1,000 back into the committee funds thanks to your participation, and they look forward to an even bigger and better Chili Cook-Off next year!

Bingo has been one of Fort Walton Lodge’s bright spots this year for raising money. The Lodge will continue serving pizza on the first Tuesday, fish sandwiches on the third Tuesday, and Philly cheese steak sandwiches on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Depending on inventories, hamburgers may be served on the fourth Tuesday.

There are two principle tenets members adhere to in Elkdom: youth programs and veterans’ programs. At the time of this writing, Elks will be receiving a letter from National asking them to make a donation to send Christmas care packages to our servicemen and servicewomen serving in harm’s way this holiday season. There are troops serving extended deployments in extremely dangerous environments while we enjoy the holidays in peace and comfort with our family and friends. For a nominal do-nation you can help make a deployed soldier’s day a little brighter and his or her morale a little higher.

Warrington Lodge 2108

ARC Gateway Pensacola held its sixth Annual Halloween Party/Dance at Warrington Lodge in late October with over 150 in attendance. Warrington members donated food and refreshments.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

Finally after all the gnashing of teeth and the usual fear of the unknown, the Pensacola Beach Lodge members have a place to gather for fellowship, to toast their good fortunes, and to meet to reform the Lodge. “Open for Business” are three words that never sounded sweeter to the members of Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge 497.

It’s been a long wait, but members will be pleased at the results. The $2.4 million spent have produced a magnificent building that has all the bells and whistles any Lodge or business on Pensacola Beach could want.

What’s new? Plenty! Nine TVs including new plasma flat screens are situated around the lounge area. A huge mahogany colored bar that rivals any in town with 30 large comfortable stools is the centerpiece of the second floor. Just out the back door, members can relax on the deck and watch the spectacular sun sets over Little Sabine. Just inside and near the bar, a fireplace with sofas and large chairs set the tone for a casual and quiet area to talk. The entire building has wireless internet service. The music system was upgraded to an Internet jukebox that will give members an opportunity for unrestricted music access. Video games including bowling and darts will have their usual place in their new home. Lots of parking and an elevator that finally works.

“...I want to congratulate all the members of the new building committee. Taking on this kind of project is enormous and they should be commended and recognized,” stated ER Barry McCleary, “We’re lucky to have members [who] will step up and dedicate their time. The officers and trustees of the past two years did a great job at keeping a dream alive. Members should know that they have been good stewards of their money. I also want to recognize Kay Turner and Elaine Tenmon for their dedication and organization of the move from the old Lodge while juggling all their regular tasks,” said McCleary.

Many new events are planned. Longer dinner hours were requested, so Friday night dinner will be served from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Likewise, extended breakfast hours will run from 8:00 a.m. until noon.

Thanks go to all the officers, trustees, and members both current and previous for all their efforts in getting the Lodge to this point. Also, thanks are extended to members Steve Jernigan (their architect) and Chris Dugas for all their hard work. Come on out, enjoy, and gather with your friends again at “OUR House.”

Crestview Lodge 2624

On Sunday, December 3, the Elks Memorial Service was held at Twin Cities Lodge. Together they had a very nice service. The music was beautiful and snacks were provided afterwards.

On December 16 the Lodge provided a full meal for the people who participated in their turkey shoot. It has been a long hard season for the turkey shoot volunteers; they have done an outstanding job keeping this very important fundraiser going. Please help make the last few weeks a little bit easier. Come on out and give your support!

Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787

November was a very busy month for Holley-Navarre Lodge. With the DDGER visit, the Mid-year Convention, and the inspections of the Lodge, there was not a lot of time to sit back and relax. One thing that is coming up soon is the new fiscal year and the election of new officers. Start planning for the new officer corps. If you are interested in a position, let someone know as soon as possible. Those who do not vote for the new officers or do not get involved with the Lodge decisions have no right to complain about the way the Lodge is run. If you do not like the way this Lodge is being run and you think you can make a difference, then run for a position in the Lodge and get involved. This is a great Lodge with enormous potential and we have nowhere to go but up. There are a lot of positions and each one of them is equally important. There are a lot of committee chairs that need to be filled and if you are interested in a specific committee, please let the Exalted Ruler or the current chairman know.

When you’re paying your dues this year, please consider adding a gift to the Elks National Foundation (ENF). A donation to the ENF is an investment in the Lodge community through initiatives like the Community Investment Program, state charity grants, college scholarships, veterans’ services, the Elks National Drug Awareness Program, and other youth activities. Help build stronger communities. You can donate by contacting your ENF Chairman.

Continued on next page
**Aripeka Lodge 2520**

In October, Aripeka Lodge Veterans Chairperson Frieda Deane entertained 12 veterans from the Baldemoro Lopez St. Veteran Nursing Home. They were treated to hamburgers, chips, dessert, and drinks at the Lodge. Annie Roo Roo provided Karaoke entertainment for the veterans. Exalted Ruler Judie Stoner hosted an Anniversary Dinner Dance for approximately 250 guests.

Although the auspusc of the Bingo Charity Fund, each month Chairman Wayne Getz allocates funds to various charitable organizations such as The American Cancer Society, Child Abuse Prevention Program, Elks National Home Entertainment Fund, St. Vincent de Paul Arts Council, ARC of Pasco County (a program to help provide quality support for people with disabilities), Hudson Soccer, and Alzheimer's Family Organization. Donations vary from $1,000 to $100. They also funded a pizza party for the veterans at Baldemoro Lopez St. Veteran Nursing Home.

In October, under the leadership of Adopt-A-Road Chairman Bill Borrich and 12 volunteers, they cleared a two mile stretch of US 19 collecting 136 lbs. of rubbish.

**Panama City Lodge 1598**

Adam and Dee Jacques delivered 45 DVDs and VCRs and a NEW DVD & VCR Recorder/Player as well to Simms Veterans Home. Panama City Lodge has been collecting them from its members for the last few months. They are still asking for items that you may no longer be interested in, so please donate them to the Lodge and they will deliver them. Each item is labeled with the Lodge number and address. The veterans were very grateful to receive these. Let’s keep it going.

On November 3, 4, and 5, the Wandering Elks and Does chose to spend the weekend at Pine Lake RV Park in Fountain, FL. The weather cooperated beautifully with Charlie and the firepit on Friday evening. They were surprised that the park was having a music weekend. This presented them with mixed blessings with the traffic in and out of the clubhouse during mealtimes and meetings, but Saturday’s Sausage Fest was a big hit as usual. That evening, the Webb Family from the Wassau area entertained the campers with bluegrass music in the pavilion. The Wandering Elks and Does were especially impressed with the teenagers playing banjo, mandolin, guitars, and upright bass. The group did not go camping in December, but they did have their Christmas Party at the Elks Lodge on December 8. It was a great evening at the Lodge.

**Aripeka State President Visit: Left to Right: PSP Peter Naranjo, State Vice President David Lake and his wife Kathy, State President Charles Trinowski and his wife Mary Ann, Exalted Ruler Judie Stoner and her husband Robert, Vice President Central District, Donna Zuk and Pasco County Sheriff's wife of Peter Naranjo, PSP.**

A wheelchair accessible miniature village was set up with storefront windows where fruit and treats were passed out. Hot dogs, pizza, french fries, and soda were served. Face painting and balloon figures were provided by The Clown Towners and Lu-A-Clown. Tony Wilkin from Pasco County Sheriff’s Office Crime Prevention Department, along with Earl Buck (a.k.a. McGruff, the crime prevention dog), passed out flyers about safety tips for Halloween and stranger danger.

On November 15th, Lodge Veterans Chairperson, Frieda Dean and members of the Lodge served root beer floats to 75 Veterans at Baldomero Lopez Veterans Nursing Home; everyone had a good time.

On the 16th a Job Fair was held along with Moose Lodge 1747 at Leisure Beach for Veterans through Career Central, there were 49 counselors from companies such as Wal-Mart, Gulfview Auto, Pasco County School Board and Bright House Cable, to mention a few, interviewed 250 applicants.

Recently Exalted Ruler Judie Stoner and Lodge members were hosts to State President Charles Trinowski and his wife, Mary Ann, for a Friday night dinner and dance.

Bingo Charity Chairperson Wayne Getz donated monies to the Shriners, Hudson Middle School Jazz Band, Marine Corps. Toys for Tots Program, Salvation Army, and Pasco County Sheriff’s Dept for Christmas baskets.

Destin Lodge 2688

Things have quieted down a little since the DDGER visit at the end of September. An outstanding job was done by the Lodge’s members and their spouses. Without all of you, they could not have had the success they did. Thanks go to everyone who set tables, decorated, cooked, cleaned, served, arranged, and rearranged the room.

The Lodge continues to stay busy with pool tournaments, bingo, Friday night bar games, and dinners. Thanks go to all of you who participate and contribute.

**Brooksville Lodge 2582**

The Lodge honored member, Ray Ludwig with the Founder’s Certificate at an Elks Dinner Dance. Ray had donated $1,000 to the Elks National Foundation. Brooksville Busy Bees which is a group of ladies who visit veterans in nursing homes every 3rd Monday, had their picture in the local newspaper. These ladies represent the Lodge’s Veterans Committee and brings hand-crafted items and sugar-free items to veterans.

The Lodge is the Charter Representative for Cub Pack 459. Their leaders are Elks. Cub Master Bob Munn presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Lodge for donation of $200 to the pack for their Halloween Party.

On November 4th Brooksville Lodge hosted the State President’s visit along with his entourage. Exalted Ruler Ralph Risley presented President Trinowski with a check for $1,000 for the Harry -Anna Trust Fund.

**Kissimmee Lodge 1873**

Kissimmee Lodge’s Veterans’ Day Celebration Chairman, PDD Earl Johns, organized a very successful event that was enjoyed by those who attended. Earl, with the aid of his daughter, Jeannie Renick of St. Cloud, assembled a 40 minute computer presentation to honor our nation’s veterans. She included pictures, music and text that reviewed the contributions and personal sacrifices that has been and is presently being made by our American servicemen and women. To say that this presentation was an overwhelming success is an understatement.

The Lodge was honored to have our Florida State Elks Association President, Charles Trinowski, Jr. and his wife Mary Ann; State VPAL, David Lake; and his wife Kathy. President Trinowski, Jr. opened the ceremony with appropriate remarks giving tribute to our American Veterans. He repeated the Elk pledge, “So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”

**West Citrus Lodge 2693**

West Citrus held its Children’s Halloween Party on October 28th. All who attended were given prizes for best, ugliest, and most original costumes. Face painting was on the agenda. All were served hot dogs, fries, cookies and drinks. West Citrus Lodge also held its Lodge Hoop Shoot Playoff at Lecanto Middle School and have the winners ready to go on to Hudson High School for District Competition.

Veterans Chairman Fred Scheer, along with his wife, Hazel, visit the ten veterans who reside at the Cypress Cove Nursing Home in Crystal River. Fred brings them cards and presents on their birthdays and at Christmas, gives each a present.

The Lodge through donations from the members provided the Salvation Army and Citrus United Basket with 84 turkeys and hams to help feed some of the needy families. The same is then done for Christmas.

On December 16th the Lodge held its annual Christmas Party for all the local children under the age of ten. Each child sits on Santa’s lap and receives a gift. Franks, fries, cookies and drinks are served to all.

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Punta Golda Lodge 2606

Bob Minton, Lecturing Knight, and Carl Rehling, PER and Trustee from Punta Gorda Elks Lodge 2606 present Tom Coleman, VA Representative at Bay Pines VA Medical Facility with a check for $1,000 and needed personal items for the veterans at the facility.

The Lodge held its Annual Veterans Parade as part of a week long celebration of Veterans. The parade contained many veteran units and over 80 units total participated.

George Lamb, PER, presented a check for $2,900 from the Punta Gorda Elks PER Association to Charlie Trinowski, Florida State Elks Association State President, for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund on behalf of the 29 members of the PER Association. Punta Gorda Elks held their Christmas Party on December 16 with the proceeds going to 90 Christmas food baskets for needy families.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

North Fort Myers Lodge continues to work for the homeless veterans by having Thanksgiving Dinner on November 21. The dinner was served indoors with a full course turkey dinner. They even had a serviceman and his wife stop by who wanted to help.

Rotonda Lodge 2710

In November a benefit dinner was held for the family of Tony Komor, the 32 year old ER who was killed when his Lodge collapsed in Clinton, MO.

The Elkettes held a Home & Garden Party to raise funds for Elks charities.

A two day Gaelic and Celtic Festival held December 8-9 was held to raise money for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and was attended by 600 people.

The Rotonda Elks’ Boy Scout troop held a court of honor for their 14th Eagle Scout.

Lecturing Knight Jay Smyth raised $5,000 from Lodge members to sponsor Christmas for unfortunate area families.

Ron Bupp, PDD held a dedication ceremony for the Lodge’s new memorial garden walk and fountain.

The Elkettes have completed the making of 25 lap robes for distribution for Christmas to patients at rest homes.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153 and Punta Gorda Lodge 2606 helped make the Homeless Veterans Standdown on October 28th in Port Charlotte, Florida a huge success. The two lodges passed out many donated items to the veterans.

Pictured from left: Bobby Joe Waterfield, Winter Park Lodge 1830; Richard Bardsley, Veterans’ Services Committee Chairman, Winter Park Lodge 1830; Pete Vaphiades, VPSSW & Secretary Port Charlotte Lodge 2153 and Robert Hahn, Exalted Ruler Punta Gorda Lodge 2606.

On November 4th, Port Charlotte held its’ First Elks Antlers Charity Poker Run. The run resulted in $500 for Harry-Anna Trust Fund and $500 for a local charity.

South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676

South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge is holding a book drive for veterans at the Veteran’s Hospital. Donations are greatly appreciated and can be dropped at the Lodge. They will be delivered during a special visit to the hospital.

Labor Day was celebrated at the Lodge with good participation despite the rainy start.

South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge held its Annual Golf Tournament at Redland Golf Club. Elks and their friends attended the event which was followed by a rib and chicken dinner and an awards ceremony. Thanks go to everyone who participated and especially to the volunteers: Dolores Leach, Mary MacArthur, Marilee Mills, P.C. Mills, Tony Rincones, and Joan Walker. The Lodge also wants to recognize the sponsors for their valuable support.

The Junior Orange Bowl Queens Court Search was held in the ballroom. Dolores Leach and other members of the Lodge helped with the activities.

Elks from the South District participated in the 58th Junior Orange Bowl Parade on Saturday, December 30, 2006. They walked along the parade route distributing Drug Awareness information.

The Lodge also hosted the Junior Orange Bowl Sportability Games Banquet in the Lodge on Saturday, December 2.

The Annual Charity Ball was a memorable evening with lots of raffles and prizes and it all benefited charitable organizations including the Florida Elks Youth Camp and the Elks National Foundation.

Marathon Lodge 2139

Marathon Lodge donated Thanksgiving baskets to needy families and collected more than $600 which provided dinners for seven families.

The Lodge’s Annual Hoop Shoot Contest was held at Stanley Switlik School. Many thanks to Jerry DuBois, Matt Wright, Bob Rankin, and Terry Pollard for their time spent at the P.E. classes.

Marathon Lodge participated in the Veteran’s Day Parade on November 11th with a float.

North Miami Lodge 1835

North Miami Lodge 1835 held its 51st Annual “Roses and Rainbows” Ball Saturday, November 18th. Music was provided by Earthshine.

District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Harry Kerslake visited North Miami Lodge on Tuesday, September 19th for his evaluation of the Lodge.

Lodge members sponsored a Christmas Party on December 21 for the families of the Medical Foster Care Program of Jackson Memorial Hospital. The children in this program have a variety of medical conditions which require special attention that only specifically trained foster parents can provide. The staff of the Medical Foster Care Program not only provides that training, but they also offer ongoing support and assistance to assure these children have their medical and emotional needs managed. Jackson Memorial Hospital has sponsored this Annual Christmas Party, but because of budget cuts they will not cover the foster care families.

The Program Supervisor and Elks member, Barbara Ortiz, RN, asked the North Miami Elks Lodge for help and they voted to donate their facilities. They also prepared and served a barbecue lunch to approximately 50 foster parents, children, and staff. North Miami Lodge is proud to endorse the State President’s motto, “Serving our Community.”

South District continues on page 16
Web sites help tell our story

By Don Sansoussi, Committee Member

“Elkdome” - one of the “best-kept secrets” in town.

Telling the American public about Elkdome is of paramount importance to the Order. We have left our accomplishments hidden from the public for too long. It is time the Elks are recognized for their many acts of benevolence.

The word is starting to get out via the various Elks Web sites provided by our Lodges, State Associations and Grand Lodge. The information on these sites helps to show the public and remind our own Members how Elks really do “Care” and how they really do “Share.”

Visiting these various sites one can learn of the many wonderful programs, activities and services to humanity being carried out by the members in our various Lodges. The information to non-Elks can certainly be enlightening, and Elks will be even more proud of what we do in helping to make our communities and our country a better place in which to live.

We have heard from people who have been helped by our efforts, be it someone helped by our medical and research programs, a scholarship recipient, Hoop Shoot participants, Veterans or those less fortunate. The list goes on. Many of them believe that “Help” rhymes with “Elk.”

Remember that your Lodge and state Web site can bring new meaning to the old saying that B.P.O.E. really stands for, “Best People On Earth.” We therefore know that the efforts put into these various Web sites reflect a positive image of Elkdome, making the public aware of our fraternal purpose.
2006-2007 Florida State Elks Bowling Tournament

This year the Florida Elks Bowling tournament will be held in Viera, Florida (Melbourne). Hosted by the Viera Lodge, 2817. 5820 US I, Rockledge, 321.504.3111.

The 2006-2007 tournament will run for two (2) weekends and the dates are as follows: April 14, 15,2007 & April 21, 22, 2007. These dates will enable you to properly schedule, complement and not interfere with your other activities as in the State Golf tournament (first weekend of the month) and the State Softball tournament (last weekend of the month).

This years tournament will be advantageous to the bowlers, keep the competition high and an avenue to recruit new members, all at the same time.

Some of the highlights are:
1.. Two (2) Divisions: Age 49 and under and Age 50 and up.
2.. $18.00 of entry fee goes to Prize fund. (62.5% of entry returned) (100% of Prize fund returned)
3.. Ratio of payouts will be the same in both divisions:

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<th>Team:</th>
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4.. Non Elks are eligible to compete in this years tournament (READ RULES.)
5.. Re-Entries in team event (cash once with same 4 bowlers) (cannot bowl on 2 teams in the same shift)
6.. PLEASE NOTE: Only two shifts of 40 teams (maximum of 80 team spots each weekend) each weekend.
7.. Nassau's and Brackets will be available and will be optional.

We would also like to be a contributor to Harry Anna, but with the entire prize fund money going back to the bowlers, we encourage all lodges, businesses, or members donate $50.00 to be a lane sponsor. These funds will be greatly appreciated by our kids. Make checks payable to “K-Buk Promotions” and write “Lodge Name & Lane Sponsor” in bottom left side.

Hope to see as many of you as I can at this years tournament.

If you have any questions about the tournament, please call John Harris at Cell: (321) 544-0611 or (321) 544-0611

Entry blanks and rules are available on the fleks.org website or from:
John C. Harris
Tournament Director
2805 Forest Run Drive
Melbourne, FL 32935

MEMBERSHIP

Is the Nest Emptying?

When the children grow up and leave home, a whole new life opens up for them and for you. There may be sadness. You may find things too quiet around the house, even if you have wished for peace and quiet in the past. You may feel you have done as much for the son or the daughter as you can or need to do.

However, if he or she is over 21, there is still something more you can do. You can persuade your offspring to become Elks.

When you open up the life of Elkdom to your children, you’re introducing them to a wonderful world of friendship and altruism.

You’re helping your lodge, too, if the child lives in the same city, and you’re helping Elkdom by perpetuating it. When we become too old or too tired to carry on with our volunteer work, or our social and monetary contributions, someone will be there to carry on our good work and keep it going.

We would call that a win-win situation.

Article from a State Elks Web Page by Marie Grime.
Youth Camp Update

What could make you more proud of being an Elk than a visit to the Florida Elks Youth Camp or seeing our Therapy Services Staff in action. The vision that has brought our two major projects to a reality is paralleled by none. We are, without a doubt, the greatest!

New development in underway at the camp. Through your continued generous donations to our Wish List, our nature trail is becoming a reality. The project is very long term and will require continued additions throughout the years to come. It offers many new programs to our camp. Everything from Geocache to educating our youth to be sensitive to our environment, the nature trail is a value addition.

The initial core elements of the nature trail will include a butterfly garden, a fishing pier, along with walkways and an overlook.

You can help with the nature trail. Consider bringing a potted plant with you to our Quarterly Meeting this month to be planted in and a part of the nature trail. There is a wish list of the types of plants we are in need of but any donation is welcome. You can watch your donated plants grow and mature through the coming years.

We are excited to have our Grand Exalted Ruler visit during our February quarterly. Friday evening on the 9th there will be a BBQ dinner at 5 PM which everyone can enjoy. Please call and reserve your tickets to help us prepare for that event. On Saturday February 10th you will have the opportunity to hear the message of our Grand Exalted Ruler. Take time after the meetings to tour our campus and visit the new nature trail.

Reforestation on our property is also a continuing project. This past year we lost over twenty major trees, probably over 100 years old. If we do not continue to replace these lost trees, one day our property could become a desert. We need to insure that the “Oak” cabin area will always have oak trees. For a donation of $300 to reforestation you will help buy a tree and your name will be added to the list of caring Elks on the recognition board in the main lobby of the Grafton Center.

Applications for Summer Camp 2007 are available at your Lodge or on our website www.flieks.org. Please try to have the applications as complete as possible when you submit them and remember to include your payment with the application. If you are using a campership, the number must be included on the application.

Staffing for Summer Camp 2007 is in progress. We expect to completely staffing by the middle of March so if you have anyone interested in being a CIT or Counselor be sure to have them submit their applications as soon as possible. They are available on our web site www.flieks.org. We are seeking three retired married couple to serve as chaperones. If you are interested, please contact me at 352-669-9443 extension 239.

We strive to have each year better than the previous both in programs and census. Please help utilize our great camp by sponsoring local children to benefit from our great camping experience.

We are the best. Camps now come to us for “how to” do things. That includes layout and structures along with our programs throughout the year. Your Board of Directors is forward thinking and continues to discuss options for future expansion and program expansion. The goal has been set to bring 22,000 children to our camp this year. Please remember along with your four camperships that each Lodge many pay for as many additional children to attend camp as they wish. Try to be the Lodge in your District which sends the most children to camp.

We are looking forward to everyone coming and spending a relaxing evening with our Grand Exalted Ruler.

Florida Elks News

Nature Trail Update

BE A PART OF THE NATURE TRAIL!

Our nature trail is a new addition to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. As work in progress which will take several years to complete, each Elk can be a part of the project.

Please consider donating a plant for the nature trail. It can be any size one gallon or up. Following is a list of plants which fit our program:

- Magnolias, golden rain tree, Palmetto holly, bay laurel, native mimosa, wax myrtle, red bottle brush, weeping willow, Japanese maple, cypress, vinca, penta, lantana, Carolina Jessamine, confederate jasmine, African iris, Louisiana “Flag” Iris, purple and pink azaleas, bamboo, camellias, tampa orchid, kumquat, loquat, hibiscus, and ligustrum.

The above or any plant you have rooted at home will be great to add to the diversity of our nature trail and butterfly garden.

Please bring with you and donate a plant at the February Quarterly.

Summer Camp 2007

WEEK 1 JUNE 10TH - 16TH
WEEK 2 17TH - 23RD
WEEK 3 24TH - 30TH
WEEK 4 JULY 1ST - 7TH
WEEK 5 8TH - 14TH
WEEK 6 15TH - 21ST

FEBRUARY BBQ DINNER

Our Past State President Advisory Council is sponsoring a BBQ Friday, February 9th, 2007. Dinner will be served buffet style from 5 PM until 7 PM. There will be live music for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Tickets $6.00 at the door or reserve ahead and your ticket will be $5.00. This helps us greatly in planning the dinner. A voice mail will be set up on (800) 523-1673 extension 232 to leave your name, lodge, and number of tickets.

The tickets will be available at the door.

We are looking forward to everyone coming and spending a relaxing evening with our Grand Exalted Ruler.

continued to support the Florida Elks Youth Camp, Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Florida Elks Charities, and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund so that we are never put in a position to have to say no to a child. Try to carry with you throughout the entire year the spirit of caring and giving from our recent holiday season.
Three Lodges from the West Central District, Holiday Isles Lodge 1912, Pinellas Park Lodge 2217, and Largo Lodge 2159, sponsored the 4th Annual Elks Biker Toy Run on November 26.

The run started in Manatee County at Peggy’s Corral and concluded in Pinellas County at Quaker Steak and Lube. The run traveled over the Skyway Bridge on a gorgeous afternoon; there were 1,501 bikes that participated. At the end of the run, the riders deposited the toys which they brought, participated in an auction, and danced and partied to the live music.

Video e-mails were provided by Cingular free of charge to people wanting to send them to their family and/or friends in the armed services anywhere in the world. The Elks’ Drug Awareness trailer was there and a lot of drug literature was handed out. A portion of the proceeds from this charitable run were given to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund to give to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. The rest of the proceeds went to the RCS Food Bank, Operation Military Kids, The Florida Burn Kids, and CASA (an abuse shelter).

The event drew TV coverage from several local stations and newspaper coverage from the St. Petersburg Times. This event was co-chaired by Frank and Karen Kolbaba from Holiday Isles 1912. Through their tireless efforts, enlisting sponsors and volunteers, getting the needed publicity, etc., this event was a huge success. They thank all the volunteers who made this event possible.

**Pinellas Park Lodge 2217**

On October 7, 21 Pinellas Park Elks and their family members walked several miles in downtown St. Petersburg for the continuing fight against breast cancer and raised $350. They walked not only to support the research into the cause and cure of this deadly disease, but also to remember their friend and special Elk from the Lodge, Ruth Duffield, who died of breast cancer on February 9, 2006.

On October 14, over 150 Elks and their guests kicked up their heels and enjoyed a fantastic “Night on the Range” while showing “Elks Care – Elks Share.” Over $350 was raised to help a local Marine, Lance Corporal Michael A. Delane, who was injured in Iraq and now requires constant home care. His dad wants to be his caregiver, but he must give up his work to be able to do so. This fund is intended to help subsidize Michael’s dad while he is away from work.

On a windy October 28, 112 Elks and their guests enjoyed the Lodge’s golf tournament. More than $900 was raised for the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and for the Florida Youth Camp.

**Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525**

The Lodge, with the cooperation of the Kash n’ Karry Supermarket in Dunedin, delivered 37 Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas Cinnars with all the trimmings to needy families in the area.

Dunedin/Clearwater opened their Lodge to the Clearwater Little League Disadvantaged Division for a Christmas Party for 45 children and their families. Each player received a present delivered personally by none other than Santa Claus and his helper, Mrs. Claus.

The students at Palm Harbor Middle School were the recipients of 500 Drug Awareness comic books delivered by the Lodge’s Drug Awareness Committee. The committee, in cooperation with the school’s Pinellas County Sheriff Resource Officer, also delivered 500 Drug Awareness comic books to San Jose Elementary School. Both schools will receive more than 1,000 pieces of information and Red Ribbons.

Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525 was proud to enter a float in the Dunedin Christmas Parade. The float celebrated the Elks’ past and future. The float celebrated the Elks’ past and future; it was adorned with Elks posters and carried the message, “ELKS CARE – ELKS SHARE.”

**Largo Lodge 2159**

**New Port Richey Lodge 2284**

New Port Richey Lodge has been active in the community. They donated their hall to the Pasco County Boys and Girls Club for their Celebrity Luncheon Fundraiser. They also held a Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser and their members raised over $4,400. Through a challenge with Aripeka Lodge 2520, both Lodges combined to raise $1,200 for the Shriner’s Hospital.

The Lodge’s Drug Awareness Committee distributed 112 dictionaries and Drug Awareness coloring books to the third grade class at Richey Elementary School. The children were most appreciative.

**Holiday Isles Lodge 1912**

The Lodge was one of the sponsors of the Veterans’ Boat Parade held November 11. After a flyover by four F-16s from Homestead AFB, the approximately 50 boats participating this year left the American Legion Post 273 and paraded through the Madeira Beach waterways. Prizes were awarded in several different categories at a ceremony later the next week. After the parade, all the boat captains and their crews (250 people) were treated to a free hamburger and/or hotdog lunch at the Lodge. Entertainment was provided by karaoke master Wesley Gilbert and the great singers from the boats. The Lodge thanks American Legion Post 273 for their fine leadership for this event.

On a beautifully windy fall day on October 28, Lodge Soccer Shoot Chairperson Michelle Nepi held the Lodge Soccer Shoot at the Madeira Beach Recreation Center soccer fields. In her second year as chairperson, Michelle increased participation from eight kids last year to 59 kids this year. It was a day of fun and smiles. The Lodge gave trophies to nine girls and eleven boys. The girls’ first place winners were as follows: 7 & under – Abigail Crump; 8 & 9 – Brooke Spoonheimer; 10 & 11 – Brooke Rozelle; and 12 & 13 – Danielle Scott. The boys’ first place winners were as follows: 7 & under – Lukas Sabros; 8 & 9 – Tyler Beaver; 10 & 11 – Cody Hamblin; and 12 & 13 – Ricky Steiermann. Michelle was helped by eight Elks and one volunteer.

Elk John Bunting and his crew delivered five turkey dinners to needy families for Thanksgiving.

**Seminole Lodge 2519**

Treasurer Pat DeVoe and Veterans’ Services Chairperson Marge DeLevante packed and shipped 28 “shoeboxes” for troops overseas. Pat’s grandson is among the troops and he supplied a list of names for us.

Loyal Knight Roy Broff, ENF Chairman, hosted a pork chop Sunday for Elks National Foundation that raised $1,200. This brings the Lodge’s per-capita to first time in Lodges with 301-500 members and fifth overall.
The lodge is gearing up for State President Charlie Trinowski’s visit. It is set for the third weekend in January, and will be hosted by District VP James Hollingsworth in Lake City. In addition to the banquet on Saturday night, that weekend also includes some ritual work in the district, as well as a DD/VP clinic.

Lake City Lodge 893

The Lake City Lodge held its annual Halloween party on Saturday October 21st. The lodge provided a DJ and hors d’oeuvres, and invited those attending to bring a favorite hors d’oeuvre. This event is always a good party.

In the last six months we have put in new bar stools in the lounge, tavern style tables added to the porch, and a face lift to the lounge and dining room. Other improvements include recovering and leveling the pool tables, repairs to an outside wall in one of the rooms. The lodge is in a 100 year old wooden structure with ongoing renovations.

During the Christmas season the lodge provides raffle tickets to each of its members to sell, and the proceeds fund food baskets for needy families and toy giveaways for kids. The raffle had a first prize of 600 gallons of gasoline and a second prize of 400 gallons of toy Night, held this year on December 15th was again a resounding success, where any toy valued at $10 or higher rewards a member with a complimentary dinner at the lodge of similar value. Food baskets were delivered on Saturday, December 16th, and toys given away to kids on Christmas Eve.

To finish out the calendar year, the lodge held its annual New Years Eve party with a DJ and hors d’oeuvres. Always a well attended celebration, it is a great way to welcome in the new year.

Live Oak Lodge 1165

The ladies of the Live Oak Lodge, the Anna Miller Circle, continuously work with the lodge and its members to bring recognition to the fine things that Elks do. With the help of the ladies, a class of special education kids went to the Youth Camp in October. The ladies also helped with the annual fishing tournament that was held in Steinhatchee this fall.

Anna Miller Circle of Live Oak Lodge and their Operation Care and Share program adopted the Ninth Wing at the Lake City VA Hospital to help celebrate Christmas. At the hospital’s Christmas party December 15th, the organization provided stockings filled with miscellaneous items and bags of cookies and candies and microfirm slippers. Last year this wing was forgotten. Alyce Brown, the President of Operation Share and Care found out this wing was forgotten last year, so the ladies of the Circle along with a nice donation from a private company helped provide these gifts. Operation Care and Share helps active and inactive soldiers as well as many needy children.

The lodge held a Halloween dance and those attending had a great time socializing for this holiday event. Then in early November, Live Oak Lodge was proud to send five lodge members, including four officers, to the midyear convention in Orlando.

On the first Sunday in December, the Lodge held its annual memorial service. This event is always a fine tribute to the Elks that have passed on, and reminds the rest of us how important it is that we not forget our loved ones.

With the help of the Anna Miller Circle, all the residents of the Suwannee Health Care Nursing Home received a Christmas stocking. More than a hundred stockings were distributed.

One other final project this calendar year is the delivery of 75 Christmas baskets for the needy. The ladies once again will help with this tremendous community project, and see it through.

Madison Lodge 2205

The Lodge kicked off this quarter with a Halloween dance in the Lodge, with hors d’oeuvres to share. Another dinner and dance followed December 16th for Christmas. The event had a great turnout, and one of the highlights was a raffle, with a drawing at the dance, for a Tomcat dirt bike. A guest, who is now a prospective member of the lodge, won the raffle.

A redneck raffle is planned at the Miss Antlers contest to be held January 20th. Winner of the raffle will go home with a red laundry basket filled with useful items that all redneck need. Dinner will be spaghetti with garlic bread and salad, to make sure that all go home well fed.

Another fundraising idea is the Kiss the Pig Contest, tentatively planned for February. In this event, folks bid on who gets to kiss the pig, and the winner (or loser as the case may be) is the gal or fella who has the most bid on him or her. It brings a lot of laughs, and sometimes the bid gets a little crazy, but the lodge wins with a successful fundraising effort.

Bingo continues to help raise some money for community events and this year we adopted a family from the Holiday Connection at the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper. Bingo charity funds provided gifts from Santa for the family, including toys, clothes, and kitchen essentials, spending more than $400 on the family.

Mariani Lodge 1516

There was a brief mention in the last article from the North District about $3700 in scholarships awarded by the Mariani Lodge. Four of the five students who got scholarships were children or grandchildren of Elks of the Mariani Lodge.

A Halloween Dance was held October 28th, with a live band, Second Time Around performing. Costumes were encouraged and the lodge was decorated for the ghoulish social gathering.

The Lodge has been continuing its Pancake Breakfasts as part of the Lodge’s fundraising program. The event always raises a couple hundred dollars to help fund expenses that the Lodge faces.

Other social events that Marianni Lodge conducted were the annual Christmas Party held on December 2nd this year and the New Years Eve party on Saturday, December 30th, which certainly proved to be a great time for all those who attended and danced to the live band.

Perry Lodge 1851

Perry Lodge has Amnesty Month every year in October and November when unaffiliated Elks can rejoin the Lodge without a reinstatement fee. The Lodge added several Elks to the fold this year as a result of the amnesty months. Dues are prorated for the remainder of the year.

The local soccer shoot program was conducted October 14th. Also in October, the Perry lodge distributed drug awareness brochures and materials at the Forest Festival, a well-attended annual event in Perry.

Not to be outdone by Lake City Lodge, Perry Lodge has been busy with some renovations. New lighting has been installed in the Lodge ballroom, and funds are on hand to re-carpet the dining room. Proposals for the new carpet are being sought.

The lodge commemorated Veterans’ Day on November 19th with guest speaker Ed Sheffield, a former POW. His message to those attending this important event was that military men and women do not make a lot of noise about doing their job, but always appreciate a “thank you” from a passer by. Ed shared some of his personal experiences in Korea, including the memories of his more than 37 months as a POW. In keeping with the Veterans Day theme, the Lodge conducted a Bingo game on November 20th, with all the proceeds specifically earmarked for the VA Hospital in Lake City.

An annual event at the Perry Lodge is Breakfast With Santa, held this year on December 16th. Business partner GTCom has helped to fund this event where it now accommodates 300 children each of whom gets breakfast (eggs, sausage, grits, pancakes, milk and juice), a gift, and a visit with Santa Claus. This year the event had grown enough where the local CBS affiliate WCTV, picked up the news story and broadcast some of the details on the morning news.

An innovative approach to celebrating the New Year, when the Lodge is closed all day Sunday was to hold the New Years Eve dance a day early on Saturday, December 30th. It gave the Lodge a chance to get the jump on other parties and celebrations, and know that the Lodge did it first.

Tallahassee Lodge 937

Tallahassee Lodge has tried some different ideas to entice membership participation. The second annual Chilli Cook-off attracted a bigger crowd this year than last, and allowed the Lodge to donate more than $3000 in proceeds to the local Florida National Guard. Twenty-one teams competed in the cooking area. A week later the Lodge has its own rendition of the Match Game. Couples had a great time as panel members, and those of us observing got a few laughs.

The Lodge was honored, along with its ladies organization, (the Elketts), to be recognized in the Partners for Excellence with the local Gretchin Everhart School. Endeavors included hosting proms, graduations, and trips to the Youth Camp in both 2005 and 2006. Also in October, the traveling Vietnam Wall came through town. Our Lodge fed the 130 volunteers who helped set it up, and several Lodge members volunteered to read the names inscribed on the wall. Lodge member Dale Doss gave the closing ceremony speech on Sunday, October 15th.

In November, the Lodge held a brief ceremony in recognition of Veterans Day. About 75 persons attended that morning, including twenty US veterans, and one veteran from the Royal Canadian Air Force. The Lodge served a great breakfast.

Other events in December included the poinsettia delivery to all the Elk widows of the Lodge, the memorial service on December 3, the Kids Christmas Party on the 17th, and the annual Eggnog Social on the afternoon of the 17th.

The Lodge was a bit late in awarding a $1000 scholarship to a freshman at the University of West Florida. This student applied for an MVS scholarship, but did not score high enough to move through all the levels of judging and win some ENF money. In partnering with a local business and the Presidents Student Service Challenge, each paying $500, the young lady received $1000 to help her with her college expenses. We were delayed in sending her the money due to a late selection of the college of her choice.
Inverness Elks Lodge 2522

The Lodge under the Drug Awareness Chairman-ship of Fred Sansone, sponsored a contest of posters and essays to “Just Say No! To Drugs” in the Inverness schools for students from kindergarten to 6th grade and their par-ents for the 14th year. This kicked off the Red Ribbon week activities including a fly-over by Citrus County Sheriffs Aviation Unit. Fred, along with students and staff from Hernando Elementary School formed H.E.S. IS DRUG FREE on their field and the Sheriff’s photographer took aerial photos. Video and lessons on the dangers of drugs and the planting of a garden of red plants to “Plant the Promise to be Drug Free” were also on the agenda. The Inverness Elks Lodge sponsored a Ladies Black & White High Tea, which was enjoyed by all attending and raised $537 for Hospice.

Ocala Lodge 286

The Ocala Lodge Veterans Service Committee contributed a 62” big screen TV valued at $3,500 and treated over 75 Veterans at the Fort McCoy Veterans Retirement Home to a special dinner.

Apopka Lodge 2422

Apopka Lodge held a hamburger and hot dog barbe-que for the Veterans in the V. A. Medical Center in Or-lando. There were five or six bags of clothes and personal items donated by the members. At the barbecue the Lodge presented a check to the Veterans Medical Center for $1,000.

Lady Lake Elks Lodge 2793

Lady Lake Elks recently presented bicycles to the D.A.R.E. Essay winners, Ryan Chastain and Lean Wertz from Beverly Shores Elementary in Leesburg.

Winter Garden Elks Lodge 2165

Recently held its Annual Charity Ball to benefit the Harry-Anna Trust Fund which funds both the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elk’s Youth Camp. These funds enable the program to equip 20 vans and provide physical and speech therapy to more than 350 children a week free of charge. These two major projects costs $4 million a year to operate.

Outgoing Exalted Ruler Mike Jernigan presented awards for Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Sherry Wise; Outstanding Police Officer of the Year, Will Shoemaker; Outstanding Educator of the Year, Charles Thomas; Outstanding Firefighter of the Year, Steve Ellis; Outstanding Veteran of the Year, Tom Murphy; 2006 Elk of the Year, George Laberee, Sr.; and 2006 Officer of the Year, Charlie Crane.

A college student wrote a letter home:

“Dear folks,

I feel miserable because I have to keep writing for money. I feel ashamed and unhappy. I have to ask for another hundred, but every cell in my body rebels. I beg

PS: I felt so terrible, I ran after the mailman who picked this up in the box at the corner. I wanted to take this letter and burn it. I prayed that I could get it back. But it was too late.”

A few days later he received a letter from his fa-ther. It said, “Your prayers were answered. Your letter never came!”
EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Reporter: Mary Ann Bucci

Daytona Beach Lodge 1141

The members of Daytona Beach Lodge would like to thank Bob Dittman, PER, for filling in as Exalted Ruler; he has done a fine job. The Lodge would like to congratulate John Palermo, PER on becoming our new Exalted Ruler.

The Lodge held its annual highway pickup. As usual, there was a good turnout.

Sunday, October 15th the Lodge hosted a German American Oktoberfest 2006 with music by a jazz blues group called Starting Point.

Everyone enjoyed a spooktacular Halloween Party on Saturday, October 28th. Prizes were awarded for best costume.

The Emblem Club sponsored their annual rummage sale on Sunday, November 5th. The Lodge hosted a Veteran’s Appreciation Night on November 9th for the Veterans from the Emory L. Bennett Memorial Veterans Nursing Home, as well as the Am Vets Post 911 Color Guard from Port Orange.

A New Year’s Eve party is scheduled for Sunday, December 31st with music by Don Lloyd.

Deland Lodge 1463

The members of Deland Lodge had a free Sunday morning breakfast on November 12th in honor of their military veterans.

The annual “sock it to me” campaign proved to be another great success for the Lodge. Members donated white tube socks to men and women veterans at the Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home in Daytona.

Saturday, December 2nd, members and guest prepared to decorate a float to participate in the Annual Jaycees Christmas Parade.

Once again, the Lodge is collecting “Toys for Tots”; they hope to exceed last year’s collection. Special thanks to Joe Marmo who helped with the Veterans Parade and to Rick Phelps and his crew for preparing the Veterans breakfast.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650

Merritt Island is great with scissors! Project sponsor, Exalted Ruler Robin Mitchell and two young ladies of officers of the Lodge, have the task of clipping grocery coupons from newspaper inserts provided by Lodge members. The clipped and packaged coupons are then mailed to Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany where they are distributed to the various US installations to be used by military families.

New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557

On October 21st, New Smyrna Elks along with the Drug Free Youth Group of New Smyrna & Edgewater held their annual “Red Ribbon” rally for drug free youth. They have been working together for several years in providing information on this worthwhile drug free program in the community. The New Smyrna and Edgewater Police Department also had an excellent display and program during this event. There were several hundred participants and music was provided by the Middle School Band.

The Lodge held their annual Veterans’ Day Ceremony on Saturday, November 11th at the Sea Pines Cemetery. The Ladies Auxiliary and Elks members laid a wreath while the American Legion Post 285 of Edgewater acted as the Honor Guard.

The Lodge is sponsoring a “Spring Cruise Fundraiser in March 2007 for a trip to the Western Caribbean.

On November 14th the Lodge received Edgewater’s Inspection Department approval to proceed with the completion of the project which include the installation of ceiling tiles, light fixtures, floors, bar, etc.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

The Lodge sponsored their annual golf tournament on Saturday, October 21st in support of the Florida Elks charities.

On Sunday, November 5th the Lodge held its sixth annual Poker Run to help send needy kids to the Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla.

A Kids Christmas Party for approximately 120 kids from seven plus schools in the area, was held on Saturday, December 16th. The Lodge purchased 20 bikes; members also donated some bikes to the families the Lodge has adopted.

The Lodge held their Christmas Party on Sunday, December 17th. Everyone is geared up for the New Year’s Eve Gala on Sunday, December 31st.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709

A pack of Pyrenees! Ada Dominanni was featured in Gainesville Sun, recently, hugging 33 Great Pyrenees during a semi-annual meeting of the Florida Great Pyrenees Club. Owners from across the state met to discuss recent rescue efforts and to meet other owners of the large, white mountain dogs which were originally bred for guarding livestock.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

It was an extraordinary night when the Spruce Creek Jazz Band played at our Lodge on October 14th. The Lodge sponsored the event to help raise money to send the Spruce Creek Band to China. Chairman of the event, Paul Leonard, Ed Jackson, ER and Dee Kolmel, President of the Elkharts presented a check for $4,500 to the members of the Spruce Creek Jazz Band.

The Elkharts continue to support scholarships and other charities through their “600 Club”.

The Lodge continues to support the Atlantic High School Student of the Month. Each month two students are chosen and presented with checks and certificates for their outstanding scholastic achievements and their contribution to the community.

Port Orange Lodge was represented at the Port Orange Family Days on October 8-9 using the Drug Awareness Trailer, spear headed by Angelo Cretella, Lodge Chairman of Drug Awareness and Treasurer, handing out approximately 750 bags containing literature on drugs, tobacco, and alcohol to young people, parents, and teachers. Joe and Susan Lent, Americanism Chairpersons, were also present to hand out applications to elementary students to enter the annual essay contest.

Meals on Wheels volunteers are getting ready to distribute meals to the needy in the community for the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.

A joint Memorial Service Ceremony, For Port Orange and New Smyrna Beach Lodge, was held on Sunday, December 3rd.

The Lodge honored Matthew Wells, the son of retired US Marine Capt. Mark Wells with an Eagle Scout Award.

Sonny Armstrong, ECD Vice President had his homecoming on October 21st at our Lodge. Dignitaries present were Phil Watercutter, ECD DD; Mike Phillips, District Sponsor; Jack Parker, PDDGER; and Ed Swanson, PER of Port Orange Lodge. Sonny received accolades from Mike Phillips for a fine job he has done as the East District Vice President this year.

Sanford Lodge 1241

Special thanks to the ladies in decorating the Lodge for the holidays. Oktoberfest was a huge success. Over 100 members and guest were in attendance. Special thanks to Mike Bartz and his crew in helping with the Oktoberfest function.

The Ladies sponsored a Casino Night on December 9th. Proceeds from this event will go toward the Florida Elks Children’s Mobile Therapy Units.

The Lodge’s Hoop Shoot was held on Saturday, December 17th at the Seminole High School Gym.

The Lodge donated 700 Reflective Halloween bags to the kids at Wicklow Elementary School, as well as being the sponsors for the City of Sanford’s Annual Kids Halloween Party. The Lodge just completed painting and refurbishing their 100+ year-old facility.

Titusville Lodge 2113

Drug Awareness continues to be a presence in the annual Titusville Christmas Parade with our Cub Scout Troop handing out drug awareness coloring books and book marks. Frankie Crawford dressed up as Elroy the Elk. A lot of young people came up to the trailer asking for the coloring books. Kudos to Dave and Deanna Wiggins who were presented with President’s Pin for their fine job on Drug Awareness, this year.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Reporter: Joy Booth PER

It is with great regret that our district reports one of the Lodges voluntarily surrendered its Charter and is no longer functioning. That Lodge is Okeechobee. Many of the active members have dimited to Jupiter Lodge, including the present District Deputy.

Lantana/Boynton Lodge is finding itself in the same boat and will be making a decision in the very near future. The Jupiter Lodge is increasing its membership at a rapid rate due to the opening of their new building.

West Palm Beach is continuing to do the duty of Elkdom and recently joined with the U. S. Marines in hosting a Toy Drive that was quite successful.

Belle Glade Lodge recently received an award from the Chamber of Commerce for outstanding service to their community.

Pahokee Lodge received the insurance company’s settlement and is now looking for a contractor to begin work to repair hurricane damage to their building.
Pompano Beach Lodge 1898

Pompano Beach Lodge installed a new member in absentia at the December initiation. Jordan O’Hearn, Information Technician First Class in an Intelligence Unit, is a recent recipient of the Gold Star which was presented to him by the Secretary of the Navy, Mitchell Lipsitz, Jordan’s grandfather and a member at Pompano Beach, was his stand-in. Jordan’s father, Jerry O’Hearn, also a member at Pompano, was present. Jordan is attached to an army unit in Iraq. Congratulations Jordan and God speed!

Hollywood West Lodge 2465

On Friday night, November 10, Hollywood West Lodge invited 11 veterans from the Pembroke Pines Veterans’ Nursing Home to the Lodge for a rib dinner and dancing. Exalted Ruler Jeanne Coffey served them good food and beverages.

As the next day was Veterans’ Day, Lecturing Knight Sal Grillo gave a history of the flag for each branch of the armed services. Following the history of the flags, the Arrow Boy Scouts had a ceremony displaying each flag of the armed services. Everyone was impressed and the vets were very honored.

As one veteran said as he was wheeled to the van, “I’m going back to the Gestapo – sure wish I could stay a little longer.”

Hollywood West invites the veterans for a rib dinner every other month and they have repeat participants.

Plantation Lodge 2273

Plantation Lodge is currently waiting for its Certificate of Occupancy for the new Lodge. The new furniture is being put in place in anticipation of the CO. This process has taken several years to get the Lodge built and their hard work will be rewarded when they open the new Lodge. Plantation has been sharing a Lodge with Hollywood West 2365 for the past year while their Lodge is built. A date for their grand opening has not been set.

South Broward Lodge 2830

South Broward Lodge 2830 has finalizing permitting and accepting bids for the remodeling of the Lodge. It has been almost four years since its inception and they are at last about to begin the hardest part of their tasks: the building itself. When construction begins, it will be a minimum of four to six months before completion. They are looking at options for a meeting place which will be announced at a later time.

The Lodge also participated in the Miramar Fire Department Open House and the City of Miramar Public Safety Night in October with the drug trailer and materials. These two events were attended by over 3,500 people.

Additionally they distributed Red Ribbon materials to all ten elementary schools in the city of Miramar for Red Ribbon Week where they had over 10,000 students and teachers participate.

Once again Christmas arrived early this year for 156 underprivileged children from South Broward County area organizations and agencies. Women in Distress, Susan B. Anthony, Covenant House, and local adoption agencies all helped needy children be treated to Christmas carols, pizza and hot dogs, clowns making balloon animals and providing face painting, and of course the quest of honor, Santa Claus, who arrived by helicopter. This was the fourth year that the South Broward Elks Lodge has provided Christmas for needy children. Members Al & Mary Alfano, both past Elks of the Year recipients, brought this marvelous idea to their Elks Lodge members and it has become the Lodge’s signature charity event every year. The Elks partnered with the city of Pembroke Pines at the Pines Recreation Center on Saturday, December 16 for this outstanding event.

The Lodge holds fundraising events throughout the year and solicits private donations from local businesses and individuals. They also teamed with the local Wal-Mart store which made their shopping dollars really stretch so that all 156 children received a large bag of toys and clothes, and many children received bicycles.

The Miramar Police Department donated much needed automobile cars and booster seats to needy mothers attending the event. The entire Lodge gets behind this most worthy event and really provides a great start for everyone to get into the Christmas spirit. Their special guest, Santa Claus, was City of Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank Ortis who was as excited as the children were for the opportunity to help these children. Just prior to Santa’s arrival, the Lodge made a special presentation to the mayor who was selected Florida’s Mayor of the Year by the League of Cities. Mayor Ortis was quoted as saying, “These are the kind of awards that mean the most to me, coming direct from the community. The Elks are certainly a great part of this city and area.”

South District continued from page 8

Members of North Miami Lodge also sponsored a Christmas Party for needy children in their area. Fifty children and their parents attended the event. The Sunny Isles K-9 Unit treated them to lunch, the arrival of Santa via a fire engine from the Miami-Dade Fire Department, and a demonstration. Each child was presented with a gift from Santa’s bag and most took their wrapped presents to place under the Christmas tree.

Miami Lodge 948

Over 200 Elks members and guests turned out in elegant formal dress on Saturday, November 4, 2006 to enjoy the 52nd Annual Charity Ball held by Miami Lodge 948. This annual event is the premier fundraising event on the Lodge calendar. All proceeds of the event will help support the Lodge’s charitable activities throughout the year.

A silent auction was held throughout the evening and an open bid auction was also held during a break in the dancing. Some of the prized auction items included a Miami Dolphins football autographed by Dan Marino and an official Miami Heat World Championship basketball.

Several Elks dignitaries attended the ball including current District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Harry Kerslake; his wife, Louise; current District Vice President, Donald Schwartz; and his wife, Shirley. The colorful program included a welcome from Florida Governor Jeb Bush, Miami Lodge Exalted Ruler Jeffrey A. Muehlfeld, and Florida State Elks Association President Charles Trinowski

On Tuesday, December 19, Santa Claus visited students attending Leisure City K-8 Center for their annual Christmas party, sponsored by Sunset Congregational Church, Santa, who arrived in a fire engine provided by Leisure City Fire Station 6, was bearing gifts for all children at the school. This year’s party was again a collaborative effort by the Sunset Congregational Church; Leisure City K-8 Center; Miami Elks Lodge 948; Amigos 4 Kids; Inteligencia Research, Inc.; and private contributors. This year the church adopted two families: a family of four (mother, father, and two children) and a family of a single mother with two children. Miami Lodge 948 is proud to support Sunset Congregational Church in this very worthwhile annual project.

ARMY OF HOPE

C. Valentine Bates, PGER, Past Chairman

Elks “Army” Gives Hope to Families of Troops

A pregnant woman in Elmhurst, NY, the wife of a U.S. soldier serving in Iraq, gets help with transportation to the doctor’s office, Laundromat, and grocery store. She is comforted with the knowledge that arrangements have been made to transport her to the hospital when her baby is due.

A wheelchair bound mother gets weekly visits to see how she is doing while her son serves overseas in the military reserves. A heater undergoes repairs for a military family in Albuquerque, NM. A sump pump is replaced and a thermostat is fixed for a family in Salina, KS.

These are just a few of the families and people recently receiving help and aid - thanks to the Elks’ Army of Hope.

In February 2003, then Grand Exalted Ruler Roger R. True sounded the call for the Army of Hope to assist those families of men and women who had been called up to active duty in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East. Since that time, an estimated 1.1 million Elks and volunteers with a variety of work skills have been on the march to lend a hand where help is needed to keep homes functioning until loved ones return.

Supplying the manpower and necessary funding are participating Elks Lodges. These Elks Lodges summon the help of volunteers and assess their job skills; the Lodges contact local Reserve and National Guard units to offer their services either as part of a support group or individually.

Lodges interested in setting up an Army of Hope Program should call the Elks National Veterans Service Commission in Chicago at 866-ELK-VETS.

For 138 years, the Elks have been dedicated to making America a better place to live. We continue that tradition one patriot’s home and family at a time lending credence to our pledge, “So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”
All seven Lodges in the Southwest District participated in the Veteran’s Day Dinner hosted by the Venice-Nokomis Lodge in November. Each Lodge purchased 50 different articles for use by the Veterans such as razors, shaving cream, toiletries, shampoo, toothpaste and tooth brushes and many other items.

**Sarasota Elks Lodge 1519**

The Lodge adopted a family who also is being serviced by the Florida Children’s Therapy Services. 11 month old Gracie Bolyard and her mom Jennifer were treated to a Thanksgiving Dinner and provided with an ample Christmas gifts along with many special need items for the baby.

In addition the lodge has provided 24 needed families with Thanksgiving Dinners and adopted two military families with Christmas gifts and is in the process of providing $1000 in calling cards for our military personnel in Afghanistan or Iraq.

The Elks lodge has donated money the past two years to Daughtrey Elementary Students and has made a commitment to continue supplying the students with new and exciting books for the hallway reading program.

**South Hillsborough Lodge 2672**

Every Friday evening 10 veterans are invited down to the Lodge for their fish fry dinner. The Lodge also contributed dinners for 70 needy families.

The Annual Elks National Foundation Dinner raised $800.

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**ELKS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING**

Although the original beauty of the Elks National Headquarters and Veterans Memorial Building has been fully restored, there continues to be a financial need to keep the building from ever reverting to the condition it was before the Five Million Dollar restoration project was commenced.

A Memorial Building Trust was established to take care of major repairs and to keep the building in its restored brilliance, but the Trust need our donations so that we will have the funds to take care of these needs when they arise.

Donations from $100 to $249 will receive a beautiful, formal acknowledgment certificate, and a copy of the “Story of Elkdom”. Donations from $250 or more will be gratefully acknowledged with a beautiful certificate, and a copy of “History of the Order of Elks” (a 500+ hard-bound book chronologically reviewing the Order from February 16, 1868 through the Lodge year 1987-88).

The job will never be completed and we ask for and encourage your ongoing support.

Since the rededication of this Memorial in July of 1994, over a million dollars has been spent to complete the work then in progress. These funds were taken from that portion of the Trust, which was intended to be a reserve for continuing maintenance.

We are asking the Lodges to consider a fund-raising activity for the Trust.

When you visit the city of Chicago, a tour of the Elks Veterans Memorial Building should be on your itinerary. You will walk in awe through this magnificent structure, and your cherished memories of its beauty will add to the many reasons why you are proud to be an Elk.

The Elks Veterans Memorial Building stands as a striking example that helps spread the word

“**Elks CARE - Elks SHARE**”

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**WHAT IS YOUR LODGE’S HISTORY THIS YEAR?**

The deadline for the ANNUAL SCRAPBOOK CONTEST is approaching. What other fabulous and unique way to publicize Elkdom and your Lodge.

Scrapbooks will be judged on appearance, creativity, context and originality. Competition will be for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The plaques and certificates will be awarded at the State Convention in May. All entries will be displayed there.

Show off your written articles and pictures documenting your hard work, time and of course, fun.

Deadline is March 15, 2007.

Send to Patricia Heller-Jackson, State Vice Chairman Publicity and Public Relations at 4299 So. Atlantic Ave., Ponce Inlet, FL 32127. Any questions, e-mail NJLADY101 @ aol.com or 386-763-2010

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**GRAND LODGE SESSIONS**

**Dates and Locations**

July 8-12, 2007 - Charlotte, North Carolina
July 6-10, 2008 - Anaheim, California
July 5-9, 2009 - Portland, Oregon
July 11-15, 2010 - Orlando, Florida
Gainesville Elks Lodge 990

Gainesville Lodge’s “Iron Chef” competition went very well. Five teams competed; the winner was Team Gyozas (Japanese for Dumplings), Linda Califf, Phyllis Adkins and Bill Mattson.

The Lodge was open for Thanksgiving Dinner, for those who needed a place to eat. A children’s Christmas Party is planned for December 9th.

Final preparations for the upcoming Cruise are being done, should be a fun excursion for all who attend.

Jacksonville Elks Lodge 221

Construction of our new Lodge is well on its way. It is exciting to see the progress.

The Baptist Home Children’s Christmas Party was held December 17th. The Annual Exalted Ruler Egg Nog party was held Sunday December 24th.

St. Augustine Elks Lodge 829

On Saturday, October 14th, the District Vice President, Mr. Ted Beal and his wife Judy hosted their Official Homecoming Visitation. All who attended enjoyed an Oktoberfest theme.

Saturday, December 2nd was their annual “PAL” day in St. Augustine, honoring our armed service members with lunch and admission to the many attractions St Augustine has to offer.

On Saturday, December 9th, the North East District Golf Tournament was held with a full slate of golfers. We are trying to form a group of “Elks on Wheels”, motorcycle club. The places we could go on bikes is endless here in our great state, as well as carry the message of Elkindom.

Orange Park Elks Lodge 2605

In October Orange Park Lodge held their 21st Annual Halloween Party for children. Over 100 parents and children were present, thanks to the efforts of Richi Broaddus and Dennis Hughes, the job they did along with the help of so many others.

On Veterans Day we fed the Lodge fed Veterans a Fish Dinner, with special thanks to Charlie Phillips and crew who made this an enjoyable evening for all.

At Orange Parks Annual Veterans Christmas visit to Lake City on December 16th, we provided pizza, sodas and goodies for our Veterans enjoyment. They always look forward to this time.

ENF Fund Embodies ‘Great Heart of Elkdom’

By John E. Veprek, Jr., Committee Member

The “Great Heart of Elkdom” established in 1928 is a permanent trust fund to further the benevolent, charitable and educational programs of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

Grand Exalted Ruler Arthur H. Frost III has continued the goal of $4 per Member for Fraternal Year 2006-2007. This goal will ensure the continued growth of the Foundation.

The Elks National Foundation believes the philanthropic trust is permanent and that today’s charitable contributions will address the needs of tomorrow, the next day and years to come.

The mission of the Foundation is:

To provide the monetary resources of furthering the Elks’ commitment within our communities and youth-related programs.

To provide assistance to the State Elks Associations in accomplishing their charitable objectives.

To honor our pledge that, “So long as there are Veterans, the Elks will never forget them.”

Show your community that ‘Elks Care - Elks Share’ by promoting the many programs funded through the Elks National Foundation. Several ways are effective in reaching or exceeding your goal of $4 per capita in your lodge.

Are all Lodge officers contributing members to ENF? They should lead by example and take the pledge.

Host a Walk-A-Thon, Bike-A-Thon, Antique Car Show, Polka Run, etc., for the Foundation.

Plan breakfasts or dinners with profits earmarked for the ENF at various times throughout the Lodge year.

Recognize Members with awards and pins at Lodge meetings or social events to encourage others to become contributing members to ENF.

Create a competitive spirit among new candidate classes and strive to have 100 percent sign up for pledges for the ENF on initiation night.

Initiation Elks Mission Statement

By Luigi Caranci, Committee Member

Initiation, a most solemn ceremony that, if performed properly and, above all, from the heart, will give a long-lasting impression to the newly made member. The Initiation gives the candidate a true and full picture of what the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is all about. It teaches us that what we believe in makes this great fraternal organization the best in the world.

The Initiation will not only be an unforgettable experience for the new candidate, but it also renews the vows of our existing members that we cherish dearly. The ceremony itself, in simple words, is very inspiring. The Exalted Ruler and the lodge Ritual team strive to make this ceremony a very joyous occasion.

The Initiation teaches us to be ready when we hear the cry of affliction and to help out in any level when called upon to do so. The Initiation teaches us what life is all about and to show love and respect to one another. The Initiation takes the ordinary person and makes him or her into a member.

Before becoming an Elk and taking the solemn obligation before the altar, the candidate must go through an Indoctrination process. This event should welcome the candidate into our great fraternal organization and inform him or her of what we believe in. The Indoctrination should be the “welcome mat” before Initiation.

On the day of the Initiation, make it a special time for the new candidates and for the officers as well. Wear special regalia, prepare a flag for the candidates and make them feel welcome. Have the candidates tell the lodge about themselves and what they have to offer to become an active member.

Don’t just initiate a member and let him or her fall by the wayside.

Use their ideas and talent and from the very beginning welcome them with wide open arms. Remember, let the Initiation Ritual be solemn and from the heart. This will keep the new member interested and active.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

NEW SPECIES DISCOVERED IN ARCADIA

I’m sure you are well aware of the term “Deadbeat Dad” which is a slang term for someone who has failed to meet their personal obligations. Well, a new subspecies of the “Deadbeat Dad” has been discovered in Arcadia. Meet the “Deadbeat Elk.” The “Deadbeat Elk” comes in a variety of forms, from short to tall, light to heavy in weight and range in age from young to senior citizen. They are both male and female, and the hair color and eye color varies. They often complain about poor service on meal nights, “high” bar prices, and about other areas of the lodge, but a funny thing, these people are never around to help. To those of you who fit this category, take a hint. Much like the old saying reference politics, “don’t complain if you don’t vote,” well, “don’t complain if you don’t help!”

The one common feature of the “Deadbeat Elk” is their unwillingness to meet their obligations to volunteer to help out THEIR lodge. “Obligation”, they say, “We aren’t obligated to help!” Wrong answer “Deadbeat Elk!” YOU ARE OBLIGATED!! Once again, I call your attention to the following excerpts from the Guidebook What it Means to be an Elk, which is published by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

“The charitable and community-service acts of your Lodge will require the personal energies of more that just it’s Officers. Each member should be ready to cooperate with a request for volunteer service within reasonable capabilities.”

“It is only by continuing such a spirit of cooperation that your Lodge can maintain itself as the source of community service and harmony it is designed and intended to be. And it is only by generously putting yourself and your dedication into your Lodge works and associations that you will gain for yourself the greatest satisfaction and happiness possible from your membership in the Order of the Elks.”

While the above may seem to have said “tongue in cheek”, it really isn’t. We can call those who do not support the lodge “Deadbeat Elks” or “Ineffective Elks”, or place whatever label we want on them. The whole point is this volunteer organization, or any volunteer organization for that matter, can only effectively survive through the participation of its membership.

We do not have good participation in Arcadia Lodge 1524.

In a newsletter last fall, I alluded to the fact that only about 10 per cent of the membership was doing the needed volunteer work. This is still true. There are, of course, some exceptions as several of our businessmen Elks very graciously donate their time and services from a professional standpoint. However, the “10 per centers” are going to eventually wear out, and/or simply get tired of being taken advantage of when others fail to help THEIR lodge. If things continue to go as they are now, and that happens, the lodge can easily fold, as no one will be around to work. To my fellow Elks, it is time to get off our collective butts and get to work. Once again, if you joined the Elks just for a place to have a drink and/or eat, you have done yourself AND the Lodge a disservice.

In looking at the ages of our lodge members, they run from 23 to 90. I used January 1, 2006 as my starting point and the birth year of our members to arrive at the following breakdown. This is probably off by a few numbers (plus or minus) as I did not use the birth month. Eleven members are in their 20s, 21 are in their 30s, 43 are in their 40s, 96 are in their 50s, 111 are in their 60s, 137 are in their 70s, 10 are in their 80s and one member is 90. We obviously have to consider age (almost 79% of the members are above the age of 50), and health as contributing factors in the amount of time a person can volunteer and with what activities they can assist. The object is to pick out what you feel comfortable with and volunteer. Even an hour or two helping with preparing for a fund raising party is a tremendous help. Contact an Officer and let him/her know you are interested in working on a committee, or cooking one night, or helping where needed.

The preceding is my own viewpoint. I fully realize that not everyone can contribute due to health, time, personal situations, and such. I am not being pessimistic about this situation, or trying to hurt anyone’s feelings. I am simply being honest and realistic as I see things. It really bothers the heck out of me when I see spouses, who are not members; constantly working long hours and many Elks do nothing. That is just wrong and those Elks, if capable, need to change their attitude!

Tom Damron
Special Kids..... Special Needs.....
Special Memories!

A rope swing is a great way to have fun, but to a child with special needs or one who is wheelchair bound, it is something they only dream about. Throughout the year, many special needs groups visit your youth camp. With the help of our skilled staff and members from various lodges, we turn these kids’ dreams into reality. Rope swings, archery, slip n’ slide, paddle boats, and many other activities are all made possible.