South Southwest District and Fort Myers Lodge 1288 Presents
David B. Lake for State President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southwest District and Fort Myers Lodge 1288 are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of David B. Lake as a candidate for the office of President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

David Brent Lake was born August 13, 1950 and raised in Southeastern Ohio. Following high school graduation, he moved with his family to Fort Myers, Florida. He attended Fort Myers Technical College in the evenings. After graduating, he enrolled in Edison Community College and received his diploma in 1973.

In 1972 David married Kathy Brothers, a high school classmate. They first resided in Cape Coral until 1990 when they moved to their current Fort Myers address. They also have a condo in Sanford, Florida. Kathy worked as an Elementary School Library Media Specialist for 31 years and retired in 2003. David has been employed by Certified Slings, Inc. for over twenty years where he is a Vice President. He serves on the company’s Senior Leadership Team and also on the company’s Board of Directors. David and Kathy do not have children but enjoy their nieces and nephews.

David was sponsored into membership at Fort Myers Elks Lodge 1288 by his father, Charles Lake, in 1972. It wasn’t long after becoming a member that he was approached by members of the ritual team and asked to be their candidate. This eventually led to his becoming an officer of Fort Myers Elks Lodge where he filled each of the chairs until he was elected Exalted Ruler in 1978-79. Following his year as Exalted Ruler, he was elected to the Board of Trustees and served for five years. He has served his district as chairman of the following committees: Americanism 1979-80, Youth Activities 1982-83, New Lodges 1983-84, and Interlodge Visitation 1984-85 and 1986-87.

David has served the State Association as State Chairman of Youth Activities in 1984-85 and as State Historian for 1986-87. He then served as Vice President of the Florida Southwest District in 1987-88 and the following year as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1988-89. During that year he had the opportunity to preside over the Institution of North Fort Myers Elks Lodge 2742. The following year he worked with the Organizational Committee to form the Bonita Springs Elks Lodge 2753. In 1990 he was appointed by State President David Luikart to serve as State Chairman of the Elks Veterans Memorial Restoration Project. He remained State Chairman until 1997 when the fundraising project was concluded. In 1990 he was appointed to serve on the Florida Elks Properties Board of Directors and is in his seventeenth year of service to that board. At the State Convention in Orlando in 2006, David was elected to serve as Florida State Elks Association Vice President at Large.

Dear Friends

There are times (very rarely) when subjects for this column do not come to mind so easily. Those in the writing business would probably call it: “writers block”. Not in business, I call it “brain blank”.

So, for the three weekend’s just past, I will share my travels.

(1) The Exalted Ruler/Secretary Seminar in Orlando. It was very well attended and included enthusiasm on the part of the participants for the opportunity to obtain information useful and necessary for the operation of their lodges. It was quite evident that more and more of our lady members are assuming leadership roles in the Lodges. That may be both, good and bad; good because the ladies are very goal oriented and knowledgeable; bad because it makes me wonder if our male members are becoming a little lazy and not as involved as needed.

(2) The next weekend was the Exalted Ruler/Secretary Seminar in Lake City.

This Seminar is designed to provide those officers in North Florida an easier opportunity for the instructions. It was the same program as the Orlando Seminar and the response from those in attendance was just as enthusiastic. The instructors are the same at the two Seminars and they do a great job, while giving up two weekends and traveling some distances.

(3) Pat and I traveled to Pensacola Beach for the dedication of its new lodge building. It was a tremendous occasion.

The prior lodge building (which was right on the water) was totally destroyed by one of the hurricanes. The members raised money, the Grand Lodge Insurance Program paid the full values of the destroyed facilities, the Lodge obtained a loan from the Small Business Administration and a bank loaned the balance necessary to rebuild at the same location.
2006–2007 OFFICERS OF THE FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.

PRESIDENT.................Charles Trinowski--Mary Ann           David B. Lake--Kathy
56 S. Winter Park Dr.            56 S. Winter Park Dr.
P. O. Box 50369                      P. O. Box 50369
Casselberry, FL 32707-4409         Casselberry, FL 32707-4409
Winter Park Lodge 1830            Winter Park Lodge 1830
Fort Myers Lodge 1288           Fort Myers Lodge 1288

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS..............
Northwest.................Michael W. Warren.......Pensacola Beach Lodge 497
North...............James E. Hollingsworth.........Lake City Lodge 893
Northeast...............Ted L. Beal, Jr. ...........St. Augustine Lodge 829
North Central.........Ralph D. Wyley................Ladue Lake Lodge 2793
East Central........Willis D. Armstrong...........Port Orange Lodge 2722
Central....................Donna ZuK...................Brooks Lake Lodge 2582
Southeast Central.....Lenny Smallacombe.......West St. Lucie Lodge 2823
West Central.................Michael Pierson...........Seminole Lodge 2519
Southwest Central.......Wm. J. Hutchinson.......Venice-Nokomis Lodge 1854
Southwest.........Peter E. Vaphiades..............Port Charlotte Lodge 2153
Southeast.............Gary Breakfield................Clewiston Lodge 1853
South Southeast......James F. Lind........South Broward Lodge 2830
South.....................Donald H. Schwartz.............Miami Lodge 948
Southwest Central......Donald J. Schwartz............Miami Lodge 948
Southwest Central......Belle Glade Lodge 1716
Treasurer...............Joseph B. Bryant...............Sebring Lodge 1529
Tiler......................Duane Whatley............................Ocala Lodge 286
Historian........Lowell P. Tyler...............West Palm Beach Lodge 1352
Curator of Museum...Don Sansoussi..................Lake Placid Lodge 2661

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas E. Elmore, Jr....................Chairman.............5917 N. 1st Street, Davenport, FL 33837
James A. Coggins..............Vice Chairman............Warrington Lodge 2108
Michael Phillips...............Secretary ..................Titusville Lodge 2013
James T. Ryan, Jr. ............Treasurer ..................Plantation Lodge 2273
Frank F. Smith, Jr............Treasurer .................Plant City Lodge 1727
Joseph B. Ortiz..............Treasurer ..................North Miami Beach 1855

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Northwest...........James L. White........Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787
North...............Stanley Cox...................Lake City Lodge 893
Northeast..............Robert Catuto........St. Augustine Lodge 829
North Central.......Jodie Crews..................Eustis Lodge 1578
East Central........John S. Parker, Jr. ....New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557
Central...............Ross E. Evers..................Orlando Lodge 1079
Southeast Central.....Charles M. Yates............Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658
West Central........Charles L. Barnes, Jr.........St. Petersburg Lodge 1224
Southwest Central......Tom Ludwick...............Plant City Lodge 1727
Southwest West.........Frank Malatesta, Jr..........Sarasota Lodge 1519
Southwest South........Daniel C. Langham..........Englewood Lodge 2378
Southeast..............Ernest L. Basil............Okeechobee Lodge 2558
South Southeast.........Gerald W. Carter............Plantation Lodge 2273
South......................North Miami Beach 1855

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Chaplain........Vincent P. Como..........Margate Lodge 2463
Sgt. at Arms.........Joe B. Rogers........Sanford Lodge 1241
Organist........Charles R. Bugbee...........Zephyrhills Lodge 2731

HARRY-ANNA INVESTMENT FUND, INC.

Michael F. Smith........President............Plant City Lodge 1727
Thomas E. Elmore........Vice President.........Okeechobee Lodge 2558

FLORIDA ELKS CHARITIES, INC.

Winston M. Needham........President............Ocala Lodge 286
James L. Solana..............Vice President............St. Augustine Lodge 829

FLORIDA ELKS PROPERTIES, INC.

James E. Hurst, Jr........President...............Jacksonville Lodge 221
R. William Wellbaum, Jr. Vice President........Englewood Lodge 2378

FLORIDA ELKS MAJOR PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Winston M. Needham........Chairman............Ocala Lodge 286

FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP, INC.

Ron Christian............President............Pensacola Beach Lodge 497
Donald Watson..............Vice President............Live Oak Lodge 1165
Lynn Warburton............Director.............Palm Coast Lodge 2709

FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES, INC.

Michael W. Chandler........President............Ormond Beach Lodge 2193
William S. Wilson.............Vice President............Jacksonville Lodge 221
Ben S. Brown, Jr............Administrator.............Eustis Lodge 1578

PAST GRAND EXALTED RULERS

Robert Graffon, PGER, Florida Sponsor
10523 SW 12th Terrace - Micanopy - 32657
C. Valentine Bates, PGER 1511 NW 6th Street - Gainesville - 32601

The State Association Year is quickly coming to a close. When the gavel sounds at the State Convention we will begin the process of renewal. Mary Ann and I along with our Team have traveled to the fourteen Districts and spread the word of our Major Projects and other great State Association Programs.

We visited the Elks National Retirement Center and met with the Florida residents presenting them with your gifts. The Grand Exalted Ruler, Jack Frost and his wife Sharon visited our State in February and you showed them how hospitable Florida Elks can be. At the same time the President of the Georgia Elks Association, J.D. Hall and his wife Ruth, visited our State and you graciously received them. Recently, we traveled and visited with the Georgia Elks and were warmly received by them. We traveled to Valdosta, Georgia for the Regional Hoop Shoot and witnessed two of the competitors from Florida advance to the Nationals.

As I am writing this article Mary Ann and I are preparing to go to the State Golf Tournament. We still have to go to the Harry Anna Investment Seminar, the State Softball Tournament and the State Bowling Tournament to finish out this year’s activities.

It has been a fantastic year. We exceeded the goal set for Harry Anna Trust Fund donations and the goal set for the Elks National Foundation donations.

The Florida Elks Youth Camp continues to shine in its’ achievements. The Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Service continues to treat more and more children.

All of the Districts went out of their way to provide the team with the finest in hospitality and fraternality during our visits. All Districts made sure that our needs were taken care of during our stay. Mary Ann and I want to extend a thank you to the District Vice Presidents and their significant others for all their hard work at the visitations and during the year.

GRAND EXALTED RULER VISITS FLORIDA

Grand Exalted Ruler Arthur “Jack” Frost III and wife, Sharon, visited with the Florida Elks February 7-10, 2007. He and his wife were given a tour of the award winning Florida Elks Youth Camp by the Director of the Youth Camp, Lynn Warburton and are shown here before a layout of the Nature Trail that is under construction. They also met with the Administrator of the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Ben Brown, and some of the therapists.

As there is an end there is a beginning. For Mary Ann and I it is the end. For David, Kathy, Joe and Rita it is a beginning. Show them what the Elks of Florida are all about. This is not a goodbye but more of, until we meet again. Thank you.
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert, PDD

The 2007 Exalted Ruler Elect and Secretary Elect Seminars were held the second and third weekends in March in Orlando and Lake City, respectively. I am again happy to report that the attendance continues to remain above average and judging from post seminar attendee comments, the seminar continues to get better and better. Our team of instructors works very hard to deliver useful and thought provoking instruction to the attendees, and their diligence is most appreciated. Many thanks go to this hardworking team. They are Chairman, Tom Elmore, PSP-PGELDGK; Past State Presidents Mike Phillips and Frank Palladini; and PDDs Vincent Como, John Harris, and Lynn Warburton. Exalted Rulers Elect from 99 of our 112 Lodges were in attendance, as were 72 Secretaries Elect and 11 other officers. The 2008 seminars will be held March 8-9 and March 15-16.

The 101st Annual Convention of the Florida State Elks Association will be held May 24th through the 26th at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. At the time of this writing, very few rooms remain in our room block and another sellout is expected. Overflow accommodations will be provided at the All-Star resorts located a few miles from the Coronado. We are expecting another great crowd this year and for the most part, the convention and related activities will be run much as they were last year with a few exceptions. All attendees are expected to register upon arrival at the convention at the North Convention Registration Counter. Pre-registration is offered through the state office by calling Elaine at (800) 532-1673 ext. 226. Pre-registration is not required but is strongly encouraged as this is the only way you may purchase tickets to the Luncheon sponsored by the Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE) and the President’s Banquet. It is also the only way you can arrange to have a pre-printed badge available for you when you check-in at the convention registration booth. A badge is required for admission to most convention sessions and activities. Registration will open on Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. More information on the State Convention can be found on our web site at www.fleks.org. A second change this year involves the scheduling of the general sessions. This year, the convention schedule has been realigned to ensure that during the three general sessions (one Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon) there are no other meetings or activities going on that would detract from attendance at the sessions. We are also making changes to the sessions that we hope will make them more entertaining and appealing by using audio and video to supplement the presentations. For certain, you will not want to miss the Saturday afternoon general session that is open to both Elks and their guests. This session will showcase our most popular contests and committees and will include award presentations to the winners of the State Soccer Shoot, Hoop Shoot, and Americanism Essay Contest as well as the presentation of the 2007 recipients of the Albertus and Boots Van Duren Scholarships. One of our mainstays, “Tunes in the Courtyard”, will again be offered in the evenings (weather permitting of course) on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday until 10:00 p.m. The President’s Banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude by 9:00 p.m. on Saturday and will include the Officer Installation, Ritual presentations, and Shootout. If you need more information on the 2007 State Convention, please contact the state office. I hope you are planning on attending this year’s annual convention of the Florida State Elks Association!

Hotel reservations for the 2007 Charlotte, NC Grand Lodge Convention are now being accepted. The Florida delegation hotel is the Hilton Charlotte Center City and the convention is being held right next door at the Charlotte Convention Center July 8th through the 12th. Rooms may still be obtained by contacting Elaine at the state office at (800) 532-1673 ext. 226. Hotel reservation forms as well as forms to order tickets for the Florida Dinner and Breakfast are available on our web site at www.fleks.org.

April began a new year in our Lodges and I wish to congratulate the newly installed leaders of our Lodges! I know that the months of March and April were especially busy for everyone, yet through it all, our Exalted Rulers and Secretaries did another tremendous job of providing our office with all of the new information regarding their officers and committees. Because of this outstanding response, much of the information found in the Lodge Directory has already been made available at our web site, and the printed version should be available in late June! I will remind you that our database of information is only as accurate as you make it, so please keep us informed of address and personnel changes throughout the year so that we can keep the lines of communication open and working! I can’t believe another year is now history! It has been another great year for the Florida Elks and our Major Projects, and it has again been my honor and privilege to serve our Association as its State Secretary! Space does not permit me to personally thank everyone for their continued support and cooperation, so thank you one and all!

FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS

Dolores L. Casella, President
Peace: A state of concord or tranquility.

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

On February 10th we had our Quarterly Meeting in Umatilla at the Youth Camp. The packets for the May Luncheon and Chinese Auction to be held at the Elks Convention were given out to the Delegates from each District. I hope everyone is getting their reservations in so that they will not miss this wonderful yearly event.

Grand Exalted Ruler Arthur Frost visited our meeting along with the FSEA dignitaries and declared our Youth Camp to be the best he has seen. State President Charlie Trinowski told us how much the residence of the Elks National Home enjoyed getting the Christmas stockings and cards for both Christmas and birthdays from us. Mary Ann Trinowski read a very complimentary letter she had received from the Home regarding what we do.

PSP Betty Pickenpaugh is Chairlady of the By-Laws Committee and announced the By-Laws were being reviewed by her Committee and recommendations for any changes should be sent to her prior to May 15th. Chairlady of the Nominating Committee, Carole Weston, announced her Committee would be meeting May 25th to consider the letters received from those seeking offices. I hope all of you who desire an office have gotten your letter in to Carole so that you may be considered.

Since the last writing, Sam and I have had the pleasure of attending the State President’s visit in the North East District hosted by the St. Augustine Lodge and the Homecoming in the North Central District hosted by the Lady Lake Lodge. Both were beautifully done, had marvelous food and excellent entertainment; we thoroughly enjoyed both events.

We also had the distinct honor of attending the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Holiday Isles Ladies of Elks, given by the Holiday Isles Elks. It was a magnificent event of total elegance from beginning to end. Our spirits were dampened at the end by the announcement that the Holiday Isles Ladies of Elks would be disbanded on March 31st. Since then I have also been advised the ladies organization at Fort Myers will be taking a year’s sabbatical as of April 1st in hopes of reorganizing at the end of the year; they have been a ladies organization for 43 years. Both of these announcements have been received with a heavy heart and the hope that reorganization can take place and the ladies organizations can flourish again as in the past.

The Conference this year will be at the Hilton, Melbourne Rialto Place, from October 4th thru 7th. The packets with all the information and forms will be given out to the Delegates at the FLOE meeting held at 8:00 AM, Saturday, May 26th, at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort. The theme is the Dove for Love and Peace; the colors are burgundy and beige. I am hoping the attendance at this Conference will be high. Now that ladies Elks as well as Elks Ladies can attend we hope that you will register and attend our meeting, luncheon and President’s Banquet; you do not have to be a member of a ladies organization to attend and as always the afternoon session will be open to all. The Melbourne Rialto Place is excited about our organization being there and has promised to go all out to make our stay a pleasant one. It is a hotel with beautiful rooms and a great restaurant. It is located centrally in Melbourne with access to many interesting shops and places. Contact your ladies organization, District Delegates, an Advisory Council member, any officer or myself for the registration forms and information.

Remember, you are FLOE if you are the wife or widow of an Elks in good standing. Come out and join us at our meetings, find out what you can do to further the goals of the Elks State Projects through our organization. The Elks support us; let’s support the Elks.

Dolores

Attention Members

The biographical data of the President, VPAL and Vice Presidents elect in this issue of the news is included in order to expedite the meetings and voting process at the State Convention. The nominations will not be read on the floor of the assembly.
FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES

An Occupational Therapist shares her experiences

My name is Elizabeth Maina; I am a Registered Occupational Therapist treating children in the North West District. I live in Fort Walton Beach, and have been with the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services since April 1st 1999. It has been an extremely fulfilling and wonderful experience to see so many needy children come through the FECTS program and leave with their quality of life significantly changed for the better. It is truly amazing to witness the smiles your generosity has put on the faces of these children and their families out of very desperate situations.

All the children referred to us would not be able to receive these services from anywhere else because they have no funding, do not have transportation to the therapy clinics, or there are no providers especially in the rural areas.

Let me share with you an experience from one of my children who is on my current caseload.

James is a 2 year old boy living with both parents and his 6 other siblings. His family lives in one of my rural corners where there are limited therapy providers. His mother stays home with the children because they are so close in age-ranging from about 6 months to 8 years and she can’t afford day-care services.

The father is mostly out of town because his job requires him to travel. They only have one family car, so whenever the father is gone, mom does not have means of getting around. The family does not even have a reliable telephone service.

The family has Medicaid which would pay for therapy, but they have no means of transport to the therapy clinic and there are no in-home therapy providers in the area. James was referred to us for therapy through the Early Steps program about 3 months ago.

James is very small for his age because of all the medical complications he has and the fact that he is a very poor feeder. When he was referred to us, he seemed like a 4 month old baby both in size and developmentally. He had no head control, no eye tracking, no reaching out to toys for play, his mouth remained open with drooling all the time, and kept his hands fisted most of the time.

The mother was completely overwhelmed in dealing with all the issues James had, mostly by herself. She had given up on finding a therapist in the area and was planning to relocate although she did not have the means to.

Now I am happy to report to you the family is happy because they feel they have support and mother is able to learn and understand more of James’s condition including what to do to help him get better. James is also happy. He is now able to track objects with eyes, reach out for toys with both hands and bring them to his mouth, plays and moves his legs and feet, has partial head control, sits for a few minutes without assistance and closes his mouth with less drooling at least half the time. He is now learning to use his pacifier and his sucking has improved.

Because of improved strength in his oral musculature, his feeding skills have improved and he is gradually gaining some weight. It is because of all your generosity that James, his family and other children like him are smiling today.

From James, his family, others like them and myself – we say, “Thank-you all so much for helping change the lives of these young ones and giving them hope for a better tomorrow.”

I have been able to provide therapy to hundreds of children and traveled thousands of miles throughout the panhandle. My average caseload has been about 19-20 children every week and almost 3,000 miles every month. I am currently on my 3rd van which has about 74,000 miles.

I normally see children Monday through Thursday and then spend Friday completing paper work, returning calls, marketing, treatment planning, and any other office related responsibilities.

The greatest challenge in my job is good planning. The North West District covers a very wide area which is mostly rural. We get referrals from all corners in the district without predicting which particular area the next child will come from at any given time. The ages for the children also varies from the infants whose nap times are unpredictable to the high-schoolers whose school bus routes could change affecting their arrival time at home. That means some kids would like to be seen early in the morning while others would not be available at home till late after school. It is always exciting when I come up with a schedule that works well for all the children and their families because we constantly have to change it as we admit new children.

My typical day starts at around 8:00 am with a quick review of the files for the children to be seen that day. I also take a few minutes returning any urgent calls or Emails. I usually leave my house at about 8.30 am and then be back about 5:00 pm. At the end of the day, I have to check my voice mail, return some calls /emails and then be completely done around 5:30 pm.

As a therapist, I want to thank-you very much for making my job so fulfilling in doing what I love most, which is putting a smile on a child’s face in a more permanent and fruitful way. I love my job very much, I look forward to it every single day as I wait anxiously to see the next baby smile, because his life has been changed and made fruitful through your gracious and kind donations.

Thank-you to all of you. 
Elizabeth Maina, OTR/L, North West District

South District and North Miami Lodge 1835 Presents

Joseph A. Ortiz for State Vice President at Large

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South District and North Miami Lodge 1835 are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Joseph A. Ortiz as a candidate for the office of Vice President at Large of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Joseph Anthony Ortiz was born in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico on December 9, 1947 and lived there until the age of seven. Joe is the second oldest of seventeen children. In 1955 he moved to Miami, Florida to study and live with his Aunt Ana and Uncle Joe. He attended Immaculate Conception Catholic School and Archbishop Curley High School. At Curley High he was a member of the wrestling team and football team and in 1967 he was Senior Class President. Joe attended Miami-Dade Junior College for six months where he met Rita Di Pietro.

On May 25, 1968 they have four sons who all graduated from Curley High and 6 ½ grandchildren. Their oldest grandson, Desi, is a sophomore at, you guessed it, Curley High. In the summer of 1968 Joe began his career in the elevator industry with Otis Elevator Company. In 1976 Joe and Rita decided to form their own independent elevator company. Today they own a family operated elevator manufacturing company, M & J Elevator, Inc., which is being run by sons Joe, Jr.; Nick; and Richard. Their third eldest son, Matt, works as a Corporate Account Manager for a large real estate company in the New York metropolitan area.

Joe was initiated as a member of North Miami Lodge 1835 in November 1994. He was sponsored by Exalted Ruler Raul Gomez. In 1996 he was elected as Lodge Trustee and in 1998 he was the Exalted Ruler.

In 1999 he was elected as a Lodge Trustee and was immediately appointed as the Chairman of the Trustees where he has served for seven of the last eight years. Joe has served on many Lodge committees including the Investment Committee. Joe’s wife, Rita; sons Joe, Jr., Nick, and Richard; and daughter-in-law, Barbara; are members of North Miami Lodge 1835. On the district level he has worked on many committees and his proudest moment was when he and his North Miami Lodge sponsored and presided over the institution of South Broward Lodge 2830 and he served as the South Broward Lodge Advisor for the first year.

Joe has served the State Association for three years as Regional Chairman of LFNB Scholarships and for three years as Regional Chairman of Accident Prevention. In 2002 Joe was elected as the South District Vice President and in 2004 had the honor of serving the South District as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. In 2005 he was appointed as the Chairman of the Manpower Committee for the 2006 Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando. In 2005 he was also appointed State Chaplain by State President Don Sansoussi and as a member of the FSEA Board of Directors by PSP Anthony J. DeLuca, Sr. At the 2006 Mid-year Convention, Joe was endorsed as the Florida State Elks Association Vice President at Large for 2007-08 by the Past State Presidents Advisory Council.
Steve has been honored as the service unit cookie co-chairperson for the service unit. Steve has also served on a Cub Scout Pack for four years, having served on a Cub Scout Pack for two years, Hoop Shoot for one year, and he has served as a State Regional Chairman for the Drug Awareness Education Committee. He has also served as the District Chairman for Elks National Foundation for two years. Steve served as District Chairman for Elks National Foundation for one year. Steve has served on several committees and on various family events. Steve has been honored as Elk of the Month in June of 1986.

Steve is also very active with scouting, working on several committees and on various family events. Steve has been honored as the service unit Volunteer of the Year.

North Central District Presents

Stephen J. Mahoney for District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North Central District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Stephen J. Mahoney as a candidate for the office of North Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Steve was born in Salem, Massachusetts in 1956 and went to Peabody public schools. He graduated from Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute in 1974. Steve became an Elk in Massachusetts at Peabody Lodge 1409 in 1985. While there he worked on several committees and on various family events. He was honored as Elk of the Month in June of 1986.

He moved to Florida in 1991 and transferred his membership to Apopka Lodge 2422. There he has held the positions of Lodge Esquire, Leading Knight, and then Exalted Ruler for two years in a row.

Steve served as District Chairman for Elks Training for three years. He served as the District Chairman for Elks National Foundation Scholarships for one year, Officers’ Attendance for two years, Hoop Shoot for one year, and has served as a State Regional Chairman for the Accident Prevention Committee for the past three years.

Steve is also very active with scouting, having served four years on a Cub Scout Pack Committee including one year as its chairman. He has also served eight years with the Girl Scouts which included four years as the cookie co-chairperson for the service unit. Steve has been honored as the service unit Volunteer of the Year.

Northwest District Presents

David P. Cagle for District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northwest District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of David P. Cagle as a candidate for the office of Northwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

David became an Elk in Tennessee at Jackson Lodge 192 where he served in the positions of Secretary, Lecturing Knight, and Leading Knight and was a member of the House Committee.

He moved to Florida in 2000 and transferred his membership to Fort Walton Lodge 1795. There he has held the positions of Inner Guard, Chaplain, Leading Knight, and then Exalted Ruler for three years in a row. He has served on various committees including Indoctrination,

where he was Chairman two years; Harry-Anna Trust Fund, where he was Chairman three years; the House Committee for two years; and the Youth Activities Committee and Drug Awareness Education Committee.

David served as the District Chairman for Indoctrination for two years. He served as the District Ritual Chairman and has served as a State Regional Chairman for the Membership Committee the past three years.

David has been quite active in Ritual earning the title of District Ritual Champion as Inner Guard and Chaplain. He was also the State Winner in the Eleven O’clock Toast competition in 2006.

North District Presents

Janet da Silva for District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Janet da Silva as a candidate for the office of North District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Janet was born and raised in a small town in Scotland. She began training to become a nurse at the age of sixteen and came to the United States in 1952. She lived with her aunt and uncle in Lake Forest, Illinois during the summers and in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in the winters. She graduated from Fort Lauderdale High School in 1954. She attended Florida State University and the Illinois Masonic Hospital School of Nursing and in 1956 enlisted in the Women’s Army Corp.

There she served three years, training first as a front line Corpsman and then graduating as a Neuropsych. Tech. In 1958 while at Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco, she became a U.S. citizen.

Janet served as the District Chairman for the Drug Awareness Education Committee and the Americanism Committee. She served as the State Chairman for the Drug Awareness Education Committee for three years and has served as a State Regional Chairman for the Drug Awareness Education Committee this past year.

Janet is a member of the Anna Miller Circle of Live Oak and is a Past Circle President, a delegate to the Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE), and a past FLOE officer.

In her spare time she enjoys crafting, reading, and spoiling her grandkids.

Northeast District Presents

J. Garfield Hurt for District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northeast District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of J. Garfield Hurt as a candidate for the office of Northeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Garfield grew up in Charleston, South Carolina and moved to Florida in 1983 to attend law school. He is a graduate of Nova Law School in Davie, Florida and the University of Southern Mississippi (1974). He has been a member of the Florida Bar since 1987 and practices in the Jacksonville area.

He became an Elk in Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892 in 2002. There he has served as a Trustee, Leading Knight, and Exalted Ruler. He has also served as the Presiding Justice for two Lodges and has served on the State Lodge Activities Committee and was its chairman this past year.

Garfield has been married to his wife of 31 years, Lisa, and they have two grown children living in Florida.
NOMINATIONS FOR DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENT

East Central District Presents

Thomas E. Pollard for District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s East Central District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Thomas E. Pollard as a candidate for the office of East Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Tom was born at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1949 and attended the Georgia Military Academy in College Park, Georgia. He attended Gordon Military College in Barnesville, Georgia but did not graduate.

Tom became an Elk in Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870 in 1990 and demitted to Deland Lodge 1463 in 1996. While an Elk, Tom has chaired six Lodge committees and eight district committees.

He has served in the chairs as Esquire, Lecturing Knight, and Leading Knight and as Exalted Ruler and Trustee for four years. Tom has been honored by the Lodge as Officer of the Year.

Tom has served in his district as the Esquire to the District Deputy and is currently completing his fourth year as the President of the District PER Association. He served the state as a State Regional Chairman for the Drug Awareness Education Committee for three years and as the Vice Chairman of the Americanism Committee this past year.

Tom enjoys all sports and has created and conducts fundraising golf tournaments for the Lodge and district.

Tom was a PGA Class “A” Golf Professional for sixteen years. He has owned a promotional and fundraising company; has been a nightclub entertainer and owner; has worked as a sales and service technician for a music company servicing pool tables, jukeboxes, and video games; and is currently a Mortgage Broker.

Tom is married to his wife of 9 years, Tina, and he has two children and two step-children.

West Central District Presents

Edmund Tuthill for District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s West Central District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Edmund Tuthill as a candidate for the office of West Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Ed was born in Roselle Park, New Jersey in 1943. Upon graduating high school in 1961 he enlisted in the U. S. Navy. After completing basic training and hospital corpsman school in the Great Lakes, he served two years at St. Alban’s Naval Hospital on Long Island New York.

From that duty station he attended field medical school and was assigned to the U. S. Marine Corps at Camp Lejune, North Carolina.

Upon completion of his military duty, Ed embarked on a career in retail management and held various management positions with companies from Florida to New Jersey. In 1976 he owned and operated two restaurants in North Carolina.

In 1981, after selling his restaurants, he moved to New Port Richey and is currently employed with the Pasco County Government.

Ed became an Elk in New Port Richey Lodge 2284 in 1993. There he served on many Lodge committees and has held the positions of Chaplain, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, and Esquire. He was elected Exalted Ruler in 2000-01 and has served for five years on the Board of Trustees.

Ed was honored by his Lodge as the Officer of the Year in 2001-02.

Ed served as District Chairman for Hoop Shoot for three years. He has also served as Chaplain of the District PER Association and in 2006-07 as the Esquire to District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Mario Fergoliz. Most recently he has held the offices of State Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Drug Awareness Education Committee.

Ed resides in Hudson, Florida with his lady, Mary Ann Forbes, PER. Ed has two daughters; his older daughter resides in Maine and his younger daughter lives in Florida.

Southeast Central District Presents

Christopher J. Carlisle for District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast Central District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Christopher J. Carlisle as a candidate for the office of Southeast Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Chris was born in Bronx, New York in 1955 and moved to Miami in 1960. He attended Miami area schools and graduated from Christopher Columbus Catholic High School for boys. Chris joined the Air Force in 1974 and served as a medic assigned to the dental field. After leaving the Air Force, Chris worked as a carpenter and later a truck driver in Miami until returning to school to make use of his GI bill. Chris attended Jackson Memorial School of Nursing, attaining his diploma as an RN in 1982.

As an RN, Chris worked in both staff and agency positions, in ER and ICU, on a Wagon Train for juvenile delinquents, on a sailboat on a transatlantic voyage, and in a Coronary Care Unit in Jerusalem, Israel. His career eventually led him to Colorado where he reorganized the emergency department of a rural hospital, served as a hospital director of emergency services, and converted a small town ER to a regional Emergency Department. Chris eventually returned to school where he attended The University of North Dakota for studies as a Physician Assistant, graduating in January 1997. He later worked in Moultrie, Georgia, eventually finding his way to Vero Beach where he worked in a dermatology practice for 6 ½ years. Chris is currently employed as a Dermatology PA by Dr. Rotman at the American Institute of Dermatology in Sebring. He is also working one day a week in a walk-in clinic in Vero. Chris was honored by the Florida Academy of Physician Assistants as PA of the Year in 2004.

Chris became an Elk in Colorado at Cortez Lodge 1789 in 1991. While there he served as Chaplain and Esquire and in all the chairs. He competed in Ritual each year, taking second in state as Chaplain. In 1996 Chris sponsored Judy McCart, a Vietnam Veteran, who was the first female Elk in the state of Colorado. In 2000, Chris moved back to Florida where he immediately became active in Sebastian Lodge 2714. He served as Soccer Shoot Chairman, Indoctrination Chairman, and cooked in the kitchen on a regular basis. He also served as Leading Knight for an unexpired term in 2000-01 and as Exalted Ruler in 2001-02 and again in 2003-04. Chris was honored by his Lodge as Elk of the Year in 2003.

Chris served as District Chairman for Soccer Shoot and has most recently served as State Vice Chairman and Chairman for the Ladies Organizations Committee.

Chris has served as Vice President of the PTA at Liberty Magnet Elementary, and he has volunteered as a soccer coach for nearly six years and as a Cub Scout leader for two years.

Chris met his wife, Carmen, in Colorado in 1989. They began taking care of children as foster parents, and after serving in that capacity for two years, they adopted two children, Kendra and Steven. They also underwent an IVF procedure for infertility and were blessed with triplets. Savannah, Veronica, and Dustin were born April 18, 1998. Chris’ wife, Carmen, has recently been elected to serve as President of Sebastian ElDoes. His five children are now 13, 11, and 9, 9, and 9, and his dream is to see each of them initiated as Elks when they come of age. Everyone wants younger members; Chris is raising his own.
Doris J. Waddell for
District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Doris J. Waddell as a candidate for the office of Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Doris was born and raised in southeastern Ohio and attended local schools. She took classes at Muskingum College and worked as an accountant for eight years, as town clerk treasurer for seven years, as an officer manager for a medical office for five years, and as an accountant for a CPA for four years.

After her husband’s retirement in 1994, they moved to Bradenton, Florida. Doris became an Elk in Manasota Lodge 2734 in 1998 after first serving in 1996 as a spouse volunteering to help the Lodge Treasurer and Secretary. As an Elk, she has chaired many Lodge committees and has served several years as Secretary as well as Leading Knight, Treasurer, and Exalted Ruler in 2002-03. Doris has been honored by her Lodge as both Officer and Elk of the Year.

Doris has served as District Chairman for Community Activities, Indocrtination, and Interlodge Visitation. She served the district in 2005 as Events Coordinator, assisting the District Deputy in raising the most money for the Hurricane Charley Relief Fund, and she served as the Auditor for the District Deputy in 2005-06. She has also served as the State Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Elks Training Committee and most recently as a State Regional Chairman for the Government Relations Committee.

While in Ohio Doris was very active in her church and community. She served on her church session and also as church treasurer. She served on the Board of Trade for ten years, holding the office of president for two of those years. She was the treasurer of her town’s “Revitalization Committee” for seven years, was active in the Boy Scouts as a Scout Coordinator, and was a Den Mother for a number of years.

Doris has been married to her husband, Richard, for 48 1/2 years. They have five children, eleven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

South Southeast District
Presents

Alan R. Mauk, Jr. for
District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southeast District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Alan R. Mauk, Jr. as a candidate for the office of District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Alan was born and raised in Rochester, Pennsylvania. He earned an AS Degree in Electronics Technology and obtained six years of formal military and civilian training in electronics, communications systems, and computer systems.

Alan served twenty years of active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps as a CW radio operator, communications systems technician, crypto technician, and electronics maintenance chief. He retired with the rank of Master Sergeant.

Alan became an Elk in Margate Lodge 2463 in 1982. There he has chaired many committees including Auditing two years, Veterans’ Services three years, Americanism two years, Ladies Liaison four years, Lodge Bulletin Editor, and Ritual Coach four years. He held the positions of Lodge Esquire two years, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight four years, Leading Knight two years, Exalted Ruler two years, and Lodge Treasurer.

South Southeast District
Presents

Alan served as District Chairman for Elks National Foundation Certificates, Veterans’ Services two years, Ladies Organizations two years, and Ritual four years. He has also served as the Secretary, Vice President, and President of the District PER Association. He has served on the Operating Committee of the Florida Elks Children’s Clinic and as the clinic’s Secretary, Vice Chairman, and Chairman. Most recently, he has served as the State Chairman of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee.

Alan has worked for 25 years in the computer field as a technician, technical supervisor, instructor, instructor supervisor, senior systems engineer, network administrator, and on the help desk. His hobbies include working on PCs and playing pool.

Al is married to his wife of 46 years, Judy, and they have four children and seven grandchildren.

Southeast District
Presents

Paul J. Mozzocci for
District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Paul J. Mozzocci as a candidate for the office of Southeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Paul was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Morton Jr. College in Cicero, Illinois and majored in Accounting.

Paul moved to Florida in 1993 and became an Elk in Jupiter Lodge 2469 in 1997. As an Elk he has served on many Lodge committees and as Leading Knight and Exalted Ruler. He served as the House Committee Chairman one year and served for two years on the State Major Projects Committee.

Central District
Presents

Edward W. Czechowski for
District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Central District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Edward W. Czechowski as a candidate for the office of Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Ed was born and raised in Massachusetts. He attended school in Boston, Massachusetts and is an alumnus of Northeastern University, College of Engineering, Class of 1951.

Ed is a World War II veteran. As a staff sergeant, he was a radiooperator on a B24 and flew with the Eighth Air Force based in England.

Ed became an Elk in West Citrus Lodge 2693 in Homosassa, Florida and served as the Exalted Ruler in 1997-98.

Ed served as District Chairman for Youth Activities for two years. He served as the District Chairman for Indocrtination and as the State Chairman of the Officers Attendance Committee.

Ed retired from GTE Government Systems in Needham, Massachusetts in 1981 as a Manufacturing Program Manager.

Ed has never been married and has no children.
Donald Wiederhold for District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southwest District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Donald Wiederhold as a candidate for the office of South Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Don was born and raised in Saginaw, Michigan and graduated from the General Motors Institute in Flint, Michigan. He served as a design engineer at GM’s Powertrain Division for 39 years which included designing offshore boat race engines, Corvette high performance engines, and heavy duty truck powertrains. Concurrently, he served as a Saginaw County Sheriff’s deputy for five years. Don retired from General Motors in May of 2000.

Don became an Elk in Michigan at Romeo Lodge 2595 in 1982. While there he served on many Lodge committees and in most of the chairs. He was also the bar and bingo manager.

Don moved to Florida in 2000 and transferred his membership to Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781.

Don served as District Chairman for Resolutions and Visitation. He served as the District Chairman for Indoctrination for two years and as the State Vice Chairman and Chairman for the Community Activities Committee.

Don’s hobbies include boating, dancing, and woodworking, and he has his pilot’s license.

Don and his wife, Christine, have three children and three grandchildren. Don, Christine, and their son, Dan, are all members of the Grater Pine Island Lodge.

Robert D. Maxey for District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Robert D. Maxey as a candidate for the office of South District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Bob was born in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1943 and graduated from Warren Central High School. After graduation he enlisted in the U. S. Navy and attended Aviation Structural School in Memphis, Tennessee. After graduation he was stationed in Jacksonville, Florida and assigned to Patrol Squadron Thirty as a structural mechanic and crew member on P2V’s.

Bob was discharged from active duty with the Navy and returned to Indianapolis where he worked for Ely Lilly for a year. He then moved back to Florida and joined the Marion County Sheriff’s Department where he served for thirty years until his retirement in 1997. While with the department he was assigned to the Law Enforcement Division (Traffic Section, cycle officer) reaching the rank of Sergeant. He was also assigned as a Detective Sgt. in Internal Affairs and then Detective Sgt. in Property Crimes. While with the department he was also a rescue diver on the Search and Rescue Team and while on that team he would take some of his vacation days and go to the Florida Keys for practice diving. This led him to buy a home in the Keys in preparation for his retirement.

Bob became an Elk in Florida Keys Lodge 1872 in 2001. He served in the chairs as Loyal Knight and Leading Knight and became Exalted Ruler in 2002 for two years. He is currently in his third year serving as a Lodge Trustee.

Bob has served as State Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Youth Activities Committee.

Bob is married to his high school sweetheart, Connie, and together they have two children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Robert D. Maxey for District Vice President

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South District are honored to present to the 2007 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Robert D. Maxey as a candidate for the office of South District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Bob was born in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1943 and graduated from Warren Central High School. After graduation he enlisted in the U. S. Navy and attended Aviation Structural School in Memphis, Tennessee. After graduation he was stationed in Jacksonville, Florida and assigned to Patrol Squadron Thirty as a structural mechanic and crew member on P2V’s.

Bob was discharged from active duty with the Navy and returned to Indianapolis where he worked for Ely Lilly for a year. He then moved back to Florida and joined the Marion County Sheriff’s Department where he served for thirty years until his retirement in 1997. While with the department he was assigned to the Law Enforcement Division (Traffic Section, cycle officer) reaching the rank of Sergeant. He was also assigned as a Detective Sgt. in Internal Affairs and then Detective Sgt. in Property Crimes. While with the department he was also a rescue diver on the Search and Rescue Team and while on that team he would take some of his vacation days and go to the Florida Keys for practice diving. This led him to buy a home in the Keys in preparation for his retirement.

Bob became an Elk in Florida Keys Lodge 1872 in 2001. He served in the chairs as Loyal Knight and Leading Knight and became Exalted Ruler in 2002 for two years. He is currently in his third year serving as a Lodge Trustee.

Bob has served as State Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Youth Activities Committee.

Bob is married to his high school sweetheart, Connie, and together they have two children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Don's hobbies include boating, dancing, and woodworking, and he has his pilot's license.

Don's hobbies include boating, dancing, and woodworking, and he has his pilot's license.

One year old Addison Evans, daughter of Chris and Leslie Evans of Apopka, is getting an early start honing her skill at volleyball at the Florida Elks Youth Camp where her brother was competing in the Florida Finals.
MEMORIAM
Charles M. Pride, PSP
1917 – 2007

Charles M. Pride was President of the Florida State Elks Association 1976-1977 and was a member of Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525. Charles was initiated into the Order in Milford, Connecticut in 1947 and moved to Florida in 1948 demitting to Clearwater Lodge 1525.

He served as Exalted Ruler in 1952 and 1969 and was voted to Honorary Life Membership in 1954.

A memorial service was held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 22, 2007 at Serenity Gardens Memorial Park located at 13401 Indian Rocks Road, 12 miles west of U.S. 19, in Largo, Florida.

This service was be followed by an Elks Memorial Service at the Dunedin/Clearwater Elks Lodge 1525 located at 1240 San Christopher Drive, Dunedin, FL, 34698.

Immediately following the Elks Memorial Service lunch and refreshments will be served.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, P.O. Box 49, Umatilla, FL, 32784-0049.

Condolences may be sent to his wife, Barbara, at 1323 Nelson Avenue, Clearwater, FL, 33755.

Tampa Lodge 708

The Lodge held a “Night at the Dogs” at the Tampa Greyhound Track, in November. A donation of $1,900 was sent to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The 94 Elks and their guests had a great time for a wonderful cause.

The Lodge served pizza, sodas and ice cream to 50 veterans at the James A. Haley, VA Hospital in Tampa in February. Ten Elks spent time serving food, calling bingo, and visiting with patients. It was a privilege to serve our soldiers.

The Children’s Christmas Party was a big success. Fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy and decorated cupcakes donated by Susie Paige was served to 24 children and nine parents. Entertainment was by Cesar the Magician. They also played drug awareness word games and quizzes. Christmas bags were given to each Child.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

A kids’ soccer team that is sponsored by the Lodge, received a $300 contribution.

The Lodge had a Children’s Christmas Party, for 75 underprivileged children. This event was chaired by Judy Barnes, Leading Knight.

On October 13th-15th, Joanne Matos and Mimi Reich participated in the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk. They walked 60 miles. ER Kelly Parker and his wife, had the opportunity on that Sunday morning to cheer them on as they were completing the 60 miles. They raised $5,000 for the cause.

On February 17, the Sweetheart Ball provided $1,300 for the Elks National Foundation.

Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719

The Lodge held a Memorial Service for Chuck Dunmire, November 11. Chuck was retired from the United States Air Force and was a two time Elk of the Year. The MacDill Air Force Base Color Guard presented a 21 gun salute and flag honors. His wife, Kay Dunmire, her family and her Elk family were in attendance.

WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Reporter; Joanie Pitney

The Lodge sent $2,200 to the Elks National Foundation from the Lodge’s Bingo proceeds for Elk Year 2006-2007.

The Lodge has been nominated by Tarpon Springs Elementary School for the Pinellas County Public School Business Partner of the Year Award. The nomination is a great honor. The award will be given April 11, at the Harborview Complex in Clearwater.

Largo Lodge 2159

As a continuation of the Lodge’s distribution of dictionaries to Largo Public Schools, they added two new schools and distributed 600 dictionaries to 3rd grade classes. This makes a total of six schools, at a cost $460.

A dinner was held to raise funds for the Elks National Foundation, the Lodge sent ENF $1,000.

A spaghetti dinner was held for Boy Scout Troop 417 and the Cub Scout Den. In addition to dinner, the Lodge donated $417 to the scouts.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

The Lodge has chartered two Cub Scout Packs, #145 and #60 who meet at the Lodge. In addition, the Lodge supports Girl Scout Troop #788, which also meets at the Lodge.

Once a month, the Lodge serves coffee and donuts to the patients at the Little Road VA Out patient Clinic.

Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

The PER’s held a Monte Carlo Night, on March 4. There were 125 Elks and guests in attendance. Many wonderful gifts were given at the end of the evening. A $500 donation is being sent to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Lodge member Frank Kolbaba and his wife, Karen, presented a $4000 check to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund at the February quarterly meeting, on behalf of Holiday Isles, Pinellas Park, and the Largo Lodges. This was as a result of the West Central District Biker Toy Run.

Seminole Lodge 2519

Treasurer, Pat DeVoe, and Lodge Veteran’s Services Chairperson, Marge DeLevante, with help of the Seminole High School Honor Society, the Lodge’s Americanism Committee and the Lodge’s Veteran’s Services Committee, packed and shipped 40 “Shoe Boxes” loaded with goodies for our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Pat’s grandson is among the troops and he supplied a list of names of troops. The Lodge received an American Flag that flew over a base in Afghanistan and a Plaque of Appreciation from the troops.

During Drug Awareness Week, the Lodge distributed 1,000 packets of drug literature, ribbons and bookmarks to the Seminole Schools. In addition, 100 coloring books and crayons were distributed at the Dali Museum and Children’s Christmas Party.

Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525

On March 18th, the Lodge had a cookout at Baldemero-Lopez State VA Nursing Home. Ten Elks served hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, etc. One Elk donated 100 books to their library.

The Lodge sent $2,400 to Elks National Foundation. These were proceeds from our Lodge Bingo, and the St. Patty’s Day Party netted $600 which the Lodge matched, $1,200 was sent to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Reporter; Frank Wagner, PDD

Sarasota Lodge 519

With the money obtained from Bingo, the Lodge was able to present both Harry-Anna and the Elks National Foundation with a donation of $2,000 each. The Lodge was also able to expand the Army of Hope program by adopting another military family in financial strengths and supporting the District Paws for Patriots program, which adopts a Seeing Eye dog for a blind veteran. The Lodge also adopted a family being helped by Florida Elks Children’sTherapy Service needs assistance in obtaining food and clothing.

Four high school students were honored at a banquet and each student was rewarded with a $1,000 scholarship. St. Patty’s Day party was a success with over 300 members and guest in attendance. Five new prospective members received applications to join our order.

Venice - Nokomis Lodge 1854

The Venice - Nokomis Lodge held four fundraisers this past quarter resulting in support of the Boys Scout troop they sponsor, they were able to give $200 a youngster who received his Eagle Scout Badge. The Lodge also contributed $400 to the Harry Anna Trust Fund, and $400 to the ENF.

The Lodge is sponsoring a local Girl Scout Troop.

Sarasota South Lodge 2495

The Handicap Boys Scout Troop along with the other members of the Lodge who attended the Drug Awareness day got a chance to inspect the Sheriff helicopter while it was on display at the Lodge.

In February, Sarasota South Lodge put on a fund raising breakfast for the Handicap Boys Scout Troop and raised $1,065. On the first Sunday in March, 32 members and guests from the Sarasota South Lodge went to Bay Pines VA Hospital and put on a barbecue chicken picnic for over 200 Veterans and their guests.

Sarasota South Elks once again upheld the Elks motto “Elks Care, Elks Share” by providing 39 families, including 98 children, with food, clothing and gift wrapped presents for the Christmas holiday. With assistance from “Toys for Tots” for many of the presents, the total given to these families amounted to over $15,000.

The Lodge’s Helping Hands Committee contacted various community organizations for names of families in need of assistance. The committee members then contacted the families to determine clothing sizes and desired presents for the children. The committee members did the shopping and wrapping of presents. Each child received presents that included a complete set of clothes with shoes, socks, underwear, and a jacket.

The committee also worked approximately 200 hours with “Toys for Tots” by picking up and delivering toys from and to various locations, in return the Lodge received many toys to be given to the children of the families adopted by the Lodge.

The families were treated to breakfast with Santa at the Lodge and Santa gave each child a personalized gift;
The North District was proud to host State President Charlie Trinowski’s visit on January 19 and 20. Like all the other Lodges, the North District is excited about the upcoming year and new officers in every Lodge. DDGER Ron Brown has been busy doing installations in the district, and at the end of March he has this task nearly complete.

**Lake City Lodge 893**

The Lake City Lodge had another successful Christmas program. The Lodge provided 58 baskets of food to families in the community, toys for about 200 Guardian Ad Litem children, and 20 baskets of food for these Guardian Ad Litem kids families. The Lodge’s Santa Claus, John Woodley, greeted 342 kids on Christmas Eve. Lodge member Larry Burnham and his wife Annette gave train rides around the lake despite the rain. (Lake City lodge fronts on a lake).

Speaking of improvements, ER Steve Gordon complemented the Lodge’s volunteers on the many hours given in fixing up the Lakeview room, the dining room, the kitchen, pool room, and the rest rooms. The building is more than 100 years old, and the remodeling inside has really spruced up the lodge.

Lake City Lodge hosted State President Charlie Trinowski’s visit to the North District in January. All the Lodges send representatives to this annual event, and spend some quality time with fellow Elks. District Vice President James Hollingsworth and wife, Barbara, were pleased to be the hosts for this event. Sunday morning January 21 included a District VP/DD clinic.

Outgoing ER Steve Gordon shared a message with his Lodge at the beginning of the Lodge year, “I feel it is appropriate for us to take some time to enjoy what has been achieved.” In his closing article in the Lodge’s newsletter, ER Gordon thanked all the members who helped him during his term, noting that the support was far beyond his expectations. He added that the Lodge was the beneficiary of the success from the member’s support, and there are visible signs everywhere.

**Live Oak Lodge 1165**

Live Oak Lodge has formed a veterans visitation committee to visit with local veterans in the nursing homes in Live Oak. The committee has been active for the last few months bringing cheer to many of the local veterans who are shut-ins.

The Lodge is active with the local drug coalition and provides drug awareness brochures whenever written material is requested. Interaction has also occurred with the local Boys and Girls Clubs, and the Lodge has dispensed handouts and materials. These handouts are provided to the Lodge by the Elks National Foundation.

Suwannee Valley Hospice Haven presented the Lodge with a lovely stained glass plaque as a result of the Lodge’s donation of $10,000, which was used to furnish two rooms at the hospice house. DDGER Donald Watson was instrumental in spearheading this community project. Donald’s wife, Lori is a nurse at the hospice. This hospice serves Suwannee, Columbia, Lafayette, and Hamilton counties.

Installation of Officers was held on March 23. DDGER Ron Brown installed the officers for the Lodge. In keeping with Lodge tradition, dinner was provided that evening. Ron Brown installed the officers for the Lodge. In keeping with the Lodge’s tradition, dinner was provided that evening.

**Madison Lodge 2205**

Madison Lodge held a spaghetti dinner and dance on January 20, with a special feature that evening of a womanless beauty pageant. Contestants were men, but dressed as women. The contest winner would be crowned “Miss Antlers.” A raffle was held that same night for the Redneck Tub, a conglomeration of useful items for all rednecks.

Another fundraiser that draws a few laughs is the Lodge’s Kiss the Pig contest. The rules dictate that Elks are nominated with a $5 entry fee. Members then vote on those nominated, and voting privileges are $1 per vote, or six votes for $5. Candidates whose names were shared included Lecturing Knight Glen Bishop, Treasurer Rhonda Hutto, PER Ed James, and Trustee Dub Barfield. The winner with the most votes was given the opportunity to kiss Elk-O the pig.

The Lodge holds a Senior Citizen Dinner on the first Saturday in March. It draws a bit of a crowd and gives seniors a chance to get out and have a great meal.

**Marianna Lodge 1516**

Marianna Lodge’s ER, Randy Ward, posed some interesting challenges to the members in his February message. Randy’s background involves high school coaching, and he has been known to ask his students, 1) Did you give your all tonight, or did you slack off a bit? 2) Did you ever quit or give up? 3) Can you look back on this event and know did everything you could to make a difference? 4) Did you push yourself to do a little better? 5) Did you help the team, or did the team have to pull you along?

Philosophically, the scoreboard has little to do with success or failure. What matters most is attitude and effort, and the personal gratitude we each gain as a result of a job well done.

While ER Ward’s points are well-taken and have application throughout our lives in all the things we do, he reminded the membership in March that it is important to remember that the Elks is a benevolent organization.

The focus should not be on any one member or officer, but rather giving to others, and helping in the community. This tenet has universal application to all the Elks Lodges.

The Trustees and House Committee sponsored a chili supper Thursday, March, 22 with the proceeds designated to support local charities. The Lodge held its Annual Awards Banquet and Dance on March 31. PER Don Morris provided the music for dancing.

Installation of Officers will be held April 2, with installation conducted by DDGER Ron Brown.

**Perry Lodge 1851**

Perry Lodge had a busy February, beginning with a Chilli Cookoff. Proceeds were designated for the Lodge’s Relay for Life team. Entries were assigned a number rather than a team name, to make the judging easier. Two categories of judging were conducted: People’s Choice and Judge’s Choice. Ten entrants participated, and more than $200 was raised for the Relay for Life. Wendy Cruz was awarded first place and Denise Martin received second place.

About fifty couples celebrated Valentine’s Day February 14th at the lodge with a prime rib dinner. An added touch was a photo taken that evening and placed in a frame, to commemorate the event.

A Mardi Gras theme dance followed a couple days later on February 16th, featuring the band, Faster than Flash.

In March, the Lodge held a pool tournament on the 10th and a fundraising poker run on the 31st. Proceeds from both these events are also earmarked for the Relay for Life team.

**Tallahassee Lodge 937**

Congratulations are in order to Tallahassee Officers as the winners of the North District Ritual Contest. The team will compete in the State Ritual Contest at the State Convention in May at the Coronado Resort.

ER Carl Ledig noted in his newsletter message in February that the name Valentine comes from the Latin word *volar*, meaning worthy. His focus was to remind the members to think about whether they are doing all they can to be good Elks, and to remember everyone that being a good Elk is an ongoing task. Doing a good job once is not enough, and involvement and service are the responsibilities we all have. It is possible that ER Ledig and ER Ward (from Marianna) are eating the same Wheaties for breakfast that cause these inspirational messages?

PER Night was observed on February 6 with numerous PERs in the chairs at the Lodge meeting and the PERs handled that task well.

Tallahassee conducted a Hollywood Squares Night in the lounge on March 9. There was plenty of laughter with the answers that came from the “Squares.” Many of the “Squares” dressed in costumes for the event. Special thanks to our glamorous contestants Betty Irvin and Julia Ferrell.

The Tallahassee Elketts displayed their talents once more (with the help of many Elks) with the annual Elkett Show held March 17. This event draws a big crowd, and is the Elkett’s major fundraiser of the year. It is a variety show with both Elketts and Elks. One of the highlights of the evening was the announcement of the Elkett of the Year, Dolly Ledig. Dolly is also an Elk.

Officer installation was conducted on March 31, being a dual event for both the Elks and Elketts. DDGER Ron Brown installed the Elk officers, and Past District Vice President Earl Irvin performed the installation for the Tallahassee Elketts. Congratulations to both officer teams! Of interest that evening were the awards given to Officer of the Year ER Carl Ledig, and to Elk of the Year Dolly Ledig. Outstanding Achievement awards were given to new Trustee Denise Mick and Secretary Tom Walden. ER Ledig gave a farewell speech, and personally thanked many of the members and wives who helped him during his term.

The Lodge is proud to have met the GER’s goal for Elks National Foundation this year, with room to spare. Likewise, at more than $27 per capita for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, the lodge is pleased to have been able to donate to this important fund to help support the major projects in Florida.

**Elks National Foundation continued**

men are, Central, Joan Phillips; East Central, Patricia Heller; North Central, Robert McCarthy; North West, John Leatherwood; and South East Central, William Orbych.

Leading individual Lodges and their membership grouping and per-capita are, 0-300 Lake Wales, $10.34, 301-500 Seminole, $8.07, 501-700 West St. Lucie, $6.58, 701-1100, Fort Pierce, $12.51, 1101-1500, Miami, $4.07, and 1500+ Punta Gorda, $6.00.

State ENF Certificates Committee Chairman Robert Ware and I thank all of the District and Lodge Chairmen for their efforts during the first three quarters of this year.

Robert Barry,
State Vice Chairman,
Elks National Foundation Certificates.
Youth Camp Update

Summer Camp 2007 begins June 10th, 2007. Just a few weeks from now.
If you have not already sent in your applications for campers, now is the time.
If you have not utilized the four free camperships, now is the time.
If you have found a new camper, it is not too late, now is time.

Continue to find and sponsor the children in your community who can benefit from our great safe camping experience. It is not too late! We will accept applications throughout our camping program this year. Very often there are changes which make beds available. We try to fill them on a first come first serve basis.

The Board of Directors would like to extend a great Thank You to all the Elks of Florida for your continued support which makes this the greatest Youth Camp in the Country. Through your support we are able to help so many children.

Also, please contribute to the Harry Anna Trust Fund. That contribution helps operate both our major projects, The Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services and The Florida Elks Youth Camp. Be proud of all the outstanding help we as Elks make available to the children of Florida.

SUMMER CAMP STAFF!
Very often it is asked, “What type of youth work at the Florida Elks Youth Camp?”

Jesse Phillips has attended our camp as a camper and has served as a CIT for years. Speaking at the February Quarterly Jesse said “Our awesome responsibilities are that we take care of the kids who come here, make sure that they have a great time, and insure their safety.”

Jesse Phillips is straight A student in his junior year at Astronaut HS in Titusville, Florida. He is a member of his school's swim team and the school band where he serves as Director's Assistant.

Jesse has received many honors in music. He has been All County 3 times, has scored Superior at District Competition 4 times and has scored Superior at State Competition the past 2 years.

He is involved in several school associations and clubs. He is a member of the National Honor Society, he is the Secretary of the Teenage Republican Club and a member of the Titusville City Council's Student Advisory Council. Jesse belongs to the Chemistry Honor Society, the Biology Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society and the Latin Club.

Jesse has been recognized for his scholastic accomplishments by the "National Society of High School Scholars" and "Who's Who Among American High School Students". He has been chosen by the "Lead America Foundation" to attend a 10 day leadership seminar in Washington D.C. in July of this year.

Jesse performs over 100 hours of community service each year and tutors young musicians at the local middle school.

His mom and dad think he is a pretty good kid!

Nature Trail Update

BE A PART OF THE NATURE TRAIL!

February 10th, 2007 at our quarterly meeting we were proud to have our nature trail dedicated by Grand Exalted Ruler Arthur H. Frost, III and our own Grand Lodge Sponsor Robert Grafton, PGSR.
The Nature Trail began through a generous donation from Ronald and Vicki Canakaris Family Foundation. Forward looking there will be years of development and additions. We can all enjoy watching the area mature.

Elks answered the call and brought with them plants to be added to our nature trail.

Try to continue to help. Each time you come to the Florida Elks Youth Camp, bring a plant with you to be added to the Nature Trail and our continuing reforestation project.

Keep in my we are located in a part of Florida that does freeze so consider plants that will survive the winter. Currently we are planning to develop our bamboo garden. Bring any type of bamboo plants to camp when you visit.

Wish List

The greatest single wish of the Board of Directors is to always have the funds available to bring any needy child to the Florida Elks Youth Camp to benefit from and cherish the safe camping experience throughout their lives.

Won't you help send a child to camp??
$180.00 Camperships ($180.00 each)
$52,500.00 Climbing Wall (In Gym)
$700.00 Clothing for Campership children
$2,200.00 Bedding for Campership children
$4,500.00 1,500 bird houses for crafts
$8,800.00 Portable Computers
$320.00 Web Camera 8 ea.
$2,000.00 Camera Enclosures
$23,000.00 Nature Trail Addition
$150.00 Garmin GPS 40 ea.
$11,000.00 Network System Upgrades
$19,000.00 Butterfly Garden
$9,600.00 Football Goals
$800.00 Youth Softball Gloves (50)
$900.00 Teen Softball Gloves (50)
$700.00 Batting Helmets
$300.00 Basketballs
$225.00 Hard Skin Coated Foam Balls
$750.00 Arrows & Armguards
$495.00 Uncoated foam balls
$700.00 Portable ice cooler
$30,000.00 Reforestation ($300.00 per donation)
$1,850.00 Permanent soccer shoot out goals
$3,650.00 Park type grills for camping area
$1,200.00 Towels and Linen Sets
$680.00 Picnic Table 30 each
$2,000.00 Field Games & Props

There are a lot of expensive items needed at the camp. Partial donations may be made toward the purchase of an item.
Although high winds played a large part in players scores, it was otherwise a beautiful weekend for 284 golfer who competed in two days of golf in the 27th Annual Florida State Elks Golf Tournament hosted by the Sebring Elks Lodge.

The tournament on March 31 and April 1 was best ball scramble with seven flights, Championship and A through F determined by the first day’s scores. Winners shown above.

Men’s longest drives were won by Mike Vidulich, Bob Terry, Mike Smith, Mark Gray and Frank Mascetti representing Del Ray Beach Lodge, won with scores of 62 and 55 total 117. Bob Terry and Mike Smith also won long drive trophies.

Men’s Closest to the Pins were won by Ron McGraw, Ted Wright, Jr., Andy Delia, and Joe Ortiz.

Womens Longest Drives were Jackie Hartzell, Irene Wheeler, and Carroll Strunk.

Women closest to the pin were Delores Wickerham and Marge Hart.

Mark Katz from Punta Gorda won $300.00 in the long putt contest.

Florida State Elks Hoop Shoot Finals

After months and months of Hoop Shoot contests with several thousand contestants and hundreds of thousands of Elk volunteer hours it came down to a final eighteen contestants shooting basketballs for two hours on March 3 at the Florida Elks Youth Camp until six winners were finally qualified to continue their quest of winning and going to Spring-Florida Elks Youth Camp until six winners were finally qualified to continue their quest of winning and going to Spring-Florida Elks Youth Camp.

The shoot ran very smoothly through the efforts of State Chairman John Nejedlo, Vice-Chairman Peter Cattabriga, and John Wayne who assisted in getting volunteers from Airepka Lodge, and the staff at the Youth Camp for providing quarters for the volunteers in the Education Center and cabins.

In attendance to witness the shoot-out were FSEA President Elect David Lake and Vice President Elect Joe Ortiz. The State Coordinator of Hoop Shoot, Past State President Jimmy Solana, National Hoop Shoot Committee Member Roy Kronenberg and wife Marilyn the South Regional Chairman, Betty Tewksbury Central Regional Chairman, State Secretary Carl Seibert and several Past District Deputies. Approximately 95 family and friends of the contestants also enjoyed the shoot-out.

The boy and girl who shot the highest scores were named the Champion of Champions. Adam Silver and Amanda Portal and their families will be invited to the State Convention and enjoy an expense paid trip to Disney World. They will be awarded their Dale Young Memorial Champion of Champion trophies at the State Convention.

Boys 12 & 13 Year Old

1st Place Adam Silver *--------Boca Raton---------22-25
2nd Place Jordan Talley---------Lake City----------21-25
3rd Place Tanner Weigand-------Sarasota-----------19-25

Girls 12 & 13 Year Old

1st Place Megan Karcher--------Clermont------------19-25
2nd Place Alyssa Mediavilla-----Kissimmee----------18-25
3rd Place Samantha Smith-------Delray Beach--------14-25

Boys 10 &11 Year Old

1st Place Adam Robles--------Ocala-----------------20/25
2nd Place Luke Calleja---------Aripeka-------------18-25-4/5
3rd Place Maxx Bleecher--------Boca Raton----------8-25-2/5

Girls 10 &11 Year Old

1st Place Alexis Diaz---------Boca Raton------------17-25
2nd Place Jessica Doyle-------Palm Bay----------------15-25
3rd Place Jessica Proctor-----Silver Spng Shrs-------13-25

Florida State Soccer Shoot Finals

January 20, 2007

The Florida State Elks Soccer Shoot finals was held in the Grafton Center at the Florida Elks Youth Camp under the very capable chairmanship of Christian Scherr, PER, of Deland Lodge 1463.

Scherr was assisted by Phil Watercutter, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the East Central District. Chairman Scherr gives special thanks to the following people for their assistance in the Soccer Shoot:

John and Flo Wayne - District Chairpersons from Tampa Lodge 708. (Scorekeeper and ball retriever)
Danny Sweatland - Lodge Chairman from Green Cove Springs 1892 (Ball retriever)
Martin Espinoza - Lodge Chairman from Clewiston Lodge 1853 (Judge)
Richard Hiemenz - Exalted Ruler from Kissimmee Lodge 1873 (Judge)
Jerry Pratt - father of one of the competitors who helped out spotting the soccer balls for the contestants.

FIRST PLACE WINNERS

Under 14 Girls-- Girls-Brittany Bacallao
Under 14 Boys--Hunter Galarneau
Under 12 Girls--Jessica Wentz
Under 12 Boys--Christian Diaz
Under 10 Girls--Carley Hall
Under 10 Boys--Jose Martinez
Under 8 Girls--Savannah Rae Beckett
Under 8 Boys-- Eli Pratt

Brittany Bacallao
Clewiston Lodge 1853
Total Points (47)

Hunter Galarneau
Clewiston Lodge 1853
Total Points (38)

Jessica Wentz
Sebastian Lodge 2714
Total Points (39)

Christian Diaz
Kissimmee Lodge 1873
Total Points (34)

Carley Hall
Orange Park Lodge 2605
Total Points (36)

Jose Martinez
Kissimmee Lodge 1873
Total Points (27)

Savannah Rae Beckett
Clewiston Lodge 1853 - Total Points (27)

Eli Pratt
Kissimmee Lodge 1873 - Total Points (36)
The Deland Lodge 1463 again hosted the Florida Elks State Softball Tournament the weekend of April 27-29, 2007. For 14 years this tournament has benefited the Florida Elks Youth Camp. This tournament was another success for the children of Florida.

The Founder, ECD DD, Phil Watercutter's basic idea behind this function was to bring camaraderie to the members and get younger members into our organization and support the youth camp. In the past 14 years, we as Elks feel we have accomplished all of this.

This year's tournament was attended by State President Charles Trinowski, VPAL David & Kathy Lake, PGER Bob & Pat Grafton, VPAL Designate Joe & Rita Ortiz, PSP Frank & Ebba Jean Palladini, PSP Mike Smith and wife Sandra, PSP Mike Phillips and wife Kathy, also attending DDGER Danny & Rachel Tabor.

In 14 years, the Florida State Elks Softball Tournament has raised over $108,000, and this year was no exception. We raised $8,500, all of which is going to the Youth Camp in the name of the winning Lodges. There have been over 6,750 participants playing in the tournament as well as fans cheering on their Lodges and attendance in the 14 tournaments has exceeded 17,000 people. With all the sincere interest displayed from the lodges that participated this year, we are looking for an even bigger and better 15th Annual Florida State Elks Tournament in 2008.

This year there were 23 teams from 13 different Lodges. Delray Beach, Fort Pierce the West Central District, Apopka, Winter Garden, Tarpon Springs, Brandon, Ormond Beach, Cocoa, Rotunda, Merritt Island and DeLand raise money and plan all year for this great weekend. They bring food and stay for the weekend.

A new team appeared this year from the Bradenton Lodge 1511 this is the first team from the Southwest District and they said they would be back. I want to thank Dan Hall for getting the team together.

Again, Phil worked with the Teen Court in DeLand with 24 kids working off community service time. These kids worked a total of 130 hours. Their jobs during the tournament are working with the softball committee to keep the place clean and in the concession stand, anything to help out.

We also sent the extra food to the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia and the DeLand Fire Department.

Founder Phil Watercutter, Co-Chairman Joe Rogers, and the Softball Committee want to thank the 23 teams, the Ruby and Gold Sponsors, and all that attended making this another winning year for the Florida Elks Youth Camp. We also want to thank the many volunteers that supported the tournament with the many hours, miles traveled, and donations in making this tournament another success.

Mark your calendars now we would love to have 25 to 30 teams in next year’s tournament April 25-27, 2008. We would like for each lodge to advertise this event at their Lodge, get a team together, publish the announcement in your Lodge bulletin so people know, put the posters up in the lodge when they arrive and make sure that the right person in your Lodge gets the information on the tournament and will take advantage of this opportunity.

Plan on attending, it's the greatest weekend for the Elks and their families. No Suits, No ties, just a very casual weekend. This is a great weekend for the family.

Photos by Jim Hayes and Raleigh Whiteman
More photos can be seen at www.flels.org

The payout will go to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in these Lodges’ names:

A DIVISION
1st Place-Deland Gold
2nd Place-Winter Garden
3rd Place-Cocoa Beach

B DIVISION
1st Place-Deland Blue
2nd Place-Ormond Beach

OVER 50 DIVISION
1st Place-Tarpon Springs
2nd Place-Rotunda
3rd Place - Delray Beach

COMRAĐIERY AWARD
Merritt Island
Lodges of the SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Lantana/Boynton Lodge 2676

It is with great sadness to report Lantana/Boynton Lodge 2676 is no longer in existence and has merged with the West Palm Beach Lodge 1352. On March 14 a meeting was held to vote for or against merging. Of the 119 members on the rolls only 19 showed up for the meeting. This shows that the Lodge was in trouble and without a home and no officers for next year, it was the only thing we could do. ER Audrey McNamara and several other officers have tried to keep the lodge alive, but without the support of the membership and the impossibility of obtaining a home, it was the only thing to do.

The Southeast District is now down to only five lodges, which is probably the smallest district in the state.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

As mentioned above the Lodge voted on March 21 to complete a merger with Lantana/Boynton Lodge 2676. This will increase their membership by an additional 100 members. They will be getting some new blood and some fine leaders from that Lodge. Both Secretaries, Lowell Tyler and Joy Booth, have worked very hard to complete the membership change over before April 1st.

On March 3, the Lodge held a benefit dinner and dance for the National Foundation Fund. It was a very successful affair. The benefit raised $3000 for the foundation. Many other affairs are scheduled until the end of March climaxing with a dinner dance to announce Officer of the Year, Elk of the Year, and other awards. The new officers will take office on March 31.

Pahokee Lodge 1638

Pahokee is still having meetings in a cabin by the lake due to damage from two hurricanes to their building. Barbara Hefferman, PDD reports that work will begin soon that they have settled with the Insurance Company. They will be very pleased to get back into their home.

They continue to hold regular meetings and every Friday night hold a pot luck dinner at the cabin along with Steak Nights. Each activity is followed by campfire. It must be great to be out there trying to keep Elkdom alive.

On April 7, the Pahokee Lodge and Belle Glade Lodge 1716 got together to have their Installation of Officers ceremony.

Jupiter Lodge 2469

This is a growing Lodge. PER Mike Orlando, who is recovering from a broken hip, reported that since they moved to Jupiter Farms and opened a new building, they

SE District continued page 23

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Robert Barry, State Vice Chairman.
“Where did it all begin?”

At the Grand Lodge Session in 1928 at Miami, Florida. The then Grand Exalted Ruler, John F. Malley, envisioned a plan that would unite the forces of the Order into a mighty army for the service of mankind.” His call to service inspired delegates to take action by voting to establish the Elks National Foundation with an initial $100,000 grant.

The mission today of the Elks National Foundation is to help Elks build stronger communities. We provide tomorrow’s leaders, our youth, with a healthy beginning; honor our Elks pledge to never forget the veterans.

We provide the state major projects with monies to help operate these programs. Since inception, the Foundation has received more than $165 million in contributions and bequests. All donations go into a permanent endowment fund where each gift earns interest for a lifetime. Only the income earned by the fund can be used to support the charitable programs.

Today the fund has 180,000 active donors and an endowment fund valued at $420 million. The Fund has contributed $271 million towards Elks charitable projects nation wide, supporting three college scholarships, Drug Awareness ($598,000), Hoop Shoot ($683,000), National Veterans Service Commission ($787,000), and the Community Investment Program (budgeted $525,000).

The Foundation reserves a total of $3,066 million for its three scholarship programs: The Most Valuable Student contest ($2.16 million); Emergency Education Grants for children of deceased or totally incapacitated Elks ($350,000); ENF Legacy Awards ($500,000). As you can see the Elks National Foundation is a very worthy charity, but at time it seems we are in competition with the Harry-Anna Trust. We of course should support our states major projects, the Youth Camp and the Mobile Therapy Units. By supporting both charities we can only bring more monies to the Harry-Anna Trust. In the year 2005-2006 the Florida Elks donated $299,333.65 to the ENF and received back $453,211.00 for our Major Projects, that’s $1.514 for every $1.00 we sent in.

As of January Florida’s total donations and bequests to ENF $294,759.30 for a per capita of $4.217. GER Frost has set a per-capita of $4.00. This places our state with 69,899 members at number 30 nation wide. The Districts that have met this goal and their chair-

ENF continued page 10

Lodges of the SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Hollywood West 2465

On March 10 Hollywood West Lodge celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a dinner dance and entertained 150 members and guests.

In attendance with their wives were two charter members, Dick Burns member #123 and Bill Baker, current Secretary of Lodge 2273. A special Eleven O’Clock Toast was presented by the PER’s as a tribute to Bernie Dolan PDD, Secretary of Lodge 2273.

This is a growing Lodge. PER Mike Orlando, who is recovering from a broken hip, reported that since they moved to Jupiter Farms and opened a new building, they

other highlight was the bidding war that occurred with the silent auction of a basket from the Hard Rock with a Fender electric guitar, a two night stay and more. Also the Jason Taylor autographed football in a case had plenty of action.

This event was a success because of a lot of hard work by Jim Lind, PER, Officer Scott Hadley, P.A.L Director and the School Resource Officers of Miramar. Officer Hadley is a member of the South Broward Lodge. Their next event was a Pro Wrestling Show held in April.

Margate Lodge 2463

Thanks to all the members of Margate Elks Lodge 2463, they were able to adopt two families this holiday season through the “Angel Tree” Program. A total of $1500.00 was raised towards the purchase of toys, clothing items, gifts, etc. The Lodge also made a monetary donation to these two families totalling $1140.

Margate Lodge adopted the family of an eight year old girl stricken with bone cancer and her two siblings.

The second family the Lodge adopted is that of a single mother of two young boys that fell upon financial difficulties due to medical expenses. Margate Lodge is extremely proud and honored to have been able to brighten the holiday spirits of these families and look forward to making next year an even bigger success.

Pompano Beach Lodge 1898

The regional Hoop Shoot contest was hosted by the Lodge with trophies awarded by Regional chairman Marilyn Kronenberg and State Chairman John Nejedlo.

A large fund raiser for the Lodge is the Car Party in March where a 2007 Lincoln MK-Z or $30,000 in cash is the prize. Winners names were not available.

The Lodge delivered 64 boxes of books and 110 lap robes to the Veterans Affairs Hospital in West Palm Beach.

Santa and his helpers also visited the VA Hospital on December 13th with another 41 boxes of books and 100 lap robes and three checks of $500 each from the Lodge charity fund.

Veteran Herman Massey was head security officer at Casablanca Conference during WWII and the recipient of the Bronze and Silver Star. He was presented with a special lap robe by Veterans’ affairs Chairman Rick Kaufold, and Volunteer Coordinator Mary Phillips.

So far in the past five months, total value in everything that has been donated to the VA hospitals is $15,829.66.
During the month the Lodge received 28 new members.

In the mid January, dessert maker Jeanette Izzo won the Pasta Fazul Cook-Off first prize, another winner was Exalted Ruler Gus Simonelli, PDD.

The famous “Steak for Two Dinner” was served on January 28th with over 400 people attending, not all at the same time, of course.

The Elkettes held a Beach/Pool Party Dinner Dance on January 27 with prizes awarded for the Most Clever and Most Well Dressed.

On January 30 the PERs went to the assisted living home of the disabled veterans in West Palm Beach and fed 100 a meal of lasagna, salad, bread, butter, and apple pie. The vets were also presented with tee shirts with the Elk's logo on the front and “Elks Support Vets 2007” on the back.

The DARE Breakfast is held once a month with an average of 175 people attending.

During January, 15 new members were initiated.

A Super Bowl Party was held on February 4 with 250 guests enjoying home made pizza, chili dogs, brochette, chicken wings, etc., and all the draft beer you wanted which was included in your donation of $10.00.

The “Sweetheart Ball” on February 10 had 275 hungry and happy guests enjoying NY strip steak and shrimp prepared by Ed & Jeanette Izzo & Crew.

The 6th Annual Mardi Gras Masquerade Party was held on February 17 with Chef Frank Manna, PER, and his crew preparing a super New Orleans' style dinner that fed 250 guests.

During the month, Tony Scibona ran a bus trip up to the Florida Elks Youth Camp during the Quarterly meeting, with 47 folks boarding the bus for the trip. Those riders saw where Elks donations go and what they are used for. Exalted Ruler Augustus J. Simonelli, PDD, presented a check for $20,000 during the meeting. At the Mid-Year Convention in November another $4,000 was donated.

A new Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services van reads “Donated by the Port St. Lucie Elks Lodge 2658.”

Mary Ann Manning was elected to be 2007-08 Exalted Ruler. During the month 16 new members were initiated.

An “Italian Delight Nite” was held on March 10 with 285 guests in attendance. Then the Annual St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance with corned beef and cabbage and all the trimmings, the next day was “Steak for Two” with 350 guests enjoying our 32 oz. sirloin steaks.

A “Farewell Dinner Dance” to honor and thank Exalted Ruler Augustus J. Simonelli, PDD, and his First Lady Arlene for a great 2006-07 Elk Year.

On February 24, the Lodge held a Mardi Gras Party, with a good turnout, $200 was raised and donated to the Friends of Strays, an animal shelter in Pinellas Park.

On March 25, Sebastian Lodge held the Annual Awards Banquet as local Citizens, Students, Police Officers and members of the Elks and EIDoes gather together to recognize their best and brightest. Over 100 people were in attendance and Sebastian Elks once again highlighted their position as community leaders in service to the community.

Events such as these are some of the reasons why Sebastian has seen a steady growth in membership over the last several years. The fact that many of these new members are becoming active and are of the elusive ‘under 50’ crowd bodes well for the future of our Lodge.

The Lodge continues to have a very active Operation Desert Elks program with 12 boxes a month being sent to Iraq. Charity Bingo which is held every Friday night continues to bring in monies that go to the Children’s Therapy Program.

On November 19, 2006, the Fort Pierce Lodge hosted a sit-down breakfast for 11 wheel-chaired veterans from the long term care facility of the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center. The veterans along with their chaperones were treated to a full breakfast and gifts were presented to each veteran at the conclusion of the event. The District Vice President and State Vice Chairman made welcoming speeches. The event was highlighted by the presence of a 99 year old who along with others were combat veterans of WW II. Members of the Lodge came and visited with each veteran during their stay.

On March 25, Sebastian Lodge held the Annual Awards Banquet as local Citizens, Students, Police Officers and members of the Elks and EIDoes gather together to recognize their best and brightest. Over 100 people were in attendance and Sebastian Elks once again highlighted their position as community leaders in service to the community.

Events such as these are some of the reasons why Sebastian has seen a steady growth in membership over the last several years. The fact that many of these new members are becoming active and are of the elusive ‘under 50’ crowd bodes well for the future of our Lodge.

Congratulations to Barbara Smallacombe for being selected as Officer of the Year, and to Shirley Odenath as Elk of the Year. They did a remarkable job this year, and definitely deserve this very prestigious award. Congratulations also to Joyce Maxie for receiving a Grand Exalted Ruler Award. Joyce was Esquire, and during her tenure moved to Leesburg, but continued her position as Esquire, driving 170 miles each way to attend our meetings.

Palm Bay Lodge 2766

Palm Bay Lodge is finally moving to a new building on US Hwy-1 on June 1, with almost twice as much space as the present facility for much less money. This is the result of lots of hard work from the members who have searched long and hard to find a new home. The Grand Opening will be after the interior renovation is finished.

Palm Bay Jewelers, across the street on US Hwy-1, generously donated a 1 carat diamond cocktail ring for a raffle. Proceeds will benefit local charities and help ready the new facility. The winning ticket will be drawn at the State Convention in May.

West Central District continued from page 9

Pinellas Park Lodge 2217

The Lodge raised over $350 for a local Marine, Lance Corporal Michael A. Delane, who was injured in Iraq and now requires constant home care.

The PER’s and the Ladies Auxiliary donated five cases of drug awareness materials to be distributed.

Congratulations to Barbara Smallacombe for being selected as Officer of the Year, and to Shirley Odenath as Elk of the Year. They did a remarkable job this year, and definitely deserve this very prestigious award. Congratulations also to Joyce Maxie for receiving a Grand Exalted Ruler Award. Joyce was Esquire, and during her tenure moved to Leesburg, but continued her position as Esquire, driving 170 miles each way to attend our meetings.

Exalted Ruler Ann Williams and Trustee Gene LaPorte, met with Jan Urbanshi, Pinellas County Schools Supervisor of Safe and Drug Free Schools, and gave the school system 18 cases of drug awareness materials to be distributed.

Fifty Christmas food baskets were delivered to needy families. After all baskets had been given out, Trustee Phil Hertlin, knew of a family that needed a basket. Phil went home and made up a basket and delivered it personally to this single parent mother and her family two days before Christmas.

On February 24, the Lodge held a Mardi Gras Party, with a good turnout, $200 was raised and donated to the Friends of Strays, an animal shelter in Pinellas Park.

The Lodge honored our local Police, Firefighter and Citizens of the Year on March 24. After dinner, awards were given to those who put their lives on the line everyday to protect us and those who work to improve our community. The honorees were Police Officer of the Year Detective Michael P. Lynch; Firefighter of the Year Nick Delgrosso; Paramedic of the Year Mark Humiston; and Citizens of the Year, Joe Kolodziej, Jr., and Rick Butler.
Daytona Beach Lodge 1141

The Lodge was busy in December hosting its annual Snowflake Ball, its Elks Memorial Service, and a Sock Hop where members donated socks for the veterans.

The Lodge sponsored a Children’s Christmas Party for three needy families. The families each received a $50 gift certificate donated by the Lodge.

A men’s fashion show was held on Saturday, February 3rd, and on March 6th, Veterans’ Committee Chairman Art Wilson and members of Daytona Beach Lodge had a barbecue for the veterans at the Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home.

Deland Lodge 1463

Exalted Ruler Matt Pieper and all the members sponsored a fund raiser on St. Patrick’s Day, in support of the Youth Camp.

The members congratulated Tom Pollard on becoming the endorsed East Central District Vice President for 2007-08 and Stan Suek on becoming the newly endorsed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650

The Lodge has adopted Sgt. Andy Thomas as a soldier serving in Iraq. The Lodge donated several pounds of health and hygiene items, comfort and entertainment items for shipment and distribution to the troops in Sgt. Thomas’ area. Lodge members continue to collect food and household item coupons from their local newspapers. The coupons are clipped, packaged, and sent to a military base in Germany.

Recently, the Lodge invited their local Merritt Island Firemen and EMTs to a home cooked Sunday morning breakfast.

New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557

The Lodge mourns the loss of Sherman Callahan, PER. He was District Chairman of Hoop Shoot for many years. The Hoop Shoot had seven schools and 1,764 students participating.

The Lodge participated in the District Ritual competition held at the Deland Elks Lodge. The members and officers are looking forward to occupying their new Lodge facilities very soon.

The Lodge was the recipient of a new electronic organ was donated to the Lodge.

The Lady Elks held a memorial service for their departed members on February 6th at the American Legion.

The “Gifts of Love,” an organization of dedicated people helping in the community, are now officially members of our Lodge. We are proud to have them as members of our Lodge. Members are anticipating the completion of their Lodge very soon.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

Members were reminded that February is Harry-Anna Trust Fund Month and donations toward the Children’s Therapy Services were greatly needed.

Outgoing Exalted Ruler Jerry Brunson thanked all the members for their support, congratulated Linda Armstrong, Exalted Ruler elect and wished all the new officers a successful year. The Lodge held a benefit to help send a child to the Youth Camp.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709

Elks of Palm Coast Honored Captain Sean M. Bolling, U.S. Army, as Citizen of the Year. He currently serves in the Anbar Province of Iraq and has been there before at Fort Ramadi. His father, Jim, is our Esteemed Loyal Knight. Sean has a wife Kristina and 16-month-old daughter, Megan.

Titusville Lodge held a benefit to help raise money to defray the cost of medical expenses for Brenda, their bartender. Mike Anderson, Trustee & Bar Manager is shown presenting a 5 gallon jug of money.

The Lodge had an open house on January 28th to welcome new potential members.

Elk Lodge Officers served a Does Appreciation Dinner to the Does and Madam President, Mennie Hightower.

The Lodge’s Ritual Team placed first in the District.

The Lodge continues to support our troops overseas with care packages of goodies and health items.

Dave Wiggam, Exalted Ruler Elect and First Lady of the Lodge, Deanna Wiggam were both honored for their outstanding work on Drug Awareness.

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Reportert; Mary Ann J. Bucci

The Lodge recently held its Annual Charity Ball. The Ball featured children for the Youth Camp and participants in the Hoop Shoot. The children thanked the membership for making it possible for them to have the adventure of their lives at the Youth Camp. The Hoop Shooters also thanked the membership for running the event.

All the volunteers and workers for the two events received accolades from the children on a job well done on their behalf. Members reacted to the challenge to support these two worthy endeavors by their donations and pledges.

Tom Hoffman, Lodge Secretary presented Grand Exalted Ruler, Arthur Frost, III with a check for $5,000 at the Florida State Quarterly meeting.

Elks National Foundation also recognized the Lodge for its donations to the Elks National Foundation in excess of the Grand Exalted Ruler’s goal of $4.00 per person which was over $3,200.

This past year the Lodge witnessed the completion of the extension of the storage facilities and the addition of the new freezer and walk-in refrigerator as well as a longer term lease of the back property for a new cell tower.

The Ladies Auxiliary are planning a Sterling Cruise in May and a Fashion Show in October.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

The Lodge hosted a visitation by Charles Trinowski; his wife Mary Ann; David Lake and his wife for a weekend in December with a visit to the Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home.

The Lodge presented eight Spruce Creek students with scholarship awards for the Elk Students of the Month to Devona Leeks and Phillip Wahby, Atlantic High School students. The presentation was made by George Fritz representing the Lodge, High School Principal Ron Pagano and Assistant High School Principal, Sarah Freeman.

Joe Lent, Chairman of the Americanism Committee, received a total of 23 entries in the Essay Contest, “Why I am Proud to be an American.”

Sonny Armstrong, East Central District Vice President and PER hosted our annual Charity Ball on March 3rd with all proceeds going to support the Elks Charities.

Port Orange Lodge celebrated their 20th Anniversary in February. The Lodge was chartered on February 1, 1987. Exalted Ruler Ed Jackson presented Eagle Scout Mark Wells with an award during a special presentation at a Lodge meeting.

The Elkharts gave a special thanks to Phyllis Howe making their “String of Pears” event a great success.

“Las Vegas Style” Casino Nite was held on March 10th.

A St. Patrick’s Day dinner and dance was held on March 17th.

Wells with an award during a special presentation at a Lodge meeting.

The Lodge's Ritual Team placed first in the District.

Paid-in-Full $1,000 Certificate

Gold Pins

Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate

Silver Pins

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Pins

Awarded

January 2, 2007-- March 31, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge</th>
<th>Recognition Pins</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Eliane “Chris” Woods</td>
<td>Warrington</td>
<td>Gold Pins</td>
<td>Jan-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary J. Prim</td>
<td>Port St. Lucie</td>
<td>Gold Pins</td>
<td>Mar-07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dana Rich</td>
<td>Destin</td>
<td>Gold Pins</td>
<td>Jan-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. George Riegel</td>
<td>Pompano Beach</td>
<td>Gold Pins</td>
<td>Feb-07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Warren</td>
<td>Pensacola Beach</td>
<td>Gold Pins</td>
<td>Feb-07</td>
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<tr>
<td>William B. Pomeroy</td>
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<td>Silver Pins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victor McClellan</td>
<td>Port Orange</td>
<td>Silver Pins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marianne Schenkel</td>
<td>Punta Gorda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eddie Toomer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel R. Webb</td>
<td>Ocala</td>
<td>Silver Pins</td>
<td>Jan-07</td>
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NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Ocala Lodge 286

Ocala Lodge recently held the Annual Officer of the Year Awards Dinner honoring law enforcement and firefighters of Marion County. The Lodge hosted a dinner for nearly 175 guests including state and county dignitaries after which awards were presented.

Winter Park Lodge 1830

Winter Park Lodge donated $1,000 to support the Orlando VA Medical Center through two activities. The Veterans’ Service Committee and Chairman Walter “Ski” Stolaraki, helped make Christmas a little merrier for 170 residents of the nursing home and domiciliary by providing them with canteen coupons. As a follow-up, funds provided for food and lodging support of the Re-Creations, the high energy young people touring troupe that sings and dances at VA facilities to entertain our veterans. Thanks go to Ski and our volunteers for helping us all to remember our veterans!

Inverness Lodge 2522

An Awards luncheon was held for Americanism Essay Contest winners.

Lodges of the NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Reported: Kathie Thompson

As the “Elks” year comes to a close, the District is finishing out an exciting year and gearing up for the new year with a new slate of officers.

Gainesville Lodge 990

Gainesville is the home Lodge for the college football champs, the Florida Gators. It is an honor for the town and Lodge to be the location of the national Champs for basketball and football. Go Gators.

Orange Park Lodge 2605

Annual Veterans Christmas Party held in conjunction with the American Legion who supplied us the Santa Claus and his Elf at Lake City was well received with over 60 residents participating.

Jacksonville Lodge 221

Members are anxiously awaiting the completion of the new Lodge. Completion is slated for “late spring”.

St. Augustine Lodge 829

The Lodge is very busy with breakfast on Sunday, spaghetti dinner on Monday, home cooked meals on Wednesday and dinner and dancing on Fridays.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892

For the First Annual Wild Game Feast 256 tickets were sold. The menu was quite extensive. Thanks go to Jim Arnold who organized this great charity fund raiser.

PER Garfield Hurt has been designated as the Northeast District Vice President and the Lodge is proud and excited to assist him as he serves this district.

Eight members attended the Annual Fort McCoy VFW Retirement Home BBQ. Three of them came at 6:00 am to prepare food, they were Bill Thompson (SR Vice Commander, VFW, Palatka), Gene Blair, (Veterans Services Chairman), and Rico Masi (Chef).
Holley-Navarre Elks has the honor of sponsoring Cub Scout Pack 105. Appreciation to the Leaders and Cub Scouts and there Parents for donating over a $100.00 for the sup-plies needed for our Veterans.

Elks are now in the last quarter for the Elks Training, it will provide officers with the only correct way of operating a lodge. This test has only thirty questions and is an open book test. All Members are encouraged to take this Elks Training Test.

Milton Lodge 2377

The Lodge is very pleased to report as of March 1st; Milton Lodge has reached the Grand Exalted Rulers goal for lodges with contribution per member to the ENF. The National Web site reports Milton Lodge 2377 has obtained a contribution of $4,058 per member. Elks Nation Foundation Community Grant will be obtained and used as part of the money as a sponsor of the Freedom book.

Warrington Lodge 2108

The Veterans National Services Committee is happy to welcome Carol McCrory and Jim Watt as new committee members. During the last two committee meetings, members discussed what can be done for the benefit of the “local” veterans in local retirement or nursing homes. These ideas will be submitted to the Lodge leadership for additional discussion.

In mid-January, 2006, three members of the Veterans National Services Committee made a 226 mile round-trip from the Elks Lodge in Pensacola, FL to the “Clifford Sims State Veterans’ Nursing Home” at Springfield, FL. The reason for the trip was to deliver a multitude of cheer items donated by the membership of the Warrington Elks Lodge.

The annual reception to honor Law Enforcement, Fire Protection, and First Responders was held recently in the Elks Meadows. Senior Deputy Carol Turner of the Escambia Sheriff’s Department was selected as Deputy of the Year. Certificates of appreciation were presented to all the officers who attended. We would like to thank P.B. Wallis for pictures of the essay winners and Ed Singleton for his generous donation of the Plaque, which was presented.

Many people have contributed to our success this year and so we express our thanks to the Exalted Ruler, Trustees, House Committee, Secretary Barry, Treasurer Jay, and Paul and Toni who helped with the reception. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Ft. Walton Lodge 1795

Looking back on the eleven months of the Lodge year 2006-07 the shortcomings and accomplishments show that the Lodge may continue to struggle with financial difficulties due to decreased membership participation, increases in insurance rates, increased beverage and food cost, and higher utility costs. More members are needed to volunteer to fill of-ficer positions and to show up for the Monday Lodge meetings. On the positive side, the Lodge is meeting the goals of our Elks National Foundation certificates and Harry-Anna Trust Fund certificates, and getting an increase in our Lodge membership numbers.

Once again this year Ft. Walton Lodge had a successful golf tour-nament and a successful Charity Ball to raise money for the charity account.

The Veteran’s Service Committee has new energy and has greatly increased reaching the veterans locally and statewide, and also reached out to the troops around the world.

The Lodge is helping those less fortunate in our community by making sure local families had a happy Christmas and New Years. The dona-tions to Sharing & Caring and to the Red Stocking Fund helped improve the lives of other families whom we do not even know.

Yes, the accomplishments have been much greater than the shortcomings and all Lodge members should be proud.
Florida Elks Youth Camp

**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

**August BBQ Dinner**

Our Past State President Advisory Council is sponsoring a BBQ Friday August 17th, 2007. Dinner will be served buffet style from 5 PM until 7 PM. There will be 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 box 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.
**Bonita Springs Lodge 2753**

The Bonita Springs Elks Lodge recently hosted Kids Day America for nearly 600 children, ages 3 to 12. The Lee County Sheriff’s Office was on hand to encourage safety practices such as bike safety, crosswalk safety and to encourage fingerprinting. The Elks talked to the children about saying no to drugs.

**Lehigh Acres Lodge 2602**

The Monday Night Dart League made a very generous donation to Lehigh Acres Community Service for Needy Families. They donated $25 Wal-Mart Food Certificates totaling $575. They also donated 130 pounds of food to the agency.

Lehigh Acres Leading Knight Larry D’Angelo, our Veterans Services Chairman, spearheaded a campaign for donations of much needed items for hospitalized veterans at Bay Pines. As a result of his very successful campaign he sent items worth $1064.25 to Bay Pines.

**North Fort Myers Lodge 2742**

On December 8 nine members of the Lodge Veterans Committee traveled to Bay Pines Medical Center. They took 40 boxes of clothing, books, and personal items. After unloading all the boxes, the Lodge presented Tom Coleman, Elks National Veterans Service Committee Representative, with a check for $1000. That money was raised from the Lodge “In Door Picnic” and Saturday lunches. The Lodge had a visit from one of the homeless veterans, who is out of the woods and working. He came to say “Hi” and thank the Elks for being there for him when he needed a helping hand. It’s nice to know Elks do make a difference. A Christmas ham dinner with all the trimmings was served December 19. The hams were donated by some of the members as well as most of the meal. Santa came and handed out “Ditty Bags” full of personal items, candy, as well as new pair of socks.

The Lodge is also involved in the Soldier Angel Program. A brief explanation of what the Soldier Angels are and what Elks are doing for them. They can be found on the web at soldiersangels.org. Part of their motto is “Let No Soldier Go Unloved.” This world-wide group of people are doing whatever they can to support our deployed and injured troops.

The Lodge has sent to Landsthal Medical facility in Germany, about 200 fleece and knit hand and foot covers for the wounded, 11 quilts and some cards. Four quilts were sent to Walter Reed Hospital and two to the Tampa VA. These are all Purple Heart recipients. Cards and personal items were also sent to the staff who need a boost now and then from the trauma of working with these severely wounded. To the troops in the desert, about 180 neck cooling scarves have been sent. Over 200 Beanie Babies were donated to the Lodge and have been sent to the outreach program, soldiers will give these to the Afghanistan and Iraqi children.

**Punta Gorda Lodge 2606**

The Punta Gorda Elks Lodge held a Musical Variety Show “Memories and Dreams” in March at the Cultural Center in Port Charlotte. The show consisted of four musical segments; a Tribute to the USO, Broadway Nights, a Little Bit of Country, and a Little Bit of Rock-n-Roll. The entire cast and crew for this show was made up of volunteers. This event was a charity fund raiser to help two local organizations selected by the Lodge; receiving $1,500 each were Charlotte County Center for Abuse and Rape Emergences (C.A.R.E.) and the Punta Gorda Police Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program.

**How to Ruin Your Lodge In One Easy Lesson**

Don’t ever attend Lodge Meetings. When you do attend, find fault with work being done by Officers. Never accept an office, it’s easier to criticize I others. Get hurt if you’re not appointed to a committee, if you are, don’t attend the meetings. Never give your opinion in meetings, after the meeting tell everyone how it should have been done. Agree with everything at a meeting. Afterward, disagree with everything. Do nothing at the Lodge. When others do it complain the Lodge is run by a clique. Never cooperate with other Members. If all else fails, blame the Officers.

**Rotunda Lodge 2710**

Elks Lodge of Bonita Springs donated $1,000 to Student council President Ian Waterhouse for his project to take children to Disney World.

**South District continued from page 22**

The Charity Ball was huge success. The School of the Arts students performed an excellent show directed by Ron Headrick who has been with the New World School since 1990. The school provided this exceptional entertainment at no cost to the Lodge. For a nominal cost of $25 per person guests were treated to a delicious dinner, a show and dancing. The Lodge welcomes The Gold-Diggers who are beginning rehearsals for their production in March.

**Marathon Lodge 2139**

Marathon Lodge is having a fundraiser raffle for its scholarship program. The Habitat for Humanity Fund Raiser Country-Western Party was held on April 7.
**MEMORIAM**

The Southwest Central District was, as well as all of Florida Elksdom, saddened with the sudden and unexpected loss of one of Elksdom’s most dedicated members, Tony Scotch, SWC District Vice President, on March 9, 2007. The Exalted Ruler of Tony’s Brandon Lodge, Larry Henbest, states in his bulletin “We have lost a special friend which all in our Lodge as well as all Elks will miss for his dedication to the cause of ELKDOM. Tony Scotch lived and breathed the principles of an Elk; CHARITY, JUStICE, BROTHERLY LOVE and FIDELITY, and we should remember the cause which he championed, the Florida State Elks Major Projects.

Please consider getting a Harry-Anna Trust Fund Certificate as a remembrance of Tony. Also, keep his significant one, Gerri, and his family in your prayers.

Several lodges had members and guests taking a bus trip to Umatilla for the Quarterly Meeting at which they could see and hear Grand Exalted Ruler Jack Frost who was visiting Florida Elksdom. A tour of the camp was conducted by the Director Lynn Warburton.

**Brandon Lodge 2383**

An Eagle Court of Honor held at the Brandon Lodge 2383 on March 3. Troop #627 is sponsored by the Lodge. The Scout is the son of member Thomas Ebel and Melissa Ebel.

**Lake Wales Lodge 1974**

The Lodge’s Reverse Raffle which is held in mid-March is always a success and raises some $10,000 for the Lodge. The prize is $10,000 to the lucky ticket holder.

For four Sundays in February Lodge members visited the James Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa to escort veterans to Sunday worship services.

**SOUTH DISTRICT**

**North Miami Lodge 835**

President Charles Trinowski’s request for Lodges to host special fundraisers for Harry-Anna, North Miami Lodge held a catfish fry and cake auction. Approximately 75 members and guests participated in the event. South District’s Physical Therapist Chantal Salnave was a special guest. She gave a moving presentation which included the introduction of one of her patients and his mother, both of whom expressed their thanks to the Elks for their help. The cake auction was extremely lively with members all trying to outbid each other. As a result, the money raised by the auction and the donations given for the dinner combined for a total of over $1,000 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

North Miami Lodge welcomed approximately 45 veterans from the Miami Veteran’s Hospital, and about 75 senior citizens from the North Miami Senior Center for a luncheon in March. Following the lunch, the guests were welcomed by the mayor of North Miami, and given a talk by a sergeant from the North Miami Army Recruiting Office.

**Miami Lodge 948**

At the 52nd Annual Charity Ball, the evening provided a unique setting for promoting fellowship and membership for 200 members and guests, on November 8. A check for $18,000 was donated to My Intensive Therapy, Inc. as an advance payment of therapy services for four handicapped children. Selection was made in close collaboration between the Elks and My Intensive Therapy, Inc.

**Lake Placid Lodge 2661**

Jerry and Sally Kinsey are the Exalted Ruler and President of the Ladies of Elks respectively for 2007-08.

All kinds of events, raffles, rummage sales, and other fund raisers including the Strawberry Shortcake Booth at four outdoor festivals, by the Ladies of Lake Placid Elks resulted in their being able to contribute $26,348 to the Lodge. In addition to this their Bingo Snack bar raised more than $3,000 which was donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Jerry has worked diligently in gathering more that 158 units of blood for the Highlands County Bloodmobile during the past year.

Over 100 fifth grade students participated in the Americanism Essay Contest from Lake Placid Elementary School and U.S. Savings Bonds and gift certificates were given to the winning essayists. Joann Croniser, 8th Year Chairman, reports that in the past few years, two local winners had received 2nd place at the state level.

**Lakeland Lodge 1291**

Lakeland is proud to have their most recent Past Exalted Ruler, Michael Carney, selected to be the Southwest Central District Vice President elect for the ensuing year.

**Sebring Lodge 1529**

The Lodge was the overall winner because this is the primary fundraiser for the Lodge.

**Plant City Lodge 1727**

It took more than fifty volunteers under the leadership of Jim Hall to “get ‘er done” but the Wild Game cookout was another huge success this year. The winner of the 2007 Chevrolet 2500HD diesel 4dr4wd $48,000 truck was one lucky ticket holder. The Lodge was the overall winner because in this social gathering.

**Brandon Lodge 2383**

An Eagle Court of Honor held at the Brandon Lodge 2383 on March 3. Troop #627 is sponsored by the Lodge. The Scout is the son of member Thomas Ebel and Melissa Ebel.

**Lake Wales Lodge 1974**

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**South District continued on page 21**
Aripeka Lodge 2520

Aripeka Lodge would like everyone to know how valuable and wonderful volunteers are, especially two great ladies named Violet Stimeling (Aunt Vi) and Ethel Andres. These ladies are both in their 90’s and between them they have over 38 years of volunteer service to their Lodge. They are an inspiration to us all.

Hoop Shoot Chairman Wayne Getz held the Central District Elks Hoop Shoot Competition at Hudson High School assisted by many Elks and Ladies of the Elks. After the competition everyone returned to the Lodge for lunch and trophies. The first place winners went on to compete at Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla, FL.

Wayne Getz, Bingo Chairman, donated $2,500 to Hernando-Pasco Hospice and $1,000 to Florida Elks Youth Camp. He also donated $1,000 for a tilt table for Joey Burns, a young man who has been in a coma for two years due to a football injury but appears to be making progress.

Through the hard work and dedication of Aripeka Elks like Marti Hayward, Rose Gonya and Betty Barkley, their program of collecting funds from the various Aripeka Lodge’s charity accounts allowed a check for $10,000 to be presented to Hernando-Pasco Hospice.

Aripeka Elks Lodge officers competed in the Central District Ritual Contest and took first place for the third year. They will compete in the Florida State Ritual contest at the State Convention in May.

Kissimmee Lodge 1833

Kissimmee Lodge has been quite busy with various scholastic and youth activities. There were four champions in the Soccer Shoot held at Elks Youth Camp in January which resulted in them now having three State Champions and one runner-up. On January 10 five champions competed, Alyssa Medaviilla from Neptune Middle School took first place in the 12-13 girls category, she then went on to regional competition and won in a tiebreaker and competed at the State Hoop Shoot where she placed second in her division.

PER Bob Barry was responsible for collecting and distributing over 1,400 books (in four visits) to the Veterans’ Health Care Facility in Orlando, FL this past year. He accumulated over 210 miles and was assisted by four other Lodge members. Bob is also the State Vice Chairman of the Elks National Foundation Certificate Committee and is very active in charitable efforts of our Lodge.

Orlando Lodge 1079

On December 7 a luncheon to honor 55 visionally impaired veterans and their escorts was held at the Lodge.

In preparation for a Veterans’ Christmas Party at the Orlando Veterans Health Care Center, 165 flannel shirts were purchased and gift wrapped. The gifts and a 7½ foot, 500 light Christmas tree were presented at the party and cookout.

Orlando Lodge is proud to say that they had their 100th Anniversary on February 7. They were honored by the attendance of Grand Exalted Ruler Arthur H. Frost and his lovely wife, Sharon. A reception was held before the banquet that evening which was very well attended.

West Citrus Lodge 2693

Many members and guests donated a total of $1,500 for the Sharon A. Kelly Fund. She is a great hardworking lady who had contracted throat cancer; she is doing fine.

Pictured are Trustee Chairman, Kenneth Howerton and Sharon A. Kelly.

West Citrus Lodge honored two veterans from Cypress Cove Nursing Home with a dinner and great night of listening to the Big Band sound. They had a great time dancing away the night with all the available ladies.

On Christmas Day, Exalted Ruler Grover Keeney and his band of carolers visited three local nursing homes to bring a little cheer and gifts to all.

The New Year’s Eve Bash was well attended and the Lodge collected quite a few donations for various charities.

On February 3rd the Past Exalted Rulers Committee held their annual Charity Ball which was a sellout. The PER’s donated over $3,000 to the Lodge for their charity funds. The Lodge thanks all of the PER’s, especially PER Edward Czechowski, PER William Pazur and PER Richard Lee for all their hard work.

Southeast District continued from page 15

have bought on 153 new members. That is quite a accomplishment.

The Lodge is proud to announce that PER Paul Mozzocci has been named the Vice President of our District for next year.

The Elkettes have been very active in holding special events for the Lodge including a Sweetheart Ball, fashion show, and Book Fair for their scholarship fund.

Belle Glade and Clewiston Lodges had no news given to this reporter after several attempts to contact them.
Dear Elks:

Florida Elks Charities, Inc. is proud to report that the Board of Directors has instituted a new program to recognize major donors. A recognition wall has been installed in the entrance foyer of the headquarters of the Florida State Elks Association, Inc., located at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Thousands of visitors will pass by the recognition wall each year who are participating in the many and varied activities which occur at the Youth Camp. There are numerous ways to donate to the Florida Elks Major Projects in order to be recognized in this special way. Please take a moment to read the following, and then consider having your name included on the Wall of Honor.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Winston M. Needham
Winston M. Needham, President
Board of Directors


ADDRESS CHANGES

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

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