Dear Friends:

While writing this, we are still awaiting information from the office of the Grand Secretary concerning Elks membership in Florida. We hope and believe the result will be a small GAIN for the 2006-2007 Lodge year. By the time we meet in August at the Youth Camp, we will have significantly improved over a loss of approximately 1,000 the year before.

During the recent State Convention in Orlando, I failed to recognize the Lodge Secretary who was the first to send me the Annual Report for his/her Lodge. This year I received three reports on the same day—March 27, 2007. They were from New Smyrna Beach, (Lester Lincoln, Secretary), Deep Creek, (Mickey Katsyriuk, Secretary) and Inverness, (Walt Mabie, Secretary). Walt is always first, or quite close.

Charles Trinowski, immediate Past State President has been named Leader of the Central District. He replaces Peter Naranjo who resigned. Peter has given long and distinguished service as the District Leader.

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With the appointment of Charlie Trinowski as Central District Leader and cognizant of the difficult travel distances in the District, I have begun to look at the possibility of changing some Lodges into different Districts, or a redistricting of the entire state. There will be more on these issues later.

God always gives us more than we deserve and we are most thankful.

Robert Grafton, PGER

Tallahassee Champions

The Jolly Cork Award is given to the contestant who scores the highest ritual contest score as determined by computer at the Florida State Convention Contest. The winner for 2006-2007 is Patrick Flewellen, Chaplain, All State Chaplain of Tallahassee Lodge.

State Ritual Scores

Tallahassee Lodge 937 - 96.4798
Bradenton Lodge 1511 - 95.6985
Ocala Lodge 286 - 95.5165
St. Augustine Lodge 829 - 94.3171
Aripeka Lodge 2520 - 94.2275
Titusville Lodge 2113 - 93.6540
Tampa Lodge 708 - 89.1600
Miami Lodge 948 - 89.7880
Ft. Pierce Lodge 1520 - 92.9421
Brandon Lodge 2383 - 86.3165
Warrington Lodge 2108 - 93.0632

Inside this issue

2-----Officers----FSEA President
3---- Secretary & FLOE
4-----SSE District-Early Initiations
5-----WC District—Ritual Clinics
6-----EC District
7-----C District
8-----SE - S Districts--Re-Creation
9-----GL Resolutions
10-----Florida State Convention
11-----Nat. Convention Photos
12----NE Dist --ChairmanArticles
13----SSW District--P&PR Article
14-----NC District
15----NW District
16----N District
17----SW District--President visit
18-----SWC District
19----SEC District
20-----FEYC-FECTS Photo collage
The State convention is behind us and we have started a new State Association year. I want to thank everyone for your support and confidence you have placed in me to represent you, the Elks of Florida as your ninety-eighth President. My motto this year is “Making a Difference in a Child’s Life.”

Following the convention we started our District Visitations. Kathy and I along with Joe and Rita Ortiz have visited the Southwest District, South Southeast, South, and East Central Districts of our great state. In the Southwest District we had dinner at Sarasota Lodge on Friday evening. Saturday morning we toured the Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium in Sarasota. The Southwest District invited two families, who have children in our Therapy Service’s program, to join us on the tour. Their children enjoyed the aquarium and hands on exhibits, and we had the opportunity to visit with their families. For lunch we were all the guests of the Bradenton Elks Lodge. Saturday evening we made our official visit to the district at Manasota Lodge. In the South Southeast District we were hosted for dinner on Friday evening by Hollywood West Lodge. Saturday morning we enjoyed breakfast at Delray Beach Lodge. We then attended the Florida Elks Children’s Clinic open house. Saturday evening was our official visit to the District at Margate Lodge. On Sunday morning we had brunch at Oakland Park Lodge followed by the dedication of South Broward Lodge’s new building. I will have more on our visits in the next issue. We have also attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Coming up is the August Quarterly, which will be held at our Youth Camp on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of August. If you have never been to see the Youth Camp, please consider attending the quarterly meeting. I know you won’t be disappointed.

I want to speak to all the members of Florida about our two major projects; the Florida Elks Children’s Youth Camp and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. I know many of you are aware, but some of you may not be, that our therapists treat over 300 children per week, and over a twelve month period more than 20,000 youths utilizes our youth camp. Our annual budgets for these two programs are over $4,000,000.00 per year. You will wonder how we can meet these budgets. It is through the generosity of Elks past and present. Many years ago our leaders had the foresight to establish a trust fund to help fund our charitable works, the principal of which could never be spent. I have set a goal of raising a $1,000,000.00 for our Harry-Anna Trust Fund this year. One program I want to emphasize is the sale of a Series L $50.00 Certificate. Each year we design a different lapel pin to be presented to anyone who makes a $50.00 donation. We have almost 70,000 members in our state. If only 20,000 of us would purchase a $50.00 Series L Certificate, we would reach our goal of $1,000,000.00 for our trust fund. I hope that you will join Kathy and me and be one of the 20,000 who “Make a Difference” and wear the lapel pin proudly.

Please cut out the certificate application below and mail it in with your $50.00 donation, and we will gladly send you a lapel pin.

**CORRECTION:**

The front page article by PGER Robert Grafton in the last issue had the last three paragraphs inadvertently omitted. He was writing about his trip to the Pensacola Beach Lodge dedication as follows. The editor apologizes for the error.

Pat and I traveled to Pensacola 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 value of the destroyed facilities, the Lodge obtained a loan from the Small Business Administration and a bank loaned the balance necessary to re-build at the same location.

The ultimate cost to re-build was about three times more than originally predicted because of changes in the building code and large increases in building materials. The result is a spectacular facility that is designed and built to withstand storms of monumental force. If I was a resident of that area and a storm was bearing down, the Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge is where I would want to be.

I appreciate your taking the trips with me and you have earned a gold star if you followed all this way.

Some of us ask a lot of God, and we are seldom disappointed.
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert, PDD

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual State Convention at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort. Our attendance this year was down about 6% from last year as reported by the Credentials Committee. The numbers were: 1,130 Elks (1,258 in 2006; 1,067 in 2005; & 986 in 2004) and 359 guests (327 in 2006; 351 in 2005; & 354 in 2004) for a total of 1,489.

Many thanks go to everyone who assisted in making our State Convention a success and special thanks go to Peggy Henley, Rose Wikowski, and the entire Credentials Committee and their helpers for all of their hard work during the convention. I would also like to thank Dave Vergason, Bill Wellbaum, Bob Shell, Jack Sproul, and Don Watson of the Convention Committee for their support and assistance before, during, and after the convention.

Plans are already under way for the 2008 State Convention which will be held once again at the Coronado. In addition, a meeting will be held at the August Quarterly meetings to begin discussing the hospitality room arrangements for 2008.

If you are interested in having a hospitality suite at the 2008 convention, you must have someone from your Lodge or District, attend this meeting.

The Grand Lodge Convention was held in Charlotte, North Carolina July 8th through the 12th. Attending from Florida were over 400 Elk members and their guests. Florida delegates occupied 191 rooms in the Charlotte Hilton Center City Hotel and 7 rooms in the Holiday Inn at University Executive Park. The Florida Hospitality Room was a big hit for Florida Delegates and Elks from across the nation. Once again, the Elks of Florida were most generous in volunteering their time to assist in the Florida hospitality room. To everyone who volunteered, I thank you! Thank you also to Ben Brown and the volunteers who helped staff the Major Projects Display at the convention center. With their assistance we were able to once again sell our ever-popular Florida themed blinking light pins in support of our hospitality room. Finally, a big thank you goes to my hospitality room team; without their help and support, the hospitality room and Florida functions would not be nearly as successful. These wonderful people work with me throughout the entire year coming up with the ideas and plans for our functions and I thank them for everything they do! They are Carol & Jerry Yates, Faye & Joe Bryant, Linda and Frank Hayes, Carolyn & Mike Ritchie, Big Joe Rogers, and of course my wife Kim!

The Lodge Directories went to print on June 27th and have now been distributed throughout the state. Extra copies are available by contacting the state office and will also be available at the August Quarterly. In an attempt to ever strive for improvements in the usefulness of the book, several new items were added to the directory again this year and we once again used a spiral bind so it can be opened and laid flat. Portions of the directory are published on our website and will be updated periodically as information changes throughout the year.

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

The August Quarterly meetings will be held August 17th and 18th at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. A barbecue will again be held at the Youth Camp on Friday evening for Elks members and their guests. There will be a nominal charge for food and beverage to help defray the cost of the event. I hope you will consider attending the August Quarterly meetings to learn more about the work of the Florida State Elks Association and our two great major projects.

The Mid-Year Convention will be held November 8th through the 10th at the Wyndham Orlando Resort. The preliminary agenda and reservation Information will go out in September.

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

FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS

Dolores L. Casella, President

Dove: An individual who takes a conciliatory attitude and advocates negotiations and compromise.

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

On May 26th we had our meeting at the Elks Convention held at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort.

Past State President Betty Pickenpaugh, Chairlady of the Bylaws Committee, announced the sending of Bylaw changes was closed and her committee will present them at the August meeting in Umatilla.

Chairlady of the Nominating Committee, Carole Weston, presented the slate of officers for the year 2007-2008 selected by her Committee: President – Beverly Messerschmidt, Vice President – Joan C. Fritz, Secretary – Enid Simpson and Treasurer – Carol Deresh. The Four Year Advisory Council Members are Dolores L. Casella and Carol Phelps. Nominations will be taken from the floor and elections will be held at the August meeting in Umatilla.

Vice President Beverly Messerschmidt presented possible sites for the 2008 Conference. A vote was taken and the Marriott on Sand Key was chosen. The 45th Annual Conference will be September 25-27, 2008. Thank you, Beverly, for a job well done.

The packets for the 44th Annual FLOE Conference to be held at the Hilton, Melbourne Rialto Place, October 5 through 7, 2007, were given out to the delegates from each district. Make sure you get your hotel reservations made and conference registrations sent so that you will not miss this conference that promises to be surpassed by none. If you need more packets, forms or help in registering you can call B. J. Black, Senior Delegate and Registration Chairlady, SECD, by phone at: (321) 768-0440 or by e-mail: bjblack@eclrr.com. Don’t miss the deadlines and get left out.

The FLOE Luncheon held at the State Convention was a big success. There were over 350 tickets sold and the Chinese Auction took in over $2,900.00. My thanks and congratulations go out to all who were involved in making this luncheon one of the biggest successes in recent years. The centerpieces were done by the Central District and were absolutely elegant and very impressive when you entered the room. The Chinese Auction was done by the North Central District; the gifts were very well selected and presented beautifully. The door prizes were done by the East Central District and also were very well selected and awarded in a most efficient manner. Registration and seating were done by the Southeast Central District with some assistance from Faye Bryant and Pat Grafton; everything went smoothly and efficiently. Entertainment was supplied by the Soggy Bottom Boys from Fort Pierce Lodge 1520 and proved to be quite funny. A great job was done by everyone who participated; again, my thanks go to each of you. The food was good and many who had never attended before promised to attend again next year. A special thanks goes out to Carl Seibert. All of his efforts in advertising the luncheon and taking reservations accounted for a great deal of the events success.

Now that David Lake has taken the position of Florida State Elks Association President, the President’s visits have started again in honor of him and his wife, Kathy. So far Sam and I have attended the first two of these visits. The first was in the Southwest District hosted by the Manasota Lodge where they had a lovely dinner on Saturday night. On Sunday morning we went to the Bradenton Lodge and had a wonderful breakfast and a personal tour of the Lodge. Wow!!!! The second was held in the South Southeast District and hosted by the Margate Lodge. We had an excellent dinner and the entertainment was a real treat to their Lodge. We have been warmly welcomed in these Lodges and are enjoying seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

I want to thank last year’s Ladies Chairman, Christopher Carlisle, for all his efforts and support and welcome this year’s Chairman, Richard Lee, and his Vice Chairman, Sam Casella. I look forward to working with both of you; those of you reading this don’t laugh, I was a little surprised myself at this turn of events.

FLOE continued page 7
South Southeast District

The district completed another successful State Convention by running several fund raising events to raise funds to help pay for the State President’s visit to the district. All eight lodges worked together to raise funds and host the hospitality room. The hospitality room was organized by outgoing VP Jim Lind and incoming VP Alan Mauk. The district would like to thank Jim Lind for his service to the district and congratulate Alan Mauk as our District Vice President. Pompano Beach Lodge 1898

In a renewed effort to become a viable participant in their city’s activities, the members of Pompano Beach Elks Lodge voted to sponsor four $1000 scholarships to Pompano Beach High School upon the basis of scholastic ability, community service and need.

They were presented Thursday evening, May 17th at the school’s Award Presentation Ceremony by Marilyn Kronenberg. The recipients were Dena Karlin and Matthew Williams who will be attending Florida State University, Rachel Brumm attending Florida Atlantic University and Joel Farbman who will be attending Biola University.

Mothers Day saw the Does of Drove 142 and the Lodge officers participating in a ceremony honoring mothers. Flowers were given to the mother with the most children and the grandmother with the most grandchildren. Doe Joan Waters provided the music, including a song she composed for her Mother. A collation was held afterward.

A Flag Day ceremony was held with the Boy Scouts, Color Guard, Cub Scouts and Brownies honoring our flag. Again the Does of Drove 142 performed their Flag Day Ritual with the Lodge officers participating. A collation was held following the ceremony.

Eleven trees were planted on the Lodge grounds, replacing those lost in Hurricane Wilma. The money to purchase the trees was raised by the “Good Ole Boys” fish fry and picnic. The grounds benefited from their efforts.

The Memorial Day Picnic was a resounding success, thanks to good weather, good food and great volunteers. A memorial service was held at the Lodge for Kenneth Gersley, a Life Member and Tiler of Tempe, Arizona Lodge 2251. Ken passed away in January and his wife Georgiana requested the service so that family members who live locally could witness the service. Mrs. Gersley is PER from the Tempe Lodge. Proof positive that Elks are not forgotten or forsaken.

Three members of our Lodge, active officers, are working with the Florida Education Fishing Foundation. They instruct the students in elementary and junior high school level in water safety, basic marine biology, casting, and maintenance of equipment. Their motto is “Stock Our Ponds, Not Our Jails”. They feel that once a youngster learns to fish they are acquainted with a life long hobby.

More volunteers are needed for the various schools in The district. The commitment would be two hours a day for five days a month. Instructions will be provided in the teaching method used.

Two awards were given for the best essays on “What the American Military Means to Me”. The winners, a boy and a girl, read their essays at the Memorial Day Picnic.

A $1,000 Legacy Scholarship award was presented to Britney Gendreau, whose father and grandfather are both Elks. Her grandfather was present for the award ceremony held at the Lodge prior to a membership meeting.

West Broward Lodge 2273

Plantation Lodge is now West Broward Lodge 2273. On June 24th their new Lodge was dedicated with State President David Lake and VPAL Joe Ortiz in attendance.

Their new Lodge is located in the city of Sunrise at 8900 NW 44 Street, Sunrise 33351. District Deputy Charlotte Burrie led the dedication with several district dignitaries in attendance. They have been conducting Lodge meetings and functions at the Hollywood West Lodge for the past 16 months.

South Broward Lodge 2830

South Broward celebrated Flag Day at the Sandy Ninidad State Veterans Nursing Home in Pembroke Pines. The ceremony was lead by Lodges PER’s Dave Lockhart and Jim Lind. Several Lodge members and two veterans and life members of the Elks carried flags in the ceremony.

EARLY INITIATIONS WERE EGO DAMAGING

By Lowell P. Tyler, State Historian

First impressions by the new candidate are of considerable importance because they tend to be lasting impressions. The ceremony of initiation should present, in a dignified manner, the fundamental principles that Elks subscribe to. Probably no other duty performed by an officer is more important than the proper rendition of the Initiation Ritual.

The forms of ritual have been changed by Grand Lodge dictate from time to time. Each new slate of officers has its own influence on the ritual and how that ritual is delivered and received by a new candidate. The work that an officer puts into this ceremony, the commitment that he or she gives to that ritual, and it’s rendering, can enhance the beauty of the ceremony.

During some of the pre-World War II days, it was common practice for one Lodge to travel to another Lodge in their District for the purpose of rendering the ritual for new candidates.

These early initiations included horseplay and fun (at least for those performing the ritual, if not for the candidate). The candidates had to appear at the Lodge at a designated hour. Prior to this hour, the initiation team dressed in uniforms. One Florida lodge dressed in matching trousers, white shirts, purple sash, and South American hats. This team would march the candidates through the downtown area and to the Lodge, sometimes with an accompanying band. In those early days the Lodges were quite often in small towns and so were well known among their residents. The citizens seeing the parade of candidates knew an initiation was about to be performed. Shouting would come from these citizens when they recognized the candidates... “Oh, I know you, Louis; I know where you’re going.”

One ego-damaging scene would occur after the candidate had been initiated and become a member. While the new member was sitting on the side lines after the ceremony, an older member of the Lodge would get up and loudly announce to the Exalted Ruler that he knew the new member, he was a womanizer, liked his liquor and generally was an undesirable human being, and if the Lodge was going to allow such persons of ill repute into the Lodge, then he was not going to continue his association as a member. Another member would arise loudly protesting the admitting of such man into the order. Soon several would be protesting, and finally a couple would proceed to exit the Lodge in loud protest. Many times the new member would respond by saying that if that was how they felt they could stay where they were and he would leave. Then it would be necessary to restrain the candidate and explain the joke.

Another prank involved blindfolding the candidate and marching him across the “Sands of Time” with sand in a sandbox. They would be wearing brogan shoes that were wired and hooked up to a magneto. As they were walking across the “Sands Of Time”, the magneto would be cranked up by one of the members resulting in a good shock to the feet.

Again, they would be sat on wooden slat chairs on the sidewalks of the Lodge after initiation. The slats were loosely wired to a magneto held by a member in the second row behind them. The Exalted Ruler would then announce some weird project that was to be undertaken and ask that volunteers willing to serve on the committee please stand up.

Initiations continued on page 19
Michael Pierson  
District Deputy  
West Central District

I was was born in Beech Grove, Indiana on September 30, 1960.  
Upon graduation, I was an electro-chemical line technician; my final position was Chief Quality Control and Customer Service Supervisor. During this six year period I married my wife of 26 years, Becky, and we have two children.  
We moved to Florida when DuWell closed. I was self-employed until I was hired by Winn-Dixie and after six weeks was moved to the meat department. I was promoted to Market Manager in 1990. I left Winn-Dixie after 11 years to care for my ailing father.  
When I again returned to the workplace in 1999, I began with LineCom as a cable technician. When the company closed due to September 11th, I was quickly hired by a competitor, BCI Communications where I am currently employed as a Telephone Systems Specialist.  
I was initiated in 1998 into Seminole Lodge 2519 and immediately was appointed Tiler. I served as Lecturing Knight, Leading Knight, and then was Exalted Ruler in 2002-03.  
I then served as Trustee for three years. I was Chairman of the House Committee and was District Chairman of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Committee for two years and Vice Chairman of it for one year. I was also State Chairman and Vice Chairman of CredentialsCommittee and District Auditor to DD Ron Simpson in 2005-06.  
Last year I was Vice-President of the West Central District last year.

North District continued from page 16

At the State Convention, the lodge was pleased to be awarded a first place award in the state Scrapbook Contest. PER Carl Ledig spent many hours putting this together, and it paid off with the first place award. The Lodge also won a second place award in the Lodge Bulletin Contest. Thanks are in order to our bulletin editor, Leading Knight Julia Ferrell.

The annual Fathers Day Brunch hosted by the ladies was a great event for families to get together and give a bit of special recognition to the dads. The Elketts host this event and everyone enjoyed the food and socializing. More than 100 folks joined came to the Lodge on Fathers Day.

Flag Day proved to be a well-attended event with participation by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who helped with the flag presentations. The Lodge conducted a flag retirement ceremony as part of Flag Day. Snacks and beverages were served in the dining room to all the guests attending. The Lodge was fortunate to have coverage in the local newspaper featuring a story and a photograph of the officers lined up during the flag retirement, as well as some television coverage by a local TV station.

The PER Association sponsored a Pig Roast on June 23rd. PSP Larry Henley and PDDGER Stan Netles showed up early that day to get the pig on the smoker. The food that night was fabulous, and everyone enjoyed the meal. Special thanks go to member Bob Partain who donated his time and music equipment to fill the room with background music for dinner, and music for dancing afterward.

State Ritual Clinics

Ritual Clinics will be conducted at the following locations:
Bradenton Lodge 1511 - Sept. 22-23, SW District  
Tallahassee Lodge 937- Oct. 27-28, N District  
Pompano Beach Lodge 1898- Nov. 17-18, SSE District

Saturday Clinic sessions begin at 10:00 AM.  
Sunday Clinic sessions begin at 9:00 AM.

The Bradenton Clinic is scheduled to be conducted by Brian Burns, Grand Lodge Ritual Committeeman for Area 3. The two remaining clinics will be conducted by State Ritual Chairman Beryle Farmer and Vice Chairman Pat Shipley.

These clinics are not solely for certification of judges. All Elks who are interested in the proper form of Opening/Closing of the Lodge and the performance of the Initiatory Ritual are also encouraged to attend, especially Lodge Officers and Ritual Coaches. Any Elk in good standing may certify as a Computer or Word Judge by attending one clinic and receiving a passing grade in the examination. The requirements for certification as a Floor Judge are to attend two clinics and receive a passing grade in the examination at each clinic. Only Past Exalted Rulers are eligible for certification as a Floor Judge; however current Exalted Rulers may take the test for first approval. Any Elk may take these tests for practice.

Please note that we have been advised that if attendance continues to decline at State Clinics, there will be only two such clinics next year. It is up to all of us to illustrate that three clinics are still needed.

The above and additional Ritual information is posted throughout the year on the Florida Elks web site. Go to www.flels.org. Then click on “Ritual” on the left sidebar.

If you have questions we can be reached at:  
Beryle Farmer H(850) 936-7843 JCool008@bellsouth.net  
Pat Shipley H(904) 810-4407 psh822256@aol.com
Daytona Beach Lodge 1141

Jane Chamaon was elected as the new Exalted Ruler. April 14th the Lodge held their annual Highway Pickup. APA City Pool Tournament was sponsored by the Lodge. The Lodge acknowledges both Emma and Leland Becton as being the only husband and wife couple to be District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers in the Lodge and in the East Central District. Trustee Roger Johnson, PER and Trustee has been elected the new East Central District Chairman and State Chairman for Americanism. Mother’s Day and Flag Day ceremonies were celebrated at the Lodge on their respective days. Special thanks to Carolyn Schultz for her dedicated service as the Lodge Treasurer and as Editor of the Lodge News Bulletin. She has decided to retire from these positions, but will continue to serve the Lodge in other ways.

Deland Lodge 1463

The Lodge held its annual softball tournament. And they had a great turnout a marvelous steak dinner was served after the event for everyone who attended. The Lodge is so proud of Tom Pollard, PER on becoming the new East Central District Trustee Roger Johnson, PER and Trustee has been elected the new East Central District Chairman and State Chairman for Americanism. Mother’s Day and Flag Day ceremonies were held at the Lodge on their respective days. Membership is growing.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650

Exalted Ruler Nick Skibba along with Sylvia and Sonny Olesik and Kathy Skibba placed a wreath at the traveling Vietnam Wall in Melbourne recently. Thank you, Sylvia Olesik, for making the beautiful wreath. Craig Baird and Christopher Bergau were presented with awards and flags after making Eagle Scout. The state softball tournament turned out to be a great success with the Lodge winning the Camaraderie Trophy, thanks to our wonderful cheering section. Special thanks to go to the Ladies of the Lodge for helping with Kentucky Derby Day.

New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557

It’s a repeat performance for Dot Durni, PER, she is the Exalted Ruler for 2007-2008. Installation of officers took place on Friday, April 6th. The Lodge had a nine year old boy advance all the way to the State Hoop Shoot competition where he came in second. Mother’s Day and Flag Day were celebrated at the Lodge on their respective days. Membership is growing.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

Congratulations go to Linda Armstrong the new Exalted Ruler for 2007-2008. Linda and her officers are looking forward to a successful year. Dee Jaglowski, President of the Ladies Auxiliary and her ladies, Noel Coluccio and Betty Polistana helped organize a Flea Market on April 14th. Thank you ladies for all that you do for the Lodge all year long. Mother’s Day and Flag Day ceremonies were held at the Lodge.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709

Mother’s Day was celebrated at the Lodge with a special Elks Ritual presented by all the officers. After the ceremony a lovely dinner was served. There were over 125 members and guests who attended the Flag Day ceremony on Saturday, June 16th. President was Betty Elman, PER; the guest speaker was Col. Jack Howell. Past Presidents and officers of the Ladies Auxiliary presented flags along with members of their Boy Scout Troop #270. Among the honored guests was The Flagler County Marine League Corp #876.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

Exalted Ruler, Ron Keenan is looking forward to working with all his new officers, and most especially with Pat Ferro, Madam President of the Elkharts, and her officers and all the lady Elkharts, this year. Congratulations to the winner of the Americanism Essay Contest was Hana Eldick from Silver Sands Middle School.

Sanford Lodge 1241

Best wishes are given to newly elected Exalted Ruler, Ron Dunn and his newly elected officers. Ron is looking forward to taking charge of things and working with the Ladies of the Lodge for helping with Kentucky Derby Day.

Titusville Lodge 2113

“Medal of Valor” presented to Jim Bardsley, PER. Left to Right: Jim Harnish, Veteran Service Chairman; PER Jim Bardsley, recipient of Medal; ER Dave Wiggan, Titusville Lodge 2113.

Jim Harnish has been the Lodge Chairman of Veteran Services for over a decade. He is a retired Chief Warrant Officer with 26 years of service in the US Army. As a disabled veteran, himself, he has great empathy for our servicemen and servicewomen who have returned home with injuries.

He has two sons and a daughter who are also retired from the Army. One of his granddaughters, third generation Army, recently returned from Iraq and is planning to return. Under Jim’s leadership, Titusville Lodge #2113 has accomplished many things. He led the way in making sure they had an “Adopt-A-Vet” program; represented the Lodge in the annual Titusville DAV Stand Down for homeless and needy veterans, collected books and toiletries for the Orlando VA Medical Center, nursing Home and Domiciliary; started their Blue Star Program, invited veterans and active duty military members and their families to the Lodge for dinner and recognition, convinced the Lodge to fly the POW/MIA Flag and the Blue Star Flag below their American Flag in front of the Lodge; led the movement to supply motorized wheelchairs to disabled veterans in their community, recently presented the Lodge’s first Medal of Valor to the grandfather of an American hero who died in combat. Jim is a great American and a great Elk who shows by his actions that our motto, “Elks Care-Elks Share” is more than just words.

Stan Suess
East Central District Vice President

I was born on April 26, 1938 in new Britain Ct. I attended school in new Britain and also the University of Maryland while stationed overseas. I served 23 years in the military both active and reserve. I am also a retired manager from the U.S. Postal service and was an auxiliary state trooper with the Connecticut State Police Dept.

I joined the New Britain CT Lodge 957 in 1973 and served on their house committee for 15 years. I transferred to Deltona Lodge 2739 in 1995 and was elected house committee chairman. I have received Elk of the Year, and served Tiler, Inner Guard, Exalted Ruler for the term 1998-1999. I was Officer of the Year for 1999-2000. I has served as ECD Chairman for Lodge Activities for 2 terms, Americanism, Credentials and New Lodges. I served the State Association as State Chairman for Resolutions in 2000. I has served as Trustee, Chairman of the Trustee’s and Secretary of the Lodge. I was the District Esquire to the District Deputy 2003-2004 and District Auditor for the ECD. I was Vice President of the East Central District 2005-2006.

I am a member of the Marine Corp League, Marine Corp Assoc, American Legion, Amvets, DAV, Viet Nam Vets Assoc, NCOA, National Assoc of Postal Supervisors and the Connecticut State Police Academy Alumni Assoc.

I am married to the former Mary L. Luppino of New Britain Ct who is also a member of Lodge 2739 and we have two children, Maureen and Jeff. We also have two grandchildren, Molly and Dylan. Jeff is also a member of Lodge 957.

I am a volunteer fireman, instructor & assistant armorer with the Volusia County Sheriffs Dept.

Merry Mother’s Day to all the Lady Elkhearts, this year. Congratulations to the following: Marion Bousquet for being the only women of the Lodge all year long. Congratulations to the following: Marion Bousquet for being the only woman of the Lodge all year long. Congratulations to the following: Marion Bousquet for being the only woman of the Lodge all year long. Congratulations to the following: Marion Bousquet for being the only woman of the Lodge all year long. Congratulations to all the lady Elkhearts, this year. Congratulations to the following: Marion Bousquet for being the only woman of the Lodge all year long.

Florida Elks News
Lodges of the EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Reporters: Mary Ann Bucci
Aripeka Lodge 2520

Aripeka Lodge also had a pizza party for the veterans at Baldomero Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home. Bingo Charities donated $500 to the National Veterans Service Commission for birthday parties, bingo prizes and refreshments; $500 to Relay for Life Cancer Walk; and $1,000 to Haley House (where families can stay when visiting their family at Tampa VA Hospital).

Aripeka Lodge 2520 had participated in the Ritual Program at the State Convention and came in first place. On June 9th, Vice President of the Central District, Ed Czechowski was honored with a dinner/dance. There were over 100 members and guests in attendance.

Recently the Aripeka Elks Lodge through their bingo charities and with the assistance of PSP Ben Brown Jr., Administrator of the Florida State Elks Children’s Therapy Services, purchased a tilt table for sixteen year old Joey Burns of Brooksville. This young man has been in a coma for two years caused by an accident while playing tag football. Joey needed to be elevated in order to stimulate his breathing and relieve him from possible build up of liquids in his lungs or static pneumonia. It also helps his liquid feeding functions and stimulates his muscles. This table will be able to put him in standing position.

Zephyrhills Lodge 2731

Zephyrhills Lodge is very proud of Alice Perry; she is the first woman to be elected as Exalted Ruler. The Lodge has donated $2,000 to the Elks National Foundation. This makes the per-capita $16.86 and makes them the first in the state and district for their Lodge size. They gave $42,000 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and $1,000 to Zephyrhills Pregnancy Center. They also gave $500 each to Zephyrhills Fire and Rescue, Lighthouse Ministries, Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home, and Elks National Home. The Lodge donated $250 each to the Sheriff’s Youth Ranch and the American Cancer Society.

On Sunday, May 13th we honored our Mothers with a program and buffet. On June 14th they held a Flag Day Program. The Jr. ROTC of Zephyrhills High School and VFW Post 8154 presented the flags. Also in attendance were the Amvets Post #550 and American Legion.

At the State Convention, Zephyrhills Lodge received awards from the Elks National Foundation (for highest per capita donations for Lodges 701-1100 members), the Florida Elks News Publication, and the Outstanding Induction Program with a rating of 96. The Central District led the state in new members.

West Citrus Lodge 2693

West Citrus started their year off with their Annual Children’s Easter Egg Hunt that as always was a great success. The Lodge hosted the Citrus County Math Field Contest for over 500 students from middle and high schools in the County. The Veterans Committee which has approximately 30 volunteers has been busy setting up their schedules to visit the vets in the area.

On May 3rd the Lodge held its annual Student of the Year Dinner with 40 high school seniors, their parents and school dignitaries. Four students were awarded $1,000 scholarships each.

From left: Exalted Ruler O. C. Leonard with students Stacy Kubovec, Brice Peterson, Michael Mavros, and Jennifer-Lynn Griffith on right is Adrienne J. Martin, Scholarship Chairperson.

West Citrus is honored to have had PER, Ed Czechowski, chosen as the new Vice President for the Central District. In May, Derby Day was held with prizes awarded for Best Hat, etc. Over 180 mothers were served on Mother’s Day.

West Citrus received two award plaques at the State Convention. The first was for Most Lodge Visitations and the second was for Increase in Membership (20.10%); they came in 3rd in the State. The Lodge was represented in the State Golf Tournament in Sebring and came in with the 5th best score out of 72 teams. Players were PER Grover Keeney, Bill Fearnley, Wall Rowe and Pat McLaughlin.

In June they held their Flag Day Ceremony with the Nature Coast Young Marines as flag bearers. They were honored to have approximately 50 veterans from some of the nursing homes in attendance and after the ceremony they had a buffet luncheon. The veterans really enjoyed the outing and the members were proud to have them at the Lodge (thanks go to Sandi Koval and the Veterans Committee).

The Lodge also had a Father’s Day Breakfast where all the dads were well fed by the Ladies of the Elks.

Brooksville Lodge 2582

Brooksville Elks Lodge sponsors Cub Pack 459 and as a result of a drawing at their Council Pinewood Derby honored a Cub Scout with a tent. The Brooksville Lodge held a “Turn Around Dinner” to honor 20 Hernando County students who had turned their lives around and improved in school. Commissioners and other dignitaries were presented each child with an award. The Lodge also gave a $1,000 scholarship to student Carrie Davidson who is pursuing a nursing career.

Mothers Day was celebrated with officers putting on the Ritual and a dinner/dance. Each lady received a carnation and prizes were awarded in various categories such as Mother with the most children, etc. A luncheon was held on the 21st for Veterans of World War II and Battle of the Bulge, chaired by Veteran’s Chairman Gail Cleaves. A representative from Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite’s office, Shirley Anderson, presented each veteran with a certificate.

At the State Convention Brooksville Lodge received three plaques for their bowling leagues for doubles first place, first for senior handicap and third for team senior handicap. Hazel Grover was recognized for placing second in the State Lodge Bulletins Contest and PER Donna Zuk was awarded a Vice President of Central District plaque.

On June 10th the Lodge presented a Flag Day Ritual. PDD Richard Ferguson chaired the event. Cub Pack 459 provided the flag bearers for the presentation of the seven historical flags, lead by Boy Scout Cory Balderson of Troop 446. A luncheon followed the ceremony.

Donna Zuk
District Deputy
Central District

I was born in Detroit, Michigan and graduated through high school and some college.

I was married 48 years when my husband, Alex, passed away. We have two daughters and five grandchildren.

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

I was with the Ladies Auxiliary for three years and was Secretary for one year. I have been a member of the Brooksville Elks Lodge for ten years. I served as Tiler and Chaplain. I was Exalted Ruler in 2002-2003, and Treasurer 2003 to present.

I was Central Regional Chairman of the National Foundation Scholarships Committee for two years and District Chairman of the Lodge Activities Committee for three years. I was a member of the Veterans Service Committee, worked on the Bingo Committee, was on the House Committee for two years and was Secretary of the House Committee. I was Drug Awareness Chairman, and was a member of the Community Services, Indocriation, Investigation, Lapsation, and Sickness & Distress Committee. I was Chairman of our PER Association for one year and then became the Secretary.

I received the Officer of the Year Award in 2005-2006 and Volunteer of the Year Award in 2005 from ARC.

I was Central District Vice President in 2006-2007.

I am proud to be a member of the Elks and will continue to be involved with the Elks.

Florida Ladies Of Elks continued from page 3

Our next meeting is 9:00 a.m. Saturday, August 18, 2007, at the Youth Camp in Umatilla. Come out to the meeting and help us to support the Elks. You are eligible if you are the wife or the widow of an Elk in good standing. In the meantime get your registrations in for the Conference; we look forward to seeing you there.
SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Reporter; Joy A. Booth, PER

The District Barbecue was held in April in Clewiston. It was a huge success with the highlight of a barbecue grilling contest. Prizes were awarded for the best ribs and chicken. Nine teams competed and the judging was very difficult.

The District Golf Tournament was held at the end of June in Indiantown under the direction of Paul Mozzocci, Vice President of the Southeast District.

At the State Convention, Clewiston Lodge was awarded the Best Opening and Closing Award for the District. Also, Clewiston’s Brittany Bacallao was recognized as the State Champion in the Soccer Shoot for the second year in a row.

Clewiston's Brittany Bacallao was recognized as the State Champion in the Soccer Shoot for the second year in a row.

Pahoeke Lodge 1638

PDDGER Barbara Heffernan reports that the rebuilding of their Lodge is well underway and now has windows in place complete with hurricane shutters. It has been a long and difficult path, but insurance companies are hard to deal with in this matter. They are progressing on their building as money and contractors are available to do the work.

Jupiter Lodge 2469

National Foundation Scholarship Chairman Bob Rago did a great job with the student scholarships this last year sending five students on for district and state judging. PER and ER Mike Orlando’s granddaughter Nina Orlando has graduated from Maryland College of Art. She was a past recipient of a Legacy Scholarship.

The Lodge did their Flag Day Ritual on the 17th and received a new flag to raise over their building. It culminated with the presentation of the Bell of Liberty for the altar.

June 30th was the homecoming for the DDGER Gary Casperson.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

The Lodge finally received word from GER Frost that the merger between West Palm Beach and Lantana/Boynton Lodge 2676 has been approved and finalized. Now both Lodges are in the process of combining both membership and property. The leaders of Lantana/Boynton are taking an active role in their new Lodge. PER Ted Olson has become their Esquire and PER Joy Booth has become a Trustee.

A very impressive Flag Day Ceremony was conducted at the Lodge under the leadership of Americanism Chairman Bruce Cook and PER Phil Macnak. The Palm Beach Co. Sheriff’s Dept., a group of local Marines, Young Marines, and the Scouts presented the flags.

Gary Breakfield
District Deputy
Southeast District

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

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

I am a National Board Certified Teacher.

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

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

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

My hobbies are music, sports, and travel.

SOUTH DISTRICT

Reporter; Don Queralto

North Miami Lodge 1835

North Miami Lodge was recognized at the Florida State Elks Association Convention with a plaque for first place in donations to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund of more than $43.00 per capita.

The Florida Elks Youth Camp benefit was held on Saturday June 2nd. Brenda Byers did a great job as Chairperson with the help of John Taylor and others.

South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676

Exalted Ruler Joey Glickman and Leading Knight Dolores Leach presented American flags and certificates of achievement to 19 members of Troop 457 who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. The Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on April 28th.

The Gate Program, Safe Kids and the South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge collaborated to give 51 bike helmets to local kids at the Krispy Kreme Donuts on South Miami. Special thanks to Mimi Sutherland, David Henderson, the Bicycle Coordinator from Miami-Dade County, the Gate Program, Dolores Leach, Marice Mills and Safe Kids, who donated the helmets to the Lodge.

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

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

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

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

I have been an Elk for eight years and served as Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, and Leading Knight and as Exalted Ruler in 2003-2004. I was Officer of the Year in 2001-2002. I have served as a District Chairman in the South District and on the Scholarship Committee. I have also served as District Auditor and on the Lodge House Committee. I was Vice President of the South District last year.

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

Re-Creation USA

Group entertained at the Grand Lodge opening ceremony

Since 1986, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission has been partners with Re-Creation USA in providing entertainment to our nation’s veterans housed in VA medical centers. Re-Creation is a group of young men and women between the ages of 18 and 30 who are all volunteers. They have given up a year or more of their lives to perform this act of love. They travel to all 50 states each year, going from VA medical center to other medical centers, warming the hearts and brightening the lives of hospitalized veterans. And they do so without pay. How does this work? As the group tours, local Elks Lodges provide the entertainers (approximately 12 of them) with lodging and a meal before they move on to their next destination. The Re-Creation group members are housed in hotels while on their VA Medical Center tours. They require four rooms, sleeping three to a room. In most instances, lodging in motels can be provided for about $200-$250 a night. Re-Creation contacts the VAVS representative several weeks before its visit to his VA medical center and explains its needs. The VAVS representative will work directly with the group. The VAVS representative then contacts the state NVSC chairman, Exalted Rulers and Lodge National Veterans Service Committee chairmen in the area of the VA medical center and asks them to help fulfill our commitment. Your involvement makes it possible to keep live entertainment therapy a part of the program for America’s hospitalized veterans.

Donald Schwartz
District Deputy
South District
Proposal to amend and restate Chapter 6, Section 6.010 of the Statutes of the Order:
The purpose of the Resolution is to authorize separate incorporation of the Elks National Home in order to provide enhanced limitation of liability. To read as follows:
Section 6.010. The Elks National Home & Retirement Center shall be owned and operated by a separate non-stock non-profit Virginia Corporation to be organized by the Board of Grand Trustees who are authorized to prepare and file articles of incorporation in a form consistent with applicable Federal and State laws. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America shall be the sole member of the Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall consist of the duly elected and installed Grand Trustees of the Order who shall have authority to act in all corporate matters to the full extent allowed by applicable laws. All assets and liabilities shown on the most recently audited financial statements and Form 990 of the Elks National Home assets and liabilities shown on the most recently audited financial statements and Form 990 of the Elks National Home with changes in the ordinary course of business to the date of incorporation, shall be transferred to and vested in the Corporation.

And instead of the Grand Trustees the rest of the Statute would read as Directors.
The Board of Directors shall have supervision and control of the Elks National Home, engage a resident Executive Director and other necessary employees, fix their compensation and adopt rules and regulations for its management.

Passed — 2321 yes – 519 no. This proposal did not require passage of Resolution 2007-2.

Resolution 2007-2
Proposal to amend Article III Section 3 of the Constitution:
Its purpose was to permit assessments to be made annually, by resolution of the Grand Lodge, upon each member of the Order for contribution to the corporation that is proposed to maintain the Elks National Home.

Failed — 1809 yes – 519 no, because it required a 2/3 majority.

Resolution 2007-3
Proposal to amend Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution:
Changing the age of membership.
Proposed the Nebraska State Elks Association
Purpose to allow persons 18 years or older the privileges of Elks membership

Failed — 501 yes – 2329 no.

Resolution 2007-4
Proposal to amend Section 14.010 of the Statutes of the Order:
Changing the age of membership.
Proposed the Nebraska State Elks Association
Purpose to allow a person at least 18 years of age to become a member of the order.

Failed — 511 yes – 2322 no.

Resolution 2007-5
Proposal to amend Section 14.130 of the Statutes of the Order:
Changing the age of membership.
Proposed the Nebraska State Elks Association
Purpose to allow persons 18 years or older the privileges of membership.

Failed — 559 yes – 2272 no.

Resolution 2007-6
Proposal to amend Section 14.140 of the Statutes of the Order:
Changing the age of membership.
Proposed the Nebraska State Elks Association
Purpose to allow persons 18 years or older the privileges of membership.

Failed — 573 yes – 2253 no.

Proposal to amend Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution:
And instead of the Grand Trustees the rest of the Statutory incorporation, shall be transferred to and vested in the Corporation.

Proposal to amend and restate Chapter 6, Section 6.010 of the Statutes of the Order:
The purpose of the Resolution is to authorize separate incorporation of the Elks National Home in order to provide enhanced limitation of liability. To read as follows:
Section 6.010. The Elks National Home & Retirement Center shall be owned and operated by a separate non-stock non-profit Virginia Corporation to be organized by the Board of Grand Trustees who are authorized to prepare and file articles of incorporation in a form consistent with applicable Federal and State laws. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America shall be the sole member of the Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall consist of the duly elected and installed Grand Trustees of the Order who shall have authority to act in all corporate matters to the full extent allowed by applicable laws. All assets and liabilities shown on the most recently audited financial statements and Form 990 of the Elks National Home with changes in the ordinary course of business to the date of incorporation, shall be transferred to and vested in the Corporation.

Proposal to amend Section 14.130 of the Statutes of the Order:
Changing the age of membership.
Proposal:

Passed — 2627 yes – 204 no.

Resolution 2007-8
Proposal to amend Section 12.130 of the Statutes of the Order:
“Section 12.130. All Officers shall memorize the Opening and Closing and Initiatory Rituals for their respective stations within 30 days after their installation. Failure to do so may require a forfeiture of office if declared by a majority vote of the Lodge at a regular meeting. The Exalted Ruler, with approval of the Lodge may appoint Members of the Lodge especially qualified to organize degree teams for the exemplification of the Rituals, except for Opening and Closing of Lodge meetings and the Initiatory Ritual.”

The proposed amendment would read as follows:
Section 12.130. All Officers shall memorize the Opening and Closing and Initiatory Rituals for their respective stations within 30 days after their installation. Failure to do so may require a forfeiture of office if declared by a majority vote of the Lodge at a regular meeting. The Exalted Ruler, with approval of the Lodge, may appoint Members of the Lodge especially qualified to organize degree teams for the exemplification of the Rituals, except for Opening and Closing of Lodge meetings and the Initiatory Ritual.

Passed — 2090 yes – 740 no.

Proposal to amend Section 12.130 of the Statutes of the Order:
“Section 12.130. All Officers shall memorize the Opening and Closing and Initiatory Rituals for their respective stations within 30 days after their installation. Failure to do so may require a forfeiture of office if declared by a majority vote of the Lodge at a regular meeting. The Exalted Ruler, with approval of the Lodge, may appoint Members of the Lodge especially qualified to organize degree teams for the exemplification of the Rituals, except for Opening and Closing of Lodge meetings and the Initiatory Ritual.”

The proposed amendment would read as follows:
Section 12.130. All Officers shall memorize the Opening and Closing and Initiatory Rituals for their respective stations within 30 days after their installation. Failure to do so may require a forfeiture of office if declared by a majority vote of the Lodge at a regular meeting. The Exalted Ruler, with approval of the Lodge, may appoint Members of the Lodge especially qualified to organize degree teams for the exemplification of the Rituals, except for Opening and Closing of Lodge meetings and the Initiatory Ritual.

Passed — 2090 yes – 740 no.

Proposal to amend Section 4.490 of the Statutes of the Order:
The above section reads as follows:
“Section 4.490. The Initiation Ritual shall be exemplified by the Officers of the Lodge during the official visit of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. If the Lodge visited does not have a candidate awaiting initiation, the Exalted Ruler or the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler shall select some Member to act as a candidate.”

The proposed amendment would read as follows:
“Section 4.490. The Initiation Ritual shall be exemplified by the Officers of the Lodge, or by a degree team if that form of rendition of the Initiation Ritual has been included in the Lodge By-Laws during the official visit of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. If the Lodge visited does not have a candidate awaiting initiation, the Exalted Ruler or the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler shall select some Member to act as a candidate.”

This Resolution was proposed by the Florida State Elks Association.

The purpose of this resolution is to allow the Initiation Ritual to be performed by a degree team when authorized in the Lodge By-Laws.

Most discussion was from David Vernon, President of the Massachusetts Elks Association against the degree team. The final vote was close as compared to past years proposals.

Failed 1337 yes – 1494 no.

Resolution 2007-10
Proposal to amend Section 12.130 of the Statutes of the Order:
The above section reads as follows:
“Section 12.130. All Officers shall memorize the Opening and Closing and Initiatory Rituals for their respective stations within 30 days after their installation. Failure to do so may require a forfeiture of office if declared by a majority vote of the Lodge at a regular meeting. The Exalted Ruler, with approval of the Lodge, may appoint Members of the Lodge especially qualified to organize degree teams for the exemplification of the Rituals, except for Opening and Closing of Lodge meetings and the Initiatory Ritual.”

The proposed amendment would read as follows:
“Section 12.130. All Officers shall memorize the Opening and Closing and Initiatory Rituals for their respective stations within 30 days after their installation. Failure to do so may require a forfeiture of office if declared by a majority vote of the Lodge at a regular meeting. The Exalted Ruler, with approval of the Lodge, may appoint Members of the Lodge especially qualified to organize degree teams for the exemplification of the Rituals, except for Opening and Closing of Lodge meetings and the Initiatory Ritual, provided however the Lodge may, by an Amendment to its By-laws provide for a degree team not necessarily composed of the duly installed Officers of the Lodge for the rendition of the Initiation Ritual. The Team shall consist of Members of the Lodge especially qualified in rendition of the Initiation Ritual appointed by the Exalted Ruler with approval of the Lodge and who shall perform the Initiatory Ritual from memory. All elected and appointed Officers shall have the right to be a part of the degree team at their elected or appointed station.”

Resolutions continued page 14

The final Credentials Committee report had 1,130 Elks and 359 guests for a total of 1,489 in attendance, including the Florida State Sponsor, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Grafton, and the State Sponsor of Florida, Georgia, & Alabama and Puerto Rico, Past Grand Exalted Ruler C. Valentine Bates. Special guests attending the convention were Past Alabama State President Victor McClelland and his wife, Peggie.

Guest speaker at the Convention was an occupational Therapist of Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services; Paula Tarver, who told the audience of her work with children.

The Color Guard of West Orange High School, U. S. Air Force Junior ROTC presented the colors for the tribute to the American Flag at all of the opening sessions of the convention.

The goal of the Elks National Foundation of $4.00 per capita was surpassed with total statewide donations of $399,861.22 or $5.207 per capita. The outgoing state president’s goal of $750,000 in new money for our major projects (the Harry-Anna Trust Fund) was also surpassed with $808,082.56 in new money donated for an average of $11.546 per capita.

Sebring Lodge 1529 Annual FSEA Golf Tournament raised over $18,000 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Deland Lodge 1463 held a Softball Tournament that brought in $9,000 for the Trust Fund. A Bowling Tournament raise about $500 for the trust fund.

Sixty-one Florida Elks Lodges exceeded the GER’s goal of plus one in membership. Florida had an overall gain of 64 members for a total of 69,963 members.

Tallahassee Lodge 221 represented Florida at the Grand Lodge Ritual contest.

The recipients of the Alberta “Boots’ & Eleanor Van Duren Scholarships for 2007 are: Ann N. Mclemore attending FSU; Lindsey B. Macklin attending UCF; Crystal R. Mannino attending UF; Chadwick C. Wilcox attending UF; Iris A. Howell attending UCF; Priscilla V. Moreno attending UF; and Stephanie Lee N. Sansoussi attending UNF.

The Veterans’ Male Volunteer of the Year Award was received by Jim Lamb, PER, of the Sarasota South Lodge 2495.

The Lady Veterans’ Volunteer of the Year was Phyllis McAllister of the Fort Pierce Lodge 1520.

The Florida State Elks Association President for the Year 2007-2008 is from Fort Myers Lodge 1288. He is David Lake, a Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and on the Board of Directors of Florida Elks Properties. His motto for this year is, “Making a Difference in a Child’s Life.”

The Vice President at Large is Joe Ortiz, a Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the South District and District Director of the South District.

The officers are as follows: State Secretary- Carl Seibert, Belle Glade Lodge; Treasurer-Joe Bryant, Sebring Lodge; State Tiler-Frank Malatesta, Jr., of the Sarasota Lodge; State Historian-Lowell Tyler, West Palm Beach Lodge; State Chaplain-Ronald Bupp, PDD, Rotonda Lodge.

The District Vice-Presidents for the year 2007-2008 are David P. Cagle, NW; Janet da Silva, N; Garfield Hurt, NE; Stephen Hahoney, NC; Thomas Pollard, EC; Edward W. Czechowski, C; Christopher Carlisle, SEC; Edmund Tuthill, WC; Doris Waddell, SW; Michael J. Carney, SWC; Robert Maxey, S; Paul Mozzocci, SE.
The 143rd Elks National Convention was held at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, NC, July 8-12, 2007, with a final count of 7,501 Elks and guests in attendance. This is 780 less than attended last years BPOE Convention in Orlando, FL. The Elks were welcomed to North Carolina by Past Grand Exalted Ruler Ted Callicott, State Sponsor and to the city of Charlotte by the Mayor, Patrick L. McCrory.

This Convention installed an Illinois Elk as the 2007-2008 Grand Exalted Ruler. F. Louis Sulsberger is a member of the Flora, Illinois Lodge 1659. He became an Elk in 1973. His wife of 18 years, Beth, and more family than could be counted were present at his nomination to National President of Elks position.

His professional life began in the petroleum industry as a land man and right of way agent followed by a successful career in sales. He and Beth belong to the St. Stephens Catholic Church.

After joining the Flora Lodge he progressed through all the chairs, serving as Exalted Ruler in 1986-1987. He received Elk of the Year Award in 1993-94 and was Illinois State Tiler in 1992-1993. He served as a Vice President three times and was a District Deputy in 1990-91. He was State President in 1998-1999. He served as a member of the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee and was elected to the Board of Grand Trustees in 2003, and is presently Chairman of the Board.

He has set a goal for Elks National Foundation donations at $4.25 per capita. He advises that the ENF is the “Great Heart of Elksdom,” and that “Elks – United to Serve Others,” (his theme for the year), the Elks will surpass last years achievement.

He challenged each Lodge to avoid losing its members by ensuring that each member is revitalized in the indoctrination program and educated in procedures and programs of the order.

During the Opening Ceremony, Florida State President David Lake proudly carried the Florida State Elks Association Flag to the stage during the Parade of all State Flags.

A beautiful Memorial Service was held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday morning. A Special Eulogy was given for Past Grand Exalted Ruler Gerald L. Coates by Honorable Ted Callicott, Past Grand Exalted Ruler from Paris, Tennessee Lodge 816. A General Eulogy was given by J. Marvin Buck a Past Grand Trustee from Rockville, Indiana Lodge 2471.

Helena Scherrer, Exalted Ruler of Carmichael, California Lodge 2103 had the honor of giving the 11:00 O’clock Toast.

The Ritual Team of Tallahassee Lodge 937 competed in the Eastern division of the competition and finished in Seventh Place with a score of 95.5454. Their performance was outstanding and impressive.

The final four competing and the order of finishing were: Sturgis, MI Lodge 1381 was first with 96.9651; Carlshad, NM Lodge 1559 was second with 95.8753; Ogallala NE Lodge 1760 placed third with 95.1335; Atlanta Northlake, GA Lodge 78 was fourth with 94.9690.

Florida Elks received several First Place and/or Five Star Awards. Marianna Lodge 1516 received 1st Place in Division II with the Highest Percentage Gain in Membership - plus 105; Florida Major Projects Booth received a Five Star Award in Best Booth and the Florida Elks News also received Five Stars for Best State News Publication.

Florida was recognized for having a gain of 64 in membership. Lodges contributing to that gain and receiving awards in membership were: Port Charlotte Lodge 2153 2nd Place Division V - plus 85; Port St. Lucie Lodge 3rd Place Division V - plus 83; West Citrus Lodge 2693 3rd Place Division III - plus 121; Pensacola Beach Lodge 497 2nd Place Division IV - plus 105; Punta Gorda Lodge 2606 2nd Place Division VI - plus 236.

Florida also received a $200 award for most newspaper articles displayed that were sent in by last years Publicity and Public Relations State Chairman Iwan Choronenko.

Florida Elk Charles C. Covucci of the Cape Coral Lodge 2596 has served 27 years as the Elks National Veterans Military Exhibit Chairman. He advises us that this 143rd Convention will be his last. The 90 year old veteran has helped raise over $80,000 for the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital.

He is donating his very large collection of military uniforms, metals, flags and memorabilia to Tommy Jamison to assure that they will continue to be a wonderful display at all future Grand Lodge Conventions.
Ted Beal
District Deputy Northeast District

I was born in New Kensington, PA in 1939. I was in the first graduating class of Forrest High School in Ocala, FL.

I received an Associate Degree with Vincennes University and had a two year stint in the Navy.

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

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

My affiliation with the Elks began in July of 1976 and this July will mark my 30th year in our organization. I served my Lodge in many capacities, i.e. ER, Trustee, several chairmanships, etc. I was Exalted Ruler in 1982-1983.

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

Gainesville Lodge 990

In July the Lodge will be honoring two “Medal of Valor” families. This is a program from the Grand Lodge that honors fallen soldiers in the Iraqi Conflict. There will be a brief ceremony and a prime rib dinner will be served.

Orange Park Lodge 2605

The Northeast District Therapy Services Therapist gave the Lodge an update of the services being provided. She had a special request for a child who needed an orthopedic brace. She was given $600 towards the brace from our Charity account.

Jacksonville Lodge 221

Several of Jacksonville’s members attended the memorial ceremony at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Wall on Memorial Day, and laid a wreath dedicated to all those listed. Ten names were added to the wall this year.

St. Augustine Lodge 829

The motorcycle club did a bike run in May. The run was to the Florida Elks Youth Camp via the scenic route. We were given a tour of the camp as well as treated to lunch. They were briefed us on the camp’s history. Kudos to the camp staff who made the tour of the camp and lunch memorable.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892

The Lodge participated in the Annual Green Cove Springs Memorial Festival. They manned a booth that served hot dogs, hamburgers. The Drug Awareness Trailer was also utilized. All proceeds from the food booth will be turned over to the Veterans Committee for future veteran projects. In addition, they took a group of veterans to a Jacksonville Suns Baseball game. Fun was had by all.

Palatka Lodge 1232

The Annual Memorial Day Blue Crab Festival was held and as always gives the Lodge members an opportunity to meet and greet with the public, and share with them what the Elks are all about. A Flag Day ceremony was held in conjunction with their Civic Betterment Award recognizing our local hospice volunteers and employees.
Bonita Springs Lodge 2753

Recently Bonita Springs Lodge 2753 held a Public Safety Appreciation Night honoring the Lee County Sheriff Department and the Estero Fire and Rescue Department.

Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott and Estero Fire Chief Scott Vanderhook spoke to the attendees about fire safety and crime prevention and how to stay safe during a hurricane.

From left, Sheriff Mike Scott, Exalted Ruler Richard Cooke, and Chief Scott Vanderhook.

The Lodge awarded plaques of appreciation to both departments and hopes this is the start of future programs.

Lehigh Acres Lodge 2602

The Monday Night Dart League made a very generous donation to Lehigh Acres Community Service for Need Families. They donated 23 $25.00 Wal-Mart food certificates and 130 pounds of food to the agency.

Esteemed Leading Knight Larry D’Angelo, Lodge Veterans Service Chairman, spearheaded a campaign for donations of much needed items for hospitalized veterans at Bay Pines. As a result $1064.25 worth of items were sent.

Flag Day ceremonies were held at the Lodge with PDD John Hammer as chairman. Also present were the following: American Legion Post #323, Disabled American Veterans #94, Kiwanis Club, Knights of Columbus Council #6265, Lehigh Acres Shrine Club, Lions Club, and VFW Post # 4174. Pearl Harbor survivors were guest. The Heros of “76” from Sojourners, Inc built the flag strip by strip and explained what each stripe and star stood for.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

On April 20th 13 members of the Veterans’ Service Committee traveled to Bay Pines VAMC in St. Petersburg to deliver 82 boxes of donated materials for the veterans. They also presented a check for $500 to Tom Coleman, Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services Representative.

The Lodge’s homeless feeding program continues and the numbers are growing; they are now feeding approximately 80 meals each Tuesday at the Lodge.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

Punta Gorda Lodge held their annual Nite-at-the-Races on April 14th. Over 200 Elks joined in a tail gate party prior to the race followed by super racing that was enjoyed by all. Top ticket salesman Norm Gould had the honor of starting Race # 3. A total of $425 was generated from ticket sales and donated to the Sallie Jones Elementary School fourth grade teachers.

The Lodge held a Kids’ Fishing Tournament on June 16th. The event was a huge success with 150 participants ages four to fourteen. The event included prizes and food for all participants. The event also included a package of information from the Drug Awareness trailer for each child.

Peter Vaphiades
District Deputy
South Southwest District

I was born in Providence, Rhode Island February 23, 1944. I graduated from Friends Academy in Massachusetts and attended Kiski Prep in Pennsylvania. At Jones College I obtained an Associate Degree in Business Administration, graduating on the Dean’s List.

I joined the United States Navy in 1961 and became an Aviation Electronics Technician; I was honorably discharged in 1965.

I formed my own company in 1976, Economy Computing Stores, Inc. It began as an office equipment sales and service company and quickly evolved into custom computer systems. In 1978 I developed the first computer assisted dispatching system for the Pine Castle Fire Dept. This later evolved into the Orange County Fire Dept. where the first single user system evolved in multiple systems with up to 250 users.

I am the President of ECS and an IT consultant to the City of North Port and the Orange County Fire/Rescue Div. I am semi-retired. In 2001 I moved to North Port and demitted to the Charlotte County Elks, now the Port Charlotte Elks Lodge in 2001.

I have been Chaplain, Lecturing Knight, and Leading Knight. I served as Exalted Ruler in 2002-2003 and then as a Trustee until becoming the Lodge Secretary in 2005. I have been the South Southwest District Business Practices Chairman and District Membership Chairman for the past two years. Last year I was State Vice Chairman of the Resolutions Committee.


Rotonda Lodge 2710

Rotonda Lodge held an Easter Egg hunt for 100 kids on April 7th.

The Lodge raised $15,000, (yes that’s fifteen thousand dollars) with a golf tournament for charity to be divided between the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Elks National Foundation and local charities.

The Lodge pledged $6000 to be paid $500 per month to the Charlotte County Homeless Children’s project. Some of these children arrive in school hoping their peers won’t notice the scratches on their arms, legs and faces, surface injuries reflecting the deeper psychological wound from having no place to sleep but a bed of leaves, twigs and dirt in some obscure wooded area. Some of these students haven’t eaten in days and others lack simple personal necessities such as shampoo or deodorant or a clean set of clothes, or even a place to take a shower.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

By Pat Heller-Jackson, Chairman

Public Relations is a form of communication, mainly aimed toward obtaining the public’s understanding and awareness of our organization. It is used to build goodwill with the public through a deliberate, planned and organized effort.

Public Relations date back from the early pre-historic drawings, to hieroglyphics and to ancient writings. When newspapers appeared in the 17th century, people had an avenue of information. Getting ‘out the word’ today is accomplished using media of all types, from radio and television, to the Internet. The degree of success with publicity and public relations is measured in how much is achieved within the favorable relationship of the organization and the public.

Each member and every Lodge should be striving to communicate with the community. So much showing of your presence in the community may be obtained at no or minimal cost. Reserve a table at “Community Day” and place all the Drug Awareness booklets on display. Have a picture display of your Hoop Shoot or Soccer Shootout contests. Show the public what you do for our Veterans. Promote the Youth Activities with all the Grand Lodge sponsored contests. Utilize other community service groups like the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Boy and Girl Scouts during Flag Day Service.

While participating and conducting functions be sure to be proud of what you’re doing and get publication of those events. Use the local radio, television, or newspaper for the coverage but remember, to get the coverage you need to spark the interest of the reporter or photographer. Don’t just tell them you’re having an event, but tell them what is so great or interesting about it.

Don’t be shy…… it won’t help us to be successful in our public relations campaign.
Lake in 2005-06. I have been Lodge Secretary for five years. In 1978-1979.

Inverness Lodge 2522

The Lodge sponsors Boy Scout Troop #302. The troop recently held a Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser at the Lodge building.

Lodges of the

North Central District

Reporter, Walter Mabie, PDDGER

This fund raiser assisted 24 members of the troop to take part in Wilderness Camping at Yellowstone and Grand Tetons National Park.

The Lodge also hosted an Eagle Court of Honor for Arron Charles Maitdof in April.

Inverness Elks Lodge gave the history of the flag assisted by Boy Scout Troop #302 at the City of Inverness Flag Day Ceremony on Flag Day. More than 135 Elks and families attended the program.

Clermont-Groveland Lodge 1848

The Clermont-Groveland Lodge recently held a Law Enforcement, Fire Fighter and EMS recognition dinner. Approximately 60 meals were served in appreciation of the men and women who support our community with their many sacrifices. The Lodge thanked Charlie Driggs, Chairman of the Americanism Committee and his many volunteers for bringing this event to a success.

Silver Springs Shores Lodge 2730

On June 30th the Silver Springs Shores Elks Lodge held a dinner/dance chaired by Sal Tine to celebrate the formation of their Lodge. Everyone was sure to mark their calendar; they didn’t want to miss this event.

Winter Park Lodge 1830

The Executive Committee of the “Wapiti Project” is pleased to announce that their infamous bronze elk has been placed in front of the Lodge entrance.

It will have a high definition lighting system with a bronze plaque noting that it honors our departed Elks. There will be a large plaque recognizing our departed Elks and distinguished donors in the lounge below the Eleventh Hour Elk clock. The dedication ceremony was held June 24th.

Cinco de Mayo/Kentucky Derby Day held on May 5th was a tremendous success with $850 being donated to Dogs for the Deaf. Many thanks go to all who participated in this fun event for such a good cause.

Eustis Lodge 1578

Eustis Lodge sponsored a Blood Drive May 5th. The Blood Bank is working on getting a new device to measure the iron in the blood. This new device takes ALL of the human factors out of measuring the iron count and it is done electronically, much like a blood sugar meter for a diabetic. It should be in service by the end of summer. Many thanks go to all who have participated and supported this very special project.

GRAND LODGE RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

“The Board of Pardon Commissioners shall report its recommendation to the Grand Exalted Ruler. The Board of Pardon Commissioners shall deposit its records with the Grand Secretary within 30 days of the conclusion of the Grand Lodge Session.”

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on the Judiciary.

The purpose is to provide a designated permanent depository for the records of the Board.

Passed 2625 yes – 188 no.

Resolution 2007-13

Proposal to amend Section 14.180 of the Statutes of the Order:

The above section reads as follows:

“Section 14.180 ............... However, a Lodge may, by By-Laws, establish a sixty (60) day consecutive period during the Lodge year in which any reinstatement fee otherwise required by this section is reduced to one (1) dollar, except the months of February, March, April and May ...”

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

“Section 14.180 ............... However, a Lodge may, by By-Laws, establish a sixty (60) day consecutive period or a two (2) consecutive month period during the Lodge year in which any reinstatement fee otherwise required by this section is reduced to one (1) dollar, except the months of February, March, April and May ...”

This Resolution is proposed by the Committee on the Judiciary.

Purpose is to allow Lodges the option of a two calendar month period of time for a reduced reinstatement fee rather than 60 days.

Passed 2514 yes – 295 no.
Milton Lodge 2377

Michelle and Alicia Thrush (identical twins) finished first and second, respectively, in an essay contest in the girls’ category for the Most Valuable Student Scholarship for the Elks’ Northwest District.

“In 25 years of involvement with the award, twins never have applied”, said Bill Allen, Scholarship Chairman for Milton Elks Lodge. “What is really significant is Michelle and Alicia are from the smallest school in the judging area and were the best of 69 girls applying in the district.”

Michelle graduated as Valedictorian and Alicia as Salutatorian from Jay Florida High School. They also received “advanced placement” honors in receiving Associate of Arts degrees from Pensacola Junior College. Michelle will be attending the University of Miami majoring in Nursing, while Alicia will be headed to University of Florida majoring in History.

Warrington Lodge 2108

The Warrington Elkattees sponsored the 1st Annual Lodge Car Show on June 9th. It was a rousing success, raising over $1,000 for their various charities. The cars were great, the food was great and the weather was HOT! Elkatte President, Cindy DeGarmo said “I hope everyone enjoyed the show and really, this is all about teamwork and a ‘can do’ attitudes. Elks and the Ladies working together equal a successful and fun event”.

Warrington ‘Rovin Elks’ with seventeen rigs attended the May 18th-20th campout at the Blue Angel Recreation Area.

The fun started on Thursday with Ray Haltering the group to hotdogs in celebration of Bonnie Hall, Charlie Batson, and Johnny Epps birthdays. Ray and two of Bonnie’s brothers also provided entertainment for the evening.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

Local Law Enforcement Officers Fed

On May 19th more than 80 members gathered to show their appreciation to local officers and lifeguards who help make our community safer. The yearly event recognized a member of local law enforcement agencies as well as the U.S. Park Service and an SRIA lifeguard. Along with dinner, each officer received a certificate of appreciation.

This year’s recipients were; Sgt. Andrew Johnson, Gulf Breeze Police; Deputy Sheriff Chris Welborn, Escambia County Sheriff’s Office; Lead Park Ranger Deanna Mladacky, US Park Service; Doug Doucette, SRIA Lifeguard; and the Pensacola Beach Fire Department was recognized for it’s community service at large.

Americanism at Work

Americanism Chairman Wanda Wigley (left) proudly presents an American flag to Ms. Linda Rice, Branch Manager of the new S.W. Library on Cervantes Avenue in West Pensacola.

The ceremony took place May 30th on the occasion of dedicating the new Library to serve the citizens of the area. The Library is fully equipped with the latest computers and associated software programs.

Panama City Lodge 1598

Recruiting Plan

Recruiting new members is a must for the new year. Elks must have new members to survive. A Membership Committee has been formed to help come up with recruiting techniques and ideas.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks needs three kinds of members to keep going. We need the Member who comes to the initiation but never come to the meetings or club again but, the member sends his or her dues every year and is faithful and proud to send dues to help support all the activities, charities, and benefits the BPOE does. The second type of member comes to initiation and enjoys the club activities. The member will be at every club party and have a great time. The third member does the initiation and dives right into working. He or she gets active on the committees, starts through the chairs and attends every meeting possible. All three types of members are very important and we should be glad to call them a brother or sister. Some people like to be behind the scenes helper of sending money. Others enjoy being the social butterfly. Still some enjoy being hands-on doing the work of Elksdom.

Let people know what the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is. Tell them about the youth programs we do. Brag about the support we give our veterans and Americanism. Spread the word of brotherhood and fellowship we share by being a part of this fraternal organization. Show people the pride we have as Elks and the good times we have.

When you can let people know all these things that Elks Care and Elks Share they would have to become a member to belong to this great organization.

Fort Walton Lodge 1795

Spectators Beware, Golfers are Coming.

The planning has already started for the Lodge 2007 Golf Tournament to be held September 30th. The first meeting will be held on June 27th at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in managing one of these areas or at least helping in an area, please call Paul Eubanks at 850-243-4409 or 850-833-9525, or e-mail him at rockycreek77@aol.com. The following areas are listed for your consideration: Food Manager, Sponsorship Manager, Beverage Manager, Awards Manager, Raffle Manager, Door Prize Manager, Par 3 Manager, Publicity Manager, Registration/Mulligan Manager, and Gift Bag Manager.

The tournament is to raise funds for their restricted charity account and to have a fun and enjoyable event on September 30th at the Fort Walton Beach Municipal Pines Course.

Crestview Lodge 2624

The Lodge had a very busy 6-7 weeks getting ready for and working bingo. The old Shamrock Bingo building has been leased and reopened, under new management, on June 15th. Therefore, their trustees have decided that it is in the best interest of the Lodge to close their bingo and join the new bingo hall as a sponsor. Special thanks go to everyone who spent countless hours getting ready for bingo, as well as, to everyone who helped remove the bingo equipment for the new owners.

This year’s Mother’s Day ceremony and dinner was exceptional. The guys did a good job with the ceremony and prepared an awesome meal. Their Father’s Day dinner was held on Friday June 15th. The ladies did a small ceremony in honor of the fathers with a nice meal following.

In partnership with Twin Cities Lodge, Flag Day was held at their pavilion on Saturday, June 16th at 4:00p.m. A cookout was provided after the ceremony with Twin Cities furnishing the desserts.

Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787

Mr. Jim Fix surpassed all the many years of their golf tournament. There were more golfers who signed up this year and they truly enjoyed the game. Special appreciations go to Mrs. Robin Weeks for keeping the records so correctly. This also applies to the high performance of the committee and all who volunteered their time and hard work. Thanks are also given to Irene, the bar manager; Kelly, the bartender, and Jane who assisted them.

Appreciation goes out to all sponsors and Outback Steakhouse and staff as well as to everyone who donated door prizes, to Mr. Jim Roberts for donating the trophies and to PER Rick Mase for donating the PA system.

The Holley-Navarre Mothers Day Service was a beautiful tribute to mothers. Gratitude is extended to PER Rick Mase for handling all the arrangements. All enjoyed the food and the beautiful flowers. Mr. Clarkson’s mother won the Most Experienced Mother’s gift. Mrs. Marian Farmer won the Most Children and Grandchildren’s gift. Mrs. Lynn Feehan won the Youngest Mother’s gift. Thanks go to all who attended. This Mother’s Day Service was so heartwarming.
The North District is pleased to have their first lady Vice President, Janet da Silva from Live Oak Lodge 1165. Congratulations to Janet on being selected by the Florida State Elks Association to be the district’s representative. They know she will take her responsibilities seriously.

DD Ron Brown was certainly busy helping many of the Lodges with officer installation at the end of March and stretching into April. The district thanks Ron for his efforts in traveling the district to help each of the lodges with this important event.

The district is delighted to have Tallahassee Lodge 937 in the district and to have had Tallahassee representing the Florida State Elks Association in the National Ritual Competition in Charlotte at the National Convention.

Lake City Lodge 893
Lake City Lodge is proud to announce its Elk of the Year, Jim Prevatt; Officer of the Year, PER Tommy Witt; and Citizen of the Year, Mayor Steve Witt (who is also a PDDGER). A special honorary award was given to Cynthia Jacobus for all the time and energy devoted to Lodge renovations.

A new event at the Lodge is birthday night/karaoke night. Each month the Lodge offers a free meal to anyone born that month, with meals to others for a couple bucks. Everyone is invited. Karaoke is hosted by PSP Tom Elmore, folks are having a great time. Even if you don’t sing, there is room for you.

The Lodge is proud to announce the awarding of four $500 scholarships to local students. All were children of Lodge members. Jeff Siegmeister Exalted Ruler, attended Senior Award nights when the scholarships were announced.

James Hollingsworth
District Deputy North District
I was born June 7, 1948 in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. I graduated from Columbia High School in Lake City, FL, in 1966 and received my AA degree from Lake City Community College and my BS in Criminology from Florida State University.

I served honorably in the United States Air Force.

I married Barbara Libby on April 2, 1970; We have two sons, two daughter-in-laws, a grandson and two granddaughters.

In May of 2005 I retired from the Federal Government.

I was initiated into Lake City Elks Lodge 893 on March 29, 1979, serving as Chaplain, Esquire, Loyal Knight, and Leading Knight. I was serving as Exalted Ruler in 1986 when I moved to St. Petersburg, returning to Lake City in 1999 and serving as Exalted Ruler in 2001-2003 and Chairman of the Trustees and the House Committee. I was Co-Chairman of Lake City’s Centennial Committee. I received Elk of the Year in 2004-05.

On the district and state levels I have been District Chairman of Americanism and Elks Training, State Chairman of Americanism, State Vice-Chairman of Elks Training, and Chairman of Elks Training.

I enjoy playing golf and I enjoy spending time with our children and grandchildren.

My goal for Elkdom is growth through MEMBERSHIP.

North District continued on page 5
Manasota Lodge 2734

Jan Bennett, Public Relations Chairman

Manasota Lodge held a benefit on April 22nd for the grandson of Montie and Carol Tebo. Carol was the first to become a member and his granddaughter, Montie, and his mother, Jessica Zuckerman have since become part of the Elk family. Mathew Zuckerman is two years old and was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in February, 2006. He was uninsured and to make financial matters worse, his mother had to take a nine month leave of absence to care for him during extensive treatment.

Mathew is now in the maintenance phase of his chemotherapy, which will last until July, 2009, providing he has no relapses. He is doing well and his family has every hope and faith in God and his doctors that Mathew will have a long and healthy life.

The medical bills have been huge and will continue to grow. It has been estimated those costs will be at least $50,000 beyond what Medicaid will pay.

To date, $13,850 has been raised. There were approximately 40 Elk and non-Elk volunteers from Manasota Lodge helping with this benefit from 10 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. More than 600 people attended this event including visiting Elks from other Lodges. Almost 100 children took part in all the fun activities planned for them outside (dunk tank, face painting, etc.). Local firefighters filled the dunk tank, watched over those participating and even took part in dunking a few! Laughter is said to be the best medicine and there was no shortage of that inside and outside!

Several musical groups provided live entertainment. There was non-stop dancing, talking and eating all day, as well as raffles, sales and silent auctions.

Florida Blood Services had their bloodmobile on site and out of nineteen people interviewed, eighteen were able to donate in honor of Mathew. Seven people also registered to be tested for bone marrow compatibility.

They will continue to have auctions and raffles for Mathew’s benefit with all proceeds going into the Charity account for him.

This event was a perfect example of what Elksdom is all about: caring and sharing. Mathew’s family quickly learned that when you join the Elks, you gain an extended family that will always be there for you.

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Dan Hutchinson
District Deputy Southwest District

I was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1941.

I enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1959 and retired as a Chief Medical Service Corps Warrant Officer in 1978.

I have a BS degree in Health Science from the George Washington University and am a Board Certified Physician Assistant.

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

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

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The Southwest District State Elks Association, which entails seven Lodges, recently donated $2,400 to sponsor a dog for the “Paws for Patriots” Program. This program, which is handled by Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. helps in furnishing both guide dogs and dogs from the “Gifted Canine” program to American servicemen and servicewomen who are blinded or wounded from the Global War on Terror.

Pictured LtoR: Jim Lamb District Veterans Service Chairman, Doris Waddell District Vice President, Pat Cowan Executive Director, Dan E. Tabor District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Helen Arnold Community Relations Representative.

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On Saturday morning approximately 17 Elks and guests toured the Mote Marine Research Center & Aquarium. The district therapist was asked to invite two of her families who are part of our Children’s Therapy Services, to join them at Mote Marine. Alexandra and her parents Robin & Mark Miles and Alena and her parents Danielle and Raymond Barwick, along with her brother, Quinlan enjoyed the tour.

Everyone then proceeded to Bradenton Lodge 1511 for a delightful reception and lunch. Alexandra and Alena and their families enjoyed lunch and helped make David’s visit a memorable one, following his theme of “Making A Difference in a Child’s Life”.

After a most welcome afternoon break, the President’s party went to the Manasota Elks Lodge 2734, home of District Vice President, Doris Waddell. Cocktail hour with a very impressive hors d’oeuvres table was followed by a delicious dinner. Eighty-four Elks and guests were in attendance and thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the program which followed. David addressed those in attendance, explaining his program for the year and asking everyone to become involved in the Harry Anna Trust Fund and the Elks National Foundation.

Contributions were turned in to David and the State Harry Anna Trust Fund Chairman, in the amount of $1,550 in $50 pin purchases and donations from two Lodges totaling $1,250, for a grand total of $2,800 for the Harry Anna Trust Fund.

The Southwest District hopes that the Florida Elks are able to meet our State President’s goal of $1,000,000 for Harry-Anna Trust Fund this year.
Arcadia Lodge 1524

Joe Newton is well into his 5th term as Exalted Ruler and has a full slate of officers on board to help with the many events planned for the year.

Member participation will make the Lodge much more successful.

Because of the Lodge sponsoring the Desoto Middle School in the Southern Region Baton, Pom-Pom and Flag Competition, the Roosevelt Johnson, the Mayor of Arcadia, gave them a Proclamation declaring the first week in May as, “NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK”.

For the sixth year the FECTS staff enjoyed a special dinner prepared by Brian Burns and Keith Keene to show appreciation for what they are doing.

Lake Wales Lodge 1974

It has been three years since Hurricane Charlie took down the big sign out in front of the Lodge but now it has been rebuilt better than new.

The Easter Egg hunt had 34 kids finding almost 100 dozen Easter eggs hidden by two dozen great volunteers. Eighteen “prize” eggs were mixed in with all the others and those lucky eighteen got either a large toy filled basket or a large stuffed animal. “Strawberry” the clown was on hand to help those lucky eighteen got either a large toy filled basket or a large stuffed animal. “Strawberry” the clown was on hand to entertain the kids as they waited to start the hunt.

Lake Wales EKettes fundraised raised $3,000, which was presented to Ben Brown FECTS Administrator. The Lodge had a per capita of $22.7239 for 2006-07 year.

The EKettes of Lake Wales Lodge raised over $3,000 for the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services through various fundraisers during the year. The Lodge had a per-capita of $22.7239 because of a silent auction that brought in over half the amount. Exalted Ruler Henry Seay and Elkette President Charlotte Winger presented the money to Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services Administrator Ben Brown.

Sebring Lodge 1529

Paul Kemple and his crew of 13 Adopt-a-Highway volunteers filled up 30 bags of trash along about two miles of the Sebring Parkway.

Donna Klemm and the Veterans’ Service Committee take care of the four leaf clover cookies to the 90 Veterans in the nursing homes each month.

Scholarships of $1,000 each were given to Avon Park senior Franjessica Finnkin and Sebring High senior Robert Griffin, Jr.

Lodge dining room volunteers donated their tips back to the Lodge building fund which totaled $6,517.45 last year.

Bingo players donated enough to send ten children to the Elks Youth Camp last year. They also donated $2,339 to the Safe House for women and children.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

Seven families with a total of 21 children in the local area received Easter baskets full of food and goodies for the children.

Kids Identification Day was held in late May when with the assistance of the Lake Placid Police who fingerprinted and photographed 84 local children for use by the parents should the need arise. FECTS therapist for the SWC District Christina Walker had a table set up and showed the visitors what they do to help children.

Dick Rhodes
DDGER
Southwest Central District

I was born in Medina, NY and raised in the Buffalo Area of Western NY where I attended school. In 1950 I joined the Air Force and served for 20 years retiring as First Sergeant in 1970. I then took a position with the Customs Service as one of the first Sky Marshal’s to fly as a Security Guard on US Airlines. Upon completion of that program I went on to serve with the Customs Service in many positions working out of the Tampa office where he again retired in 1988 as Captain of the Patrol Division.

In 1997 I was initiated into Elksdom by Brandon Lodge 2383 and was the first officer to serve in all of the chairs becoming Exalted Ruler in 1984. I have served on many committees within the Lodge, the Southwest Central District and the State Association.

I was voted Elk of the Year in 1989-1990, Officer of the Year in 1997-1998 and 2004-2005. The Lodge voted him an Honorary Life Membership in 1998, and because of my very active participation in Scouting Programs in the Lodge and Community, in 2002 he was awarded the Martin L. Lewis Scouting Award at the Grand Lodge Session in Reno. He served as Vice Chairman of Elks Training in 2002-2003 and Chairman 2003-2004. During all of this I have served with great honor and distinction as the Secretary of his Lodge since 1990.

I married my lovely wife Barbara, 50 years ago and during those years we have lived a very active life while raising two great sons and two lovely daughters. We have five grandsons whom we love dearly.
Sebastian Lodge 2714

Elks National Youth Week was celebrated by hosting a dinner on May 6th for Boy Scout Troop 599. Other scouts present were Cub Scout Pack 568, girl scouts, brownies, a soccer team, hoop shoot contestants, Americanism contestants, and their families.

Exalted Ruler Dennis Freese presented Haley Murto a $500 savings bond, which was given by the Florida State Elks Association for second place in Division 1 (5th & 6th grades) for this year’s State Americanism Essay Contest. In attendance with Haley were her mother Sara Murto, principal of Sebastian Elementary School Pat Donovan, and Haley’s teacher Rose Brickles.

On May 28th, over 50 people were present in the Lodge to observe Memorial Day, and on June 10, 2007, Sebastian Lodge held their Flag Day ceremony. Over 60 people attended to see the ELDOE’s carry the flags into the hall while being escorted by the Boy Scouts from Troop 599.

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

The Lodge had its Annual Children’s Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. Vicky Rodriguez, Lodge Treasurer, was the Easter Bunny. The ER Ball, in honor of ER Mary Ann Manning, was held on April 14th. It was a great night with great music and a great crowd. The ER presented a plaque to Augustus J. Simonelli, PDDGER, from the members of the Lodge for all the hard work he did as ER last year.

GER award pins were presented to Secretary Tom Douglas, Trustee Chairman Shirley D. Nalbandian and Romeo Martello for proposing three or more applicants for membership. Trustee William LaSalla, Sr. received an Elks watch for proposing 11 or more applicants.

On Mothers Day, May 13th, the mothers, grandmothers, and great grandmothers were honored. Basket of goodie baskets were presented to the oldest grandmother, youngest grandmother and the one with the most grandchildren.

James R. Lebon received the rank of Eagle Scout. He is the 17th Eagle Scout in Troop #420.

A Memorial Day Picnic was held on May 28th, Ed and Jeanett Izzo & Crew kept the food flowing. Eighteen members attended the State Convention. A first place award was received for the Lodge bulletin, a second place award was received for the Lodge scrapbook that was prepared by Historian Kathleen Nixon. The highest percentage of membership gain, and highest per capita for the Harry Anna Trust Fund were also recognized.

The Exalted Ruler presented two $500 Scholarship awards to two students from the area, who entered the Most Valuable Student Contest, but did not win.

The Flag Day Service on June 10th led by Loyal Knight Steve Elliott was a complete success. The United Veterans of Port St. Lucie, including the DAV and Korean War Vets participated in the ceremonies. Lois Gravius of Stuart-Jensen Lodge made beautiful flag pins that were given to all who attended.

A Steak for Two Dinner was served on Father’s Day; it was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Vero Beach Lodge 1774

Members visited the local Rosewood Magnet School and distributed over 100 dictionaries to all the third graders. PER Robert Carroll and members Brenda Carroll and Christine Ferrari participated in the distribution of the dictionaries.

The Lodge hosted the first Viva Las Vero Casino Night for the over 300 members and guests. There was entertainment, dancing, plenty of good food provided by local restaurants and caterers, and numerous prizes provided by local businesses. The big winner of the casino night was the Vero Beach Hibiscus Children’s Center, which was presented a check for $24,000 donated by the Elks Lodge. The Hibiscus Children’s Center provides a home like environment for approximately 50 children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect and abandonment.

Viera Lodge 2817

Viera Lodge has come a long way in its short seven-year history. The membership focused their energy on remodeling their larger home; virtually all the interior renovation is being done by the members. In the midst of Lodge building activities, Viera members recently participated in a youth activity fundraiser which resulted in a donation to the Viera High School Athletic Department in the amount of $2,000.

Initiations continued from page 4

No one would stand, so the man with the magneto would proceed to crank it up. The new member would receive a jolt of electricity, jump from the chair, and the Exalted Ruler would recognize them as volunteers for this strange project. If they did not rise immediately, they just cranked the magneto a little faster until they did stand.

Sometimes the candidate would be placed in a tilting chair, the lights dimmed, and someone would proceed to tell a very ghostly story. At the right moment the chair was quickly tilted back as they produced a simultaneously loud “bang” making the candidate think for a moment he had been shot.

In another instance, the candidate would be placed in the center of the room in pajamas to be branded an Elk. A branding iron would be heated for him to see. He would be blindfolded, his pajamas top opened to expose his chest. Then a cube of ice would be placed on his chest making him think he had been branded.

In one scene a boxing ring was set up in the center of the room. The candidate would spar with another candidate with large padded gloves. The floor of the ring was wired and hooked to a magneto. Then as they were sparing around the ring, the magneto would be cranked up, and the resulting shock would cause considerable dancing around the ring.

For a number of years there was a second degree. It was not mandatory in the last years of the second degree that all Elks participate. Periodically, a second-degree initiation would be held at one Lodge while a neighboring Lodge would visit in order to participate. Elks from all over a District would gather for the initiation, bringing their candidates with them. Second Degree candidates would be dressed in striped prison uniforms and ropes would be tied loosely around their necks and from one neck to the next. Then they would be marched single file through the streets of town accompanied by a mule and a goat. Other members would be dressed as guards and the scene received stares from the citizens along the way. A large tub of water might be filled with ice and if anyone got out of hand, he was dunked into that tub of ice water.

They were made to climb greased fire poles. A large net shaped as a long tunnel was placed on the floor of the Lodge, and a man was placed at each end and directed to crawl through the tunnel. As they met halfway, there was no room to pass. Then they would prod the candidate with an electric rod and he would start tearing to get out. Sometimes they would just tear up the net.

In one instance, relayed to me by an older member who was a local sheriff in the jurisdiction of the Lodge and another member who was an Attorney and for years Attorney General for the State of Florida, both candidates, were mounted upon a mule. Once securely in place, someone poked a palm tree limb between the rear legs of the mule; it bucked, throwing both candidates into a pond at the rear of the building.

The last time the second degree and horseplay event was put on was about 1932. Grand Lodge concluded that there were some risks in the initiation pranks. Additionally, they felt that it would be undignified to require men of stature, such as congressmen, presidents, and business executives to submit to such undignified practices.
Thank You for all the Letters...

WHAT OUR PATIENTS FAMILIES SAY ABOUT US

I am excited to see such progress in only 1 1/2 months. So far it has been extremely helpful, positive experience. I love being shown therapy I can incorporate into our daily routine. We have seen amazing results in a short time. Can't wait to see more improvements in the coming months. It has been a great help to our family and I would recommend it to anyone needing service. Would like to thank the Florida Elks for helping our child and family. We received very prompt response and have had nothing but a positive experience. Our therapist, MARGOT BAKER, has been an amazing blessing and help to our family. She is extremely knowledgeable in her area and is very loving and patient with our child. Thank you!

I love your program. The therapists are great. I love that they are done at home. This gives us the opportunity to learn the many things we can do at home with our son. Right now my son receives OT. Our therapist is amazing. My son asks for her all week and is very excited when it is time to “play”.

I think very highly of the FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY. JACINTHA is a very loving person. She does everything in her power to help my daughter and my family out. We will remain forever grateful for the therapy.

Therapy was provided by a highly qualified therapist in my child’s least restrictive environment. He looked forward to Tuesdays, “Mr. Bruce days”! The ELKS are a terrific and much appreciated group who provided services to our child with hypermobility. He has so much more confidence in his physical abilities than he had before the onset of services. BRUCE NATHAN, our son’s pt, was excellent. He knew when to push Trey (or mom) further and when to pull back.

DIANE NORTON was absolutely wonderful!!! We miss her so much. I would like to thank the ELKS for providing this much needed service free of charge.

The ELKS organization has the children’s well-being at heart. CHANTAL is an excellent professional and a very kind hearted and caring human being. She showed concern and care towards my daughter and the quality and reliability of the services she provided were outstanding.

LYNANNE was very educated, professional and sweet with my children. She is very aware of their abilities and knows what needs to be addressed. I highly recommend Lynanne to anyone. She is a wonderful individual and shines when working with children. She is an asset to your organization.

We believe you are a very valuable resource and without CHRISTINA’S help our son would not be making progress. We appreciate your services! Christina is a great therapist and always takes the time to communicate with progress.

I believe there were more therapists like NIKKI MCNARY. She made the therapy program a great experience. We want to thank you for all you do. This is an amazing program.

The Florida Elks is the best therapy services we have ever had. Totally professional therapists. Kudos to YVETTE LAMBERT and PAULA TARVER.

My daughter is benefiting greatly from therapy. PAT has been wonderful and very helpful in facilitating care for my daughter.

JEANNE was awesome with my son. She really cared about him. She noticed things that my son needed to work on that I didn’t even know! She always talked about every activity. It was so helpful!

MISS CHRIS, our therapist, has been our angel. Thank you for her. She has helped us so much.

Deadline for the Fall Edition--Sept. 25, 2007

ADDRESS CHANGES

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

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