FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION

Co-Sponsor
C. Valentine Bates, PGER

My Fellow Elks:
I’m honored to be the co-sponsor of the Florida State Elks Association. I will need everyone’s support as I take over the responsibilities of overseeing the activities and programs of Elksdom in Florida.

I accept the responsibility of continuing Bob Grafton’s exemplary leadership and vision in continuing the good works of our State Association, and I anticipate going forward in all of our Elks endeavors.

Before I outline some of my immediate goals, I’d like to expound on my knowledge and experiences as a Past Grand Exalted Ruler. When I served as Grand Exalted Ruler in 1998-1999, I was fortunate enough to learn firsthand of every state’s major project except three; I can honestly tell you that our two major projects are two of the finest in the country. I don’t say that because I’ve been an Elk for thirty-four years all in the state of Florida. I say this because we, the Elks of Florida, serve our youth in this state in two very distinct but equally important ways. Our Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services treat children with various and serious physical and occupational therapy needs; we do it willingly, gladly, and we rejoice when we hear of the many successes that our great therapists have brought to hundreds of children in need, we want to be able to expand our facilities and support for both major projects, but know that our first priority and responsibility is to ensure the integrity of our Harry-Anna Trust Fund. I will work closely with the various Board members to ensure that all of our hard earned dollars are spent wisely. Your generosity, and the generosity of the Elks before us in Florida, have made all of these dreams a reality, and you are to be congratulated for your unerring support.

With that said, the Elks of Florida have always helped to support our nation’s veterans whenever and wherever we have had the opportunity to do so. I would like to increase our participation in support of our veterans. One way of doing this is to increase our participation and fundraising support in the newly established program called Army of Hope. While our last Army of Hope fundraising effort was successful, I know we can double or even triple our efforts in the years to come. I thank all of you in advance for your enthusiastic response and efforts in helping our veterans and their families in a tangible way. In these difficult economic times, life is more difficult for some of us, but probably none more so than for the families of our active duty soldiers, some of whom are our sons and daughters, neighbors, and friends who have been called up for active duty.

The Florida Ladies of Elks Youth Camp serves another spectrum of children, physically able bodied but sometimes handicapped in other areas. Socially, culturally, and economically challenged children can find great activities, learn some of life’s most valuable lessons, and, in some cases, be totally cared for.

With the increase in need, we want to be able to expand our facilities and support for both major projects, but know that our first priority and responsibility is to ensure the integrity of our Harry-Anna Trust Fund. I will work closely with the various Board members to ensure that all of our hard earned dollars are spent wisely. Your generosity, and the generosity of the Elks before us in Florida, have made all of these dreams a reality, and you are to be congratulated for your unerring support.

Florida Ladies of Elks held their Annual Conference in Clearwater Beach, Florida at Marriott Suites at Sand Key. There were 248 Florida Ladies of Elks registered and 69 guests for a total of 317 registered participants. At the luncheon there were 280 present and 132 for dinner. Donations collected during the conference were over $8,000.

At the evening dinner, the Roadhouse Band, was excellent and Joe and Rita really enjoyed it along with 10 others until the last song was played.

Plaques were awarded by Lynn Warburton, Director of the Florida Elks Youth Camp to the following ladies organizations for their contributions this past year. Warrington Elkettes won the Most Money Award with $7,276.00 dollars given to the Youth Camp; Punta Gorda Elkettes won Second Place with $6,141.00 dollars and the Eustis Anna Miller Circle donated $4,140.00 dollars to receive the Third Place Most Money Award.

The Ladies who sent the Most Campers to the Florida Elks Youth Camp was Punta Gorda Elkettes with 38 children; Eustis Anna Miller Circle sent 23 kids to camp for Second Place; and Cape Coral sent 15 kids to camp for the Third Place Most Campers Award. In total the Ladies of Florida Elks sent 128 children to camp.

Lynn Warburton said at the Conference, “I believe everyone here is as proud as I am of what we do.”

Lynn also reported, “So many people still think our camp is only used during our Summer Camp Program. We like everyone to know what we do.”

Continued page 10

Inside this issue
2——Officers—FSEA President
3——Secretary & FLOE
4——FECTS—Elks National Home
5——Florida Ladies of Elks
6——EC District-Special Story
7——C & NE Districts
8——SE — S Districts
9——WC & NW Districts
10——GERHelsel-Presidents visits
11——SEC District
12——FECTS & Cruise Activity
13——SSW District
14——NC & Membership
15——SWC District
16——N District
17——SSE & Special Recognitions
18——SW District-National Home
19——Mid-Year Agenda & ENF
20——Why Are We Elks?
2008–2009
OFFICERS OF THE FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.

PRESIDENT
Joseph A. Ortiz—Rita
1009 NW 150th St.
Miami, FL 33168
North Miami 1835

VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE
Vincent P. Como—Lisa
2042 NW 104 Avenue
Coral Springs, FL 33071
Margate 2463

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS
Northwest — G. Tom Rogers — Destin Lodge 2688
North — Tom Sunson — Marianna Lodge 1516
Northeast — Gregory L. Hugthon — Palatka Lodge 1232
North Central — Mike R. Jernigan — Winter Garden Lodge 2165
East Central — Christopher Gariepy — Titusville Lodge 2113
Central — Mary E. Ford — Arikepa Lodge 2350
Southeast Central — Betty J. Tewksbury — Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870
West Central — Iwan Choronenko — Holiday Isles Lodge 1912
Southwest Central — Art Yanni — Brandon Lodge 2383
South — Thomas N. Dillman — Palmetto Lodge 2449
Southwest — Richard L. Futral — Cape Coral Lodge 2596
Southeast — Leslie M. Sziuzik — West Palm Beach Lodge 1352
South – South East — Kathy S. Holliday — Oakland Park Lodge 2407
South — Robert H. Rankin — Marathon Lodge 2139
FSEA Secretary — Carl T. Seibert — Belle Glade/Pahokee Lodge 1716
Treasurer — Joseph B. Bryant — Sebring Lodge 1529
Tiler — Donald R. Curry — Key West Lodge 551
Historian — Howell P. Tyler — West Palm Beach Lodge 1352
Curator of Museum — Don Sonaussi — Lake Placid Lodge 2661

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thomas E. Elmore — Chairman — Lake City Lodge 893
James A. Coggins — Vice Chairman — Warrington Lodge 2108
Michael P. Phillips — St. Augustine Lodge 829
Don Sonaussi — Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Michael F. Smith — Plant City Lodge 1727
David P. Lake — Immediate PSP — Fort Myers Lodge 1288

DISTRICT DIRECTORS
Northwest — Vernon H. Jarrell — Fort Walton Lodge 1224
North — Ron Brown — Tallahassee Lodge 937
Northeast — Robert Catuto — St. Augustine Lodge 829
North Central — Jodie Crews — Eustis Lodge 1578
East Central — John S. Parker — New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557
Central — William Pazur — West Citrus Lodge 2693
Southeast Central — Herman J. Heyding — Sebastian Lodge 2714
West Central — Michael Piersen — Seminole Lodge 2519
Southwest Central — Tom Ludwick — Plant City Lodge 1727
Southwest — Frank Malataste, Jr. — Sarasota Lodge 1519
South — Norman S. Smith — Englewood Lodge 2376
Southeast — Ernest L. Basil — Jupiter Lodge 2469
South Southeast — Gerald W. Carter, Sr. Southwest Broward Lodge 2273
South — Albert A. Reker — Miami Lodge 948

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS
Chaplain — Albert A. Reker — Miami Lodge 948
Sgt-at-Arms — Robert Coker — Viera Lodge 2817
Organist — Marie Taylor-Whitney — Florida Keys Lodge 1872

HARRY-ANNA INVESTMENT FUND, INC.
Michael F. Smith — President — Plant City Lodge 1727
Thomas E. Elmore — Vice President — Lake City Lodge 893

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

FLORIDA ELKS PROPERTIES, INC.
James E. Hurst, Jr. — President — Jacksonville Lodge 221
Ken McStravic — Vice President — Fort Myers Lodge 1288

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

FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP, INC.
Donald Watson — President — Live Oak Lodge 1165
Keith Keene — Vice President — Arcadia Lodge 1524
Lynn Warburton — Director — Palm Coast Lodge 2709

FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES, INC.
Bill S. Wilson — President — Jacksonville Lodge 221
Vincent P. Como — Vice President — Margate Lodge 2463
Ben S. Brown, Jr. — Administrator — Eustis Lodge 1578

PAST GRAND EXALTED RULERS
Robert Grafton, PGER, Florida Sponsor
10523 SW 12th Terrace — Micanopy — 32667
C. Valentine Bates, PGER
1511 NW 6th Street — Gainesville — 32601

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Joseph A. Ortiz
“TIME-TALENT-TREASURE”

As I’m writing this message, my wife, Rita, is fully recovered from her fight with a staph infection that kept her on the sidelines for several weeks. She missed most of the August Quarterly activities and was not by my side as I visited the Southeast District on the weekend following the Quarterly. That was a strange feeling for me to be introduced and sit at the head table without my longtime partner by my side. Rita and I want to thank all Florida Elks for your warm thoughts, phone calls, “Get Well” cards, and healing prayers. As I mentioned in my updates, Rita truly felt the love and thoughtfulness of Florida Elks.

Since my last message, I have attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Anaheim, California and I had the distinct honor of representing all Florida Elks at the opening ceremonies during the “Parade of Flags” as I proudly carried the State of Florida Flag onto the stage to join the other 52 flags. Florida was well represented at the convention with over 300 Elks members and guests. Many thanks go to our State Secretary, Carl Seibert, and his many volunteers for a wonderfully organized hospitality room which was enjoyed by Florida attendees and many members from other Elks Associations.

After the convention we had several weeks off and then we began our travels again. On August 8 we visited the East Central District. Friday night dinner was hosted by Merritt Island Lodge 2650 where the members truly know how to party and make everyone feel at home. On Saturday morning a breakfast buffet prepared by volunteers was served at Titusville Lodge 2113 and then we enjoyed a tour of the Kennedy Space Center. Saturday evening festivities were hosted by Titusville Lodge with refreshments, hors d’oeuvres, and a delicious dinner. The August Quarterly followed on August 14 with a good turnout for our meetings and donations to our Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Rita and I had the honor of being invited by FLOE President Beverly Messerschmidt to be her guests for the weekend. We attended the President’s Reception on Friday night and the luncheon and General Session on Saturday afternoon. Saturday evening we enjoyed a delicious dinner and some wonderful dancing music at the President’s Banquet. As usual, the Ladies showed their tremendous support of our two Major Projects with generous donations presented to Florida Elks Youth Camp Director, Lynn Warburton, and Florida Elks Therapy Services Administrator, PSP Ben Brown. On behalf of all Florida Elks, I congratulate newly installed FLOE President Joan C. Fritz and all of her officers and wish them all the best during their 2008–2009 year.

We are now looking forward to our October visits to the Central District on October 3 followed by the Southwest and the Southwest Central Districts. On October 31 we will be attending the Harry-Anna Trust Fund meetings at our Youth Camp. The Mid-year Convention at the Wyndham Orlando Resort starting on November 13th is fast approaching and we are looking forward to a good turnout for our Board meetings followed by the General Session on Friday afternoon and the Major Projects meeting on Saturday morning.

I am happy to report that as of September 30, 803 Harry-Anna Trust Fund “L” certificate pins have been sold and this number does not include the 137 pins that have been purchased by the members, spouses, and friends that are participating in the Trust Fund Fundraiser Caribbean Cruise on November 30. The September 30 Trust Fund report shows that we are a little behind of where we should be to reach our “ONE MILLION DOLLAR” goal with total cash donations of $400,515.76. If history is any indication, the second half of our Lodge year produces more donations than the first six months, but we can’t depend on history; we must all get to work and I’m asking all Lodges to plan several special events in the coming months to support our Trust Fund and help us reach our goal.

Until the next issue,
REMEMBER TO LIVE SIMPLY, LOVE GENEROUSLY, CARE DEEPLY, AND SPEAK KINDLY.
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert, PDD

This month I thought I would deviate from my standard message and talk instead on a subject that is of great concern to me. That subject is the decline in our association’s membership.

The Florida State Elks Association is comprised of the 109 Elks Lodges in Florida and counts as its membership 69,406 members. The average Lodge has 637 members. Our largest Lodge, the Punta Gorda Lodge, has 3,663 members and our smallest Lodge is Key West Lodge and they have 84 members. For historical reference our association’s membership peaked in 1990 at 93,213 members in 127 Lodges. That means in just 17 years we have lost 25% of our membership base or 23,807 members and 93,213 members in 127 Lodges. That means in just 17 years we would be looking at a loss of another 14 Lodges and as many as 17,000 members!

Over the next 17 years, by 2025 we will be looking at a loss of 25% of our membership base or 23,807 members and 93,213 members in 127 Lodges. That means in just 17 years we will be looking at a loss of another 14 Lodges and as many as 17,000 members!

So what has gone wrong? Studies cite the following as some of the main reasons our membership numbers have declined:

1.) Our members are dying at a faster rate than we are initiating new members.
2.) Many of our Lodges were built years ago and we now find them located in areas where people no longer live or in unsafe locations.
3.) Potential members who are in today’s workforce are working longer hours, commuting longer distances, and simply don’t have as much free time as they used to.
4.) Our meeting times are not always convenient for everyone.
5.) Some consider our meetings a waste of their limited time and too long, boring, and formal.
6.) Our fraternity is often identified as working against the trend. We are perceived as hangers-on to bygone times.
7.) Our members need to feel safe, secure, and accepted.

The easiest response to these findings is to just not care and let someone else worry about reversing the decline. After all, the remedies are going to require a long-term commitment to change and adaptation and some hard work on the part of every Lodge and member. Some might even ask why we should worry at all, assuming we can just right-size our organization as our support declines. Here is why I don’t believe we have the luxury of passivity at this time:

Over our 104 years of existence, the Florida Elks have sacrificed and worked diligently to build a solid foundation for helping children and others less fortunate than ourselves. We have developed two of the strongest and most viable major projects in all of Elkdom and are the envy of many an Elk nationwide. Our focus has been and should always be on growing our projects and programs to insure that all Florida children have access to life changing therapies and safe camping experiences and to insure that we never forget those who have fought for and protected our every freedom and liberty we hold so sacred in this country.

The Harry-Anna Trust Fund is what I believe to be the most historically important undertaking in Florida Elkdom. It is through this fund that we have secured a future for our programs and projects. The Harry-Anna Trust Fund provides a major portion of the annual support for our two major projects but because of its perpetual nature it does not have a lifetime; it is forever and must continue to grow forever. Each year, the Florida Elks insure the growth of this great engine by contributing into it an average of $850,000 per year. This is not a growth input, however. It serves to merely sustain the engine as larger and larger earnings are required each year to keep pace with the inflationary increases in the costs to operate our programs.

Earlier it was predicted that if we do nothing to stem the decline in our membership, we will continue to incur an average loss of around 1,000 members per year. All other considerations aside, just to continue to generate an $850,000 contribution to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund each year our per-person contribution will have to rise by almost $0.25 for every 1,000 members we lose. Can we afford to let our children and veterans down? Do you know of anyone who wouldn’t consider it to be an honor to help others less fortunate than themselves? Our time to address our membership decline is upon us. I would challenge every Lodge to take the list of reasons for the decline above and use it to formulate a long-term plan of action to recruit new members into our family. For the most part the approaches we have been using are not delivering the results we need. Our actions will require great leadership, vision, cooperation, commitment, and hard work. I believe we can make a difference if we try. Perhaps this realization of the need will serve to jump-start a turnaround of historic proportions. Fraternal change is inevitable. Will ours be planned or accidental? Only time will tell.

Florida Elks News

You could be here in 2009!

The Florida State Elks Association is proud to announce that plans are in progress for a post convention Alaska Cruise following the 2009 Grand Lodge Convention in Portland, OR. More information will be available as soon as 2009 cruise rates are established. If you would like to receive more information, please complete and mail the coupon below to FSEA, P.O. Box 49, Umatilla, FL 32784.

Please send more information about the FSEA 2009 Alaska Cruise.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City: ___________________ State _____ Zip _______
E-mail Address: ____________________

Green Cove Springs resident Betty McKinley, was the winner of the Green Cove Springs Lodge Doll House Raffle, built by Dan Webber, a.k.a. the Doll House Man and donated the 10-room Victorian Doll House for the raffle which raised $1,000 for Florida Elks Charities.
FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS DONATIONS TO FLORIDA ELKS CHARITIES, TRUST FUND AND FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES*** & FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP**

The following donations are from the period April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 and include contributions to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Youth Camp, Trust Fund and Elks Charities. A combined total of $78,204.06 was donated to the Harry–Anna Trust Fund, Elks Charities and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.***

Another $49,292.00 was donated to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.**

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Central District

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SOUTHEAST SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

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TOTALS $78,204.06 $49,292.00

$127,406.60 Donated by the Ladies of Florida

Thirty-seven of the 41 Punta Gorda Elkettes in attendance are shown with Lynn Warburton, they won two awards, First Place Most Campers (38), and Second Most Money Donated ($6,141).

Carol Weston, FLOE 365 Chairman, presented $7,841.07 to FECTS Administrator Ben Brown.
Dolores Casella had installed her.

It doesn’t seem as though a year has passed already. The meetings, planning, e-mails, phone calls, questions, eating, and eating will now be only things that were done.

The true joy of being your President for 2007-2008 will live on in my heart for the rest of my life. It has been an experience that just a few blessed ladies get to have but one that’s worth having. At times, as with any position you take on, you look in the mirror and ask what exactly you were thinking when you decided to do this, but then the small bump in life’s road is passed over and the joy is still there. It certainly wasn’t a year spent by myself.

There are so many people who were a part of the accomplishments that I must take a few minutes to acknowledge them. The Brandon Ladies of Elks, the Ladies and gentlemen from the Southwest Central District, and the Ladies who chaired committees at the May luncheon or for our conference all were a part of the successes we enjoyed this year. These are the people along with the officers and advisory council members who supported me each day during this year. I say a heartfelt thank you for your love and support. Without that support and encouragement I couldn’t have gotten through. One lady stands out from all the rest. There were days when the first thing done in the morning was an e-mail to her to say I need a Moon shot of love or a hug. She’d send me some really cute or funny e-mail back and get me started for the day. Jane Moon, you’re a friend who will be always in my heart.

I’m sure my boss is happy the year is done; he has given me a lot of latitude to enable me to meet all the responsibilities of this year. The FSEA has been beside FLOE to help us in any way they could.

The tremendous success of the luncheon at the May convention was without a doubt partly because of the online reservations made available by Carl Seibert and his wonderful staff. Our beautiful program book was printed by them also, and Lynn Warburton donated the name tag holders and printed the name tags for us for our conference.

I had the pleasure of serving alongside President Joe Ortiz and First Lady Rita and Past President David Lake and Kathy during the year. Thank you for supporting us and taking time to be at the conference. Also joining us for the conference were a number of PSPs including Mike Smith and Sandra and Don Sansoussi and Gail (both from my district) along with Ben Brown and Sherry, Charlie Trinowski and Mary Ann, and Frank Palladini and Ebba Jean. Thanks for your help along the way.

Ladies, I believe that this year has marked another step forward in uniting every lady in Florida Elks from Warrington to South Broward to St. Augustine to Fort Myers. This year united us together to work for the betterment of the children of Florida, the veterans, those in need in our communities, and our Lodges. Sometimes we look at others and ask why they aren’t helping us to make a difference; why they aren’t using their time, talent, and treasure; and why they aren’t involved in our Lodges and state programs? Let’s think about that for a minute. The goals of FLOE and all Elks are pretty much the same, and it takes all of us working together to attain those goals. It doesn’t really matter why a lady has chosen to work in both organizations. What matters is that we welcome them and embrace them with hands outstretched with love in our hearts and ears ready to listen to the ideas that may just be bursting within, but no one has asked them what they think or what committee they want to serve on. That, folks, is why they don’t get involved; they don’t feel as if it matters to anyone whether they are here or not. So let us be the ones who take the first step in getting others involved. My hope and prayer is that by the time the next FLOE Conference is held the year is done; it certainly wasn’t a year spent by myself.

Beverly Messerschmidt
FLOE President 2007-2008

Joan Fritz lights her Candle of Office of President of FLOE 2008-2009 after PSP Dolores Casella had installed her.

For the past ten consecutive years the South Southwest District has received the Traveling Trophy Award. This year was no different and since the plaque was full Sam Casella presented it to PSP Mildred Lamb, left, and Ester Townsend SSW Delegate, right, for permanent display in the South Southwest District.

Beverly’s husband Elmer received First Hunk and Gafer of the Year Award from his wife.

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Barbara Reker with the Miami Elkettes of 948 First Place Year-Book Award.

Joan Fritz presented a beautiful crystal vase to Beverly for her year of service as President of FLOE 2007-2008.

Beverly Messerschmidt

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Beverly’s husband Elmer received First Hunk and Gafer of the Year Award from his wife.

Beverly Messerschmidt

Carl Seibert, FSEA Secretary, received a Certificate of Appreciation for his many hours of assistance to FLOE during the year.

Barbara Reker with the Miami Elkettes of 948 First Place Year-Book Award.

Joan Fritz presented a beautiful crystal vase to Beverly for her year of service as President of FLOE 2007-2008.

Beverly Messerschmidt

For the past ten consecutive years the South Southwest District has received the Traveling Trophy Award. This year was no different and since the plaque was full Sam Casella presented it to PSP Mildred Lamb, left, and Ester Townsend SSW Delegate, right, for permanent display in the South Southwest District.
Daytona Beach Lodge 1141

Exalted Ruler Mary Johnson and her husband, Roger, were on hand to greet State President Joe Ortiz and his wife, Rita, at the Titusville Lodge on August 8 during his visit to the East Central District.

The Poker Tournament to benefit various children’s charities was held on September 13. The Lodge and the Stewart Marchman Center which is sponsoring a “Recovery Month Celebration” were at the Daytona Beach Bandshell at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 27. The Drug Awareness trailer and Elroy the Elk will be on hand. The Lodge hosted their second annual Ride for Kids Poker Run on Saturday, October 11; all proceeds will benefit the Youth Camp and Children’s Therapy Services. Grand Exalted Ruler Paul Helsel and his wife, Jane, as well as PGER Bob Grafton and PGER Val Bates and their wives, Pat and Claudia, and other dignitaries will be attending the Centennial Celebration dinner/dance on February 4, 2009. Many thanks go to the Emblem Club members for their continued support to the Lodge.

Deland Lodge 1463

Lodge members and guests celebrated the 4th of July with a barbecue. The Lodge has a web site! Come visit it at http://www.delandelks.citymax.com. Deland Lodge continues to donate to local charities, support a Cub Scout Pack and two Little League Teams, give out scholarships to graduating seniors from neighboring high schools, and send 10-15 kids to the Elks Youth Camp every summer. On September 27 a Harry-Anna Dinner/Dance was held.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650

Exalted Ruler Kathy and her husband, Nick, attended the State President’s Dinner in Titusville. Kathy continually reminds the members of the importance of purchasing a Harry-Anna Trust Fund certificate. The Lodge hosted a Senior Citizen dance on July 19. On Saturday, August 30, Lidia Skibba, daughter of Kathy and Nick Skibba, and Lidia’s friend, Dallas, hosted and helped cook for their second annual Harry-Anna Trust Fund dinner. The girls were able to raise approximately $1,400 for this event. Merritt Island Ladies Auxiliary’s Adopt-A-Road Trash Bash is under way. The Ladies’ annual School Drive proved to be a success this year with donated school items going to families who otherwise cannot afford to purchase them. In support of troops in Iraq, the Lodge has adopted a new unit. Donated items from the members such as board games, cups of soup, hand wipes, and toothbrushes will be sent.

New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557

The Lodge was honored at the State Convention with First Place in the Division III Scrapbook Contest, Highest Percentage in Membership Gain in Division III with 23.84%, and the Best Youth Activities Program for Division III. Gifts of Love donated 1,256 bags of food and helped 1,141 families in the community. The blood bank collected twenty gallons of blood, and the Drug Awareness committee assisted the People for Drug Free Youth celebrating their 25th anniversary. The Elks Ladies Auxiliary presented a check for $421.35 for the 365 Club and a check for $2,000 was presented at the FLOE Convention for the Children’s Therapy Services. The Ladies presented Dana Thompson, a teacher from New Smyrna Beach Middle School, with a check for $600 for her reading classes on children being bullied; they also donated $152 to the Elks Lodge. New Smyrna Beach Lodge has a 9/11 Remembrance Wall. Thanks to Paul Amell, members and visitors can enjoy this display, and Ed Ehrensperger donated a “Flight 93” flag for the display.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

The Lodge had its annual 4th of July BBQ, and on July 19, a Christmas in July get together was held for the veterans of the Lodge. The Ladies Auxiliary held an Antique and Rummage Sale on Saturday, August 16. They celebrated Labor Day on September 1 with a luncheon of chicken and ribs. The Lodge sponsored a golf tournament on Saturday, September 20 at the Riverbend Golf Club to benefit the Florida Elks Charities.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709

The winner of the “What is an American” essay contest was Alyssa Santos, a 7th grader. She was presented with a $100 Savings Bond at the Lodge’s Flag Day ceremony. Vivian Smith won second place for her beautiful scrapbook. A German Festival dinner/dance was held on July 18. The Ladies Auxiliary held a Harvest Ball fundraiser on September 13 and raised money for charities and they continued to support service men and women with donated items from the members. They recently presented Jessica Henderson, a wife of a soldier serving in Iraq, with a gift card and made a donation to the Free Clinic in Bunell to benefit people in the community who cannot afford medical care. The Lodge received a letter from the Director of the Youth Camp thanking them for the $1,800 donation to be used for camperships.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

The Lodge continues to support Meals On Wheels with the help of Don Rambert and his many volunteers. Paul Leonard, Lodge Scholarship Chairperson, and George Fritz presented the Student of the Year awards to students from Spruce Creek High School and Atlantic High School. Steven A. Trombley of Port Orange and Ashton Brower of Stuart, Virginia were presented with scholarship awards. A $400 Gratitude Grant plus a $100 check was presented to Dr. Margot May, Principal of Horizon Elementary School, for a new teaching tool for pre-school and high school students. On Saturday, September 13, members Dee Kohneil and Debbie Warren hosted a Free Concert to benefit the Fight Against Cancer. Donated items were raffled to help raise money for this worthy cause. The Lodge gives thanks to the Elkhearts for their continued support of the Lodge.

Sanford Lodge 1241

Sanford Lodge celebrated the 4th of July with a big barbecue consisting of a pork and chicken dinner. Thanks go to everyone who helped put on this function. On Saturday, July 12, District Vice President Christopher Gariepy and his wife, Phyllis, visited the Lodge and enjoyed a lovely meal prepared by PER Ron Dunn and his many volunteers and Boy Scout Troop #543. Ron and Penny Dunn were on hand to welcome State President Joe Ortiz and his wife, Rita, at the Titusville Lodge on Friday, August 8 during their visit to the East Central District. The Ladies of the Elks continue their support in sending items to the troops. A Lodge rally was held on September 13 to benefit the Lodge.

Titusville Lodge 2113

The Lodge was honored in hosting the official visit of State President Joe Ortiz and his wife, Rita, along with other dignitaries. The Lodge can be especially proud of East Central District Vice President Christopher Gariepy and his wife, Phyllis, the First Lady of the East Central District, for doing a fine job as representatives of the district. The DOES were busy planning a silent auction and consisted of travel for the various District Director of Education. Thanks go to everyone who attended this event.

Titusville Lodge 2113

The Lodge was honored in hosting the official visit of State President Joe Ortiz and his wife, Rita, along with other dignitaries. The Lodge can be especially proud of East Central District Vice President Christopher Gariepy and his wife, Phyllis, the First Lady of the East Central District, for doing a fine job as representatives of the district. The DOES were busy planning a silent auction and consisted of travel for the various District Director of Education. Thanks go to everyone who attended this event.
Aripeka Lodge 2520

Aripeka Lodge celebrated Flag Day by sharing with the veterans at Baldomero Lopez Veterans’ Nursing Home in Land O’ Lakes. Seventy veterans and Elks attended and were served apple pie and ice cream. The Holiday Marine Corp League, New Port Richey Detachment #567 was the Color Guard.

The Aripeka Lodge’s Bingo Charity Fund donated $500 to the West Pasco Futbol Soccer Club (a club for boys 15 years and under).

Under the direction of Bill Borusch, Aripeka Lodge Chairman of the Adopt-A-Road Program, with the assistance of seven volunteers collected six large bags of rubbish weighing over 180 lbs, from a two-mile stretch of U.S. 19 and one mile on Denton Avenue in Hudson.

Kissimmee Lodge 1873

Kissimmee Lodge acted as host to the “Osceola Riders Club’s Annual Event” called “Christmas in July” for the Children’s Cancer Foundation. It was attended by approximately 450 children and parents. Some of these children may not see Christmas this year as they are terminally ill. Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus arrived on motorcycles. There were many activities and school supplies were given away to the children.

Nine Lodge members traveled to the Orlando VA Hospital. They brought three bags of books for the patients to read. PER Bob Barry who arranged these events also brought goodies to share with the patients. They also played Bingo which was run by Jeannie Platt, Ron Shoop, and Ray Wanke.

West Citrus Lodge 2693

West Citrus’ Veterans’ Committee invited thirteen veterans from local nursing homes to enjoy the Flag Day Ceremony. This is the second year that the Lodge has done this and it is great to see how proud and pleased these veterans are to see the Elks’ Flag Ceremony.

This year the flag bearers were the Nature Coast Young Marines who do a fantastic job for children as young as eight years old. After the ceremony the Lodge provided lunch to all.

Zephyrhills Lodge 2731

Bob Williams, a local businessman and Director of “Support our Troops Program,” ships over 250 boxes full of goods each week to Afghanistan and Iraq. These parcels are filled with donated items from businesses such as Starbuck and Lantzy. How the Lodge found out about this was Patrick Corr, Americaism Lodge Chairperson, was in the post office and saw some of the boxes going out and asked about them. Patrick donated the postage for these packages and requested $1,000 from the Lodge for this project. The Lodge has received numerous e-mails and pictures from the troops who are very appreciative of these packages from home. Patrick has helped other programs that assist service men and women and feels that “Support our Troops” is different.

The Lodge received a flag that flew over the Bagram, Afghanistan Base. Giving a civilian a flag that flew over this base is the highest honor the military can give without an Act of Congress.

FLOE continued from page 1

Last year the total number of children who came to our property was 21,210. Isn’t that great! Aren’t you proud to support a project that touches so many children? Summer Camp 2008 was the greatest ever. With your help and support we brought 1,545 children to Summer Camp in a six week period.”

After the Memorial Service which was performed by ladies of the Central District, The Senior Pastor of Beverly’s church, Mark Saunders, was the guest speaker at the afternoon session and gave a very inspiring talk about “Teamwork.” Afterwards Ben Brown, PSP and Administrator of the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services gave his summary of donations to FECTS and awarded plaques.

Warrington won the Most Money Award with $8,942.00 donated to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. Punta Gorda won the Second Place Award with $5,695.00. The ladies group with the Highest Per Capita donated was Marianna Ladies of Elks with 20 members donating $2,180.00 for a per capita of $109.00.

The South Southwest District of ladies won and took home the Traveling Trophy for the tenth straight time. Their ten years of donations have totaled out at $18,716,480.00.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Orange Park Lodge 2605

A Veteran Fund Raising Dinner/Dance was held to raise funds for Veterans Programs. The Lady of Elks held a silent dessert auction and $100 was raised. A Veterans Donation Drop Box is located in the Lodge and members continue to donate items that can be used by Veterans in the hospitals.

St. Augustine Lodge 829

An appreciation dinner was held for Lou Wise, a 36-year member, 20 of those years as their Secretary. He was presented a photo commemorating his years as an Elk to be hung in the Lodge lobby.

Palatka Lodge 1232

It is our pleasure to have in our Lodge, the Northeast District President Visit in January is keeping members busy in preparation and we look forward to his visit.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892

Participation in the Annual Green Cove Springs Teen Summit was once again well received in the community. The Drug Awareness Trailer was there and was attended by 144 teens. A pizza party was provided for 50 people at the Lake City Domiciliary, and some delicious desserts were prepared by members and were well received.

Jacksonville Lodge 221

Members continue to go to Lake City VA Hospital on a monthly basis. The Americanism and Veterans Services committees held a flag burning ceremony.

Gainesville Lodge 990

The Annual Kids Fishing Tournament was held. 30 kids participated, and between them 109 fish were caught. A Flag Day Ceremony was conducted.
The district held its annual golf tournament on September 13, 2008 at the Lake Worth Golf Course. PDD Carl Williams was in charge and did an outstanding job. The course was in excellent condition and the view was magnificent along the Intercoastal Waterway. The 48 players were invited back to the West Palm Beach Lodge for a buffet and raffle giveaways. Everyone had a good time.

It was announced that PDD Donna Berkowitz was taking over for PGELDGK Tom Elmore as District Advisor. Sean then announced that PDD Donna Berkowitz was taking over the job of advisor to the West Palm Beach Lodge for him.

Clewiston Lodge 1853

The Lodge sent two teams to the District Golf Tournament.

The Lodge officers are getting ready for their Ritual performance and DD visit coming soon.

Jupiter Lodge 2469

Jupiter Lodge has started having an Open House Membership Drive every Sunday for breakfast. The officers and members greet the guests and share with them the meaning and purpose of the Elks. They show the films on the Children’s Therapy Services and Youth Camp. When people leave they give them an application. This program is bringing in 10 to 15 new members every month. This is an excellent way to get people into the Lodge to see what Elks are all about.

The Lodge planned a Halloween Bash for children and adults.

This reporter has heard (through the grapevine of course) that the foursome of DDGER Paul Mozoccozzi and his wife, Mary, and PDD Ernie Basil and Roberta Bates set the Lake Worth Golf Course on fire!

Belle Glade-Pahokee Lodge 1716

The Lodge hosted the District VP and DDGER at a visitation dinner on September 6. Dinner was served and speeches were given followed by presentations to the VP and DD and their wives.

The Lodge is very active in youth sports in the community.

PDD Barbara Heffernan’s mother is recovering from a fall and hopes to be able to get around soon. Tiler Diane Usher is recovering from back surgery.

South District

North Miami Lodge 1835

The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce has awarded North Miami Lodge #1835 with the prestigious “Community Service” Award at their Annual Installation & Awards Banquet. The ceremony took place at the Miami Shores Country Club preceded with a dinner, Exalted Ruler Mario Catalano accepted on behalf of the Lodge.

Key West Lodge 551

Key West Lodge presented a check for $500 on behalf of the “Keys Centers,” a place for girls at risk. The center was formerly known as P.A.C.E., a voluntary prevention program for at risk girls. Photo from left to right: Randy Acevedo, Superintendent of Monroe County Schools; Diana Eagan, Director of the Girls Program; and Key West Lodge members Donald Curry, PDD and Lodge Secretary, and Franklin Hernandez, Treasurer. Jack Di Blasi, Exalted Ruler; Fred Losley, Tiler; and Richard Curry, Loyal Knight.

Marathon Lodge 2139

Marathon Lodge is proud of Elk of the Month member, Robert Cuba, for receiving a certificate of commendation for his leadership with our veterans and active duty personnel for the year 2007-2008. Armed Forces Day was celebrated on May 17 with all active service men and women receiving a free steak dinner and complimentary beverage courtesy of Marathon Lodge.

S. Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676

State President Joe Ortiz’s fundraiser was held Saturday, May 10 at The Presidential Country Club. The tournament was attended by celebrities, PERs, some very accomplished golfers, beautiful women, and great volunteers. Many thanks are given to all sponsors and Lodges who contributed money and auction items. The competitive events started with the 50/50 putting contest. The winner was our honored guest, Joe Ortiz, with winnings being donated to the fund followed by the 50/50 chipping contest and the Straightest Drive. John Manasa won both of these events! There were no winners in the Hole in One Contest with prizes being donated by Southern Golf Carts. Bob Bertelson was closest to the pin and former Dolphin player, Shawn Wooden, had the longest drive.

On April 26, Scout Troop 457 held its Court of Honor where seven young men became Eagle Scouts. The ceremony was attended by Loyal Knight, P.C. Mills, who presented American flags and Certificate of Achievement awards to each. Congratulations go to all Eagle Scouts and their Scout Masters for promoting family values. South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge has been a proud sponsor of scouting.

The South Miami/Coral Gables Elks Lodge recently sponsored a dictionary program for all third graders in the Christ Fellowship Academy. Fifty-five students each received a dictionary along with “Don’t Do Drugs” stickers. Flyers for the Elks Americanism Contest were handed out to students and teachers. Hopefully both items will bring forth several winning essays, thus ensuring a brighter future for our kids.

This has been a busy summer for the GATE Program. Once again the South Miami/Coral Gables Elks Lodge was the recipient of a grant from the Department of Health State of Florida SAFE Kids Coalition. We received one hundred free bicycle helmets.

On June 22 the Lodge sponsored a bicycle education and helmet distribution event in partnership with world famous Wall’s Ice Cream at their ice cream parlor in South Miami. Joey Glickman, Exalted Ruler; Ken Simon, Secretary; and Marcie Diehl, Treasurer joined the GATE Program Peer Instructors to help facilitate the event. The owner has come to know many of the boys over the past few years and is very gracious to them. Despite the intermittent downpours, the Five Peer Instructors and our Program Assistant fitted thirty-eight helmets. This kind of interaction with the public (both children and adults) is a very positive, confidence building experience. They develop new skills in communication and interpersonal relationships as well as the opportunity to deliver safety messages to others. There are many aspects to restorative justice and this is but one example.

The second event was held at WJ Bryan Elementary School in North Miami where the remaining 62 helmets were distributed. This was a back to school event sponsored by the parks and recreation department.

Florida Keys Lodge 1872

Florida Keys Lodge hosted one of its traditional fried fish dinners for a special group of twelve recent veterans from “S.U.D.S.” - Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba - from Walter Reed Army Medical Center. A $600 donation was made by the Lodge toward the veterans’ cost of traveling to the Florida Keys from the Washington, D.C. hospital.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

The Lodge has been very active in completing a revision of its bylaws under the direction and supervision of Lowell Tyler, Secretary. They are now complete and await voting at the next regular meeting before being sent to Grand Lodge for approval.

The Beautification Committee has been very active lately in trying to clean out the back forty area. This will give the area more grassy area and will clean out the underbrush. The outside is looking great! Loyal Knight Patti Phillips drives a mean tractor. She’ll challenge anyone to a race around the grounds.

The Lodge opened the Tiki Bar on Labor Day. Many people came and enjoyed a fine afternoon.

Miami Elks Lodge 948

Miami Elks Lodge held a very successful Talent Show. The talent was homegrown. After a Pork Roast Dinner put on by the House Committee, the members and guests moved to the ballroom to laugh and applaud their friends. The show raised $1,100 for the Charitable Fund.

The Lodge has sent two Jr. ROTC students to a Leadership Camp and 35 children to the Elks Camp.

Miami had two state winners in the Hoop Shoot Contest: Nina Fernandez in the Girls 8-9 years old category and Octavious Worthen in the Boys 12-13 years old category. These youngsters were invited to dinner and then introduced to the Lodge where the Exalted Ruler presented them with plaques.

Every month the Lodge honors a police officer from Station Five as our Officer of the month.

North Miami Lodge 1835

This year North Miami Elks Lodge sent 43 kids to camp. Lunch was provided on the bus trip up and back. All the children enjoyed themselves immensely and were actually sad to return home. Most can’t wait to go back next year and the older children want to apply for Camp Counselor positions.
October 2008

West Central District

Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

The Lodge held a memorial service for PDD Cliff Dunaway August 9. Cliff was born in Louisville, KY on August 28, 1930 and he passed away June 13, 2008. Cliff is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, his daughter, Kathleen, her husband, Martin, three grandchildren, and one great grandson. Cliff and Mary Ann lived in Louisville where Cliff worked for the Louisville Courier Journal for 24 years. In 1978, they moved to St. Petersburg where Cliff worked for EJ Bickley Trust Company. Cliff was faithful to his church where he earned a life membership in Bishop Spaulding Council of the Knights of Columbus #2671. Cliff joined Holiday Isles in 1983. He worked his way through the chairs and was the Exalted Ruler in 1997-1998. He held many West Central District offices, becoming West Central District Vice President in 2002-2003 and the DDGER in 2003-2004. In addition to the Elks, Cliff belonged to the American Legion Post 273 and Moose Lodge 1145. Mary Ann is a Past President of the Holiday Isles Ladies of Elks. For 25 years, Cliff was always willing to work with, and for, his fellow man and he will be missed.

In keeping with the Lodge’s commitment to veterans, Holiday Isles continues to invite veterans from Bay Pines VA Hospital to the Lodge for dinner twice a month. The Lodge also sends clothes, accessories, and toiletry items to the hospital each month. These efforts are led by Stan Azevedo, the Lodge Veterans’ Committee Chairman, and a Pearl Harbor survivor. Thank you, Stan.

On August 30, the Lodge held a dance to raise money for the Elks National Foundation. The event raised $674. Everyone had a great time dancing and socializing. Thanks go to Lodge member Barbara Fournier, the West Central District ENF Chairperson, for chairing this evening of fun.

Bill and Nancy Eldridge and Dick Swetel presented two POW-MIA flags to the Lodge at our August 28 meeting. They will be flown to honor those veterans who are either Prisoners of War and/or Missing in Action. Let us never forget.

The Lodge had the honor of hosting the West Central District State President’s visit on September 6. District Vice President Iwan Choronenko and Rita hosted State President Joe Ortiz and Rita, VPAL Vincent Como and Lisa, State Chaplain Al Reker and Barbara, and State Harry-Anna Trust Fund Committee Chairman, the Lodge’s own Bob Pitney and Joanie. We had an overflow crowd filled with West Central District dignitaries including four teenagers traveled to Bay Pines VA Hospital to honor those veterans who are either Prisoners of War and/or Missing in Action. Let us never forget.

The Lodge held the honor of hosting the West Central District State President’s visit on September 6. District Vice President Iwan Choronenko and Rita hosted State President Joe Ortiz and Rita, VPAL Vincent Como and Lisa, State Chaplain Al Reker and Barbara, and State Harry-Anna Trust Fund Committee Chairman, the Lodge’s own Bob Pitney and Joanie. We had an overflow crowd filled with West Central District dignitaries including four teenagers.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

Meetings are where you come to express your opinions on what you would like to see go on in the Lodge. Each of you, as a member, has the right to give your opinions and cast a vote. All meetings are printed on the calendar in the Hoof Prints each month. Please get involved!!!

Please remember to keep the men and women of our armed forces in your daily thoughts and prayers.

This is a note from the Little family:
We appreciate the thoughts and prayers for our son, Todd Little, who you helped last year with a fundraiser. Unfortunately, his tumor has returned. If you would like to keep track of his progress, you can check a new web site that his wife started:
www.caringbridge.org/visit/toddlittle
Thanks again for the help and continued prayers.
Jim & Carolyn Little

Destin Lodge 2688

The Exalted Ruler was in awe of how the officers did the ritual for the Vice President’s visit. They had practiced and rehearsed and had everything down so well that it was a joy to watch. Thanks go to Vem Jarrell, DDGER for stopping in and giving the officers a few pointers. Thanks also go to all who helped in getting the Lodge ready, setting up for the dinner, serving, cooking, cleaning up, and doing the ritual. I wish that all would know just what it means. Everyone worked as a well-oiled machine together and enjoyed just doing. That is the true meaning of being an Elk.

The State President’s Dinner was on September 13. Members were asked to come and help, whether it was with the greeting committee, shopping with the First Lady, or just the dinner and dance. You are all needed to keep this Lodge shining.

They hope to see you all at the Lodge. They always need their volunteers who do so much so joyfully.

Warrington Lodge 2108

Frank Brock brought a golf cart to the Lodge on August 20. Mr. Joe Cook of the Veterans’ Administration accepted the donation from the Lodge. Now you can see the Warrington Elks cart transporting clients at the new V.A. Clinic.

The Veterans’ Committee served refreshments at the clinic on September 8, 2008. It was the first of many visits this year to help the veterans. Speaking of helping the veterans, homeless veterans are supported through contacts to organizations by the Veterans’ Administration for housing. Donations of small personal items (such as soap) are needed to help these veterans. Leave anything you want to donate in the conference room. No books will be accepted because they have an overabundance of books at this time. Several of you have volunteered to work at the new clinic. Mr. Cook will be in contact with you about the required training session. Stanley Smith who has been a driver for the Naval Museum for many years will be one of the first members of Warrington Lodge to be seen working at the clinic.

Crestview Lodge 2624

In September the Lodge started having two Lodge meetings each month. Plans for the Lodge’s restoration from the fire in May will be discussed at every meeting with updates being of special interest to all members. When the restoration actually starts, the Lodge will continue to hold regular meetings; the location will be sent out to all members.

West Central District continued page 14
Message from Grand Exalted Ruler

Paul D. Helsel

To all District Deputies, Exalted Rulers, officers and members:

Thank you one and all for electing me as your Grand Exalted Ruler. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you and our Order in this high capacity, and I pledge that Jane and I will do our utmost to promote the great works of our Order wherever our travels take us.

As I spelled out in Anaheim, my theme for the year is “Elks - Growing Elkdom and Strengthening America.” Well, the National Convention is over now and it is time to get to the work at hand. Hopefully, you are as enthusiastic as I am after that most inspiring week in Anaheim, and are already busy “Growing Elkdom.” Looking at the calendar, only five months remain in this Lodge year to “get ‘er done!”

Where does your Lodge stand relative to membership growth and/or retention? Are you attracting new members? Do you have an action plan in place to build and improve the relationship between the members and the Lodge? Is it working and making them feel welcome, wanted and needed? If you can answer yes to the last three questions, you are well on your way to showing a gain in membership and Growing Your Lodge and Elkdom. If any answer is “no” you have some work to do and need to “get to it.”

By now your work with our programs should be well under way. You should be close or even past the $4.50 per capita goal for ENF donations. The Hoop Shoot and Soccer Shoot dates should be set and plans in motion, as should be the case with all the other youth programs. Your service work with the veterans and others in your community should be occurring routinely. You should be well on your way to a very successful lodge year with many positive things to report with each passing day.

Best wishes to you and your Lodge for the remainder of this Lodge year. Jane and I look forward to visiting each of your states and learning firsthand how you are working to grow Elkdom and demonstrate that-
**Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658**

Once again, the Lodge hosted the 20th Annual City of Port St. Lucie Fourth of July Parade with 75 organizations and 2,000 people looking on. The parade was followed by the Annual Freedom Fest in the park and a fireworks extravaganza at night. A special thanks goes to Esquire Jack DeBell and his wife, Joan, for organizing and producing this annual event. The Fourth of July Picnic was held after the parade with over 250 people.

Over 200 people attended the district visitation of Vice President Betty Tewsbury and enjoyed the Lodge’s famous mouthwatering meal prepared by Ed and Jeanette Izzo & Crew and the great entertainment of Road Fever.

In September, the PER Association held its Annual Labor Day Picnic with 250 plus people in attendance. The Ladies held their Cake Sale and Chinese Auction and raised over $300 which was partly donated to the Veterans’ Fund and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

When DDGER William Fricke and his team made their inspection 21 new members were initiated into the Order.

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**Fort Pierce Lodge 1520**

Ft. Pierce Elks were honored to have State President Joe Ortiz and dozens of other dignitaries to the Lodge on Friday evening for dinner and dancing while on his visit to the Lodge.

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**Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870**

In July the Lodge hosted Special Needs Cub Scout Pack 877 for a pizza night and presented them with $400 of camp gear from an ENF grant. This is the only special needs Cub Scout Pack in the area. The children have learning disabilities.

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**Sebastian Lodge 2714**

Fall is upon us, and the summer seemed to go so fast even though it was such a hot one. Time passed quickly at the Lodge because of all of the many functions that took place thanks to the members who like to cook. A French night was presented to the Lodge members in June, an Oriental Night took place in July, and there was a Tex-Mex Night in August. The food was outstanding on each and every evening. All of the chefs are to be commended.

A Comedy Night was held August 23 with good attendance and performances.

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**Vero Beach Lodge 1744**

On Thursday, March 20, Vero Beach Lodge hosted an Easter Party for fifty students with moderate to severe and profound handicapping conditions in the Special Educational Services at the Wabasso Elementary School in Wabasso, FL. The Lodge provided each student with an Easter basket of candy and a toy or Easter Bunny after which cupcakes and fruit drinks were served. Herbie the Clown and student Brittany Winkle passed out the Easter baskets. In July, the Lodge sent thirteen children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Under the Youth Activity Committee Chairperson, Brenda Carroll, over $1,200 was raised to cover the cost of the camp, clothes, and other needs for the campers. Six of the children were from the Vero Beach Hibiscus Children Center for abused and abandoned children.

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**Viera Lodge 2817**

On Sunday, August 24, Viera Lodge hosted the Brevard Aces boys baseball team for their annual awards luncheon. The team is part of the National Baseball Federation and recently placed second in the World Wood Bat Association Championship in Miami. The team is composed of boys eighteen and under from the Central Brevard County area. The Lodge had approximately 75 guests for the luncheon. All players and their families were guests of Viera Lodge. On Saturday, September 27, the Lodge hosted a Veterans’ Appreciation Dinner. Veterans and their wives were guests of Viera Lodge.

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**Hitchiti Dancers**

The Hitchiti Dancers are a Native American Dance group comprised of boys and girls from Venture Crew #157 of the Gulf Stream Council. Most of the boys are also enrolled in Boy Scout troops.

The Venture Crew has been in existence for 36 years. Leader Bruce Garwood founded the Hitchiti 36 years ago and it started with just him and his son.

The youth members design and make all of their regalia. Most outfits cost up to $3,000. Some of the youth compete in State and National competition. They do approximately 60 performances each year, from the South Florida Fair to the Breakers Hotel, Mar Largo, and are heading to Disney this winter for an appearance.

When they are dancing, they are paying tribute to the Native Americans. The youth can stay in the crew until they are 21; they most of them stay to help the younger dancers grow into dance style.
A STORY OF SUCCESS AFTER THERAPY

By: Chris Adkins, OT/L
Occupational Therapist SE/SSE District
Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services

Can you imagine being a child and the sight of soup causes you to become sick? A rustling garbage bag sounds like a jet taking off beside you. Sensory Processing Disorder is a dysfunction in the way that the nervous system processes messages from the senses and turns them into motor and behavioral responses. Sometimes the onset of symptoms is sudden and sometimes children experience the symptoms from birth. These are all too common experiences in the lives of children that Florida Elks’ therapists see on a weekly basis.

Caleb is a two-year-old boy diagnosed with Epilepsy who experienced such symptoms. His mother noticed him having seizures at six months of age.

Caleb was sensitive in many areas. He was a picky eater including only eating a few meats and starches. He resisted going outside in bright sunlight. He refused lightly touching your shoulder feels like you are being assaulted. Can you imagine this happening to you suddenly or without warning? These are just a few of the many symptoms that children with Sensory Processing Disorder experience.

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Caleb began receiving occupational therapy from Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. Multiple treatment strategies were utilized with him including sensory motor activities, listening therapy, therapeutic brushing/joint compressions, and, most importantly, parent education.

Sensory motor activities are play tasks designed to improve body awareness and integration of senses. Listening therapy is auditory intervention that uses the organized sound patterns inherent in music to impact the nervous system. Therapeutic brushing and joint compressions are a systematic method of applying a brush and joint pressure to integrate senses. These strategies proved successful with Caleb.

Following treatment, Caleb began eating many new foods. He became tolerant of swinging. He began to participate in craft activities that involved finger paints and glue. He became less sensitive to sounds and lights. He was able to play with large groups of children. Caleb’s mother was instrumental in his success. She diligently followed through with the home program, such as the ball and swing movement activities, as instructed by the therapist.

As proven by Caleb’s great level of success, effective treatment is a family-centered approach and the intent of Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.
Bonita Springs Lodge 2753
Southwest Florida floods rock havoc on Bonita Springs. The Elks of Bonita Springs Lodge heard the message and were “Quick to Hear the Cries of Distress.”

When the Lodge learned that help was needed the response was quick. Learning that St. Leo’s Catholic Church was overwhelmed with the need for food, clothing and more, the Elks Lodge presented them with a check to defray the costs involved and to help St. Leo’s use the money for items which could immediately assist the flood victims.

Cape Coral Lodge 2596
The Cape Coral Elks and the Ladies of the Elks joined forces to help our troops so far from home enjoy snacks, cookies, books, magazines and other supplies.

Cape Coral Lodge sent 12 individual soldier/marine boxes as well as 12 large community ones to soldiers/marines throughout Iraq. Elks, LOE members and business owners proudly contributed to the mailing.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763

CPL Aaron Deschams with Esquire (father) Richard Deschamps and Esteemed Leading Knight (mother) Linda Deschamps

CPL Aaron Deschamps of the US Marines just back from his second tour in Iraq with the first radio battalion based in Ramadi. He was initiated into Deep Creek Lodge 2763 Thursday September 18 where they held an extra initiation just for Aaron returning from Iraq. He is 22 years old, and now the youngest member of the Deep Creek Lodge replacing the previous youngest member, his sister 24 year old Staff Sergeant Ashley Deschamps of the US Air Force stationed at Charleston AFB, SC.

The whole family are now Elks. Aaron’s parents are officers in that Lodge; his mother Linda Deschamps is Leading Knight, and his father Richard Deschamps is Esquire, both of his parents are district chairman.

Friends and dignitaries from all over the SSW district attended his initiation. A celebration was held after the meeting, it was a special day in the district.

Englewood Elks Lodge 2378
Paratroopers of the Army’s 82nd Airborne “All American” Division received 25 boxes containing toiletries, personal items and edibles: everything from toothbrushes, deodorant and playing cards to snacks, courtesy of Englewood Elks Lodge. The banquet came by way of Pfc. Jarrod Baggs of the division’s 2nd Battalion/504th Parachute Infantry Regiment stationed in Iraq. Baggs, the actual recipient of the gift, is a resident of nearby Komokos, FL. Mail call was especially joyful that day in late June when more than two dozen cartons showed up. According to his mother, Lisa, Pfc. Baggs was “totally overwhelmed” by the surprise delivery. Contents were swiftly distributed among his fellow soldiers by Jarrod who no doubt is enjoying extra popularity these days.

Naples Lodge 2010
The Naples Elks Lodge held the annual awards banquet, recognizing 8th grade students from participating schools in the community. The “Student of the Year Plaques” were presented to the students by Kayo Porter, Youth Activities Chairman; and George Renner, Exalted Ruler of Naples Elks Lodge.

Typically, the publicity at the end of the school year is focused on graduating High School classes, with the 8th graders going unnoticed even though the transition to high school is just as challenging as that of transition to college. The 8th Grade Student of the Year Award was created several years ago as a way of highlighting the exemplary achievements of these outstanding middle school students as they start their new academic life as Freshman High School students.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742
Honor Flight was started several years ago to try to get as many WWII veterans up to see their memorial in Washington DC as possible. This era of veterans are dying at a rate of well over 1,000/day and since their memorial in DC was only completed several years ago, most have not and would probably not be able to visit. Dorothy Holmes is proud to be a member of the No. Ft. Myers Elks and their Veteran’s committee.

The following is her story of how Elks Care, Elks Share as they sure did recently when they sponsored a veteran and Dorothy as participants in the first South Southwest Honor Flight on September 13th.

Honor Flight, Chaperone Dorothy Holmes R.N. N.Ft. Myers Lodge; Honoree Tony Cugietta 94 year young Lt. Col; Grace Chicken, USAF Ret; and Earl Conrad.

This experience was totally thrilling for the veterans and me.

Here is how the day went, 60 veterans and 20 guards plus the organizers and some media departed on 2 busses with a motorcycle and police (lights flashing) escort to the freeway. On arriving at the SW International airport a crowd greeted the group cheering and waving flags. US Rep. Tim Mahoney shook hands with each veteran. The TSA had an honor guard (these security people came in on their own time) and sang patriotic songs. The concourse was lined with Rolling Thunder members, standing at attention holding flags. Air Tran provided coffee and doughnuts and gave each a baggie of snacks to take along. I saw many a moist eye among all participants. At Regan International our plane passed under a water cannon salute from the fire trucks. The entry way into the airport was lined with cheering, flag waving people, reaching out to touch and thank the vets, some walking, some with canes and some in wheelchairs, as they passed. A short bus ride took us to the WWII memorial where a box lunch was served. Former Senator Bob Dole was there greeting and having his picture taken with all. Everyone walked around, having their pictures taken by the Wall of Stars and each state. It is quite a hike around the memorial for those elderly men and women and the day was hot and sunny with just a hint of breeze. Later, buses took them to Arlington passing the Iwo Jima memorial. If you have never seen the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, you have missed a real show of precision. SW Florida Honor Flight also laid a wreath there with a ceremony and a bugler playing Taps. A bus ride back to the Regan airport, another box meal and some tired people boarded the flight home, arriving well after midnight.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153
Members collected over $2,000.00 in needed classroom supplies for Liberty Elementary School in Port Charlotte. The supplies were collected at a pizza party with entertainment at the Lodge.

Punta Gorda Elks Lodge 2606
Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 held Flag Day Ritual Ceremony at the Douglas Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home in Port Charlotte, Florida. The ceremony was open to the public and the lodge provide a picnic for the VA Home residents following the ceremony. Assisting in the ceremony was the Knights of Columbus, American Legion Post 103, Cub Scout Pack 351 and Punta Gorda Lodge Elkettes.

Punta Gorda Elks visit Bay Pines Veterans Facility quarterly and on August 20th delivered toiletry articles, clothing, shoes and books valued at $1,500.

The City of Punta Gorda welcomed 21 wounded US Marines from Camp Lejeune on September 11th for a five day all expense paid visit. The trip was sponsored and organized by the Charlotte State Bank, Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce, and Bob Naylor. Many organizations and individuals contributed over $10,000 to make this HERO’S WELCOME a come true.

The Punta Gorda Elks were among the many lining the street to welcome the police escorted bus carrying the Marines.

Rotunda Elks Lodge 2710
Rotunda Lodge made a $6,000 commitment to the Charlotte County Education Dept for their homeless children program and entertained 100 members of the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Dept and Fire Dept at a free picnic with awards being made to outstanding employees and deputy’s. Sent dozens of dinners to employees who were on duty and unable to attend.

Ron Bupp, PDDGER and the Lodge boy scout troop conducted the Flag Day service with a record attendance.

The Lodge awarded two $1,000 scholarships to graduates of Englewood High School. Hald a Goofy Golf outing to raise money for Elk Charities; Held a CPR clinic at the Lodge.

Two different Eagle Scout Courts Of Honor were held for the Lodge Scout troop. A $1,000 contribution was made to the Englewood High School ROTC program.

The Americanism Essay contest was a success with more than 200 essays being submitted.

Veterans Committee Chairman Ray Perry delivered numerous boxes of books, games and personal toiletry items to the local Veterans Home.
Apopka Lodge 2422
Apopka Lodge 2422 held its C.M. Walters, Sr. Memorial Golf Outing which benefits the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Make a Wish Foundation. In the past four years the outing has raised over $13,000 to help handicapped children in the state.

Apopka Elks are making a difference in the lives of those around them. During the first half of 2008 our community activity documentation indicates that the members volunteered 2,329 hours of time, traveled over 11,708 miles and contributed over $3,500 in cash to organizations the combined total estimated value of which is $36,133. Among the list of recipients are Veterans Hospital, Harry-Anna Trust, Children’s Therapy Services, National Elks Foundation, Florida Elks Youth Camp, Apopka Elementary, Dream Lake Elementary, Phyllis Wheatley Elementary and Greater Apopka Habitat for Humanity.

Winter Park Lodge 1830
Winter Park Elks Lodge held its Annual Jack Cooper Memorial Golf Tournament in September. All proceeds go to Elk Charities.

MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT
Florida is a growing state as retirees move into the state to enjoy the fruits of their labor. They are looking for reasons to become involved in organizations that provide assistance to those in need and help children become adults to lead the community. Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity are principals that all Elks live by. In most cases new arrivals in our area are waiting to be invited to join the best fraternal organization in America that cares about the future.

Many areas in Florida are not being served by a local Elks Lodge because many of our members have failed to ask our friends, relatives, and new neighbors to become a part of the great work we do. What can we do to promote growth in Florida Elksdom? New Lodges is an answer we can all be part of.

By starting a new Lodge we can grow our membership and build a better Elksdom. If we communicate our ideas to a community, on most cases we will be welcomed with open arms. If we sell the idea of a true Elks Lodge and the work being accomplished by members throughout this country, we will have formed new Lodges for the right reasons. We all know that having social functions is important, but what we as Elks bring to a community will bring members who want to be involved with the “Best People on Earth.”

What does it take to form a new Lodge?
1- A Community in need of our services.
2- Several Elks (4-5) who are motivated to serve as a formation committee for a new Lodge.
3- If you know of a location you may feel is worthy of consideration to start a new Elks Lodge, please contact Tom Elmore; State Chairman of New Lodges, Roberta Woodfell; your local District Deputy; or State Secretary Carl Seibert. As your Special Representative I will contact you or travel to your location to discuss plans and institute ideas to move forward in a positive manner to grow Elksdom.

As a team working toward a common goal we can achieve growth that makes us all winners by supporting our Major Projects and helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Northwest District continued from page 9
whether by phone or mail. Crestview Lodge belongs to all members.

The Annual Turkey Shoot was on Saturday, September 20 and will run for thirteen weeks straight. This is the largest fundraiser the Crestview Lodge does.

Ft. Walton Lodge 1795
The 2008 Golf Committee is now getting under way. The golf tournament date has been set for October 12, 2008 on the Fort Walton Beach Municipal Golf Course - the Pines. The committee is looking for volunteers to join. We will meet the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Lodge until the tournament. We are looking forward to having fun and raising funds for our Elks charities. So, start thinking about sponsorships and teams to play.

For your convenience you can go to our web site, www.elks1795.org, and download the entry forms and Charity Donation Form under the Newsletter page. Please come to the meetings if you are interested in volunteering. If you can’t make the meeting then call Mike (Taz) and let him know that you want to help.

Remember, membership is the Lodges’ lifeline. Jerald Andrews was presented with an Elks watch from the Grand Exalted Ruler for his recruiting efforts. He recruited thirteen new members between April 1 and June 30. Jerald, keep them coming. The Exalted Ruler hopes to present many Elks watches this year. Eligibility is from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. If you recruit three or more, you will receive a GER Award Pin. For eleven, you will receive an Elks wristwatch. For 33, you will receive an Elks Desk Clock. Also at each level your name will be entered in the vacation/cruise drawing.

Holly Navarre Lodge 2787
AA visit to the state Quarterly meeting found the Florida Elks Youth Camp was wonderful as always. This year the Lodge was able to send fifteen Elks kids to camp. This was done primarily through your donations. The Elks charities are holding their own in these unstable times in the market, but they need help to stay there. So, please get a hold of Dan Hargraves for ENF or Allen VanDyk for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and give what you can.
**Sebring Lodge 1529**

Celebrating their 65th anniversary with Sebring Elks, Mildred and Thomas Strausberger shared cake with the members and guests and danced to the anniversary waltz. They were married August 20, 1943 in Plato Center, Illinois and moved to this area in 1979.

The Strausbers have been Elks for 28 years and have volunteered in the Lodge dining room. Thomas was treasurer of the West Sebring Fire Department for 14 years.

Sebring Lodge partnered with the Lake Placid Elks Lodge to host the Southwest Central District Visitation at the Sebring Lodge for dinner. Dignitaries joining in were District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Mike Carney and his wife, Diane; Southwest Central District Vice President Art Yanni and friend, Sandy Kuznair; Mike Smith PSP, PGELCTK-BOGT and his wife Sandra; PSP Don Sansoussi and his wife, Diane; Southwest Central District Deputies Grand Exalted Ruler Mike Carney and his wife Gail; and State Secretary Carl Seibert, and State Secretary Carl Seibert, Over 200 were in attendance.

**Lake Placid Lodge 2661**

A Memorial Day Service was held in May with over 200 in attendance including the Lake Placid Women’s Club, the American Legion, the VFW, and the Lake Placid High School ROTC which proudly performed the raising of the American flag.

The Ladies of Elks invited the American Red Cross to give a program for being prepared for hurricanes, tornados, or terrorism disasters on August 3.

**Lakeland Lodge 1291**

On September 20 the Lodge Elk-Mates held their first Style Show. The event raised more than $500 for their Senior Orphans program. This makes a total of more than $2,500 raised and donated to this very worthy cause.

The Lodge recently awarded 15 local students $5,000 in scholarships and are anticipating at least that much in the coming year. On November 16 the Lodge is sponsoring its 18 consecutive picnic at the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital in Tampa, Florida where hot dogs and hamburgers will be served to over 300 veterans their families and hospital staff. Personal items such as socks and toiletries as well as playing cards are also given to the veterans in need.

**Winter Haven Lodge 1672**

Winter Haven Elks joined with Kiwanis in their annual effort to collect school supplies for 15 elementary school children who cannot afford to purchase them. They collected crayons, pencils, notebooks, drawing paper, crafts, and cash from members. Kiwanis Chairperson Michelle Forsythe extended her extreme appreciation for the help.

The Winter Haven Elks Veterans’ Committee has discovered that there are eight female patients in the Lopez Veterans’ Home and although the facility receives donations, there are very few items that the ladies need. The Lodge is making an effort to collect items to correct this deficiency and deliver to the facility at the next visit.

**Plant City Lodge 1727**

Two great events were held on August 9 to raise funds to support the Youth Activities of the Lodge. The Lancer Soccer League benefited from the well attended Pancake Breakfast and the Margaritaville dinner/dance held that evening.

On July 4 approximately 50 meals were delivered to Plant City Firehouses, more meals were delivered to two nursing homes while a few off duty policemen and veterans stopped by for lunch.

The Lodge has a new chef; he is Jonathan Lane and he has an AS in Culinary Arts.

**Brandon Lodge 2383**

More than 120 children enjoyed the “Hooked on Fishing-Not Drugs” day. The kids caught 90 fish; the largest was 20 inches long.

At the State Convention Brandon Lodge received four first place awards for Lodges in Division III (501-700 Members); Interlodge Visitations; Lodge Publications (The Bugle); Highest Per-Capita for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, $23.89; Highest Per-Capita for ENF ($10.20).
Lake City Lodge 893
Lake City Lodge commemorated Flag Day with a ceremony at the Lake City VA Medical Center, with Circuit Judge Julian Collins as the guest speaker. The Lodge disbursed flag pins and stickers to all in attendance. Refreshments included a flag decorated cake, cookies and punch. Arrangements for the ceremony were made by Trustee DeWitt Cason.

July 4th brought out some members to enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers, while sitting on the porch watching the fireworks over Lake DeSoto. The view from the Lodge’s back porch, overlooking the lake, is spectacular.

In honor of National Patriotism Week during the week beginning September 7th, the Lodge conducted a solemn ceremony on the morning of the 11th, starting at 7:30 am. A moment of silence was observed at 8:46 am, marking the time the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center. The lodge’s flag was flown at half staff.

In an effort to boost the Harry-Anna Trust Fund certificates held by Lodge members, an application for a certificate was included as a separate page in the Lodge bulletin. An entire page was printed as an application form.

Live Oak Lodge 1165
Live Oak Lodge kicked off the month of June with a visit from the District VP, Tom Sanson. Four Lodges in the district had representatives attending this visit. The Lodge is famous throughout the district for its fried catfish at visitations.

The Lodge held its Flag Day ceremony on June 14th. ER Charlie Walker thanked Trustee John Cowan for heading up this important event while Charlie was out of town.

An annual event at Live Oak Lodge is the award of scholarships to local students. This year five students from local high schools each received a $500 per year award, valid for four years of college. The lodge continues this tradition thanks to its Bingo game which provides the funding for these valuable scholarships.

Volunteers have donated many hours to give the Lodge a bit of a new look. The dining room has been repainted and the stoops in the lounge have been redone.

Madison Lodge 2205
August was a busy month for Madison Lodge. After months of planning, Madison Lodge held its first Golf Tournament August 9th. Ten teams participated. The top winners were Madison Dental Associates, Capital City Bank, and McWilliams Realty.

On August 25th the Lodge sponsored a Talent Show at the Pine Lake Nursing Center. Twenty contestants from the community performed. The Elks judged and furnished the refreshments and prizes for this annual event.

First prize was $100, Second prize was a loaded picnic basket and Third Prize was grocery gift certificates.

Marianna Lodge 1516
Marianna Lodge celebrated July 4th with a cookout, serving hot dogs and hamburgers. The pricing structure was unique: $5 per Elk member, and immediate family including parents and unmarried children eat free. Later that month on the 15th, the Lodge recognized its 82nd anniversary with a fish fry at the lodge. A fish fry with hushpuppies, cheese grits, and cole slaw always draws a crowd.

Exalted Ruler Pat Hollis shown frying fish, with helpful suggestions from trustee Steve Couturier.

The Marianna Lodge is pleased to announce the winners of the golf tournament. A tip of the hat goes to Clay Milton, Matt Milton, and Hunter Nolen who placed first in the tournament.

On Sunday, August 3rd, Tom and Juanita Sanson escorted Lodge Chaplain Cheryl Stubbs and her daughter Christine to an Atlanta Braves baseball game. Christine has leukemia and is undergoing chemotherapy treatments. In fact, she had a treatment on the Monday after returning to Marianna.

One of the Lodge’s members made 100 hats to send to Shands Hospital in Gainesville, and after some coaxing put some of them on her dining room table for a photo before packing them up to be delivered.

Tallahassee Lodge 937
Tallahassee Lodge’s PER organization coordinated a training session for the officers of the Lodge. PDDGER Stan Nettles coordinated a training session for the officers of the Lodge. PDDGER Stan Nettles as- sembled notebooks containing a set of Grand Lodge manuals and other valuable information for each of the officers. Several hours on two different days were set aside for oral instruction by several of the PERs. The training was a valuable tool for the officers, and the notebooks will be passed on to the officers each and every year.

The Lodge began July with a visit from District VP Tom Sanson. The Lodge served a great dinner to the members and guests and the Lodge’s Elketts graciously brought dessert to top off the meal.

Fourth of July brought a steak dinner special in the dining room. It’s plenty hot in Tallahassee in the summer and outdoor cook-
Delray Beach Lodge 1770

In late August Delray Beach Lodge hosted 13 wheel chair veterans for lunch and games. The veterans played bingo and were served Moon’s famous spaghetti and meatballs. Three therapists accompanied the veterans as Tony Caparelli hosted the event.

Delray Beach held it’s Annual Country Western Dance for Cystic Fibrosis with Bands, games, and all you could eat ribs and chicken. Over 300 people danced and participated in all the fun and in doing so raised over $7,000 for the Sunny Shores Sea Camp in Key Largo Florida For Cystic Fibrosis.

On Labor Day weekend Delray Beach Lodge hosted the Annual USTA Tennis Tournament for children. The weather was very cooperative and the competition was very intense. There were six divisions with 10, 12 & 14 year old boys and girls. All had a great time and there was great sportsmanship displayed by all participants.

Pompano Beach Lodge 1898

Pompano Beach is helping a member’s son by donating $2000 to Patty Pollatos Fund. Member Gary Mack’s son has been diagnosed with fast growing leukemia. His son, wife, and two young daughters are being helped by this local charity. Dan is receiving treatment which will bring him into remission. He may then receive a bone marrow transplant from his sister who is a 100% match in all categories. The prayers of the members go out to the Mack Family.

Oakland Park Lodge 2407

Oakland Park held its annual Harry Anna Fund Raiser in July, sponsored by House Chairman Ray Briant. This year’s theme was “Italian Night.” Harry Anna pins were sold as well as $100 certificates. The event proceeds were presented at the Umatilla Quarterly, Ray has a Country Western Evening scheduled in October to raise money for ENF.

Trustee’s have been busy with projects including replacing the ceiling tile and painting. Chairman of the trustee’s Jay Ziegler, is working at many improvements of the property. Jay, as well as Paul Fulmer, Chris Tharrett, Donna Lantz, Tom Manning and Ray Briant were all guests of honor at Oakland Park’s Elks Appreciation Day.

Oakland Park was pleased to have the homecoming of Vice President Kathy Holiday August 31st. Thanks go to all of the District Lodges that attended the visitation. Certificates of Excellence were presented at the dinner, with Hollywood West Lodge (Jesse Clemons, ER) as best Opening and Closing Team in the district. Other individual district certificates were given to Best Opening and Closing ER - Robert Dorband, Margate; Leading Knight Dick Schmidt, Delray Beach; Loyal Knight Brooks Black, Pompano Beach; Lecturing Knight Elaine Wright, SW Broward; Tiler Frankie Sorenson, Margate; Inner Guard Don Hopkins, Delray Beach; Chaplin Pat Maher, Margate; Organist Dottie Deimel, Boca Raton; and Best Esquire Calvin Crook, PER Oakland Park.

Boca Raton Lodge 2166

Boca Raton members conducted a drive for socks, foot powder and eye drops for the service personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. They worked together with the Marine Corps and the Marines. After collecting about a 1,000 pair of socks and 700 cans of foot powder a local doctor donated 400 bottles of eye solution. A local school of 1st through 8th graders wrote letters of well wishes and they where put into each pair of socks. At the same time a collection of toys was done to give to children in Iraq and Afghanistan. Bill Hagen as City Councilmen heard what the Elks where doing and came to the Lodge and gave a check for $3,000 to the Marines to help pay for postage.

The local commander presented an award to City Councilmen Bill Hagen and certificates to the chairperson for the Lodge. The commander told the Lodge that because of the toys eighteen soldiers lives have been saved.

On Veterans Day the Lodge hosted fifty young Marines who demonstrated marching skills and served as the Honor Guard for the event. The Lodge served food to all the Marines present. The members also manned the District’s Drug Awareness Trailer during the event.

Exalted Ruler and his wife has collected 187,000 tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. This is a personal touch for them because they have lost a grand child to cancer.

Margate Lodge 2463

Margate Lodge participated in the city’s 4th of July parade. The Elks’ float was of the Liberty Bell and was “manned” by several children of Elks members dressed as Betsy Ross and Americas. Many members worked on the float and walked in the parade. They passed out candy, flags, and literature on drug abuse along the parade route.

Margate Lodge 2460 took part in the city’s Police Night Out in August. This is the 5th year the lodge has participated in this event. The Elks cooked and handed out over 3,000 hot dogs, which were donated by Penn Dutch. We also handed out thousands of pieces of literature on drug abuse and teen pregnancy.

Southwest Broward Lodge 2273

Member Mike Mammarelli continues to donate about 3 hours a day at the Veterans home in Pembroke Pines. Mike who also served feels a connection with the men and women who live there. Mike is always collecting books and electronic equipment for the home.

SW Broward collects cell phones, clothes and books to be donated to local charities such as the Ronald McDonald House and the local V.A. Hospital. Approximately $6,000 of items have been donated.

Hollywood West 2365

The months of July, August and September were very productive months for Hollywood West Lodge. In July some 30 plus members of ARC Broward, Inc. and several aides were our guests for our July 4th celebration. Every challenged child and person, was fed and danced, they went away a very happy group. During this time period they also received donations of clothing, shoes, and over thirty stuffed animals, gratuitously provided by the Lodge.

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins
Awarded July 19, 2008 through October 10, 2008

Paid-in-Full $5,000 Certificate Donors

Betty Tewksbury
St. Petersburg Elks Lodge # 1224
Warrington Elks Lodge # 2108

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

Susan Gordon, ER
William A. Jennings
Loucile Volk
Loucile Volk
Eliane “Christ” Woods
Stuart-Jensen Lodge #1870
Warrington Lodge # 2108
Warrington Lodge # 2108
Warrington Lodge # 2108

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate

Iwan Choronenko
Shari Cronin
Philip J. Dahlinger
Robert E. Huhn
Roger Johnson
Robin MacMillan
Norman & Pauline Orr
James W. Simmons
Dorothy F. Troller-Scarborough
William J. Tschida
Lowell Tyler
Monica Vieu
Holiday Isles Lodge # 1912
Marathon Lodge # 2139
Zephyrhills Lodge # 2731
Dunedin/Clearwater # 1525
Daytona Beach Lodge # 1141
Titusville Lodge # 2113
Fort Walton Lodge # 1795
Naples Lodge # 2010
Eustis Lodge # 1578
Eustis Lodge # 1578
West Palm Beach Lodge 1352
Largo Lodge #2159
**SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**

**Reporter; Charles (Chuck) Stolteben PER**

papacandmimi@msn.com

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**HONORING THE SARASOTA SOUTH LODGE 2495**


Mr. Buchanan. Madam speaker, I rise today to honor the Sarasota South Elks Lodge #2495, which will be recognized at the Florida Elks’ State Convention this month for their efforts to improve the quality of life for Sarasota area veterans. The Elks is one of the leading charitable and service orders in the United States. Since 1917, they have pledged their efforts to improve the lives of ill, aging, and homeless veterans. In the last three years, the Sarasota South Elks Lodge has donated $41,590 in money, clothing and personal items, given 1,390 voluntary man hours and driven over 4,100,000 miles in an effort to make a difference in the lives of our veterans.

They have provided food, clothing, and employment opportunities to homeless veterans, made monthly visits with veterans hospitalized at Bay Pines, and provided transportation and companionship to more than 10 veterans who are shut-ins without family in the area. They have adopted families of two soldiers on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have been directly involved with 21 military funerals and five flag-raising ceremonies. Finally, they have sponsored annual barbecues during which they have fed and entertained hundreds of veterans.

On behalf of the people of Florida’s 13th District, I thank the members of the Sarasota South Elks Lodge for their compassionate service to our veterans. I am honored to represent this caring and hardworking organization. 

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**Elks National Retirement Center**

**By; Tom Elmore Florida Home Coordinator**

If your Lodge or district has a member who may need or wish to improve the way they live, we may have the answer for them sometime it gets lonely living alone without family being nearby. I have been told many times by residents who have made the choice to make the move that it was the best decision they ever made, we can make our residents feel welcome by being involved in the entertainment and year round programs taking place.

It is a high point of the holiday season to visit Virginia each year to represent Florida in bringing cheer from our members, I thank the Florida Ladies of Elks in advance for the gifts stockings, the Florida State Elks Association for the shipment of fruit, and each Florida member for your caring thoughts and participation.

God Bless each of you with good health, happiness and a wonderful holiday season, information is available www.elkshome.org or call me anytime.

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**Sarasota South Flag Day ceremony, Left to Right: Tom Puznanski, Exalted Ruler Russ Persons, Steven Parrott, and Matt Erny.**

**Palmetto Lodge 2449**

Palmetto Lodge held a golf outing on April 14 to raise money to assist a member beset with medical expenses. Seventy golfers participated in the Scramble Format at Palm View Hills Golf Course. The day of golf was followed by a delicious banquet at the Lodge. This event chaired by Charles Lewis was a fun day and was enjoyed by all. The golf outing and the banquet enabled Exalted Ruler Sandy Mooney to present a check for $1,600 to the family.

**Sarasota South Lodge 2495**

Sarasota South Lodge purchased a bath chair for 11-year-old Kiara Flores of Sarasota.

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**Manasota Track Meet**

Pictured left to right, Ken Davis, Exalted Ruler, Diane Davis, Josh Hicks, Jessica McKermy and Coach Douglas.
2008 Mid-Year Convention Agenda

J. Joseph A. Ortiz, State President
Vincent P. Como, Vice President at Large

Thursday, November 13, 2008
7:00 am to 5:00 pm  Registration - Convention Center - Citrus Foyer
7:30 am to 8:30 am  FL Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors Workshop - (closed meeting) - Siesta/Biscayne
7:30 am to 8:00 am  Convention Committee Meeting - Cedar Key
8:30 am to 10:30 am  Post state Presidents’ Advisory Council - (closed meeting) - Orange
10:30 am to 11:15 am  FECTS Board of Directors Workshop - (Closed Meeting) - Siesta/Biscayne
10:30 am to 12:00 pm  FL Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors - Orange
11:15 am to 12:00 pm  FL Elks News Publication Committee - Siesta/Biscayne

**Please Note. The following meetings will convene in order immediately following the Investment Fund Board Meeting**
- FL Elks Properties Board of Directors - Orange
- FL Elks Charities Board of Directors - Orange
- Wills and Bequests Committee Meeting - Orange

Friday, November 14, 2008
7:30 am to 5:00 pm  Registration - Convention Center - Citrus Foyer
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  FECTS Board of Directors Workshop - (Closed Meeting) - Siesta/Biscayne
9:00 a.m.  FL Elks Children’s Therapy Services Board of Directors - Orange

**Please Note. The following meeting will convene immediately following the Therapy Services Board Meeting**
- FL State Elks Association Board of Directors - Orange

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm  Mid-Year Convention General Session - Orange/Lemon/Lime
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm  Individual Lodge Meetings with Vol Bates & Bob Grafton (closed meetings)
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm  Meeting of District Deputies - (closed meeting) - Siesta/Biscayne
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm  Harry-Anna Trust Fund Program Seminar - Tangerine A
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm  Sports Committee Meeting - Jasmine
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm  Van Duren Scholarship Committee - (closed meeting) - Cedar/Marathon
4:00 pm to 5:00 p.m.  FL Ladies of Elks Advisory Council - Cedar/Marathon
4:00 pm to 5:00 p.m.  Veterans’ Services Committee & VAVS Reps Meeting - Tangerine B
4:00 pm to 5:00 p.m.  Ritual Committee Meeting - Tangerine A
4:00 pm to 5:00 p.m.  Hoop Shoot Committee Meeting - Jasmine
5:00 pm to 6:00 p.m.  Army of Hope Picnics Meeting - Exalted Rulers Urged to Attend - Tangerine B
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm  Business Practices Committee Meeting - (closed meeting) - Cedar/Marathon

Saturday, November 15, 2008
7:30 am to 10:00 am  Registration - Convention Center - Citrus Foyer
7:30 am to 8:00 am.  FL Elks Children’s Clinic Meeting - Siesta/Biscayne
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  Soccer Shoot Committee Meeting - Jasmine
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  Membership Program Seminar - Tangerine A
8:00 am to 9:00 am  Lodge Secretaries - CIMS - Round Table Seminar - Orange/Lemon/Lime
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  Drug Awareness Program Seminar - Tangerine B
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  FLOE Conference Committee Meeting - Cedar/Marathon
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  Q & A Session with Business Practices Committee - Tangerine A
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  Meeting of VPs, State, Vice, & Reg. Cmtes. Chrs. (closed meeting) - Orange/ Lemon/Lime

10:15 am to 12:00 pm  FL Elks Major Projects Committee Meeting - Orange/Lemon/Lime

“Time - Talent - Treasure”

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION
IS YOUR PLEDGE UP-TO-DATE?

July 16, 2008
Dear Mr. ___________

Thank you so much for your generous support. Thanks to people like you, last year was another great year at the Elks National Foundation!

- We increased funding for the Legacy Awards, making the contest a four-year program. Beginning this year, 250 children and grandchildren of Elks will receive four-year, $4,000 college scholarships.

- We expanded the Community Investments Program once again. This year, your Lodge can apply for $500 Gratitude and Promise Grants to improve your community. And, even more Lodges will receive Impact Grants worth up to $10,000. Funding for the Impact Grants program has more than doubled from last year!

- The ENF-funded Veterans Service Program increased the amounts of stipends given to VA VS representatives. Now, these dedicated volunteers will be able to do even more to help the men and women who served our country.

And we surpassed the $6 million mark and set a new record in per-member giving at $6.22.

The achievements of the Elks National Foundation are only possible because of the continued support of people like you. As of May 31, you had donated a total of $180.00 to the Elks National Foundation. Thank you so much.

Please consider donating toward your pledge today. With your continued support, there’s no end to what the Elks National Foundation can do.

Best Wishes,
Jim O’Kelley, Director Elks National Foundation

PS; Not only do ENF-funded programs improve your community, but more than 40 percent of our distributions go back to the state associations.
Visit www.elks.org/enf/yourstate.cfm to see how the ENF helps your state.

Are you receiving a letter such as that received above, requesting your once yearly donation pledge? These letters were sent out in July and it may be that you have misplaced the letter. If so, your Lodge Chairman can get you another form and envelope for sending in your pledge.

If you are not a contributor to the Elks National Foundation then please, please consider what the ENF does for our communities and Lodges in supporting our kids, families, and veterans.

If you have been a member of the Elks for more than ten years it may be that you have paid your pledge of $100 at $10.00 per year in full.

Please contact your Lodge ENF Chairman and renew your pledge so that the Elks National Foundation can continue it’s support of the State’s Lodges in their community activities and the millions of dollars that is given out in scholarships through-out the United States each year.

Your Elks Lodge does a lot of good in the community and they do a lot more because of the money they receive in support of the Soccer Shoot, Legacy Scholarships, Most Valuable Student Awards, and many other grants.
As I begin my 10th year as Director of the Florida Elks Youth Camp I reviewed all the pictures we have taken of children through the years. Very seriously disfigured burn victims, chair bound children from our Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, special needs children, inner city children, and all the summer camp children had one thing in common. For a few days in their lives, we put a big “smile” on their faces.

As an Elk, with our major projects, The Florida Elks Youth Camp and Florida Elk’s Children’s Therapy Services, we put a “smile on a child’s face.” That is why I am an Elk! Be generous with your donations to both major projects so our great work continues!

Lynn Warburton, Director
Florida Elks Youth Camp