The members and Lodges of Florida’s South District and North Miami Lodge 1835 are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Joseph A. Ortiz as a candidate for the office of President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

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

Joe married his lovely wife, Rita, on May 25, 1968. They have four sons who all graduated from Curley High and seven grandchildren. Their oldest grandson, Desi, is a senior at Curley High.

In the summer of 1968 Joe began his career in the elevator industry with Otis Elevator Company. In 1976 Joe and Rita decided to form their own independent elevator company. Their family business, M & J Elevator, Inc., is operated by their sons, Nick; Joe, Jr.; and Richard. Their third oldest son, Matt, works as the Corporate Accounting Manager for a large real estate company in the New York Metropolitan area.

Joe was initiated as a member of North Miami Lodge 1835 in November 1994. He was sponsored by Exalted Ruler Raul Gomez. In 1996 he was elected Lecturing Knight and in 1998 he held the position of Exalted Ruler. In 1999 he was elected as a Lodge Trustee and was immediately appointed as the Chairman of the Trustees and has served as chairman for seven of the last nine years. Joe has served on many Lodge committees including the Investment Committee. Joe’s wife, Rita, and his sons, Joe, Jr.; Nick; and Richard; as well as his daughter-in-law, Barbara, are members of North Miami Lodge 1835. On the district level he has worked on many committees and his proudest moment was when he and his North Miami Lodge sponsored and presided over the institution of South Broward Lodge 2830 and served as the Lodge Advisor for the first year.

Joe served the State Association for three years as Regional Chairman of Elks National Foundation Scholarships and for three years as Regional Chairman of Accident Prevention. In 2002 Joe was elected as the South District Vice President and in 2004 had the honor of serving the South District as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. In 2005 he was appointed as the Chairman of the Manpower Committee for the 2006 Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando, FL. In 2005 he was appointed State Chaplain by State President Don Sansoussi and as the South District Representative to the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors by PSP Anthony J. DeLucca, Sr. At the 2007 State Convention Joe was elected to serve as the Florida State Elks Association Vice President at Large.

Joe has recently received a very prestigious honor from his former high school. He was inducted into the Archbishop Curley – Notre Dame “Hall of Fame” on March 15, 2008.

The purists believe you should join because of the enormous benevolent outreach we extend to children, veterans, and those in need. This is not the time to relate in detail the great extent of our generosity for our veterans, children, and other important needs; suffice it to say that we give our talents and funds to be sure they have a better tomorrow.

So, what happens when we have good people join for a social reason?

A review indicates that a huge percentage of our members, past and present, joined for a social reason. That review, or history, also indicates it is not bad. How can it be that most of our members join for a social reason and that is good?

The answer is really not so difficult.

Once you join and become knowledgeable about our real role in our country, state, and city, many of you decide the organization is not just a place
This will be my final message to you as your State President. I want to start by sharing with you our visits around our great state. The first weekend in January we attended the State Soccer Shoot which was held at our Youth Camp. It is a great program, and everyone in attendance enjoyed the competition. I want to encourage more Lodges to participate in this program.

We then visited the North Central District and were hosted for dinner on Friday evening by Winter Garden Lodge 2165. On Saturday we toured Mount Dora and enjoyed a train ride on “Herbie.” Our conductor shared with us the history of the Mount Dora area which was very interesting. We then had lunch at The Gables Restaurant and that was followed by visiting the local shops and shopping. Saturday evening we went to Apopka Lodge 2422 for the official visit and were treated to a wonderful prime rib dinner with entertainment following the program.

Our next visit was to the Northeast District. When we arrived in Green Cove Springs we were given a police escort in a 1940s police cruiser to the River Park Inn Bed and Breakfast. A reception was held upon our arrival. That evening we were hosted by Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892 for hors d’oeuvres prior to departing for dinner at the Outback Crab Shack. On Saturday we visited the Green Cove Springs City Hall. While there we learned about the local history and I received a key to the city and was made an honorary citizen. We then toured the city hall, followed by a visit to the mineral spring and city park across from city hall. This was all followed by lunch at Ronnie’s Restaurant. Saturday evening the official visit was held at Green Cove Springs Lodge where we enjoyed hors d’oeuvres, dinner, and music by “Wanda” following the program.

We next visited the North District. Friday evening we enjoyed hors d’oeuvres at our hotel followed by dinner at Live Oak Lodge 1165. On Saturday we visited the Panther Success Center which is a state run facility for boys. This was followed by lunch at the Grace Manor Restaurant. Saturday evening the official visit was held at Live Oak Lodge where we enjoyed a wonderful dinner with a Scottish theme.

Our final visit, which was the homecoming visit, was to the South Southwest District. When we arrived on Friday we enjoyed hors d’oeuvres at the hotel. Friday evening we were hosted for dinner and entertainment by Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781. On Saturday we toured the Edison/Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers followed by lunch at Cape Coral Lodge 2596. Following lunch at the Cape Coral Lodge I had the opportunity to participate in the Lodge’s scholarship program. I assisted Exalted Ruler Barbara Cuddy in presenting four deserving students with scholarships. Saturday evening the official visit was held at Fort Myers Lodge 1288. It was a great turnout and I appreciated the show of support. We enjoyed a wonderful dinner and music following the program.

That evening we received over $18,000 in donations for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

In February GER F. Louis Sulzberger and his wife, Beth, visited our state. They arrived in Jacksonville and began their visit by attending the official opening ceremony of Jacksonville Lodge’s new building. The following day they departed for our Youth Camp to attend the Florida State Elks February Quarterly Meeting. On the way they stopped by Green Cove Springs Lodge and GER Lou was presented with a donation of $5,000 for the Elks National Foundation. Upon their arrival at our Youth Camp, they received a warm welcome. They spent the balance of the week at the camp. Lou had the opportunity to attend many of our meetings while Beth attended activities with the ladies. The highlight of the Quarterly meeting was Lou’s message at our Major Projects Meeting on Saturday. Following his message we received over $96,000 in donations for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Thank you for “Making a Difference in a Child’s Life.”

On February 23 our State Hoop Shoot Contest was held at the Youth Camp. It was another successful program with the winners advancing to the Regional Hoop Shoot Contest in Valdosta, Georgia.

The following week Kathy and I traveled to Georgia for their spring meeting at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Before heading to Callaway Gardens we stopped in Conyers, Georgia to visit Aidmore Children’s Center, which is their major project. Aidmore is a program which provides a home for adolescent girls ages 12 through 21 who are unable to live at home. We also visited the “Little White House” in Warm Springs, Georgia. The history of the area was very interesting. It was a great visit and we had a wonderful time and made many friends.

On March 15 we were back in Valdosta, Georgia for the Regional Hoop Shoot Contest. There were three girls and three boys from five states competing in the regional contest. Of the six winners advancing to the national competition in Springfield, Massachusetts, three are from Florida.

The first weekend in April was our State Golf Tournament in which I participated. It was another successful tournament and raised a lot of money for our major projects.

The last weekend in April was our State Softball Tournament in Deland. It was well attended and everyone had a great time. We again raised a lot of money for our Youth Camp.

May 3 was our first fundraiser for our “Army of Hope Program.” Kathy and I attended the event held at the Eustis Lodge. I hope you had the opportunity to participate in this program. Through this program we as Elks can show our support to military members and their families from Florida who are protecting our freedoms.

May is here with our annual convention where we want to take this opportunity to say thank you for letting us
The 2009 seminars will be held March 7-8 and March 14-15. Many thanks go to this hardworking team. They are Chairman, Tom Elmore, PSP-PGE, Past State Presidents Mike Phillips and Frank Palladini; and PDDs Vincent Como, John Harris, Robert Coker, and Lynn Warburton. As an added bonus this year, a seminar for Secretaries on the new Chicago Lodge Management Software (CLMS) was offered on Friday night. This session was taught by guest presenter Peter Vaphiades, DDGER from the South Southwest District. The session was well attended and immensely informative. Our thanks go to Pete for his many contributions to the seminar this year!

Exalted Rulers Elect from 91 of our 109 Lodges were in attendance as were 88 Secretaries Elect and 25 other officers. The 2009 seminars will be held March 7-8 and March 14-15.

The 102nd Annual Convention of the Florida State Elks Association will be held May 21st through the 24th at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. At the time of this writing, very few rooms remain in our room block and another sellout is expected. We are expecting another great crowd this year and for the most part, the convention and related activities will be run much as they were last year.

All attendees are required to register upon arrival at the convention at the Central Convention Registration Counter. Pre-registration through the FSEA is required to order luncheon & dinner tickets as well as obtain a pre-printed name badge. For pre-registration call Elaine at (800) 523-1673 ext. 226. Your name badge is required for admission to most convention sessions and activities. Registration will open on Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. More information including the preliminary schedule of activities for the convention can be found on our web site at www.fleks.org. I hope you are planning on attending this year’s annual convention of the Florida State Elks Association!

Hotel reservations for the 2008 Anaheim, CA Grand Lodge Convention are now being accepted. The Florida delegation hotel is the Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort located about 1.5 miles from the Anaheim Convention Center. The convention dates are July 6th through the 10th. Rooms may still be obtained by contacting Elaine at the state office at (800) 523-1673 ext. 226. Hotel reservation forms as well as forms to order tickets for the Florida Dinner and Breakfast are available on our web site at www.fleks.org.

Who’s ready for some baseball? Florida Elks Day at the Tampa Bay Rays is being held on Father’s Day, June 15th. Tickets are only $16 each and the Rays will be generously donating $6.00 from every ticket sold to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. A great day at the ball park is being planned for us including recognition on their scoreboard for any Lodge or District purchasing 20 tickets or more, and our State President will be throwing out the ceremonial first pitch! This event would make a great bus trip for the Lodge and it would also be a great time to sponsor local children and take them along to see a major league baseball game! For more information contact the FSEA or see the advertisement located elsewhere in this paper.

Help us build our e-mail database. The FSEA is continuing to build a member e-mail database. E-mail is proving to be a wonderful communication tool for us and we are using it to provide periodic FL Elks E-mail Updates to keep you informed between issues of the Florida Elks News. If you would like to be added to our updates database, e-mail your request to FSEA@mpinet.net.

Planning is now underway for a Florida Elks Post Portland Grand Lodge Convention 2009 Cruise to Alaska! This cruise will take place in July 2009 and if you have ever wanted to cruise to Alaska this might be your best and most affordable opportunity. Attendance at the Portland Grand Lodge Convention is not required to participate in this cruise. Be one of the first to get information about the cruise by calling the FSEA or by clipping and returning the information request form that can be found elsewhere in this paper. An all-inclusive trip is being planned using an experienced group travel professional.

April began a new year in our Lodges and I wish to congratulate the newly installed Lodge leaders! I know that the theme is “Unity and Friendship – Together We’re Better.” The colors are yellow and navy blue. Start making your plans now to attend the conference!

This year is speeding by and has been so enjoyable for my husband, Smitty, and me. We have had the pleasure of going to some of David Lake’s Presidential visits and had a wonderful time meeting new people, seeing the different Lodges, and enjoying old friends. It is an honor to serve as the FLOE President and represent our organization at various functions.

One of the highlights so far was our visit to Live Oak Lodge 1165 where the ladies presented hands on Craft Day, which of course is right up my alley. Thanks go to the Live Oak Ladies for a fun day. They made me feel very special. We are looking forward to visiting more Lodges when Joe and Rita Ortiz begin their visits. Ladies, these visits are always fun and informative. It certainly validates my belief that “Unity and Friendship” shows that “Together We’re Better.” When we get to know each other in friendship, working together to reach common goals somehow seems easier and the results are better. Reaching out to others in friendship knits us together in unity and sparks the desire to work as one for our state major projects, our Lodges, and our communities. Extend your hand to those who you don’t know and cherish the friendship of those who you do know.

Beverly
Vincent P. Como
Endorsed Vice President at Large
Florida State Elks Association

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southeast District and Margate Lodge 2463 are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Vincent P. Como as a candidate for the office of Vice President at Large of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Vincent was born in New York, NY August 20, 1952 the son of Ignazio and Maria Como, immigrants from Sicily, Italy. He has one sister, Mary Ann (Di Fano), of Massapequa Park, NY.

He attended parochial elementary and high school where he was a two letter student athlete in baseball and basketball. Upon graduation, he attended City University of New York, graduating with a Bachelor’s Degree in Humanities, majoring in Language.

On August 12, 1977, he says he made the best move of his life when he married his lovely wife, Liselda (Lisa). They have three beautiful children in Andria, a graduate of Rutgers University in Social Work; Vincent, serving in the U.S. Marine Corps and presently stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA; and Michael, who attends Broward Community College. His family continues to support his work in Elksdom.

Vincent joined the New York City Department of Correction in January 1979. In 1987 he received a Meritorious Duty Medal from Mayor Ed Koch for his role in uncovering contraband weapons at the Brooklyn Correctional Facility. He retired from the Department in 1994 at the rank of Captain.

He and his family relocated to Margate, FL in 1995 and he returned to school and earned a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice Administration. He is presently pursuing a PhD in Educational Leadership.

Currently Vincent is employed at American InterContinental University where he serves as Program Director for the Criminal Justice Department. While employed at Florida Metropolitan University, he was honored as Teacher of the Year in 2000.

On February 19, 1981, he entered the Order of Elks when he was initiated into Brooklyn Lodge 22. He progressed through the chairs becoming the Lodge’s 103rd Exalted Ruler in 1985. On May 5, 1986, he was awarded Honorary Life Membership. In 1994, he demitted to the “Mother Lodge of all Elksdom,” New York #1, and was elected Trustee. In 1996, he demitted to Margate Lodge 2463 and was immediately elected Secretary, serving until 2007.

Vincent has served on numerous Lodge, district, and state committees in both New York and Florida. He was the New York State All Star Leading Knight in 1984. He has been a certified word, impressiveness, and computer Ritual judge since 1986 and served as a state Ritual judge in 1990.

He served as Vice President for the Southeast District in New York in 1991-1992. He was South Southeast District Chairman of Elks National Foundation in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 and succeeded in having every Lodge meet and exceed the Grand Exalted Ruler’s per-capita goal both years. He was State Chairman of Indoctri-nation in 2002-2003. He served as Vice President for the South Southeast District in Florida in 2003-2004 and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2004-2005.

In 2005, he was appointed as a Special Representative Grand Exalted Ruler for Oakland Park Lodge 2407. He also serves as Lodge Advisor to Margate Lodge 2463. In 2006-2007, he was appointed State Chaplain by State President Charles Trinowski. He has worked on the ER/Secretary seminar staff since 2003. He served as District Secretary for three District Deputies in New York and as District Esquire in Florida. He has also served as Secretary for the South Southeast District Advisory Council.

FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES
By Ben Brown, Administrator

Each Spring all the therapists arrive at the Florida Elks Youth Camp for a 5 day educational retreat. Most of their time while here is spent broadening their skills and knowledge. There is also time for renewing friendships, recreation, and even some time for relaxing. The following quotes are directly taken from our wonderful staff during the most recent retreat.

**It is a time of renewal and refreshment**

**You leave empowered by the sharing of ideas with others who know the dynamic of this unique job.**

**It is great to meet the support staff face to face and put a face with the name at the end of the phone.**

**As therapists, we are in a helping/giving profession and that is what we do every day. While we are here, we are on the receiving end of all the pampering and special treatment. It is very humbling and the feeling it gives me is beyond words.**

**It is a wonderful time away from the routine and great food that is made by others, served by others, and cleaned up by others…that is pretty cool.**

**I look forward to seeing everyone, being caught up on what is happening in everyone’s personal lives, sharing treatment ideas, the whole thing.**

**The continuing education piece has always been a perfect fit for what we do.**

**I love the opportunity to collaborate with the other therapists on the “how to” of therapy in this unique model.**

**It is a time of renewal for the new fiscal year, a time of relationship building which is facilitated by the warmth of the camp staff. It is a time to reset our therapy engines and gear up for the year.**

**Everyone does such a great job of pampering and spoiling us at every turn, from the time we get to our rooms and get our gifts to the wonderful meals that are prepared for us.**

**It is always interesting to see how diverse a group we are when we are all together for these 5 days and how well we all get along and respect the diversity!**

**The time together reminds us that we are not alone even though in our day-to-day routine we can feel alone as we travel to see our patients. The relationships that are built while we are here builds a real team feeling that we are able to go away with resources of therapists to call on for collaboration.**

**It is a great opportunity to learn in a safe, fun atmosphere surrounded by friends and co-workers.**

**The continuing education piece is relevant to our practice and it is great to be able to talk and share with each other how to apply this new information into our unique practice setting.**

**I would like to thank the Elks of years ago for having the vision to build this camp, especially this building and cabins, that affords us the opportunity to have all these wonderful experiences that creates the great atmosphere that the FECTS program has. Those Elks were visionaries!**

**We would like to thank the Elks who had the courage to make the difficult decision and take the risk to close the hospital and start this therapy program. Without them, we would not be here.**

HARRY-ANNA TRUST FUND FUNDRAISING CRUISE
DON’T BE LEFT OUT!!

Join Endorsed State President Joe Ortiz, Endorsed VPAL Vinnie Como, several Past State Presidents, present DDGERs, present District VPs, your fellow Elks, family, and friends on November 30, 2008 for a cruise on the Carnival Valor. Joe Ortiz’s goal is to have 1,000 passengers. Come have FUN and contribute to the 2 FINEST state major projects in the nation!

What a week! From the beautiful Port of Miami, you’re off to an island-hopping adventure. Your first stop is Nassau, in the Bahamas, where the beaches are not crowded and the narrow streets are full of duty-free shops. In St Thomas, there are more fabulous beaches and a hillside of shops at Charlotte Amalie, or you can take an excursion and discover the world-famous underwater snorkel trails. Then you’re on to the charming, half French, half Dutch island of St Maarten, which has more than a dash of European flavor. On this cruise, you’ll enjoy one fun experience after another.

For each ticket sold, the Harry-Anna Trust Fund will receive $100 and each passenger will receive the new Harry-Anna Trust Fund pin. For more cruise information, go to www.flelks.org and click on the Harry-Anna Cruise to the Caribbean link. If you have any questions, you may contact JK Cruise and Travel at Info@JKCruiseandTravel.com or Bob Pitney, 2008-2009 Harry-Anna Trust Fund Committee Chairman, at jrpitney@tampabay.rr.com or at phone # (727) 510-1152.
Let me begin this message with my most heartfelt congratulations to the new Exalted Rulers and officers of the Lodges around this great nation. You have been selected by the members of your Lodge to lead them through the upcoming Lodge year. It is an honor and position of trust that you have been chosen for.

Take the charge you have been given seriously for you must guide your Lodge and its membership through the uncharted waters that lay ahead over the new Lodge year. I would hope that for each of you that those uncharted waters will be calm and uneventful. However, we must always be prepared for an uncertain storm. When that occurs, the Lodge and its officers should seek the guidance of the Past Exalted Rulers, the District Deputy, and Grand Lodge.

The resources of the entire Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks stand ready to assist you in making the Lodge year successful.

Elks National Veterans’ Service Commission

C. Valentine Bates, PGER

Homeless Veterans

As we begin the New Year, it is appropriate that we dedicate ourselves to our Elk commitment: “As long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them”.

One group of veterans who need our help more than ever before in our history are our homeless veterans. Studies show that fully one-fourth of all the homeless people in America are veterans. The VA has compiled interesting statistics regarding our homeless veterans:

- All but 4% are male, the vast majority are single and most come from poor, disadvantaged communities.
- 45% suffer from mental illness of some sort and half have substance abuse problems;
- Although America’s homeless Veterans have served in all wars and military actions since World War II, 47% served during the Vietnam era. More than 67% served our country for at least 3 years and more than one third served in a war zone.
- Estimates of homeless veterans total nearly 200,000 on any given night. Nearly 400,000 experience homelessness over the course of a year. (Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)

Unfortunately, the VA can only reach about 25% of those homeless veterans who need services. This leaves a void which is currently being filled by local government agencies and service organizations in our communities. Rest assured that we as the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks are doing our part to fill the void. Our VAVS Representatives and their teams of volunteers are working tirelessly to bring needed assistance to our homeless veterans. If you serve in any capacity to help our homeless Veterans, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission offers you our heartfelt thanks; if you don’t serve, would you consider volunteering at your Lodge to help homeless Veterans in your community?

VETERANS’ SERVICES

A generous and rewarding way to clean out your attic, garage, and closets

Courtesy Colorado Elks News

James C. Decker, PDDGER

Veterans’ Services Chairman, Colorado Elks Association

Did you know that VA medical centers are in constant need of supplies and equipment, and they’ll welcome any help you can give.

Try any of the following:
- General Supplies: Lap Robes, Slippers, Bibs, Handkerchiefs, Stationery, Envelopes, Pens, Pencils, First Class Mail Stamps, Deodorants, Shampoo, Razors, Shaving Cream, Nail Files, Sewing Kits.
- Library Supplies: Paperbacks (Western, Detective, Historical, etc.); Pictorial Magazines (People, US, National Geographic, Popular Mechanics, Popular Science, Crossword Puzzle Magazine, Reader’s Digest, etc.) Magazines should not be more than three months old.
- Greeting Cards: New only: Christmas, Valentine, Birthday, Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, and All Occasion assortment.
- Fishing Supplies: Cane Poles, Rods and Reels, Hooks, Bobbers, Lead Shots, Leaders, Small Individual Tackle Boxes, Bait Boxes. Greenhouse Supplies: Flower Vases, Heavy Vases (glass, ceramic or metal), Floral Table Centerpiece Dishes (low, flat pieces).
- Golf Equipment: Balls, Clubs, Bags, Carts, Putters, Tees.
- Musical Supplies: Good Condition Phonograph Records (33 and 45 RPM only), Audio Tapes, Compact Discs, Guitars, Beginning Method Books.
- Small Appliances: Hot-Air Popcorn Poppers, AM-FM Radios, Tape Players, CD Players, Televisions and VCRs.
- Games: Dominoes, Checkers, Playing Cards, Monopoly, etc. General: Homemade Cookies and Pastries, Flower Arrangements, Canteen Books, Mghans, Wheelchair Cushion Covers (three to four inches thick), Ditty and Wheelchair Bags.

Be proud to report your patriotic acts

As I write this article, somewhere in a remote part of the world members of our military are being wounded, maimed, and paying the ultimate sacrifice so that we as Americans may enjoy our wonderful freedoms.

Elks are distinctly American, so what are we doing with those freedoms paid for with blood, pain and death? Are we doing all we can to honor the sacrifices of our veterans and active-duty military members? Are we supporting and participating in our lodge and Grand Lodge Americanism programs and contests? Are we proudly flying and displaying the greatest flag on earth? Are we supporting our veterans, active-duty military and their families?

I believe the answer to the above questions is yes. However, in too many cases we fail to report the patriotic accomplishments of our Lodges and members.

Be proud to be an American, be proud to be an Elk, and be proud to report your patriotic accomplishments by participating in the Grand Lodge Americanism programs and contests.

The information for all Grand Lodge Americanism programs and contests is available on the Grand Lodge web site and from your state Americanism chairmen.

Let us all pray for our military and pray that God continues to protect this great nation called America.

James A. Coggins, PSP, PGESQ
Committee member

U.S. flags available for June “Flag Day” ceremony

Flags honoring U.S. Prisoners of War and soldiers still missing in action (Code 541400, $31.90) are available to Elks Lodges preparing for Flag Day ceremonies in June.

Write to Shipping Department, Elks National Headquarters, 2750 N. Lakeview Ave., Chicago, IL 60614-1889; call 773-755-4710; or fax 773-755-4711; or email shipping@elks.org.

Jack M. Jensen, Grand Secretary
The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northwest District are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of G. Tom Rogers as a candidate for the office of Northwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Tom was born in Pittsburgh, PA and lived there for fourteen years. After the service he traveled for thirteen years and worked in construction. He lived in Birmingham, AL for 25 years and in 1986 moved to Florida.

Tom attended Taylor Allderdice High School and finished two years of Business School in Pittsburgh, PA after the service. He spent five years in the Marine Corp. and was honorably discharged in 1947. He is still under VA medical treatment for being wounded in action in September 1944 in the South Pacific.

He worked for Rust Engineering/International, a large engineering and construction company. For thirteen years he was the Office Manager of Construction and for nineteen years he was the Purchasing Agent/Director of Purchasing. In 1981 he retired. He also worked for Scot Paper one year as a Purchasing Agent Consultant and five years for Bishop Brogden as a Manufacturer’s Representative.

In 1983, Tom became an Elk at Lodge 1795 after his neighbor who was very active in the Elks had talked to him; Tom demitted to Destin Lodge 2688 in 1986. As an Elk, Tom has held both the Secretary and Exalted Ruler positions twice. He is a Past Elk of the Year and a Past Officer of the Year. He has held the position of Treasurer as well. He was also the Chairman of Trustees a total of fifteen years. He was a District Chairman for Sports for three years.

Tom has also been a member of the Masonic order and the Scottish Rite and Shrine for more than fifty years. He is a lifetime member of the American Legion and the VFW. He is also Past Legionnaire of the Year.

Tom was married for sixty years; his wife is now deceased. He has two sons, Tim and Tom. Tim lives in Memphis, TN and has two children, Tim and Mary. Tom lives in Birmingham, AL and has one son, Patrick.

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North Central District are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Mike Jernigan as a candidate for the office of North Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Mike was born in Orlando, FL. He grew up in Ocoee, FL and attended Ocoee High School.

Mike’s military service consists of six years in the United States Marine Corps. He has been an engineer with a major telephone company for 33 years.

Mike has been a member of Winter Garden Elks Lodge 2165 for 28 years. He has held the positions of Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Loyal Knight, Lecturing Knight, and Inner Guard. He has also been a Trustee of the Lodge for the past three years. He was the District Chairman of Government Relations for two years and has served as both State Vice Chairman and State Chairman of Youth Activities.

Mike has been married to Nancy for 29 years; they have three children and five grandchildren.

Other interests Mike has include hunting, fishing, camping, and travel.

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast Central District are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Betty Tewksbury as a candidate for the office of Southeast Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Betty was born in Maine in 1947 and moved to Stuart, FL in 1981. She is a high school graduate and completed some college coursework. She is also a Certified Juvenile Arbitrator.

She has worked in the retail and restaurant businesses as well as for the Solon Mfg. Co.

Betty was initiated into Stuart-Jensen Elks Lodge 1870 on February 19, 2001 and was Lodge Chairman for the following committees: Drug Awareness (6 years), Ritual (2 years), Special Services (5 years), Membership (1 year), Induction (2 years), and the House Committee (1 year). Betty has also been Loyal Knight and Leading Knight and served two times as Exalted Ruler in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. In 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, she was the Lodge PER Association President.

Additional Elk involvement for Betty includes winning All District Exalted Ruler and the Eleven O’clock Toast Competition in 2003-2004. She was Trustee Chairman in 2006-2007 and the Southeast Central District Chairman of Officers Attendance for four years. She chaired the Operation Santa Knows program and served as the District PER Association Vice President for three years. In addition, Betty was the Central Regional Chairman of Hoop Shoot for three years and served as Esquire to the DDGER in 2007-2008. In 2005 she was made an Honorary Life Member of Stuart-Jensen 1870 and was named Elk of the Year for 2007-2008.

Other activities and organizations Betty has been a part of include being elected President of the LGA Waterville CC for two terms and serving on the Waterville CC Board of Directors twice. She also served on the Founders Committee for the Mariner Sands Chapel. Betty has even served on numerous community fundraising committees.

Betty has been married to PER Harold for thirty years; he was the person who introduced her to Elkdom some thirty years ago. She is the extremely proud parent of Esteemed Leading Knight Susan Gordon and the proud grandparent of Anthony Gordon, Eagle Scout, who is a freshman attending the University of South Florida. He is majoring in Chemical Engineering and will minor in Bio-Medical Engineering.
Christopher Gariepy

The members and Lodges of Florida’s East Central District are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Christopher Gariepy as a candidate for the office of East Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Chris was born in Taipei, Taiwan in 1963. As a “military brat,” he grew up all over the world before settling down in Ludlow, MA, which he considers his hometown, after his father retired from the Air Force. He has lived in six states (Nevada, Maine, California, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont) and three countries (Taiwan/Republic of China, England, and the Azores/Portugal) before moving to Florida in 1987.

He graduated from Ludlow High School in 1981 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Western New England College in Springfield, MA in 1986. In 1995 Chris received his Master of Science in Computer Science from Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, FL. He is currently working as a Senior Software Engineer for United Space Alliance at the Kennedy Space Center.

After having been an active Troop Leader for Titusville Lodge 2113’s Boy Scout Troop 721 for two years, Elks member Jim Parks, now a 2-time PER, finally convinced Chris to join the Lodge in 1995. Almost immediately, there was a lot of coaxing by the Lodge officers for him to get more involved and become an officer, but family commitments (Boy Scouts, 4-H, High School Band, and Junior ROTC activities with the kids) prevented this from happening until they got closer to graduation. The rest, as they say, is history.

Chris began his service as a Lodge officer in 2000-2001 as Lecturing Knight and continued on as Loyal Knight and Leading Knight and served as Exalted Ruler in 2003-2004. He has been a Trustee from 2004-2005 to the present and has been Board Chairman from 2006-2007 to the present. Chris has also chaired several Lodge committees: Elks National Foundation in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004; Interlodge Visitaton in 2002-2003; and Americanism, Bingo, and the House Committee in 2003-2004. Other Lodge involvement for Chris included Bulletin Editor for 2003-2004 and 2005-2006, Parliamentarian from 2004-2005 to the present, Vice President of the PER Association in 2004-2005, and President of the PER Association in 2005-2006. He has also been active with the Entertainment Committee, Boy Scouts, Lodge Security, and Adopt-A-Highway for many years.


In addition to being a member of the BPOE, Chris is also a member of several other organizations. He is a member of The United Space Alliance Leadership Association (a chapter of the National Management Association) where he was a member of their election committee for two years, chairing it for one year. He is also a member of The IEEE Computer Society where he currently serves as a book and article reviewer. In 2001 he was designated as Certified Software Development Professional in the initial round of certifications and has maintained the certification ever since. Other memberships are The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and the local chapter of the Greyhound Pets of America.

Chris met his wife, Phyllis, while working in Vermont as a Software Quality Assurance Engineer at an aerospace company in Vergennes, VT (Simmons Precision). They have been married for almost eighteen years. They have three children and two grandchildren.

Over the years, Chris has seen firsthand all of the good works the Harry-Anna Trust Fund has provided through the state’s two major projects. As a Boy Scout Troop Leader, many of the scouts in their charge (most underprivileged children) were able to attend the Florida Elks Youth Camp and enjoyed it very much.

On a more personal note, Chris’s first grandchild, Kasie, was born with a condition in which the ball of the femur would not stay in the hip socket. This prevented her from being able to progress as any normal child would; she could not crawl, much less learn to walk. His daughter and her husband, who had limited resources and insurance, were fortunate enough to know members of both the Shriners and the Elks. The Shriners, an organization that helps children as the Elks do, performed several operations free of charge to force the hip joint to stay in the socket. A member of Chris’s own Lodge then contacted their local Children’s Therapy Services therapist (Beth Thiers) to work out the rehabilitative end. Chris says that this free service that the Elks offer to children in need has been a godsend for Kasie and he is happy to report that she is a happy, healthy six year old who can do anything a normal child can do.

WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT

The members and Lodges of Florida’s West Central District are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Iwan Choronenko as a candidate for the office of West Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Iwan was born in a small village of White Russia. During World War II, his family was held in a labor camp in East Germany. After the war, they lived for six years in United Nations refugee camps as displaced persons. In 1951 they immigrated to the United States and lived in New York City until 1961.

He attended public grade school and high school in New York and graduated from City College in 1961 with a degree in meteorology as well as a commission in the United States Army Signal Corps.

His first duty assignment was in Germany during the Berlin crisis. In 1964 he transferred to the United States Air Force in order to work in his profession. During his military career, he held command and staff positions in various Air Force and Army commands and spent one year in Vietnam. He also received his master’s degree in physics from the University of Utah in 1969 and attended the Army War College from which he graduated in 1977.

After retiring from active military duty in 1981, he was employed by Hillsborough County as the Director of the Air Management Division with the responsibility of regulating industrial and commercial air pollution sources and noise pollution control within the county. He served in this capacity for eighteen years and had the privilege to be the President of the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials which consisted of 160 air programs. He also served as a member on the EPA’s Clean Air Act Advisory Committee.

In 1999 he was initiated as an Elk into Holiday Isles Lodge 1912 and moved through the chairs becoming the Exalted Ruler in 2002. Subsequently, he held two district chair positions and also served as the State Vice Chairman and the State Chairman of Publicity & Public Relations. In 2007 he performed duties as the District Auditor to the DDGER.

Iwan has been married for 47 years to his wonderful wife, Rita, and they have two grown children and six grandchildren.

SOUTHWEST CENTRAL DISTRICT

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwestern Central District are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Art Yanni as a candidate for the office of Southwestern Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Art was born in Dallas, TX but grew up in New York. He moved to the Valrico-Brandon area of Florida in 1972 and graduated from Brandon High School in 1976. From 1976-1980 Art was in the U.S. Army Reserves and from 1980-1985 he was with the 810th MP Company. Art has been in the automotive field for over 25 years as a parts and service manager.

With the help of his stepfather, Art joined Brandon Lodge 2383 in 1985. He served as Chaplain in 1986-1987, as Inner Guard in 1997-1998, and as Lodge Esquire in 2000-2001. He was All State Chaplain from 1999-2000. In 2003-2004 Art was the Exalted Ruler of Plant City Lodge 1727. He has been District Chairman of Ritual and Indoctrination. In 2006-2007 he was State Vice Chairman of New Lodges and continued in 2007-2008 as State Chairman of New Lodges.

Art is not married but the special person in his life for six years has been Sandy Kuzniar. Art has one daughter, Heather, who is married to Mac Davis. Between Sandy and Art, they have three great daughters and according to Art, “they are the best you could ask for.” Art loves to golf, and he and Sandy enjoy taking their R.V. on road trips with their friends.
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest District are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Thom N. Dillman as a candidate for the office of Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Thomas Nathan Dillman was born in Decatur, IL in 1940. He graduated from Decatur High School in 1958. In 1957 he began his apprenticeship in the Sheet Metal Workers International Association. He became a Journeyman in 1961 and remained in the trade until his retirement in January 2006.

Thom married his high school sweetheart, Judy Ballard, in November 1959 and they have two sons, Todd Alan of Lincoln, NC and Brian Eric of Bradenton, FL; they also have four grandchildren.

Thom and his family relocated to Bradenton, FL in 1985. He was accepted into Bradenton Elks Lodge 1511 in July 1988 and was initiated on July 25. He served as Lodge Inner Guard in 1994-1995, Esteemed Loyal Knight in 1995-1996, and Esteemed Leading Knight in 1996-1997. He demitted to Palmetto Elks Lodge 2449 in April 1997 and served as Exalted Ruler in 1997-1998 and again in 2002-2003. Thom has also served as Lodge Esquire and Trustee and is currently serving as Chairman of the Auditing and Accounting Committee and as Lodge Americanism Chairman.

Thom competed in the Florida State Elks Ritual Contest as Inner Guard, Loyal Knight, and Leading Knight and won All State Honors for the Eleven O’clock Toast in 1997-1998.

Thom served as District Chairman of Drug Awareness, Americanism, Visitation, and Indoctrination. He was appointed State Chairman of the Americanism Committee in 2003-2004 by State President Mike Phillips. Thom also served as Esquire to District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler William Swatzell in 2000-2001.

Other interests for Thom include golf, fishing, travel, and doing small projects around the house. He is very proud of his sons, Todd and Brian, who are both Elks. Todd is currently serving as Esteemed Leading Knight of the Gastonia, NC Lodge 1634 and Brian is a member of Bradenton Lodge 1511.

SOUTH SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southwest District are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Richard L. Futral as a candidate for the office of South Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Richard was born in Beckley, WV in 1947. He moved to Fort Myers, FL in 1950 and was raised there. He graduated from Fort Myers High School in 1965 and from Edison College (Fort Myers) in 1981 with an AA degree.

He was in the Florida Army National Guard from October 1964 to October 1970 and was honorably discharged as a Sergeant (E-5). Richard has worked as a real estate appraiser since 1970. He worked as a staff appraiser with local Federal Savings & Loans until 1979. He then opened Richard L. Futral & Associates, Real Estate Appraisers & Consultants in 1979 and is still in business as a real estate appraiser.

Richard became an Elk in 1996 after he was invited by a client/friend, Tom Slasor, and was immediately appointed to the House Committee. He also served as Chairman of the House Committee from October 1996 through March 1997. In 1997 he served as Esteemed Leading Knight and in 1998 he served as Exalted Ruler. From 1999-2002 he was a Lodge Trustee. He was elected as President of the PER Association for 1999-2000. Richard served as the District Chairman of Youth Activities for 1999-2002 and as District Auditor for 1999-2000. He held the position of Lodge Esquire for the 2002-2003 year and District Esquire for the 2003-2004 year. From 2004-2007 he was the South Regional Chairman for Membership. In 2007-2008 he served as the District Chairman of Interlodge Visitation. Richard has been serving various Lodge fundraising committees since 1996.

In 1976 Richard received the RM (Professional) Designation from the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers. He received the SRA (Professional) Designation with the Society of Real Estate Appraisers in 1977. He became President of the local chapter of the Society of Real Estate Appraisers in 1980-1981. He was the President of the local chapter of the Appraisal Institute in 1991 (American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and the Society of Real Estate Appraisers merged in 1990). He was designated “State Certified General Appraiser” with the state of Florida. He served as a Director, SRA Admissions Team Chairman, and Regional Representative for Region X of the Appraisal Institute and served as an “Expert Witness” for the Florida Real Estate Appraisal Board.

Richard is a licensed Real Estate broker with the state of Florida and is a Charter Member of the Cape Coral Optimist Club and served as President in 1983-1984. His lovely wife, Linda, and he have been married for 35 years and have two wonderful sons, Forrest and Farrell, and a wonderful two year old grandson, Thomas.

Since becoming an Elk, Richard has made so many good Elk friends locally and on district and state levels. He feels fortunate to be a part of an organization that does so much for so many. His wife is a Past President of their L.O.E. and is the Junior Delegate with FLOE this year.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast District are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Leslie Szirbik as a candidate for the office of Southeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Leslie was born in Derby, CT in 1941. He grew up in Connecticut and moved to Florida in 1987. He had eleven years of schooling and spent three years in the Army Engineers from 1959-1962.

In Connecticut, Leslie was in the trucking business for twenty years; he was in the concession food business in Florida for ten years and has been retired since 2005.

Leslie became an Elk in 1983 with Wallingford, CT Elks Lodge 1365. He was sponsored by a former employee.

For Lantana-Boynton Lodge 2676, he was Chairman of the House Committee in 2000-2001 and 2004-2005. He was Leading Knight in 2000-2001 and Exalted Ruler in 2001-2002. In 2003 and 2005, he held the position of President for the PER Association and from 2005-2007, he was Leading Knight. He has been the Harry-Anna Trust Fund District Chairman since 2002. For the 2007-2008 year, he continued this position as a member of West Palm Beach Lodge 1352. An additional service that Leslie performed for Lantana-Boynton Lodge that he does now for West Palm Beach Lodge is serve as an active volunteer chef.

Leslie and his wife, Kathleen, were married November 16, 1963 and have been married nearly 45 years. They have two grown children. Kathleen Marotto, 41, lives in Meriden, CT and has a 10 year old daughter, Ashley. Their son, James Szirbik, is 43 and lives in Wallingford, CT.
SOUTH DISTRICT

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South District are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Robert H. Rankin as a candidate for the office of South District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Bob was born in Chester, PA in 1942 and moved to Florida in 1963. He graduated from high school and completed one year of college.

For 25 years Bob was a restaurant owner in Fort Lauderdale. He was a Real Estate Broker and Investor for ten years but is now retired.

Bob became an Elk seven years ago. He didn’t know anyone so he applied at the local Marathon Elks Lodge 2139 after he retired. He was the Exalted Ruler for three years and the Leading Knight and Loyal Knight each for a year. He was the House Committee Chairman for one and a half years. He was the Lodge Hoop Shoot Chairman for two years, the Lodge Camp Chairman for three years, and the South District Chairman of Youth Activities for one year.

Bob’s other activities include a variety of groups. He has been involved in the Stevens Ministry of the Lutheran Church which is a family services organization; he was a Stevens Minister for several years giving family care and counseling. Bob has taught Sunday School and held other offices as well as Elder in the Presbyterian Church. Bob is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, a fraternal organization, and has coached sports teams throughout the years. He enjoys karate, scuba diving, and snorkeling and still skis; he has a condo on a Colorado slope.

Bob has one son, Bobby, who is in his third year of Prep School.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northeast District are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Gregory Hughson as a candidate for the office of Northeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Greg was born in Buffalo, NY in 1949 and grew up in Lilydale, NY. He moved to Florida in 1969 with the Navy.

He graduated from Cassadaga Valley High School in 1967. In 1981 he graduated from Jones College with an AS degree in Business Management.

Greg was in the Navy from 1967 to 1971. He started working at Putnam Community Medical Center in Palatka, FL in 1975 as a Laboratory Technician. He transferred to Material Management in 1998 as Purchasing Supervisor and is still in that role today.

In February 1983 Greg was initiated into Palatka Elks Lodge 1232; a good friend had asked him to join the Elks. He has been Lodge treasurer for six years and Lodge Secretary for twelve years. He was State Vice Chairman of Interlodge Visitations in 1993-1994 and State Chairman of Interlodge Visitations in 1994-1995. From 1995-1997 Greg was on the Board of Directors for the Florida Elks Youth Camp. He was District Vice President of the Northeast District in 1997-1998 and has been a Lodge advisor since 2001.

Other activities that Greg participates in are the local Relay for Life and the March of Dimes. He also belongs to the Florida Masons and the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Greg has married Kathy for 36 years; they have two grown children, Wendy and Greg, Jr. Greg and Kathy’s children have traveled with them to Elks functions across the state. They also have four grandchildren.

CENTRAL DISTRICT

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Central District are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Mary E. Ford as a candidate for the office of Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Mary was born in Oak Park, IL in 1947 and grew up in Chicago, IL. She moved to Florida in 1980.

She attended elementary school and high school in the Chicago area and is an alumnus from the University of Illinois, graduating in 1970 with a BS in Business.

Mary has sixteen years of progressive experience in Credit and Finance at the Chicago Tribune Company culminating as Business Manager of the Suncoast News in New Port Richey, FL. She has been employed by the Pasco Sheriff’s Office since February 1988 and is currently serving as Civil Deputy in the Court Process Unit.

In April 1996 Mary became an Elk; she was one of the first ten ladies to join Aripeka Lodge 2520. She served as Aripeka Ladies of Elks Vice President and President in 1989-1991, so after her husband, an Elk, passed away, it was a natural progression.

Beginning in 1997, Mary served at Aripeka Lodge 2520 as Lodge Esquire, Lecturing Knight, Leading Knight, and then as Exalted Ruler in 2000-2001 and 2005-2006. She was on the Florida State Elks Association Major Projects Committee from 1998-2008. She served as State Vice Chairman and State Chairman of Sports from 2002-2004. She was District Chairman of Government Relations from 1997-2003 and 2004-2007. She was also the District Chairman of National Foundation Certificates in 2007-2008. Mary has served on multiple Lodge committees and was the Aripeka Elks Lodge 2520 Elk of the Year in 2003-2004. From 2001 to present she has been a member of the West Central District Past Exalted Rulers Association and for several years has been the President of the Aripeka Past Exalted Rulers Association.

Mary is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and the VFW Auxiliary. She is also a Chicago YMCA Leading Lady Member. Mary has been a widow since 1995.

SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southeast District are honored to present to the 2008 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Kathy Sinclair Holliday as a candidate for the office of South Southeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Kathy was born in Bonners Ferry, ID in 1955. She grew up there but went to high school in Walla Walla, WA and graduated in 1973. She attended Washington State University for three and a half years and studied Mathematics and earned her Accounting degree from Cleveland State University in 1982. Kathy moved to Florida in 1994 from Sucessusan, NJ.

For 25 years, Kathy has worked as an accountant specializing in cost accounting. She has worked for Pepsi, GAF Building Materials, Hercules Aerospace, Norton Performance Plastics, and for the past eight years, for Home Diagnostics in Fort Lauderdale.

Kathy joined Oakland Park Elks Lodge in 1998. Her brother-in-law was a member of the Walla Walla Elks Lodge and she had participated in Youth Activity events as a teenager.

Kathy’s involvement with the Elks includes serving as Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, and Loyal Knight. She has been a District Chairman of Lodge Activities, Youth Activities, Soccer Shoot, Sports, Indoctrination, and Americanism. She has been State Vice Chairman of Drug Awareness.

Other organizations that Kathy is a member of are the Eagles and the American Legion Auxiliary. She also participates in the Boy Scouts where she is a Sea Scout Leader.

Kathy has married Richard Holliday for three years; he is a member of Oakland Park Lodge 2407. She has one son, Ajay Sinclair Garg, who is a graduate student at Columbia University and is studying Electrical Engineering; he is also a member of the Oakland Park Lodge. Kathy and Richard were married underwater in Islamorada in 2005. Her son gave her away under water. Former Oakland Park Lodge Esquire, Nancy Barnes, was the Maid of Honor on the boat and former Oakland Park Lodge Loyal Knight, Gianni Galianni, was both Best Man and Maid of Honor at the underwater ceremony. Kathy’s husband is a Sea Captain employed by Island Queen Cruise Lines in Miami.
North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

The Honor Flight Network’s mission is “to fly America’s veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices of themselves and their friends.” North Fort Myers is sponsoring a WWII veteran.

The Lodge continues to serve 70 to 80 meals a week to the homeless and homeless veterans. They also provide transportation many times a month between Fort Myers Veterans Clinic and Bay Pines VAMC for veterans with medical appointments.

The Lodge also sent four quilts to Germany for our wounded servicemen and servicewomen to enjoy.

The Lodge delivered fifty boxes of clothing, toiletries, and lap robes along with a $500 donation to Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center.

Punta Gorda Elks Lodge 2606

The Lodge prepared and distributed 87 food baskets containing two chickens and about $40 worth of additional food plus toys provided by the Lodge and Toys for Tots to needy families in eastern Charlotte County.

Punta Gorda Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Charles Warren accepts National Patriotism Week Proclamation from Punta Gorda Mayor Larry Friedman acknowledging the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Rotonda Elks Lodge 2710

Rotonda Lodge presented State President David Lake with a check made out to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund for $5,000 at his homecoming in Fort Myers.

Boiniz Springs Lodge 2710; $3,000 - Fort Myers Lodge 1288; $2,500 - Cape Coral Lodge 2596; $2,500 - Englewood Lodge 2378; $1,600 - Punta Gorda Lodge 2606, PER Association; $1,000 - Fort Myers Lodge 1288, Certificate to President David Lake; $1,000 - Fort Myers Lodge 1288, Certificate to First Lady Kathy Lake; $1,000 - South Southwest District, PER Association; $1,000 - Rotonda Lodge 2710, Rotonda Elkettes; $5,000 - Lehigh Acres Lodge 2602; $500 - Bonita Springs Lodge 2753, Bingo Committee; $260 - Brandon Lodge 2383, Davis Enterprises; $200 - Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781; and $150 - Individuals.

In addition to the donations, President Lake received this sculptured wood of the Elk emblem logo from VPAL Joe Ortiz.

Englewood Elks Lodge 2378

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner & Dance was held Sunday, March 16 at the Englewood Elks Lodge to thank all those members who serve the organization’s various community efforts and内部 programs.

Particularly singled out by Exalted Ruler Paul Rockwell were Les Anderson and Ron McLeod. Anderson, who quartered the recent renovation of the Lodge’s cocktail bar and lounge area, was recognized as the 2007 Officer of the Year for his leadership and perseverance. Ron McLeod received the honor of 2007 Elk of the Year for his ongoing involvement as the Lodge’s organist as well as his “cyber tech” contributions in overseeing the Lodge’s computer requirements.

Elks care and Elks share, but it’s only through the Lodge’s strong and dedicated volunteer base that visions are brought to reality.

In addition to the donations, President Lake received this sculptured wood of the Elk emblem logo from VPAL Joe Ortiz.

North District continued from page 11

eighty people attended to partake in a traditional Irish boiled dinner including beef, potatoes, carrots, and cabbage. Dessert of banana pudding touted as a recipe from southern Ireland was likely not authentically Irish, but it sure is a favorite at the Lodge.

Another event held annually in February is PER Night. For Tallahassee, this is always the night for nominations of officers for the upcoming year, and the PERs step up to the plate to make this go smoothly. There was a full slate of PERs at the meeting that evening with the oldest PER being Dr. Robert Greenberg who was ER in 1962-1963.

The Lodge conducted a fundraiser selling flats of strawberries that were picked up fresh from Plant City by Trustee Donald Coker. For a mere $12 a flat, you could acquire some of the finest, freshest strawberries available anywhere, and the Lodge sold a pile of them.

A local Boy Scout (as his Eagle Scout project) installed a flag disposal container out in front of the Lodge similar in size and shape to a postal service mailbox that stands on four legs. In March, the scouts removed flags and folded them in preparation of a flag disposal ceremony to be conducted later this year. There are 340 flags awaiting disposal.

Tallahassee Lodge held its installation of officers as a joint ceremony with the Elketts on March 29. The event was well attended, and the food was fabulous. A big tip of the hat goes to Lodge member Rick Peckham who coordinated food prep as well as to all who brought covered dishes.

The Lodge is proud to announce its Elk of the Year, Nancy Longman, and Officer of the Year, Lecturing Knight Tracey Austin. These two ladies consistently are there to help with virtually every event the Lodge conducts. Outgoing ER White also awarded Grand Lodge Special Commendation awards to Tiler Robert Kohler and good member Charles Johnson, Jr. for their continued help and support with Lodge activities. ER White was acknowledged by the Elketts as their Elkett of the Year for his help as a member of the Ladies organization (ER White’s wife, Bonnie, is an Elk which makes him eligible as a spouse to be an Elkett).
The North District, with the help of District Vice President Janet da Silva, was pleased to host the visit of State President David Lake to the Live Oak Lodge on January 25th and 26th. It is the tradition of the district to extend some good, old-fashioned southern hospitality to their guests, especially when they have visitors from the Florida State Elks Association.

Lake City Lodge 893
Lake City Lodge was pleased with the attendance at the Elks Memorial Service in December. Baskets of food were delivered to needy families in honor of the Christmas season. The Lodge was fortunate to initiate a group of new members at the last meeting in December and vote on bylaw changes too. A New Year’s Eve Party wrapped up 2007 and welcomed in 2008.

The Lodge held a golf tournament on February 2 as a charity fundraiser. Hamburgers and hot dogs were served to all the golfers along with refreshing beverages. The annual tournament is always a good time with fun for all, and this year the Lodge raised over $4,000. Tournament Chairman Bill Brannon included a letter in the March newsletter thanking all who participated in the event for making it such a notable success. There were 37 hole sponsors and nearly $1,000 was awarded in prizes.

Super Bowl Sunday was a reason to open the Lodge and quite a few folks attended and brought a covered dish item to share. While football is an important source of entertainment for most of us, Lake City was proud to have five kids participate in another sporting event, the District Hoop Shoot Contest held in Live Oak.

Lake City will have its first female Exalted Ruler this upcoming year, Barbara Hollingsworth. Barbara has been an active member of the Lodge since she joined, and she has pitched in to help with many activities. She was elected to complete the unfinished term of the Leading Knight this year. Her husband, James, is finishing his year as DDGER.

Outgoing ER Jeff Seigmeister had hoped to see the completion of the new roof of the Lodge during his term. It looks like that will come to fruition as the project is underway. Jeff thanked everyone for their support during his term of office and urged support of the 2008-2009 officers who were installed on March 29. Jeff also announced bylaw revisions that allow Lake City Lodge to have a ritual degree team.

Live Oak Lodge 1165
Live Oak Lodge held its local Hoop Shoot Contest in December and then hosted the district competition in January. A big thanks goes to PDD Charlie Walker for taking care of Hoop Shoot for the Lodge, district, and regional events. The district competition included kids from both Live Oak and Lake City. Charlie thanked the Lodge for its help, especially the Anna Miller Circle in helping and also Danny and Diane Garrett for preparing a meal after the event.

The regional Hoop Shoot competition was held on February 16. Twenty-four kids came from across the region including the Northwest, North, Northeast, and North Central Districts of Florida. The top male shooter achieved 24 of 25 baskets and the top female got 22 of 25. Once again, there was help for the event from Lodge members and from the Lodge’s Ladies organization, the ever-present Anna Miller Circle.

The Lodge also distributed food boxes for the holidays to 68 needy families; this was coordinated at the Lodge by Alice and Rodger Brown. This is an annual event at the Live Oak Lodge.

More improvements are planned at the Lodge, and on that list of things to do is to repaint the dining room. Re-carpeting of the lounge, hallway, and foyer is being scheduled. Another project planned is to post the photos of the PERs in the Lodge room.

District Vice President Janet da Silva, along with the Live Oak Lodge, hosted the visit of State President David Lake on January 25th and 26th. A tour of the Panther Success House, a home for troubled boys, was conducted on Saturday morning. Funding for the Panther Success House is sponsored by the White Foundation. President Lake presented the home with a variety of sports equipment. A banquet with a program was held that evening at the Live Oak Lodge.

New officer installation was held March 22.

Madison Lodge 2205
Madison Elks Lodge 2205 continues to be the smallest Lodge in the district with just under a hundred members. The Lodge makes an effort to be visible in the community and raise money for charitable work, and it is a challenge for a smaller Lodge.

The Madison Lodge is planning a fish fry next month as a fundraiser. The event will include the usual side dishes that any fish fry needs: hushpuppies and cheese grits.

In hosting activities for the Lodge and its members, Madison Lodge held a dinner, dance, and karaoke event on February 22. It was so successful that the Lodge did the same thing on St. Patrick’s Day with another dinner, dance, and evening of karaoke.

The Lodge held its installation of officers at the first meeting in April.

Marianna Lodge 1516
Marianna Lodge has processed bylaw changes this past quarter. A small increase in dues was proposed.

The Marianna Lodge processed several scholarship applications and forwarded those on to the district for further review and judging. The Lodge provides scholarships to local students at Chipola College in Marianna, and as was discussed in the last publication, $3,800 was awarded this Lodge year. Qualifications are available from the Lodge.

The Lodge thanked member Jim Walton for donating his time and expertise for a new vanity in the men’s room. Also thanked were Jim and Angela Walton for assembling the Cheer Wagon basket that was given away in a drawing. Fundraising events are important for every Lodge.

Another fundraiser on the horizon for Marianna Lodge is a golf tournament that is set for June 20. Sponsors are being sought, and out of town sponsors are welcomed. If you would like to sponsor a hole, contact Lodge Secretary Tom Samsen.

Marianna Lodge held its installation of officers on March 31 with a joint installation of the Elks and the Ladies of the Elks. Current ER Pat Hollis has graciously stepped up to the plate to repeat ER this upcoming year and continue to work on projects that the Lodge wishes to complete.

Perry Lodge 1851
Perry Lodge began December with the Elks Memorial Service. At the service, PDD Richard C rude provided the eulogy. Also in December, Soccer Shoot winners went on to Umatilla for the regional and state competition. Katelyn Carter from Perry placed third in her category in the state. Dylan Lago also participated in the competition. This same month the Lodge gave two new guitars and music lessons to two local students. The gifts were made possible through the donation of funds by Mrs. Mary Ann Michalak who wanted to provide musical instruments for needy, talented youth.

Breakfast with Santa is another December event that has become an annual tradition at the Lodge. The Lodge opens its doors to the community, and for a nominal fee, kids get to visit with Santa and have breakfast, and everyone leaves the Lodge with a gift. Even the kids who cry because they are frightened of Santa are provided breakfast and a gift. The Lodge thanks Randy and Deidra Newman and their helpers, as well as Santa, Donald Mosley, and the Lodge members on hand for helping make the event another success. Toys were donated by the local business, Fairpoint Communications, and orange juice and milk were donated by Bassett’s Dairy.

The Lodge bulletin featured a “One of Us” article honoring employee barmaid Helen Farnell. Helen has worked at the Lodge since 1982. She can be found everyday providing refreshments, including adult beverages to the afternoon gang, as well as providing discussion and critique of the cooking channel. While recipes of Paula Dean and Sandra Lee might be the topic of conversation, wild game preparation will likely be included since Taylor County abounds with it. Other interesting discussions include sports commentaries, hunting tips, and fishing.

Perry Lodge held a Valentine’s Day Prime Rib Dinner for members and guests. The food was awesome. Music was provided afterwards for dancing.

Installation of officers was held Friday, April 4.

Tallahassee Lodge 937
Tallahassee Lodge kicked off the New Year with a New Year’s Eve Party that had wonderful food, libations, and a great crowd to welcome in 2008 with a bang. It was a bit unusual to still have folks on the dance floor at 1:00 a.m. when the band was completing its final set. It was a good time, obviously.

The Lodge was pleasantly surprised to be informed in mid-December of its selection for a state award. For the Lodge’s years of outstanding service and donations of time and in-kind service to the local Gretchen-Everhart School, a Leon County school for kids who are mentally and physically challenged, the Lodge was chosen to receive the Department of Education’s Commissioner’s Business Recognition Award. The award was presented at the annual gala event at the Hyatt Regency in Jacksonville on April 10.

The Lodge held a Valentine’s Day Dinner featuring roast prime rib. There was a large turnout, and more than sixty dining patrons were served. It was a great event hosted by the officers of the Lodge. Following in March, a St. Patrick’s Day dinner featuring corned beef was held, and more than

North District continued page 10
The weather man complied completely with the wishes of the Florida State Elks Golf Committees wishes in not letting it rain on either day of the two day Tournament that had some 263 golfers from all over Florida competing on the Spring Lake Golf Resorts two courses Saturday and Sunday April 5th and 6th.

Over the past three years Sebring Elks Lodge who is the sponsor of the Florida State Elks Annual Golf Tournament has raised an average of over $18,000 for the two Major Projects of the Florida Elks, the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp, each has an annual budget of over $2 million dollars a year. This year should prove no different.

The weather was so good that it seemed possible a new scramble record had been set on the second day of the tournament when a virtually impossible and unbelievable scores of 62-43-105, had been turned in by a team from Delray Beach. Their score card recorded that the team had two holes in one, four eagles, two double eagles, and the rest were all birdies. It also showed that one of the holes-in-one was on a par four hole.

It was disappointing to the golfers and this reporter that the team did not remain for the presentation of the Low Gross first place trophy and photograph of this astounding team. However, as reported by Marvin Mauer the tournament’s secretary, two weeks after the tournament Delray Beach Elk member, Eddie Siska, contacted the Golf Committee and apologized for the posting of that score and agreed to withdraw them from tournament and return the Low Gross trophies so that they can be awarded to the correct team.

The Low Net trophy had been presented to the team from Bradenton, Adam Sherrard, Bill Swatzell, Steve McGrath and Charlie Stephens who shot 52-54-106. (See photo). They will now receive the overall lowest score, Low Gross trophies after they have been returned, possibly at the State Convention.

Now, the “A” Flight, Plant City Lodge’s team of Tom Ludwick, Gary Poehert, Dennis Peyton, and Rich McMasters will receive the Low Net Trophy with scores of 55-53-108 total.

Mike Rodriguez, Bill Blankenship, Todd Bush and John Meyew from Delray Beach took First Place in Division “B” shooting 61-56-117.

“C” Flight had Chuck Hallman, Mike Panzella, Jeff Barkley and Andy Delia from Punta Gorda in First Place shooting 62-60-122.

“D” Flight First Place was Paul Perl, Bill Murphy, Butch Chenn, and Bob Deelley from Naples; they shot 64-60-124.

“E” Flight First Place team was Terry Miller, Ernie Robinson, Bill Knorr and Jim Harney from Sarasota; they scored 67-60-127.

Men’s Closest to the Pin awards were won by Bill Ross, Sheldon Sivalis, Eric Jewell and Jerry Mason. Ladies Closest to the Pin awards were won by Robyn Hassel, Juanita Hill, Anita Mann, and Jackie Hartzell.

Longest Drive awards by the ladies were won by C. J. McKinney, Marsha Lepola, and Juanita Hill.

Men’s Longest Drive awards were presented to Chris Van House, Donald Whiteman, and Allan Karam.

FSEA State President David Lake won the grand prize of $400 in the putting contest.

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: ____________________________

You could be here in 2009!

Florida Elks News
Spring 2008

FLORIDA STATE ELKS
28TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Raleigh Whiteman, Editor

Low Gross Team with State President David Lake in center, from left Adam Sherrard, Bill Swatzell, Steve McGrath and Charlie Stephens, they shot 52-54-106. Shown receiving the Low Net trophy.

ELKS DAY
with the Rays

Sunday, June 15 at 1:40 p.m.
Florida Marlins vs. Tampa Bay Rays

Lower Level Outfield Tickets $16

All lodges will receive a group welcome on our video board.
It was a very rainy morning as these hoop shooters drained their basketballs through the nets on the hoops. These first place winners demonstrated that practice indeed pays off as all six had 20 or more of their 25 shots swishing through the net.

Several of the shooters had noted patterns that they had trained themselves to follow as they made each shot. The rims were seldom touched as the ball only touched the netting. A few examples: Joshua Burgos would raise the ball up over his head for a stretch and then bounce it two times and on the third would backspin the ball and make it bounce back to him and then he would shoot, making 22 of his 25 throws. Otavious Worthen would take the ball from the referee and hold the ball as he stared at his target for several seconds as if to say to himself, “I can make this shot.” Alexis Diaz, who finished fourth in the National Finals last year, would dribble three times and then using one hand arc the ball through the net, seldom making only a swish through the netting.

The event ran very smoothly with the chairmen and volunteers from Aripeka Lodge having been together for the past several years. Each knowing what their responsibilities were, the event lasted less than two hours.

This is the last year for State Chairman John Nejedlo. His Vice Chairman, Peter Cattabriga, takes the helm next year with a full slate of new volunteers to help with the Free Throw Shootout for 2008.

There were approximately twenty Elks and spouses including State President David Lake and his wife, Kathy, VPAL Joe Ortiz and his wife, Rita, and several dozen volunteers from Aripeka Lodge. There were about fifty family and friends of the contestants also in the Grafton Center Gymnasium.

Friday evening the volunteers, dignitaries, and the performers in Recreation, who were staying at the camp for the evening, were treated to a special dinner of fish and filet mignon. Recreation performed the blessing of the dinner with a beautiful song.

These six winners will now go on to the Regional Hoot Shoot contest in Valdosta and those winners will then compete in the National Contest in Springfield.

RESULTS OF THIS CONTEST

**GIRLS**

8-9 Year Olds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge/Group</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Nina Fernandez</td>
<td>Miami Lodge 948</td>
<td>20/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Logen Lincoln</td>
<td>Venice/Nikomis Lodge 1854</td>
<td>16/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Au’Maria Gibson</td>
<td>Lake City Lodge 893</td>
<td>16/25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10-11 Year Olds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge/Group</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Aisha Edwards</td>
<td>Boca Raton Lodge 2166</td>
<td>20/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Maria Parker</td>
<td>Jacksonville Lodge 221</td>
<td>16/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Kayla Kivinski</td>
<td>Tampa Lodge 708</td>
<td>13/25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12-13 Year Olds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge/Group</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Alexis Diaz</td>
<td>West Broward Lodge 2273</td>
<td>23/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Kali Maurer</td>
<td>Sebastian Lodge 2714</td>
<td>19/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Lindsay Conners</td>
<td>Inverness Lodge 2522</td>
<td>15/25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BOYS**

8-9 Year Olds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge/Group</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Micah Daniel</td>
<td>Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787</td>
<td>23/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Trent Bell</td>
<td>Bradenton Lodge 1511</td>
<td>16/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Ryan Day</td>
<td>Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787</td>
<td>tie5-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10-11 Year Olds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge/Group</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Joshua Burgos</td>
<td>Ocala Lodge 286</td>
<td>22/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Trey Thomas</td>
<td>Zephyrhills Lodge 2731</td>
<td>14/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Alex Diaz</td>
<td>West Broward Lodge 2273</td>
<td>6/25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12-13 Year Olds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge/Group</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Otavious Worthen</td>
<td>Miami Lodge 948</td>
<td>20/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Ryan Day</td>
<td>Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787</td>
<td>18/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Luke Calleja</td>
<td>Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787</td>
<td>tie3-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Aisha Edwards**
Girls 10-11 Age Group
Boca Raton Lodge 2166

**Nina Fernandez**
Girls 8-9 Age Group
Miami Lodge 948

**Alexis Diaz**
Girls 12-13 Age Group
West Broward Lodge 2273

**Otavious Worthen**
Boys 12-13 Age Group
Miami Lodge 948

**Joshua Burgos**
Boys 10-11 Age Group
Ocala Lodge 286

**Mycah Daniel**
Boys 8-9 age group
Holley/Navarre Lodge 2787
Daytona Beach Lodge 1141
The Lodge hosted a pool tournament in January that raised $4,000. They would like to thank their newest member, Pam Rowd, owner of the American Pool Association franchise in the area, for encouraging pool teams to play at the Lodge. The Hoop Shoot Contest was held on January 5 at the Port Orange Civic Center.

On February 1 at the Umatilla Florida Elks Youth Camp, Exalted Ruler Roger Johnson presented State President David Lake with a check for $1,000 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, and Lecturing Knight Linda Behnke presented a check for $1,300 from the “Ride For Our Kids” Poker Run held in October.

Their annual highway pickup was held in February. Thirteen people came out to help clean up the highway and they would like to thank the Elks and officers who participated.

Lodge Chairman Art Wilson, PER held a Veterans’ Barbecue on March 12 at the Emory Bennett Veterans’ Nursing Home.

Deland Lodge 1463
On Saturday, January 12, Phil Watercutter, East Central District Chairman, held the annual District Hoop Shoot Contest at the Deland Middle School. There were thirty participants from seven district Lodges; they had six winners who went on to the Regional Hoop Shoot in Port St. Lucie on February 8. The East Central District had over 6,800 students participating in this event.

The Lodge PER Association sponsored its first Charity Barbecue on March 1 to help raise monies for the Elks charities. Monies from this fundraiser were donated to their local High School Scholarship Program.

Veterans Committee Chairman Rick Phelps is working on a project to send every World War II veteran from Volusia County to Washington, D.C. to visit their memorial.

A PER Golf Tournament was held on Saturday, March 22 at the Southridge Golf Course in Deland; proceeds of the event were used for the Lodge charitable works. Lodge Officers won the East Central District Ritual Contest held on January 13.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650
Members and officers expressed their thanks to outgoing Exalted Ruler Nick Skibba and to Lodge Secretary John Lesko, PDDGER for a fine job they performed this year. Nick thanked his officers and the Ladies of the Elks for their support this past year and wished the incoming slate of officers a successful year.

A Kids’ Easter Party was well attended by kids, members, and their guests. Members participated in an adult Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 23 at the Lodge followed by a pot luck dinner.

Madam President of the Ladies of the Elks, Tina Barber, thanked all her officers for a job well done this past year and wished the incoming officers a good year.

New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557
Members came out to donate blood during a recent blood drive on January 21.

A Super Bowl Party was held on February 3, a Valentine’s Day Dinner/Dance was held on February 15, and the annual St. Patrick’s Day Dinner was held on March 17.

The Ladies Auxiliary held a Spring Fashion Show on February 16.

In closing out the year, Exalted Ruler Dot Durni thanked all her Lodge officers and volunteers for a job well done and expressed congratulations to the newly appointed Lodge officers for the coming year. Dot also thanked the Ladies Auxiliary for all of the members’ hard work in support of the Lodge and congratulated their newly appointed officers for the coming year.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193
The Lodge held a St. Patrick’s Day Party on Saturday, March 15.

Throughout the month of March, The Ladies Auxiliary held several craft shows and an Italian Night Dinner/Dance that turned out to be successful.

On March 22 the Lodge sponsored a fundraiser for their building fund.

Outgoing Exalted Ruler Elaine Schutte, PER thanked her officers, members, and especially the Ladies Auxiliary for their support this past year.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709
The Lodge and the Flagler County Sheriff’s Department held a huge drug awareness program at the Belle Terre Elementary School along with Elroy the Elk on Friday, January 11. The Sheriff’s Department brought drug sniffing dogs that gave a demonstration for everyone in addition to bringing drug related pamphlets.

The Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a rummage and bake sale and the Ladies raised $2,662.63 and also raised $1,203 by selling baskets of cheer. A 50s Dance was held on January 12 and a Chinese Auction was held on February 25. A Fashion Show was held on March 11 and a St. Patrick’s Day Dance was also held in March.

The members extended their congratulations to all the new Lodge and Ladies Auxiliary officers for the coming year.

Port Orange Lodge 2723
Susan Lent, the Orange Peel Editor, was named the Outstanding Adult Volunteer for 2008 by the Volusia County Schools. Sue spends many hours preparing PowerPoint presentations that correlate with the Harcourt reading curriculum for students as well as faculty PowerPoint presentations.

The Lady Elkhearts held their 8th annual Chinese Auction on January 19 and it was a sellout.

The Elks had a Male Fashion Show on January 26. On February 1, Lodge Veterans’ Affairs Chairman Ed Jackson, PER organized a special event at the Emory Bennett Nursing Home in honor of the veterans. For entertainment, the group Recreation performed for the veterans at the home followed by a dinner at the Daytona Beach Elks Lodge.

A District Veterans’ Dinner was held at the Titusville Lodge on February 16 that was attended by the District Dignitaries.

For the past fourteen years, volunteers have served Meals on Wheels dinners to approximately 214 shut-ins.

Americanism Chairman Joe Lent sponsored a fundraiser for Americanism projects with a cash prize of $250; the winner of the drawing donated the winnings back to the Lodge.

The Annual Charity Ball raised approximately $2,500 which was donated to the Lodge.

Sanford Elks Lodge 1241
Volunteers of the Lodge held their annual Hoop Shoot at Seminole High School Gymnasium on January 1.

A chili cook-off held in February was well attended. Ben Poloski received the “Best Chili” trophy for his “All American Chili,” Sam Dunn received the “Hottest Chili” trophy, Shannon Wofford was presented with a “Ribbon and Certificate” for her bountiful display of chili garnishes, and “Honorable Mention” certificates were presented to Jeff Rumiler, John Tedford, Carla Dunn, and Jim Rowan.

The members and officers of the Lodge would like to thank Ron Dunn for an outstanding job as Exalted Ruler. Ladies of the Elks held a St. Patrick’s Day Dinner/Dance on March 15. The newly elected will be installed on Saturday, March 29.

Titusville Elks Lodge 2113
With the help of Merritt Island Lodge, the Lodge joined forces in the drug awareness program and helped to distribute handouts, ribbons, and coloring books to every school in Brevard County.

Special thanks go to Jim Harnish who has done a stellar job in raising funds for their veterans programs in providing books, glasses for the veterans’ home, and meals for families of deployed soldiers and homeless vets and to Tanya Anderson who has been sending packages every month to soldiers overseas.

A District Veterans’ Dinner hosted by Ed Jackson, PER of Port Orange Lodge 2723 was held at the Lodge on Saturday, January 12. The event was attended by all the District Lodges and the East Central District dignitaries and their spouses.

The Adopt-A-Highway activity was held on Saturday, March 8.

On March 9 the Lodge held a kitchen shower for their chef and waitress staff for all kinds of things they had need for.

Exalted Ruler Dave Wiggins expressed his thanks to all the volunteers, Does, and officers as well as to Marshall Lawrence and his wife, Debbie, for doing a fine job in raising money for ENF and to Jim Wentworth for doing a fine job in raising money for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Secretary’s Message continued from page 3

the months of March and April were especially busy for everyone, yet through it all, our Exalted Rulers and Secretaries did a tremendous job of providing our office with all of the new information regarding their officers and committees. Because of this outstanding response, much of the information found in the Lodge Directory has already been made available at our web site, and the printed version should be available in late June! I will remind you that our database of information is only as accurate as you make it, so please keep us informed of address and personnel changes throughout the year so that we may keep the lines of communication open and working!

Well another year has come and gone! It has been another great year for the Florida Elks and our Major Projects, and it has again been my honor and privilege to serve our Association as its State Secretary! Space does not permit me to personally thank everyone for their continued support and cooperation, so thank you one and all!
**Aripeka Lodge 2520**

In January the Aripeka Lodge under the leadership of Frieda Deane, Veterans’ Chairperson, donated to the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital in Tampa $2,846 worth of blankets, socks, sundries, a wheelchair, and playing cards which were all donated by Lodge members and others. Lorraine Lovett, Chairperson of the Drug Awareness Program, visited Highlands Elementary School to promote the Elks Drug Awareness Program; 700 Elks bags and “Just Say No to Drugs” red ribbons were passed out. Additional red ribbons were passed out at DDGER Donna Zuk’s visit to the Lodge.

Bingo Charities Chairman Wayne Getz donated $1,000 to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital and $250 each to the Disabled Veterans’ Memorial Fund and Project Life Savers (bracelets for Alzheimer’s patients). Also donated was $4,800 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and $5,700 to the Elks National Foundation which came out of the Lodge Charity Account.

In February, Lorraine Fisher who is the Elks National Veterans’ Services Committee Representative as well as for the Central District presented the Recreation show to the veterans at the Baldomero Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home. This show is performed by ten very talented young people who travel all over the United States. Approximately 100 people attended who were treated to cake, cookies, candy, and punch. Also in attendance were Mary Ann Steffes, PER of Aripeka Lodge and Emerson Poe, Elks National Service Committee Representative to the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital and PER of Zephyrhills Lodge 2731.

In front, a resident of Baldomero Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home, Robert Zuch. Back row: Abigail Diener, entertainer; Mary Ann Steffes, PER; Sarah Burk, entertainer; and Lorraine Fisher, ENSCR to Baldomero Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home.

Aripeka Lodge recently competed in the Ritual Competition held at Kissimmee Lodge and took First Place. Ceil and Richard Woods took First Place as Esquire and Inner Guard.

Through the hard work and dedication of Marti Hayward, Rose Gonya, and Betty Barclay as well as from donations collected from bingo charities, members, guests, and the Lodge Charity Account, they presented Kelly Gratz, St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital representative, a check for $5,000. Also, Lodge Bingo Chairman Wayne Getz gave an additional $500 to St. Jude’s, $750 to Hernando-Pasco Hospice, $250 each to West Coast Diggers Volleyball Team and Kairos (a ministry to prison inmates and their families), $490 to St. Joseph Hospital in Tampa, $500 to Gulfside Hospice in New Port Richey, and $1,000 to Haley House in Tampa.

**Brooksville Lodge 2582**

On February 8, 2008, Carlos Martins was presented with the Elks Citizen of the Year Award. Carlos lives in Spring Hill and is a partner in the family owned business, “The Spring Hill Lanes.”

Exalted Ruler Paul Stark presented the plaque to Carlos before the dinner/dance. Carlos has been involved in the “Turn-A-Round” program where the youth of Hernando County have turned their lives around showing great improvement and are recognized annually at the Elks and are served dinner. His quote is “Say no to drugs, yes to the bowling programs.” He has also worked with the Bowling Youth Scholarship Program, the Special Olympics, the High School Bowling Programs, and continually works with many schools and organizations to help youth and the school systems in any way that he can.

**Kissimmee Lodge 1873**

The Lodge participated in the state Soccer Shoot in January under the guidance of Jerry Ducharme, Chairman. They had two winners take second place and one finished fourth. They are very proud of them all and congratulate Jerry on a fine job.

On January 17, Veterans’ Committee Chairman James Platt along with PER Bob Barry held a bingo night at the Veterans’ Nursing Home in Orlando. The veterans really appreciate the fun and conversation.

**West Citrus Lodge 2693**

In January West Citrus Lodge held its annual Sock Hop wherein they all step back into the 50s and 60s; as usual it was a great success. They also held their Calabash Night with Exalted Ruler O. C. Leonard’s famous hush puppies.

West Citrus has donated over $3,000 to the Elks National Foundation and $2,200 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

The Veterans’ Committee chaired by Ron Schupp has done a fantastic job this year collecting items for the veterans along with visiting over eight local nursing homes. His committee gives these veterans pizza parties, birthday cards, personal visits, and many other things to make them feel good.

In February the Lodge continued with the PER’s Charity Ball, Valentine’s Day Dance, and weekly Karaoke. All of this entertainment has helped the Lodge gain quite a few new members and has generated funds for charities and expenses.

In March the Lodge had its St Patrick’s Day Dinner with all the traditional foods to entice the palate of everyone. On March 15 they held their annual Easter Egg Hunt for the local children. On March 8, West Citrus played host to the Citrus County Math Field Contest; they fed 200 middle school children at the morning session and fed 230 seniors lunch in the afternoon. This event has grown over the last few years and West Citrus Lodge is very proud of the hard work that is put into it by the Board of Education and the Lodge.

**South District continued from page 20**

In February, Lorraine Fisher who is the Elks National Veterans’ Services Committee Representative as well as for the Central District presented the Recreation show to the veterans at the Baldomero Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home. This show is performed by ten very talented young people who travel all over the United States. Approximately 100 people attended who were treated to cake, cookies, candy, and punch. Also in attendance were Mary Ann Steffes, PER of Aripeka Lodge and Emerson Poe, Elks National Service Committee Representative to the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital and PER of Zephyrhills Lodge 2731.

In front, a resident of Baldomero Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home, Robert Zuch. Back row: Abigail Diener, entertainer; Mary Ann Steffes, PER; Sarah Burk, entertainer; and Lorraine Fisher, ENSCR to Baldomero Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home.

Aripeka Lodge recently competed in the Ritual Competition held at Kissimmee Lodge and took First Place. Ceil and Richard Woods took First Place as Esquire and Inner Guard.

Through the hard work and dedication of Marti Hayward, Rose Gonya, and Betty Barclay as well as from donations collected from bingo charities, members, guests, and the Lodge Charity Account, they presented Kelly Gratz, St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital representative, a check for $5,000. Also, Lodge Bingo Chairman Wayne Getz gave an additional $500 to St. Jude’s, $750 to Hernando-Pasco Hospice, $250 each to West Coast Diggers Volleyball Team and Kairos (a ministry to prison inmates and their families), $490 to St. Joseph Hospital in Tampa, $500 to Gulfside Hospice in New Port Richey, and $1,000 to Haley House in Tampa.

From left: Rose Gonya, acting ER Wayne Getz, Marti Hayward, and representing St. Jude’s, Kelly Gratz, Betty Barclay was absent.

**Brooksville Lodge 2582**

On February 8, 2008, Carlos Martins was presented with the Elks Citizen of the Year Award. Carlos lives in Spring Hill and is a partner in the family owned business, “The Spring Hill Lanes.”

Exalted Ruler Paul Stark presented the plaque to Carlos before the dinner/dance. Carlos has been involved in the “Turn-A-Round” program where the youth of Hernando County have turned their lives around showing great improvement and are recognized annually at the Elks and are served dinner. His quote is “Say no to drugs, yes to the bowling programs.” He has also worked with the Bowling Youth Scholarship Program, the Special Olympics, the High School Bowling Programs, and continually works with many schools and organizations to help youth and the school systems in any way that he can.

**Kissimmee Lodge 1873**

The Lodge participated in the state Soccer Shoot in January under the guidance of Jerry Ducharme, Chairman. They had two winners take second place and one finished fourth. They are very proud of them all and congratulate Jerry on a fine job. On January 17, Veterans’ Committee Chairman James Platt along with PER Bob Barry held a bingo night at the Veterans’ Nursing Home in Orlando. The veterans really appreciate the fun and conversation.

**West Citrus Lodge 2693**

In January West Citrus Lodge held its annual Sock Hop wherein they all step back into the 50s and 60s; as usual it was a great success. They also held their Calabash Night with Exalted Ruler O. C. Leonard’s famous hush puppies.

West Citrus has donated over $3,000 to the Elks National Foundation and $2,200 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

The Veterans’ Committee chaired by Ron Schupp has done a fantastic job this year collecting items for the veterans along with visiting over eight local nursing homes. His committee gives these veterans pizza parties, birthday cards, personal visits, and many other things to make them feel good.

In February the Lodge continued with the PER’s Charity Ball, Valentine’s Day Dance, and weekly Karaoke. All of this entertainment has helped the Lodge gain quite a few new members and has generated funds for charities and expenses.

In March the Lodge had its St Patrick’s Day Dinner with all the traditional foods to entice the palate of everyone. On March 15 they held their annual Easter Egg Hunt for the local children. On March 8, West Citrus played host to the Citrus County Math Field Contest; they fed 200 middle school children at the morning session and fed 230 seniors lunch in the afternoon. This event has grown over the last few years and West Citrus Lodge is very proud of the hard work that is put into it by the Board of Education and the Lodge.

**South District continued from page 20**

On Saturday, December 15, the children’s holiday party was a success with food and entertainment for the children that included Trixie the Pixie, face painters, and of course Santa Claus. The children were given gifts of piggy banks and a nice start on their inside. They were also asked to bring a $5 gift for underprivileged children. The donated gifts were passed on to a nearby church that has a Santa program for underprivileged children in South Dade County.

The New Year’s bash included a prime rib or salmon dinner, dancing to the “rocking” music of Room Service, a midnight toast, and a continental breakfast before everyone headed home and into a bright new 2008.

**Southwest District continued from page 20**

Our newly formed Directional Committee, under the direction and guidance of our SW District Organizing Committee, will be leading our ‘new’ lodge until the election of officers Ralph Hager, who has been an Elk for 52 years, has volunteered head this new committee.

Several events are on the calendar including fund raising and membership drives to obtain our goal of 125 members.

Lakewood Ranch is an award winning master planned community situated between Sarasota and Bradenton Florida. LWR provides proximity to all the surrounding areas including white sandy beaches, gourmet restaurants, 25 golf courses within 25 minutes, first-rate culture amenities making this an extraordinary place to live.

**PGER Grafton continued from page 1**

to socialize with your friends, but it has a solid base of helping others. Thus you become involved and find that you not only still enjoy the social activities, but you are rewarded because you are a part of a large group: that large group, working together, produced benefits to the needy far beyond what one, two or a small number can achieve. Involved, you will feel good about yourself, believe me.

The challenge for all of us is to provide the enthusiasm, energy and information about what we do so as to bring our members, who joined for social reasons, into activities that they will enjoy and which benefit those less fortunate.

If your Lodge leaders are not asking you to participate, why not?

May you always enjoy what your God provides, and be thankful.
South Southeast District

Margate Lodge 2463

With the help of all the members Margate Lodge Members were able to provide a much-needed happy holiday season for those less fortunate than themselves.

A total of 21 children were adopted through personal donations by purchasing gifts from the angel tree and other monetary donations as well as the “Koins for Kids”.

Each Friday and Saturday night, the Lodge was able to provide each child with gifts of clothing and bicycles. Thanks to the committee members and guests who helped with the purchase and wrapping of gifts.

The money raised is split between the two charities and the crew earned thanks for providing a great lunch. This program was chaired by PER Rose Witkowski.

Oakland Park Lodge 2407

Oakland Park began the year with the installation of officers on April 13. Exalted Ruler Tom Watson, PER and his new slate of officers will focus on Community Activities. This group plans to sponsor youth sports teams as well as fundraisers for the local food kitchen. Janet Hames, Kathy Quirk, Janet Domino, and members have sponsored events to benefit “Kids in Distress.” Kathy sold homemade chicken pot pies to raise money and Janet hosted a Ladies Tea. Look for this Lodge to continue the success in sponsoring Harry Anna Trust Fund and ENF charity goals.

South Broward Lodge 2830

South Broward’s last charitable function before merger with West Broward Lodge was the PER/Miramar PAL Car Show. A total of 80 cars entered the show and the top entries where given plaques. The money raised is split between the two organizations to support programs for the kids of the community. Special thanks go to Jim Lind, DDGER and PER of South Broward for his hard work. The city of Miramar was the major sponsor of the event and provided the locations and all the set up.

South Broward completed its merger with West Broward in early March to form Southwest Broward Lodge 2273. This merger will not affect the community activities of Pembroke Pines and Miramar and will help strengthen the community activities for the citizens of Sunrise and Plantation.

Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

On January 12, 2008, the Lodge and District Chairman Brett Volland hosted the District Hoop Shoot awards ceremony and luncheon. Approximately fifty children, with their families in attendance, received trophies and basketballs. An exciting time was had by all.

Largo Lodge 2159

On January 12, the members of the Lodge hosted a Vegas style dinner show and raised over $1600 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Over 200 members dined on a great ham dinner followed by a spectacular show featuring Elvis. Steve Roberti is from the nationally recognized Elvis Presley Enterprises and performs locally at many Lodges in the greater Tampa Bay area. Elvis sang, gyrated, and donated many a woman with a scarf and a kiss as he sang all the great hits.

During his trilogy routine, the members of the Lodge were on their feet and circled the dining room holding hands and singing along. There were a number of tearful eyes as we paid tribute to the servicemen and servicewomen of our country. It was such a huge success that he has already been booked for next January. Thanks, Edylie Day and Dee Finn, co-chairmen for such a great event.

Tampa Lodge 708

In December, Lodge members welcomed over thirty homeless veterans to a Circle of Friends rally held at the Lodge. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce to the veterans; a variety of housing options that are available to them in the greater Tampa/St. Petersburg area. Immediately following the rally, Leading Knight Anthony Edwards pledged continued support to the homeless veterans in the Bay Area.

Additionally, the Lodge partnered with Baldomero Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home to support the performance of Re-Creation for the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital and Baldomero Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home.

South Broward Lodge 2273

During January and February, the Lodge hosted over 45 veterans each month for bingo and pizza. They were also treated to dinner at the Lodge featuring prime rib with all the trimmings.

Pinellas Park Lodge 2217

On February 2, 2008 the Elks Regional Hoop Shoot competition was hosted at the Civic Center in Port St. Lucie. One of their winners, Gemeria Collins, competed in the girls’ 12-13 year old category. She had won her division last month in the district finals. Gemeria gave it her all but was not able to make the state finals. Gemeria’s mother said the event was a very positive experience for her daughter and they are looking forward to next year’s competition.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

The Lodge donated approximately 840 dictionaries to two local schools.

Also during the month of February, the High School Bowling League met in the lounge hall on the 22nd and Cub Scout Pack #145 had their Blue and Gold Awards Banquet on the 23rd.

Once a month for a week the Lodge provides doughnuts and coffee at the VA clinic located on Little Road in New Port Richey. Their volunteers have donated more than 500 hours to this project under the direction of member Charles Salvaggio.

Seminole Lodge 2519

To better serve the youth of the community, the Lodge is forming Boy Scout Troop 2519 will enable Seminole Lodge to enhance its relationship with the community and provide constructive opportunities for its youth.

The Lodge also participated in the City of Seminole Pow Wow Festival and Parade. Lodge members under the direction of Drug Awareness Chairperson Dolly Lang interacted with more than 150 children distributing over 1500 pieces of drug awareness materials. The children and their parents were very receptive concerning the information about how to make non-destructive decisions.

During the month of February, the Lodge held its annual Sweetheart Dance to benefit the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The event raised $1,178 and sold 13 certificates.

Past Ladies of the Elks President Linda Broff presided over the selling of lovely wax rose candles which contributed another $200 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

New Lodges

Membership Gain

By Tom Elmore, PSP-PGELECTK

Membership is very important to the Order of Elks; only with growth can we continue to operate the organization that produces the charity work we do. Florida is growing but we are failing to add numbers to the membership in our Lodges and that is not a good sign for the future. While Florida Elks can be very proud of their past accomplishments, we must return pride in membership, Lodges, and programs that have always been the purpose of our existence.

Many areas in Florida are perfect for the formation of new Lodges that are needed to serve the community. This is a way to have growth and enjoy more fellowship as we work for the programs of Elkdom. To form a new Lodge is simple: we need several people who are interested, willing to work, and want a new Lodge in an area that has enough population to support the operations of an Elks Lodge. Saying Elks Lodge is important because we hear all to often about Elks Club instead of the Lodge. We all know the socials are an important part of fellowship but it’s not why we exist. It takes a full program to be successful and that’s important to all Lodges.

Several years ago Florida had over 94,000 members in 129 Elks Lodges. The growth in those years came from new Lodges being formed throughout the state. It’s been said that many Lodges have problems so why try to form new ones? That’s a fair question, and blame for failure or reasons why some do better than others can be discussed but the answer I believe is in the Lodge itself. When people fail to communicate or become split by dissention, success is difficult and the work of Elkdom suffers. No one ever wants to close a Lodge or recommend mergers but when decisions are necessary in the best interest of Elkdom, they are made despite a lot of thought, analysis, and discussions.

As a Special Representative to Florida Elkdom, I ask each of you to take a look at the areas where you live and investigate the question of, “will this community support an Elks Lodge and the programs of Elkdom?” I can assure you that we will work with any group of good American ladies and gentlemen who believe we have the best fraternal organization in the world and surround ourselves with the “best people on Earth” with pride and support of the communities we serve. Success will prevail and Elkdom and the programs we support will be the winners. I am looking forward to hearing from those interested in new Elks Lodges.
Lodges of the
NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Reporter, Kathie Thompson
tomsonkb@bellsouth.net

Orange Park Lodge 2605
The Lodge members continue with visits to the Lake City Domiciliary each month.
Exalted Ruler Dan Bird flew over 3,000 miles from his home Lodge to Sammamish Lodge 1843 in Seattle, Washington to officiate as the guest Exalted Ruler. During the ceremony, he initiated four new members into their Lodge, two of which were his daughter and son-in-law.

West Palm Beach Lodge 2469
Grand Exalted Ruler F. Louis Sulsberger was presented a check for $5,000 for the Elks National Foundation by Exalted Ruler Jodie Graves and the Treasurer, Paul Orvosh, of Green Cove Springs Lodge.

From left to right, Washington state DDGER Jay Thompson, ER Ralph Bell, Kim Weed, Grant Weed, Tanya Montana, Larry Lauder, and Exalted Ruler Dan Bird.

The month of March was a busy one; there was a Luau, Youth Appreciation Dinner, Easter Party, and finally the Installation of new officers.

Palatka Lodge 1232
Thanks go to Frank Crosby, Chip Laibl, the Azula brothers, and J. D. and John Michael for the new Kids Corner. Wednesday nights continue to be Burger Night. In March there was a Chili Cook-off and an Oyster Roast.

Jacksonville Lodge 221
A new idea to increase membership is being held in April, it is called “Bring Back Some Old and Bring In Some New.” There will be a free barbecue dinner with all the fixings.
Jacksonville Lodge Americanism Chairman Bob Morgan has kicked off a comfort drive accepting donations for items needed for our troops deployed.

St. Augustine Lodge 829
St Patrick’s Day was celebrated with a full corned beef dinner complete with potato leek soup and Irish soda bread. Ancient City Pipes and Drums and The Irish Side of Tom Landers provided entertainment.
The Lodge is continuing to collect items for the St. Francis House; a drop box is located at the Lodge.
Volunteers are gearing up for the annual Seafood Festival to be held in St Augustine.

Gainesville Lodge 990
A Member Appreciation Barbecue was held which was hosted by the PERs.
A Valentine’s Day Dinner and Dance was held with steak and lobster as well as entertainment.
In March the annual Kid’s Easter Party was held consisting of an Easter egg hunt, egg coloring, Easter Bingo, and an Easter bonnet competition.
Officers participated in the District Ritual Contest and were edged out of first by a mere .2957 point, which represents a great showing for them and the Lodge.

Jupiter Lodge 2469
The Jupiter Lodge continues to bring in new members at their home in the Jupiter Farms area. The new officers are excited about Elksdom and are already planning events for the new year.

Spring 2008

Lodges of the
SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Reporter,: Joy A. Booth, PER
jbooth3688@aol.com

The District Picnic was held at Jupiter Lodge 2469 on March 2, 2008. It was well attended by all the Lodges in the district.

A Barbecue Contest was held for the best chicken and ribs. The first two prize winners were from the Jupiter Lodge with Belle Glade coming in third. A silent auction was conducted with items ranging from a three piece luggage set and it raised a great deal of money.

DDGER Gary Breakfield conducted a cake auction which was the highlight of the day. A cake was displayed and all bet a dollar. When the time limit ran out the last person to bet a dollar won the cake. The bidding was fast and furious and it raised a great deal of money.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352
The West Palm Beach Lodge was represented at the recent ER/Secretary Seminar at the Florida Mall Hotel by ER Bobbie Woodfell, Secretary Lowell Tyler, and Trustee Joy Booth. Many valuable insights were gained at the meeting.
The West Palm Beach Lodge held its Awards Night Dinner on March 15. Les Szirbik, chef and the district’s Endorsed Vice President, served stuffed chicken breasts, string bean casserole, salad, and potatoes. ER Bobbie Woodfell was the Master of Ceremonies and presented awards to those who did outstanding service for the year. The Beautification Committee led by George Shelton was presented with a paperweight and their own pail and set of tools. The Lodge cooks were presented with a special chef’s hat along with a paperweight. The Ritual Team was recognized and their plaques were hung on the Lodge wall. Mike Newman was named Elk of the Year and Lowell Tyler was named Officer of the Year.

Pahokee Lodge 1638
The Pahokee Lodge has now officially merged with the Belle Glade Lodge. This merger now leaves the district with only four Lodges. Their installation of officers was held on April 5, 2008. The Lodge Advisor will now be PDDGER Barbara Hefferman.

Jupiter Lodge 2469
The Jupiter Lodge continues to bring in new members at their home in the Jupiter Farms area. The new officers are excited about Elksdom and are already planning events for the new year.
Warrington Lodge 2108

ARC Gateway Pensacola held its 6th Annual Valentine’s Party/Dance at Warrington Lodge on February 16, 2008. Snacks and soft drinks were donated by many Lodge members. The crowd of over 100 clients was entertained by a local musical group “The Reunion Band.”

Crowned as Valentine Queen and King were Jessica Edge and Wesley Allen. Judges of the event were Brandon Calderon, Tannah Hollingshead, and Alison Beckworth, grandchildren of Warrington Elks and juniors at Escambia High School.

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

The Lodge was treated to a Mardi Gras Ball that was just a little bit different this year. The idea for the theme was conceived by Chairperson Adeline Rossi. Her co-chair was Toni Palmer, PEP.

Lodge members witnessed a “Gathering of Goddesses.” All of the beautiful gowns and masks for the goddesses were designed and sewn by Adeline. She also made the crowns and gowns for the members of the Mardi Gras Committee.

Ann Brock and Joe Rossi were crowned Queen and King of the 2008 Elkettes Mardi Gras Ball. From the photo, it appears that the both of them were having way too much fun. A big “Bravo” and “A Job Well Done” are given to each and every one.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

The Exalted Ruler has appointed a new Lodge Activities Committee. The committee consists of Carol Eschler, Chairperson; Sharon Scruggs; Lois Jernigan; Dada Permenter; and Kay Turner. The committee met and came up with a few ideas that were submitted to and approved by the governing body: Happy Hour from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. each Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday with 50 cents off all drinks; Lodge Shirt Day each Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to close; and 50 cents off all drinks for patrons wearing a new style Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge shirt (if you do not have one, they are available from the bartenders). These ideas are on a trial basis and will be discontinued if not supported. The committee is open for suggestions; if you have one, please get in touch with someone from the committee.

The Lodge Club Manager, Kay Turner, has made her decision to retire this year. Her contract expires in April. The Governing Body will be interviewing for a replacement. If you or someone you know is interested in filling this position, drop off a resume at the Lodge.

A very special thank you goes out to Mike Warren for the beautiful altar and Secretary and treasurer stations he built. Everyone needs to visit the Lodge Room and check them out. Thanks, Mike.

Destin Lodge 2688

Elks Lodge 2688 is again a team for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, a signature event to fight cancer. The relay was held April 25th and 26th at the Destin Middle School (the school is near the Mid-Bay Bridge). There will be a few fundraisers over the next several months and hopefully all of the members will support this cause.

The Lodge would like to thank everyone who donated unwanted items for their garage sale. It was a great way for the kickoff in raising funds towards their goal. The team had their annual Lasagna Dinner February 10 after Sunday Bingo. They had lasagna, garlic breadsticks, salad, and dessert. The donation also stayed the same at $7.00 for the dinner.

How would you like to throw a pie at someone? During the dinner they had a pie in the face drawing. A thank you goes to David Bryant, John Blum, and Glen Chambers for volunteering to have pie in the face. Drawing and pie throwing was during the dinner. Ticket donations were one for $1.00 or six for $5.00. There were nine chances to throw a pie. Together, they really made a difference in the fight against cancer. For more details contact Margaret, the team captain.

Crestview Lodge 2624

Even with the poorest turnout in years, the Hoop Shoot was a success. Thanks go to all the loyal Elks and families who contributed to this year’s event. It couldn’t have been done without everyone’s support. Now it’s on to Fort Walton Beach for the district.

February 3 was the annual Super Bowl Sunday party complete with a pool tournament followed by a dart tournament and a covered dish meal. This year in addition to deer meat, Jim Cauley provided them with elk, which was prepared by Ken Howard. On Sunday, February 17 the Lodge was open for the first NASCAR race of the season. Everyone brought snacks for this event. Last but not least, on Saturday, February 23 they had a blackjack tournament with an all you can eat fish buffet complete with bream, catfish fillets, cheese grits, baked beans, coleslaw, hushpuppies, and dessert for only $8.00 per person - such a deal! Many brought friends and shared in an evening that provided lots of good food, fun, and laughter.

Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787

Holley-Navarre Lodge has received ten MVS scholarship applications and a special thanks goes to Sue and Dan Hargraves for their assistance in scoring the applications. Hopefully some of these students move forward within the district, state, and national competitions.

On February 23 they had a super Sock Hop with great music of the 50s, Allen’s World Famous Hamburgers, and Irene’s Special Milkshakes. The event ran from 3:00 p.m. until hmmm. Dress was 50s era and some real special outfits were noticed.

Panama City Lodge 1598

Elks is a year round lesson in charity, fidelity, brotherly love, and justice. Let’s not forget those words and their meanings as we go forward in the new Lodge year. Thanks go to all of the officers, staff, and members at large for their support in all that was accomplished through the year. The Lodge is so very important to many of the members. They give a welcome to the new members and hope they will participate in making the Lodge one of the best in the Northwest District.

The Lodge provided a check for $250 for the Heritage Children’s Home to give them a helping hand.

The campers enjoyed socializing and the exchange of gifts recently as well as dinner. During a brief business session, the Wandering Elks and Does voted to continue to bring gifts to the annual party but instead of giving them to each other, they would be given to a charitable organization. Future camping plans are incomplete at this time but will be forthcoming to the members.

Many thanks go to Bob and Bobbie Andrews for their contribution toward the new copier/printer that the Lodge was in desperate need of. You too can still contribute to the cause if you wish; just give it to the Secretary of the Lodge.

Thanks go to all of you who have donated.

Adam and Dee Jacques also wish to thank Keith and Marie Adam and John and Helen Joyner for their help in hanging the Christmas decorations. Climbing a ladder is out of the question for Adam and Dee.

Harry-Anna Trust Fund

Recognition Certificates & Pins

Awarded January 14, 2008 through March 26, 2008

Paid-in-Full $5,000 Certificate Donors

Charles & Gail Best
Patricia Heller-Jackson

Wauchula #1700
Daytona Beach #1141

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

Russell A. King
Arthur F. VanDerStuyf
Allan Wood

Englewod #2378
Eustis #1578
Pompano Beach #1898

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate

Gary Bagley
Richard Bertrand
Mark E. Bonawitz
Jere Chapin
Sandy Grouen
William A. Jennings
Arnold Johnson
John LaLander
John LaLander
Ronald Nutt
Michael Revesz
Vivian M. Smith
Steven Lyle Tomlinson
Malcolm Usher

Palmetto #2449
Bonita Springs #2753
West Broward #2273
Fort Myers #1288
Marathon #2139
Fort Walton #1795
Titusville #2113
Fort Walton #1795
Fort Walton #1795
Deep Creek #2763
New Port Richey #2284
Palm Coast #2709
Perry #1851
Jupiter #2469

Lodges of the

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Reporter, Karen Knight
karenknight@msn.com
Brandon Lodge 2383

The Brandon Ladies of Elks have a new idea for giving scholarships to students who deserve to go to college but have a GPA average less than 4.0. They need a scholarship to help with getting into college so the Ladies have set up a program for the “Determined Average Student.” A student must have at least a B or C to qualify for one of the four $1,000 scholarships.

Brandon Elks celebrated their 40th anniversary on February 13. They are known as the “Centennial Lodge” since they received their Charter on the 100th anniversary of the BPOE founding in February 1868.

Jennifer Williams, daughter of Brandon Elks member Turid Daniello, told the Lodge of a program called “Stand Up For Kids” in which old cell phones are collected in a donation box in the lobby, recycled, and made available to homeless and street kids.

As of the last quarterly meeting in February, Brandon Lodge has contributed a total of $10,654 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Arcadia Lodge 1524

Arcadia Lodge members are having a great time each month with plenty of activities and much improved participation by the members. Beginning in December they started with a Karaoke contest and had 42 participants and 72 judges. Prizes were awarded and they now have contests twice a month.

Arcadia Lodge had good participation in the Hoop Shoot contest and one of the shooters took first place in the district competition.

February saw the Lodge members having a fun filled Valentine’s Day Dance and then many members participated in the Great Arcadia 80th All Florida Rodeo and Parade followed by a Western Night at the Lodge on March 7.

Canned beef and cabbage and green beer was on the menu on Saint Patrick’s Day with a dinner and dance.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

Santa Claus gave out toys to 37 children at the Kids’ Christmas Party. Thirty family and eighteen Elks also enjoyed the festivities.

After the Elks Memorial Service, some twenty Elks and Ladies put on Santa hats and went to the area’s nursing homes and sang Christmas carols and gave out refreshments and cookies to the patients.

A grinch almost stole the Christmas spirit by stealing the Ladies trailer that had inside all the equipment used in their famous strawberry shortcake sales at the various fairs held each year. Freezers and the tent were also inside the trailer. Benevolence of the Elks and others was demonstrated with a generous donation by member Jackie Sack, and the neighboring Paradise Mobile Village loaned the Ladies a tent and tables and set everything up to use in February.

At the February quarterly meeting, 31 Lake Placid Elks and Ladies took a bus trip to the Florida Elks Youth Camp and enjoyed the day with a tour and great barbecue.

Due to the dedication and hard work of Paul Glanzel and Len Chapel and 137 generous contributions the High-lands County Bloodmobile made a good haul this past year, with 137 units collected.

In addition to being installed as Lake Placid’s first female Exalted Ruler, JoAnn Croniser received the Officer of the Year award from outgoing ER Jerry Kinsey.

Lake Placid PER Association’s 20/20 program and dinner/dance raised more than enough to give the Lodge more than $2,500 for Lodge improvements and donated $500 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and $100 for the Elks National Foundation. There were twenty winners of $25 each and a total of $750 was won by five at the barbecue ribs dinner.

Plant City Lodge 1727

Troy Springer, the outgoing Exalted Ruler, can be very proud of the success the Lodge has attained throughout the year with the many great Elks who worked so hard to assure the success of the many events held. He especially thanks Tom Ludwick, PDD, and his crew who worked so diligently making the Turkey Cook succeed in being one of the best with over 300 sold this year. Everyone who worked with Carl Brownlee on the Wild Game Cookout also gets his appreciation for making it the biggest fundraiser of the year.

On the down side, would the person who borrowed the pressure cooker without signing it out please bring it back? It is direly needed.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672

A young man named Eric was adopted by the Lodge along with American Legion Post 8 as a Christmas Project with the “Kids Wish Network.” He has had 35 surgeries in his young life of seventeen years. His wish came true when he was given a shopping spree at the Eagle Ridge Mall.

Sebring Lodge 1529

Each month several members of Sebring Elks, spouses and friends meet at their favorite restaurant, Dot’s in Sebring Square, and afterwards provides their community a service with their Adopt a Highway Clean-up Program along the Sebring Parkway.

The Lodge also sponsors an all girls softball fast ball pitch team which plays twice a week in Avon Park.

There were 265 golfers participating in the Sebring Lodge sponsored Elks Golf tournament held at the Springlake Golf Resort in early April, see page 13.

One of Sebring’s newest members is a qualified Tai Chi instructor and is offering free TaiChi exercises once a week at the lodge on Tuesdays. Benefits include an improvement in endurance, strength, balance, and flexibility. Go to elks1529@strato.net for more information.

Wauchula Lodge 1700

A proposed member, Don Oakley along with Tony Perry are promoting Bike Night (motorcycles) on Saturdays with a Bike Poker Run on the first Saturday of each month. The money they raise will be donated to a local charity. They held their first Poker Run Saturday January 19 and raised funds for little Jaelyn Rogers who has brain cancer and in need of very expensive brain surgery.

Lakeland Lodge 1291

Come and help Sandy Fuschetti celebrate her belated “Birthday Party” by attending her annual fundraiser to help find homes for animals of all descriptions. A $15.00 (or more) donation per person as opposed to birthday gifts will help the thousands of homeless animals that pass through the SPCA’S doors each year find new homes. For your donation you will receive a large variety of “Eats-Treats & Sweets”, entertainment and the undying gratitude from Sandy and Bob. You can probably get a big ol’ wet kiss on the face from “Seger” if you make prior arrangements. Call 944-2903 for more information.

On March 13 the annual Scholarship Award Banquet was held. Seventy-six parents, grandparents, siblings and school guidance counselors were in attendance to watch fifteen exemplary students receive their awards. Ten scholarships valued at $250 and five valued at $500 were awarded. Elks should be proud indeed as their efforts made this program one of Elkdon’s “finest moments.”

Special thanks go to Bill Moyer whose hard work and determination made this year’s first annual John Necessary Memorial Golf tournament a big success as the event contributed $3,400.

Thanks also go to Leading Knight Rod Hamlet and his company, Florida Barbeque, for providing a great dinner for all in attendance at no cost to the Lodge.

Lake Wales Lodge 1794

Lake Wales entered a float named the “Good Ship Lollipopp” in the city Mardi Gras Parade with about 20 kids piled on-board, and won a first place trophy in the “Best Use of Lights” category. Ron Tardanico and Desiree Pellerin, who designed the float, attended the Lake Wales Kiwanis meeting and received the trophy for the Lodge. The girls from Rainbow Park provided the music.

Eddie Stephan thanks the sixteen who donated blood during the blood drive in January.

The Circle of Friends children had a great time at the Christmas party. A $1,000 donation was presented to the founder of the Circle of Friends.
South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676

The 2008 Charity Ball is coming October 18, 2008. Think red, white, and blue! Election year is right around the corner so this is the year to show your American Pride! They will be voting on the President and Vice President of the Charity Ball! Early voting will begin in September and maybe even August so keep checking back. They will also have a voting booth on the night of the ball so come early to vote! Want to reserve a table of ten? Call Joan at 305-668-1676.

On Thursday, January 10, 2008 the Lodge hosted the Gate Program Graduation that included a dinner followed by video describing the wonderful work of this program. The graduates, family members, peer instructors, peer counselors, and Program Founder and Director Minni Sutherland shared their experiences and made for an emotional and memorable evening.

North Miami Lodge 1835

The Needy Children’s Christmas Party was attended by twenty needy children, parents, and school personnel. The children were entertained with Christmas music provided by their own Peggy Zieman and dancing with “Tiger” Moore and Golda Chaney. They had as much fun dancing with the children as the kids did. The guests enjoyed a ladder demonstration by the North Miami Fire Department as well as a visit from Santa Claus who arrived on a motor scooter. Everyone enjoyed a lunch served by North Miami Lodge which was followed by Santa distributing gifts, candy canes, and goodie bags to all the children.

This event was made possible by kind donations from Rick Cunningham, Golda Chaney and Bob Gallaher, Mike Serio, Anita and Karl Rietter, George Salvador, Joyce Mumford, and Brenda and Chuck Byers. The following “elves” wrapped the presents, served lunch, and helped make the event a success: John Cech, Golda Chaney, “Tiger” Moore, Julia Thompson, and Larry Tanner.

Marathon Lodge 2139 ranked ninth in the state with an increase in membership of 47 new members and a percentage of 117.50 after surpassing their “Magic Number” of forty members.

Marathon Lodge held its Second Annual Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Elks National Foundation, and Lodge Charities Benefit Calendar Dinner. The event was a huge success thanks to the help of many members who participated and donated to these worthwhile charities.

The Holiday Adopted Family Committee helped six families celebrate a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday. Sixteen children received new bicycles of which sixteen were donated by the Sheriff’s Department. Many thanks go to Marisol Olivera and everyone who participated in this event.

Miami Elks Lodge 948

On Saturday, October 13, Miami Elks Lodge 948 held a Casino Night and raised almost $5,000 for charity. The ballroom was packed and about 25 impressive gifts were raffled off to lucky ticket holders, and as in past years, the food was delicious.

During the fourth week of every month except December, the Lodge held two membership drive events: the family oriented Antique Car Shows and the adult-oriented Wine Tastings. Elks are encouraged to bring guests to both events and to propose them for membership; in fact, the membership rolls now include quite a few auto enthusiasts and wine lovers.

Southwest District

Sarasota Lodge 1519

Lodge 1519 held their annual Scholarship Awards Dinner on February 19th hosting the winning high school seniors and their families.

Chairman Dick Menzak announced the winners: Jessica Gordon Booker High—June McGrail Cardinal Mooney, Daniel McGrail, Cardinal Mooney, and Joseph Obi Sarasota High School. Each winner received a check of $1,000.

Daniel McGrail of Cardinal Mooney has been selected as one of the 26 finalists who will be advancing on to the National Finals.

Palmetto Lodge 2449

Members of Palmetto Lodge #2449 held a benefit dinner on Feb. 2, 2007 to assist the family of Kim Morse pay medical bills incurred as a result of her husband’s kidney transplant. The dinner and donated music was attended by nearly 200 people and was a fun night for all.

Exalted Ruler Sandra Mooney presented a check in the amount of $1,500 to Mrs. Morse on March 2, 2008. Another example of ELKS CARE/ELKS SHARE, in action.

Sarasota South Lodge 2495

On January 6, 2008 the Sarasota South Lodge 2495 hosted an Eagle Scout ceremony for Stephen Parrott, a member of the lodge’s sponsored Scout Troop 2495. A beautiful and touching ceremony was conducted by the Lodge and District Scout Representatives. The family of Stephen came in from all over the United States to participate and present Stephen with some very nice gifts. Stephen was the fifth scout in our troop to become and Eagle Scout. Being an Eagle Scout is a great accomplishment in itself, but this ceremony was much more gratifying, since all of the boys in this troop are handicapped making this accomplishment much more difficult to achieve.

Venus Nokomis Lodge 1854

The Lodge held its annual Easter Egg hunt in conjunction with their sponsored girl scout troop. Scout leader Dr. Monique Ring was pleased with the outcome as approximately 400 children participated. Bicycles and many various Easter baskets were given away as prizes. The children participated in many different games as well and they particularly enjoyed “The Bounce House”. It was rumored that an adult or two also joined the children in the big bed of sponge balls. A great fun time was had by all, and they all are looking forward to next year.

The Lodge also held a garage sale on Feb. 4th which netted $624.00 for ENF. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped and especially Exalted Ruler Rose Corcoran who donated many items from her Mothers estate.

Manasota Lodge 2734

Manasota Lodge has made a difference in Mathew Zuckerman’s life. Lodge members presented Mathew with the Ambassador of the Year 2007/08 at our Annual Awards Banquet. Just twelve months ago our Lodge learned about Mathew and his fight against cancer. Lodge members came together to help Mathew with his battle. Fundraising efforts started on April 22nd when a community wide event took place raising over $12,500.00 and continued throughout the year raising over $22,000.00. Because Elks Care - Elks Share.

Lakewood Ranch Lodge

We are pleased to announce Florida’s newest “soon to be” Elk Lodge of Lakewood Ranch (LWR), Florida. We are awaiting dispensation from Grand Lodge which was submitted the first of March 2008. LWR currently has 65 members of which 32 are “new” Elks awaiting initiation and 33 have expired with Elks Lodges.

Southwest District continued on page 15
Cocoa Beach Lodge 2387

Pictured are veterans from the Volunteers of America Transitional Facility with Jack Winn, Exalted Ruler presenting the check and donation letter to Thom Shipley, Volunteers of America Facility Director and Jack Snyder, Veterans’ Services Committee Chairman on the right.

The Cocoa Beach Elks Lodge held an open house on Saturday, March 1, 2008. Over 150 people attended and 29 veterans from the Volunteers of America and Veterans Transitional Facility attended as guests of the Lodge. During the open house the veterans were presented with a check for $1,000 to assist with the painting of their facilities and thirty sets of sheets for the facility.

The Veterans’ Services Committee Chairman, Jack Snyder, had arranged for the Transitional Facility to have their four buildings that house the veterans painted by a local painting contractor for $2,000 per building. The contractor, Al Clark Painting LLC, then donated 50% of the contract price to the veterans because they are a charitable organization and the Cocoa Beach Elks Lodge supports them. Previously, they had bids that were $5,000 per building. This saved the Veterans Facility over $16,000, and the Lodge then donated $1,000 to help pay for the contract, leaving them with only $3,000 to pay.

Fort Pierce Lodge 1520

On February 14, 2008, the Lady Grayson Band volunteered its time and talent to entertain approximately 75 veterans and staff at the Extended Care Facility at the Veterans’ Administration Medical Center in West Palm Beach. Valentines were presented to the veterans and staff.

The Lady Grayson Band is all Fort Pierce Elks members.

Melbourne Lodge 1744

The latest Lodge program and fun activity is the sponsorship of the Melbourne Elks Little League Baseball Team, the Mets. The member boys and girls are proudly wearing their uniforms with the Lodge name emblazoned on the back and their large, colorful banner sports a place in the expansive baseball playing field. Gus Milanas donated the banner that proclaims the familiar “Elks Care – Elks Share” slogan.

Congratulations go to Charles Greene on his election to the office of Exalted Ruler. He succeeded Sam Casella who completed a successful year. Both brother Elks are PERs. “Charley,” like his predecessor, will be getting a lot of help from many officers, committee chairmen, and volunteers who are all the lifeblood of this Lodge.

Additionally, the Lodge has been welcoming transfer of members from the former Palm Bay Lodge, and they are grateful for their enthusiastic response to the welcome mat.

During this 60th Anniversary year, the Melbourne Elks have a full plate of activities and events lined up under the direction of ER Greene. The calendar is full their contributions to the national, state, and local events through Elksdom continue.

In the meantime, Elks everywhere are reminded that their doors are always open to them, not only for visitations, but to join in their various regular Friday night dinner/dances, their special Saturday night extravaganzas, and their mid-week special celebrations.

As always, prayers go out to those men and women protecting and defending our country at home and abroad. May God bless them.

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

In January, ER Mary Ann Manning, Charlie Manning, and PER Jack DeBell distributed 376 dictionaries to two of their local elementary schools.

The Lodge held the “Mary Ann’s All-Male Review” to raise monies for the building fund. Some of the entertainers under the direction of Jim McKeon and Madeline Dante were Sonny & Cher, Mae West, Marilyn Monroe, Britney Spears, Carmen Miranda, and ten additional acts.

They were happy to have motivational speaker Craig MacFarlane who has been blind since the age of two. Loyal Knight Steve Elliott brought Craig to the Lodge and it was a night to remember.

The Elkettes held a Bingo luncheon that was well attended with three Elks serving.

In February, the Super Bowl Party was a great sports and gastronomical success with food beyond belief; thanks go to Ed and Jeanette Izzo and their crew. Members tried out a “Clambake Feast” and once again it was a super success with seafood like you never saw before.

The Valentine “Sweetheart Ball” was the big event of the month. Thanks go to Joan DeBell and her ladies who presented the “Queen of the Ball & her Court.” The queen was chosen from names of lady volunteers entered in a drawing. The Elkettes held their “Annual Fashion Show” with over one hundred ladies attending.

In March, the Lodge awarded two $500 scholarships to two Port St. Lucie High School seniors.

The Lodge has exceeded the Harry-Anna Trust Fund per-capita as well as the National Foundation per-capita, proving that “Elks Care and Elks Share.”

The St. Patrick’s Day Dinner/Dance was a huge success thanks to Ed and Jeanette Izzo and the crew for producing another outstanding meal.

The Farewell Dinner/Dance for outgoing ER Mary Ann Manning was a complete sellout.

Lastly, the Children’s Easter Egg Hunt had many “happy children” searching for eggs.

A welcome goes to the 35 members who joined the ranks at the second meeting of the month. It was a great year and the great accomplishment was to welcome a group of young members who are proving to be a definite asset to the Lodge.

Plaques were awarded to the Port St. Lucie Citizen, Police Officer, Teacher, Firefighter, and Sheriff’s Deputy of the Year. Not pictured but honored were the Elk of the Year, Jim McKeon, and the Officer of the Year, Ed Izzo.

Special awards were given to Jeanette Izzo and Barbara Hammond for their outstanding service and dedication to the Lodge. Certificates were presented to their many volunteers.

The Lodge has a great web site (thanks to Joan DeBell) on the Grand Lodge website. Check it out. You will see what the Lodge looks like and the fun and good things happening.

The “Desert Elks” crew prepared and sent 35 boxes of goodies to troops in harm’s way.

Bruce Oreo and his young DARE breakfast crew consisting of husbands, wives, and teens continue to provide the “Best Breakfast in Town” every last Sunday of the month.

Good luck wishes are sent to everyone as we start on our journey into a new Elk Year!

Vero Beach Lodge 1774

The Lodge hosted its second annual Viva LAS VERO Casino Night to raise funds to support the Vero Beach Hibiscus Children’s Center that provides housing and care for approximately fifty abused and abandoned children ranging in ages from infant to 18 years old. A check in the amount of $27,642 was presented to the Hibiscus Children’s Center.

From left to right: Tom Maher, Elks Lodge Trustee; Angie Bacci, Elks Lodge Donor; Jack Houlihan, Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler; Tom Maher, Director of Development for Hibiscus Children’s Center; Shelly Distl, Elks Lodge Chairperson and Organizer of the Casino Night; Guy Bacci, Elks Lodge Donor; and Randy Riley, Elks Lodge Sponsor and President of First Peoples Bank.
Inverness Elks Lodge 2522
The Inverness Elks Lodge 2522 recently held a banquet honoring Americanism Essay Contest winners. There were over a hundred people in attendance.

Frank Hardy, Chairman of the Americanism Committee stands in the back with the winners. Grand prize winner was Brianna Ellis, second from right.

Winter Park Lodge 1830
On Saturday, January 12, 2008, Chairman Penny Banas and fourteen Lodge members conducted the Annual Hoop Shoot. The winners in the boys and girls categories from ages 8 through 13 will go to the North Central District Hoop Shoot as they progress in the program.

Perhaps one or more of these young people will qualify for the finals at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA later this year and attend the Grand Lodge Convention in Anaheim, CA.

Winter Park Lodge 1830
Winter Park Lodge 1830 donated $800 to support the VA Medical Center in two activities. Because of the Lodge Veterans’ Services Committee and its chairman, Walter “Ski” Stolarski, there was a merrier Christmas for 170 residents of the Nursing Home and Domiciliary who received canteen coupons. The Lodge also hosted some residents at the Lodge Memorial Service for recognition, thanks, and a meal honoring them and fellow veterans.

Winter Garden Elks 2165
The Lodge was presented an Elk statue by the Ladies. PDDGER George Laberee, DDGER Ralph Wiley, and ER Charlie Crane thanked the Ladies on behalf of all the members. Pastor Ernie Post of the Ocoee Oaks United Methodist Church was on hand to bless the ceremony. Following the ceremony, the Ladies provided dinner to about 100 people in attendance.

Officers of the Ladies Auxiliary are President Sherry DeWeese, Vice President Reddy Lewis, Secretary Debbie Anderson, and Treasurer Nancy Jernigan.

Lady Lake Elks Lodge 2793
Pictured left center is Greg Thomas of Mainsail Solutions who receives a check from John Pope, Chairman of the Building Committee for Lady Lake Elks Lodge. Also pictured is Wayne Herman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Jim Huber, Building Committee. On the right are Christine Croft and John Amoroso, Trustees and Dick Scheffler and Tony Gagliardi, Building Committee.

Lady Lake Elks Lodge 2793
Lady Lake Elks moving forward toward new building.
After a successful golf cart raffle to raise funds for the building, the Lady Lake Elks at their November 12 meeting voted to hire Mainsails Solutions to do the architect drawings and site plans for RV storage. When this is completed, they will be able to go to Lady Lake for permits and apply for a construction loan. The property is located off 27/441 behind Golf Cart World. They are now in the process of selling bonds to raise money. The bonds are offered at 5% in $1,000 increments for a period of ten years. For more information call Lodge Secretary Linda Flax at 352-728-5799 or Wayne Herman at 750-3598.

Ocala Lodge 286
Ocala Lodge recently held the annual Officer of the Year Awards Dinner honoring Law Enforcement and Firefighters of Marion County. The Lodge hosted a dinner for nearly 175 guests including state and county dignitaries after which awards were presented.

Pictured (from left back row) are Daniel Deweese, Florida Highway Patrol; Harold Warren, ER; Mike Mongeluzzo, Chairman of Americanism; and Ryan Robbins, Marion County Sheriff’s Dept. Pictured (from left front) are Jack Blatchlor, Ocala Police Dept.; Jacob Gonzalez, Dunnelton Police Dept.; Lt. Jason Morgan, Marion County Fire/Rescue; Dan Pope, Ocala Fire/Rescue; and Bill Sowder, Marion County Sheriff’s Dept. Pictured (center) are Deputy Bob Levay, Marion County Sheriff’s Dept. and K9 Mr. Apollo.

FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS CONTRIBUTION
At the Quarterly Meeting in Umatilla, February 9th, a check for $20,761.85 was presented to President David Lake for the purpose of providing another Therapy Van and equipment by Dolores Casella and Betty Pickenpaugh. It was the result of the profits made during Betty’s year as President of FLOE, 2005-2006, and Dolores’ year, 2006-2007. The funds were raised by doing the luncheon and Chinese Auction at the Florida State Elk’s May Convention and the FLOE Conference in September or October of each year.
102nd Annual Convention of the Florida State Elks Association

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Wednesday - May 21, 2008
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Registration
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Ritual Meeting (or Judges & Teams
6:00 pm. to 9:00 p.m. 30-minute Ritual Team Practices

Thursday - May 22, 2008
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration Continues
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. State Ritual Contest
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 am. Past State Presidents’ Advisory Council (closed meeting)
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. FL Elks Youth Camp BOD Workshop (closed meeting)
10:30 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. FL Elks Youth Camp BOD - (Re-organizational meeting following)
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. FL Elks News Publication Committee
11:35 am. to 12:05 p.m. FL Elks Properties BOD - (Re-organizational meeting following)
12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Convention Committee
1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. Harry-Anna Investment Fund BOD - (Re-organizational meeting following)
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. F1 Elks Children’s Therapy Services BOD-(Re-organizational meeting following
3:10 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. FL Elks Charities BOD - (Re-organizational meeting following)
6:00 p.m.. to 9:00 p.m. 30-minute Ritual Team Practices

Friday - May 23, 2008
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration Continues
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. State Ritual Contest Continues
8:30 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. FL state Elks Association BOD - (Re-organizational meeting following)
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Business Practices Seminar for Officers, Trustees, & House Committees
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meeting of Current & Endorsed District Deputies (closed meeting)
1:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Opening General Session - Elks Members Only Until 2:30 P.M.
*Non-members are invited for Officer Nominations.
Demonstration & Acceptance Speech at Approximately 2:30 p.m.- Please Assemble Outside Convention Hall
3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Private Meetings with State Sponsor Robert Grafton
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Business Practices Committee (closed meeting)
3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Drug Awareness Program Seminar
3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Soccer Shoot Program Seminar
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. FLOE Advisory Council
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Florida Elks Children’s Clinic Meeting
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Memorial Service - Elks Members & Guests - Appropriate Attire

Saturday, May 24, 2008
7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Major Projects Breakfast (Invitation Required)
8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. FL Ladies of Elks (FLOE) Meeting
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Publicity & Public Relations Seminar
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Pictures for Slate, Vice, Regional, & District Committee men
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 am. Registration Continues
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. General Business Session - Elks Members Only
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Luncheon Sponsored by FLOE -
Open to Men & Women. Elks & Non-Elks
12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Chinese Auction Sponsored by FLOE -
Proceeds to FL Elks Major Projects
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Genera’ Awards Session - Open -
Non-members & Guests Welcome
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meeting of 2008-09 District Vice Presidents, State, Vice, & Regional
Committee Chairmen (closed meeting)
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pictures for State, Vice, Regional, & District Committee men
6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. President’s Banquet and Installation of Officers,
(Dress semi-formal - White Dinner Jacket Suggested)
Ritual Shootout following

Tunes in the Courtyard - (Weather Permitting)
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Thursday
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Saturday

ORDER OF COMPETITION
STATE RITUAL CONTEST
MAY 22 – MAY 23, 2008
Final Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Lodge</th>
<th>Practice Time</th>
<th>Competition Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team 1 - EC</td>
<td>Deland</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team 2 - SEC</td>
<td>Fort Pierce</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team 3 - S</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team 4 - NW</td>
<td>Warrington</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team 5 - SW</td>
<td>Bradenton</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team 6 - SSE</td>
<td>Pompano Beach</td>
<td>8:30 PM</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team 7 - N</td>
<td>Tallahassee</td>
<td>9:00 PM</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Lodge</th>
<th>Practice Time</th>
<th>Competition Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team 8 – NE</td>
<td>St. Augustine</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team 9 – C</td>
<td>Aripeka</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team 10 – WC</td>
<td>Seminole</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team 11–NC</td>
<td>Ocala</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eleven O’Clock Toast Contest
1:00 PM

Note: In the event a team withdraws and does not compete, that time slot will not be filled and the remaining teams will perform at their scheduled time.

David L. Luikart, Sr.
1925 - 2008

David L. Luikart, Sr. passed away at 8:00 am, April 15, 2008.

Dave served as State President of the Florida State Elks Association in 1990-1991. He was born in New Port Richey, Florida and lived there his entire life. He helped to found the New Port Richey Elks Lodge in 1963 and served as the Charter Loyal Knight. Most recently, Dave had served on the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Board of Directors and was a Member Emeritus of that board.

An Elks Memorial Service was held at the New Port Richey Elks Lodge at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that memorial contributions be made to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Checks may be made payable to the Harry-Anna Trust and mailed to P.O. Box 49, Umatilla, FL, 32784-0049.

Condolences may be sent to his wife Catherine “Kay” at 6324 Edenmore Avenue, New Port Richey, FL 34653.

David will be dearly missed by all who knew him!
Summer Camp 2008

Week 1: June 15th - 21st
Week 2: June 22nd - 28th
Week 3: June 29th - July 5th
Week 4: July 6th - 12th
Week 5: July 13th - 19th
Week 6: July 20th - 26th

In the current economy, it's more important than ever for Lodges to help those less fortunate than ourselves!

Families are spending all their money on gas and groceries and do not have extra to send their child to camp!

All children deserve a week at camp because Camp is for Kids!


ADDRESS CHANGES

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

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