National Ritual Winners

Bradenton Lodge Ritual Team

From left in back: Candidate, Mike Carter; Coach, PER Lou Horvath; in front Chaplain, Neil Curtis; Lecturing Knight, Kathryn “Kay” McCracken; Leading Knight, Dave Manning; Exalted Ruler, Bob Erwin; Loyal Knight, Jeff Mitchell; Esquire, Bob Pate; Inner Guard, PER Howard Dobbs.

National Convention Highlights

By C. Valentine Bates, PGER

At this writing, another Grand Lodge Convention has come and gone. The Convention was well attended by Florida Elks and everyone seemed to have a great time at the Sessions, the Hospitality Room, and the Florida Dinner.

The major highlight, of course, was the endorsement of Florida’s own Mike Smith as Grand Exalted Ruler for the Lodge year 2010-2011. We are delighted that Mike will take office at the Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando, a venue a large contingent of Florida Elks will be able to attend and participate in. Mike is well qualified for the position: Mike attended Plant City High School and St. Leo College where he excelled in sports. Sandra, his high school sweetheart, and Mike have two children and seven grandchildren.

Mike has served the Elks in many positions including two terms as Exalted Ruler for two terms (1992-1994), Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, State President of the Florida State Elks Association (2001-2002), Board of Directors of Florida State Elks Association, and is currently President of the Harry Anna Investment Fund. Plant City Lodge #1727 selected Mike “Elk of the Year” and awarded him an Honorary Life Membership. In 2004-2005, after three years as a member, Mike was appointed Chairman of the Grand Lodge’s Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee. Grand Lodge Esteemed Lecturing Knight preceded Mike’s next appointments to the Board of Grand Trustees. He served as Building Approval Member, Pension Member, Approving Member, and is currently chairman of the Grand Lodge Board of Grand Trustees.

Mike has been in the insurance business for over thirty years, primarily in the healthcare field. His practice consists of plan design and administration for self-funded, partially self-funded, and fully funded insurance benefit programs for corporations throughout the United States. Mike also works with professional employer organizations providing benefits to their clients.

The highlights of the Grand Lodge legislative session include:

I. No change in District Deputy expense reimbursement for subsequent DD terms;
II. Defeat of dual membership proposition;
III. No change in the constitutional mandate for the Grand Lodge to meet the expenses of the Elks National Home;
IV. Requirement of $100.00 deposit for an accuser to file a Subordinate Forum Complaint;
V. Allows balloting for membership on same night the Membership Committee reports to Lodge on candidate;
VI. Allows e-mail for notice to members unless otherwise required by Statute or Executive Order;

Highlights continued page 4

 Bradenton Lodge Ritual Coach, Lou Horvath, PER, was presented with the Coach of the Winning Team plaque in the 2009 National Ritualistic Contest. The Trophy plaque is donated by Tucson Arizona Lodge #385.
FLORIDA ELKS NEWS

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Vincent P. Como

“Helping Others Promotes Elkdom”

My dear friends:

I am deeply honored and extremely proud to do what only 102 other members of this great Association have done, and that is to serve you as President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year. I am very grateful to each and every one of you for the degree of trust placed in me. I appreciate all the advice and counsel received from our Past State Presidents and especially our Co-State Sponsors, the Honorable Robert Grafton and C. Valentine Bates. Thank you all.

As Lisa and I begin our journey throughout our great state, we will always be reminded of how it all began at the State Convention. The tremendous outpouring of good wishes and support for a successful year was and is still very much appreciated. From the election celebration orchestrated by Rosemary Mills from my home Lodge of Margate No. 2463 and with the help of many to the entrance of the “pope” and his entourage, a great time was had by all. It shows that we can have a grand and festive time so long as we take care of the business at hand. The meetings were all well attended and our Major Projects breakfast was “Standing Room Only” as was the Ladies’ Luncheon and the President-elect’s Cocktail Reception. The Presidential Dinner was very well attended including PGER Ted and Betsy Callicott from Paris, TN and Special Deputys C. W. “Dub” and Tiny Hicks from Mississippi. The special program saluting our very own PGER Robert Grafton for his untried dedication to our Order and support of Florida Elks ended the evening on a high note.

A special “Thank You” goes to our State Secretary, Carl Siebert, and Youth Camp Director, Lynn Warburton, and their respective staffs for all of their time and efforts to organize, prepare, and follow through with the State Convention.

Our business begins with our Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Your junior Past State President, Joseph Ortiz, set a high standard and it is that standard that must be maintained. This year’s goal for money into the Harry-Anna Trust Fund will remain at 1 million dollars or $14.81 per member. Even in these trying economic times, you, the great, unselfish members of this Association continue to support our programs through your generous donations to the fund. You have allowed us to recognize, prepare, and follow through with the State Convention.

My motto for the year is – H.O.P.E. – Helping Others Promotes Elkdom.

I dedicate this year to those we help the most. First, our nephews, whom some of you met at the banquet, Alex and Andrew Fernandez. They are twins; one was born what we would call normal and the other was born in need of very special care. Are we not the ones who help them? Alex is an 11 year old looking forward to having fun at camp. He is a kid just being a kid having fun as Camp Director Lynn Warburton always says. Isn’t that what we as Florida Elks do? When we offer the camp experience through our campership program to inner city youth, they are relieved of the stress that young people face today in the finest youth camp in the U.S.

Aren’t we providing hope and helping others by promoting Elkdom? Andrew is a very special child in need of therapy services. Whether physical or occupational therapy, under the direction of Past State President Ben Brown, we help them all. Isn’t that what Florida Elks do? We have the best run, best managed, best children’s therapy program in the U.S. Aren’t we providing hope to those families and promoting Elkdom? We also support our service personnel and their families who make great sacrifices to help preserve our way of life. A great deal of what we enjoy today can be linked to our past and those who have made much of it possible along the way we have been our veterans. Our freedoms are the result of those who have sacrificed, some of whom have made the supreme sacrifice. Our service veterans have been instilled with the idea that they fight to preserve our nation and safeguard the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. In this sacrifice, many have suffered the wounds of battle here and abroad. Whether it is in the hospitals, overseas, or in their homes, we help them through the Army of Hope program. Helping them promotes Elkdom.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our Ladies organizations throughout the state for their unwavering support, their kind words of encouragement, and all that they do for Florida Elks. I thank them for all that they have done and will do in support of our programs. We need their continued support of the therapy program, youth camp, and our veterans. Thank you, ladies.

During my visits throughout the state, I am asking each and every member to promote pride and membership in Elkdom. Ask one qualified candidate to become a member. I challenge each of you to bring in just ONE. I then want you to put that new member immediately on the membership committee and explain to them that they will remain on the committee until they have brought in one member. Whether it takes one month or six, they will at least share the responsibility to seek out new members.

Now, if you can do it five times, I have initiated a program that any member who brings in 5 members, either through initiation or reinstatement, will receive a third pin to complete our Past State President pin set. At the end of the year, the member who brings the most members statewide will receive an additional pin in gold. Without membership, we cannot continue as we have. We simply cannot survive.

President continued page 4
Thank you, everyone, who attended the annual State Convention at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in May.

Our attendance this year was 1249 Elks and 312 Guests and this was down around 5% from last year’s record attendance year. Many thanks go to everyone who assisted in making our State Convention another huge success! I would also like to thank Bill Wellbaum, Bob Shell, Jack Sproul, Don Watson, and Joe Rogers of the Convention Committee for their support and assistance before, during, and after the convention. Plans are already underway for the 2010 State Convention which will be held once again at the Coronado. Additionally, a meeting will be held at the August Quarterly meeting to begin discussing the hospitality room arrangements for 2010. If you are interested in having a hospitality suite at the 2010 Convention, you must have someone from your Lodge or District attend this meeting.

The Grand Lodge Convention was held in Portland, Oregon July 5-9. Attending from Florida were over 300 Elks members and their guests. Florida delegates occupied 156 rooms in the luxurious Nines hotel in downtown Portland. The Florida hospitality room was a big hit for Florida delegates and Elks from across the nation. Once again, the Elks of Florida were most generous in volunteering their time to assist in the Florida hospitality room. Finally, a big thank you goes to my hospitality room team; without their help and support, the hospitality room and Florida functions would not be nearly as successful. These wonderful people work with me throughout the entire year coming up with the ideas and plans for our functions and I thank them for everything they do! They are Faye & Joe Bryant, Linda & Frank Hayes, Carolyn & Mike Ritchie, Big Joe Rogers, and of course my wife, Kim!

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

The second annual Florida Elks Day at the Tampa Bay Rays will be held this year on Sunday, September 20, 2009 in Tampa. Last year we had over 300 Elks from across the state in attendance and the Rays were kind enough to donate $6.00 per ticket sold back to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. This year they will again do the same and I am happy to report that ticket sales are on a pace to easily exceed our attendance last year. A big thank you goes out to John Morra of the Pinellas Park Lodge who is helping to coordinate the ticket sales and make the event a huge success. For more information visit our web site at www.flelks.org.

Another “second annual” this year is our Harry-Anna Trust Fund Cruise to the Caribbean. This year’s cruise is a six-night Western Caribbean itinerary which departs from Fort Lauderdale on November 1st. The prices are right so book your adventure today! For more information visit our web site at www.flelks.org.

The August Quarterly meetings will be held August 14th and 15th at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. A barbecue will again be held at the Youth Camp on Friday evening for Elks members and their guests. There will be a nominal charge for food and beverage to help defray the cost of the event. I hope you will consider attending the August Quarterly meetings to learn more about the work of the Florida State Elks Association and our two great major projects.

The Mid-Year Convention will be held November 12-14 at the Wyndham Orlando Resort. The preliminary agenda and reservation information will go out in September.

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

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

Even the deluge of rain that hit the beautiful Courtyard of the Disney Coronado did not deter the Florida Elks from having a wonderful, happy, and musical time. It rained part of every day we were there.

The meeting started at 8 o’clock Saturday morning and we were off to a hectic day. Chairlady of the Nominating Committee, Joanna Kudla, presented the slate of officers for the year 2009-2010 selected by her committee: Enid Simpson, President; Carol Deresh, Vice President; Betty Groff, Secretary; and Carol Phelps, Treasurer. The Four Year Advisory Council Members are Joan C. Fritz and Shirley Shaffer. Nominations will be taken from the floor and elections will be held at the August meeting in Umatilla.

Installations. Now that Vince Como is the new State President, visitsations and President’s visits will be starting again all over the state.

I want to thank our Ladies Chairman, Sam Casella, for being just the right person for Chairman this past year but want to welcome Jerry Yates, this coming year’s Chairman. I am, at the present time, helping ladies in Deland to reorganize their ladies group.

On Saturday, June 13, the The Army of Hope Picnics were held in Florida. I was invited to attend the picnic at Eustis Lodge #1578 by Pat and Ed Jackson, Chairman of the Army of Hope Committee. It was a lovely sunny day, perhaps a bit too sunny, but Eustis Lodge and its members were great hosts. We had good food, good company, and the many activities were great. The memorial was beautiful and well done. For me a sister of an 18 year old brother, a U.S. Marine, who died in WWII, it was a little too close to memories.

I will now be on to visitations in the district and our President’s visit in August. I hope to see many of you at the district meeting on August 15, 2009.

See you then.

Joan
Other than taking a few snapshots of some dignitaries, including PDD Elmer Messerschmidt; PDD Ed Tuthill and PER Mary Ann Forbes, both from New Port Richey; and PSP Frank Palladini from Tampa in their very patriotic red, white, and blue flag decorated shirts and a few cake winners, there had been nothing of significant importance.

Looking around the room I spotted a couple of youngsters looking at the Elks Memorial Board of those members who have passed on. One of the boys lowered his head onto his arms leaning on a glass display; a man came over to him and appeared to give some comforting pats to the boy’s back and whispered something to him and the other boy standing with them. There had to be something going on there and I needed to know more, so I took a quick snapshot and walked over to ask the gentleman if the boy was feeling bad or if there was something he needed help with.

The boy, Paul Dryer, 11, was one of Boy Scout Troop 627 which Brandon Lodge sponsors; they would be presenting our country’s flags in the narrative history of America’s Flags.

His father, Scott Dryer, told me his son’s grandfather, Ed Dryer, had served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars and had recently passed away. The boy was feeling really sad while reading the names of “Never Forgotten Elks” whose names were on the board. The other boy, Donovan Pritchard, a cousin, was also a grandson.

This day will long remain in the memories of these two young boys as they were a part of what the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks believe is one of our most important days of the year. The boys felt as though their grandfather was also being honored in this service. Young Paul Dryer carried flag number 7, which is the 48 star flag.

The Boy Scouts proudly carried the flags that have flown since our nation’s beginning as Exalted Ruler Rick Weigand explained the significance of each one and when they were flown. As the present day fifty star flag was presented, the audience stood and held their hands over their hearts. Veterans could be seen giving the recently passed flag etiquette rule of giving the hand military salute.

Larry Henbest, PER gave a moving response in telling of the many actions our country has taken to ensure our freedoms and security.

No other symbol offers the comfort, security, and freedoms that the red, white, and blue of the flag of the United States of America does.

President continued from page 2

As of this writing, Lisa and I accompanied by your VPAL James and Julia Hurst, have completed our official visits to the Southwest District and the Central District. The hospitality and courtesies shown to us have been almost overwhelming. We thank you for all that you have done for us. We began on June 5 hosted by SW District VP Carol Sironni. We were wined and dined at Sarasota South No. 2495 on Friday, had lunch at Sarasota No. 1519 following a tour of the South Florida Museum, and had our official dinner at Manasota No. 2734 before a sellout crowd. Two weeks later, on June 19, we were hosted by C District VP R. Michael Ritchie. We had a tremendous reception upon our arrival and following cocktails were escorted to dinner in downtown Zephyrhills. On Saturday we toured the Museum of Science and Industry that had the “Body Works” exhibition on display. Following the tour, we had lunch at a fine Italian restaurant, “CDB’s.” Why Italian?? I’m not sure. The official dinner was hosted by Zephyrhills No. 2731 before more than 160 members and guests who heard my message of the programs of Florida Elksdom.

We are in the process of packing for the Grand Lodge Convention in Portland where it will be my distinct honor to parade our state flag in the convention hall. A more detailed report of the convention will be in the next issue.

I ask you to go forth renewed, revitalized, and re-motivated in our beliefs that by helping others we can truly promote Elksdom.

May God bless each and every one of you for your continuous support of our children, our veterans, and all our programs. May He bless our service men and women, our Florida State Elks Association, and our United States of America.
The Florida State Elks Association held its 103rd Convention at the beautiful Disney Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida on May 21-24, 2009.

The final Credentials Committee report had 1,425 Elks and guests in attendance including the Florida State Co-Sponsors, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Grafton and Past Grand Exalted Ruler C. Valentine Bates. Guests attending the convention were PGER Ted Callicott from Paris, Tennessee and C. W. Hicks, Special Deputy from Mississippi.

One of the guest speakers at the convention was an Occupational Therapist of Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Terri Stocking, who received a standing ovation for her presentation which told of her work of making a difference in children’s lives, why she loves her position as a Florida Elks Children’s Therapist, and of her successes with the children.

The Orlando, FL West Orange High School USAF Jr. ROTC Color Guard presented the colors for the tribute to the American flag at the general sessions of the convention.

Florida’s goal of the Elks National Foundation of $4.50 per-capita was surpassed with total statewide donations of $432,866.54 or $5.243 per-capita including a $69,000 bequest. Ten of the 14 districts met the goal and 77 of the 109 Lodges participated in making ENF contributions.

The State President’s fundraising goal for our Major Projects of one million dollars was a bit short with $889,779.63 raised for a $12.8199 per-capita.

Grand Exalted Ruler Helsel’s goal of one new member per Lodge was not met; Florida State Elks had a loss of 1,188 members for a total of 67,518.

Sebring Lodge’s Annual FSEA Golf Tournament raised $15,655 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Deland Lodge held a Softball Tournament and brought in $6,000 for HATF.

Bradenton Lodge 1511 Officers represented Florida at the Grand Lodge Convention in Portland, OR in the National Ritual Contest.

The Veterans’ Male Volunteer of the Year award was awarded to Phil Gersbach of Fort Myers Lodge #1288.

A Golden Mike Award was won by James Lamb for his dedication as the State Chairman of Publicity and Public Relations.

Ben Brown and Terri Stocking

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President Como receives his Emblem of Authority from PGER C. Valentine Bates.

Demonstrators showing their support for Vince Como as President of the Florida State Elks Association.

Florida State Elks Secretary is Carl Seibert, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Belle Glade-Pahokee Lodge #1716. The Treasurer is Joe Bryant, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Sebring Lodge #1529. The State Tiler is Danny Tabor, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Bradenton Lodge #1511. The State Historian is Lowell Tyler, PER of West Palm Beach Lodge #1352. The State Chaplain is James Lind, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Southwest Broward Lodge #2273.

Taking the Oath of Office

The District Vice Presidents installed for the year are: NW, Betty M. Clark; N, Carol Cruce; NE, John E. Markiewicz; NC, Michael Mongeluzzo; EC, Roger L. Johnson; C, R. Michael Ritchie; SEC, Robert F. Carroll; WC, Raymond R. Pinney; SW, Carol Siriani; SWC, Henry L. Poage; S, Nancy Mays; SE, Nelson B. Willis, Jr.; SSE, Gerald Maher; SSW, Carl Gerace.

And here are your keys.

Past District Deputy Jerry Mills received a plaque from FSEA Secretary Carl Seibert, PDD, honoring him for his many years as the Florida State Elks Webmaster.

Disney Coronado Springs Resort will be the location of the next Florida State Convention, May 20-23, 2010.
**NORTHWEST**

**Tom Rogers**

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 and served the district as Vice-President 2008-2009.

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.

**NORTHEAST**

**Gregory Hughson**

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. He also 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 Visitation in 1993-1994 and State Chairman of Interlodge Visitation 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.

Greg served as the Northeast District Vice-President 2008-2009.

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 been married to 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**

**Mary E. Ford**

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. She was Vice President of the Central District 2008-2009.

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.

**EAST CENTRAL**

**Christopher Gariepy**

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...
Continued from previous page

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. 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 Visitation 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 Service Organization (USO) (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 (Simmonds 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.

**SOUTHWEST CENTRAL**

**Art Yanni**

Art Yanni 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 has one daughter, Heather, who is married to Mac Davis.

Art loves to golf, and he enjoys taking his R.V. on road trips with his friends.

**SOUTHWEST CENTRAL**

**Betty Tewksbury**

Betty Tewksbury, DDGER was born in Waterville, ME in 1947; she was educated in Maine Schools and studied Interior Design at IRCC. She is also a Certified Juvenile Arbitrator with the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court in Port St. Lucie County, Florida. Betty is now retired after the sale of Solon Mfg. Co., a family owned business.

Betty was initiated into Stuart-Jensen Lodge # 1870 on February 19, 2001. She served as Lodge Chairman for the following committees: Drug Awareness, Ritual, Special Services, Membership, and Indoctrination and was President of the Past Exalted Rulers Association for four years. Betty served as Loyal and Leading Knight and was a 2 term Exalted Ruler, elected for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. She was All District Exalted Ruler and won the Eleven O’clock Toast competition at the District Ritual Contest in 2004. She served as Trustee Chairman in 2005-2006. Betty was made an Honorary Life Member on May 2, 2005 and was named Elk of the Year for 2007-2008.

Her additional Elks involvement includes District Chairman of Operation Santa Knows, Vice President of the District Past Exalted Ruler Association (3 years), and District Chairman of Officers Attendance (4 years). In addition, Betty was the Florida State Elks Association’s Central Regional Chairman of Hoop Shoot for (3 years), served as Esquire to the District Deputy in 2007-2008, and was appointed SEC District Vice President for 2007-2008. Betty was installed as Southeast Central District Vice President for 2008-2009.

Betty has been married to her best friend and soul mate, PER Harold, for 30+ years; she is the extremely proud parent of Susan Simonelli, PER and the proud grandfather of Eagle Scout, Anthony C. Gordon.

**WEST CENTRAL**

**Iwan Choronenko**

Iwan Choronenko was born in a small village of White Russia. During World War II, his mother and siblings were interred in a labor camp in East Germany. After the war, the family escaped to West Germany and lived for six years in various United Nations refugee camps as displaced persons. In 1951, the family immigrated to the United States and settled in New York City. Iwan attended and graduated high school and was accepted at the City College City University of New York. In 1961 he earned a BS degree in meteorology and a commission in the United States Army. His first duty assignment with the Army was in Germany during the Berlin crisis. After serving four years as a Signal Corps officer, he effected an interservice transfer to the United States Air Force where he worked as a meteorologist. During his twenty year military career, he held command and staff positions in various Army and Air Force commands and had operational assignments in Germany, India, Vietnam, and Thailand.

Following his military career, he worked for Hillsborough County as the Director of Air Programs. In this capacity, his division regulated sources of air pollution, mobile emissions, noise control, and open burning. He held this position for eighteen years. Iwan was very active at the national, state, and local level. From 1990-1991, he was the national President of the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials (ALAPCO), a consortium comprised of over 160 municipalities across the nation. He also served on the Federal (EPA) Clean Air Act Advisory Committee from 1991-1992 and was reappointed to the committee in 1994.

His formal education includes BS and MA degrees in meteorology and an MA degree in management. He is also a graduate of the United States Army War College.

In 1999, Iwan was initiated as an Elk into Holiday Isles Lodge #1912. He progressed through the chairs becoming the Exalted Ruler in 2002. Subsequently he held various Lodge committee positions, served twice as District Chairman, performed duties as Vice Chairman and State Chairman for Publicity & Public Relations, and served as Vice President of the West Central District.

Iwan is married to his lovely wife, Rita, and they have two grown children and six wonderful grandchildren.
2009-2010 District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers

North Central

Stephen J. Mahoney

Steve was born in Salem, Massachusetts in 1956 and went to Peabody public schools. He graduated from Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute in 1974.

Steve became an Elk in Massachusetts at Peabody Lodge 1409 in 1985. While there he worked on several committees and on various family events, men’s outings, and sporting events. He was honored as Elk of the Month in June of 1986.

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

Steve served as District Chairman for Elks Training for three years. He served as the District Chairman for Elks National Foundation Scholarships for one year, Officers Attendance for two years, Hoop Shoot for one year, and he has served as a State Regional Chairman for the Accident Prevention Committee for the past three years. He was Vice President in 2007-2008.

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

Steve is married to his wife of 18 years, Teresa, who is also an Elk, and together they have two children, John and Lucia; a daughter-in-law, Lyndsay; and the apple of their eyes, granddaughter Haylea.

Steve is a truck driver for Record Buck Farms.

SOUTHWEST

Thom N. Dillman

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 Lincolnton, 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 Indoctirmination. 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.

SOUTHEAST

Leslie Szirbik

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 is as the Inner Guard, Loyal Knight, and Leading Knight and 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.

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 SOUTHWEST

Richard L. Futral

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 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. In 2008-2009 he was the South Southwest District Vice President.

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.
Public Relations is Everyone’s Job
By Charles A. Trinowski
Committee Member

Public relations: What is it? How do we do it?

Public relations, in general, is the business of inducing the public to have understanding for, and goodwill toward, a person, firm or institution.

In Elksdom, public relations go beyond the basic definition to include the education of Elks and non-Elks - understanding what we do, whom we help and how we accomplish our goals. The task is large and never-ending.

To be successful at accomplishing our goals, we need to evaluate what information we want to share with the community. Determine who our target audience is. How are we going to reach our audience with the message and image we want to project?

What are the tools one can use? The list is endless. There are newspapers, radio, television, leaflets, signs, banners and personal contact. This past year we had national elections and were subjected to a barrage of information by the most skilled public relations technicians.

We should study what and how they placed their candidate or programs in the public eye. From them we can learn how to be more successful.

One of the most successful methods of influencing people is to meet with them face to face. Say hello, shake their hands and educate them in the purpose and accomplishments of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. It is important to focus on matters that are important to the person with whom you are communicating, thus avoiding a barrage of Elk facts. The public image we present is very important. If we conduct ourselves poorly the public will associate those behaviors as indicative of what the Order is about. It will make it difficult to obtain new members, have people participate in our functions and even scare away participants from our youth activities.

Public relations is every member’s responsibility. The manner in which we present ourselves can make a difference and impact the success of your Lodge and recruitment of quality candidates for membership. Your Public Relations Committee stands ready to assist in publicizing Lodge accomplishments and continuing to improve the image of Elksdom.
Lady Lake Lodge 2793
Lady Lake Elks Lodge recently recognized K-9 Officer Lazaro Cabrera as Officer of the Year. Officer Cabrera has been with Lady Lake Police Department since May of 2006 and has been a Certified K-9 Officer for eleven years.

Driving while visually impaired
Officer David Hicks, a Lady Lake Police Department corporal said, “Hopefully we can catch (kids) prior to the age where they begin to drink, which seems to be getting younger and younger every year. We’re finding kids at least experimenting, if not doing more, in the line of alcohol and drugs.” And we’ve heard that this program being a hands-on program is sometimes more effective.

“In addition,” he said, “the impairment produced by the goggles shows those wearing them just how badly alcohol affects coordination and your ability to move.”

Elk member and past president Lyle Richard said this is the second year the group has hosted Drug Awareness Day. He feels the program’s interactive format is more beneficial for participants than simple having them write an essay on the topic.

Katelyn Donna Cawthorn Student of the Year.
Lady Lake Elks Lodge recently recognized Katelyn Donna Cawthorn as Student of the Year. Katelyn’s home is in Fruitland Park and she is a student of the Villages Charter School. Parent is Laura Mullins.

Other awards that Katelyn are: High Honor Roll, Scholar Athlete and Gold Bar Award for Grader 9th, 1 Qtr, 11th, 12th and 12th years; Varsity Letter Award 9th, 10th and 11th year; Perfect Attendance 9th and 11th.; VFW and the United States student Participation Award 11th and 12th.; Community Service award 9th.

Most of Katelyn’s volunteer work has been consistent in the sense that she has volunteer mainly in the medical field. She has volunteered at LRMC, Relay for Life, blood drives, CERT drill and Haven House.

Katelyn volunteered at Relay for Life in tenth and eleventh grade; she is planning on volunteering this year as well. Katelyn participated in Relay for Life while in Interact; she contributed money selling snacks to people walking the track, or anyone looking for a snack. She also walks the track because in order to quality her team a member of the team must be walking around the track. She said “At Relay for Life people have fun while raising money for cancer.”

Katelyn volunteers at Haven House which is a safe place for mothers and their children that seek refuge while recovering from domestic abuse. Volunteers at Haven House help to provide a Christmas for the families. They bring dinners and play with the children, interact with families and give the mothers a chance to relax for a moment during the holiday season.

While being a part of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), Katelyn had the opportunity to assist with the only two blood drives performed at The Villages High School. While volunteering at the blood drives she comforted donors, escort them from the stations within the area, and help register voters. Katelyn also donate blood while volunteering.

Apopka Lodge 2422
During the month of January, the annual Rib Cookoff was open to all local Lodges. Eighteen teams competed and the winner was David Schreiber. Later in the month a Cajun Low Country Boil with guest performers Johnny and the Moons was enjoyed at the Lodge.

A benefit dinner was held for a member who is a cancer survivor. Two sunbirds from Wyoming, Buffy and Sally, held a “Milk Can Dinner” to benefit the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla. Lodge Members also held a cookout at the local VA Hospital in Orlando. They served up hamburgers, hotdogs and all the fixins for patients and staff. A great time was had by all.

March 7th Bubba and Friends held an all day Elks National Foundation Day at the Lodge. They had a BBQ and lots of music. All proceeds went to ENF.

In April the Lodge had its annual Easter Egg Hunt. The local children had lots of fun looking for the golden egg. On the 24th members Pam and Jim Rutter held a baked ziti dinner that benefited the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Mother’s Day ceremony and dinner was on May 9th. Mom’s got to enjoy a steak dinner cooked by our very own David Schreiber.

Members went on a bus trip to four east coast Lodges on June 6th. We visited Cocoa, Cocoa Beach, and Merritt Island. A great time was had at each Lodge enjoying meeting new friends and visiting old friends.

The quarterly road cleanup got underway at 7:00 am on the 7th. Eight faithful Elks showed up to clean a two mile stretch of the OBT.

When finished everyone hurried back to the Lodge for a tasty home cooked breakfast. The month ended with a Father’s Day Rib Dinner. Trusty cook David was at it again and didn’t disappoint anyone – the ribs were fantastic.

Inverness Lodge 2522
The Inverness, Florida Elks Lodge presented two checks to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation. One check, for $400, was the proceeds of a Burns Dinner held at the lodge in January. The second check, for $500, was raised in a charity raffle for a bottle of Famous Grouse Scotch.

The Famous Grouse Distillery graciously donated the bottle to the Lodge. The limited edition of 250 bottles of 37 year old whiskey commemorated the 250th anniversary of Burns’s birthday!
In honor of veterans, the Lodge sponsored a dinner for 100 residents of the Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home and donated toiletries to fifty veterans at Serenity House in Daytona Beach and Deland and about thirty soldiers from the Daytona Beach U.S. Army Reserve Unit recently returned from Kuwait after one year of active duty.

The Ladies Auxiliary is currently sending care packages; some local veterans organizations have shipped about 204 care packages to our troops overseas.

**LIFE AS A FOURTH GENERATION ELK**

Erika Barger, a 2006 Legacy Award recipient, is leaving her own legacy that goes far beyond her college years.

In December 2008, Erika, a junior at Georgetown University, became a proud member of Ormond Beach Elks Lodge 2193 where she is currently serving as the Lodge Government Relations Chairman.

She has volunteered during Red Ribbon Week distributing nearly 500,000 pieces of Drug Awareness program material to 17 local schools. She continues to participate in the Elks Christmas Party, aiding children of families in need by distributing gifts and offering pony rides.

Erika has helped judge student essays on patriotism for the Americanism Essay Contest and once again has volunteered to do the judging this year as co-chair.

In addition to her duties as an Elk, Erika is extremely involved on the Georgetown Campus. She is studying government and history and plans to enter law school after graduation. Her ENF scholarship allows her to make the most of college.

When not studying, Erika is active in the Georgetown community. She has been a member of the Women’s Crew team since her freshman year. After contributing articles to the Georgetown Federalist Newspaper for the past few years, she became the news editor this year.

During Thanksgiving, Erika serves dinners to homeless women at the Open Door Shelter, and in December she volunteers for Wreaths Across America, helping to adorn more than 10,000 veteran graves with wreaths.

Erika values her time in college, gaining exposure to different subjects and meeting and learning from students from around the world.

Erika is the daughter of Jack Barger, PER and Rita Barger. She has been appointed to the 2009-2010 Elks National Foundation Scholar Advisory Board. She will attend the annual meeting of the ENF Board in Chicago this September and is the only one of six board members from the USA who is currently enrolled in a college or university.

**Merritt Island Lodge 2650**

The Lodge hosted a Kids 2009 Spring Fishing Contest at the Waterfront at Lee Wernert Park in Cocoa for kids ages 3 to 7, 8 to 10, and 11 to 17. Bait was provided. Prizes for the longest fish, most species, and the most fish caught were provided to the winners.

Thanks go to the Ladies Auxiliary for all the fine work they do for the Lodge.

The Lodge celebrated Flag Day on Saturday, June 13 at the Veterans Memorial Park.

The Lodge recently received a thank you letter from member Janis Scott currently serving in Iraq for all the care packages filled with all sorts of toiletries for the troops and base hospital. Janis is coming home in October. We wish her a safe journey.

**New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557**

Congratulations to Sally Braden on becoming this year’s Madam President of the Ladies Auxiliary in the Lodge.

The following is from the archives of the New Smyrna Beach Historical Society and Research Library: Gene Krupa, well-known drummer, performed at the Lodge on November 29 sponsored by the Lions Club with co-sponsors Elks and Beta Sigma Phi Sorority to help raise funds for the Boy Scouts building fund.

As part of community service, the Lodge hosted the New Smyrna Beach High School Wrestling Team awards on April 22.

On May 9 the Lodge put on a dinner honoring fifteen Lodge WWII veterans. The guest speaker was PSP Vic McClellan, Chairman of the Florida Elks Army of Hope Committee.

The Lodge now sponsors Girl Scout Troop #474. The young ladies hold their meetings at the Lodge. They were introduced to the general membership at the May 6th meeting. The Girl Scouts helped with the Lodge’s Easter Egg Hunt by hiding all the eggs.

**Palm Coast Lodge 2709**

The Lodge hosted a German Festival on April 18. On April 25, Boy Scout Troop #270 held a Car Wash at Busters/Nathan’s to help raise money for the boys to go to summer camp.

We bet you didn’t know that Tom Hoffman, PER and former Secretary of the Lodge, spent his life in aviation. An avid aviator in his day, Tom flew over 3,000 flight hours. The plane that he flew in, Tail #N34, was the last of its kind with sophisticated navigation systems equipment. The plane was recently restored and now resides at the Will Rogers Airport in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The Ladies Auxiliary continues its support of troops overseas and help in the community. The Lodge is proud of the fine work they do.

**Port Orange Lodge 2723**

Port Orange Elkhearts congratulated one of their own past Madam Presidents, Joan Fritz, on becoming this year’s President of FLOE.

Students of the Month (April-May-June) from community area schools were honored with awards and certificates by the Lodge.

Members Charlie Hill and Russ Karel were featured in an article by Russ Rice, staff editor, for their continued service as volunteers in the Lodge these past years.

American Legion #270 and Boy Scout Troop #436 were present on Sunday, June 14 to help celebrate Flag Day. Savannah Young of Silver Sands Middle School and Benjamin Rice of Creekside Middle School read their winning Americanism essays.

Congratulations go to Angelo Cretella, Lodge Treasurer, on his appointment to the State Business Practices Committee.

At the last DD Clinic, John Ingel, Jr., Lodge and District Visitation Chairman, and Mary Ann Bucci, District Chairman of the Ladies Organization Committee and East Central District Reporter, were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their service in the district.

**East Central District Continued Page 17**
The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks’ 145th Grand Lodge Session was held in Portland, Oregon between July 5-9, 2009. The opening ceremony began at 8:00 p.m. Sunday, July 5. Elks and guests were welcomed to Portland by the Honorable James W. Damon, PGER of the John Day Lodge #1824. The final credentials report on July 9 showed 4,791 Elks and 2,129 guests for a total of 6,920.

The Master of Ceremonies was Louis J. Grillo, PGER from Stockton California Lodge #218 who introduced the PGERs and their wives. The Parade of Military and State Flags was presided over by Chairman of the Americanism Committee Richard Palanzo, from Danbury, Connecticut Lodge #120. More than 300 Florida Elks and guests loudly cheered as State President Vincent Como entered with the Florida Elks state flag.

After the Pledge and a musical presentation by the Bismarck/Mandan Elks Chorus, PGER Grillo introduced Grand Exalted Ruler Paul D. Helsel who gave his address regarding his year in office and his travels around the country visiting the Nations Elks and their Major Projects.

On Monday, July 8, nominations and elections for the Grand Lodge Officers were made followed by the nomination for the Grand Exalted Ruler for 2009-2010, James L. Nichelson, from Ohio. That nomination was made by Past Chief Justice of the Grand Forum, the Hon. Charles VanDyne, and seconded by Nichelson’s wife of 39 years, Mary Carolyn, and another second from his daughter, Lauren Gresh. All in his adult family are members of the Elks.

He is shown here watching the celebration by his Ohio Elks congregation with his wife and GER Paul Helsel. He has a dual Bachelors/Masters Degree from Ohio State University and a Juris Doctorate Degree cum Laude. He was Exalted Ruler in 1979-1980 and District Deputy in 1990. He has been a Lodge officer ever since 1979. He was named an Honorary Ohio State President in 2008. He continued on the Grand Lodge Committee on Judiciary serving as Chairman in his last two years and was elected to the Board of Grand Trustees serving in several areas, was appointed GL Parliamentarian and served as a member on the Pardon Commission.

Bradenton won the National Championship in the Ritual Contest outscoring Ohio who was the leader going into the final four competition.

Final Four Ritualistic Contest Scores
- Florida – Bradenton Lodge 1511 96.9765
- Ohio --- Kenton 157 96.5218
- New Mexico—Carlsbad 1558 96.3809
- Washington- Kelso-Longview 1482 95.3121

PSP Frank Palladini, left, wearing the 2nd Place medal he won for bringing in 76 new members this past year. PSP David Lake and Kathy are sitting with him.

DDGERs swearing in L-R, Bob Rankin, Iwan Choronenko, Mary Ford, Charlotte Healy, and Richard Futral.

Grand Esquire Mike Phillips’ first task was to collect the $20 penalty fee for lost badges from the delegates.

Mike Smith with Sandra; he has received the endorsement as Grand Exalted Ruler for the Lodge year 2010-2011.

Florida State President Vincent Como proudly displays the Florida Flag which he carried in the Convention Opening.

PSP Frank Palladini, left, wearing the 2nd Place medal he won for bringing in 76 new members this past year. PSP David Lake and Kathy are sitting with him.

Bradenton Lodge Exalted Ruler Bob Erwin shows the Raymond Benjamin Trophy awarded for excellence in the ritual.

Julia and James Hurst, Florida Vice President at Large, won first place in the Princess Cruise Dance contest.

PSP Don Sansoussi, Publication Committee Chairman, and Raleigh Whiteman, Editor of the Florida Elks News, hold the Five Star Award for Excellence in State Publications.

The Florida Elks News
FLORIDA STATE ELKS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
Joe B. Rogers, PDD, Co-Chairman

Delray Beach 1463 again hosted the Florida Elks State Softball Tournament the weekend of April 24 - 26, 2009. For sixteen years this tournament has benefited the Florida Elks Youth Camp and again this year the tournament was another success for the children of Florida.

Founder Phil Watercutter, PDD’s basic idea behind this function was to bring camaraderie to the members, to get younger members into our organization, and to support the Youth Camp. In the past sixteen years, we as Elks feel we have accomplished it all.

This year’s tournament was attended by PGER Bob Grafton, PGER Val & Claudia Bates, President Joe & Rita Ortiz, PSP David & Kathy Lake, PSP Frank & Ebba Jean Paldini, PSP Mike & Sandra Smith, PSP Vic & Peggie McClellan, Florida Elk News Editor Raleigh & Joya Whiteman, and FLOE President Joan & George Fritz.

Throughout its existence, the Softball Tournament has donated over $115,000; this year was no exception with $6,000 again going to the Youth Camp in the name of the winning Lodges. There have been over 9,150 participants playing and in excess of 21,250 in attendance in the tournaments. With all the sincere interest displayed from the Lodges that participated this year, we are looking for an even bigger and better 17th Annual Tournament April 23-25, 2010.

A new team appeared this year from Jupiter Lodge #2469 and Sanford Lodge #1241 returned after a few years. This year there were 23 teams from fourteen different Lodges.

Fort Pierce Lodge #1520 won the Camaraderie Award by their outstanding Memorial Tribute for Billy Daly, an Elk member who passed away this year while playing softball.

Delray Beach had 142 people and Fort Pierce had 115 traveling with the teams. These teams raise money with functions and plan all year for this great weekend.

Again this year Phil Watercutter worked with the Teen Court in Deland with ten kids working off community service time. These kids worked a total of 150 hours. Their jobs during the tournament were working with the softball committee to keep the fields clean and anything else needed to help out with the tournament.

Again this year we sent the extra food to the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia and the DeLand Fire Department and donated unsold tee shirts we had left to the veteran’s hospital.

Phil Watercutter, the Softball Committee, and I want to thank the 23 teams, the Gold Sponsors, and all who attended for making this another winning year for the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

We also want to thank the many volunteers who supported the tournament with the many hours donated, miles traveled, and donations given in making this tournament another success. There were no suits or ties; it was just a very casual weekend and great for the family.

Thanks go to Quality Brands and Mid Florida Golf Carts for their support.

Photography by Jim Viers and Raleigh Whiteman

These are the winning Lodges and the payout to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in these Lodges names for the Florida Elks Youth Camp

A DIVISION
1st Deland 1463 $1,500
2nd Winter Garden A 2165 $ 900
3rd Tarpon Springs $360

B DIVISION
1st Delray Beach 1770 $ 180
2nd Jupiter 2469

OPEN DIVISION
Home Run King
Chris Anderson
Fort Pierce Lodge 1520

OVER 50 DIVISION
Home Run King
Bryan Long
Fort Pierce Lodge 1520

CAMARADERIE AWARD
Ft Pierce Memorial Tribute $ 300

These are the winning Lodges and the payout to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in these Lodges names for the Florida Elks Youth Camp
**Cocoa Lodge 1532**

Sunday, April 5, the weather was near perfect for the Relay for Life Poker Run for the American Cancer Society. Cocoa Lodge is partnered with the Relay for Life Group by hosting the final event stop. Elk members Ken and Carol Poole, Steve Wilson, Earl Soosong, and a veritable sea of volunteers made this event happen. Event volunteers Barbara Ball and Steve Wilson checked everyone’s Poker Hand Sheet. Rockledge Mayor Larry and his wife, Wanda, along with other volunteers, were dealing the poker hands. Bonnie Chambers had several hands for people who couldn’t attend the event, including Rob and Cindy Herto. The final stop was Cocoa Lodge where everyone chowed down on the great chili. ER Billy Nobles welcomed the group, and the Lodge certainly lived up to their reputation as Florida’s friendliest. Working together, $1,200 was raised for the fight against cancer.

**Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870**

Congratulations to Bill Brickman, Elk of the Year for 2008/09. The annual ER Ball for Suzi Simonelli and her husband, Joey, was held on April 4. In April, the Lodge visited three Martin County High Schools and presented three $500 scholarships.

In May, the Lodge had a pizza party for their Cub Scout Pack 870 and purchased some needed supplies with an ENF Promise Grant. The Veterans’ Services Committee hosted wheelchair veterans from the VA hospital for lunch and bingo on May 20.

**Cocoa Beach Lodge 2387**

The Lodge continues to have an outstanding Youth Activities Program. On May 9, the 13th annual golf tournament with 152 golfers was held and raised over $25,000 to support youth and other charitable activities.

On May 23, the Lodge was presented with the Division 1 (under 300 members) Best Youth Activities Program Award for 2008-2009 by the Florida State Elks Association in recognition of the many youth activities sponsored by the Lodge.

A leased beach parking lot that the Lodge manages has raised nearly $10,000 this year for local youth organizations.

The Lodge donated $1,000 to support the 4th of July fireworks, and on June 14 in conjunction with Flag Day, they hosted sixty veterans and staff from the Cocoa Veterans’ transition facility for a ribeye steak dinner.

**Melbourne Lodge 1744**

On May 25, 2009, Melbourne Lodge 1744 was honored by the attendance of Grand Exalted Ruler Paul D. Helsel and his wife, Jane, at its Initiation Meeting. Attending also were Past Grand Exalted Ruler C. Valentine Bates and Past State President Michael Phillips.

GER Helsel and Jane came to witness the initiation of their daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Joseph Coleman, into Melbourne Lodge 1744.

**Stuart-Jensen Flag Day participants.**

The annual Flag Day ceremony was chaired by Jack Storandt, PER, and Cub Scout Pack 870 participated and assisted the lady flag carriers. Congratulations also go to Arlene Frysinger for obtaining Honorary Life Membership.

**Cocoa Beach Lodge 2387**

The Lodge was presented with the 1st Absent Members Scholarship Dinner on May 29 which was attended by more than 100 members in attendance. Charles DeLauder was installed as ER, and Mary DeLauder was installed as the ELDOE’s President for a second term.

On April 11, an Easter Egg Hunt was held for children in the area with over forty participants.

The Lodge presented the local Boys and Girls Club with a check for $600 which will be used to send two children to summer camp.

The ELDOEs presented a fashion show on April 25 with fashions provided by Bon Worth.

**Ft. Pierce Lodge 1520**

On April 4, the Lodge welcomed Exalted Ruler Michelle (Miki) McMurty and bid farewell to outgoing ER JJ Johnson. Also in April, about forty kids with their parents and grandparents gathered at Marvella Park to search for eggs that were left by the Easter Rabbit. Hot dogs and hamburgers were in abundance, and prizes were awarded to kids who found the golden peeps.

Three teams of great softball players participated in the Florida State Elks Softball Tournament in Deland on April 25th and 26th. They awarded one of their teammate’s shirts to his widow, Debby Daly. Billy Daly died last year doing what he loved - playing baseball. In his honor, all team members made the presentation to Debby. Because of this, and the way the teams all work together, they were awarded the Camaraderie Award at the end of the weekend. Daly, as well as John D. Henry, PER, were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Five students were selected to receive scholarships to Florida colleges. Three students from Lincoln Park School and Fairlawn School each received U.S. Savings Bonds from the Lodge for submitting winning Americanism Essays on “What Freedom Means to Me.”

**Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658**

The Lodge honored Americanism Essay winners Michael Charak and Kimberly Gonzalez, students of Southport Middle School. Michael is in 6th grade and Kimberly is in 8th grade. Along with their families, Michael and Kimberly were served dinner where they read their winning essays, and each received a $500 savings bond.

ER Augustus J. Simonelli proudly presented St. Lucie County, FL School District Superintendent, Michael Lannon, with a plaque for Citizen of the Year. Mr. Lannon was a great help in promoting the Americanism Essay Contest within the district.

**Sebastian Lodge 2714**

The Lodge and the ELDOEs held their joint Installation of Officers on March 28 with more than 100 members in attendance. Charles DeLauder was installed as ER, and Mary DeLauder was installed as the ELDOE’s President for a second term.

**West St. Lucie 2823**

ER Dorothy McElaney and Secretary Nancy Burchall attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Gregory Fox, at which time the Lodge was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for their donation of $500 for sponsoring him in this project.
National Hoop Shoot

I questioned, “Why is it that we have never attended a National Hoop Shoot?”

This question was asked one evening on our way to dinner. We were visiting my father-in-law, in Springfield, MA. My husband and father-in-law just looked at me! Needless to say, upon returning to Florida arrangements were made to attend the National Hoop Shoot Contest in April.

The 72 young girls and boys from around the country traveled with their parents and siblings to Springfield. Many of these kids are from rural areas and a trip to Springfield was going to the “big city”!

Friday evening we were all invited to an Elks only tour of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is the only fraternal organization to have their own wall of fame in a Hall of Fame.

After touring the facility, the kids lined up to shoot baskets, in the Hall of Fame, how cool is that! Early Saturday morning we traveled to Western New England College for the competition. We were excited because Florida had two shooters, Amada Portal from Miami Lodge 948 and Michelle Martin from Holiday Isles Lodge 1912. Both gave their all and did Florida proud.

The highlight of the competition came in the afternoon with the boys’ division 12-13 finals. Zeb Alford, of Raleigh, NC, and Brenden Truman of Santa Clara, Utah, both shoot 23 of 25. The shoot-offs had to go to 15, nail biting, so quiet you could hear a pin drop, rounds! Zeb finished with 74 of 75 and Brenden 73 of 75.

All 72 of the participants were awarded plaques as they were honored at a banquet that evening at the Sheraton. Every child was a winner that night.

To be there and take part in something that we as Elks helped to make happen, it feels pretty darn good to be an Elk.

Dunedin-Clearwater Lodge 1525

“So long as there are the Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget.” The Lodge proved this to be true once again. Under the direction of Gary Ritchey, Lodge Veterans Chairman, twenty Elks and guests traveled to Land O’ Lakes to provide a barbecue luncheon for the veterans and staff at Baldmoer Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home. In addition to lunch, the Lodge also presented the Home with 400 pairs of socks!

The Lodge donated $1,000 to San Jose Elementary School. This donation was to allow the school to complete an outside teaching area for the children. The Lodge has sponsored San Jose for many years since the needs of the students far exceed the funding.

Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

On April 22, the Lodge hosted a dinner in honor of the State Soccer Shoot and State Hoop Shoot winners from Holiday Isles. Kaitlet Helton won the girls age 7 and under Soccer Shoot. Michelle Martin won the girls age 12-13 Hoop Shoot, she went on to win the Regional Hoop Shoot and placed 8th at the National Hoop Shoot in Springfield, MA.

The first Cliff Dunaway Kids Fishing Tournament was held on May 9 for kids with disabilities and their families. Approximately 75 children and their families were in attendance. The Lodge gave rods and reels to each child for a fun filled day of fishing from the docks and seaways.

Shrine clowns, along with Scooby Doo, Sponge Bob Square Pants, Mickey and Minnie Mouse were all present to entertain the children. The Madeira Beach Fire Department educated everyone about their truck.

Not to be out done, the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Department had two motorcycles on display for the children to sit on and ask questions of the patrolmen. A picnic lunch of hotdogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings was enjoyed by everyone.

At the FSEA State Convention, Holiday Isles PER Bob Pitney was installed as West Central District Vice President. After the installation, Bob and his wife Joanie were honored at a reception in the Lodge’s hospitality room.

In other news of the convention, two Lodge members received awards. Leslie Paulauskas placed second in the state for membership recruitment. Leslie sponsored 23 new members for the 2008-2009 year. Barbara Fournier received a Leadership award for her fund raising work for the Elks National Foundation.

The Lodge was awarded a $500 gratitude grant from the Elks National Foundation thanks to the efforts of Barbara. In furthering the Lodge’s continuing support of our veterans, a portion of the grant funds were used for a picnic style luncheon at Bay Pines VA Center. Lodge members served hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, chips and watermelon to 125 veterans and staff. The Lodge also provides dinners for 20 veterans twice a month.

Largo Lodge 2159

On May 16, the Lodge presented the Students of the Month their awards at the annual student banquet. Approximately 100 were in attendance as the Students of the Year and scholarship recipients were announced. They were Anja Lean Cole and Angela Del Prete from Clearwater central Catholic, Kristen Ebert and Daniel Hauser from Largo High. Each student was awarded a $2,000 scholarship. Also in attendance, and speaker for the event, was former scholarship winner David Herrington.

At the state convention in Orlando, Largo Elks accepted two honors for the year. The first for Youth Activities, and the second for the annual Flag Program. The Madeira Beach Fire Department had two motorcycles on display for the children to sit on and ask questions of the patrolmen. A picnic lunch of hotdogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings was enjoyed by everyone.

The Lodge was awarded a $500 gratitude grant from the Elks National Foundation thanks to the efforts of Barbara. In furthering the Lodge’s continuing support of our veterans, a portion of the grant funds were used for a picnic style luncheon at Bay Pines VA Center. Lodge members served hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, chips and watermelon to 125 veterans and staff. The Lodge also provides dinners for 20 veterans twice a month.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

Lodge member Charles Salavaggio was honored recently for instituting the Veterans Program at the Lodge. Charles along with fellow Elks provide patients a the Veteran’s Affairs Clinic in New Port Richey with coffee, donuts and personal care items such as shampoo and socks.

Members of the Lodge presented $500 to Pasco Safety Town. Safety Town is a child-sized town designed to provide hands on safety education for children ages 5-8.

A check for $500 was also presented to the Volunteer Way, a non-profit organization that distributes food and personal items to low-income people, soup kitchens and food pantries. The New Port Richey Elks support many programs to better the community and demonstrate their motto “Elks Care-Elks Share”!

Pinellas Park Lodge 2217

The Lodge honored Mothers Day with a ceremony and dinner. All Moms attending the ceremony received a complimentary ham dinner.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

At a recent Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, Tom Coleman was presented with “The President’s Call to Service Award”. This was established by President George W. Bush and continued by President Obama. The award honors those who have completed 4,000 or more hours of volunteer service. A second award was presented on May 13; VA’s National Leadership Award was presented by Mr. Wallace M. Hopkins, Director of Bay Pines Health Care System. Tom has served as the Grand Lodge Representative to Bay Pines Health Care System for over eight years. His time and dedication to our veterans goes above and beyond being a “volunteer”. Tom and Delores are wished “happy retirement”!

The Lodge continues to host veterans from Bay Pines for dinner twice a month. They also donate personal care items and gently used clothing.

St. Petersburg Lodge won Ritual Opening & Closing for the West Central District. Toni Goodrich won the District’s Eleven O’clock Toast Award. She represented the District at the State Convention in Orlando. Thank s goes to all of you. There are no losers in Ritual!

Congratulations to the Lodge on placing first in the Scrapbook Contest.

Seminole Lodge 2519

On Mother’s Day the Lodge honored all Mothers with an Elks Ceremony and luncheon. Traditional red and white carnations were given to all in attendance. Following the ceremony the Mothers were honored with plants for the most children, the most grandchildren and youngest grandmother.

The City of Seminole Mayor Jimmy Johnson was among the dignitaries honoring the students at the annual Student Banquet this year. Students from Seminole and Osceola High Schools, along with parents, siblings, teachers, and Elks gathered for dinner. Approximately 140 were in attendance for speeches, words of wisdom and accomplishments were recognized.

Mike Pierson, PDDG/ER chaired the Lodge’s Flag Day program with Dave Rabbit, PER giving the history of our flag. As the flags were presented, Seminole’s Choir harmonized in their singing of various patriotic songs accompanied by Becky Pierson on keyboards.

Tampa Lodge 708

Athena House is Tampa Lodge #708’s ENF-Funded project to benefit homeless female veterans and their children. The residents were once again treated to a great picnic cook out of hamburgers and hot dogs. For Armed Forces Day, a beautiful stars and stripes cake was delivered to the house.

The Intent on Helping the Homeless Committee recently held a Vagabond Festival! Clothing, food and monies from this very successful event totaled more than $4,600 in donations.

The drug awareness committee, chaired by Linda Reid, had a fundraiser in the form of Murder Mystery Dinner. Approximately 140 people supported this spectacular event raising over $2,000 for Drug Awareness.

Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719

The Lodge hosted a scholarship dinner, under the direction of Chairman Bill Lang, PER, for students from Tarpon Springs High School. Five students were each awarded a $750 scholarship.
MEMORIAM

The Southwest Central District and Florida Elksdom lost one of it’s best when Larry Copperman, PDD, passed away Monday morning, July 27. He has been fighting a debilitating lung illness for more than five years.

Larry was Lakeland Lodge 1291 Exalted Ruler in 1996-1997. Larry progressed on and was Vice President of the Southwest Central District 2000-2001, and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler the next year. Larry served on the Florida Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors in 1998-1999.

Larry is survived by his wife, Jo Ann, and will be missed by all those who knew him and his tireless efforts at making Elksdom better as his major pursuit.

Sebring Lodge 1529

Here is a very good and very true motto for a Lodge, penned by Exalted Ruler Carl Rochelle. “You Only Get Out of What You Put Into Your Lodge!” He states that if each member only put in four hours of their time each month, there would be enough jobs to go around.

The Lodge hosted the Southwest Central District Deputy Clinic on April 18.

Back in February, Pizzanos Pizza gave the Lodge a substantial volume discount so they could buy 55 pizzas to throw a party for the volunteers in the Lodge. Thanks go to Pizzanos Pizza.

End of the year awards went to Carl Rochelle for Officer of the Year; Joel Wheelock for Outstanding Service Award; and Ken Wheelock received Citizen of the Year.

Sebring Elks in partnership with South Florida Community College established an endowment fund for local scholarships and recently presented SFCC a check for $2,000. The first recipient was Kristel Jewell in 2008.

\[ \text{Elk Riders USA} \] is just getting started in Sebring Lodge but already has 11 members who enjoy riding their bikes to other Elks Lodges.

Sebring Elks enjoyed a day at the races. Prior to the actual running of the Kentucky Derby on Saturday, May 2, Sebring Elks enjoyed an afternoon of racing at the Lodge.

Sebring Lodge was one of the sponsors for the 10th Annual Special STARS Softball Classic held at the Sebring Softball Sports Complex on April 25. Jim Mason, Past Exalted Ruler, threw out the first pitch for the game featuring Mc Phail’s Auto Sales vs. Beef O’ Brady. There were eight teams, two of which were from Fort Lauderdale. According to Cindy Marshall from STARS, “this event is the major fundraiser for the more than twelve sports and six recreational activities provided throughout the year for more than 250 children and adults in Highlands County who are physically and mentally disabled.

\text{Lake Placid Lodge 2661}

Due to doctor’s orders, Exalted Ruler Joanne Croniser had to resign from her position in early May. PDD John Holbrook was sworn in at the second meeting in May. He served as the Exalted Ruler 22 years ago.

The Ladies Bingo Snack Bar netted twice the amount noted in the last edition, $3,238, which was divided equally to the Florida Elks Youth Camp and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. The snack bar is chaired by Donna Leonard.

The Ladies provided eighteen Easter baskets to children and eight food baskets with hams to needy families in the area.

Memorial Day was chaired by Charles and Suzanne Kruger and had more than 200 in attendance. There were several patriotic speakers and songs.

The Highlands County bloodmobile continues to benefit by coming to the Lodge every 56 days and collecting an average of 24 units each trip. Paul Glanzel is the Blood Drive Chairman.

\text{Lake Wales Lodge 1974}

“No whine in 09” is the Lodge motto of repeat Exalted Ruler Chip Seay. Many improvements have been made to the Lodge including new exterior renovations, and interior changes all received a new paint job.

Scores of children from birth to ten enjoyed the Lodge’s Easter Egg Hunt on April 11 with prizes and pizzas.

Lake Wales Lodge gave $1,000 scholarships to Desiree Pellerin of Frostproof High School and also to Kevin Shields and Gavin Ward of Lake Wales High School. The fundraiser was the Sunday afternoon Elk Races and chaired by Joan Lester and assisted by Linda Dohckian and Gerrie Porto.

\text{Plant City Lodge 1727}

Jerry Yates takes the helm again as Exalted Ruler asking the members to “Kick it up a notch” in continuing the movement and great work that was done and accomplished last year: interior painting and expanding of the back deck by volunteers and donations.

Essay winner awards were presented to Olivia Dwyer, Jordan Lattimore, Brianna Hostutler, Michaela Knox, Hannah Tredway, and Lyndi Hopkins.

Plant City’s scholarship winners are Chelsea Hall and Matthew Lenhart. Chelsea has a 5.4 GPA and will study Communications and Public Relations at the University of Florida and Florida Southern College. Matthew has a 4.4 GPA and will study Business at the University of South Florida and University of Tampa.

Many from the Lodge attended the Army of Hope picnic held at the Brandon Lodge on June 13; thankfully with the heat it was held inside.

On the next weekend Plant City Lodge held its huge and very successful fundraiser: the Las Vegas Casino Night.

\text{Winter Haven Lodge 1672}

The second Annual Brotherhood Ride was held on July 1 with some 50-60 riders and crews again visiting the Winter Haven Lodge. This year fallen Officer Andrew Wideman of Fort Myers Police Department was honored. Last year the Lodge hosted dozens of riders who were DNS, policemen, and firemen and their crews as they honored seven firemen who perished in a fire in Charleston.

The Lodge has voted to honor Ron Nixon by naming the scholarships the Lodge gives in his name. Ron was a great worker and many loved him; the scholarship fund is made possible by individual donations from Lodge members.

\text{Wauchula Lodge 1700}

On March 23, 2009, Wauchula Elks Lodge presented a check of $1,400 to Mari-anne Pakovitch that was raised from a BIN- GO charity event benefiting Relay for Life. The bingo event had over sixty participants.

\text{Arcadia Lodge 1524}

Exalted Ruler Jackie Tucker was proud to accept a First Place award for the Lodge Scrapbook which displayed the numerous events the Lodge had during the past year at the recent State Convention.

PDD Bob Gill, Tiler Chad Jones, Secretary Christine Crider, and Exalted Ruler Tom Crider from Wauchula Lodge visited with Arcadia during the Flag Day Ceremony. Cub Scout Pack 39, Boy Scout Troop 39, and Venturing Crew #9 and their leader assisted in the presentation of the flags history.

\text{Brandon Lodge 2383}

The Brandon Elks Lodge held its annual youth awards banquet on Sunday, May 3, 2009 at the Lodge. The Lodge Scholarship Chairperson, Kim Martinez, PER presented two $1,000 scholarships and four $500 scholarships to local high school seniors. Eileen Subko, Past Lady President of the Ladies of Elks, presented four $1,000 scholarships to high school seniors from the Ladies of Elks organization. Marvin Lopez, Brandon Elks Youth Activities Chairman, presented eight $50 savings bonds to the Teenagers of the Month recognized throughout the school year. Marvin also presented a $100 savings bond to the Lodge Teenager of the Year.

Brandon Lodge held its 6th Annual “Hooked on Fishing not Drugs” event on May 16, 2009 on property owned by Mr. Douglas A. Holmberg.

There were 116 children, ages 3 to 13, from the Valrico Brandon area who participated in the event. There were a total of 217 fish caught. Following the event a cookout was held with hot dogs and hamburgers provided by the Elks, along with pizza and bottled water donated by local businesses. Elks Drug Awareness information and a t-shirt were provided to each participant. Prizes were awarded for the most fish caught and the largest fish caught overall and in each age category. Winners in each category selected prizes from the prize table which contained fishing rods and reels, footballs, basketballs, a skateboard, and other sporting equipment.

Pictured from left are Jessie & Bonnie James, devout Bingo volunteers; Marianne Pakovitch; and Tom Crider, Exalted Ruler of Wauchula Elks Lodge, also the bingo caller.

Fund total for the year end was a fabulous $17,5374 per-capita ($6173.17 total collected), 3rd in the district out of nine Lodges.
Aripeka Lodge 2520

The Aripeka Lodge has donated $9,000 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund for the Youth Camp and Therapy Services. The check was given to the Florida State Elks Association President by PER Wayne Getz. Also the Ladies Auxiliary has donated over $6,400 to various charities.

Frieda Deane, Veterans’ Services Chairperson, and volunteers entertained twelve veterans from Baldomero Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home at the Lodge with a fine lunch and music provided by Annie. Approximately sixty attended. Dave Taylor, Chairman for the Blood Drive and the Florida Blood Services collected eighteen pints of blood from members and others. Aripeka Lodge with the assistance of the Elks National Foundation sent fourteen children to the Youth Camp in Umatilla for a week of fun. Exalted Ruler Jack Rees and the other officers honored our mothers with a lovely Mother’s Day Service. Central District Vice President, Mary Ford, read a beautiful tribute to the mothers which was followed by dinner.

Aripeka Lodge won first place for “Best Interlodge Visitation of Lodges” with over 1,500 members and for “Opening and Closing.” The Lodge Ritual Team finished fourth overall in the state competition. John Nejedlo, PER, Youth Program Chairman, presented scholarships of $500 each to four young men from Hudson High School and the Ladies Auxiliary presented $500 scholarships to four young ladies.

On Memorial Day, Aripeka Lodge along with VFW Post 4412, Vietnam Veterans of America 1003, and Grace Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home honored those men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country with an outstanding program. Afterwards all returned to the Lodge for lunch; approximately 125 attended. Aripeka Lodge was also honored with two plaques from Grand Lodge Public Relations – Area 3 regarding two public relations articles: “Focus on the Community” and a newspaper article titled “Elks Special Need, Special Party at the Lodge.”

Aripeka Lodge celebrated Flag Day with the veterans at Baldomero Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home. Seventy-two veterans and Elks were present and all were served apple pie and ice cream.

Brooksville Lodge 2582

Brooksville Lodge held their Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner where they honored two high school seniors from Springstead High School and Nature Coast with $1,000 each. The Turnaround Achievement Awards Program was hosted by the Brooksville Lodge in conjunction with the Hernando County Education Foundation, Spring Hill Lanes, and the Hernando County Bowling Assn. Twenty-two students were honored for their various achievements. Exalted Ruler Woods presented each with an Elks pin, a plaque, and a Buccaneer banner.

One of Brooksville Lodge 2582’s many charities is their work with ARC, an organization for adults with disabilities; 375 members were served dinner recently. This function is done once a month for ARC.

On May 10 Brooksville Lodge presented a Mother’s Day Ritual; all women present received pink carnations followed by a dinner and entertainment.

Brooksville Lodge 2582 won for the third time in four years First Place in Category 4 (701 to 1100 members) for their monthly bulletin; congratulations go to Editor, Hazel Grover. They held their Flag Day Ceremony on June 14.

Exalted Ruler Bill Woods had the honor of placing an Elks membership lapel pin on his 93 year old mother, Virginia Wood. Mrs. Wood was one of seven who became members that night. “Ginny” as she is known is a very active lady and enjoys the Lodge.

Kissimmee Lodge 1873

Kissimmee Lodge held its annual Mother’s Day Ritual and Champagne Brunch. On June 14 the Lodge held its Flag Day Ritual. Richard Hiemenz, Exalted Ruler, stated that Nancy Wanke, Youth Activities Chairperson, will start a new project this year. The Lodge will purchase student dictionaries and give them to every third grader in the school. The goal as Elks is to make a positive difference in the lives of others and this is the start of what may be an annual project for every elementary school in their area.

West Citrus Lodge 2693

West Citrus held its annual Scholarship Awards Program on May 15 wherein four students were given $500 each, followed by a buffet dinner. On May 10 a Mother’s Day Ritual was held and was very well attended.

Every woman received a carnation. At the May 16 Lodge meeting, Exalted Ruler Grover Keeney presented Honorary Life Member and Charter Member, Charles Hinkle, with an Elks Pin for sixty years as an Elk.

The Flag Day ceremony was nicely attended. The Nature Coast Young Marines were the flag bearers. A light lunch was served to all present. On June 21 all the dads were honored with a fantastic breakfast.

Zephyrhills Lodge 2731

Exalted Ruler Alice Perry-Knapp along with Est. Leading Knight, Mary Crozier, presented Captain Ralph Velez with a check for $2,000. This money is for supplies, equipment, and community activities and training for the Zephyrhills Fire Cadets.

On May 16, 2009, the 22nd Anniversary of Zephyrhills Lodge honored its 47 Life members, including their Honorary Life Member. Nineteen Life members attended the dinner/dance. Presents were given to three of the members who are Steve Mickelson, 54 years; Tony Parmentier, 53 years; and Don Gay, Honorary Life Member.

Youth Activities Chairman, Phil Dahlinger, presented a scholarship to a Pasco High School student at the school’s award ceremony. A second scholarship was awarded to a Zephyrhills High School senior who received a $4,000 award payable at $1,000 annually. PER Robert Hatfield, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, stated that eight other students who applied for scholarships but did not win one were awarded gift cards by the Lodge.

Reinvented daffenitions

The Washington Post’s Style Invitational asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing a letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some recent winners:

Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author and the reader

Glibido: All talk and no action.

East Central District Continued from page 11

Sanford Lodge 1241

Review and earned the rank of Eagle earlier than any other Scout before him with (44) merit badges; he is currently the Troop Guide, having served as Senior Patrol Leader for a year. Terry is working on his 5th Eagle Palm and is a member of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting’s National Honor Society.

Titusville Lodge 2113

Daniel Rowe from Titusville Lodge won the 10-11 year old Regional Hoop Shoot and trophy. He went on to the state competition and won first place in his division and high score which earned him and his parents a trip to our State Convention in May. Daniel also took on the competition in Valdosta, Georgia.

The Ladies Auxiliary held a luncheon in April to honor the dedicated volunteers who deliver Meals on Wheels to homebound citizens in the community. In May, the Ladies donated $200 to the Sanford Sharing Center.

Each month, Jim Harnish, Veterans’ Services Chairperson, writes detailed articles on VA Programs and government and healthcare issues that are available to Titusville Lodge veterans. The Lodge appreciates all his hard work and dedication to our veterans.

A Mother’s Day breakfast was celebrated at the Lodge on Sunday, May 10 and the Ladies Auxiliary had a Father’s Day dinner/dance on Saturday, June 20. Admission to the event was donated items for our veterans, injured soldiers, and returning soldiers made through local VA Nursing Home Care Units.

Gilad: The gulf between the author and the reader

Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease.

Hipatitis: Terminal coolness.

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author and the reader

Glibido: All talk and no action.
Lake City Lodge 893  
Lake City Lodge kicked off its new Lodge year with officer installation on April 4. An awards banquet followed with the band, Southern Justice, playing for the listening pleasure of those attending. The Lodge was pleased to end its prior year with a positive growth in membership. The Lodge is also pleased to receive the district’s first place award for the best opening and closing ritual.

Tom Elmore, PSP-PGELDGK, acting Exalted Ruler, holds the American flag during the Lake City Flag Day ceremony.

A donation of $2,000 was made by Lake City Lodge to Columbia County High School basketball team to help defray the costs of taking the team and coaches to Embry-Riddle Team Camp this summer. Trey Hosford, Chairman of the Lodge’s Hoop Shoot Committee, is the basketball coach at the high school. Committed to helping youth in the community, Trey involves elementary and middle school students in the Hoop Shoot, garnering 2,000 participants in that event every fall.

PER Tommy Witt presents a $2,000 check to Coach Trey Hosford to help with the cost of sending students to the Embry-Riddle Team Camp.

Easter is always a big event for the Lodge. The Easter Bunny delivered 17,640 colorful Easter eggs and 2,000 drug awareness coloring books to Columbia County elementary schools. The Lodge’s annual golf tournament was held May 16 at the Southern Oaks Country Club and was a resounding success. Big thanks are owed to Bill Brannon for chairing this event. Sixty-eight golfers played, including some FedEx drivers from Jacksonville, and there were 37 hole sponsors.

The Lodge and its PER Association voted to purchase two bricks 8” x 8” at the Elks National Home. The home is building a patio and walkway of bricks, and bricks are engraved with your name or a name that is chosen.

The Lodge held its Flag Day celebration at the VA Medical Center on June 12. There were 63 veterans and guests who attended the ceremony. Those attending helped bring wheelchair bound veterans from their rooms to the auditorium. Refreshments were served after the ceremony. The guest speaker was Dennis Roberts, the Third Judicial Circuit Public Defender.

Live Oak Lodge 1165

Live Oak Lodge is pleased to announce its Elk of the Year, Marty Farro, recognizing him especially for his work on scholarships this year. Janet Denton was awarded Officer of the Year for her continued efforts for ENF and working Bingo. The Lodge installed its officers for the current year on March 28 and recognized these two fine Elks for their work at the Lodge.

The Lodge held its annual Mothers’ Day Ceremony on May 10. It was well attended and many look forward to this event. Other events are being planned as the year continues.

Live Oak Lodge celebrated its centennial on June 20. In the next issue, there will be details of the event, but in the meantime, congratulations go to Live Oak on achieving 100 years of Elkdorn!

Mariani Lodge 1516

The Mariani Lodge always begins its Lodge year with receiving applications for scholarships to Chipola College. Scholarships are given to members, spouses, children, stepchildren, or grandchildren of Marianna Elks. If all scholarship money is not awarded, then applications are considered from the general public.

The Lodge is working with local Boy Scout Troop #3 to send care packages overseas. A scout, Jack de Brauwere, is working on his Eagle Scout project and is coordinating a community effort to send care packages to our troops. The Lodge is helping by soliciting donations of products to mail as well as donations for shipping costs. Local vendors have provided collection points for food and supplies, and a local bank has set up an account for cash donations.

The Ladies organization hosted its 24th Annual Beauty Pageant at a local high school and raised about $2,500 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Another annual event, the golf tournament, was held May 15 at Indian Springs, which began with lunch, and golf followed. The tournament was a great success this year, and thanks have been expressed to all who helped.

Other events set in June included Flag Day, Fathers’ Day, and a low country boil on the 18th. The Family Outing Day at the Lodge was held on July 4.

Perry Lodge 1851

The Perry Lodge was excited and pleased to award two $500 scholarships to Tiffany Mock and Ella Hartsfield, both high school seniors. PDD Roscoe Sheffield attended the high school event where the scholarships were announced from the Perry Lodge. Efforts have been made to improve the club and dining room operation. A new offering is a $5 dinner on meeting night provided to those attending the Lodge meeting. The menu is chef’s choice but always is a tasty meal at an affordable price. It’s just one more thing that the Lodge does for its members and serves as an enticement to bring members to the Lodge.

The Lodge is grateful to pool tournament participants who enjoy the weekly game and raise a few bucks for one of the Lodge’s community charities, the Gretchen Everhart School. Support from the Lodge is also provided to the Refuge House, a local organization that assists women who need housing in a time of need.
West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

As with all Lodges, the summer doldrums have set in as many members have gone North for the summer months. The Lodge Activities Committee is trying to get some new things going to help bring in members. They will be having a Texas Hold’em Night every Tuesday. Also being introduced is Ballroom Dancing Lessons followed by two hours of dancing. There will be professional dancers there for the lessons and follow up.

Member Ed Waldron donated a Wii system for our big screen TV and everyone is having a ball trying out their skills in tennis, baseball, golf, and especially bowling. There is even talk of forming teams.

The Lodge held its Flag Day Ritual on June 14. The Americanism Committee and Flag Day Committee worked hand in hand to put on a great program. The highlight of the day was having eleven wheelchair veterans from the West Palm Beach Veterans Hospital join Lodge members for the ceremony. After the ritual, the Lodge hosted a picnic (inside) for all to enjoy. Thanks go to all those who helped put on such a grand affair.

Leading Knight Patti Phillips planned a fantastic July 4th Party while ER Jerry Marenga was in Portland at the National Convention. Joining him were DD designate Les Szirbik and his wife, Kathy. Les was sworn in during the convention.

Clewiston Lodge 1853

ER David Robinson attended the State Elks Convention in Orlando. The Lodge was very proud of PDD Gary Breakfield who did a marvelous job singing at the Memorial Service at the State Convention. This service honored all the deceased members from last year. If you haven’t attended one of these services and you get an opportunity, do so.

Two very wonderful young ladies represented the Lodge in the Most Valuable Student Scholarship Program. They were Taylor R. Lucas and Chelsea A. Ramos. They each won a $1,000 scholarship a year for the four years they remain in college.

Belle Glade-Pahokee Lodge 1716

Would you believe Kenny Usher was elected as ER for the fourth time? Since he retired, he has all the time on his hands to do the job or he is just a glutton for punishment; he is also a volunteer bartender!! We’re sure Diane is overjoyed! They wish you well Kenny, but remember, PER DOES NOT mean Permanent Exalted Ruler.

The new District Vice President, Sonny Willis, was at the State Convention also. He had the task of taking over all the “goodies” from the Hospitality Room from Les Szirbik, as he now is responsible for seeing that the room stays active during Quarterly meetings.

Jupiter Lodge 2469

The Lodge has had to do some reorganizing recently. PDD Ernie Basil has taken over as the Exalted Ruler and PDD Paul Mozziocci has become the new Treasurer. We know these two great Elks will get the Lodge back on its feet.

If you see the Mozzioccis and Battises walking around with wide grins on their faces, it is because Paul is now a PDD and Bob no longer has to be by his side at every beckoning minute. This reporter would like to commend them both for a job very well done, and let’s not forget the forces pushing them from behind, Mary and Roberta.

Gainesville Lodge 990

Gainesville Lodge 990, with the assistance of Grand Lodge, hosted a musical group, the Recreations, to provide a song and dance show to the Veterans at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida.

In May, children enjoyed the annual fishing tournament at the Lodge. The Lodge is the site of a coldwater spring that feeds what use to be the public swimming hole many years ago, and is now populated with fish for the annual tournament by the Elks.

Their Flag Day ceremony was held with Leading Knight Becky Spence reciting a poem, then all Veterans present came before the alter and were presented with a pin representing their branch of service.

Lastly, their quarterly BBQ in June turned out to be one of their best yet, with half of all profits supporting the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Green Cove Lodge 221

Eighty Elks and guests were in attendance during their Flag Day Ceremony June 14th. The memory of Army Spc. Tyler McCormick, killed in action in Iraq, was honored. State Vice President At Large, Jim Hurst presented the Elks Grand Lodge Medal of Valor to Daniel McCormick, Tyler’s brother, to honor this Jacksonville family.

Also recognized at the ceremony were members of the Northeast Florida Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors. Matt Bolan presented the 2009 Police Officer of the Year award.

Guest speaker Navy Cmdr. Mark C. Scott, Deputy Operations Officer for NAS/JAX, gave a stirring address about what the national colors mean to the many thousands of American Citizens who serve in harm’s way throughout the world, and highlighted the role the Elks have played historically in making Flag Day an annual national observance.

Scott was honored with a plaque of appreciation by Northeast District Vice President John Markiewicz.

A 57 year member, John Simko, celebrated his 85th birthday at the Lodge. John and his wife, Doralee, agreed to match the dollar amount of the Friday night dinner receipts as a contribution to Florida Elks Children’s Therapy, which resulted in over $400 for the children. Happy Birthday John and thank you both for exemplifying the cardinal principle of Charity.

Jim Hurst, FSEA VPAL and John Markiewicz, NED VP attended the City of Jacksonville Memorial Day Ceremony at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Wall (third largest Veterans Memorial Wall in the United States) on May 25th, for the presentation of a wreath by ER Eva Sumrall and Lodge Veterans’ Chair Paul Markiewicz.

Orange Park Lodge 2605

Orange Park Lodge 2605 held a Veterans Resource Fair in April at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds, assisting Veterans who face social and economic problems upon returning home from abroad. PERs, Lady of Elk, and members fed 450 lunch meals, purchased and distributing socks and underwear, handed out flags, pencils, pens, bumper stickers and pamphlets.

They gathered to celebrate Flag Day in June with 30 members in attendance for a formal service. Following the service, Lodge members retired almost 300 flags during a Flag Burning ceremony.

Palatka Lodge 1232

The Lodge facility was constructed over 80 years ago and the Lodge membership will celebrate their 100 year anniversary in 2011. In an effort to continue providing the charitable contributions Palatka Lodge is known for, their latest endeavors are fundraising activities to put a new roof on the ole girl. To that end, they held a “Raise the Roof” Golf Tournament with 97 players and numerous sponsors, raising over $10,000.

Palatka Lodge 1232 presented its annual tribute to our nation’s flag in a moving ceremony attended by more than one hundred members and guests. A salute to the tremendous resolve of all Americans since the infamous September 11th attacks on our way of life was presented via video by Deb Cooper, the wife of Trustee Bruce Cooper.

Of special significance during the evening’s festivities was the presentation of the Palatka Lodge’s annual Civic Betterment Awards. The award, presented in each of the last 30 years, recognizes individuals and groups who have made Putnam County a better place to live. This year’s honorors were members of the various Future Farmers of America Chapters in the Lodge’s home county. Twenty-six young men and women were awarded the prestigious honor and one, Ms. Theresa Goddard, was presented a $1,000 scholarship by the Lodge.

St. Augustine Lodge 829

St. Augustine Lodge 829 held a combined Flag Day and Army of Hope celebration on Saturday, June 13, 2009. Two thousand dollars was raised for the Florida State Elks Associations Army of Hope Charity.

There were approximately 100 Elks and members of the local VFW and Marine Corps League present. Attending were members of the Brian Tutten Memorial VFW Post 2391 Honor Guard.
South Southeast District Celebration

The South Southeast District held their Army of Hope Picnic Celebration at the Pompano Beach Elks Lodge 1898 under date of 6/13/09. The district was very well represented by numerous dignitaries, officers and members from each lodge. The fellowship and camaraderie made helping others even that more enjoyable. State President Vincent Como and his lovely wife Liselda were among the very many visitors and guests in attendance. The monies raised from the proceeds of this event will be sent to the Army of Hope so that we can continue assisting those military families in need. A special thanks goes out to Pompano Beach Lodge for hosting this wonderful event and to Sal Grilli, PER, Hollywood West Lodge for chairing the Army of Hope Picnic Committee.

Pompano Beach Lodge, 1898

The Army of Hope picnic was held at Pompano Beach Lodge on June 13.

Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services Therapists Teri Stocking, Liliana Vasquez and Diane Corson attending the picnic at Pompano Beach get their picture taken with State President Vince Como.

Hollywood West Lodge 2365

Hollywood West Elks have always been very busy with charity work, and this period was no different. Thanks to donations from Lodge members, three bags of men’s clothing, fourteen sport coats, three cases of candy, a box of magazines, and fifteen new baseball caps were donated to Sandy Nininger State Veterans’ Nursing Home. Also donated was a bag of new stuffed animals for their bingo prizes.

Besides being busy with veterans, Lodge members donated forty pairs of eyeglasses and cases to the Broward County Lighthouse for the Blind.

The Susan B. Anthony Home benefited from donations also. Five cases of candy and plastic Easter Eggs were donated for the children’s egg hunt.

Two bags of newer clothing, two boxes of paperback books, and fifty cell phones were delivered for Women/Children in Distress to use. Also donated was forty pounds of pop tops to the Broward County Ronald McDonald House.

In February, the Lodge held a Barbecue Party, chaired by PER Brad Lewis, for BARC (Broward Association Retarded Citizens.) The residents enjoyed plenty of good food and had fun dancing to the different kinds of music.

Hollywood West Lodge presented a check for $250 to the South Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America “Friends of Scouting Campaign.” This campaign is the single largest source of income in providing Scouting’s character development programs to over $8,000 youth in South Florida. The Lodge continues to support scouting and shares many of the same values and beliefs as the Boy Scouts of America program. Accepting were the “Order of the Arrow Scouts” that meets each month at the Hollywood West Lodge.

Delray Beach Lodge 1770

Terye Sununu hosted about 80 people at the 2nd Annual Cancer Awareness Luncheon for the Delray Beach Elks. Guest speaker Dr. Thomas Niederman spoke regarding the early detections of colon cancer. Over $1,200 in proceeds from this event went to the Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance, co-founded by Katie Couric.

The PER’s of Delray Beach Lodge donated $600 to help three charities, Our Lady Queen of Peace, The Soup Kitchen & AVDA.

Tony Capparelli, PER, Lodge and District Veteran’s Services Chairman, Emeritus, has done it again. Tony collected 240 dozen (new) golf balls and a five sets of new golf clubs, and arranged to have them shipped to the troops in Iraq.

Along with Brian Coleman of Golf Supports Our Troops, the duo sent golf training and exercise equipment to VA Hospitals and to the men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tony received a special award, a few years ago, from President Clinton, and another from President Bush, for his devotion and dedication to serving our veterans. Tony has been involved with veteran’s affairs as long as he’s been an Elk. Tony is a Navy veteran.

South District

Reporter, Glenn Tekerman

Miami Lodge 948

pre-meeting dinner on Wednesday, June 10, ER Bill Henerson honored Hoop Shoot National Finalist (10-11 Girls) Amanda Portal, along with her parents, Eddie and Marla Portal; her school’s Physical Education Teacher, Larry DeSario; and his wife, Debbie. Before the Lodge meeting he presented her with a plaque honoring her for her second year of qualifying as a National Finalist.

Marathon Lodge 2139

Marathon Lodge held a blood drive in April which was very well attended. The Lodge also hosted a Latin Dance fundraiser in June. The Lodge sent six children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla.

Florida Keys Lodge 1872

Florida Keys Lodge held a Sunset Picnic in May to raise money for Lodge charities. The members and guests watched the sunset over the Gulf of Mexico. Members from several South District Lodges participated in this event.

North Miami Lodge 1835

North Miami Lodge sent over 50 kids to Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla. The Lodge will be holding a ‘PHANTOM Ball’ to help defray the almost $3,000 expense of chartering the bus to transport the kids.

South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676

On Friday night June 19 South Miami / Coral Gables Lodge held a charity fund raising dinner. Guests were treated to the listening pleasure of The Elktones, a classic rock band comprised of members from Miami Lodge 948 and South Miami / Coral Gables Lodge 1676.

The Elktones, L to R: PER Jeff Muchfeld, Paul Leach, Bill Walker, and PER Richard White.
The Elks National Veterans Service Commission “Volunteer of the Year” for the State of Florida was awarded to Philip J. Gersbach, PER. Phil has been very active with veterans’ activities at the Fort Myers Lodge for more than eight years. He has been instrumental in local Lodge Activities working with many veterans’ groups, including less fortunate homeless veterans. Phil is shown here with Edward “Ed” Jackson, PVP-NJ, Vice Chairman of the Veterans’ Services Committee, receiving the award.

In addition, three outstanding high school students were awarded scholarships in the amount of $1,000 per year for the next four years.

Englewood Lodge 2378

The Englewood Elks Lodge held their installation of officers and Eileen Der- byshire is their first female ER.

The children’s Easter Egg hunt was held on April 11. Over fifty children enjoyed cookies and ice cream while the ER gave away Easter Baskets and gifts. Gregg Busch, Inner Guard, brought his digital photo booth and pictures were taken of the children with their favorite Easter bunny and baskets.

Englewood Elks PER Association, officers, and spouses presented flowers to female patients in the Englewood Community Hospital and four Englewood area nursing homes on Mother’s Day. The Elks scholarships were presented to the recipients at Baccalaureate night. The recipients were Brandon Wright, Mason Gardberg, Katherine Newton, and Lyndon Engemann. The scholarships were awarded by both the Elks Lodge and B.P.O. Does #203. The following day a lunch was held in their honor at the Lodge. On Saturday, June 6, the Belmont Stakes Party was held in the Lounge. A 37” Toshiba Digital LCD-HD TV raffle was drawn. The winner was Robert Benting of Sagamore, MA.

Flag Day on June 14 was held with the help of the B.P.O. Does #203 and the Coast Guard Flotilla #87. Elk of the Year, Judy Abbott, gave the history of the flag. She is also a Past Commander to the Flotilla.

Lehigh Acres Lodge 2602

Sadly the L.O.E.s were unable to fill two critical vacant offices – President and Secretary. They have thus voted to disband. Chartered in February of 1980, the L.O.E.s have given 29 years of service to the Lodge.

On April 16, a GOODBYE Dinner was held honoring the Past President and the Lady of the Year.

Thank you Ladies for all that you have done.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

Early every Tuesday morning, members of the North Fort Myers Elks Lodge are busy getting ready for a weekly event. On that day, members of the Veterans’ Services Committee feed local homeless individuals and provide them with basics that improve their quality of life.

The award-winning Veterans Outreach Program has been recognized as one of the best in the country by the Elks organization. It is also a model for other Lodges and organizations across the U.S., Veterans Administration officials said.

“We started about ten years ago with about three people at the Greek Monastery who used to be on Evergreen. Now we have about 22 people on the committee,” said program co-chairman Larry Carie. “It’s basically for veterans but we don’t discriminate.”

“No one gets turned away, man or woman,” added co-chairman Dick Woods. “We do the cooking, the cleaning, and have what we call the Clothing Closet for anyone who needs clothing. Then we have the food pantry and sundries, personal hygiene items along with food.”

“The meals aren’t all the homeless individuals receive,” he continued. There’s also a bicycle program.

“We have pretty good sources for bicycles that are donated and distributed. We also give out backpacks and have given out tents in the past,” said Woods. “Whenever you become homeless, you lose a lot of pride, a lot of self-esteem, so providing that hot meal and other items, and meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas, is giving them self-esteem.”

Funds are raised from Saturday lunches where faithful crowds from the 650-plus membership come in each week to have lunch to support the program. They said that they also get Lodge members giving a $20 bill here and there, and even larger donations, so the program can continue each week.

Committee members start preparing about 7:30 a.m., and then homeless individuals arrive for a hearty luncheon at a spacious outdoor area. Individuals they serve are mainly homeless veterans who also get other services like the clothing and bicycles. All of these things add up to not only providing a meal but provide dignity because of a normalcy and improved quality of life all things together, said Carie.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

Punta Gorda Elks Lodge held its annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner on April 22, 2009. Twenty-three students, parents, teachers and friends from Charlotte High School were on hand for the dinner and presentation of awards totaling $23,600. Scholarship recipient, Jillian True (Picture 4A), spoke for all Charlotte High School award recipients and thanked the Lodge and Lodge Elkettes for the awards and community service.

Punta Gorda Elks Lodge dedicated an Honor Wall during the Army of Hope Picnic. This wall will feature a photo and article of an active duty service member who is related to a member of the Punta Gorda Elks.

Punta Gorda Honor Wall

Chief of Police, Butch Arenal, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Pat Schmidt, Exalted Ruler of Punta Gorda Elks Lodge 2606 in grateful appreciation of continuing support to the Punta Gorda Police Department. Bob Hahn, PER, Drug Awareness Trailer Manager from Punta Gorda Elks Lodge 2606, discussed the Drug Awareness display with students from East Elementary in Punta Gorda.

Packets of drug information were passed out to 95 fourth grade students at their end of year picnic from the Drug Awareness Trailer.

Punta Gorda Elks Lodge held its Annual Drug Awareness Picnic for the Sallie Jones Elementary Fourth Grade Class. This year’s class consisted of 125 students who participated in the Drug Awareness Essay and Poster Contest. The students enjoyed a wonderful day of activity with the bounce house and obstacle course, plus the bean bag toss, twister, and hula hoop contests.

Following a lunch of hot dogs, chips, ice cream, and cookies, awards were presented to the winners of the Essay and Poster contest.
**Bradenton Lodge 1511**

The Bradenton Lodge 1511 PER Association with the help of local favorite, Billy Rice Band, held a charity concert on March 25. Over 200 attended and $1,000 was raised for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

On June 14, Bradenton Lodge 1511 conducted a Flag Retirement ceremony in conjunction with their annual Flag Day Ceremony.

**Lakewood Ranch Lodge 2855**

At the beginning of this year the newest Florida Lodge was instituted and in just this short time frame they have found themselves a home. They will be located at 4908 Lena Road, Ste 104/105, Lakewood Ranch, FL. The construction phase is moving forward and we look forward to them being open soon.

**Manasota Lodge 2734**

Manasota was fortunate the first weekend in June to be the host Lodge for the Southwest District visit of our new FSEA President, Vincent Como; his wife, Lisa; VPAL Jim Hurst; and his wife, Julia, along with other dignitaries from around the state. With Manasota’s own DVP, Carol Sirianni, as the hostess, the President’s Group was greeted at the hospitality room by over 100 Elks and friends. They were chauffeured in style down to Sarasota South 2495 for dinner Friday night. They went to the Southwest Florida Museum to meet “Snooty” the Manatee Saturday before lunch at Sarasota 1519. The visit was finished off with dinner at Manasota Lodge Saturday evening attended by over 150 people.

Manasota Elks held their Annual Elementary School Track Meet and it was a huge success. The kids run to promote health at the elementary schools. Twenty-two Manatee County schools participated with about 580 students. The Track Meet at Braden River High School provides an avenue for physical activity. It’s an annual event that runs with many volunteers. Manasota Elks along with Children’s Therapy Solutions have teamed up to cosponsor this event. The tremendous turnout presented the youngsters a chance to show off their talents in front of a large crowd of about 2,500.

They had the Drug Awareness Trailer on hand to help educate parents and kids on drugs. Handouts help parents talk with their child about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

**Sarasota Lodge 1519**

On Sunday, June 14, the Lodge performed a very impressive Flag Day Ceremony. Officers and members from Lakewood Ranch Lodge 2855 joined with the officers and members of Sarasota 1519 at their Lodge on North Lockwood Ridge Road to honor our country’s emblem.

Riverview High School Junior ROTC Cadets furnished an honor guard to present the various flags during the ceremony. Following the Flag Day Ritual, all in attendance assembled outdoors in front of the Lodge’s flag pole and joined with members of American Legion Post 30 for a Flag Burning ceremony to retire unserviceable American flags. At the conclusion of all the services, a complimentary buffet was served.

**Sarasota South Lodge 2495**

Sarasota South Lodge had a very busy and successful month in June. On the first night of State President Vincent Como’s visit to the Southwest District, he and his entourage visited the Lodge for dinner. He was impressed by their new Tiki Hut, partially financed and completely built by Lodge volunteers.

Flag Day was an emotional day for all who attended. The flags were brought in by the Lodge’s handicapped Boy Scout troop, escorted by members of the VFW. Exalted Ruler Ron Cristofaro gave the history as each flag was presented. Additionally, members attending were extremely impressed by the folding of the flag and the meaning of the folds.

Father’s Day brought a free brunch for all fathers and grandfathers who attended and music for their dancing pleasure after the brunch. The entire affair was put together by the Helping Hands committee of Ladies with the help of a few good men. A reporter from a local newspaper came to take pictures of the event and write a story.

The “Grand Opening” of the Tiki Hut was held on Sunday, June 28 for all of the members to appreciate and acknowledge the hard work and efforts of the Lodge volunteers.

**South Hillsborough 2672**

The South Hillsborough Lodge 2672 enlisted the help of Michael Baez, a member of Boy Scout Troop 661, for their annual Flag Day Ceremony.

**South Hillsborough 2672**

Michael is pictured above as he receives a flag lapel pin from Exalted Ruler Russell D. Sens, Jr. at the conclusion of the event. The scout was impressed with the pageantry and learned the history of the stars and stripes.

This was not Michael’s first visit to the Lodge. South Hillsborough routinely utilizes the Scouts as servers at their special dinner events throughout the year. Each time this occurs, the Lodge makes a donation in support of the Boy Scout Troop. The scouts enjoy these service opportunities and receive lots of attention from the members.

Also on hand for the Lodge’s Flag Day Observance was Tom Dillman, DDGER (Designate).

The Sun City Senior Cloggers made an appearance at the South Hillsborough Lodge of Elks on Friday evening, April 10. The Elks treat a group of about twenty veterans from the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital in Tampa to a fish dinner every second Friday of the month. The dinner is usually coupled with a karaoke show as a weekly event at the Lodge.

This month the vets were saluted with three sets of clogging exhibitions with the final set being a rousing Patriotic Medley. The red, white, and blue costumes that the entertainers wore completed the visual effect which was followed by a standing ovation from the vets and Elks members in attendance. The dance group was formed in November 2000 and is made up of Sun City Center and Kings Point residents between the ages of sixty and eighty plus. J. J. Roberts is the Choreographer and Performance Director. Most people think clogging is a “country” or “mountain - hillbilly” dance, but in fact, a variety of music is used. Riverdance, Polkas, Cajun Rock & Roll, and Gospel are some examples. Vera Sickles is the Chairperson of the Veterans’ Services Committee at the Elks Lodge and coordinated this event with Activities Chairperson Tom Splinter and Clogger Valerie Liotta.
Holly-Navarre Lodge 2787

Holley-Navarre Lodge had one four year $1,000 per year scholarship winner, William W. McCormick who attends Gulf Breeze High School. Twelve high school seniors submitted a Most Valuable Student scholarship application and one senior submitted an application for the Legacy Scholarship. In addition, the Northwest District Elks Lodges received the following Most Valuable Student $1,000 per year scholarships: Milton Lodge - 3, Crestview - 1, Panama City - 1, Twin Cities – 2, and Fort Walton - 1.

Due to the lack of interest in the Fish Fry held on Saturday, the menu is changed to an All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti and Meatballs with salad and garlic bread for $7.00. This will start on May 16 from 5-7 p.m. Also the Saturday menu changes frequently to see if participation improves. Serving hours on Friday nights are 5-6 p.m. On the 1st and 3rd Saturday nights, serving hours are 5-7 p.m.

Destin Lodge 2688

Exalted Ruler Jeff Kidd received an appreciation plaque from the YMCA for the Lodge’s sponsorship of their basketball team.

At the State Convention Jeff also picked up an award for the Lodge, 1st place in Division I (per-capita) for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund 2008-2009 donations. Thanks go to Tom Rogers, the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Committee Chairman, and to the members. Great Job - Well Done!

Destin Lodge has been doing well in other charities in the past few months, having given MDA $360 and Relay for Life $325. This is what we are all about: ELKS CARE - ELKS SHARE.

Fort Walton Beach Lodge 1795

On June 28 a Memorial benefit was held for the three fallen deputies of Okaloosa County. There was a fish fry with the proceeds going to the families of the deputies and the benevolent fund for police of Okaloosa County. This money stays within the county in the event a circumstance of this nature occurs again so there will be money available for the families until donations begin to come in.

Dusty Austin was chosen as Officer of the Year for his dedication in providing entertainment on the weekends and selling the 50/50 tickets which resulted in him being below budget.

Most of the nights there was enough money in 50/50 sales that Dusty did not have to use monies from the Lodge bank account. Speaking of dedication, he scheduled shrimp boils and numerous activities which resulted in a positive cash flow for the Visions 2012 to have some operating money to get started with. Dusty is also the House Committee Chairman. This job requires many hours of work behind the scenes to include inventory, scheduling entertainment, and working with the club manager and the dining manager.

Jerry Andrews was chosen for this award for his Get-R-Done attitude. He has been extremely instrumental in getting the Visions 2012 Committee off to a running start. Jerry spent an unmissed amount of hours planning and supervising the building of the new TIKI bar and purchasing the bar stools and also getting the spoons for the tables on the deck. Jerry’s commitment to membership has proven to be rewarding not only to the Lodge but to others who associate with him. He was instrumental in initiating 24 or more new members this past year. Jerry has surrounded himself with people with the same goals as his and the same “Get-R-Done” attitude.

Last but most importantly, this is your Lodge and thanks go out to all who support it. Without your support there will not be a Lodge.

Warrington Lodge 2108

Tony Cabigting is Officer of the Year. She was initiated into the Order in December of 2001 and became very active immediately. She has served as Chaplain, Inner Guard, Esquire, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, and is currently serving as Esteemed Loyal Knight.

She has completed each year in the State Ritual Competition and won third place Chaplain and the All-State Inner Guard awards. Toni earned the Distinguished Citizenship Award from the Grand Lodge in 2008. In addition to her duties as an Officer she has chaired the Drug Awareness and Children’s Christmas party committees. She also served on the 4th of July/Labor Day picnics, Mother’s Day, and Christmas food baskets for the needy committees. Toni has the reputation for jumping in and filling a job wherever needed and she also has a friendly greeting to everyone she meets.

Crestview Lodge 2624

New Construction, rebuild, whatever you want to call it is going great guns at the new Lodge. If you have not driven to front brick work is almost finished, the outside of the building is painted thanks to Ken Howard, and a good start is going on inside.

The Mother’s Day Program was conducted at the Pavilion and was enjoyed by all. Many thanks go to the Ladies for the fine covered dish and desserts provided by them. Thanks go to Randy Thomas, Gary Johnson, and Ray McKinney who cooked the Boston Butts. This program took the place of the monthly visit to Ryan’s.

The Florida State Elks Association established in 2008 a program called the Army of Hope. The mission of the Army of Hope is to provide aid assistance to the families of deceased, disabled, and deployed members of the military in Florida. The families of Florida active duty Military Reservist, Coast Guard, and National Guard dependents can apply.

The Emerald Coast Honor Flight was a huge success. Thank yous go to Betty Clark, Margaret Stanley, Gene and Lil Rein, and Rich & Deb Buckles for the time spent assisting these WWII heroes in their flight of a lifetime.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

It’s June already. The Kentucky Derby party was a great success. Relay for Life this year is now over with the Elks team coming in a few dollars out of first place. Mother’s Day Brunch is still being talked about. The Dart League had their banquet and will restart in September. Overall the Lodge had a fun and profitable month.

It’s summer and the Entertainment Committee is trying to put together a few fun things to do around the Lodge. Softball, cards, and karaoke with an interactive trivia game are some examples.

Check your calendar for dates and times. As always, the only way these things can succeed is if they have support from the members.

Please continue to keep Donna Dotson and her family in your prayers and also Amy Depew’s Dad.

Remember new Elks, tell your ladies they are welcome to join the group. Isn’t it fun to go to the Lodge? Everyone is having the best time.

Panama City Lodge 1598

The Lodge now enjoys a relationship with the Chautauqua Learn and Serve Charter School. By establishing a connection with the school, conducting a fundraiser on its behalf, and hosting its annual School Gala, the Lodge is known to a community of students and parents who were not previously aware of the Elks.

The Lodge plays host to a new American Legion Post in town. The Paul W. Airey American Legion Post 392 will be conducting monthly meetings at Panama City Lodge while looking for a permanent home of its own.

This relationship will be a source of new members for the Lodge and some Lodge members already associated with an American Legion Post will take an interest in this new Post in their midst.

Kudos go to John Joyner, Max Fretwell, and Ralph Spark for their recent roadside cleanup efforts.

The Lodge congratulates two college bound students, Paige M. Biller and Kayla M. Frost of Panama City Beach. Both have been awarded $4,000 Most Valuable Student scholarships by the Elks National Foundation. Also, it was a pleasure last month to honor essay contest winner, Brian Polter, and members of his family with a dinner at the Lodge.

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins

Awarded March 31, 2009 through July 13, 2009

Paid-in-Full $5,000 Certificate Donors
Patricia Heller-Jackson Daytona Beach #114

Paid-in-Full $1,000 Certificate Donors
Alan R. Mauk, Jr. Margate #2463
Derrick Mills Port Charlotte #2153
Lewis Roberts Wauchula #1700
Marianne Schenkel Punta Gorda #2606

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate
Jane E. Devens North Fort Myers #2742
Marie A. DiRubbio Perry #1851
Robert Fieberts, Sr. Lake Placid #2661
Alice J. Hurd Stuart-Jensen #1870
Charles Scruggs Pensacola Beach #497
Kurt Ullrich Naples #2010
Who We Are...  What We Do...

Florida State Elks Association

Family
Florida Elks Youth Camp

Care Share

A Decade of Therapy!

FLORIDA'S 69,405 ELKS PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO THEIR PATIENTS:

- IN HOME PHYSICAL THERAPY
- IN HOME OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
- IN HOME SPEECH THERAPY
- NEURO-DEVELOPMENTAL TREATMENT
- SENSORY TRAINING

THESE SERVICES FACILITATE NORMAL DEVELOPMENT, STIMULATE LEARNING, IMPROVE MOTORS DEVELOPMENT, AND PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE.

ALL THESE SERVICES ARE ABSOLUTELY FREE!

THE COST OF THESE SERVICES DURING 2009-200 was $60,741,796

INCOME NECESSARY TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES COME FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

- FLORIDA ELKS LADIES ORGANIZATIONS EARNINGS FROM THE FLORIDA ELKS TRUST FUND (HARRY-ANNA TRUST), GENERAL DONATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC, REQUESTS, AND THE ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION.

(Note: No federal or state subsidy)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- BE A RESIDENT OF FLORIDA
- BE BETWEEN BIRTH AND 11 YEARS
- HAVE A CONDITION REQUIRING PT or OT
- HAVE FINANCIAL NEED FOR FREE SERVICES

2009-2010 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- WEEKLY CENSUS OF 332 PATIENTS
- 502 CHILDREN TREATED
- 11,246 TREATMENTS COMPLETED
- 11,447 HOURS OF TREATMENT
- 4,700 HOURS DOCUMENTING TREATMENT
- 732 HOURS SPENT IN CONTINUING EDUCATION
- 236 HOURS SPENT ON MARKETING
- 458,392 MILES TRAVELED TO PATIENTS HOMES

Deadline for the Fall Edition - Sept. 25, 2009

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.