Florida Ladies of Elks Officers

Florida Ladies of Elks Officers for 2010-2011 from left to right: Julie Avers, Historian; Jane Moon, Chaplain; Becky Long, Parliamentarian; Carole Deresh, President; Betty Groff, Vice President; Carol Phelps, Secretary; Judy Reyes, Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP CRISIS
SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS
By C. Valentine Bates, PGER

I hope everyone had a fun-filled and safe summer and that you have returned ready to help solve the many challenges which face our Order and the Florida State Elks Association.

Our number one challenge is stemming the tide of membership loss. If we could just hang on to the members we initiate, we would be in great shape membership-wise. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, we continue to see our membership slipping. Fortunately, Carl Seibert, our multi-talented State Secretary, along with our hardworking Membership Chairman, Don Moon, have teamed up to travel the Districts throughout the state looking for answers. I salute their enthusiasm and dedication for taking on an otherwise thankless task. It is important that we continue to try new ideas and seek workable solutions to this continuing problem.

Please be sure to read Carl’s article elsewhere in this newsletter and join us in our quest to reverse this unacceptable trend.

The Mid-year is just around the corner and we look forward to another productive meeting at the Lake Mary Marriott. This is a great opportunity to get re-invigorated in Elkdom, network with other Elks from around the State, and participate in the business meetings where Florida Elks make decisions which will guide and ensure the success of our two (2) major projects, our scholarship and Veterans Programs, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Army of Hope and the numerous activities we sponsor for those who depend on the Elks of Florida.

I thank you for your dedication, enthusiasm and generous support for all that we do to help so many different people in various sets of unfortunate circumstances. You can be proud of what you have helped build, what you help maintain and what we can do together in the future for so many.

Carol Deresh of the North Ft. Myers Ladies of Elks, lights the candle of her office of President of FLOE after Past President of Florida Lady of Elks, Dolores Casella, had made the installation.
James E. Hurst, FSEA President
“Your Can Count On Us”

Since my last communication with you in the Summer Edition, First Lady Julia and I along with our great traveling companions, VPAL Frank Hayes and Linda, have completed five more State President’s Visitations and the August Quarterly Meeting of course. We continue to be inspired and thoroughly impressed with all the charitable and community oriented programs that so many Lodges are supporting. It is a great honor and privilege to be the recognized leader of so fine an organization and be among dedicated people who are making such noteworthy contributions on behalf of their communities.

The major challenge facing our Association continues to be declining membership. We are still struggling with this issue and it is partly because of current Lodge members failing to renew their membership. While many Lodges are initiating large numbers of new members and thus exceeding the numbers being lost through non-renewal, state wide the loss is serious. Some Elks suggest we should not be alarmed based on the assumption that we are still retaining a core group of hard working and dedicated Elks, and therefore “quality is more important than quantity.” If I could really be assured or convinced that that theory is accurate, there would naturally be less worry and concern. However, I am yet to be convinced this picture is valid. Wisdom presumes in any case, we should refrain from lessening our determination to at least arrest the continued membership decline.

In mid-September, I had the pleasure and interesting experience during our State President’s Visitation to the Northwest District of attending one of the meetings conducted by State Secretary Carl Seibert and State Membership Chairman Don Moen with reference to the membership decline. As I have suggested before, there were practically as many different opinions voiced for that decline as there were people in the room! Therefore, I re-emphasize, this circumstance is what makes it so difficult to find a suitable answer and solution because there is obviously no one “magic bullet” that will address all the legitimate reasons for particularly loss of current members and inability to attract new ones.

I am still convinced that if we make strong efforts to publicize our charitable works thus spreading the perception that our focus is on helping others less fortunate, we will increase our Order’s positive image. This will inevitably lead to stabilizing our membership loss and even promote new members. Other solutions: (1) Make the Lodge a friendly and inviting place to gather and socialize (2) Nurture new members, get them active, and encourage them to sponsor yet other new members. (3) Make concerted efforts to find out why some members drop their membership and address any problems. (4) Minimize the bickering and try to promote harmony even among those with honest differences of opinion always with the reminder that one person seldom has all the answers or speaks with complete wisdom.

I wish to applaud and compliment all the vigorous efforts to raise funds for our Harry-Anna goal of one million dollars. We may not get there, but we are having fun trying. I especially commend the efforts of GER Jim Larsen of Manasota Lodge with the fantastic idea of publicizing for money for every mile he will run New Years Eve, 2010. His goal is to run 24 hours! I have already made a pledge as has VPAL Frank Hayes. He and I challenge others to match or even exceed our promise of $2.00 per mile. Check out this event on the FSEA Website.

Prior to resuming our visitations we had the honor of representing the Association at the Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando in July. Along with hundreds of other Florida Elks we celebrated the installation of PSP Mike Smith as our Grand Exalted Ruler, and wished Sandra and him safe and productive travels around the country as they spread his message.

District Vice President Denise May-Carter and the South Southeast District hosted us July 23-24. Beginning with a warm welcome at the Best Western Deerfield Beach Hotel Friday afternoon our party enjoyed the hospitality of the Delray Beach Lodge that evening. Saturday, after breakfast at the Oakland Park Lodge, we traveled to the East Coast Clinic Meeting at the Pompano Beach Lodge to hear presentations by one of our Physical Therapists and the doctor treating many of the children sponsored by this District. Later we were privileged to join the members of the Boca Raton Lodge celebrating their 50th Anniversary and presented them with a Notice of Recognition on behalf of GER Mike Smith.

Saturday evening the dinner, entertainment, and attendance at the Southwest Broward Lodge was almost beyond adequate description. Julia and I were pleased and immensely proud of all the preparations made on our behalf. August 6-7, we were greeted by District Vice President Bruce Cook and other members of the Southeast District. After arrival at the West Palm Beach Hampton Inn and socializing in the thoroughly prepared Hospitality Room, we traveled to the Jupiter Lodge for further refreshments and dinner. The events included quite humorous entertainment as well as dancing.

After breakfast Saturday morning at the Hotel we proceeded to the Henry Flagler Museum which was of much historical interest and significance. From the Museum we traveled to the West Palm Beach Lodge for a superb lunch before returning to the Hotel.

The Saturday evening event included cocktails, dinner, dancing, Harry-Anna donations and certificates on behalf of Julia and me, and awarding of personal gifts. My remarks that evening stressed the importance of membership and promoting good public relations.

The August Quarterly Meeting held the 21st-22nd at the Youth Camp provided me the opportunity to advise the Past State President’s Advisory Council of my very positive impressions formed during the first four official District visitations and the confidence I have that we will overcome whatever problems beset us currently. It was encouraging and much appreciated when we received over $5,000,000 dollars in Harry-Anna donations at the Major-Projects meeting Saturday.

The visitation to the South District hosted by Vice President Jeff Muehlfield began early as we were invited by PSP Joe Ortiz and Rita to arrive Thursday rather than drive a lengthy distance from Jacksonville Friday. Officially beginning on Friday however we enjoyed the Hospitality Room at the Holiday Inn Express before proceeding to the North Miami Lodge for Joe Ortiz’s famous barbeque ribs. Breakfast at the Hotel was followed by a visit to the Lowe Museum at the University of Miami and we were greatly impressed with the artifacts, paintings, and other materials on display. Arriving at

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A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert

These past few months have been very busy at the State Association as we have immersed ourselves in a campaign to learn everything we can about our accelerating membership losses. Over the past three months our State Director of Membership Development, Don Moon, and I have visited all fourteen districts in our state holding several town hall type meetings in each aimed at obtaining input from our members on why our membership is declining. I am happy to report that our meetings were well attended and well received, and the valuable information we have learned from our members has provided us with a to-do list that will keep us all busy for at least the next ten years! In addition to the hectic travel schedule we imposed upon ourselves, our hardworking office staff was equally as busy performing a statewide mailing to over 5,000 members delinquent in the renewal of their membership. This mailing was designed to express our care and concern for our lapsed members; to remind them of the many things we do as Florida Elks to aid children, veterans, and those less fortunate than ourselves; and to allow them to share with us their reason(s) for not wanting to renew their membership. As a result of these mailings we are getting members who have rethought their decision not to renew and who are renewing their memberships. We are getting responses from members who are sharing with us their reasons for not renewing (often times for financial hardship and health reasons) and we will be using these responses to guide us in a forward thinking evaluation of our organizational culture and practices. Through this outreach to our members we are learning from them new approaches that will go a long way in ensuring a future for our great Order both in Florida and nationwide. Don and I will be sharing with you the findings from our meetings and surveys at a special membership session at the upcoming Mid-year Convention in Lake Mary. I hope you will be able to attend but if not, don’t worry, as much will be forthcoming in the coming months via e-mail, our web site, and our new “Talk of the Elks” forum.

Speaking of our Forum, I do hope you have had an opportunity to visit this new web site operated by the Florida State Elks at www.talkoftheelks.org. This web site is not intended to replace our current information providing web site at www.flelks.org. Rather, it is intended to supplement that web site by providing our members a forum, a chat room if you will, in which we can discuss items of relevance to us all. Here you will find discussion on many topics of interest to Elks and even non-Elks. Please don’t let the terminology scare you away (posts, threads, etc.) It is as easy as sending or reading an e-mail. We will be using the forum a lot in the coming months to solicit input on many items of interest to Lodges as we begin an introspective into our Order and devise new ways to market ourselves, attract new members, and regain our foothold in our communities. We want the Elks to continue to be viewed as the premier fraternal and social organization in our communities and in order to attract new members we must update and transform ourselves into an organization that is in tune with the times and changing needs of our members. This can be done if we are willing to work at it and it can be done while also preserving the customs and traditions that we are all comfortable with. Please join your fellow members at www.talkoftheelks.org and check back often as the forum is going to be lighting up very soon and you won’t want to miss it!

While I am on the subject of e-mail, a lot goes on in our state in between issues of the Florida Elks News. To keep our members informed I periodically send out FL...
Florida State Elks Association
Presidential Memorial Certificate Program

By Lenny Smallacombe, PDD, Program Coordinator

IMPRESSIVE MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE

Please also check out the latest links recently added to the FSEA PMC web site. Take A Tour Of Vietnam Wall of Honor. The link is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam War with names, bio’s and other information on our brave lost heroes. The American Battle Monuments Commission Link has databases for veterans buried overseas from all American wars. It operates and maintains 24 permanent American Cemeteries on foreign soil.

These two sites are very moving and honor our nation’s many unsung heroes who gave their lives to protect our way of life and freedoms we all enjoy today.

I am very proud and honored that the FSEA has accepted The Presidential Memorial Certificate and named me Program Coordinator for the FSEA.

I recently posted the PMC program on FSEA www.talkoftheelks.org site. Please contact me if I can offer additional information, help or assistance in obtaining (PMC) for you and family members.

Lenny Smallacombe is Florida Elks Presidential Memorial Certificate Co-ordinator and got the program started in Florida, here he explains to the members at a State Presidents Visitation, the programs merits. Marie Fricke stands behind Lenny with President Hurst.

Marie found out about the PMC from Lenny and he assisted her in requesting seven PMCs for her family.

So far Lenny has personally requested more than 1,800 PMC’s for Elk families and their friends.

Marie sent the following letter to Smallacombe upon receiving the certificate.

‘My father was in the 731st Engineer Depot Co. U.S. Army and served in the European and the Pacific Theaters. He received the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, American Theater Campaign Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon. When I received the seven requested certificates, it was as if my father and I reached across the many years that had passed and reached each other again. My three children were absolutely touched receiving the remembrance of their loved grandfather and my three grandchildren were stunned to be able to hold something that honored their great grandfather. Approximately 1 hour after leaving my home, my 13 year old granddaughter called and wanted to know how she could send away to receive a certificate for her other great grandfather. My entire family was pleased beyond belief to receive such a beautiful and impressive remembrance of my father.’

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is a beautiful elegant parchment certificate. It honors the memory of honorably discharged veterans from a grateful nation in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country in the Armed Forces of the United States. The PMC is personalized in calligraphy lettering with the name of the honorably discharged deceased veteran.

It includes the great seal of the United States in gold foil and is signed by the current President of the United States.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy initiated the (PMC) program designed to recognize the sacrifice of deceased American veterans and give the families of these veterans something special which will honor and remember their loved ones. It has been continued by all subsequent Presidents.

There is no time limit for requesting a (PMC) regardless when a veteran served or cause of death, every American Family is entitled to receive a Free Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) from the President of the United States. So if certificates were not requested at the time of death, they can be applied for at any time. (You can order more than one).

Marie Fricke, while attending the Southeast Central State President’s visit received a Presidential Memorial certificate, signed by the President of the United States, Barack Obama, from Florida State Elks President Jim Hurst, which she had applied for her father who had served in World War II.

The FSEA (PMC) program goal is to give every American Family that has a deceased member who served in the United States military the Information and Opportunity to apply for a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

If any deceased member(s) of your family served in the military please travel to the FSEA web site www.flelks.org for information about the (PMC) program and how families and loved ones can obtain the (PMC) certificates. It states the documents required and various ways to apply for a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

Future generations of your family will appreciate you making time to obtain this special family heirloom... Your only cost is a few moments of your time and the price of a first class stamp or using a toll-free fax number.

WE KNOW ESTATE PLANNING CAN BE CONFUSING
Let us send you a FREE, NO OBLIGATION Booklet on Wills.
Learn the importance of having a WILL…. WHY YOU MAY NEED A TRUST...AND MUCH MORE.

Please send me your Free, No Obligation Booklet on Wills.
Florida Elks Charities, Inc. --Wills and Bequest Committee
Carl Seibert, P. O. Box 49, Umatilla, FL 32784-0049
1-800-523-1673 Ext.230

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Date(s) of Birth

Phone

E-Mail: carl@mpinet.net
The following donations are from the period April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010 and include contributions to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Youth Camp, Trust Fund and Elks Charities. A combined total of $52,614.75 was donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Elks Charities and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. **Another $46,189.00 was donated to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.**

### NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

**Eustis Anna Miller Circle**
- 2,340.00

**Lady Lake Elkettes**
- 6,000.00

**Ocala Ladies**
- 1,000.00

**Winter Garden Ladies of Elks**
- 200.00

**Winter Park Does Drove 86**
- 600.00

**District totals**
- 7,850.00
- 9,880.00

### SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

**Brandon Ladies of Elks**
- 1,100.00
- 1,800.00

**Lake Placid Ladies of Elks**
- 3,447.00
- 3,447.00

**Plant City Ladies of Elks**
- 360.00
- 617.00

**District totals**
- 4,907.00
- 4,854.00

### SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

**West Palm Beach Ladies Auxiliary**
- 1,226.00

**District totals**
- 1,226.00

### SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

**Brandon Ladies of Elks**
- 1,750.00
- 1,750.00

**Kissimme Elkettes**
- 200.00
- 200.00

**Orlando Does Drove 66**
- 360.00
- 1,118.00

**West Citrus Ladies of Elks**
- 625.00
- 625.00

**District totals**
- 2,935.00
- 3,693.00

### NORTHEAST DISTRICT

**Tallahassee Elkettes**
- 193.00
- 193.00

### WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT

**Dunedin-Clearwater Ladies**
- 750.00
- 750.00

**New Port Richey Elkettes, Inc**
- 1,925.00
- 400.00

**Pinellas Park Ladies of Elks**
- 176.00
- 176.00

**St. Petersburg**
- 690.75
- 690.75

**Tampa Ladies of Elks**
- 500.00
- 500.00

**District totals**
- 3,541.75
- 1,250.00

### SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT

**Boca Ratn Does Drove 173**
- 750.00

**Delray Beach Elkettes**
- 1,510.00

**Margate Elkettes**
- 1,155.00
- 910.00

**Pompano Beach Does Drove 142**
- 615.00
- 615.00

**Southwest Broward**
- 135.00
- 135.00

**District totals**
- 2,860.00
- 2,160.00

### NORTHERN DISTRICT

**West St. Lucie**
- 500.00
- 500.00

**Lady Lake Elkettes**
- 6,000.00

**Ocala Ladies**
- 1,000.00

**Winter Park Does Drove 86**
- 600.00

**District totals**
- 7,850.00
- 9,880.00

FEYC Director Lynn Warburton, awards Most Campers Plaque to Warrington Elkette, Linda Hayes, wife of VPAL Frank Hayes.

Cape Coral Ladies of Elks also won two other awards for Most Members Present at the Rollcall and the Most Miles Traveled. Accepting the awards from the Chairmen is Joan Haynes.

Brandon Ladies of Elks walked away with the Yearbook Award Shown here are the Ladies Organization Chairman Larry Skates, PER PostELOE President Beverly Messerschmidt, Yearbook designer Jane Moon and vice Chairman of the Ladies Organization Doug Schwartz, PER.

Florida Ladies of Elks, Senior Delegate Linda Futrall, accepts the Most Money Donated to the Florida Elks Youth Camp from Director Lynn Warburton.
President's message continued from page 2

the South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge, we enjoyed a fabulous lunch and were entertained by a skillful magician.

Saturday evening at the Miami Lodge was planned with the theme of a tribute to the USO and memories of World War II. Included in the large attendance were several gentle-
men in the process of attempting to institute a new lodge in the South District and we cordially welcomed them. In my remarks, partly because of the theme, I focused on the im-
portance of continuing our well known Elks support for Vet-
erans and current military personnel. The message was well
received.

At their invitation, Julia and I made one more stop Sunday morning for a delicious breakfast at the Miami Lodge before accessing I95 for the long ride home to Jacksonville.

September 10th-11th, we were in the Northwest Dis-
trict after having traveled about as far west by car as one can go without leaving the Florida State Elks Association. We ar-
rived Thursday afternoon to visit the beautiful Fort Walton
Lodge and left for the membership meeting at the Holly-Navarre Lodge. Friday after being hosted by VPAL Frank Hayes and Linda we arrived at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites and were welcomed by District Vice President Phil Finder. We enjoyed refreshments and a social session before traveling to the Pensacola Beach Lodge. There, we relished an absolutely
marvelous dinner, entertainment by a very talented performer, and the gorgeous sunset view from the upper deck.

Saturday, the tour we experienced at the Naval Air
Museum was thoroughly inspiring and an educational explo-
ation. If any further understanding of the importance of our military preparedness was needed it was certainly impressed upon us during the visit to this awesome display. We com-
pleted the visit there by lunching in the “Cubi Bar”, an actual replica of a facility at Subic Bay in the Philippines.

The Saturday evening reception and dinner at the
Warrington Lodge was quite elegant. Again, because of the
date and importance of remembering the debt owed to veter-
ans and current military personnel, my remarks reflected the
Elk’s continued support. Julia and I then enjoyed the enter-
tainment provided as we danced for a good part of the remain-
ing hours. As with all of the visitations to date, we concluded our visit to Warrington Lodge by my rendering the 11:00 PM
Tribute or Toast, depending on the exact time.

The last visitation before this article has been to the
West Central District hosted by Vice President Ken Yagoda. Upon arrival Friday, September 17th at the Hampton Inn &
Suites, we were greeted by a large group who joined us in the
spacious Hospitality Room for beverages and refreshments. From there later that evening we traveled to the St. Peters-
burg Lodge for dinner and then enjoyed quite a talented singer
performing outstanding dance music.

Breakfast at the hotel was followed by arrival at the
Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg where a tour was
taken very ably narrated by Becky Pierson, wife of PDD Mike
Pierson, Member of the FSEA Board of Directors. This ex-
périence was much enlightening and educational. Then we
traveled to what proved to be one of Julia’s and my most re-
warding experiences during our now seven State President’s Vis-
itations. The Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center is a most impres-
sive facility. All Florida Elks should take great pride
that the lodges in the West Central District and others have
committed for some time to provide support and charitable
activities on behalf of the Veterans residing there.

An almost overflow crowd was present for the Sat-
urday superb dinner at the Seminole Lodge. In my remarks
I focused on the importance of and specifically the advantages
achieved by membership in our Order. I was honored to receive
from the Mayor of Seminole a Proclamation welcoming me and
due to the initiative of VP Ken Yagoda I was privileged to pre-
sent an award to Physical Therapist Larry Lester recognizing his
faithful service. After rendition of the 11:00 Toast, we then re-
turned to the Hotel for further beverages and light snacks.

Our final obligation in the West Central District was
the Sunday Elks Day at the Tampa Bay Rays Baseball Game
where it has become the tradition for the current FSEA State
President to throw out the first pitch. You will be relieved and
proud to know I succeeded in throwing the ball over the plate
and it remained “airborne” the whole distance! We remained
for most of the remainder of the game and in between innings
greeted and spoke with many of the Elks in attendance as well
as the Veterans from Bay Pines.

As I write this, Julia and I are preparing to depart for
the FLOE Convention in Lake Mary, September 24th -25th.
We naturally look forward to sharing with their members the
celebration of their accomplishments this year under the ca-
able leadership of President Enid “Samm” Simpson. We have
been invited to participate in several functions and appreciate
the kind welcome and anticipated cordiality.

I pray for God’s protection always, healing when
necessary, forgiveness most assuredly, and his blessings for
the good of all our Florida State Elks Association members.

A THERAPIST’S PRESENTATION
AT THE AUGUST QUARTERLY

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for this wonderful opportunity to work for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. I have had the best
year in my therapy career and hope to have many more!

I currently have a caseload of 19 children. The ages range from 4
months to 14 years. The disabilities range: (2) a 4 month old & a 2 year old
with severe physical deformities of both hands/arms
(1) a 4 year old with spastic Cerebral palsy affecting all 4 extremities
(1) an 18 month old with Downs Syndrome & heart complications
(3) a 5 year old, 6 year old and 11 year old with Autism
(3) a 5 year old, 8 year old and 13 year old with ADHD
(1) a 13 year old with an Auditory Processing Disorder secondary to
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
(1) a 6 year old with Bilateral Ear Deafness
(1) a 12 year old with Spina Bifida and partial paralysis of both lower limbs
(1) a 15 month old with Cytomeglo Virus (CMV) – affecting her vision and muscle tone
(3) a 3 year old and two 4 year olds with severe sensory issues affecting their ability to communicate, socialize and or effectively adapt to their daily environments
(1) a 15 month old who was born addicted to crack. I will tell you more about her in a minute!!

My week is obviously full and my therapy is diverse! I typically see 4 to 5 children a day – 5 days a
week. My current caseload takes me 45 miles southeast to Lake Panasoffkee and 65 miles north into Gaines-
sville. I drive as far west as Crystal River and as far east as Wildwood. I cover Citrus, Sumter, Marion, Levy
and Alachua Counties! In a good week, I will see all of my kids and have put 300 to 400 miles on the van.

I obviously have a wide variety of supplies and equipment that is necessary to treat this unique popu-
lation. I am again so very thankful to you and your contributions that makes this possible! I have also been
known to retrieve equipment that is outgrown and disperse it to others that can use it. For example, last week
I collected 2 baby walkers and a high chair and have now found new homes for all three items! I find that my
parents are very appreciative of the services we provide and giving of items that they can no longer use allows
them to feel as if they have contributed in lieu of money! It seems to work out well – I must thank my husband
for being so patient when I fill up the garage with baby equipment! Thank you BOB!!

I have worked in a variety of pediatric settings and have never had the success rate that I do with
working with children in their home environment. The children are much calmer and easier to engage and
the parents are more involved and continue carryover of the techniques I show them 100% better than in an
outpatient clinic! Again, I would like to thank you for this opportunity!

One of my success stories is a little girl who is now 15 months old, we will call her Jess. She was
born at 21 weeks gestation and was addicted to crack cocaine. She suffered 2 brain bleeds and weighed less
than 2 pounds! Her grandmother was given custody and works with her every day to the best of her ability.

The Developmental Pediatrician had said that Jess would probably never sit, crawl and/or walk on her own
secondary to the damage done to her brain. When I met Jess, she could only lay on her back and was unable
to roll over by herself. I have worked with her for about 4 months now. We use a lot of massage techniques
and vibration to relax the spastic muscles prior to having her in the position to crawl. She is positioned on
a therapy ball to stretch and encourage righting reactions to emerge. ETPS is applied to enhance the perfor-
mance of her muscles.

I can happily report that Jess is now sitting up on her own! She is able to transition from lying on
her back to sitting all by herself! She is now standing with minimal support and last week she even crawled
3-4 steps to get to the toy she really wanted. Jess is just one of my testimonials for the Florida Elks Childerns
Therapy Services. I can report that at least 90% of my caseload is making progress at this time and it couldn’t/
wouldn’t happen without you all!

I am very proud to be a part of this organization and can honestly say that it’s the best job I have ever
had! The administration is so very supportive and my co-workers are always ready to lend advice if I need it!
OH and I get to play with toys all day!! Seriously, I want to thank you once again for all you do to make this
program available to our children who need us and thank you for this opportunity to be a part of the Florida
Elks Childerns Therapy Services organization.

You truly are the BEST PEOPLE ON EARTH!!!
The Florida State Elks Charities (FEC) is a non-profit organization and has served the Greater State of Florida for the last 100 years. The Florida State Elks Association Army of Hope (AOH) is a committee that falls under FEC.

The Army of Hope Project, started by the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, is a way of showing our support and appreciation of the military member and as a benefit for the members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families during the Iraq-Afghanistan War.

Your support is 100% tax-deductible and we thank you in advance for supporting our military family.

Over the Past three (3) years the Army of Hope of Florida has served our deployed military families with financial help.

2008:
$486.23 Hot water Heater 11/17/2008
$475.32 Clothes Dryer 11/17/2008
$1,030.95 Three (3) car payments 3/27/2009
$1992.50 Year Ending 6/30/2008

2009:
$250.00 Babysitting Assistance 4/9/2009
$121.37 Water Bills 5/29/2009
$420.06 Auto Insurance Bill 5/29/2009
$1622.01 Car Payment 5/29/2009
$191.12 Phone Bill 5/29/2009
$421.82 American General car work 5/29/2009
$184.90 AAFES 5/29/2009
$670.84 Tires 5/29/2009
$27,000.00 Army of Hope Summer Camp FEYC 7/26/2009
$1,500.00 Clothes, groceries, gas, phone cards 9/3/2009
$793.58 Two (2) Car Payments 9/15/2009
$687.30 Two (2) car Payments 12/14/2009
$2,000.00 Medical Travel 12/21/2009
$35,863.00 Year Ending 6/30/2009

2010:
$990.45 Travel to Walter Reed Hosp. 4/14/2010
$3,000.00 Three (3) Children-Parent died in Action 4/22/2010
$2,000.00 Two (2) children-Parent died in Action 4/22/2010
$4,000.00 Home Care And travel after being Wounded 4/22/2010
$2,221.00 Moved Household Goods to Home 6/22/2010
$1,000.00 Repaired Septic Tank 6/22/2010
$13,211.45 Year Ending 6/30/2010

2011
$15,000.00 Army of Hope Summer Camp - FEYC 7/20/2010

You can also find out more info on the web site under Army of Hope at www.flelks.org.

Funds will also be available to families who have suffered the ultimate sacrifice….. the loss of a family member in a combat zone . In addition, funds will be made available to families who have a temporary financial need. Funds for these vital purposes will come from 2 primary sources, the picnic that each District across the state runs and each event Lodges run.

The other source of funding to help these military personnel and their families will come from our appeal campaign. We are asking all Florida Elks to join in this project by making a cash donation in any amount you can afford. Our tax exempt status, 501(c)(3), means your donation is tax exempt. No gift is to small and all funds received will be directed to purpose of this appeal.

We hope that all Elks will support our troops and their families. If you are unable to attend one of the many picnics, yet still want to support the troops, you can help by using the coupon below.

Fill it out and send you donation to the State Association. The Army of Hope Committee will then be able to finance the needs of the families of our brave men and women of the Armed Forces.

ARMY OF HOPE

Yes, I wish to make a donation to the Florida Elks Charities - Army Of Hope

Name ____________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________
City State Zip _________________________________________
Phone_________________ E- mail______________________
Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of $ ❑ Cash ❑ Check
❑ Credit Card (check one) ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ Discover
❑ American Express

Thank You for your Support!

Name (as it appears on card)_______________________________
Card # __________________________ Exp. date __________
Verification Code_______

Please make check payable to: Florida Elks Charities
Send donation to:(Carl Seibert) at
Florida State Elks Association
P.O. Box 49
Umatilla, Fl. 32784-0049
Years ago, the Elks made a promise that “So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.” This promise holds as true today as on the first day it was spoken, and today the need for the promise and the service provided because of it has never been greater. Our veterans who have sacrificed so much to protect our freedoms and allow us to live the American dream continue to need our help day in and day out.

That promise, as it was first uttered many years ago, is being fulfilled by the dedicated men and women of Elkdom, who work on a daily basis through their Lodge to help make the lives of Veterans better. They continue to volunteer many hours of service to help improve and enhance the daily lives of our veterans in need. They visit the VA medical centers and veterans nursing homes, aid veterans within our communities, and give freely of their time. These men and women of Elkdom; who give unselfishly of their time to improve the lives of our Veterans should be recognized for their efforts even though they do not seek this recognition.

While the Order of Elks serves and assists our Veterans 365 days a year, the month of November is singled out as Veterans Remembrance Month and it is a special time to give recognition, not only to our Active Duty Military, but to all of our Veterans who have served in our military throughout the years. As an Elks, fulfilling our solemn promise, be sure this month to thank all those how have and are serving to protect our freedoms. Always remember that freedom is not free. It is paid for on a daily basis by our Active Duty Military Personnel, and by those Veterans who continue to carry the scars of freedom for the rest of their lives.

November is also a good time to ‘give praise and thanks to those caring men and women of Elkdom who step forward to assist our Veterans in their homes, communities, on the street and in the hospitals. As a member of this great Order, take the time to seek out and thank those Members in your Lodge who go that extra mile to assist those true American heroes.

In October, the criterion for the Veterans Volunteer of the Year Award was sent to every Lodge. If you need assistance in submitting nominations, call the Chicago office, they will be more than willing to help.

Those eligible for the award are: Elks and their spouses, VAVS Representatives, VAVS Deputy Representatives, members who visit the VA Medical Centers, Nursing Homes, etc. or work at Lodge Veteran functions either within or outside the Lodge.

EACH STATE CAN HONOR ONE MALE AND ONE FEMALE.

The State National Veterans Service Commission Chairman should coordinate this program. The Chairman should work closely with the State President and a Committee established for judging nominations.

Nominations for Veteran Volunteer of the Year must be submitted in narrative form, not to exceed 300 words, to the State NVSC Chairman, or the designated judging committee chairman, by January 31st of each year. The Judging Committee, with the assistance of the State NVSC Chairman, will select the winners and submit their names and other pertinent information to the National Veterans Service Commission office by February 28th of each year, so that inscribed certificates and watches can be sent for presentation at the State Convention.

Winners will not be eligible for future selection. This will enable other volunteers to receive recognition.
Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892
The Lodge, with the support of Florida Elks Children’s Therapist Stephanie Haines, presented a check for $550 to Crystal Brookshire to offset the heart surgery expenses of her son, Tommy.

The Lodge presented a $1,500 scholarship to Tatila Brock.

The annual Wild Game Feast profited over $6,600 in support of Harry-Anna and our Lodge. Special recognition goes to Chairman Garfield Hurt for his coordination efforts, and Larry Adams, who set about to raise as much money for Harry-Anna charity as possible single-handedly sold over $2,500 in tickets to individual and corporate sponsors.

The February 2011 meetings will be held at the Youth camp and the food and fellowship were enjoyed by many. The new multipurpose shelter in the rough camping area of the camp tended! The barbecue on Friday night was again held in the food and fellowship were enjoyed by many. The new multipurpose shelter in the rough camping area of the camp tended! The barbecue on Friday night was again held in the

Sixty-one children participated in the Elks Kids’ Fit Club 14-week program at the Solomon Calhoun Community Center.

The program’s aim is to help children learn about healthy life-styles, through exercise and healthy eating. Each week consists of trainer led exercises and health lectures provided by the St. Johns County Offices of the Florida State Health Department.

The exercise equipment was provided by Lodge 829 through a $5,500 grant from the Elks National Foundation. The children participating were part of the Northeast Florida Community Action Agency’s after school program. To encourage continued exercise, each participant was given their individual exercise equipment to use at home.

Secretary Continued from page 3

RUNNING FOR HATF PLEDGES

On New Year’s Eve 2010, Past Exalted Ruler Jim Larsen, right, from Manasota Lodge 2734 will be running in a 24 hour endurance race ending at 10 a.m. New Year’s day on Peanut Island in south Florida.

Jim is running in suppon of the HarryAnna Trust Fund and is looking for pledges in any denomination of either per mile or flat donation. This should be a great fundraiser for Harry-Anna which supports our major projects. State President Jim Hurst, left, encourages all Elks to make pledges for each mile Jim runs.
Winter Park Lodge 1830
On July 11, the Winter Park Lodge held a dinner fundraiser and raised $4,700 for the Mackinsey Constantine Medical Fund. Thirteen-year-old Mackinsey is a local member of the community. He was diagnosed in April with one of the most aggressive forms of cancer. He has been undergoing chemotherapy and has had his arm amputated at the shoulder. Mackinsey will also be receiving services from the Elk’s Children’s Therapy Services once discharged from the hospital.

The Winter Park Lodge held its annual 4th of July BBQ and it treated twelve veterans from the Orlando VA nursing home to a meal and entertainment.

Lady Lake Lodge 2793
Lady Lake Elks Lodge recently recognized Police Officer Shane Barrett as Officer of the Year at a special Annual Service Award Luncheon at Carrabba’s in the Villages. Officer Barrett has been with Lady Lake Police Department since August of 2006. Prior to Officer Barrett joining the Lady Lake Police Department he served three years with the Villages Public Safety Department as a Firefighter/EMT. He distinguished himself with that agency by being awarded their Public Service Award and Citation Bar along with numerous other citations.

On November 9, 2009 Police Officer Shane Barrett was working the night shift at a local bar when he was approached by a young couple that explained they had driven to the bar to find out if their missing son, Mackinsey Constantine, was there. The son, Mackinsey, had run away from home a few weeks earlier. The parents lived in Orlando and were in the middle of the night shift already running back and forth between the bar and their son’s school trying to locate him.

Officer Barrett hooked a community organization that works to help keep kids in school.

Robert Sadrack, Exalted Ruler; Shane Barrett, Officer of the Year; Dieter Wuenenberg, Loyal Knight; Ed Nathanson, Chief of Police

The vehicle was submerged and believed to be located. Officer Barrett, after removing his police equipment, then entered the water and swam to the approximate location in total darkness.

After discovering the underwater vehicle, he utilized his flashlight to smash a window which caused him to receive lacerations to his hand. Unable to locate anyone in the driver’s seat, Officer Barrett then proceeded to the opposite side of the vehicle, and after successfully opening a door, began probing again for occupants. On this attempt he felt his hand being kicked by and occupant who was apparently lodged near the interior roof in the rear of the conveyance.

Officer Barrett then proceeded to the back door of the submerged vehicle and began searching for the occupant. Again his hand was kicked and he was successful in location and extricating the occupant from the original window that he had smashed to enter. Once clear from the interior, the occupant of the vehicle was pulled to safety by Officer Barrett from the outer roof of the car where he had tactically positioned himself.

Officer Barrett remained with the victim until Fire Rescue personnel arrived to safely transport the vehicle’s occupant to shore and ultimately to the hospital where she recovered from this ordeal.

ELK’S RIDERS U.S.A.

By Linda Sewell
Elk’s Riders U.S.A.

The Elk’s Riders U.S.A. have grown tremendously over the last several months. We now have a N.E. district with the Edgewater/New Smyrna Lodge 1557 as the charter Lodge. Officers for this district are: President Mike (Sully) Sullivan, Vice President John Braden, Secretary Jennifer Apker, Treasurer Darlene Cleary, Chaplain Bill Greatrex, and SGT at Arms Steve Simmons. All of these officers are active members and officers at their Lodge.

The Elk’s Riders U.S.A. have a South- east District with Southwest Broward Lodge 2273 as the charter Lodge. Officers for this district are: Florida’s Past State President Vincent Como serving as President; Vice President Ray Heller; Secretary Andrea M. Fernandez; Treasurer Gerald W. Carter; Chaplain Denise Kristiansen; SGT at Arms Michael Wahlberg; Ride Captains Gary Wilder, John Garske, Ray Heller; Activities Director Larry Kristiansen; Sickness/Distress Susan Wilder.

Again, these officers are all active members and hold or have held office within their Lodge, district and state. It is really impressive to see how many current and past Elks officers are getting involved. It certainly proves the message is getting across that an association like this one will greatly help the Elks declining membership.

We are working on getting districts set up in the East Central, West Central, Northwest areas of the state. Any Lodge that is interested in being the charter lodge for one these districts, please visit the website @ www.elsridersusa.com Here you will be able to get the information needed to get started and the meeting schedule for one of the Lodges that are already active with the Elk’s Riders. Attend one of the meetings or events. You will be surprised at how many familiar faces you will see. Many of the Lodges have riders groups and getting everyone to unite as one is our goal. Remember you do not have to be a motorcycle rider to be a member.

Attending the Elks National Convention this past July certainly gave the Elk’s Riders U.S.A. positive exposure. We cannot thank Joanie and Bob Pitney enough for allowing us to set up an area in the Florida booth to help promote the Association. It was a great experience meetings Elks members from across the country. Even more exciting was the reaction we received. Everyone agreed it was a great way to promote Lodge membership. The real highlight of the convention was when Past President Carl Gerace, Activities Director and Founder Hugh Sewell and myself went before the Grand Lodge Judicial Committee to request current status on the Elk’s Riders. We were told to continue doing what we are doing and an announcement would be made at the National Convention in 2011 in Phoenix, Arizona. The Grand Lodge agrees this is one way of increasing Lodge membership. We have several members from GER Mike Smith’s home Lodge in Plant City as members.

Kokomo Lodge 190 in Indiana has joined and will serve as the Charter Lodge for that state, along with Irving Lodge 2234 in Texas and Bessemer Lodge 721 in Alabama. Our newest Lodge to join is Plaquemine Lodge 1398 in Louisiana. These Lodges will follow what we have started here in Florida knowing they will increase their Lodge membership also and give them more fun ways to hold charity events.

Don’t be the last Lodge to get involved...bring it up at your next Lodge meeting...we’re waiting for you!!
**Daytona Beach Lodge 1141**

Daytona Beach Lodge recently received a Veterans Remembrance plaque. Exalted Ruler Nancy Epps was on hand to receive the plaque at the Convention in Orlando. In her message to the Lodge, Nancy thanked DVP and Veterans Service Chairman Pat Heller-Jackson and Bobby Lambe for making the plaque possible.

The Lodge hosted its 4th Annual East Central District Poker Run to benefit the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. All the proceeds will go toward the Florida Elks Youth Camp and Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

**Deland Lodge 1463**

The Lodge recently had an outside makeover. Volunteers showed up in their work overalls to pull and plant bushes, cut tree limbs and put down mulch. PDDGER Phil Watercutter spear-headed the repairs on our Lodge parking lot. Officers and members extended their congratulations to newly appointed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Tom Pollard, PER, and member of the Lodge.

**Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557**

Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach members have adopted a golden retriever puppy named Polar from the Seeing Eye Morristown Campus. This was made possible through the collection of aluminum can pull tabs. Polar will undergo 12-14 months of socialization experiences with a family before he can return to the Seeing Eye Morristown Campus where he eventually will be assigned to an individual with special needs.

The Lodge donated school supplies, shoes, Wal-Mart and K-Mart gift cards to the Gifts of Love, an on-site food bank, to benefit local area school children.

On September 8, Matthew Morris, resident of New Smyrna Beach, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor ceremony held at the Lodge. Present for the ceremony were his proud parents and County Councilwoman Joe Alexander, who read a proclamation naming September 8th Matthew Morris Day.

On Labor Day, the Lodge held an area Poker Run. There were 48 riders; they raised $724 for Cudas Unhooked and an additional $300, bringing the total for the day to $1,024. The riders also raised $300 for Harry-Anna and $100 for Elks National Foundation.

**Palm Coast Lodge 2709**

Palm Coast Lodge members recently donated $140 to Special Olympics, $75 to sponsor a hole for the Army of Hope Foundation Golf Tournament Fundraiser, and $100 to the Flagler County Education Foundation for school supplies to children in need.

The 500th used or broken cell phone was donated to the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program giving the program enough cell phones for overseas soldiers to get 300,000 minutes of talk time.

A $350 donation fundraiser for domestic violence victims was held at the Lodge.

On June 26th, Palm Coast Sheriff’s Deputies along with the Elks Officers and members sold tickets to raise money for County Deputy Dan Parthemore’s baby son Joseph. Over $7,000 was raised. Exalted Ruler Jerry Guy presented Deputy Dan Parthemore and his lovely wife Leslie with a check at a Lodge dinner.

Members donating blood to the Gough Family, were thanked for helping their family member, Vinny Gough, Sr. Over 75 pints of blood were donated.

**Port Orange Lodge 2723**

Port Orange Lodge three year Trustee Vivian Rauer, presented three students from Silver Sands Elementary School, each with an engraved plaque and $25 for their outstanding essays on Americanism.

During a Flag Day Ceremony, Lodge Veterans Chairman Dan Theodore and American Legion Post #3282 dedicated a MIA / POW Table to be displayed in a designated area in the Lodge.

At a recent visit to our Lodge, PSP Michael Phillips, DVP Patricia Heller-Jackson and Chairman of both the Army of Hope and Veterans Services, Edward Jackson, presented Exalted Ruler Marian St. Pierre and Lodge Veterans Chairman Dan Theodore with a Veterans Remembrance plaque, Division IV, for our participation in the Army of Hope Picnic and for the work done for the veterans.

**Sanford Lodge 1241**

Sanford Lodge is getting ready to celebrate its 100th Anniversary in February 2011.

In his message to the Lodge, Exalted Ruler Marc McKenna thanked Boy Scout Troop 543 for their participation in the Flag Day ceremony held on June 10.

On July 24, the Lodge hosted the District Vice President dinner with a tropical theme.

**Titusville Lodge 2113**

For the first time, this year, the Lodge participated in a Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce street party. A booth was set up, displaying information on Elks membership, the Elks Youth Camp, Children’s Therapy Services, scholarships and Hoop Shoot contests.

During one of her visits, DVP Patricia Heller-Jackson attended a very impressive Flag Day Ceremony at the Lodge along with Exalted Ruler Bud Cowen, Est. Loyal Knight Walter Kiely and Cub Scout Packs #191 and #370. Ladies of the Lodge continue to do charitable work for the Lodge and community.
“Build it and they will come”
Construction of our next 25 cabins is underway

Yes, we do continue to build at the Florida Elks Youth Camp and YES, they are coming. Through the years we have continued to expand the facilities at camp and the use continues to rise.

Building permits have been issued and construction is in progress to add another 25 cabins to our complex. When completed we will have a total of 67 residential cabins on property with 52 camper cabins and 15 staff cabins. We will be able to house 364 campers per week giving us a total potential for 7 weeks of 2,548 campers. We can also increase our usage throughout the rest of the year to help the children of Florida.

Through your help, the camp continues to grow. As you meet new members of your Lodge or folks from your community, continue to spread the good word about the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Let them know the facility is available for any group that is organized and works with children from your community. Reading through the groups below which have utilized our camp over the past two months will give you ideas of who to speak to about our programs.

We have been blessed with the number of children we are able to help. During the month of September we have brought to our camp St. Cloud High School Band, Central High School ROTC, two groups from St. Barnabas School, Scout Troop 823, Winter Park High School Chorus, Gretchen Everhart School, Scout Troop 351, Lake Weir Jr. ROTC, and Bishop Moore High School. During the month of October we have brought to our camp Therapy Services Family Weekend, another group from Bishop Moore High School, Sandlake Dist Boy scouts, Tenoroc Risk Club, SIMSOC, Clearwater Little League, Scout Pack 357, Downtown Orlando YMCA, Eckerd College, Star Angels Service Unit, Golden Triangle YMCA, Harry Anna Investment Seminar, Lake Weir FFA, Winter Park NJROTC, and Scout Troop 10. This is a very busy time of the year for us.

Helping the Family Weekend

Family Weekend is a very special time at camp. On this weekend, our Therapists along with their patients and families enjoy a weekend of fun and sharing. The staff of Florida Elks Youth Camp along with the staff of Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services jointly present the weekend. Families have the opportunity to meet others with similar problems, compare notes, and share solutions. All present enjoyed the ropes course, archery, canoe and paddle boat, campfire with smores, and our beautiful pool. The fellowship and food was outstanding.

Started several years ago, it has become an annual event increasing in size each year. This year everyone was pleased to have over 200 in attendance. The program so well represents all that the Elks stand for and all the Elks do for the children of Florida.

Our Therapists

UF Students

Nick Miller, Assistant Director

Welcome Nick Miller, our new Assistant Director of the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Nick was born February 11, 1979 in Columbia, MO. Nick grew up in Moberly, MO with his brother, Daniel. His parents, David and Patty Miller, still live and work in Moberly. Nick graduated from Moberly Senior High School in 1997. After high school, Nick began work on a degree in Secondary English Education while playing soccer for Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, MO. Nick finished his degree at the University of Missouri, Columbia while substitute teaching and coaching soccer at his old high school in Moberly. After earning his Bachelor’s Degree from MU in May of 2003, Nick taught and coached for Jefferson City High School in Jefferson City, Mo.

In May 2005, Nick realized he needed a change. Nick packed up and moved to Gainesville, FL that August. Once in Gainesville, Nick picked up substitute teaching jobs at local high schools until Nick was offered a full-time contract at Santa Fe High School. Nick taught 9th and 10th grade language arts and coached Santa Fe’s boys’ varsity soccer program from March 2006 to June 2010. During the summers of 2006 through 2009, Nick worked in various capacities for the Florida Elks Youth Camp. The first time you see Nick, be sure to welcome him to our family.

Donate $5,000.00 to have your name placed on a cabin. Only the first 25 donations will be acknowledged for this project. Don’t miss out. Mail your donation today!

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2007 Dodge Caravan
94,000 Miles
No accidents nor fender benders!
Loaded
All electric doors, window, seats. CD Player ~
Call 800-523-1673 ext 241
A BUSY PRESIDENT ON SOME OF HIS FLORIDA TRAVELS

Florida State Elks Association President Jim Hurst proudly signs the Florida State Flag, prior to the Parade of Flags at the National Convention.

President Hurst and wife Julia, right, with 2010-2011 Florida Ladies of Elks President Carol Deresh, in red, and Enid Simpson, the retiring FLOE President.

From left, Southeast Central V P Bill Orblych and wife Ronnie, VPAL Frank Hayes and wife Linda with Julia and Jim Hurst at the SEC Visitation.

Southeast Central dignitaries were treated with a tour of the NASA Kennedy Space Center on Saturday morning of their October Presidential visit.

The State President and his wife enjoyed the SEC visitation with their daughter, Jessica Lattimore, a Missionary with Overland Missions located in Cocoa, FL.

One of the last of the retired Space Shuttles was on the launch pad awaiting a November launch for the touring Elks to observe from about two miles away.

Placing their hands on the real Moon was an opportunity not passed up by VPAL Frank Hayes and the President as they toured the Moon Landing exhibit with Don Moon the State Membership Chairman.

Jim and Julia with West Central District Vice President Ken Yagoda and wife Marie at their arrival at the Hampton Inn & Suites, in St. Petersburg for their Visitation, the next day they toured the Dali Art Museum.

The President and VPAL sit with West Central VP Ken Yagoda and PSP Frank Palladini and approximately 45 other WC PERs at the District PER Association meeting held after dinner at the St. Petersburg Lodge.
Cocoa Lodge 1532
The Lodge has had few but interesting activities this past summer, and is looking forward to the upcoming months for various activities to be held. The Annual Golf Tournament was held August 14 at the Rockledge Country Club, and the proceeds raised from this were donated to Harry Anna.

The Lodge fulfilled a request from a local elementary school for a years worth of Weekly Readers to be used in their classrooms for the 2010-2011 school year. The District Visitation was held August 28, and those who attended were treated to our ‘Hoedown’ theme. There was a transformation of the dining room into a barn atmosphere complete with farm animals. The Cocoa Vets were employed by the Lodge and acted as servers, and received the entire 50/50 drawing that was held that evening. Elks Care and Elks Share in action.

Melbourne Lodge 1774
Melbourne Lodge participated in the local 4th of July Parade on July 3, and was represented by 18 volunteers, including ER Gene Apelado and First Lady Clarita riding in a red convertible, and three trucks each red, white, and blue, festively decorated. Celebrations continued at the Lodge for the Red, White, and Blue for an evening of dinner and dancing, sponsored by the PER’s.

On July 18, the Lodge hosted DVP Bill Orblchy Visitation and Inspection. Each Lodge was well represented.

The theme for the evening was Sports, and members and guests were invited to wear their favorite sports outfit. Sports enthusiasts of baseball, football, bowling, roller skating, hockey and Nascar wore their team colors, jerseys, and hats. Yankee fans and Red Sox fans were well represented, as well as fans of the Florida Marlins, Miami Dolphins, and various college teams such as the Florida Gators and the fighting Irish of Notre Dame. Referee Betty Elmore, Ft. Pierce ER, SEC Publicity Chair brought her whistle to settle potential disputes, and Sports Spectators Paul and Elvira Paulina wore signs to denote their status for participation. Distinguished guests were given an opportunity to address the audience, followed by a questions and answer period, during which info was provided about the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and the Elks Youth Camp. Our Rubber Chicken Mascot was dressed by Susan Schultz in a red, white, and blue team USA tank top and red, white, and blue plaid shorts, identifying him as an All Star player. The ER of Port St. Lucie was given possession of the rubber Chicken for presentation at the next DVP Visitation and Inspection.

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658
Congratulations to Carol Heintz, Madeline Dante and Emil Viola, as Elks of the Month for this period. Each of these dedicated members have done an outstanding job as an Elk and well deserving of the recognition and “parking space.” Also to be recognized is Bucky Clark who was presented with an Elks watch for signing up 12 new members and Don Mahan with a pin for signing up 4! Keep up the good work.

E.R. Mary Ann and approximately 12 of our members missed the July 4th festivities as they were at the National Convention. However, they were there for the installation of Grand Exalted Ruler Mike Smith. The GERs theme this year is “Promote Elks Passion.”

The Lodge has been very fortunate with some talented and dedicated members that enabled the Lodge to achieve several awards from the Florida State Elks Association, 1st place award for Lodge Scrapbook Contest; Highest Per-Capita Donations to the Elks National Foundation, $16.51; and 3rd Place in the Lodge Bulletin Contest. On the Grand Lodge level we received 1st Place in the Elks National Foundation Lodge Per Capita Contribution and 3rd Place in the Scrapbook Contest.

Renovations to the Lodge are moving along and commemorative bricks at $50 each are being sold to form a walkway around the Elk in front, along with several benches at $500 each. There has been an awesome response to this endeavor.

Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870
The Lodge also “Welcomed” Betty Tewksbury home at the end of her District Deputy Chair with a patriotic theme on June 26th, and welcomed our new SEC District Vice President, William “Bill” Orblchy! Thanks go to her for her great efforts in representing the Lodge and District!

Vero Beach Lodge 1774
‘Caring and Sharing,’ the Lodge organized and conducted a Charitable Benefit Dinner August 7 for a very needy family. Denise Matteo was diagnosed with stage-four maxillofacial cancer; she has exhausted her health insurance and is in need of future surgery. Use of the banquet hall was donated and scheduled a benefit dinner inviting all Elks and Guests. Dinner was attended with 240 paying guests. All proceeds were donated to the Denise Matteo Trust Fund. The evenings entertainment was provided by Ron Finn’s ‘One Man Band,’ and was also gratis for the entire evening. Two ‘Basket of Cheer’ were donated by local Elks and interested parties. The final financial results of this important benefit event were donations of $5,000 from the dinner and contributions for the ‘Basket’ and from other sources of Elks and friends amounted to an additional $1,000.

This overall effort typifies the Elks’ dedication to living up to the credo of ‘Elks Care & Elks Share.’

West St. Lucie Lodge 2823
The Lodge has been running Texas Holdem Tournaments for the past few months to raise money to send WWII Veterans on the Honor Flight which is run by the Veterans Council of Martin County. To date, it has raised $2,288 for the Veterans. One of their members, Peter Thomas, was the first WWII Veteran that was sponsored who was on the Honor Flight on Sept. 18. The Honor Flight is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America’s Veterans for all their sacrifices. They are flown to Washington DC to visit and reflect at their memorials. It’s a long day for these elderly veterans, leaving at 5AM and flying back the same night. Anyone who wishes more information can go to info@honourflightsefl.org.

Ft. Pierce Lodge 1520
Members and guests of the Lodge gathered for lunch on Labor Day, but had their photo taken first. The Lodge sends packages to the Troops in Afghanistan on a regular basis and Vet’s Chairperson, Dee Konow, wanted one more item to be included in the package - a picture of all the good Elks back in the USA that are thinking and praying for the Troops every day.

Cocoa Beach Lodge 2387
These Cocoa Beach Lodge volunteers served the Presidential party a delicious breakfast prior to their visit to the Space Center on Saturday, October 2.

Sign Up for E-mail Updates!
For news and events information between quarterly issues of the Florida Elks News, sign up today for Florida Elks Updates from the State Secretary.
Send an e-mail to carl@mpinet.net and ask to be added to the e-mail updates list.
**Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525**

The Lodge recently held an awards luncheon for the Clearwater Little League Disadvantaged Division, fondly named “Lou’s Kids.” The Lodge served 250 guests and trophies were presented to all participants.

The Lodge also provided nearly 425 dictionaries to third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade students of San Jose Elementary School in Dunedin. In addition, several members of the Lodge are providing mentoring and tutoring to these children. The donation of dictionaries was initiated by PER Roger Clark and is one of the ongoing outreach programs between San Jose School and the Lodge.

On September 9, VFW Post #2550 presented the Lodge with a plaque in appreciation for their efforts on behalf of the VFW Purple Heart Commission, including the use of the Lodge hall for their meetings and functions. The plaque was accepted by Exalted Ruler Art French.

**Holiday Isles Lodge 1912**

The Lodge was proud to send eight youths to the Florida Elks Youth Camp this summer.

On August 21 the Lodge held a Country Western fund raiser. Participants donned their favorite western attire and listened to western music while enjoying ranch style beef stew. Prizes were given for the best western outfit.

During the West Central District Vice President Ken Yagoda’s Homecoming Visitation, Exalted Ruler Barbara Fournier presented VP Yagoda with new hygiene products for the veterans at Bay Pines Medical Center. The articles, valued at more than $100 will be distributed to the veterans throughout the facility.

On September 18, 2010 the West Central District gathered to welcome FSEA President James E. Hurst, Jr. and First Lady Julia. During the banquet, Exalted Ruler Frank Russell presented President Hurst with a donation of $10,000 to the Harry Anna Trust Fund and $10,000 to Elks National Foundation on behalf of the Lodge.

**New Port Richey Lodge 2284**

The Lodge recently presented the Gulf View High School Jr ROTC members with a $500 check for their cadet of the Year and donation of $1000 for the entire unit. These fine young men and women have given much of their time and efforts to the community.

The Red Apple Adult Training Center, a non-profit school for developmentally disabled adults, held their first Inaugural Prom for their students at the Lodge. Exalted Ruler, Bud Compton, and Tiler, Nadia Bobbo, accepted a plaque bestowed to the Lodge for donating the hall and assisting with their special event.

Exalted Ruler, Bud Compton, presented WCD Vice President, Ken Yagoda, a check for $500 in his name for Harry Anna Trust Fund to honor his recent visit to the Lodge. The Lodge also presented a check for $5,000 to FSEA President James Hurst during his visit to the West Central District for the Harry Anna Trust Fund.

Local Boy Scout Troop 008 recently held their annual Court of Honor at the Lodge and presented the rank of Eagle to Robin Flores, an honor well deserved.

The Lodge donated over $200 worth of toiletries and personal hygiene items for distribution to the veterans at Bay Pines Medical Center.

**Seminole Lodge 2519**

Lodge members, Mike Pierson, PDDGER and Ken Yagoda, VP, recently presented Seminole Youth Athletic Association Soccer Board President, Sherri McCarthy with a check for $500 to bolster the youth program.

The Lodge hosted a cookout at Bay Pines VA Medical Center in honor of State President Jim Hurst’s West Central District Visitation. Over 150 veterans were served. President Hurst and First Lady Julia enjoyed meeting with our Veterans as they toured the facility.

A collection of over 750 hygiene products by Seminole Lodge was made for distribution to the veterans at Bay Pines. West Central District Vice President Ken Yagoda donated $3,000 to the Harry Anna Trust Fund during the President’s Banquet.

**Tampa Lodge 708**

The Lodge kicked off September activities with a Labor Day Trustee’s BBQ. The food, fellowship and fun were outstanding. The music of the bluegrass duo “Mountain Brew” was a big hit.

The Lodge’s “Five Flag Display” was flown daily to rededicate our member’s remembrance for and appreciation of National Patriots Week.

**Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719**

The Lodge adopted nine classrooms this year at the local schools. A very successful Comedy Night was held to raise the funds needed for this project and the scholarship fund.
PLANT CITY LODGE 1727

Plant City Lodge’s “All Pro Dad, iMom” fundraiser, the Salsational Summer Party raised money and awareness to benefit local schools. Proceeds will be used to purchase raffle gifts for the children to buy the monthly breakfasts at the elementary schools. Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Smith is promoting these programs throughout the country for community involvement.

Todd Smith, far left, son of the GER is spearheading the project at Plant City Lodge in the goal of getting the project into all the area schools. “All Pro Dads” has the endorsement of the National Parents Teachers Association. Website information is at: www.allprodad.com; www.iMom.com; www.familyfirst.net

As the Reporter for the Southwest Central District and Editor of this paper I take the privilege of sending the SWC District and Florida Elks’s condolences to the Exalted Ruler of Plant City Lodge, Gail Lyons, in the sudden loss of her mother in early September. Her father is finding the void left by his wife of more than 60 years almost unbearable. Our prayers should go to both Gail and her father for comfort.

Gail’s upbringing by her parents is evidenced by the inspiring articles she writes in each of the Lodges bulletins. The following is Gail’s Lodge bulletin summary of her attendance at the National Convention shows how she was impressed. Paragraphing by the editor, “The National Convention has come and gone and I must say “WOW”!!! This may have been my first National Convention but it will not be my last. There are not enough pages in this newsletter to share with you the experience. I am still glowing from within from this eye opening opportunity I just had.

To participate in the celebration and installation of our own Michael F. Smith and First Lady Sandra Smith as Grand Exalted Ruler was an honor.

To witness a young mother of a handicapped child who is currently finishing her first year of medical school at the University of South Carolina, accept a grant to be donated to the organization of her choice for her community involvement, as the recipient of the Alum of the Year award. To watch as numerous members left their seats to hug her as she and her family left the session.

The two National Scholarship award winners of $60,000 each gave speeches, the National Hoop Shoot Winners, a Cassatt / Lugoff, South Carolina eight year old girl and the nine year old boy from Montana stand up on the Dais and address the convention floor.

Wednesday upon entering the Session Hall, as a delegate, I was given credentials to cast a paper ballot and vote on Grand Lodge resolutions. The opportunity to be present when our Henry Poage, District Deputy was installed as Grand Lodge Officer by our Michael Smith, Grand Exalted Ruler.

I am humbled and honored to you for allowing me to represent our Lodge. Thank You!

Now I truly see why we are all “Making a Difference” and do so with pride and energy. Be LOUD, Be PROUD, and “PROMOTE ELKS PASSION.”

Fraternally Yours,

Gail Lyons, Exalted Ruler

LAKE WALES LODGE 1974

In late May and early June, the Lodge awarded three scholarships of $1,000 each to local High School graduates. The recipients were: Shreya Patel, from Lake Wales High School; Shelby Lynn Loveless and Katelynn Miller, from Frostproof Middle-Senior High School.

On June 12, the Lodge held its first “Summer Blast” for kids of the local community. Over 40 kids were given Drug Awareness coloring books, pamphlets, and other items, as part of the Lodge’s Drug Awareness program. In addition, a Bouncy-Bounce, dunk tank, Smokey the Bear, fire truck display, local police (handing out safety info), music, games, pizza, cold drinks, and a police dog demonstration were part of the festivities. Many thanks go to Angie Autrey, Drug Awareness Chairman, and Mike Autrey, Youth Activities Chairman, for heading up this event and raising the money to sponsor it beforehand.

On July 13, Exalted Ruler Jack Collins presented a donation of $500 to “Circle of Friends Ministry.” Mertice Kelly, Executive Director, accepted the check and presented the Lodge with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Thank-You card made and signed by the children and young adults there. The Circle of Friends is a ministry to children and young adults with physical and/or developmental disabilities. They are also a non-profit organization in Lake Wales.

BRANDON LODGE 2383

A message from Brandon Exalted Ruler Dennis Osborn; “In every Lodge and District, service and teamwork go hand-in-hand. Each of us can continue to learn about that from one of nature’s creatures --- the Honey Bee.

Honey Bees are able to show all Elks something about teamwork. On a warm day about half the bees in a hive stay inside beating their wings, while the other half go outside to gather pollen and nectar. Because of the beating of the wings, the temperature inside the hive is about 10 degrees cooler than outside. The bees rotate duties and those that cool the hive one day, are honey-gatherers the next day.

Isn’t that how a successful and progressive Elks Lodge is supposed to operate? If we would just emulate the Honey Bees, then Elksdom and our Lodge would always be guaranteed continued commitment through service, effort and enthusiasm.”

Dennis Osborn, ER, was very proud to accept the a first-place award for attendance at inter-lodge visitations on behalf of the Brandon Lodge at the State Convention this summer. Thanks goes to all officers, members and guests that made this possible.

Tom Tennant, Americanism Chairman Brandon Elks Lodge, after donated dictionaries to the 4th Grade Teachers at Nativity Catholic School. The Lodge also donated dictionaries to the 3rd grade students of Alafia and Nelson Elementary Schools as part of the ‘Dictionary Project.’

LAKE PLACID LODGE 2661

Lake Placid Lodge had what many called “The best ever Memorial Day” program in which more than 240 were in attendance to hear of the patriotism and of Americans. Barry Vincent Smith a 90 year old veteran of the WASPS and WWII spoke of her learning to fly so that she could become one of the hundreds of women who were being asked to help in the war effort. She kept the members and guests mesmerised with her remembrance of those experiences more than 60 years ago.

Sebring Lodge 1529 and Lake Placid Lodge co-hosted the State President’s visit at the Sebring Lodge. It was a learning and beneficial meeting with President Jim Hurst giving his message of the importance of Elks memberships decline and in need of rejuvenation.

SEBRING LODGE 1529

Sebring Lodge was proud to co-host the visitation of President Jim Hurst and his wife Julia with Lake Placid Lodge and also proud of the District with all eight Lodges in attendance. The kitchen crew and decorating crew did a wonderful job of providing the food and decorations.

During the Highlands County Triathlon in June, Jim Mason, PER, and Drug Awareness Chairman gave out “Proud to be Drug Free” ribbons to the Junior participants.

Sebring Lodge is proud to have four state and district Florida State Elks representatives. Joe Bryant has been State Treasurer for 25 years, and coordinates along with his wife, Faye, in coordinating our hospitality room at State functions; Jim Mason, PER, is Chairman of Community Activities of the State’s 107 Lodges; Dick Stover, PER, is Government Relations Southwest Central District Chairman; and Bill Fuller and his wife Michele are actively involved in Elks Riders U.S.A. representing Sebring at state functions.

ARCADIA LODGE 1974

Exalted Ruler Jack Collins presented the Circle of Friends Ministry with a much appreciated check for five hundred dollars. Mertice Kelly, Executive Director, accepted the check signed by the children and young adults there. The Circle of Friends Ministry is a ministry to children and young adults with physical and or developmental disabilities and their families.
How Can We Inspire Membership Gain If We Are Silent?

A Public Relations Story

The story you are about to hear is true, only the names and location have been omitted.

A Member in good standing walks into a Lodge with a non-member friend, and no one greets them, other than the bartender to take their order.

All around them are officers of the Lodge dressed in their Lodge attire, and all the while, as they sit there sipping their drinks, not a word of welcome is extended to them, as though they were invisible.

Feeling a little out of place the friend’s next question was “is it like this at all Elks Lodges,” at that point the member takes the friend over to the community board to show the friend what the Elks do, but even while walking about the Lodge it still seems as though they are invisible.

By virtue of being members of this great Order, we are all members of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee. As it is no accident that we attract new members, and likewise, it is no accident that we suffer membership loss. We each must be the constant salesmen, telling all about our work and setting the examples of what exemplifies brotherly love, and extending these virtues to both our members and to their guests, this speaks volumes of who we are. It is through our membership that we attract new members. Therefore, how we treat members, their guests and visiting members is of the utmost importance.

We have only one opportunity to make a first impression, so let us all concentrate and work on maximizing the most of the opportunity every time.

Fraternally,
Russell D. Sens, PER
State Chairman
Publicity and Public Relations
Miami Lodge 948

For over five years, Miami Lodge members have opened their Lodge to teen Veterans Administration volunteers for a summer’s end celebration. The Lodge provided a barbecued chicken and rib luncheon with sides, soft drinks, and desserts to those teens who gave up their summers to serve the military veteran patients. Hours-worked awards were given as follows: Seven received 50 hour pins, 11 received 100 hour pins, seven received 150 hour pins, eight received 300 hour pins, two received 500 hour pins.

These students, 47 in all, faithfully served veteran patients from June 9th to August 6th. They were given specific schedules, had to wear uniforms, and clocked in for duty. It was a job in every sense of the word except for a paycheck. At the end of their tenure, each wrote an essay about their jobs. At the luncheon, four scholarships were awarded, as follows: Lexus Holden, a 14-year-old Miamian, won the Performance Award of $100. She is in the 9th grade at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School; Gabriel Colon, age 17 and a senior at South Plantation High School, won the Nomination Award of $250; Ant-Quaniique Dancy won the Essay Award of $500; she is a Sophomore at the Miami Lakes Education Center; Shannon Matthews won the Best Overall Award of $1,000; Catherine Zaw was commended by ER Jack Lopez for having given 680 hours of service to the System, the most of anyone present at the party. Eliana Hernandez, who could not be present at the celebration, had accumulated 750 hours.

Miami Lodge 948 was one of 18 organizational and individual sponsors who contributed to reward these kids. In addition to the luncheon, their hours-worked pins, and major awards, all present were given gifts such as photo frames, store gift cards, and other favors and prizes. They were entertained with a hip-hop party and bingo games for school supplies cash. A Murder Mystery Dinner, “A Night In Margaritaville” was held on August 21 with over 200 members attending. The event was so successful that a 2nd one is planned for sometime in March 2011.

State President, James E. Hurst and First Lady Julia, visited the South District on August 27 and 28. On Friday night they were treated to a barbeque rib and fried shrimp dinner at North Miami Lodge 1835. Saturday started off the day with a little culture by visiting the Lowe Museum on the University of Miami campus, and then it was on to South Miami Lodge 1676 for lunch. After a brief rest in the late afternoon, the festivities resumed at Miami Lodge 948 with an old-fashioned USO dinner and dance. The President arrived dressed in his former military uniform.

The Lodge Activities Committee hosted a slew of fun events with all of the proceeds earmarked for charity. Here are the totals they’ve raised thus far: $1300 to the Lodge Charity Fund; Bingo - $875 to the Elks National Foundation and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund; Latin Dance Lessons - $836 which helped send 31 campers to the Florida Elks Youth Camp; Yard Crew Fish Fry - $1734 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. That’s a grand total of $3,947!

Ring Raffle Successful

Fundraiser for Grand Exalted Ruler Expenses

At the National Convention in Orlando we conducted a raffle for a beautiful man’s black onyx ring with mother of pearl inlay in the Florida booth. The raffle was held to help raise funds for our incoming Grand Exalted Ruler. We were able to raise $1350.00 dollars on a ring that was donated by PDDGER Frank Malatesta, my sincere thanks to Frank for this generous donation. On behalf of Grand Exalted Ruler Mike Smith and First Lady Sandra, I would like to thank everyone who helped sell tickets and a big thank you to every Florida Elk that bought tickets for this very worthwhile cause. On Wednesday after the booths closed, Ebba Jean Palladini pulled the winning ticket. The ring stayed in Florida as it was won by Marie Yagoda, Exalted Ruler of Seminole Lodge #2519. Again Florida stepped up and showed the warmth and friendliness we are known for. My thanks to all who helped make this raffle a success.

Edmund (Ed) Tuthill PDD
Raffle Chairman

What a way, to start the day

The State President’s visit can be a very stressful experience for every Vice President in their efforts to make sure that things will go smoothly. The day can start very early and getting dressed for the day often takes place in a dark room. This photo shows what actually happened without the VP’s awareness until much later in the day.
Each of the Exalted Rulers have noted how much they enjoyed the excitement of the Elks National Convention, its business sessions, the workshops, and the camaraderie of the members who attended the convention. Carl Ledig, District Vice President, has completed his visits to the Lodges and is now planning the visit to our district by State President James Hurst and his wife, Julia. DDGER Carol Cruce from Perry Lodge begins her visits in September and the Lodges are looking forward to her review.

Lake City Lodge 893

The annual Lake City Elks Golf Tournament was held Saturday, June 19. PSP Tom Elmore won individual recognition achieving Closest to the Pin. Longest Putt was won by Derek Payne. ER Slater thanked everyone who helped make this event another successful fundraiser and golf outing.

The Lodge celebrated July 4 with a cookout featuring hot dogs and hamburgers. Forty pounds of potato salad was served. Folks brought lawn chairs to be comfy outdoors and to be prepared to watch the fireworks over the lake behind the Lodge.

Lake City Lodge is looking forward to the visit by DDGER Cruce on October 20 and is grateful that other Lodges are being visited first.

Live Oak Lodge 1165

Live Oak Lodge extends congratulations to Jessica Law, the winner of the grill raffle. The next item being raffled is a smoker, a very necessary outdoor appliance for any home.

The Lodge is once again pleased to have disbursed five scholarship awards to local high school students. These cash awards are funded through the Lodge’s bingo operation and are annual awards. Two awards went to Suwannee High school seniors; one to a senior at Branford High, and two others to Lafayette High and Hamilton High students, respectively.

A fundraising event sponsored by the Lodge and its Anna Miller Circle, is the 7th Annual Fishing Tournament, this year on September 18th at Steinhatchee. That’s the Gulf of Mexico for folks not familiar with the coastal areas in the panhandle. There are giveaways, free drawings, and $1,500 in prizes for catches of redfish and trout.

Marianna Lodge 1516

Marianna Lodge kicked off the summer with a 4th of July celebration with burgers, dogs and the popular food trimmings for a summer cookout. Pricing, to attract families, was $5 for an adult and kids eat free. On July 15, the Lodge celebrated its 85th anniversary of the Lodge, inviting members from other Lodges in the district to attend. It was an evening of pizza and beer (or soft drinks) to commemorate the Lodge’s years of Elkdom. A yard sale at the Lodge was held on Saturday, July 17 to help members unload some of their items no longer needed at home and to assist the Lodge in raising a few bucks. The sale was most successful, raising over $400 for the Lodge.

The Lodge was proud to help sponsor the Miss Heart of America Pageant at the Lodge on August 28. Proceeds from the event went to the Chipola Family Ministries program. Elks and guests were invited to be part of this food drive pageant.

ER Billy Thomason took a few lines in his ER message to thank members Paul Johnson and Bill Willingham for their help in doing some renovations at the Lodge. There have been a number of improvements including painting, carpet cleaning, and new ceiling tiles in some of the rooms.

Changes in the dining room fare have included a new Kids Menu where all the items are less than $5. The dining room now opens earlier and offers appetizers as well as entrées beginning at 4:30 in the afternoon.

Perry Lodge 1851

Perry Lodge has been fortunate to have several members step up to the plate and contribute materials and hours of time in replacing booths in the dining room, shampooing carpet, and painting walls. New carpet was donated to the new Lodge room. Money has been donated and is earmarked to buy a replacement 11th hour clock/chime. Six used church pews in excellent condition were purchased with donations from members. The Lodge room was dedicated on July 13, the same night as the official visit to the Lodge by District VP Carl Ledig.

DDGER Carol Cruce from the Perry Lodge was installed at the Elks National Convention in Orlando. Carol is honored to be the district’s representative for our national organization and it is a special thrill for her to be reporting to this year’s GER, Florida’s own Mike Smith.

The Lodge is working diligently on increasing membership. Sixteen new members have been brought into the Lodge through August and there are twelve applications pending. PDDGER Roscoe Sheffield was awarded the Grand Lodge Citation of Merit for an outstanding contribution to the growth of the Order.

Tallahassee Lodge 937

Tallahassee Lodge had a July 4 cookout featuring burgers and hot dogs on the holiday. On Monday, July 5, the raffle for the golf club and bag held its drawing, with Past Elk Burgert winning the prize. The clubs were persimmon woods, a Titleist oversized driver, Jack Nicklaus MacGregor irons, a Ping putter and other great golf accessories. Later in the month a fundraiser with a Hawaiian theme was held to help finance the Gretchen Everhart school trip to FEYC. Teriyaki chicken, California salad, BBQ ribs and other side dishes were the fare. The pool tournament guys started a 9-ball contest in late July, featuring blind-draw, double elimination. Players are enjoying the new game.

The Lodge has done some “sprucing up” including new paint in the ballroom, dining room, entry foyer, and ladies lounge. The Elklets took on the project of the entry foyer and also added new carpet and furnishings. The new look is a handsome one. Other exciting additions are two big flat screen televisions in the lounge. The Lodge’s cable service has been upgraded to accept HD signals and additional sports broadcasts. There is still more work to be done, which is the price we all pay for all Lodges that are housed in an older building.

September is the month when the Tallahassee Lodge sponsors a trip to the FEYC for the Gretchen Everhart kids, as mentioned in the fundraiser above. This year the Lodge chartered two buses and kids and their families will spend a long weekend at the camp. Even in these depressed economic times, businesses, members, and others in the community have been generous with donations so the Lodge is able to provide this wonderful trip for these families.

The Lodge hosted a Labor Day feast of salad, spaghetti, garlic bread, marble cake, and homemade spumoni. Coming up in October is German dinner night featuring sauerbraten, potato pancakes, and other favorites. Homemade black forest cake has been wildly discussed – from what forest? Another dinner feature is the Candlelight Dinner with four courses of food. The entrée for the evening is stuffed pork loin.

Plans are underway for New Years Eve celebration with live music, a meal, and an evening filled with cheer to bring in the new year.

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Internet - www.elkshome.org or E-Mail - enhome@elkshome.org
Bonita Springs-Estero Lodge 2753

On September 10 Bonita Springs-Estero Elks Lodge re-opened its doors after two weeks of annual maintenance. New members were welcomed back with a special menu which included a variety of entrees and a bottle of wine followed by a delicious dessert and entertainment.

It was a day that we will not soon forget nor will we forget those tireless professionals and volunteers who ventured to the rescue of those who were endangered and many of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice and were counted among the over 3,000 that lost their life on that 11th day in 2001.

A special ceremony was held with a presentation conducted by Ravis Prueitt, Exalted Ruler, and Jeff Morse, Esteemed Loyal Knight and Chairman of the Veterans Committee.

The table was placed beside the entertainment stage and cordoned off to be untouched until the return of the POW-MIA. On the table is a rose, a setting for one and above and behind is a photo of the Vietnam Memorial which reminds us of all the veterans that have served, returned and sacrificed so that we may live the life of freedom that we have today.

Veterans in attendance were recognized for their contribution followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of God Bless America.

POW-MIA MEMORIAL

By approval of the membership a POW-MIA table was assembled and installed in a place of honor in the lounge. the ER reminded the members that as this special spot is dedicated we should never forget those veterans who have yet to return.

On that occasion special tribute was paid in remembrance to the victims of September 11 who lost their lives in a moment of terror which had not touched our land in over 150 years.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288

Dictionary Program at Villas Elementary

On September 10 officers of the Ft. Myers Lodge distributed dictionaries and books on how to use a dictionary and Thesaurus to all the 3rd grade students at the Villas Elementary school. The students and teachers were very appreciative of the books. Members said it was extremely rewarding to see how excited and polite the children were when they were presented with the books. The Ft. Myers Lodge has adopted the Villas Elementary School this year and will be working with them during the year.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

On September 19, Punta Gorda Lodge and Deep Creek Lodge sent 48 Elks and their guests to the Elks Day at the Rays baseball game in St. Petersburg. For each attendee of the group $5.00 was donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in support of the kids.

The Punta Gorda Elks Lodge made their quarterly trip to the Bay Pines VA Medical Facility. Each quarter the Lodge collects toiletries, shoes and clothing for the facility. These articles are provide to Elks VA Representative at the Facility.

Punta Gorda Elks Lodge held its annual 4th of July, “Picnic on the Water.” Members and guests enjoyed a day of good food, music and many flags displayed.

Englewood Lodge 2378

Englewood sponsored the Two Rivers District Pinewood Derby. This is a large event for boys from Sarasota to Punta Gorda. The boys come to race their homemade cars and to earn a space in the Southwest Florida Council Derby. The Lodge was honored to have the boys and their families at the Lodge for this important Cub Scout event.

Florida Elks Cook Book Sale

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98 Pages of Recipes from some of the best Elk cooks in Florida - Great for gifts!
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Boca Raton Lodge 2166

Mother’s Day was celebrated at the Lodge with a traditional presentation by Lodge Officers and a moving tribute to deceased mothers by Denis Schumacher, 2-year Trustee, & PER. Guests, were given red roses in honor of their living mothers and white roses in memory of their deceased mothers. A brunch was prepared by the Lodge House Committee.

Lodge members gathered at the Boca Raton Cemetery on Memorial Day to honor all military personnel who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. City leaders, veterans groups, schools, police and fire departments were among the attendees. Denis Schumacher represented the Elks and once again delivered an outstanding presentation. A coalition at the Lodge followed the services.

Boca Raton Does Drove 173 collected 200 pounds of aluminum can pull tabs for the Lodge. Exalted Ruler Francis “Tom” Thomason and his wife Diane, Tiler, delivered the pull tabs to Ronald McDonald House in Fort Lauderdale.

Alan Koehler was recognized as June’s Elk of the Month. Al contributes much of his time to the Lodge, is always willing to lend a hand, and his brother and sister Elks appreciate his hard work!

The Lodge June “Indoor/Outdoor Picnic” was fun for all with games, dancing, a cake walk and more. The biggest hit of the evening was the “Woman-less Women’s Fashions all with games, dancing, a cake walk and more. The biggest hit of the evening was the “Woman-less Women’s Fashions show,” which will surely be reminisced for years.

The Lodge annual Flag Day celebration included an impressive “History of U.S. Flags” presentation by Boca Raton High School’s NJROTC, which is currently ranked 1st in Florida and 3rd in our nation, and a flag retirement ceremony. Girl Scout Troop 20319 was in attendance and a light lunch was served to 40 guests. The Lodge supported the NJROTC with a $500 donation.

Hollywood West Lodge 2365

Mr. George Coffrey and PER Edward Kaplan have supplied the Vets of Sandy Nininger State Florida Nursing Home vets with clothing that has been donated to the Lodge. The items are given to the vets directly, names are placed on the item, so it is then returned to the correct resident. All of the items are being distributed on a needy basis.

The Lodge provided a spaghetti dinner for the vets on July 28, all members were invited to say hello and thank them for their contribution for our freedom.

Southwest Broward Lodge 2273

Sandy Stevens, President of the Southwest Broward Elkettes 2273, reported that the Elkettes have knitted skull covers for under helmets of armed forces personnel. The Lodge awarded two $1,000 scholarships to two deserving recipients. On a monthly basis the Lodge has been collecting canned goods for the needy. Donations were made to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, the Florida Elks Youth Camp, and the Army of Hope.

At the Friendship Tea party, a hat contest was held, 135 were in attendance.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352:

The Lodge was proud to have been selected by Grand Lodge to receive a $1,000 Promise Grant to expand the Community Garden program under the direction of member Tim Hadell for another year. This year he plans to included students from a local school to help with the raising of vegetables.

The Lodge is getting back to a more normal operation after being zapped by Florida Power and Light Company, when they miswired a transformer that feeds electricity into our building. All equipment and refrigeration hooked up to the electrical 110 sockets was destroyed and made inoperable by the electricity.

The Lodge was in the planning stage of a new HOPE Scholarship for their contribution for our freedom.

Jupiter Lodge 2469:

The members of the Lodge donated 50 pairs of sneakers to elementary schools in the Jupiter area to be distributed to needy children. Each pair of sneakers included a note about the Elks Program for the parents to read. Each school received a letter describing the program and what the Elks were about.

A Pig Roast was held on October 16th sponsored by the Lodge’s Bushwacker Group. These are the fine people that volunteer to take care of our grounds under the leadership of George Shelton.

Belle Glade/Pahokee Lodge 1716:

On August 8, the Lodge held a Fish Fry for all the members of the Glades Gas Company in Belle Glade. The business was closed early so that all the employees could come and participate in the activities.

On August 21, the Lodge was blessed with a visit from the Cardinal and Bishop from the Catholic Churches. They represented the St. Philip Benizzi Catholic Church in Belle Glade. The Lodge fed over 250 people that night and all the food and hor d’oeuvres for the evening were prepared by the members of the Lodge.

A Chicken Wing Night was held on August 25 for all members at the back bar.

Belle Glade-Pahokee Lodge, in conjunction with the West Palm Beach Lodge, are feeding the volunteers for Habitat for Humanity that are involved in building houses in the Belle Glade area.

A retirement party was held on September 4 for an officer who was retiring from the Sheriff’s Departmetn in Belle Glade. The Trustees donated the Lodge for this event.

DDGER Sonny Willis from the Lodge is presently in Palm West Hospital undergoing treatment for a colon problem. He was in the Belle Glade Hospital before being transferred.

Clewiston Lodge 1853:

At the regular Lodge meeting on August 18, 2010, the members voted to replace the existing flat roof with a tapered roof, and cover the existing mansard with a metal roof. This was necessary due to the cost of repairing the flat roof.
Southwest District

On New Year’s Eve 2010, Jim Larsen, PER from Manasota Lodge 2734 will be running in a 24 hour endurance race ending at 8am New Year’s day on Peanut Island in South Florida. Jim is running in support of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and pledges can be made in any denomination of either per mile or flat donation. This reporter is matching Florida State Elks Association President James Hurst’s pledge and inviting all Elks and their friends to make a pledge donation. Click on the link at wwwflelks.org and let’s put the Harry Anna Trust Fund over the top.

Senior Past District Deputy C. Bruce Jones, who served the Southwest District in 1972-73 and Junior Past District Deputy Thom Dillman, serving the district last year are shown together during a recent Vice President’s visit at the Lakewood Ranch Elks Lodge 2855.

L to R: Thom Dillman and C. Bruce Jones.

Bradenton Lodge 1511

The Bradenton Lodge wishes to thank the Anna Maria Elementary School for collecting aluminum can tabs that creates a financial donation for the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. The top tab collectors were Tyler Brewer, 1st grade, Paisley Smelt, kindergarten, Brooks Capparelli, 3rd grade and Lexi Ramos, 5th grade.

L to R: Ron Wilkinson, Trustee, Chris Galbrith, Chad Hoeksema.

Lakewood Ranch Lodge 2855

The Lakewood Ranch Lodge held a special ceremony the night of September 11th to honor First Responders Chris Galbrith and Chad Hoeksema. After a brief patriotic program, the members lined up to thank the fire fighters for all they do.

Manasota Elks Lodge 2734

At DVP Jim Lamb’s Official visitation to the Manasota Lodge on September 25, a grant of $500 was presented to the Lodge. This grant was made through The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation, Inc. This money will be used by the Lodge to help local children through the Florida Elks Children Therapy Services and Elks Youth Camp.

Manasota Elks members contribute approximately $15,000 per year to their community to help children, local families, schools and veterans by funding different projects through the year.

Manasota Elks Lodge special guests were Hunter Brogdon, his Grandparents Carol & Greg Stone, Margo Baker, Therapist with the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and Paula Martin of The Hanover Insurance Group.

South Hillsborough Lodge 2672

At the DD Clinic held August 28th at the Lakewood Ranch Elks Lodge 2855, Nora Baker was presented with a certificate honoring her giving of $2,000 or more to the Elks National Foundation.

Southwest Florida Elks Lodge 2495

Sarasota South Elks Lodge and Sarasota VFW Post 3233 teamed up to do a picnic for 175 veterans and their guests at Bay Pines V. A. Hospital. This was the first time the two organizations worked together, but both agreed it wouldn’t be the last. Entertainment was provided by Lynn Spins.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge held a public Open House on Saturday, September 11th, The S. Hillsborough Elks Lodge hosted a benefit for Cindy Lou Wood. Cindy was violently attacked, has had two brain surgeries and five hospitalizations. The long-term costs of such injuries cannot be estimated. Events included dinner, dancing, entertainment, auction and raffles.

Vera Sickles, Veterans Committee Chairman of South Hillsborough Elks Lodge received a message that an Air Force Veteran’s air conditioner was out and he was not in a position to get it fixed. He is also suffering from heart and breathing problems. Vera talked to members of the Lodge and a new air conditioner was installed immediately. Teri Taylor has written the Lodge thanking us for our generous response and saying Vera Sickles must surely be an angel on earth. The new A/C is making a huge difference in the quality of his life.
NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Karen S. Knight, Reporter
karensknight@msn.com

Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787
Attempts are being made to find ways to have the members come in and get involved. If you have an idea on how to bring more membership involvement, let someone know! There are some limitations, but for the most part we will consider most ideas. We are looking for enough people to make up two dart teams.

Destin Lodge 2688
Members were recently informed of a Harry Anna therapy story that takes place in our area.

A serviceman and his wife were recently transferred to this area from England. While in England, they arranged to adopt a child from Vietnam. Despite assurances that the baby would be healthy, they received a five-month-old with severe mental and physical disabilities.

This child has no cognitive recognition and has to be fed through a tube due to the fact that it has no chewing and swallowing instinct. The mother has had to quit her job as a veterinarian to raise the child. Two professional therapists in the Fort Walton area said the child was beyond help. The Elks therapists have answered the call and are attempting to help the child and the family. It is my understanding that the child has shown some improvement. Your contributions really do make a difference. Remember, Elks care. Elks share.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

The restaurant and bar are still turning a profit. Friday night dinners are averaging 85-100 and Sunday breakfast’s slowed down last month with the exception of the last Sunday brunch.

The Lodge now has another new bartender. Her name is Donna, she will start out working Monday and Tuesday nights; stop by and make her welcome. There was a High School Reunion held at the Lodge on Saturday September 11.

Anyone wanting to do a fundraiser for their selected charity could do so. Please check with the Exalted Ruler to find an open Saturday where you could put on a meal or fun event. There has been a few takers, but there is still time to get yours scheduled.

Panama City Lodge 1598

Panama City BPO Elks Lodge 1598 welcomes all Elks to come visit our newly renovated Lodge Home. Many improvements have been made inside and out. All Elks are invited to our Meetings, held The First and Third Monday’s beginning at 7:00 PM. The Lodge is located 101 W. Beach Drive, Panama City. Call 769-1598 for directions. We would also love to have Elks Members and their Families join us for other activities. Check out our Monthly Calendar for upcoming events. We are always happy to meet our out of town brothers and sisters.

Twin Cities Lodge 2747

Thanks go to all the members who showed their love and support for the families during the visitations and memorial services. Once again, you have reminded me about the true heart of Elkdome and re-emphasized why I became a member. It is difficult to continue this letter after discussing such a great loss to our Order, but the great works of Elkdome must go on, and I know our fallen Members would want us to continue with the business at hand.

So what is going on this month? The big Twin Cities Lodge Annual Golf Tournament is coming up on the 19th of this month. Don’t miss the opportunity to play one of the nicest courses in the area. There will be plenty of great door prizes, food after the round, and beer on the course. For more information, please contact Belinda Leatherwood at the Lodge.

The House Committee continues doing an outstanding job with our social events. Friday’s join us for specialty dinners or potlucks and get tickets for the drawing. It is exciting and fun.

MORNING STAR ELKS L1150

On Saturday, September 11 the Lodge was visited by Florida State President James A. Hurst and his lovely wife Julia, as well as the current Vice President at Large Frank D. Hayes and his lovely wife, Linda. More than 140 braved the hot, humid Pensacola weather to greet the dignitaries on the Lodge’s East portico.

First to emerge was the orchestrator of this event, Vice President of the Great Northwest District, Phil Finder, a true ‘trident among the minnows’ as it was he that made sure that no stone was unturned and every amenity was addressed and resolved with aplomb. If cloning could come into fashion we would surely like to have many of him.

This was a great opportunity to renew old friendships of those we have met over the years, and it appeared to us that all of the District’s eight Lodges’ were represented in attendance, some of those whom we have not seen for several years.

Something else was the fantastic Prime Rib dinner served by Lodge’s volunteers who have proven to most that those who give of their time and effort make the dining experience that much more enjoyable for those of us partaking.

The various presentations included those by President Hurst as well as Jim Coggins (Administrative Aide to National President Mike Smith) with the tenor of acknowledging our Armed Forces who guard our liberty and interests around this fragile world of ours.

Cindy DeCicco and her son Ryan manned the “Just Say No” Drug information trailer at a recent event

Crestview Lodge 2624

August Happenings: Luau entertainment night was truly awesome! There were 35 members and guests in attendance and most were up on the dance floor enjoying themselves. Some simply enjoyed the opportunity for some wonderful fellowship. The food was delicious as well as the music provided by Old and Older. Two new prospects for membership were given applications.

The Lodge hosted the August 14 District Deputy (DO) Clinic which provided the perfect forum for education and great discussion.

The Lodge was recognized for its significant increase in membership.

Boxes of mosquito repellent burning rings (six rings per box) are available for a $5 donation to help raise money for this event.

Ft. Walton Elks Lodge 1795

Fort Walton will host the Army of Hope picnic in March 2011.

Last month was an exciting month starting off with the Kid’s Day, followed by the Second Annual Mullet Toss. If you were not able to attend either of the events, then you missed an opportunity to see the joy and excitement on both young and more mature! This year at least 52 kids participated in various events to include face painting, sand art, egg race and water balloon toss. For those of you who do not know, the children were permitted to throw water balloons at the Exalted Ruler, Past Exalted Rulers and this year’s District Deputy.

For some reason, it appeared that older kids took a couple of shots as well! Probably the biggest hit was the water slide. The expressions on the younger kids taking their first plunge were well worth the time and effort of putting this event on.

Thanks goes to those members who donated money to pay for the slide!!

The highlight of the day was the Kids’ Fishing Derby! Each child participating in the fishing derby received a new rod and reel, compliments of Charlene Gibicisar. Like the Kid’s Day event, watching the expressions and emotions displayed by our young adults as they caught their first fish, or tossed a mullet into the porcelain bowl was well worth the price of admission!! As word spreads, we hope next year’s event will be much larger and more successful.

Joshua’s First Fish

A note from Joshua Spencer’s mother Rebekah: “I just wanted to say thank you to each of you. Joshua has never been fishing before and Milton helped Joshua catch his first fish. You are all appreciated so much. He had so much fun and with him still having health problems, anytime he can just be a kid and have fun it means all the more to me.”

This youngster is having medical problems and it was his first time fishing!

Ft. Walton’s PER, Jerry Burrows’ boss, Mike Wright, has volunteered to sponsor more kids fishing tournaments. He has never been fishing before and Milton helped Joshua catch his first fish. You are all appreciated so much. He had so much fun and with him still having health problems, anytime he can just be a kid and have fun it means all the more to me.”

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Welcome your newest Therapists!

Erica Aberman, DPT, has been working in the field of Pediatric Physical Therapy since graduating from Physical Therapy school in 2004. She practiced at a private clinic in Miami, FL for the past 6 years gaining experience in a variety of pediatric settings such as outpatient, home-health, school/PPEC, and hippotherapy.

Erica received her Doctorate of Physical Therapy from the University of Miami in 2004 and received her Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from Florida State University in 2001. Erica is originally from Miami and moved to Fort Lauderdale in July 2010 at which time she joined Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. She serves patients in the South-Southeast and South districts.

Erica enjoys spending time with her family and her dog Archie, reading, exercising, traveling and FSU Football. “I am really enjoying being an ELKS therapist and being able to provide the children and families with the help they need. It is very rewarding to see how the children and families appreciate what we do. The FECTS team of therapists and staff has welcomed me with open arms. I am honored and proud to be part of the FECTS family.”

Heidi Pennella graduated in 1998 with a bachelors of Science in Occupational Therapy from the College of St. Catherine’s in Saint Paul Minnesota. She moved around a bit prior to settling in Dade City Florida, starting out in Berkeley California, Washington DC, then the New York area.

She has experience in a variety of therapy settings from geriatrics, hospitals, locked psychiatric units, therapeutic preschools, private practice, and home health. She passionately uses a holistic approach to treating children addressing all areas of need from remapping the brain to improve learning, special diet recommendations, to the use of music to change children’s lives.

Heidi lives just outside Dade City Florida on a small working orange grove with her husband Ralph and 5 year old son JonPaul. They all enjoy playing with their four Arabian horses and two dogs. Heidi serves patients in the Central, North Central and West Central districts.

Kathi Burns, OTRL, was born and raised with 4 brothers in a suburb of Detroit, Michigan. She was severely burned by hot water (third degree burns over 60% of my body) at 9 months of age, which has always led her to understand those with disability and/or being different. Both her parents and grandparents were active members of the Allen Park and Dearborn ELKS’s Lodges in Michigan.

After graduating high school Kathi joined the US ARMY. She and her husband met at Ft Riley, Kansas and moved to Long Beach, California once they had been honorably discharged. After losing their first child to SIDS, she proudly delivered our second child February 11, 1983 – sadly, her husband was mortally injured in a motorcycle accident 7 days later. She became a single mom overnight.

She and her daughter moved to Citrus County, Florida in 1990. Kathi graduated with Honors from University of Florida in 1998 with a BS in Occupational Therapy. Kathi has worked with the pediatric population as an OT in a variety of settings, since graduating. Currently, she is remarried to a wonderful man who is her “rock”! They golf, fish and cook together as often as possible. Kathi’s daughter is now 27 and lives in California. She was blessed with a grandson in February of this year.

She has acquired many titles so far in life: Mom, veteran, wife, OT, caregiver, “MeeMaw”, friend, etc. She is very proud to add FECTS employee to her list! Kathi serves patients in the Central and North Central districts.