James E. Hurst, Jr.
Endorsed President
Florida State Elks Association 2010-2011

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northeast District and Jacksonville Lodge 221 are honored to present to the 2010 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of James E. Hurst, Jr. as a candidate for the office of President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

James E. Hurst, Jr. was born in Jacksonville, Florida on August 5, 1943. He resided there with his mother, one younger brother, and maternal grandparents during his years in the public school system in Duval County. He has continued to reside there except for his four years of attendance at college and his two years of active duty in the United States Army. Upon completion of high school, Jim attended

James E. Hurst, Jr.

James E. Hurst, Jr. College and then graduated from Florida State University where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History. After his two year service in the Army which included a one year tour of duty with an artillery battery in Vietnam, Jim returned to FSU to complete his Master’s degree in Education. He then became employed in the Duval County Public School System as a history teacher but later taught elementary school for a number of years.

Jim studied at the University of North Florida for his certification in Educational Administration and Supervision and went on to complete a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership at Nova Southeastern University in 1985. Prior to that time, he had been appointed as an Elementary School Principal in 1978 and continued to serve at four different schools in Duval County during his career as a principal. He was called back to work by the school system numerous times in administrative positions after his initial retirement in 1997. The last temporary assignment occurred in 2007. In addition, he served as an Adjunct Instructor for Nova Southeastern University and the University of North Florida in Jacksonville and as a consultant for McGraw-Hill Book Publishers.

Jim has been an active member of the Jacksonville Elks Lodge 221 since 1987 when he was initiated into Southside Jacksonville Lodge #2014 prior to the merger of those two Lodges. He began immediately to progress through the officer chairs in both elected as well as appointed positions. In addition, Jim served in many other capacities including Lodge and District Chairman of the Elks National Foundation Scholarship Program, Youth Activities, and Americanism. His other contributions included various fundraising efforts, membership on the Building Committee, recognition of the Educator of the Year, participation in Flag Day and Memorial Day Services, and Ritual competition.

As Leading Knight, he received the Officer of the Year Award for 1998-99. His local Lodge service culminated in his tenure as Exalted Ruler for the 1999-2000 Lodge year. Jim also was a member of the Board of Trustees in the Jacksonville Lodge and President of the Lodge PER Association.

On the state and Grand Lodge level, Jim served as State Vice Chairman and the following year as Chairman of the Youth Activities Committee. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Florida

Hurst continued page 9

Grand Lodge Convention
Florida Elks will shine

By C. Valentine Bates, PGER

Florida Elks can take great pride that one of their own, Mike Smith, accompanied by the beautiful Sandra, will be our next Grand Exalted Ruler, and will be elected and take office at the Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando, Florida this July.

Mike is imminently qualified for this singular position. He and Sandra will be wonderful representatives of our state and our Order. Together they will exemplify the best that Elkdom has to offer as they crisscross our great country meeting many fine Elks.

Get on board as we gather in Orlando for a great celebration and a great send off for Mike and Sandra. They need and certainly deserve our support. We can be proud of Mike’s many accomplishments. He has been a major contributor to the success of our State Association and more recently to the success of the Grand Lodge as he served as Chairman of the Board of Grand Trustees.

Val continued page 17

Some of the best golfers in Florida Elks can take great pride that one of their own, Mike Smith, accompanied by the beautiful Sandra, will be our next Grand Exalted Ruler, and will be elected and take office at the Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando, Florida this July.

Get on board as we gather in Orlando for a great celebration and a great send off for Mike and Sandra. They need and certainly deserve our support. We can be proud of Mike’s many accomplishments. He has been a major contributor to the success of our State Association and more recently to the success of the Grand Lodge as he served as Chairman of the Board of Grand Trustees.

I am proud to tell you that the singing group Re-Creation, who will perform at the opening of the Grand Lodge Convention on Sunday evening, July 4, 2010, will also perform privately and exclusively for the Florida Elks at the Florida Elks Dinner on Tuesday night.

This is just another exam-
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Vincent P. Como, FSEA President
Helping Others Promotes Elksdom

My dear Friends:

It is with more of a heavy heart than a sigh of relief that I write my final message to you as your State President.

Our Past Grand Exalted Ruler Peter Cattabriga did a superb job of guiding us through a very challenging year.

As your First Lady and I completed the remaining visits on our schedule, you, as Florida Elks, have continuously demonstrated that Elks Care – Elks Share.

Since my last message, our travels have taken us to the State Soccer Shoot contest at our beautiful Youth Camp. State Chairman Mark Thompson and all the officers and members have done a wonderful job welcoming us and making us feel very much at home.

The following weekend took us on our Northern “trek” for our visits to the North Central, Northeast and North districts respectively. In the North Central district, we were hosted by VP Mike Mongelluzo and Joan of Orlando Lodge No. 286. From the tremendous reception upon our arrival, to the homemade “guglielmo” cookies, everything was first rate. The Friday evening casual dinner at the Silver Spring Shores Lodge No. 2730 was delicious and enjoyed by all. On Saturday, we thoroughly enjoyed the view of the Cummer Art Gallery and Gardens. Lunch that followed in the Cummer museum was both relaxing and informative.

One week later, we went to Jacksonville Lodge No. 221 in the Northeast district, home of VP John Markewicz and Endorsed State President Jim Hurst. We enjoyed a Friday evening casual “fish fry” dinner at the Orange Park Lodge No. 2605 which was delicious and enjoyed by all. On Saturday, following breakfast, we thoroughly enjoyed the view of the Cummer Art Gallery and Gardens. Lunch that followed was well prepared and everyone was well organized and everything went very well.

Our final visit was followed by a trip to Perry Lodge No. 1851 of the North district and hosted by VP Carol Cruce. Casual dinner at the Perry Lodge No. 1851 on Friday evening was delicious and enjoyed by all. On Saturday, following breakfast at the downtown Cafe, we were impressed by the hard work and dedication of the members of the Army JROTC in the Taylor County High School gym. The tour of the Veteran Memorial Park where member, Ed Sheffield has dedicated so much of his life to the park, was superbly organized, the meal was delicious and the fanfare was terrific. The display of all the district banners from our visits added a great touch. Thank you to all who attended, from near and far.

We returned to the Youth Camp the following week to host the families and participants for the State Hoop Shoot contest. Peter Cattabriga and his committee did a tremendous job in lodging, feeding and hosting the invitees. Everything was well organized and promoted true sportsmanship among the participants. It was great to see such young athletes compete and appreciate the sense of fair play.

The soccer Shoot, and the various district contests leading to them, is an excellent example of the kind of program that recognizes our youth across our state of Florida. Thank you for making this contribution that enables us to enhance the lives of the children who participate.

We actually had a week off before enjoying some true “Southern” hospitality as guest of the Georgia Elks Association Spring meeting and State President Larry Capes and Adrian and Special Representative Stan Jones and Margie in beautiful Savannah. We enjoyed the sites and tasted some fine, Southern cooking. The history of the area was very historical and modern at the same time. We made some new friends and even became “country cousins” to some!

Immediately following the Georgia convention, we attended the newly elected Exalted Ruler/Secretary seminars in Lake Mary and Lake City. The information shared and presented at these seminars has become an invaluable tool in helping our Lodges succeed. Thank you to all the presenters and those that assist for taking two weekends out their personal lives to serve our Associations.

After a week’s break, we attended the Florida State Golf Tournament at the Spring Lake Resort in Sebring. The tournament raised nearly $14,000.00 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and a lot of fun was had by all. After driving around in a golf cart for nearly two years at various golf outings, I think I may finally take up the sport and actually hit some balls instead of chasing them! Golf anyone?

On April 18th we were the honored guests of Largo Lodge No. 2159 at their 50th anniversary celebration. Besides your First Lady and me, it was attended by PSP Frank Palladini and Ebba Jean, DD Ivan Chorenenko and Rita, VP Bob Pitney and Joan and Endorsed VP Ken Yagoda and Marie, PDD Mike Priester and Becky, State Sgt At Arms Willy Sander and Joan. The entire event was well prepared and organized and we wish them well and safe travels.

As this edition goes to print, we still have to attend the Harry-Anna Trust Fund seminar in Umatilla, State Softball tournament in Deland, prior to attending a fund raiser in Plant City for our endorsed candidate for Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Smith and Sandra. We are all fortunate to have such a dedicated couple represent our Order for the next year and we wish them well and safe travels.

As May approaches, we prepare for the “changing of the guard” and the “passing of the torch” of Florida Elksdom to the newly elected leaders of our Association. To Jim and Julia Hurst, thank you for your patience, support and friendship and wish you many blessings as you also embark on this journey of a lifetime.

To Frank and Linda Hayes, it has been a true pleasure to have you traveling with us the last few months. We wish you well in your journeys.

State President continued on page 11
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY
Carl T. Seibert, PDD

The 2010 Exalted Ruler Elect and Secretary Elect Seminars were held the second and third weekends in March in Orlando/Lake Mary and Lake City, respectively. I am pleased to report that the attendance this year was even higher than our record attendance last year! Last year, you might remember, our attendance was the highest it had been in the past 11 years for which I had records. These seminars, as told to us through the post seminar attendee comments, continue to be most informative and worthwhile. Our team of instructors works very hard to deliver useful information to the attendees, and their contribution is most appreciated. Many thanks go to this hardworking team. They are Chairman, Vincent Como, SP; Tom Elmore, PSP-PGELDGK; Frank Palladini, PSP; PDDs John Harris, Pete Vaphiades, Kevin Ambrose, & Lynn Warburton; VPAL Jim Hurst; and PER Don Moon. Exalted Rulers Elect from 98 of our 107 Lodges were in attendance as were 88 Secretaries Elect and 19 other officers. Those attendees along with the 14 Endorsed Vice Presidents brought the total attendees this year to 219. The 2011 seminars will be held March 11-13 in Lake Mary and March 18-20 in Lake City.

The 104th Annual Convention of the Florida State Elks Association will be held May 20th through the 23rd at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. Perhaps because it is not falling this year on Memorial Day weekend and/or maybe due to economic uncertainty, our attendance this year looks as if it will be down from that of previous years. For those who are able to attend, a great convention is being planned and for the most part, the convention and related activities will be run much as they were last year. All attendees are required to register upon arrival at the convention at the North Convention Registration Counter. Online pre-registration through the FSEA was required to order luncheon & dinner tickets as well as obtain a pre-printed name badge. At this late date, should you still need to pre-register or obtain tickets, please call Carl at (800) 523-1673 ext. 230. Your name badge is required for admission to most convention sessions and activities. Registration will open on Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. More information, including the preliminary schedule of activities for the convention, can be found on our web site at www.flelks.org. I hope you are planning on attending this year’s annual convention of the Florida State Elks Association!

Year ending membership numbers were not complete for this edition of the news. However, our projection for the largest percentage statewide membership loss is unfortunately still in line. Fellow members, the month of May, almost two months into the new year, is not the time to launch your lapsation efforts. These efforts should have been well underway in March as dues were coming in and should have hit their peak in the days leading up to the April 1st deadline for dues payment. Eventually folks we have got to quit “accepting” the loss of members through non-payment of dues! In talking with members across our state I find that many believe our losses are attributed to our members dying off. Would you believe that our losses from non-payment of dues are almost four (4) times that of our losses due to death?! Over the past five years we have lost 1.04% by Absolute Dimit, 1.59% through Transfers Out, 2.29% through death, and 8.47% from non-payment of dues! To apply a sporting analogy, we have got to have both a good defense and a good offense if we are to reverse our loss trends, our defense being our lapsation efforts and our offense being our membership recruitment efforts. Fortunately there are some bright stars on our team and this year we are asking them to sit on a panel at our State Convention as we begin to accelerate our membership efforts statewide. On Friday afternoon at 4:15 p.m. we are holding the first of its kind Membership Roundtable. There you will meet members of the top performing Lodges for membership in our state and meet this year’s top membership recruiters. A large crowd is expected, so come ready to get and share membership ideas and become part of a membership solution in your Lodge!

Our room block at the Rosen Centre Hotel for the 2010 Orlando Grand Lodge Convention is filling up fast. The convention dates are July 4th through the 8th. Reservations for the Rosen Centre may be made online and the link to the Rosen Centre reservation system may be found on our web site at www.flelks.org. Also, on our web site you may order your tickets for the Florida Dinner/Dance, sign up to assist in the Florida hospitality room, and become a sponsor of the Florida Hospitality Room. There is much information that can be found on our web site. Please read the information, as most of your questions will probably be answered.

Who’s ready for some baseball? Florida Elks Day at the Tampa Bay Rays is being held this year on Sunday, September 19th. The Rays will take on the Los Angeles Angels in a game starting at 1:40 p.m. Tickets are only $20 each and the Rays will be generously donating $5.00 from every ticket sold to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. A great day at the ballpark is being planned for us including recognition on their scoreboard for any Lodge or District purchasing 20 tickets or more, and our State President will be throwing out the ceremonial first pitch! This event would make a great bus trip for the Lodge and it would also be a great time to sponsor local children and take them along to see a major league baseball game! For more information contact the FSEA.

Interested in sharing ideas and viewpoints on Elks issues and other interests of interest with fellow Elks and other like-minded individuals? Introducing a way to do just that, it’s the first ever Florida Elks Online Forum. We anticipate this forum to be up and running on or before May 7, 2010. Joining this online forum is free and if all you want to do is just read what others are talking about, you can do just that. It requires nothing more. Online forums are all the rage these days and are increasing in popularity and use. Just the other day Lynn Warburton, our Youth Camp Director, was researching a computer problem we were having and he ended up finding a solution for the problem in an online forum. They are useful tools and a lot of fun. You can learn more about our forum at the State Convention but if you have a chance before then, please visit our site and let us know what you think. The web site is www.talkoftheelks.com.

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

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

While visiting Florida Elks in early February, Grand Exalted Ruler James Nicholson officially dedicated a Veterans Memorial Plaque located along a walkway into the Grafton Center at the Florida Elks Youth Camp, donated by the Florida Veteran’s Service Committee and the representatives to VA Medical Centers, in memory of those who have served and gave their all while serving their country in all branches of the military. The Plaque reads, “SO LONG AS THERE ARE VETERANS, THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS WILL NEVER FORGET THEM.” From left, Edward K. Jackson, Veterans’ Service Committee Chairman; Michael F. Smith, PSP, PGELCTK BOGT and endorsed Grand Exalted Ruler 2010-2011; Robert Grafton, PGER; GER James Nicholson, and C. Valentine Bates, PGER.
Florida’s 2010 ENF Scholarship Recipients

On April 1, 2010, the Elks National Foundation awarded a total of nearly $3.3 million in college scholarships to 750 high school seniors. The Elks National Foundation knows that education lays the groundwork for strong communities and strengthens today’s youth in becoming tomorrow’s leaders. Therefore, the ENF continues to provide more than $3.6 million in college scholarships each year.

The Foundation awarded 503 Most Valuable Student scholarships, ranging from $4,000 to $60,000 and 250 Legacy Awards of $4,000. The complete list of winners is available online at www.elks.org/enf/scholars.

Applications for the 2011 Most Valuable Student scholarship and Legacy Awards contests will be available September 1, 2010. Please contact me at debbiek@elks.org or 773/755-4872 with any questions.

The Elks National Foundation provides more than $3.6 million in college scholarships each year. For more information about our scholarship programs, including eligibility and deadlines, please visit www.elks.org/enf/scholars.

The 2011 competition kicks off 9/1/10 and runs through 12/15/10. Please visit www.elks.org/enf for contest details and to confirm deadlines. The Elks National Foundation will mail supplies to Lodge and State Chairs in late August. Applications will also be available online at elks.org/enf.

The Elks National Foundation is pleased to present the class of 2010 Most Valuable Student Scholarship and Legacy Awards recipients.

Please join us in congratulating these incredible young people, their families and Lodges. All scholarships are awarded over four years.

Cegelski, Elise R. Pensacola Beach Lodge No. 497
Fradenburg, Laura L. Pensacola Beach Lodge No. 497
Rasmussen, Kirsten R. Pensacola Beach Lodge No. 497
Covert, Cynda J. Tallahassee Lodge No. 937
Holmes, Jasmine N. Tallahassee Lodge No. 937
Clayton, Phillip T. Live Oak Lodge No. 1165
Luther, Sarah K. Live Oak Lodge No. 1165
Jacobsen, Kyle M. Panama City Lodge No. 1598
Snyder, Erin M. Tarpon Springs Lodge No. 1719
Hence, Kathleen D. Plant City Lodge No. 1727
Korn, Jonathan E. North Miami Lodge No. 1835
Mehta, Shahil North Miami Lodge No. 1835
LaMorte, Casey E. Florida Keys Lodge No. 1872
Keaten, Kyle M. Kissimmee Lodge No. 1873

Green, April Warrington Lodge No. 2108
Arnold, Paige K. Southwest Broward Lodge No. 2273
Cho, Michael H. Southwest Broward Lodge No. 2273
Hatcher, Harrison P. Brandon Lodge No. 2383
Kodalen, Brian G. Brandon Lodge No. 2383
Aguilar, Natalie K. Margate Lodge No. 2463
Hannah, Elizabeth Sarasota South Lodge No. 2495
Cousin, Christian A. Cape Coral Lodge No. 2596
Keibler, Nathan A. Punta Gorda Lodge No. 2606
Colclasure, Jordan T. Crestview Lodge No. 2624
DeAugustino, Anthony P. Palm Coast Lodge No. 2709
Tingley, Michael A. Port Orange Lodge No. 2723

Total Awards: 26 Total Award Amount: $116,000

Plus Bangdiwala, Steven N. San Juan, PR. Lodge No. 972

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND EXALTED RULER

James L. Nicholson

New Exalted Rulers - Accept the Challenge

Congratulations, New Exalted Rulers. Yours is now the opportunity to make good on your plans and goals for the Lodge year. Accept the challenge to MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Determine that all Lodge committees are in place and working hard. Encourage the timely formation of Lodge and clubroom budgets. Make sure all Lodge Officers are Members of the Elks National Foundation.

New Exalted Rulers, you are the leaders of your Lodge. An Elks Lodge is a volunteer organization and requires deft and gentle handling. I am sure you know the best leader is one who leads by example. The very best example you can give is to be there! Sit in on committee meetings. Attend Lodge meetings in your ex-officio capacity. Lend a hand to the membership effort. Participate in the orientation of new Members. Make Initiation of Members an impressive ritual. Be seen at Lodge functions and activities.

New Exalted Rulers - you are the catalyst that ensures your Lodge fully participates in the programs of the Order. Through experience in the chairs you know the areas that need attention. Follow through now to bring them up to speed.

I ask that you make the Elks National Foundation a priority. Making the GER goal of $4.50 per Member is important for you and your Lodge. This achievement makes the Lodge eligible for a Gratitude Grant of $500. With this grant, your Lodge can help local causes and receive valuable publicity.

Similarly, encourage good participation in Veterans Service, Hoop Shoot, Drug Awareness, Americanism and Scholarship. Your leadership in these areas and in all Grand Lodge programs will reflect well upon you and your Lodge.

Thank you, in advance, for all your hard work in the coming Lodge year. Together, you and I and all Elks make up the finest co-ed fraternal service organization in the United States. Together, ELKS MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Time To Market Ourselves And Gain Members

by DONALD L. JONES
Committee Member

A subject that I hope will spark enthusiasm is how we may better promote local Elks Lodges. As I’m sure you’ve heard often, we do much good for our communities yet many citizens don’t know what we are about. We are past due on doing something about this. Many of those citizens could turn into Elks Members if we’d only appropriately market ourselves.

Here is what we hope to accomplish from our focus on promoting local Elks Lodges, and also increase our membership that sadly declines every year. Grand Lodge has been funding a pilot membership campaign that is nearing an end. But we don’t want the goal of this campaign to end. We want to continue growing our membership stronger and prove to communities that “Elks Care-Elks Share.”

We have worked with public relations professionals and learned from them. Whenever a Lodge holds a newsworthy event we want to help them gain exposure before and after the event so that they can be recognized for the difference they are making. The more people hear of what we accomplish, the more they will be inspired to learn more and possibly become a Member and part of our good work. To gain this exposure, we will help enable your Lodge Members to prepare articles for publication, Newspapers and magazines or even on radio and television - from writing press releases to knowing who to ask for when calling a publication. These details and guidelines are in the Public Relations part of the Grand Lodge Web site and on the PR/Relations Tool Kit CD. Information on signing onto the G/L Web site is available at your Lodge.

You also need Members to volunteer their services for this public relations campaign and to get our news stories out. If you have Members with a background in marketing, public relations, journalism, etc., get them to become part of your team. Please keep in mind, however, that certain guidelines will have to be followed to get the job done. Just make sure you are up to learning new methods and putting them into practice.

We need dedicated Members who will take this seriously. Public Relations volunteers are needed from all Lodges, so that the community understands that all of Elksdom is involved in helping our communities. The Elks have never been known to promote themselves or focus on membership drives.

Your Lodge could be one of the first to see this done. Call your State Public Relations Committee for assistance. They are always ready to help.
Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elk Members,

On February 6th we had our quarterly meeting at our beautiful Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla. The dignitaries were introduced by the Chairman of the Ladies Organization, Jerry Yates, PER. In attendance were Larry Skates, Vice Chairman for the Ladies, Frank Hayes, PDD and Endorsed VPAL, James Hurst, VPAL, Vincent Como, State President FSEA and James Nichelson, GER, National President. All gave kudos to the Ladies.

James Nichelson, the Elks National President addressed us and said this was going to be a wonderful year and his wife Mary Carolyn was very excited.

The May luncheon packets were handed out to all the Delegates for their districts. The Luncheon and Chinese Auction to be held at the Elks Convention in the Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort on May 22nd. The tickets are available through Dolores Casella, FLOE PSP. sndcasella@cfl.rr.com or on line www.flelks.org. We hope that all plan to attend this exciting event, it is one of our major fundraisers. The doors will open at 11:00 am and the Luncheon will be served at 12:00 pm. Many thanks go to Carl Seibert FSEA Secretary and his staff for all that they do in helping us Ladies with the ticket sales for this event.

This year we are implementing something new, a fundraiser with Parti-Lites. Order forms were included in the packets for all of the Delegates to be distributed to all the Lodges for their participation. This is a no obligation to buy! We will receive one half of every dollar after sales tax. These monies will be presented to our Florida Elks Youth Camp for our Campers (Little Angels Guiding Our Future). We will also gladly accept any donations for this fundraiser.

Also new this year, The Florida Ladies of Elks will have their own web site. To access the Web site at flelks.org. Go to the FLOE link. Committee Chairlady, Jayne Morrison, Senior Delegate, SSE District, along with the ELKS Webmaster Steve Harmon PER, should have this up and running by the time you read this article. This really puts us out there for everyone to know who we are, what we do and up and coming events.

I was so proud to be at the meeting in Umatilla when Beverly Messerschmidt PSP and Joan Fritz PSP presented to Vincent Como, President of FSEA, two checks for a total of $25,182.61. These checks will benefit The Florida Elks Therapy Services and The Florida Elks Youth Camp. These funds were raised during their respective years as Presidents of Florida Ladies Of Elks. Thank you to all of you ladies for your hard work and dedication to FLOE to make our dreams come true for our major projects.

The next meeting of the Florida Ladies Of Elks will be held on Saturday May 22nd 2010 at 8:00 am. Please check your agenda sheet for the name of the room. I realize that 8:00 am is early but we have to be done with our business by 10:30 am as to get ready for the Luncheon and Chinese Auction.

A few photos of State President Vincent Como’s visitations and experiences

Below: The President’s entourage visits Appleton Museum and the “behind the scenes” look of the Ocala Civic Center was both enjoyable and informative regarding the logistics of running the performances in the Ocala Theater.

Below: Grand Exalted Ruler James Nichelson and wife Mary Carolyn, meet with FECTS Administrator Ben Brown and Lisa and Vincent Como. A tour of the Grafton Center and the Youth Camp followed this introduction.

President Como points to the New York area from where he and Lisa moved.

Re-Creation gave a great performance to visitors attending the February Quarterly
The True Story Of Public Relations
by CHARLES TRINOWSKI, JR.

Committee Member

Public Relations is more than a collection of newspaper articles, radio and TV spots, billboards, and posters. Public Relations archives are historical records of an organization’s interrelationship with its Members and community. It is the chronology of a Lodge, what the Lodge is about, what is important to the Lodge, its successes; and its heroes.

A well run Public Relations effort becomes part of the Lodge annals and its community presence. It relays to the public what is really important to the Elks Lodge and helps dispel possible misconceptions. It lets the community see that the Lodge is more than a place for only members to socialize. The Lodge is where productive, charitable fund-raising events occur and community service projects are planned.

A review of a Lodge’s past Public Relations activities permits a Lodge to evaluate its past successes and further enhance its efforts for incremental future community engagements (information on which must be captured in words and photos... and shared with the media).

The feedback from Public Relations accomplishments enables a Lodge to instigate future events and significantly impact the positive image of Elksdom, thus helping the public to better understand our purpose and resolve.

Continuing Public Relations efforts are also tools to attract members. Public Relations activities let prospective members know how important the Elks Lodge feels about charity and community service, our primary purpose. This helps attract quality candidates who are interested in joining to serve their community and not just be lounge diplomats.

A good Public Relations effort by Lodge members challenges other members to even greater participation. It also serves as a benchmark for other fraternal orders to help fellow citizens.

Public Relations activities let people know what we do with the funds we raise for charity and underscores that Elks care about the citizens of our community. It ultimately is the record of our accomplishments for those who will follow. It becomes the guiding light to carry on the great traditions of our Order, the B.P.O.E., the Best People on Earth.

TIME TO SHINE FOR NEW LODGE LEADERS
by DONALD SANSOUSSI

Committee Chairman

Congratulations, Exalted Rulers! You have been afforded the highest honor of your Lodge.

Under your leadership, Lodge Members will expect great accomplishments. It is important that you select dedicated and competent Committee Members and, with assistance of Lodge Officers, develop a team that will promote your Lodge and Grand Lodge Programs. Regular team meetings to discuss goals are essential to a successful Lodge. Also, consult with your Past Exalted Rulers Association for guidance.

Grand Lodge Programs such as Elks Training is an excellent tool to train Lodge Officers and Committee Members. Also refer to the Grand Lodge manuals that are in the Secretary’s office for excellent guidelines to proven programs.

The Grand Lodge-Lodge/State Activities Committee Brochure is an excellent guide to the many certificates and awards that your Members and Lodge can participate in. Pay particular attention to the deadlines for entries of the various Programs and Awards being offered.

The success of you and your Lodge will come from “Participation, Cooperation and Communication.“ Wishing you and your Team the very best in exemplifying “Elks Care-Elks Share.”

SUPPORT AND THANK OUR TROOPS
by JAMES A. COGGINNS

Committee Chairman

I recently walked out of a convenience store as a young Marine was leaving. I stopped and thanked him for his service to our country. At first he was a little taken aback that a total stranger would be thanking him, but he immediately said, “Thank you, sir, for your kind remarks.” He asked me if I was a veteran and I told him yes from a long time service to our country. At first he was a little taken aback that a total stranger would be thanking him, but he immediately said, “Thank you, sir, for your kind remarks.” He asked me if I was a veteran and I told him yes from a long time service to our country.

Meeting this young man and seeing his attitude renewed my faith in this great country and the dedicated youth serving and protecting the American People. We are in good hands, and I only wish our national media would give them the respect they deserve.

It’s hard for us to realize that we are at war. We just enjoy the holidays and go to our Lodges and enjoy fun and fellowship. We enjoy our safety and freedom and many times fail to think that all of these freedoms and fun times come only because of the sacrifices of our men and women of our armed forces and the Veterans who came before them.

Please take the time to thank them for their service to our great nation. Don’t miss the opportunity to serve the families of our members of the military. Families of our deployed military members surely are near every Lodge. Find them and offer your assistance. Invite them to your Lodge for dinner, picnics, etc. Offer to mow their grass, or repair a broken appliance or have a special lunch or dinner for them and their children.

When this approach is used, pride in membership becomes a reality that sells the Order of Elksdom to all, proving that Elks Care-Elks Share.
In 1999 Phil joined the Elks at the urging of friends who were also Elks and has been very active. He has been Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, and Lodge Trustee. He has been a member and/or Lodge or District Chairman of thirty-three different committees. He has been Secretary for the Board of Trustees, Secretary/Treasurer of the Lodge’s PER Association, President of the Lodge’s PER Association, President of the District PER Association, and President of the State PER Association. He has served as the Lodge’s Two-Year and One-Year Member of the Masonic Publications Committee and has served as State Chairman of ENF Certificates. He is a Court of Word Accuracy Judge and has received first approval in the two step process to become a Floor Judge. In 2008-2009 he was named Officer of the Year and received the Elks National Veterans Service Commission Veterans Volunteer Award.

In addition to Elks activities, Phil is also the Vice President of his neighborhood Homeowners’ Association. He is a 32 year member of the Knights of Columbus, a 25 year member of the American Legion, and a life member of the VFW.

Phil is a widower; he has two children. He has a son and daughter-in-law living in Orlando, Florida, and a daughter, son-in-law (Marine), and three grandchildren living in Japan.

Geoff was born in Lynbrook, New York in 1938 and moved to Florida in 1950. He attended Florida Southern College (A. B. 1961, Phi Gamma Delta), the University of Memphis (Juris Doctor, 1967, replaced LL.B conferred 1963, Order of the Coif; Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Alpha Delta).

He was admitted to the bar in 1964 for Florida; in 1965 for Georgia, U.S. District Court, and Northern District of Florida; in 1970 for U.S. District Court, Middle and Southern Districts of Florida, and U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; in 1973 for U.S. Court of Appeals Eighth Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court; in 1981 for U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit; and in 1984 for U.S. Tax Court.


Geoff became an Elk in 1987 after he was invited to apply for membership by Olen W. Meredith. Positions held include Inner Guard, Esquire, Lecturing Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Past Exalted Rulers Association, Chairman of the House Committee, Lodge Organist, State Chairman of Membership, and member of the Judiciary Committee.

Geoff is a member of the St. Augustine Historic Society (Past President) and the Wyoming State Historical Society. He is the author of Wyoming Tales and Trails and is a regular contributor to a column on St. Augustine History for Historic City News. In addition, he is a former member of the Levy County Cattlemen’s Association. Geoff is also a member of the St. Johns County Bar Association (President 1981-1982); The Florida Bar (Member: Eminent Domain Committee, 1970-1973 and 1979-1982; Admiralty Committee, 1978-1982; and City, County, and Local Government Law Section, 1990, Environmental and Land Use Section.

He has been married to Rebekah Perrow Dobson for 48 years. They have three children. Victoria resides in Chicago, Illinois; Kenneth resides in Portland, Oregon; and Alan resides in Albuquerque, NM. They have two grandchildren.
Nominations for the Endorsed 2010-2011
Florida State Elks District Vice-Presidents

SOUTHWEST

James “Jim” Lamb

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest District are honored to present to the 2010 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of James “Jim” Lamb as a candidate for the office of Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Jim was born in Miami Beach, Florida on June 6, 1943 and grew up in Homestead, Florida. He graduated from South Dade High School in June 1961. He received a two year degree in Science from Miami Dade Junior College.

He also took various courses at the Golf Course Superintendent College in Lakeland, Florida. Jim was in the Air Force from 1961-1981 and retired as a MSGt. Out of the twenty years spent in the Air Force he spent ten years in the Southeast Asian area, three of which were in Vietnam.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1981, he went back to Homestead and enrolled in Miami Dade Junior College. He also worked as Head Mechanic at the largest tomato packing house in the U.S. and installed the first automatic palletizing system that is used in a tomato packing house. After finishing that project he installed the same system in a packing house in Palmetto, Florida. After completion of that project, Jim went to work at Longboat Key Country Club and within a year they spent in the Air Force he spent ten years in the Southeast Asian area, three of which were in Vietnam.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1981, he went back to Homestead and enrolled in Miami Dade Junior College. He also worked as Head Mechanic at the largest tomato packing house in the U.S. and installed the first automatic palletizing system that is used in a tomato packing house. After finishing that project he installed the same system in a packing house in Palmetto, Florida. After completion of that project, Jim went to work at Longboat Key Country Club and within a year they spent in the Air Force he spent ten years in the Southeast Asian area, three of which were in Vietnam.

He is married to Margaret for 26 years. He has three sons and all are Eagle Scouts. Jimmy, his oldest, is a computer whiz and works for a company in Fort Lauderdale. Bill, his middle son, after retiring from the Air Force went to work for a company that makes guidance systems for missiles and smart bombs. His youngest son, Randy, is an Undercover Detective for the Manatee Sheriff Department.

NORTH CENTRAL

Bob Warren

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North Central District are honored to present to the 2010 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Bob Warren as a candidate for the office of North Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Bob was born in Detroit, Michigan on December 28, 1949. He grew up in San Fernando Valley, California and attended Granada Hills High School. He moved to Florida in 1982; he has lived in Winter Garden for the past nine years.

Bob was in the Navy from 1970-1972 and was deployed to Vietnam for eight months before being honorably discharged.

In 1982 Bob started working at Walt Disney World as a Maintenance Tech on the monorails. In 1985 he was made supervisor over watercraft and monorails. He retired after 23 years. He now works for the Orange County Government.

Bob became an Elk in 1995 at Deland Lodge. His father had been an Elk for many years. He has been through all the chairs and was Exalted Ruler for the 2006-2007 year. He has been Lodge Chairman of Drug Awareness, Soccer Shoot, and Indoctrimination. He has been Investigating Chairman of his Lodge, too. He has served as District Chairman of Elks Training and as Vice Chairman and State Chairman of Indoctrimination.

In his free time, Bob enjoys softball and boating.

Bob and his wife, Peggy, have been married for sixteen years. They have five children and seven grandchildren. They are an Elk family; there are eight in the family hailing from coast to coast.
Nominations for the Endorsed 2010-2011 Florida State Elks District Vice-Presidents

SOUTH SOUTHEAST
Denise E. May-Carter
The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southeast District are honored to present to the 2010 Florida State Elks Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Denise E. May-Carter as a candidate for the office of South Southeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Denise was born in Glendale, West Virginia and moved to Florida in 1960. She attended high school in South Florida. She also attended Broward Community College and Nova Southeastern University and received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing/RN for the State of Florida. She attended Florida Risk Management Institute in 1999 and became licensed as a Health Care Risk Manager for the State of Florida.

Denise is a Nurse Manager at Broward General Medical Center and has been employed there since 1982. Twelve years ago, Denise became an Elk when she was sponsored by Robert Greathouse, PER. She has been Chairman of the House Committee for two years, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler for 2004-2005, Trustee for four years with two years as Chairman, Lodge and District Drug Awareness Education Chairman, District Lodge Activities Chairman, Regional Government Relations Chairman, State Drug Awareness Education Chairman, and Liaison to the Lodge’s Boy Scout, Girl Scout, and Cub Scout Troops.

Organizations Denise belongs to include Florida Organization of Nurse Executives, American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nurses, and ANNA.

Denise has been married to Gerald W. Carter for two and a half years. She has one son, Erik, and one stepson, JR Carter. She has three grandchildren; Erik is nine years old, Evan is six years old, and Kaden is six months old. Her grandfather, father, and uncles were all Elks. Her father was a member of her Lodge, originally Plantation #2273.

SOUTH
Jeffrey A. Muehlfeld
The members and Lodges of Florida’s South District are honored to present to the 2010 Florida State Elks Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Jeffrey A. Muehlfeld as a candidate for the office of South District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Jeff was born in Montgomery, West Virginia in 1955 and moved to Florida in 1974. He earned his B.S. in Professional Studies from Barry College in 1977. He also took post-graduate courses in Computer Science at Florida International University from 1985-1990.

Jeff served in the U.S. Air Force from 1974-1978. He has worked over 22 years for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. His current position is Director, Technology Solutions, SAP Finance Support.

In April 2001 Jeff was initiated into Miami Elks Lodge #948. He was Exalted Ruler for 2006-2007, State Chairman of Youth Activities for 2008-2009, and District Membership Chairman for 2009-2010. He has also been a House Committee member.

Jeff won Second Place in the State Ritual Contest as Inner Guard in 2002; he won Third Place in the State Ritual Contest as Esquire in 2003.

Jeff is the lead singer and rhythm guitarist for The Elktones, a classic rock band based out of Miami Lodge #948. All band members are also members of Miami Lodge except the bass guitarist who is a member of South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge #1676. Jeff is also an avid golfer.

Jeff is not married but has been with Janis Taylor for over four years. He has a daughter, Megan, who is 26 and lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has one brother in Flagstaff, Arizona and one sister in Phoenix, Arizona. Two brothers and a sister live in Northern Ohio along with numerous nieces and nephews.

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL
William J. “Bill” Orblych
The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast Central District are honored to present to the 2010 Florida State Elks Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of William J. “Bill” Orblych as a candidate for the office of Southeast Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Bill was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan on December 5, 1941 and grew up there. After college graduation he returned to Ann Arbor, Michigan for ten years. He then moved to Wheaton, Illinois in 1974 and in 1993 moved to Winter Springs, Florida.

Bill graduated from Ypsilanti Central High School in 1960 and from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana in 1965. He earned a BA degree in Political Science and Economics.

In 1965 Bill began his insurance career as a Property Adjuster. He held various Management/Executive positions in Marketing, Actuarial, Underwriting, Product Development, and Government Relations over the ensuing forty years. He retired in 2006.

Bill became an Elk as a Charter Member of Viera Lodge #2817 in October 2000. He was asked to join and was sponsored by PSP Mike Phillips. He served as Secretary from October 2000 to March 31, 2002. He was Leading Knight for 2002-2003, Exalted Ruler for 2003-2004, Chairman of the Trustees for April 2004 – August 2005, Exalted Ruler for August 2005 – March 2007, State Chairman of National Foundation Certificates for 2005-2006, District Auditor for 2005-2006, Lodge Secretary December 2008 – March 2010, Lodge Chairman of National Foundation Certificates from 2002 – present, and District Chairman of National Foundation Certificates from 2003-2010. Also during his ten years as an Elk he served as Lodge Chairman of Indoctration, Membership, Officers Attendance, and Government Relations. In June 2007 he was elected to Honorary Life Membership.

As Exalted Ruler, Bill led the purchase and initial build out of Viera’s new Lodge building in March 2006. He achieved Honorary Founder Designation in 2005 and Permanent Benefactor Designation in 2008 from the Elks National Foundation.

Bill is an avid golfer and a collector and seller (on Ebay) of antique stoneware. He also enjoys cooking and reading historical fiction.

Bill has been married to Ronnie for 36 years. They have one daughter, four sons, and two wonderful granddaughters.

SOUTH SOUTHWEST
Phil Gersbach
The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southwest District are honored to present to the 2010 Florida State Elks Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Phil Gersbach as a candidate for the office of South Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Phil was born on January 12, 1953 and grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and moved to Florida in 1995. He attended North Catholic High School and the Philadelphia Police Academy and also completed two years at Temple University.

Phil also served in the U.S. Army as a Combat Medic in the Medical Corp. He retired from the Philadelphia Police Department and then became a partner in a private arson investigation firm. He later moved to Florida and became an Insurance Agent specializing in Medicine.

In 2002 Phil was initiated as an Elk; he joined after gaining exposure to Lodge members. He has been Chaplain, Treasurer, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler two times, House Chairman, and Chairman of Trustees. He has also been District Chairman of Community Activities, Indoctration, and Interlodge Visititation. He was South Regional Chairman of Hoop Shoot. He has been President of the Fort Myers PER Association. He was also the 2009 District Deputy Esquire. At present he is a Special Representative appointed by the Grand Lodge to Rotonda Lodge #2710.

Phil is a Life Member of the NRA and the Fraternal Order of Police. He has been married to Susan for 15 years.

Jim Hurst nomination continued from page 1

Elks Properties, Inc. for five years including three years as President and is currently Vice President. In addition, he served as Vice President of the Northeast District during the 2005-2006 Lodge year and subsequently was District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler the following year. He also proudly serves as a member of the Van Duren Scholarship Committee. He was selected as the Endorsed Vice President at Large at the Mid-year Convention in November 2008 and was selected as the Endorsed President of the Florida State Elks Association at the Mid-year Convention in November 2009.

In addition to his membership and activities in the BPOE, Jim is a member of the Jacksonville Exchange Club in which he has served on several committees and the Duval County Republican Executive Committee. He also was selected as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 2004.

Jim and his wife, Julia, have been married for 23 years. Enjoyment comes from ballroom dancing, traveling, good books, and of course spending time at the Elks Lodges in the Northeast District. They are active members of Mandarin United Methodist Church in Jacksonville. Julia is retired from Bell South Corporation and currently teaches part time at Florida State College in Jacksonville. They have one daughter, Jessica Lattimore, a graduate of the University of North Florida, who is serving as a missionary with Overland Missions located in Cocoa Beach, Florida where she resides with her husband, Josh Lattimore.
**Nominations for the Endorsed 2010-2011 Florida State Elks District Vice-Presidents**

**WEST CENTRAL**  
**Kenneth B. Yagoda**  
The members and Lodges of Florida’s West Central District are honored to present to the 2010 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Kenneth B. Yagoda as a candidate for the office of West Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Ken was born in Detroit, Michigan on March 16, 1948. He moved to Pinellas County in 1958 and has been a resident of Seminole, Florida since 1987.

Ken has a Bachelor of Science degree in History/Social Studies Education from Florida State University. He has a Master of Science degree in Administration and Supervision/Human Resources from Nova Southeastern University and conferred with summa cum laude honors. He also studied Psychological Applications for Education and Business in Planning and Management/Mediation at Nova Southeastern University and conferred with summa cum laude honors. He has Level 1 and Level 2 Network Administrator Technologist certification and a Computer Repair and Diagnostics certification.

He was an Educator in the Pinellas County School District from 1969 until his retirement in 2005. The majority of his tenure was at Seminole High School from 1977 until retirement. He taught American Government, Psychology, and United States History. He was also an adjunct instructor for St. Petersburg College for seven years and taught Philosophy, History of the Twentieth Century, American National Government, and State and Local Government. In addition to teaching, Ken was the Technology Specialist and Network Administrator at Seminole High School for seven years and conducted numerous workshops for Educators on how to integrate students to increase achievement through technology and how to use technology as an effective teaching tool and classroom management system. From 1972-2004, he was coordinator and tour leader of overseas tours for students and adults to Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Currently he is President of Kenmar Transport, LLC.

Ken wanted to join the Elks when his sponsor told him about how the Order helps kids financially and also helps them with physical rehabilitation at the Elks Hospital in Umatilla. Indocination provided him a focus on how those in need and less fortunate than him were provided for by the Elks.

He was initiated in 1984 into Elkdom at St. Petersburg Lodge #1224 and demitted to Seminole Lodge #2519 after moving to Seminole, Florida. He served as Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, and Leading Knight. He served as Exalted Ruler for 1999-2000 and 2007-2008. He was Officer of the Year for 2007-2008. He is and has been Lodge Trustee for seven years, three of which he served as Chairman. He was Lodge Chairman of Youth Activities for ten years, Lodge Chairman of National Foundation Scholarships for five years, and Lodge Chairman of Indocination for five years. He has also been Lodge Chairman of Harry-Anna Trust Fund, House Committee, Interlodge Visitation, Lodge Activities, and Ritual. He has been District Chairman of Lodge Activities, National Foundation Scholarships, Interlodge Visitation, and Harry-Anna Trust Fund. He served as Vice Chairman of Interlodge Visitation. He was Substitute Grand Lodge Esquire for Charles Urello, PDD. He has participated in the Enterprise Expo for Grand Lodge at the Tampa Convention Center as a Goodwill Ambassador for Elkdom. He is a past winner of the West Central District Eleven O’clock Toast Competition. He was Exalted Ruler on his Lodge Ritual Team for state competition in 2008 and 2009. He has initiated his wife and daughter into Elkdom. He is a Charter member of the Business Practices Seminar Committee and has been a Presenter/Instructor for Business Practices Seminars at New Port Richey Lodge, Titusville Lodge, Sarasota Lodge, and the State Convention. He has also been Grand Lodge Auditor.

He has been married for 28 years to Marie. She was elected Exalted Ruler at Seminole Elks Lodge for 2010-2011. He has one daughter, Rosemarie, who is 23 and is a doctoral student at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is a member of the Raleigh Elks Lodge. He also has one stepson, Bill, who is a member of Seminole Elks Lodge and works for their trucking company.

Ken enjoys reading about the Civil War and Reconstruction. He also enjoys motorcycle touring of the eastern United States and the European Alps and Tyrol.

**SOUTHEAST**  
**Bruce H. Cook**  
The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast District are honored to present to the 2010 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Bruce H. Cook as a candidate for the office of Southeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Bruce H. Cook was born in Newark, New Jersey on May 14, 1949. He resided in Lyndhurst, New Jersey with his mother, father, and maternal grandparents until the family moved to Wayne, New Jersey where his two younger sisters also lived. He went to public schools there and upon completion of high school, Bruce moved to Daytona Beach, Florida. In 1971 he enlisted in the United States Army for three years and served in the Military Police Corp which included a thirteen month tour in Pan Mun Jom, South Korea on the 38th parallel. After Bruce received his honorable discharge in 1974, he moved to East Brunswick, New Jersey to be closer to his family. While working at AT&T, Bruce graduated from Bloomfield College in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration.

Bruce worked for AT&T in New York and New Jersey for 25 years in various supervisory positions and then as an Internal Auditor and Contract Manager. After taking a Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan from AT&T in 1998 and selling their house in Piscataway, New Jersey and vacation home in the Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania, the Cooks moved to Lake Worth, Florida where they currently reside. Bruce is currently employed as a Customer Service Specialist with the Palm Beach County Water Utility Department.

Bruce became an Elk in 1988 at East Brunswick Lodge #2370 after being sponsored by his father-in-law. He was immediately voted in as Lodge Treasurer and then progressed through the officer chairs in elected and also appointed positions. In addition, Bruce served in many other capacities including Lodge and District Chairman of Elks National Foundation Certificates, Community Activities, Veterans’ Services, Convention, Parades, and Americanism. His other contributions included various fundraising efforts, Flag Day, Flag Retirement, and Ritual competition. His local Lodge service culminated in serving as Exalted Ruler during the 1995-1996 Lodge year. Bruce was also a member of the Board of Trustees in the East Brunswick Lodge and a member of the Lodge PER Association. After moving to Florida, Bruce became an Associate Member of West Palm Beach Lodge #1352 until he demitted from his New Jersey Lodge to the West Palm Beach Lodge in 2006 as a Past Exalted Ruler. Bruce served the Lodge as Chaplain in 2007-2008 and as a member of the Board of Trustees in 2009. He has served his Lodge as District Chairman of Harry-Anna Trust Fund and Americanism and has been Liaison to local Boy Scout Troop #199 from West Palm Beach.

On the state level, Bruce served as State Vice Chairman of Americanism in 2008-2009 and the following year as State Chairman of the Americanism Committee. He was selected as the Endorsed Southeast District Vice President at the Southeast District Advisory Council (SEDAC) meeting January 16, 2010 at the Jupiter, Florida Lodge #2469.

In addition to his membership and activities in the BPOE, Bruce is a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Bruce and his wife, Dot, have been married for 35 years. Enjoyment comes from family, traveling, dining, entertaining, and of course spending time at the West Palm Beach Elks Lodge and the other Lodges in the Southeast District. They are both Roman Catholic and go to either Saint Matthew’s Church in Lake Worth or Saint Thomas More Church in Boynton Beach.

**SOUTHWEST CENTRAL**  
**Linda Bailey**  
The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest Central District are honored to present to the 2010 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Linda Bailey as a candidate for the office of Southwest Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Linda was born in Ronkonkoma, New York and grew up there. She moved to Florida in 1973. She graduated from high school in 1965 and attended the Gold Coast School of Court Reporting from 1978-1979.

She has held several positions as Office Manager, Secretary, and Transcriptionist. She also owned Rainbow Bookkeeping in Lake Wales from 1983-1986. Since 1994 Linda has been a Transcriptionist for two doctors and she is also the owner of Miracles Lounge.

In 1993 Linda married Joseph Bailey, an Elk from Riverhead, New York, who sponsored her in 1996 at Lake Wales Lodge #1974. From 1996-1997 she was Inner Guard and Lodge Treasurer, from 1997-1998 she was Loyal Knight, from 1998-1999 she was Leading Knight, and from 2000-2001 she was Exalted Ruler. She was President of the PER Association from 2001-2002 and was also District Chairman of Elks Training. From 2002-2003 she was Vice Chairman of Resolutions and from 2003-2004 she was Chairman of Resolutions. She was the District Auditor from 2004-2005. Since 2006 she has been the Lodge Chairman of both the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and Elks National Foundation Certificates. She is also serving as the 2009-2010 District Chairman of Government Relations.

She has been married to Joseph C. Bailey, an Elk from sixteen years. She has a son, William, who owns a construction company in Vero Beach, Florida, and a daughter, April, who is a Teacher. She also has two stepdaughters in New York, Donna and Lauren, and two stepsons in New York, Brian and Kent. She has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.
ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

VETERANS NEED “COMFORT CARE KITS”

Dwayne E. Rumney, PGER, Chairman

As our Veterans from previous wars and conflicts get older, they continue to need our help, as do those Veterans returning daily from Iraq and Afghanistan. We, as Elks, must never forget our long-standing pledge, “So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them”.

In an effort to enhance the level of comfort for our nation’s Veterans, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission teamed up with Federated Wholesale Inc. in 1997 to put together Comfort Care Kits. The kits can be customized to fit any budget, and the plastic bags can be imprinted with the Elks USA logo. Each Lodge across this great free country can help our Veterans by providing Comfort Care Kits (and they are relatively inexpensive).

These kits have proven to be an integral part of our Adopt-A-Veteran Program when presented with the Adopt-A-Veteran Certificate. They are perfect for Veterans in hospitals, assisted care facilities, nursing homes, and homeless veteran shelters. These kits contain items for personal hygiene, and are available for both men and women. There are several types of kits available, and they can be customized to fit your budget. All products are guaranteed by the FDA, EPA, and other Federal agencies to guarantee safe and effective products. You can purchase individual items in case lots as well.

The Federated Wholesale catalogue can be viewed online at: http://www.federatedcares.com. PLEASE!!! Call or write for their catalog today:

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6095-0 Northbelt Drive
Norcross, GA 30071
Telephone: 1-800-346-0859
Fax: 1-770-458-2633
E-Mail: info@federatedcares.com

Along with the work of our volunteers, these kits give the Elks greater exposure and recognition for the work we perform with and for our nation’s Veterans. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to our Elks National Veterans Service Commission in Chicago.

By providing Comfort Care Kits we can demonstrate Our pledge: “So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”

Harry-Anna Trust Fund
Recognition Certificates & Pins
Awarded January 5, 2010 through April 12, 2010

Paid-in-Full $5,000 Certificate Donors

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

James Bromley Arthur Dalrymple
Fort Walton #1795 Melbourne #1744
Julius “Jay” Hartlage William A. Jennings
Titusville #2113 Fort Walton #1795
Willis Kilpatrick Angela & Al Ricci
Sarasota #1519 Palm Coast #2709
Marianne Schenkkel Fred P. Strumpfler
Punta Gorda #2606 Brooksville #2582

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate

Bernie & Ron Adams James & Sonja Coggins
Zephyrhills #2731 Warrington #2108
Vishal & Roshan Mahtani Derrick Mills
Zephyrhills #2731 Port Charlotte #2153
Derrick Mills Derrick & Joan Mills
Port Charlotte #2153 Port Charlotte #2153
Eileen M. Preece Dana Rich
Sarasota South #2495 Destin #2688
Doug Schwartz Dennis Seibert
Seminole #2519 Lake Placid #2661
Loucile Volk
Warrington #2108

On behalf of First Lady Lisa and me, from the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank all of you for allowing us to serve you. Thanks to the ENTIRE State Association team: whether you served as a State officer, District Director, or committee member to make this year such a success. Yes, it has been a huge success. Our accomplishments have been many:

• The new HOPE Scholarship for Florida children; Cabin expansion at the Numero Uno Youth Camp in the nation; Increase in therapists to serve our children; Robert Martin of New Port Richey Lodge No. 2284 sponsored 33 new members; and $843,700.00 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

You have shown that “Helping Others – Promotes Elksdom.”

Thanks to PGERs Robert Grafton and C. Valentine Bates for their leadership, advice and friendship. I must thank a dear friend and gentlemen for his untiring assistance to help and never saying no to a request. We should all feel truly blessed to have State Secretary Carl Seibert as a friend. To Lynn Warburton, Youth Camp Director extraordinaire, thank you for all that you do to keep all the behind the scenes functions operating so smoothly. To both of you, please extend our gratitude to your most capable and cooperative staffs.

To Editor in Chief Raleigh White man, for his patience in waiting when due dates come and go and for his success in working to produce this excellent newsletter for our members.

To my inspirations for service to you this entire year; our nephews Andrew and Alex Fernandez as they grow into adolescence, one facing a world of untold success, the other facing challenges everyday to stay healthy. To our son Vincent, the Marine corporal, may he and all those serving our nation stay protected and guided home to their families safe and sound.

To our children: our son Michael, who took care of the house, fed the animals, changed the motor oil, and loaded the van, thank you. To our daughter Andria and soon to be son-in-law Ian, thank you for your support and assistance whenever we asked you to change your schedule to accommodate ours, including your wedding, thank you and we love you all.

I also want to thank my “father” in Elkdom, PDD Frank Colavito of New York Lodge No. 1, who saw the promise in me to make it to this point in Elkdom. Thank you Frank.

To the only person in the world who could have taken this journey with me and represent all of us as YOUR First Lady with such dignity and poise, such love and caring, Lisa. I know this is going to cost me dearly, but it will definitely be worth it.

To my H.O.P.E. hospitality team without whose support at various events made everything run smoothly, our sincere thanks for all your collaborative efforts. You know who you are. “Helping Others HAS Promoted Elksdom”.

In closing let me quote Albert Pine, “What we do for ourselves, dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.”

May God bless each and every one of you for your continuous support of our children, our veterans, and all of our programs. May He bless and protect our service men and women, wherever they are proudly serving, our Florida State Elks Association and our United States of America.
30th Annual Florida Elks Golf Tournament
Hosted by Sebring Lodge 1529

The Harry-Anna Trust Fund gained $14,200 with the Sebring Lodge hosting the FSEA Golf Tournament, having 228 golfers playing two days of golf on either the Panther or Cougar courses at the Spring Lake Golf Resort, par 72, in excellent weather conditions both days. Second day of play was flighted by the teams first days scores.

The following teams did not have players remaining for the trophy presentations by FSEA State President Vincent Como in the center of each photograph.

“A” Flight—2nd Place 57/59-116
Eddie Siska, Shane Siska, Chris Siska, Dylan Siska
Delray Beach Lodge 1770 - No Photo

“B” Flight—1st Place 63/59-122
Steve Espinosa, Ropy Siska, Alex Gonzales, Sheldon Sivalls
Delray Beach Lodge 1770 - No Photo

“C” Flight 2nd Place 66/62- 128
Don Elway, Danny Hall, Mike Hodgkinson, Chris Van House
Bradenton Lodge 1511

Closest to the Pin
Marcie Slighter, Stephen Espinosa, Dee Olinger, Julia Ebert, Dave Lane, Dan Skelly, Karen Fuller.

Longest Drives
Delores Westfall, Chris Stegal, Paul Reark, Grace Weigand, Virginia Campbell, Mike Cypress, Mike Smith, Lou Gardner, Clyde Kang, Dan Skelly.

“D” Flight --1st Place 68/65-133
John Bubko, Judith Foley, Marci Sliter, Dan Sliter
Fort Myers Lodge 1288

“D” Flight -2nd Place 70/73-143
Carol Flood, Joe Flood, Stephen Powell, Ann Marie Powell
Brandon Lodge 2383

“E” Flight --1st Place 71/67-138
Sam Yourick, Mike Carter, Don Anderson, Chuck Scholl
Bradenton Lodge 1511

“E” Flight --2nd Place
Kevin Durrance, Brian Burns, Keith Keene, Scott Mears
Arcadia Lodge 1524

Walk the walk, talk the talk and smack the ball
The Endorsed Grand Exalted Ruler for 2010-2011, Mike Smith, was one of the longest of the hitters. Here he accepts his trophy from Vince Como for one of the longest drives.

Highest scores 73/76-149
Representing Lake Placid Elks Lodge 2661
With Dignity, Integrity and Honesty:
Hal Ziegler, Ernie Jolly, Lew Hensley, And Stan Meddles

“E” Flight --2nd Place
Kevin Durrance, Brian Burns, Keith Keene, Scott Mears
Arcadia Lodge 1524

“E” Flight --1st Place 65/63-128
Mike Artus, Wally Graskoski, Rich Calbri, Glen Guthrie
Punta Gorda Lodge 2606
FLORIDA ELKS
HOOP SHOOT FINALS

Florida Elks Youth Camp
Grafton Center
February 20, 2010

GIRLS
12-13 Age Group
1st Place    Kayla Kivinski               24
Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719
2nd Place Amanda Portal               19
Miami Lodge 948
3rd Place Maria Parker                   24
Jacksonville Lodge 221

10-11 Age Group
1st Place   Nina Fernandez               22
Miami Lodge 948
2nd Place Jewel Montisano              14
Daytona Beach Lodge 1141
3rd Place Vanessa Alberre                9
Jacksonville Lodge 221

8-9 Age Group
1st Place   Kahnayla Taylor               17
Lake City Lodge 893
2nd Place Tyja Davis                    13 +3
Ormond Beach Lodge 2193
3rd Place Angelique Casas          13 +1
Miami Lodge 948

BOYS
12-13 Age Group
1st Place    Lucas Martinez    22 +2 +5
Miami Lodge 948
2nd Place   Ernest Rillman      2 +2 +5
Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525
3rd Place   Jordan Gingerich            21
Eustis Lodge 1578

11-12 Age Group
1st Place    Grayson Roth             21 +4
Jacksonville Lodge 221
2nd Place  Jake Haas                    21 +3
No. Fort Myers Lodge 2742
3rd Place   David Smeltz                   12
Aripeka Lodge 2520

8-9 Age Group
1st Place   Aryan Shirajee                 19
Margate Lodge 2463
2nd Place Auston Gonzalez              18
Sebastian Lodge 2714
3rd Place   Rashon Scott                    16
Silver Springs Shores Lodge 2730

The Hoop Shoot finals under the leadership of Chairman Peter Cattabriga and Vice-Chairman Marilyn Kronenberg, Regional Chairmen Charles Walker, David Wiggins, and Phillip Bersbach and another 14 volunteers from the South Southeast District ran very smoothly and had some very interesting moments, especially during some ties which determined the winners of the contest.

Dignitaries in attendance were State President Vincent Como and Lisa, VPAL Elect Frank Hayes and Linda, PSP Mike Phillips and Kathy, PSP David Lake and Kathy, PSP Vic McClellan and Peggie, PDD Joe Rogers, PDD Herman Heydinger and Lida, PDD Charlie Walker and Jody, PDD Roy Kronenberg and Marilyn Vice Chairman, State Secretary Carl Seibert, VP Mike Richie and Carolyn, Florida Elks News Editor Raleigh Whiteman and Joya.

This year was groundbreaking in that it was the first year that the contestants and their families came directly to the camp where they were lodged in the cabins instead of some 30 miles away in a motel until the day of the shoot.

The response from the kids and their parents was encouraging and will be used again in future years. The contestants got in plenty of practice on Friday night before the finals plus some fun and recreation at the camp.

One minor problem caused some concern the morning of the event when one of the contestants had not yet arrived and it was after breakfast that they did arrive, putting the chairman a bit more at ease.

*Kayla Kivinski won the Region 12 Hoop Shoot in Valdosta. Kayla shot 21/25 and 5/5 in a 3 way shoot out. Kayla is from Tarpon Springs and advanced to Springfield MA to compete in the National Contest on April 24, 2010. Kayla did not finish in the top three in her division, she was very disappointed.
Ft. Pierce Lodge 1870
After lunch, veterans from the West Palm Beach Veterans Hospital visited the Seal Museum on North Hutchinson Island, escorted by volunteers from the Lodge. Dave Scanlon, a Seal in residence at the hospital, could not get over all the memorabilia the museum has. Elks have a special place in their hearts for our veterans and this trip was very special not only to the vets but to the Elks as well.

Explorer Troop 400 performed a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Fort Pierce Lodge, organized by B. K. Dorsey. Scouts from the Troop showed just how a flag must be cut up and folded before it can be burned. A donation was made to the Troop by the Lodge.

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658
The Lodge had a steak for two dinner to a sellout crowd. This along with their fantastic Saturday evening dinner/dances have proven to be a huge success.

The Lodge ritual team participated in the SEC District Ritual Competition. They are truly a great group of Elks and are especially worthy of your support at these competitions.

A wonderful 3rd Annual Sweetheart Ball had a new Queen, Brenda Mickelson. Congratulations, Brenda!

Not to be outdone, the Lodge’s Country and Western Night Chicken and Ribs was great and all enjoyed Road Fever's music.

The Lodge hosted the Annual Army of Hope Picnic in March for the district. It was attended by approximately 158 Elks and their guests from throughout the district. The Color Guard was from the Navy R.O.T.C. program at Centennial High School.

The month would not be complete without saying "Erin Go Bragh" to all those who had the opportunity to enjoy an Irish meal at their St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Dance.

The E.R.'s Farewell Dinner/Dance was held on March 20 and was enjoyed by all who attended. The officers' installation and the Volunteer & Award dinner closed out a very busy year for all.

Sebastian Lodge 2714
State President Vincent Conno visited the Southeast Central District in October.

After a Saturday morning buffet breakfast for the President and his group at the Sebastian Lodge they went on a tour of Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute.

The annual Oktoberfest which offers authentic German foods and music was a two night event and is something that the whole town looks forward to in early October.

Halloween was a very busy weekend. On Friday night the Lodge held a costume party for the children and they were entertained by games, a costume contest, and snacks.

On October 31, the Lodge hosted its renamed Joseph Joe Madigan Golf Tournament in honor of the man who was the chairman of this event for many years. Joe’s wife, Ruth, took over chairmanship of the golf tournament and returned from the course to the Lodge for a roast beef lunch and awards. Joe would have been very proud.

November began with an Old Fashioned Country Hoe Down. There was a free car and bike show at the Lodge along with music and great BBQ food.

The Eldoes hosted their annual Elvis Tribute. Dan Cunningham is an excellent performer and has already been booked for next year.

The Lodge donated twelve baskets of food to some needy families in the area and also donated three turkeys to the Lord’s Table Soup Kitchen in Fellsmere.

The Lodge hosted its annual Thanksgiving Day dinner and in December the Eldoes had the annual Christmas party with music by the Dynamics.

The Lodge played Santa's helper to fifty needy children: gifts were donated by the members and then collected and distributed by the Lodge Treasurer, Andrew Simso.

The children’s Christmas party on December 20 was attended by many of the children and grandchildren of Lodge members. Santa paid a visit to hand out gifts, and crafts were created to take home.

On January 1, the Lodge hosted a pork and sauerkraut dinner to begin the year with a bit of good luck.

Vero Beach Lodge 1774
The Lodge was proud to sponsor Indian River County’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade in downtown Vero Beach on Sunday, March 14. The parade was led by the representatives of the Indian River Veterans’ Organization as the Color Guard. Participants included representatives from many of the local schools such as St. Helen’s, Osceola Magnet, and Rosewood Magnet.

Other organizations included the Notre Dame University Club and the Italian American Club of Sebastian, Florida. Following the color guard were a bagpiper and flag bearers carrying the American flag, the Vero Beach Elks banner, and the flag of Ireland. The center of the parade consisted of Elks members dressed as very colorful clowns which made a great hit with the viewing audience. The organizers of the Parade Committee included PER Jack Houlihan and Dennis Ryan, incoming Trustee from the Lodge. After the parade, all participants and viewers were invited to a reception at the Lodge.

Viera Lodge 2817
Viera Lodge, through the generosity of its members, distributed over $10,000 worth of food, clothing, and toys during the recent Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

The Lodge partnered with Grandparents Raising Grandchildren to give 84 children from 32 different families clothing and toys.

Additionally, the Lodge sponsored ten other families in their community who would not otherwise have had a Christmas (single moms, burned house, loss of jobs).

On Sunday morning, March 21, the sky was overcast and threatening, but that didn’t dampen the enthusiasm for the “Charity Ride for the Children” at the Lodge. More than sixty motorcyclists participated. The rain came right after the ride that raised over $1,800.

Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870
The Lodge has exceeded its per-capita for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and Elks National Foundation. In addition, over sixty new Elks have been initiated.

The first Car and Bike Show with over 100 entries was coordinated by Ed Pass and Jay Cianciola and raised funds for Elks Charities and scholarship programs. Elks Member, Marshall Van Doren, volunteered his time to play some tunes and “People’s Choice Awards” were given out.

In March, the Annual Americanism and Community Recognition Night was held awarding the following awards: Citizen of the Year, Tony Reese; Police Officer of the Year, Matt Cernuto; Educator of the Year, Nancy Marin; Student of the Year, Rachel Genao; and News Photographer of the Year, Deborah Silver.

The Lodge hosted a luncheon with wheelchair veterans from the VA Hospital on St. Patrick’s Day and two of them shared their stories. Ed Hansen went into the Merchant Marines at the age of sixteen, went into the Navy at seventeen, and served in WW II. The other veteran, William Reason, spent thirty years in the Navy and served in WW II, Korea, and Vietnam. They were both so grateful for a day out and to have lunch with the Elks.

L-R: Ed Hanson, PER Suzi Simonelli, and William Reason at veterans’ luncheon at the Lodge.

The year ended with the installation of officers and the Awards Banquet recognizing the Elk of the Year, Jay Cianciola, House Committee and Bar Manager; and Officer of the Year, Betsy Lou Taylor, Lodge Secretary. The Grand Exalted Ruler Award of Citations were given to Lois Gravius and Dan Whalen.

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We know estate planning can be confusing
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NO OBLIGATION booklet on wills
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ADDRESS __________________________
CITY, STATE, ZIP __________________________
DATE OF BIRTH ________________ PH ________________
Mail to:
Florida Elks Charites, Wills, and Bequests
Carl Seibert
P.O. Box 49
Umatilla FL 32784-0049
Bradenton Lodge 1511
The Bradenton Lodge 1511 PER Association hosted a charity concert with the local favorite Billy Rice Band. A total of $1,400 was donated to HOPE Family Services, a local organization providing safe haven for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

From left, PDD Bill Swatzell; Billy Rice of the Billy Rice Band; Lodge Activities Committee State Chairperson, PER Gloria Gardner; and HOPE Family Services Representative, Laurel Lynch.

Bradenton Elks Lodge 1511 hosted the Southwest District Ritual Competition on March 7. The Bradenton ritual team won the district competition and will be competing at the Florida Elks State Convention in hopes of winning and defending their national ritual title.

Lakewood Ranch 2855
Lakewood Ranch Elks Lodge 2855 had a fundraiser for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and raised almost $900. This was their first fundraiser for this charity.

The Lodge had an Americanism essay contest for over 200 children in area schools.

Winners were Madelyn Kumar, Scarlett O’Hara, Savannah Carpenter, Alexandra Bobelis, Gabby Murphy, Randy Volkart, Joanne DiCarlo, and Kay Thorson. (Not pictured are other winners, Shelby Ryskamp and Tristan Sypula.)

Manasota Lodge 2734
The Manasota Elks Lodge’s business partnership with Daughtrey Elementary students continues to grow.

Manasota Elks members, Frank Wagner, PDD and Ed Neely, visited students recently and awarded veterans pins for continued support of their veterans’ program.

Pictured above from left to right: James Larsen, Esteem Lecturing Knight; Faye Larsen, Tidewell Hospice & Palliative Care Liaison; and Jim Larsen, Exalted Ruler of Manasota Elks 2734.

Hospice Palliative care provides patients and families effective and caring services which are second to none. The Tidewell team’s expertise is comfort care. Great care is taken to create a unique plan designed around the patient’s choices and needs while care is provided for loved ones.

Sarasota South Elks Lodge 2495
Sarasota South Lodge 2495, along with the other seven Lodges in the Southwest District, hosted a very successful Army of Hope Picnic on January 31. They had an attendance of nearly 400 and raised almost $9,000 for the Army of Hope.

Sarasota South Lodge enjoys helping children. Recently their Lodge donated 150 books to Daughtrey Elementary School. These books are used for their accelerated reading program. Mr. Frederickson was pleased with the donation and thanked the Elks for their generosity.

Pictured are Frank Wagner, PDD and Ed Neely with the students from Daughtrey Elementary School.

Elks also help fund the purchase of additional material which allows students to make lap blankets for the veterans. This program is a win/win situation for both groups. The students take great pride in helping the Elks with their veterans’ program.

Another generous donation has been presented to Tidewell Hospice by Manasota Elks Lodge 2734 in loving memory of their departed members and families. Jim Larsen was quoted to say, “There is no better way to remember our absent members than with a donation to Hospice.”

Seminole Lodge 2519
On February 13, the Lodge hosted its annual Sweetheart Dinner/Dance for Harry-Anna. The gala event was successful with the Lodge sending over $2,600 to HATF.
**Southwest Central District**

**Arkadia Lodge 1524**
Arkadia Lodge not only had a fairly large contingent of members and guests attend the February Quarterly at the Youth Camp, but they also took equipment to enter the Inaugural Florida State Elks Barbecue Festival and Pork Rib Cook-off held at the Eustis Lodge.

**Arkadia’s Tater Hill Smoke Rings setup was impressive enough to win the Showmanship Award. The Barbecue was attended by many Florida dignitaries including the National Elks President, Grand Exalted Ruler James Nickelson.**

**Winter Haven Lodge 1672**
Two families with eight children had a very happy Christmas with turkey dinners and gifts for all the children. Maggie and Kate McConnell and Sharon Bremer put a lot of time into preparing the meals and wrapping the many presents.

It helps to attend Lodge meetings. This may be best exemplified by a recent meeting at which Ron Huyck mentioned the Lodge’s table looked terrible. He said he would personally donate $80 toward the purchase of a table. Before the meeting was over, enough was pledged to get twelve new tables. Six more are needed for the non-smoking Bingo room.

The Freedom Isn’t Free Committee handed out 130 Window Stars to the families of the 130 local military service personnel deployed on January 7.

**Lakeland Lodge 1291**
Lakeland Lodge has been holding an Annual Chili Cook-off yearly and that is one of the best reasons that their Fat Chance Barbecue entry came in First Place at the Inaugural Florida State Elks Barbecue Festival and Pork Rib Cook-off following the February Quarterly.

On March 3 Lakeland Lodge hosted the Army of Hope Picnic with the $20.00 entry getting everyone all they can eat.

The John Necessary Memorial Golf Tournament for scholarship funds was held on February 27 with several dozen entries.

**Plant City Lodge 1727**
Members of this Lodge are proud of the home Lodge of the 2010-2011 Endorsed National President and Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Mike Smith, and his wife, Sandra.

Plant City police and firemen appreciated the Christmas dinner; it was an honor for the Lodge to be able to show their appreciation for their dedication and services.

The Wild Game Cookout in February and the Turkey Shoot in late March provided the Lodge with more funding for the Lodge’s upkeep and Florida Elks Major Projects.

**Lake Placid Lodge 2661**
A funny evening was enjoyed with the Lake Placid Ladies sponsoring a Womanless Fashion Show featuring a dozen or so men in drag parading on the runway to the delight of the spectators.

Phyllis Rittner, wife of Charter Member, Kurt Rittner, has given a total of 322 gallons of blood since joining the Elks in 1983. During the last quarter the blood drive had 36 donors.

Between the game room and bingo players, $612 has been donated to the Elks National Foundation and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in the last three months. As of March 1, Lake Placid was in first place in the Southwest Central District for total money donated to the Elks National Foundation and had exceeded the GER’s goal with a $6.85 per-capita.

**Sebring Lodge 1529**
Shortly before Christmas, Sebring Lodge hosted a Christmas buffet lunch for the veterans living in the three local nursing homes. Those veterans who could not come were not forgotten; a committee visited the homes and presented them with gifts.

During a three month membership drive the Lodge gained 72 new members.

A special evening of dancing was held to benefit the Mike Smith fundraising. Entertainers for the evening were Lora Patton, Larry Musgrave, Buddy Canova, Don and Allen, Gary and Shirley, and Wayne and Ginger.

The Children’s Services Foundation and Safe House, was given a check for $3,341 from the Lodge. Another check for $100 was given to the Veterans Association to bring the Vietnam War Memorial to Highlands County in November.

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**Central District**

**Adrienne Martin, Reporter**

**Brooksville Lodge 2582**
PER Paul Stark, Chairman of the Lodge’s Elks National Foundation Committee, earned more points in the Chairman’s Challenge over all the Florida Lodges. He was instrumental in Brooksville’s fundraising efforts and brought in 150 new donors. As a reward, the Lodge was given a gratitude grant which was used to purchase 408 dictionaries which were given to local third graders.

The “Standing Tall For Veterans Organization” represented by C. S. “Chuck” Bennett, one of the Directors of the Board, presented Brooksville Lodge #2582 with a certificate in recognition of the continued support of veterans. It was accepted by Exalted Ruler, Bill Woods.

While at the Florida State Elks Association Quarterly Meeting in February, Brooksville Lodge gave a donation of $3,000 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Brooksville Lodge held a fundraiser for Haiti on Valentine’s Day with a dinner/dance wherein $2,000 was raised.

**West Citrus Lodge 2693**
West Citrus Lodge membership has grown from 862 in April 2009 to a final figure of 942 on March 31, 2010. A lot of work has gone into refurbishing the Lodge meeting room and lounge. This was done by many volunteers who put in countless hours painting, decorating, and cleaning these two areas.

The Lodge raised funds for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund by having three separate cook-offs. January was a soup cook-off which was won by Stephanie Salay, February was the spaghetti sauce contest which was won by David Lane, and March was the famous chili cook-off which was won by Christine Cooper. Jean Ortt who was their Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairperson has done a wonderful job of raising funds.

West Citrus sponsors a Cub Scout Pack which is chaired by Dan Airey. Dan Airey and Jim Fish were responsible for the pack’s Annual Blue and Gold Dinner and everyone had a great time.

The Lodge donated two computers to the Homosassa Elementary School.

West Citrus continues its presence at the local assisted living homes with visits and spending time with the 120 veterans who live there. They have pizza parties and birthday parties with gifts. Fundraisers help defray their costs.

Congratulations go to incoming Exalted Ruler, Jean Ortt, the first female ER for West Citrus. The Lodge wishes you the best.
The North District was pleased to host State President, Vincent Como; his wife, Lisa; and his delegation January 29-30 at Perry Lodge 1851. The highlight of the weekend is always the banquet and the President’s talk, but the excursion on Saturday morning to Veterans Park downtown proved to be a memorable trip. This President’s visit always causes Lodge members and their spouses in the district to attend and enjoy the social event.

Lake City Lodge 893

Lake City Lodge has a long history of community events at Christmastime. In keeping with that tradition, the Lodge distributed forty food baskets to needy families and gave toys and goodie bags to 242 children who may not have otherwise received a Christmas gift. The thanks extended to the Elks from the families were overwhelming. To round out the holiday season, the Lodge held its annual New Year’s Eve party and to paraphrase the sentiment from those attending, “it was a blast.”

The first meeting in February was PER Night and that always adds special enjoyment to the Lodge meeting. On February 13, the Lodge sponsored a Valentine’s Day Dinner featuring prime rib or honey roasted chicken as the entrée and a glass of champagne on the side to celebrate the event. An area for dancing was provided. For added interest a drawing was held during the evening. On February 25, the performing group, Recreation, put on a show at the Lake City VA Center. The group does a great job.

As was reported in the last issue, Lake City Lodge is proud to have sponsored Kahnayla Taylor, age 9, in the Hoop Shoot Contest. Her winning score at the local and the state contest was 25 of 25. Kahnayla won at the state contest in Umatilla and competed in Valdosta (along with other winners from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina) on March 20. She is a third grade student at Fort White Elementary School and quite a basketball fan. Her favorite teams are the Celtics, Lakers, and Heat as well as all the college teams in Florida. Kahnayla is the first contestant from Lake City to win a state contest and move on to the regional competition.

Installation of officers was held March 17 and a New England boiled dinner was featured. The following weekend the Lodge was available to welcome attendees at the Exalted Ruler Elect/Secretary Elect seminar held in Lake City.

For Easter, Lake City Lodge delivered plastic Easter eggs to the eleven area elementary schools in the county. Last year the Lodge provided over 17,000 eggs for the kids to find.

Live Oak Lodge 1165

Live Oak Lodge with the help of the Anna Miller Circle distributed 68 Christmas baskets/boxes in December. Volunteers helped assemble and deliver the goodies to needy families. A tip of the hat goes to the local UPS store that donated boxes that the Lodge was able to use as baskets.

Live Oak Lodge held a Chili Cook-off as a fundraising event on January 25. Participants were able to taste samples and purchase chili as part of the event. It was also a day for the Lodge’s bingo game which helped to attract an audience. A week and a half later on February 6 the Lodge conducted the Annual North District Hoop Shoot at Suwannee Middle School. Lunch was served afterwards at the Lodge.

The North Regional Hoop Shoot Contest was held in Live Oak on February 6. Live Oak is proud to continue this tradition in the North Region and makes this contest a flawless event. Also in February, the Lodge featured a lobster dinner followed by karaoke and dancing in the lounge.

The Lodge installed its new officers on March 20 and dinner was provided. With this being the same weekend as the Exalted Ruler Elect/Secretary Elect Seminar in Lake City, it was quite a hustle to get the Exalted Ruler and Secretary to the Lodge in time for installation.

Marianna Lodge 1516

Marianna Lodge and its Ladies hosted its annual party for Chipola Apartments. The annual party is always a festive occasion which the residents look forward to. One of the games offered during the party was bingo. Ladies from the Lodge who helped with the party included Jan Quigly, Jane Powell, Louise Pumphrey, Sharon Cox, Betty Johnson, and Angela Walton (see photo). The Lodge is grateful for all the things the Ladies do to bring recognition to the Elks.

The Lodge has made a big effort this year to provide more entertainment for the membership. ER Thomason and the club operation have focused on this goal and arranged for a variety of music including DJs, disco dancing, and country bands. Usually food is offered early to round out the evening with dinner and dancing. It has proven to be a good time for those who indulge. One of those evenings was the New Year’s Eve Gala. More than fifty meals were served, the food was fabulous, and the party was great. The Valentine’s Dinner and Dance on February 12 also resulted in a rocking good time with a sumptuous meal and a live band. The St. Patrick’s Day Irish dinner was a success as well.

Lodge officer installation was held March 29 with PSP Larry Henley and a delegation from Tallahassee assisting in this important event.

Perry Lodge 1851

Perry Lodge was pleased to have so many attendees at its Memorial Service in December. Fifty-six members and guests attended the ceremony and enjoyed a complimentary lunch afterwards. The following week, the Lodge held a Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner on December 12. About 75 folks from the local police department, Taylor County Sheriff’s Office, FHP, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission participated. Later in December, the sixth annual Breakfast with Santa occasion brought over 200 children to the Lodge along with their families. More than 500 people enjoyed this popular skit as well as a couple of satirical monologues. Dinner was included and was excellent.

Tallahassee Lodge was proud to host the ritual contest judging on January 9 for Warrington Lodge and Tallahassee Lodge. Being the only competitors in the Northwest and North Districts, you will be seeing these two Lodges again at the state ritual contest in May. Later in January a number of members and spouses attended the State President’s visit at Perry Lodge 1851.

February began with PER Night in the Lodge room. The Lodge’s most senior PER in attendance that evening was Bob Greenberg (ER 1962-63). Bob is an optometrist and continues to work in prescribing and fitting eyewear. A Valentine’s Day dinner was held on Saturday, February 13. Chicken marsala was the entrée served with roasted rosemary potatoes and stuffed zucchini.

Tallahassee Lodge has a number of its members deployed on active duty. The Lodge is proud to pay the dues for these members as provided for in Section 13.410, G.L. Statutes. Support of our military and our veterans is on the top of the Lodge’s list, always.

A local group, the Natural Bridge Historical Society, each year sponsors a battle reenactment the first weekend in March. This year the Lodge was invited to come to the event and host the food booth. The Lodge sold volumes of hot dogs, grilled sausages, and burgers as well as all 319 of PER Irvin’s chocolate chip and oatmeal raisin cookies. The 6” cookies were a popular item and folks were clamoring for them. The Lodge was excited to participate in this fundraising event to help boost the finances at the end of the Lodge year.

Tallahassee Lodge celebrated its new officers with an installation on March 27. Heavy hors d’oeuvres and delectable snacks were provided as well as music for dancing.

Val Bates continued from page 1
Fort Walton Lodge 1795
Charlotte Walstad and Darcery Roberson are now co-chairing Visions 2012. They are energetic and competent and will serve you well. Please support them. Better yet, join them.

The Visions 2012 Committee is dedicated to improving our Lodge by increasing membership, providing incentives for participation and funding capital improvements such as seawall and dock repair. Make your wishes known! We want - and need - more input from the membership. If you would like to assist in these critical efforts, please come to the meetings at 6:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month.

The Lodge now has a theater projector to be used for televised sporting events, movies, etc. It was purchased on December 4th for the college football playoffs on December 5 and with one day’s word of mouth publicity, about 75 members showed up to watch the games and enjoy the fellowship and food; a very successful debut, indeed. This equipment can also be rented to private groups for events at the Lodge. Come join us for all Playoff and Bowl games, Big Screen TV and Food.

From the left, Bill Garrett, Ronald McDonald, Jimmy Bromley and Darc Roberson.

Holly-Navarre Lodge 2787
The main objective at the first meeting in February was to obtain nominations for new officers for the Elk Year April 2010 through March 2011. There was a small turn out resulting in only four people being nominated for nine positions. This Lodge cannot exist without enough officers.

Yes, it can sometimes be a lot of work, but it can also be fun. Each one of you has the responsibility to step up and take charge. If everyone takes a turn, no one person has to be responsible year after year. New people and new ideas are a benefit to us all.

Gary Forester, the outgoing Exalted Ruler, offers his heart-felt thanks to all of the officers, committee people and all others who have contributed to making this a good year. It's been fun. As always, don’t forget to check The Log calendar for all of our activities. Come join us. Have a drink and visit with your Elk family.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497
On Saturday March 27th Fritz and Friends were back with their fabulous fish fry.

The Northwest Florida Blood Center’s Bloodmobile was on site from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm offering free tee shirts, snacks and drinks to donors. Those unable to donate blood still supported the drive by purchasing raffle tickets with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the Elks Lodge and the Northwest Florida Blood Center. Fritz and friends will be offering a 50/50 drawing with proceeds benefitting the Pensacola VA Nursing Home.

Mardi Gras is over for another year. As always parade day was the busiest day of the year, over 180 breakfasts and 100 burgers and dogs were served. The kitchen brought in more money than the bar and we ended up with a record breaking day. We need more of those throughout the year.

Saint Patrick’s Day, Fritz and Friends Fish Fry and Darla scheduled the Bloodmobile.

The Governing Body has decided to wait until the new officers take over before making any decision on the possibility of starting up some type of lunch program. With this being the last month in office for some of the officers, I would like to thank all of the Governing Body for their support during this past year.

Destin Lodge 2688
The Exalted Ruler wants to thank everyone that helped make it through the good and the bad times. It has been a learning experience he will not forget. He asks above all else; supporting the incoming Exalted Ruler and officers; for they too will work hard to make the Lodge the best in the Great Northwest Florida.

The Lodge is second in the district for ENF and Harry-Anna Trust.

Warrington Lodge 2108
Ron Burt, athletic director of the Salvation Army, and PDD David Wiley departed Pensacola, February 5th at 5:00 pm for the Regional Hoop Shoot contest in Live Oak, Florida. The contestants were Kyhem Coleman, Shaundarius Cowart, Deshun Hayes, and Nilajah Newberry. Several of the contestants’ parents attended as well.

The kids had a great time and thanked the lodge for your support. They look forward to next year. They all said they would practice hard and try their best to advance to the State Finals.

The Mardi Gras King and Queen for 2010-2011 are Dennis Viets and Margaret Hollingshead. Both King Dennis and Queen Margaret have worked hard at the Lodge on various committees.

Warrington Lodge members were happy to have Sandra Smith and Endorsed National President Michael F. Smith attending the New Year’s Eve dinner and dance at Warrington Lodge.

Crestview Lodge 2624
Due to popular demand more Turkey Shoots are scheduled for Saturdays. The location and start times will be the same as always. All help will be greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to all the members who donated to the food drive for Sharing and Caring. We gave them a good load of food and a check for $500 to help the less fortunate during this trying time for a lot of families.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352:
The Lodge is in the process of completing the Impact Grant of $10,000 awarded by the Grand Lodge. The purpose of the Grant was to supply the volunteer workers for Habitat for Humanity a lunch on the site of the job. Under the direction of Elk Tim Hadsell and with the help of DDGER Les Szirbik and many others, this project is getting the word out in several communities about what the Elks is all about.

Tim Hadsell also received a $500 Grant to build a community garden in the Lodge’s backyard. The garden is in full bloom now and even the rain and cold weather did not stop the harvesting of several different vegetables. The Lodge even has a spot where they are growing different spices for use in our kitchen.

Bingo on Sundays is now under the leadership of PER Bobbi Woodfell. The group is getting bigger each week as the word spreads among the members. Bingo now joins the horseshoe players on Sunday afternoon. The new ER Patti Phillips throws a mean horseshoe. Looking for another Lodge to challenge them!!!

The new officers were installed on March 27th and a roast beef dinner was served afterwards.

On April 10th, Elk Member Mark Miele ran the Second Annual Bobby Gabriell Golf Tournament. It was a great success and Mark should be proud. His committee decided this year to help a returning Vet with the proceeds of the affair.

They selected a Vet from the Boca area who had foot and leg damage and was trying to get back to some sort of normalcy. The golf tournament was followed by a buffet at the Lodge and the winners were presented with their awards.

Belle Glade/Pahokee 1716
The Lodge donated 250 Christmas gifts to the boys and girls of the St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church for needy children in our community this past Christmas.

December 29th, 2009, the Lodge hosted a Football Awards Banquet. They served around 250 children and parents hot dogs, chips, and soda.

John Ellison, Chairman of the Trustees, was nominated for Citizen of the Year on January 16, 2010.

On Saturday, February 13th, 2010 the Lodge held a Valentine’s Day Bingo, auction, and dinner. Two hundred people were served steak dinners. This community event was put on by ARC, Lion’s Club, and the Lodge.

Southeast District Bar-B-Que held on February 21 was a huge success. There were eight rib cook-off teams, dessert auction and everyone had a fun time. Congratulations to the Clewiston Lodge on winning the rib cook-off.

Wednesday, March 17th, the Lodge hosted a St Patrick’s Day Party. Saturday, April 10 the Lodge hosted a lunch for the Black Gold Jubilee Children’s Fishing Contest at the Belle Glade Marina.
Daytona Beach Lodge 1141

In Memoriam
PDDGER A. Leland Becton
April 4, 1935 – January 30, 2010
A. Leland Becton was a Life Member of Daytona Beach Elks Lodge #1141, a Past State Chairman of the Business Practices Committee, and held many committee chairs and positions for his Lodge, the East Central District, and the Florida State Elks Association.

He served on several professional and social organizational boards in the community. He was a Past President of the Daytona Beach Shriners and a 32nd Degree Mason. On March 7, 2010, Masonic Rite and Elks Ritual services were held at the Lodge. Family members, friends, and East Central District dignitaries attended.

The Lodge recently had their annual highway pickup and collected fourteen bags of trash. On January 17, 2010, Exalted Ruler Lou Greci and his Lodge officers participated in the annual District Ritual Contest. They came in fourth in the district. All Lodge officers were presented with certificates for their participation in the Ritual Contest.

A Sock Hop dance was held at the Lodge where members donated socks for the veterans at the Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home in Daytona Beach.

Member Patricia Heller-Jackson, Past NJ-VP and Elks Representative to the Emory L. Bennett Veterans Nursing Home in Daytona Beach, will be sworn in as the new 2010-2011 District Vice President at the State Convention in May.

On Saturday, March 20, 2010 an awards ceremony was held at the Lodge naming Robert Ditman, PER Elk of the Decade.

Exalted Ruler Lou Greci and his Cub Scout Pack #141 recently held a Pinewood Derby at the Lodge.

Deland Lodge 1463

In Memoriam
PDDGER Stanley E. Suess
April 26, 1938 – March 4, 2010
Stanley E. Suess served on many Lodge committees and as district chairs. A 23 year veteran, he served his country in the military, both active and reserve. Stan retired from the postal service as a manager and served as an Auxiliary State Trooper for the Connecticut State Police Dept. He was a member of the Marine Corp League, Marine Corp. Association, The American Legion, Amvets, DAV, Vietnam Vets Association, NCOA, National Association of Postal Supervisors, and the Connecticut State Police Academy Alumni Association.

On March 9, 2010, a service was held at the Lodge attended by family members; friends; State VPAL, James Hurst; State Secretary, Carl Seibert; and district dignitaries.

For the third year in a row, the Lodge took first place in the annual District Ritual Contest. The officers will compete at State Convention in May for the ultimate prize.

Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557

On February 12, 2010, members enjoyed a Valentine’s Have a Heart Celebration dance at the Lodge. The event raised $840 for Florida Elks Charities. Members also had a fundraiser to “Send a Kid to Camp” and raised $900.

Reported in the last issue of this newspaper, Jim Cyr and his wife, Marge, members of Edgewater-New Smyrna Beach Lodge, started a two year project for the Seeing Eye Dog Institute where they collected 800 pull-tabs. The project entailed collecting pull-tabs from drink cans and food products. Their Girl Scout Troup #474, family members, and the entire community of Edgewater-New Smyrna Beach started saving pull-tabs.

Several months later, the goal of 1,500 pounds of pull-tabs was reached. They were boxed up and turned in to the recycler for a payout of $576 which will be sent to the Seeing Eye Dog Institute.

Recently, honored by the American Legion Post #285 in Edgewater in a ceremony for the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, Frank Lohr was given the Legion of Honor. He served in Vietnam with 101st Airborne Division and has devoted his life to God and country in times of war and peace and has assisted his fellow veterans in the community.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650

For the third year, the Lodge teenagers put on a dinner to benefit the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. This year the teens did a nostalgic theme called “At the Hop with the Bop and Friends” and raised over $500.

Members of Merritt Island Lodge were honored guests of Cub Scout Pack #369 for the inaugural run of their new Pinewood Derby Track. The Lodge donated $800 to purchase the new track for the Cub Scouts. Lodge members participated as impartial judges for the awards categories.

In appreciation for the donation by the Elks, the Cub Scouts held a car wash called “Kids Helping Kids” which raised $900 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and Florida Elks Youth Camp.

PDD and Lodge Advisor, John Lesko, was recently named Elk of the Month for giving selflessly to Elkdom over the years. Max Jones was also named for pull-tab fundraisers as well as Robbie Robinson for his work in and around the community.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

On Saturday, February 13, the Lodge held a Valentine’s Masquerade Charity Ball and raised $828; it was donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Don Gehring, Lodge Hoop Shoot Director, recently announced on February 20 that Tyla Davis, a 9 year old from Tomoka Elementary, received a silver medal in the Florida State Elks finals.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709

The Lodge Drug Awareness Committee distributed over 500 drug awareness literature packets and as many American flag pins at the City of Palm Coast birthday celebration. Boy Scout Troop #270 and their parents helped the Elks Drug Awareness Committee stuff drug awareness literature packets for distribution at a Home Show in Palm Coast. At a Bob Evans fundraiser the troop raised $137. An appreciation award was presented to Troop #270 Scoutmaster for all their hard work they did in stuffing over 50,000 drug awareness literature packets throughout the year.

This past year the Lodge’s PER Association raised $4,000 which was split between the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and the Elks National Foundation.

Palm Coast Elks donated $100 to the Elks National Home, $100 to an Iraq veteran to participate in Miracles on the Mountain, $145 to the Special Olympics, $500 to the veterans, $300 to the DAV, and collected toys for the local battered women’s shelter.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

On March 13, members and their guests of the Lodge enjoyed the Charity Ball which raised $2,235.30 and the Germanfest which raised $1,378.76. Proceeds from these two events were donated to the Elks charities and to fixing the Lodge.

The Meals on Wheels program continues to be a success. Volunteers from the Lodge prepare and deliver meals to homebound citizens in the community who are grateful. Letters from these citizens are often read at Lodge meetings expressing their thanks.

Paul Leonard Fritz, Scholarship Program Chairman, and George continue their work with teachers and students from area high schools in the community. Each month students are awarded for their scholastic achievements in their school and volunteer work in their community. Recently, the committee chose five students to go on to compete at the state level.

Sanford Lodge 1241

Joe Rogers, PDD and members of the Lodge are making preparations for their upcoming 100th anniversary in 2011.

The Sanford Elks Lodge Christmas float was a big success featuring Mike Magner as Elroy the Elk. The float made front page headlines in The Sanford Herald.

Members of the Lodge participated in a chili cook-off for Super Bowl Sunday. Tied for first place were Carla Dunn and Stan Poloski; Ted Newsom and his son, Miles, took second place; and Mac McKenna and Sam Dunn tied for third place. Approximately forty people came out to enjoy the various chili entries and to watch the game.

Titusville Lodge 2113

At a recent Lodge meeting it was reported that $14,500 was raised for Officer Vann Streety, who, in the line of duty, was shot six times.

Titusville Lodge took second place in the annual District Ritual Contest. They will go on to compete at the State Convention.
During the visitation to the North Central District, State President Vincent Como and his wife, Lisa, and VPAL Jim Hurst and his wife, Julia, and their entourage were given a tour of the Ocala Civic Theater and Museum.

They are shown here outside the theater with one of dozens of photographs that have been scattered throughout Ocala from the 2001-2002 Horse Fever Project which raised funds for the Ocala Theater and Museum.

“Horse O’Plenty”
Inverness Elks Lodge 2522
The Drug Awareness Chairman of Inverness Elks Lodge 2522, has been working with Citrus County’s elementary schools to spread the word of “Just Say No To Drugs” for the last 24 years. The Elks Lodge has sponsored numerous contests such as essays, posters, Winn-Dixie paper bags, poetry, design a t-shirt, etc. All of these have pertained to “Saying No To Drugs.” One student from each grade level was chosen as a winner and received Red Ribbon certificates and other Say NO To Drugs gifts.

The students are encouraged to take the projects home and have their parents help them with the design of the “Say NO To Drugs” project. The idea was always to get the parents involved with the kids about saying no to drugs. At times, some of the artwork was outstanding for kids in kindergarten and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. People would say, “How did young children do this kind of work?” The bottom line is that the parents got involved!

Parents getting involved is what the Inverness Elks are all about. This year, the project was to design a new “Say NO To Drugs” logo for a t-shirt.

Every year one to five schools participate in the contest. Hernando Elementary currently has 584 students and every year the participation is overwhelming. This year, Hernando Elementary not only had the contest kicking off Red Ribbon Week activities, but students participated in a school-wide pledge. The pledge was to promise to be drug free and all 584 students recited it as it was led via the morning show. During the week there were videos for all age levels shown, lessons taught in classrooms on the dangers of drugs, and on Wednesday, there was a sea of red. All students and staff wore red to show their dedication to being drug free.

On February 28, 2010 the Elks Riders USA held a birthday party to celebrate one year in existence and what a party it was! It was held at Port Charlotte Lodge #2153 which is considered the group’s home Lodge since it was PER Deb Hargrove’s insight that allowed the group to hold its first organizational meeting there. PER Deb was made an Honorary Lifetime Member at the party due to her support of the group. She is proudly an Honorary Lifetime Member along with Florida Elks State President, Vince Como.

Elks Riders President/SSWDVP Carl Gerace, awards PER Deb Hargrove an Honorary Plaque and lifetime membership for her support of the Elks Riders USA.

Entertainment was provided by Ultimate Sound and there were special guests who stopped by. The event was open to all Elks Riders USA members, Elks Lodge members, and their families. The food was pot luck and no one left there hungry. It was a perfect example of how the Elks Lodges can benefit from having an association like the Elks Riders USA. Everyone had such a great time and they are looking forward to the next event which is scheduled for June 13, 2010.

As mentioned in previous articles about the group, there are members from different Lodges along the southwest coast and central locations of Florida united as one for several reasons. We are all dedicated Elks whether we are involved in an event at our local Lodge or are supporting the events of another Lodge. There have been several occasions where we have members divided up in groups so that the Elks Riders USA are showing support at more than one event when there are multiple events scheduled on the same day.

Many of the Elks Riders members hold office not only at the local Lodges but at the district, regional, and state level.

The number of members in the Elks Riders USA has reached 131 in fourteen months and continues to grow. Not only is the Elks Riders USA roster growing but so are the rosters at the different Elks Lodges in the area because you have to be an active Elk member to join. They do not just go riding around on motorcycles; they incorporate the joy of riding with being an active and productive Elk. They hold and attend fundraisers to support kids, elderly, veterans, and the families of military men and women on active duty whether it be an Elk event or another fraternal organization. They also attend fundraisers sponsored by neighbors and neighborhood businesses that are being held for families in the neighboring areas who have fallen on hard times. They are trying very hard to get their message across that they are Elks and therefore they care and they share. An Elk Rider will always proudly display the Elks Riders USA colors and each member has a pennant that displays which Lodge they belong to.

Right now, they are in the process of gaining acceptance by the Grand Lodge. They are all a little anxious about the decision but are also confident that the Grand Lodge will recognize the Elks Riders USA’s little secret. If this new generation is not from a family that had an Elks member or members, they have no idea what the Elks do. They are not aware of the many foundations that support families in need. The learning experience they would receive by volunteering to help any of these foundations beginning at the local Lodges which are always looking for volunteers would be great. They are not aware of the scholarships available to help them with their education. I hear all the time from new members that as a new member they were amazed by what the Elks do. Yes, I will admit I joined the Port Charlotte Lodge so I could become a member of the Elks Riders USA.

The Elks Riders USA is one way of attracting this whole new generation to become an Elks member. It has been proven 131 times in the past fourteen months in southwest and central Florida. Elkdom will certainly continue to grow stronger for years to come.
Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719

Jack Campbell and the golfers from the Carolina Springs Golf Tournament presented Woody Hooper, Trustee, a check for $7,000. The Lodge will use $4,000 to send children to the youth camp this summer; $1,000 will go into the Lodge’s scholarship fund and $2,000 for the patio project.

Kayla Kivinski from Tarpon Springs won in her division in the Valdosta Hoop Contest and competed in the Hoop Shoot Finals in Springfield. She is shown here with L-R, PSP David Lake, PSP Charles Trinowski, and Florida Hoop Shoot Chairman Pete Cattabriga.

HOLIDAY ISLES LODGE 1912

During the Christmas holidays the Lodge donated over fifty food baskets to local families in need. This was a most appreciated gift based on the responses from the families.

On January 11, the Lodge hosted a card party for the new Elkettes. The names of Florida’s fallen soldiers were read by Past Exalted Ruler Bob Gill as “Taps” was played in the background.

On January 1, the Lodge hosted a New Year’s Eve Extravaganza. Surf & turf, filet mignon, and jumbo shrimp were the bill of fare. The band, Earthshine, performed the members’ favorite dance tunes and the new year was rung in with a traditional toast at midnight.

Special thanks go to all Lodge members and friends who were all so supportive of the FLAVER fundraiser in January. There were 205 tickets sold for the Elks Idol Talent Show.

Miami Lodge 948

Miami Lodge #948 kicked off 2010 with their annual New Year’s Eve extravagana. Surf & turf, filet mignon, and jumbo shrimp were the bill of fare. The band, Earthshine, performed the members’ favorite dance tunes and the new year was rung in with a traditional toast at midnight.

Special thanks go to all Lodge members and friends who were all so supportive of the FLAVER fundraiser in January. There were 205 tickets sold for the Elks Idol Talent Show.

All Children’s Hospital Guild Beach Branch as a benefit event to raise money. Once again it was a very successful event.

In the Lodge’s efforts to continuously support the veterans at Bay Pines V.A. Center, a picnic was hosted for over 160 veterans at the hospital. Grilled hot dogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings were served by Lodge members.

On February 13, the Lodge held a Valentine’s/Mardi Gras Party to celebrate both special occasions. Members dressed in their Mardi Gras attire with beads, bangles, masks, and costumes. New Orleans style hors d’oeuvres were served. The event was followed on February 14 with a delightful brunch and special gifts for the ladies attending.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

On Saturday, February 27, the Lodge hosted its Annual Law & Order Night. The State Attorney’s Office, Sheriff’s Department, St. Petersburg Police, St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue, Gulfport Police, Kenneth City Police, St. Petersburg Beach Police, and St. Petersburg Beach Fire were all proudly honored. Present were also two Majors, one City Manager, and eight Commissioners. In total over 128 members of various departments were in attendance. Nine Elks plaques were presented that evening.

After the awards, the Criminal Justice Academy of Pinellas Park High School put on a demonstration. The students displayed their knowledge and skills of self-defense tactics. The Lodge made a donation that evening to the Criminal Justice Academy in the amount of $1,000. This donation will allow nine qualified students to attend the national championships with other competing schools displaying their skills of self-defense.

With Elks and Elks dignitaries, over 180 meals were served.

Tampa Lodge 708

The Lodge had five students from area middle schools enter essays for the 2009-2010 Americanism essay contest, “The American Dream: What Is It?” All five were honored with a special ceremony at the Lodge. Each participant received a framed certificate and a $50.00 gift card. Divya Bhansali, a seventh grader from Berkeley Preparatory School, placed second in Division II for the state. She was given a special commemorative album by the Lodge during a school ceremony honoring her and the other two entries from Berkeley.

On February 13, the Lodge hosted a St. Valentine’s Day Massacre Dinner/Dance for the Elks National Foundation. Members and guests dressed in theme for the evening with Bonnie and Clyde, Elliott Ness, Bugsy, and the Godfather all present! One of the highlights was the blood red cake adding to all the fun of the evening. The event raised more than $800 for ENF.

It was a fun night out for the residents of Athena House, the homeless female veterans program. Members of the Lodge joined the women for dinner at Carrabba’s Restaurant and then went to James Haley VA Center to see Recreation perform in an hour long show.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

On February 13, the Lodge held a Black Tie Ball fundraiser for Mike Smith, the new GER Elect. There were over 200 West Central continued on page 15
Bonita Springs Lodge 2753

Bonita Springs Lodge is a continuing sponsor of the annual Brotherhood Ride. This year’s ride will be from Tallahassee, FL to Houston, TX. The ride will be ten days and over 700 miles and is memorializing two fallen firefighters. The Lodge held a bingo night in February to help support their efforts and conducted a send-off dinner in April.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763

Deep Creek conducted a food drive to support Genesis House and collected Christmas gifts for the military in December. In addition, each month the Veterans Service Committee invites veterans from the Douglas Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home to the Lodge for lunch and bingo. Deep Creek is also continuing with the collection of coupons for military families, having collected in excess of 89,692 coupons valued at over $156,440.75.

Englewood Lodge 2378

On November 11, the Veterans’ Committee went to various nursing homes in the area to bring veterans to the Lodge to honor them. They were served a fine lunch and were thanked for their service to our country.

Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781

Greater Pine Island Lodge held its First Annual Sounds like Pine Island Festival on February 20. The festival featured six local music acts along with co-chairs Dewey Duchaine and Brad Rogers. All proceeds will go to GPI Charities and Lee County Schools for support of music.

Naples Lodge 2010

At a recent Board of Trustees meeting, Boy Scout Troop #214 was introduced to the Lodge. The BSA Troop will be sponsored by the Naples Elks Lodge as part of their youth program. The scouts were presented a check for $500 from the Lodge and matching donations of $500 each from Naples Elks Mavis Water and Annie Cole.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

This photo shows the newly started Gentleman’s Club at Littleton Elementary School in North Fort Myers.

The club was established by Rob Cooper, Asst. Principal, to show young men manners and respect for others. The white shirts and ties were purchased and presented by Richard Wood, Trustee of the North Fort Myers Lodge 2742. This is another way Elkdom helps our young people become gentlemen.

The Veterans’ Committee made its quarterly trip to Bay Pines VA Hospital with thirty boxes of clothing, personal items, games, puzzles, afghans, and shawls. In addition, a check for $500 was presented to Richard Jacobs, PER, VAVS Representative, to support the veterans.

NORIENTE DISTRICT

The Northeast District is proud to be the leading district in the State in membership with a positive growth of 0.63%. Three of the six lodges, Palatka, Green Cove Springs and St. Augustine, all had a positive increase in their membership.

Jacksonville Lodge 221

Jacksonville Elks continue to visit the Veterans Hospital in Lake City the first Sunday of each month where they serve Veterans food and goodies and host Bingo.

A birthday party for PER Richard Stout, aged 73, was held at the Jacksonville Lodge on Friday, February 26th, with his wife, Evelyn, and his family bringing Richard from the nursing home to the Lodge for the celebration.

Lodge Hoop Shoot Chairman Chris Martin, and helpers Dave Hosch and Dick Maloney, were proud that Grayson Rolf won the District and State Hoop Shoot Contests in the 13-14 age group, and is set to compete in the Southeast Regional Contest.

Ritual teams from St. Augustine, Gainesville and Jacksonville participated in the NE District Ritual Contest held in Jacksonville on Sunday, February 21, 2010. It was a very close competition with Gainesville Lodge taking away the top awards. Lodge Chaplain Dawn Pope won the honor as Best Chaplain.

Palatka Lodge 1232

As of February 28th, Palatka Lodge is ranked 7 in the State for Membership increases with a 6.37% increase. Being a Division I Lodge, they’ve grown by 23 new members. Ronnie Dennis, PER, alone has proposed 14 of our new members.

The Lodge has been receiving a facelift for many months, with the dining hall completely renovated and the photos of all PER’s from the beginning of time displayed. The Lodge will be 100 years old next year, and Lady Deborah Collins took it upon herself to reframe each and every photo.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892

This Lodge is ranked 5th in the State for growth in membership having added 76 new members in those 11 months resulting in a 7.40% increase! This is just a beautiful Lodge to spend an afternoon, and this reporter encourages members throughout the state to stop in.

Thanks to the hard work of Bob Bowmaster’s crew with Bill Gause’s supervision Green Cove Lodge recently completed the construction of a bulkhead on the St. Johns River.

St. Augustine Lodge 829

St. Augustine is the third Lodge in the NE District to also have a growth in membership by 2.11% with 71 new members in their Lodge. A Division 4 Lodge, St. Augustine is ranked number 12 in the state as of February 28th.

Member Bernice Mobilia of St. Augustine 829 and her husband, Ross, a member of Jacksonville 221 travel monthly to the VA Hospital in Lake City to visit patients in the hospital.

In December they delivered 80 Christmas presents to patients donated by Helen Knight, a regular player at St. Augustine Lodge Thursday night Bingo.

Gainesville 990

Gainesville 990 Elks held a caroling event at the VA Hospital December 19. Elks walked the halls of the Gainesville VA Hospital and asked the Vets in each room what their favorite carols were then performed standing just outside of their room. The Vets were presented with Christmas Stockings that included items for each Vet to use for their personal needs.

A new pavilion was built to be used by the Veterans’ Committee to serve the homeless veterans and other Lodge activities. The Veterans’ Committee serves a lunch each Tuesday to homeless veterans and others. This facility will provide a shelter away from sun and rain. The pavilion was provided by members of N. Fort Myers Lodge at no cost to the Lodge general fund.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

Punta Gorda Elks prepared and delivered 88 Christmas food baskets to needy families in Charlotte County. These baskets included all the fixings for a nice dinner and more. Each basket was accompanied by toys for all the children in the family under thirteen years of age.

The Punta Gorda Elks Lodge held its Annual Charity Bocce Tournament on January 23. The event consisted of 20 men’s and ten women’s teams and generated $1,450 for the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. The therapist, Christina Walker, was on site to discuss the Children’s Therapy Services for the participants and observers. Everyone enjoyed the food and prizes provided by the various sponsors.

The Punta Gorda Elks Lodge held its fourth Variety Show, Memories and Dreams IV, on March 26 and March 27 at the Cultural Center in Port Charlotte. The cast and crew of which many are Elks performed three shows generating $8,000 for the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. The show has become very popular and is already booked for next year.

Rotonda Lodge 2710

On March 6 Rotonda Lodge held a dinner show featuring Tommy O to raise funds for the Charlotte County Homeless Children Program.
Wednesday - May 19, 2010
3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Registration
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Ritual Meeting for Judges & Teams
6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 30-minute Ritual Team Practices

Thursday - May 20, 2010
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. FL Elks Youth Camp BOD Workshop (closed meeting)
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Registration Continues
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. State Ritual Contest
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Past State Presidents’ Advisory Council (closed meeting)
10:40 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. FL Elks Youth Camp BOD - (Re-organizational Meeting Immediately Following)
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. FL Elks News Publication Committee
11:35 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. FL Elks Properties BOD - (Re-organizational Meeting Immediately Following)
12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Convention Committee – (This is not the Orlando 2010 GL Convention Committee)
11:35 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. FL Elks Properties BOD - (Re-organizational Meeting Immediately Following)
1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. Harry-Anna Investment Fund BOD - (Re-organizational Meeting Immediately Following)
1:55 p.m. to 2:55 p.m. FL Elks Children’s Therapy Services BOD - (Re-organizational Meeting Immediately Following)
3:05 p.m. to 3:55 p.m. FL Elks Charities BOD - (Re-organizational Meeting Immediately Following)
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. FL Elks Children’s Therapy Services BOD Workshop
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 30-minute Ritual Team Practices

Friday - May 21, 2010
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. President’s Banquet and Installation of Officers, (Dress semi-formal - Vice, & Regional Committee Chairmen (closed meeting)
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. General Business Session - Elks Members Only & All who wish to Participate in Mike Smith’s Election Demonstration
9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Meeting of FLGER Fundraising Committee
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Meeting of Endorsed District Vice Presidents (closed meeting)
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Business Practices Seminar for Officers, Trustees, Treasurers, & House Committees
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meeting of Current & Endorsed District Deputies (closed meeting)
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meeting of Special Representatives (closed meeting)
1:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Opening General Session - Elks Members Only Until 2:30 P.M. * Non-members are invited for Officer Nominations, Demonstration, & Acceptance Speech at Approximately 2:30 p.m. - Please Assemble Outside Convention Hall
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. FLOE Bylaws Committee (closed meeting)
3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Private Meetings with State Co-sponsors C. Valentine Bates, PGER & Robert Grafton, PGER
3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Business Practices Committee (closed meeting)
3:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Soccer Shoot Program Seminar
3:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Veterans’ Services Committee, Army of Hope Picnics, VAVS Representatives
3:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Publicity, Public Relations, & Marketing Seminar – All Encouraged to Attend
1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. Meeting of Special Representatives (closed meeting)
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. FLOE Advisory Council (closed meeting)
4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Membership Round Table - Meet the Top Lodges in 2009/10 in Membership Growth & Retention – All Encouraged to Attend
4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Florida Elks Children’s Clinic Meeting
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Memorial Service - Elks Members & Guests – Appropriate Attire Suggested

Saturday, May 22, 2010
7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Major Projects Breakfast (Invitation Required)
8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. FL Ladies of Elks (FLOE) Meeting
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration Continues
8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Meeting of All 2010 Orlando Grand Lodge Convention Volunteers
9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Meeting of FLGER Fundraising Committee & All who wish to Participate in Mike Smith’s Election Demonstration
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. General Business Session - Elks Members Only
11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Chinese Auction Sponsored by FLOE - Proceeds to FL Elks Major Projects
12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Luncheon Sponsored by FLOE - Open to Men & Women, Elks & Non-Elks
1:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. General Awards Session - Open - Non-members & Guests Welcome
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meeting of 2010-11 District Vice Presidents, State, Vice, & Regional Committee Chairmen (closed meeting)
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. President’s Banquet and Installation of Officers, (Dress semi-formal - White Dinner Jacket Suggested) * Reverse Drawing for FLGER Fund Sunday, May 23, 2010
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. All the Way from Chicago, Meet Grand Secretary Brian Klatt – Q&A, All Members are Encouraged to Attend
Tunes in the Courtyard – (Weather Permitting) 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Words from our Parents...

In my role as administrator I always hear stories about how much families appreciate what we as Elks do with our Children’s Therapy Services. I decided it might be interesting to go out and pay some of our families a visit and get some one on one feedback between them and their therapist. On this page are just a few comments I received during those visits. You should be PROUD to be an ELK knowing that these services are possible because of your efforts.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Ben Brown
Administrator

Having Therapy Services provided in the home has been truly beneficial to all of us. Being at home is a more personal experience and I don’t think my daughter is as distracted as she would be in another setting.

I would be in the background watching you two and learning how to do those exercises with her which is really neat. I saw how she would giggle with you while doing them together which is hard work but you did them in a way that made them fun.

...he would not be where he is today without therapy. We are very appreciative of the Elks and their services because it has increased our son’s quality of life.

...the quality of service you provide for free far exceeds that which we received when the insurance company would actually pay for any of the services. We can’t use our insurance for therapy services now which makes us even more thankful for your services now than ever before.

Back Row, Left to Right:
Larry Lester, DPT, Diane Corson, OTR/L, Elizabeth Maina, OTR/L, Beth Thiers, OTR/L, Paula Tarver, OTR/L, Anita Smart, OTR/L, Diane Norton, OTR/L, Margot Baker, OTR/L, Teri Stocking, OTR/L, Nikki McAnary, OTR/L, Christina Walker, OTR/L, Bruce Nathan, PT

Front Row, Left to Right:
Jeanne Martin, OTR/L, Kathi Burns, OTR/L, Yvette Lambert, PT, Chantal Salnave, PT, Heidi Pennella, OTR/L, Stephanie Haynes, PT, Rae Montgomery, PT

“The smallest act of charity shall stand us in great stead.”

- Francis Atterbury