Frank Hayes
Endorsed President
Florida State Elks Association 2011-2012

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northwest District and Warrington Lodge 2108 are honored to present to the 2011 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Frank D. Hayes as a candidate for the Office of President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Frank D. Hayes, a native Floridian, was born March 8, 1946 in Sanford, FL. Frank attended elementary school, junior high school, and public school systems of Sanford throughout his junior year of high school in the Sanford and Jacksonville. There he lived with his parents and two younger brothers.

Due to his father’s employment, his family moved to Bettendorf, IA in 1962. There Frank completed his junior and senior years of high school and graduated in 1964 from Bettendorf High School. During his high school years, Frank enjoyed playing baseball, basketball, and football. He served as the Captain of the Debate Team for Bettendorf High for a year and a half and he was an active member of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Missouri synod and served as president of the Lutheran Walter League as well.

Frank studied to be a minister of the Lutheran faith. However, after graduation, and against his parents’ wishes, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corp. Frank served three years in Vietnam and in 1968 departed with an honorable discharge.

Frank returned to Florida and pursued a career in the food and beverage industry. During his 32-year career he served in the positions of Manager, Director, and VP of operations for various corporations such as Lums, Holiday Inn, Woolworth, KFC, Western Sizzlin’, and Whataburger. Frank received many awards and certificates of achievement, excellence, and merit throughout his career. He was also successful in obtaining and surpassing many goals set before him in the food and beverage industry such as high sales, highest annual sales, and Florida “Manager of the Year.”

Frank served in various civic and community organizations as Vice President and President. He loved coaching T-ball, basketball, and coach pitch baseball for the Gulf Breeze Sports Association in Gulf Breeze, FL.

Frank, following in his uncle’s footsteps, was initiated into the Elks in 1989 as a member of Pensacola Beach Lodge No. 497. Frank demitted to Warrington Lodge No. 2108 in 1992. He immediately became active in the chairs and various committees and served as Exalted Ruler in 1996-1997, as Vice President - NW District in 2003-2004, and as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2004-2005. Frank served as the NW District Director for the FSEA in 2008-2009 and currently serves as Co-sponsor of the NW District.

Frank is an Honorary Life Member of Warrington Lodge 2108. Frank has been and continues to be an active member of the Lodge, district, and state. He serves as Chairman of the Building and Planning Committee for the Warrington Lodge. He served as State Chairman of the Wills and Bequests Committee from 2006 to 2010 and served on the board of directors for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Inc. Frank also served on the Grand Exalted Rulers’ Fundraising Committee for GER candidate, Mike Smith.

Frank is very proud to have had the opportunity to serve as the Florida State Drug Awareness Chairman from 1997 to 2003.

Our State Convention in May will be one of several ‘firsts’. Due to a scheduling change we will be honored to have a visit by the Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady, our own Mike and Sandra Smith. For those who missed Mike and Sandra’s visit this past February, please make it a point to come to Orlando and help us welcome them once more.

Our first annual HARRY-ANNA AUCTION will be held on Friday during the convention. I know there will be all types of items up for bidding – both live bidding and the silent auction, and I believe this will become one of the most enjoyable fund raisers to come along in a long, long time. We are asking for all Florida Elks to help us in this endeavor—we need you to donate items and also to participate in this auction—Carl Seibert and his committee are working hard to make it a fun experience for all. Thank you in advance for helping us with this.

We are exploring different ways to make our meetings more relevant and enjoyable to all who attend. I solicit your views on the changes we have made, and seek your input on what would make our conventions and quarterly meetings more ‘user friendly’.

PGER Bates continued page 8

FLORIDA ELKS NEWS
P. O. BOX 49
UMATILLA, FL. 32784

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CAMPING OPPORTUNITY FOR FLORIDA ELKS

Take advantage of FEYC’s offer to spend a day at the camp. The first come-first served 52 couples to make reservations will be provided a cabin. Couples will come in Friday evening June 4, Play all day June 5, then depart June 6. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, you will be on your own for evening meals.

No cost – Call 800-523-1673 ext 249 to reserve a cabin.
As I am writing this near the end of March in preparation for the publication sometime in May, I marvel at how fast the year has progressed including the past two months as State President. It is often said that “time goes by fast when you’re having fun”, and certainly that must be the case in regards to our year as president of this great Florida Elks State Association. Because of the tremendous support and encouragement of our Past Grand Exalted Rulers, Bob Warne and his lovely wife Peggy. After arrival at the hotel for our accommodations, and the enjoyment of the hospitality room, we had a warm reception and most pleasant dinner at the Apopka Lodge Friday evening.

Breakfast at the hotel Saturday morning preceded one of our most inspiring and thoughtful experiences among many in our District Visitation. We had a tour and later interaction with the residents and staff of the Russell Home located in Winter Garden. It proved to be the kind of experience we had in mind when suggesting our willingness to view and share an example of the charitable activities supported by local lodges and districts. We saw a great deal of devotion and love extended by the staff on behalf of the needy residents of the facility.

Dinner that evening at the Winter Garden Lodge was most exquisite as was the talented entertainment. Among those as guests enjoying the music and dancing were four residents of the Russell Home. In mid-January, I was afforded another opportunity to join in celebrating a lodge’s accomplishments as I attended the first session of a continuing program sponsored by the St. Augustine Lodge in the Northeast District which enables elementary age students from low income families to participate in well supervised exercises and health lessons. The program entitled Kids Fit Club is funded through an Impact Grant from the Elks National Foundation. There were several articles pertaining to the program and the Elks’ sponsorship in the local newspapers.

In the North District the following weekend we were hosted by VP Carl Logan and his charming wife Dolly from the Tallahassee Lodge. Arriving earlier than usual Friday afternoon, we were treated to a private tour of the Governor’s Mansion and greeted by Mrs. Rick Scott, the wife of the recently inaugurated Governor. Our later reception at the hotel and superb Hospitality Room were more than adequate as there were our usual commendations. The sumptuous dinner hosted by the Tallahassee Lodge that evening proved to be the first of several preparations that were appreciated by all.

After breakfast we toured the State Capitol Museum with its most interesting collection of political history and artifacts. An afternoon brief tour of the Museum of Florida History was equally interesting (at least for me!). Lunch was held at the Tallahassee Lodge and time spent there included viewing the renowned Lodge Room furniture that originally was quartered New York City Elks Lodge # 1. Wherever in Tallahassee include time to visit the lodge and view this beautiful and inspiring room with its ornate furniture.

Dinner that evening was an enormous success and the excellent thorough meal and warm expressions of welcome entertained. A large attendance made the evening even more enjoyable. As usual Julia and I took advantage of the dance floor along with many of the other attendees.

At their invitation, VPAL Frank Hayes and I also remained for part of the day Sunday for the North District’s January Clinic Meeting and were encouraged by their discussions and determination to address some of the same problems currently prevalent in several of our other districts.

The first week in February found us at the Youth Camp for our annual Quarterly Meeting that month when our FSEA customarily invites the Grand Exalted Ruler and his wife along with guests from Georgia and Alabama. Naturally we were most proud and pleased to be the official host for GER Mike Smith and the First Lady of Elkdom, Sandra Smith.

After attending the usual number of meetings, I am certain that those of you who were present were delighted with the very talented group “Knights to Remember” as our entertainment for Friday evening. All present enjoyed a superb steak dinner prepared by Lynn Warburton and his competent staff.

The following Saturday included our traditional Major Projects Meeting that proved to be an exciting and somewhat emotional gathering. GER Mike Smith’s remarks were most inspiring. The large amount of donations to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund given by 78 lodges and individuals at the close of the meeting was truly impressive. We set a record of $124,007 for the amount donated that day, for which I am immensely grateful and proud. Once again I thank enormously those individuals, lodges, and the Florida Ladies of Elks for your generosity.

Saturday afternoon and evening we enjoyed the now traditional Barbeque Cookout at the Eustis Lodge. Sunday we traveled to the Sanford Lodge for their Centennial Celebration and were treated to a sumptuous luncheon, a presentation highlighting the lodge’s history and many contributions to the community. Brief remarks from GER Mike Smith and the newly elected Mayor of Sanford followed.

February 11th and 12th brought us to the traditional State President’s Homecoming Visitations, hosted by Northeast District VP Geoff Dobson and his very supportive wife Becky along with the whole St. Augustine Elks Lodge. A large group greeted our arrival and we were most grateful for everyone’s good wishes. Superb hotel accommodations and hospitality room awaited us after arrival. Friday night dinner at a very enjoyable restaurant was the highlight of the evening. After breakfast our day Saturday included a proclamation from the Mayor of St. Augustine, a tour of and lunch at the Florida National Guard Museum, and a ceremony laying a wreath at the National Cemetery honoring all deceased veterans.

A rather large number of attendees awaited us at the lodge that evening with a program followed by dinner and entertainment with the customary dancing by Julia and me along with many other couples. Two vocalists among the entertainment group provided much additional enjoyment. It was a great Homecoming and needless to say Julia and I sincerely appreciate all the support we have received from our North District this year.

The State Hoop Shoot at the Youth Camp was next on our schedule and again we were impressed with not only the great display of talent among the participating contestants, but...
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert, PDD

The 2011 Exalted Ruler Elect and Secretary Elect Seminars were held the second and third weekends in March in Orlando and Tallahassee, respectively. I am pleased to report that we again set another attendance record with 223 attendees, as this exceeded last year’s record of 219! The seminars continue to be most informative and our team of volunteer instructors works very hard to deliver useful information to all who attend. Many thanks go to this hardworking team. They are Chairman, Vincent Como, PSP; Val Bates, PGER; Tom Elmore, PSP-PGELDGK; Frank Palladini, PSP; Robert Shell, PSP; PDDs Pete Vaphiades, Kevin Ambrose, Lynn Warburton, Frank Hayes, and Sean Maguire; DDGER Carl Gerace; and PER, Membership Development Director, Don Moon. Exalted Rulers Elect from 96 of our 106 Lodges were in attendance as were our 14 Endorsed Vice Presidents, 86 Secretaries Elect, and 27 other officers. For 2012 we are going to try something new and hold only one seminar in Orlando March 9-11.

The 105th Annual Convention of the Florida State Elks Association will be held May 26th through the 29th at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. Another great convention is being planned this year along with the debut of our first ever Harry-Anna Auction event on Friday. This silent and live auction is being added this year as a fun way to make money for our Major Projects and to assist Lodges in meeting their Harry-Anna per-capita donation goals. If you are attending the convention this is one event you won’t want to miss! A list of items available at the auction along with their descriptions is being maintained on our web site at www.flelks.org. Visit it often to keep up with all the items that are constantly being added, and come prepared to bid on your favorites! Upon your arrival at the convention you are asked to check-in at the north registration counter in the convention center to pick up your name badges and credentials. Online pre-registration is required to order luncheon & dinner tickets as well as to order your pre-printed name badge. 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 2011 members will exceed last year’s record of 2010 members. The 21st. Reservations may be made online and the link to the Sheraton reservations 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 and learn more about the Florida Hospitality Room.

Who’s ready for some baseball?
Florida Elks Day at the Tampa Bay Rays is being held this year on Sunday, September 11th. The Rays will take on the Boston Red Sox 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 including a special remembrance ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9/11, 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 or veterans and take them along to see a major league baseball game! For more information, visit our web site or contact the FSEA.

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!!

**Florida Elks Cook Book Sale**

Cool Summer Fun in Florida! 98 Pages of Recipes from some of the best Elk cooks in Florida - Great for gifts! $12 each or Two (2) for $20

Mail to: FSEA, P.O. Box 49, Umatilla, FL 32784
THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED 2011-2012 FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS

Vincent P. Como, PSP
FSEA HOPE Scholarship Chairman

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<th>NAME OF STUDENT</th>
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<td>2. Tuyet Minh Ngoc Le</td>
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| **TOTAL**               |                                      | **$30,000.00**

Hayes continued from page 1

During his tenure he was successful in implementing the Drug Awareness Trailers and he created the first operations manual for Drug Awareness. The manual was also adopted by the State of Alabama and is still used today as a guideline by several other states. Frank had the opportunity to work closely with the Escambia County Sheriff’s Department, the DEA, and various state and national directors and organizations in conjunction with the Drug Awareness Program. Also during Frank’s tenure, he established the annual statewide event, “Hands Across the Border,” and the Red Ribbon event.

Frank met his wife, Linda, on a blind date and they were married ten months later on August 15, 1992. Together they have four daughters, five granddaughters, and one grandson. They are active members of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Pensacola where Frank currently serves as President of the Church Council.

Frank and Linda own and operate a packing/shipping store in Pensacola. Linda is retired from the local electrical utility, Gulf Power Company, and she is a licensed esthetician operating her own business. They enjoy spending time with friends, cooking, and grilling.

Frank and Linda are very honored and humbled to together serve the Florida State Elks Association.

Harry-Anna Trust Fund
Recognition Certificates & Pins Awarded
December 16, 2010 through March 23, 2011

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

Malcolm Beyer, Jr.                      Jupiter Lodge 2469
Lori A. Hornby                         Ocala Lodge 286
William A. Jennings                    Fort Walton Lodge 1795
Marianne Schenkel                      Punta Gorda Lodge 2606
Frank C. Stokes                        Pompano Beach Lodge 1898

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate

Charles R. Bugbee                      Zephyrhills Lodge 2731
Hellen DeBie                           Viera Lodge 2817
Cosby Hodges                          Fort Walton Lodge 1795
Jimmy Jenkins                         Winter Garden Lodge 2165
Dennis Kunkle                         Warrington Lodge 2108
Dana Rich                             Destin Lodge 2688
Alois Schlack, Jr.                    Lehigh Acres Lodge 2602
Carl D. Taylor                         Inverness Lodge 2522

President Hurst continued from page 2

but also with the preparation and skill of those members of the Hoop Shoot Committee thus always ensuring a successful event. As a result of the contest our state had six competitors at the Regional Hoop Shoot March 19th, in Valdosta, Georgia. We were privileged to attend and witness two of our youngsters from Miami Lodge 948 qualify for national competition later this year.

The last weekend in February we were guests of the Georgia Elks Association at their Spring Convention and as anticipated were warmly received and extended every courtesy and hospitality for which they are famous. My attendance and experience at their meetings and social events reinforced the previously held opinion that our associations have many issues and problems in common and therefore it is mutually beneficial for us to collaborate and share information.

On March 5th, Julian and I attended the first of several Army of Hope Picnics which our schedule will permit. The Ocala Lodge hosted the North Central District event and we were honored to be their official guests among others present. The day attracted a very large number of participants and local residents, among them several ROTC units and veterans. The fund raising activities were quite successful. We shall be attending three other picnics between now and the May state convention in order to indicate our strong support of this worthy effort. In addition, our remaining schedule includes the State Golf Tournament and the Softball Tournament both of which we are looking forward to attending.

I will have the honor of installing the incoming officers at two lodges and take this opportunity to commend and offer congratulations to all the newly elected leadership in the 107 lodges within our Association.

With knowledge this will be my last message as State President prior to the May State Convention, allow me to reiterate my sincere thanks and gratitude for the very great honor of serving in that capacity for the 2010-2011 year. I wish the incoming officers and leadership much success and extend my willingness to help any way possible for the continued growth and progress of our State Association.
The members and Lodges of Florida’s East Central District are honored to present to the 2011 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Lawrence “Larry” Skates as a candidate for the office of East Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Larry Skates was born in Orlando, FL in 1936. He moved to Sanford, FL in 1946 and graduated from Seminole High School in 1954. He left Sanford for the Air Force in 1954 and served until 1958. He attended the University of Florida from 1958-1960 and graduated from Rollins College in 1986 with a BSBA. Skates has worked with various defense contractors. He started as a material control clerk; his last ten years were as Director of Personnel.

In 1998 Skates became a member of the New Smyrna Beach Elks Lodge 1557. He has served twice as Exalted Ruler. He has also served as Esteemed Leading Knight, Esteemed Loyal Knight, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, and Chaplain. In the Lodge, he has been Chairman of the Board of Directors, House Committee, Flag Day Committee, Veterans’ Services, Drug Awareness, Sports, and Interlodge Visitation. He was District Chairman for Sports and both Vice Chairman and State Chairman for Ladies Organizations.

Beyond Elksdom, Skates is a member of the board of directors and is Treasurer for the Southwest Volusia Historical Society. For the past four years, he has also been an active member of the Troop Support Team that packs and ships go-to boxes every Wednesday to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Larry Skates has been married to Marci for 49 years. They have two sons, Jeff and Scott; one daughter, Kathleen; and four granddaughters, Kaley, Tiffany, Autumn, and Graylin.

Marci and Larry Skates’ daughter was born with cerebral palsy. Larry’s father was a member of Sanford Elks Lodge 1241 and he made arrangements for Kathleen to be admitted to the Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Hospital after one of her operations at the age of seven. For the next four years she was at the Harry-Anna Hospital four times, once for six months. Larry wanted to repay the Elks for the wonderful treatment Kathleen received, so he became a member when he had the opportunity.

**Continued next page**
**SOUTH SOUTHEAST**

Francis M. “Tom” Thomason

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southeast District are honored to present to the 2011 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Francis M. “Tom” Thomason as a candidate for the office of South Southeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Tom Thomason was born in 1940 in Boca Raton, FL. He attended Boca Elementary, Delray Beach Middle School, and Seacrest High School. There was no middle or high school in Boca Raton at that time. He served in the National Guard until 1958 and in the U.S. Army until 1965 when he received an honorable discharge.

Tom Thomason was a professional golf pro for twelve years in Kansas City. He then moved back to Florida after an eye accident. He was a certified plumbing contractor in Palm Beach County from 1973-1981 and has been a state plumbing contractor since 1982.

Ed Balme, Thomason’s father-in-law introduced him into the Elks. Balme was one of the charter members of Boca Raton Lodge 2166 and was a Past Exalted Ruler. Thomason has been House Committee Chairman, Lecturing Knight for two years, and Exalted Ruler for 2010-2011.

He has also belonged to the Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors (PHCC) of Palm Beach County for twenty years and was President of the PHCC in 1976. He was on the state board of directors for the PHCC for four years. He is a member of the American Legion and St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. He is 4th degree in the Knights of Columbus and has belonged to the Boca Bass Club for eleven years.

Thomason married his high school sweetheart, Diane, in 1957; they have been married for 54 years. She is the Tiler for Boca Raton Lodge 2166. They have three children and seven grandchildren (five girls and two boys). Their oldest grandson served one year in Afghanistan and is currently in Germany with the U.S. Army. They have four great grandchildren (two girls and two boys ages eight and five). Tom and Diane travel to various events and are active in the Elks.

In his spare time, Thomason loves fishing and golfing.

**SOUTH SOUTHWEST**

Tyrone L. “Ty” MacKenzie

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southwest District are honored to present to the 2011 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Tyrone L. “Ty” MacKenzie as a candidate for the office of South Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Ty MacKenzie was born in northern New Hampshire and moved to Massachusetts at six years old. He attended local schools and graduated from Lunenburg High School. He relocated to Connecticut where he attended the University of Connecticut and then transferred to the Connecticut Military Academy where he graduated and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Infantry, in the U.S. Army in 1965. He served four years on active duty and some 26 years in the Army Reserve where he retired from the military as a Lieutenant Colonel. While in the Army, he served with the 25th Infantry Division, the 6th Infantry Division, the 76th Infantry (TNG) Division, the 11th Special Forces (Airborne), and Special Forces Command and as Special Operations and Central Command right here in Florida at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

As a civilian, MacKenzie worked for the Department of the Army and the Department of Defense and had a variety of other civilian and military duties and assignments. He also worked for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from which he retired as a FEMA Disaster Liaison Officer for the United States as a Civilian Emergency Management Officer, he was responsible for setting up Emergency Operations Centers in communities affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, etc. During the disaster, he coordinated and assisted the local, county, state, and other federal and civilian agencies that provide emergency service to those in the area affected by the disaster. He does not speak about the hardship and destruction these disasters caused to the people he served except to say that he was glad to have been part of the teams that brought a measure of aid and comfort to the victims of these disasters.

When not at the site of a disaster, his duties also included responsibilities in the Continuity of Operations in the United States in the event of a nuclear attack. During the Cold War era, he helped develop plans and supervised the training of personnel in operations designed to accommodate the President of the United States, his staff and cabinets, and selected members of the Congress as well as state and local officials in self-contained, underground facilities with the ability to accommodate up to three hundred people for thirty days after a nuclear attack.

MacKenzie first joined the Elks in 1968 in East Hartford, CT. Circumstances, however, limited his participation although he did serve as the Tiler and Chaplain. Upon his retirement, he took a demit from his Connecticut Lodge to Punta Gorda Lodge in 2001. Since then, he has been very active in all of the Lodge activities. He was the Lodge Exalted Ruler in 2004-2005 during Hurricane Charlie. As the Punta Gorda Lodge Esquire, he was awarded third place in the state ritual contest when his Lodge competed that year. He has held many positions within the Lodge. He is also the past Lodge, District, and State Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairman as well as the District Interlodge Visitation Chairman. Most recently he has served as the State Sergeant at Arms.

He and his lovely wife, Janice, moved to Florida after his retirement. They have three children, eleven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

**WEST CENTRAL**

Steve Harmon

The members and Lodges of Florida’s West Central District are honored to present to the 2011 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Steve Harmon as a candidate for the office of West Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Steve Harmon was born in Akron, OH and grew up there. He graduated from high school and went on to the University of Akron where he received his AA in Data Processing. He later completed his Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration at Tampa College in Tampa, FL.

Harmon was the last member of his family still living in Ohio when he moved to Florida in 1980. After a short stay he then moved to Florida. Throughout his career in Information Technology working for several companies across five years in increasingly responsible positions. He returned to Florida in 1987 and has worked in a variety of positions, both fulltime and contract employment, including a 12-year stay as a Senior Programmer Analyst with Tropicana Products in Bradenton, FL. Early during his time at Tropicana, he made the switch over from mainframe programming to web applications development. In 2004, he developed the current Harry-Anna Trust Fund application used by the Florida State Elks Association that tracks donations and generates the notices sent to the certificate holders. In early 2009, he was employed by the Florida State Elks Association and has built many online web-based applications including the Lodge Committee Reporting system we use today for quarterly reporting. He is also the Webmaster of the Florida Elks Association website.

He was initiated into Elkom at Tampa Lodge 708 in 1991 where he is still a member today. He served in the chairs as Lecturing, Loyal, and Leading Knight before being elected Exalted Ruler in 1996-1997 and then again in 2006-2007. He served on many Lodge committees including Ritual and Lodge Activities and the House Committee and was a Sunday breakfast crew chief for more than ten years. He was Officer of the Year in 2000-2001. He served the West Central District as Chairman of Lodge Activities and Indoctrination and several times as District Ritual Chairman. He was a regular ritual competitor who finished in the top three spots at the state contest many times. He has been a certified ritual judge since 1997 and has judged three state contests including two outside of Florida. On the state level, he served as Vice Chairman of Ritual in 2002-2003 and as State Chairman of Ritual in 2003-2004.

Steve and AnnaMarie have been together for six years and are currently engaged. He has a daughter, Lisa, 25, and is currently enjoying life with AnnaMarie’s boys, Kevin, 11, and Alex, 7. He enjoys computers, internet, baseball, football, history, and cooking.

**SOUTHWEST**

Lu Smith

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest District are honored to present to the 2011 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Lu Smith as a candidate for the office of Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Lu Smith was born in Michigan in 1933 and graduated high school in 1952. She also attended Mount Pleasant Community College. In 1983 she moved to Florida. In her career, Smith was a Special Account Clerk for a major hospital as well as a Chief Operator for Bell Telephone Company. She was also a Private Secretary for Beaver Tool & Engineering. She retired in 1982.

Smith’s husband had been an Elk for 33 years; upon his death, she became an Elk which she has been now for eleven years.

She has served twice as Exalted Ruler and as Leading Knight. She has also been Loyal Knight, Lecturing Knight, Trustee, Trustee Chairman, House Committee Chairman, Lodge Chairman of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Committee, District Chairman for Drug Awareness Education and for Youth Activities, and Vice Chairman and State Chairman for Officers Attendance. Smith has also held all offices for the Ladies of the Elks.

Beyond Elkom, Smith is a member of the Professional & Business Women Club and has been Vice President and President of the Hawaiian Isle Association.

Lu Smith was married to Gordon for 34 years. She has two sons, one daughter, five grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and a 97-year-old mother.

Continued next page
**NORTHEAST**

Ron Snow

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northeast District are honored to present to the 2011 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Ron Snow as a candidate for the office of Northeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Ron Snow was born in Jacksonville, FL in 1947. He grew up in North Jacksonville and attended Andrew Jackson High School; he graduated in 1965. He attended two years of junior college at St. John’s River Junior College in Palatka and FJCJ (Florida Community College of Jacksonville) in Jacksonville.

Snow is retired from Allstate Insurance as a Senior Account Sales Agent after 25 years of service. He is currently a real estate agent with Magnolia Point Realty.

In 2000, Snow joined the Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge 1892. He was the Barbecue Chairman and Leading Knight before being elected as Exalted Ruler for 2006-2007. He was Trustee for four years. He was the State Chairman for the Sports Committee for two years and has served as this year’s State Chairman for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Committee.

In addition to Elks activities, Snow is City Councilman of Green Cove Springs and was Vice Mayor for one year.

He has been married to Susan for eleven years; between them, they have four children, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild. He has one brother, Bill, who is retired as a professional photographer.

In his spare time, Snow enjoys playing golf. He won two club championships and one county championship. He loves traveling with his wife and going to their summer home in Vermont. He enjoyed his year as the Harry-Anna Trust Fund State Chairman and traveling with State President Jim Hurst and his wife, Julia, meeting all of the great Elks in Florida.

**NORTH**

Leroy “Bill” Nichols

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North District are honored to present to the 2011 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Leroy “Bill” Nichols as a candidate for the office of North District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Bill Nichols was born in Bartow, FL on February 11, 1943. He graduated from Bartow High School in 1961 and has three and a half years of college in Engineering. He served six years in the Army Reserve as Military Police.

Nichols has worked 26 years as a Project Engineer at Occidental Chem. and five years for PCS (same plant). He is now co-owner of North FL Safety & Training, Inc.

On September 17, 1986, Nichols became an Elk. He has held various Lodge positions and has been the Exalted Ruler of Lake City Lodge 893 for 1991-1992 and 1999-2000. He has been a Trustee and served on several committees for the Lodge and district. He also served as State Vice Chairman of Accident Prevention. He was named Elk of the Year in 2002-2003.

He and Jane have been married for 46 years; they were married in Frostproof, FL in 1965. They have two daughters, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. He and his wife along with their friends like to travel and go on cruises.

**SOUTHERN CENTRAL**

Don Queralto

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South District are honored to present to the 2011 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Don Queralto as a candidate for the office of South District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Don Queralto was born in Havana, Cuba in 1948 and moved to Florida in 1966. From 1966-1970 he attended the University of Miami. He is an Architectural Photographer and Photogrammetrist specializing in historical restoration.

Queralto was sponsored by Phil Brinkman and Al Sandusky and was initiated into South Miami/Coral Gables Elks Lodge 1676 in October of 1988. He became an officer soon after joining and was elected Exalted Ruler for 1992-1993.

He was Lodge Chairman of Publicity and Public Relations and District Chairman from 1993-1995. He became District Reporter for the Florida Elks News and served in that position for fifteen years until 2010. He was appointed South District Director on the Florida Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors and served for three years during the initial building of the cabins. He photographed campers and the campgrounds for the original camp brochures and did portrait photos of the incoming VPs and DDs for the Florida Elks News. He became involved in Lodge activities including work on Christmas baskets and helping with the needs of the elderly through the South Miami Community Center. He again served as Exalted Ruler from 1996-1998.

He is currently Lodge Chaplain.

Queralto is a founding member of MiamiBusiness.com and is a photographer. He is also involved in activities and projects in his local church.

**SOUTHWEST CENTRAL**

James N. “Jim” Mason

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest Central District are honored to present to the 2011 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of James N. “Jim” Mason as a candidate for the office of Southwest Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Jim Mason was born in Fredericksburg, VA on March 1, 1942. He grew up in Richmond, VA. He attended King George, VA High School from 1956-1960 and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond from 1960-1964. From 1964-1968 he served in the U. S. Marine Corp. He moved to Fort Lauderdale, FL in 1978 and then to Sebring, FL in 2001.

His career has been in management for the construction materials industry (cement, aggregates, R/M concrete, and concrete block). He has also been the V. P. of Human Resources & Labor Relations for 25 years.

Mason has been a member of the Elks since 2001. He was asked to join by a ten-year member and was eager to give volunteer time to a worthy organization. As an Elk, he has served as Lecturing Knight, Exalted Ruler, and as District, Vice, and State Chairman for the Community Activities Committee. In his Lodge, he has served on the Community Activities, Government Relations, and Drug Awareness Education Committees. He has worked on the bulletin for Sebring Lodge 1529 and has also helped with Flag Day, Orientation, Memorial Sunday, and as Dining Room Chairperson.

He has been married to Romma Hayes Mason, also an Elk, for 47 years. They have two daughters, one son, and six grandchildren. Their three children are graduates of FSU.

Mason’s other interests include golf and working in the yard. He is an avid FSU football fan and also enjoys NASCAR.

Beyond the Elks, Mason has been a member of the VFW Post 4300 for eleven years. He also belongs to St. Catherine Catholic Church.

**NORTHWEST**

William C. “Bill” White

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northwest District are honored to present to the 2011 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of William C. “Bill” White as a candidate for the office of Northwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Bill White was born in Stillwater, OK in 1957. He graduated from high school in 1975 and moved to Florida in 1988. He served 21 years in the USAF.

White is an A&P licensed aircraft mechanic currently working for Lockheed Martin on a USAF contract at Hurlburt Field AFB.

After attending several social and fundraising events of the Elks, he was sponsored by a now PDD. He served as Inner Guard, Lecturing Knight, Treasurer, and Exalted Ruler. He has been Lodge Chairman of Soccer Shoot as well as Lodge and District Chairman of Drug Awareness Education.

He has also been a State Drug Awareness Trailer Manager. Beyond Elkdom, White is a life member of VFW and is a charter member of Navarre American Legion.

He and his wife, Marguerite, have been married for 31 years. They have three daughters and one grandson.
ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

“Army of Hope”

“Making a difference every day for our Troops and their families”

Paul D. Helsel, PGER ENVSC Commission Member

For the past 93 years, since 1917 during World War I, the Elks have stepped forward during every conflict or war our Nation has been engaged in, and lead the way in providing support, relief and assistance for our troops, our “Defenders of Freedom.” Currently and for the past seven years, our “Army of Hope” has provided that support and a wide variety of assistance for our troops and their families across many of the states and communities our Lodges serve.

Our “Army of Hope” was established and organized as a program, a movement if you will, enabling and encouraging Lodges and State associations to provide support and assistance for the families of their local Military Reserves and National Guard Units who are deployed in “harm’s way,” to defend our National Interests during the current and ongoing conflicts, as well as providing financial and other individual forms of assistance, all to help each returning Hero in their individual and personal effort to pick up and continue with their normal life with their family.

Many of our returning Heroes are not as fortunate as others and return with injuries, both physical and psychological, the Wounded Warriors. Others, tragically, are even less fortunate and return as Fallen Heroes. Once again, our “Army of Hope” has stepped into the breach and in many states and communities provide assistance and relief to the individual Hero Warrior, as well as the families of those Fallen Heroes.

Our “Army of Hope,” through a wide range of fund raising activities, is providing funds for rehabilitation activities, services and facilities. Funding is also being provided to purchase rehabilitation equipment and aids.

A specific state “Army of Hope” Committee has even donated a new special bus for the transportation of Wounded Warriors so that they may have access to distant rehabilitation services.

In the case of the Fallen Heroes, our “Army of Hope” organizes groups of Elk members to show proper honor and respect to the Fallen Hero, and comfort to the family when they are returned home. Lodges are also providing their Lodge facilities for funeral and memorial related activities for the Fallen Heroes and their families. Elks everyday do everything they can to ensure that our Fallen Heroes are given the respect and honor they deserve, as well as helping their families cope with their devastating loss.

As hopefully you gather from this brief message, Elks across all of our Order make up our “Army of Hope” and are bringing comfort and relief to our troops and their families, day in and day out.

The question is - is your Lodge involved and are you personally involved in this most worthy effort? If not, why not? The troops, these Heroes and their families certainly deserve the support and assistance of all Americans. They serve and give up so very much that we might be free and able to pursue our lives as we wish.

If you and your Lodge are not currently involved in our “Army of Hope” effort, please contact the following for information on how to get started. Every Lodge and every Elk should be involved in this effort!

“Army of Hope” Robert M. Hennings, Director National Veterans Service Commission 2750 North Lakeview Avenue Chicago, IL 60614-1889.

If you are currently involved - Thank you!! In addition, please forward any information about your program and efforts, letters, pictures, reports to the same address listed above.

FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS

Carol A. Deresh, President

“Building a better world one child at a time”

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

The Quarterly Meeting took place at Umatilla on February 5, 2011. We were honored to be visited by James Hurst, FESA President; Frank Hayes, Endorsed Candidate for State President; Sean Maguire, Endorsed Candidate for VPAL along with Larry Skates, PER, Chairman of Ladies Organizations and Vice Chairman Doug Schwartz, PER.

We were delighted to also be visited by Michael Smith, Grand Exalted Ruler. It is always a pleasure to meet and greet the Grand Exalted Rulers, but that is especially the case when we welcome on of our own. Mike expressed the love and respect he has for all the work FLOE does to help the children in Florida. That sentiment was expressed by all the dignitaries.

Our guests at the meeting were warmly welcomed and included Sandra Smith, wife of Mike Smith, GER. Sandra has been an active member of FLOE for many years. We were thrilled to be able to share some time with her. She addressed the membership, and advised us that she has noticed in her travels that Ladies Organizations are folding.

Also present at the meeting was Jean Whalen, wife of Tim Whalen, Georgia State President; Julia Hurst, wife of James Hurst, State President; Linda Hayes, wife of Frank Hayes, Endorsed Candidate for President; Barbara Maguire, wife of Sean Maguire, Endorsed Candidate-VPAL; Sonja Coggins, wife of Jim Coggins, Past State President; Kathy Lake, wife of Past State President David Lake; Gail Sansoussi, wife of Don Sansoussi, Past State President; Mary Ann Trinowski, wife of Charlie Trinowski, Past State President and Rita Ortiz, wife of Joe Ortiz, Past State President.

The packets for the May Convention were handed out. Enid “Sam” Simpson has established a website for FLOE. She is working closely with Steve Harmon. The new site will include all information on the Chinese Auction and Luncheon for May 28th. The website may be accessed at www.floeks.org. Please remember to visit the site often to keep updated on all FLOE activities.

FLOE took great pride in presenting the Youth Camp with a check in the amount of $5,000 at the Major Projects Meeting.

The Florida Elks State Convention promises to be quite an exciting one. In an effort to raise funds for the Major Projects, the Elks are taking a new direction. There will be plenty of activities for everyone. Be sure to visit the Silent Auction, and submit your bids for the various items.

The winners will be announced on Friday night after the Memorial Service.

Then on Saturday please join FLOE for the Chinese Auction and Luncheon. Working together, hand in hand, the money raised will help us to build a better world one child at a time.

Sincerely,
Carol A. Deresh, President

PGER Val Bates continued from page 1

In looking ahead, we have invited Past President of the Georgia Elks Association and Area 3 Government Relations Committeeman, Charlie Hendricks and his wife, Sara to join us in Orlando. I have seen Charlie’s presentations and believe you will find it quite interesting – particularly as it relates to Lodge operations.

For our August Quarterly we’ll host Bill Cook and his wife, Bilye, the Area 3 Hoop Shoot Director, to put on a Hoop Shoot Seminar. I hope this will be well attended and those of you who are involved in the Hoop Shoot competition will have a great time going ‘one on one’ with Bill – clearly one of the most knowledgeable people when it comes to one of the most successful endeavors involving our country’s youth in our Order. We have planned more ‘fun and enjoyable’ activities for all who attend the August Quarterly at our fantastic Youth Camp – you’ll be able to see the improvements and the new cabins, and have fun while you’re there.

The National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona is just around the corner and the major topic of discussion will be “The Future of Elkdom.” The Grand Lodge solicited opinions from members all over the country and a great many Elks responded. It is our hope that those in attendance will take the time necessary to become acquainted with the issues and the suggested changes so that our beloved Order can grow and we can reverse the downward spiral of membership loss.

Bob and I, together with Pat and Claudia, look forward to greeting Mike and Sandra – we hope you’ll join us in Orlando as we prepare to welcome a new State President and thank State President Jim Hurst and his gracious wife, Julia, for all they have done this year for the Florida State Elks Association. Again, we hope to see you there.
Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892

Historic Election of Officers at BPOE Elks Lodge 1892 elected the first-ever, all-female slate of Officers. It was also a first for the Florida State Elks Association, and the national archives are being researched to determine if this is a first for National Elkdom.

The new female Lodge Officers for the 2011-2012 term are: Lisa Hurt, Exalted Ruler; Kathie Thompson, Leading Knight; Cheryl Royal, Loyal Knight; Susie Snow, Lecturing Knight; Penny Kunze, Lodge Esquire; Kathie Messman, Chaplain; Laura Russell; Joyce Bicknell, Inner Guard; and Donna Burnette, Tiler. They were officially installed at a ceremony on March 26th.

Thanks to the generosity of Elks and others, our Christmas party at the Veterans home in Lake City was a great success. Gene Blair played Santa and always enjoys getting a hug or kiss from the lady Veterans. A special thank you goes out to those who donated money, baked goods and to the 14 of us who took the drive to the home.

Valentine’s Day was celebrated with Hearts for Harry-Anna where hearts were sold for just $5 and displayed in the lodge through Valentine’s Day. The fundraiser, created by Joe Russell, Leading Knight, began in January. Together with the $500 raised, the proceeds of the Green Cove Springs Valentine’s Dinner will benefit the charities of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Palatka Lodge 1232

Because of the commitment of Lodge 1232’s members, we have been able to expand our help to those in need at unprecedented levels. This charitable arm of our organization presented checks in excess of $8,000 to the following organizations: The American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, Multiple Sclerosis Society of America, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the local Future Farmers of America Chapter, the Lee Conlee House (domestic violence), the International Heffner Project (teaching self sufficiency through hands on projects), Elks National Foundation, Harry-Anna Trust Fund, and distributed Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to more than 70 local families.

Gainesville Lodge 990

The Kiwanis Christmas Party brought joy to 26 kids as Elks Member Chip Eno played Santa. Sponsored by the Monday Night Card Players, the children also made Christmas ornaments to take home for their tree.

The Lodge prepared 100 goody bags and delivered them to Veterans at the Malcolm Randall VA Hospital and the homeless in our community at the St. Francis House.

Sponsored by the National VA, our annual Christmas Caroling and VA Hospital Bingo with refreshments was held December 18th. Over 35 vets attended along with numerous Elks and their spouses who helped pass out $1.00 Canteen Booklets to various winners, with over $100 in Canteen money distributed throughout the afternoon. Each Bingo player received a Christmas goody bag containing personal toiletries and Canteen Booklets. After Bingo, Elks Carolers joined the Bingo workers to perform Christmas songs before they toured the Hospital and Nursing Home. As the Carolers made their way through the many halls of the Gainesville VA, Christmas goody bags were distributed to the hospitalized Veterans. Cookies and puzzle books were left at each nursing station. The Canteen Booklets were provided by the Elk’s Veteran Services Commission.

Two National Elks Representatives appear in front of the newly purchased and installed 55” LED HD Color TV with three Recreational Therapy employees at the Gainesville VA Hospital Nursing Home. The $1,500 TV was purchased by the National Elks Organization and was installed just in time for the Gainesville VA Nursing Home residents to watch this year’s Super Bowl.

From left, Christine Neval, VA Recreational Therapist; Rhys Anderson, Director of VA Recreational Therapy; Larry Croy, Elks VA Veteran Services; Robert Grafton, Past Grand Exalted Ruler and Florida Elks Co-Sponsor; and Jeremy Newman, VA Recreational Therapist.

Jacksonville Lodge 221

The Lodge treated the many children at the Baptist Children’s Home to a Christmas party. It gets better and better every year and couldn’t be pulled off without the efforts of the many members working together. The looks on the children’s faces and their excitement makes it so worthwhile.

Orange Park 2605

With the help of the Ladies of Orange Park Elks, the Lodge once again hosted an annual Christmas Pizza Party at the Robert H. Jenkins Domiciliary in Lake City on December 4th. We served 100 residents pizzas and a 10 foot table full of homemade goodies generously provided by our members and the ladies. The Ladies presented Christmas gifts to the residents. Clothing, magazines, books, a computer monitor, keyboard and mouse were also donated valued at $355. A special thanks to Susan Mahla who honored the memory of her father, a Retired U.S. Air Force Officer, by donating his clothing to the Veterans Domiciliary.

On December 11th, the Lodge sponsored and participated in the very solemn, tearful and beautiful ceremony of Wreaths Across America to pay tribute to our fallen Veterans laid to rest at the Jacksonville National Cemetery and their families. The event included guest speakers followed by the placing of Memorial Wreaths for each of the Military Services, POW/MIA and Merchant Marines. A fresh wreath with red ribbon was placed on each of the 2,300 interments at the cemetery. The Lodge sponsored 22 of the wreaths, as well as a $150 donation to American Heritage Girls Troop FL-2345 to purchase wreaths and participate in the ceremony. The ceremony appropriately ended with a 21 Gun Salute by the U.S. Navy and the playing taps.

The Lodge brought a fun time to 65 Veterans at the Lake City VA Hospital on December 18th in the form of Bingo. In addition to the $100 in canteen books provided for the winners of bingo, there were several bonus prizes of donated baseball caps. The Lodge provided snacks to the gamers to accompany the coffee provided by the hospital. They went on their way leaving behind a donation of paperback books to further entertain them.

The Lodge held a Veterans Fundraising Dinner on January 21st with 66 diners in attendance. We had a complete sel-lout of fish and had a packed Lodge continuing until the doors were closed early Saturday morning!

Following a Command Personnel Inspection at the FD Roosevelt at NAS Jacksonville on January 22nd, ER Gene Taymon and Bob Morse presented Certificates of Appreciation to Navy Sea Cadets PO1 Rebecca Corely, PO2 Jon-Michael Borzeko, AN Kelly Vermillion, AN Bradley Langmaid, AN Bryce King, AA Grant Killian and League Cadet Kyle Custer. With PR Chair Phyllis Bonser and Cathy Morse also in attendance, certificates were presented to thank the Cadets for their Color Guard Detail and presentation of Military & POW/MIA Flags during our Veterans Remembrance Month Program in November.

We had a great response at our Veterans Fund Raiser Valentine’s Breakfast February 13th with a total of 50 meals sold!

St. Augustine Lodge 829

Lodge Bingo Chairman, Bob Catuto, PER presented a $2,000 check to Charlene Beymer, Community Relations Representative for Community Hospice. The donation supports the Bailey Family Center for Caring that opened in early January in St. Augustine at the Flagler Hospital Campus.

The Lodge hosted the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program for St. Johns County. On December 18th, Gunnery Sergeants Keith, Gaskell, Moore and Pruitt of the Marine Corps Reserve, the St. Augustine Chapter of the Marine Corps League, and the Elks provided Christmas presents for 348 needy children.

Members of the Lodge Veterans Service Committee visited all of the local nursing homes and the VA Hospital in Gainesville to distribute Christmas cards and gifts donated by the Bingo Ladies to over 100 veterans to let them know they are not forgotten and thank them for their service to our Country.

The Elks Kids Fit Club began its third year of operation under the direction of Tonya Jackson at the Walter E. Harris Community Center and Gym in Hastings on January 19th. The Chairman of the St. Johns County Commissioners, Ken Bryan, and Florida State Elks Association President James Hurst, took part in the opening ceremonies. Each thanked the 60 children present for their eager participation in the program. This once a week program consists of an exercise program directed by a professional trainer, Joseph Quarto and presentations on healthful lifestyles by members of the St. Johns County Sheriff Office’s Police Athletic League and local health professionals. It is aimed at helping children choose a healthy living lifestyle and is paid for by a grant from the Elks National Foundation.

The Lodge hosted their annual Americanism Essay Award Ceremony and dinner to honor six contest winners and their families. This year’s theme was “Why I Am Proud To Be An American”. The students were presented with a Certificate of Achievement and United States Savings Bonds.

The winning essays were forwarded to the Northeast District Elks Chairman for consideration at the statewide contest.
**Destin Lodge 2688**

Although the Florida Elks are in good shape financially, that does not apply to Florida Elks membership. 3,000 members were lost last year. Florida has roughly 63,500 members. If we do not welcome new members, the Florida Elks will cease to exist in 20 years. Please help Destin Lodge to continue by bringing in new members.

Thanks goes to Penny Russell and Cay Litchfield from the non-profit organization “PROJECT LINUS” in California for the afghan that was auctioned off to raise money for our veterans. “PROJECT LINUS” provides love, security, warmth, and comfort to those who are seriously ill, and traumatized, and in need of new handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly made by your volunteers. The buyer donates it to a Vet to use while he recuperates from his operation. We wish you much success in your project. www.projectlinus.org

**Ft. Walton Beach Lodge 1795**

There are some huge events planned for this year. The McDonalds Fishing event is picking up steam daily with new sponsors. This event will help raise money for the local Ronald McDonald House. If you wish to be a sponsor or make an in-kind donation, contact the 2012 Committee.

Another event the Lodge is looking forward to involves the Elk’s Riders. Sixteen members of the B.P.O.E. from different Lodges around the country met and formed a riders group known as the Elk’s Riders USA. Their message is simple, We combine the fun and excitement of motorcycle riding with creating a group of fellow members that can contribute to the growth and charitable works that will benefit the Elks organization we all love and believe in."

This year the Elk’s Riders USA participated in the 13th Annual Thunder Beach Spring Rally held April 27 - May 2, 2011. Not all details and logistics have been worked out yet, but this group of dedicated Elk members organized a ride to all Lodges in the Northwest District and raised awareness for the organization and the Elks National Foundation.

**An Army of Hope Picnic was held on April 16**., What is the Army of Hope Picnic? This event is held across the entire State to raise money to help military families who have a family member deployed overseas and/or have been killed, wounded, or disabled while serving in the line of duty.

**Holly-Navarre Lodge 2787**

The 6th Children’s Charities Golf Tournament was held on May 7, 2011 at Hidden Creek to benefit Elks/Rotary Children’s Charities. Results not available at press time, reports are that HOOTERS Girls were available as Caddies for $100 each!

**Twin Cities Lodge 2747**

We’ve got to stop being quiet! Stop being invisible! As our GER from Plant City says: It is time to be LOUD, be PROUD, and be VISIBLE! “If you think small, you’re going to be small.” Are we as members, as a Lodge, thinking small? Challenge yourselves to come out of your comfort zone and think Big, Bigger, and BEST. Let’s get our best game on!

In last month’s newsletter a suggestion was made to the members to email ideas to help improve the Lodge. The ideas could range from fundraisers, social events, trips as a lodge, anything you can think of that will help make the great Lodge even better.

Unfortunately not one suggestion was received.

**Warrington Lodge 2108**

Recently members participated in the annual Wreaths Across America at Barrancas National Cemetery. The weather was beautiful, sunshine and warm, unlike last year when it rained and they got soaked. It was the 2nd year for this event and was much larger than last year. The event included a very moving ceremony. A total of 2,800 wreaths were put on the graves. Veterans groups and active duty attended. Hopefully it will be even bigger next year.

A Marine family in need of our help has been located. It is an active duty enlisted E3 Marine with a wife and three children. Warrington Elks Lodge will be giving them a Walmart gift certificate. A counselor at the base will monitor this and the family will know who is sponsoring them. Thanks to the Navy/Marine Corps Relief, for their help in locating this family. This should help them help them a bit.

**WHY WE ARE LOSING MEMBERS**

Donald Moon, PER
Director of Membership Development, FSEA

For the six years from April 1, 2005 through March 31, 2010, the state had a net loss of 9,100 members and lost eight Lodges. This year, as of March 7, the state has a net loss of 2,217 members and we have lost two Lodges. So, why are we losing members?

The Florida State Elks Association survey of 4,905 delinquent members revealed some interesting and startling results. Contrary to what we would like to think, 74% responded that they valued the Lodge social club, not our charities. Are we not doing a good job in our indoctrination and not reinforcing our benevolent work after indoctrination?

Another disturbing result was that 88% reported that no Lodge officer or member contacted them about not paying their dues. Why? Did we not want these members?

There were nine major reasons given for not renewing their membership:

- Our dues are too high
- The failing health of our older members
- Our members are moving out of Florida
- Time demands from family & work leave them no time
- Our members do not feel they are a part of the group
- Cliques are alienating our members
- We are not meeting the fellowship needs of our members
- Our disorganized leadership
- Our poor communications with our members

Of the nine reasons, five can be attributed to our actions or lack of action:

- Our members do not feel they are a part of the group
- Cliques are alienating our members
- We are not meeting the fellowship needs of our members
- Our disorganized leadership
- Our poor communications with our members

We must change the atmosphere in our Lodges to make them warmer, friendlier, and more inviting to our members. In addition, we must no longer tolerate the politics and infighting that divide our members and destroy our Lodges. We must find ways for everyone “to just get along.” We must do a better job recruiting, educating, and involving new members.

A part of the Elks mission states “to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members;” it further states “to cultivate good fellowship.” Are we enhancing the happiness and cultivating good fellowship of our members?

It is apparent that we are not fulfilling our members’ wants and needs. We must make every effort to correct this and make our members feel wanted and needed.
New Years Eve Celebration was double the fun, with one band and dinner in the Banquet Hall and another band and appetizers in the lounge. Oh what a night!

Ten departing members were remembered at our annual Elks Memorial Service on Dec. 6. “An Elk is Never Forgotten, Never Forsaken.”

Delray Beach Elks hosted a Southeast Past District Deputy Leadership Banquet on January 8. Other Lodges in the district included Boca Raton, Hollywood West, Margate, Pompano Beach and Southwest Broward. The Woman’s Auxiliary, Delray Elkettes, along with friends and other members were also in attendance. Guest speaker Carl Seibert, Florida State Elks Secretary, spoke on the tremendous job of charity work we do, along with some new strategies to boost membership. Vincent Como, Past State President, District Leader (Margate Shell, PSP)(Delray) who organized this lovely event, presented over 16 plaques to Past District Deputies of SSE District to recognize the dedication and contribution to Elkdom.

A Hope Scholarship for $1,200 was awarded to the grandson of one of our very active members, Wayne and Cathy Cummins. Congratulations!!

The banquet hall was donated for The Palm Beach School for Autism. They had their Second Annual Dinner and Dance Fundraiser and raised over $15,000! Congratulations!

The 6th Annual Chili Cook-Off had 30 participants, and four $100 certificates were awarded, a check for $350 was donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund!

Elks National Foundation is just one example of our charitable donations. South Southeast District has since April 1, 2010 donated $81,304.00 to just this one foundation!

All Elks strive to carry out the many programs of our national order through the diligent work of members from the State Association down to the individual Lodge members, but we also carry out our own charitable work at the state level through our two major projects: Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp

**Hollywood West Lodge 2365**

The Lodge held its annual Hoop Shoot on November 5. Thirty-eight children participated and the winners received trophies and the chance to move on to the District Shoot.

The Lodge donated 52 new “Huggy Bears” to the Davie Fire Department and to the Pembroke Pines Fire Department. These bears will be stored on their response vehicles and will be distributed, when needed, to children who have been involved in automobile accidents.

On Saturday, November 6, the Lodge celebrated “Elks/Veterans Appreciation Day. Twenty-seven Elks/Veterans attended and each were given a special pin (which had the Elks logo on one side and the logo with the appropriate military branch of each veteran on the other side), and were also treated to a celebratory toast and lunch.

The Veterans’ Committee sponsored an in-house raffle to raise money for a new card table for the residents of the Sandy Nininger Nursing Home in Pembroke Pines. The winner of the raffle received $50 worth of Florida lottery tickets. The card table was a much needed item for the recreational activities of the veterans.

On December 4, the Lodge hosted its annual “Dinty Moore Dinner” 95 dinners were served that evening, and netted well over $1,000 which was used for the Lodge hosted Annual Children’s Christmas Party. Over 75 children, large and small attended, including two needy local families. Santa Claus arrived on his Southwest Ranches Fire Station A - 44 fire engine to the delight of the children, lunch and Santa’s gifts were the highlight of the day. In total, 80 toys were distributed at the party, and another 25 toys were given to two families.

At the Children’s Christmas party, letters were written by the children and sent on to Santa Claus via Macy’s, these letters generated a $450 donation to the Make A Wish Foundation from our Lodge. The remaining $300 was donated by the Lodge to the Florida Elks Childrens Therapy Services.

On December 15, the Lodge sponsored a Holiday Get-Together at the Nininger Nursing Home. Balloons modeled to resemble ten foot soldiers were displayed in the room and refreshments were served.

On December 29, the Lodge hosted a Holiday, Pre-New Year Dinner for the Veterans and their aides. A pasta dinner was served to 60 people, 19 of whom were Nursing Home residents. The veterans sang and danced to live music. A “Challenge Coin” – with the particular service area noted was distributed along with a pouch for the veteran to keep around his/her neck.

**INDOCTRINATION**

By Marston Robertson, Member
Grand Lodge Membership Committee

When we think of Indocration, we think about informing a prospective candidate, spouse, and family about the Order of Elks, our beliefs and our charitable works. We also acquaint them with the Lodge, State Association, and what we do in the community.

To be effective, Indocration must include the Lodge Officer Corps and their spouses, and involve the Lodge Chairman providing brief overviews of their committees. The Lodge must be clean and those present must project a positive and meaningful experience.

The candidate’s proposer should be there to act as a Big Brother, setting expectations for them to get their Little Brother to know the ropes around the Lodge and club room can go a long way in having a member who is going to be an active, knowledgeable new Elk.

Most Lodges overlook the aspect of getting new members active. If the proposer isn’t present then one of the Officers or Chairman should step in.

It is critical that newcomers become members of one of the Lodge Committees and immediately busy in the Lodge so they can meet other members and their spouses. During the Indocration, they should be informed that they will be given applications when they are initiated. They must be urged to bring their friends to the Lodge social functions, and encouraged to become proposers who will fill the shoes of a Big Brother.

When this approach is used, pride in membership becomes a reality that sells the Order of Elkdom to all, proving that Elks Care-Elks Share.
31st Annual Florida Elks Golf Tournament

Hosted by Sebring Lodge 1529 & Lake Placid Lodge 2661

On April 2nd and 3rd 232 Elks and spouses came together to raise over $13,500 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The two-day golf weekend gave the golfers perfect weather both days. On the second day of golfing the golfers were given their assigned flights.

Low Gross – Delray Lodge 1770
Chris Ward, Steve Munoz, Eric Gassel, Jim Lampman

Flight A 1st Place - Delray Lodge 1770
Eddie Siska, Shane Siska, Chris Siska, Dylan Siska
Flight A 2nd Place – Plant City Lodge 1727
Tom Ludwick, PPD, Gary Poekert, Dennis Peyton, Todd Larson

Flight B 1st Place – Delray Lodge 1770
Bob Terry, Mike Smith, Dan Hibbs, Mike Harvey
Flight B 2nd Place – Sebring Lodge 1529
Bob Topel, Jayson Topel, Shorty Crocker, Ed Northrip

Flight C 1st Place – West Citrus Lodge 2693
Groover Keeney, Dave Lane, Pat McLaughlin, Gary Cooper
Flight C 2nd Place – Delray Lodge 1770
Michael Rodriguez, Jack Bazaar, Jeff Braman, Cesar D’Emilio

Flight D 1st Place – Brandon Lodge 2383
Francis McKinney, CJ McKinney, Grace Weigand, Gerri Mann
Flight D 2nd Place – Cape Coral 2596
Kurt Daume, Mike Foye, John Kinzie, Guy Sullivan

Flight E 1st Place – Punta Gorda Lodge 2606
Happy Meredith, Ron Heitbohmer, Fred Sawyers, Bob Secrest
Flight E 2nd Place – Brandon Lodge 2382
Henry Ebert, Dennis Hickey, Richard Soucie, Melissa Soucie

Longest Drive – Women
Grace Weigand (both courses), Kris LaFontaine, Lou Suthard,

Longest Drive – Men
Daniel Skelly, Scott Collins, Jayson Topel, Gus Dominguez

Closest to the Pin
CJ McKinney, Bill Murphy Norman Knowles

Past State Presidents Merle Sebald, left and Don Sansoussi center right, enjoyed the two day contest with their sons.

Highest Score-144- North Ft. Myers Lodge 2742
Paul Rieck, Joe Zwitter, Dennis Growholski, Jim Terault

L-R, PDD Truman Bass and Ed Smith of Lodge 2763, enjoyed the two days of golfing with Past State Presidents David Lake and Charles Trinowski
The Hoop Shoot finals under the leadership of Chairman Peter Cattabriga and Vice-Chairman Marilyn Kronenberg, and his faithful volunteers for the past three years from Delray Beach Lodge and the South Southeast District ran smoothly and had some very good shooters. Regional Chairman assisting were Charlie Walker from the North Region, John Holbrook from the Central Region and Dick Cooke from the South Region.

Dignitaries in attendance were State President Jim Hurst, Jr., and wife Julia, VPAL Frank Hayes and Linda, PSP David Lake and Kathy, PSP Vic McClellan, PSP Charlie Trinowski and wife Mary Ann, VPAL Elect Sean Maguire and wife Barbara, PDD Joe Rogers, PDD Herman Heydinger and Lida, PDD Charlie Walker and Jody, PDD Roy Kronenberg and Marilyn Vice Chairman, and Florida Elks News Editor Raleigh Whiteman and Joya.

This was the second year 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 contestants got in plenty of practice on Friday night before the finals plus some fun and recreation at the camp.

The near perfect score of Axel Acosta was spoiled with his very first shot hitting the rim of the basket and spinning out, the next 24 shots were made with all but a few hitting the net only.

The Florida State Elks Associates welcome contest winners to the 19th Florida Shoot contest with special thanks to the Delray crew of volunteers and officials for their many years of dedication and service to Florida’s Hoop Shoot Competition.

Peter Cattabriga gives thanks to the Delray crew of volunteers and officials for their many years of dedication and service to Florida’s Hoop Shoot Competition.
To celebrate his 80th birthday on Jan. 29, Kenny Falk, who had jumped before, asked friends, all from our Lodge to join him in a sky dive adventure. Joe Acanfora, 81, and Charlie Heitzman 88.

Some 30 or more friends and family watched as the three fulfilled their dreams. The crowd cheered and waved as each one of the guys came down with their tandem buddy to the drop zone and each waved back. They could cross that one off of their “Bucket List.” The men appropriately celebrated their successful jump with a bottle of champagne.


Fort Pierce Lodge 1520

Louis Benson, Ph. D., Chief Executive Officer of Treasure Coast Hospice, center-right, greeted Lenny Smallacombe, Betty Elmore and Betty Brousseau and was pleased to hear about the Presidential Memorial Program.

Glenna Parris, Director of Foundation Development of Treasure Coast Hospice gave the group a tour of the facility and made sure they saw just how this organization is there to help all in the community. Fort Pierce Lodge made a generous donation as a result of the Gratitude Grant, which will sponsor one room at the new facility in Fort Pierce.

Lenny heard about this program a few years ago and immediately obtained a Presidential Memorial Certificate honoring his father, killed in France in WWII, and buried there. Since May, he has assisted many families of deceased Veterans in requesting over 3000 Presidential Memorial Certificates. Lenny was invited to present the PMC Program to the Bereavement Counselors at Treasure Coast Hospice, in hope that more families will become aware of this great Free Veterans program. Anyone needing more information can contact the Fort Pierce Elks at 772-465-9911.

Melbourne Lodge 1744

Leading Knight Nancy Miller and Lecturing Knight Russell Hooper were interviewed by ENF Chair Tom Wojnar for a publicity video clip on Jan. 14, to share their thoughts and appreciation for the generosity of the ENF Grants. Russell gave his thanks for a promise grant which enabled the Lodge to present a Red Ribbon Week, Say Boo to Drugs Halloween Party for local school children.

Nancy acknowledged the importance of the ENF Gratitude Grant which enabled the Lodge to donate 540 dictionaries to local third graders in support of the Elks Literacy Program.

The Lodge recognized William C. Poland, Jr. and Rita Haynes for lifetime ENF donations of $2,000 each. William was an ENF Chair for 8 years at his former Lodge, and was honored by a lifetime membership resolution by Melbourne Lodge.

Sebastian Lodge 2714

The Lodge held its 7th Annual Open House Weekend in Feb. which made a lot of money for Florida Elks Charities. Elks and non-Elks had the opportunity to be introduced to the Elks organization by meeting members, browsing information tables and watching videos. There were complimentary hors d’oeuvres, music in the lounge and a cash bar. Saturday the El-Doe’s put on a Rock & Roll Dinner Dance with a sumptuous Roast Beef dinner, and lots of oldies music to dance to. Some came in poodle skirts dressed for the occasion. The Elks made a profit of just over $3,000 for their favorite charity, The Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

On March 5, the El-Doe’s did it again by holding their fabulous Annual Flea Market and Bake Sale. Diane Freese and Mary DeLauder could be very proud of the outcome and the contribution raised for The Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

To celebrate his 80th birthday on Jan. 29, Kenny Falk, who had jumped before, asked friends, all from our Lodge to join him in a sky dive adventure. Joe Acanfora, 81, and Charlie Heitzman 88.

Some 30 or more friends and family watched as the three fulfilled their dreams. The crowd cheered and waved as each one of the guys came down with their tandem buddy to the drop zone and each waved back. They could cross that one off of their “Bucket List.” The men appropriately celebrated their successful jump with a bottle of champagne.

Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

In January, the Past Exalted Ruler’s Association hosted a “Crazy Carol” Show and she had the entire crowd laughing for nearly two hours!

In February the Lodge held its annual Pancake Breakfast for Harry-Anna, sweetheart ball and nominated a full slate of officers for the upcoming Elk Year.

The MVS ENF Scholarship judging awarded three $500 Scholarships to Martin County, Jensen Beach and South Fork High School. Thanks go to Elk member, Jacky LeTourneau for running a great scholarship program.

Congratulations going to the following outstanding Elks and Citizens: Student of the Year, Colton Spencer; Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Major John Pietruszewski; Citizen of the Year, Stewart Smith; GER Award of Citations went to Terri Turner and Shawn Nicholson; Officer of the Year, Lois Gravius; and the top award, Elk of the Year, Walter F. “Walt” Smith.

Vero Beach Lodge 1774

Each year in cooperation with the faculty of the Rosewood Magnet School, the Lodge conducts an “Americanism Essay” contest. The students of the 5th grade, are asked to submit an essay on “WHY I AM PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN”. A committee of Rosewood faculty and our Lodge selects the 10 best essays, all of which are very good. The next difficult step is to select the final three best essays and finally to rank the last three into 1st, 2nd and 3rd. All of these final essays are great examples of true Americanism and do an excellent job of addressing the theme of the contest.

On Thursday, February 3, at an assembly of the 5th grade students and teachers, the final three essays were read by Chris Ferrari, coordinator of the contest and the Physical Education Director at Rosewood. The Elk’s representatives were June Maher, Past Exalted Ruler and Bob Lowe, Americanism Committee Chairman. The final 3 essay winners are: Lisa Pearson - 1st Place; Corey Stepnek, 2nd Place; and Hannah Kimbrough, 3rd Place. This activity is an integral part of the National Elk’s Americanism program and exemplifies the credo that Elk’s Care – Elk’s Share.

West St. Lucie Lodge 2823

A luncheon for West St. Lucie Essay Winners was held with almost 50 in attendance. Officer Rich Wilson, right rear, of the Port St. Lucie Police Department PAL spoke on various subjects.

West St. Lucie Lodge has installed a horseshoe pit and hope to have leagues and tournaments.

The Lodge has full slate of officers for the coming year, with ER Ron Kruse at the helm.

The Lodge is in the process of beautifying the Lodge, and have just completed painting throughout and there’s more to come.

The Elkettes have done it again and donated $2,500 to our Lodge. They work tirelessly for the Lodge and they are very much appreciated.

Lodge members are again volunteering and staffing the concession stand at the Digital Domain Stadium while the Mets are here, and will continue to do so through the summer.

West St. Lucie Lodge has reached the per capita goal and will be receiving a $1,000 grant.

The Lodge is also participating in a function sponsored by Castle who raises funds for the prevention of child abuse. Approximately 250 hot dogs and rolls, were donated. A booth was set up with information about the Elks and their programs, such as the Youth Camp, Children’s Therapy Services, etc.

The Lodge thanks Harold and Betty Tewksberry for their donation of stands to hold the Bible and Antlers.

Elk of the Year is Sandy Robertson. Citizen of the Year is Linda Geraghty, and Officer of the Year is Mickey Scalfani.
Southwest District

On March 6, 2011, the Southwest District consisting of Bradenton 1511, Lakewood Ranch –Sarasota 2855, Manasota 2734, Palmetto 2449, Sarasota South 2495, South Hillsborough 2672 and Venice-Nokomis 1854 held their annual Army of Hope Fund raiser at the Sarasota South Lodge. Entertainment was provided by Lynn Spins and their USO Show inside and Linda Taylor with karaoke and dancing outside. There was a flag folding demonstration and demonstrations by the Sarasota County Sheriffs Dept. Bob Erwin, PER was the keynote speaker. Blair Svihra, Chairman, reports the attendance at over 260 with $5,300 raised for the Army of Hope fund.

Bradenton Lodge 1511

The Bradenton 1511 Elks Lodge received over 100 essays in the Americanism Essay contest this year. All three winning essays in the 5/6th grade Division were from Ms. Lori Hill’s class at St. Joseph’s Catholic School.

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge 2855

Members of the Lakewood Ranch -Sarasota Lodge 2855 have been packing backpacks with food and treats for homeless students at Freedom Elementary School in East Manatee County. Every third Friday they pack over 100 backpacks for the kids to take with them over the weekend. The backpacks are then returned on Monday for refills the next month. This month, in addition to food the Elks distributed drug awareness coloring books in the backpacks.

The Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge on March 10, 2011, presented $1,000 to Jay and the Homeless Vets at the Lodge on March 10, 2011.

Manasota Lodge 2734

Laurie and John Touhey and Ken Palmer of the Manasota Elks Lodge were presented with 130 quilts to be distributed to the veterans at the Bay Pines Nursing Home unit. The Lodge provides funding for the project to students of the Quilters Club at Daughtrey Elementary School. Manasota Elks has enjoyed this business partnership for over 10 years.

Palmetto Lodge 2449

At the Army of Hope Fund raiser held at the Sarasota South Lodge, Tropic Isle All Timers through their association with the Palmetto Elks Lodge was recognized for their continued support. $1,000 dollars was collected and Stacy and Tex Rau said the community enjoys being part of the Army of Hope projects because of what Elks do for our military. The Lodge also had donations from the Ellenton Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW Post 9226 of $250 and a donation from the American Legion Post 325 and the Sons of the Legion in the amount of $100.

South Hillsborough Lodge 2672

The South Hillsborough Elks Lodge 2672 presented the Ruskin Christian School with a theater spotlight on March 25, 2011. The spotlight was purchased with a $1,000 donation from the Elks National Foundation Community Investment Program. The school was the site of the Lodge’s Hoop Shoot Program.

Southwest District

Charles “Chuck” Stieb
Charlesstieb@aol.com

Spring 2011

FLORIDA Elks NEWS

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

The Sarasota South Elks Lodge runs the Toys for Tots program for Sarasota, Florida. The volunteers collected or bought 39,874 toys and gave them to almost 1,300 children with an estimated value of the toys of $405,845. The Elks along with the non-Elks worked over 19,000 hours and drove over 15,000 miles.

The Sarasota South Lodge donated 500 books to the Daughtrey Elementary School for their accelerated reading program. Mrs. Jill Gallagher, teacher thanked the Elks for their generosity and said the books will better prepare students for middle and high school.
Arcadia Lodge 1524

Arcadia Lodge hosted an Annual Patriot’s Day on Saturday, September 11, 2010. The honorees this year were all of the First Responders in DeSoto County. Each division had the opportunity to award one of its employees “First Responder of the Year”. There were a total of 37 first responders in attendance from the Fire/Rescue Department, DeSoto Sheriff’s Office, and the Arcadia Police Department. A delicious dinner was served and following then the awards were presented.

Brandon Lodge 2383

Brandon Lodge and Brandon Ladies of Elks each presented 50 Baskets and members of the Brandon Ladies presented 100 gift baskets for the entire Spinal Cord Injury Unit at James A. Hailey VA Hospital plus gifts for six Nurses Stations in the Unit. Also, Brandon continues visits to the VA Hospital patients with gift bags filled with socks and personal items.

Lakeland Lodge 1291

Lakeland Lodge had their 3rd Annual Fashion Show and luncheon to raise money for Elks National Foundation. The Fashion Show raised several hundred dollars and has proven to be successful for the Lodge and ENF.

The Lodge had a fundraiser/birthday party for the SPCA. Sandy Fuschetti has celebrated her birthday for many years at the Lodge by raising funds for the SPCA. There were approximately 130 guests, five dogs and two cats in attendance this year. Funds raised were $2,300 in donations, 1,900 lbs of dog and cat food, and 75 lbs of kitty litter. Sandy was presented an award from the SPCA for her outstanding contribution to their organization for the past 16 years. She has raised thousands of dollars and tons of food for animals in need.

On February 26, Lakeland Lodge held a Scholarship Golf Tournament which has provided 17 individual awards totalling $4,200 to 17 students with award winning essays.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

Ladies of Lake Placid Elks and Lake Placid Elks hosted a birthday luncheon for the Lake Placid Health Care Center for Tuesday, January 25, 2011.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672

Winter Haven Elks Lodge presented dictionaries to Assistant Principal Tye Bruno and Principle Rena Wood. The third grade class at the local school was very excited about receiving the dictionaries.

Plant City Lodge 1727

Plant City Lodge sewed lap quilts which were presented in December at Baldomero-Lopez State Nursing Home to the veterans. Bobbi Franklin, Lodge Veterans Chair and all these ladies are committed to remembering and honoring our American Veterans.

Arcadia Lodge sponsored the Annual Army of Hope Lodge for families of deceased, disabled, and deployed members of the military. “The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them,” stated Exalted Ruler Jack Collins, Veterans Service Committee Chairman.


As a follow up, each child sent an individual letter thanking Winter Haven Lodge and explaining how they would put these dictionaries to good use. Some children expressed how the dictionaries helped them with homework as well as their parents borrowing them for their personal use. As an offshoot to this endeavor Winter Haven Lodge was asked by Marrietta Jennings, who is affiliated with Beymer United Methodist Church, to provide help with their tutoring program.
The North District was pleased to have State President James Hurst and his wife Julia visit the district in January. Kudos to District VP Carl Ledig and his wife Dolly for hosting such a great event!

Lake City Lodge 893

Lake City Lodge distributed more than 40 boxes filled with food for needy families one week before Christmas. One week later on Christmas Eve, Santa visited the lodge and gave toys to all the 222 children at the lodge for the Santa event. A “Secret Santa” purchased fifteen bicycles for the Christmas giveaway, allowing the Lodge to give twenty bikes to kids. Another generous Christmas gift was from the winner of the $400 Spires Food certificates, who donated this prize back to the Lodge to be awarded to a needy family.

Re-Creation visited Lake City in January and performed at the Lake City VA Medical Center. All those in attendance delighted in seeing the group’s musical variety show, “Broadway.”

Reflecting on the Lodge year, ER Slater remarked that three words came to mind: persons, places, and things. He has met some great people this year at his Lodge and other Lodges, veterans in the hospital who were thrilled to meet someone who cares, as well as Elks at clinics, meetings, and conventions. The places visited include other Lodges and of course the convention sites, giving him memories to last a lifetime. Things include Christmas at his lodge where families received a box of food to feed the family for a week; where kids could not decide on a toy without help because the selection was so big; and the generosity of others.

The Lodge was proud to have the Parade Marshals for this year’s Olustee Festival, held February 18, member Herbert Darby and his wife Ann. The festival always features great crafts and food.

Live Oak Lodge 1165

Live Oak Lodge volunteered to help the Salvation Army in ringing the bell soliciting donations for the holiday season. Lodge ringers collected more than $1,100 to help the Salvation Army. The Lodge held a Christmas party and was able to make Christmas much brighter for 18 local children. Members donated toys and candy to the Lodge to help make the party a success.

Marianna Lodge 1516

The Marianna Lodge enjoyed its annual Christmas Party, which once again was a great success. In keeping with the holiday theme, the Marianna Ladies of the Elks met with a local organization, BASIC NWFL, INC., and presented a gift certificate to Wal-Mart to help some children in that program to have a better Christmas. Year 2010 ended with a New Years Eve party where many members helped decorate, sponsored the band, and had a great time at the party.

February brought a Valentines Day party which was a popular event.

Perry Lodge 1851

A major December event at Perry Lodge is Breakfast with Santa, this year on December 12, as was mentioned in the last news issue, more than 400 kids attended with their parents. A big thank you goes to Fairpoint Communications who donated all the toys for the event. Bassett’s Dairy donated the milk and orange juice. This partnership with local vendors has been a blessing for the Lodge. Accolades to Randy and Deidra Newman who chaired the event and the folks Diedra brought with her once again this year to help.

Perry Lodge is leading the district with new members this year, and outside the district, is 14th in the state. The Lodge is proud to have received Grand Lodge recognition for this achievement. For the Americanism contest, the lodge received over 40 entries. Plans are to forward the top three essays in each category on to the district competition. The Lodge held its first Wii bowling tournament on January 29 with more than 20 entries.

A Relay for Life benefit is set for March 29, in memory of PDDGER Jimmy LaValle. Jimmy was an active member of the Perry Lodge and its Treasurer for a number of years. He also worked extensively on the Lodge’s website. The benefit will have booth spaces, carnival games, a bounce house, face painting, and a cake auction.

Tallahassee Lodge 937

Tallahassee Lodge kicked off the Christmas season with the Old Fashioned Christmas for the kids. There are gift bags for the kids, face painting, and stickers and paper for the kids to create their own holiday characters. A special treat was the photo of each child with Mr. and Mrs. Claus along with Mr. Elf, to take home as a keepsake. Past FLOE President Betty Irvin chaired this event and her husband Earl, baked trays and trays of cookies to share.

A group of guys from the Lodge spent a morning at the Gretchen Everhart School, delivering and distributing toys to the children that attend this school. The Eggnog Social on Christmas Eve brought many folks to the lodge to share in some holiday cheer. The lodge officers helped make this evening a great time for all. Another treat just in time for Christmas was the return of four Lodge members, and the son of another member, from the Middle East conflict. Welcome home Robert Ponder, Bill Yates, Tim Dolan (associate member), John McDonald, and Troy Tabanelli.

A Christmas Story to share is a true story of a deployed soldier’s family whose heat pump quit in December. The family’s savings had been depleted from car repairs and unforeseen expenses. Step up the Army of Hope. Paperwork was submitted and a local HVAC firm in Crawfordville was called to check out the family’s home and heat pump in Sopchoppy (where?). The HVAC firm made the repairs that day and would not charge for the services rendered.

January brought the End of the Year Party held on New Years Eve. Many folks came to enjoy the snacks, dinner, dancing and refreshments to bring in the new year with a bang. Later that month, District VP Carl Ledig and the Tallahassee Lodge hosted the State President’s visit to the North District in January. It was a BIG time. Thanks to Carl, his wife Dolly, and the Ledig family for their work that made this visit one to remember. Also in January, the Tallahassee Lodge won the North District ritual contest. The next round of competition is at the State Convention in May.

A Valentines Day dinner brought a crowd to the Lodge for dinner. The entrée was rib-eye steaks cooked to order. The menu featured tomato basil soup, salad, steak, twice-baked potatoes, haricot verts, bananas foster, and a glass of champagne.

The first weekend in March, the Tallahassee Lodge gathered up a team of its finest members/caterers/cooks and hoofed out into the woods southwest of town to be the food vendor at the reenactment of the Battle of Natural Bridge. This is the lodge’s second year working the food booth at the site.

The Lodge’s sign in the front yard has had some significant repairs. The sign face which had been vandalized, has been replaced with a gently used sign face, donated by the local sign company. The sign was re-lamped and rewired so every area is illuminated. Several folks have commented that it is so bright that it lights up the entire front yard.

DO YOU HAVE A WILL?
We know estate planning can be confusing
LET US SEND YOU A FREE BOOKLET ON WILLS
Please send me your free
NO OBLIGATION booklet on wills
NAME __________________________
ADDRESS _______________________
CITY, STATE, ZIP __________________
DATE OF BIRTH ______________ PH
Mail to:
Florida Elks Charities, Wills, and Bequests
Carl Seibert
P.O. Box 49
Umatilla, FL 32784-0049
**Brooksville Lodge 2582**

During the bi-monthly meeting at the Brooksville Elks Lodge on January 10, 2011, PPD Donna Zuk was presented a certificate of appreciation for having donated $500 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

**Kissimmee Lodge 1873**

The Elkettes entertained 45 Special Needs Children from Flora Ridge Elementary School at their annual Christmas party where they were served pizza, cookies and drinks. All the children were given Disney caps and sunglasses by Lecturing Knight Francis Barry. Santa (ER James Platt) distributed cars, dolls, stuffed animals and many other toys to the happy children. I heard Santa say that he didn’t know he was so popular with kids! I think he was impressed by their enthusiasm.

**Zephyrhills Lodge 2731**

Zephyrhills Lodge recently presented Cindy Beson, Director of Meals on Wheels, the keys to a Van donated by the Zephyrhills Elks. The van will be used to assist the Meals on Wheels volunteers with their deliveries of meals to their clients.

**West Citrus Lodge 2693**

The Lodge Veteran’s Committee with the help of Jean Ortt and Norm Roberts presented an electric wheel chair to tired Army Captain, Phyllis Dick who lives in Brentwood. The chair was donated by Lodge member, Jerry Johnson. Phyllis was very happy to receive the chair. The Lodge also provided cash to repair a scooter that belongs to Marvin Kirsh during a Birthday visit to the Crystal River Health and Rehabilitation Center. Proving once again that Elks Care & Elks Share.

West Citrus Lodge has had a very busy year. Not only have they increased their membership by 90 members, they have worked very hard on the following projects: Army of Hope donating $832; ENF $1,500 from the annual Beach Bash, a fundraiser was held for medical expenses of one of their group of Cub Scouts. The Lodge donated monies to various local charities such as Citrus United Basket, Daystar Special Olympics and ARC.

West Citrus Lodge members would like to thank Jean Ortt, Exalted Ruler for 2010-11 for the wonderful job she did in bringing back the camaraderie to the Lodge.

**Orlando Lodge 1079**

Orlando Lodge displays a POW/MIA table in the lobby to Honor Veterans and POW/MIA’s. It draws attention as it is reserved for all those missing, still not found or in detention. The table is round for the everlasting concern, as all of us, hope and pray some day they may all return. A plaque hangs above the table explaining every item on the table and why it is there. Most of the items on the table were donated and others were purchased by Ben Reilly and Bill Abney. The cost of the items were less than twenty dollars.

**SOUTHEAST DISTRICT**

Reporter, Joy A. Booth, PER

wpb1352@gmail.com

The Southeast District Advisory Council held its Annual Picnic on Sunday, February 27 at the West Palm Beach Lodge. It was a wonderful success headed by the District’s Vice President Bruce Cook, PER. There was a barbecue ribs cook-off team. The first place and third place teams were from the Clewiston Lodge and second place went to the West Palm Beach Lodge.

There was also a chili contest which was won by Bill Hopkins, the Leading Knight from West Palm Beach. A Chinese Cake Auction was conducted by PDDGER Gary Breakfield from Clewiston. Barbecue chicken and ribs were served along with different salads thanks to West Palm Beach member Tim Hadsell.

Also the District is pleased to announce that West Palm Beach’s Theodore (Ted) Olson, PER, has been named as the Endorsed District Vice President for next year. He served as ER from the Lantana/Boynton Lodge and was an Past Elk of the Year and Past Officer of the Year. I am sure he will do an excellent job.

**Belle Glade/ Pahokee Lodge 1716**

The Lodge held a Super Bowl Party and many fans turned out to support their favorite team. Refreshments were served and all had a great time.

On Steak Night, a raffle was held for a Jeep Wrangler. No news on who was the lucky winner.

The Lodge was used as a voting precinct for the Belle Glade elections.

The Lodge hosted a Law Enforcement Night to discuss everyone’s concerns about the community. Several officials from the city were in attendance to listen to the members.

The Okeelanta Corporation is now using the Lodge for many of their luncheons. The Lodge was used last month as a place to hold the Youth Softball Drafts for the children in town.

**West Palm Beach Lodge 1352**

On February 26 the Lodge was visited by Pres. Theodore Roosevelt. He came to visit his old friend Lowell Tyler, who highly regarded him when he was president. Actually, we had a Presidential Collectible Pins Organization in the Lodge for an exhibition and show. As part of the show there was a Theodore Roosevelt impersonator who circulated among the crowd and gave a 15 minute talk on Roosevelt’s life. Endorsed VPAL Sean Maquire greeted the President when he entered the Lodge. They had a brief talk about the history of Elksdom.

A Mardi Gras Dinner and Dance was held at the Lodge on February 5 with Elaine Wherry acting as chairwoman. People came dressed in the Madir Gras tradition complete with masks and beads. The proceeds of the night were to start the Youth Softball Drafts for the children in town.

**Zephyrhills Lodge 2731**

Leonard (Lenny) Dilorenzo being elected as Exalted Ruler. They had a brief talk about the history of Elksdom.

A Mardi Gras Dinner and Dance was held at the Lodge on February 5 with Elaine Wherry acting as chairwoman. People came dressed in the Madir Gras tradition complete with masks and beads. The proceeds of the night were to start the Youth Softball Drafts for the children in town.

**Jupiter Lodge 2469**

The Lodge has filled all the chairs for next year, with Leonard (Lenny) DiLorenzo being elected as Exalted Ruler.

On March 12, the Lodge hosted a St. Patrick’s Dinner and dance. Everyone enjoyed the traditional dinner of corned beef and cabbage. The Lodge was awash in green.

Plans are underway for a May Mother’s Day celebration. It will consist of a luncheon and fashion show.

**Clewiston Lodge 1853**

At the Southeast District Picnic, the Lodge entered into the Barbecue Rib Cookoff. Clewiston teams came in first place and third place. Plaques were awarded to both teams.

On March 4, the Lodge hosted its Annual Awards Night complete with dinner and ceremony. On March 19, the Lodge had its annual $10,000 drawing. Many people consider it the biggest party of the year.
Agriculture Master Gardeners will help with the town areas of New Smyrna Beach, Edgewater and Oak Hill. Volusia County Department of Agriculture Master Gardeners will help with the planning of the garden.

The Lodge participated in the Americanism Essay Contest. They selected three students from Division I, and three students from Division II; their essays were forwarded to the State for final judging.

The Lodge Scholarship Committee chose three deserving students as Student of the Month. They were: Sam Latty, a second grader from Coronado Elementary Primary Division who is a Cub Scout, an active helper, tutor in the extended day program; plays flag football and baseball in the County program. Winner of the intermediate division was Jillian Tomazin, a diligent hard worker and well mannered student; and in the high school division, Natasha Lopes, a senior who belongs to many service clubs and a recipient of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award; she volunteers weekly at Bert Fish Hospital.

A recent DD clinic Honorable Mike Phillips, PSP and PGESQ announced the endorsement of Elks Riders USA bike run to the Youth Camp to help raise money for Harry-Anna. The group was given a tour of the Youth Camp. Mike Sullivan, President of the Northeast Elks Riders USA and Jennifer Apiker, Secretary of the Riders were also part of the bike ride. The Riders met Grand Exalted Ruler Mike Smith at a recent quarterly meeting at the Umatilla Youth Camp. On March 13 the riders had a poker run and BBQ to benefit Elks charities. They raised $500 that will be combined with other monies raised by the other Elks Riders USA Districts in Florida and will be presented at the State Convention in May.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650
Recently, the Lodge donated $500 gift cards to the Melbourne Veterans Transition Centers where veterans and their families are given a place to stay while they get back on their feet. Members of the Lodge donated $5,000 towards the construction of a new cabin at the Florida State Elks Youth Camp as Merritt Island's legacy to the children who will spend happy times in this cabin. The check was presented to Lynn Warburton of Ormond Beach.

Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557
The Lodge recently received an impact grant of $27,000, to help build a community garden in honor of one of their cherished members, Georgia Nyberg. The garden will benefit the tri-town areas of New Smyrna Beach, Edgewater and Oak Hill. Volusia County Department of Agriculture Master Gardeners will help with the planning of the garden.

The Lodge sponsored a lobster/steak dinner to benefit the Florida Elks Youth Camp Scholarship Program. A Hoop Shoot breakfast was held at the Lodge; donations went towards the support of the program and to help local schools with scholarships.

A PER veterans breakfast was held on March 19th along with a corned beef and cabbage dinner.

East Central District PER Association is sponsoring a Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 14th at the LPGA Golf Course. A lunch will be provided by the Port Orange Lodge, that day.

Spruce Creek 12 O’clock Jazz Band conducted by Andrew Kidd.
The Lodge hosted two fundraisers; one for the Spruce Creek 12 O’clock Jazz Band. The Lodge helped raise $1,501 for new band uniforms and musical instruments, and a fun filled Miss America Contest that raised $515 to benefit the Lodge.

Ed Jackson, PER, and Lodge volunteers got together to put on a lobster bake. District and State dignitaries came to enjoy pizz clams, stone crabs, garlic soup, salad and lobster. Kathy Lake wife of PSP David Lake, won a 5-lb lobster. The Lodge made a profit of over $2,000.

Exalted Ruler elect Angelo Cretella spearheaded a 2-day membership drive to bring in new members. The event was broadcasted on WROD Radio Station. Officers of the Lodge were on hand to meet prospective applicants. The Lodge signed up six new members bringing the total to 141.

The Lodge continues to hand out scholarships to Spruce Creek and Atlantic High School students. At a recent DD clinic held at the Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Lodge, District Vice President Patricia Heller-Jackson presented Exalted Ruler Mar. St. Pierre with a 2010 Visititation Trophy for having traveled the most miles (6,819). The Lodge was the first to have their name added to the trophy.

Left to right: Patricia Heller-Jackson, DVP; Tom Pollard, DDGER; and Exalted Ruler Mar. St. Pierre.

Sanford Lodge 1241
**Inverness Lodge 2522**

The Lodge’s nursing home visitors spent their time with local veterans and distributed lap robes and other needed items. Members also visit a new homeless shelter in Hernando and the response has been great to supply their many needs, including providing leftover food from Lodge events to the shelter.

In January, the members had a welcome home for Command Sergeant Major Ogle who was returning from Iraq; it was a great success with many more people than expected.

**Lady Lake Lodge 2793**

The members finished the Lodge’s Hoop Shoot with 48 children in attendance; it was conducted by Don Diamant and many Lady Lake members that showed up to help.

**Ocala Lodge 286**

Ocala Lodge took great pride in presenting a check for $2,000 to the Marion County School Board to help homeless/needy seniors purchase caps and gowns for their graduation. Over 25 school and county officials along with 200 students were in attendance.

**Winter Park Lodge 2165**

On January 15, District Vice President Bob Warren, Winter Garden Lodge, Apopka Lodge 2422 and the North Central District hosted the Visititation of State President James Hurst, First Lady Julia, VPAL Frank Hayes and Linda. After a wonderful breakfast the group proceeded to the Russell Home for Atypical Children in Orlando.

Don’t stop reading! Every Elk member needs to know about the Elks National Home. Even if you are not of retirement age or considering a move to a retirement community, the Home could be in your future or that of a family member.

It’s hard to describe on paper the atmosphere you will find at the Elks National Home. It is definitely not a nursing home, but a place where you have independence and freedom to enjoy friends, hobbies, activities, and life! In addition, you have security and peace of mind in knowing that the caring staff is there for you if you do need assistance. And, yes, we do have some vacancies. Contact us today.

The best way to understand the unique family atmosphere at the Home is to make a visit. If that is not possible, take a mini tour by visiting our website at www.elkshome.org. There you will find full information on the Home, including prices and application forms. You can see the golf course, dining room, and lobby - see the Home lit up for Christmas- take a peek inside one of the apartments or a residential room - learn about the history of the Home - browse through the gift shop. Then imagine being a member of the “family” that lives here. If you don’t have a computer, just call 1-800-552-4140 during regular business hours (Eastern Time) and we will be glad to send you a packet of information by mail.

There is also a DVD that gives insight into the Home and those who live here. It includes video, photos, and interviews with several residents. We will send a DVD free of charge to any Lodge upon request. Individuals may purchase a personal copy for only $5.00. (Lodges may also feel free to make copies to give to interested members.)

**Harold Floyd, PER and Suzanne McGuire, Homeless Children Liaison of Marion County Schools.**

Ocala Lodge was honored to host the Army of Hope Picnic for the North Central District, on March 5. There were over 500 people in attendance, including City and State dignitaries. A highlight was the fly-over of the missing man formation performed by pilots from the Leeuwark Air Ranch. The event raised over $10,000 for the Army of Hope Charities.

**Winter Park Lodge 1830**

At Winter Park Lodge, the annual Awards Night followed a St. Patrick’s Day Dinner with each of ten (10) graduating high school seniors receiving a $1,000 college scholarship toward their college costs before continuing on to the ENF Most Valuable Student (MVS) contest. The recipients are among the best high school seniors in the Lodge service area who have accomplished much in terms of scholarship, creativity, and helping members of their community. The Elks MVS Scholarship committee included ER Bill Jacobs as Chairman, PER Al Gallant, Dale Schock and Dick Theriault.

Individual members of Winter Park 1830 were recognized for their contributions to the community and the Elks. ER Bill Jacobs presents the Citizen of the Year award to Walter Laverty who engages Veterans and the Goldenrod community in the name of Elksdom. As an Elks VAVS representative to the Orlando Veterans Clinic, Walt arranges social events, clothing donations and daily essentials for the clinic and domiciliary residents. He promotes the Elks in the annual Goldenrod breakfast and parade and other community activities resulting in the Chamber of Commerce honoring the Lodge with their “Member of the Year” plaque.

Winter Park ER Jacobs presented the Elk of the Year plaque to Paul Maloney. Paul has been heavily involved with Elks Lodge events for over 20 years, including a monthly fellowship steak night and annual Christmas party. His dedication has been a tremendous help to the Winter Park Lodge. The Officer of the Year was earned by Kim Shingledecker who is the 5 year Trustee. Kim was presented with his plaque by PER President Al Gallant. Kim’s counsel on the board of Trustees as well as his personal involvement with the operation and maintenance of the lodge has earned the deepest respect of his fellow officers.

During the year, Winter Park Lodge 1830 members distributed Dictionaries to more than 2,000 third grade students in the Lodge service area. The committee consisting of Carol Jacobs, ER Bill Jacobs and Tom Bordonaro visited one of the schools. This is the fourth year in a row that the Lodge supported the Grand Lodge dictionary Project. Since the Lodge became involved in the dictionary project, they have donated over 6000 dictionaries to the 16 schools.

FSEA leaders from left, VPAL Frank Hayes, President Jim Hurst, Linda Hayes and Julia Hurst visiting with a long-term resident of the Russell Home.

A tour of the home showed how individuals can provide a clean and loving environment without government funding; the tour was followed by lunch with the children. Members provided the children with a group activity to decorate 25 dozen cookies. Bags were made up for every resident child with various things inside. Winter Garden Lodge invited Miss Betty, the granddaughter of Mrs. Russell, plus a nurse’s aide and four of the resident girls to be their dinner guests where the girls danced for the visitors and the Lodge presented Miss Betty with a check for $2,000 to help with expenses.

The dream of the early Elk members who founded the Home has certainly come true. But in order to continue to offer the services and opportunities available here for retired Elks, we need the help of the entire Order. Since we no longer receive a grant from the Grand Lodge or the Elks National Foundation, we depend upon the $1.00 annual membership assessment to supplement our operating budget. But that isn’t enough. We also depend upon donations from individual members, lodges, state associations, and friends.

You can help by sending your donation to the Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Ave., Bedford, VA 24523. Bequests are also a wonderful way to support the Home and they are greatly appreciated. The Elks National Home is a 501(c)3 and 509(a)2 non-profit organization, so your gifts are tax deductible.

We also ask that you make it a point to learn more about the Home’s proposed renovation program that would require an assessment of only $2.00 per member each year for five years. At the end of that time, we would have additional modern accommodations that would make the Home financially self-supporting.

Thank you for reading this. Now that you know more about the Elks National Home, we know you will want to share in its future with your support by becoming a resident! If you have questions or want more information, write to:

Elks National Home,
931 Ashland Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523
Call 1-800-552-4140 or e-mail enhome@elks-home.org.
Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525

The West Central District Elks Hoop Shoot contest was held at the Dunedin Community Center, Saturday, January 8. Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge was proud to have one girl move on to the Florida State Regional contest in Lake Placid. Julia Rose Ingram, a 13 year old 6th grader from Safety Harbor Middle School represented the Lodge well. Other winners were: 9 year old Sarah Percivalle, 9 year old Panormitis (Mike) Kratzas, 11 year old James Chenard all from Tarpon Springs Lodge, 10 year old Katie Williamson, Tampa Lodge, and Kyle McKinney 13 years old from Seminole Lodge. A total of twenty-six children participated representing six Lodges.

On January 29 the Lodge, under the direction of Lona Blue, held a Wing Ding benefit for Lance Corporal Justin Gaertner. Lance Corporal Gaertner, a local Marine was severely wounded the day after Thanksgiving by an IED. Over $4,200 was raised for Justin and his family.

Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

The Lodge donated $150 for the new “Manta Store” at the Madeira Beach Middle School for students to purchase items with coupons received for academic achievement.

The Lodge donated $100 for the Re-Creation Dance Troupe who performed at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center on February 14. The performance was attended by veterans and their families along with Elk members Richard Jacobs, PER, Grand Lodge VAVS Representative to Bay Pines, Johnny Miller, Grand Lodge Deputy Representative to Bay Pines and Jackie Homer, Lodge publicity chairperson.

An award ceremony was given for Bobbie Bernstein, widow of member Harvey Bernstein, at the Florida Blood Services facility for donating a total of 100 gallons of blood.

West Central District Publicity & Public Relations chairman, Brad Voigt, PER, along with Bob Pitney DDGER; Frank Palladini, PSP; Ken Yagoda, WCDVP; Russell Sens, State Chairman for Publicity & Public Relations; James Hurst, State President; and Steve Harmon, Webmaster & WCD endorsed VP, attended the luncheon hosted by radio station WEDU. The luncheon honored various groups and organizations that give to the communities.

Largo Lodge 2159

The first annual West Central District Harry-Anna Silly Olympics was held at Largo Lodge on February 20 with approximately 150 members and guests in attendance. All nine Lodges contributed $50 on behalf of the HATF to be entered into a pot which was awarded to the Lodge team with the highest cumulative score after 10 silly and fun events. Largo Lodge won the team events which enabled them to receive $450 and donate that amount to HATF on behalf of their Lodge. Individual events were also held and each entrant paid a small fee. The winner of each event received the total collected which was then donated to HATF in their name through their Lodge. Winners of individual events were PSP Frank Palladini, ER Roger Howard, Inga Dinsmore and Nick Kelly. Special thanks to the WCD PER association for their contribution. Members of the organizing committee were, Kenneth Yagoda, VP WCD, Marcia Lowe, chairman, Doug Schwartz, PER, Willie Sander, PER and Aurora Griesler-Jones.

All net proceeds for food and drink were donated to HATF, a total of $1,037 for the day.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

The Lodge recently held a “sock-hop” fundraiser. A lovely donated quilt was raffled off with the proceeds of $244 going to the American Cancer Society. The Lodge also donated $1,000 to the fund raising for local injured Marine Lance Corporal Justin Gaertner. Donations of $500 each was made to James Haley VA Hospital, Baldomaro Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home and Bay Pines VA Medical Center. The Lodge is donating $100 to the new Army museum that is being built in New York.

The NJROTC from Gulf High School just received over $1,000 in tips they earned from serving Wednesday and Friday dinners at the Lodge. The Lodge will also be presenting the Cadet of the year with a $500 scholarship.

Pinellas Park 2217

Lodge Veterans chairman Jim Dunham hosted a very successful dinner/dance on January 22. All proceeds from this event were shared by Bay Pines VA Medical Center and packages for our troops serving in the Middle East.

The Lodge recently held their annual Law & Order Night honoring local law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics and EMTs.

St. Petersburg 1224

The Lodge provided dinner and entertainment for 26 veterans from Bay Pines VA Medical Center during the month of January. There were 11 Veterans from the Community Living Center and 15 Veterans from the Domiciliary who enjoyed their dinner and karaoke. These monthly events are coordinated by Lodge veterans chairman Johnny Miller, Grand Lodge Deputy Representative to Bay Pines VA Medical Center.

The Lodge held their Annual Sweetheart Ball on February 12, under direction of Chairman Mike Gilson. Approximately 159 members and guests attended and raised over $700 for Elks National Foundation.

The Lodge held their annual Law & Order Night on February 26. In addition to honoring three St. Petersburg Police Officers who were recently killed in the line of duty, the Lodge honored the nine chosen recipients from the nine different Law Enforcement Agencies in the community. In attendance were city mayors, commissioners, and department’s chiefs from the Sheriff’s Office, the State Attorney’s office, four police departments and three fire departments. The dinner was served by students of the Criminal Justice Academy of Pinellas Park High School. These students served the 78 honored guests along with 142 Elks and guests. St. Petersburg Police Department put on a K-9 demonstration after the ceremony. Before closing the awards dinner, the Lodge donated $1,000 to the Criminal Justice Academy to help support their program.

The Lodge donated $1,927 to Dixie Hollins High School to replace their broken portable baseball batting cage. The Lodge also donated $500 to the Alzsea Special Needs Baseball Program for those children in the Challenger Division. This sponsorship donation will allow a child to experience all that team sports provide regardless of ability or disability.

Seminole Lodge 2519

The Lodge continues to host the Veterans from Bay Pines VA Medical Center on the third Tuesday each month for an all you can eat spaghetti dinner.

The Lodge held their annual Harry-Anna Sweetheart dinner/dance on February 12, with certificate purchases and donations totaling over $3,000 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Tampa 708

The Lodge had a Christmas “giving tree” for 27 foster children. The wishes of all 27 children were fulfilled. Members were somewhat surprised by their requests which included the basics of clothing and undergarments.

Once again the Lodge hosted the Annual Gasparilla Boat Parade party. Under the watchful eye of chairman PSP Frank Palladini, the volunteer pirates welcomed six buses and over 340 Elks and guests. The fun filled day long themed event was a huge success.

Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719

The Lodge held their annual Law and Order Night and honored members of the Police and Fire Departments, teachers and volunteers. Bill and Judy McLaughlin and their committee hosted a dinner and ceremony with over 200 attendees.
Miami Lodge 948

The New Year started off with the Lodge Drug Awareness Committee participating in the Junior Orange Bowl Parade, the only remaining parade in Miami. The Committee handed out Drug Awareness literature prior to the parade. They decorated the Drug Awareness Trailer that was pulled by PDDGER Al Reker’s truck. The Lodge Antlers, Boy Scouts, Past State President Joe Ortiz, along with Elroy Elk making his yearly appearance, marched in the parade.

The Lodge Activities Committee held a 50s and 60s fundraiser in mid-January that included a six piece band, highlighted with a tribute to Elvis by impersonator David Morin. A talent show with over 200 in attendance was held and were entertained by some of the Lodges talented, and shall we say, not so talented members, cultivating a fun night for charity.

In early February the House Committee hosted its annual Super Bowl Party. At this year’s event the Lodge Activities Committee, used the evening to raise money for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. A beautiful Dolphins quilt 66 X 78, gorgeous, painstakingly handmade with a tasteful Dolphins motif on the reverse was a soft neutral confetti pattern was raffle off. The quilt was made and donated specifically for the Super Bowl and to benefit the Harry-Anna Trust Fund by Angie Maltzman, the Lodge Blood Drive Co-Chairman. The Lodge thanked Angie for this wonderful donation, $1,005 was raised.

The Miami Elkette’s held their annual Sweetheart Ball in the Crystal Ballroom. The music entertainment was provided by the Swingables. Sue Conyers was named Sweetheart of the Ball.

On Saturday, March 5th, the Miami Elks Lodge was officially recognized by having a street named after it. SW 102 Ave from SW 64 Street to SW 74 Street was officially named “Miami Elks Lodge Ave.” This is an enormous honor for the Lodge and is the only known Elks Lodge in the State of Florida (and maybe the nation) to have a street named after it. Miami-Dade County Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez presented the Lodge with a Proclamation naming March 5th, 2011 “Miami Elks Lodge Day.”

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Florida’s Most Valuable Student Scholarship Winners 2010-2011

1. Patel; Pratik H.  
2. Dias, Marielena  
3. Lyerly, Robert J.  
4. Wilson, Warren P.  
5. Petro, Louis V.  
6. Taylor, Rachel M.  
7. Fournier, Stephany A.  
8. Fletcher, Rasha J.  
9. Pabst, Kevin A.  
10. Lee, Connie M.  
11. Dietrich, Emma P.  
12. Brown, Amanda  
13. Goldberg, Lyssa R.  
14. Lvo, Arlena M.  
15. Dorian, Matthew N.  
16. Small, Alexander  
17. Chorath, Ashley E.  
18. Butler, Kurt W.  
19. Clark, Mckenzie E.  
20. Deung, Stephanie  
21. Perez, Christopher J.  
22. Tringali, Kristin R.  
23. Ali, Mahe N.  
24. Lozano, Marc S.  
25. Bray, Jake D.  
26. Casola, Marisa C.  

began at the North Miami Lodge, with the ride ending at the Florida Keys Lodge in Tavernier. The Elktones provided the musical entertainment along with food, drink and merriment.

Miami Lodge Exalted Ruler Louis De Souza and First Lady are introduced to members at the Annual Inaugural Ball.
Englewood Lodge 2378
Englewood Lodge participated in the area Christmas Parade with a float, hosted the Annual Christmas Party for local children, adopted four needy families and presented them with gift cards and food, had a successful “Angel Tree” with every child receiving a gift and bingo players donated 42 bags of groceries to local food pantries. Also, several Elks contributed money to purchase “goodies” for veterans in local nursing homes. More than 20 gift baskets were assembled. The “Elk Elves” (Inner Guard and Chaplin) delivered the baskets to the veterans along with a Christmas card thanking them for their service to our country. The gifts were received with great joy and appreciation by the veterans.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288
Fort Myers Elks Lodge 1288 recently held a Court Of Honor for new Eagle Scout Nick Twardus. The Lodge sponsored Nick in his project to refurbish existing comfort stations and build new ones at the Caloosahatchee Regional Park in Fort Myers, Florida.

L-R: Past Exalted Ruler Terry Welfle; Nick’s father Keith; Eagle Scout Nick Twardus; mother Lisa; and Exalted Ruler Doug Scharf.

Fort Myers also recently completed is Veterans Day Golf Outing. Over $1600 was raised for local veterans groups. $500 was donated to “Operation Open Arms” and $500 was donated to “Veterans Outreach.” Both are Lee County organizations that assist local veterans. The Lodge also donated over 200 gifts to the local veterans’ retirement home so that each veteran had a gift to open at Christmas.

Rotonda Lodge 2710
Rotonda Lodge honored Joel Townsend at a retirement party on March 19 recognizing his 16 years of dedicated service as Lodge Treasurer. The head table also included six Past Exalted Rulers and their spouses.

Rotonda Lodge continues to support the Charlotte County Education for the Homeless Project. This program is administered through the Charlotte County school system and helps students who are homeless. Currently, there are over 40 homeless students in our local community. Each year the Lodge is proud to donate $6,000 to help support the students with expenses such as clothing and school supplies. Four students graduated from high school and received their diplomas.

The Lodge hosted a “Hoop Shoot” Party for all the children who participated in the Hoop Shoot contest. Awards were given out and a lunch of pizza was enjoyed by all.

A special fundraiser was held January 15 for an Elk member in need who has been battling a serious illness. Rotonda Lodge, along with the Rotonda VFW, American Legion Posts, and the Moose Lodge held a joint function to help the family during this difficult time. This one day event raised approximately $15,000 and featured food, auction, raffles, and hilarious drag queen divas – gentlemen, members who dressed as women entertained the crowd, all for a good cause.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606
Punta Gorda Elks Lodge held its fifth annual Variety Show February 26 and 27. Three shows were presented at the Charlotte County Cultural Center Theater. A volunteer cast and crew of 25 Elks and 28 volunteers presented a show consisting of music, dance and comedy to a total audience of 1,300 people. Proceeds after expenses, $9,000, were donated to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Service. The donation presentation was made by Bob Hahn, PER, to Christina Walker, an Occupational Therapist with the Florida Elks.

PER Bob Hahn and Therapist Christina Walker.
Ambrose Yelovich, PER, Chairman of the Punta Gorda Lodges Blood Drive, has now donated 17 gallons of blood. He has been awarded “Super Donor” status with the Florida Blood Center. The Lodge holds a blood drive every 56 days. The last three drives netted 75 pints of blood. Remember every pint can save three lives.

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Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781
Greater Pine Island Lodge held their annual Hoop Shoot contest on December 15. 71 children braved the 35 degree weather at the outside basketball courts and had a great time in spite of the weather & their attire, it was “Pajama Day.”

Greater Pine Island Kids braving 35 degrees in their P.J.s.

Lehigh Acres Lodge 2602
On the last weekend in October, Lehigh Acres Lodge was invited to bring the Drug Awareness Trailer to Sunshine Elementary School’s Fall Festival. “Say No to Drugs” drug awareness coloring books were distributed along with information pamphlets on drugs. Red Ribbons were also distributed.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153
Past Exalted Ruler Eric Rolston of the Port Charlotte Lodge presented Christmas gifts and a $1,000 check to Ann Marie Mcevoy, Activities Director, at the Douglas Jacobson State Veterans Home. The check was to complete the purchase of new patio furniture at the home.

Spring 2011         23
Excitement Builds at the BEST Camp

We are close to completion of our new expansion which will give us 52 camper cabins and 15 staff cabins. Our business is helping the children of Florida. The business for our Lodges is to find the children to send.

Summer Camp

Week 1 June 19th - 25th 2011
Week 2 26th - July, 2nd
Week 3 July 3rd - 9th
Week 4 10th - 16th
Week 5 17th - 23rd
Week 6 24th - 30th
Week 7 July 31st - Aug. 6th

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

Deadline for the Summer Edition--June 25, 2011

ADDRESS CHANGES

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

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