Florida State Ritual Champions
Bradenton Lodge 1511 wins fifth state title

As this edition of the Florida Elks News goes to print, several hundred Florida Elks have just returned from an interesting week at the Grand Lodge Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

One of the highlights of the Convention was the installation of our newest Grand Exalted Ruler/ National President, David R. Carr from Ticonderoga, New York Lodge 1494. He and his wife, Penny will travel the country this year spreading the word of Elkdom throughout their travels. We will welcome them to Florida at our Quarterly meeting February 9th, 10th and 11th, 2012.

The Legislative Session of the Convention resulted in a number of changes to our Order; they are set forth in this edition, compiled by our Florida Elks News editor, Raleigh Whiteman. Three changes, or actually, a lack of change due to an overwhelming vote, affect our District Deputies: DDS will still go to the Grand Lodge Convention to be sworn in by the Grand Exalted Ruler, and the necessity of the January DD Clinics has been eliminated, as well as the necessity to grade the Ritual performance by Lodge Officers during the DD visitations.

The revision of the Order’s Grand Lodge Committees’ structure was also a significant change and will require a lot of restructuring and appointments at the National and Local levels.

Our newest ‘baby’ Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Mike Smith, presided over the 147th Grand Lodge Session with enthusiasm and dispatch, and the session which most attendees felt would be lengthy and contentious, went extremely smoothly, and thankfully, without rancor. We welcome our third Florida Past Grand Exalted Ruler and his gracious and beautiful wife, Sandra home from a very successful year on the road for Elkdom. The Florida Elks can be extremely proud of Mike and Sandra and the great job they’ve done this past year being ‘loud, proud and visible’ as they promoted Elkdom in every state over the past year. Additionally, Mike was appointed as a co-sponsor in Florida, to lend assistance in several areas, and I look forward to many years of working with Mike in promoting Florida Elkdom and keeping us on the top tier of Elkdom in the United States. Florida is fortunate to join the ranks of California and New York as large Elks states who have had Grand Exalted Rulers/National Presidents in close years of service and as such, have had the privilege of having co-sponsors to help with the workloads that large Elk states generate. Mike and I, as always, will rely on Bob Grafton’s knowledge and past Elk expe...
My fellow members first let me say it is truly an honor and privilege to serve as your President of the Florida State Elks Association for the year 2011 – 2012. I pledge to do my utmost best in representing our great order and assure you that I will uphold the highest standard of those who came before me. I pledge to implement the programs set forth by the Grand Lodge with great passion. We will continue to support our states two major projects: The Florida Elks Therapy Services and The Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Having just completed the 105th Annual State Convention at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in May, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Bradenton #1511 taking 1st place in the State Ritual Contest and congratulations to our own lodge, Warrington #2108 for taking 2nd place.

Congratulations to all lodges and teams that participated, everyone is a winner.

I am very proud of the “Great” Northwest District, and would like to thank Demonstration chairperson Betty Clark, the entire committee and everyone who participated in this memorable event. The Celebrations High School Band and Orchestra were fantastic. Thank you for the many hours of planning, fund raising and support, I sincerely appreciate everything that is and has been done on my behalf.

Linda and I have had the opportunity to travel the last eighteen months throughout our state with PSP Vincent Como and Lisa, along with now PSP Jim Hurst and Julia. It has been an honor and we will always treasure the friendships with great fondness. We are very appreciative of the many courtesies that were extended to Linda and I. Every district was very gracious and a pleasure to visit. We have enjoyed the many visits to museums, some of which we did not know were in our state. Each and every one of them special in their own right. We have made so many new friends and have been afforded the privilege to renew old friendships.

As we begin our “journey”, we welcome VP Sean Maguire and Barbara to the “Action” team. We look forward to making many new and enjoyable memories as we travel throughout the state. We also welcome to the team, Chaplain Danny Tabor and his team and Volunteer Attorney Team.

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My motto this year is “VISION WITH ACTION” – It Depends on You.

It is not my intention to tell you how or what kind of ACTION is needed: that DEPENDS ON YOU. I, along with VP Sean, will always be available to assist each of you in planning your course of ACTION for this next year. It is imperative to the future of our two major projects that each of you closely examine your Lodge’s VISION and put your plan into ACTION. Without a plan of ACTION in place, our VISIONS merely fade, resulting in failure. In order to achieve success for each lodge, we must remain positive with a “CAN DO” attitude. Our VISIONS must be obtainable and our ACTIONS must be pursued and kept on track.

The VISION is demonstrated and supported by the ACTION we take:

自制化 what you want
Take Action and plan your course

Vision with a plan of Action equals excellent results!

We as Elks can take our vision to change the face of how we communicate forever and implement action using new technology, it’s all about change – WE are changing and bringing you with us. EACH of you is a part of this VISION, using technology and positive communication to build our future.

We must continue to focus on two very important aspects:

- Growth in our membership
- Growth in our revenue

In order to accomplish our goals, we must run our membership drives and Elks marketing as a business.

I propose to change the way we do business by introducing Creative Social Media. You are probably asking, why use Social Media? Social Media is going to bring us back to basics. As I indicated at the State Convention, we are rolling out education and tools to you, to enable you to access the social media which can offer “turnkey” solutions that open doors for YOU and YOUR lodge. You will be hearing a lot about Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, just to name a few.

Our success will come from being more imaginative than the next guy, thinking “outside” the normal box and storing a few more tricks up our sleeves. Social media will take time and effort.

Social Media will enable the lodge to communicate with its lapsed members and bring them back home.

Social Media will allow people who are at home and can’t physically come to your lodge, with a means of some special “online” activities so they can be a part of lodge activities, too.

This year alone, 71 percent of those ages 50-64 are already regularly surfing the Web, and 32% of those over 65 are Googling in retirement.

These numbers will surge as Web services and attractions become more tailored to what we as boomers need, want and expect.

Here’s my personal challenge to you: Google your Lodge or the name of one of your community service projects or fund raising activities.

What do you see?
Where do you rank?
What you see is what your prospects are seeing when they consider doing business with you or your lodge.

If you aren’t happy with the story your online presence is telling your membership prospects about your business, FSEA can help.

I have appointed Michael Fogler as Chairman of a new Task Force on Creative Marketing and Social Media. Michael will be working with our Webmaster, Steve Harmon, the entire Action Team and others on this project. In the months ahead, education and tools will be coming to you and your lodge to get the “ball rolling”.

The Florida State Elks Association is funded through the Harry – Anna Trust Fund. In years past, we have set a goal; I too, have a goal: IT DEPENDS ON YOU

The funding comes from each and every one of you. Even though these are very “trying economic” times, it is with
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert, PDD

Thank you, everyone, who attended the annual State Convention at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in May. Our attendance this year was 1,449 Elks and Guests and was eight (8) more attendees than last year’s attendance. Many thanks go to everyone who assisted in making our State Convention another huge success! I would also like to thank Bob Shell, Bill Wellbaum, Jack Sproul, Joe Ortiz, Jim Hurst, and Joe Rogers of the Convention Committee for their support and assistance before, during, and after the convention. Plans are already under way for the 2012 State Convention which will be held once again at the Coronado.

The Grand Lodge Convention was held in Phoenix, Arizona July 18-21. Attending from Florida were over 300 Elks members and their guests. Florida delegates occupied 154 rooms in the Sheraton Downtown Phoenix hotel. The Florida hospitality room was a big hit for Florida delegates and Elks from across the nation. Once again, the Elks of Florida were most generous in volunteering their time to assist in the Florida hospitality room. Finally, a big thank you goes to our hospitality team; without their help and support, the hospitality room and Florida functions would not be nearly as successful. These wonderful volunteers work with me throughout the entire year coming up with the ideas and plans for our functions and I thank them for everything they do! They are Faye & Joe Bryant; Linda & Frank Hayes; Carolyn, Mike, and Ashley Ritchie; Big Joe Rogers; and of course my wife, Kim!

Thanks also go to the many volunteers who manned the Florida Major Projects booths and assisted the FSEA in the sale of Cool Summer Fun Cookbooks. The cookbooks are $12 each or $20 and are available for sale through the FSEA. These items will also be available for purchase at the August Quarterly and the November Midyear Meetings.

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

The fourth annual Florida Elks Day at the Tampa Bay Rays will be held this year on Sunday, September 11, 2011 in Tampa. Last year we had over 450 Elks from across the state in attendance. This year we expect to break the 1,000 mark! Once again the Rays Organization will be making a generous donation ($4.00 per ticket sold) to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and this year our seats have been upgraded from left field to behind home plate! I am told that Tropicana Field is planning a spectacular tribute for the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and there to witness it, as guests of the Elks, will be over 150 firemen, policemen, and paramedics as well as over 60 veterans. Our State President will once again throw out the first pitch and all attendees are asked to wear red, white, & blue! A big thank you goes out to Richard “Jake” Jacobs of the Seminole Lodge who is helping to coordinate the ticket sales and make the event a huge success. For more information, visit our web site at www.flelks.org.

The August Quarterly meetings will be held August 19th and 20th at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. A BBQ dinner will again be held at the Youth Camp on Friday evening for Elks members and their guests. Tickets will not be sold in lieu of donations to help defray the cost of the event. I hope you will consider attending the August Quarterly meetings to learn more about the work of the Florida State Elks Association and our two great major projects.

The Midyear Convention will be held November 10-12 at the St. Petersburg Hilton in St. Pete. The preliminary agenda and reservation information will be posted on our web site in September.

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

FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS

Carol A. Deresh, President

“Building a better world one child at a time”

Dear Ladies of Elks and Elks,

The FLOE meeting at the State Elks Convention started promptly at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday, May 28th. It was the beginning of a very busy day.

Nominating Chairlady, PSP Beverly Messerschmidt presented the slate of officers for the 2011-2012 year. They are: Betty Groff, President; Carol Phelps, Vice President; Becky Long, Treasurer; Jane Moon, Secretary; Felicia Vuletich, 4-year Advisory Board and Carol Deresh, 4-year Advisory Board. At the 9:00 A.M. August 20th meeting of FLOE in Umatilla, nominations will be accepted from the floor, and election of officers will follow immediately thereafter.

Committee reports were given for the September 22nd-September 24th FLOE Conference at the Doubletree Hotel, 4500 West Cypress Street in Tampa. Everyone stated they will be prepared for a rewarding Conference. The packets for the Conference were distributed and reviewed. All Delegates picked up the packets for the Lodges in their respective districts. If you did not receive a packet for your ladies group, please contact me by phone at (239) 543-5693 or email me at galder3580@embarqmail.com, and I will see that you receive the needed documents.

The FLOE Luncheon and Chinese Auction were very successful. The Coronado served a delicious luncheon, and the auction gifts were outstanding. We were honored by the presence of Sandra Smith, the wife of Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Smith. I would be remiss not to thank the following chairpersons who worked to make this happen: Dolores Casella, PSP, Luncheon Tickets and Seating; Kathleen White, SD, SSW, Centerpieces and Judy Fournier, SD, SE, Chinese Auction. And as always, a sincere thank you is extended to State Secretary Carl Seibert and his staff for offering the luncheon tickets on the Elks registration forms. That was truly helpful.

The partnership of the Elks and FLOE in the new fund-raising events of a Silent and a Live Auction was a huge success. It was a lot of work, but was well worth the effort. Preliminary figures stated at the Installation Dinner indicated a profit of $7,000.00 for the Silent Auction and $8,000.00 for the Live Auction. These amounts will make a huge difference in the lives of so many children.

I had the privilege of participating in the Flag Day Ceremonies at Cape Coral 2596. It was a very moving experience. Our flag represents our way of life and the belief in freedom. Long may it wave.

It was a pleasure working with Ladies Chairman Larry Skates this past year, and I welcome the new Ladies Chairman Doug Schwartz. I’m sure he will be a wonderful liaison to the Ladies.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt best wishes to newly installed Florida State President Frank Hayes and his staff of officers and committees. I know that under his leadership, the Elks will continue to grow and prosper. The Ladies of Elks are committed to the support of the Elks Major Projects. We know that only by working together for the Elks Therapy Services and the Elks Youth Camp can we reach our lofty goals. In the end, it is the children of Florida who will benefit from our striving to serve them.

Our joint efforts will truly build a better world one child at a time.
NORTH
Carl Ledig

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North District are honored to present to Florida State Elks, the name of Carl Ledig as the North District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Carl was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1942. He grew up in Port Allen and Baton Rouge, Louisiana and moved to Tallahassee in November 1985. Carl earned his Bachelor of Science in General Studies from LSU in 1970. He worked at Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Company from 1969-1985 and has worked at St. Marks Powder from 1985 to the present. Carl also does Photography and Computer Graphics.

On October 16, 2001 Carl joined the Elks after he was proposed by Kenny Strickland. He was in search of a better watering hole. He has been Chaplain, Loyal Knight, and Leading Knight. He was Exalted Ruler for 2006-2007. He was named Lodge Officer of the Year in 2001-2002 and 2007-2008. He was Lodge Elk of the Year in 2009-2010. He was a Jolly Cork Winner as Loyal Knight. He was Vice Chairman of Interlodge Visitation for 2007-2008, State Chairman of Government Relations for 2007-2008, Vice Chairman of Ritual for 2008-2009, and State Chairman of Ritual for 2009-2010. He served as Vice President of the North District 2010-2011.

Carl has been married to Dolly since December 1962. They have a son, Carl (Rob) Jr., and two daughters, Lisa Ledig Taylor and Claire Ledig Fugler. They have a grandson named Joshua Ian Taylor and a granddaughter named Lily Grace Taylor.

EAST CENTRAL
Roger L. Johnson

The members and Lodges of Florida’s East Central District are honored to present to Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Roger L. Johnson as the East Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Roger was born in Evansville, IN, in 1944. He grew up in Illinois and moved to Miami, FL in 1974 and stayed until 1984. He moved from Texas to Daytona Beach, FL in 2000.

Roger attended two years of college from 1962-1964; he also served six years in the Illinois National Guard from 1965-1971.

He started his career as a Computer Programmer at State Farm Insurance Company. He worked his way up into management over a 25 year period in the IT Department with various sales over the last twenty years and had his own company for five of those years.

In September 2000 he became an Elk; his uncle was an Elk and a PDD and would always take Roger and his wife to Elks events while they visited him on vacation. Roger has been Esquire, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, Trustee, Chairman of the Trustees and the PER Association, Lodge Chairman of Government Relations and Americanism, and District and State Chairman of Americanism. He served as Vice President of the EastCentral District 2009-2010.

Other interests include college sports (baseball and basketball) and he enjoys golf.

He is a President and Coach of Little League Baseball, a Coach of grade school basketball, and Vice President of a Homeowners Association. Roger has been married to Mary Gail Johnson for 44 years. They have two sons. Their elder son, Todd, is a Director for NBC in Los Angeles, CA and their younger son, Tyler, is a General Manager of a Mexican restaurant in Austin, TX.

NORTHEAST
Geoffrey B. “Geoff” Dobson

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northeast District are honored to present to Florida State Elks, the name of Geoffrey B. “Geoff” Dobson as the Northeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.


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


Geoff became an Elk in 1987 after he was invited to apply for membership by Olen W. Meredith. Positions held include Inner Guard, Esquire, Lecturing Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Past Exalted Rulers Association, Chairman of the House Committee, Lodge Organizer, State Chairman of Membership, and member of the Judiciary Committee and served as Vice President of the Northeast District 2010-2011.

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

He has been married to Rebekah Perrow Dobson for 48 years. They have three children. Victoria resides in Chicago, Illinois; Kenneth resides in Portland, Oregon; and Alan resides in Albuquerque, NM. They have two grandchildren.

SOUTH SOUTHEAST
Denise E. May-Carter

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southeast District are honored to present to Florida State Elks, the name of Denise E. May-Carter as the South Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

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

Denise is a Nurse Manager at Broward General Medical Center and has been employed 31 plus years there.

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

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

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

Denise served as Vice President of the South Southeast District 2010-2011.
SOUTHWEST
James “Jim” Lamb

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest District are honored to present to Florida State Elks, the name of James “Jim” Lamb as the Southwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Jim was born in Miami Beach, Florida on June 6, 1943 and grew up in Homestead, Florida. He graduated from South Dade High School in June 1961. He received a two year degree in Science from Miami Dade Junior College. He also took various courses at the Golf Course Superintendent College in Lakeland, Florida.

Jim was in the Air Force from 1961-1981 and retired as a MSgt. Out of the twenty years spent in the Air Force he spent ten years in the Southeast Asia area, three of which were in Vietnam.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1981, he went back to Homestead and enrolled in Miami Dade Junior College. He also worked as Head Mechanic at the largest tomato packing house in the U.S. and installed the first automatic palletizing system that is used in a tomato packing house. After finishing that project he installed the same system in a packing house in Palmetto, Florida. After completion of that project, Jim went to work at Longboat Key Country Club and within a year they sent him to the Golf Course Superintendent College in Lakeland, Florida. After completion of required courses he became the Assistant Superintendent at the Island Side Golf Course and a year later was promoted to Superintendent. After eleven years at Longboat Key Club he became a Charter Captain and ran his own boat for the next six years; he is now retired.

Friends from the VFW introduced Jim to the Elks and a short time later, in November 2000, he joined the Sarasota South Elks Lodge. A month later he became the Lecturing Knight. In 2001-2002 he was the Loyal Knight, Lodge Chairman of Americanism and Veterans’ Services, Boy Scout Liaison, and District Chairman of Americanism and National Foundation Scholarships. In 2002-2003 he was Exalted Ruler, Lodge Chairman of Americanism and National Foundation Scholarships, Boy Scout Liaison, and District Chairman of Veterans’ Services. In 2003-2004 he was elected to the five year Trustee position and was also elected the Chairman of the Trustees. In addition, he was Lodge Chairman of Veterans’ Services, Americanism, and Accident Prevention and was also Boy Scout Liaison and Veterans’ Services District Chairman. In 2004-2005 he was Chairman of the Trustees, Boy Scout Liaison, and Accident Prevention and Veterans’ Services Chairman for both Lodge and District. Also in 2005 he was named Veteran Volunteer of the Year for the state of Florida. In 2005-2006 he was Chairman of the Trustees, Boy Scout Liaison, Lodge Chairman of Accident Prevention, and both Lodge and District Veterans’ Services Chairman. That year his Lodge was entered in the official records of Congress for the work they do for veterans by Congressman Vern Buchanan. In 2007-2008 he was State Vice Chairman of Publicity & Public Relations, Chairman of the Trustees, Boy Scout Liaison, and Lodge Chairman of Accident Prevention, Publicity & Public Relations, and Veterans’ Services. In 2008-2009 he was State Chairman of Publicity & Public Relations and at the Grand Lodge Convention he received the Gold Mike Award. Also he was Chairman of the Trustees, Boy Scout Liaison, Lodge Chairman of Accident Prevention and Veterans’ Services, and both Lodge and District Chairman of Publicity & Public Relations. In 2009-2010 he was Lodge Chairman of Publicity & Public Relations, Boy Scouts Liaison, both Lodge and District Chairman of Veterans’ Services, District Army of Hope Chairman, Esquire to the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, and served as Vice President of the South District for the year 2010-2011.

His Lodge took over TOYS FOR TOTS for Sarasota two years ago and he has been Lodge Chairman and Local Coordinator for TOYS FOR TOTS during this time. This past Christmas they gave out 40,000 toys to 13,856 needy children.

Jim enjoys fishing and boating. He is a member of the American Legion, Vietnam Brotherhood, and VFW. He is a Past Post Commander in Illinois (1977-1978) and also held three district positions before retiring from the Air Force and moving back to Florida. He is still involved in all 3 organizations.

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

NORTH CENTRAL
Michael Mongeluzzo

The members and Lodges of the North Central District are honored to present to the Florida State Elks the name of Michael Mongeluzzo as the North Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Mike was born in Queens N.Y. graduated H.S., than joined the U.S. Navy. He served four years in the Navy and upon completion of his military duty, he went to work for the New York City Transit Authority for two years. He then joined the New York City Fire Department.

After 23 years of service he retired and relocated to Silver Springs, Florida. In January 1994 Mike was initiated as an Elk into Silver Springs Lodge 2730. In April 2001 he demitted to the Ocala Lodge and moved through the chairs becoming the Exalted Ruler in 2006. He was Officer of the Year 2002/2003, 2003/2004. He was All State Inner Guard 2002/2003.


Mike has been married for 17 years to his wonderful wife Joan, and they have 4 children and 10 grandchildren.

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL
William J. “Bill” Orbylch

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast Central District are honored to present to Florida State Elks, the name of William J. “Bill” Orbylch as the Southeast Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

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

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

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

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

As Exalted Ruler, Bill led the purchase and initial build out of Viera’s new Lodge building in March 2006. He achieved Honorary Founder Designation in 2005 and Permanent Benefactor Designation in 2008 from the Elks National Foundation. He served as Vice President of the SEC District 2010-2011.

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

Bill has been married to Ronnie for 36 years. They have one daughter, four sons, and two wonderful granddaughters.
SOUTH
Jeffrey A. Muehlfeld
The members and Lodges of Florida’s South District are honored to present to Florida State Elks, the name of Jeffrey A. Muehlfeld as the South District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

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

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

In April 2001 Jeff was initiated into Miami Elks Lodge #948. He was Exalted Ruler for 2006-2007, State Chairman of Youth Activities for 2008-2009, and District Membership Chairman for 2009-2010. He has also been a House Committee member. Jeff served as Vice President of the South District 2010-2011.

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

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

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

CENTRAL
Robert A. Barry
The members and Lodges of Florida’s Central District are honored to present to Florida State Elks, a the name of Robert A. Barry as the Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Robert was born in Quincy, Massachusetts in 1936 and moved to Florida in 1978. He attended high school in Quincy from 1951-1954. He also attended many FAA schools on Air Traffic Control subjects over 38 years. He served in the Air Force from 1955-1958.

Robert was an Air Traffic Controller in Baltimore, Maryland; Binghamton, New York; Boston, Massachusetts; and Miami, Florida. He was an Air Traffic Control Supervisor in Fort Lauderdale and Orlando, Florida. He was also the Orlando Facility Manager for the Kissimmee Control Tower until his retirement in 2001.

His father had told him of some great times he had at the Quincy, Massachusetts Elks Lodge so when he became settled in his job in Binghamton, New York, he joined Binghamton Lodge #852 on March 26, 1965.


Robert served as Vice President of the South District 2010-2011.

In addition to Elks activities, Robert has volunteered at Give Kids the World from 2000 to the present.

Robert has been married to Fran for 27 years; it is the second marriage for both of them. He has one son, Mike, and two daughters, Cindy and Debbie. Fran has two sons, Greg and Chris.

SOUTHWEST CENTRAL
Linda Bailey
The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest Central District are honored to present to Florida State Elks, the name of Linda Bailey as the Southwest Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Linda was born in Ronkonkoma, New York and grew up there. She moved to Florida in 1973. She graduated from high school in 1965 and attended the Gold Coast School of Court Reporting from 1976-1979.

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

In 1993 Linda married Joseph Bailey, an Elk from Riverhead, New York, who sponsored her in 1996 at Lake Wales Lodge #1974. From 1996-1997 she was Inner Guard and Lodge Treasurer, from 1997-1998 she was Loyal Knight, from 1998-1999 she was Leading Knight, and from 2000-2001 she was Exalted Ruler. She was President of the PER Association from 2001-2002 and was also District Chairman of Elks Training. From 2002-2003 she was Vice Chairman of Resolutions and from 2003-2004 she was Chairman of Resolutions. She was the District Auditor from 2004-2005. Since 2006 she has been the Lodge Chairman of both the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and Elks National Foundation Certificates. She is also serving as the 2009-2010 District Chairman of Government Relations, and served as SWC Vice President 2010-2011.

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

NORTHWEST
Phil Finder
The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northwest District are honored to present to Florida State Elks, the name of Phil Finder as the Northwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Phil was born in Campbell, Missouri and moved to Florida in 1996.

He received his Associate of Science degree in 1978 from State Technical Institute at Memphis. He also received his Associate of Engineering degree there in 1980. In 1985 he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Illinois University. In 1986 he earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Memphis. In 1988 at the University of Arkansas he received his Master of Science degree.

Phil joined the Navy at the age of seventeen and retired after twenty years of service. He was also an Associate Professor/Program Chairman at a small, junior college in Southwest Tennessee and a Technical Writer for Federal Express. In addition to these positions, Phil has also performed civil service for the Navy as a Training Specialist, Education Specialist, and Instructional System Specialist.

In 1999 Phil joined the Elks at the urging of friends who were also Elks and has been very active. He has been Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, and Lodge Trustee. He has been a member and/or Lodge or District Chairman of twenty-three different committees. He has been Secretary for the Board of Trustees, Secretary/Treasurer of the Lodge’s PER Association, President of the Lodge’s PER Association, Vice President of the District PER Association, and President of the District PER Association. He has served as the Lodge’s Two Year and One Year Member of the Major Projects Committee and has served as State Chairman of ENF Certificates. He is a Certified Word Accuracy Judge and has received first approval in the two step process to become a Floor Judge. In 2008-2009 he was named Officer of the Year and received the Elks National Veterans Service Commission Veterans Volunteer Award.

Phil served as Vice President of the Northwest district 2010-2011.

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

Phil is a widower; he has two children. He has a son and daughter-in-law living in Orlando, Florida and a daughter, son-in-law (Marine), and three grandchildren living in Japan.
DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND EXALTED RULERS
INSTALLED AT THE GRAND LODGE CONVENTION IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

WEST CENTRAL
Kenneth B. Yagoda

The members and Lodges of Florida’s West Central District are honored to present to Florida State Elks, Florida the name of Kenneth B. Yagoda as the West Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTHEAST
Bruce H. Cook

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast District are honored to present to Florida State Elks, Florida the name of Bruce H. Cook as the Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

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

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

Bruce became an Elk in 1988 at East Brunswick Lodge #2370 after being sponsored by his father-in-law. He immediately voted in as Lodge Treasurer and then progressed through the officer chairs in elected and also appointed positions. In addition, Bruce served in many other capacities including Lodge and District Chairman of Elks National Foundation Certificates, Community Activities, Veterans’ Services, Convention, Parades, and Americanism. His other contributions included various fundraising efforts, Flag Day,

Flag Retirement, and Ritual competition. His local Lodge service culminated in serving as Exalted Ruler during the 1995-1996 Lodge year. Bruce was also a member of the Board of Trustees in the East Brunswick Lodge and a member of the Lodge PER Association. After moving to Florida, Bruce became an Associate Member of West Palm Beach Lodge #1352 until he demitted from his New Jersey Lodge to the West Palm Beach Lodge in 2006 as a Past Exalted Ruler. Bruce served the Lodge as Chaplain in 2007-2009 and as a member of the Board of Trustees in 2009. He has served his Lodge as District Chairman of Harry-Anna Trust Fund and Americanism and has been Liaison to local Boy Scout Troop #199 from West Palm Beach.

On the state level, Bruce served as State Vice Chairman of Americanism in 2008-2009 and the following year as State Chairman of the Americanism Committee. He was selected as the Endorsed Southeast District Vice President at the Southeast District Advisory Council (SEDAC) meeting January 16, 2010 at the Jupiter, Florida Lodge #2469. Bruce was Vice President for the year 2010-2011.

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

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

SOUTH SOUTHWEST
Phil Gersbach

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southwest District are honored to present to Florida State Elks, the name of Phil Gersbach as the South Southwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

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

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

In 2002 Phil was initiated as an Elk; he joined after gaining exposure to Lodge members. He has been Chaplain, Treasurer, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler two times, House Chairman, and Chairman of Trustees. He has also been District Chairman of Community Activities, Indoctri nation, and Interlodge Visitation. He was South Regional Chairman of Hoop Shoot. He has been President of the Fort Myers PER Association. He was also the 2009 District Deputy Esquire. At present he is a Special Representative appointed by the Grand Lodge to Rotonda Lodge #2710. He served as Vice President of the SSW District 2010-2011.

Phil is a Life Member of the NRA and the Fraternal Order of Police. He has been married to Susan for 15 years.
The Florida State Elks Association has completed another successful year with our Army of Hope program. This program was created to support the families of our brave military men and women who are deployed to, or in support of, actions in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also supports those from Florida who have been deployed and need assistance after their return for financial or medical expenditures not covered by government programs.

From July 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011 the Army of Hope has distributed nearly $40,000.00 for requests from those eligible for aid. Three requests came from the SSE District; two each from the NW and SSW Districts; and one each from the WC and S Districts. Assistance rendered has been for such items as day care assistance; furniture replacement; appliance repair or replacement; house repairs; assistance with past due bills; and Christmas gifts for children of deployed personnel. Our largest expense goes to bring the children of deployed personnel to our fantastic FSEA Youth Camp for a week at the end of the camping season. This is perhaps our most rewarding expense as it gives the children an opportunity to enjoy time with their peers and perhaps forget for a short time the tension they feel from their loved one being gone and in constant danger. We are pleased to join with the Florida National Guard and our wonderful camp staff in this effort.

We can only accomplish these things by your support for the Army of Hope. Through your picnics and other fund raising events you make it possible to support these families throughout the year. As you can see the cost is expensive. However, those we support are placing their life on the line for our freedom. What are you willing to give? With your help we can do more next year.

We now have an Army of Hope Committeeman is thirteen of our fourteen Districts. Please utilize them in any questions you may have and support for your fundraisers. You can find their information on the FSEA web page, www.floridaelks.org under Army of Hope.

Thank you on behalf of those we serve for your generous donations and time you give on behalf of those in need of our support.

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**The Northwest District Elks Enhanced Drug Awareness Trailer**

Embroided on both sides with the flowing American Flag and displaying all of our programs; Veterans, Army of Hope, Youth Activities, Hoop Shoot, College Scholarships, Drug Awareness, Florida Elks Youth Camp, and Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services.

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**PGER Val Bates continued from page 1**

riences to help us forge forward into the new millennium. Our goals are to keep the Florida State Elks Association as a leader in accomplishments and service to our Order and to our Country.

Mike, Bob and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Youth Camp for the Florida Quarterly meeting on August 18-20, 2011. Come and welcome our special guests, Southeast Regional Hoop Shoot Director, Bill Cook and his wife, Bilye from Dalton, Georgia. Bill will be presenting a ‘hands-on’ clinic in our Gymnasium for all interested in becoming more effective with Lodge Hoop Shoot competitions in your communities.

We’ll have the ‘unveiling’ of the newest cabins at the Youth Camp; Camp Director, Lynn Warburton and his staff made great strides in hosting many more children this year at Camp – and still managed to make the Youth Camp be the crown jewel of Youth Camps in this country. Come see what the hard work of so many dedicated and enthusiastic Florida Elks has accomplished, yet again – you’ll be as proud as I am!

Our newest District Deputies Grand Exalted Ruler were sworn into office on Thursday and “Super Deputy” Special Representative, Doris Waddel and I look forward to working with them as we kick off a new DD year – one that will ensure that Florida Elkdom retains its rightful place as the greatest State Association in the country.

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**COOKOUT FOR THE THERAPISTs**

*Former Board Presidents*

*Celebrate 10 years cooking for FECTS Therapists*

PDDGERs Brian Burns and Keith Keene once again were at the Florida Elks Youth Camp to cook a special meal for our therapists during their annual in-service.

Brian has been doing it for 10 years with different members helping. Keith has been helping Brian for several years now and this year Arcadia Lodge Secretary, Nancy Higginbotham joined the team.

Burns states, “We cook a very special ‘Grill Meal’ for all in attendance, but the highlight, especially for the therapists, is the grill side snacks. Most years we have ribs, gator, venison, portabellas, sausage, and liquid refreshments.”

Brian and Keith both agree that they not only feel closer to our therapists, they have gotten to know them in a different way and have gained many longtime friends. They both say they have the utmost respect for what each of our therapists do both as part of their job and the dedication they show beyond their workdays with their many outside projects dedicated to children.

“I hope we will be able to do this for many years to come,” said Brian. “It costs the Elks nothing and we enjoy it more every year.”

Brian Burns is a past president of Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, and Keith Keene is a past president of Florida Elks Youth Camp.

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**Arcadia Lodge Secretary, Nancy Higginbotham, left, and PDD Brian Burn, right, are ready to serve one of the therapists a barbecue lunch.**

Don’t Miss the Chance to Enjoy Life at Your Elks Retirement Community

We have vacancies for single occupancy at the Elks National Home. These are all private rooms with bath. They are fully furnished and the monthly fee includes three meals a day, housekeeping, laundry, and utilities (except telephone and cable TV). One free haircut a month is even included! All these rooms are accessible by elevator.

Don’t wait! Call or write today for more information. Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523 - enhome@elkshome.org - 1-800-552-4140.

More information and photos are also on our website at www.elkshome.org.

PS - At this writing, we also have limited apartment vacancies. Contact us now. These usually rent quickly.
The South Southwest Elks District has accumulated 23,000 minutes of phone talk time for our armed forces overseas. Our District Deputy Carl Gerace out of the Port Charlotte Lodge has stated that the collection started 12 months ago and has been very successful and he thanks all Elks who donated their phones and their time to this needed program. The SSW Elks District will continue with this endeavor for as long as it is needed and we hope that the public will join us with their donations. Phones can be dropped off at any of these Elk Lodges, Port Charlotte, Deep Creek, Punta Gorda, Fort Myers, North Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Englewood, Bonita Springs/Estero, Rotunda, Pine Island, Lehigh Acres and Naples.

Any Elk interested in submitting a soldiers name so that he or she would be able to call home from overseas, please go to “cellphoneforsoldiers” web site and fill out an application with our source ID Number 18070 or call 734 205 2271.

Cape Coral Lodge 2596

The gentlemen Elks were dressed in white dinner jackets and made quite an impression on ladies they visited. The Past Exalted Rulers Association spearheads this very worthwhile function each year. Ladies in the Lodge and several members of the Englewood Does #203 prepare the silk bouquets, attach a card and place them in baskets ready for delivery. This year over 260 flowers were given to mothers. After the flower delivery, the Mother’s Day service was held followed by dinner.

On Wednesday, May 11 Englewood Elks hosted a luncheon honoring the Students of Month, Students of Year and Scholarship Winners from the senior class at Lemon Bay High School, their parents, school officials, etc... Englewood Lodge has been the sponsor of the Student of the Month program at the high school for many years. Students of the Month (one boy; one girl) are chosen by school officials for the months of September through April. The Students of the Year, again one boy and one girl, are also chosen by school officials. At the luncheon, Scholarship Committee Chairman, Gene Tillis introduced the winners and Exalted Ruler, Don Gordon presented each one with a check for $100. The two Students of the Year were presented with an additional check for $300. Also introduced were the graduating seniors awarded Englewood Elk scholarships at a ceremony held at Lemon Bay High School the previous night. These awards totaled $20,000 - two $8,000 scholarships and four $1,000 scholarships. Englewood Lodge has been awarding $20,000 worth of scholarships for many years.

On May 14 the Lodge sponsored a “Kid’s Day” picnic which included the following activities: bounce house, basketball shoot, horseshoes, pony rides, a fire engine and platform wagon, and a dunk tank where area children had the opportunity to dunk Exalted Ruler, Don Gordon. The Sheriff’s Office was represented to register bikes and discuss safety. The local Masonic Lodge was on site with their “Children I.D.” program. Also on site was the Drug Awareness trailer complete with “Elorey”. Hot Dogs, lemonade, water and ice cream were served. All food and activities were free. While “Kid’s Day” activities were going on outside, inside the Lodge a local physician was giving the necessary physicals to children going to the FSEA Youth Camp. Dr. Millares volunteered his time and completed seventy plus physicals.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763

Deep Creek held a Veterans Benefit Dinner/Dance at the Lodge which was carried out by all. All services were donated and the monies went to the Jacobson Veterans Home in Port Charlotte for their Activity Fund. The vets had a great time and were also visited by Robert Otis Buck nicknamed “Willie Gillis” by Norman Rockwell who used him as a model for 11 paintings that he did for the Saturday Evening Post and everyone was entertained with the visit and recitation by Willie.

A check was presented to Joan Jacobson by Len Wenzel ER for $500. It was Deep Creeks first outing in this area so we consider it a success and many more to come, Deep Creek also has been welcoming the vets in the Lodge once a month for lunch and Bingo for about 2 years running.

Any Elk interested in submitting a soldiers name so that he or she would be able to call home from overseas, please go to “cellphoneforsoldiers” web site and fill out an application with our source ID Number 18070 or call 734 205 2271.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

Members of the Port Charlotte Elks delivered a 42” Hi Def TV to the Jacobson Veterans Home, including a DVD player and a UPS backup.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

The Punta Gorda Elks Lodge held its annual Drug Awareness Poster and Essays Contest Picnic. The Sallie Jones Elementary School fourth grade class of 122 students participated in the contest. Four posters and four essays were selected. The entire class enjoyed a day at the Lodge which had a bounce house, obstacle course and other games for the students. Hot dogs, ice cream and drinks were provided and served by 15 volunteer Elks.

On Tuesday June 14, Punta Gorda Elks along with the Elkettes and Boy Scout Troop 351 conducted the Flag Day Ritual at Center Court of Fishermans Village, a local tourist and shopping area in downtown Punta Gorda. Also participating were the Punta Gorda Police Honor Guard and the Mayor and Vice Mayor.

The Lodge held its Fifth Annual Kids Fishing Tournament on Saturday June 18th. 62 kids registered and many caught fist. Local business contributed supplies, prizes and assistance for the event. Every fisherman received a prize as well as Drug Awareness literature and “Just Say No to Drugs” promotional items. The first fish caught was a “Ray”, caught by a 4 year old and the second a “Yellow Tail” caught by a 3 year old. The kids and family members all had fun.
**Eustis Lodge 1578**
Eustis Elks Lodge 1578 held an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the Children’s Therapy Service, Therapist Diane Norton and grandchildren of Eustis Elks. The Lodge provided lunch for all the children and their families and the Anna Miller Ladies Circle of the Lodge provided home made desserts and several different children activities for the children in addition to the egg hunt.

**Kissimmee Lodge 1873**
Pictured L - R are Karina Juarbes, grade 4, Debbie Sykes, Elks Lodge Officer and Duane Rawlins, grade 5 from Central Avenue School, in Kissimmee.
Karina and Duane will be attending the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Many other Florida students will be guests of the camp for one week without cost to their parents.

**Brooksville Lodge 2582**
Pictured is student Heliays Vazquez in front; L to R behind her are: George Martins, Carlos Martins, co-owners of Spring Hill Lanes; Brian Blatt Superintendent of Schools; and ER Tony Arbortanza.
Brooksville Lodge held the Annual Turn Around Banquet on April 26, 2011. Twenty-five students who have turned their lives around were honored. These students had started with poor grades, bad attitudes, and behavior problems, have turned their lives around and several made the honor roll. One said he did it for his Dad, who passed away last year, and another said they were proud of themselves and glad for making their parents and teachers proud, also.

**Orlando Lodge 1079**
Orlando Lodge hosted a bingo game for the Russel Home for Atypical Children in Orlando. Over a dozen Lodge Members helped run the event which raised nearly $1,300 for the home. More than 130 players participated and they also brought in 246 food items for the home, which receives no government assistance.

**Aripeka Lodge 2520**
Richard Postera, PER presented Spencer Grilli, Isabella Wernert, Andre Timmins with Campership certificates to attend the Florida Elks Youth Camp for a week of fun.

**Kissimmee Lodge 1873**
Reporter: Nancy G. Wanke
nwanke@cfl.rr.com

**North Central District**
**Ocala Lodge 286**
Ocala Lodge sponsored Cody Bettinger-LaFleur (14) of Troop 380, as a candidate for Eagle Scout, in his community service project which will help Lodge members offer aid to families of Florida soldiers.

**Lady Lake Lodge 2793**
The Lodge celebrated Flag Day with Lady Lake American Legion Memorial Post 347, the 2nd largest Post in the United States and in the world. The celebration held just outside of the front doors of Post 347 by Commander Johnny Gibbons along with other designated officers of Post 347 and Honor Guard members. The Boy Scouts of Troop 244 assisted with the Flag Burning of our soiled flags. Upon Completion of the American Legion part of Flag Day celebration the members of the two organization’s moved inside for the history of America’s Flags by Exalted Ruler Dieter Wuennenberg. Upon the completion of the different flags of our United Nation the American Legion Memorial Post 347 honor guard folded a fifty star flag for the members to view its folding followed by coffee and cake for the members and guests in attendance.

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The Florida State Elks Association held its 105th Convention at the beautiful Disney Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida on May 26-29, 2011.

The final Credentials Committee report had 1,254 Elks and guests in attendance.

Due to a change in itinerary, Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Smith and his wife Sandra were able to attend their Florida States’ 105th Convention along with Florida State Co-Sponsors, Past Grand Exalted Rulers Robert Grafton and C. Valentine Bates and his special guest, Georgia Grand Lodge Government Relations Member Charles Hendricks from Midway, GA.

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

The goal of the Elks National Foundation of $4.50 per-capita was surpassed with total statewide donations of $509,643.83 or $6,903 per capita. Twelve of the 14 districts met the goal and 107 of the 108 Lodges participated in making ENF contributions.

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The State President’s fundraising goal for our Major Projects of one million dollars was a bit short with $885,482 raised for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

The Grand Exalted Ruler’s goal of one new member per Lodge was not met; Florida State Elks had a loss of 2,009 members for a total of 61,458. Three new Lodges were formed for a gain of more than 500 new members and 31 lodges had a positive gain.

Sebring Lodge 1529 Annual FSEA Golf Tournament raised $13,500 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Deland Lodge #1463 held a Softball Tournament that brought in $8,000, for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Bradenton Lodge 1511 represented Florida at the Grand Lodge Convention in Phoenix, AZ in the National Ritual Contest.

The Veterans’ Male Volunteer of the Year award was awarded to Edward Gallaga from Warrington Lodge 2108. The Veterans’ Female Volunteer of the Year award was awarded to Janet Warren from Ocala Lodge 286.

The Florida State Elks Association President for the 2011-2012 year is Frank Hayes from Warrington Lodge 2108. He is a Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Northwest District and a Past President of the Wills and Bequests, and Past District Director of the Northwest District.

The State Secretary is Carl Seibert, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Eustis Lodge 1578. The Treasurer is Joe Bryant, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Sebring Lodge 1529. The State Tiler is Michael W. Warren, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Pensacola Beach Lodge 497. The State Historian is Lowell Tyler, PER of West Palm Beach Lodge 1352. The State Chaplain is Danny Tabor, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Bradenton Lodge 1511.

The District Vice-Presidents installed for the year are; NW, William White; N, Leroy Nicols; NE, Ron L. Snow; NC, Donald C. Diamant, Sr.; EC, Lawrence P. Skates; C, Joseph E. Morrow; SEC, Charles M. DeLauder; WC, Steve Harmon; SW, Lucrecia A. Smith; SWC, James E. Mason; SSW, Tyrone L. MacKenzie; SE, Theodore R. Olsen; SSE, Francis M. Thomason; S Donald Queralto.

Disney Coronado Springs Resort will be the location of the next Florida State Convention, May 24-27, 2012.

RITUAL CONTEST RESULTS

Team scores:
Bradenton - 96.3687
Warrington - 95.7640
St. Augustine - 95.2820
Ft. Pierce - 94.5753
Miami - 94.2191
St. Pete - 93.7207
Tallahassee - 93.6780
Ocala - 93.1797

All-state Individuals:
Exalted Ruler - Jeff Mitchell, Bradenton
Leading - Kay McCracken, Bradenton
Loyal - Robert Pate, Bradenton (Jolly Cork)
Lecturing - Joseph Rossi, Warrington
Esquire - David Manning, Bradenton
Chaplain - Ron Simpson, Miami
IG - Elizabeth Andricks, Bradenton
Candidate - Michael Carter, Bradenton
Coaches - Lou Horvath & Bob Ervin, Bradenton
11 O’clock Toast - Tracey Austin, Tallahassee
The Deland Elks Lodge 1463 again hosted the Florida Elks State Softball Tournament the weekend of April 29, 30 & May 1, 2011. For 18 years this tournament has benefited the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

This tournament was another success for the children of Florida.

The Founder, ECD PDD, Phil Watercutter’s basic idea behind this function was to get younger members into our organization, bring camaraderie to the members and support the youth camp. In the past 18 years, we as Elks feel we have accomplished all of this.

This year’s tournament was attended by PGER Val & Claudia Bates, President Jim & Julia Hurst, VPAL Designate Sean & Barbara Maguire, Peggy McClellan, PSP Charlie & Mary Ann Trinowski, Florida Elks Secretary Carl Seibert, VPAL Designate Sean & Barbara Maguire.

In 18 years, the Florida State Elks Softball Tournament has raised over $180,000, and this year was no exception. We raised $8,000, all of which is going to the Youth Camp. In the past 18 years, we as Elks feel we have accomplished all of this.

This year’s tournament was attended by PGER Val & Claudia Bates, President Jim & Julia Hurst, VPAL Designate Sean & Barbara Maguire.

In 18 years, the Florida State Elks Softball Tournament has raised over $180,000, and this year was no exception. We raised $8,000, all of which is going to the Youth Camp in the name of the winning Lodges. In the 18 tournament we have raised $126,628 for the FEYC. There have been over 12,750 participants playing in the tournament as well as fans cheering on their lodges and attendance in the 18 tournaments has exceeded 20,000 people this year we had 647 in attendance. With all the sincere interest displayed from the lodges that participated this year, we are looking for an even bigger and better 19th Annual Florida State Elks Tournament in 2012.

This year there were 21 teams from 13 different lodges. Delray Beach, Fort Pierce the West Central District, Jacksonville, Winter Garden, Tarpon Springs, Brandon, Ormond Beach, Cocoa, St. Petersburg, Merritt Island, Deep Creek and DeLand. These teams raise money and plan all year for this great weekend. They bring food and stay for the weekend. A new team appeared this year from Jacksonville Lodge 221 and they said they would be back. I want to thank Tim Alkire for getting the team together with the help of our State President Jim Hurst.

Again, Phil worked with the Volusia County Teen Court Program in DeLand with 24 kids working off community service hours. These kids worked a total of 432 hours. Their jobs during the tournament are working with the softball committee to keep the park clean, chasing softballs during the Home Run Derby Contest and in the concession stand, anything to help out.

**A DIVISION**

First Place: Deland 1463 $2,000
Second Place: Brandon 2383 $1,040
Third Place: Winter Garden 2165 $480

**B DIVISION**

First Place: Ft. Pierce 1520 $2,400
Second Place: Tarpon Springs 1719 $2,000
Third Place: Ft. Pierce 1520 $480

**OVER 50 DIVISION**

First Place: Delray Beach 1770 $2,400

**COMRADIERY AWARD**

Jacksonville 221 $240

**HOSPITALITY AWARD**

DeLand 1463 $240

Home Run winners below
Chad Durick - Ft Pierce 1520, Left
Bill Price from Plant City 1727, Right

We also sent the extra food to the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia and the DeLand Fire Department.

Founder and Co-Chairman Phil Watercutter, Co-Chairman Joe Rogers, and the Softball Committee want to thank the 21 teams, and all the Sponsors, and all that attended making this another winning year for the Florida Elks Youth Camp. We also want to thank the many volunteers that supported the tournament with the many hours, miles traveled, and donations in making this tournament another success.

Mark your calendars now we would love to have 25 to 30 teams in next year’s tournament the last weekend in April, 27 – 29, 2012. We would like for each lodge to advertise this event at their lodge, get a team together, publish the announcement in your lodge bulletin so people know, put the posters up in the lodge when they arrive and make sure that the right person in your lodge gets the information on the tournament and will take advantage of this opportunity.

Plan on attending, it’s the greatest weekend for the Elks and their families.

No Suits, No ties, just a very casual weekend.
This is a great weekend for the family.

The payout will go to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in the name of these lodges.
While there were 36 resolutions voted upon during the Grand Lodge Legislative session the full summary should be provided and posted by your Exalted Ruler.

The following is a brief summary of some of the more interesting resolutions results of the voting:

- 2011-1: Lodge Officers will continue to be required to memorize the ritual;
- 2011-2: Lodges may use other forms of the Ritual if approved by the Grand Lodge;
- 2011-3: Lodges may post rather than mail new applications for membership to speed up the process;
- 2011-5: Recruiters can be rewarded if the new member remains a member for at least a year;
- 2011-6: The Order will delete references to the Communist Party by refusing membership to anyone belonging to an organization advocating the violent overthrow of the government;
- 2011-7&8: Grand Lodge will consolidate and restructure Community Project:Public Relations-Youth Activities into the Activities Committee; and the Fraternal Committee will support and Promote Americanism-Elks National Foundation-Flag Day-Elks Memorial Day-Membership and Lodge Activities/State Associations;
- 2011-9: A new section of laws is added to provide for reorganization of other organizations; Lodges will also consolidate their committees accordingly;
- 2011-10: Lodges of the Order will now be referred to as the Local Lodges instead of Subordinate Lodges;
- 2011-11: District Deputy Clinics will continue to be held in December or January;
- 2011-12: Travel by air will be reimbursed only for coach fare plus applicable per diem;
- 2011-13: District Deputies are still be required to attend Grand Lodge sessions;
- 2011-14: District Deputies will no longer witness or grade the Lodges performance of the Ritual;
- 2011-15: Renaming Grand Lodge to National Lodge was defeated;
- 2011-16: None of the positions of Grand Lodge Officers will be eliminated and the methods of selecting the Grand Exalted Ruler remains the same;
- 2011-19&20&21: Lodges are still required to hold at least semi-monthly meetings;
- 2011-22: Lodges will not be permitted to allow certain parts of the Lodge to remain open during Lodge meeting;
- 2011-23: Distribution of the Assets of a defunct Lodge have some flexibility;
- 2011-27&28: District Deputies after amending their by-laws are permitted to recognize other organizations;
- 2011-30: Use of a uniform master Lodge Auditing and Accounting program was defeated;
- 2011-31: The State Sponsor may waive the requirement for an audit;
- 2011-31: Incorporated Lodges shall have a Board of Directors made up of the Chair Officers and the Trustees and be vested with the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees.

Future Grand Lodge Conventions will be held:
July 1-5, 2012 Austin, TX---July 14-18, 2013 Reno, NV---July 13-17, 2014 New Orleans, LA---July 4-9, 2015 Indianapolis, PA---July 3-7, 2016 Houston, TX---July 16-20, 2017 Reno, NV

President continued from page 2

Each of you and your unselfish acts and contributions that continue to support our programs. With your generous donations, the Harry – Anna Trust Fund will continue to flourish.

Due to the timing of Grand Lodge this year, as of this writing, Linda and I made our first official visitation on June 10-11. We are privileged to be accompanied by VPAL Sean Maguire and wife, Barbara this year and are looking forward to a great year. We cannot begin to thank our host, Central District Vice President Joe Morrow and wife, Mary Kay enough for a wonderful weekend. After our arrival Friday afternoon, we were treated to dinner and entertainment at Aripeka #2520, the food was superb. Saturday’s events included a round of golf and lunch at the Silverthorn Country Club for the men. What a fantastic day of fun and fellowship. Mary Kay took the ladies for a tour of Historic Dade City and shopping along with a wonderful lunch at “Lunch on Limoges” enjoyed by all.

Saturday evening’s reception and dinner at Brooksville #2582 was very impressive. The dinner was excellent along with the music provided. A good crowd was in attendance, we were able to visit with friends and members before the evening was over. Joe, Mary Kay and the entire Central District did an outstanding job, we are so appreciative.

In closing, please continue to keep in your prayers our troops, our veterans, those less fortunate and suffering.

God Bless America, God Bless our Troops, and God Bless You
Charles DeLauder was born in Hagerstown, Maryland in 1942. He has been employed in Production and Inventory Control all of his working life. He retired from Mack Trucks Inc as Materials Team Leader after 28 years of service in 2003. Charles served many years as a Volunteer Firefighter and continued volunteer service as an Emergency Medical Technician in his community.

After retirement Charles and his wife Mary moved to Florida and live in Sebastian. They have a combined family of 4 children and 8 grandchildren. Charles joined the Elks in March 2005 after being invited to visit the Lodge and soon became an active and dedicated member in his Lodge and to Elksdom. He has not only served as an Officer since he has been a member but as a cook, bartender, lawn maintenance provider, and event planner and because of his dedication he was named Officer of the Year 2005/2006 and 2010/2011. Charles served the Sebastian Lodge as Inner Guard, Loyal Knight, Esteemed Leading Knight, and in 2009-2010 he

West St. Lucie Lodge 2823
The Lodge celebrated Mother’s Day and Flag Day, with a number of attendees at both events.

The Memorial Day Picnic was a total success thanks to the hard working volunteers of the Lodge.

Exalted Ruler Ron Kruse was presented with a plaque from Nate Spera, President of the Boys and Girls Club, in gratitude for the 18 Youth Camp applications. The Lodge will be partnering with the Boys and Girls Club for the Hoop Shoot, the Soccer Shoot, and Drug Awareness.

The Lodge has started having Bingo on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 2PM, as well as on Tuesday evenings at 7PM, with lite bite served from 5 to 7PM.

Our Veterans Committee is holding a Night at the Races on October 1. We are working very hard on building our membership and getting the new members involved in the workings of the Lodge.

Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870
In April, an ER Ball for PER Suzi Simonelli and her husband Joey was held. The Lodge held another comedy night with Comedian/Hypnotist Rich Alexander. In May, we had a Kentucky Derby and Prom Night theme parties. At the end of the month, a group headed to the FSEA 105th State Convention. Upon return, a Memorial Day picnic was held where we paid tribute to our Military, had a bake sale and a Chinese auction. The Lodge hosted a luncheon for wheelchair Veterans from the VA Hospital. They had some of Suzi’s meat loaf, played bingo, and were given gifts.

Charles DeLauder, District Vice President Southeast Central District

The object was to bring the flyer with you and Chili’s attached flag to your table, make introductions and picked up their lunch tab. It was only $50 but you would have thought they had been given the world.

Tampa Lodge 708
On May 22, the Lodge held a Disaster Readiness Training session for hurricane season conducted by member Debbie Palladini, Certified Emergency Manager. This was done as a community service project and open to the public.

On Monday, May 30, the Lodge joined with American Legion Post 5 in Tampa to honor Memorial Day. Eighteen wreaths were placed on gravesites at the post’s Military Services Memorial Gardens. Frank Palladini, PSP, was the keynote speaker and gave an impassioned speech about “Giving Your All”. He praised all the West Central District Lodges for supporting returning military and homeless veterans.

On Sunday June 12, the Lodge observed Flag Day and Flag Day retirement service with solemn dignity. An Air Force JROTC Color Guard from H.B. Plant High School performed flawlessly, and then joined a member of the Boy Scout Troop 53 in conducting the retirement of the flags.

Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719
The Lodge recently hosted its’ annual Law and Order Night to honor members of police and fire departments, teachers and volunteers. The dinner and awards ceremony was attended by over 200 members and guests.

The Lodge also presented six local high school seniors with scholarships of $500 each.
Deland Lodge 1463

County Honor Air members meeting in support of sending World War II veterans and their guardians to Washington, DC. Guest speaker and chairman of Flight #7, was Morgan Gilbreath.

Parents and kids from the community enjoyed a fun day at Bill Dreggors Park for the annual Easter egg hunt.

Members and guests recently got together to enjoy a Mardi Gras party to help raise money to send children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

East Central PER Association Golf Tournament

There were 68 players who signed up for the day’s event. Both men and women, including 10 helpers, came out to enjoy a day of golf. All the golfers were invited back to Port Orange Lodge, where Exalted Ruler Angelo Cretalla and House Committee Chairman Ed Jackson, PER, provided the golfers with a delicious lunch and refreshments. An awards presentation followed the luncheon.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650

Lodge PER Nick Skibba held the annual kids fishing tournament. This year 40 kids participated in a fun filled day. Member Mike Osterloh donated the funds for the bait was provided by Ed's Bait House and Healthy Start Coalition of Brevard took care of sun-screen for everyone. Prizes were awarded to kids in the age groups of 2-7, 8-12.

Members from Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach High School dropped by for a visit and for some fun. The organizing of the group held a 50/50 raffle and donated the proceeds to help defray the Lodge’s kitchen expenses.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

The Lodge provided extensive news coverage for this year’s Hoop Shoot winner, nine year old Samantha Roberts. She shot 9 out of 10 in her first round. In the second round of fifteen shots, Samantha shot ten in a row, finishing with her best score 21 out of 25. Samantha hit the line in a high pressure stakes shoot off for second and third place. Her outstanding performance of 4 out of 5 shots fell short of winning first place. She received a third place trophy in our National regional competition.

Lodge Scholarship Chairman, Erika Barger and Exalted Ruler Tom Alexon presented each of the Sea breeze High School seniors, Helen Chen, Mary Weedon and Zarisa Austin with a $1,500 scholarship at their annual award ceremony.

Exalted Ruler Tom Alexon presented Tom Miller with an ENF Honorary Founder certificate for donating $1,000 to further the mission and ideals of the foundation. His continued support has help build a strong community of programs for the youth, scholarships and veterans.

Titusville Lodge 2113

The Lodge honored the winner of the Drug Awareness essay contest, Caleb Mooreland, a 7th grader from Jackson Middle School. Caleb was presented with a $100 check and a certificate for his entry.

As part of the Elks National Youth Week, Lodge Youth Activities Chairman, Deanna Wiggin, PER, and member Tanya Anderson, recently held a fishing tournament for boys and girls in the community. Parents of the winners and runner ups cheered them on. All the kids were given prizes. The event took place at the mainland side of the Indian River Bridge. Winners of the fishing tournament were Kallen Pineiro (1st), Preston Pineiro (2nd) and Samuel Dandridge (3rd).

A Sock Hop to Bowl was held to support the Brevard County High School bowling program. Through generous donations, several thousands of dollars were raised for the kids in the community to begin the new program at area local schools.

The Lodge held their annual Flag Day ceremony in conjunction with The City of Titusville to honor the nation’s flag and notable individuals in the community.

The Lodge donated $800 to the Honor Flight project. A member of the Lodge has been working on a full-length feature documentary about a program to honor our W. II veterans. The documentary can be viewed at the following website http://media.causes.com/1060527?p=175378540.

Members and the Titusville community came out to take part in the annual Memorial Day placing of wreaths ceremony.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

As Lodge Community Activities Chairman, Marian St. Pierre, PER, has taken on the task of getting members to donate clothing, shoes, and household goods for the Am Vets. A former member and ER of her home Lodge in Rhode Island, Marian was heavily involved in veteran affairs prior to coming to Florida. The Clark, PER, recently took first place for the Elk’s 11 O’clock Toast. On April 9th, a trophy was presented to Exalted Ruler Angelo Cretella by District Vice President Patricia Heller-Jackson at a recent DD Clinic held at the Deland Lodge.

Dan Theodore, Lodge Veterans Chairman hosted a dinner for approximately 30 Lodge veterans. The veterans were being honored for their years of service to our country. Some of the veterans brought pictures of themselves which were put on display in the Lodge.

The Lodge made a donation of $500 to the Council on Aging for their annual walk-a-thon.

A Lodge breakfast with the Easter Bunny helped raise $85 towards a campership to send a kid to the Youth Camp; the Lodge donated an additional $95 to make up the difference.

Committee chairman, Ron Keenan, PER hosted a workers detail dinner/dance.

East Central continued page 20
Arcadia Lodge 1524
Arcadia Lodge celebrated Flag Day on June 14th, with the DeSoto County Veterans Honor Guard honoring the American Flag.

Six year old Cub Scout Louis Yacino was the guest speaker
Arcadia Elks Lodge hosted the Veterans Council meeting with a Certificates of Appreciation presented by Exalted Ruler Jackie Tucker to Ronald Neads of the Arcadia All Florida Rodeo Association for their support and contributions to the Veterans Council.

Lakeland Lodge 1291
Lakeland Lodge 1291 house committee and members held a Kentucky Derby Evening at the Races with games and prizes. A bouquet was presented to the Lady with the most attractive hat.

The Lodge raised $1,341, not including the $639 TV. Proceeds will be used for the Lodges improvements.

Lakeland Lodge was awarded VISTE (Volunteers in Service to the Elderly) for their Christmas gifts donations VISTE services 700 clients per month.

Brandon Lodge 2383
Brandon Lodge annual Dinner/Dance Fundraiser was held April 3, 2011 for Willis Peters Exceptional Center’s Prom. School district employee Dorinda Roundtree was “over the moon”. Enough funds were raised to cover the May 14th prom. Willis Peters Exceptional Center is a center for students including those who are deaf, blind, in wheelchairs or who have brain injuries.

Brandon Ladies of the Elks have an action plan in place to increase attendance in their monthly meetings. Each Lady Elk attending a meeting receives a raffle ticket. The winner wins a gift valued at $200. The more meetings attended the better your odds!

Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Lake Placid Lodge 2661 honored Memorial Day with a presentation of the colors from the Lake Placid High School’s R.O.T.C.

Bud Wallen, Lake Placid Lodge’s Veterans Chairman introduced our guest speaker, Col. “Buck” MacLaughlin, II. Bud Wallen presented an award to U.S.A.F. Capt. (Ret.) Louis Brough. Highlands County Sheriff Susan Benton, was honored by the Defense Dept. as an employee that looks after their military personnel when called to active duty.

Lake Placid Lodge started a Camping Club called the “Travelling Old Goats and Nannies” with planned outings in the State of Florida.

Lake Wales Lodge 1974
Lake Wales celebrated their Annual Flag Day Service on June 12, 2011. VFW Posts from Winter Haven and Lake Wales, along with Officers, Elks, and Elkettes from Lake Wales Elks.

Joe Bullock was Chairman of the Flag Day Committee and was assisted by his wife Dorine, this year’s Elkette Vice-President.

The Lake Wales Elkettes donated $2,000 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, and asked that it be used to fund to the Florida Elks Youth Camp at Umatilla. Past Elkette President MaryLou Collins presented State President Frank Hayes with the check at the FLOE (Florida Ladies of Elks) Luncheon, May 28th, 2011, at the State Convention.

Plant City Lodge 1727
Plant City Lodge had Family Night at the Races, Elk families and their children enjoyed an evening of Thoroughbred racing of the child’s filly or colt. Donations were placed (as a bet) on a races with their choice of jockey and horse.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661
One of many from the winners circle Jockey Cooper Tharrington with her horse and Payton Carroll.

Walden Lake County Club of Plant City presented a check for $10,400 to Plant City Elks Exalted Ruler Dee Spivey and Michael Smith Elks National President. Money was raised from a Powder Puff Golf Tournament. Plant City Elks donated $3,000 to the ENF with the remaining $7,400 sent to fund Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Plant City members can well be proud that at this moment in the Lodge Year, we are number 2 in the state of Florida in per capita giving to the Elks National Foundation.

Plant City extends thanks to this year’s Gratitude and Promise Grants from the ENF, Plant City Lodge recently donated 155 desperately needed new books to the Library at Jackson Elementary.

Sebring Lodge 1529
Sebring Lodge was one of the major sponsors of the Special STARS Softball Classic. Special STARS offers sports and activities to over 250 children and adults in the Highlands County with mental and physical disabilities. Past Exalted Ruler Heide Stover threw out the first pitch of the Softball Classic.

Sebring Elks Lodge was proud to sponsor a “Say No To Drug” Coloring Con-test at the Kindergarten Learning Center in Sebring on April 4th. Presenting a $15.00 gift certificate to the winners were Drug Committee Members, Pearl Williams and Paul Danclutti.

The winners were: (left to right) Hailey Mc Donough (Teacher Mrs. Shinholser), Sydney Linville (Mrs. Stevens), Austin Cox (Mrs. White), Simone Simpson (Mrs. Bower), and Juan Pas-Soto (Mrs. Joy).

Winter Haven Lodge 1672
Winter Haven Lodge was proud to present winning scholarship awards to both a male and female students from Winter Haven High School.

Abigail Martinez and Jon Michael Wampler received top honors at our Lodge’s April 9th scholarship dinner. All monthly scholarship recipients along with their guests were present and recognized at the annual awards dinner.

Abigail is on the yearbook staff and a national honor society student. She had been honored with the Athletics Achievement award from our Lodge in September. Jon is the yearbook editor, active in and a member of the National Honor Society. He donated many hours to various community service organizations. He was recognized in October for the School and Community Service award. He was nominated for the Silver Garland Award. The Winter Haven scholarship fund is dedicated in memory of deceased member Ron Nixon.
Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525

On Wednesday, May 18, the Lodge held its annual Community Awards banquet. The purpose was to honor and present awards to high school students including their JROTC programs and members of the fire and police/sheriff departments from the cities of Clearwater and Dunedin. The affair was conducted and coordinated by Exalted Ruler Sam Munro, PER with assistance from Lodge officers and members. Dignitaries from the West Central District, high schools and their JROTC programs, Fire Departments and Police/Sheriff departments were in attendance. Scholarships in the amount of $1,000 each were awarded to six students. Patriot Bonds in the amount of $200 and certificates of merit were given to students. The event was an outstanding success.

Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

The Lodge was once again pleased to host the annual “Cliff Dunaway Day on the Bay” for handicapped children. Target stores supplied all the equipment, crafts and food for this event. Neck trophies were awarded to the children who caught fish from the docks. The children went home with happy faces and new fishing poles.

In honor of Elks Youth Week, two students from Madeira Beach Fundamental School were each awarded a $50 gift certificate. The students were recognized as “Turnaround Students of the Year” for their improvement from the previous year. The school for a luncheon buffet to honor the volunteers and supporters of the school.

The Lodge was proud to receive awards at State Convention for their entry in the scrapbook contest and best Interlodge visitation award in their division.

Largo Lodge 2159

John Residence Lodge member tells the story of the flag rising at Iwo Jima to Osceola Middle Schoolers.

As told by John: “February 19, 1945 I rose at 4:30am to a breakfast of steak and eggs, a sure sign that there was a battle to be fought that day. Today was D day in the Pacific. The first wave of troops hit the beach and we heard no fire. There was some shooting at the second but by the time the third wave hit the beach “all hell broke loose”. I was in the eleventh wave and this was my first combat. I was 18 years old. When I got off the LST the water was over my chin. When we hit the beach it was like the 4th of July and I was in awe. Someone pushed me down and shouted “wounded coming through”. The site of those men on stretchers strapped to vehicles made me know, this is the real thing, not a game that we played as kids. I got as low as I could on the beach, splayed my feet to get as close to the ground as I could. Four days we battled with no sleep. When I finally closed my eyes to sleep it was the 23rd and we had taken the hill. Five hundred and fifty feet up Mt. Suribachi, I saw our flag.”

On a destroyer off shore was Leon Snyder, another Lodge member who for years chaired the Veterans Services Committee. The destroyers had five inch guns and protected the troops as they hit the beach.

Bill Davis another member piloted a LST, the landing craft that drove onto the beach taking the Marines to the battle.

Bill was held captive in the Philippines as a POW in a Japanese camp for 22 months. This story reminds us that freedom is not free.

Donations continue to be left in the Bay Pines bucket in the front foyer of the Lodge. This month one of the Lodge officers, Monica Vieu, too the message outside the Lodge and was very successful. Through management, Monica challenged coworkers to collect items for Bay Pines, the winning unit was treated to a lunch and bragging rights. The participating employees at Paychex outreach program donated 291 items valued at approximately $725.00.

The Lodge is also collecting canned soup for the homeless veterans in St. Petersburg. These veterans go into the outreach stations in the morning for coffee and soup for the day. They need enough to feed 2000 per day. The Lodge recently delivered 719 cups of soup.

The Lodge also sent $23,716 worth of coupons to Ramstein, Germany for use by military families.

The Lodge honored student leaders on May 21 with a dinner and scholarship presentations. The guest speaker for the evening was Alan “Captain Al” Taylor, pilot-reporter for ABC Action News. The theme of his speech was “The Bridge Builder”, a poem by Will Allen Dromgoole that spoke of an old man who, after crossing a swollen stream, turned and built a bridge to span the tide. When questioned why he did this since he would not live out the day to cross again, he spoke of youth whose feet must pass this way. “I am building the bridge for them.”

Students of the year, two girls and two boys, each received $200 scholarships. Four students also received scholarships in the amount of $2,000 each.

The Lodge held ceremonies on June 12 honoring the flag of our country and retiring used and tattered flags. The Lodge sponsored Scout troop 417 assisted with the presentation of the history of the flag and in the retirement ceremony. An honor guard from VFW Post 272 assisted with a military gun salute and taps.

The Lodge received an award at the State Convention, accepted by Frank Russell, PER, for the highest per capita donation to the Elk’s National foundation of $12.32 for Division 4 Lodges.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

The Lodge hosted a community event with Jan’s Cruizin Antique and Classic Car Show. As a result of the event, the Elks contributed $1,750 to the American Cancer Society. The Lodge also donated $500 each to the Volunteer Way, SPCA, and the Home for Abused Women & Children and Holy Ground Homeless Shelter. A $1,000 was also donated to the Gulf High School NJROTC and a $500 scholarship to their top cadet of the year at the awards ceremony. The Lodge is on track of meeting their per capita to Harry Anna by donating $1,000 which was presented to the State President at the Major Projects breakfast at this year’s convention.

Pinellas Park Lodge 2217

PER Karen Smith coordinated a very successful Easter Party with approximately 60 children taking part is the egg hunt. The Lodges’ very own Easter Bunny “Norm Caron, gave each child a chocolate rabbit.”

Bernie Gordon, PER had the honor of presenting Cadet Tim Walsh with a check for $100 at the recent West Central District PER Association Picnic. The check with help offset the expense of attending camp this summer for the Army of Cadets of America.

Seminole Lodge 2519

The Lodge participated in Veterans Appreciation Day held at Seminole Presbyterian Church. Lodge members catered food to veterans from Bay Pines VA Center and active and reserve military personnel. All branches of the military had information booths, testimonial speeches were given by WWII veterans and a band played patriotic music.

At the recent convention in Orlando, the Lodge received four awards, All State Lodge, second runner up in Division II, Interlodge visitation, Division II, Elks Training, for the most coursed completed, Division II and Best per capita for Harry-Anna Trust Fund Donations, Division II.

St. Petersburg 1224

The Lodge hosted a combined open house and Easter Egg Hunt poolside to promote community awareness of the great work done by Elks. The 1,500 plastic eggs were hidden, by volunteers, were filled with candy and toys for kids of all ages. There was also a jump house for the 102 children. The children colored 150 eggs, and colored in Drug Awareness Books. There were cake walks with the cakes and Easter baskets as prizes. The children were treated to hotdogs and chips and a day in the pool. The Lodge donated, to the community, a total of $1,505 on this event.

Three students received scholarships in the amount of $1,000 each for their scholastic efforts.

The Lodge stepped up when Northeast High School Band desperately needed 10 various drum stands for use during band practice. The band drums are heavy and difficult to hold for long periods of time. A donation of $1,400 for the Lodge enabled the school to purchase the needed equipment.

The Lodge also donated $250 to Ovation school of the Arts to help fund scholarships for artistic underprivileged students in the St. Petersburg area.

A donation of $500 was made to the City of St. Petersburg Therapeutic Recreation’s Camp Redbird Program, which is a summer play camp for youth and teens. This program uses education and recreation services to help children who have illnesses and other disabilities, to enhance their health and quality of life.

The Lodge held a blood drive on May 7th, under the direction of Chairman Bobbie Wycoff, during the summer pool opening party. A total of 15 units of blood were collected and
The District is proud to congratulate Bill Nichols from Lake City Lodge 893 as our new District Vice President. Way to go Bill!

We hope that folks who visited our hospitality room at the state convention enjoyed themselves as much as the district did in serving the Vespers and Lemon Drops in the James Bond room and regular cocktails in the Mexican room. Si, señor! A big tip of the hat to outgoing District VP Carl Ledig, his wife Dolly, and their daughter Claire for hosting such a great hospitality room!

Tallahassee Lodge 937

April kicked off at the Tallahassee Lodge with a number of awards for members and officers for last year. Current ER Bob Thorburn was selected as Officer of the Year. Past Inner Guard Jeffrey Jansen was recognized as Elk of the Year. Dr. Robert Greenberg, PER, was chosen Citizen of the Year. Bob Greenberg is still practicing optometry. Outgoing ER Tracey Austin gave a number of All Star awards to members and ladies who helped her during her year as ER. Elkett awards were given to Joyce Dunaway, Elkett Officer of the Year, and Lou Wright, Elkett of the Year. An Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Saturday brought families to the Lodge and prizes for the kids who were desperately searching for eggs hidden all around.

May had Mothers Day with a great brunch, hosted by the Lodge officers. Kentucky Derby Day featured Hot Browns for lunch and then that evening, hosted by the PERs, a ribeye steak dinner. A number of Lodge members attended the state convention, including our ritual team for the state competition. ER Tracey Austin won the Eleven O’clock Toast contest and placed second in the ER category. Loyal Knight Lou Langhein placed third in his position, Carol Dobson won an award for her role as the candidate. The Lodge won best opening and closing in the district.

The Lodge’s Memorial Day ceremony was very patriotic, being conducted in the Lodge room, with a special update on our country’s role in the Middle East, given by new patriotic, being conducted in the Lodge room, with a special update on our country’s role in the Middle East, given by new

Lake City Lodge 893

Lake City Lodge kicked off its Lodge year with 18,000 Easter eggs given to 1,600 kids in the school system. Three Elks volunteered their time to get the eggs delivered to each of the participating schools.

The Lodge is proud to congratulate its Elk of the Year, Bill Brannon, Officer of the Year, Ray Willis, and Citizen of the Year, Angela Cox. It is always rewarding to be recognized for helping out at the Lodge.

The annual charity golf tournament was held June 4 at the Country Club of Lake City. This event and raises a significant amount of money for the Lodge’s charitable endeavors, including scholarships. In May, the Lodge awarded four $500 scholarships to local high school seniors.

Live Oak Lodge 1165

ER Randy Sasser is repeating this year once again as Exalted Ruler. He is encouraging more volunteer help this year, as we know is important for any Lodge. The Lodge held a Mother’s Day ceremony at the Lodge on May 8. Light refreshments were served afterward.

The Lodge’s Anna Miller Circle is planning a retreat for Elk wives to go to Umatilla for the FLOE meeting in August.

Marianna Lodge 1516

Marianna Lodge initiated a trial program on Tuesdays in the dining room called “Cheap Eats” where dinner is only $5. We all remember the blue plate specials of years past, and the Cheap Eats is a deal. Members have noticed and the dining traffic has picked up.

The Lodge hosted an April Fools Party and it was a big hit. The Tax Relief Dinner night (buy a dinner, get one half price), brought in some members seeking a break from cooking and a dinner at a good price. In May the Lodge recognized Cinco de Mayo by offering fiesta snacks and treats all week long beginning May 2. Each day featured a different food venue – chips and salsa, taco salad, burritos, and so on.

Marianna Lady Elks held their 26th Annual Springtime Beauty Pageant on May 21 at the Malone High School auditorium. The Lodge was open late that evening to provide dinner after the pageant.

In conjunction with the Evangel Worship Center, members of the Lodge constructed a wheelchair for a Jackson County citizen in need. Doing the construction were Stan Haines, Frank King, and Carl Wesson.

Perry Lodge 1851

Perry Lodge thanks everyone who helped with the First Annual Elks Extravagana to Benefit the Relay for Life. This event was held in memory of PDDGER Jimmy LaValle, longtime Treasurer of the Lodge. ER Kevin Cruce had a bunch of help with the Extravaganza and it was his volunteers that came through for the Lodge. The Lodge raised $866 for the Relay for Life.

In May, the Lodge participated in a Drug Awareness and Bicycle Rodeo at Taylor County Elementary School. Volunteers helped inspect bicycles and serve refreshments. There were 89 kids and every child got a goodie bag filled with Drug Awareness pencils, crayons, coloring books, and an American flag.

All bikes were inspected and new bike helmets were given out. Fifteen bikes were given away, courtesy of Progress Energy, the Perry Police Department, and several individuals. The Elks Drug Awareness trailer was on site.
SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Reported Joy A. Booth, PER
wpb1352@gmail.com

The Southeast District Advisory Council held its Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 7th at the Forest Oaks G.C. A luncheon was held at the West Palm Beach Lodge and prizes were awarded. The first place team was from the Clewiston Lodge and consisted of Fred Thomas, Eddie Wiseman, Alan Parham, and Jimmie McDuffy. The Alfrey Brothers (Ken, Rick, and Dan) along with Mark Miele from the West Palm Beach Lodge came in second. The event was conducted by the SEDVP Bruce Cook and his many volunteers.

At the State Convention, Ted Olson, PER, was installed as the new District Vice President. He is already up and running with plans for the State President’s visit in early August.

Jupiter Lodge 2469

The Scholarship Committee of the Lodge, Don Shedlock and Ted Pickering, presented three Jupiter area seniors with scholarships. Those receiving the scholarships were Courtney Jenkins, Dustin Howe, and Madalyn Spindel. Also present at the ceremony was ER Leonard “Lenny” Dilorrenzo.

Belle Glade/Pahokee Lodge 1716

At the end of the sugar cane season, the Annual Black Gold Jubilee was held at the park by Lake Okeechobee. The Lodge had the Drug Trailer out at the lake along with Terri Stocking our District’s therapist. She spoke to the families there about what we as Elks do it regard to the Youth Camp and Therapy Services. We also had PDDGER Les Szirbik in attendance with his big cooker.

On May 27th, the Lodge sponsored a Drug Free Graduation Party for the seniors of the Glades Day School. Along with the seniors and families, there were over 200 people.

The Lodge also presented two $500 scholarships to two graduating seniors of the Glades Day School.

Clewiston Lodge 1853

The Lodge was very proud to have its PDDGER Gary Breakfield perform at the Memorial Service at the State’s Annual Convention. As always, he did an outstanding performance of singing several songs of inspiration and remembrance. I witnessed a lot of tearful eyes, including my own. Wonderful job, Gary!

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

It has finally been proven, thanks to FSEA Secretary Carl Seibert, that our Lodge Secretary and State Historian, Lowell Tyler, is as old as he says he is and that he was a drinking partner with Charles Vivian. As the saying goes, “A picture is worth a thousand words!” So if you still question Lowell’s words, there is a picture hanging on the wall of the Lodge to prove it. I guess that is why he has been the State Historian for over 100 years!!

SOUTH DISTRICT

Miami Lodge 948

Miami Lodge 948 would like to congratulate H. Ron Simpson for being awarded All-State first place as chaplain in the state Ritual Competition at the state convention in May.

The Lodge held its annual Easter brunch where assorted Easter baskets were raffled off with the proceeds going to the Harry Anna Foundation.

On May 7th the activities committee held a yard sale to benefit Lodge charities.

Mother’s Day was celebrated with a brunch that included carving stations of baked ham and roast beef. Orchids were sold with the proceeds going to the Harry Anna Foundation.

The Lodge held its annual Memorial Day picnic, members and guests were treated to hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixing, the Elkettes held at cake auction for their charitable causes.

The “Yard Crew” held an old-fashioned Cuban pig roast as a Lodge fundraiser.

On Sunday August 28th, 2011 a new lodge will be instituted into the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. On that day South Dade Lodge 2870 will become a reality. Miami Lodge 948 will host the festivities beginning at 2PM. Currently there are 112 charter members signed up for the new Lodge and we fully expect to reach 125 by the time the Lodge is instituted. This marks the first time in over 30 years that a new Lodge has been instituted in the South District of the FSEA. Everyone is invited to share in this special day and to witness an event that few get to see in their lives, the institution of a new Lodge. Call Miami Lodge 948 at 305.270.8283 for details and reservations.

Marathon Lodge 2139

Marathon Lodge 2139 celebrated its 50th Anniversary in January and is an energetic and growing Lodge.

Note the white haired gentleman center rear of photo.

The Lodge held a very successful Golf Tournament under the leadership of Tim Hadsell and Mark Meile. The final result of the tournament was that close to $4,000 was made for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Many sponsors, players, and volunteers need to be thanked for their many hard hours of work.

An Easter Bonnet Dinner/Dance was held at the Lodge. The women were asked to wear an Easter Bonnet and they paraded around the floor to show off their finery. The ER Bill Hopkins dressed as the Easter Bunny complete with white tuxes, white top hat with bunny ears, and buck teeth. He took pictures with people in a specially decorated area. His special “bunnies” went around selling Easter eggs. It was a fun evening and everyone enjoyed themselves.

A May Pole Dinner/Dance was held the first Friday in May. The evening was highlighted by a May Pole Dance (which not many had done before). So the members did the best they could and in fact wanted to try it again the next Friday. The pole was made by the ER Bill Hopkins who is trying to do many different things at the Lodge.

As in many Lodges throughout the state, our snowbirds have left for their homes up North and business is rather slow. But we are continuing to come up with ideas to bring people into the Lodge.

Our Flag Day Ceremony was a great success and the group that gathered was informed about the history of the Flag and what it means to the Elks. The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Drill Team presented the colors and the Boy Scouts of Troop 199 presented all the flags. Phil Macnak, PER, headed the program and House Chairman Elaine Wherry followed the service with an American buffet.

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**Southwest Broward Lodge 2273**

Our largest fundraiser of the year will go down in history! 30th Annual Country Western Dinner Dance for Cystic Fibrosis raised $10,770! 275 guests got there cowboy hats out and were foot stompin’ and line dancing to the best country music band around! Chicken, Ribs and all the fixin’s were served. Activities included the Chuck Wagon Liquor Raffle, 50/50’s, ring toss and other games. The donation was given to Sunny Isles Beach Camp. The mission of the camp, a 501©3 corporation of South Florida is “Helping Families and Mentoring Children with Cystic Fibrosis”. The camp has evolved into a weekend long respite camp for 180 children and young adults and their immediate families at NO CHARGE! Thanks to our chairman, Butch Aubey, Bill Black, Greg Knuth, Chuck Rooney PER, their long standing crew of volunteers and everybody else who contributed to this successful fundraiser. Dust off those cowboy boots and join us next year!

Local Hoop Shooter Jamie Greenwood, competed in the South Regional Hoop Shoot Contest in Estero, FL in the 10/11 yr old category. She came in second place and competed with great sportsmanship. This was Jamie’s first time participating. Thank you Jamie! Keep up the good work, you make us proud!

Our Elkettes have worked hard this year, as always, and have donated $750 to EACH of Florida Elks Charities, $100 to our Veterans Committee and $3000 to our Lodge for the purchase of a new dishwasher! Thanks ladies!

Lodge Awards Night 2011 brought together the best of Delray Beach! The night started out with entertainment by “Mary” and The No Name Band around town! Chicken, Ribs and all the fixin’s were served. Activities included the Chuck Wagon Liquor Raffle, 50/50’s, ring toss and other games. The donation was given to Sunny Isles Beach Camp. The mission of the camp, a 501©3 corporation of South Florida is “Helping Families and Mentoring Children with Cystic Fibrosis”. The camp has evolved into a weekend long respite camp for 180 children and young adults and their immediate families at NO CHARGE! Thanks to our chairman, Butch Aubey, Bill Black, Greg Knuth, Chuck Rooney PER, their long standing crew of volunteers and everybody else who contributed to this successful fundraiser. Dust off those cowboy boots and join us next year!

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Gainesville Lodge 990
ER Becky Spence along with the officers of the Lodge presented the Elk’s Flag Day Ceremony to the hospitalized veterans at the Malcom Randall VA Hospital in Gainesville. Following the official Flag Day ceremony, the Gainesville Lodge members, volunteers and a PPDGER hosted bingo for the veterans with canteen books as prizes; a very popular thing for these patients. The afternoon concluded with a patriotic salute in music featuring members Bob Harris and Joe Lentz along with bartender, Debby Stalbaum. Joe Lentz’s rendition of “God Bless The USA” brought a tear to every patient’s eyes. PDDGER Larry Croy, who is the VA Hospital’s VAYS chair, made sure that an ample supply of fresh fruit, snacks and sodas were available to the patients. The fresh fruit was a huge hit.

Sharing the flag day ceremony with those who have served and fought for our Flag made the service more meaningful to the Lodge’s members and guests, as well for as hospitalized veterans and their VA Staff.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892
The annual Wild Game Feast raised money for the Harry-Anna Children’s Charities, invited the public and demonstrated the good works of the Elks, and recruited 11 new members. The theme was “Pirates of the Cove.” The Lodge is located on the St. John’s River and perfect weather blessed the day. Over 370 people attended, with many members volunteering, cooking and serving. The Feast was part of a three day event, with the lodge open to the public for three days of food, fun and live entertainment, and raised $7,000 for Harry-Anna.

Jacksonville Lodge 221
The Drug Awareness Committee recently completed a very successful six-month long fundraising event. Each week tickets were raffled off to win a key to open the Treasure Chest. Over $1500 was raised by this event which fully funds the Drug Awareness budget for this year. The Drug Awareness Committee activities include appearances at the Beaches Fishing Rodeo, various children’s activities and providing literature to elementary and middle schools. Over 110,000 pieces of literature and related items has been distributed.

Mandarin/St. Johns Lodge 2866
The Lodge held a Pig Roast/Luau with approximately 85 in attendance. Lisa Hurt, ER of Green Cove Springs, donated the music. We received three new applications for membership.

The Wounded Warrior ‘Soldier Ride’ was held in April with volunteer efforts of Shelita Bird and over 50 volunteers from Chase Bank Staff in Jacksonville. Chase Bank set up a ‘Water Station’ at the 15 mile mark and supplied riders with high energy bars and peanut butter crackers. In May, a Stand Down was held for the Jacksonville Homeless Veterans and monthly Bingo was held at the Lassen Nursing Home by members of the Lodge. They served refreshments and awarded cash prizes to the winners. Grand Lodge officially accepted the Clyde E. Lassen Florida State Veterans Nursing Home as a VAVS Facility. St. Augustine, Green Cove Springs, and the Mandarin/St. Johns Lodges have entered into an agreement to share the responsibilities of supporting the Veterans Programs to be established for this facility. The first program to be established is a monthly Bingo to be held on the third Monday of each month, at the Nursing Home, in St. Augustine.

Exalted Ruler Lisa Hurt (center) with the winners of the contests. Prizes were given to Donna Burnette for Best Desserts, Bill DeLuca for Best Male Costume, Garfield Hurt for Best Overall Food, and Wanda Linton for Best Female Costume.

The Lodge held their annual Ladies Golf Tournament at the River Bend Golf Links to raise over $1,000 for Lodge Scholarships. Several men dressed as women to try to play but were disqualified due to gender. It was a fun filled day, with some playing serious golf, while others just playing to support the fundraiser. A luncheon followed the tournament. The winners were: Edith “Pete” Moore, Linda Gottlieb, Bonnie Burkhart and Kathy Friddle.

Amien Joseph, PER and Lodge Scholarship Chairman presents the Legacy Scholarship for Heather Mitchie to Bill and Diane Mutchie. Heather was away at the college selecting her classes for the coming semester and could not attend the Flag Day Ceremony.

St. Augustine Lodge 829
At the April 6th meeting 35 Harry-Anna Change Jars were distributed to members who wanted to use them as a way of supporting Harry-Anna. They will simply put their loose change in the jar until October or when full. Ten of those jars have already been turn in for a total of $362.91.

The Lodge held the annual Jack Plimpson Memorial Ride to the Youth Camp with 24 folks headed out early Saturday morning for the Youth Camp. This year’s visit was highlighted by the drawing of the winning raffle ticket by Lynn Warburton, director of the Youth Camp for the “Biker Dolls” donated by Phyllis and Steve Abbott. The winning ticket was won by “DONATE” and Lynn promptly took possession of the dolls. The raffle raised $659 for the Camp. Part of this donation was to be used to pay for two campers; the rest could go to Lynn’s “Wish List.” In addition to this donation, riders and guests dug deep and donated an additional $380 which was given to Lynn in Jack’s name.

Amanda McBride is presented with a $450 VISA gift card by PER Dan Bird.

Men in tournament for fun: Lodge Elks of the Year Bob Gianganti, FSEA endorsed VP Ron Snow, Lodge Bar Manager Terry Russell, and Trustee Bill Gause

The Lodge provided their annual Ladies Cookout, which was very popular thing for these patients. The afternoon concluded with a patriotic salute in music featuring members Bob Harris and Joe Lentz along with bartender, Debby Stalbaum. Joe Lentz’s rendition of “God Bless The USA” brought a tear to every patient’s eyes. PDDGER Larry Croy, who is the VA Hospital’s VAYS chair, made sure that an ample supply of fresh fruit, snacks and sodas were available to the patients. The fresh fruit was a huge hit.

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Bradenton Elks Lodge 1511

The Bradenton 1511 Elks Lodge recently honored Mr. Richard A. Chapman for reaching the Elks National Foundation’s Bronze cumulative giving level. He was awarded a Bronze plaque furnished by ENF and presented to him by Lodge ENF Chairman Thom Dillman, PDD.

Manasota Elks Lodge 2734

The Manasota Elks Lodge 2734 presented Tidewell Hospice & Palliative Care with a check in memory of the members who have passed away during the past year. Hospice cares for both patient and family through the services of a team that includes the patient’s physician, Tidwell’s nurses, counselors, home health aides and volunteers. Their focus is on providing comprehensive care, addressing the physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs of patients and families.

Palmetto Elks Lodge 2449

On Sunday afternoon, June 12th, The Palmetto Elks Lodge 2449 held their Flag Day Ceremony which highlighted the history of the United States Stars and Stripes. Members of the Manatee High School JROTC assisted in the presentation and Wes Townsend displayed a flag which flew in a combat helicopter mission in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The flag was presented to him by his son, Major Keith Townsend. This year’s Flag Day Ceremony was attended by 50 Elks and guest who enjoyed a pot luck dinner following the ceremony.

Sarasota South Elks Lodge 2495

The Sarasota South Elks Lodge 2495 hosted seven wounded heroes from Monday, May 23rd through Thursday morning when they returned to Walter Reed hospital. On Wednesday night, a final “salute to heroes” dinner was held at the Sarasota South Elks Lodge. The Lodge received a letter from the Wounded Warriors which read:

The amazing reception at SRQ airport was the most impressive that any OSC trip has ever received, and the final dinner at your lodge facility was a class act and genuine display of patriotism and admiration for these American “heroes”.

We can’t thank you enough for all that the Elks especially Sarasota South 2495 have done in support of this amazing “get away from the hospital trip”. Thank you so much for a job well done!

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Venice – Nokomis Elks Lodge 1854

Christopher Apple of Venice High School received the Patricia Bradley Scholarship which was established by Curtis Bradley, PER and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation.
**Ft. Walton Lodge 1795**

Ft. Walton Elks Lodge on FACEBOOK. You can now keep up to date on what is happening at the Lodge through FACEBOOK. Last minute events and entertainment will be posted as they come available or change. We also upload pictures of the different events. So check us out often!

**Holly-Navarre Lodge 2787**

There was a great turn out for the Flag Day Ceremony. Thanks go to everyone for the hard work in getting together such a great afternoon. Thanks also to the Navarre JROTC for the color guard presentation. Everyone had a great time at the Fish Fry. When the rain began, music man, Steve Youngblood, and the party continued. Thanks to Linda Griner and Alice Helms for donating the side dishes and to Robin Stevens for collecting the tickets.

A Basket of Cheer is being raffled to raise expense money for our new Northwest District Vice President, who is Holly Navarre Elk Bill White.

Tickets are $1.00 or 6 for $5.00. Let’s support our new district VP. The drawing will be held on Labor Day, and you do not have to be present to win.

**Crestview Lodge 2624**

This past month has brought a bundle of good news for the Great Northwest District and Crestview Lodge in particular. The Florida State Elks Association crowned Crestview with top honors in two contests; First Place for the “All American Lodge and Scrapbook” for Division 1. The Lodge Scrapbook was put on display at the State Convention and will be displayed in our Lodge. Congratulations’s go to Betty Clark and Debbie Buckles for their tremendous hard work and skills in putting together a fantastic scrapbook. Please congratulate these outstanding Elks. The above honors could not have been achieved without the leadership of PER Rick Lemke and the hard work and dedication of our entire membership.

A Family Fun Day event was held at Defuniak Springs Family Park. The Drug Awareness Trailer was brought in and Lodge members handed out over 300 drug awareness bags, brochures and candy. Attendance at this youth event was roughly 1,800. Crestview Lodge is the major sponsor for this annual event.

Crestview Lodge sponsored two WWII Veterans from our area and one veteran from Fort Walton Lodge for the Honor Flight. The Brotherly Love Committee drove the Vets to Pensacola Airport for a 5:15 am send off to our nation’s capital. At 6:00 pm that evening over 2,000 people, bands and Honor Guard were in attendance waving American Flags and providing a warm and compassionate homecoming celebration. The veterans said words that could not describe their heart felt appreciation and memorable experience. Lodge members Ann More, Betty Clark and Randy Thames deserve much praise for their dedication in supporting this event to honor the World War II Veterans

**Destin Lodge 2688**

For many years the Elks have been the quiet doers. We never told anyone about all the work that we do. No one hears about the three semi-trailers that moved into Joplin 24 hours after the tornados struck. No one knows about the Youth Camp and all the kids we take care of through our Therapy services. Those 21 therapists know all about it. No one knows about the Army of Hope that helps the families of the Military. We need to talk more about it; we need to let more people know just what we do. We need to be more visible.

Why are we Elks? When I am asked why; I find it hard not to talk for forever when I am asked. How can you possibly see a child walk across the floor, probably using walkers and braces, and know that the Doctors told their family that they would never even sit up?

Shout about all we do - blog, twitter, go on face book; we need writers even if you don’t know the internet. You write we will type. Help us get the word out. Think about it and let me know any other ideas.

**Pensacola Beach Lodge 497**

If there is enough interest the Lodge is considering setting up a weekly email announcement. If you would like to receive a notice of activities for the upcoming week, register by sending your email address to BPOE497@yahoo.com

Mark your calendars and dust off those poodle skirts because we are planning a Sock Hop for August 20.

Members can find Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge 497 page on Facebook

Show your eternal support through your donation of a paver to help complete the paver project.

**Warrington Lodge 2108**

During Flag Day at Warrington Elks Lodge 2108, Boy Scout Pack # 622, Leader Wes Delaware was awarded a plaque for his has 55 years of dedicated service with Gulf Coast Council, BSA 1956–2011 and the Boy Scouts of America, was granted a Charter with the Warrington Elks Lodge 2108.

**Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins**

**Awarded April 1, 2011 through June 28, 2011**

**Name on Donor Recognition Board for $5,000 Certificate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David B. Lake</td>
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<td>Kathy J. Lake</td>
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<td>Betty Tewksbury</td>
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**Gold Pins for Paid-in-Full $1,000 Certificate**

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**Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate**

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<tr>
<td>Mark E. Bonawitz</td>
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<td>James &amp; Ann Clough</td>
<td>Eustis #1578</td>
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<tr>
<td>William A. Jennings</td>
<td>Fort Walton #1795</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Leonardo</td>
<td>Deep Creek #2763</td>
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<tr>
<td>John T. Miller</td>
<td>Brandon #2383</td>
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<td>Derrick Mills (2 certificates)</td>
<td>Port Charlotte #2153</td>
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<td>William T. Murman</td>
<td>Brandon #2383</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Pitzer</td>
<td>Punta Gorda #2606</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard A. Sigurdsen</td>
<td>Inverness #2522</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Zuk</td>
<td>Brooksville #2582</td>
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</tbody>
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Our Therapists
Comments from Patients' Families

Rae Montgomery, PT
Rae is very professional, is very thorough yet makes the physical therapy enjoyable.

Anita Smart, OTR/L
My son really benefited from Anita’s services and she played a major role in reaching my son.

Heidi Pennella, OTR/L
Heidi is simply wonderful and we learn so much each time she comes to our home for Olivia’s treatments.

Diane Corson, OTR/L
Diane Corson is very professional, an excellent therapist and was fabulous with my child.

Teri Stocking, OTR/L
Our therapist was Teri & she was very professional doing her service.

Christina Walker, OTR/L
Christina is an angel who has blessed this family with her professional skills.

Paula Tarver, OTR/L
I am thankful for Paula, the wonderful therapist who changed our lives.

Elizabeth Maina, OTR/L
Ms. Elizabeth does a wonderful job. She really zoned into my child’s needs.

Chris Adkins, OTR/L
Our therapist Chris & the Elks! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Kathi Burns, OTR/L
We work with Ms. Kathi and my little guy adores her. She always has innovative ideas to stimulate his growth.

Beth Thiers, OTR/L
The care and treatment received from Beth has been excellent and tailored for my child.

Jeanne Martin, OTR/L
Jeanne takes her time explaining to me how to help my son to do the therapy between visits.

Stephanie Haynes, PT
This program exceeded our expectations and our therapist, Stephanie, goes above and beyond.

Larry Lester, DPT
Larry Lester was our therapist and he is aggressive and gets things done in a caring way.

Diane Norton, OTR/L
Diane Norton is an excellent therapist. She is very knowledgeable, great personality, and great with kids.

Margot Baker, OTR/L
Margot leaves a great impression and we’ve seen tremendous progress.

Erica Aberman, DPT
Our therapist, Erica, is very co-operative, inspiring and motivating to our son.

Yvette Lambert, PT
Yvette Lambert and she is outstanding, professional and wonderful.

Chantal Salnave, PT
We received excellent services from Chantal and we enjoyed the sessions.

Nikki McCanary, OTR/L
Nikki, our therapist, was excellent and there was no out of pocket expenses.

Bruce Nathan, PT
Bruce has been very helpful to my son in gaining better use of his left hand and leg.