VISITING BACK HOME
Grand Exalted Ruler Mike Smith and Sandra visit with their home state Elks

Usually, on a yearly basis, when a Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks, and his wife, visit the Florida Elks, they are greeted at the Orlando Airport by a throng of Florida dignitaries and they drive back to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

This year is quite different; Grand Exalted Ruler Michael F. Smith is a Plant City resident, he and his wife, Sandra, will arrive by their automobile at the Florida Elk’s Youth Camp on Wednesday, February 2 at 2:00 pm, escorted by Past Grand Exalted Rulers Robert Grafton and C. Valentine Bates, there will be several other Florida Elk dignitaries greeting them. There will be a private dinner and cocktails that evening at 6:00 pm.

The next day the GER will tour the Camp and meet with the staff at a casual breakfast, lunch and dinner.

BE LOUD-BE PROUD-BE VISIBLE
Welcoming Mike Smith and Sandra Home
By C. Valentine Bates, PGER

Friday, the 4th, begins the official Quarterly Meeting of the Florida State Elks Association. He will observe the Past State Presidents Advisory meeting and observe various other committee meetings throughout the day. While these meetings are occurring, First Lady Sandra will go shopping and have lunch with the ladies. The day will conclude with cocktails and a steak dinner. They will retire and stay at one of the camps dignitary cabins.

Saturday the attire will be coat-no tie, the meetings will begin with the Florida State Elks Board of Directors meeting at 8:30 am. At 9:30 the Past Grand Exalted Rulers will hold a Question and Answer session and at 11:00 am the Major Projects meeting will begin where Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Smith will address the attendees.

Saturday evening they will visit the Eustis Elks Lodge where the Annual Barbecue Cook-off is being conducted, then returning to the Camp for evening cocktails and dinner.

On Sunday the 6th after breakfast at the camp, the entourage will depart for Sanford Elks Lodge to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of that Lodge and have lunch there.

Claudia and I hope that everyone had a happy holiday season and that good health and prosperity will follow us all into the New Year. As we slowly break our resolutions, let’s try extra hard to keep our Florida Elks’ resolution: make 2011 the best year ever as we strive to help the less fortunate, our young people, our elderly and shut ins and many veterans. Elkdom was founded on the principle of helping others – and that’s what we do best!

We have just returned from a beautiful Christmas celebration at the crown jewel of Elkdom, the Elks National Home in Bedford, Virginia. PSP Bill Wellbaum and Sue led a large delegation of Florida Elks as we helped celebrate the season with our own Florida Elks who are residents at the Home. Accompanying Bill and Sue were State President Jim Hurst and Julia, PSP Vic McClellan and Peggie, Grand Lodge Ritual Chairman Brian Burns and Mary Kay, Army of Hope State Chairman Ed Jackson and Pat, and this year, our very own Grand Exalted Ruler, Mike Smith and First Lady Sandra. The Florida Elks sent their annual traditional Florida Citrus to all the residents and special gifts picked out by Bill and Sue Wellbaum – and additional gifts from the FLOE Organization. Brian and Mary Kay presented jars of honey and orange marmalade to all the Florida Elks at the Home. I assure you, the Florida Elks there were quite moved by the generosity, friendliness and chance to visit with the visiting Florida dignitaries.

We welcome our Grand Exalted Ruler, Mike Smith and his beautiful wife and First Lady, Sandra as they return home to our February Quarterly and a large group of dedicated Elks. Our new cabins at the Youth Camp won’t be ready for occupancy, but will be well on the way to completion. The Youth Camp Director, Lynn Warburton has been working 7 days a week to ensure they’ll be ready for the first day of camp next summer.

Continued on page 6

Elks National Home Christmas Lighting on December 10. Grand Exalted Ruler Mike Smith was honored with throwing the switch that lighted the home and grounds.
Since my last communication with you in the Fall Edition, First Lady Julia and I accompanied by VPAL Frank Hayes and Linda, have completed four additional District Visitations. Each of these continues to impress upon us the tremendous work that all Florida Elks are accomplishing in regards to providing charitable activities to their respective communities. Our State Association and its now 106 lodges have always demonstrated the commitment to provide for those less fortunate and in need. In addition we champion support for our Veterans as well as current military personnel daily defending our hard won freedoms and privileges as a result of residing in the greatest country in the world.

Julia and I recently returned from the Elks National Home in Bedford, Virginia, where it is customary for the FSEA President to visit and help celebrate the Christmas Holidays among all the residents, including those from our own state of Florida. Along with PGER Val Bates and Claudia, PSP President Bill Wellbaum and Sue, and others from our Association, we distributed many gifts donated by generous Florida Elks. In all candor, even though I already had a favorable concept of the residence having read the literature, seen pictures, and spoken to those who had visited before, I was further deeply impressed and inspired with this facility. After touring the home, talking with many residents and enjoying the warm hospitality, Julia and I were reinforced in our opinion that this is a great credit to our Order that such a site is provided for those who choose to reside there. I reassured the Florida residents as well as the providers who daily work diligently to accommodate them and other residents with all their needs, that Florida Elks are avid supporters of the Home and its mission.

Among other dignitaries present were GER Mike Smith and Sandra, who shared with us some of their experiences and encounters during many visitations around the country. We naturally join with all Florida Elks in looking forward to hosting them for their official visit to Florida on the occasion of the February Quarterly Meeting at the Youth Camp.

On the home front, I am very encouraged with our Harry-Anna Trust Fund raising efforts supported generously by so many Florida Elks. We appear to be doing very well regarding the amount of donations and I strongly urge all Elks to continue your support so we may achieve our goal of one million dollars. We have received a substantial number of donations at each and every one of the Official State President’s Visitations and I am especially grateful for those actions.

As stated before, Julia and I are extremely grateful for all the cordiality and kindliness extended in our travels to various districts. After a wonderful and very pleasant visit with our hard working Florida Ladies of the Elks at their State Convention in September, we resumed the State President’s Official Visitations with the Southeast Central District, hosted by District Vice President Bill Orblych and his wife Ronnie. Arriving at the hotel where a large contingent of greeters welcomed us we enjoyed the lavish hospitality room and had dinner at the Viera Elks Lodge Friday evening. Our daughter Jessica resides in this area and we were pleased that she was able to accompany us during almost the entire visit to the district.

Saturday we had breakfast at the Cocoa Beach Lodge and then proceeded to the Kennedy Space Center for a most interesting and informative tour of that vast facility. All Americans can be proud of our country’s achievements in the area of space and scientific research and exploration as evidenced by this display. Lunch provided by the Cocoa Lodge was perfect and we especially enjoyed a tour and explanation of its unique history.

Saturday evening we were hosted by the Melbourne Lodge that included a wonderful dinner and later dancing and other entertainment. One very special opportunity afforded me that same evening was the presentation of the President of the United States Memorial Program Certificate that I presented to an Elk member recognizing her father’s military service. Past District Deputy Lenny Smallacombe is promoting and assisting in accomplishing this program and I highly commend his efforts.

Our next visitation was to the South Southwest District hosted by District Vice President Phil Gersbach and Susan. The greeting at the hotel from a large group was most impressive as well as our accommodations. Friday evening included dinner at the Bonita Springs-Espero Lodge. Again, we were excited to be able to greet so many members assembled there and enjoy the generous hospitality afforded us.

After breakfast at the hotel Saturday morning we traveled to the Thomas Edison and Henry Ford Winter Estates and Museum which allowed us to take a most interesting tour that included much history of the Founding Fathers. Then a brief visit to the Vietnam Memorial was very meaningful and appreciated by VPAL Frank Hayes and me since we are both veterans of that conflict. Afterwards, the Cape Coral Lodge provided a delightful lunch and we were obliged for their accommodating us.

Saturday evening found us at the Fort Myers Lodge where we experienced much hospitality, a delicious dinner, and later entertainment. As special recognition, I was presented with a motorcycle vest by a group that is becoming well known for their fund raising efforts.

The last weekend in October, we visited the East Central District and were hosted by District Vice President Pat Bennett-Jackson and Ed. Again a large group greeted us at the hotel and we were able to enjoy the splendid hospitality room prior to leaving that evening for dinner at the Englewood-Lee New Smyrna Beach Lodge where we enjoyed a sumptuous seafood dinner with many different varieties of choice.

Saturday morning breakfast at the hotel prepared us for our excursion to the New Smyrna Beach Historical Museum which was most informative. Later a cruise on the Halifax River on the Princess Paddleboat provided a comfortable daytime experience along with a superb lunch. We were pleased to have accompanying us a group of veterans from the Emory Bennett Nursing Home. It proved to be a most relaxing trip.

Saturday evening at the Daytona Beach Lodge included a warm welcome from those in attendance and a delicious and exquisite dinner. As usual whenever the opportunity is provided Julia and I enjoyed dancing later that evening.

Our next event was of course the Mid-Year Convention that was well attended and along with the usual several Board of Directors meetings, I presided at the General Session which included on the agenda reports from our many and sundry State Committees. As per arrangements by our hard working State Secretary Carl Seibert and his staff we were addressed by two different well prepared presenters who spoke concerning issues relative to our declining membership problem.

I certainly appreciated the very generous Harry-Anna
The November mid-year meetings were held at the Orlando Marriott in Lake Mary November 11th-13th. There were 435 Elks and guests in attendance. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make our mid-year meetings a huge success. Also a big thank you goes to Sharon Bremer and her entire Credentials Committee for all of their hard work during the convention. Judging from the comments received and our website survey respondents, our members really liked the new format for our meetings. When possible we will continue to make improvements that allow more time for us to hold educational meetings and seminars as well as bring in guest speakers! If you were unable to attend the meetings, the audio of several of the key seminars, including our guest speakers and any related PowerPoint presentations that were made, is available on our website at www.flelsks.org. This includes the presentation that was made regarding the findings and results of the membership hall meetings that were conducted throughout the state by me and our state membership development director, Don Moon. As a result of your input we will be working hard over the next few months to implement some of the recommendations we received for improving our membership recruitment and retention efforts and we will be charting a long range plan that will assist our Lodges to help in reversing our membership loss.

The 2010 convention proceedings and annual reports books were received and distributed this year at the Mid-year Convention. We still have a supply of the books available; however, we are trying to save on postage costs. The books will next be available at the February Quarterly.

The February Quarterly meetings will be held at the Youth Camp February 3rd -5th. 2011. Meeting agendas and hotel information is available on our website at www.flelsks.org. Our very own Grand Exalted Ruler/National President, Michael F. Smith, from Plant City Lodge will be making his official visit to Florida for this meeting. Please help us to fill the Grafton Center arena to capacity on Saturday morning as we welcome Mike & Sandra and receive his inspirational message on Elkdom, the message he has been sharing all throughout the country.

The second annual Florida Elks State BBQ Rib Cook-off is being held at the Eustis Lodge on Saturday, February 5th. What a fitting end to a great weekend of Florida Elkdom after having attended the February Quarterly meetings. The festival is free to attend and many of the competitors will be bringing attendees with free samples of their ribs as they strive to win the coveted People’s Choice award! Of course there will be plenty of food to purchase and eat as well as music, a classic car show, libations, and fellowship, so make sure to come hungry! For more information on this event please visit our website at www.flelsks.org.

The 2011 State Convention will be held May 26th -29th at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. Reservation information will soon be available on our website. Please make your reservations as early as you possibly can and please understand your room assignment has nothing to do with when you make your reservation. Your room is not selected for you until you arrive at the resort and then the choice is made from those rooms ready and available. On a typical year around 190 of our 750 rooms check in on Wednesday and 520 were occupied by Thursday. Since there are approximately 220 rooms in each of the five buildings we are normally housed in, the closest buildings (1, 2, & 3) are fully by Thursday. If you arrive on Friday, chances are you will be housed in one of the farther buildings. It is no guarantee, but if you arrive by Thursday, you probably have a better chance of being assigned a room in one of the closer buildings. Our reserved block will sell out so please plan accordingly and do not wait until the last minute to make your reservations for the 2011 State Convention!

This year at the State Convention a new event is being introduced for Friday night. Plans are now underway for the first annual gala auction event for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. It will be a lively and fun event open to everyone, one that we hope will become a major fundraiser for Harry-Anna and one that we hope will take some of the fundraising heat off the Lodges since the money received from the sale of items will be credited to the Harry-Anna credit of the Lodge providing the auction items. Members and Lodges are asked to donate high-end items for the silent and live auctions and all items must be received at the FSEA no later than April 15, 2011. We are especially interested in hearing from our members who might have contacts with large corporations, celebrities, and other major type auction item possibilities. If you or someone you know has connections to any of these, we would love to hear from you. Please watch your e-mail and our website for more information on this auction event and contact me if you can help with the donation of items at carl@mpinet.net or (352) 669-2241 x230 or Pat Heller-Jackson at (386) 763-2010 or njlady101@aol.com.

This month our Lodges will be electing new leaders for the coming year. I believe that one of the best investments of time and money a Lodge can make is in seeing that their new leaders are properly indoctrinated about their jobs. To assist in that endeavor, the Florida State Elks Association will be holding seminars for all Exalted Rulers Elect and all Secretaries Elect.

The dates and locations of these seminars are as follows:
- March 11-13, 2011 – Orlando, FL - Florida Hotel (formerly the Florida Mall Hotel)
- March 18-20, 2011 – Tallahassee, FL – Holiday Inn Residence Inn Marriott

Again this year, the Harry-Anna Trust Fund will be sponsoring a breakfast on Sunday morning. Several presentations will be made during the breakfast so all attendees will be expected to attend. We will also again offer dual tracks for a portion of the Secretaries’ seminar. This will allow us to offer Secretary Continued Page 9

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

The Mid-Year meeting on November 13th got off to a rather rocky beginning because there was a delay in getting into the room and insufficient seating once we were inside. As always, Carl Seibert immediately rectified the situation, and after a short delay, we were able to proceed with our meeting. Thank you, Carl.

PSP Enid “Sam” Simpson gave a wrap-up of the 2010 FLOE Conference. Connie Poage, Historian, presented Sam with her President’s Book that consisted of two volumes. Sam’s motto “Little Angels Guiding Our Future” certainly worked for her. They guided Sam and us to an excellent year.

When the dignitaries arrived, Larry Skates, Chairman of Ladies Organizations introduced Frank Hayes, VPAL, and Doug Schwartz, Vice Chairman of Ladies Organizations. Frank introduced Jim Hurst, FESA President, and Sean Maguire, endorsed VPAL. Both Jim and Frank presented the Traveling Trophy for most miles and donations to Linda Futral of the SSW District. Bill Wellbaum, PSP-PCJGF, and the coordinator for the Elks National Home, was presented with eight stockings by Joan Fritz, PSP. Everyone praised the ladies for their dedication to the Elks.

It is always a pleasure when the wives of the dignitaries are able to join us. We were delighted to see Julia Hurst, wife of James Hurst, State President; Linda Hayes, wife of Frank Hayes, Vice President; Barbara Maguire, wife of Sean Maguire, Endorsed VPAL; Lisa Como, wife of FSEA PSP Vince Como; Kathy Lake, wife of FSEA PSP David Lake; Gail Sansoussi, wife of FSEA PSP Don Sansoussi; Mary Ann Trinowski, wife of FSEA PSP Charlie Trinowski and Rita Ortiz, wife of FSEA PSP Joe Ortiz. In addition, we were fortunate to have with us Faye Bryant, Wife of FSEA Treasurer Joe Bryant. Faye is also a FLOE Past President. Other Past Presidents at the meeting were Mildred Lamb, Lee Weigel, Joan Fritz, Dolores Casella, Beverly Messerschmidt and Enid “Sam” Simpson.

I want to thank all the delegates, officers and advisory members who agreed to take a committee in the coming year. I can now say that all the committees for the May Luncheon and Chinese Auction and the 2011 Conference are filled. It is a huge relief, and you have my deep gratitude for stepping up and accepting a position.

Carl Seibert, State Secretary, met with us to explain the Charity Auction that will be held on Friday, May 21st at the 2011 State Convention. I am happy to report that the FLOE officers, delegates and members have enthusiastically embraced this new venture. Many have already signed up to participate. By working together we will make this project succeed. It is the children who will benefit from this joint adventure. That has always been our goal. We will build a better world one child at a time.
ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Veterans Remembrance Report

By Robert M. Hennings, Director, ENV/SC

By the time you read this, every Lodge should have a copy of the 2010 Veterans Remembrance Report, which is used to record all of the Veteran volunteer service of our members throughout the last calendar year.

Every day, we either hear or read about a Lodge performing some act of service to our nation’s Veterans. Elks and their volunteers drive millions of miles, work millions of hours, and donate millions of dollars of cash and goods to care for and enhance the lives of our nation’s heroes. Why not tell the story of your Lodge by submitting a Veterans Remembrance Report?

Although some of our volunteers’ activity is recorded in the Charity Records Report (required of all Lodges), the Charity Records Report does not have the detail contained in the Veterans Remembrance Report. This report allows you to list activities inside and outside of hospitals, service in the Army of Hope, transportation of Veterans, and many more.

At the annual Grand Lodge Convention in July, we will announce the results of the Veterans Remembrance Report. The top three Lodges in each of six divisions will be cited on stage during the report of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, and each winner will receive a beautifully engraved bronze plaque.

District Deputies and States achieving 100% participation will receive a certificate recognizing them for their achievement, as well as being listed in the Honor Roll of the Elks Magazine.

If you have questions regarding the completion of the forms, or have not received one, contact your District Deputy or State National Veterans Service Chairman.

The deadline for submitting the Veterans Remembrance Report is January 15, 2011.

No matter whether your contribution to our Veterans has been large or small, it is important to report it. Last year we had 100% participation by 30 States and 171 Districts. Let’s work to achieve 100% participation from all of our States and Districts this year!

NE District continued from page 9

St. Augustine Lodge has been named the Veterans Service Organization of the Year by the St. Johns County Veterans Service Council. To earn this honor the Elks made monthly visits to the VA Hospital in Lake City to host bingo and donating prizes, additional toiletry items, and over 80 gifts for their annual Christmas party; Hosted the Florida State Elks Army of Hope Charity District fund raiser donating over $3,000 to this charity that supports the families of our deployed military; Held St. Augustine’s USO Pal Day Luncheon serving over 500 meals to the families of our military who came to town to celebrate the holidays; Donated $1,800 to the USO to purchase phone cards for our military heroes.

St. Augustine Lodge was the local distribution point for the Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots; Hosted the St. Johns County Veterans Service Office Homeless Stand-down allowing the VA and other government agencies to use their facility to provide assistance to these forgotten warriors while serving a warm meal, haircuts, and hot showers.

The Elks also offer their facility free of charge as the monthly meeting place to the Ancient City Chapter of the Marine Corps League, the Marine Corps League Ladies Auxiliary, and the St. Johns County Veterans Service Council.

Florida State Elks Association
Presidential Memorial Certificate Program

Lenny Smallacombe, PDD
Program Coordinator

IMPRESSIVE MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE

April 29-30--May 1, 2011
A, B and over 50 Tournament

Contact- Joe Rogers
jrogers84@cfl.rr.com

FLORIDA Elks NEWS

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

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

Name____________________ Phone____________________

Address________________________

City, State, Zip__________________

Date of Birth____________________ Phone____________________

E-Mail: carl@mpinet.net
At our recent Mid-Year Convention in Lake Mary there was a change made to the Army of Hope policy and procedure to increase communication between the committee and the membership.

The committee was expanded to include a member from each of the fourteen districts. This member will be responsible for publicizing the purpose of the Army of Hope, coordinate all requests for assistance from their district, coordinate the district picnics or events between Lodges and the Army of Hope Picnic Chairman, and distribute information within their district of all assistance rendered to military members and families by the Army of Hope Committee.

The members will be appointed to the Army of Hope Committee by their District Advisor. The full policy will be posted on the Florida Elks Association website (www.floridaelks.org) and will be effective as soon as the committee members are appointed. If you are interested in serving on this worthwhile and rewarding committee, please contact your District Advisor.

Yes, I wish to make a donation to the Florida Elks Charity
Army of Hope

Name________________________________________________________
Address______________________________________________________
City State Zip__________________________________________________
Phone_____________________ E- mail____________________________

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of $❑ Cash ❑ Check
❑ Credit Card (check one) ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard     ❑ Discover
❑ American Express
Thank You for your Support!

Name (as it appears on card)_________________________________________________
Card #_________________________________________________ Exp. date_________

Verification Code_________________

Please make check payable to: Florida Elks Charity
Send donation to: (Carl Seibert) at Florida State Elks Association
P.O. Box 49
Umatilla, FL 32784-0049

The 31st Annual Florida State Golf Tournament

Sebring Elks Lodge and Lake Placid Elks Lodges are pleased to present the 31st Annual Florida Elks State Golf Tournament to be held on Saturday, April 2nd and Sunday, April 3rd 2011 at Spring Lake Golf Resort in Sebring.

The tournament is open to all Elks and their guests. Ladies are also encouraged to participate. The tournament format will be a four person scramble. (Single entries will be paired) Teams will be flighted after Saturday’s round.

Awards will be presented as follows: ● Low Gross ● 1st & 2nd place in flights A thru F
The first 260 entries received prior to March 18th will be accepted and processed in the order received. Late entries will be accepted if openings are available. NOTE: Sebring/Lake Placid Elks Lodges will be open at 2 pm on Friday with dinner from 5 to 7 pm.

1. Entries will be received and accepted only as follows:
a. As a single accompanied with check totaling $120
b. As a two-some accompanied with check(s) totaling $240
c. As a three-some accompanied with check(s) totaling $360
d. As a four-some accompanied with check(s) totaling $480

2. If you indicated a non-player dinner and luncheon, send $25 per person with your check. Saturday only dinner tickets ($15) or Sunday only lunch tickets ($10) can be purchased.
Lunch only tickets will be available at the resort.

3. Make checks payable to: Florida Elks State Golf

4. Entry form available at flelks.org/
Mail entries and direct questions to: Dave Switzer Phone: 863-465-0632
Conservation and the environment

Preservation of the environment is a key concern of the Florida Elks Association. We support efforts to maintain and protect natural resources, promote recycling, and reduce waste. Through our charitable activities and donations, we strive to make a positive impact on the environment.

Awards and Recognition

We present awards and recognition to outstanding members and volunteers. These awards highlight the achievements and contributions of our members, acknowledging their dedication and service.

Events and Activities

Our association organizes various events and activities throughout the year, including barbecues, picnics, and other social gatherings. These events provide opportunities for our members to connect and enjoy each other's company.

Financial Information

The Florida Elks Association maintains a transparent financial record, sharing details such as income, expenses, and contributions. This information is available to members who wish to review the financial health of our organization.

Contact Information

For more information or to get involved, please contact us at 1234 Main Street, Anytown, USA 12345. You can also call us at 555-123-4567 or email us at info@floridaelks.org.
Abigail Martinez was recognized for her excellence in tennis and school term, the Lodge presents two students from Winter Haven Elks, Lodge 1672, Scholarship Program. Each month during the Church, to provide help with their tutoring program. Member Etta Jennings, who is affiliated with Beymer United Methodist, personal use.

October 30 at the Lodge. The event was not only advertised on dinner at the Lodge.

The school season has started and so has the Winter Haven Lodge 1672. The third grade class at the local school was very excited about receiving the dictionaries. As a follow up, each child sent an individual letter thanking our Lodge and explaining how they would put these dictionaries to good use. Some children expressed how the dictionaries helped them with homework as well as their parents borrowing them for their personal use.

As an offshoot to this endeavor we were asked by Marietta Jennings, who is affiliated with Beymer United Methodist Church, to provide help with their tutoring program. Member volunteers will again be reaching out to our community.

The school season has started and so has the Winter Haven Elks, Lodge 1672, Scholarship Program. Each month during the school term, the Lodge presents two students from Winter Haven High School who excel in a specified category with a $50 check. On September 22, 2010 the Lodge awarded both Abigail Martinez and Michael Easton for their achievement in athletics. Abigail Martinez was recognized for her excellence in tennis and Michael Easton for his outstanding football accomplishments.

Lake Wales Lodge 1974

Elks Drug Awareness Mascot, Elroy, and his helper, First Lady Sandra Smith handed out drug awareness bags containing coloring books, candy canes, ribbons, pencils & drug awareness literature to many of the children watching the parade.

These are difficult times and Exalted Ruler Gail Lyons reports their Lodge has had their share difficulty this year. She relates a story told to her by one of her co-workers who had visited the Great Barrier Reef. A tour guide responded to a question why was the lagoon side of the reef was pale and lifeless while the ocean side was vibrant and colorful. He said the lagoon side was not challenged with waves and high winds and was always in still water while the ocean side was constantly being pounded with waves and wind it has to fight for survival every day. By being tested and challenged it changes and adapts and grows healthy and reproduces.

That is how it is with people; challenged and tested we can come alive.

Brandon Lodge 2383.

Brandon Lodge 2383 donated dictionaries to the 3rd grade and 4th grade students of Alafia and Nelson Elementary Schools and Nativity Catholic School as part of our ‘Dictionary Project’. Brandon Lodge began Thanksgiving on November 18 with the families of deployed military personnel from Mac Dill Air Force Base. Brandon Lodge Secretary and PDD, Dick Rhodes expresses that the Brandon Elks recognizes and appreciates the sacrifices of the military and their families and have a long tradition of supporting them.

Some of many members who participated at the Mac Dill dinner, are Mrs. Kathy Barnes, Col Dan Barnes, Commander 6th

Mission Support Group, Dick Rhodes PDD, Dennis Osborn ER, LOL Lenny Richoux, Commander 6th Air Mobility Wing, Col. Dave Cohen, Vice Commander, 6th Air Mobility Wing, Mrs. Carolyn Cohen, and Chief Master Sergeant Derrick Crowley, and Command Chief of 6th Air Mobility Wing.

Brandon Lodge will continue in the Spring to sponsor an (AOH) Army of Hope picnic for military families, and also donates to Operation Care Package and visits VA hospital patients with gift bags filled with socks and personal items. The Brandon Elks recognize and appreciate the sacrifices of the military and their families and has a long tradition of supporting them, said Lodge Secretary and PDD Dick Rhodes.

Brandon Lodge also sponsors an Army of Hope picnic for military families each spring, donates to Operation Care Package and visits VA hospital patients with gift bags filled with socks and personal items.

The Lodge began Thanksgiving feasts to honor military personnel in November 2001, just weeks after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Sebring Lodge 1529

Sebring Elks Veterans Committee participated in the Veterans Council Yard Sale in Spring Lake on Nov. 18 & 19. They are sending packages of small toiletry items, games & snacks to our service men and women overseas. They send an average of four per month with the cost of postage of $12.50 each. Working together with other Veterans Associations in Highlands County, they each share their “windfalls” of items donated when they can. As an example, Walgreens donated 1,000 toothbrushes to Post 25 and they in turn gave our Veterans Committee 500 of them.

Sebring Elks Lodge participated in the Sebring, Florida Christmas Parade on December 4th. In order to do as much as they do for our local Veterans, they rely on anonymous donators as well as some who wish to be anonymous. While visiting the local nursing homes, they weekly bring items donated by members of our Lodge as well as outsiders. One 88 year old woman bakes three dozen cookies a week for them to give out. Her neighbors have learned about her generosity and to her surprise there often will be flour and sugar at her door. In the past six months she has made 24 large and lap size afghans. These are given to the Veterans in Bay Pines & West Palm VA Hospitals.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

Lake Placid Elks lost two dedicated Elks with the unexpected passing of Past Chaplain, Nelfie Hammond. She succumbed to complications following surgery. She and her kindness to everyone, will be missed by all who knew her. Past Exalted Ruler Bob Shideler passed away December 14, he and his wife Evelyn, served the Lodge with dedication for many years until strokes limited his capacity in these later years.

Lake Placid Lodge Leading Knight, Oscar Wagner, Veteran’s Affairs Chairman, led a program for the veterans and guests at the lake Placid Health Care Center on November 11. There were 55 or more people, including Elks and Ladies of the Elks, residents, Center staff and guests who enjoyed the program and singing of patriotic songs by Marti Capodifero. Donna Leonard and Ladies of Elks provided cupcakes and refreshments for the residents.

Several dozen kids enjoyed the Children’s Christmas Party on December 19. There were Clowns painting faces, making animal balloons and performing skits and tricks. Santa and Mrs. Claus gave out gifts to all the kids.

The Lodge donated 12 families their Thanksgiving dinners and 17 families with 38 children enjoyed the dinners and gifts donated for Christmas.
Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

Feed the Troops program has gotten to be a very popular event. We had to add additional sign-up sheets for the donations and volunteers. It is so heart warming to see the young troops eating and enjoying themselves. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen.

The Bartender’s Christmas party was held on Sunday December 19th starting at noon. We had celebrity bartenders to entertain us while the bartenders enjoy themselves. If you have never seen the celebrity bartenders, you need to stop by and try to get a drink.

The Lodge has Gift Certificates available in all denominations if you are looking for a gift for your favorite Elk. Just stop in and see Ron.

Veterans Thunder Ride 2010

This year’s Veteran’s Thunder Ride was a huge success. Vet’s to the VA is a program started to help those Veterans without transportation get a ride to and from their appointments at the VA clinic.

Thanks and appreciation goes to Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787 for supplying the coffee during registration and a big thanks to Rick Mase and Bill White who volunteered their time and braved a cold morning to keep the java hot and dealing out the first card to the riders. Thanks Guys! Also, thanks to the Pensacola Beach Lodge 497 for hosting a Gumbo Lunch for the Riders and thanks go to Dennis Cairo and the gang for cooking up some great gumbo!

The Lodge appreciates all the support received this year, and look forward to your support at next year’s event.

Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787

As we look shortly into the future we will be considering all the positions available in the Lodge. If you are considering one of these positions, let someone know if you’re interested. The Exalted Ruler and Secretary are available on an almost daily basis.

Robin Weeks has the Angel Tree in the lounge. Take a ticket you would like to support, sign it on the sheet, and return it to lounge. This may be out of line, but in the past we have someone shop for you if you rather just donate cash. Please help the children and turn in the tickets, as time is running short by the time you get the newsletter.

Ft. Walton Lodge 1793

The Lodge recently hosted the celebrated choral group Recreation! This group travels all across the county performing for veterans at VA hospitals, free of charge. These performers are college students that have taken time out of the schedule to work with our organization. Their show, similar to a Broadway Extravaganza, lasted about an hour. Dinner was served with the price of the ticket.

It’s early to start advertising, now, but our intent is to have a fund raiser to support our local law enforcement men and women. Jack Bright is assisting the House Committee to work out details. Like all successful efforts support and participation is needed. So if you are interested in this event please contact Jack or the Exalted Ruler.

Destin Lodge 2688

Tom Rogers had the great privilege to take and Emerald Coast Honor Flight last October. I would like to share his E-mail to me with you.

“As Emerald Coast Honor Flight is a non-profit organization honoring America’s veterans for all their sacrifices. We fly our heroes and Guardians who reside in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Washington, and Holmes counties to Washington, DC to reflect at their memorials for a one day free visit. Top priority is given to the senior veterans - WW II survivors along with those other veterans that may be terminally ill. Based on recent statistics, we are losing WW II veterans at the rate of 1,200 per day. Honor Flight will continue do whatever it takes to fulfill the dreams of our veterans and, very importantly, our senior heroes travel absolutely free.

“I had my picture taken in front of Puriiea Island, this is the island I was wounded on in 1944. They also had a wall of 4,000 gold stars to represent the 400,000 killed in WW II. We also went to Korea, Vietnam and Lincoln Memorials; all were something I had never seen before, very impressive. The last memorial was Iwo Jima, we had a group picture taken and visited the memorial.

“Then back on the bus to the airport, we were checked in fairly fast. We also had a police escort to the airport. Arrived in Pensacola 7:00 PM, the reception here is hard to explain because it was so unbelievable. They had a Marine Honor guard of about 30 in the walkway to the plane; they had dignitaries outside the ramp, probable 50 or so. We were taken to the middle of the airport and were held up by Marine Sergeant Major, Air Force, Army, Navy and Coast Guard, stayed there until everyone had unloaded and are standing ready to go thru the waiting committee.

“The Marine Sergeant gave a talk and then all service people made an about face and proceeded to take us to the waiting group on the second floor. It was amazing the group that was assembled to greet us, flags flying, and people wanted to shake hands, ladies wanted to kiss everyone, the tears were flowing again. I thought it was over when we got thru, went down the elevator to the first floor and another group was there to greet us. Got on the bus and returned to Food World, Mary Esther, drove home, arrived about 9:30 PM. Still tired.”

Crestview Lodge 2624

There was a record setting crowd of 87 people in attendance at the NW District PER Awards Banquet, with standing room only. This was the biggest turn out in years and for Crestview Lodge, the first opportunity to host this annual district event. Distinguished guests at the Head Table included Administrative Assistant to the GER, Jim Coggins and wife Sonja, FSEA VPAL Frank Hayes and wife Linda, NW District PER Association President John Leatherwood and wife Belinda, Master of Ceremony Beryle Farmer and wife Marian, and Region three Auditor Jim White and wife Betty. NW District Lodges were permitted to submit just one nominee each. Each Lodge PER Association had the difficult task of narrowing their nominee down to just one member whom they felt was most deserving as District Elk of the Year. Nominee award packages were limited to 300 words.

Crestview Lodge is proud to announce that the Great NW District “Elk of the Year” went to none other than one of Crestview’s very own, Betty Clark. Congratulations Betty, your award is well deserved!

The second award was presented to the District Lodge with the lowest lapsation (members that paid their annual dues to renew their membership). Two Lodges were extremely close but after the numbers were crunched, Crestview Lodge was declared victorious with a 4.28% Lapsation rate for FY 2009 - 2010. Exalted Ruler Rick Lemke accepted the trophy on behalf of Crestview Lodge. This trophy will be displayed proudly within the Lodge. Both of these prestigious NW District awards are a reflection of all the hard work, dedication and commitment of our Members. Congratulations team Crestview on winning not one, but both Gold medals! That’s reason to stand tall, “Be Loud, Be Proud and Be Visible!”

Warrington Lodge 2108

The Fleet’s in. On November 17, four of America’s finest warriors were initiated into Elkdom at Warrington Lodge. They are currently stationed at NAS Pensacola, and attached to Naval Aviation Schools Command as instructors.

They are: Left to Right: Chief Petty Officer Jonathon Abell, Lieutenant Dean Schenrock, Master Chief Petty Officer Tim Tracy and Senior Chief Petty Officer Ty Rogers. Their first task is to bring us some more just like them.

This year’s charity money ($500 to each) was given to the following local organizations represented as follows:

Loaves and Fishes, Kelli Thomas; Mother Theresa of Calcutta, Carol Clink & Faye Young; Perdido Baptist Food Pantry, Elaine Moody, Maryann Ramsey; Salvation Army, Yvonne Wasthen; St. Anne’s Catholic Church, Elaine Holmes, Louis Holmes.
Northeast District Membership Meeting
The Orange Park Elks Lodge hosted a Northeast District Membership Meeting in October. State Secretary Carl Seibert and State Membership Chair Don Moon facilitated with State President Jim Hurst and Julia and Northeast District VP Geoff Dobson present Sharing their thoughts on membership. The meeting was well attended by 25 Elks from Jacksonville, Mandarin St. Johns, and Green Cove Springs Lodges. It was interactive and productive for membership improvements.

Gainesville Lodge 990
The Lodge participated in the Annual VA Hospital Christmas Caroling Event in December bringing with them Christmas Sacks for the hospitalized Veterans as Carolers made their way through the many halls of the Gainesville VA Hospital. During this event, the Elks hosted Bingo for the Vets in the Auditorium. Many Veterans attended and the winners received $100 in Canteen Booklets. At the start of Bingo, helpers handed out Christmas sacks to each of the players as well as refreshments such as fruits, cookies, crackers, and soft drinks. At the conclusion of the Bingo, carolers performed a set of Christmas songs before they toured the hospital and nursing home.

A Special “Thank You” goes to Debbi Stalbaum who took over 100 face clothes and hot glazed into sacks which she stuffed with toiletries and decorated with Christmas decorations donated by the Elks members. Each sack included $2.00 in Canteen Booklets provided by the Elk's Veteran Services Committee.

Jacksonville Lodge 221
State President Jim Hurst was honored by the City Council of Jacksonville in November to be recognized as the President of the FSEA. There was a good turnout of members from our Lodge and St. Augustine Lodge to witness the presentation.

The Lodge held a chicken and ribs BBQ for Veterans Services on November 20. The Bloodmobile was present with twenty members donating.

Secretary continued from page 3
The 2011 Grand Lodge Convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona July 17th through the 21st. The Florida delegation will be housed at the Phoenix Sheraton Downtown which is located adjacent to the Convention Center. Hotel reservation information and online ordering for event tickets is available at our web site. All hotel reservations for the Florida delegation hotel must be made online and through the FSEA web site links. There is no pre-registration for the Grand Lodge Convention as it takes place on-site at the convention center. If you will be attending the Grand Lodge Convention but not requiring hotel accommodations, please notify the State office so we may add you to our attending list.

As in the Lodges, the next few months will be especially hectic at the State Association offices as we prepare for conventions, seminars, and the new slate of officers, directors, and committees. Please be timely, prompt, and accurate in your responses to our requests for information and assistance. Most everything we do is now published on our web site so please get in the habit of checking there first when looking for the latest event information and updates. Also, if you would like to be notified by e-mail when new event information is posted on our web site, please e-mail us with the address or addresses you would like to have added to our database. Please remember, if we have your e-mail address, you will not receive information by regular mail.

The staff of the Florida State Elks Association is here to serve our association and its members. We value your opinion and recommendations always.
Please don’t hesitate to contact me at (800) 523-1673 extension 230 or by e-mail at carl@mpinet.net.

Mandarin St. Johns Lodge 2866
The Lodge delivered Thanksgiving baskets to 16 needy families in the Mandarin and Jacksonville areas. Member participation was remarkable making and delivering baskets by many seasoned members as well as many new members. The baskets contained enough food for a nice Thanksgiving meal with additional for several more meals to follow.

Orange Park Lodge 2605
The Lodge netted over $250 at our chicken BBQ for Veterans Programs with the support of Winn Dixie-Orange Park and Tyson Chicken. Certificates of Appreciation were mailed to Winn Dixie of Orange Park, Tyson Chicken and The Cummer Museum of Arts and Gardens for their Community support for various veterans programs we have been conducting. The ladies made a generous donation of $50 also in support of the veterans programs.

Update: Army of Hope Family: Lt. Tony Jones is doing well after his deployment in June for a 13 month Augmented Tour of duty in Afghanistan. He is working a 12/12 hour rotation of nights and days seven days a week.

Please read the following E-mail received from Sylvia:

“I have been talking with Tony to see what is needed over there and I know that he and the guys there appreciate cards and letters. Batteries seem to be in short supply. There is not much to do for fun, so they mostly watch movies DVDs, and play Xbox.”

Sylvia and the family volunteered for our BBQ Fund raiser we had in August. She not only baked a cake for the bake sale, she led her family with sign waving on Collins Road about the BBQ. The bake sale netted $120 to be donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The Lodge recently provided “Sponsor Passes” to Sylvia and her family for admission to The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. The Lodge has mailed three packages of playing cards, U.S. Flags, snacks and goodies to Tony and his division.

Certificates of Appreciation and a Letter for Community Service Hours were presented to Cadets in October at Ridgeview High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program for their participation as Color Guard Detail and Community Service Volunteers during the District Deputy Vice President Dinner held at our Lodge.

The Veterans Committee and Lady of Orange Park Elks conducted Bingo for 65 Veterans at the hospital in October. Canteen Books valued at $100 were distributed to the winners of Bingo, which can be used by the Veterans to purchase items of their choice in the Exchange at the hospital. Additionally, the Ladies handed out other goodies and a handmade gift basket assembled by Rosanne Lackey, Clothing, magazines, books and playing cards were delivered at a value of $225.

The Annual Veterans Remembrance Month Program, “Past, Present & Future,” was held to thank our Veterans for serving our country and had a 110 members and guests in attendance. We served meals to 56 Veterans, Lake City Domiciliary Veterans and the Army of Hope Family. Presentation of Colors and Military Service Flags of all branches of the military was provided by Navy Sea Cadets from FD Roosevelt Squadron, NAS. Veterans Service Chairman Bob Morse read a Proclamation presented by GFR Mike Smith followed by Clay County Commissioner Doug Conkey reading and presenting a Proclamation to our Lodge for observing our Veterans Remembrance Month.

St. Augustine Lodge 829
The Lodge partnered with the Boys and Girls Club to hold their Annual Soccer Shoot on September 15th. Elks members Dean and Sue DeKnight, along with Irv Stockdale and Suzanne Murphy, challenged over 50 kids to score as high as they could.

The Lodge hosted a Homeless Veterans Stand Down in August. As members of the St. Johns County Veterans Service Council, members of St. Augustine Lodge and Mandarin/St. Johns Lodge partnered with volunteers from other area Vetern groups to show 25 homeless vets they are not forgotten. Another 200 homeless people received clothing, sleeping bags, back packs and bicycles provided by Wal-Mart Corporation. Haircuts, showers and hot meals were also provided. The Veterans Administration, The American Red Cross, The Homeless Coalition, and other government agencies provided medical assistance, housing and job opportunities. According to St. Johns County Commissioner Ray Quinn, “The Elks are an invaluable asset to the community.”

The Lodge hosted its 55th Annual USO PAL DAY luncheon in December. Fifty Elks working in conjunction with the Greater Jacksonville USO cooked lunch for 826 active duty military personnel and their families.

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

The Lodge hosted the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program for St. Johns County in December with Gunner Sergeant Keith, Gaskell, Moore and Pruitt of the Marine Corps Reserve. The St. Augustine Chapter of the Marine Corps League and the Elks provided Christmas presents for 346 needy children.

Northeast District continued on page 4
Miami Lodge 948

The month of October started with a PIGTOBER Fest fundraiser sponsored by the Lodge Activities Committee. The pig was roasted and prepared by Exalted Ruler Jack Lopez and his brother Oscar.

The Lodge Charity Ball was held, with the theme “Arabian Nights”. The ballroom was transformed to provide guests with a harem type atmosphere. Leading Knight Louis De Souza and his committee are commended for another successful Charity Ball event.

The Lodge has initiated the first Antlers of Miami Elks Lodge 948. There were 14 charter members initiated. At present, the Lodge now has 22 Antlers. The Antlers are active in Lodge activities as well as community service. In addition to the Antlers, the Lodge has received six new members into the Lodge as a direct involvement of the parents with the Antlers Program.

Past State President, Joe Ortiz, Exalted Ruler Jack Lopez, and District Vice President, Jeff Muchfield, with the charter members of the Miami Elks Lodge 948 Antlers.

The annual Halloween Party was held with the Elktones, a band composed of members from Miami Lodge 948 and South Miami / Coral Gables 1676, providing the entertainment.

The Activities Committee held a dinner to recognize the Lodge veterans. The Lodge veterans ate for free, while Lodge members contributed $10 to the cause.

The Lodges’ 2nd Wall of Honor was also unveiled and a representative from the Mayor’s Office presented Exalted Ruler Jack Lopez with a Convocation plaque honoring the Lodge for its work with veterans. The annual Veteran’s Luncheon was also held and hosted by Exalted Ruler Jack Lopez and VAVS Coordinator, Rosalee Walfish who arranged for over 130 hospital-bound and homeless Vets to come to the Lodge and have a Thanksgiving Turkey dinner with all the trimmings, it was heartwarming to see how much they appreciated and enjoyed the event.

Americanism Day was an outstanding success. Members and guests were greeted by two Miami-Dade County Fire Department ladder trucks extended and forming an arch from which hung the flag that flew over Tower I of the Twin Towers a week before the fateful 9-11.

Crossing under the arch, one entered a wide temporary museum which paid homage not just to our Elk members who have served in the military, but also to all the brave men and women who have been in harms way throughout the years. To sounds of reveille played by Trevor Lundquist, Senior Patrol Leader of B.S.A. Troop 457, the celebrations began and continued, until the conclusion of the day. United States Marines from South Florida’s Detachment 4, 4th Tank Battalion, Hialeah, presented the colors. They stood proud and tall in their dress blues and a beautiful rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner” was piped throughout the building as a crowd of over 200 people joined in singing the most beautiful of all national anthems while Ms. Shara Blumenfeld, Sign Language Interpreter, signed the anthem for all. PER Frank Sullivan led the Pledge of Allegiance following the Anthem and Don Queralt, Chaplain, recited a beautiful and inspirational prayer.

Exalted Ruler Ralph Coker PER, welcomed all attendees, after a beautiful video, music and presentations. These patriotic audio visual displays had been the creation of long time Elk Tony Rincones, Eugene Flinn Jr., Mayor of Palmetto Bay, delivered the opening remarks. Numerous dignitaries participated in the event, CWO Anthony Atwood; Col. Ross R. Anderson USAFR; Mark O. Hatfield Jr., Federal Security Director of Miami International Airport; Connor Radeloff, 3rd place winner of the National Elks Americism Essay Contest; Rob McLaughlin, Assistant Federal Security Director; and Al Reker, PER, and Grand Lodge Special Representative. Bob Gill, PER, served not just as MC, but also presented the Military and Veteran Recognition. Lodge Inner Guard, Maria Ibáñez presented a reading of a portion of the “Flag Day Ritual” at the request of First Lady Caryl Coker.

Erik Fresen, FL House of Representatives District 111, provided the closing remarks and spoke about not just the pride but also about the privilege and responsibilities of being an American. First Lady Caryl Coker delivered the closing words and thanked everyone for turning out for this very special event before bringing us full circle from the opening Reveille to the sounds of Taps being played by Trevor Lundquist. A gastronomical feast, complete with two beautifully decorated cakes for dessert, brought the day to an end, but not before a standing ovation and roaring round of applause for the organizers and their volunteers and countless kudos on a more than just successful event held at the South Miami-Coral Gables Elks Lodge 1676.
Daytona Beach Lodge 1141
In Memoriam

October 5, 1936 – November 5, 2010
Emma C. Becton, PDDGER, passed away on November 5, 2010. She was president of the Daytona Beach Emblem Club #204. After joining the Daytona Beach Elks in 1966, Emma became the first woman Exalted Ruler. She went on to become District Vice President and later District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. She was a Trustee of the Lodge until her illness forced her to resign. She will be missed.

The Lodge participated in a district Poker Run for Kids and helped raise $925 of which $100 was donated to the Elks Riders U.S.A. and $825 was donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Exalted Ruler Nancy Epps, Lodge Hoop Shoot Director

Mary Ann J. Bucci, Reporter
maryannbucci@hotmail.com

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Americanism Chairman, Car Lloyd, visited Hinson Middle School and presented Principal Leslie Robinson-Sileo and Joseph M. Vetter, History Teacher with a new American Flag after a brief flag ceremony. Exalted Ruler Nancy Epps, Est. Loyal Knight Lou Greci, 4-year Trustee Michelle Davis and Belle Alice, as well as members of the student body were present.

Kids from the Division of the Blind and Cub Scout Pack 141 waited patiently for Santa to arrive. The Lodge held its annual Kids Christmas Party with 40 children in attendance, as well as their parents and grandparents were also present. The children had their picture taken with Santa and received gifts.

Deland Lodge 1463
Members of the Lodge were active in the community helping to man concession stands at the Deland High School football game. The Ladies Auxiliary recently held a membership drive that brought in seven new members to join.

PERs recently had a Country Shrimp Boil and Mexican dinner, followed by a casino night. Monies raised will be used to help fund various activities in the Lodge.

A Veterans Day dinner was held in honor of all veterans, past and present, who served our country. The Lodge participated in the 62nd Annual Deland Jaycees Christmas Magic on Main Street Parade, this year.

Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557
The Lodge participated in a community Veteran’s Day Parade. Veterans, officers and members from the Lodge came out to be a part of an eye-catching land float.

Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557

Merritt Island Lodge 2650
This year, the Lodge held its Annual Hoop Shoot Competition at Merritt Island High School. Other area schools that competed were Gardendale, Tropical, Lewis Carroll, Freedom 7, Divine Mercy and Cocoa Beach Junior, High. The Lodge’s annual Santa’s Boot Strap program was in full swing, once again, providing families in the community with enough food to get them through holidays.

Missy Ward, granddaughter of a member of the Lodge, wants to go to Uganda and volunteer at a Christian refugee settlement in southern Africa called Refuge and Hope. Refuge and Hope provides asylum for refugees from neighboring areas in eastern Africa and provides basic needs and services for these people. Missy will be teaching three different ESL classes twice a week as well as leading a group in art therapy. She and a colleague will also be hosting a leadership forum to teach the youth how to be leaders for change within their communities. Missy has a long list of experience helping people wherever she can. As a volunteer, Missy is not paid; she needs to raise $7,500 on her own. So far, she raised $5,500. In a recent Lodge meeting, members approved to donate $1,500 to Missy so she can go to Uganda.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193
The annual Children’s Christmas Party hosted approximately 100-150 kids from area elementary schools. Edgewater Elementary School, Tomoka Elementary School, Osceola Elementary School, Holly Hill Elementary School and Hurst Elementary School. The kids from the lunch and meal program were selected by their school counselor as children who are in need.

The Lodge received a thank you from the Special Olympics Bowling Group for the T-shirts that were donated.

The Lodge held its 5th annual Santa Paws fundraiser to benefit the Halifax Humane Society. All monies raised and pet items were donated by the members of the Lodge.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709
The Lodge donated $550 toward the building of a cabin at the Elks camp in Umatilla, donated $150 to the Flagler County Education Foundation and $150 to the Association of Retarded Citizens. They donated 3 large boxes of food to the Flagler County’s food bank, gave 67 books to the “I Can Read Program”, helped collect 1,300 pounds of food for shelter animals, in the past year they have given over 600 cell phones to the Cell Phone’s for Soldier’s program which provides one sixty minute cell phone card for each cell phone recycled. This allows our soldiers to call home from overseas for free.

A fundraiser, in partnership with Palm Coast Bob Evans Restaurant, were held; for the Boy Scouts for the America Venture Crew 9. Monies went towards camping equipment.

Another partnership fundraiser with Bob Evans Restaurant was for Shoe Boxes for Soldiers; boxes full of travel size items such as shampoos and lotions and small bars of soap items were being sent to the troops.

The Lodge is proud of Tom Brand, PER, Diana Kaminski, Lodge Secretary and Albert Amara, for being named top recruiters in the state of Florida.
Horses For Our Heroes

On November 7, a group of Elks representing the South/Southwest District assembled at Bits & Saddles Stable to present the funds raised for Horses For Our Heroes. This is a program that offers therapy on horseback for injured and disabled veterans. The funds were raised to help with the upkeep of the horses. A total of $1,450 was donated by our District and the Southwest District. This program is administered by Lorren “Doc” Gardner along with Kat Habura and Kathy Castronova.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

North Fort Myers continues with their feeding of the homeless veterans every Tuesday year round. They also served 60 Thanksgiving dinners to the veterans.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763

Rocking chairs were delivered to Deep Creek Elementary School. Plaques were attached to the chairs denoting that they were donated by Deep Creek Elks/Wal-Mart, Kings Highway.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288

On October 29 Fort Myers Elks Lodge took the Drug Trailer to the Villas Elementary School and provided all 750 children in the school with Red Ribbons, stickers and coloring books.

Greater Pine Island 2781

Fifty-nine golfers braved the cold weather at our annual golf fundraiser. Over $2,600 was raised for charity. Now we need to determine the best way to donate the money to serve the needs of the community.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

Port Charlotte attended the Port Charlotte Cultural Center’s Pumpkin Parade on the Friday before Halloween and gave out Drug Awareness Information and passes out candy to about 300 kids on a fun filled day.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

The Punta Gorda Elks participated in the Charlotte County Homeless Veterans Standdown on October 30, 2010. The Lodge provided toiletry articles, clothes and shoes. Additionally, the veterans received medical check-ups, haircuts, flu shots, and food was served. Fourteen homeless veterans were present with representatives from the VA to address VA benefits.

The Punta Gorda Elks Lodge donated $100 to the Horses For Hero’s Program. This is a non-profit program that provides therapeutic riding for disabled veterans.

On November 6, Punta Gorda Elks Lodge 2606 held its annual Veteran’s Day Appreciation Parade in Punta Gorda. There were 87 entries in the parade and had an over flight by two World War II era planes.

Rotonda Lodge 2710

On November 20th, the Rotonda Elks Lodge hosted a Veterans’ dinner. Veterans were honored for their service to our country and given a handmade American flag ribbon to wear and treated to a complimentary meatloaf dinner. The Rotonda American Legion and the Rotonda VFW Color Guard performed a flag presentation ceremony. Those in attendance included members, guests and residents of the Veteran’s nursing facility. A very fine patriotic evening was enjoyed by all.

On December 18th, the Rotonda Lodge and the Rotonda VFW Post co-sponsored a children’s Christmas party for the entire community. The VFW opened up their Post to host the party and donations were collected by both the Elks and the VFW. Each child received a Christmas stocking full of goodies as well as presents. Other fun activities included ornament crafts, face painting and a lunch of pizza, hot dogs and ice cream. This wonderful holiday party included members who dressed as Santa and his elves. The party was a huge success thanks to the generous donations and effort of all involved. A special thanks to the Port Charlotte Elks lodge for their food and toy donations.

Rotonda Lodge also provided food and Christmas gifts through our Angel Tree project. This annual project collects Christmas wish lists from needy children in the community. Participating members chose one or more of the “angels” and shopped for the items on that child’s wish list and returned the wrapped gifts to the lodge. New school clothes are also purchased for all the children. The families were able to come and collect their gifts in time for Christmas.

Elves from Rotonda Elks and Rotonda VFW Children’s Christmas Party.

Florida Elks Cook Book Sale

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

Mail to: FSEA, P.O. Box 49, Umatilla, FL 32784

Name: ____________________________________________
Ship to Address: ____________________________________
City _____________________________________________
State -Zip ________________________________
Quantity: _____ Payment Enclosed: $_____ or CC Type: VISA    MC    AMEX    Discover
Card Number: ____________________________
Expiration Date: ___ / ___
Cardholder Name: ____________________________
Billing Address: _____________________________
Daytime Phone Number: ____________________

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One of the highlights of my job is reading the many letters from parents of children treated by FECTS therapists. These letters always reflect the same feelings of gratitude for what the Elks of Florida do for the special population we treat. This gratitude is intended for not only our talented and compassionate therapists but also all of you reading this message. Most of us have no idea of the daily challenges facing the parents of special needs children.

Having spoken with many parents over the years, I am always impressed at how much energy they utilize to mine resources to help their child. The letter which follows depicts some of the real life frustrations our families face in trying to improve their child’s quality of life. It is also a typical example of how much our program means to the families we serve. Another reason to be a proud of your membership in our organization.

Ben Brown, Administrator
Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Inc.
Post Office Box 49
Umatilla, FL 32784

Dear Elks:

“Thank you” seems like an inadequate way to express the fireworks of gratitude and appreciation in my heart for what the Elks Organization has done for my daughter, Euphoria and me.

Shortly before Euphoria turned 3, in April of this year, we knew she was Autistic. It was really a relief to find out there was a reason for all of our frustration and information out there that made me feel like I was reading a manual for my daughter. We began to go through different organizations and doctors and were repeatedly told how important early intervention is; which made it all the more disappointing when we found out we were on waiting lists for therapy services. Not only were we on waiting lists, but also we found out our insurance would not cover therapy for Euphoria since she had not lost any function. She never “lost” the ability to talk or use fine or gross motor skills; so since she never had them they would not be covered. That has been just the first of my many and constant roadblocks and frustrations trying to get Euphoria any type of benefits to help cover those costs. I could go on but I’ll save you the exhausting rant.

When I was told about the Elks therapy services I called the local Elks Lodge here to get more information and they gave me the number to call to start the process. After calling, a few days later I received the application and filled it out and returned it. When I mailed it I was ready to begin another fight. I checked the mail each day expecting another larger packet for me to fill out and wanting copies of all of our financial information to go along with it. I was prepared to fight and do everything asked to get Euphoria the early intervention services she was in need of. Nothing else ever came in the mail though. What did come was a phone call from Elizabeth to discuss a time when she would be coming out. I still was expecting that I would still have hoops or hurdles to jump through, because that’s what everyone else has put up in front of me and Euphoria, but when Elizabeth came to the first visit there wasn’t any. Her visit was to begin services for Euphoria. I was overwhelmed, shocked and stunned. I was carrying around this anticipation of being prepared to fight for Euphoria and the Elks program didn’t give me any obstacles. When I asked if you would provide her therapy and told you she needed it, you said “OK.” All I had to do was ask. I didn’t have to prove what I was saying. I didn’t have to do tricks and go back and forth. I don’t know how to tell you the relief that provides to a mom who feels broken and worn down trying to provide for her child everything she needs.

Then, not only did you provide Euphoria the occupational therapy she needed but found a speech therapist to provide services to her as well; all totally free.

Elizabeth has been wonderful to work with. I dread when our treatment sessions with her run out because I feel like she’s connected really well to Euphoria’s needs. Whenever, Euphoria won’t cooperate one week; Elizabeth will shift her focus to me and push me so that I can be the one to follow through. Euphoria has showed so much improvement compared against herself; since we first started with Elizabeth, from her sensory issues to her delayed fine motor issues.

I used to think that lodges (i.e. The Elks, Moose’s etc.) were places like the lodge that Frank Baron would go to on “Everybody Loves Raymond”, where he and other older men would go swimming and then sit in a sauna and lounge. However, now I know that’s just a comedic spoof. I tell everyone that asks about Euphoria, what a wonderful organization the Elks are and how you guys have blessed my family. You are the only ones who have not tried to make this journey of raising a special needs child harder than it already is. In fact, just the opposite you’ve taken some of the worry and burden away.

Much Thanks!
Euphoria’s Mom

The Elk’s Riders across the state of Florida were all in extremely charitable moods during the holidays as they are throughout the year. Many of them donated their time and gifts to help make the holidays a little bit better for the children and veterans. Elk’s Riders member Maggie Benevides chaired the committee that organized the party at the Port Charlotte Lodge and the majority of the volunteers were Elk’s Riders as was the case at most Lodges.

Riders from across the state participated in different Toys for Tots Runs including Michele and Bill Fuller from the Sebring Lodge 1529. Sebring Lodge has been the final stop for the Toys for Tots Run for the past several years.

Cathy and Carl Geras, Joni and Skip Mackie, along with Sam Sanders were among those that rode in the Toys for Tots Run on the southwest coast. Several weeks before a group of Riders participated in the Bikers For Babies Run in Fort Myers for March of Dimes.

Moral behind the story, Elk’s Riders are Elks Lodge members that take are ready, willing, and able to help those in need.

What does the New Year have in store for the Riders? Lots of great plans are in the making. First the year begins with the Grand Exalted Ruler Mike Smith home. We will be exemplifying his motto: “Be Loud, Be Proud, Be Visible.”
Ft. Pierce Lodge 1520

Over 100 Elks, Elkettes, and their guests were entertained by the renowned Krazy Carol this past Saturday. Carol Edwards, PER of Sarasota Lodge, made a number of changes during the evening, and each time the crowd laughed more. Never to be outdone, Carol has a hoard of stuff to choose from, and she never ran out. Guests enjoyed a great meal prepared and served by Club Manager Peggy Montepare and her volunteers. Elkettes President Wanda Rohn commented that the Elkettes Charities were way ahead because of Krazy Carol.

Fort Pierce Elks Lodge presented the Elks Drug Awareness Trailer and handed out drug awareness brochures and coloring books while marching in the Downtown Fort Pierce “Florida Christmas” Parade on Dec. 5. Drug Awareness is one of the Elks main programs and whenever children can be reminded of the many reasons not to start using drugs, the Elks are there.

Melbourne Lodge 1744

Melbourne Lodge donated 100 handmade knitted hats to the Daily Bread, who provides food, clothing, and toiletries to the homeless and needy.

Esquire Eugene Snook presented a series of AARP Safe Driver Classes at the Lodge, and several members reported savings on their car insurance.

Led by Elk member Art Karns, Community Services, the Nu Kopy Kats performed at Joes Club, a daycare center for Alzheimer patients, the Maxwell King Center volunteer dinner, and at the United Methodist Church.

FSEA Membership Chairman Don Moon discussed the need for Elks to recruit, retain, and recognize members, and to attract new members, he suggested providing “WiFi or Hot Spots” in the Lodges.

Leading Knight Nancy Miller presented 96 dictionaries to 3rd graders at J.W. Creel Elementary School, 72 dictionaries to Roy Allen Elementary School, and 20 dictionaries to Habitat for Humanity. Lecturing Knight and Drug Awareness Committee Chair Russell Hooper provided Drug Awareness bookmarks to go with the dictionaries, and coloring books to the Kindergarten and Pre-K students at J.W. Creel Elementary School.

Russell Hooper, and his Committee, also held a ‘Say Boo to Drugs’ Red Ribbon Week Halloween event where approximately 65 children, grandchildren, and local children from ages 2 to 16 attended. There were games, food, beverages, and snacks, as well as a costume contest. Gift certificates and discount coupons, donated by local businesses, were distributed to all of the winners.

The Ladies Auxiliary held a very successful Fashion Show in support of the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and Youth Camp. Chairing the event was Beverly Karns. The Lodge donated 100 handmade knitted pink and blue baby hats to Holmes Regional Hospital for newborns. Three large cartons of food were donated to the Melbourne Sharing Center to provide Thanksgiving food baskets.

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

The Lodge held an “Afternoon with the Vets,” with approximately 15 Veterans and caregivers from the Veterans Medical Center attending. Lunch was served, bingo was played, and lap robes handmade by Yo Bracci were donated, as well as a little money, so they could buy some necessary treats for themselves. Joe Malloy and his group have also been busy packing and shipping items to our troops and veterans.

Football Sundays have continued with great finger food and great games.

The Lodge served approximately 20 families with Thanksgiving baskets, and Christmas baskets. At our December Memorial Service, we not only honored those who passed this year, but also a special award to our past Secretary Ken Baker whom we honored in Emeritus.

Vero Beach Lodge 1774

The Lodge donated 100 dictionaries to 3rd grade students at the Rosewood Magnet School. This presentation has taken place for the last 4 years, and represents the Elk’s commitment to supporting educational activities in the local community.

Vero Beach Lodge also honored the Veterans of our area by a special program and barbeque on November 11. A total of 153 participated in the event that included 83 Veterans and 69 guests. All attendees were asked to bring items for donation to the VA Hospital in West Palm Beach. Cash collections were also taken that resulted in contributions of $165 to the Indian River County Veteran’s Fund, and $172 to the Navy Seal Museum. A total of 21 volunteers from the Lodge worked to assure the success of the event.

More than 12 large cartons of non-perishable food were collected and donated to the various charities in Indian River County. The food drive was coordinated by the Lounge Staff at the Lodge.

Viera Lodge 2817

Lodge Veterans and invited guests from the Veterans Transitional Home in Cocoa were treated to a spaghetti dinner on November 14. It was an afternoon of good food, lively conversation, and an expression of gratitude from District VP Bill Orblych and ER Al Renzi. Also present for the dinner was Pat Freed, a Board Member with Honor Flight. Eugene Greene of our Lodge went on the flight in September and said it was a very memorable experience. The Elks National Foundation provided two awards, one to the Volunteer of America Transition House, and the other to Honor Flight.

West St. Lucie Lodge 2823

West St. Lucie Lodge is alive and well, and striving diligently to support Elks Charities and our Community.

The Veteran’s Day Dinner/Dance was very successful, with the Color Guard from Centennial High School in attendance. The Color Guard leaders were Lt. Commander Peterson and Sergeant Rodriguez.

Santa came early to the Lodge and left a sleigh full of toys. Organized by the Veteran’s Committee for the Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign. Lodge members donated so many toys that a trailer was needed to cart them off to the North Pole for distribution. Sgt. Nate Wells of the Marine Corp Reserve picked up the toys on Dec. 15. A large contingent of Lodge members, led by ER Ron Kruse, turned out to help load the toys onto Santa’s sled.

The Elkettes, led by Dianne Kruse, acted as Santa’s elves by donating $525 to purchase toys, and Linda Geraghty helped organize and donated her time shopping for toys and making a special delivery to a needy family. The Veteran’s Committee, John Collister, Jack Carmody, Dino Iacoviello, Joe Falgia, and Bob O’Mara want to thank all the members who so generously donated, and hopes everyone had a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year.

Vanessa Murtaugh hosted a very successful Craft Fair, with ten beautiful craft tables. The Elkettes sold hamburgers, hot dogs, french fries, and baked goods. A Giant Indoor Yard Sale, chaired by Dorothy McElaney, PER, was also a huge success, and afterward Lodge members had a potluck and decorated the Lodge for the holidays.

Thanks to a project started by Frank Schaeffer’s grandson, the Veteran’s Committee donated 30 cell phones to the “Cell Phones for Soldiers” project. Linda Geraghty is doing a terrific job raising money to send WWII Veterans on the Honor Flight. Our Lodge presented a Foose Ball Table to Nate Spera for the Boys and Girls Club of Port St. Lucie.

Check out West St. Lucie Elks web page dates and time of our activities and events that are taking place, and our hours of operation.

Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

In October our Cub Scout Pack #870 kicked off their annual popcorn sales at the Lodge during their monthly pack meeting. Betty Tewksbury, PDD helped the scouts by donating a $100 check to get their sales underway and to help support their camping and activity program.

Elroy the Elk, aka Suzi Simonelli, PER, and Lodge Drug Awareness Chairman, Betty Tewksbury, PDD, were very busy during Red Ribbon Week in visiting 4 elementary schools during their PE classes to help spread the word of Just Say No! Elroy, (Suzi Simonelli, PER), along with Betsy Lou Taylor, AJ Hurd, Jeffery Patterson and Joey Simonelli also went to Pinewood Elementary PTA fall festival night and passed out over 300 goody bags!

In November the Lodge paid tribute to Veterans with a ‘Back to the USO’ dinner dance on November 6.

Congratulations to Veteran of the Year, Walter E. Smith, Jr., who served in the US Marine Corps from 1954 to 1962. Also recognized was Fran Albertson, who is a gold star mother. On right is Al Huew, host of the event.

In December we held our annual Children’s Christmas party, thanks Judy and Don Knauf, and Santa, aka Ed Pass and all the volunteers, we were able to help over 100 children! Each Child got to sit on Santa’s motorcycle and got a gift.
Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525
Twenty two Lodge members traveled to Baldomero Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home in Land O’Lakes to provide a BBQ luncheon to 150 veterans. They also delivered lap quilts and much needed personal care items.

The Lodge donated $1,100 worth of gift coupons to needy families of the San Jose Elementary School for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The members provide mentoring and reading to the students monthly.

The Lodge recently held a Christmas Party for the Clearwater Little League Disadvantaged Division, also known as Lou’s Kids in memory of member Lou Capara. There were over 200 children and parents in attendance.

A special visit by Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus and the Lodges’ living Christmas tree delighted the children. Lunch was provided and gifts were given to all the children. This annual event by the Elks and the Lodge Ladies is truly appreciated by the community.

\textbf{Holiday Isles Lodge 1912}
On October 21, the Lodge honored the Americanism Poster Contest Winners. The five students were from the seventh grade of Madeira Beach Fundamental School. The students were accompanied by their parents as well as Principal Chris Atek, Civics Teacher, Grace Nohlgren and Teacher/member Brett Volland, who helped coordinate the annual event. First place winner was Alise Naseimonto, second place, Kevin Castle, third place, Taylor DeCola, and two honorable mentions, Annie Eaton and Darius Williams. Students were asked to explain the thought that went into each poster that reflected what Americanism meant to them. Alise Naseimonto was also surprised by an offer of a free week at the Florida State Elks Youth Camp by Lodge Youth Chairman John Bauer. Brother Bauer took the opportunity to explain to those present all the details of the Youth Camp and how to apply for it. The winners all received trophies, gift certificates and Certificates of Recognition with a flag pin from the Lodge.

In honor of Red Ribbon Week, red ribbons were given out on two occasions, first to the members at the Tiki Bar area of the Lodge and the following week to members in the Lounge area.

The Drug Awareness Poster Contest was held in November with three winners from Madeira Beach Fundamental and Oak Grove Elementary Schools. Trophies and gift certificates were distributed by Youth Activities Chairman Brett Volland.

The Lodge distributed dictionaries to third graders of the Madeira Beach Fundamental and Oak Grove Elementary Schools.

In honor of Veterans Remembrance month, the Lodge presented 16 veterans attending the bi-monthly dinner with $15 worth of canteen coupons to be used at Bay Pines Canteen, and recently held a cookout at Bay Pines for the Veterans.

Ten Thanksgiving Baskets were given to the Madeira Beach Middle School and 15 baskets to the Church by the Sea.

\textbf{Largo Lodge 2159}
A vaudeville style show titled, Fractured Follies, was held on Saturday, October 23 with all proceeds going to the Susan G. Komen Breast Research Foundation. Nostalgic songs from the past were sung and the stars did their best Gypsy Rose, Dino and Patsy impersonations. The cast brought audience members on stage. Some had hidden talents while others hid theirs! Pink ribbons, assembled and donated by Sue Plimpton, were shown on many lapels and a raffle ended the evening. A check for $550 was forwarded to the Foundation.

Dictionaries donated by the Lodge were presented to all third graders in Largo by Lodge Youth Activities Chairperson, Jan Rogers and Gerry Milot, PER/Trustee. They were enthusiastically greeted by students and staff.

The Lodge bar project that was started with the hope of raising money for Spooktacular, the Halloween celebration for the City of Largo, went beyond its initial goal. With the motto, “For the Kids”, money from donations for food at the bar was handed out. During the last three weeks of November, three charities were gifted. Make a Wish Foundation received $100. Four $25 Publix certificates were purchased to include our Christmas tree gifts to families in need. A donation of $100 was given to Metropolitan Ministries.

Cub Scout Troop 417, which is sponsored by the Lodge, collected $600 to buy food for the needy during Thanksgiving. Fine work for such young boys.

The Lodge participated in the Christmas Toy Run to benefit FSEA’s Major Projects, by manning booths, stamping receipts as well as riding in the event.

\textbf{New Port Richey Lodge 2284}
The Lodge recently sponsored a Hero’s Tree to raise gifts for veterans residing at Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home in Land O’Lakes. A Christmas tree was erected in the lobby and decorated with gift suggestions. The project succeeded in its goal to provide holiday gifts for the 110 men and 8 women residing at the facility. In collaboration with the Port Richey Rotary, the joint venture raised over $600 in cash. Gifts donated included playing cards, personal toiletries, lap blankets, gift cards, and new clothing.

Exalted Ruler Ed Coleman, VAVS Deputy Rep. to Baldomero Lopez, Margaret Smith, Activities Director-Baldomero Lopez Nursing Home, Joan Hurley and VAVS Rep. to Bay Pines, Richard Jacobs, PER

\textbf{Pinellas Park Lodge 2217}
The Lodge held its annual golf charity tournament was held on October 23. The awards dinner that evening at the Lodge was well attended by over 160 golfers and their guests. Over $3,700 was raised to support the Elks National Foundation, the Elks National Home, the States two major projects and the veterans at Bay Pines.

The Lodge hosted a Country Western dinner dance with 115 members and guests attending. The Sheriff, member Norm Caron, arrested many attendees and bail was set at $1.00 each. With a raffle, share the wealth and bail money, over $1,100 was made for local Friends of Strays and a Pinellas Park Lodge scholarship fund.

\textbf{St. Petersburg Lodge 1224}
During the Lodge’s Labor Day Celebration, the Lodge held a blood drive. Members and guests donated 13 pints of blood and were treated to food and juice. Three new members were gained as a result of a very successful day.

Lodge members donated over $600 to provide 185 children of the community a free Halloween Carnival with games, a haunted house, hot dogs, a bounce house, candy, a cake walk, Drug-Awareness pamphlets and many prizes. This event was headed up by Sherry and Deseray Masi. Thirty other Elks and helpers assisted with carpentry, art work and costumes to make this event a great success. Vendors in the community stepped up with McDonald food coupons, coloring books, live gold fish, pumpkins, hay and spooky things for the haunted house.

On October 30 the Lodge conducted its annual Soccer Shoot with the help of 16 Elks volunteers, to assist with registering, scoring and ball retrieving for the multitude of children who participated. All the children received an Elks Soccer T-shirt and 24 trophies were awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

Lodge members were there on Sunday, October 31, to give support and to supply water and juice to the 1,500 women and men who walked 60 miles in three days, for Breast Cancer. The walking route went directly in front of the Lodge on Sunday morning. The members took advantage of it, getting up early to be sure the water, juice and music was ready when they came by, shortly after 9am. The Lodge donated $6,000 in support of the Susan G. Komen 3 Day Breast Cancer Walk that started on Friday and ended on Sunday. Walkers for the Lodge were Joanne Matos, Hugh Grehan and Mimi Reich and they all finished.

The Lodge held a Veteran’s Dinner-Dance on November 6. Sixteen veterans from Bay Pines were the honored guests. Speakers for the evening were Major Robin Ruybal and Major John Pollard, both of the United States Army.

The chairman of this very patriotic evening was Johnny Miller, VAVS Deputy Representative to Bay Pines Medical Center. During the program the Ladies of Elks Auxiliary presented a check to Bay Pines in excess of $2,200, which was raised at the Ladies Auxiliary USO Show.

The annual Children’s Christmas Party was held on December 4, there were 136 children who had the opportunity to talk to Santa and receive a gift from him. In many instances, the gifts received by these children were the only gifts they were going to receive this Christmas. Over 300 holdovers were served along with ice cream, cookies and other treats.

\textbf{Seminole Lodge 2519}
The Lodge held its first Soccer Shoot on October 23 with 24 participants and four boys and four girls winning in each of their age brackets. The winners advanced to District level on November 14 and will move on to the State Finals at the Florida State Elks Youth Camp in January.

The Lodge held its annual ENF dinner/dance hosted by the Lodge ENF chairman, Leon Struthers, Leading Knight, the successful event raised $2,070, for ENF.

The Lodge held its Hoop Shoot at Seminole Youth Athletic Association’s sport complex on Saturday, December 11. Forty children participated and all received medals for their efforts. A luncheon was held at the Lodge the following day for participants and their families. Trophies were awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each division. Five shooters will be moving on to the district competition in January.

\textbf{Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719}
The Lodge, Tarpon Springs Elementary School and New Horizons Day School collected food baskets and turkeys for 22 families in the area for Thanksgiving.

The Lodge donated $800 to the American Heart Society and has adopted nine local classrooms at $150 each.

The Lodge hosted the Mitchell High School girl’s basketball team for a fundraiser as well as the Tarpon Springs Youth Football League for their yearly fundraiser and banquet.
Southwest Broward Lodge 2273

On Monday, November 22, members Pete Ruiz, Gary & Susan Wilder, Nicki Leiter and her granddaughter, Mike and Roe Bird, & ER Dennis Cahill delivered turkeys with all the fixings to 10 families in the area that were truly in need of a helping hand for Thanksgiving.

Pictured are Pete Ruiz and Nikki Leiter delivering a huge turkey to a happy family.

PV2 Vincent Gerard Mariano, grandson of Elks Lodge member Nicki Leiter, graduated Basic Combat Training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, SC on October 7, 2010. He is now in Fort Huachuca, Arizona studying for his AIT for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operator. Vincent is a graduate of South Plantation High School in Plantation Florida.

The Lodge held its annual Oktoberfest Dinner attended by over 70 members and guests. All were treated to a complete German sausage dinner and of course lots of beer specials. All the proceeds went to our “Christmas for Kids” charity event.

The November elections brought us a busy day as the Lodge is an official polling place. Members staffed the Lodge and invited voters to tour the facility. After voting light refreshments were provided.

A Veterans Day dinner was attended by over fifty members, of course all veterans were free of charge. Music was provided by member Jim Lind and the dancing went on into the night.

The annual “Christmas for Kids” event was held with over 68 children and 28 mothers in attendance. All were treated to a breakfast of fruit, sausage and pancakes followed by Santa presenting gifts to all the children. All received large bags full of their Christmas wishes and 24 bicycles were also handed out. Each mom received a $25 gift card to Wal-Mart. Each family had their picture taken with Santa and took candy canes and homemade cookies home along with their gifts.

Delray Beach Lodge 1770

Members welcomed FSEA President James Hurst and his wife Julia at the State Presidents Dinner. About 100 Elks, including delegates from all South Southeast District Lodges, West Palm Beach and Jacksonville were in attendance for a wonderful night of dinner and dancing!

The Labor Day Picnic raised money for our men’s softball team which in turn supports the Florida Elks Youth Camp. What a great day of fellowship, games and of course tons of food! Thanks to our softball teams for putting everything together. And taking it apart!

Delray Beach Lodge had three over 50 softball teams to participate in the Mid Year Softball Tournament in Cocoa Oct. 8-10. Everyone played their hearts out with no serious injuries other than sore muscles and bruised egos. Approximately 70 additional members, spouses and friends joined them to show their support. Congratulations to all that played. You continue to make Delray Lodge proud!

The Blood Mobile has been here every other month! Thanks for everybody’s continued support!

In our Annual Lodge Golf Tournament Oct. 17, 127 golfers participated and raised over $3,500. What a glorious day! As always, we returned to the Lodge for a great dinner, awards and lots of raffle prizes.

Delray’s Elkapalooza Fundraiser was roof raising! Five bands donated their talents to 150 people who danced the night away and ate enough food for an army! Approximately $2,300 was raised for the event.

The Children’s Halloween party was “Spooktacular”! Special appearances among the guests were Sonny and Cher, The Tooth Fairy, Iron Chef and a Chilean Miner! Funds were raised for ENF.

For our District Deputy Social, another night of dinner and dancing was enjoyed with DD Gerald Maher and VP Denise May-Carter. A $2,500 contribution was raised for ENF. We have donated $2,000 to Harry-Anna so far this year!

Other donations made this quarter included: USO phone cards, South Florida Dynamics Baton Corp, Milagro Center (for at risk children), Athena House, Delray Beach National Little League, and Delray’s Kids ‘N Cops Programs including their Holiday Toy Drive.

Delray Elks is going green! 150 members are now receiving their bulletins on line!!

Delray sent the Elks National Home 60 pounds of juicy ruby red grapefruits and plum navel oranges for the holidays!

Hollywood West Lodge 2365

Hollywood West Lodge hosted their first “Luau” on August 28. Good food, music and games including a dunk tank and “Cow Drop Bingo” were enjoyed by members and guests. The Lodge presented Colleen Brown of the Broward Meals on Wheels with a check for $319 from this fun day.

The Lodge hosted its annual Golf Tournament on October 2, 2010. Fifty seven golfers enjoyed the day of golfing, fun and prizes all for the benefit of the Lodge Fund.

This past summer saw our Lodge gaining five new members.

The Lodge donated seven cases of books, nine bags of clothing – four of which were new women’s clothes, and seven Dell computer monitors to the Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center. The hard drives for these monitors are being cleaned and will be delivered to the Center once they are all ready.

DRUG AWARENESS

Hollywood West 2365 has been working on the Red Ribbon Campaign for Drug Awareness. At the Davie Elementary School, the Lodge distributed 1,000 Drug Awareness Coloring Books, small toys, and 1,000 Elks pamphlets on drug awareness. At the Glades Middle School, the Lodge distributed 3,000 Red Ribbons and stickers, as well as over 5,000 Elks pamphlets on drug awareness. The Lodge continues to work with these schools to help children in need.

VETERANS

The Veterans Committee of Hollywood West Elks 2365 has done a fantastic job of taking care of the Veterans of the Alexander (Sandy) Nininger State Veterans’ Nursing Home in Pembroke Pines, Florida. Hollywood West Lodge has supplied the Home with toiletries, shirts, slacks and underwear, 26 bags in total, for the Veterans, all donated by Lodge members. Items are distributed every Friday morning by Hollywood West Lodge Veterans Committee member volunteers who are present at the Home on a regular basis.

The Veterans Committee has arranged for the Lodge to have a “Night Out for the Veterans” dinner at the Lodge once a month. At these dinners, veterans, and Lodge members and guests play games for prizes – the most sought after prizes being the variety of uniformed services hats.

At the most recent dinner, fifteen veterans, six nursing home aides and Lodge members enjoyed a home cooked meal and danced to live music.

Service awards were presented to the Sandy Nininger Nursing Home for the quality of care given to our veterans; to one particular aide, Judy, who is especially caring of our veterans; and to Committee Chair George Caffrey, who not only delivers donated goods and brings smiles to the faces of the veterans, but who also serves as a driver for the Home.

The Lodge is looking forward to more fun and camaraderie each month as the veterans come to visit the Lodge.

During FSEA sessions at the Mid-Year meeting, Claudia Bates gave several dozen ladies instruction in the art of flower arrangements. Connie Poage shows off her beautiful handiwork which is arranged and shown in a cornucopia or “Horn of Plenty” woven basket.

Eustis Elks, Gabe Stewart, Stan Millard, Dick Mitchell and Terry Jones celebrate beside the “BIG RED BUS” for achieving 150 gallons of blood donated by their Lodge. Dick Mitchell, Blood Drive Chairman indicated that this feat bears out the motto. Elks care- Elks share!!!!!
Belle Glade/Pahokee Lodge 1716

The first good news coming from the Lodge is that DDGER Sonny Willis has recovered from his illness and has regained most of his strength. He is looking good and is trying to regain some of the weight he lost during his long recovery. In fact, he was even strong enough to go hunting in Georgia over Thanksgiving weekend. Watch out deer!

The second news from the Lodge is that Secretary and DDGER Barbara Heffernan got married to Rick Hodges on December 11, 2010. Rick and Barbara were married at the Lodge with a reception that followed. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

It’s raffle time at the Lodge again. This time the winner of the raffle will win a 1991 Jeep Wrangler. It is in excellent condition and ready for the road.

The scholarships coming into the Lodge are outstanding. The three high schools in the area have submitted 12 applications which were forwarded on to the District Chairman for further evaluation. Looks like some are pretty promising.

Lake Okeechobee Lodge in the Making

Through the efforts of DDGERs Ernie Basil and Gary Casper son, a group of people are in the process of getting a new Lodge going in the Okeechobee area. They have over three-fourths of the needed members to make this happen. The planners of this new Lodge are dedicated to making it a total family environment complete with exercise room and children’s play area with window to the exercise room so parents can get in shape while keeping an eye on their children.

Program had committee members present that day assisting with the shoot; Mike Mangeluzzo, PVP NE District with his wife Joan, South Region Chairman-Quinn Jersey, Central Region Chairman-Charlie DeLauder, North Region Chairman-Andy Long with his wife Becky, and as always were the North Central District Chairman-Ron and Susan Locke. Dearly missed this year was “Mr. Soccer”, as the Chairman Mark refers to him, was the State Vice-Chairman Danny Sweatland and his wife Gail, home recovering from a recent stroke.

The year has been exceptional with the program endeavors achieving a huge increase in participation at the Lodge level with current numbers logging in (1,845) hours of service and (10,145) miles of travel. More than (3,000) spectators saw the program that over (200) Elks made happen so that over (1,200) kids had the opportunity to participate.

Jupiter Lodge held a Luau Party with part of the proceeds going to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Everyone came dressed in their fine Hawaiian Islands attire and enjoyed a fine dinner complete with music.

The Lodge also made Thanksgiving Baskets for about 65 needy families in the area. The baskets contained a complete turkey dinner and all the trimmings.

Needy children in the area received new clothes for the Christmas holidays thanks to $1,000 raised by the members of the Lodge.

DDGER Paul Mozocco has retired from his job recently and is now playing golf and trying to stay out of his wife, Mary’s, way. This reporter has heard that his golf game is improving and he can’t wait for the District Golf Tournament to get underway.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

The Lodge is very proud of DDGER and District Advisor Sean Maguire who has been named the Endorsed Vice President at Large of the Florida State Elks Association. The announcement was made at the recent Mid Year Convention held at Lake Mary. He will do an outstanding job for Florida Elks throughout the State. Congratulations, Sean.

For Thanksgiving, the Lodge donated seven complete turkey dinners to families that have a family member under the care of Hospice. The dinners were picked up at the Lodge by Hospice and delivered to the families. We plan to do the same thing at Christmas time. These people have so much on their mind and it was a relief not to have to worry about preparing the dinners.

Thanks to Tiler Mike Newman and House Chair Ted Olson for spearheading this project.

Breakfast with Santa went very well on Dec. 19. Fifty needy children from Wynnebrook Elementary School were invited to have breakfast with Santa. Each child, under 12, received a gift from Santa, got to sit on his lap, and got a candy cane, too. Santa was helped by some elves. The only thing missing was Rudolph.

The children in Wynnebrook’s After School Care Program under the direction of Maurice Berry have taken over the planting and maintaining of our Community Garden. They started the plants at school in small containers and when they were ready to plant in the big garden, the students walked to the Lodge. Under the supervision of Lodge Member Tim Hadsell and his wife, Barbara, the children had a great time. Barbara is also President of the Wellington Garden Club, which assisted in this project. The week of Dec. 7 the kids got to take home a tomato plant that they started with instructions on how to plant it in their yard.

The Lodge was also privileged to surprise Secretary Lowell Tyler and his wife, Bette, on October 22 on their 59th Anniversary. Can you imagine poor Bette and how she has survived 59 years with Lowell? The sight of the night was watching Lowell and Betty jitterbugging with Lowell decked out in his famous cowboy hat. Yes, he still remembers how to swing his partner; however, before the dance was over, four other attractive females were surrounding him.
On November 14, 2010, the Southwest District Elks Lodges entertained and fed over 140 veterans, their families and the staff of the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital to a barbecue lunch. Lynn Spins provided the entertainment. This year, the veterans requested undershirts and socks and the Elks responded by donating over 500 pairs of socks and undershirts.

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge 2855
On November 15, 2010, Lakewood Ranch 2855 and Sarasota Lodge 1519 were officially merged by the Grand Exalted Ruler. The new Lodge is now Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota 2855. The former location of the Sarasota Lodge will be placed on the market as soon as possible and the proceeds will be used to purchase land for a new Lodge building replacing the rented space now being used.

The Lodge hosted a Christmas Party for 70 people from the Big Brother/Big Sister Program of Manatee County on Saturday, December 4, 2010.

In a update on the fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen fund for breast cancer held on May 16, Christine Page now reports the total is over $5,300 with an additional $2,700 raised by her BLOG.

Manasota Lodge 2734
The Quilters Club at Daughtrey Elementary School made 130 quilts to be distributed to veterans at the Bay Pines Nursing Home unit. The students presented the quilts to Laurie and John Touhey and Ken Palmer of the Manasota Elks Lodge during a special luncheon. The Manasota Elks provided the funding for this project and will distribute the quilts to the veterans. Manasota Elks has enjoyed this partnership for over 10 years.

South Hillsborough Lodge 2672
The South Hillsborough Elks Lodge distributed 25 Thanksgiving baskets to needy families. Six of these were given to Pastor Mattox and his wife Becky for their distribution to needy families. All of the food was donated by Elk members.

Aripeka Lodge 2520
The Hal Steffes Special Children and Young Adults Party, was held, for the physically and mentally challenged, their siblings under ten years of age, their parents or caregivers was held for the twenty third year with over 400 in attendance.

A miniature village (wheel chair accessible) is set up with sixteen windows where volunteers distribute stuffed animals, candy, pop corn balls and other treats to all children. Later pizza, hot dogs, french fries and soda are served.

All enjoyed the face painting and the balloon figures from the Clown-Towner’s and Luv A-Clown and McGruff, (aka Alan Cotterill), from the Crime Prevention Dog thru Pasco County Sheriff’s Office Citizens Support Group. Every child received a door prize and Michael Celli from New Port Richey won a $50 Savings Bond donated by the SunTrust Bank on Mariner in Spring Hill.

Robert Stoner, Exalted Ruler presented Pasco County Sheriff Robert White with a $1,000 check for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch and Joe Neri from the Angelus Home, a home for the severely handicapped, a check of $1,000.

This night is made possible only because Aripeka Elks Lodge is blessed with great volunteers, they always ask, “what do you want me to do?”

The Ladies of Aripeka Elks, members of the Lodge and non-members donate money from their pockets, candy and many other items and on top of that they collect donations from all the wonderful merchants, banks, doctors, funeral homes, beauty shops, super markets, department stores, small business, construction companies, Pac & Mail stores, the news media and so many others from Pasco and Hernando Counties.

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In a update on the fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen fund for breast cancer held on May 16, Christine Page now reports the total is over $5,300 with an additional $2,700 raised by her BLOG.

Manasota Lodge 2734
The Quilters Club at Daughtrey Elementary School made 130 quilts to be distributed to veterans at the Bay Pines Nursing Home unit. The students presented the quilts to Laurie and John Touhey and Ken Palmer of the Manasota Elks Lodge during a special luncheon. The Manasota Elks provided the funding for this project and will distribute the quilts to the veterans. Manasota Elks has enjoyed this partnership for over 10 years.

South Hillsborough Lodge 2672
The South Hillsborough Elks Lodge distributed 25 Thanksgiving baskets to needy families. Six of these were given to Pastor Mattox and his wife Becky for their distribution to needy families. All of the food was donated by Elk members.

Aripeka Lodge 2520
The Hal Steffes Special Children and Young Adults Party, was held, for the physically and mentally challenged, their siblings under ten years of age, their parents or caregivers was held for the twenty third year with over 400 in attendance.

A miniature village (wheel chair accessible) is set up with sixteen windows where volunteers distribute stuffed animals, candy, pop corn balls and other treats to all children. Later pizza, hot dogs, french fries and soda are served.

All enjoyed the face painting and the balloon figures from the Clown-Towner’s and Luv A-Clown and McGruff, (aka Alan Cotterill), from the Crime Prevention Dog thru Pasco County Sheriff’s Office Citizens Support Group. Every child received a door prize and Michael Celli from New Port Richey won a $50 Savings Bond donated by the SunTrust Bank on Mariner in Spring Hill.

Robert Stoner, Exalted Ruler presented Pasco County Sheriff Robert White with a $1,000 check for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch and Joe Neri from the Angelus Home, a home for the severely handicapped, a check of $1,000.

This night is made possible only because Aripeka Elks Lodge is blessed with great volunteers, they always ask, “what do you want me to do?”

The Ladies of Aripeka Elks, members of the Lodge and non-members donate money from their pockets, candy and many other items and on top of that they collect donations from all the wonderful merchants, banks, doctors, funeral homes, beauty shops, super markets, department stores, small business, construction companies, Pac & Mail stores, the news media and so many others from Pasco and Hernando Counties.

All Elks are great believers in “Elks Care-Elks Care” and there is no better way to show it than with a caring event such as this party.

Aripeka Lodge offers all of you, no matter how you contributed, a humble “Thank You.”

Kissimmee Lodge 1873
Central District Vice President Bob Barry welcomed DDGER R. Michael ‘Mike’ Ritchie and other dignitaries and their spouses to the visitation at the Lodge. The evening was filled with good friends, good food and good speeches. Mike commended the ritual team on performing the ritual from memory.

Brooksville Lodge 2582
Congratulations go to Paul Sturk, PER, who submitted a scrapbook that he and his wife, Sylvia, compiled of “Elks Imaging in the Community.” It earned a second place award in the national judging. His wife Sylvia, Lodge Publicity Chairperson, wrote the articles and the pictures were taken by Paul. District Deputy R. Michael “Mike” Ritchie presented Paul with a plaque at the recent visitation on October 16 in Orlando.

The Sixth Annual Health Fair, coordinated by Fergie and Sue Ferguson, Chairpersons, was held on October 16. There were more vendors, food, entertainment and more guests attending than ever before. Many thanks go to the 15 Lodge members who helped create good public relations for hosting a successful “Community Health Fair.”

Gail Cleaves, National Service Chairperson, reported the Lodge donated a hundred American Flags that were placed on the graves of veterans in the Brooksville Cemetery for Veterans Day.
The North District is looking forward to the upcoming visit of State President James Hurst, wife Julia, as well as State VPAL Frank Hayes and wife Linda. District VP Carl Ledig has been planning the event for some time and promises all who attend to have a great time.

**Lake City Lodge 893**

Lake City Lodge has hired a new kitchen manager, Benita Robertson. Benita has over 25 years experience in food service and the lodge is looking forward to her able leadership. The Lodge is open on Mondays and Saturdays for football games and members have been invited to bring in their favorite snacks to share.

Exalted Ruler Skip Slater’s favorite month is November. Besides November 2 being Election Day, the 10th being the birthday of the Marine Corps, Veterans Day on the 11th, Skip’s birthday is the 12th, and then Thanksgiving at the end of the month where many of us spend time with family and friends. Skip reminded his Lodge to enjoy the events in the months that come only once a year.

The Lodge commemorated Veterans Day with a Remembrance Ceremony at 6 pm. Refreshments were served. Chaplain Ray Willis has set up a POW/MIA table at the Lodge in honor of those veterans who sacrificed so much.

Toy night this year was December 3. Members brought toys valued at $15 or more and received a complimentary meal that is served. This year the Lodge is partnering with Heritage Bank and the Columbia County Courthouse for additional toy donations. The Lodge mailed Christmas Charity tickets to all its members, asking each member to return $20 to the Lodge along with the ticket stubs. Proceeds from ticket sales provided dollars for toys and food baskets for needy families, with these baskets being delivered on December 18.

The Lodge held its memorial service on Sunday December 5th, honoring five members who had passed away this Lodge year. Lunch was served prior to the ceremony.

**Live Oak Lodge 1165**

Live Oak Lodge was pleased to welcome DDGER Carol Cruse for her visit on September 28. Visitors from other Lodges in the district enjoyed a fine meal provided by the kitchen team. The Lodge applauds the success of its October chicken dinner cookout, and especially appreciates all the folks who came to help prepare the food and support the event. Additional fundraising is planned by the Trustees with a raffle for a firearm.

The Lodge is proposing an amendment to its by-laws to change its meeting times to the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The Lodge currently meets on the second, third, and fourth Tuesdays.

The saltwater fishing tournament in the sponsored by the ladies’ Anna Miller Circle awarded prizes to three kids in the children’s competition for two redfish and a trout. The adult winners reeled in two redfish and two trout. A gas smoker was given away as well as a two-night hotel stay.

In preparing for Christmas, the Lodge has displayed a Christmas Angel tree in the foyer. Each angel has the name of a child who could use a toy and/or clothing for Christmas. Members are taking an angel from the tree and purchasing the items needed for each child.

The Anna Miller Circle at the lodge is preparing Christmas baskets for families for a Christmas dinner. The ladies are also making Christmas stockings to be given out at the Jasper Nursing Home. Stockings will be filled with toiletries and stationery items.

**Marianna Lodge 1516**

Marianna Lodge kicked off October with a Fish Fry featuring fish, hushpuppies, cheese grits, cole slaw, and iced tea. That kind of menu is always mouth-watering. A Halloween Party was held on October 29.

In the dining room, a Kids Menu has been added where all items are under $5. Also for the kids, there are crayons and coloring books for them to enjoy. As a new feature, Tuesday nights are “Cheap Nights,” with dinner specials less than $6.

The Marianna Ladies organization held its annual luau on October 9th. An evening meal was followed by live music and dancing. This annual event always draws a crowd to the Lodge.

A yard sale was held on November 20th as a fund raiser for the lodge. The annual Lodge Christmas Party was held December 10th. Live music was featured, as well as heavy hors d’oeuvres. For those wanting a meal, a limited dinner menu was available.

**Perry Lodge 1851**

Exalted Ruler Donald Evenham passed away in October after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The Lodge conducted a memorial service at the Lodge for Donald on November 4th. Past officer Kevin Cruse has been selected to fill the remaining Exalted Ruler term and was installed on November 9. Kevin’s focus is to increase community involvement of the lodge and improve program participation.

Perry Lodge held a Veterans banquet dinner on November 11, serving a complimentary meal to all veterans. Others attending the dinner paid only a nominal fee. On December 11, the Lodge conducted its annual Breakfast with Santa, which always draws a crowd.

The Lodge is especially proud of its new addition, giving the Lodge a separate Lodge room. Special thanks are owed to Patrick Floyd and Scott Harm for the decorative entry way door to the new room as well as wood trim in the lodge room.

**Tallahassee Lodge 937**

Tallahassee Lodge held a Halloween Party on Friday, October 29, and the folks in costume had a great time. A cash prize for the best costume always draws interest. A week later several volunteers prepared an authentic German dinner with bean and sausage soup, sauerbraten, wiener schnitzel, red cabbage and the like, all for the dining pleasure of the Lodge’s members. A big crowd came to enjoy the festive dinner and no one left hungry.

Veterans Day was celebrated in November with a mid-day meal preceded by a program, recognizing the appreciation we have for all veterans of our great country. The Lodge’s POW/MIA table is now located in the front foyer for greater visibility. Tallahassee Lodge was proud to be the final stop for the Patriotic Guard Riders Poker Run on November 13, serving complimentary burgers, hot dogs, and chips. The Guard Riders mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family. The Riders show respect for the fallen heroes and shield the families and friends from interruptions by protestors. They often provide an escort from the airport to the funeral home if the fallen hero arrives home by plane.

After the success of the German dinner, another theme dinner was provided in November, featuring Key West and fresh seafood. The gumbo, fresh fish, and honey lime chicken were delicious, but the homemade key lime pie with fresh whipped cream stole the hearts of all who attended.

**Elks Lodge member Harry Symons hands out a science fair award to Lindsay Patterson as her teacher, Barbara Barnes, helps her during a ceremony at Gretchen Everhart School.**

Several members of the Tallahassee Elks Lodge were on hand to judge the Science Fair at the local Gretchen Everhart School, a school for kids who are physically and emotionally challenged. PER Harry Symons, members Karla Jones and Barbara Langnehs, and widow Carolyn Ball were there to help with reviewing the projects prepared by the students and to give out awards.

Every student who participated in the competition received a certificate and group certificates were to be awarded for the best teamwork and the best originality. One remarkable project was How to Grow a Green Bean. The Fair received coverage in the local newspaper, The Democrat, and the article discussed the giving nature of the local lodge as well as the entire Elks organization. The article was complimentary of the lodge’s continued dedication to the school and has brought in one new membership application so far.

December began with the annual poinsettia delivery on Saturday, December 4 to widows of Elks. About 125 plants are purchased and then delivered by volunteers. The ladies organization, the Elketts held their Christmas Social on the fourth, with music, great food, and dancing. The Elks Memorial Service was held on Sunday, December 5, with refreshments served afterward. The Kids Christmas Party was well attended and Santa and Mrs. Claus thrilled everyone with their visit. The annual Eggnoq Social this year was held on Christmas Eve, where members could come by and wish holiday cheer to other members and guests.

**Elk members Harry Symons, Carolyn Ball, Barbara Langnehs and Karla Jones helped out at the Science Fair awards ceremony at Gretchen Everhart School.**
Summer Camp 2011

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

Dependents of Military / Army of Hope Week

We Have Built It!!!
YOU
Need to make sure they come!

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

Florida Elks Charities Donor Well Update

Partners ($5,000 to $9,999):
Dick Chapman

Patrons ($10,000 to $24,999):
Mike & Kathy Phillips
Tallahassee Elks Wishing Well

Benefactors ($25,000 to $49,999):

Visionaries ($50,000 & Up):
Walter & Ellen Petersen Trust
Estate of Evelyn Dawn Peterson

All children deserve a week at camp because Camp is for Kids!

Deadline for the Spring Edition—March 25, 2011

ADDRESS CHANGES

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

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