Florida Ladies of Elks
2013-2013 Officers installed

Five of the nine FLOE officers are shown above, from left, Connie Poage, Parliamentarian; Becky Long, Treasurer; Jane Moon, Secretary; Judy Reyes, Vice President; and Carol Phelps, President. The rest of the officers are shown below.

Carol Phelps motto for the year is “Celebrating 50 years of helping children.” Her colors are purple and gold. Her favorite flower is the purple Iris with a Gold center; gold being the color of the 50th Anniversary. A Rainbow hovers over her Iris representing all the children we have helped.

More photos, statistics and contributions are on pages 4 and 5.

Bob, Mike and I, along with our wives welcome you to the Florida Elk’s Mid-Year Convention and the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Fort Myers Elks Lodge. We hope you will enjoy the festivities and attend the various functions and meetings to learn more about the great work of the Florida State Elks Association.

Our veterans and our various veteran’s programs including the Army of Hope, continue to be in the forefront of our hard working Association members. Florida Elks work hard to honor and care for our veterans and their families. We must never forget or minimize their sacrifices as we remember them on the upcoming Veteran’s Day; I strongly urge our Elks Lodges across the state to invite Veterans in nursing homes or other facilities to the Lodge for a dinner; or, if that is difficult to the Veterans you wish to honor, bring a lunch or dinner to them. Show them that in Florida, veterans are honored by the Elks.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner, it is fitting that we give thanks for all our many blessings. I believe that one of the largest blessings Florida Elks have is the opportunity to help those less fortunate; our youth, our veterans and our senior citizens.

Our motto, “ELKS SHARE - ELKS SHARE” is a concise statement of WHO we are and WHAT we do as Elks.

Give Thanks to America’s Veterans
C. Valentine Bates, PGER

While we still have Elks Lodges around the state with financial difficulties, membership loss issues and other related problems, I am pleased to say that our spirit of camaraderie and goodwill seems to have strengthened, and the petty bickering that was once so pervasive in some of our Lodges seems to have diminished. Believe me, it is hard for a Lodge to live up to its potential and carry out the important work of Elkdom when it is bogged down in controversy, pushy egos and pettiness.

I salute your efforts to live up to the four cardinal principles of our Order.

The leaders of our great Florida State Elks Association wish you and your families a healthy, happy holiday season. Please plan to join us at our world class Florida Elks Youth Camp in February when we welcome our Grand Exalted Ruler and National President, Tom Brazier and his wife, Venita. Our Youth Camp is world class, as are the members of the FSEA – please show up in record numbers to show our GER from California that Florida Elks are the best in the country. Thank you in advance for all that you will do to help us show off the FSEA - our Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and our Florida Elks Youth Camp.
2012–2013 OFFICERS OF THE FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.

PRESIDENT: Sean D. Maguire
VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE: Brian T. Burns
2673 James River Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
Arcadia: 3662 NW C.R. 661
West Palm Beach Lodge 1532
Arcadia Lodge 1524

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS
Northwest........ Kevin F. Clemons ........ Ft. Walton Lodge 1795
North........ Buckner L. Pratt ............ Live Oak Lodge 1165
Northeast........ Wayne A. Reyes ........... St. Augustine Lodge 829
North Central Richard K. Krause........... Inverness Lodge 2522

East Central........ Thomas Brand........ Palm Coast Lodge 2709
Central........ Edward P. Seiter ............. West Citrus Lodge 2693
Southeast Central Susan K. Simonse .......... Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870
West Central......... Douglas J. Collett ......... Dunedin-Clearwater Lodge 1525
Southwest Central W. Dennis Osborn........ Brandon Lodge 2383
Southwest........ Patrick A. Gallagher ........ Manasota Lodge 2734
Southwest........ Kay E. Nielson ............. Deep Creek Lodge 2763
Southeast........ Patricia A. Phillips ........ West Palm Beach Lodge 1352
South Southeast........ Marilyn Kronenberg .......... Pompano Beach Lodge 1898
South............ Joaquin Lopez, Jr. .......... Miami Lodge 948
Treasures........... Jo D. B. Bronk ............. Viera Lodge 1529
Tiller............. Nelson B. Willis, Jr. ......... St. Augustine Lodge 829
Historian........... Lowell P. Tyler .......... West Palm Beach Lodge 1352
Curator of Museum Donald Sansoussi........... Lake Placid Lodge 2661

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Donald Sansoussi........ Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Vincent P. Como........... Chairman Margate Lodge 2563
R. William Wellbaum Jr. ... 3 year Englewood Lodge 2728
David B. Lake............. 2 year Ft. Myers Lodge 1288
James A. Coggins............ 1 year Warrington Lodge 2108
Frank D. Hayes........... Immediate Past State President Warrington Lodge 2108

DISTRICT DIRECTORS
Northwest........ David Wiley ............ Warrington Lodge 2108
North............ Ralph C. Ferrell ......... Tallahassee Lodge 937
Northeast........ Raymond D. Murphree .. St. Augustine Lodge 829
North Central..... Martin J.DeCarlo, Jr. ......... Apopka Lodge 2422
East Central...... Joe Rogers ............ Sanford Lodge 1241
Central............ Al Shaffer .......... Zephyrhills Lodge 2731
Southeast Central Lenny Smallcombe .... Ft. Pierce Lodge 1522
West Central...... Michael Penion ........ Stuart-Seminole Lodge 2519
South Central........ John Russo............. Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Southwest......... Frank Malatesa ........ Sarasota Lodge 1519
South Southwest..... Carl M. Sturm......... Englewood Lodge 2378
Southwest........... Jupiter Lodge 2469
South Southeast........ Denise E. May-Carter ....... Southwest Broward Lodge 2273
South............ Albert A. Reker ............ Miami Lodge 948

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS
Chaplain .................. F. Keith Epps .......... Cocoa Lodge 2605
Sgt-at-Arms............. James L. Lamb .......... Bradenton Lodge 1151
Organist.................. Patricia A. Maher ........ Margate Lodge 2463

HARRY-ANNA INVESTMENT FUND, INC.
Michael Phillips........... President Titusville Lodge 2113
Winston M. Needham .......... Vice President Ocala Lodge 286

HARRY-ANNA TRUST FUND, INC.
W. Larry Henley........... President Tallahassee Lodge 937
Alex McKibbin............. Vice President Sanford Lodge 1241

HARRY-ANNA THOMSON TRUST FUND, INC.
James L. Solana............ Chairman St. Augustine Lodge 829

HARRY-ANNA YOUTH CAMP, INC.
Phillip S. Watercutter .... President Deland Lodge 1463
Thomas R. Ludwick ....... Vice President Plant City Lodge 1277
Lynn Warburton .......... Director Palm Coast Lodge 2709

FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES, INC.
Elmer St. Louis Schimmelschmidt........ President Lodge 2383
James “Jim” Lind .......... Vice President Southwest Broward Lodge 2273
Ben Brown.............. Administrator Eustis Lodge 1578

PAST GRAND EXALTED RULERS
Robert Graham, PGER Florida Co-Sponsor
10523 SW 12th Terrace - Miramar - 32667
C. Valentine Bates, PGER Florida Co-Sponsor
1511 NW 6th street - Gainesville - 32601
Michael F. Smith, PGER Florida Co-Sponsor
P. O. Drawer EE - Plant City - 33564

STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE
Sean D. Maguire
FSEA State President

As you read this issue of the Florida Elks News, the time is near for the Mid-Year Convention to be held in Ft. Myers. While there, we will have the opportunity to support the Ft. Myers Elks Lodge 1288 in celebration of its 100th anniversary. We are looking forward to seeing a large crowd in Ft. Myers since we did not have the opportunity for the August Quarterly. The Major Projects Meeting at the August Quarterly is generally a good day for donations to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in support of our children. We will be happy to add these donations to our Mid-Year Convention donations. Remember, “It’s for the kids”.

Our District visitations are going extremely well to date. Since the last publication of the Florida Elks News, Barbara and I, along with VPAL Brian and Mary Kay Burns, have visited four additional districts. We have been very encouraged by the Membership Engagement we have witnessed firsthand. We have had the opportunity to meet new friends and greet old friends as we visited the South Southeast, South, West Central, and Southeast Central Districts. I am very pleased to see the great number of new and proposed new members who have taken the time to come out to the visitations. We had the pleasure of speaking with several of our FECTS Therapists who have been kind enough to join us. The District Vice Presidents and Lodges are doing a great job in getting members out to the Lodges for these visitations. I would like to thank the District Vice Presidents who have done a wonderful job in planning and organizing to assure all in attendance have a wonderful weekend. In addition to these District visits, we had the opportunity to visit the Youth Camp one weekend to witness the staff and campers interaction as well as the checking out and in of the campers. What an experience that was. The staff does a marvelous job with the children.

We also had opportunity to attend the August meeting of the Advisory Council. Finally, I had the distinct honor of throwing out the first pitch at a Tampa Bay Rays game versus the Texas Rangers. By the time you read this, we will have attended the FLOE Convention in Melbourne with three additional Districts, and the Fall Trust Fund Seminar. I will report on them in the next edition.

We are so thankful for the numerous donations that the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and the Elks National Foundation. I would like to thank John Lahella from the South Southeast District who made us a “Harry-Anna Bus”. Since that visitation, the generosity of Florida Elks has been very evident. In each visit, Harry-Anna Chairman, Donna Berkowitz, has been very appreciative of the Elks in attendance “stuffing the bus” for Harry-Anna.

During our visits, we have enjoyed being greeted by children who presented us with a “We Welcome You” sign with their handprints on it, having several members of the “Antlers” in attendance, entertained by outstanding High School bands, being presented with a “Key to the City” as well as proclamations from Mayors and Councilmen, and watching Native American Dancing by the Hitchiti Dancers from the Boy Scouts. I am so proud of the impact our local lodges are having in their individual communities as they share with us their achievements regarding community involvement.

With the holiday season now upon us, Barbara and I wish each of you and your families A Very Safe and Joyous Holiday Season. Encourage your membership to be engaged in support of our Veterans and underprivileged children of our local communities during this time of year as we show that Elks Care, Elks Share!

We woke up to a typical summer day in Florida. It was another rainy day. But this day was special! I was going to have the opportunity to throw out the first pitch at the Tampa Rays game as President of the Florida Elks. But rather than being jubilant, I was praying that the rain kept falling and the game would be rained out. Then I was told: The Rays have a dome stadium.

I guess I would have to rely on my right arm to come through for me. After all, I had been practicing with my daughter and had been assured by her that I was doing great! 8 out of 10 pitches were right in there for a strike. But I fretted! What about those two other pitches that had minds of their own? Would they be the one that surfaced? I kept hearing the words of our Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Mike Smith, who said “bring heat!”. Bring heat? Heck, I was just praying that I could bring it over the plate.

I guess Jake Jacobs could tell me was nervous just before going out to the mound, so he suggested I warm up with him. I threw one pitch before the grounds attendant suggested that we spread out 10’ apart. I threw it to Jake and it was a strike. The grounds attendant pulled me further away from the plate. But this day was a wonderful weekend. In addition to these District visits, we had the opportunity to visit the Youth Camp one weekend to witness the staff and campers interaction as well as the checking out and in of the campers. What an experience that was. The staff does a marvelous job with the children.

Get this over with before all the fans arrived? I found out there were two others doing the same thing. Oh, how misused loves company. When the moment arrived, I would be second to throw. I watched as the first gentleman sent his pitch sailing toward the plate. Strike! It was my turn. “Stay calm. You don’t want to embarrass the Elks in the stands watching you,” thought as I walked slowly towards the mound. Then I thought, “Final game of the world series, two outs, and bases loaded in the top of the ninth. One run lead. I’m called out of the bullpen to produce the last out. The guy up has been slaming the fast ball over the fence all series. Bring heat? No, I need to throw a nice easy pitch over the inside corner for the strikeout!” The pitch was a nice slow change-up right over the base for the strike! You’re out! Game over! We win!! The crowd roars.

Then I realized the ball had left my hand and reached the plate without bouncing and without the catcher having to jump for it. I did it! I got the first pitch over the plate and hadn’t embarrassed myself or the Florida Elks. It was my turn. “Stay calm. You don’t want to embarrass the Elks in the stands watching you,” thought as I walked slowly toward the mound. Then I thought, “Final game of the world series, two outs, and bases loaded in the top of the ninth. One run lead. I’m called out of the bullpen to produce the last out. The guy up has been slaming the fast ball over the fence all series. Bring heat? No, I need to throw a nice easy pitch over the inside corner for the strikeout!” The pitch was a nice slow change-up right over the base for the strike! You’re out! Game over! We win!! The crowd roars.

Now it was time to settle down, have a hot dog and a drink, and watch a tremendous game. The Rays beat the Texas Rangers, 6 to 0, within the confines of an air conditioned, dry, and comfortable stadium. Over 500 Elks and guests enjoying the game while supporting Harry-Anna with their purchase of a game ticket. What a beautiful day it turned out to be. Thank you Jake Jacobs for another great “Day at the Rays”!

Sincerely,
Sean D. “Righty” Maguire
2012 November Midyear Convention – Fort Myers
I usually begin my fall message with a report on the August Quarterly. This time, however, I have nothing to report as you probably are aware we have chosen to dispense with the August Quarterly for the foreseeable future in deference to allowing the camp to be available for that weekend! It is even hoped that in the near future that summer camp can be extended an additional week! By not holding an August meeting, we will definitely have some catching up to do at our midyear meeting in Fort Myers, most especially when it comes to our committee work and our membership liaison activities. Please make sure to attend all important midyear meetings!

2013 February Quarterly – Florida Elks Youth Camp
The February 2013 meetings will be held at the Youth Camp February 7-9. It is recommended that reservations for the February meetings be made early as room availability is always limited in the Umatilla area during that time of the year. A list of area hotels can be found at our website at www.flelks.org.

Have You Seen Our Newly Reconstructed Florida Elks Website?
On October 1st our creative team rolled out a new and improved Florida Elks website! We are so very proud of the improvements made to the site and extend our thanks to our Director of Marketing & Communications, Greg Weis, and his very capable team for their outstanding work! Of the many improvements on the site there are several that I am most proud of and one is the reintroduction of a member forum. As we progress in our attempts to make changes in our Lodges that will make us more attractive to prospective members, we will benefit greatly from this ability to discuss what works and what doesn’t. The forum provides us a place to share our individual insights with others and build on our successes. Please make it a habit to routinely visit the forum and engage in the conversations taking place. Another feature of the website is access to the orientation videos about our major projects. These videos are no longer just for the Lodge. They may now be viewed at any time and by anyone! What a great way to show others what we do on a state level and to see firsthand how our hard work and support is affecting the lives of children! One comment heard often throughout our state is our regret at no longer being able to go to our hospital and see the children we are treating. That one-on-one experience is nearly impossible to create in our Therapy Services Program but taking a very significant step in that direction, Greg and his team have provided us with a virtual way to do that! On our website click on the Therapy Services button and then under Real Stories, Real People click on Meet the Children. Here you can read a constantly updating story on Mathew, one of the children we are treating through our Therapy Services program. By reading his story you will no doubt develop a better understanding of how significantly we are affecting the lives of the children we are treating and their families! Furthermore you are encouraged to subscribe to the RSS Feeds which is a fancy way to be notified when updates are made to this portion of our website and will allow you to be the first to receive the update on Mathew. While never being able to replace that one-on-one connection we had with our patients in our hospital, we hope this will help fill that void we have had and allow our members to be more engaged! By following the stories of our patients we know it will fill your heart with joy and will make you proud with pride for the differences we are able to make in the lives of children! These are just a couple of things on the website; there are many more! Explore and have fun doing it and let Greg know how he is doing! This is our website and your constant use of it and participation in it is our goal. Please let us know how we can improve it and make it better! Greg’s e-mail address is greg@floridaelks.org or he may be reached by phone at (800) 523-1673 extension 226.

2012 Florida Ladies of Elks Conference
In late September, I was privileged to attend the 49th annual conference of the Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE). This conference recognized the ladies’ achievements over the prior year, a highlight of which was their never ending support of our major projects. During 2011-2012 our Ladies organizations donated over $128,000 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and our major projects! Congratulations go to FLOE State President, Betty Groff, and her officers for a great year, and best wishes are given for an even better year to incoming 2012-2013 State President, Carol Phelps, and her officer team! Ladies, we thank you! Incidentally, this year is the 50th anniversary of the founding of FLOE. Please let us know if you might have anything of a historical significance pertaining to the Florida Ladies of Elks. The 50th anniversary celebration and conference will take place in September of 2013 and we would like to help make this a historic event!

2013 State Convention & Silent Auction
The 2013 State Convention will be held once again at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort May 23-26. More information on the State Convention will be available in late December/January. At State Convention the Florida Ladies of Elks will once again be holding a silent auction to benefit the Harry-Anna Trust. Lodges are asked to plan now to contribute items to the auction. The items may be delivered in advance to the FSEA offices at the Youth Camp or may be brought to the State Convention and delivered onsite. This is a great way for Lodges to meet their per-capita donations obligation since all funds received from the sale of an item are credited to the donor and his or her Lodge.

Here to Serve!
The staff of the Florida State Elks Association is proud to serve our Association and its members. If at any time we can be of assistance or service to you, please don’t hesitate to contact us. My phone number is (800) 523-1673 extension 230 and my e-mail address is carl@floridaelks.org.

FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

The 49th Annual Conference held at the Hilton Melbourne Oceanfront was filled to capacity. My thanks to the SEC District for their support, being President of FLOE was a very rewarding experience for me. Thanks go to all the Chairladies, you are an exceptional group of ladies. Our goals for another year have been met. We had a very busy, and informative, fun filled three (3) days, and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did.

“365” Club Chairlady Carole Weston presented two (2) Giant blown up Checks, one to: Lynn Warburton, FEYC Director, in the amount of $2,786.87 earmarked for a project, and the other one to Ben S. Brown, Jr. FECTS Administrator in the amount of $7,706.36 earmarked towards a Van. Donations to date have totaled a whopping $376,148.11 - Congratulations, go to Carole on her 34th year with FLOE.

Judy Schall, SD from SSW District and her committee, presented a very impressive and fun filled Workshop on Fund Raising. A very large Christmas tree was presented to President Betty, by chairlady Linda Rittenhouse, Parliamentarian, from NE District.

Lynn Warburton, FEYC Director, presented the awards for Donations & Campers from April 2011 through March 2012. Most Money Donated: - 1st Place; Cape Coral Ladies of Elks, $87,470 - 2nd Place; Bonita Springs Ladies of Elks, $2,600 – 3rd Place; Live Oak Anna Miller Circle, $2,550 - Most Campers sent to Camp: 1st Place; Cape Coral Ladies of Elks, with 47 Campers 2nd Place; Port Orange Elk Hearts, with 11 Campers 3rd Place; N. Fort Myers Elkettes, with 9 Campers.

Lynn reported that 21,744 children experienced a safe camping experience this year. Thank you Lynn. The ladies appreciate everything you do for the children. Lynn informed everyone that they were always welcome to tour the Camp and to call him to schedule. Visit the new web site for the Elks at www.floridaelks.org.

President Betty introduced Advisory Member Felicia Vuetic, and thanked her for her many hours donated serving as the Chairlady for the Silent Auction, held at the State Convention. Felicia presented Carl Seibert, Secretary of the Elks with the proceeds of that event, a check in the amount of $3,056.

Nikki McAnary, OTR/L Physical Therapist, many thanks for your informative presentation. The response for Teddy Bears was tremendous. We hope the children will enjoy the Teddy Bears for years to come.

Our Memorial Service presented by Vice President Carol Phelps and with music and songs presented by Director of Music, Nikki McAnary. Nikki spoke about the Veteran’s Certificates, and how to apply for a Certificate to honor a deceased loved one, that has served in the military.

Ben S. Brown, Jr FECTS Administrator, presented three (3) awards for contributions to the Youth Camp from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012. Plaques were presented for the largest dollar amount donated; 1st Place to: Punta Gorda Elklettes, $5,575 and 2nd Place to: St Augustine Elks Club $2,800. Also a plaque was presented for the largest amount of money donated for per capita to: Live Oak Anna Miller Circle with a total of $227.27 per member. Live Oak has 16 members. The Traveling Trophy was presented to Punta Gorda Elklettes.

A total of $50,645.99 was donated by the ladies for 2011-2012. A total of $50,645.99 was donated by the ladies for 2011-2012. Our 49th Annual Conference was Ben’s 30th year of presenting an annual report of the FECT Services to the ladies of FLOE.

Congratulations to the winners of our Awards this year: Cape Coral Ladies of Elks,透气 fantastic job, they ran away with three (3) awards this year, Scrapbook; Score 97 of 100, Membership in Attendance; with 39 members present, and Mileage; total miles traveled 7,878.

FLOE continued page 4
The following donations are from the period April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012 and include contributions to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Youth Camp, Trust Fund and Elks Charities. A combined total of $50,046.00 was donated to the Harry Anna Trust Fund, Elks Charities and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.**

Another $53,562.59 was donated to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.**

**

NORTHWEST DISTRICT
Panama City Does Drove
1,053.00

Pensacola Bch Ladies of Elks
2,650.00

District totals
3,703.00

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT
Eustis Anna Miller Circle
2,025.00

Ocala Ladies
1,075.00

Winter Garden Ladies of Elks
1,000.00

Winter Park Does Drove 86
705.00

District totals
4,805.00

SOUTHWEST CENTRAL DISTRICT
Brandon Ladies of Elks
1,465.00

Lake Placid Ladies of Elks
1,032.00

Lake Wales Elkettes
121.00

Plant City Ladies of Elks
360.00

District totals
4,907.00

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
Bradenton Elkettes
1,365.00

District Totals
1,365.00

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
West Palm Beach Ladies Auxiliary
114.00

District totals
114.00

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT
Ft. Pierce Elkettes
2,330.00

Melbourne Ladies Auxiliary
1,070.00

Sebastian El-Does
761.00

District totals
4,171.00

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT
Daytona Beach Emblem Club 204
25.00

Ladies of the Island Elks-MI
58.00

Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Aux
1,410.00

Palm Coast Ladies Auxiliary
2,125.00

Port Orange Elks Hearts
1,125.00

Sanford Ladies Elks
45.00

Titusville Does Dr. 183
100.00

District Totals
4,888.00

NORTH DISTRICT
Live Oak Anna Miller Circle
2,500.00

Mariana Ladies of Elks
200.00

Tallahassee Elks
60.00

District totals
2,760.00

NORTHEAST DISTRICT
Orange Park Ladies Auxiliary
25.00

St. Augustine Eland Club
2,800.00

District totals
2,825.00

CENTRAL DISTRICT
Arrieka Ladies of Elks
264.00

Kissimmee Elkettes
150.00

Orlando Does Drove 66
265.00

West Citrus Ladies of Elks
1,000.00

District totals
1,679.00

SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
Delray Beach Elkettes
983.00

Pompano Beach Does Drove 142
705.00

District totals
2,036.00

Punta Gorda Elkettes won the plaque for Most Money Donated to the Florida Elks Childrens Therapy Services.

Cape Coral Ladies of Elks won two plaques from Lynn Warburton for Most Money, $8,740, donated and Most Campers, 47, sent to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Dolores Casella, PSP Program Book Chairman, reported income of $3,370 for Ads and Boosters. Dolores presented the award for the most Ads to; Punta Gorda Elkettes with $310 - Booster Awards for the most money collected went to: 1st Place Fort Pierce Elkettes with 207 names $621 – 2nd Place; Cape Coral Ladies of Elks with 63 names $189 – 3rd Place Bonita Springs Ladies with 51 names $153

Beverly Messerschmidt, PSP, installed the Officers and Advisory members. Plaques were presented to Beverly Messerschmidt, PSP/Chairlady and Bonnie Lee Member for their four years of service on the Advisory Council.

The Committee Chairlady’s are always there; congratulations to you and your committee members for a job well done. Thanks go to North District for the beautiful table arrangements. I never saw so much pink in one place, thanks to all for your dedication. My thanks to Mary Fox, SD from Sebastian, for her diligence, and all the hard work that went into the SEC Hospitality room, Mary played a double role, holding down several posts. And many thanks to Jamie Grage. She was a little busy Bee, working on setting up, taking down, and keeping everything stocked. Faye Bryant our silent worker, thank you for your loyalty. Many thanks to all the PSP’s and dignitaries, that attended our Conference. It was an honor to serve as President with FSEA Frank Hayes, PSP and Sean Maquire, President. It’s through your dedication to Elksdom, and the support of the Elks that makes the ladies of FLOE goals, more achievable. The evening performance by Dan Cunningham as Elvis was well received.

Congratulations to President Carol Phelps, and her Officers for the upcoming year. Let’s come out and support them for FLOE’s 50th year Anniversary. On behalf of FLOE my sincere thanks to everyone for their hard work. Your support and monies raised enable us to contribute to our two major projects each year, and the Elks charities. With a little Love in your Heart, Happiness will follow.
Florida Ladies of Elks President Carol Phelps lights the candle of her office as Vice President Judy Reyes watches and awaits the lighting of her candle.

Presidential Memorial Certificates Florida Program Director Lenny Smallacome gave the ladies an informative message detailing the process of obtaining a certificate for the families of deceased Veterans.

FLOE 365 chairlady Carole Weston gave the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services a check for $8,321.61.

Elvis Impersonator, Dan Cunningham, entertaining the FLOE delegates for two hours after the banquet.

An amusing workshop presentation gave the ladies several fundraising ideas to use in their Lodges.

Nikki McAnary, OTR/PT, FECTS, gave the ladies a presentation regarding her therapy and successes with developmentally disabled children of Florida.

Elvis had a few ladies swooning including JoAnn Copperman from the Southwest Central District.

The new King and Queen of Florida Ladies of Elks, FLOE President Carol Phelps and husband Wesley.

Selling chances to win a tree decorated with a lot of cash is another way for the ladies to gain some income.

Scrapbook award went to Cape Coral.
Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

Thomas S. Brazier, GER

What can your Lodge do with Free Money?

As you all know, in October we focus the spotlight on the Elks National Foundation. Often called "The Great Heart of Elkdom," many Officers are not aware of the many facets of ENF. They know about the Scholarship and Veterans Programs, but may not understand the various grants available directly to the Lodges and the criteria for obtaining these grants.

Through the Community Investments Program, the ENF will invest $6.5 million in Lodge communities this year. Lodges can use Community Investments Program grants to serve the community, so be sure to apply online.

First, let's start with the newest of the ENF grants, the Beacon Grant. Beacon Grants are $1,000 grants available to every Lodge. This grant program began July 1 and offers Lodges an opportunity to develop an ongoing, charitable, Elks-driven community project. For this grant, all you need to do is have a program plan and apply for the grant. Free money!

Gratitude Grants, worth $2,000, are available to Lodges that meet the GER’s $4.50 per-member goal for giving to the ENF. These grants can be used to serve a variety of community needs. Promise Grants, also worth $2,000, are available to the first 500 Lodges that apply to hold a youth event.

As you can see, the monies add up very quickly. You can use a $1,000 Beacon Grant in conjunction with a $2,000 Gratitude Grant and/or a $2,000 Promise Grant, to maximize your community project and promote awareness in your community for the work that is being done by your Lodge.

Finally, Impact Grants are competitive grants of up to $10,000 designed to help Lodges make a visible, significant and ongoing difference in their communities. Just as their name implies, what better way is there to make an “impact” in your community?

Applications were due August 31, and 2013 recipients will be announced at the end of October. As you see, many resources are available to Lodges to help increase participation in the community and to make a Difference in the charitable programs being administered. Remember, the more visible you are in your local community, the more you will attract members who want to be part of an organization that is making a difference. Don’t leave the money unused. Apply for your grants now! Visit the ENF’s Web site, www.elks.org/enf/community, to get started.

Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services

Annual Report of FECTS Administrator
Ben S. Brown, Jr.
At the Forty-Ninth Annual Florida Ladies of Elks Conference
Melbourne Beach, Florida
September 29, 2012

President Betty Groff, platform dignitaries at the head table, Delegates to this Forty-Ninth Annual Conference, lovely ladies and guests,

I am proud to report that this is my 30th conference presenting an annual report of the activities and accomplishments of our major project Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. I consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to personally tell you about this project’s achievements, and to thank you for your generous support.

As we continue into our 14th year of the program which commenced on March 1, 1999, I am pleased to report that the Florida Elks’ program of in home Physical and Occupational Therapy is in good health and continues to grow.

I think we have assembled an incredible staff of therapists who help create a positive image for our order as well as assisting us in carrying out our humanitarian goals. I feel blessed to have hired a group of compassionate, talented and professional therapists, and also feel lucky to have found equally skilled replacements when a few therapists left the program over the years. Our staff consists of 23 therapists none of whom are pregnant at this time.

Alice Smith, my Administrative Assistant, is of invaluable assistance in keeping our office running smoothly.

The cost of operating Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services for the year ending March 31, 2012 was $2,307,33 which was under the approved budget by $201,353. The approved budget for 2012-2013 is $2,784,194. I would remind all that not one penny of the income to operate the program comes from any governmental agency, but instead comes from the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, the Elks of Florida, the Elks National Foundation and our generous Ladies Organizations.

Currently, we are treating more than 360 children per week with free Physical or Occupational Therapy, and 518 children have received this free therapy during the most recent fiscal year. A total of 12,443 treatments have been carried out by our therapists, which consumed 15,026 hours of their time. While providing this in-home therapy the therapists logged 481,315 miles in the vans we provide.

A number of these vans have been donated by various Ladies Organizations such as FLOE which has donated 4 vans, the “365” club of FLOE has donated 4 vans, Live Oak Anna Miller Circle has donated 2 vans, Eustis Anna Miller Circle has donated 2 vans, Warrington Elkettes 2 vans and Aripeka Ladies have joined with the Aripeka Lodge to donate 2 vans, Punta Gorda Elkettes one van. The donation of these vans allow FECTS to utilize its funds on patient care instead of capital expenditures.

I thought you might be interested to know the cost of operating our fleet of vans for the year ending March 31, 2012. As you might imagine, the cost of operating our fleet of vans has a major impact on our budget consuming $108,515 of that budget. The major items of expense during the most recent fiscal year were $86,387 for gasoline, repairs and maintenance cost $10,707 and tires added another $5,000 to auto expenses.

Keep in mind these accomplishments came as a result of the skillful and compassionate hands of our therapists, who are such wonderful ambassadors for our program. I hope you will have the opportunity to meet the therapist who serves children in your area in the future.

The work of this outstanding humanitarian program could not be possible without the support of your fine and generous ladies organizations. You might be interested to know that you ladies have donated $1,272,000 since FECTS began in 1999. That’s more than $100,000 per year and another way you have fully funded a therapist position each year for 12 years.

Before presenting this year’s awards, I want to tell you what a pleasure it has been working with you during this past year, and hope that you will continue to embrace this wonderful major project.

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From Left, Mr. Bill Moore, Chairman Foundation Board, Treasure Coast Hospice, Lenny Smallcombe, State Coordinator Elks PMC Program, Barbara Smallcombe Exalted Ruler, Fort Pierce Elks #5120 and Dr. Louis Benson, CEO, Treasure Coast Hospice

Treasure Coast Hospice is one of Florida’s largest hospice groups with branches in Stuart, Hobe Sound, Okeechobee and Fort Pierce, Florida, they offers the Florida State Elks Presidential Memorial Certificate Program to Veterans patients families and the program has been successful.

President Memorial Certificate Program Director, Lenny Smallcombe and his wife, Barbara were invited to attend a Treasure Coast Hospice Corporate Luncheon at the new TCH Counseling Building in Fort Pierce, Florida.

Lenny met many business leaders of the Treasure Coast during this huge TCH corporate event. Many of these business and community leaders were surprised and amazed to learn about Florida Elks two major projects and its many Youth, Seniors, and Veterans programs of service to communities across Florida. Lenny has been invited back to speak at a future meeting about the FSEA Presidential Memorial Certificate program and Florida Elks two Major Projects.
The Elks Retirement Community

Don’t stop reading!

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

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

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

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

You can help by sending your donation to the Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Ave., Bedford, VA 24523. You can specify the General Fund (to be used as needed), Special Care Benefits (for the care section), Modernization (for improvements, repairs, and renovations), or Entertainment (for activities for the residents). Bequests are also a wonderful way to support the Home and they are greatly appreciated. The Elks National Home is a 501(c)3 and 509(a)2 non-profit organization, so your gifts are tax deductible.

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

If you have questions or want more information, write to Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523 - call 1-800-552-4140 - e-mail enhome@elkshome.org.

TO OUR ABSENT BROTHER

By Lowell P. Tyler, State Historian

Back in the forming days of the Jolly Corks Crist Music Hall was located on Bleeker Street, not far from the Bowery in New York City. It was considered one of the more famous concert halls at the time. It also became a location where many acts appeared for the “tryout” before their regular appearance.

The owner of this establishment was Christopher Crist, a large 250 pound Dutchman. Crist was loved by all of the performers and always kept his music hall supplied with entertainment. His beer was always free to performers.

The Music Hall was a huge place, holding some 500 or more. His patrons, who were usually performers, were introduced and they would often perform, keeping the crowd in a merry mood and into the late hours while providing Crist with free entertainment.

At the rear of the hall there was a large alcove with a table that reached the full length of the room and a bench placed on each side for seats.

On certain nights actor friends would hold a Dutch Lunch with waiters selected to supply Crist’s guest’s with all of the refreshments.

One night following a meeting of the Jolly Corks, Vivian and the Madrigals under the direction of Steirly made their appearance together in a standing room only crowd as people had to be turned away at the door. After the performance they gathered at Crist’s and were escorted to the alcove where they celebrated their success and while still in high spirits many did their own songs or skits.

Announcing that he (Crist) had a birthday on the 23rd of November he invited all of the Corks to attend, promising them the finest lunch they had ever seen along with all the beer they could drink.

A decision was made to have a meeting of the Corks on that day, after a scheduled performance at Donaldson’s London Theater, to celebrate Crist’s birthday. An invitation was extended to everyone who would like to attend.

As the festive parade turned onto Bleeker Street a large crowd blocked their way. Inquiring of a police officer what the delay was, he said, “Oh! One of the usual sailors’ brawls! This time they have killed Crist!” Almost at that instant, the East Side Cathedral began to chime, which struck every night at eleven o’clock. As the last chime rang, Riggs directed the Quintette to sing “Auld Lang Syne.” The entire assembly joined in, held their arms high and at the conclusion exclaimed “To Our Absent Brother.” Thereafter, this would become the general practice at all sessions of the Corks.

WWII Memorial field of 4,048 gold stars, each representing 100 Americans who died in the war. In front of the wall lies the message “Here we mark the price of freedom.”

On battlefields of long ago and today, America’s veterans made sacrifices for all of us. Through their service, their pride, and their patriotism, the men and women of our armed forces made our nation what it is today. They defended our freedoms. They fought for justice. They preserved our ideals. Through it all, they forged our character. Our veterans are our real heroes. Indeed, our nation was built by their actions.

Washington, DC Korean War Soldier

Each November, the Elks observe National Veterans Remembrance Month. We ask everyone in our communities throughout Florida to join the Elks as we thank our veterans. Let’s all do our part to remember these men and women. God bless our veterans, God bless the men and women serving in our military and their families, and God bless America.
Correction:

Please note that in the last newsletter, it was reported that the new Lake Okeechobee Lodge was meeting at the American Legion Hall. This was incorrect. It is meeting at the VFW Hall on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The reporter regrets this error. This new Lodge will be instituted on December 16th at the VFW Lodge in Okeechobee.

On September 23rd, the Southeast District hosted a Bowling Party for the Lodges in the District. SEDVP Patti Phillips, PER was the hostess and made all the arrangements. There were approximately 50 bowlers and many others who just came to cheer on their Lodge members who bowled. It was a grand time and funds were raised for the District. Another Bowling Party will be held at the beginning of the year.

Jupiter Lodge 2460

The Lodge was very busy collecting school supplies during the summer. They were able to full 20 bags of supplies and delivered them to schools in their area. A novel idea was started at the Lodge. A raffle drawing is underway. The winner will receive next year’s membership dues as the prize.

Lodge members are trying very hard to attract new members and have instituted a New Members Night complete with weekly Elk Races, covered dish dinner to share, and a $1.00 members drawing. ER Brian Lust had a wonderful article in the Palm Beach Post newspaper about the Elks and what we are about. The purpose was to promote new members.

On September 23rd, the Lodge sponsored a bus trip to the Miami Dolphins when they played the New York Jets. The bus ride was very entertaining with half the group for the Jets and half for the Dolphins.

The Lodge will be holding a Haunted House in October as a community fundraiser. Local high schools will be in competition for this event.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

Congratulations to Lodge members Tim Hadsell who received a $1,000.00 Beacon Grant from the Elks National Foundation. This is a very busy day and many of the voters were impressed with the work we do that they were unaware of. The next election will be busier with many more people voting for President.

Thanks to a Gratitude Grant, two elementary schools received Dictionaries from State President Sean Maquire. These schools were Wynnewood Elementary and Greenacres Elementary. SP Maquire’s daughter, Stacey, teaches 3rd grade at Greenacres and was excited about having her father participate.

Also, congratulations to PDDGER Bruce Cook who has received notification that he was granted a Freedom Grant of $2,000.00. The plans are to use this grant for the purposes of helping out the Army of Hope Picnic in our area.

South Miami-Coral Gables Lodge 1676

Members of South Miami-Coral Gables Lodge 1676, in conjunction with the local Armstrong Ford and the Ford Motor Company’s Feeding America Program, donated 2480 meals to the Hunger Drive Event in just two hours. The Lodge received a landscaping upgrade thanks to new member Kenneth Cook, Bruce Hovarath of Emerald Tree Farms, Lu of Personal Landscaping, and the South Miami Garden Club.

On Friday, August 24th, South Miami-Coral Gables Lodge 1676 hosted a casual dinner welcoming State President Sean Maquire and First Lady Barbara to the South District. During dinner the entertainment was provided by local magicians.

South Dade Lodge 2870

Exalted Ruler Antonio Brooks was honored at the National Convention in San Antonio Texas as the top membership recruiter for Area Three which consists of seven states. The Grand Lodge rewarded Antonio by taking care of his airfare and hotel expenses to San Antonio.

Miami Lodge 948

The Lodge held its annual Fourth of July picnic that included 150 members and guests. The were treated to hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, potato salad, and coleslaw. The Lodge honored this year’s four scholarship winners with an invitation to dinner with their parents and teachers and they were also introduced to the members prior to the Lodge’s meeting. They are Javier Aranzales, Matthew Pena, Michael Castano, Jacqueline Douek.

On July 14th Exalted Ruler Milton Muller, PER, was the Dee Jay for a 70’s, 80’s and 90’s dance that was attended by 75 members and guests.

On Saturday, August 18th, the Lodge held a Hawaiian Luau. The menu included Roasted Pork, Ham Steaks, Grilled Tilapia, mixed vegetables, and salad. The evening was capped off with the entertainment of a Fire Dancer out in the pool area.

On Saturday, August 25th, Miami Lodge 948 hosted the formal dinner and dance welcoming State President Sean Maquire and First Lady Barbara to the South District.

After Cocktails and Hors D’ Oeuvres in the Lounge, a delightful dinner was served that included: Asian Salad, a small Sorbet prior to dinner, a choice of either The House Special Pot Roast sautéed in a Mushroom Wine Sauce or Tilapia sautéed in a Tropical Sauce served with Roasted Potatoes and Corn and for dessert, the Lodge Chef’s specialty, Kahlua Mousse. After dinner and before the speeches, President, Sean Maguire presented the Lodge Antlers with his state pin and thanked them for their hard work.

On September 3rd, the Lodge held its annual Labor Day picnic. The fare included the standard hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, and all the fixings. The Elkette’s sold slices of homemade cakes and scoops of ice cream for a dollar.

On September 15th, the Lodge held its annual Casino Fair, with over 25 vendors offering their various products to members and guests.

Florida Keys Lodge 1872

On July 21st, Florida Keys Lodge 1872 held its annual Christmas in July. Members and guests were served a full course of ham and turkey for dinner including dessert. 42 members and guests participated in a blood drive during the event. A sunset service was held on their beach after dinner. Each member was asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the Burton Memorial Food Pantry. The event raised $5,600.00.

Lodge members celebrated the completion of their new bar within their ballroom. A portion of the back wall of the Lodge facing the bay was removed and replaced with sliding glass panels. Members and guests can now view the beautiful Florida sunsets each evening as they are sitting at the bar. The Lodge also hosted its annual BBQ Cook-Off the weekend of September 29th. The results have not been posted yet, but you can be assured the ribs and chicken were outstanding.

Correction:

PER Joy Booth has started the Texas Star Program at the Lodge. She learned about it at the National Convention in Austin, Texas. In corresponding with the Chairman in Texas, she has made the cards, which include a star from American Flags that are to be retired and an appropriate message. These cards are handed out to Veteran’s and active duty servicemen. The main idea and message is to tell and show the military that they are not forgotten by the Elks. So far she has handed out over 50 of these cards and is in the process of making more.

The Lodge held its first monthly Garage Sale on September 15th. This event was quite successful for the first attempt. A Garage Sale is now planned on the third Saturday of every month.

Belle Glade / Pahokee Lodge 1716

The Lodge is again hosting a successful Bingo once a week and the crowd is growing which is helping the Lodge grow with new members.

They are still doing Steak night every Friday which has always been very popular.

Business has been slow this summer; however, they expect it to pick up when all the summer residents return to the area.

Clewiston Lodge 1853

The members of the Lodge have spent many hours with the children of the area in sponsoring fishing tournaments. The kids really get excited when they hook a good size bass.

The Lodge also hosted its annual BBQ Cook-Off the weekend of September 29th. The results have not been posted yet, but you can be assured the ribs and chicken were outstanding.

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On September 15th, the Lodge held its annual Casino Night with all proceeds going to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. On September 26 the Lodge held a wine and beer tasting in the lounge. On September 29, the Lodge held its annual Autumn Fair, with over 25 vendors offering their various products to members and guests.

Florida Keys Lodge 1872

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Lodge members celebrated the completion of their new bar within their ballroom. A portion of the back wall of the Lodge facing the bay was removed and replaced with sliding glass panels. Members and guests can now view the beautiful Florida sunsets each evening as they are sitting at the bar. As a cost savings, the labor for this project was solely provided by members of the Lodge. Members also provided the Lodge with a new coat of paint. Next time you’re planning a trip to the Florida Keys, stop in to the Florida Keys Lodge and catch one of those stunning Florida sunsets.
South Hillsborough Elks Lodge 2672

Girlstories Leadership Theatre Program, which is part of Powerstories Theatre, is a theatre arts program for girls living in Hillsborough County, who will be in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades next year. The girls practiced at the South Hillsborough Elks Lodge for 6 weeks this summer from 9am to 4pm and put on a show for the Lodge on Wednesday, July 25th. Girlstories Leadership Theatre was awarded the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House in 2010. Their workshops use creative discovery techniques, dramatics, storytelling, writing and art activities to help these girls communicate more effectively and to tell their own stories with confidence.

Shown in the picture are Nasya Jasper, Janely Rodriguez, Haley-Starr Maldoando, Leonorida Sanchez, Sandra Sanchez, Taylor Davis, Kasey Connolly, Genesis Saintil, Marylen Garcia, Jacqueline Holbrook, Daisy Vasquez, Rosalinda Diaz, Marla Reyes, Mia-Ann McKay, Melissa Perez, April Cisneros, Daisy Mosso and Gary Paiham.

On September 14th, 2012, twenty two veterans from James Haley Hospital were treated to dinner and entertainment at the South Hillsborough Elks Lodge. Each vet was also presented with a $10.00 gift certificate from Wal-Mart, thanks to a grant from the Elks National Foundation. Veterans are guests of the Lodge on the 2nd and 4th Fridays each month.

Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge 1854

The Venice-Nokomis Lodge delivered school supplies on August 13th, 2012 to Sandra Terry of Laurel Civic Association, Inc., Terry and many volunteers offer an after school homework program for various schools in the community. The supplies were donated by Elks members and will be distributed the first week of school.

L to R: Chris Steinwachs, Sandra Terry, Executive Director of Laurel Civic Association and Carolyn Richard. Bradenton Elks Lodge 1511

At the 22nd Annual Business/Education Partnership Awards Breakfast held on August 8th, the top award, presented by the Manatee County School District and the Manatee Chamber of Commerce was presented to Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies, which is run by the Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodges. EFELT feeds approximately 500-600 homeless/food deprived children between the ages of 5 and 12 in the school district every weekend of the school year. The food consists of two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners and nutritious snacks, packed in backpacks every Friday. The two Lodges, use approximately 125 combined volunteers to assist in the program.

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge 2855

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge held a fundraiser for the K9s For Veterans Organization on August 12th. K9s For Veterans trains dogs to be companions to veterans, who have invisible disorders such as high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes and post traumatic disorder. These dogs can sense when something is wrong and alert the vet to take action. Approximately $3,500 was raised and is the largest single donation the organization has received.

Manasota Lodge 2734

The Manasota Lodge presented Tidewell Hospice & Palliative with a $500 check in memory of Our Absent Members. Hospice cares for both patient and family, through the services of a team that includes the patient’s physician, Tidewell nurses, counselors, home health aides and volunteers. Tidewell was very appreciative and assured the Lodge the donation would be used to help patients in Manatee County.

From left, Jim Larson, Leading Knight, Vicki Bartz, Community Relations for Tidewell and Doris Waddell, PDD Charity Chairman.

Do you like to cook? Then this book is for you! Enjoy recipes from around the state shared by fellow Elks. Select the cookbook option you would like to purchase and then click on the “Proceed to Shopping Cart” button. Cool Summer Fun in Florida Cookbook - $12.00 Each or 2 Cool Summer Fun in Florida Cookbooks Special - $20.00.
News

Kissimmee Lodge 1873

From left, Jim Penn, Rene Couture, Bob Barry, Mike Lucas, Marla Penn & Pat Berline. Chris Mullins also assisted but is not shown in the picture.

Under the guidance of the Supervisor of Elections, this team again worked under the “Adopt-A-Precinct” Program with the potential earnings of $6,000 for their Lodge. In addition the “perks” for their efforts are the benefit of signage at the polling location and the office of the Supervisor of Elections. The Lodge has picked up new members as a direct result of this program.

Kissimmee Lodge also suggests that other Florida Lodges check with local supervisor of elections to find out if a similar program exists in their county. This is a wonderful fundraiser for any Lodge and builds camaraderie and friendships within the Lodge and community.

Zephyrhills Lodge 2731

A Special Thanks went out to Great-grandfather, Lodge Member Charles C. Van Buskirk and Lodge members from Daniel and Colleen Munivez on behalf of their son (Charles great-grandson), Evan. The family found the cost of Autism Therapy very costly but essential for their child. The grant that the Elks donated to the family gave Evan immediate help to provide him therapy to help him improve his daily life as well as a productive future.

Brooksville Lodge 2582

Brooksville Elks Lodge cooked a spaghetti dinner in its kitchen and delivered it to the Senior Center, People Helping People, in Spring Hill. The Elks have provided food for the needy through PHP several times in the past.

Examples of aid assistance include:

- School lunches
- Medical and dental emergencies not covered by insurance
- Minor home repairs (plumbing, painting, etc.)
- Auto repairs or transportation when needed
- Full-time or back-up babysitting
- Phone cards to contact loved ones
- Lawn mowing, landscaping, sprinkler repairs
- A/C and major appliance repairs
- Clothing, shoes

In 2009 the Army of Hope began bringing dependent children of deployed military personnel to our Florida Elks Youth Camp. It has been a great opportunity for the kids to relax with their peers and enjoy our great camp.

Individual aid requests may be made by submitting a completed Assistance Request Form to your local Elks Lodge. The Lodge will review the request and submit it to the District Veterans’ Service Chairman. The District Chairman will then submit the request for final approval to the Army of Hope Committee.

FLORIDA Elks NEWS

CENTRAL DISTRICT

Reporter, Nancy Wanke
nwanke@cfl.rr.com

appreciate all they have done. There are plans for these veterans to return to the Brooksville Elks again in August.

Orlando Lodge 1079

Orlando Lodge honored Allen Herbeck as Veteran of the month, Staff Sergeant Allen Herbeck joined the US Air Force in September 1950 and was honorably discharged in September 1954 after serving duty for 4 years. SSG Herbeck took his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, TX. His overseas assignments were in Newfoundland, Labrador, Canada and the Azores Islands. SSG Herbeck was assigned as Radar Installation and Maintenance Supervisor during his service to his country.

Allen was awarded the Good Conduct and the National Defense Medals.

Aripeka Lodge 2520

September 8, 2012, Howard Taylor, chairman of the blood bank in conjunction with the Florida Blood services collected 21 pints of blood from Elks and friends.

Velma Ryder, Exalted Ruler was hostess to DDGER Joseph Morrow and Mary Kay; V P Joseph Seitler and Marilyn. Charles Trinowski Jr. PSP of the FEA and Mary Ann attended. Each gave an inspiring talk and a lovely dinner was served.

The Army of Hope is a program of the Florida State Elks Association established in 2007. Its mission is to provide aid assistance to the families of deceased, disabled, and deployed members of the military.

The families of Florida active duty military personnel, military reservists, Coast Guard, the National Guard, and/or their dependents are eligible. An active duty member stationed in Florida with his/her dependents would qualify as a Florida resident.

Since its inception, the Army of Hope has distributed over $170,000 to families of deployed military members. The help you give through the Florida Army of Hope allows the military member to safely concentrate on his/her duties without worrying about the family at home. The Army of Hope also assists returning veterans with costs to re-establish their civilian life after deployment.

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Forrest, 2020, a staff Sergeant in the US Army joined the US military in 1950. From left, Velma Ryder, Exalted Ruler; Joseph Seitler, Vice President Central District; Charles Trinowski Jr. PSP, FSEA and Joseph Morrow, DDGER Central District.

September 9, 2012, 50 Elks and friends attended the ball game at Tropicana Field to see the Rays beat Texas. A portion of each ticket will benefit the Elks Harry Anna Trust Fund.
Southeast Central District Vice President Suzi Simonelli was honored with the SEC District Visitaton of Florida State Elks Association President Sean Maguire and his wife Barbara on September 14-15. They are shown here with Suzi and her husband Joey.

Fort Pierce Lodge 1520

The Lodge participated in the 30th Annual Ft. Pierce Chili Cook-Off to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of St. Lucie County. The event help raise over $50,000. The theme was “Great Moments in Sports,” and our Lodge chose the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. We introduced our Senior Olympic Synchronized Swim Team, who performed their routine for a large crown and received a standing ovation. After all of the other entries performed, they were awarded first prize for “Best Stage Performance.” Drug Awareness bags were distributed throughout the day. Five scholarships were awarded to outstanding local high school graduates totaling over $5,000. Every month our Veteran’s Committee sent out six boxes of necessities and goodies to our troops overseas. The Lodge provides continued support to the Presidential Memorial Certificate Program and helps State Program Coordinator Lenny Smallacombe whenever he needs assistance. He was honored to have his display and program presented at the National Convention in Texas. Many Lodges and states have since adopted this program. Our Lodge was honored to host SP Sean and First Lady Barbara to a casual Friday evening dinner with music on his official visit to the District, and on Saturday evening the Lodge presented the SP with a check for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in the amount if $5,000. The Lodge’s 1520 Players presented a dinner show, “Last Stand at Ft. Pierce,” which had a western theme. The sold-out performance was enjoyed by all and the show helped raise money for our local charities.

Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

The Lodge held an Eagle Court of Honor for three Eagle Scouts on July 15. Congratulations to Colton Spencer, Preston Spencer and Taylor Spencer for obtaining the highest rank of the Boy Scouts of America, the Eagle Badge. Their Mom, Diane Spencer, is also a member and officer of the Lodge. The Lodge’s Charter Representative, Suzi Simonelli, DVP, presented each of the scouts with a certificate framed with an America Flag. Also in July the Lodge held its annual Christmas In July for ENF. In August, the Lodge had a beach party and a wild western night. In September, the Lodge was honored to hold a gala event for Sean Maguire, SP and his wife Barbara, on their official visit to the SEC District. Over 180 attended to meet the SP. A therapy van was on hand for all to see and two of the Therapists, Bruce Nathan and Christina Atkins were there as well. Congratulations to Elks of the Month, Debbie Wilson for July, Betsy Lou Taylor for August, and Walter Smith for September.

Vero Beach Lodge 1774

The PER’s awarded a scholarship to Jackson Gorman, who will graduate with an un-weighted ranking of #1 in his class, along with 11 other seniors of Vero Beach High School. He currently has a 4.0 un-weighted grade point average and a 4.666 weighted grade point average on a 4.0 scale. He sees and feels things differently, which allows him to search for the truth. Recently a near-death experience he had with a motorist changed his view on life. This incident made him further appreciate life, family, faith, and school. He stated profoundly, “Will people remember that you were the #1 student in your class, or will they remember how you treated your fellow man?” The Elks proudly awarded Jackson this year’s scholarship to further his education at Notre Dame.

Lance Corporal Neil Wertherald was warmly welcomed recently after returning from a 7 1/2 month tour in Afghanistan. He wanted to thank the ‘cookie ladies’ for their efforts in helping to make his stay a bit easier, and he presented Rose Tufano with red roses. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2009 and completed boot camp at Paris Island. He then received additional training at Camp Geiger in North Carolina, specializing in radio and equipment training at 29 Palms, CA. He was deployed from Camp Pendleton, CA and returned on May 20.

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

During the State President’s visit a luncheon visit was made to the Pt. St. Lucie Lodge where the Dance team of the Hitchiti Indians performed several tribal dances.

On June 19, the Lodge honored an ENF Legacy Scholarship winner, Nicole Oreo, during the Tuesday Night Dinner. Nicole received a scholarship in the amount of $4,000 from the ENF. In addition, ER Tony presented Nicole with a check in the amount of $500 from the Lodge. Nicole spoke to the audience regarding the award and her future plans, and was very appreciative of the Elks Family helping her to realize her dream.

Dressed in authentic costumes of the period the Hitchiti dancers performed very complicated dance arrangements.

Viera Lodge 2817

Viera Lodge hosted a school supply fundraiser for underprivileged children of Brevard County on July 28. According to coordinator Dawn Mailloux, the Lodge received enough donations to outfit approximately 30 children. Lodge members making donations received free hot dogs and hamburgers.

West St. Lucie Lodge 2823

West St. Lucie Lodge was honored to host Florida State Elks President Sean Maguire and First Lady Barbara for lunch on Saturday afternoon. The Palm Pointe Jazz Band did an outstanding job entertaining all of us.

The kitchen, waiters and bar staff did an excellent job of putting everything together and making the afternoon run very smoothly. Saturday evening, ER Jane Falgia presented a check in the amount of $1,800 to SP Maguire from the members for the Harry Anna Trust Fund. All totalling, the entire SEC District raised $15,000 that weekend for Harry Anna. Kathy Kreml and Franny Dunphy did an outstanding job coordinating and planning the Membership Weekend. Friday night we had Karoake Contest, Saturday Night was the Comedy Show, and Sunday was the Car Show. We also received 8 new member applications from that weekend, with more still coming in. The Elkette Fashion Show was also a great success and the models and their outfits were beautiful. Leading Knight Marge Spera delivered approximately $700 worth of school supplies raised through Lodge funds and donations from the members. Last month we started a food drive for the children in need of food at Oak Hammock School. We would like to continue supporting this worthy cause started by Teacher Laura Klosterman. If you don’t have time to shop, please feel free to give a donation and we will shop for you. Thanks to all for their generosity. Congratulation to Elks of the Month Jerry Dobbs for August, Kathy Kreml for September, and Denise Hillemann for October.

From left; SEC Vice President Suzi Simonelli, State President Sean Maguire, SEC District Deputy Charles De-Lauder, and SEC District Leader John Harris, PDD.
Holiday Isles Lodge 1912
The Lodge honored the Madeira Beach Mayor, Travis Palladeno and City Manager, Shane Crawford at a lodge dinner on July 13th. After dinner, Exalted Ruler, June Boring, presented Mayor Palladeno with a check for $700 as a donation towards the city’s 911 Monument being erected in Madeira Beach. “We can never forget those who gave their lives or those who are still on the Home Front protecting us.”

New Port Richey Lodge 2284
The Lodge donated the large hall to the young adults of The Red Apple, to hold their Annual Red Apple Prom. The Red Apple is a training school for the developmentally handicapped. This program assists these young adults to become as independent as possible, teaching them the basic life skills which we take for granted.

During the Lodge visit by WCD VP Doug Collett, in July, Exalter Ruler Tom Moran presented VP Doug Collett with two checks: A check for $1,000 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and a check for $1,000 as a donation to the Elks National Foundation.

Pinellas Park Lodge 2217
The Lodge provided 288 dictionaries to Pinellas Park Elementary School, on September 10. Many fundraisers were held in order to purchase these books. Also, during the summer, the Lodge did a book drive of over 270 books, which provided 45 dictionaries in order to purchase these books. Also, during the summer, the Lodge donated $500 in school supplies to Calusa Elementary, for distribution to those students in need. These children received paper, notebooks, pencils crayons, backpacks and many other needed school items.

Just before school started in August, the Lodge donated $500 in school supplies to Calusa Elementary, for distribution to those children in need. These children received paper, notebooks, pencils crayons, backpacks and many other needed school items.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224
The Kids Christmas in July party, poolside, was enjoyed by over 100 kids and parents. There was diving for quarters, decorating cookies, playing games and a special visit from Santa & Mrs Claus, with treats.

The Lodge donated $2,000, in the name of 1st Lt. Dimitri Castillo. Dimitri Castillo lost his life, fighting in Afghanistan, and his family has started a scholarship fund for children of fallen soldiers. Scholarships are awarded every year to aid an outstanding student so he or she may achieve a higher education.

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The St. Pete Ladies of Elks and Lodge members put on a 2nd Variety Show at Bay Pines Community Living Center, for all the 51 veterans and staff in attendance on Saturday, August 18. It was heartwarming to see our veterans tapping their feet, smiling, clapping, singing along and participating by playing their harmonica.

The Lodge has continued to support the soldiers of the 1st Bn 43 ADA unit stationed at Ft. Bliss, Texas by sending coupons for discounts on food, baby items, etc. The total of coupons donated to date exceeds $50,336.

There were 84 Veterans and staff of Bay Pines who were guests of the Lodge eight times in July, August and September, enjoying dinner and karaoke. It is so rewarding to see these men and women enjoy themselves and sing along with, and interact with our members.

The Lodge donated $504 to send 18 Bay Pines veterans to the “Day at the Rays” baseball game on September 9, when our State President, Sean Maguire, threw out the FIRST pitch.

Bonne Barnes, Joanne Matos with Veteran, Pete Mellos
Seminole Lodge 2519
The Lodge donated $500 to Bay Pines Hospital along with a new Ping Pong Table for the Bay Pines Community Living Center for the veterans to enjoy.

A $500 donation was made by the Lodge and presented during Vice President Doug Collett’s visit in Tarpon Springs. The donation was accepted by Brian Brantley, as the Elks Representative to James A Haley VA Hospital, on their behalf.

The Lodge just celebrated its 38th Anniversary on September 22. The prime-rib dinner was attended by 80 members and guests and the dinner was served by students of Seminole High School.

The Lodge touts the fact that the Lodge kitchen has over 185 years of combined experience between just two very dedicated Elks, John Veock and George Langer. Thank You gentlemen, for your unrelenting service to Elkdom.

Tampa Lodge 708
In August, the Lodge held a “Back to School Party” with over 85 children receiving backpacks full of school supplies. The children also enjoyed games, singing and a spaghetti dinner.

During the Lodge’s VP Visit by Doug Collett, the Lodge had a Retired Marine, Mike Jerrigan, as the main speaker for the evening. Mike Jerrigan is the recipient of a Guide Dog, Britannie, from the program “Paws for Patriots”. This funny, yet inspirational, blind, wounded Marine spoke in support of the South Eastern Guide Dog program and “Paws for Patriots” and how it saved his life. The Lodge used the Gratitude Grant funds to make a donation of $2,000 on behalf of Mike Jerrigan, to this awesome “Paws for Patriots” program.
November is Elks Veterans Remembrance Month and this is a most deserving and well-earned honor. However, I believe as Elks we think about, remember, and work with our Veterans every day of the year. As Elks, we know we owe our Veterans a debt that can never be repaid for the sacrifices they made to protect our freedom, giving us the opportunity to maintain our way of life.

The Elks made a pledge in 1946 and I quote, “So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks we never forget them.” We continue to fulfill that pledge on a daily basis and will continue to do so in the months and years ahead.

November is a special month honoring our Veterans, Veterans Day, which is celebrated in many communities with parades and other activities honoring our heroes. I ask and pray that members in each of our Lodges across this great nation put forth some extra effort and plan special programs and activities.

For example, invite our Veterans into Lodges for a Thanksgiving dinner and other social activities during the month. Bring playing cards and Comfort Care kits to those in our VA hospitals and Veterans homes.

Our Veterans are everywhere - in VA hospitals, Veterans homes, in hospices, in our communities - and too many are homeless. Find them, help them, and show how important they are to us and to all the people living in the United States of America.

Let our Veterans know they are not forgotten and that we truly appreciate the sacrifices they made for us.

Let us not forget our current Veterans fighting in Afghanistan and deployed in other parts of the world protecting our freedom and helping those who are in need. Our Army of Hope is still an on-going, successful program; therefore, please let’s do whatever we can to help the families of our current military personnel. Let them know we care and want to help any way possible. In addition, show our troops our concern by sending CARE packages of requested items such as prepaid calling cards and nonperishable food items. Let’s show our Veterans and military personnel how truly thankful we are for all they have done and continue to do in this month of Thanksgiving because as Elks we do CARE and SHARE!

Silver Springs Shores 2730
Lodge PDD Bruce Henry presented “Most Improved Student Awards” to Lake Weir middle school students Taylor, Emore and Devin Bory

Apopka Lodge 2422
The Lodge held its annual Western Night after hosting a Ford Escape Hunger Drive. For every person that stopped by our parking lot and viewed the car, Ford donated meals to feed the hungry. Their goal this year is 1.2 million meals. Those who attended also registered to win a new car.

Apopka Lodge is continuing the its 3rd grade commitment to all area elementary schools supplying them with approximately 3,000 dictionaries this year. The Apopka Serum Club (a service club) donated $1,000 to our program. We also made our 2nd annual $1,000 donation to the Apopka Fire Department’s Smoke Detector Program. Smoke detectors are purchased and installed in homes within the community.

Once again the Lodge hosted our second MMA Fight Night and had people from our community come to the Lodge for a great night under the stars. We were joined by Mosquito Creek Outdoor Equipment, Orlando Heart Specialists, Apopka Fire Dept., and Apopka Police Dept. who provided services for the evening.

The Lodge is using its Beacon Grant to start an iMOM Chapter at Apopka Elementary school and have begun our second year with the ALL PRO DAD Chapter at the same school. Last year was such a success that they asked us for help in starting an iMOM Chapter. Rock Springs Elementary School has asked the Lodge to assist them in starting a chapter at their school as well.

South Lake Lodge 1848
Members of the Lodge presented a $1,000 check to Kent Adcock to support their work in the community.

Winter Park Lodge 1830
The members welcomed disabled veterans to the Labor Day BBQ. The Lodge actively supports those in the Orlando VA Clinic and the local chapter of the POW/MIA.

The DOES Drove held a hosted a Silent Auction at their Wine & Cheese Silent Auction and donated $3,000 to the HOPE Foundation of Oviedo for families in crisis and preventing homelessness. The Drove also donated to the Seminole County Families in Transition from the proceeds of their Ladies Day.

The Lodge and the Ocala Ladies of the Elks presented a check to Forest High School Air Force JROTC to help them compete in the 2011-2012 AFJROTC Academic Championship in Washington D.C. where they are tested on questions from the SAT, ACT, which includes physics, chemistry, and biology, current events and math including trig and calculus.

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**News**

A tip of the hat goes to Pat Hollis who has stepped up to accept the House Committee Chair. Former chairman, Stan Haines, did a great job for the lodge last couple years. Stan and his wife are relocating to Tallahassee.

Two students were proudly awarded two scholarships totaling $800 from the Marianna Elks Endowed Scholarship Fund at Chipola College. Monies can be used for tuition or books while enrolled at Chipola as long as the students maintain a 2.5 GPA. Eleven students had applied.

A fish fry held on August 16 was a resounding success. It’s hard to beat a great dinner of fried fish with all the trimmings when the guys cook the fish outside! A big thank you goes to the Ladies of the Elks who provided the desserts.

ER Don Morris is at home recovering well after kidney surgery. The Lodge hosted DDGER Nichols’ visit on September 24. Kudos go to Greg Conner and Marilyn Mabardy for pressure washing the front of the lodge building and cleaning the patio.

**Perry Lodge 1851**

Perry Lodge conducted a well-attended Flag Day ceremony with more than 75 persons in the lodge room. A big thank you goes to members Ed Sheffield and Al Davis for helping to get the word out. Boy Scout Troop 600 was on hand to assist in the Presentation of the Flags.

For all lodges, fundraising is a priority item. Perry Lodge is making a big effort to organize a Bingo game to raise money for its charitable endeavors, recognizing that Bingo volunteers are critical to a successful gaming operation. Speaking of fundraising, the Lodge held its second annual Fall Fishing Tournament on September 29 with prizes awarded for the largest redfish and trout. A special youth tournament prize was given for the heaviest trout in the youth division. Tremendous support is extended from the community from businesses who are sponsors. Last year’s event raised more than $1000 which was awarded in college scholarships. Other community-involving events planned include the Soccer Shoot and the Bike Rodeo, which were well received last year, with the Bike Rodeo focusing on bicycle safety inspections and distribution of bike safety helmets.

Perry Lodge intends to vote on the shortened version of the rule, and when approved, include that option in its bylaws. The Lodge has applied for a Grand Lodge Impact Grant, and if awarded, the funds will be used to help the City of Perry acquire handicap accessible playground equipment.

**Tallahassee Lodge 937**

The Lodge held a celebration recognizing Independence Day on July 4, complete with games and food for all to enjoy. Horseshoes, bean bag toss, and ladder golf were especially popular. Also in July, the Lodge conducted a Fish Fry in continuing to raise money to send the Gretchen Everhart kids and their families to the FEYC. Member Grayson Ferrell hosted this event, collecting some able-bodied assistance for food preparation from lodge members. It was a great success and the food was the best.

Another significant event in July was the purchase and delivery of furniture to the Home Front Coalition, a group of apartments for formerly homeless veterans. Tallahassee Elks applied for and received a Grant from ENF and used those dollars to purchase couches, dressers, and a number of the apartments. A big tip of the hat goes to Lecturing Knight Jim Coker for pulling the grant application together and making this happen. There was an article in the October issue of the Elks Magazine detailing this endeavor.

Member Charlie Hewett organized a Breakfast in the Park event in early June to bring folks out for an outdoor breakfast at the Lodge’s Troy Fain Park. Hewett had a goal of pre-selling 100 tickets and came real close, selling 84. All the food cooked indoors, was moved outdoors to the park, and the rains came. Using quick thinking, the food was relocated inside the Lodge and folks enjoyed a dampened breakfast, and the Lodge made a few bucks on the event.

August brought on District Vice President to the Lodge for his installation and reception. A fine dinner was served, followed by the lodge meeting. In August, Sunday breakfasts resumed after a hiatus during the early summer. The Lodge appreciates its four volunteer teams who prepare such a fine buffet on Sunday mornings. On those months where there are five Sundays, Ellett Carina Beaudoin-Tate has her team of talent who prepares a special brunch on those fifth Sundays that includes an omelet station, a waffle station, and carved meat station as well as other breakfast items on the hot food line.

Also in August, the Lodge co-sponsored the Parrot-head Phrenzy, a fundraising event for the local Alzheimer’s Project. The Phrenzy was a party, complete with Jimmy Buffett music as well as food and drink. Other sponsors were the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper, the CBS local affiliate WCTV, and several businesses in town.

The seventh annual Gretchen Everhart (a local school for mentally and physically challenged youth) trip to the FEYC took place on the weekend of September 20-23. Two buses were chartered for the kids and their families to ride to Umatilla and to spend a fun-filled weekend at Elks camp. For many of the families this is the only weekend away from home all year long. The FEYC and its staff make this weekend a memorable time for the Gretchen Everhart families. Several Elks from the Lodge accompanied the kids to be on hand that weekend to help with camp events.

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

*Awarded July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012*

- **Name on Donor Recognition Board for $5,000 Certificate**
  - Dr. Jerold A. Mills, Boca Raton Lodge 2166
  - William Henderson, Miami Lodge 948
  - Robert Slater, Kissimmee Lodge 1873
  - Bill Whalen, Inverness Lodge 2522

- **Gold Pins for Paid-in-Full $1,000 Certificate**
  - William B. McDonell, Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870
  - Larry Simpson, Fort Pierce Lodge 1520

- **Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate**
  - William B. McDonell, Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870
  - Larry Simpson, Fort Pierce Lodge 1520

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**North District**

Reporter, Ton Walden, PDD
secretary937@gmail.com
**NORTHWEST DISTRICT**

**Warrington Lodge 2108**

A celebration was held on July 4th. Events included a cook-out, Silent Auction, Cake Sale, White Elephant Sale, Cake Walk, Water Slide and Entertainment.

The Charity Ball will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2012. This event is held annually to support the Lodge’s Charitable endeavors during the year. Anyone wishing to assist on one or more committees for this great cause are encouraged to contact Don Misner, Esteemed Leading Knight.

**Crestview Lodge 2624**

Fourteen members participated in the Memorial Day Service at Live Oak Park Memorial Cemetery paying tribute to our local fallen servicemen and women that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

A combined Flag Day ceremony with Twin Cities Lodge was hosted at Crestview Lodge. Cub Scouts Pack 530 participated in the ceremony by carrying flags.

Lodge members Jimmy & Annette Anglin celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Lodge drawing a crowd of 80 guests.

Family initiation night added nine new members to the Elks family. A spaghetti dinner followed allowing new members and their family to get acquainted with Lodge members.

Three members joined neighboring city Laurel Hill’s Hobo Festival committee providing volunteerism and planning which successfully prevented the 20-year traditional festival from being cancelled.

Eight members participated in the Northwest District Army of Hope Picnic fundraiser hosted at Fort Walton Lodge. Crestview Lodge hosted an Army of Hope Pancake Breakfast fundraiser.

Crestview welcomed DDGER Phil Finder and DVP Kevin Clemons for their annual visitation. A full course turkey dinner was served and approximately 86 district members enjoyed great fellowship.

Crestview Lodge’s biggest fundraiser of the year, “Turkey Shoot,” kicked off 22 Sep and will run for 13 Saturday’s into mid December.

**Ft. Walton Lodge 1795**

A District Deputys Clinic was held on August 11th. Following the Clinic the Lodge presented a check for $45,000 to the Ronald McDonald House of Pensacola.

Ft. Walton Lodge 1795 in conjunction with the Crestview, Ft. Walton Beach, Holley-Navarre, Pensacola Beach, Twin Cities and Warrington Lodges hosted the Army of Hope Picnic on August 25th. The event included a cookout; entertainment and a water slide for the children and was attended by 215 members and guest, raising $5,300 for the Army of Hope.

**Pensacola Beach Lodge 497**

On August 18th Pensacola Beach hosted the Families First Independent Living Summer Conference for Foster Children ages 13-17. The young people were greeted by a series of speakers with presentations on education and career choices that are sure will have an immediate impact of their lives. The Ladies of Elks served lunch complete with desserts, and each child received a backpack complete with school supplies. The event was made possible through the ENF’s Promise Grant that our Lodge was awarded this year.

Several months ago the Lodge acquired an Elk sign of significant historical value. It once adorned the building of New York Elks Lodge 1 until 1918 when it was donated to Tallahassee Lodge 937. Some time in the 1950’s, it was donated to Panama City Lodge 1595. It graced the entrance to their Lodge until 2010, when it was donated to Pensacola Lodge 497. None of the electronics were operational and the Florida weather had taken its toll on the paint. The Lodge’s Past Exalted Rulers Association decided to fund the cost of refurbishment. It has since been brought back to pristine condition, as time permitted. The only original parts remaining are the Elk and the sheet metal portion of the sign upon which it is mounted. All electrical components have been replaced a new steel frame for mounting it to the building has been added. Many, many Lodge members were involved with this process. On September 14th, 2012, that sign was securely attached to Pensacola Beach Lodge and will oversee and welcome Elks members for years to come.

Pensacola Beach Lodge and Holley-Navarre Lodge held a Pancake Breakfast on September 15th serving over 124 plates and raising $805 for the Army of Hope.

**Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787**

Holley Navarre Lodge and Pensacola Beach Lodge 497 held combined Flag Day services on July 1st after postponing the original service scheduled for June 10th, which had to be cancelled due to heavy rains. The ceremony held at the Pensacola Beach Lodge was both beautiful and moving.

$375.00 was donated to help send three great and deserving kids to enjoy a week of fun and activities at Navarre’s Betty J. Pahlum Family YMCA. Several deserving children were also sent to our fabulous Florida Elk’s Youth Camp in Umatilla, Florida for a week of swimming, boating, archery and many more outdoor activities.

**SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT**

**Sunrise Lodge 2273**

A blood drive was held in July in response to a Sunrise firefighter’s twin boys, born prematurely. A total of 15 pints were collected. A special thanks to all who donated and all that tried to give.

“Christmas in July” was a great success as always, the proceeds benefit “Christmas for Kids” our biggest charity event of the year, which provides breakfast with Santa, games, Christmas Carol sing along, and Christmas gifts to those less fortunate. The Lodge raised over $1,600, and approximately 106 persons attended.

Participation with the City of Sunrise “Backpack Drive” generated 25 filled pack packs for a value of $2,500.

At “New Night Out”, Elroy the Elk made an appearance. And we distributed pamphlets on drug awareness, we also had a therapy van and therapist on site to answer questions.

We were well represented in the city’s annual 4th of July Parade. Forty members brought their decked out “Patriotic” vehicles, 40 members and quests either rode, walked or biked the parade route. Invitations were handed out along the Parade route inviting people to the lodge for a BBQ after the parade, where we signed up several new members.

A Barn Dance, raised over $300 for Harry-Anna, with 100 participants.

**Pompano Beach Lodge 1898**

The Lodge has made two donations to local charities, and are promoting a “Stuff The Bus” Program for the Broward County School system to assist teachers in obtaining school supplies for their students. We are putting these items on our Web Page & Face Book also.

**Delray Beach Lodge 1770**

Another successful Lodge clean up was held. A large group of dedicated Members gave up their day to help clean, repair, paint, and landscape the Lodge. Thank you for your continued support.

Fathers Day was celebrated with a Pot Luck Dinner, the ladies brought in their favorites to treat all those hard working fathers!

Thanks ladies!

The Kevin Knight Memorial Golf Tournament had some unwanted rain in the forecast but that didn’t scare the 122 golfers away! The golf ended early but that just meant the party started earlier! Everyone came back to the Lodge for lunch, raffles and awards. With a lot of hard work from a lot of members, the tournament was again a successful fundraiser.

Approximately 116 people enjoyed each other’s company, the weather, the food, horseshoes, and other games, surrounded by beautiful Lake Ida during our annual Independence Day Picnic in the Park.

The Lodge was awarded with an ENF Beacon Grant for $1,000 to invite more children from the community to be a part of our annual Children’s Christmas party. Congratulations!

The Mark Gerretson Memorial 18th Annual Fishing Tournament on August 10-11th.$8,100 was awarded in prize money and $12,000 value of raffle and auction prizes was given away. The overall winner walked away with $3,400 and a 58lb Wahoo! The lodge raised $17,000 for several of Delray’s local children and families’ charities!
Deland Lodge 1463
Thanks to Lodge Secretary Rachel Sieg for organizing a carnival fundraiser to help increase technology in one of Volusia County Schools, Woodward Elementary School. Exalted Ruler Chip Haverty presented school Media Specialist, Elizabeth Senez with a check for $1,810.

A First Responder’s appreciation night was held at the lodge inviting the Police, Fire, Sheriff and Paramedics in honor of Patriotism and to remember those men and women who helped and lost their lives on September 11th. The Lodge hosted a pancake breakfast to help raise funds to send one or more counselors from the school district to a national education program designed to combat bullying in the schools and workplace.

Edgewater/New Smyrna Lodge 1557
The Lodge invited Cub Scout Pack 72 to use the facilities to help with their pancake fundraiser; the Pack was able to raise $300. Members and guests were invited to a summer fair and festival to help raise money in support of veterans programs. The Lodge continues to keep busy with functions involving veterans and their families, as well as a school and teacher school supply drive.

Cans and pull tabs continue to be collected, at the Lodge, to help raise money to train Seeing Eye dogs. Recently, a fundraiser held to help raise money for a family whose child was diagnosed with a serious; the event raised $450.

The community based project, Gifts of Love, supported by the Lodge, delivers food bags twice a week to needy families in the community. Donated food items from the community and vegetables from the lodge’s community garden make up the items for the needy families.

The Gifts of Love have signed up needy families for back to school shoes. Shoes are purchased from one of the local Payless stores; they also have donated back packs filled with school supplies.

Members of the Lodge have been making donations to the lodge of pocket T-Shirts, toiletries, books, magazines, socks, blankets; the lodge has designated these items for a Homeless Shelter for Veterans.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650
Update: The Lodge sponsored a benefit fundraiser for Carley Baker, a young girl with cancer of the retina. Carley’s parents turned to the lodge and its members for help. The lodge, along with the community for support; the response was overwhelming. Carley wants to be a teacher, she loves working with children, enjoys playing volleyball, and is part of a teacher school supply drive.

Members held a Kentucky Derby event to help raise money for the Lodge; approximately 90 members attended and raised $1,096.

Jarrod Connors, grandson Jim Connors won the U14 First place trophy at our Lodge Soccer Shoot. Jarrod also came in second in the under 14 group at last year’s event. He will now go onto the regional Soccer Shoot later this year. Jarrod, along with his older brother Dalton, are both members of the lodge’s Boy Scout Troop 270. Jarrod also stayed at the youth camp last year; his brother Dalton is the senior patrol leader of the troop, and will soon be receiving his Eagle Scout rank.

Recently, Exalted Fred Szwed and Leading Knight Mark Fontana presented HOPE Scholarships awards to Sara Bell and Rebekah Lam.

The Lodge membership continues to grow; recently, 25 new members were initiated. Member Ed Tiefenbrunn and his lovely wife Jeanne presented a Liberty Bell clock he handcrafted for the lounge in honor of Independence Day.

A 90-minute 911 memorial ceremony was held at the Lodge in honor of all the victims that perished during the terrorist attacks and our war on terrorism.

The Lodge is sponsoring a bike riders fundraiser in honor of Sgt. Frank Celico formerly of the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office; in memory of his passing, a foundation was created by his family and friends to help underprivileged kids through bicycle safety programs, bike helmets and bicycles.

Port Orange Lodge 2723
Lodge volunteers for the “Meals on Wheels” dinners got together over the weekend to help deliver delicious meals and desserts to the needy in the community; the program works with the Volusia County Council on Aging; funds for this program are generated from the lodge BINGO and a grant from the Florida Foundation.

Supporting the youth in the community, the Lodge got together with the Port Orange Police Athletic League to organize a basketball program.

Sonny introduced Michael to PDDGER Joe Deckleman, Exalted Ruler Tom Alexon and members of the lodge. Michael is headed to Fort Lewis in Washington State for additional training before his deployment, which is sometime in October.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709
Exalted Ruler Fred Szwed and Leading Knight Mark Fontana presented Col. Jack Howell USMC (ret.) President and CEO of the Teens-In-Flight and his board of directors with a National Foundation Gratitude Grant to continue their ongoing mission of providing flight training and aviation maintenance scholarships to teens in the community who have lost a parent or sibling who were lost or wounded in action in the global war on terrorism; the program also focuses on selected teens that are considered “at risk” within our community by providing a positive aviation intervention experience.

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Port Orange Lodge 2723
Lodge volunteers for the “Meals on Wheels” dinners got together over the weekend to help deliver delicious meals and desserts to the needy in the community; the program works with the Volusia County Council on Aging; funds for this program are generated from the lodge BINGO and a grant from the Florida Foundation.

Supporting the youth in the community, the Lodge got together with the Port Orange Police Athletic League to organize a basketball program.

Sonny introduced Michael to PDDGER Joe Deckleman, Exalted Ruler Tom Alexon and members of the lodge. Michael is headed to Fort Lewis in Washington State for additional training before his deployment, which is sometime in October.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709
Exalted Ruler Fred Szwed and Leading Knight Mark Fontana presented Col. Jack Howell USMC (ret.) President and CEO of the Teens-In-Flight and his board of directors with a National Foundation Gratitude Grant to continue their ongoing mission of providing flight training and aviation maintenance scholarships to teens in the community who have lost a parent or sibling who were lost or wounded in action in the global war on terrorism; the program also focuses on selected teens that are considered “at risk” within our community by providing a positive aviation intervention experience.

Members held a Kentucky Derby event to help raise money for the Lodge; approximately 90 members attended and raised $1,096.

Jarred Connors, grandson Jim Connors won the U14 First place trophy at our Lodge Soccer Shoot. Jarrod also came in second in the under 14 group at last year’s event. He will now go onto the regional Soccer Shoot later this year. Jarrod, along with his older brother Dalton, are both members of the lodge’s Boy Scout Troop 270. Jarrod also stayed at the youth camp last year; his brother Dalton is the senior patrol leader of the troop, and will soon be receiving his Eagle Scout rank.

Recently, Exalted Fred Szwed and Leading Knight Mark Fontana presented HOPE Scholarships awards to Sara Bell and Rebekah Lam.

The Lodge membership continues to grow; recently, 25 new members were initiated. Member Ed Tiefenbrunn and his lovely wife Jeanne presented a Liberty Bell clock he handcrafted for the lounge in honor of Independence Day.

A 90-minute 911 memorial ceremony was held at the Lodge in honor of all the victims that perished during the terrorist attacks and our war on terrorism.

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**Bonita Springs-Estero 2753**

Members attended the Spirit of 45 event held in Naples, Florida honoring WWII Veterans. Attendees included Joe Curcio and John Barry, both WWII Veterans along with fellow Elks who served in the military.

Elk members attending the Spirit of 45 Event in Naples, Florida. Left to right - Frank Poirier, Frank Scandale, Joe Curcio, Terry Hayes and John Barry.

Bonita Springs-Estero is the home Lodge for the Brotherhood Ride which is a non-profit public charity organization dedicated to honoring emergency responders who died in the line of duty. The organization formed in 2007 when a group of Naples Firefighters decided to ride their bicycles from Florida to Charleston, South Carolina to honor nine firefighters killed in the line of duty. Over the past five years the Brotherhood Ride has honored the memory and sacrifice of 436 First Responders and through year-round fund raising efforts, donated over $150,000 to the families of these fallen heroes. The team has traveled over 4,000 miles through fourteen states and has been hosted and assisted by over forty Elks Lodges nationwide.

**Deep Creek Lodge Veterans Chairman, John Lawrence and ER Len Wentzel visit with Veteran Mrs. Vivian Pollar, she shared a story about being stationed in D.C. where she met her husband. She was very excited about being able to visit this Memorial.**

The Lodge held a September 11th Ceremony/Dinner honoring some local heroes from Charlotte County Fire Department. The plan is to make this an annual event. Presented with awards were Deputy Chief Marianne Taylor who has served the county for 25 years, Firefighter Jim Ryan who also works closely with the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition, Firefighter/EMT Beau Brown and Fire/Medic Chad McCollum.

After the awards were presented Sue Maroney, Chairperson of the Lodge Drug Awareness Committee, donated two large bags of beautiful stuffed bears for the Fire Department to give to children in their time of need. Once a month, Deep Creek Lodge prepares and delivers dinner to the Homeless Coalition.

**Englewood Lodge 2378**

On Sunday, July 15th four buses loaded with 161 children and eight chaperones pulled away from the Englewood Lodge for the three-hour ride to the Youth Camp in Umatilla. The children enjoyed a week at camp including transportation at no expense to parents. A local physician volunteered his time to provide the necessary camp physicals. Prior to getting on buses, the children and their parents were invited to have breakfast at the Lodge and offered an “all you can eat” pancake special for $2 in addition to the regular menu. Many of these children have been attending camp for a couple of years and for some this was the last visit due to the age requirement. Children returned from camp on Saturday, July 21st and all seemed to have had a good time. Those “first timers” who were a little nervous about attending are all ready to go again next year!

**Brotherhood Riders preparing to depart Bonita Springs-Estero Lodge for 2012 ride honoring eleven Emergency Responders (eight Police Officers and three Firefighters) from Florida.**

The Lodge hosted a bus trip to Elks Day at the Rays on September 9th and forty-seven people from Englewood attended this event.

The Lodge participated in the local “Pioneer Day” (Labor Day) parade on Monday September 3rd. The theme of the parade this year was “Hats Off to Englewood” and the Lodge took advantage of this theme to promote the many hats of Elksdom. Represented on the float were children’s Therapy Service, Youth Camp, Veterans, Army of Hope, Scholarship, Hoop Shoot, Elroy the Elk for Drug Awareness and Uncle Sam. Thanks to Lynn Warburton and his staff at the print shop for printing the wonderful banners used in the parade. Englewood Elk member Ginny McLeod designed the banners. Exalted Ruler, Ralph Murray and his wife Lou preceded the float in a convertible. After the parade the Lodge hosted a Picnic Buffet for 100 people.

**Punta Gorda Lodge 2606**

In May, Punta Gorda ER Ann Jameson attended the Awards Ceremony at Charlotte High School and awarded sixteen $1000 scholarships to graduating seniors. Punta Gorda Elks held their sixth Annual Fishing Contest that is free to all participants. There were 135 kids, ages 5-14, fishing from the Elks pier. They caught over 60 fish including a 30” bull shark! Every youngster took home a prize, which included two bikes and many fishing poles.

On July 29, 2012 the Lodge hosted The All Americans, a four-piece band consisting of two banjo players, a tuba and a trombone. This group is part of the Gulf Coast Banjo Society and the lead banjo player, Mike Currao, has twice been nominated to the Banjo Hall of Fame. Over 200 people attended this fund raising event.

The Lodge applied for and received a Gratitude Grant that was divided between the Sallie Jones Picnic, the Annual Fishing Contest and the Yah-Yah Girls. Punta Gorda Elks partner with the Yah-Yah Girls to provide backpacks filled with food for the weekend for grade school children.
Northeast District News

The Northeast District Army of Hope picnic was hosted to Green Cove Springs Lodge in June with representation from every lodge in the District. Attendees spent the afternoon sitting by the St. Johns River on a beautiful sunny afternoon, with a healthy breeze blowing in from the river, enjoying entreés prepared by Green Cove Lodge and side dishes provided by the other lodges. Entertainment was provided by “Mr. Natural” free of charge as a contribution to our military families.

Green Cove, Mandarin/St. Johns and St. Augustine filled their “Hope Chests” to the brink with lots of goodies which were then raffled off. St. Augustine sold 630 tickets towards their chest and has the privilege of displaying the trophy for the next year. At the end of the day, 120 Elks members and guests attended with proceeds of $3,880 donated to the Army of Hope on behalf of the Northeast District.

Gainesville Lodge 990

The Lodge hosted a Golf Tournament put quickly together by new member Chris Lewis. With less than two months to pull it together, it was a huge success with almost $2,000 raised for charities.

The annual Gator Football Ticket raffle results included a first prize of two tickets to all home games and the Florida-Georgia game played in Jacksonville, which was won by Jack Amick. Second and third place prizes included second season tickets to all home games awarded to Roy Rogalski and Mike & Martha Sue Hill. Roy decided he’d rather watch the season tickets to all home games awarded to Roy Rogalski and parents. Officer Friendly from the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office brought a patrol car and Jacksonville Fire and Rescue brought a fire engine. Not only was it a great time had by all, but more importantly, our Lodge remains active within the community where we reside.

Mandan-St. Johns Lodge 2866

The Lodge held a very successful Open House in early June recruiting several new members. The display board was utilized to showcase our Veterans Programs, providing Program Literature and Membership Applications.

Also in June, the Lodge treated Troops and their families to a Suns Baseball Game. Most of these Troops recently returned home after deployment overseas. The Lodge purchased 50 tickets to the games as well as $5 food vouchers. Front grant money received from the Elks National Foundation. They were supplied to and distributed by the USO at NAS JAX. ENF Grants are the result of monies directly returned to Lodges based on the Lodge contributions to the ENF. Historically, grant monies have surpassed our Lodge’s contributions.

The Lodge provided a “Police and Firemen’s Appreciation” in July inviting the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Station 42 as well as the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office and their families.

The event provided the Lodge the opportunity to demonstrate their appreciation to those people protecting us 24/7.

The Lodge donated a “Treasure Chest of Booze” to the Northeast District Army of Hope Picnic raising $200 for military families.

June monthly Bingo at the Lassen Nursing Home had 30 Players and Lodge distributed “Proud to be American” Ribbon Pins to the men and necklaces to the ladies as a 4th of July treat. August Bingo had 30 attendees with September having 27 players. In participation for the City of Jacksonville Homeless Stand Down in August the Lodge was able to prepare 30 ditty bags for homeless veterans.

St. Augustine Lodge 829

St. Augustine Elks Lodge presented graduating high schools seniors with $500 scholarships.
Arcadia Lodge 1524

Arcadia Elks Lodge 1524 did fund-raising events to purchase a bike for Darien West (front), left to right Brian Burns, VPAL, Peter Yacino, PER, Stephen West, father, and Jackie Tucker, PER.

The town of Arcadia Florida’s Independence Day Parade was hosted by the Arcadia lodge 1524. Chaired by Arcadia Elks lodges Jackie Tucker, PER and Ronald Needs PER, Mary Lyne PER was the announcer with Lottie Jo Stoker, Trustee and Raymond Quave being the judges, and Ed Lyne was the line up chairman. Following the parade the lodge sponsored an Independence Day cook out at the lodge.

Arcadia Elks received a Gratitude Grant to enable the purchase of school supplies for ARC/Desoto, school supplies for the Desoto County School Board for the students with disabilities, uniforms for the Girl’s Wrestling Team, tennis balls for the tennis team at the high school, and golf balls for the golf team at the high school.

Brandon Lodge 2383

Brandon Lodge 2383 presented 965 dictionaries to local schools. The project was made possible by a Gratitude Grant from Elks National Foundation.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

Lake Placid’s Youth Dixie All Star Team 9-10 year olds finished 2nd in the State of Florida, but they were definitely #1 in the hearts of Lake Placid Elks Lodge 2661 by hosting an appreciation awards party for parents, siblings, grandparents and a great many Elks members.

Lake Placid Elks continues to closely maintain and help Potter’s House, (New Beginnings and Alpha Omega) a home for women in need. Repairing and upkeep of the home, repair of cabinets, doors, and general household and lawn maintenance. Last year was a Lodge and community fundraiser to replace the air conditioning units in the home and this year one is repairing a second floor bathroom that requires a new floor. These women come from various distress stages in their life from homeless to needing help with re-establishing themselves into the community. The Lodge also offers various jobs and positions to them to assist them financially.

Lakeland Lodge 1291

The Impact Grant provided by the Elks National Foundation and the Lakeland Elks has donated $1,250 bottles of laundry detergent to the VISTA Service organization (Volunteers in Service to the Elderly). Left to right Bob Fuschetti, ER presenting to Thomas Wigfall of VISTA.

Lakeland lodge sponsored “Adopt A School” for the Dixieland Elementary for children starting school that couldn’t afford the supplies they needed for the school year.

September also starts the football season and ends the baseball season. Lakeland Lodge had a football party September 9th and then scheduled a bus ride to the Rays game for Elks Day to for a Harry Anna Fundraiser. More trips were scheduled to end the baseball season with Roxanne having trivia games and Carol making Po Boy Sandwiches for the trips.

Lakeland Lodge is preparing for their 100th Anniversary in October. Details to come in the Winter Issue.

Lake Wales Lodge 1974

When you walk to end cancer at a Relay event, it’s an opportunity to not only honor cancer survivors and remember loved ones lost, but also to raise awareness about what we can do to stay well from cancer and raise money to help fuel the world’s largest walk to end cancer. Lake Wales Elks chaired by Jack Collins did exactly that at the town Eagle Ridge Mall. Lake Wales Elks had the Flag presentation, VFW Post helped with the colors and provided flag bearers. Lodge Officers and members participated in giving out watermelon and Robert Foss, PER was master of ceremonies and Pam Crane Lady Elk Vice President helped run children’s games. The day ended with 4th of July Fireworks as a tribute to our country.

Plant City Lodge 1727

Plant City Elks stated that the Flag Day ritual was very solemn and moving. It was the first time Plant City Boy Scout Troop #14 assisted in the ritual, the flags of our country were given their proper respect.

Plant City Elks wrapped up their Gratitude Grant by distributing back to school backpacks filled with supplies to local deserving needy kids. Sharon Hammersla, ER spearheaded this worthy project. Sharon states “this is like many things the Elks do, and it’s all about the kids”.

Sebring Lodge 1529

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Program starts at the Sebring Elks Lodge. As many of their projects for children, this program; “Children helping Children” sends gifts to needy children in Uganda, South Sudan and the Congo. The Lodge collects boxes and donations to cover shipping charges. This project will continue at the Lodge and from children at Fred Wild Elementary School until 12/1/12. Chairman Carl Rochelle, PER states let’s continue to make some children smile for Christmas.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672

The Elk’s National Foundation Grant in the amount of $2,000 enabled Winter Haven Lodge #1672 to assist Winter Haven Senior High School in purchasing a media board and calculators for the schools Math Department. Winter Haven High School was the only facility in Polk County that did not have this equipment and they are now up to technical standards due to our donation. The lodge is a very active supporter of Winter Haven High school and once again the school was very appreciative of our partnership with them.
New Florida Elks Website Debuts!

Check out our new and improved Florida Elks Website at www.fleiks.org.

Our Director of Marketing & Communications, Greg Weis, along with his talented team, Steve Harmon & Trey Rapp, have given our site a super makeover!

Our hope is that the new site is just the beginning of many new and exciting changes as we work to better engage & retain our current members while attracting new prospective members!

Of particular interest we would like to draw your attention to the new and improved members forum where you can share, learn, and strengthen your Lodge.

Another highlight of the site is the ability to view our current orientation videos! These are great videos that can be shared with anyone, anytime! They are not just for orientation anymore!

Let us know what you think of the new site!