Sean Maguire
Endorsed President
Florida State Elks Association 2012-2013

Sean was born in Hartford, Connecticut on January 20, 1950, the fourth of eight children. He grew up in downtown West Palm Beach where he attended Elementary, Junior High, and High School on “The Hill” which is today known as The Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts. After Graduation from Palm Beach High School, Sean continued his education at Palm Beach Junior College (now known as Palm Beach State College).

Son William (BJ) and Andrea served his country there. She grew up in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. Sean and Barbara were married in St. Ann’s Catholic Church in West Palm Beach on June 03, 1976. Barbara became an Elk on September 24, 2006 and has served as Chairman of the Florida Elks Children’s Clinic.

They have three children and two grandchildren:

Son Sean, Jr. proudly served in the United States Marine Corps. He and Jessica have blessed us with our two year old granddaughter, Madison. Sean currently resides in Winfield, Missouri. He is employed by Walgreens and is working towards his Associate degree at St. Charles Community College.

Son William (BJ) and Andrea live in Wellington, FL with our infant grandson Collin. BJ graduated from Florida Atlantic University, and continued his education in law at Florida Coastal School of Law, then went on to earn his LLM from the University of Florida in Tax Law. BJ is an Attorney in West Palm Beach.

Daughter Staci graduated from the University of Central Florida in Orlando and returned to live in West Palm Beach. She is an Elementary School teacher in Palm Beach County and works for the Village of Wellington in the Parks and Recreation Department.

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Daughter Staci graduated from the University of Central Florida in Orlando and returned to live in West Palm Beach. She is an Elementary School teacher in Palm Beach County and works for the Village of Wellington in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Sean was ini- itiated into the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in the Clewiston Elks Lodge 1853 on April 25, 1979.

After being a social member for the

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We are looking forward to the State Convention in Orlando, at Disney in May. I reflect back at the many wonderful people that Linda and I have had the opportunity to meet and the many wonderful events that we have participated in. A year passes by fast, so many things to be done and see. We often wonder how everything gets done.

Being on the downside of term as President, I will be making visitations to the Northern Districts, a little closer to home. With gas prices on the rise, that is quite a bit more travel. January was a busy month; each weekend was packed with things to do. The first week of January took us back to the Youth Camp in Umatilla for the State Soccer Shoot. State Chairman, Mark Thompson and committee did a great job. We look forward to seeing the winners at the State Convention in May.

Next, I made a visitation to the Northeast District. Our host was District Vice President Ron Snow and lovely wife, Susan. Host lodge for the weekend was Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892. After being off the road for several weeks, I had the opportunity to visit Palatka Lodge 1232 on Friday evening for dinner, we had a great reception and the meal was excellent. Saturday I participated in the NE District Annual Golf Tournament, with the weather being a bit “freezing”. I even had on a sock hat, which is something I never do, it was that cold, but despite that I had a great time and enjoyed the golf thoroughly.

We were closer to home attending the Alabama Mid-Year Convention in Orange Beach. It was approximately a 30 minute drive. This was very enjoyable as we attended meetings and the ladies shopped and had lunch. It was good seeing my Alabama friends and having the chance to meet new and upcoming officers. We were also very fortunate to spend some time with Grand Exalted Ruler David Carr and Penny; the weather was great for the weekend which made them envious of our white sand and blue water.

I was on the road again heading to the North Central District, our host for the weekend was District Vice President Donald Diamant and wife Sharon. Dinner Friday night was hosted by Silver Springs Shores 2730, with a Seafood Dinner, which was delicious. I, along with other members later visited Southlake Lodge 1849; I enjoyed meeting and speaking with the Exalted Ruler and members. Saturday’s golf at the Lakes of Lady Lake Golf Course was great, the weather was perfect. Linda and the ladies went shopping at the Villages and lunch at Gater’s Dockside, which they all enjoyed. Ending an excellent day, Ocala Lodge 286 hosted a reception and Roast Beef Dinner.

Our final visitation for January was the North District; hosted by District Vice President Bill Nichols and Jane. I am very grateful to Lake City Lodge 893 for hosting the entire weekend, the meals and entertainment provided was excellent. Saturday, I was extremely honored to have the opportunity to meet and greet some of our Veterans; this is very near and dear to me. I enjoyed the tour of Historic Lake City. Especially the museum; this is a place I feel everyone should visit. It really takes you back in time. Linda and the ladies visited Amy Gene’s Quilt Store and were fortunate to have an art demonstration by artist, Janet Moss, something Linda talks about often. Saturday evening’s BBQ was excellent, and to Exalted Ruler Fred Lammers, I hope he gets fixed, whatever it was he had broken. (You had to be there).

On behalf of the FSEA, it was my extreme honor to meet and greet our special guests: Grand Exalted Ruler David Carr and Penny from New York. The events were a bit different in welcoming our national leader this year. David and Penny were greeted by dignitaries upon their arrival on Wednesday at the Jacksonville Airport. They were then honored with lunch at Green Cove Springs 1892, there they had the opportunity to meet and greet. There were several “New Yorkers”, present, of which they shared their stories. Everyone made them feel right at home, Thank You. Later that evening a reception was held in their honor at St. Augustine Lodge 829 and dinner at Creekside Diner. Wow, what a great evening. David and Penny are truly delightful, easy and fun to be with. Linda and I enjoyed them very much.

Thursday we were given a carriage tour of Historic St. Augustine, lunch at Columbia Restaurant and a grand tour of the Castillo de San Marcos National Park (fort), by our own history buffs Geoff and Becky Dobson. What an excellent tour; the day was wonderful. After the tour it was off to our wonderful Youth Camp for a weekend of fun and some relaxation. We were greeted at the front gate by the “Mardi Gras” caravan, consisting of members and special guests Including, Alabama Elks Association, State President Jim Gordon and wife Nona, Georgia Elks Association, State President John Helgesen and wife Marilyn and Mississippi Elks Association, State President Arney Blackmon and wife Tony. We were very proud to “show off” our fabulous facility. Thank you everyone for making our guests feel so welcome.

A luncheon was held on Friday in honor of Penny Carr. It was open to everyone; we were very pleased with the turn out and hope that the ladies will mark the date on their calendars for next February. A great time was had by all; congratulations to the BBQ winners at the Eustis Lodge 1578, this being their Third Annual BBQ Cook-off, we all enjoyed having the opportunity to judge.

I attended the State Hoop Shoot at the Youth Camp in February. I enjoy spending time with the kids and seeing the great talent that sometimes is hidden. They just need that extra boost. Congratulations to all the winners and everyone that participated.

Home; our last and final district visitation, the “Great” Northwest District. What a great weekend. Linda and I would like to thank all of the “out of town” guests, thank you for making the long drive. It was great seeing everyone. The weekend was very special and memorable.

We loved Savannah; we were guests at the Georgia Elks Spring Meeting. We had a guided tour of Fort Pulaski.
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert, PDD

The 2012 Officer Training Seminar was held March 9-11 in Orlando. In attendance were 82 Exalted Rulers, 68 Lodge Secretaries, 13 Endorsed District Deputies, 14 Endorsed District Vice Presidents, and 40 other attendees including Lodge Treasurers, Trustees, and House Committee Chairmen. The seminar and training continue to be most informative and our team of volunteer instructors works very hard to deliver useful information to all who attend. Many thanks go to this hardworking team. They are Chairman, Vincent Como, PSP; Val Bates, PGER; Mike Smith, PGER; Frank Palladini, PSP; Ben S. Brown, PSP; PDDs Pete Vaphiades, Charlotte Healy, Mike Pierson, Carl Gerace, Doris Waddell, Betty Tewksbury, Sean Maguire, Brian Burns, and Lynn Warburton; PER, Membership Development Director, Don Moon, PERS George April and Rudy Masi; and Greg Weis our new FSEA Director of Marketing and Communications. Also thank you to my staff Jenny Box, Rachael King, and Deborah Hall for their help and assistance.

The 106th Annual Convention of the Florida State Elks Association will be held May 24th through the 27th at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. Another great convention is being planned this year along with the return of our second annual Harry-Anna Auction event on Friday. This silent and live auction will be conducted again this year as a fun way to make money for our Major Projects and to assist Lodges in meeting their Harry-Anna per-capita donation goals. If you are attending the convention this is one event you won’t want to miss! Items to be donated may be brought to the convention center but must be delivered by Thursday at 3:00 p.m. WE also ask that you email the FSEA at fsea@floridaelks.org and let us know what item(s) you will be bringing so we may add them to our online list. That list of items available at the auction, along with their descriptions, is being maintained on our web site at www.flelks.org. Visit it often to keep up with all the items that are constantly being added, and come prepared to bid on your favorites! Upon your arrival at the convention you are asked to check-in at the north registration counter in the convention center to pick up your name badges and credentials. Online pre-registration is required to order luncheon & dinner tickets as well as to order your pre-printed name badge. Your name badge is required for admission to most convention sessions and activities. Registration will open on Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. More information, including the preliminary schedule of activities for the convention, can be found on our web site at www.flelks.org. I hope you are planning on attending this year’s annual convention of the Florida State Elks Association!

Year ending membership numbers were not complete for this edition of the News. However, our projection is for a slight improvement on our percentage membership loss. Although seeking a gain in membership, we believe this turnaround to be significant and attributable to the new approaches we are seeing throughout many of our Lodges with respect to recruiting, involving, and retaining members. Also highly significant we believe, are the efforts being put forth in the Lodges by the Lodge Membership Liaisons who have been attending seminars throughout this past year to learn new strategies in membership development. These hard working and highly motivated individuals were selected by their Exalted Ruler’s to participate in this training and one of the outcomes will be the presentation at State Convention of a supplement to the current membership manual available through the Grand Lodge. This supplement introduces many new ideas and concepts to our existing membership development program and should go a long way in assisting our Lodges to update and modernize our approach to recruiting new members. Congratulations to everyone who has taken part in this effort as we believe that we are on our way to real and positive growth for our association.

FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS

Betty J. Groff, President

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

Our Quarterly meeting was held at the Youth Camp in Umatilla on February 11th, 2012. We were honored to have Grand Exalted Ruler David Carr speak to the ladies. Doug Swartz, PER, Chairman of our Ladies Organization introduced the FSEA dignitaries from State and District. The past State Presidents present were Linda Hayes; Barbara McGuire; Lisa Como; Kathy Lake; Gail Sansoussi; Mary K Burns; and Sonja Coggins; along with Nona Gordon from Alabama. Past State Presidents in attendance were, Beverly Messerschmidt; Carol Deresh; Enid Simpson; Faye Bryant; Mildred Lamb; Lee Weigel; and Dolores Casella.

Welcome to our two new Delegates from NW and SSW District’s, Gail Grimes, and Joan Haynes

FLOE donations of $18,000 to the FSEA Youth Camp & Children’s Therapy Services were presented by Carol Deresh, PSP of FLOE to Frank Hayes, President FSEA for the years 2009 through 2011.

Enid Simpson, PSP of FLOE presented a check in the amount of $5,000 at the February quarterly in 2010 for a Youth Camp cabin making a total of $23,000 donated for the combined 2 years.

We invite you to attend our May Luncheon & Chinese Auction to be at Disney Coronado Springs on May 26, 2012 in conjunction with the FSEA convention. This year we are hosting a Silent Auction to be held on May 25, 2012. We are really excited about this event. The Silent Auction donations are from all Elks and ladies. Proceeds from these events enable the Florida Ladies of Elks to meet their goals and support our major projects. Please join us, for some fun bring your spouse, invite your friends, or fellow Elks. Tickets are available on line at flelks.org web site.

Nominations and voting will be done at the May meeting the nominating committee will be looking to fill two positions Treasurer and Advisory Council. We will also be revising our By-Laws this year.

FLOE Conference this year will be held at the Hilton Melbourne Beach Oceanfront, September 27, 28, 29, 2012. We have some fun in store for everyone. Elvis will be in the house.

My theme for 2011-2012 year is The Heart: For Love & Happiness.

The best and most beautiful things in this world, cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart. Author: Helen Keller

Please, help us by attending our functions so we can assist Lodges in meeting their Harry-Anna per-capita donation goals. If you are attending the convention this is one event you won’t want to miss! Items to be donated may be brought to the convention center but must be delivered by Thursday at 3:00 p.m. WE also ask that you email the FSEA at fsea@floridaelks.org and let us know what item(s) you will be bringing so we may add them to our online list. That list of items available at the auction, along with their descriptions, is being maintained on our web site at www.flelks.org. Visit it often to keep up with all the items that are constantly being added, and come prepared to bid on your favorites! Upon your arrival at the convention you are asked to check-in at the north registration counter in the convention center to pick up your name badges and credentials. Online pre-registration is required to order luncheon & dinner tickets as well as to order your pre-printed name badge. Your name badge is required for admission to most convention sessions and activities. Registration will open on Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. More information, including the preliminary schedule of activities for the convention, can be found on our web site at www.flelks.org. I hope you are planning on attending this year’s annual convention of the Florida State Elks Association!

Secretary’s message continued on page 10

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins
Awarded January 10, 2012 through March 31, 2012

Name on Donor Recognition Board for $5,000.00 Certificate
Gold Pins for Paid-in-Full $1,000 Certificate

Robert Fredrickson  Inverness #2522
Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate

Steven J. Berghs  Punta Gorda #2606
Charles R. Bugbee  Zephyrhills #2731
Sean Maguire Biography continued from page 1

first several years due to work commitments, he was asked to relieve the Tiler who had become ill and had to resign. He worked his way through the chairs to Loyal Knight at which time he moved back to West Palm Beach. He assisted Don Knetchke Jr., PSP (Virginia), and many others in forming the Palm Beach West Elks Lodge 2785, becoming the Charter Exalted Ruler in March of 1994 and then again serving as Exalted Ruler in 2000-2001.

Sean served on various Lodge and District committees over the years. He served as State Vice Chairman of the Visitation Committee in 2000-2001 and as State Chairman in 2001-2002. He became Vice President of the Southeast District for the 2003-04 Lodge year and then as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Lodge year 2004-05.

Sean served on the committee of the Florida Elks Children’s Clinic (formerly the Lower East Coast Clinic) for several years and served as its Chairman in 2007-08. He served on the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services BOD from 2005 through 2011 and as President of the BOD’s from 2009-2011.

He was named Lodge Advisor of the West Palm Beach Lodge 1352 in 2006 as well as Belle Glade Lodge 1716 in 2007. In 2009 he was named and is currently the District Leader of the Southeast District.

Sean was honored to be named Vice President at Large of the Florida State Elks Association for the Lodge year 2011-2012. At the 2011 Florida State Elks Association Annual Convention in Walt Disney World, Sean was endorsed as the State President for the Lodge Year 2012-13.

In his spare time, Sean enjoys Bass fishing, listening to music, watching Miami Dolphins and Florida Gators football, and Boston Red Sox baseball. He also enjoys watching NASCAR.

State President Hayes continued from page 2

National Monument; this was so interesting. Afterwards we toured the Tybee Island Light Station and Museum, and yes I climbed the 174 steps up and the 174 steps back down. I attended several meetings; one point of interest to me was learning more about their state project, Georgia Elks Aidmore Children’s Center. Linda and the ladies touted downtown Historic Savannah. We enjoyed the wonderful hospitality, fellowship and generosity of the Georgia Elks.

At the time of this article, Linda and I are on our way to the State Golf Tournament in Sebring. This is always an enjoyable, relaxing weekend and I look forward to the camaraderie.

One of my programs this year was to bring the FSEA to the forefront with “Social Media”. We now have Greg Weis on board to implement and oversee this project. Many of the lodges now have a Facebook page/web page. We have had a vision of reaching out to our members and communities; it is with this VISION, that we have been able to put the plan into ACTION.

Thank you for your unselfish donations made to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. It is with your generous contributions that allow us to help those in need and less fortunate. Please continue to support and serve the many programs of our great Order. The prosperity and growth of our organization begins and “It Depends on You.”

In closing, Linda and I want to thank everyone for allowing us to have a "GREAT" year. We are extremely grateful for your hospitality, generosity and kindness. It has indeed been our honor to meet and get to know each of you and my esteemed privilege to serve as President of the Florida State Elks Association.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

106th Annual Convention of the Florida State Elks Association

Wednesday - May 23, 2012
3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Registration - North Registration Counter

Thursday - May 24, 2012
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. FL Elks Charities (FEC) BOD Workshop (closed meeting)
8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Registration Continues - North Registration Counter
8:30 a.m. to 10:35 a.m. Past State Presidents’ Advisory Council (closed meeting)
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. FL Elks Youth Camp (FEYC) BOD Workshop (closed meeting)
10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. FL Elks Children’s Therapy Services (FECTS) BOD Workshop
10:45 a.m. to 11:35 a.m. FL Elks Youth Camp (FEYC) BOD - (Re-organizational Meeting Immediately Following)
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. FL Elks News Publication Committee
11:35 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. FL Elks Properties (FEP) 80D - (Re-organizational Meeting Immediately Following)
12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Convention Committee
12:05 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Break - Lunch on Your Own
12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration Continues - North Registration Counter
1:30 p.m. to 2:35 p.m. FL Elks Children’s Therapy Services (FECTS) BOD - (Re-organizational Meeting Immediately Following)
2:35 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. FL Elks Charities (FEC) BOD - (Re-organizational Meeting immediately following)
3:10 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. Ritual Meeting for Judges and Teams
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. 3D-minute Ritual Team Practices
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 3D-minute Ritual Team Practices

Friday - May 25, 2012
8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Registration Continues - North Registration Counter
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. State Ritual Contest
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Business Practices Committee (closed meeting)
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Membership Seminar - Open
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Meeting of Current & Endorsed District Deputies (closed meeting)
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Q & A Training Session with Business Practices Committee - Open
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Meeting of Special Representatives (closed meeting)
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. FLOE Bylaws Committee (closed meeting)
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Elks National Foundation Seminar - Open
11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Silent Auction to Benefit the Harry-Anna Trust Fund - Open
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Q & A Session with PGERs Val Bates, Robert Grafton. & Mike Smith - Open
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. FLOE Nominating Committee (closed meeting)
12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Break - Lunch on Your Own
1:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Opening General Session & Memorial Service - Elks Members Only Until 12:30 p.m.
Non-members are invited for Officer Nominations, Demonstrations & Acceptance Speech at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Please assemble outside Convention Hall
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. FLOE Advisory Council (closed meeting)
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Memorial Service - Elks Members/S & Guests - Immediately Following the Opening General Session
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Florida Elks Children's Clinic Meeting
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. FL Elks Riders USA Meeting
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 3D-minute Ritual Team Practices
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Live Charity Auction to Benefit the Harry-Anna Trust Fund - Casitas Courtyard

Saturday - May 26, 2012
6:30 a.m. to 7:20 a.m. Continental Breakfast - Coronado Foyer
7:20 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Major Projects Meeting
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Registration Continues - North Registration Counter
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. State Ritual Contest Continues
8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. FL Ladies of Elks (FLOE) Meeting
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Meeting of Endorsed District Vice Presidents (closed meeting)
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Private Meetings with State Co-sponsors C. Valentine Bates, Robert Grafton. PGER, & Michael F. Smith. PGER
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Concurrent Training Seminars - Open
Track 1 - Holding a Successful Soccer Shoot Program
Track 2 - Veterans' Services Committee. Army of Hope (AOH) Picnics. VAVS Representatives. AOH District Coordinators
Track 3 - Publicity. Public Relations. & Marketing
Track 4 - TBA
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. General Business Session - Elks Members Only
11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Chinese Auction Sponsored by FLOE - Proceeds to FL Elks Major Projects
12:00 p.m. to 12:55 p.m. Ladies Luncheon Sponsored by FLOE - Open to Elks & Non-Elks
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. General Awards Session - Open - Non-members/S & Guests Welcome
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meeting of 2012/13 District Vice Presidents and State, Vice, & Regional Committee Chairmen (closed meeting)
5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Presidents Banquet and Installation of Officers - Summer formal Attire (White Dinner Jacket) Suggested

Tunes in the Courtyard - (Weather Permitting)
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Thursday
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Saturday
The members and Lodges of Florida’s Central District are honored to present to the 2012 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Edward P. “Ed” Seitler as a candidate for the office of Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Seitler was born in Chicago, IL in 1935 and grew up in Illinois. He graduated from high school in 1953 and went to work at Western Electric from 1953-1955. He joined the Coast Guard in 1955 and was discharged in 1959. He went back to Western Electric until 1960. After this he worked for ITT Kellogg on the Atlas Missile Contract designing electrical equipment for the missile silos.

After the government contract ran out in 1962, he began working for the Alpha Engineering Co. as a cabling engineer designing telephone office equipment. In 1965 he worked for Universal Oil Products Company as an electrical designer and utility estimating engineer working on various refinery processes for major oil refineries throughout the world. He retired in 1986 but was called back to U.O.P. as an engineering consultant for another seven years. In 1994 he and his wife moved to Homosassa, FL.

Seitler joined West Citrus Elks Lodge 2693 in 2000 because he liked what he heard and saw about the Elks. He served on the House Committee, was Lodge Chairman of ENF for two years, was Lecturing Knight and Loyal Knight, and became Exalted Ruler in 2005-2006. He was Secretary of the Trustees for five years. He was District Chairman of Sports for four years, was State Vice Chairman of Sports for 2008-2009, and was State Chairman of Sports for 2009-2010. He was State Chairman of Indoctrination for 2011-2012.

Seitler and his wife, Marilyn, were married in 1956 while he was still in the Coast Guard. They have four children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

His hobbies are golfing and woodworking. He also joined the Moose Lodge in 2001.

The members and Lodges of Florida’s East Central District are honored to present to the 2012 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Thomas “Tom” Brand as a candidate for the office of East Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Brand was born in Queens, NY in 1944 and grew up there. For over thirty years he lived in Westchester, NY until retiring in 1999 when he moved to Florida fulltime. He graduated from Flushing High School in 1962. He attended RCA Institute in 1968 for Electrical Technology and earned his BS in Education in 1984 from City College, all at night school. He is still attending law school. He also served fourteen years in the U.S. Navy until receiving an honorable discharge in 1992.

Brand worked for Consolidated Edison of New York for 33 years. From 1966-1968, he was Assistant Operator for D. C. Substation & A. C. Training. From 1968-1976 he was Operator for A. C. Substation and Shop Steward. From 1976-1985 he was Operating Supervisor and from 1985-1999 he was Shift Supervisor.

In 1993, Brand went to a fundraiser and liked what he saw and later became a member of Palm Coast Elks Lodge 2709 when he retired in 1999. He chaired the Committees for Table, Kitchen, Training, Drug Awareness, Americanism, Investigating, Membership & Lapsation, and Mediator as well as the House Committee in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2010. He was named Officer of the Year for 2007 and 2008. He became Exalted Ruler in 2009. He began serving a five-year term in 2010 as Trustee. He was Chairman of the PER Association for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. He was District Chairman of Membership for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. He was State Vice Chairman of Americanism in 2010-2011 and State Chairman in 2011-2012.

Brand attended law school in 2001 and became a Mediator for the County Courts system in the state of Florida. He was certified by the Supreme Court of Florida in 2004 to the present time. He received a Certificate of Appreciation from President George W. Bush in 2006 for working on the Reelection Committee. He worked with the Flagler County Sheriff’s Department for Elks Drug Awareness from 2006-2011. He became Sir Knight Fourth Degree with the Knights of Columbus in 2007. He was a board member of the C.O.P. of Palm Coast from 2008-2011. He also worked with the Flagler County Sheriff’s Department Advisory Board from 2008-2011.

Brand has been married to Mary for 48 years this February. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North District are honored to present to the 2012 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Buckner L. “Cap” Pratt as a candidate for the office of North District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Pratt was born in Queens, NY in 1944 and grew up there. For over thirty years he lived in Westchester, NY until retiring in 1999 when he moved to Florida fulltime. He graduated from Miami Edison Senior High School. He attended law school in 2001 and then to Live Oak Lodge 1165 in 2001. He has served Live Oak Lodge as Inner Guard, Loyal Knight, and Exalted Ruler and was on the Board of Trustees. He has also served on the Auditing, Bylaws, Budget, Veterans’ Services, Scholarships, Indoctrination, and Bingo Committees. He was the District Chairman of Elks National Foundation Scholarships and was a District Director for the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors.

In addition to Elkdom, Pratt keeps busy with other organizations. He has been with the Boy Scouts of America for 62 years. He is an Eagle Scout and earned the Exploring Silver Award, the Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor & Founders Award, the District Award of Merit, the Scoutmasters Training Award, and the Silver Beaver Award. He has also served on multiple Troop, South Florida Council, and National Council Committees. He is a member of the International Association of Arson Investigators, International Association of Fire Fighters, Florida Wildlife Federation (Vice President), Airboat Association of Florida (Past President), Tropical Audubon Society (Board of Directors), and Central & Southern Florida Flood Control District (Board of Governors – Gubernatorial Appointment).

Pratt and his wife, Helen F., have been married for 47 years. He is of Original American, French, and English heritage. They have two sons, Justin L. (Cynthia) and Derek C. (Tonya), and three grandchildren, Riley, Aleseandra, and Jayden. Both sons are Eagle Scouts and Vigil Honor Order of the Arrow.

Other interests for Pratt include Original American Cultural studies, languages, and gatherings. He also enjoys snow skiing, hunting, horses, firearms and ballistics, traveling, tipi camping, and the “Old Guy” Division of the Fire Department Retirees Association.
NORTHEAST
James M. “Jim” Brand

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northeast District are honored to present to the 2012 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of James M. “Jim” Brand as a candidate for the office of Northeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Brand was born in Fargo, ND in 1934 and moved to Florida in 1970. He attended Southern Methodist University from 1952-1954. From 1954-1957 he served in the USAF. For over 55 years, from college to the present time, Brand has been a radio broadcaster. He is now divorced.

In 1977, Brand became an Elks member because all of his coworkers, including the owner, were Elks. He served as Exalted Ruler in 1982-1983 and 1986-1987. He is a Lodge ritual coach. He has also served the state as Sergeant at Arms and as State Chairman of New Lodges.

NORTH CENTRAL
Richard K. “Dick” Krause

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North Central District are honored to present to the 2012 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Richard K. “Dick” Krause as a candidate for the office of North Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Krause was born in Cleveland, OH in 1936. He graduated from John Marshall High School in Cleveland in 1956 and went to work as a draftsman. He belonged to the Naval Reserve for 21 years and was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary for 34 years and taught safe boating courses. In 1981 he graduated from the University of Akron with an Associate degree in Mechanical Technology. He retired from Mannesmann Rexroth Corporation in 1998 with 26 years of service as a Product Engineer. He moved to Hernando, FL in 1999.

Krause was initiated into Inverness Elks Lodge 2522 in the 1999-2000 year. He became Inner Guard in 2004-2005, was Esquire the following year, and progressed through the chairs to become Exalted Ruler for 2009-2010. Currently he is serving as the 4-year Trustee and Chairman of the Trustees. He has served on the House Committee and Induction Committee and is currently Committee Chairman. He was named Officer of the Year for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. He is editor of the Lodge bulletin and is currently President of the Inverness PER Association as well as State Chairman of Youth Activities.

Krause has been married to Anne for 54 years. They have two children and three grandchildren.

SOUTHEAST
Patti Phillips

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast District are honored to present to the 2012 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Patti Phillips as a candidate for the office of Southeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Phillips was born on November 22, 1947, the eldest of three children. She grew up in Watertown, NY where she attended Cooper Street Elementary, North Junior High, and graduated in 1965 from Watertown High School. Her late father was a member of Watertown Elks Lodge 1899. She continued her education at the State University of New York College at Potsdam studying Secondary Education: French.

Phillips was active in Little Theatre and Kiwanian stage productions throughout junior high and high school as well as ballet and jazz dance during her years. She also participated in various sports activities such as bowling, field hockey, and horseshoes. Her avid interest in bowling and horseshoes continues today.

Phillips has fond memories of her first foray into the job market, which was as a carhop for A & W Root Beer in the summer of 1965. She then moved into customer service with college-era stints in floor and office work at department stores. Following her marriage to August of 1969, Patti moved to Tidewater, VA and worked in the Accounting Department of WVEC TV/Radio in Hampton until the birth of her eldest son in October of 1974. She reentered the work force soon after the birth of her second son in December of 1977.

While working as Office Manager for an automotive aftermarket firm in Newport News, she was introduced into nonprofit charitable work due to the connections made through the extended illness of her son, Adam (deceased in December of 2008). She then started the Peninsula Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, planning fundraisers and informational speaking engagements.

Following relocation back to Central New York in the mid 1980s, Phillips served as Vice President of a very active 350-plus member Welcome Wagon Chapter in Manlius, NY during the height of the economic “salad days.” It was during this time that she took accounting and study skills classes in continuing education at Syracuse University.

In 1988, she became a Store Manager for Mail Boxes Etc., a packing and shipping franchise, and subsequently went on to become Operations Manager and Training Officer for the area franchise in 1992, overseeing the compliance of nineteen stores in two states.

In October of 1997, she relocated to South Florida, once again managing Mail Boxes Etc. stores in West Palm Beach. When the economy took a downturn, she moved on to become Office Manager of Wellington Moving & Storage. She currently works in that same capacity for Ron Bell, Inc., a roofing contractor in Delray Beach.

Phillips was initiated into West Palm Beach Elks Lodge 1352 on December 20, 2006. She was first elected as Tiler for 2008-2009 but was immediately asked to relieve the Loyal Knight who had contracted a serious eye infection and was forced to resign. She was Leding Knight in 2009-2010 and served as Exalted Ruler in 2010-2011. She has been appointed to serve as Esquire for 2012-2013. She has served on many Lodge and District Committees including Beautification, House, Investigation, and Indocination. In addition, she served several terms as Lodge Chairman of Veterans’ Services and was State Vice Chairman in 2010-2011 and State Chairman in 2011-2012. She has served as Secretary of the PER Association. She has enjoyed being Chairman of the Army of Hope Picnic Committee each year since 2010.

Phillips’ son, Ian, followed in his late grandfather’s footsteps into the United States Marine Corps, proudly serving his country; he was deployed to Iraq in 2005. He and his wife, Kim, reside in York, PA with their 20-month old daughter, Isabella. Kim runs her own public relations and media consulting business, IOCreative, in both York, PA and Palm Beach, FL. Ian has worked sixteen years for Airgas, Inc. and currently serves them as Director of Strategic Growth.

Leisure time is shared with friends and family whenever possible, including her mother, Marje, who is 87 and has resided with her for the past seven years. Phillips credits her mother’s strong character, her involvement with volunteer activities, and enthusiasm for outdoor sports when she was younger with her own involvement in similar pursuits today.

NORTHWEST
Kevin Clemons

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northwest District are honored to present to the 2012 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Kevin Clemons as a candidate for the office of Northwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Clemons was born in Watertown, NY in 1956. He grew up in Carthage, NY and moved to Florida in 1994. He attended college for four years and earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice.

Clemons has served in the USAF for 21 years and seven months. He has worked in USAF law enforcement and is currently a Facility Security Officer for The Boeing Company in Fort Walton Beach, FL.

In 2002 Clemons joined Fort Walton Elks Lodge 1795. The Elks had invited his brothers and sisters to an annual children’s Christmas party. When asked to join, he saw this as an opportunity to continue and participate in the charitable efforts of the local Elks.

Continued page 7
Lodge. He has served as Exalted Ruler twice, Leading Knight, Loyal Knight, Lecturing Knight, Esquire twice, Inner Guard, Trustee, and House Committee Chairman. He was District Chairman of Indoctrination and State Cochairman of Veterans’ Services.

Clemons and his wife, Jamie, have been married for 37 years. They have two sons, Kevin, Jr. and Christopher, and a daughter, Danielle. They have three grandchildren, Khalil Clemons and Bryson and Cienna Nixon.

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL

Susan “Suzi” Simonelli

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast Central District are honored to present to the 2012 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Susan “Suzi” Simonelli as a candidate for the office of Southeast Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Simonelli was born in Waterville, ME in 1966. She was educated in Maine schools and graduated from Thomas College with a degree in Retail Management in 1986. She held management positions with K-Mart, CVS Pharmacy, and All East Enterprises before moving to Florida in 1993. She dedicated the next twelve years to raising her son, Tony. She was PTA President and received the Martin County Volunteer of the Year Award for her work with the public school system. Participating in all phases of the Boy Scouts of America, from Den Mother to Assistant Scout Master, she earned many top scouting awards including the Sailfish District Award of Merit and the prestigious Silver Beaver Award. She is also a member of the Order of the Arrow.

In July of 2005 she traveled to the Elks Grand Lodge session held in Reno where she was awarded the Marvin M. Lewis Award for her dedication to both the Boy Scouts of America and the Order of Elks. Simonelli’s journey in Elksdom began on May 20, 2002 when she was initiated into Stuart-Jensen Elks Lodge 1870. She served as Lodge Secretary and Leading Knight and three terms as Exalted Ruler. She was given the Citizen of the Year Award for 2004-2005 and was named Officer of the Year for 2007-2008. She chaired and served on numerous Lodge committees. She has been the State Drug Awareness Trailer Manager for the past four years, District Drug Awareness Chairman for five years, and Vice President of the Southeast Central District PER Association.

She was State Vice Chairman of Officer Attendance for 2011-2012. In January of 2012 she was made an honorary life member of Stuart-Jensen Lodge.

Simonelli is married to Joey and they are very supportive of her son, Tony, an Eagle Scout who received a Bachelor’s degree from the University of South Florida in December of 2011.

SOUTH SOUTHWEST

Kay F. Neilley

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southwest District are honored to present to the 2012 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Kay F. Neilley as a candidate for the office of South Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Neilley was born in Montague Township, Sussex County, NJ and grew up in Sussex, Morris, and Warren Counties. She graduated from Dover High School in 1957 and completed two semesters at County College of Morris when she was in her early forties and earned a perfect 4.0 in Accounting. She became a permanent resident of Port Charlotte, FL in September of 1997.

Neilley spent 28 years with a manufacturing company in NJ, 24 years in various accounting positions and four years as Director of Purchasing, which were the best four years of her career.

In the fall of 1999, Neilley was asked to join the Elks and was initiated into Stuart-Jensen Elks Lodge 1870. She served as Lodge Secretary and Leading Knight and three terms as Exalted Ruler. She was given the Citizen of the Year Award for 2004-2005 and was named Officer of the Year for 2007-2008. She chaired and served on numerous Lodge committees. She has been the State Drug Awareness Trailer Manager for the past four years, District Drug Awareness Chairman for five years, and Vice President of the Southeast Central District PER Association.

She was State Vice Chairman of Officer Attendance for 2011-2012. In January of 2012 she was made an honorary life member of Stuart-Jensen Lodge.

Simonelli is married to Joey and they are very supportive of her son, Tony, an Eagle Scout who received a Bachelor’s degree from the University of South Florida in December of 2011.

SOUTH SOUTHEAST

Marilyn Kronenberg

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southeast District are honored to present to the 2012 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Marilyn Kronenberg as a candidate for the office of South Southeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Kronenberg was born and raised in Dayton, OH. She graduated from high school in 1960 and moved to Pompano Beach in 1979. She is a civil engineering technician and AutoCad drafter and works fulltime.

This will be Kronenberg’s fifteenth year as an Elk. When the door opened for women to become members, she was ready and willing. She has been Lodge, District, Regional, and now State Director of Hoop Shoot. She was Leading Exalted Ruler for 2010-2011 and Exalted Ruler for 2011-2012. She is also Lodge Decoration Chairman.

Kronenberg and Roy have been married for 47 years. They have a daughter, Cristy, and son, Keven, from Roy’s first marriage. Their daughter, Rhonda, lives in Naples, FL. They have eight grandchildren.

SOUTH

Joaquin Lopez

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South District are honored to present to the 2012 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Joaquin “Jack” Lopez, Jr. as a candidate for the office of South District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Lopez was born in Cuba of Spanish descent where he lived until he was nine years old. His family relocated to Spain where he lived for five years. He arrived in Miami, FL in 1966 and was naturalized in 1968. He graduated from Christopher Columbus Catholic High School in 1970. He attended Miami Dade College and the University of Miami and studied Computer Networking and Electrical Engineering. He is the founder and President of an IT consulting and training company and co-founder of the Miami-Dade College Microcomputer Institute. In 2007 he sold his business and currently works from home as a Currency Futures Trader.

Thirteen years ago he joined the Elks. He has served as Chaplain, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, and Leading Knight and was Exalted Ruler for Miami Lodge 948 during 2010-2011. As Exalted Ruler, he started the first Antlers program in the South District and got the Miami-Dade County Commission to name a street at the corner of the Lodge “Miami Elks Lodge 948 Way.” He has worked with the Hoop Shoot program as District Chairman for the last five years and currently serves as State Vice Chairman. This year he will be the House Committee Chairman and President of the PER Association.

Lopez has four grown children, Cristina, Nick, Stephan, and Michelle. He has two grandchildren, Paloma and Gabriel. His daily companion is a 12-year old boxer named Lola.
**Spring 2012**

**FLORIDA ELKS NEWS**

**NOMINATIONS FOR DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT 2012 - 2013**

**SOUTHWEST CENTRAL**

**Patrick Gallagher**

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest District are honored to present to the 2012 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Patrick Gallagher as a candidate for the office of Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Gallagher was born in St. Ignace, MI in 1958. He moved to Alpena, MI in 1964 as a child and graduated from Alpena High School in 1977. He attended Alpena Community College from 1977 to 1979 and graduated with an AAS degree in Business Management.

Gallagher owned and operated businesses in the Alpena area for twenty years before moving to Bradenton, FL in 1997. He is currently employed by the School District of Manatee County in the area of Energy & Recycling where he is responsible for overseeing an eighteen million dollar budget.

In 1994, Gallagher joined Alpena, MI Elks Lodge 505. He transferred his membership to Manasota Elks Lodge 2734 in 1997 where he became more active in the Elks. He was Chairman of the Trustees in 2003 and is now serving a five-year term which started in 2009-2010. He is Esquire for 2005-2006 and 2008-2009, Leading Knight for 2006-2007, Exalted Ruler for 2007-2008, and has served as Lounge Manager for the past six years. He was State Vice Chairman and State Chairman of Officer Attendance for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. He has been a member of the Business Practices Committee since 2010. He was named Office of the Year for 2009-2010.

Along with Elks activities, Gallagher was the Past Chairman of Keep Manatee Beautiful for 2009-2010 and was 2010-2011 JCJ Senator #42310. He is a Past President of the Alpena Jaycees and a past Kiwanis member.

Gallagher and his wife, Jill, have been married 29 years. They have no children but enjoy over sixty nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. He has eight siblings, three of which reside in the Bradenton area. His parents, Daniel and Scharline Gallagher, enjoyed their membership in the Elks both in Michigan and Florida and encouraged their children to become members and to serve their communities through Elksdom. Gallagher enjoys serving his community knowing that as Elks, we do make a difference in a child’s life and that we will never forget our veterans.

**Douglas J. Collett**

The members and Lodges of Florida’s West Central District are honored to present to the 2012 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Douglas J. Collett as a candidate for the office of West Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Collett was born in Lansing, MI in 1943 and grew up there. He graduated from Lansing Eastern High School in 1961. While he worked, he graduated from Lansing Community College with an Associate degree in Business. He continued at North Woods University in Midland, MI in Business Management while working at General Motors Corp. until 1985 but was short a few classes from graduating. He was exempt from serving in the military when the Cuba Blockade started by a presidential order that stated that anyone with at least one child would not need to enter the service.

Collett delivered papers for eight years and managed a small gas station for two years. From 1961-1962 he was a warehouse/truck delivery person for Gordon Food Service in Lansing. In 1962 he was hired by General Motors in Lansing. For the next four years he worked on the assembly line as an hourly employee. From 1966-1975 he was a Production Supervisor on salary. From 1975-1989 he was Material Handling Supervisor and Material Handling Planner for three plants. From 1989-2005 he was Office Manager for Production Control and Logistics. In early 2005 he retired from GM after 42 years of service as a Manager of Production Control and Logistics at Lansing Car Assembly Plant. He moved to Dunedin, FL the week after he retired.

In 2006, he and his wife, Lynn, became members at Dunedin/Clearwater Elks Lodge 1525. They have always tried to support anything with children or veterans, so it was a perfect fit when they were introduced to the Elks Lodge and saw the orientation film. They have visited the Florida Elks Youth Camp many times and the national headquarters in Chicago. Their next visit will be to the Elks National Home and to revisit national headquarters.

Collett has served as Lecturing Knight and Exalted Ruler and on the House Committee. He was Lodge Chairman of Lodge Activities, District Chairman of Harry-Anna Trust Fund, and State Chairman of Interlodge Visitation. He was also District Auditor for the West Central District.

In addition to Elks activities, Collett was Treasurer for Golden Acres Mobile Home Park for three years and was instrumental in developing financial plans for a $300,000 clubhouse renovation that included paying the mortgage off in four years and it is on time.

He was President of the Automobile Club of Lansing, MI for one year. He helped develop a Supervisor’s Council aimed at awarding the high performers of first line supervisors in their three plants. He then became the first President and then Vice President of the program.

Collett and his wife were both previously married. In the 22 years that they have been together, they have never been apart. They were married on February 26, 2000. They both enjoy their four children and four grandchildren who live in Michigan.

**SOUTHWEST CENTRAL**

**W. Dennis Osborn**

Osborn was born in Harvey, IL and grew up mainly between his two grandparents’ farms in northern and southern Illinois. He graduated from high school in Altamont, IL and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from DePaul University in Chicago in 1962. He later moved to Fort Wayne, IN where he earned a Master of Science degree in Finance in 1971 and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in 1981 both from St. Frances University in Fort Wayne. In 1998 he moved to Florida.

Osborn’s career of 48 years was involved with computing and finance and later with telephone and telecommunications companies. His positions included working with a computing service bureau in the 1960s, Computing Director and Assistant Professor at Purdue University, various consulting assignments, Director of Application Development at Reuben H. Donnelley, Vice President of two companies in the Pennsylvania and Massachusetts areas, and consulting assignments with Intermedia Communications and Lucent Technologies in Tampa. He culminated his career with DayStar Communications in Port Charlotte.

In February of 1983, Osborn was initiated into Elksdom at West Chester, PA Elks Lodge 853. Because of working commitments, he demitted after ensuring years to Rockville, CT Elks Lodge 1359; Terre Haute, IN Elks Lodge 86; and finally Brandon Elks Lodge 2383 in 1998. He was not able to be as active in the Elks as he would have liked because his work assignments kept him on the road until his retirement in 2008. However, he was able to participate in Brandon’s ritual team’s winning the state ritual contests and going to the nationals in Kansas City in 1999 and Dallas in 2000. He was an assistant coach with the teams. He has qualified as a word judge and computer judge since then. Since 2008 he has served as the Lodge Lounge Manager. He was finally able to commit to being an officer and served as Loyal Knight in 2008-2009 and Leading Knight in 2009-2010. He was District Chairman of Lodge Activities for 2008-2009 and District Chairman of Ritual for 2008-2009, 2009-2010, and 2010-2011. For 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 he was District Auditor for the DDGER. In 2010-2011 he was a substitute District Esquire and served as Exalted Ruler. For 2011-2012 he has been a Lodge Trustee, Regional Chairman of Accident Prevention, Lodge Liaison for the state Membership Committee, and Co-District Esquire to the DDGER. In June, he was appointed as a Special Representative on the Steering Committee for Lake Wales Elks Lodge 1974.

Osborn and his wife, Viola (Vi), have been married for 31 years and have six children and seven grandchildren between them. His son, Steven, is a veterinarian at Sea World in San Antonio, TX. His daughter, Brenda, is the mother of three children and lives in Fort Wayne, IN. His stepson, Rick Hardin, lives in Riverside, CA and is the father of two children. His stepson, Bill Hardin, and his stepdaughters, Kim Bebout and Teri Hardin, also reside in Fort Wayne, IN. Kim has two children.
Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee

Message from Grand Exalted Ruler
David R. Carr

Our Order was originally founded to provide community service and to help those less fortunate in time of need. As Elks, we serve as faithful servants to the communities in which we reside. In our changing society, with so many one-parent or two working-parent families, offering family activities can make a positive difference in attracting Members.

It's important for the new Lodge leaders to focus on family and community involvement when planning Lodge activities throughout the year. Try conducting a monthly informal activities meeting with the Lodge Officers and invite the Trustees and House and Lodge Committee Members. Extend an open invitation for all Members and their families to attend.

Also, invite representatives from any organization soliciting Lodge support to attend this meeting to explain the purpose of their request. Explore the possibilities that their members can work with Elks Members to help meet their goal. During each activity meeting, discuss the Lodge activities planned for the next several weeks. Open the meeting so everyone can express opinions and concerns regarding planned activities and potential new ones. This will give you more time to focus on other agendas for your regular meetings.

Involving the family and community in our many programs as well as offering family activities, helps to generate Member and public confidence and support of our Lodges and programs. Family activities will help in procuring new Members and keeping existing Members by giving families “together time” to better utilize the continually shrinking hours families have in a fast-moving society.

Family involvement can make a difference in the success of our Lodges because those parents and children who visit and learn about our programs today will be the Members and leaders of our Lodges tomorrow. And involving community leaders of our other organizations can certainly help the general public better understand our purposes and programs that fully demonstrate our motto, “Elks Care – Elks Share.”

Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee
State brochure contest well worth the effort
by Winston M. Needham, PSP
Committee Member

Have you ever asked about something, “Is it worth the trouble?”, “Who cares?” or “What good will this do?” Hopefully, you were not referring to the State Association Best Youth Program Brochure Contest. The Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee, which promotes this contest, has many State Associations participating, and we hope to include ALL of them in the 2011-2012 contest.

When pride is taken in any endeavor, it shows. We urge you to find interested members of your State Association who can follow this through to make things happen.

Think of this program as a “project” with a few “key” people involved in the main presentation. With a good State Association Committee of dedicated Elks working together, collecting Lodge information will not be hard. Copies of letters, newspaper articles, pictures, correspondence, Lodge bulletins, invitations and any other items your Lodges or State Association can supply are to be included. You will be surprised at how many positive events your state can be proud to share in the Brochure.

Check the GLYAC manual (Code 512100) for size/weight restrictions. As information, articles and pictures are collected, start constructing the basic binder, with appropriate tabs and dividers. If your early-progress brochure construction is displayed at State events, Lodges will not want to be left out. They will ask what they can do to be included.

Not only will this “showcase” what your active state Lodges are doing but will give ideas and incentives to less active Lodges. Promoting youth activities is an “easy sell” and can benefit every Lodge that participates, no matter their budget. You might be surprised how quickly you will be concerned about the size restrictions for your brochure.

Not only will you be able to present your brochure for judging at the 2012 Elks National Convention in Austin, Texas, but you will have a key “publicity” item to document to your state political leaders and citizens what good work Elks do. Please contact your GLYAC area committeeman, or me personally, for assistance. We are all listed at elks.org under Youth Activities Roster. Remember that through this and all other youth programs, we continue to show that, Elks Care Elks Share.

Grand Lodge Americanism Committee
Military service can spur soldiers’ changes for better
by Vincent P. Como, PSP
Committee Member

As our troops return home after honorable service to our nation, let us not forget that for some of them, their journey is not complete. The rigors of uniforms, gunfire, Humvees, saluting - all part of their typical day in recent years - are no more. They now return to the “normal life” of families and communities they left behind to protect our freedoms. But what is normal life? Will they now be burdened with the challenges of seeking employment?

Family responsibilities? Community support? We must support them only as Elks can, from serving to being served. Their lives have been very different than the ones many of us live.

Why did they choose this route? Theirs is a lifestyle requiring strength, dedication, commitment and sacrifice. Why did they choose this? Wouldn’t it have been easier to find a job at a store near their families? Why does the military draw so many different people from so many different walks of life? Reasons may include:

- So others won’t have to.
- Because they make life-long friends.
- They come from a military heritage.
- They believe in the cause of freedom.
- It develops awareness of the world they would not have been able to possess otherwise.
- The camaraderie with those they stand side by side with through the good, the funny and the tears.
- Devoting their lives to something greater than themselves.
- They see the country and beyond.
- We fight for those who can’t fight for themselves.

Sometimes military life is as complicated as politics, economics or family dynamics, or as simple as a love story. There is a powerful purpose in what they do, no matter the reason.

Their’s is a life-changing profession, impossible for them to leave the military the same as they were when they entered it. It expands their world view and, like our Order of Elks, forges lifelong friendships and instills pride. It develops compassion, patience and grace. It cultivates selflessness by helping others and gratitude when they receive help.

It molds boys and girls into men and women. Their military life has made a difference. It’s worth it. Sometimes you may need to realize not everyone is used to seeing soldiers. We are the few fortunate ones who experience the immense pride that comes from their service. I am proud and grateful.

Whenever you see military service personnel, reflect on what they have done and say thanks. Truly recognize the importance, the power and beauty of their surroundings. The uniforms. The formations. The soldiers. The sacrifice. The pride.

(Note: On the day of this submission, Sgt. Vincent J. Como, USMC, was honorably discharged after five years of service. Welcome home, son.)

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

COMFORT CARE KITS ARE NOT JUST FOR VETERANS
by James L. Nicholson, PGER,
Member Elks National Veterans Service Commission

Remembering Veterans is central to our Order. However, there is a war being fought in Afghanistan. Our troops there are also worthy of our utmost concern. The wounded soldiers in VA Hospitals are very special to all Americans.

So, we Elks have lots to do! We will not forget our Veterans; we cannot forget our troops, and woe to us if we forget our wounded soldiers. Let’s give Comfort Care Kits to all of them!

Comfort Care Kits are available for purchase from our Elks National Veterans Service Commission partner, Federated Wholesale, Inc., at www.federatedcares.com. Lodge can also make up their own kits of personal hygiene items and amenities, hold a packing party and distribute them to Veterans and troops. Consider doing what one Lodge did. Enlist the aid of local schools to assist in the collection of phone cards, hygiene items, socks, DVD’s, puzzle books, and personal messages from the school children. Pack a number of USPS one-rate boxes (reduced rate available for APO and FPO addresses) and large plastic bags for local distribution. Invite several of the school children to accompany members to a local nursing home (be sure to ask first) to meet veterans and to distribute to them the Comfort Care Kits. Take a picture for your local newspaper and your Lodge Bulletin. Finally, contact your state’s National Veterans Service Commission Chairperson to coordinate furnishing a generous share of your Comfort Care Kits to VA Hospitals.

Please tell your Veterans, our troops and our wounded soldiers that Elks care. Give the small gift of a Comfort Care Kit. It is the least we can do for those who serve and for those who have served.
GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE AND FSEA HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS

SECRETARY’S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

For this registration process you may order your tickets for the Florida Dinner/Dance, volunteer to assist the FSEA fundraising efforts, and learn more about the Florida Hospitality Room.

Marketing & Communications

The FSEA is proud to welcome a new staff member. Greg Weis joined our staff in early December and has become our first ever Director of Marketing & Communications. Greg hit the ground running having presented at both our February Quarterly and our Officer Training Seminar. He is also hard at work overseeing the development of a much improved website and forum for our association and is coordinating a call-center project to help us improve our membership renewal processes and improve our member communications! Join me in welcoming Greg to our staff. I am sure you will be hearing a lot from him in the future!

START OF ANOTHER NEW YEAR

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

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

THESE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED 2012 FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS

Vincent P. Como, PSP
FSEA HOPE Scholarship Chairman

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<tr>
<td>12. Ranita Findlay</td>
<td>South Hillsborough No. 2672</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Hope Conroy</td>
<td>Sunrise No. 2273</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Danielle Kirby</td>
<td>Bradenton No. 1511</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Matthew Penna</td>
<td>Miami No. 948</td>
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<td>16. Courtney Adams</td>
<td>Crestview No. 2624</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Sara Bell</td>
<td>Palm Coast No. 2709</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<td>18. Rebekah Lam</td>
<td>Palm Coast No. 2709</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. Chelsea Carr</td>
<td>Lakewood Ranch/Sarasota No. 2855</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>20. Autumn Tolar</td>
<td>Crestview No. 2624</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$41,000.00</strong></td>
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PGER Bates continued from page 1

for all of you who bought a certificate this year or in the past. We’re not setting an ‘amount’ in which to donate in order to be recognized. We realize that different years bring different circumstances; as such, we will honor the largest donors annually and not have a ‘set amount’ in which to recognize a donor. If someone has a banner year or a windfall, or wins the lottery, we hope you’ll remember the ENF and HATF; but we appreciate more than you know everyone who works so diligently in promoting ENF – HATF and all other programs of our Order and our State Association. Your generosity year after year has made the HATF the best state association’s Trust Fund in our country. Congratulations to all of you for your many years of generosity – either through your wallets or your efforts – all of you have made all of our great works possible and I thank you.

Our world class State Secretary, Carl Seibert and his dedicated staff, including our newest employee, Greg Weis, are working tirelessly with Membership Chairman Don Moon to stem the tide of membership loss. These hard working individuals are trying new initiatives, including personal calls to delinquent members in an effort to reverse what I refer to as the “revolving door syndrome”. We must all do our part to assist in this terribly important endeavor if we are to continue the important work of Florida Elksdom. Please don’t hesitate to contact Don or Carl if you have any suggestions or concerns; YOU are the reason for our many successes, we are hopeful you’ll help us in this most worthwhile effort.

Please don’t forget to bring your auction items for the HATF auction on Friday night. The Silent Auction format is being re-evaluated and I think you’ll enjoy the new procedure. Please find something to help us in this fun event. Last year, we raised over $17,000 through the Auction – please encourage your Lodge to donate one nice item to auction off for Harry – Anna.

Bob, Mike and I hope to see you at the State Convention. We have invited Jim O’Kelley, the Director of the Elks National Foundation to be our guest and conduct a seminar on the various ENF grants that are offered to our lodges as well as answering any questions you may have pertaining to the Foundation. There is so much money to be had for your Lodges, your communities and many other worthwhile projects of your choosing. I encourage all Lodges to have at least two, and hopefully, more representatives to attend the seminar – you’ll be amazed at the generosity of the Elk National Foundation Trustees and what you can do to promote Elksdom through your Lodge’s generosity. Please make it a point to welcome Jim and his wife, Meghan and show them the great hospitality for which the Florida Elks are so famous.

VICTOR E. MCCLELLAN, PSP
COMMITTEE MEMBER

EXALTED RULERS, as the new Lodge year begins, have you picked the right Elk to lead your Lodge’s public relations program? Is he or she a dedicated Elk who is familiar with the goals of both the Grand Lodge and Local Lodge programs, and willing to promote them?

By now, you should have finalized your public relations strategy, stressing your vision for the coming Lodge year. Your focus should be on what your Lodge is doing in your community. Your strategy must convince your Members and community that your Lodge programs are responsive to your community’s needs.

Your plan must include a good working relationship with your local press. Make contact with your local newspaper editor and television and radio station managers. No need to have a publication request at this time; just sit down and explain the purpose of your Lodge and how it benefits your community. Ask for the best person to contact when you have an event planned or story idea. Introduce yourself and begin building a relationship with the contact. Ask for their requirements to publish a story and what you can do to prepare a story for publication. Reporters use a certain format in their stories, and you will be surprised how positively they will respond to your offer to save them time. Remember, the goal is to get your information to the public.

Talk with your contacts at least twice a month. Inform them about upcoming events. Sometimes just stopping by to say hello or having them to the Lodge for a dinner will get your foot in the door. An editor recently told me if something was happening in his town, the Elks Lodge was either involved or sponsoring it. He was aware of this because he talked to someone from the Elks Lodge several times a week. It’s surprising how a small investment of time can reap big benefits in getting your information published.

When you have your press release ready, be sure to get it to your contact early enough to meet their deadline. Be sure to explain how your event will benefit the community or provide a service to a family in need.

Sometimes just a few acts of friendliness will make you job easier and get your story published. Your State and Grand Lodge Public Relations committees are always available to assist you in your efforts. Working together with them will help you have a great year in your public relations program.

A LITTLE EFFORT CAN REAP BIG BENEFITS

VICTOR E. MCCLELLAN, PSP
COMMITTEE MEMBER
Aripeka Lodge 2520
The Lodge held a Harry-Anna Trust fund dinner chaired by Barbara Cowan that was well received and made $1,000. This amount will go to the Florida Elks Therapy Services.

Wayne Getz PER and Central District chairman hosted an Army of Hope dinner dance where $2,500 was made that he will add to other donations from lodges in the Central District and present a check at the State Convention.

$1,400 was donated from the Lodges charity account to furnish two buses to transport mentally and physically impaired children from the Explores school to enjoy a trip to Lego Land.

Brooksville Lodge 2520
Ten U.S. Citizens were initiated into Brooksville Elks Lodge on February 27, 2012. The goal for this Lodge, set by the state was 89 new members before the new fiscal year which starts April 1, 2012. This most recent enrollment Monday evening succeeded the state’s request by 13, bringing the total membership in the Brooksville Lodge to about 700.

Brooksville Elk member Shelly Wareham, is a dedicated volunteer of the Lodge has helped raise hundreds of dollars for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, (HATF) during the Valentine season by requesting donations to the HATF. Everyone has been pleased with her suggestion concerning the hearts. Each person who contributed signed their name, and or a message, on a heart. These were posted on the walls of the Lodge.

From left; Shirley Pretsch, Michal (Mike) Lucas, PER DD Bob Barry & PER Rene Coutre Jr who manned the Precinct at the First Christian Church in Kissimmee.

Two other volunteers were at other precincts. The Supervisor of Elections provides training and lunch was prepared by chef Bill Franks at the Lodge and delivered to the workers by Lodge volunteers.

West Citrus Lodge 2693
On March 10 West Citrus Lodge held a “Volunteer Party” to honor all the volunteers who worked so hard all year to help where needed. Every Lodge needs their volunteers, those wonderful people who just step up and do what needs to be done, often without being asked.

West Citrus Lodge has had a very good year, initiating 91 new members. Annual events were Egg Hunt, Halloween and Christmas parties for the children; Citrus County Foster Parents Assoc. Christmas Party, Citrus County Math Field Contest, MVS Scholarship Dinner. Each event had an attendance of at least 100 participants, except for the Math Day with approximately 500 students. The Cub Scout troop has grown to approximately 60 cubbies and the Lodge hosted their Blue & Gold Dinner, Car Race, year-end sleep over.

The Lodge will soon be taking on a Boy Scout Troop.

West Citrus Lodge Veterans Committee was very busy what with visiting local nursing facilities and entertaining veterans who live there to fund raisers, such as Army of Hope, local National Guards’ “Welcome Home Project” for returning active service members. Also their Christmas function which helps with the costs of Christmas gifts and entertainment. Each year the Lodge hosts the local chapter of the Purple Heart Association with a fantastic meal.

During the year the Lodge puts on various theme dinner/dances which also help defray the cost of Lodge charities; The Abuse Center; We Care Food Pantry; and families in distress with food, toiletries or whatever is needed. The meaning of “Elks Care, Elks Share” is very true, especially in these trying times.

The Lodge met its ENF goal and was happy to be able to assist one of local elementary schools with books that were needed and the We Care Food Center’s new equipment.

WCE is the home Lodge of Edward Seitler, PER, the Central District’s VP-Elect for 2012-2013.

Zephyrhills Lodge 2731
Zephyrhills Lodge hosts dinners for Veterans on the first four Fridays of every month. The Veterans come from the VA Hospital, the Domiciliary (a halfway house for homeless Vets) and the Edwinola Assisted Living facility for a free dinner provided by the lodge. Dinner consists of their choice of fried or baked fish, shrimp, a combo of shrimp and fish, ham or half a chicken. It includes a baked potato or French fries along with coleslaw, rolls, soda, coffee and dessert.

This month the Lodge teamed up with a local woodcarving club, The Colony Hills Woodcarvers. The woodcarvers provided hand carved “Eagle Head” canes to each Veteran who wanted one.

From left; Shirley Pretsch, Michal (Mike) Lucas, PER DD Bob Barry & PER Rene Coutre Jr who manned the Precinct at the First Christian Church in Kissimmee.

Kissimmee Lodge 1873
As a community service, Kissimmee Lodge has and will continue to be part of the Precinct adoption program. At the recent Primary elections 6 members participated in the program.

The Lodge will soon be taking on a Boy Scout Troop.

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Florida Elks 32nd Annual State Golf Tournament
March 31-April 1, 2012 Spring Lake Golf and Country Club
Hosted by Sebring Lodge 1529 and Lake Placid Lodge 2661

There were 138 golfers playing in the two day tournament. The weather was clear and warm both days with temperatures ranging from the low 70s to mid 80s.
Most golfers were from the central area of Florida, east and west coasts and others were from Kentucky, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Northwest District and South District. The donation to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund should be between $5,450 to $5,700.

“A” Flight - 2nd Place - Delray Lodge 1770
Troy Gold, Mike Harvey, Bob Hibbs, Dan Hibbs.

“B” Flight - 2nd Place - Plant City Lodge 1727
Mike Smith, PGER, Frank Hayes, President, Todd Smith, Steve Butler.

“C” Flight - 2nd Place - Boca Raton Lodge 2166
Ron Sullivan, Patrick Graesch, Bob Warke, Dave Henize

“D” Flight - 2nd Place - Brandon Lodge 2383
Joe Flood, Carole Flood, Julie Ebert, Randee Hickey.

Low Gross - Lake Placid 2661 & Dubuque, IA 297
Dale Bradley, Rene Brown, Gordon Ellery, Jr., Mike Browning.

“A” Flight - 1st Place - Clewiston 1853 & Madison KY, 0738
Ron Nickelson, Ronnie Ford, Fred Thomas, Skip Simmons.

“B” Flight 1st Place - Delray Beach 1770
Bob Terry, Pat Milstead, Mark Gray, Mike Smith.

“C” Flight - 1st Place - Brandon 2383
Henry Ebert, Dennis Hickey, John Gorman, Bob Rupp.

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

“D” Flight - 1st Place - Sebring 1529 & Rochester, MN 1091
Steve Stama, Wayne Hermans, Glenn Prehn, Jack Schell.

“E” Flight - 1st Place - North Ft. Myers 2742
Paul Rieck, Joe Zwitter, Al Ebsen, Dennis Groholski.

Closest to the Pin
Marci Sliter

Closest to the Pin
Butch Bass,

Photos by Evelyn Cresse
FLORIDA ELKS
HOOP SHOOT FINALS
Florida Elks Youth Camp
Grafton Center
February 18, 2012

GIRLS
12-13 Age Group
1st Place Nina Fernandez
Miami Lodge 948
2nd Place Shania Jacobs
Orlando Lodge 1079
3rd Place Ashley Edenfield
Jacksonville Lodge 221

10-11 Age Group
1st Place Eryanna Gadson
Warrington Lodge 2108
2nd Place Hope Hodges
Palm Coast Lodge 2709
3rd Place Audrey Ramsey
Boca Raton Lodge 2166

8-9 Age Group
1st Place Gracie Gordon
Vero Beach Lodge 1774
2nd Place Kiersten Connolly
Mandarin/St. Johns 2686
3rd Place Isabella Desjardins
Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

BOYS
12-13 Age Group
1st Place Miguel Chavez
Kissimmee Lodge 1873
2nd Place Ariel Acosta
Boca Raton Lodge 2166
3rd Place Daniel Kutz
Silver Springs Lodge 2730

11-12 Age Group
1st Place Joel Rogers
Viera Lodge 2817
2nd Place Savant Patel
Miami Lodge 948
3rd Place Salem Farand
Jacksonville Lodge 221

8-9 Age Group
1st Place Jasper Schwartz
Boca Raton Lodge 2166
2nd Place Markey Rivers, Jr.
Lake City Lodge 893
3rd Place Jacob O’Neil
Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525

The Florida State Elks Hoop Shoot finals under the leadership of State Director Marilyn Kronenberg and Vice-Chairman Joaquin Lopez, Jr. ran very smoothly and had some very intense moments, especially for those watching the 10-11 year old boys shoot. Joel Rogers skillfully made his 5 practice shots, then his next 10 shots, by this time almost everyone was aware of his chance for a good score. He kept their attention as he then made the remaining 15 shots for a perfect score of 25!

Joel with his perfect score, and Nina Fernandez (12-13 year old girl) with a score of 20 out of 25, became the highest scorers in the contest and thereby winners of the Dale Young Memorial Award that will be presented to them at the State Convention in May.

Regional Chairmen in attendance were Charles Walker, North Region; Dick Cooke, South Region; and John Holbrook, Central Region. Officiating the contest were volunteers from Lake Placid Lodge #2661 and Delray Beach Lodge #1770. Past State Hoop Shoot Directors Pete Cattabriga and Roy Kronenberg were very much a part of the success of the contest.

Dignitaries in attendance were State President Frank Hayes, VPAL Sean Maguire and wife Barbara, PSP Charles Trinowski and Mary Ann; PSP David Lake and Kathy, PDD Herman Heydinger and Lida, State Secretary Carl Seibert; Director of Southeast Regional Competition William Cook; and Florida Elks News Editor Raleigh Whiteman and Joya.

This contest was held at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. The contestants and their families were lodged in the cabins. This experience give the contestants and their parents a close-up look at what our camp offers and has in the past brought many of the participants to camp in the summer.

The response from the kids and their parents was rewarding, several marveled at the size of the camp and its facilities. The contestants got in plenty of practice on Friday night before the finals plus some fun and recreation at the camp.

The next contest in the series will be the Southeast Regional Hoop Shoot in Valdosta, GA, held on March 17th.
Melbourne Lodge 1744

On February 24, Melbourne Lodge proudly presented to each of the following local high school students a $500 scholarship: Megan Cherubino, Bayside High School; Rebecca McFadden, Eau Gallie High School; Alexis Ercolani, Melbourne Central Catholic High School; and Jenna Smith, Satellite Beach High School. The recipients and their parents were invited to dinner at the Lodge and were presented with the awards after dinner. On February 25, the Lodge hosted the Central Florida Council Boy Scout Troop 334 from the Lipcomb Community Center in Palm Bay. Denise Gremnell, Sr. District Executive of the Central Florida Council Boy Scouts of America attended the Eagle Scout Award Ceremony. Also in attendance was Author and Inspirational Speaker Andy Anderson. The Eagle Scout Awards were presented to Sean Justice, 18 years old, and Marc Lee, 17 years old.

Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

Kudo’s to Ed Pass and his wife Nina, along with the 50+ volunteers who put on the 3rd Annual Car and Motorcycle Show and Membership Open House in February. There were over 100 entries of cars and bikes. The Membership Open House also brought in five new members.

Past Exalted Rulers Night where all the PER’s and their significant others enjoyed dinner on the Lodge and were recognized at a Saturday night dinner dance.

As the Elk year comes to an end, Thanks go to all who helped the year be successful. The best part is that it ended up with a PLUS in membership. Thanks to all who proposed a new Elk. Congratulations to the following Elks of the Month: January-Marty Troia, February-Barbara Hammond, and March-Diane Kobrin.

The annual Community Recognition and Volunteer Awards Banquet was held in March and the following were honored: Kara Russell, Student of the Year; Corporal Derick, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year; Danny Rendell, Teacher of the Year; and Michele Nescar, Citizen of the Year. Two Grand Exalted Ruler Awards of Commendation were given to Ed Pass and Della Nelson. The Officer of the Year is Jeffrey Patterson, Chaplain, and the Elk of the Year is Terri Turner. Congratulations to all who make a difference!

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

The Lodge held a Grand Opening dinner on February 4, after an extensive remodeling job was completed. Many dignitaries were present and it was a sold-out evening. PDGER Lenny Smallacombe presented ER Tavoloni with an American Flag of Honor, which has all of the names of the people who lost their lives on Sept. 11. The flag is proudly displayed next to our Charter.

St. Patrick’s Day was celebrated with another sold-out crowd, and everyone had a great time. On March 25 the new officers were sworn in for the new Lodge year, and the volunteer banquet followed with awards. Ralph Annunzita was awarded Citizen of the Year for his dedicated work during the remodel. Elk of the Year went to Emil Viola who had the vision for a new Lodge, and the Officer of the Year went to Bruce Raymond for his dedication and tireless efforts during the remodel. Congratulations to all.

West St. Lucie Lodge 2823

As the Elk Year 2011-2012 winds down, Thanks go to all volunteers who made this year a success. Your hard work is very much appreciated. Congratulations to the new officers headed by ER Jane Falgia. Many thanks go to Ron Kruse for volunteering two years of duty as ER of the Lodge. He did a great job and made a difference. His wife Diane has also done a great job as the Elkette President for the past three years. They have definitely given their all to make the Lodge a success.

Since January, the Lodge has donated approximately $700 to purchase food for Grace Pack. This food is donated to the children at Oak Hammock School who are less fortunate, and need food on the weekends. This project has been spearheaded by Marge Spera, who had done all of the shopping and collected donations of food. She was awarded with the Citizen of the Year Award, other aware were; Elk of the Year is Jim Lafferty, who has taken on the House Committee Chairmanship with great zeal. Jim, his wife Sabina, and their volunteers have done a fantastic job; Officer of the Year went to John Collister who will volunteer his services whenever. He is our ’Jack of all Trades,’ and next year’s Esquire. All of these people are a tremendous asset to the Lodge. Our membership is increasing, and we’re hoping that at our last installation for the year, it will put us over the top for a plus membership gain. We’re keeping our fingers crossed.

Sebastian Lodge 2714

On March 10, fellow EL-DOE’s, Elks, family members, and visiting dignitaries gathered at our Lodge to celebrate a very significant event in the history of the Sebastian EL-DOE’s. Betty Groff was recently installed as State President of the Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE). In attendance were dignitaries John Harris, PDGER, Viera; JJ Johnson, PDGER, Ft. Pierce; Nancy Miller, ER, Melbourne; Sam Cassella, PER, Melbourne; Past State Presidents of FLOE Lee Weigel, Miami, and Dolores Casessa, Melbourne. Betty’s main objective during her presidency is to continue helping needy children of Florida who require therapy for their disabilities through the Children’s Therapy Services and also the Youth Camp. Betty’s theme for her term as State President of FLOE is ‘The key to my heart is love, everlasting love for the children.’ The event was organized by Mary Fox, FLOE delegate and a member of the EL-DOE’s.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

The lodge received 17 applications for the ENF Most Valuable Student Scholarship. Of those 17, 9 were passed on to the District for further judging. At the District level, 5 were sent to the State for the next step. The lodge was informed that 2 went on to the national level. These two are assured of receiving a $4,000.00 scholarship spread out over 4 years. They may even be granted a higher scholarship depending on how they are judged. The two winners from the lodge were Tyrell Russell and Jaclyn Karakis.

On Arbor Day, the lodge participated along with the Mounts Botanical Garden in a program entitled “For the Love of Trees.” The Elks displayed the drug trailer and passed out information on drugs and their dangers to the people. The biggest hit was Elroy the Elk as he roamed around the grounds interacting with the children. A special thanks goes to Elk Mike Newman who spent the whole day dressed up as Elroy.

Under the leadership of the newly elected ER, George Zacchi, several members are making plans to redo the outside tiki hut to make it more attractive and serviceable. The bar is being redesigned to allow for more seating and more area for a cooler and grilling area. Members are donating all the materials and work.

The lodge members, along with Jupiter lodge members, took a bus trip to visit four lodges to our south. They went to Hollywood West Lodge, Oak Park Lodge, Pompano Beach Lodge, and finished at the Boca Raton Lodge. The lodges greeted everyone warmly and had some kind of hospitality for them. On the bus ride, a 50/50 was taken up for Endorsed State President Sean Maguire’s Fund. The winner donated her half to his fund also. Lodge Tiler Mike Newman and Jupiter’s ER Lennie Dilorenzo made all the arrangements. There is talk now of taking the bus to lodges north of us.

Lodge member Tim Hadsell received another Impact Grant and has doubled the size of our Community Garden to supply the Soup Kitchens in our area fresh vegetables.

Southeast District continued on page 15
On March 4th, 2012, the Southwest District Elks Lodges, consisting of Bradenton 1511, Lakewood Ranch/Sarasota 2865, Manasota 2734, Palmetto 2449, Sarasota 2495, South Hillsborough 2672 and Venice-Nokomis 1854, held their annual Army of Hope Fund Raiser. This year the event was held at the Bradenton Lodge and the Menu consisted of chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, bake beans and salads. Entertainment was provided by Lynn Spins. Blair Svihra, Chairman, reports the attendance at over 180 with over $4,000 raised for the Army of Hope Fund.

The Tropic Isle All Timers Club, through their association with the Palmetto Elks Lodge, was recognized for their continued support. Tropic Isle collected funds throughout the year totaling $2,050.

L to R:  Blair Svihra, AOH Chairman, Stacy and Tex Rau of Tropic Isle.

Bob Pate, ER of the Bradenton Elks Lodge presented John Whelan, St. Stephens Prep, 5/6th grade and Megan Dozerman, Bradenton Christian Academy, 7th/8th grade with Awards for their Americanism essays.

Veteran speakers included Col. Ben Kinsely, Ret. and SSG William Castillo representing the Wounded Warrior Project.

On February 19, 2012, the Palmetto awarded Safety Officers with certificates in recognition for their services and sacrificing so much to protect us.

Curtis McFee for the Marine Rescue Division, Trooper Lisa Barnett representing the Florida Highway Patrol, Kelly Spires, Paramedic in the Manatee County EMS, Officer Doug Marston of the Palmetto Police Department, Detective Sam Levita of the Manatee Sheriff’s Office for saving a boy’s life who had suffered a seizure from a concussion received early in the day, Sheriff Christian Rojas of the Manatee Sheriff Department for his role in identifying a deceased body that was in a decomposition state, and Joseph Sicking, Engineer in the North River Fire Department.

South Hillsborough Lodge 2672

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge presented the Ruskin Christian School with three Cameras and three Document Projectors. The new system will allow educators to enhance their visuals by displaying maps, charts, graphs & photos through the document camera that will project onto a viewing area replacing antiquated overhead projectors. Money was made available through a gratitude grant from the Elks National Foundation. The $2000 grant made by the Lodge was obtained by reaching its per capita of $4.50 donated to the Elks National Foundation.

Southwest District continued from page 14

Belle Glade/Pahokee 1716

The Lodge was used as a polling location for the elections on January 20th and again on Tuesday the 13th for the Belle Glade City elections.

The Lodge accumulated 531 community hours for the Glades Day School 4-H Muck Kids. The children in this organization usually buy a hog or calf in October of the previous year and raising them for the South Florida Fair competition. They have to build their animal up to make a certain weight and find a bidder to bid on their animals. Most of the money raised from the sale of their animals goes to pay for the expense of feed, etc. The rest is placed in the bank to go towards the children’s college fund.

One of our member’s daughter, Shelby Connell’s pig won the “Grand Prize” at the South Florida Fair. This award goes to the best overall pig. Congratulations, Shelby!! Her parents own Babcock Furniture in Belle Glade.

The Lodge helped the community in its Fishing Tournament and BBQ to benefit the Jimmy McMillan's family. Jimmy was shot and killed at his grocery store during a senseless robbery.

Lake Okeechobee:

They report that they now have over 125 members and all officers accounted for to establish a new Lodge in the Southeast District. They are now searching for land, a building, or a place to hold their meetings. The District is excited about the possibility of having a new Lodge in the District.
SOUTHWEST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Reporter, Evelyn Cresssee
Ipelk2661@embarqmail.com

Arcadia Lodge 1524
Arcadia Lodge 1524 filled 100 Christmas tins and delivered them to the Douglas T. Jacobson Veteran’s Nursing Home in Port Charlotte Florida. Mary Lyne PER and chairman of Veterans Services presented a lap robe to Arthur Roe, an Arcadia Lodge member of 62 years. Arthur has since passed away.

Brandon Lodge 2383

George Thomas, ER Brandon Lodge receives a certificate from Mr. Jack Bolen of the American Sons of the Revolution (SAR) for Brandon Lodge’s recognition of exemplary patriotism in the display of the flag of the United States of America.

SAR’s purpose is maintaining and extending to institutions recognition and appreciation for true patriotism, a respect for our national symbols and the value of American citizenship.

The SAR, like the BPOE, takes great pride in the United States flag and encourages its proper display. The Flag Commendation Certificate which was awarded to the Brandon Elks Lodge 2383 is an example of the ways the Tampa Chapter of the SAR recognizes individuals and groups that properly display our flag.

Brandon Elks and Brandon’s Ladies of the Elks delivered 100 gifts to the patients in the Spinal Cord Injury Unit and gift packages of cookies to the Nurses & Medical Staff of James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital.

Lakeland Lodge 1291

Lakeland Lodge 1291’s Barbeque Team competed in the Elks 2012 State Barbeque Cook-Off. The walked away with 4 first place trophies representing their Lodge.

Winning categories are 1st place VIP Brisket, 1st place overall Brisket, and 1st place overall Ribs. Lakeland’s barbeque team was Kevin, Scott Cornelius, Melisa Koloc, Jacqueie, Ron Rehner, Vicki Baker and Dave & Caroline. The best part about this event was the money raised was for a wheelchair ramp for a beautiful little girl.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

Las Vegas Casino happened at the Lake Placid Elks Lodge 2661 in January. Ruth and Lionel LaGrow and the numerous Elk volunteer’s their endless hours of volunteering for enjoyment and entertainment for the Elks, and the community. Black Jack, Craps, Texas Hold’em, Roulette, poker, Chinese Auction, and drawings for over 100 prizes.

Horse owners and their custom made horse cheering them to victory.

The Lodge and the Lake Placid community combined forces to assist in upgrading the Potters’ House (a home for women in need) to raise funds for purchasing and installing AC/heating units into the home. Lake Placid Elks, Masons, Rotarians, Lions, churches and businesses came together for a common good. Lady President Vicci Grant and also Chairlady for the needy baskets collected foods; toiletries and donations for help the Potter’s House thru Christmas.

Plant City Lodge 1727

Plant City Elks 24th Annual Wild Game Cookout was held on February 11, 2012. The lodge had many door prizes and Raffles! All you can eat and drink. Chairperson, Frank LaBarbera and his hard working team, generous sponsors, with Elks, friends and family coming out to make the Wild Game Cook Out a huge success.

Sebring Lodge 1529

Elks Bert and Evelyn Marple and Sebring Lodge 1529’s Veteran’s Committee, along with the kitchen and dining room staff provided 50 dinners to the Veterans and their care givers at Christmas. Six local nursing homes were represented: Kenilworth, Palms, Sunny Hills, Magnolia, Crown Point, & Royal Care. All the veterans appreciated the great food, gifts and personal attention. Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus (Gerry & Gloria Jankowiak) topped the festivities off with their good cheer! Pictured here are Sue Mills, Evelyn & Bert Marple and Gloria Jankowiak as Mrs. Santa Claus. This annual event was a great success!

Sebring Elks 1529 with the help of the Bingo Players donated food for 3 needy families for Thanksgiving. As Exalted Ruler, Dick Holmes and Wainetta had the privilege of delivering the gifts.

February 6, 2012 Sebring Elks #1529 made their annual donation to the Highlands County, Florida, Safe House. This year they collected $3,089.00 from their weekly Sunday and Monday night Charity Bingo. The Safe House is a home for battered and abused Mothers and Children. Pictured thanking the Bingo players and explaining about the program is Kevin Roberts, C.E.O. of the Children’s Services Foundation of Highlands County, Inc. PER Heidi Stover later made the presentation and also thanked the players.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672

Winter Lodge 1672 was recently recognized for its role in providing scholarships to Winter Haven High School. They are very appreciative of the time and contribution our Lodge donate and posted a huge lighted “Thank You to Winter Haven Lodge 1672” on the marquee in front of their school.

Lake Wales Lodge 1974

Lake Wales lodge established a “Veteran’s Locker.” The Lodge set aside a storage cabinet for maintaining supplies to be donated to the local veterans. Simple toiletries, lap blankets, T-shirts are in need for all veterans in need, home-bound, homeless or in the local nursing homes.

The Lodge has again sponsored a Little League team at the Lake Wales Barranco Field baseball complex. What better way to help children, support the community and advertise the Elks Lodge.
Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

Due to the efforts of the Lodge ENF committee and Chairman, Barb Fournier, PER, the Lodge has reached the National goal and will be receiving the National Gratitude Grant of $2,000.

The Lodge recently held a Flea Market hosted by Valerie Powell, Harry-Anna chairman and VA chairman Betty Ryan. This successful event raised $700 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

PER Anne Williams hosted a “Happy Days” dinner/dance. Once again proceeds of $1,000 went to Harry-Anna.

Largo Lodge 2159

A “Happy Days” fund raiser was held at the Lodge on January 8, which hosted by the ENF committee under Chairman Alice Wallace. The dynamic duo put on a fantastic show including songs from the 50’s and 60’s. There were also special appearances by Elvis, The Blues Brothers, Tom Jones, and Tina Turner. Approximately $550 was raised for ENF.

The Lodge reviewed the rules and regulations of our Order during its’ annual Elks Training sessions. PER Gerry Milot conducted the very upbeat and informative programs.

The Lodge sponsored Boy Scout Troop 417 held a spaghetti dinner at the Lodge recently. The Scouts sold 256 dinners, did all the serving, bussing and clean up. In all they raised $1,280 to assist them with the purchase of equipment and special activities. The Lodge also collects and donates aluminum cans for the Troop to help raise money for summer camp activities.

A flea market/craft fair fund raiser was held on February 25th. The successful event raised $300 for various Lodge charities.

The Lodge’s Veterans committee continues to be very active. To date they have clipped, sorted and mailed $578,094 worth of coupons to military families in Germany.

Valentines Day week is designated as “Hospitalized Veterans Week” at Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center. Twelve Lodge members delivered 240 puzzle books, pencils and appreciation cards to veterans at the center.

During a recent Lodge meeting, Richard Jacobs, PER and Grand Lodge VAVS Representative to Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, presented the Lodge with a Grand Lodge certificate of recognition for its outstanding work with the veterans. The award was accepted by Linda Whitlow, chairman of Lodge Veterans Services and Exalted Ruler Janet Rogers.

At the February quarterly meeting in Umatilla, a $5,000 donation was made to The Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The Lodge also donated $5,540 to ENF. The donations continued during the month of March with an additional $2,000 going to both the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and the Elks National Foundation.

Additional donations were made, Sheriffs Youth Ranch $1,000, Meals on Wheels $500, Hospice $1,000, St. Jude $1,000, Kids & Cops $500, Tampa Burn Unit $1,000, The Elks Retirement Home $1,000 along with a few others.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

In February the Lodge donated $500.00 to the American Cancer Society, $1,650 and $750 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

The Lodge donated the use of the hall to the United Christian Church. The church hosted a fund raiser event for a new church roof.

Pinellas Park Lodge 2217

The Lodge’s scholarship committee, Cindy Steare, Ericka Bateman and Maggie Mouradjian, have been hard at work. They recently presented Pinellas Park Elementary School with 200 books for the summer reading program for grades K-5. These books were both donated by Lodge members and purchased by the committee through their various fund raising efforts.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

On February 11th, the Lodge held their annual Sweetheart Ball and the proceeds of $456.18 went to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, designated for the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

The Lodge recently held their annual Law and Order Night. The Lodge recognized eleven outstanding individuals from three fire departments, four police departments, the sheriff’s office and the state attorney’s office. Special recognition was given to St. Petersburg Police TAC Unit and the entire Kenneth City Police Department. The meal was served by the Pinellas Park High School Criminal Justice Academy. After the demonstration by the St. Petersburg Police K-9 Unit, The Lodge presented a donation to the Criminal Justice Academy in the amount of $1,000.

The Lodge held their annual St. Patrick’s Day dinner, chaired by Bill Devlin, on March 17th. Proceeds of $476 from the event were given to the Elks Hospital Fund to purchase toiletries and personal items for the men and women at Bay Pines.

The Lodge hosted the veterans of Bay Pines with dinner and music on six occasions. The veterans also received 150 candy books to use at the Bay Pines Commissary. The Veterans were very grateful for the recently donated fishing rods and tackle to use on the pier at the Bay Pines Complex.

Seminole Lodge 2519

During the month of February the Lodge held its annual Harry-Anna Sweetheart dinner/dance. This very successful event raised over $1,750 for Harry-Anna in donations and the purchase of certificates.

The Lodge continues to host veterans from Bay Pines on the third Tuesday of the month for spaghetti dinner.

Tampa Lodge 708

On the last Friday of the month, the Lodge hosts Veterans from James A Haley Veterans’ Hospital for dinner at the Lodge. During the months of January & February, twenty Veterans enjoyed these outings.

A valentine fund raiser netted $744 for the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

Tarpon Springs Lodge 2217

The Lodge recently held its annual Law and Order Night. Officer of the year, firefighter of the year, citizen of the year and teacher of the year award were distributed.

Congratulations to Thomas Gill, Jacob Conrad and Carly Secor, students from local high schools were each awarded a $500 scholarship during the ceremony.

East Central District continued from page 21

Palm Coast Lodge 2709

Recently, at the Lodge’s Silver Anniversary celebration, Pat Maurer, Ladies Auxiliary President, presented a check for $7,000 to Exalted Ruler, Jerry Dickins to say thanks for the Elks support of their functions.

Exalted Ruler Jerry Dickens, Sr., Frank Meeker, Jerry O’Gara, Mark Fontana, Fred Szwed and Vinny Gough Jr. all present at recent City Council meeting, where the City of Palm Coast read a proclamation recognizing the Lodge for 25 years of community service.

Boy Scout Troop #270 recently presented Khayrii Herron with the highest rank in Scouting, Eagle Scout, at a recent Court of Honor ceremony held at the Lodge. The Troop attends the Central Florida Council Camporee, with over 3,000 Scouts in the area, and participates in Lodge functions, such as the 9/11 Memorial, Flag Retirement Ceremony, Drug Awareness Program, as well as serving in the community.

Congratulations went to Hope Hodges as the first place winner in the girls division at the District Hoop contest held in Sanford and the Regional at Lake Placid.

The Lodge Veterans Committee recently visited the Emory L. Bennett Veterans Nursing Home in Daytona with some refreshments along with the Malt Shoppe Memories entertainers who donated a free show for the veterans’ enjoyment.

At the recent Florida State Convention in Orlando, the Lodge received many plaques representing Florida State, Division 4, 2nd Place Plaque for Membership Gain, and at the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, the Lodge by received a 2nd place plaque for membership gain in the nation.

Update on Lucky the therapy dog at the Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home, is doing fine; she is back on active duty thanks to all the members of the Lodge.

The Lodge congratulated Tom Brand, PER, on his appointment as the newly endorsed East Central District Vice President.

Sanford Lodge 1241

Over the holidays, Elroy the Elk made an appearance in a Sanford parade; kids from the community came out to meet Elroy and have their picture taken.

Thanks to the officers and members of the Lodge for the distinction of being #2 in the state for Harry-Anna donations, 3rd in the state for membership, and 15th in the state for Elks National Foundation donations.

The Lodge sponsored a booth at the 7th Annual Lake Mary Celebration where Elk materials were handed out to passerbys.

A super bowl chili cook-off for the best chili, delicious chili and hot/regular chili was held at the Lodge; winners Carla Dunn placed first, Ted Newsom placed second and Sam Dunn placed third.

A tribute to Elvis show was recently performed at the Lodge with a great turnout.

Titusville Lodge 2113

Recently, the Lodge raised $2,400 to send local boys and girls to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

The Lodge applied for an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to help local high school baseball teams with renovations to their playing field with sod and bobcat work; members from the Lodge were on hand to help with the project. The Lodge was presented with a grant check in the amount of $2,000 to help defray the cost of resurfacing of the high school baseball field. The Lodge was one of only 50 lodges in the country to receive this grant money for this project.

Exalted Ruler Christopher Gariepy, PDD and Ed Avery, Lodge Inner Guard, the person who came up with the idea, presented Coach Mark Lewis of the baseball team, with the check.

An astronaut memorial ceremony was held recently to honor the astronauts flew on Apollo 1 (1/27/67), on Challenger (1/28/86), and on Columbia (2/1/03). The service was well attended by members and guests of the Lodge and community.
Miami Lodge 948
On January 28 the Lodge held its annual talent show and dinner.

On February 4, members of the Lodge were invited to Tropical Park for the rededication of the park’s Veterans Memorial. Back in November of 1980 Miami Lodge 948 was asked to sponsor one of the four granite benches that encircled the arrangement that created the Memorial and only found out of the Memorial’s existence after a phone call from the county asking if the Lodge would like to participate in the rededication. Eagle Scout Perry Adair of Boy Scout Troop 456 and a veteran of the Bay of Pigs, Miguel Penton, revitalized the memorial with the installation of a stamped concrete walkway, a new wood fence, various plants, and lighting.

On March 10, the Elkettes held their annual Sweetheart Ball on February 11, with June Chislett being crowned Sweetheart of the Year.

The Lodge had a great turnout for its St. Patrick’s Day Dinner with the standard fare of corned beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes, and vegetables being on the menu, with some sightings of green beer.

SOUTH DISTRICT

Reporter, Glenn J. Tekerman
Glennzo24@Gmail.com

The Lodge Super Bowl party was held on February 5.

From left, Major Nicole Mui, Sergeant Xavier Ferguson, First Sergeant Marvin Solis, Sergeant Harry Roman-Vera, LCDR Joseph Abeyta, Coast Guard, Al Reker, PDDGER, Joseph Ortiz, Sr. PSP, and Jeff Muehfeld, South District DDGER.

On March 10, the Elkettes held their Spring Book Review and Luncheon. Audrey Saunders reviewed Robert Redford, The Biography, written by Michael Fiene Callen.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Reporter, Karen S. Knight
karensknight@msn.com

On Saturday, March 24 Miami Lodge 948 hosted the annual South District Army of Hope Picnic. Over 200 in attendance were treated to hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, and assorted beverages. Classic cars were on display, a bounce house for the kids, and a 25-foot Coast Guard Response Boat Small, was provided with the help of Loyal Knight, Grace Hirigoyen and Lieut. Cmdr. Joseph Abeyto, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Station Miami Beach.

Lieut. Cmdr. Abeyto was also the featured speaker. Southcom in Doral provided the military color guard. The Junior ROTC students from nearby Miami Killian High School provided assistance with the serving of food and cleanup at the conclusion of the picnic.

Florida Keys Lodge 1872

The Lodge held an Elvis Sock Hop Party and raised over $2,000 towards the Upper Keys scholarship fund.

South Dade Lodge 2870

The Lodge held a Valentine’s Dance and a Masquerade Ball with proceeds from both events going towards various lodge accounts. South Dade Lodge held its an Inaugural Ball on Friday, March 30 in the Crystal Room at Miami Lodge.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Reporter, Karen S. Knight
karensknight@msn.com

From left; Ginger Di Cristafaro, Lodge Secretary; Joseph Maotory, Veteran and Lodge member; Jack Lopez, Jr. PER; Perry Adair, Eagle Scout; Al Reker, PDDGER; Jose Marin, Veteran.

The Florida Elks Youth Camp typically runs six sessions from mid June through July each year. The camp is open for Elks-sponsored boys and girls ages 9-13. If you are interested in sending a child to our camp, please download and complete an application for the following link: http://www.floridaelks.org/feyc/index.html.

Holly Navarre Lodge 2787

This facility, one of the nicest in Navarre is available for weddings, parties, and events of all kinds at very reasonable rates. Bring your own food or have it catered. Beverage service is available using our Club room and staff. Please Call 939-2787 for availability And Information.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

March is here. Mardi Gras has come and gone. February was a great month for the Lodge financially by hosting two Mardi Gras Balls, the Krewe of Wrecks meeting, the Kings Supper and a great breakfast brunch the morning of the parade and sold burgers and dogs after.

A Spring Clean-up is scheduled on Saturday May 31 starting at 9:00 am. There will be a signup sheet at the Lodge along with a list of items we may need someone to bring. The last Clean-Up we had a great turn out and we were able to get almost everything on the list accomplished.

Crestview Lodge 2624

In February, three Boy Scout Packs entered their handmade cars to compete in the Pinewood Derby which was held at the Crestview Lodge. Mark Smith did a bang up job orchestrating and setting up this annual event. The Pinewood Derby is one of the most popular and successful family activities in Cub Scouting. Pinewood Derby cars are small wooden models that Cub Scouts make with help from their families. Then they race the cars in competition. The cars are powered by gravity and run down a track. The derby can be run indoors or out. Every boy can design/build his own “grand prix” car to enter in the race.

Fort Walton Lodge 1795

An Army of Hope Picnic will be held on June 30. The troops have left Iraq, but there are still thousands of men and women fighting in Afghanistan. Therefore, aid to these families must continue any way we can. The Northwest District receives much from this program; therefore, it is extremely important that we get more participation this year than last. Plan now and show your support for our military personnel and their families.

The Florida Elks Youth Camp typically runs six sessions from mid June through July each year. The camp is open for Elks-sponsored boys and girls ages 9-13. If you are interested in sending a child to our camp, please download and complete an application for the following link: http://www.floridaelks.org/feyc/index.html.
**Apopka Lodge 2422**

The Lodge provided every third grader in Apopka with a dictionary as part of the GER’s Dictionary Program. The Lodge purchased 1,224 dictionaries for the children and received many thank you letters from the children and teachers. Lodge fundraisers was the 8th Annual Rib Cook-Off where 15 teams competed for the coveted title of “Best Ribs.” The cook-off is open to all Elks, if you think your team can win, they should join us next year.

An MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) & Boxing event was hosted at the Lodge on February 4th with over 300 spectators from the community attending and support from Chuck Benham, Jack Martin, Mosquito Creek Outdoors, Orlando Heart Specialists, the Apopka Police and the Apopka Fire Departments.

The Lodge was instrumental in starting an All Pro Dad’s Chapter at Apopka Elementary School. We provided the funding and they held their first father and child breakfast meeting - 61 people attended.

**Eustis Lodge 1578**

The Lodge held a Children’s Christmas Party for eight children from the Therapy Service, attended by Therapist Diane Norton along with children of Elk families.

**Inverness Lodge 2522**

The Lodge held a Sweetheart Charity Ball dinner/dance to benefit the Make - A - Wish Foundation.

**Lady Lake Lodge 2793**

Lodge visited the Ft. McCoy Veterans home and brought with them 40 lap robes made by the Inner Guard Brigitta Brinkman, 8 boxes of books, 180 decks of playing cards, Lottery tickets, fruit, snacks and personal hygiene items.

A dance was held to benefit Toys for Therapy with over $1,300 donated to make a happier Christmas for the children and families of the Elks Therapy Service.

**Ocala Lodge 286**

The Lodge donated $1,600 to the Marion Senior Services to be used for recreation equipment for the day program.

**Florida Central District**

**NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT**

*Reporter, Richard “Dick” Bardsley, PDD staghorn@cfl.r.com*

The Lodge honored the Police and Fire Officers of the Year with an appreciation dinner, along with honors to the Canine Units. The Mount Dora High School ROTC opened and closed the dinner with their special “Table of Honor program” pictured in Eustis

The Lodge presented the ROTC with a check for $1,400 to use toward their summer ROTC Camp. The Mount Dora High School ROTC faithfully presents the special “Table of Honor Program” each year at the Lodge during the Police and Fire Officers Appreciation Dinner.

**Inverness Lodge 2522**

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**Lady Lake Lodge 2793**

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**Ocala Lodge 286**

The Lodge donated $1,600 to the Marion Senior Services to be used for recreation equipment for the day program.

The Lodge partnered with the Marion County Education Foundation and the Marion County Public Library System and instituted a literacy project at Greenway Elementary, which has been very well received. Our Promise Grant of $2,000 is being used to support this literacy project by purchasing books, snacks and to help pay two teachers.

A Gratitude Grant of $2,000 helps with the needs of Ocala seniors in an assisted living home by supplying a popcorn machine and popcorn for the enjoyment of the residents.

The Lodge also donated $5,380, which was divided between the Salvation Army and Interfaith Services. We are very proud to have taken part in these community service projects as they have significantly broadened our exposure and recognition in the community.

**Winter Park Lodge 1830**

The annual Lodge Awards ceremony was recently held. In addition to the membership awards, $10,000 was awarded in annual scholarships to students from the community high schools prior to sending qualified applications through the Most Valuable Student process. A St. Patrick’s Day dinner was the setting and the families of the scholarship recipients were guests for the meal, presentation and show by Irish cloggers.

**Winter Garden Lodge 2165**

The Lodge hosted a BBQ and Corn Hole Tournament to benefit the family of a terminally ill woman. The woman said that she was going to survive until she could attend the event. She did attend and passed on within days of enjoying the company of the members and friends.

The Lodge also hosted a Pancake Breakfast and motorcycle ride charity event called the “Ride For The Stones” benefiting the Bradley Summersill Foundation, which raises money for the goal of “Providing grave site markers for parents who lose a child and cannot afford one.”
The North District was pleased to host the visit of State President Frank Hayes and wife Linda on February 3 and 4. Frank and Linda were treated to a barbeque dinner followed by music and dancing, all arranged by District VP Bill Nichols and Lake City Lodge.

MARIANNA LODGE 1516

Mariana Lodge held a Christmas party AND a New Years Eve party for its members, with a great band for each event. Nearly 20 pounds of bacon was cooked for the midnight breakfast. Keeping in the Christmas spirit, the Lodge collected canned foods for charity and made that distribution during the holidays.

The dining room is trying some new menu items on “Ladies Night,” featuring a cup of soup and a half sandwich or Cobb Salad. Suggestions to enlarge the menu to suit the ladies’ tastes are being solicited. The Lodge promises to feed the gents too! The Lodge’s ladies organization did some holiday fundraising to help disabled children in Jackson County. The ladies also brought food that was served as refreshments at the Memorial Service in December.

February brought a Valentines Dance to the Lodge, again with live music. A special menu was offered in the dining room and the Lodge served snacks and dessert for a small cover charge. Donations were given by members that paid for the band.

Corned beef and cabbage along with other Irish treats was served in honor of St. Patrick’s Day. A Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was hosted by the Lodge on April 2 to thank all the volunteers who gave so much time to make the year a success. Homemade lasagna was the fare, featuring a secret sauce from a handed-down Italian recipe.

TALLAHASSEE LODGE 937

Tallahassee Lodge made a big effort at Christmas to collect non-perishable food to help the local Salvation Army with food distribution to needy families. The collection was so successful that two trips were made to pick up the food collected. Another benefit that met with resounding success was a Coats-4-Kids Drive, where gently used coats were collected to be distributed to kids, as well as those older than kids, who needed a winter coat. The effort was coordinated at the Lodge by Chuck and Mary Anna Mohr, in conjunction with the Leon County Sheriff’s Office.

The Lodge was pleased to submit several mailings to the FSEA including checks for donations to the Army of Hope campaign. Many Lodge members opened their wallets to help.

In keeping with the theme of Mardi Gras, Carl and Dolly Ledig decorated the front foyer with trees of the season. While the trees were shaped like Christmas trees, they were purple in color, adorned with gold, green, and purple decorations. Other eye-catching items completed the décor in the foyer.

The weekly pool tournament on Thursday continues to draw a crowd. Partners are chosen by a drawing so your partner is not the same every week. A new rack, crutch, and cue rack has been installed in the game room for use by the pool players. The Pool Dudes are planning an Auction Closet in the spring to raise money for other equipment needed in the game room.

PER Night was held on February 7 with all the officer chairs being occupied by PERs. There were a few PERs who do not frequent the lodge meetings often. The most senior PER was Dr. Robert Greenberg, who was ER 50 years ago, and sat in as Chaplain on PER Night. The Lodge’s PER Association sponsored Membership Appreciation Night before the meeting, offering complimentary dinners to the Life Members and their spouses. Nearly 50 folks attended the dinner.

A Valentines Sweetheart Dinner was help on February 14 as a fundraiser for the Lodge’s ritual team. A big thank you to Carl and Dolly Ledig for providing “heart felt decorations” in the dining room that added to the festive air.

On Saturday, February 18, the C Troop, 153 Cavalry of the Florida Army National Guard provided a complimentary BBQ meal to the Lodge members and its guests. The local Guard has a number of its members who are Elks and the Lodge makes an effort to support the Guard in its endeavors. The Lodge appreciated the food and fellowship, and especially was pleased that local CBS affiliate, WCTV, came and provided coverage of this event.

To begin fundraising for the annual Gretchen Everhart Trip to the FEYC, the Lodge conducted a fish fry on March 10. Lodge member Rick Peckham eased out into the Gulf to catch fish that was cooked at the fry.

Lake City Lodge 893

Lake City had a resounding success with its Christmas fundraiser that allowed the Lodge to provide 50 food baskets and have 350 kids come to visit Santa. A Secret Santa provided a number of bicycles. Special thanks were extended to member DeWitt Cason and his crew for helping to make the event a success. The Christmas raffle winners were James Finley who won the $600 gas card and Walter Graham who won the $400 card to Spires. Walter gave his card back to the lodge for charitable use. That is the spirit of giving!

Improvements continue at the Lodge including new electrical work and new lights in the men’s bathroom. A tip of the hat is due to Jim Springs and Woody Woods for their efforts in getting these items completed.

Lake City Lodge hosted the visit of State President Frank Hayes and his wife Linda, along with VPAL Sean Maguire and his wife Barbara. The Lodge, with the help of many volunteers, gave a warm welcome to the state dignitaries, who enjoyed their official visit to the North District.

In early February, the Lodge celebrated Super Bowl Sunday with food and fellowship. Later in the month, PDDGER Steve Witt was the Commanding General at the Olustee reenactment battle. St. Patrick’s Day in March featured a corned beef and cabbage dinner and live band for dancing.

LIVE OAK LODGE 1165

The Lodge members had a large time at the New Years Eve party. On January 28, the Lodge hosted the North Region Hoop Shoot contest. Contestants came from as far away as Pensacola (280 miles) to compete. The event was held at the Suwannee Middle School gym.

A raffle is being conducted by the Lodge for a 46” TV as a fundraiser. Tickets for sale were provided to all members to increase participation. Another item added at the Lodge is the availability of sandwiches on Mondays, in the lounge as well as in the Bingo Hall.

PERRY LODGE 1851

ER Kevin Cruce included a New Years message in the Lodge’s newsletter asking members to include in their resolutions a commitment of time to their lodge. Suggestions included a little volunteer work, better attendance at Lodge functions, and perhaps attending at least one Lodge meeting a month. Kevin reminded the members how important their patronage is to the Lodge’s well being. Participation helps every Lodge be more successful. He urged the members to take ownership of the Lodge, and to work toward improvement in a spirit of fellowship and community involvement. These are great recommendations for any Lodge.

In his final ER Message, Kevin thanked his officers and his Lodge for supporting him for his one and half year term. He expressed his gratitude for the generosity and involvement of the members who were always on hand.

A lady took her friend to get her car from the mechanic. When her friend came out she sked her, “Is everything OK with your car now?” Her friend said “Yes, thank goodness. I was so afraid the mechanic might take advantage of me, so I was relieved when he told me all I needed was twenty dollars worth of blinker fluid.”
Recently, the Lodge hosted Cub Scout, Pack # 531’s Pine Wood Derby; 23 scouts along with 4 scout masters were part of the derby; parents, brothers and sisters were also in attendance; Elk were on hand to serve refreshments.

Edgewater/New Smyrna Lodge 1557

Active in the community and with the Florida Space Center, Ed Ehrenspeck, an advocate for educating and motivating the minds of students with regards to space projects, he recently has been granted permission from the Space Center to help raise $3,500 for new kitchen safety equipment.

Deland Lodge 1463

The PERs held a lobster/steak dinner which helped raise $765 to benefit Elks charities and scholarship programs.

Volunteers and members of the Lodge turned out to help decorate and play games with the kids for the annual Children’s Christmas party.

The Lodge entered their float in the annual Deland 63rd Christmas Parade; members working behind the scenes handed out candy as the float passed on lookers.

Members and volunteers visited the Daytona Beach Emory Bennett Nursing Home were veterans of the home enjoyed a day of bingo and refreshments provided by the Lodge.

A Sadie Hawkins dance was held at the Lodge to help raise $3,500 for new kitchen safety equipment.

The Lodge recently held a shopping extravaganza where consultants came together from local businesses for a day of fun; food and drinks were provided; all the consultants donated 10% of their sales to the Lodge for a new fire suppression system.

The Lodge Secretary, Jeannette Artymovich recently hosted a bingo bash for avid bingo players; the event had a net profit $3,355.68 for the Lodge.

The Lodge had 98 bikers for delicious home cooked breakfast, recently, at the Lodge.

Ed Jackson, PER, hosted a lobster bake dinner at the Lodge inviting local and state dignitaries, members and guests; the event had a net profit of $1,584.82 that went to the Lodge.

The Lodge Workers Detail sponsored a dinner/dance; the proceeds of $1,305 went to the Lodge.

Pat Heller-Jackson, PER and PDVP, recently invited several Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home veterans to the Lodge for a delicious spaghetti dinner and entertainment.

The Lodge PER Association held a crab dinner for members and guests of the Lodge.

Recently, Chris Van Dwyne became the youngest new member of the Lodge. Est. Leading Knight Frank Kuczkowski encouraged Chris in accepting the position of Lodge Inner Guard for 2012-2013, which he did.

Members and guests came together to enjoy the annual Charity Ball; money was raised to benefit the Lodge.

Paul Leonard, Lodge Scholarship chairman has been busy handing out Student of the Month awards to 12 deserving students from Atlantic and Spruce Creek High Schools.

Carville Lloyd, Lodge Americanism chairman recently announced the winners of the contest were from Campbell Elementary Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home veterans to the Lodge.

Dublin, Ireland to perform in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. The Lodge raised $2,610 for their anticipated trip.

At the Lodge’s 25th anniversary Exalted Ruler Angelo Cretella presided over the dedication ceremony of the new Elk statue. Dignitaries present were PSP Vic McClellan, DVP Larry Skates, PER, Pat Ferro, Ladies Elkhearts President, and Mike Chandler, PDDGER, Lodge Advisor.

The Spruce Creek High School Jazz Band recently performed at the Lodge to help raise money for their trip to Dublin, Ireland to perform in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. The Lodge raised $2,610 for their anticipated trip.

Attending the anniversary celebration were Charter Members/ PERs Jim McGuiflie and Bob Gaither, Irving Morrill, Phil Dionne, Charles Hill.

This year the Lodge Scholarship Committee is working toward raising $2,000 by selling foundation bricks at $25 and paper wall bricks for $10. So far, they have raised $1,100.

Recently, the Lodge held a spaghetti dinner for some of their veterans and presented each of them with a small gift as a remembrance of the day.

A drawing for a block of lottery tickets was held to help raise money for the Elks veterans programs.

The Lodge’s vegetable garden is “growing.” Twelve new citrus trees and five beds have been added for a total of 8 beds, as well as a three bin compost area. A local nursery donated plants, herbs, potatoes and onions, along with their expertise in making the garden a success. Fresh vegetables are provided to the Gifts of Love food pantry to distribute in the community.

The Gifts of Love, a community project supported by local churches, local schools and the Elks Lodge have donated 6,550 bags of food; 237 pairs of shoes, backpacks with school supplies and clothes made by local church women for needy children; supplied 275 Thanksgiving food baskets were supplied by different organizations in our community; 302 families received gift certificates for Christmas dinner, and 753 children received toys supplied by Angel Tree projects and Toys for Tots; Easter finds Coronado Priscilla Circle supplying Easter baskets for them to distribute.

A new project, with the aid of local schools and churches, called the Hi-Five program working provides food packages to 40 children to take home.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650

Recently, members of the Lodge got together for a youth camp bus trip, making stops at Ormond Beach and Titusville Lodges. The Lodge was instrumental in donating a cabin (#45) to the Youth Camp.

PDDGER John Lesko was honored with the distinction of citizen of the month for tireless contributions he has made over the years for the Lodge.

Ladies of the Merritt Island Elks raise money to help families in the community who couldn’t afford to buy presents for their children. They support the “Make a Wish Foundation.” This past year, they donated money for 3 children from “Smile Train” which provides surgery for children born with cleft palate. They contribute yearly to the Harry-Anna trust fund as well as the Elks National Foundation. They provide snacks and desserts at all of the Elks major events.

Over the holidays, Santa’s Elves were busy packing and delivering food to feed 53 families for a week. Walmart, & Dollar General and Ken’s Meat in Melbourne donated cases of boxed, canned goods and meats to help make the event a success.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

Representing the Lodge at the District Hoop Shoot contest held in Sanford, Lindsey St. Jean, winner in the girls 8-9 year old division went on to compete in the Regional contest at Lake Placid.
Cape Coral Lodge 2596

Cape Coral Lodge has been very busy giving away money! Five scholarships were given to very talented local High School Seniors. The recipients and their families were introduced to Lodge members and treated to dinner during the Harry Anna Fundraiser. Also, the Lodge and the Ladies of the Elks each donated $1500 to the Cape Coral Mayoral Scholarship Fund. And again, the Lodge and Ladies combined their efforts and donated $1200 to the “Tree and Seed Program” at Cape Coral High School. The High School is planting a garden, the proceeds of which will be used to feed those in need in the community.

Englewood Lodge 2378

Englewood recently donated $125 to Glen Allen Elementary School for their PTO fund raiser, $100 to the Salvation Army, $100 to the American Cancer Society, $100 to the Lemon Bay High School Project Graduation (provides an after graduation party with lots of activities, refreshments, music, etc. in a safe environment), $100 to the Englewood Area Youth Baseball Association to be a “Field Sponsor” and $400 to the Englewood Area Youth Baseball Association to sponsor a ball team.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

Port Charlotte Lodge teamed with the Homeless Coalition and delivered four grocery baskets of non-perishable food items for the Coalition’s food pantry. Over 100 children and their families were at the lodge to visit with Santa Claus, each child received a toy, Christmas stockings stuffers and a pizza lunch. Boxes of toys were also given to Homeless Coalition to aid their clients.

Port Charlotte Lodge participated in the SSW District Army of Hope picnic, which was very well attended. Lodges at a Fashion Show/Luncheon held in January to raise funds for charity. One hundred people enjoyed the show and $1000 was raised.

The annual Charity Dinner Dance was held in early March and realized a profit of $1245. Two local adult tap dancing groups provided special entertainment at this event.

A couple of Lodge PERs and their wives started a Sunday breakfast last October. That first breakfast drew about forty-five people so it was thought this is a “piece of cake”. Attendance steadily grew week after week. Several Sundays saw crowds of over 200 and Sunday, March 3rd 278 breakfasts were served. Wow! This is a great fundraiser but hard work.

Lodge participated in the SSW District Army of Hope Picnic providing beans, cole slaw, pony rides for children and a donation of $300. The Lodge PER Association made a donation of $200 and Does Drove 203 sold cookies, etc. and also made a $100 donation.

So much beauty all in one district. From left are: David Lake PSP, Carl Gerace PDD, Phil Gersbach DD (on walker), Richard Conley ER, Carl Sturm PDD, Pete Cuddhy PER. Remember that beauty is in the eye of the beholder!
The Northeast District Veterans Information Trailer was unveiled at the State’s February Quarterly meeting in Umatilla. The trailer will be towed to public events, tables will be set up and information pertinent to Veterans will be provided.

All Elks Veterans Programs will be made available in pamphlets and leaflets. It is hoped that the trailer will generate interest in these Veteran Programs, as well as bring an awareness of all that the Elks do for Veterans, and possibly increase membership.

Gainesville Lodge 990

Re-Creation performed for over 50 Veterans and guests with 7 Elks and wives in attendance to provide assistance in serving refreshments.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892

The Lodge held its annual Christmas party for children from the Baptist Children’s Home at the Lodge serving lunch to all in attendance. The children participated in games and sang Holiday karaoke. Santa arrived in full regalia and distributed toys and gifts for 35 children. Each child had a wish list starting from clothes to bicycles and our Lodge members shopped and donated gifts for each child directly from the wish list. Santa presented each child, individually, with their gifts.

Jacksonville Lodge 221

The top male student, Mr. Crisellyson Soliman and the top female student, Miss Brianna Falcon, advanced to the State Competition and were awarded $500 scholarship grants from the Lodge.

The Lodge held their annual Christmas party for children from the Baptist Children’s Home at the Lodge serving lunch to all in attendance. The children participated in games and sang Holiday karaoke. Santa arrived in full regalia and distributed toys and gifts for 35 children. Each child had a wish list starting from clothes to bicycles and our Lodge members shopped and donated gifts for each child directly from the wish list. Santa presented each child, individually, with their gifts.

Mandarin St. Johns Lodge 2866

Lodge members donated almost 50 toys to Wolfson Children’s Hospital. Shelia Bird and her Chase Bank Volunteers brought two carloads of toys to St. Augustine Lodge 829 for donation to the Marines annual ‘Toys for Tots’ program. Chase Bank collected enough toys to donate to 3 separate but worthy causes.

Re-Creation put on a show to a crowd of nearly 100 singing and dancing in the aisles together with eight Elks assisting. Three sponsoring Lodges expended almost $600 on food and lodging for the members of Re-Creation as well as providing a gratuity to each member.

In February, members of St. Augustine, Green Cove Springs and Mandarin/St. Johns lodges went through over 6 gallons of ice cream making ice cream floats and chocolate sundaes to the Veteran residents, staff and visitors at the Lassen Veterans Nursing Home. They also enjoyed cookies, brownies and Valentine candy treats. It was reassuring to hear some Veterans tell their neighbors that we were from the Elks, and, “You know, the Elks are the ones who play bingo every month.” We are obviously making an impression and a difference to these Veterans’ lives. The February Bingo had 18 Players with three Elk volunteers and two Antler volunteers to help out.

Orange Park Park Lodge 2605

On December 3rd the Lodge hosted the 8th Annual Veterans’ Christmas Party at the Robert H. Jenkins Domiciliary in Lake City serving 25 pizzas to 135 residents. Members donated money to purchase the pizzas and karaoke.

For the third year, the Lodge participated in “Wreaths Across America” at the Jacksonville National Veterans Cemetery to assist with the wreath laying to honor our fallen Service Members. Lodge Members and Ladies of the Elks contributed $645 to purchase the fresh cut wreaths.

In December the Lodge presented the Elks National Freedom Grant check for $2,000 to the USO at NAS Jacksonville. The lodge partnered with the USO and will provide bottled water to the USO Welcome Center at the Jacksonville International Airport during 2012.

The Lodge provided eight pre-lit three foot Christmas Trees to the VA Medical Center Hospice unit in Lake City. We purchased Christmas Fruit Cakes, delivered twelve lap blankets, one afghan and one donated comforter.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Reporter, Christine Borchers
nedistrictpr@yahoo.com

PALATKA LODGE 1232

The Lodge was awarded a $2,000 Promise Grant to help children at Christmas. Twenty-four children from nine families (one family with five children had lost everything in a fire) were blessed with gifts of clothes and educational toys. Each family unit also received a complete set of “Horrible Harry” books and a spiral cut ham. The Lodge utilized the other part of the grant to sponsor awareness and education efforts of the Jan Duhn Keller Heels for Healing Walk fundraising event and the Lee Conlee House Domestic Violence Center.

ST. AUGUSTINE LODGE 829

PER Wayne Reyes, left, and Leading Knight Gene Rittenhouse, right, of St. Augustine Elks Lodge presented $1,500 to FSEA President Frank Hayes, center, on his recent visit to the Lodge. The money had been collected in the Lodge “Change Jar” program.

SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Reporter, Karolyn Lind
lindfrau@aol.com

HOLLYWOOD WEST LODGE 2365

The fourth Friday of the month, 12 to 14 veteran residents of the Sandy Nininger Veterans’ Nursing Home came in to the lodge for home cooked meatloaf dinners, music and dancing.

Our Veterans’ Committee was busy with the residents of the home also. Large picnic table umbrellas were donated to the home; members held a Mardi Gras for them; the lodge hosted a PER Golf tournament from which a part of the proceeds went to the veterans’ cause; members of the lodge attended memorial services at the home, and met some of the veterans’ families; and most notably, our “Little Red Wagon” visited the home with members. The Wagon consisted of many personal health and sanitary goods accumulated by our Extreme Couponing members. The veterans enjoyed getting name brand items during the year, as well as socks, lap robes and other comfort items.

The Lodge ran three extremely successful “Lodge Crawls,” members boarded a bus and visited other lodges where we got to meet other Elks and enjoy good food and fellowship, visiting, Delray Beach, Boca Raton, Pompano, Oakland Park, Jupiter, West Palm Beach, Margate, Tavernier, Miami, and North Miami Lodges. The true measure of this wonderful social activity was the reciprocal visit on a crawl to Hollywood West by Jupiter and West Palm Lodges. We are looking forward to enjoying more such activities and meeting many more Elks!

Hollywood West celebrated its 45th Anniversary with a ball on March 31, 2012. A commemorative booklet was published, members enjoyed a catered dinner and music by the Hoo Doo Blue Blues Band.

HOLLYWOOD WEST LODGE 2365

The Lodge is looking to the new year for more interactivity with our community and within Elkdom.

DELRAY BEACH LODGE 1770

December’s quarterly initiation was our largest! 20 new members! Great work sponsors!

The Lodge Tradition Continues! Several years ago our dear departed Member Sue Rother led our Lodge in the adoption of families from the Caridad Migrant Center. This tradition has been continued by Judi Sikes, Debi Sykes, Terey Sununu, Pam Carter, Barbara Cattabriga and Cindy Hoeppner with the adoption of three families, with 3 children each. Thanks to our generous members, we raised over $1,000 to buy everything on their wish lists including bicycles for all the kids. In addition, each family received a gift certificate to purchase their holiday dinner! This is another example of community support an excellent way to share our good fortune with those less fortunate.

Our Children’s Christmas Party was a great success! Delray Police brought 12 underprivileged children from the local Boys and Girls Club. Boca Raton Elks brought eight children and with our own families we had about 40 children. The kids enjoyed face painting, Balloon Man, games and crafts. And of course the highlight of the day is Santa and Mrs. Claus’s arrival on Delray Beach’s Fire Rescue truck to deliver gifts for all the children!!

We also collected unwrapped toys for the Delray Citizens for Delray Police holiday toy drive. Thanks for everybody’s generous donation.

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Summer is almost here and camp is right around the corner! Make sure you do your part to send a child to camp. In these tough economic times many families are finding it hard to make ends meet, much less afford to take a summer vacation. Wouldn’t it be nice for your Lodge to sponsor as many kids as you could to make sure they can at least have a memorable summer experience? Take a little time, spread the word about camp and help some kids. You’ll be glad you did!

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


ADDRESS CHANGES

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

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