FLORIDA RITUAL WINNERS

Bradenton Lodge 1511 Ritual Team
Florida’s Ritual team from left, Coach, Bob Erwin; Candidate, Matt Carter; Inner Guard, Kay McCracken; Loyal Knight, Jack Cantrell; Exalted Ruler, Bob Pate; Leading Knight, Michael Dinius; Lecturing Knight, Michael Carter; Esquire, Jeff Mitchell; Chaplain, Liz Andricks; and Coach, Lou Horvath.

JOLLY CORK

The Jolly Cork Award goes to the ritual contestant who scores the highest score during the Ritual Contest.
The 2012 winner is Bradenton’s Lodge Lecturing Knight Michael Carter.

FLORIDA CONVENTION NEWS

C. Valentine Bates
Past Grand Exalted Ruler

I write this message while attending the 148th Grand Lodge Convention in Austin, Texas. Bob, Mike and I and the Florida Elk herd had a great time in a very hot venue. I feel the convention was a great success and State Secretary Carl Seibert and his hospitality team did their usual great job in the successful operation of the Florida hospitality room. Additionally, we had the best Florida Dinner-dance I have ever attended. We had a great crowd with plenty of food, fun, and frivolity (dancing too!). We were all proud of the way FSEA President Sean Maguire and Barbara hosted the many dignitaries who attended the FSEA cocktail party and Banquet. I know they will have a very successful year with their tireless devotion to the duties required of them, and the manner in which they carry out each task.

Significant legislation at the Convention include granting the Board of Grand Trustees the flexibility to lease or sell the Elks National Home with appropriate provision for the continued care of its residents, eliminating the Grand Treasurer position it has become largely ceremonial, a provision for the use of alternative initiation rituals, and the reinstating of the Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee. Legislation which would increase the filing fee for appeals to the Grand Forum to keep pace with the expense associated with appeals was defeated. Our new Grand Exalted Ruler is Tom Brazier from California, and he will be visiting Florida Elks at our February meeting at the Youth Camp.

As all of you know by now, we intend to omit the August Quarterly this year and urge everyone to attend our Midyear convention as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Ft. Myers Lodge. A number of considerations went into this decision: the August Quarterly comes close on the heels of the Grand Lodge Convention; as our membership becomes more mature, the August heat has become a real factor; a lot of our Elk families are on a much deserved vacation with their family and friends in August.

Our Past State Presidents, however, will meet at the Youth Camp in August to consider the important work of our great Association. We intend to use that time to “brainstorm” and share ideas as we think outside the box to lift the Florida Elks to new heights. So often the Past Presidents are rushed in their deliberations at state meetings, with little time available to consider options for the future. The PSP’s are committed to find new ways to enhance the success of our Florida Elks and their lodges.

As always I thank you for your generosity and dedication to our Order, our State, our veterans and our country.

See you in Ft. Myers!
STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Everywhere I go I am asked if I am going to have a good year. My response is, “with the support of the great Florida Elk membership, we cannot help but have a GREAT YEAR!” Barbara and I, along with VPAL Brian Burns, his wife Mary Kay, and the entire Membership Engagement team, are so enthused by what we have had the opportunity to witness thus far in our visits to the Central and Southwest Districts. We also saw great enthusiasm from the Florida Elks contingencies who attended the National Convention in Austin, Texas.

It has given us a great sense of pride to see, first hand, the many activities our local lodges support to improve the quality of life for our children, veterans, and neighbors in need. Both Districts supported the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and the Elks National Foundation. They have shown tremendous support of the youth for their communities through various programs. Just a few examples include support of local scouting, collection of school supplies, Toys for Tots, Turn-Around Dinners recognizing students who have turned their lives around, and Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies (E.F.E.L.T.). This program provides food for children over the weekend that otherwise may go hungry. They also support the Dictionary Project, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, and many other wonderful programs.

Programs in support of our Veterans include, but are certainly not limited to, functions at the lodges attended by and in support of our veterans and V.A. facilities, involvement in the Wounded Warriors, and recognition of Purple Heart Veterans. In addition, several of our fallen military personnel were presented with an Elks Medal of Valor. They also recognized their Ladies Organizations for the support and help they have given.

We had the opportunity to meet with and encourage our five-time State Champions, one-time National Champions in the ritual contest, Bradenton Lodge #1511. There is so much positive activity going on in these two Districts, I cannot possibly do justice or recognize every activity. Suffice it to say that these two districts represent the Key to Elks Success: Membership Engagement!

The National Convention in Austin, Texas was another huge success. Although it was extremely hot in the area during the convention, we cannot help but have a great time. Suffice it to say that these two districts represent the Key to Elks Success: Membership Engagement!

The Florida Dinner, paying tribute to our own Past Grand Exalted Rulers, Robert Graffon, C. Valentine Bates, and Michael Smith, was enjoyed by a large delegation and dignitaries from around the nation. They were entertained by the band that was able to keep the dance floor crowded most of the evening. Several Past Grand Exalted Rulers and their wives or significant others were in attendance and our newly elected Grand Exalted Ruler, Tom Broussard, made a brief appearance prior to the dinner. We were also honored to have in attendance Claudia Bates and Sandra Smith. Pat Graffon was unable to attend and was sorely missed.

I would like to thank all the Florida Elks who volunteered their time while at the Convention, many of the booths in the exhibit area. A special thank you to PSP Ben Brown who set up Florida’s five-star award winning Major Projects booth and to Joe Rogers for insuring that the booth arrived safely from Florida.

Finally, I would like to congratulate each of the outgoing District Deputies for a job well done last year. At the same time, I congratulate the newly installed District Deputies and wish each of you great success in the coming year.

Thank each of you for your participation at your local lodge, and for the support of the many wonderful activities! The Key to Elks Success is Membership Engagement! I look forward to seeing you at the lodge and hearing of your many success stories!

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Sean D. Maguire,
FSEA State President
Thank you, everyone, who attended the annual State Convention at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in May. Our attendance this year was 1,585 Elks and Guests and was 136 more attendees than last year’s attendance. Many thanks go to everyone who assisted in making our State Convention another huge success! I would also like to thank Joe Ortiz, Bill Wellbaum, Jack Sproult, Jim Hurst, Mike Phillips, and Joe Rogers of the Convention Committee for their support and assistance before, during, and after the convention. Plans are already under way for the 2013 State Convention which will be held once again at the Coronado.

The Grand Lodge Convention was held in Austin, Texas July 1-5. Attending from Florida were over 300 Elks members and their guests. Florida delegates occupied 175 rooms in the Sheraton Austin hotel. The Florida hospitality room was a big hit for Florida delegates and Elks from across the nation. Once again, the Elks of Florida were most generous in volunteering their time to assist in the Florida hospitality room. Finally, a big thank you goes to our hospitality team; without their help and support, the hospitality and Florida functions would not be nearly as successful. These wonderful volunteers work with me throughout the entire year coming up with the ideas and plans for our functions and I thank them for everything they do! They are Faye & Joe Bryant; Carolyn, Mike, and Ashley Ritchie; Big Joe Rogers; and of course my wife, Kim!

Thanks also go to all the many volunteers who manned the Florida Major Projects booth and assisted the FSEA in our third and final year of sales of our Cool Summer Fun Cookbooks.

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

The fifth annual Florida Elks Day at the Tampa Bay Rays will be held this year on Sunday, September 9, 2012 in Tampa. This year the organizers have secured 650 baseline box tickets for the event. Once again the Rays Organization will be making a generous donation ($5.00 per ticket sold) to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and again this year our State President will throw out the first pitch. A big thank you goes out to Richard “Jake” Jacobs of the Seminole Lodge who is helping to coordinate the ticket sales and make the event a huge success. For more information, visit our web site at www.flelks.org.

The Midyear Convention will be held November 8-10 in Fort Myers. The preliminary agenda and reservation information will be posted on our web site in September. August Quarterly meetings are not being held this year. Our next meeting will be the Midyear Convention in Fort Myers.

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

FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

Our May meeting & Luncheon was held at Disney Coronado Springs again this year. Our meetings started bright & early, at 8:00 am. Nominating Committee, chairlady Bonnie Lee presented the committee’s nominations for Officers.

Elections were held and the new Officers for the year 2013-2014 are Carol Phelps, President; Judy Reyes, Vice President; Jane Moon, Secretary; Becky Long, Treasurer; 4 - year Advisory Board Members Betty Groff and Mary McCoy. Congratulations Ladies. Carol Phelps announced her appointed Officers Linda Rittenhouse, Chaplain; Connie Poage, Parliamentarian; Janice MacKenzie, Historian.

Committee reports were given for the 49th Annual FLOE Conference to be held at the Hilton Melbourne Oceanfront, September 27-28-29, 2012. Information is available on the FL Elks Web page flelks.org.

The committees are working hard to bring you a great Conference. Please contact me if you are unable to go on line and print the required information: 772-581-8285 or by e-mail munchan@bellsouth.net. I will see to it that you receive this information.

The FLOE Luncheon/ Chinese Auction and Silent Auction were all a huge success. Our Lunch was excellent. Tickets sold for the Luncheon were 246, the Chinese Auction Sales totaled $2,245.00, and the Silent Auction sales totaled $3,056.00. Chairladies for these events were Luncheon, Mary McCoy, SD, WC District; Judy Fournier, SD, SE District; and Felecia Vuletich, Advisory North District; Ladies, congratulations to you and your committees for a job well done. Thanks go to North District for the beautiful table arrangements at the Luncheon. The Pink & Red was ever present. My special thanks go to Claudia Bates, Sandra Smith and Pat Grafton for the gracious gift basket donated for the Chinese Auction.

Faye Bryant, our silent worker was a busy bee, as always seating the Dignitaries. Faye also makes the place cards each year. Thank you Faye for your loyalty.

I wish to express my gratitude to Doug Swartz, PER, Ladies Chairman for his service to FLOE this past year. We welcome Jackie Moore, PER, from Lakeland as our new Ladies Chairman and Deb Hargrove, Vice Chairman for the incoming year 2012-2013.

Congratulations to, FSEA President Sean Maguire, and Vice President Brian Burns.

Please, help us by attending our functions so we can continue to help the children in need. On behalf of FLOE: my sincere thanks go to everyone for their hard work, your support and monies raised enables us to contribute to our two major projects each year, and the Elks charities.

The world is hugged by faithful volunteers.

Invitation to Reno
GL Convention 2013

The “Battle Born” State of Nevada and the City of Reno, “The Biggest Little City in the world” extend a warm invitation to attend the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Grand Lodge Convention on July 14-18, 2013.

Our Nevada State Sponsor, PGER Louis “Jim” Grillo and Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Jim Shirkey have rolled out the welcome mat and the Nevada State Elks Association along with the Committee members from the 14 Lodges stand ready to make your visit memorable.

The area offers a wide diversity of activities and moderate temperatures. There are some great golf courses including the Montreou Golf Course where the Reno Tahoe PGA Golf Tournament is played. You are only a short drive away from six Elks Lodges and right across the street from the Reno Elks Lodge #597.

Lake Tahoe is also just minutes away in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Some of you may also want to try your luck at one of the casinos and a few of them are right in your hotels.

The Convention Center is located on Virginia Street and you will want to get your picture taken under the Arch or visit the bowling center in the middle of town.

We look forward to seeing you next year!

Future Grand Lodge Convention
Dates and Locations
2013 Reno July 14-18
2014 New Orleans July 13-17
2015 Indiana July 8-9
2016 Houston July 3-6
2017 Reno July 2-6

Future considerations-
San Antonio--Nashville--St. Louis

DID YOUR LODGE ENTER ANY CONTESTS LAST YEAR?

Approximately 310 First, Second, Third place Awards, plaques, trophies, etc. were awarded in the various National Contests the Elks are offered to enter this past year. Of that total, Arizona Elks having only 47 lodges won some 43 prizes and California/Hawaii with 177 lodges won 37 awards.

Florida Elks with 104 Lodges won only eight awards:

The Florida Major Projects Booth won A Five Star Award.

Florida Elks News won a Five Star Award.

Russell Sens won the Bill Hensch Award for highest quality Public Relations.

Brooksville Lodge won two awards: Community Service & Image and Lodge Bulletin.

Miami Lodge won Division 5 ENF Per Capita with 1,104 member p/p $96.282.

Merritt Island Lodge won Youth Activities Best Lodge Program.

Jackie Tucker, PER, Arcadia Lodge won Outstanding Youth Activities Volunteer Area 3.
GRAND LODGE CONVENTION
Austin, Texas  July 1-5, 2012

Grand Exalted Ruler Elect Thomas Brazier and wife Venita enjoy the huge demonstration and celebration by his home state Elks of California. His home lodge is Santa Cruz where he was Exalted Ruler in 1993-94, DDGER in 2002-03.

Thomas S. Brazier takes the oath of office for Grand Exalted Ruler on the last day of the National Convention in Austin, Texas.

Several hundred California Elks, spouses and guests gave an impressive demonstration, many dressed in Bikers outfits and sporting “Iron Butt” caps which signify a bikers completion of a motorcycle trip of at least 1,000 miles.

2012-2013 Florida State Elks Association President Sean Maguire proudly carried the State Flag to the dias on the opening ceremony of the Austin Elks National Convention.

The Booth displaying the Florida major projects of the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp won a Five Star award.

2012-2013 Florida State Elks Association President Sean Maguire proudly carried the State Flag to the dias on the opening ceremony of the Austin Elks National Convention.

The Booth displaying the Florida major projects of the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp won a Five Star award.

Perfect scores earned Taylor Robertson, left, and Joseph Girard III, right, the Getty Powell Trophies presented by National Hoop Shoot Chairman Cam Cronk.

Organist Robert K. Bjornaas of Sun City, Arizona Lodge 2559 provided fine musical renditions during the five days of the National Convention.

Lenny Smallacombe, PDD, chairs the Presidential Certificate program for Florida and proudly hands out literature explaining the process for obtaining a Certificate for a deceased veteran family member who has served our country.

Framed Presidential Memorial Certificates signed by the President of the United States are distributed free of charge to families of deceased Veterans. Contact Lenny Smallacombe, PDD, for more information.
DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND EXALTED RULERS FOR 2012-2013

NORTHWEST
Philip M. “Phil” Finder

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northwest District are honored to present the name of Phil Finder as endorsed for the office of Northwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

Phil was born in Campbell, Missouri and moved to Florida in 1986. He received his Associate of Science degree in 1978 from State Technical Institute at Memphis. He also received his Associate of Engineering degree there in 1980. In 1985 he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Illinois University. In 1986 he earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Memphis. In 1988 at the University of Arkansas he received his Master of Science degree.

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

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

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

Phil is a widower; he has two children. He has a son and daughter-in-law living in Orlando, Florida and a daughter, son-in-law (Marine), and three grandchildren living in Japan.

WEST CENTRAL
Steve Harmon

The members and Lodges of Florida’s West Central District are honored to present the name of Steve Harmon as endorsed for the office of West Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

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

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

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

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

SOUTH
Don Queralto

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

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

Queralto was sponsored by Phil Brinkman and Al Sandusky and was initiated into South Miami/Corl Gables Elks Lodge 1676 in October of 1988. He became an officer soon after joining and was elected Exalted Ruler for 1992-1993. He was Lodge Chairman of Publicity and Public Relations and District Chairman from 1993-1995. He became District Reporter for the Florida Elks News and served in that position for fifteen years until 2010. He was appointed South District Director on the Florida Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors and served for three years in the initial building of the cabins. He photographed campers and the campgrounds for the original camp brochures and did portraits of the incoming VPs and DDs for the Florida Elks News. He became involved in Lodge activities including work on Christmas baskets and helping with the needs of the elderly through the South Miami Community Center. He again served as Exalted Ruler from 1996-1998. He is currently Lodge Chaplain.

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

SOUTHWEST CENTRAL
James N. “Jim” Mason

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTH
Leroy “Bill” Nichols

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

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

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

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

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

**Joseph E. “Joe” Morrow**

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Central District are honored to present Joseph E. “Joe” Morrow as the Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year. Joe Morrow is a native of Jacksonville, FL and attended Bishop Kenny High School and Andrew Jackson Senior High School. He enlisted in the United States Air Force (1959-1963) and served as a Precision Radar and Missile Guidance Systems Technician with foreign service in Taiwan and Vietnam. Joe graduated from Indiana Institute of Technology with a BSEE degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He graduated from Indiana University with a Master of Science Business Administration degree. He completed 27 hours of studies in the Purdue University Master of Science Graduate Program and completed the Purchasing/Materials Management Executive Program at Michigan State University.

Morrow is a Certified Purchasing Manager (CPM) – Institute of Supply Management (ISM), a Certified Production/Inventory Manager (CPIIM) – American Production and Inventory Control Society, and a Certified Cost Estimator/Analyst – Society of Cost Estimating and Analysis. He was a National Vice President and member of the board of directors of the National Association of Purchasing Management (now ISM) and President of the Fort Wayne Purchasing Management Association. Joe has served Indiana University as President of the Fort Wayne Indiana University Alumni Association, the Indiana University Alumni Executive Council, the Indiana University School of Business – Alumni Advisory Committee, and Chairman for two IU Business Conferences. For his service he was honored to receive the Indiana University Alumni Association Ralph L. Broyles Medal “for unique and significant contributions to Indiana University in Fort Wayne” in 1999.

Morrow carper as a Senior Design Engineer at Texas Instruments in Dallas, TX and Magnavox Consumer Electronics Company in Fort Wayne, IN with three patents. He joined the Magnavox Electronic Systems Company as a Purchasing Staff Engineer, Purchasing Manager, and Director of Purchasing – Tactical Systems. His later employment was with MagnaTec in Huntington, IN and Bowers Instruments in Fort Wayne, IN. He moved back to Florida to work at Spartan Electronics in Brooksville in 1993, later with Bredex Technology in Lakeland, and then with AirNet Communications in Melbourne. During his career and his retirement, he has been a Consultant and Lecturer on Purchasing and Materials Management Topics.

In 1979, Morrow was sponsored for Elkdom by his father-in-law, Joseph Schenkel. He was initiated in Fort Wayne, IN Elks Lodge 155 and served as Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, and Trustee. He served on the Scholarship, Veterans, and House Committees. He also served on the Lodge Celebrity Sports Outing Committee (major charity fundraiser event), serving as chairman for two years.

He dinit to Brooksville, Lodge 2582 in January 1993. He has served as House Committee Chairman for three years, Scholarship Committee Chairman for four years, Elks National Foundation and Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairman for three years, Lodge Charter Sponsor of Brooksville Elks Boy Scout Troop 459, and Lounge Manager for two years. He was the Esteemed Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, Trustee, and Chairman for one year. After his retirement, he served as Lodge Kitchen Cook/Kitchen Manager for seven years. He was the Central District Interlodge Visiting Chairman and Central Regional Scholarship Chairman. He was named Lodge Officer of the Year in 2008-2009. He was awarded his Elks life membership in 2010.

His other organizations and involvement as a member/officer include Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, Toastmasters International, National Management Association, National Alumni of Purchasing Management (ISM), American Production and Inventory Control Society, Magnavox Management Club – President, Electronic Defense Association – “Old Crows,” Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, Indiana Minority Purchasing Council, Institute of Electrical/Electronic Engineers (IEEE), National Contact Management Association, Electronic Industries Association – Governor/Procurement, NARLEO II, and the Indiana Tech Alumni Association. He is a member of the American Legion – Department of Florida and the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 521. He is a life member of the National Eagle Scout Association, the Air Force Association, and the Indiana University Alumni Association.

Morrow has been married to his lovely wife, Mary Kay, for 37 years. She is a Psychiatric Nurse (RN) at a hospital in Brooksville, FL. They have two sons: Patrick Joseph (two granddaughters) and Sean Michael. His hobbies include golf, military history, aircraft modeling, his Buick Rivieras, and rooting for the Jacksonville Jaguars and Tampa Bay Rays.

**SOUTH SOUTHEAST**

**Francis M. “Tom” Thomason**

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southeast District are honored to present Francis M. “Tom” Thomason as the South Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

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

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

In his spare time, Thomason loves fishing and golfing.
The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast Central District are honored to present Charles DeLauder as the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

Charles DeLauder was born in Hagerstown, Maryland in 1942. He has been employed in Production and Inventory Control all of his working life. He retired from Mack Trucks as Materials Team Leader after 28 years of service in 2003.

Charles served many years as a Volunteer Firefighter and continued volunteer service as an Emergency Medical Technician in his community.

After retirement Charles and his wife Mary moved to Florida and live in Sebastian. They have a combined family of 4 children and 8 grandchildren.

Charles joined the Elks in March 2005 after being invited to visit the Lodge and soon became an active and educated member in his Lodge and to Elkdom. He has not only served as an Officer since he has been a member but as a cook, bartender, lawn maintenance provider, and event planner and because of his dedication he was named Officer of the Year 2005/2006 and earned his B.S. in Education. He graduated from Gannon University in Erie, PA with an M.A. in English. In 1992 he received his Educational Leadership degree from Nova University.

Olson taught for seventeen years in Pennsylvania and for seventeen years in Florida. He has also been an Assistant Principal, Curriculum Specialist, and Area Support Person. One of Olson’s friends asked him to join the Elks.

Since joining, he has been Exalted Ruler twice, Leading Knight, Loyal Knight, Esquire, Trustee, Vice Chairman and State Chairman of Youth Activities, and District Chairman of several offices.

In addition to his Elks activities, Olson is a member of the Moose. He is also President of the Palm Beach County Council of Teachers of English and he chaired a state committee for the new adoptions of textbooks for Junior and Senior High School English.

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast District are honored to present Tyrone L. “Ty” MacKenzie as the South Southwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

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

As a civilian, MacKenzie worked for the Department of the Army and the Department of Defense and had a variety of other civilian and military duties and assignments. He also worked for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from which he retired in 1995. With FEMA, as an Emergency Management Officer, he was responsible for setting up Emergency Operations Centers in communities affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, etc. During the disaster, he coordinated and assisted the local, county, state, and other federal and civilian agencies that provide emergency service to those in the area affected by the disaster. He does not speak about the hardship and destruction these disasters caused to the people he served except to say that he was glad to have been part of the teams that brought a measure of aid and comfort to the victims of these disasters.

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

MacKenzie first joined the Elks in 1966 in East Hartford, CT. Circumstances, however, limited his participation although he did serve as the Tiler and Chaplain. Upon his retirement, he took a furlough from his Connecticut Lodge to Punta Gorda Lodge in 2001. Since then, he has been very active in all of the Lodge activities.

He was the Lodge Exalted Ruler in 2004-2005 during Hurricane Charlie. As the Punta Gorda Lodge Esquire, he was awarded third place in the state ritual contest when his Lodge competed that year. He has held many positions within the Lodge. He is also the past Lodge, District, and State Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairman as well as the District Interguild Visitaton Chairman. Most recently he has served as the State Sergeant at Arms.

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

Brian T. Burns

2012-2013 Vice-President at Large

Burns was born in Batavia, NY on October 1, 1954. He spent his early childhood in Englewood, FL until the age of five. His family returned to western New York where he attended school and graduated from Notre Dame High in Batavia, NY. Following this, he went back to Florida to attend college at Manatee and Polk Junior Colleges. He then returned to New York to marry his high school sweetheart, Mary Kay Ansbrow. They lived and worked in western New York until 1980 when they moved with their young daughter, Heather, to Arcadia, FL, where his grandfather was raised and the family citrus business was struggling. Burns worked as a welder for a couple of years and helped out with the groves on the side. In 1983, he leased the groves from his grandparents and started a small caretaking business. It has grown to what is now Brian Burns Citrus, LLC.

Burns became an Elk in 1980 in Arcadia Elks Lodge 1524. He was Elk of the Year in 1981 and became an officer shortly after that. He remained active in the Lodge as an officer until the last few years. He still serves as the Lodge Advisor. He was Exalted Ruler in 1987-1988 and 1988-1989. He was District Vice President in 1992-1993, District Vice President in 1998-1999, and DDGER in 1994-1995. He served as State Chaplain in 1997-1998. He served on the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital Board of Directors from 1996-1999 and on the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services Board of Directors from 2002-2005, serving as President during his term. Since 2006 he has served on the Grand Lodge Ritual Committee and as Chairman from 2010 until July of 2012. He has been a certified ritual judge since 1989.

In addition to Elks activities, Burns is also active in his community. He is a member and Past President of the Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association, Chairman of the Tri-County IFAS Advisory Committee, a 32-year member of the Farm Bureau, he is a member of and active in the Chamber of Commerce, he served as President of “Leadership Desoto Class II,” and was also a member of the Economic Development Advisory Board.

He and Mary Kay have two children, Heather and Michael. Heather is married to Phillip Nedley and they have two boys, Porter, six, and Abel, four. Michael is married to Becki and they have two children, Nevaeh, eight, and Gaven, two.

Burns and his wife enjoy spending time with their grandkids. They also love getting away to their cabin in Tennessee when possible. They love Florida football where his grandfather played in 1927. He and Mary Kay have also enjoyed their time in the Elks and all of the close friends they have made there. He enjoys cooking and often cooks for the Elks. His favorite cookout is the yearly gathering of the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services therapists at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. He has been doing this cookout for eleven years. They look forward to serving the Florida State Elks Association and working to grow and improve the order.

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southwest District are honored to present Tyrone L. “Ty” MacKenzie as the South Southwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.
**SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT**

**Boca Raton Lodge 2166**

Since the beginning of the year the Lodge has seriously adopted our motto, “Elks Care, Elks Share”. One of the Lodge's largest turnouts for donations was a monthly blood drive in April saw our largest turnout for donors. The mobile unit still had donors waiting at 8 PM, a total of 16 units were donated.

We donated 3 planter boxes to the Community Garden Project, Lodge members built and prepared the boxes. Vegetables will be cultivated, and when harvested, donated to a local food kitchen. The Lodge donated $150 to a local high school so that 3rd grade classes could have a luncheon barbeque to celebrate completing FCAT testing. A great day for the students!

We continue to our drive “Change for Charities,” where members are encouraged to take home baby food jars and fill them with loose change. We had many returned many times over. Proceeds go to Harry Anna Trust Fund Committee.

**Delray Beach Lodge 1770**

Along with awarding our lodge officers, members and citizens of the year, it was an honor for our lodge to recognize the importance of our community’s emergency response departments. Police Officer, Firefighter and Ocean Rescue Officer of the year were all honored. Thanks to our lodge awards chair, Retired Captain Larry Garito for organizing.

**SOUTHWEST**

Lu Smith

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest District are honored to present Lu Smith as the Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year. Lu Smith was born in Michigan in 1933 and graduated high school in 1952. She also attended Mount Pleasant Community College. In 1983 she moved to Florida.

In her career, Smith was a Special Account Clerk for a major hospital as well as a Chief Operator for Bell Telephone Company. She was also a Private Secretary for Beaver Toal & Engineering. She retired in 1982.

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

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

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

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

**NORTH CENTRAL**

Bob Warren

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North Central District are honored to present Bob Warren as the North Central District Deputy Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

Bob was born in Detroit, Michigan on December 28, 1949. He grew up in San Fernando Valley, California and attended Granada Hills High School. He moved to Florida in 1982; he has lived in Winter Garden for the past nine years.

Bob was in the Navy from 1970-1972 and was deployed to Vietnam for eight months before being honorably discharged.

In 1982 Bob started working at Walt Disney World as a Maintenance Tech on the monorails. In 1985 he was made supervisor over watercraft and monorails. He retired after 23 years. He now works for the Orange County Government.

Bob became an Elk in 1995 at Deland Lodge. His father had been an Elk for many years. He has been through all the chairs and was Exalted Ruler for the 2006-2007 year. He has been Lodge Chairman of Drug Awareness, Soccer Shoot, and Indoctri nation. He has been Investigating Chairman of his Lodge too. He has served as District Chairman of Elks Training and as Vice Chairman and State Chairman of Indoctrition.

In his free time, Bob enjoys softball and boating.

Bob and his wife, Peggy, have been married for sixteen years. They have five children and seven grandchildren. They are an Elk family; there are eight in the family hailing from coast to coast.

**NORTHEAST**

Ron Snow

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northeast District are honored to present Ron Snow as the Northeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

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

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

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

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

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

In his spare time, Snow enjoys playing golf. He won two club championships and one county championship. He loves traveling with his wife and going to their summer home in Vermont.

He enjoyed his year as the Harry-Anna Trust Fund State Chairman and traveling with State President Jim Hurst and his wife, Julie, meeting all of the great Elks in Florida.

**SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT**

**Reporter, Karolyn Lind**

**linfrau@aol.com**

Through out the year, the Elkettes have worked tirelessly on their fundraising efforts. They have annual dinner dances, cake sales, rummage sales and fashion shows. They generously donated to the Lodge $3,500!! They also donated $750 each to Florida Elks Youth Camp and Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. A Huge thank you to our Elkettes!!

March installation brought in 19 new members!!

The Lodge St. Patrick’s Day Parade was bigger than ever! Estimated attendance was over 100,000 people! And lucky for us we had 235 come to the lodge after for what else? Corned beef and cabbage dinner and entertainment to dance the afternoon away.

Florida State Elks Softball Tournament in Deland was well represented by over 100 people from The Lodge. We had 44 players participating on three over 50 year old division teams that were being cheered on by members, spouses, family and friends. All enjoyed the traditional Saturday at the Park clubhouse lunch spread. Manager Spike’s A Team finished 3rd. Tom Breeds B team came in 1st!! George Fitzgerald’s team wilted in the sunny hot weather and drove home without any tournament loot. All experienced a wonderful weekend knowing their efforts benefited the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

The Brotherhood Ride stopped at The Lodge on Monday June 4, 2012. The Brotherhood Ride 2012 is dedicated to 11 Fallen Heroes of Florida, who died in the line of duty in 2011. These emergency responders made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the citizens of Florida.

The Brotherhood Ride honors them by riding bicycles through the state of Florida in eight days, covering over 550 miles. The ride began in Naples on June 3rd, traveled up the east coast and ended in St Petersburg on June 10th. They stayed at Elks Lodges all over Florida. Their team consists of 50 people, 35 riders and 15 support staff. Delray's fire and police departments escorted them safely down Federal Hwy to the Lodge. We put them up for the night in the Banquet Hall using air mattresses, provided supper and breakfast before they departed in the morning. Delray Fire Rescue took them to their station for showers before dinner. The Delray Elks are proud to be a part of the 2012 Brotherhood ride. The Brotherhood Ride also participated in Delray’s Annual St Patrick’s Parade this year. The Brotherhood Ride is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity organization dedicated to honoring emergency responders who died in the line of duty.

**Sunrise Lodge 2273**

We have had a good start this year towards fundraising, April’s Jelly Bean Jumble, raised $150. May’s, Luau/Pig Roast raised $2500, June’s, Fish Fry followed by a Comedy Show raised $1700. Many thanks to the house committee and their auxiliary for a great time.

This year we will again, participate in the City of Sunrise 4th of July parade, (last year we were voted most patriotic), with a rib cook off and barbeque at the Lodge following the parade. On November 3rd we are hosting a Golf Tournament at Woodmont Country Club, with an awards dinner to follow at the Lodge. The cost is $110 per person.

**South Southeast District Continued page 18**
How I’ve Watched Camp Grow

Krys Ragland
Program Director at the Florida Elks Youth Camp

It all started with 21 cabins, a pool, a boathouse, a linear ropes course, and a pavilion. That was the beginning of something grand.

When I first began my journey with the Florida Elks Youth Camp, I was unsure of what I was getting into. I had never been to camp before, and I had never heard of Umatilla. I went up on a van with other people that were counselors like me. Upon arrival, we were amazed that we would be spending our time in cabins that had air conditioning! Who ever heard of air conditioning here?! All the cabins were the same: 4 bunk beds, a cot, a sink in the main room, and a full bathroom. Yes, a full bathroom inside a cabin, and each cabin had a hot water heater. We ladies set to decorating our cabins for the campers. We made paper chains to string along the bunks and we taped up posters, turning cabins into summer homes.

Field space was abundant at the camp. Tons of playing space to run and play any and all games that we could think to play with the campers. At our scheduled times, we enjoyed the cool waters of the pool. We enjoyed our time on the ropes course.

The first time we had to say goodbye to campers was heart-wrenching. No training had warned us of how hard it would be to let these amazing kids go home. Staff tears mixed with camper tears as we hugged them all goodbye. Promises were made and kept to see each other again the next summer. I knew then and there that I was going back to camp. After four weeks of girls’ camp, all the female staff would leave and there would be four weeks of boys’ camp.

The Educational Building was built a few years into my joining the camp. It had one large room that could be sectioned off into smaller rooms. There were two wings that worked off the room, each wing having 8 hotel rooms. I got a group of Counselors-in-Training together and we went to work. I had never laid sod before, but I learned. What a proud moment we had when we stood back and saw the final product.

The Elks of Florida came together again a few years later and built an NBA-sized gym on the property. Hello! No one had that. What an amazing place to play basketball, 4-square, 4 corners, and any other game we wanted to play indoors. The campers were amazed that there was a huge movie screen that could be lowered. We could bring our sleeping bags into the gym, lie down, and watch a movie. Slumber parties are always fun, but this beat out any slumber party a girl could have!

Lynn Warburton became the Director of the camp. We had worked together for a summer. The next summer of 2001 broke my heart – I was unable to work camp. I had obligations that I could not break and I was overwhelmed by the pain of missing camp. After camp that year, Lynn and I had a meeting. We talked for some time and she offered me a position full-time at the camp. I was stunned. Of course I took it! I packed up everything I had and within a month I was working at the camp.

Twenty-one more cabins were built and more campers came. We opened the camp for eight weeks of boys and girls at camp. We upgraded archery to having a pavilion top over it. We added more to the ropes course. A second pavilion was added to the hill. I thought back to my first summer. We averaged about sixty kids a week. Now, we average over 300. I could not believe that we had grown so much!

It has been sixteen years since I first arrived at camp. I live here full time and enjoy every weekend that we have campers here. My favorite part of the year is the summer. That is when the magic happens. We bring in the staff, go through six days of training with them, and then we greet the campers. I still see campers arriving with fear on their face. I still see the tears. We have staff that see that and understand. They take their deep breaths, put on their big smiles, and greet their campers. Every Saturday at Check-Out, I see campers and staff hug goodbye. And, yes, I have seen tears.

I have been here long enough to see campers turn into staff members. My name is Krys Ragland. I am proud to hold the title of Program Director at the Florida Elks Youth Camp.
Brooksville Lodge 2582

The annual Turnaround Achievement Awards Program was held on Tuesday April 24, 2012 at the Brooksville Elks Lodge. Introduction was by Carlos Martins from Spring Hill Lanes, one of the sponsors. The invocation was by Hernando County Board member James C. Yant.

Dinner was served by Elk volunteers and cooked by Elk Chef Bill Schoenfeld who proficiently was able to get 265 meals served in 35 minutes.

Blavatt encouraged the achievement winners to help others by saying, “I did it, keep on going.” He thanked the teachers, parents and others who supported the students to turn their lives around. Teachers who introduced the achievers stated that there were those who had been written up and were failing, but brought their grades up to A’s and B’s and some went from misbehaving to become honor students.

Each student that was recognized had an opportunity to comment about his or her achievement. One said, “I was a bad boy last year, but this year I’m a good boy.” Another commented, “I couldn’t have done it without God.” Another stated, “It couldn’t have happened without a good support system.” All 26 students recognized were given a Kindle Touch from Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union. The Elks were thanked for the opportunity to have a place to celebrate children.

Zephyrhills Lodge 2731

The Lodge held their annual installation of officers and Exalted Ruler’s Ball on March 31, 2012. The installation of the new officers was done by the Past Exalted Rulers, under the direction of Albert Shaffer, PDD and R. Michael Ritchie, PDD of the Central District. Installed were: Barbara Mason-Migner as Exalted Ruler.

Outgoing Exalted Ruler, Anthony Way presented the following awards at the Exalted Rulers Ball. Officer of the Year award went to Mary Crosier, PER, and Don Thibert received the Elk of the Year Award. The Elks Lodge continues to provide much needed services to the community and those in need, especially to the Youth.

Kissimmee Lodge 1873

Meredith Griffin was the recipient of the entire ENF donation to Kissimmee Lodge. Meredith is in charge of the Families in Transition for the Osceola County area. Her office provides housing for families who are living with relatives, in motels, in cars or in the woods. She makes sure the children and their families are sheltered, have food and are adequately clothed. Donations are gladly accepted for school uniforms and supplies. Mrs. Griffin’s goal is to move families into rental facilities where a somewhat normal atmosphere will be provided for the children. She also supplies school uniforms and other necessities so the children will blend in with their classmates. The ENF monies will help set up the families with groceries and household needs to help them become comfortable in their new environment.

West Citrus Lodge 2693

C. James Fish, Americanism Chairman with our two Lodge winners Kalen Kraay and Whitney Oakley

Drug Awareness Chairperson, Stephanie Salay with Lodge winner, Elizabeth Salute, who also took 2nd Place in the State. Drug Awareness Contest.

West Citrus Lodge donated, thanks to our Gratitude Grant from The ENF, $418.00 for a reading program for one of our local elementary schools and $1500.00 to the We Care Food Pantry for new equipment. The Lodge had a fundraiser wherein $1000.00 to send a student to Nashville Tennessee to learn more about guitar music.

In June West Citrus Lodge hosted State President, Sean Maguire and his wife, Barbara; Brian T Burns, VPAL and his wife, MaryKay; Don Moon, PER, Membership Chairman and his wife Jane; Keith Eppes, State Chaplain and his wife, Linda; Donna Berkowitz, HATF Chairperson and her husband, Sam; Charles Trinowski, PSP and his wife MaryAnn; Robert Barry, DDGER Central District and his wife Frances; Joseph Morrow, DDGER-Designate Central District and his wife, Mary Kay; Edward Seiler, VP Central District and his wife, Marilyn and Thomas Hamburg, ER WCE and his wife Sue.

On June 14, 2012 the local Boy Scouts participated in the Flag Day ceremonies. WCE invites all veterans to attend this function – many do and to see the expressions on their faces is priceless, some in tears, some with smiles. After the function a light lunch was served to all present.
Ft. Pierce Lodge 1520
The first weekend in April over 40 Elks and Elckett members volunteered to scatter plastic Easter eggs filled with candy and prizes in the local park. Twenty-nine children went in search of these valued eggs and when they were all found, the group was treated to hot dogs and hamburgers that the Lodge provided. We celebrated Mother’s Day with over 140 people who were given white or red carnations thanking all of the mom’s in attendance, from ages 23 to 92 years young for their love.

The Lodge had a great showing at the district golf tournament with 28 players and volunteers at the course. A large group of members attended the annual State Convention and encouraged the district ritual winners in the state competition. The Lodge also received six awards at the convention for winning state sponsored contests and committees.

Working with the local school and the youth camp, the Lodge was able to send 100 kids to camp at the beginning of June and we also sent a $1,000 donation to the camp.

Elk President, Chief Deputy Wilson, from our PSL Sheriff’s Office, who gave an inspiring speech about the Elks commitment to the Flag and patriotism.

Melbourne Lodge 1744
Our Lodge hosted the 5th Annual Brotherhood Ride consisting of firefighters, police officers, and EMS personnel. They rode their bicycles through the State of Florida, covering 550 miles, beginning in Naples on June 3 and ending in St. Petersburg on June 10. They rode their bicycles to honor eleven Emergency Responders who dies in the line of duty in 2011. On June 6, they arrived in Stuart and rode to Melbourne to rest and sleep overnight at our Lodge. They continued their ride on June 7 to Winter Park.

Our Lodge supports the youth of our community with scholarships, drug awareness programs, and distribution of dictionaries to the third graders to encourage reading. Our Lodge also promotes Americanism and Patriotism with celebrations of Flag Day, Fourth of July, Memorials Day, and Veteran’s Day. ER Snook vows to increase focus on appreciation of returning Veterans, who continue to serve the needs of the community’s children.

Sebastian Lodge 2714
Edgar Penzoza, 18, of Fellsmere was the winner of the El-DOE’s essay contest for this year, and was awarded a $1,000 scholarship. Edgar recently graduated from Sebastian River High and has been in the National Honor Society, participating in several organizations. He was the director of “It’s In The Bag,” an organization that feeds low income children from Fellsmere Elementary. He was accepted to the University of Winnipeg in Canada and will be studying to become a Pharmacist or a Chemical Engineer. After getting his degree, he plans to come back to this area and use his skills and knowledge to help better the community.

The El-DOE’s installed their new officers on March 31, with Tony Falk as President, Connie Wellman, VP, Trish Wesley, Secretary, Susan Rummell Treasurer, Jean Canupp, Chaplain, and Jean Heitzman, Parliamentarian. Installing the new officers was Diane Freece.

On February 12, we made our annual visit to the Pecan Gardens Retirement Home in honor of Mother’s Day. We came bearing gifts and flowers for each resident and a beautifully decorated cake. Bingo was played, and then the cake and flowers were delivered from room to room to those who did not attend Bingo.

Stuart Jensen Lodge 1870
The Elk year got off to a great start with our ER Bal honoring PER Dan Whalen and First Lady Fran.

In April we had our annual Easter dinner, membership open house with a murder mystery dinner theater, Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast, along with many themed dinner dances.

On April 24, our Lodge hosted wheel chair Veterans from the West Palm VA Hospital, with a hot meatloaf lunch provided. They received gifts and played some bingo. Come May, we had our annual Mother’s Day Ceremony where we honored Mother of the Year, our Inner Guard Diane Spencer. Diane has 4 sons, 3 in college and one in high school and all four boys are Eagle Scouts.

Kentucky Derby Night along with Prom night was celebrated in May. For the State Convention many traveled to see our own Suzi Simonelli, DVP get installed.

One of our most exciting events was hosting the Brotherhood Riders to our Lodge. We fed and housed them for the night as they traveled over 600 miles honoring those fallen Florida hero’s who lost their lives in the line of duty. We held a spaghetti fundraiser for them and donated the proceeds from the “Share the Wealth.”

We wrapped up June with anniversary night, our last pancake breakfast of the summer on Father’s Day, and another Membership Open House. Congratulations to Elks of the Month in April to Arlene Frysinger, H/LM, in May, Kim Brooks, and in June Lucky Letouneau.

Vero Beach Lodge 1774
Our Lodge held a dinner dance to raise money for the Army of Hope. The guest speaker was Nikki Gibson, Army Combat Veteran, who was born in Groton, CT on 1984 and joined the US Army in 2004. Nikki trained as a Military Policewoman and served in that capacity until her Honorable Discharge from the Army in 2012. She served two tours in Iraq and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received during a mortar attack in Baghdad in 2007.

Our Lodge also held their annual golf outing at Sandridge Golf Course on April 28, to support all of the Elks Charities and Veteran’s Programs.

SEC Continued on page 15

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SEC Continued on page 15
FLORIDA STATE ELKS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Joe D. Rogers, PDD
jrogers84@cfl.rr.com

“A” Division
1st Place - Deland #1463
2nd Place - Tarpon Springs #1719
3rd Place - Winter Garden #2165

“B” Division
1st Place - Brandon #2383
Over 50 “A” Division
1st Place - Punta Gorda #2606
2nd Place - Port St. Lucie #2658
3rd Place - Delray #1770
Over 50 “B” Division
1st Place - Delray Beach #1770
Camaraderie Award - Tarpon Springs #1719
Hospitality Award - DeLand #1463
Home Run Derby winner Under 50
Chad Durick, Ft. Pierce - 10-10
Third year in a row he has won.

DeLand Lodge #1463 hosted the Florida Elks State Softball Tournament the weekend of April 27-29, 2012. For the past 19 years this tournament has benefited the Florida Elks Youth Camp, and this year was another success for the children of Florida.

The Founder, PDDGER Phil Watercutter’s basic idea behind this function was to bring camaraderie to the members, to get younger members into our organization and support the Youth Camp. In the past 19 years, we feel we have accomplished all of these.

This year’s tournament was attended by PGER Val & Claudia Bates, Vice President Sean & Barbara Maguire, VPAL Designate Brian & Mary Kay Burns, PSP David & Kathy Lake, PSP Frank Palladini, PSP Vic & Peggy McClellan, PSP Charlie & Mary Ann Trinowski, and Florida State Elks Secretary Carl Seibert.

There were 20 teams from 14 different Florida lodges along the east coast from Jacksonville to Delray Beach, the west coast from Tarpon Springs to Punta Gorda, and other lodges in Central Florida. Here are the winning lodge payouts to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in the respective lodge’s names for the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

It’s all for the kids

Phil again worked with the Teen Court in DeLand allowing five youth to work 30 hours of community service time. Their jobs included working with the softball committee to keep the fields clean and anything needed to help out with the tournament. We provided the extra food to the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia and the DeLand Fire Department. Extra shirts were donated to the Emory L. Bennett Veterans’ Nursing Home – Daytona Beach.

In 19 years, the Softball Tournament has donated $134,628; this year being no exception with $8,000 benefitting the Youth Camp in the name of the winning Lodges. There have been over 9,826 participants play, and attendance in the 19 tournaments has exceeded 26,300. With the sincere interest displayed from the participating lodges this year, we are looking for an even bigger and better 20th Annual Tournament April 26-28, 2013.

Co-Chairmen Phil Watercutter and Joe Rogers together with the Softball Committee want to thank the 20 teams, the Camp Sponsors, and all that attended making this another winning year for the children of Florida and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. We also want to thank the many volunteers that supported the tournament with the many hours, many miles traveled and generous donations in making this tournament another success.

No Suits, No ties, just a very casual weekend and great for the family.
Frank Hayes choice for Elk of the Year is Richard “Jake” Jacobs, Bay Pines VAMC representative.

Chris Solomon, center, and the HOPE Scholarship Committe with his $6,000 Scholarship which he will use at Harvard.

Van Duren $4,000 Scholarship recipients Eric Hutto and Amber Tsirnikas with Michael Phillips Chairman, center.

The family of Sean and Barbara Maguire enjoy and participate in the demonstration.

Barbara and Sean applaud the demonstrators.

Placards, toys, noise makers, candy and a couple of hundred of Maguires friends and peers made a joyful scene.

With Barbara pinning on the Past State President pin someone else will take over as President of FSEA.

Co-Founders of the FSEA Softball Tournament Phil Watercutter and Joe Rogers present President Hayes an $8,000 Check.

An oversized Emblem of Authority is passed on to 2012-2013 State President Sean Maguire by PGER Val Bates.

25 years of accounting in the FSEA Headquarters earns Deborah Hall a Carribean vacation.

Five Star Florida Major Projects Booth

Mason Yaskovic and John McMillin won $500 Award for their essays of Why I am Proud to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.
Lake City Lodge 893
The Lodge continues to make improvements to its building that is more than 100 years old. Bids have been received to do the dining room floor, the stairs, and the upstairs landing.

For fun, the Lodge held a St. Patrick’s Day dance and a Cinco de Mayo dance. The Cinco event included a Mexican food bar and dancing to the music of South Street Band. More fun was had in donating 12,000 Easter eggs to the local schools. Still having fun, the Lodge recognized Officer of the Year Barbara Meyers, Elk of the Year DeWitt Cason, and Citizen of the Year Martha Ann Ronsonet, at the Officer installation ceremony in March.

The Lodge awarded two $500 scholarships in May, given to Jonathan Darby and Darin Ste-Marie. A Flag Day event was held with the impressive Elks Ceremony, along with a smoked chicken dinner with all the trimmings. A golf tournament is scheduled on July 14 at The Country Club at Lake City.

Marianna Lodge Lodge 1516
ER Don Morris is touting the benefits to lodge members of sharing the excitement of participating in the Florida Elks’ major projects. He reflected to the members on how proud he felt to see a Therapy van and to have a therapist come several times to the Marianna Lodge to share the reality of a child in need that our program was able to help.

Stan Haines has once again stepped up to the plate to be the House Committee Chair. He and his committee oversee the kitchen operation and plan lodge entertainment. The Cheap Eats Tuesdays will continue as will Ladies Nights on Thursday. Being added is a Wednesday feature: Comfort Food Night. The lodge has Chef Michael in the kitchen to prepare great food for all.

The lodge is busy evaluating scholarship applications and awards to Chipola College. For many years the lodge raised money for this endowed scholarship fund that annually administers awards to local students who attend Chipola. Also in June, Flag Day was celebrated in the lodge room. Kudos to Elk of the Year James Walton, Officer of the Year Helen Haines, and Volunteer of the Year Marilyn Mabardy.

The lodge is also proud of PER Carl Wesson who is the state chairman for Drug Awareness.

Perry Lodge 1851
Perry Lodge is pleased to share the news that the Veterans’ Memorial Park fundraiser has met its goal. The Mother’s Day banquet was a great success. ER Dick Joyal and his officers conducted the Mother’s Day Program and a meal was served to 125 guests. In May, the lodge also initiated seven new members.

A fundraising Poker Run was recently held at the Lodge, organized by PER Kevin Cruce and his wife, Wendy. The run began at 11 am, with the Taylor County High School JROTC Color Guard Presentation of the Colors. About 25 bikers participated in the 74 mile trip, despite the rain, through coastal Taylor County. The run ended at the Lodge with lunch being served, a cake auction, and entertainment for all. Two of the cakes sold for more than $100 each. The event raised $3,267, and with the generosity of a number of lodge members, the amount was rounded up to $4,000. This is the amount needed for the Perry Lodge to purchase a two-sided blue granite monument to be placed in Veterans’ Memorial Park.

Tallahassee Lodge 937
The Lodge kicked off the new fiscal year with officer installation that was a combined event with the Elketts of the Lodge. Elk of the Year Charles Johnson, Jr. and Officer of the Year Denise Mick were recognized for their contributions to the Lodge. The Elketts honored Sheila Wolfe as Elckett of the Year and Annette Hurst as Elckett Officer of the Year.

In April, the year began with an Easter Egg Hunt on April 7. There were games, face painting, and prizes for all the kids after the eggs were hunted. There was a good turn out and everyone had a blast.

May brought the 138th Kentucky Derby Day with the featured drink, Mint Juleps, served alongside the sandwich of the day, Hot Browns, with a slice of Derby Pie for dessert. A hat contest was held and member Tracey O. Moore won the hat contest.

Elks National Foundation
Payroll Deductions
Support Elks National Foundation at work
Helping Elks build stronger communities has never been easier with the Elks National Foundation’s workplace giving opportunities. Double your gift to the ENF with no additional cost to you by signing up for our matching gift program.

Many employers will match employees’ charitable gifts— even if the employee is retired. To find out if your employer sponsors a matching gift program, visit www.elks.org/enfMatchingGifts.cfm.

Donate directly to the ENF through your employer by signing up for payroll deductions. When you sign up, you agree to have a predetermined dollar amount de ducted monthly from your paycheck and earmarked for the ENF. As a participant in this program, you become a member of the ENF Fidelity Club, and will receive benefits such as a sticker for your membership card and a pin.

If you are a federal civilian, military, or postal employee, you can donate to the ENF through payroll deductions made through the Combined Federal Campaign.

Simply enroll between Sept. 1 and Dec. 15. When making a pledge through the CFC for the year, remember to use the ENF’s CFC Code: 12233.

For details on how to enroll in any of these programs, contact your Human Resources Department or visit www.elks.org

The Lodge sponsored a Driver Safety Course, given by an AARP instructor in early May. The idea is to brush up on driver safety items and to improve your awareness skills behind the wheel. Did you know that with driver airbags in cars these days, the safe driving position for your hands on the wheel is 9 o’clock and 3 o’clock, or even a bit closer to your lap? Many of us were taught to hold the wheel at 10 and 2 o’clock, but we were told that if the air bag deploys in a crash, that position could break your arms.

The Lodge was pleased to sponsor the Gretchen Everhart School Prom on May 12. The ballroom was large enough for a great party for the kids and the Lodge provided dinner too. The local newspaper provided some photos and coverage of this event. Other events are planned during the year to help the kids at Gretchen Everhart.

Mother’s Day brought a bountiful fare to the Lodge. A Mothers Day program was held at 11 am, followed by a wonderful buffet brunch. About 80 folks came and enjoyed the event. Lodge officers were on hand to serve the food and bus tables.

Also in May, the Lodge officers participated in the ritual contest at the state convention. The team placed third overall with a number of individual awards: Third Place – Lecturing Knight Wayne Harrell, Inner Guard Carol Dobson, Coach Harry Symons; Second Place – ER Robert Thorburn, Candidate Don Dobson; First Place – Leading Knight Lou Langmeis, Chaplain Tracey Austin. Robert Thorburn took second place in the Eleven O’clock toast contest. Esquire Jan Thorburn scored higher than all other Esquires but was a repeat officer.

In early June, the Lodge held a garage sale in the ballroom. Folks brought many gently used items and more than $500 was earned for the Lodge. A Flag Day ceremony was conducted on June 14. The big rainstorm in the afternoon dampened the event, but the ceremony and program was memorable. A new flag is flying in front of the Lodge, while the old flag was retired and presented to outgoing ER, Robert Thorburn. The local newspaper provided some coverage of this event.

The ENF Community Investments Program invests $6.5 million in Elks communities through Lodge grants that help Elks meet local needs. When your Lodge uses Elks National Foundation Community Investments Program grants effectively, your community will look to the Elks as leaders in service. Here are some of the grants available:

Beacon Grants. $1,000 grants available to all Elks Lodges for an ongoing, charitable, Elks-driven community project. Gratitude Grants. $2,000 grants available to Lodges that meet the National President’s per-member goal for giving to the ENF. These grants can be used to serve a variety of community needs.

Promise Grants. $2,000 grants available to the first 500 Lodges that apply to hold a youth event.

Impact Grants. Competitive grants of up to $10,000 designed to help Lodges make a visible, significant and ongoing difference in their communities.

Community Investments Program grants offer your Lodge an opportunity to serve your community in ways that will raise the Lodge’s profile, energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that’s doing great things. Visit www.elks.org/enf/community to learn more about Community Investments Program.
On May 28th Crestview Elks Lodge 2624 participated in a Memorial Day Service at Live Oak Park Memorial Cemetery hosted by the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. Exalted Ruler Ann Moore placed the Lodge wreath. The Lodge hosted a Pinewood Derby for 80 scouts from Cub Scout Pack 530 and 531. The Lodge provided refreshments for the approximately 250 people who attended the event. Christopher Douglas of Cub Scout Pack 530 took first place in the efforts.

**Pensacola Lodge 497**

Celebrating 50 Years on the Beach

The Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge will be celebrating 50 years on the beach in September 29th. Please mark your calendars to come out and enjoy this special occasion. Look for more information in the monthly Hoof Prints. We would like to put together a slide show of our history on the beach and need your help. If you have any photos, programs or other memorabilia of our facilities, functions, officer installations and members we would like to include them. Please contact Sandy Mihm through phone number 246-6239 or drop them off to Ron at the Lodge. Please include your name and phone number, we will scan the items and return them to you.

**Holly-Navarre Lodge 2787**

This June and July Holley Navarre extends an amnesty to lapsed members to encourage stray Elks to rejoin us. This amnesty reduces the $50 reinstatement fee to $1. If you know of any member who let his membership lapse in previous years, let them know this is an excellent time to rejoin. We cordially invite and welcome our lapsed members to join our Lodge.

Thanks to Kris Kane, our Veterans Affairs chairperson, for the work she has done on behalf of our Veterans. She is our representative to the Army of Hope District committee, and she has been actively involved in planning the AOH picnic at the Ft Walton Lodge. She is also working with the American Legion and VFW for our Lodge’s past participation.

Tom Stevens, our Esteemed Leading Knight, has hit the ground running as the chairperson for the Membership and Lapsed committee. He has the important mission of recruiting new members through new applications and reinstatements, and is zealously tackling this task. Tom is also our Liaison representative to the Florida Elks State Association for their “Membership Initiative.” We can aid his efforts by sponsoring new members and encouraging reinstatements.

Thanks to Pattie Quinn, our Bingo chairperson, for operating this important charitable weekly event. It is our most important fund raiser for charity. If you can volunteer as callers, let her or Tom Stevens know. We all thank our cooks on Friday night during Bingo.

**Tallahassee Lodge 2747**

In last month’s newsletter my message was two pages long, so this month I will keep it short and sweet. First I want to express condolences to the Corbitt family for the loss of their charter member Bill Corbitt. He was a wonderful person and a strong believer in Elksdom. He will truly be missed.

Things are going well for our little Lodge with the big heart. Last month we installed our new officers for this coming year. I’m pleased to announce that some of them are returning officers, and we have several members that stepped up to hold a chair for the first time.

Our Friday night socials continue to grow in attendance and the food is always outstanding. In last month’s newsletter I mentioned a membership drive party. Plans are still in the works to have one soon. I will keep you updated on this effort. We had a couple of members to our lodge last month and we have several new members being initiated this month.
Edgewater/New Smyrna Lodge 1557
The Lodge held its annual Flag Day ceremony on June 14; Lodge officers were assisted by the local Sea Scout Troop.
Lodge scholarship chairman, Marcie Skates and her committee presented awards to three deserving students: Ella Michels- 2nd grade, Coronado Beach Elementary; Ryan Kenyon – Chisholm Elementary, 5th grade; and Kaley Fisher - 6th grade, New Smyrna Beach Middle School. All received a $50 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble. New Smyrna Beach High School senior, Crystal Murchie, received a $1,500 scholarship to Florida Memorial University. Crystal has a 3.6 GPA, she is on the varsity volleyball team, is a student representative to the PTA and she actively participates in fundraisers to help the less fortunate and has created care packages for our troops.

The Gifts of Love, a community project supported by the Lodge, delivers food packages twice a week to needy families in the local community. This year, volunteers purchased gift certificates for 60 ham dinners, as well as working with local schools and churches in the area; their new project, Hi-Five, prepares food packages weekly for 40 children at Edgewater Public School and Chisholm Elementary. The Gifts of Love also participate in a Post Office Food Drive where they help distribute food to the community.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650
Recently, the Lodge presented $1,100 to Brian Dennis, Captain of Training & Safety of the Cape Canaveral Fire & Rescue Station for rescue equipment; the department services 11,500 residents and 80,000 tourists each day.

The Lodge is planning a fundraiser that is scheduled to be held at the local Kiwanis Island Park for Carley Baker, a 12 year old local elementary school student. Carley was diagnosed with a rare congenital heart disease; the event raised $9,000 for the Lodge to help raise money for a fireman’s infant son who has a rare congenital heart disease; the event raised $9,000 for the family.

Exalted Ruler Fred Szwed and Past Exalted Ruler Jerry O’Hara presented an award to Exalted Ruler Chip Haverity for having the longest term in office this year.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193
Exalted Ruler Tom Alexon recently presented member Joseph D. Gruber with a Certificate of Appreciation for becoming an Honorary Donor by donating $1,000 to the Elks National Foundation.

Lodge scholarship chairman, Erika Barger and Exalted Ruler awarded Savannah Elliott, Christopher Banks and Kathryn Haren, students from Seabreeze High School, with scholarships and cash awards of $1,500 each.

Pictured from left, Kathryn Haren, ER Tom Alexon, and Scholarship Chairman Erika Barger.

At a recent District Deputy clinic held at Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Lodge, Exalted Ruler Tom Alexon accepted the 2011-2012 First Place trophy for the “Opening and Closing.” Tom presented the trophy to the Lodge in a regular meeting.

PDDGER Joe Deckleman has started a Lodge Heritage Board honoring veterans who served in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East. Lodge servicemen have been asked to bring in their insignia patches so they can be displayed on the board.

During the Lodge’s annual Flag Day ceremony, in support of Boy Scout Troop #403, Exalted Ruler Tom Alexon presented Scout Master Hank McConnell with a check in the amount of $500.

Exalted Ruler Tom Alexon was surprised when First Lieutenant Caroline Sloat presented him with an award in support of the Squadron/Civil Air Patrol. The Lodge donated $500 towards a rocket project.

The Lodge’s Special Olympics “Fun Time Bowling Team” recently got new team T-shirts the Lodge purchased, thanks to member Jean Schmidtke.

In honor of being the District State Champions, the Spruce Creek Hawks high school baseball team, held an awards dinner at the Lodge; the team consists of 20 players ranging from 14-18 years of age. Head Coach Johnnie Goodrich was presented a $500 check by Exalted Ruler Tom Alexon and Golf Committee Chairman Teri Eckenrode.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709
There were nineteen Elk volunteers who recently visited the Daytona Beach Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home where they hosted a barbeque cookout for the veterans at the home.

Jeannie Fontana, Lodge Secretary and members of the Lodge are collecting eye glasses and hearing aids as part of their community service activities.

The Palm Coast Fire Department held an event at the Lodge to help raise money for a firefighter’s infant son who has a rare congenital heart disease; the event raised $9,000 for the family.

Exalted Ruler Fred Szwed and Past Exalted Ruler Jerry Dickens Sr. accepted the East Central District 2011-2012 “Visititation Trophy,” on behalf the Lodge. The trophy was awarded to the Lodge in recognition of their “Visititation” participation this past year.

A Court of Honor was held at the Lodge for our Boy Scout Troop 270’s 12th Eagle Scout, Khayri Glenn Heron recently. Charlie Cohen PER presented Khayri with a $1,000 scholarship.

The Lodge held a local Soccer Shootout; 120 children participated. Winners of each division will participate in the District Soccer Shoot later this year.

Titusville Lodge 2113
Recently, Anne Burnett, Lodge Scholarship chairman, awarded Amanda Cox and Troy Cuino with plaques on their accomplishments.

This year’s Army of Hope picnic was held on the Lodge grounds; even though the weather called for rain, the picnic was well attended by members from Lodges in the district; the event raised $5,312.88.

Jim Harnish, Lodge Veterans chairman, recently received a plaque for nineteen years of volunteer service to the Titusville Police Department.

Port Orange Lodge 2723
The Lodge recently held a standing relief fundraiser to help members in need; the event raised $1,585, two members benefited from the event.

Grand Lodge Service Awards were recently presented to past Chairmen of the Trustees, Vivian Rauer and Frank Kuczkowski, Esteemed Loyal Knight; each has served on various Lodge committees in the Lodge.

For Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day, Veterans Chairman, Dan Theodore and volunteers from the Lodge held a picnic for 200 veterans at the Daytona Beach Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home.

Elks National Foundation Youth Week honored Spruce Creek Senior, Shaina Lilly, granddaughter of Lodge member Paul Leonard and Elkheart Theresa Lilly. Shaina attended a family dinner at the Lodge where she received a plaque on behalf of the Lodge.

Dan Theodore, Veterans Committee Chairman and Louise Greci, Exalted Ruler presented a donation of $300 to Sharon and Joe Williams, members of VFW Post 3282 of Port Orange. Funds will be used for the Haven Recovery Center project in Daytona Beach. The facility provides affordable housing, homeless, low income special needs for single female veterans and their children.

Deland Lodge 1463
Recently, the Lodge’s Special Olympics Committee presented an award to Exalted Ruler Chip Haverty for having made donations and contributions in support of the Special Olympics.

Sanford Lodge 1241
Members of the Lodge came out to enjoy a spaghetti dinner fundraiser hosted by Boy Scout Troop #543; proceeds of the dinner were donated to the Troop to help with the cost of a camping trip.

The Lodge continues to put on functions and work with local community leaders and area schools.

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins
Awarded April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012

Name on Donor Recognition Board for $5,000.00 Certificate
Clara C. Brow Live Oak #1165
Brian T. Burns, VPAL Arcadia #1524
Gail Green Punta Gorda #2606
J. William Misiura Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota #2855
George Zocchi West Palm Beach #1352
Charles R. Adams Zephyrhills #2731

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate
Joseph E. Morrow Brooksville #2582
Ralph R. Shollenberger Inverness #2522
Deep Creek Lodge 2763

Recently, Deep Creek Lodge 2763 helped sponsor a 5 K run for Autism. The run attracted over 225 runners and walkers. Over 1,000 people attended this event.

For the first time in the race history, the Elks made it possible for wheelchair bound people to enter the race because volunteer Elks pushed wheelchairs.

The Deep Creek Elks, along with other sponsors, raised over $10,000. These funds will be used to improve special education in schools throughout the area. More than money, the Elks helped raise awareness about Autism in the community and let the less fortunate have a day to remember.

Plaques were awarded to Bob Garnett, Edie Harrigan and Tom McClain for CPR performed on a heart attack victim in the Lodge.

On March 17th, the Lodge sponsored a Save the Heart Program to raise funds for the purchase of emergency medical equipment. Over a dozen Elks sold food, held 50/50 raffles, raffled off two big screen TV’s, and auctioned off items donated by surrounding businesses. Funds raised were used to purchase two defibrillators and three American Red Cross first aid stations to be placed around the Lodge. Some officers have been trained and are certified to use the defibrillators.

Scholarship winners from Port Charlotte and Charlotte High Schools and their families were invited to dinner at the Lodge. There were two $1,000 and four $500 scholarships presented.

Englewood Lodge 2378

Poster contest winners from Englewood and Myakka River Elementary Schools were honored for their artwork in the Elks annual Drug Awareness Poster Contest. The theme was “I Choose Not To Use”.

Drug Awareness Chairman, Don Gordon PER presented certificates and Wal-mart gift cards ($25 for 3rd place, $50 for 2nd place and $75 for 1st place) to the winners.

Some Officers and members supported the Lodge sponsored Pony League baseball team by attending a game at the Englewood Sports Complex.

The Lodge initiated a “Give A Child A Book” program. All third grade students at Englewood Elementary and fourth grade students at Myakka River Elementary School met with their teacher and selected an appropriate book of their choice from Scholastic Book Magazine. Books were then ordered and presented to children. Teachers were given a label for each student to place inside the cover of their book. The label had a place for the child to write his name and also stated that the book was a gift from the Englewood Elks.

Drug Awareness Chairman, Don Gordon PER and Elroy the Elk (Barbara Gordon) visited the local Boys and Girls Club and talked to children about saying NO to drugs. Drug Awareness packets containing information for parents, rulers, coloring books and pencils were given to children. Don and Barbara also took the Drug Awareness trailer and “Elroy” to the local Home Depot Expo. In addition to supplies given to children and parents, children promised to say “NO” to drugs, had the outline of their hand traced onto red poster board and wrote their names on the handprint. A large poster was then made for the Lodge bulletin board containing pictures of the event and outlined with the handprints. Assisting in this undertaking were Exalted Ruler, Ralph Murray, Esquire, Carlos Alicia and wife Lucille; Loyal Knight, Roger Greig and wife Rita; and Tom Panichella.

Exalted Ruler, Ralph Murray and his wife Lou present Mothers Day bouquet to Sarah Barger in Englewood Hospital.

For the twentieth year in a row, Elk Officers and their wives visited Englewood Hospital and area nursing homes and presented each mother with a small bouquet of silk flowers.

Ladies in the Lodge and several members of Does Drove 203 prepare the silk bouquets, attach a card and place them in baskets ready for delivery. This year over 240 flowers were given to mothers.

Scholarship winners from Port Charlotte and Charlotte High Schools pictured with Chairman Jack Van Buskirk. Left to right - Vanessa Cadet; Natalie Crane; Nichole Timko; Alexandria Gunnard; Tyler Christie. Dog is named “Dog”.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

In May, 102 fourth grade students from Sallie Jones Elementary School visited the Lodge for a day of fun with bounce houses, games and a picnic lunch. This is an annual “Drug Awareness” event. Students submitted posters about the dangers of drug abuse. These posters were then judged by a group of ladies at the Lodge and four students each received $20 gift cards to Books-A-Million for the excellent posters they created. As they left, each child was also given a bag containing information about the dangers of drug abuse.

Several Lodge officers, including organist/singer Barbara Mendillo and banjo player Warren Worthley, visited the Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Home to entertain the veterans. Songbooks were handed out to the audience so they could participate in the program.

On Flag Day the Lodge officers along with several members of the Elkettes presented a Flag Day ceremony at the Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Home.

Dr. Kenneth D. Caskin, Chief of Staff, St. Vincent’s Hospital, spoke to the Lodge members.

Englewood Lodge hosted a luncheon for Students of the Month, Students of the Year and scholarship winners from the graduating class of Lemon Bay High School, their parents and school officials. School officials selected all of these students.

The Lodge awarded each Student of the Month a check for $100 and the two Students of the Year received an additional check for $300. In addition, the Lodge awarded three $8,000 scholarships and three $1,000 scholarships to some very deserving students.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288

Fort Myers Lodge 1288 presented $500.00 scholarships to Blake O’Neill, Brianna Schrickel, Brook Harris and Monique Hurley. The awards were announced in May 2012. On May 21, 2012 Tara Jean was presented with a certificate and $25.00 for the winning Drug Awareness Contest essay from 5th graders at Sunshine Elementary School.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

Amanda Russell from Bayshore Elementary School was the winner of the Elks Drug Awareness Poster contest. Amanda was awarded $50.00 for winning the District contest and $50.00 for winning the State contest.

Drug Awareness Chairman, John Katzenberger; Contest Winner, Amanda Russell; State Drug Awareness Chairperson, Thelma Wright-Smith.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

After working with the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition (CCHC), the Lodge Board decided to make CCHC the official main charity. A grocery cart is kept in the lobby for food donations, if members donate dried or canned goods they are entitled to lounge “specials” and the Lodge kitchen donates extra food to this effort.

Profits from fundraisers for this charity are split 50/50 if held at the Lodge. The initial major fundraiser was the First Annual Corn Hole Tournament combined with a Silent Auction. The Lodge joined the CHHS Annual Kentucky Derby Race Benefit with a team/horse named Grand Poo Bah. Other fundraisers for the CCHC included a very successful yard sale (donations filled a two car garage plus) and a Pancake Breakfast.

Lodge is also presently organizing Bingo, which will be held twice a week from 11-2. Future plans are to hold a Corn Hole Open in October and the 2nd Annual Corn Hole Tournament in March.
**Northeast District Army of Hope Picnic**
Green Cove Springs Lodge sponsored the Army of Hope picnic for the NE District on June 16th. Each of the 7 lodges in the district was provided with a well-baked wooden chest with which to fill the trunk with goodies to be raffled off at the picnic. Green Cove provided hot dogs, hamburgers, fried fish, and chicken wings, with each of the other lodges providing specific covered dishes for the picnic, enjoyed by 112 Elks and guests. A young man from Charlotte Cooper’s Church made the Book Page-Markers plus 100 Easter Symbols that will be handed out by the Home before Easter.

Green Cove Springs and Mandarin/ST. Johns hosted a Fishing Trip for the Veterans of the Lassen Nursing Home on April 15th. Fifty Veterans and their families as well as staff from the Home spent a beautiful, sunny afternoon, fishing off the Green Cove Springs Lodge pier. Green Cove had 15 members and Mandarin/ST. Johns assisted with four members preparing food, waiting on their guests and working behind the scenes providing cold beverages, hamburgers, hot dogs, and homemade bakery goods. The Nursing Home staff reported that this was the BEST event EVER held outside the Nursing Home.

**Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892**
The annual Wild Game Feast was again a huge success. The generosity of sponsors, donations, ticket sales, volunteers, decorators, tent makers, chair and table movers, bakers, fryers, boiliers, grillers, steamers, barbecues, greeters, bartenders, and bar and kitchen managers, raised over $12,000 for this event with our donation to Harry-Anna exceeding $8,000! This is an amazing feat and proves that with the support and talents of this lodge, anything and everything is possible!

The Lodge held a very successful Open House on June 2nd. One table was dedicated to Veterans Programs answering questions about Elks Veteran Programs and passing out program literature and Membership Applications to our Guests.

On June 11th, the Lodge sponsored Troops and their families to a Suns Baseball Game. Most of the Troops recently returned home after deployment overseas. The 50 tickets we supplied were distributed by the USO at NAS JAX. Our Lodge bought the tickets and $5 food vouchers for each person utilizing ENF Grant money. The Troops and their families were able to have a family night out at a Suns Ball Game within 10 days of returning home.

Our June monthly Bingo at the Lassen Nursing Home had 30 Players and the lodge passed out “Proud to be American” Ribbon Pins to the men and necklaces to the ladies as a 4th of July treat.

The Lodge celebrated fathers and grandfathers with a pancake breakfast on June 17th at the lodge. The pancakes were topped off with fruit toppings of blueberry, cherry, strawberry & whipped cream, and included sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, and fresh fruit. Fathers, grandfathers, and children under the age of 10 were served complimentary.

Cross-dressing Elks removed as winners! On May 8th the Lodge held its Ladies 3rd Annual 9-Hole Golf Tournament to support their local Scholarship program. Fourteen teams participated raising over $2000. After an unbelievable round of golf (-9), the lead group was disqualified due to hormone test results. This year’s winning team of the Scholarship Tournament plaque was Susie Snow, Anne Burden, Mary Ellen Farrell and Cheryl Newman.

**Jacksonville Lodge 221**
Jacksonville Lodge recognized their public servants honoring a Police Officer responsible for putting an end to a tax fraud ring, as well as a Firefighter while in St. Augustine on his own time responding to a gasoline truck which had caught fire. He was able to pull the driver from the truck before it exploded.

Lodge Secretary, Terry Lee, received the award for Officer of the Year. With very little training, Terry took this job seriously working several days a week including evenings. He ensured all of the work was completed accurately and on time. He was constantly looking for ways to save the Lodge money and improve our processes.

Denise Jarman received the Elk of the Year award for stepping up and volunteering to help out with every big event with a positive attitude. She has been instrumental in printing cards for upcoming events, maintaining the lodge Facebook page, prepare the excellent salad bar every Friday night, and remains active on the House Committee. This year she accepted the role of Harry Anna Chair and was instrumental in raising $4800 to meet our per capita goal.

On June 2nd the Lodge partnered with City Council Member Don Redman and the Greater Sans Souci Neighborhood Association to sponsor “A Fun Day in the Park” for the neighborhood families. We used a portion of our ENF grant to provide hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks for the families. The District Drug Awareness Trailer and the District Veterans Trailer were on display during the event.

**Mandarin St. Johns 2866**
In addition to the collected efforts with Green Cove Springs and Jacksonville Lodges, in May they presented a community project hosting a picnic for the moms and kids residing at “Community Connections.” This organization provides transitional housing and essential support services to help women, children and families become self-sufficient. Twenty women and 30 children attended the event, with the mothers enjoying massages, manicures and haircuts. While the mom’s were pampered, the children enjoyed pony rides and game, made Mother’s Day cards and got their faces painted. Gift bags were given to the mothers containing toiletry and jewelry items, and the kids bags contained toys and candy, all provided by Elk member donations.

The Lodge hosted its 1st Annual Open House on June 2nd. The Open House included tours of the lodge, free hamburgers and hot dogs, two bounce houses for the kids and a karate demonstration performed by Pak’s Karate of Mandarin. An informational table was set up utilizing the Northeast District’s “Table Top Display.” The tables were manned by fellow Elks who were able to answer any questions regarding our Veterans programs, Drug Awareness, Youth Camp, community involvement, youth activities and membership opportunities. The event was attended by 35 people including 3 “stray” Elks. Twelve membership applications and one Antlers application were distributed to prospective members. Thanks to all who helped make this event a success, including several Elks from Palatka 1232 who prepared the food.

**St. Augustine Lodge 829**
The Lodge’s Flag Day ceremony was held on June 16th at the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Home in St. Augustine with more than 150 veterans and guests present for the ceremony. Participating in the ceremony included the V.F.W. Bryan Tudden Memorial Post 2391 Honor Guard, all of which are members of the Elks Lodge, and Boy Scout Troup 345 with a traditional Flag Burning ceremony to retire flags no longer suitable for display.

The Lodge presented graduating high schools seniors with $500 scholarships. Recipients include Camilla Crump and Telmo Falope from the Florida School of the Deaf & Blind, Rebeca Suenjena and Morgan Musselwhite from Pedro Menendez High School, Mach Hernandez from St. Joseph Academy, and Katie Valley form St. Augustine High School.

**South Southeast District continued from page 8**

Please contact the Lodge at 954-742-8840 for more information. Participation is limited. Thanks to Joe Bonilla, John Monahan, Jim Lind and Larry Kristiansen the committee that has put this together.

The Lodge is selling hand made glass wind chimes, the proceeds going to the veterans. They are hanging over the bar adding a little fun and color to the lounge.

We welcome new members, Dee Smith, Sharie Lynn and Barbara Watterson and for May, Diana Lindermann, Hazel Cane- dy, Mark Kern, Andrea Morgan and Richard Morgan, to our Lodge. We look forward to seeing you frequently at the Lodge.

The Lodge has a new membership chairman, Tim Smith. Tim is a fantastic individual who is very excited to be an ELK. He comes to the meetings with Elk Trivia, some of the questions are for thought, but the person who does answer them correctly gets 2 dinner tickets for Steak Night, with the understanding that their quests are new perspective members! He has introduced us to Gizmo, which is a unique gold coin from the old “Broward Expo” in 1990. How does it work? At a gathering, Gizmo is dropped into someone’s pocket. If that someone finds it, he or she then drops it into the pocket of someone else and so on. At the end of the gathering, Gizmo is called for. Whoever has it must return it to Tim, and then bring in a perspective member to the next gathering.

One of our community projects is collecting plastic bottle caps, and can pull tabs to help McNab Elementary School, First & Second grade classes offset the cost of class supplies. This past school year 240 lbs. of plastic caps, 240 lbs. of pull tabs and over $100 worth of box tops for education were given to the school. Judy Ann Mallett and Ray Heller stored the items and delivered them to the school.

The Lodge had a booth at the State Convention, in the Market Place, with Ray Heller & Judy Ann Mallett from the, Gourmet Rugalach Man Cookie Company, spearheading this project. A percentage of all proceeds from the cookie sales, and the raffle of a gift basket raised $530. The proceeds went to the Hope Scholarship, the new state project to help our Florida children go to college.
Miami Lodge 948

On Sunday April 8, Miami Lodge 948 held its annual Easter Brunch, serving over 180 members and guests. The brunch included an Omelet Station, fresh fruits, ambrosia salad, and home-made macaroni salad, scrambled eggs, crispy bacon, smoked sausage links, grits, hash brown, French toast with maple syrup, breast of chicken sautéed in a wild mushroom and Marsala wine sauce, garlic butter pasta, and honey roasted ham, fresh bagels with cream cheese, breakfast pastries, mini muffins, and mini croissants.

The 2011-2012 annual Lodge awards were presented to Rosalie Wallfish, Citizen of the Year, Bill Henderson, Officer of the Year, and Charlotte “Chicke” Schmidt, Elk of the Year.

On Saturday, May 5th the Lodge held a Cinco de Mayo combination Kentucky Derby party. Members and guests dined on a variety of Mexican dishes and were serenaded by an original Mariachi Band and Singers. A contest for the best Mexican costume was also held and won by Lodge member Armando Fadhel.

On Sunday, May 13 the Lodge held its annual Mother’s Day Brunch and Ceremony. Close to 200 members and guests were served brunch with many attending the 1:30 pm Mother’s Day ceremony upstairs in the Lodge room.

Before the lodges May 16 meeting the officers and members honored Nina Fernandez for finishing second in the nation and the Girls 12 to 13 division of the Elks National Hoop Shoot Competition that was held in Springfield Massachusetts, Nina, her parents and her coach were also treated to dinner before the meeting.

On May 28, the Lodge held its Memorial Day Picnic, about 80 members and guests were treated to hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, and potato salad. At its May meeting, The Elkettes presented two $1,000 checks for college scholarships to, Carson Gonzalez and Karley Howell-Blackwell.

At the 2012 Florida State Elks Association convention held in Orlando, Jack Lopez, PER, was sworn in as the South District Vice President and Ron Simpson was awarded third place in the state ritual competition for the position of Esquire. This is Ron’s second state ritual award, last year Ron won All-State (1st Place) as Chaplain.

Buffet of Chicken Parmesan, garlic pasta, meatballs, and sausage and peppers, with garlic bread for dinner. The riders and support personnel spent the night in the Lodge ballroom and were treated to a breakfast buffet of scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon and sausage, hash browns, and toast before leaving on Monday morning for the second leg of their journey.

Before the lodge’s June 6 meeting, officers and members honored Kevin McRae, a member of Boy Scout Troop 22, a troop sponsored by Miami Elks Lodge 948 for his Eagle Scout project of rebuilding the lodges brick walkway. The lodges old brick walkway created by PER, James Murray had over time become a safety hazard, and a decision was made to pull up the brick walkway and store the bricks until a new design could be created. Kevin approached the Lodge with his idea and design for the project, which was happily approved by the Lodge. The Lodge now has a Commemorative Garden at the entrance to the building complete with the engraved bricks along the walkway, paving stones, mulch surrounding beautiful bromeliads, new sod, and even a bench on which to rest.

This year’s Flag Day ceremony was a little different from prior years, this year the Boy Scouts that normally carry the flags, had committed to a weeklong camping trip. Therefore, this year Lodge member Brad Schwartz who works at the United States Southern Command (Southcom) arranged for 13 enlisted service personnel to assist us in performing the lodge’s annual Flag Day Ceremony. Before the ceremony, the Lodge provided dinner for all of the enlisted military personnel.

Flag Day, United States Southern Command (Southcom) enlisted service personnel.

On Sunday, June 24, the Lodge held an Afternoon Tea for members and guests. Various teas, Scones, Tea Sandwiches, Tea Cookies, Lemon Curd and Jam were served.

South Miami-Coral Gables Lodge 1676

South Miami-Coral Gables Lodge 1676, along with The US Coast Guard Auxiliary sponsored, National Safe Boating Week and Elks Youth Week. The Lodge hosted a Free Boating Safety Class for Kids, taught by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Personnel on May 19, 2012. Boat safety training is very important as the water is part of all of our lives in South Florida.

The Lodge and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla #65 sponsored the 5th annual youth boating safety class for kids’ age 10 to 17 years old. The 113 participants included Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Ventura Crew, Scout leaders, parents and children from the local community received instruction on safe boating skills, local, state and federal boating regulations and environmental concerns in the marine environment. The class included hands on activities such as line handling, radio communications, safety gear and much more. Seventy-eight (78) young people passed the exam and received their Florida Safe Boater ID card from the state. The participants received a certificate from the USCG Flotilla 65. There were many volunteer hours donated by members with dual membership in both the Elks and the Auxiliary, Chris Cohan, Fred Jaca, Frank Sullivan, Mel Sandberg and Elena Cohan, Elks members, Bob Straile, John Sorgie and Kateri Davis, and auxiliary members Enrique Ventura, Daniel Berger, Abe Lopes de Queralla, Bob Hopps, Tony Lapicila whose hard work made this another successful event at the Lodge.

On Thursday, June 14, 2012, South Miami-Coral Gables Lodge 1676 held its Flag Day Ceremony in The Florida Ballroom with Boy Scout Troop 457 and Lodge Officers presenting the story of our flag.

Florida Keys Lodge 1872

On May 6, 2012, the Florida Keys Elks Lodge 1872 was honored with a visit from some of our wounded warriors. Rick Ford, Claudia Moriarty and several others arranged the weeklong visit to the “Keys for Depth Therapy.” The active duty soldiers were given the opportunity to scuba dive, fish and have some fun. They trained at the Key Largo Jacob’s Aquatic Pool, had dinner at various restaurants and civic clubs. The Elks treated the soldiers to a great shrimp boil dinner prepared by BBQ Bob and lots of volunteers.

The Florida Keys Elks Lodge 1872 donated funds to support “Be The Change of the Florida Keys, Inc.” This grassroots organization helps our youth in many ways. The 8th Grade Transition Program provides local 8th grade students the opportunity to meet upper grade students and learn the skills to transition to high school. The event was held at Coral Shores High School on May 22nd. Other programs provide students with skills to avoid bullying, violence, tobacco, alcohol, and drug abuse.

South Dade Lodge 2870

On Saturday, June 23, 2012, Exalted Ruler Antonio Brooks and members of South Dade Lodge 2870 participated in a community service project “Playground Community Build Day” with the Parks and Recreation for the Town of Cutler Bay to rebuild the playground at Lakes by the Bay Park. Members helped to assemble a new playground and help plant trees.

Key West Lodge 551

Key West Lodge 551 held its annual Flag Day Ceremony with a combination of Officers, lodge members, guests, children, boy scouts, cub scouts and their Troop Masters. The guest speaker was Todd Stoughten, Commanding Officer from the USCG he gave an inspiring and heartfelt patriotic talk of his experiences and what the flag meant to him. Also in attendance was a representative from the VA Homeless program and several veterans from the local American Legion and VFW Post.

Light refreshments were served following the Ceremony.

Flag Day Ceremony participants a combination of Officers, lodge members, guests, children, boy scouts, cub scouts and their Troop Masters.
Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

In honor of Elks National Youth Week, the Lodge made a $50 donation to Madeira Beach Fundamental School. This donation will be used to buy gifts for the School’s Manta Store. The student’s exemplary behavior-credits earned, can be cashed in for gifts at the school store, at a later date.

The Lodge held a Special Kids Fishing Day on May 12 for the kids from All Children’s Hospital. These kids and their families caught a lot of fish. The Mayor came out to help the kids as they fished and the Madeira Beach Fire Department brought out their vehicles for the kids to view and enjoy. It was a beautiful day for those children!

Largo Lodge 2159

The Lodge received an ENF plaque, presented to last year’s ENF Chairman, Alice Wallace. This plaque presented by PER Janet Rogers, recognizes the lodge’s cumulative donation of $50,000, putting the Lodge on the Foundation’s second level of recognition: Knowledge.

The Lodge had a special ceremony for 3 Webelos from Cub Scout Pack #417 who were awarded the Arrow of Light. This is the highest award Webelos Cub Scouts can earn, being active participants in their den, prior to joining the Boy Scouts. In April, Boy Scout Troop #417 held a Court of Honor at the Lodge and promotions and merit badge awards were given to many of the Scouts.

The Lodge presented scholarships totaling $8,000 to three High School Seniors. L-R, Austin Misner was awarded $2,500; Mariah Corbitt, $3,000; and Matthew Hager, $2,500. The awards were given for academic achievement.

The Lodge has a group of ladies, known as the Knit Wits, who have donated 65 knitted, crocheted and quilted lap robes to the Lodge which the Lodge members distributed to the VA hospital.

Lodge member Don McRae and his grandson Liam, were among many who placed 54,000 flags on graves at the National Cemetery in Bourne MA, on Memorial Day weekend.

The Lodge's Veterans Committee held a Memorial Day program that was well attended. A Flag Day Ceremony was also held on June 10th. Boy Scout troop 417 and Cub Scout pack 417, family and friends joined us for the Flag Retirement ceremony. Among the guests were Shirley Miaoulis, the District Representative from Congressman C. W. Bill Young’s office, and the Largo Mayor, Pat Gerard. During the Flag Day Ceremony, Shirley Miaoulis presented ER Franklin Russell with an American Flag that was flown over the nation’s Capitol.

Lodge members collected, sorted and total coupons for Lodge’s two adopted bases in Germany. The coupons for May totaled $11,330. Special thanks to Bob Marciniowski and Rosanna and Richard Wright.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

The Lodge celebrated Mother’s Day by presenting a hearty breakfast which was free for all mothers attending.

On May 19th, the Lodge provided their hall and chaplains to the local Girl Scout Troop #127 for its annual Father/ Daughter Dance which was very successful. The event was a fundraiser and service event for their favorite camp, Indian Echo located in Hudson, Florida.

On June 2nd, the Lodge donated their hall to the local United Christian Church which they used for fundraising.

There was a Flag Day ceremony held at the Lodge with a history and presentation of the progression of our Flag from its beginning by the Lodge Officers and with the assistance of the local Marine Corps League.

Tom Moran, ER, attended the Gulf High School JR Naval ROTC Awards Ceremony and presented two checks from the Lodge. A check for $500 was presented to the Cadet of the Year and another check for $1,000 was presented to their commander for the Naval JR ROTC program.

Margaret Smith, ER Tom Moran , Robert Mercker ROTC Cadet of the Year, Jose Rodriguez, ROTC Commander.

The Lodge presented a check for $2,000 to Pasco County Sheriff’s Office representatives for Safety Town to purchase a child-sized ambulance.

From left, Ed Tuthill PDD, Don Borland, Safety Town Volunteer Instructor, Captain Brian Moyer, Pasco Sheriff’s Office and Safety Town Brd of Dir Pres, Tom Moran ER and Corporal Greg Bell, Pasco Sheriff’s Office Coordinator for Safety Town.

Safety Town is a community project which features a realistic, child-sized town that provides hands-on safety education for children to help reduce accidental injuries and death. It also trains adults such as School Crossing guards and is the Safety Resource Center for Pasco County which relies on donations and volunteers for its program. This donation came from the Gratitude Grant awarded to the Lodge by the Elks National Foundation for Community Improvement.

Pinellas Park Lodge 2217

The Lodge held its annual award ceremony for the City of Pinellas Park Policeman, Firefighter and Paramedic of the year. Among those present were three councilmen, the Vice Mayor, Fire Chief and Police Captain. Also that evening, the Lodge presented High School seniors, Eric Tong and Jacob Bouvier each with $4,000 Florida State Elks Scholarships. High School senior Erika Brown also received a $1,000 scholarship from the Lodge, for her outstanding scholastic performance.

An Easter Egg hunt was held at the Lodge on April 8th and the children scoured around looking for “prize” eggs. Every child went home a winner!

The Lodge had adopted the 1st Battalion, 43rd ADA at Ft Bliss, TX, in April. The Lodge started collecting Mfg food coupons for these men and women and a total of $2,187 in coupons have already been mailed to Texas.

Flag Day and Father’s Day was observed on June 17th, honoring both the Country’s flag and our Lodge fathers.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

On April 7, the St. Petersburg Lodge turned the pool area into a Easter Egg Hunting Ground for 97 children of the community, for fun, games, food and a visit from the Easter Bunny. It was a wonderful day for the kids and we gained a few new members that day. Thank You to Sherry Masi and her hundreds of volunteers and members who made the donations of food, candy and cash. They are the ones who made it a memorable day for the kids.

The St Pete Ladies of Elks put on a Variety Show at the Community Living Center at Bay Pines on April 21. The Ladies also brought with them donations of lap-blankets, clothing and toiletries for the men and women veterans.

For the months of April and May the Ladies have donated a total of $1,086 in clothing, toiletries and blankets.

The Lodge granted $1,000 scholarships to each of the three outstanding Seniors in St Petersburg, from left, Brian Reith, Megan Wagner and Ryan Wilko. Thank you to Scholarship Chairman, Joan Vigourut for all her hard work.

On May 5th, the Lodge held a Blood-Drive which was chaired by Bobbie Wycoff. There were 18 pints collected from our members and guests, during our summer Pool-Opening Party.

The Mother’s Day Service was very well attended by our Ladies, Elks, officers and family, and 5 special mothers received corsages. Free food tickets were given to mothers in attendance.

In early June, the lodge hosted a total of 195 Boy Scouts from Troops #263, #373 and #334, poolside to assist them in getting “swim tested” for camp.

During the summer, the lodge hosted 35 Veterans of Bay Pines for dinner and karaoke on 5 occasions. In April the
Arcadia Lodge 1524

Brian Burns, Florida Elks State Vice-President presented Mary Lynn, PER of Arcadia Lodge Florida State Veterans “Volunteer of the Year.”

The City Of Arcadia City Council proclaimed the first week of May as National Elks Youth Week. May 2, 2012 at the Arcadia City Council meeting the Arcadia Mayor Keith Keene, PER and City Councilman Bob Allen, PER presented the proclamation Brian Burns, Florida Elks State Vice President. All three were PER’s of Arcadia Lodge.

Brandon Lodge 2383

Brandon Elks Lodge hall was turned into a New Orleans Mardi Gras street party. The theme of the night was Mardi Gras Magic for the annual Willis Peters Exceptional Center’s Prom. In attendance were over 160 guests and all students and their families were treated to a night of music, dancing, food and fun. DJ Tony Huntley kept the dance floor full all night long. The children thoroughly enjoyed all the festivities, from the “Prom Pampering Party” for the young ladies that was held earlier in the afternoon at the lodge, to the crowning of the Prom King and Queen, yummy finger foods & punch, and dancing the night away! The night was possible because of the continued support of members that attended the Dinner/Dance fund raiser.

Lakeland Lodge 1291

The Brotherhood Ride was represented by 35 bike riders and 15 support personnel consisting of firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency personnel to honor Lakeland Police Officer Arnulfo Crispin who was killed in the line of duty.

Lakeland Lodge was chosen as one of eight stops in Florida for the group “Brotherhood Ride” which was established in 2007.

During this year’s stop in Lakeland, as well as in all of their stops, the local Elks Lodge provided the accommodations, and dinner on the Riders arrival and breakfast the next morning. After a spaghetti dinner and a social period the Riders turned in, to be up at 6:00am, eat breakfast and be off to their next stop, Brooksville. Upon their departure they were presented a donation of $300 by the Bob Fuschetti, Elks President. The Brotherhood Ride started honoring local heroes in when 9 members of the Charles SC Fire Department perished in the line of duty on June 18, 2007. Their desire to help families resulted in honoring these heroes as an annual event.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

Lake Placid Elks’ Memorial Day Ceremony was an extra special “Day of Remembrance” for the lodge. Opening ceremony was presented by the Lake Placid High School ROTC, followed by musical tribute by Gail Sansoussi, Organizer of each US Armed Force, and a medley of patriotic songs were sung by Marti Capodiferro. Lt. Col. Cary Pitman US Army Reserves had returned from active duty in Iraq in 2009 and spoke with members and guests of his work serving in a medical unit near the front lines.

Lake Wales Lodge 1974

Lake Wales Elks Lodge 1974 awarded three $1,000 scholarships to three Sr. Lake Wales H.S. students on May 17th. Lodge E.R. Mike Autrey presented the scholarship. Congratulations went out and wish them future success.

Plant City Lodge 1727

Plant City celebrated Flag Day Thursday with a tribute to Old Glory thanks to the Boy Scout Troup 14 and the dedicated members of the Elks for making it a success.

All Pro Dad “carnival” was hosted by Plant City Elks for kids at the Lodge on Saturday May 19th. Approximately 40 participants from local elementary schools All Pro Dad the lodge sponsors during the year.

Participants enjoyed a day of games, bounce house, a huge slide along with a delicious lunch.

Coach Gary Graham and his son presented the Lodge with a token of their appreciation for sponsoring a T Ball team in Plant City. Bill Dryden and Marty Carroll watch as Gary unwraps the plaque.

Sebring Lodge 1529

Sebring Elks Lodge 1529 has set up a Scholarship fund at the South Florida Community College.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672

Winter Haven Lodge is proud to have given fourteen $50 monthly gifts to deserving students this year. Additionally two students were awarded scholarships of $500 each at their awards dinner. Winter Haven Lodge is making a difference and has touched the lives of hard working students over the past four years.
**Southwest District:**

The Southwest District Lodges, consisting of Bradenton 1511, Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota 2855, Sarasota South 2495, South Hillsborough 2672 and Venice-Nokomis 1854 hosted Florida State President Sean Maguire and his wife Barbara along with VPAL Brian T. Burns and his wife Mary Kay on Friday June 15th and Saturday June 16th, 2012. The presidential group received a welcoming reception Friday at the Bradenton Lodge with dinner at the Palmetto Lodge. The group visited the Sarasota South Lodge Saturday morning with lunch at the Lakewood-Sarasota Lodge and dinner at the Manasota Lodge. At each of the Lodges, FSP Sean Maguire repeated his slogan for this year, “The Key to Elks Success, Membership Engagement.” This reporter knows this to be true first hand.

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**Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge 2855**

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Elks has just completed its school year program of providing food knapsacks to homeless, food deprived children in two elementary schools in Eastern Manatee County. The children are provided knapsacks full of 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and nutritious snacks for the weekend every week. The Lodge has served up to 125 children every week this past year and are looking forward to serving even more when school starts in the fall. The program subsists on public donations and private grants.

Kay Thorson and Mary Bilkie of the Lodge recently read for the “Let’s Bee Safe Program” at Freedom Elementary School. The book written by Brenda Zofrea, teaches first graders how to talk to adults about possible abuse by using a hand puppet Bee to do the talking for them. The Lodge supported this program by presenting Dawn Allen, Community Relations Director for Manatee County School District with a check for $300.00 to provide books and puppets for an entire first grade classroom at Freedom School.

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**Bradenton Lodge 1511**

The Bradenton Elks, through their “Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies,” has been nominated for a Business/Education Partnership Award through the School District of Manatee County’s ePIE program. Since 1990, this award recognizes businesses, organizations and individuals, who have made the commitment to work together to enhance education in the School District of Manatee County.

**Palmetto Lodge 2449**

The Palmetto Elks, during the dinner visit of State President Sean Maguire and VPAL Brian T. Burns, presented a $2000 check to Michael Jemigan. Jemigan, representing the Southwest Guide Dogs Paws for Patriots, was severely wounded in Iraq. Michael was the first to receive a guide dog for the Wounded Warrior Program and since then has worked closely with the program in helping other Wounded Warriors get a dog.

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**South Hillsborough Lodge 2672**

The South Hillsborough Elks honored six local High School seniors along with their families on April 22, 2012. In total, $14,500 was awarded to our future leaders. The winners were Julian Couture-Hope $6,000, Ranita Finley-Hope $1,500, Kenneth Johnson-Hope $1,500, Victor Horning-Hope $1,500, Alan Knippel-$1,000, David Sanders-$1,000, Julie Nguyen-$1,000 and Adbel Abraham-$1,000, who was absent.

**Venice-Nokomis Lodge 1854**

The Venice-Nokomis Elks was able to partner with All Faith Food Bank to provide food to approximately 720 families over a three month period by using their ENF Grant plus additional money donated by Lodge members. PER Wayne East presented a check for $2,100 to Sandra Frank, Director of the Food Bank on June 15, 2012.

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**Past Exalted Ruler Wayne East and Sandra Frank**

PER Rick Thorson attended a Rotary Luncheon where he accepted a $1,500 Grant for “Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies.” EFELT provides week-end backpacks contain 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners and nutritious snacks to 375 elementary students in Manatee County. Thorson is the East County Chairman of the program.

The Lodge awarded Scholarships at the Venice High School Senior Class Graduation on May 24, 2012. Honored students were Kaley Cochran-$500, Alexandra Loccisano, ENF $1000 and Michael Seyfried-$800.
Winter Park Lodge 1830
The Lodge hosted the Florida Brotherhood Riders on the 62 mile leg from Melbourne, FL. When the riders came up Howell Branch Rd in front of the lodge, members and press were in awe. 29 bicycle riders wearing their represented hats or helmets and their support staff (communications, luggage trailers, maintenance equipment, etc.) led through town by a police and fire escort arrived at Lodge and proceeded up the drive lined with American flags.

The Lodge hosted a Lasagna dinner to benefit the Florida Elks Youth Camp. The Lodge conducted a cookout at the Orlando VA Hospital.

West Central District continued from page 20

In April the Lodge adopted the 1st Battalion, 43 ADA stationed at Ft Bliss, TX, and in April and May, the Lodge members have collected and sent $17,200 worth of food coupons to Ft Bliss to assist in helping to feed their families.

The Lodge held a Flag-Day service with the assistance of Boy Scout Troop #334. The boys helped with the introduction of the Flags along with a Flag-Folding demonstration. The Colors were posted by Korean Veterans Chapter 14, headed up by Joe Slatton PER.

Boy Scout Troop #334 and PER Joe O’Brien for Flag Day performing the Flag Folding

Later on Sunday, June 10, St. Petersburg Lodge hosted the 65 Brotherhood Riders and support staff for dinner and relaxing poolside, after their 550 mile bicycle ride in Florida. These bikers paid tribute to every fallen police officer and firefighter, who died in the line of duty last year, in Florida. St. Petersburg lodge was honored to feed and house these dedicated, active firefighters and police officers who rode for 8 days to remind everyone that the fallen officers of Florida have not been forgotten. Jeff Morse, the ER led this ride.

Brotherhood Rider Founder and ER of Bonita Springs Lodge, Jeff Morse and ER Mike Gilson with a Thank You sign from all the Brotherhood Riders

Seminole Lodge 2519
The Lodge held its Annual Student-of-the Month Banquet, in April, recognizing all of last year’s monthly Award recipients from both Osceola and Seminole High Schools. The Lodge honored 36 students and their families and gave accolades to these outstanding students and their families for their support and encouragement.

The Lodge recognized Amanda Green and Alexi Cortez as Student-of-the-Month, for April, from Osceola High School.

Inverness Lodge 2522
The Lodge was asked to provide a couple of cooks for a Hospice of Citrus County grief counseling day camp called “Henny’s Kids.” The day camp meets twice a year and provides one-on-one counseling to kids who have lost loved ones.

We did better than just cooking...we purchased all the food, brought the grills, got some donations of chips – and we had a great time! The kids and counselors enjoyed our meal, and their table-banging thank you cheer made us agree to come back to do this again and again.

Inverness Lodge held its annual Youth Recognition Week to give scholarships to a few local students and provide a spaghetti dinner for students and their families. This includes the Students of the Month from Citrus High School, Citrus Springs Middle School and Inverness Middle School. Each student is recognized and receives a framed certificate.

Also, the three scholarship winners from Citrus High School who will be attending the College of Central Florida received their $500 scholarships at the Citrus High School awards night.

The Lodge conducted an Old Timers night where Elks of the Lodge with 30, 25, 20 years of membership are honored with a complimentary dinner, pin and photo taken with their peers.

Ocala Lodge 286
The Lodge held a Breakfast Buffet to benefit the Harry Anna Trust. The Lodge held a Lasagna dinner to fund camperships to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Tarpon Springs Lodge 2217
The Lodge donated the use of its hall and held a fundraiser for the Tarpon Springs Little League baseball and softball program. Over $500.00 was raised at this event for the league.

The Lodge hosted a graduation dinner for the Pinellas County S.W.A.T. The graduates represented 5 police departments in the Tarpon Spring area. Congratulations men!
New scholarship supports OT, PT students

By Mina Radman

A Florida non-profit organization’s generosity will help University of Florida students achieve their dreams.

The College of Public Health and Health Professions has received a generous gift from Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services to establish an endowed scholarship for physical therapy and occupational therapy students.

The Florida Elks provide in-home therapy services to children who may not be able to access similar services elsewhere. For more than 12 years, the charity has provided OT and PT students with pediatric and in-home therapy internships. The association’s therapists also have turned to UF professors for help with difficult cases and educational training.

“I thought the scholarship was a great way to extend the relationship we have,” said Ben Brown, program administrator for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. “We get the satisfaction of knowing this endowment will assist a student. We’re very proud to be associated with a great institution like UF and impact a student’s life and career.”

Joanne Foss, Ph.D., the program director of the master’s in occupational therapy program and an associate dean for the College of Public Health and Health Professions, said the scholarship is the latest way the Elks have helped UF students. Last fall, the Elks program funded a home-makeover project created by Lindsey Dhans, a master’s in occupational therapy student. Titled “Project Accessiblity,” Dhans and several other OT students made a local family’s home wheelchair-accessible. With the help of a local contractor and a master’s student from the UF College of Design, Construction and Planning, they expanded the hallway so the wheelchair could fit through and added a ramp outside the driveway to make the family’s mobility easier.

“I would like to see more of our students work in the type of therapy and services they provide,” Foss said. “The Elks provide students with opportunities that don’t come up very often.”

She said the scholarship helps attract students to the programs because the university can provide greater financial support.

“There are programs that are able to offer full scholarships and, because we’re a public university that’s not easy for us to do,” Foss said. “I definitely think this will help make the University of Florida more attractive.”