Florida Welcomes
Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr

We look forward to our February Quarterly and the much anticipated arrival of our special guests, Grand Exalted Ruler David Carr and Penny. We are delighted to have the leader of our great Order and his charming wife for a fun filled weekend at the very impressive and unequalled Florida Elks Youth Camp. Bob, Mike and I and our wives welcome all the dedicated Elks and their friends who plan to join us as we show off our Youth Camp and Mobile Therapy Services. This year we are delighted to welcome the State President of Georgia, John Helgeson and Marilyn, the State President of Alabama, Jim and Nona Gordon, and the State President of Mississippi, Arnold and Toni Blackmon. Please be sure to greet them and make them welcome as we demonstrate first hand that Florida Elks Care and Share. We are hopeful that this will continue our tradition of continuing interstate visits between Elks especially in the Southeast Coastal States.

You will recall the past few years the Florida Elks have been committed to assisting the families of deployed military personnel through our Army of Hope Committee and its fundraising efforts. Committee Chairman PSP Vic McClellan has noted that our efforts are as important now as ever before as our fine military men and women are returning from their deployment in Iraq. The need still exists to help them and their families’ transition back home. Of course, we still have many thousands of military personnel serving in Afghanistan. When your District has an Army Of Hope fundraiser, please invite friends and family to attend with you and support our active duty military families.

This spring we are going to try a fundraiser similar to our very popular Christmas card program. Note cards and envelopes will be offered to our membership and the funds generated will go directly to support our two Hope Projects: the Hope Scholarship which supports graduating seniors and of course our Army of Hope. Please be on the lookout for the Cards and participate if you can. We will be pleased to welcome the top Hope Scholarship winner to be present at our State Convention at Disney in May.

National Elks Leader Visits Florida
Membership -- “The Lifeblood of Our Order”

With fewer members and rising costs, many Lodges have faced serious financial difficulties. Some Lodges have ceased to exist or have had to merge with other Lodges. In a majority of Lodges, the average member age is in the low to upper 60s. These members once enjoyed the camaraderie at the Lodge and participating in Elks golf and bowling leagues. Today, many of these Members who were once very active seldom leave their homes except to go to the doctor or drug store. They no longer pay golf or bowling league fees because they are no longer able to play golf or bowl. Why should they pay Lodge dues when they can no longer frequent the Lodge? And many of our newer and younger members have work and family commitments that prohibit their frequenting their Lodge.

The Lodge bulletin is the primary link between member and Lodge. Unfortunately, too many bulletins are focused on the member who can frequent the Lodge. Since we all know that “A photo speaks a thousand words”, I urge every bulletin editor to ensure that there is a photo of a child holding up a dictionary or Elks Hop Shoot or Soccer Shoot trophy he or she just received, or a photo of a veteran, victim of disaster, or person with a disability who is being assisted by the Elks Lodge. By doing so, you will help to make those members who are unable to frequent the Lodge proud to be Elks.

As I have said on many occasions, “Elkdom is in the Hearts and Souls of our Members.” Reach out to those members who cannot frequent the Lodge and share with them the good works that your Lodge is doing.

C. Valentine Bates, PGER

David R. Carr,
Grand Exalted Ruler

No organization, no matter how large or small; can survive with out members. This is why membership has often been referred to as the “Lifeblood of our Order.”

The Order of Elks experienced tremendous membership gains during its first 11 years, resulting in Lodges being chartered in towns and cities nationwide. This gain was the result of “word of mouth” as there was little news media in those early days. Our membership grew until March 1980, when we had 1,649,267 members. Ever since that date; however membership has steadily declined.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Frank D. Hayes

“Vision with Action”

It depends on you

Happy New Year to all. It’s hard to believe we are in the year 2012. The old saying is true, “Time flies when you are having fun.”

As I’ve traveled throughout the state and made official visits to the district and Lodges, I have had the opportunity to meet and speak with so many of you. I am truly appreciative of the time and efforts everyone has gone through to ensure that Linda and I, along with members of the “ACTION TEAM”, has had a very enjoyable and memorable time. Each district is special; each person is special, only because of you, the people. Thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Brian Burns, PDD and Mary Kay on the appointment as Endorsed VPAL. We welcome them to the team and look forward to them making the travels with us.

As Linda and I continue our travels, I will be promoting my motto “Vision with Action” – It Depends on You. We are living in very different times and we must take the necessary measures to ensure the success of our great Order. We need to step forth with technology and be ready for the challenges.

One of my programs is to implement the use of Social Media. I have been ensured by the state office that additional personnel will be on hand in the next few months to bring forth the education and tools necessary for each Lodge to have a successful Social Media campaign. Please keep an “open” mind and welcome the use of this program in your Lodge.

The growth, prosperity, and future of our order “It Depends on You”.

Vision without Action is merely a dream,
Action without vision just passes the time,
But Vision with Action—can change Eklom.

October began with our visit to South Southeast District. Our host for the weekend was Tom Thomason, SSE District Vice President and wife, Diane. The host Lodge was Boca Raton #2166. Friday night dinner was at Margate Lodge #2463. I was privileged to meet Commissioner Frank Telerico with the City of Margate, who presented me with a proclamation of declaring October 7, 2011 as Frank D. Hayes Day. This was truly an honor.

Our Saturday morning breakfast was provided by Oakland Park Lodge #2407, and then we were off to a wonderful day of golf at the Boca Raton Municipal Golf Course. It’s always great when a group of Elks get together. While the men were on the greens, Linda and the ladies were off to a Fashion Show and lunch at Boca Raton Lodge #2166, provided by their Does.

We enjoyed a delicious dinner and entertainment at Boca Raton Lodge #2166, Saturday evening. Linda and I had the pleasure of Sunday morning breakfast at the lodge, before attending the East Coast Children’s Clinic, a great experience.

The following weekend we were in the South West-Southwest District. Our host for the weekend was Ty MacKenzie, Vice President, SSW District and wife, Janice. The host Lodge for the weekend was the beautiful Punta Gorda Lodge #2606. Friday night dinner and entertainment was at Deep Creek Lodge #2763, we had a great time. Saturday morning we were off for a round of golf at Deep Creek Golf Course and lunch at Port Charlotte Lodge #2153. While we were enjoying the morning, the ladies were busy shopping at Fisherman’s Village and a lunch/cooking demonstration by Chef James at City Grill in downtown Punta Gorda. A great day was had by all. Saturday night dinner was a picnic/barbeque style. The ribs were excellent.

The third weekend in October we were visiting the East Central District. Our host for this weekend was Larry Skates, Vice President EC District and wife, Marci. The host Lodge for the weekend was Edgewater – New Smyrna Beach Lodge #1557. We began the visit with dinner at the Dolphin View Seafood Restaurant and cruise on the “Pastime Princess”. I enjoyed the cruise along the Intracoastal waterways and Ponce Inlet. I had the experience of a life time on Saturday. The weather was great for outdoor activities that were planned. We toured the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse. I climbed the 203 steps up to the top and the 203 steps back to the bottom, a total of 406! Been there, done that, got the shirt.

Linda and I had the opportunity to tour the Veteran’s Memorial Park, prior to its official dedication on November 11, 2011. The Memorial Park was a product of hard work and dedication of Ed Jackson along with members of Port Orange Lodge #2723 and donations/sponsors of local corporations. Our evening was complete with an Oktoberfest, authentic German food and entertainment.

The last weekend of the month was also very enjoyable. We made the long drive to Key Largo for the HATF Fall Seminar. This was a long drive, but very much worth it.

November is upon us and we were honored to attend the 100th Anniversary of Palatka Lodge #1232. We attended the Annual Veterans Fish Fry at Orange Park Lodge #2605. There were numerous guest speakers; Commander of the 125th Fighter Wing – Colonel James Eifert and Bob Ross, Development Director with NAS-Jacksonville USA. It was interesting to hear them speak of their passion – our Veterans. Linda and I also had the opportunity to meet and thank veterans for their service to their communities and our country.

Dennis Ross, Exalted Ruler, Palatka Lodge #1232 had arranged an “official” escort for Linda and me. The Palatka Sheriff’s Department had our full attention! What a thrill. I was honored to receive the Key to the City of Palatka. Thank you for allowing Linda and I the opportunity to share this exciting accomplishment.

November Mid Year was held in St. Petersburg. It was great seeing everyone again. On Thursday several of the ladies did a tour of the Dali Museum and thoroughly enjoyed it. On Friday the ladies participated in a floral arranging event, thanks to Claudia Bates. A huge thank you goes to PGER Val Bates for arranging the guest speaker; we are still talking about the presentation. While at Mid Year we celebrated the 100th Anniversary celebration of St. Petersburg Lodge #1224. Truly a great accomplishment and certainly one of which Linda and I were proud to share with their members and guests.

Our next visit was to the SWC District, hosted by Jim Mason, Vice President, SWC District and wife, Ronna. Host Lodge for the weekend was Sebring Lodge #1529. We began the weekend with a Fish Fry at Lake Placid Lodge #2661. Saturday morning was a round of golf at the Golf Hammock
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert, PDD

The November midyear meetings were held at the St. Petersburg Hilton November 10-12. There were 462 Elks and guests in attendance, an increase of over 6% from last year! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make our midyear meetings a huge success.

Also a big thank you goes to Wayne Sorrell and his entire Credentials Committee for all of their hard work during the convention.

The February Quarterly meetings will be held at the Youth Camp February 9th – 11th, 2012. Meeting agendas, hotel information, and information on tickets for a new ladies luncheon on Friday, are available on our website at www.flelks.org. The Florida Elks will be proud to welcome our Grand Exalted Ruler/National President, David R. Carr, from the state of New York. David and his wife, Penny, will be taking their official visit to Florida for this meeting. Please help us to fill the Grafton Center arena to capacity on Saturday morning as we welcome David & Penny and receive their inspirational message.

The third annual Florida Elks State BBQ Rib, Brisket, & Chili Cook-off is being held at the Eustis Lodge on Saturday, February 11th. What a fitting end to a great weekend of Florida Elksdom after having attended the February Quarterly meetings. This year the event is being held as a fundraiser for one of the patients of our Children’s Therapy Services. Natalie Passwater and her family will be on hand at 5:30 p.m. to accept our donation for a wheelchair lift for the family van. The festival is free to attend and many of the competitors will be binging attendees with free samples of their ribs, brisket, & chili as they strive to win the coveted People’s Choice award! Of course there will be plenty of food to purchase and eat as well as music, libations, and fellowship, so make sure to come hungry! For more information on this event please visit our website at www.flelks.org.

The 2012 State Convention will be held May 24th-27th at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. Reservation information will be soon available on our website. Our reserved block will sell out so please plan accordingly and do not wait until the last minute to make your reservations for the 2012 State Convention!

Again this year at the State Convention we will be holding our Annual Gala Auction Event for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The silent auction will be held in the convention center throughout the day on Friday, May 25th ending at 5:00 p.m., and our live auction will be held in conjunction with the “Tunes in the Courtyard” event in the courtyard and will be held between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Members and Lodges are asked to donate items for the silent and live auctions. This year items do not need to be delivered to the FSEA office in advance and may be delivered directly to the convention center on Wednesday or Thursday, May 23rd and 24th. Please watch your e-mail and our website for more information on this auction event and contact me if you have any questions at carl@mpinet.net or (800) 523-1673 x230.

This month our Lodges will be electing new leaders for the coming year. I believe that one of the best investments of time and money a Lodge can make is in seeing that their new leaders are properly trained to do their jobs. To assist in that endeavor, the Florida State Elks Association will be holding an “Officer” Training Seminar for all Exalted Rulers Elect and all Secretaries Elect at the Florida “Mall” Hotel March 9-11, 2012. Because we believe that others in the Lodge can benefit from this seminar and because sometimes Elks just like to gather with other Elks, especially when the location is as nice as the Florida Mall Hotel, the seminar will be open to any and all members! Special programming is being added this year for the Endorsed District Deputies Grand Exalted Ruler, there will be CLMS training for Lodge Secretaries, and there will be bonus programming designed to appeal to Lodge Treasurers, Lodge Trustees, and House Committee Chairmen. Come spend a day or the weekend as room rates will be affordable. More information to follow soon!

The 2012 Grand Lodge Convention will be held in Austin, Texas July 1st through the 5th. The Florida delegation will be housed at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol which is located about 7 blocks from the Convention Center. Information for Florida Delegation Registration, which will include hotel reservations, is available on our website. Even if you will not be residing at the Florida Delegation Hotel you will need to register through the FSEA to attend. One significant change to note, starting this year, is that the opening ceremonies will take place on Sunday afternoon, not Sunday evening as in years past! The opening ceremonies will include the annual Memorial Service. This change will necessitate everyone’s arrival on Saturday instead of Sunday as we have in the past. However, I believe, unless a District Deputy Designate, you will be okay with scheduling your departure on Wednesday afternoon after the legislative session unless of course you wish to attend the District Deputy Installation on Thursday. These changes are the beginning of changes that will be made in the future to eliminate one day from the length of the Grand Lodge Convention. All in all, I believe you are going to love Austin. It is a great convention city, our hotel accommodations are very nice, and Austin is at least a little closer to drive to than Phoenix or Reno!

In our ongoing efforts to provide the best in assistance to our Lodges and further strengthen our State Association, I am pleased to announce the addition of a new staff member at the FSEA. Greg Weis is our new Director of Marketing and Communications and has hit the ground running. You are going to be hearing a lot from Greg in the coming months and we invite you to attend his first seminar entitled, “Marketing Moxie – Maximizing your Marketing Mojo.” This seminar will be held on Saturday morning during the February Quarterly at the Youth Camp.

As in the Lodges, the next few months will be especially hectic at the State Association offices as we prepare for conventions, seminars, and the new slate of officers, directors, and committee members. Be sure to check our website for information and assistance. Most everything we do is now published on our website so please get in the habit of checking there first when looking for the latest event information and updates. Also, if you would like to be notified by e-mail when new event information is posted on our website, type your e-mail address into the “Join Our E-mail List” box in the upper right corner of our website home page at www.flelks.org.

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

FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS

Betty Groff
President
Acceptance Speech

My theme this year will be, ‘The HEART - “ FOR ” — Love, and Happiness. If you open up your Heart to Love, Love will find its way in, and open the gates to Happiness. The Key to my Heart is LOVE, Everlasting Love for the Children.

This year I’ve chosen the color Pink, which represents our Ladies Organization of Sebastian’s color, to show my appreciation for their support, and I’ve added a touch of Red for the Heart, thank you ladies for traveling so far to be with me today. Would my family please stand, may I introduce my husband Jim, my daughter Jamie, my son in law Mike and grandson Matthew, thank you for your support, and being here today.

My deepest thanks go to my husband Jim, for his understanding, his encouragement, his support and most of all his Love. We have spent the last 11 years at Elks Conventions for our Anniversary, and have loved every minute of them. This year we will celebrate our 54th wedding Anniversary, at the Elks Mid-Year Convention in St Petersburg. We believe that the best medicine, for Love and Happiness, is to enjoy every minute of the day, and live life to the fullest.

We pray for our men & woman serving in the Military, and their families. Keep them safe and out of harm’s way.

God bless everyone and our Country.
We hope each of you plan to attend our February Quarterly Meeting at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. You will have the opportunity to see your various Boards for each corporation in action.

There will be a dinner Friday Evening in the Pavilion of filet mignon, baked potato, veggies and dessert. Dinner will be followed with entertainment. A show will be performed by Re-Creations, a group of young people who donate a year of their lives to entertain Veterans throughout the nation. It is a fabulous show you will not want to miss. You will also have the opportunity to meet our National President (Grand Exalted Ruler) David Carr and his lovely wife Penny.

Now is the time to begin finding needy children in your communities to benefit from our safe camping experience during the Summer Camp 2012 program. Staff applications along with camper applications are available on our web site at http://www.flelks.org. You may call the office 352-669-9443 x249 for applications or just download them.

We are very excited to again offer a seventh week of camp specifically for the dependents of our military with a focus on those folks who are currently deployed. Summer Camp 2009 was our first year with this special week and we are so proud to have been able to help 150 youths with a safe camping experience. The families sincerely appreciated dedicated Americans as the Elks for not forgetting them. Let’s make Summer Camp 2012 a record and sponsor 364 military dependents to benefit from our safe camping experience. They have helped us, let’s help them.

Please take note of some important changes in our programs this year. Most important, the check in time on Sundays has again changed. You may bring your campers between 1 PM and 4 PM. We had an increase of almost 500 campers with our new cabins available in 2011. Anticipating a full house this year, we know the additional time for check in will be required. If you arrive before 4 PM you will have the opportunity to visit you camper’s cabin. At 4 PM there will be a brief orientation and the parents will be ask to leave. The expanded check in time will help all our remote campers (The Keys to the Panhandle) time to arrive. In addition, it was put in place to ensure our staff has the required time off each week. With the later check in time, there will be no food served so enjoy a lunch on the way to camp.

During this difficult economic time, more children than ever need our help. Even families out of work will try to give their children as much as they can. The growth and self confidence gained through a safe camping experience benefit the children along with their families and our future.

In the next few years we would expect to reap that extra hidden benefit from helping children. When they grow up and want to join an organization, it may be the Elks because of their memories and benefits from the camping experience we provided. They will be good Elks, joining for the right reason, to help others as they were helped.

Your contributions are what make it all possible. Times are tough and these days we need to make choices on who we can afford to help. What better way could there be than putting your donation to work in the Harry Anna Trust Fund strictly for the benefit of children?

Our Florida Elks Youth Camp and Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services are second to none. Be proud to be an Elk and proud to be a supporter. If you can not afford to help today, consider a codicil in your will specifying an amount to be given to the Harry Anna Trust Fund, Florida Elks Youth Camp, or Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. It will give you a great feeling and warm your heart knowing you are helping children forever.
Arcadia Lodge 1524
Arcadia Lodge held a ceremony and dinner to honor the Marine Corps' 236th birthday, and show their appreciation to all Veterans of Arcadia. There were 130 who attended, including the Marines, Veterans and their guests. Thirteen Marines joined the celebration:

Russ Summers, Bill Hood, Lee Gallagher, Steven Mccumber, Tim Hager, Charlie Kirby, John “Bo” Young, Ronald Kocher, Joe Newton, Ed Lyne, Joe Varnadore, Mike Kurek, and Mark Anderson.

The event was organized by PER Mary Lyne and her husband Ed.

Arcadia Elks has had is first PER baby, Madeline, was born to Mark and Francesca Anderson on Oct. 4, 2011.

Arcadia Lodge sponsored and organized the community Veterans Day Parade, with over 3,000 students in participating in the parade the honor Veterans. Francesca was ER from 2009-2011.

Brandon Lodge 2383
Exalted Ruler George Thomas, Brandon Florida Lodge 2383 presents Eagle Scout Brian Christopher Domey with a certificate of accomplishment on his attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout.

Brandon Lodge 2383 members Pat Hiskey, PER Bernie Hiskey, Ed Kidder along with PER Paul Mitchell, greet Veterans guests and former Marine Gilbert Ortiz from the James A Hailey Hospital.

Veterans and members enjoy dinner the first Wednesday of each month.

The 11th annual Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the Brandon Elks and Altria Group Inc. included a traditional holiday meal and a host of children's activities. The Brandon Ladies of the Elks roasted 12 turkeys and eight turkey breasts in their home ovens to bring to the Nov. 17 meal at the Lodge.

Two-year-old Addison Last shows off her colorful turkey, which her dad, Air Force explosive ordinance disposal specialist Nick Last of Brandon, helped her make at the Brandon Elks and Altria Group Inc.'s annual Thanksgiving dinner for active-duty military families.

More than 200 area military members and their families were treated to an early turkey feast and heartfelt thanks by members of a local club and a corporate sponsor.

Lakeland Lodge 1291
Lakeland Lodge went on their 23rd Annual trip to James A. Haley Veteran Hospital in Tampa, Sunday, November 13th. Hard to believe it has been 23 years. Elks served food and drinks to approximately 300 people. It was with great pride seeing these 40 volunteers making the trip to Tampa. Sincere thanks went out to the Fuschettis, Butch Almeida, Mike Carney, Ed Wolf and David Kay for the food donations and also all Lakeland Lodge 1291 members who gave donations of money and items for the wish list. PER Rod Hamlet was thanked for bringing his cooker, which made things a lot easier. This all proves that BPOE does stand for THE BEST PEOPLE ON EARTH!

Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Lake Placid Lodge celebrates the holiday with their annual Children's Christmas Party on Sunday December 18. Marge Holbrooke committee chairlady in her 15th year of organizing the party along with her Santa Helpers put smiles on children from the Elk family and the community with Toby the Clown and then Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus.

The granddaughter of one of the members enjoys Santa (Oscar Wagner, ER and Mrs. Santa, Diane Kurek).

Manna Ministries was presented with a $1,000 Gratitude Grant by Oscar Wagner and Loyal Knight Bob Moran. Manna Ministries provides for families in need in the Lake Placid Community. The $1,000 grant provided a ramp for the handicap to enter from the parking lot into the facility and flooring in the food pantry.

Lake Placid Lodge is helping with their time and skills a Home for women and their children who are in distress. The Lodge Newsletter publishes a “Honey Do List” and Elk member’s volunteer to assist repairing cabinets, small engines, doors, pressure washing and much more.

Sebring Veteran Chairman Judy Wise and ER Dee Spivey honor three of Plant City Lodge 1727 World War II Veterans. Ruhl Pace, Zane Blanton and Angel Gonzalez were given praise and tribute along with many other members and veterans dinner on November 12.

Santa Claus visited the boys and girls at Plant City Elks Lodge on Thursday, December 8th.

Plant City Lodge 1727
State Representative Rich Glorioso was the featured speaker at a dinner honoring veterans and were given praise and tribute along with many other members and veterans Dinner on at the Lodge.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672
Winter Haven Lodge lodged overnight The Brotherhood Riders Haven, on August 21. Their trip encompassed over 1,600 miles from Florida to New York in honor of the responders who perished ten years ago on 9/11 at Ground Zero. The approximately 40 riders spearheaded by Elk member Jeff Morse from Naples were treated to grand greeting upon their arrival as well as hors d’ oeuvres and a beef stroganoff dinner. Three of the riders are from Polk County and one works for the Winter Haven Fire Department. After a night of wonderful camaraderie with the riders, they sacked out in the Winter Haven Lodge’s Bingo Hall. The following morning, before the next leg of their journey, they were served breakfast. A donation collected from Winter Haven’s Lodge members was presented to their cause which aids families of fallen service personnel. Winter Haven Lodge was given a plaque in recognition of their hospitality and support of their efforts.

Winter Haven Lodge was proud to support Paul Johnson from Boy Scout Troop 121. He was working on renovating an observation house at the Lake Region Audubon Society that was vandalized. We were able to contribute supplies in order for him to work on his eagle project which will allow people to safely sit and watch bird and wildlife at Lake Daisy.
Sebring and Lake Placid
Elks Lodge Presents

The 32nd Annual Florida State Elks Golf Tournament

Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1, 2012
Spring Lake Golf Resort.
The tournament is open to all Elks and their guests.
Ladies are also encouraged to participate.
The tournament will be a four person scramble.
Teams will be flighted after Saturday round.
Awards will be presented as follows:
Low Gross and 1st & 2nd place in flights A thru E
The first 240 entries received prior to March 26 will be accepted
and processed in the order received.
Late entries will be accepted, placed on file and processed if opening occurs.
NOTE: Sebring/Lake Placid Lodges will be open at 2:00 PM
on Friday, dinner from 5-7 P.M.
Entries will be received and accepted only as follows:
a. As a single accompanied with check totaling $120.00
b. As a twosome accompanied with check(s) totaling $240.00
c. As a threesome accompanied with a check(s) totaling $360.00
d. As a foursome accompanied with check(s) totaling $480.00
If you indicated a non-player dinner and luncheon, send $25 per person with your check.
Saturday only dinner tickets $15 or Sunday only lunch tickets $10 can be purchased.
Lunch only tickets will be available at the resort.
Make checks payable to: Florida Elks State Golf
• Drawing for prizes Saturday night at the Sebring Elks Lodge
• Complimentary cold drinks both days on the course
Mail entries to Dave Switzer; 641 S. Lakeview Rd.; Lake Placid, FL 33852
Ph: 863-465-0632---Email; dswitzer6@msn.com

Saturday dinner will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Lodge, and Sunday lunch after golf at the resort.
Tickets must be presented for both dinner and lunch.
Registration: 7:00 - 8:30 a.m. each day with an 8:45 a.m. start.
Official score cards which will be issued at check-in.
Note Scores must be recorded on official score cards; filled out properly
and totaled.
Cards not in compliance will not be considered.

Practice rounds: Tee Times as available the week of the tournament at a cost of $26,
which includes 18 holes with cart. For reservations call Spring Lake Golf Resort
one week in advance at 1-800-635-7277, local call 655-0101.

The Elks Retirement Community

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

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

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

The dream of the early Elk members who founded the Home has certainly come true. But supplement our operating budget. But that isn’t enough. We also depend upon donations from individual members, lodges, state associations, and friends.

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

Thank you for reading this. Now that you know more about the Elks National Home, we know you will want to share in its future with your support - or by becoming a resident! If you have questions or want more information, write to Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523 - call 1-800-552-4140 - e-mail enhome@elkshome.org.

VETERANS LEATHER PROGRAM

Dennis McAleese,
Chairman Veterans Leather Program

In 1948, the Elks of California donated $26,000 worth of hides to our Order for the benefit of Veterans. This was the beginning of the Elks National Veterans Leather Program.

Today, Elks in twenty states participate in this program. Last year, over 20,000 hides were collected, prepared, and shipped to tanneries for processing. The finished hides become craft kits, fingerless gloves for wheelchair bound Veterans, or craft leather for Veterans hospital therapy and recreational programs. The total value of all leather products produced in 2010-2011 was $273,221.

In 2001, the Elks began a partnership with Help Hospialized Veterans (HHV). In 2010-2011, this non-profit organization produced 12,500 craft kits for Veterans in hospitals from leather we supplied, at no additional cost to the Elks or the veterans. The kits -can be assembled with relative ease into moccasins and other items.

To those hospitals with the proper leatherworking equipment, the Elks supplied over 8,000 square feet of leather during the 2010-11 year. Skilled Veterans turn this raw material into various items, some approaching the level of art. The National Creative Arts Festival, sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, exhibits many items created from leather.

Last year, 3,400 pairs of fingerless gloves were given to wheelchair bound veterans. These gloves are made of high quality deerskin leather embossed with the Elks logo, and greatly prized by their owners. The gloves can be ordered by a veteran’s hospital at no cost. National Leather Program Chairman Dennis McAleese (Mountain Home AR Lodge No. 1714) also travels to special events sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and distributes the gloves personally to Veterans in wheelchairs.

If you would like more information on collecting, preparing, the shipping of hides, or the history of our leather program, please contact Dennis McAleese.

Free brochures and DVDs are available to State NVSC Chairpersons upon request. Please be aware that hides must be scraped, salted and palletized before shipping, and arrangements for delivery must be made in advance. Do not ship individual hides to tanneries, as they will not be accepted. We thank all of the hunters and Elk volunteers who make this truly unique program possible.

Dennis McAleese, Chairman
Veterans Leather Program
384 County Road 852
Elizabeth, AR 72531-9603
(870) 488-5786
E-mail: kdmc@mtnhome.com
Robert M. Hennings, Director
Elks National Veterans Service Commission
Southwest District:

On November 6, 2011, the Southwest District Elks Lodges, consisting of Bradenton 1511, Lakewood Ranch/Sarasota 2865, Manasota 2734, Palmetto 2449, Sarasota 2495, South Hillsborough 2672 and Venice-Nokomis 1854, entertained Veterans, their families and the staff of the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital to a barbecue lunch. The menu of the 200 lunches served was ribs, hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and dessert. Lynn Spins provided the entertainment. Underwear, books and magazines were donated to the Veterans by the Lodges.

Bradenton Lodge 1511

Bradenton Lodge and their “Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies” have received two $10,000 grants from the Elks National Foundation.

On October 22, 2011, the Kiddie Academy of Lakewood Ranch presented the Jeff Mitchell, PER with a $3,450 check for their EFELT back-pack program. The money was raised through local contributions, silent and Chinese auctions.

On November 18, 2011, the second grade class at Sea Breeze Elementary School presented Jeff Mitchell, PER of the Lodge, a check for $400 for their “Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies” back-pack program. The event was called “Kids Helping Kids.” Loose change and allowance were used to raise the money.

Manasota Lodge 2734

Manasota Lodge donated supplies for students at Daughtrey Elementary to make over a hundred colorful lap blankets for Veterans at Bay Pines VA Healthcare. Students presented the Elks with the blankets at a luncheon at the school which was donated by Sweetbay Supermarkets.

Ray Smith, center rear, received the blankets
Palmetto Elks Lodge 2449

Palmetto Lodge held their local Hoop Shoot Contest on November 19, 2011 at the Lincoln Memorial Middle School in Palmetto.

South Hillsborough Lodge 2672

At the Lodge’s meeting on September 27, 2011, Robert L. Hill was presented with an award for meeting ENF’s permanent benefactor by donating over $2,000 to the fund.

South Hillsborough Lodge 2672

On October 25th, 2011, Michelle Clark, Mother of Inner Guard, Dustin Clark and daughter of Jan Hawkins was initiated into South Hillsborough Lodge 2672 making them the Lodge’s first three generation family.

L to R: Jan Hawkins, her grandson Dustin Clark, Inner Guard and his mother, new member Michelle Clark

The South Hillsborough Lodge had over 800 youngsters participate in their annual Hoop Shoot Program this year. The Lodge finals were held at the Ruskin Christian School with over 21 young men and women participating. The contestants were treated to a breakfast treat and after the program were treated to lunch. Roy Gardner was Chairman.

On December 17th, 2011, the South Hillsborough Lodge entertained over 40 underprivileged children from the Ruskin Christian and the Ruskin Elementary Schools. Presents were donated by Toys for Tots.

State President’s Message continued from page 2

Country Club and lunch. We all had a great time; meanwhile the ladies were off for a tour and shopping. A tour of the Henscratch Farms Vineyard and Winery brought them back with many bottles of wine. Lunch was at the Sebring Inn and Tea Room, which Linda described as “charming.” She really enjoyed it.

The evening ended with dinner at Sebring Lodge #1529. There were many November birthdays this night and we were fortunate to be able to celebrate with them.

Here we are in the first week of December, Christmas will soon be here. We are now making our official visit to the South District. Host for the weekend was Don Queralto, host lodge being South Miami/Coral Gables #1676. We began with a picnic/barbeque style dinner at North Miami Lodge #1835 and a great “Talent Show.” It was amazing. Saturday we went on a guided tour of the Coast Guard facilities. This was very interesting and educational. All good things must come to an end; Saturday’s dinner was Spanish/Cuban style. The food was great.

Before we begin travels again in 2012, here is summary of interesting facts:

- Miles traveled 13,941--Hours driven 227+
- Districts visited 8 -- Lodges visited 24
- Mid Years 1 -- Quarterlys 1
- Special Occasions 2 -- HATF Seminars 1

Linda and I wish everyone a safe and prosperous NEW YEAR.
Englewood Lodge 2378
On November 11th, in honor of Veterans Day, the Englewood Elks hosted a luncheon at the lodge for twelve veterans currently residing at Emeritus at River Oaks located in Englewood. Veterans Committee Chairman, Len Kangas along with the rest of his committee provided plenty of hospitality and the kitchen staff provided a great lunch. The visiting Veterans were very appreciative and a “good time was had by all”!! What a privilege it was to honor these Veterans!
Esteemed Leading Knight Dee Bloch, a member of the Veterans Committee presented the Adopt-A-Box for a Veteran’s Christmas Gift program to the members of Englewood Lodge and it was a very successful project. First empty shoe boxes were collected from members. These boxes were wrapped in Christmas paper and put “up for adoption”. Members were asked to fill the boxes with personal care items (shampoo, soap, socks, lotions, etc.), books, crossword puzzles, decorations, sugar free candy, notepads, pens, etc.

Over seventy filled boxes were collected and presented to Veterans in area nursing homes.
Santa came early to the Englewood Elks Lodge. He made a special stop on Saturday, December 10th to visit with and present Christmas gifts to some local children and their families. The Elks “adopted” twenty-four families with a total of thirty-five children from the Englewood Helping Hands organization. Families were contacted and asked to provide three wishes from each child so that gifts from “Santa” were something they wanted. Each family received a box of food containing the fixings for a turkey dinner and more and a frozen turkey. Parents and children were treated to hot dogs, chips, cookies, cupcakes, ice cream, etc. at the party. “Nuzzles” and “Huggles” the clowns were on hand to do some fancy face painting which was a big hit with the children. Mrs. Claus and a couple of elves also attended the party! Naturally, the main event was the much anticipated arrival of Santa. What a lot of smiling faces as Santa called each child by name and presented him/her with gifts. There were also smiles on the faces of the Elks members attending the festivities. What a great way to celebrate the Christmas season!!

Fort Myers Lodge 1288
The Fort Myers Elks Lodge #1288 presented dictionaries to the second grade students at the Villas Elementary School and Tanglewood Elementary School in conjunction with the Dictionary Project.

Fort Myers Lodge also presented Red Ribbons to all the students at the Villas Elementary School and the Tanglewood Elementary School in conjunction with Red Ribbon Week.

Fort Myers Lodge also presented the students in pre-K through 4th grade with Drug Awareness coloring books.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153
The Port Charlotte Elks Lodge donated 148 new dictionaries to the 4th grade students at Atwater Elementary.

Exalted Ruler Eric Rolston is pictured here with some of the 4th grade Students at Atwater Elementary; the teacher, upper right, is Amy Patterson who was a server at the Lodge years ago.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606
Punta Gorda continued with its Christmas tradition of providing Christmas food baskets and gifts to needy families. This year over 100 baskets were delivered to those in need. The food was donated by Lodge members and provided by Wal-Mart; the toys were provided by Toys-for-Tots.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763
The monies earned at our USO night on Nov. 11th totaled $1,000. It was split up between three projects; $500 went to the Military Reading Program, that is where a Soldier reads a story book and it is recorded on DVD and the book and recording is sent home to his child/children. This money allows for 60 Soldiers to take part in it; $250 is going to Operation Phone Home, which allows 700 calls to be made by our soldiers overseas to call loved ones, and $250 went to the USO2GO program, this allows 10-15 “taste of home” food packages to be sent from that soldiers home town to him.

Where ever there is a Veteran, the Elks will be there to support them.
In all 53 children and 23 moms benefited from this event, members (elves) gathered the night before to put together bicycles, box cookies and candies, and to make Santa’s Workshop extra special for the event.

**Delray Beach Lodge 1770**

Our annual Labor Day Picnic at Lake Ida Park had 110 in attendance. Horseshoes were played, weather was great and the grill cooked up some exceptional burgers and dogs. "Dancing with the Stars" Spike and Eddie not only cooked but also entertained! What a great crew of volunteers!

September 11 Remembrance Ceremony in honor of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks 10th anniversary was beautiful. We had Boy Scout Troop #301 performing the Flag Ceremony and Honor Guard. Chaplin Judi Sikes reciting and Nikki Dugan read a special poem for the occasion. Not a dry eye was had.

We sent three over "50" teams to the FSEA Men’s Softball Tournament in Punta Gorda, plus family and friends to cheer them on. Our Lodge brought home one 1st place trophy! Congratulations boys!!

The Annual Lodge Golf Tournament was a huge success as usual, $4,500 was raised. We have the best group of organizers and volunteers! 140 golfers enjoyed the day on the course and then back to the Lodge for dinner and awards.

The Children’s Halloween party had 30 kids dressed to scare! We had face painting, magic, crafts, games and lunch for all! Thank Boca Elks Lodge for sharing this event with us! Elks Care.... Elks Share!

**MEMBERSHIP**

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT GENERATIONS AT THE LODGE

By Donald G. Moon, PER
Director of Membership Development

“

The world is passing through troublous times. The young people of today think of nothing but themselves. They have no reverence for parents or old age. They are impatient of all restraint. They talk as if they knew everything, and what passes for wisdom with us is foolishness with them. As for the girls, they are forward, immodest and unladylike in speech, behavior and dress.”

Who wrote that, and when do you think it was written? It is an extract from a sermon preached by Peter the Hermit circa 1100 A.D.

Let’s move on to the Lodge today. Have we ever judged our younger members forgetting how we were at their age? Understanding different generations at the lodge are growing increasingly more important especially as we lose more of our older members and younger people are being recruited. Failure to realize the differences between the generations that comprise our members can lead to frustration and conflict because of misunderstanding. Hopefully, it remains without saying, that each generation has something worthwhile to offer. Each generation has distinct attitudes, behaviors, expectations, habits and motivational buttons. Learning how to communicate with the different generations can eliminate many major confrontations and misunderstandings in the Lodge. We must be especially sensitive to the generational styles of the various age groups if we are to get along. Let’s look at the main generational groupings and a few of the typical characteristics of each one.

The Traditional Generation members

If you were born between 1922-1945, 66-89 years old you tend to believe in conformity, authority, and rules. You dislike conflict and see things as right or wrong, black or white, and you resist change. You know how to turn on the TV and use the telephone however, you do have trouble recording TV programs.

Baby Boomers

If you were born between 1946-1964, 47-65 years old you are generally independent and confident; tend to be resourceful and dedicated; become involved in the community and are not afraid to challenge existing practices. You are willing to experiment and are not afraid to try new things. Electronic beginners, you use computers and cell phones when you have to. You believe in individualism and do not hesitate to reject rules. You enjoy finding solutions to problems and being in charge. Typically, you keep a positive attitude and tend to be more free-spirited and optimistic; are drawn to and show respect to authority figures.

Members of Generation X

If you were born between 1965-1980, 31-46 years old you even more so than Baby Boomers, dislike rigid requirements; enjoy the freedoms of flexible schedules and independence. You work best when given the desired outcome and then turned loose to figure out how to achieve it. This means that Lodge leaders should guide this group with feedback and suggestions, not step-by-step instructions. Advanced in electronics, you do texting, Facebook and other social networking and you have an electronic gizmo permanently attached to your hand.

Members of Generation Y

If you were born between 1981-1994, 17-30 years old you generally welcome change and work well as a member of a team. You express yourselves which usually upset members of the other generations, and enjoy and want instant gratification. You were born with your electronic gizmo as part of your hand and it is the only way you can communicate.

Socializing with different personalities requires flexibility, and emphasis on respectful relationships. There are a number of different ways that confusion and conflict between different generations at the Lodge can be avoided. First, you want to do all that you can to accommodate the difference that exists among your members. Make an effort to accommodate specific needs, different lifestyles, and even preferences. Create a Lodge full of choices. You must allow the members some flexibility to make the lodge an environment that they can thrive in. Provide opportunities for learning and growth by assigning a mentor for new members. Expose them to different committees, give them guidance, and let them find their own way of helping the Lodge. Give feedback, rewards, and recognition as needed. Treat everyone, from the newest member to the longtime member with the same level of respect. Facilitate group cohesion with activities designed to appeal to the interests of all members. Foster the belief that any group can be enriched by diversity and that a variety of personalities can make for a stronger Lodge. Officers can increase performance, creativity, and harmony within the Lodge by nurturing the strengths of individual members. Competence and initiative have no age boundaries.

Different generations in the Lodge may present some challenges but the potential for reward through the collective effort of multiple generations is well worth the effort.
Gayle Farrell, Florida State Representative, District 81.

Leonard J. Smallacombe, PDD, FSEA PMC Program Coordinator presents a Presidential Memorial Certificate honoring the father and grandfather of Gayle Farrell, Florida State Representative, District 81.

Mr. Leonard J. Smallacombe, PDD
FSEA PMC Program Coordinator
776 SW Aruba Bay
Port St Lucie, FL 34986

Dear Mr. Smallacombe,

Thank you for meeting with me and for letting me know about the Florida Elks Presidential Memorial Certificate Program. The PMC is a wonderful way to recognize the devotion to duty and the service to our great nation and honors the memory of deceased veterans. Any family will enjoy this special memorial certificate and remember with deep honor and pride their beloved family hero’s service to their country. It is also very special to me as I was born and raised in a Military Family.

I am pleased to support the Elks PMC program and your promotion of the memorial program in Martin and St Lucie Counties in any way I can.

I have personally contacted event directors of Veterans groups in Martin and St. Lucie Counties and asked them to include you in the events they hold. We are encouraging them to allow the FSEAPMC Program to have a table to display the program and to speak. These events draw thousands of people and will help you and the elks promote this fitting and lasting tribute to our deceased veterans.

In addition, I look forward to having the PMC brochures and applications in my office available to veteran’s families. I am deeply involved in working with and helping our veterans on a daily basis and applaud your efforts and passion in assisting families of deceased veterans to obtain the Presidential Memorial Certificates.

On a personal note, I will furnish you the necessary documents of my deceased Father and Grandfather for you to apply for the Presidential Memorial Certificates for our family.

Fondly,
Gayle Farrell,
Florida State Representative. District 81

ENF Impact Grants allow Lodges to serve Elks 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 big things. When Lodges use ENF resources effectively, it can help attract new members. This is the case for Bradenton.

“Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies,” our Lodge’s snack pack program that serves children in need, has become well known in our community, and running this project has greatly assisted our Lodge in growth and notoriety,” says Jeff Mitchell, Project Manager from Bradenton, Fla., Lodge No. 1511.

“The project has brought in new members as the community comes to realize the Elks are a vibrant and philanthropic community organization.” Impact Grants are one component of the ENF’s Community Investments Program. Through this program the ENF awards grants to Lodges to help Elks strengthen their communities. Through these and other grants, the Elks National Foundation will award $4.6 million this year to benefit Elks communities.

To learn more about the Community Investments Program, visit www.elks.org/enf/community.

Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities

Holiday Cards
Fundraising Campaign Update
Florida Elks Charities

Thank you to everyone who has donated during the 2011 Holiday Cards Campaign conducted by Florida Elks Charities! This annual campaign has raised an average of almost $100,000 per year over the past ten years and recently, due to some refinements made to the program, the net has increased to slightly over $100,000 per year! All proceeds of course go to assist our two major projects, the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. On average a little over 12,000 members make donations to this campaign each year and the average donation is about $17. Thank you to everyone who participates in this most worthy endeavor!

Judging from some of the comments we receive from you during the campaign we would like to address a couple of your concerns as follows:

Mailing Address & Spelling Errors:
The mailing of the complimentary labels and cards for this campaign is done for us by a national marketing company. The mailing list for this campaign comes from the Elks national office in Chicago. Your Lodge Secretary is the only person who can make changes to your address. If your mailing address or the spelling of your name needs corrected, please contact your Lodge Secretary by September 1st in order to have your information correct for the coming year. To check your information, look at the mailing label on the next issue of the Elks Magazine you receive.

Requests for Mailing Labels to Mr. & Mrs.:
Because the mailing list for this campaign comes from the Elks national office and is a list of our members and their addresses, each member is listed separately. This is why, if you and your spouse are members, you might each get the mailings. We are very sorry but we are unable to alter this list or combine names so the return address labels could read Mr. & Mrs.

Thank you again for your generosity and participation in this annual fundraiser!
Friday, February 10, 2012

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Breakfast – Youth Camp Pavilion - Donations Accepted
7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Convention Committee – Lake Conference Room - Rm. 130
8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Accident Prevention Committee - Marion Conference Room - Rm. 133
8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Past State Presidents’ Advisory Council – Board Room - Rm. 131 (closed meeting)
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. FEYC Board of Directors Workshop - Marion Conference Room - Rm. 133 (closed meeting)
11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. FEC Board of Directors Workshop - Marion Conference Room - Rm. 133 (closed meeting)
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. FL Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors – Board Room - Rm. 131
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. FL Elks News Publication Committee - Lake Conference Room - Rm. 130
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. FECTS Board of Directors Workshop - Marion Conference Room - Rm. 133 (closed meeting)
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Ladies Meet & Greet and Luncheon Honoring First Lady Penny Carr
Ticket Purchase Required - Back of Education Building # 9

Noon to 1:00 p.m. Lunch - Youth Camp Pavilion - Donations Accepted
1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Harry-Anna Investment Fund Board of Directors - Board Room - Rm. 131
1:45 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Wills & Bequests Committee - Lakeview Patio - B
1:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. FL Elks Children’s Therapy Services Board of Directors - Board Room - Rm. 131
1:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Van Duren Scholarship Committee - Marion Conference Room - Rm. 133 (closed meeting)
2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. FL Elks Properties Board of Directors - Board Room - Rm. 131
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Business Practices Committee - Lake Conference Room - Rm. 130 (closed meeting)
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. HOPE Scholarship Committee - Lakeview Patio - B
3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. FL Elks Charities Board of Directors - Board Room - Rm. 131
3:30 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. FL State Elks Association Board of Directors - Board Room - Rm. 131
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. FL Ladies of Elks Advisory Council - Lakeview Patio - C (closed meeting)
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. ER Elect & Secretary Elect Seminar Staff - Lake Conference Room - Rm. 130 (closed meeting)
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Dinner - Youth Camp Pavilion - Entertainment by Re-Creation BYOB & Refreshments - Donations Accepted

Saturday, February 11, 2012

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Breakfast – Youth Camp Pavilion - Donations Accepted
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Florida Elks Children’s Clinic - Marion Conference Room - Rm. 133
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Army of Hope Fundraising Meeting - Exalted Rulers Urged to Attend - Lakeview Patio - A
7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Ritual Seminar - Lakeview Patio - B
8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Florida Elks News reporting and Editing Seminar Pavilion B
8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Hoop Shoot Seminar - Lakeview Patio - B
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. FL Ladies of Elks Meeting - Lakeview Patio - C
8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Q & A Session with PGERs - In Gymnasium
9:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Harry-Anna Trust Fund Seminar - In Gymnasium
9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. “Marketing Mixxie - Maximizing your Marketing Mojo”
Meet our Newest Staff Member Greg Weis - Board Room - Rm. 131
9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Business Practices Session -Hospitality&Overhead Lakeview Patio A
9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Business Practices Session for Treasurers - Lakeview Patio B
10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. FL Elks Major Projects Committee Meeting - In Gymnasium
Donation Presentations - For Harry-Anna Trust Fund
Major Projects Presentations- Youth Camp & Therapy Services

Address by GER/National President - David Carr
12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch - Youth Camp Pavilion - Donations Accepted
12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Working Lunch Meeting of Special Representatives - Board Room - Rm. 131 (closed meeting)
12:45 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Working Lunch Meeting of District Deputies - Lakeview Patio A (closed meeting)
1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Elk Riders Advisory Board Meeting - In Gymnasium
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Meeting of Vice Presidents & State, Vice, & Reg. Cmtee. Chrs. - Board Room - Rm. 131 (closed meeting)
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Meeting of Lodge Membership Liaisons - Lakeview Patio B - C
10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 3rd Annual FL State Elks BBQ Rib, Brisket, & Chili Cook-off - Eustis Elks Lodge
This Year’s Goal Is To Raise $3,000 for a Van Wheelchair
Lift for FECTS Patient Natalie Passwater
Presentation to Passwater Family & Cook-off Results at 5:30 p.m.
Stop By on Your Way Out of Town for some great BBQ & Fellowship
GER Carr will attend between 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

The Florida State Elks Softball Tournament will be held in DeLand, FL, April 27--29, 2012.
This is the greatest weekend in Florida Elksdom. No shoes, No shirt, No problem. Come to DeLand and enjoy the camaraderie with your fellow Elks and their families.
If you have never attended please make an attempt to attend this year, once you attend you will return for the next year’s tournament.
In the past sixteen years the tournament has raised more than $115,700 which has been donated to the Florida Elks Youth Camp in the names of the winning Lodges.

For more information please check Florida State Elks web page (www.flelks.org) and click on the State Softball Tournament logo at the bottom of the page.
If you have questions call Joe B. Rogers @ 407-330-9339 or Email jrogers84@cfl.rr.com.

GREAT NEWS FOR THE FEBRUARY QUARTERLY

Eustis Lodge will again host a “Low Country Boil” on Friday, February 10th, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Each plate will contain a fish filet, shrimp, sausage, red potato, cole slaw, and corn (if available), at the cost of $10.00 per.
This meal will only be served in the dining room.
In addition, oysters on the half shell, steamed or raw, will be served on the screened porch, at a cost of $6.00 per dozen.
Please call Eustis Lodge (352) 343-5000 Tues thru Sat 3:00 pm till 8:00 pm, or our dining reservation line (352) 343-2498 anytime, and give us your Lodge name with the following: number of people wanting meals. We want to have adequate food, so please call!!
Finally, hot dogs, Elk burgers, and chicken sandwiches will be available Thursday evening 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm with entertainment at 7:00 pm and on Saturday 11:00 am till 1:00 pm.
We’ll be drawing for the Jokers Wild at 12:30 pm, and the huge bottle of booze at 12:45 pm.

We look forward to seeing you.
Eustis Lodge Officers and Trustees
Since the August Quarterly your Army of Hope Committee expended $7,874 to Florida military families.
- $624 for vehicle modifications – NW
- $500 for moving expenses – NW
- $500 for family travel to see injured son – NW
- $1,350 for back rent and groceries – NW
- $2,000 for back rent and groceries – S
- $2,400 for back rent – NE
- $500 to help establish residence – NE

One request from the NW District was denied (Non-Dependent)

As you can see the need for assistance is growing, especially in these difficult economic times. Not only are our brave veterans attempting to re-adjust to civilian life but families are struggling to make ends meet. With the $56,000 plus expense of the camp this year, our funds have become dangerously low. We do not want to have to turn away a needy family or deprive the dependent children the camping experience. We will be working with Lynn to somehow lower the cost for the AOH campers and looking for ways to increase our funding.

We need your help more than ever this year. Our sole sources of funding are your picnics, social events and contributions. We will be starting our new general purpose card program this spring, similar to the current Christmas card program and the profits will be split between the Army of Hope and the Hope Scholarship programs. Requests continue to come in. Please help us by supporting these fundraisers so we are not forced to refuse any of the much needed assistance to our military families.

I would like to share an email that was sent to me recently. It is from Mr. Michael Mack who is with the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) at Eglin AFB:

“I recently spoke with a representative from SOCOM Care Coalition and they only support financially those who are “Combat” injured with funds. Those who are seriously sick and injured and are SOF do not get funding and are limited to $20…that’s not good financial support in my eyes. If it weren’t for the Army of Hope, approximately 10,000 active duty and veterans who are local and not affiliated with AFSOC/SOCOM would not have access to critical funding such as the Army of Hope, not to mention the SOF active duty and vets who are not combat injured.

Your Army of Hope has been a lifesaver for all local base members and veterans alike. You have helped our sister services and have been the only responsive organization I know I can count on. I don’t have to tell you, emergency funding sources such as Army of Hope are very limited, hard to find and usually short lived. The safety net they provide is invaluable and incalculable to the military members and the families you have supported. The Army of Hope has saved veterans and their families from eviction and homelessness, reunited parents with their loved one at bedside, relieved pain and suffering of a combat injured Airman.

The negative impact of losing the Army of Hope would be felt immediately. Simply put, there is no other local benevolent fund that provides significant and positive financial and quality of life improvement outcomes, in a timely manner such as the Army of Hope for our OEF/OIF service members and veterans in the local area.”

Through your support you have made a difference and are very much appreciated by those we serve. Thank you for your past generosity and God Bless and protect our brave men and women in our Armed Forces!
2012 Florida State Soccer Shoot

Grafton Center
Florida Elks Youth Camp
January 7, 2012

Boys Under 14
- Jacob Locke (Eustis Lodge 1578)
- Spencer Ross (Kissimmee Lodge 1873)
- Dervan Baltazar (Clewiston Lodge 1853)
- Kelsey Samaroo (Fort Myers Lodge 1288)
- Madison Cloud (Kissimmee Lodge 1873)
- Brittany Demeola (Ocala Lodge 286)
- Zachary Bradley (Ormond Beach Lodge 2193)
- Hailey Thomas (St. Petersburg Lodge 1224)

Girls Under 14
- Kelsey Samaroo (Fort Myers Lodge 1288)
- Madison Cloud (Kissimmee Lodge 1873)
- Brittany Demeola (Ocala Lodge 286)
- Kelsey Samaroo (Fort Myers Lodge 1288)
- Madison Cloud (Kissimmee Lodge 1873)
- Brittany Demeola (Ocala Lodge 286)
- Jessie Lang (St. Petersburg Lodge 1224)
- Hailey Thomas (Port Orange Lodge 2723)

Boys Under 12
- Zachary Bradley (Ormond Beach Lodge 2193)
- Kristian Nims (Punta Gorda Lodge 2606)
- Henry Zuercher (St. Petersburg Lodge 1224)
- Jessie Lang (St. Petersburg Lodge 1224)
- Kristian Nims (Punta Gorda Lodge 2606)
- Henry Zuercher (St. Petersburg Lodge 1224)

Girls Under 12
- Jessie Lang (St. Petersburg Lodge 1224)
- Jael Ruiz (Fort Myers Lodge 1288)
- Hailey Thomas (St. Petersburg Lodge 1224)
- Jessie Lang (St. Petersburg Lodge 1224)
- Jael Ruiz (Fort Myers Lodge 1288)
- Hailey Thomas (St. Petersburg Lodge 1224)

Boys Under 10
- Jorge Santiago (Fort Myers Lodge 1288)
- Joseph Roman (Ocala Lodge 286)
- Gabriel Guzman (Kissimmee Lodge 1873)
- Ariel Escobar (Fort Myers Lodge 1288)
- Lindsay Pinkerton (Kissimmee Lodge 1873)
- Isabella Scorpio (Ormond Beach Lodge 2193)
- Adrian Covarrubias (Fort Pierce Lodge 1520)
- Billie Best (Ormond Beach Lodge 2193)

Girls Under 10
- Jorge Santiago (Fort Myers Lodge 1288)
- Joseph Roman (Ocala Lodge 286)
- Gabriel Guzman (Kissimmee Lodge 1873)
- Ariel Escobar (Fort Myers Lodge 1288)
- Hailey Goulet (Punta Gorda Lodge 2606)
- Cordelia Merillat (Kissimmee Lodge 1873)
- Adrian Covarrubias (Fort Pierce Lodge 1520)
- Billie Best-Abramowitz (Ormond Beach Lodge 2193)

Boys Under 8
- Adrian Covarrubias (Fort Pierce Lodge 1520)
- Kevin Rios (Ormond Beach Lodge 2193)
- Blake Ash (Ormond Beach Lodge 2193)
- Billie Best-Abramowitz (Ormond Beach Lodge 2193)

Girls Under 8
- Billie Best-Abramowitz (Ormond Beach Lodge 2193)
- Hailey Goulet (Punta Gorda Lodge 2606)
- Cordelia Merillat (Kissimmee Lodge 1873)

Well we have finished another great year in the Florida State Elks Soccer Shoot Program! This past Saturday, January 7th 2012, the “Best of the Best” came to represent their local Lodges from throughout our state. Over 1700 statewide participants who went through our program this year and from them (24) regional winners advanced to compete at our state competition held at the Youth Camp in Umatilla.

Lynn Warburton, Camp Director and all of his outstanding staff hosted the event for over 125 people in attendance. These spectators included our State President and his wife, Frank & Linda Hayes; PSP Charlie Trinowski, Committee Advisor; District Deputy NE District, Mike Mongeluzzo and his wife Joan. All of the participants brought their families with friends and the majority of the state soccer committee were in there in force to help provide one of the most exciting and enjoyable competitions we have had in years. I want to thank and congratulate all the competitors and all staff who made this all happen. Great Job!

After six years of running this program this is my last year as your State Chairman of the Soccer Program. It has been a very interesting journey. I have been very fortunate to watch many of the participants grow up in our program and be touched by Elkdom in a positive way.

In the course of this journey I have learned many lessons, about myself and other people throughout this organization. The best of those lessons I can take with me is the understanding of what is true open and personal conviction to one’s task no matter what. I found this trait in a small group of Elks that I now call personal friends. They chose to stand by me throughout my tenure and teach me that nothing else matters except doing this job for our kids. They are my true heroes and because of their unselfish efforts they have successfully made our soccer program as strong as it is today and better for the kids of tomorrow!

It has been my pleasure to serve and I thank you all, Mark Thompson
News from the Elks Riders U.S.A.

Recently, the Northeast Florida District presented a $3,500 check to the Volusia Honor Air to make it possible for veterans to fly to the Washington, DC Veterans Memorial. Along with the check, the club also presented a shadowbox of patches from each Elks Riders organizations.

The Riders participated in: an Amvets Post #2 toy run for Gifts of Love where they donated toys and a $100 Walmart gift card; an American Legion Post #1 poker run out of Titusville to support homeless veterans and presented a check for $100. They were on the road again, supporting the Rock for Tots event.

Deland Lodge 1463

Lodge volunteers Eddy Manthei and Joe Eckenrode along with sons of the American Legion, held their annual Volusia County Special Olympics family picnic dinner.

Rick Phelps, PER, Gerri McDonald and Sonny Cummings, recently received a plaque from Volusia Honor Air for helping out with getting veterans on flights to Washington, DC. The plaque hangs in the Lodge.

Volunteers from the Lodge were on hand to help DeLand High School at their concession stand and to enjoy the high school Bulldogs during a game.

The Ladies Auxiliary, DeLand DeLites, recently had a fundraiser to help raise money for 100 new dining room chairs. The Lodge held their annual Halloween and Christmas parties for kids in the community.

Edgewater/New Smyrna Lodge 1557

In memory of Patricia Marron Post Greatrex, PER July 17, 1952 – November 28, 2011. Family members and friends came together to remember her life as a mother, grandmother and friend.

Officers of the Lodge and officers of Chapter #3 Order of the Eastern Star performed their fraternal services. Patty served as Exalted Ruler from 2010-2011; she was a member of the Eastern Star and District Elks Bike Riders. Among her many contributions to the Lodge, Patty was instrumental in getting a grant through the Elks National Foundation to start a community vegetable garden to benefit the citizens in the New Smyrna Beach and Edgewater communities.

The Lodge teamed up with the Edgewater Police Department again, this year, for a community fall festival. The District Drug Awareness trailer was on hand. There were over 3,000 people in attendance. The Drug Awareness trailer won first place for the best decorated vehicle. Elroy the Elk was there dancing the night away with the children. Approximately 400 hot dogs, candy bags, and drug awareness material were handed out.

Recently, at an Edgewater City Council meeting, Lodge Secretary Cynthia Painter, PER accepted a first place winner’s award for the most decorated drug awareness trailer.

A mystery dinner/who done it fundraiser was held at the Lodge to help raise money for the Army of Hope. District Chairman for the Army of Hope, Cynthia Painter, PER and Dean Yeager, PER were instrumental in organizing the event. Members from other Lodges participated, including PSP Michael Phillips, DVP Larry Skates and his lovely wife Marci, DDGER Roger Johnson and his lovely wife Mary, DDGER Chris Gariep, and DDGER Phil Watercutter, who helped cook the meal. The event raised $1,000. The sale of the most delicious tomato soup was sold to raise an additional $50.

Members of the Lodge, Bill and Tanya Pohl hosted a Comedy Improve Nite to help raise money for the veterans. Thanks to the members of the Lodge, approximately $279 was raised.

Members got together to host a craft show/membership drive. There were approximately 35 participating vendors; 40 new member applications were handed out, and the Lodge collected $136 in the sale of food items that went towards benefiting the veterans.

During a recent Lodge meeting, State President Frank Hayes made an unexpected visit during his stay over in the district before heading to his next district visit. Exalted Ruler John Sterio and members of the Lodge greeted Mr. Hayes and made him feel right at home.

The District Harry-Anna Horse Derby hosted by DDGER Phil Watercutter and Chip Haverty, were held at each District Vice President visit to help raise monies for Harry-Anna, and then given to the winning Lodge of the race to add to their per capita. The final amount raised was $4,375.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650

The Lodge Patriotism Committee was on hand to greet and hand out flags to 91 attendees for their 911 ceremony. The Lodge was decorated to honor the memory of those lost on that day. The Lady Elks had a candlelight ceremony and a basket raffle of which the proceeds went to a Veteran’s Transition Center. The Patrick AFB Honor Guard was on hand with their opening and closing of the ceremony.

Member Robin Wagenblast collected shampoo, soap, disposable razors, shaving cream, deodorant, and toothpaste, snacks, stationery, socks and winter caps for the Lodge’s Adopt-A-Soldier Program. This is an ongoing project Robin does every year for our veterans.

Lidia Skibba, daughter of PERs Nick and Kathy Skibba, recently held her annual Harry-Anna fundraiser at the Lodge. Lidia was 9 years old when she had her first fundraising dinner event. Now, at 14 years old, she attends Jefferson Middle School in Merritt Island. In the 5 years Lidia, her sister Betsy and their friends, raised over $6,000 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. This year, Lidia was able to raise over $1,200.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

Members of the Lodge held several fundraising events; among them were Change for the Heart event for ENF raised $333; an Italian Night Extravaganza night raised over $1,097 for Harry-Anna, and an Oktoberfest event raised over $1,600.

The Lodge’s annual Santa Paws has been a huge success, benefitting the Halifax Humane Society with donations of dog food, bedding, kitty litter, toys and treats from the members.

Members attended an adult Christmas Party at the Lodge where they donated unwrapped gifts for veterans of the Daytona Beach Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home.

Parents and children from the community came to the Lodge for the annual Kids Christmas Party. Santa was on hand to have his picture taken and hand out presents. Clowns were on hand to paint the faces of the kids and hand out balloon characters, pony rides and a tour of a fire engine were held on the Lodge’s lawn.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709

The Lodge takes an active role in supporting the veterans of the Daytona Beach Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home. One of the nursing home’s mascots, Lucky, was badly injured in an accident.

When Jeannie Fontana, Lodge Publicity Chairman, heard of this she reached out to the local news media and members of the Lodge for help. In less than five days, she was able to raise $2,700 for Lucky’s operation. All extra monies will go into an account through the Elks National Foundation to help homeless veterans.

A fundraiser, sponsored by the Lodge for Boy Scout Troop #270, was recently held at a local neighborhood Bob Evans Restaurant. A percentage of the cash receipts went to the Troop.

The Veteran’s Committee has been active in collecting small items and snacks for our troops; they have recently collected games for the Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home veterans.

Active in the community, the Lodge’s Community Relations Committee held acritter food drive; cat food, dog food, treats and kitty litter were donated to Flagler County to help homeless critters.

Boy Scout Troop #270 was part of a Drug Awareness, “Say No to Drugs” Program, held at the Creekside Festival. During the ceremony and the help of Lodge Officers, Boy Scouts, Marine Corps League

East Central District continued on page 23
Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525

On Saturday, December 3rd, Lodge members’ along with the Ladies Auxiliary hosted the annual “Lou’s Kids” Christmas Party. The party is named in memory of long time officer Lou Caparara, former President and Director of the Clearwater American Little League Challenger Division for youngsters ages 4-22 with mental and physical challenges. Lou and the Lodge Ladies Auxiliary have made this event an annual tradition, not only for the Challenger Team sponsored by the Lodge, but the entire Challenger Division and their families.

Over 150 family members and 54 Challenger team members enjoyed a fun filled afternoon of games and food. Of course the children’s favorite was a visit from Santa and his dancing Christmas tree.

Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

The Lodge again held their annual Day on the Bay, for 42 handicapped children and their parents. Some of the children were heart patients from nearby Bayfront Medical Center and others were recommended through Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. They enjoyed boating on Elk members vessels as well as touring the U.S. Coast Guard vessel, the Hard Bottom. A buffet lunch was served and cupcakes were available for the children to decorate with an abundance of toppings.

Judging for the Americanism Essay Contest was recently done with members Bill Davison, Janet O’Leary and Anita Taylor screening the entries. Winners from the 7th grade Seminole Middle School were Allison Fulle, 1st place, Kevin Monk, 2nd place and Miranda Scudoris, 3rd place. Allison’s essay was forwarded on to the Elks State Americanism Chairman for further judging. Gift certificates and trophies were awarded to the winners.

The Lodge also hosted a veterans Christmas cook-out at Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center. Exalted Ruler Lorry Granucci, along with Lodge members cooked and served the Veterans plenty of holiday cheer with food and music.

Largo Lodge 2159

The Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Association hosted an Oktoberfest. The successful event featuring wonderful food, various music and games was held to raise funds for the Children’s Burn Foundation. A check for $500.00 was presented to the foundation.

The Lodge participated in the “Stand Down”, for homeless Veterans and those in danger of becoming homeless, at Bay Pines VA Medical Center. Twenty-three volunteers from the Lodge assisted in transporting, feeding and distributing essential goods and services. The Lodge had purchased 66 pairs of new athletic shoes and socks plus $5.00 McDonald’s gift cards which were also distributed during the event.

Once again the Lodge participated in the City of Largo’s Halloween Spooktacular. Volunteers passed out candy to over 4,000 children.

A flea market/craft fair fund raiser was held on November 19th. The successful event raised $750 for various Lodge charities.

The Lodge again had their annual Gift Tree. Members took a tag, with a wish written on it from the tree, purchased the requested item and returned it wrapped. More than 50 children received their wishes.

Lodge sponsored Cub Scout Pack 417 recently had their first campout in the Lodge grove. Twenty-one of the twenty-seven cubs and twenty six adults attended.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

The Lodge presented the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and the Elks National Foundation each with a check for $1,000 at the mid-year convention in St. Petersburg.

Once again the Lodge donated the hall to the Red Apple School for their yearly Halloween party. More than 150 students, teachers and parents enjoyed the facility.

A check for $500 was sent to the Elks National Home for their Christmas fund. With the holidays approaching, they are getting ready for their annual Kids Christmas Party.

Food donations were sent to the Salvation Army and food baskets were prepared and distributed by the Lodge.

Pinellas Park Lodge 2217

The Lodge once again participated in the annual city of Pinellas’ “Halloween in the Park.” Members gave out candy and approximately 1,000 bags containing drug awareness, scholarship and general information on Elkdom to local children. Red ribbon stickers were also given to each child passing the booth.

The Lodge kicked off November by inviting 16 Veterans from Bay Pines VA Healthcare System’s domiciliary for dinner. The members supplied plenty of home-made desserts and made the Veterans feel right at home. During the December dinner, the Veterans were surprised with Christmas gift bags, containing much needed personal items.

The Lodge is also collecting, clipping and sorting coupons for the Lodge’s adopted unit. Coupons worth $2,800 have been sent along with 150 Christmas, birthday and anniversary cards. Seventy-five food baskets were prepared and distributed in time for the holidays to local families in need.

The Lodge hosted a Christmas party for approximately 30 local children. Santa and Mrs. Claus gave out presents as the children enjoyed cookies and punch.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

The Lodge held a kid’s Halloween Carnival poolside on October 22. The Carnival was open to all the children of the community. The children enjoyed a free evening of games, prizes, pony rides, a bounce house, haunted house, clowns and pumpkin painting. There were over 180 children who enjoyed the fun, costume contest and dinner. The dinner food tickets were attached to the Drug Awareness literature bags which all kids received.

The Lodge participated in the Bay Pines VA Medical Health Care System “Stand Down” on October 22. The event was held to support homeless veterans and those at risk of becoming homeless. A $1,000 Lodge donation purchased 250 thirty minute phone cards distributed to the veterans enabling them to call their loved ones. The Lodge also made a $500.00 donation to Bay Pines for the purchase of clothing distributed during the “Stand Down.”

The Lodge fed over 65 Veterans during October, November and December. These men & women from Bay Pines Hospital and Domiciliary enjoyed dinner and music, even participating in the Lodge karaoke on those Thursday nights.

The Lodge held its annual Veterans Dinner Dance on November 5. Thirteen Veterans from Bay Pines Domiciliary were honored for the evening events. Guests speakers were Robert Thornburg, PER from Pinellas Park Lodge 2217. Robert informed the audience about the Presidential Memorial Certificate Program. Micha Spaller, Certified Veterans Representative from Bay Pines, another guest speaker gave information about the Veterans Benefits Program. The Colors were posted and retired by the Korean War Veterans Chpt 14, under the direction of Joe Slatton, PER. The dinner was attended by more than 125 Elks and guests. The highlight of the evening was a presentation from the Ladies Auxiliary to Josephine Parris of Bay Pines, for a check in the excess of $2,600 for Bay Pines Veterans Hospital. The check represented the proceeds of the Elks Auxiliary USO Show.

The Lodge was proud to celebrate its 100th Anniversary on November 11. Since the celebration was held during the mid-year convention in St. Petersburg, the Lodge was honored by three Past Grand Exalted Rulers. The Honorable Robert Grafton, C. Valentine Bates, Michael F. Smith and their spouses were in attendance. Also in attendance were 14 Past State Presidents as well as current State President Frank Hayes, wife Linda and VPAL Sean Maguire.

The Lodge coupon program chairman MaGraci, has been collecting manufacture’s coupons from the Lodge members and the Ladies Auxiliary. After three months of cutting, sorting, a total of $77,261 in coupons has been sent to the Air Force Headquarters, 501st Combat Support Wing (USAFE) and the Airman and Family Rediness Center (A&FRC). These coupons have assisted the overseas families who are stationed in foreign countries living on single incomes.

The Children’s Christmas was held on December 3. Santa handed out gifts to all 85 children who attended and the Lodge fed 160 kids and family members. There was karaoke by member Johnny Miller, face painting, cookie decorating, coloring contest and every child, young and old got to talk to Santa.

The Lodge collected funds and donated enough food to put together 80 Christmas food baskets on December 17, for needy families of the community. Each food basket contained a 12 lb. turkey, potatoes, stuffing and all the fixings for a meal. The Lodge donated over $1,100.00 in food and the baskets were gratefully received by the families. The left over toys from the Lodge Children’s Christmas Party were added to the baskets of families with small children.

Seminole Lodge 2519

The Lodge held their annual ENF dinner dance on November 19th. Approximately eighty members and guests attended the event, enjoying wonderful dinner, music & dancing. The proceeds from the evening, along with the sale of certificates totaled $2,078 for ENF.

The Lodge continues to host Veterans from Bay Pines Domiciliary for spaghetti dinner once a month.

Tampa Lodge 708

The Lodge was featured in the Elks National Foundation Newsletter on September 29 as day 14 of 25 days across the country. The article was about the Lodge’s participation with Athena House Transitional Facility for homeless female veterans. Lodge members act as friends and mentors for the residents and hold cookouts, bingo games and other events twice a month for the residents and their children.

Tarpon Springs Lodge 2217

The Lodge hosted a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Palm Harbor Fire Rescue Honor Guard Team. The event raised $3,000 for the team to participate in the national fallen firefighter’s memorial service, a tenth year anniversary tribute of 9/11 in Emmetsburg, MD.

Once again the Lodge hosted their annual South Carolina Golf Tournament. This event, which covers three days and started 42 years ago, raises approximately $8,000 yearly for the Lodge’s charities.

Correction: Fall Issue 2011

The caption on the picture on the front page of the ELKs news (President Hayes with Warrington Elkettes) erroneously states that they made the second highest donation to Camp. St Augustine donated the second highest amount to both Camp and Therapy Service.
Ft. Pierce Lodge 1520

Lodge members, led by LK Tricia Swayngim, Elroy (aka Amy Swayngim,) and ER Mike Swayngim, handed out over 2,000 bags of Drug Awareness information to the hundreds of youngsters along the parade way and Elroy got a chance to be in the parade, with the youngsters showing their appreciation. Our Lodge hosted the Southeast Central District Soccer Shoot at Dreamland Park in Fort Pierce. Over 20 youngsters participated in this event and many will be going to the Regional Soccer Shoot in Sebastian, FL in December. Yaritza Covarrubias was one of the winners and, although the smallest contestant, has the biggest heart. After she received her award from District Soccer Shoot Chairman, John Henry, PER, she quietly asked “where is the trophy for my father?” Yaritza won her division for girls under 8 years old. Elks Soccer Shoots help the youth of our community.

On September 17th the EL-DOE’s hosted an authentic Irish dinner dance to benefit The Children’s Therapy Services of Florida. This function will help toward buying another van, which will go to the homes of those children with needs. Chairperson for this event was a native born Irishman, Frances Quinn, speaking in Gaelic, welcomed the guests and wished them a wonderful time. Of course a translation followed. The evening was a great success with over 83 people attending, and a good time was had by all. The Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE) held their annual installation of new officers in Tampa on Saturday, Sept. 24. Betty Groff, current member and Past President of the EL-DOE’s, was installed as the State President of FLOE. Betty has gone through the various chairs of the organization to become President and has worked hard all the way to make the organization as viable as it is now. Her theme is The Heart - “For - Love and Happiness. If you open your heart to love, love will find it’s way in and open the gates to happiness.” The key to her heart is Love. Everlasting Love for the Children Of Florida. Those children less fortunate, that are being helped by the ladies organizations of the Elks Lodges of Florida, by their contributions to The Children’s Therapy Services. Her hope is to give the children a better quality of life.

In November, the Lodge hosted its annual Veteran’s Night and recognized our Veteran of the Year, John A. Wiscup of the United States Navy! John earned two purple hearts and did four tours of duty in Vietnam. The wheel chair Veteran’s came from the V A hospital and enjoyed lunch, played bingo, and received gifts donated by Elk members. Christmas stockings and hats were made and donated by Elk member, Michele Nesar. On November 21 the Lodge meeting for Initiation made history, as four spouses came in to watch the Initiation only. On Memorial Day Sunday, respects were paid to the 19 Elk members we lost in the past year. Thanks to Don and Judy Knauf for chairing our annual Children’s Christmas Party on December 11th. Santa aka, Ed Pass, also came to surprise the kids as he rode his Harley motorcycle right into the Lodge! Once again, the Promise Grant funds were used to purchase gifts for each child, along with donations to purchase gifts from Betty Tewksbury, PDD. Congratulations to Elk’s of the Month; September, Ruth Pelosi, October, Len Coia, November, John Wisecup, December, Michele Nesar.

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

The Lodge is proud to announce that they have reopened after a six month refurbishing project of the Lodge. The entire interior was gutted and remodeled. The exterior of the building received a new coat of paint. Landscaping has also been replaced. A New Year’s Eve Party was held in the beautiful new facility and everyone was excited to see the changes which have taken place. If anyone is in the area and would like to see the beautification, please stop by the Lodge and we will be proud to show you around.

West St. Lucie Lodge 2823

The Veterans Committee did a tremendous job on A Night At The Races and the Veterans Dinner Dance. Both events were very well attended, and the hard work that Dino Lacoviello and his Committee did paid off big time for our Veterans. Our Hoop Shoot, headed by Marge Spera, was also a tremendous success. Held at Minsky Gym, we have over 28 participants. A great time was had by all, with lunch being served at the Lodge for all of the participants and their families. A big Thank You goes to Herman and Lyda Hydinger for coming to the Hoop Shoot and being a tremendous help in putting this event on. See you in January. Our Toys for Tots was again a big hit this year. Members of the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League picked up the toys on December 4 and were very thankful to our members for all of the donations. Linda Geraghty and her Committee did a terrific job. Once again, we thank the Elkettes for their generous donation to the Lodge of $3,000. The Lodge wishes a happy, healthy, and successful 2012 to all Elks and their families.

ARE YOU A CURRENT CONTRIBUTOR?

Florida Elks have two major projects, the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. These two projects help disabled children of Florida in ways they would not otherwise receive the care they need to lead full and productive lives and to also provide a camping experience to many who would have gone through life without that wonderful experience. The costs for these two projects is over 4.5 million dollars. Are you helping to pay that expense?
Pensacola Beach Lodge 497
Retired Maj. James Knell, 55, treated 32 Marines from NAS Pensacola to a round of miniature golf at Tiki Island Family Lodge and Arcade on Pensacola Beach on Thanksgiving day; afterward the group was fed a large Thanksgiving dinner prepared by the members of Pensacola Beach Lodge.

Warrington Lodge 2108
The Monthly ‘Donut Run’ serving Joint Ambulatory Care Center at VA Pensacola Health Care System. Sponsored by Warrington Lodge.

Vets Night at the Lodge
A significant number of members, Elks and Elkettes, displayed their patriotism by joining in and observing Veterans Day on 11-11-11 at the Lodge. An approximate count of patriots attending was in the 40-50’s to show their pride of self and their Lodge.

Veterans Committee Vice-Chair Carol McCrory opened the ceremonies and explained the process of the ‘Wall of Honor’ photographs observed at Warrington Lodge. A moving rendition of the Star Spangled Banner filled the room as all participated. Guest speaker, PER Mike McGreevy, shared some of his experiences in the military with the crowd.

And then (who would have guessed) the serving of another super repast covered the pool table with an abundance of homemade goodies.

No matter how many times you attend a Veterans Memorial service, one always leaves with a tear in one’s eye and a silent prayer for those that have given all.

Crestview Lodge 2624
The final Turkey Shoot for this year has been held this noteworthy fundraiser. The Lodge prepared and served lunch following the last line of shooters. There is a possibility that we may run the Turkey Shoot for another seven weeks in February and March 2012 if the demand is there. Hope to see you all there!

The NW District Elks Riders presented a basket of goodies to each NW District Lodge to raffle off. This is a great fundraiser and helps both the Elks Riders and our Lodge. Half of the proceeds will go to the NW District Elks Riders and the other half will go to the Lodge. Please see ER Ron Power or Esteemed Leading Knight Ann Moore for your chance to win the basket of goodies.

Crestview Lodge hosted the Girl Scouts Troop 318 Christmas Party in December. Santa Claus (John Davis) was in attendance to read letters and listened to the girls Christmas wishes.

PDDGER Gary Johnson Sr. and Linda Fisher were recently united in marriage. Gary’s son, Gary Johnson II and Kym Kartzog were also married at the ceremony. Justice of the Peace, Jean McKinney performed the sacred oaths and marriage rituals.

Ft. Walton Lodge 1795
The Annual Charity Ball was held in early December. Entertainment was provided by Christian and James. This event was to raise money for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund which is used to support our two state projects: The Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Please consider making a donation if you were unable to attend.

Remember Re-Creation USA? They will appear again on February 24, 2012 at our Lodge. Plan a gala evening with family and friends.

Twin Cities Lodge 2747
Please join our Veterans Committee for their monthly visits to the Manner and Pavilion and bring good cheer to our deserving Vets. Call Rose Marie Bolton at 850-678-4566 or 850-420-1314 for details on our visits. Upcoming will be the annual Bollenbach Memorial Adopt-A-Vet dinner. This fundraiser is in memory of Frank Bollenbach and his appreciation of Veterans.

There will be a wonderful meal served for the price of $25.00 per person, funds from this go toward paying expenses of taking care of our Veterans.

Holly-Navarre Lodge 2787
Just a few lines to tell you what’s going on. In the month of October members visited many Lodges for the annual District Deputy Visitations. So far, there has been great participation. District Vice President Bill White is proud of the support that is shown; not too often does a member of Holly-Navarre 2787 succeed to higher position within Elkdom.

Destin Lodge 2688
Have you purchased a certificate for the Harry-Anna Trust or the Elks National Foundation? Please help support these Elks Programs! Contact the Secretary for more information. Also our money case at the door for Harry-Anna Trust fund of the Lodge will accept 50 cents a day. It’s small change for HOPE! Our Lodge will also collect loose change for ENF every penny makes a lot of cents for our cause. Remember, Elks Care, Elks Share, and Elks do make a difference.

Florida Elks Cool Book Sale---Cool Summer Fun in Florida! 98 pages of Recipes from some of the best Elk cooks in Florida---Great gifts! $12 Each or 2 for $20. Mail to: FSEA, PO Box 49, Umatilla, FL 32784
The North District is looking forward to Florida State Elks Association President Frank Hayes and his wife Linda’s visit to the Lake City Lodge on February 3-4, 2012!

**Lake City Lodge 893**

Fall was kicked off with a yard sale on October 15. Making more than $500, the Lodge is planning to make this an annual event. Members volunteered to help with project around the lodge including TV repair, fixing the downspout in the front porch, and painting the windows on the south side of the building (remember that this building is more than a hundred years old).

The Lodge is busy in December preparing food baskets for the needy, an annual charitable giveaway. Several fundraising events are held to make it all work, including gift cards to be won from a raffle and donated toys that can be traded for a complimentary dinner in the dining room. Food baskets along with goodie bags for kids will be prepared and distributed on December 24.

Bill Nichols, District VP is busily planning and organizing the first weekend in February for the State President’s visit to the North District. All the district lodges are looking forward to the visit and the events that will occur that weekend.

**Live Oak Lodge 1165**

Live Oak Lodge held an Oktoberfest dance on October 22. Finger food was provided and there was entertainment including music for dancing and karaoke. One of the Lodge’s biggest fundraisers of the year, the Boxed Meat Giveaway was also in October. Bingo is a fundraiser too, conducted every Monday evening at the lodge.

**Marianza Lodge 1516**

Marianza Lodge held a “Bubba Que” on September 23rd. The event was well attended by members and guests dressed as rednecks from the country mountains. In addition to the money received by the Lodge, a donation was taken up for Harry-Anna which totaled almost $400. The “Bubba Que” was designated as the first of many to come since everyone had a large time. There were lots of laughs and fond memories that will be shared for quite awhile. It was such a big time that the Lodge moved ahead with a fish fry in October featuring the food we love in north Florida: fried fish, hushpuppies, cole slaw, cheese grits, and of course, dessert. Food at a fry is always available to eat in or take out. October also including some great German food on Elkioberfest featuring brats with sauerkraut and Weiner schnitzel. A Halloween party and costume contest closed out the month.

The Lodge commemorated Veterans Day with recognition of Lodge veterans, a donation collection to help the Wounded Warrior Project, and entertainment by Billy Lipford. It was a great event where memorabilia was shared and there was plenty of fellowship. Prizes were awarded for the oldest veteran, the youngest veteran, and the veteran with the most years of service. Also in November was the Wild Turkey Party on the 18th (the band didn’t show up but it was still a success) and then Chili Night on Thanksgiving Eve with Anita playing the piano.

The Lodge’s Christmas Party was December 9.

The live band from Grayton Beach, the Forrest Williams Band, was a big draw and as usual, the food was great. Canned and non-perishable food was solicited by party participants to help the needy during the holidays. New Years Eve is promising to be a big bash with Ronnie “The Hat” playing. Accompaniments will include party favors, a variety of food, dancing, and plenty of fun.

**Perry Lodge 1851**

On October 8, the Perry Elk’s Lodge held its First Annual Fall Fishing Tournament. Participation was great with team members coming from as far away as the Atlanta area. The weigh-in was held at Keaton Beach Marina at with many folks staying for the winners to be announced. Categories were Trout/Redfish largest combined weight and 5-Trout Stringer largest combined weight. The payout for each category was $750 first place, $500 second place, and $250 third place. The Youth category was for the largest trout, with trophies and gift cards being awarded for first, second, and third place.

In the Trout/Redfish category, the first place winner was the Billy Pillow team with a 9 lb 4 oz combined weight; the second place winner was the Debbie Evans team with a combined weight of 8 lb 14 oz; and, the third place winner was the Randy Hill team with a combined weight of 8 lb 12 oz.

In the 5-Trout Stringer category, the first place winner was the Chris Chewning team with a combined weight of 10 lb. Two teams tied for second place so the second and third place prize money was combined and split between the winners of the Debbie Evans team and the Dave Malone team. Each team had a combined weight of 9 lb 8 oz.

In the Youth largest trout category, the first place winner was Austin Amundsen with a 2 lb 2 oz trout; the second place winner was Jackson Taylor with a 1 lb 10 oz trout; and, the third place winner was Jake Berry with a 1 lb 4 oz trout.

A raffle was held for donated items that ranged from rods & reels to haircuts. The proceeds from the tournament will benefit Youth and Veterans activities throughout the year. Many local sponsors for the tournament made the event a resounding success. The event coordinator was Inner Guard Drew Taylor.

The Lodge held its annual Veterans Banquet on November 11, honoring all Elks who are veterans. While all Elks were invited, veterans ate for free. More than 80 folks attended.

Breakfast with Santa is a big annual event for the Perry Lodge and it was held on December 10.

**Tallahassee Lodge 937**

Tallahassee Lodge once again sent kids and their families from the Gretchen Everhart School to the FEYC for a September weekend of activities and fun. For most of the families, this is the one long weekend each year where there are other folks to help with their kids who need a bit of assistance. It’s a weekend with other families facing the same issues of challenged youth. The FEYC makes this a thrilling weekend for everyone and Tallahassee Lodge thanks Lynn Warburton and his staff for making dreams at the youth camp come true. Pictures from the weekend can be seen on the Lodge’s website at www.tallahasseeelks.org. If you have trouble accessing the site, contact Bob Thorburn, ER at robert.thorburn@hotmail.com for help.

The Lodge conducted a Veterans Day program on Nov. 11 at 11 am. Leading Knight Lou Langnehs headed up this event, inviting veterans to participate, and share an anecdote or a story. Lunch was served, with the meal being complimentary for all veterans in attendance.

December kicked off with the annual live poinsettia delivery to widows of our Lodge on Dec. 3. A big thanks to Trustee Lee Fish and wife Linda who organized this event with routes, maps, and Mapquest driving instructions that made it easier for the drivers to deliver 125 plants. Later that night, the Elketts held their annual Christmas social inviting lodge members to join them for dinner, music, and dancing. The next day, the Lodge held its annual Memorial Service, once again organized and planned by PER Jan Thorburn. Refreshments were served afterward.

The annual Kids Christmas Party, held on Sunday, Dec. 11, was a jolly good time for kids and their parents – an outstanding event for the month. Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand to spend time with the kids with assistance from Santa’s Elves. The men in the green tights were a sight to behold. Inner Guard Carol Dobson and husband Don hosted the party with the help of a number of Lodge members. A big thanks is owed to Santa Rick Peckham (and his belly laughs who fooled his own grandchildren) and Mrs. Claus Barbara Langnehs, who smiled and giggled with the kids, whispering sweet nothings in their ears (who fooled her grandkids too). The room was filled with laughter and glee that spilled out in to the hallway.

As a warm up to the Christmas season, Past Trustee Rod Stelter fired up his karaoke machine and provided music and dancing on Friday the 16th. The evening began with a tasteful Christmas Hat contest and the Best Santa Joke contest. The Lodge will finish up December with the annual Eggnog Social on Dec. 24 from 4 till 6, where members drop by for some refreshments on the way home Christmas Eve.
The Lodge held a Christmas Bingo for the hospitalized Veterans at the Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville on Saturday, December 3rd, providing snacks and refreshments, then walked the halls of the hospital singing Christmas Carols and handing out small care packages to the Veterans.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892

A drawing was held for the Veterans’ Treasure Chest with PER Paul Orvos winning. Lodge members participated in the Veteran’s Day Parade in Palatka and the walk across the Veteran’s Memorial Bridge on Veterans Day. The Lodge then provided a free fish dinner at the Lodge for their Lodge Veterans with guest speaker Brian Calhoun, RADM (ret). The Lodge contributed $1,800 to the Wreaths Across America fundraiser and placed the wreaths at Jacksonville International Airport.

Jacksonville Lodge 221

The Lodge provided dinner, overnight lodging and breakfast for 39 riders and support staff participating in the fourth annual Brotherhood Ride as they passed through Jacksonville. The 1,600-mile journey to honor fallen heroes ride is dedicated to the 411 first responders who lost their lives 10 years ago during the terrorist attack on New York City. The 2011 ride began in Naples, Florida and ended at ground zero in New York City on 9/11/11. The Lodge provided pasta dinners, sleeping accommodations and a send off breakfast for the riders and staff. Firefighter Nick Ford explained why he and other firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical technicians signed on. “What we’re going through over these 22 days is really small compared to the families of those 411 killed that day. They gave everything. We just gave a little,” said Ford. Brotherhood Ride founder Jeff Morse, dedicated the first three rides to other firefighters and police who died in the line of duty across the country, wants to ensure the legacy of those who lost their lives wouldn’t be forgotten. Morse stated “I wanted some way to show the families we’d never forget.” The public response along the route was touching, with communities rallying around them.

Mandarin St. Johns Lodge 2866

Lodge members participated in the 100 year anniversary of the Palatka Lodge throughout a week in November beginning with a dinner Saturday night and taking up with a Veterans Parade and cookout the following Friday. Members and Antlers assisted setting up for a yard sale with a 6:30 a.m. start time in 35 degree weather raising $438. The Antlers raised an additional $45 with their bake sale. The proceeds together with other donations bought food for the Mandarin Food Bank when the lodge donating over $1,800 in turkeys, non-perishable food and cash donations to feed needy families in the community during the holiday season.

Member Sheila Bird was awarded the “Good Works Volunteer of the Year” by JPMorgan Chase in Jacksonville for her volunteer work through Chase and the Elks. Chase employs 3,800 employees in Jacksonville and this is the first year this award is being given by Chase throughout the country. Less than 50 employees receive this award nationally. Ms. Bird received a $500 donation to the charity of her choice and assigned that donation in her name through the Mandarin/St. Johns Lodge to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services to make those funds available to Stephanie Haynes, NE District Therapist.

The Jacksonville Woodworkers Club donated 350 hand-made toys to the Lodge which were delivered to therapists throughout the state to donate to children currently in the therapy program.

The Antlers prepared a stainless dinner with dessert in October with 35 members and children in attendance.

The Lodge donated 49 boxes of Christmas cards and 24 books of Postage stamps to Veterans residing at the Clyde Lassen Nursing Facility in St. Augustine to allow the residents to send a holiday wish to family and friends. The Facility Administrator, Diane, held a “Card Day” where staff pitched in to help the Veterans address and send cards to their family and friends. Diane said that she had never witnessed such generosity and personally thanked all of the Elks of the Lodge. Additionally, they provided processed tanned leather hides from the Grand Lodge Leather Program. The Occupational Therapy staff of the Home will design, cut and stitch together leather pouches for the Residents to keep or carry valuables. They passed out ‘ELK’ leather wheel chair gloves from this same program. These gloves protect the hands from calloused and injury from rolling wheelchairs.

ENF contributions help pay for this program and the gloves alone carry a retail price of $50/pair and are given to local Lodges, at no cost, for distribution to VAVS Facilities. In addition, the Lodge donated toothbrushes, toothpaste and mouthwash to the residents. The monthly Bingo at the Home is increasingly popular, with the Antlers volunteers over-seeing the Bingo. The Antlers have as much fun helping the Veterans play, as the Veterans do in playing.

Orange Park Lodge 2605

The Ladies group filled the wish lists of 12 residents of the Robert H. Jennings Domiciliary in Lake City with 24 complimentary meals to the residents. The Ladies prepared a spaghetti dinner with dessert and refreshments, then walked the halls of the hospital singing Christmas Carols and handing out small care packages.

The detailed elk’s head with intricately carved antlers is a symbol of the Lodge’s commitment to the Elks.

Palatka Lodge 1232

The Lodge celebrated 100 years with a week long celebration in November which included the City of Palatka’s Annual Veterans Day Parade where they paid homage to the Lodge as they celebrated their 100th anniversary. The parade included three units of the Florida National Guard as well as the Lassen Nursing Home Bus. Veterans from the Home attended the day’s festivities. Green Cove Springs Lodge led a march across the “Soldiers Bridge” immediately after the parade. A free lunch and refreshments was provided at the Lodge after the parade and bridge march.

St. Augustine Lodge 829

PER Bernard Masters, a 49 year member, presented the Lodge with a beautifully hand crafted Elk’s Clock. The detailed elk’s head with intricately carved antlers is a wonderful example of Bernard’s wood working skills and the gift of the clock to the Lodge demonstrates his commitment to the Elks.

Lodge members and volunteers prepared and served lunch provided by the USO to more than 800 military members and their families attending this year’s PAL Day activities in St. Augustine. The children were presented a gift bag by the Daughters of the Confederacy. They hosted a PAL lunch to the Veteran Marchers from the St. Augustine PAL Parade immediately following the parade as they have done for over 50 years.

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Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins

Awarded November 1, 2011 through January 3, 2012

Paid-in-Full $5,000 Certificate Donors

Robert & Eleanor Pastor Pompano Beach #1898

Gold Pins for Paid-in-Full $1,000 Certificate

James E. Aker Warrington #2108
Elizabet Brousseau Fort Pierce #1520
R. William Wellbaum, Jr., PSP Englewood #2378
Lawrence Jackman

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate

William Cullen Fort Walton #1795
William Laughton Dunedin/Clearwater #1525
William P. Lewis Fort Walton #1795
Charlotte Prim Stuart-Jensen #1870
Wm. C. Ruffian, Sr. Orange Park #2605
At the Veterans Remembrance Dinner; Left to right, Lucille Marino, E.R.Aripeka Elks 2520, Janice Pvirre, mother of Army Sgt. Paul Ray Smith who died Apr. 6, 2003 in Iraq. Sgt Smith earned the Medal of Honor presented by Congress; Mr. Donald Pvirre and Mr. John Gadovich, Vietnam Veteran presenter of the Medals of Valor.

Recently the Lodge presented a check in the amount of $500 to the Christian Church in Wildwood.

To assist a young man who suffered a severe brain damage playing football, whose father lost his job and had two heart attacks, recovered, found a job in Penn., Joey had to fly there in a special medical plane due to his condition. A few years ago PSP Ben Brown assisted us in purchasing Joey a hospital bed. Submitted by Mary Ann Steffles.

Kissimmee Lodge 1873

On Saturday, October 22, Kissimmee Lodge held the annual Soccer Shoot at Partin Settlement Elementary School.

On November 19, Kissimmee Elks honored the following community service personnel and their families with plaques and dinner, Lieutenant Kevin McGinley; Corrections officer Bernardo Alicea; Lieutenant Randall Donaldson, Firefighter/; Paramedic Jovanne Rodriguez; Officer Kevin Burkard; Battalion Chief H. Cleve Thomason and officer Stephen Heister.

Osceola Sheriff Bob Hansell was in attendance, as well as the chiefs for each of the award recipients.

Orlando Lodge 1079

Orlando Lodge raised $1,500 for the Orlando “Cops and Kids” Christmas Program. The program provides the opportunity for less fortunate children between the ages of five and thirteen to experience the Christmas spirit. Orlando Lodge member Larry Lockwood is the chairman for the program and he was able to raise enough money to take over 200 children on a Christmas shopping trip. Each child was accompanied by a uniformed police officer who also discussed drug abuse, crime and the importance of a good education.

Larry Lockwood is an Orlando Lodge member, House Committee Member, President of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 93 and Chairman of the Cops and Kids Program.

In addition, the Lodge raised money for another Christmas party in Bithlo, Florida. This is a region of Florida that the Orlando Sentinel describes as Orange County’s Appalachian. Lodge trustee Ron Priet organized the event and the Lodge provided food, music, presents and Santa to the children at the Global Outreach School in the community.
Miami Lodge 948

On October 5th Miami Lodge 948 held its homecoming reception for its own Jeff Muehlfield, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, South District. After a terrific dinner and speeches, DD Muehlfield presented 27 quilts to FECTS Therapist, Chantal Salnave to be given to the children that she treats on a weekly basis. These handmade quilts were crafted and provided by Lodge member Angela Maltzmann and her quilting guild, Ocean Waves.

DD Muehlfield held the drawing for the Super Raffle, the winners were, $200-LaDonna Grubbs, Miami 948, $300-Grace Hirigoyen, Miami 948, and the Grand Prize Winner, $500-Charles Trinowski, Past State President, Winter Park Lodge 1830. He then attended the Lodges first meeting for October.

Southcom enlisted veterans served the meals during Miami Lodge 948 Thanksgiving Veterans Luncheon

The majority of the veterans attending this event are housed at the local Miami Veterans Administration Hospital with some also being homeless.

A big thank you goes out to one of Miami Lodges new members, Brad Schwartz who recruited 26 Department of Army, Southcom volunteers (mostly active duty with some civilian employees) to assist with the serving of a full turkey dinner with all the fixings and drinks to the visiting veterans.

Art and Mickey Rauch provided gallon Ziploc bags containing basic needs that were passed out to the attending veterans. The Lodge would like to congratulate Rosalie Walfish for being awarded a certificate of appreciation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for her continued support of the Summer Student Volunteer Program at the Miami Veterans Administration Hospital.

On Saturday, November 19, the Lodge held its annual Charity Ball attended by more than 200 members and guests. The surprise entertainment was provided by Paolo Gualano and the Latin Sounds Company coinciding with the ball’s theme “Brazilian Carnival” with acrobat’s drummers and beautiful dancing girls. The members would like to thank Frank Obregon, this year’s Charity Ball Journal editor for putting together a superb memento for the event.

The Lodge held its Thanksgiving buffet attended by over 180 members and guests.

On December 4 the Lodge held its annual Memorial Service for its departed brothers and sisters of the past year.

On December 17 the Annual Children’s Holiday Party was held. The 50 children were treated to pizza, chicken tenders, macaroni and cheese, and french fries. After eating and participating in some games the children were then greeted by the entrance of Santa and Mrs. Claus. Santa then listened to each of the children’s holiday wishes and then provided a toy for each of the children.

The Lodge held two New Year’s Eve parties, a formal dinner and dance in the Crystal Ballroom and the second an all-you-can-eat buffet and dancing in the 11th hour lounge.

In January Lodge members participated in the Junior Orange Bowl Parade held in downtown Coral Gables. Members walked the parade route handing out Elks Drug Awareness information.

Florida Keys Lodge 1872

On December 10, Florida Keys Lodge 1872 held a murder mystery dinner, “Who Killed Santa?” The hundred guests were paired in the teams to solve the mystery of how Santa died. The funds raised will be used to send local children to the Elks youth camp this summer.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
LODGE BUDGET FOR VETERANS

Roger R. True, PGER
Past Chairman
Elks National Veterans Service Commission

Now is time for the incoming Exalted Ruler and Lodge Veterans Chairperson to plan together to fund activities for the Lodge’s veteran programs for the upcoming year.

I could take this opportunity to expound for pages on all the wonderful programs that our Order has developed to honor our veterans and our active military personnel but I know that I would be preaching to the choir. Therefore it is very important that we take this time to plan and budget appropriate funding that will allow us to outwardly show our veterans and military personnel that we honor and respect them and their families for the sacrifices they made.

Programs such as the “Army of Hope”, “Comfort Care Kits”, “Adopt-A-Vet”, and our partnership with the USO, have been developed as tools to allow our members to pay tribute to those veterans and military personnel who have given so much to allow us to live free. Dinners, dances, and parties can be combined with fundraisers to support veterans’ programs.

For many years the Elks National Foundation has been providing funding in support of our efforts with the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) at the local veterans facilities. You too can help at these facilities by budgeting money in support of our VAVS volunteers. In addition to raising funds locally for your programs, the Elks National Foundation can be a source of income through their Gratitude and Impact Grants. Yet another reason to reach your Lodge per capita of $4.50 per member early in the year.

Another opportunity is the Lodge Assistance Grant (LAG) which helps Lodges by allowing businesses that only support charitable 501 (c) (3) organizations to support a specific Lodge charitable program or project through a restricted monetary gift to the ENF. By taking advantage of this opportunity, everyone benefits: the business is able to support a local charitable cause; the Lodge is able to expand on its good deeds; and a community need is addressed.

No matter how you slice it, it’s a win-win situation!

I encourage you to plan your programs, prepare your budget, and put the appropriate teams in place to allow your Lodge and its members to show your veterans that you care.

Give a little bit of your time now and it will go a long way as you prove throughout the year that Elk’s never forget.
**Silver Springs Shores Lodge 2730**

Elk Pat Smith sells homemade desserts at the Lodge’s Friday night dinners to raise money for five needy families in our area to have a good Thanksgiving dinner and a great Christmas dinner with presents for everyone.

**Winter Park Lodge 1830**

Winter Park Elks Lodge Veterans Service Committee Co-Chairpersons, Walter “Ski” and Bern Stolarski, along with Frank Stephens, arranged a Christmas show by the Lodges’ musical group “The Legends” to be performed at the Orlando VA Medical Center.

“The six Legend troubadours in Photo 1 (Donna Tate, Patrick Moseley, Carol Jacobs, Monica Woolgar, Doug Duncan and Bill Jacobs) each sang two songs.

“Merry Christmas, Darling” got a big round of applause, with one Vet shouting out, “You good lady!” Other selections included “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus”, “Sweet Little Jesus, Boy”, “Oh, Holy Night”, “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” with all the Vets singing along, “Santa Baby”, “Silver Bells”, “White Christmas”, “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”, “Blue Christmas”, “The Christmas Song, Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire”. After the show the Vets enjoyed refreshments and cookies served up by “Ski”, Bern and Frank. It was a great day entertaining and serving those who served us and their country so well.

**Inverness Lodge 2522**

Every year the Inverness Lodge of Elks gives Citrus United Basket (CUB) a major donation. This year the Elks were able to raise $1,200 for CUB.

**MONITORING MEMBERSHIP GAIN**

by JAMES A. COGGINS
Committee Member

Any successful endeavor requires constantly monitoring its progress. Nowhere is this more important than in meeting our Membership goal for growing our Order with new dedicated Elks while retaining existing Members.

None of us would leave on a trip without checking maps for the best route. During the trip, we would monitor our progress just as we must monitor our Membership Progress to ensure we are going to arrive at a MEMBERSHIP GAIN at the end of our trip (end of the Lodge year).

We must constantly check the CURRENT STATUS of membership in each Lodge. CURRENT STATUS is determined by: Start of Year plus Gains minus Losses minus Delinquents equal CURRENT STATUS.

All of us - Grand Lodge Committees, State Chairmen, District Chairmen, Lodge Chairmen, Exalted Rulers, Lodge Secretaries and Members - must constantly monitor our progress. One of the best ways to keep Members informed is to post the CURRENT STATUS in the Lodge room.

At Elks.Org you will find many tools to assist with growing membership, but these tools will be of little or no value unless they are used.

For Local Lodges, the major benefit of monitoring your progress is that all Members can see where the Lodge stands. On the State and District levels, the major benefit of monitoring progress is that their leaders can see where the Lodges are and assist them in obtaining gains.

Work your plan, monitor your plan and make any necessary adjustments, and you will have a gain in membership for your Lodge.

**INVIATION TO ATTEND**

148th NATIONAL BPOE CONVENTION
JULY 1-5 2012
AUSTIN, TEXAS

by Glen Castelbury, Texas Local Support Committee

Texas Elks look forward with pride to hosting the 2012 National Convention in Austin, state capital city in the heart of our vast state. The name Texas comes from a native American word “tejas” which means friendly-and friendly is exactly how Texas Elks will greet our brother and sister Elks and guests from across the nation.

Texas is the land of “howdy, y’all,” and all of y’all from every Lodge in this country will be welcomed in that spirit, not only by the Elks of Texas, but by every Texan you will meet.

Austin is a colorful, diverse city with something for everyone. Our state capital (yeah, the largest in America, but you knew that, right?), the nightly flight of the world-renowned Mexican Free Tail bats from their downtown cavern, the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, the downtown entertainment district rightly known as “The Third Coast”, the myriad of restaurants ranging from sophisticated fine dining to our distinct Tex Mex cuisine, to the beauty of our city’s green hills-it all awaits your pleasure.

You will also find your convention and hotel experience unique in that all facilities are closely grouped and easily convenient. No long bus rides in Austin! So come on July 1-5, 2012.

Y’all come.
West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

On October 16th, the Lodge participated in the Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization’s 2011 Buddy Walk. It was held at John Prince Park in Lake Worth. The Lodge acted as a representative of the Florida State Elks Association. The Elks had a tent set up with information about the Elks and what we are all about. The Drug Awareness Van was there passing out drug awareness materials. Elroy the Elk entertained the children and started the walk with the kids. The Therapy Van was there also along with Terry Stocking showing it off. The tent was loaded with information about the Elks and a TV was running constantly with the indoctrination video rolling. Many people stopped by and was totally surprised at all we do for children and the community. This fabulous project was under the direction of our Leading Knight George Zocchi and his group of volunteers. It was at the beginning of the year that the Lodge donated $1,000 to this fine organization.

The Lodge also became the recipient of a $1,000 Impact Grant presented by the Elks National Foundation for the purpose of feeding the needy through the development of a community garden which will grow vegetables to share with the needy. The grant will also support a reading garden for children to be able to read in an environment that is conducive to quiet learning. Also a smaller children’s garden will be developed to teach the children about gardening and eating nutritious. This project is under the direction of Elk Member Tim Hadsell with assistance from Barbara Hadsell and the Wellington Garden Club.

On November 6, the Lodge held a Flag Retirement Ceremony under the direction of our sponsored Boy Scout Troop #199. The Boy Scouts did their service and many people were able to put a flag on the fire for proper burning. The local Marine Corps Reserves demonstrated the proper folding of an old flag and placed it on the fire. The ceremony was followed by a light buffet prepared by our House Committee Chairman Elaine Wherdy.

On December 18th, the Lodge hosted 35-50 needy children and their families from Wynnebrook Elementary School. They had breakfast with Santa and then he gave gifts to all the boys and girls there. As usual, Santa was played by Mike Newman with his wife acting as Santa’s helper. It was wonderful to see the excitement in the children’s eyes when they got to sit on Santa’s lap.

Jupiter Lodge 2469

The Lodge held an Oktoberfest on October 31st. The beer, food and dancing kept everyone busy for the evening.

East Central District continued from page 14

and several members, 160 flags were retired, including a USMC flag.

In honor of World War II Veterans and their spouses, the Lodge held a memorial ceremony luncheon commemorating the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

A group of the Lodge’s Elks, Ladies Auxiliary, and friends are planning a visit and tour of the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla.

Update on the Freddy Gleissner-Vinnie Gough Sr. Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament awarding a child pursuing a career as a Firefighter in Florida, raised $20,000.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

The Lodge hosted a luncheon during State President Frank D. Hayes’ visit to the East Central District. He was accompanied by his wife Linda, Vice President at Large Sean Maguire and his wife, Barbara, Ed Jackson PER and State Chairman for the Harry Anna Trust Fund and his wife, Patricia. The Lodge presented to the Hospital the original flag and placed it on the fire. The ceremony was followed by a light buffet prepared by our House Committee Chairman Elaine Wherdy.

Sanford Lodge 1241

Lodge Scholarship Chairman, Paul Leonard was busy handing out Student of the Month Awards to Spruce Creek High School and Atlantic High School students. In the months of October and November, two students from each high school were presented with an award, totaling eight students, in all.

Chairman of the Lodge Egg nog Party, Carolyn Shultz, hosted a buffet style event for 80 people. Volunteers helped serve the food and egg nog, and sold raffle tickets for a basket of cheer. Advance tickets were sent to the members for a cash drawing of $100-200-300 in prizes. The Lodge collected $2,350 of which $900 went to cover expenses, leaving the Lodge with $1,450.

On November 5th, the Lodge hosted veterans from the VA Hospital in West Palm Beach. They enjoyed a great lunch and then they were given $10.00 in paper money to play Elk Races. They all had a ball and hated to leave.

November 11th, The Lodge held its Colossal Auction of goods and gift cards from local merchants that were donated by the community and lodge members. It was a grand success. Colleen Dow, who chaired the event, worked really hard and should be thanked.

The Lodge Christmas Party was held on December 17th. Everyone was asked to bring a favorite covered dish and the lodge provided a carving station for everyone’s enjoyment.

Clewiston Lodge 1853

The Lodge hosted a fantastic Family Halloween Party on October 28th. The Lodge was decorated like a haunted house. There were approximately 200 children and 75 to 100 adults in attendance. Everyone was in costume and a grand time was had by all.

The Annual Christmas Party was held on December 16th with the theme of Jingle Bell Rock complete with a 50’s soda shop other activities.

The New Year’s Eve Celebration was on December 31st. There was a live band and we held a mini-drawing.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
Reporter Joy A. Booth, PER

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A fundraiser for 27 year old Kevin Atwell, grandson of Chuck Atwell, PER, was recently held at the Lodge. Kevin was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Due to his illness, Kevin lost his job and home. The benefit was attended by Lodge members, dignitaries and the local community; approximately 300 people attended. A check in the amount of $12,348.25 was presented to Kevin.
A joint project of Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and students from the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions.

On a beautiful Autumn weekend, a special project took place which involved UF Occupational Therapist Graduate Students, Graduate Students from the UF Rinker College of Building and Construction and skilled volunteers.

The project consisted of several modifications to the home of a patient being treated by one of our Elks therapists. The home didn’t allow the patient full access to her environment. To access the family van, her wheelchair had to be pushed over grass, or through a more indirect route through the front of the house. This required navigating multiple changes in elevation. In addition a number of doorways had to be widened to accommodate the patient’s wheelchair.

The project’s cost was underwritten by a grant from the Florida Elks Endowment fund, the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The grant paid for all materials used and all labor was provided by the volunteers.