Welcome back to the Florida Hotel at the Florida Mall. “Mall.” The mere mention of the word strikes fear in most men’s minds and joy in most women’s hearts. In spite of the temptation to shop and spend money on things we don’t really need or can easily live without, Florida Elks, their spouses, and significant others are gathered in Orlando for the important work of Elksdom. We’ve had a summer break and now it’s time to get down to serious business and promote our many worthwhile programs.

One of my pet peeves is that too often, we fall into a rut, albeit a comfortable one, and we don’t take the time to consider new ways: thinking “outside the box” as some would say. Doubtless, if we continue using the same unsuccessful approach to solve a problem, we will do nothing more than achieve the same result. It’s time to put our collective heads together and decide where we want the Florida State Elks Association to be in ten years, and then figure out how best to get there. Having a mega-buck Trust Fund, the best Youth Camp in the country and a first class Mobile Therapy program won’t mean much if we don’t have the dedicated, committed members needed to keep it all going in the right direction for generations to come.

Our State President, Brian Burns, is trying out a number of new ideas this year and we all appreciate his dedication and efforts to jump start our Association in a number of areas. I was pleased to be able to attend his visit to the East Central District and take part in cooking and serving a great bar-b-que luncheon to the Veterans who are residents of the state Veterans home in Daytona. Happy Veterans and happy children are two of Florida Elksdom’s many worthwhile goals. Brian and Mary Kay are a tremendously capable and committed couple who are working hard to spread the good word and good works of Elksdom around our great state.

Mike and I, together with Sandra and Claudia, had the honor of attending the FLOE banquet at their annual conference last month. It was truly inspiring to listen to all that the Florida Ladies of Elks have done in FIFTY YEARS for Florida Elkdom and for so many in their own communities. They have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to help buy vans - equipment -fund projects and help to furnish our many facilities over the years. Their great hearts are exceeded only by their truly great deeds. We were honored to be invited to join them in celebrating their 50th year of working together to give us so much.

A brief review of coming FSEA attractions: State Secretary Carl Seibert is already hard at work planning the February Quarterly. Our Grand Exalted Ruler Millard Pickering and his beautiful wife, Suzanne will be our guests at the Youth Camp, of course. We will also have a performance by Re-creation on Saturday afternoon, preceded by another musical group at the Friday night dinner for your listening and dancing pleasure. Set aside that weekend (Feb 6, 7, and 8) to visit the Youth Camp and the “Grand” and his wife.

FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS

2013-2014 FLOE Officers

Florida Ladies of Elks Officers installed on September 21, 2013 are from left; 4 Year Advisory Council, Judy Fournier; 4 Year Advisory, Carol Phelps; Historian, Vi Osborn; Parliamentarian, Janice MacKenzie; Chaplain, Mary Fejeran; Treasurer, Connie Poage; Secretary, Becky Long; Vice President, Jane Moon; and FLOE President Judy Reyes.

50th Anniversary Cake

From left: Outgoing FLOE President Carol Phelps gathered with Past Lady Presidents Betty Groff, Enid “Sam” Simpson, Beverly Messerschmidt, Faye Bryant, Amy Lixie, Mildred Lamb, Jo Ann Copperman, Dolores Casella, and Carol Deresh to cut the cake and later serve as dessert to as many 50th Anniversary Banquet guests as it could.

A Fraternal Organization of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

Elks: Making a Difference with Our Hands, Hearts, and Voices.

FLORIDA NEWS

Volume XXVI No. 3 Official Publication of the Florida State Elks Association Fall 2013

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DISTRICTEE VICE PRESIDENTS
Northwest.......................... Rick J. Lemke.................. Crestview Lodge 2624
North.............................. Charles R. “Dick” Joyal......... Perry Lodge 1851
Northeast.......................... F. Keith Eppes............. Orange Park Lodge 2605
North Central...................... Harold N. Warren............. Ocala Lodge 826
East Central......................... Edward K. Jackson.......... Port Orange Lodge 2723
Central............................. Jody Richards.................. Orlando Lodge 1079
South Central...................... John D. Houlihan........... Vero Beach Lodge 1774
West Central....................... Rudolph “Rudy” J. Masl, Sr. ... St. Petersburg Lodge 1224
Southwest Central................. Ted Martello............... Lakeland Lodge 1291
Southwest.......................... Dave Manning................. Bradenton Lodge 1511
South Southwest............... Deborah A. Hargrove...... Port Charlotte Lodge 2153
Southeast......................... Joy A. Booth.................. West Palm Beach Lodge 1352
South Central...................... Howard Greenstein......... Delray Beach Lodge 1770
South.................................. Jon Mon Muller............. Miami Lodge 948
FSEA Secretary..................... Carl T. Seibert.............. Belle Glade-Pahokee Lodge 1716
Treasurer........................... Joseph B. Bryant........... Sebring Lodge 1529
Tiler................................. Jackquelin Tucker........... Arcadia Lodge 1524
Historian............................ Russell P. Tyler.............. West Palm Beach Lodge 1352
Asst. Historian..................... Truman A. Bass............... Deep Creek Lodge 2763
Curator of Museum.............. Donald Sansoussi.............. Lake Placid Lodge 2661

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Donald Sansoussi.................. 5 year................................. Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Vincent P. Conner.................. 4 year................................. Margate Lodge 2463
R. William Wellbaum Jr..3 year................................. Englewood Lodge 2728
David B. Lake...................... 2 year................................. Ft. Myers Lodge 1288
James A. Coggins.................. 1 year................................. Warrington Lodge 2108
Dean D. Maguire..............Impe Past State President.....West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

DISTRICT DIRECTORS
Northwest.......................... David Wiley.................. Warrington Lodge 2108
North.............................. B. L. “Cap” Pratt, PDD........ Live Oak Lodge 1165
Northeast.......................... Raymond D. Murphree...... St. Augustine Lodge 829
North Central...................... Dennis J. DeCarlo.......... Apopka Lodge 2422
East Central......................... Joe Rogers.................... Sanford Lodge 1241
South Central...................... Robert D. Barry............. Kissimmee Lodge 1873
Southeast Central................. Lenny Smallacombe........... Ft. Pierce Lodge 1520
West Central......................... Michael Pierson............. Seminole Lodge 2519
Southwest Central................. John Russo.................. Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Southwest......................... Frank Malatesta............. Sarasota Lodge 1519
South Southwest.................... Philip J. Gersbach, PDD..... Ft. Myers Lodge 1288
Southeast.......................... Gary Casperson............... Jupiter Lodge 2469
South Southeast................... Denise E. May-Carter...... Northwest Broward Lodge 2273
South.................................. Jefferey A. Muehfeld, PDD.. Miami Lodge 948

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS
Chaplain............................ F. Keith Eppes.............. Cocoa Lodge 2605
Sr-at-Lms........................... James L. Lamb................. Bradenton Lodge 2495
Organist............................ Patricia A. Maher............ Margate Lodge 2463

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

FLORIDA ELKS CHARITIES, INC.
Victor McClellan.................. President.................. Port Orange Lodge 2723
Charles A. Trinowski, PSP........ Vice President............. Winter Park Lodge 1830

FLORIDA ELKS PROPERTIES, INC.
W. Larry Henley..................... President.................. Tallahassee Lodge 917
Alex McKibbin..................... Vice President............. Sanford Lodge 1241

FLORIDA ELKS MAJOR PROJECTS COMMITTEE
R. William Wellbaum.............. Chairman................. Englewood Lodge 2387

FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP, INC.
Thomas R. Ludwick, PDD......... President.................. Plant City Lodge 1727
Betsy Tewksbury, PDD............ Vice President............. Suntree-Jensen Lodge 1870
Lynn Warburton................... Director.................. Palm Coast Lodge 2709

FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES, INC.
Mario Ferlotti, PDD................. President.................. Large Lodge 2519
Thomas "Ted" Reel................... Vice President............. St. Augustine Lodge 829
Ben Brown......................... Administrator.................. Eustis Lodge 1578

PAST GRAND EXALTED RULERS
Robert Girallon, PGER............ Florida Co-Sponsor
10523 SW 12th Terrace - Micanopy - 32667
2013–2014 OFFICERS OF THE FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.
Brian T. Burns..................... President.................. Port Orange Lodge 2723
Arcadia . FL 34266
3662 NW C.R. 661
PRESIDENT VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE
32667
2704 Barnard Road
36207

STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE
Brian T. Burns
Florida State Elks Association President

Members all,

As I prepare this message, we have completed one half of our District visits. It has been a wonderful experience, and we look forward to a great time as we continue to work hard for the Florida State Elks Association.

Back in July we traveled to Reno, NV to visit our great State at the National Convention. What a wonderful opportunity and we had an enjoyable get together with dedicated Elks from around the United States. Florida once again was very proud to be a very important link in the chain of Elksdom. I hope you all get the chance to check out my report on the website.

When we returned from Reno, Mary Kay and I along with VPAL Danny and Rachel Tabor and our wonderful team got back to our visit schedule with a trip to the Southeast District. There we saw a great example of “Elks making a difference with their Hands, Hearts, and Voices.”

We toured a Community Garden Project which not only provides needed fresh produce for local food banks, but also teaches local youth about how to and what benefits gardening can provide. We also had a nice visit with many Elks and their friends to complete a great weekend.

The District Lodges are working on being involved in their communities from fishing tournaments to work with scholarships and local community groups. Thanks to all for your hard work.

We next were off to the West Central District and a very busy weekend. We visited several Lodges for food and fellowship, and to see their great programs. One of the highlights of the weekend was a visit to Bay Pines VA Hospital and an interaction with our Veterans. The District does an outstanding job entertaining and taking care of whatever the needs are for these most important heroes. It was great to visit those who could not come out and enjoy the show and enthusiasm of the day. It always is humbling to have a bedridden Veteran thank me for all we do after they have given so much. It was a great weekend and I thank the entire West Central District for all you do to help our communities.

Of course the weekend in the West Central District winds up at the “Elks Day at the Rays.” What a great program to support our major projects and offer Elks a day to have fun. It’s always nice to have a talented President to go out and throw an impressive first pitch to set the mood for the day. Unfortunately the worn out shoulders of your President were not very impressive. I do thank everyone for the great opportunity and especially to have my two grandsons on the field with me. It was fantastic! We had fun and made a difference in the lives of many with the funds we raised.

Our next stop in our travels was in the East Central District. We had a great visit learning more and more about our local Lodge programs. I was very proud to meet Mayor Jeff Triplett and receive the Key to the City of Sanford.

On September 20, we had the great opportunity to visit the Florida Ladies of Elks at their 50th Conference in Tampa. It was a nice opportunity of giving that was celebrated as they gathered. Our Ladies group continues to make a difference not only in the support of our major projects, but also in their involvement in their local Lodges by helping our Order sustain our mission and especially to have the leadership and support of our State Elks Softball Tournament with a great tradition of twenty years of support of our Major Projects.

Thank you, to all the dedicated Elks of the East Central District.

As always God, please watch over our Veterans we serve. They had their differences, they probably did not agree with every political posture as they went to fight for our freedom. But, they broke the trend of constant bickering. Be the person that you would want to be with your obligation. We continue to see alarming numbers in our membership efforts. We all know that only a small percentage of our members are going to do the bulk of the heavy lifting. A small percentage of a small number is small! Make YOUR Lodge a “want to” place to be. Be the person who breaks the trend of constant bickering. Be the person who takes a deep breath and looks at the “big picture.” Do we want to throw away all the good we do because we could not get along with each other? We need to take a lesson from those many Veterans we serve. They had their differences, they probably did not agree with every political posture as they went to fight for our freedom. But, they worked together, fought for the betterment of what they know is a great nation. Let us rededicate ourselves to our principles and work toward the goals of our Association.

As always God, please watch over our troops and our leaders; guide our lives and our decisions to promote our future for the betterment of all.
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert, PDD

The Time is Now for Real, Meaningful, and Effective Change! Let’s start the Revolution!

In my ongoing efforts to share with you my viewpoints on the steps needed for membership growth, I am constantly being drawn back to the concepts surrounding the quality of the membership opportunities we offer new and existing members. You see, I believe that to grow our membership, we are going to have to offer individuals a membership experience that is unique, a membership experience that stands apart from the traditional fraternal/civic offerings, and one that provides members with ample opportunities for service to others, self-improvement, social interaction, and opportunities for leadership development. To accomplish growth we are going to have to transform the membership product we are currently offering to better fit the evolving values, attitudes, and social norms inherent in the people of today! This is called the cultural change of an organization and to survive, businesses and organizations must do it all the time! It is the survival of the fittest, an adaptation over time, and it is something that, although never easy, must be done if we are to grow once again!

Getting our Lodges and membership to embrace cultural change has not been easy, but our acceptance of societal change is, in my opinion, the key to our prospects for growth. I realize it is frightening to think of acceptance and change let alone elect or embrace them. Our fear of failure permeates our thinking as we contemplate our actions, and that “elastic band” of majority opinion adds resistance and makes it far too easy for us to take the road more frequently traveled as we continue to make the same mistakes we have been making over and over! A phrase heard all too often these days is kick the can down the road but kick the can is what we are doing. I don’t ever think there will come the day when society no longer needs the services offered by service or fraternal organizations. However, I do think the day will come that our neglecting the need to adapt will make it incredibly difficult for us to remain viable.

The last 30 years of membership decline in our organization should prove to us that the membership product we are currently offering is not as sought after as it once was. We have in fact lost 1/3 of the membership numbers we once had at our peak. There will come a breaking point for us if we don’t begin to embrace real and effective changes to the culture of our organization. As an organization founded by actors, we relate to our new members that their time upon the “stage of action” is but brief, meaning the time they have to use their membership effectively, since life is only so long. We charge them to choose a part to play in the drama suggesting they use their membership to not be self-serving but rather in ways that bring honor to oneself and the organization. We tell them that the scenes of the play will change swiftly and throughout their years as a member but assure them that “we by each other” will be often aided in our part and that from each other we will obtain our inspiration to go further! We then tell them that this is what we believe is needed and emphasize that we tell them the product they are receiving is brotherhood and sisterhood, and we imply that our mission in life is service above self. Sadly, the product we more commonly sell today is a membership wherein the member is distracted by the need to prop up and sustain a fledgling bar and restaurant operation. We sell them on cheap fooz and drive in an effort to keep pace with our competition we wrongly perceive to be the neighborhood sports bar and restaurant and we wrongly allow our perceived competition, the American Legion Hall and Moose Lodge, to set our prices for us as we can’t charge more than them lest our members will just go there!

If we are to persevere we are going to have to wet our feet in the waters of something new. We must be the innovators and adapt our products to meet today’s needs. We must let go of the ideals and realities that allow us to simply maintain and instead venture into the halls of never tried before and what have we got to lose! We have to stop kicking the can down the road and become the generation that stands up and starts the revolution!

Regarding the American Revolution, John Adams once said, “The Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people. The radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments, and affections of the people was the real American Revolution.”

So too is our revolution. Change will happen in our minds and in our hearts when we embrace the changes that have taken place in today’s society and apply those changes to the opportunities we offer to those of like mind in service to our communities and those in need!

Branding and specialization are all the rage these days. Can you even remember the last time someone became just a doctor or a lawyer? Today they specialize in a particular field or discipline. Nationally we have embraced the concept that Elks are whatever we perceive them to be in their cities and communities. Although respectable in concept, society today expects more than just the same old, same old generalization and existence. I believe that we as a state, a state that has a long history of running hospitals and providing medical care to children, should adopt the Elks brand and that the place the community turns for volunteers should be the specialization we strive for in our Lodges. This brand and specialization will provide us a membership opportunity complete with respect and intrigue. It will be a membership product that no one else is currently promoting and will be a product that meets the needs of prospective members for years to come!

This is real, meaningful, and effective change, change from within, and change that embraces acceptance for the greater good of those in need! How could anyone not subscribe to this concept? It’s a whole lot better than cheap food & drinks, cliques, infighting, and dwindling affect; wouldn’t you agree?

Stay tuned, as for the next issue I am preparing my thoughts on why I believe we must stop writing checks to others and being the fundraisers for everyone else’s charity! No one does that for us! Why should we do it for them? Until next time.

OneBlood and the Florida Elks Team Up to Save a Life

We have all probably heard at some time that giving blood helps save lives, and one good example is the story of 9-year-old Jordan Rueelle-Lees. He has a rare condition called Immotial Cilia Syndrome, also called PCD, which robs his body of the ability to filter out germs and bacteria. He has to have regular intravenous infusions of immunoglobulin which contains antibodies to help his immune system. These antibodies come from blood donors and are very important in treating diseases like Jordan’s.

That’s why George Zocchi, Past Exalted Ruler, has taken Jordon’s plight to heart and is organizing a statewide blood drive. He has learned that Jordan’s need for constant infusions are critical to sustaining his life. It takes 500 pints of blood to filter out enough antibodies needed for one monthly treatment. Jordan’s life is dependent upon the goodness of blood donors.

George found out some surprising statistics. For example, one in three of us will need a blood transfusion in our lifetime. Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs a blood transfusion. He has learned that donating blood is one of the most powerful actions any human being can take. Your donation will literally save someone’s life.

“It’s surprising that Jordan’s life is literally being sustained by blood donors,” says Zocchi. “There are volunteers who give their time and gift of life for a boy they don’t even know.” That’s why George thought that having a blood drive would be the best way to honor his friend and draw attention to the constant need for blood donations, not only for Jordan but for patients in our hospitals.

Zocchi, with the support of past State President, Sean Maguire, is putting his mission into action by holding a blood drive, an action that aligns with our slogan, “Elks Care - Elks Share.” That’s why the Elks are teaming up with OneBlood, our local blood center, to hold a special blood drive December 1-7. OneBlood supplies blood to hospitals across Florida and its slogan “Share Your Power,” refers to the ability we all have to share our power to save lives by donating blood.

“During this first week of December we hope all of you will ask your friends, family members, and coworkers to join you by donating at a OneBlood donor center near you,” says Maguire. “…We will be reaching out to local media with the slogan, “OneBlood and the Elks of Florida: Saving Lives Together,” letting our communities know that the Elks support this lifesaving cause.”
Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks:

The 50th Anniversary Conference was a great success as we celebrated the accomplishments of all the ladies who have worked for many years in support of our State Projects. We prepared a special booklet about the history of FLOE along with pictures of the Past FLOE Presidents. Our banquet dinner was enjoyed on Friday complete with a special Anniversary cake that all the Past FLOE Presidents helped to cut. PGER C. Valentine Bates & Claudia, PGER Michael F Smith & Sandra were our guests along with FSEA President Brian Burns & Mary Kay. President Brian said a few words of “thanks” to the members for all we do.

Our Saturday business meeting had a total of 188 members in attendance. Many of the Past FLOE Presidents attended the Conference along with Margaret Foreso - Sec/Treas. 1987-1988 and Debbie Farris – Vice President 1986 - 1987.

PSP Enid “Sam” Simpson reported for the Advisory Committee. The Audit Committee will be chaired by PSP Carol Deresh. The 2013-2014 Advisory Chaired will be Carol Deresh and Mary McCoy, WC District will be the Secretary.

The fund raising activities at the May State Convention resulted in: Silent Auction $5,305.00 and Chinese Auction $2,802.00. Felicia Vuletich, Advisory and Judy Fournier, SE District were thanked for chairing these events.

PSP Betty Groff presented the proposed By-Law changes. Votes were taken and all proposed changes passed. The most significant change had to do with Membership which passed 143 to 9. Associate Members (Ladies who are Elk members and belong to a Ladies Organization) now have all rights and privileges of membership. They have a voice & vote with FLOE and can now be Delegates for their District.

Betty Groff gave the report of Christmas stockings made for the four Florida residents at the Elks National Home. She presented me with a beautiful stocking filled with gifts.

Lynn Warburton, PDD, Director of the Youth Camp gave his report along with recognition awards to the ladies for their contributions. Top donation awards went to Cape Coral Ladies of Elks $9,380; Punta Gorda Elkettes $5,045; and Warren Springs $117.00 and a very close third of $114.00 by West Palm Beach. Punta Gorda had the most ads with a total of $180.00. Barbara Smallacombe, PER, State Chairman of Ladies Organizations assisted by George Zocchi, Vice Chairman presented the scrapbook and attendance awards. Scrapbook 1st place – St. Petersburg; 2nd Place – Brandon; and 3rd Place - Ocala. Percent of Membership in Attendance with 50% in attendance was Winter Garden. Mileage award – Cape Coral with 4,576 miles for all members in attendance. The District Traveling Trophy for most cash, time and miles reported for the year went to Northwest District.

PSP Enid “Sam” Simpson installed the new Officers for 2013-2014. They are: President-Judy Reyes; Vice President-Jane Moon; Secretary-Becky Long; Treasurer-Connie Kalel-Poage; Chaplain-Mary Fejeran; Parliamentarian-Janice McKenzie; Historian-Vi Osborn; Advisory Members-Carol Phelps and Judy Fournier. I know they will have a great year with your help and support.

A plaque was presented to retiring Advisory member Dolores Casella, PSP, for her service. Shirley Shaffer, NC District, who was not able to be with us, will also be retiring from the Advisory Council this year and will receive her plaque.

I gave my retirement speech with the same quote from George Burns I used when I started my year. “The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.” I did my best to live by that quote while I thanked everyone, especially Carl Seibert and his staff, members of North Ft. Myers LOE and my husband Wesley for all their help and support this past year.

Wayne Reyes and Judy are the 2013-2014 King and Queen of FLOE

After Judy Reyes gave her acceptance speech, Wes and I had the honor to crown Judy as the new President for 2013-2014 and her husband Wayne.

All Chairladies were reminded to write up their Committee reports to be presented at the next FLOE meeting which will be held 8:00 am on Saturday, November 9, 2013 at the Mid-Year Convention at the Florida Hotel in Orlando.

I extend my best wishes to Judy and the Officers for the coming year. Remember - “Children are God’s rainbows.” Enjoy how special each child is and the joy they bring to our lives.

Regards,
Past FLOE President
Carol Phelps
Contributions from Florida Ladies to the Major Projects of the Florida State Elks Association during the year 2012-2013

The following donations are from the period April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013 and include contributions to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Trust Fund and Elks Charities. A combined total of $75,039.67 was donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Elks Charities and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services (FECTS).

Another $47,529 was donated to the Florida Elks Youth Camp (FEYC).

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<td>500</td>
<td>1,115.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punta Gorda Elkettes</td>
<td>5,045</td>
<td>3,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District totals</td>
<td>16,125</td>
<td>10,233.96</td>
</tr>
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</table>

FEYC Director with Punta Gorda Delegate Joan Haynes and two awards for 2nd Most Money, $5,045; and 2nd Most Campers 24

Cape Coral Ladies of Elks received two awards, Most Money donated to the Florida Elks Youth Camp, $9,380; and Most Campers Sent to Camp, 53.

First Place with the Best Scrapbook was St. Petersburg Ladies of Elks.

Guess who’s in this FLOE 365 Club donation of $2,461.08 to the Florida Elks Youth Camp?

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT
Daytona Beach Emblem Club #204 305.00
Deland Elks Ladies 215.00
Ladies of the Island Elks-MI 300 1,614.99
Edgewater / NSB Auxiliary 845.50
Palm Coast Ladies Auxiliary 1,180 2,450.00
Port Orange Elks Hearts 1,000 1,135.00
District Totals 2,480 7,410.49

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT
Apopka Elkettes 11.16
Eustis Anna Miller Circle 2,880 2,393.32
Ocala Ladies 1,000.00
Winter Park Does Drove 86 540 2,000.00
Winter Garden Does 3,420 5,404.48

WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT
Tallahassee Elkettes 200.00
Holiday Isles Ladies of Elks 145.00
Pinellas Park Ladies of Elks 81.02
Seminole Ladies of Elks 687.20
St. Petersburg Ladies of Elks 500 1,290.00

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT
Cocoa Beach Elkettes 60.00
Ft. Pierce Elkettes 1,000 2,275.00
Melbourne Ladies Auxiliary 1,540 1,020.00
Sebastian El Does 500 1,000.00
Stuart-Jensen Anna Miller Circle 183.50
Viera Elkettes 124.78
West St. Lucie 250 500.00
District totals 3,290 5,163.28

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT
Brandon Ladies of Elks 1,080 1,892.27
Lake Placid Ladies of Elks 2,637.03
Lake Wales Elkettes 50.00
Lakeland Elkmates 155.00
Plant City Ladies of Elks 540 680.50
District totals 1,620 5,414.80

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
Sarasota Does Dr. #157 225.00
Palmetto Elks Ladies 100.00
Bradenton Elkettes 900 1,000.00
Venice - Nokomis Does Dr. #141 220.00
District totals 900 1,545.00

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT
Boca Raton Does Dr. #173 300.00
Oakland Park LOE #2407 265.00
Delray Beach Elkettes 750 1,165.00
Sunrise Elkettes 574.00
Pompano Beach Does Drove #142 600 615.00
District totals 1,350 2,919.00

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
Florida Keys Does DR #117 200.00
Homestead Anna Miller Circle 202.52
Marathon Does Dr. #167 225.00
Coral Gables Elkettes 200.00
Miami Elkettes of 948 3,000.17
District totals 3,627.69
VETERANS REMEMBRANCE MONTH
by Louis J. Grillo, PGER

As all Elks know, November is Veterans Remembrance Month and we, as an organization put forth special efforts during this time to remember all Veterans who have served and sacrificed for our Nation’s freedoms. Yet, it goes without saying that the Elks remember our Veterans and Active Duty Personnel every day of the year.

During our just concluded Grand Lodge Convention, Grand Exalted Ruler Thomas S. Brazier expressed to the members present that the Department of Veterans Affairs has requested that the Elks do two special things to help our Veterans. The first is that your Elks Lodge could provide a room where Veterans could meet on a regular basis and just hang out. Many Veterans, especially the younger ones, are having a difficult time adjusting to civilian life. By spending time with their comrades at the Elks Lodge, and sharing their experiences, this could be most beneficial to their healing process. The second is that Elks should hire Veterans if at all possible, or inform those who might be hiring, so that our Veterans could more easily find employment.

You are not only helping a Veteran who may be out of work, you are helping a business by hiring someone who knows how to listed, follow instructions and respect authority.

As Elks, we must not only remember the Veterans, but their families who have sacrificed with them. We should remember the mother who will no longer have her son or daughter on Mother’s Day. We should remember the wife or husband who has lost their spouse and now spends time taking their children alone to the park to play. These are the children, who no longer have their mom to tuck them in at night or their dad to play with them when he comes home from work. And yes, we remember the fathers who stand alone, remembering their children, and ask the question “Why?” The families and loved ones remember every day for the rest of their lives the loved ones who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

As Elks, we give thanks to our Veterans. Let us also not forget the families who continue to sacrifice for the rest of their days.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Elks Family Matters:
Being a part of the Elks family means so much more than spending summers at the pool or filling up at a pancake breakfast. It means being supported by Elks close to home and across the country. No members of the Elks family know this better than recipients of the Elks National Foundation Emergency Educational Grant.

Exclusively for children of deceased or totally disabled Elks, the Emergency Educational Grant provides students with financial assistance throughout college.

Between July 1 and December 31, eligible students may apply for this renewable, one-year grant of up to $4,000. The grant is for educational assistance only and is not intended to cover the entire cost of a college education.

For Emergency Educational Grant recipients, support from the Elks family is essential for building a stronger future. Consider Jessie Haskell, an EEG recipient sponsored by Bellows Falls, VT, Lodge No. 1619. After the death of her father, Jessie was uncertain whether she could continue her education. Thanks to her Elks National Foundation scholarship, Jessie is now a junior at the Community College of Vermont. With the Elks’ support, she is following in her parents’ footsteps and becoming a teacher.

“My goal is to make a difference in people’s lives as a teacher and coach, just like my father,” says Jessie. “Support from my Elks family has helped me to gain confidence, stay in school, and work to accomplish this goal.”

This year, the Elks National Foundation allocated 300,000 to fund Emergency Educational Grants. If you know any Elks children who may be eligible to receive an Emergency Educational Grant, encourage them to apply. Show scholars they have the Elks’ support by building meaningful relationships with Elks scholars on college campuses near your Lodge. For more information on how to connect with Elks scholars, visit www.elks.org/enf/scholar

From the desk of Judy Reyes
FLOE President 2013 / 2014

There is nothing more rewarding than helping children, except, helping children with friends, that is who we are and this is what we do. Thank you, Florida Ladies of Elks, for believing in me and for wanting to take this “journey for the Children, From the Heart, One Step at a Time”. I am truly honored to be the “first” for the second “Fifty Years” of our “First Century”, and together we will take this second fifty years to even greater heights.

My theme for the year is, “A Journey For The Children, From The Heart, One Step At A Time.” My colors for the year are Turquoise, Pink and a little touch of Sand (for the Sandcastles); my symbols are Sea Shells, Sandcastles, Pink Hearts and White Orchids. Wayne and I look forward to a very exciting new year, and I look forward to working with you and seeing each of you at Mid-Year Convention in November. I would like to leave you with this one thought – Forget all the reasons why it won’t work and believe in the one reason why it will – The Children.

FUTURE GRAND LODGE CONVENTIONS
2014 NEW ORLEANS, LA  7/13-17
2015-INDIANAPOLIS, IN  7/5-9
2016-HOUSTON, TX      7/3-6
2017-RENO, NV           7/16-19
2018-SAN ANTONIO, TX    TBD
2019-ST LOUIS, MO       TBD

Check the FSEA website at www.floridaelks.org for more Midyear Convention Information
**SOUTHEAST DISTRICT**

**Joy A. Booth, SEVP, Reporter**

wpb1352@gmail.com

**DISTRICT NEWS**

The District entertained State President Brian Burns and Mary Kay along with VPAL Danny Tabor and Rachel on July 26 and 27. Chaplain Carl Ledig and Dolly along with Harry/Anna Chairman Jim Lind and Karolyn made the trip also. They dined at the Jupiter Lodge on Friday night and enjoyed Elk Races and Jinga. Saturday, they were treated to a presentation of West Palm Beach Lodge’s community garden and a trip to Lion Country Safari. That night, they had dinner at the Lodge and enjoyed the music of Valerie White. All in all, it was a very successful weekend.

The District is saddened by the passing of PD-DGER Les Szirbik on September 12, 2013. Les was a member of the West Palm Beach Lodge and Lantana/Boynton Lodge. There was a service conducted on September 22, 2013. He was a great cook and worked very hard for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in our District. He will be missed by many.

**Clewiston Lodge 1853**

Timmy Dean and his wife, Debbie, have constructed a large map of Florida and the United States and have encouraged members who travel around to bring back pins to be attached to the map in the appropriate places. They even have pins from Alaska and Hawaii. The pins also represent state and national conventions, various state presidents and Grand Exalted Rulers. Everyone at the Lodge is encouraged to add to the collection.

On August 10, the Lodge held a mini drawing to raise money for lounge improvements. They raised a nice sum for new walls and lighting in hopes of attracting new and younger members.

On August 23, the Lodge hosted a poker tournament for ACFC (Active Citizens for Children). All proceeds were donated to the Harry-Anna Fund. In September, they held the second Annual Bass Tournament for the kids of Clewiston. Exalted Ruler Skip Simmonds and other Lodge members enjoy working with the kids on this worthwhile project.

**West Palm Beach Lodge 1352**

The Lodge has held several parties in the newly redecorated Tiki Hut. Several members have contributed their time and money in this project under the leadership of Mike Newman.

The Lodge is also arranging a bus trip to Umatilla and the Youth Camp for new members and those older members who have never been before. The bus will also stop at the Jupiter Lodge and pick up some of their members. This trip is provided by the Florida State Association and their new program of paying for the bus.

The Lodge has initiated quite a few new members lately. On August 21, Exalted Ruler Herb Loreti gave the Obligation to 16 candidates. This was quite a success lately. On August 21, Exalted Ruler Herb Loreti, of Leading Knight Hector Rodriquez, and participating in the show were Esquire Jerry Marenga, of Leading Knight Hector Rodriquez. The Lodge men night, after the meeting, the new members were given the Obligation to 16 candidates. This was quite a nice sum for new walls and lighting in hopes of attracting new and younger members.

**Jupiter Lodge 2469**

Jupiter Lodge received a plaque from the Elk National Foundation for having donated over $25,000 to the ENF fund. There are four plaques as more donations are received. The plaques are awarded in $25,000 increments. As part of the Cornerstone Club, the first plaque is called Integrity. The next three plaques are called Knowledge, Community, and Charity.

The Lodge held a fund raiser for the local chapter of the “Wounded Warrior Project.” They raised over $5,000 for the cause.

Members collected school supplies for five area schools. The Bingo players donated their time and purchased all the supplies for this project.

The Lodge also hosted a “Haunted House” which raised funds for four $500 scholarships which will be presented to four graduating seniors in the area at the end of the school year.

They are in the process of planning a Veterans Luncheon for the Veterans from the West Palm Beach VA Hospital. Also in the planning is preparing Thanksgiving Dinners for the needy in the community.

**Lake Okeechobee Lodge 2871**

Stean Breddlove, Veterans Committee Chairman, presented Mr. Carl Hudson, Boy Scout Troop 964 Scout Master, with a financial donation for their participation supporting the Annual Elks Flag Day Ritual conducted this past June.

**Belle Glade/Pahokee Lodge 1716**

While everyone was out and about this summer, the Lodge members had a different project in mind. During the month of July, the Lodge members decided to take on a community service project. They decided to make repairs to a house owned by Mrs. Mavis Waldon.

Although she is not a member, Mrs. Waldon is very active in the community and her church. She has lived in Belle Glade for 49 years and her house is right around the corner from the Lodge.

They repaired and painted the outside of the house, repaired her driveway and steps, and did repairs to the inside as well.

Mrs. Waldon was overly pleased with the results and thanked the people involved. She said her house is now safe to live in once again. Her comment was, “They really and truly lived out Jesus’ command to a ‘Love thy Neighbor.”

**WESTERN DISTRICT**

**Adrienne Martin, Reporter**

ajmartin66@hotmail.com

**West Citrus Lodge 2693**

West Citrus Lodge 2693 has had a busy year so far. Easter Egg Hunt, Mothers’ Day, Fathers’ Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July and many dinner dances in between.

Our Veterans Group who now visit Veterans at eight Assisted Living or Nursing Homes, having pizza parties, outings and birthdays for the Veterans which is enjoyed by all.

In August the Lodge held its annual Purple Heart Breakfast for all Veterans in the area who have received a Purple Heart. This year we honored over 100 patriots. In attendance were Senator Charles Dean; Rep. Jimmy Smith; Citrus County Commissioner J. J. Kenney, and several special guests representing various Citrus County Departments.

We were able to give $200 to a new Dental & Medical Facility for supplies and equipment for the needy, homeless and seniors run by The Nature Coast Services. In August the Lodge held its annual Purple Heart Breakfast for all Veterans in the area who have received a Purple Heart. This year we honored over 100 patriots. In attendance were Senator Charles Dean; Rep. Jimmy Smith; Citrus County Commissioner J. J. Kenney, and several special guests representing various Citrus County Departments.

Ministries from the Impact Grant from The Elks National Foundation, and supplied The Foster Parents Association with $500 for school supplies.

**Zephyrhills Lodge 2731**

Zephyrhills Lodge donated more than $9,000 during the second quarter to charities thanks to the money received through grants from the Elks National Foundation and the Lodge’s weekly bingo. The charities included East Pasco Meals on Wheels, Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch, Zephyrhills Pregnancy Care Center, St Joseph’s Hospital Pediatric Christmas in July, Recreation, Support the Troops, ENF and Harry-Anna Trust.

Pictured are Exalted Ruler Carol Boyd and East Pasco Meals on Wheels Director Debbie Hower. The van that is pictured was donated by Zephyrhills Lodge to Meals on Wheels during the 2010 Lodge year.
Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525

Over the summer, the Lodge sent eight children to camp for a week of fun and recreation and they learned they really could survive without all their electronic gadgets.

The Lodge held a fundraiser for the Pinellas County Animal Services on August 24 and raised $230 by holding a “Wing Ding” lunch. There were 55 members in attendance. Thank you to Jim “Smitty” Smith, Gary Daniels, the Lodge Blue. They also came up to do a fundraiser, in August, for the wife of Bob Thornburg, ER of Pinellas Park. Cheryl Thornburg got deathly ill during their trip to the Reno National Convention and required ICU care for an extended period of time before she could return home.

There were 15 Lodge members who cooked and served lunch to the Veterans during their visit to the Baldomerio Lopez Memorial Nursing Home, on September 22.

Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

On June 16, Iwan Choronenko, PDD, officiated at the Lodge’s Flag Day Ceremony, having members bring forth the Flags of the Nation and read a stirring poem to accompany the ceremony.

The Lodge was pleased to donate $200 for the Oklahoma Disaster Fund, a donation of $2,000 to the Church By The Sea for the homeless and $1,000 donated for dinners served to Veterans on May 2 and July 23. These donations were afforded through the Beacon and Gratitude Grants. The Lodge also donated $1,620 for those children which were sent to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Pre-paid phone cards were also presented to the VA director for 55 Veterans in need.

On August 16, 6th grade student Noemi Varagas, of Orange Grove Elementary School, received her certificate and a $50 check in a presentation from State President, Brian Burns and WCD VP, Rudy Masi, for her first-place winning poster in the Drug Awareness Contest. This presentation was made during Brian Burns’ visit to the Lodge.

Harry-Anna Chairman, Valerie Powell, presented the State Harry-Anna Chairman with a check for $5,032 from the Lodge during the State President’s dinner, at St. Petersburg Lodge on Saturday, August 17. The Lodge also sent 10 Veterans from Bay Pines Veterans at the Hospital. The Largo Elks sponsored a cookout for Brian Burns, his wife, the Veterans and the West Central Elks. The Lodge supplied, cooked, and served a delicious and well-received barbecue lunch to all those in attendance.

On July 13-18, the Tampa Bay Area was the host for 33rd National Veterans Wheelchair games. The Veterans committee from Largo 2159 had the privilege and honor in supporting this event. Dennis McAleece Chairman for the Elks National Leather Program supplied the committee with more than 300 fingerless-leather gloves and 60 decks of playing cards which the committee distributed to the Veterans.

The rewards and gratitude was over whelming. Veterans from as far away as Great Britain and Korea came looking for the Elks gloves. It takes many hours and a lot of hands to produce the tanned leather gloves that are given away. The committee witnessed firsthand exactly what the leather program is all about and the achievements they have made in the care and comfort to our Veterans in wheelchairs.

On Tuesday, June 4, members of Largo Lodge presented Ponce de Leon Elementary School with school supplies for the teachers and office staff. In addition to copies of copy paper and notebook paper, bags were made for each teacher at the school with items from their “wish” list. This donation was made possible through the ENF Gratitude Grant. The Lodge adopted and they have been the Lodge volunteers who are mentoring and tutoring the students throughout the year. The school extended recognition to Lodge volunteers Kate Wilson and Jeanne Reinhart for their time and dedication.

State President, Brian Burns, visited the West Central District and had the opportunity to also visit Bay Pines Veterans at the Hospital. The Largo Elks sponsored a cookout for Brian Burns, his wife, the Veterans and the West Central Elks. The Lodge supplied, cooked, and served a delicious and well-received barbecue lunch to all those in attendance.

On Tuesday, July 23, the Lodge held a fundraiser in support of the Harry-Anna Foundation. The Lodge was able to raise $2,000 from funds raised at the Lodge since April.

On July 13, the Lodge had a Family Fun Night, poolside, which brought in the children and parents in our community to enjoy food from the grill and the ice cream parlor was open. Families competed for prizes at the games, and fun was had by all. New friendships were made and the children enjoyed the free food.

The Lodge held a Kids Christmas-In-July Party, poolside, and was open to all the children of the community. It was enjoyed a free meal, cookie decorating, games and prizes. A surprise visit from Santa and Mrs Claus, handing out candy and toys, made Santa’s visit extra special. Santa with a straw hat, shorts and sandals gave “Christmas in the Tropics” a whole new meaning! Thank you Uncle George and Joan Vignoul.

The Lodge sponsored more than six children to go to camp this summer, and with the help of an additional 27 homeless children, from St. Pete, for a camping experience in July.

A Back-To-School party was held, poolside, on August 18 and all kids ate free from the grill. Donations of school supplies were given to the kids. There were games and prizes for all ages and there were a lot of happy faces!

During the State President’s visit, the St. Petersburg Lodge members and Ladies put on a USO show at Bay Pines for the Veterans and all the Elks in attendance. Largo Lodge provided and cooked all the food and it made for a very fun day for the Veterans and guests.

The State President visited the St. Pete Lodge for dinner and dancing and at that time, the Lodge Harry-Anna Chairman, Lee Bice, presented the State President with a check for $2,000 from funds raised at the Lodge since April.

On May 24, the Lodge held a cookout for Brian Burns, his wife, the Veterans and the Veterans. The Lodge was honored to be able to present a donation of $500 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

On July 13, the Lodge had a Family Fun Night, poolside, which brought in the children and parents in our community to enjoy food from the grill and the ice cream parlor was open. Families competed for prizes at the games, and fun was had by all. New friendships were made and the children enjoyed the free food.

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The Lodge is sponsoring three Soccer teams in the upcoming Fall Azalea Soccer League season, with a donation of $1,000 for their sports programs.

Over 225 Boys Scouts have passed their Swim-Skill tests in our pool this summer. In turn for the use of the pool, these Scouts have assisted us with Flag Day, Labor Day and flag Retiring ceremonies. It is a great partnership!

The Veterans of Bay Pines from both the nursing home and the domiciliary are honored guests on the 2nd and 3rd Thursday of every month for pizza and karaoke. It is a real privilege to serve and entertain these 30 special Veterans; shake their hands and be able to say “Thank You” to them, every month.

Tampa Lodge 708

The Lodge held a Back-to-School Party on Sunday, August 11 and the guest speaker was Judge Matt Lucas who spoke about “It’s OK to say NO to Drugs”. Following the program, pizza was served plus they had fun and games. Thanks go out to the Athena House, the Ladies of Elks and the members and parents who participated to make this event such a rousing success.

Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719

The Lodge held a “Shoes for Orphan Souls” fundraiser on August 18, which benefitted the Joy FM Mission to Honduras. The member’s admission fee to the dinner was a donation of a pair of shoes. Steven Heimbotham who received a $3,000 scholarship and Marisa Corbit received a $2,500 scholarship.
Arcadia Lodge 1524

Mary Lyne, PER and the current Leading Knight with her husband Ed Lyne, Loyal Knight, and member of the Veterans Council.

Two fundraisers were held to help raise funds by delivering barbecue lunches by the Arcadia Lodge. The first recipient was to donate a bench in the new Veterans Park located near the Arcadia Elks Lodge. The second recipient of the fundraiser was for seven Cub Scouts to attend the Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla.

Arcadia Elks was the official sponsor of the Arcadia Independence Day Parade. Our State President, Brian Burns, was the Grand Marshall. He was also a winner for the Best Decorated Vehicle. Following the parade the Lodge held an Independence Day Barbeque.

Brandon Lodge 2383

L-R: Johnette Jones, the Principals’ Secretary and Delores Westfall, Elks Lecturing Knight during one of the drop offs of shoes and supplies

The Brandon Elks Lodge donated over 30 pairs of shoes and school supplies to Yates Elementary School. Principal Richard Shields stated the shoes will benefit many children that would go without, if it were not for Brandon Elks Lodge. Yates Elementary has 80% of its students on the Free Lunch status. The Lodge will continue their commitment in providing additional support for the school year.

Grandparents Day at ‘Everyday Blessings’ was celebrated with food, crafts and games for the children’s home in Sarasota. Brandon Lodge sponsored the day with more than many of the children have had in a long time. Everyday Blessings is a home caring for children in the Thonotosassa and Sarasota, Florida locations who were removed from unsafe homes with ages ranging from newborn through 17 years old. They then await permanent placement.

Brandon Lodge participated with a booth at Mac Dill Air Force Base’s Family Resource Expo. The Lodge’s booth raised awareness of the Elks and specifically the Brandon Lodge. Linda Reid provided games and prizes for 20 children or more who stopped to play a fishing game which symbolized the “hooked on fishing not drugs” which is played in many of their other Lodge events.

Brandon’s Lady Elk Beverly Messerschmidt worked hard at assuring that nine children were able to go to the Elk’s Youth Camp. The Lodge helped take the children to camp and picked them up.

L-R: Kiki Davis and Kat Durrance in front of their cabin at the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Flag Day and Parent’s Day were honored on Sunday June 15 by the Ladies of the Elks. The morning began with a Parent’s Day brunch followed by the Ladies memorable Flag Day presentation.

The Ladies of the Elks have been presenting the Flag Day Ceremony annually and members come away with a wonderful sense of patriotic pride.

Plant City Lodge 1727

Army of Hope and Ladies of the Elks of Plant City Lodge made a difference in a soldier’s family’s life. Judy Wise, Veteran’s Co-Chairman of Plant City Lodge contacted Plant City’s National Guard Armory before troops were deployed and passed brochures describing how the Army of Hope can help soldiers and their families. Five months later an Army soldier’s pay did not catch up to him when he deployed to Qatar which left his family without help. His family was moving into a more affordable home and needed money for all the expenses needed for moving. Most of the states leadership was attending the Elk’s Convention in Reno. Plant City’s Lady Elks saw the immediately need to help the family and wrote a check. Army of Hope was able to reimburse the L.O.E. Major Kyle Richardson, Rear Detachment Battalion Commander responded to Judy Wise by Email “Your efforts in supporting our deployed troops are greatly appreciated. The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks truly made a difference in our Soldiers lives.”

Plant City Elks Lodge was responsible for sending seven Veterans from the Bay Pines VA Hospital to the Elk’s Day at the Tampa Ray’s game at the Raymond James Stadium. Judy Wise, Veteran’s Co-Chairman declares, “Let’s continue to support our Veterans in any way we can.”

Lake Wales Lodge 1974

Lake Wales Lodge Exalted Ruler Mike Autrey and Angie Autrey, secretary/photographer presented $250 worth of school supplies to a class at Polk Avenue Elementary School in Lake Wales. Thanking the funds came from a grant that the Lodge applied for, called “Adopt-A-Classroom.”

Mike Autrey, Exalted Ruler; students and class teacher Mrs. Harold.

The Lodge applied for the grant “Adopt-A-Classroom.” Lake Wales High School Principle Mrs. Smith and Charter School Superintendent Jessie Jackson were appreciative.

Sebring Lodge 1529

Ronna Mason, Exalted Ruler presided over the Sebring Lodge’s Flag Day Ceremony. Jim Mason DDGER gave the history of the United States Flag, and Claude Howerton PDDGER gave the Response with music performed by pianist Dena Shaw.

Color Guards from left, George Quel, Stormy Thompson, Bert Horwitz, Larry Wolfe, Dick Stover, and Bruce Scott.

Sebring Lodge is now sponsoring Highlands Little Theater Summer Institute. The Lodge’s support has not just been financial but has been painting tiles in props.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672

Winter Haven Lodge is sponsoring a group of ‘cloggers’ (dancers) to teach children with or without handicaps how to clog for donations only. The Florida Elks Southwest Central District visitation was held on Saturday September 28 during which the dancers and the children helped serve.
**Apopka Lodge 2422**

Apopka Lodge is preparing to distribute one thousand dictionaries to Apopka Elementary third graders.

**Eustis Lodge 1578**

Eustis Elks Lodge is providing spaghetti dinners to the Eustis High School Junior Varsity Football Team and their coaches on game day each week. The Lodge sponsored another Barbecue Labor Day weekend for the Mount Dora High School Marching Band to help enable the band to make a trip to New Orleans to march in the Sugar Bowl Parade.

**South Marion-Villages Lodge 2730**

The Lodge had four members showing how Elks work. Charlie Brown, George Sevast, Bill Connolly and Don Wolfe donated their time to Operation Shoebox, stuffing bags for the troops. Thanks to their efforts, 100 of our military on foreign shores will receive a gift from home this month. This follows a donation of $1,000 to Operation Shoebox by the Lodge. “Awesome, that money will send nearly 100 care packages,” said President and founder Mary Harper. Harper, the mother of 11 children, had five offspring serving in the military at once the year she founded the organization. As of this year, she still has two children and a son-in-law deployed overseas.

**Winter Garden Lodge 2165**

In September, the Lodge worked with their partner “the Autistic Related Gym Program” to bring ten high-functioning autistic children to the Lodge to develop interpersonal and manual skills. PER Peggy Warren, a Program Board member and the Program Director, coordinated the activity at the Lodge which included taking sandwich orders, writing a grocery list, going to the grocery store and filling the grocery list, paying for it, returning to the Lodge, making sandwichs and serving the food. After eating, they played board games until late in the day. PER Warren stated that they will come back in a month to practice their order taking/serving and sandwich making skills. To support the program, promotions are conducted like selling candy bars, car washes and hosts a Lodge “Special Night for Special Parents,” which is a chicken dinner for the families.

**Inverness Lodge 2522**

**Winter Park Lodge 1830**

The Lodge is supporting local children at Casselberry Elementary which has a high percentage of students that do not have adequate food for their parents to put on the table. The Lodge’s community outreach effort is to collect canned and non-perishable dry goods to deliver to the school’s food pantry on a weekly basis.

Another community outreach project was to use a $2,000 Grand Lodge grant to purchase interactive learning equipment for a classroom at Casselberry Elementary. This equipment will enhance the learning skills of the children. The equipment was presented to the school Principal, Sharon Stanley at a Pork Chop Dinner.

The Winter Park Does Drive #86 has spent the last five years organizing and making preparations to host the 91st National Does Convention at the Hilton Walt Disney World. Florida State Elks Association President Brian Burns was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremonies and showed those assembled that he had done his homework with comments about the Does Constitution and Ritual which was taken from the Elks with their guidance.

The Winter Park Does held its annual Silent Auction/Wine and Cheese event which was a huge success. The Hope Foundation and Winter Park Elks were the recipients of the proceeds.

**South Lake Lodge 1848**

South Lake Lodge Secretary, Leslie Eberline, presented a check for $1,050 to Kent Adcock, CEO of Lake Sumter Habitat For Humanity as its latest donation to help build a new home for a Veteran in Lake County; it is the third home for a Veteran that the Lodge helped to build.

**Inverness Lodge 2522**

The Lodge held a Seniors Prom, residents from area nursing homes and rehab centers were invited to the Prom. This photo shows members and guests under the arbor.

The Prom was the brainchild of Exalted Ruler Mike Orndorff; seniors were transported to the Lodge for an afternoon of festivities provided by members.

As guests arrived in their finery, a light lunch was provided before proceeding to dancing and games, with Bingo being the big hit.

**The Ladies Anna Miller group made a donation to the Florida Children’s Therapy Services of $2,000 to buy needy equipment, a stand up machine for a young boy with Muscular Dystrophy**

An adaptive tricycle was donated for a little girl to help strengthen her legs to help her to walk.

The Ladies Group also sponsored ten children to attend the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

The Flag Day ceremony featured the Mount Dora High School ROTC who carried the flags. The Lodge honored the ROTC group by presenting them with a check for $1,400 to help them with their summer training and trip up to the Citadel. The Lodge also held a barbecue for the Mount Dora High School Marching Band to help them raise monies for a trip to march in the Sugar Bowl to march in Half Time.

**Inverness Lodge 2522**

Gene Pairgin and Charlotte Grimes were crowned King and Queen to the delight of the thirty-eight attendees.

When Exalted Ruler Mike Orndorff announced plans of a future event, one senior commented to her neighbor that they had something to look forward to. Another attendee said she will remember the event for the rest of her life.
In August, the Lodge collected an entire SUV full of much needed supplies for the Oak Hammock K to 8 school, where our Exalted Ruler, Stewart Smith, is a teacher, and nearly 70% of the youth there are on free or reduced lunches. On Monday, September 2, the Lodge held its fifth Annual Labor Day Picnic and Tribute to 9/11. There was 150+ in attendance and ER Stewart Smith read a “time line” of events that happened. He then told that the lives that were lost were all printed on a board. All military personnel in attendance were recognized that day. The Lodge also sponsored its first “Operation Thank You” by inviting active first responders. There were over 80 in attendance and the Martin County Sheriff’s Office had officers in attendance. Congratulations to Elks of the Month: June, Michele Nesar; July, Linda Elliott; August, Arlene Frysinger; and September, Fred Hollister.

On September 8, 2013, the Lodge received a “Plaque of Appreciation” from the Rockledge Grasshoppers Little League Team. The Lodge had donated $750 from a Harry-Anna Trust Fund grant to support the Lodge sponsored team. Lodge members provided lunch to nearly 40 team members, coaches and parents. The Lodge again partnered with the Rockledge Masonic Lodge’s Child ID team.

A VERY PROUD VETERAN

The Lodge held its annual Flag Day Ceremonies on June 16. Special guest Wayne Myrick was the speaker; his lovely wife also attended. Wayne was in the United States Navy aboard the USS Blue, moored in Pearl Harbor when Japan attacked. Wayne and his shipmates fought the Japs attacking the ship for 47 minutes before getting underway. During the action, the crew of the USS Blue were credited with downing two aircraft and sinking two Japanese mini subs. Wayne was transferred to the South Pacific for the invasion of Guadalcanal. Blue was patrolling in Iron Bottom Sound when she was torpedoed. The explosion destroyed her main engines, propeller shafts, and steering gear as well as killing nine and wounding 21.

From left, Exalted Ruler John Henry, Wayne Myrick and Flag Day Chairman Gary Perdue.

Melbourne Lodge 1744

Melbourne Lodge recently awarded the family of Sergeant Justin Burdette, $1,400, along with a Certificate of Honor and Gratitude for serving our country in Afghanistan. Sergeant Burdette, 26, is recuperating at Walter Reed Medical Center in Maryland and hopes to be home to by the first of the year. A graduate of Palm Bay High School, Justin lost both legs in a horrific accident in Afghanistan. A member of our Lodge who works with Justin’s uncle was told about the injuries, and members went into action to raise funds to help the family.

Although other fundraisers are being held, the Lodge is proud to be the first to offer aid. Justin’s wife and three year old son are with him in Maryland and have been furnishing his uncle with news of his speedy recovery. Along with pictures which are being sent by his family showing Justin making remarkable strides with his new limbs, the Elks have been following his progress on a regular basis. In June, his aunt and uncle were invited to the Lodge to receive a check for $700. In August, we again hosted his family for another donation of $700. According to Jim Mahoney, Chairman of the Veteran Affairs Activities at the Lodge, Justin is doing well mentally and was moved recently from the medical center to an outpatient facility in Maryland, which gives him more time to be with his wife and son. Justin says, “I am healing faster than I thought, and hope to be home soon.”

Stuart Jensen Lodge 1870

The Lodge held its annual Christmas in July and also received the Elks National Foundation Promise Grant to do two youth projects: one for Red Ribbon week and the Annual Children’s Christmas party. In August, the Lodge collected an entire SUV full much

During the Presentation of Flags in the opening ceremonies of the Grand Lodge Convention in Reno, Past Florida State President Frank Hayes was given the honor of presenting his branch of military service flag, the United States Marine Corps.
The “Mighty” Southwest District
During the State President’s visit, everyone was encouraged to wear their favorite team’s apparel. From the picture below, can you figure out their favorite team? If you said the Gators, you are right.

L to R: First Lady Mary Kay and SP Brian Burns doing the famous “Gator Chop.”

Bradenton Elks Lodge 1511
The Bradenton Lodge took a group of disabled and injured Veterans out for a day of fishing, largely due to an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. Partnered with Veterans on each of the boats were VPAL Danie Tabor, SWDPER Patrick Gallagher and Exalted Ruler Jack Cantwell. Later, volunteers served the Veterans a fish fry from the fish caught on the trip.

Three IMG Academy eighth graders submitted entries to the Lodge writing contest on the topic of “What does the National Anthem mean to me?” At a special ceremony at the academy, Reece Madison, William Simeone and Brandon Wang were presented their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd awards, respectively.

In ritual competition, the Lodge has the Jolly Cork, Michael Carter, the highest scoring officer in the state of Florida, the All American Exalted Ruler, Michael Dinius, the highest scoring ER in the Eastern Division, and The All American Esquire, Mathew Carter, the highest scoring Esquire in the Eastern Division.

Lakewood Ranch–Sarasota Lodge 2855
Lakewood Ranch–Sarasota Lodge recently held a fundraiser for “K9s for Vets” and more than $4,000 was raised. K9s for Vets supplies companion dogs to vets who have invisible disorders such as diabetes heart conditions, high blood pressure and post traumatic stress. These dogs are trained to alert their masters to an impending crisis in their bodies. Dogs are provided free of charge to vets of all American conflicts as long as the vet is rated at least 70% disabled by the Veterans Administration. The Lodge has raised almost $8,000 for this organization over the last year.

The Lodge presented a check to the Manatee County School District for $1,500 to help fund the “Let’s Bee Safe Program” for the second year in a row. The program teaches first graders about the possibility of sexual abuse and how to report it to an adult by using the “stand in bee puppet” to speak to the adult. In addition to the donation, several Elks from the Lodge act as readers in local schools for the program.

Several members donated their time to pack “goodie boxes” for deployed troops from Manatee County through the Manatee Operation Troop Support Organization. Up to 50 boxes are packed and sent to troops overseas each month.

During Patriot week, the Lodge had a dinner where five members, shown below, who are first responders, were honored for their duty. Entertainment was provided by Lynn’s Spins.

L to R: John Hughes, Jerry Van Rippen, Jack Unger, Ron Wilkinson and Kathy Beck.

Manasota Elks Lodge 2734
Manasota Lodge presented Tidwell Hospice & Palliative Care with a check in memory of our absent members. The Lodge continues to support the efforts of our local Hospice each year. Hospice cares for both patient and family through the services of a team, that includes the patient’s physician, Tidwell’s nurses, counselors, home health aides and volunteers. The Tidwell team will be performing comfort care, often what is most needed with an advanced illness.

L to R: Exalted Ruler Jim Larsen; Ginny Kollath, Secretary; Aida Matic, VP of Philanthropy Tidwell Hospice, and Jim Kollath, Trustee.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge 2672
The South Hillsborough Lodge is proud to report it was awarded two grants, each worth $2,000. One was the Beacon Grant, which is used for Veterans. On every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, the Lodge treats Veterans from James A. Haley Hospital to a dinner, entertainment and personal items which have been donated by our members. This year, thanks to the grant, the Lodge will provide each Veteran with a $20.00 gift certificate.

The second is the Promise Grant, which is to be used for young men or women. The Lodge, in partnership with Girlstories Leadership Theatre, a non-profit organization, will host an intensive six week summer program for middle school “high risk” girls. The program will run Monday through Friday, from 9AM to 5PM and was recognized by the White House in 2007. At the end of the summer, a one hour play with four sections, is created by staff, Lodge members and students. A full stage production is performed for a variety of audiences. The grant will assist in providing both breakfast and lunch to these young ladies, teaching the proper food nutrition and etiquette.

L to R: Exalted Ruler Chet Sjug; Judy Ferguson, Secretary and project coordinator; and Robert Bolt, YMCA Youth At-Risk Director.

Palmetto Elks Lodge 2449
Palmetto Elks hosted a back to school party for 100 of the area’s grade school children from the YMCA Youth At-Risk program. Along with a $2,000 Beacon Grant and donations from area merchants, enough school supplies were acquired to send each child home with a grocery bag full. The list included crayon, regular pencils, glue, folders, notebook paper, black and red pens, index cards, highlighters, zip lock bags, and a hand sanitizer. The schools were also sent a ream of paper for each of the 100 children that attended the party. The Lodge has already been granted the Beacon and Promise Grants at $2,000 each and shopping is already underway for the 2014-2015 year with the goal of helping 200 children with their school supplies.

Pictured are the girls enrolled in the Powerstories Leadership Theatre.

Pictured from left: Simmons Park Management in gray; PDD Ray Bihisi, PER Charlie Vance, Dustin Clark, Treasurer; and PDD Lu Smith.
Gainesville Lodge 990

The Lodge was awarded the ENF Gratitude Grant of $2,000 and hosted a successful Summer Splash Day to give children in our community a fun and safe place to play while raising money to assist the Reed family. Sales and donations collected for the event came to $1,111 which was presented to Charlie Reed in name of the Aubrey Reed Trust. Aubrey is a brave 27 year old diagnosed with Cri du chat syndrome which is a chromosome defect disabling her both mentally and physically requiring constant care. Summer Splash day included a giant water slide, bounce house, dunking booth, race cars, face painting, fishing, food, ice cream, bake sale, cake walk live music and karaoke. The enjoyment of the children was visibly touching.

The Lodge was also awarded the $1,000 ENF Beacon Grant.

The Lodge hosted Bingo for the hospitalized Veterans in the VA Hospital in May and August serving snacks and refreshments. In May, the Lodge provided a celebration cake in honor of Armed Forces Day.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892

The Lodge held a Dock Party in April to raise money for the Clay County High School scholarship fund. The Dock Party included music, drink, good food, and friends adding $1,200 to the Scholarship Fund. On April 21, the Lodge hosted Veterans for a luncheon and day of fishing. April BBQ sales netted $1,541 for the benefit of the Lodge. During the summer months of May through August, the Lodge held roadside Fish Fries for the last Friday of each month.

On April 23, the 9-Hole Ladies Golf Tournament was held at Riverbend Golf Links. Forty-three lady golfers participated with the winning team of Lorraine Majewski, Connie Durbano, Ellen French and Sharon Isenhart. The tournament raised $1,650 for the Lodge Scholarship Fund.

The annual Wild Game Feast theme in May was a Fiesta celebrating Cinco De Mayo. The event experienced high winds, heavy rains, flooding, a tornado warning, and a gator in the parking lot!!! It was a huge success with 410 members and guests in attendance in spite of Mother Nature wreaking havoc. The event raised $8,000 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and $4,600 for the capital improvements fund.

The Lodge honored mothers on May 12 with a slam-bam breakfast by Rico and company. Some 90 mothers were honored and 83 family members and others paid at the door. Two moms were 98 years old with just one month’s difference in age. Between the two of them, there were a total of eight children, 16 grandchildren, and 20 great grandchildren.

Summer storms shredded the Lodge’s brand new American flag and washed boats up near the dock. Even with that going on, it didn’t stop the Roadside Fish Fry to raise money for beautiful Zoie with serious medical issues assisting her family with mounting medical expenses.

The Lodge with the Northeast Florida’s Camp Cadet threw a costume party fundraiser back to the 80’s in August. Camp Cadet is a tuition free one week mini version of a basic police academy staffed by state and local Police and Sheriff’s Departments from Bradford, Clay, Duval, and Nassau Counties. The Officers and Deputies serve as Camp Staff, Counselors, and Instructors. The program is designed to give boys and girls ages 12 through 15 a better understanding of law enforcement training and responsibilities while living in the atmosphere of a police training academy. Emphasis is placed on developing leadership skills, self-discipline, self-esteem, and confidence building through teamwork, accomplishments, and making new friends. Including the Elks, many local businesses and organizations assist by providing donations, both monetary and supply oriented, to aid in assuring that the camp is presented at no cost to the attending Cadets or their families.

July opened with a bang with the July 4th celebration. Some 150 people attended and enjoyed delicious dogs, sausages, burgers and all the trimmings.

The Lodge was awarded three Elks National Foundation grants totaling $6,000 thanks to the efforts of Bill Gause, the Lodge grant writer.

Jacksonville Lodge 221

The Lodge donated 1,200 to the Five Star Veterans Center in Jacksonville on Friday July 12th, in an effort to help the nonprofit continue its transitional housing and assistance for displaced Veterans. Jim Hurst, Past State President of Florida Elks and Lodge Veteran Service Chairman Jim Ginsch, presented a check from the Elks National Foundation Grant to the Center’s CEO Len Loving. The members hosted a dinner and served the residents immediately following the presentation.

The Lodge hosted the VVA (Vietnam Veterans Association) first annual Fourth of July celebration. The event included clowns, face paintings for children (young and old), good food, good spirits, and great camaraderie. Both organizations recruited a couple of new members and VVA 1046 split the 50/50 drawing with the Lodge.

Mandan/St. Johns Lodge 2866

The golf tournament held near the end of April raised around $1,900 for charity.

Bingo at the Lassen Nursing Home during the months of April through August each had 30 or more Veteran players with many Elks and volunteers assisting. The residents of Lassen look forward to their monthly Bingo with the Elks. The June bingo included a special Independence Day treat - the Lodge provided 10 Collectable Beanie Baby Patriotic stuffed toys in plastic display cases which were awarded to the winners of each of the 10 games.

The Lodge held a Hawaiian Luau in June, roasting a whole pig with all the sides.

Members of the Lodge met with the newly formed Mandarin Fallen Hero’s American Legion Post and have agreed to co-sponsor events enabling both Lodges to serve Veterans better than either could do individually. The first event in June was a presentation of Presidential Memorial Certificates to the families of Korean War Veterans.

The Lodge joined Green Cove Springs in April to provide residents of Lassen Nursing Home with a Pier Fishing Trip at the Green Cove Lodge on the St. Johns River. The Facility borrowed a second bus from the Daytona Veterans Nursing Home allowing more Veterans in wheelchairs to travel to Green Cove Springs. On final count, 50 Veterans, family members, and staff of the nursing home attended with 11 Elks from Green Cove Springs and four Elks from Mandarin/St. Johns assisting. The Green Cove BBQ Team provided hamburgers, hot dogs and sausage dogs.

A Flag Pole Dedication/Flag Day Ceremony was held in June with the assistance of the Woodsman of the World who donated the flagpole and flag.

Orange Park Lodge 2663

In July, Mandarin St. Johns Lodge and Orange Park Lodge joined together to sponsor a picnic for the FECTS families with a very good participation from the families and the community.

The Lodge received a $2,000 Gratitude Grant from the ENF which was presented to the Tiger Academy in September. The Tiger Academy is a YMCA Charter School serving Pre-K to Grade 5 students. Their curriculum is centered on providing a free, quality education to disadvantaged children through rigorous academic standards, character development, personal and social responsibility and strong family involvement. They strive to help the entire family by providing a GED Academy, employment skill training, mental health counseling, financial literacy classes, health screenings, violence prevention and crisis intervention.

St. Augustine Elks Lodge 829

Veterans entered five at a time into the Lodge to receive new gear to face the challenges inherent with homelessness. Volunteers for the annual Homeless Veteran Stand Down passed out military surplus supplies, including backpacks, sleeping bags and clothing to 31 Veterans and served about 120 homeless, also giving away shoes and mosquito nets while serving coffee, doughnuts, hamburgers and hot dogs. After the Veterans were served, civilian homeless were served. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provided most of the military gear. Two Men and a Truck transported the supplies for free. The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association came with a number of volunteers.

Veteran Affairs representatives met with former military members to assist with temporary housing and other needs.

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins

Awarded

July 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013

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

Susan Avis Fort Myers Lodge 1298
P. J. Curran Pensacola Beach Lodge 497
Philip Gersbach, Jr. Fort Myers Lodge 1288
Eleonore Price Inverness Lodge 2522
David W. Schroder Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate

John A. Hunt Warrington Lodge 2108
Charles Jakulewicz Orlando Lodge 1079
Lake City Lodge 893

The golf tournament in June went well with 29 golfers and 31 hole sponsors. Proceeds were more than $2,000 for the Lodge’s charities. All Lodge members were invited to the annual Elks family Picnic on July 27 at member Jim Martin’s house on the river.

Donations to the Lake City VA Hospital are on an-going project all year long. Lodge members have been responsive to the purchase of playing cards and headphones which were then donated to the Infusion Clinic and Community Living Center. Funds raised are used to purchase personal items for the Veterans not available from other sources. There is always a need for help for our Veterans and more than $1,900 has been donated by members.

Cap Pratt, DDGER visited the Lodge on October 2, sharing information from the Grand Lodge. The Ladies Yard Sale was held October 19. Members were generous in donating their gently used items to help make this event a success. The Lodge had its annual Halloween Dinner and Dance on October 31.

Live Oak Lodge 1165

At the Wellborn Blueberry Festival in June, Live Oak Lodge handed out a bunch of Drug Awareness packets. Live Oak Lodge received a Citation of Merit from the Grand Lodge for its membership gain in the last Lodge year and is obviously pleased for that award. In the fundraising area, the Lodge offered a prepaid Visa card in a raffle to three lucky winners. Prizes were a $200, $100, and $50, won by Michael Castro, Yvonne Mollett, and Randy Ratliff, respectively. A yard sale was held at the Lodge on August 3, in another endeavor to raise money for the Lodge.

Some members of the Lodge donated leather gloves to Veterans who are wheelchair bound at the Lake City VA Hospital. Lake City Mayor Steve Witt (a PDDGER in Lake City Lodge) was on hand to visit with the Veterans.

The Lodge’s Anna Miller Circle is smiling broadly for its donation of a water truck for the Youth Camp. A photo of the truck (with Anna Miller Circle painted on the side of the truck) is one of the pictures that were featured in the Florida Elks Youth Camp display at the National Convention in Reno. The Circle donated gift cards to seven graduates from the Florida Sheriff’s Youth Boys Ranch as well as five graduates from Suwannee High School’s ESE Class.

Marianna Lodge 1516

While Lodge Secretary Karen Fader was deployed on military duties, Jim Garrett stepped up to the plate to fill in for Karen. Jim also donated money to purchase new ties for the officers. The Lodge celebrated July 4th with free hot dogs and burgers from noon till 2 pm for Lodge members.

Marianna Lodge has had a change in leadership and welcomes new Exalted Ruler Carl Wesson. Carl has been an active member of the Lodge a long time.

The Lodge participated in National Night Out on August 6, distributing Drug Awareness materials. Items had been collected from the Lodge and the Community Safety Coalition. Four Elks and four non-Elks assisted in the project, donating 68 hours to help the youth in Jackson County.

Perry Lodge 1851

The Lodge is very proud of its award of a Citation of Merit from the Grand Lodge for a membership gain for the last Lodge year. Only 5% of Lodges receive this award. The Lodge thanks its members for their persistence in sponsoring new members.

A Stars 4 Pars Glow Ball Gold Tournament co-chaired by Drew Taylor and Mark Wiggins raised over $3,000 on August 10 for the Lodge for its scholarship program. A recent steak dinner and live auction chaired by Loyal Knight Lorena Grambling raised $1,900 for the Lodge’s charities. Lorena rounded up a team and did a grilled chicken dinner fundraiser, netting over $1,400 for the Lodge. Many volunteers helped make this event a success.

Renovations have been made in the dining room to make it more attractive. A tip of the hat goes to Dean and Lorena Grambling as well as Travis and Susie Dawson for heading up that effort.

Leading Knight Rick Hartley heads up club activities and gets the Karaoke equipment to share its music with the crowd. The Lodge’s game room is available for members’ use including a pool table, some board games, and Wii.

Tallahassee Lodge 937

Several Lodge members masqueraded as groundkeepers on July 13 to do some yard cleanup in the front yard. After the buses were severely trimmed, it was apparent how much needed is a new coat of paint on the building. Painting is next in the queue.

A Night of Trivia game was conducted in the lounge on Friday, August 9, emceed by our own ER Ron Brown. People stayed around and provided many responses to the questions with obtuse answers.

The Ellkets held a Garage Sale on August 10 and sold lots and lots of donated items. The ladies are thinking maybe another sale late in the fall. These sales always draw a crowd and many items are sold.

The Lodge held an evening of Karaoke led by Captain Bob Thurborn on September 6. Member Rod Stelter, who passed away in May, donated his Karaoke equipment to the Lodge. Captain Bob has the skills to make all the equipment work just as if Rod were still here with us. It was great fun to belt out a few tunes to the enjoyment of all in attendance.

Football season is upon us and the lounge stays open late for all to enjoy the games on its big screen TVs. For the FSU games, members have brought snacks to share while enjoying each game.

A baby shower was held in September for bartender Amanda, who is expecting her first child. An unusual twist is that men were invited to the food, games, and fun normally only shared with ladies at such an event. Amanda received many wonderful gifts.

East Central District continued from page 16

Sanford Lodge 1241

Congratulations to Exalted Ruler Jeff Rumler and Cristin Painter on their engagement. Jeff popped the question at recent state convention, this year. The couple met two years ago at one of the state conventions.

Sanford Lodge members were able to sponsor a military baseball game at the Sanford Memorial Stadium where a military team played against the Sanford River Rats; free meals were provided for both teams.

Port Orange Lodge

The Lodge, in partnership with Home Depot, came together for a beautification planting for the Emory Bennett Memorial Veteran’s Nursing Home. The Lodge has been working on the project for the past year. Home Depot provided supervisors and tools to help with the beautification of the grounds around the Nursing Home.

State President Brian T. Burns and Mary Kay visited the Lodge on during his visit to the East Central District. He was presented with the Key to the City of Sanford by Sanford Mayor Jeff Triplett, a member of the Lodge.

PGER Val Bates and his wife Claudia, VPAL Danny Tabor and his wife Rachel were welcomed by Exalted Ruler Jeff Rumler and the members of the Lodge.

With the help from a $2,000 grant from the ENF Foundation, the Lodge was able to: provide free meals for many police officers and fire fighters in Sanford; were able to sponsor a military baseball game at the Sanford Memorial Stadium where a military team played against the Sanford River Rats; free meals were provided for both teams.
Warrington Lodge 2108

The Lodge honored 94 Vietnam Veterans and their spouses from the local community and VA Clinic on August 31 with a Roast Beef dinner prepared and served by 17 Lodge volunteers. The committee chaired by Chris Woods and Toni Palmer decorated the dining room with a Patriotic theme and each Veteran received a $25.00 Walmart gift card.

Crestview Lodge 2624

On August 24, the Lodge participated with over 20 members in the NW Florida District Fundraising picnic supporting the Army of Hope Annual Picnic jointly with other Elks Lodges on the Emerald Coast; the event was held at the Ft. Walton Beach Lodge. A special open house was held September 28 as a membership drive to welcome the 7th Special Forces Unit that has been transferred from North Carolina to the NW Florida region. The event welcomed them to the area and introduced them to the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the activities that the Crestview Lodge participates in while serving the communities in the Northwest Florida region.

A Pancake fund raising event took place in September to build funds for the NW District Vice President where over $600 was raised, and shared with our Boy Scouts and the Emerald Coast Young Marines who helped in selling tickets and served food during the event.

The Lady Elks came out with 24 members to support the annual Mullet Festival beauty pageant held in Niceville. The Lodge started up their first Turkey Shoot on September 28 with additional shoots held every Saturday for three months. The event is its largest fund raising activity.

Destin Lodge 2688

The Lodge presented a check to students Gaye and Jake Peaden for $300 for Elks Banner used at all sporting events at Destin Middle School. A check for $500 was presented at the Army of Hope picnic held on August 24th at Ft. Walton Beach Lodge 1795.

The Lodge made a donation of $505 to Sims Veteran’s Hospital to provide entertainment.

Ft. Walton Lodge 1795

The Lodge hosted the Annual Army of Hope Picnic on August 24, with all Lodges in the District participating. Guest enjoyed food, entertainment, face painting a water slide and games. The picnic raised $3,705 for the Army of Hope.

Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787

Tom Stevens, Exalted Ruler of Holley-Navarre Lodge, presented a check for the Panhandle Butterfly House (PBH) to PBH Treasurer Peggy Gray.

As an education and entertainment venue for the youth in the area, tourists, and local adults, its award winning Kiderpillar classes, beautiful butterfly gardens, and vivarium with living examples of local butterflies, the butterfly house is in total harmony with that mission. Additionally, the Lodge staffed a concession selling cold drinks, water, hotdogs, hamburgers, trimmings and snacks during Monarch Madness throughout October in support of other local area charities.

On August 10, the Lodge hosted the Semi-Annual DD Clinic for the newly installed DDGER Kevin Clemons. Over 50 members throughout the district attended, including the Vice President Rick Lemke and several District and State Dignitaries. On that same day, the Lodge participated in the “Back to School Bash”, hosted by the Navarre United Methodist Church. Lou and Gail DiNicolantonio coordinated the event. ER, Tom Stevens, Robin Stevens and Toby and Linda Griener, assisted with the event. PDVP, Bill White delivered the District Drug Awareness Trailer. Over 500 children came to the event and participated in numerous activities, collected school clothes and supplies; while members passed out numerous Drug Awareness packages.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

Pensacola Beach Lodge welcomed 16 members of A HERO Wounded Warriors from several locations in the U.S. A few were still on active duty; most had been discharged because of their wounds.

On August 3 the Lodge hosted the Independent Living Summer Conference utilizing the Elks National Foundation Promise Grant. Presentations on the importance of education and career choices were presented by speakers provided by Families First Network to the 37 children and 18 caregivers in attendance. Lodge members prepared and served lunch to those in attendance. Backpacks with school supplies were provided to 52 foster children.

The extended weekend started on August 15 with a “meet and greet,” followed by a gourmet dinner served by Culinary Productions of Pensacola and more socializing, and they returned Friday evening for more of the same. When the weather canceled their fishing trip on Saturday, they joined the Lodge for the Ladies of Elks’s Luau party, contributing their boiled shrimp and grilled pork loin dinner, which had been donated to them by a local business. Some joined in the floor show, donning hula skirts and coconut bras for the LOE fundraiser, and later enjoyed dancing with members and guests. The Lodge treated them to brunch on Sunday before they departed for home, many exchanging phone numbers, email addresses and hugs.

Twin Cities Lodge 2747

The annual Chicken Dinner and Chicken Poop Bingo was again a success for the Lodge charity program. The combined dinner and bingo game raised almost $1,000 for the Lodges Charity programs.

Members of the Twin Cities Lodge traveled to Fort Walton Beach to partake of the fine food, entertainment and fun associated with the Army of Hope picnic.

Exalted Ruler John Leatherwood and Elks National Foundation Chairman Belinda Leatherwood present PDDGER Hap Hayes with a framed Honorary Founders Certificate for achieving the $1,000 dollar goal of the Elks National Founders cumulative giving level.

L-R: Exalted Ruler John Leatherwood, Elks National Foundation Chairman, Belinda Leatherwood, PDDGER, and Hap Hayes.

The Lodge held its annual Twin Cities Rocky Bayou Golf Tournament. After being rescheduled due to inclement weather the tournament was divided into a two day tournament. DDGER Kevin Clemons on the second day led his team to victory.

L-R: DDGER Kevin Clemons; PDVP, Bill White; Twin Cities Chaplain Dave Shaw and Det Michel.
District Elk
Exalted Ruler Dennis Scherr, PER, Lodge Secretary the national competition. Edward G. Draper of the Harmony Waves, wife of PDVP Larry Skates, sang during the presentation of colors at the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice ceremony at the Emory Bennett Park in New Smyrna Beach; the ceremony was in conjunction with opening of the Korean War exhibit at the New Smyrna Museum of History. The event was hosted by the Southeast Volusia Historical Society and the New Smyrna Museum of History. Mayor Adam Baxtinger, local community dignitaries and residents attended the ceremony.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650
Many improvements have been made to the Lodge, inside and out; thanks to the many helpers and volunteers for your tireless efforts. On August 3, 2010, the Lodge voted on giving George an Honorable Life Membership. George is highly respected by the officers and members; he is a true and loyal Elk.

In the District
The state sponsored bus trip to the Youth Camp turned out to be a great success. Lodges of the district, their members, officers and prospective members, who have never been to the camp, got an opportunity to tour the camp, visit the Grafton Center and gymnasium, and the Bates Aquatic Center; Lodge members a chance to locate their sponsored cabin, after which everyone enjoyed a free lunch. Some of the Lodges made one or two stops at other Lodges, one being Eustis Lodge, on their way home.

Deland Lodge 1463
Update on the 2nd annual “Splash Day.” The Lodge presented a check in the amount of $5,100 from grant monies and proceeds from the event, to the 4H Boys and Girls Club. The Volusia County 4H Livestock Judging Team began competing in June of 2012. The team was third in the state for 2012 and through October 18, 2005, and since then, he served as Lodge trustee and worked on the bingo committee. He is part of a work detail group, performing various tasks in and around the Lodge; he volunteers his time in the Meals-on-Wheels program and works tirelessly, helping others when the need arises.

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The local community, Gifts of Love, have a back to school new shoes give-away for kids in the community. Members were encouraged to purchase $10 gift certificates from Payless Shoes to help with the project.

Member Marge Cyr recently received the Elk Lady of the Year Award because of her help and participation in Lodge events. You can find Marge volunteer-
Congratulations to PDVP Kay Neilley, PER and member of Deep Creek Lodge 2763 who was installed as the SSW District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler at the Grand Lodge Convention in Reno. Members wish Kay a successful and safe year on her travels to each Lodge in the District.

“Hats Off” to the Elks and Ladies of the Elks in the SSW District who, by working together, made it possible for 385 children to enjoy a week at the Florida Elks Youth Camp this summer!

Bonita Springs-Estoero Lodge 2753

The Lodge sponsored the Brotherhood Ride by donating $2,000, a trailer with a photo-wrap and a send-off dinner held at the Lodge.

The Brotherhood Ride was organized in 2007 after a fire disaster in Charleston that claimed the lives of nine firefighters. It is a volunteer organization comprised of serving and retired police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel, all of whom dedicate themselves to honoring fallen heroes each year by cycling to a destination city where a hero gave his life. This year the Brotherhood honored eight fallen heroes: Five police officers and a firefighter from Florida; a police officer from Virginia; and a fire chief from Tennessee, all of whom perished in the line of duty in 2012. Each rider is sponsored by one or more members of the public. Funds raised are donated to various charitable organizations dedicated to these professionals. To date, more than $118,000 has been raised for this cause. This year’s ride ended in Decaturville, Tennessee on May 11.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763

On Sunday, September 15, members of Deep Creek Lodge held a very special event to raise funds for the family of Sgt. Mike Wilson the Charlotte County Police Officer who was shot and killed in the line of duty. The afternoon included a silent auction, a spaghetti dinner for 175 people, and dancing to music donated by “Heart and Soul.” All of the food, enough for 1,000 meals, was donated by US Foods and Performance Foods. Excess food was given to the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition, the Janet Jones Group Home and local fire houses. Items for the silent auction were passed out to adults along the parade route and 400 lollipops were given to children.

Englewood Lodge 2378

On July 14 three buses full of 128 excited children left the parking lot at Englewood Lodge for the long drive to the FSEA Youth Camp in Umatilla to enjoy a week of activities, making new friends, doing without Ipods and phones, and generally having fun.

For some who have enjoyed camp before it was their last opportunity due to age restrictions. Children were just as excited on the return home July 20 and anxious to tell their parents about camp adventures. Those nine year olds who attended camp for the first time are already looking forward to next year.

Englewood Lodge made a $100 donation to a local Girl Scout Troop as a thank you for their participation in the Flag Day Ceremony held at the Lodge. Veterans Committee Chairman Len Kangas has been busy presenting new Elks and visitors to Englewood Lodge with an “Elks Say Thank You” Veterans pin. Another box of toiletries, candy, books, etc. has been forwarded to a member of the military serving overseas. This is an ongoing project.

Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781

Greater Pine Island Elks sent 20 children to the Florida Elks Youth Youth Camp this summer.

The Lodge presented a $500 donation to the Pine Island Community Emergency Response Team. Members also collected 120 pounds of food for the local Food Bank.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

North Fort Myers Lodge hosted a dinner for the Turkey Federation, an organization formed to help in the preservation of our land and animals. Members of the Turkey Federation were very pleased with the way the Lodge welcomed them. To show their appreciation, members of the organization presented the Lodge with a $450 bronze statue of an Elk which is proudly on display. In the past, the Turkey Federation has also presented North Fort Myers Lodge with a beautiful picture of an Elk.

Recently the Lodge sponsored a youth soccer team in the community. Team members will wear jerseys with North Fort Myers Elks embroidered on the back showing that Elks truly care about youth and community.

SSW continued next page
Boca Raton Lodge 2166

Recently, all the South Southeast District Lodges held their Flag Day Ceremonies. Then you might ask what makes ours stand out from the rest? With assistance from Boca Raton H.S. N.R.O.T.C., Exalted Ruler, Linda Barie opened up the ceremony in the usual manner and then we had N.R.O.T.C. march in with the colors.

As our ceremony continued, next we had the History of our flag read by Cadet Rodriguez. The audience was captured by the First Flag which was a Pine Cone, second was a Snake, the third was be-, audited by the First Flag which was a Pine Cone, second was a Snake, the third was be-

N.R.O.T.C. concluded their portion of the ceremony with the folding of the American Flag. Once again, Cadet Rodriguez stood at the podium and read what each fold represented. At this point our ceremony concluded with singing God Bless America.

In early August the SSE District hosted the visitation of State President Brian Burns and Mary Kay, VPAL, Danny Tabor and Rachel. The second night of visitation was hosted by Del Ray and was once again especially exciting for Boca Raton, as our Exalted Ruler, Linda Barie, was awarded Outstanding Elk of the Year for the SSE District.

On Saturday, September 7, 2013, Boca Raton Lodge held its First Annual Americanism Awards Dinner. Boca Raton Mayor, Susan Whelchi issued a Proclamation declaring the week of September 9-16 as Elks National Patriotism week in Boca. This Proclamation was presented by Vice Mayor, Susan Hayine and Commissioner, Constance Scott to our Exalted Ruler, Linda Barie.

Americanism Awards were presented to Police Officer Chris Suarez, Boca Raton Police Department and Firefighter, James Haag, Boca Raton Fire Department by our Exalted Ruler, Linda Barie and Americanism Chairman, Richard Dunne.

A special 11th Hour Toast was recited in remembrance of the First Responders and all who lost their lives on that tragic day, September 11, 2001 which was officiated by Linda Barie, Exalted Ruler, and of course it was concluded with all singing God Bless America.

This was a great kick off to Elks National Patriotism week with great pomp and circumstance along with some new members for our Lodge.

Delray Beach Lodge 1770
The rain held off and another successful Kevin Knight Golf Tournament on June 9. Golfers numbered 144, enjoyed the beautiful day and then back to the Lodge for lunch and prizes. Approximately $4,000 was raised!

The 2nd Annual Seek in the City Scavenger Hunt benefitting participating Charities within the Non-Profit Council of the Delray Beach Chamber kicked off at the Delray Elks June 22. Delray Elks was a Sponsor and Beneficiary of the event. Participating were 240 entrants in figuring out clues to get them to the 100 businesses and landmarks around the city. After party and prices were awarded back at the Delray Elks. Proceeds of $11,000 were raised and the Delray Elks received $1,000 of those proceeds.

The Flag Day Ceremony with the Elkettes performing with the help of our local Boy Scout Troop 301. Light lunch was served after.

Our Independence Day Picnic was held at Lake Ida Park. Sunshine and a cool breeze made the day perfect for everyone. Food, fun, music and horseshoes were the highlights. Hamburgers and dogs with all the fixings, watermelon and Moon’s Famous Brownies were on hand. Thanks Spike and Eddie for the prep and cooking on the hot grill all day. Water, soda, wine and beer were available to quench everyone’s thirst. This picnic, from the outset, ran like a well-oiled machine. Clean up and break down were also well executed with the special motivation of a lightning storm to get everyone moving. Thanks to everyone who helped make this special event possible and to also thank everyone who attended.

On August 3 the Lodge hosted the annual Florida Elks State President’s formal dinner dance of the SSE District. It was a wonderful night with great music, dancing, camaraderie and excellent food, thanks to Falcon, Rick, Maureen, Cecil, Janelle and Mark. Approximately 140 people enjoyed prime rib or chicken dinner. The Elkettes made the scrumptious appetizers and set up the Banquet room!

Again, thanks to everyone who came out and supported the Lodge and this event. There were so many people helping this weekend with all the events and made this visitation very special.

Mark Gerretson Memorial 19th Annual Fishing Tournament hooked $18,000 for local children and families charities.

The Captains Meeting on August 9 was attended by 200 people for dinner, raffles and angler sign up. There were 38 boats registered and returned with their catches to Veterans Park on August 10. Prize money of $7,200 was awarded to the winners of the largest fish in the categories of overall, dolphin, wahoo, kingfish, mystery, lady angler, junior angler and family fun fish. families charities.

SSW District continued from previous page

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

Lodge members hosted a Christmas in July Bingo party with the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. This event was very well attended and a profit of over $2,000 was raised for the Coalition.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606
In July Punta Gorda Lodge 2606 hosted a very enjoyable luncheon for area Veterans. Elk members will host the Veterans at the Lodge for lunch on a monthly basis and also plan to visit the Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Home for songs and entertainment each month.

Sixty-seven children were able to enjoy a one week session at the FSEA Youth Camp this summer thanks to the effort and sponsorship of Punta Gorda Elks and Elkettes.

Naples Lodge 2010
Naples Lodge 2010 had its first Flag Day Ceremony in the new site. Boy Scout Troop 214 presented the flags of our Nation. The Lodge presented the Troop with a check for $2,100 to insure that each Boy Scout would have the opportunity to attend their annual summer camping trip. Following the presentation, the Boy Scouts performed a Flag Retirement Ceremony. About three dozen flags were retired. Veterans attending the ceremony presented the flags for retirement. All enjoyed refreshments.

The Lodge has helped local elementary school students by donating composition notebooks for the new school year. Many students would not have been able to afford these books.

Rotonda Lodge 2710
Rotonda Lodge, like most others, has been slow during the off season but that doesn’t deter enthusiasm. The Lodge was closed for two weeks for clean-up. Over forty members volunteered their time replacing the bar, painting everything in sight, scrubbing and doing some much needed general maintenance. Some folks worked every day, some worked only a few hours but every minute counted because the Lodge is sparkling inside and out!

The first event upon reopening was the Labor Day Picnic with music donated by “Just Joyce,” a member of Deep Creek Lodge. Turn-out was beyond expectations and everyone had a grand time. Proceeds of the day were designated for Lodge charities.
The Lodge has started “Elks Family Day” on the first Thursday of each month.

On August 10 the Lodge held a Rockin’ Country Party with the Ocoee River Band. Great music with lots of fun dancing, including tasty lite bites and drinks. John Mavis, JR, and members, preceded the Ocoee River Band. John and JR were such a hit they were asked to come back for two Saturdays in the month of September. The party raised $1,400 for our “Vets on the Water” program. This benefit enables the Lodge to take retired and active military on fishing trips, kayaking and other water sports.

The South District Deputy clinic was held at our Lodge on August 24. Breakfast was served. Lots of good discussions for the betterment of our District and Lodge.

On September 8, a Soccer Shoot Clinic and sign-up was held. The Soccer Shoot was held on October 5 at Founders Park in Islamorada.

A 9-11 Tribute to first responders was held was held with over 300 people to our Lodge. All our local first responders attended and participated in various demonstrations, such as K-9, Fire Department water show and tours of fire trucks and equipment. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Invocation by Pastor Kerry Foote from Burton Memorial United Methodist Church. Commissioner Sylvia Murphy was our Master of Ceremonies. All attending had an opportunity to interact with law enforcement officers, Florida Wildlife Commission, Sheriff, Fire, EMS, Sea Tow, Coast Guard and more.

Marathon Lodge 2139

In June, the Lodge awarded eight Scholarships totaling $4,500 to seniors at Marathon High School as well as hosting “Project Graduation”. We were chosen to hold this prestigious event by member and former Mayor Mike Puto. Prizes went to every senior, donated by various businesses.

June included a fundraiser dinner for the “Grace Jones Daycare Center” and raised $3,700 for teacher supplies.

The Lodge won First Prize in the annual Marathon “Fourth of July” Parade. Our entry included a truck decorated and filled with members tossing goodies as well as marchers and two carts pulled by miniature donkeys. Organizer, Carol Reed, Esteemed Lecturing Knight and House Committee Chairperson, accepted the plaque from the President of the Marathon Rotary Club. It now hangs in the Lodge.

In August the House Committee announced the start of “Pretty Parties.” This bi-monthly event is for Lodge cleaning, landscaping and general beautification. The members have turned out strong with pride and caring for the Lodge.

A “Poker Run” fundraiser dinner, including stops at the local American Legion, DAV, and Moose Lodge netted $1,000. A contest for the best hors d’oeuvres was held. Tasty treats competed for First Prize, a hand painted coconut by a Keys artist.

On August 27, the regular Lodge meeting and initiation included the initiation of Mrs. Dorothy Bitzer. Dorothy may very well be the oldest initiated member; her “World Famous Scalloped Potatoes” were the hit of the evening. She is a constant inspiration to all.

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On August 27, the regular Lodge meeting and initiation included the initiation of Mrs. Dorothy Bitzer. Dorothy may very well be the oldest initiated member of the Marathon Lodge. At 90 years young, she moved from California and has been involved in Marathon Lodge activities with her daughter member Cindy Casey. On Wednesday’s she can be found dancing at our “Hump Night” party, Thursday’s playing “Cardo” and making friends with her genuine warmth. She quickly volunteered to assist cooking for a “Monday Night Dinner”. Her “World Famous Scalloped Potatoes” were the hit of the evening. She is a constant inspiration to all.
“Elks: Making a Difference with Our Hands, Hearts, and Voices.”

Join Us
New Year’s Eve at

$50.00
PER PERSON

Brunch on New Year’s Day before your trip home.

Arrive Morning of December 31st, 2013
See off Jim Larson for his 24-hour run

Lite lunch of burgers & hot dogs

Enjoy the evening cheering on the runner.
Classic NYE Dinner of Filet Mignon with all the trimmings.

Enjoy music through a leisurely dinner.

Bring your own adult beverage.
Stay the night in a camper cabin.

Deadline for the Winter Edition December 18, 2013

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