Brian T. Burns
President Elect Florida State Elks Association 2013-2014

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest Central District and Arcadia Lodge 1524 are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Brian T. Burns as a candidate for the office of State President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Burns was born in Bataville, NY on October 1, 1954. He spent his early childhood in Englewood, FL until the age of five. His family returned to western New York where he attended school and graduated from Notre Dame High in Batavia, NY. Following this, he went to Florida to attend college at Manatee and Polk Junior Colleges. He then returned to New York to marry his high school sweetheart, Mary Kay Ansbro. They lived and worked in western New York until 1980 when they moved with their young daughter, Heather, to Arcadia, FL, where his grandfather was raised and the family citrus business was struggling. Burns worked as a welder for a couple of years and helped out with the groves on the side. In 1983, he leased a couple of years and helped out with the struggling. Burns worked as a welder with the Lodges, districts and FSEA - it’s easier for him to deal with the southern area and for me to deal with the northern area. We’ll each have 7 districts to oversee, and while we’ll rely on each other to oversee and act on all issues pertaining to that lodge/district, we’ll discuss whatever action is needed and concur on the course of action. We’ll rely on Bob to act as an advisor and to assist us when we “yell for help.”

I hope all will work with us as we “trail blaze” a new way to administer and advise the Lodges in the state. The FSEA has entered into a new era; we have two very large state major projects; a generous and active scholarship program; and,用品的使用更便捷。

As we approach the upcoming State Convention at Disney’s Coronado Hotel let me take this opportunity to thank all Florida Elks for your support of our many worthwhile endeavors. Whether your passion is helping our veterans, our needy and physically handicapped children or our young adults in need of a helping hand to pay for college, the Florida Elks provide opportunities to have the time of your life assuring OTHERS have the time of THEIR LIVES - or at least giving them the opportunity to look forward to a better, less painful future. We are experts at helping others; and every year, we are doing more. I hope you are as proud of your efforts as I am. Get involved, you’ll never regret it!

In an effort to share some of my “heavy lifting” as Bob Grafton puts it, he and I have decided to ask Past Grand Exalted Ruler Mike Smith to take some of the workload of the Florida State Elks Association. Effective with the close of the State Convention I will assume the responsibility of all Lodges in the Districts of the northern part of the State: (NW, N, NE, NC, EC, C, and SE), and Mike will assume responsibility for the Lodges in the south: (WC, SWC, SW, SSE, S.) This is not splitting the state or responsibilities of either of us; we are going to attempt something that other large Elk states have done when there are two active PGERs and another who serves in an advisory capacity. California and New York have done this with some success, and it is my wish to help acclimate Mike in a timely manner to what lies in the future for the FSEA.

Mike and I will be working together to handle the day-to-day dealings with the Lodges, districts and FSEA -

Continued Page 5
STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Sean D. Maguire

Barbara and I have been busy since New Year’s. Our old year ended and New Year began at the Florida Elks Youth Camp where we witnessed the First Annual Jim Laron 24HR Run. Jim ran all 24 hours and completed 93 miles. Congratulations to Jim as each mile raised funds for Harry-Anna. While Jim was running, Endorsed VPAL Dan Tabor conducted a Hoop Shoot competition involving “children” of all ages. As with our normal competition, there were no losers. Everyone had a great time. The food provided by the camp staff was wonderful. If you have no plans for next New Year’s Eve, I highly recommend you plan to join your Elks friends at the Youth Camp for a wonderful time.

On January 5, Barbara and I were at the Youth Camp again as we witnessed the State Soccer Shoot. Congratulations to Chairmen Ron Dunn, PER, and the Soccer Shoot committee for conducting an event that will be long remembered by the participants and their families.

Our District visitations continued with our visit with Vice President Wayne Reyes and Judy as we visited the Northeast District January 11-12. We visited the beautiful city of St. Augustine. There, we witnessed the District Hoop Shoot while the ladies visited the shopping areas of St. Augustine.

The next weekend found us at the Alabama Elks Winter Convention where we joined Past Grand Exalted Ruler C. Valentine Bates, PSP-PGER Jim Coggin and Sonya, and PSP Frank Hayes and Linda as we welcomed our Grand Exalted Ruler Tom Brazier and First Lady Venita to Alabama. We had a wonderful time touring the Naval Air Station Museum in Pensacola, Florida.

The weekend of January 25-26, Barbara and I, along with Endorsed State President and VPAL Brian Burns and Mary Kay, endorsed VPAL Dan Tabor and Rachel, and the Membership Engagement Team visited District Vice President Dick Krause and Anne as we visited their North Central District. Barbara and I would like to extend our sincere thanks to District Vice President Pat Phillips, the Advisory Council, Lodges, Members, and Ladies of the Northeast District for a wonderful homing experience for you all.

Barbara and I were proud to join Past Grand Exalted Ruler C. Valentine Bates and Claudia in Atlanta, Georgia as we attended the Georgia Elks Convention. We were treated like royalty as we had the chance to meet many Georgia Elks. The biggest thrill was having the opportunity to join Georgia President Roy Spiker and Dixie as we visited their Major Project, the Aidmore Children’s Center.

We look forward to completing our year with our attendance at the State Golf Tournament on April 4th and 5th, the Harry-Anna Trust Seminar on April 25-26, and the State Softball Tournament in Deland on April 26-28, and the State Convention in Disney World in May.

I would like to offer one more congratulations to the Lodge Officers, District Vice Presidents, and District Deputies for guiding the affairs of our Order for the Lodge Year 2012-13. Through a year that has presented many financial challenges to our local Lodges, Florida Elks have continued to support our major projects as well as our local endeavors. Through the generosity of Elks, we have supported our children, our Veterans, and those less fortunate in our local communities. I am very proud of the Membership Engagement of our Florida Elks.

Finally, I wish Endorsed State President Brian Burns and May Kay, endorsed VPAL Dan Tabor and Rachel, and all the new incoming officers for the Florida Elks Association the best in the coming year.

I am so humbled by having had the wonderful opportunity to represent all Florida Elks as President of the Florida State Elks Association this past year. Barbara and I had a wonderful year. We thank you for your support. As we traveled this great state, we reaffirmed what BPOE means; Best People On Earth!

God bless each and every one of you, and blessed our military wherever they may serve.

Thank you and I’ll see you in the Lodge!
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert, PDD

Recently, a good friend of mine (Mary Kay Burns, the wife of our endorsed State President), introduced me to a book about organizational change. An easy read, it is titled Who Moved My Cheese? by Dr. Spencer Johnson. A motivational publication, it helped me better understand one aspect of change we are struggling with, that being the reluctance of members to embrace or even want change! Sound familiar?

Imagine that you and a friend live in a maze and have happened upon a stash that provides you with everything you need to be happy and successful. Then imagine that one day someone moves that stash. You set off in search of a new stash. Soon you come upon a new stash and content with the find, you establish your routines around the new stash, slowly becoming arrogant in the process. The stash begins to dwindle but having not learned from the loss of the last stash, you forge ahead figuring the stash will last long enough to meet your needs. Your friend, on the other hand, noticing the stash beginning to dwindle, mentally prepares for the arduous but inevitable task of finding a new stash and even ventures off from time to time to begin the search. As expected the stash is eventually moved. Upon this discovery you become angered and annoyed at the unfairness of the situation and refuse to go in search of a new stash. You begin to blame others for your situation. Your only comfort is in your old routines and you are frightened by the unknown. You are starving but are dead set in your victimized mindset and dismiss your friend’s suggestion to go in search of a new stash. Your denial continues but your friend moves on leaving you with the thoughts, “If You Do Not Change, You Can Become Extinct” and “What Would You Do If You Weren’t Afraid?”

Finally after much thought and still fearful of the trek and plagued with worry, you set out finding bits and pieces of a stash along the way, enough to nourish you as you continue your search. You begin to realize that the stash has not vanished entirely but has dwindled from unlimited to a small stash and even begin to smile once again! You realize that “When You Move Beyond Your Fear, You Feel Free.”

Eventually you come upon a new abundant stash including some things that are strange to you but what you were looking for nonetheless. Now cautious from past experience you inspect the stash daily and you explore different parts of the maze regularly to prevent any complacency from setting in. You have found your way!

Many of you do not relate this story to the changes we need to make in our Lodges that will allow us to find a new stash of members. The maze is the world we live in.

From 1993 to 1997 our membership numbers began to decline yet we sat idly by refusing to acknowledge the decline and somewhat arrogant in our belief that we needed to seek new prospects. More recently, and as our declines have increased, we have begun to become angry and annoyed and even point to the infighting in our Lodges as a major reason we are losing members. We have become so set in our ways that we refuse to change our old routines and are frightened at the prospect of change. We shudder at the prospect of new members who are different than us (their music, their piercings and tattoos) and become complacent in our efforts to seek new members.

Perhaps we need to see the writing on the wall:

**FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS**

**“Celebrating 50 Years of Helping Children”**

**“Children are God’s Rainbows”**

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

The Quarterly Meeting was held at the Youth Camp on February 9, 2013. I would like to thank the wives of our Past Grand Exalted Rulers for hosting a wonderful luncheon on Friday, in honor of Venita Brazier, wife of the Grand Exalted Ruler Tom Brazier. The food and decorations were outstanding. It was a pleasure to visit with so many of the ladies attending the February meetings.

At our FLOE meeting on Saturday, we were visited by Sean Maguire, FSEA President, Brian Burns, Endorsed Candidate for State President, and Danny Tabor, Endorsed Candidate for VPAL. All of the Dignitaries thanked the Ladies for their dedication to the Elks Major Projects.

We had several guests at the meeting including the wives of State and visiting Dignitaries.

Also in attendance were FLOE Past Presidents Faye Bryant, Enid Simpson, Carol Deresh and Betty Groff.

The packet for the May Convention was reviewed with the Delegates. Our activities include the Silent Auction on Friday, our meeting Saturday morning followed by our luncheon and Chinese Auction. This year we will have a special treat and will have entertainment for you to enjoy. You may download your information packet from the Elks web-site: www.flelks.org. Visit the site to keep up to date on all the activities.

Carol Deresh, PSP Chairlady of the Nominating Committee presented their recommendations for Officers for 2013-2014. They are: Judy Reyes, President; Jane Moon, Vice President; Becky Long, Secretary; Connie Poage, Treasurer; Carol Phelps and Dolores Casella, PSP for Advisory Council. Nominations will be open again at the May meeting and we will vote at that time.

Betty Groff, PSP Chairlady of the By-Law Committee will accept written requests for changes if received by May 1, 2013.

FLOE took great pride in presenting the Youth Camp with a check in the amount of $12,000.00 at the Major Projects meeting. Betty Groff, immediate Past State President, made the presentation on behalf of FLOE, whose total donations for last year was over $25,500.00.

The Florida Elks State Convention will be coming up in May. There are plenty of activities for everyone. Plan to visit the Silent Auction and place your bids. Remember your Lodge will get per capita credit based on the purchase value of the items. Winning bids will be announced on Friday after the Memorial Service. Saturday we will hold the FLOE meeting, Chinese Auction and Luncheon.

September will bring our FLOE Conference. We have a change in the sequence of events at Conference and will enjoy our banquet on Friday and the Delegates Reception on Saturday. We are “Celebrating 50 Years of Helping Children” and “Enjoy Change – Savor the Adventure and Enjoy the New Stash”. Be Ready to Change Quickly and Enjoy it Again – They Keep Moving the Stash.

It is my opinion that until we embrace real change within our Lodges we will continue to struggle with membership losses. I just don’t believe our growth prospects (prospective members) can be tied to our tired old traditions (underfunded restaurants and bars).

I believe that for us to be successful we MUST adapt our programs to meet the needs of today’s active lifestyles and that we must offer real volunteer opportunities for people interested in supporting their communities. What’s more, should be “The Elks: Where the community turns when they need volunteers!” Does this sound like a 21st century approach to membership and community service? Who better than the Elks to provide this opportunity, and our facilities, well they are a bonus!

Imagine that you and a friend live in a maze and have happened upon a stash that provides you with everything you need to be happy and successful. Then imagine that one day someone moves that stash. You set off in search of a new stash. Soon you come upon a new stash and content with the find, you establish your routines around the new stash, slowly becoming arrogant in the process. The stash begins to dwindle but having not learned from the loss of the last stash, you forge ahead figuring the stash will last long enough to meet your needs. Your friend, on the other hand, noticing the stash beginning to dwindle, mentally prepares for the arduous but inevitable task of finding a new stash and even ventures off from time to time to begin the search. As expected the stash is eventually moved. Upon this discovery you become angered and annoyed at the unfairness of the situation and refuse to go in search of a new stash. You begin to blame others for your situation. Your only comfort is in your old routines and you are frightened by the unknown. You are starving but are dead set in your victimized mindset and dismiss your friend’s suggestion to go in search of a new stash. Your denial continues but your friend moves on leaving you with the thoughts, “If You Do Not Change, You Can Become Extinct” and “What Would You Do If You Weren’t Afraid?”

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Perhaps we need to see the writing on the wall:

**Change Happens – They Keep Moving the Stash**

**Anticipate Change – Get Ready for the Stash to Move**

**Monitor Change – Check The Stash Often to Keep it Relevant**

**Adapt To Change Quickly – The Quicker You Let Go of the Old Stash the Sooner You Can Enjoy the New Stash**

**Change – Move with the Stash**

**Enjoy Change – Savor the Adventure and Enjoy the New Stash**

**Be Ready to Change Quickly and Enjoy it Again – They Keep Moving the Stash**

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Elks’ Benevolence Rooted in Support of Veterans

By Vincent P. Como

Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Member

As we end one year and begin anew, one constant remains. And that is the grit and determination of our service personnel all over the world, who could not be with their families this holiday season. This message is dedicated to those who helped make our Order what it is today: Our forefathers. They saw to it that the BPOE would serve as a beacon of hope and assistance to our servicemen and women.

In 1917, our Order of Elks was only 49 years old and we were at war. In April of that year, GER Edward Righ appointed a committee to study what the Order of Elks should do in this crisis.

At the Grand Lodge session in Boston, this committee, headed by PGER John K. Tener, recommended to the membership that “the Elks give first consideration to the sick and wounded on the battlefields of France and equip base hospitals for their care,” and that “the Order create a fund for war relief work.”

The membership enthusiastically and unanimously approved a resolution appropriating $1 million for the War Relief fund. This money was raised by our members at the Subordinate Lodge level.

During World War I, the Elks, under the auspices of the War Relief Commission, and through the patriotism and generosity of our Members, the commission organized and equipped the first two base hospitals in France and built a 700-bed hospital in Boston and gave it to the War Department. That was the only veterans hospital after World War I that was donated by a private entity.

During the war, the Salvation Army was severely handicapped in its great work for the servicemen by lack of funds. The commission, at Christmas time 1918, gave the Salvation Army $60,000 to continue its work.

The Commission made 40,000 rehabilitation, vocational and educational loans to disabled veterans who were ineligible for government help. This service was so effective that the federal government followed the Order’s example and the GI Bill, which makes funds available to veterans for education, had its genesis from this Elks program.

In 1940, it was becoming quite apparent to many people that war was quickly approaching. At the Grand Lodge Session in Houston that year, the Elks unanimously voted to establish the Elks National Defense and Public Relations Commission. The primary focus of this commission was to establish a patriotic program that placed the power of the Order behind the United States.

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, GER John S. McClelland sent a telegram to President Roosevelt placing the Order of Elks at the nation’s disposal. McClelland then called a special session of the Elks National Defense and Public Relations Commission in New York and from this meeting on January 1942, was born the Elks War Commission.

With an initial war chest of $35,000, the War Commission set about its work. They appealed to the Subordinate Lodges for financial aid and manpower. Once again, our Members, with their families, responded as they always have in times of crisis, and support was overwhelming.

The United States Army asked the War Commission to recruit 45,000 young men for the ground crews of the Army Air Corps. The commission, with the help of the Lodges, recruited 97,000.

When thousands of wounded and disabled members of the armed forces returned to the states, the Elks again stepped forward, offering their services to help entertain them. The Elks provided the hospitals with radios, phonographs, playing cards, books, magazines, games, musical instruments, craft supplies and personal items.

In July 1946 at the Grand Lodge Session in New York, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission was created to replace the Elks War Commission. The commission’s primary goals were to carry on the Hospital Program, the Peace Army Enlistment Campaign, and all uncompleted activities supervised by the Elks War Relief Commission. During this session, the Elks pledged that, “So long as there are veterans in our hospitals, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.” Our commitment continues to this day.

At the Philadelphia convention in 1948, a delegate from each Lodge in California deposited a bundle of hides at the rostrum. These hides, valued at $26,000, were distributed to 21 veterans hospitals that had requested the items. Thus began our Leather Program.

When a shooting war broke out in Korea in 1950, the Elks responded by sending gift packages as they had in World War II. The same was done in 1965 for those involved in the Vietnam War. During the Korean War, the Secretary of Defense appealed to the Order for help in procuring blood for our wounded. Within a few months, the Elks Lodges obtained more than half a million pints!

During the Vietnam War, the Defence Department was concerned with the morale of our 400,000 troops. The Elks again answered the call and flooded these fine defenders of freedom with letters expressing our gratitude and the sacrifices they were making for our country.

Since 1986, the commission has worked closely with Re-Creation, a group of young men and women who travel around the country visiting and entertaining our hospitalized veterans. This program helps brighten the days of those confined to VA medical centers.

The Elks were among the first fraternal organizations to formally welcome home the returning veterans from Operation Desert Storm.

While our name has changed, our mission is the same - to provide aid and comfort to any veteran in need. While we, as Elks, have faithfully supported our veterans, let us never forget to say two endearing words to them whenever we see them - thank you.

As we begin the new year, we set a new course for our Order. As we look at our goals for the ensuing year, let us reflect on the service that our Members and Lodges provided during the past year and build upon that foundation.

Let us make 2013 a year of progress, growth, and service to our Members and communities.

Encourage those you know to join our Order. The skilled and professional services of the Elks stands ready to serve the needs of our Members and their families.

Thank you for your dedication and support of the Elks.

Thank you for your dedication and support of the Elks.
Below are the Florida State ENF Scholarship Winners. Each of the students will receive a $4,000.00 scholarship from the Elks National Foundation. As you can see I have included the District, Lodge Name and Lodge number in the table.

Please take time to congratulate these worthy young men and women should you have the opportunity to personally meet them and wish them well on all their future endeavors.

Thanks to everyone who helped me on this awesome task and especially to the Lodge and District Chairs who worked so diligently to bring this task to another successful completion.

I have personally talked to the recipients of the awards and they all send you their thanks for helping them in their journey through life.

Again thanks and hope to see you at the State Convention.

Eloi LeRoux          Ormond Beach 2193     ECD
Kyle Saleby          Twin Cities 2747     NWD
Michael Wilson       St. Augustine 829      NED
Shane Derrick        Melbourne 1744        SECD
Treyvon Thomas       Sarasota South 2495    SWD
Christopher Heung    Margate 2463          SSD
Bradley Koberg       Port Orange 2723      ECD
Jaocihim Jones       Melbourne 1744        SECD
Michael Herman       Margate 2463          SSD
Francis Holcomb      Venice-Nokomis 1854   SWD
Daniel Hutton        St. Augustine 829      NED
Kevin Griffin        Sarasota South 2495    SWD
Ian Ludden           Brandon 2383          SWCD

Juliana Garcia-Mejia Gainesville 990 NED
Van Tuong            Port Orange 2723      ECD
Jessica McClintock   Delray Beach 1770    SSED
Lorena Benitez       West Palm Beach 1352  SSD
Veronica Padron      So Miami/Coral Gables 1676 SD
Avooedeji Harris     Gainesville 990      NED
Laura O’Connell      Sarasota South 2495  SWD
Megan Wiedeman       Bradenton 1511        SWD
Whitney Sha          Delray Beach 1770    SED
Jessica Flores       Miami South 948        SD
Natalie Flores       Miami South 948        SD
Ivelisse Birks       Tallahassee 937       ND
Nicole Martell       Winter Park 1830      NCD
Christina Sierra     Lakeland 1291         SWCD

The following benefits are included in the monthly service fee:

- Every resident has his/her own private room with regular housekeeping service.
- Three nutritious meals are served daily in the spacious dining room.
- Weekly laundry.
- There are many forms of recreation, including a library, card room, TV room, bingo, golf, shuffleboard, pool tables, weekly shopping trips, monthly birthday parties, periodic entertainment, and special trips on the Home bus.

The Home bus provides transportation to the local church of your choice for Sunday worship. Also, religious services are held at the Home on Thursday evenings and Bible study classes on Sunday morning. Basic utilities are included. Cable TV, internet, and telephone are an extra charge.

- A security guard is on duty nights and weekends for your convenience and safety.
- Lighted parking areas are provided for residents’ automobiles, free of charge.
- Each room is equipped with an emergency call system. Our medical staff will be in your room within minutes of your distress signal.

As residents in New York and New Jersey recover from Hurricane Sandy, they’re finding out that even in times of crisis, the Elks are there for the community.

In Hoboken, thousands were without power and a place to stay, but they knew they could get a hot meal at Hoboken, N.J., Lodge No. 74. Since November 1, Elks have served more than thousands of meals to those in need. The Lodge partnered with the National Guard, city shelters, senior citizen organizations and various groups to ensure no one goes hungry. As Elks worked from 10 in the morning until 10 at night lending a hand, local officials took notice. Last Sunday, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, Governor Chris Christie, and several members of Congress came by to thank the Elks and reassure all present that they would not face the road to recovery alone.

“We have to work together and be patient,” said Governor Christie.

The Elks in Hoboken were way ahead of him.

Meanwhile, Metuchen, N.J., Lodge No. 1914 also pitched in. With many in the community without power, the local high school became the place to go to warm up and charge electronics. When the local principal and Elk member mentioned that some were also in need of food, the Lodge bought snacks and supplies. Scholar Advisory Board member Maryann Slater helped out by shopping with her mother, a member of the Lodge.

“We’re all still in shock that this happened,” Slater says. “I’m proud of the Elks presence in the community through ENF grants and Elks resources.”

New Jersey Elks were not the only ones pitching in, though.

Lodges in Pennsylvania to Michigan are raising funds and collecting supplies for those affected.

Sandy may have devastated communities in a few days, but Elks have been building stronger communities for years. It’s no contest.

Val Bates continued from page 1

60,000 eager members who work hard to ensure our success. Mike and I are committed to working together to help lead the FSEA into the 21st century.

As special guests to the Convention, we have invited Alabama Past State President, Part Grand Lodge Treasurer and current Area Three Auditing and Accounting Committee Member Andy Milwid and Ruth to help celebrate a successful year of Sharing and Caring. I have asked Andy to give a training session on Auditing and Accounting. Make sure your Lodge sends a representative to learn the important ins and outs of a successful audit. Believe me, your Lodge will benefit from Andy’s valuable insight (and probably will be able to avoid a fine from Grand Lodge for late or incomplete filing!)

Let me take just another moment and offer our sincere congratulations to Sean and Barbara Maguire for a very successful year as our State President and First Lady. Together they did a marvelous job representing our members and spreading news of our many Florida Elk successes. They are excellent examples of why the FSEA is so successful! Take a minute to thank them when you see them. We are sure that Brian and Mary Kay Burns will follow their great example and add their own special touch as they continue the important work of Florida Elkdom.
The members and Lodges of Florida’s North Central District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Harold N. Warren as a candidate for the office of North Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Warren was born in Summitville, NY on October 9, 1937. He attended Ellenville, NY High School and upon graduation he entered the U.S. Navy as a Seabee from 1956 to 1959. He was a volunteer firefighter for over thirty years working his way up to First Assistant Chief. In 1960 he went to work for the NY State Department of Correction where he worked for 28 years. During that time he also worked as a heavy equipment operator building ski slopes and erecting ski lifts. On his days off he attended Orange County Community College for two years.

Warren has been an Elk for 35 years. He served in Lodges in New York in Kingston and Ellenville. He came to Florida in 1988 and soon demitted to Ocala Lodge 286. He has served as Inner Guard, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, Esquire, Chaplain, House Chairman, Harry-Anna Chairman, ENF Chairman, Hoop Shoot Chairman, Soccer Shoot Chairman, North Regional State Soccer Chairman and District Veterans’ Services Chairman, Visitation Chairman, and Government Relations Chairman. He has also served on many Lodge committees. He loves ritual and has won at every position he has competed at.

Presently Warren volunteers at Vets Helping Vets with a new program, Marion County Veterans Treatment Court (MCVTC), a mentoring program in support of veterans.

He is married to Janet. He has four sons and one daughter and nine grandchildren.

NORTHEAST
F. Keith Eppes

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northeast District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of F. Keith Eppes as a candidate for the office of Northeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Eppes was born in Fitzgerald, GA in 1957 and lived in Georgia until 2003. From 2003-2008 he has lived in Dothan, AL and from 2008 until the present he has lived in Orange Park, FL. He graduated from Fitz High School in 1976 and attended Ben Hill Irwin Tech.

Eppes worked in a clothing store during high school. He worked two years in insurance and three years in management for Eckerd Drugs. He worked 33 years for CSX Transportation RR.

In 2004 Eppes joined the Dothan, AL Elks Lodge. His father was a life member in Fitzgerald, GA from 1957 until his death in August of 2007. Eppes has served as Tiler, Inner Guard, Chaplain, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, and Exalted Ruler. He has held several Lodge and district offices and most recently he was State Chaplain for President Sean Maguire.

In addition to the Elks, Eppes has belonged to the Heseg Shrine Temple and the Mason Lodge 369 since 2001. He has been a member of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 42 since 1998. He joined the VFW Men’s Auxiliary Post 5968 in 2012. He is also a member of the First Baptist Church in Orange Park, FL.

Eppes has been married to Linda Booth Eppes for nineteen years. He has a son, Thomas (Brenda); a grandson, Tyler; and a granddaughter, Haylie. He also has a stepson, Mike Walker.

Eppes enjoys traveling and spending time with family. After joining the Elks in Dothan, AL, their Lodge won the state ritual and competed at the national convention in Atlanta. He moved to Orange Park, FL with the railroad and demitted to Jacksonville Beach Lodge where he served in the chairs and became Exalted Ruler. He demitted to Orange Park Lodge after marrying Linda so that she could become more active in the Ladies organization where she has been an officer for most of her membership.

SOUTHEAST
Joy A. Booth

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Joy A. Booth as a candidate for the office of Southeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Booth was born in Bay Shore, Long Island, NY on March 3, 1945. She spent her early childhood in Babylon, Long Island, NY and moved to Florida in 1956 with her mother at age eleven. Booth attended the Palm Beach County school system for grades six through twelve and graduated from Forest Hill High School in 1963. She attended Palm Beach Junior College through 1965 and graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a BS in 1966. From 1966-1969 she taught at Royal Palm Beach School for Exceptional Children. She obtained her MAED from FAU in 1969 specializing in Special Education. From 1969-1970 she taught Special Education at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. From 1970-2010 she taught at Wynnebrook Elementary School in West Palm Beach and is now retired.

On September 2, 1998 Booth was initiated at Lantana/Boynton Elks Lodge 2676. They merged with West Palm Beach Lodge 1352 on March 30, 2007. She stepped in as Chaplain at Lodge 2676 and went up through the chairs to Exalted Ruler in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. From 2006 to the present she has been the Southeast District Reporter. For 2007-2008 she served on the Lodge ENF Scholarship Committee and was the Regional ENF Scholarship Chairman. For 2008-2010 she was the State ENF Scholarship Chairman. In 2011-2012 she was on the HOPE Scholarship Committee. For 2010-2012 she was a Lodge Liaison. She has also been a member of the Lodge Major Projects Committee and has worked on the Lodge Dictionary Project.

Booth is also a member of the Moose and has served on many school committees.

Her brother, Jonathan, is a member of the Gadsden, AL Elks and her Uncle, Harvey Holgrem, PDD, is a member of Hampton Bays Elks.

She is interested in all kinds of arts and crafts, especially needlework and quilting and she loves reading.

NORTHWEST
Rick J. Lemke

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northwest District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Rick J. Lemke as a candidate for the office of Northwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Lemke was born in Meadville, PA in 1963. He grew up in northwestern Pennsylvania and graduated from Conneaut Lake High School in June of 1982 and entered the United States Air Force in September of 1982. His last military assignment brought him to Hurlburt Field, FL in July of 1998. At the Community College of the Air Force, he earned an Associate’s degree in Information Management in 2000. At Okaloosa Walton Community College, he earned an Associate’s degree in Industrial Technology in 2003.

Lemke served on active duty 25-1/2 years (1982-2008) with the United States Air Force; he received an honorable discharge in April of 2008. He attended Basic Military Training School (BMTS) at Lackland AFB, TX from September through November of 1982. He had training at Keesler AFB, MS from November of 1982 through January of 1983.


Lemke served over 25 years in the Air Force in multiple career disciplines. He worked for the Department of Defense Companies as a Contractor: (1) Blackhawk Management Corporation as a Program Analyst/Research Associate, (2) L-3 Communications as an Information Management Officer and Professional Control Force, and he is presently employed with (3) CACI as an Applications Engineer 3 involving Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance virtual simulators.

Lemke joined Crestview Lodge 2624 in December of 2005. Two of his uncles and a cousin are Elks in Meadville Lodge 219, all three PEs, and they had a major influence on his decision to join. He has served as Esquire, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, and...
Continued from page 6


In addition to his Elks membership, Lemke has been a life member of Somerset Masonic Lodge 1205, Somerset TX, since 1986, and he has been a life member of American Veterans (AMVETS) Post 35, Crestview, FL, since 1990.

He has been married to Kumyion (Kim) for 24 years. They were married in Seoul, Korea. He has two sons, Joshua and Andrew; both reside in Crestview, FL. Josh is a full-time student (senior) at Troy University and will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (major) and Business Administration (minor) in May of 2013. Andrew is a full-time student (sophomore) at Northwest Florida State College. Kumyion is a homemaker and enjoys gardening, church, and bible study.

Lemke enjoys the great outdoors, including camping, fishing, and hiking. His interest is in information technology and the financial stock market. He also enjoys sports, namely the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was selected as Officer of the Year in 2006-2007. As the Exalted Ruler, he culminated the FSEA All-American Lodge, FSEA Scrapbook Contest, and FSEA Lapsation (zero) honors for 2010-2011.

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL

**John D. Houlihan**

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast Central District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of John D. Houlihan as a candidate for the office of Southeast Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.


In 2002, Houlihan joined the Elks in Staten Island. He became aware of community activities conducted by Elks. He has been a three-time House Committee Chairman and a two-time Exalted Ruler. He has also served as Trustee, Chairman of Indoctrination for the Southeast Central District, and Regional Chairman for the Army of Hope.

In addition to the Elks, Houlihan is a member of the American Legion, the Irish Cultural Center, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Catholic War Vets, and the Moose Lodge.

He has been married to Carol “Kandy” since May 20, 1967. He has two sons, Keith and Brian, and a daughter, Ann-Marie. He has seven grandchildren.

SOUTHWEST CENTRAL

**Howard Greenstein**

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Central District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Howard Greenstein as a candidate for the office of South Southeast Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.


Greenstein became an Elk in 1997 because of the comradship he felt and their charitable events. He has been Esquire, Lecturing Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, Trustee, and Lodge Membership Liaison.

He has been married to Wendy Huff, PER for 27 years. He has two sons, Daniel and Corey.

SOUTHWEST

**Deborah A. Hargrove**

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southwest District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Deborah A. Hargrove as a candidate for the office of South Southwest Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Hargrove was born in Baltimore, MD in 1950 and moved to Florida in 1988. She attended The Catholic High School of Baltimore from 1964-1968 and attended Frostburg State College from 1968-1970. She worked in broadcasting from 1970-1976 and in insurance from 1983-1993. She has worked in the Charlotte County Property Appraiser office since 1993 (Assistant Director Real Property).

After the Charlettes disbanded, the Lodge accepted Hargrove’s application in 2006. She became Loyal Knight and moved up from there. She has also been Leading Knight, 2-year Lodge Liaison, Exalted Ruler, a Trustee for four years (chairman four years), and Flag Day Co-chairman. She has been Chairman for the ENF, Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Mother’s Day, and Scholarship Committees. She is the VAYS Rep for Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans’ Nursing Home. She has been Kitchen Liaison, Bar Liaison, District Chairman of Sports, DDGER Esquire, Roll call (Interlodge Visitation), and Vice Chairman of the Ladies Organization.

In addition to Elks activities, Hargrove enjoys horseback riding and scuba diving. She is Co-captain Usher for St. Charles Church and is a founding and life member of Elks Riders.

She has been married to James “Jim” for 39 years. Her son, James, has been in the Air Force for sixteen years and is an Elks member. Her daughter-in-law is Suzanne. Her grandchildren are Rachelle and Meghan.

In Baltimore, MD, Hargrove was the first female certified first class broadcast engineer. She also helped construct and put a radio station on the air in Virginia.

WEST CENTRAL

**Rudolph “Rudy” J. Masi, Sr.**

The members and Lodges of Florida’s West Central District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Rudolph “Rudy” J. Masi, Sr. as a candidate for the office of West Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Masi was born in Pittsburgh, PA in 1952. He moved to St. Petersburg, FL with his family when he was two years old. He grew up in and continues to reside in St. Petersburg. He attended local St. Petersburg elementary, junior high, and high schools graduating from Dixie Hollins HS in 1970. He attended St. Petersburg J. C. before going to work for Florida Power Corporation in 1973. He graduated with honors from National Louis University in 1995 with a degree in Applied Behavioral Sciences and was selected as Graduate Speaker. His speech to the graduating class was based on a paper he wrote concerning giving back more to society and to this world than we take, paying it forward before it was a popular saying. He still strives to live his life in this manner. He loves the Elks because they provide a very good conduit for making this happen. He attended and received certification from UNC’s Kenan-Flagler Business School for leaders.

During the peak of the Vietnam War, Masi enlisted in the Marine Corp. He was seventeen years old and required the signature of his parents. His mother refused to sign and would not allow his father to sign so he went to college. He loves and respects those who serve and served and believes the Elks afford all of us an opportunity to assist those serving and our veterans.

Masi learned how to cook by working in a popular St. Petersburg Italian restaurant. He started at eleven years old, working his way up to manager while in high school. In 1973, Rudy began a 35+ year career with Florida Power Corp in the Line Department. While working storm trouble, he was injured. Upon learning he had to start a new career, he returned to college in the evenings while working and learning many different jobs in the electric utility industry. His background is in power quality, customer service, account management, Continued next page
family include his brothers, Steve and Danny; his sister, Patty; two cousins, Lou and Mike; and his uncle, Lou. His mother, Isabel, was a very active Elk, earning Citizen of the Year in 2010, until her passing in October of 2011.

Masi received a wristwatch from the Grand Lodge in 2008 in recognition of his efforts for recruiting new members. He was also St. Petersburg Lodge 1224 Elk of the Year for 2006-2007.

### SOUTHWEST CENTRAL

**Ted Martzloff**

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest Central District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Ted Martzloff as a candidate for the office of Southwest Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Martzloff was born in Lowville, NY in 1941. He grew up in Rochester, NY and moved to Florida in 1997. He graduated from Monroe High School in 1959 and attended Rochester Business Institute (RBI) in 1959-1960. He enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1960. He graduated from the Signal Corps School in Augusta, GA as a cryptographer. The balance of enlistment was spent in Germany until receiving an honorable discharge as a Tech Sgt. in 1963.

His entire career was spent in the manufacturing environment. He worked in the custom rubber molding business as Director of Quality Assurance and in the orthopedic industry as Director of Human Resources, Plant Management, and several years as a Human Resources Consultant. After retiring in 1997 and moving to Florida, he started Treasures in Wood, an antique restoration and custom woodworking business which he operated for ten years until closing it in 2007.

Martzloff was sponsored by a local business owner who at the time was Exalted Ruler of Lakeland Lodge 1291; he was initiated into Elksdom in 1997. On the Lodge level, he has been District Vice President, a Committee member, Trustee, Treasurer, Lodge Secretary for the last five years, and Americanism, Scholarships, and Membership Chairman. For the district, he has been Membership Chairman and has served on the Wills and Bequests Committee. Regionally he served on the Safety and Accident Committee. On the state level he was Americanism Chairman.

He has been married to Tracy for 48 years. He has two sons, Michael and David. Both sons served in the Air Force; Michael retired after twenty years of service and David retired after four. They have six grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

### Dan Tabor continued from page 4

of the board in 2011-2012. He was named Elk of the Year in 2010-2011 for Bradenton Lodge 1511.

His ritual experience at state includes third place Inner Guard, first place Lecturing Knight (he was the highest scoring officer but there was no Jolly Cork Award at that time), and second place Exalted Ruler.

Tabor has been married to Rachel L. Gorman since April 8, 1977. Rachel is employed at Berry Plastics in a supervisory position. They have two sons. Matthew, 30, works at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Sarasota, FL. He is a member of Bradenton Lodge. Adam, 25, works officiating youth basketball and also as a world travel as a PE instructor. Adam is a two-time past state Hoop Shoot champion, making it to the nationals in 1994.

Tabor’s hobbies include being with family and friends, Elks, and golf.
EAST CENTRAL
Edward K. Jackson

The members and Lodges of Florida’s East Central District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Edward K. Jackson as a candidate for the office of East Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Jackson was born on February 28, 1951. He lived in Erding, Germany, until the middle of the 1950s at which time his family moved to Southeast Asia. In the early 1960s he moved to southern California. He has three sons and one daughter and five grandchildren, two boys and three girls. He is married to Patricia Heller-Jackson, DDGER of the East Central District. He is a member of Port Orange Elks Lodge 2723.

Jackson joined the Navy in the latter 1960s and served in Vietnam on river patrol duty. He is a combat veteran with two Purple Hearts and a Silver Star. After Vietnam he served on board two submarines until the mid-1970s.

He attended the University of Utah in 1978 (Electrical Engineering), Utah Technical College in 1979 (Construction Engineering - Journeymen), San Diego State University in 1981 (Electrical Engineering), and San Diego City College in 1981 (Advanced Electronics & Computer Logic).


He joined the Elks in February of 1984 at Bountiful Elks Lodge 2442 in Bountiful, UT. He demitted to West Milford Elks Lodge 2236 in West Milford, NJ in March of 1985, to Springfield/Hillside Elks Lodge 2004 in Springfield, NJ in March of 2004, and to Port Orange Elks Lodge 2723 in Port Orange, FL in June of 2005. He has served as Lodge Esquire, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Lodge Trustee, Exalted Ruler at West Milford Lodge, and Exalted Ruler of Port Orange Lodge.

At West Milford and Port Orange Lodges he has served as Lodge Chairman of Parades, Public Relations, National Foundation, National Veterans Services, and the House Committee. He was also Lodge newsletter editor. At the district level in New Jersey and Florida he has worked with Public Relations, Officers Training, Hoop Shoot, Ritual, Tournament Task Force, Harry-Anna Trust Fund, and National Veterans Services. He was Officer Training Captain, Secretary to the DDGER, and a certified ritual floor and word judge for nine years. On the state level he has been Ritual Chairman Region 2. He worked with Public Relations and on the publication, New Jersey Elks. He was co-editor. He was also involved with Miracle Run and was Handicapped Children’s Trustee for five years. He has also worked with the Army of Hope, National Veterans Services, and Harry-Anna Trust Fund. He was an Army of Hope fundraiser and Vice President of the North District.

Jackson received a number of honors as Exalted Ruler. He won National All American Lodge in the under 300 members division in 1995-1996, All American Lodge NJ, Public Relations First Place in NJ, Newsletter First Place in NJ, Youth Activities NJ, and NJSEA Special State President Award for Army of Hope and for the Miracle Run and Special Honors for Handicapped Children.

Jackson has been a financial supporter of Elks Camp Moore, Florida Elks Youth Camp, Harry-Anna Trust Fund, and Elks National Foundation because of his strong commitment to the youth of today and our society of tomorrow. Ed looks forward to serving the district, his Lodge, and the Florida State Elks.

CENTRAL
Jody Richards

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Central District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Jody Richards as a candidate for the office of Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Richards was born in San Antonio, TX on July 4, 1952 and grew up in Oshkosh, WI where she graduated from Oshkosh West High School in 1970. She is a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, IL where she earned a BS in Speech/Theatre in 1974. She moved to Orlando, FL in 1980 and became a licensed Realtor in 1982 and earned her Broker’s license in 1986. She became a graduate of the Realtor Institute in 1994.

Currently Richards is a Realtor with Charles Rutenberg Realty. She has also been a vocalist with a local band, Jody & the Trouble Brothers, since 1998 which began as the house band from the former historic Langford Hotel in downtown Winter Park.

Richards had been occasionally employed as a banquet waitress at Orlando Lodge 1079 and was sponsored by a member to join the Elks with the first group which began as the house band from the former historic Langford Hotel in downtown Winter Park.

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Jody is a member of Encore Community Singers of Jacksonville and has performed with the VSO, Jacksonville Opera, and Jacksonville Symphony. She also performed as a vocalist in the TV production and engineering field. He has a Grammar for Best Animation and two Emmys for New and Documentary, The Communicator for the Sailfish 1974 West Pac Video. He was named to Who’s Who International Business Management 1997, New Century Who’s Who 2000-2001, and Lexington Who’s Who 2001-2002.

He joined the Elks in February of 1984 at Bountiful Elks Lodge 2442 in Bountiful, UT. He demitted to West Milford Elks Lodge 2236 in West Milford, NJ in March of 1985, to Springfield/Hillside Elks Lodge 2004 in Springfield, NJ in March of 2004, and to Port Orange Elks Lodge 2723 in Port Orange, FL in June of 2005. He has served as Lodge Esquire, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Lodge Trustee, Exalted Ruler at West Milford Lodge, and Exalted Ruler of Port Orange Lodge.

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SOUTHWEST
Dave Manning

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Dave Manning as a candidate for the office of Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Manning was born in Pontiac, MI in 1969 and moved to Florida in 1977. He graduated high school in 1987 from Trinity Baptist Academy. He served three years in the U. S. Navy. He worked in the moving and storage industry for 24 years. Currently he is a moving consultant for Spirit Movers/Atlas Van Lines in Bradenton, FL.

Manning became an Elk in July of 2002 after his wife, Dana, was hired as a bartender at Bradenton Lodge. He has been Inner Guard, Chaplain, Esquire, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, and Exalted Ruler. He served as Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Ritual Committee. He also served as District Esquire and District Auditor. He has served as Chairman of several district and Lodge committees.

In addition to his Elks membership, Manning enjoys spending time with friends and family and doing outdoor activities.

He has been married to Dana for eleven years. He has a son, Jared, who is 23 and served in the U. S. Air Force and did one tour in Iraq.

In 2008 he was awarded “All American” Loyal Knight and won the William A. King Award for the highest individual score in the Grand Lodge ritual contest in Anaheim, CA. He was also a member of the 2009 national ritual winning team serving as Leading Knight in Portland, OR.

NORTH
Charles R. “Dick” Joyal

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Charles R. “Dick” Joyal as a candidate for the office of North District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Joyal was born in Burlington, VT in 1933. He moved to Florida in 1994. His schooling was from 1948-1951. He served in the U. S. Navy from 1951-1954.

He worked sixteen years for General Electric in quality. He also worked for Johnson and Johnson as a buyer. He retired in 1994.

Joyal has served as Youth Activities Chairman, Secretary, Trustee, Chaplain, Leading Knight, Chairman for the North District Soccer Shoot, and Exalted Ruler.

He has been married for 38 years. He has five children, Robert, Christopher, James, Barbara, and Kenneth.

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Joyal was born in Burlington, VT in 1933. He moved to Florida in 1994. His schooling was from 1948-1951. He served in the U. S. Navy from 1951-1954.

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Joyal has served as Youth Activities Chairman, Secretary, Trustee, Chaplain, Leading Knight, Chairman for the North District Soccer Shoot, and Exalted Ruler.

He has been married for 38 years. He has five children, Robert, Christopher, James, Barbara, and Kenneth.
Aripeka Lodge 2520

The Aripeka Golfing Tournament for Community Service was held on Feb 24th with 63 golfers who raised $1,147.60 for Shriner’s Children Hospital.

The Army of Hope Dinner Dance and donations held on March 2, 2013 assisted the families of the Military by raising a grand total of $5,150.00.

Brooksville Lodge 2582

Elks National Foundation (ENF) chairman Paul Stark PER presented a $2,000 check to Joann Schoche of the Humane Society of the Nature Coast. She was also chosen as Elk Citizen of the Year. Joann was responsible for coordinating an “Adopt A Pet” event sponsored by Elks 2582 where 13 pets were adopted. The funding for this was a grant from the ENF.

Orlando Lodge 1079

Orlando Lodge has adopted and become quite involved with The Eagles Nest Elementary School in Orlando. The Lodge sponsors several projects for and with the students weekly and these Lodge events are often highlighted in the School Bulletin. The Lodge recently held a Drug Awareness essay contest for the 5th grade students. The theme of the essay was about why they should be Drug Free. 1st place winner, Shaheed Camara won a bike, helmet and lock. 2nd place winner was Jordan Mays who won a $50 gift card and 3rd place, a $25 gift card went to James Columbus. The students and their families were treated to dinner and a magic show.

West Citrus Lodge 2693

Exalted Ruler Tom Hamburg chose Roy Hoskins as February Elk of the month. Roy has been Chaplain & Esquire and continues to fill in as Esquire when needed. Roy is also a member of the Sunset Sounds a favorite entertainment group that appears frequently at the Lodge. Roy is a Friendly and dedicated Elk member.

Zephyrhills Lodge 2731

Zephyrhills Lodge members raised over $1,600 for Army of Hope at the “Southern Hospitality” charity event which was held on January 26, 2013. The Past Exalted Rulers Association held several Sunday morning breakfasts and all profits were donated to the Scholarship Fund. The lodge currently has six local college students receiving $1000 per year scholarships.

Kissimmee Elks Lodge 1873

Members & guests celebrated their 60th anniversary of service to veterans and children & other local charities, on January 26th, 2013 at the Kissimmee Elks Lodge with special guest Bill Davis (a charter member) & his wife in attendance. Also present was a delegation from Orlando Lodge which sponsored & installed the officers of Kissimmee lodge 60 years ago. Members from other district Lodges were in attendance as well. Officers from the Central District included, DDGER Joe Morrow and VP Edward Seilter. A donation was made to Harry-Anna Trust fund from the proceeds of the affair.

Kissimmee Lodge 1873 was the 61st Lodge in Florida charted in 1953 with the 1st meeting in the Baseball School Barracks and they used a variety of places for their meetings before moving permanently to 1655 Kings Highway on January 26, 1989. Current member, Emory Miles was the Exalted Ruler and he was also the Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

Inverness Lodge 2522

A donation of $2,000 from the “Fun Golf group” was made to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The group plays at the local Citrus Hills Country Club every Thursday and each player donates $1 to the Fund for each round played. The Group plans to make similar donation in units of $1,000.00 in the future.

Ocala Lodge 286

The Lodge Veterans Committee recently received a new electric scooter from Lisa Bethea, left, daughter of departed Lodge member Sid Carter, to be used for a disabled and shut-in Veteran. At the Lodge feeds through their Impact Grant Feeding the Hero. Veterans Committee Chairperson Janet Warren, is shown with the wheelchair.

South Marion-Villages Lodge 2730

The merger of Lady Lake Lodge # 2793 and Silver Springs Shores Lodge # 2730 will hereafter be known as South Marion – Villages Lodge #2730. Lodge member, Melvin Carrodus, received an ENF Honorary Founder’s certificate for his donation of over $1,000.

Winter Park Lodge 1830

The Lodge held the annual awards ceremony at the St. Patrick’s Day dinner/show. Among the awards were $1,000 scholarships to local graduating seniors who also participated in the Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarships.

From left, Exalted Ruler Anthony Arbortanza, Joann Schoche and Paul Stark.

Pictured above are Central District VP Edward Seilter, current Exalted Ruler, James Platt and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Joe Morrow.

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Reporter, Richard “Dick” Bardsley, PDD
Staghorn@cfl.rr.com

Inverness Lodge 2522

Running a raffle for Elks charities; fun! Writing a check to Citrus United Basket: worthwhile! Getting kissed for doing it: PRICELESS!

The Lodge Holiday Raffle raised close to $2,500 this year. The Citrus United Basket (CUB) – a local grass-roots organization helping the community – is an annual recipient of a generous donation!

In the picture Deborah Rossfeld, Director of CUB, and Walt Mabie PDDGER, fan of CUB and the Cubs!
Our Lodge Hoop Shoot winners participated at District level, and the kids and families had a great time. We had three boys receive awards. Our monthly breakfast in January was packed with 286 hearty meals being enjoyed by members and guests. Many members attended the District Game Day to raise charity funds, and our own Carol Rohn did a fantastic job of running the Texas Hold ‘em Tournament. The large group had a good time either playing cards or Bingo while enjoying good food.

February began with a big Super Bowl party, with super fans and super food. The Elkettes sponsored our Sweetheart Ball for Valentine’s Day and the sold out crowd delighted in dinner and dancing with Scott and Wanda Rohn being crowned the Sweetheart Couple. In March, the Lodge’s 1520 Players presented our yearly show production. All the performers and helpers did a tremendous job for a wonderful evening of fun. The PMC Program was featured on a local one hour radio show and the Presidential Memorial Program was discussed in depth along with many of the other Elk programs that are offered throughout our communities. ER Barb Smallacombe presented Rising Star awards to all of the Elks of the Month at the Do-er’s (volunteers) Party at the end of the month. Elk of the Year - Ted Melton, Officer of the Year - Lenny Smallacombe, Citizen of the Year - Scott Rohn, and special GER citations were presented to Donna Galbraith and Dana Bickford for all their dedicated service to the Lodge and Elkdom.

Sebastian Lodge 2714

Sebastian is an avid supporter of the Sebastian Sharks Youth Football and Cheerleader Association, and on February 14th, ER Madeline Walsh presented a $300 check to Mike Lanam, President of the organization.

For over a year, the Lodge has sent more than 200 “Care” packages overseas to our soldiers. Everything in these packages including monies donated is donated by EL-DOEs, Elks, and the public to cover the cost of mailing the packages ($2,400+). One of the soldiers who received our packages is WO 3 Carlos Acevedo from Palm Bay. When we heard that he wanted to visit, a breakfast was organized for Carlos and his wife, Dee Dee, with all of the food supplied by the EL-DOEs. Carlos has been deployed to Afghanistan three times. When he leaves Florida the next time, he will be deployed to Hawaii. This is a well-deserved break for him and his wife, Dee Dee, of two years. On February 10th, the Lodge held their 9th annual charity car show and picnic organized by Gene Rummell. It was a beautiful day and the lot and grass field around the Lodge was packed with over 175 cars from around the area. It was open to the public with music by Doug Caple, raffles and games. People attending the event were amazed by the different cars; all makes and models. On November 17th, the Lodge honored Veterans with a free dinner and a “USO Show.” The hall was out sold and was decorated in red, white and blue. The Sea Scouts Honor Guard presented the colors and the Sebastian River High School Band played the Star Spangled Banner. The band also played the theme song of each branch of the military. The veterans stood, cheered, and sang for their respective branch as each song was played. ER Madeline thanked the Veterans for their service as well as our current military men and women, and asked that we keep our Veterans and Veterans-to-be in our prayers. After dinner, Debbi Hanford and her ‘troop’ of singers put on a wonderful USO Show.

Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

In January, the Lodge hosted the District Game Day, and held its annual “Cruise Night” party! Come February, the Lodge celebrated PER night and honored 11 PER’s and their guests. The Lodge also received the Beacon grant and started a project called “Elks Heart Packs.” They have adopted Felix A. Williams Elementary school where there are 51 children now going home each Friday with a bag of much needed food. In March, the Lodge’s Cub Scout Pack 870 held a pinewood Derby at the Lodge. The Lodge held the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and Awards Banquet and Dan Whalen, PER, ER presented awards shown below.

SOCCER WINNER
Sponsored by Sebastian Lodge 2714

Florida Winner in the 12-13 Boys Division at the Southeast Regional contest in Valdosta, GA. The contest was held March 16th at Valdosta State University.

Auston Gonzalez was the winner with a score of 25 out of 25!! He was sponsored by Sebastian Lodge #2714. With him in one picture is his proud mother, Dawn Bockus.

Auston is also the recipient of the Champion of Champion Dale Young Memorial Award, that will be awarded at the State Convention in May.
From left, Dave Ailstock, Dick Thole, Vern McCoy, and Gebe Duff, from Lake Placid, with scores of 59 - 56 total 115.

A Flight 1st Place was from Plant City; Tom Ludwick, Todd Larson, Dennis Peyton, Gary Poekert with scores of 57-60 total 117.

A Flight 2nd Place was also from Plant City; Mike Smith, PGER, Sean Maguire, State President, Todd Smith, and Steve Butler with scores of 60 - 60 total 120.

B Flight 1st Place was from Clewiston Lodge 1853; Jimmie McDuffie, James Spears, James Nickson, Eddie Wiseman with scores of 62-58 total 120.

B Flight 2nd Place was from Miami; Michael Rodriguez, James Eaton, Cesare Demilio, Joe Ortiz with scores of 61-64 total 125.

C Flight 1st Place was from Fort Myers; Paul Rieck, Tony Rieck, Joseph Zwitter, and Ray Marcu-linis with scores of 64-59 total 123.

C Flight 2nd Place was from So. Lake Lodge 1848; Robert Eyerly, Tony Langford, Donald Olivenbaum, and David Jenkins with scores of 64-62 total 126.

D Flight 1st Place was from Brandon Lodge 2383; Glenn Garvey, Freddie Anderson, Ken Rinehart, and Bill Jordan with scores of 66-60 total 126.

D Flight 2nd Place was from Inverness Lodge 2522 Norman Schulte, Fred Kattiger, Ron Velton, and Norman Knowles with scores of 67-64 total 131.

E Flight 1st Place was from Inverness Lodge 2522; Richard Drohan, Stan Johnson, Arthur Tajer, and Richard Tajer with scores of 70-67 total 137.

E Flight 2nd Place was from St. Augustine Lodge 829; Ron Thompson, Chris Olson, Randy Stay, and Dennis Ball with scores of 69-69 total 138.

Robert “Banjo Bob” Eylery from So. Lake took two trophies home for Mens Closest to the Pin and the Putting Contest, shown with Sean Maguire, FSEA President.

Upper left clockwise, are the longest drivers, Ronnie Ford and Grace Weigland from Bandon, not pictured is Todd Smith from Plant City.

Left is another closest to the pin Al Koehler from Boca Raton.

Robert “Banjo Bob” Eylery from So. Lake took two trophies home for Mens Closest to the Pin and the Putting Contest, shown with Sean Maguire, FSEA President.

Delores Westfall from Brandon, also took home two trophies for Ladies Closest to the Pin and Ladies Longest Drive.
FLORIDA ELKS
HOOP SHOOT FINALS
Florida Elks Youth Camp
Grafton Center
February 16, 2013

GIRLS
12-13 Age Group
1st Place Caitlin O’Neil
Mandarin/St.John Lodge 2866
20
2nd Place Kayla Bell
Palmetto Lodge 2449
17
3rd Place No Contestant

10-11 Age Group
1st Place Eryanna Gadson
Warrington Lodge 2108
22
2nd Place Mariana Gomez
Kissimmee Lodge 1873
20
3rd Place Madison Barrs
Miami Lodge 948
18

8-9 Age Group
1st Place Ellie DiGiacomo
Venice-Nokomis Lodge 1854
21
2nd Place Madison Micioni
Margate Lodge 2463
18
3rd Place Gabriela Chambers
Lake City Lodge 893
8

BOYS
12-13 Age Group
1st Place Auston Gonzalez
Sebastian Lodge 2714
23
2nd Place Cameron Pine
Boca Raton Lodge 2166
21
3rd Place Andre Graham
Boca Raton Lodge 2166
20

10-11 Age Group
1st Place James Stafford
Winter Haven Lodge 1672
22
2nd Place Axel Acosta
Boca Raton Lodge 2166
15-5
3rd Place Kyle Curtis
Miami Lodge 948
20

8-9 Age Group
1st Place Max Hattem
Boca Raton Lodge 2166
20
2nd Place Randall Rector
Lady Lake Lodge 2793
19
3rd Place Austin Marciniak
Kissimmee Lodge 1893
18

The Florida State Elks Hoop Shoot finals under the leadership of State
Director Marilyn Kronenberg and Vice-Chairman Joaquin Lopez, Jr. ran very
smoothly and had some very good shooters with all the first place winners
making 20 or more shots. Auston Gonzalez had the highest scores in boys
contests and Eryanna Gadson was a repeat
Champion of Champions in the girl competitors and thereby were winners
of the Dale Young Memorial Award that will be presented to them at the
State Convention in May.

Regional Chairmen in attendance were Stanley Cox, PDD, North Re-
region; Dick Cooke, PER, South Region; and John Holbrook, PDD, Central
Region. Officiating the contest were volunteers from Lake Placid Lodge
2661. Past State Hoop Shoot Directors Pete Cattabriga and wife, Barbara,
and the Chairman’s husband, Roy Kronenberg, were very much a part of the
success of the contest.

Dignitaries in attendance were State President Sean Maguire, and wife
Barbara, VPAL Brian Burns and wife Mary Kay, PSP Charles Trinowski,
PSP David Lake and wife Kathy, PSP Vic McClellan, Endorsed VPAL Dan
Tabor and wife Rachel, and Florida Elks News Editor Raleigh Whiteman and
wife Joya.

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

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

The next contest in the series will be the Southeast Regional Hoop
Shoot in Valdosta, GA, held on March 16th.
President Sean Maguire’s visit to Live Oak. Next of hospitality from District VP Cap Pratt at State February, “Tools to Quit,” which included some dia and include “Ball in Hand.” are those set forth by the National Billiards Association pool tournament each Thursday evening. Rules used to help with the head count and lovely decorations in was deemed a success on February 14. Pre-sold tickets the children. was a thrill for all involved. Gifts were provided to all Santa and his helpers arrived on a fire truck which County (GA) and greeted 40 children from that area. The Lodge’s Sports Room continues to host a floor for more photos in the years to come. Thanks go nines have graced the Lodge with their presence, with members are celebrating the birth of their first grandchild, a Each year the Lodge conducts a raffle with some of the proceeds used for helping families at Christmas. Proceeds also help to fund charitable work during the lodge year. More than 200 members purchased or sold all their tickets. Santa came to the Lodge and had about 250 kids come and see him. A big thank you goes to DeWitt Cason, Christmas Chairman, and his help for their hard work. Lake City Lodge donated $300 to Eastside Elementary School for its reading program. The Lodge has also applied for a grant from ENF to further assist the school in this endeavor. Live Oak Lodge 1165 The New Years Eve party was a great time to be with fellow Elks. The breakfast afterward was delicious. The fund raising drawing for a basket of cheer log, some text handouts, and free nicotine patches. The Quiltline is 1-877-U-Can-Now. The Lodge held its Hoop Shoot contest on January 5. While the number of participants was less than expected, local winners were sent on to the district competition later on that month. The Lodge recognized PER Night in the Chairs on February 5. PER Robert Greenberg, in the ER chair, noted that it had been 50 years since he had stood in that position. He also reminisced that during his term there was one lodge meeting that had to be adjourned for the 11:00 toast and reconvened upon the toast’s completion. Other PERs shared some anecdotal moments from their year at the helm. Lake City Lodge 893 The local Hoop Shoot contest was held December 12, 2012 with more than 200 kids participating in the contest from the local schools. Chairman Trey Hosford, with his involvement in the county schools, made it all happen. The Lodge capped off the Christmas season with fifty food baskets and hundreds of toys delivered to needy families and children. Each year the Lodge conducts a raffle with some of the proceeds used for helping families at Christmas. Proceeds also help to fund charitable work during the lodge year. More than 200 members purchased or sold all their tickets. Santa came to the Lodge and had about 250 kids come and see him. A big thank you goes to DeWitt Cason, Christmas Chairman, and his helpers for their hard work. Lake City Lodge donated $300 to Eastside Elementary School for its reading program. The Lodge has also applied for a grant from ENF to further assist the school in this endeavor. Live Oak Lodge 1165 The New Years Eve party was a great time to be with fellow Elks. The breakfast afterward was delicious. The fund raising drawing for a basket of cheer was won by one of the Lodge’s newer members, Randy McManaway. State President Sean Maguire and his contingent of dignitaries visited the North District, with this event hosted by VP Cap Pratt of the Live Oak Lodge. The Saturday activities included a trip to Suwannee Valley Electric Co-op with a guided tour and discussion about the electric co-op as well as an excursion to Stephen Foster State Park, which included a box lunch. Dinner that evening at the lodge featuring fried catfish and fried chicken was comfort food at its finest. While the district was celebrating the visit of the State President Maguire, ER John Dill and his wife were celebrating the birth of their first grandchild, a baby girl named Laura. Later in February, Anna Miller Circle members Candy Vickers and Terri Johnson took their ESE class from Suwannee High School to the FEYC for the week-end of the 15-17. The class presented Camp Director Warburton with a flag that flew over the Capitol on December 2 (the day of the Elks Memorial Service). As a fund raiser for local youth, the Lodge is conducting a raffle with the first prize a whole hog, cut and wrapped for the freezer; second prize is a $200 Visa card; and third prize is a $100 Visa card. The drawing is April 23. The Lodge held a yard sale on February 2. Items sold were donated by Elks and Lady Elks. The following Saturday, a Valentines Party was held, including music for dancing. Another event, a Low Country Boil, was held on February 28. PDDGER and Secretary Tom Sanson has moved out of town and the Lodge has a new Secretary: Karen Fader. Congratulations to Karen in stepping up to the plate and a big thank you to Tom for his years of dedication to that office. The Lodge has made some changes to its dining room offerings and has expanded the dining room hours to Saturday. Hours of Lodge operation are now Monday through Saturday. Perry Lodge 1851 The Lodge now features Karaoke on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Vocalists and wannabes have graced the Lodge with their presence, with some folks travelling from as far away as Live Oak. On Saturday evenings, the Lodge now features Wii Bowling and quite a loyal contingent participates most every week having a good time bowling. Five MVS scholarship applications were submitted to the Lodge and reviewed by Scholarship Chair Sally MacNeill. Applications were sent on to the district for further evaluation. The PER wall in Perry Lodge has had many of the photos redone and lighting added. Frames and moldings have been redone, including staining to make them all match. Photos have been repositioned to make room for more photos in the years to come. Thanks go out to Felix and Pat Nall for their accomplishments on the wall. Congratulations to Judge Jim Bean (retired), a 35 year member of the Lodge and more than 37 years as a public servant. The Lodge voted unanimously to honor Judge Bean with Honorary Life membership at its meeting on February 26, 2013.
Hayes and his lovely wife Linda in attendance.

Crestview Lodge hosted the District Americanism Essay Contest Banquet, led by District Americanism Committee Chairman Ann Moore. Essay contest winners were Aliviah Buzon (Twin Cities), Jaden Thompson (Warrington), Cathlyn Hearn (Crestview) and Fatima Sheriff (Warrington).

**Warrington Lodge 2108**

Life Member Richard R. Opiela was presented with his 50 year membership pin by Exalted Ruler Ron Wilson January 16, 2013. Congratulations on 50 years of Elksdom.

The Warrington Lodge assisted a military family to help out at Christmas. The father is currently serving in Afghanistan and after his deployment the family home caught on fire. The mother and four children, of which one has a major medical problem, had a Merry Christmas. The family received gift certificates: one for food and one is for clothing.

**Twin Cities Lodge 2747**

Aliviah Buzon, Okaloosa Stemm Academy student received 1st place in the Northwest District Americanism Essay Contest, Division I and received a certificate and $100.00 check, provided by the Northwest District PER Association. The Americanism Essay Contest Awards Dinner was held at the Crestview Lodge. Aliviah’s winning essay will now be forwarded to the Florida State Elks Americanism Committee to compete against other 1st place essays from the 13 Florida Elks Districts for best in the state.

**Ft. Walton Lodge 1795**

Ft. Walton Lodge 1795 held their annual Charity Ball on December 15, 2012 to raise money for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. At this year’s ball we had the pleasure of meeting Elizabeth Mania, our NW District Physical and Occupational Therapist. Elizabeth provided a brief overview of her responsibilities and gave an update of one of her patients named Matthew.

On December 16th the Lodge hosted a Children’s Christmas Party for members and their guest. Almost 50 children attended the event.

The Annual Heart Ball was held on February 16th and raised $400 for the Elks National Foundation.

**Pensacola Beach Lodge 497**

Saturday January 12 the Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge welcomed Hoop Shoot teams from around the NW District at Gulf Breeze High School to determine who would represent District at the North Regional in Lake City. The six member team ultimately consisted of 2 participants from the Warrington Lodge and 4 from the Pensacola Beach Lodge. An award banquet was held at the Lodge following the competition.

On February 16th, Holley-Navarre held a Valentine Party with 70 guests in attendance. The guests enjoyed dinner and entertainment. For more fun and charity they raised money for the Harry-Anna Trust with a pie in the face event. Members donated money and voted on which Officer should be honored with a pie to the face.

**Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins Awarded January 3, 2012 through March 29, 2013**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary Crosier</td>
<td>Zephyrhills Lodge 2731</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Jean Galbraith</td>
<td>Fort Pierce Lodge 1520</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ronald M. Krueger</td>
<td>Englewood Lodge 2378</td>
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<tr>
<td>William McDuffie, Jr.</td>
<td>Clewiston Lodge 1853</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. William Misiura</td>
<td>Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge 2855</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marianne Schenkel</td>
<td>Punta Gorda Lodge2606</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim &amp; Rick Wood</td>
<td>Fort Walton Lodge 1795</td>
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**Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheila Bird</td>
<td>Mandarin/St. Johns Lodge 2866</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Bishop</td>
<td>Ocala Lodge 286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Healy</td>
<td>Boca Raton Lodge 2166</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phyllis M. Lane</td>
<td>S. Miami/Coral Gables Lodge 1676</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duane “Mike” Mahony</td>
<td>Seminole Lodge 2519</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norma Martinez-Sindorf</td>
<td>Fort Myers Lodge 1288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth J. Smith</td>
<td>Zephyrhills Lodge 2731</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Tully</td>
<td>Pompano Beach Lodge 1898</td>
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In the District

Re-Creation, “America’s Ambassadors to Hospitalized Veterans recently visited the Daytona Beach Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home. The group is a non-profit organization that service America’s Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and State Veterans Homes. Since 1983, the group has provided therapeutic entertainment in our nation’s VA Medical Centers.

District dignitaries PSP Vic McClellan and his wife Peggy, DVP Tom Brand and his wife Mary, DDGER Patricia Heller-Jackson and her husband Edward, PER, were in attendance to enjoy the day’s entertainment.

Ormond Beach Elks Lodge hosted a spaghetti dinner for the group and dignitaries, after which, Exalted Ruler Tom Alexon presented the Re-creation with a check for $200.

Deland Lodge 1463

The Lodge had three district Hoop Shoot winners; Jazmyne Gelford from DeLand Middle School took 2nd Place,. Nicholas Heard – 1st Place and, Brody Peterson from St. Peters Catholic School took 1st Place. At the Regional Hoop Shoot Contest, held in Lake Placid, Nick Heard placed second in the 12-13 year old division, after a shoot out for first place. Brody Peterson finished third place in the 8-9 year old division.

Edgewater/New Smyrna Lodge

Members of the Lodge recently held an event to help raise money for their scholarship program; the event was very successful in raising $1,147; the goal of the Lodge is to raise $1,600; a St. Patrick’s Day breakfast fund raiser was also held to help raise money for the scholarships.

The Lodge continues to collect can tabs and donations for their seeing-eye dog program. A beautiful new German Shepherd puppy, called Fern, which is now being trained in the program. The Lodge displays a picture of the puppy in their lobby and is given updates its progress.

Recently, the Lodge scholarship committee recognized students from Chisholm Elementary and New Smyrna Beach Middle School. These students displayed citizenship, compassion, and a sense of duty and positive work ethics. They are chosen from a primary division (2nd grade); an intermediate division (3rd grade), middle division (7th grade), and a senior division (12th grade).

A charity fun night was held at the Lodge to benefit the Florida Elks Youth Camp, Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Service, and the Elks National Foundation.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650

During the holidays, the Lodge’s Santa Boot Strap program provided boxes of food to 58 families (over 175 people) for at least two weeks; food and paper goods donations came from local merchants.

Exalted Ruler Rod O’Connor recently accepted a trophy from Coach Reggie of the Merritt Island Youth Football League. The Lodge sponsors a team that recently took first place in their division. In appreciation of the Lodge’s support, the coach is lending the trophy to be displayed in the Lodge.

Americanism Essay Contest was held at the Lodge. Winners of the contest received prizes and their essay was framed and presented to them by Cynthia Painter, District Americanism Chairman. Mason Yaskovic, was 2nd place winner in Division 1 at our Lodge; Mason received $1,500. Winners of this year’s Lodge competition are Division 1; Grades 5 & 6: 3rd Place, Ben Kowalski 2nd Place and Mason Yaskovic, 1st Place; Lilly McGuire Division 2; Grades 7 & 8: 3rd Place, Mathew Hare, 2nd Place, Tori Willoughby, and 1st Place Amelie MacIntyre.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

The Lodge recently received a thank you letter from the ARNIU (Animals, Rescue, Need, Intervention) group stating that were very grateful for the lodge’s continued support over the years in contributing animal food and supplies.

At a recent lodge meeting, Exalted Tom Alexon presented Lodge Secretary, Patricia Hubert with a letter of thanks and a Grand Exalted Ruler’s pin for having brought in a number of new members to the Lodge.

Michael Chandler, PDDGER, recently visited the Ormond Beach Elementary School to distribute dictionaries to all the 5th graders. The students were happy to receive the dictionaries. He spoke to some of the students on what Elks have done in the community. Dictionaries were also distributed to 3rd grade students at Champion Elementary School.

Lodge Secretary, Pat Hubert dressed up as the Easter Bunny to deliver baskets to the students of Ortonora Elementary School. Pat was accompanied by two bunnies, Lodge Chaplain Karen Gleason and her husband Brian who helped distribute the baskets to forty-six kindergarten kids.

The Lodge celebrated St. Patrick’s Day during which time Exalted Ruler Tom Alexon presented service awards to the following Lodge members: Outstanding Service Commendation went to Teri Eckenrode and Maria DeArmon; ELK’s Distinguished Citizen Award went to Bill Webley; Officer of the Year went to John Nuccetelli, and ELK of the Year went to Linda Alexon. Congratulations to everyone!

Palm Coast Lodge 2709

Over the holidays, the Lodge hosted a “Sandy Relief” event where over $3,000 was raised to aid the victims of the Sandy Hook storm in New York.

The Ladies of the Lodge, Past Auxiliary Presidents, hosted a concert fund raiser to raise monies for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

The Lodge has started a new program that is one of Elkdom’s oldest. It’s a youth program called the “Palm Coast 2709 “Antlers”. It is all about people, from the ages of 12 to not yet 21. The program consists of having fun, enjoying fellowship, and community service and to teach them to be patriotic. It is a chance for young people in our communities to get involved with the Elks in the many service-related projects our Lodge sponsors.

Recently, the Lodge recognized two members and one citizen for their outstanding service to the Lodge and the community; Andy Jakabsos was awarded Elk-Of-The-Year, Leading Knight Mark Fontana was awarded Officer-Of-The-Year, and County Judge of Flagler County, Melissa Moore Stens was awarded Citizen-Of-The-Year.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

Paul Leonard, member and officer, organized a fund raiser for the Spruce Creek High School 11 O’clock Jazz Bands to perform at the lodge; this year, the Lodge was able to raise $1,300 to help the band with the costs for their trip to Ireland.

Additionally, Paul Leonard, Lodge Scholarship Chairman, presented Student of the Month awards to Spruce Creek and Atlantic High School students. Each of the students achieved GPA scores ranging from 3.6 to 4.2.

The Lodge’s Meals on Wheels was busy over the holidays delivering meals to needy and homebound families in the community.

Sanford Lodge 1241

Sharon Nelson a representative from the Pathway to Homes and Exalted Ruler Jeff Rumler spent $6,800 on gifts for the homeless children. Over two thousand children in Seminole County wake up without a place to call home. Over the holidays, members of the lodge purchased gifts for 68 homeless children. The unwrapped gifts were brought to the lodge where the Ladies of Elks wrapped them.

The last Wednesday of every month, Boy Scout Troop 543 host a dinner to help raise money to fund their projects.

Recently, the Lodge held a charity dinner/dance to help their many charities; they were able to raise $1,316.56 of which $658.28 went to Lodge charities and the other half, $658.28, was donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Titusville Lodge 2113

The Lodge recently held a BBQ fund raiser for the Needy and raised $3,100; they also were able to donate numerous pairs of shoes.

On March 9th of this year, the Lodge celebrated its 25th anniversary; members, guests and dignitaries were invited to the festivities; the Elkerly Brothers provided the night’s entertainment.
Bonita Springs-Estero Lodge 2753

In the past three months Bonita Springs-Estero Lodge has donated $4,000 to the Elks National Foundation; $1,000 to Harry-Anna Trust Fund; $575 to the Bonita Springs Little League; $2,000 to the Brotherhood Ride Organization; $500 to the Army Of Hope; $500 to Boy Scout Troop 30 and $500 to the Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Home. Good example of charity dollars at work!

Brotherhood Ride Donation
Cape Coral Lodge 2596

Cape Coral Lodge 2596 awarded $1,500 scholarships to five students from local high schools. All were invited with their parents to attend the Harry-Anna Dinner Dance held in February. The scholarship recipients were Ashley Jones, Asmaa Odeh, Nicole Cohen, Rachel Gonzalez-Louis, and Martha Gonzalez.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763

Officers and members of Deep Creek Lodge 2763 have been very busy for the last few months with the following activities and contributions: $100 Hole Sponsor for Boy Scout Troop 95 Golf Tournament; presented plaques to two Eagle Scouts, Eric Colleen and Aaron LaPlante, from Troop 95 for completing their Eagle Scout projects; donated food to a local fire station for firefighters; gave out turkey baskets to local group home and church for Christmas; supplied dinner twice a month and donated personal items for each client at local group home; supplied bag lunches for 15 clients to go to Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training game; gave Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Home $190 to sponsor ten Veterans to baseball game; donated $200 to Bay Pines Veterans Facility for personal items for the Veterans; gave dictionaries to 143 third graders at Deep Creek Elementary School; donated $350 to sponsor Charlotte Harbor 5K Autism run on March 2; collected coupons for Military families; donated $650 to the Grand Lodge USO project; held a Harry-Anna Trust Fund Night at the Lodge and raised $535; fed ten Veterans from Jacobson Veterans Home each month for past three months and played bingo with gifts; donated a motorized wheelchair, which a Lodge member supplied, to the Jacobson Home; donated $1,258 to the Army of Hope and also provided 180 pounds of ribs to the SSW District Army of Hope Picnic.

At the party children were entertained by a clown who did face painting, balloon animals and more.

Also a hit were two service dogs, a Great Dane named “Moose” and “Rommel” a German Shepard. In addition to gifts for children, each family received a box of non-perishable food and a $50 Wal-Mart gift card. Lunch was also provided.

The Lodge recently donated $100 to the American Cancer Society, $100 to Habitat for Humanity, $100 to Salvation Army, $100 to Englewood Area Little League and $395 to sponsor an Englewood Area Youth Baseball Team.

In addition to a donation of $300 the Lodge also provided baked beans and cole slaw for the SSW District Army of Hope Picnic.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288

Fort Myers Lodge 1288 hosted the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Fort Myers relay team, Purple Haze. The Lodge donated the room and the team was able to raise over $3,500 for cancer research.

Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781

The Lodge recently underwent a “face lift” going from beige/tan to purple and blue. Due to a great turn out of volunteers this was accomplished in one day!

Greater Pine Island Lodge participated in the SSW District Army of Hope Picnic donating $3,000, which included all T-shirts for the event.

The Lodge awarded $1,000 scholarships to local students Rachel Cicoria and Evan Berlanti.

Charitable donations totaling $2,000 were made to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Boy Scouts and Elk Camperships.

Members of the Lodge continue to collect coupons for the military.

Naples Lodge 2010

Naples Lodge 2010 donated $2,000 to Manatee Elementary School for uniforms for needy children. Ninety-two percent of Manatee Elementary School children are below the poverty level yet the school still maintains a Grade “A” classification. This donation will provide a school uniform for 67 students.

At the party children were entertained by a clown who did face painting, balloon animals and more.

Also a hit were two service dogs, a Great Dane named “Moose” and “Rommel” a German Shepard. In addition to gifts for children, each family received a box of non-perishable food and a $50 Wal-Mart gift card. Lunch was also provided.

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In addition to a donation of $300 the Lodge also provided baked beans and cole slaw for the SSW District Army of Hope Picnic.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

The Lodge Veterans Committee served sixty-eight meals on Christmas Day to homeless Veterans and their friends at the annual Christmas dinner. Each Veteran also received a gift and a “goodie bag.” All year members of the Veterans Committee serve lunch to homeless Veterans on Tuesday.

Members of North Fort Myers Lodge prepared and served 368 hamburgers and hotdogs at the recent SSW District Army of Hope Picnic.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153 held a “Corn Hole Invitational” in January to raise money for the Homeless Coalition. This event was so successful that the 60 players who participated requested the tournament be held in February and March with proceeds again benefiting the Homeless Coalition. Profit from the event was $200.

Members of the Lodge also team up with volunteers from the Homeless Coalition every Tuesday and Friday for Bingo held at the Lodge. Several volunteers from the Coalition have joined the Lodge because of this interaction between the two organizations.

Port Charlotte Lodge participated in the SSW District Army of Hope Picnic by providing sausage, pepper and onion sandwiches on toasted roll.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

Lodge members along with Sour Notes Productions recently completed the 7th Annual Memories and Dreams Show. Proceeds from all shows were donated to charity. The first two years $8,000 went to local charities and profits from the last five years, a total of $34,000 were donated to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

Lodge member, Eric Rolston, PER distributed 150 dictionaries to local Punta Gorda Elementary Schools in January 2013.

Two members of the Lodge shop monthly for food items needed by the Charlotte County Human Services Food Pantry. The Lodge donates $150 monthly, part of which comes from the ENF $1000 Beacon Grant, to fund this program.

At the February Quarterly Meeting in Umatilla, $2,331 was raised at a Bocce Ball Tournament and donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. In addition the Lodge PER Association donated $4,000.

Several members of the Lodge visit the Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Home every month and entertain the residents.

SSW continued on page 20
POW risked beatings to recite Pledge

by JOHN McCAIN

United States Senator

As you may know, I spent 51/2 years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. In the early years of our imprisonment, the NVA kept us in solitary confinement or two or three to a cell.

In 1971 the NVA moved us from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 men to a room.

This was, as you can imagine, a wonderful change and was a direct result of the efforts of millions of Americans on behalf of a few hundred POWs 10,000 miles from home.

One of the men who moved into my room was a young man named Mike Christian. Mike came from a small town near Selma, AL. He didn’t wear a pair of shoes until he was 13 years old. At 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He later earned a commission by going to Officer Training School. Then he became a Naval Flight Officer and was shot down and captured in 1967.

Mike had a keen and deep appreciation of the opportunities this country and our military provide for people who want to work and want to succeed.

As part of the change in treatment, the Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other items of clothing. Mike got himself a bamboo needle. Over a period of a couple of months, he created an American flag and sewed it on the inside of his shirt.

Every afternoon, before we had a bowl of soup, we would hang Mike’s shirt on the wall of the cell and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

I know the Pledge of Allegiance may not seem the most important part of our day now, but I can assure you that in that stark cell it was indeed the most important and meaningful event.

One day the Vietnamese searched our cell, as they did periodically, and discovered Mike’s shirt with the flag sewn inside, and removed it.

That evening they returned, opened the door of the cell, and for the benefit of all of us, beat Mike Christian with his eyes almost shut from the beating he received, making another American flag. He was not making the flag because it made Mike Christian feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how important it was to us to be able to Pledge our Allegiance to our flag and country. So the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, you must never forget the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and preserve freedom around the world. You must remember our duty, our honor, and our country.

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

- Submitted by Committee Chairman Ira W. Earp
Key West Lodge 551

Key West Lodge 551 along with the family of 86-year-old Fred A. Losley threw him a surprise party on Tuesday, March 26th celebrating his over 30 years of service as an Elk. Born on March 1, 1928, Fred became a Key West Elk in 1980, and has been actively serving as the Esteemed Leading Knight for over 25 years and loves what he does for the Elks. Fred was awarded “Officer of the Year” in 2011, in recognition for his dedication to Lodge, as the Esteemed Lecturing Knight, and for always being in attendance at meetings and fund raisers, and for his efforts in making his_conch Chowder to raise money and his continued support to the Lodge. Fred turned 86, on March 1, 2013, and is one of Key West Lodge’s finest.

Miami Lodge 948

On Saturday, January 6, the Lodge held a fund raiser, “The Magic of Elvis” performed by the one and only David Morin. On Saturday, January 26th, the Army of Hope bike ride was held.

Over 45 riders participated, some starting at the North Miami Lodge 1835 with others meeting up at the second leg Petersons Harley Davidson-South a sponsor of the bike ride.

All riders then left for the final leg of the ride to the Florida Keys Lodge 1872.

The riders would like to thank the officers of the Miami Dade Police Department for their escort and getting onto the Florida Turnpike and down to US1 in Florida City to safely continue their ride down to Florida Keys Lodge. Once arriving at the Florida Keys Lodge the riders and guests were treated to a country barbecue prepared by the lodges own Barbecue Bob. A 50-50 raffle and a raffle for items supplied by Petersons Harley Davidson-South were also held. Some riders also tried their hand at a precision obstacle course that had been set up in the lodge’s parking lot.

On Sunday, February 3rd, the Lodge held its annual Super Bowl party, attended by about 100 members and guests. The Lodge would like to thank Bob Schmidt and his son were preparing and serving food for the event. On Valentine’s Day an elegant dinner was held in the lodge’s dining room. The menu included champagne, salad, steak and lobster tail, served with Dauphinoise potatoes and asparagus, and chocolate covered strawberries for dessert.

On Saturday, February 23rd, the Lodge held a Salsa Night with music provided by Exalted Ruler Milton Muller.

On Tuesday, February 26th, the Lodge held a Travel Show with 15 vendors representing various cruise lines and vacation resorts. Members and guests were provided with information on an assortment of destinations. Raffles were held throughout the night for vacation discounts and trips. On Saturday, March 2nd, Miami Lodge 948 hosted the South District’s 5th Annual Army of Hope Picnic. This year’s picnic featured a classic car show, a bounce house, rock climbing wall, military displays, a cake auction and keynote speaker Colonel Gregory Julian from the Southern Command (SouthCom).

A special thanks goes to Lodge members Oscar Castro for organizing the classic car show, Bradley Schwartz for arranging the keynote speaker; the rock climbing wall sponsored by the National Guard and the military vehicle; Exalted Ruler Milton Muller, PER, for recruiting ROTC students from Miami Edison and Miami Killian Senior Highs. These young men and women were a tremendous help setting up, serving food and cleaning up after the event.

On Saturday, March 16th, the Lodge held its annual St. Patrick’s Day Dinner with the standard fare of corned beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes, and vegetables on the menu, with some sightings of green beer.

On Wednesday, March 20 the new Lodge officers were installed. Outgoing Exalted Ruler Milton Muller, PER presented his awards for the Elk Year 2012-2013. A big congratulations goes to Citizen of the Year: Edna Camacho, Officer of the Year: Tiler, Arthur Rausch and Elk of the Year: Glenn Tekerman. Members Ron Simpson and David Grime also received special recognition from the Exalted Ruler for their contributions to the Lodge.

On Saturday, March 23rd, the Lodge held a 60s and 70s Groovy Night Dance, members and guests danced to the tunes of a DJ Omar. On Sunday, March 31st, the Lodge held its Annual Easter Brunch in the Grand Ballroom. The Lodge’s three Chefs presented the over 200 members and guests with an Omelet Station.

South Miami-Coral Gables 1676

On Friday, February 15th, South Miami / Coral Gables 1676, held a Valentines dinner and dance, music was provided by DJ Aces Allan.

On Saturday, March 16th, the Lodge held its annual Charity Ball, all proceeds of the event went to Florida Elks Children’s Charities.

North Miami Lodge 1835

The members of North Miami Lodge 1835 celebrated the Holiday Season with Christmas Gift Bags delivered to the VA Nursing Home in Miami. Veterans Committee Members Estelle Moore, Lucy Kelly, Patricia Martinez and Mary Summey began their donation drive in September to make certain that each person at the Nursing Home receives a Christmas Gift Bag The Gift Bags contained T-shirts, socks, handkerchiefs, sunglasses, pencils/pads, toothbrushes/tooth paste, lotion, hair brushes, night gowns, socks, make up, nail polish and many other items that were needed by our Veterans. The committee delivered 80 gift bags, one to each occupant at the Nursing Home. The smiles on those Veterans made the day very special.

The Lodge held it’s Annual “Foster Children’s Christmas Party” complete with a holiday lunch and a visit from Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. Committee members Nick and Barbara Ortiz and Lodge other members made this a memorable occasion for those children and their guardians. When the children arrived at the Lodge they saw all the brightly wrapped Christmas presents that were awaiting them, their excitement was overwhelming. We would like to thank the staff at Jackson Memorial Hospital for donating all the Christas gifts for this special event. The lodge ended the year with their traditional Exalted Ruler’s “Egg Nog Party” and began the New Year with their “Good Luck Dinner.”

On Friday, February 1st, the Lodge held Catfish Larry’s All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry, entertainment was provided by Karaoke Jim.

On Friday, March 1st, the Lodge held a potluck dinner contest; prizes were awarded for the best dinners.

Florida Keys Lodge 1872

Florida Keys Lodge 1872 hosted the 14 Team River Runners once again on January 16th. This annual event brings wounded warriors to the Florida Keys for Kayak Therapy and other water related activities. The Elk volunteers were so inspired by their happy, friendly attitude and their appreciation. Lodge member BBQ Bob Blevins and volunteer Mike Fuog prepared a delicious dinner and members spent the evening sharing ideas and getting to know one another.

On Saturday, January 19th, the Florida Keys Lodge 1872 held a dinner and comedy show with comics Andy Kern and Michael Panzea performing.

The Florida Keys Lodge 1872 held a Turkey dinner with all the trimmings to benefit our local Coral Shores High School Scholarship fund on February 26th. Jane and Dan Ferguson, scholarship committee chairpersons prepared 63 dinners for Elks members and friends. Seniors from the high school volunteered to help serve and clean up.

Sarah F.Harrelson, Abbie Parmenter, Kyle Sol, Chef Jane and Dan, Hunter Risher and Sarah E. Harrelson, Bobbe Brown provided music. The event raised approximately $900. Many thanks to Publix of Key Largo who donated the desserts.

On Saturday, February 2nd, the Lodge held a luau on their new beachfront patio. Roasted pig and all the fixings were served to the sounds of Sir Cedrick on steel drums. On Saturday, February 16th, held the were 60th Anniversary dinner. Entertainment included impersonators to the likes of Tina Turner, Cher, Shania Twain, Willie Nelson, and Elvis. The event raised over $4,000 for Elks charities.

On Saturday, February 23rd, Boy Scout Troop 588 held a flag retirement ceremony that included a silent auction and all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner.

On Tuesday, February 26th, the Lodge held a Turkey dinner to benefit scholarships in the middle Keys. On Sunday, March 17th the Lodge held its annual St. Patty’s day dinner, a standard fare of corned beef and cabbage.

On Sunday, March 24th, the Lodge held its installation of new officers with brunch being served prior to the ceremony on their new beachfront patio.

Marathon Lodge 2139

On Saturday, January 26th, Marathon Lodge 2139 held a Chili Cook-Off; awards were given for different categories. On Saturday, February 2nd, the Lodge held a Sock Hop, with proceeds going to the Elks National Foundation and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

On Saturday, February 16th, the Lodge held a Valentine’s Day Steak Dinner; entertainment was provided by Papa Pete.

On Saturday, March 2nd, the Lodge held a Country-Western Night, entertainment was provided by Michael J. Contests were held for best costume; both individual and couple, and a dance contest for the best couple.
Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

Holiday Isles Lodge presented plaques to the winners of the Drug Awareness Poster Contest held at the Lodge in December. Free campership applications were given to these winners, on February 25th at the Orange Grove School in Seminole, Fl. Winners were: MacKenzie Hausdorff, J. T. Dolan and Antonio Rivera. These students received gift certificates to Target Stores, Certificates of Recognition and a Free campership.

The Lodge also recognized 3 students from Seminole Middle School, on Friday, March 1st, for their participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. These Essay Winners were Nick Verhunce, Paige Overway and Delaney Staack, and they too, received Free Camperships.

The Lodge held a BBQ at Bay Pines Veterans Nursing Facility on February 10th, featuring music by members Ron Deluca and Deb Carlson. The Lodge served the veterans hot dogs, beans, cole slaw, potato salad and chips.

Holiday Isles Lodge was pleased to send $200 to the Honor Flight Network West Central Florida in January toward flying WWII veterans to DC to visit the Honor Flight Network West Central Florida in

Largo Lodge 2159

The Lodge held its annual Easter Egg Hunt, for the children of the community, on March 23. About 45 children participated in Easter Egg Decorating Contest, during a free lunch, before they all scrambled off to find Easter Eggs that the Easter Bunnies hid, outside.

SSW Continued from page 17
Rotonda Lodge 2710

Rotonda Lodge 2710 hosted the SSW District Army of Hope Picnic on Sunday, February 24th and it was a resounding success.

All eleven Lodges in the District participated in some way to the success of this event chaired by Rotonda member Jeff Smith. SSW District Vice President Kay Neiley of Deep Creek Lodge 2763 delivered the Opening Ceremony which included the flag raising and reading of names of deceased military personnel from the SSWFL area. The Army of Hope Picnic was a carnival type family event with no admission or parking fee. Families enjoyed a fun filled day of free music, K-9 demonstrations, bingo, fire trucks, midway games, snow cones, and balloons. Plenty of picnic type food was available for purchase. Profit realized from this event for the Army of Hope was $12,000!

Rotonda Lodge members also provided baskets of food for 20 families at Christmas and had an Angel Tree that resulted in gifts for 68 children.
Arcadia Lodge 1524

Arcadia Elks Lodge honored Lee Payne (left) Elk of the year and Bob Miller, ER Officer of the year along with the Al Smith Award

Brandon Lodge 2383

Brandon Lodge with the help of Christine Vogel and her team held an “ENF” dinner of steak or chicken with $5.00 of each dinner sold went to the Elk National Foundation. Due to the turn out and funds received for ENF this will be definitely a repeat dinner in the Lodge’s future.

“Hooked on fishing not Drugs” an annual drug awareness program for children ages 3-13 is being prepared by the Brandon Lodge. Games and events will be prepared to promote good parent/child interaction. This event is the largest single event of the Lodges.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

Lake Placid Elementary children students’ grades 5-8th had the opportunity to express views on their pride in America. Each student had the opportunity to write and express their thoughts on “What Does the National Anthem Mean to Me?” Susan Pfister Lake Placid Elks Scholarship Chairman awarded Alana Davis 3rd place, Aniyah Hills 2nd place and Kasandra Lorenzo 1st. First place winner place winner Kasandra Lorenzo was invited by special invitation to Installation of Officials and Community Awards banquet lodge to read her winning essay on Saturday March 23rd.

Bud Wall, Lake Placid Elks VA chairperson delivered a truck load of boxes of food to the veterans in need. Each month the VA asks for a fraternal organization to donate and Lake Placid Elks was proud to participate for the month of February.

Plant City Lodge 1727

Plant City Elks get up early to wave goodbye to our local Guard unit being deployed overseas. They left at 6:30 am on Saturday Feb 23rd. Army of Hope brochures were left with the unit publicity Officer.

Veterans of the Plant City Liberty Manor spent a day with Dee Spivey, PER and Lady of the Elks Treasurer, and Judy Wise, Lady President. Both Dee and Judy spent the day after delivering gift cards. Liberty Manor a “not for profit” organization, assures that we will keep the Veterans from being homeless. One Veteran Activist stated, “the words Veterans and homeless should be in the same sentence.”

Sebring Lodge 1529

Sebring Elks 1529 presented a check in the amount of $1,548.50 to the Champions for Children. Exalted Ruler, Claude Howerton and Trustee and PER Heide Stover, presented the check to CEO Kevin Roberts. Monies donated came as a result of money raised by the Sebring Elks Sunday and Monday night Bingo Players.

Lakeland Lodge 1291

On March 18, 2013, the Lakeland Elks Lodge continued their 27 years of giving scholarships to students in Polk County. There were over $255,000 awards to deserving students as of this date. Following are the winners receiving the “Special Achievement Award”: Kevin Mulligan, Daniel Costello, Gabrielle Ibarra, Sara Schluender, Nathaniel Charles, and Heidi Grosser of Santé Fe Catholic High, Scott Benton, Lymaries Velez and Christina Sierra of Lakeland Christian, Alana Snyder of Bartow International Baccalaureate, Robert Smith of Harrison for the Arts and Leah Shields of George Jenkins High. Also receiving an award was Brandon Powell of Pelham High in Alabama, grandson of Ed Stambsky of Lakeland Elk. Also receiving the $4,000 Scholarship from Grand Lodge is Christina Sierra.

From left, Claude Howerton, ER, Kevin Roberts and Heide Stover, PER.

There were 12 scholarships totaling $5,000 awarded in a ceremony at the Lodge.

Lakeland Lodge celebrated Sandy Fuschetti’s, House Committee Member’s birthday with a different but yet Charitable Twist. Sandy’s idea of a “better then a birthday gift” is having a Dinner Dance as a fund raiser for the SPCA. Instead of presents, attendees brought presents in the form of cash donations to help provide medical needs, puppy, kitten, dog or cat dog food, and kitty litter. The four legged friends were unable to attend this year but will be thankful for Sandy’s and the Lakeland Lodge’s generous help.

Lake Wales Lodge 1974

The deployment was on Feb. 23rd and will be gone for nine months guarding military compounds in Qatar.

Jack Collins, PER - Veterans Chairman was in the chow line helping the American Legion serve over 1,500 hotdogs, chips, soda/water, cake, etc.

“Elks Care - Elks Share” is a perfect example for the Lake Wales Lodge. Lake Wales Lodge donated $1,000 to Lake Wales American Legion Memorial Post #71, to help with the cost of the meal, and to help the Post install a new fire (alarm) suppression system.

Kasandra Lorenzo front with her parents behind.
Southwest District

On March 3, 2013, the Southwest District Elks Lodges, consisting of Bradenton 1511, Lakewood Ranch/Sarasota 2865, Manasota 2734, Palmetto 2449, Sarasota South 2495, South Hillsborough 2672 and Venice-Nokomis 1854, held their annual Army of Hope Fund Raiser. This year the event was held at the Sarasota Lodge and the Menu consisted of chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans and salads. Entertainment was provided by Lynn Spins. A special thank you goes out to the Sarasota Sheriff’s Department, Fire Department for their support and those involved.

The district was honored by the presentation given by SSG William Castillo (Ret.). Castillo thanked the Elks for their support of the families that are left behind at home. He stated that knowing they have support allows us to concentrate on our mission. William continues to conduct motivation speaking for numerous organizations, such as Wounded Warrior Project, Operation Giveback and Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes.

VPAL Brian Burns, left, and PDD Danny Ta-bor, District Advisor and Endorsed VPAL, Bradenton Lodge 1511

On Sunday, March 24, 2013, the Lodge named its 2013 Firefighter, Police Officer and Citizen of the Year. Honored were William Weaver – Firefighter/EMT, Jim Curulla – Police Detective, and Wayne Poston – Mayor.

Weaver never slacked in focus, performance or leadership this year despite concern for his 5-year old son, Liam, who was diagnosed with a cancer of the right eye in late 2012. Curulla said he wished to share his award with Police Officer Carrie Ward. It was Ward, who during a field interview, included a detailed shoe description matching one of the suspects in a armed robbery with sexual battery case. Due to their hard work, Alex Johnson was charged with four counts of armed robbery and sexual battery. Michael Dinius, ER praised Poston for revitalizing downtown Bradenton, but Poston said he is most proud of the increase in pay for firefighters and police since he took office in 2000.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge 2672:

From left front row, Bonnie & Dan Sullivan, Ed Neally, Veterans co-chairman, back row, Sean Peel, ER, Jim Kollath, Ginny Kollath, Secretary and Jim Larsen, Veterans co-chairman.

Palmetto Lodge 2449:

On January 19, 2013, Tex and Stacey Rau hosted an Army of Hope Fund Raiser at the Lodge. Over 200 people attended to support the families of troops serving in the Armed Forces. At the end of the event, a check was presented to J. D. Daniel, ER in the amount of $3130.00. Since 2007, the Rau’s have raised over $10,000 for the Army of Hope program.

Standing L to R: Stacey Rau, J. D. Daniel, ER and Tex Rau.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge 2672:

The Lodge held a Valentine Dinner Dance on February 16, 2013. The event raised over $500.00 for the Harry Anna Trust Fund.

Girlstories Leadership Theatre Program, which is a part of Powerstories Theatre is again using the Lodge this year to practice. Girlstories Leadership Theatre was awarded the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from First Lady Michelle Obama the White House in 2010. Their workshops use creative discovery techniques, dramatics, storytelling, writing and art activities to help these girls communicate more effectively and to tell their own stories with confidence.

The Lodge continues to honor Veterans every 2nd and 4th Friday with meal and a gift certificate thanks to ENF Grants.

Venice-Nokomis Lodge 1854:

On January 11, 2013, the Lodge presented to the Laurel Nokomis Elementary School’s Reading Program, 220 new books valued at $660.00.

Standing L to R: Katherine Castillo, Ben Knise-ly, U.S. Army (Ret), SSG William Castillo(Ret) and son in front row.

Special guests included VPAL Brian Burns and his wife, Mary Kay. More than $7,300.00 was raised for the Army of Hope Mission.

Charles “Chuck” Stieb
charlesstieb@aol.com

From left front row, Bonnie & Dan Sullivan, Ed Neally, Veterans co-chairman, back row, Sean Peel, ER, Jim Kollath, Ginny Kollath, Secretary and Jim Larsen, Veterans co-chairman.

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DISTRICT NEWS:
The Southeast District was pleased to welcome Florida Elks State President Sean Maguire and his wife, Barbara. Accompanying Sean was his traveling team including VPAL Brian Burns, Endorsed VPAL Danny Tabor, Membership Chair Don Moon, Harry-Anna Chair Donna Berkowitz, Chaplain Keith Epps and their spouses.

The party was welcomed at the hotel and went to the Jupiter Lodge for a casual dinner. The next morning they journeyed out to Belle Glade for a tour of a vegetable farm ending with lunch at the Belle Glade/Pahokee Lodge.

It was back to the hotel for a well-deserved rest. That evening everyone returned to the West Palm Beach Lodge for Sean’s Welcome Home Dinner. The West Palm Beach Ladies put on a fine dinner.

A big thank you goes out to SEDVP Patti Phillips for arranging the whole weekend and to all those who assisted her in this outstanding event.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352
The Lodge hosted State President Sean Maguire and his Party for Sean’s Homecoming. Many dignitaries were present and local Lodge members greeted Sean on February 23rd. The Ladies Auxiliary did a fine job with the Saturday night dinner.

Sean was presented with many jars of dimes for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Sean mentioned that as he traveled the state he saved all his dimes in a jar and by the end of the year he had enough to pay for Harry-Anna and National Foundation certificates. So our members took him up on his suggestion and all the jars totaled around $800. Barbara and Sean were presented with patio furniture as a homecoming gift. Also, Linda Jacobson, a member, made a needlepoint picture of the Elk Clock Face to Sean celebrating his year as State President.

On March 2nd, the Lodge rented a bus, under the supervision of Mike Newman, to visit Lodges to the North of us. We picked up members of the Jupiter Lodge and headed to the Fort Pierce Lodge. Then on the return, we stopped at Port St. Lucie Lodge and Stuart-Jensen Lodge. It was a great trip and we met many Elks from the other Lodges and enjoyed their hospitality. Many people took the opportunity to get their passports signed.

On Easter Sunday, March 31st, the PER Association cooked a special Easter Breakfast. PDDGER Carl Williams cooked his famous blueberry pancakes and eggs Benedict. The regular breakfast menu was also available.

Lake Okeechobee Lodge 2871
This new Lodge is going great guns and off to a wonderful start. I just received their first newsletter, The Big Lake Okeel Elks, and it is full of news and events. Judy Breedlove submitted the winning name for the newsletter.

They held a Comedy Show on February 23rd for their first fund raiser. They are trying to raise enough money to buy a set of jewels. They also have a set of elk teeth and pendants to be raffled off to add to the jewels fund.

The Lodge is still meeting at the local VFW Lodge and instead of paying rent, the Elks volunteer once a month to prepare and cook a dinner. The VFW provides all the supplies. It is the third Thursday of each month, so if you happen to be in the area stop in for dinner and help this new Lodge.

Jerry Jones, ER, presented to Lupe Serrano and Andy Kessella of the Okeechobee Soccer Club, a check to help defray their many expenses. This year the team had to travel all over Florida to participate. Next year, they will be sponsoring games in Okeechobee. This new Elks Lodge members believe in helping the community.

The Lodge also presented Russ Papy, VFW Vice Commander, a check to help sponsor their Golf Tournament. The benefit is to help homeless Florida Vets.

Jupiter Lodge 2469
The Lodge continues to support their Boy Scout Troop 109. Recently, they helped celebrate and host an Eagle Scout Ceremony for four young men. They were recognized for their achievements.

The Lodge participated in the Jupiter Farms Christmas Parade with a float which came in second place in their category.

They were also involved at the Jupiter Community Center’s Fair. They set up a table displaying what the Elks were about and gave out brochures “What Are Elks” to those visiting the Center. Members were there and talked about the organization and invited them to visit the Lodge and become members.

Their BINGO program has been very successful this year and has raised money to support all the charities the Lodge is involved in.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Congratulations to two of our lodges for winning in the State Lodge Bulletin Contest. In Division 1 (Under 301 Members) first place went to Mandarin/St. Johns 2866 with second place secured by Orange Park 2605.

Lodges Working Together
Mandinar/St. Johns, St. Augustine and Green Cove Springs lodges are again working together for the Veteran Residents at the Lassen Nursing Home in St. Augustine. The held their monthly Bingo games each month at the nursing with an average of 26 Veteran players.

Mandinar/St. Johns, St. Augustine and Green Cove Springs also held the 3rd Annual Ice Cream Social at the Nursing Home for Valentine’s Day. Elk Members from the three lodges took orders from the 120 Resident Veterans and family members present, and treated the on-duty staff to ice cream.

Patti and Rick Drabick dropped by to see the Lassen Nursing Home during the March Bingo. Patti’s Mother, Marcia Hanson, stoked up her kiln and made 20 porcelain Chick Baskets and filled them with Easter Candy for the Veterans. Apart from the normal cash prizes, we gave the winners of each game one of these Easter Baskets of Goodies. Patti made up little Easter bags of candy in addition to the porcelain chicks, and in the end, all Vets got an Easter treat.

Gainesville Lodge 990
The Lodge held a special membership appreciation night in late March with the House Committee preparing a free meal of BBQ Chicken and Pork with Cole Slaw and Baked Beans.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892
In January, Clyde Mixon, Garfield Hurt, and Sherry Adair of the lodge met with Green Cove Springs Mayor Pam Lewis-Green and Principal Evelyn Chastain to provide two books and a sweatshirt to 145 first-grade students of Charles E. Bennett School. Between Clyde’s sweatshirt project and the generosity of our members, we were able to provide an additional 17 students with books and a sweatshirt over last year.

The Lodge held a Dock Party on April 6th featuring a Low Country Boil, Chicken, Sausage Dogs, all you can eat Oysters, with all the sides. Proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund for a graduating student of Clay High School. The student will receive $1,500/year for two years toward their college education.

Jacksonville Lodge 221
The Lodge held a Newly Wed Game in February based on the once popular television program of the 70’s and 80’s. Four couples competed trying to guess how their respective spouse would reply to a previously asked question from the moderator “Cookie.” Competitors included Northeast District Deputy Ron Snow and his wife Susan who were beat out by Ron and Robbie Garland taking 1st Place. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the presentation as many laughs and much comedy was generated by the couples in trying to predict or guess the correct answers.

Mandinar/St. Johns Lodge 2866
The Lodge hosted Re-Creation at the Lassen Nursing Home on a beautiful sunny day in January allowing for an outdoor concert in the Center Courtyard. Over 120 Veterans, staff, family and Elks witnessed another exceptional performance by this Troupe of Volunteer Performers.
New Bus Funding Program!
visit your youth camp now...

Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services
P. O. BOX 49
Umatilla, FL 32784

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Tampa, FL
Permit No. 2397

It is the desire of the FSEA to have more of our members see our beautiful Youth Camp and become more involved in our major projects. To this end, the Board of Directors of the Harry-Anna Investment Fund have agreed to spend $100,000.00 for the upcoming Lodge year for the purpose of funding bus trips by the membership to our Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Each Lodge in Florida will be eligible to receive up to $2,000.00 for this purpose. We will require a minimum of 40 people to visit our camp on the funded bus and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairman and Membership Chairman must be a part of this number.

This program will be administered out of the State office and will remain in effect for the complete Lodge year or as long as designated funds are available. For More information and details about this program please do not hesitate to contact Board President Mike Phillips at 321.794.4177 or by e-mail at mxpmpx@aol.com.