Amendments Defeated: The following amendments were defeated:
1. Allowing social quarters to remain open during lodge meetings on a limited basis.
2. Allowing eighteen years old applicants joining the Order.
3. A limited basis.
4. Allowing eighteen years old applicants joining the Order.
5. Allowing social quarters to remain open during lodge meetings on a limited basis.
6. Allowing eighteen years old applicants joining the Order.
7. A limited basis.
8. Elimination of positions of Grand Tiler and Grand Inner Guard.

Amendments Passed: The remaining eleven all passed, a few of which are:
1. Increases the deposit or appeals of Executive Orders and allows for the refund of the remaining deposit upon the voluntary withdrawal of appeals.
2. Provides that suspensions do not run during the time in which a Member is delinquent in the payment of dues.
3. Increases in time a dropped member may reinstate.
4. Allows a reduced Initiation fee of $1.00 for up to two months during a Lodge year.
5. Allows a Lodge to appeal an Executive Order appointing a Special Representative(s).
6. Designates the Board of Directors or Trustees as the “Board” and identifies which Board members are required to attend District Deputy Clinics.
7. The Grand Lodge magazine will cover in more detail.
8. The Grand Lodge magazine will cover in more detail.
9. The Grand Lodge magazine will cover in more detail.
10. The Grand Lodge magazine will cover in more detail.
11. Increases the deposit on applications requiring to attend District Deputy Clinics.
12. Provides that suspensions do not run during the time in which a Member is delinquent in the payment of dues.
13. Increases in time a dropped member may reinstate.
14. Allows a reduced Initiation fee of $1.00 for up to two months during a Lodge year.
15. Allows a Lodge to appeal an Executive Order appointing a Special Representative(s).
16. Designates the Board of Directors or Trustees as the “Board” and identifies which Board members are required to attend District Deputy Clinics.

On behalf of Bob, Mike and myself, I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of you for your dedication, generosity and enthusiasm in pushing Florida Elksdom to the forefront of our Order. Asking anyone who attended the Grand Lodge this year; they will tell you that Florida Elksdom is one of the most admired and respected State Associations in the Order. This is a direct result of so many hard working members doing whatever is necessary to attain success and excellence. Thank you!
2013–2014 OFFICERS OF THE FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.

STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Brian T. Burns
Florida State Elks Association President

It's hard to believe as I write this article we are completing our first quarter of the Lodge year. I hope everyone who made it so memorable for Mary Kay and Me was great to have most of our family there to celebrate. I would like to especially thank Arcadia Lodge, the Southwest Central District, and our Leader PSP Don Sansoussi for all the support.

I think my biggest surprise was to see seven of our therapists there on their own time to support us. Their sign read, “BBQ boy to President,” what a fantastic group of dedicated professionals. I love them, each and every one. Everyone got a chance to inner act with our special friends who traveled many miles to celebrate our event. Grant Trustee Eric Mullholland from Michigan, Grand Trustee Ron and Nan Ey Hicks from Virginia, and Grand Lodge Ritual Chairman PSP Roy and Janet DeRitter from New Jersey. They all commented on the great hospitality and friendliness of the Members of the Florida State Elks Association. I'm very proud to represent you as President.

We started our travels with VPAL Danny and Rachel Tabor, State Chaplain Carl and Dolly Ledig, HATF Chairman PDDGER Jim and Karolyn Lind. We started off in the “Mighty” Southwest District. They come by that name for a reason. Because of their close regional area, we were able to visit all the Lodges but one. We witnessed some great programs that are both in support of our State Major Projects and the individual communities where the Lodges are located. The Lodges are supporting local Veterans, Children’s programs in the local Schools, local Food Banks, Scout troops and many more. Your VPAL Danny Tabor is doing an excellent job guiding this “mighty” District. A great example of Elks at work.

Second we traveled to the South District, always a pleasure. We managed to go down to the Florida Keys Lodge on Friday night for a Flag Day ceremony and some great food and fellowship. What a piece of paradise. On Saturday we were able to visit North Miami Lodge for a delicious breakfast and a review of their programs. Next to South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge for a very impressive Flag Day ceremony, a great lunch and a look see of their accomplishments. Then we had a very interesting sightseeing tour of Miami by PSP Joe Ortiz. We certainly know that many of our problems and heartaches stem from our club facilities. It is very tough to run a bar and restaurant as many of us do to a limited clientele. I always tell a club management what would you do if you gave your “free” this facility to use to serve food and beverages. Many would say “great”, I’ll take it. Then the kicker, you can only solicit business from this limited group of members. Most would say “No thanks,” this is not for me. We certainly need to do as much as we can to be as efficient as possible. Stay up on the best management practices.

On Sunday, June 16, I had the opportunity to be the guest speaker at the DOES National Convention in Orlando. I no more than entered the hotel and ran into three Members I know from around the Country. It was a very impressive opening ceremony and I thank the DOES for their hospitality. The DOES have some great programs they support including “Dogs for the Deaf”. If you get a chance jump on line and check out the BPDOES history. It is very interesting.

Our third visit was to the Central District at the Orlando Lodge. We had a great meal and “sock hop” on Friday night. Saturday we traveled to the Morse Museum for a very interesting tour after which we enjoyed a delicious lunch and the ladies enjoyed some shopping. The Central District is unfortunately spread very wide geographically. We did have a great tour from the District on Saturday night and I thank all those who traveled so far to be with us to celebrate the District’s accomplishments. The Central District Lodges are supporting Veterans in all Lodges, School supplies and food banks, Scout groups, support of APPOJ. Junior ROTC, Senior’s needs and much more. Thank you Central District and your leader PSP Charlie and Mary Ann Trinowski. It was great to see Mary Ann doing well.

On Sunday, June 23rd, Kay and I made a trip by the Camp to witness the check in process for the campers of week two of our summer camp program. We all think about the great camp experience we give these kids, but we don’t think about the logistics. It is quite an experience to see the staff organize the counselors, set the stations for nurses, medications, and check-in. As expected the Camp staff lead by Director Lynn Warburton did an outstanding job. I think the biggest realization I had was not how many campers we had but the leadership skills and life lessons we are providing for our counselors and CITs, another triumph for Florida Elks. And the Bates Aquatic Center is fabulous, a real asset to our Camp.

On June 26th I had a very nice personal event. I was allowed by Venice-Nokomis Lodge the opportunity to initiate my sister and brother-in-law into that Lodge. It was very nice and I appreciate ER Steve and the Lodge for allowing me to do this. I know Becky and Steve will be a great addition to your Lodge.

We certainly know that many of our Lodges are struggling. We also know that most of our problems and headaches stem from our club facilities. It is very tough to run a bar and restaurant as many of us do to a limited clientele. I always tell a club management what would you do if you gave your “free” this facility to use to serve food and beverages. Many would say “great”, I’ll take it. Then the kicker, you can only solicit business from this limited group of members. Most would say, “No thanks,” this is not for me. We certainly need to do as much as we can to be as efficient as possible. Stay up on the best management practices.
Could Lower Dues be the Answer to our Membership Dilemma? I think yes!

I sometimes tend to overthink things a little and now wonder if maybe I am also overthinking the problems relating to our membership decline.

Recently our Director of Membership Development, Don Moon, and I visited our West Citrus Lodge in our Central district near the west coast of Florida. West Citrus Lodge is somewhat of a rarity as they have had a continuous membership growth for the past seven consecutive years! Only two other Lodges in Florida share this distinction with West Citrus Lodge! Don and I wanted to visit this Lodge, meet with their officers and members, and learn the secrets of a Lodge that obviously has this membership thing figured out! Basically what we found was a Lodge with a leadership team that works well together. We found a Lodge that makes the needs of its members their highest priority and offers them a varied array of Lodge activities that are in turn well attended by its members! We found a Lodge that operates in moderation only serving meals two nights each week and a Lodge that does not make the survival of its bar and restaurant its top priority! We found a Lodge that has made achieving a membership gain a priority of the Lodge and a Lodge that expects its officers to deliver on that priority and a Lodge that holds the officers accountable to that goal. Most importantly, though, we found a Lodge whose dues are only $60 per year! Now, please don’t dismiss me as crazy for thinking this is good and stop reading further since there is no way your Lodge could ever stay afloat on $60 dues! Please hear me out!

Over the years, and in talking to our members who have dropped their memberships, and through our surveying of these people, one of the top reasons members have told us they are dropping their membership is that the dues are too high! In Florida the average dues are $82 and the range is from $35 to $150. Fifty-seven of our 105 Lodges have their dues set at $80 or below but only 15, or 14%, are set at $60 or below. Additionally, the dues of the other two consecutive gains Lodges are $77 and $63!

I realize that total dues are higher when you add the State and Grand Lodge Assessment but what this data tells me is that for some reason our members seem to be able to identify with the $60 range dues and when faced with annual membership renewal, $60 is at least psychologically acceptable! Maybe because it is thought of as only $5 per month, or maybe it is in line with other memberships they have, but $60 may just be that so-called magic number!

So, how do we work this into the average Lodge? How about an incremental dues reduction based on membership growth? Let’s take a Lodge that has 400 members and whose dues are $90. Total dues revenue from 400 paying members is $36,000. If the Lodge set a goal of a 6% membership gain or 24 members, that same $36,000 could be produced with 424 members paying $85. The next year set the goal at a 26 member increase and the $36,000 can be produced with $80 dues. Continue this systematic benefits and rewards type approach to membership growth and in a short six-year period the Lodge will have grown by 200 members.

Think about it; that is 200 more members participating in and supporting the Lodge! However, probably the most rewarding benefit from this program is the attainment of $60 dues which for some reason can and most hopefully will place your Lodge on a path to sustainability in that the loss of members unable or unwilling to renew their memberships could be reduced to a manageable number. Do you think the membership will get behind you and support a program like this when every member benefits from lower dues as membership goals are realized?!

This is a stark contrast to today’s environment where Lodges across the state are having to look at raising dues or otherwise supplementing revenues to make ends meet! Could it be that an unconventional approach such as this could be the answer to our problems?! Granted, lower dues will do nothing if the membership is not engaged in activities and other programs of their choosing but we always knew this membership problem would take outside of the box thinking and the involvement of the entire membership. Can you think of a better way to get your members on board? How about it? Can we do this?

Many Lodge management/leadership teams are too focused on the bar and restaurant. If you believe this is a good move for your Lodge let your Lodge team know! Tell them you want, no, outright demand, lower dues! Use this article to move them to action. Hold them accountable to objectives that will move the Lodge in a positive direction. Better yet, become involved and help the team set goals and objectives. Be prepared to do your part if they do theirs by proposing new members, and start your Lodge on a path to lower dues!

Could it be this simple? I think so! After all, we know what doesn’t work and we have a 20 plus year record of that! Let’s get talking about this on the Florida Elks Forum on the Florida Elks website! Together we can solve our membership dilemma! I know it! Are you with us?
Back in 1904, Florida’s nine lodges gathered in Tampa forming the Florida State Elks Association. At that time Grand Lodge was not too favorable to the forming of State Associations, fearing somehow that they might try to assume responsibilities that should be those of Grand Lodge. Despite these fears, Florida as well as other states, were becoming successful in the formation of State Associations. Over the next several years its sole purpose seemed to be more social than businesswise. There was no major reason for its existence except that of social.

The 1920’s had started in Florida with the Great Land Boom. People were making fortunes on Florida land, turning it over at tremendous profit, sometimes more than once in a day. Many were getting rich, at least on paper. But in 1926, going bankrupt. The Great Land Boom had unceremoniously been replaced by the Great Land Bust. Banks were closing their doors, people and businesses going bankrupt. The Great Land Boom had unceremoniously been replaced by the Great Land Bust. Florida was bordering as were the States of Georgia and South Carolina. In 1927, five thousand Elks and their spouses, with the FSEA now 4 years old, and the associations of Georgia and South Carolina met in a Tri State Convention in Florida hoping for ideas to strengthen their organizations. However nothing has ever been heard of any positive direction coming out of that session.

In October of 1929 they were hit with another shock, the Stock Market failed sending the nation into the Great Depression that never really recovered until the advent of WWII. Florida Elkdom was like other lodges, membership was declining and it was a gloomy outlook. Hit twice with major economic recessions in ten years there seemed little hope on the horizon.

But then, resulting from the traumas of evolving events a star appeared on the horizon, opportunity out of chaos. A hotel had been built in Umatilla, Florida, named the Rowebuilt. The Rowebuilt was an upscale 100 room luxury hotel built to profit on the earlier land boom economy. Taking advantage of the thousands of people entering Florida to seek their opportunities or enjoy vacations in the land of sunshine and opportunity.

By the time the hotel was ready to open, the vacation public no longer existed. The hotel stayed open only about 3 weeks and was then forced to close. A financier by the name of Harry Miller and his wife Anna held a mortgage on this luxury hotel and they were forced to foreclose, an asset with no customers, lying in the rural area of Lake County surrounded with beautiful lakes, good fishing and no prospect of supporting a building of this magnitude. It’s most illustrious guest was evangelist Billy Sunday who was lecturing at a Baptist church in the area. It was FSEA President J. L. Reed who persuaded the Miller’s to donate the land and Hotel to the FSEA for use as a hospital. Reed would remain active for years thereafter and often directed the Annual Christmas Party at the Hospital for the children, frequently playing the role of Santa Claus.

Another Elk, Governor Dave Sholtz, a member of the Daytona Beach Lodge had been working for the previous 5 years as the head of a committee conducting a survey with the State of Florida Crippled Children’s Commission to determine the needs of Florida to address the problem. That survey, the result of a study conducted by Dr. R. E. Baldwin and recommendation by Reed was sent to Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge approved the project and Harry and Anna Miller donated the foreclosed property to the Florida Elks.

Then in October Miller reported to his Elks Lodge on October 16, 1931 that Sam Owens had donated a block of land adjoining the north side of the home.

Dedication ceremonies were held on Sunday, November 1, 1931 at Eustis in which the Florida State Elks Association accepted the Hotel Building. Elk members from throughout the state, by chartered bus and other means, attended the dedication ceremonies presided over by J. Edwin Baker, State President, from West Palm Beach. The Harry-Anna Crippled Children’s Home would officially open in April of 1933. Baker would become its first Administrator serving into the 1940’s. In 1998 the hospital closed after giving thousands of children a fair shake in life overcoming their crippling diseases as well as treating children during the Polio Epidemic years, leading us to the present Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

Leading Elks who were responsible for Florida Elks Crippled Children’s Hospital obviously along with other dedicated Elks were Dr. R.E. Baldwin and his committee, J. L. Reed, Sr. Governor Dave Shultz, Harry and Anna Miller and J. Edwin Baker.

In making his annual report of the hospital to the Florida Elks in Tampa in 1941, Superintendent J. Edwin Baker quoted the following except from “The Challenge” which had appeared in the Rays of Sunshine Magazine: "It is not what destiny does with us, but what we do with destiny that determines what we shall become. When a man is determined, what can stop him? Cripple him and you have a Sir Walter Scott; Put him in a prison cell, and you have a John Bunyan; Bury him in the snows of Valley Forge, and you have a George Washington; Have him born in squalor poverty and you have a Lincoln; Load him with bitter racial prejudice and you have a Disraeli, Stab him with rheumatic pains until for years he cannot sleep without an opiate, and you have a Steinmetz; Put him in a greasy pit of a locomotive roundhouse, and you have a Walter P. Chrysler; Make him second fiddler in an obscure South American orchestra, and you have a Tuscanni…The hardships of life are sent you by an unkind destiny to crush you, but to challenge you. Our humanity is not our weakness, but our strength."
The Elks National Home is located in Bedford, Virginia nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in central Virginia, on 200 acres of rolling farmland. Bedford is located on US 460, midway between Roanoke and Lynchburg, Virginia. The city of Bedford has a population of 6,299 on a land area of 6.81 square miles.

Bedford County has a population of 61,300, a land area of 764 square miles with 7,000 acres of lakes and waterways.

The southern half of the county averages 800 feet in elevation and the mountains in the North half reach 4,200 feet. The average annual temperature is 56, 72.4 in the summer and 39.6 in the winter with snowfall of 18" and annual rainfall 43.6", average humidity 62%.

Sounds like a nice, comfortable, hospitable place, The Elks National Home.

The Elks National Home is now open to the public. In order to control cost we needed to increase the number of residents at the Home. Times have changed, and it has become increasingly difficult to attract our Elk members now that there are so many alternatives near to their homes. We view opening to the public as a way to minimize operational losses.

However, there are still financial advantages for Elk members. There is also a new, more affordable price structure. The Home has a number of vacancies in all types of accommodations. You can now go online to see requirements, the new pricing structure, floor plans, and more. The web address is www.elkhomes.org, and e-mail is enhome@elkhomes.org. The personnel at the Home will be glad to talk to anyone who has questions if they will call 1-800-552-4140 or 540-586-8232 and ask for Nellie, Robin, or Deanna.
FLORIDA NEWS

Three children and seven grandchildren.

He also served fourteen years in the U. S. Navy until receiving an honorable discharge in 1992.

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

In 1993, Brand went to a fundraiser and liked what he saw and later became a member of Palm Coast Elks Lodge 2709 when he retired in 1999. He chaired the Committees for Table, Kitchen, Training, Drug Awareness, Americanism, Investigating, Membership & Lapsation, and Mediator as well as the House Committee in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2010.

He was named Officer of the Year for 2007 and 2008. He became Exalted Ruler in 2009. He began serving a five-year term as 2010-2015 Trustee. He was Chairman of the PER Association for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. He was District Chairman of Membership for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. He was State Vice Chairman of Americanism in 2010-2011 and State Chairman in 2011-2012. He was District Vice President in 2012-2013.

Brand attended law school in 2001 and became a Mediator for the County Courts system in the state of Florida. He was certified by the Supreme Court of Florida in 2004 to the present time. He received a Certificate of Appreciation from President George W. Bush in 2006 for working on the Reelection Committee.

He worked with the Flagler County Sheriff’s Department for Elks Drug Awareness from 2006-2011. He became Sir Knight Fourth Degree with the Knights of Columbus in 2007. He was a board member of the C.O.P. of Palm Coast from 2008-2011. He also served with the Flagler County Sheriff’s Department Advisory Board from 2008-2011.

He has served Live Oak Lodge asInner Guard, Loyal Knight, and Exalted Ruler and was on the Board of Trustees. He has also served on the Auditing, House, Bylaws, Budget, Veterans’ Services, Scholarships, In- doctrination, and Bingo Committees. He was the District Chairman of Elks National Foundation Scholarships and was a District Director for the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors. In addition to Elkdom, Pratt keeps busy with other organizations. He has been with the Boy Scouts of America for 62 years. He is an Eagle Scout and earned the Exploring Silver Award, the Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor & Founders Award, the District Award of Merit, the Scoutmasters Training Award, and the Silver Beaver Award. He has also served on multiple Troop, South Florida Council, and National Council Committees. He is a member of the International Association of Arson Investigators, International Association of Fire Fighters, Florida Wildlife Federation (Vice President), Airboat Association of Florida (Past President), Tropical Audubon Society (Board of Directors), and Central & Southern Florida Flood Control District (Board of Governors – Gubernatorial Appointment).

P. “Ed” Seitler

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Central District are honored to present Edward P. “Ed” Seitler, as the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

Seitler was born in Chicago, IL in 1935 and grew up in Illinois. He graduated from high school in 1953 and went to work at Western Electric from 1953-1955. He joined the Coast Guard in 1956 while he was still in the Coast Guard. He was married to Mary for 48 years this February. They have two children, and seven grandchildren.

Seitler moved to Florida full-time in 1955 and was discharged in 1959. He went back to Western Electric until 1960. After this he worked for ITT Kellogg on the Atlas Missile Contract designing electrical equipment for the missile silos.

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

Seitler joined West Citrus Elks Lodge 2693 in 2001 because he liked what he heard and saw about the Elks. He served on the House Committee, was Lodge Chairman of ENF for two years, was Lecturing Knight and Loyal Knight, and became Exalted Ruler in 2005-2006. He was Secretary of the Trustees for five years. He was District Chairman of Sports for four years, was State Vice Chairman of Sports for 2008-2009, and was State Chairman of Sports for 2009-2010. He was State Chairman of Induction for 2011-2012. He was District Vice President in 2012-2013.

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

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

East Central

Thomas “Tom” Brand

The members and Lodges of Florida’s East Central District are honored to present Thomas “Tom” Brand as their Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

Brand was born in Queens, NY in 1944 and grew up there. For over thirty years he lived in Westchester, NY until retiring in 1999 when he moved to Florida full-time. He graduated from Flushing High School in 1962. He attended RCA Institute in 1968 for Electrical Technology and earned his BS in Education in 1984 from City College, all at night school. He is still attending law school.

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

He attended Dade Community College for one year, Tarrant County Community College and Florida State University each for one semester, and the National Fire Academy for one year. From 1965-1970 he served in the USAF and is a Vietnam veteran.

Pratt worked for the Metro Dade Fire/Rescue Department for 27 years, thirteen in Aircraft Crash/Rescue with Miami International and fourteen in Fire/Arson Investigations MDFD including four years as an Adjunct Instructor in Fire Investigation with the National Fire Academy. He also worked with the Boy Scouts of America for eight years as a Ranger/Property Superintendent with the Southwest Florida Council, BSA.

In 1989, Pratt was initiated into Miami Lodge 948. He joined with friends from scouting to work on community service projects. He demitted to Punta Gorda Lodge in 1993 and then to Live Oak Lodge in 2001.
Patti Phillips

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast District are honored to present Patti Phillips as the Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

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

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

Phillips has fond memories of her first foray into the job market, which was as a carhop for A & W Root Beer in the summer of 1965. She then moved into customer service with college-era stints in floor and office work at department stores. Following her marriage in August of 1969, Patti moved to Tidewater, VA and worked in the Accounting Department of WVEC TV/Radio in Hampton until the birth of her eldest son in October of 1974. She reentered the work force soon after the birth of her second son in December of 1977. While working as Office Manager for an automotive aftermarket firm in Newport News, she was introduced into nonprofit charitable work due to the connections made through the extended illness of her son, Adam (deceased in December of 2008). She then started the Peninsula Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, planning fundraisers and informational speaking engagements.

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

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

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

Phillips was initiated into West Palm Beach Elks Lodge 1352 on December 20, 2006. She was first elected as Tiler for 2008-2009 but was immediately asked to relieve the Loyal Knight who had contracted a serious eye infection and was forced to resign. She was Lead-Knight in 2009-2010 and served as Exalted Ruler in 2010-2011. She has served as District Vice President for 2012-2013.

She has served on many Lodge and District Committees including Beautification, House, Investigation, and Induction. In 2009-2010, Phillips served several terms as Lodge Chairman of Veterans’ Services and was State Vice Chairman in 2010-2011 and State Chairman in 2011-2012. She has served as Secretary of the PER Association. She has enjoyed being Chairman of the Army of Hope Picnic Committee each year since 2010.

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

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

Susan “Suzi” Simonelli

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast Central District are honored to present Susan “Suzi” Simonelli as the Southeast Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

Simonelli was born in Waterville, ME in 1966. She was educated in Maine schools and graduated from Thomas College with a degree in Retail Management in 1986. She held management positions with K-Mart, CVS Pharmacy, and All East Enterprises before moving to Florida in 1993. She dedicated the next twelve years to raising her son, Tony.

She was PTA President and received the Martin County Volunteer of the Year Award for her work with the public school system. Participating in all phases of the Boy Scouts of America, from Den Mother to Assistant Scout Master, she earned many top scouting awards including the Sailfish District Award of Merit and the prestigious Silver Beaver Award. She is also a member of the Order of the Arrow.

In July of 2005 she traveled to the Elks Grand Lodge session held in Reno where she was awarded the Marvin M. Lewis Award for her dedication to both the Boy Scouts of America and the Order of Elks.

Simonelli’s journey in Elksdom began on May 20, 2002 when she was initiated into Stuart-Jensen Elks Lodge 1870. She served as Lodge Secretary and Leading Knight and three terms as Exalted Ruler. She was given the Citizen of the Year Award for 2004-2005 and was named Officer of the Year for 2007-2008. She chaired and served on numerous Lodge committees. She has been the State Drug Awareness Trailer Manager for the past four years, District Drug Awareness Chairman for five years, and Vice President of the Southeast Central District PER Association.

She was State Vice Chairman of Officer Attendance for 2011-2012. In January of 2012 she was made an honorary life member of Stuart-Jensen Lodge. She has served as District Vice President for 2012-2013.

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

Clemons has served in the USAF for 21 years and served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

Clemons was born in Watertown, NY in 1956. He grew up in Carthage, NY and moved to Florida in 1994. He attended college for four years and earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice. Clemons has served in the USAF for 21 years and seven months. He has worked in USAF law enforcement and is currently a Facility Security Officer for The Boeing Company in Fort Walton Beach, FL. In 2002 Clemons joined Fort Walton Elks Lodge 1795. The Elks had invited his brothers and sisters to an annual children’s Christmas party. When asked to join, he saw this as an opportunity to continue and participate in the charitable efforts of the local Lodge. He has served as Exalted Ruler twice, Leading Knight, Loyal Knight, Lecturing Knight, Esquire twice, Inner Guard, Trustee, and House Committee Chairman. He was District Chairman of Induction and State Cochairman of Veterans’ Services. He served as District Vice President 2011-2012.

He attended school through twelfth grade in Oxford, ME. He served in the U.S. Army from 1959-1960. Diamant worked in construction for seventeen years and then worked for Pratt & Whitney for fifteen years. He retired in 1992 and moved to Florida and opened a vinyl siding company.

In 1982, Diamant became an Elk in Sanford, ME. He has been Loyal Knight, Leading Knight six times, Exalted Ruler three times, and Trustee. He has been Lodge Chairman for Youth Activities, Drug Awareness, Americanism, National Foundation Certificates, and Hoop Shoot. He was also Vice Chairman and State Chairman for Youth Activities.

He volunteers 25 hours a week at Leesburg Food Bank where he is Vice President of the board of directors. He is also very active in church.

Donald and Sharon have been married 34 years. He has five children, three boys and two girls. He served as District Vice President 2011-2012.

SOUTH SOUTHEAST
Marilyn Kronenberg

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southeast District are honored to present Marilyn Kronenberg as the South Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

Kronenberg was born and raised in Dayton, OH. She graduated from high school in 1960 and moved to Pompano Beach in 1979.

She is a civil engineering technician and AutoCad drafter and works full-time. This will be Kronenberg’s fifteenth year as an Elk.

When the door opened for women to become members, she was ready and willing.

She has been Lodge, District, Regional, and now State Director of Hoop Shoot. She was Leading Knight for 2010-2011 and Exalted Ruler for 2011-2012. She is also Lodge Decoration Chairman. She served as District Vice President 2012-2013.

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

SOUTH
Joaquin Lopez

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South District are honored to present Joaquin “Jack” Lopez, Jr. as the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

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

Thirteen years ago he joined the Elks. He has served as Chaplain, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, and Leading Knight and was Exalted Ruler for Miami Lodge 948 during 2010-2011. As Exalted Ruler he started the first Antlers program in the South District and got the Miami-Dade County Commission to name a street at the corner of the Lodge “Miami Elks Lodge 948 Way.” He has worked with the Hoop Shoot program as District Chairman for the last few years and currently serves as State Vice Chairman. This year he will be the House Committee Chairman and President of the PER Association. He served as District Vice President 2012-2013.

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

WEST CENTRAL
Douglas J. Collett

The members and Lodges of Florida’s West Central District are honored to present Douglas J. Collett as West Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

Collett was born in Lansing, MI in 1943 and grew up there. He graduated from Lansing Eastern High School in 1961. While he worked, he graduated from Lansing Community College with an Associate degree in Business. He continued at North Woods University in Midland, MI in Business Management while working at General Motors Corp. until 1985 but was short a few classes from graduating. Collett delivered papers for eight years and managed a small gas station for two years. From 1961-1962 he was a warehouse/truck delivery person for Gordon Food Service in Lansing. In 1962 he was hired by General Motors in Lansing. For the next four years he worked on the assembly line as an hourly employee.

From 1966-1975 he was a Production Supervisor on salary. From 1975-1989 he was Material Handling Supervisor and Material Handling Planner for three plants. From 1989-2005 he was Office Manager for Production Control and Logistics. In early 2005 he retired from GM after 42 years of service as a Manager of Production Control and Logistics at Lansing Car Assembly Plant. He moved to Dunedin, FL the week after he retired.

In 2006, he and his wife, Lynn, became members at Dunedin/Clearwater Elks Lodge 1525. They have always tried to support anything with children or veterans. They have visited the Florida Elks Youth Camp many times and the national headquarters in Chicago.

Their next visit will be to the Elks National Home and to revisit national headquarters.

Collett has served as Lecturing Knight and Exalted Ruler and on the House Committee. He was Lodge Chairman of Lodge Activities, District Chairman of Harry-Anna Trust Fund, and State Chairman of Interlodge Visitation. He was also District Auditor for the West Central District. He was the West Central District Vice President for the 2012-2013 year.

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

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

Collett and his wife were both previously married. In the 22 years that they have been together, they have never been apart. They were married on February 26, 2000.

They both enjoy their four children and four grandchildren who live in Michigan.
The two-day Florida State Elks Golf Tournament held at the Spring Lake Golf course in Sebring, had 142 golfers participating and raised $13,604 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Chairman PDD John Holbrook, right, presented new State President Brian Burns one of the first donations to his Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

The Florida State Elks Softball Tournament held in Deland, raised $8,000, this year all of which is going to the Youth Camp in the name of the winning Lodges.

Over the past 20 years this tournament has raised $142,628 for the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Ron Bergman, Plant City Lodge Golf Committee Chairman presented a check to Mike Smith, PGER, of Plant City Lodge in the impressive amount of $10,350 which represents monies raised by Plant City’s Annual Powder Puff Golf Tournament. The money has been sent to FSEA to be divided between the Youth Camp and Therapy Services in order to continue the great works of Florida’s major projects.
The Lodge hosted a children’s Easter Egg Hunt, which included the children from the Lodge service area served by the Children’s Therapy Services. The children enjoyed several fun activities provided by Susan Locke followed by lunch and dessert provided by the Lodge.

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

The Lodge provides a weekly meal for eight homeless veterans and two counselors.

Elks National Foundation Scholarships Help Elks Family to Grow

It’s a boy! And a girl! And 748 more boys and girls! The Elks National Foundation family keeps growing with the addition of the class of 2013 Most Valuable Student and Legacy Awards scholarship recipients.

As part of the Elks family, these 750 students will be supported throughout their college careers and they build stronger communities in the future.

“You thank you for contributing to my education,” says 2013 Most Valuable Student scholar Spencer Funk, sponsored by Medford, Ore., Lodge No. 1168. “I will never give up on the dreams that the Elks National Foundation is supporting.”

In 2013, the ENF awarded 500 Most Valuable Student scholarships ranging from $4,000 to $60,000, and 250 Legacy Awards of $4,000 each. ENF scholarships are awarded to students who are dedicated to academics and community service. We are honored to help these scholars become the future of stronger communities.

This year’s top MVS scholars, who will each receive a $60,000 college scholarship, are Anish Athalye, sponsored by Worcester, Mass., Lodge No. 243, and Grace Young, sponsored by Hoboken, N.J., Lodge No. 74. Anish’s scholarship will allow him to double major in computer science and management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Grace will be studying molecular and cellular biology at Harvard University thanks to her scholarship.

The complete list of 2013 ENF scholarship winners is available online at www.elks.org/enscholars. In 2013-14, the ENF will provide $3.74 million in college scholarships. All graduating high school seniors wishing to pursue four-year degrees on a full-time basis are invited to apply through their local Lodge for a Most Valuable Student scholarship. Applicants are judged based on scholarship, leadership and financial need. Legacy Awards are available to the children and grandchildren of active Elks members. Applicants must exhibit the core values of the Elks National Foundation: knowledge, charity, community and integrity.

“I am honored to be accepted into the Elks family,” says 2013 Legacy Awards recipient Mitchell Prather, sponsored by Seymour, Ind., Lodge No. 462. “It’s incredible to be a part of a group so focused on giving back to the community.”

Applications for the 2014 Most Valuable Student and Legacy Awards scholarships will be available on September 1, 2013. For more information on ENF scholarships and to read about current Elks scholars, visit www.elks.org/enscholars, or contact the ENF scholarship office by phone at 773/755-4732 or email at scholarship@elks.org.
On June 9th the Lodge honored the members who have achieved 50 years or more of service in the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. These years are independent of the number of Lodges that a member belonged to, where the Lodge(s) was located, or the number and type of offices a member held. Our Lodge has 29 members of this exclusive group and all will be recognized and awarded a 50-Year Pin by the Lodge President, Russell Hooper.

The mission of this Lodge has been and will continue to be the promotion of the principles of charity to our community. The members of this Lodge who are being honored have volunteered in many ways over the lifetime of their Elk careers at their Lodge and at other Lodges that they may have belonged to. The member who has the most years of service to the Elks is Mr. Alfred Zenger, Lifetime Member. Mr. Zenger has been an Elk for 69 years and was initiated in 1945. The members of Lodge 1744 wish Mr. Zenger and the other members of the 50+ Group its heartfelt thanks.

Melbourne Lodge 1744

The Lodge hosted a salute to Veterans Night, and invited the local chapter of the Space Coast Honor Flight. Guest speakers were Teri Eno, Director of Fundraising and Jim Maxner, Treasurer. They showed an informational video about the program that sponsors World War II veterans for a free trip to the WWII Memorial in Washington DC. Each veteran is accompanied by a volunteer chaperone. Applications were available for eligible WWII veterans for future flights, and potential companions for future trips. Also in attendance from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs was Capt. Ronda Denning, an Iraq veteran serving 15 years in the US Army. Ronda is the Team Leader of the Melbourne Veterans Center, providing informational services to Veterans at the Sarno Road Office. Attendees were local veterans, Lodge members, and invited guests. Veterans Service Chairperson is James Mahoney, Retired Marine Corp, and Loyal Knight.

On June 9th the Lodge honored the members who have achieved 50 years or more of service in the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. These years are independent of the number of Lodges that a member belonged to, where the Lodge(s) was located, or the number and type of offices a member held. Our Lodge has 29 members of this exclusive group and all will be recognized and awarded a 50-Year Pin by the Lodge President, Russell Hooper.

The mission of this Lodge has been and will continue to be the promotion of the principles of charity to our community. The members of this Lodge who are being honored have volunteered in many ways over the lifetime of their Elk careers at their Lodge and at other Lodges that they may have belonged to. The member who has the most years of service to the Elks is Mr. Alfred Zenger, Lifetime Member. Mr. Zenger has been an Elk for 69 years and was initiated in 1945. The members of Lodge 1744 wish Mr. Zenger and the other members of the 50+ Group its heartfelt thanks.

Sebastian Lodge 2714

The Lodge held its annual Memorial Day Picnic on May 27th. Over 250 members and guests honored the men and women who gave their all for our country with a moment of silence, the playing of “Taps” and Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless The USA.” It was a very emotional time for all. Thanks to Chairman Wayne Snow and his committee, fun, games, and good times were enjoyed by everyone including a big splash! Just ask Jim O’Neill, Exalted Ruler, and Kenny Falk, one of the members. Both men got soaking wet while taking their turns in the dunk tank. Both little kids and big kids had a blast trying and succeeding in dunking the two men. In addition to the dunk tank, there was a bounce house, three legged and pillow races for the kids and adults, and hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone. The music was provided by “Entertainment by Chuck.”

On June 18, 2013, Exalted Ruler Jim O’Neill and Leading Knight Matt Bagdonas presented Cynthia Falardeau with a check for $1,000 for the Backpack Program. Ms. Falardeau is with the Indian River Education Foundation which will put the money toward the purchase of 2000 backpacks. The backpacks will then be filled with grade appropriate supplies and distributed to K-12th grade students. This is done on an annual basis. The money for this donation came from the ENF Gratitude Grant. The grants are given to Elk Lodges to help serve the community and make it stronger.

The Lodge received 45 applications for scholarships this year. The applications were read and evaluated and three, $1,000 scholarships were awarded to Lauren Browning, Victoria Tippin, and Olivia Zugay by Debbie Roeterz, Chairperson at the yearly ceremony at the Sebastian River High School. The EL-DOEs received 18 applications and Diane Lemire, Chairperson awarded a $1,000 scholarship to Lauren Browning.

The Lodge hosted its 13th Annual Golf Classic at Baytree National Golf Links on April 27, 2013, bringing in $3,000. It was a beautiful day and Karen Renzi and her team did an incredible job again. There were 48 players; nearly half of which were Viera Elks members. Many other members provided support at the tournament and at the Lodge. It has been a very busy spring. The Lodge hosted their annual Mother’s Day breakfast with a free breakfast and carnations for the Mothers. The Mother’s Day ceremony was held in conjunction with the Breakfast and 40 Mothers were served.

The Lodge also held a dinner honoring our delinquent members. Had we been able to have more, we would have honored 1749 members for a negative growth or 2.9%. We dropped 5591 members for non-payment which was 965 more than we initiated. This again, points out the need of retaining our delinquent members. Had we been able to have 1750 of the 5591 dropped members renew their membership we would have had a positive growth.

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Carol M. Heintz, PSP-FLOE

c_m_heintz@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

as of 3-31-13

Donald Moon

Director of Membership Development

On April 1, 2012 we had 105 lodges. During 2012-2013 we formed a new lodge, Lake Okeechobee # 2871, with 105 members. However, we lost a lodge when Lady Lake Lodge # 2793 merged with Silver Springs Shores Lodge # 2730 to form South Marion Villages Lodge # 2730 leaving us with 105 lodges.

We ended the year with a net loss of 1749 members for a negative growth of 2.9%. We dropped 5591 members for non-payment which was 965 more than we initiated. This again, points out the need of retaining our delinquent members. Had we been able to have 1750 of the 5591 dropped members renew their membership we would have had a positive growth.

Summer 2013
Arcadia Elks were the leaders of the rousing 20 minute demonstration celebrating their Lodge leader becoming the Florida State Elks Association President for the year 2013-2014.

Florida’s new president reading his acceptance speech from an I-Pad using a wireless microphone. His family on front row from right: Leslie Mirabato, brother Steve Burns friend, brother, Steve Mruczek, brother in law, Rebecca Mruczek, sister, Suzanne Freeland, Mom, Heather Nedley, daughter, Phillip Nedley, son in law, boys on floor R-L Abel and Porter.

Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services Therapists and Ben Brown show their support for Brian Burns who traveled frequently to the camp and prepared a barbecue picnic for them.

President Brian Burns pins, left his State Pin and right his Harry-Anna Trust Fund pin.

Veterans Voluntary Service Award

Florida Elks Female Volunteer of the Year is Jackie Tucker of Arcadia Lodge shown above with Brian Burns.

The Male Volunteer of the Year is Robert Morse of the Orange Park Lodge; he was not present.

Making a Difference in the Community

Lenny Smallacombe received the State President’s “Call to Service Award;” “In recognition and appreciation of Lenny Smallacombe commitment to strengthening our nation and for making a difference through Volunteer Service. He also received a letter from President Obama giving congratulations and thanks for his thousands of hours of volunteer work.

Florida “Elk of the Year”

Among the highest and coveted awards that are given by the State President is the Florida “Elk of the Year Award. President Maguire presented Jim Lamb, this year’s award for his outstanding work and devotion to the Florida State Elks Association and for the many hours of work he has devoted to the Elks.
Albertus and Eleanor Van Duren
Florida Elks Youth Camp
2013 Scholarship Youth Camp Winners
Chairman Michael Phillips

Deanna Little, left, of Longwood, FL graduated from Lake Brantley High School. In June of 2010. She has worked two years at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. One of these years was as a Tracker.

She attends the University of North Florida and is majoring in Elementary Education and plans to teach at an elementary school, preferably between 3rd and 5th grade. She also plans to earn a Master’s degree after a few years of teaching or shortly after college.

Antony Aranyos, right, of Titusville, FL graduated from Astronaut High School in May of 2012. He worked at the Florida Elks Youth Camp in 2011 and 2012. He attends the University of Florida and is majoring in Microbiology in the College of Agricultural Sciences with a focus in pre-med. After graduation, he will shortly after college.

The Other 18 Hope Scholarship Winners
Chairman Vincent Como

Americanism Essay Contest
“What Does the National Anthem Mean to Me?”

1st Place - 5th and 6th Grade Division
Jason Yaskovic, Rockledge, FL
Submitted by Merritt Island Lodge 2650

When I hear the National Anthem, I take off my hat, place my hand over my heart, and sing out loud for all to hear. I become filled with an overwhelming sense of pride for my country as the words of the song remind me of the struggles and hardships endured by our brave countrymen in order for us to be the great nation we are today.

Then we hear “The Star-Spangled Banner” play. We take a moment from our hectic, busy lives and listen to the words written nearly 200 years ago to inspire courage and strength in a time of war and difficulty, and we remember. We remember the sacrifices made, the struggles endured, and the difficulties faced by brave people who wanted the opportunities, rights, and freedoms we take for granted today.

We remember, and we are grateful.

1st Place 7th and 8th Grade Division
Hailey Zeller, Port Orange, FL
Submitted by Port Orange Lodge 2723

For as long as I am alive the National Anthem will always have special meaning to me. From the time I was a little girl when I heard “The Star-Spangled Banner” played, my father taught me to stop what I was doing, face the American flag, stand at attention, remain silent, and place my right hand over my heart. He explained to me that I did this to show respect for our military and to honor the men and women who have sacrificed their lives so we could be free.

As I grew older my father shared with me personal stories about many of his friends who grew up without fathers because they were killed fighting in Vietnam. Sadly, the fight for freedom continues and my generation now has boys and girls who grow up without fathers and mothers. I don’t think Francis Scott Key could have ever imagined, as he penned our anthem in 1814, that nearly 200 years later men and women would still be fighting and dying for us to retain the land of the free and the home of the brave. For you see, the cost of freedom has never been free.

But whenever I hear the National Anthem played at the start of a broadcast day, at a sporting event, or during the Olympics, I think about the wonderful gift our brave soldiers have given me, and I proudly take a moment to show my respect for them.

**ENRIQUE CAMARENA AWARD**

**Sgt. Catherine Stewart**

Sgt. Catherine Stewart, left, Charlotte Sheriff’s Office, received the Award from Thelma Wright-Smith, Chairman of the Drug Awareness Committee.

The Elks Enrique Camarena Award has been established by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks to recognize and honor law enforcement officers who have made a significant contribution in the field of drug prevention and who personify Agent Camarena’s belief that one person can make a difference.

Special agent Enrique Camarena was a slain DEA Agent, murdered by the Mexican Drug Cartel, while investigating drug trafficking into the United States. He was brutally tortured and killed in 1985. His death precipitated the start of the Red Ribbon Campaign that we celebrate each year during October in his honor. The Red Ribbon Campaign was started by the Camarena family and friends as a tribute to Agent Camarena. However, it also serves as a reminder to all of us about the dangers of substance abuse.
The North District welcomes District VP PER Dick Joyal from Perry Lodge #1851 as its representative from the state association leadership team. From Tallahassee, PDDGER Carl Legid is the State Chaplain. Congratulations guys!

Lake City Lodge 893

For Easter, the Lodge delivered 13,400 plastic Easter eggs to 2,248 kids in all the elementary schools in the county. Egg delivery is an annual event undertaken by the Lodge. Congratulations to Sophie Hull, Elk of the Year; Chris Lydiack, Officer of the Year; and, Vernon Lloyd, Citizen of the Year.

The annual golf tournament at the Lake City Country Club sponsored by the Lodge was held June 1. Prizes were awarded and this is always a great fundraiser for the membership.

In June, the Lodge conducted its Flag Day Ceremony at the VA Hospital in Lake City. Later this summer, the Elk’s Family Picnic at the river will be on July 8.

The Columbia County School Board presented the Lodge with a Certificate of Appreciation for the Lodge’s donation of $1,000 (through the ENF grant program) to the reading program at Eastside Elementary School. A big thank you goes to members Trey Hosford and Stanley Cox, PDDGER, for pulling the grant together.

Live Oak Lodge 1165

With a little variation from the norm, Live Oak Lodge held its Mothers Day celebration on Saturday, May 11, featuring a potluck dinner and karaoke afterward. Attendance was great and all enjoyed the festivities.

Congratulations to Terri Johnson, a member of the Anna Miller Circle, for her award at Citizen of the Year from the Lodge.

Five scholarship awards were given by the Lodge: two winners from Suwannee High School; one each from Branford, Hamilton, and Lafayette High Schools. Each student will receive $300 a year for four years totaling $1,200. The Lodge held another award from the Suwannee County School Board for its charity work with schools.

The Lodge donated $250 to each of the four chapters of the Future Farmers of America (FFA). Flag Day was celebrated on June 15 at 6 pm to allow families to attend.

The Lodge’s Flag Day event was well attended and the local Boy Scout Troop assisted in presenting the flags. Attendees brought food for a covered dish dinner, with karaoke and dancing afterward.

Mariana Lodge 1516

In April to kick off the new fiscal year, the Lodge officers and committee chairs met over a hamburger and hot dog dinner to discuss three goals for the upcoming year: 1) develop a sound fiscal budget; 2) take responsibility toward veterans and those in need; and, 3) work together for the good of the lodge. June 7 was the deadline for scholarship applications to be filed by those students seeking financial assistance in attending Chipola College. Priority is given to members, spouses, children or grandchildren of Elks. After those applications are processed, applications from the general public may be made.

Southwest Central District continued from page 21

Brandon Lodge 2383

Brandon Lodge 2383’s 10th annual “Hooked on Fishing, not drugs” event took place on Saturday April 13, 2013 with 120 children attending ages 3-13 and with 327 fish being caught. Family togetherness is what makes the difference and with Elroy did not catch any fish.

Alexandria Barton, who is 6 years old won the award of “Biggest Fish” caught for the day at 18-1/4". Hooked on Fishing’s event grows with each year and is only possible because of Donald and Judi Cornett and many, many willing and great volunteers.

May 5th, the Brandon Elks Lodge #2383 held their annual youth recognition dinner. Recognizing the Teenager of the Month, awarding 6 students with scholarships, the lodges’ own local hoop shoot winners, and our Americanism Essay Winners. The 2nd place in the Florida State Americanism contact Keven Chacko is going to use his prize money for his college education.

Lakeland Lodge 1291

Elks-Making a Difference with our Hands, our hearts and Voices. This summer 50 young folks from the Lakeland-Mulberry Boys & Girls Clubs will spend one week at our Florida State Youth Camp. The first group of 17 arrived at the camp June 16th with the rest were scheduled though the camp year. As usual with the Camp Director, Lynn “it’s all about the kids”. Warburton, PDD, and his staff proved that is no camp like “OUR CAMP”. The Camp co-coordinator, Jen Kennedy and the Director of the Boys & Girls Club, Kelly Lane worked many hours getting all the applications entered as well as scheduling the 50 campers. The week at camp is $180 ($900 for this group) was provided at no charge. Once again proving that no child will be turned aside.

Lakeland Lodge held its annual Harry Anna Spring Fashion show luncheon with the hall decorated in spring colors with flowers and plants. The Fashion Show had 120 attendees with 11 models wearing fashions from Macy’s, several gentlemen assisting in the event and volunteers. Lakeland Lodge is pleased to have raised $1,600 for Harry-Anna.
Crestview Lodge 2624

Newly installed officers and members participated in a benefit supporting the Wounded Warrior’s Foundation, Building Homes for Warriors. U.S. Army SSGt Aaron Hale, assigned to 706th Explosives Ordinance Disposal Unit, was wounded when an IED explosion in Afghanistan, breaking facial bones, burning over half of his body and leaving him completely blind. He was presented with a mortgage free home at a ceremony on Santa Rosa Beach.

The district Drug Awareness trailer was displayed and members handed out several drug awareness pamphlets to parents, students, teachers, and the public at Defuniak Springs annual Family Fun Day Festival.

The Lodge honored and paid tribute to our Mothers and Fathers at a ceremony held in May and June. The Kids Fishing Rodeo had a record crowd of over 1000 patrons and 450 children in attendance. Children waited patiently for big fish to bite while Lodge members staffed a booth and sold hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks raising $600.

Memorial Day brought Elk members together in a ceremony at the Crestview Live Oak Park Memorial Cemetery, hosted by Disabled American Veterans Unit #57, where Exalted Ruler Ron Powell and NW District Vice President Rick Lemke placed the Lodge Wreath honoring deceased veterans.

The first quarter ended on a high note honoring our American Flag. Crestview Lodge hosted Flag Day with Twin Cities Lodge and the Emerald Coast Young Marines joining us. The Flag Day ceremony was open to the public and was covered by a Crestview Bulletin reporter.

Destin Lodge 2688

A Mother’s Day Ceremony was held May 12th and dinner prepared by Shirley Dunlap, Officers and Volunteers of the Lodge was served immediately following the ceremony.

The Lodge observed Flag Day on June 14th with a pork chop dinner being served following the service. On June 21st the annual pie throwing contest was held, participants receiving a pie in the face included NW District Vice President Rick Lemke, District Deputy Kevin Clemons and other Lodge Officers. The contest raised $600 for the National Foundation. Dinner prepared by Exalted Ruler Sid Potter and volunteers was served following the event.

Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787

In August of 2011 the Holley Navarre Lodge began a long term “Food for the Hungry” program in conjunction with the “Billory Bread of Life – Food Shelf”. In just two years the program has provided thousands of pounds of food along with equipment, supplies as well as thousands in cash donations to help support the hungry in the local area. This food shelf, through the Billory Baptist church location, distributes food to between forty and sixty local families every three weeks.

The Billy Corbitt Memorial Fish Fry Fundraiser was held on Saturday, April 20th providing both eat-in and carry-out catfish with all the trimmings. Over 70 pounds of catfish were sold and $800 was raised for the Memorial Fund.

ER John Leatherwood and fellow quartet members from Saint Simon’s Church were invited to sing the National Anthem during the opening ceremony of the Twin Cities Veterans Council Memorial Day Ceremony. The Lodge has been an associate member of the Twin Cities Veterans Council since its inception.

The Lodge paid tribute to our outstanding Community Service Personnel of Niceville, Valparaiso and Okaloosa County.

Pictured left to right are Lyle Cater, Lecturing Knight, Mary Nelson, Manager the “Billory Bread of Life - Food Shelf,” Tom Stevens, Exalted Ruler, and Sherry Neabors assistant manager of the “Billory Bread of Life - Food Shelf.”

Holley-Navarre Lodge hosted Flag Day services with Pensacola Beach Lodge 497 on June 15th, Flags were presented by members from each Lodge. Refreshments were served following the service.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

On April 26th Pensacola Beach Lodge sponsored the Gulf Breeze Relay for Life Survivors dinner with funds received from the National Foundation Gratitude Grant. Lodge members prepared and served dinner to 126 survivors and their caretakers. Each survivor received an American Cancer Society medal and survivor t-shirt. Donations were solicited from local businesses within the community and each survivor also received an Elk bag which included an American Flag and various items. The Elks team placed first in fundraising for The Relay for Life Event raising $15,175 for the American Cancer Society.

A Mother’s Day Brunch was served and all Mothers received a free brunch. A Mother’s Day service conducted by Lodge Officers followed.

The Lodge hosted 33 young Marines on May 21st for a fish fry following their annual fishing trip arranged by Jim Knell. Lodge member Jeff Goudey prepared sides for the event and assisted other volunteers in cooking, serving and preparing for the event.

Warrington Lodge 2108

On April 4th onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola at the NAS Youth Center, Americanism Committee Chairperson, Chris Woods presented two Americanism Essay Contest winners with checks and certificates for their accomplishments. Fatima Sheriff was awarded $100.00 for 1st place and Jardan Thompson was awarded $75.00 for 2nd place. In addition 62 children at the Youth Center were presented with small United States Flags and a 4x6 Flag was donated to the Center. Assisting Chris were PDDGER Gene Wood, Carol McCrory and Ricky McCrory.

Flag Day Services were held on June 15th with Capt Keith Hoskins, Commanding Officer at Naval Air Station Pensacola serving as guest speaker. The ceremony was open to the public with a reception following the service.

Twin Cities Lodge 2747

ENF Scholarship Chairperson Belinda Leatherwood announced to the Lodge that Kyle Salebey, Niceville High School, sponsored by the Twin Cities Lodge was selected to receive a $4,000 scholarship from the Elks National Foundation Scholarship program. Kyle has also been awarded several other scholarships.

Letter of Appreciation
From Frank Hayes

May 29, 2013

Dear Elk Family,

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to you all for the hundreds of cards I received, the phone calls received and especially the many prayers extended to Linda and myself during my recent illness.

My recovery has been outstanding, due mostly to the love and kindness received from my Elk family. Linda and I are so grateful and fortunate to be a part of such a family, both near and far.

It was wonderful seeing everyone again at the May Convention in Orlando. As Linda and I are getting ready for our trip to Reno, we look forward to seeing everyone again very soon.

Fraternally and God Bless,
Frank D. Hayes, PSP
District Leader, NW
In The District / State

The Lodges of the East Central District would like to thank both PDDGER Joe Rogers, PDDGER Phil Watercutter and their team for putting together the Florida State Softball Tournament these many years; this event has raised over $140,000 for the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Deland Lodge 1463

Every third Tuesday of the month, Chip Haverty, PER and a group of members visit the Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home in Daytona.

A splash day carnival is hosted by the Lodge during the summer; proceeds from the event are being donated to the 4H club.

Cub Scout Pack 531 and Boy Scout Troop 610 both assisted in the annual Flag Day / picnic festivities; approximately 36 members and guests attended.

Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557

Lodge Scholarship Chairman Marcie Skates and her committee, selected four deserving students for Student of the Year. PDDGER Patricia Heller-Jackson and Lodge Advisor, introduced each student. The students were chosen from a primary, intermediate, middle school and high school division.

Three $100 gift certificates from Barnes & Noble were presented to Raven Lampert first grader from Indian river Elementary School, Jesse McCoy 4th grader from Chisholm Elementary, and Hope Milligan 7th grader from New Smyrna Beach Middle School. Beverly DeMarco, a senior from New Smyrna Beach High School, was awarded a $1,500 college scholarship.

She has dedicated herself to helping children and her peers. While working on several community projects, Beverly continued to maintain a 4.2 GPA taking seven advance placement classes, and being dually enrolled at Daytona State College, for two years. The awards were made possible by the Lodge raising $1,800 for these students.

The Lodge continues to support the Seeing Eye program for the training of seeing eye dogs for the visually impaired. Thanks to the special efforts of PER Dean Yeager, the Lodge was able to collect and turn in 350 pounds of can tabs, of which, they received $192.

The Lodge holds the Army of Hope Picnic at the Brevard Veteran’s Memorial Center in Merritt Island; it was well attended by district dignitaries, members, guests and other Lodges. The event has raised approximately $6,300, donations are still coming in.

The Lodge was proud to announce, for the second year in a row, Mason Yaskovic won first place in the State Americanism Essay Contest Division I, 5th & 6th grade. Mason and his family attended the State Convention where he read his essay.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

Lodge Scholarship Chairman, Erika Barger announced that Eloi Le Roux, son of Michel and Thanda Le Roux, of Ormond Beach, and the lodge’s first place Most Valuable Student applicant, was named the top male finalist in the state of Florida. He placed 4th, nationally, for the Elks National Foundation’s Most Valuable Student Scholarship out of a total of 500 winners from throughout the country. As a 4th place recipient, Eloi will receive $4,000 per year, or a total of $16,000, during his 4 years at Harvard University. Erika recently visited Tallahassee Lodge #937, to present Ryan C. Moore with the first of three 2012-2013 lodge scholarships. Ryan was visiting Tallahassee for the purpose of giving consideration to Florida State University as a potential college in the fall.

Exalted Ruler Jackie Curtis recently attended a Seahorse Sunset Awards Ceremony where she presented two $1,500 scholarships to (left) Kyleigh Rojas and (right) Jessica Marx, for the academic school year 2012-2013. Kyleigh Rojas is the grand daughter of lodge member, Dan Huck. Both students reside in Ormond Beach.

The Lodge is very proud of Erika, J. Barger, daughter of PER Jack Barger, Lodge Scholarship and Government Relations Chairman and her accomplishments. She will be receiving her Juris Doctor degree from the Florida State University College of Law. She was a Lodge and ENF Legacy scholarship recipient in 2006; majoring in government and history, she received a Bachelors of Arts degree from Georgetown University in 2010. During her law school career, she interned in the Public Defender’s Office in Flagler Beach, and was an Air Force JAG, at Lewis McChord Joint Base, in the state of Washington. Erika was honored to intern for the Florida Supreme Court and Justice Charles Canady. Following graduation, she plans to proctor and participate in an intense Bar review course to prepare for a July, Florida Bar exam.

Dalton Connors

Of Boy Scout Troop 270, grandson of Lodge member Jim Connors, was awarded the rank of Elder Scout at a Court of Honor ceremony held at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

PER Charlie Cohen and Frank Quinn presented Dalton with a scholarship from the Lodge. Approximately 100 friends and family members attended a reception after the ceremony. Dalton received many awards, well wishes and accolades from members in the community; he was presented with a U.S. flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol in his honor. The Lodge is proud of Dalton who is the sixteenth recipient to receive this honor.

Scoutmaster Mr. Iverson, Boy Scout of Troop 270 and the Color Guard of Cadets from Dalton’s JROTC at Matanzas High did a great job with the program, presenting and retiring the colors.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

The Lodge supports the Spruce Creek High School Band with performance fundraisers at the lodge. The band was home from a 10 day musical tour of Ireland where they competed and earned the title of, “Best Over All Band,” during a St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland. The band competed with other college bands from around the world. Members of the lodge were extremely proud of them.

The Florida Elks Hope Scholarship in the amount of $2,000 was awarded to student Briana Alvroid from Atlantic High School.

There were two ENF Foundation Most Valuable Students scholarships awarded to students from Spruce High School; Ms. Van Truong received a $16,000 scholarship for 4 years, and Bradley Kober received a $4,000 scholarship for 4 years.

Recently, the Lodge recognized six local 5-8 EC District Continued Page 23
“Hats Off” to the team from Cape Coral Lodge 2596 who once again planned, shopped, cooked, transported, and generally organized an awesome SSW District Hospitality Room for all Elks and guests to enjoy at the State Convention in Coronado Springs. This is a huge undertaking and was very much appreciated.

Englewood Lodge 2378

Englewood Lodge recently concluded the second annual “Give a Child A Book” program. All third grade students at Englewood Elementary School and fourth grade students at Myakka River Elementary School received a book of their choice from the Scholastic Book Catalog. Teachers were given a label for each student to place inside the cover of their book. The label had a place for the child to write his name and also stated that the book was a gift from the Englewood Elks.

In March, Exalted Ruler Ralph Murray and Veterans Committee Chairman Len Kangas along with members of the Veterans Committee hosted a luncheon for Veterans residing at Emeritus at River Oaks and Englewood Rehab Center. A pin stating “Elks Say Thank You” and denoting each branch of the service was presented to each of the twenty Veterans attending the luncheon.

Members used part of a Promise Grant to hold a “Kids Day” at the Lodge. Activities included a bounce house, games and pony rides. Children and parents were treated to lunch. Every child was given a raffle ticket and one lucky boy and girl each won a bicycle. All activities and food were free and entertained children while they waited for camp physicals administered free of charge by local physician, Dr. Avelino Millares. “Elroy the Elk” also made an appearance at “Kids Day”.

Englewood Lodge honored Students of Month/Year and scholarship winners from Lemon Bay High School at luncheon held at Lodge

Englewood Lodge 2378 presented $8,000 scholarships to Katlin Corbitt, Shannon Casey, and Kaityn Conrad who are all recent graduates of Lemon Bay High School. These three girls along with the senior class Students of the Month (boy and girl) and Students of the Year, Andrea Vorlicek and Kade Cicchella, were honored at a luncheon held at the Lodge. Each student of the Month was given $100. The Students of the Year were given an additional $300 each.

In honor of Mothers Day, Past Exalted Rulers and their wives along with ER Roger Greig and his wife, Rita visited Englewood Hospital and area nursing homes and presented each mother with a small bouquet of silk flowers. Ladies in the Lodge and several members of Does Drive 203 prepared the silk bouquets, attached a card and placed them in baskets ready for delivery. Over 300 flowers were given to mothers.

Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781

At the State Convention in Orlando, Greater Pine Island Lodge was awarded $500 and a plaque for the lowest lapseation in membership for the year.

The Lodge awarded a $3,000 scholarship to Monica Ditch a recent graduate of Mariner High School who will be attending the University of Florida.

Port Charlotte Elks 3291

Port Charlotte Elks recently concluded the second annual “Kids Day” at the Lodge. Activities included a bounce house, games and pony rides. Children and parents were treated to lunch. Every child was given a raffle ticket and one lucky boy and girl each won a bicycle. All activities and food were free and entertained children while they waited for camp physicals administered free of charge by local physician, Dr. Avelino Millares. “Elroy the Elk” also made an appearance at “Kids Day”.

Great Northern Elks 2222

Great Northern Elks 2222 sponsored a Boy Scout Troop at Deep Creek Elementary School.

Port Charlotte Lodge hosted an “End of School Year” Party for the Boys & Girls Club and all attending had a fantastic time.

Briana Chole, a graduating senior from Port Charlotte High School was presented with a $4,000 scholarship from the Lodge. The scholarship is $1,000 per year for four years.

A very successful fundraiser was held for the Destiny Diaper Bank in Fort Myers. This organization provides adult diapers and clothing to seniors in need of incontinent supplies. The fundraiser was able to gather hundreds of adult diapers and seven bags of clothing. Thanks to the Stark family for handling this fundraiser.

SSW District Vice President Debbi Hargrove, a member of Port Charlotte Lodge, presented a check for $250 to the Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Nursing Home to help with transportation expense so Veterans can attend Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. on June 8th.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

Thelma Wright-Smith, PER, and Florida State Drug Awareness Chairman presented the President’s Volunteer Service Award to Lodge member John Roberts for volunteering over 4,000 hours in the community. John received a beautiful pin and certificate signed by the President of the United States.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742 awarded three scholarships to local high school graduating seniors that are related to members of the Lodge. Kathryn Klines and Veronica Peterson were each awarded a $600 scholarship and Emily Campbell was awarded a $300 scholarship to the Ladies of the Elks.

A local Boy Scout Troop participated in the Lodge Flag Day Ceremony.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

The Veterans Committee has been very busy this past year serving a total of 2,970 meals for homeless veterans. Meals are served every Tuesday at the Lodge. Members have also donated over $16,000 during the past year in food, toiletries, personal items, and comfort items including bikes, backpacks, blankets, and clothing.

Rotonda Lodge 2710

Boy Scout Troop 198, sponsored by Rotonda Lodge, participated in the Lodge Flag Day Ceremony. The troop also held a Court of Honor Ceremony at the Lodge recognizing the advancements of boys in the Troop and special honors of achievement for the adult leaders.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288

Fort Myers Lodge 1288 collected manufacturers coupons with a total value of $15,671.40 from April 2012 through March 2013. These coupons were sent to the US Military for families serving in bases throughout the USA and overseas.

A Flag Day celebration was created on Saturday June 15th with assistance from Vietnam veterans and also a Girl Scout Troop. A $300 donation was presented to the Girl Scouts.

A dinner dance, with entertainment provided by “The Calendar Girls,” was held at the Lodge to honor Veterans. A donation of $100 was presented to the Vietnam Brotherhood Organization.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763

Exalted Ruler Len Wenzel and State Drug Awareness Chairperson Thelma Wright-Smith presented the Enrique Camerena Award to the FSEA winner, Catherine Stewart at the recent State Convention. Ms. Stewart’s name was submitted by Deep Creek Lodge 2763 because of all her work with the youth of Charlotte County.

Deep Creek Elks presented gift certificates to the top three winners of the Drug Awareness Poster Contest at Deep Creek Elementary School.

In May, Deep Creek Lodge presented $5,000 in scholarships to deserving students from Charlotte High: Britnee Svelik, Erik Colleen and Cameron Burpee and Port Charlotte High School, Joanna Riter, Courtney Rickers and Desiree Stites.

Deep Creek Lodge used an ENF Gratitude Grant and presented a $200 check to Charlotte County Sheriff’s Deputy Sergeant Catherine Stewart in support of the Junior Law Enforcement Academy. The Academy offers a three-week course for children ages 12-15 that show an interest in any aspect of law enforcement.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

At the Lodge Scholarship Awards dinner a total of $21,400 in scholarships was presented to graduating seniors from Charlotte High School. There were five scholarship awards from the Elkettes, one $1,500 award from the PER Association and thirteen awards from the Lodge.

A “fun day” was held at the Lodge for the 4th grade class from Sallie Jones Elementary School. The event consisted of food, games and also awards were given to the winners of the Drug Awareness Poster Contest.

The PER Association donated $5,000 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, and the annual Golf Tournament raised $5,706 for the Children’s Therapy Services.

Officers, Elkettes and members of Punta Gorda Lodge 2606 held a very impressive Flag Day Ceremony at the Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Nursing Home, which received front-page coverage of local newspaper.
Delray Beach Elks Lodge 1770

Another special award went to Brother Joe Civitano to recognize his patriotic and fraternal accomplishments. Joe recently received France’s Legion of Honor Medal. And he was appointed a “Chevalier” (Knight) of the Legion of Honor. This award is a sign of France’s infinite gratitude and appreciation of Joe’s precious contribution to the United States and his decisive role in the liberation of France in World War II.

Our Elkettes have done so much fundraising this year for the Elks. Their dedication and success has been proven by the following donations: $750 to Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, $750 to Florida Elks Youth Camp, and $3000 to Delray Elks!! Great work and thank you Elkettes!!

The Delray Elks hosted the SSE District Big Band Benefit Dinner Dance on April 26th. Over 180 Elks from the South Southeast danced the night away to music of the Broward Musician’s Association “BMA Ambassadors”, a 17 piece Big Band which was graciously provided by the Oakland Park Lodge. It was a fun event and a huge success with over $3,500 raised for the SSE District.

Eighty Delray Elks, spouses, fans and friends traveled to Deland to participate in the 20th Annual Florida Elks State Softball Championship Tournament. Their efforts resulted in being presented with the coveted “Camaraderie Award”!!

Coach Tom Breeds’ team won the Over-50 B Division title. The impressive trophy is on display in the Lodge after making a journey much like hockey’s famed Stanley Cup.

Another Delray winner, PER George Fitzgerald was elected into the Florida Elks Softball Hall of Fame. “Fitz” joins other local Members Pete Cattabriga, Tom Acheson, Chuck Rooney, Spike Goddard, Carol Carpenter and John Carpenter who were previously honored. Congrats to “Fitz”

However, the biggest winner was the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla. Each year net profits are designated for that fine State Project.

Punta Gorda annual Kids Fishing Tournament, open to children age fourteen and younger, was held on June 15th. Fishing from the pier was from 9 to 11 a.m. with prizes and lunch served from 11 until noon.

Bonita Springs-Estero Lodge 2753

Bonita/Estero Elks hosted a Memorial Day Service with 150 Elks and guests in attendance. The Cascade Chorus of Estero sang and played a medley of patriotic music. Boy Scouts from Troop 30 raised the flag and after the “Star Spangled Banner” the Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pete Thompson, Veterans Service Committee Chairperson told the history of Memorial Day. Boy Scouts “retired” a Flag with a ceremonial burning and Taps. Members and guests were invited inside for a presentation to Veterans and a light lunch. Dee Farmer told a touching story of one fallen Hero.

Recently, Bonita Springs - Estero Elks Lodge 2753 donated $500 for the National Honor Flight to send a World War II Veteran to the Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Cape Coral Lodge 2596

Over 160 people attended the Flag Day Ceremony at Cape Coral Lodge. Participants included the Ladies of the Elks, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, a representative from State Senator Rubio’s office, the Mayor, Lieutenants from the Sheriff and Cape Coral Police Departments, a representative from the Cape Coral Veterans Home, the Boy Scouts and a reporter and camera crew from Wink-TV. Both the early and late broadcasts of Wink TV news included coverage of this ceremony.

Cape Coral Lodge presented a donation of $2,000 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund at the State Convention.

The Life Skills Class for Special Needs Kids was in need of funding for food during the summer classes and the Lodge provided $250 to cover this expense.
Anglers, Kimberly Furness of Bettendorf, Iowa and Casey Jeffries from Key Largo Florida would weigh three fish totaling 74.1 pounds. First place tournamen
is sponsored by Riva Motorsports were awarded to the ladies along with a cooler full of valuable prizes and a check for $3,000.00.

The event started on Friday with a fun day that included a casting contest, bait and tackle rigging, safety seminars and a bounce house for the kids.

Friday evening the anglers and their crews were treated to a boat full of shrimp, from Shrimp Improvement Systems, along with heavy hors d’oeuvres that were fantastic. Although fishing was a little slow, everyone enjoyed the awards banquet with the beautiful view of the sunset out the new big bay windows. This event was the result of a lot of hard work from a great team of people who all came together and put on a tremendous show to benefit our charities. The net profit from the event was $15,000. The evening concluded with a silent auction, which was once again filled with items from our great community. The Lodge is looking forward to even a bigger and better event next year.

The Florida State Elks Association President Brian Burns with First Lady Mary Kay and 30 other dignitaries visited the Florida Keys Elks Lodge 1872 on Friday, June 14th, for Flag Day. A Flag Day ceremony was conducted with the American Legion Posts 145, 333, and Boy Scout Troop 916.

President Burns awarded Bradley Schwartz, of Miami Lodge 948 as the Outstanding Elk for the South District for 2013-2014 for his work with the Green Knights Motorcycle Club out of Southcom in distributing donated furniture to veterans in need. A fresh Mahi Fish Fry plus Karaoke followed the ceremony.

Vice President Danny Tabor, wife Rachel, First Lady Mary Kay and President Brian Burns enjoying the sunset at the Florida Keys Lodge.

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins
Awarded April 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013

Gold Pins for Paid-in-Full $1,000 Certificate
Linda Bailey Lake Wales Lodge 1974
Michael Bartz Sanford Lodge 1241
Joseph Richter Bradenton Lodge 1511
Phil & Debbie Sommers Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate
David R. Crowder Warrington Lodge 2108
Derek Evans Ocala Lodge 286
Pat Fennell Tampa Lodge 708
Lynn Fuller Deep Creek Lodge 2763
Geraldine E. Mann Brandon Lodge 2383
G. Edward Stewart, II Ocala Lodge 286
William Whalen Inverness Lodge 2522
Dunedin/Clearwater 1525
On May 19th, sixteen Lodge members cooked and served a BBQ for 120 residents and family members and 40 nurses and staff at Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home in Land O’ Lakes. Everyone enjoyed the live music which was provided by one of the lodge members. The donation to Baldomero Lopez totaled $1,647 which also included American flag pins and more than 100 pairs of socks.

The Lodge recognized and presented awards to Paramedics/EMTs, Firefighters, Sheriffs and Police Officers of the Year from the Dunedin and Clearwater area. The Lodge also presented each of the four outstanding High School students with $1,000 scholarships and honored local NJROTC cadets from Dunedin and Clearwater.

New Port Richey 2284
Members of the Lodge attended the Navy JROTC awards on May 15.

Dunedin/Clearwater 1525

Pinellas Park Lodge 2217
During the Lodge’s Annual Law & Order Night, four plaques were presented. The Honorees of the Year were: Paramedic, Thomas Mayfield; Fireman, Anthony Lorio; Police Officer, Dave Plageman and Citizen of the Year was past Pinellas Park Mayor, Bill Mischler. Congratulations to these outstanding individuals.

The Lodge made a Scholarship donation to St Petersburg College, in the amount of $1,075, to be given to a Pinellas Park High School senior who will be attending the college, in the fall.

The Lodge also presented its Flag Day Service on June 8th and the Posting of the Colors was done by the Lodge members who served in the military. The function was well attended and a steak dinner followed the ceremony.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224
The Lodge participated at the Stand Down for Veterans, on April 6th, at Bay Pines, under the leadership of Harry Miller, the Lodge VAVS Deputy Rep.

Two outstanding St Petersburg High School seniors received scholarships, each in the amount of $1,000 from the Lodge in May, presented by our Scholarship Chairman, Joan Vignoul. Congratulations to Michael Detis who will be attending the U of F and Chloe Belle Kamps who will be attending FSU in the fall.

The Lodge provided 6 dinners and entertainment for 74 men and women of Bay Pines during April, May and June. The Lodge also provided 4 afternoons of swimming and pizzas for the men and women of the Bay Pines Domiciliary.

On Mother’s Day, the Lodge honored mothers and grandmothers with five corsages and all the moms who attended the Lodge’s service received a lunch from the tips, in the amount of $331, donated to the Lodge’s Hospitality Room, at the State Convention, will be presented to our State President Brian Burns, for a Harry -Anna Trust Fund donation, during his visit to the West Central District.

The Lodge Flag Day Ceremony was opened with the Posting of the Colors by the Korean War Veterans Chapter 14, under the direction of Joe Slatton, PER, and the Boy Scout Troop #334 participated in the history of the flags along with the meaning in the folding of the flag demonstration.

Lodge member, Charlie Barnes PDD and his crew members from “Dive Care” are trained Scuba Divers, who specialize in working with wounded warriors. The crew worked with Three wounded war veterans on 2 separate occasions. On May 16th, the diving crew put a blind female veteran, Retired Colonel, Kathy Champiou, in scuba gear and gave her a few trips, under water, around the lodge pool. On June 20th, the diving crew got Shawn O’Neill, a paraplegic, out of his wheelchair and into the pool for a real diving experience. There was also Stephen Peterson, an amputee, who really enjoyed himself with his scuba gear, and took advantage of the Lodge’s Olympia. Thank you to Charlie Barnes and the “Dive Care” members and Bill Hardman, founder and president, for giving these wounded veterans a very special day in the pool.

Seminole Lodge 2519
The Lodge honored the local students from the surrounding high schools, with a banquet, for all those students who participated in the Lodge’s Achievement Program.

The Lodge had a Father’s Day Brunch followed by the Flag Day ceremony, on June 16th . It was a very special day for both the dads and the veterans.

Tampa Lodge 708
Tampa Elk Tamra Manley while at State Convention held her Pop It n’ Win for Harry-Anna. Participants each paid $10.00 to pop a balloon, everyone was a winner. Each balloon contained a prize of some sort. The top prize was a IPOD. Tamra raised over $1,200 for Harry-Anna.

Tampa Lodge held a Mother’s Day ceremony where 35 mother’s received a flower and were treated to a fine dinner, fit for a Queen.

The Lodge held a Flag Day combined with Father’s Day ceremony. Boy Scout Troop 219 along with Girl Scout Troop 249 in Tampa presented the colors to open the service then proceeded with the Elk’s historical flag ritual; over 65 attended this fabulous event.

Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719
The Lodge held a very successful benefit on Friday, June 23, for the wife and children of one of our young softball players, Chris Krondon, who died suddenly, of a massive heart attack, on the ball field. Chris was 39 and left a wife and two small sons, ages 4 and 6. We raised $1,400.00 for the foundation that was set up for the family. Chris attended the State Elks softball tournament with us and was a well-respected member of our lodge. It was a terrible loss to his family, the Elks and the softball team.
Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Lake Placid Elementary children students grades 5-8th expressed views on their pride in America. Each student had the opportunity to write and express they thoughts on “What Does the National Anthem Mean to Me?” Susan Pfister and her committee awarded 3rd Place to Alana Davis, 2nd Place to Aniya Hills and 1st Place to Kasandra Lorenzo. Kasandra Lorenzo was invited to attend Lake Placid Elks Lodge’s BPOE Installation and Community awards to read her essay to the Lodge members and community officials.

Easter Egg hunt at Lake Wales Lodge
Lake Wales Elk Lodge held its annual Easter egg at the Lodge. Elk BPOE, aka Easter Bunny joined in on the fun helping children of ages 6 months to 80 years old. Lots of family fun and great day by all.

Lake Wales Lodge was the Top Team for the annual Relay for Life. Team Captain Robert Foss and his team raised $2000. Many of us have been touched by cancer but the Lake Wales Lodge made a difference by raising money for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life event to help Florida kids and their birthdays.

Sebring Lodge 1529
Ronna Mason, ER of Sebring Elks Lodge 1529 accepts a Certification Of Appreciation award from members of 3d Battalion 116th Field Artillery at the Deployment ceremony held on 21 February, 2013 in Sebring, FL.

This award was given to the Sebring Elks Lodge for the patriotism, dedication and spirit of support that was critical to the execution of the ceremonies.

Sebring Elks Lodge has been supporting the Sebring Youth Baseball teams for many years. The games are played at Max Long Field and the Elks have been helping since construction of the complex and has a field named for them. Ronna Mason, ER presented Coach Hector Rivera with this year’s sponsorship from the Elks Lodge

Flag Day at the Winter Haven Lodge was not only a memorial day but was a “Day of Honor” with a Medal of Valor Ceremony.

Following their annual Flag Day Ceremony Gil Bridy, ER and his officers and members not only honored the American Flag but reached out to the community to honor families and relatives who lost loves ones in the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars. Following the ceremonies food was served and at 7:30 pm a USO show was put on for members and guests. Jack Collins, SWC District & State Vice Chairman Veterans Service Committee attended and states that Winter Haven Lodge did the SWC District proud and deserves recognition for the efforts.

Arcadia Lodge 1524
Mary Lynne, PER, of Arcadia Elks Lodge, was the speaker of DeSoto County’s Memorial Day Ceremony held at the DeSoto County Courthouse. She is pictured with Lee Gallagher, DeSoto County Veterans Service Officer.

Arcadia Elks held a dinner to raise funds to help the Cub Scouts Pack 39 go to camp this summer.

Flag Day at the Arcadia Elks a ceremony with over 120 people attending followed by dinner. Over 50 youth from the Boy Scouts, Youth Rangerettes, and the ARC Challenged Flag Team attended and were part to the ceremony.

Arcadia’s Cub Scout Pack 30 received help by a fund raising dinner from the Arcadia Elk Lodge to help the boys go to camp this summer.

Southwest Central continued page 14
**Southwest District:**

The “Mighty” 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 welcomed State President Brian Burns and his wife Mary Kay, along with VPAL Danny Tabor and his wife Rachel for the President’s official visit on Friday June 7th and Saturday June 8th. The presidential group received a welcoming reception Friday at the Holiday Inn Express in Bradenton, with dinner at the South Hillsborough Lodge at 6:00PM, leaving after dinner for a visit at the Palmetto Lodge and Karaoke.

Saturday AM, the group left the motel for a Lakewood Ranch/Sarasota Lodge tour and reception and then on to Sarasota South Lodge for a reception and Lunch. After lunch, the group left for the Manasota Lodge and a social visit. Saturday evening dinner was held at the Bradenton Lodge and everyone was encouraged to wear their favorite team’s apparel. The menu was Pulled Pork and Baby Back Ribs with all the fixings followed by karaoke. FSF Bryan’s slogan this year is Elks-Making a Difference with Our Hands, Hearts and Voices.

**Lakewood/Sarasota Lodge 2855:**

Lakewood Ranch/Sarasota Lodge recently presented checks totaling $375 to Braden River Elementary and Braden River Middle School in Lakewood Ranch, FL for drug awareness education in their schools. Both schools were excited that the Lodge chose them to assist in educating our future generation about the dangers of drugs. The schools were presented the use of the Elk Awareness trailer and the Elroy costume for the younger kids should they wish to use it.

**Manasota Lodge 2734:**

Manasota Elks through their Let’s B Safe Program makes a difference in a child’s life. Teaching children how to recognize some of the most common lures used by child sexual predators and how to respond in a safe manner is what Let’s B Safe is all about. The rhymes used help make the subject fun, not scary. Text makes the rules fun to read and easy to remember. Realistic illustrations help visual learners. Certificates of Achievements for each child are provided along with an adorable, plush bumblebee which helps students connect to the text and its important message and a book is given to each child to take home.

**Palmetto Lodge 2449:**

The Palmetto Lodge presented Ms. Angie Wilson, teacher of the Gifted Program from Tillman Elementary School, with a gift card for participating in the Lodge’s essay contest by Mrs. Dorathye Meade, Youth Chairman. Five students from the fifth grade took part in the Elks Americanism essay about “What the National Anthem Means to Me.” This very important patriotic contest gives children in grades 5-8, the opportunity to express views on the pride in America. Children are judged on originality, development of the theme, mechanics and neatness.

**Venice-Nokomis Lodge 1854:**

The Venice-Nokomis Lodge raised $5,000 at an ENF Fund Raising Dinner, hosted by a member of the Lodge. All donors were photographed with Elroy the Elk.

On June 13th, The Lodge presented Irene Henderson of Tidewell Hospice with a check for $1,600 from a Gratitude Grant awarded to the Lodge. The monies will be used for the Veterans’ Honors Program performed by the VFW at the Hospice. The VFW presents each veteran with a pin thanking them for their service to our country and presents the wives with a veterans pin with an angel along with an American flag. With additional monies from the grant, the Lodge will be supplying the family of the veterans visiting with a spaghetti dinner weekly.

**L to R: PER Chuck Stieb, PER Grace Bibisi, ENF Chairman, Kimberly Peatee Recreation Therapist and Veterans from James A. Haley VA Hospital.**

Twelve troubled girls from the Hillsborough County, who are part of the Girlstories Leadership Theatre, which is a part of Powerstories Theatre is using the Lodge each day to practice. 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.

**South Hillsborough Lodge 2672:**

On June 14, the South Hillsborough Elks Lodge received a Recognition Award from the James A Haley Veterans Hospital. The award read as follows: “In recognition for your community service to the active duty service members and Veterans at the James A. Haley VA Hospital”. On every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, Veterans are treated to a dinner, entertainment and given personal items which have been donated by members of the Lodge. In addition, this past year, through a $2,000 grant received from the Elks National Foundation, we provided a $10 gift certificate to each Veteran.

**L to R: Chet Sjuid, ER, Irene Henderson from Tidewell Hospice and Judy Vergason, Lodge Secretary**

The Venice-Nokomis Lodge hosted a small group of veterans to a BBQ lunch served up by Chef Gary and his crew. They hope to make these BBQ lunches a regular event for veterans living in the various Venice-Nokomis area nursing homes. Volunteer project leaders were Merle Tarr, Jerry Jasper and Garrr Forsch.

The Lodge presented a $1,000 scholarship to Frankie Holcomb and a $500 scholarship to Frankie Holcomb.
The SEDAC hosted a Golf Tournament at the Lake Worth Golf Course. It was a great event and the view along the Intracoastal Waterway was outstanding. Patti Phillips, the District Vice President was in charge of organizing the event. Golfers from every lodge in the District participated. There were a total of forty participants. The event was followed by a lunch served at the West Palm Beach Lodge. Prizes and raffles were given out.

Lake Okeechobee Lodge 2871
On Saturday, June 22nd, the Lodge held its first observance of Flag Day. It was held at the VFW South. The officers did an impressive ceremony and afterwards hot dogs were served to all those present.

The Lodge is still actively trying to purchase new jewels for the Officers. They are selling tickets for a chance to win a set of beautiful Elk pendants complete with chains and jewelry box.

The members of the Lodge have a clear picture as to how to grow in the future. It has become a goal to try to find a home or build one. This goal is uppermost in the officers’ thoughts.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352
On April 13th, the Lodge, under the direction of Tim Hadsell, hosted an event for the Special Olympics Organization. It was complete with rides, fun houses, and other events for the children. The adults participated in the fun. There was food, cakewalks, and music. The day was a great success even if it was interrupted in the afternoon by a brief downpour of Florida sunshine. The event raised $3,000.00 for the Special Olympic Program and $3,000.00 for the Elks.

Mother’s Day services were performed by the officers, the mothers were honored at a breakfast in the morning. The traditional flowers were presented to each member in attendance for the ceremony.

The State Convention in Orlando was well represented by members of the Lodge. Lowell Tyler was again elected as the State Historian and Joy Booth was installed as the District Vice President. The Lodge Bulletin, edited by Lowell Tyler, came in second place in Division Three. It is always great to see the recipients of the scholarship, Americanism essay, hoop shoot, and soccer shoot appear before the convention and give a short speech. It makes one proud to be an Elk.

Memorial Day was celebrated at the Lodge on May 27th with a party at the Tiki Hut. Mike Newman did a fantastic job in organizing this event. There was a country western singer who played all day to everyone’s enjoyment. Mike cooked the traditional picnic food of hot dogs and hamburgers on the Tiki Hut’s new grill. People played horseshoes and everyone had a good time.

On June 16th was a combination of Flag Day and Father’s Day. The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Department’s Drill Team presented the colors. The Lodge’s Scout Troop #199 presented the flags as PER Patti Phillips read the history. PDDG/ER Carl Williams read the response. Local veterans from the West Palm Beach VA Hospital were invited guests. A light buffet followed the ceremony. PER Jerry Marenga and PER Phil Macnac acted as hosts for the event.

Clewiston Lodge 1853
The Lodge has been active with the youth of the area by sponsoring four bass angler-fishing tournaments. Over 20 young men and women have been teamed with adult boat captains with bass boats and fishing tackle. The tournaments are modeled after the Bass tournament rules with a few exceptions. Overall, the program has been successful and as more boats and captains are added, more youthful fishermen will be added.

New members are a high priority this year and many things are underway to improve the appearance and enhance the Lodge and Club to be more attractive for old and new members. The kitchen has been completely remodeled and upgraded to a state of the art kitchen. This project was financed by over $20,000.00 from donations and fund raising projects. After the remodeling was complete, another $15,000.00 was raised for all new coolers, freezers, and all appliances.

The Clewiston Elks were well represented at the Clewiston Sugar Festival with the members cutting 200 swamp cabbages along with cleaning, cooking and basting a booth to sell cabbage fritters and bowls of swamp cabbage to the patrons of the festival. This has become a yearly treat for the visitors. So now the Lodge is also known for Swamp Cabbage as well as AJ’s fried chicken.

Jupiter Lodge 2469
On June 13th, the Lodge’s celebrity cooks prepared a traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner to celebrate halfway to St. Patrick’s Day. The dinner was complete with potatoes and carrots, too. The bar also created a special drink for the day called the “Irish Car Bomb.” You downed it in one swallow! The celebrity cooks were Nora and Herb Hersey with the assistance of Dave Monsour.

Flag Day and Father’s Day were celebrated at the Lodge with a Barbecue and other fun activities. During the barbeque, the Flag Day Ritual was preformed with the help of their Boy Scout Troop.

East Central District continued from page 16

grade students for their winning essays on “What does the National Anthem mean to me?”

The winners pictured from the left are Juanita Morales – 8th grader from Creekside Middle School, Alyssa Williams – 5th grader from Horizon Elementary School, Victoria Bowroen – 8th grader from Creekside Middle School, Kristain Lanthripp – 5th grader from Horizon Elementary School, Hailey Zeller – 8th grader from Creekside Elementary School, and Alisa M. Crane – 5th grader from South Daytona Elementary.

Titusville Lodge 2113

Left to right: Ms Lorna Kessner, Assistant Principal, and Dr. Pam O’Keel, Principal, Apollo Elementary, Lodge Drug Awareness Chairmnan, Lynn Barnette, Victoria, her parent, and Ann Armstrong, teacher.) Victoria Katelyn Madden, a 6th grader at Apollo Elementary in Titusville won the Drug Awareness Essay competition; she was presented with a $50 check and certificate. Her essay was selected as the winner from the 14 districts in the state.

Lodge Scholarship Chairman Jane Anne Burnette recently presented Rachel Cunio with $1,000 scholar-
New Bates Aquatic Center open for Summer Camp!

BATES AQUATIC CENTER