WELCOME TO FLORIDA

By C. Valentine Bates, PGER

As I write this message, I am reminded of how blessed we are in having such a great Elks Association here in Florida. Every Elks Association in the country is green with envy when they compare their association with ours. And rightfully so: consider that we are second only to California in number of members, we now have 23 mobile therapists on the road providing the best possible care to 350 disabled children free of charge, we have a world-class Florida Elks Youth Camp which accommodates over 2,200 children every summer plus weekly activities year around, and our Trust Fund is valued at nearly 250 million dollars. Who wouldn't want to be a part of, and so very proud of this dynamic association? The Florida State Elks Association is blessed to have so many dedicated, energetic and committed members; we thank all of you for making all of this possible.

We enter the Holiday Season with excitement and anticipation; Excited that we survived another year and full of anticipation as we consider all the things we, as Florida Elks can do to reach even greater success with our programs for our Youth, Veterans, the disabled and disadvantaged. I am proud to tell you that our Hope Scholarship is now at $100,000 in funding, and the Army of Hope has over $70,000 available to assist our Veterans. Remember, our support of the Elks National Foundation directly affects our bottom line giving ability. We received over $500,000.00 from ENF this past year - a sum that is given based directly on the contributions of our generous Florida Elks. Are you on board? I think that rhetorical question is a resounding YES!!

Please plan to attend our February Quarterly and welcome our Grand Exalted Ruler, Tom Brazier and his wife Venita, from California. We need to proudly display our many accomplishments to our National President and show him how we practice Elksdom in here in Florida. We hope to have a special performance by Recreation on Friday afternoon after the ladies’ luncheon. We will also welcome the State Presidents and Special Deputies and their wives from our fellow Associations in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. They are always awed by the enormity of what Florida Elks have accomplished. Come and proudly display your support and enthusiasm, together with your generosity to the greatest Elks Association in the country. If your Lodge has any ENF donations, think about presenting them at this Meeting so that GER Brazier can see and appreciate the generosity of so many Elks in Florida.

Bob, Mike and I, together with our wives, hope you and your families have a happy, safe, and healthy 2013.
By the time you read this, we will have begun a new calendar year. Barbara and I hope each of you had a wondrous holiday season. We wish all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Since the last edition of the Florida Elks News, Barbara and I, along with VPAL Brian Burns and Mary Kay and members of the Membership Engagement Team, have been very busy.

In the last weekend of September, Barbara and I had the pleasure of attending the Florida Ladies of Elks Convention in Melbourne. I want to congratulate Betty Groff on the completion of a successful year as President and wish Carol Phillips good luck as she takes over as the new President A. Phillips Elks. We are so appreciative of the support given from all of our Ladies.

October 12 and 13th we were welcomed to the “Great” Northwest District hosted by District Vice President Kevin Clemons and Jamie. We visited the Destin Lodge #2688, the Crestview Lodge #2624, and the Pensacola Lodge #2497. On Saturday while the ladies shopped, the men went to a turkey shoot in Crestview. It’s good thing my Thanksgiving meal did not depend on me bringing home a turkey from this shoot. It was only through the unrequested, but very much appreciated, help from my friend Frank Hayes, PSp, that I even had holes in a target. We inadvertently shot at a complete member of the membership.

On the following weekend we were at the East Central District where we visited the Ormond Beach Lodge #2193 and the Palm Coast Lodge #2709. District Vice President Larry Henley and Jamie. We visited the Pensacola Lodge #2497. It was so rewarding to witness the hard work of this district as they served the Veterans and the unfortunate. We are very appreciative. Friday evening after speeches, we wished them Happy Holidays from the Florida Elks and presented them with gifts from the Florida Elks, Florida Ladies of Elks, and VPAL Brian Burns and Mary Kay. Congratulations to both couples.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert, PDD

Are We Trying to Do Too Much?

These younger people today! It's all about them and what's in it for them! Volunteer? Yeah right, they are too busy watching the television, playing video games, Facebooking, and sending text messages! They want it all but are not willing to work for it! Traditions... out the door!

Meetings... dull and boring... forget about them! They want it now or not at all! It's their way or the highway! No wonder we can't get good members/Elks anymore!

Ever heard this? Ever think it?

Actually, if this is all it will take to get new members then it should not be all that hard! It could go like this:

Traditions out the door – let's relax our dress codes and shorten the opening and closing rituals for our meetings. Let's do away with memorization of the ritual, just read it well, and even possibly use scrolls to read from, and we can allow the use of “degree” items to perform initiation and let the officers off the hook.

Oh, you say we are already doing that?

Then let's get Wi-Fi in our Lodges and install multiple big screen televisions. We'll show the local sports bars a thing or two! Let them hang out at the Lodge and watch the game, play their video games, Facebook, and surf the web!

Already doing that one too you say?

Volunteer opportunities! Now we have tons of them! Why, any given night in most any Lodge one can volunteer to sell 50/50 tickets, cook and serve meals, empty the trash, be door greeters, clean, repair and maintain equipment, etc. In our Lodges volunteer opportunities abound!

So... If we have taken all these steps to address the reasons people tell us they don’t want to become members, why then is our membership continuing to decline in record numbers and why then are new members not beating a path to our doors?

I believe it all boils down to what we have to offer our members in the way of volunteer opportunities! I believe the answer is so easy and doable that with just a little adjustment we can overcome our membership declines, and I believe that our organization, the Elks, is probably better positioned to pull this kind of thing off better than just about any other fraternal or civic organization in the country!

I believe that younger people today, and when I say younger I am talking mid-thirties to mid-fifties, are more community minded, charitable, and volunteer centric than ever before. I believe this because I believe this age group has more time on its hands than ever before because of all of the technological advances that have enhanced and made our lives so much easier and efficient. Now that technology has made our lives instantaneous and efficient (think GPS, cell phones, internet) we demand this kind of response in everything we do in life and that includes the way we use our free time! We want to get where we are going using the shortest most time efficient route. When we exercise or work out we want to get the most benefit from the least amount of time and effort. We want quick-service restaurants, conference calls instead of face-to-face meetings, and we want to pay our bills online instead of with checks and postage!

So too, I believe, is their commitment to volunteerism and charitable work. The younger people today want to know that their time will be used efficiently, that their commitment will give them the best bang for their buck, and that their time and efforts will be rewarding to themselves and make a difference!

Now let's go back and look at the volunteer opportunities we appear to offer our members and new members. One way to do this is to take most any Lodge bulletin board or flier from the past year or two and consider it a prospective member. From this you will see we have ample opportunities to volunteer! Lodges are always looking for volunteer cooks and servers for the lounge and dining room. Want to sell or buy raffle tickets? I know of lots of Lodges where you can volunteer your time and money! We are always looking for members to serve on committees, to attend meetings, and volunteer to call bingo or work the door!

Are these quality volunteer opportunities? Is this really what people want to do with their time? Could it be we are trying to be too many things to too many people?

Perhaps we should step back just a moment and look at what we are offering up to the prospective new member. Perhaps we need to rethink the business we are in and the types of opportunities we want to provide in the member experience. Perhaps we need to start listening to what they are telling us through their action, that being their action of not joining us!

I believe we must start today migrating away from a bar/restaurant business model. I believe it is time for us to continue to think we can compete with the sports bars and restaurants on every corner. Our Lodge buildings serve us well when it comes to bringing members together for the occasional potluck dinner and for Lodge activities and charity fundraising. Used on an occasional basis volunteers would be happy to help lend a hand. It’s when we rely on these same volunteers to work week-in and week-out that we shift the focus from being a volunteer to that of being unpaid help! This is not sustainable!

Our goal should be to develop volunteer opportunities for our members centered around service to the community and those in need as opposed to service of thy fellow member! I believe members would join with us if most of what we expected from them was their hands! My suggestion would be ten events scheduled monthly except for November and December where members would give four hours of their time helping to do such things as paint a disabled veteran’s house, building a wheelchair ramp for a needy family, or conducting a community food drive. I would think our goal should be to be for the Elks to be recognized in the community as the place you go to for volunteers. Look already at where the local elections supervisor goes when they need polling locations and poll workers! Our co-state sponsor Robert Grafton is urging our Lodges to go into their communities and adopt a project and run it and help fund it, a project that would be known as the Elks project in the community.

Secretary continued on Page 9
Trying to Improve the Human Condition within Elkdom

By Bruce F. Nathan, PT

Friday late morning a call came in from the home office. It is Alice Smith, Administrative ass to Ben Brown Administrator of Florida Elks Children’s therapy Services. She stated that a phone call came to her from a desperate mother regarding her child who recently underwent surgery for tendon lengthening, as her child has Cerebral Palsy, and there is NO Physical Therapist to treat her son.

The mother mentioned my name since I had seen her child in the past and wondered if I was available to return to the home for more PT. Alice noting the urgency in the mom’s voice called me immediately.

At first I did not remember the patient but then after a small description it all came back to me. The memory was of two small children living in such filth it was deplorable, but I stayed in the home with a weekly visit for some months to try to work with the parents and the child as the Cerebral Palsy was keeping him from functioning in the capacity of a 7 year old boy, as he wanted to keep up with his 5 year old brother.

A true anarchy in the home as the children stayed up late with the parents, 1 or 2 AM or later as I was told, and no one getting up from bed until noon or 1 PM. Food and toys all over the home, no sheets on mattresses as they were on the floor. There was also feces on the wall and floor of the bathroom. Hygiene clearly never taught in that home. The child was discharged noting maximum rehab potential and they were moving to an unknown area.

Alice gave me the number of the mother and was called to set up an appointment. She went on to tell me that there has been trouble with DCF and truancy. Sooner or later something had to catch up with the sleeping in.

Also, there appears to have been a PT on the case who will not return her phone calls.

The day arrived to go see the child in need.

The outside of the home was found to be blistered with trash of all kinds, and two cats fighting over some spoiled deli ham. As the door opened it was the same home in a different location. Imagine a tornado, indoors only.

The paperwork was filled out without me sitting anywhere and then the child was evaluated. He does truly need the help as his overall function has deteriorated, and I will provide it to him. We do what we need to do at FECTS, no matter what the Human Condition is, to make a child better off than when we started.

This is not even the end of the story as my territory can bring a new story to the Elks News Quarterly and wait until you hear it!

The Florida State Elks Association is pleased to present the 33rd Annual Florida Elks State Golf Tournament to be held on Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7th 2013 at Spring Lake Golf Resort in Sebring. Hosted by SWC District.

The tournament is open to all Elks and their guests. Ladies are also encouraged to participate. The tournament format will be a four person scramble. (Single entries will be paired). Teams will be flighted after completion of Saturday’s round. Awards will be presented as follows: • 1st & 2nd place in flights A thru E

The first 240 entries received prior to March 16th will be accepted and processed in the order received.

Late entries will be accepted if openings are available. NOTE: Saturday evening event dinner to be held at Spring Lake Resort. Raffle prizes will be posted and claimed. Food Buffett and Entertainment with NO Program.

A Presidential Memorial Certificate was presented to Honor Major Hershel H. Rohn, Jr., killed in the Vietnam War. Wanda and Scott Rohn, Terri Hood, Lenny Smallacombe, FSEA PMC Coordinator; Reese, and Camber and Amanda Adams.

At the Fort Pierce Elks Memorial Service, Lenny Smallacombe, PMC Coordinator, reminded everyone that the FSEA Presidential Memorial Certificate Program is open to every American family that has a deceased member who served in the military and they should apply for a Memorial Certificate. Regardless of when a veteran served or cause of death every family is entitled to receive a Memorial Certificate from a grateful nation. If any deceased member(s) of your family served in the military please go to FSEA web site and look for the PMC site for information on applying. Future generations of your family will appreciate you making time to obtain this family heirloom. Your only cost is a few moments of your time.

The Elks PMC is entirely free to all applicants and loved ones and there is no time restrictions for applications to be sent. As you can attest today being free doesn’t mean that these Presidential Memorial Certificates are not genuinely considered priceless when they are received in memory of their deceased loved one.

At the Fort Pierce Elks Memorial Service FSEA Presidential Memorial Certificate’s were presented to Scott Rohn, John Montepare, Adrian Strickland, Herb Lush and Yvonne Simpson. In addition, the FSEA PMC Program provided Memorial Certificates for out of state family members. Adrian Strickland received PMC’S for three deceased family veterans and in a moving moment told everyone about members of the Strickland family having served a combined total of ninety two (92) years in the U.S. Armed Forces.

God Bless All Our Veterans...Today, Tomorrow and Always

JIM LARSON COMPLETES 24 HOUR RUN FOR HATF

It was a crisp 50 degree New Year’s Eve morning at the Florida Elks Youth Camp as Jim Larsen prepared for his 24 hour run on behalf of the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. At precisely 9:00 AM, Jim began his incredible journey as an enthusiastic crowd cheered him on.
For those who did not attend the mid-year convention you missed an emotional thank you from the Leadingham family. The family was very appreciative of the assistance received from the FSEA Army of Hope when their house burned down this spring. The fire occurred 3 days before Sgt Richard Leadingham deployed to Afghanistan and the family lost everything. The house was not insured. With the help of the AOH and the local community the family has been able to cope with the situation and will soon begin to re-build. It was another example of how your generous support for the AOH makes a difference. Many thanks to our North Central committeeman Mike Mongeluzzo and his wife Joan who brought this family to our attention and assisted with their visit to Ft Myers.

Since the inception of the FSEA Army of Hope in 2007 the AOH has raised $242,784. The committee has distributed to the troops $56,151; funded three (3) AOH camp weeks at a cost of $108,360; and currently has $78,274 available for distribution. The average distribution of the 42 grants to service members or their families during this time was $1,337.

Our sources of funding are your picnics, social events, contributions and our general purpose card program, which after a slow start is now doing very good. In addition, we have begun to solicit funds from corporate donors. It will take a while to begin receiving grants from these funds but our initial contacts have been very encouraging.

Since July 2012 the AOH has received donations of $13,076.00, distributed $3,842.35 in requests and has $78,273.71 available for distribution. Our card fundraising efforts has generated $241,163.52 since July.

Requests continue to come in and I don’t envision them slowing down any time soon. Please continue with your fundraising efforts within your districts so we can fulfill our obligations to the brave men and women who serve in our military. Also please continue to maintain contact with military units and families in your district and remind them we are here to help them when they need it. If you see a news item about a military family in need, contact them and see if we can help.

I would like to share two thank you cards I have received. The first note was from Rachael Dunn, wife of Sgt Brian Dunn, United States Army:

“My name is Rachael Dunn. My husband, Sgt Brian Dunn, spent 2010 deployed overseas. During this deployment, the Army of Hope gave my family the money for a much needed flat roof replacement. I sincerely apologize for taking so long to say thank you. Your gift was such a blessing. We hadn’t had a single problem with the new roof and it has been such a relief. I just wanted to let you know that and to, again, say how much we appreciate the generosity of Army of Hope and the Florida Elks Association. My family is so grateful. Thank you.”

One of our Therapists, Diane Norton, who works in the North Central and Central Districts, contacted us for the family who sent us the second. Diane was working with one of the children in the family of Hospitalman 3/C Jason Stewart, a Navy Corpusman serving with the United States Marine Corps.

“Dear Army of Hope, Many Thanks. Wanted to give my sincerest thanks for your gift and support. This was a very difficult year and with your help it has become a better future for all of us and especially for Miles. May God Bless you. Love The Stewart family.

As I’ve told you before, you do make a difference in many lives and thank you for your continued support.

My appreciation to Nancy Mays, PDD, for her work on the “Stars for Vets” program. If you would like more information about this inexpensive program you can contact Nancy at: Nancy Mays, PDD 3010 Marcos Dr #R8611 Aventura, FL 33180 nancybhm@msm.com

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins
Awarded October 1, 2012 through December 20, 2012

Name on Donor Recognition Board for $5,000 Certificate
Gold Pins for Paid-in-Full $1,000 Certificate
June Rahn Brunner Cape Coral #2596
Phillip Carlotta Brooksville #2582
Lawrence O. Gray Inverness #2522
Phyllis McAllister Fort Pierce #1520
John Markiewicz Orange Park #2605
R. Wm. Wellbaum, Jr. Englewood #2378

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate
Robert L. Andrews Twin Cities #2747
Sheila Bird Mandarin/St. Johns
Mark E. Bonawitz Sunrise #2273
John Dyer Rotonda #2710
David Pierce Warrington #2108
Gary & Charlotte Prim Stuart-Jensen #1870
Helene Sovich Fort Walton #1795
Charles Walker Live Oak #1

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

ENF Impact Grants Offer Elks Communities A Reason to Be Thankful

Elks communities now have even more to be thankful for this November. The Elks National Foundation just awarded more than $400,000 in Impact Grants to 43 Lodges across the country. Each Lodge will receive a grant of up to $10,000 to meet local needs, helping community members who need it most.

From providing post 9/11 veterans with resources to succeed to running programs for people with special needs, Lodges will use these grants to lead projects that serve their communities in a significant way.

Look at Hickory, N.C., Lodge No. 1654. Using an ENF Impact Grant, Hickory Elks will prepare and serve a meal each month at the Lodge for hundreds of people in need. Elks will also distribute supply bags for guests, providing them with clothes, hygiene supplies and more.

“"We look forward to continuing to build our Helping Hands project,” says Carole Anderson, Secretary of the Hickory Lodge. “Our Lodge does great things for our community, and we are proud to be part of a national organization that consistently improves the quality of life in Elks communities.”

Impact Grants are one component of the ENF’s Community Investments Program. Through this program, the ENF awards grants to Lodges to help Elks build stronger communities. This year, the ENF will award $6.5 million in grants to Elks Lodges.

Community Investments Program grants allow Lodges to serve Elks community in ways that will raise the Lodge’s profile, energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be a part of an organization that’s doing big things. When Lodges use ENF resources effectively, it can help attract new members.

For a complete list of 2013 Impact Grant recipients and their projects to learn more about the Community Investments Program, visit www.elks.org/enf/community.

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The Southwest District Elks Lodges consisting of Bradenton 1511, Lakewood Ranch/Sarasota 2865, Manasota 2734, Palmetto 2449, Sarasota South 2495, South Hillsborough 2672 and Venice-Nokomis 1854, entertained Veterans, their families and the staff of the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital to a barbecue lunch. This year, we were joined by State President Sean McGuire and VPAL Brian Burns. The menu of the over 200 lunches was hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and dessert. Entertainment was provided and undershirts, socks, books and magazines were donated to the Veterans by the Lodges.

The staff has said that several of the Veterans never leave their room except when they hear that the Elks are coming. Each year we hear from many of the Veterans on how much they look forward to our coming, not just because of the food, but for the camaraderie and socialization they have with the Elks. Since 1933, Bay Pines VA Healthcare System has been improving the health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation.

From left to right: Forest Kidwell, resident; Johanna Pereira, student; Miguel Hernandez, resident; Sean Peel, ER Manasota Elks; Tina Stancil, Principal Oneco Elementary; Evan Joseradoso, student; Jim Koith, Trustee Manasota Elks; and Fred King, resident.

Palmetto Lodge 2494

The Palmetto Elks Lodge held their 2012 Local Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest on October 3rd at the Boys and Girls Club in Palmetto. Thirty six children young men and women participated in the competition supported by eight volunteers from the Lodge and five volunteers from the Boys and Girls Club.

The results of the contest were: Girls, 8-9 age group: 1st place Allyah Rodgers, Girls 10-11 age group: 1st place Cindy Phan, Girls 12-13 age group: girl, 1st place Kayla Bell, Boys, 8-9 group: 1st place, Jordan Simpson, Boys, 10-11 group, 1st place, Cor- ton Taylor, Boys 12-13 age group: 1st place, Donn Davis.

Sarasota South Lodge 2495

The Sarasota South Lodge presented the Oneco Elementary School with a donation of 18 bicycles. Tina Stancil, Principal expressed her appreciation for the Lodge’s generous donation. Stancil said research shows that student’s attendance has a direct impact on student’s achievement. This year, the school has set a goal of 96% and are currently meeting that goal. They have decided to recognize students on a monthly basis with an educational activity as well as a chance to win one of the bicycles that have been given by the Sarasota South Lodge. It is because of the business relationship between our school and the Elks we are able to fund these type of projects. Jim Lamb, PDD from the Lodge said the Lodge does this because Elks Care – Elks Share.

South Hillsborough Lodge 2672

On October 13th, students from East Bay High School entertained members of the Lodge with a Mystery Dinner Theatre to benefit ENF.

East Bay High School students who performed at the Lodge on October 13.

The South Hillsborough Lodge had over 750 youngsters participate in their annual Hoop Shoot Program this year. The Lodge finals were held at the Ruskin Christian School with over 20 young men and women participating. The contestants were treated to a breakfast treat. Roy Gardner was Chairman.

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Venice – Nokomis 1854

Venice – Nokomis Lodge prepared and delivered food baskets and turkeys for 60 needy families at the Garden Elementary School in Venice. Steve Carruthers, Chairman with assistance of Rose Corcoran, PER, Al Proctor, Dottie Dunham stuffed the boxes. Helping with the distribution of the baskets were Susan Walchok School Counselor, Gabrielle O’Berry and Jill Collins of the All Faith Food Bank. The project was funded through money received from ENF Grants.
The Florida State Elks Association
Championship
Annual Soccer Shoot Contest
Grafton Center, January 5, 2013

Under 14 Girls
1st - Madison Cloud - Kissimmee
2nd - Mailson Lee - Ocala
3rd - Katie Samaroo - Punta Gorda

Under 12 Girls
1st - Erin O’Brien - Sebastian
2nd - Alliya Hahn - Ormond Beach
3rd - Jael Ruiz - Punta Gorda

Under 10 Girls
1st - Daniella Ruiz - Punta Gorda
2nd - Billie Best - Ormond Beach
3rd - Emma Campbell - Kissimmee

Under 8 Girls
1st - Karen Prado - Kissimmee
2nd - Jordan Rompre - Punta Gorda

Under 14 Boys
1st - Dalton Larson - Punta Gorda
2nd - Jacob Mosley - Ocala
3rd - William Ball - Sarasota

Under 12 Boys
1st - Francisco Mikedis - Ocala
2nd - Justin Redish - Sebastian

Under 10 Boys
1st - Joey Gartner - Punta Gorda
2nd - Kevin Prado - Kissimmee
3rd - Joseph Roman - Ocala

Under 8 Boys
1st - Adrian Gonzalez - Orlando (41)
2nd - Terren Civitella - Punta Gorda
3rd - Benjamin Camp - Ocala

The highest scoring contestants were, Daniella Ruiz (39) and Dalton Larson (42). All the winners and their families will be given a one night stay during the Orlando State Convention in May, and given $200.00 in extra expense money.
**SOUTHEAST DISTRICT**

**Reporter, Joy A. Booth, PER**

wpb1352@gmail.com

**Belle Glade/Pahokee Lodge 1716**

On October 26th, the Lodge held a dinner for local veterans. They served 70 dinners with about 30 being veterans. The evening raised $460.00, which was donated to the Army of Hope Picnic.

On the weekend of December 1st, the Lodge held its big drawing. The winner received $5,000.00. However, as I wrote this article, I do not have the name of the winners. Apparently, two local men shared the winnings.

After going through a rough time, the Lodge is getting back on track and making some financial progress through the hard work of its officers and many devoted members.

The Bingo night is seeing a positive increase in the number of players. Many of the “Snowbirds’ are returning to the area and the Lodge is welcoming their return.

**Clewiston Lodge 1853**

The Lodge hosted a huge Halloween Party for the local children. There were over 80 children involved in all the normal Halloween games and trick and treating. Prizes were awarded for different costume categories.

On November 9th, the Lodge sponsored a Kids’ Night. The Lodge invites all the kids in the community to attend and are served a hot dog and hamburger dinner. After the dinner, they play games and this time they all made a Christmas ornament to take home.

The Youth Bass Club will be having their end of the year banquet at the Lodge on Dec. 8th.

**SOUTH DISTRICT**

**Reporter, Glenn Tekerman**

glennzo24@gmail.com

**Miami Lodge 948**

On October 6, Miami Lodge, held its annual Yard Sale. Great bargains or hand on furniture, clothing, toys, antiques, and much more.

On October 27, the Lodge Antlers held a Halloween-Haunted House Dance. The money raised for this event helped to support the Lodges Antlers program.

On November 3, the 58th Annual Charity Ball, was hosted by Leading Knight Delfin Mule. The theme for this year’s event was A Night at the Tropicana.

**Florida Keys Lodge 1872**

On October 31, the Florida Keys Elks Lodge, held a Halloween party and costume contest.

On November 11th, the Lodge held a Flag Retirement at the Lodge. The local Marines and Boy Scout Troop #199 lead the ceremony and retired the flags with honor. After the ceremony, all enjoyed a light buffet.

On December 1, the Lodge held a Sunset at Wynnebrook Elementary School. A special thanks to PER Booth, one of the third grade teachers, was at one time a student of the Lodge. President Maquire’s daughter Stacey, a third grade teacher, was one of the classroom’s visitors. Also, unbeknown to PER Booth, one of the other third grade teachers, was at one time a student of hers in the fourth grade. Several weeks later, PER Joy Booth delivered the dictionaries to the third graders at Wynnebrook Elementary School. A special thanks goes out to PER Bill Hopkins who spent many hours stamping each book with the Elks logo.

On November 3rd, the Lodge held a South Beach Themed party with funds going toward the renovation of the Boy Scout Hut located next to the Lodge.

**South Miami-Coral Gables Lodge 1676**

On November 2nd, the Lodge celebrated those members who have been Elks for thirty or more years, plus those who have been awarded Life Membership.

On October 14th, the Lodge held a veterans’ dinner. After the ceremony, all enjoyed a light buffet.

On the weekend of December 1st, the Lodge held a fundraising Caribou宁静 for birds and other wildlife in an otherwise barren environment. It will benefit the Lodge and is members for years to come.

On November 9th, the Lodge sponsored a Kids’ Night. The Lodge invites all the kids in the community to attend and are served a hot dog and hamburger dinner. After the dinner, they play games and this time they all made a Christmas ornament to take home.

On December 1st, the Lodge held a South Beach themed party with funds going toward the renovation of the Lodges lounge.

On November 30th, the Lodge held a South Beach themed party with funds going toward the renovation of the Lodges lounge.

Of a hook and ladder fire engine, the Elk head was put through a window on the second floor. Also in attendance were PER Robert Ellis and his wife who journeyed from a small town near Umatilla, FL. Also in attendance was a 93 year old who had 61 years membership in Elkom. Valerie White and her music for dancing before the dinner of roast pork entertained the group.

The evening’s entertainment was a Burlesque Show put on by the Cupcakes. The ER George Zocchi acted as the Master of Ceremonies. His committee consisted of himself, Elaine Wherry and Sonya Owens.

State President Sean Maquiere and PER Joy Booth visited Greenacres Elementary School on November 5th and passed out Dictionaries to the third graders at the school. President Maquiere’s daughter Stacey, a third grade teacher, was one of the classroom’s visitors. Also, unbeknown to PER Booth, one of the other third grade teachers, was at one time a student of hers in the fourth grade. Several weeks later, PER Joy Booth delivered the dictionaries to the third graders at Wynnebrook Elementary School. A special thanks goes out to PER Bill Hopkins who spent many hours stamping each book with the Elks logo.

On November 11th, the Lodge held a Flag Retirement at the Lodge. The local Marines and Boy Scout Troop #199 lead the ceremony and retired the flags with honor. After the ceremony, all enjoyed a light buffet.

On December 19th, the Elkettes held their annual Scholarship Dinner.

The Lodge hosted a huge Halloween Party for the local children. There were over 80 children involved in all the normal Halloween games and trick and treating. Prizes were awarded for different costume categories.

On November 3rd, the Lodge held a South Beach themed party with funds going toward the renovation of the Boy Scout Hut located next to the Lodge.

On December 1st, the Lodge held a South Beach themed party with funds going toward the renovation of the Lodges lounge.

**West Palm Beach Lodge 1352**

On November 2nd, the Lodge celebrated those members who have been Elks for thirty or more years, plus those who have been awarded Life Membership.

There were many members present including Mr. Larry Hoffman who came all the way from St. Augustine, FL. Mr. Hoffam was the assistant Fire Chief in 1945 when he helped local Elks lift the Elk Head to the second floor of the old West Palm Beach Lodge. It was too large to fit through the front door, so with the help of an Elks group, the Elk head was put through a window on the second floor. Also in attendance were PER Robert Ellis and his wife who journeyed from a small town near Umatilla, FL. Also in attendance was a 93 year old who had 61 years membership in Elkom. Valerie White and her music for dancing before the dinner of roast pork entertained the group.

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The Youth Bass Club will be having their end of the year banquet at the Lodge on Dec. 8th.

On November 3rd, the Lodge held a South Beach themed party with funds going toward the renovation of the Boy Scout Hut located next to the Lodge.

On December 19th, the Elkettes held their annual Scholarship Dinner.

The Lodge held a Christmas Party on December 8 to donate toys to “Holiday Helpers of the Florida Keys”. Eighty prime rib dinners were served. Members and guests were asked to bring an unwrapped toy for needy children for distribution through The Wesley House Family Services.
Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787
At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, 10 members of Lodge 2787 participated in the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at Navarre Park. The VFW Spectre Post led this year’s event on Sunday, November 11. It was a gorgeous, sunny day, which resulted in a sizeable community crowd.

Several Elks were also in the crowd including Jim Fix, who had arranged for the guest speaker, Army BG Mark Inch, to participate in the ceremony.

Crestview Lodge 2624
Seven Lodge members volunteered 12-hours each participating in the televised Taste of Home Cooking School held at the local Community center with 750 guests in attendance.

The Lodge completed 13 weeks of Turkey Shoot fundraising netting $6,000. State President Sean Maguire and V-PAL Brian Burns visited the Lodge to make sure the event and Carol McCrory served as the master of ceremony, guest speaker was Dennis Viets.

On December 15th at 11:00 am Warrington Lodge held their annual Wreaths Across America ceremony. The committee purchased 20 wreaths that were laid on the graves of our Veterans at Barrancas National Cemetery.

The annual Elks Memorial Service was held on December 2nd, followed by the Ellettes Memorial Service. Light refreshments were served following the ceremonies.

Fl. Walton Lodge 1795
NW District Vice President Kevin Clemons and the Ft. Walton Lodge hosted State President Sean McGuire and his wife Barbara on October 12th and 13th. Sean and Barbara were accompanied by Brian Burns, Vice President at Large and his wife Mary Kay, Jim and Margaret Lamb, Sgt. At Arms, Keith and Linda Epps, Chaplain, Donna and Sam Berkowitz, Chairman of Harry-Anna Trust Fund; and Don and Jane Moon, Director of Membership Development. We welcomed our guest on Friday evening at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, followed by dinner at the Destin Lodge. On Saturday the ladies enjoyed a day of shopping at the Grand Blvd, Sandestin while the men went to Crestview for a Turkey Shoot. Saturday evening was capped off with an excellent dinner at Pensacola Beach Lodge and an opportunity to hear Sean talk about his motto – “The Key to Success – Membership Engagement.” Sean stressed the importance of engaging our members and supporting our State’s major projects – The Children’s Mobile Therapy Services and the Florida State Elks Youth Camp.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497
The annual Veterans Day Parade was held on Sunday, November 11th on Pensacola Beach. Retired Veteran Colonel Christopher E. Holsworth, IV served as Grand Marshall. Lunch was served to Veterans and parade participants following the event.

On Thanksgiving Day the Pensacola Beach Lodge held their best Feed the Troops event ever. Ret. USMC Major Jim Knell (with help of the American Legion and Good Time Tours) brought us 42 young and hungry Marines. They came, ate, drank and seemed to enjoy not only the great food & desserts donated, prepared and served by our members and spouses. But also the chance to sit, eat and talk to our members and guests. They will always remember their first Thanksgiving away from home at the Pensacola Beach Lodge.

Our Children’s Christmas Party was held on December 9th with 49 children attending. The Children were entertained with crafts, cupcake decorating, games and a visit with Santa where they received a stocking and gift. A second Christmas party was held on December 14th at the Bayview Gym for 72 Teen Foster Children living in the Independent Living Centers Group Homes. Our Lodge provided the food, drinks and entertainment for this event.

Message from State Secretary Carl Seibert continued from page 3
Already funding opportunities exist for these endeavors through the Elks National Foundation. All that remains is the leadership and volunteers. The Elks have that! Let’s just grow it!

Skeptics would argue that this idea does little to help our more senior members or those who are deeply imbedded in our current programs and offerings. To this I would argue not at all. In fact, this new idea has more to offer these types of people than does our current plan. Homebound members could be used to work the phones coordinating the volunteers for the project. They can call the owner of the local paint store to seek a donation of paint or supplies for a painting project. The old guys who do all the cooking at the Lodge and who will feel threatened by this activity, nonsense! Someone needs to cook hamburgers for the volunteers and regardless of if it takes place at the worksite or back at the Lodge, their services are needed, and then it would be a shame if after the project was completed everyone had to meet back at the Lodge for a couple of drinks or to watch the afternoon games! Just think, members would be socializing at the Lodge, feeling good about the charitable work they just performed, and not expecting a free drink for volunteering but thinking about the next time they will get together to do something meaningful and worthwhile!

A solution to our membership dilemma is within reach; we just have to think a little differently about the product we have to offer (volunteer opportunities) and less about the things we are doing we cannot do well or profitably! In our case closed doors do not always relate to not making money but to not losing money! Let’s cover the overhead in our Lodges through volume of members paying dues so that when we open the doors it can be less about making the money to pay the bills and more about offering our members a place they can socialize.

Our new and improved website at www.flels.org contains a member forum where our members can share thoughts and ideas on the betterment of our Lodges. Its slogan is “Shared Ideas = Stronger Lodges.” Please join with us as we discuss these types of issues and work through the challenges that face our Lodges every day! Click on the Members Forums button on the right side of our website home page, click the register link, register as a user, and then become an active participant in our efforts to adapt and improve!

My staff and I are privileged to serve our association and its members. We value your opinion and recommendations always. Please don’t hesitate to contact us or better yet, share them with everyone on our member forum!
Kissimmee Lodge 1873

The 2012 Dictionary Project included four schools for Lodge 1873. The Lodge has donated Dictionaries to Central Ave and Reedy Creek Elementary schools for several years and this year Narcoossee and St Cloud Elementary have also been added. It is important to add that the Lodge joined the local Rotary Club in providing every 3rd grader in Osceola County with his/her own Dictionary to keep as their own for not only this school year but for future needs. Who knows, perhaps we have sent a Congressman, Senator or a future Astronaut on his/her way to a great career!

Aripeka Lodge 2520

Howard Taylor, chairman of the Lodges blood program in conjunction with the Florida Blood Services collected 21 pints of blood.

Mike Richberg, chairman of the Lodges Veterans program was instrumental in getting 10 Veterans from Baldero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home to visit the Aripeka Elks Lodge for lunch and Bingo. Chairman Richberg and co chairman, Thomas Carlow delivered a pick-up truck full of necessities to the Nursing Home. Bob Stoner held a cook-out for the Veterans there.

On October 25, Hal Steffies PDDGER chairman hosted the Halloween party for mentally and physically challenged children and adults. This was Hal’s last time for chairing this project for the past 25 years. Steffes wishes to thank all the wonderful volunteers who helped make the event a success. Each child attending received a very nice door prize. ER Velma Ryder presented Sheriff Nocco of Pasco County with a check for $500.00 for the Sheriff’s Youth Camp. Steffes presented $500.00 to Joe Neri, Executive Director of the Angelius Home.

Zephyrhills Lodge 2731

Phil Dahlinger, Chairman of the Dictionary Project and Robert Cherry, Chairman of the Board of Directors, presented dictionaries to 530 3rd grade students between October 30 and November 7. Each 3rd grader at West, Woodland, Chester Taylor and Centennial Elementary Schools received a dictionary purchased by the Lodge. This program was started during the 2009 lodge year and has grown from giving dictionaries to West Elementary students to include the other three schools in the Area.

Orlando Lodge 1079

ER Mike McClay Has appointed Ray Evans as Elk of the Lodge for the Month of December. Ray is a hard worker and is always ready to volunteer around the Lodge. He is on the House Committee and very good at decorating and removing decorations once the party is over to get ready for the next event.

Chaplain Robin Cornell has been cited as Orlando Lodges Officer of the Month. Robin is also active around the Lodge. She is Chairman of the Communities Activities Program and assists in collecting food, money and school items for the five schools that the Lodge supports. She also has time to help with the calling of the public Bingo. Congratulations, Robin.

Ronald Moffitt has been designated as the Orlando Elks Lodge Elk Veteran for the month of December. Ronald served from September 1965 through July 1971. He served in Vietnam and has many Service medals to show for his service. Please thank this Veteran who laid his life on the line for all of us.

West Citrus Lodge 2693

ER Tom Hamburg has chosen Mike Gettings as Elk of the Month for December 2012. Mike is one of many who can be counted on to help out when needed. Apparently he will help out wherever and whenever needed. He is influential in obtaining top entertainment for Lodge events and serves as Chairman of the Entertainment Committee.

Our long-standing pledge, “So long as there are Veterans the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them,” and thus deserves strong budgetary support.

Our Veterans served our country well and allow us to live and worship freely. Therefore, we should continue to do all we can to make their lives more comfortable and productive.

There are many ways to achieve this goal. Your Lodge can bring veterans from local hospitals and nursing homes to the Lodge for a dinner or party, or bring the event to the hospital when possible. Purchase ‘comfort care kits’ or small gifts for hospitalized veterans during the holiday season (or any time). Participate in a VA sponsored ‘Stand Down’ for homeless and at-risk veterans by collecting clothing and other necessities. Work with local military bases and family assistance centers to discover the needs of our troops at home and abroad and their families.

It is very important to take the time to plan your programs and to make sure your budget is sufficient to carry out your programs. If your Lodge does not have a budget large enough to carry out veterans’ related programs, be creative. Turn a Lodge dinner or other event into a fundraiser, or apply for grants from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission and the Elks National Foundation.

Each year, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission awards 100 Freedom Grants’ of $2,000 each to Lodges which create programs designed to assist veterans, the active military, and their families.

The Elks National Foundation offers Beacon Grants of $1,000 each, Gratitude Grants of $2,000 (for Lodges meeting the GER per capita donation goal of $4.50) each, and Impact Grants of up to $10,000.

Your Lodge can also enlist the aid of local businesses by working with the Elks National Foundation to obtain a Lodge Assistance Grant. Lodge Assistance Grants allow Lodges to secure donations from local businesses for specific Lodge charitable projects through restricted monetary donations to the ENF. With this opportunity, the Foundation extends the benefits of our charitable status to both the business and the Lodge. Our Veterans are everywhere today and need our help. They are homeless in our communities, they live in assisted living facilities, and they live in State veterans homes and in VA medical centers. It is important to plan activities and a sufficient budget to support these programs, thus showing our Veterans that “So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them”. 
Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870
In October, the Lodge held its first pancake breakfast of the season.
The month was busy with the annual Oktoberfest and the Halloween bash.

In November, the Lodge honored Fred Hollister with Veteran of the Year. Fred is a WWII Veteran and served our country in the US Navy.
Elk members marched in the Stuart Veteran’s Day Parade, and member Joey Simonelli drove his 93 mustang convertible escorting the Veteran of the Year, Fred Hollister, Fran Whalen, and Elroy the Elk (aka Suzi Simonelli, DVP).
The month wrapped up with the Harvest Ball, which kicks off the holiday season.
In December, the Lodge held the Elks Memorial Day Service and paid tribute to 17 of our departed members.
The Lodge also held the annual holiday dinner dance and Christmas party.
On Sunday, December 16, the Lodge hosted a Christmas party for 90 underprivileged children from the community. The Lodge used their ENF Promise Grant Funds for this event. Each received lunch and a toy from Santa, (aka Elk member Ed Pass).
Congratulations to Elk’s of the Month: October, Joe DePaulo; November, George Brewer; and December, Nan Nicholson.

Vero Beach Lodge 1774
The Lodge recently held a spaghetti dinner, raising money to buy school supplies for the children of the Vero Beach Elementary School. In appreciation, the students created colorful posters thanking the Lodge for the $3,900 donation.

A Pink Pacer Party was held at the Lodge to benefit the American Cancer Society. Pink bras were decorated to wear on Saturday, October 20 for the Breast Cancer Making Strides Walk in Sebastian. A fashion show was held and three top winners were chosen. Over $5,700 was raised to benefit breast cancer.

Shown are Theresa Woodson, American Cancer Society, and Elk members Peggy Bradley, Rosie Woodall, Yolanda Sullivan, Anne Keeny and Kandi Houlihan.

Ft. Pierce Lodge 1520
The Lodge held its Soccer Shoot, and Chairman Gary Coddington kicked off the event. Our winners advanced from District to Regional.
Annual Golf Tournament Chairman, Chris Nelson, had over 70 golfers enjoy a great round of golf, and raised over $2,500 for charity. Also, many muligan’s were purchased by bringing canned goods to be used in the Lodge’s holiday baskets for local needy families.
Hoop Shoot Chairman, Lenny Smallcombe, PDD, joined up with the local PAL organization for a successful event with players and families treated to lunch after shooting baskets.
The December Memorial Service was well attended, and after the service several families received Presidential Memorial Certificates for their deceased military family members presented by FSEA State Program Coordinator Lenny Smallcombe, PDD. Adrian Strickland received three certificates and told a story of how the total years of service for them equalled 92 years.
The Lodge also participated in the Ft. Pierce Christmas Parade with a float, Elk Riders, Elkettes, and kids. Everyone helped Chairman Dave Aiellovi decorate vehicles and hand out Drug Awareness bags along the parade route.

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658
On September 11, 2012, members of the Lodge held their ninth annual First Responders Luncheon. They honored the members of the Port St. Lucie Police Department, the St. Lucie County Fire Department, and the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s office. Various members of the organizations stopped in for a lunch of roast pork and all the trimmings as their schedules allowed. The Lodge had the pleasure of serving 31 lunches and fixed 50 platters to go for those who could not come to the Lodge due to work commitments.

Five members of the St. Lucie County Fire Department had just been served their lunches when they received a call for service. Lodge members packed their lunches to be sent to them at their fire station. The members of the Lodge and their families appreciate the efforts of all first responders, and thank them for their service to the community. May God bless them and keep them safe.

Viera Lodge 2817
September 29 and 30, 2012, the Lodge held their 9th Annual Ride for the Children Charity Dice Run. There were 87 participants in the run itself, and many more attended the dinner/dance. The event started off with a dinner/dance Saturday night and then a Motorcycle/Car Dice Run on Sunday. Sunday started with breakfast hosted by the Lodge. Hamburgers and hot dogs for the riders were served when they returned. The first prize was an Apple Ipad for the best dice roll. There was also a raffle and 50/50’s held to support the event. With the support of many members and sponsors, the event raised over $2,500 for the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

Cocoa Beach Lodge 2387
During the last quarter of 2012, the Lodge accomplished the following: A Veterans Day Ceremonial Meeting and dinner on November 17, with 40 vets from the Cocoa Transition Facility as our guests. The Lodge supported two car washes for Cocoa Beach High School organizations that raised $1,607. The Lodge also donated $2,082 to a local veterans facility, $2,000 to various youth and community groups, $1,000 worth of food to 24 needy families in Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, and handed out 500 drug awareness packages during the annual Cocoa Beach Christmas Parade.

In order to add to the attendees’ enjoyment of our February Quarterly Meeting on Feb. 8 & 9, 2013, the FSEA and FEYC have arranged for a great Bar-B-Q dinner followed by a DOO WOP band for all to dance and enjoy in the Pavilion on Friday night. We really hope you’ll come, participate in all the meetings and “fun stuff.”

We encourage everyone to bring a new or prospective Elk to show off everything that makes the Florida State Elks Association the very best in the country.
Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525

In October members of the Lodge heard that 5-year old, Jacob Payne, was in need of a therapy device called a Gait Trainer. Caring Elks, Walter Weishaar Jr., Rebecca Soto, and the Lodge made a big difference in the life of this child.

The Lodge held their Hoop Shoot Awards and sent five winners to the District Hoop Shoot in January.

The Lodge held a Christmas Party for Lou’s Kids Baseball Team from the Clearwater Little League Challenger Division, sponsored by the Lodge and the Ladies’ Auxiliary. The children had a wonderful time.

The Lodge held its annual Veteran’s Boat Parade on November 10th, with participants with about 10 boats. After the parade, the participants returned to the Lodge for refreshments. The US Navy team from NOSC Tampa was docked at the Lodge and had their 40’ MPF-UB19 Craft on display red Ribbons were given out to the local schools during Red Ribbon Week, in November, by Chairman John Bauer.

The Mayor of Madeira Beach, Travis Pallas, brought in Santa Claus and over 125 gifts for children from New Horizons Project. The proceeds of selling every tree before Christmas. The proceeds will afford the Band High School Band and raised $11,000 for the school to perform in the 2013 Macy’s Day Parade.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

The Lodge was privileged to have guest Exalted Ruler, Philip Neidecker from New York Lodge #1, preside over the recent initiation ceremony of 11 new members which included his younger brother, William Neidecker. He made a special trip from Lynbrook NY to be present and led the initiatory ritual for this special occasion.

The Lodge held a Poster Contest “What Patriotism Means To Me” for 2 local elementary schools. Judging was done for various grade levels and there were 5 winners, from the 2 schools, each receiving $50 gift certificates. Five local elementary Schools received 480 dictionaries, donated and delivered, by the Lodge, for distribution to the 3rd Grade students.

The Lodge donated $300 to CARES Center, a non-profit organization which provides for community aging and retirement programs, information, classes and services to the local senior population of 5-year old, Jacob Payne, was in need of a therapy device called a Gait Trainer. Caring Elks, Walter Weishaar Jr., Rebecca Soto, and the Lodge made a big difference in the life of this child.

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Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

The Lodge held its annual Veteran’s Boat Parade on November 10th, with participants with about 10 boats. After the parade, the participants returned to the Lodge for refreshments. The US Navy team from NOSC Tampa was docked at the Lodge and had their 40’ MPF-UB19 Craft on display red Ribbons were given out to the local schools during Red Ribbon Week, in November, by Chairman John Bauer.

The Mayor of Madeira Beach, Travis Pallas, brought in Santa Claus and over 125 gifts for children from New Horizons Project. The proceeds of selling every tree before Christmas. The proceeds will afford the Band High School Band and raised $11,000 for the school to perform in the 2013 Macy’s Day Parade.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

There were 116 golfers participating in the Lodge Golf Tournament, chaired by Terry Morehouse, that raised $6,418 for Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

The Lodge Soccer Shoot was held on October 28, and there were 7 winners who advanced to the District level and to the Regional soccer competition.

Over 900 Breast-Cancer Awareness 3-Day Walkers passed by the Lodge’s refreshment booth, on the sidewalk, and the walkers were given water and frozen grapes as they passed by. They were greeted by the Lodge donated and a Cheering Section and some walkers even danced by, as they heard the music. The Lodge sponsored 4 of the walkers: Joanne Matos, Darlene Gay, Mimi Reich and Hugh Grehan. The Lodge is very proud of those 4 lodge members who completed the 60-mile walk. The Lodge raised over $4,400 to sponsor these dedicated Elks.

The Children’s 4th Annual Halloween Carnival on October 27th, poolside, brought in over 125 children from the community, to enjoy pony rides, a petting zoo, a spook house, pumpkin patch, full of pumpkins to paint, a costume contest and many games and many prizes. The funds used for this community activity were provided by a $2,000 ENF Promise Grant, along with lodge donated funds.

The Lodge honored 22 Veterans and staff of Bay Pines Medical Center with a Veterans Dinner Dance on November 10. The event was chaired by the Lodge VAVS Deputy Rep, Johnny Miller. The dinner was attended by over 230 Elks and guests. In honor of the Marine’s 237th Birthday, a cake-cutting ceremony was performed by Tony Tudor. The Lodge had many guest speakers; Charles Rose from Stetson College, Micha Spaller from the VA Regional Office, PER Lt Cmdr Frank Johnson and Robert A Thornburg, Active US Army Specialist out of Ft Bliss, TX.

The Annual Children’s Christmas Party on December 1, in Tarpon Springs, to all the Lodge members for your caring donations.

Seminole Lodge 2519

Sgt 1st Class Steve Surface, was guest speaker at the Veterans Day pot-luck dinner on November 10th, he was a Purple Heart Recipient and a great American hero.

The Lodge held a Mortgage Burning Ceremony and party on December 1, celebrating with refreshments, music following the special ceremony. Congratulations to Seminole Lodge.

Tampa Lodge 708

The Lodge held a fundraiser on November 17th, “MASH 708”, raising $500 for the Army of Hope. There was dinner, prizes for best costume, along with “MASH Trivia”. Chairman, Lesley Nikkenen, and many lodge members who worked so hard, made the event a real team event.

On Thanksgiving, the Lodge provided a meal of ham, turkey and all the fixins for Elks and friends who had no other place to go. The Tampa Gandy Firefighters were also lodge guests that day. It was a small way of saying Thank You to those firefighters who work hard keeping the community safe.

For Christmas, the artistic Lodge members, Vera Wright, Tammy Manley, Angel Danforth and Ashley Hall hand painted Christmas balls and hung them on the Lodge tree for sale. The goal was to have a bare tree, by selling these beautiful, original ornaments. The lodge has raised over $300, so far, from the sale of these donated decorations, with the proceeds going to Harry Anna.

Tarpon Springs Lodge 1719

The Lodge was able to adopt 9 classes from the local elementary, middle and high schools this year. The Lodge had their annual Adopt-A-Class Fundraiser and raised $900 to support the 9 classrooms.

The Lodge held a fundraiser for Tarpon Springs High School Band and raised $11,000 for the school by raffling off a car. These funds will afford the Band to perform in the 2013 Macy’s Day Parade.

In the spirit of Christmas, the Lodge purchased 375 Christmas trees from North Carolina, and a lodge members picked them up in their semi. The trees were delivered to the lodge with snow still on them. The lodge members have been attending the tree lot, with hopes of selling every tree before Christmas. The proceeds from the tree sales will help the lodge charity and send a group of kids to the Elks Camp next summer.
Apopka Lodge 2422
The Lodge hosted a “Breast-Fest” fundraiser and dinner on October in honor of Breast Awareness Month. A check for $1,600 was presented to the Debbie Turner Cancer Care & Resource Center in Apopka.

Apopka Lodge 2422

From left, Debbie Turner, La Donna Evans and Exalted Ruler Hollis Kendall.

A Halloween Party was held where a magician entertained children from the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, All Pro Dad’s Chapter and the IMom Chapter.

The Lodge provided the Apopka Elementary School’s IMom Chapter with a $1,000 startup check. The Lodge will participate in their monthly meetings along with the All Pro Dad’s Chapter that we sponsored last year.

South Lake Lodge 1848
Members of the Lodge presented checks to local charities that support the community’s needs.

From left, Sandra Pipken, Leigh Burritt, Darlene Tyler and Lodge Member Joe Serwe.

This is the 2nd year that the Lodge has participated in the Dictionary Program bringing the total purchased and distributed to over 2,000 dictionaries to Apopka 3rd graders.

Eustis Lodge 1578
The Lodge’s Auxiliary, the Anna Miller Circle, donated camperships for 16 local children to attend a week of fun at the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla and the Ladies also donated $2,183.30 to the Florida Children’s Therapy Services.

The Lodge honored the Little League team they sponsor with a dinner and Awards night for the baseball players, their parents and families.

Inverness Lodge 2522
The Lodge treated Harry’s Kids to lunch in Oct. This is a twice-a-year day camp put on by Hospice of Citrus County to help kids who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Mike Orndorff joined Bill and Lorraine Whalen, Hospice Director of Pediatric Services Marilyn Bloom and Most Exceptional Volunteer Mark Manchester in a photo op. Mark is the “Merry Prankster” – his antics kept the kids spirits up all day long! The kids enjoyed chicken bites on a skewer, mac-n-cheese and a fruit cup.

South Lake Lodge 1848

From left to right, Niki Fulmer, Lecturing Knight; Leslie Eberline, Secretary; Jim Yaskiewicz, PDDGER, ER; Kent Adcock of Habitat For Humanity, and Rhonda Kleizo, Loyal Knight. ER Jim Yaskiewicz presented a $1,000 check to Kent Adcock to support their work in the community.

The Lodge is helping to complete a house in Mascotte and have plans to join Habitat to build a new house for homeless veterans nearby.

ER Jim Yaskiewicz also presented a $1,000 check to Rebecca Teston of Haven House For Women to support their community work.

Silver Springs Shores 2730
The Lodge presented the “Most Improved Student Award” by PDD Bruce Henry to Lake Weir middle school students Taylor Sizemore and Devin Bory.

This holiday season, members of DOES Drove #86 constructed over 100 Christmas Live Flower Arrangements for Hospice of the Comforter. This is a continuation of a monthly project to create and deliver live flower arrangements using surplus mugs. In addition to the Hospice project, members shop for gifts for Christmas families in need. A floral American flag was raffled off and the $1,800 was used to purchase gifts. After wrapping the gifts, they are delivered to the homes a few days before Christmas. It is always a lot of fun and rewarding to see the children’s faces when we bring in the gifts.

The Does and Elks participated in Wreaths Across America (WAA) again this year at Greenwood Cemetery. Bag Pipers led off the ceremony with members of the community in attendance.

Uniformed representatives of each of the military services honored the veterans, including Coast Guard Auxiliary Vice Commander Richard Knapp of the Lodge. We laid wreaths at the monuments and were asked to write down the names and services on the monuments and to Google the information to learn more about the veteran’s site that we honored today.

Winter Park Lodge 1830
This is the sixth year that the Lodge has participated in the Project Dictionary Project. Project Chairman Buz Boyce reported that the team of Bev Hallstrom, Bill & Carol Jacobs, Mike Scherald, Juanita & Milton Plaugher and Jerry Younger distributed 2,040 Dictionaries to 15 Seminole County Schools. Since our lodge has been doing this we have given 11,175 dictionaries to local third graders.

The Lodge presented the “Most Improved Student Award” by PDD Bruce Henry to Lake Weir middle school students Taylor Sizemore and Devin Bory.
Tallahassee Lodge 937

The Lodge’s PER Association sponsored a raffle for an infrared gas grill as the grand prize; a $50 Publix gift card as second prize; and, some handy BBQ tools emblazoned with the FSU logo as third prize. A successful fundraiser, two Lodge members won the first two prizes, and the district’s DDGER, Bill Nichols won the third prize. In October the Lodge participated in the Gretchen Everhart School Fall Festival and its chili contest, where several chili entries came from Lodge members. One of those entries by a member with some of his friends from the Lions Club, won the Peoples Choice Award. A Halloween Costume Party was held on Friday, October 26. As the weather cooled, the Florida National Guard scheduled a chili contest and some members of the Lodge prepared entries. Tallahassee Lodge has participated in events with the Guard every year. Proceeds from the Guard’s contest went to the Collegiate Veterans Association. A Veterans Day ceremony was held at the Lodge on November 11, with a cookout following that ceremony. A very funny and entertaining evening was had with the Elks version of the Newlywed Game. Several members and their spouses were contestants and some of the answers were surprising.

The Elkett Social on December 8 was once again a wonderful evening of socializing, including food, drink, and music for dancing. The Elketts, with a little cooking help from the Elks, furnish the entree – roast beef and baked ham this year – and bring covered dishes for the remainder of the fare to share. The evening is always fun-filled and the food is delicious.

December 9 brought Santa Claus and his Elves to the Lodge to greet children and their families in anticipation of the Christmas holiday. There were 36 kids and 76 adults this year. Craft tables were set up for the kids before Santa arrived so the kids got to take home peanut butter filled pine cones rolled in bird seed for the birds, hand decorated tree ornaments, and other holiday items to enjoy through Christmas. The Lodge’s own Rick Peckham had been growing his hair and beard since July so he could fill the role of Santa. With a little help from member Anita Coppedge and her hair salon, hair and beard turned white for Christmas. He did a great job filling the kids’ heads with holiday visions.

Mr. Music, Rod Stelter, rounded up his music equipment and CDs to bring in the holiday season. The Lodge has broadened its menu to offer appetizers on Mondays (expanded to a buffet), a $1 discount if purchased ahead of time. The food collected would be used to purchase perishable and dry items – whatever would be holiday food items – and let the patrons take all the pictures they wanted.

On December 29, Perry Lodge is holding Karaoke on the second Friday of every month. Two members are coordinating efforts to make this happen.

The 2nd Annual Elks Fishing Tournament was deemed a success, netting more than $1,500 for the Lodge. The event was held September 29 and 44 teams participated. Drew Taylor, tournament planner and organizer, did an outstanding job of putting together the best tournament yet. There was a great turnout on a good day for fishing. Progress Energy sponsored the youth Division and donated gifts and prizes for the 13 young anglers who participated. Each winner received a trophy, a gift certificate to Big Bend Outfitters, a t-shirt, and free fishing tackle. In the adult division, cash prizes totaled $2,500 in both redfish and trout categories. Other prizes included gifts donated by local merchants.

Perry Lodge is assisting in encouraging veterans and relatives of veterans to display veterans’ names on blocks in the Veterans Memorial Park in Perry. The veteran must be or have been a Taylor County veteran; and, been discharged from service with a copy of Form DD-214; and fill out an application form. Up to three lines of text are allowed on a block. On November 11, the Lodge held a Veterans banquet, with more than 80 veterans attending. The JROTC presented the colors. Cash prizes from the Lodge were awarded at this event to the Americanism essay contest winners. An extra treat in November was a visit to Perry Lodge by singer David Ball (#1 hits: Thinking Problem, Look What Followed Me Home, Riding with Private Malone) and his band, who are on tour for Operation Troop Aid. David and his band gave a great show and let the patrons take all the pictures they wanted. With only three weeks to plan for the event, it still brought in crowd.

Perry Lodge has adopted a family for Christmas with the help of the Guardian Ad Litem program. The Lodge will provide food and clothing to the family for the holiday.
Back in the forming days of the Jolly Corks Crist Music Hall was located on Bleeker Street, not far from the Bowery in New York City. It was considered one of the more famous concert halls at the time. It also became a location where many acts appeared for the “tryout” before their regular appearance.

The owner of this establishment was Christopher Cray, a large 250 pound Dutchman. Crist was loved by all of the performers and always kept his music hall supplied with entertainment. His beer was always free to performers.

The Music Hall was a huge place, holding some 500 or more. His patrons, who were usually performers, were introduced and they would often perform, keeping the crowd in a merry mood and into the late hours while providing Crist with free entertainment.

At the rear of the hall there was a large alcove with a table that reached the full length of the room and a bench placed on each side for sets.

On certain nights actor friends would hold a Dutch Lunch with waiters selected to supply Crist’s guest with all of the refreshments. It was at one of these that William Bowron arrived with Charles Vivian, a subsequent founder of the BPO Elks. A gentleman, who was also the official bouncer, introduced the two. He then announced Thompson, McDonald and Riggs; all members of the Madrigals who would display their talent. Riggs took his usual place at the piano and the tryout of the Madrigals began.

In conclusion, the announcer then introduced the new arrival Charles Richardson (Vivian’s assumed name) as a celebrated English comic singer who had set all England wild and “is in our great free land to captivate the amusement-loving citizens of our great country.” With their usual lunch and beer, stories and jokes it was a festive mood. Finally a popular Dutch comedian by the name of Gus Phillips rose and asked for quiet for a minute. In a now serious moment he remarked “How happy we are and so many good things to eat, and don’t you know how many poor devils are going hungry?”

He suggested that anyone who did not finish their plate might share with one of these poor devils. After a pause George McDonald said, “A damn good idea! Why not? Each wrap a package of the remains of this lunch and distribute them among some wandering hungry stomachs.”

They quickly turned to the waiters and ordered them to bring in a lot of: “Ten peach baskets from de kitchen.” The waiters appeared with arms full of bread, pretzels, meat, cheese, etc. supplied with baskets that were filled for each guest. Eyeing all of the food, Charlie White said, “Let no hungry soul escape you!” which was answered by Crist who said, “If you don’t get enough, I got lot’s more of dot daily bread, so fill your steins and drink to the health of such a lot of good fellows!”

At Mother Geisman’s Boarding House the next morning, many stories were related of that night at Crist’s place. At the breakfast table Charlie Vivian praised them for the compassion they showed to the unfortunate indigents. He said, “I’m proud of you; you’re almost as good as Britishers!”

The next night following the first meeting of the Jolly Corks, Vivian and the Madrigals under the direction of Steirly made their appearance together in a standing room only crowd as people had to be turned away at the door. After the performance they gathered at Crist’s and were escorted to the alcove where they celebrated their success and while still in high spirits many did their own songs or skits.

According that he (Crist) had a birthday on the 23rd of November he invited all of the Cords to attend, promising them the finest luncheon they had ever seen along with all the beer they could drink.

A decision was made to have a meeting of the Cords on that day, after a scheduled performance at Donaldson’s London Theater, to celebrate Crist’s birthday. An invitation was extended to everyone who would like to attend and a march was planned from the London Theater to Crist’s place for the celebration. Bill Bowron convinced the orchestra to march to the head of the parade. Following the orchestra would be Thompson, McDonald, Riggs with the Madrigals, Charles Shattuck, Harry Bosworth, Dick Steirly, Charles Vivian and William Sheppard, followed by about fifty more.

As the festive parade turned onto Bleeker Street a large crowd blocked their way. Inquiring of a police officer what the delay was, he said, “Oh! One of the usual sailors’ brawls! This time they have killed Crist!” Almost at that instant, the East Side Cathedral began to chime, which struck every hour at eleven o’clock. As the last chime rang, Riggs directed the Quintette to sing “Auld Lang Syne.” The entire assembly joined in, held their arms high and at the conclusion exclaimed “To Our Absent Brother.” Thereafter, this would become the general practice at all sessions of the Cords.

Delray Lodge 1770

Over 100 people came out to support our Florida Elks Softball Teams at Lake Ida Park. BBQ with all the fixings and games for all ages was just part of the fun! The Cords cooperated for the annual golf tournament. Over 120 golfers attended for a fun day of golf and dinner and prizes at the lodge. Approximately $3,500 was raised thanks to all the great organizers and volunteers of this event.

The PER’s hosted this year’s Oktoberfest Dinner Dance. It was a great night of beer, food, beer, music, beer and more beer!

Congratulations to our Students of the Month from Trinity Lutheran School. Larry Garito and co-chair David Haycock presented Ava Richards: September; Teri-anne Constantino: October, and Delaney Tavoletti: November. Their awards.

Over 200 people attended the dinner dance and danced the night away to the Music Masters 18 piece band. Howard and his crew cooked a fabulous prime rib and chicken dinner. Thank you to the ticket sellers; Bob Shell (who was also the cheerleader of ticket sales!), Grace, Kathy, Wayne, Ruth, Carol and Jim and anyone else I might have missed. We were honored to have Vice Mayor Tom Carney, a Delray member, and his wife Luce joining us. Estimated profits from this event are $3,000.

Hollywood West Lodge 2365

On July 28, the Lodge sponsored a “Celebration of Heroes” dinner honoring firefighters, EMT’s, and other first responders from our community. ENF, provided the Lodge with a $2,000 grant to be used for this purpose.

120 fire fighters, members and guests attend. The steak dinner was prepared by a volunteer firefighter Lodge member. The waiters appeared with arms full of bread, pastries, meat, cheese, etc. supplied with baskets that were filled for each guest. Eyeing all of the food, Charlie White said, “Let no hungry soul escape you!”

On August 18, the third annual “Escape From Gillingham’s Island” luau was held to benefit Broward Meals on Wheels, $170 was raised. Cow Drop Bingo, Flamengo Races and a “Dunk the Exalted Ruler” dunk tank were the highlights of the day.

An annual golf outing on October 13, was held at Hillcrest Country Club and Golf Course in Hollywood, with 50 golfers participating in the tournament, each receiving shirts, towels and golf balls. At the conclusion, all went back to the Lodge for a full hot lunch, awards and trophies. Although it was a rainy day, everyone had a good time.

Pompano Beach Lodge 1898

The Lodge recently sponsored/hosted a fundraiser in their picnic pavilion for local Disabled Veterans, raising over $4,500 just for the local chapter. There were 18 severely disabled Veterans who enjoyed music, good food and fellowship. The Lodge secured a Blimp Ride for their raffle and provided red/white blue hats for all in attendance.

Also “Smiles For Miles”, 5k event, was held on the pavilion grounds, bottled water & facilities to assist local children in raising over $22,000. The Smiles For Miles Foundation was formed to assist Operation Smile in creating awareness for the plight of children born with cleft lips and palates. The funds raised are used to perform corrective surgery and restore children’s smiles.

PER Bill Condor, Garey Nehrk, Coreen Condor, Leading Knight and Cathy Coney, 4 Yr. Trustee, delivered 48 complete Turkey dinners (including dessert), to families in need within the community including 3 schools, a day care center and Dr. Romano’s Office for the Florida Elks Children’s Clinic, formerly known as the Lower East Coast Clinic.

The Lodge again hosted the annual Pompano Beach Christmas Parade offering our grounds as the staging area for all participants. One of the Lodge employees, Judy Fitzgerald’s, son Konnor Katzmark, the winner of the World International Life Guard Competition in Australia, was one of the Parade Grand Marshals.

Sunrise Lodge 2273

Welcome home,Vincent Mariano, who is coming home from Afghanistan after serving a nine month tour with the Army. Vincent is the Grandson of member Nicki Leiter. A heartfelt “Thank You” for your service, and your families sacrifice.

The Sunrise Lodge Soccer Shoot was held on Oct. 20 at the Nob Hill Soccer Park. 43 boys and girls participated, ranging in age from 5-13. There were separate contests in each age group, one for ages 5-9 and one for ages 10-13. The next day an amazing awards party was held for the boy and girl champions in each age group and the over all winners, along with their families. The Lodge was filled with such positive energy. It really showed that Elks mean what we say.

“TODAY’S YOUTH ARE TOMORROW’S LEADERS.”
The Lodges of the East Central District would like to extend a special thank you to all the Lady Auxiliaries for their dedication and hard work they have done and continue to do in the Lodges they represent.

**Deland Lodge 1463**

The Lodge opened its doors to family and friends to spend a beautiful afternoon of fun and games with the kids Special Olympics team at the Deland Elks Pavilion.

Santa paid a visit at the Lodge’s for the kid’s annual Christmas party.

The Lodge recently held an ENF fundraiser where they collected approximately $810 for the event.

Update: the pancake breakfast fundraiser for the “Stop Bullying Project, in the area local schools, raised over $1,200, along with an Elks grant, will help send a teacher to a bullying training seminar who then will train other teachers. The teacher received a check for $3,800. Each month, Veterans Chairman Chuck Wert, car pools with members from the Lodge to visit the veterans at the Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home where they look forward to a fun night of bingo; the Lodge also donated some needed toiletries and socks.

**Edgewater/New Smyrna Lodge**

The Lodge hosted a “Pink Event” to help raise money for Breast Cancer Research. All monies earned will be given to those in the local community.

The Gifts of Love Back to School Shoes project was very successful, providing 198 pairs of shoes to needy children; backpacks filled with school supplies were also provided. This fall, they participated in the Hi-Five project, providing nutritious food for 40 needy children from Chisholm Elementary School. The program also provides Thanksgiving baskets, an Angel tree for toys, and Easter baskets.

The Lodge has been collecting cans and can tabs to help raise money for the Seeing Eye Institute; they are the sponsor of a beautiful dog named Harpo; the Lodge raised $36 and will go towards Harpo’s training to become a seeing eye dog.

The Lodge hosted a Wine and Cheese event at the Lodge to help raise funds for the American Cancer Society’s “Making Strides” walk.

Members participated in the second annual Edgewater Fall Festival and entered the drug awareness trailer in the Trunk or Treat; the vehicle was decorated for the event, while Elroy the Elkugged and danced with all of the children; hot dogs, candy and drug awareness material were handed out; last year the trailer won first place.

**Merritt Island Lodge 2650**

Awards for the year 2011-2012 were presented to Exalted Ruler Rod O’Connor at a recent DD clinic for community image and Lodge bulletin contests; for having a net gain in membership and for donations that exceeded the GER’s per capita for ENF.

The Lodge recently made a presentation of a $500 check to the Wounded Warriors for Homes for Heroes. A Thanksgiving veteran’s dinner was held at the Lodge for all active military personnel and veterans; members from the Melbourne Veterans Transition Center also attended the dinner.

During the year, the Lodge has helped sponsor a Kountry Christmas Hoe-Down at Kiwanis Island, which is a party hosted for the mentally challenged citizens in the community, and also helps sponsor the “Santa’s Boot Strap” that assists families in the community who are going through tough financial times.

**Ormond Beach Lodge 2193**

Special thanks go to Brian and Karen Gleason for organizing an Oktoberfest ENF charity event; the event was successful in raising $1,656.32.

During his official visit to the East Central District, State President Sean Maguire and his wife Barbara along with the East Central Vice President Tom Brand and his wife Mary, and other district dignitaries, were welcomed at the Lodge for dinner; members from other lodges in the district were on hand to welcome the dignitaries.

The PERs held a pig roast at the Lodge to help raise monies to benefit the Lodge and other charitable works.

The Lodge hosted their Seventh Annual Santa Paws, a cat and dog food, kitty litter, toys, treats, bedding and money fundraiser; this year, the fundraiser was to help the ARNI (Animals, Rescue, Need, Intervention) group.

During drug awareness week, Lodge Secretary Patricia Patterson and second Vice President Maria DeArmon visited the Osceola, Ortona and Longstreet, Ormond, Tomoka elementary schools where they handed out approximately 6,000 drug awareness materials.

The Lodge’s two district Soccer Shoot winners went on to compete in the regional completion at the Youth Camp; Alihya Hahn won first place in the Girls under 10 division and Adriamortiz won first place on the Girls under 10 division.

**Palm Coast Lodge 2709**

The Lodge held a wreath ceremony in memory of those who died on 9/11; the wreath was placed in front of the 9/11 display in front of the Lodge; members in attendance were Vinnie Gough, Jr., Flagler County Sheriff Don Fleming, Chief Deputy David O’Brien and Tom Coleman.

Every year the Lodge hosts local charity events; the Freddy Gleissner-Vinnie Gough Jr. Memorial Scholarship Annual Golf Tournament, which this year raised over $15,000; scholarships were presented to dedicated future Firefighters; and the First Sgt. Frankie Celico Foundation Bike Rally after party that helps raise money to give new bicycles to underprivileged Flagler County children.

During his official visit to the Lodge, Florida Elks State President Sean Maguire presented Exalted Ruler Fred Szwed with a special award recognizing their newsletter as an outstanding Lodge Bulletin.

Lodge member Ernie Gallo along with the Captain William L. McNamara Memorial Book Drive, has collected books and magazines to distribute to active duty Navy and Coast Guard personnel prior to their deployments.

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Matanzas High School JROTC presented colors at the Veterans Day Memorial service, during the annual service at the Lodge.

**Port Orange Lodge 2723**

Exalted Ruler Lou GREC, PER and Michelle Davis visited the classrooms of Horizon T. Small, Port Orange and South Daytona elementary schools where they presented dictionaries and drug awareness bookmarks to the teachers of 3rd grade students. In all, a total of 443 books were distributed to the schools.

Lodge Scholarship chairman, Paul Leonard presented Student of the Month awards to Atlantic and Spruce Creek High Schools students.

The Lodge recently organized a bus trip to Gaylord Palms Ice Event and Christmas Show to help raise money for the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and Halifax Hospice Begin Again Children’s Grief Center Christmas party.

Exalted Ruler Lou GREC, Don Clark, PER, Lodge Secretary Jeanette Artymovitch, Angelo Cretella, PER and Lodge Leading Knight, Dan Theodore participated in the annual outdoor Family Days held at the City Center in Port Orange where drug awareness materials were handed out to kids and parents.

**Sanford Lodge 1241**

Recently, the Lodge participated in the City of Sanford 135th birthday celebration; the drug awareness trailer was on hand where drug awareness materials and youth camp information were handed out to parents and kids.

The Lodge held its annual soccer shoot where more than fifty kids participated in the hopes of moving on to the district and regional contests.

In the spirit of Christmas, the Lodge partnered with Pathways to Home, an agency that helps homeless children in Seminole County. There were forty Christmas tree ornaments representing a child, where a member would pick one and purchase a gift for that child.

**Titusville Lodge 2113**

The Lodge held its annual Youth Camp dance; proceeds of the dance will go toward sending needy boys and girls to the youth camp for one week.

A pancake breakfast with Santa was held for the members and kids; the kids got to meet Santa and received stuffed animals. This year, the Lodge raised enough money to send 20 kids to camp; a special thank you to Melissa Duncan who made it possible to send 10 kids to camp.
Bonita Springs-Estero Lodge 2753

The Bonita Springs-Estero Lodge gave a $500 donation to the Wishing Well Foundation, which is committed to creating cherished moments for terminally ill children in Lee and Collier Counties and to offer ongoing love and support to their families. The donation will be used to help purchase gifts for the Children’s Christmas Party.

Cape Coral Lodge 2596

Cape Coral Lodge saluted World War II Veterans at a Veterans Dinner Dance on November 10th. Each Veteran received an American Flag, dinner for two and a standing ovation. The Elks and LOE also made donations of $1500 to “Jake” Jacobs who is liaison for the Elks and Bay Pines Hospital. Veterans from all branches of the service were also recognized and saluted. The Lodge donated $3000 in food and gift cards to the Cape Coral Caring Center.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763

In response to the disastrous weather, which devastated the Northeast section of our country, the Lodge collected clothing, toys and supplies to be sent to the hardest hit areas in New Jersey. Thanks to the generosity of the Deep Creek Elks family, in less than two weeks over 300 bags and boxes of goods were collected and sent to the storm ravaged areas.

During ENF month, Linda Deschamps, PER and the ENF Committee held a successful event which raised over $200 and a number of new ENF Certificates.

PER Hugh Sewell worked with PER Richard De

champs to stage a fun filled Soccer Shoot at the Boys and Girls Club in North Fort Myers.

Drug Awareness Chairman Bill Flecken, PER and ER Len Wenzel, PER presented 775 Drug Awareness bags to the students at Deep Creek Elementary School and at the Good Shepard Christian Academy. The Drug Awareness Committee also sponsored “Trunk or Treat” with the assistance of the Mustang Club of Charlotte County.

Eight cases of soda were donated to the Douglas Jacobson Home for their Veterans Day Party and 15 holiday turkeys were given out to help make a happy Thanksgiving for the needy of the community.

Lodge Officers and volunteers are kept very busy with regular Lodge projects, Janet Jones Group Home and Coupons for the military program.

Deep Creek Elks made a donation to two local Eagle Scouts to assist with their community projects. ER Len Wenzel presented a $250 check to Aaron LaPlate to help with his community garden project and to Erik Colleen for his outdoor classroom and garden at Meadow Park Elementary School.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288

Fort Myers Lodge recently celebrated their 100th Anniversary by hosting the Lodge for the FSEA Mid-Year Meetings, which included a very successful, enjoyable dinner dance. What an accomplishment it is to be an active Lodge for 100 years. Following are a few interesting facts about the Lodge. The very first Lodge meeting was held October 10, 1912 when 29 American Gentlemen were initiated. Installing Officers were supposed to travel from Key West by boat but due to stormy weather Installing Officers came from Tampa.

The first Charity Ball held at the Lodge, November 1913, was deemed a success with a profit of $15.00. In December 1914 annual dues were raised to $15. During World War II Fort Myers was the site for two army bases and the Lodge was used as an Officers Club. The Lodge has had several locations through the years, lost some property during the Depression and survived many changes in the area. Through it all Lodge Officers and members have always worked tirelessly to support the community, Veterans, and youth. Congratulations Fort Myers Lodge!

In November the Lodge donated 576 dictionaries to the second graders at Tanglewood and The Villas Elementary Schools in Fort Myers and Sunshine Elementary School in Lehigh Acres. Each dictionary had a red ribbon with “Just Say No To Drugs” printed on it.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

Port Charlotte Lodge gave a $1000 donation to the Army of Hope, $500 for the Lodge Children’s Christmas Party, and $500 for the YahYah Girl’s Inc. an organization that provides the Backpack for Kids Program at local elementary schools.

Lodge members also gave back to Veterans residing at the Douglas T. Jacobson Nursing Home with the one thing they love the most – ice cream – with whipped cream and all the other toppings.

Residents of Douglas T Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home also enjoyed a spaghetti dinner and football games at the Lodge hosted by the Stark family with help from several Lodge members.

Rotonda Lodge 2710

Boy Scout Troop 198, sponsored by the Lodge, recently held a Court of Honor Ceremony for Scout Jack Perry who earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Boy Scouts. Exalted Ruler Pat Johnson, PER, made the presentation. Jack is the 26th Scout in the troop to achieve this honor. The Lodge members are very proud of the young men in Troop 198 and enjoy watching them grow into outstanding leaders.

The Lodge recently donated $600 to the Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Home in Port Charlotte. The money is used for trips, bingo and fun activities that the Veterans enjoy. Officers and members of the Lodge visit the Home twice a month to help with these activities and to visit with the residents.

Betty Storm, Reporter
cabest@embarqmail.com

On November 12th the Veterans Committee, Exalted Ruler Ralph Murray and other Elk members hosted a luncheon for 20 Veterans most of whom reside at either Emerald At River Oaks or Englewood Health and Rehab Center. Joining in the event and wearing his Navy uniform was Mr. Carl Gerold who happens to be 101 years old, still resides on his own and loves to share his stories!

The “45th” Anniversary of the Lodge was celebrated with a dinner dance with over 350 people in attendance including six Charter Members.

Twenty-one new electric razors were purchased and delivered to the Douglas T. Jacobson Nursing Home for Veterans.
NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Reporter, Christine Borchers
nedistrictpr@yahoo.com

**Lodges Working Together**

St. Augustine, Green Cove Springs and Mandarin/St. Johns Lodges worked together to provide a ‘Sports Channels Package’ through DirecTV for 6 common area televisions at the Nursing Home beginning October 1st. They are provided ‘Basic Service’ in the resident and common areas, but this does not include any ESPN Channels. They are now able to watch Monday & Thursday night Football, most College Football, Monday & Thursday night Baseball, plus all NHL games. The three sponsoring Elks Lodges have agreed to pay a one year subscription service for the ‘Sports Package’ and will review each year’s contract for cost and services provided, but intend to keep this service available to the Veteran residents.

Green Cove Springs and Mandarin/St. Johns Lodges participated in the City of Palatka Veterans Day Parade. Green Cove Springs continues its tradition of leading the Veterans Walk in the Palatka Veterans Parade and across the Bridge. The District Veterans Trailer was in the Parade and available at the bridge walk. Palatka Lodge opened prior to and after the events.

**Gainesville Lodge 990**

The Lodge held a Golf Tournament in October headed up by secretaries Chris Linton and Leslie Urban. This tournament was a huge success with lots of volunteers assisting and $2,000 raised. Gator football ticket winners included First Prize (two tickets to all home games and the Florida-Georgia game) won by Jack Amick. Second and third place prizes included tickets for two to all home games, and were awarded to Roy Rogalski and Mike/Martha Sue Hill. Roy auctioned his off to the highest bidder raising an additional $450 for the Lodge with Joe Caswell being the benefactor. Fourth and fifth place prizes included two tickets to the Florida-Georgia game in Jacksonville, won by Steve Linton and District VP Wayne Reyes.

The Lodge held a Christmas Party for the Kids in December and all 23 children present were happy to meet Santa and go home with some great gifts.

**Green Cove Springs 1892**

September at Green Cove Lodge included a hunting trip for three Purple Heart Veterans; the Knight Children fundraiser, and a lodge clean-up day. All events required the help of our member volunteers to ensure their success. As a special thank you to those volunteers, a complimentary fish dinner was provided by the Exalted Ruler and the Lodge Officers to express their appreciation.

The Knight Children Tailgate Party raised $8,500 which has been placed into a special account for the three children’s college educational expenses. The father of these three children has terminal cancer.

In October the Lodge held a Coggin Tailgate Party which raised $5,000 of the Lodge's ENF contribution.

The Magnolia Point Women’s Club was present with $2,500 for food and other items used for Charles E. Bennett Elementary children.

The 7th Annual Turkey Classic Golf Tournament was held in November at the River Bend Golf Club and raised $1,174 to provide 100 Thanksgiving meals for needy families in the Green Cove Springs area. This year the tournament had 24 participants and ER Joe Russell did an incredible job acquiring prizes for participants from local businesses. Kabobs were served to all players at the Lodge immediately following the game. Congratulations to team winners Clark Braddock, Gene Kirker, Keith Kirker, and Scott Manes with a score of -16!

Also in November the Lodge held a US Marines 237th birthday party and provided 35 veterans with complimentary fish dinners in honor of Veterans Day. They also led the walk across the Veterans Bridge in Palatka.

Headed up by Jean Maddox, the December Elk of the Month, the Lodge raised $3,800 for “Wreaths Across America” far exceeding their goal of 100 wreaths. Members and friends assisted the community in placing an estimated 5,000 wreaths on the graves of soldiers at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

The “Giving Tree” project yielded gifts for 27 children. Santa came and took photos with everyone and there were some very happy children on Christmas morning!

The District Reporter is especially impressed with the contributions of Green Cove Lodge to date. Though they still have ¼ of the year to go, they have contributed the following:

- $3,500 to the Charles E. Bennett Elementary School
- $1,000 to the Green Cove Springs Athletic Association
- $3,000 to Clay High School scholarships
- $8,000 to the Elks National Foundation
- $9,000 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund
- $1,500 for Veterans’ Programs
- $9,000 to local members and families.

Folks, this is $35,000 in contributions in just 9 months. Every lodge in the state should be picking their brain and finding out what they are doing right!

**Jacksonville Lodge 221**

The Lodge hosted the local chapter of the Vietnam Vets in November with a ceremony that officially named their Chapter after Nicholas J. Cutinha, a native of Fernandina Beach who was killed in action in Vietnam on March 2, 1968.

The local Soccer Shoot was held in November with a young lady winning who advanced to the District level in December. In the Florida-Gator Football ticket winners included Dave Hosch and Dick Maloney made this event a success.

In November, the Lodge held the “221 Amateur & Hackers Invitational Golf Tournament” at the Deerfield Golf Club. Event Chair David Hosch along with 67 others took to the links early on a Saturday morning to raise money for 221’s charities. The golfers punished the course and on several occasions the course stuck back. After the morning of spirited competition, all participants were treated to a classic southern bar-b-que buffet at the Lodge that included smoked pork, beef, chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans, cookies, pie, and a whole bunch of other good stuff.

First place was captured by Greg Kissers’ team at 10 under, second place by Steve Arnold’s team at 9 under, and third place by Tom Kennedy and the Mandarin-St. Johns Elk’s Lodge team at 9 under par. In addition to prizes for longest drive and the longest putt, every par-tee player was given a Christmas Goodie Bag with a festive holiday door hanger, a snow glove, a tree ornament, a tangerine, a bag of Potato Chips, and an extra banana. The 30 Veterans who attended had a great time and some left with a few extra bucks in their pocket. Six Elks and three volunteers kept the refreshments flowing.

The Lodge held their annual Christmas party where the price for admission was an unwrapped toy. Over 100 members, children and guests turned out, and Santa Claus was in attendance to greet them. Over 100 gifts were donated for the children at Wolfson Children’s Hospital.

**Orange Park Lodge 2605**

The Lodge held a Veterans’ fish fry in September to raise additional funds for their Veteran’s activities. Music was provided by Ron Supperton to help dance off Phyllis Bousier was instrumental in spearheading this event along with the kitchen crew - Bob Reeder, Pat Perkins, Joe McEachin, Paul Mahla, Bob Morse, the Sea Cakes and Ensign Welsh. The annual Fall Festival was held October at the VA Medical Center in Lake City.

The Lodge we applied for and were granted a $2000 Gratitude Grant, a $2000 Promise Grant, and a $1000 Beacon Grant. The $2000 Gratitude Grant was donated to the Friday Musicals which was established in 1923 and provides musical programs for children through recitals, competitions, scholarships and master classes. Through the years, 57 students have returned to Jacksonville as professional musicians. The $2,000 Promise Grant provided a much needed Thanksgiving lunch for families on November 18th. All lodge members are invited to attend. More details will be provided later. The $1,000 Beacon Grant was used to provide a Christmas Party for the Starlight Group and Mended Little Hearts.

**St. Augustine Lodge 829**

Lodge members worked with the Boys & Girls Club of St. Augustine to hold their annual Hoop Shoot Contest. Fourteen children in three age divisions advanced to the Northeast Florida competition. Winners were presented with trophies, certificates and t-shirts. Lodge members presented basketballs to the Club and hosted a pizza party for all participants and members of the Boys & Girls Club.

The Lodge participates the first Saturday each December with the USO PAL DAY to show appreciation for service to our country. Members of the military and their families are invited to St. Augustine to board sight-seeing trolleys to tour St. Augustine. They enjoyed lunch at the Lodge where they were served hamburgers, hot dogs with all the sides with ice cream for dessert. This is the 56th USO PAL DAY that the Lodge worked with the USO to host the Thanksgiving luncheon for the children of the local DAR Chapter presented gifts to the children.

The Lodge participated in the Wreaths Across America wreath laying ceremony at the Saint Augustine National Cemetery. Established in 1865, this cemetery is best known as the home of the Dade Pyramids, believed to be the oldest memorial in any national cemetery. Members of our Lodge donated and placed wreaths on graves of Civil War Era veterans.
Arcadia Lodge 1524
Arcadia Elks Lodge 1524 held a ceremony and dinner to honor the Marine Corps’ 236th birthday, and show their appreciation to all Veterans of Arcadia. There were 130 attended the Marines, Veterans and their guests.

Veterans in the ceremony, Russ Summers, Bill Hood, Lee Gallagher, Steven McCumber, Tim Hager, Charlie Kirby, John “Bo” Young, Ronald Kocher, Joe Newton, Ed Lyne, Joe Varnadore, Mike Kurek, and Mark Anderson. The event was organized by PER Mary Lyne and her husband Ed.

Veteran’s Day Parade in Arcadia was sponsored and organized by the Arcadia Lodge 1524. Jackie Tucker, PER chaired the parade and Mary Lyne PER Vice Chaired over 2800 community students participated in the parade the honor Veterans.

Brandon Lodge 2383
Brandon Elks Medal of Valor Award was presented on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 to widow Sarah Sitton and her son Brody, in recognition to her fallen husband Matthew S. Sitton, SSGT, U.S. Army. Matt gave his all, and it is fitting that we recognize his abundant charity. Dinner was provided to the Sitton family, our Veteran’s and over 150 Lodge members.

Lakeland Lodge 1291
Lakeland Elks Lodge received an $1,900 Promise Grant from ENF to the Boys & Girls Club of Lakeland for this year’s annual Youth Christmas party.

Twenty five special needs youth from the ages of 8-13 were treated to bounce tents, arts & craft, dart throwing and Christmas cookies.

Lakeland Fire Department and Ambulance service arrived with sirens blasting and lights flashing from the Lakeland Fire Department and ambulance service and demonstrated the fire truck and ambulance to the youth. Santa arrived with wrapped toys and other gifts such as winter coats. Bob Fuschetti, ER along with 30 Elks and friends helped make a memorable day for the children with all things possible by the ENF $1,800 Promise Grant.

Plant City Lodge 1727
Police and Fire Fighter/EMT’s annual Appreciation Day was celebrated at the Plant City Lodge in December. Lunch was provided to the police in the afternoon and dinner served to the Fireman in the evening. Recently a member of the Lodge has been the recipient of the EMT’s care. Plant City Lodge has celebration for this annual event due to their strong show of appreciation for the men and women that are called upon to produce and care for the community.

Sebring Lodge 1529
Sebring Elks members and friends of the lodge gathered December 4th for a Memorial Service for all members who died this past year. The Avon Park High School Show Choir, directed by Joy Loomis “shared their gift of music” and District VP Jim Mason spoke about the History of the Elks 11 O’clock toast which honors our deceased members. Pictured here are the Officers of Lodge #1529 and members of the Avon Park Choir.

Fall was also a very active for the Sebring lodge. The town of Sebring celebrated its 100 year anniversary with a parade. The lodge participated in the parade with Elk members wearing clothes depicting the different styles through the years. On December 2nd there was an annual “Biker’s Run” a local charity event. Members and Charity Bingo Players delivered both Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to 14 families. The lodge had a float in the Sebring Christmas parade handing out bags of candy & drug awareness pamphlets.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672
The Winter Haven Lodge supported their local chapter of the Street Angels. The Lodge was informed that no one or nor any other organization in the community has ever helped them by having an Angel Tree. The Angel Tree contained names, ages, and a wish list of items for children. The Lodge also supported the Street Angels by donating non perishable food items and cash donations. This was our way of showing “Elks Care - Elks Share” during the Holidays.

Lake Wales, FL, Lodge members visited 26 Veterans in two local nursing homes. Each Veteran was given a small American Flag with holder, a deck of playing cards, a comb, a pen, and two pairs of socks. Extra socks were handed out to those in need, as well as white T-shirts and lap blankets. Each Veteran was thanked for their Service and given the Lodge phone number if they needed any kind of assistance.
Summer is almost here and camp is right around the corner! Make sure you do your part to send a child to camp. In these tough economic times many families are finding it hard to make ends meet, much less afford to take a summer vacation. Wouldn’t it be nice for your Lodge to sponsor as many kids as you could to make sure they can at least have a memorable summer experience? Take a little time, spread the word about camp and help some kids. You’ll be glad you did!

**Summer Camp 2013**

- **Week 1** June 16th - 22nd
- **Week 2** July 30th - 6th
- **Week 3** July 7th - 13th
- **Week 4** July 14th - 20th
- **Week 5** July 21st - 27th
- **Week 7** July 28th - Aug, 3rd


**Address Changes**

Neither the Florida State Elks Association Office nor the Editor of the newspaper maintains the mailing list for the Florida Elks News. The mailing list is obtained from the Elks Magazine Circulation Department at Grand Lodge Headquarters in Chicago.

All address changes must be delivered to your home lodge secretary and should include your current and new address along with your lodge membership number.