FLORIDA LADIES OF ELKS
2014-2015 OFFICERS

Starting from the right: FLOE President, Jane Moon; Vice President, Becky Long; Secretary, Connie Kael Poage; Treasurer, Mary McCoy; Chaplain, Adella Ashton; Parliamentarian, Angel Harris; Historian, Vi Osborn; 2 Year Advisory, Mary Fejeran; 4 Year Advisory, Heather Scott; 4 Year Advisory Judy Reyes, PSP.

Jane Moon
New President of FLOE for 2014-2015

Valued FSEA Employee Retiring

Ben Brown has been employed for 40 years. He retires so that he will continue to stay active and involved in Florida Elkdom. Be sure to congratulate and thank Ben and Sherry for both of their forty years of service and dedication to the FSEA. Sherry’s contributions are too numerous to go into here, but please know she has helped set up the FSEA booth and “manned” it for every Grand Lodge convention Ben attended. Ben of course, has not missed a Grand Lodge Convention in forty years, something I don’t think any other Elk in Florida can claim.

We are proud of all Florida Elks and their accomplishments: you prove daily that Elks Care, Elks Share; you continue to support our two major projects, you work to create harmony in our Lodges and continue your unselfish efforts to further our commitment to mankind.

Thank you for all you do for Florida Elkdom.

C. Valentine Bates, PGER

INSIDE
Pg 2 Officers and FSEA President
Pg 3 Secretary-
Pg 4 FLOE President
Pg 5 FLOE Conference & Awards
Pg 6 Veterans Month & Recognitions
Pg 7 SE & WC Districts
Pg 8 C District
Pg 9 SWC District
Pg 10 NC District
Pg 11 SEC District
Pg 12 SW District
Pg 13 NE District & FEYC Bus funding
Pg 14 N District
Pg 15 NW District
Pg 16 EC District
Pg 17 SSW District
Pg 18 SSE District & GER Message
Pg 19 S District & WC continued
Pg 20 Address & New Year invitation
STATE OFFICERS
FSEA Secretary.........Carl T. Seibert, PDD............Eustis Lodge1578
Treasurer...............Joseph B. Bryant, PDD.........Sebring Lodge 1529
Historian................James A. Coggins, PDD........Pensacola Beach Lodge6087
Historian Emeritus Lowettel P. Tyler, PER.........West Palm Beach 1352
Curator of Museum,Donald Sansoussi, PSP........Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Chaplains .......Frank Malatesa, Jr.PDD............Lakewood Ranch/Sarasota Lodge 2855
Sgt-at-Arms.............Mandarin/ St. Johns Lodge 2866

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS
Northwest.............. Robert C. Randle..........Penascola Beach Lodge 497
North...............Janet M. DaSilva, PDD..........Live Oak Lodge 1165
Northeast.............. Dan Bird....................Mandarin/ St. Johns Lodge 2866
North Central...........Colleen C. Gallant......Winter Park Lodge 1830
East Central..........Mark Thompson................Deland Lodge 1463
Central................Richard Hiemenz..............Winter Garden Lodge 2165
Southeast Central.....Nancy L. Miller.................Melbourne Lodge 1744
West Central..........Toni Goodrich.................St. Petersburg Lodge 1224
Southwest Central...Jack Collins.....................Lake Wales Lodge 1974
Southwest............Brett Davis....................Lakewood Ranch/Sarasota Lodge 2855
South Southwest......Larry Van Tilburg..............Englewood Lodge 2378
South Central............“Les” Baucom..............Clear Lake Lodge 1853
South Southeast.......Gerald Miller....................Boca Raton 2166

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
David B. Lake, PSP, Chairman 3-year Fort Myers Lodge 1238
James A. Coggins, PSP-PGESO-PAAGER 4-year Pensacola Beach Lodge6087
Don Sansoussi, PSS, Vice Chairman 3-year Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Vincent P. Conno, PSP 2-year Boca Raton Lodge 2166
R. William Wellbaum, Jr., PSP-PCGF 1-year Englewood Lodge 2378
Brian T. Burns, PSP 1-year Immediate PSP

DISTRICT DIRECTORS
North.....................David Wiley, PDD...........Warrington Lodge 2380
North..............B. L. “Cap” Pratt, PDD............Live Oak Lodge 1165
Northeast............Raymond D. Murphy, PDD.......St. Augustine Lodge 829
North Central............Martin J. DeCarlo, Jr., PDD....Apopka Lodge 2422
East Central...........Joe Rogers, PDD..............Sanford Lodge 1241
Central..............Robert D. Barry, PDD...........Kissimmee Lodge 1873
Southeast Central.....William “Bill” Orbyhich, PDD......Viera Lodge 2817
West Central............Michael Persson, PDD...........Pensacola Lodge 2519
Southwest Central...Linda Bailey, PDD..............Lake Worth Lodge 1974
Southwest............Frank Malatesa, PDD............Sarasota Lodge 1519
South Southeast.....Philip J. Gersbach, PDD.............Mt. Dora Lodge 1288
South Central............Gary Casperson, PDD...........Jupiter Lodge 2469
South Southwest...... Eric MayCarter, PDD...........Boca Raton 2166
South...................Jeffrey A. Muehlfeld, PDD........Miami Lodge 948

HARRY-ANNA INVESTMENT FUND INC.
Michael P. Phillips, PSP-PGESO President...........Triviusville 2113
Winston M. Neatham, PSP-PGESO-PE...Vice President..Ocala 286

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

FLORIDA ELKS PROPERTIES, INC.
Alex McKibbin, PDD, President............Sanford Lodge 1241
Raymond R. Pinney, PDD, Vice President..............Holiday Isles Lodge 1972

FLORIDA ELKS MAJOR PROJECTS COMMITTEE
R. William Wellbaum, PSP-PCGF Chairman..........Englewood Lodge 2387

FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP, INC.
R. Michael Ritchie, PDD President...................Zephyrhills Lodge 2731
Gary Breakfield, PDD Vice President...........Claywiston Lodge 1853
Lynn Warburton, PDD Director..................Palm Coast Lodge 2709

FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES, INC.
Richard “Dick” Burdsey, PDD President........Winter Park Lodge 1830
Betty Clark, Vice President........................Crestview Lodge 2624
Ben Brown, Administrator.......................Eustis Lodge 1578

PAST GRAND EXALTED RULERS
Robert Grafton, PGER, Florida Co-Sponsor 1555
Robert C. Randle, PDD 1538
C. Valentine Bates, PGER Florida Co-Sponsor 1511
Michael F. Smith, PGER Florida Co-Sponsor

2014—2015 OFFICERS OF THE FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.

PRESIDENT VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE
Danny E. Tabor........Robert C. Randle............Eustis Lodge 1578
Carl Legid ............Dolly Bradenton 34207
Ben Brown..............Eustis Lodge 1578

FLORIDA NEWS

STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE
Danny E. Tabor

Time sure does fly when you are having fun, and that is exactly what we were doing when we were having fun. It is such an honor for Rachel and me, along with our many volunteers, to travel to the state legislature to meet with all the great things our Lodges are doing to support our communities, our young men, and our deployed military families. We meet so many great people that practice the Elks’ motto, “Elks Care Elks Share.”

It truly is an honor to be an Elk, especially a Florida Elk.

Since the last newsletter we have been on four more district visitations and to the FLOE convention. We also had the honor of throwing out the first pitch at a Tampa Bay Rays game. I want to thank PER Jake Jacobs and his lovely wife PER Doris for their hard work and planning together and “Elks Day at the Rays.” Not only did four hundred plus Elks show up, but they took up to two or more veterans to the game and raised $2100 for Harry-Anna. As for the pitch, it may have taken it a little while to get there, but it did get to the catcher in the air. Our next visit to the Southeast District where we were entertained by the members of the St Petersburg Lodge with a USO show; very talented group of people. We also visited some veterans in their rooms that were unable to join us for the entertainment. Saturday evening at the St Petersburg Deep Sea Fishing, we enjoyed a wonderful meal and entertainment. We collected our largest donations yet for Harry-Anna and State Harry-Anna Chairwoman Trudy was elated. The next day we again had a wonderful breakfast in the hospital-
It’s Time to Get Out of the Water!

At least once a year, I invite a small but diverse group of Elks to my office to spend a day with my staff and me and more or less give us an update on the things going on in our Lodges. We call it our “think tank” meeting. The idea is to advise us on our program of support to our Lodges and help us plan the activities and workshops that are offered at our upcoming state meetings and at our officer training seminar held in March. Generally, I have a pretty good idea of the state of our Lodges from my frequent talks with many of you and my occasional visit to a Lodge or a district, but wow, was I in for a surprise as the stories and details began to come forth from the participants! I wish I could say it was a pleasant surprise, but it wasn’t, as problems we have known have existed for a while seem to be taking on new lives of their own! To me this can mean only one thing and that is that we are not getting these problems fixed in our Lodges and fix them we must or we are going to lose all control!

You don’t drown by falling in the water; you drown by staying there-

Edwin L. Cole

What follows is a synopsis of many of the issues we discussed, along with my thoughts and a few suggestions. It is sometimes, to use a cliché, out-of-the-box thinking on my part, but, maybe more appropriately coined, it is “out-of-your-mind” thinking—a description recently used by our Membership Development Director, Don Moon. Regardless of what you call them, our problems are real and we cannot allow them to continually regenerate and undermine the success of our Lodges, chipping away at our vulnerabilities until we finally succumb. We must begin to eliminate and minimize the problems in our Lodges so we can begin to grow once again, and get back to the work we exist to perform, that of service to others.

Numerous movies have been made over the years depicting the end of life on earth and the chaos and calamity that ensue as a chosen few are rocketed off to an awaiting spaceship to be transported to a new beginning on a far off planet. Some of our Lodges may very well be experiencing these feelings of chaos and calamity at this very moment! Please, if this is your Lodge, become a part of the solution, not the problem! Perhaps these ideas will help!

Infighting & Cliques

Perhaps the single most devastating of all our problems is the infighting perpetuated by the bar Elks and bar lawyers clique! There is not a statute written that they cannot refuse with an opinion from somewhere or someone and their sole purpose in the Lodge is to distract attention and create controversy! Neither of these so-called “members” provide solutions to our problems because they are the problem. Perhaps if we stop giving them attention and just ignore their feigned attempts at disruption, they will simply go away! Adopt a no tolerance stance in your Lodge to deal with this problem and do it now!

Responding Reactively, not Proactively

To effectively manage challenges, the leadership of a Lodge must get to the point that Lodge leaders are planning to prevent problems and not always having to solve problems! Simply reacting lessens our defense and enables those perpetuating the problems to distract us from the things we should really be doing. It’s a strategy played out over and over within our Lodges. The endgame of the detractors is if they can’t win, no one will! I was recently in a Lodge that is known for its evening dance bands. The occasion was the visit of the state VP and the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. As the event was winding down, the dance crowd began to arrive and some acted a bit perturbed that an Elks function was getting in the way of their dancing! Now is this the tail wagging the dog or what? How about the Lodge that offers bingo and the group running it give all the proceeds to the players and none to charity lest they go to the fraternal down the street? Here again we are reacting so we don’t lose our patrons! Haven’t we got our ideals and priorities just a little out of sync here? Are we operating from a position of power or giving in because that’s so much easier? The Lodge leader that set goals and then insisted the Lodge leadership and Lodge members act on those goals to the membership and through its activities so the members know who is in charge. When we don’t, the above can happen with devastating consequences. It must be controlled.

Undervaluing the Value of a Lodge Membership

Recently I spoke to a Lodge Secretary who told me of their experience with a $1.00 initiation fee and prorated dues. This seems to be all the rage these days and for the most part I believed that they were being considered to be successful. This particular Lodge reported that a significant class of initiatives had been brought in the prior year under this program but that this year when dues notices went out, this group declined to renew as the price had gone up! Even though the class had been sufficiently informed they would pay normal dues the following year, when the time came, they did not see the value! I see several things from this that can be learned, the least of which is that when offering a door-buster discount, you need to have something to hook them on the other side! Secondly, if we value our membership at $1.00 initiation fee and prorated dues. This seems to be all the rage these days and must be controlled. When we don’t, the above can happen with devastating consequences. It is a short-term strategy at best and can be equally accomplished with a well-planned and executed open house. Our membership product should be an “if you try it you will like it product,” but if bar and restaurant are the sale, you can get that all day for no cover charge at any bar or restaurant establishment in town!

Gone are many of our Rituals and Customs

It is rare today to find anyone who buys furniture or other items with the idea of passing them down to the next generation. We have become a throwaway society influenced by the consumerism and the desire to use and dispose of items quickly. We used to pride ourselves on working our way through the chairs to become the Exalted Ruler (ER), being trained along the way, but now we find ourselves Zheng brand new members to step in and run the Lodge! Maybe since our membership has shrunk to half its size since our glory days, it is now time to shrink the number of officers REQUIRED to operate the Lodge. Think the ER, one VP, a secretary/treasurer and the fourtrustees—seven, not fifteen! Might we then get more committed officers who actually compete to win a part? Also, while I’m not completely out of my mind, let’s make all positions two-year positions! Now all you PDD statute followers, don’t get overly excited here. Our Lodges need solutions yesterday, not in three to five years when the statutes could get amended or the Lodge bylaws changed. We can do this by simply adopting it as a “best practice” in your Lodge! Yes, that’s right, tell those running up front that you expect a two-year commitment from them and then simply reelect them the second year. Adopt progression in the chairs remaining by requiring you to serve for two years first so we can learn the ropes. You know who is gone someone is gone for six to eight weeks in the summer and can’t commit to attending meetings during those times, find another job for them in the Lodge! We’ve realized the benefit of continuity in the secretary’s office for years and constantly reelect our secretaries. We can start this today! Show me a Lodge which 99% of operations are not overseen by the ER and house committee/trustees and . . . no really, show me! Our Lodges that are successful in membership growth year after year have an underlying growth that is an expectation when someone in those Lodges seeks the ER chair. It is not legislated; it is the way they think and it works!

But we are a Snowbird Lodge!

While I’m on a roll here, let me also make a comment about Lodges that wait for the snowbirds to come back before they can turn a profit. One, I’m sorry that your business plan relies so much on part-time residents to make you profitable and I understand the volume principle that makes it work, but maybe if you are so snowbird-based, maybe you should not burn the overhead during the summer just to keep a few people happy and create the hole the snowbirds have to dig you out of? Or, maybe you need to get just a little more proactive and find ways to generate other income during those months with hall rentals and the like!

Economize and Save

Our Lodges need to start looking at every way they can to economize and recycle, from power-saving light bulbs to cash for aluminum cans. I recently heard from a business practices member that a common response heard when a Lodge is asked why they are not using an electronic POS (point of sale) system in their club is they can’t afford it. In this day and age of competition and razor thin margins, if you are one of those Lodges, how can you not afford it?

Elks Family

We talk about the Elks “family” and as much as we bicker and argue, is there any doubt we are an Elks FAMILY? I think it is past time for a little family intervention! We have got to put our collective feet down for the good of the family or pretty soon there will be no family! Hold a town hall meeting in the Lodge or two or three! Bring someone in who is not in the family to moderate it or call me to do it. The key is to project neutrality to the membership and to allow all opinions to be fairly represented! Become a family again, one that respects one another and gets along!

Time to Downsize from our Oversized, Aging and Inefficient Buildings

Our buildings and club operations are consuming all of our way too valuable and limited volunteer time! We must right-size our facilities and the sooner the better! Our Marketing and Communications Director, Greg Weis, has been telling us and telling us that the values of the millennials and Gen X & Y are vastly different from our boomers today. I know many of our Lodges are managing one day at a time and asking them to continually regenerate and undermine the success of our Lodges, chipping away at the benefit of continuity in the secretary’s office for years and constantly reelect our secretaries. We can start this today! Show me a Lodge in which 99% of operations are not overseen by the ER and house committee/trustees and . . . no really, show me! Our Lodges that are successful in membership growth year after year have an underlying continuity to the membership growth that is an expectation when someone in those Lodges seeks the ER chair. It is not legislated; it is the way they think and it works!

State Secretary continued on page 6
Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

The 51st Annual Florida Ladies of Elks Conference was a fabulous, exciting, and very rewarding experience. The memories that we made, as we took this journey together, will last a lifetime. Thank you so much for taking every one of those steps with me.

I would like to thank all the Florida Ladies of Elks, and Elk members, the members of the Board, the Advisory Council, the Delegates, the Past State Presidents, my home Lodge, St. Augustine #829, and our Ladies Organization the Eland Club, and the “Mighty” Northeast District for all your belief in me and support this year.

The FSEA has been a great support to us all long. They worked very closely with us on our on-line packets and reservations for our May Luncheon, our New Banner for our 1st Hospitality Room, our on-line packets for Conference, our Program Books, Past State President Booklets, our Memorial Programs and our beautiful Nulled Tag Holders with this year’s Logo and Theme. Many thanks to FSEA State Secretary, Carl Seibert and his staff, Lynn Warburton, Director FEYC, and Ben Brown, Administrator FECTS.

And, a very special thank you to Past Grand Exalted Ruler Mike Smith and his beautiful wife Sandra, our FSEA State President Danny Tabor and his beautiful wife Rachel, our WPAL Carl Ledig and his beautiful wife Dolly and all the Past State Presidents and their wives, who attended our Conference weekend. Our continued success is because of your support and encouragement.

Lynn Warburton, FEYC Director, was unable to be with us, but we were fortunate to have Nichols “Nick” Miller, FEYC Assistant Director, to give the Annual Report and pass out the awards for the most monies donated and the most campers sent to camp from April 2013 to March 2014.

The most money donated awards went to – 1st place – St. Augustine Eland Club $4,700.00, 2nd place – Port Orange Elks Hearts $3,000.00, 3rd place – Eustis Anna Miller Circle $2,700.00.

The most campers sponsored awards went to – 1st place – St. Augustine Eland Club 18 campers, 2nd place – Port Orange Elks Hearts 16 campers, 3rd place – Eustis Anna Miller Circle 15 campers.

Nick stated that there were 2289 campers at camp this past summer and that a total of $26,491.08 was raised from the Eustis Anna Miller Circle $2,700.00.

The following awards were also presented – Percentage of Members in Attendance, Winter Garden #2165 with 58.88%, Miles Traveled to Conference, Cape Coral Ladies of Elks #5106 and the Attendance, Ladies Present in the Room at Roll Call, Punta Gorda Elkettes #2066.

State Chairman for the Ladies Organization for the most monies donated.

The most money donated awards went to – 1st place – Cape Coral Ladies of Elks $4,954.00, 2nd place – St. Augustine Eland Club $3,615.00, and the “largest amount of money donated per capita” went to Marianna Ladies of Elks, with 14 members, donated $3,000.00 or $214.00 per member.

Ben Brown also reported that we have 24 Therapists; treating 375 children per week, with 13,953 treatments carried out, totaling 16,347 hours and logging 513,199 miles this year. The ladies have donated $1,402,000.00 since FECTS began in 1999. This is a job well done: “Congratulations.”

Again, our 365 Chair Lady, Carole Weston, presented Brown with a check for $7,167.85. This brought the total 365 Club contributions this year to $9,980.30 and our total contributions to date are $397,494.18.

Dolores Casella, PSP, gave her report on the program book, thanking Vice President Jane Moon for all of her assistance and hard work in getting our program book ready for conference this year. Dolores then presented the following awards – Most Ads Supporting FLOE was presented to Punta Gorda Elkettes #2606, $265.00, Booster awards were presented to, Most Boosters – Ft. Pierce Elkettes #1520, with 115, Second Amount of Boosters – Ladies of the Island #5750, with 70 and a very close Second – Ladies of Elks, Bonita Springs-Estero, with 67.

George Zocchi, Chairman of the Ladies Organization, with the assistance of Mary Crosier, Vice Chairman of the Ladies Organization, presented the Scrapbook awards – 1st place, St. Augustine Eland Club #829, 2nd place, Brandon Ladies of Elks #2383 and 3rd place, Cape Coral Ladies of Elks #2596. The following awards were also presented – Percentage of Members in Attendance, Winter Garden #2165 with 58.88%, Miles Traveled to Conference, Cape Coral Ladies of Elks #5106 and the Attendance, Ladies Present in the Room at Roll Call, Punta Gorda Elkettes #2066.

Our 365 Chair Lady, Carole Weston, presented Nick with a check for $2,812.45 to be used for the new Laundry Facilities.

Ben Brown, FSEA Administrator, Elks Children Therapy Services, gave his annual report and passed out the awards with the assistance of George Zocchi, thanking Vice President Jane Moon for all of her assistance and hard work in getting our program book ready for conference this year. Dolores then presented the following awards – Most Ads Supporting FLOE was presented to Punta Gorda Elkettes #2606, $265.00, Booster awards were presented to, Most Boosters – Ft. Pierce Elkettes #1520, with 115, Second Amount of Boosters – Ladies of the Island #5750, with 70 and a very close Second – Ladies of Elks, Bonita Springs-Estero, with 67.

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

Jane Moon

New President of FLOE for 2014-2015

It is my humble pleasure to be installed as the Florida Ladies of Elks President for the year 2014-2015. The heartbeat of FLOE is the individual ladies organizations within our Lodges in Florida. What wonderful assistance they are to their Lodges, and always in our hearts are the children and veterans that our Major Projects support. My motto for this coming year is, “Be a Hero in the Eyes of a Child” and this can be seen and demonstrated in so many ways. I encourage each of our ladies to continue to find the strength to support their Lodges and programs as even the smallest of efforts ultimately touches and shapes the lives of so many children. Our future depends on them. I look forward to renewing friendships with so many of you that I’ve met in the past, and especially look forward to meeting many more ladies who are embedded in our Lodges sometimes as the “silent hero” – you are truly a blessing.

Outgoing FLOE President Judy Reyes adores the gift of Orchids presented to her by her husband Wayne at the conclusion of the 51st Annual FLOE Conference held at the Shores Resort in Daytona Beach.

We were honored to have Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Mike Smith, address all who attended our afternoon session. Mike congratulated everyone and thanked the ladies for all their hard work.

Our Guest Speaker was the current FSEA State President, Danny Tabor. Danny’s speech was very inspirational and coming straight from his heart. Danny thanked the ladies for their great team work and always being able to get the job done for the children. Thank you, Danny for being there for all of us.

And I would also like to say a big thank you to Vic McClellan, PSP, for speaking to us on Friday night at our Luau Banquet.

Ruth Wills, Workshop Chair Lady, was unable to join us, and we wish her a speedy recovery. Judy Fournier, Advisory Council, and the ladies from the West Palm Beach area, did the workshop program on Fundraising called “Bring an Extra Dollar.” They showed us how you could take a small Christmas tree (they used a pink one) and decorate it with small items (Christmas, Valentine’s Day, Labor Day, Easter, Mothers Day, etc) that could be sold for a dollar or maybe two. This could be an easy and fun fundraiser for any ladies organization.

And finally, to my friend and Incoming President, Jane Moon and all of her newly installed officers, I wish you all a smooth and successful 2014/2015 year. Congratulations to each of you.

Thank you so much for the greatest year ever as we made, “The Journey for the Children, From the Heart, One Step at a Time.”

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.”

By Reinhold Niebuhr
Contributions from Florida Ladies to the Major Projects of the Florida State Elks Association during the year 2013-2014

The following donations are from the period April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014 and include contributions to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Trust Fund and Elks Charities. A combined total of $77,320.92 was donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Elks Charities and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services (FEYC/FEATF).

Another $32,218.93 was donated to the Florida Elks Youth Camp (FEYC).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORTHWEST</th>
<th>FEYC</th>
<th>FECTS/HATF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crestview Elkettes</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ft. Walton Elkettes</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama City Does, DR No.180</td>
<td>670.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milton Elkettes</td>
<td>59.75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensacola/Pensacola Beach LOE</td>
<td>41.97</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrington Elkettes</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>3,075.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District totals</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>7,146.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORTH DISTRICT</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake City Ladies</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison Ladi Elks</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Oak Anna Miller Cirle</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starke Elkettes</td>
<td>210.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marianna Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallahassee Elkettes</td>
<td>247.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District totals</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORTHEAST DISTRICT</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin/St. Johns</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange Park Ladies Auxiliary</td>
<td>125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palatka Ladies of Elks Assoc Inc.</td>
<td>270.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Augustine Eland Club</td>
<td>4,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District totals</td>
<td>4,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTH SOUTHWEST DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonita Springs Ladies of Elks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Coral Ladies of Elks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte County Charities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep Creek Ladies of Elks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lehigh Acres Ladies of Elks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naples Ladies of Elks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Englewood Does Dr. 203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GreaterPine Isle 2781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. Ft. Myers Ladies of Elk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punta Gorda Elkettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotonda Elkettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District totals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apopka Elkettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eustis Anna Miller Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Lake Elkettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverness Does, Drove 232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Garden Ladies of Elks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Park Does Drove 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District totals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dunedin-Clearwater Ladies of Elks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinellas Park Ladies of Elks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminole Ladies of Elks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa Ladies of Elks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCD Past Lady President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District totals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTHWEST CENTRAL DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cocoa Beach Elkettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ft. Pierce Elkettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne Ladies Auxiliary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian El Does</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuart-Jensen Anna Miller Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viera Elkettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District totals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota Does Dr. #157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmetto Elks Ladies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradenton Elkettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venice - Nokomis Does Dr. #141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District totals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTHWEST SOUTH SOUTHWEST DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boca Raton Does Dr. #173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakland Park LOE #2407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delray Beach Elkettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakland Park LOE #2407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunrise Elkettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pompano Beach Does Drove #142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District totals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTH DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida Keys Does DR. #117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homestead Anna Miller Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marathon Does Dr. #167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Elkettes of # 948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District totals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| GRAND TOTALS | 32,218.93 | 77,320.47 |

From left: FECTS Administrator Ben Brown, Jr. with FLOE 365 Club Chairlady Carol Weston and FEYC Assistant Director Nick Miller holding donation checks of $2,812.45 to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and $727.85 to Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Ladies Organization Chairman George Zocchi and Vice Chairman Mary Crosier flank WC District Delegate Sharon Brandt with the Traveling Award Plaque for most % per 45 members of $1,750,394 value in dollars–time-mileage-donations.

Cape Coral Ladies of Elks delegate Phyllis Vitale accepted the Most Money Donated to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services Award from Ben Brown, FECTS Administrator.

St. Augustine 829 Eland Club received four awards, Most Children Sent to the Florida Elks Youth Camp, and Second most money to the Children’s Therapy Services, $9,380, first place Scrapbook. Shown are delegate Judy Geronimo, FLOE President Judy Reyes, and Rosemary Dean, Scrapbook designer.
November is Veterans Remembrance Month

For the Order of Elks, veterans remembrance is a daily proposition. We never have and never will forget the sacrifices these heroes made so that we may be free. But it has been a tradition for the Order to redouble its efforts on behalf of veterans in November, not just for Veterans Day, but for the entire month. For the Elks, November is Veterans Remembrance Month.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission asks all Lodges to run a special event to commemorate Veterans Remembrance Month and to raise funds for the Lodge’s Veterans Service Commission. Many Lodges use the proceeds for special events in the VA medical center during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Some Lodges even invite those veterans who are able to take part in special programs and functions.

When planning your Veterans Remembrance function, be sure to keep the district chairman and V A VS representative apprised. They can help direct your efforts where they are needed most.

GREETINGS FROM PGER ROBERT GRAFTON

Hello and best wishes to all.

It was extremely tough for me to miss the State Convention in May (first miss in many, many years) and then the Grand Lodge Convention in July; all due too family physical problems.

As far as the State Association and the member Lodges are concerned, I follow the activities and progress quite closely and note:

1. Val, with the North Lodges, and Mike with the South Lodges, are both working extremely hard (and successfully) dealing with Lodge problems. I know from years of the same experience that it takes a tremendous amount of time and is, to often, quite frustrating.

2. I handle all applications from Lodges to the Board of Grand Trustees for permission to buy, sell, repair, improve, etc., property of or for the Lodges; also for permission to borrow money for any purpose. Unfortunately this activity has been too busy recently by virtue of loss of several Charters; this necessitates appointed Trustees (by the GER) to sell the remaining property.

It is a pleasure to work with the Lodges who seek funding permission to improve their property or to lower their mortgage obligations.

3. As I have for a lot of years, I closely monitor the finances of the State Association and it’s corporate entities as well as the way it operates. Along with Val and Mike we are committed to keeping you advised about the good and appropriate activities of the Association or any missteps which may occur.

Thank you to the many who contacted us concerning my wife Pat (sometimes affectionately known as Mama Pat) who has improved after 21 days in the hospital and 9 days in rehab.

It will be my great pleasure to be back together with you in Orlando at the Mid-Year Meeting.

May your family and friends enjoy good health and the Blessing of God in all of your endeavors.

Bob Grafton

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

Past State President Frank Hayes asks for an opportunity to express his appreciation for all the help he received in manning the Florida Hospitality Room at the National Convention held in New Orleans, July 13-17, 2014.

He gives his thanks also to the Districts and Lodges that donated gift baskets and gift cards for use in the very successful 50/50.

He gives a special Thanks to Kathy Wenzel and his wife, Linda, for their help.

The event was a huge success and those who contributed their time and money contributed greatly in offsetting the work and expenses.

Looking for New Lodges

Attention Members

Do you know of an area in Florida that would be a great home for a new Elks Lodge? An area that could use a community minded service group who specialize in Veterans and Children? An area that is not currently served by one of our local Lodges? If so please contact PSP Brian T. Burns, New Lodges Advisor for details of how you make that a reality. Our great growth of the 80s and 90s was largely because of new Lodges. Let’s fill the gaps where we may have many stray Elks and potential new Members to help our Association and Order grow. Contact Email is elk@burnsbrian.com.

Thanks,
Brian T Burns, PSP

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins
Awardsed July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014

Gold Pins for Paid-in-Full $5,000 Certificate

Betty Tewksbury Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

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

Kirby Schall Cape Coral Lodge 2596

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate

Timothy Bannister Bradenton Lodge 1511

Joy Booth, DDGER West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

Ellis Wayne Connell Perry Lodge 1851

Marjorie Cyr Edgewater-NSB Lodge 1557

Ken Davis Manasota Lodge 2734

Jeanette Hernandez Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

Janet Psychas Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

Scott Stroup Eustis Lodge 1578

State Secretary continued from page 3

had to abandon a few in the past few years. Perhaps it is time to start planning for a reset in many of our Lodges and I would even go so far as to challenge the state to bring some builders, banks and other real estate-minded people to the table to provide assistance to Lodges needing to explore this possibility so we can preserve our equity and reposition our Lodges for the future!

Enter the 3-2-1

One of our think tank participants shared an idea another civic organization is using as its model for the future called 3-2-1. The basis of their operations is three community projects a month, two meetings and one social. How simple is that? Someone in that group who specializes in Veterans and Children? An area that is not cur-

Attention Members

Thanks,
Brian T Burns, PSP

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins
Awardsed July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014

Gold Pins for Paid-in-Full $5,000 Certificate

Betty Tewksbury Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

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

Kirby Schall Cape Coral Lodge 2596

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate

Timothy Bannister Bradenton Lodge 1511

Joy Booth, DDGER West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

Ellis Wayne Connell Perry Lodge 1851

Marjorie Cyr Edgewater-NSB Lodge 1557

Ken Davis Manasota Lodge 2734

Jeanette Hernandez Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

Janet Psychas Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

Scott Stroup Eustis Lodge 1578

State Secretary continued from page 3

had to abandon a few in the past few years. Perhaps it is time to start planning for a reset in many of our Lodges and I would even go so far as to challenge the state to bring some builders, banks and other real estate-minded people to the table to provide assistance to Lodges needing to explore this possibility so we can preserve our equity and reposition our Lodges for the future!

Enter the 3-2-1

One of our think tank participants shared an idea another civic organization is using as its model for the future called 3-2-1. The basis of their operations is three community projects a month, two meetings and one social. How simple is that? Someone in that organization is looking down the road! Is there any doubt that we know that their future members are going to be? Oh, and guess where this organization meets for their meetings two times a month? They meet in different locations because they don’t own a building! Maybe we should look them up and offer our buildings to them for their meet-

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

Past State President Frank Hayes asks for an opportunity to express his appreciation for all the help he received in manning the Florida Hospitality Room at the National Convention held in New Orleans, July 13-17, 2014.

He gives his thanks also to the Districts and Lodges that donated gift baskets and gift cards for use in the very successful 50/50.

He gives a special Thanks to Kathy Wenzel and his wife, Linda, for their help.

The event was a huge success and those who contributed their time and money contributed greatly in offsetting the work and expenses.

State Secretary continued from page 3

had to abandon a few in the past few years. Perhaps it is time to start planning for a reset in many of our Lodges and I would even go so far as to challenge the state to bring some builders, banks and other real estate-minded people to the table to provide assistance to Lodges needing to explore this possibility so we can preserve our equity and reposition our Lodges for the future!

Enter the 3-2-1

One of our think tank participants shared an idea another civic organization is using as its model for the future called 3-2-1. The basis of their operations is three community projects a month, two meetings and one social. How simple is that? Someone in that organization is looking down the road! Is there any doubt that we know that their future members are going to be? Oh, and guess where this organization meets for their meetings two times a month? They meet in different locations because they don’t own a building! Maybe we should look them up and offer our buildings to them for their meet-

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

Past State President Frank Hayes asks for an opportunity to express his appreciation for all the help he received in manning the Florida Hospitality Room at the National Convention held in New Orleans, July 13-17, 2014.

He gives his thanks also to the Districts and Lodges that donated gift baskets and gift cards for use in the very successful 50/50.

He gives a special Thanks to Kathy Wenzel and his wife, Linda, for their help.

The event was a huge success and those who contributed their time and money contributed greatly in offsetting the work and expenses.

State Secretary continued from page 3

had to abandon a few in the past few years. Perhaps it is time to start planning for a reset in many of our Lodges and I would even go so far as to challenge the state to bring some builders, banks and other real estate-minded people to the table to provide assistance to Lodges needing to explore this possibility so we can preserve our equity and reposition our Lodges for the future!

Enter the 3-2-1

One of our think tank participants shared an idea another civic organization is using as its model for the future called 3-2-1. The basis of their operations is three community projects a month, two meetings and one social. How simple is that? Someone in that organization is looking down the road! Is there any doubt that we know that their future members are going to be? Oh, and guess where this organization meets for their meetings two times a month? They meet in different locations because they don’t own a building! Maybe we should look them up and offer our buildings to them for their meet-

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

Past State President Frank Hayes asks for an opportunity to express his appreciation for all the help he received in manning the Florida Hospitality Room at the National Convention held in New Orleans, July 13-17, 2014.

He gives his thanks also to the Districts and Lodges that donated gift baskets and gift cards for use in the very successful 50/50.

He gives a special Thanks to Kathy Wenzel and his wife, Linda, for their help.

The event was a huge success and those who contributed their time and money contributed greatly in offsetting the work and expenses.
Clewiston Lodge 1853

Clewiston Lodge held its first Annual Poker Run on August 24. Ninety-three riders participated and helped raise over $1,000 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. A great time was had as the riders took a tour around scenic Lake Okeechobee. The plans are underway for next year’s ride following a different route.

The Lodge hosted State President Tabor's visit at the end of July. Southeast District Vice-President Les Baucum did a wonderful job planning the event. The party enjoyed airboat rides on Lake Okeechobee with the help of members from the Belle Glade/Pahokee Lodge. Jim Herrington, PDDGER, was awarded the District Elk of the Year at this meeting. Unfortunately, Jim passed away shortly after receiving this award.

The Lodge hosted the Brotherhood Ride of 55 riders and support personnel on August 1. They were provided with a dinner and an overnight stay as well as breakfast on Saturday morning before continuing their ride. This ride is held each year to honor fallen officers, firemen, and emergency personnel.

The Country Boy Cook-off was held with 19 teams participating. More than $6,500 was raised for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, local scholarships and other Lodge projects.

On September 4, the Lodge hosted 20 area teachers to a tailgate party. The teachers were treated to a dinner and given goodie bags of school supplies. The next day, a Back to School Bingo was held with over 50 in attendance. Over $800 in school supplies were donated and distributed to the teachers during this two day event.

Jupiter Lodge 2469

The Lodge celebrated All American Father’s Day and Flag Day during Father’s Day weekend. The officers, Boy and Girl Scout Troops, and the Honor Guard from the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Department participated in the traditional ceremony.

On Saturday, August 24, the Lodge held a “Night of Rock n Roll” as a fundraiser for the Wounded Warriors Project. On September 11, the Lodge had a special program honoring the “Fallen Heroes of 9/11”.

The evening started off with a New York style dinner featuring clam chowder, deli style sandwiches with cole slaw and New York Cheese cake for dessert. The movie by two Frenchmen was shown. It is the only movie that shows what happened inside the twin towers. The evening also had a guest speaker from the Palm Beach County Fire Department who spoke on how 9/11 changed the Department.

Belle Glade/Pahokee Lodge 1716

The Lodge honored Inner Guard, Mel Cole, as the Elk of the Month for his 100% attendance at meetings and his willingness to help out wherever it is needed. The Lodge has started serving lunches again. So if you are in the neighborhood stop in and enjoy a delicious meal.

Lake Okeechobee Lodge 2871

The Lodge has not been very active during the summer since most of its officers and many members reside up North during this time of year. As they start returning to the area, their activities will pick up.

WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525

Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge holds a monthly charity Saturday event. Wing or cheese steak or pulled pork sandwiches may be served. All for charity. This has come to show what the Elks are all about with the motto “Elks care, Elks Share.” With the kindness of those who share in our vision since April of 2013, the Lodge has been able to donate the $11,001 in proceeds to local individuals in need, along with the Pinellas County Animal Services, Moffitt Breast Cancer, Suncoast Riders Children’s Toy Drive, Send Kids to Camp. Karaoke, food and wonderful, charitable people can surely make a difference in the community.

The September meeting of the Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge landed on September 11. Special prayers for those lost and those left who were deeply touched by the tragedy of 9/11 by our Chaplain, Clarence Rolsin, PER. We also had a very moving presentation by Bill Baumburger, PER, who displayed a picture of that day of a lone fire truck crossing the Brooklyn Bridge with the Twin Towers smoking in the background. Bill explained how this fire truck was the second of two that left the fire station that day. The first truck had to stop to put out another fire. All the firemen on the truck in the picture made it to the World Trade Center, but never returned. The truck itself was crushed under the collapse of one of the buildings.

The Lodge presented a $245 check to San Jose Elementary School to help with classroom supplies. Money was raised by a 50/50 and personal donations. Also donated were two cases of Kleenex and hand cleaner donated to the school.

Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

In June, with the help of an ENF grant, the Lodge took 40 veterans from Bay Pines Hospital on a deep sea fishing trip on a local chartered boat. It was a real pleasure to see how much fun they were having. This has been a dream of theirs for some time. Upon returning to shore, they were bussed back to the Lodge where Lodge volunteers fried up their catch and they dined waterside to a live musician, who also volunteered.

During the Lodge’s annual Christmas-in-July party, members were asked to choose an ornament from Lodge’s lighted tree and bring those donations to the party for Bay Pines Veterans. The outcome was that the Lodge members donated approximately $1,600 in new items and gift cards that were delivered to veterans of Bay Pines.

The Lodge used another ENF grant, and donated over $2,000 in new clothes and shoes to Youth Lift, a homeless kids program. This project helped clothe these homeless kids as they got ready for the upcoming school year.

Largo Lodge 2159

Joe Fritz, a member of the Lodge and also the Scout Master for Boy Scout Troup #417 was awarded the prestigious Marvin M Lewis Elks and Scouting Award. Approved by the Grand Lodge in 1998, the Marvin M. Lewis Award recognizes Elks in good standing who have significantly contributed to the youth of their communities by volunteering in the programs of the Boy Scouts of America. Joe was one of four who received this honor this year at the National Convention in New Orleans.

The search for a home base continues to be their number one priority.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

Several men of the Lodge put on the second “Men in Drag Night.” It was done to a packed house. State Chairperson of Harry-Anna Trust Fund Suzy Simonelli attended along with her husband, Joey. After the event, Suzy was presented with a check for $700 for the Trust Fund. The money was from the 50/50 drawing and the tips the ladies made that night.

Under the supervision of Trustee Mike Newman, a group of members have helped to brighten up the front of the building with painting walls, refurbishing the wishing well, repainting the bumpers in the parking lot and fixing up the signs by the entrance. These gentlemen made a great effort to spruce up the outside. Along with the Bushwhackers (lawn crew), the Lodge is looking wonderful.

The Lodge presented Wynnebrooke Elementary School with dictionaries and school supplies which were purchased from a Gratitude Grant that member Tim Hadsell wrote. There will be enough dictionaries to supply two other schools in the area. The dictionaries are given to third graders as they learn how to properly use them to help with reading and writing skills.

ER Hector Rodrigues and others were challenged to the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. The soaking took place in front of the Lodge. Very anxious volunteers agreed to do the pouring. The ER challenged ER Bill Bowden at the Jupiter Lodge to take the challenge. The ALS Association received $118 from this “icy” effort.

In honor of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, the Lodge hosted a complimentary buffet luncheon for the city of Largo’s First Responders, police and EMT personnel. It was a well-attended community event.

West Central continued on Page 19
She continued, “These children will think it is Christmas!” was the 'largest one yet' and I am very pleased.

12 back packs that she and her daughter completely packed plus Janet Oberlin - pictured on left above, donated a huge box!

On July 18, a traditional Christmas celebration was held at the Lodge complete with a decorated Christmas tree, Christmas music, pictures with the Christmas bear and a traditional turkey dinner. This event was planned by Elk Shirley Crawford, chairperson. Approximately 100 toys were collected, including a four foot tall Teddy bear.

Zephyrhills Elks Lodge made a donation of an “office full” of school supplies to West Zephyrhills Elementary School on August 26, 2014.

Several members of the Zephyrhills Elks Lodge 2731 made the trek to St. Joseph’s Hospital in Tampa to donate a check for $2,500 and a bundle of toys for the hospital’s “Christmas in July” on July 25, 2014.

“Christmas in July” is an annual event for the Lodge to raise money and toys for the sick children at the hospital.

For several weeks prior to this event, Elk members had been bringing in toys and gifts - stuffing a huge box!

Several members of the Zephyrhills Elks Lodge 2731 made the trek to St. Joseph’s Hospital in Tampa to donate a check for $2,500 and a bundle of toys for the hospital’s “Christmas in July” on July 25, 2014.

“Christmas in July” is an annual event for the Lodge to raise money and toys for the sick children at the hospital.

For several weeks prior to this event, Elk members had been bringing in toys and gifts - stuffing a huge box!

On July 18, a traditional Christmas celebration was held at the Lodge complete with a decorated Christmas tree, Christmas music, pictures with the Christmas bear and a traditional turkey dinner. This event was planned by Elk Shirley Crawford, chairperson. Approximately 100 toys were collected, including a four foot tall Teddy bear.

Zephyrhills Elks Lodge made a donation of an “office full” of school supplies to West Zephyrhills Elementary School on August 26, 2014.

The Lodge has been collecting school supplies all summer long filling a large box in our lobby, plus Janet Oberlin - pictured on left above, donated 12 back packs that she and her daughter completely filled with all the supplies that any child would need for the school year.

Principal Wendy Lane commented, “This donation was the ‘largest one yet’ and I am very pleased.” She continued, “These children will think it is Christmas when they receive the supplies.” West Zephyrhills Elementary is the adopted school for the Lodge.

Zac Winters shook hands with Bob Hatfield, chairman of Zephyrhills Scholarship committee, after receiving the scholarship on 8/21/14. Zac is the salutatorian for the Zephyrhills High School class of 2014 and has started his freshman year at University of South Florida where he will study biomedical science with plans to eventually go to medical school and become an oncologist. He will be receiving $500 per semester for his four years of college eligibility from the Lodge. He is a Zephyrhills native and an exemplary student. We wish him the best.

Lodge members opted years ago to give the combined scholarships to one student for his or her entire college career rather than doling out $500 disbursements per semester to numerous students.

The Lodge donation will pay for two local cancer treatments per semester to numerous students.

The 60th anniversary of WW-II D Day.

World War II memorial was built in 2004 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of WW-II D Day.

World War II veterans to take an Honor Flight to Washington to visit the WW-II Memorial and other WW-II monuments. Veterans on Honor flights have all their expenses paid and are accompanied at all times by HF-WCF members. Honor flights have been made since the World War II memorial was built in 2004 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of WW-II D Day.

George Erwin, Orlando Lodge Exalted Ruler, presented Lisa Leighty with an Appreciation Award for her work As Chairman of Veterans Affairs at the new facility in Lake Nona. Lisa has been doing this for quite a few years having begun at the old facility in Lake Baldwin. She works hard and tirelessly to make our veterans happy.

The Lodge donated $700 to Libby’s Legacy whose mission is to provide comprehensive breast health care to the underserved Central Florida community through education, mammograms, follow-up diagnostics and Hope Coaches on the journey from diagnosis to treatment. Libby’s Legacy also helps stage IV breast cancer patients battling this disease by granting wishes in order to create cherished memories with loved ones through the LIVE BIG program. $700 was also donated to the BETA Center whose mission is to give children and parents the knowledge and support needed for strong and healthy families, with a focus on teen moms and at-risk families. These two charities receive donations from our Lodge frequently.

Lodge members hosted a fund raiser in June entitled “The Orlando Elks Salute Broadway!” More than $1,000 was made from the dinner/show which was allocated for charity. And this was just in ticket sales. Our catering service and bar also made a substantial amount of money. More than 22 Elks created this show with a variety of acts. A separate auction was held and of course there was a raffle. Our catering service and bar also made a substantial amount of money. More than 22 Elks created this show with a variety of acts. A separate auction was held and of course there was a raffle.

It is 4:00 p.m. on Monday and cars are arriving in the parking lot of the Orlando Elks Lodge 1079. People enter the Lodge and begin buying their bingo cards. Early bird games do not begin until 5:45 p.m. but most people do not want to miss any of the games. Members of the Orlando Elks and Does are sitting at a long table prepared to sell them their packages. Everyone smiles and welcomes each player but it’s rather like old “home week” as everyone knows each other. Jokes are made and compliments given.

“Many of the players are regulars and know each other. They also have particular places where they sit week after week,” says Mike McClay, who is one of the first members they see.

This is a social outing that also gives players a chance to win cash prizes including several jackpots. But there are other benefits besides the prizes that are not offered by other bingos. Since the Orlando Elk’s is a service organization made up of 100% volunteer members, proceeds from the bingo games and other fundraisers offer more to the community.

Bingo Betty plays every week. She also organizes these games every Monday spending as much as 15 hours at the lodge either preparing for the games, or, as the case may be, playing bingo after regular bingo begins. Betty has been playing bingo for a long time and has no intention of stopping. Betty, who is the chairman of the bingo committee, knows everyone on bingo night. She greets everyone with a smile and helps those people who are new to the game.

Many of the bingo players bring things to donate to the food box. Yes, this does give them an extra card, however, it’s an innate need to share with those less fortunate that drives these players. They are a happy group of individuals who enjoy one evening out with friends. The members of Orlando Elks Lodge 1079 hosts this bingo evening in order to raise money for their specific charities. All in all, it’s a win/win evening for everyone.

The Lodge donated $700 to Libby’s Legacy whose mission is to provide comprehensive breast health care to the underserved Central Florida community through education, mammograms, follow-up diagnostics and Hope Coaches on the journey from diagnosis to treatment. Libby’s Legacy also helps stage IV breast cancer patients battling this disease by granting wishes in order to create cherished memories with loved ones through the LIVE BIG program. $700 was also donated to the BETA Center whose mission is to give children and parents the knowledge and support needed for strong and healthy families, with a focus on teen moms and at-risk families. These two charities receive donations from our Lodge frequently.

Lodge members hosted a fund raiser in June entitled “The Orlando Elks Salute Broadway!” More than $1,000 was made from the dinner/show which was allocated for charity. And this was just in ticket sales. Our catering service and bar also made a substantial amount of money. More than 22 Elks created this show with a variety of acts. A separate auction was held and of course there was a raffle. Our catering service and bar also made a substantial amount of money. More than 22 Elks created this show with a variety of acts. A separate auction was held and of course there was a raffle.

It is 4:00 p.m. on Monday and cars are arriving in the parking lot of the Orlando Elks Lodge 1079. People enter the Lodge and begin buying their bingo cards. Early bird games do not begin until 5:45 p.m. but most people do not want to miss any of the games. Members of the Orlando Elks and Does are sitting at a long table prepared to sell them their packages. Everyone smiles and welcomes each player but it’s rather like old “home week” as everyone knows each other. Jokes are made and compliments given.

“Many of the players are regulars and know each other. They also have particular places where they sit week after week,” says Mike McClay, who is one of the first members they see.

This is a social outing that also gives players a chance to win cash prizes including several jackpots. But there are other benefits besides the prizes that are not offered by other bingos. Since the Orlando Elk’s is a service organization made up of 100% volunteer members, proceeds from the bingo games and other fundraisers offer more to the community.

Bingo Betty plays every week. She also organizes these games every Monday spending as much as 15 hours at the lodge either preparing for the games, or, as the case may be, playing bingo after regular bingo begins. Betty has been playing bingo for a long time and has no intention of stopping. Betty, who is the chairman of the bingo committee, knows everyone on bingo night. She greets everyone with a smile and helps those people who are new to the game.

Many of the bingo players bring things to donate to the food box. Yes, this does give them an extra card, however, it’s an innate need to share with those less fortunate that drives these players. They are a happy group of individuals who enjoy one evening out with friends. The members of Orlando Elks Lodge 1079 hosts this bingo evening in order to raise money for their specific charities. All in all, it’s a win/win evening for everyone.

The Lodge donated $700 to Libby’s Legacy whose mission is to provide comprehensive breast health care to the underserved Central Florida community through education, mammograms, follow-up diagnostics and Hope Coaches on the journey from diagnosis to treatment. Libby’s Legacy also helps stage IV breast cancer patients battling this disease by granting wishes in order to create cherished memories with loved ones through the LIVE BIG program. $700 was also donated to the BETA Center whose mission is to give children and parents the knowledge and support needed for strong and healthy families, with a focus on teen moms and at-risk families. These two charities receive donations from our Lodge frequently.
Brandon Lodge 2383

Brandon Lodge has been recognizing local students on a monthly basis, but in August 2014, one amazing student, Ashley Piechowiak, a senior at Durant High School was recognized by the Brandon Lodge.

Ashley is a senior, has a GPA of 5.02, 1110 on SAT score, Captain of the Varsity Flag Football, a member of the Varsity Soccer team and has done 80 hours of community service at a hospital. Her college plans are to major in engineering at the University of South Florida.

Leisure, not labor, was on the minds of those attending a holiday picnic at Brandon Elks Lodge on September 1. The Lodge held a Labor Day Picnic and Bluegrass Festival to celebrate the holiday. Members were there to welcome many residents in the community. Bluegrass music was playing, good food and beverages, and children had a bounce house with games and crafts. Many residents were having good things to say about goods at Brandon Lodge. Membership applications were passed and filled out!

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

Lake Placid Elks and Lake Placid Jaycees joined to celebrate the Lake Placid Ponytail softball teams from 2013 and 2014 (10-12 years old) and the Lake Placid Belles girls softball teams (13-15).

Both girls teams went to state competition and came in second place. The Lodge’s Community Chairperson John Donley spoke of history of softball, gave a demonstration of the original size of a size of the area the game was played and then followed by announcing the players of the teams and coaches with Vince Connell, PER, of presenting awards to each girl and coach. Following the presentation the teams broke down into a competitive game of a bean toss game (version of Corn Hole) with the top two winners receiving a $20 gift certificate to Beef O’Brady’s. Lake Placid Elks and Jaycees were honored to present the awards and speaking of their great accomplishment.

Lakeland Lodge 1291

On Lakeland Lodge’s July 4th event we not only celebrated with good food and fun games with fellow Elks and family, but Veterans were remembered.

Chances on baskets were sold with homemade goods and all proceeds from the celebration went to the Vets. Veterans are never forgotten at the Lodge. A Lakeland Elks 2014 cookbook was made with over 105 recipes from appetizers to some good dinners. Cost of the cookbook is $15 and all proceeds go to the Veterans.

Lakeland Lodge is in the process of re-vamping the Veterans Wall of Honor. Unveiling of the wall will take place on Sunday, October 5th which is the same day of their annual trip to James A. Haley VA Hospital. More to share in the Winter Newsletter.

Plant City Lodge 1727

The function is in its 16th year and is always a success for Floridas charities. Approximately 150 participants support this worthwhile event and are joined by more than 50 plus company sponsor/donors.

Veterans still remain one of the primary focuses for the Plant City Lodge. Earlier this year the Lodge came to the assistance of US Army Sgt. Sean McLaughlin and his family through the Army of Hope. This summer Ladies of the Elks Judy Wise and Dee Sprivey, PER, helped in arranging for Cheyenne, Sgt. McLaughlin’s daughter, to be sent to Florida Elks Youth Camp. Cheyenne wore a tie dyed shirt to camp reading, “Thank you LOE for sponsoring me at the Elks Youth Camp.”

Sebring Lodge 1524

Sebring Lodge members meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the Highland County Food Bank, and on September 2, the Sebring members met at the food bank to pack weekend food packs for needy children provided by the Food Bank.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672

Winter Haven ladies of the Elks are up and running. “Winter Haven Elkettes” name was selected. Mary Lou Collins will be President, Vicci Kirkland, Vice President; Mary Perkins, Secretary; and Sherry Goldman, Treasurer. Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month. Ladies of the Elks have been a strong part of very many Lodges.

Arcadia Lodge 1524

Arcadia Lodge has received notice they have been approved for a Promise Grant. A Bicycle Rally and Festival has been organized with the help of local schools, city hall, and the community. Children will not only receive bike helmets, but there will be safety demonstrations, prizes, and a picnic. Thanks go to Jackie Turner, PER, for working on the grant.

Wedding Bells at the Arcadia Elks Lodge also had fundraiser for the Lodge. The Honorable James Parker of the Desoto Circuit Courts, daughter Lenore Brewer and husband Bob celebrated their son and the judge’s grandson’s wedding in September, followed by a Henry Lever Action 22 rifle that had been donated to the Lodge for a fundraiser raffle.
Eustis Lodge 1578
The Lodge donated two power wheelchairs to students of Lake Hills School, a school serving approximately 200 Lake County students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities ages 3 to 22.

From left, Gabe Stewart PER, Steve Muensterman, the school’s Occupational Therapist, Richard Borwegen, Esteemed Leading Knight, with students LaFabian Irvine and Kody Holland.

The school reported that the Elks Lodge commitment to helping children with disabilities in the community is greatly appreciated by the precious students, school, and the Lake County School District.

The Lodge also made a spaghetti dinner every Thursday for eight weeks for the Eustis Junior Varsity Football team prior to their games. The men at the Lodge made spaghetti, salad, and garlic toast for the boys to eat when school lets out.

Inverness Lodge 2522
The Lodge sponsored the first ever “Dirt Bike School,” in conjunction with Filter Youth Development of Inverness. Filter Youth is a 501(C) 3 organization which works with the Citrus County School District and the Citrus County Sheriff’s Office, in helping youth, who are on the edge of delinquency, to turn their lives around, through a certified course of Off Road Vehicle Safety. Filter runs three 12 week courses a year, after school and weekends, teaching the enrolled youth, responsibility, safety education, and safe riding habits.

Some of the youth that Filter Youth Development and the Lodge assist when the Lodge is paying for tools they needed to keep their training bikes mechanically road worthy.

The Lodge discussed developing a program that would train children from the community, those who were not verging on delinquency, on how to safely operate these bikes. Together, we devised a three day course, of eight hours a day, for them.

Working through the ENF Beacon Grant program, matched by the FSEA, the Lodge purchased more than $2,000 worth of safety equipment, helmets, gloves, and goggles, and then spent some of the remaining $2,000 for tools and equipment needed by Filter Youth, on a daily basis. Then during the three day course, bought drinks, snacks, lunches, and gas for the bikes. On the third day, the family and friends of the riders were invited to a Graduation Lunch, where volunteer Elks cooked and served up a barbecue lunch to more than 65 guests. This event was so successful, that there are already plans to hold the “2nd & 3rd Elks Dirt Bike School” next year.

In another project, the Lodge was contacted by the Citrus County Foster Parents Association, Inc. to request donations of backpacks and school supplies. This project needed a quick turnaround before school started. Leading Knight, Dave Douglas, a retired Citrus County teacher, jumped in to lead the project which determined that the greatest need is the high school age students and with the assistance of his former colleagues planned the needed supplies. Of particular concern was finding the right scientific calculator that is required for these students. Exalted Ruler Tina Mabie, and Richard Grosnick, Elks National Foundation Chairman, saw an opportunity to use an ENF Gratitude Grant.

Through Dave’s connections, the project was extended to include the guidance departments of all three county high schools and each school would receive backpacks for emergency back-to-school relief.

After Lodge and Does Drive members loaded the supplies into backpacks, The Foster Parents Association were invited to the Lodge to pick up the backpacks. Exalted Ruler Tina Mabie made the presentation and explained the project to more than 20 Elks that were present.

Winter Park Lodge 1830
The Lodge presented 125 third graders at English Estates Elementary School with their own free dictionary. The Elks will be distributing over 2,700 free dictionaries to 3rd grade students in 17 Seminole County Elementary schools for their 2014-15 school year Dictionary Project. Some people feel that the dictionaries have been replaced by technology, but many children do not have ready access to technology; especially poor and homeless.

Lodge Secretary Leslie Eberline and Joey Eberline are shown presenting a check for $500 to Jackie Carter toward her goal of $4,000 to enable her to attend the Ranch Horse World Championships in Bowling Green KY. Representing our South Lake community and the state of Florida, Jackie carried the American flag in opening ceremonies.

Exalter Ruler Teresa Waddle presented a check for $500 to Marie Howd and Kay Simpson, representatives for The Greater Clermont Children’s Cancer Center, whose charity account helps local children.

The Lodge is planning to join with many local businesses in a Music Festival to raise money for the center so they can make small miracles happen every day. Several Lodge members sell beverages and hamburgers with the help of Lodge-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 1848.
to the fallen heroes. The barbecue fundraiser event had of duty. The community turnout was a heartfelt tribute to those first responders who have passed away in the line of duty. The Brotherhood Ride, an organization which honors camaraderie. In August, the Lodge was a sponsor for district were in attendance for a wonderful evening of visitation was a huge success. The Lodges from the SEC convention was very informative and exciting. The DVP bers. It was agreed among all participants that the con- back to Lodge with many stories to share with its mem-

Exalted Ruler David Aievoli gives Cookie Melton a plaque from the Elks National Foundation thanking her for the generous donation of $5,000. Since inception, the ENF has contributed more than $384.1 million toward Elks’ charitable projects na-

tionwide. CA Moore Principal Pamela Homes was pre-

From Left; PDDGER Lenny Smallacombe, Gary Perdue, Chris Konow and ER Dave Aievoli. Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

The Lodge celebrated July 4th with a well at-tended barbecue picnic. The food was absolutely deli-
cious and a good time was had by all. The Lodge had several members including the ER Bill LaSalla present at the Grand Convention in New Orleans. They all came back to Lodge with many stories to share with its mem-

Betty Tewksbury, left, donated $5,000 to Presi-
dent Dan Tabor’s HATF goal, as Betty’s daughter, Suzi Simonelli, Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairman, right, realizes the district raised more than $24,000 toward the State Presidents goal of $750,000.

Past State President Mike Phillips, also helped the SEC district raise money for HATF as he sang two songs, which gained another $146 during the Presi-
dential visit to the SEC District at Melbourne Lodge.
Palmetto Lodge 2449

Palmetto Elks held a circus themed back to school party for 200 community children on July 19. Each child received a back pack filled with school supplies for the start of their new school year. At the party, the Lodge served a lunch of hot dogs, chips and all the sodas they could drink. Pinatas were hung around the room to add fun. As each child picked up their backpack, they received a bag of popcorn to end their circus experience. Plans are already in the works for next year.

Palmetto Elks presented Irene Henderson, of Tidewell Hospice, a check for $1,600 from the Gratitude Grant awarded the Lodge. The monies will be used for the veteran’s honor program performed by the VFW at the Hospice. The VFW presents each Veteran with a pin during the ceremony thanking them for their service to our country. The wives of the Veterans are presented a Veterans pin with an angel during the ceremony along with an American flag. If the Veteran has a son or daughter serving in the military, they receive a partnership pin in honor of their parent that served. With additional monies from the grant, the Lodge will be supplying the family of the Veterans visiting their loved ones at Tidewell, a spaghetti dinner weekly. The Ellenton, Florida Tidewell Hospice is the only hospice that currently works in tandem with the VFW to perform this ceremony.

Venice-Nokomis Lodge 1854

On Wednesday, August 13, the Venice-Nokomis Lodge presented Sandra Terry, Executive Director of Laurel Civic Association, school supplies and backpacks for the center. Sandra Terry and John Jefferson and many volunteers offer an after-school homework program for various schools in the community.

South Hillsborough Lodge 2672

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge, thanks to a $2,000 Gratitude Grant, was able to help support the Teen Parent Program provided by the Hillsborough County Public School District. The vision of the program is to enhance teenage parenting skills while providing an academic course of study that advances each student progress toward earning a high school diploma. The grant funds were used to purchase diapers, wipes, bottles, pacifiers and hygiene items. This will reduce the likelihood of the teens having to leave school or drop out to find additional means to obtain these things. Patsy Jarrett, Elk Trustee, presented the items to Renee West, parent Social Worker at the South County Career Center.

On June 12, South Hillsborough Elks Lodge sent nine boxes of pizza supplies (crust, three toppings) to a NCIS unit in Afghanistan so they could enjoy a pizza party. On September 13, at the official visit of DDGER David Manning and DVP Brett Davis to the Lodge and during the dinner program, Ed Gardner, son of Roy Gardner, Lodge member, saluted the Lodge with a number of gifts commemorating the pizza party.

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge 2855

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge recently had a fund raiser to benefit Southeastern Guide Dogs. They successfully raised $5,000 to help off-set the costs of training a dog, who has been paired with a veteran, who has invisible disabilities such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other problems. The Elks recently became the number one philanthropic organization in the United States.

In the photo: Ed Gardner presenting the poster.

From left to right: Andrice Nelson, Carolyn Rechard, Sandra Terry and Dick Kolm.

Bradenton Elks Lodge 1511:

On August 26, the Bradenton Lodge sponsored its second injured/disabled Veterans fishing trip through a $2,000 ENF Beacon Grant. There were 10 Veterans that went fishing with ages ranging from the mid 30’s to 94 years old. Everyone caught an array of fish that included snapper, trout, mackerel, redfish, flounder, and snook. On Sunday the Lodge prepared a fish fry of the fish the Veterans caught. Thanks to the grants provided by the ENF and the Florida State Elks Association, the Lodge is able to take Veterans fishing twice a year.

On September 5, Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies won the Chamber of Commerce/Education Partnership Award, “Civic Partner of the Year.” Bradenton 1511 started the project back in 2011 and in 2012 was joined by Lakewood Ranch Lodge 2855. They started out providing six weekend meals to 50 homeless children in two schools and with the aid of The Elks National Foundation, other philanthropic foundations, and community donations of monetary and food have grown to include two sites and helping 700 food deprived children in Manatee County, Florida. The Lodge received a personal thank you from Rick Mills, Superintendent of Manatee County School District along the the “Coin of Excellence” award and on September 12, a letter of congratulations from Congressman Vern Buchanan.

In the photo: Ed Gardner presenting the poster.

From left: Chuck and Phyliss Stotelben, Titus Herman of Southeastern Guide Dogs, Kay and Jack Ogren, Chairman.
Mandarin/St. Johns Lodge 2866
In June, in partnership with Cub Scout Pack 484 and American Legion Post 372, a Flag Day Ceremony was held. After the ceremony all members and guests were treated to a cook out.

St. Augustine Lodge 829
The Lodge awarded eight $500 scholarships to graduating seniors from St. Johns County Schools. Applicants were selected based on overall student excellence, including academic achievement, community service, extracurricular activities and financial need.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892
In June, Green Cove Lodge held a Dock Party featuring great music, food and prizes. The proceeds from the event will be used to help with the building of the new pavilion.

Jacksonville Lodge 221
In June, the Lodge teamed up with the Jacksonville Beach PD for the annual fishing tournament for kids known as “Get Hooked on Fishing; Not Drugs.” Attending Elks were accompanied by Elroy who was not only a big hit with the kids but also the police officers! Close to 400 contacts were made and 1,500 pieces of literature were distributed to the children and their parents.

Jacksonville Lodge 221
In June, the Lodge worked with the Sea Cadets in order to reach the required number of 40 people to visit our camp on the funded bus and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairman and Membership Chairman needs to be part of the number. Lodges located more than 350 miles from the camp may also receive money (the Lodge finances the bus). In those cases at least one ER, Leading Knight, Harry-Anna Trust Fund and Membership Chairman must take part.

The Wheelchair Basketball Team provided an inspirational demonstration and is featured in the picture. It was a wonderful day and to see the joy and smiles on the faces of the children was just priceless.

In August, the first bus trip to visit the Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla was made. The opportunity to see and hear first-hand about all they do was an experience of a lifetime. On the way back members were treated to two mystery stops and visited the Ormond Beach Lodge 2193 and Palm Coast Lodge 2709. They were accompanied on the trip by members from the Green Cove Springs and Orange Park Lodges.

Orange Park Lodge 2605
In July, 19 residents from the Lake City Veterans Domiciliary was held for lunch followed by a trip to the ball park to see a Jacksonville Suns baseball game. A lunch of sandwiches, chips and cake was served at the Lodge prior to departure for the ball park. The only lady domiciliary resident accompanying us was selected as the Kuhn Flowers sweetheart of the game and presented with a bouquet of flowers. About halfway through the game, an announcement was made recognizing the Lodge and the special guests from the Lake City Veterans Domiciliary.

In August, a $2,000 ENF grant was presented to the Sea Cadet Program at JAX NAS. The money will be used to purchase supplies needed for the new cadets who come into the program as well as the cadets who are already in the program. The Sea Cadets have worked tirelessly at the Lodge helping us when we have visitation dinners and during our State President’s visit.

We are very proud to partner with this organization of fine young men and women, and look forward to working with them in the future.

BUS FUNDING FOR ELK YEAR 2014-2015
It is the desire of the FSEA to have more of our members see our beautiful Youth Camp and become more involved in our major projects. To this end, the Board of Directors of the Harry-Anna Investment Fund have agreed to spend $100,000 for the upcoming Lodge year for the purpose of funding bus trips by the membership to our Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Each Lodge in Florida will be eligible to receive up to $2,000 for this purpose. We will require a minimum of 40 people to participate in the camp on the funded bus and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairman and Membership Chairman must be a part of this number. Any Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, and Chairman of the Lodge Trustees who have never been to the camp should also try to make the visit. Our hope is that the rest of those on board are prospective members, new members or current members who have never been to the Youth Camp. Any Lodge that cannot generate enough interest may join with other Lodges in their District in order to reach the required number and will be eligible to receive up to $2,000 for this purpose (The $2,000 will be reimbursed to the Lodge who finances the bus). In those cases at least one ER, Leading Knight, Harry-Anna Trust Fund and Membership Chairman needs to be part of the number. Lodges located more than 350 miles from the camp may also receive consideration for overnight accommodations in our cabins. Funds will be reimbursed to the Lodge after the visit has been made and all Elks have signed our guest book, set up to insure that the minimum number has been met.

Bus funding up to $1,000 per bus may also be available to get kids to our summer camp or other youth related events held at our facilities. Any Lodge who has received funding to get members to visit may then apply for additional funding to support transportation needs for our summer camp program or other special children programs the Lodge might fund for young people in their area. The total amount available for this part of the program will be determined by the number of kids on the bus. In those cases where the members visit is after 2014 summer camp, the funds will be made available to them for the 2015 summer camp season.

This program will be administered out of the state office and will remain in effect for the complete Lodge year or as long as designated funds are available. If you need any further information or have any suggestions on how we might improve this program please do not hesitate to contact Board President Mike Phillips at 321.383.9456 or by e-mail at mxpxpx@aol.com.
Congratulations to DDGER Charles R. “Dick” Joyal upon his installation at the Grand Lodge Convention. He will be representing the Grand Lodge in the North District. Accolades too are in order for the Tallahassee Lodge and its team of officers from 2013-14 who placed 2nd in the National Ritual Competition in New Orleans.

Lake City Lodge 893
Lake City Lodge was proud to be well represented at the Grand Lodge convention in New Orleans by a four person delegation. Exalted Ruler Lydick is excited to be back home with ideas and direction he picked up at the convention, especially information about ENF grants. The Lodge has applied for both a Freedom and an Impact Grant, hoping to promote Elks visibility in the community.

The Lodge has instituted Public Service Appreciation Night for members and guests who are or have been employed by municipal, state, or federal government on Tuesday evenings. Specials in the lounge are offered in the afternoon and then the dining room is open from 6:00 until 8:00 pm.

Christmas in July (on July 18) was the kickoff dinner for the Lodge’s annual Elks Christmas charity program. Through the end of November, an unwrapped toy valued at $10 or more brought to the Lodge can be traded for $20 in raffle tickets for the Christmas gift basket. Also in July was the annual Elks Family Picnic, for members and their families, hosted by PER Jim Martin at his home on the Ichetucknee River. It was a day of food, fun, and fellowship along the crystal clear waters of Florida’s most beautiful river. Leading Knight Jay Swisher helped coordinate the event.

Football season is a big deal in Lake City and the Lodge is proud to carry the new SEC network. Many Gator fans can be found in the Lodge. Saturday lounge hours and Monday evening hours have been adjusted to accommodate football and allow members to enjoy themselves in front of the big screen TVs.

Lake City Lodge is leading the district in new members this year and initiated eight new members in August.

Live Oak Lodge 1165
Live Oak’s Exalted Ruler Mike Carr picked up some great ideas at the national convention and is ready to involve the Lodge in more community activities to increase the Lodge’s visibility. Obviously, membership participation in all Lodges is integral for activities to occur. For fundraising, the Lodge conducted a raffle for a 50” flat screen TV.

The Lodge continues its Karaoke on the third Saturday evenings for those who enjoy a few tunes, whether listening or singing. A new raffle has been set up for an electric smoker and tickets are only $10. The Lodge will be glad to provide you a ticket!

The Flea Across Florida fleamarket event was held September 13 in the Lodge parking lot. Spaces were sold for $25 and folks brought their wares to sell. A Halloween Party is planned for October 31.

Mariana Lodge 1516
The Lodge hosted the Brotherhood Riders in May/June, where dinners and breakfasts prepared by Elk volunteers were enjoyed. Brotherhood Riders raise funds to assist the families of fallen first responders in the line of duty. A yard sale at the end of June was a great fundraiser for the Lodge, with the proceeds set aside for the celebratory reopening. In focusing on helping others, the Lodge hosted a Child Passenger Safety Seat Re-certification class for the community on July 3. A Fourth of July celebration was conducted on July 4.

The Lodge has been annexed into the city limits and some wrinkles ironed out with the Lodge’s beer and wine license. Mariana Lodge’s Grand Reopening on July 25 was a resounding success. About 120 persons attended and about 40 of those were guests. Killin’ Time band provided music for dancing. Membership applications were shared and many folks learned about the Elks organization. A big tip of the hat goes to Kitty Thomason for heading up this event with help from her husband, PER Billy, and many volunteers. Live entertainment was provided every Friday night in August. A small admission fee defrays the cost of food and entertainment. Long time members Bill Willingham and Paul Johnson have volunteered many hours helping with building maintenance.

In August, the Lodge participated in two local youth activity events. At Family Affair in Blountstown on August 2, members distributed materials and supplies and helped with crowd control. A similar event was National Night Out held at Madison Street Park in Marianna.

The Lodge’s Scholarship Committee announces its two winning recipients Shawna Donofro and William Smith, who each were awarded $800 to continue their education at Chipola College. The House Committee is making a huge effort to provide great entertainment and food for members and guests. August was successful as already mentioned, and the movement rolled on in September with similar venues. The Ladies of the Elks held a Luau on September 26 with great music, food, door prizes, and a cake walk. In October, Monster Halloween Party is planned.

Perry Lodge 1851
The Lodge appreciated a visit from DDGER Pratt in June when he came and gave a thumbs up on the financial condition and operation of the Lodge. ER Susan Lynn thanked her stuff of officers and employees for their help this year.

PDGGER Carol Cruce and Secretary Earline Neeley, along with DDGER elect Dick Joyal, along with his wife Nancy, attended the Grand Lodge Convention. Dick was installed as the North District DDGER and all had a great time. Carol and Earline are waiting to get the phone call that their lucky ticket was drawn for the Harley Davidson raffle.

While Karaoke is quieted down for the summer, the Lodge held a Dinner/Auction on July 19 as a fundraising event. Items were donated that could be auctioned and with about 50 people attending, the event netted over $2,800. Donations of items came from members and local businesses.

A theme dance, “Dancing through the Decades,” took place on August 9, with tickets priced as a fundraiser to help send Taylor County children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. DJ Camo was the guy providing the music. Loyal Knight Hinano Yon, member Dawn Taylor, and their team, did an excellent job planning and selling tickets to the dance. The turnout was great; a good time was had by all. After the dust settled, the Lodge reported that $1,277 was raised to help send kids to camp next summer. Thank you “DJ Camo” (the Exalted Ruler’s son) for putting on a great show. Hinano also expressed her gratitude to all that brought covered dishes...the food was great! The theme costumes were a knockout too.

Perry Lodge is saddened at the loss of Past Tiler Agnes Blanton. She was a member for 13 years, always with a smile on her face, having joined the Lodge when she was 82. Her daughter Earlene Neeley is the Lodge Secretary.

Tallahassee Lodge 937
July began at the Lodge with a lunch for home-less veterans who have recently found employment and are transitioning into housing. The Lodge received a $1,000 ENF Grant to make lunch possible, with some of the grant dollars spent on house ware items for the veterans in their new apartments. While the attendance was less than expected, there was plenty of food and the veterans were excited about the household items they were given.

The Grand Lodge convention involved Tallahassee’s officers performing in the ritual contest as the winning team from Florida. The officer team took 2nd place overall, with two officers winning All American Awards. Chaplain Karen Peek (her first year as an officer) and Leading Knight Wayne Harrell each won All Americans. The Lodge is obviously proud of its officers, their dedication, and their performance.

Karaoke continues on the first Friday of the month. Everyone has a great time whether listening to the music or singing along with the tunes. A big thank you goes to the Thorburns who continue to lead this endeavor.

A Luau on August 9 brought a crowd of people, many of whom looking as if they flew in from Hawaii. Charles Johnson with his grass skirt, bikini top, and exposed midriff was clearly not on the plane from Hawaii. A big thank you goes to Larry Henley and Stan Nettles for roasting the pig that was served to all. Additional side items were prepared by a group of volunteers. All the dishes were great and the Limbo Contest brought many laughs.

The Lodge partnered with the Tallahassee Parrothead Club in hosting a Parrothead Frenzy party in August, with the proceeds to benefit the local Alzheimer’s Project. A visit from the New Port Richey Lodge members and guests proved to be a big time for all on a recent Friday night with dinner and Karaoke. The visiting folks had taken a bus trip to New Orleans and stopped in Tallahassee as the halfway point home for dinner and fun.

The tenth annual trip to the Florida Elks Youth Camp was held September 25-28 for the Gretchen Everhart School kids and their families. Fundraising occurs all year long to raise sufficient funds to make this trip a success. The biggest cost is the two chartered buses – over $6,000 but the trip to camp makes it all worthwhile for the families and the volunteers from the Tallahassee Lodge who accompany the kids to Umatilla to assist the camp personnel in making sure everyone has a great time. A big thank you goes to Lynn Warburton and his staff for making the weekend great!
The Lodge’s goal is to take volleyball to a Florida State Olympic Class coaches who are dedicated to the kids. 13 of the 15 available medals. The team is coached by and state level. In their first tournament the kids won who “did not make the cut” a team to play on at a local with the Aerial Assault Volleyball team to give kids Desserts brought by the guest that the Lodge has ever seen. There was not one complaint from the children about the food.

Rosie will be passing the baton to Lodge Chaplain Jan Buchebner. It is estimated that Rosie has driven over 2,500 miles during her 10 years of dedicated service visiting the veterans in the area. Destin Lodge 2688 Destin Lodge celebrated its 30th Anniversary with an Open House Shrimp Boil. Over 100 guests from the NW District attended the event and all enjoyed entertainment and a full meal that included shrimp, smoked sausage, chicken and the finest selection of desserts brought by the guest that the Lodge has ever seen. With proceeds from the Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant the Lodge distributed 180 Dictionary Project Dictionaries to the students at Destin Elementary School.

With the Promise Grant the Lodge partnered with the Aerial Assault Volleyball team to give kids who “did not make the cut” a team to play on at a local and state level. In their first tournament the kids won 13 of the 15 available medals. The team is coached by Olympic Class coaches who are dedicated to the kids. The Lodge’s goal is to take volleyball to a Florida State Level then a National Level within Elksdom. The Lodge has held several fundraisers for the benefit of the Army of Hope and to date have collected a very handsome sum.

Crestview Lodge sponsored eight youths in the area to attend the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla.

Exalted Ruler Mark Smith, Betty Clark, Debbie Buckles, Annette Anglin, Randy Bauer, Jinny Bauer, Jim Wright, and Jim Cauley represented the Lodge and with the assistance of the District Youth Camp Chairman, Phil Finder and his wife Janet, from Warrington Lodge did an exceptional job rounding up the 90 plus children from the seven NW District Lodges. The Lodge held an orientation for the campers and their parents creating curious minds. Lodge representatives then answered questions from the parents. Following the orientation a feast of hot dogs, chips, and cookies was served.

Several of the Elks ladies and men came together to assist and sponsor the annual selection of the 2014 Mullet Festival King and Queen in Niceville. While the ladies were busy assisting with dressing up the young men and women, applying makeup and preparing hairstyles, the men collected money for entrance to the event and helped keep order in the High School’s auditorium. Winners were selected in multiple age categories from 6 months old to 18 years old. Both the participant’s and the parent’s had fun; the event was a successful fundraiser for the Lodge.

Warrington Lodge 2108 Approximately 100 boys and girls from the Northwest District enjoyed a fun-filled week at the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla. Their camp week began on Sunday, July 13 with some the campers boarding of the buses at Warrington Lodge 2108 around 5:30 am. After stops at Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787 and Fort Walton Lodge 1795 it was onto the Camp. The buses arrived around 5:00 pm; a very long day for campers, chaperones, and bus drivers. The campers returned to Northwest Florida on Saturday, July 19; tanned and excited about going back next year. Entertaining and controlling two busloads of excited, high-energy campers takes a very special person. Randy Bauer, Jinny Bauer, Kim Sayer from Crestview Lodge 2624 and Stacy Annese from Holley-Navarre 2728 did an amazing job as Bus Chaperones on the trips to and from Camp. They deserved a big, and well-earned, “THANK YOU” from the Elks of the Great Northwest District.

With the Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant the Warrington Lodge held an Autism awareness reception on July 26 for autistic children and their families. The focus of this event was on Autism and the resources available to the local community. The project included a segment on the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and how families could access treatment for an autistic child. Literature regarding Autism, Florida State Elks Association, Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and resources available were distributed to those in attendance. Autism Pensacola received a $1,000 donation from the Lodge at the event.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497 Pensacola Beach Lodge hosted its Third Independent Living Summer Conference on August 9, utilizing the Elks National Foundation Promise Grant. Presentations on the importance of education and career choices were presented by motivational speakers provided by Families First Network to the 27 teen foster children in attendance. Backpacks with school supplies were provided for 50 foster children. The teens and their caretakers enjoyed a Taco themed lunch prepared and served by Lodge volunteers.

The Lodge was honored to host 18 combat wounded veterans during the HERO Foundation Wounded Warrior Hook-up weekend, held August 14-17 on Pensacola Beach. The veterans in town for a weekend of recreation were provided with a deep sea fishing trip aboard the Entertainer where they caught 230 Mango Snappers, three Amberjack and two King Mackerel. Their catch was expertly prepared by Culinary Productions, a local caterer, who donated the remaining side items and served the meal to the veterans and Lodge members during the awards ceremony held on August 16.

Ft. Walton Beach Lodge 1795 With the benefit of the Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant, the Ft. Walton Beach Lodge hosted their Annual Kid’s Day on August 9. The children ages 1-12 had a fun filled afternoon that included a cook-out, face painting, games, prizes, a water slide and balloons. Drug awareness materials and coloring books were given to those in attendance.
Deland Lodge 1463
The Lodge held its Third Annual Splash Day party, for kids in the community. The project was made possible by a grant from the Elks National Foundation.

The 4-H Club held a car wash at the Lodge to raise money for local Elks charities. Every month, members from the Lodge carpool to visit and enjoy spending their time playing Bingo with the veterans at the Daytona Beach Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home.

The Lodge discovered a clever way of raising money for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, the “Pink Flamingo Fundraiser.” Rachell Seig, chairwoman, visited the homes of members, unknowingly, where she placed pink Flamingos on their lawns; each Flamingo came with instructions attached to them.

A backbreaking dinner for DVP Mark Thompson, and his wife, Barbara, was held at the Lodge with an outstanding number of guests and members in attendance. Congratulations, Mark, for your all inspiring messages at your VP dinners.

Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557
The Lodge recently sent six kids to the Florida Elks Youth Camp, this year. This was made possible through their charity fundraiser, bar bingo.

The Gifts of Love held a school drive to help purchase shoes for the needy kids in the community.

ECDVP, Mark Thompson visited the Lodge to assist in the presentation of the “Atta Boy” award to our Elk Ladies for all the hard work they put into making the Lodge what it is. The Ladies were the first chapter and longest running chapter of Elk Ladies in the state of Florida.

There was a sell-out crowd of approximately 250 people who came to the Lodge for a benefit dinner for the Community Hot Meals Program. Proceeds will go towards the hot meals Christmas dinner for Southeast Volusia individuals and families in need. There are 16 churches in Southeast Volusia area that participate in the Community Hot Meals Program.

Chef and coordinator of the benefit dinner, John Buchanan, said the Lodge would host hundreds of families and individuals on Christmas day. The funding for the program comes from participating churches, grants and fundraisers held throughout the year.

The Lodge’s Cub Scout Pack 72 hosted their annual popcorn drive in support of our men and women serving in our military. The bags of popcorn, purchased by the members, are sent overseas to our troops.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650

Episcopal District Lauderdale 1975
The Lodge hosted the 7th Annual Kids Fishing Tournament, where boys and girls ages 2-7, 8-12, and 13-17 spent the day having fun; classification for prizes in each age group included the longest fish, most species

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193
Member, Forrest “Woody” Zimbrich, recently presented his granddaughter, Dannielle Zimbrich, of Hilton, New York, with a Lodge scholarship. Dannielle is the recipient of a $1,125 Scholarship and plans to study Radiology at Monroe Community College in Rochester, New York this coming fall. Additionally, these Lodge scholarships were also presented to Justin Bryant and Domenic Sallema.

Recently, the Lodge was invited to attend Tomoka Elementary School’s VIP/Business Partner Appreciation Breakfast, honoring their volunteers and community partners, to accept a framed certificate and plaque in recognition of our contributions to the school, its students, and their families.

The Lodge held its annual golf tournament fundraiser, again, this year with 95 golfers local businesses and merchants, participating in the event. The annual fundraiser helps support local children’s charities.

The Lodge received a $2,000 Gratitude Grant which was used to purchase gift cards from local businesses and merchants. Several members from the Lodge, recently got together to visit the Daytona Beach Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home for Veterans.

Upcoming Eagle Scout De Eric Walker worked on his Eagle Scout Badge, recently completing his bench project around the outside sign at the lodge. He attends Seminole High School; he has received his 21 badges, which included Range, Cooking and Life Saving. He became an Eagle Scout on his nineteenth birthday.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709
Recently, the Lodge Harry-Anna Chairman Darrel Edge and Lodge Membership Chairwoman Jeannie arranged for 50 prospective members to take a bus trip to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

The Lodge’s Elks Angels has partnered with Florida Hospital Hospice in the placing of a trellis over their butterfly and memorial park garden; the Elks will help in maintaining the garden and providing quilts for patients. This was made possible by an Impact Grant.

Staying active in the community, recently, the Lodge visited the local County Office Building partnering with Flagler Schools ESE Department delivering and explaining Elk programs to benefit the youths in the community. Drug Awareness coloring books, book markers, Youth Camp and Children’s Therapy Services literature, and several Elk membership applications were distributed to approximately 80 children and 100 parents.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

ENF Chairman, Karen Gleason presented Theresa Shelton, Activities Director with the gift cards to distribute amongst the veterans in the home.

The Lodge also received a Beacon Grant that was used for Special Need Bowling Team and a Promise Grant that will be used for the Children’s Christmas party.

Lodge member, Dwayne Rossi, received help from the Lodge in the way of a poker run fundraiser to help defray the costs of his medical bills; Dwayne was recently diagnosed with cancer. Without hesitation, members and friends all came together to support the poker run.

Sanford Lodge 1241
The Lodge hosted a Korean National Collegiate Baseball Team and a Florida Collegiate All Star Team recently with an all American Picnic and fed 79 students, Elks, and team officials from Korea and Florida. There was an awesome turnout and everyone that attended had a great experience visiting with the students.

The team was shown how to connect to the Lodge Wi-Fi so they could send pictures and emails to their families in Korea. Later that day the two teams played a game at Sanford’s Historic Stadium where the Korean team won 3 – 0. A meet and greet dinner for kids in the community. The project was made possible by a grant from the Elks National Foundation.

Recently, Exalted Ruler, Ted Newsom, got a chance to throw out the first pitch at the Sanford River Rats Heroes night game, an event that is sponsored by the Lodge. In appreciation for their service, to the community and to our country, members gave a free barbeque dinner to first responders, police and fire departments, attending the event. As part of the River Rats sponsorship, a banner, with the name of the Lodge on it, will hang on a stadium fence all season.

Dan Theodore, Chairman of the Lodge Veterans Committee and Exalted Ruler Jerry Peterson, right above, presented the home with checks in the amount of $2,100 towards the purchase of a new whirlpool bath and incidentals for the veterans. PDDGER Pat Heller-Jackson, left above, was instrumental in getting the grant that made the event possible.

One of the residents of the home, John Wrono, center sitting, is a life member; he was excited to reconnect with the members and to receive a Lodge polo shirt.

DDGER Ed Jackson went out to local area businesses asking for donations to fund 27 military children to attend the Elks Youth Camp for a week. He was able to raise over $4,750.

The Lodge held an international cuisine dinner fundraiser to help raise money for their Drug Awareness program, parking spot for the drug awareness trailer and the Elroy the Elk costume.

Members of the Lodge got together to put on a family day picnic for the parents and kids in the community. Exalted Ruler, Jerry Peterson was in charge of the food and hamburgers; needless to say, the kids enjoyed eating watermelon.

Titusville Lodge 2113
Recently, members got together to hold their 4th annual youth fishing tournament at the Lodge’s lake; 21 kids in the community participated. The Lodge provided a free lunch; door prizes and awards were given out to all the participants. Parents and kids had a great time, the Lodge continues to support and work with local agencies, fire and police departments and veterans.
Bonita Springs-Estero Lodge 2753

Bonita Springs-Estero Lodge presented Bonita Springs Middle School with a donation of $200 along with 250 dictionaries in English and Spanish.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763

Congratulations to Exalted Ruler Len Wenzel on being awarded the Top Rookie of the Year Award at the Grand Lodge Convention in New Orleans. This award is earned by the best overall first year State Chairman.

In May, Deep Creek Lodge used a $2,000 Gratitude Grant to assist Deep Creek Middle School with the schools Drama Program.

Englewood Lodge 2378

On July 13, three buses full of excited children left the parking lot at Englewood Lodge for the long drive to the FSEA Youth Camp in Umatilla to enjoy a week of activities, making new friends, doing without iPads and phones, and generally having fun. Children were just as excited on the return home July 19 and anxious to tell their parents about camp adventures.

The Lodge made donations of $2,000 to the Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Home, $2,300 to Harry-Anna Trust Fund, $1,000 to the Salvation Army, $1,000 to Lee County Sheriff Department, and $1,215 to the Brotherhood Ride Fundraiser.

Donations were also made to the Harry Chapin Food Bank, Bonita Springs Assistance Office, Bonita Little League and Boy Scout Troop 30. Charity dollars at work.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

Punta Gorda Lodge held the annual Kids Fishing Tournament which was open to all children ages 14 and younger. Food, prizes and trophies were given to 150 children.

Thanks to the combined effort of the Punta Gorda Elks and Elkettes 70 children enjoyed a week at the FSEA Youth Camp in July.

Naples Lodge 2010

Naples Lodge held a very successful Christmas in July dinner dance. Member Diane Poretta organized a clothing drive as part of the event. The donated clothes were for children to use at the FSEA Youth Camp. Proceeds from this fundraiser amounted to $1,500 and were donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Naples Lodge 2110

Naples Lodge, Diane Poretta, with clothes donations she collected for FSEA Youth Camp during Christmas in July event.

Rotonda Lodge 2710

Kloe is an 11 year old girl from Flint, Michigan who has Cystic Fibrosis. Her dream of going to Disney World and visiting her grandparents in Englewood was crushed by a phony charitable organization. After reading an article about this in the local newspaper, Rotonda Elks Lodge 2710 made her dream come true. By contacting her grandparents and her parents in Flint, Michigan, the wheels were set in motion and in just a few short weeks the plans were in place. Rotonda Elks provided all transportation and lodging costs. Disney provided free passes for a three day event for the family which included a character day for Kloe on her birthday.

Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

The Lodge did a back to school drive collecting near $1,000 worth of school supplies for needy children during a dinner dance where members also brought supplies in. They received the ENF Promise Grand, Beacon Grant and Gratitude Grant in August! The Beacon grant helps support the Lodges “Elks Heart Packs” program, where we feed 60+ kids each week at Felix A Williams Elementary school in Jensen Beach. This is headed up by our Inner Guard, John Reinhardt and his wife. In September, a Labor Day Picnic and Tribute to 911 was held and over 130 attended. ER Stew Smith has a special program to honor the victims of 911 and the Veterans that attended the picnic. The Lodge sponsored the “Keep Martin Beautiful” project with a $1,000 donation and had a crew from the Lodge to help clean up the beaches of Martin County. Congratulations to Elks of the Month, July, Ginny Lesley, August, Ed Shoemaker and September, Robin Barker.
A SERIOUS MESSAGE FOR SERIOUS TIMES

John D. Amen
Grand Exalted Ruler

My fellow Elks, I need to discuss with you a serious topic which had a significant financial impact on our Order but more importantly, had a detrimental impact on our image.

In his acceptance speech at the July, 2012 National Convention in Austin, Texas, now Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Thomas S. Brazier pointed out “There’s become a change in the social norms over the past three decades. You can’t have a few belts at the bar anymore and drive home without consequences.” Recent events related to a claim in Pennsylvania brought with it a harsh reminder of just how true our Past Grand Exalted Ruler’s statement really is.

A local Lodge’s allegedly improper Service of alcohol prompts us to take stock of the purposes and objectives of our Order. We cannot allow circumstances that may downgrade the image of our Order to that of a nationwide chain of bars and taverns.

Each Lodge must strictly enforce the policy that anyone approaching intoxication must be cut off from the service of alcohol. Additionally, each Lodge must ensure that those responsible for the service of alcohol, whether employee or volunteer, are provided proper training from a qualified and certified organization.

Every Lodge must remember that its bar facilities are to be operated for the social purposes of the Order’s members and their bona fide guests.

For those Lodges that rent out their facilities for weddings, parties, etc., they must require that the person or entity renting the facility provide a signed indemnity agreement and a Certificate of Insurance from their general liability insurance carrier that names the Lodge as an additional insured on their general liability policy. If the renter cannot obtain such a Certificate of Insurance that names the Lodge as additional insured, the renter can purchase an “event policy” from AON’s subsidiary who handles the “event insurance” is 1-877-723-3933. The subsidiary is K & K Insurance. Most importantly, each Lodge must examine its own culture and reflect on any known alcohol abuse within the Lodge. To the extent possible, Lodges should assist persons so afflicted and take immediate action to limit their access to the bar facilities.

The recent jury verdict totaling $28 million included $10 million in punitive damages, which cannot be insured in some states. For those cases where such awards cannot be insured, the local Lodge would be responsible for paying this judgment which, in most cases, would result in that Lodge going bankrupt and defunct.

Additionally, large losses like this will affect the entire Order by increasing the Program’s expenses and the Local Lodge’s per capita fees.

It is the mission of all loyal Elks to disprove this unfair and mostly untrue image that is generated by such a catastrophic claim. Only with serious thought and conscious effort will we resolve this issue.
Miami Lodge 948
The Lodge held its annual Fourth of July picnic that included 90 members and guests. They were treated to hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, potato salad, and coleslaw.
On July 30 the Lodge held a wine tasting event with a selection of Italian wines that were paired with various hors d’oeuvres.
On August 9 the Lodge held a Luau Party that included roast pork, rice and beans, and yucca with garlic sauce.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224
The Lodge donated over $800 in fishing rods, reels and tackle to the Veterans of Bay Pines, to be used on the fishing pier on the Bay Pines property. The fishing equipment was presented to the 15 veterans who were at the Lodge in September for dinner and karaoke.

The Lodge is proud to recognize four of its Korean War Veterans who all received an “Ambassador For Peace” Official Proclamation and Peace Metal from the Republic of Korea, Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. Those Korean War Veterans who received these honors were Joe Slatton, PER, Tony Tudi, George McBride, and Rudy Wallace. The proclamation they received was in gratitude for their service they performed in restoring and preserving Korea’s freedom and democracy.

The Lodge was the host for the Bay Pines PRRC graduation, in September, for five veterans who completed the PRRC Program at Bay Pines. Also in attendance were the graduate’s family and friends along with VAVS volunteers, Lodge members and officers to recognize their accomplishments.

During the State President’s visit to the West Central District, Danny Tabor had the opportunity to make a personal visit with the Veterans at Bay Pines, after the USO Show, hosted by the St. Pete Lodge. At the same time, the Largo Lodge provided the food, cooked and served hot dogs and hamburgers to the Bay Pines veterans, staff and attendees at the USO show. Danny Tabor and Carl Ledig had the opportunity to visit with over 25 of those veterans.

**Florida Keys Lodge 1872**
The Florida Keys Elks Lodge held two very successful blood drives this quarter. July 1 and September 9. The Lodge has many members and friends who donate on a regular basis. Our Elks really care.

**West Central District continued from page 7**

On September 20 at its second karaoke night of the month members and guests enjoyed a wing fest. There were five homemade sauces to choose from created by the Lodge chefs; also available for purchase were baskets of french fries and onion rings.

On July 10, volunteers cooked and served a fish fry complete with salad and dessert for 25 veterans from the VA Hospital in Miami. Local entertainer, Lee Kibbey, sang and provided karaoke for them. Rockstar 101 camp kids sang three songs for the vets. The Rockstar camp was held at the Lodge during the summer months.

On July 19 the Lodge held a charity steak night which was very well attended considering it’s the Lodge’s slow season. Music, dinner and dancing was enjoyed by all.

On July 27, member Dan Ferguson prepared and served hot turkey and mashed potatoes for the NASCAR Race Day.

On August 16, PER Denny Tarbell and volunteers provided a surf and turf dinner for over 50 members and guests and was used to celebrate the opening of lobster season in the Keys. A local DJ had the Lodge up and dancing to a great mix of music. Each Friday of every week we continue with our Fish Fry and Karaoke.

On July 30 the Lodge held a wine tasting event with a selection of Italian wines that were paired with various hors d’oeuvres.

On August 9 the Lodge held a Luau Party that included roast pork, rice and beans, and yucca with garlic sauce.

The entertainment included a fire dancer along with dancing Hula girls by the pool. Members and guests also enjoyed a complimentary Rum tasting from Brugal.

On September 1, the Lodge held its annual Labor Day picnic; the fare included the standard hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, and all the fixings and the Elkette’s sold slices of homemade cakes and ice cream for a dollar.

The Lodge donated over $800 in fishing rods, reels and tackle to the Veterans of Bay Pines, to be used on the fishing pier on the Bay Pines property. The fishing equipment was presented to the 15 veterans who were at the Lodge in September for dinner and karaoke.

The Lodge is proud to recognize four of its Korean War Veterans who all received an “Ambassador For Peace” Official Proclamation and Peace Metal from the Republic of Korea, Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. Those Korean War Veterans who received these honors were Joe Slatton, PER, Tony Tudi, George McBride, and Rudy Wallace. The proclamation they received was in gratitude for their service they performed in restoring and preserving Korea’s freedom and democracy.

The Lodge was the host for the Bay Pines PRRC graduation, in September, for five veterans who completed the PRRC Program at Bay Pines. Also in attendance were the graduate’s family and friends along with VAVS volunteers, Lodge members and officers to recognize their accomplishments.

During the State President’s visit to the West Central District, Danny Tabor had the opportunity to make a personal visit with the Veterans at Bay Pines, after the USO Show, hosted by the St. Pete Lodge. At the same time, the Largo Lodge provided the food, cooked and served hot dogs and hamburgers to the Bay Pines veterans, staff and attendees at the USO show. Danny Tabor and Carl Ledig had the opportunity to visit with over 25 of those veterans.

**FSEA President Danny Tabor, with 92 year old Navy veteran, Nellie Byrne, and St. Pete Lodge member, Corporal Daniel Clark.**

**Tampa Lodge 708**
Tampa Lodge held a Back-to-School party at the Tampa Children’s Home in August and over 85 children ages ranging from 6 to 17 received backpacks full of school supplies. Each child also received a $10 Walmart gift card to purchase other items required by the school they will be attending. Hamburgers and hotdogs were also served in the picnic area. This was made possible by Tampa being awarded the ENF Promise Grant. Tampa Lodge has been helping the Children’s Home in Tampa since 1914.

Recently, Tampa Lodge held a Pig Roast & Pig Races on Labor Day. The event was held to benefit the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and the Elks National Foundation. Many members came out to support this great event. Lots of fun and food was enjoyed by all. At the end of the evening, the Lodge raised over $1,200 for these great causes.

**Bradenton Elketts Lodge 1511**
Celebrating their 50th Anniversary With a Dinner/Dance Saturday November 8, 2014 Music by Lynn Spins All Elks, Elkettes and their guests are Welcome Tickets are $18.00 per person Advance sales only Dressy Attire Preferred
Shooting for our Goals
to Protect the Future