Endorsed President Florida State Elks Association 2014-2015

As you read this article, Florida Elks will be meeting at the Disney Coronado Resort for our annual celebration of service to those we support: our Veterans, our Youth, our first responders, many of those in need - the list goes on and on. I hope you will attend our various meetings and you will see firsthand what Florida Elks do to enhance the lives of members of our communities.

We are proud of the most recent expansion of our Youth Camp: the new Infirmary should be complete by the time Summer Camp begins. It will be located to the East of the Pavilion, and have a nine bed capacity. The Laundry given by FLOE while we were still at the Children’s Hospital and relocated to the Youth Camp is being upgraded, expanding to three washers and six dryers. We will witness the expansion of a new tower for the ropes course this summer. Also, our Camp Director is having energy saving control modules installed in all buildings so we can monitor the use of electricity and help our environment and our pocketbook.

In an effort to have the best trained and most knowledgeable District Deputies in our Order, Past District Deputy Doris Waddel who is in charge of DD training (and who I refer to as Super Deputy) has suggested we hold a DD training seminar this summer at the Youth Camp. Mike and I certainly think that is a great idea, and looking ahead, we would like to possibly expand that concept and offer one or two day Seminars on various aspects of Elkdom to any Florida Elk who has an interest. Be sure to let us know if that is something you would like us to pursue.

This year we are initiating a new Law Enforcement/First Responders recognition program. Many of our Lodges have a similar program, but as far as we know this will be a first on the State Association level. The award(s) will be presented at our Awards Program at the Convention on Saturday afternoon. Please come out and show your appreciation to those who work so hard and put their lives on the line every day to serve and protect us.

Be sure to attend the Grand Lodge Convention in New Orleans if you get the opportunity. The annual Florida Dinner will be held in conjunction with a tour of the World War Two Museum. State Secretary Carl Seibert is working hard to make that venue the best ever, thus continuing to make our State Association the most envied in all of Elkdom. As always, we congratulate all the dedicated Elks who have helped us in so many capacities this year. Your dedication, enthusiasm and caring for so many in the state is a testament to your generous hearts.

Thank you.

Danny E. Tabor

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest District and Bradenton Lodge 1511 are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Danny E. Tabor as a candidate for the office of State President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Danny Tabor was born in New Castle, Ind. on July 25, 1954, the third of four children. He spent his childhood playing several sports and growing up in Indiana meant a basketball hoop in every driveway. He graduated from Chrysler High School in 1972 which is home to the largest high school gymnasium in the world. This set the foundation for his love of the game. After high school he met Rachel, and on April 8, 1977, they were married in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

They moved to Bradenton, Fla. in April 1979. He began working for an insurance agency that same year and in 1986 started Tabor & Associates Insurance Agency where he still works today. Rachel works for Berry Plastics Corporation as the ISO Management Rep and the Safe Quality Food Practitioner.

They have two children, Matthew and Adam. He coached youth league basketball teams for his sons for many years. Matthew and his girlfriend, Paige, live in Avon, Colo.; both are members of Bradenton Elks Lodge. Matthew works as the controller of a ski resort and Paige is employed at the Bachelor Gulch Ritz Carlton as a Spa Supervisor. Adam is self-employed and his girlfriend, Chan, works at Carrabba’s. They live in Bradenton and have the responsibility of caring for the two family dogs, Tally, a black Lab, and Molly, a Shih Tzu/Maltese, throughout the presidential travels.

Tabor was introduced to the Elks through the local Hoop Shoot program. After Adam won the local Hoop Shoot contest, they were taken back to the Lodge for refreshments. He was given a tour and was told about all of the Elks programs. Having two young sons, the one that got his attention was scholarships. He asked, “How do I join?” He became an Elk in March 1995 at Bradenton Lodge. The following year Adam advanced all the way to the Hoop Shoot national finals in Springfield, Mass.

After joining, Tabor got involved right away as the candidate on the Lodge ritual team. He continued with the team as Inner Guard and held all four chairs serving as Exalted Ruler in 2000-2001. In ritual competitions he placed third as Inner Guard, first as Lecturing Knight with the highest score in the competition, and second as Exalted Ruler. He served as Lodge and District Hoop Shoot Chairman for ten years and was the State Soccer Shoot Chairman from 1998-2003. He served as District Esquire in 2001 and was the State Chairman of Elks National Foundation Certificates for 2003-2004. In 2005-2006 he served as a District Vice President and in 2006-2007 as a District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. From 2008-2012 he was a Florida Elks Youth Camp Board of Directors member and served as president of that board in 2011-2012. He was the State Tiler in 2009-2010 and he was appointed District Leader and was granted honorary life membership at his Lodge in 2011-2012. He was named Elk of the Year at his Lodge for 2010-2011. In September 2011 he was appointed District Leader and was granted honorary life membership at his Lodge in 2013 (the only person to ever receive that honor). He became Endorsed VPAL in November 2012 and served as VPAL in 2013-2014.

He and Rachel love spending time with friends, family, and of course their dogs. They enjoy going for walks on the beach and an occasional round of golf and meeting new friends. They look forward to serving the Florida State Elks Association in 2014-2015.
STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Brian Burns

Members All, as I prepare this message, we have just finished our District visit with a great homecoming in the Southwest Central District. Mary Kay and I thank all the Lodges and Volunteers who help make our visits such a huge success.

Since our last article we have been very busy on the road representing Florida Elks. We attended the Florida Soccer Shoot State contest at our beautiful Youth Camp. It is always great to see the enthusiasm of these kids.

We traveled to the Mighty Northeast District. There we had the opportunity to see all the improvements to one of our newest Lodges, Mandarin-St. Johns Lodge. We visited the Maritime Museum for a very interesting tour. We were hosted by DVP Kith Eppes and the Orange Park Lodge. Thanks to all the Members for a great visit.

We were then off to the Alabama State Elks winter meeting in Perdido Beach, Alabama. It is great to renew old friendships and make new ones. It’s a good opportunity to exchange ideas to better our Order.

Our next visit was to the North Central District and the Ocala Lodge. We visited the South Marion-Villages Lodge for our Friday night. It was great to see all the progress there. We toured the “Big Daddy” Don Garlitz Museum of Racing on Saturday. Big Daddy himself showed us around and it was very interesting. I am sad to report that since our visit DVP Harold Warren has passed away. Please keep Janet and his family in your prayers.

Our next journey was the visit of our Grand Exalted Ruler Millard and Susanne Pickering. We had a great time in St. Augustine and then at our Youth Camp. Millard and Susanne were very impressed by our great Association and all you do to support it.

We then had the privilege of attending our State Hoop Shoot finals at the Camp. It was a lot of fun seeing the competitors working hard to move on to Valdosta. I am happy to say that one shooter got by Valdosta and he will be shooting for national honors in Springfield.

Mary Kay and I then traveled to beautiful Savannah, Georgia for the Georgia State Elks winter meeting. We were had a fantastic trip and also got the opportunity to see old friends, meet new ones, and celebrate our great order.

We then traveled to the North District and Perry Lodge. While there we toured the Veteran’s Memorial and Capital State Park. If you are ever near Perry it is worth your time to visit the Memorial. It is breathtaking and a tribute to all who served and those who support the Memorial. Thanks to DVP Dick Joyal and all the Members.

As I said in the beginning of my message we had our homecoming at Lakeland Lodge on March 21-22. We had a great time visiting Plant City Lodge on Friday and then going to Tiger Town Stadium and the Keel and Curley Winery and Brewery. It was a fitting ending to our District Visits and we thank DVP Ted Martzloff and all the Members for a fun weekend.

As we finish our Lodge year you have raised over $655,000 in Harry-Anna donations. Congratulations to all the Members who continue to support our great programs. Your generosity helps us expand our two major projects to help more needy children and needy around Florida.

We look forward to the rest of our year representing you the great Members of the Florida State Elks Association. God bless our Military and their families. And God bless all of the great Elks in Florida and around the Country.

Endorsed Vice President at Large

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North District and Tallahassee Lodge 937 are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Carl Ledig as a candidate for the office of Vice President at Large of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Ledig was born in Baton Rouge, La. on March 25, 1942. He grew up in Port Allen and Baton Rouge and moved to Tallahassee in November 1985.

Dolly and he were married December 29, 1962. They have a son, Carl (Rob) Jr., and two daughters, Lisa, married to Kenneth Taylor and Claire, married to Michael Roy Fugler. They have two grandchildren, Joshua Taylor and Lily Taylor. Carl has a younger sister, Catherine, and two younger brothers, Philip and Conrad. Dolly has a younger sister, Nancy.

Ledig earned a Bachelor of Science from LSU in 1970. He worked at Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Company from 1969-1985 and has worked at St. Marks Powder® until retiring in April 2014.

In October 16, 2001, Ledig was initiated into the Elks. He and several others were in search of enlarging their social circle, and Tallahassee Elks Lodge proved to be a great place for that and so much more. After joining the Elks, Chaplain, Loyal Knight, LEDG, and then as Exalted Ruler in 2006-2007. He was named Lodge Officer of the Year in 2003-2004 and 2006-2007. Carl was the Lodge’s Elk of the Year in 2008-2009. He won the Jolly Cork Award as Loyal Knight in the state ritual competition in 2005.
A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Carl T. Seibert, PDD

Younger Members: Do We Really Need Them?

Ask any member this question and my guess is that you will get a resounding yes, but, and yes, there is always that but, the next thing you will most likely hear is “but we really don’t know how to attract them, and we are not being very successful at getting younger members at present.”

I was recently forwarded an article concerning the VFW entitled “Four Reasons Why the VFW is Losing its Battle for Membership.” It was written by a 30-year-old female Marine. The reasons given for the VFW’s failed attempt to recruit this new member are universal and apply to almost every fraternal/social organization in existence. I believe we can use this article as a teaching moment for our organization and to help us answer that nagging question, just how ARE WE to attract younger members? to the Elks?

The four reasons given for why we are losing the battle were:

Lack of relevance
The headache of bloated hierarchy
An unwelcoming vibe
Dated recruiting practices

When we say younger members, this term can refer to someone younger than ourselves or to many ages in between. For our purposes, I believe we should consider younger members as those aged 33 to 49 or those who address socially as Gen X. Let’s take a look at the four reasons listed above from the perspective of a member of Generation X.

Lack of Relevance
Gen Xers really do have time in their lives to engage with the world in meaningful ways and especially with brands engaged in social causes. Is there anyone who addresses socially any better than the Elks of Florida? Are we communicating this effectively enough, though, to connect a membership in the Elks with our cause? Gen X does not want to just give money to our cause; they seek a connection to our cause. They want to go outdoors and be involved in meaningful, physical service to our causes. If we are to attract Gen X into the Elks prior to turning 50 years old, we are going to have to provide opportunities for these members to interact directly with each other and the folks we are serving. This not only has to happen in our Lodge and community projects but will also need to happen in our state major projects.

The headache of bloated hierarchy

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Florida Ladies of Elks

Judy Reyes, President

“A Journey For The Children, From The Heart, One Step At A Time”

“To make a difference in someone’s life, you don’t have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care.”

Mandy Hale

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

Our Quarterly meeting was held at the Youth Camp on February 8, 2014 and was very well attended. I would like to thank our Past Grand Exalted Ruler wives, Claudia Bates and Sandra Smith, along with Mary Kay Burns, Rachel Tabor, Dolley Ledig and all the wives of our Past State Presidents for hosting a beautiful lunch on Friday, in honor of Suzanne Pickering, wife of Grand Exalted Ruler, Menard Pickering. The decorations were so beautiful and the luncheon was fabulous. I enjoyed visiting with all of the ladies who attended this wonderful event.

At our Saturday meeting, our Ladies Chairlady, Barbara Smallcombe, introduced our Dignitaries, Brian Burns, FSEA President, Danny Tabor, Endorsed Candidate for State President, Carl Ledig, Endorsed Candidate for VPAL, and Millard Pickering, our Grand Exalted Ruler. All the dignitaries thanked the ladies for their support and dedication to the Elks Major Projects.

Also, in attendance were FLOE Past President, Mildred, Lamb, Faye Bryant, Beverly Messerschmitt, Enid “Sam” Simpson, Carol Deresh, Dolores Casella, and Carol Phelps.

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Also, in attendance were FLOE Past President, Mildred, Lamb, Faye Bryant, Beverly Messerschmitt, Enid “Sam” Simpson, Carol Deresh, Dolores Casella, and Carol Phelps.

Other honored guests in attendance were, Kathy Lake, wife of David Lake, PSP, FSEA and Gail Sansoussi, wife of Don Sansoussi, PSP, FSEA.

The packet for the May Convention was reviewed with the Delegates. The year’s activities will include the Silent Auction on Friday, our Saturday morning meeting followed by our Chinese Auction and Luncheon. Again this year we will hold cantonment for your enjoyment, and in addition, a cash bar available to enjoy a cocktail or a glass of wine with your lunch, and wine may also be purchased by the bottle to share at your table. You may down load your information packet from the Elks web-site: www.flelks.org Visit the site often to keep up to date on all FLOE activities.

Please make plans to visit our Silent Auction on Friday and don’t forget to place your bids. Your Lodge will receive Per Capita Credit based on the purchase value of the items donated by your Lodge. Winning bids will be announced on Friday after the Memorial Service.

There has been one additional activity added this year. The Officers of the Florida Ladies of Elks

FLOE continued on page 9

not from the officers down. We need committees of empowered members, not committees of one.

We must allow members to execute the plan and give them timely support, and we must not hold them back with lengthy meetings and unnecessary formalities. Give a Gen Xer a problem to solve and they will use collaboration and action to solve it.

An unwelcoming vibe

Picture the front entrance of your Lodge and how members and guests are greeted. Is the first greeting one gets in your Lodge from the bartender or some heavy at the door tasked with guarding, not welcoming? As a member of the Florida Elks since the age of 25, I could write a book on the reactions I have seen over the years upon entering a Lodge and not looking the age of the average Elks member. We have done it as parents and grandparents for so many years, it is time for us to do it as Elks. We must become more accepting of the younger generation and the way they dress, sound, act and look. I believe that this reason in itself might be the biggest challenge we will have to overcome if we are to be successful in recruiting younger members. We must open our minds and greet every newcomer with a smile and welcoming attitude.

Dated recruiting practices

What message do we send with our past due notices? Are dues really all we are after? Our members are our salespeople. When we treat them like a check, can we really expect them to promote our causes or our virtues? Every member we lose is one less member we have to perpetuate our existence. If we are to be successful in attracting Gen X to the Elks, we will have to do a better job of selling what we do, not what we say! Our marketing must extend not only to new members but to every one of our salespeople. To recruit younger members we will need to educate them about what we are doing (today), not what we have done. We need to show them how we are making lives better and how they can get involved.

Rising to the challenge

To many a Gen Xer their vision of the Elks is the favorite place of their fathers and grandfathers. They have fond memories of the Lodge and care about what happens to the organization that has done so much good for so many folks. They really don’t want it to fade into obscurity. We are Elks are honorable people who offer amazing assistance to children, veterans, and those less fortunate than ourselves. Through our local Lodges and our service to our communities, our children’s therapy services, our youth camp, our army of hope and our scholarships, we demonstrate our care about others and we promote this ideal through our websites and social platforms, but this is not enough. This is not a “build it and they will come” proposition. If we are to be successful in our recruitment of younger members, we are going to have to get serious about it at every level of the organization. We must get out of the building and into the community. We need to trade poker night for a citywide cleanup day. We need to put down the beer and pick up a shovel. We must use social and traditional media to let our towns know about the good work we do.

In addition to the silent auction happening on Friday, the winning bids will be announced on Friday after the Memorial Service.

There has been one additional activity added this year. The Officers of the Florida Ladies of Elks

FLOE continued on page 9

Also, in attendance were FLOE Past President, Mildred, Lamb, Faye Bryant, Beverly Messerschmitt, Enid “Sam” Simpson, Carol Deresh, Dolores Casella, and Carol Phelps.
GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES

Donate Life - A family portrait

By CARROLL L.SCHLEETER
Committee Member

“Why me?” my son, retired Army Lt Col. John C. Schleeter, asked.

“All I wanted to do was to serve my country. They sent me to Iraq along with so many others,” the Army veteran of 23 years said.

But sometime in those more than two decades, John contracted non-alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver, for which the Veterans Administration now is paying for his disability.

“At 51 years of age I can no longer work, and I have been on the waiting list for a liver transplant for a number of years,” he said.

As John’s father, I am appealing on my son’s and Elks’ behalf for all good Elks members to become an organ donor.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is now in its third year of joining forces with DONATE LIFE AMERICA to increase donations of organs, eyes and life saving tissue.

The need is paramount. As of February 26, 2014, fully 121,381 people, including John, were awaiting transplants in the United States, with 77,403 listed on the active waiting list, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing (unos.org).

From January to November 2013, 20,117 transplants had taken place with total donations of 12,994, the United Network reported.

We Elks Members can help close the gap! The effort of Lodges to promote the program through their bulletins and web sites can gain them five points toward attaining All American Lodge status. More incentives will be announced in coming years as the program continues to take shape throughout Elksdom.

Meanwhile, John is left wondering what the future holds for his wife Kathy and their son Jack, 13.

“What can I do next to save enough money to build a college fund? And, Oh my God, who will raise my son? What will I do when my mind starts to go, before my body fails? How can I provide?” he asked.

Doctors tell John the next thing to go will be his driver’s license.

“Who will take my son where he needs to go?” John asks.

Kathy asks herself, “Did I sign up for this? Apparently ... for better or worse, and this isn’t better. What can I do to support my family? And, while I work the hours necessary to bring in the income, who will raise my child?”

Son Jack is confused, bewildered, pressured and afraid. “Why must I do so much and grow up so fast? Why couldn’t I be a kid a little longer? I’m only 13. I’m not ready to be a man, but my Dad may die. What do I do?”

My son and his family’s ordeal is not an isolated one.

Should you be facing a loss, and can see past your grief, please consider giving a gift of life. What nobler purpose could there ever be?

“My main concern is for Jack’s education and Kathy’s well being if I am no longer here,” John said. “This disease was not something we caused, expected, or signed on for.”

“But ... since it’s here, we will make the best we can of it, and hope and pray for a transplant.”

For information, log onto donatelife.net.

Responsible Service/Use of Alcohol

EDITOR’S NOTE: Local Lodges are asked to publish this article in their locally distributed newsletters.

By Grand Lodge Insurance Department

A recent verdict totaling $28 million (including $10 million in punitive damages) was rendered against a Local Lodge; it was alleged that a non-Elks member was improperly served alcohol while attending an Elks-sponsored function that was open to the public.

This verdict has created a significant financial burden on the Master Liability Program, which provides insurance coverage for Local Lodges. But, more importantly, it has presented a negative image of the Order.

All Elks Members have a duty to be aware of the need to be responsible for the service and use of alcohol as it pertains to themselves and the service provided by their Lodge. All those responsible for the service of alcohol should be made aware of the fact that no person approaching intoxication should ever be served and anyone who violates this policy could be dismissed.

The Master Liability Program was created to give Local Lodges the ability to operate bar facilities that serve Lodge Members and their guests; Lodges should not serve alcohol to either the public or non-Elks not accompanied by a Lodge Member.

Each and every Elks Member should demonstrate awareness of this situation and how it affects him/her on both a personal and fraternal basis - by ensuring their Lodge is operating responsibly and raising concerns when issues are brought to light.

BUS TRIPS TO THE FLORIDA ELKS YOUTH CAMP

What an experience it was for everyone on the bus trip yesterday to visit our Elks Children’s Youth Camp in Umatilla, Florida. It was an adventure that I wish every Elk in our lodge could have participated.

The fun started on arrival at our own Elks Lodge 1352 where there were donuts and coffee awaiting everyone. Then we boarded the bus with a great crew of veteran Elks to help us and direct us. The bus was so much fun with lively conversation, singing and movie watching. The two 50/50 drawings were exciting and lively.

On arrival at the ranch we were greeted by Camp counselors who made us feel welcome, even providing treats after our long bus ride. They were so knowledgeable on all the workings of the camp. Every question was answered and we were all so impressed by the beauty and skills provided in this one of a kind camp.

The thought and details that went in to every aspect of the camp/ranch was very amazing. It was completely designed for everything a child could want and need.

The management staff and counselors had every thought for helping children from every background feel safe and wanted and appreciated. Every one of us couldn’t believe this was all done by the Elks.

After touring the ranch and seeing the wonderful new swimming facility, lake activities, basketball court and more, we were served a great lunch. Back on the bus and on the way home to everyone’s delight, we were cordially invited to stop and see the Eustis Elks Lodge.

The Lodge was wonderful and the “Tiki” bar very impressive. We all had a refreshment and then said our good-byes to these warm and friendly Elks.

Back on the bus and another stop on our way home to the Jupiter Elks Lodge. Again the members could not have been more warm and friendly. There were refreshments and everyone greeted us as family and made us all feel so welcome.

Back on the bus and the end of this great day was coming home to our own Elks Lodge and realizing we are all part of a great club that does wonderful things on such a grand scale for so many people.

I sure felt proud to be an Elk.

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

On Sept 7, 2013, I had the opportunity to take a trip to the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla, Florida with the West Palm Beach Elks Lodge 1352.

The camp is not like anything I would ever expect to find serving children, especially some underprivileged children.

It is situated on a huge plot of land with a lake where the children can paddle boat and canoe. There is a dining room which could put a first-class restaurant to shame. We were served a very nice lunch.

There is an “activity room” which along with the rest of the camp is at the disposal of other groups. (i.e. girl and boy scout troops) and thereby furnish additional revenue for the Elks.

There is even a “fire pit” for bonfires and the occasional smores party. Two pools are on the property with overhead tarps to protect the children from the sun.

The cabins are clean and compact and even have air conditioning available.

Most impressive to me is the “obstacle course” where children can progress in difficulty, gaining self confidence as they go.

All in all, I was extremely impressed by the philanthropy of the South Florida Elks Lodges in serving the needs of all children by providing a beautiful outdoor experience as well an opportunity to be guided by the counselors in becoming self-assured young people.

It is not just a camp; it is a “Home away from Home,” a place where any child would be lucky and grateful to attend.

Thank you for enabling me to see the Elks at work.

Paricia Bellonci
Elks National Foundation

Growing from $100,000 to $581,300,000 in 86 years

“Uniting the forces of the Order into a mighty army for the service of mankind.”

In 1928, one man’s dream became a reality for all Elks and the communities we serve. Then-National President John F. Malley envisioned a plan that would “unite the forces of the Order into a mighty army for the service of mankind.” During the annual Grand Lodge Convention in Miami that year, Malley’s call to service inspired delegates to take action by voting to establish the Elks National Foundation with an initial $100,000 grant.

More than 80 years after Malley shared his vision with the Order, the ENF continues to unite all Elks in service to their communities.

Our Mission

The mission of the Elks National Foundation is to help Elks build stronger communities. We fulfill this pledge by investing in communities where Elks live and work. We provide tomorrow’s leaders, our youth, with lifelong skills; honor the Elks’ pledge to never forget our veterans; help the state Elks associations accomplish their charitable objectives; and fund projects that improve the quality of life in local Elks communities.

Our Impact

Since inception, the Elks National Foundation has contributed more than $384.1 million toward Elks’ charitable projects nationwide. These funds enable programs that support youth, honor veterans, and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. Our programs continue to grow each year, allowing Elks to do even more to build stronger communities. Go to elks.org for information on all Elks National Foundation programs.

This year, the Elks National Foundation will invest $8.68 million in Elks communities through Community Investments Program grants for Elks Lodges. Community Investments Program grants—which include Beacon, Gratitude, Promise and Impact grants—offer your Lodge an opportunity to serve your community in ways that will raise the Lodge’s profile, energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that’s doing great things.

How the ENF Works

The Elks National Foundation is able to help Elks build stronger communities thanks to contributions from our generous donors. Since inception, we have received more than $215.1 million in contributions and bequests. Today we boast more than 100,000 active donors and an endowment fund valued at $581.3 million.

A board of seven trustees, who are all past national presidents of the Order, governs the Elks National Foundation, which is located at the Elks national headquarters in the Elks Veterans Memorial in Chicago. The director, Jim O’Kelley, oversees the administration of the Elks National Foundation’s day-to-day operations. The Elks National Foundation also has volunteers at the Lodge, district and state levels who help coordinate our fundraising strategy and implement our programs.

Thanks to the ongoing support of our donors, the Elks National Foundation continues to expand on Malley’s vision, mobilizing Elks across the country into a force for positive change.

UNDER THE STARS CLOSER TO GOD

By Lowell P. Tyler, State Historian

It was a small lodge, small in size, but large in heart and friendliness. It was located in the most southern part of the Southeast District, chartered in 1983 by Grand Exalted Ruler Kenneth Cantoli at the Grand Lodge session in Houston, Texas.

Lying along the Intracoastal Waterway, Boynton Beach at that time retained some of the sleepy quiet town atmosphere in spite of the booming westward expansion. The members of the lodge took pride in the claim that they were a small lodge in a small community that had retained a friendly atmosphere. “It’s our kind of place” they said.

Boynton Beach really never came to life until Flagler pushed his Florida East Coast Railroad from Daytona to Miami between 1894-96. The railroad still made its presence known to the people at Boynton Lodge #2676, a reminder maybe of the boom days that followed the railroad but most likely the forced-intermission of any lodge activities while the train roared past a scant 50 feet away from the building. But American people adjust to special conditions and the Boynton Lodge adjusted to this nightly occurrence that came as regular as its 11 o’clock toast.

When the FEC came rolling along they suspended activity, formed a line of people throughout the Lodge to do their new special known as the “CHOO-CHOO” and march around the Lodge Choos Choos. When the train disappeared in the darkness they would return to normal activity ready to jump to the next occasion.

But more unique, maybe only in Elkdom, was the unusual Lodge meeting atmosphere which could only occur in Florida. Because of the small size of their lodge building making ritual difficult, they constructed a privately fenced outdoor patio. Now they could hold meetings and ritual under the stars.

I sat in one of those meetings and on the east side of the patio. The meeting started promptly at 8:00 pm, still daylight with the sun just going behind the buildings across the tracks. At 8:07 the first FEC train came rolling past as the opening ceremony went on hold. At about 8:15 you could hear the distant rumble of the second train as it made its contribution to the opening ceremonies. Once the Lodge was opened and the FEC had made its contribution to the ceremony, they seemed to back off and the next train made its appearance at about 9:03 and as the whistle and rumble wailed into the darkness the meting continued with no more interruption.

The star above the Altar became the natural stars of heaven clearly visible as the sun set in the west and darkness began to envelope the skies. As member Ben said, “What could be better, we are closer to God beneath the stars.”

The noises of the community could occasionally be heard. a motorcycle speeding by or a truck on U.S. No. 1. Gentle breezes cooled the patio as the American Flag fluttered beside the Altar. Above and just outside the patio the spotlighted American Flag was clearly visible as it unfurled in the higher winds.

To guard the door the tiler positioned himself outside the patio adjacent to the parking lot. Sit at the open bar inside (12 stools) looking through open doors at Boynton Beach Water Tower, paneled walls, wood patio fencing and you got a feeling of quaintness. Conversation came natural and you got a feeling of friendliness. Conversation came natural and you got a feeling of a friendly Lodge. The bar top was covered with an epoxy with names embedded of each who contributed $25 toward its cost of construction. The members built it. One members said, “I helped build this bar. Do you realize how many coats of epoxy are on there?” Another says, “I helped lay this floor.” It was a lodge where everyone took pride in their accomplishments.

Unfortunately, the Boynton Beach Lodge surrendered its charter some years past. It is now only a memory of the past of a Lodge, although unable to make it financially carried the pride of Elkdom. Their members filtered into other lodges in the area and are still making a contribution to the principles of Elkdom. Their Lodge is gone, but the memories of the friendly Lodge it was and the uniqueness of its existence lives on.

VPAL Ledig continued from page 2

He served as Vice Chairman of Interlodge Visitation in 2007-2008, State Chairman of Government Relations in 2007-2008, Vice Chairman of Ritual in 2008-2009, and State Chairman of Ritual in 2009-2010. He served as North District Vice President in 2010-2011 and as North District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2011-2012. Currently he is serving as State Chaplain for Brian Burns, State President. Dolly and he have served on the hospitality teams for Past State Presidents Joe Ortiz and Frank Hayes. At the November 2013 Midyear Convention, Ledig was named the endorsed VPAL for 2014-2015.

Ledig spends much of his free time participating in Elks events at his local Lodge as well as in his district, at the state level, and he attends national events. Much of his attention focuses on graphic art/design and hospitality. His hobbies include photography and computer graphics. He enjoys entertaining and traveling for Elks events and to visit family. He and his family have been huge Disney fans since the 1970s and they visit Walt Disney World as often as possible. They enjoy a glass of wine as well as exploring and visiting various wine regions, especially Napa Valley, but also Temecula, Sedona, and Dahlonega. He also enjoys visiting New York and experiencing all the city has to offer.
NORTH
Ralph C. Ferrell, Sr.

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North District are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Ralph C. Ferrell, Sr. as a candidate for the office of North District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Ralph Ferrell was born in Hayewis, N.C. on July 23, 1941 and moved to Tallahassee, Fla. in 1947. He graduated from Leon High School in 1960 and attended Florida State University for 3.6 years. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1960-1964. After 38 years, he retired from the state of Florida Department of Revenue.

In 1975 Ferrell joined Tallahassee Elks Lodge 937. His father was a member of Tallahassee and his mother was a charter member of the Tallahassee Elkkets. In 1980-1981, he served as Esquire. In the next years, he served as Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, and Leading Knight; in 1984-1985 he was Exalted Ruler. From 2003-2005 he was a Trustee and from 2006 until the present, he has been the Treasurer. He was named Officer of the Year for 2008-2009. In addition, he has served on the board of directors for the Florida State Elks Association and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. He was North District Chairman for Army of Hope. He was Vice Chairman and State Chairman for Ladies Organizations and was State Chairman for Youth Activities.

Ferrell married Julia Montford in 1979. They have three sons and five grandchildren: Bo and Brenda Ferrell (Cody & Dillon), Scott and Mandy Ferrell (Laila & Madalyn), and Grayson & Jennifer Ferrell (Emma). In 1999, and 1999-2000 terms. In 1998-1999 and 1999-

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL
Nancy L. Miller

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast Central District are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Nancy L. Miller as a candidate for the office of Southeast Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Nancy Miller was born in Plainfield, N.J. She lived in New Jersey until 2006 when her husband and she moved to Melbourne, Fla. After graduating from North Plainfield High School, she attended night school while working. She attended Middlesex County College and Rutgers where she majored in Business Management. She also attended Carnegie Mellon for engineering courses support by the Telecom Industry.

At the age of sixteen, Miller started working part time for NJ Bell and four years later she started her management career there. She stayed in the telephone marketplace holding various management jobs in engineering and data center management. She continued working in the telephone industry for Bellcore as a lead consultant for the telephone industry in North America. She is considered to be an expert in force administration with extensive experience in contact centers and network engineering. At the age of 47 with 31 years of service, she retired from Telcordia. Within 24 hours of retirement, she started a new career as the Director of Professional Services for ISC Consultants in New York City and still works with ISC even as she lives in Florida thanks to technology.

Being new to Melbourne, she and her husband were fortunate to meet great neighbors who took them to the Elks Lodge in Melbourne. Both Paul and she wanted to join, so eight years ago they became Elks at Melbourne Lodge 1744. They are what she calls transplants; being new to the area and not knowing anyone there, they made Melbourne Lodge their extended family. She has been a chairman for various Lodge committees. She has been Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, and Exalted Ruler twice. She is currently on the board of directors. In 2008-2009 she was named Citizen of the Year. In 2009-2010 she was named Officer of the Year. In 2010-2011 she received the Grand Exalted Ruler’s Outstanding Service Commendation.

Along with her Elks activities, Miller’s love for animals includes her passion for showing dogs and horses at a national level. She has the honor of owning and showing some of the top performance pinto/paint horses in the nation.

She and Paul will be celebrating 25 years of marriage this year. They are still having fun and trying to decide what they want to be when they grow up. Paul supports her in her involvement with their Lodge and district.

NORTH
Dan Bird

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northeast District are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Dan Bird as a candidate for the office of Northeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Dan Bird was born in Canton, Ohio and graduated from Timken Vocational High in 1966. Upon graduation, he went to work for American Electric Power as a high voltage field electrician. He transferred with his job to Roanoke, Va. in 1970. He met Sheila in 1985 and they married later that year.

Bird joined Roanoke Elks Lodge 197 in 1986 and quickly became involved. He started as Inner Guard and proceeded through the chairs and served two terms as Exalted Ruler from 1994-1996. He created the Golf Committee and served on the Virginia Elks Youth Camp Committee. In 1997 he moved to Jacksonville, Fla. and became a member of Orange Park 2605 and served as Exalted Ruler for two years. He then transferred to Green Cove Springs 1892 upon moving into their district. In 2009, he and a group of friends worked with Tom Elmore to start a new Lodge in Mandarin, Fla. Mandarin/St. Johns Lodge 2663 received its charter from the Grand Lodge in June 2010. He served as Exalted Ruler in 2011-2012 and was appointed Ritual Vice Chairman in 2013.

He and Sheila have two daughters, Kimberly and her husband, Grant, reside in Seattle, Wash. and Suzanne, and her husband, Mike, and their son, Braylon, reside in Roanoke, Va. From 2003-2005 he was a Trustee and from 2006 until the present, he has been the Treasurer. He was named Officer of the Year for 2008-2009. In addition, he has served on the board of directors for the Florida State Elks Association and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. He was Northeast District Chairman for Army of Hope. He was Vice Chairman and State Chairman for Ladies Organizations and was State Chairman for Youth Activities.

Along with his Elks commitments, Baucum has also been a part of Boy Scouts of America. He was an Eagle Scout in 1976, a Cub master from 1998-2001, and an assistant scoutmaster from 2002-2010. He also assisted with Clewiston Youth League Baseball from 1999-2006.

Baucum is part of the American Society Sugar Cane Technologists and served as an officer from 2005-2014 and is also a past president. He also is part of the Florida Association County Agricultural Agents. He served as District Director from 2008-2011 and from 2012 through present.

Baucum has one son, Carleton “Bubba.” He is a senior at University of Florida and joined Clewiston Elks Lodge in July 2013.

SOUTH
Federico “Fred” Jaca, Jr.

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South District are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Federico “Fred” Jaca, Jr. as a candidate for the office of South District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Federico was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico on December 27, 1948 and was the first of three children. He spent his childhood playing several sports and growing up in Miami meant a lot of water activities, especially diving, para-
sailing, boating, and skydiving. He graduated from La-Salle High School, Miami-Dade Community College, and the University of Miami. He met his wife, Sue, of 44 years in high school and were married in Hawaii on his RR from his first tour in Vietnam.

After high school graduation Jaca enlisted into the U.S. Army in 1967 for Airborne Infantry School and went through Infantry training at Fort Gordan, Fort Benning, and Fort Bragg. His military career and decorations are extensive. His awards include the Combat Infantry Badge, Master Parachute Badge, Ranger Tab, Pathfinder Tab, Special Forces Scuba Qualified, and Special Forces Tab. Decorations earned are the Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and many more awards. He has held every leadership rank in an Airborne Infantry Company and has commanded a Special Forces A Team. He served two tours in Vietnam from 1967-1970. Today he is very active with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and has served as Division Captain for all Miami-Dade Division 6.

Jaca’s professional certifications include a 100-ton U.S. Coast Guard Masters license, Master Scuba Instructor, Jump Master Rating, Roofing Contractor, Home Inspector, and Licensed Realtor.

Jaca has been an Elk for 29 years with Miami Lodge 948 and South Miami/Coral Gables 1676. Most of this duration has been with Lodge 1676 where he has served in most every position in the Lodge including serving three times as Exalted Ruler. In 2014 he became the Endorsed Vice President for the South District. Fred and Sue are looking forward to serving the South District and the Florida State Elks Association in 2014-2015.

Fred and Sue have four children and nine grandchildren. All still live and work in Miami.

Fred and Sue love spending time with friends, family, Hurricanes fans, Dolphins fans, and their Elk family.

NORTH CENTRAL
Colleen C. Gallant

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North Central District are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Colleen C. Gallant as a candidate for the office of North Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Colleen Gallant was born in Boston, Mass. in 1952. She grew up in Camp Lejeune, N.C. and moved to Florida in 1967. She graduated from Bishop Moore High School in Orlando, Fla. and is a licensed insurance agent.

Gallant worked for twelve years with the Orlando Sentinel in personnel and employment. She was employed by The Vaughn Group, Inc. for 29 years working in insurance, wealth management, and employee benefits.

In 2003 Gallant became an Elk. Her husband, father, grandfather, and uncle were members of Winter Park Lodge 1830. She has served as Lodge Esquire, Lecturing Knight, Leading Knight, and Exalted Ruler. She has been the District Chairman for Government Relations, Elks Training, and Community Activities. She was also the State Vice Chairman and State Chair for Community Projects and Activities. She has also worked on the Bingo Committee and was the By-laws Chairman.

In addition to her Elks activities, she enjoys golfing and cruising. She has been married to Al for 27 years. They have two daughters, three granddaughters, and one great-granddaughter.

SOUTH SOUTHEAST
Gerald Miller

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southeast District are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Gerald Miller as a candidate for the office of South Southeast District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Gerald Miller was born in Honesdale, Pa. in 1938. He grew up in Hawley and moved to Florida in April 1987. He graduated from high school and served six years in the U.S. Army.

Miller has been a sales manager/supervisor with John Hancock Insurance for twenty years. He owned a resort in the Pocono Mountains and has worked in real estate/property management in south Florida.

In 1998 he was sponsored by a friend to join the Elks. Miller has served as Exalted Ruler, 5-year trustee, Board of Trustees chair, Lodge and district Hoop Shoot chair, House Committee chair and state Officers Attendance Chairman.

In addition to his Elks duties, Miller is a member of the National Association of Realtors as well as the West Broward Inner Circle for business professionals. He is also a committee member for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.

Miller has two sons and a daughter, Gerald, Robert, and Debra.

SOUTH SOUTHWEST
Larry VanTilburg

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southwest District are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Larry VanTilburg as a candidate for the office of South Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Larry VanTilburg was born in 1941 in Rockford, Ohio. He moved to Florida in 1955 and graduated from Venice High School in 1959. From 1959-1961, he served in the U.S. Navy. He retired in 2001 after working for the U.S. Postal Service for 34 years.

VanTilburg became a charter member of Englewood Elks Lodge in 1967 when asked by a friend to join. He has served as Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, Chaplain, Trustee, and four terms as Exalted Ruler. He has also served as State Chairman of Officers Attendance, District Chairman of Americanism, House Committee Chairman, and President of the PER Association. In addition, he has been Kitchen Liaison and part of two state ritual contests.

In addition to Elks activities, VanTilburg is involved with Lemon Bay Historical Society and Florida Candlewick Collectors.

He and Pam have been married for 25 years. His daughter, Amy, is a nurse and resides in Roswell, GA. VanTilburg enjoys reading and working in the yard. He helps around the Lodge whenever needed.

SOUTHWEST CENTRAL
Jack Collins

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest Central District are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Jack S. Collins as a candidate for the office of Southwest Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Jack Collins was born in Glens Falls, NY in 1951. He grew up in Clinton County, NY and moved to Florida in 2003. He graduated from Saranac Central High School in Saranac, NY in 1969. He earned his AA degree from Clinton Community College in Plattsburgh, NY in 1973 and obtained his BS degree in 1988 from Regents College.

He served three years of active duty in the U.S. Air Force from August 1969 to August 1972, twenty years in the NY. Army National Guard, and three years in the Army Reserve, from which he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. For thirty years he worked with the Federal Civil Service as an Electrician and Electrical Planner & Estimator; he retired in 1999 as an Administrative Officer. He also worked three years for New York state’s Public Service Commission.

In 1981 Collins joined the Elks when a neighbor sponsored him. He joined because of the great youth programs. He was a 25-year member at Rensselaer Lodge 2073 in East Greenbush, NY and in 2006 demit- to Lake Wales Lodge 1974. He has served as Exalted Ruler, Trustee for four years, Lodge Veterans’ Services Chairman for seven years, District Veterans’ Services Chairman for four years, District Army of Hope Chairman for three years, District Auditor for two years, and State Veterans’ Services Vice Chairman in 2013-2014. He has also served on the House Committee and is a member of the Grand Lodge Steering Committee for his Lodge. For two years he was the editor/publisher of the Lodge newsletter. He was named Officer of the Year in 2008-2009 and in 2012-2013. He continues to be very involved at his Lodge and focuses on helping veterans and our military.

In addition to Elks membership, he is also a life member of the American Legion, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), and the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation (military).

He has been married to Mary Lou Bacon of Troy, N.Y. for 38 years. They have one son and one daughter and four grandchildren. They adopted their eight-year-old granddaughter in June 2012. She keeps them active with dance classes, school activities, and girls’ softball. They camp when they get the chance.
NORTHWEST
Robert C. Randle

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northwest District are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Robert C. Randle as a candidate for the office of Northwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Robert Randle was born in Germany on Feb. 5, 1957. He was a military brat and moved to Florida in 1971. He graduated from Gulf Breeze High School in 1975 and from Pensacola Jr. College in 1977. In 1979 he earned his B.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of West Florida. In 1996 he attended the F.B.I. National Academy.

Randle has been a police officer since 1980. He currently serves as the chief of police for the Gulf Breeze Police Department.

Both Randle’s father and grandfather were Elks and he was sponsored in 1999 by his father. He has served as Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler three times, Lodge Trustee, Chaplain, and State Vice Chairman and State Chairman for Americanism.

In addition to the Elks, Randle is a member of the Gulf Breeze Sertoma Club. He is a board member for the Santa Rosa County United Way, Leadership Santa Rosa, and 1st Judicial Law Enforcement Association. He is a committee member for Relay for Life and belongs to Florida Police Chiefs Association and F.B.I. National Academy Association.

He and Ellen have been married for 34 years. They have one dog and four cats.

CENTRAL
Richard Hiemenz

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Central District are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Richard Hiemenz as a candidate for the office of Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Richard Hiemenz was born in Norfolk, Va. October 4, 1955, as his dad was in the Marine Corps. His elementary and middle school years were in Statesville, NC. At the age of thirteen, he was selected by Statesville Elks Lodge to attend summer camp. This was the first encounter with the Elks and it made a positive difference in his life. Learning to canoe, shoot a bow and arrow, and participate in fun activities made it a great week and the memories have lasted a lifetime.

The family later moved to Lake Worth, Fla. where he played in the band and graduated from Lake Worth High School in 1973. He then attended the University of South Florida in Tampa and graduated with a degree in Music Education in 1978.

Having worked his way through college by working in the kitchen at Red Lobster, Hiemenz decided to continue his career with Red Lobster and entered their management ranks, rising to the position of General Manager in 1981. His first store was in Chamblee, Ga. on the outskirts of Atlanta. This is where he met Laurie as they were standing in line at their apartment complex to renew their auto tags. They were married in Atlanta October 30, 1982. Further moves with Red Lobster took them to Greenville, SC and Durham, NC. They finally made their way back to Florida in 1988. After 22 years Richard retired from Red Lobster and began a new career with Walgreens where he is currently an Assistant Store Manager.

Hiemenz joined Winter Garden Elks Lodge 2165 in 1989 where he served as Organist, Chaplain, Esquire, and Lecturing Knight. He later transferred to Kissimmee Lodge 1873 where he served as Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler for four years, and Trustee. He was Officer of the Year twice and also was given Honorary Lifetime Membership in the Lodge. He currently fills in as needed. He has served as Lodge Chairman for Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Community Activities, Youth Activities, Americanism, Drug Awareness, and Elks Training. He served as District Chairman, State Vice Chairman, and State Chairman for Elks Training. He is currently the Lodge Chairman for Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Community Activities, Youth Activities, and Elks Training.

He and his wife have two great kids, Matthew and Elizabeth. Both have successful careers and are happily married; neither has children yet.

In addition to the Elks, Hiemenz enjoys playing clarinet and piano. Also he and Laurie like to go on cruises as often as time and money permit.

SOUTHWEST
Brett Davis

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest District are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Brett Davis as a candidate for the office of Southwest District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Brett Davis was born in San Rafael, Calif. in 1971 to parents Dave, an Air Force Senior Master Sergeant (RET), and Wendy, a native of the United Kingdom. He holds dual citizenship in the United States of America and the United Kingdom. He has two sisters, Tracy and Andrea. As an Air Force child, he lived in various states including Oklahoma, New York, and Alabama before the family settled in Jacksonville, Fla. After graduating from Terry Parker High School in 1989, he entered the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. He worked at the Florida Georgia Blood Alliance in Jacksonville as an analyst and programmer of their donor database system. In 1992 he relocated to Bradenton, Fla. to begin work as a programmer at International Medical Laboratory, Inc. in Sarasota where he is still employed. Currently he is serves as the Director of Business Services.

Davis became involved with the Elks in late 2008. While glancing through the local newspaper he saw a small announcement that a newly organizing Elks Lodge was having a Toys for Tots drive at the Sarasota Polo Grounds. Toys in tow, his intention was just to drop off a holiday donation. He wasn’t able to leave before being bitten by the Elks bug and was signed up for this Lodge. Lakewood Ranch Lodge 2855 (now Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota 2855) was formed in 2009 and he is a proud charter member of it. He served as Lodge Esquire in 2009-2010, Loyal Knight and District Elks National Foundation Chairman in 2010-2011, Leading Knight and District Elks National Foundation Chairman in 2011-2012, and Exalted Ruler and District Harry-Anna Trust Fund Chairman in 2012-2013. In 2013-2014 he was re-elected as Exalted Ruler and also served as District Esquire, District Elks National Foundation Chairman, Vice President of the District PER Association, and State Chairman of the Sports Committee. He is also proud to be an honorary founder of the Elks National Foundation.

In addition to the Elks, Davis is a member of the Sons of the American Legion and the Moose. He also enjoys traveling in the U.S. and internationally and spending time with Sarah.

WEST CENTRAL
Toni Goodrich

The members and Lodges of Florida’s West Central District are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Toni Goodrich as a candidate for the office of West Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Toni Goodrich was born in Freeport, Long Island, NY but grew up in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. before moving to St. Petersburg while in college. She graduated from St. Petersburg Jr. College with an A.A. degree and went on to USF for an accounting degree. She worked from 1980-1990 for Lovelace Roby, CPA as an accountant and was hired by a company that had been one of the firm’s clients. She worked for that company for 19 years as their accountant and retired in 2009. She has also maintained her own corporate tax accounting service since 1980. While working as an accountant in private industry, she obtained her LPN license from St. Petersburg College right after her daughter graduated from the University of Illinois as a doctor. Her daughter is practicing in Chicago and also teaches medicine while working on her doctorate in journalism.

Goodrich was initiated in St. Petersburg Lodge 1224 July 27, 2004. She served on the House Committee from 2005-2007. She also served as Auditing Chairman from 2005-2008 and still attends all House Committee meetings and the board of directors meetings to assist with budgets and provide financial guidance. She has served as Lecturing Knight, twice as Leading Knight, and as Exalted Ruler in 2008-2009. She has also served as Lodge Secretary since 2010. She was Lodge Drug Awareness Chairman from 2008-2013. She has served on the Lodge Bulletin Committee since 2008 and as Community Activities Chairman since 2007. She has been District Soccer Shoot Chairman for the past three years. Also for the past three years she has served on the State Membership Development Committee under the direction of PER Don Moon while serving as Lodge Liason for her Lodge. She has also been the West Central District Reporter for Florida Elks News since 2012.

In 2010 and 2011, Goodrich was awarded Officer of the Year. She was appointed as Esquire for the West Central District and proudly served for 2009-2010. She was also appointed as District Auditor and served for 2011-2012 and again for 2012-2013.

Continued next page
The members and Lodges of Florida’s East Central District are honored to present to the 2014 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. the name of Mark F. Thompson as a candidate for the office of East Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Mark Thompson was born in 1960 in DeLand, Fla. This is where he grew up. He graduated from DeLand High School in 1978. He attended Stetson University from 1978-1979 and studied Avionics Warfare Systems & Computer Science in the U.S. Air Force Technical College from 1979-1981. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1979-1989 and received an honorable discharge as a disabled veteran. While in the military he lived in Colorado, New Mexico, Germany, and Okinawa, Japan.

After Thompson was discharged from military service, he returned to Florida and started a computer systems integration company in Orlando from 1990-2000. In 1994 he purchased and operated Movieland Video rental stores in DeLand. He sold everything in 2000 and began working for Verizon Wireless as a Strategic Business Accounts Manager. In 2007 he moved to Florida Public Utilities Company and continues to work for them today as the state Key Accounts Manager.

Thompson was initiated into DeLand Elks Lodge June 26, 2000. He joined because most of his Jaycee associates had moved on to become Elks, and his lifelong best friend, Matt Pieper, asked him to join. Pieper told him it was a great place to continue their work to fulfill the creed that “service to humanity is the best work of life!”

Thompson has served on the House Committee nine terms and was Chairman for 2010-2011. He was Chairman of the Lodge Enhancement Committee for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 and has served on the committee since 2009-2010. He has been Leading Knight and has served twice as both Esquire and Exalted Ruler. He has served as Lodge Trustee for five terms. He was named Officer of the Year for 2004-2005. He was Lodge Chairman of Youth Activities and Americanism for 2006-2007. He has served three times as President of the Lodge PER Association and was named PER of the Year for 2006-2007. He was named PER of the Year again for 2012-2013. He has also served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Lodge PER Association. He earned the financial “Joe Patti Award” in 2008-2009. He has served twice as Officer at Large.

On the district level, Thompson has been Chairman of Youth Activities and Government Relations. He was also the District Esquire for 2006-2007. In 2009-2010 he was President of the East Central District PER Association. On the state level, he has been Vice Chairman of Soccer Shoot and served four years as Chairman of Soccer Shoot.

In addition to the Elks, Thompson is affiliated with the Fraternal Order of De Molay (Masonic Youth) and the Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees).

He married Barbara Rinaldi October 11, 1997. They have a son, Christopher, who lives with them now and attends Daytona State; his major is computer science.

Lake Okeechobee Lodge 2871

The Lodge is still looking for a home, but in the meantime has moved its meetings to the American Legion Post 64. The situation will be much better for the membership.

On March 15th, the Lodge held its 26 Week Club dinner and drawings. Next year’s ER Jim Dupree and his cook created a fine dinner. The entertainment was provided by a Patsy Cline impersonator. Her husband sang some St. Patrick’s Day Irish tunes.

The new Lodge is looking for a set of used history flags and an altar cloth if any lodge has spares, please contact Ernie Basil, PDDGER.

West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

It was said Wednesday night Lodge meeting, when acting Secretary Carl Williams, PDDGER, read a letter from Secretary Lowell Tyler stating that due to health reasons he would no longer be able to continue as secretary. He served the Lodge well for 18 years as secretary. A motion was made and passed giving Mr. Tyler the title of Secretary Emeritus. He will be truly missed. He will continue serving as the State Historian for the upcoming year. Bette and he have moved to Palm Bay to be closer to their daughter.

The Ladies’ Auxiliary held a Harry-Anna Dinner in January and raised $1,000 for the Trust Fund. As usual, the ladies did a fantastic job with this fund raiser and a good time was had by all those who attended. In February, the Lodge also had a Sweetheart Ball which was another successful affair. It was also the last time that the group, Johnnie and the Heartbreakers, were to perform before they retired.

In December, the Lodge hosted its annual Breakfast With Santa for the needy children in the neighborhood. Over fifty (50) children and their parents enjoyed a buffet breakfast and a visit from Santa. Each child received two gifts and a stuffed animal thanks to the generosity of Toys For Tots and The Daughters of the American Revolution group. These two organizations went to the limits to supply each child with wonderful gifts. The Lodge’s volunteers met and wrapped each gift and personalized them with the child’s name. It was enough to bring tears to your eyes.

Clewiston Lodge 1853

The Lodge is pleased to have next year’s District Vice President as a Lodge member. Les Baeum was announced as the new SEDVP at the last SEDAC meeting. He is anxious to get started.

The Lodge has displayed a large number of lodge pins thanks to the hard work and effort by members Timmy Dean and his wife, Debbie. Members collected the pins as they traveled around the country. Timmy constructed a large frame and Debbie placed the pins in the proper place. The pins are displayed across a map of Florida as well as the United States. They even have pins from Alaska and Hawaii.

The Lodge is involved in serving lunches to approximately 125 people each weekday for the month of March to the Chamber of Commerce.

The Lodge is involved in the Sugar Festival in Clewiston. The Elk members volunteer, support the community, and show how and what the Elks are all about.

The Junior Bass Anglers group that the Lodge sponsors is getting ready to start its new season on April 1st. Local volunteers supply the boats that the children use for their fishing adventures.

Jupiter Lodge 2469

The Lodge is supporting the Harry-Anna Trust Fund with its weekly Bingo and monthly Saturday night drawings.

The members are serving Sunday breakfasts as promotions to help increase membership. It appears to be helping gain new members.

The SEDVP Committee is accepting applications for the four $500.00 awards that will be given out at the end of this school year.

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will be hosting a hospitality room at the May State Convention on Thursday, May 22nd and Friday May 23rd. We will be offering a “signature” drink and light snacks. Please make plans to stop by and meet all the officers of FLOE.

Our Ladies are also in full swing getting ready for our September Conference to be held at the Daytona Beach Shore Resort and Spa. Again this year our Conference Banquet will be held on Friday evening outside under the stars (weather permitting) and the Delegates Reception on Saturday evening. Always remember that we are making “A Journey For The Children, From The Heart, One Step At A Time”. Please continue to support us by participating in all our functions as we continue to raise funds for the Elks Major Projects that help all the children in our state.

We are still gathering history of the Ladies Organizations in each District. Please send this information and all Wishing Well information to Past State President, End "Sam" Simpson.

“The moment you’re ready to quit is usually the moment right before the miracle happens. Never Give Up.”

I look forward to seeing each of you at our next meeting, which by the way, is May 24, 2014 at Disney’s Coronado Springs, Orlando.

East Central continued from page 16

is a mass communications specialist assigned to the US Pacific Fleet Command in Pearl Harbor as a photo journalist. The seven year Navy veteran graduated from Spruce Creek High School in 2001 and Daytona Beach Community College in 2005. He served in Afghanistan where he documented training operations with the Afghan National Army and the Afghanistan National Police.

Joseph Driggers, this year’s district Hoop Shoot winner, was presented his trophy at the Sanford Elks Lodge by DDGER Tom Brand and DVP Ed Jackson. He will be going to the regional Hoop Shoot in Lake Placid.

The Lodge had 22 students apply for the Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship Award. The Lodge was fortunate to have six winners from the district level to go on to the state level.

Congratulations to Linda Lee, Orange Peal editor, for a fantastic job in taking second place in Division
Inverness Lodge 2522

The Lodge Charities Raffle brought in $4,215; every year the Lodge gives Citrus United Basket (CUB) a major donation from these contributions. CUB has been assisting the community since 1978 with help in everything from food to finances. This year the Elks were able to present $1,200 to Citrus United Basket.

Ocala donation, from left: Wes Wheeler, Lodge Trustee; Karla Grimsley of Interfaith, receiving a check for $3,500 from Harold Floyd, Leading Knight; and John Schaefer, Exalted Ruler.

Karla is CEO of Interfaith Services and has performed a variety of great community service this past year. The Lodge awarded Karla Citizen of the year. This award was signed by John Schaefer, Exalted Ruler Ocala Lodge and Millard C. Pickering, Grand Exalted Ruler Grand Lodge.

For the second year in a row, the Lodge assisted the Leesburg Food Bank in distributing food, including turkeys and chicken, to 210 deserving families. Eleven Officers and members loaded huge parcels of food into over two hundred vehicles. In addition to the poultry, donated by the Lodge, the food packages included enough dairy, produce, trimmings and dessert items to prepare a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner.

Ocala Lodge 286

The Lodge hosted a “House Warming Party” luncheon for Interfaith Emergency Services (IES) which was created by the local religious pastoral community who saw a need to provide emergency assistance to individuals and families in crisis. After hearing about the IES’s shelter residents that usually have very little when they move into a place of their own, the Lodge decided it would help collect household cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items as a “house warming” gift in exchange for a free luncheon for those that donate. A combination of fifteen Interfaith Services volunteers and employees attended the special luncheon at the Lodge.

Representatives of the Ocala Lodge presented a check in the amount of $3,500 to The Salvation Army. From left: Roy Wimmer (Membership Chair), John Schaefer (Exalted Ruler), Major George Patterson of The Salvation Army, and Harold Floyd (Esteemed Leading Knight).

The Salvation Army has been operating in the United States for more than one hundred thirty years. The Lodge has been a longtime supporter of the Army.

Winter Garden Lodge 2165

The Lodge supported a community “Ride for the Stone,” a way to mark gravesites of children whose parents cannot afford a marker.

South Marion-Villages Lodge 2730

The Lodge recently donated more than one hundred dictionaries to the Emerald Shores Elementary School. Carl Palmieri’s third grade class received them from Charlie Brown, Bruce Henry, and Jeff Lepore. The children were very appreciative and asked many discerning questions during the event. “We are all about helping children,” said Henry. “There is nothing more heartwarming than being able to enhance a child’s life experience.”

The Lodge delivered more than $200 in toiletries and $550 in food to the Food Banks of St. Theresa’s Catholic Church of Belleview and Interfaith Alliance of Ocala. The donations were raised at a recent Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner with an entry fee of money or four items of food, baby items and toiletries.
Melbourne Lodge 1744

Volunteers at the Lodge, through the use of a Gratitude Grant, used the grant money to partnership with the Melbourne Woman’s Club. The ladies sewed and stuffed heart and comfort pillows and donated them to local hospitals. They made smile dolls for children having cleft palate surgery and sewed and donated baby quilts and donated them to the nurseries at local hospitals. They assembled wheelchair and walker bags and donated them to local nursing homes. They made little dresses and donated them to a local migrant camps, along with smile bags loaded with coloring books, crayons, pencils and little toys and distributed them before Christmas.

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

The Lodge had an Egg nog Social that benefited a local school and it was a huge success. The program provides in-need children with filled backpacks for meals on the weekends. On the second Sunday of each month, the Lodge hosts a Scout Breakfast to benefit our Troops and Cub Scout program. This helps to provide the opportunity for the young scouts to go camping and experience other adventures.

The lobster boil and clam bake in January was delicious. The members enjoyed a Sunday afternoon of Elk camaraderie and dancing. A great time was had by all. The Lodge recently held its Americanism Essay contest with the topic of “What Does Veterans Day Mean to Me.” More than 100 children submitted essays from the local schools. The top three from both the 5-6 grades and 7-8 grades were announced. The winners with their essays enjoyed a chicken dinner at the Lodge. Certificates and prizes were presented at the dinner with 100 members attending.

The Fashion Show was a huge success. We had over 200 people in attendance. The ladies enjoyed the all male wait staff serving the luncheon. There were door prizes as well as a Chinese auction which had items from local businesses donated. Many members donated gifts. The Lodge is greatly anticipating the New Officer Installation and ER Ball in April. The members also look forward to the volunteer roast pork dinner which is a lot of fun. Congratulations to ER Bill LaSalla, Leading Knight Sal Lentine, Loyal Knight Carol Raymond, Lecturing Knight Lynne Tripoli, Secretary Sue Manning, Treasurer Joan DeBell, Esquire Jack DeBell, PER, Inner Guard Tom Patrick, Tiler Chris Ray, Chaplain Vicki Rodriguez, and Trustees Maryann Manning, PER, Ernie Page, Bruce Raymond, Joe Pepe, PER, and JJ Turley. Hope your year as officers is filled with success.

Sebastian Lodge 2714

The Lodge held its 10th annual charity car show on February 9th and it was a huge success. There were 185 registered cars; none were turned away but the area was quite full. There were vintage Chevys, several Corvettes, roadsters, pick-ups, 280z, Continentals, Pontiacs, and Fords, just to names some of the vehicles. Trophies were awarded to several of the cars and a share and care (50/50) raffle was held. The musicParking was quite full. There were vintage Chevs, several Corvettes, roadsters, pick-ups, 280z, Continentals, Pontiacs, and Fords, just to names some of the vehicles. Trophies were awarded to several of the cars and a share and care (50/50) raffle was held. The music and the following were recognized for their outstanding efforts: ER Stew Smith started out by thanking the following with an Exalted Ruler’s Outstanding Service Award: Bob Pelosi, Betty Tewksbury, PAD, Gus Simunelli, PAD, Walter Smith, Len Coia and Alizer “AJ” Hardt. To the following was recognized: Teacher of the Year, Kathy Donnell, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Sergeant, Karl Nelson, Citizen of the Year, Debbie Wilson, GER Commendation Awards, Ruth Pelosi and Gus Meza, Officer of the Year, Joe Simonelli, and Elk of the Year, Della Nelson.

Vero Beach Lodge 1774

The Lodge shared the season with its annual visit to the Wabasso School. This is one of the most popular event for students at the school and is something the Elks look forward to each year. The Elks shop for the gifts for the children. Each child specifies items on their list and the Lodge does its best to fulfill their wishes. Members get together for a big wrapping party to make sure the gifts are ready for Santa’s sleigh. Everyone gets a little something. It’s not only big to the students. Besides the gifts, the students get to make sure the gifts are ready for Santa’s sleigh. Everyone gets a little something. It’s not only big to the students.

Umatilla, FL, local scholarships and to support several other youth activities.

Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

The Lodge’s scholarship committee awarded the ENF Most Valuable Student scholarship applications and the following were chosen to receive a $1000 scholarship prize from the Lodge: Colton Spencer from South Fork HS, Daniella Rossi from Jensen Beach HS, and Emma Johnson from Martin County HS. The winners and their families are going to be invited to a dinner at the Lodge in May. The “Elks Heart Packs” hit its one year anniversary on February 14th, and as of now the Lodge has gone from feeding 30 kids each week to 70 at the Felix A. Williams Elementary school.

Congratulations to Elks of the Month, January, John Reinhardt, February, Ed and Lois Gravitus, PER, and March, Betty Lou Taylor. The Annual Volunteer Appreciation and Awards banquet was held in March and the following were recognized for their outstanding efforts: ER Stew Smith started out by thanking the following with an Exalted Ruler’s Outstanding Service Award: Bob Pelosi, Betty Tewksbury, PAD, Gus Simunelli, PAD, Walter Smith, Len Coia and Alizer “AJ” Hardt. To the following was recognized: Teacher of the Year, Kathy Donnell, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Sergeant, Karl Nelson, Citizen of the Year, Debbie Wilson, GER Commendation Awards, Ruth Pelosi and Gus Meza, Officer of the Year, Joe Simonelli, and Elk of the Year, Della Nelson.

The Lodge recently held its 10th annual charity car show which was greatly appreciated. Over 200 people in attendance. The ladies enjoyed the all male wait staff serving the luncheon. There were door prizes as well as a Chinese auction which had items from local businesses donated. Many members donated gifts. The Lodge is greatly anticipating the New Officer Installation and ER Ball in April. The members also look forward to the volunteer roast pork dinner which is a lot of fun. Congratulations to ER Bill LaSalla, Leading Knight Sal Lentine, Loyal Knight Carol Raymond, Lecturing Knight Lynne Tripoli, Secretary Sue Manning, Treasurer Joan DeBell, Esquire Jack DeBell, PER, Inner Guard Tom Patrick, Tiler Chris Ray, Chaplain Vicki Rodriguez, and Trustees Maryann Manning, PER, Ernie Page, Bruce Raymond, Joe Pepe, PER, and JJ Turley. Hope your year as officers is filled with success.

Gainesville Lodge 990

The Lodge held a profitable BBQ in which it raised around $1,400 for the ENF and Harry-Anna and were able to meet its per-capita goal for the ENF and is eligible to receive the ENF Gratitude grant again this new year.

There was a good turnout of members and veterans for the December VA bingo. The Veterans played several rounds of bingo and the members provided a good amount of canteen books to the veterans who came out along with snacks and refreshments. Each of the players also received a gift bag of various toiletries which were greatly appreciated.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892

The Wreaths Across America project was held December 14th. It was a huge success due to the efforts of chairperson Jean Maddox and the membership that raised monies and donations exceeding $6,300.

This education school serves children with physical and emotional disabilities throughout the county.

Viera Lodge 2817

On January 18, 2014 the Lodge hosted its first Car and Motorcycle show. In spite of the chill in the air, the beautiful sunshine inspired many members and guests to polish their favorite car or motorcycle and bring it to the Lodge for display. The event was organized by Lodge members Tom and Wendy Carnes. Lodge volunteers prepared and served food and drinks for the participants and guests. Plaques were given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each class as well as “Best In Show.” All funds raised will support Lodge activities. This will become an annual event.

West St. Lucie Lodge 2823

It has been a busy time for the Lodge. Final preparations are being made for the move to the new Lodge. Hopefully, by the time you read this articles, the Lodge will be well adjusted to our new surroundings. Please feel free to stop by if you’re in the area. The new location is 343 NW Prima Vista Boulevard in Port St. Lucie. To date, due to the donations of the members and the grant money the Lodge has received, the Lodge has purchased $4,000 in food to two schools, Oak Hammock and West Gate, feeding over 100 children. Once again grant writer, PER Ron Kruse, has done a terrific job. He has notified us that we have received the Gratitude Grant in the amount of $2,000, which will help us achieve our goal for the project we have planned. Congratulations go to Bob Baker, Elk of the Month for January, Bob Rodeghiero for February, and Terry Robertson for March. ER Marge presented the Officer of the Year Award to John Colister, the Elk of the Year award to Jerry Dobbs, and the Citizen of the Year award to Laura Klosterman. The Elkettes have come through again and donated another $1,000 to the Lodge to help with moving expenses. The Lodge was also able to donate $2,500 to Harry-Anna at the Quarterly held in Umatilla. Terry Robertson and Sabina Laferry worked diligently on several Harry-Anna Ball events this year and did a great job raising funds for this purpose. Congratulations also go to ER Marge Spera who accepted a second term as ER as well as a three-year term as one of the District Auditors for the SEC District.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Gainesville Lodge 990

The Lodge held a profitable BBQ in which it raised around $1,400 for the ENF and Harry-Anna and were able to meet its per-capita goal for the ENF and is eligible to receive the ENF Gratitude grant again this new year.

There was a good turnout of members and veterans for the December VA bingo. The Veterans played several rounds of bingo and the members provided a good amount of canteen books to the veterans who came out along with snacks and refreshments. Each of the players also received a gift bag of various toiletries which were greatly appreciated.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892

The Wreaths Across America project was held December 14th. It was a huge success due to the efforts of chairperson Jean Maddox and the membership that raised monies and donations exceeding $6,300.

The Children’s Christmas party was held in December for the Charles E. Bennett School. Approximately 40 children attended and received gifts.

Mandarin/St. Johns Lodge 2866

Lodge members raised a huge pile of toys at the Christmas part for the Marines Toys for Tots drive. Two Marines came for the toys and festivities and were an outstanding example of our country’s military.

We had a great turnout for bingo at the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home. Eight members and seven family helpers hosted bingo for 33 Veterans. Lots of cash prizes were awarded, which were very much appreciated by the Vets.

“Re-Creation” performed at the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home in February with the co-sponsorship of Green Cove Springs Lodge. They were simply unbelievable, and put huge smiles on the Veteran’s and the 20 lodge members in attendance.
34th Annual Florida State Elks Golf Tournament
April 7-8, 2014 Spring Lake Golf and Country Club
Sponsored by Lake Placid Lodge 2661 and Sebring Lodge 1529

1st Place A Flight

Fort Myers team, Left-Right: Paul Reick, R. Marciullonius, Robert Reick, and Tony Reick with Florida Elks State President Brian Burns. They scored 61-61 for a low total of 122.

1st Place B Flight

Miami team Left-Right: Joe Ortiz, Nick Ortiz, and Jim Lind receiving their trophies from Florida Elks State President Brian Burns; they scored 66-62 for two day total of 128.

Hole in One

PGER Mike Smith on left and Florida Elks President Brian Burns, on right congratulate Dave Henize from Boca Raton for his “Hole in One” on hole 15 of the Panther Course.

1st Place C Flight

Inverness team Left-Right: Art Tajer, Rick Tajer, Rick Doughan and Jim Kusmaul with scores of 70-65 for a total of 135, with Florida Elks State President Brian Burns.

Longest drive in the tournament was won by Jim Lind of Boca Raton Lodge.

The Putting contest was won by Jeff Holbrook of Lake Placid Lodge.

2nd Place A Flight from Lake Placid, is John Holbrook, Jeff Holbrook, J. McEachen, and C. Stickle with Scores of 65-59 for a total of 124.

2nd Place B Flight not pictured was T. Gonsalves, C. Heard, D. Reed and M. Dever with scores of 67-61 for a total of 128.

The lowest score of 59 was by the Lake Placid Team during the two days of golf as it earned them Second Place in the A Flight.

2nd Place C Flight is V. Oliveira, W. Foss, D. Abbott, and R. Velten with scores of 70-67 for a total of 137.

The 34th Annual Florida State Elks Golf Tournament was held at the Spring Lake Golf and Country Club with 108 golfers competing in three flights. Chaired by John Holbrook, PDD, and Bill Spivey, Secretary/Treasurer.
FLORIDA ELKS

HOOP SHOOT FINALS

Florida Elks Youth Camp

Grafton Center

February 15, 2014

GIRLS

12-13 Age Group

1st Place Carli Linehan Venice/Nokomis 21/25
2nd Place Eryanna Gadsen Warrington 20/25

10-11 Age Group

1st Place Ellie DiGiacomo Venice/Nokomis 20/25
2nd Place Krystal Morales Deep Creek 15/25
3rd Place Amanda Nichols Crestview 7/25

8-9 Age Group

1st Place J Bordraz Sims Ocala 13/25
2nd Place Arianna Guerra Miami 11/25
3rd Place Lauren McMahon Venice/Nokomis 10/25

BOYS

12-13 Age Group

1st Place Jeremy Morales Deep Creek 21/25 5/5
2nd Place Aaron Hall Holley-Navarre 18/25
3rd Place Adam Gebel Venice/Nokomis 17/25

10-11 Age Group

1st Place Ceferino Velez Kissimmee 17/25
2nd Place Jeremy Lightsey Ocala 14/25
3rd Place Christian Pujals Miami 13/25

8-9 Age Group

1st Place Kyler Card Holley/Navarre 21/25 1/5
2nd Place Joey DiGiacomo Venice/Nokomis 20/25
3rd Place Daniel Munez Miami 18/25

Marilyn Kronenberg, Florida Elks Hoop Shoot Chairman, with assistance of many volunteers ran a very successful competition. Vice Chairman, Joaquin Lopez, was not in attendance due to his mother’s health issues.

Marilyn has always strived to keep the Past State Hoop Shoot Directors involved in the contest and this year was no exception. Her husband, Roy, along with John Holbrook and his wife Marge, Pete Cattabriga and his wife Barbara, all did an outstanding job!

Officiating the contest were Jeff Holbrook, Bud and Carolyn Popalar do, Gary and Amy Turner, Bob and Stacy Ammese, and Ed Cunningham, all from Lake Placid Lodge #2661, and Bill and Terye Sununu, of Delray Beach Lodge #1770.

Dignitaries in attendance were Florida Elks State President Brian Burns and wife Mary Kay, VPAL Danny Tabor and wife Rachel, Past State President Charles Trinowski and wife Mary Ann, and Raleigh and Joya Whiteman representing the Florida Elks News.

There was considerable skill demonstrated with the contestants making many baskets. The Champions of Champions in the boys division proved to be very interesting with two boys each shooting 21 baskets, Kyler Card in the 8-9 year old class and Jeremy Morales in the 12-13 year old class. In the tie-breaker, Kyler, the youngest and the smallest boy shot first but made only one basket out of five. Jeremy, the oldest and tallest, then shot making all five of his tie breaking shots.

Jeremy Morales and Carli Lineman both in the 12-13 year old Division are this year’s Champions of Champions, they will each receive a Dale Young Memorial Trophy at the State Convention in Orlando.

During the contest, the contestants and their families were lodged at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Several were very impressed with our camp, several marveled at the size of the Camp and all it has to offer Florida’s children.
Perry Lodge 1851

Donations from members allowed the Lodge to adopt several families for Christmas and purchase two sets of clothes, pajamas, socks, underwear, shoes, and several toys for each of the kids. It sure brightened their holiday!

February brought several exciting days to the Perry Lodge. A Super Bowl party on the 2nd kicked off the month, followed by a Valentines Dance on the 14th. Cajun style food was the bill of fare for Family Night on the 27th. State President Brian Burns and his entourage visited the North District, hosted by VP Dick Joyal of the Perry Lodge on the weekend of February 28 – March 1. It was great fun for all those who attended.

During the State President’s event, PDD Janet DaSilva, representative for the Lake City VA Medical Center, along with President Burns, presented members Sylvia Ellansson and Earline Neeley with certificates of appreciation for their continued support throughout the year. The district’s “Outstanding Elk Award” was presented to Earline Neeley, Perry Elks Lodge #1851, North District, recognizing her support for her lodge, its members, and Elkdom. Congratulations to Earline for this special recognition!

The Veterans Memorial in Perry (visited by President Burns) is spectacular and should be on your bucket list of things to see in Florida. To raise funds to complete the memorial, there was a poker run/luncheon/cake auction held at the end of lodge year 2012 for its members, and Elkdom.

Congratulations to Earline for this special recognition!

The Lodge recently voted to give $250 from its charity account to the VA Committee to fulfill two requests – one from the Veterans Hospital and one from the Domiciliary Home of Florida. The Hospital was presented with 100 pairs of stereo headphones for use in both patient rooms and the Infusion Clinic. The Domiciliary received two additional subscriptions to the Lake City Reporter for its reading room.

At the recent block installation is Perry Exalted Ruler Susan Millinor Lynn, North District Vice President Dick Joyal, and Lecturing Knight Ed Sheffield.

A group of volunteers recently spent many hours transforming the Lodge’s largest room from its former wood-paneled glory to a spectacular, eye-catching, and stunning two-tone gray ballroom. The paneled walls were sanded, filled, and painted with complementary gray colors. Lighting was enhanced to provide indirect illumination to reduce glare and add warmth to the room.

Good member Sandy Gail Chester has been a Perry Elk for over nine years. She is the daughter of members Wayne and Kathy Connell and Drucilla Sands and owns the best barbecue house in the South (or USA as far as the Perry Lodge is concerned). Sandy’s business, Goodman’s Barbeque of Perry, has donated delicious barbecue meals for several events/fundraisers at the lodge. Last year Sandy helped feed the Brotherhood Riders that came through and spent the night on their bicycle journey to Tennessee, raising funds for fallen firefighters. Sandy was awarded the Perry-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce Director’s Member of the Year Award at its annual banquet February 28, and was selected by the Tallahassee Democrat as one of twenty-five “Women You Need To Know,” These women have community foremost in mind and a dedication to make positive changes in the community. Congratulations, Sandy!

Perry held its officer installation ceremony on March 25. DDGER Pratt conducted the installation with assistance from PERs in the district.

Lake City Lodge #893

The Lodge held its local Hoop Shoot contest on December 4 with 2049 kids from the area schools participating. How come so many kids? Member Trey Hosford is a basketball star in the school system, and he told his TCT of other schools’ coaches to make this a terrific event. Obviously he has some help, but a big tip of the hat goes to Trey for another successful contest. More than 100 spectators joined folks at the Lodge for lunch afterward. Six winners went on to the district competition.

Lake City Lodge distributes annual Christmas baskets to needy families, with the funding for these baskets from a raffle contest at the Lodge. Tickets are mailed to the members and the response is always great. This year’s raffle winners were Bill Heir, 1st Place and John Livingston, 2nd Place.

In other local news, the Lodge gave $1000 to Eastside Elementary for the school’s reading program. Thanks go to the ENF grant program for funding this donation.

The Lodge recently voted to give $250 from its charity account to the VA Committee to fulfill two requests – one from the Veterans Hospital and one from the Domiciliary Home of Florida. The Hospital was presented with 100 pairs of stereo headphones for use in both patient rooms and the Infusion Clinic. The Domiciliary received two additional subscriptions to the Lake City Reporter for its reading room.

St. Patrick’s Day dinner and dance was held on March 15. Officer installation occurred on March 29, including awards and dinner.

Tallahassee Lodge #937

Tallahassee Lodge is pleased that its own PDDGER Carl Ledig is the endorsed VPAL for the state association. Carl and wife, Dolly, have been tremendous assets of their home Lodge. Congratulations to Carl and Dolly!

Elk Santa, his Elves, and Mrs. Claus blazed to Thomasville (GA) TECT Power on December 10 on a city fire truck to the delight of about 30 children. The kids were certain it was the real Santa, with a genuine white beard, a booming voice, and a large belly that could be squeezed. A TECT served everyone a roast turkey lunch and then it was time for presents for all the little ones. TECT Power Thomasville is a manufacturer of jet engine blades.

It was a magical day at Gretchen Everhart School on December 17 when Elk Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the merry Elves distributed 300 gifts to all the special needs children who attended there. The children, some walking, but most in wheelchairs, were led to Santa. Good Shepherd Catholic Church provided the gifts again this year.

Tallahassee’s Elketts staged its Annual Reunion and Reception on January 9. The focus of the event was to dedicate the new shadow boxes in the Lodge’s main hallway containing vests and lodge pins formerly worn by many Elketts. Past Elketts of the Year, and Elkett Life Members attended, along with Elks who wished to be there. Members of the Kahl family were also present.

North District continued page 18
The Crestview Lodge 2624

The Crestview Lodge initiated several new members during each month of the quarter, and continues to grow.

During the Elk’s fiscal year of 2013, the Lodge has provided over 3,300 pounds of food and in excess of $4,300 in cash to help support this Navarre food shelf. The Billory Baptist Church graciously provides the space and volunteer support to run the day to day activities at the food shelf. This facility plays an important role in the Holley-Navarre community by supporting between forty and sixty families every month with needed food to help these struggling people fight to survive unfortunate circumstances in their lives. The Lodge obtains all of its support through local fund raisers, member contributions, food drives and State/National Lodge Grants.

Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787

Holley-Navarre Lodge, Lecturing Knight Lyle Carter presented a check in the amount of $1,500 to Mary Nelson, Manager of the Billory Bread of Life Food Shelf and Sherry Neubors, Assistant Manager. It is one of several local charities supported by the Lodge.

Kyler Alexander Card was born May 11, 2005 in Fargo, ND. His favorite activities have always been sports in all different varieties. He participates in baseball, basketball and football but also enjoys golf, snow skiing and wakeboarding. Kyler being a very focused and detailed kid started being bat boy for the legion baseball team in Hawley, Minnesota in 2011 when he was just 6 years old, a position he held for two seasons! Kyler moved to Navarre, Florida in July 2013. He participated in the NFL Punt, Pass & Kick competition and finished 3rd in the New Orleans Saints Team Championship held at the Superdome. Kyler attends Holley-Navarre Intermediate School and is currently in the third grade. Kyler’s immediate family consists of Dad, Eric Card, Mom, Danelle Card, Sister, Taelyn Card and Brother Keagan. Kyler is the oldest child and a great role model. Way to go Kyler!

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

Americanism Chairman Elizabeth Roberts and her committee did an outstanding job of informing the local schools of and encouraging participation in the Americanism essay contest. Forty-five students, submitted essays for review and scoring by the committee all participants received a certificate of participation an American flag pin.

A paver project honoring our Fallen Warriors from the Florida Panhandle was established. Each paver memorial for those Warriors killed in action includes their name, rank, branch of service, date of birth and date of death. Project organizer, Betty Rainey is expanding the project to include all Florida service members killed in the line of duty and intends to have the project complete by mid-summer.

The Lodge received several ENF Scholarship applications after review and scoring by the committee the highest scoring applications were forwarded to the District Committee. Pensacola Beach Lodge was honored to have three of its applicants selected as ENF Scholarship winners.

A Blood Drive sponsored by Pensacola Beach Lodge was held on March 25th at Milton Dodge Chrysler Jeep. Event organizer and Exalted Ruler Don Padget reported that there were 12 donors donating a total of 16 pints of blood for the local Blood Center. Each donor received a gift card to the Shrimp Basket, a t-shirt and wellness checkup.

Twin Cities Lodge 2747

Honoring the tradition of the Elk’s 11:00 O’clock toast; members from four Lodges cruising the Western Caribbean gathered together on Deck 11 to perform this impressive ritual on the Norwegian Sun. Members from Twin Cities Lodge, Crestview Lodge, Apopka Lodge and Lancaster Lodge performed the 11:00 O’clock toast ritual delivered by PER Scott Turner from the Twin Cities Lodge.

The Twin Cities Lodge celebrated its 25th Birthday on the 26 of February. A celebration cake was presented to the Lodge by the Lodge Officers.

More than 40 students, from 4 area schools, participated in this year’s Americanism Essay Contest with the three Division I and Division II winners each receiving cash prizes and certificates of participation. All contestants received certificates of participation.

Each Veterans Committee Chairman Rosie and her committee visited 19 veterans in local area retirement homes providing many items needed that had been previously requested by the veterans along with individual personal items.
Deland Lodge 1463
This year, the Lodge had three Hoop Shoot winners: age group 8-9 was Joey Sauer, age group 10-11 was Brianna Hicks, and from age group 12-13 was Michael Wynn-Vollett, III; each was presented a trophy by the DDGER Tom Brand and DVP Ed Jackson. PDDGER Phil Watercutter, District Chairman for the Hoop Shoot, held the event at Seminole High in Sanford. Several Lodges participated in the event. Among some of the other dignitaries attending were PDVP Larry Skates; PERs, Jackie Curtis, John Andrews from Ormond Beach Lodge, Lou Greci and Ed Swanson from Port Orange Lodge. It was a great turnout.

The Lodge PER Association held its annual lobster and steak event for the members to benefit the lodge and Elk’s charities.

Sanford Lodge 1241
The Lodge’s Ladies of the Elks auxiliary hosted a “Country Fair” along with help of the Elks, baked cakes for a cake walk, organized getting prizes, and running the entire night. A bunch of kids from the community came out to enjoy the event.

Co-chairman, PDDGER Joe Rogers has organized the 21st Annual Florida Elks State Softball Tournament to be held in Deland. For the last 20 years, proceeds from this event have benefited underprivileged children of Florida and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Over the past 20 years, the event has raised over $142,628 for the Youth Camp in the name of the winning Lodges. Over 12,750 participants have played in the event, and attendance has exceeded 33,064 people. This year, there will be three levels of Round Robin competition with an over 50 division and A & B divisions.

Titusville Lodge 2113
The Lodge sponsored Boy Scout Troop 488 recently held an Eagle Scout Awards Ceremony honoring Joshua Swanson.

Exalted Ruler Bob Swink was on hand to welcome Chief of Police John Lau and Sheriff Wayne Ivey to the to show appreciation to the men and women who risk their lives daily to keep the community safe.

Through a Beacon Grant from the Grand Lodge, Exalted Ruler Bob Swink was able to finance a bowling league consisting of eight teams of four bowlers. The Lodge provides the team with lunch prior to bowling. Each team member received a brand new bowling ball and shirts with the team logo.

From left, Exalted Ruler Bob Swink, Coaches: Barb Syperin, Pat Wenworth, Heather Heineman and Past State President Mike Phillips.

The Lodge held a dinner/dance to help raise money for the Youth Camp; the members came together and were happy to support this worthy event; they were able to raise $2,633.33.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650
Ladies Auxiliary President, Sheila Barnett reported that the ladies have donated: $500 went to smile train, $500 went to ENF, $1,000, went to Harry-Anna Trust Fund, $500 went to the Children’s Therapy fund, $100 went for gas for the bus to get the children to camp, $100 went to the building fund of a church, and $250 went to the battered women’s shelter in Rockledge for diapers; twenty children from the Emma Jewel School received $2,000 to purchase new bikes; the Merritt Island School received $350 for its shut-in dance.

Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Lodge 1557
The Lodge recently invited the group Recreation for lunch; this group of young performers visit veteran homes across the country to perform and bring an hour of entertainment to the wheelchair-bound veterans.

Super Bowl Sunday proved a worthy event; the Lodge donated six squares to raise money for Harry-Anna; three square were worth $20 each and the other three were worth $40 each.

Lodge Membership Chairman, Marci Skates, recently announced there were four new members initiated in February and three more coming in March. Of the new members initiated, one of them made a pledge to Harry-Anna and ENF when he paid his dues.

It was announced that “Roxy” had arrived from a litter of ten adorable puppies. The Lodge sponsors “My Angel with Paws” and is looking forward to when Roxy grows up to be a wonderful service dog. Members donate pull can tabs to support this worthwhile activity.

The Lodge placed second in the FSEA scrapbook contest; a plaque will be presented at the State Convention.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193
District Hoop Shoot winners, Samantha, age group 12-13 and Adrianna, age group 8-9 went on to compete in the regional contest in Umatilla; after winning this competition, one will go on to compete at the state level, and finally, at the national level.

Exalted Ruler Jackie Curtis, PER John Andrews, and other members from the Lodge, participated in a community event, the MS Walkathon in Ormond Beach. A tent was set up where hotdogs and hamburgers were served to the passing crowd. The Walkathon reported they raised over $10,000 from that event.

On Monday afternoons, a group of volunteers get together toclip and sort coupons for Troopons, an organization that sends bundles of these coupons to our military service men and women overseas. It was reported the Lodge clipped and sorted over 10.75 lbs (one box) of coupons, equaled to $50,000.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709
The Lodge helped raise funds for the boy scouts by selling coupon cards so they could go to Boy Scout camp.

As reported in the last issue of this publication, the Lodge suffered fire damage to their lounge and dining room. The Lodge is now fully operational and members are enjoying their new lounge.

Port Orange Lodge 2723
The Lodge has started an adjunct Elks Riders USA organization that is open to all Elks in good standing, regardless of Lodge affiliation, motorcyclists, modern or vintage cars and trucks. The aim of the organization is to promote Elkdom. On Saturday, April 5th the group plans to visit the Deland Naval Museum and to visit to the Deland Elks Lodge, and a bingo run is a planned event. Contact Bill Sacramone by phone 508-864-5258 or email: elksriders2723@yahoo.com.

Lodge Scholarship Chairman, Paul Leonard, handed out awards to students with high GPA scores from Atlantic High School and Spruce Creek High School.

David J. Kolmel, son of member Dee Kolmel, was recently promoted to Petty Officer 1st Class. He
Cape Coral Lodge 2596
Cape Coral Lodge 2596 made a $250 donation to the SSW District Army of Hope picnic held on February 23rd at Rotonda Lodge.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763
Exalted Ruler Len Wenzel, PER who is also the State Drug Awareness Education Committee Chairman presented Trinity Pierce, a 6th grader at Apollo Elementary in Titusville with a Tablet for her winning essay in the state Drug Awareness Essay competition. Trinity’s essay was selected as the winner from 14 districts which comprise of 105 Elk Lodges in Florida. Her essay will be submitted at the national level. Congratulations Trinity and also to Apollo Elementary for producing a winning essay two years in a row!

Deep Creek Lodge 2763 sponsored a 5K run for Autism in Harbour Heights on February 22nd. Lodge members worked the event and donated $1200 to the cause. Lodge Officers walked the race along with members of the Janet Jones Group Home and pushed the children who were in wheelchairs. Elroy the Elk and the Drug Awareness trailer were also on sight supplying brochures and candy to the children.

Sponsoring the Janet Jones Group Home is an ongoing community project of Deep Creek Lodge 2763.

Englewood Lodge 2378
Members of Englewood Lodge “adopted” decorated shoe boxes and filled them with items for Veterans for Christmas. Seventy-five boxes were returned to the Lodge and distributed to Veterans in residence at area nursing homes.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288
Fort Myers Lodge 1288 presented a $1000 donation to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and $1000 to the Elks National Foundation at the February Quarterly Meetings held in Umatilla.

Naples Lodge 2010
Members of Naples Lodge hosted a luncheon for a group of 25 local Veterans in honor of Veterans Day. Forty underprivileged children from Manatee Elementary School enjoyed a Christmas Party at the Lodge.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606
Punta Gorda Lodge held the annual Christmas party on December 15th and raised $4,600 for food baskets to help needy families in Charlotte County.

Rotonda Lodge 2710
Exalted Ruler Len Wenzel, PER who is also the State Drug Awareness Education Committee Chairman presented Trinity Pierce, a 6th grader at Apollo Elementary in Titusville with a Tablet for her winning essay in the state Drug Awareness Essay competition. Trinity’s essay was selected as the winner from 14 districts which comprise of 105 Elk Lodges in Florida. Her essay will be submitted at the national level. Congratulations Trinity and also to Apollo Elementary for producing a winning essay two years in a row!

Rotonda Lodge 2710
In December, the Rotonda Elks Lodge was all about sharing. In addition to distributing food baskets and toys to well deserving folks in the community, monies donated through recent fundraisers and the Lodge were distributed to those in need.
Marianna Lodge 1516

Marianna has been busy sprucing up the Lodge with painting and decorating as well as modifying the menu in the dining room. New pricing is in place and appetizers are now available.

The Lodge lost its Exalted Ruler, Tom Sanson, when he passed away from a stroke. Tom was a Past VP and PDDGER and was repeating the ER chair this year. He had been State Chaplain some time ago, held several state committee chairs, was the Lodge Secretary for several years, and was instrumental in helping establish the Elks Endowed Scholarship at Chipola College around 1990. Tom was a great Elk and will be missed in his Lodge and the district.

A rocking good time occurred at the Valentines Dinner and Dance. Pair-A- Dice Band did a great performance at this event. Despite having a few glitches such as the exhaust fan malfunction in the kitchen, the night was a great success. Everyone stayed for the fun, hanging in there, smoke and all. A St. Patrick’s Day Dinner and Dance followed in March, complete with corned beef and cabbage as the entreé for the meal.

Ramp number 135 was completed on March 19, 2014. That is how many ramps have been built in a five county area by the local Marianna Lodge. The Marianna Elks began the Handicapped Persons Ramp program in 2000 as its local major project. Between 70 and 80 ramps were constructed in Jackson County with over $20,000 spent to purchase needed wood and supplies for each ramp. The B.P.O.E. also partners with local agencies including Covenant Hospice, Emerald Coast Hospice, and local doctors. Referrals come from local churches and individuals as well. Each ramp is built to ADA specifications and takes about one day to complete. Ramp building materials are free to most recipients and the Elks never charge for labor. The main criteria to have a ramp built are to have a need for a ramp, be unable to afford to build one, and the person’s insurance carrier does not cover the costs of construction. Members also assist with other construction projects such as access stairs and handicap entrances.

Marianna Lodge conducted its installation ceremony for the upcoming year on March 24. A number of PERs and officers from Tallahassee Lodge assisted in the installation.

Boca Raton Lodge 2166

In our community, our Lodge has donated over 1,100 red ribbons, 600 book marks and 700 coloring books to local schools. These items will enable the schools to participate in Red Ribbon Week. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has one of the largest drug prevention programs in the country. The officers and members will be wearing red ribbons this week in honor of Enrique S. Macarena, a DEA Agent who lost his life in the line of duty.

Boca Raton Elks will be donating 240 dictionaries to local schools this week. Both of these programs help support the youth of our community.

Boca Raton Lodge 2166 has been saving pop tops for donating to Ronald McDonald House. The Lodge donated 230 pounds in addition to what was already donated for a total of approximately 700 pounds. Thanks to the members thinking of the children and families that have gone through the care of Ronald McDonald’s House.

Del Ray Lodge 1770

Congratulations to the Del Ray Lodge 1770. Past State President, Robert Shell’s vision along with the Past Mayor of Del Ray, Tom Carney and the Lodge members for supporting their community. On the corner of NE 4 Avenue and NE 3 Street now has an additional name ELKS WAY!!!

Central District

Adrienne Martin

Orlando Lodge 1079

In the tourist capitol of the world the members of Orlando Lodge have remained quite busy with charity activities. During the past year the Lodge members participated in the “Dictionary Project” by distributing nearly 600 dictionaries to four elementary schools in the Orlando area. In addition to the dictionaries they distributed “Drug Awareness” material. The Lodge recognized the “Teachers of the Year” from the same four schools by hosting an awards dinner and presenting tokens of the Lodge’s appreciation. The Lodge provided $500 checks for each of the principal’s discretionary funds and the Lodge continues to collect food for the school’s food pantries year round.

During the holidays, members also collected enough food for twelve food baskets with accompanying gift cards and provided nearly two hundred toys for the Marine’s “Toys for Tots” program.

Members of the Lodge held and continue to hold monthly theme parties and bingo events at the veterans hospital. Members serve food and drinks, conduct the games, help the veterans and pass out prizes to the winners. They are also busy planning a house warming for the veterans moving into the new VA hospital in south Orlando.

In addition, the members provide support for the Beta Center, a facility for unwed teenage mothers. They provide food, helped raise funds, provided carpet cleaning and painting. Members got to see some very cute babies. Orlando Lodge sent four young children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp for a week of fun, fellowship and learning.

Brooksville Lodge 2582

On 2-24-2014 during the Lodge bi-monthly meeting, nine new members were initiated into Brooksville Elks Lodge 2582. The Lucretia Club that meets at the Brooksville Elks Lodge showed its appreciation by presenting a check in the amount of $150 to the Lodge at the bi-monthly Elk meeting.

Florida Elks News Editor Raleigh Whitman gives thanks all District Reporters and other contributors for your dedication and time spent gathering news and information that made it possible to receive another Grand Lodge Five Star Award for the year 2013-2014.

Florida, Kentucky and Wyoming were the only state newspapers receiving the Five Star Awards which will be awarded at the Grand Lodge Convention in July.
Miami Lodge 948

On Sunday, January 26, the Lodge held a fundraiser, “The Magic of Elvis” performed by the one and only David Morin. On Sunday, February 2nd, the Lodge held its annual Super Bowl party, attended by about 65 members and guests. On Valentine’s Day an elegant dinner was served in the Lodge’s dining room. The menu included Butlers Steak sautéed in red wine sauce and Garlic Shrimp Scampi skewers or Butlers Steak and Lobster Tail with chocolate covered strawberries for dessert and champagne. On Saturday, February 15th, the Elkettes held its annual Sweetheart Ball with music provided by the Swingables. On Saturday, February 22, the Lodge held a Western night with entertainment provided by Steve McGrath and line dancing with Eugenia.

On Saturday, March 1, Miami Lodge 948 hosted the South District’s 6th Annual Army of Hope Picnic. This year’s picnic again featured a classic car show with over 100 vehicles, a bounce house, rock climbing wall, military displays, a cake auction, and keynote speaker Lt. Michael Cortese from the US Coast Guard. Also attending was a very special guest, one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen.

The grills cook the burgers and hot dogs for the Army of Hope picnic attendees.

Special thanks goes to Lodge members Oscar Castro for organizing the classic car show, Bradley Schwartz for arranging the rock climbing wall sponsored by the National Guard and the military vehicle, and Milton Müller, PER, for recruiting ROTC students that was from Miami Edison Senior High. These young men and women were a tremendous help setting up, serving food and cleaning up after the event.

On Monday, March 17th, the Lodge held its annual St. Patrick’s Day Dinner with the standard fare of corned beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes, and vegetables on the menu, with some sightings of green beer.

On Wednesday, March 19th the new Lodge officers were installed. Outgoing Exalted Ruler Delfin Mule, presented his awards for the Elk Year 2013-2014. A big congratulations goes to Citizen of the Year: Bradley Schwartz, Officer of the Year: Esquire Ron Simpson, and Elk of the Year: David Grime.

Member Wade Fisk also received special recognition from the Exalted Ruler for his contribution to the Lodge.

On Saturday, March 29, incoming Exalted Ruler, Barry Wake, hosted the Lodge’s annual Inaugural Ball. After all of the new Officers had been introduced, the 125 members and guests enjoyed a dinner of Prime Rib and grilled Sea Bass in lobster sauce. Kim Bankston provided the music entertainment.

Miami Lodge 948 would like to wish Arthur and Mickey Rauch good luck and good fortune in their new endeavors as they move to another town in Florida. Art and Mickey have been an integral part of Miami Lodge 948 for over the past 20 years, Art has served as Tiler for many years and Mickey as president of the Elkettes and they will be missed. The members thank them for all their hard work in making the Lodge what it is today.

Florida Keys Lodge 1872

The Florida Keys Elks Lodge held a Roast Beef Dinner and Dance on January 18th to benefit its Coral Shores High School Scholarship fund. Kim Bankston, a multi-talented musician, provided entertainment. A very generous member donated its Georgia Mountain cabin for a 3-night mini-vacation that was raffled off. Seniors from Coral Shores volunteered to help serve. Each year the Lodge provides scholarships to several students.

January 28th was the Blood Drive with One Blood Community Blood Bank. It was the most donors ever to participate to this worthy cause. One of the members brought in homemade appetizers for all who had donated.

A kickoff party for Coral Shores High School Food Pantry was held on February 11th. Admission was some type of nonperishable food to stock the pantry for students in need. Music was compliments of local musician Bobbe Brown. Chicken, Jalapeno poppers and other teen-friendly food was served.

Veterans from the VA Hospital in Miami visited the Lodge for a fish fry. 26 vets enjoyed lunch, which also included pink decorated cupcakes, and Happy Valentine’s/Thank You cards made by local kids.
Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

Holiday Isles was extremely proud to have initiated, into their membership in February, Helen England of Madeira Beach--WHO WAS 100 YRS OLD LAST JULY 7TH! This spirited lady was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, where her dad served as a navy underwater diver based at the town’s Navy Yard. Apparently a “late learner”, Helen learned to ski at the young age of 72 and though thoroughly enjoying the sport for many years, was advised by her doctor to “DESIST!”

The Largo Elks Choir sang for the kids and staff at the Magical Christmas Banquet held at the Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor on Sunday, December 22. The banquet was organized by Maria Johannesen who brought together many volunteers for this magical event. The members of the Elks’ Choir are Lee Schaffner, Sharon Schlaflay, Joe Fisher, Dr. Easter, Evelyn Catuccio, and Ron Regan. Wes Schaefer kindly sang and accompanied us with his keyboard.

The Lodge hosted the spaghetti supper for Boy Scout Troop 417. Proceeds will go to help purchase new camping equipment, pay for camping fees, and much more. This is the 10th year the troop has sponsored this dinner.

On Sunday January 19, a Harry-Anna Dinner/Dance was held at the Lodge. One of the guests was Tressy Guadagno, therapist for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Service. She had this to say after visiting our Lodge, “The event at the Largo Elks Lodge was a success. What a great group of folks! They made me feel so welcome and also showed their support of Harry-Anna. I was impressed with how much money they raised for the benefit towards Harry-Anna and FECTS.”

On January 30, 2014, the Veterans’ Committee took several veterans from Bay Pines to the Armed Forces History Museum. They took a tour of the museum and were served lunch.

Lodge members are holding the 5th annual pool tournament and funds will be used to send a child from the Children’s Burn Foundation to the Florida Elks Youth Camp for one week.

Eva & Claude Beaudoin celebrated their 63rd Wedding Anniversary by raising funds to send kids to summer camp with the proceeds from having a ballroom dance party on March 29th.

The January total of coupons sent to Germany was $107,000.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

The Lodge was proud to have 21 kids participate in the Lodge Hoop Shoot. Five winners advanced to the next round. Thanks goes to John Alach for all his hard work, showing the kids a good time, while learning sportsmanship.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

The Lodge held its annual Valentines dance with a new twist by setting it to a Mardi Gras theme which was enjoyed by all. Chairman, Terry Morehouse and his crew worked hard and raised $1,803 for Harry Anna Trust Fund.

The Lodge welcomed the State Attorney’s Office, Sheriff’s Office, St Pete Police, St. Pete Fire Rescue, Gulfport Police, and Kenneth City Police on Law and Order Night, recognizing those chosen outstanding individuals from each of the departments. Seven plaques were presented by the Lodge, during the ceremony. The dinner was served by the Pinellas Park High School Criminal Justice Academy, and in support of that school program, the Lodge presented the Director of the School Program with a donation of $1,000.

The Lodge hosted 6 dinners for the Veterans of Bay Pines, treating them to dinner and karaoke. It is an honor for the members of the Lodge, under Johnny Miller’s direction as the VAVS Deputy Rep, to be able to thank these men and women from the Nursing Home and the Domiciliary, for their service to our Country.

The St. Pete Lodge members and Ladies performed the musical Chicago, at the Largo Lodge for a WCD Harry-Anna fundraiser. It was a nice night to see members from the entire district, come out and support the St. Pete cast in a great fundraising effort. The cast did a wonderful job.

The Lodge hosted a visit from the Grand Lodge Trustees on Sunday, February 16, when they were in Tampa for meetings. The Lodge provided transportation for the Trustees, the Grand Secretary Brian Klatt, PGER Paul Helsel, State President Brian Burns, VPAL Danny Tabor and Frank Palladini PSP when they came for dinner and entertainment at the Lodge. Many state and district officers were also in attendance. The Ladies and members of the Lodge displayed their talents by putting on a few skits before the guests had to head back to their Tampa hotel. It was a very nice evening, visiting with the Grand Lodge Officers. Having so many of them, under one roof was an honor.

The Lodge American Essay Contest was won by Carlie King, a student at Clearwater Fundamental School. Chairman, Terry Morehouse presented her with a First Place Certificate and a Campership for the Youth Camp this summer.

Seminole Lodge 2519

The Lodge held its Hoop Shoot for 64 kids who participated in this very successful event, chaired by Ken Yagoda PDD. Two of those shooters, Blake Swanson and Ben Bartley won the District competition in Dunedin and have advanced to the Regional competition in Lake Placid.

The Harry-Anna Sweetheart Ball of February 15 was well attended, a great success and $4,808 was raised for the Harry-Anna, Trust Fund.

Tampa Lodge 708

Once again, the Lodge held its annual Gasparilla Boat Extravaganza; more than 200 Elks and their guests came by bus enjoyed a hearty breakfast before boarding the bus again to travel to Davis Island where they were amazed at the boat invasion along the waterway of Tampa Bay. Everyone arrived back to Tampa Lodge with beaded treasures to party hardy with dinner and lots of dancing! PSP Frank Palladini and his crew worked hard to insure a good time was had by all.

Tampa Elks enjoyed a new way to celebrate the month of February and to raise funds for a great cause: the Elks National Foundation (ENF)! No Valentine’s dance here; instead we all partied like a President! Plenty of hardy food like pot pie and “I can’t tell a lie” Cherry Pie. Members enjoyed testing their knowledge of Presidential trivia and music. A Silent auction was also held and at the end of this fun day Tampa members raised over $1,200 for ENF.

Each month on the 3rd Thursday Tampa Elks love to play trivia. Cindy Green heads up this great time by searching for some interesting and tough questions to challenge our brains. At the end of the game all feel smarter and raised money to help feed the vets from James A. Hailey hospital. What a great feeling! Elks Caring and Sharing!

Tarpon Lodge 1779

The Lodge held its Second Annual Chili Cook Off and Tasting contest. Thanks goes to Jesse Hyjek for coordinating this event. It was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Thanks to the members’ support, a donation of $280 was made to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

As the current Lodge year begins, we look forward to the new Lodge year and its many challenges. At the installation of Officers and the appointment of committees, each chairman must plan his/her year’s program and thus his/her budget.

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Brandon Lodge 2383
Brandon Elks Lodge was selected by the Brandon Roundtable, a civic organization of Brandon business and community leaders, as the Non-Profit Organization of the Year 2013-2014.

Lake Wales Lodge 1974
Lake Wales Lodge 1974 donated to support the local 30 Battalion 116th Field Artillery National Guard soldiers and families prior to deployment. on October 2, 2013 the battalion received $500, and deployed again. In February there was going away party and the battalion was presented $500 at going away party. A Christmas Party for the National Guard and families was held by the Lodge.

Plant City Lodge 1727
From left, Veterans Lance Ham, Jay Hayes, Ed Duke, Jim Christiansen, Bryan O’Reilly and Bob Johnson (candidate and future member of lodge 1727) who help load this memorable helicopter on to a Texas Bound flatbed trailer.

November 7, 1968 was the last day Bandit Crew Chief and Platoon Sgt. Jay Hayes spent in the rotting jungles of Vietnam. Hayes visited the helicopter he lived in and suffered for an entire year. Memories came of helping rescue 168 people who had been ‘enslaved’ for 8 years.

Judy and Ed Wise, of the Plant City Elks Lodge, were on-site for support. They first heard about the effort through Lance Ham Jr., who also is involved with the Elks. Anita Duke, the wife of Ed Duke, will be riding with Ed and Jay Hayes to deliver the helicopter to the museum.

Lakeland Lodge 1291
Christmas holiday celebration filled Lakeland Elk Lodge with smiling faces and cheer for the Boys and Girls Club. The grant money the Lodge received from ENF made this annual event possible along with many kind hearted volunteers. Boys and Girls day was filled with fun excitement and good pizza. Lakeland Fire Department brought out its truck. The day continued with Polk County Sheriff’s K9 arrived with K-9 “Luuk” to receive a lot of petting and a K-9 training demonstration. Officer Steve came and had a presentation with his horse. To complete their day came crafts, games, horse rides, pizza and ended with a truck full of toys for all. Thanks went out for generous donations from Dave Maglotti of Jets Pizza and Shannon Benz.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672
Lodge members were part of a group that spent an enjoyable and informative day at the Youth Camp in Umatilla. Members were given a tour of the facility, lunch and a history of the camp’s origin and future. New members from the Lodge were very impressed with the camp and what the organization doing for Florida’s children. Donations from our lodge were given to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Sebring Lodge 1529
Bingo games turn winning into a great reward for children. Sunday and Monday night Charity Bingo helped to raise funds which enabled Exalted Ruler Ronna Mason to present Kevin Roberts, CEO of the Champion for Children Foundation of Highlands Count a check for $1,077.00. This money will be put to good use through the Foundation’s numerous successful initiatives.

Sebring Elks 1529 its 1st Annual Open to the Public Fashion Show Saturday, January 25th. All net proceeds went to the Sebring Elks 1529 Scholarship Trust Fund at The South Florida State College. The Activities Committee gives thanks to all the Businesses and Corporations who furnished the fashions presented and so generously contributed door prizes.

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins Awarded January 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014

Gold Pins for Paid-in-Full $1,000 Certificate
Marianne Schenkel  Punta Gorda #2606
F. Michael Strunk  Punta Gorda #2606
Bob & Margaret Tucker  Warrington #2108

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate
R. Steven Bethea  Jacksonville #221
Craig R. Evans  Holiday Isles #1912
Robert Kamp  Zephyrhills #2731
Richard Kellerman  Sarasota South #2495
Allen Van Dyk  Holley-Navarre #2787
Charles “Chuck” Stieb
charlesstieb@aol.com

The “Mighty” Southwest District:

At the Southwest District Army of Hope, DVP David Manning volunteered to have a cream pie, that was auctioned off for $200 put in his face. The lucky person throwing the pie was Dana, his wife.

The Palmetto High School JROTC presented the military flags and the VFW Post #32333, the 21 gun salute and played the Taps. The music by Lynn Spins was super as usual. The best part of the afternoon: over $7,500 was raised for our Veterans and their families. Guest speakers included Sgt. Bill Allen, Lt Col. Carol Barkalow, and Jake Jacobs, PER. Bill Allen, a POW during the Korean War gave a heartfelt message about his time being a prisoner and life after returning home, this man is a true hero. Lt. Col Barkalow and her partner, founders of Heaven on Earth, arrange housing for homeless Veterans. Jake Jacobs, PER is the Elks Grand Lodge VAVS Representative and the Florida Elks Association VAVS Coordinator.

Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge 2855:
The Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge recently held a fundraiser featuring an Elvis impersonator. The Lodge raised $1,500 which was given to M.O.T.S. (Manatee Operation Troop Support). In addition to the money raised, several Elks have been packing “goodie boxes” every month for troops from Manatee County. These boxes are filled with anything the soldiers request, but always include Slim Jim Jerky, books, candy, personal care items and energy bars.

On March 1st, over 100 people attended a fundraiser at the Lodge for the Harry-Anna Trust and over $1800 was raised.

South Hillsborough Lodge 2672:
The South Hillsborough Lodge continues to furnish meals every 2nd and 4th Friday to Veterans from the James A Haley VA Hospital. In addition, thanks to a Beacon Grant, every Veteran is presented with a $20 Gift Certificate. Personal items provided by Lodge members are also presented to the Veterans.

Venice – Nokomis Lodge 1854:
At the “Mighty” Southwest District Hoop Shoot on January 18th, five of the six gold medals went to kids from the Venice-Nokomis Lodge. The five were: Lauren McMahon, Joey DiGiacomo, Ellie DiGiacomo, Carli Linehan and Adam Gebel. The same five kids won gold at the Regional Hoop Shoot February 1st in Lakeland Florida and advanced to the State Hoop Shoot at the Youth Camp in Umatilla, Florida.

Sarasota South Lodge 2495:
The Sarasota Elks Lodge, for the 7th year, operated Toys For Tots program for the Sarasota area. This year they gave toys to approximately 13,000 children with each child receiving 3 or 4 toys per child of which 200 were bicycles. Each child was given 3 to 4 stocking stuffers as part of the gifts. Stocking stuffers are toys that cost less than $7. This year as an extra special gift, Toys For Tots received 24 pallets of books that contained over 30,000 books. The books were given out to school children in Sarasota and Manatee Counties with over 20,000 children receiving a book to enjoy over the holiday season.

North Central District continued from page 10

South Lake Lodge 1848

This photo at South Lake Lodge shows some of the happy children with Santa when the Lodge gave Christmas to over 200 children and families.

Apopka Lodge 2422

The Lodge held its annual children’s Christmas party for over 80 children and family members who enjoyed a visit from Santa and lots of treats. Each child was presented with a present from Santa. Then the Lodge gave toys (Manatee Operation Troop Support). In addition to the money raised, several Elks have been packing “goodie boxes” every month for troops from Manatee County. These boxes are filled with anything the soldiers request, but always include Slim Jim Jerky, books, candy, personal care items and energy bars.

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The South Hillsborough Lodge continues to furnish meals every 2nd and 4th Friday to Veterans from the James A Haley VA Hospital. In addition, thanks to a Beacon Grant, every Veteran is presented with a $20 Gift Certificate. Personal items provided by Lodge members are also presented to the Veterans.

Venice – Nokomis Lodge 1854:
At the “Mighty” Southwest District Hoop Shoot on January 18th, five of the six gold medals went to kids from the Venice-Nokomis Lodge. The five were: Lauren McMahon, Joey DiGiacomo, Ellie DiGiacomo, Carli Linehan and Adam Gebel. The same five kids won gold at the Regional Hoop Shoot February 1st in Lakeland Florida and advanced to the State Hoop Shoot at the Youth Camp in Umatilla, Florida.

Sarasota South Lodge 2495:
The Sarasota Elks Lodge, for the 7th year, operated Toys For Tots program for the Sarasota area. This year they gave toys to approximately 13,000 children with each child receiving 3 or 4 toys per child of which 200 were bicycles. Each child was given 3 to 4 stocking stuffers as part of the gifts. Stocking stuffers are toys that cost less than $7. This year as an extra special gift, Toys For Tots received 24 pallets of books that contained over 30,000 books. The books were given out to school children in Sarasota and Manatee Counties with over 20,000 children receiving a book to enjoy over the holiday season.
FEYC Bus Funding Program

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

Each Lodge in Florida will be eligible to receive up to $2,000.00 for this purpose. We will require a minimum of 40 people to visit our camp on the funded bus. 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 visited 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 $2,000.00 for this purpose. 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.

If you need any further information visit www.floridaelk.org/feyc-bus-funding-program or, if you have any suggestions on how we might improve this program please do not hesitate to contact Board President Mike Phillips at 321-794-4177 or by e-mail at mpxpx@AOL.com.
Annual Therapists Meeting

Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services begins each year with the Annual Therapists Meeting which usually occurs the first week of April.

We bring all the therapists to the Florida Elks Youth Camp for 5 days of training and continuing education. We hire nationally recognized presenters to conduct two full days of education on different topics each year. In addition to the presentations we review our policies and procedures, have round table discussions on problems and concerns, and team building activities.