150th Elks Convention a Success

Record Attendance 8,368 Elks, Spouses and Guests

At this writing Florida Elks and the Grand Lodge are concluding the 150th National Elks Convention held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The convention was well attended, with over 1,000 more attendees than last year’s convention in Reno, Nevada. Florida Elk attendees were "loud and proud" and contributed greatly to the overall success of the convention.

There were many highlights of the convention, and Mike and I were extremely proud of our Florida Elks and their active participation. Tallahassee Lodge number 937 finished second in the National Ritual Contest. We also had two All American Ritual winners from the Tallahassee Lodge: Chaplain Karen Peek and Esteemed Leading Knight Wayne Harrell. All Florida Elks can share the pride of once again having an outstanding national ritualistic team.

The Florida Dinner on Tuesday night held at the World War Two Museum was a definite home run. Conceived by our world class State Secretary, Carl Seibert, Florida Elks and their guests, including the Grand Exalted Ruler Elect, John Amen his wife, Marcia and a number of Past Grand Exalted Rulers and their wives, had a wonderful evening. Florida Elks were joined by their contemporaries from Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Panama, and Puerto Rico. Florida Elks also sponsored the attendance of eleven World War II veterans to the Grand Lodge Convention, and they were special honorees at the Florida Dinner. Everyone in attendance was impressed by Florida’s generosity, and the Museum was the perfect venue for our patriotic brothers and sisters and their guests.

The legislative session held on Tuesday generated a number of resolutions. The attendees voted to reinstate the Publicity and Public Relations Committee, continued the Government Relations Committee, approved the appointment of the Lodge and Grand Lodge Tiler, allowed for Lodge voting by secret ballot, and defeated a resolution that would have required Lodge officers to memorize the Ritual or possibly be removed from office. Additionally, a resolution passed that allows the Lodge mediator to hear from witnesses; another limits the

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C. Valentine Bates, PGER

Florida All State Individual High Scores

From Left: Matt Carter, Candidate, Bradenton Lodge 1511; Becky Spence, Esquire, Gainesville Lodge 990; Carol Dobson, Lecturing Knight, Tallahassee Lodge 937; Mike Carter, Leading Knight, Bradenton Lodge 1511; Jack Cantrell, Exalted Ruler, Bradenton Lodge 1511; Liz Andricks, Loyal Knight, Bradenton Lodge 1511; Janet Mitchell, Chaplain, Bradenton Lodge 1511; Dorothy Brown, Inner Guard, Tallahassee Lodge 937; Jan Thorburn, Coach, Tallahassee.

Tallahassee State Ritual Winner
Very Close Second Place in New Orleans

From Left: Dorothy Brown, Inner Guard; Karen Peek, Chaplain, Georgiana “Jan” Thorburn, Ritual Team Coach; Carol Dobson, Lecturing Knight; Tracey Austin, Esquire. Back Row Left to Right: Don Dobson, Loyal Knight; Wayne Harrell, Leading Knight; Stoney Stoutamire, Candidate; Ron Brown, Exalted Ruler; Bob Thorburn, Assistant Coach.
It is such an honor to be the Florida State Elk’s Association State President. Rachel and I are so thankful that we were chosen to represent our Florida. We truly love and appreciate what each lodge in our state is doing to support our communities, our youth, our active military personnel and their families and our veterans. So many people depend on what we do; let’s not let them down.

This year at our state convention I listened to a young girl read a remarkable essay which she had written. It was the young girl that had won the Americanism Essay contest in the older division. What she had to say and the way she said it was very impressive. I know I was holding back tears and when I looked behind me some were trying to do likewise. What an awesome essay and what a great speaker; our country’s future is in good hands.

Next year make it a GOAL to be at the Saturday afternoon session to watch the winners of our programs and our scholarship winners being recognized for their accomplishments. You will be very impressed.

Rachel and I just returned from the Youth Camp where we watched the campers enjoy a movie on Friday night which was their first interaction with any electronic device for the week. We then witnessed them being picked up to go home and we saw some sad faces. On Sunday we saw the new campers coming in along with parents that were anxious to see where their kids would be staying for the week. We saw some kids and parents that were amazed to see what a beautiful place we have.

We had the opportunity to make two visits so far. The first visit was to the South District where DVP Fred Jaca and his volunteers hosted a great weekend. On Friday evening we went to the North Miami Lodge where we were treated to PSP Joe Ortiz’s famous ribs and Rita’s beans; both were very good.

Saturday morning we toured the Marlins Stadium; what a beautiful facility. Next we were taken to the Historic Biltmore Hotel which is a beautiful place with a lot of history. Then we were off to Havana Harry’s for some authentic Cuban food, which was very good.

Saturday evening we were given a choreographed demonstration by a group of Taekwondo Do students to the Star Spangled Banner. Next a terrific dinner at the South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge where we talked about many of the things the district is doing in the communities such as a fishing tournament which on a gator, first with its mouth taped then someone started yelling take the tape off and I looked over and it was Rachel so we very quickly took the tape off. There are pictures on the state web site under “Around the State” then Lodge News.

Saturday evening’s dinner was hosted by the Kissimmee Lodge and ER Bill Mischak along with the volunteers. The district is doing a great job with the veterans, boys and girl scouts, scholarship programs, and working closely with the schools. Elk’s Care and elk’s share.

We want to wish the Tallahassee Lodge Ritual team good luck at the upcoming Grand Lodge Ritual Competition; we are all behind you. I know my home Lodge Bradenton 1511 will also be supporting you. Have fun and give it your best; you are already champions.

We are off to a good start with our Harry-Anna Trust Fund donations and State Chairman Suzi Simonelli is receiving donations at all of our visits and has plans for a silent auction at the midyear convention. We will have more information on this a little later, but I know we will take any donation to auction off or any monetary donation as well.

This year we will be awarding an Outstanding District award. It will be judged on Harry-Anna donations, ENF donations and membership. We will use a point system of where the districts finish in each category. Any tie will be broken by the District’s Army of Hope contribution. So let’s all work hard as a district to be the first district to be awarded this honor.

I would like to thank all Elks for their hard work on making a difference in their communities and with our Veterans.

Continued on page 3
to talk about them with other Elks. And I am also not afraid to steal some of those ideas and you are proud of. I love hearing good positive things know about the things that your Lodges are doing that the Mid-Year and Quarterlys. Please come and let me Ledig look forward in seeing you at the Grand Lodge the same thoughts and ideas, so take time to listen to reach them. Always remember that we do not all have year is “Shooting for Our Goals to Protect the Future.”

Danny E. Tabor
Fraternally and Sincerely,

Rachel and I, along with VPAL Carl and Dolly Coker who coordinated the hospitality room bars & food service and anything else that needed to be done; Big Joe Rogers and JJ Johnson, our roadies who drove the truck and delivered all of our supplies; Chris Chatham and Jenny Box for their assistance especially with the coordination of our WWII veterans and all of their activities; Rudy and Dolly Masi for their assistance with the WWII veterans; and Don and Jane Moon, Judy and Wayne Reyes, Linda Martin, Linda Eppes, and Joyce Ludwick for their help with the FL Dinner and the making of the beautiful floral arrangements that were at each table. A Thank You also goes to Claudia Bates for her extraordinary floral design talent and the creation of the floral arrangements which I might add came in handsomely under budget; to Greg Weis and David Lake for assisting with getting PR for our WWII veterans project; to Mike Phillips, Vic McClellan, David Lake and Harry-Anna for funding our WWII Veterans Honor Flight project; to our attendees for their participation and financial support of the hospitality room; to Mike and Sandra Smith who accompanied Faye Bryant and me on our pre-convention visit to New Orleans to begin the planning for our events; to Claudia Bates who was able to make a follow-up planning visit to New Orleans and the WWII Museum; to our Past Grand Exalted Ruler State Sponsors, Val Bates, Robert Grafton, and Mike Smith, for supporting this endeavor and assisting with the oversight and details and implementation; and to Tiffany Granger, Steve Harmon and Rachael King for their staff support and for holding the fort while I was out of the office! I thank the many of you who complimented me on all we did in New Orleans but as I told you then, it was a truly group effort and from the above I believe you will see just how much of a group effort this was! Of course there is always danger in naming names when thanking people and to the extent that I missed anyone I apologize profusely and trust that it will not be taken personally or to heart!

Once again, the Elks of Florida were most generous in volunteering their time to assist in the Florida hospitality room as greeters and bartenders. Finally, a big thank you goes to our hospitality room volunteers who worked our room the entire week.

Without their help and support, the hospitality room and Florida functions would not be nearly as successful. These wonderful volunteers included Joe Rossi who provided our karaoke entertainment; Faye and Joe Bryant who are always behind the scenes working ever so hard; Linda & Frank Hayes who worked the 50/50 raffle all week; Bob and Donna Coker who coordinated the hospitality room bars & food service and anything else that needed to be done; Big Joe Rogers and JJ Johnson, our roadies who drove the truck and delivered all of our supplies; Chris Chatham and Jenny Box for their assistance especially with the coordination of our WWII veterans and all of their activities; Rudy and Dolly Masi for their assistance with the WWII veterans; and Don and Jane Moon, Judy and Wayne Reyes, Linda Martin, Linda Eppes, and Joyce Ludwick for their help with the FL Dinner and the making of the beautiful floral arrangements that were at each table. A Thank

State President Tabor continued from page 2

I also want to thank the outgoing DD’s for their hard work; I know sometimes that is a thankless position. We want to encourage all Lodges to set goals this year and monitor your progress. My motto this year is “Shooting for Our Goals to Protect the Future.” Let’s set some attainable goals and work together to reach them. Always remember that we do not all have the same thoughts and ideas, so take time to listen to new thoughts and discuss them in a respectful way. It is okay to disagree, just remember we should all be trying to accomplish the same GOALS.

Rachel and I, along with VPAL Carl and Dolly Ledig look forward in seeing you at the Grand Lodge Convention, throughout the year on our visits, and at the Mid-Year and Quarterlys. Please come and let me know about the things that your Lodges are doing that you are proud of. I love hearing good positive things and I am also not afraid to steal some of those ideas and to talk about them with other Elks.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Danny E. Tabor

PGER Mike Smith opened the Grand Lodge Convention dressed in Mardi Gras Theme, as Rex, the King of Mardi Gras.

The Grand Lodge Convention was held in New Orleans, La. July 13-17. Attending from Florida were over 550 Elks members and their guests. Florida delegates occupied 200 rooms in the JW Marriott on Canal Street along with 45 additional rooms in overflow hotels.

The Florida hospitality room was a huge hit for Florida delegates and Elks from across the nation. Our Florida Dinner at the National WWII Museum was one for the record books, and our Florida Elks Honor Flight honoring eleven Florida Elks WWII veterans added a special touch to our evening that made us ever so proud to be Florida Elks and Americans!

Here are a few of the WWII Veterans attending the convention during the opening ceremonies.

Once again, the Elks of Florida were most generous in volunteering their time to assist in the Florida hospitality room as greeters and bartenders. Finally, a big thank you goes to our hospitality room volunteers who worked our room the entire week.

Without their help and support, the hospitality room and Florida functions would not be nearly as successful. These wonderful volunteers included Joe Rossi who provided our karaoke entertainment; Faye and Joe Bryant who are always behind the scenes working ever so hard; Linda & Frank Hayes who worked the 50/50 raffle all week; Bob and Donna Coker who coordinated the hospitality room bars & food service and anything else that needed to be done; Big Joe Rogers and JJ Johnson, our roadies who drove the truck and delivered all of our supplies; Chris Chatham and Jenny Box for their assistance especially with the coordination of our WWII veterans and all of their activities; Rudy and Dolly Masi for their assistance with the WWII veterans; and Don and Jane Moon, Judy and Wayne Reyes, Linda Martin, Linda Eppes, and Joyce Ludwick for their help with the FL Dinner and the making of the beautiful floral arrangements that were at each table. A Thank

PGER Val Bates continued from page 1

Lodge’s ability to borrow from restricted funds, and still another requires the clarification of time frames for actions taken by the Presiding Justice of the subordinate forum.

Florida’s tradition of having quality members representing us on the Grand Lodge continues. We are proud to have Past State President and Past Esteemed Leading Knight Winston Needham elected to the Board of Grand Trustees, Past State President Sean Maguire appointed to the Government Relations Committee, and Past State President David Lake continue his appointment on the Activities Committee.

Mike and Sandra and Claudia and I look forward to our return to our beloved Florida State Elks Association and the opportunity to finish out a tremendously successful year that has seen the growth and expansion of our many Florida Elks programs. Climb aboard as we continue our quest for excellence in Elksdom.

Summer 2013
Having attended the 66th Anniversary of D-Day in 2010 and being deeply moved by the love and thankfulness of the French people living in Normandy, my wife Dolly and I made plans to attend the 70th Anniversary in 2014. Knowing the 70th Anniversary would be the last big one for WWII Veterans, several friends and family (some Elk and some hopefully soon to be Elks) asked if they could attend too.

Last January, I was looking for activities taking place in Normandy for the celebration and saw where a community or civic association could register to be considered for participation in the 70th Anniversary D-Day Commemorative parade on June 6 in St. Mere Eglise which was made famous when Private John Steele parachuted in and got stuck hanging on the church peak. This was the first town liberated by US troops. Upon receiving the green light from Mike Smith and Brian Burns, I made formal application to participate. Knowing we were going to be part of this historical event, fellow Elk and attendee, Nick Pusta and I decided to have Florida WWII veterans sign a patriotic banner to represent each of them as we marched in the parade. When the San Antonio VA Hospital heard about this they asked if their patients could sign the banner. That’s when we decided on two banners. The Veterans of both states were proud and pleased to sign their names which led to many stories, many laughs and many tears.

We were mobbed by the French and other European citizens in St. Mere Eglise as we rounded the last corner in the parade. Our two WWII vet-signed US flag banners stating “As long as there is a Veteran, Elks will never forget - 70th Anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 2014” drew the loudest applause throughout the parade. We were interviewed by the BBC and had photos placed in many newspapers. Later we had Paris residents come up to us as they recognized us from newspapers and news broadcasts. Several of us ended up giving away our USA Patriotic Elks baseball caps that we wore in the parade. We were all very proud to be Americans and the people were very, very appreciative to us for remembering as they were too. It did not matter if you were in a small town or 15 miles out in the country, there were USA flags on farmhouses and hanging from buildings.

At Utah Beach 2 days later, an elderly Frenchman asked me if I was an American probably because I had not yet given away my hat. I said “yes” and tried to speak to him but the only English he knew was “American?” and “Thank You!” He kissed me on both cheeks and we both started crying. Many more stories to share. Also, I was offered a job as an English speaking host and guide by the owner of Brecourt Manor (Band of Brothers location where Dick Winters took out the German 88’s) who also owns the D-Day Museum on Utah Beach.

It pleases me to report that we were able to meet the director and hear the University of Texas-San Antonio Band on our visit to the June 5th memorial service at the Brittany American Cemetery in St. James, France. We were there placing flowers on a grave at the request of the wife of a member of our lodge. We later participated with them in the D-Day Parade at St. Mere Eglise on June 6th. The band was excited to hear that one of the two banners we were marching with was signed by WWII Veterans from the San Antonio Veteran’s Hospital.

Our original intent was to donate both banners to a museum in Normandy. As the week progressed, I concluded that the banners would be more beneficial back in the states. I discussed this with the Administrator of the Normandy American Cemetery & Memorial in Colville-sur-Mer (now a new friend who is coming to visit in November) and he agreed. Since the one banner is signed by Texas WWII Vets, we will be donating it to the State of Texas Elks Association. The Florida banner will be displayed at the upcoming Grand Lodge Convention in New Orleans.

Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

The Florida Ladies of Elks hit the ground running as donated items started pouring in on Wednesday May 21st for the Annual Silent Auction held each year at the Florida State Elks Convention. We had another very successful one day event held on that Friday, May 23rd.

On Thursday and Friday nights, the Florida Ladies of Elks hosted their first Hospitality Room and it was a huge success. We were very busy and we created a lot of interest in both Local Ladies Organizations and our State Organization. Thank you so much to our Officers, Advisory Council, Members and especially our spouses for all your love and support. We are all looking forward to another successful Hospitality Room next year.

Our meeting, held on Saturday, May 24th, was the beginning of another very busy day. Immediately following the meeting was our Annual Ladies Luncheon, Chinese Auction, with a very successful 50/50 and fabulous entertainment provided by Adella Ashton, Chairlady and the members of the West Central District. The hotel served a delicious lunch and our cash bar was enjoyed by all. I would like to say thank you so very much to everyone for their generous donations for both the Silent Auction and the Chinese Auction events.

The weekend was a great success because of our Chairladies, Luncheon, Heather Scott, Senior Delegate, WC District, Silent Auction, Felicia Vuletich, Advisory Council, N District, Chinese Auction and 50/50, Judy Fournier, Advisory Council, SE District, Decorations, Tammy McGarrigan and Ladies of the NE District, Dignitary Seating, PSP Faye Bryant, SEC District and Entertainment, Adella Ashton, Junior Delegate, WC District. I would also like to thank Carl Seibert, State Secretary and his staff for all their assistance.

It has been a pleasure working with our Ladies Chairman Barbara Smallacombe, and we look forward to working with our new Ladies Chairman, George Zocchi.

Nominations Chairlady, PSP Betty Groff, read the committee’s recommendations of officers that had been presented at our February meeting. The officers elect for the 2014 / 2015 year are: Jane Moon, President – Becky Long, Vice President – Connie Poage, Secretary – Mary McCoy, Treasurer – Heather Scott, 4 Year Advisory Council – Judy Reyes, 4 Year Advisory Council and Mary Fejeran, 2 Year Advisory Council. Congratulations to each of you, I am sure you will have a very successful year.

Carol Phelps, PSP, Chairlady of the By-Laws committee reported that there will be no By-Law changes this year.

The September Conference Packet was reviewed with all in attendance. Again this year we will hold our 51st Annual Banquet on Friday evening with our Delegates reception on Saturday evening. Our conference packet is available on-line www.floridaelks.org Extra packets were printed for the Delegates to distribute to the Lodges in their district. If you are unable to print this packet from the web-site, please contact me at 904-825-8569 or by e-mail reddhott411@comcast.net or our Secretary, Becky Long at 352-572-6987 or by e-mail rlong4@cox.net and we will get that information out to you right away.

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, Enid “Sam” Simpson.

As we begin the second half of our first one hundred years, the Florida Ladies of Elks would like to thank you for your continued support. Please remember, together we are making, “A Journey For The Children – From The Heart – One Step At A Time”.

“Beauty is not in the face; beauty is a light in the heart.” Kahlil Gibran

I look forward to seeing each of you at the “Beach;” our next meeting will be Saturday, September 20th 8:30 AM at The Shore Resort and Spa at Daytona Beach, Florida.

As long as there is a Veteran,
Elks will never forget!
70th Anniversary D-Day
June 6, 2014

Florida Ladies of Elks
Judy Reyes, President

“A Journey For The Children, From The Heart, One Step At A Time”
The Deland Elks Lodge #1463 again hosted the Florida Elks State Softball Tournament the weekend of April 25-27, 2014. For 21 years this tournament has benefited the Florida Elks Youth Camp. The Founder, Phil Watercutter, PDD, basic idea was to get younger members into our organization, bring camaraderie to the membership and support the youth camp. In the past 21 years, we feel we have accomplished all of these.

This year’s tournament was attended by State President Brian Burns & Mary Kay, VPAL Danny Tabor & Rachel, PSP David & Kathy Lake, PSP Frank Palladini, PSP Vic & Peggy McClellan, PSP Charlie & Mary Ann Trinowski, Florida State Elks Secretary Carl Seibert.

In 21 years, the Florida State Elks Softball Tournament has raised $150,873. We raised $8,245, this year all of which is going to the Youth Camp in the name of the winning Lodges. There have been over 12,750 participants playing in the tournament as well as fans cheering on their Lodges and attendance in the 20 tournaments has exceeded 23,280 people this year we had 647 in attendance. With all the sincere interest displayed from the Lodges that participated this year, we are looking for an even bigger and better 20th Annual Florida State Elks Softball Tournament in 2014.

This year we were honored by State President Brian Burns and PSP David Lake serving as honorary chefs for the Sponsor’s Tent Party.

This year we had 13 teams from 10 different Lodges. Gainesville, Delray Beach, Fort Pierce, the West Central District, Winter Garden, Tarpon Springs, Ormond Beach, Cocoa, St. Petersburg, and DeLand. These teams work and plan all year for this weekend. They bring food and stay for the weekend.

Again, Phil worked with the Volusia County Teen Court Program in DeLand with 12 kids working off community service hours. These kids worked a total of 238 hours. They worked during the tournament helping the softball committee by keeping the park clean, chasing softballs during the Home Run Derby and anything to help out.

We also sent the extra food to the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia and the DeLand Fire Department.

Founder and Co-Chairman Phil Watercutter, Co-Chairman’s Joe Rogers, Jenny Box, Chris Chatham and the Softball Committee want to thank the 13 teams, and all the Sponsors, and all that attended making this another winning year for the Florida Elks Youth Camp. We also want to thank the many volunteers that supported the tournament with the many hours, miles traveled, and donations in making this tournament another success.

Mark your calendars now; we would love to have 20 to 25 teams in next year’s tournament the last weekend in April, 26 – 28, 2015. We would ask each Lodge to advertise this event in your Lodge bulletin let people know about this charity event., put the posters up in the Lodge when they arrive and make sure that the right person in your Lodge gets the information on the tournament and will take advantage of this opportunity.

Plan on attending; it’s the most casual weekend for Elks and their families.

The payout will go to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund in the name of these Lodges: No shoes, No Shirts, No problem, just a very casual Elk weekend.

A DIVISION 1st Place

Deland Lodge 1463

OVER 50 DIVISION 1st Place

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

OVER 50 FUN DIVISION 1st Place

Delray Beach Lodge 1770

A DIVISION
First Place DeLand Lodge 1463 $2,125
Second Place Winter Garden Lodge 2165 $1,105
Third Place Cocoa Lodge 1532 $510

OVER 50 DIVISION
First Place Port St Lucie Lodge 2658 $2,125
Second Place Delray Beach Lodge 1770 $1,105

OVER 50 FUN DIVISION
First Place Delray Beach Lodge 1770 $510
Second Place Ft Pierce Lodge 1520 $255

CAMARADERIE AWARD
Tarpon Springs Lodge 1710 $255

HOSPITALITY AWARD
DeLand Lodge 1463 $255

Home Run winners were:
Over 50 – Jimmy Rudd – Ft. Pierce Lodge 1520
Under 50 - Jeremy Henry - DeLand Lodge 1463
DISTRIBUTION DEPUTIES FOR 2014-2015

EAST CENTRAL
Ed Jackson

The members and Lodges of Florida’s East Central District are honored to present the name of Edward Jackson as a candidate for the office of Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the East Central District for the year 2014-2015.

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

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

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


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

At West Milford and Port Orange Lodges he has served as Lodge Chairman of Parades, Public Relations, National Foundation, National Veterans Services, and the House Committee. He was also Lodge newsletter editor. At the district level in New Jersey and Florida he has worked with Public Relations, Officers Training, Hoop Shoot, Ritual, Tournament Task Force, Harry-Anna Trust Fund, and National Veterans Services.

He was Officer Training Captain, Secretary to the DDGER, and a certified ritual floor and word judge for nine years. On the state level he has been Ritual Chairman Region 2. He worked with Public Relations and on the publication, New Jersey Elks, as co-editor. He was involved with Miracle Run and was Handicapped Children’s Trustee for five years. He has also worked with the Army of Hope, National Veterans Services, and Harry-Anna Trust Fund. He was an Army of Hope fundraiser and Vice President of the North District.

Jackson received a number of honors as Exalted Ruler. He won National All American Lodge in the under 300 members division in 1995-1996, All American Lodge NJ, Public Relations First Place in NJ, Newsletter First Place in NJ, Youth Activities NJ, and NSA Special State President Award for Army of Hope and Handicapped Children. He was a member of Port Orange Elks Lodge 2723.

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

CENTRAL
Jody Richards

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Central District are honored to present the name of Jody Richards as a candidate for the office of Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Central District for the year 2014-2015.

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

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

Richards had been occasionally employed as a banquet waitress at Orlando Lodge 1079 and was sponsored by a member to join the Elks with the first group of female initiates eighteen years ago. She has been Inner Guard, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Chaplain, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, and had been a member of the Florida Elks News Publication Committee. She has been State Vice Chairman of ENF Certificates and is currently State Chairman of ENF Certificates. She is also currently the Treasurer and House Committee Chairman of Orlando Lodge 1079.

In addition to her Elks membership, she is a forty-year member of the Orlando Regional Realtor Association, the Florida Association of Realtors, and the National Association of Realtors. She was Vice President of the East Central Park Downtown Neighborhood Association when she resided there from 1983-1992.

Richards is single and divorced; she was married from 1996-1998. She is an only child, her parents are deceased, and she has no children, but she does have a family of two dogs and four cats.

Richards has been a Lake Conway resident since 1992 and enjoys anything that involves being out on the water including boating, waterskiing, and wakeboarding. She also likes to commune with nature and be outdoors working or relaxing in her yard.

NORTHWEST
Ricky J. Lemke

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Northwest District are honored to present to the 2013 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of Rick J. Lemke as a candidate for the office of Northwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the year 2014-2015.

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

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


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

Lemke joined Crestview Lodge 2624 in December of 2005. Two of his uncles and a cousin are Elks in Meadville Lodge 219, all three PERs, and they had a major influence on his decision to join. He has served as Esquire, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, three-time Trustee, three-time member of the Lodge House Committee, two-time member of the Lodge ENF Scholarship Committee, two-time member of the Blue to Gold Cub Scouts Committee, eight-time member of multiple fundraising committees, three-time Lodge Webmaster.
Continued from page 6

two-time Lodge Membership and Lapsation Chairman, two-time Lodge Indocrinization Chairman, Lodge Interlodge Visitaton Chairman, Lodge Ritual Chairman, three-time Lodge Publicity & Public Relations Chairman, two-time Lodge Veterans’ Services Chairman, two-time District Army of Hope Chairman, two-time District Publicity & Public Relations Chairman, Esquire to the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, District PER Association Vice President, FSEA Membership & Communications Consultant, FSEA Lodge Activities Committee Chairman, and currently for the 2013-2014 year the District PER Association President and Endorsed District Vice President.

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

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

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

NORTH
Charles R. Joyal

Richard Krause

The members and Lodges of Florida’s North Central District are honored to present the name of Richard K. “Dick” Krause as a candidate for the office of North Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

Krause was born in Cleveland, OH in 1936. He graduated from John Marshall High School in Cleveland in 1956 and went to work as a draftsman. He belonged to the Naval Reserve for 21 years and was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary for 34 years and taught safe boating courses. In 1981 he graduated from the University of Akron with an Associate degree in Mechanical Technology. He retired from Mannesmann Rexroth Corporation in 1998 with 26 years of service as a Product Engineer. He moved to Hernando, FL in 1999.

Krause was initiated into Inverness Elks Lodge 2522 in the 1999-2000 year. He became Inner Guard in 2004-2005, was Esquire the following year, and progressed through the chairs to become Exalted Ruler for 2009-2010. Currently he is serving as the 2-year Trustee and Chairman of the Trustees. He has served on the House Committee and Indocrinization Committee and is currently Committee Chairman. He was named Officer of the Year for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. He is editor of the Lodge bulletin and is currently President of the Inverness PER Association as well as State Chairman of Youth Activities.

Krause has been married to Anne for 54 years. They have two children and three grandchildren.

SOUTHWEST
Dave Manning

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest District are honored to present the name of Dave Manning as a candidate for the office of Southwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the year 2014-1025.

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

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

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

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

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

NORTHEAST
F. Keith Eppes

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Central District are honored to present the name of Keith Epps as a candidate for the office of Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Northeast District for the year 2014-2015.

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

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

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

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

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

Epps enjoys traveling and spending time with family. After joining the Elks in Dothan, AL, he moved to Orange Park, FL with the railroad and demitted to Jacksonville Beach Lodge where he served in the chairs and became Exalted Ruler. He demitted to Orange Park Lodge after marrying Linda so that she could become more active in the Lades organization where she has been an officer for most of her membership.
SOUTHEAST CENTRAL
John D. Houlihan

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southeast Central District are honored to present the name of John D. Houlihan as a candidate for the office of Southeast Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the year 2014-2015.


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

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

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

SOUTHWEST CENTRAL
Ted Martzloff

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Southwest Central District are honored to present the name of Ted Martzloff as a candidate for the office of Southwest Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the year 2014-2015.

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

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

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

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

SOUTHWEST
Deborah Hargrove

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southwest District are honored to present the name of Deborah A. Hargrove as a candidate for the office of South Southwest District Deputh Grand Exalted Ruler for the year 2014-2015.

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

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

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

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

In Baltimore, MD, Hargrove was the first female Trustee for four years (chairman four years), and Flag Officer who at the time was Exalted Ruler of Lakeland Lodge 1291. She has served as President of the City of Charlotte Elks Women’s Auxiliary and Chairwoman of the Florida Elks Women’s Auxiliary.”

SOUTH SOUTHEAST
Howard Greenstein

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southeast District are honored to present the name of Howard Greenstein as a candidate for the office of South Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the year 2014-2015.


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

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

SOUTH
Milton Muller

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South District are honored to present the name of Milton Muller as a candidate for the office of South District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the year 2014-2015.

Muller was born in Fort Smith, AR and was raised primarily in Orlando, FL. During his senior year of high school, his parents relocated back to their homeland of Puerto Rico. He graduated from high school (Papa Juan XXII) in May of 1976. Shortly thereafter, Muller joined the U. S. Army in August of 1978 and was able to serve in positions of Army Recruiter, Instructor, Operations Sergeant, Infantry Platoon Sergeant, Battalion Airload Planner, and Presidential Honor Guard.

Upon his retirement from the U. S. Army in 1995, Muller was fortunate enough to join forces with Circuit City Stores, Inc. working in the capacity of a store sales manager. In September of 1997 he departed the retail arena and entered the educational arena teaching and motivating young men and women in the process of becoming better citizens through the forum of Army JROTC.

Muller has been with the Miami-Dade County public schools system for the past sixteen years and as such has worked in five different high schools: Southwest Senior, Miami Northwestern, North Miami Senior, Continued page 9
Continued from page 8

Killian High School, and Miami-Edison Senior. Muller’s educational accomplishments are quite impressive. He has earned a Master’s degree in Public Administration, a Master’s degree in Management, a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice, and an Associate’s degree in General Studies. He is currently pursuing a Doctoral degree in Education from Grand Canyon University.

Muller joined the Elks in 1999 and has served as an officer since his initiation in Miami Lodge 948 in positions of Lodge Esquire, two terms as Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, two terms as Leading Knight, Lodge Trustee, and two terms as Exalted Ruler. In addition, he has also served the Elks at the state level as State Chairman of Sports, Vice Chairman of Orientation, and currently serves as the State Chairman of Orientation. He welcomes the opportunity to continue to grow and progress within the Elks organization and is supported strongly by his wife, Barbara, and his three children, Janelys (30), Jocelyn (25), and James (23).

Other activities include membership in the American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Wiley Wright Military Lodge, and the Masons. He is also an outside travel agent and operates his business from home when not involved with his other commitments.

SOUTHEAST
Joy Booth

The members and Lodges of Florida’s South Southwest District are honored to present Joy Booth as the SouthEast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the year 2014-2015.

Booth was born in Bay Shore, Long Island, NY on March 3, 1945. She spent her early childhood in Babylon, Long Island, NY and moved to Florida in 1956 with her mother at age eleven. Booth attended the Palm Beach County school system for grades six through twelve and graduated from Forest Hill High School in 1963. She attended Palm Beach Junior College through 1965 and graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a BS in 1966. From 1966-1969 she taught at Royal Palm Beach School for Exceptional Children. She obtained her MAEd from FAU in 1969 specializing in Special Education. From 1969-1970 she taught Special Education at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. From 1970-1971 she taught at Wynnebrook Elementary School in West Palm Beach and is now retired.

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

She has also been a member of the Lodge Major Projects Committee and has worked on the Lodge Dictionary Project.

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

Her brother, Jonathan, is a member of the Gadsden, AL Elks and her uncle, Harvey Holgrem, PDD, is a member of Pensacola, FL Elks.

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

WEST CENTRAL
Rudolph “Rudy” J. Masi, Sr.

The members and Lodges of Florida’s West Central District are honored to present Rudy J. Masi, Sr. as a candidate for the office of West Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the ensuing year.

Masi was born in Pittsburgh, PA in 1952. He moved to St. Petersburg, FL with his family when he was two years old. He grew up in and continues to reside in St. Petersburg.

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

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

Masi learned how to cook by working in a popular St. Petersburg Italian restaurant. He started at eleven years old, working his way up to manager while in high school. In 1973, Rudy began a 39+ year career with Florida Power Corp in the Line Department. While working storm trouble, he was injured. Upon learning he had to start a new career, he returned to college in the evenings while working and learning many different jobs in the electric utility industry. His background is in power quality, customer service, account management, energy efficiency, sales & marketing, data analysis & management, product development, public speaking, and in successful team leading. He retired from Progress Energy (now Duke Energy) on August 31, 2012.

The last twelve years of his career he was responsible for setting up and managing Progress Energy’s residential and small commercial non-regulated businesses and channels in NC, SC, and FL. Masi led a team that built this business from inception to contributing $33 million in revenue with 5-1/2 cents to the shareholders for a fortune 50 company which is #1 in the nation. He believes this growth is attributed to having everyone on the team live the creed of “exceeding customer expectations.” Customers participating in his programs are 19-20% overall more satisfied with their utility. He carries this creed to the Elks reminding all that our members are customers too so let’s be sure to exceed their expectations.

Masi presently is Vice President of Product Development and Channel Management for Convergent Connections. His team responsibilities include consulting with utilities around the nation by setting up and managing businesses similar to those he ran for Progress Energy. Convergent Connections is a new division of Convergent Contact Solutions. They presently have contracts with over 26 large investor-owned utilities.

He received several awards including 2009 and 2011 EMACs Best Practices Award for marketing and program management among all utilities in the nation, Alconnect’s Ambassador Award, Florida Progress Chairmen’s Award, and Edison Electric Institute Award Winner for Creative Design.

Nine years ago this June, his uncle, George Povelitis, PER of St. Petersburg 1224, secured the Lodge so Rudy could prepare a pig roast birthday party for a friend and now fellow Elk. He was impressed with the kitchen and the friendliness of all of the Elks. While providing an explanation of the service provided by the Elks, he was given an application and invited to join. He immediately said yes, and the rest is history.

Masi has been Lecturing Knight, Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, a two-time House Chairman, Business Case Chairmain for the Building Fund, Building Committee Chairmain, Building Fund Chairmain, State Chairman and Vice Chairmain for New Lodges, a two-time West Central District Membership Chairmain, West Central District Drug Awareness Chairmain, and Entertainment Chairmain. He also served his Lodge as Chairmain for Harry-Anna Trust Fund, ENF, Youth Activities, Investigations, Membership, and Indoctration.

In addition to his Elks membership, Masi holds certifications and licenses as a Level 3 Thermographer and a Commercial/Industrial Energy Auditor. His professional associations include Association of Energy Engineers, National Association of Electrical Inspectors, Chartwell, and NREAC. He is a popular trainer and motivational and public speaker. He was a member of the Pastoral Team of Holy Cross Church in St. Petersburg for fifteen years, leading it for seven years. He also led the music ministry and high school youth group for many years. He and his family presently worship at St. Jude’s Catholic Church in St. Petersburg.

He and Dolly (Exalted Ruler of St. Petersburg 1224 2013-2014, PLP 2009-2010) have been blessed with 23 members of the Lodge. Between them they have two sons, Rey, III and Rudy, Jr. Rudy and Dolly are raising their grandson, Rey, IV. In addition to his already mentioned Uncle George, other Elks members of his family include his brothers, Steve and Danny; his sister, Patty; two cousins, Lou and Mike; and his uncle, Lou. His mother, Isabel, was a very active Elk, earning Citizen of the Year in 1970, until her passing in October of 2011.

Masi received a wristwatch from the Grand Lodge in 2008 in recognition of his efforts for recruiting new members. He was also St. Petersburg Lodge 1224 Elk of the Year for 2006-2007.
Outstanding Elk of 2013-14

This past year President Brian Burns requested each District VP to provide him with their choice for an “Outstanding Elk.” All the District winners were very worthy of the honor and it has been interesting trying to choose a front runner. It was not a surprise that over half of the District winners were involved in a Veteran’s program, one of our Association’s passions.

The person he chose as “Outstanding Elk” for the State for the Lodge Year of 2013-14 is very passionate about our Veterans. She works at least 20 hours a week helping the local Veterans with whatever they need from bingo games and snacks, field trips, visits to the Lodge, needed supplies to help their comfort. All this along with this dedicated Elk took a special training to learn how to feed Veterans who need that special care. She can always be seen at the Orlando VA when the staff is low on weekends, helping where ever our Heroes may need. This Lady has enough passion for her work to supply all of us with a dose.

When Brian announced her award all she could say was, “Wait until tomorrow when I can show my boys!”

Let the Celebration Begin

A multitude of supporters from Dan Tabor’s Bradenton Lodge and the Southwest District shouted their approval and cheered his nomination for President of Florida State Elks Association.

Rachel and Dan watch and wave at the celebrants in the demonstration.

The Emblem of Authority is passed on to the new President Dan Tabor as he realizes that, “I am now President of the Florida State Elks Association.”

A Traveling Award was presented to James L. “Jim” Lamb and his wife Margaret, for being the first to to visit all Florida Elks Lodges in the Passport Program and had his Passport book signed and verified at each Lodge. He traveled tens of thousand miles and spent more than four years completing the task.
Albertus and Eleanor Van Duren
Florida Elks Youth Camp
2014 Scholarship Winners
Chairman Michael Phillips

Garret is a student at the University of West Florida. He has been a camper, counselor-in-training, counselor, assistant tracker, and tracker at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. He is majoring in exercise science. After graduation, he plans to go to graduate school for occupational therapy. He would also like to take an extra semester to become certified in aqua therapy.

Jamie is a student at Florida State University. She has worked two summers at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. She was a counselor in 2012 and a tracker in 2013. She is majoring in actuarial science and throughout her career wants to work in a variety of areas including health insurance, pension, risk management and investing.

ENRIQUE CAMARENA AWARD

Lt. Nicholas “Joe” King - Punta Gorda Police Dept.
Nominated by Deep Creek Lodge 2763

During the entire time Lieutenant King has been part of the Punta Gorda Police Department, he has been an active member of the community. He has served on numerous boards and coached in local little league and soccer programs. One of the most notable programs Lieutenant King is involved in is the Punta Gorda Police Department’s “Jammers” youth Basketball League program. With the vision and leadership of Lieutenant King, members established a plan to change the lives of their local kids with an eye toward creating a closer bond between local law enforcement and at-risk youth. Starting in 2001 with approximately 45 children, the league has doubled in size. Although many department members participate in this program, Lieutenant King oversees all administrative aspects of the league filling the role of Executive Director, coordinates all fundraising to support this league and even finds time to coach.

Dale Young Memorial Trophies

The 2014 Champion of Champions from the Hoop Shoot contest are left center, Jeremy Morales in the 12-13 Boy age group from Deep Creek Lodge 2763, and right center is the Girl Champion, Carli Linehan in the 12-13 age group from Venice-Nokomis Lodge 1854. Flanked on the left by Hoop Shoot Chairman, Marylin Kronenberg, and on right, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Mike Smith.

Dan E. Tabor and Carl Ledig take their Oath of Office for President of Florida State Elks Association and Vice President at Large along with all the other new officers.

Female Veteran Volunteer of the year Elizabeth Ramsburg, the Male Vet Volunteer of Year, Ed Lynn, was not present for the award.
**SOUTHWEST CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**Arcadia Lodge 1524**

Arcadia Lodge 1524 held the Flag Day Ceremonies in Veterans Park in town for the public including Elk Sheriff Will Wise. Spokesperson was Col. Tom Damron, President of the DeSoto County Veterans Council and Mary Lyne, PER spoke of Flag Day. Chairperson was Jackie Tucker, PER with participating members Mary Lyne, PER, Ed Lyne, Ken Camp and Truman Bass.

For Elks National Youth Week both Arcadia Elks and Clewiston Elks sponsored along with Five Star Youth of America the Annual Regional ARC Angel Competition in Clewiston, Florida. Approximate 400 youths attended to play Challenged Flag. The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Sebring Lodge 1529**

Heartland Food Bank in their Backpack Program. Each week 100 local school children receive 2 breakfasts, lunches, & dinners. These children would otherwise go hungry over the weekend.

Sebring Elks presented a grant check for $2,000.00 to Vanessa Logsdon from the Highlands Little Theatre. This will support the “Munchkin Camp” for approximately 35 students ranging in age from 5 to 12 years old. The camp was held June 16th with a performance on June 20th. The object of the camp is to build confidence through voice lessons, dance steps and prop construction. They will have the opportunity to perform/ work in a mini production of Wizard of Oz.

Royal Care of Avon Park Rehabilitation & Nursing Center held the annual luncheon for their volunteers on Monday April 28. Sebring Lodge Veterans Committee Chairperson Bert and his wife Evelyn Marple were presented a plaque by Mayor Sharon Schuler of Avon Park which read “Mayor’s Award in Recognition of your Compassion and Service to the Veterans throughout our community.” City of Avon Park recognizes Charles and Evelyn Marple as Volunteers of the Year 2013-2014.

**Brandon Lodge 2383**

The Brandon Round Table, made up of local organizations in the community, honored Brandon Lodge by designating the Lodge as the 2013-2014 Non-Profit Organization of the Year. This award honors one local non-profit organization for all their community support and involvement! Numerous members of the Lodge played a part in the honor by supporting their community and Lodge financially, physically and/or by attending the many Elk sponsored events to raise funds that supports their charities.

Brandon Lodge was awarded this great honor at a standing room only banquet and was presented a trophy and a check for $500 to use toward their charities. In addition, Brandon Lodge was honored in the 2014 Fourth of July Parade. An additional check will be presented to the Lodge in December for future support of their community charities and involvement. Brandon Lodge is extremely proud to be recognized by their peers for supporting their communities, their charities; being more present and recognized for what Elksdom stands for: Caring and Sharing! Exalted Ruler Mary Lou Dixon says the Brandon community now know the Elks are here and what we stand for!

**Lake Placid Lodge 2661**

Lake Placid Lodge received a grant for six boys to attend the Florida Elk Youth Camp from the STR8 UP Youth Ministry. The grant brought joy to the boys, and Sammy Telesco, President of STR8 UP, and Dana, his wife, na.

STR8 UP ministry is a safe haven for children 12 through 18 to meet after school. Students receive free tutoring and mentoring. Summers are particularly difficult keeping children active and busy but Sammy and Dana are filling their summer schedule with events.

**NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**Winter Park Lodge 1830**

The Lodge awarded $1,000 scholarships to seven 2014 graduating seniors. Scholarship recipients were Sophia Schnaper and Bryant De La Rosa - Winter Park High, Alex Ortiz - Lyman High, Eugene P. Malin IV - Arch Bishop Ryan High, Thalia Valette - University High, Yaseen Makhzon - Seminole High, Hana Hepner - Timber Creek High. All seven students were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments at a ceremony held on March 14th at the Lodge.

**South Marion-Villages Lodge 2730**

The Lake Weir High School Marching Hurricanes were invited to perform in the St. Patrick’s Day parade in Savannah GA, but in spite of bake sales, car washes, candy selling and seeking donations at local businesses, they were unable to raise the necessary funds. Knowing the excellence of their music, drills, and academic achievements, the Lodge couldn’t bear to leave these kids hanging. The Lodge previously helped out with $1,000 to assist with uniforms, instruments and travel expenses. Now, there is a video on youtube.com memorializing the full complement of band members performing on their long-awaited and much-appreciated trip and a lot of Elks are grinning very widely.

**Eustis Lodge 1578**

A Barbecue was held for the Eustis Middle School Band to help them raise funds for band instruments. The Lodge donated $1,000 and a piano ($500).

On June 14, the Lodge did their annual Flag ceremony with the help of the Mount Dora High School ROTC carrying in the flags.

The Anna Miller Ladies sponsored 16 children to attend the Florida Elk Youth Camp from the STR8 UP Youth Ministry. The grant brought joy to the boys, and Sammy Telesco, President of STR8 UP, and Dana, his wife, na.

STR8 UP ministry is a safe haven for children 12 through 18 to meet after school. Students receive free tutoring and mentoring. Summers are particularly difficult keeping children active and busy but Sammy and Dana are filling their summer schedule with events.

**Inverness Lodge 2522**

Inverness Lodge installed its first female Exalted Ruler, Tina Mabie, daughter of PDD Walter Mabie.

The Ladies also put together a fun filled Saturday, the day before Easter, for the Therapy Children and grandchildren. There were lots of crafts, an Easter Egg Hunt, buckets of treats for the children and lunch. The Ladies also donated 34 dresses crafted from pillow cases for toddler girls, numerous clothes, shoes, purses and toiletries to the Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties serving victims of domestic and sexual violence.

**Lake Whippoorwill Lodge 2419**

The Lodge conducted a Flag Day ceremony with members of Boy Scout Troop 302 participating.
Cocoa Lodge 1532

For the second summer, our Lodge is proud to have sponsored the CSE Theatre Camp for children ages 6-18 during the month of June. This year, with the assistance from an ENF Grant, the Lodge was able to sponsor scholarships for several children to attend the camp as well as provide funds to upgrade lighting and stage materials for the production. Lodge members have been on hand to help with the set decorations and setup, and look forward to growing and continuing this program for years to come.

Ft. Pierce Lodge 1520

The Lodge’s Back Pack Program gives food and school supplies to needy school children. Elks Care and Elks Share. Our Lodge was presented with a plaque from Billy Taylor who is a member of the 4H FFA. Billy raised Petunia Pig to be sold at the St. Lucie County Fair in February. The Lodge had the honor of purchasing Petunia Pig at that event. The proceeds of the sale went to Billy’s college education. Thank you from all of our Elk members.

West St. Lucie Lodge 2823

West St. Lucie Lodge completed its move into the new building and our members are settling in nicely. We had about 70 members volunteer to help and the move could not have been completed without them. The Lodge held a successful open house and ER Ball with many in attendance at both functions. In May, the Lodge held its Flag Day Ceremony with approximately 100 in attendance. The Marine Corps League did a terrific job in the Presentation of Flags. A complimentary spaghetti dinner followed. Our Memorial Day picnic was very well attended, and the music by Jimbo was great. The Lodge also purchased $950 in food for the Grace Pack Program. We were able to feed over 100 students because of that purchase. The Lodge is now collecting school supply items for the kids. We are continuing to serve a free pancake breakfast to our Veterans once a month, and since our move our attendance has picked up. The monies to pay for Grace Pack and the Veterans Breakfast is through the grants we received. If you haven’t applied for a grant, you’re really missing out on a great opportunity to work with the members of your community. This month our Lodge provided and cooked food, and purchased the medals and trophies for the Boys and Girls Club Olympic Day. Approximately 250 children attended the function, and the kids were so thankful to us for all that our Lodge did for them.

They promised to enter the Hoop Shoot Contest. Elk of the Month for April was Ron Kruse; May was Bernie Hope; and June was Butch Checca. Congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work.

Vero Beach Lodge 1774

Our Lodge, under the direction of member Jay Rincheck, gave a check for $1,542 to the PEER Group and Puzzled Families to benefit families who have children with autism. The Lodge raised the monies by holding a recent concert by international concert pianist, Adlan Cruz. The PEER Group of Indian River County connects families of children with special needs, providing education, support, advocacy and exchanging resources. The PEER Group is chartered through Sun-Up ARC, a United Way Agency.

Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

The month of April kicked off a busy year for our Lodge. The annual ER Ball for Stew Smith and his officers was held on April 5th. The Lodge had two charity events for “People to People” and the “Deaf and Hard of Hearing Group.” In May the Mother’s Day Ritual was conducted and the Mother of the Year was Jenny Smith. The Lodge marched in the Memorial Day parade and held a picnic where we paid tribute to all of our Veterans. On May 27th, a group of wheelchair Veterans from the VA Hospital in West Palm visited the Lodge and enjoyed lunch and played Bingo.

The Lodge participated in the annual Memorial Day Parade held in Rockledge. Their contingent was led by the Lodge banner, a two-person color guard, vintage cars carrying the officers, and marchers made up of Lady Elks and other members and officers. It was a warm, patriotic day and it was enjoyed by all who participated.

In June, an Eagle Court of Honor was held for Mathew Kastelic. DDGER Suzi Simonelli was on hand to present him with a certificate from the Elks.

Port St. Lucie 2658

In April a magnificent time was had by all who attended our ER Ball. We had over 210 party goers dancing to the music and enjoying the delicious prime rib dinner. The Lodge also helped celebrate ER Bill LaSalla’s 50th Wedding Anniversary. The Easter Bunny visited our Lodge with many goodies and an egg hunt. It was well attended by our member’s children and grandchildren. A May Mother’s Day Ceremony had many members in attendance to honor their mothers. All mothers were given a flower and a ticket for a chance to win one of the three orchid plants. A lovely buffet was set up for all to enjoy. The Lodge was rocking to a Memorial Day picnic with hamburgers, hotdogs, salads, and let’s not forget the back sale. We also celebrated our very own Lodge Softball team. They won the Elks State Championship with the $2,125 prize going to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. We also were recipients of the Veterans Voice for our donation of $300 to the Semper Fi Fund for wounded Veterans. June was filled with a grilled steak for Father’s Day. We all had a great time. We are now preparing for our July 4th picnic and our visitation dinner on July 26. We hope to see everyone from our district Lodges attending for a good time and comradely. On August 2nd we are sponsoring the Brotherhood Ride. A group of firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency personnel who are escorted by our local First Responders ride bicycles into the towns to honor the men and women to have fallen in the line of duty. We will be honoring a St. Lucie County Officer, Gary Morales, with a fundraiser dinner and festivities to show our support for his family and fellow professionals. All are welcome to attend.

Viera Lodge 2817

The Lodge of the Month for April was Ron Kruse; May was Bernie Hope; and June was Butch Checca. Congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work.
The North District is pleased to have one of its own PDDGERs from Tallahassee, Carl Ledig, installed as the FSEA Vice President at Large this year. Carl and wife Dolly will be visiting the state districts along with State President Dan Tabor and wife Rachel.

**Lake City Lodge 893**

Lake City Lodge continues to make improvements in its member offerings, especially the dining room. The service is good, the food is fabulous, and it's a great value.

St. Patrick's Day was a huge success. Through the gracious donation of its officers and members, carpet has been replaced in the corridor leading to the dining room; which is now finished and looks fantastic (and is ADA-compliant to boot!). New artwork was placed in the dining room showcasing historic photographs of the Lodge as well as iconic Lake City scenes and structures of yesteryear. Additional historic artwork depicting the Lodge was presented recently by Professor Sean McMahon to remain on loan from the Lake City Columbia County Historical Museum. Expect to see more such artwork to be unveiled in the dining room soon.

Outgoing Exalted Ruler Fred Lammers presented the award for Citizen of the Year to Executive Director Rita Dopp of the Suwannee Valley Chapter of the United Way. Officer of the Year was awarded to Lodge Secretary Stanley Cox and Elk of the Year was awarded to Captain Michael Lydick. The examples they set for the Lodge are in keeping with the finest traditions of public service and the mission of Elks.

Kudos to Trustee Barbara Hollingsworth and her Easter Committee, who oversaw the donation and distribution of Easter eggs to every Pre-K through 2nd grader in the school district this Easter season. Plastic Easter Eggs went to 11 schools in Columbia County with 17,640 eggs given to 3,004 students. Also, the Lodge Veterans Committee was recently recognized by the United States Department of Veterans’ Affairs for Captain Michael Lydick’s altruistic donation of over 100 hours of service to the Lake City VA Hospital. The Lodge Hoop Shoot Committee was presented with a generous donation of $200 from the “4:00 guys” in order to ensure a successful 2014/2015 Hoop Shoot for the children of the community.

May began with $5,000 in Elks academic scholarshps awarded to Caitlyn Witt and Mikala Edenfield at the Columbia High School Senior Awards Night presentation. Awarding those checks was a real honor and privilege. Later in the month many Elks attended the Columbia County Public Safety Memorial, organized to remember the 15 civilian servicemen of public safety agencies and folks who have given their lives in the line of duty since November 1900. The brave men and women of police departments, sheriff’s offices, highway patrols, fire departments, correctional facilities, game warden’s stations, agricultural stations, and forestry stations all deserve high praise.

**Live Oak Lodge 1165**

Live Oak Lodge was pleased to be awarded three grants. The first was a $2,000.00 Grant. This grant will help fund the Patty Nixon School Nurse Fund! This fund was used to help under privileged kids with medical needs and also clothing, shoes or whatever they need that are not available to them. The Beacon Grant also from Grand Lodge was for the Suwannee High School Special Needs Class. This grant was matched by the Florida State Elks Association bringing the total to $6,000 in grant funds. The Lodge’s donations were only $1287 to become eligible for grants.

The Lodge is conducting a fundraiser – a raffle on a 50” LED television. Tickets are only $2 each or three for $5. Contact Live Oak Lodge to purchase tickets before the drawing on August 26.

**Mariana Lodge 1516**

The Lodge has created the “Tom Sanson Memorial Elks Charities Fund.” Tom was a Past District Deputy who passed away from a stroke earlier this year. All donations to this fund will go to support Elks charities through donations to the Elks National Foundation and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and will be made as memorial donations in Tom’s memory. Elks charities were close to his heart. Because the donations will be made to the ENF or to Harry-Anna, both 501(c)(3) entities, they will be tax deductible. Your donations to this fund should be given to Secretary Karen Fader and if by check should be made payable to “Mariana Elks Lodge 1516, Inc.,” and the memo line should indicate “Tom Sanson Memorial Elks Charities Fund.”

**Perry Lodge 1851**

The Lodge is grateful to DDGER Cap Pratt who conducted officer installation with assistance from Elks from Live Oak and Tallahassee. Member Drew Taylor was selected Elk of the Year for his continued assistance to the Lodge throughout the year. A recent event, the Glow Ball Golf Tournament co-chaired by Mark Wiggins and Drew Taylor, netted more than $3000 for the Lodge and its scholarship fund. Member Felix Nall was chosen Elk of the Year for the ma-

Fathers Day, with a lunch sponsored by Tallahassee’s Elks, served many families recognizing the holiday. Almost 100 folks attended, enjoying the food and social atmosphere.
West Citrus Lodge 2693
The Veterans Committee of the West Citrus Elks Lodge 2693 partnered with the Nature Coast Carving Club to create 120 plaques to be presented to the veterans residing in various Citrus County assisted living/life care facilities, routinely visited by committee members. Committee member Jack McKowen conceived and organized the project, and Charles Mattingly, another committee member cut and prepared the wood bases for the Carving Club. The club had previously prepared plaques for another veterans group and agreed to assist the Homosassa Elks. The Carving Club then took as a club project the painting of the plaques in a patriotic manner, attached a carved eagles head and added an inscription, “In appreciation of your outstanding and devoted Service to the Armed Forces of THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.”

Aripeka Lodge 2520
You might say this Aripeka Elk from Lodge 2520 is “Mama from Heaven.” And if you’re a Veteran in need a Veteran with a family to feed, home less or just a beggar on the street in desperate need of help, that is exactly what Bob Martin typifies.
In the true spirit of volunteerism, he is a dependable Elk who collects cakes, pies, cookies and bread, in all shapes and sizes. All kinds of discarded packaged baked goods that are entirely healthy to consume.
He is known as “Bob the Bread Man,” a unique Elk who volunteers many hours each and every week with one thing in mind: to feed as many hungry persons as he can in the Port Richey and New Port Richey area and to do it continuously with pride.
You might say he really enjoys offering back to his community, struggling with the hurrles and roadblocks of a hungry life, a helping hand filled with a slice of sustenance in very special way.

Zephyrhills Lodge 2731
Through an ENF Gratitude Grant, obtained by Joyce Houck, local ENF chairman, the Lodge made a $700 donation to East Pasco Meals on Wheels to purchase new coolers and other supplies. Meals on Wheels, one of the charities that the lodge supports, provides hot nutritious meals 5 days weekly to area residents’ homes.

Southwest Central continued from page 12
Lake Wales Lodge 1974
Lake Wales Annual Easter egg hunt was another great event. A “thank you” went to Marylou aka “Easter Bunny”.
On April 5th, 2014, the Lake Wales Elkettes donated $1,000 to “The Fallen Warriors Foundation of Polk County.” The check was presented to Lake Wales American Legion Post 71 Commander Andy Anderson, as the Post hosted “A Day of Honor andRemembrance of the Fallen of Polk County.”

Plant City Lodge 1727
Veterans have been the primary focus for Plant City Lodge. The Lodge got word of a family in need. Leading Knight Judy Wise presented the family with a $1,000 check at the Lodge’s weekly dinner to help with the family’s costs.

Sgt. McLaughlin bounces his two youngest daughters on his lap.
Thanks to Leading Knight Judy Wise and the Army of Hope they were able to bring hope to US Army Sgt. Sean McLaughlin and his family. His wife, Joyce, not only had her hands full with three children but the family’s cooling and heating system broke while St. McLaughlin on deployment in Qatar. Stress escalated when the family got a $3700 price tag on a new HVAC system. He has been on three deployments — two to Iraq.
Since Veterans have been the lodge’s primary focus in the past year they also has helped another soldier, Sgt. Michael Smith, who struggled with housing costs after the Army adjusted his pay to the wrong county.
Throughout the year, Lodge 1727 holds many fundraising activities to benefit Army of Hope projects. Fundraisers range from golf tournaments to chili cook-offs. “I don’t think there can ever be enough we can do for our service members,” Wise said. “A lot of people think the Elks is just a social club, but we do a lot”.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672
Winter Haven Lodge 1672 held their Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner.

Several members of the Zephyrhills Elks recently participated in the Zephyrhills Founder’s Day Parade entitled “Zephyrhills – Purple Heart City – Where heroes come home to roost” in March 2014.
Several lodge members decorated and entered a float in honor of our lodge veterans and the veterans that are served by our lodge area wide. Two of our members, Rich Guest, left and Jack Burdi, right, wore their actual military uniforms! Several Elks members rode on the float and walked in the parade.

Several Elks members volunteer by doing meal delivery and assisting in the kitchen with food preparation.
The Lodge PER Association provided Easter baskets to children who volunteer their time at the Lodge wrapping silverware and setting tables for dinners, as well as donating additional funds to purchase new flags to display outside the Lodge.

During the Elks National Youth Week, members of the Lodge experienced a heartwarming feeling as they provided toys, through the Gifts of Love pantry, a community project sponsored by the Lodge, to many children in the community, and also provided food to people of the community who are less fortunate.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709

Recently, the Lodge formed a partnership with Kohl’s Department Store; they donated $1,500 towards the beautification of the Lodge grounds.

For the third year in a row, the Lodge has brought home the East Central District’s Vice Presidents Visitation Traveling Trophy.

Recently, Jerry O’Gara, along with Lodge Secretary Jeannie Fontana, Lodge Tiler Andy Jekabsons, and Lodge Trustee Mark Fontana presented grant checks to two groups serving Flagler County community needs. Both Michayla Milidiantri, Vice President of the Board Flagler Free Clinic and Director Cheryl Massaro of the Flagler County Carver Gym Youth Center, each received a $2,000 check.

The PER Association held a summer raffle to support the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Youth Camp, Children’s Therapy Services, and the Elks National Foundation. Proceeds from the raffle were split.

Sanford Lodge 1241

The Lodge participated in Sanford’s community annual Memorial Day parade. Members were able to handout over 400 flags and 100 flag pins to the people of Sanford. The Lodge, continually support their community and Elks charities.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

The Lodge is extremely proud of member and officer Erik Barger, daughter of PER Jack and Rita Barger, who after passing her Florida Bar Exam, took the oath of attorney at a ceremony held at the Fifth District Court of Appeals in Daytona Beach. Erika graduated Magna Cum Laude from Florida State University College of Law with her Juris Doctor degree and received the Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award from Florida State University for her commitment to community service and is also a member of the Order of the Coif. She is currently working as a law clerk at the Fifth District Court of Appeals.

Recently, Lodge scholarship awards were presented at a Seabreeze High School Senior Awards Ceremony.

Ken Ruse, Terry Clevinger, Dan and Vicki Black, Dan Theodore, Tes Smith, of the Lodge’s Elks Riders USA road to the Deland Naval Air Station Museum at the Deland airport for a tour of the restoration project of the PTF 3 “Nasty Class” patrol boat.

The guided tour was interesting and informative, after which the group visited the Deland Elks Lodge for some refreshments.

During the last quarter, the Lodge presented students with high scoring GPA’s from Spruce Creek Elementary and Atlantic High Schools with scholarship awards.

From left; Erika Barger, Lodge Scholarship Chairman, Kristen Curtis, Carson Bell and Exalted Ruler Maria De Armon) to Kristen Curtis, daughter of PER Jackie Curtis and to (Ms.) Carson Bell, daughter of Laura and David Bell.

Kristen is a recipient of a $1,125 Lodge scholarship award; she plans to study baking and pastry at Daytona State College in Daytona Beach, Florida. Caron was named 2014 Most Valuable Student Scholar by the Elks National Foundation and will receive $4,000 or $1,000 a year while attending the University of Florida over the next four years. Both girls reside in Ormond Beach.

From left rear; Bill Greetrex, ER Rick Phelps, presenting a check to Mary Munds, Bob Pommert, Larry Skates, Front kneeling; Marci Skates, “Roxy” and Donna Kessler.

The Lodge sponsors an, “ATTA Boy” award for members who donate their time and energies around the Lodge; several members have already been recipients of this award.

Recently, the Lodge held an annual Blue and Gold banquet spaghetti dinner for Cub Scout Troop #72 and their parents; the boys were congratulated on moving up to becoming a Boy Scout.

The Lodge PER Association provided Easter baskets to children who volunteer their time at the Lodge wrapping silverware and setting tables for dinners, as well as donating additional funds to purchase new flags to display outside the Lodge.

East Central continued page 23
Deep Creek Lodge 2763

Deep Creek Lodge has been selected by the FSEA as the Division IV All American Lodge. What an honor! Thank you to all members for their hard work in making this award possible.

Congratulations to Amy McCurry for being named Officer of the Year and to Leon Jordan selected as Elk of the Year.

A new Veterans Memorial has recently been installed at the front of the Lodge. During the Flag Day Ceremony members of American Legion Post 110 Color Guard raised a new flag in this Memorial.

At the recent FSEA Convention the Drug Awareness Education Committee presented the Enrique “Kiki” Camarena Award to Police Lt. Nicholas “Joe” King from Punta Gorda. Deep Creek Lodge nominated Lt. King for this award because of his hard work in the community fighting the war on drugs and his dedication to youth in the community.

Englewood Lodge 2378

Englewood Lodge hosted a luncheon for Students of the Month, Students of the Year and scholarship winners from the graduating class of Lemon Bay High School, their parents and school officials.

The Lodge awarded each Student of the Month a check for $100 and the two Students of the Year (male/ female) received an additional check for $300. In addition, the Lodge awarded two $8,000 scholarships and seven $1,000 scholarships to some very deserving students.

Again this year Englewood Lodge donated $100 to the Cal Ripken Baseball League to be a “Field Sponsor” and $375 to sponsor a baseball team for 13 to 15 year old youth.

A $500 donation was given to Boy Scout Troop 198 for parking cars during the boat races held at Englewood Beach.

The Lodge continued a “Give a Child a Book” Program at Myakka River and Englewood Elementary Schools. Students were allowed to select a book of their choice from Scholastic Book Magazine. Teachers were given a label for each student to place inside the cover of their book which had a place for the child to write their name and also stated that the book was a gift from the Englewood Elks.

On Mothers Day some Lodge PERs along with their wives visited Englewood Hospital and area nursing homes and presented each mother with a small bouquet of silk flowers. Ladies in the Lodge and several members of Does Drove 203 prepared the silk bouquets, attached a card and placed them in baskets ready for delivery. This tradition has been going on for over 20 years. Two hundred fifty flower bouquets were given out this year.

Profit from the last show of the season held at the Lodge was dedicated for the Army of Hope. Entertainer “Diva” Marcie Downey graciously donated two dollars per ticket purchased from her show fee. Over $950 was raised for the Army of Hope.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288

Fort Myers Lodge collected $20,212 in manufacturer’s coupons for the year 2013-2014 with a value of $26,464.63. These coupons are for our servicemen and women.

Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781

The Greater Pine Island Elks Lodge has been hosting the Friends of the Pine Island Library Meet the Author Series. Four authors have come to the Lodge for luncheon events. They bring books they have written and share their writing experiences. The library at Pine Island has a very small meeting room and can’t accommodate the number of people who would like to attend these events. The Lodge is a perfect vehicle for this community event. It provides a much needed venue for the Friends group and also provides a great service to the community.

Mary Kaye Stevens shares her books about Lee County & Pine Island at Friends of Library Meet held at GPI Lodge 2781.

Naples Lodge 2010

Over two hundred people attended the Lodge Open House held in April. Displays available for the public to view included Elks National Foundation, Drug Awareness, FSEA Youth camp, Children’s Therapy Service, and local good works done by Naples Lodge. Refreshments were served and enjoyed by all. The Lodge has gained over 25 new members since April.

Stephanie Dangler and her son Michael, representing the Stand Up Paddle Poker Run for Special Olympics Collier, accepted a $250 check from the Lodge for this fundraiser. The Elks Logo and Naples Elks Lodge 2010 will be imprinted on the event tee shirts.

Naples Lodge donated $500 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund at the State Convention in May.

The Lodge used a $2,000 ENF grant to support some of the needy students at Manatee Elementary School by purchasing and distributing 100 uniforms at the school.

At the awards night at Barron Collier High School ER Ray Honan presented Jennifer Trebilcock with a $1,000 scholarship for each of the four years of college and Colton Hall with a $500 scholarship for the same time period. In addition, Jennifer and Alexis Grey each received a $1,000 ENF scholarship.

Ladies received a free breakfast at the Lodge on Mothers Day and were also given flowers.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

North Fort Myers Lodge partnered with Sears for their safety weekend. Joining in the weekend were the Fort Myers Fire Department and Lee County Sheriff’s Department. The Sheriff’s Department assisted at the Elks display which was set up for Drug Awareness. Contact was made with over 600 children and parents. Red ribbons, coloring books and several different brochures on Drug Awareness were handed out. This is the second year for this event.

Two scholarships were awarded this year and presented to Erin Witkowski and Meagen McElinnis at the senior awards night at the local high schools. Scholarships are awarded to family of Lodge members.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

SSW District PVP Debbie Hargrove presented a graduate of Port Charlotte High School with a $4,000 scholarship from Port Charlotte Lodge. The scholarship was presented at the Senior Awards Night at the school and is for $1,000 per year for four years.

Mothers Day flowers were given to residents of Lexington Manor ACF and residents of Douglas T. Jacobson Veterans Nursing Home by SSW District PVP Deb Hargrove and Jessica Stark the Lodge Tiler.

Members of the Lodge decorated the outside of the Douglas Jacobson Home with flags for Memorial Day.

A “pot luck” get together was held at the Lodge to raise money for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

Port Charlotte Lodge also held a Kentucky Derby horse race party and raised $147 for charity.

Lodge members once again gathered and donated clothes to the Douglas Jacobson Nursing Home.

At the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held in March some deserving members were given awards and certificates of appreciation. Congratulations to Jean Naujelis who was named Elk of the Year.

Deb Hargrove, SSW District PVP and Loyal Knight Angela Stark, Tiler Jessica Stark and Nicole Stark presented a $2,000 check to the Boys and Girls Club of Charlotte County. This money will be used by the club for materials necessary to make the Fine Arts, Robotic, Athletic and Digital Photograph programs successful. A Beacon Grant made this donation possible.
Boca Raton Lodge 2166

Boca Raton Lodge has been busy working with and for our Veterans, children and community groups. The Lodge collected 230 pounds of aluminum pop tabs. These were delivered to the Ronald McDonald House in Fort Lauderdale, and were used for their ongoing program to raise funds to cover operating costs of the home.

We recently sent 60 care packages to our troops in Afghanistan. The boxes included toiletries, playing cards, candy and snacks, pens, etc., as well as a personalized note from the lodge thanking each individual soldier for his/her service to our country. Members also packaged and delivered 100 Valentine’s Day goodie bags to veterans in the VA Hospital in Palm Beach. The bags were filled with socks, playing cards, personal care items and canteen booklets for them to spend at their leisure. Using our Gratitude Grant money, members knitted and/or crocheted ten baby blankets, lap robes and shawls for the hospitalized veterans. The Lodge also donated two semi-annual baby shower for hospitalized female veterans.

The Lodge provided our Lodge room and a dinner for the Florida Atlantic University Veterans’ “End of the Year Banquet.” These Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are now earning degrees at FAU. They have provided a Color Guard and a vocalist for the District’s Army of Hope event. The Lodge was presented with a “Thank You” plaque for our support of them.

The Lodge presented the Boca Raton High School NJROTC with a donation of $1500.00 at a recent school event. The NJROTC is very active in the community, serving at the city’s Memorial Day Service and at various lodge functions. The NJROTC is ranked #1 in the state of Florida and #2 in the country! We are honored to have had their presence at our Flag Day ceremony. At the Memorial Day Ceremony our lodge was well represented by many members, and our Exalted Ruler, Linda Barie spoke to the assembly.

Boca Raton First Annual Scholarship Awards.

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In the Picture above from left to right, Students who received the scholarship award, Leading Knight, Bob Warke, Scholarship Committee, Diane Thomson, Pat Cherubin and Tim Glick.

The Lodge presented four high school seniors with $500 scholarships each to the universities that they will be attending in the fall. The Lodge’s annual charity Golf Tournament made these gifts possible. Presented at a lodge sponsored dinner were gifts to Northwestern University, two to the University of Miami, and the University of Florida. The Lodge was proud to meet and greet these scholars and their families.

Lastly, the Lodge utilized our Beacon Grant funds by holding our first annual “Kidz Fun Day” at the lodge. This free event was geared for students grades K through 5. The participants were from the Boca Raton Fire Department, the Boca Raton Police Department, the North Broward Trauma Unit, and a therapist from Florida Elks Children’s Therapy. The Lodge provided a Hoop Shoot contest, Bean Bag toss, puppet making, and a Drug Awareness Poster drawing station along with access to the Drug Awareness trailer. We had Happy the Clown who did face painting and balloon art, and a DJ played music for these children along with age appropriate games and dance contests. Food was provided. Each child received a “goodie bag” from the Lodge. We are looking forward to next year’s event which will be even bigger and better!

Delray Beach Lodge 1770

The Delray Beach Elks Lodge recently donated $500 to the Heavenly Angels Bowling Team.

From left, Elks member, Ed Sisko; Heavenly Angel, Sherry Will in white shirt; E.R. Art Johnson in black and Heavenly Angel bowlers in blue shirts.

Heavenly Angels cater to the needs of mentally challenged adults who most often are physically challenged as well. Some of these bowlers even bowl in the Special Olympics. Every Saturday around 70 handicapped bowlers spend their mornings at the AMF Lanes in Boynton Beach. For many this is the only exercise and enjoyment they get all week. Heavenly Angels is a group of parents, coaches and volunteers working together each week to make sure all of these individuals enjoy themselves for a few hours. They volunteer their time and look for donations of bowling balls, shoes and bags to cash donations.

Over 200 people dusted off their cowboy hats and enjoyed at our annual Country Western Dinner Dance. This year we raised over $7,000 for Sunny Shores Sea Camp, a respite camp in Miami for children and their families with Cystic Fibrosis.

This year’s Delray Beach Awards Dinner was enjoyed by many of Delray’s finest! This annual event is held to honor the Delray Police, Firefighter/Paramedic and Ocean Rescue Person of the Year. They are chosen by their supervisor or department head for their accomplishment and dedication or for their services back to the community during the past year. Along with these invaluable employees of our city, the Delray Elks award their Officer of the year and Elk Member of the Year. This year we included our Students of the Month. Delray Beach Elks Lodge Member of the year went to Rick Janke. Delray Beach Elks Lodge Officer of the Year went to Art Johnson. Congratulations to all!

Delray Elks Color Guard joined in the Delray Beach Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade. After the parade, 300 people enjoyed music and corned beef and cabbage dinner back at the Delray Elks.

We had three teams represent Lodge 1770 at the FSEA State Softball Tournament in Deland. Participants included 34 Delray Elks Members! Winston Goddard’s club gained second place in the Over 50-A division.

Allen Carpenter was inducted into the Florida Elks Softball “Hall of Fame”. He joins 7 other from Delray! A good time was had by all!

South Southwest District continued from page 17

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

In April the Lodge hosted the Punta Gorda City Police Picnic and Awards ceremony. Awards were given to many of our outstanding police officers. Food was provided by the Elks along with activities for the children. A good time was had by all.

Also in April the 11th annual charity golf tournament was held. Committee chairman Paul White announced that $6,020 was raised for the Children’s Therapy Services.

Punta Gorda Elks presented awards to members of the Charlotte High School NJROTC for their achievements during the past school year. The ceremony was held at the Punta Gorda American Legion Post 103. Medals received by NJROTC members were donated by Lodge 2606.

Fourth grade students from Sallie Jones Elementary School enjoyed the annual picnic held at the Lodge. A video about Drug Awareness was shown to the children and gift certificates were given to boys and girls for the best Drug Awareness essays and posters. The children enjoyed games and food.

The PER Association is supporting the Jammers, a group of Punta Gorda police officers led by Lt. King, who organizes local children in the summer for basketball games to keep them busy. A $300 donation was made to provide uniforms for one team for the year.

Flowers were given to all mothers attending the Mothers Day ceremony. Punta Gorda Elks also went to area hospitals and nursing homes to give flowers and get well wishes to women on Mother’s Day.

Punta Gorda Elks, Elkettes and PERs presented a total of $25,000 to twenty-five high school students as part of the Scholarship Program.

The Lodge was host to the annual SSW PER Golf Tournament held at Deep Creek Golf Course. Fifteen hundred dollars was raised for charity.

Celebration of Flag Day was held at the Douglas Jacobson Veterans Home with Elkettes carrying flags dated as far back as 1800 to present day. The ceremony was narrated by Exalted Ruler Joe Campbell.

Rotonda Lodge 2710

The Rotonda Elks partnered with the Charlotte County Special Olympics for a Field Day event. Through the power of sports, people with intellectual disabilities discover new strengths and abilities, skills and success. The athletes find joy, confidence and fulfillment on the playing field and in life. They also inspire people in their communities and elsewhere to open their hearts to a wider world of human talents and potential. This was a first time event for the Rotonda area and it was a tremendous success. Thirty-seven athletes participated and there were approximately 50 volunteers to assist with the games and lunch. Plans are already underway for next year’s event.

Rotonda Lodge made a donation of $815 to Lemon Bay High School to be used to purchase needed caps and gowns for the graduating class. In addition, $1,880 was donated to the Homeless Education Program.
On Saturday, June 6th, Miami Lodge 948 was honored by a visit from State President Danny Tabor, and First Lady Rachel to view all of the renovations that have taken place within the Lodge during their visit to the South District.

The President and his First Lady were both very impressed with the new transformation as they had attended a function at the Lodge during last year’s visit to the South District.

On April 2nd the Elkette’s held their annual installation of officers. The ceremony was led by Past Exalted Ruler, Delfin Mule’ and incoming Exalted Ruler, Barry Wake, Helen Mule’ was installed as the new Elkette’s President.

On Saturday, April 5, the Army of Hope bike ride was held. Over 30 bike riders and this year about 40 antique cars participated, some starting at the North Miami Lodge 1835 with others meeting up at the second leg Petersons Harley Davidson-South a sponsor of the bike ride. All riders then left for the final leg of the ride to the Florida Keys Lodge 1872. The riders would like to thank the officers of the Miami Dade Police Department for their escort and getting onto the Florida Turnpike and down to US1 in Florida City to safely continue their ride down to Florida Keys Lodge. Once arriving at the Florida Keys Lodge the riders, drivers, and guests were treated to hamburgers and hot dogs and all the fixings.

A raffle was also held for items supplied by Petersons Harley Davidson-South. On Sunday, April 20 the Lodge held its annual Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt. At 10 o’clock, the children began hunting for the hundreds of colored Easter eggs hidden by the Easter Bunny around the patio and pool area. At 11 o’clock the ballroom opened for the Easter brunch, which consisted of an omelet station and a hot pasta station.

On Saturday, May 3 the Lodge celebrated Cinco de Mayo. Members and guests enjoyed a large Mexican buffet a variety of Mexican music and a night of karaoke.

On Sunday, May 11, the annual Mother’s Day brunch was held with the Elks Mother’s Day ceremony held at 1:30 p.m upstairs in the Lodge meeting room.

On May 23rd through the 25th various Lodge officers and members attended the annual Florida State Elks Association Convention held in Orlando.

On Monday, May 26 the Lodge held its annual Memorial Day picnic.

On Saturday, May 31 Miami Lodge 948 held its Grand Reopening to present to the public the massive renovations done to the Lodge within the past four months. Guests were escorted on a tour of the Lodge. As they walked through the hallways they observed the beautiful ceramic tile that has now replaced the old worn-out carpet, they were then taken to the totally remodeled dining room, then moving on to the completely remodeled Crystal Ballroom with newly painted walls and brand-new carpet. Numerous guests complemented how beautiful the Lodge now looks; many took membership applications and booked various events.

On Saturday, June 14 the Lodge officers held the annual Flag Day ceremony upstairs in the Lodge meeting room.

On Sunday, June 15, the Lodge held its annual Fathers Day brunch in the dining room.

On Monday, May 26 the Lodge held its annual Florida State Elks Association Convention held in Orlando.

On Wednesday, June 18, Virginia Hunter & Trina Bailey Del Valle co-chairpersons of the Scholarship Committee awarded eight college scholarships to deserving local high school students before the Lodge’s general meeting.

On Sunday, June 22, the Lodge sent two busloads with 58 kids to the Florida State Elks Association Youth Camp in Umatilla for the week.

The members would like to thank Ron Simpson and Marta Cruz for their outstanding job of stepping up and taking over the hosting of Karaoke Nights! They have become so popular that the members have asked for a second Karaoke Saturday every month. Karaoke is now held on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Ron and Marta have come up with the catch phrase, “The stage is yours…”

Florida Keys Lodge 1872

The Florida Keys Lodge parking lot was packed with motorcycles and antique cars on April 5th for the Army of Hope ride and picnic. Bikers rode from Miami Lodges to the Keys in support of this charity to enjoy the food and festivities. Music by member John Mavis, great food and drinks plus raffles were on hand.

Each year the participation is greater than last.

April 8th, Scholarship chairpersons, Jane and Dan Ferguson donated, cooked and served complete turkey dinners to raise funds for our local high school winners. Five scholarships were awarded on June 3 at Coral Shores High School totaling $7,000.

On April 16, the Lodge also held a pasta dinner to benefit the Youth Camp in Umatilla and assist in getting our local kids there.

April was our very first Vets on the Water activity. This charity was established to help our vets with water therapy. Back country fishing was this vet’s request. The members would like to thank Ron Simpson and Trina Bailey Del Valle for their hard work.

On May 4, The Florida Keys Lodge 1872 2nd Annual Ladies Dolphin Tournament was held on June 6 and 7. This event raises funds for our charities. Many boats and 83 lady anglers had a great time on the water; they caught lots of fish, they were then awarded tiaras and trophies followed by a delicious dinner, music, prizes, raffles and a silent auction.

Ladies Dolphin Fishing Tournament Winners, Front row L to R, Sidney Valdes, Tiara Wheaton and Tracey Reilly with members of the Florida Keys Lodge.

During our winter season, we have sponsored Line Dancing and Zumba classes to promote fun and fitness. Every Friday is our Fish Fry and Karaoke.

If ever in the fabulous Florida Keys please visit our friendly Lodge located in Tavernier.
Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

The Lodge, partnering with the Target Store Team volunteers, and Seminole Elks Lodge, held its annual Dunaway Fishing Day on May 10th and there were over 100 special-needs kids, fishing, and eating, having a wonderful time. It was a sight that went straight to your heart when these little kids caught a fish.

Lodge volunteers and members held a bi-annual Elks Veterans Cook-out at the nursing facility at the C.W. Young Bay Pines Hospital on May 17th and fed over 200 veterans. Members of the Lodge provided side dishes, worked on the grill and proudly served those special men and women of Bay Pines along with their staff.

On May 15th, the Lodge donated $250 to the Orange Grove Elementary School, in Seminole, in honor of Elks National Youth Week. Funds will be allocated to their new school-wide reading program for K thru 5th grades.

A new Eagle Scout program was started at the Lodge, chaired by Trustee, Gordon Hoffman. An Elks National Eagle Scout Certificate, along with a flag, has been presented to the West Central Boy Scout District, monthly, for those Scouts earning their Eagle Scout badge.

The Lodge had the privilege of sponsoring a total of 17 kids, this summer, for a week at the Youth Camp. The camp experience will be a fond memory that will stay with these kids for a long time to come.

Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525

The Lodge held their annual Community Awards banquet May 15th to honor local citizens for their outstanding accomplishments. The following all were recognized for their accomplishments: Dunedin H. S. student of the year, Lindsay Suttemire; Countryside H. S. student of the year, Harrison Tomlin; Clearwater H. S. student of the year, Alexandra Chandler. NJROTC Cadet of the year was Lt. Justin Reyes. Four local students were awarded scholarships to help further their education: Sophia Benzarti, Brett Witmore, Donald Wasoff and Jennifer Franklin. The Fire and Law Enforcement honorees were: Clearwater Police Officer of the year, Lesa Phillips; Clearwater Firefighter of the year, Lt. Sean Premo; Dunedin Sheriff’s Deputy of the year, Lt. William Byrd; Dunedin Firefighter of the year, Thom Cameron. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to AL Ginouves for his years of heading the scholarship program. Distinguished Citizen of the year was awarded to Dunedin NJROTC Commander Rick Schock.

Twenty-eight Dunedin - Clearwater Elks traveled on May 18th to Baldamero Lopez Florida State Veterans Nursing Home and cooked for 114 residents, their families, and 40 staff, and donated 30 lap robes and 250 pairs of socks. An Elks member donated her singing talents, to the delight of all.

Largo Lodge 2159

The Flag Day ceremony was assisted by the VFW Honor Guard from Seminole Post #9272 and Cub Scout Pack #417 with the display of the flags and Boy Scout # 417 demonstrating the Folding of the Flag, as Jan Rogers PER read the meaning of each fold.

The Lodge members donated 78 books for the students of Ponce De Leon Elementary to take home for the summer. Many of these students had never owned a book before. The Lodge has already started recruiting more volunteers, mentors and tutors to help these students succeed in school as they have this past year.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

The Lodge was proud to present three donations at the May State Convention in Orlando. Exalted Ruler, Richard Doan and Leading Knight, Joanne Doan presented $2,500 to the Elks National Foundation, $2,500 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, and $9,240.75 to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

The Exalted Ruler, Richard Doan was presented with an award from the Tampa Mustangs softball team for their past season sponsorship and support. Melanie Roger is the pitcher of the team and presented the award with her father Jim Rogers to Exalted Ruler Richard Doan.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

The Lodge held its annual Kids Easter Egg Hunt, poolside. It was open to the community, for a day with the Easter Bunny, with free food, games, a bounce house and petting zoo. There were over 75 kids of all ages collecting 2,000 plastic eggs stuffed with candy and toys. There was an egg-coloring contest and musical chairs with prizes, and even gave away 45 Easter baskets. The members of the Lodge stepped up and donated their time and funds to support this fun event. The Chairman, Sherry Masi really knows how to put on a kids event.

Members of the Lodge were present at the Stand Down at Bay Pines Veterans Hospital. The Lodge donated $1,000 worth of Canteen Coupon books and $1,000 in phone cards for those 350 Homeless and “At Risk of being Homeless.” Those funds were provided to the Lodge by an ENF Beacon grant.

At the Lodge’s Mothers Day celebration, corsages were presented to four special mothers and grandmothers. All the mothers who were present at the celebration were treated to a free lunch, from the grill.

For the Flag Day celebration, the Lodge had Boy Scout Troop #334 assist with the history of the Flags, led by H Tom Shriver PER and George Povelitis PER. The Korean War Veterans Chapter #14 presented the Colors led by Joe Slaton PER. After the ceremony the Lodge treated the Boy Scout Troop to a day at the pool, with a free lunch.

Lodge member Rudy Masi, Sr. had a large Elk Banner made, and took around Bay Pines Hospital, collecting signatures of WWII veterans. The banner was carried by Rudy and his family members in St Mere Eglise, Normandy on June 6th celebrating D-Day. This was a major undertaking and it caught on like wildfire, so much so that San Antonio, TX Elks got involved. This was a real proud moment for the Elks: the banner read: “As long as there is a veteran, Elks will never forget ! 70th Anniversary D-Day celebration June 6, 2014”. Having collected all those veterans signatures was amazing. Rudy Masi, Sr., representing St Pete, is WCD DD Designate. The Lodge is very proud of Rudy.

See the story and photo on page 4. Tampa Lodge 708

Tampa Lodge helps support the vets from James A. Haley hospital on the second Thursday of each month by going to the facility helping with bingo, serving pizza & refreshments and handing out prizes. On the 4th Friday of the month the vets join Tampa Lodge for a fine cooked meal while listening to some great tunes as members take the time to greet and thank them for their service.

Tampa Lodge kicked off the new Elk year with a ENF Gratitude Grant of $2,000 to hold a Grand Opening event for the Senior Daycare Service center in Tampa. Tampa Lodge rolled out the red carpet for the event. They also served lunch and presented the center with a projector, 150 ft. screen and a Wii game system with games. This allows seniors to see on the big screen and get plenty of exercise playing bowling games, tennis and golf. Many of the Lodge Officers and members were there on hand to help make this a special day!

The Lodge held its annual Low Country Boil in May. Members enjoyed chowing-down on corn on the cob, potatoes, sausage, shrimp. Oysters were served on the half shell or grilled with a bowl of delicious clam chowder. Members and guest danced the night away to the sounds of Bump in the Road. Proceeds from this event offset the cost of the hospitality room for State Convention.

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins Awarded April 1, 2014 through June 26, 2014

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

Phil & Debbie Sommers  Rotonda Lodge 2710
Danny Tabor  Bradenton Lodge 1511
Rachel Tabor  Bradenton Lodge 1511
Robert Tithof  Kissimmee Lodge 1873

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate

Betty Foster  Fort Pierce Lodge 1520
Joy Girard  Vero Beach Lodge 1774
Joan E. Mills  Port Charlotte Lodge 2153
Roy Rogalski  Gainesville Lodge 990
Twin Cities Lodge 2747

Twin Cities Lodge held their annual Community Service Awards Banquet honoring From left, Cindy Worrells, Okaloosa County P.S.; Stewart Avera, Valparaiso F. D.; Officer Travis Howell, Niceville, P.D.; Lt. James Field, Niceville, P.D. and Capt. Jim Hawkins, Valparaiso, F. D.

Following dinner and the reading of the nomination letters each nominee was awarded a plaque. ER John Leatherwood handed out eight Lodge Awards at the Annual Lodge Awards Dinner. Receiving awards were Bob and Joyce Griffin, member and spouse volunteer of the year; Kathy Casey, Snow Bird Chef; Alice Hinds, Newsletter Editor; Rick Woelfl, Officer of the Year; Jim Jennings, Public Relations; Randy Bush, Non-Elk Volunteer, Rose Marie Bolton, Veteran Volunteer and Earl Elledge, Elk of the Year.

The Twin Cities Lodge joined with the Crestview Lodge in their annual Flag Day Service held at the Crestview Lodge. Officers of both Lodges joined with the community to celebrate and remember our veterans, and the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms of this great nation, by placing the Elks Lodge 2624 wreath at the Live Oak Memorial Cemetery in Crestview.

The Emerald Coast Young Marines, a youth group supported by Crestview Lodge was invited by the local USO, one of the many organizations that the Ladies support.

Awards at the Annual Lodge Awards Dinner. Reception letters each nominee were awarded a plaque. ER John Leatherwood handed out eight Lodge Awards at the Annual Lodge Awards Dinner. Receiving awards were Bob and Joyce Griffin, member and spouse volunteer of the year; Kathy Casey, Snow Bird Chef; Alice Hinds, Newsletter Editor; Rick Woelfl, Officer of the Year; Jim Jennings, Public Relations; Randy Bush, Non-Elk Volunteer, Rose Marie Bolton, Veteran Volunteer and Earl Elledge, Elk of the Year.

The Twin Cities Lodge joined with the Crestview Lodge in their annual Flag Day Service held at the Crestview Lodge. Officers of both Lodges joined with the community to celebrate and remember our veterans, and the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms of this great nation, by placing the Elks Lodge 2624 wreath at the Live Oak Memorial Cemetery in Crestview.

The Emerald Coast Young Marines, a youth group supported by Crestview Lodge was invited by the local USO, one of the many organizations that the Ladies support.

Destin Lodge 2688

Destin Lodge made several generous donations in the last several months to two of the many local charities they support: the Covenant Hospice and the Sheriff’s Youth Camp.

Following heavy rains and flooding in April, Lodge members assisted many local families including two elderly veterans in the area with cleanup and chores around their houses and yards.

Flag Day services were held at the Lodge with local Girl Scout Troop #304 and the ROTC assisting in the flag presentations. Several of the troop members will be attending the youth camp in July sponsored by the Destin Lodge. A pizza party was held after the ceremony for the attendees.

Crestview Lodge 2624

Crestview Lodge held their annual Spring Festival in the unit of Springs, with a park full of children and adults, jump houses, free food and information from schools, churches, and Drug Awareness information from the Elks Drug Awareness trailer.

The Lodge held their annual fundraising yard sale in May; this annual event brings in funds to off-set the many community activities that the Lodge holds throughout the year.

The Lodge supported a golf tournament fundraising activity sponsored by the Northwest Florida District ELKS to offset the expenses for a courtesy room at the Florida state convention. The ladies of the Lodge supported the registration and served the golfers a hearty lunch of pizza and sub sandwiches, the men brought home the gold with a first place winning team lead by George Bonner.

Along with over 800 members of the community, Lodge officers and members supported the annual military appreciation day held in Crestview to honor and support the local active duty military. The Lodge joined with the community to celebrate and remember our veterans, and the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms of this great nation, by placing the Elks Lodge 2624 wreath at the Live Oak Memorial Cemetery in Crestview.

The Emerald Coast Young Marines, a youth group supported by Crestview Lodge was invited by the Marine Corps League Detachment 915 to present a Color Guard at the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary at the Santa Rosa Gulf Cemetery.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

After being rained out in April, Pensacola Beach Lodge held their Army of Hope Golf Tournament on May 2nd. The tournament organized by members Johnny Wyse, Sharon Combee and countless volunteers had over 60 sponsors and 88 players raising over $10,000 for the Army of Hope. The Lodge extends a special thank you to the Title sponsor, member Buck Lee/Santa Rosa Island Authority, Gold sponsor, member Carroll Scarborough/Pen Air Federal Credit Union and member Lane Harper/Gulf Coast Office Products for sponsoring the tournament dinner and providing the tournament brochures.

The Northwest District Americanism Banquet was held at the Lodge on June 1st for the Americanism Essay District Winners and their families. First place, division II winner Sofia Uzosk sponsored by the Pensacola Beach Lodge read her winning essay on “What Does Veterans Day Mean to Me?” All district winners received an award certificate and check.

From left; Ann Moore, Liz Roberts, Lee Lipscomb, Jack Hitchcock, Annalise Rotunda, Blake Bracy, Sofia Uzosk, Ms. Grace Freeman, Jeff Dykes.

Pensacola Beach Lodge officers together with the officers of the Holley-Navarre Lodge held their Flag Day Services on June 14th with presentation of the flags by the Gulf Breeze High School Color Guard. Refreshments were served to those in attendance following the ceremony.

In honor of military appreciation month, the Ladies of the Elks donated an outdoor theater system to the local USO, one of the many organizations that the Ladies support.

From left; Ladies of the Elks Members Gina Dykes, Sue Christian, Pam Wende – LOE President, Danice Welman and Kathy Wyse with Military Personnel.

On June 14, 2014, the Fort Walton Lodge, gathered to celebrate Flag Day. Approximately 70 members and guests were in attendance to pay tribute to our nation and to those men and women who continue fighting for our freedom. The ceremony began with a flyover by two T-6 Aircraft and the playing of Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless the USA.” The Hurlburt Field AFB Honor Guard then posted the Colors followed by the singing of the Star Spangled Banner. The Officers of Fort Walton Lodge then read the history of the Flag as it has evolved over the years. Guest speaker was Retired Capt. Sam Wright, who was wounded while serving in Afghanistan. Not only did he explain what the Flag meant to him and what it represents, but he also reminded us of the importance of our families. After the ceremony all members and guests were treated to a good old fashioned cook out.
The Mighty Southwest District:
The Mighty Southwest District is proud to announce that Danny Tabor has been elected Florida State Elks Association President for the 2014-2015 year. Tabor is from Bradenton Elks Lodge 1511.

With over thirty two schools participating and about 965 athletes comprising the field, it presented the young sters a chance to show off their talents in front of a large crowd and the best part is it’s a non-profit event. The money raised from the concessions goes right into the Florida Express Track & Field program and is used to buy the ribbons, trophies and T-shirts. The kids are offered the opportunity to join the club and continue to participate in these types of activities year round. The practice of good health, eating properly and exercise is so important at an early age.

State President Danny Tabor and 1st Lady Rachel, Bradenton Lodge 1511
The Lodge reports it is looking for Grants and donations to stock the shelves for the EFELT (Elks Feeding Little Tummies) for the coming school year. They will be taking Veterans on their annual Veterans’ fishing trip in July with a fish dinner held at the Lodge at the end of the day.

Lakewood Ranch – Sarasota Lodge 2855
Seven Elks from the Lakewood – Sarasota Lodge recently read a book called “Let’s B Safe” to all of the first graders at Freedom Elementary School. The Let’s B Safe program teaches the children about the dangers of going with strangers who might be sexual predators. Because the main character of the book is a bee, each child received not only a copy of the book to take home, but also received a plush bee. Often a child who has been abused is ashamed, frightened and unwilling to tell a responsible adult what has happened to them. We teach the child to confide in the bee and let the bee tell the adult. The program works, as last year alone, there were three exposures. The Lodge received a Gratitude Grand from ENF to purchase the books and the bees.

Manasota Lodge 2734:
The Manasota Lodge, Children’s Therapy Solutions and many volunteers sponsored the annual Manatee County Middle and Elementary track meet at Bayshore High School. Obesity is a dangerous health concern among Americans and this program provides both physical activity and competition.

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From left: Joanne DiCarlo, Darlene Jenny, Kay Thorson, Kathy Dattilo, Kay Ogren, Rick Thorson, PER Barbara Blackwell and Brenda Zofrea, author of the program.

Sarasota Lodge 2495
The Sarasota Elks Lodge and the Sarasota VFW Post went to Bay Pines VA Medical Center with 45 volunteers to help serve a picnic lunch to over 170 veterans, family members and dedicated staff members. The menu consisted of BBQ chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixings including dessert. Entertainment was provided by Lyn’s Spins who donated their time and talents. A highlight of the picnic was when the Sarasota South Elks presented a Statue of the Final Surrender that was given by Jack Curran, a member of the Lodge.

Runners lining up for a race.
Sarasota Lodge 2495
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From left: PDD Jim Lamb, Michael Gilman, Drew Delmore and ER Spike Jones.
South Hillsborough Lodge 2672
The South Hillsborough Lodge is proud to announce that Meghan Gardner was awarded a Legacy Awards for the 2014 year. She was sponsored by her Granddad and Dad, Roy Gardner, a member and Hoop Shoot Chairman of the Lodge.

The Lodge has received a $2000 Grant which will be used to help support the teen Parent Program provided by the Hillsborough County Public School District. The vision of the program is to enhance teenage parenting skills while providing an academic course of study that advances each students progress towards earning a high school diploma. The grant funds will be used to assist in obtaining important baby items for the teen moms. This will reduce the likelihood of the teens having to leave school or drop out to find additional means to obtain these things. The items that have been requested to be purchased are diapers, wipes, bottles, pacifiers and hygienic items which will impact the lives of both the teens and their babies.

The South Hillsborough Elks sent 9 boxes of pizza supplies (crust, sauce, 3 toppings) June 12th to a NCIS unit in Afghanistan, so they can enjoy a pizza party. The unit consists of 45 personnel. The Lodge would like to thank SCC Publix Manager, Debbie Burgess for her help in securing the products. The party will take place sometime in July.

From left: Piper Francis, Tiffany Worrell, Dylan Kona, Carolyn Reichard, Scholarship Chairman Virginia Cook and Julia Dorsett. Not pictured Karriana Dubitz.

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Shown in the photo are PDD Lu Smith, Lodge Advisor, Bobbi and Roy Gardner, co chairmen and Joe Ogle, Exalted Ruler.

Venice-Nokomis Lodge 1854
The Venice-Nokomis Lodge’s Carli Linehan was presented with the 1st place Trophy 2014 Champion of Champions for the State Hoop Shoot contest by the Florida State Elks Association in Orlando, Florida on May 24th.

The Lodge proudly announced 6 winners of the Hope Scholarship for 2014, totaling over $30,000. The students are from Venice High School.

From left: PDD Jim Lamb, Michael Gilman, Drew Delmore and ER Spike Jones.

From left: Piper Francis, Tiffany Worrell, Dylan Kona, Carolyn Reichard, Scholarship Chairman Virginia Cook and Julia Dorsett. Not pictured Karriana Dubitz.

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Coward and her grandmother: Michelle Harper (mother), daughter Sierra held by the Lodge on May 11th at the American Legion to celebrate during the Annual Mother's Day Celebration. The Lodge was well represented. The District VP was glad to turn over to the new VP, all the contents of the Hospitality Room.

Clewiston Lodge 1853
The Lodge sponsors a Junior Bass Anglers group of boys and girls and hosted the year’s first tournament in June. The Easter Egg Hunt for the children was a great success with over 25 children participating.

The District Golf Tournament was held at the Clewiston Country Club in April. Over 60 players from the District participated and all meet back at the Lodge for a great lunch and the awarding of prizes.

The ARC Angels from Arcadia visited the Lodge on Mothers Day Ceremony and gave the Lodge a check for $50.00 which was used to purchase an ENF certificate. Another fund raiser was held for a member in need and raised over $5,000.

East Central District continued from page 16
In support of the Ormond Beach Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol cadet program, the Lodge donated $100 toward the Ormond Beach Squadron expenses for participating in a recent competition held at the Lowe’s Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, where they took first place in six competitions and first place overall of the 600 squadrons that participated. The Lodge was presented with a thank you letter and certificate from the squadron.

Titusville Lodge 2113
The Lodge did well at the State Convention. ER Hector Rodriguez went on stage to accept a plaque for 2.7% increase in membership and 3rd place in the Bulletin Contest. The Lodge was well represented. The District VP was glad to turn over to the new VP, all the contents of the Hospitality Room.

Pictured from left are Cheryl Gumz, with students Raeda Ridley, Chelsea Wharin, Kayla Orr and the 2014-2015 Exalted Ruler, Jim DuPre.

Quite a few families gathered together to celebrate during the Annual Mother’s Day Celebration held by the Lodge on May 11th at the American Legion Post 64.

Three generations are shown here from left to right: Michelle Harper (mother), daughter Sierra Coward and her grandmother.
“Shooting for Our Goals to Protect the Future”

Deadline for the Fall Edition September 25, 2014

Make all address changes with your Lodge Secretary.
The Editor or the State Secretary cannot change your address or cancel / stop your subscription.