Bill Hughes, Administrator
Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Bill Hughes, and I will be taking over the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services program’s administrator duties at the end of August when the current administrator, Ben Brown, retires.

I have an M.B.A. in Accounting from the University of Arizona and a B.A. in Psychology from Vassar College. My background includes over 20 years of diverse healthcare management experience covering home health care, physician practices and outpatient surgery centers. I have worked as Administrator for a multi-specialty ambulatory surgical center that treated over 3,000 patients per year. In addition, I was Finance Coordinator here in Central Florida for a hospital-based home healthcare organization that provides nursing and therapeutic services. In this capacity I worked closely with nurses and therapists who communicated the benefits of in-home treatment for their patients. I was born and raised in Connecticut and moved to Florida 30 years ago to be able to enjoy the year-round warm climate. I have a wife and two teenage sons. In my free time I love to spend time with my family, and I also like sports, music and karaoke.

I am excited to have recently become a member of the Elks, and am so proud to belong to such a caring and philanthropic organization. I have already seen first-hand on numerous occasions the generosity and spirit of the Elks.

I am honored to be chosen to work for such an awesome program as Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. It is truly heartwarming to hear the testimonials and read the appreciative letters from children’s families who have limited financial resources and would not otherwise have ready access to these therapy services. I would like to expand the program even more in the coming years because there are so many needy patients/families who can benefit from the unique services that our therapists provide.

Thank you, and I look forward to the future. My email address is bhughes@fects.biz and my phone number is: 352-669-2171.

Summers Past –“Fall In”
By Michael F. Smith, PGER

What a great time to be an Elk! As we look back over the past few months and look forward to the upcoming opportunities we should “BE PROUD, BE LOUD and BE VISIBLE.” Val has asked if I would like to write the article for this issue and I am honored. As Bob, Val and I watch the progress of the Florida State Elks we get excited about our future.

The FEYC hosted 2,398 children this summer and made their lives better. The Florida Ladies of Elks are hosting their 52nd Conference providing unselfish support. On September 20, 2015 Elks had an opportunity to participate in “Elks Day at the Rays.”

Make sure you attend our Elks Mid-Year Convention in Lake Mary from November 12-14, 2015. Our Grand Lodge guest Rick Gathen (Grand Lodge Public Relations/Membership Director) will recognize our “turn around” with membership and future plans.

I hope by this publication each Lodge has their Memorial Service organized and you will make sure at the end of the day (December 6, 2015) all of your members are bustling with pride on how your Lodge recognized our absent members.

As we approach the Holiday Season we want to wish you and your family a Safe and Happy Season and a Prosperous New Year. While you are looking for things to enhance your Holiday Season, come join us in hosting the Inaugural Youth Invitational Basketball Tournament at the FEYC December 28th & 29th. Anytime you and/or your friends can visit your Youth Camp it leaves positive thoughts. After “Hoops” come join us for our New Years Eve at the Camp. Enjoy Music, Lodging, Surf and Turf dinner, Champagne Toast, and a large brunch on New Year’s morning.

Our membership provides us so many opportunities to socialize while making a positive impact on the lives in our communities. Enjoy your membership and appreciate the difference we make on peoples lives.

In closing we would ask that when you see Carl Seibert FSEA State Secretary, Lynn Warburton FEYC Administrator or Bill Hughes FECTS Administrator show them your appreciation for their dedication.

The Bates, Grafton, and Smith families wish you the VERY BEST!
Embracing Change

Has anyone reading this article experienced change over the years? I have, and I believe most if not all of you have as well; some changes were easy, some hard, some expected, some not, but change we did. From horses to cars, trains to planes, slide rules to calculators, paper maps to MapQuest, bank tellers to ATMs, carrying cash to carrying plastic, two party phones to cell phones. These are all changes we have come to accept and many of us have embraced.

Remember the Blue Laws of the 1980s known also as Sunday laws? Almost all stores were closed on Sunday and we accepted it. No one questioned the laws until one Sunday a giant of a retail store named Walmart opened its doors, withstood the outrage and stand up against tradition. Guess what happened the next Sunday? Lowes, drug stores and other retailers across the country opened for business. Then, one by one, communities either changed their Blue Laws or abolished them.

In 1995 the Elks voted to admit women to the Order and Lodges all over this country fought this change hard until finally Rose Manzo, after several attempts, broke the gender barrier in her Lodge and became Titusville’s first female Elk. I know there are still those members who would like to see it go back to the way it was but the reality is women contribute tremendously to the Elks survival and today I cannot imagine Lodges without female members.

The Florida Elks Lodges also changed over the years from smoking to non-smoking, which led to losing some members and gaining others.

The United States of America is experiencing a movement and it is shining a spotlight on another change and to survive there is no way we cannot accept it, so I say let’s embrace it! DIVERSITY!

Diversity is a subject that is still uncomfortable for many, just like women and smoking were years ago. The concept of diversity encompasses acceptance and respect; understanding that each individual is unique and recognizes our individual differences. Diversity can be along many dimensions: race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, physical abilities and religious beliefs.

In the 1970s at the Grand Lodge Convention, members voted to accept African Americans as members into our order. That decision was extremely controversial then, and even today, 40 years later, it is still uncomfortable for all those years we have managed to stay in a state of “denial” and foster that denial with no action.

In the past, changes have been difficult to accept and slow to implement. I know because I am one that is slow to change. I was born and raised in Louisiana in a rural setting, raised with all the pride and prejudices of the South. During segregation and through its evolution until recently a number of other prejudices “rode along” with it, so anyone that seemed different wasn’t welcome. Right or wrong, it molded generations of Elks. The problem with implementing change was because our predisposed prejudices kept us from looking, asking, exploring, testing and experimenting so we could see the reality. No, we allowed a false reality and a fear of change and the unknown to set us into a “time warp” because no change meant we didn’t have to make an effort.

But today we must look at our actual reality because things around us are different. Our neighbors and service providers, computer repair people, doctors, nurses, grocery store employees are all different, just like our community.

The USA is bigger, older, more Hispanic and Asian and less inclined to traditional marriage and families than it was in 1990. It also is less enamored of kids, more embracing of several generations living under one roof, more inclusive of same-sex couples, more cognizant of multicultural identities, more suburban, less rural.

There is an avalanche of statistics detailing the population characteristics of states, counties and cities but all we need to do is look at the end of the first decade of the 21st century and we see a turning point in the nation’s social, cultural, geographic, racial and ethnic fabric. It’s a shift so profound that it reveals an America that seems unlike the one mere 20 years ago — one that will influence the nation for years to come in everything from who is elected to run the country, states and cities to what type of houses will be built and where.

During that same 20 years what has happened to the Elks and other fraternal not-for-profits.

The Elks have lost over 35% of their members; there are about half as many Shriners and Masons. The Loyal Order of the Moose has lost over 30% and all memberships are declining rapidly.

When the Elks reach out to help their youth, veterans and communities no one differentiates between race, ethnic or religious backgrounds, so why should we when it comes to new members.

Sustainability is the key to our longevity and to sustain membership we must embrace diversity and the changes around us and the demographics of our community.

Boonton NJ Elks Lodge #1405 decided to take action and make a change with an “Official Diversity Statement” what are the rest of us going to do?
When I set out to write a new article, my goal is always to get our members thinking! I believe that far too often we allow our thinking to get confined to local lodge challenges. Why? Because we have branded local community needs and this causes us to limit our scope. By sharing with you my insights and thoughts on a scale of the somewhat bigger, I hope that we can expand our horizons and develop new solutions to the issues that affect our lodges. It is gratifying to me to be thanked for my articles by our members, but what I find most gratifying is when a member tells me that they implemented a thought or idea in their lodge and they share with me the results. It is in this spirit of seeking continuous improvement that I share with you a few of my latest thoughts and ideas!

**On Leadership and the Potential of our Members**

Never before in our history as Elks have our lodges been so in need of leadership! Many of our lodges have great divisions among the lodge and its members and this is a telltale sign of a leadership silo. Why is it so many of our members unwilling to become leaders in the lodge? My feeling is we make it far too hard to be a leader in our lodges which makes it too easy for them to say no! Take the Exalted Ruler (ER). Often seen as the highest of our lodge leaders, look at the many demands we place on this person that we didn’t in the past when we had paid employees. Some lodges have even gone so far as to also make the ER the chairman of the board! We must make the job of ER easier or no one is going to ever want the job. Out must go some of our old-school traditions which require the ER to be present at and lead everything. A successful lodge will foster a culture that embraces leadership and respects it across many people. I believe that leadership and respect of leadership can thrive but we must choose this for the Lodge.

The four pillars of leadership are character, communication, common vision and caring. These core principles are the roadmap to success for aspiring leaders. We must promote to positions of leadership only those members with integrity who demonstrate strong communication skills. We need leaders respected by others and who communicate not by talking loudly to us but comfortably with us. Leaders need to keep us focused on our objectives. As Elks we already possess compassion and a common vision, two of the four pillars. So why is it so hard for us to find leaders to unite us and provide us with the guidance and direction needed to tackle our lodge challenges? Could it be we are not attracting members into our midst who are courageous and brave, members with unparalleled passion who believe in service above self? Think of the selflessness exhibited when a community unites to heal after a tragedy. No one has to be the hero or the person in charge. Instead, the community unites as human beings and they work together to get the job done! This is how we must work together in our lodges, willing to respect the authority of those we have placed in charge and confident in knowing that they were selected as leaders for all the right reasons! Election to a position of leadership should not be a right or something done to do the lodge a favor. Our leaders should consider it a privilege to serve our members!

**Community Service Opportunities as a Way to Grow our Lodges**

Many of our lodges are heeding the call to become more involved in their community. The benefits are many, not the least of which is exposure to potential new members. One path many of our lodges are following in this quest is the path toward supporting local charities in the community by giving them money. A gesture worthy of a picture and an enduring effect of the gesture is short-lived at best. My fear is that we will become known as the place the community goes when it needs money as opposed to the place the community goes when it needs volunteers! I believe that if we are to ever have an impact in the community that will change how we are viewed by others and result in individuals wanting to become members, we must be seen as more than just fundraisers!

Let’s look at younger members, those members we know we want to attract but don’t know how. They are not attracted to the volunteer opportunities we offer through our clubs such as cooking the fish, serving the food and emptying the trash. Couple this with having to choose between watching the kids play, work, work, work…. This is not their idea of volunteerism! Offer them an opportunity to paint an elderly person’s house, build a wheelchair ramp for a disabled vet or child, serve the homeless in a soup kitchen…now that’s fulfilling service to others and something that will grow our membership.

All of us at one time or another have been involved with youth sports. It doesn’t matter when you were involved; I doubt little has changed. The parents are the coaches, the parents lead the fundraising and obtain team sponsors, the parents run the snack bar, and the parents maintain and prepare the fields. Many of our Elks lodge has become a team sponsor over the years and has had their name on a sponsor banner at the field and on the back of a team jersey. Some lodges even go so far as to have their team or the league over to the lodge for a hotdog event and occasionally we pick up a member or two from that participation. Our message to the community is that we support our youth but is there anyone who ever doubted the about us? So do the hard work…work…. work…. Do you think that this might get the attention of a few people? The announcement would go something like this: Ladies, gentlemen, and parents. Our venue tonight is being manned by the great volunteers of the Any Town Elks Lodge located across town on 25th Street. These hardworking ladies and gentlemen have volunteered for our tonight so that we can sit in the stands and watch our children play their games. Thank you for that one day you might consider returning the favor and join them in their many community service endeavors by becoming a member! Please join me as Any Town Little League salutes our wonderful volunteers with a big round of applause!

What do you think? It is easily done, it is a tremendous service and it is exposure to countless potential new members! Young members, too! It brings new meaning to community service and we didn’t even have to write a check!

**On Ways we can Partner in our Communities and not just be a Fundraiser**

I have been fairly critical of our adherence as every single fundraising event. I really don’t think that tactic is conducive to membership and it really doesn’t gain us much respect. However, since this makes sense to so many, let me share a way in which it does enhance our position and actually brands us as something we could benefit from being. That way is partnering! Think of how our Florida lodges partner with our Florida Elks Youth Camp and our Children’s Therapy Services projects. Of course our lodges are fundraisers for our projects and very good ones at that, but think of all the other things we gain through our partnership relationship with our projects. We gain pride of ownership, we own the stories we write through our programs, and we see daily the results of our investments. Often times we get involved in the stories by chaperoning a youth group at the camp, proposing a child for therapy services, and donating clothes and shoes for campers and therapy equipment and vans for our therapy program. Partnering is the key! Similar to how we partnered with the youth sports group in my example in the previous topic, we must think of ways to partner with the charities and organizations we support. As honorable as writing checks is, we have got to start thinking about ourselves and what will contribute to our longevity and not just those things that place us in the moment! Pure, meaningful, physical, volunteer experiences are what we must seek and then we will have something to offer new members!

I would even take this a step further and propose the same thing for the Elks nationally! When outsiders think of the Elks, their impressions are all across the board regarding what the Elks are known for. I suggest we remedy this through a partnership with a well-known established charity, say St. Jude for instance, a leading children’s hospital pioneering research and treatments for kids with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. What do you think St. Jude would say if we offered our nearly 800,000 member organization’s support to their constituency? “Wow! Took the bowler’s years to establish we would accomplish practically overnight! Then when people ask what the Elks do, our elevator speech would be quite simple; we partner with St. Jude and help children through hospitals and medical research! Is there anyone who wouldn’t feel good about this?

**Leadership and Direction a Prescription for Success**

We mustn’t get comfortable with the present! It is not over until we win! We cannot stop growing; we cannot stop striving. When we stop achieving we become very cynical about life! We mustn’t throw in the towel on ourselves or our lodges or on the children we work so hard to serve since when we do, we throw in the towel on our dreams! We must get the energy drainers out of our lodges, the people who have stopped growing, the people who have run out of ideas, the people who no longer believe in themselves or dream. Birds of a feather flock together; we must get this type of member out of our lodges if we are to succeed. We must attract people into our lodges who are hungry, people who are unstoppable, people who want more, people who refuse to live life just as it is! We need to work on this. We need to surround ourselves with winners. We need to dream. We need each one of us to agree to change our thought process and know that we can do this!

It’s not over until we win!
Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

The 52nd Annual FLOE Conference was a huge success and a great opportunity for many of us to visit with old friends and make new ones. This was a very special gathering for me and I truly savored every moment of it. Thanks to all 241 of you that came and celebrated the end of another successful FLOE year. I personally want to thank FSEA President Carl Ledig and Dolly and FSEA VPAL John Harris and Angel for attending. Your support is so appreciated.

A very special thanks to the program presenters, Lynn Warburton, PDD, Florida Elks Youth Camp Director, and Bill Hughes, Director of Florida Elks Therapy Services. A special thanks to my guest speaker, Carl Seibert, PDD, FSEA State Secretary, for an awesome presentation challenging us in our Ladies Organizations to spread the word, and use the technology available to us, such as Facebook. We ladies can be the real leader in growing Elk membership; hence the ability to grow our ladies auxiliaries also. We can step up and show the “world” how to do this! Carl has also been a continual great supporter of our individual ladies organizations and FLOE; and he and his staff are a tremendous assistance all year long.

Lynn Warburton, FEYC Director, provided his state of the union (or state of the camp) report, which included the presentation of awards for the most monies contributed from April 2014 to March 2015. Those high hitters were Punta Gorda Elkettes with $4,560; Eustis Anna Miller Circle at $2,800 and Cape Coral Ladies of Elks with $2,500. Great job ladies! All of our contributions helped kids enjoy camp! Lynn accepted donations totaling $7,160.00!

The FLOE 365 Club presented this year’s donations in the amount of $3,251.17 designated for FEYC, bringing the grand total delivered during our conference for FEYC to $10,411.17.

A great showing…Remember “It’s For The Kids”!

FLOE PSP Carol Phelps gave a great presentation on the rules and needs of By-Laws. Thank you Carol, I think we all picked up pointers from your talk!

Bill Hughes, FECTS Director (the new kid on the block), gave a great report on the status of the Children’s Therapy Services program and how important our ladies organizations and your contributions are to that. Over this past year we collectively have donated $125,317 which is a whopping increase of $58,435 over the previous year. The ladies organization that donated the largest amount of money to Children’s Therapy Services was Punta Gorda Elkettes with a contribution of $10,560.00. Great job ladies! Second largest was from Palm Coast Ladies Auxiliary who donated $7,995. We thanked Bill for his report, and welcomed him to his new position. We look forward to his attendance at many more FLOE Conferences. Bill accepted donations from ladies organizations totaling $6,457.00.

The FLOE 365 Club presented a check in the amount of $5,351.18 for FECTS purposes. Grand total collected for FECTS during this conference totaled $11,808.18. Carol Dresch, right, is replacing Carol Weston as Chairman of the 365 Club.

FLOE presented Ben S. Brown, Jr. PSP-IGIG, the recently retired Administrator of FECTS, with a plaque thanking him for his years of service and continued support to the ladies organizations. We wish Ben and Sherry the best in retirement mode!

George Zocchi, PER, Chairman of the FSEA Ladies Organizations, made the following presentations of the Conference Awards. Scrapbooks – First place winner in this activity, congrats to Brandon Ladies of Elks, 2nd place to St. Petersburg, and 3rd to Cape Coral Ladies of Elks. We have more and more entries in this contest each year which is great. He also presented conference awards of Highest Percentage of Members in Attendance to Winter Garden #2165; Largest Total Members in Attendance to Punta Gorda Elkettes, and Greatest Number of Miles Traveled to Conference also to Punta Gorda Elkettes. The FSEA Traveling Trophy was awarded to South Southwest District for their total hours and miles traveled throughout the year. Congrats to all!

The conclusion of the FLOE Conference included the Installation of 2015-2016 Officers. From right to left; Becky Long, President; Connie Poage, Vice President; Mary McCoy, Secretary; and Felicia Vuletich, Treasurer, Beverly Hardy, Chaplain, Parliamentarian, Mary Lou Collins, Historian, Adella Ashton. Jane Moon was duly installed as Past State President and Advisory Council member.

My best wishes to the incoming officers for a successful year ahead. I cannot express how special this past year has been to me; I’m so proud of all of our ladies, the efforts they put forth with love and compassion throughout the year is truly amazing. Thank you for the opportunity!

Best wishes,

Jane Moon

State President Carl Ledig Continued from page 2

“Boonton Elks Lodge #1405 is an American organization comprised of citizens of the United States of America twenty one years of age and over. We support a culture of mutual respect regardless of gender, race, and country of origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, military service, disability and age. The Boonton Elks Lodge #1405 will celebrate the diversity of its membership and use their talents and energy to foster the Charitable works of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.”

Boonton Elks Lodge #1405 will provide a safe environment free of discrimination and harassment. The members of Boonton Elks Lodge #1405 value the distinct contributions of all our members and require that all members refrain from any action or deed that may be interpreted as in conflict with this statement.

“Be The Change” is not just a motto. It is a requirement if we are to survive as an Order. I am asking all of you to search your hearts for what you know to be right. It is time to include and seek out non-members in our whole community with the opportunity to become part of one of the greatest organizations in America–The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Be Loud. Be Proud. Be Visible. BE THE CHANGE.

Carl Ledig, State President
Adapted from Swink, Robert. Diversity Speech. 22 Sept. 2015
Contributions from Florida Ladies to the Major Projects of the Florida State Elks Association during the year 2014-2015

The following donations are from the period April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015 and include contributions to the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Trust Fund and Elks Charities. A combined total of $125,316.86 was donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, Elks Charities and the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services (FECTS/HATF). Another $32,585.00 was donated to the Florida Elks Youth Camp (FEYC).

NORTHWEST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funds Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crestview Elkettes</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama City Does, DR No.180</td>
<td>670.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milton Elkettes</td>
<td>59.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensacola/Pensacola Beach LOE</td>
<td>1041.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrington Elkettes</td>
<td>1,882.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,984.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOUTH SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funds Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonita Springs Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Coral Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte County Charlies</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep Creek Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lehigh Acres Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naples Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>183.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Englewood Does Dr. 203</td>
<td>380.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. Ft. Myers Ladies of Elk</td>
<td>2115.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punta Gorda Elkettes</td>
<td>10,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotonda Elkettes</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>26,352.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funds Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>1,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Placid Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Wales Elkettes</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeland Elkmates</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant City Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Haven Elkettes</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8,839.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funds Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pensacola/Pensacola Beach LOE</td>
<td>6,344.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonita Springs Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>3,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Orange Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>81.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminole Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>614.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Petersburg Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>1,725.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>1,269.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCD Past Lady President</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7,785.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOUTH DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funds Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pensacola/Pensacola Beach LOE</td>
<td>380.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Orange Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>3,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naples Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>1,83.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Presidents</td>
<td>1,885.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,697.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funds Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota Does Dr. #157</td>
<td>225.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmetto Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradenton Elkettes</td>
<td>4,890.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venice - Nakomis Does Dr. #141</td>
<td>220.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,550.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funds Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Park Does Drove 86</td>
<td>710.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Garden Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>1,862.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14,003.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funds Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Park Does Drives 86</td>
<td>710.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Garden Ladies of Elks</td>
<td>1,862.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14,003.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funds Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apopka Elkettes</td>
<td>11.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eustis Anna Miller Circle</td>
<td>7,855.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocala Ladies</td>
<td>3,075.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverness Does, Drove 232</td>
<td>490.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Park Drives Dr. 86</td>
<td>710.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13,003.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CENTRAL DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funds Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apopka Elkettes</td>
<td>11.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eustis Anna Miller Circle</td>
<td>7,855.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocala Ladies</td>
<td>3,075.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverness Does, Drove 232</td>
<td>490.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13,003.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funds Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa Beach Elkettes</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne Ladies Auxiliary</td>
<td>1,672.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ft. Pierce Elkettes</td>
<td>5,905.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian El Does</td>
<td>6,216.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port St. Lucie Elkettes</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuart-Jensen Anna Miller Circle</td>
<td>199.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West St. Lucie</td>
<td>1,695.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14,003.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funds Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa Beach Elkettes</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne Ladies Auxiliary</td>
<td>1,672.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ft. Pierce Elkettes</td>
<td>5,905.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian El Does</td>
<td>6,216.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port St. Lucie Elkettes</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuart-Jensen Anna Miller Circle</td>
<td>199.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West St. Lucie</td>
<td>1,695.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14,003.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FLORIDA NEWS

George Zochi, Ladies Organization Chairman presented the Traveling Award Plaque to the South West District for most % per 45 members of $1,750,394 value in dollars- time-mileage- and donations.

Lois Todd of Cape Coral Elkettes received the Plaques for Most Money and Most kids to the Florida Elks Youth Camp from Lynn Warburton

Melbourne Ladies Auxiliary received the First Place Scrapbook Award from Ladies Chairman George Zochi.

The Installation of the 2015-16 Florida Ladies of Elks Officers concluded with the installing of a new “First Man,” Andy Long, being crowned with his Queen, Becky, being the new FLOE President
Ben Brown, PSP, PGIG
Outstanding Service to Elkdom

One time Administrator of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital and subsequent Florida Elks Therapy Services, Ben Brown, PSP was honored when he was elected to Grand Inner Guard at the Grand Lodge Convention in St. Louis, Missouri in 2003. At that convention Eustis Lodge 1578 introduced the resolution nominating Ben Brown for Grand Inner Guard for the year 2003-2004. The resolution read:

Whereas, Ben S. Brown, Jr. has been a member of Eustis, FL Lodge No. 1578 for 28 years, being initiated into the Order on April 7, 1975, serving his Lodge as Exalted Ruler in 1983-1984, followed by four years on the Board of Trustees, and

Whereas, He served the Florida State Elks Association on many committees: as District Vice President of the North Central District in 1985-1986, as State President in 1991-1992, and was an original member of the Exalted Ruler-Elect / Secretary elect Seminar Staff, serving 13 years as its chairman; and

Whereas, He has ably served the Florida State Elks Association as State Secretary from 1975 – 1983, Administrator of the Florida Elks Children’s Hospital from 1983-1999, and Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Service since 1999; and

Whereas, He has served the Grand Lodge as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1986-1987, presiding over the institution of Silver Springs Shores Lodge No. 2730 during his term, and as a member of the Grand Lodge Membership Committee from 1990-91 and 1992-1995; and

Whereas, He has demonstrated his dedication to the principles of Elkdom and has accomplished all of the foregoing with the loving support of his wife of 30 years, Sherry, and his two fine sons, Greg and Jeff; now therefore

Be it resolved, That Eustis, FL, Lodge No. 1578 is honored and privileged to present to the 2003 Grand Lodge Convention in St. Louis, MO, the name of Ben S. Brown, Jr. for the office of Grand Inner Guard of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

Key Provisions For Defining Unrelated Business Income

Andy Milwid
Committee Member

GL Auditing And Accounting Committee

The Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee has taken years to rewrite the Auditing and Accounting Manual, which may be downloaded at http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/default.cfm.

Following is Section 10.103, Pages 22-25, of the new manual:

IRS states, “The term ‘unrelated trade or business’ means any trade or business the conduct of which is not substantially related to the exercise or performance by the organization of its charitable, educa-tional, or other purpose or function constituting the basis for its exemption under section 501.”

The Federal income tax exemption for Lodges applies to its “exempt function income,” which IRS defines as “the gross income from dues, fees, charges, or similar amounts paid by members of the organization as consideration for providing such members or their dependents or guests goods, facilities, or services in furtherance of the purposes constituting the basis for the exemption of the organization to which such income is paid.”

Sales of goods or services to members are automatically tax-exempt and are not UBI. Sales of goods or services to nonmembers will be presumed by IRS to be taxable UBI, although there are several exceptions discussed under subsection B below that if met will make those sales tax-exempt.

The tax exemption of Lodges does not generally apply for sales to the general public. IRS says, “Solicitation by advertisement or otherwise for public patronage of its facilities is prima facie evidence that the club is engaging in business.” According to the IRS, “The term ‘general public’ means persons other than members of a club or their dependents or guests.”

Rentals of Lodge real property for occupancy only, without providing other services, can be tax-exempt, in whole or in part. But the rental exception does not apply where the rental encompasses both occupancy and other services, such as providing food and beverages as part of the rental package. If the rental agreement includes both rental of space and catering services, IRS probably will take the position that none of the income comes under the rental exception.

GL Newsletter October 2015
Arcadia Lodge 1524

After dedicating 35 years to the Elks as the hard working wife of PSP Brian Burns, Brian initiated Mary Kay, to membership in The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on Thursday night, September 17.

Arcadia Oaks Assisted Living Veterans has been pampered by Arcadia Elks Lodge after receiving an ENF Grant. Veterans received a personal bags filled with personal items, played games for prizes and then the Vets came out to the Lodge for dinner.

The Lodge also took the Veterans out for BBQ at a local restaurant. Had a hot dog social and gave the Vets light weight jackets and plaid shirts. Each woman living at Arcadia Oaks received a sweater. Mary Lyne, PER/ER states “just to see the joy on all their faces was wonderful.” Elks who helped were Mary Lyne PER/ER, Judi Ricci Leading Knight, Tim Kilkenny Loyal Knight, and Ed Lyne Lecturing Knight

Arcadia Lodge donated $250 to two worthwhile causes to help their community. One donation went out to a local Police officer’s family to help after his unexpected passing. Another $250 to a community project to rebuild a safe playground for children at Jim Space Park in Arcadia.

Mary Lyne PER/ER of Arcadia and also Elks State Veterans chairperson gave a talk during the 9/11 commemoration held at the Arcadia Veterans Park

Brandon Lodge 2383

Boy Scout Troop 627 and some of our prior 2014-2015 Elk Scholarship recipients joined the Brandon Elks Lodge in on the 4th of July Day Parade. Uncle Same was there too!

The Brandon Elks proudly hosted the James A. Haley VA Hospital picnic. More than 100 Veterans, family members and caregivers were served. Dancers from the VA performed a wonderful dance for the crowd. Karaoke was provided with many of the Vets entertaining us with their great singing.

The Lodge collected received donations and raised money to purchase and donate a vehicle to provide assistance transporting the Veterans at Liberty Manor. Liberty Manor was founded in 2006 and their mission is to have the spirit of making a difference providing the homeless veterans an opportunity to flourish emotionally.

Lakeland Lodge 1291

Lakeland Elks had a fundraiser for Wounded Warrior Memorial on Saturday July 18th with wine & whiskey tasting, appetizers, silent auction, BBQ dinner with live entertainment and games, The Lakeland Elks 1291 generous donation to the Freedom Warrior GWPT Memorial from the funds raised $7,067 during the recent “Boot Scootin’ BBQ” fundraiser. Global War on Terrorism Freedom Memorial is to be build in Lakeland’s Veterans Park and will incorporate symbols of 9-11 including a foundation shaped like the Pentagon sculpture outlining the silhouette of the twin towers and a grassy area representing the Shanksville, PA field in the background. The unveiling will be on Veterans Day 2015. This monument will pay tribute to those who have served and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice during Operations Iraqi/Enduring Freedom.

With a $2,000 grant Lakeland Elks Lodge utilized the money for the Polk County Senior Orphans. The Lodge furnished 22 bathtub chairs, five blood pressure monitors, toilet seat extensions and safety grab bars. The lodge then approved an additional $150 from their Charity Fund for additional incidentals.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661

Ladies of the Elks of the Lake Placid Lodge worked their popular Strawberry Booth at the annual Lake Placid Elks Caladium Festival. Both the Caladium Festival and the County Fair in February have been a large fundraiser for Elks National Foundation and Florida Elks Youth Camp.

From left, front Shirley Bott, Herman Bott, Ellie Lehman, L-R rear, Past Lady President Vicki Grant, PER John Grant, Bob Johnston and Lady President Peg Murray.

Lake Placid Elks Lodge had an Oktoberfest Dinner/Dance and Fundraiser for RMCA’s Children’s Christmas Party in December. RCMA provides quality child care and early education for children of migrant farm works and rural and low-income families throughout Florida. The Lodge is expecting 80-100 children will benefit by a joyous Christmas. Chairperson Jim Lind and ER Marge Holbrook did an outstanding job. Local vendors Dominos, Pizza Hut and more will be donating to help with food for the Christmas Party. Members are looking forward to helping with the Children’s Christmas Party.

Plant City Lodge 1727

On July 15, 2015 Plant City Elks had a presentation ceremony at the Lodge to present the Plant City Police Department new surveillance equipment which will help keep the community safe, Police Chief Ed Duncan said the new equipment (night vision goggles and long range binoculars) will be used in the department’s Selective Enforcement Squad.

Plant City Lodge 1727

Plant City Elks officer and grant coordinator Andy Gossett said the Lodge donated the equipment through a grant received from the Elks National Foundation. He said the Lodge regularly receives grants that benefit veterans and students in the community. Last year the Lodge received $10,000 worth of grants to benefit organizations within the community.

Plant City was proud to use another ENF Gratitude Grant to provide 199 backpacks loaded with school supplies to Bryan Plant City Elementary. Andy Gossett and his boys and members made this happen helping load the packs. “This is why we are Elks.”

Plant City Lodge 1727 held its 17th Annual “Powder Puff” Golf Tournament and raised $12,850. Proceeds went to the Florida State Elks Major Projects and the Elks National Foundation. Ron Berman Golf Tournament Chairman presented PGER Michael Smith with the $12,850.

Sebring Lodge 1529

Sebring Elks 1529 Veterans Committee recently presented a new American Flag to the Luis Rodriguez, Kenilworth Assisted Living/Nursing home activities director. Members presenting the flag were Sue Gray and Bonnie Shumaker (retired nurses).

Veterans are never gotten at the Sebring Elks Lodge. Joe Donahue, Lodge Veterans Chairman presented Marvin DeSelles of PTS4VETS a $500 donation for the training of service dogs and their veteran owners. Mr. DeSelles states “our mission is to provide a quality service dog education and assure that every dog team graduates with a strong academic and practical foundation reflecting PTS4VETS mission to help veterans acquire peace of mind through a well trained service dog.”

Winter Haven Lodge 1672

Winter Haven Lodge received notice of two grants from ENF. The first grant they will be helping a local food pantry at a Title 1 school. The second will go to local Veterans. Both are in the infancy stage and the Lodge is very excited and working diligently on finalizing its donations. More details will come in the Winter issue.
Eustis Lodge 1578

The Lodge threw a party for Ben S. Brown, Jr., PSP-PGIG, who retired as Administrator for the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services, Inc. Invitations were sent to many people with whom Ben was associated. Other PSPs attended the party with Mike Phillips as roast/toastmaster.

Reading earns Eustis Heights Elementary Summer School students a lunch and a book a week for all 100 summer school students in the reading program. The Lodge wanted to make a difference in the lives of community youngsters. They provided the lunch, books and reading mentoring for the students. The project was led by PER Gabe Stewart. Support for the summer reading program came from a $2,000 ENF Impact grant.

The Lake County 4-H Foundation hosts “Ribs 4 Kids” with proceeds helping to support 4-H youth development programs. The family-size meals of pulled pork or spare ribs are prepared by the Lodge and picked up by the 4-H for their sale.

The Lodge is sending care packages overseas to a young man, Luke Ruhl. Luke won the Lodge essay contest about eight years ago and then took First Place at the State level.

The Lodge feeds the Eustis High School JV Football team each Thursday before game time. Lodge members cook Spaghetti, make Salads and garlic toast. The Lodge also donated 40 cases of water to the Football team.

Our ladies group, Anna Miller Society, sent 30 children to the Elk’s Camp this summer. They also supplied three sandwiches and each child needed a lunch. The Haven of Lake and Sumter County (a shelter for abused women and children) valued at $4,600.

**Apopka Lodge 2422**

The Lodge held its annual Flag Day Ceremony with our local Boy Scout Troop 22 presenting the flags as the story of their history was explained.

The cold sandwiches and cold drinks prepared by the Troop performed a Flag Retirement Ceremony. It was very emotional to see. Our local Veterans each placed the blue starred portions of the flag into the fire and then the public was invited to do the same with the red and white stripes. Each Veteran will be sent a metal grommet from the flags retired as a memento of the occasion.

Secretary Linda Labbe presented a check for $1,000 and 2 ten speed bikes to the Hope Community Center in Apopka. The bikes were donated by Boy Scout Troop 22.

Apopka participated in the Dictionary Project again this year. Three Apopka Elementary Schools were provided dictionaries for all their 3rd graders and one school received dictionaries for their 4th and 5th graders.

Apopka Lodge 2422 held its Back to School Bash on August 16th. Children in grades K-5 were invited to attend. Members from the Apopka Fire Department and the Emergency Medical Team came and gave a safety talk explaining to the children and their parents the need for smoke detectors fire extinguishers, and what to do in case of a fire.

Members from Apopka’s First Responder squad gave a talk about their role in the community. They brought riot gear and protective gear, and even let the children try on their equipment. Officer Cynthia Hall gave a drug awareness talk. She also explained to the children how to stay safe as they walk to and from school, and what to do if they encounter a stranger.

Refreshments were served and then each child took a pledge not to bully anyone in school and to be friends with everyone. The children were presented with a bag containing after school snacks and drinks for the first week of school. The snacks and drinks were donated by the Apopka Elks Lodge and Toufayan Bakeries in Plant City.

All the children were allowed to select a backpack filled with school supplies and a book to encourage reading and drawing. The Apopka Elks members and Dixon Ticonderoga were responsible for the backpacks and supplies.

In August, Lodge members attended PaintNite, where a local artist came to the Lodge and provided step by step instructions on how to paint on canvas a beautiful tree with fall colored leaves. We had both women and men attend. Everyone had a great time and there are plans to hold another event.

**Winter Park Lodge 1830**

Winter Park Lodge held a tribute to Seminole County First Responders by inviting all Fire fighters, Police Officers, and EMT’s that were on duty on 9/11/2001 to join us for Supper. Fourteen years ago and without hesitation, courageous men and women answered our Nation’s highest calling to defend this country. In the years that followed, they were joined by thousands more volunteers who served during a time of war. Selflessly offering their own lives to preserve the liberty their forebears fought and died for. On 9/11/2015 our Lodge showed their support to the community. The response of gratitude from the Seminole county police, fire fighters, EMT’s was heart felt and moving.

As a result of the 2014 Lodge scholarships, three recipients have returned to “give back” to the Lodge, even though they are just starting college. Eugene Malin works at the Lodge; when he turns 21 years old Eugene wants to become an Elk. Two more recipients, twins Alex and Andrew Hathcox, returned to the Lodge helping to clean up the kitchen, and do much needed grounds keeping work. It is a pleasure to see them bringing in their friends to assist them. One friend, Dante Mangiarrelli, lends a hand when needed. Dante has promised to apply for a scholarship when he becomes of age. It is an inspiration to see fine young future members “giving back” to the Lodge.

Pictured from left are volunteers Jan Belland and Richard Grosnick

**South Marion-Villages Lodge 2730**

Lodge members used an ENF Beacon Grant and FSEA matching funds to purchase items for homeless veterans. The members bought and delivered $4,000 clothing, hygiene and sundries to the Orlando VA Dormitory so homeless veterans could stop and get items they need.

Lodge members identify and prioritize community needs, which include the fact that homeless vets migrate to Central Florida during the winter months.
Jacksonville Lodge 221

The Lodge is hosting veterans from the Five Star Veterans Home once a month for both Pizza Nights and Friday Night Dinners. The lodge also regularly contributes personal hygiene items of soap and shampoo along with fruit and snacks to the vets housed at the Five Star Veterans Home.

Pictured from left: Julius Clements, Lodge member and WWII veteran talking to the veterans about the Normandy Invasion; and Issack Watson, Mason Wyer, Chris Taylor and Pete Crane, all from the Five Star Veterans Home.

Gainesville Lodge 990

A quarterly BBQ was held on September 26. Funds raised at the BBQ will be used to support Florida State Elks major projects.

Green Cove Springs Lodge 1892

Donated $450 worth of school supplies for the children at Charles E. Bennett Elementary School. In addition, the PERs through their Charity Bingo, provided $727 worth of teaching and health supplies to three of the area schools in an effort to assist teachers and provide them with needed supplies.

Pictured from left: Gene Rittenhouse PER and Lodge Member Jeany McAbee.

Mandarin/St. Johns Lodge 2866

On July 10, 2015 in conjunction with our two fine physical therapists of the Florida Elk’s Children’s Therapy Services the Lodge hosted a wheelchair and therapy equipment repair clinic. Our Lodge received two grants from Elks National Foundation for a total of $2,500 for the repair of wheelchair and therapy equipment along with purchase of new equipment for the therapist’s use in their important work. The grants received from the Elks National Foundation are the direct results of the members of Mandarin/St. Johns #2866 making a contribution to the Elks National Foundation. Thanks for everyone who helped with this important event.

Orange Park Lodge 2605

Bingo was at the Lake City VA Medical Center on August 17. The Lodge donates $100 for Bingo Bucks. Lodge Member John Markiewicz PDDGER represents the Lodge for this event on the 3rd Monday of every other month.

Thirteen Veterans from the Lake City Domiciliary were hosted at a Jacksonville Suns Baseball game on July 12th. Prior to the game, the veterans were hosted to a lunch at the Lodge. Despite an extremely hot afternoon, a 1 and ½ hour game delay due to thunder and lightning and the Suns losing the game 12 to 4 to the Mobile Bay Bears, the Veterans stayed until the end and had a great time.

Pictured are the Veterans from the Lake City Domiciliary along with, on the far left, Bob Morse PER, Lodge Secretary and Exalted Ruler Phyllis Bonser PER 4th from right.

A $2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant was used to help purchase laptops and other computer equipment for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Squadron of the Sea Cadets based at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station. The Sea Cadets will use this equipment to participate in the National Youth Cyber Education Program called Cyber-Patriot. The competition puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. This is the 8th year of competition but will be the 2nd year for the Sea Cadets. Dr. John Gallo, one of the Sea Cadet leaders, helps kids with the competition.

Pictured are Dr. Gallo and four of the Sea Cadets who are participating in this program.

St Augustine Lodge 829

The Lodge worked with the St. Johns County Veterans Council to host the 9th Annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down on August 22. Over 40 volunteers from every local veteran’s organization in the County let the 29 veterans and over 100 other homeless people know that they are not forgotten. Funded by an Elks National Foundation Grant and donations from local merchants, the homeless were given showers, haircuts, toiletry items, and clothing. Medical personnel from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the local Wildflower Dental Clinic, and Job Source were on hand to address any needed care. The Veterans were also given surplus military equipment and entered into a drawing for a half dozen new bicycles. George April PER and Lodge volunteers fed everyone hamburgers and hot dogs prior to their leaving.

Pictured are all the packages to our overseas military and the thanks she receives from all branches of the service. She expressed her gratitude to everyone involved for making the event happen to benefit her cause. Later, Bruce Henry presented Mary with a check for $1300.

Recently, the Lodge donated $300 to the Belleview Dixie Girls Softball Team for uniforms for two team members so they could participate in an upcoming tournament.

North Central District continued from page 8

without basic hygiene supplies. They indicate that many times this migration overtakes the resources normally available at the public shelters.

Wallet-size cards showing the Elks Mission and Vision (from the Florida State Elks) were distributed with the items to inform vets, support staff and families that Elks Care and Elks Share.

Bruce and Karen Henry’s fundraiser to benefit Operation Shoebox, the Grand Old Opry Dinner Show, was a smashing success that filled the house. Extra tables had to be set up to accommodate the 133 people who attended. The room was festooned with country western centerpieces and décor items thanks to Barbara Busick and Susan Sansone. The two-hour show which included songs by Bruce Henry, David Baldwin, Larry D, Gail Fretwell, Carol Mae, Polly Boone, The Village Cowboy Frank Marchitellu, Russell Stephens, and dance numbers by The Step Family Cloggers made the room come alive with excitement. Soundman Bart Zoellner did his usual fabulous job.

Since Karen was too ill to attend, one of her favorite songs was played to a room packed with tearful fans. Our Lodge Secretary performed a standup comedy routine as Minnie Pearl. Mary Harper, president of Operation Shoebox, spoke of the high cost of shipping all the packages to our overseas military and the thanks she receives from all branches of the service. She expressed her gratitude to everyone involved for making the event happen to benefit her cause. Later, Bruce Henry presented Mary with a check for $1300.

Recently, the Lodge donated $300 to the Belleview Dixie Girls Softball Team for uniforms for two team members so they could participate in an upcoming tournament.

Pictured with Exalted Ruler Jeff Lepore are Allisson Odom and Suhally Arroyo who accepted the check on behalf of the team.
Brooksville Lodge 2582

Independence Day was enjoyed at Brooksville Elks Lodge with about 90 people in attendance.

Sunshine and Moon played patriotic songs for a sing-a-long and dancing. Everyone present received a paper with information about the American flag and how to use it appropriately.

Brooksville Elks presented a Grand Exalted Ruler pin and a certificate for bringing in three new members. William Krause also received a wrist watch for having brought in 11 new members.

On Sept. 5, 2015 Brooksville Elks welcomed guests which were represented from six Lodges. Special dignitaries included District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Richard Hiemenz and District Vice President Mary Crosier. All were welcomed by Acting Exalted Ruler (PER and Treasurer) Paul Stark. After business was conducted a Chicken Cordon Blue dinner was served with favorable comments.

Zephyrhills Lodge 2731

Zephyrhills Elks Lodge made a visit to the Zephyrhills Meals on Wheels on Wednesday August 5, 2015 to present them with a $1,000 donation. The Zephyrhills Elks frequently donate time working with Meals on Wheels, and support them regularly.

The Zephyrhills Elks support the children in the Zephyrhills Police Athletic League by being a corporate sponsor, and recently the Zephyrhills Elks made a $1,000 donation to help the league purchase badly needed equipment.

Pictured from left to right is Dave Moyer, Leading Knight, Ken Fabiani, Lecturing Knight, Donna Moyer, Exalted Ruler, all of Zephyrhills Elks, Beth Aker, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels, Ann Babbit Office Manager of Meals on Wheels, and Bobbie Schwob, Local Knight of the Zephyrhills Elks.

Zephyrhills Meals on Wheels received special recognition.

The veterans committee has been extremely busy visiting veterans in assisted living facilities and Nursing Homes. They held a luncheon with area activities directors to exchange ideas on how to better serve resident veterans. They also hosted a picnic for veterans. In conjunction with Inverness Lodge, they had a float and provided cold water for hundreds during the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade in Inverness. They continue to work in conjunction with the Inverness Lodge on the Welcome Home Veterans program. Many of the committee members and other Elks assisted in placing American flags at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell for Memorial Day. The also took care of the annual “Purple Heart” breakfast.

A “Trip to Nowhere” visiting five Elk Lodges (Holiday Isle, Tampa, Tarpon Springs, New Port Richey and Brooksville) in April provided for a $1,100 donation to Citrus Aid to Cancer Society plus all had a great time. Thanks to all the Lodges visited for the hospitality extended to us.

From the “Victory Casino Cruise” we donated $1,000 to our local VFW and $50 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

The annual “Okey Ryan Golf Tournament” netted $2,200 to be used to send children to the Youth Camp in Umatilla.

On September 12 the Lodge held its annual “Public Safety Night” honoring the Fire and Police Departments from Kissimmee and Saint Cloud, Osceola County Departments of Corrections, Fire/Rescue and the Sheriff’s Office, and the Florida Highway Patrol Troop D.

Orlando Lodge 1079

It was reported that the Orlando Lodge has 81 members on the Veterans Honor Roll; 21 of those are retired Veterans. Members continued to visit the Veteran’s Hospital at Lake Nona where they provide snacks and assist residents who want to play bingo.

West Citrus Lodge 2693

While many members are away for the summer months, the Lodge held an Easter Buffet and a Children’s Easter Egg Hunt in April.

Middle school children were treated to breakfast and lunch while completing math testing in the Lodge room. May included our annual scholarship dinner where all students of the month and students of the year from two area high schools are honored. The students and their families along with school staff, school board members and Elks enjoyed dinner together. The four students of the year received plaques along with a $1,000 scholarship each. Drug awareness poster/essay contest winners also received recognition and a small monetary gift. Eight year old Leah Steffer who won 1st place in the state drug awareness poster contest received special recognition.

The veterans committee has been extremely busy visiting veterans in assisted living facilities and nursing homes. They held a luncheon with area activities directors to exchange ideas on how to better serve resident veterans. They also hosted a picnic for veterans. In conjunction with Inverness Lodge, they had a float and provided cold water for hundreds during the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade in Inverness. They continue to work in conjunction with the Inverness Lodge on the Welcome Home Veterans program. Many of the committee members and other Elks assisted in placing American flags at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell for Memorial Day. The also took care of the annual “Purple Heart” breakfast.

A “Trip to Nowhere” visiting five Elk Lodges (Holiday Isle, Tampa, Tarpon Springs, New Port Richey and Brooksville) in April provided for a $1,100 donation to Citrus Aid to Cancer Society plus all had a great time. Thanks to all the Lodges visited for the hospitality extended to us.

From the “Victory Casino Cruise” we donated $1,000 to our local VFW and $50 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

The annual “Okey Ryan Golf Tournament” netted $2,200 to be used to send children to the Youth Camp in Umatilla.

On September 12 the Lodge held its annual “Public Safety Night” honoring the Fire and Police Departments from Kissimmee and Saint Cloud, Osceola County Departments of Corrections, Fire/Rescue and the Sheriff’s Office, and the Florida Highway Patrol Troop D.

Kissimmee Lodge 1873

On July 25th, the Kissimmee Elks gathered for their monthly visit to Give Kids The World in Kissimmee. The eleven members helped serve 464 guests at this facility that houses families from all over the world. The children from these families have serious or life threatening illnesses. They are sponsored by organizations who grant children’s wishes such as The Make A Wish Foundation and Children’s Miracle Network and many more.

The Lodge used an ENF Gratitude Grant to purchase $700 in camping gear and supplies for the Lodge sponsored Cub Pack #82. With the help of the Lodge sponsored Boy Scout Troop, two pancake breakfasts raised additional funds to provide the Osceola County Council on Aging Food Bank with $1,400.

On August 20 the Kissimmee Lodge paid its bi-monthly visit to the Community Living Center at the Lake Nona V.A. facility, playing Bingo with twenty-five residents. Seven Elks helped in this event.

On September 9th the Lodge served Breakfast at Give Kids The World. Twelve Elks served 307 guests at this one of a kind facility.

On September 12 the Lodge held its annual “Public Safety Night” honoring the Fire and Police Departments from Kissimmee and Saint Cloud, Osceola County Departments of Corrections, Fire/Rescue and the Sheriff’s Office, and the Florida Highway Patrol Troop D.

It was reported that the Orlando Lodge has 81 members on the Veterans Honor Roll; 21 of those are retired Veterans. Members continued to visit the Veteran’s Hospital at Lake Nona where they provide snacks and assist residents who want to play bingo.

West Citrus Lodge 2693

While many members are away for the summer months, the Lodge held an Easter Buffet and a Children’s Easter Egg Hunt in April.

Middle school children were treated to breakfast and lunch while completing math testing in the Lodge room. May included our annual scholarship dinner where all students of the month and students of the year from two area high schools are honored. The students and their families along with school staff, school board members and Elks enjoyed dinner together. The four students of the year received plaques along with a $1,000 scholarship each. Drug awareness poster/essay contest winners also received recognition and a small monetary gift. Eight year old Leah Steffer who won 1st place in the state drug awareness poster contest received special recognition.

The veterans committee has been extremely busy visiting veterans in assisted living facilities and nursing homes. They held a luncheon with area activities directors to exchange ideas on how to better serve resident veterans. They also hosted a picnic for veterans. In conjunction with Inverness Lodge, they had a float and provided cold water for hundreds during the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade in Inverness. They continue to work in conjunction with the Inverness Lodge on the Welcome Home Veterans program. Many of the committee members and other Elks assisted in placing American flags at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell for Memorial Day. The also took care of the annual “Purple Heart” breakfast.

A “Trip to Nowhere” visiting five Elk Lodges (Holiday Isle, Tampa, Tarpon Springs, New Port Richey and Brooksville) in April provided for a $1,100 donation to Citrus Aid to Cancer Society plus all had a great time. Thanks to all the Lodges visited for the hospitality extended to us.

From the “Victory Casino Cruise” we donated $1,000 to our local VFW and $50 to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.

The annual “Okey Ryan Golf Tournament” netted $2,200 to be used to send children to the Youth Camp in Umatilla.

The 2nd annual Scallop Festival, August 31 through Sept 2, had tremendous exposure and support from the community. Good food, good music, good times for all who attended.
Ft. Pierce Lodge 1520

In July, our Lodge participated in the 33rd Annual Fort Pierce Boys & Girls Chili Cook-Off to benefit Boys & Girls Clubs of St Lucie County.

Ft. Pierce's team theme this year was "101 Dalmatians," The award winning theme booth was donated and made by Elk John Szentmartoni. It was outstanding and won 2nd Place over all (37 Booths in Content) Thanks John Awesome.

Elkette Jackie Aronson made our awesome booth theme sign. We had 52 Elks & friends working and helping to make our Lodge booth great! 28 Elks were dressed in "101 Dalmatians" costumes and Marie Braza was our Dashing & Beautiful Cruella! The Hot, Hot Chili Team won the coveted 1st Prize in Best Costumes in the Chili Cook-Off Event. PER Scott Rohr cooked the tasty chili and team #1520 volunteers were super all day! Our Elk team members helped out Drug Awareness Bags and told people about the Elks programs and membership!

Co-Chairs Lenny Smallacombe & Peggy Montepare thanked each member of the chili cook-off team for their great efforts on a fun and rewarding day to be an Elk! "Elks" proved on that hot July Day "Elks Care for their great efforts on a fun and rewarding day to be an Elk!"

The Lodge was honored to have SEC Don Juan Harris and Wife Angel visited the Lodge on Friday September 11th to celebrate FSEA State President’s visit to Southeast Central District. Carl was welcomed by a large group of Elks & guests. Also attending were SSP’s Vince & Lisa Como, Frank Hayes & Linda, Victor McClellan & Peggie, and Mike Phillips & Kathleen, State Officers Sgt-At-Arms Frank Maintes & Sally, Chaplain Carl Gerace & Catherine, HATF Chairman Phil Gerbach & Susan, SEC DVP Joe Pepe & Fran, and SEC DDGER Nancy Miller and Paul.

Port St. Lucie Lodge 2658

Our Lodge started the summer months with a bang! The Fourth of July picnic was attended by many members and guest. The “all you can eat” picnic fare was enjoyed by all. Music played all day for the listening pleasure of the Lodge while everyone enjoyed the camaraderie. The Veterans weekly coffee and monthly breakfast was continued throughout the summer and enjoyed by many. The Lodge hosted a Labor Day Picnic at Jaycee Park in Ft. Pierce. The Lodge was honored to have SEC District Leader and VPAL John Harris and Angel in attendance at the successful event. PER Dave Aievoli chaired the event and music was supplied by PER John Henry to the delight of the large crowd of Elks and friends.

Also present at the Elks Lodge was Carl Ledig and Wife Dolly along with VPAL John Harris and Wife Angel. The Lodge honored to have SEC State President’s visit to Southeast Central District. Carl was welcomed by a large group of Elks & guests. Also attending were SSP’S Vince & Lisa Como, Frank Hayes & Linda, Victor McClellan & Peggie, and Mike Phillips & Kathleen, State Officers Sgt-At-Arms Frank Maintes & Sally, Chaplain Carl Gerace & Catherine, HATF Chairman Phil Gerbach & Susan, SEC DVP Joe Pepe & Fran, and SEC DDGER Nancy Miller and Paul.

West St. Lucie Lodge 2387

Our Lodge sponsored the Olympic Day at the Boys and Girls Club, where we cooked and served over 125 children lunch, topped off with Klondike bars. The Lodge also purchased for each participant a medal. The kids were very proud of their accomplishments on that day. Also donated by the Lodge on that day was $600 to their Scholarship Fund. These great kids are our future. A big Thank You to Bernie and Shirley Hope for chairing this event. The Lodge also held a benefit for Robbie Miller who is the grandchild of Dick and Judy Garbe, our long-time members. Approximately $4,000 was collected on that day. To date our Lodge has been awarded with the Beacon, Gratitude, and Promise Grants. We’re waiting for word on the Free-dom and Impact grants. Thank you Arlene Socquet for a job extremely well done. Every Lodge should try for these grants. Your community involvement increases greatly when you have this extra money to fund community projects, as well as feeding the Veterans, etc. The Lodge also donated 100 T-shirts to West Centennial High School for their sports programs. Backpacks filled with school supplies were delivered by ER Marge Spera, Dee Milhausen, Chair, and Trini Dietz. These too were also greatly appreciated. Congratulations to Elks of the Month: July - Fran Hendertillu, August - Arlene Socquet, and September Marty Motherway. Thank you all for volunteering your time.

Cocoa Beach Lodge 2387

Our Lodge was recently awarded $8,500 in grants from the Elks National Foundation and Florida State Elks Association that allows the Lodge to continue to support local youth and veterans organizations. The Lodge uses $4,000 to support 80 veterans residing in the Volunteers of America transition facility in Cocoa. The grants help to supply newly arriving vets with basic cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items, purchase bus passes so that vets can meet medical and legal appointments and provide haircuts for veterans attending job fairs and job interviews. Funds are also used to host the vets for a Veterans Day ceremony and dinner at the Lodge and an annual cookout at the transition facility.

A $2,500 Promise Grant helps fund three youth related projects—$1,000 for a Y-Indian Guides campout and Wickham park cleanup in September 2014 and an October campout and Lagoon cleanup and $1,000 to support Cub Scout Pack 113’s events. The Cocoa Beach High School Future Business Leaders of America will receive $500 to help fund attendance at state conventions. A $2,000 Gratitude Grant is used to support projects for the Cocoa Beach High School JROTC program ($1,500) and Cocoa Beach High School Project Graduation ($500).

The ENF awards grants to Lodges to help Elks strengthen their communities. Through these and other grants, the Elks National Foundation will award $25 million this year to benefit Elks communities. In 2014, the Lodge helped raise over $28,000 for national Elks Charities and local youth and veterans organizations. With nearly 790,000 members and more than 1,300 Lodges nationwide, Elks are providing charitable services that help build stronger communities across the United States. The Elks National Foundation is the charitable arm of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. To learn more, visit www.elks.org/enf or call Jim Dickson at 321-543-6263.
**SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**

**Bradenton Elks Lodge 1511**

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County’s 2015 Giving Challenge has raised $3,844,839 through 36,417 gifts, with an added $2,830,000 in matching funding from the Patterson Foundation. In total, $6,674,614 was raised to support 449 local organizations located in or serving Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte and DeSoto counties.

Among the recipients was Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies, Inc., a 501@3 organization sponsored by the Bradenton Elk Lodge and the Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge. The total raised for E.F.E.L.T., including matching funds was $11,778.00. Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies, Inc. is a program that provides, each weekend during the school year, six complete meals in a backpack program to over 800 children, ages 5-12, who are listed as “homeless” by the school district or living in “food deprived” households.

**Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Elks Lodge 2855**

On September 1st, representatives from the Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge presented a check to Southeastern Guide Dogs for $10,000.00. The money was raised during a 4 hour fund-raiser held August 16th. The money will go directly into the Paws For Patriots Program which supplies companion dogs for returning Veterans, who have either physical or mental issues. It was the biggest fund-raiser the Lodge has had and was a direct result of work done by the Veteran’s Committee.

**Palmetto Elks Lodge 2449**

Palmetto Elks held a back to school party for 200 needy children in the area on July 26th. Each child received a back pack filled with all the school supplies that were needed to start their new school year. The children took turns at a Pinata for toys and candy and a hot dog lunch was served to the families that attended. Money from a Beacon Grant, Promise Grant, and Harry Anna Trust Fund were used to buy the supplies for the party, back packs and school supplies.

**Manasota Elks Lodge 2734**

Manasota Elks and the N.U.B.S. (Never Underestimate Brave Students) begin in the spring of 2015. During their first meetings, the students voted on a student board to represent them. We then came up with our Mission Statement. “Be the change you wish to see in the world,” a quote from Mahatma Gandhi that we felt described our goals and aspirations.

The N.U.B.S. were recognized by Keep Manatee Beautiful for the “Green School Award” because of their hard work over the summer planting and cleaning up the school grounds from funds given by the Manasota Elks. This award was presented to the N.U.B.S. at the annual Keep Manatee Beautiful program where Manasota Elks was also recognized for their outstanding recycling program.

Being a part of the N.U.B.S. has helped students with behavior and educational goals. It has been an honor to be part of these students lives, as we have watched them grow and become a part of the change they wish to see in their world.

**South Hillsborough Elks Lodge 2672**

The Lodge, thanks to a $2000.00 Gratitude Grant, was able to help support the Teen Parent Program provided by the Hillsborough County School District. The vision of the program is to enhance teenage parenting skills while providing an academic course of study that advances each student progress toward earning a high school diploma. The grant funds were used to purchase diapers, wipes, bottles, and hygiene items. This will reduce the likelihood of the teens having to leave school or drop out to find additional means to obtain these things. Mike Kent-ER, Lu Smith-Lodge Advisor and Patsy Jarrett-Trustee presented the items to Rayne King at the South County Career Center.

**Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge 1854**

On Wednesday, August 19th, the Venice Nokomis Lodge presented approximately $1000 worth of School Supplies and Back Packs to Sandra Terry at the Sandra Sims Terry Community Center in Nokomis for local homeless and needy children.

**Sarasota South Elks Lodge 2495**

Sarasota South teamed up with VFW 3233 to do a cook out for the Veterans at Bay Pines VA Hospital. BBQ Ribs, Chicken, Hot Dogs and Hamburgers with all the trimmings, were served to 175 Veterans and their families. Music was also provided for their enjoyment.

---

*Pictured left to Right: Donna Lindner, Sandra Terry and Carolyn Reichard.*
On August 22, 2015 the Lodge and the Ladies Auxiliary members held a benefit to raise awareness and funds for Chairi Disorder, in sunglasses, a neurological disorder from birth where the skull fuses too early and puts pressure on the brain and is physically devastating. Currently, there is no cure for this terrible disorder and surgery is only a temporary remedy, for relieving pressure on the brain. The benefit raised $3,582 for awareness and research of this disorder that affects 1 in 1,000 newborns. This is a perfect example of “Elks Care, Elks Share.”

The Lodge held its Annual Kids Christmas In July party, poolside, with Elroy walking around, with lots of Drug Awareness handouts, and free food tickets. There was free ice cream, games, prizes, school supplies and backpacks.

One of the kids favorite games was diving for quarters and the kids jumped in the pool, by age group, gathering up over 200 quarters tossed by the Lodge PERs. The Lodge used the 2014-15 ENF Gratitude Grant to help purchase everything that was distributed to the multitude of kids in attendance.

The Back-to-School Pool party in August was another day for the kids of the community to pick up free school supplies, backpacks, a free lunch and ice cream. It was very well attended and a party they all look forward to.

The Lodge hosted 2 dinners in July, August and September for the veterans of Bay Pines. On the 2nd Thursday of the month the veterans from the Nursing Home enjoy a pasta dinner and karaoke. The men and women from the Domiciliary of Bay Pines enjoy Pizza and Sub Night and karaoke on the 3rd Thursday, monthly. They are proudly served by the V A VS volunteers of the Lodge, under the direction of the Lodge V A VS Deputy Rep, Johnny Miller.

The Lodge had the honor of hosting the graduation of 6 veterans who completed the PRRC year-long program from Bay Pines on September 22. There were more than 80 in attendance, who were very proud of the graduate’s accomplishments, in preparing themselves to re-enter society. The program is a Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center program for our veterans who need an extra hand up and the Lodge was so proud to be able to be of assistance in celebrating the success of each of the graduates.

On July 4th the Lodge held a fundraising event to benefit our Veteran’s programs, including funding the V A VS representative for James A Haley VA Hospital. On July 9, August 13, and September 10, members of the Lodge accompanied Brian Brantley, PER, the V A VS Representative, to James A Haley to act as bingo sponsors for the night. They called bingo games and awarded prizes of commissary coupon books and stuffed animals. They also served refreshments upon completion of the bingo games.

The Lodge used part of an ENF Promise Grant and donations from members to hold a Back to School Party, on August 9, for needy children. Thanks to Tom Mortka and his assistant Debbie Farris, there was an appearance of Elroy the Elk. A detective from the Sheriff’s office was also on hand to talk about safety and distribute anti-drug materials. All 42 children, their 24 adult chaperones and the 31 Elk helpers were fed a nutritious lunch followed by an ice cream sundae bar for dessert. The children were entertained by a magician, and played numerous games, then left, loaded down with the school supplies appropriate for their grade. Several high school students gained community service hours by helping out.

Tampa Lodge 708
The Lodge hosted 13-21 veterans from James A Haley VA Hospital for dinner and dancing. And yes, there was some dancing going on! Each month the veterans were able to choose their entrée from the same menu offered in our dining room. Each month they had a different band and they were served cake, freshly baked, by a Lodge member for dessert.

On July 4th the Lodge held a fundraising event to benefit our Veteran’s programs, including funding the V A VS representative for James A Haley VA Hospital. On July 9, August 13, and September 10, members of the Lodge accompanied Brian Brantley, PER, the V A VS Representative, to James A Haley to act as bingo sponsors for the night. They called bingo games and awarded prizes of commissary coupon books and stuffed animals. They also served refreshments upon completion of the bingo games.

The Lodge used part of an ENF Promise Grant and donations from members to hold a Back to School Party, on August 9, for needy children. Thanks to Tom Mortka and his assistant Debbie Farris, there was an appearance of Elroy the Elk. A detective from the Sheriff’s office was also on hand to talk about safety and distribute anti-drug materials. All 42 children, their 24 adult chaperones and the 31 Elk helpers were fed a nutritious lunch followed by an ice cream sundae bar for dessert. The children were entertained by a magician, and played numerous games, then left, loaded down with the school supplies appropriate for their grade. Several high school students gained community service hours by helping out.

West Central continued page 18
The North District is delighted to have District Deputy Dick Joyal as our GL representative this year.

Lake City Lodge 893

June 3rd was quite an evening at the Lodge. Congratulations to the 12 new members who were initiated in front of a packed house. Several of the members commented that they could really feel the energy! Afterwards, most members hung around and watched the University of Florida softball team win the National Championship. Lake City has its share of Gators!

Several improvement projects are underway at the lodge. The Lodge has recently purchased 2 new flat screen televisions. These have been installed and enjoyed by all. The bar stool fundraiser ended on June 5 and was a huge success. Over $300 in change was collected from the change jug. That total amount donor to $600+ based on member Jim Spring’s commitment to match the amount raised. We will soon begin to phase out some of the older “flat” stools.

The Lodge has helped to sponsor events including: Memorial Day at the VA Hospital, Senior “Senior Prom” at the CLC, Bingo games at the Veterans Home Easter Brunch with the Lady Veterans from the CLC & Jenkins home, Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic at Lake City Country Club, model cars and paint supplies for a Veterans Home’s R/C Racing Team, Flag Day, and the US Army’s Birthday event at the VA hospital. Twelve veterans received tickets to Jacksonville Suns baseball game. One year of “Redbox Movie Rentals” was donated. Lake City Lodge does a tremendous job remembering its Veterans!

Dr. Edwin Gonzalez and his wife Maritza, loaned a large hand painted American bald eagle mural to the Lodge for use in the dining room. Come by for dinner and take a look at the new mural.

The Lodge encourages its members to stay connected on Facebook, as the Lodge tries to document the fun times for everybody.

Live Oak Lodge 1165

The Lodge held a B-B-Que Cook Off and Chicken Dinner Sale on September 12. Plates of food were only $8 & the event was scheduled in early fall as a fundraiser. It was a district-wide cook off and reached out to amateur contestants with cash prizes for the best chicken, spare ribs, Boston butt, and Grand Champion.

The ladies’ Anna Miller Circle is busy planning its fundraising activities around fall festivals in the area.

Perry Lodge 1851

Helping out schools is something important to the Perry Lodge, as demonstrated by cash donations made to local schools this past school year.

Exalted Ruler Lorena Grambling presented a $300 donation to Haley Lago and Coach P.J. Piland for the Taylor County High School Girls’ Soccer Team.

The Lodge held its Flag Day ceremony on June 14 with Boy Scout Troop 600 serving as Color Guard. Afterwards all enjoyed hot dogs, chips and dip, apple pie and ice cream. A real all American treat! There are incentives of FSEA that is new. Congratulations to Babs Radcliff, Earline Neeley and Karen Dyck for their efforts.

The ladies’ Anna Miller Circle is busy planning its fundraising activities around fall festivals in the area.

Exalted Ruler Lorena Grambling presented a $300 donation to Haley Lago and Coach P.J. Piland for the Taylor County High School Girls’ Soccer Team.

A small contingent of Lodge members visited Life Member Roy Barber on the occasion of his 100th birthday. State President Carl Ledig, PSP Larry Henley, PDDs Stan Nettles and Tom Walden visited Roy at his home bringing him lodge pins, Carl’s State President pin, a Commemorative Certificate from Grand Lodge that recognized Roy’s birthday as well as 63 years of Elk membership, and a birthday card signed by many Lodge members.

District VP Barbara Hollingsworth visited the Tallahassee Lodge on July 21, telling us about State President Carl Ledig’s background and his focus for this fiscal year, heading up the FSEA. She asked that we commit to Be the Change and help Carl with his program this year, specifically mentioning the membership incentive program of FSEA that is new.

For member of Perry Elks Lodge supporting the Lodge’s work with the Boy Scouts and assisting with the Perry’s Youth Camp. The Lodge held its annual garage sale in August, raising funds to send local kids to the Youth Camp next summer. Tickets were priced for singles or couples and prizes were awarded for the best themed dressed attendee. This past summer Perry Lodge sent 13 kids to camp.

Perry’s new roof is complete now and it’s looking great! The Lodge is tossing around ideas now of what to place on the gable end facing its entrance on Puckett Road. An Elk’s emblem seems to be the Lodge-ical choice.

Fire Chief John Fish of the Florida Forest Service has recently been deployed to Washington State to assist and support the firefighting efforts. He is among 1500+ firefighters sent from the State of Florida. John is a 13 year veteran of the Florida Forest Service. He is a life member of Perry’s Lodge and is also the ELK’s representative on the State ELK board. The Lodge held its Flag Day ceremony on June 14, telling us about State President Carl Ledig’s background and his focus for this fiscal year, heading up the FSEA. He asked that we commit to Be the Change and help Carl with his program this year, specifically mentioning the membership incentive program of FSEA that is new.

The Lodge conducts fundraising events all year long to provide a free trip to the FEYC for Gretch Elderhart special needs students and their families. Members Denise Mick and Rick Peckham spearhead most of the fundraising events during the year for this trip. This year the trip was set for October 1-4 with two chartered busses providing transportation. The Camp helps out with accommodations, staffing, and food. Junior ROTC students from a local high school come and help the kids participate in all activities provided by the Camp.
Twin Cities Lodge 2747

The annual Billy Corbitt Fish Fry Fundraiser for the upkeep and repair of the Lodge was again a great success. Billy’s interest was the upkeep and repair of the physical plant housing the Twin Cities Elks. This successful fund raiser will allow the continued repair and upkeep in his name.

The Twin City Elks would like to thank the Crestview Lodge and all the Elks who participated in or attended the Elks Memorial Service for Roger Beau-

Exalted Ruler Belinda Leatherwood stands in a replica of the “Field of Valor” following the presentation of the Twin Cities Elks Wreath at the Memorial Day Ser-

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

The Lodge held its 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament, raising over $21,000 for Florida Elks Children’s Charities. Local businesses and members turned out in record numbers to support the event, with 122 golfers playing and scores of volunteers helping. All of the funds will be presented to State President Ledig during his visit to the Northwest District in October.

PER Don Padget, representing the Lodge, presented a donation to Mr. Don Salter and the Santa Rosa County Veterans Memorial Foundation Vets to VA Clinics on July 29, 2015.

From left to right, Nancy Model, Karen Ha-

Exalted Ruler Jeff Dykes presented two mem-

For the third consecutive August, Pensacola

Beach hosted the AHeroes, thanks to the efforts of members Dave Glassman and Sandy Milburn. The Lodge obtained a grant from the Elks National Foun-

dation to help fund this event.

For those Elks unfamiliar with the AHero Foun-
dation, it stands for America’s Heroes Enjoying Recre-

ational Outdoors. The purpose is to promote physical and psychological healing of wounded veterans through outdoor events.

This particular weekend, the AHeroes went

saltwater fishing. The Lodge hosted the AHeroes at a dinner followed by entertainment on Saturday, August 16th.

Destin Lodge 2688

The Destin Lodge continues to move forward in helping the community. The Lodge presented a check for $1,000 for the Fishermen Foundation which helps our local charter fishermen who fall on hard times.

Exalted Ruler Mark Smith would like to thank the Twin Cities and Fort Walton Lodges for all their efforts in making Crestview Lodge’s very first Soccer Shoot an outstanding success.
DeLand Lodge 1463

The Volusia Show Pride and Tigers of 4-H clubs recently held a bake sale, car wash, and yard sale fundraiser at the DeLand Elks Lodge on Saturday, August 15th to raise money to support their Animal Projects that they will be showing at the Volusia County Fair and other shows this fall. Numerous club families came out to help wash cars and man the items for sale, along with bringing yard sale items and baked goods. Quite a few cars, including two local police cars and a tow truck! All of the money raised will go towards animal feed and grooming supplies for their sheep, goats, hogs, and chickens.

Christmas in July – A Fundraiser for obtaining Christmas Gifts throughout the year, not just during the season, to ensure that all the neighborhood children receive a gift during the Holiday season.

DeLand Lodge Annual Flag Day event with local Boy Scout Pack 531. Thanks to all the scouts, their leaders, families and DeLand Lodge Officers and members who showed up to show their patriotism. A light lunch was served after the service.

From left, Chip Haverty PER, Donna Nott, Debi Dunn, Frank Dunn, Boy and Cub Scouts troop 531, Dean Yeager PER, Tom Hopp PER, Randy Long PER, Bob Sari ER and Pack Leader Chris Noyes

Pack 531 the Cub Scouts are sponsored by DeLand Lodge. Chris Noyes is the Pack Leader being lassoed. The kids were being taught how to lasso a person or object. Mr. Noyes decided to use Twizzler rope candy to show the kids how to lasso and they could eat the lasso afterwards.

Raymond “Chip” Haverty PER of DeLand was honored at the State President Dinner in Titusville with the Outstanding Elk of the Year Award for the East Central District, by State President Carl Ledig.

For anyone unable to go up or down the steps of the DeLand Lodge, you know how frustrating it can be. A fundraiser was arranged by Rachel Sieg who came up with the idea of a Dinner and Dance celebration. Assisted by Deborah Bacom who oversaw the Silent Auction items, Rachel’s husband Chuck cooked the steaks, while the DeLand High School Dance Troupe performed many dance numbers. With the support of our officers ER Bob Sari, Bernie Korwes PER, Randy Long PER, Donna Nott, Chaplain and Trustee Warren Kerswill who DJ’d.

Merritt Island Lodge 2650

A Pancake breakfast is held at the Merritt Island Elks lodge every third Sunday by Merritt Island Youth Football Players & Cheerleaders, along with their parents, to raise money for new uniforms.

The riders along with “The Ancient City Pipes and Drums,” held a service at the Lodges 9-11 Memorial, as the Pipe band played Amazing Grace around the steel beam from the World Trade Center.

The riders were given a Prime Rib dinner and were addressed by Exalted Ruler Jack Lyons and Palm Coast Mayor and brother Elk Jon Netts. After a good night’s sleep and a hearty breakfast the riders were on their way to Jacksonville.

The Palm Coast Elk Lodge welcomed the Brotherhood Ride to Palm Coast, Fl. Present to greet the riders were approximately 250 people that braved the rain.

Pictured here are the “Worker Bees,” which benefit from the monthly breakfast.

Palm Coast Lodge 2709

The Palm Coast Elk Lodge welcomed the Brotherhood Ride to Palm Coast, Fl. Present to greet the riders were approximately 250 people that braved the rain.

Pictured: Danny Horn, Steve Smith, Linda Silva, Bo Lindstrom, and Glenn Weiner.

Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach 1557

At a recent DD clinic held at Ormond Beach Elks Lodge, PDDGER Ed Jackson presented Larry Skates with the DDGER banner, which is being displayed in the Lodge.

The Lodge is deeply involved in their community. Through the Gifts of Love, food bank, a community project sponsored by the Lodge, they have taken on the task of bringing in canned goods for the less fortunate in the community. Recently, they collected approximately 16 bags of canned goods; members rallied to donate more over the following months. The food bank distributed the food to people who are disadvantaged, no longer have jobs, families who lost their homes, live in cars or live in the woods.

A reception welcoming him was held at the Hospitality Suite at the Hote, followed by a dinner at the Merritt Island Lodge 2650. On Saturday evening August 29, was a Country Dinner / Dance at the Titusville Lodge. All Lodges in the East Central District were present.

Sanford Lodge 1241

The Sanford Elks Lodge 1241 sponsored Team Sanford Fireball to help aid in the recovery of America’s missing children.

Team Sanford Fireball Mayor Jeff Triplett and Don Schreiner give special thanks to all Sanford Lodge’s brothers and sisters for their generous support of this worthwhile cause.

Pictured: Dick Ingle, Steve Smith, Tom Downs, Randolph Kramer, Ted Newsom, David Doudney, Bart Peterson, Bill Magner, Jeff Rumber, Pam Vanness, Darrell Bartz, and Bert Wofford.

Sanford Elks were at Seminole Harley Davidson collecting donations for Florida Elks Army of Hope.

Pictured: Raymond “Chip” Haverty PER of DeLand was honored at the State President Dinner in Titusville with the Outstanding Elk of the Year Award for the East Central District, by State President Carl Ledig.
Bonita Springs-Estero Lodge 2753

The Bonita Springs-Estero Lodge has an ongoing project, “Backpack of Love” food distribution. Lodge volunteers help distribute the food to the kids and parents. This is a year-long program with distribution twice a month.

The Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Home is a worthy recipient of the SSW District Elks. Bonita Springs-Estero recently visited the Home to entertain the veterans. Singers, dancers and those who just enjoy talking with the vets attended.

New Horizons of SWFL, a program that helps “At Risk Youth” is being assisted by the Lodge. A fishing tournament is scheduled for October.

Cape Coral Lodge 2596

The members of the Cape Coral Elks and Ladies of the Elks sent over 120 children to Youth Camp this summer. Two busloads of campers left in mid-July. The second bus was largely funded by community support. At the end of July, a third bus transported more children, thanks to a bus donated by a local church.

Deep Creek Lodge 2763

The ongoing Lodge project for Deep Creek Elks is the Janet Jones Group Home for the Developmentally Disabled. Residents, along with staff, are treated to dinner twice a month at the Lodge.

Serving local veterans is a high priority for Deep Creek. Each month they have approximately ten veterans from the Jacobson Veterans Home come to the Lodge for lunch. There is often a sing-a-long and everyone plays Bingo. Also, the Lodge recently paid for two veterans to attend Elks Day at the Tampa Bay Rays, Tropicana Field. Sodas were donated to the Veterans Home for their annual Labor Day Picnic and a fundraiser to benefit the Veterans Committee Activities has been held.

Community involvement for Deep Creek includes a variety of recipients. The Drug Awareness Committee gave approximately 200 pamphlets to a local Counseling Center for distribution. The Lodge hosted a fundraiser with the Charlotte County Animal Welfare League and they used the Promise Grant for Deep Creek Elementary School to use for a Drama Club production.

Englewood Lodge 2378

A local Girl Scout Troop participated in the Lodge Flag Day Ceremony by carrying the flags as the history of the flag was read. The Lodge made a $100 donation to the Troop.

A $200 donation was made to Lemon Bay High School Band to help defray expenses no longer covered by school budgets. This donation allowed “Englewood Elks Lodge 2378” name to be printed on the band web page, in concert programs and on the back of the band trailer.

Eighty-three excited children boarded buses in July for the long drive to the Youth Camp for a week of fun activities, making new friends and learning to survive without electronics! Children were treated to a free pancake breakfast before boarding the buses.

Englewood Lodge held a successful Open House and Membership Drive over the Labor Day weekend. After a tour of the Lodge and talking to members about the Elks, there were 77 applications for membership and at least 30 more are in the process of being filed. The weekend activities began with a complimentary meal for Bingo players, a Karaoke contest with money prizes and ended with a Barbecue Chicken/Ribs Buffet on Labor Day. One-hundred fifty people attended.

North Fort Myers Lodge 2742

The North Fort Myers Ladies of the Elks worked diligently on the collection of school supplies for children in need. They were successful, thanks to the generosity of the Lodge members and were able to distribute 37 backpacks and over 200 assorted school supplies.

Fort Myers Lodge 1288

Fort Myers Lodge is undergoing some changes after selling their building and getting a new place to call home, but they are still going strong. There will be an Open House/Membership Drive later this year.

Donations have been the focus for the Lodge and the benefactors have been Girl Scout Troop 212-$300, Vietnam Veterans of Ft Myers-$300 and the North Ft. Myers Soccer Club-$250.

As Elks, we always concentrate on what we can do for our veterans. The Ft. Myers Lodge has collected 20,212 coupons totaling $26,464.63 for use by our service men and women. These have been sent to Bay Pines Veterans Hospital, along with lap robes and puzzle books, handmade by the Lodge.

Naples Lodge 2010

In August, members of the Naples Elks presented Manatee Elementary School with a donation of 400 school uniforms for the second grade students. Manatee Elementary has a high rate of children whose family income is below the poverty line, so the Lodge has undertaken to assist the school each year. Funds to purchase the school uniforms came from an ENF Beacon Grant and matching Harry-Anna Trust funds. ENF Chairman, Frank Serrano, commented, “The smiles on the children’s faces were worth the effort.”

The Lodge sponsored nine children to attend the Youth Camp this summer. The Lodge also provided round-trip transportation and snacks for the kids. All the kids came back full of confidence and asking if they could return immediately for another week.

The Charitable Giving Committee honored three new citizens at the Lodge with a ceremony of Certificate and Flag presentation.

North Cape Coral Lodge 2874

North Cape Coral Lodge continues to support the Lee County Youth Football and Cheerleading Association by mandating the concession stands at the home games. Lee County Hawks are ranked tenth in the State. Go Hawks!

The Lodge hosted a very successful Blood Drive and a fun “Trick or Treat” event was held for area children.

Port Charlotte Lodge 2153

Port Charlotte Lodge has been busy with donations to the community. During the month of September, the Lodge assisted the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. Non-perishable food items, personal hygiene and laundry supplies were collected and items valued at $150 were donated for the monthly yard sale. Additionally, the Lodge held a “Back to School Supply Drive” and $250 in donations and money were also presented.

As students returned to school, Drug Awareness Coloring Books were handed out to the local restaurants for their patrons.

The Charlotte County Cultural Center received $200 of donated electronic items and collectible dolls for their Senior Center.

Veterans were delighted to have Lodge members decorate the grounds of the Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home for the July 4th and Labor Day weekends.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606

Punta Gorda Elks held the annual Flag Day Ceremony at Jacobson Veterans Home for the enjoyment of the residents, staff and Lodge members. Cake and beverages were served.

The P.E.R. association awarded a $1,000 Scholarship to a local student for his continuing education.

The ninth annual fishing tournament was held for children 14 years old and younger. In attendance were 130 boys and girls assisted by parents and 35 Elk volunteers. Food, prizes and gifts were provided.

In late June, Youth Camp was filled with 86 Punta Gorda area kids. The feedback was positive and the children can’t wait until next summer.

Rotonda Lodge 2710

Rotonda Lodge 2710 recently sponsored a shopping trip for residents of the Jacobson Veterans Home of Port Charlotte, Florida. The Lodge was able to donate over $300 of toiletries and $2,000 in clothing needs due to a Beacon Grant from the Grand Lodge. Thanks to department store discounts, the Elks were able to purchase fifteen bags of clothing for these proud veterans.

Charity begins at home. Donations of $900 to Meals on Wheels and $850 to St. David’s Episcopal Food Pantry were presented to assist in their worthwhile causes.

Pictured with Leading Knight Wayne Legris are this year’s campers.

For many years, Rotonda partnered with the Englewood Lodge in sending kids to Youth Camp. This summer the Lodge was able to stand alone to send their own local children. Thanks to the members’ generosity, this was a great new adventure and everyone is looking forward to next year.

The Rotonda Elkettes awarded two $500 educational scholarships. Candidates were selected by the Scholarship Committee. The Elkettes are proud to offer financial support and wish the two recipients the best in their future endeavors.
SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Boca Raton Lodge 2166

Our Third Annual Americanism Awards Dinner was held on Saturday, September 12, 2015. Boca Raton Lodge honored first responders from the Police Department, Det. Robert Volguardson and from the Fire Department, Fire Fighter Captain, Mike Davanzo, and Fire Fighter Paramedic, Lt. Shannon Frederick.

Along with the food bank project, members got together to help the homeless in the community. They collected several items, such as shampoo, conditioners, soap, body lotion, and much more.

Ormond Beach Lodge 2193

At the Lodge’s Vice President visitation dinner, Sebastian Spada was honored for having won the regional Hoop Shoot competition and Best of the Best in the boy’s 12-13 division. He displayed his trophy along with other awards he received. To commemorate the occasion, Sebastian was awarded a hoop shoot basketball presented to him by the Hoop Shoot State Chairman, Jeff Rumler, PER of Sanford Lodge 1141. Also present were Sebastian’s entire family, District Hoop Shoot Chairman, John Andrews, PER, Derek Hill, Exalted Ruler, and the District Vice President, Bob Swink, PER of Titusville Lodge. This would be Sebastian’s last competition with Hoop Shoot. During the dinner Girl Scout 825 and 423 helped with cleaning the tables. The girls received a standing ovation by everyone in attendance.

Members, family and friends were invited to celebrate the marriage of Jackie and John Andrews on September 19th. Congratulations!

Christmas came a little early this year for the Daytona Beach Emory L. Bennett Nursing veterans thanks to donations from the Ormond Beach Elks Lodge 2193. Lodge Veterans Chairman, Kent Robinson and some of the members from the lodge were on hand to distribute T-shirts, men’s toiletries, socks, little penlights, and playing cards. Needless to say, the residents were delighted to receive their gifts from the Elks. The lodge also donated three $100 gift cards to be used at the local Soup Kitchen of Our Father’s House. By mid-July over 24 cases of water, 60 pairs of socks, plus 40 cans of food and some much needed cash was collected.

West Central continued from page 13

Tampa Lodge provided a Pizza party for the female veterans at the Athena House on August 31. The committee members provided hot pizza, wings, pizza rolls and sodas. There were enough leftovers for each veteran to enjoy a free lunch the following day as well.

On Sept 19, the Lodge Athena committee treated the members of the Athena house to dinner and the Flamenco Dance show at the world famous Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City. Everyone was quite impressed with both the food and the show.

The Lodge members partner up at Hyde Park United Methodist Church, every Sunday, and with their Open Arms, assist with the outreach for the Homeless. Just this past Sunday they fed 174 people and the clothing shop was open too. It is a separate small white bedroom house. One bedroom holds women’s clothing and one is for men’s clothing. Each “customer” is allowed up to three complete outfits each month. In the dining room, the Sunday papers are on all the tables along with racks of books, all available for the homeless to take with them. The homeless are also allowed to use the church address for their mail, but they can only check for mail on Sundays. This is a very popular service that allows them to keep in touch with family or friends.

Attention Lodge Secretaries:

Keep Those Paper Membership Applications

Harry-Anna Trust Fund Recognition Certificates & Pins

Awarded July 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015

Silver Pins for Paid-in-Full $500 Certificate

The Lodge held a Labor Day Cookout. Approximately 175 people showed up for the festivities. Food was donated and volunteers helped with the many activities during the day. There was a Corn Hole contest where members competed against each other. One happy winner won the raffle of the day, a Yeti Cooler that was donated by one of the members. The Lodge handed out several membership applications to prospective members. A reporter from the Ormond Beach Observer was present to write a great article of the event.
Miami Lodge 948
Miami Lodge 948’s PERs hosted its annual Independence Day picnic with hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, and salads.

The Friday night food and entertainment continues. Kudos go to members Bob and Chickie Schmidt (our ER and First Lady), Louis DeSouza, Marta Cruz, Ron Simpson, Barry Wake, Delfin Mule, Bob Talbot, Juan Roig, Jim Scholz, and Daniella Burgos who stepped up to handle the Friday Night cooking. They heroically filled the gap since May, to keep Friday food service as usual as possible after the long time kitchen staff that had been let go.

Also, thanks go to all the House Committee and Lodge Activates Committee volunteer cooks, helpers, runners, servers, bussers that have managed to tread water in what could have been a very difficult summer.

Miami Lodge 948 has a troupe of great hula dancers! The Luau in August was an absolute sell-out, with a roasted pig, delicious accomplishments, attractive decorations, and a pair of exquisite dancers who were not only talented at dancing but also at urging the participation of members and guests.

Congratulations to the Lodge’s Elks of the Month, Marta Cruz and John Russell.

The Lodge held a Blood Drive in August, introduced Hot Jazz and Hot Dogs every Monday evening. Tai Chi now held Monday evenings and on Saturday mornings, daytime Dominos and Canasta are on Tuesdays, along with Salsa in the evenings.

North Miami Lodge 1835
North Miami Lodge 1835 informed its members that Elks National Foundation has awarded them three grants. The Gratitude Grant for $2,000 will be used for the Dictionary Project in conjunction with our community partners the Friends of the North Miami Public Library. Lodge Member Sharon Sbrissa is chairing this committee.

The Beacon Grant for $2,000 will be used for a Lodge veteran’s project, the Thursday Lodge Game Night to which veterans will be invited throughout the community in partnership with several veterans’ organizations. This grant targets the recent returning veterans and seeks to guide them to community services as needed ranging from jobs to health care while providing a friendly setting for them. Leading Knight Ken Todero is chairing this committee.

The Promise Grant for $2,500 used for a youth project, collaborating with the Boy Scouts. It will be providing an outdoor experience for underprivileged youth in our community. One of our newer members, Barry Ekle is chairing this committee. The Lodge is very excited about these programs as this is the first time in many years that our Lodge has received these grants.

Florida Keys Lodge 1872
The Florida Keys Elks Lodge 1872 held a Fish Fry for 25 Veterans from the Miami Veterans Hospital on July 9th. Local entertainer Lee Kibbey hosted the Karaoke Party in their honor.

West Palm Beach 1352
Now that many of the northern members are returning to the Lodge, activities are beginning to pick up and old faces are being welcome to a refreshed new look inside and outside the Lodge. One big improvement is the return to a useable ball field and BBQ area. Along with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, very shortly the field will again see children having fun and learning about playing baseball.

ER Luis Omsk and member Tim Hadself have been actively trying to get this project underway. Tim through an ENF grant has gotten shirts and equipment for the players. So by October 1st, there should be about six teams using the field. On September 23rd, all the players, coaches, and umpires will meet for a clinic including a professional ball player who will conduct batting lessons. LET’S PLAY BALL!!

Labor Day at the Lodge was celebrated by a Tiki Hut Party along with an outside special meal. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and the rains came. But that did not stop the party; it just moved inside and everyone kept dry and had a great time.

On September 11th, the Lodge held its first “Not So” Newly Wed Game. It was patterned after the popular TV show, The Newly Wed Game. Six Lodge couples answered questions put to them by the host PER George Zocchi. Needless to say some of the questions were rather personal and the answers were extremely funny. A wonderful dinner was served before the program. The event was the idea of Trustee Mike Newman, who organized the night and cooked the meal. Everyone had a ball.

The Lodge hosted the Friday night causal dinner during the State President and his wife, Dolly’s visit. Accompanying him was the Vice President at Large John Harris and his wife Angel, and several other State Officers. A band played music for listening and dancing after the dinner.

Lake Okeechobee 2871
The Lodge was pretty dormant during the summer, but activities are now beginning to pick up. A Chicken BBQ was held for the benefit of all the Elk Charities. Special recognition was given to the local policemen and firemen. The Lodge is also actively seeking new members and continues to look for a home.

Clewiston Lodge 1853
The Lodge just completed a renovation of the bar area and invited all members to come and take a look.

DDGER Les Bausch has started his visitation schedule along with SEDVP Lonnie Dilorenzo from Jupiter and the District Auditor Carl Williams from West Palm Beach. This year the District has given up on the Saturday night social visitations after the ritual observations and will have only one large affair for all the Lodges on Dec. 5th. This will hopefully bring a larger crowd. If it is successful the event will rotate to all the Lodges in the District every year. PDDGER Jimmie McDuflle and his committee are planning the event to be held in Clewiston this year.

On September 12th, the Lodge held its first Junior Bass Tournament of the year. Local boys and girls are eligible to enter. This is a great community activity. The Lodge is noted for the work it does for the children of Clewiston.

Belle Glade/Pahokee 1718
After suffering through the hot summer, without air conditioning, and still several months to go of heat, the Lodge finally has installed a new A/C unit and they are now in the COOL! Hopefully, this will encourage more people to visit the Lodge.

Jupiter Lodge 2469
The Lodge is busy hosting activities for its members as well as the community which benefits the children, veterans and local community. Bingo, Line Dancing, Yoga, and Friday night bands contribute funds to the Charity Fund.

The Lodge is sponsoring a Caribbean Cruise scheduled for mid-October. Approximately 75 people have already signed up for it. Also on October 23-24th, the Lodge will host its annual Haunted House. The Lodge will offer $100.00 to 13 different groups of students, sports teams, or non-profit organizations to participate in decorating booths.

September 12th found the Lodge hosting the District’s Army of Hope Picnic and Bingo. The event raised a thousand of dollars and made the community more aware of the what the Army of Hope is all about.

SEDVP Lonnie Dilorenzo hosted State President Carl Ledig and his wife, Dolly, to the Southeast District. There was a tour of the Jupiter Lighthouse followed by a cruise along the Intracoastal Waterway. Saturday night’s dinner featured a special video showing off all the good things the Lodges in the District are doing. Lauren Dowd-Shedlock was awarded the SED Elk of the Year.
Volume XXVIII No.4 Circulation 56,500 Fall 2015
Florida State Elks Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 49 Umatilla, 32784-0049
Editorial Offices at: R. W. Whiteman, PER
109 Eventide Ave. Lake Placid, FL 33852-6292
Telephone-Fax 863-699-2487
E-Mail rwwhiteman@comcast.net
Non-profit organization postage paid at Tampa, FL
and additional offices.
Entire Contents Copyright 2015 by the
Florida State Elks Association
Publisher/Editor: Raleigh Whiteman, PER

Deadline for the Winter Edition Dec 18, 2015

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

Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services
P. O. BOX 49
Umatilla, FL. 32784

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Tampa , FL
Permit No. 2397

---

Welcome in
2016
at our
New Year’s Eve Party

Overnight Accommodations at FEYC include:
- Cabin Lodging (5 members per cabin)
- NYE Filet Mignon dinner with all the trimmings
- Midnight Champagne Toast
- New Year’s Day Brunch 11 AM

Elks are encouraged to bring their own favorite adult beverages

Make Checks Payable to:
Florida Elks Youth Camp
24175 SE Hwy 460
Umatilla, Florida 32784

Reservations
352-669-9443 x249

Tickets:
$70 per person

All payments must be received by December 27, 2015