FLORIDA ELKS RITUAL WINNERS

Gainesville Lodge 990 Team
Exalted Ruler Becky Spence, Leading Knight Dayna Miller, Loyal Knight Sandra Boutwell, Lecturing Knight Linda Califf, Esquire Susan Petty, Chaplain Molly Morris, Inner Guard Bill Senterfitt, Coach Dennis Squires, Candidate Dina Atalig.

Team Awards
First Place: Gainesville Lodge 990 - 93.9716
Second Place: Bradenton Lodge 1511 - 93.5084
Third Place: Tallahassee Lodge 937 - 93.3679

11 O’clock Toast Winners
First Place: Dayna Miller, Gainesville Lodge 990
Ron Brown, Tallahassee Lodge 937
Second Place: Becky Spence, Gainesville Lodge 990
Third Place: Elizabeth Andricks, Bradenton Lodge 1511

Jolly Cork Award
Lecturing Knight: John Bozeman, Tallahassee Lodge 937 - 95.9340
This coveted award is given to the officer with the highest individual score in the contest. Bozemanss name will be engraved on the perpetual trophy displayed at the Youth Camp Grafton Center.

All State First Place Winners
Coach: Gainesville #990 - Dennis Squires
Candidate: Tallahassee #937 - Adrienne Bellflower
Inner Guard: Bradenton #1511 - Matt Dnius - 93.8020
Chaplain: Gainesville #990 - Molly Morris - 95.1970
Lecturing Knight: Tallahassee #937 - John Bozeman - 95.9340
Loyal Knight: Tallahassee #937 - Julia Jansen - 95.5840
Leading Knight: Gainesville #990 - Dayna Miller - 95.1130
Esquire: Tallahassee #937 - Chris Hunt - 93.4210
Exalted Ruler: Bradenton #1511 - Elizabeth Andricks - 94.3070

FLORIDA’S SUCCESS AT THE ELKS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Florida Elks have just returned from the National Convention, held this year in Houston, Texas. We had a large contingency in attendance, and Florida Elks were proud to win a number of awards: 5 Star award for the State Association booth award; 4 Star award to Punta Gorda Lodge for Local Lodge Website; 5 Star award for the State Association Website; 5 Star award for the State Association Bulletin; St. Petersburg Lodge #1224 won 2nd Place in Contest “A”, Division 5, All American Lodge contest. Community Projects winners from Florida included Live Oak Lodge # 1165, Green Cove Springs Lodge # 1892, Gainesville Lodge # 990, and Pensacola Beach Lodge # 407.

Florida Elks National Foundation Per Capita winners included Kissimmee Lodge # 1873 (2nd place in Division 2 with $45.26 per capita); Zephyrhills Lodge # 2731 (3rd place in Division 3 with $26.90 per capita); Pompano Beach Lodge # 1898 (1st place in Division 5 with $31.64 per capita); Gainesville Lodge 990 competed in the Grand Lodge Ritual contest. While they did not win, they represented the State Association in fine style and have vowed to work hard in hopes they will be good enough to win the state contest next May.

The legislative session held on Tuesday was calm and peaceful with no floor discussion on any of the Amendments. All 12 Amendments passed by a wide majority and were mostly housekeeping measures. A summary of the Amendments can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Florida Elks News.

The Denim and Diamonds theme night at the Florida dinner was a great success thanks to the careful planning of our Chief Operating Officer/State Secretary, Carl Seibert. Carl and his hard working staff did their usual good job of providing a great venue at the Florida hotel (The Four Seasons) for a night of festivities that was enjoyed by Florida Elks and their invited guests. The Florida dinner has a reputation of being the “go to dinner” at Grand Lodge and State President John Harris did a great job in making everyone feel right at home.

Start planning your next year’s vacation to Reno, Nevada, and join Elks from all over the country at our next Grand Lodge Convention. Remember, Lake Tahoe is only an hour away, so get your gambling fix, make new Elk friends and enjoy the high desert.

Mike, Bob and I wish every one a safe and fun filled summer with family and friends. Let’s get behind our new officers and District Deputies and continue our growth and success as the premiere Elks State in America.
Greetings from the State President.

We are almost through the second month of this Elk year; and the enthusiasm and general feeling of the entire Florida Elks membership is full of excitement.

Speaking of membership, the last couple of years we just missed having a plus gain. This year we hope to erase that with a great gain. Interestingly, I’m seeing quite a few postings from the Lodges on their Facebook pages and the pride they display by talking about new member initiations. Congratulations to those Lodges and welcome to all of our new members!

Something I found out at the Grand Lodge convention was that the seating arrangement is created by the number of Plus Members a state attains. As you know we were in the middle of the bus. The states with the most gain were placed up front. Let’s see if we can get a little closer to the front next year. Remember, I have a “ Blast Elkdom 5-member Pin” for everyone who attains five new members. Help me run out of pins!

If you read my Monthly Message on the Florida Elks News Online edition, I talked about our charity fund recently and the importance of accurately calculating and recording our members.

Several years ago I wrote an article for the news and came across a copy quite recently that I would again like to share with you. It involves something familiar. No, it is not about dessert or food of any kind – more on that later. But, as part of a group, our group, the Order of Elks, you have achieved and will continue to achieve monumental accomplishments. That is what makes the heart and souls of our ladies (and our gentlemen) support two projects, one of which has been around for life.

We join the Order of Elks for a wide variety of reasons. Unfortunately, the most common one is a social one, but if good people join for a social reason, their goal must be to convert them to members of our lodge.

A social reason is rather tenuous based on which to pin our hopes for the future of the organization. After all, your friends may leave the area, the club rooms may become less attractive, or they may become a social one, but if good people join for a social reason, our goal must be to convert them to members for life.

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When that occurs, PIE becomes a very important factor. Then is the time to tell:

• The Elks of Florida (that is all of us and our ladies) support two projects, one of which has helped physically handicapped children for over 80 years. Currently, with 25 fully equipped mobile therapy vans and an equal number of licensed therapists, we (you and me) are treating 400 children a week. These are children whose parents are unable for financial reasons to pay for their care. If not for these mobile therapists, their problems would persist and become worse.

• The other project we support is a youth camp. It is a carefully supervised facility about eight miles north of Umatilla, pretty much in the middle of the state. It provides physical and mental health and happiness.

At this time you may have guessed that PIE is Pride In Elkdom. Earlier I stated that PIE was not food to eat, but certainly our Elk efforts provide food for our hearts and souls.

If you are not a member of an organized group banded together for the purpose of helping others, you could lead your whole life and be able to accomplish very little as an individual attempting to help.

But, as part of a group, our group, the Order of Elks, you have achieved and will continue to achieve monumental accomplishments. That is what makes our membership valuable no matter the initial reason for joining.

Yes, have PRIDE IN ELKDOM. You have earned it and no one else can make right of your membership. All of us have a need to feel good about ourselves, so you do someone a favor by asking them to join with us.

May your days and nights be filled with good health and happiness.
Could Lower Dues be the Answer to our Membership Dilemma? I think yes! I sometimes tend to over think things a little and now wonder if maybe I am also over thinking the problems relating to our membership decline.

Recently our Director of Membership Development, Don Moon, and I visited our West citrus Lodge in our Central district near the west coast of Florida. West citrus Lodge is somewhat of a rarity as they have had a continuous membership growth for the past seven consecutive years! Only two other Lodges in Florida share this distinction with West citrus Lodge.

Don and I wanted to visit this Lodge, meet with their officers and members, and learn the secrets of a Lodge that obviously has this membership thing figured out! Basically what we found was a Lodge with a leadership team that works well together.

We found a Lodge that makes the needs of its members their highest priority and offers them a varied array of Lodge activities that are in turn well attended by its members! We found a Lodge that operates in moderation only serving meals two nights each week and a Lodge that does not make the survival of its bar and restaurant its top priority!

We found a Lodge that has made achieving a membership gain a priority of the Lodge and a Lodge that expects its officers to deliver on that priority and a Lodge that holds the officers accountable to that goal.

Most importantly though, we found a Lodge whose dues are only $60 per year! Now, please don’t dismiss me as crazy for thinking this is good and stop reading further since there is no way your Lodge could ever stay afloat on $60 per member!

Over the years, and in talking to our members who have dropped their memberships, and through our surveying of these people, one of the top reasons members have told us they are dropping their membership is that the dues are too high! In Florida the average dues are $82 and the range is from $35 to $150. Fifty-seven of the dues are too high! In Florida the average dues are $60 per year! Now, please don’t dismiss this as a far-fetched idea! I realize that total dues are higher when you add the State and Grand Lodge Assessment but what this data tells me is that for some reason our members seem to be able to identify with the $60 range dues and when faced with annual membership renewal, $60 is at least psychologically acceptable! Maybe because it is thought of as only $5 per month, or maybe it is in line with other memberships they have, but $60 may just be that so-called magic number!

So, how do we work this into the average Lodge? How about an incremental dues reduction based on membership growth? Let’s take a Lodge that has 400 members and whose dues are $90. Total dues revenue from 400 paying members is $36,000. If the Lodge set a goal of a 6% membership gain or 24 members, that same $36,000 could be produced with 424 members paying $85. The next year set the goal at a 26 member increase and the $36,000 can be produced with $80 dues.

Continue this systematic benefits and rewards type approach to membership growth and in a short six-year period the Lodge will have grown by 200 members. Think about it; that is 200 more members participating in and supporting the Lodge! However, probably the most rewarding benefit from this program is the attainment of $60 dues which for some reason can and most hopefully will place your Lodge on a path to sustainability in that the loss of members unable or unwilling to renew their memberships could be reduced to a manageable number.

Do you think the membership will get behind you and support a program like this when every member benefits from lower dues as membership goals are realized?!

This is a stark contrast to today’s environment where Lodges across the state are having to look at raising dues or otherwise supplementing revenues to make ends meet! Could it be that an unconventional approach such as this could be the answer to our problems?!

Granted, lower dues will do nothing if the membership is not engaged in activities and other programs of their choosing but we always knew this membership problem would take outside of the box thinking and the involvement of the entire membership.

Can you think of a better way to get your members on board? How about it? Can we do this? Many Lodge management/leadership teams are too focused on the bar and restaurant. If you believe this is a good move for your Lodge let your Lodge team know! Tell them you want, no, outright demand, lower dues! Use this article to motivate action. Hold them accountable to objectives that will move the Lodge in a positive direction.

Better yet, become involved and help the team set goals and objectives. Be prepared to do your part if they do theirs by proposing new members, and start your Lodge on a path to lower dues! Could it be this simple? I think so! After all, we know what doesn’t work and we have a 20+ year record of that! Let’s get talking about this on the Florida Elks Forum on the Florida Elks website! Together we can solve our membership dilemma! I know it! Are you with us?

Have You Seen Our Newly Reconstructed Florida Elks Website?

Our creative team rolled out a new and improved Florida Elks website! We are so very proud of the improvements made to the site and extend our thanks to our Director of Marketing & Communications, Greg Weis, and his very capable team for their outstanding work!

Of the many improvements on the site there are several that I am most proud of and one is the reintroduction of their dues forum. As we progress in our attempts to make changes in our Lodges that will make us more attractive to prospective members, we will benefit greatly from this ability to discuss what works and what doesn’t. The forum provides us a place to share our individual insights with others and build on our successes. Please make it a habit to routinely visit the forum and engage in the conversations taking place.

Another feature of the website is access to the orientation videos about our major projects. These videos are no longer just for the Lodge. They may now be viewed at any time and by anyone! What a great way to show others what we do on a state level and to see firsthand how our hard work and support is affecting the lives of children.

One comment heard often throughout our state is our regret at no longer being able to go to our hospital and see the children we are treating. That one-on-one experience is nearly impossible to create in our Therapy Services Program but taking a very significant step in that direction, Greg and his team have provided us with a virtual way to do that! On our website click on the Therapy Services button and then under Real Stories, Real People click on Meet the Children. Here you can read a constantly updating story on one of the children we are treating through our Therapy Services program.

By reading this story you will no doubt develop a better understanding of how significantly we are affecting the lives of the children we are treating and their families! Furthermore you are encouraged to subscribe to the RSS feeds which is a fancy way to be notified when updates are made to this portion of our website and will allow you to be the first to receive the update on Matthew.

While never being able to replace that one-on-one connection we had with our patients in our hospital, we hope this will help fill that void we have had and allows our members to be more engaged! By following the stories of our patients we know it will fill your heart with joy and will make you overflow with pride for the differences we are making in the lives of children! These are just a couple of things on the website; there are many more! Explore and have fun doing it and let Greg know how he is doing! This is our website and your constant use of it and participation in it is our goal. Please let us know how we can improve it and make it better! Greg’s e-mail address is greg@floridaelks.org or he may be reached by phone at (800) 523-1673 extension 226.

The Grand Lodge Convention is now one for the record books and will undoubtedly be remembered for many years as a result of the work of many volunteer Florida Elks.

NATIONAL BPOE PRESIDENT

Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Zellen

The leadership of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks got down to business with the first business session of the 152nd Grand Lodge Session and elected Michael F. Zellen, of the Saugus-Everett, Massachusetts, Lodge as Grand Exalted Ruler for 2016-2017. Zellen has been an Elk since 1968. He was elected president of the Massachusetts Elks Association in 1996 and has served on the state’s Charity Fund Advisory Committee for thirty years and on the state President’s Advisory Committee for twenty years. He was a member of the Grand Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee for three years and served for four years on the Board of Grand Trustees. He has been a special deputy for the state of Massachusetts since 2007.

The newly elected Grand Exalted Ruler spoke about the very personal debt he owes to the order: he was ‘able to complete his university education after the untimely death of his father thanks to an Emergency Grant from the Elks National Foundation. He discussed his vision for the Order, which is encompassed in his theme of “Elks-Leading the Way.” According to Zellen, Elks have led the way through the years by providing youth programs, supporting veterans and combating veteran homelessness, assisting after natural disasters, and serving the community in many other ways.

Zellen announced that his per capita goal for 2016-2017 would be $4.65 per member. He encouraged all Elks to do their part in recruiting new members and expressed the hope that this year would be the year that the order would “kick the door down” and grow in membership. He specifically challenged each officer of each lodge to sponsor one new member this year.

He closed by thanking the assembled delegates for “the incredible honor you have bestowed on me” and pledging to “give 100 percent effort in performing my duties as your National President.”
Membership Matters in the GREAT State of Florida!

by Suzi Simonelli, PDD State Chairman of Membership

Announcing the FSEA Membership Incentive program for 2016-17! Be a proposer and help your Lodge and Districts win! I’m asking every Elk in the State of Florida to set a goal and propose 2 new members! Just ask our friends, neighbors, family to be part of the Best People on Earth! Let’s also go back 2 to 4 years and invite some of our inactive Elks to come back and see the good things we are doing!

Most importantly, we need to address our past due members right away. Let them know that “by just renewing their Membership, they are helping to make a difference.” We left 641 candidates on our rolls last March 2016 waiting to be initiated; had we initiated half of them, we would have had a plus in Membership for the State. This year, let’s not leave anyone on the rolls! We can do it this, let’s “Blast Elkdom into the Future,” our State President, John Harris’s motto, so we are here for decades to come for our communities, our youth and especially our Veterans that we vow to never forget! Questions or ideas, don’t hesitate to contact me!

Cell - 772-260-6865   Hm - 772-220-0194   Fax - 772-283-6040
Dear Florida Ladies of Elks and Elks,

Our May meeting and Luncheon was held May 28, 2016 at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in conjunction with the Elks State Convention. Our activities started by hosting a FLOE Hospitality Room on Thursday and Friday nights. This has become a fun time to meet with Elks and ladies from around the state, let them know about FLOE and enjoy a refreshing beverage. Our frozen drinks have been popular, last year we had frozen Margaritas; this year we had “Cowboy Cosmo’s”. Please be sure to come by next year to see what the drink will be! The FSEA Silent Auction, sponsored by FLOE, was held on Friday. We had a variety of items and collected a generous amount of money to donate to Harry-Anna. A huge thank you to Linda & Gene Rittenhouse from Green Cove Springs Lodge for chairing this function! Also thank you to all that donated items!

Saturday was a busy day for FLOE with our early morning meeting starting at 8:00 a.m. (after 2 nights of Hospitality Suites, 8:00a.m. is early). Our Nominating Committee, chaired by Judy Reyes, PSP, presented the slate of Officers for the next year. I am happy to report our Officers elected for 2016-2017 are President, Connie Kalel Poage; Vice President, Mary McCoy; Secretary, Felicia Vuletich; Treasurer Adella Ashton. The new Advisory Council members elected are Becky Long and Sally Braden. Congratulations ladies! Installation will be at our FLOE Conference in September. We will also be voting on some By-Laws changes at Conference. Jane Moore, PSP, is Chair lady for our By-Laws Committee.

The rest of our May meeting was focused on our September FLOE Conference. Packets were handed out to all Delegates to distribute to their respective ladies organizations and lodges. The contents are also online (www.floridaelks.org) under the 2016 FLOE Conference tab. I will be happy to answer any questions at rebeccalong330@gmail.com.

After our meeting, we moved right into our Chinese Auction followed by our Luncheon. I am very happy to report that we doubled our sales for the Chinese Auction! Way to go ladies, and of course, Judy Fournier our Chairlady. A big thank you! We tried something new by having the Chinese Auction on Friday and Saturday, and it “paid” off! Our Luncheon was well attended and thanks to all Elks, ladies, and PSP wives for attending. Chairlady, Marlene Evans, did a great job getting tickets sold, and I am happy to report that we had over 200 attendees! I want to personally thank my Ocala ladies for the hard work and creative western décor they provided at the door and on the tables (just wait until September to see what they have planned). They worked hard the entire weekend, but did find some time to play. Thank you Ocala! Our own “BPOE Village People” performed 2 numbers for our entertainment. You guys were awesome, but remember where you got your start! We also had a short Fashion Show by Accessories…and More (Janet Carr). Thank you to our models, Dolores Casella, PSP, Judy Reyes, PSP, Julia Hurst wife of PSP Jim Hurst, Theresa Matthews, PER Tampa Lodge, and Elizabeth Casalaspro, wife of Pat Casalaspro North Regional Soccer Shoot Chairman. Our ladies shopping generated $700.00 profit for Harry-Anna! Thank you to everyone who contributed to all of our events to raise money for our 2 Major Projects!

Our next FLOE event will be our 2016 FLOE Conference on September 15-17, 2016 at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater. We will kick things off on Friday night with a Western Casino Night hosted by Casino Party Planners. Be sure to answer the question on your registration form as to what game you play when you go to a casino. We want to have plenty of the right gaming tables for everyone to enjoy. There will be a Chinese Auction to participate in with your winnings. The Texas Hold ’em Poker Tournament will be held between Lodges with a trophy going to the winner, so pick your best player to represent your Lodge and let’s see who will take home the trophy! ALL of the proceeds from this event will be donated back to our Major Projects. In keeping with my western theme, put on your favorite pair of jeans, boots, and cowboy hat to have fun, but help raise money at the same time. You can belly up to the bar for some libations after you enjoy some good ole country cooking. There will also be a DJ to dance the night away. Saturday morning will be our FLOE business meeting followed by our luncheon, which is open to all guests and Elks. I hope all will attend our afternoon session, which starts with our FLOE Chaplain, Beverly Hardy, presenting the Memorial Service for our departed Sisters. The conclusion of the afternoon session will be the Installation of our 2016-2017 Officers. Saturday night will be our Delegates Reception to thank everyone for their hard work over the past year. There will also be several hospitality suites to visit so yee-ha…it’s party time! Mark your calendars for September 16-17, 2016!

George Zocchi has been the Ladies Chairman for the last two years. Thank you for your dedication to FLOE. You have been willing to do whatever it takes (even dance in the BPOE Village People) to promote our organization. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We welcome Larry Littell, PSP as our new Ladies Chairman and Larry, you have big shoes to fill!!

In my first article, I featured an active duty soldier, Dakota Wyatt-Casalaspro, US Navy, and in my second article a camper, 11 year old Cayden Seay. This time I would like to feature two recently enlisted Marines, whom some of you have met, Nick Hannon and Jake Fecher. Both boys recently graduated from Mt. Dorahigh School and were cadets in the JROTC program. Nick and Jake were also high ranking cadets while there and served on the ROTC Drill Team, which won many awards and competitions. Elks will know them from the impressive ceremony of the Table of Honor. Jake commanded the Table Team. Their Drill Team brought home the First Place Trophy in Platoon Exhibition (Fancy) Drill (chooreographed by Jake and Nick), Second Place Trophy in Squad Regulation Drill, and First Place Trophy in Special Color Guard (both commanded by Fecher). Jake and Nick also picked up the First Place Trophy for the Armed Tandem Exhibition Drill. This competition was held in February at the Space Coast Invitational Drill Competition at Melbourne High School. Their Table of Honor was performed at the State President’s Visit to the NC District at the Eustis Lodge. State President Carl and first Lady Dolly were so impressed that they invited them to perform at his Homecoming in February and again at the State Convention in May. Nick and Jake had already graduated and were not part of the May presentation. Jake shipped out first to basic training at Paris Island, South Carolina and is scheduled to graduate on September 2, 2016. His MOS is Motor transport, and he is interested in becoming an officer in the future.

Nick will ship out on July 10th to be sworn in at MEPS in Tampa and then travel by bus to Paris Island to start his basic training. He is scheduled to graduate on October 7, 2016. Nick’s MOS is UH Infantry. After basic training, both boys will be allowed a brief leave to return home and then go to Camp LeJeune, North Carolina for Marine combat training (MCT) for 30 days. They will enter as Private First Class due to their 4 years of JROTC. This also gives them a promotion 6 months later to Lance Corporal. After training, Nick hopes to be stationed in Japan and is interested in trying out for Special Forces - but eventually he wants to be a Drill Instructor. The Elks are very proud of and dedicated to supporting our Military, both active duty and Veterans. Let’s continue to support and encourage those that are active duty. Jake’s address is:

RCF Fecher Jacob A
3rdRtnPt 3066 Col
Box 16325
Parris Island, SC 29905-6325

Once I have Nick’s address, I will publish it on the website under the FLOE tab. Nick and Jake are great examples of our future generation and hopefully will be Elks one day! Hope to see everyone in September at our FLOE Conference!

Let’s Give a Hoot and God Bless,
Becky Long, FLOE President
NORTHEAST
Paul M. Orvosh

The Florida State Elks Association is honored to present to the 2016 National Convention in Houston, TX., the name of Paul M. Orvosh as a candidate for the office of Northeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the 2016-2017 year.

Paul Orvosh was born in Pottsville, PA., in 1945 and moved to Florida in 2002. He graduated high school in Pennsylvania. He earned his associate degree from Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio. His Bachelor of Science is from University of Maryland in College Park, MD., and his Master of Business Administration degree is from Lynchburg University in Lynchburg, VA.

Orvosh served in the U.S. Army from 1965-1968. He retired from Western Electric, AT&T and Lucent Technologies. His last position was director of operations for the northeast United States.

In 2002 he joined Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge. He served as Treasurer and Exalted Ruler. He held various district chairman positions and served as Vice Chairman and State Chairman for the Elks National Foundation Scholarships Committee for six years.

Orvosh served as District Vice-President 2015-16.

Paul Orvosh is married to Shirley, and later this year, they will reach their 50th anniversary. He has two sons and one daughter.

In addition to the Elks, he enjoys golf and music.

NORTH
Barbara L. Hollingsworth

The Florida State Elks Association is honored to present to the 2016 National Convention in Houston, TX., the name of Barbara Hollingsworth as a candidate for the office of North District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the 2016-2017 year.

Barbara Hollingsworth was born in 1948 at Kindley Air Force Base in Bermuda. Her father served in the United States Air Force for 30 years which made it possible for her to travel extensively as she was growing up. She has lived in Maine; Massachusetts; Plattsburg and Sycamore, NY; England; France and the Philippine Islands. She graduated from Toul American High School in Toul, France, June 3, 1966, and attended classes at Lake City Community College in 1970. She was married in April 1970 at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippine Islands. She moved to Lake City, FL., in July 1970.

Hollingsworth retired from the United States Postal Service as a supervisor after more than 22 years of federal employment. She began her career at Hancock Field, Syracuse, NY., as an assignment clerk. She worked at Otis AFB, MA.; at Clark AFB, Philippine Islands and at the VA medical center in Lake City, FL.

On Sept. 20, 2006, Hollingsworth was initiated into Lake City Elks Lodge #893. Her husband had been a member of Lake City Lodge for many years and she had been very involved behind the scenes with many of the charitable works of the Elks. She decided it was time to really get involved, so she became a member. She was Lodge Esquire and Leading Knight in 2007-2008, Exalted Ruler in 2008-2009, Lodge Secretary from 2009-2010 through 2011-2012 and Lodge Trustee in 2013-2014 through 2015. She was also Lodge Chairman of the Christmas Charity Committee and the Lodge Easter Egg Program for several years. She has been for the state Elks representative to Lake City VA Medical Center, District Chairman of Veterans Services and State Vice Chairman of Ritual. She served as District Vice-President 2015-16.

Hollingsworth is a current member and past regent of the Edward Rutledge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Lake City, Fl. She is also a current member of Epiphany Catholic Church.

She married James Hollingsworth April 2, 1970. They were married for 38 years before his death Oct. 21, 2008.

She has two sons who both served in the United States Navy and are current members of Lake City Elks Lodge #893. She also has four wonderful grandchildren. Brad and Kristin live in Lecanto, FL., with their two daughters, Destiny and Isabella. John and Tricia live in Lake City, FL., with their son, Zane, and daughter, Hannah. Trudy Libby, Hollingsworth’s mother, is 92 and lives in Lake City with them.

EAST CENTRAL
Mark Thompson

The Florida State Elks Association is honored to present to the 2016 National Convention in Houston, TX., the name of Mark Thompson as a candidate for the office of West Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the 2016-2017 year.

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

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

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

WEST CENTRAL
Jeanne Reinhart

The Florida State Elks Association is honored to present to the 2016 National Convention in Houston, TX., the name of Jeanne Reinhart as a candidate for the office of West Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the 2016-2017 year.

Jeanne Reinhart was born in Urbana, IL., and grew up in Sibley, IL., a small town of 400 in the middle of the cornfields. She raised her children in St. Joseph, IL. In 2006 she moved to Florida.

Reinhart attended Melvin-Sibley High School in Melvin, IL., and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in social work from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Upon graduating from the university, she worked for the Champaign County Office on Aging in the new field, at the time, of gerontology. She later owned, managed and operated her own business. Upon selling the business, she worked in the accounting office for the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois. Since moving to Florida, she has been the account manager and a title agent for a title company and then obtained several insurance licenses.

On Sept. 15, 2003, Reinhart was initiated into Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497 in Illinois. She had visited the Lodge on numerous occasions and many of her friends and associates were members, so it was a natural fit.

She has served as Esquire (once in Illinois and once in Florida), Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight and Leading Knight and was Exalted Ruler of Largo Lodge.
District Deputies to the Grand Exalted Ruler for 2016-2017

CENTRAL

R. Michael “Mike” Ritchie

The members and Lodges of Florida’s Central District are honored to present to the 2009 Florida State Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida the name of R. Michael “Mike” Ritchie as a candidate for the office of Central District Vice President of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Mike was born in Elizabethon, TN on April 7, 1944. He moved to Clermont, FL in 1957 and graduated from Clermont High School.

In 1967 Mike graduated from Kentucky’s School of Mortuary Science. He has been an Embalmer and Funeral Director for 42 years.

Mike became an Elk in 1995 in Zephyrhills, FL. He’d been around the Elks activities for many years and was asked to be a member of the Lodge. He was Loyal Knight, Leading Knight, and Exalted Ruler each for two years. He is a Past President of the PER Association and was Chairman of the House Committee. He was a Trustee for five years and Chairman for one year.

Mike has been a District Chairman for New Lodges as well as Vice Chairman and State Chairman for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund Committee.

Along with being a member of the Elks, Mike is a member of the Masonic Lodge and Kiwanis Club. He is a Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Zephyrhills. He was also on the Board of Directors for five years for the Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce.

In October of this year, Mike & Carolyn Ritchie will have been married for 48 years. They have a son, a daughter, and three grandchildren.

SOUTH

Denny Tarbell

The Florida State Elks Association is honored to present to the 2016 National Convention in Houston, TX, the name of Denny Tarbell as a candidate for the office of South District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the 2016-2017 year.

Denny Tarbell was born March 27, 1947, in Ithaca, NY. He grew up in New York on a dairy farm. He graduated from Lansing High School in 1965. He attended Oswego State and Empire College 1985-1995 and became a New York certified teacher. In 2006, he moved to Florida.

He was self-employed at an automotive shop from 1972-1985. He taught automotive trades in the juvenile justice system from 1983-2003. He was also involved with fishing charters from 1985-2010.

Tarbell became an Elk in July 2007 to meet local people and to socialize. He was House Committee Chairman in 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. He became Exalted Ruler in Fall 2010 and served until 2013. He was also the District Chairman for Community Projects and Activities.

He was a member of the Lions Club in Union Springs, NY., and served as Treasurer. He was also a member of Lansing, NY’s Rod & Gun Club and served as Treasurer, Vice President and President. He was part of the New York State Conservation Council and was a representative of Tompkins County.

Tarbell is engaged to be married to Sherril Bothen Dec. 19, 2015. He has a son named Daniel and a daughter, Alisa, who is married to Dustin Long, and they have a son, Tyson. They all live in Knoxville, TN.

Tarbell has been a U.S. Coast Guard Captain and has done fishing charters for 25 years. He enjoys fishing and boating in the Florida Keys. He and Sherril spend most of their time at the Elks Lodge. He is currently the House Committee chairman and she tends bar and is Hall Coordinator for all events. The Lodge is their family. They entertain and he loves to cook.

NORTHWEST

Paul R. Palmer

The Florida State Elks Association is honored to present to the 2016 National Convention in Houston, TX., the name of Paul R.Palmer as a candidate for the office of Northwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the 2016-2017 year.

Paul Palmer was born in Orange, Texas, and moved to Florida in 1955 when he was five years old. He graduated from Pensacola High School.

Palmer was drafted into the United States Army and served two years in Vietnam; he was an E5. He received a Vietnam Service Ribbon with two stars.

He was a mail carrier for Civil Service for 6 months. He then got hired with the NAS Fire Department in Pensacola. He worked his way up to captain and retired after 35 years.

Palmer’s father is a charter member of Warrington Lodge, and he got him into the Lodge in March 1972. He had just returned from Vietnam. He has been an Elk for 43 years. He has served as Inner Guard, Lecturing Knight, Leading Knight (won All-State Leading Knight in 2008) and Exalted Ruler and has served many times on the Board of Trustees and as the House Committee Chairman. He has chaired or worked on many different committees. He was Elk of the Year twice and Officer of the Year and received two Grand Exalted Ruler awards. He was Vice Chairman and State Chairman for Orientation. He served as District Vice-President 2015-16.

Palmer has been a member of the board of directors for the Victim-Witness Assistance Program of the Champaign County Community would rebuild. He is an auxiliary member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program at the Village of Ogden that was formed to determine how the community would rebuild. He is an auxiliary member of Seminole American Legion Post 252. For the Community on Aging of Champaign County, IL, she served in many officer positions and on many of its committees. She was a member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Advisory Council in Champaign, Ill., and was a member of the Human Services Council of Champaign County.

Along with the Elks, Palmer belongs to the American Legion and the AMVETS.

SOUTH SOUTHWEST

Tom Johnson

The Florida State Elks Association is honored to present to the 2016 National Convention in Houston, TX., the name of Tom Johnson as a candidate for the office of South Southwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the 2016-2017 year.

Tom Johnson was born in Decatur, GA., Jan. 3, 1942. He grew up in northwest Ohio and moved to Florida in 2005. He earned a high school diploma. From 1970-2005 he was self-employed with Johnson Thermo Plastics. Since 1984, he has worked at Deerfield Industrial Warehousing.

In 2005, Johnson was asked to join the Elks by a member of Rotonda Lodge 2710. He has served as Exalted Ruler, Loyal Knight, Trustee and Chairman of the Board of Directors.

In addition to the Elks, Johnson is a member of the Moose and the Eagles. He also volunteers with the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office and is a county coordinator for Project Lifesaver.

He has been married to Patricia for 38 years. They have six children, 16 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. They also have two dogs, Rusty and Gracie.
Leonard “Lenny” Dilorenzo

The Florida State Elks Association is honored to present to the 2016 National Convention in Houston, TX., the name of Leonard Dilorenzo as a candidate for the office of Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the 2016-2017 year.

Leonard Dilorenzo was born in Brooklyn, NY., Aug. 23, 1968. He grew up in Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn and moved to Florida in October 1996. He attended Staten Island University.

He has worked 31 years in fire protection and established his own automatic fire sprinkler business in February 2007.

In July 2007, Dilorenzo joined the Elks after he was invited to the Lodge by a close friend. In 2007-2008 he was on the House Committee. In 2008-2009 he was the Bar Manager. He served as Lecturing Knight in 2009-2010, as Leading Knight in 2010-2011 and as Exalted Ruler in 2011-2012. In 2012-2013 he was District Chairman and State Vice Chairman of Lodge Activities. In 2013-2014 he was Leading Knight and District Chairman and State Chairman of Lodge Activities. In 2014-2015 he was Esquire and District Chairman of Lodge Activities. He served as District Vice President 2016-16.

Dilorenzo enjoys live music, working on his original 1968 Camaro SS, home improvements and do-it-yourself handy projects, and volunteering for fundraisers in the community.

He resides in Jupiter with Lauren Dowd-Shedlock and enjoys spending time with his four children, Jessica, Lenny, John and Nico.

Joseph D. Pepe

The Florida State Elks Association is honored to present to the 2016 National Convention in Houston, TX., the name of Joseph D. Pepe as a candidate for the office of Southeast Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the 2016-2017 year.

Joseph Pepe was born in 1944 in Brooklyn, NY. He moved to Valley Stream, NY., in 1976 and settled in Florida in October 2004. He graduated from St. Francis Prep High School in 1962. He earned his bachelor’s degree in education from Wagner College in 1969 and earned his master’s degree in secondary school administration and supervision from St. Johns University in 1976.

Pepe was a junior high school and high school math teacher and a high school assistant principal. In addition, he was an interscholastic high school football and track coach. He was also director of summer youth camps and recreational programs.

In January 2006, Pepe was sponsored into the Elks by a member of his senior softball league when he wanted to find an organization involved in community service. He has held many positions including Lecturing and Leading Knight, Exalted Ruler, Trustee, and Grand Lodge Auditor and Esquire to the DDGER, and he has served on the House Committee. He has been Lodge Chairman of Sports, Ritual, and Community Projects & Activities and Chairman of the Trustees as well as President of the PER Association. He served as District Chairman of Americanism and Youth Activities. He has been District and Regional Chairman of Hope Scholarship and was Vice and State Chairman of Sports and SEC District Vice President 2015-16.

Pepe is a member of the Association of Mathematics Assistant Principals of Supervision NYC, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, NYS Association of Mathematics Supervisors, American Federation of School Administrators, and the Council of Supervisors and Administrators NYC. He is a life member of the American Football Coaches Association.

He is married to Frances “Fran” and has two daughters and a son. He has two grandsons and one granddaughter.

In 1999 and 2000 he received NYC Council citations. In 2010 he received the GER’s special citation. He earned the ELK’s Distinguished Citizenship award in 2013-2014. He was named Port St. Lucie Elk Citizen of the Year for 2013-2014. In 2014-2015, he was named Outstanding Elk of the Southeast Central District.

Ronald “Ron” Locke

The Florida State Elks Association is honored to present to the 2016 National Convention in Houston, TX., the name of Ronald Locke as a candidate for the office of North Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the 2016-2017 year.

Ron Locke was born in Memphis, TN., in 1955. He moved to Florida in 1956 and grew up in Mount Dora, FL. He attended Mount Dora High School and Lake-Sumter State College.

During his career, Locke owned a beverage store, laundromat, garage, landscaping business, and several commercial buildings and rentals.

In 2002, he became an Elk. He knew firsthand what Elks did for his family and him so he joined to assist and pay back for the support his family received and for the support he received as a child. He has served as Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight and Leading Knight and served three times as Exalted Ruler. He was a Trustee for five years, two years as Chairman. He has been Lodge Chairman of Americanism and Soccer Shoot for over 10 years. He was District Chairman of Soccer Shoot for nine years, State Vice Chairman of Soccer Shoot for one year and State Chairman of Soccer Shoot for two years and served as District Vice-President in 2015-16. He is also the VAS Representative to Fort McCoy VFW Retirement Home.

He enjoys barbecue cooking and spending time with his family and grandchildren.

He has been married to Susan for 41 years. He has three grown sons and six grandchildren.

Thomas M. “Tom” Crews

The Florida State Elks Association is honored to present to the 2016 National Convention in Houston, TX., the name of Thomas M. Crews as a candidate for the office of Southwest Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the 2016-2017 year.

Tom Crews was born in Leesburg, FL., in 1949. He moved to Plant City, Fla., when he was three and resided in Florida until entering the military. He returned to Florida in 1976. He graduated from Plant City High School in 1967 and graduated from the University of South Florida in 1980.


Crews was sponsored by Michael Smith in 1998 to become an Elk. He served as Exalted Ruler of Plant City Lodge 1727 in 2000-2001 and 2006-2007. He has also been Trustee, Leading Knight, Esquire and Chaplain. Over the years, he has chaired various Lodge committees including Americanism, Drug Awareness and Hoop Shoot. He served as District Chairman for Americanism, Drug Awareness and Sports and managed the regional drug awareness trailer.He served as District Vice-President 2015-16.

He has been a member of the American Legion since 1985.

He has been married to Karen for 38 years. He has one son, Kevin, and one grandchild, Kathleen.
Here are the results of the BPOE legislative session: July 4, 2016

• 2016-01 - To rename the Grand Lodge Public Relations Committee the Public Relations and Marketing Committee to better reflect the practices, duties and responsibilities of the Committee.
Yes, 2346; No, 62. Passed
• 2016-02 - To eliminate any responsibility for the Elks National Home given its recent sale.
Yes, 2378; No, 26. 98.92 percent. Constitutional amendment. Passage subject to Lodge ratification.
• 2016-03 - To allow a Lodge, by By-Law, to set the reinstatement fee at any amount it wants, or to eliminate it altogether.
Yes, 2069; No, 316. Passed
• 2016-04 - To allow a Lodge, by By-Law, to set the initiation fee at any amount it wants, or to eliminate it altogether?
Yes, 2052; No, 339. Passed
• 2016-05 - To amend the Grand Lodge Constitution to clarify that Lodge trusts and other related legal entities are subject to the applicable provisions of Section 16.030.
Yes, 2204; No, 182. 92.37 percent. Constitutional amendment. Dependent on passage of No. 6. Passage subject to Lodge ratification.
• 2016-06 - To amend the Grand Lodge Statutes to clarify that Lodge trusts and other related legal entities are subject to the applicable provisions of Sections 16.030 and 16.050.
Yes, 2203; No, 194. Dependent on passage of No. 5.

DDGER’s Continued from page 8

SOUTHWEST
Ken Davis

The Florida State Elks Association is honored to present to the 2016 National Convention in Houston, TX., the name of Ken Davis as a candidate for the office of Southwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the 2016-2017 year.

Ken Davis was born in 1946 in Fall River, MA. He grew up in Little Compton, RI., and moved to Florida in October 2003. He graduated from Colby College in Waterville, MA, in 1968 with a major in history.

Davis spent most of his career as a commercial lending officer. He worked in New York City out of college but the majority of his career was spent in southern Maine and southern New Hampshire.

In 1996 he joined Portsmouth, NH., Lodge 97. He was encouraged by his brother-in-law, Gene Rayno, Rhode Island’s current State President. Davis is currently Lodge Esquire. He is Lodge Chairman of Americanism, Elks National Foundation Scholarships and Orientation. He is the District Chairman of Harry-Anna Trust Fund and is State Chairman of Americanism. He has previously served as District Chairman of Americanism, Interlude Visitation, Soccer Shoot and Hope Scholarship, and District Vice President 2015-16.

Along with the Elks, Davis is a member of the Moose, Eagles, Shrine and Masons. His interests include reading, doing crossword puzzles, traveling and golf.

He has been married to Diane for 42 years. His father was a potato farmer in Rhode Island. He has one older brother and one older sister.

SOUTH SOUTHEAST
Linda Barie

The Florida State Elks Association is honored to present to the 2016 National Convention in Houston, TX., the name of Linda Barie as a candidate for the office of South Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the 2016-2017 year.


Barie worked for Winn-Dixie as a bookkeeper and a general merchandise manager for 12 years and for Hallmark Cards as Installation Leader and Display Manager for the past 25 years.

She became an Elk in 2008 and brought in her neighbor, Francis “Tom” Thomason. She served on the House Committee and has been Tiller, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, and Leading Knight. She served two consecutive terms as Exalted Ruler. In 2010, she was named Officer of the Year, she was District Chairman for Officers Attendance and Elks National Foundation Certificates and was Vice Chairman of Elks National Foundation Scholarships and District Vice President 2015-16.

For eight years, Barie was a Girl Scout leader and a new troop organizer for five years. She was also a chaperone and coordinator for her daughter’s dance team. She has been married to James for 34 years. Her daughter, Erin, is married to Denis. Their daughter, Natalie, is eight years old, and their twin sons, Logan and Gavin, are three years old.

Future National Convention Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>July 16-19</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>July 1-4</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>June 30-July 3</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>July 5-8</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>July 4-7</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
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Elks National Foundation

Supports
Lodge programs
State Programs
Children
Veterans

Donor Wall - $5,000 Paid-in-Full Certificate
Betty Tewksbury, Stuart-Jensen $1870

Gold Pins for Paid-in-Full $1,000 Certificate
Phil Gershach, Port Charlotte #2153
Phillip Meyers, West Palm Beach #1352
Joan Hector Rodriguez Mills, Port Charlotte #2153
John Musser Jr., Hollywood West #2365
Okey Ryan, Seminole #2519
Marianne Schenkel, Punta Gorda #2606

Recognition Certificates & Pins Awarded Apr. 1 – June 30, 2016
Michael Zeller takes the Oath of Office

Congratulations to the New GER

Enjoying the Celebration

Florida Elks stayed at the 22 story Four Seasons Hotel just a few blocks from the Convention Center.

Florida State President Harris with FSEA Flag

PSPs Ledig and Tabor with Dolly and Rachel

Florida’s Five Star Major Projects booth with new Director Diane Corson and Volunteers
Miami Lodge 948

Miami Lodge 948’s outgoing Exalted Ruler Bob Schmidt awarded PER Louis DeSouza Elk of the Year. Louis’ House Committee achieved a turnaround in member interest, and participation. His leadership, hard work, and inspiration for his volunteers resulted in a successful year. PER Milton Muller, this year’s Exalted Ruler held an impressive Pot Luck Meet & Greet Dinner for all of his new Officers to introduce themselves to the lodge members attending the event. Each of the members brought a plate to share and enjoyed an amazing assortment of food, and a warm, wonderful relaxing evening.

Miami Lodge has many movie loving members. When movie aficionado Auberto Palma joined 948 several years ago, he was generous enough to offer free monthly screenings of films from his remarkably impressive film library for our members. Auberto, last year asked ER Bob Schmidt if he would prepare something for the members to eat before those Tuesday nights, and Bob volunteered his cooking skills. Exalted Ruler Milton Muller and his new House Committee Chairperson, Ginger DiCristafaro have brought back on a trial basis, spaghetti dinners on movie nights. The first two nights were great successes. Many volunteers are working at these events and members get the opportunity to have a dinner and a movie again. Miami Lodge 948 will be 111 years old this summer. 111 members and guests attended the Lodge’s Memorial Day picnic, food and beverage sales were good. The Elkettes raised $140 in desserts and $71 in jewelry sales for their charity fund. The lodge held an impressive Flag Day ceremony, which took place before our general meeting with a sharp-looking group of JROTC Standard-Bearers from Miami Coral Park Senior High.

The Stuart-Jensen Lodge 1870

The Lodge has been busy with local charitable events hosting two spaghetti benefit dinners for local youth programs! In April we hosted the Martin County HS Tennis Team and in May the Intrepid Rowing Team! Both youth organizations were able to raise over $5,000 with the members help.

A Mother’s Day Ritual Ceremony was held, where ER, Joey Simonelli,PER recognized Beth Snyder as the Mother of the Year. Beth is Leading Knight and is the proud mother of three Eagle Scouts. Her dedication to her family is outstanding. At the end of the month, a Memorial Day picnic was held and marched in the local Stuart Memorial Day parade. Thanks to treasurer, Alice Hurd for organizing all the marchers and to PER Stew Smith for recognizing our deceased members.

In June, our Marine Corp League, Justin Wilson Detachment 1045, led by Elk Member and Commandant, Cary Haerlin, and his wife Debbie, assisted with our Flag Day program. The Marines escorted the Flag carrier in as they presented the history of the flag. Robin Barker, Marine Veteran and Elk Member, read the response. Congratulations to Elks of the Month - April, Milt Davis; May, Mike Mattioli; and June, Karen McCarthy.

The Stuart-Jensen officers, flag carriers and Marine Corp League, Justin Wilson Detachment.

Melbourne Lodge 1744

Melbourne Lodge 1744 donated a $2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to the local Honor Flight Organization to sponsor veterans for a trip to Washington, DC. The grant will pay for the veterans to visit the National WWII Memorial and other monuments. The check was presented, at the monthly PER Friday Night Dinner/Dance, by PER Sam Casella and PER AJ Cassone. The Honor Flight Organization was represented by Christine Tate (Honor Flight fundraiser), and Stewart Glass, public relations for Space Coast Honor Flight.

SOUTH DISTRICT

Glenn J. Tekerman, Reporter

Glennzo24@Gmail.com

The lodge gave scholarships to local graduating High School Seniors. It also held a Kentucky Derby Party with a hat contest and horse races across the dance floor with inflatable horses. A large group of members and guests participated in a Cinco de Mayo party with lots of tacos and other various food items.

Fort Pierce Lodge 1570

Officers from left rear, Mike Swayngim PER Director, Tricia Swayngim ER, Nancy Miller DDGER, Ron Kruse PER, Lenny Smallacombe PDDGER, Barbara Smallacombe PER District Vice President Elect, and Dana Brickford Lodge Esquire.

Left to right middle; David Fowler PER Director, David Aievoli PER, John Henry PER Director, JJ Johnson PDDGER Director, Bibo Frizzarz Leading Knight, David Bell Loyal Knight.

Left to right next front row; Ginny Young Secretary, Betty Elmore PER Treasurer, Bobbie Freeing Chaplain, Dee Konow Tiler, Ward Lankford Lecturing Knight, Dan Fiebelkorn Inner Guard and Ken Carrier PER.

Fort Pierce Lodge 1570

The Lodge held its annual Easter Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny making a surprise visit. The children had a great time seeing the Easter Bunny, hunting for eggs, and having pizza afterwards.

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During the Elk’s fiscal year of 2015-2016, Holley-Navarre has provided over 2,000 pounds of food and in excess of over $2,500 in cash to help support this Navarre Food Shelf.

The Billory Baptist Church graciously provides the space and volunteer support to run the day to day activities at the Food Shelf. The facility plays an important role in the Holley Navarre community by supporting between 60 and 100 families every month with needed food to help struggling people fight to survive unfortunate circumstances in their lives.

Ft. Walton Lodge 1795

Ft. Walton Lodge 1795, with the Destin Lodge 2688, hosted a Flag Day celebration inside the lodge Sunday afternoon with representatives from the Boy Scouts, American Heritage Girls, ROTC and guest speaker Master Sgt. Chad Miller. Attendees joined together singing The Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America and also performed the Pledge of Alliance. The Elks tap dancers performed a patriotic number before the ceremony concluded.

Destin Lodge 2624

Destin Lodge traveled to Crestview Lodge on June 11th to participate in their Exceptional Children’s Day. Pictured are (on right) NW Vice President Sid Potter presenting a check to a couple representing the Autism Society. On left is Endorsed District Deputy Paul Palmer from the Warrington Lodge 2108.

Holley-Navarre Lodge 2787

Presenting a check in the amount of $2500 to the “Billory Bread of Life Food Shelf,” is Robert Harlow, President of the Holley-Navarre Elks Lodge 2787. Accepting the check is Mary Nelson, Volunteer Manager of the Food Shelf.

Twin Cities and Crestview Lodges celebrated a combined Flag Day program, using Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Young Marines as flag handlers for over 10 years now.

Pensacola Beach Lodge 497

Using “Teamwork divides the task and doubles the success,” as its motto, the Lodge Golf Committee held its Third Annual Charity Golf Tournament in May. With close to 200 participants, including Elks, business partners, and volunteers, the tournament raised over $24,000 for local veteran’s and children’s charities in the Pensacola area. One of the many highlights of the tournament was the live auction run by Tournament Chairperson Johnny Wyse.

With the help of LOE Lori Farmer, Johnny Wyse auctioned a Tag Heuer watch ($2500 value) and a Sapphire and Diamond necklace ($650 value) donated by two Pensacola jewelry stores.

Including the previous two tournaments, Pensacola Beach has raised over $55,000 for Elk charities. The Lodge hosted the annual Flag Day celebration with full participation from sister lodge Holley-Navarre.

Crestview Lodge 2624

On Saturday, June 11th, Crestview held its annual Exceptional Children’s Day. In conjunction with the Autism Society, the event’s theme was “Celebrating Children Overcoming Adversity.” And while the day was shortened by uncooperative weather, many families with special needs children were treated to a whole lot of fun! Kids enjoyed bounce houses, water slides, face painting and much more! Reid Soria of Autism Sings, LLC and Cap’t Davy’s Magic Show provided plenty of entertainment.

Combining with Twin Cities Lodge, Crestview celebrated Flag Day.

Twin Cities Lodge 2747

The Twin Cities Elks Lodge was well represented at the Twin Cities Veterans Council Memorial Service on Monday, May 30th at the Doolittle Park in Valparaiso, Florida.
The Elks National Veterans Service Commission was established in 1946, immediately after World War II, with the sole mission of serving our nation’s veterans. Though much has changed since then, the Elks’ dedication to serve veterans and military members in need has never wavered. In VA clinics, veterans’ homes, USOs, homeless shelters and more, thousands of Elks volunteers give generously of their time, energy and resources to serve veterans and military members each year.

The Elks are committed to their mission, “So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.” The Veterans Service Commission takes that pledge one step further, and promises service to our nation’s veterans and military members, with a special focus on service to those in need.

As the needs of today’s veterans changed, so have the Elks’ programs. Today, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission has many exciting programs and partnerships catering to veterans and military members and their families.

Every night, an estimated 50,000 veterans are living on the streets. Each with a different story, they all share a common pledge: to support and defend this country. Their service is done. Now, it’s the Elks’ turn to serve.

In partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission has pledged to help end veteran homelessness, and ensure that every veteran has the safe, stable home they deserve. To accomplish this goal, we need your help!

There are the 5 components of the Welcome Home program

**Welcome Home Kits**

Most veterans move into their homes with nothing. Elks can help veterans establish their homes by building Welcome Home Kits. Generally, this kit would include some small furniture, kitchenware, and cleaning supplies. Items can be new or used, donated or purchased. The ENVSC has funds available to help with this.

Our Welcome Home Kit Reimbursement Form assists Lodges with costs up to $200. Access it here!

Once your Lodge submits this form to our office, we’ll match your Lodge with a veteran moving into a new home.

**Adopt a Homeless Veteran**

Once a veteran is home, it can be difficult to change habits and transition from a life on the street. Veterans may need assistance with independent living and home care skills such as budgeting, opening bank accounts, cooking, cleaning, job seeking and assistance dealing with landlords. Having an Elk as an advocate and friend can help these veterans to thrive in their new home. Adopt a newly housed veteran.

Visit our Adopt-a-Veteran webpage for details on how to get started.

**Elks Emergency Assistance Program**

Spread the word about the Elks Veterans Emergency Assistance Program. Veterans registered with and receiving services from the Department of Veterans Affairs can apply for one-time monetary assistance to prevent homelessness or secure a home. Forms must be signed by the veteran and by a VA employee.

All assistance requests must be submitted through the Department of Veterans Affairs, and signed by a VA employee. Individual requests cannot be processed at this time. Currently, this form is only available to providers within the State of Illinois.

**Elks Housing Navigators**

Elks members interested in providing at least 15 hours of service a month to homeless veterans seeking assistance at VA facilities can sign up to be Elks Housing Navigators. These volunteers will act as mentors and friends to help homeless veterans tackle their challenges, find a home and become integrated into the community.

Sign up as a Housing Navigator today by emailing Vets@elks.org.

**Awareness Campaign**

Spread awareness! Be a local advocate. Encourage business owners to hire a homeless veteran. Help find affordable housing for veterans making the transition. Want to share this information with your Lodge? Check out the Welcome Home presentation given at the 2016 Elks National Convention.

Together, we can end veteran homelessness.

For further information, contact the Elks National Veterans Service Commission office at Vets@elks.org, or at 773-755-4736. Or, visit www.va.gov/homeless/. Talk to landlords in your community about renting to veterans.

Florida’s District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers Elect complete their installation as DDGER’s...
**Lake City Lodge 893**

Installation of officers was a huge success and well attended, with numerous past District Deputies from the North District in attendance and helping with the ceremony. The food and entertainment was fantastic and the decorations were superb. Special congratulations to our award winners: Mr. Jim Springs, Elk of the Year; Ms. Laura Moor, Officer of the Year; PDDGER Stanley Cox, Volunteer of the Year; Dr. Ron Foreman, Citizen of the Year; and, outgoing ER Award to Jay Swisher.

Beginning in April, on the Friday nights when prime rib is served, there is music and dancing at the Lodge. This is a monthly event. The Lodge partnered with the Derby Dash car show again this year on Saturday, May 7, and served ice cold beer behind the lodge. Proceeds benefitted the Lodge’s charity account. On May 13, the Lodge hosted the Columbia High School Jazz ensemble performance, to raise money for new band uniforms. Members were invited to dance, applaud and maybe even contribute to the cause and enjoy these talented performers. More than $550 was raised to help buy uniforms.

The Lodge’s annual golf tournament was held June 11 at the Quail Heights Country Club. This is a fundraiser every June to raise money for the Lodge’s charitable endeavors. Flag Day was observed in the Lodge room, followed by a proper flag disposal ceremony. Dinner was available in the dining room too.

The Lodge was proud to receive an ENF Freedom Grant and use those funds to purchase multiple items renewable in the dining room too. Following the dinner, the Lodge hosted a glittering circus-themed wonderland.

**Perry Lodge 1851**

The Lodge conducted its annual Glow Ball Golf Tournament on March 12. From the Elk’s scholarship program, local high school senior Trevor Schwab was a recipient of a $3000 scholarship. Other scholarship winners were Haley Lago and Jayse Simpson, who each received $500 from Perry Lodge and Hayden Lilliott, a $4000 ENF Legacy Award winner. Congratulations to the winners! Twenty members and spouses attended the homecoming banquet at the Tallahassee Lodge for State President Carl Ledig and wife Dolly.

For installation officer, DDGER Dick Joyal served as Grand Exalted Ruler with the following assisting in the installation — PER John Dill, PER Randall Sasser, Randy McManaway, Hola Gliett Bishop, Connie Martinez and Andy Hillhouse all from Live Oak Elk Lodge, as well as several PERs from the Perry Lodge. Outgoing ER Lorena Gambling presented awards to Elk Member of the Year — Dean Gambling; Elkett Officer of the Year — Earline Neely; Citizen of the Year — Bob Mixon.

Mothers Day was a huge success with a luncheon serving more than 200 folks. ER Yon and her officers presented a brief program and then the officers and other volunteers handled the meat. In other words, the Lodge was proud to present Coach Drew Taylor with a check for $300 sponsoring the Hooks Blue 8U traveling ball team. These young kids (and their coaches) are doing an outstanding job playing and learning about good sportsmanship.

**Tallahassee Lodge 937**

The Lodge is proud to recognize one of its own, Karla Jones, as the North District Elk of the Year. Karla is a volunteer who devotes many hours to the Lodge and its activities. She many times can be seen up close and personal working an event, but she also spends a significant amount of time behind the scenes, accomplishing tasks on her own.

Tallahassee held its officer installation on April 2, a joint installation with the Lodge’s Elkett organization. Afterwards, hors d’oeuvres were plentiful; congratulations were shared; and smiles were everywhere. Awards were presented to Elk of the Year, Danny McElroy and Officer of the Year, Karen Peek; Elkett of the Year was Gloria Whitaker. A tip of the hat goes to Life Member Tom Dunaway, who continues to take photos of important events at the Lodge and grace us with pictures once again. April activities included a pig roast, hosted by officers John Bozeman and Chris Hunt. The Lodge also participated in a Veterans Stand Down on April 22-23, hosting food for the event, which was paid for through grants the Lodge received from ENF.

Easter came quickly and the Lodge held its traditional Easter Egg Hunt, inside this year, due to inclement weather. More than 500 plastic eggs were hidden and the kids had a big time hunting! Cinco de Mayo was recognized with a variety of Mexican style food being offered, as well as margarita specials in the lounge. Mothers Day featured a lovely buffet of roast pork loin and chicken imperial, both popular items. A big thank you goes to Keith White and Charles Johnson who prepared the food. Kentucky Derby Day featured Hot Brown sandwiches and derby pie, along with hats for the ladies. Mint juleps have not proved to be popular in past years. Memorial Day brought a crowd to the Lodge and one of the highlights was the cake walk, sponsored by the Elklets.

At the state convention, Tallahassee was proud to receive recognition as #1 per capita in donations to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The Lodge focuses on reminders for donations to the HAF and it met with success again this year. Tallahassee also won third place in the ritual contest and Lecturing Knight John Bozeman won the Jolly Cork Award — the highest individual score in the ritual contest. The Lodge also won third place in the Lodge Bulletin contest in our division, <300 members.

Flag Day was conducted on June 14, with a memorable service in the Lodge room, followed by a great spaghetti dinner. The flag in front of the Lodge that has flown this past year was removed and awarded to outgoing ER, DDGER Ron Brown, and a new flag hoisted. The Tallahassee Elklets hosted Fathers Day, with a luncheon featuring chicken picatta and sautésailafula. The ice cream and cookie bar for dessert put a crowning touch on the evening.

The Lodge’s annual golf tournament was held June 11 at the Quail Heights Country Club. This is a fundraiser every June to raise money for the Lodge’s charitable endeavors. Flag Day was observed in the Lodge room, followed by a proper flag disposal ceremony. Dinner was available in the dining room too.

The Lodge was proud to receive an ENF Freedom Grant and use those funds to purchase multiple items renewable in the dining room too. Following the dinner, the Lodge hosted a glittering circus-themed wonderland.

**Live Oak Lodge 1165**

Live Oak Lodge was well represented at State President Carl Ledig and First Lady Dolly’s homecoming banquet in Tallahassee on the weekend of March 18-19. Attending were Leading Knight Eleet Randy McManaway and Jenny, Scholarship Chairman John David Dill and Kelli, Exalted Ruler Elect John Dill and Shelly, PDDGER Janet DaSilva. The weekend was well planned and NDVP Barbara Hollingsworth is commended for a job well done. The Tallahassee Lodge was transformed into a glittering circus-themed wonderland.

Perry Elks Lodge assisted with the Live Oak Elks Lodge 2016-17 officers’ installation, with DDGER Dick Joyal presiding. Perry officers participating were Hinano Yon, Melvin Suggs, Gordon Brown, Edward Mock, Tommy Mauldin, Sylvia Ellanson, and Earlene Neely.

The traditional Mothers Day brunch was replaced this year with a special prime rib dinner on Saturday, May 7, to allow moms to spend Mothers Day with their families. The Anna Miller Circle installed its officers on June 7 and held a Sock Hop at the Lodge on July 16. Karaoke along with other music was quite the deal for the evening.

The Lodge held its Flag Day Ceremony on June 11 at 6:00 pm with Scout Troop 693 presenting its program again this year. The Lodge’s scholarship applications are finished and the four winners have been selected. The winners are Kyler Grey and Christopher Brantley from Suwannee High, John Hall from Branford High, and Kelby Pearson from Mayo. They will each receive $300 per year for four years totaling $4,800 to go towards their college educations. A BIG thanks goes out to Scholarship Chairman John David Dill and his Committee Members for all of their hard work and dedication to our youth. It’s no easy task to judge all of those applications and select winners.

**HARRY-ANNA TRUST FUND Donation Form**

**SAVE A STAMP & PAPER DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.FLELKS.ORG!**

**If you prefer to mail in your donation, please choose donation type below:**

**New Certificate** - choose series below (any certificate series may be paid in full or used the annual insurments listed)

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| Onetime donation (amount): $ | Memorial donation (see back of form - don’t fill out this side) |

**Make checks payable to: Harry-Anna Trust Fund**

**PO Box 40**

**Umatilla, FL 32784-0040**

**502-056-2241 ext. 237**
Green Cove Springs Lodge 892
A Beacon Grant was used to sponsor "Kick-Off Day" for the Green Cove Springs City Library Children’s Summer Reading. On June 7th, 190 children ages 11 months to 17 years with their parents, grandparents, and other caregivers filled the library to receive a free age-specific book, animal balloons and ice cream. They had their faces painted and made various crafts.

The Lodge provided 23 volunteers to greet the children, register them for Library summer programs, distribute books, give out ice cream, assist with crafts, and help manage the flow of traffic.

Jacksonville Lodge 221

Awards were presented to the Firefighter, Educator and Police Officer of the Year. The recipients were Lt. Jesse Brown, Amanda Tygart and Ivan Penna. As is the custom, the awards were presented during the Annual Installation of Officers Dinner.

Installation of Officers and Awards dinner was held Saturday, April 9th. PSP Jim Hurst presided over the ceremony.

On Sunday, June 10th, held the annual mandatory Flag Day Service. It was attended by over 50 members and guests. The opening service was a patriotic performance by the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Department’s Color Guard. Following the impressive Flag Day service and speeches by dignitaries, a Flag Retirement Ceremony was conducted outdoors.

Gainesville Lodge 990
The Lodge is honored and proud to be one of only two Lodges in the state with four ENF Most Valuable Student Scholarship winners. A reception for them was held on Tuesday, June 7 at the lodge. Invited were all the scholarship winners, parents, principals, and guidance counselors. Unfortunately, two of the winners attended the reception.

Pictured are Scholarship winners Victoria Williamson and Saym Imitiaz with Mary Crane, lodge scholarship committee chairperson.
Bingo was conducted for the Veterans at the Gainesville VA Hospital.

Orange Park Lodge 2605
On May 22, we hosted 12 veterans and staff from the Lake City Domiciliary for a lunch buffet at the Lodge and a 3 p.m. Jacksonville Suns Baseball Game. Pictured are the veterans and staff from the Lake City Domiciliary.

Sponsored bingo for the veterans at the Lake City Veterans Hospital. John Markiewicz PDDGER represents our Lodge for this event.
Honored our Lodge Mothers at a Friday night dinner in May. We honored our Lodge Fathers at a Friday night dinner in June.

Used a Beacon Grant to assist the National Association of Veterans and Families with printing costs for information notebooks that are provided to Veterans Benefits Workshops held in the five county area around Jacksonville. The purpose of the workshops is to assist veterans in obtaining benefits they are entitled to.

Orange Park Lodge used a Promise Grant to assist the JAX NAS Sea Cadet group with remodeling the space they are provided on the base.

Sponsored a Fund Raiser Car Wash for the JAX NAS Sea Cadet group. Over $1000 was raised to help fund the group’s annual trip which this year will be to Washington, DC.

A Youth Day picnic was held for the JAX NAS Sea Cadet group and their leaders. We grilled hot dogs and hamburgers and the cadets played outdoor sports and sang karaoke.
Conducted the Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony. We served coffee and donuts to members and guests followed by the performance of the Flag Retirement service and the burning of the old and tattered flags.

St. Augustine Lodge 829
St. Augustine Lodge awarded eight $1,000 Scholarships to 2016 Graduating Seniors. Scholarship recipients are chosen based on academic achievements, school activities, community service and financial need.
This year’s recipients include from Ponte Vedra High, Ilana Newman (Cornell University); Nease High, Khadija Kamara (Florida); Florida School for the Deaf, Leslie Calderon (Palm Beach State); Kiara Jordan (Rochester Institute); St. Joseph Academy, Sophie Williar (Tampa); Menendez High, Sierra Cheshire (St. Johns River State); St. Augustine High, Isabel Copp (Alabama) and Bartram Trail High, Jensen Thompson (Florida).
DeLand Lodge 1463

Linda Witt became a member because she wanted to attend Bingo; after three guest visits she became a member in 2009. In her first year as an Elk, she was lodge Tiler, followed by Inner Guard the following year. She became more involved in the different lodge activities and fundraisers.

Over the years, Linda was both Secretary and Treasurer, put together fundraisers or assisted in them. She cooks each month on Italian night and helps out in the kitchen and other area of the lodge, when asked. She is the Publicity chairperson for the lodge, takes photos of all the events, updates the Lodge Facebook page daily and is the Publisher and Editor of the Lodge Chronicle Newsletter.

Last year Linda was asked to be the East Central District reporter and continues as such; she writes the news articles for the lodges in the East Central District. Congratulations to Linda Witt as the DeLand Lodge “Elk of the Year.”

Tom Hopp was introduced to the Elks as a young child attending many of the yearly family picnics held by his grandfather’s lodge in Detroit, MI. Tom moved to Florida in 1984. In 1996, Tom found out that his neighbor was an Elk and invited Tom to join in 2000. Tom committed to attending one meeting a month and became active as a chaplain under then ER Tom Pollard PDDGER. Tom now has ‘the bug’ and has held numerous positions including ER, Leading, Loyal & Lecturing Knight, Esquire, Trustee and various chairs in DeLand 1463. Most recently Tom had the honor of being the Esquire to the Larry Skates - District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the ECD 2015-2016.

The Deland High School bulldog wrestling club held a fundraiser car wash and yard sale, hosted by the Deland Elks Lodge. The funds will go towards hotel, travel, registration and equipment so that the team can attend the competition at Lake Buena Vista. The wrestling team competed in a 2016 AAU wrestling scholastic duals @ ESPN wide world of sports.

Once again the last weekend in April brought Elks from all over the state of Florida to Sperling Sports Complex in Deland for the 23rd Annual Florida Elks State Softball Tournament. This year we had 13 teams representing 11 Lodges throughout the state, stretching from Gainesville to Delray Beach. There was fantastic competition in all three divisions all day long, setting up for an intense Championship Sunday. Once the games were finished, many made their way to the Deland Lodge where they enjoyed a tasty fish fry dinner from tournament founders, Phil Watercutter and Joe Rogers, and crew.

The championship rounds were highly contested and shortly after lunch play concluded. We put a close to the 23rd Annual State Softball Tournament Sunday afternoon at the Deland Lodge, where we enjoyed lunch from Randy Long, Donna Nott and Warren Kerstwilt. We were joined by Endorsed State President John Harris to hand out trophies and awards. Congratulations to the Cocoa Beach, Port St. Lucie, and St. Petersburg Lodges for winning their respective divisions this year, Deland lodge who received the Camaraderie award, and to Linda Witt who followed the players all three days for some great photos of the event.

Cub Scout Pack 531 and their Pack Leaders assisted Deland Lodge hold their Annual Flag Day Ceremony, displaying all the changes to the American Flag throughout the years. Members, families and friends attended this event. A complimentary lunch followed the ceremony.

DeLand Elks Officers, Pack 531, Cub Scouts and Scout Leaders.

Edgewater-NSB Lodge 1557

The lodge held a spaghetti dinner for the parents, coaches and Babe Ruth baseball team members for having a successful year. The team, consisting of 4 and 5 year old kids, known as the Pirates, has been sponsored by the lodge for several years. All the kids were given medals and whiffle balls and a blast.

Members & coaches of the Pirates.

Marci Skates, wife of PDDGER Larry Skates, has been mentoring a first grader by the name Luz Nieves who lives with her single father; Luz has no female influence except for Marci. Luz has blossomed from a shy little tyke to an outgoing, talented little girl.

This year, the lodge is sending approximately nine kids to the Youth Camp, including Aiyana Mitchell. She lives with her grandparents and is very excited about going to camp. She has never been away from family before. Through the Gifts of Love food pantry, a sponsored community project, members of the lodge got together and donated toys, games, pool toys, skates, coloring books, jump ropes, crayons, hula hoops, bubbles, and more so the kids of the community would have enough fun during their summer vacation.

Congratulations to Sparky (Maurice) Holmes, John Buchanan, Est. Leading Knight, and Bo D’Avanzo, were presented with the GER Award Pin by Exalted Ruler Bobbi Savauks, for bringing in the most members in 2015-2016. They each received a letter from the Grand Lodge along with their pin. Barbara D’Avanzo was on hand to accept the GER pin on behalf of her husband Bo.

East Central District continued page 18
Englewood hosted a luncheon honoring students of the month, students of the year and Elk scholarship winners from Lemon Bay High School. ER Pam Van-Tilburg presented each student $100 dollars and two students received an additional $300 dollars. This year Englewood presented $12,000 in scholarships to Sean O'Connell, Jesse Davis, Margaret Wickerson, Christina Calderon, Samantha Albino.

Greater Pine Island Lodge 2781
Greater Pine Island showed its support of community youth by recently awarding new and recurring student scholarships totaling $8,000 to three graduating Seniors from Lee County Schools and one senior from Florida State University. Students receiving scholarships are Junco Nelson, Margaret Valcarcel, Jenny Kline, and Monica Ditch. Each student won a $2,000 scholarship.

Punta Gorda Lodge 2606
Punta Gorda Elks held their 13th annual Chuck Blackhurst Memorial Golf Tournament, which raised $6,400 for Children’s Therapy Services. They also held the annual Sally Jones 4th grade picnic for Drug Awareness. Elroy the Elk greeted the children and a demonstration was held by Punta Gorda police Officer Cole and his K9 partner, Spirit. Gift cards from Books a Million were given to all 89 kids. In other news, Punta Gorda used a Beacon Grant and donated spaghetti sauce to St. Vincent DePaul food pantry, and they hosted 36 Veterans and guests for a cookout and sleep over at the Lodge’s cabins.
The Palm Coast Elks Lodge has more than 1,100 members with over 30 years of outstanding and dedicated community service. City Council recognized the members of Lodge 2709 for their dedication and service.

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Boca Raton Elks Lodge 2166

The Boca Raton Elks continue to serve the community and its neighbors. With the help of our Beacon Grant, we recently held our third annual “Kidz Day” at the lodge. Neighborhood children and their families enjoyed a day of games and fun. They danced with a DJ, had their faces painted by a clown and enjoyed hot dogs, drinks and cotton candy. They learned about personal safety and fire safety from the Boca Raton Police and Fire Departments. Parents and children alike learned about the Florida Children’s Therapy program from therapist Erica. As a parting gift, each child was given a book to take home and read.

We held our annual Mother’s Day ceremony and our Leading Knight participated in the Boca Raton Memorial Day program by giving a moving speech. We also held our Flag Day ceremony. The Boca Raton High School Navy Junior ROTC told the history of our flag, and performed a flag folding demonstration telling us the significance of each fold. We then retired flags. We presented four local high school seniors with $500 each in lodge scholarships to help with their college expenses. We held a Murder Mystery Dinner and enjoyed trying to find out who the murderer was at the Tortellini Vineyards. We continued to serve our monthly breakfast to over 60 members and guests. Our Blood Drive saw an increase in donors.

We continue to make donations to local organizations. We donated $500 to Island Dolphin Care and $500 to the Boca Raton High School Marching Band. We sponsored a sign for the FAU Veterans’ Golf Tournament and had a banner with our name as a sponsor for Boca Hoops.

Our veterans are our highest priority. We held a dinner to honor the FAU Veterans and we continue to collect personal care items for the Stand Down House. With our Freedom Grant, nine veterans were taken on a fishing trip. They stayed at the Punta Gorda Lodge where our members prepared and served their meals, and went fishing with the help of the Wounded Warrior Angels. They came back to our lodge to be welcomed with a fish fry dinner.

Delray Beach Elks Lodge 1770

The Delray Elks have been very busy! Our Annual Country Western Dinner Dance was a huge success raising $8850 for Cystic Fibrosis! We held Mother’s Day and Flag Day Ceremonies. Ninety members went to Deland to participate in the Florida State Elks Softball Tournament. Our over 50 team brought back 2nd place and the teams fillings went to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Party served over 300 dinners! Awards Night was enjoyed by many of Delray’s Finest and Bravest. With special guest Delray’s Mayor, we awarded Delray Police, Firefighter/Paramedic, Ocean Rescue of the Year along with Student & Teacher of the year from 3 Delray Schools. And of course our own Officers of the Year. Our annual June golf tournament was a sell out with 144 players raising $5000! Recent donations were $1500 to Delray’s National Night Out, $775 to Delray’s Campaign for Grade Level Reading, $1500 to Palm Beach County’s Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and $500 to Special Olympics local bowling team.

Hollywood West Elks Lodge 2365

The Hollywood West Elks were pleased to learn that four scholarship applicants from our lodge were each awarded $1000 for four years. We also had an $8000 Hope Scholarship winner. We congratulate them and wish them well as they continue their education.

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Ormond Beach 2193

The Lodge recently bestowed upon Dwayne A. Rossi his highest award, the coveted “Elk of the Year” designation. Rossi, who is employed full time by the City of Ormond Beach, found the time and worked diligently throughout the 2015/2016 Lodge year, as a nearly irreplaceable volunteer cook in the Lodge kitchen, Co-Chairman of the Lodge Hoop Shoot competition, and a dedicated member of the House Committee.

Ormond Beach Elks Lodge presented awards to the winners of this year’s Americanism Essay Competition. The topic this year was “What Does the Pledge of Allegiance Mean to Me?”

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East Central District continued from page 16

Palm Coast Lodge celebrated its 30th anniversary on April 16 at the Elks Lodge. The room was filled with retired police officers and firefighters, the mayor of Palm Coast and other Elks members.

On April 16th the Palm Coast Elks Lodge 2709 President Vincent Gough presented the Blue Knights President Bill Gallagher and Vice President George Zampella a check for $2,000.00 kicking off the effort to outfit Flagler County K9 Officers with Ballistic protective vests. Our goal is to raise enough money to provide vests for all six K9 partners. Each $1,600.00 raised covers the cost of a protective vest that lasts for five years.”

President Vincent Gough related “This Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant kick starts our partnership with the Blue Knights to fund this important community project to properly equip our K9 officers.”

Saturday June 18, 2016 the Palm Coast Elks Lodge 2709 hosted a very successful Animal Adopt A Thon where ten (10) dogs were adopted.

The Elks also donated $1,400 to the Flagler Humane Society, $1,400 Safari, and $365 Blue Moon Cat Sanctuary. In addition, all the groups received food, litter, toys, and other supplies. The Elks hope to continue to support Animal Rescue Groups in Flagler, planning another adoption event this November. The donations were made possible by a grant the lodge received from the Elks National Foundation and member donations.

Titusville Elks Lodge 2113

Thanks to receiving the Beacon Grant, Titusville Lodge 2113 was able to finance its 3rd Annual Youth Bowling League. The league consists of 10 teams: ages 9 to 12. Each child is given a new bowling shirt, advertising Titusville Lodge, the Elks and a new bowling ball. The children bowl for 10 weeks and each week they are given a free lunch and free bowling. At the end of the league season, an awards banquet is held at the Lodge for the children and their caregivers. Each child is given a participation trophy and there are special trophies for 1st & 2nd place teams, High Average boy & girl and Most Improved boy & girl. Total cost of this CIP was between $4K & $5K.

Port Orange Lodge 2723

The youth activities funding raising Spaghetti dinner was held on Saturday, May 22nd. Even though our Elks snowbirds have gone north for the Summer, this event was still very prosperous for the Youth Activities at Port Orange Elks Lodge 2723.

There were in upwards of 50 dinners sold and a profit of $257.00 was made after expenses were paid. A Great Big Thank You goes out to the volunteers in the kitchen: Kristen, Our Esteeemed Cook, Michelle Greci, Kay Panfili, Nelson Peggs and Eileen Watts and our server Bud Packovich and Dan Theadore. Scrumptious desserts were provided by our members Eileen Watts and Mickey Rausch. Acolades go out to Lou Greci for the great job organizing this event.

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Pictured left to right with their awards are Hinsdon Middle School students, Vanessa Christaldi, 3rd place; Eryn Van Thielen, 2nd place; Patricia Gehring, PER; and Samantha Roberts, 1st place winner and recipient of a $50 Visa Gift card.

Palm Coast Elks Lodge 2709

On April 4th the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners and on April 5th the Palm Coast City Council declared April 2016 Palm Coast Elks Lodge 2709 Month! Both the County Commissioners and the City Council recognized the members of Lodge 2709 for 30 years of outstanding and dedicated community service. The Palm Coast Elks Lodge has more than 1,100 members.

Pictured front Flagler County Sheriff Deputy Robert Tarczewski and his partner K9 Officer Tag, left to right, first Vice President Ralph Dodge, Lodge Esquire Rick Bame, Trustee Mark Fontana, Trustee Jerry Dickens, Blue Knight Vice President George Zampella, Elks Lodge President Vincent Gough, Blue Knight President Bill Gallagher, Trustee Fred Szed, Trustee Jerry Lyons, third Vice president Louis Barletta, Trustee Jerry O’Gara, and Andy Jekabsons.
Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge 1525

The Lodge held a Community Awards Banquet on Tuesday May 17. The Lodge honored Americanism Contest winners in Division 1, 6th Grade and Division II, 7th Grade. The year’s theme was “What Can I do to Promote Americanism and Magnify County”. Soccer Shoot Winners were honored for 3rd place winner in the Age 8-9, 1st place winner in the 10-11 and 2nd place winner in the 12-13 age group. Five $1000 College Scholarships were awarded, 4 students were honored as Students of the year, 2 of them receiving a plaque and $200 check. Marine and Navy JROTC were honored. Awards were also presented to the Pinellas County Detective of the Year, Clearwater Police Officer of the Year, Dunedin Fire Fighter of the Year and Clearwater Fire Fighters of the Year.

In other news, the Lodge used the $2000 ENF Beacon Grant to partner with San Jose Elementary School in Dunedin to start a program entitled “Bikes for Books”. Grade level teachers networked together to decide age appropriate reading goals. Each child reaching these goals had a chance to win the bicycle and helmet purchased by the Elks members. There were two winners, one boy and one girl, per grade and from the exceptional student classes. This project encouraged students to improve their reading skills and rewarded them for academic success.

Holiday Isles Lodge 1912

Rolling out for its first event, the Florida Elks Drug Awareness trailer along with Elroy made a star appearance at the King of The Beach fishing tournament the last weekend of April in Madeira Beach Florida.

New Port Richey Lodge 2284

The Lodge received awards at the FSEA convention held in May in a state-wide membership drive competition. The Lodge won two third place certificates for percentage gains in membership, and the most important, First Place in membership numbers for our category of membership! The Lodge was the only Lodge receiving three awards for membership.

St. Petersburg Lodge 1224

On May 21, the Lodge donated the use of its hall and kitchen to Esther’s School, a special needs school for students with challenges, 100+ students and chaperones from six campuses in different counties enjoyed a formal prom. Esther’s School offers a specialized Kindergarten through twelfth grade program for children between the ages of five and twenty-two. The school focuses on training that will create the desire in children to excel and to live successful and independent lives. Their Event Coordinator, transformed the hall into a “formal ballroom” with chairs and tables beautifully covered in cloths where they enjoyed a meal prepared by professional chef, music to dance the evening away and photographer to capture their prom experience.

The Lodge donated the use of its pool and large Tiki to Tampa’s Athena House. Athena house is a 24-month transitional house for homeless female veterans. Any honorably discharged female veteran is eligible for stay in this gender sensitive therapeutic community. In addition, the Lodge has donated the use of its pool throughout the summer and into the fall to Boy Scout Troop 334 every Monday a month so that they could earn their swim tests. The pool was also donated one day a week summer thru fall to the veterans at the C. W. Bill Young VA so that they have a change of scenery and a chance to swim and relax in a pool outside a hospital setting.

WCD Working Together with other Districts

On Saturday, April 16, St. Petersburg Elks Lodge 1224 donated the use of its hall to come together with four other Lodges- Bradenton 1511, Largo Lodge 2159, Port Charlotte Lodge 2153, Seminole Lodge 2519 and Tampa Lodge 708. The listed five Lodges represented three Districts, SW, WC and SSW, who presented ‘Grease Tribute’, it was an opportunity to assist the Florida State Elks Association Historical Commemorative Projects Liaison Rudy J. Masi, Sr. to raise funds to take a few of our remaining WWII Veterans to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor December 6-10, 2016 in Honolulu. While in Honolulu, the WWII Veterans will be honored in an International Parade and Ceremonies at the USS Arizona Memorial. The trip for the WWII veterans and their chosen caretaker do not have any cost to them. This includes all transportation, hotels, meals, special tours, and participation in the ceremonies. The Event raised $3445.

WCD Gains Membership On Saturday, May 21, WCD VP Jeanne Reinheart presented WCD PER President Art French, PER a check in the amount of $4000. WCD Gains Membership On Saturday, May 21, WCD Gains Membership On Saturday, May 21, WCD Gains Membership On Saturday, May 21, WCD Gains Membership On Saturday, May 21, WCD Gains Membership On Saturday, May 21, WCD Gains Membership On Saturday, May 21, WCD Gains Membership On Saturday, May 21, WCD Gains Membership On Saturday, May 21, WCD Gains Membership On Saturday, May 21, WCD Gains Membership On Saturday, May 21, WCD Gains Membership On Saturday, May 21.
West Palm Beach Lodge 1352

The West Palm Beach Elks held its first annual Pitch Hit and Run Competition in partnership with Major League Baseball, along with the Scouts on the ball field on the Lodge grounds. Pitch Hit & Run is the official skills competition of Major League Baseball. The Scouts also hosted a car wash at the Lodge raising funds for a Fire Pit, which they built on the Lodge grounds by the Lodge Tiki Bar and horseshoe pits.

The West Palm Lodge is gearing up for the new school season with their Community Garden, a recipient of the Elks National Foundation $10,000 Impact Grant, which serves for the students to learn how to grow and maintain a garden, and cook; a hand’s on learning and educational program for the local students.

The Lodge stays busy with all sorts of activities, including a Mother’s Day ritual where the Elks gave out ribbons to all of the Mothers present. The Lodge hosts a monthly Yard Sale, the 3rd Saturday of the month, where vendors donate $10 to come in and setup their items in parking spots and the Lodge sells breakfast sandwiches. The Tuesday night Charity Bingo is now accepting back to school supplies in exchange for a bonus round of bingo tickets, just another incentive to bring in the school supplies!

Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Honor Guard with local Boy and Girls Scouts at the Jupiter Elks Annual Flag Day Celebration.

Clewiston Lodge 1853

Clewiston Elks Lodge 1853 proudly accepted an award at the FSEA Annual Convention for the best Opening and Closing Ritual for the Southeast District. The members of the Clewiston Lodge work hard at the ritual and are honored to have been recognized for the award. The Lodge is active with the local Scouts who participated in the annual Flag Day as well as worked with PDDGER Jimmy McDuffie, former mayor, on the Citizen Merit Badge. Educating and discussing with the Scouts on politics, jobs, citizens, and explore ideas of what they can aspire to be and do when they grow up. McDuffie was very impressed on the kids intelligence that are all involved in various clubs and organizations with focus and goals at such a early young age.

PDDGER.Jimmy McDuffie with local Boy Scouts discussing the Citizen Merit Badge.

Okeechobee Lodge members give instructions in Second Grade Classroom.

Belle Glade - Pahokee Lodge 1716

Members from the Belle Glade-Pahokee Lodge once again proudly cooked for the annual Black and Gold Children’s Fishing Tournament on Lake Okeechobee, which is always a success and great time! The Lodge made a donation to the Lighthouse Café Homeless Shelter as well as donated blankets and items to assist new single Mom’s. The Lodge is now hosting Bingo twice monthly on Tuesdays as well as Corn Hole on Monday’s as we way to bring in members from the community.

The Belle Glade-Pahokee Lodge once again hosted the annual Glades Day High School Prom at the Lodge and provided a special service to the parents, holding the keys of the students until phoning every parent when it came time for the kids to go home. The student’s all had a great time and the Lodge is honored to host and chaperone the event!
Arcadia Lodge 1524
Arcadia’s Memorial Elementary School had an “All American Show” with the support of the community. Loyal Knight Troy Hughes and PER Jackie Tucker Arcadia Elks Lodge set up an Elk’s Display Table. They also handed out information with further help from PER Renee Otto and ER Judi Ricci who talked to parents and children on what the Elks do for children and sharing information on the Youth Camp, Children’s Therapy, Hoop Shoot and Soccer Shoot. Arcadia Elks Lodge sent 12 kids to the Youth Camp this summer.

The City of Arcadia Mayor Susan Coker presented to ER Judi Ricci a Proclamation from the City of Arcadia, proclaiming May 1 through May 7 as the Elks National Youth Week. On April 30, the Elk’s Drug Awareness Trailer was stationed downtown, giving out information to the youth of our community. On May 7 the lodge sponsored Arcadia’s youth in the Twirling Unlimited Regional Competition in Clewiston. Approximately 500 youth from other cities came to compete in this annual program.

Brandon Lodge 2383
From left: Eileen Curtis, Lori Underberg, Elroy, Julie Ebert, Dorinda Rountree, and Thea Nichols, at Willis Peters Exceptional Center.

The children at Willis Peters Exceptional Center were called early for a special treat. Elroy Elk, the Elks National Drug Awareness Mascot, and a big ball of furry fun, brought cupcakes for the kids, posed for pictures, and even joined in on a little dancing.

Bob Booker and George Scribner of the Brandon Elks Lodge recently did some shopping on behalf of Brandon Lodge and gave back to Fisher House. Everything on their wish list and more, to a tune of $500 worth of supplies, was accepted by Tampa Fisher House Manager Paula Welenc. Fisher House Foundation provides military families housing close to a loved one during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury.

Brandon Elks Lodge’s Beacon Grant is at work for Yates Elementary. The lodge delivered back packs, socks, underwear, and shoes to Yates Elementary School. Yates Assistant Principal Lisa Varunum accepted the donation from Brandon Elks Lodge’s Delores Westfall.

Lakeland Lodge 1291

Feom left: Dave Norwine, Scholarship Chair; Shawn Proctor, Lauren Aqui, Sydney Burroughs, Christopher Campbell, Lainii Rogers, Menelik Graham, Jennifer Bacon, Morgan Roth, Olivia Overholt, Kara Stacy, Christian Bedwell, Chris Crider, Lodge ER.

Lakeland Elks Lodge awarded $12,000 in scholarships to eleven (11) area high school students at an Awards Dinner on Monday, March 28, 2016.

Brotherhood Ride is honored for the continued support given by the Lakeland Elks Lodge. The lodge held a fundraiser which included dinner, raffles, cake & quilt auction. Brotherhood Ride fundraiser was a success with donations over $7,000 helping our Fallen Emergency First Responders and their families left behind. Brotherhood Riders will begin their 2016 seven day ride pedaling an average of 80-100 miles a day to honor five Emergency First Responders.

Lake Placid Lodge 2661
Corbin Clarke, an Elks Florida State winner, read his Americanism Essay to Elk members at the annual Florida Elks Convention in Orlando Florida. Corbin’s essay on “What Can I do to promote Americanism and Love of Country” was ‘right on’ what also we as Americans should do to support our country. Corbin’s essay covered several areas as to include God in our lives, respect our flag, buy items made in American and the need for our youth to study the history of our country.

Winter Haven Lodge 1672
The school year ended on a happy note for Pinewood Elementary with thanks from the Promise Grant received by Winter Haven Lodge. Pinewood Elementary was provided with much needed items as food and supplies for the students. This endeavor was so well received that members also donated items and money for the school. Winter Haven’s hope is to apply the funds to make this an ongoing project.

Plant City Lodge 1727

A Plant City Elks Lodge 1727 approved Gratitude Grant from ENF was used for local Special Olympic Athletes for the State Games at Disney World’s ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

The Gratitude Grant covered food expenses and transportation costs for 50 athletes from the Plant City area. A good time was held by all and the athletes performed well winning gold medals.

The annual Powder Puff Golf event was held on May 11, 2016. This annual event fun day of golf raises the lodge’s per capita for ENF and Harry Anna. Lodge Volunteers, spouses and Lady of the Elks helped organize the event. Kids are the winners!

Corbin Clarke
Lake Placid Elks lodge was awarded Highlands County’s first place winner for “The Best Bingo Hall”. PER and Bingo Chairman (and PER) Jerry Kinsey was presented the award Tuesday night, April 26th at the lodge. Jerry has been a long time devoted Elk member, officer, volunteer and Bingo Chairman.
The “Mighty” Southwest District Elks Lodges consisting of Bradenton 1511, Lakewood Ranch–Sarasota 2865, Manasota 2734, Palmetto 2449, Sarasota South 2495, South Hillsborough 2672, and Venice Nokomis 1854 welcomed State President John Harris, along with VPAL Carl Gerace and his wife Cathy for the President’s official visit on Friday June 3rd and Saturday June 4th. The presidential group received a welcoming reception, Friday at the Holiday Inn Express in Bradenton, FL with dinner at Lakewood Ranch–Sarasota Lodge at 7:00PM. Saturday morning, the President and his entourage left the motel for a tour of the West Division warehouse of Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies, Inc., where they were greeted by Executive Director Jeff Mitchell, PER. From there, they toured the Florida Maritime Museum and Cultural Center in Cortez, Florida, the oldest functioning commercial fishing community in Florida, followed by a briefing and tour of the U.S. Coast Guard Station, also at Cortez. Lunch was provided by the Swordfish Grill with dessert at the Manasota Lodge. Saturday evening dinner was held at the Bradenton Lodge and the menu was Roast Beef with all the trimmings. FSP Harris’s slogan this year is “Blast Elkdom Into the Future”.

### South Southwest District

**Charles “Chuck” Stieb**
charlesstieb@aol.com

The “Mighty” Southwest District, ER Susan Erwin presented the President with a check for $8,445.53 donated to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund

**Lakewood Ranch–Sarasota Elks Lodge 2855**
Clay and Rosalie Wakefield, Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies Program Chairmen for the Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Elks Lodge, and Cindy Sloan, the director of the Food Bank of Manatee, joined forces to help children in the summer when school is out. Last summer, the Food Bank of Manatee provided weekend meals for 500 children and this year, the Food Bank of Manatee will reach 750 children, 250 more than a year ago, because of more than 30 Elks volunteers. Clay Wakefield said, “When Rosalie and I joined the Elks, we wanted to help veterans and kids. Now we’ve made kids our main goal.”

The Lakewood Ranch Sarasota Elks awarded bicycles to four students at Freedom and Image Elementary Schools, the last day of school. The children were chosen, based on most improved student in citizenship, behavior, self control, and respect.

**Manasota Elks Lodge 2734**
With the school year coming to an end, thousands of local children will begin their summer break. This means many children will be spending more hours unsupervised during the day and a lot more time in parks, playground and public places…places where child sexual predators could be lurking! Brenda Zofreen, author, educator and creator of the Let’s Be Safe program says we need to ensure that our children know the rules over the summer and the Manasota Elks agree and have worked together to provide this vital child safety and literacy program to all 1st grade students at Oneco Elementary School. After learning how to recognize some of the most common lines and lures used by child sexual predators and how to react in a safe way, and being reminded to read every day, students will be given their own copy of Let’s Be Safe book and a plush Be Safe Bee as a visual reminder to help them remember the rules. Pam McPeele, ER, says our Elk volunteers really get into the spirit of the Let’s Be Safe Theme by wearing bee colors and accessories.

**Palmetto Elks Lodge 2449**
Palmetto Elks Lodge presented to the Ellenton Hospice House, a check for $1600. Vice President of Volunteer and Professional Services Irene Henderson and Honors volunteer veteran Gill Ruderman performed a pinning ceremony to thank Elks ER Len Meade for his military service.

The Palmetto Elks and Blackburn Elementary teamed up to improve student leaning. Blackburn Elementary is a Positive Behavior Support School where behavior is used as a means to provide effective research-based methods to increase the occurrence of safe and respectful behaviors, which fosters an increase in academic performance. Students redeem their points each quarter when shopping at the school store for items such as school supplies, books and tickets to each lunch with a friend or the principal. Students, also have the opportunity to purchase aaffle raffle ticket to enter a drawing for a new bike. The bikes are donated by the Palmetto Elks to help the school achieve student learning and to improve positive behavior with the students.

**South Hillsborough Elks Lodge 2672**
On May 1st, thanks to a $2000 Gratitude Grant, members of the South Hillsborough Elks Lodge hosted 20 veterans from the James A. Haley Hospital, The Vietnam Veterans of America, and My Warrior’s Place in Ruskin, FL to a Tampa Bay Rays Baseball game.

The veterans received a $16 voucher for food and souvenirs and a Rays baseball cap. After the game, 10 of the veterans enjoyed a complimentary steak dinner back at the lodge. Two of the veterans, both Marines in their 90s, commented that the event was one of the most enjoyable days they have experienced in a long time.

The baseball game trip with the veterans is an example of the Elks’ commitment to their mission: So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.

The South Hillsborough Elks held their annual Flag Day Ceremony on June 14th with members of the Riverview Girl Scout Troop 3302 presenting the flags. Nora Baker, PER was chairman of the event.

The Lodge, on every 2nd and 4th Friday, continues to furnish meals to Veterans from the James Haley VA Hospital. They are allowed to order anything off the menu. Personal items provided by Lodge members are also presented to the Veterans.

**Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge 1854**
The Venice-Nokomis Lodge presented to 3 graduating seniors of Venice High School, the Hope Scholarship for $300 each and the Patricia Bradley Scholarship to a graduating senior of Venice High School for $1000. Utilizing the Beacon Grant, the Lodge presented to the Laurel Civic Center $350 for Summer Program for feeding the homeless children. School Supplies were donated to the Sheriff’s Youth Ranch valued at $450.00.
**Apopka Lodge 2422**

The Lodge donated 120 T-shirts and sweatshirts to the Lake Baldwin Homeless Veterans Clothes Closet - the site of the former Clinic. In addition to the Lodge donating six (6) Camperships, we held a Ziti dinner and a Milk Can dinner to raise funds to send 11 additional children to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

**Inverness Lodge 2522**

ER Buck Rich, Diane Rich, PER Mike Omardoff and Juanita Emrich presented Cindi Fein, CEO of the local Boys and Girls Club with seven campership certificates at the Florida Elks Youth Camp (in the past, the Lodge has had little interest in the camperships so this year they took a different approach inviting local group leaders on our bus trip to the youth camp. After the visitation, Ms. Fein expressed her interest in the camperships for her children.

**The Lodge hosted a Boy Scout troop for their Eagle Scout Court of Honor and Graduation Celebration. Five young men graduating from high school together with Summa (or Magna) Cum Laude obtained their Eagle Scout Badges.**

Our ER was instrumental in assisting one of these scouts with their community service project. It was especially heartwarming to see each participant in turn honor a person in their lives who mentored them on their journey by presenting the mentor with a pin of appreciation.

The Lodge presented the Citrus United Basket with a check for $1,036 representing proceeds from their annual Christmas raffle and from their recent car show. The Lodge held its quarterly veterans breakfast with attendance by a non-profit service dog organization who demonstrated what their dogs can do. One dog could alert its owner, who has PTSD, of personality changes to help fund a future community center for children. Hundreds of children and their parents had a wonderful time riding the amusements, dunking the clown, eating cotton candy and ice cream and getting their faces painted. The Lodge had a recruitment booth, a fast food booth and a white elephant booth. There were numerous booths filled with jewelry and collectibles, several tables filled with vintage postcards and collectibles and sales of homemade chocolates. On the last day, two beauty pageants (one sponsored by Florida State University and one by Kids Helping Kids) were held for young ladies ages 4 to 14 some of whom walked away with tiaras and trophies galore.

It is always a joy to have special guests at the Lodge, especially our youth! We welcomed attendees and presenters to the Elk’s annual Drug Awareness and Safety Program. Ocala Police Lt Billy Woods provided information.

**Ocala Lodge 286**

The local chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (KOS-MOAA) celebrated the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Lodge. Nationally, MOAA boasts over a quarter million members. The chapter founded the “The Stuff the Bus” program that now raises tens of dollars of thousands of dollars in school supplies, clothing and food for local needy children and provides a scholarship program for high school seniors.

**South Marion-Villages Lodge 2730**

Kids Helping Kids held a four day, fan-filled carnival on Lodge property with a net profit of over $1,200 to help fund a future community center for children. Hundreds of children and their parents had a wonderful time riding the amusements, dunking the clown, eating cotton candy and ice cream and getting their faces painted. The Lodge had a recruitment booth, a fast food booth and a white elephant booth. There were numerous booths filled with jewelry and collectibles, several tables filled with vintage postcards and collectibles and sales of homemade chocolates. On the last day, two beauty pageants (one sponsored by Florida State University and one by Kids Helping Kids) were held for young ladies ages 4 to 14 some of whom walked away with tiaras and trophies galore.

It is always a joy to have special guests at the Lodge, especially our youth! We welcomed attendees and presenters to the Elk’s annual Drug Awareness and Safety Program. Ocala Police Lt Billy Woods provided information.

**Flag Day was supported by ROTC Cadets from Lake Howell High School. Members also sponsored twenty-five (25) camperships to the Youth Camp.**

The members of the Lodge and the Dogs Drove collected non-perishable food items and local food pantry amounting to $700 worth of food for Hope Helps, Inc. In addition to operating a food pantry, Hope Helps, Inc. also works to prevent homelessness in central Florida by fulfilling critical needs. To this end, the Elks and Does are currently in the process of collecting back to school supplies for the pantry to be distributed to local children in need before the beginning of the upcoming school year.

**Dave Rasnick used goggles to explain impaired vision while driving his golf cart.**

San. Sanseone, with all children receiving a prize, getting autographs from the race car driver and enjoying the experience of sitting in a race car and driving or riding in a golf cart while wearing drunk/drug goggles through an obstacle course.

**South Lake Lodge 1848**

Since their re-opening 2 ½ months ago, the Lodge has initiated six new members, with additional ones due to come in next month, in addition to registering many Stray Elks from their area. They also have scheduled a Sept. 17th golf tournament and are accepting applications for foursomes and hole sponsors. They are also working with the Greater Clermont Cancer Foundation on their Oct. 15th event with food and music for thousands in Central Florida, and planning their Christmas for Kids event. South Lake is moving forward in a great way!

**Winter Park Lodge 1830**

In the interest of supporting our local youth, the Lodge sponsored a hole in the 20th Annual Lake Howell High School Athletic Department Golf Tournament. By sponsoring a hole at the golf tournament, the Lodge was able to assist Lake Howell High School financially, as well as raise awareness about who the Elks are and what they do in the local community. The Lodge has a long standing relationship with the students and faculty at the High School and several parents of students at the school have become Elks members as well. In a gesture of appreciation, the school bought a banner advertising the Elks and hung it on the fence in the sports field.

**Our Lodge is proud of Karen Trachsel who became the 95th Supreme President of the Benevolent Patriotic Order of DOES, of the United States of America at the Does Grand Lodge Convention in Lincoln NE this June.**

The Florida Ladies of Elks are also very proud of Karen. Her theme is “DOES Pay if Forward” (with Random Acts of Kindness) . . . reach out and touch somebody’s hand and bring in one new member to repay the person who involved you in this great organization or perform any act of kindness to make this world a better place. She thinks everyone wants to do good-- but maybe they need an avenue like the DOES to get involved and show them the way. Obviously, Karen is very involved in activities that are supported by the DOES and ELKS. She is also involved as a board member with a local non-profit charity called Hope Helps, who help people in our community prevent homelessness. Karen and our DOES are very active in support of both DOES and Elks Charities.