The Florida Elks’ Army of Hope:
Changing Lives - One Military Family at a Time

Honor Roll of Sustaining Donors

2019 Elks Day at the Rays
Hello, members! What a great time to be a member of the Florida State Elks Association!

We had a gain in our membership this last Elk year, and with all our membership staying focused on new members and reducing the number of delinquent members, we can again have a gain. As a bonus, states with a gain in membership are seated in the front of the convention hall at the national convention’s Grand Lodge sessions. We are “Proud, Loud and Visible.”

We are so fortunate to be a part of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. We have an opportunity of which each lodge needs to take advantage. The Harry-Anna Investment Fund has provided funds for your lodge to rent a bus to come visit our award-winning Florida Elks Youth Camp. You will have a chance to meet with our Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services staff along with a guided tour of the camp. Plan your trip and make a few stops at lodges on your way. The purpose for the funding is to allow your newer members to see our major projects firsthand.

Your FSEA staff navigated by our COO/State Secretary, Carl Seibert, continues to raise the bar for efficiency and courtesy. Nick Miller, Camp Director, and his staff continue to raise our standards of your youth camp beyond all expectations. I think it is heartwarming to witness how much the staff cares about your camp; many of the staff were campers. Colleen Gallant, Therapy Services Director, and her staff set the benchmark for helping our children of Florida. Your FECTS major project provides needed therapy services for children who cannot afford treatments (over 500 children per week in your neighborhood).

Our Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE) celebrated their 56th annual conference in Daytona Beach, Fla., Sept. 20-21. They provide support to the FSEA with unselfish dedication. They are a major asset to the FSEA and I encourage all lodges to promote participation and support for FLOE. Thank you, ladies!

Recently I had the opportunity to have Rick Gathen, Grand Lodge Public Relations/Membership Director, provide me with records of your lodges’ charitable donations over the past few years. We have sent each lodge banners to display outside your lodge in a visible place where you and the membership can be proud.

Come and reacquaint yourself with friends and make some new friends at our midyear convention in Tampa Nov. 15-17. We will have a guest speaker, Jim O’Kelley, Director of the Elks National Foundation, from the Grand Lodge.

In February, we will have the honor to host our Grand Exalted Ruler, Robert “Bob” Duitsman, and his wife, Beth, at our camp. We will show them St. Augustine Wednesday and head to the camp Thursday, Feb. 6. The February quarterly meeting of the FSEA begins Friday and our major projects meeting with your GER’s address is Saturday. On Friday evening, you are invited to join us in the pavilion to meet our GER and his wife while enjoying a meal and entertainment by Re-Creation.

Mark your calendars. The Elks national convention is in Baltimore next July, and after a recent site visit, I can attest that you will enjoy Baltimore and really enjoy the Florida hotel. We will be right on the Baltimore Inner Harbor and there are shops and restaurants everywhere within walking distance.

Bob Grafton, Sandra and I thank you all for being in the Elk family. We wish you and your family a special Thanksgiving and holiday season and a terrific 2020.

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*** ALL address changes and cancellations MUST be submitted to the member’s lodge secretary, not the Florida Elks Magazine editor.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

To share lodge news between Florida Elks Magazine issues, please email articles and photos to r.king@floridaelks.org. They will be posted to the Florida Elks News Online section of the state website, floridaelks.org, and the state Facebook page, Facebook.com/floridaelks.
We are approaching the midyear convention and looking forward to seeing many of you at the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore. Joyce and I are really enjoying our visitations along with VPAL Rudy and Dolly Masi. As you will see, we’ve been busy!

We attended the Grand Lodge convention in St. Louis and it was a pleasure to represent Florida as your State President and to carry our state flag across the stage during the opening ceremony on Sunday evening. Our room at the Hyatt Hotel had a great view of the Arch and we were entertained July 4 with an unbelievable air show over the Mississippi River and then by a team of extremely experienced sky divers parachuting through the Arch and landing with extreme precision. The fireworks over the Gateway Arch were breathtaking.

After returning from the Grand Lodge convention, we traveled to the Central District for the visitation. On Friday evening, we were welcomed at the hotel by District Vice President, John Gudavich; his wife, Donna; and a large group of wonderful district Elks all dressed up in their lodge jackets. That evening we celebrated my birthday at Argento’s Italian Bistro which just happened to also be a bakery. They presented me with a very large and delicious birthday cake. The next day we went on a river boat cruise up the Cotee River and stopped in New Port Richey for ice cream. It was a beautiful day to be on the river. That night we had an awesome dinner at Aripeka Lodge and were accompanied by our new Elks Children’s Therapy Services CHAMP of the Year, JJ D’Angelo, and his family. The members gave JJ and his family a much appreciated warm reception.

Our next visitation was to the Southeast District. Friday night dinner was at West Palm Beach Lodge. Exalted Ruler, Ed Morey, took a cake in the face which was originally meant for me to raise money for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. It worked; he raised over $1,000. On Saturday, we traveled to the Loggerhead Marine Life Center to watch some extremely large turtles being nursed to health. Jupiter Boy Scout Troop #108 and their lodge sponsors served us a picnic lunch at the beautiful Jupiter Inlet where we watched the boys perform the flag ceremony. Then we went on to the Busch Wildlife Center where we fed a seven-foot black bear frozen grapes and Joyce and Dolly held a live alligator which was nearly three feet long. Dinner that night was at the beautifully decorated Jupiter Lodge. Again, Exalted Ruler, Cindy Eldred, took a cake in the face for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund, raising another $500 for the district. It was a great weekend and we thank District Vice President, Larry Littell, and the district volunteers for hosting us.

Then we visited the South Southeast District where District Vice President, Donna Powers, and her husband, Charlie, made us feel very welcome. On Friday, we had a great dinner at Hollywood West Lodge and we had breakfast Saturday at Oakland Park Lodge. On our way to the Fort Lauderdale Museum, which was extremely informative, we stopped at the new Pompano Beach Lodge. What an impressive building and exciting time it is for the members and leaders of Pompano Beach Lodge. We had a great homemade gumbo lunch at Delray Beach Lodge. On Saturday evening, we had a reception and incredible dinner at Boca Raton Lodge. We enjoyed the opportunity to visit all the lodges in the district and appreciate their hospitality.

Our next visitation was to the West Central District where District Vice President, Tom Mortka, and his wife, Debbie, arranged a wonderful weekend for us. We had dinner at Tarpon Springs Lodge where they decided to vote on who would get the pie in the face for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund – Exalted Ruler, Bob Gorby, or me. Well Past National President, Mike Smith, executed a perfect delivery of the pie to my face. The Harry-Anna Trust Fund earned nearly $800 that evening. On Saturday, we visited Clearwater Marine Aquarium where we met Winter, the famous dolphin. That evening we had dinner at Dunedin/Clearwater Lodge where we were welcomed by the Dunedin High School Scottish Highlander band. We were honored by a large group of Elks and local dignitaries. After dessert, Exalted Ruler, Janice Brautigam, took the pie in the face to raise more than $600 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. The trust fund fared very well that weekend with other donations presented to me at the dinner. Sunday morning started with breakfast at St. Petersburg Lodge. This was the beginning of the grand finale of a once-in-a-lifetime experience of throwing out the first pitch at a Rays baseball game and being on the ballfield with our Therapy Services CHAMP, JJ, and his family. JJ started the game by announcing, “Play Ball.” The Rays won which was a perfect ending to a perfect weekend.

Thank you, PDD Steve Harmon, FSEA IT manager, for making this happen.

We had a wonderful time at the Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE) conference at Hilton Daytona Beach. We saw Adella Ashton installed as President and Felicia Vuletich become a Past State President. It was a beautiful ceremony. The members of FLOE have been great supporters of our Elks lodges and FSEA. During this year’s conference, they collected over $15,000 in donations from Ladies of the Elks all over the state for our major projects with their donations going to Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and our Florida Elks Youth Camp. Over the last 11 years, FLOE has donated over $1 million. Way to go, ladies!
We Mustn’t Accept our Lodge Finances as the New Norm

Money is at the root of almost every challenge we face in our lodges today – how to make it, how we spend it and how to save some of it. Much is said about what we are doing wrong and little is said about how to fix it. Here’s my attempt at changing that!

I recently did a deep dive into the numbers of a random group of lodges. Here’s what I found.

Their assets (what they owned) averaged $647,000. Their liabilities (what they owed) averaged $72,000. Their charity fund (restricted funds) averaged $46,000 and that gave them equity of $529,000 as follows: the average lodge had $175,000 cash on hand March 31 and food and liquor inventories were valued at $13,000. They had accounts payable of $51,000 and loan payments due of $21,000. Their fixed assets totaled $411,000 and they had other assets valued at $2,000. Here’s the good news: assets were up 10% over a five-year period, liabilities were down 8% and restricted funds grew 29%.

Now for some not so good news: the finances of a lodge are evaluated based on the profitability of the lodge operations and the club operations. With this group of lodges, lodge revenue was up only 1% over a five-year period and expenses were up 18% led by miscellaneous expenses, accounting, per-capita dues to state and Grand Lodge, insurance, repairs and maintenance, fundraising, and utilities.

Club revenue was up 16% over a five-year period (bar sales up 13% and dining room sales down 9% over five years) and club expenses were down 11%. So, you ask, how is this bad news? Well, it’s not in itself, but when combined with the losses incurred in the lodge operations, they basically offset (well actually it’s a small loss). So, what that tells me is we are doing a good job of maintaining the status quo of the overall operations and that is good, but is it sustainable? This is what concerns me, as I think it is not! We continue to bring in new members (volunteers) to act as our management and labor force, but what happens when new members slow down? As mentioned above, the charity funds in these lodges have grown 29% in five years. That is fantastic! But I ask again, are we breaches operating our grand lodge operations and our new emphasis on charity sustainable? Is this what we want to do? Is this productive force? Are we prepared for the day that source wanes? Do we have a plan to keep the doors open?

Rarely is there a lodge that operates at the Grand Lodge prescribed 35% cost of goods sold (COGS). This is a percentage that is calculated in the bar and restaurant that tells you the percentage of sales that was the cost of the ingredients. In other words, if a bottle of beer costs the lodge $1 and it is sold for $2.50, the COGS is 40% ($1 divided by $2.50). The Grand Lodge says that bottle of beer should sell for $2.86 (35% COGS) and that is before sales tax is added. So, in a county where the sales tax is 7% the bottle of beer should sell for $3.06. In the lodges I reviewed, the COGS in the bar was 47%, the employee expense was 18%, and the music and entertainment expense was 8%, giving the bar only $0.28 gross profit from each dollar of sales. In the dining room, the COGS was 47%, the employee expense was 9%, and the music and entertainment expense was 10%, leaving the dining room with only $0.34 gross profit from each dollar of sales. Remember, this is gross profit before other expenses such as utilities, supplies, etc. are subtracted.

Of the lodges reviewed, the average lodge had 17 weeks of cash on hand and 1.6 months of inventory April 1, another key metric to which every lodge should be paying attention. What this tells me is that the average lodge cannot sit on their hands and must conduct business profitably in order to maintain this status. When either get down to zero, the doors will close. How nice would it be to start the lodge year with 52 weeks of cash on hand and 2 months of inventory? I have reviewed, that would require a cash influx of almost $365,000 to reach that point. It is wishful thinking, I’m sure, but perhaps your lodge management team could look at the numbers and strive to start working in that direction. Even small gains would make a huge difference!

So, what are we to do? Fortunately, I have some ideas!

Start by understanding that you and your fellow lodge members control the entire destiny of your lodge. Lodges are chartered by the Grand Lodge, and in Florida, each is a member of the association of lodges that make up the Florida State Elks, but your lodge exists in your community because members like you have a desire to operate and maintain an Elks lodge. Once that desire is no longer there, the Grand Lodge has no choice but to revoke the charter. Your lodge is your members and together you must oversee and operate the lodge and club within the rules and laws of the United States and the order.

Next, if you are not an officer of the lodge and you have skills in business operations, become one. The operation of a lodge is sophisticated and needs good people with proven business skills to run it. Give your time and talent to become a part of the solution. As part of the operations team, tear into the financial records and don’t stop until everyone understands where every penny coming in comes from and where every penny going out is spent.

Hold town hall meetings with all the members of your lodge and explain to them the financial challenges of the lodge. Make them a part of the solutions. If prices need to go up, let them see why. If dues need to be raised, show them why! Yow to lower the costs in the operations so you at least have a shot at producing a profit!

Put the lodge building, its upkeep and beautification back on the priority list. Do NOT listen to those members who say we are a nonprofit and are therefore not allowed to make a profit. We DO NOT have to give away everything we raise! There is NOTHING wrong with holding fundraisers for the roof fund or building beautification. Set a goal to start a maintenance fund in the lodge as a rainy day fund so when the beer cooler breaks down, you do not have to order a new one in order to repair it. Establish a goal to each year set aside an amount equal to 2.5% of the value of your building and personal property ($21,000 in the lodges reviewed). The average lodge in Florida has 594 members and their dues are $77. To produce an additional $21,000, it would require the average lodge to increase their dues $35 to $112. How hard would it be to sell the membership on a dues increase when they know it will be temporarily restricted for a good use?

• We need members with experience to step up and share the workload.
• We need to dive into the operations and get control like we’ve never had before.
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We need to do a better job of holding new members accountable for not just their labor and charity but also a financial commitment to the lodge.

Good financial management of the lodge is essential if we are to continue to thrive. Adjusting a few priorities might be all it takes.

Please visit https://floridaelks.org/carls-corner and join the conversation by logging in and posting your comments.

Carl Seibert, COO/State Secretary
Florida State Elks Association
T his FLOE year has gone by so quickly. It seems like just last week I was honored to be installed as FLOE President for 2018-2019. The installation took place at the beautiful and fun 55th annual conference put on by PSP Mary McCoy at the Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort in September 2018.

At the Plantation on Crystal River for the midyear convention in November, Vice President, Adella Ashton, hosted a wonderful guest speaker, Frank Joliff, who gave an exciting and comedic presentation about some of his experiences in Vietnam. This event was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

In February, we met at the Florida Elks Youth Camp for the February quarterly meeting. We were blessed to meet Grand Exalted Ruler, Michael T. Luhr, and his wife, Barbara, from Alaska.

We just celebrated our 56th annual conference at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort. We were honored to have State President, Tom Ludwick, with us as well as Dolly Masi, Sally Malatesta and Cathy Gerace. We had 105 FLOE members and guests at the business meeting. PSP Mary McCoy presented five bylaw changes and one change to the standing rules. All passed. Treasurer Linda Rittenhouse reported that the 365 Club donations for the year came to an awesome grand total of $4,478.99. That is a lot of pennies! One of my colors for my presidential year was copper because every penny is important. This fundraiser proves it! I thank all who donated to this FLOE fundraiser. Nick Miller, Florida Elks Youth Camp (FEYC) Director, was presented a $2,491.99 check for the Florida Elks Youth Camp during his presentation.

Colleen Gallant, Director of Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services (FECTS), was presented a $1,987 check.

Our FLOE business meeting was Saturday morning. We had seven FLOE Past State Presidents attend and were honored to have First Lady, Joyce Ludwick, with us as well as Dolly Masi, Sally Malatesta and Cathy Gerace. We had 105 FLOE members and guests at the business meeting. PSP Mary McCoy presented five bylaw changes and one change to the standing rules. All passed. Treasurer Linda Rittenhouse reported that the 365 Club donations for the year came to an awesome grand total of $4,478.99. That is a lot of pennies! One of my colors for my presidential year was copper because every penny is important. This fundraiser proves it! I thank all who donated to this FLOE fundraiser. Nick Miller, Florida Elks Youth Camp (FEYC) Director, was presented a $2,491.99 check for the Florida Elks Youth Camp during his presentation.

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The afternoon session began with a touching, beautiful memorial service directed by Betty Orcutt, Chaplain. We had a tribute to Past State President Joan Fritz by Past State President Connie Kaleb Poage. Joan sadly passed away shortly before the conference.

Program book awards were presented by Pam Snyder, chairman. Most boosters went to Merritt Island LOE with 61. Second place was North Fort Myers and tied for third place were Fort Myers and Tampa. Most ads supporting FLOE was Punta Gorda with two.

The following awards were presented by FSEA immediate Past Chairman of Ladies Organizations, Steve Carruthers. First place for scrapbook went to Punta Gorda. This scrapbook is beautiful and well done. Regarding attendance, Punta Gorda had the most members in attendance (20). Punta Gorda had the largest percentage of members in attendance as well (22.7%). The award for the most miles traveled by those attending the conference also went to Punta Gorda (3,840).

Installation of the 2019-2020 officers and new advisory members was performed by Past State Presidents Jane Moon and Becky Long. Installed were President, Adella Ashton; Vice President, Linda Rittenhouse; Secretary, Debbie Farris Mortka; Treasurer, Laura Sardella; Parliamentarian, Judy Schall; Historian, Carole Knight; Chaplain, Tracy Horrell; and 4-year Advisory, Felicia Vuletich, PSP-FLOE and Judy Fournier.

The FLOE president banner was passed from Tallahassee Elk, Dave Vuletich, and Tallahassee Past Lady President, Wynona Johnson, to Ocala Exalted Ruler, Mike Miller, and Ocala Ladies of Elks President, Carole Knight. President Adella Ashton and First Man, Richard, were introduced after being crowned by Dave and me.

I have been so blessed to have been given the honor of serving as the 2018-2019 FLOE President. I sincerely thank all the officers, committee chairladies, delegates, Past State Presidents and FLOE members who have worked so hard all year in support of our major projects and your local lodges and communities. You are an amazing group of ladies. You are helping people in so many meaningful ways. I especially want to thank the Tallahassee Elketts for all the help, support and love they have shown me since I became a Tallahassee Elke. I thank COO/State Secretary, Carl Seibert, and the FSEA staff for all their help and support this year, and I thank immediate Past Chairman of Ladies Organizations, Steve Carruthers, PER, and Chairman of Ladies Organizations, Tom Carns, PER. I also thank FSEA President, Tom Ludwick, and PSP Frank Malatesta for your support of me, FLOE and all Florida ladies organizations.

This year we all worked together and succeeded to “Brighten a Child’s Future!”

Felicia Vuletich, 2018–2019
President
Florida Ladies of Elks

I am so excited to be your new FLOE President and am looking forward to working with all of you in the coming year. Congratulations go to Felicia and her officers for a job well done. I know they worked hard to “Brighten the Life of a Child.” As we move forward to the new year, I would like to share our colors and motto for 2019-2020. Our colors for the year are white and sky blue. White represents innocence, youth, and humility, and sky blue evokes a feeling of wonder and encouragement to reach for the sky and that nothing is impossible. My symbol is angel wings. I wish that every child can feel the love and protection they deserve. My flower is the hydrangea which symbolizes friendship, understanding and devotion. I believe that our love for our children and our friendship are what bind us together and we, above all, being women, understand the devotion to our youth. I have chosen the American bald eagle as my bird symbol which is representative of our military and our nation as it signifies courage, wisdom, strength and freedom. My motto is “Be an Angel in the Life of a Child.” I look forward to an amazing year with the help of our FLOE officers, advisory council, delegates and, of course, all of you. I will do my best to continue the outstanding work that FLOE has accomplished!
COLLEEN GALLANT, FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN’S THERAPY SERVICES DIRECTOR

We are well on our way to meeting our Harry-Anna Trust Fund goal. We are halfway through the year and over halfway to our goal of $750,000. Keep up the good work. Last year we had a gain in membership, but this year we are falling behind. We need to work with our membership committees to have another successful membership growth year. Let’s make it happen!

These visits have made Joyce and me feel so welcome in your districts and we can’t thank you enough for your kindness to us and our travel team. When we meet you at your lodges and learn about your accomplishments and involvement in the community, it is easy to understand why you are “Proud to be an Elk.” Thank you for all that you do!

We hope to see you at the midyear convention in Tampa in November. Make your reservations early.

God bless you and your families. God bless our troops and all those in harm’s way. God bless our state association and God bless America.

Thomas R. “Tom” Ludwick, State President
Florida State Elks Association

We are fully staffed with a total of 28 therapists – 21 occupational therapists and seven physical therapists. Rebecca Fenner who was our occupational therapist in the central Florida area had to leave us in September, but we are pleased that she will be able to continue as a contract therapist in that very busy region. Althea Montgomery is replacing Becky and started with us Sept. 25. We are happy to welcome Althea to our FECTS family.

Over the past couple of months, our therapists have treated an average of 508 children each week and our contract therapists have treated an additional 22 children for a total of 530 children each week. This continues to be an amazing number of children being treated, especially when you consider that when the hospital closed, we were only treating 30 children each month.

On Sept. 8, we enjoyed the Day at the Rays along with our new CHAMP, JJ D’Angelo, who made the “Play Ball” announcement. We were also pleased to have our FECTS ambassador, Jackson Barth, and his family in attendance. With several of our therapists, we had a great day and enjoyed a Rays win!

As the therapists and I travel around the state with our State President, Tom Ludwick, the therapists and I continue to meet amazing Elks and hear the wonderful work that each lodge does in their community. Our therapists are truly enjoying the opportunity to meet so many of our members and our members seem to really enjoy the stories our therapists have to tell.

As the Director, I love hearing from a family where one of our therapists has made a huge impact on their child’s life as well as theirs. I’m also moved when an Elks member who has witnessed this tremendous change in a baby’s life tells me that he knew about our program and heard us speak about FECTS but was overwhelmed when he saw the difference it made firsthand. Thank you, Florida Elks, for allowing our therapists to continue this amazing work.

We just returned from the Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE) conference in Daytona Beach, Fla., and what a wonderful event that was. The ladies of FLOE do such an amazing job of supporting our major projects. At the meeting where Paula Tarver and I spoke, FECTS was presented checks totaling $9,500 plus an additional check from FLOE for $1,987. All I can say is, “Wow!” You ladies are awesome, and we are so grateful at FECTS for all your support. Thank you!

If you would like to have a therapist at your lodge for an event, go to the Therapy Services page at floridaelks.org and complete the therapist participation form and we will do our best to have a therapist at your event.

On behalf of our 28 therapists, Deborah and myself, thank you for being the best Elks in the nation and for your amazing support of Florida’s major projects and especially Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

Stay safe and enjoy the cooler weather!

Colleen Gallant, Director
Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services
2019. First, they focused on fine-tuning the way our staff and campers eat. They worked with Chef Cliff to introduce a menu that would provide more meals made from scratch right at FEYC and they worked with him to secure family-style eating. Next, they redesigned our nightly debriefs with the campers to be much more engaging. We introduced debriefs in summer camp 2018, but after evaluating the results, we were not satisfied with the level of engagement our typical counselors were able to achieve on their own. So, Elliott and Krys devised a way to provide additional training to our trackers and assistant trackers and allow those 16 individuals to each debrief three cabins at a time. It was a huge scheduling challenge, but I’m excited to say that the results from this past summer were an order of magnitude better than those of 2018.

Speaking of training, we decided that it was finally time to get our counselors-in-training (CITs) the additional training that their title implies. This was another huge hurdle for us. To begin, we had to find someone who could take our goals and develop appropriate, engaging lesson plans. This person also had to be able to implement those plans, do individual one-on-one checkups with each CIT during the week and create weekend activities. Further, we would have to work all this in while not interfering with the daily work that our CITs do with our campers. It was a major undertaking for Elliott, Krys and eventually Madelyn Martin, who we hired as our CIT Director. I was prepared for the first summer of implementation to be a work in progress. However, as a former high school teacher, I have to tell you how incredibly impressed I was with this program’s first year. These three worked together to pull off a great win for the Elks, and I know that it will show in the future performance of all the CITs who participated.

Gearing up for summer camp 2020, we are looking to solidify this year’s past gains and further improve the programs in place. I would also like to remind you all that registration for campers begins Nov. 1, 2019! Applications will again be available from our website, floridaelks.org/camp. We are trying something new this year. We are providing the six Elks National Foundation camper scholarships for each lodge to your district’s representative on the FEYC Board of Directors. Your District Director will then provide the information for these scholarships to each lodge. If you have any questions with camper enrollment, please begin with that same District Director. They will have information specific to your area and can best answer your questions.

As always, anyone signing up for camp will need an Elk’s name and member number to apply. There are two main reasons for this. First, in order for us to remain a private camp – and trust me, I’ve been in the public system, we do not want to go that route – we must have a Florida Elk sponsor every camper. Please remember, sponsoring a child does not mean you must pay for that child. If the family cannot pay and your lodge cannot pay, then I’d ask that you request that the camper be camp sponsored, which leads to the next reason. This is a major opportunity for you to receive recognition, appreciation and potentially members from your community. How incredible would it be if every family in your area sung the praises of your lodge because you were the ones who helped their kids get to camp? I don’t want these parents calling the camp to get approval to go. I want them to look to you as the single reason why their child attended camp. Whether it was because you sponsored them, you sponsored and paid for them, or you simply sponsored them and got the camp to pay for them, I want the person in the limelight to be you!

I can barely contain my excitement for where we go from here, and I hope you feel the same. You are changing the lives of children every day. So, again, thank you for all you do as Elks.

Nick Miller, Director
Florida Elks Youth Camp
the inclusion of sea birds in his Florida coastal landscapes. Al commonly includes three white birds flying through crisp blue skies in his work. He says the birds are representative of the Holy Trinity. Black sometimes adds a fourth bird that lags behind the others to his paintings, which he claims signifies himself.

Each of the Al Black paintings have a serene and peaceful feeling and showcase the natural beauty of undeveloped Florida without the angst or jarring colors some Highwaymen art contains. Al Black began his career as an artist with the standard Highwaymen tools, producing his early work on Upson board with oil paints and crown molding frames. Al is the most experimental of the Highwaymen in terms of media and has at times utilized acrylic paints, produced wall murals in oil, and painted on canvas.

We are honored to have Al Black as one of our featured guests for the evening!
serve over 3,000 needy families and other organizations, collecting a retail value of $59,000 with 7,200 toys. The boxes are usually located at the front of the stores for community donations, and with approximately 1,000 customers per day at each Walgreens, the Elks are getting advertising that money can’t buy. Walgreens and the Florida Elks have formed a partnership that is helping many families in our communities. The lodges within these counties are assigned Walgreens stores closest to their lodge, and after pick-up, they can distribute the toys and items to any charities of their choosing. Make sure to donate if you see one of our boxes and make this year the best yet! The boxes will be in stores Nov. 24-Dec. 15, 2019. Christmas is just around the corner!

Becoming a Sustaining Donor

We all as Elks should know that the Florida State Elks Association helps support their two major projects, Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Becoming a sustaining donor can make you a major contributor of our state projects as well. By making a monthly contribution, you can help a child receive therapy or sponsor a child’s week at summer camp. How many of us join a gym we don’t use or have a monthly subscription we don’t read? So, what better use of that money is there than to become a sustaining donor and know that your $19 a month or more is making a difference in a child’s life? Look at it as if you are adopting a child and knowing that your monthly donation is making a difference!

Some of you probably didn’t know about becoming a sustaining donor, but please consider this a possibility. Your monthly contribution can be set up as a recurring monthly donation and automatically charged each month to your credit or debit card. How easy is that?

For more information, please visit floridaelks.org and click on the “DONATE” button at the top to learn more. Did you know that your lodge can become a sustaining donor as well? The names of all sustaining donors will also appear in every quarterly edition of the Florida Elks Magazine. For those of you who are sustaining donors, thank you! If you have any questions on becoming a sustaining donor, please contact me at dan@floridaelks.org or 352-805-0823.

All these projects and more that we as Elks do make us all “Proud to be an Elk!”

I wish everyone a happy holiday season as time flies when you are having fun!
**HONOR ROLL OF SUSTAINING DONORS**

This list reflects monthly sustaining donors as of Sept. 30, 2019, of the Florida Elks major projects: Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. With donors’ ongoing support, these projects can continue their missions of changing the lives of Florida’s children. Won’t you please join them? Visit floridaelks.org to become a supporter. To our donors, we sincerely thank you!

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5 Anonymous Donors
On Aug. 14 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center in Punta Gorda, Fla., Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 initiated 249 new members, bringing their current membership to 5,218. This was the lodge’s second largest one-time initiation. Their record for the largest one-time initiation was set Aug. 23, 2018, with 432 initiates.

In attendance were all lodge officers and some Past Exalted Rulers as well as South Southwest District Vice President, PER Bill Dryburgh, and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Dick Conley.

According to Dryburgh, also a member of Punta Gorda Lodge, the initiates are “enthusiastic and come from a diverse background. A large number wanted to get involved right away with the Elks helping children and our veterans. I had a chance to talk to five or six of the new members and they were so happy to be a part of the Elks and the involvement with the community.”

The Punta Gorda Elks will be hosting the South Southwest District’s Army of Hope event Feb. 23 for the first time at their lodge. It will be open to the public and will raise funds to send veterans to Washington, D.C., to see the World War II and Vietnam memorials.
The 12th annual Elks Day at the Rays was held Sept. 8 with the Tampa Bay Rays hosting the Toronto Blue Jays. The home team won 8-3. This yearly event garners recognition for the Florida Elks and its charities. Announcements were made to the stadium crowd and were displayed live on the large screen for the following: Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services CHAMP of the Year, JJ D’Angelo, who made the “Play Ball” announcement with his parents; State President, Tom Ludwick, who threw out the ceremonial first pitch; and Past National President Mike Smith along with the Elks group who led Tropicana Field in the singing of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.”

With 285 in attendance with the Florida Elks group, $1,425 was raised for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp, as $5 per ticket was donated by the Tampa Bay Rays. Attendees represented 20 lodges and seven districts.

Included in the Elks group were 40 veterans from Bay Pines VA Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla., whose tickets were donated by Largo Lodge #2159 and members from the following lodges: Tampa #708, Arcadia #1524, Tarpon Springs #1719, St. Petersburg #1224, Ocala #286, Oakland Park #2407, Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota #2855, Bradenton #1511, Sarasota South #2495, Cocoa Beach #2387 and Seminole #2519. The veterans’ tickets included a voucher for $15 for lunch.

The Florida Elks group had upgraded seats this year with an improved view of the field, and everyone received a choice of Rays hat, blanket or pullover.
Apopka Elks Lodge #2422 is Florida's 90th lodge and is located in Orange County. It was sponsored by Winter Garden Lodge #2165. Cooperating their efforts with District Deputy, Malcolm McCall, and George Roller of Apopka, a dispensation to form a lodge was issued July 11, 1969, during the national convention in Dallas.

Festivities of the afternoon got underway with the official opening remarks by chairman, Robert B. Cameron, and with opening ceremonies by Grand Lodge officers.

State President, Lamar Johnston, welcomed the officers and members of the new lodge to the family of Elkdom. Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bill Wall also welcomed the officers and members of the new lodge.

After ceremonies, they all took off to the country club. When leaving, there was a drenching rain and most got soaked for the trip home.

George Roller, an Elk who had demitted from Miami, was elected as their first Exalted Ruler, serving in that position for the next three years.

In 1975, Roller was appointed Vice President of the North Central District and the following year as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

Institution ceremonies were held at the Apopka City Auditorium.

Apopka Lodge began its lodge sessions in the old city school auditorium. Later, a building in Plymouth, formerly used as a restaurant, was rented. Members donated their time and funds to add an addition to the building which became the club lounge and storeroom.

On April 24, 1973, it was decided to move the lodge into the city of Apopka, the chosen property being the old Ustler home located at Orange and Washington streets in Apopka. A $40,000 bond drive resulted in their successful drive to purchase the residence May 1, 1973. By the end of July 1973, all zoning, permits, Grand Lodge approval and financing by building bonds had been accomplished. The Ustler building was completely remodeled but proved too small for the membership. A 30-foot by 50-foot lodge room was built in 1974 strictly from materials and labor donated by the membership. Another facility was completed in 1978 and the old Ustler building was removed in 1979. Six years later, an additional 2,100 square feet were added.

The Apopka Elkettes were organized May 12, 1971, with 16 charter members.
“Our mission is to mold the current generation of youth into adults we’d be proud to have as American citizens.”

**Inspire • Connect • Expand**

**Registration for Summer Camp 2020**
**Opens Nov. 1, 2019**

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(military week)

For more information and registration, please visit
www.feyc.org

Florida Elks Youth Camp
24175 SE Hwy. 450
Umatilla, FL 32784
352-431-8701

420 Acres •
52 Cabins •
RVLots •
15,000 s.f. Pavilion •
Indoor Arena •
Aquatic Center •
Ropes Course •
“No Name” Lake •
Nature Trails •
Archery Range •
and so much more!
Dear Elks Family and Friends:

There are not adequate words or enough thank yous to express to all of you who sent prayers, cards, gifts of love in Val’s honor and emails to express your sympathy and love to us. Our children, Lisa, Jeff and Jay, together with their families were beyond awed at the outpouring of love and sorrow with Val’s passing. I was not surprised, the Elks have been the most generous and kind people in our lives for over 30 years.

Please accept this note of thanks to all of you who individually and collectively through your lodges made Val’s love of Elkdom generate so many gifts to the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and the Elks National Foundation. Your gifts of love in his honor are the best legacy for his dedication, enthusiasm and love for Elkdom. Your kind expressions of love to us will warm our hearts for years to come. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your friendship and support.

Most sincerely and with love,

Claudia Bates
The Florida Elks’ Army of Hope: Changing Lives – One Military Family at a Time

By Rachael King

While military members are serving away from home, their families face each day without their loved ones, often struggling to make ends meet. When veterans return home, many are unable to handle the financial responsibilities that greet them. These hardships are all too common for military families, but through the Army of Hope, the Florida Elks adamantly strive to alleviate these burdens.

The Elks have a pledge, “As long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.” The Army of Hope is the embodiment of this oath. Every check they sign for a military member or their family lifts a burden and brings hope to this special population.

Army of Hope: The Beginning

The concept for a national Army of Hope program was proposed by Past Grand Exalted Ruler Roger True in February 2003. In late 2006, Florida’s Past State President Vic McClellan became aware of the program. “Being retired from the USAF and having been deployed overseas myself, I found out as much as I could, and in early 2007, PSP Mike Phillips and I brought a proposal to the Florida State Elks Association Past State Presidents Advisory Committee. It was approved and PSP Mike Phillips and I wrote the first policies and procedures,” remembers McClellan. The committee consisted of McClellan as Chairman, PSP Phillips as Vice Chairman, PSP Jim Coggins, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the FSEA Veterans Committee. On Nov. 13, 2015, the policies and procedures were updated, renaming the Army of Hope Executive Committee the Army of Hope Grants Committee and appointing a chairman for each of Florida’s 14 districts.

“The original mission for the Army of Hope was to support the families of military personnel deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. As hostilities began to slow, we discovered a need for financial aid to the returning military Reserve and National Guard troops. When these troops were called to active duty, many lost their civilian pay and had to subsist on their military salaries which in many cases were much less than their civilian pay. While they were on active duty, federal law protected them from creditors, but once they were released from active duty, this protection ceased. Many faced foreclosure and demands for immediate back payments. We revised our policies and procedures to cover them with financial aid. We are currently assisting any troops and their families who served in or in support of all service in the Southwest Asia

Eligible recipients of Army of Hope assistance include the families of Florida active-duty military personnel, military reservists, Coast Guard, National Guard and/or their dependents. Active-duty members stationed in Florida with their dependents qualify as Florida residents.

As of Sept. 30, 2019, the Army of Hope has raised $655,506.26 and disbursed $606,753.57, leaving $48,752.69 available for future requests. Army of Hope is not funded by the Grand Lodge, Elks National Foundation or the Harry-Anna Trust Fund. Rather, all donations are raised by Elks with events such as picnics, dinners, and raffles or by personal contributions.

Grant Requests

The Army of Hope Grants Committee receives an array of requests from veterans (both female and male) and their families. A large portion of the requests come from service-connected disabled veterans, who, for a variety of reasons, have come to the point of needing assistance after exhausting every possible resource. Some accepted separation pay when they separated from active duty, but they aren’t always informed that this must be repaid before they can receive disability benefits. There are many
complications that lead them to the Army of Hope. They are proud citizens who want to be able to make it on their own but have realized that this is not always possible. This is why the Army of Hope exists.

In just this fiscal year which began April 1, 2019, the following requests have been granted.

- To cover inflated rent costs and a cut in VA benefits for a veteran in Panama City, Fla., affected by Hurricane Michael.
- For a homeless veteran who did not receive disability check for June 2019 to cover overdrawn bank account, a hotel room and food until the next check arrived.
- To cover the funeral cost of a veteran’s 2-year-old daughter.
- For a veteran to cover overdue mortgage and caring for children after spouse suffered a stroke.
- For vehicle repair to get to and from job interviews and work and for overdue utilities to keep from being disconnected.
- For a gold star widow’s past and present mortgage as her income from running her own business is not what she’d hoped it’d be.
- For spouse of veteran with TBI/PTSD who was on drugs and not able to work or function. Spouse is taking care of house and children alone. The grant covered rent, utilities and misc. bills.
- For veteran who attends classes and is a single parent whose work-study contract wasn’t allowing him to work. Grant paid for rent and utility bill.
- To help veteran with bills during issue with VA’s garnished wages.
- To replace carpet with hardwood floors to assist mobility of a triple amputee after attempting to dismantle an IED.
- To replace HVAC for veteran whose infant grandchild lives with veteran.
- For veteran undergoing surgery and is behind on rent and utilities.
- For veteran with PTSD for vehicle repair to get to medical appointments (VA outpatient and other medical care facilities), their part-time job as a painter, errands and full-time student classes.
- For rent and electric bill of veteran and spouse who were hospitalized.
- For veteran with a 9-year-old to replace their AC unit.
- For veteran whose VA disability was cut in half to cover utilities. Spouse was in hospital and he was unable to work.
- For veteran with limited income while attending school awaiting upgrade in disability.
- For veteran with four children and a veteran spouse who lost job to catch up on bills including vehicle and utilities. They moved to Florida for a relocation.
- For Gulf War veteran to relocate after eviction.
- For veteran and family to make extended stay in Texas while veteran is in Dallas VA hospital. Grant was for gas, food for five, rental car, rental for extended stay and extended stay in HUD housing.
- To repair vehicle of two-time Iraq veteran who was housed by VA after sleeping in vehicle and is now registered for HVAC technical program and trying to find a job.

Christopher Fugitt is pictured with Rebel. This veteran received a mobility service dog after the effects of a hemorrhagic stroke didn’t subside, but that meant he would have to travel from Valparaiso, Fla., to Ocala, Fla., to attend training and cover transportation, food, lodging and dog equipment, which he was unable to do. The Army of Hope immediately granted him the funds for this necessary trip.

In August 2018, Jennifer Slaughter, an Army wife and mother of two, contacted the Army of Hope after she was informed about the program by the Florida Army National Guard. Her point of contact was Jim Lamb, Sarasota South Lodge’s Veterans Chairman. Jennifer’s husband, Chief Warrant Officer Three (CW3) Todd Slaughter of the Florida Army National Guard, had been deployed in Kuwait since January 2018. Their then 12-year-old daughter, Sophia, was struggling with a multitude of health issues. In her mother’s words, “she was born with a chromosomal anomaly which presents many difficulties for her including severe learning disabilities, low muscle tone and the growing potential for seizures as she matures. She also has dyspraxia, a lifelong neurological condition which impairs her executive functioning; coordination; balance; and abilities to read, write, and count, among many other things. Lastly, she has moderate autism.”

Her husband’s absence further complicated Jennifer’s parenting responsibilities, as Sophia could never be left alone. They also had to remove her from public schooling since they were unable to accommodate her needs. She had regressed several grade levels and was bullied. Jennifer researched activities that might help her daughter. “We began therapeutic horseback riding and special needs yoga with one-to-one assistance. These two weekly activities have helped her to find better physical coordination and balance like never before. Doing better physically has brought forth more confidence and a desire to succeed. We also attend a child psychologist weekly to assist in her growing changes to behavior as we approach adolescence. Seeing positive reactions to these interventions prompted my research of teaching methods that access the parts of her brain like no one has before. I found a specialized private tutor with whom she meets three times weekly. I also follow the protocols at home. In two weeks, Sophia has surpassed our expectations!” Jennifer also chose to begin homeschooling Sophia but was waitlisted indefinitely for a scholarship for special needs home education that would have amounted to $10,300. Sophia’s activities of therapeutic horseback riding, special yoga, tutoring and psychologist sessions cost $395 each week. Jennifer considered taking Sophia to the psychologist less frequently, “but honestly I need them as much as she does as we make our way through this without her father,” continues Jennifer in her request letter.

The Army of Hope granted the Slaughter family four weeks of paid activities for Sophia which helped the family immensely. Jennifer wasn’t able to work, so their only income...
was Todd's military pay. In addition to the grant, the Elks also helped Sophia get accepted into the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services program only a month after contacting the Army of Hope.

Today, Todd is still active duty, but he is at home attached to the Special Operations Command (SOCOM) J2X at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. On her second round of six-month weekly sessions, Sophia, now 13, is doing much better in large part due to therapist Margot Baker.

The Slaughter family in July 2019: Sophia, Jennifer, Todd and Daphne

In their Own Words

The Army of Hope has pulled a multitude of veterans and military families out of despair, and the recipients want the Elks to know the tremendous appreciation they feel. Below are anonymous samples of their sentiments.

“The Army of Hope program’s assistance will help to improve and stabilize my current financial situation. I was medically retired at the end of September 2016 and have been unable to find gainful employment. Help with even one bill will help to lessen the choking feeling that overwhelms me on a daily basis. As a disabled veteran, I make very little money to support myself and my little brother who has fallen on hard times as well, so it makes me hopeful for the future when there are still people that care.”

“I want to again thank you for the financial help you all are providing. It is more of a blessing than you realize. On April 23 I was in California to attend my grandfather’s funeral. My grandfather’s funeral set my wife and me way back financially. On my way to the funeral I received a phone call that my 2-year-old daughter passed away due to drowning. There is no way to be prepared for this kind of news. On top of grieving for my child I was also panicking because I could not afford to bury her right now. With the Army of Hope stepping in and helping us with the expenses of the funeral, it feels like the weight of the world being lifted from my shoulders. Because of you all, my wife and I have been able to focus on grieving and figuring out where to go from here.”

“Thank you so much for your time and what you’re doing to help veterans. I salute you.”

Jennifer Slaughter expressed her gratitude this way. “When I first reached out to the Elks, I was hoping for any assistance, no matter how small, to get us through to the next hurdle. My mindset at the time was survival as a mom with a very special child whose education was now all on me. What I discovered was so very much more than that! Our family was welcomed with immediate support and care. Jim Lamb took us under his wing that day. Not only did we receive a beautiful gift of financial support to help our family catch up, but we have received in-home occupational therapy and been invited to family dinners and Christmas celebrations at the lodge. Best of all, the gift of kindness and support helped me feel less alone in this journey....Sophia was taken off the waitlist recently and funded for the Gardiner Scholarship....Last year was a journey without the scholarship, but the programs provided by the Florida Elks Army of Hope and Children’s Therapy Services helped us get where we are today. Our family is forever grateful. The Army of Hope grant gave us breathing room. Todd was relieved tremendously when he knew I was less stressed and therefore able to focus on...getting Sophia’s needs met. He could also then focus on his job.”

The Future of the Army of Hope

When the Elks make a promise, they keep it, and their promise is that they will never forget veterans. Elks’ support is vital to keeping this promise so that funds are always available when a request is received. As Vic McClellan, PSP, chairman, states, “We will be there until there is no need.” Americans rely on the service of its military members; the Elks want these service members to know that they can rely on them.

How is the Army of Hope funded? By generous members and lodges like you!

Fundraising tips from Ron Locke, Army of Hope Fundraising Chairman

• Golf tournaments require the least amount of volunteers and get a lot of community involvement.
• District-wide barbecues/festivals get the entire district involved.
• Lodge dinners and dances. Invite veterans, service personnel, first responders, etc.
• Designate 50/50 proceeds to the Army of Hope.
• Provide donation cans at the lodge. Cans will be available for lodges to pick up at the midyear convention.
• Host a fishing tournament and invite veterans and active military.
• Designate a red shirt night. Everyone who wears a red shirt is entered in a drawing with donated prizes.

We have a tent and banner for your fundraiser. Each District Vice President has these items for you to use. Do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance in promotion, logististics, advertising or just helping with a booth at your event. I will make every effort to attend. You can reach me at 352-459-8282 or bowtie038@aol.com.

Upcoming Army of Hope Fundraisers

- Nov. 15, 2019 – Vero Beach Lodge
- Jan. 12, 2020 – Venice-Nokomis Lodge
- Feb. 23, 2020 – Punta Gorda Lodge

To support the Army of Hope

Make check payable to and mail to: Florida Elks Charities Inc.
P.O. Box 49
Umatilla, FL 32784-0049

Soldiers and their partners pose with PSP Vic McClellan, chairman, during the East Central District’s Army of Hope fundraiser at Sanford Lodge April 21, 2018. There was live music, barbecue and a car show. Port Orange and Titusville lodges donated food, and members from every district lodge attended. Soldiers from the Sanford Army Reserve Center displayed equipment and a Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services therapist talked with guests. The district raised $11,000.
Q & A with Ron Powell, Northwest District Army of Hope Chairman

Since the majority of grant requests come from Ron Powell’s district, he offers advice on what other districts can do to inform their communities about the Army of Hope and reach more potential grant recipients.

What do you do as District Chairman? I am constantly involved with governmental organizations, charitable organizations, military facilities and the local community. I volunteer to help our Veteran Center that helps departing military members with numerous problems affecting their livelihood and safety. They also keep me informed of incoming personnel who need help with financial issues that are beyond their control. They are also my single most important organization because they are the first place a veteran looks to get help. My contact with base relief programs is another great source of information to help needy veterans. Additionally, I talk up our program in my lodge publication that goes to other Elks. I am also a member of other organizations such as the VFW, Shriner’s and American Legion that have huge memberships to which I can get the word out.

How do you inform these organizations about the Army of Hope? Organizations such as the VFW and American Legion have commanders and they are willing to support any organization that helps veterans. Get them to put up a sign that says, “If you know a veteran who may be struggling, please call the Army of Hope (give your parish).” It’s simple! We love our veterans; get out there and look, listen and talk. Also, we have communications today that we are not used to. My wife is on Facebook and if she hears of a veteran in Florida in need, she will ask if they served in Southwest Asia. I will make a phone call and see if we can provide assistance. Twitter is also another source.

What are examples of governmental organizations with which you work? The first and most important source to each chairman is the governmental counselor at your Veteran Centers. These centers are located in most cities and a simple phone call to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs can give you the location of your nearest center. These readjustment counselors are part of a multidisciplinary team located within a department-based Veteran Center that provides veterans with community outreach, counseling, therapy treatment, and direct services and referred to VA and community resources and community education regarding the problems and needs of a veteran. A simple call to the Director of the Center by the District Chairman asking for a few minutes of his or her time to explain how we Elks may be able to alleviate some of the hardships that our returning veterans have will be an eye opening experience. Also, many veterans need help only need one phone number to call – yours. All lodges will be a great help to you after you identify and talk to the veteran.

Could you describe the base relief programs? The Air Force has the Air Force Relief Agency which is funded by donations within the military by its members. It’s for emergencies such as a death in the family that requires travel funding and of course many other issues affecting the military member. The Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard have similar funds. If you are a retired military member, please visit the website if off the base and they will direct you to the appropriate office. If you are not a retired member, call the base operator and ask that they refer you to the respective relief agency. Hopefully, each lodge may have a retired military member to help you. Also, members you may be in may be civilian employees on the base. Other relief organizations may be on the base such as a wounded warrior program for the respective service. As we have funds do a tremendous job of helping our active duty military, they can use outside agencies’ help to fill major holes beyond their capabilities. These may include major home repairs, vehicle repairs/rentals, family issues that are not funded through the program and emergency loans to deployment of the military members.

What local contacts do you have within your community that let veterans know help is available? I am lucky in certain respects because I am retired from the military and I have access to all bases in my local area. Also work with the AF Wounded Warrior program; Army and Air Force Aid Society; EOD Warrior Foundation; Marine Corp League, Pensacola, Fla; and, most important, word of mouth.

What is your interaction like with these bases? How do you get the word out about Army of Hope? Is northwest Florida the only area of the state with military bases? Florida’s largest concentration of military bases are from Pensacola to Jacksonville. There are bases in almost all districts and can be easily found by pulling up military installations in Florida on Google to find the ones in your district. All districts must have at least one retired military member who could help them with funding and putting out the word of the programs. In the 25 years in uniform; it does help because I can get on all bases. Keep one thing in mind – your greatest need is not active duty military – it is those military members who are departing, especially those with families. Place your largest efforts with the Department of Veterans Affairs in your area.

What does your district do to fundraise for the Army of Hope? We have one major fundraiser each year in conjunction with our Kids on the Water program at Fort Walton Beach Lodge #1795. Our district contributes $2,000-$4,000 per year on average. I appreciate the other districts that have great fundraisers which have helped our district pay for our many veterans in need.

What is the process for a military member/veteran to get Army of Hope assistance in their district? As for me, the District Chairman is the key. He or she makes contacts to any or all organizations within the community and lets them know what we as Elks do. Get good contacts with telephone numbers and emails. Follow up with them from time to time. Make sure that they have the most military experience possible. Retired military is preferable but not necessary. Find someone within your community who has the same goals as you do – helping veterans. You will be amazed! Make a call to each veteran and get all the information from them concerning their needs including billing statements and veteran information including the DD Form 214. Once you get all the information from the veteran, each lodge can and should evaluate quickly. Also, each District Chairman had better be aware of one thing – you will be called by the people you are trying to help concerning this. Your phone never stops. Remember one thing. Veterans are proud people who do not like to request help. Please be understanding.

Please tell me your thoughts on the Army of Hope. It has been a godsend to veterans suffering from mental illness and financial distress after departure from service. We Elks spend countless hours helping youth and our medical programs. We also need to kick butt on our programs to help those who protect us.

Final thoughts? I must reiterate, be involved! If you or any of those who do not have access to bases as I do, please sit down with any and all veteran organizations within your community, e.g., VFW, American Legion and Veteran Centers. The Veteran Center will be your greatest source if you are a pest and get them involved.

Ask questions from other districts. The name of the game is helping our veterans regardless of your district. I would be happy to help anyone if it would help a veteran and his or her living better.

Ron Powell can be reached at powellrw48@gmail.com or 850-302-0062.
2020 Officer Training Seminar

March 13-15, 2020
Orlando World Center Marriott
8701 World Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32821

All members are encouraged to attend, especially 2020 candidates for Exalted Ruler, Secretary, Leading Knight and Treasurer.

Attendance is also encouraged for Secretary and Treasurer Office Assistants, Board of Director Members, Trustees, and House Committee Members.

YOUR AD HERE

To advertise in the Florida Elks Magazine, please contact:
Rachael King, Editor
352-322-1282
r.king@floridaelks.org
Elks National Foundation: Why it is Important and why we Should Donate

Have you ever been to a lodge meeting and heard them talking about the Elks National Foundation (ENF) and wonder what the big deal is about ENF and think it’s just one more thing to which you are supposed to donate? Honestly, that’s what I thought until I got more involved and found out all the things that we do in the community for the veterans and children that have a direct impact with what we contribute to ENF. Here are some interesting facts about ENF of which you may not be aware.

According to elks.org/ENF/mission.cfm, “The mission of the Elks National Foundation is to help Elks build stronger communities. We fulfill this pledge by investing in communities where Elks live and work. We provide tomorrow’s leaders, our youth, with lifelong skills; meet the needs of today’s veterans; help the state Elks associations accomplish their charitable objectives; and fund projects that improve the quality of life in local Elks communities.”

How do they do all that? Let me tell you.

Scholarships

Most Valuable Student (MVS): This scholarship is available to current high school seniors or the equivalent who are citizens of the United States. They do not have to be related to an Elks member. Applicants must be citizens of the United States on the date their application is signed; permanent legal resident status does not qualify. High school graduates are not eligible. (Enrollment was Aug. 5 – Nov. 5, 2019.)

Legacy Awards: These are $4,000 scholarships available to any child, stepchild, grandchild, step-grandchild or legal ward of a living Elk who joined the order before April 1, 2017, or who is a charter member of a lodge that was instituted on or after April 1, 2019. The Elk must also be a paid-up member through March 31, 2020. Great-grandchildren are not eligible. If you have a high school senior getting ready to graduate, check this scholarship out. Applications are available Sept. 1, 2019 – Jan. 31, 2020.

Emergency Educational Grants: These grants provide undergraduate college financial assistance to children of deceased or totally disabled Elks in the form of renewable, one-year grants of $5,000. They are for educational assistance only and not intended to cover the entire cost of a college education. (They were available May 1 – Oct. 31, 2019.)

Weigel Medical School: This is an exclusive scholarship opportunity just for Elks scholars pursuing a medical degree or osteopathic medical degree. More information will be available on elks.org in December.

Additional information on all these scholarships is available on elks.org. Do you know that we are third in the country behind the U.S. government and Bill Gates in giving out scholarships? It kind of makes you “Proud to be an Elk,” doesn’t it?

Community Investments Program

Another great way the ENF supports our communities is through grants – the Beacon Grant, Gratitude Grant, Promise Grant, Impact Grant, Spotlight Grant and Freedom Grant. Every lodge is encouraged to apply for as many grants as possible. ENF has put aside $9.9 million of award money for this year for state Elks association grants and $13.7 million for the Community Investments Program.

Some of these grants are awarded to lodges for the children in their communities. Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies (EFELT) is a program that makes sure that children in need get a backpack on Friday with enough food to feed them through the weekend. How great is that?! Others make sure that the kids have enough supplies to go back to school at the beginning of the year. Still more throw Christmas parties with each child being able to take home a special gift from Santa. It is awesome how we as Elks are able to help so many children who need it. Your grant coordinator can give you more information on grants and the value they are to the communities.

Drug Awareness & Hoop Shoot

Speaking of kids, let’s not forget the drug awareness program and Hoop Shoot free throw contest. ENF has budgeted $1.1 million for the drug awareness program and $1.1 million for Hoop Shoot.

The Elks drug awareness program is the largest volunteer program in the United States. Our work with the Drug Enforcement Agency, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Substance and Mental Health Service Administration, and national organizations such as PRIDE youth programs help us teach our communities about the dangers of drug abuse. With the help of Elroy the Elk, the program mascot, the Elks are able to educate children of all ages on the dangers of drug abuse. The Elks have even teamed up with Marvel Comic Books to produce a book featuring superheroes and Elroy battling underage drinking. Sadly, too many homes have been affected in one way or another by drugs or alcohol abuse. Be proud to wear your red ribbon Oct. 23-31!

The Hoop Shoot free throw contest is another way Elks work with the youth in our communities. If you have never volunteered with the Hoop Shoot in your lodge, you don’t know what you’re missing. It is an amazing experience to watch as these girls and boys compete for a trophy, possibly go on to the national championship and maybe get their name in the Basketball Hall of Fame. I’ve volunteered for this and can tell you that it’s a special feeling you get working with these competitors and watching their faces with every free throw. It makes me “Proud to be an Elk.”

Veterans

The Elks pledge is, “As long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.” Many of the grants...
awarded to Florida Elks lodges are used for veterans’ projects. This year’s budget for the Elks national service program is $3.3 million. Just think of the good your lodge can do with some of that grant money. Some of the lodges take the veterans in their community fishing or to a ballgame. Others host veterans’ lunches and dinners. Some go to the local VA hospitals and treat the veterans there to a nice barbecue picnic with entertainment. Some throw Christmas parties and give gifts to each veteran.

**Support**

Now that you know a little more about ENF, how can you help? Volunteer where you can and donate to the Elks National Foundation. Last year, ENF gave back $2.287 for every dollar that was donated from Florida. Donating is so easy to do now. Just go online to elks.org, log in and go to the Elks National Foundation page. Check out the various ways to make your donation. The easiest is the Fidelity Club where you can give as little as $5 a month or $15 a quarter which is taken out of your checking account or charged to a credit card, making donating easy and rewarding. Remember, it’s for our veterans and children. If you need help with this, let me know and I’ll be happy to help you. Contact me at rmwujcik@gmail.com or 941-962-5475.

October was ENF Month. Don’t forget to send me pictures from your fundraiser!

**Rose Wujcik, PER, State Chairman**  
ENF Fundraising Committee  
Florida State Elks Association

### Elks National Foundation Community Investments Grants: Updates from the ENF Grants State Coordinator

Since April 1, Florida Elks have applied for and been awarded 175 grants as of Sept. 13. That is $393,500 everyone is using in the communities in which we live. There are many others in the approval pipe. There also are still several grants available for you to apply for until Dec 31, 2019. See the chart for info.

Don’t forget when you get the approval email for the Beacon Grant to forward it to carl@floridaelks.org for your $2,500 match. That will give you $5,000 for your project.

If you have any questions, please contact me at jacquie_m100@hotmail.com or 863-838-9018.

**Jacquie Rehner, PDD**  
ENF Grants State Coordinator  
Florida State Elks Association

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>How Much</th>
<th>For What</th>
<th>Applications Open for 2019-2020</th>
<th>Applications Close</th>
<th>Complete Grant Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beacon</td>
<td>$2,500 (Florida State Elks will give $2,500) $5,000 for the same project</td>
<td>Every lodge is eligible to apply for an ongoing Elks-led community project.</td>
<td>4/1/19</td>
<td>12/31/19</td>
<td>3/31/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gratitude</td>
<td>$2,000 (extra $500 awarded to lodges with more than 15% of members donating $10 or more to ENF)</td>
<td>Support local, charitable activities to strengthen your community if the previous year’s ENF giving goal was met</td>
<td>4/1/19</td>
<td>12/31/19</td>
<td>3/31/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact*</td>
<td>Up to $10,000 per project</td>
<td>To make a significant and meaningful difference in the community through a charitable project</td>
<td>Jan-Dec 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW! Spotlight</td>
<td>$2,000 to every lodge (presapproved projects are listed on ENF website)</td>
<td>To shine a light on two important issues facing nearly every American community — family literacy and homelessness among our nation’s veterans</td>
<td>4/1/19</td>
<td>12/31/19</td>
<td>3/31/20</td>
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* Impact Grant is only open for those who sent intent by 7/31 and were invited to apply for full grant
COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS PROGRAM: Lakeland Lodge #1291 uses Beacon Grant to Provide Weekend Meals to Children who are Homeless

Beacon Grant

Amount: $2,500

Available to: Each lodge

Use: To develop an ongoing, charitable, Elks-driven community project

For more information including guidelines, restrictions, applications and report forms, visit elks.org/cip/.

On Aug. 17, Lakeland Elks Lodge #1291 partnered with kidsPACK and used their $2,500 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant as well as their $2,500 matching grant from the Florida State Elks Association to pack 600 backpacks with weekend meals for hungry children in Polk County who are homeless, living in places like shelters or cars. There were 28 volunteers at the lodge to pack, wrap and box these meals for the kidsPACK organization to deliver to local schools for the children.

According to Char Fisher, Lakeland Lodge’s Elks National Foundation grant coordinator, “Homeless and hungry children are identified by the schools and welfare organizations in our county. kidsPACK works with these organizations to feed these children each weekend. The children are sent home from school on Friday with a backpack that contains their weekend meals, and they return it Monday. Without these meals from kidsPACK, these children would go without eating.”

Using the lodge’s grant money, kidsPACK purchases the food at a discounted price. It costs $6 per child per weekend to feed them. The 600 backpacks totaled $3,600, and with the remaining $1,400, the lodge sponsored other children.

Each backpack includes two breakfasts, two lunches and two dinners for Saturday and Sunday. The items include two microwaveable meals, a pastry snack and a bag of cereal, one fruit or granola bar, two cheese or peanut butter crackers, one trail mix package, one fruit cup, one applesauce, and a spoon. Once the backpacks are packed, kidsPACK picks them up and delivers them to the schools.

On Friday, the students go to the office to receive their food in an unmarked backpack so other children do not know what they have or become aware of their situation. The children return the backpacks Monday and continue to receive weekend meals throughout the school year.

This is the lodge’s fourth year of helping children through kidsPACK. They got their start with the organization after Fisher attended a packing event through her work and informed her lodge about it. The lodge was very excited to begin this project using their Beacon Grant and fully supports it. “It is a dire need in our community and we can help with it year after year. It has become a lodge favorite,” says Fisher. She says the county has approximately 1,700 children who are identified as homeless.

IN EACH ISSUE OF THE FLORIDA ELKS MAGAZINE, A LODGE WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED USING ONE OF THEIR ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANTS.

To be considered, please submit a description of the project and several pictures of the grant being put into action to Rachael King, Editor, at r.king@floridaelks.org.

While gifting grants to other organizations and causes is allowed for several grants, ENF urges lodges to use the grants for Elk-involved functions so they can be seen in the community and garner new members, so lodges that gift their grants will not be showcased in this feature.

Send in your submission so the state can see the fantastic impact your lodge is making in your community!

* Current submission and photos by Char Fisher, Lakeland Lodge ENF Grants Coordinator

Left: Nancy Read at a wrapping station with John McArthur and Steve Masterton PER

Middle: Penny Deig (right) with Ava Greschuk and Maria Quinones

Right: Cindy Green boxing the final product with Bob Fuschetti, PER and Larry Sullivan (behind Green)
Visiting Elks: Why Income from them at your Lodge is not Considered Unrelated Business Income

When visiting Elks visit your lodge, invite them in and welcome them to your lodge. If your lodge has a special visiting Elks register, ask them if they would like to sign in. A visiting Elk should never sign in on a non-member guest register.

The following references support the above paragraph.

Robert M. Goolrick, attorney at law, Sept. 15, 2009, wrote “Supplemental Information to Auditing, Accounting and Management Manual,” Oct. 2009, Chapter 10, Section 10-103(A), page 41 titled “Status of BPOE Members Regarding Unrelated Business Income.” In this supplemental information, Mr. Goolrick wrote several reasons with references why visiting Elks income is not UBI income.

On Jan. 10, 2016, Mr. Andy Milwid, Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee, Area 3, submitted a document on visiting Elks stating, “we should NOT be having visiting Elks sign in to the lodge.”

Grand Lodge News (The Ins and Outs of UBI) © 2019 states, “Our firm position is that sales to visiting members are not UBI, since all lodges are under the same group exemption and operate by uniform national rules. Our position has been supported by IRS pronouncements. It is recommended that visiting Elks do not sign the guest register.”

From the August 2019 edition of the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Manual, Chapter 10, paragraph 10-103, General Rules, the last three paragraphs state that according to the IRS, “the term ‘general public’ means persons other than members of a lodge/club or their dependents or guests. The member’s spouse is treated as a member.

“In some IRS examinations, examiners have raised a question about the proper classification of sales of goods or services to visiting BPOE members from other lodges. It is our firm position the sales to visiting members are not UBI, since all lodges are under the same group exemption and operate by uniform national rules. Our position is supported by IRS pronouncements. Therefore, income from sales to visiting Elks should be recorded as any other member income on the records of the lodge. It is recommended that visiting Elks do not sign the guest register, but their identities may be separately recorded for informational purposes in a special visiting Elks register.

“If an IRS examiner takes the position that income from visiting Elks is UBI, contact the PGER State Sponsor and the A & A Area Committee Member for further guidance.”

Let’s make our visiting Elks feel like Elk visitors to our lodge.

FSEA Business Practices Committee

Disclaimer: The Business Practices Committee of the Florida State Elks Association has prepared this information to assist the local lodges of this fraternal order. Each of these local lodges is an independent corporation or other type of entity formed within the state of Florida. This committee has no control over the day-to-day operations or the personnel practices of these entities and does not undertake any responsibility for the enactment of the recommendations in this article or for any inspection, monitoring or enforcement of the described recommendations. This article is provided to make local lodges aware of a broad area of possible concerns and to provide suggested means to implement procedures that will help to make improvements. The FSEA Business Practices Committee is neither responsible nor empowered to be responsible for the establishment of such procedures. The Business Practices Committee acts as a resource to assist local lodges.
The seven lodges of the Northwest District held their seventh annual Kids on the Water/Military Appreciation Day Sept. 21 at Fort Walton Elks Lodge #1795. In attendance were 124 guests, 75 military guests, 20 non-Elk volunteers and 80 members of the district lodges. This event brings military families together with area children including the patients and families of the district’s Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services therapist, Elizabeth Maina; kids from Children in Crisis and Children Without Beds; and children in the foster care system. Children in Crisis is a nonprofit organization that finds homes for abused, neglected or abandoned children while keeping siblings together. Children Without Beds is an organization that provides new beds and pillows to children, offering them solace and something that is their own. The event included pontoon boat rides, lots of food, arts and crafts, the Capt. Davy pirate show, face painting, snow cones, and a toy for every child. The eight pontoon boats were donated by member Danny Bilger and his wife, Karen, for the seventh year. Target, Frito Lay and members in the district donated a snow cone machine and supplies, painted pet rocks, and arts and crafts to the event.

Perry #1851

Perry Elks Lodge #1851 sent six youngsters this summer from the Perry, Fla., area to the Florida Elks Youth Camp – two kids going early in the camping season and four others going together later. Transportation to the camp was provided by six adults, including parents and lodge members, who carpooled to get the kids to camp and home again. Two of the campers were returning this year and have aspirations of becoming counselors-in-training next year.

On June 30, the Perry Lady Elks, Elks members and volunteers came together to help a local family battling leukemia. The family of 4-year-old Marvin Overstreet was able to attend the lodge-sponsored brunch fundraiser, and he was definitely the star of the day! The Perry Lady Elks donated a check in the amount of $2,002.25 to the Overstreet family. The overwhelming love, relief and joy they were given during this event warmed the hearts of many and will help this family in covering the cost of travel for further treatments.

Pictured at the Perry Lady Elks’ Christmas-in-July bazaar July 13 are Kristie Harper, Bridgette Robertson, Peppermint Stix Elf (Denise Burroughs), Santa Claus (Donald Mosley), Mrs. Claus (Earline Neeley), Nikki Anderson and Linda Carter.

On Sept. 14, Perry Lodge hosted a biker bash and jeep jam poker run that raised $607 for its youth activities program. Over 25 jeeps and motorcycles participated in the 100-mile run. The morning ride started at the lodge and ended at Walter B’s, a favorite watering hole and tiki bar on Beach Road for a fun afternoon of fellowship and fundraising.
Tallahassee #937

A back-to-school bash was held at Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 in August and featured a movie as well as hot dogs, macaroni and cheese, popcorn, lemonade, and ice cream sandwiches. A special visit by Elroy the Elk was a surprise for both parents and kids. School supplies and cash were collected by the lodge and totaled $1,000 and were donated to Leon County Astoria Park Elementary School.

From Sept. 12-15, Tallahassee Lodge sponsored its annual Gretchen Everhart School trip to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. With the help of an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant of $2,000, the lodge procured two buses to transport kids and their families to the camp.

Gainesville #990

On June 20, Gainesville Elks Lodge #990 hosted its annual Splash Day to raise awareness for autism and to benefit the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) which is associated with the University of Florida. There were 156 participants who attended the fun-filled and informative afternoon event. Using the Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and lodge donations, 33 volunteers including Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services therapist Val Edmands helped raise awareness of CARD and its services.

Green Cove Springs #1892

Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge #1892 used the Elks National Foundation Promise Grant to fund summer guitar lessons for local students. The lodge purchased materials for 10 students and hired a guitar instructor, Marty Farmer, who provided seven hour-long group lessons throughout the summer. Lunch was provided at each session. On July 24, the students performed a recital for approximately 70 Elks and family members and stayed as guests for dinner afterward.

Eustis #1578

The Eustis Elks held an appreciation breakfast at their lodge along with prizes and school supplies for teachers and principals from 11 local elementary schools Aug. 10, a week before school started. They are also cooking spaghetti once a week for the Eustis High School junior varsity team to feed the football players before their games.

The Anna Miller Ladies of Eustis

Elks donated $2,500 to Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services, sent 23 children to camp and gave school supplies to a local school.

Inverness #2522

On Aug. 8, Inverness Elks Lodge #2522 used a $2,500 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant when 15 volunteers met at the lodge to pack 170 backpacks for their Backpacks for Success program which is in its sixth year. They supply backpacks for children in foster care and also deliver them to five other area schools so children in the community are well prepared for their first day of school.

Winter Park #1830

Winter Park Elks Lodge #1830 used their Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to purchase 85 backpacks and school supplies for children in their community who are underprivileged. Pictured are Casselberry Elementary assistant principal, Mary Walters-Clark; PER Vivian Thomas; Charlie Thomas; and PER Ron Goluba.

Merritt Island #2650

Merritt Island Elks Lodge #2650 awarded $2,000 scholarships to nine deserving high school students. Exalted Ruler, Bill Hazelett, presented checks to four of the recipients – Jordan Tomberlin, Shaelyn Ledoux, DJ Davey and Mason Yaskovic. The winners and their families were treated to breakfast at the lodge July 7. The other five students were presented their scholarships at a different date.
West Citrus #2693

On July 30, West Citrus Elks Lodge #2693 presented the Citrus County Abuse Shelter (CASA) with a check for $750 from the Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. CASA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help survivors of domestic violence by offering shelter, safety, intervention and education. They also aim to educate citizens to bring about social change.

Cindy Green, West Citrus Lodge Exalted Ruler, presents a $750 donation July 30 to CASA program manager, Deborah Peterson.

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Cocoa Beach #2387

On Sept. 10 at Cocoa Beach Elks Lodge #2387, members presented their $2,000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to the Cocoa Beach High School sports teams and ROTC to purchase new equipment as well as uniforms. Exalted Ruler, Ed Ciecirski, is shown with representatives from CBHS Army JROTC, boys and girls soccer, wrestling, girls volleyball, boys basketball, Project Graduation, boys and girls lacrosse, and Key Club.

Vero Beach #1774

Vero Beach Elementary was awarded a Positive Behavior Intervention Specialist Award in association with the University of South Florida for 2018-2019 for being a model school for positive behavior. Vero Beach Elks Lodge #1774 has been a very important part of their success. Using their Elks National Foundation Impact Grant, the lodge continues its Elks store at the school, “Elks Love Kids of Character,” awarding children for their good deeds during the school year. They also provide funds to the school to purchase uniforms for students who are homeless. In addition to funding, the Elks give their time; their presence at the school shows the students that their community cares about them.

Vero Beach Lodge is supplying 1,300 dictionaries to 13 schools’ third grade students in the Vero Beach, Fla., area. From kindergarten through the beginning of third grade, students are learning to read. From the third grade onward, students are reading to learn. The distributed dictionaries contain multiplication tables, braille, sign language, history, geography and much more. A large percentage of these students do not have the luxury of a computer or smartphones at their disposal, so these dictionaries are a vital learning tool for them and are theirs to keep throughout the school year, take home at the end of third grade and use in later school years. This is the third year the Vero Beach Elks have done this project.

On Aug. 4, Viera Elks Lodge #2817 hosted a back-to-school party for Family Promise of Brevard, an organization whose mission is to end family homelessness in Brevard County by collaborating with the community to provide families the support needed to put themselves on a path toward long-term housing stability. The lodge provided lunch for attendees and supplied backpacks filled with school supplies and gift cards for shoes to the children in the program. During the party, the children were also given a free wellness screening along with a free haircut if desired. This event was funded by an Elks National Foundation Promise Grant and was hosted by members Bill Orblych, PDD, Secretary, and Vinnie and Patti Travaglia.

Viera Lodge hosts a back-to-school party Aug. 4 for Family Promise, an organization focused on ending family homelessness. Pictured at the right are hosts Bill Orblych, PDD, Secretary, and Patti Travaglia.
On Sept. 14, Viera Lodge member Billy Wirth, PER who was recently diagnosed with lymphoma offered to have his head shaved at the district visitation held at Stuart-Jensen Lodge. Wirth was beginning treatment the following week for the disease and wanted to have something positive to come from this dreadful situation. Having been a first responder and having befriended District Vice President Sal Lentine before his untimely death, he wanted to have the proceeds of $500 go to the Elks’ first responders fund in Lentine’s name.

New Port Richey #2284

On June 27, New Port Richey Elks Lodge member Lyn Dexter held a fundraiser at a meeting of the West Coast Claims Association which consists of independent insurance adjusters and raised $275 for Elks National Foundation. Pictured are Brenda Jones, secretary of the association; Lyn Dexter, president; Marilee Mills, PER who received the donation on behalf of the lodge; and Ramon Flores, vice president.

St. Petersburg #1224

On July 30, St. Petersburg Elks were busy delivering their Christmas-in-July gifts to 19 children at Sallie House. Head elf and Exalted Ruler, Dawn Elaine Lieber, received a Christmas wish list from the kids that she was thrilled to fulfill. At a value of $400, the children were each given an outfit, undergarments, scented hand sanitizer, body lotion and body spray. Sallie House is a safe haven for children ages infant to 17 who have been removed from their home because of abuse, neglect or abandonment.

On Aug. 4, St. Petersburg Lodge raised $500 for MYcroSchool Pinellas to help with uniform shirt expenses for their students. MYcroSchools are charter high schools in Florida that are tuition-free. MYcroSchools offer flexible schedules so students can work at their own pace and finish high school under any situation. Their small class sizes allow teachers to focus on students who need help the most. This individual attention ensures students are not left behind and finish high school on time. Exalted Ruler, Dawn Elaine Lieber, said, “It feels great to lend a helping hand so that students can concentrate on school when it starts next week and not be worrying about uniform shirt expenses.”

Pictured at the donation presentation from St. Petersburg Lodge to MYcroSchool Pinellas Aug. 4 are Dawn Elaine Lieber, Exalted Ruler, and lodge members Traci Cain Steen and George Povelitis, PER.

St. Petersburg Lodge has been donating the use of their pool on a monthly basis to Dive Care, a nonprofit Florida corporation. Dive Care is comprised of a group of certified scuba diving instructors and dive buddies who teach prospective divers and dive instructors. Their programs are available to any child, adult or veteran with a disability with the intention of providing both physical and psychological therapeutic value to each person. This picture of Dive Care was taken Aug. 15.

In the hustle and bustle of nabbing deals and buying new clothes for the new school year, an often overlooked reality is that many kids are without the basic back-to-school necessities such as pens and pencils, notebooks, crayons, handwriting paper, watercolors, colored pencils, glue sticks, scissors, highlighters, plastic supply boxes, dividers, tissues, hand sanitizer and gallon-sized zip-top bags. To help give children the tools they need to succeed, St. Petersburg Lodge and its members donated supplies that were distributed to two neighboring schools, Azalea Elementary and Westgate Elementary, Aug. 27. Each school received over $300 worth of school supplies which will go to teachers and students. Exalted Ruler, Dawn Elaine Lieber, said, “We know there are several families in these schools that have unfortunate financial needs and we just want to give the kids a good start. Something as simple as having school supplies really helps to make sure our kids are happy as they start the new school year.”

St. Petersburg Lodge Exalted Ruler; Sharon Litorski, Lecturing Knight; Toni Goodrich, PDD; Jeannie Sninchack, Inner Guard; and Jan Durbin Giallourakis delivered Christmas-in-July gifts to children at Sallie House July 30.

On Aug. 4, St. Petersburg Lodge raised $500 for MYcroSchool Pinellas to help with uniform shirt expenses for their students. MYcroSchools are charter high schools in Florida that are tuition-free. MYcroSchools offer flexible schedules so students can work at their own pace and finish high school under any situation. Their small class sizes allow teachers to focus on students who need help the most. This individual attention ensures students are not left behind and finish high school on time. Exalted Ruler, Dawn Elaine Lieber, said, “It feels great to lend a helping hand so that students can concentrate on school when it starts next week and not be worrying about uniform shirt expenses.”
On the third Monday of the month from April through September, St. Petersburg Lodge donated the use of its pool to Boy Scout Troop #334 and averaged 30-36 participants. On the third Tuesday of the month from April through September, Boy Scout Troop #305 used the pool and averaged 13-15 participants. Both troops not only held their meetings poolside but also swam in order to earn their swim merit badges. The league’s recreational soccer program is for boys and girls of all skill levels ages 2-18. The soccer program is intended to teach the game of soccer while building players’ skills in an environment that encourages an understanding of sportsmanship and teamwork.

Seminole #2519

On Sept. 8, Seminole Elks Lodge #2519 hosted a spaghetti dinner for The Movement School, a nonprofit organization that provides physical and occupational therapy free of charge in the community. All food was donated by the lodge and more than 120 dinners were sold, raising $1,657 for the school. The lodge is excited about this new partnership to show that “Elks Care and Elks Share.”

Tampa #708

Tampa Elks Lodge #708 uses its Elks National Foundation Impact Grant for Club Chivalry for Successful Students, a Robinson High School club started by and sponsored by Elks. There is a new club sponsor this year – Caroline Hand. Summer is usually slow, but in August, four Elks went to the school prior to the start of the school year to help Ms. Hand inventory her supplies. The first club meeting was Sept. 16, and Ms. Hand said, “The meeting was AMAZING.” It was her first time seeing the Elks and the students interact. PERs Shelagh Gombarcik and Dee Cisneros did the heavy lifting and got the refreshments out of the walk-in cooler and into the school. Treasurer, Laura Jones, was there as the guest speaker. Helpers Carolyn Miller, Elma Kelly and Linda Peterson distributed refreshments and handled the door prizes. On Sept. 18, the group took a field trip to USF. The students toured the campus and dorms and had lunch in the Marshall Center. Forty students made the trip with three Elks among the chaperones. Tampa Elks also provided refreshments before the bus left the high school in the morning.

Forty Robinson High School students from Tampa Lodge-sponsored Club Chivalry attend a tour at USF Sept. 18.

As a last push to meet their goal of $2,000 for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services (FECTS), the Tampa Ladies of Elks hosted a low country boil Sept. 13 at the lodge. With the support of the Ladies of Elks and fellow lodge members, they surpassed their goal. At the annual Florida Ladies of Elks conference in Daytona Beach, Fla., Tampa Ladies of Elks President, Jacquie LoCicero, presented a check for $2,500 for FECTS.
**SOUTHWEST CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**Arcadia #1524**

Arcadia Elks Lodge #1524 is doing their part to encourage Florida’s DeSoto County youth to read – one quarter at a time. On Aug. 24, the Elks partnered with the Florida Department of Health in DeSoto County, the DeSoto County School District, the U.S. Census Bureau, All Faiths Food Bank, and the Boys and Girls Club to offer a morning of free loads of laundry, storytelling and resources at the Supermatt Laundry located on Hickory Street in Arcadia, Fla. Over 250 loads of laundry were washed and dried at no cost to them while children read or enjoyed stories being read to them. They also took part in various activities provided by the DeSoto tutoring bus and bookmobile. This event was made possible with an Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant and the help of Mary Kay Burns, FDOH DeSoto Administrator and Elks lodge officer who is dedicated to making an impact in the reading levels of DeSoto County youth and improving the health and well-being of DeSoto County residents.

**Lakeland #1291**

On Sept. 11, Lakeland Elks Lodge #1291 hosted the Jean O’Dell Learning Center for dinner and presented them with needed supplies that were purchased with the Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant that are not covered in their budget. The Jean O’Dell Learning Center is an exceptional student education school that serves students with significant cognitive disabilities, including students with autism, ranging in age from 3-22. The lodge provided 16 bean bag chairs in various sizes to accommodate children with disabilities along with bath towels, hand towels, washcloths, laundry soap, dish soap, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer and diaper wipes. A large variety of snacks were provided to assist the teachers with their daily needs in teaching and keeping the children focused and calm. The lodge also provided delivery of the items to the school.

**Plant City #1727**

On Sept. 14, Plant City Lodge Exalted Ruler, Ron Johns, along with member Judy Wise and her granddaughter, Charlise, joined the local Lions Club and Woman’s Club along with local high school students to collect items for The Bahamas survivors of Hurricane Dorian. The group filled a large rental moving truck that transported the much needed items to the local small airport where the Aviation Club donated their private planes and fuel and transported the goods to The Bahamas. Approximately $8,000 in donated goods was collected. The combined expenses of the plane transportation and fuel donation by the Aviation Club was approximately $5,000. Eight Elks worked shifts between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. They set up a drop-off collection point at the parking lot of the Southern Hospitality and Hardee’s restaurant on Collins Street in Plant City, Fla. The lodge was instrumental in pulling the community together and combining forces to aid The Bahamas survivors who are in desperate need after the hurricane.

**Sebring #1529**

On Sept. 7, Sebring Elks Lodge #1529 participated in the collection of supplies heading to The Bahamas in the wake of Hurricane Dorian. Items were trucked to St. Petersburg, Fla., and then flown to the islands. Lodge members Reggie Lemmen, pictured, and Ronna Mason were instrumental in procuring 584 bars of Osana mosquito-repellent bars of soap donated by the Osana company. These bars are meant to assist in the prevention of mosquito-borne and other illnesses caused by the lack of sanitation.
**Fort Myers #1288**

Fort Myers Elks Lodge #1288 celebrated Christmas in July on the 20th with a $1,530 donation to Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services (FECTS). Throughout June and July, members and guests were encouraged to purchase an ornament to place on a Christmas tree that was set up in the lodge room. FECTS therapist Christina Walker along with her patient, 5-year-old Isaac, and his grandmother accept the check from Exalted Ruler, Melba McCleave.

**SOUTHEAST DISTRICT**

Clewiston Elks Lodge #1853 hosted a welcome-back-to-school rib dinner benefit Aug. 10 that raised $1,000 to help meet the lodge's Harry-Anna Trust Fund per-capita giving goal. Pictured are Junior Williams; Troy Cotton; Jeff Owens, PER; Greg Westberry, PDD; and Danielle Soles, Leading Knight.

**Southwest-Southwet District**

On Aug. 1, members of Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge #1854 prepared 50 backpacks filled with school supplies for children in need from local schools and the community center. The supplies were donated by members or purchased using a portion of their Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. Pictured are Sandy Nick, Cathy Grippi, Barbara Jasper, Laura Wood, Sherie Gillum, Mario Grippi, Pat Mazzola, Sue Bucanis, Janet Sasso, Steve Schaefer, Shirley Yawn, Debra Ciccone, Sharon Paganelli, Lori Laboe, Audrey Riggs, Tony Varone and Suzette Curry. Not pictured is Doreen Budetti who took the photo.

**SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**

On July 31, Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763 used its $2,000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to take 10 schoolchildren and three preschoolers from Genesis House Homeless Shelter shopping for school clothes. The school-aged children received backpacks, school supplies and back-to-school clothing and shoes. The preschoolers received clothing, shoes and pull-up diapers. Lodge members also purchased four bookbags and filled them with school supplies for children who would be entering the shelter in the near future. They were accompanied by Officer Lou Henyecz of the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office who works closely with the shelter.

**Englewood #2378**

On July 7, Englewood Elks Lodge #2378 covered the cost for 90 kids to attend a week of summer camp at the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla, Fla. At $180 per camper, the lodge paid $16,200 and provided a bus.

**Manasota #2734**

On Sept. 18, Craig Abbott, PER of Manasota Elks Lodge #2734 presented Marie Mueller, N.U.B.S. community service co-advisor of Oneco Elementary School, the Elks distinguished citizenship award for her outstanding leadership and dedication to N.U.B.S. (Never Underestimate Brave Students), a community service group of students who volunteer their time to help their school, community and country. The lodge has been supporting the program since the 2014-2015 school year. Years ago, lodge member Pat Gallagher went to Marie Mueller with his vision and she and the students jumped right on the idea. As they were too young to join the Antlers Junior Elks program, they put on their thinking caps and started their research and soon learned that antlers start from a pair of nubs on a buck’s head. The group had a name and their journey began. Their mission statement is, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” The lodge supports N.U.B.S. throughout the school year. They donated vests for members to wear during their activities, they donated to rebuild their vegetable garden, they promote the red ribbon poster contest, they collect and donate Box Tops for their playground equipment, they sponsor breakfast with Santa, they read at the school on Literacy Day, and they donated 528 pencils.

**Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota #2855**

A week after Hurricane Dorian hit, Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Elks Lodge #2855 teamed with Agape Pilots, volunteer pilots who ferry supplies to various islands in the Caribbean, to take supplies to The Bahamas. Member Sarah Davis spearheaded this event and the response was donations of brooms, mops, buckets and paper goods.

**Oneco Elementary School**

Craig Abbott, PER and Pam McDowell, Exalted Ruler of Manasota Lodge, present Marie Mueller with a distinguished citizenship award Sept. 18.
Clewiston Lodge had a great turnout for the fourth annual teacher tailgate Aug. 23. In attendance were Mayor Mali Soto Gardner and the new city manager, Randy Martin.

**Jupiter #2469**

Jupiter Elks Lodge #2469 charters Boy Scout Troop 109 and congratulates Laurence Andrews for becoming an Eagle Scout Aug. 6. Pictured with him are mentor, Jyl Mayall; Ted Andrews; Katie Andrews; and scoutmaster Shawn Rankin.

**Lake Okeechobee #2871**

Lake Okeechobee Elks Lodge #2871 hosted their annual Soccer Shoot Sept. 21 for children ages 16 and under. All those who attended were treated to a lunch at the lodge.

**West Palm Beach #1352**

On Aug. 13, West Palm Beach Lodge distributed $3,100 worth of school supplies to their four local elementary schools — Wynnbrook, Greenacres, Benoist Farms and Hope-Centennial — funded by the Elks National Foundation $2,000 Gratitude Grant and $1,100 from lodge members. Pictured are Ed Morey Jr., Exalted Ruler; Tim Hadsell, grant writer; Steve Collins, vice principal; and teachers from Wynnbrook.

**Boca Raton #2166**

Using their Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant, Boca Raton Elks Lodge #2166 gave $500 each to the Boca Raton High School marching band and the Florence Fuller Child Development Center which helps children in need of financial support.

**Delray Beach #1770**

Delray Beach Elks Lodge #1770 used its Elks National Foundation Promise Grant July 21 for the children and their guardians who were being housed with Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse. They were entertained and served lunch at the lodge, and the 33 children took home two school uniforms each and backpacks filled with school supplies.

In September, Delray Beach Lodge members with connections in The Bahamas coordinated donations to be sent to those in need after Hurricane Dorian. Donations came to the lodge from the community for six days and were sent by barge, yachts and planes to The Bahamas.

**Hollywood West #2365**

Hollywood West Elks Lodge #2365 held its monthly brunch and bloodmobile Aug. 18 and invited veterans to brunch from the Sandy Nininger Veterans Home.

**Pompano Beach #1898**

In August, Pompano Beach Elks Lodge #1898 provided school supplies to Cresthaven Elementary School teachers in Pompano Beach, Fla., funded by the $1,500 Elks National Foundation Anniversary Grant. Approximately 35 teachers claimed school supplies. Pictured are Charlotte Burrie, PDD; Sandy Legere; Denise Anderson; Jim Jackson; Robin Haywood, Exalted Ruler; Marilyn Kronenberg, PDD; Jennie Howitt and Sandy Legere’s granddaughter-in-law.

**Florida Keys #1872**

Florida Keys Elks Lodge #1872 collects nonperishable food for Coral Shores High School students in need. The food pantry began in 2012 to provide free food and snacks to any student before class, during lunch or after school. The lodge received the $500 Elks National Foundation Cornerstone Grant to start the food pantry. The program has expanded to where students can sign up to receive weekly take-home backpacks filled with food to assist them during the weekend. Students can also receive larger take-home care packages during the holidays.

**Miami #948**

On Aug. 10, Miami Elks Lodge #948 participated in the District 7 school supply giveaway. The lodge donated $500 to purchase supplies and backpacks for Devonairre K-8 School. They also held a free raffle. Parents learned what the Elks do for their community and about yearly activities such as the Hoop Shoot. The parents also received registration forms and membership brochures. Pictured are Egbert Dawkins, Miami Lodge Leading Knight, and Nancy Carr, chairman of the board of directors.
**NORTH DISTRICT**

**Lake City #893**

Lake City Elks Lodge #893 and veterans volunteer, Capt. Mike Lydick, continue to support the Lake City VA hospital patients and the residents of the Lake City VA Domiciliary, aka the Jenkins Veterans Home. At the hospital, Elks wheelchair gloves are provided as available. Coffee and doughnuts are purchased for the main waiting area. Personal care items, puzzles and playing cards are donated. This summer, the lodge funded four of the summer youth volunteers in the hospital's program. For homeless veterans, in concert with the VA HUD/VASH, the lodge provides Welcome Home Kits to help veterans set up a home. Included in the kits are linens, dishes, flatware, pots and pans, coffee maker, toaster, microwave, and small kitchen items. The lodge has assisted six veterans in this program.

**Green Cove Springs #1892**

On July 14, Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge #1892 held its second annual Christmas-in-July party. Proceeds will support the lodge's Wreaths Across America campaign which places wreaths at veterans' graves. Attendees enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner and fun games and heard a moving, informative presentation by guest speaker, Dan Duffy, VFW State Judge Advocate. Event coordinator, Jean Maddox, and the many helpful volunteers helped raise over $3,500.

**Aripeka #2520**

On July 15, West Citrus Elks Lodge #2693 presented a $1,000 check to the Mission of Citrus Inc. Homeless Shelter in Inverness, Fla., using the Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. The organization does so much for homeless veterans and their families. Pictured at the presentation are Harry Morris and Paul Kissig, veterans; Joanne Hepner, lodge Veterans Committee chairman; Cindy Green, Exalted Ruler; and Katherine Romanowski, Mission Director in Crystal River, Fla.

**CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**Foundation Spotlight Grant of $2,000 to Habitat for Humanity for the purchase of additional supplies for painting the veterans' housing unit.**

**Mike Anderson, Titusville Lodge Exalted Ruler, left, and Judith Mendiola, Veterans Chairman, right, present a check for $2,000 Sept. 13 to Mary Kelly, lodge member and Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity.**

**EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**Port Orange #2723**

Polly Nichols knitted and donated an afghan depicting the U.S. flag that was auctioned off July 4 at a lodge celebration. The proceeds from the auction were for the Elks Parade of Heroes project. Her husband, Roy, will be on a flight to Washington, D.C., in November 2019. Cathy Schmidt attends bingo at the lodge nearly every week and won the raffle. Pictured with Schmidt is Jim Warren, bingo chairman. Nichols and Schmidt are not lodge members.

**Titusville #2113**

On Sept. 13, a work crew from Titusville Elks Lodge #2113 gathered at a veterans’ housing unit and painted an apartment for a veteran. The lodge also provided an Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant of $2,000 to Habitat for Humanity for the purchase of additional supplies for painting the veterans’ housing unit.
Zephyrhills #2731

On Aug. 1, Zephyrhills Elks Lodge #2731 and the Veterans Committee donated clothing to Bay Pines Veterans Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla. The donation included men’s and women’s undergarments, shirts, pants, shoes, pajamas, a large backpack, and a travel duffle bag. The Elks also donated some sweet treats including chocolate covered pretzels, chocolate covered mints and chocolate covered caramels.

The West Citrus Lodge Veterans Committee held their 2019 dinner dance fundraiser Sept. 28. It was a great success with over $3,000 raised to assist veterans in the local assisted living facilities throughout the year. The event consisted of music, dancing and a silent auction.

ROBERTO MALCOLM

Zachary Scott is the 10th veteran who has been helped by Zephyrhills Lodge and the Veterans Committee with moving into his own place and starting a new life. On Aug. 6, the lodge provided him with a laptop, dishes, silverware, towels, bedding, pillows and personal hygiene items.

ROBERTO MALCOLM

Roberto Malcolm is the 11th veteran to be assisted with moving into his own home by Zephyrhills Lodge. He was given a loveseat, recliner, dishes, glasses, silverware, bath towels, hand towels, washcloths, dish towels, dishcloths, placemats, storage bowls and coffee maker. He was also presented with a laptop to further his education. Malcolm’s gratitude was expressed in his smiles and tears.

Southwest Central District

On Aug. 5, the West Citrus Lodge Veterans Committee presented a $400 check to Barbara Mills, an Honor Flight representative, to assist with the cost of an Honor Flight for a former lodge member and World War II veteran and his son to Washington, D.C., Oct. 22. Pictured at the donation presentation are Charlie Maltingly, veteran; Joanne Hepner, lodge chairman of the Veterans Committee; Barbara Mills, Honor Flight representative; and Jack McKowen and Bill Dennington, veterans. These three veterans are previous Honor Flight recipients.

On Aug. 4, Stuart-Jensen Elks Lodge #1870 hosted a Florida State Elks Association Parade of Heroes fundraiser with a spaghetti dinner and raised $5,200. On hand for the event were VPAL, Rudy Masi Sr., and his wife, Dolly. The lodge will be sending three veterans – Don Nilsson, Vietnam War; his brother, William Nilsson, Korean War; and Michael Primavera, World War II – on this trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C., Nov. 8-10.

Viera #2817

On Sept. 13, Viera Elks Lodge #2817 hosted a monthly birthday blast featuring member/guitarist Brian Donnelley, a representative of the national organization Guitars for Vets. This organization aids veterans with PTSD by offering them 10-12 weeks of guitar lessons at no cost. At the end of the training, the organization presents the veteran with a new guitar. Amazingly, the wood and strings of an acoustic guitar and the healing power of music help soldiers cope. Donations to this organization go primarily for the purchase of these guitars. It costs $200 to send one veteran through the program and provide them a guitar. On this particular night, the lodge raised over $400 for this worthwhile project.

St. Petersburg #1224

On the first Tuesday of the month at Seminole Lanes, St. Petersburg Elks Lodge #1224 continues to treat 10-13 veterans to bowling from 5-7:30 p.m. The lodge also takes care of the shoe rental and they give the veterans a $10 voucher for food while they enjoy bowling.

On Aug. 6, 7 and 15 in Stuart, Fla. Veterans were treated to a day of fishing and lunch on the water. They were all invited to a dinner at the lodge Aug. 17 where they were honored by the lodge membership.

St. Petersburg #1224

St. Petersburg Lodge also continues to treat veterans and VMC staff members from the Community Living Center and from Bay Pines Domiciliary to dinner on alternating Thursdays. They enjoy singing karaoke, too. The veterans also enjoy fellowship with lodge members who spend time not only tending to the veterans’ needs during mealtime but also take the time to have lively conversation.
PhD, showed Morey the supplies that are given to veterans to ease the monetary strains that moving can bring.

On Sept. 24, St. Petersburg Lodge donated their hall and hosted six veterans graduating from C.W. Bill Young VAMC’s Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC) program along with 53 of their relatives, friends and staff who were in attendance. PRRC is an outpatient multidisciplinary treatment program that provides mental health services for veterans suffering from chronic mental illness which can cause functional impairment. Graduation from the PRRC is a milestone and an outward demonstration of each veteran’s commitment to their psychological recovery process, physical wellness and community inclusion. After their graduation, lunch was served and they had the opportunity to lounge, swim and play games poolside.

**SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**

**Manasota #2734**

On Aug. 21, Manasota Elks Lodge #2734 presented three kitchen mixers purchased with funds from their Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to Vets 2 Success founder, Bryan Jacobs. Vets 2 Success offers a solution for returning veterans to learn a new skill that will give them purpose in their lives and the ability to support themselves and their families. The lodge has been supporting this program for three years with the Elks National Foundation Community Investments Program.

**Sarasota South #2495**

On Sept. 8, Sarasota South Elks Lodge #2495 hosted an afternoon of music with a luncheon buffet for Korean War veterans and their families. Sixty members showed up to give tribute to the veterans. Exalted Ruler, Richard Bouchard, shared stories from his father, John Joseph Bouchard, CDR USNR, who served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.

**SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT**

**Boca Raton #2166**

Boca Raton Elks Lodge #2166 took more veterans to Island Dolphin Care July 19 for dolphin therapy. The lodge sponsored young veterans from Florida Atlantic University to interact with the dolphins for a day. They then came back to the lodge for dinner. The lodge also donated $500 of their Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to the organization as well as $500 to the Village of Valor, a newly established place where veterans who were formerly homeless can find housing and support.

**Delray Beach #1770**

On Aug. 19, Delray Beach Elks Lodge #1770 donated $500 from their Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to Operation 120, whose mission is “to empower homeless and at-risk female military veterans to reintegrate successfully into life in Palm Beach County after service.” Pictured are new member Renette Verhaughe; Carol Eaton; Exalted Ruler, Cecil Broderick; and Elida Barros.
Florida Keys #1872

Florida Keys Elks Lodge #1872 hosted 19 VA hospital veterans from Miami for lunch and several games of bingo July 8. The lodge volunteers for the day were Tom Quilter, Linda Sullivan, Pat Ferguson, Angela Sayre, Tracy Fraum, and Lee and Ruth Huenniger (not all are pictured).

Miami #948

On Aug. 14, Miami Elks Lodge #948 sponsored 29 veterans who are disabled (all Purple Heart recipients) on a fishing trip to Islamorada in the Florida Keys with the help of a $4,500 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and a $2,500 grant from the Florida State Elks Association. The lodge worked with the Captains from Healing Water, an organization that works in advancing education, awareness, and protection of the fragile Florida ecosystems and provides veterans suffering from various degrees of PTSD and other injuries a well-deserved excursion on the open, calm seas of the Florida Keys. The veterans were able to talk and relate to each other about their trauma, experiences and the suffering their families have had to endure while they now try to adapt to civilian life. Al Reker, PDD; Frank Reynolds, Exalted Ruler; Joe Ortiz, PSP, and his wife, Rita; Maj. Egbert Dawkins, retired; Bill Henderson, PER; and Laz Suarez were on hand to welcome the veterans from their trip with a dinner in their honor at the Islander Resort. Al Reker awarded trophies for largest fish, smallest fish and most fish caught.

Above: Purple Heart recipients are treated to dinner at the Islander Resort Aug. 14 after their fishing trip to Islamorada in the Florida Keys which was sponsored by Miami Lodge.

Veterans show off their trophies earned during their fishing trip Aug. 14 to Islamorada in the Florida Keys which was sponsored by Miami Lodge.

The pictures you take during lodge events are vital to the success of this magazine and enrich its content. If you submitted photos along with your district news but they did not make it into the magazine, they were submitted in the wrong format or at too low of a size or resolution. Please use the following photo guidelines and email to Rachael King, Florida Elks Magazine editor, at r.king@floridaelks.org.

SEND THE ORIGINAL FILE
There is no need to crop or edit the photos. Send the full-resolution picture directly from the camera files, or upload your photos into a Google images or Dropbox account and send a link to the gallery. The bigger the file size, the better!

SEND ONLY IMAGE FILES
Please send only files with a .jpeg or .jpg extension, not PDF or .png files.

DO NOT SEND A WORD DOC
Images embedded in a Word document are not suitable for print. Email each photo file directly from your camera files.

PHOTO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
### November 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY:</th>
<th>November is Elks Veterans Remembrance Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/15 - Van Duren Scholarship applications available from FSEA</td>
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<td>11/15-17 - Midyear Convention – Tampa Hilton Airport</td>
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</tbody>
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**Deadlines:**

- 11/7 - Lodge ENF Scholarships Chairmen to register at aim.applicants.net to judge applications
- 11/15 - ENF MVS Scholarship applications due to lodges

**Due Dates for Non-Grand Lodge Reports & Taxes:**

- 11/15 - Deposit payroll taxes for prior month to U.S. Treasury (Lodges may be eligible to pay quarterly if certain conditions are met.)
- 11/19 - Sales tax for prior month to Florida Department of Revenue (electronic payment and filing no later than 5 p.m.)

**Statutes:**

- November – Membership Report due on or before Nov. 5 ($12.050)

**State President’s Visits:**

- 11/1-2 - Northwest District – Warrington #2108
- 11/8-9 - Southeast Central District – Port St. Lucie #2568

### December 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY:</th>
<th>Mississippi Midwinter Meeting – TBD</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Elks New Year’s Eve – FEYC – Umatilla, Fl.</td>
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</table>

**Deadlines:**

- 12/3 - District ENF Scholarships Chairmen to register at aim.applicants.net to judge applications
- 12/8 - Elks Memorial Service (Mandatory service – Sec. 2.020)
- 12/18 - Submissions to Florida Elks Magazine Editor for the winter edition
- 12/22 - Lodges to complete judging of received ENF MVS Scholarship applications and forward to District Chairman
- 12/31 - Lodges to submit applications for ENF Beacon, Freedom, Gratitude and Promise Grant applications to ENF (Some grants close earlier than 12/31 as the maximum amount of grants are awarded.)

**Due Dates for Non-Grand Lodge Reports & Taxes:**

- 12/16 - Deposit payroll taxes for prior month to U.S. Treasury (Lodges may be eligible to pay quarterly if certain conditions are met.)
- 12/19 - Sales tax for prior month to Florida Department of Revenue (electronic payment and filing no later than 5 p.m.)

**Statutes:**

- 12/18 - Elks Memorial Service (Mandatory service Sec. 2.020)

### January 2020

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alabama Midwinter Meeting – TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southeast Regional Soccer Shoot – TBD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Deadlines:**

- 1/7 - State ENF Scholarships Chairmen to register at aim.applicants.net to judge applications
- 1/10 - FSEA to receive Hope Scholarship applications by 5 p.m.
- 1/14 - District Chairmen to complete judging of received ENF MVS Scholarship applications and forward to State Chairman
- 1/15 - FSEA to receive Van Duren Scholarship applications
- 1/16 - Lodges to complete judging of received ENF MVS Scholarship applications and forward to District Chairman
- 1/19 - State Drug Awareness Chairman to report to DDGER
- 1/23 - District ENF Scholarships Chairmen to register at aim.applicants.net to judge applications
- 1/27 - State Drug Awareness Chairman to receive posters for FSEA/GL Drug Awareness poster contest

**Due Dates for Non-Grand Lodge Reports & Taxes:**

- 1/15 - Deposit payroll taxes for prior month to U.S. Treasury (Lodges may be eligible to pay quarterly if certain conditions are met.)
- 1/17 - Sales tax for prior month to Florida Department of Revenue (electronic payment and filing no later than 5 p.m.)
- 1/31 - Form 941 - report wages for prior quarter to U.S. Treasury
- 1/15 - Deposit FUI tax for prior quarter to U.S. Treasury (Quarterly deposits of federal unemployment insurance tax are required when cumulative amount owed exceeds $100.)
- 1/23 - Form RT-6 – Report wages for prior quarter to U.S. Treasury
- 1/31 - Form 945 – Annual return of withheld federal income tax due to U.S. Treasury (If withholding was required on gambling winnings)
- 1/31 - Form 940 – Report FUI wages for prior year to U.S. Treasury
- 1/31 - Copy B & C of Form W-2 to employees
- 1/31 - Copy B of Form 1099 MISC to independent contractors
- 1/31 - Copy A of Form W-2 and Form W-3 to Social Security Administration
- 1/31 - Copy A of Form 1099 MISC and Copy A of Form 1096, if reporting payments to independent contractors

**State President’s Visits:**

- 1/10-11 - North Central District – South Lake #1848
- 1/14-17 - Northeast District – Green Cove Springs #1892
- 1/18-19 - Southeast Regional Soccer Shoot – TBD
February Quarterly
Feb. 6-8, 2020
Florida Elks Youth Camp

Welcoming
National President/GER
Robert L. Duitsman
and First Lady
Beth Duitsman

Cook-Off
Feb. 8, 2020
at Eustis Lodge