A Champion with CHAMP1:
Meet JJ D’Angelo, Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services CHAMP of the Year

Meet the 2019-2020 District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers

Remembering State Co-sponsor, C. Valentine Bates, PGER

Highlights from the 2019 State and National Conventions

2019 Summer Camp: Snapshots and Memories
These are the resolutions that passed:

- Merger of two or more state associations.
- No lodge jewels or regalia worn outside the lodge except for special ceremonies.
- Caregivers/drivers for disabled members can remain in the social quarters during the lodge meeting unless they are a member. If they are a member, they must attend the lodge meeting.
- A member suspended from club privileges is still a member in good standing unless suspended pursuant to Section 16.041.
- Confirms ANY member suspended is an unaffiliated Elk.
- Membership responsibilities are directed by the Public Relations and Marketing Committee.
- An executive order issued by the Grand Exalted Ruler may suspend a member’s social privileges.
- Lodges MUST meet twice in February, March and April and provide an alternative method of notice for special meetings called for the sole purpose of initiation.
- Replace annual financial report with a standardized online financial reporting system.
- Provide how the board of directors positions in a for-profit corporation shall be constituted.

Summer camp was in full swing this year and the beds were full of children creating a lifetime of great memories and friends. It is truly amazing to see the organization that Nick Miller, Camp Director, and his staff have assembled to provide maximum fun and development.

The success of our camp would make any Elk proud, but we have another crown jewel in our Children’s Therapy Services. We are treating/helping over 500 children a week guided by our Therapy Services Director, Colleen Gallant, and her staff of outstanding therapists. The two projects are pillars in our order and in our nation.

In closing, Bob, Sandra and I wish you all well. We ask that you give a moment of silence for a good friend, good Elk, good Co-sponsor, and very good human being, C. Valentine Bates, and Claudia and their family. We will miss him but not forget him.

Michael F. Smith, PNP
State Sponsor
Florida State Elks Association

FLORIDA’S NATIONAL HOOP SHOOT CHAMPION

Yinuo Wang of Boca Raton, Fla., and sponsored by Boca Raton Lodge #2166, won the national Hoop Shoot competition for the girls 10-11 category. Pictured with Yinuo are Guizhen Huang, mother; Makenna Cannon, Elks National Foundation Youth Programs Associate; Lester Collins, National Region 12 Hoop Shoot Director; Eric Johnson, FSEA State Hoop Shoot Chairman; and Edward Mark, father.
Many thanks go to Charles Stieb for serving as the Southwest District Reporter. We appreciate your service! Welcome, Craig Abbott!

*** ALL address changes and cancellations MUST be given to the member’s lodge secretary, not the Florida Elks Magazine Editor. Also, at this time, the Grand Lodge office does not offer the option to receive just one magazine per household.

Cover photo/Laz Suarez
I t is a great honor to be the Florida State Elks Association State President. Joyce and I are so excited that we get to represent our state organization. We are going to meet many wonderful Elks and hear what their lodges are doing and the programs they are supporting. Thank you for this opportunity.

The state convention was an unbelievable experience. My sister and her husband came from Ohio. Our two sons and daughter from Plant City, Fla., and Lakeland, Fla., and our other daughter and her husband with our two granddaughters from Fort Myers, Fla, came to be with us for the weekend. They were there Saturday to hear my acceptance speech and to enjoy the awards ceremony. The setup that afternoon was fantastic and I appreciate Carl Seibert and his team for all the wonderful arrangements.

Membership is still one of our greatest concerns. We just came off a positive growth year of nearly 500 members, which is fantastic. Kudos go to our Membership Chairman, Rod O’Connor. We need to keep working hard to bring in new members. Our lodges will lose some, so we need to keep working on our elevator speeches, host membership drives, and seek opportunities in our communities to let people know who we are and learn about our charitable works. Let’s bring back those members who haven’t been around in a while and show them why you are “Proud to be an Elk.”

We have attended two visitations so far this year. One week after the state convention, we attended our first visitation at the Southwest District. We were met by District Vice President, Steve Carruthers, and his fiancé, Christine, and many wonderful district volunteers. The hospitality room was decorated to the hilt. They had our pictures and 12" versions of our Harry-Anna Trust Fund pin with the kids on a teeter-totter displayed on the walls. They had personalized M&Ms© with a variety of sayings printed on them such as “It’s for the Kids” and “Proud to be an Elk.” The most amazing decoration was a handmade wooden teeter-totter made by Cub Dickerson. Bradenton Lodge #1511 hosted dinner Friday. They served a great pork roast and fish dinner. Exalted Ruler, Mike Eymann, and his wife, Sheri, had the band play the Purdue fight song for me and “Unchained Melody” honoring our VPAL, Rudy Masi, and Dolly’s 29th wedding anniversary. On Saturday morning, member Kemper Slidell drove our party to the Ringling Museum. It was our first visit to the museum – what a place! Exalted Ruler, Pam McDowell, hosted us for a fantastic lunch at Manasota Lodge #2734 featuring homemade beef noodle soup and Waldorf salad. Saturday evening was hosted by Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge #2855 and Exalted Ruler, John Piper. The reception and dinner were great and I met and introduced the Bradenton Lodge #1511 ritual team state champions who went on to compete at the Grand Lodge convention in St. Louis and placed third in the east.

Our next visitation was to the South District where District Vice President, Milton Muller, hosted a great weekend. After a grand reception at the hotel and enjoying a wonderful hospitality room filled with lots of district Elks, we spent Friday evening at South Miami/ Coral Gables Lodge #1676. Exalted Ruler, Reggie Hernandez; his wife, Becky; and lots of volunteers hosted us for a western-themed barbecue dinner with phenomenal meats with homemade sauces and delicious desserts. On Saturday morning, we were driven by Fred Jaca, PDD to the Viscaya Museum & Gardens overlooking beautiful Biscayne Bay. Next we traveled to Havana Harry’s for some great Cuban food. We had at least 20 Elks eating and there were at least 15 different meals on the table. The dishes were delicious with huge portions. We could have fed 10 more! The Saturday dinner was hosted by Miami Lodge #948 and Exalted Ruler, Frank Reynolds. A jazz musician kept us entertained while we ate and were served an Elks state presidential carrot cake. It was a great evening in a beautiful lodge!

This year I am continuing the State President’s grant program. The FSEA is allowing me to award $2,000 to each district at their visitation. A first, second and third place will be awarded based on a point system lodges will obtain by meeting certain goals. I also ask them to report their community accomplishments which can give them more points and be used as tiebreakers. At both district visitations, the lodges were awarded grants to spend on community projects.

The Harry-Anna Trust Fund started with a bang at the gala for autism in St. Petersburg, Fla. Development Director, Dan Masi, hosted a large crowd for a fantastic evening. We raised more than $40,000 for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund at this event. Our Harry-Anna State Chairman, Mark Daniels, collected close to $100,000 at our state convention in Orlando, Fla. Elks, keep up the good work!

I congratulate St. Petersburg Lodge #1224 for receiving the All-American Lodge award. Florida proud!

We have a great event coming at the end of summer – Elks Day at the Rays – Sept. 8. JJ D’Angelo, our five-year-old new FECTS CHAMP of the Year, will be at this event and get to say, “Play Ball!” Get a bus or load up your cars and let’s have fun. Support this event!

Thank you, Elks, for all you do to make our association so great. You make us “Proud to be an Elk!”

Thomas R. “Tom” Ludwick, State President
Florida State Elks Association
I'm Perplexed and You Can Help!

One of my responsibilities as secretary of the Florida State Elks Association is to always be on the lookout for ways to improve our lodges, our committee work and our major projects. In this endeavor, I am constantly talking with our members to understand what makes them tick, why they give what they give, and what works and what doesn't. There is one thing, however, that I cannot quite figure out, so I am going to use this article to see if I can get a conversation started through which I hope to obtain a better understanding of the issue. Please read through to the end and if inclined to comment, I will provide options for doing so!

One of the things we should all be terribly proud of as Florida Elks is our longstanding reputation for service to others, especially our children and veterans, and, more specifically, our two outstanding major projects – Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. We forever strive to connect our members to our major projects so that they may duly share in their successes, but for some reason I suspect that many of our members would not rank our major projects as one of the aspects of membership they prize most. And, if I ventured further with my suspicions, I would guess that most feel little or no obligation to support our major projects financially. It is the latter which puzzles me most, and this is what I seek to better understand. My question is this: If you are a financial supporter of our major projects, what motivates you? Is there anything we can do to motivate you to become a supporter? What things have you heard that support your decision to give or not give?

We are now in the third year of a campaign to more equitably distribute the funding requirements of our major projects across our 5,000-plus members instead of amongst only our 94 lodges. Our motivation is based not just on the successes other nonprofits are experiencing with sustained (monthly) donation programs but also on the need to lift the obligation off our lodges so that lodges can hold their fundraising events to support local needs. Dollars that remain local in the community are newsworthy and improve a lodge's ability to attract and retain new members. We are all familiar with the saying that charity begins at home. With that, we do not disagree! The member-based fundraising goal for our state major projects is $1 million each year. Currently we are raising only $750,000. This is raised mostly through lodge-based fundraising and donations. If only 4,386 of our over 55,000-plus members would give just $19 per month, we would meet this goal and relieve our lodges of any need for major projects fundraising. These 4,386 members represent just 8% of our over 55,000 members statewide and equate to only 47 members per lodge on a median basis. Forty-seven members donating an average of $19 per month – sounds easy, doesn't it? Then why are we having so much trouble finding these 47 donors per lodge? To date, we have only 134 monthly donors. That's less than two per lodge, but these donors do way more than expected! The average of their donations monthly is $23.65 and we have donors giving as little as $2 per month up to $150 per month! At these rates, we would raise $1 million per year with only 3,524 monthly donors, or 38 per lodge! So, where are we missing the boat? What is keeping our members from becoming sustaining (monthly) donors? What are we doing wrong in our marketing of this program? Why are our lodges not seeing this program as an easy way to meet their per-capita obligation each year instead of having to use prime fundraising events to meet the obligation? Wouldn't a lodge be better served to use their fundraising events to support local initiatives instead of state initiatives? A picture in your local paper donating money to a lodge can cause a lot more local credibility than a picture of you donating money to our state major projects. People in your community will be more apt to join with you when they see you keeping the money local. So maybe this is the first you have heard of our sustaining donor campaign. Believe me, getting started could not be any easier! Simply visit our website at www.floridaelks.org. In the upper right corner of the website, hover over the word “Donate” and when the page peels back, click on the donate button. Complete the required information and don't forget to click the “yes” box on the line where it says to automatically repeat this gift every month. That's it; you are done! You are now a sustaining (monthly) donor and a supporter of both of our major projects! Your donation is now on autopilot and your credit card will be charged for your monthly donation each month like clockwork. Your name will be printed every quarter in the Florida Elks Magazine declaring you a sustaining supporter of our major projects! Now, and this one is entirely up to you, but the next time someone in the lodge asks you to donate to the major projects, tell them you are a sustaining donor and that you already give! Go further and tell them that they can give, too, and work with your lodge to obtain the donors you will need to remove this obligation from the lodge. Then, adjust your fundraising events in the lodge to support local needs once your obligation to the major projects is being met through some very dedicated members of your lodge! Also, don't forget to show these members your appreciation as they have now put you in a great position to support your community and gain new members! Even your lodge can become a sustaining donor as can nonmembers.

I do hope I have moved you to act, and I hope that action is to become a sustaining donor or to increase your donation if you are already a sustaining donor. If this is not the action I have moved you to, then I hope your action will be to share with me why you are not moved to become a sustaining donor or what I/we can do to earn your trust and become a sustaining donor. Let me know you joined and you will get a personal thank you from me!

Please visit https://floridaelks.org/carls-corner and join the conversation by logging in and posting your comments. Should you prefer not to participate this way and because I seriously want to hear from you, I am taking the unprecedented step of welcoming your comments via email to me at carl@floridaelks.org. Your opinion matters, so please let me hear from you!

Carl Seibert, COO/State Secretary
Florida State Elks Association
On May 24 we held the FLOE luncheon. Thank you, Elks, PSP wives, FLOE members and guests, for attending! Thanks go to Judy Reyes, PSP-FLOE for taking care of the luncheon tickets and to Connie Kalel Poage, PSP-FLOE who did a wonderful job coordinating the dignitary seating and creating the beautiful table signs and place cards for my table. Many thanks and praise go to Dolly Ledig, wife of Carl Ledig, PSP, for the gorgeous centerpieces. I know she put a ton of time and work into creating them and it showed!

Our business meeting May 25 was called to order at 9 a.m. Present were the Ladies Organizations outgoing State Chairman, Steve Carruthers, PER; Tom Carns, PER, Chairman; and Tom Moran, Vice Chairman. We were later visited by outgoing State President, Frank Malatesta; incoming President, Tom Ludwick, PDD; and Vice President at Large, Rudi Masi, PDD. We appreciated them taking the time to visit us. Nominating Committee chairlady, Connie Kalel Poage, PSP-FLOE, read the recommendations for FLOE officers for next year, and elections were held. I am very pleased to announce the following officers for the Florida Ladies of Elks year 2019-2020: President, Adella Ashton; Vice President, Linda Rittenhouse; Secretary, Debbie Farris-Mortka; Treasurer, Laura Sardella; and four-year Advisory Council members, Felicia Vuletich and Judy Fournier.

Congratulations, ladies. I know you will all do an incredible job! Installation will be Sept. 21 at our FLOE conference. Packets were later visited by outgoing State Chairman, Steve Carruthers, PER; Tom Carns, PER, Chairman; and Tom Moran, Vice Chairman. We hope all those who were able to attend the 2019 FSEA convention had as wonderful of a time as I did. Diane Sharp, Barbara Carroll and Linda Rittenhouse arrived Wednesday to receive Chinese auction donations and sell tickets for the Chinese auction. I can’t thank you ladies enough for all your long hours and hard work, not just at the convention but the weeks before, too. You all did an amazing job. Your dedication to FLOE is a great inspiration. Thank you, everyone, who made donations to the auction and who purchased tickets! The auction raised $2,540 which will be donated to the FSEA major projects.

Our hospitality room opened Thursday evening and would not have been as successful as it was without the many hours of preparation, errand-running and hard work performed by two awesome Tallahassee Elket lady Elks, Krystal Henson and Brandi Millin. These dedicated ladies worked in our hospitality room all three nights. They also set up and took down the centerpieces for the FLOE luncheon. I also greatly appreciate the help from Connie Kalel Poage, PSP-FLOE; Betty Orcutt, Chaplain; Mary McCoy, PSP-FLOE and her husband, Al; Becky Long, PSP-FLOE and her husband, Andy; and Adella Ashton and her husband, Richard. The gentlemen saved me from having to take apart and clean the slushy machine. The success of our hospitality room was due to all the help I had. Thank you! Our signature frozen drink was a Hawaiian peacock and it was a hit! We had many visitors.

I want to thank Steve Carruthers, PER for an excellent job as the State Chairman of Ladies Organizations. He has been to our meetings and has worked hard to see how we can make an even better team with the FSEA and work together to support our major projects. It has also been a pleasure to work with Tom Carns, PER as the Vice Chairman and now as the Chairman. We welcome Tom Moran as the new Vice Chairman and look forward to working with you, too!

Our next FLOE event will be our 56th annual conference Sept. 19-21, 2019, at The Daytona Beach Hilton Oceanfront Resort. It begins Friday with the opening of our fundraising shop, incorporating crafts, raffles and other surprises, and will be open to the public each day. Friday evening, we are killing it with a modern mob murder mystery dinner sponsored by the Tallahassee Elketts. Please come dressed as your favorite modern mob character or in resort casual. A cash bar will be available. On Saturday morning, we will have our business meeting (the only closed meeting) followed by our luncheon (everyone can attend). Menus for the dinner and luncheon are available online. Our afternoon session will start with the memorial service honoring our departed sisters presented by FLOE Chaplain, Betty Orcutt. We will be announcing the 2018-2019 award winners and the session will conclude with the installation of the 2019-2020 officers. There will be hospitality rooms to visit afterward. There are several restaurants on site and many choices within walking distance. The hotel is right next to the boardwalk and pier. Reserve your room as soon as possible; they will go fast! FLOE has launched online registration on the FSEA website, floridaelks.org. Thank you so much, Mary McCoy, PSP-FLOE and Steve Harmon, PDD, for making this possible. FLOE members (including all lady Elks) now have a choice (online or via mail) as to how to register themselves and their guests as well as purchase meal/dinner show tickets. If you register online, the confirmation receipt will tell you to bring your ladies organization membership card or Elks ID card. The hotel must be booked directly and is included in the conference packet on the website.

I hope to see everyone in September!

Felicia Vuletich, 2018-2019 President
Florida Ladies of Elks
It’s hard to imagine we are already halfway through the summer. So many great things are happening with Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

We are fully staffed with a total of 28 therapists – 21 occupational therapists and seven physical therapists.

Our new therapists are doing well and while we have one therapist on leave until August, we continue to do an amazing job of treating the children of Florida. Over the past couple of months, our therapists have treated an average of 509 children each week and our contract therapists have treated an additional 22 children for a total of 531 children each week.

Jane Russo, PT from the North Central District spoke at our state convention, and what an amazing job she did. So many of our members are still talking about the impact her talk had on them. We introduced JJ D’Angelo, our new FECTS CHAMP of the Year. He was so excited to be there with the Elks and was an instant hit with our members. Jackson Barth, last year’s CHAMP and current FECTS ambassador, was at the convention and, as always, had a great time greeting all his friends.

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

We just returned from the national convention in St. Louis. What a great convention. Tressy Guadagno, OT from the West Central District went with us to the convention. Together with Sven and Andrice Nelson, Barbara and Emery Shepard, Patty Shipley, and many wonderful Florida Elk volunteers, our cruise raffle raised in excess of $4,200 to be divided between Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Thank you, all, for your support. The winner of the cruise is from New Jersey and needless to say, she was very happy. Thank you, all, who participated in our cruise raffle.

While at the convention, I had the opportunity to visit the major projects booth from all the states, and I have to say that in Florida, we really do have the best major projects, and we are so proud of all the support we receive from our members. We could not continue to do the amazing work we do in our state without the support of the Elks and our ladies organizations.

I would like to share a story with you showing you what a difference an FECTS therapist and your kind donations can make. One of our therapists has been treating a 14-year-old boy who has Batten disease. This is very progressive and fatal. He is totally blind and has weakness and mobility issues throughout his body. His disease is progressing, and he is becoming weaker. He also lacks the protective instincts needed to help catch himself if he slips. He is at risk of falling and becoming injured in the shower. He is 5’7” and his mother (his sole caretaker) is 5’. Our therapist has requested, and we have approved, the purchase of a bath chair which will allow his mother to transfer him from his wheelchair to the chair outside the tub. The chair would then swivel into the shower so that she could bathe him comfortably and safely, then swivel back out to dry and dress him. This will make an incredible difference not only in his life but also in his mother’s life. When we purchase a large piece of equipment for a child, when they are through with it, the therapist brings it to Umatilla, Fla., to be passed on to another needy child. We should all be very proud of the difference we are making in this child’s life as well as in his mother’s life.

In April, we had an incredibly successful “Unmasking Autism” gala in St. Petersburg, Fla. Due to the generosity of many lodges, more than half our therapists were able to attend the gala and speak personally with many of our members. A very special thank you goes to Dan and Casey Masi and their amazing committee for doing such an awesome job.

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

Several lodges are having special events for Therapy Services. Please know how much we at Therapy Services appreciate what you are doing for our program and we will do everything we can to make your event special.

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.

Have a safe and happy rest of the summer!

Colleen Gallant, Director
Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services
A s I write this, the sun is rising over the trees, its light filtering through the last wisps of mist on the lake. The humidity on the weather gauge reads 95%, and condensation rolls off the roof in steady drops. On the other side of the lake, four tired chaperones are completing their nightly reports and quietly driving to their cabins to sleep. In 48 cabins, 336 campers and their staff are rolling out of bunks, preparing for their first full day of camp.

In Cabins 2, 3 and 4 (otherwise known as the Deep Divers), the nine-year-old boys are fully awake and moving at speed. The two staff members in each cabin are groggy, but with several weeks of this under their belt, they're catching up quickly. Eventually, the kids are dressed, their teeth are brushed and their beds are made. The staff then corral the boys onto the front porch to put on their shoes and do a final water bottle check. From there, they'll head to the flagpole at the front of the Oaks cabin area. Cabin 2 will be raising the flag this morning. They were spotted picking up trash that others left behind last night, and as a reward, they will receive the honor of conducting the first flag ceremony.

With the final words of the Pledge of Allegiance hanging in the air, the campers will make their way to the pavilion for breakfast. Cabin 4 will be selected to ring the old-fashioned “Come and Get It!” triangle, and after the breakfast chant, a camper and a staff member from each table will hustle up to the kitchen window to retrieve a serving tray with food for the whole cabin. The campers will pass scrambled eggs, bacon, fruit and yogurt around the table family style until everyone gets a full plate.

Breakfast finished, the boy cabins from the Deep Divers will group up with the girl cabins from their track – cabins 27, 28 and 52 – and they’ll all head to the pool for their first activity session of the day. It’ll be 90+ degrees on the pool deck today, but the sail shades will keep the water temperature closer to 85. Swim tests are always a double-edged sword. They keep the campers safe, but they can also cause distress in campers who are not able to complete the task. So, our staff and lifeguards are available all week long to work with any camper who needs practice, and the tests are available for retakes every day.

The campers will head back to their cabins to change into dry clothes after the pool and move on to the nature trail. Our trail has been gently cut into the existing hardwood hammock along one of the camp’s more secluded lakes. The sandy trail is a perfect canvas for the prints made by our raccoons, turkeys, foxes and bobcats. And while she’ll see several openings along the trail provide a perfect vantage point to watch the lake and are perfect for quietly watching the prints made by our new friend this year, the otter! He or she has made appearances for most groups this summer and seems to enjoy being the center of attention.

After the trail, the Deep Divers will get back to the pavilion for lunch and then to the ropes course for their afternoon activity. Ropes begins with each cabin being tasked to solve small challenges. As the campers work together to complete these tasks, the foundation for their confidence in themselves and their trust in each other is laid. They will then be ready to take on the more daunting challenge of our high courses. Whether the tower, the swing or the rock wall, campers will benefit from the “challenge by choice” mentality that guides each activity. Campers are always encouraged to challenge themselves, but in the end, they choose their own limits and are never pushed beyond their readiness.

With a whirlwind of a day winding down, campers will retire to their cabins to refreshen up and get ready for dinner. After another family-style meal, the campers will gather around the flagpole again. As Cabin 2 raised it this morning, so another cabin will take on the responsibility of lowering and folding it tonight. We always remind our campers that this is a time to take stock and be thankful for what we have. Further, it is a time to look toward what we can do to make future Americans thankful for us.

After the flag, it’s the premier event of the day – Food chain. I won’t begin to explain the rules of this game, as only Elliott, program director, and the kids understand them. The important thing to note is that this game includes over 100 campers and staff, and it encompasses over 75 acres of camp.

The 2019 summer camp season at the Florida Elks Youth Camp (FEYC) offered more firsts and more records.

With 336 campers a week, there were 2,338 campers at FEYC this summer. To make camp happen for them, it takes 55 counselors in training (CITs); 52 counselors; 24 full-time camp staff which includes housekeeping, kitchen, maintenance and camp; and 35 seasonal camp staff – these are nurses as well as staff for the ropes course, kitchen, housekeeping, arts and crafts, and maintenance.

The camp set a new record in number of empty beds – only 14 – and this was due to campers not showing up. Approximately 300 kids on the wait list were able to attend, mostly due to these other campers not arriving.

An additional nature activity was added this camp season that was more hands-on than previous nature activities. “Many of our campers have found themselves really enjoying getting out and exploring nature and physically getting involved,” says Elliott Gilbert, program director. With the new activity of dip-netting in the lake, campers found fish, tadpoles, dragonfly larvae and shrimp.

Additional training for CITs was provided to teach real-world skills such as managing money and creating a resume.

Campers and staff look forward to 2020!
2019 SUMMER CAMP: SNAPSHOTS AND MEMORIES

Camper – Cierra Voss, 13
Hometown: Leesburg, Fla.
Years at FEYC: 3
Favorite thing about FEYC: The ropes course – you get to work together with your friends toward a goal, plus it is a lot of fun.
Lesson learned at FEYC: You don’t need your phone to have fun or to connect with friends. Your cabinmates and track are there to talk to and play games with.

Counselor – Daiz Delaphena, 22
Hometown: Daytona Beach, Fla.
Years at FEYC: 2
Favorite thing about FEYC: The campfire – it’s a place where kids open up to him and talk about what’s going on in their lives. He likes being the person with whom kids feel comfortable and can talk about anything.
Lesson learned at FEYC: People come from all different backgrounds in life. You need to be patient with each other and work through the differences. He’s also learned how to maintain a professional work attitude while dealing with emotions and personal experiences.

CIT – Sebastian Gerena, 17
Hometown: DeBary, Fla.
Years at FEYC: 3 (1 as a camper)
Favorite thing about FEYC: How comfortable you get at camp. It allows you to get close to the campers and be able to talk with them about anything going on in their life.
Lesson learned at FEYC: Relationships are important as it relates to working. Sometimes you need to ask for help or a favor, and the personal relationships you build with your coworkers are what allow you to do this. Also, there are multiple ways to do something, and just because one person likes how you do it doesn’t mean everyone will. You just have to realize it isn’t an attack on who you are as a person.

Camper – Logan Barningham, 12
Hometown: Mount Dora, Fla.
Years at FEYC: 4
Favorite thing about FEYC: The ropes course – it’s a fun activity and we get to do it for a long time. I like manga more but it’s not played as long.
Lesson learned at FEYC: Being patient is very important when you’re in a cabin with eight other people. You may have to wait on others or even wait your turn. People aren’t always the same and you have to be patient in working with each other to make it through the week.

Counselor – Jacqueline Golabek, 22
Hometown: Tallahassee, Fla.
Years at FEYC: 6 (2 as camper)
Favorite thing about FEYC: Our mission. We get kids away from their normal lives and then put them in an environment that allows them to develop themselves and explore new things. Since we don’t focus on specific types of activities, we truly can open them up to develop a new sense of who they might be.
Lesson learned at FEYC: To be selfless and put her needs aside to help develop someone else, and that in the grand scheme of things, we’re not so different.
The 2019 Florida Elks state convention was held May 23-25 at the Orlando World Center Marriott. Along with the many meetings and workshops, many guests attended the Florida Elks Awards Celebration Luncheon & Major Projects Meeting where the 2018-2019 award winners were recognized for their accomplishments in the past year. It is a special time for the Florida Elks to shine a light on these children, scholars, athletes, first responders and members.

Victor Ramirez was the top male winner of the Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student scholarship. He will receive $50,000 over the next four years. He was sponsored by South Miami/Coral Gables Lodge #1676.

Zinia Basil was Florida’s top female winner of the Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student scholarship and will receive $1,000/year for four years. She was sponsored by Orange Park Lodge #2605.

Woodly Colas and Kaylee Zayner, the highest-scoring male and female recipients of the C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship, each won $10,000. The scholarship gives special consideration to students who shouldered extra responsibility during high school. Colas was sponsored by Zephyrhills Lodge #2731 and Zayner was sponsored by Venice-Nokomis Lodge #1854.

Brittany Franklin and Evan Ore were the highest-scoring recipients of the Van Duren Scholarship and each won $5,000. This award is for those who have served as an employee of the Florida Elks Youth Camp summer camp program for one season and have been hired for a second season.

Ariel Harris was the winner of the Ben Brown Scholarship, a $10,000 award for students in the physical or occupational therapy field. If she maintains a GPA of 3.0 or higher, she will receive the same amount in her second year (and third year if she is pursuing a three-year degree).

Far left: Yinuo Wang won the state and national Hoop Shoot. Pictured with her are her father, Edward Mark; her mother, Guizhen Huang; her brother, Lian Wang; and State Hoop Shoot Chairman, Eric Johnson.

Left: Soccer Shoot state champions William Velasquez Gonzalez, sponsored by Lake Okeechobee Lodge #2871, and Kayla Lancing, sponsored by Ormond Beach Lodge #2193, are pictured with Ron Locke, PDD, State Soccer Shoot Chairman; Michelle Harper-Kmoch, Lake Okeechobee Lodge Exalted Ruler; and Bill Hall, North Regional Soccer Shoot Chairman.

Above left: Paisley Karlson, sponsored by Lake Placid Lodge #2661, and Teagan Costantini, sponsored by Naples Lodge #2010, prepare to read their winning Americanism essay contest essays.

Above right: Ava Rueck, sponsored by Inverness Lodge #2522, won the Drug Awareness essay contest.

Above left: Above right: Ava Rueck, sponsored by Inverness Lodge #2522, won the Drug Awareness essay contest.
Jackson Barth, last year’s Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services (FECTS) CHAMP of the Year, receives his award as the FECTS ambassador. Pictured with him are brother Everett; father, Mick; mother, Kati; brother Liam; and FECTS Director, Colleen Gallant.

J.J. D’Angelo becomes the 2019-2020 FECTS CHAMP of the Year. He is pictured with his mother, Katis; his sister, MiaBella; Colleen Gallant, FECTS Director; his father, Jeff; and his FECTS physical therapist, Samantha Yox.

Troy Hughes, PER of Arcadia Lodge #1524, second from left, and Charlene Fisher of Lakeland Lodge #1291, right, are presented the Veteran Affairs Volunteers of the Year award by George Scribner, PER, outgoing State Veterans Services Chairman, and Judy Nuetzel, PER, incoming State Veterans Services Chairman.

Richard Jacobs, PER, State VAV’S Representatives Coordinator, shows off the veterans’ prize-winning arts and crafts.

Mike Dinius and Matt Carter accept the first-place ritual team award for Bradenton Lodge #1511. Pictured with them is Dayna Miller, incoming State Ritual Chairman.


Matt Dinius of Bradenton Lodge #1511 wins the Jolly Cork award and first place for Loyal Knight in the state ritual contest. Pictured with him is Dayna Miller, incoming State Ritual Chairman.

First Responder of the Year for Law Enforcement, Corporal William E. Eierman of the Jacksonville Beach Police Department, addresses members and guests.

First Responder of the Year for Firefighter, Senior Forest Ranger Richard Smith of the Florida Forest Service, speaks to the crowd as Committee Chairman, Vincent Como, PSP, looks on.

First Responder of the Year for Support Services, Susan Pease, Police Communication Operator with the Clearwater Police Department, is presented her award by committee members Sal Lentine, PER; Vincent Como, PSP; and Phil Gersbach, PDD.

First Responder of the Year for EMS/Paramedic, Lieutenant/Paramedic Kevin Nelmes of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District, is pictured with committee members Phil Gersbach, PDD; Vincent Como, PSP; and Sal Lentine, PER.


Right: outgoing State President, Frank Malatesta, looks on as incoming State President, Tom Ludwick, addresses the convention attendees.

Far right: Pictured are Andy Milwid, 2018-2019 Area 3 Member of the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee; Ruth Milwid; Sandra Smith; Michael Smith, PNP; Robert Grafton, PGER; Linda Gathen; and Rick Gathen, Grand Lodge marketing and membership manager.
The members and lodges of Florida’s Northwest District are honored to present to the 2019 national convention in St. Louis the name of Ann I. “Annie” Moore as a candidate for the office of Northwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Ann Moore was born in DeFuniak Springs, Fla., and attended schools in Niceville and Baker. She worked for Fairchild Aircraft as a switchboard operator and in the mail room and was the lounge manager for Crestview Lodge #2624 for more than 10 years. She has also been a home health provider with the Okaloosa County Council on Aging.

Moore’s husband was a charter member of Crestview Lodge which was founded in 1980 and she was an Elkette for many years and became an Elk in 1999 when females were allowed membership. She served as Esteemed Leading, Loyal and Lecturing Knight before being elected as Exalted Ruler for 2012-2013. From 2013-2018, she served as a board of directors trustee. She was Lodge Chairman of Elks National Foundation Fundraising from 2010-2018 and was District Chairman of Elks Training from 2009-2018. She was District Chairman of Community Projects & Activities for 2018-2019. For Americanism, she was District Chairman from 2009-2016, Vice Chairman for 2014-2015 and State Chairman for 2015-2016. In 2018-2019, she served as the Northwest District Vice President.

Moore also belongs to the Eastern Star, Amvets, American Legion and VFW.

She was married to Terry for 24 years until he passed away in 1994. She has a daughter, Marcie Stuckey, and a son, Chris Moore. She has four grandchildren – Courtney, 26; Chloe, 17; Grayson, 11; and Emma, 8. Her great-grandchild, Aven, is 2.

The members and lodges of Florida’s North District are honored to present to the 2019 national convention in St. Louis the name of Susan M. Lynn as a candidate for the office of North District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Susan Lynn was born in Perry, Fla., in 1960 and grew up there. She received her AS degree in dental hygiene from Tallahassee Community College in 1981 and her local anesthesia certification from the University of Florida in 2014. She was a registered dental hygienist since 1981. In 2016 she changed careers and is now a business manager for a rural family practice clinic.

After her children were grown, Lynn wanted to become involved with the Elks. She joined in 2009 and immediately went into the chairs. Her husband was initiated when they were dating, so she had been around the Elks most of her adult life. Lynn has served as Loyal Knight and two terms as Exalted Ruler as well as on the board of directors. She has also served on the lodge scholarship committee for the past two years. She is serving her third term as Vice President of the North District Past Exalted Rulers Association. She was District Chairman of Orientation and Vice Chairman of Americanism. In 2018-2019, she served as the North District Vice President.

She and Mike have been married 37 years and have two sons and one granddaughter who is 14 years old.

The members and lodges of Florida’s Northeast District are honored to present to the 2019 national convention in St. Louis the name of Phyllis M. Bonser as a candidate for the office of Northeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Phyllis Bonser was born in Mobile, Ala. She graduated from Murphy High School in Mobile in June 1967. In 1989 she moved to Jacksonville, Fla., where she has been employed for 20 years at Safariland.

Bonser joined the Elks in 2010 after she attended a veterans event with a friend and knew she wanted to become involved. She became Lecturing Knight a year after she joined and has been an officer since then, including Loyal Knight and five-time Exalted Ruler. She also served as Northeast District Reporter for nearly 10 years. In 2018-2019, she served as the Northeast District Vice President.

Bonser attended a veterans event with a friend and knew she wanted to become involved. She became Lecturing Knight a year after she joined and has been an officer since then, including Loyal Knight and five-time Exalted Ruler. She also served as Northeast District Reporter for nearly 10 years. In 2018-2019, she served as the Northeast District Vice President.

Before joining the Elks, Lynn was treasurer for the boys’ soccer and baseball teams while her sons were in middle school and high school. She and her sons love the water and spend a lot of time in the Gulf and Suwannee River.

Being an Elk takes up most of Bonser’s free time since she also works full time. She maintains an active lifestyle.
Granddaughters and a great-grandchild. His best friend is Nancy Massengale.

Rod O’Connor was born in Torrance, Calif., in 1964. In 1970 he moved to Cocoa Beach, Fla., and in 1991 he moved to Merritt Island, Fla. He attended Cocoa Beach High School, Brevard Community College, UCF and Keiser University with a focus on industrial psychology and business administration.

He began his career at Sea Ray Boats in 1990 and was tasked with developing an engineering department for the new yacht facility. He transferred to product development and engineering in 1998. Throughout his career, he served in various management positions.

O’Connor rented a building from the Merritt Island Elks in 2010 and was immediately recruited after showing interest in their various programs and agreeing to be Lecturing Knight and Americanism Chairman. He has also served as Leading Knight, Esquire and Exalted Ruler (twice). He served four years on the House Committee with one year as chairman. He was District Chairman of Interlodge Visitation, Regional Chairman and Vice Chairman of Hoop Shoot, and Vice Chairman of Membership; he is now serving his second term as State Membership Chairman. In 2017-2018, he served as the East Central District Vice President.

He has been married to Carrie, a Past Exalted Ruler, for 18 years. They have two children, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandson. He enjoys water-related activities and appreciates all types of music, especially blues, reggae and, most of all, hard rock.
Michael Schodlbauer was born in 1964 in southern California and graduated from Los Altos High School in 1982. After attending college several years, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1987 and served on the USS New Jersey for two years. In 1989 he attended the basic Russian course at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., earning the rating of cryptologic technician interpretive. Subsequent tours of duty included Turkey, Japan and Denver serving as a Russian translator and intelligence analyst. He left the Navy in 1998, settled in Denver and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in computer information systems from Regis University. He worked for Unisys Corporation as a field repair technician and later joined Harris Corporation at their Malabar, Fla., facility where he is now responsible for the support of all computer operations.

Schodlbauer was initiated into Cocoa Elks Lodge #1532 in 2006 and immediately became involved as Tiler. He subsequently served as Inner Guard, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight for three years and Esquire. He was Exalted Ruler for 2014-2015 and Lodge Secretary in 2015 and 2016. He has been Lodge Chairman of Hoop Shoot, Youth Activities, Lodge Activities and Elks National Foundation Fundraising. He was the lodge grant coordinator for four years and was House Committee chairman for three years. He has been District Chairman and Central Regional Chairman of Hoop Shoot. In 2017, he transferred to Sebastian Lodge #2714 and became Lodge Secretary. In 2018-2019, he served as the Southeast Central District Vice President.

He met Mary Ducharme in Denver in 1997. She had grown up at Cocoa Elks Lodge because her father and grandfather were longtime members. They wed in 2001 and held their reception at Littleton Elks Lodge #1650.

The members and lodges of Florida's Southeast Central District are honored to present to the 2019 national convention in St. Louis the name of Michael F. Schodlbauer as a candidate for the office of Southeast Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Tony Fratello was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1966. He grew up in Brooklyn and moved to Florida in 1997. He studied at New York City Technical College (City Tech) from 1984-1986 and earned his degree. He's worked for various broker dealers in the Tampa Bay, Fla., area supporting a variety of financial and web-based programs. For the last 13 years, he has worked for Royal Alliance Advisors Inc., a division of Advisor Group.

Fratello became an Elk in 2009 after meeting his future sponsor at a garage sale he and his wife were having. Not having grown up in the area, they were looking for a place to make friends, have some fun and give back to their community. She invited his family to a lodge Friday fish fry where they were welcomed by the members. They became Elks three months later. He served as Tiler soon after and has sat in a chair every following year, becoming Exalted Ruler of Tarpon Springs Lodge #1719 in 2015. He has served as Lodge Chairman of Indoctrination since 2013. He was also the West Central District Esquire as well as the District Chairman and State Chairman of Interlodge Visitation. In 2018-2019, he served as the West Central District Vice President.

Fratello says that the Elks have given him everything he was looking for when he joined, but what he enjoys the most is giving back, not only to his lodge but also to his community. This includes veterans, children and first responders. Through indoctrination, he shows new members the long, proud history of the BPOE and the part lodges, districts and state associations play in those communities. He tries to instill in them that the Elks can offer something for everyone and volunteering can take many shapes and forms.

A hobby of Fratello's in the last seven years has been making his own wines.

George Scribner was born in Washington, D.C., in 1945. He grew up in Washington, D.C., and Maryland and moved to Florida in 1988. He attended Linton Hall Military School in Virginia, DeMatha High School in Maryland, the University of Maryland and LaSalle Extension University.

From 1963-1968, Scribner served in the United States Navy. In 1964 he was appointed to the United States Navy Band. He is now retired from Hallmark Cards.
As Exalted Ruler, Scribner’s father initiated him into the Elks in 1968 in Laurens, N.J.; he is a third-generation Elk. He has served as Exalted Ruler five times and has been a trustee. He was the charter Leading Knight for Charlotte Mecklenberg Lodge. He has been Vice Chairman and State Chairman of the Veterans Services Committee. In all, he has spent 38 years as an officer and was named Southwest Central District’s Elk of the Year for 2015-2016. He now belongs to Brandon Elks Lodge #2383. In 2018-2019, he served as the Southwest Central District Vice President.

Along with the Elks, Scribner is a member of the Moose, Masons and Shriners. He is a Past Commander of American Legion Post 379 in Pensacola Beach, Fla., and sits on the board of directors for Liberty Manor for Veterans in Tampa, Fla.

He has been married to Mary Lou Scribner, PER, for five years. He has two sons and one is a member of Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763. His stepson is a member of Brandon Elks Lodge. He has five grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

Joe Cooper was born in Detroit in 1968. His family moved to Miami in the early 1970s until the mid-1980s when they moved to the Ocala-Gainesville area of Florida. He graduated in 1990 from FSU and began working in technology for the Florida Department of Insurance. In the mid-1990s, he moved to Sarasota, Fla., and started a business.

Cooper has held various information technology roles but started his own software company in 2000 and sold it in 2009. He has been CIO for an insurance services firm since then.

His father, a member of Gainesville Elks Lodge #990, introduced him to the Elks and took him to the initial planning meeting for Lakewood Ranch Lodge at Sarasota Lodge #1519. In 2008, Lakewood Ranch Elks Lodge #2855 was instituted and Cooper became a charter member. He was the first Loyal Knight and progressed to Leading Knight and Exalted Ruler. For the lodge, he has served on the Activities, Audit and Accounting, Elks National Foundation Fundraising, New Facilities, Drug Awareness Education, Interlodge Visitaton, and Publicity committees. He has been District Chairman of Elks National Foundation Fundraising, Hoop Shoot and Interlodge Visitaton. In 2016-2017 he served as District Esquire. He has been Vice Chairman and State Chairman of Elks National Foundation Certificates. In 2018-2019, he served as the Southwest District Vice President.

Joe and Allie have been married for 19 years and they have two children; Alexandra is 16 and Bo is 13.

In 1960, Conley joined the U.S. Navy. After various schooling, he served as air crewman, plane captain, and rated Machinists Mate and on the USS Lake Champlain in squadron VS-32.

Conley worked in sales of various types before being hired by Penn-Central Railroad (which became Conrail in 1976) in 1968. He was promoted to locomotive engineer in 1971 and was accepted into management in 1974. He resigned from Conrail in 1990 to become the general manager of the South Central Florida Express Railroad in Clewiston, Fla., turning it into a very profitable line. After 34 years, he retired from the railroad service but still serves as a part-time railroad consultant.

In October 1990, Conley joined the Elks after he was invited to Clewiston Elks Lodge #1853 by his employee and saw the good works done by the Elks. He was appointed Esquire in 1995 and filled each chair, becoming Exalted Ruler for 1999-2000. He was named Officer of the Year in 1998. He served as chairman of the trustees and on the House Committee. In 2001 he moved to Fort Myers, Fla., and demitted to Fort Myers Elks Lodge #1288. He immediately filled the Esteemed Leading Knight chair due to the death of that officer. He was elected Exalted Ruler for 2002-2003, 2004-2005, 2011-2012 and 2017-2018. When he wasn’t serving as Exalted Ruler, he was either a trustee or Lodge Esquire. He has been a State Vice Chairman for one year, a Special Representative to another lodge for one year and a Regional Chairman for the C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship for two years. He was instrumental in finding a new lodge home for Fort Myers Lodge and was awarded honorary life membership in 2016. In 2018-2019, he served as the South Southwest District Vice President and was named lodge Elk of the Year.

In addition to his Elks membership, Conley is a member of the Moose, VFW and American Legion.

Conley met his wife, Dianne, at Clewiston Elks Lodge and they have enjoyed 19 years together. They are professional entertainers under the stage name Le Duex. They have two daughters, one son, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.
Conley is an avid golfer and works part time at Majestic Golf Course in Lehigh Acres, Fla.

The members and lodges of Florida’s Southeast District are honored to present to the 2019 national convention in St. Louis the name of David K. Monsour as a candidate for the office of Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

David Monsour was born in 1946 in Butler (Pittsburgh), Pa., and graduated from Butler High School in 1964. He attended Capital University Law School in 1999 and Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service in 2004 for labor relation seminars.

Monsour was a public school teacher, assistant principal, assistant superintendent, superintendent and university instructor. He is currently employed as a federal labor arbitrator, realtor and property manager.

He moved to Florida in 2005.

His uncle, an active Elk, encouraged him to join the organization. Monsour, a member of Jupiter Elks Lodge #2469, has been trustee, kitchen manager, bar manager, and chairman of the Bingo Committee and the golf tournament. He has served on the Membership Committee and House Committee and as Lecturing Knight, Exalted Ruler (twice), Veterans Services District Chairman and Southeast District Vice President. In 2018-2019, he served as Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

In addition to Elks activities, Monsour is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a federal program monitor, president of Brookville Chamber of Commerce and Brookville Kiwanis, Vice President of Butler ARC, United Way and Special Olympics volunteer, Vice President of the PA Association of Rural and Small Schools, Midwestern Region President, and state board member of the Pennsylvania State Education Association.

He has a son, David Monsour II, a 21-year Elk, and a sister, Linda Bodesheim, a past treasurer and auditor of Jupiter Lodge and current Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Auditor.

Monsour has authored or coauthored several publications: Legislative Implications: Professional Self-Governance and Career Ladder Concepts, Student Teacher Effectiveness and Job Satisfaction: An Analysis of Personality and Cognitive Variables in Relation to Performance (an unpublished doctoral dissertation), and Successful Facility Planning (a school construction handbook).

Over the years, Monsour has received several honors. They include the 2015-2016 Grand Exalted Ruler’s Making a Difference Special Citation, the 2013-2014 Grand Exalted Ruler’s Service Commendation, 2013-2014 and 2015-2016 Jupiter Lodge #2469 Hardest-Working Elk of the Year, and the 2004 Service Award for the PA Association of Rural and Small Schools.

Frank Sellers Jr. was born in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in 1945 and grew up in Santa Ana, Calif. He relocated to Tampa, Fla., in 1996. He earned his BA in physical education from Alma College in Michigan and his MA in physical education in 1968 from the University of Rhode Island.

From 1970-1974, Sellers served in the United States Coast Guard. He was a PE instructor/coach for several school systems. He was also an IT/software trainer for Aetna Commercial Insurance Division/Aetna Financial Services/ING/Amerigroup from 1976-1996. Additionally, he worked at Orchard Supply Hardware, was a veteran service officer (VSO) for Long Beach Veterans Hospital, and was a scout for the Kansas City Royals and Pittsburgh Pirates.

Sellers was initiated into New London Elks Lodge #360 in Connecticut in 1986. He held all the chairs at Atlanta Northlake Lodge #78 in Georgia and was the Georgia state ritual champion for Esquire. He also held all the chairs at Tampa Lodge #708 and was the Florida state ritual champion for Chaplain. He served as West Central District Esquire and has been a District Chairman for Veterans Services (in both California and Florida) and Army of Hope as well as a Grand Lodge VAVS Deputy Representative in both California and Florida. He has been a life member for 32 years. In 2018-2019, he served as the South Southeast District Vice President.

In addition to the Elks, Sellers is involved with the American Legion, Broward Veterans Coalition and Our Father’s House Soup Kitchen. He also has 800 volunteer service hours at VA hospitals.

His daughter Kim lives in Connecticut and his middle daughter Jen is deceased. His son, Adam, lives with his wife, Rebecca, in Maine. He has a granddaughter, Adelia, who is 6 years old.

He has nearly 1,200 volunteer hours with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He volunteers three days a week at the Bill Kling VA Clinic and one day a week at the Pompano Beach Veterans Center. He was also appointed a mentor for the Florida Veterans Court in Broward County.
The members and lodges of Florida’s South District are honored to present to the 2019 national convention in St. Louis the name of Helen M. Garcia as a candidate for the office of South District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Florida State Elks Association for the ensuing year.

Helen Garcia was born in Key West, Fla., in 1946 and graduated from Key West High School in 1966. She worked for Avis Car Rental at the airport for six years and then started a government career at NAESU (Naval Aviation Engineering Service Unit) as a secretary at Boca Chica, Key West. She then worked for Social Security in North Miami Beach, Fla., for nine years before returning to Key West to work four years at the Key West Social Security Office in the federal building. She was later hired as secretary/office manager for Federal Probation for the next 15 years. She retired in December 2004; in January 2005 she became the administrative assistant for Social Services in Key West. She retired in 2016.

Garcia’s introduction to the Elks was as an officer in the Teen 551 Club. As an adult, friends of hers were members of Key West Elks Lodge #551 and encouraged her to join in 2009. She served immediately as Lecturing Knight. In 2010 she was elected Exalted Ruler and served six years consecutively to 2016. She then became the treasurer and is now the chaplain. In 2018-2019, she served as the South District Vice President.

Along with the Elks, Garcia is a member of the Key West Women’s Club and Moose Lodge. She served seven years on the executive board of Samuel’s House, a shelter for women and families. She is also on the Teen 551 Reunion Committee which also raises money for scholarships. She is currently active in the local chapter of AARP and serves as Sergeant at Arms in the Woman’s Auxiliary Post 28 of the American Legion. In 2010, she started a scholarship fund for graduating seniors of Key West High School in the name of Franklin D. Hernandez. He was a Key West Elk for many years and served as treasurer. He and Garcia were together for 18 years before his passing. The scholarship is for students who have perfect attendance throughout high school. The money is donated each year from a dance party that Garcia initiated.

Garcia has one son, Kristopher, 37.

Tom Ryan was born May 28, 1942, in Brooklyn, N.Y., and came to Florida when he was about three months old. His education was vast, including a Doctor of Education degree from Nova University in higher education in 1987. He taught at Broward Community College for many years.

He joined Plantation Elks Lodge #2273 in 1966 and served as Lodge Chairman for Youth Activities for decades. He was Exalted Ruler for 1970-1971. Through the years, he held many state and national positions. In 1999-2000, he served as the State President of the Florida State Elks Association. His motto was “A New Millennium - Adopt and Innovate for Elkdom.” Ryan was instrumental in the development of the Florida Elks Youth Camp and held the title of President Emeritus for its board of directors.

Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort
100 N. Atlantic Ave.
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

For more information, visit FloridaElks.org
Charles Valentine “Val” Bates was born in Leesburg, Fla., Sept. 24, 1942. He attended public schools in Ocala and Live Oak, Fla., graduating from Suwannee High School in 1960. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science at the University of Florida. In 1964 he was commissioned as a United States Air Force officer. After receiving communications intelligence training, he was assigned to the National Security Agency as a Communications Intelligence Officer serving in Texas and Okinawa and at Strategic Air Command Headquarters in Omaha, Neb. While serving in Okinawa, he was awarded the Joint Services Commendation Medal for meritorious service during the Vietnam War. Bates left the Air Force in 1968 to return to the University of Florida Law School and earned a Juris Doctor degree in 1970.

In 1974, he joined the Elks and was elected Exalted Ruler of Gainesville Lodge #990 in 1976. He served the lodge on numerous committees, was instrumental in the construction of the new lodge facility, was elected Elk of the Year in 1980 and became an honorary life member in 1994.

He served the Florida State Elks Association on the Judiciary Committee, many years as its chairman, and as Legal Advisor for the Harry-Anna Investment Fund. He served as Northeast District Vice President and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. In 1991 he was appointed to the Grand Lodge Judiciary Committee and served until 1994 when he was elected to the Board of Grand Trustees. He served as Vice President at Large for 1992-1993 and State President for 1993-1994. At the 1998 Grand Lodge session in Anaheim, Calif., he became Grand Exalted Ruler. Other positions included chairman of the Grand Lodge Advisory Committee; Grand Lodge sponsor for Alabama, Georgia, and Puerto Rico; treasurer of the Elks National Foundation Trustees; and chairman and member of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.

Since July 2008, Bates served as Florida’s co-sponsor. He was fond of veterans’ causes and was a strong supporter of Re-Creation and the Army of Hope. He was particularly instrumental in implementing the First Responder of the Year Award and the HOPE Scholarship, now renamed the C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship.

As a practicing attorney, Bates was a member of the Governor’s Council on Criminal Justice and chairman of the Santa Fe Work Release Center Advisory Committee. He was a recognized expert in the field of commercial law litigation. He was also a Florida Supreme Court certified mediator.

Bates was also a Mason in both the Scottish and York rites and was a member of the Morocco Shrine Temple.

He is survived by his wife, Claudia; his brother, Philip; his sons, Jeffrey and Jay; his daughter, Lisa; and nine grandchildren. His children and two grandchildren, Michael Bates and Marjorie Valentine Bates, are Elks members, and he was proud to have sponsored them all. His grandchildren are fifth-generation Elks, as his grandfather and stepfather were Elks as well.
Robert L. Duitsman of Culver City, Calif. Lodge #1917 was installed at the 2019 Elks national convention as Grand Exalted Ruler.

St. Petersburg Elks Lodge #1224 is named All-American Lodge for the 2018-2019 lodge year in their membership division (V – 1,101-1,500). Past Exalted Ruler Cathy Shriver accepts the award on behalf of the lodge since the distinction was earned for the year she served as Exalted Ruler. To earn All-American Lodge status, a lodge and its members must demonstrate their commitment to the various programs of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. St. Petersburg Lodge accomplished this thanks to a dedicated team of officers, committee members and, most importantly, its volunteers and membership.

A highlight from the winning year included a commitment to help and honor veterans for their service and sacrifice. The lodge is active with and vocal for veterans who are homeless, veterans who suffer from psychosocial disorders and veterans who need social interaction with others. Many activities are held on a biweekly basis to meet these needs and include a bowling program; dinner and karaoke nights; and donations of blankets, clothing, gift cards, and monetary donations to various C.W. Bill Young VAMC programs.

The lodge also continued its solid youth programs. They hold drug awareness programs at the lodge several times a year; donate to different youth activities throughout the city of St. Petersburg and its surrounding cities such as softball, baseball, and soccer; support their own youth and adult life skills programs; and participate in the Elks Hoop Shoot and Soccer Shoot and scholarship programs.

Recent lodge donations were made to Leahman’s Fire District, Fire Relief CA, Hurricane Michael victims, Music Sweet Music Inc. for music therapy programs, foster care programs and several St. Petersburg hospitals. They ran large toy and food drives at Christmastime, sent kids who are disadvantaged to the Florida Elks Youth Camp for summer camp, and donated school supplies and monies to several area schools.

Since their installment Feb. 16, 1911, the lodge’s objective has been to open their doors and welcome and educate the community about what the Elks organization has to offer. Since moving to its present home in 1970, St. Petersburg Lodge has become a place where members come together and share meals and where their children grow up healthy and learn the values of the Elks.

Pictured with St. Petersburg Lodge’s Cathy Shriver, PER are Dennis Ramsey (Area 8), Chairman of the Fraternal Committee; Duncan Thompson (Area 3) of the Fraternal Committee; and William Schran (Area 2) of the Fraternal Committee.
A CHAMPION with CHAMP1: Meet JJ D’Angelo, FECTS CHAMP of the Year

By Rachael King

Not many people can say that being a champion is in their DNA, but for five-year-old JJ D’Angelo, he is a champion in every sense of the word. He was born a champion in 2014, surviving after several revival attempts by a respiratory therapist after he passed away during labor and delivery. Last year, he was diagnosed with CHAMP1, a rare genetic disorder that he shares with just 51 other people worldwide. And today, JJ earns another champ title – Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services CHAMP of the Year. Each year, a child is chosen to represent the Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services (FECTS) program as CHAMP (Child Having Achieved Magnificent Progress) of the Year. This child and their family attend Elks events throughout the year and help educate members about the program and their experiences.

According to JJ’s mother, Katis, “JJ fought for his first breath on day one, and as parents, we have been fighting for him ever since.” After the emergency C-section and being revived after birth, JJ stayed in the NICU for a while and had difficulty learning to suck. Upon leaving the NICU, he then began physical, feeding and occupational therapy.

JJ was diagnosed with cerebral palsy caused by a lack of oxygen to his brain during delivery, but he also had visual issues, epilepsy, apraxia of speech (difficulty translating what the brain wants to say into spoken words), hypotonia (low muscle tone) and developmental delay. He is also mostly nonverbal. “We recognized complications from birth,” says JJ’s father, Jeff. “We thought it was a result of not having oxygen for a couple of minutes at delivery. Going to doctors was very frustrating. Nothing was adding up; every test was normal. It was frustrating for us because we traveled out of state to meet specialists, to Boston for leading doctors, and they weren’t able to provide us with anything useful, just to continue with our therapy. We did a lot of traditional and alternative therapy from really early on.”

Finally, after further genetic testing, the family received some answers in 2018 from a doctor in Connecticut who owns a holistic practice and who works with children who have autism spectrum disorder or other complications. JJ was born with CHAMP1. This, of course, led to more questions, but the answers were not easily found, since JJ is one of just 52 diagnosed cases worldwide, so Katis and Jeff got to work trying to rectify this. Katis explains, “When we went to learn more about CHAMP1 online as parents, we discovered there was only one study and a family support group on this ultra-rare disease....We started the CHAMP1 Research Foundation a few weeks after his diagnosis to grow awareness and to get research for his disease.”

They also created a website – champ1foundation.org.

According to champ1foundation.org, CHAMP1 stands for Chromosome Alignment-Maintaining Phosphoprotein and is “an ultra-rare genetic disease discovered in 2015. It is located on chromosome 13 and is said to be crucial in cell division called mitosis. The mutation of the CHAMP1 gene is referred to as haploinsufficiency. This means out of the two alleles, the mutation causes a loss of function to one, leaving those affected with a single functional copy. Patients with CHAMP1 have a reduction in the CHAMP1 protein below the 50% which is necessary for proper neurological function and development.” This disease is not inherited from the parents, but there is no known cause. The website also notes that “children with CHAMP1 have varying levels of functionality. The lack of protein is responsible for a multitude of symptoms....The most recurrent symptoms of significance include global developmental delay/intellectual disability and severe speech delay/loss. Currently there is no cure or significant treatment...
for CHAMP1 yet, but early and personalized intervention is recommended and necessary to thrive. Traditional therapies have been shown to show some improvement over time – speech therapy (including assistive technology and picture models), physical therapy and occupational therapy.”

A month before JJ’s diagnosis, the family was following an in-home neurodevelopmental program, but it was time-consuming and very demanding, so Katis researched home-based therapy services. This is how she learned about FECTS. In February 2018, Samantha Yox, FECTS physical therapist, began home visits to conduct therapy sessions with JJ, who was almost 4 years old at the time.

Yox and JJ have weekly 60-minute therapy sessions, but his therapy continues daily between visits with his parents helping him follow an extensive home program. Yox provides suggestions for activities they can do throughout the week to help increase JJ’s strength and to help him live the fullest life he can. Yox can tell that “JJ has an extremely supportive family who tries everything in their power to assist him in his development and independence.”

When Yox first started working with JJ, he had substantial core strength deficits and his gross motor skills were severely delayed, so there was so much he wasn’t able to do. He couldn’t run or jump, it was difficult for him to walk on uneven ground, and he would often trip walking through door thresholds. He would need to hold someone’s hand when stepping up or down a curb. He also required handrails to climb stairs and walked up and down them sideways, which made it easier to navigate them because of his hip strength deficits.

Yox plans their therapy sessions by finding fun ways to help him improve these abilities. “JJ’s diagnoses affect his balance, coordination, strength and overall motor skill development. I provide treatments to improve those deficits while incorporating things he loves to do. We use therapy balls, balance beams, hanging monkey bars and various toys for fine motor development. He is extremely motivated by praise, especially from his mom, so his family is very much involved in his treatment sessions. His parents have set up a therapy gym in their home with lots of homemade equipment to help him progress,” says Yox. Jeff and a friend built a set of wooden stairs for the gym so JJ

Clockwise from top: JJ balances on a balance board to improve balance and proprioception for daily functional mobility. JJ rides his adaptive tricycle for the first time on his own. JJ performs scooter board activities to boost upper and lower extremity strength. JJ does his therapeutic listening program while practicing climbing up and down stairs.

bars helps improve his grip and hand strength for fine motor activities. They use a stepstool to practice stepping up and down from a curb, and scooter board activities work on his upper and lower extremity strength and shoulder stabilization. “In order to improve independence with various terrains and surface types, we have worked to improve balance, lower extremity strength and joint proprioception. Proprioception is the sense of being able to identify your own body position and movement at any given time. An example of having good proprioception is raising your arm overhead and knowing its position even when your eyes are closed,” explains Yox. JJ balances on a balance board to improve his proprioception. Recently, she also introduced a therapeutic listening program into his therapy schedule – 30-minute sessions twice daily for seven days a week. This program is meant to help improve his sensory processing, attention to task, focus and communication skills.

As is human nature, JJ has some therapies he prefers not to do. Therefore, to motivate him to complete them, he is rewarded with a snack, usually blueberries or avocados, both snacks he loves.

A year and a half after JJ began working with Yox, much improvement has been made. “JJ is able to run for short distances, walk on uneven terrain without tripping, transition up and down curbs independently without hand-held assistance, and is climbing up and down stairs with a mature gait pattern. He has even gained enough strength to ride an adaptive bike independently,” says Yox. JJ’s mom adds that he can make terrain transitions with little supervision and that he has also learned body awareness and depth perception. He
also recently learned to use a fork on his own and is currently practicing dressing himself and potty training.

Though JJ is mostly nonverbal, he can say words like “Mama,” “Dad,” “car,” “Mia,” “doggy,” “food,” “park,” and “cat,” and he can say a few phrases like “feed me now,” “no sleep” and “I get the car.” He also communicates using sign language with his mom. Yox knows some signs, and if she doesn't understand something he signs or says, his mom is there to translate. “JJ is very bright and understands what you ask him to do but has difficulty with spoken language,” notes Yox. In the home gym, there are words written on pieces of paper that JJ practices pronouncing and signing with his mom. Regarding JJ's communication, Jeff points out that “he's very playful and can be manipulative to get his way. He does well piecing words together to get his point across but will also take your hand to show you what he wants.”

Understandably, life is hectic for the D'Angelo family. They spend a lot of time in hospitals and multiple outpatient therapy offices, not to mention the time it takes to commute to these locations. JJ has food allergies and restrictions, so many that his mom makes all his meals and snacks homemade every day. She also homeschools him and does a neurodevelopmental program from home every day which works to “build new neural connections and organize the brain. It’s repetitive, time-consuming and the goal is to stimulate his senses. We are constantly using different textures on his body, cross patterning his arms and legs, crawling, and creeping even though he is long past that. There is also a visual program to stimulate his eye turn and a very disciplined diet,” describes Jeff. This program also aims to improve his neuroplasticity, which Jeff explains is “the brain's ability to change and grow new cells at any age.”

The fact that FECTS offers in-home therapy provides some much-needed relief for this busy family. “Receiving in-home physical therapy from the Elks has been a huge blessing in JJ's therapy regimen. Our son has so many restrictions, and having a wonderful PT come to our house has helped our son's development,” says Katis.

“Receiving in-home physical therapy from the Elks has been a huge blessing in JJ’s therapy regimen. Our son has so many restrictions, and having a wonderful PT come to our house has helped our son’s development.”

-- Katis D’Angelo

Yox will work with JJ a few more months as he transitions into working with an FECTS occupational therapist.

While JJ has to work hard at many everyday functions other children his age do easily, he is still a playful and happy child. He loves spending time with his family and therapists, especially Ms. Sam. “He loves Sam, gets super excited to show her things and show off for her. He treats her like family and never wants her to leave. She is super sweet with him and gets on his level; she interacts with him in ways he prefers but she also keeps him on schedule to get work done,” says Jeff. JJ also likes taking walks, going to the park and riding the Elks' adaptive bike. He likes playing with his younger sister and with toy trucks and buses, toy safari animals, and toy worker people. He also enjoys watching lawn mowers, mail trucks and garbage trucks as they pass through his neighborhood. He prays for everyone he meets and enjoys listening to worship music.

JJ is a champion in his own right with everything he has overcome, but this champion also inspires others around him. “JJ has taught me the true meaning of unconditional love. He reminds me to slow down and enjoy the moment,” says his dad. And, by their son’s example, JJ’s parents will continue championing for all the best for him – for funding and research for CHAMP1, getting him the best possible therapy care, and being the loving and supportive family he needs to excel in his own best way.

about Samantha Yox, PT, DPT

How long have you been a physical therapist? Almost 5 years

How long have you been with FECTS? Since January 2018

How did you hear about FECTS? My friend is a pediatric speech therapist who refers to FECTS frequently for clients who come into her clinic.

What schooling/training did you need to become a PT, DPT? Newly trained physical therapists are now required to have a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree (DPT). I received a Bachelor of Science degree (BS) in biomedical sciences from the University of South Florida in 2011, then went on to receive a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of South Florida School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences in 2014.

How did you decide you wanted to be a physical therapist? In high school, I was accepted into the Academy of Health Careers where we had several opportunities for shadowing and observation in different medical fields. I knew I wanted a career in the medical field but also wanted to have a family. When I was 16, I worked at a physical therapy clinic filing documents, and that’s when I decided I wanted to be a physical therapist. It wasn’t until I started PT school that I decided I wanted to work in pediatrics.

What is your favorite part about being a physical therapist? I love working with the kids and being able to make a long-term impact on their lives by helping them be the most successful and independent with their daily lives possible.

Please provide your thoughts on the FECTS program. I absolutely love working for FECTS! I wish I had found out about the program sooner. It’s an amazing feeling to wake up each morning to go to work loving what you do! With FECTS, I can treat the children how I feel appropriate without having insurance companies dictating my treatment sessions.
On April 28-30, eight teams, 120 players and 450 guests participated in the 26th annual Florida Elks State Softball Tournament held at Sperling Sports Complex in DeLand, Fla.

Proceeds of $7,534 were raised for the Harry-Anna Trust Fund and donated in the names of the winning teams. Joe Rogers, PDD of Sanford Lodge #1241 and Phil Watercutter, PDD of DeLand Lodge #1463 serve as the tournament chairmen.
Elks National Foundation: What it is and What it Means to our Communities

Think back to when you became an Elk. Do you remember going through orientation, watching the DVD about Elks National Foundation and listening to all the wonderful things that Elks do for their community? It was probably one of the first times you heard about the Elks National Foundation (ENF).

Since then, what have you heard about ENF? At the lodge meetings, do they talk about meeting our per capita so our lodges can get grants; our high school students can get scholarships; and our communities can be helped through programs like Drug Awareness, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, and various veterans’ projects? What does that all mean and how is that accomplished?

The Elks National Foundation is a vital part in the work that we as Elks do for and in our communities. Last year, ENF gave Florida $288,350 in state charity grants, $265,000 in special projects grants, and bonus grants totaling $56,890. These grants supported our major charitable projects with portions going to our Drug Awareness, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot and educational programs. ENF awarded 35 Most Valuable Student scholarships to high school seniors in our state in the amount of $140,000. Eleven Legacy Scholarships for children, stepchildren and grandchildren of Elk members totaled $44,000 for Florida students. Our hospitalized veterans received $27,780 to provide aid and comfort for them as they recover from wounds and illness experienced while serving our country.

That’s a grand total of $822,020 that Florida received from ENF in just one year, not including what our Community Investments Programs received. For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, ENF awarded $586,600 to 86 Florida lodges.

So how does all this happen? With your donations! For every dollar you donated last year to ENF, the state got back $2.287! How is the best way to donate, you might ask? There are many ways listed on the elks.org webpage under “Support ENF,” but one of the best ways is through the ENF Fidelity Club. You can set up a monthly donation for as little as $5 or $15 a quarter that will be taken directly from your bank account or credit card. How easy can that be? You won’t even notice. After your first recurring donation, you will receive a special Fidelity sticker for your membership card and you will be listed in the online Fidelity Club Honor Roll. Once you reach 12 recurring donations, you’ll receive an ENF Fidelity pin. ENF will keep track of the money you donated, and every dollar is tax deductible. Also, encourage the new members in your lodge to join the Road to Renewal pin set. This is only available to new donors. Participants will receive a new pin after five consecutive years of giving. The first pin will be received after the second year. If you need more information about giving, it can be found on elks.org or contact me and I will be happy to help you. Just think of all the good work that you can do in your community with your donation.

There are also lodge fundraisers that help raise money each year. What is your lodge planning this year? Do you need ideas? I have some. Let me know what your lodge is doing; send me pictures and you might just see them next year at the state convention! You can contact me at rmwujcik@gmail.com or 941-962-5475.

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

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

Elks National Foundation has some great news for us! I have been able to say that three years in a row. This year they are adding a new grant, the Spotlight Grant. Every lodge will have the opportunity to use this $2,000 grant to shine a light on two important issues facing nearly every American community – family literacy and homelessness among our nation’s veterans. They even provide seven projects from which to choose. You just have to select the one that works in your community. All lodges will be eligible for this grant regardless of meeting the ENF per-member-giving goal. It should be a hands-on lodge-involved project.

They have also changed the Beacon Grant from $2,000 to $2,500. This is the grant that the Florida State Elks Association will match (now $2,500). Forward the email you received from ENF to carl@floridaelks.org and FSEA will send you a check.

All grants opened April 1 and close Dec. 31 and will run with the Elk year.

The Impact Grant for up to $10,000 has a different process. An intent to apply was due July 31. They will notify lodges Aug. 23 if they are being asked to complete the full application. That application must be completed between Sept. 1 and Oct. 31.

Funds must be spent by March 31, 2020.

Final reports are online to make it easier for you to complete them. This is the biggest issue when lodges get out of compliance and can’t apply for any additional grants.

Gratitude Grants will be available if the lodge met the GER per-member giving goal for the prior year. Set your lodge up for this grant for next year by doing fundraisers to meet your ENF goal.

This year, there are six grants for which your lodge can apply. The total awarded to 86 Florida lodges for 2018-2019 was $770,500 (including the FSEA matching grant). That was up more than $55,000 from 2017-2018. That was almost 300 community projects that Florida Elks led. Sadly, there still are 10 lodges that did not apply for grants. The lodges not applying decreased by two again, from 12 to 10. It is getting easier to remember dates and apply, so please do so!

I sent a note to all Exalted Rulers in March asking them to appoint a grants coordinator and assemble a team in their lodge to get started. Veterans and kids are our main focus and I’m sure
COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS PROGRAM: St. Augustine Lodge #829 Completes Outdoor Project at Veterans’ Home using Beacon Grant

Beacon Grant

Amount: $2,000
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/.

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 strongly urges lodges to use the grants for Elk-involved functions so they can be seen in the community and hopefully 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 by Connie Sarnowski

St. Augustine Elks Lodge #829 used their $2,000 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant at Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans’ Nursing Home in St. Augustine, Fla., to help build two concrete pads with covers. In addition, the lodge procured special personal and recreational items for residents who are without financial support. The pads were needed in the outdoor areas for residents who use wheelchairs to enjoy the outdoors, especially around their pond. The pads will also allow family members to spend time with residents outdoors. The home currently serves 109 male and 11 female residents. Eleven Elks volunteered over 60 hours to complete this project April 5.

Prepared to work on the concrete project are St. Augustine Lodge members Joe Pappillia, David Everhardt, Denelle Everhardt, Mike Barfoot, Judy Patrick, Tim Holt, Cindy Holt and Anna Stodolink. Not pictured are Connie Sarnowski, Andrew Patrick and Tom Lander.

David Everhardt works on the outdoor project.

Pictured with donated items from St. Augustine Lodge for Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans’ Nursing Home are Richie Inman-Holmes, Lassen Veterans’ Home Activities Representative, and Connie Sarnowski, Leading Knight.

Everything you need is online at elks.org. Sign in and search for Community Investments Programs (CIP). There is so much information available online for these grants - guidelines for each grant, suggestions for projects, webinars, frequently asked questions and much more. There is also an online dashboard for each lodge to get more information on the exact status of their grants. ENF offers grants sessions at the national convention as well.

ENF has allocated $13.7 million to fund the Community Investments Program. They are investing in Elks communities through grants for Elks lodges. Let’s all work on getting this free money! If you have any questions along the way, please contact me at jacquie_m100@hotmail.com.

Jacquie Rehner, PDD
ENF Grants State Coordinator
Florida State Elks Association
Unrelated Business Income: How it Relates to Lodge Rentals and how to Learn More about It

Unrelated Business Income (UBI) is a subject that is talked about one way or another during most Business Practices Committee question-and-answer periods during the quarterly meetings. One question we have had several times concerns the rental of the lodge hall. When is it UBI and when is it not UBI? Many of these questions could be answered if a member knew where to look because the Grand Lodge has a library of manuals and committee news articles on the Grand Lodge webpage, elks.org.

The first thing the member needs to do is log in to the Elks national website. Every Elk member is eligible to log in to the webpage and every lodge officer should be logging in to this webpage.

- Log in at elks.org
- Go to Members Only
- Click on Manuals
- Log in
- Find Auditing and Accounting Manual
- Click on Download

Now you have the entire manual to review. The subject at hand, rental of lodge hall, is located in Chapter 10, Paragraph 10-103, Sub-paragraph B(3), Page 24:

(3) Rents from Lodge Real Property

Rentals of lodge real property for occupancy only, without providing other services, can be tax exempt, in whole or in part. The rental exception for occupancy applies even if a nonmember makes payment for the occupancy. The rental can include incidental personal property leased with the real property, such as chairs, tables, etc., and can include services necessary for use of the property such as setting up a room, cleanup and the like.

But the rental exception does not apply where the rental encompasses both occupancy and other services, such as providing food and beverages as part of the rental package. If the rental agreement includes both rental of space and catering services, IRS probably will take the position that none of the income comes under the rental exception.

But IRS also has said that “the catering may be analyzed separately from the rental of space if there is a separate charge paid in accordance with a separate agreement between the parties.” In that case, the rental income would not be UBI, but income from catering could be taxable as unrelated business income.

For lodges that would like to rely on the rental exception, it would be good practice to have two separate contracts for functions: (1) a contract for occupancy of the space, stipulating a fixed price for the occupancy, and (2) another contract for any catering services to be provided. The occupancy income could then be classified as exempt income, regardless of who uses the space and pays the rent. The catering income would be classified separately and analyzed according to the general rules and volunteer workers exception described above.

Note: Rental income may be subject to tax in the proportion the property is debt-financed (i.e., is subject to a mortgage) if the rental is to nonmembers. This will be determined by the lodge’s accountant or tax preparer at year-end, and any required adjustments to income and expenses will be determined at that time.

Every lodge officer should be very familiar with the contents of paragraph 10-103 (Unrelated Business Income) of the Auditing and Accounting Manual. This is the first place to check when dealing with UBI issues.

Another good information source is the Grand Lodge news articles. To access:

- Log in at elks.org
- Go to Members only
- Click on Manuals
- Log in
- Click on Committees (on the left)
- Click on Auditing
- Click on Dashboard
- Click on Committee News (bottom)
- Scroll down to desired topic (UBI)

These Grand Lodge news articles contain good information on many different subjects.

Richard D. Martin, PDD, Chairman
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.

FSEA HISTORY

from Encyclopedia of Florida Elkdom
By Lowell P. Tyler, PER, State Historian (now Emeritus)

Excerpt from Tom Ryan’s President's Program

Motto: “A New Millennium - Adapt and Innovate for Elkdom”

Providing service will be our bridge from the 20th century’s information age to the 21st century’s service orientation. As our society continues in its high tech mode, the need for a high touch, humanistic approach will be greater than ever. The sharing and caring concept will become criteria for judgment of who Elks are and what they do. Unfortunately, with diminishing membership and resources, Elks can no longer ask what Eldom can do for them; they must ask what they can do for Eldom. The new millennium will challenge Elks to proceed with great vigor to survive.

The foundation of our order is our lodges. Here we must change for the future. New competitiveness between club and lodge, ladies and auxiliaries and lodge officers, the Bingo Committee and Youth Activities, or the House Committee and the lodge trustees can only detract from our success and survival. Put aside those separate agendas, gather your friends and their friends, and remember the cardinal principles of our order. Then head into the future.

Collectively with the community, our lodges and their members must enter a new millennium; adapt and innovate for Elkdom.
DISTRICT NEWS

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Crestview #2624

On June 15, Crestview Elks Lodge #2624 held its Flag Day ceremony at the lodge with Crestview Area Youth Activities (CAYA), the youth sporting association, assisting with the flags. Lodge member Bud Tipton is the president of CAYA. The public was invited and about 40 people attended. Refreshments were served after the ceremony.

Lake City #893

Lake City Elks Lodge's CPA and member, Joy Lutz, volunteered May 18 as it was a day of service for Florida CPAs. Lutz and her staff donated supplies and labor to update one of the lodge bathrooms.

Lake City Lodge awarded several scholarships to students from Columbia High School. Hanna Wheeler, Cameron Nichols, Kellie Smith and Callahan Register were each awarded $600. Destiny Wilson, Hailey Jones, Ashton Lizotte and Eve Caputo were each awarded $300. From Ft. White High School, Noah Wolf and Trey Houk were each awarded $300.

Perry #1851

Perry Elks Lodge's second annual Easter egg hunt was held April 20 and was hosted by the Perry Elks Ladies. The Easter Bunny saw almost 125 kids. Several businesses including Ace Hardware and Studstills donated prizes. More than 20 volunteers helped run the event.

Perry Lodge's annual summer safety and drug awareness expo was held May 18 at the lodge and was attended by lodge members and local law enforcement. Drug awareness information was shared with the kids, bicycles were inspected for safety, bicycle helmets were given away and games were held. Game winners received tickets redeemable for prizes and those tickets were put in a bowl for a drawing. There were 25 kids who received new bicycles. Businesses sponsoring the event included Duke Energy, Yarborough Tire, North Florida Printing, Studstills, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Perry Fire Department, Perry Police Department, Division of Forestry, EMS, Taylor County Health Department, Little Pine Pediatrics, and Pepsi.

Perry Lodge holds its summer safety and drug awareness event May 18 at the lodge.

Perry Lodge awarded four $500 scholarships to local students June 12 at the lodge and included dinner for the scholars and their families. Their goals include forensic scientist, CPA, industrial engineer, pilot and business management. Pictured are Kevin Eckel; Susan Lynn, incoming District Deputy; Clayton Huff, Exalted Ruler; Carley Ondash and Alyssa Broome. Not pictured is Eli Dorman.

Perry Lodge conducted its Flag Day ceremony on the steps of the Taylor County Courthouse June 14. Event coordinator, Wendy Cruce, distributed flyers to downtown merchants. Taylor County Sheriff, Wayne Paddock, assisted with setup arrangements at the courthouse. Scout Troop 600 which is sponsored by Perry Lodge was on hand for the presentation of the flags. Member Kevin Cruce led the attendees in "God Bless America" and the national anthem. Exalted Ruler, Clayton Huff; Leading Knight, Kevin Cruce; Esquire, Eric Hodge; and member Mark Wiggins performed.

Tallahassee #937

In concert with the local acting group Theatre Tallahassee, Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 donated space and hosted an evening of theatre and dinner May 10. The performance was comprised of four brief comedy skits and as the actors left the stage, they delivered plates of food to the folks in the audience. Food was served in four courses – one course between each act. Well attended, the evening allowed Theatre Tallahassee a free venue to share their acting skills and attract new audiences to further productions away from the local theatre where performances are normally staged.

On June 22, Tallahassee Lodge
hosted a WAVE (Widening Adult Vital Experience Inc.) event. WAVE is an organization comprised of adults who are emotionally and physically challenged, many of whom graduated from Gretchen Everhart School, who retain their social interaction with many friends from their youth. The lodge donates space for WAVE events without charge. This event included music provided by DJ “Captain Bob” Thorburn, Exalted Ruler, for the participants’ dancing pleasure.

Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge #1892 hosted the third Northeast District Florida Ladies of Elks (FLOE) fashion show May 6. FLOE Treasurer, Linda Rittenhouse, and 18 lodge volunteers modeled the casual wear, set up and decorated, and prepared and served food to 81 attendees. Tiffany Ruff of RESORT FASHIONS presented the fashions for sale aided by six ladies from Green Cove Springs Lodge who modeled the casual wear. The show raised $1,581.46 for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services and the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

On June 4, Green Cove Springs Lodge sponsored the summer kickoff for the Green Cove Springs Public Library. It was the lodge’s fourth year of promoting this program. The event was to encourage children to sign up for the special library programs for children of all ages. In attendance were 164 children accompanied by 50 adults. Twenty volunteers assisted the children and provided an age-specific book to each child.

Green Cove Springs Lodge members Lynn Clunk and Deb Langeluttig sign participants up for summer library events June 4 at Green Cove Springs Public Library.

St. Augustine #829

St. Augustine Elks Lodge #829 awarded 10 $1,000 scholarships to 2019 graduating seniors. Recipients are chosen based on academic achievement, school activities, community service and financial need. These are this year’s recipients: Nicholas Barlow (Florida Atlantic, finance/medical), Oliver Capp (Sante Fe State/UF, business), Alexandra Petrelli (Anderson University, biology/business), Emily Gober (University of Florida, physical therapy), David Lee (scholarship chairman), Mike Hughes (Exalted Ruler), Emily Jackson (University of Florida, biomedical/med school), Mackenzie Simon-Collins (Johns Hopkins University, neuroscience), Joshua Gould (University of North Florida, mechanical engineering), Zoe Wilson (Florida State University, sports medicine) and Mary Roy (First Coast Technical College, nursing). Not pictured is Susanna Matza (Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting – film/TV/media).

St. Augustine Lodge made a $1,000 donation to the Coast Guard Auxiliary for a new campaign which recognizes and rewards children who wear their life vests. The program kicked off the start of National Safe Boating Week May 17. Florida leads the nation in boating fatalities. It has the lowest mandatory age for life vest wear with low rates for teens and young adults. Harry Tipper, program coordinator, stated, “we expect that with the help of fantastic organizations like the Elks club, we can spread the importance to wear safety gear, bringing this positive message to all boaters in the Coast Guard’s 7th Districts.” The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all its service missions. It was created by Congress in 1939.

Eustis #1578

On May 19, three scouts from Mount Dora Troop 21 accepted their Eagle Scout awards from scoutmaster, Tim Furry, at Sullivan Ranch, a homeowners’ association clubhouse in Mount Dora, Fla. The troop has been chartered by Eustis Elks Lodge #1578 for about three years. PER Patsy Despain presented each scout with Elks and scouting pins and the Elks scouting certificate signed by Grand Exalted Ruler, Michael T. Luhr. Boy Scouts of America’s Bill Hayes, Lake District Eagle Scout Board of Review Chairman, gave each scout an Eagle scarf. Boy Scouts Advisory Council member Wes Estey also participated.

Inverness #2522

On May 6, Inverness Elks Lodge #2522 hosted the Citrus High Chorus in a fundraiser concert. The chorus represented Florida in Hawaii in June at an American Music Festival commemorating the 75th anniversary of World War II. Donations were collected with all
proceeds going to the chorus to help cover the cost of travel to the festival. The fundraiser collected $300, and the lodge presented an additional $500.

On June 6, Inverness Lodge used its $2,500 Elks National Foundation Promise Grant to support Citrus County Blessings, a hunger-relief program that provides food during the summer months to children in need and participates in local food recovery efforts. They have been battling food insecurity since 1999. The “Feed the Kids” program will provide fresh produce weekly to struggling families throughout the summer school vacation. The Elks will also provide volunteers for unloading, processing, packaging and delivering the produce to distribution sites throughout the county.

Citrus High School held its senior awards ceremony May 9, and Keith Posta, Inverness Lodge Scholarship Chairman, presented Emmalee Nadler, Kaycee Nichols and Jamie Stephen each with a $500 scholarship. Pictured with Posta and the recipients is Exalted Ruler, Richard Grosnick.

On April 22, the Winter Garden Elks Lodge’s Ladies Auxiliary held their annual Easter children’s breakfast with the Easter Bunny who gave each child a basket with treats. More than 30 children and their families participated in this event that included gifts and games.

On May 3, Merritt Island Lodge held its 11th annual kids’ fishing tournament for their youth week activity at no cost to the families. There were 113 kids in attendance and each received a free T-shirt and canvas bag. Lunch was served as well. Prizes were given in three age groups for boys and girls and over 50 door prizes were given away. Forty lodge members volunteered to help make the event a success. Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services therapist Beth Thiers set up a booth to share with those in attendance what she does for the therapy program.

On May 31, Merritt Island Lodge hosted a first responders’ appreciation dinner. Exalted Ruler, Bill Hazelett, welcomed the 19 Brevard County Sheriff’s deputies and four members of the Merritt Island Fire Department 42. Also, the lodge delivered to-go dinners to local firehouses whose men and women on duty could not attend the lodge event. Drawings were also held to award gift cards to several in attendance.

On May 2, Merritt Island Elks Lodge #2650 presented its Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant of $2,500 along with a matching grant from the Florida State Elks Association of $2,500 to the Challenger District Scouts to help fund the Challenger District Cub Scout Day Camp in June. Lodge members worked with scout leadership during the weeklong camp.

On June 1, South Lake Elks Lodge #1848 held its first of what will be an annual event – a floating poker run on the Chain of Lakes in Clermont, Fla. The community involvement was immense with local businesses and individuals coming together to raise money and awareness for the Florida Elks Youth Camp and Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. After expenses, the total donation was $15,141. There were 42 boats registered and approximately 300 participants, members and prospective members alike. The event also resulted in 16 applications for membership.

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On April 22, the Winter Garden Elks Lodge’s Ladies Auxiliary held their annual Easter children’s breakfast with the Easter Bunny who gave each child a basket with treats. More than 30 children and their families participated in this event that included gifts and games.

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South Lake Lodge members pictured at the donation presentation from their floating poker run to FEYC and FECTS June 19 are (front row) Mendy Bacon, event organizer; Colleen Gallant, FECTS Director, and Denise Kalman-Smith, Exalted Ruler. In the middle row are Lavida McNeil, Lynette Turner, Lisa Scott and Bea Meeks, board of directors member. In the back row are Adam Morgan; Nicky Bacon; Russ Smith, North Central District Vice President; and Len Cremissio, Leading Knight.

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Merritt Island Lodge hosts an appreciation dinner May 31 for Brevard County Sheriff’s deputies and Merritt Island Fire Department 42.

annual Flag Day ceremony once again in conjunction with the city of Titusville’s community service award presentation. The Civil Air Patrol cadets presented the colors and Mayor Walt Johnson presented the proclamation from the city. The ceremony was conducted by Exalted Ruler, Mike Anderson. The flag’s history was presented by PDD Bob Swink along with Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of Pack 488. The city of Titusville then presented the community service award to Pastor Barry Russell of Grove Church. Afterward, the city provided a beautiful cake with refreshments.

Zephyrhills #2731

On June 3, the Veterans Committee of Zephyrhills Elks Lodge #2731 donated toys to the lodge’s Feed the Kids program, the first day of this year’s program. The committee donated toys weekly until the program was completed in August. The program is in its fourth year and its purpose is to help feed children during the summer school break. Children and caretakers can visit the lodge for a hot nutritious lunch each weekday. The lodge also provides games and crafts. Members read to the kids and help them with their reading, and children may also borrow or keep books from their library. In the program’s first year, 500 were fed. Last year, the total was over 4,000, and this year’s goal was 5,000.

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Port St. Lucie #2658

Port St. Lucie Elks Lodge #2658 delivered food to Morningside Elementary in Port St. Lucie, Fla., to help provide breakfast, lunch and dinner for the students through the GracePak Program. The lodge delivers approximately 250 lbs. of food on a monthly basis. The Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and member donations keep these children from worrying about their food insecurities.

St. Petersburg #1224

The PER Association of St. Petersburg Elks Lodge #1224 purchased tickets for member Geneva Hall and her daughter, Delaney, to the Harry-Anna Trust Unmasking Autism Gala of Hope April 13 in St. Petersburg, Fla. Delaney has Asperger syndrome, a high-functioning form of autism. She was 17 years old when she was diagnosed, a journey that began at 14 months old.

Geneva spoke about their experiences. When Delaney was a sixth-grader, Geneva no longer had the financial security or the insurance to cover Delaney’s therapies for her developmental delay. In 2007, Geneva remembered the initiation video showing the Elks’ physical therapy program. She inquired at her lodge and Delaney was soon enrolled. Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services therapist Larry Lester began home visits, and Delaney became more confident in her physical self and was able to continue her speech therapy.

Vero Beach #1774

On June 2, Vero Beach Elks Lodge #1774 donated $500 to Sunday Strong for the purchase of team t-shirts featuring the lodge logo on the sleeve. Sunday Strong is a Vero Beach-based organization that unites the fitness industry and adult athletes with intellectual disabilities by working with fitness facilities to provide one group class per week for these athletes at no charge to them. Pictured in the back row at the donation presentation with the Sunday Strong athletes are Richard Miller, Vero Beach Lodge Esteemed Leading Knight (third from left); Laura Radocaj, Sunday Strong founder and president (fifth from left); and Paul Diaz, Exalted Ruler (seventh from left).

Viera #2817

Viera Elks Lodge #2817 continues its support of Genesis House Inc., a facility that provides transitional shelter for women who are homeless and their children, long-term housing for student mothers and their children, and shelter for pregnant women who are homeless and their children. Genesis House is committed to providing a safe, supportive and caring environment which promotes independence from the welfare system through education, self-discipline and self-reliance. Funding for Genesis House is provided by an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant.

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Delaney also spoke: “The experience enabled me to have the confidence to decide to compete in bocce, bowling and basketball skills for Special Olympics. Today I am proud to be an Athlete Leader for Special Olympics. I have two jobs – as an administrative assistant and I have autism.”

St. Petersburg Lodge donated 25 Easter baskets to the Sanderlin Center, a nonprofit agency in St. Petersburg, Fla., that focuses on family, education, arts, economics, employment, positive values, and health and wellness. The baskets included a variety of candies, stuffed animals and other items to be inclusive of the different age groups served at the agency, including teens.

Lake Placid Lodge members put on a mystery theater fundraiser which was well attended by the community. Carol Spear wrote the play and Peg Murray was the producer. All proceeds were given to the Highlands County Sheriff Department K-9 Unit. Sheriff Blackman, the officers and their dogs were invited; they demonstrated the training that goes into the obedience and drug-sniffing techniques of the dogs. A check for $2,900 was presented to the K-9 Unit for the improvement of their training facility and supplies.

State of Florida Special STARS (Sports Training and Recreational Services) is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Sebring Elks Lodge #1529 has been a major sponsor for many years and continued by attending the softball classic at the Highlands County Sports Complex April 6. Lodge member Jan Funk presented a check for $650 to Robert Lengyel, a member of the Special STARS Recreation board, and threw out the first pitch. The donation will benefit over 400 athletes, children and adults with mental and physical disabilities.

On May 3, the Air Force JR ROTC held its 26th annual awards ceremony and military ball. Sebring Lodge members George and Darlene Quel and Jim and Ronna Mason were in attendance along with the guest speaker, retired Senior Chief Petty Officer Doug Deierlein. Sebring Lodge sponsored a golf tournament Feb. 23 and raised $5,384; this donation was given to Sebring High School for the JR ROTC program in February but the formal presentation was made at the awards ceremony.

plant City #1727

Plant City Elks Lodge #1727 used their Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to pay off the lunch debts of students in 19 schools in East Hillsborough County. A child’s report card or diploma can be held until those debts are paid. The unpaid lunch debt is not part of the free or reduced lunches. These debts are from struggling lower middle-class families.

Plant City Lodge member Shelly Lynch Carroll presents 19 checks to Hillsborough County Area Superintendent of Schools, Sharon Morrison, to pay off student lunch debts.

Lake Placid #2661

Lake Placid Elks Lodge #2661 used the $1,500 Elks National Foundation Anniversary Grant to provide several car seats to those in need of financial help in their community. Members partnered with the Lake Placid Police Department who contacted these families. As the families received their car seats, lodge members obtained contact information of the families to be kept at the police department in case of any recalls. Members assisted the technicians as they showed them the proper way to install the seats.

Plant City Elks Lodge #1727 and Delaney also spoke: “The experience enabled me to have the confidence to decide to compete in bocce, bowling and basketball skills for Special Olympics. Today I am proud to be an Athlete Leader for Special Olympics. I have two jobs – as an administrative assistant and I have autism.”

On May 16, Lakeland Elks Lodge #1291 made a donation of $500 to the Jean O’Dell School to purchase printing supplies and paper. This school is for kids who have autism and special needs. Pictured are Jamie Yost, assistant principal; Ashley Grupi, special-needs teacher; and April Summer, principal. Harry-Anna Trust Fund State Chairman, Mark Daniels, and Lakeland Exalted Ruler, Rick Burton, were at the presentation and received a tour of the school.

Sebring Lodge member Jan Funk throws out the first pitch of a Special STARS softball game after presenting them with a lodge donation April 6.

Lake Placid PD’s Officer Mostyn Mullins installs car seats purchased by Lake Placid Lodge. Also pictured is a recipient.
called themselves the Jolly Corks. led by Charles Vivian from England and started in 1867 by eight theatrical men.

explained that the Elks order was presented the $2,500 check, and Quel members Jim Mason and George Quel.

For the sixth year, Sebring Lodge has used the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to sponsor the Highlands Little Theatre summer camp. This year there were 86 children from the fourth through 12th grades participating. The camp was for four weeks, Monday through Friday for three hours a day. Ages 11-18 were at camp for four weeks and ages 8-10 attended the last week. From June 27-29, they participated in a play called “Seussical Jr.” The directors, Tracy Schuknecht, Laura Wade and Christi Hagen, teach them “to appreciate the arts, grow in personal confidence, develop effective communication skills, become problem solvers and collaborate well with others.” Lodge members Jim Mason and George Quel presented the $2,500 check, and Quel explained that the Elks order was started in 1867 by eight theatrical men led by Charles Vivian from England and called themselves the Jolly Corks.

Palmetto #2449

Palmetto Elks Lodge #2449 has been providing community service to children in the local (soon to be statewide) Dive into Reading program. The program helps children in Title I schools from first through third grade improve their reading skills. In Manatee County, Fla., 51% of third-graders cannot read at the third-grade level. These statistics are similar throughout south Florida Title I schools.

The Anna Maria Oyster Bar piloted this program after they heard these statistics and realized that from birth to third grade, we learn to read, and from third grade on, we read to learn. Children who cannot read at grade level after third grade usually do not graduate from high school.

In its third year, Dive into Reading has been successful at raising children’s reading levels. The school system brings children to the restaurant for breakfast with a mentor. The mentors assist the children by reading to them from grade-level books and having the children read from the same book. The program runs for one month in June. Children are tested by the school system at the end of the school year and at the beginning of the next school year. After attending the program, results show improvement, or at least no loss of reading skills throughout the summer months.

Palmetto Elks involvement started at the mentor level. In the second year, the lodge donated over 200 backpacks with school supplies to the children. This year, over 400 children attended. The program is growing and other local restaurants are now participating. The Sarasota County school system has also joined the program. Palmetto Lodge has committed to providing an adequate number of backpacks for the program. The lodge is working with other district lodges to expand participation.

Venice-Nokomis #1854

Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge #1854 collected and donated items to help several groups of children in their community. On April 20, May 10 and June 3, the lodge donated snacks and school supplies for the summer program at the Laurel Civic Center; the center takes care of children who are in need and 75 of them are homeless. Their parents work during the day and the children stay at the center until they go to their tents at night. The lodge also donated and delivered school supplies and backpacks to Laurel Nokomis Elementary School in Nokomis, Fla., May 23.

Cape Coral #2596

On June 8, Cape Coral Elks Lodge #2596 celebrated its 40th anniversary by hosting its second annual 5K run/walk. They also held an open house and a cake-cutting ceremony with Past Exalted Rulers, officers and charter members. Proceeds of $1,000 will benefit Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. The lodge also gained 22 members.

Deep Creek #2763

On May 16, Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763 awarded $1,000 scholarships to Nehemie Erasme, Marc Johnson and Christina Collins at Port Charlotte High School. On May 20, scholarships were presented to Bryce Infante, Mariah Bacus and Connor Rexroad at Port Charlotte High School.

Deep Creek Lodge held their Flag Day ceremony June 14. They were assisted by four members of the American
Legion Post 110 who performed the raising of the flag, the 21-gun salute and the playing of taps. The ceremony was then moved inside and PDD Truman Bass and PER Bill Flecken performed the Flag Day ritual. The flags were presented by members of the American Legion. Afterward, a light luncheon was served to 75 members and guests.

Englewood #2378

On May 6, Englewood Elks Lodge #2378 presented $36,000 in scholarships at Lemon Bay High School in Englewood, Fla. – three $12,000 scholarships and three $1,000 scholarships.

Fort Myers #1288

On May 8, Elks National Foundation MVS scholarship winner Jake Mann visited Fort Myers Elks Lodge #1288 to thank the members for sponsoring him. He was in the top 20 nationally and will receive $20,000 over the next four years. He plans to attend Duke University and attended the annual leadership conference in Chicago with fellow scholarship winners.

Greater Pine Island #2781

On May 14 at the lodge, Greater Pine Island Lodge presented five $2,000 scholarships to seniors for a certification or licensing program or a college degree. Hannah Holloway of St. James City, Fla., will attend Georgia Southwestern State University to pursue a degree in education. Hannah Bryan of Bokeelia, Fla., will attend the University of Florida to study family, youth and community sciences. Mia Nelson of St. James City, Fla., will attend Connecticut College to study behavioral neuroscience, psychology, philosophy and a pre-law track. Kaylin Hill of St. James City, Fla., will attend the University of Central Florida seeking a degree in biomedical sciences. Ruddy Ditch of Bokeelia, Fla., will attend the University of Florida to earn a degree in environmental science. On May 8 at the Florida Elks Youth Camp, the Punta Gorda Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Association presented a check for $1,000 to Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services in memory of Val Bates, PER. Pictured are PERs Dave Haverstraw, Judy Neutzel and Ambrose Yelovich with Exalted Ruler, Tim Pohto, and Elliott Gilbert, camp program director.

On May 21, Punta Gorda Lodge hosted 140 fourth-graders from Sally Jones Elementary School for a drug awareness education program which included presentations, crafts, bounce houses and a picnic lunch. Twelve $25 gift certificates to Books-A-Million were awarded to two students from each class for their drug awareness posters.

Punta Gorda Lodge held a Flag Day ceremony June 9 which was open to the public. Also participating were the North Fort Myers Masonic Sojourners and the Vietnam Bravo Unit First Battalion 9th Marines.

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In period costume June 9 at the Fort Myers Lodge Flag Day ceremony, Masonic Sojourners build the American flag by adding stripes as each state entered the union.

On April 13, Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 hosted 150 first responders, volunteers and their families for a picnic and games at the lodge. Punta Gorda Police Chief, Pamela Davis, presented an award to Exalted Ruler, Tim Pohto, for the lodge’s support of Punta Gorda law enforcement.

The 16th annual Chuck Blackhurst Memorial Charity Golf Tournament was held April 20 at the Deep Creek Golf Club. With 152 golfers participating, $6,340 was donated to Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services. Member Paul White started this tournament 16 years ago. Since its inception, $77,500 has been raised for Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services.

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During June, Punta Gorda Lodge presented over $29,000 in scholarships to local students – 16 $1,000 scholarships were given by the lodge, eight $1,000 scholarships...
were given by the Elkettes and one $2,000 scholarship was given by the Past Exalted Rulers Association. Two students each received $4,000 from the Elks National Foundation Legacy Scholarships in addition to $1,000 each from the lodge.

On June 15, Punta Gorda Lodge hosted the 13th annual kids’ fishing tournament on the pier with over 120 children participating; prizes were awarded for sportsmanship. Lunch was served to over 300 people including participants, siblings, parents and grandparents.

On June 23, the Punta Gorda Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Association hosted an Italian dinner benefit for Cathy Wieder with proceeds of over $4,500 including their $500 donation to assist with her medical expenses. Wieder, a former lodge bartender for 25 years, chaired several lodge committees.

Rotonda #2710

Bob Humphreys, Americanism Chairman of Rotonda Elks Lodge #2710, presents certificates and prizes to Americanism essay contest winners Bethany Vo, fourth place, $10; Raja Patel, third place, $15; Monica Heeg, second place, $25; and Ansley Miller, first place, $50. Also pictured is Nadine Clough, retired teacher and committee member.

Lake Okeechobee #2871

Lake Okeechobee Elks Lodge #2871 held a public Flag Day celebration in Okeechobee City’s Memorial Park. Lodge officers were assisted by the JROTC Brahman Battalion.

West Palm Beach #1352

In May, West Palm Beach Elks Lodge #1352 hosted a Major League Baseball Pitch Hit & Run sectional winners competition for girls and boys ages 7-14. The winners moved on to Miami, Fla., to the team event.

Boca Raton #2166

Boca Raton Elks Lodge #2166 celebrated Flag Day June 14 with the assistance of the FAU and Palm Beach State College veterans. They handled the flags for the ceremony, and lodge members spoke about them.

Delray Beach #1770

On May 10, Delray Beach Elks Lodge #1770 donated the use of their hall for the Atlantic High School band’s awards dinner and decorated and served dinner for 75 students and their families.

Hollywood West #2365

Hollywood West Lodge celebrated Flag Day June 9 with a presentation of the flags by the Paldani Charter, Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts. Over 300 tattered flags were also retired. Jim Blanchard is pictured with the scouts.

Florida Keys #1872

Florida Keys Elks Lodge #1872 held their seventh annual ladies dolphin fishing tournament June 7-8, the lodge’s biggest fundraiser of the year. There were 31 boats and 76 anglers participating. The junior winner was Brianna Sullivan and the two first-place women were Candace Everett and Tiffany Vega. This tournament raises several thousand dollars for the lodge charity fund.

On June 14, the Flag Day ceremony and retirement of flags was held at Florida Keys Lodge. Boy Scout Troop 912 assisted and received a donation from a local businessman, Robby Majeska, of $1 for every flag retired for a total of $264. The lodge served lunch as well.

Miami #948

On June 23, Miami Elks Lodge #948 members PDD Jeff Muehlfeld, Pat Borsuk, Carol Haber and Julia Weber chaperoned 51 kids to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Ten kids were from Florida Keys Lodge #1872, six kids were from Marathon Lodge #2139 and 34 kids were from Miami Lodge #948. Miami Lodge allocated $3,500 for the bus, snacks, water, juice and chaperone expenses. On June 28, Jeff Muehlfeld, Jennie Wright and Carol Haber returned to chaperone the kids home June 29. Miami Lodge members Carol Haber (middle left in blue and yellow shirt) and Julia Weber (far right) are pictured with the campers.

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SOUTH DISTRICT

Clewiston #1853

From April to June, Clewiston Elks Lodge #1853 hosted three quarter auctions for these local causes – autism, a 13-year-old boy with scoliosis and a family who had a car accident.

Jupiter #2469

Jupiter Lodge donated $1,000 to Boy Scout Troop 109 so they could travel to Virginia to attend summer camp at Camp Powhatan. The scouts collectively earned 26 merit badges.

On June 21, Boca Raton Lodge held a dinner to honor national Hoop Shoot champion, Yinuo Wang, and her family. They presented her with a trophy. She is pictured with Exalted Ruler, Tito Young.

SOUTH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

On June 23, Miami Elks Lodge #948 members PDD Jeff Muehlfeld, Pat Borsuk, Carol Haber and Julia Weber chaperoned 51 kids to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. Ten kids were from Florida Keys Lodge #1872, six kids were from Marathon Lodge #2139 and 34 kids were from Miami Lodge #948. Miami Lodge allocated $3,500 for the bus, snacks, water, juice and chaperone expenses. On June 28, Jeff Muehlfeld, Jennie Wright and Carol Haber returned to chaperone the kids home June 29. Miami Lodge members Carol Haber (middle left in blue and yellow shirt) and Julia Weber (far right) are pictured with the campers.
Mandarin-St. Johns #2866

On May 18, members of Mandarin-St. Johns Elks Lodge #2866 and members of the American Legion Post 0372 placed flags on veterans’ graves at Oaklawn Cemetery in Jacksonville, Fla. Ocala #286

Winter Park #1830

Tallahassee Lodge again this year participated in the North Florida Veterans Stand Down. Thanks to two Elks National Foundation grants, breakfast and lunch were provided May 17-18 at the local fairgrounds to all veterans in attendance. Lodge members served meals and handed out T-shirts.

Tallahassee Lodge was invited by Lincoln High School Junior Naval Reserve to award a certificate and medal for Americanism to Cadet Petty Officer First Class Ethan Lustria for his achievements in its Naval Reserve program.

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Ocala #286


Lake City Elks Lodge #893 supports the Lake City VA domiciliary, continuing to help with golf days on Tuesdays and bowling on the weekends. The lodge veterans’ representative also interacts with the VA hospital in town, visiting patients during their stay.

Tallahassee #937

Tallahassee Elks Lodge #937 was an advertiser for and attended the fundraising concert April 25 for Honor Flight which flies veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials dedicated to their service. Country singer Billy Dean joined with renowned pianist Marvin Goldstein to entertain folks at Tallahassee’s outdoor amphitheater in Cascades Park. While admission was free, donations were solicited, raising nearly $10,000 for the Honor Flight trip from Tallahassee, Fla., to Washington, D.C., in May.

Lake City #893

Lake City Elks Lodge #893 was an advertiser for and attended the fundraising concert April 25 for Honor Flight which flies veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials dedicated to their service. Country singer Billy Dean joined with renowned pianist Marvin Goldstein to entertain folks at Tallahassee’s outdoor amphitheater in Cascades Park. While admission was free, donations were solicited, raising nearly $10,000 for the Honor Flight trip from Tallahassee, Fla., to Washington, D.C., in May.

Mandarin-St. Johns #2866

On May 18, members of Mandarin-St. Johns Elks Lodge #2866 and members of the American Legion Post 0372 placed flags on veterans’ graves at Oaklawn Cemetery in Jacksonville, Fla.

Jacksonville Elks Lodge #221 used its Elks National Foundation Anniversary Grant to provide useful and necessary items to military members in Afghanistan. They worked closely with Anne Parker, president of Blue Star Mothers of America Inc., and obtained a list of those serving overseas from northeast Florida, and with the assistance of anysoldier.com, they had a list of several units whose members requested needed items. The lodge members then purchased these items using the grant and sent care packages to the units. The packages included items for 720 military personnel.
Aripeka #2520

On May 18, members of Aripeka Elks Lodge #2520 held a car show at the lodge with 65 show cars. The event was open to the public; over 100 people attended. More than $1,000 was raised to support the Parade of Heroes, a program in which the Florida State Elks Association participates that allows veterans to visit Washington, D.C., for three days where they are honored for their military service.

West Citrus #2693

On May 25 using $1,200 from the Elks National Foundation Freedom Grant, the Veterans Committee of West Citrus Elks Lodge #2693 purchased mattresses, bedding, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items for Mission in Citrus Inc., a shelter for veterans who are homeless. Pictured with three residents are Jim Sleighter, manager of the Mission; and Frank and Carol Hayes, Veterans Committee members.

Zephyrhills #2731

On May 3, members of Zephyrhills Elks Lodge #2731 donated and delivered necessities for a veteran’s new home including pots and pans, dishes, personal hygiene items, towels, sheets, lamps, a television and a television stand, a bedroom set, a recliner, and a microwave. A member also donated $100 to help him with food purchases. Pictured are Tom Pete, lodge volunteer; Joe Rowbashaw, veteran; and Ken Fabiani, PER.

On May 7, Zephyrhills Lodge presented a donation of $225 to the Chief of Recreation Therapy at James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital in Tampa, Fla. Pictured are Ron Ellison, lodge member; Geoff Hopkins, Chief of Recreation Therapy; and Ken Fabiani, PER.

On May 8, Zephyrhills Lodge members donated new clothing worth $565 to James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital in Tampa, Fla. Pictured at the delivery are Ken Fabiani, PER; Tammi Clarke, Chief of Voluntary Services; and Steve Czerneski, member.

On May 15, Zephyrhills Lodge helped furnish the home of veteran John Reese (second from left) who has moved out on his own. When a veteran leaves the domiciliary, they are only provided with a place to live, so the lodge has taken on the task of collecting donations of home furnishings to help the veterans in their transition. Members Dave Crotty, PER Ken Fabiani and Tom Pete are pictured delivering the furnishings.

Residents from The Highlands at Scotland Yard in Dade City, Fla., donated clothing for veterans at James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital in Tampa, Fla., May 15. Pictured at the donation presentation at The Highlands are Jim Sullivan, Zephyrhills Lodge member; Scott Brown, The Highlands manager; and Ken Fabiani, PER, Veterans lodge chairman.

Viera #2817

Viera Elks Lodge #2817 partners with the VOA/SSVF (Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families) transitional housing program. They team the lodge with the veterans who are in need and who qualify for assistance. When the veteran is ready for permanent housing, the lodge provides the furniture using funds from the Focus Grant. The Focus Grant is funded by the Elks National Veterans Service Commission (ENVSC) and this year it was for $10,000. It is specifically designed to address veterans’ homelessness. Since April
1, the lodge has provided 11 veterans with furnishings. In addition, they have provided emergency assistance to eight veterans. This support has included a week's hotel rental for a veteran who lost his home in a fire, purchasing bicycles for two veterans so they could get to work, purchasing tools for a veteran so he could secure a job, and paying for fumigation costs for a single mother with three children. These efforts were all made possible by the Focus Grant. They have also shopped for seven veterans for the Welcome Home Kit program which is also funded through the ENVSC and enables a lodge to take a veteran who is moving into permanent housing shopping for necessary items. The maximum per veteran is $300, and the lodge is reimbursed by the ENVSC.

St. Petersburg Lodge hosts PRRC graduates (back row) James Sollars, Jack Northrop, Dan MacDonald, Gail Leonard, Craig Brodeur, Juan Collazo and Joel Scully. Pictured in the front row are Chrissy Agenor, PRRC program manager, and Stacey Delong and Jessica D’Allesio, PRRC recreation therapists.

The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System hosted a stand down for homeless veterans March 30 in the Veterans Courtyard at the C.W. Bill Young VAMC campus. Hundreds of veterans were provided with a broad range of necessities including food; clothing; medical, legal and mental health assistance; job counseling and referrals; and companionship and camaraderie. As in years past, St. Petersburg Lodge hosted a table and handed out 500 double-layered fleece blankets that were made during the 2018-2019 lodge year by Kat Chaplin and other lodge members. The lodge held multiple fundraisers throughout the year and received donations from members and the lodge's Ladies of Elks organization to purchase fleece material at a cost of $19,200.

Vice President visitation, Graci Tubbs, seventh-grader and founder of Operation Military Matters (OMM), was the guest speaker. According to the website operationmilitarymatters.com, what started as a class project by Graci when she was in fourth grade is now a nonprofit organization. After she heard veterans speak at a Veterans Day assembly at school, she began collecting items to send to military members overseas to show her support. During the Elks event, Seminole Elks Lodge #2519 donated $500 to OMM. A bucket was passed around and those in attendance contributed an additional $634.

St. Petersburg Lodge #1224

St. Petersburg Elks Lodge #1224 donated their hall and hosted seven veterans graduating from C.W. Bill Young VAMC's Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC) program along with 75 of their relatives, friends and staff in attendance. Graduates from PRRC demonstrate their commitment to the recovery process by achieving goals and acquiring knowledge, skills and abilities. The lodge hosts and takes part in this event twice a year.

St. Petersburg Lodge member Ed White chaired an event that raised $1,060 for veterans. The lodge presented $500 to the C.W. Bill Young VAMC's Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC) unit. The lodge will use $100 to purchase hats for veterans and the remaining $460 will be used to purchase and distribute canteen books for visiting veterans used at the BX or canteen at Bay Pines. The Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) was created in 1946 to provide merchandise and services at reasonable prices to veterans enrolled in the VA health-care system, caregivers and visitors.

Seminole #2519

On June 8 at the West Central District
Pictured at the Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Lodge donation presentation to Southeastern Guide Dogs in Palmetto, Fla., May 14 are (back row) members Frank Iannello, Dennis Dobbratz and Tom Sweeney. In the front row are Sean Brown of the Heroes Council of Southeastern Guide Dogs and guide dog, Pella; members Sue Iannello, Ken Latham, Charlotte Madar, Mary Bilkie, and Chuck Stolteben; and Chad Bouton of the Heroes Council of Southeastern Guide Dogs and his guide dog, Andros.

Venice-Nokomis #1854

On May 10, Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge #1854 sent 700 cookies baked and iced by lodge members to troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

On June 27, Venice-Nokomis Lodge #1854 donated and delivered $500 worth of art supplies to the C.W. Bill Young VAMC rehab center.

Cape Coral #2596

Cape Coral Elks Lodge #2596 combined its Elks National Foundation Spotlight and Gratitude grants and is helping veterans who are homeless transition to permanent housing. The $4,000 is being used to provide needed household items to veterans who are being placed into housing by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The lodge partnered with HUD and the Veteran Administration Hospital in Cape Coral, Fla., to identify veterans in need. Lodge members also donated gently used furniture and clothing to the veterans.

Deep Creek #2763

On June 26, Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763 used part of an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to take several veterans from the Douglas Jacobson Veterans’ Nursing Home to a Minor League baseball game between the Charlotte Stone Crabs and the Fort Myers Miracle. Lunch and drinks were provided. Lodge members PDD Kay Neiley, Karen Rohm, Carol Aitchison, PER Tom McClain, Ken Bacon, Joe Szych and Michael Balunas attended and assisted the veterans with lunch and spent time with them. Local high school student Michael Balunas retrieved foul balls and gave them to the veterans.

Englewood #2378

On May 17, Englewood Elks Lodge #2378 hosted a luncheon for veterans from area nursing facilities including Gran Villa in Englewood, Fla.; Englewood Healthcare and Rehab; Heritage Oaks in Englewood, Fla.; Springs of South Biscayne in North Port, Fla; and Brookdale Rotonda Senior Living in Rotonda West, Fla. A total of 101 veterans and their helpers attended.

Punta Gorda #2606

The Veterans Committee of Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 hosts monthly luncheons at the lodge for residents of Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Home.

Jupiter #2469

Jupiter Elks Lodge #2469 delivered 25 care packages filled with household necessities to veterans in Palm Beach County, Fla., with the assistance of the Welcome Home Kit program. Pictured is member Lynn Trimbile delivering a care package to a grateful veteran.

Lake Okeechobee #2871

In June, Lake Okeechobee Elks Lodge #2871 hosted the second of four veterans’ Stand Downs. There were 37 veterans who received nonperishables, backpacks with hygiene products, vouchers for perishables, new clothing and laundry services if needed.

SOUTH SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

On May 17, Englewood Elks Lodge #2378 hosted a luncheon for veterans from area nursing facilities including Gran Villa in Englewood, Fla.; Englewood Healthcare and Rehab; Heritage Oaks in Englewood, Fla.; Springs of South Biscayne in North Port, Fla; and Brookdale Rotonda Senior Living in Rotonda West, Fla. A total of 101 veterans and their helpers attended.

Boca Raton #2166

On April 12, Boca Raton Elks Lodge #2166 held a dinner for veterans from FAU and Palm Beach State College. Over 30 veterans attended.

Boca Raton Lodge participated in the town's annual Memorial Day celebration held at the Boca Raton Cemetery May 27. Donna Powers, South Southeast District Vice President, represented the lodge as a speaker.

Delray Beach #1770

On May 11, 58 Vietnam veterans, 16 Korean War veterans and seven World War II veterans were welcomed home from an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. These flights are four times a year and the Delray Beach Elks Lodge Veterans Committee (chairman, Laurie Rogers, and members Phyllis Baxter, Bonnie Permenter and Patti Lydon) goes to Palm Beach International Airport to welcome them home.

Hollywood West #2365

On May 24, Hollywood West Elks Lodge #2365 partnered with the city of Hollywood to host a Memorial Day observance. Pictured are Tony Gomez, member and Korean War veteran who played taps; Telly Sands, Veterans Committee member and Air Force veteran; Carl and Amy Olsen, Veterans Committee members; George Caffrey, Veterans Committee chairman and Air Force veteran who displayed the Elks POW/MIA table; Dave Ryan, Veterans Committee member; Peggy Felthaus, member; Sal Grilli, PER, Veterans Committee member and Vietnam veteran who read the names of community members who died or were POWs; Lidia Grilli, Veterans Committee member; Joe Rieger, Vietnam Army veteran; Marty Truss (seated), Pompano Beach Lodge treasurer and Navy veteran; and Marilyn McKenzie, Veterans Committee member.
LODGE PLANNING CALENDAR

August 2019

FYI:

8/15 • Lodge Website Award Contest criteria and entry information available on FSEA website
• ENF MVS & Legacy Scholarship applications available on GL website
8/22-24 • Elks PSP Advisory Committee Workshop – Florida Elks Youth Camp – Umatilla, Fla.
8/30-31 • DD/VP Workshop – Florida Elks Youth Camp – Umatilla, Fla.
B/31 • Participants will be notified if they have been selected to fill out the full ENF Impact Grant application between 9/1 & 10/31

Due Dates for Non-Grand Lodge Reports & Taxes:

8/15 • Form 990 to U.S. Treasury
• Form 990-T – report UBI to U.S. Treasury (Form 990-T is required when gross income from unrelated business income is $1,000 or more.)
• Deposit payroll taxes for prior month to U.S. Treasury (Lodges may be eligible to pay quarterly if certain conditions are met.)
• Deposit withholding to U.S. Treasury from gambling winnings if more than $2,500 cumulative for the year.
8/19 • Sales tax for prior month to Florida Department of Revenue (electronic payment and filing no later than 5 p.m.)

State President's Visits:

8/9-10 • South Southeast District – Boca Raton #2166

September 2019

FYI:

9/1 • Contest criteria and entry information available on FSEA website for the FSEA/AVL Drug Awareness Poster Contest
• Contest criteria and entry information available on FSEA website for the FSEA/AVL Drug Awareness Essay Contest
• FSEA C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship applications available on FSEA website
9/8 • Elks Day at the Rays – St. Petersburg, Fla.
9/11 • Patriot Day
9/19-21 • FLOE Conference – Hilton Daytona Beach
9/30 • Lodge Website Award winners announced on FSEA website
• Midyear CLMS membership totals are recorded by GL

Sept - Dec:
• District Deputy visits and inspections

Deadlines:

9/15 • Lodges to register for FSEA Lodge Website Award with FSEA Marketing Manager
9/25 • Submissions to Florida Elks Magazine Editor for Fall edition
9/30 • State Lodge Activities Chairman to register for GL State Association Website Award with GL Fraternal Committee Member

Due Dates for Non-Grand Lodge Reports & Taxes:

9/1 • Form F-1120 – report UBI to Florida Department of Revenue (Form F-1120 is required when Form 990-T is required.)
9/16 • Deposit payroll taxes for prior month to U.S. Treasury (Lodges may be eligible to pay quarterly if certain conditions are met.)
• Deposit withholding to U.S. Treasury from gambling winnings if more than $2,500 cumulative for the year.
9/19 • Sales tax for prior month to Florida Department of Revenue (electronic payment and filing no later than 5 p.m.)

State President's Visits:

9/6-7 • West Central District – Dunedin/Clearwater #1525
9/27-28 • South Southwest District – Punta Gorda #2606

October 2019

FYI:

10/1 • Contest criteria and entry information available on FSEA website for the FSEA Best Lodge Bulletin Contest
• Contest criteria and entry information available on FSEA website for the FSEA Lodge Scrapbook Contest
• Contest criteria and entry information available on FSEA website for the FSEA Americanism Essay Contest
• Elks Training test available on FSEA website
10/15-19 • Fall Trust Fund Seminar – Islamorada, Fla.
10/23-25 • Red Ribbon Week

Due Dates for Non-Grand Lodge Reports & Taxes:

10/15 • Deposit payroll taxes for prior month to U.S. Treasury (Lodges may be eligible to pay quarterly if certain conditions are met.)
• Deposit withholding to U.S. Treasury from gambling winnings if more than $2,500 cumulative for the year.
10/18 • Sales tax for prior month to Florida Department of Revenue (electronic payment and filing no later than 5 p.m.)
10/30 • Form RT-6 – report wages for prior quarter to Florida Department of Revenue (electronic payment and filing no later than 5 p.m.)
10/31 • Form 941, report wages for prior quarter to U.S. Treasury
• Deposit FUI (Federal Unemployment Insurance) tax for prior quarter to U.S. Treasury (Quarterly deposits of federal unemployment insurance tax are required when cumulative amount owed exceeds $100.)

Statutes:

October • Secretary Report to lodge ($12.050)
• Trustee Report to lodge ($12.070)
• EE Reports on GL sessions ($12.120)
• Lodge’s Auditing & Accounting Committee to review lodge books and report at last meeting of month ($13.040)

State President’s Visits:

10/11-12 • East Central District – DeLand #1463
10/18-19 • Southeast Central District – Port St. Lucie #2658

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

Florida sales taxes, if filed and paid by paper, are due the 20th day of each month. Many, if not all, lodges are required to pay and file electronically. Due dates for electronic payments are moved back to ensure that funds are received by the state on the tax due date. See each month’s due date reflected.

Quarterly reemployment tax returns (Form RT-6), if filed on paper, are due the last day of April, July, October and January. If electronic filing is required, the due dates are reflected.

Depository dates of taxes to the U.S. Treasury are noted. An earlier date may apply depending upon whether your payment is directly deposited through your bank or through a Bank utilized by the payroll program of your lodge’s choice. PLEASE DETERMINE FROM YOUR BANK OR YOUR PAYROLL PROGRAM HOW SOON BEFORE THE DUE DATE YOU NEED TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT.
2019 MIDYEAR CONVENTION

Nov. 15-17, 2019

The Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore
2225 N. Lois Ave., Tampa, FL 33607