



South Southeast District #2000

Newsletter

Winter Edition 2016 Volume 2 Number 1

Website: www.elksdistrict2000.org

This bulletin is published by Elks of Florida South Southeast District #2000

District Leader Message

Vincent Como, PSP

South Southeast District Members all:

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of our lodges for fiscal Year 2016-17. As stated at your installation, you have been selected to guide your respective lodge's affairs for the coming year. More than ever, again as stated in the installation ceremony, "you have been honored, but also assumed a grave responsibility."

That responsibility is so much more important today than it might have been years ago. Today, our lodges are faced with challenges never before

considered. Whether they come from the I.R.S. or other government agencies, our status as a 501c3 or 501c8 is more often than ever before under attack. Our right to associate with American ladies and gentlemen, who believe in God and our country and its Flag, is often to topic of legal and judicial debate. We must continue to stand strong against those who seek to weaken us or even destroy us.

Although we may consider ourselves a small district, we are still a most integral part of what many Elks nationwide consider the strongest, most productive State Association in the land. Yes, our Florida State Elks Association is looked up to and recognized as one of the most progressive associations in all of Elkdom. Well, my friends, that means us! Yes, you and me and the rest of the members from Delray Beach, Pompano Beach, Boca Raton, Hollywood West and Oakland Park. We control our own destiny.

Yes, some of us are struggling to survive as a lodge, but we have also seen the turnaround in some. Some of our lodges are in fact succeeding and are recognized in the State as models to emulate. We can succeed if we eliminate the naysayers, the defeatists and negativity that seems to permeate in our lodges. Please consider for a moment if all the expended, negative energy could be converted to positivism, how far we would advance our lodges, district, state and Order! Just give it a serious thought.

As this new Elk year begins, I do want to express my thanks and gratitude to our outgoing leaders for their efforts throughout the year. Soon to be Past Vice President and after a 5 week break, will be our District Deputy Designate Linda Barie, who will be installed at the Grand lodge Convention in Houston. To our going District Deputy Jerry Miller, thank you for your efforts and leadership.

We will host our State President John Harris, and his entourage on the weekend of August 5 and 6. Please leave that weekend open and support the incoming VP in this effort. It is always great to showcase and brag about our district!

Our district continues to grow financially through our PER Association fund as your lodges no longer have to make periodic donations of monies or bottles for the State hospitality room or State President's visits. The SSE District Advisory Board is up and running. We have streamlined the procedure for interested members to be appointed to District and State chairmanship and possible consideration and advancement to District Vice President and above. We have monthly meetings, at each lodge on a rotating basis, and closely monitor our district funds and consider programs that would benefit each of our lodges and our district as a whole.



We are still working on a District training program for incoming Exalted Ruler as shortly after installation as possible to educate the ERs in their responsibilities and duties for their upcoming year. We hope to have the first meeting in late April 2016.

I am also attempting to coordinate and schedule “open town hall” meetings with each of the Lodges. I will be present, with our District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, District Vice President, and your Lodge Advisor to hear your concerns and continue to improve both the operation of our lodges and our collective communications. Feel free to express yourself in a PRODUCTIVE way. We can only do this together.

Thank you for allowing me to serve YOU. If you need to contact me directly, please feel free to do so, either via email: ddger2463@aol.com or preferably by phone: 954-812-7629 at any time.

Again, I wish to thank our District Webmaster, Jim Blanchard for putting this together. Thanks Jim

Sincerely and fraternally in Elksdom,

Vincent P. Como, PSP
SSE District Leader

District Vice President Message

Linda Barie, SSE VP

Dear Fellow Elks,

I wish to say Thank you to everyone for helping to make my year as District Vice President a successful one. Whether your Lodge hosted an event or supported an event, from the State President’s visit to our District visits and the VP Forum, you made a difference. It was a pleasure to see what each Lodge has accomplished over the past year.

Now that the Installation of Officers is over and the new Elk year has begun, we can look forward to another great year. Please remember to include all your members in the Lodge in some way. Everyone joined the Elks for a reason, whether to help children, veterans or to make new friends. There is something for everyone to get involved with. We need to become more involved in our communities and I’m sure your Lodge can find a way to do this, with the help of their members.

Remember membership is the life blood of the Elks, help keep our Lodges and all the good work we do as Elks going. Bring in a new member, reduce our delinquent list, and use all the resources available to you to grow your Lodge. Our State Chairman Suzi Simonelli, Grand Lodge Chairman Rick Gathon are both working hard to help you accomplish these goals in membership, a goal of positive growth both at a Lodge level as well as a State level. After bringing in these new members get them involved, don’t let them fall away, remember each one joined for a reason.

Harry-Anna is our state’s major charity, which supports the Children’s Therapy Service, Youth Comp, Youth Scholarship, our military, veterans and our Lodges. You can read more about these programs on line at Floridaelks.org, in our state newspaper or at your Lodge. We have one of the best State Associations in the country, be proud to a Florida Elk. Find your passion and help support the Harry- Anna Trust Fund by donating today.

I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at our State Convention in May. We will get to hear what has been accomplished over the past year as Florida Elks, watch the installation of our new State President



and officers, and meet other Elks from around the State. Let's find out what other Lodges and our State has been doing, maybe we can share a new idea or find one that may work for our Lodge. Keep an open mind and enjoy talking got other Elks.

The SSE District has a hospitality room at the State Convention; any help you can give will be greatly appreciated. There are several ways to do this, supporting the fund raisers, donating food or beverage to be used or just volunteering for an hour or two during the weekend. However you can help please contact Marty Truss, Endorsed District Vice President for the South Southeast District.

Thank you once again to everyone. I have enjoyed working as District Vice President over the past year. I know its now quite over yet but I want to be sure everyone knows how much you are appreciated.

Fraternally yours,

Linda Barie

SSEVP

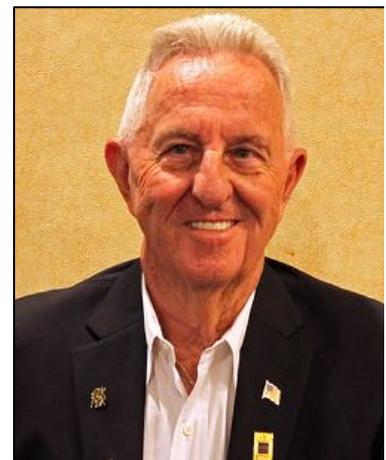
Elks Care - Elks Share

District Deputy Message

Jerry Miller, SSE DD

Hi Everyone,

As social media and electronic messaging becomes more prevalent and popular in our society, Jim Blanchard has graciously volunteered to not only be our District Web Master, but also put together this District Bulletin on a quarterly basis. If any Lodge or member wishes to place an article or news worthy information into it, please contact Jim. All I ask is that it be relevant to the betterment of our District and Elkdom. We cannot guarantee that all articles will be published, but they will be considered.



Over the past several years, we have all heard about declining membership in our great organization and how drastic this has become. Consider these facts:

- Our last increase in membership was in 1980. The combination of the drastic decline in initiated members (50%) along with the enormous annual non-pays is creating an average loss of 25,000 per year.
- When we were growing in the late 1970's through 1980, we initiated more than 100,000 new members every year.
- Our annual non-pays average was 75,000.

- We initiate or reinstate approximately 60,000 new members a year.
- However, with 60,000 annual non-pays, 9,000 annual absolute dimits, and 16,000 annual deaths, we lose more than 85,000 members each year.
- We have an annual deficit of approximately 25,000 each year.

What does this mean?

- Simply, we need to increase our annual new member initiated and reinstatement totals to above 70,000.
- We need to reduce our non-pays and absolute dimits by 20,000.

How do we achieve these goals?

- We need to Increase new initiated members by 10,000. There will be two national campaigns by the Grand Lodge to help spread the word on the great things Elks provide for our Veteran, Children and community.
- Create Local, Regional and National promotional plans which will help us increase our new initiated members with a focus on adding quality more than quantity. We want to add “active Elks”, not just short-term card carrying members.
- Drive enthusiasm and results with a low-cost, highly visible recognition program.
- Focus on adding quality more than quantity. We want to add active ‘Elks”, not just short-term card carrying members.
- Focus on payment solutions and inspired collection campaigns.

Are we at War? YES, and only an army can win a war. Positive results are coming from many different Lodges across the country, and they include:

- Embracing modern communication strategies and a promoting a strong presence in their communities.
- They are passionate recruiters and provide a **family friendly environment**.
- They are active Elks Lodges with a bar....**not active bars with an Elks Lodge**.
- The Lodges that had a positive growth displayed a good understanding of the Order’s programs/opportunities and how that translates back to the community they serve.

Just think what this great country would be like without the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks? Who would replace the almost \$500,000,000 we give to charities every year? Who would provide the services to the Veterans and disabled Children we do? We need everyone’s help to not only survive, but to grow. At one time, the Elks had almost 3,000,000 members. Can we reach that goal again? I think we can. We just need everyone to remember that we are all ambassadors of a great and charitable Organization. We are not just a collective of people who want cheap drinks and food. We joined because we love helping those who helped keep this country free, the children who are the future of our country, and those less fortunate than us.

Again, I’d like to thank everyone for supporting the Elks; and please become an active member, volunteer on committees, ask that person you know to join our Fraternal Organization, get involved and enlist in this war of survival. Most important, share the pride of being an Elk, it is all of our jobs to make sure that members and non-members see the impact the Elks’ are having in the community through their involvement with their Lodge.

As a last note, I plan on holding an annual District Chili Cook off to be held in November. Because of its central location, the Pompano Beach Lodge has graciously donated their grounds for it for this year. The contest will be open to Elks and Non-elks (especially fire and police departments), so if you would like to volunteer please contact me. Connections to any print or radio media would be especially appreciated.

Gerald Miller, SSE DD

Mark your Calendars
SSE District Deputy Clinic
Saturday, April 9, 2016
Boca Raton Lodge #2166

Boca Raton, FL No. 2166
1395 N Federal Hwy
Boca Raton, FL 33432-2833

All Elks invited

Please RSVP with your Lodge Exalted Ruler
Lodge Officers, Secretaries, Treasures and
Lodge Officers should attend.

Breakfast at 8:30am, Meeting starts at 9am

Florida Elks:
Enriching the Lives
of Children

Serving 20,000 children a year
the Florida Elks Youth Camp
contributes to each camper's
mental, physical and social growth



State President's Message

Mixed Emotions

It is with a magnitude of mixed emotions that I write this last article as State President for the Florida Elks News and Florida Elks News Online editions.

It is with gratitude to the PSPs for providing me the opportunity to serve as State President this year and to the Florida State Elks for supporting my programs as well as Dolly and I so graciously throughout the year.

It is appreciation to my first lady, wife and biggest supporter, Dolly, for being by my side every step of the way through our many hills and valleys to get to this point.

It is recognizing the dedication and commitment to Elkdom of the District VPs and their support teams who were responsible for 14 fantastic district visits Dolly and I experienced and especially for our March Homecoming and farewell visit in Tallahassee where

so many dignitaries graced us with their physical presence. I also need to mention and again congratulate the 14 men and women who were named Outstanding Elk of the District!

It is with humility and thankfulness to my hospitality team for the many hours of hard work, travel and sacrifices they made to make Dolly and I look spectacular and our events appear seamless. I must also thank my ghost writers who helped me meet my deadlines for all of my articles and letters for an entire year.

Dolly and I give many thanks to all of you who made this year the success that it was!

My motto "Be The Change" was a difficult "prescription" because change is not comfortable, but as the year unfolded and the concept of change gained momentum – you, our wonderful supportive members, adapted and change began.

We started small with "The Elevator Pitch" which I suggested you put on your business card as I did and many of you agreed it helped tell the "Elk Story".



Carl Ledig, President
Florida States Elks Association
2015-2016

BE THE CHANGE

greygramps@comcast.net 850-656-2527

Elks are a patriotic, charitable organization, focused on veterans, children and community. In Florida, we provide free in-home physical & occupational therapy services for children and access to the Florida Elks Youth Camp.

Please present this card to your local lodge for consideration for membership.

Local Lodge: please accept my referral for membership for the person presenting this card.

We made membership a priority and pointed out there was no better place to look for members than delinquent members and you started to call our lapsed Elks. We instituted a membership program awarding pins to those of you who brought in five or more new or lapsed members and I am proud to say so far I have given 324 such awards with the numbers climbing daily!

We focused a lot of attention on recruiting younger members so the next generation of philanthropy and leadership can have a foundation and that has been a huge success with more young people joining our ranks than ever before.

Of course the Elks have our core projects but we suggested having the new members and young members be afforded the opportunity to devise and lead their own programs as an incentive to join and that option is gaining traction.

We know we are making good progress in Florida because we had the opportunity to visit the Mississippi Elks Association Mid Winter Conference in December, the Alabama Elks Association Mid Year Convention in January and the Georgia Elks Association Spring Meeting in February. As we travelled and shared the changes underway in Florida with Elks in other states, our message was well received and in many cases reviewed for possible implementation elsewhere.

Our national leadership is strong as Dolly and I witnessed first hand when we attended many of these state visits as well as the Florida State Elks Association February Quarterly Meeting in the company of GER Ron Hicks and his wife, Nancy. To say we were impressed with his message at each event would be an understatement. With excellent National Elk leadership in place and new Florida State leadership set to begin at the State Convention in May, we hope that the efforts of change that you have so wholeheartedly embraced and implemented will continue with your full and unwavering support!

By the time you read this I will have completed my year of travel, visiting the fourteen great districts of Florida, ending with my Homecoming in Tallahassee. I must give a special shout out and thanks to Home2 Suites by Hilton, Tallahassee's newest hotel, located two doors down from our lodge at 210 S. Magnolia Drive, for their extremely generous gift, which enabled the Mount Dora High School Junior Air Force ROTC to travel to Tallahassee and perform the Table of Honor at our Saturday night dinner. I hope everyone found it as memorable and impressive as Dolly and I did when we first saw it performed at our visit to the Eustis Lodge. I also thank Five Star Limousines for safely transporting us on Saturday.

It is now the first week of May and hopefully you have made plans to attend the State Convention where we hope you will join Dolly and I in our celebration of a year well done!!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Carl Ledig, State President

Florida Elks: Enriching the Lives of Children

Serving 20,000 children a year
the Florida Elks Youth Camp
contributes to each camper's
mental, physical and social growth



DISTRICT LEADERS	NAME
District Leader	Vinny Como, PSP
District Deputy	Jerry Miller, DD
District Auditor	Charlotte Healy, PDD
Vice President	Linda Barie, PER

Committees	CHAIRMEN
Americanism Committee	Patricia Maher, PER
Community Activities	Linda Barie, PER
Drug Awareness	Andrea Fernandez
Elks Training	Denise May-Carter, PDD
Government Relations	Brad Lewis, PER
Harry-Anna Trust Fund	Jerry Carter, PDD
Hoop Shoot	Tito Young, PER
Orientation	Denise May-Carter, PDD
Inter-lodge Visitation	Ray Heller
Ladies Organizations Worksheet	Eleanor Pastor
Lodge Activities	Richard Schmidt, PER
National Foundation Certificates	Linda Barie, PER
National Foundation Scholarships	Pat Maher, PER
Publicity & Public Relations	Andrea Fernandez
Soccer Shoot	Jim Blanchard
Sports	Jim Blanchard
Veterans' Services	Brad Lewis, PER
Youth Activities	Jim Blanchard
District Reporter - FL Elks News	Andrea Fernandez
Hope Scholarships	Pat Maher, PER
Grants	Linda Barie, PER
Technology Communications /Website	Jim Blanchard
Army Of Hope	Marty Truss, PER
Wills & Bequests	Norman Mandel, PDD

FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN'S CLINIC OF THE BENEVOLENT PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

Also known as B.P.O.E. has been in existence for over 145 years and its main objective is helping children, and currently one of the most charitable organizations in the United States. That being said we proudly have a clinic that takes care of Special Needs Children.

Two doctors in Broward County (FL) have dedicated their efforts for the care and needs of these children.

Dr. Lucy Cohen M.D., is a Pediatric Physiatrist, who handles bracing and orthotics for children who are diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and Dystrophic diseases. Dr. Cohen's Clinic is located in the City of Sunrise, FL.

Dr. Peter J. Romano M.D., a Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon with his location in the city of Plantation, FL. Dr. Romano's main objective is helping children with Scoliosis and all orthopedic needs as well as surgery.

These services are provided to all families without any costs incurred. (THEY DO NOT HAVE TO BE IN ANY WAY AFFILIATED WITH THE ELKS)

For Dr. Cohen's Clinic please contact Clinic Administrators
954-746-1503

For Dr. Romano's Clinic please contact Clinic Administrators:
Eleanor Pastor at 954-427-7849

For more information, contact Elks Representative
Andrea M. Fernandez, FECC Chairman
Email: amfl120@comcast.net Phone: 954-294-1344

The next **FLORIDA ELKS CHILDREN'S CLINIC** (FECC) meeting will take place on
Sunday, January 11, 2015 at Pompano Beach Lodge.

All Exalted Rulers are voting members and the meeting is open to all Elks.

Andrea M. Fernandez, FECC Chairman

**Florida Elks Children's Clinic
Helping Children Develop and Grow**

Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services provides Physical and Occupational Therapy to Florida children who do not have easy access to these services. In addition to the mobile units that cover most of the state, we also proudly have two clinics that take care of special needs children. Two doctors in Broward County Florida have dedicated their efforts for the care and needs of these children.

Our first clinic opened in 1988. Dr. Lucy Cohen, a pediatric physiatrist, handles bracing and orthotics for children diagnosed with cerebral palsy and dystrophic diseases. Dr. Cohen's clinic is located in the city of Sunrise.



Dr. Peter J. Romano, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon, is located in the city of Plantation. Dr. Romano's main objective is helping children with scoliosis and all orthopedic needs as well as surgery.

Both clinics treat children who have no insurance or are underinsured. These services are provided to all families without any costs incurred by them. Patients do not have to be affiliated with the Elks.

**Happy Faces Whose Lives are
Being Improved and Enriched**



Clinic Contact Information

Dr. Lucy Cohen
Andrea M. Fernandez, Clinic Admin.
954-294-1344

Dr. Peter Romano
Eleanor Pastor, Clinic Admin.
954-427-7859

FSEA State Convention

February 26, 2016

Members:

I hope you are planning to attend the 110th Annual Convention of the Florida State Elks Association to be held at **Disney's Coronado Springs Resort**, 1000 W. Buena Vista Drive, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, 32830, May 26-29, 2016. Individual reservations are now being accepted through Disney online reservations found in the links below. A one-night deposit will be required for each room you are reserving. Rooms sleep a maximum of four people and the standard room rate for a double or single is \$124.00 plus 12.5% tax, or \$139.50 per night. Each additional adult will cost \$15.00 plus 12.5% tax, or \$16.88 per night. Our group rate for rooms may be used May 22nd through June 2nd subject to availability.

Reservations may also be phoned to (407) 939-4686.

Our meeting name is: **Florida Elks 2016**. You must use this to obtain our group rate.

An e-mail confirmation will be sent to you immediately if reservations are made online.

The cutoff date for reservations is April 27, 2016 or when sold out. Please do not wait as we WILL sell out before April 27, 2016!

For those needing to rent a scooter, you can contact the following Coronado service vendors:

- Best Price Scooters and Strollers: 866-866-3434
- Scooterbug: 800-726-8284
- Buena Vista Scooter Rentals: 866-484-4797

Below you will find the following:

- **The link to Disney's Online Reservations & Theme Park Ticket Sales Website**
- **The Preliminary Convention Agenda**
- **The link to Preregister for the Convention & Order Your Name Badge**
- **FLOE Luncheon and President's Banquet Ticket Purchase Info**
- **Resort Map - Disney's Coronado Springs Resort**

Please e-mail or call me if you have any questions or concerns about this year's State Convention. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Carl

Carl T. Seibert

State Secretary

carl@floridaelks.org

Future National Convention Sites

Year	Dates	Location
2016	July 3 - 6	Houston, TX
2017	July 16 - 19	Reno, NV
2018	July 1 - 4	San Antonio, TX
2019	June 30 - July 3	St Louis, MO
2020	July 5 - 8	Baltimore, MD
2021	July 4 - 7	Tampa, FL

District Committee Quarterly Reporting

Exalted Rulers,

Please remember to put on your lodge schedule a Committee Chairpersons meeting the first week of the month reporting is due. The goal of the district is to be 100 % in reporting. Thanks for your help.

To enter Lodge reports go to following site :

<http://fseanet.org/fseawebapps/LoginFSEA.aspx>

Note: you will need user name and password from the Lodge Secretary

4th quarter reporting completed by April 10. Please complete.



**Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.**

Tell members to leave the used Elks Magazine at doctor's, dentist's and business offices.