

“Newsletter” – 08/08/26

Did you know?

In 1931, Florida Elks leader and future Florida Governor, David Sholtz joined forces with Harry R.P. Miller to create a facility dedicated to provide free medical care for children with orthopedic disabilities. Harry and his wife Anna donated a three-story hotel and several orange groves in Umatilla, Florida to the Florida State Elks Association. This extraordinary gift became the foundation of the Harry Anna Home for Crippled Children, later known as the Florida Elks Children's Hospital. Their gift was more than a donation of property – it was a commitment to ensuring that Florida's children would have access to life changing care and opportunities regardless of a family's ability to pay. Recognizing the need for a permanent funding source to sustain the Florida Elk's Charitable mission, the Harry-Anna Trust Fund was established in 1951. The trust was created to collect charitable donations, receive endowed gifts, and built a permanent financial foundation for major projects. Eventually the original hospital closed, and the mission of the Trust evolved. Rather than funding a single facility, the Harry-Anna Trust Fund became the financial cornerstone of Elk's Charitable efforts. For many years thousands of children received free in-house occupational and physical therapy services, while countless others benefited from camp experience focused on leadership, confidence, and personal growth. To donate to this wonderful mission, please go to <https://floridaelks.org>.

August 22, 2026 our lodge will host a Hawaiian Luau to honor Southwest District Vice- President Matt Carter. Cocktail Hour & Hors d'oeuvres will begin at 5:30 pm followed by a Hawaiian pork dinner at 6:00 pm. We look forward to hearing from Matt on the topic of Harry-Anna Investment Fund which will begin at 7:00 pm.

Come dressed in your brightest and biggest floral print! RSVP deadline is August 16th. Call 941-722-6937 for reservations. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

The Rummage/Bakeless Bake Sale was a success! Bringing in over \$1,878.00 for the lodge! 38 tables were rented out and the rain didn't stop folks from coming out and buying stuff. It took a village to put this thing together so please let's give a big "thank you" to the following for all their time and talent! Diane (Dee) Gowarty setting up, pricing and cooking Saturday and Sunday. Theresa Wendel for organizing, setting up and pricing. Edie Gowarty-Fauland restacking chairs. Cheryl McConnell manning tables Saturday and Sunday. Trina Wayman for working at the food counter and donating her tips for two days! Marvin Fisher for making soup. Cody for moving tables. Pam for taking items that didn't sell to the thrift store. Thank you all members that baked goods for the bake sale, donated money, bought items, participated in anyway and thank you Heather Gowarty-Fauland our 50/50 winner for donating your winnings back to the lodge.

The "Back to School Bash" is scheduled for August 18th at 7:00 pm. It will take place at the Beacon Preparatory Academy located at 1501 7th Ave. East, Bradenton, FL 34208. WE NEED MONEY FOR SUPPLIES AND VOLUNTEERS! Our mascot Elroy (Kelly) will be at the event! "SAY NO TO DRUGS" is our theme. Elk volunteers are needed to pass out backpacks, stuffed animals, school supplies, drug awareness materials and love on some very deserving kids and parents/guardians. Signup sheets are available on the tables so sign up to help.

Thank you Leesia, Estrellita, Wanda and everyone that contributed money to the jar. A very special thank you to **Diane (Dee)** and **Ann** for donating **ALL 50 BACKPACKS!!!** You both are truly **AMAZING** and we **APPRECIATE** you very much! Please continue to donate money to the jar at the bar or mail in your donations to Palmetto Elks Lodge #2449, P. O. Box 272, Palmetto, FL 34221. If you cannot give of your time, give of your dime!!

August 11th @ 7:00 pm – Board meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend. This is a great time to learn what is currently going on at the lodge and discuss issues that are important to you.

August 18th @ 6:00 pm Veterans Support Group. Now serving a free meal for all veterans so please invite your veteran friends. New veterans also receive a "goody bag"! Any guest or member can also purchase a meal for \$10. It will be a time to gather, support each other, laugh, cry, enjoy each other and leave knowing you are loved and cared for.

I know it is still hot outside, but we are in need of kids and teenage sized coats for our coat drive coming up in the fall. Please think about those kids that are in need while you are out shopping. They need your help so please pick up a coat or two and help a kid stay warm this winter.

Thank you to Jackie and Victoria for continuing to donate items for the Country Store. And a special thank you to Patrick for continued support for the toiletry items for the Country Store at the Manatee River Assisted Living Facility.

Check your calendar, always posted on our Facebook page, for dates and times of your favorite meals, entertainers, games, and charity events. There is always something going on that you can participate in!