

**Coconut Telegraph**

September 2022  
Volume 16 Issue #194  
Prestige Publishing, Inc  
101425 Overseas Hwy.  
PMB #628  
Key Largo, FL 33037

**Deadline**

for the Coconut  
Telegraph's  
next issue is **Thursday,**  
**September 15, 2022**

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Map labels: HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA CITY, OCEAN REEF, KEY LARGO, TAVERNIER, ISLAMORADA, Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay.

**"You Might Have KEYS DISEASE"**

Buy a book and find out!

Book sales benefit the Musician's Relief Fund in the Upper Keys

**\$10**

This 32-page book was created in the spirit of poking fun at our life here in the Florida Keys. Here in the Keys, we enjoy the music of so many talented, world-class musicians. Even as our community enjoys the fruits of their labors, we know the musicians have little to spare and have no safety net for when disaster strikes and they cannot work.

Written by Sue Beal with a little help from her friends, it was illustrated by the late John McKinna, a syndicated cartoonist. Our musicians are the first to sign up to make a community fundraiser or benefit a success.

The book was published and made available for sale so that the proceeds could help local musicians and their families. Gilberts Resort funded the printing of the first edition, so all proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to help musicians in need.

**Books are on sale at:** BPOE Elks Lodge, Tavernier 92600 Overseas Hwy  
Or you can send a check to the Musicians Relief Fund, B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge PO Box 255, Tavernier, FL 33070-0255

**Musician's Relief Fund and The Keys Disease**

Several years ago I was talking with my friend Ray Eubanks and mentioned that I had a dream of starting a fund to help musicians that were not able to work due to health reasons, but I was concerned that there would be a mountain of red tape involved with starting a non-profit. At the time Eubanks was the Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge in Tavernier. He said it might be possible to do it through the Elks because they are a non-profit. He went on to discover that the Elks organization was started by a group of musicians for just that reason, to help others and each other. Now we just needed some money.

About that time I was itching to publish a book. Sue Beal had written several humorous articles for the Coconut Telegraph on the Key's Disease and I thought it would make a fun book if I could just find an illustrator. At that time my friend John McKinna was sharing his previously syndicated cartoons in the Coconut Telegraph. Among John's many talents including best selling

author and cartoonist, John was a musician and a hell of a nice guy. The 3 of us agreed to donate all the profits to start the Musician's Relief Fund. Next we needed to find the funding to get the book printed.

I was excited and told Rob LeBrun, the manager of Gilbert's Resort at the time, all about it. He asked me how much it would cost to order the books? I told him \$600. He left and came back with a check for the full amount courtesy of Gilberts. Sadly before the book was printed John McKinna passed away. His wife Teresa became our partner.

Now we had the books to sell at \$10 each but we needed to generate some more money in order to give more. We planned a book signing party at Gilberts and I solicited donations of items from local merchants for the silent auction. We have a very generous business community who always donate, so I was flabbergasted when I stopped in a Key Largo boutique and the owner refused to donate. She was rather unpleasant and said that the



Luke Sommer Glenn receives a check for \$1,000 presented by Terry Bouquenois, from the Elks Musician's Relief Fund.

The fund was started in 2016 by Denise Malefyt and Sue Beal from the Coconut Telegraph along with John McKinna, Ray Eubanks and Rob Lebrun. Teresa McKinna gets special thanks for her participation.



The book signing party at Gilberts.

musicians "should just get another job."

Needless to say I don't shop in her store.

Some musicians do have 2 jobs to support their families. When they feel sick or get injured they can't work either of them. Plus, when they are not at a gig several nights a week, they are practicing.

The Musician's Relief Fund has over the years helped many musicians and most recently was able to write a check for \$1,000 to an outstanding local musician, Luke Sommer Glenn, who is in

need of a heart operation. Before I had a chance to tell Ray Eubanks the news, he passed away at a hospital in Sebring with his wife Pat by his side.

Terry Bouquenois is the fund administrator at the Elks and he recently held a classic/antique car show to generate money. The "Keys Disease" books are still for sale at the Elks Lodge at MM 92.6 in Tavernier and if you'd like to make a donation you can send a check to the Musicians Relief Fund, B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge, PO Box 255, Tavernier, FL. 33070.

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