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General John J. Pershing, a member of El Paso Elks Lodge No. 187, remarked in an address to Elks on September 9, 1919, "We have felt not only the spirit of your patriotism, but we have felt the national benefit of your efforts to carry forward the principles for which America has stood in this war." He fully understood the importance that we, as Elks, place on the Hour of Eleven in remembering our deceased members and his signing the Armistice on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month brought added significance to the Hour of Eleven.

It's a shame that many veterans, despite a successful tour in the military, return home to find their war experiences make adjustment to civilian life so difficult. On any given night, 275,000 homeless veterans are sleeping on the streets in the United States. Our veterans need us, and I am very proud of the Colonie Elks for hosting, and the numerous other lodges and districts for their support of, the State Capital Annual Veterans' Stand-Down which benefits many homeless and needy veterans.

As most of you know, I have been a strong proponent of the Dictionary Project since I first learned about it in 2003 and introduced it to my lodge, Ticonderoga #1494. This project received strong support of school teachers, students and administrators.

In 2004, a sixth-grade student who learned about the Elks because of our Hoop Shoot, Americanism Essay Contest, Dictionary Project and Drug Awareness programs in her school wrote a letter to our lodge in which she described a very painful and frightening situation. She concluded her letter with a plea, *"I don't know who else to turn to. Elks are special people. Please help me."* We were able to help that child, as we have helped others so many times before.

Less than a year later we were asked if we could assist a five-year-old girl who had leukemia. The Ticonderoga Elks decided to dedicate the total proceeds from its annual golf tournament, which normally averaged close to \$1,000, to help this child. This beautiful little girl, who had lost her hair to chemotherapy, came to the lodge with her mom and dad to help serve the tournament banquet. The golfers fell in love with her and donated every cent of their winnings and much more to bring the total contribution to nearly \$5,000. The girl and her parents were elated with this display of caring and sharing. A few months later, these same Elks turned out at the funeral parlor to pay their last tribute to this precious child. As Elks we do everything possible to *aid those in distress and comfort those who mourn*. And I'm sure lodges throughout the entire nation have similar stories of caring and sharing.

With regard to our membership, the average age of our members is in the 60's, but thousands of our members are in their 70's, 80's and 90's. They joined many years ago because of the camaraderie; or because they enjoyed golfing in the Elks Golf league and golf tournaments, or bowling in the Elks Bowling league and tournaments with their colleagues. Today, however, these members are on fixed income and seldom leave their homes except to visit the doctor, or drug store, or to go to church. They no longer pay golf league dues because they can no longer play golf. They no longer pay bowling league fees because they can no longer bowl. So why should they continue to pay Elks dues when they can no longer go to the Elks Lodge? We can help them realize the importance of staying a member in a very significant way, through the Lodge Bulletin.

As State Secretary for the past ten years I have found that the vast majority of bulletins focus primarily on activities for those members who are able to frequent the Lodge.

Very few bulletins display a photo of a child, or a veteran, or a handicapped individual being assisted by our members. A photo speaks a thousand words and those members who cannot frequent the Lodge need to see the many good things their Lodge is doing.

*"Pride is Contagious!"* and a well-prepared lodge bulletin can help stimulate pride in being a member. Before mailing your lodge bulletin, ask yourself if anything in that publication would stimulate you to continue paying dues if you were no longer able to frequent the Lodge.

We all joined the Elks for various reasons, but once we came to know what Elkdom was all about, each of us has remained an Elk because we want to make a positive difference in the lives of others less fortunate. We can do just so much as individuals, but by working together we are able to pool our resources and accomplish so much more. It's important that we make every member aware that in the eyes of many children and adults with disabilities, ...in the eyes of our nation's veterans, ...and in the eyes of victims of disaster, ... *"Elks Are Indeed Special People."*

I have always believed that Elkdom is in the hearts and souls of our members, not in the wallet. This is the reason for my motto, "Elks Give from the Heart". Therefore, I ask each of you to continue to share your time, talent, ideas, and contributions no matter how large or small.

I again thank each and every one of you for your support and confidence, and I especially thank Penny for being there for me every step of the way.



We are looking forward to seeing you and visiting your lodges throughout the state this coming year and continuing the goals of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

God bless you, God bless our troops and veterans, and God bless America!!!

David R. Carr

BELL JAR INFORMATION

Apparently, during our recent State Convention at Rye Brook, erroneous information was forthcoming in the Business Practices workshop concerning the pending legislation regarding the placement of a special New York State identification legend to be placed on Bell Jar tickets.

It was implied that this legend was to be a tax and that it would possibly result in the profits from the sale of these tickets most likely being substantially reduced.

Both the Government Relations Committee and CONPOR would like to provide you with accurate information concerning this legend. The purpose of this legend is one of IDENTIFICATION only. It is intended to easily identify for you all Bell Jar tickets that may be legally sold and played in New York State.

When purchasing tickets for play within your lodge, how do you know they are legal? Do you simply take the supplier's word that they are legal? We all know that illegal deals are available from some sources. Do you go online and check them out on the Racing and Wagering Board's website? Since there are currently in excess of 86,000 legal bell jar deals authorized for sale within the State and with approximately some 8,000-plus being added annually, it is nearly impossible for each of our lodges to know a legal deal from an illegal deal. This identification legend will provide you with a way to determine that the deals are legal for you to use.

Will this increase the cost of your deals? Yes, most likely. However according to information provided by the ticket manufacturers, their cost is less than a percentage of 1¢ per ticket. That means any increase should be minimal.

This type identification legend is currently required in several states in the U.S. and Canadian Provinces.

REMINDER

Most of our lodges have a special club liquor license that allows them to provide beverages to members and guests only. It is important that that status not be jeopardized. It is vital that we restrict the use of our facilities to member-sponsored activities only. It is suggested that no activities be conducted that could jeopardize that license. Just think, if you lose your license, what a disastrous effect it would have on your operations.



Pictured above from left to right Jeff Nowc, Stella Kolysko, Robin Nowc, Margie Scott, Sandra Hurlburt, Margie Hurlburt, Nancy Horner, Dick Nadeau. Workers Not available for Photo: Ray Scott, Lisa Boyle, Fred Horner, Dona Croto, Jack Croto and Peggy Lamb.

Dave Carr's committee would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all the Lodges of the North District who worked so tirelessly to make such a memorable time for Dave and Penny. We all gave from the heart!!

I would like to thank all the Elks who have been so considerate in saving stamp clippings for my Stamps for Kids project. I had so many envelopes when I reached home, I weighed them and had ten pounds! I couldn't begin to remember who gave me all of them. It is an ongoing project.

Thanks  
Dick Moore, PSP, PGELK



**Bath #1547** – While making a routine inspection on a rural road, two highway employees noticed flames in the front window of a home. They immediately called 911, then ran to alert the residents. PER Wayne Crans and Fred Finch of Bath Lodge rescued a mother and her four children. Each man carried two children to safety. The home was totally engulfed in flames in just a few minutes. They were honored by both the Bath Town Board and Bath Volunteer Fire Department. Bath Lodge also aided the family through their Community Welfare Fund. PER Crans and Finch were also presented with plaques at the Lodge's PER meeting. The inscription read: "For performing an heroic action that saved a family from losing life and limb. Strong of Limb, Fleet of Foot, and Quick and Keen of Perception, thus conforming to the Golden Rule." Photo above : L to R, PDDGER Robert Wheeler, PER Wayne Crans, Fred Finch, DDGER William Hamilton, ER Timothy Muller.