

20th. Anniversary Albany Elks #49 Youth in Government

Each year Albany Lodge #49 takes the time to reach out to the youth of the community to teach them how to be more productive and successful citizens. On May 18 our lodge sponsored its Youth in Government Day for its 20th year in a row. On that day, 22 young men and women from 3 local high schools sat in on the Albany Common Council session in Albany's City Hall to see how their local government works. Each student was sworn in as an "Honorary Alderperson and conducted the business of the Albany Common Council with the assistance of Albany's elected Alderpersons and Council President. They learned how the Council works and how to take the proper steps to affect positive change in their government. That evening after the learning process was completed they returned to the lodge for dinner. They were joined by their families and lodge members who congratulated them for their participation. The students were given a talk on the value of community service and participation in civic affairs by ER Lawrence Currier and Government Relations Chair John T. Evers, PER. The students were invited to discuss their views and how participation in the event will shape their future plans for college, work, and community participation. Over 100 students, family members, Elks, and elected officials participated in the event.



Ballston Spa Lodge #2619 presented graduating seniors of the class of 2009 with scholarships during Awards Night on May 7th at the Ballston Spa High School. Two students were recipients of the Elks Memorial Award in memory of ER Elect Jack Prock, \$100.00 each, based on academic excellence and community involvement. Also, two students were recipients of the PBOE Ballston Spa Lodge No. 2619 award, \$500.00 each, based on community service and concern for their fellow students. Photo: From left; Louis J. Gnip, PDDGER & Lodge Scholarship Chairman, Julianne Allen & Sam Kephart (Jack Prock Memorial Award); Will Bush & Emma DeCotis (BPOE 2619 Award); and Joseph Shaver, Exalted Ruler of Ballston Spa Elks Lodge.



Members of the **Liverpool Lodge #2348 Antlers** and **Potsdam Lodge #2074 Youth Group** combined efforts to combat cancer by participating in the "Relay for Life" cancer awareness fundraising event in Massena, N.Y. Youth members walked and were active in special events held throughout the evening. The youths are

pictured with NYSEA Youth Chair Tim Welppe, PER Mary Charleston, and youth advisors PER Allen Mitts, Marc Halko and Laura Richards of Liverpool Lodge and Mike Neaton and Mary Evans-Welppe of Potsdam Lodge.



Lowville Lodge #1605 hosted their 26th annual father / daughter banquet. Chairman Dave Cole, who has chaired all 26 events, did a fantastic job with 341 people attending. USA Olympic rowing athlete Jennifer Kaido, a Lewis County native was the guest speaker. Nearly \$4000.00 in door prizes were handed out to all daughters that attended that evening. Ms. Kaido is pictured with PER Don Rockwood, DD elect Ron



Rockwood, Hanna Rockwood and Abbey Rockwood.

Massena Lodge #1702 held an annual Student of the Month Banquet. Twenty Nine students from JW Leary Jr. High, Grades 7 and 8, and their families attended. The students were selected throughout the 2008-2009 school year and each student was awarded a certificate of achievement at the banquet. This year's quest speaker was Massena Village Justice, Eric Gustufson. The students are pictured in front of the Lodge sign following the ceremony.

Oswego Lodge # 271 - at there 2nd annual youth bowling tournament, held at the Lighthouse Lanes in Oswego. More than 55 children participated. The ages were from 7 years old up to 17 years old. All the kids enjoyed pizza and soda after they bowled. The first place winners received trophies and the second and third place winners received medals.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 recognized sixty-three area high school seniors for their achievements in academics, art, scouting, music, sports and citizenship during an annual Youth Recognition Day ceremony. The Lodges 2009 Youth Citizenship Award was presented to Francesca Centofanti, from

Potsdam Central School. This award is given to a student in recognition of their volunteerism and exemplary quality of leadership and citizenship within their school and community. She is pictured receiving the award from Exalted Ruler Wayne Boak and NYSEA Chair Tim Welppe.

Smithtown Lodge #2036 - Three students were honored at Smithtown Lodge with \$1000 each in Scholarships. Scholarship Chairman Charles Ruggeri presented the Joseph Eltman and John Hablitz awards to Laura Beatrice and Kimberly Cosentino. In addition, Alyssa Ridley was awarded her scholarship by the New York State Elks. Laura and Alyssa will be majoring in Mathematics. Laura will be attending the College of St. Jospheh and Alyssa will be attending Tufts University. Kimberly is majoring in Biochemistry at Villanova.

Watervliet Lodge #1500 - Bowling Team has taken first place in the State Team Tournament. The event was held in Syracuse NY in early May, 2009. The team, named "Ralph's Angels" consisted of junior bowlers Matthew Shufelt Jr., team captain Kenneth Keefer Jr., Catlyn Heacox and Angela Keefer. Coach Ralph Irvine has 37 years of coaching experience and was named as the NYS_USBC Coach of the Year. Ralph is also the grandfather of Angela and Kenneth Keefer.

Colonie Lodge #2192 is proud to introduce it's selections for the lodges Student of the Year Award. Colin Mooney , a student at Colonie Central High School and Erin Burke, a student at Shaker High School are these years' recipients. Colin has placed in the top 1% of his class with a GPA of 98%. He is a member of the National Honor Society, and has been active in basketball, baseball and cross country programs during his school years. In addition, he is involved in his churches Youth Ministry program and in the Town of Colonies' Youth Court. Colin's goal is to become a medical doctor and will attend Notre Dame after graduation. Erin is a member of the National Honor Society and is active in the sport of field hockey. She is also the Capitan of the Suburban Council All Star field hockey team. She has participated in student government programs and is the class secretary. She will attend Harvard College. The lodge presented a \$ 100 I Bond to each winner. In addition, proclamation front the Town of Colonie, the NYS Assembly and NYS Senate were read at the ceremony.



Oswego Lodge #271 - Mayor Randy Bateman presented Oswego

Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler James Burnell with a proclamation stating that the first week in May is proclaimed as Elks Youth Week. The Oswego Elks held a luncheon with the Mayor and the members of the Common Council and students from Oswego High School on May 11th. On May 14th the Oswego Elks held a luncheon with the Oswego County Legislators and students from the 7th and 8th grades from the Oswego Middle School. Pictured is Oswego Elks Exalted Ruler James Burnell and Mayor Randy Bateman with Oswego Elks Youth Chairman Lolly Malone.