



**Official Publication of the New York State Elks Association & The New York Elks Major Projects Corporation**



**Phillip Holowacz  
State President's Message**

The beautiful city of Phoenix, Arizona hosted the 147<sup>th</sup> Grand Lodge Convention on July 17-21, 2011. Phoenix, the Sun City, lived up to its name in more ways than one. As far as Sun City, the temperature was rarely below 100 degrees. As for the mythical bird for which Phoenix is named, which symbolizes renewal and rebirth, the convention earned this moniker as well. Change, with all the opportunities it brings, along with membership and member retention were the focus.

Officers are no longer required to memorize their parts. District Deputies are no longer required to grade the performance of Lodge Officers in the exemplification of the Ritual of initiation. We no longer require a December or January DD clinic. We are no longer subordinate Lodges, we are local Lodges. These are just a few of the 36 resolutions which were proposed and that passed. They were contested, debated, and discussed by the voting members in attendance. I know across the great Empire State we probably won't agree on all the changes, I have already heard the opinions from many of you across the State. Again, I ask you to agree to disagree. Past changes have allowed us to prosper, grow, and flourish. All change comes with a bit of melancholy for what we have left behind, but it was for the good of the Order that these changes were made. To quote Pauline R. Kezer, "Continuity gives us roots, change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights." Let's reach new heights in membership and retention. Let us remain unified.

The beautifully designed NYS pin for the National Convention reminds us that this is the tenth anniversary of 9-11. Ten years ago this September, Americans witnessed chaos, turmoil and destruction unlike anything we have ever seen on American soil. Men, women and children lost their lives simply because they live in America. They were victims of envy, jealousy, and

hatred that ideals like liberty and freedom can evoke. It was the day three weary, attired, tired New York City firemen hoisted our flag to let the world know, friends and foes, that we were not beaten, and that freedom, hope and American determination would prevail. Remembrance, renewal and resilience are lessons all Americans and Elks can learn from that fateful day. This 9-11 will fall on a Sunday. Many lodges have planned activities around our Veterans, Americanism, or service personnel. What a great way to catch the attention of our communities and support the men and women who oversee our safety. Let this day serve as a reminder that freedom isn't free.

The great state of New York was in attendance and well represented out west, as we proudly watched the swearing-in of the Orders new GER, David Carr. Dave is PER, Ticonderoga Lodge 1494, Past State President 2009-2010 and he introduced the Dictionary Project to the NYSEA in 2003. Dave's message, Elks Give from the Heart was evidenced this past year with an all time high in ENF donations. Our donations supported MVP scholars, hoop shoot champs, and the Drug Awareness program. Several young recipients were on hand to thank the Elks for these life changing opportunities. A keynote speaker was 15 year old Maren McNees, who has pledged to do a good deed a day. The gratitude, enthusiasm, and commitment of these youngsters definitely made the heart of Elkdom swell and throb. **Your continued support of ENF makes dreams come true, and Keeps the Unity in Community. Keep up the good work!**

Membership is a concern nationwide. Please review the new zero delinquents brochure. People joined the Elks for a reason, let's remind them! Plan meaningful activities that put our ideals into action and your lodge at the forefront of your community. Consider that families today have less time together than ever before. Parent's have longer commutes, most households require two parent's incomes, or many are single parents. To move forward and have greater appeal to young families, consider events which allow for family participation. Many middle school and high school students require volunteer hours for college applications. Why not have a highway clean up day, a community park playground raking, or fundraising barbeque where families can volunteer. Lodge by Lodge, brother Elk by brother Elk, **we do keep the Unity in our Communities, let's make sure they know it.**

Elks keep the unity in community. This month I've had the honor to celebrate 100 years of Elkdom with 2 New York State Lodges. What a tremendous accomplishment this is. Congratulations to Norwich and Newark for 100 years of serving their respective communities. Elkdom is alive and well across the state and the nation. Sue and I witnessed this on every Lodge visit and as we drove cross country, visited Lodges, met fellow Elks, and attended the convention. Keep

doing all the good works you do and make sure you tell people about it.

Thank you, God Bless you all, God Bless the US and God Bless our troops.

A Message from PSP Jamie Peace, NY Elks Major Projects, Inc. Board Chairman.



I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable summer season! As fall is coming, so is all of the hard work that the lodges and members are about to undertake to make our Major Projects such a great success. All of our programs depend on all

of you. You, the members help to make life a little better for our veterans, help our youth exceed through all of the youth-related programs (Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, and writing essays for our Americanism committees). Through our Drug Awareness Program, you are instrumental in making our communities and members more aware of the growing problems that face our young people. You also help those with disabilities to try to have a better life through our Major Project, the Home Service Program.

You may have noticed that our Major Project booth was missing from the National Convention in Phoenix. Just a couple of weeks before the Convention, our State Chairman Lou Withiam was notified by his physicians that he had to have a total left hip replacement; his doctors advised against travelling to Phoenix. Lou underwent the hip replacement surgery on July 21<sup>st</sup> and everything went well. Lou is "gearing up" for the Fall Conference and all of the scheduled activities for Major Projects.

The Major Project Corporation is proud to present wildlife artist Brian Buckley. Brian has painted "The Calling". This art work is the first of its kind for our Major Projects and all of the proceeds will go directly to our Major Project fund. The prints are signed and numbered and would make a wonderful addition to any Elks' collection. The print size is 20" x 30", and will be on sale at our Fall Conference in Albany.

Thank you all for all of your work in the past and we look forward to having a great 2011 – 2012.



**The North Central District**

Lodges sponsored various events to assist then endorsed Grand Exalted Ruler candidate David Carr during his fundraising campaign. PSP Tim Kelly, along with a contingent of members from the North Central District, are pictured presenting David Carr and his wife Penny a donation of \$4000. Lodges representing the North Central District Lodges are: Watertown #496, Potsdam #2074, Ogdensburg #772, Massena #1702, Carthage #1762, Malone #1303, Gouverneur #2035, and Lowville #1605.