



Watervliet Lodge # 1500 - Mikayla Humphrey a 6th grader from Watervliet Elementary school won 1st place in the Americanism essay contest in Feb, then she won 1st place for the NYS Elks Ass. SCD-Division 1 2010-2011 Americanism essay contest "Why I am proud to be an American" Pictured above L to R in photo is Todd Giagni [assistant principal], Mikayla Humphrey, & [ER] Pat Moran.



Donny "Elvis" Romines performed at the **Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161** August 12, 2011 for the Region 2 Chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America. Proceeds from this event help finance Freedom Boxes to troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. After the performance Donny "Elvis" Romines presented the Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge, on behalf of the Blue Star Mothers, with the Patriot Award 2011, accepted by Officer Steven Green in the photograph. The Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge wish to extend our deepest thanks to the Blue Star Mothers of America for this Award and look forward to working with the organization in the future to help support our troops serving overseas.

Massena Lodge #1702 closed out the summer by sponsoring a Fresh Air Kids and a Veteran's picnic. The Lodge hosted local families and their guests from inner cities of NY State to a lunch, outdoor games and entertainment by Cubby T Clown. The Lodge also sponsored a picnic for Veterans residing in a local nursing home. The veterans were treated to an old fashion picnic of hamburgers, hot dogs, corn on the cob & fresh blue berries and watermelon. .

Survey of Volunteer Veterans Service Programs for the Fraternal Year – April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011

Compiled by the Office of the Grand Secretary

Participants in Programs: 1,075,856

Elks Who Worked 166,948
 Helpers Who Worked 72,999
 Combined Total 239,947

Hours Donated:
 Elks 887,102
 Helpers 535,273
 Total Combined Hours 1,422,375

Cash Value of Donated Hours*
 \$ 30,381,930.00

Miles Traveled:
 Elks 3,240,841
 Helpers 2,456,382
 Total Combined Miles 5,697,223

Cash Value of Miles traveled:
 \$ 2,848,612.00

Contributions:
 Cash \$ 3,873,540.00
 Non-Cash 6,274,839.00
 Hours Worked 30,381,930.00
 Miles Traveled ** 2,848,612.00

Total Contributions \$ 43,378,921.00

- The Federal Government has determined that the cost of work done by charitable organizations like the Elks would average out to \$ 21.36 per hour if performed by social care and government agencies.
- ** Mileage computed at \$.50 per mile

ELKS AND THE USO JOINING FORCES

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission is 'Joining Forces' with the USO to provide support for service members and their families. We see this partnership as an extension of our own 'Army of Hope'. The resources, programs, and contacts of the USO Will provide new avenues of approach to assist members of our armed forces and their families.

The USO today is 'not your father's USO'. While the USO still sponsors live entertainment like the famous Bob Hope tours, today it reaches troops in a number of new and meaningful ways. Operation Phone Home, United Through Reading, Sesame Street, and mobile entertainment systems are just a few.

At the Grand Lodge Convention in Phoenix, the Elks launched this partnership by presenting the USO a with a check for \$25,000.00, which was used to purchase, ship, and deliver a USO 2 GO kit to troops stationed at Forward Operating Base Shinwar, on the Pakistan/Afghan border. The USO 2 GO kit contains everything found at a USO base: video consoles, televisions, recreational equipment, books, games, and communications equipment to allow the troops to connect to home. A Video of the troops receiving the USO 2 GO can be viewed at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K59sKLP4C5g&feature=channel> video title



Cobleskill Lodge #2040 – ER Linda Angell receives from Boy Scout Steven Olivera a case to deposit U.S. Flags to be retired. The cases are built by Steven as part of his Eagle Scout Project. Each of the Seven Lodges in the State Capital District received one of these cases. Pictured above Dist. Americanism Chairman and Steven's father, PER Mel Olivera, Steven and ER Linda Angell.



Yorktown Lodge #2324 – ER Elizabeth Gentile, and Youth Chair Nick

Capoccia presented Eagle Scout Certificate to Alexander Santini of Troop 911. The Troop is sponsored by the Lodge. The ceremony was held at the Lodge on May 15th with over 100 people in attendance that included many dignitaries that had presentations. Alexander's project included a path way along the local lake between a dam and a beach. He also built a retaining wall to hold soil and avoid erosion.

The Lodge also hosted the Dare Graduation Celebration for 140 graduates and treated them to pizza, soda and water. The DJ Ron Blanco sang and danced with the group for 3 hours. Drug Awareness literature was handed out and each child received an American Flag.



Esperance Lodge # 2509 assisted the Schoharie Little League in a recent fundraiser. The Lodge provided its portable grills to the ballpark, manne the grills and cooked 250 chicken halves to help raise money. Pictured above l to r; Don Schoeffler, PER Steve Miller, Ed Bender, Tony Slater, PSVP George Diamond and event chair George Diamond, Jr.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the USA has joined forces with Donate Life America to increase donations of organs, eyes and life-saving tissue.

The Grand Lodge, Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee is asking Elks Lodges nationwide to promote the Organ Donor Program in their Lodge Bulletins and Lodge Web sites to help inspire members and citizens in their communities to make these life-saving donations.

The need is paramount. More than 110,000 patients were waiting for organ transplants as of March 2011, according to the Donate life America Web site, www.donatelife.net. Only 28,663 organ transplants had been performed in 2010, and even fewer - 14,502 - organ donations had been made in that year.

We Elks Members can help close the gap! The effort of Lodges to promote the program through their Bulletins and Web site can gain them five points in their quests to be named an All American Lodge. More incentives will be announced in coming years as the program takes shape throughout Elkdom.

This is a great way to show that "Elks Give from the Heart."

SCORING GUIDELINES FOR NYSEA BULLETIN CONTEST

Three consecutive issues of the bulletin and a letter certifying lodge membership numbers as of April 1, 2012, must be submitted to: Charles Sullivan, Chairperson, NYSEA Public Relations, 21 Shull Street, Elms NY 11512-1418 prior to February 15, 2012. Judging will occur in all six Grand Lodge Divisions. Only Lodges with a score of 150 points or more will be eligible for awards. Winning entries will be announced at the Spring Convention. Entries in this contest **DIGS NOT ENTER YOUR LODGE IN THE G.L. BULLETIN CONTEST**; submit that entry directly to Grand Lodge. The criteria for judging are listed below. If you have questions, please call me at 315-894-2805 or send an e-mail to CharlesS1370@gmail.com. I will respond as quickly as possible.

Lodge Name	Number	Division
A) Required Items	When judging, circle most appropriate number 1-10 (1 = poor; 10 = outstanding)	
Distinctive and Appealing Masthead	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Easy to Read Text	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Inclusion of American Flag	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Exalted Ruler's Message	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Major Program Article	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Elks National Foundation Article	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Statistics and Diagrams	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Articles Inspiring Community / Charity Involvement	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Membership Announcements	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Calendar of Events	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
B) Optional Articles (all included will be awarded)		
Flag Day	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Memorial Day	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Memorial Service	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Veterans Day/Veteran's Programs	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Scholarship	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Hoop Shoot	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Drug Awareness	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Youth Activities (Includes Dictionary Project)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Advice a Veteran	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Recent Shoot	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Other (specify on next included sheet)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Quality and Use of Pictures and Sketches	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Grand Lodge and State Association Articles	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Station Name	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Editor's Notes and Comments	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Input from lodge officers other than the ER & Secretary	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Committee Articles	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Elks Mission Statement	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Input from Members	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	

(A) Total Points (Add all circled numbers from section "A")