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The Empire State Elk is published quarterly (bi-annually on newsprint and bi-annually in electronic format) and financed by the New York State Elks Association and the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc. and circulated to all members of New York State Elks Lodges to promote our program goals and objectives by reporting on lodge, state and national programs developed to enhance patriotism and give assistance to our veterans, the

handicapped, youth, elderly, victims of disasters and others in need.

This publication will take no partisan stands or furnish space for political, sectarian or personal prejudice.

Photographs accompanying articles may be rejected for poor quality, poor contrast, etc. and will not be returned. Photos of or references to alcohol use, gambling and non-Elk activities are not acceptable. **Photos printed on personal computer printers are not suitable for newsprint reproduction.** Photos sent in PDF format to texelk1@hotmail.com and your District Editor are acceptable.

Members who do not receive the *Empire State Elk* should contact their lodge secretary.

ADDRESS CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS should first be sent to your **SUBORDINATE LODGE SECRETARY**, who should correct the Lodge records and then inform the Grand Lodge of the change. The Editor of the Empire State Elk publication has no authority to make changes to the mailing list.

NY ELKS MAJOR PROJECT

Our Major Project Home Service is strictly a New York State Elks Association Program which consists of 27 Home Service Directors and the vans that the directors use to provide individualized services to disabled people and their families. We began to support this program in 1966 and annually contribute about \$500,000 for salaries and vans.

Funding for our State Major Project comes from individual donations, Lodge donations, the Elks National Foundation, and from various other groups such as Ladies' Auxiliaries and PER Associations. We have a goal this year of \$8.00 per member.

Our State Chairman is Louis Withiam, of Ithaca Lodge #636. Our State Major Project is administered by the **NY Elks Major Projects, Inc.**, a 501(c)(3) corporation, and contributions are tax exempt. The Corporation also supervises funding provided by the **Elks National Foundation** for

- Educational purposes in the form of scholarships.
- Charitable activities and programs including, but not limited to, Americanism, Community Projects, Veterans, Hoop Shoot, Other Youth Programs, Drug Awareness, Scouting and Disaster Relief as may be recommended and approved by the Board of Directors.

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Elks National Home



Historical Elks Home Facts

The Grand Lodge purchased the Hotel Bedford at a public sale on June 16, 1902.

The Home was dedicated May 21, 1903 by Grand Exalted Ruler George P. Cronk.

The new Home was dedicated July 8, 1916 by Warren G. Harding, US Senator at that time. Warren G. Harding went on to become this Nation's 29th President (March 4, 1921 to August 2, 1923).

The Elks Rest Cemetery in the City of Bedford was in use from 1903 to 1980.

The cemetery on the Home's grounds was dedicated May 11, 1980. It covers 3 acres, will accommodate 1428 graves and has 100 spaces in the cremation garden.

The Fred Harper Memorial theater was dedicated Sunday afternoon, May 22, 1938. The building was the gift of Past Grand Esteemed Leading Knight, Dr. Robert South Barrett, PER of Alexandria, VA Lodge No. 758.

The bronze Elk in front of the home was a gift from John Schmitt of New York Lodge No. 1. It was placed into its current position December 9, 1937. The Elk is from the studios of the Gorham Manufacturing Co. from Providence, RI. The Elk weighs 1950 lbs. and its base, made of Georgia Granite, weighs about two tons.