



Empire State Elk

State Presidents Message

“Elks Give from the Heart”



How could one year have passed so quickly? Penny and I want to thank all of the outstanding Lodge members and officers, State Vice Presidents, District Deputies and Past State Presidents for the terrific hospitality we received during each and every visit to the lodges in the New York

State Elks Association. What an exceptional experience it has been for us to see first-hand all of Elkdom's programs in action throughout our great Empire State. It has been indeed a wonderful opportunity.

We not only visited several Veterans' facilities where we met with many veterans and Elks volunteers who dedicate countless hours each year working with our veterans, but also we visited several CP Associations of New York State facilities. We were very impressed to see the many ways the Home Service Directors and other facility employees reach out into the surrounding communities to assist hundreds of adults and children with various disabilities.

In addition, we visited several schools and participated in the distribution of dictionaries to third-grade students and listened to those outstanding students thank the Elks for giving them such a valuable educational tool. It is truly heart-warming to know that this particular program is such a huge success not only in our state, but also nation-wide.

Some of the highlights of our visitations included participating at several lodges in the presentations of awards to community police, fire and emergency service personnel. We also met many youngsters who were very proud of their participation in the Lodge, District and State youth programs which included Hoop and Soccer Shoots and Golf. I also had the honor of making the official presentation of the Grand Lodge Medal of Valor to the family of a young soldier who lost his life in Afghanistan.

At each of our lodge and district visits, I was met by officers and members eager to learn more about Elkdom and its benevolent programs.

I proudly answered their questions as to how their Major Projects and Elks National Foundation funds are benefiting our programs in New York State. These brothers and sisters appeared more determined than ever to meet and exceed our per capita goals. Knowing my motto, “Elks Give from the Heart”, numerous lodges and districts contributed on my behalf to ENF and Major Projects, and I thank them for this outstanding support.

At every visitation, I continue to stress the importance of public education. As long as we provide information that will stimulate and enhance member and public confidence in our purposes and programs, we will experience greater program support in addition to an increase in membership. I also distributed several informative placemat samples for lodges to consider using for breakfasts, lunches and dinners served at the lodge. Such placemats help to educate the public with regard to the many programs our lodges promote.

In addition, I discussed the fact that the Lodge bulletin is the primary communication link between the lodge and its members. Pride is contagious, and too many members do not know what their lodges are doing for children and adults with disabilities, our veterans or victims of disaster because the lodge bulletins contain only ads and data that benefit the members who frequent the lodge. I wish to stress to all lodge officers the importance of making sure their lodge bulletins contain photos and information that will stimulate pride in those members who can't frequent the lodge.

To Penny and me, all of the Elks we have met during our visitations are like family. We all share common interests and goals, and contribute our time, talents and skills in an overall effort to ensure the success of our many programs. Penny and I are very proud of you and thank you for joining us in making a difference in the lives of thousands of citizens in the Empire State and America and continuing to exemplify, “Elks Care and Elks Share” because “Elks Give from the Heart”.

God bless you, God Bless the men and women serving in our military and God bless America!

Fraternally,
David R. Carr, President

Elks Care

Elks Share