

Elks National American Essay Contest
The American Dream, What Is It?



Pictured left to right: Picture #1

Back Row: Larry Rinaldi (Lodge Sponsor, PDDGER), Larry Gandron, Lodge #1403 Americanism Chair; Dave Bahan, PDDGER; Samantha Allen (8th grade teacher Mechanicville School); Kevin Duffy, (Mechanicville Middle School Principal); Milo Jose, Exalted Ruler; Alan Sunukjian, State District Americanism Chair, Cohoes-Waterford #1317; Mike Lasek, PER; William Grozzo, Lodge member.

Front Row: Brianna Denier, Allison Carola, Kassadee Paulo, Daniel Huehn, Alley Willard, Ethan Jaynes, Megan Woodcock, Jordan Craft, Emma Cohen, Adam Bink, Valerie Darwak, Alexander Evans, Taylor Moore, Alexander Dantz. Jami Frosell, Patti Morris (Stillwater Middle School Principal); Vicki Brown, NorthEast District Deputy, Ballston Spa Lodge #2619; Brian Gustas, State Vice President, Amsterdam Lodge #101.



Pictured left to right: Picture #2

Left to right; back row Larry Rinaldi, Lodge Sponsor PDDGER, Larry Gandron, Americanism Chair, Mechanicville-Stillwater Lodge 1403, Alan Sunukjian, State District Americanism Chair, Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317; Vicki Brown, NorthEast District Deputy, Ballston Spa Lodge #2619; Brian Gustas, State Vice President, Amsterdam Lodge #101. Center: Allison Carola, one of the three top winners at Lodge level to advance to the District level.

On Thursday, March 4, 2010, the Mechanicville-Stillwater Elks Lodge #1403, hosted a dinner for 7th and 8th grade students and their families from the Stillwater and Mechanicville Middle Schools, who participated in “The American Dream, What Is It” essay contest. The topic of the essays ranged from the foundations set forth by our forefathers, to the sacrifices of our soldiers to the advantages that America can offer them. The top three essays written by Allison Carola, (Mechanicville-Grade 8), Andrew Travis (Stillwater-Grade 7) and Michelle Mitchell (Stillwater-Grade 7) advanced to the District level. “The American Dream, What Is It” Essay contest was chaired by Larry Gandron, Esteemed Lecturing Knight.