

Youth Activities

In December, **Glens Falls Lodge #81** had a Christmas Party for foster children. Mrs Claus greeted approximately forty-eight children. Everyone was served ice cream, pizza, soda, and a piece of the delicious Christmas cake! When Santa arrived, he read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to them. Afterwards, Santa called each child up to him by name and gave everyone a Christmas gift as Mrs. Claus distributed candy canes. Thanks to many volunteers, it was a wonderful party. The children were grateful for the presents and enjoyed the visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus!

On April 21st the **Albany Lodge #49** Youth Activities Committee presented its 2nd Annual NYSSMA (see below) Celebration of Albany's Young Musicians. 32 students from Albany's 12 elementary and 3 middle schools participated in 14 presentations. Certificates were presented to all of the students and refreshments were served at the end of the ceremony. About 200 parents, friends and Lodge members were in attendance. The Lodge officers, dressed in tuxedos, were led into the ceremony by a piper. Bill Andrews, Loyal Knight and Connie McNally were chairpersons.

NYSSMA – The New York State School Music Association is a professional organization that evaluates student musicians in NY State from elementary to high school. At each festival students perform scales, a solo or ensemble piece of their choice from the designated NYSSMA repertoire, as well as sight reading. The judges score and comment on the students' performances according to defined guidelines set by NYSSMA. The grade sheets are then certified and sent to the music departments at the individual schools to be distributed to the students.



Lowville Lodge #1605 distributed dictionaries to third grade students in the Lowville school district. Lowville Exalted Ruler Joe Boshart and Past Exalted Ruler Don Rockwood are pictured with two students from Lowville Academy that received dictionaries. Also pictured is school Principal Cheryl Steckly.



Hudson Lodge #787 donated 370 Dictionaries and Thesauruses to the 3rd and 5th grade classes in the Germantown, NY and Hudson, NY school districts. Pictured here is Exalted Ruler Deb Minners with half of the third and fifth grade classes of Germantown Central school.



Islip Lodge #2533- Islip Lodge participated in its' 5th. Annual Dictionary Project, distributing over 300 dictionaries to 4 elementary schools in the local area. Pictured are Drug Awareness Chairman Norman Newkirk, PER and Youth Chairman Bruce Trezise, PSVP, presenting dictionaries to 3rd. grade students at Commack Road Elementary School in Islip. Students prepared a big "thank you" display prior to their arrival.

Watertown Lodge #496 is the proud recipient of the William Putnam Award. Exalted Ruler Scott LaVere is pictured accepting a plaque from Walt Putnam and Bill Schell for the Elks continual support of the Willie Putnam Memorial Baseball Tournament. The Lodge has sponsored the Memorial Tournament for the past 27 years. Thousands of children, ages 10-12, have participated in the Willie Putnam Tournament. Teams from as far away as Quebec and New Hampshire have participated.