



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

Americanism and Veterans



Southampton Lodge #1574- Southampton Lodge donated a spectacular \$15,000 check to the Disabled Veterans from the Northport Veterans Hospital. This sum represents monies raised at their recent Annual Golf Outing and all proceeds have been given to purchase a van to be used to transport Veterans to medical appointments and facilities. The event was chaired by members Artie Orlowski and Peter Magnuson, who is also a volunteer and East End driver for the hospital. Pictured (L-R) is E.R. Tom Daily, Golf Outing Co-Chair Peter Magnuson, Dennis Krulber, NYS Chairman of DAV Transportation, Golf Outing Co-Chairman Artie Orlowski and Member Skip Heaney, Major Supplier of auction prizes. The check was presented to Dennis Krulber with both

When a **Poughkeepsie Elk's # 275** member realized a two or three year accumulation of softballs and baseballs he had collected was too much for him to clean to be sent to the soldiers in Afghanistan, he turned to Boy Scout troop 275 Scoutmaster Ron Edick for help. The scout leaders, scouts, and their families were eager to assist because this equipment will be distributed by the soldiers to the local children in that country. The scouts used their meeting nights to scrub and clean over 400 softballs and baseballs for this project. If anyone has any softball or baseball equipment they would like to donate, call Ron Edick, 845-452-9490 or Gerry Sprague 845-452-7224.



Middletown, NY Lodge #1097 with twenty members visited Castle Point Veterans Hospital in November and gave out sixty goody bags consisting of toothpaste, toothbrushes, socks, shaving cream, combs, razors, soap, decks of cards and canteen service coupons. Also given out were lap robes made by the ladies from the Harmony Baptist Church. The goody bags were donated by area businesses and money collected from the Castle Point donation box in the Lodge and items sold from the Elks display case which consists of Elks pins, caps, etc. The veterans enjoyed our visit and another one will

Clifton Park Lodge #2466 held their monthly Veteran's/Scholarship Breakfast at the Lodge. Proceeds from the breakfast, along with the tips of all of the waitresses which are donated, go towards the lodge's Veterans Fund and their Scholarship Fund. Almost every month, they host some Veterans from the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany who are transported to the lodge by the Center's volunteers. This month, 12 Veterans came to enjoy the breakfast. They get to order whatever they'd like and it's made to order. Other patrons that come to the breakfast don't mind waiting for their orders while the staff prepares the special guests' breakfasts. The Vets truly enjoy coming to the Lodge, visiting with the crew, enjoying breakfast and getting a break from being in the hospital!

WATERVLIET - World War II veterans will have the chance to tell the story of their life during the war as part of a project with the **Watervliet Lodge #** . The Elks were awarded a \$6,000 impact grant by the Elks National Foundation through the Community Investments Program which is designed to encourage Elks' involvement in the community.

Eight Watervliet High School students will work with the Elks to create the video. "This video will be a real asset to the community. Developing the video will teach the students about video production and the video itself will serve as a great collection of some of the fascinating stories of our veterans," said Bruce Hidley, Past State President and program coordinator for the Elks Lodge. "We are very excited to have received this grant and to be able to make this program possible." The students, in grades 9 through 12, will meet at the Menands and Watervliet Public Libraries to plan out the video before shooting the interviews. The video is expected to be completed in May, when the Elks Lodge will host a premiere and air the video at the lodge on Fourth Avenue. The grant funding was used to purchase new video production equipment. The Elks chapter is comprised of members from Green Island, Menands, and Watervliet. Veterans or others interested in the program can contact PSP Hidley

Americanism and Veterans

Massapequa Lodge #2162- Massapequa Lodge held its annual Veteran's Holiday dinner with over 130 veterans and their aides in attendance. Residents from Northport Veterans Hospital, the Stonybrook Veterans Home and the three veterans facilities from the St. Albans Veterans Hospital, were transported to the Lodge for an evening of fine food and entertainment to kick off the Holiday season. They were treated to a turkey dinner with all the fixings and a group of dancers for their entertainment. A great time was had by all.



Lowville Elks Lodge #1605 invited all area veterans to a special Veteran's Remembrance Luncheon honoring their service and commitment to our country. Nearly 100 veter-

ans and their significant others attended and enjoyed a hot lunch and beverage of their choice. Pictured are (Front L to R): Veteran's Ed Kaldowski and Melvin Kipfer. (Back L to R): Past Exalted Rulers David Giver, Donald Rockwood, John Sammis, event coordinator Michael Nuffer, Richard Vanyo, Exalted Ruler Joe Boshart and PSVP William Schaab.



During December, **Ticonderoga's American Legion Post # 224, Ticonderoga Lodge#1494 BPOE** and **Keeseville Lodge#2072 BPOE** made their annual trip to the Veterans Hospital in Albany NY. Each year these organizations come together with a program called "Bake a Dozen for the Vets". This year, Members of the Ticonderoga & Keeseville Communities provided approximately 150 dozen baked goods that were shared with the Veterans at the hospital. In addition to the baked goods, the Ticonderoga Black Watch Library donated 150 novels for the Library at the hospital. These organization also presented checks to the National Veterans Service Representative and these monies will be used to purchase equipment needed for the Veterans at the hospital. Pictured are: Thomas Provoncha - Essex County American Legion Commander, Ticonderoga American Legion Post #224 Peggy Lamb - Lodge Photographer, Ticonderoga Lodge #1494 Richard A. Nadeau - Exalted Ruler Ticonderoga Lodge #1494. Debbie Witherwax - Keeseville Lodge #2072 Dan Witherwax - DDGER, Keeseville Lodge #2072 Dean Frasier - PER Trustee, Ticonderoga Lodge #1494 David Carr - NY State Elks President, Ticonderoga Lodge #1494. Ed Baniak - National Veterans Service Representative, Watervliet Elks Lodge #1500

On Thursday, November 5th, 2009, **Queens Borough**

Lodge # 878 hosted a Thanksgiving Luncheon for thirty veterans from the St. Alban's VA Hospital. Attendees enjoyed a turkey meal with all the trimmings. Pumpkin and Apple pie was served with coffee and tea as Tony Grant performed songs from decades gone by. Lodge members took time out of their busy day to volunteer as servers for the event. Lodge guests were treated with travel coffee mugs as gifts donated by a local community bank. Veterans commented that they appreciated the attention and special treatment they received by the lodge and thanked all that participated. Exalted Ruler, Guillermo Rodriguez noted that "it was our pleasure to serve those that proudly served our country" and that "all veterans were welcomed back anytime

Albany Lodge #49 sponsored it's annual essay contest for Albany's elementary schools. This year's subject was "The American Dream - What is it?" 256 students participated by writing essays in grades 3-8. Each winning essayist read their piece onstage in front of parents, teachers and families and were awarded a framed certificate of excellence along with other prizes. The main prizes were \$100 US savings bond for first place, \$50 bond for second place, along with a bag including signed certificates from Albany Mayor Gerald Jennings, a personal dictionary, Elks pencils, and certificates for ice-cream cones.

Carthage Lodge #1762 is participating in an Adopt-a Platoon program. The Lodge has adopted the entire 10th Mountain Division, 1st BCT Medical Company from Ft. Drum. In recognition, the Lodge sponsored a "greet and meet" pizza and wings party that was attended by 60 members of the Medical Company. Exalted Ruler Wayne Moore and Past State President Tim Kelly are pictured with members of the company. The Medical Company will be deployed to Afghanistan in the spring.

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.

Youth activities

On Sunday January 24, 2010, the **Clifton Park Lodge #2466** held their monthly Veteran's/ Scholarship Breakfast at the Lodge. Proceeds from the breakfast, along with the tips of all of the waitresses which are donated, go towards the lodge's Veterans Fund and their Scholarship Fund. Almost every month, they host some Veterans from the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany who are transported to the lodge by the Center's volunteers. This month, 12 Veterans came to enjoy the breakfast. They get to order whatever they'd like and it's made to order. Other patrons that come to the breakfast don't mind waiting for their orders while the staff prepares the special guests' breakfasts. The Vets truly enjoy coming to the Lodge, visiting with the crew, enjoying breakfast and getting a break from being in the hospital!



The Venture Crew Seventy-Two, a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 yrs of age, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to **Ticonderoga Elks Lodge #1494**. The certificate read as follows "On this Day in the Year Two Thousand and Nine, Venture Crew Seventy-Two Recognizes the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks Of Lodge Number 1494 for their Contributions and Continuing Support of the Venture Crew Since Its Founding in September of 2005, as well as their dedication to the Betterment of Ticonderoga's Scouting Organizations and Youth as a Whole". This award was presented at the Lodge's Monthly Activities Meeting held the first Monday of each Month.

The Venture Scouts serve meals at lodge functions and the lodge reciprocates with a donation. The Scouts have assisted the Lodge in painting and maintenance projects. Ticonderoga donates space to the group for meetings and monetary donations for their help. Pictured above, Elk Mem-



New Hyde Park Lodge #2107 recently attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Stephen Palazzolo of Boy Scout Troop 544. For his Eagle Scout project, Stephen worked with the Nassau County Office of Housing and Homeless Services in collaboration with the Homeless Intervention Program to provide assistance for homeless families living on Long Island. Through Stephen's efforts the scouts of troop 544 collected nearly 1000 pounds of household items, 200 pounds of food items and an additional \$300 in gift cards from Walmart, Target and CVS. The Elks Lodge gave Stephen an Elks Certificate, an American flag and a \$50 gift. Pictured (L-R) Stephen Palazzolo and Mitchel Lidowsky, PER.

PSVP Edward Baniak pictured at right along with Nancy Caswell [Publicity Chairman) from **Watervliet Lodge #1500** attended Watervliet elementary school to present them twenty American Flags on Feb. 5th., 2010.



Major Projects CP



On behalf of the Major Projects Board of Directors, we would like to thank you, the MEMBERS of the New York State Elks Association for all of your generous support. As we are coming to the end of another fiscal year, we are all working hard to meet our Per Capita goals of at least \$8.00 per member. Our State Major Project Chairman Rich DeSilva, along with his wife Mary, has been working tirelessly to assist Lodges and districts in their fundraising efforts, to ensure that we will have a positive year.

With all of your contributions, you are helping the New York State Elks Association to continue our commitment to work with and partner with Cerebral Palsy of New York State. All of the monies raised pay the salaries of the Home Service Director for each Affiliate. We also assist in the purchase of 4 vans each year. The Home Service Directors lead their clients through all of the stumbling blocks that may arise when dealing with Insurance and Government agencies, making sure that their client receives the specialized treatment that may be needed. The Home Service Director not only makes the appointment, but may also drive the family to the appointment, as many do not have a vehicle, or do not drive.

In the upcoming Fiscal Year we are looking at some changes that will be announced at our Convention in Rochester in May. Again THANK YOU, the MEMBERS, for all of your support.

Jamie Peace, PSP, Chairman,
NY Elks Major Projects Board

The newly merged **Brooklyn-Queens Borough Lodge 878** raised \$250 tonight for United Cerebral Palsy at this year's Super bowl Party, featuring their new 18 foot projector screen! With almost 60-members, family and guests attending this inaugural event, the lodge provided a comfortable and pleasant atmosphere for those watching the exciting football game. In addition to having a wonderful time and enjoying food provided by Adrian and Rocky's Catering those in attendance reached deep in their pockets to give to this worthy cause promoted by our New York State Elks Association. Exalted Ruler Rodriguez, present at the event, stated that "it is wonderful to see the lodge members and others provide for those less fortunate than us". ER Rodriguez presented a check at the home-coming dinner for Gregory Christian Santiago, our UCP Ambassador at Staten Island Lodge No. 871 on February 20th.

Liverpool Lodge #2348 recently held their annual Music Fest to benefit NYS Major Projects, Cerebral Palsy. Three bands played throughout the afternoon. There were raffles and food available. Over 500 people attended this event. Rotterdam Elks Lodge brought an entire bus load of people to help support this function and make it as successful as it was. The net proceeds exceeded \$10,000.

Canandaigua Lodge # 1844 - Major Projects fundraising is once again in full swing with the start of the acclaimed Sunday Morning Breakfast series. This successful program has been the foundation of the Canandaigua Lodge's efforts for many years, producing not only the funds for Major Projects, but also the NYS CP Person of the Year, Richard Crudele PER.

Rotterdam Lodge # 2157 held it's first ever bowling tournament to benefit CP. Lodge members, along with bowlers from other State Capitol Dist lodges, raised \$2,900. Two bowlers, Jeff Syron and Rotterdam Exalted Ruler Mel Olivera bowled perfect games .

State Major Projects News

The North District held a Major Project double fund raiser for CP at Glen Falls Lodge # 81. It was also State President David Carr's visit to his home district. In the afternoon they held a wine tasting with 50 in attendance and in the evening there was an October Fest with over 150 people in attendance. All lodges in the district were in attendance. The lodge raised a lot of money for CP. Checks were presented to State chairman Rich DeSilva by North District Chairperson PER Stella Kolysko and Glen Falls ER Joseph DeLorenzo.

The NY State Major Project Committee wants to thank John Kochan from Colonie Lodge for his individual donation of \$ 500.00.

Major Projects



Ontario District Major Projects Chairman an Enable Board Member Ricky Ryder was recently recognized at the annual conference of the Cerebral Palsy Association of the New York State with the AI Felmet achievement Award. This award is given to an individual with cerebral palsy who has demonstrated leadership and independence.

Ricky is a successful business person who has been a strong supporter of Enable and a valuable member of it's Board of Directors for more than a decade. He is an active volunteer in the community and is highly respected by his professional colleagues, his fellow Elks and other members of the Enable Board of Directors. He is active at Liverpool Elks Lodge #2348 and served as Exalted Ruler in 2005. He has been instrumental in the success of the Lodge's annual Music Fest, which this year alone raised over \$10,000 for NYS Major Projects, CP.

Since 1948, Enable's mission has been to enhance the quality of life for people with developmental or physical disabilities through an array of services. Each year they provide assessment, training, therapy and support for over 1,600 children and adults with disabilities and their families. Enable empowers people with disabilities to achieve their goals at home, school, work and play. Pictured above Ricky Ryder receiving his award from NYS Cerebral Palsy association Past Chairman Natalie Rogers and Bob DiFrancesco

Watertown Lodge #496 distributed 1303 dictionaries to 3rd grade students in 22 area schools. Each dictionary was accompanied with drug awareness bookmarkers and coloring books. The Lodge has been participating in the Dictionary project since the New York State Elks Association became involved in the 2004-2005 lodge year. To date, the Watertown Lodge has distributed 8,472 dictionaries. PSVP John Gaffney, PEOY Sandy Faylo and PER Don Reid are pictured at right presenting dictionaries to students at Ohio Street School.

For many years there has been a special bond between third graders at the Ticonderoga Elementary School and the members of the Ticonderoga Elks Lodge. Each year the third graders have collected non-perishable food to support the Elks Christmas charities project. Each year the number of bags of food collected has increased until the last two years when over 90 bags of much needed food was donated. This food will be distributed by the Elks on Christmas Eve morning. The Elks in turn have shared much with the students. In addition to a delicious Christmas luncheon at the Elks Lodge each year, the Elks have donated wonderful dictionaries to each student in third grade. These books are a wealth of useful information in addition to being a comprehensive dictionary. Students can study maps of the continents, find information about all 50 states, read biographies of our 44 presidents, learn facts about the solar system, read copies of the Declaration of Independence and the US constitution and much more. Third graders and the Elks have the same motto – We're Caring and Sharing.



Ticonderoga Lodge #1494 has participated in the Dictionary Project from before the time it was adopted by the Grand Lodge. Ticonderoga Lodge has made a commitment that every third grade child will have a dictionary. In keeping with this pledge, Ticonderoga Elks Lodge #1494 presented dictionaries to the Putnam Central School third grade class. Lodge members also presented dictionaries to third graders at six other area schools. Pictured above, Richard A. Nadeau, Dictionary Chairperson and Mary Lloyd Burroughs, Essay Chairperson present Dictionaries to Putnam Central Third Grade Students.



NYS&A News

Watertown Lodge #496 presented State Present David Carr and his wife Penny with an Elk print during a recent visit. Pictured with the Carr's are District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Ron Rockwood, State Vice President Joann Allen, Exalted Ruler Scott LaVere, print artist and Elk Paul Lee, Past State President Nelson Navarra and his wife Clelia, Past State President Tim Kelly and State Trustee Frank Turner.



The state elks memorial committee is pleased to announce the winners of the 2010-2011 Elks Memorial Service Contest C. We received a number of outstanding entries this year making the judging extremely difficult. Our congratulations go out to the following Lodges.

Division 1 (Lodges under 301 Members)
First Place Johnson City #2821
Second Place Saranac Lake #1508
Third Place Lyons #869

Division 2 (Lodges with 301 thru 500 members)
First Place (tied) Cohoes-Waterford #1317
First Place (tied) Camillus #2367
Third Place Niagara Falls #346

Division 3 (Lodges with 501 thru 700 Members)
First Place Mechanicville-Stillwater
Second Place Catskill #1341
Third Place Hudson #787

Division 4 (Lodges with 701 thru 1,100 members)
First Place Oswego #271
Second Place None
Third Place None

There were not entries for Division 5 and 6 submitted for grading. We extend our sincere thanks and again congratulations to the winners and all that participated in the Contest. All awards will be given out at the Memorial Service workshop at the Holiday Inn on Grand Island, NY in September. You may also pickup all the booklets that were entered at that time.

The 2009 State Soccer Shoot was hosted by the Rotterdam Elks #2157. A rainy day did not dampen the competition. Our 2009 State winners were: Skylar Dinsmore U-8 girls from Saratoga-Wilton #161, Luke Shapiro U-8 boys from Saratoga-Wilton #161, Jennifer Bartlett U-10 girls from Guilderland #2480, Tommy Pendergrass U-10 boys from Saratoga-Wilton #161, Natalie Giglio U-12 girls from Ogdensburg #772, Jason Antalek U-12 boys from Beacon #1493, Lee Ann Dyson U-14 girls from Beacon #1493, and Jacob Dick U-14 boys from Plattsburg #621. These young athletes advanced to the Area One Soccer Championship in St. Albans, Vermont were Luke Shipiro (U8 boys) and Tommy Pendergrass (U10 boys) took first place honors. Our State champions are pictured with State Soccer Shoot Chair Patrick Mansfield and Youth Activities Chair Tim Welpe.



Ogdensburg Lodge # 772 hosted the Central Region semi-final Hoop Shoot at Ogdensburg High School. Pictured are regional winners: J. Gaffney (Vestal #2508), G. Thomas (Owego #1039), D. Nolan (Camillus #236), I. Bishop (Owego #1039), J. Khazzaka (Cortland #748) and J. Guitierrez (Oneonta #1312). They are pictured with Stuart Rishe- North Central District chair, Michael Dedicke – Central District chair and Past State President Tim Kelly. Guitierrez finished with a perfect score.

NYS Elks Association Hoop Shoot Winners:

Liverpool NY-February 27, 2010



8-9 Girls:

Place	Contestant	Lodge	District	Score	Tiebreaker
1 st	Grace Thomas	Owego #1039	South Central	21/25	
2 nd	Karly Power	Amsterdam #101	Northeast	19/25	
3 rd	Ellana Lawrence	Queens Borough #878	South East	17/25	
4 th	Jadyn Abrams	Bath #1547	Southwest	12/25	

8-9 Boys

1 st	Benjamin Lubowitz	Mamaroneck #1457	South	22/25	
2 nd	Christian German	Colonie #2192	State Capital	21/25	
3 rd	Isiah Bishop	Owego #1039	South Central	19/25	
4 th	Jacob Jerebko	Lancaster #1478	West	18/25	

10-11 Girls

1 st	Johanna Gaffney	Vestal #2508	South Central	18/25	
2 nd	Amanda Pike	Watkins Glen #1546	Southern Tier	14/25	
3 rd	Stephanie Secor	Albany #49	State Capital	8/25	

10-11 Boys

1 st	Ben Terwilliger	Elmira #62	Southern Tier	20/25	
2 nd	Steven Celmins	Rotterdam #2157	State Capital	18/25	
3 rd	Joseph Molina	Ossining #1486	South	17/25	
4 th	John Khazzaka	Cortland #748	South Central	14/25	

12-13 Girls

1 st	Elizabeth Leszyk	Elmira #62	Southern Tier	21/25	5/5
2 nd	Delaney Nolan	Camillus #2367	Ontario	21/25	4/5
3 rd	Elizabeth Gager	Mid Westchester #535	South	19/25	
4 th	Emily O'Connor	Plattsburgh #621	North	10/25	

12-13 Boys

1 st	Colin Daugherty	Lockport #41	West	23/25	
2 nd	Jordan Gutierrez	Oneonta #1312	South Central	21/25	
3 rd	Christopher Jackson	Glens Falls #81	North	19/25	

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.



Hornell Lodge No. 364 awarded Medals of Valor to the wife and family of U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith during a private Sunday ceremony. Smith, 19, a 2008 Hornell High School graduate, was killed in action Jan. 24 supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. He was the first Hornell area casualty of war since Vietnam. ER Howard Nisbet presented two medals, one to Zach Smith's wife, Anne Deebes, and another to his parents, Christopher and Kim Smith. Smith has been posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for combat heroism and federal legislation is in the works to have the U.S. Post Office renamed in his honor.

Red Hook-Rhinebeck Lodge# 2022 held its annual Veterans dinner on March 6, 2010 with great success. The Lodge served a total of 55 veterans and distributed 8 meals to local veterans that could not attend. All Lodge PERs were invited to attend as guests of the Lodge. The color guard from V.F.W. Post 7765 performed the opening ceremonies.

Webster-Fairport Lodge # 2396 - Honored the Family of a Fallen Soldier in Afghanistan. With the "Elks Medal of Valor" The "Elks Medal of Valor" is given to Elks Members who have lost close family relatives who were serving in the U.S. Military. On Saturday, February 6, 2010 the Webster-Fairport Elks Lodge # 2396 presented the "Medal of Valor" to Mr. and Mrs. James Perry of Webster, N.Y. who lost their son Army PFC Kyle Wright, while serving our country in Afghanistan. On January 13, 2010 PFC Kyle Wright, age 22, was killed in the Kandahar Province of Afghanistan. His vehicle was struck with an Improvised Explosive Device. (IED) He was assigned to the 5th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, out of Fort Lewis, Washington. PFC Kyle Wright was laid to rest on February 2, 2010 with Full Military Honors in Arlington National Cemetery. Exalted Ruler Scott Seltzer presided over the presentation ceremony. The "Medal of Valor" was presented by David Carr, President of the New York State Elks Association, Donald Williams, Vice President representing the New York State West Central District, and Thomas Gowan, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. During the medal presentation Veterans in attendance were invited to stand and offer a salute. The Medal was engraved with PFC Kyle Wright's name and included an Afghanistan Campaign Ribbon. The ceremony was very emotional and there was not a dry eye in the place.

Potsdam Elks Lodge #2074 members, along with Clarkson University ROTC Cadets visited Veterans at the United Helpers Nursing Home in Canton in remembrance of Veterans Day. Each of the Veterans residing at the home was provided a gift bag and enjoyed visiting with the Cadets. Clarkson ROTC members are pictured with PDDGER James Hassett and Elk members Robert Watkin and William Swafford. The visitation is an annual Lodge event.



Liverpool Lodge #2348 recently donated a new computer system valued at \$600 to the Syracuse VA Hospital. This computer is being set up strictly for patient usage. Patients are able to surf the net and set up E-Mail accounts. It provides a much need diversion to their every day lives. Pictured L-R is Suzanne Hawes, Lead Recreation Therapist, Michael Kaltenborn, Lodge Veteran's Committee Chairman and his Granddaughter Emery Kaltenborn.

Community Activities

Leading Knight Helen Blais of **Guilderland Lodge # 2480** had her beautiful long hair cut and donated the hair to ☐Locks of Love☐ an organization that takes human hair and turns it into wigs for people who are undergoing treatment for cancer and other sicknesses. Helen has done this numerous times in the past, each time Helen has cut her locks for this worthy project, she has requested donations from the Elk members in the Capital District. The money collected has been donated to Cancer Research. Helen has collected and donated \$660.00 for this cutting alone! Over the last few years, Helen has donated a total of 35 inches of her hair to ☐Locks of Love☐ and a total of \$924.00 has been donated to Breast Cancer Research! Helen's hair was cut by Sheri Curcuruto.



PER Trustee Dean Frasier, representing **Ticonderoga Lodge #1494**, accepts stuffed animals from the Cub Scout Pack 72 for his Nursing Home game night. Once a month Frasier visits the Heritage Commons nursing home to socialize and play games with the residence. The stuffed animals donated by the scouts will be used as prizes for game winning senior citizens. Pictured: PER Dean Frasier and members of Cub Scout Pack 72.



Oswego Lodge # 271 recently held their annual Public Safety Awards. Each year the Oswego Elks honor one outstanding officer of the Oswego Police Department, the Oswego Fire Department, Oswego Sheriff's Department and two Volunteer Fire Departments also the State University of Oswego Police. Each officer is honored by the head of their department. This year State President David Carr and his wife Penny attended the dinner. President Carr presented each honoree with a statue of their office. He presented to the Oswego Elks Teen of the Month, Elizabeth Morley and Sarah Hill a award for their accomplishments. There were 280 in attendance at the dinner. Pictured is Exalted Ruler James Burnell, Ron Phelps, New Haven Fire department, Scott Pritchard, Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department, Lt. Charles L. Searor, Jr Oswego Police Department, Kirk Coates, State University Police, Damen Morrell, Oswego firefighter and Deputy Matthew C. Bray Oswego County Sheriff's Department, New York State President David C. Carr and Past Exalted Ruler Michael Coad.



March 18th Just Say No hosted their annual Law Enforcement Appreciation dinner. The Yates County Sheriffs Department presented **Penn Yan**

Lodge #1722 with a plaque for all the things that Just Say No does for the Yates County youth. Just Say No made a \$1000 Donation to the New York State Sheriffs' Association for a summer camp. It will be one of the largest groups visiting the camp this year. Pictured left to right: Yates County District Attorney Jason Cook, New York State Police Sgt. Steve Neuberger, Penn Yan Police Chief Mark Hulse, Exalted Ruler Bart Winslow, and Yates County Sheriff Ron Spike.

Community Activities



Canandaigua Lodge #1844 - The Saltonstall Community Watch Group recently received a donation of community watch signs from the Canandaigua Lodge. These signs will be posted throughout the Saltonstall area in an effort to promote a safe neighborhood. This project was prompted by Police Chief Jonathan Welch, Liaison Officer Dan Ball, Watch Group organizer Jennifer Naracong and Spearheaded by Leading Knight Rob Coe Jr. Pictured above Left to Right: Ron McNeal, Jim DeMay, ER Al Clark, Dave Simmons, Officer Dan Ball, Paul Paeth, Jennifer Naracong, Rob Coe Jr.

Islip Lodge #2533 - Islip Lodge joined with The Town of Islip in its' 21st. annual "Just Say No to Drugs" Sharpshooter Contest. Thanks to the collaboration of the Islip Sports and Aquatic Office, The Islip Housing Authority, local school districts and the Islip Elks, local students have the opportunity to compete in this great event. Pictured are member Dennis Casey and Norman Newkirk, PER, along with the 6th. and 7th. grade 1st., 2nd. and 3rd. place girls. Islip Lodge has been supplying Tee Shirts and Trophies for this Drug Awareness Contest, since its' inception.

Ogdensburg Lodge #772 handed out dictionaries to students from the Ogdensburg, Heuvelton, Lisbon, Hammond and Morristown school Districts. The Lodge has dedicated the program as the Sheila Gwin Dictionary Project in memory of the late Sheila Gwin. She was a long time teacher and Principal in the Ogdensburg School District. PER Jerry Reed and Past State Vice President George Kotz Sr. are pictured with third grade students from Kennedy School in Ogdensburg.

In the fall, Ron Rookey a member of **Oswego Lodge #271**, decided that it was not only time to lose a few pounds but that in do so, he could raise money for his lodge. He began by personally enlisting 120 sponsors, most of whom were Elks, to pledge a minimum of one dollar for every pound he lost.

Ron began his diet on October 3rd, following an official weigh-in that took place at the lodge. Nine weeks later he weighed in again, only this time, he was 23 pounds lighter. This resulted in pledges of \$3500.00 being raised. Of this amount, Oswego Lodge #271 contributed \$2800 to the Oswego Community Christmas Basket Program and \$700.00 to the Human Concern Center. The Lodge was able to prepare 22 Baskets for families in the area.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 distributed 620 dictionaries to all third grade students at Norwood-Norfolk, Madrid-Waddington, Parishville-Hopkinton, Colton-Pierrepont, Canton, Tupper Lake and St. Mary's of Canton. Students from the Banford Elementary School are pictured proudly displaying their new dictionaries. Pictured with the students, in back row, are NYSEA Youth Activities Chair Tim Welp, School Principal Richard Tomlinson and Past Exalted Ruler Mike Neaton.

Editorial Staff

New York State
Elks Association
Hon. David R. Carr – President
Grand Lodge Trustee
(Penny)
[Ticonderoga #1494]
2705 Main St. Crown Point, NY
12928-2607
Paul G. Erkkinen, State Secretary
33 Holcomb Road
Averill Park, NY 12018
518-674-0290
nysea@verizon.net

GRAND LODGE SPONSORS

Hon. Dr. Leonard J. Bristol PGER
PSP (1968) [Saranac Lake #1508]
Hon. Peter T. Affatato - PGER
PSP (1965) [Hicksville #1931]

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

The Empire State Elk

State Editor - Publisher
Jack McClurken, PDDGER
10 Richard Street
Ansonia, Ct. 06401
845-505-9854
texelk1@hotmail.com
Poughkeepsie #275

District Editors/PR Staff **Charles Sullivan, PDDGER -** **Central District**

21 Shull St.
Ilion, NY 13357
(H) 315-894-2805
Herkimer #1439

Lynn Stein - East District

6 Suydam Dr.
Melville, NY 11747
(H) 631-673-0275
Hicksville #1931

Richard Steers - East Central **District**

PO Box 195
Kerhonksen NY 12446
(H) 845-626-7892
drsteers@aol.com
Ellenville #1971

Barbara Farber, PER - Mid Hudson **District**

27 Tioronda Ave. Apt. 1
Beacon, NY 12508
(H) 845-831-3140
© 845-224-8864
Beacon #1493

Lisa Minnich - North District

48 Tyler Rd.
Vermontville, NY 12989
(H) 518-891-5265
mminnich@capital.net
Saranac Lake #1508

Tim Welpe - North Central **District**

10 Elm Street
Potsdam, NY 13676
(H) 315-265-8480
timwelpe@northnet.org
Potsdam #2074

John H. Minners- North Hudson **District**

440 Route 66L – 27
Hudson, NY 12534
(H) 518-828-4929
jminners@mhcable.com
Hudson #787

Tom Waring - Northeast District

3 Conver Dr.
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
(H) 518-587-3978
tpw144@aol.com
Greenwich #2223

Sheila McCallum - Ontario **District**

1202 Cold Springs Rd
Liverpool NY 13088
(H) 315-451-2256
rsmccallum1@verizon.net
Liverpool #2348

Stephen Spodnik - South District

260 South Broadway, Apt. H
Yonkers, NY 10705
(H) 914-476-6828
sspods@aol.com
Mt. Vernon-Yonkers #707

Paul Reger – South Central **District**

150 Hardy Rd.
Johnson City, NY 13790
(H) 607-797-8761
preger@stny.rr.com
Johnson City #2821

Thomas Lemme - Southeast **District**

337 Yale Rd.
Garden City South, NY 11530-5223
(H) 516-565-5216
Tom.lemme@gmail.com
New Hyde Park #2107

Yvonne Peace - Southwest **District**

PO Box 134
Westons Mills NY 14788-0134 (H)
716-373-3457 ypeace@sbu.edu
Olean #491

Henry Corp, Jr - Southern Tier **District**

206 William Lane
Horseheads, NY 14845
(H) 607-739-4135
Horseheads #2297

Paul Sponable - State Capital **District**

34 Lorelee Dr.
Albany, NY 12205
(H) 518-464-4441
capsrus2@nycap.rr.com
Colonie #2192

Scott Abel – West District

141 Fleetwood Terrace
Williamsville, NY 14221
(H) 716-633-2998
saabel@verizon.net
Niagara Falls #346

John Baron – West Central **District**

5 Maplehurst Rd
Rochester, NY 14617
(H) 315-756-2765
jbaron@rochester.rr.com
Rochester #24