



**PSP Jamie Peace,  
Chairman of the Board of  
the New York Elks Major  
Projects, Inc.**

**MESSAGE**

**Thank you!**

Again, all of our membership continues to work hard to make our Major Project a great success. Through your hard work in your lodges and districts you have raised **over \$439,000** for the Cerebral Palsy Home Services Program. The members of the Major Projects Board are amazed at how year in and year out, we do such a great job for this very worthy cause. I used the following quote at the Spring Convention in Rochester - "Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible"; this quote is so fitting for the membership in our great state, who keep doing the impossible."

At our 2010 Fall Conference in Grand Island, you had the pleasure of meeting Caitlin Schuler, one of our Ambassadors, and her family. Members who were at the Spring Convention were able to meet our second Ambassador, Joseph Cali, and his parents. This is a change as the Major Project Board attempted to have three Ambassadors, but with all of the bureaucratic red tape, it became impossible for this to be accomplished. Caitlin and Joseph will be rotating between conventions, conferences, and District events for the next two years. If you would like to have an Ambassador attend an event, **those arrangements must be made exclusively through our State Chairman, Lou Withiam. There will be no exceptions.**

There have been many changes - - our posters now include a brief bio of each Ambassador. Lou Withiam has been working with C. P. of New York to streamline all of our brochures to make them more generic so that, at the end of their terms, the brochures will still be useful. The Major Projects Board has OK'd the use of credit cards for payments. Our State Treasurer Chris Maddock has been working with Jim O'Kelly, from the Elks National Foundation, along with Matt Intrieri, to have this up and running by the Fall Conference. Please note: When you make an online donation to the NYSEA Major Project, your lodge and district will receive credit.

Thank you again to all of the members, lodges, and districts, as well as our State Chairman Lou Withiam and his wife Fran for making this year such a success!

**Albany Lodge #49** held its first annual book sale. Over 45 boxes of books were donated by members & friends. ER Herb Carle, who chaired the event and about 5 members and 4 non-members worked setting up for the sale and on both days of the actual sale. Hard cover books sold for \$1 and paperbacks for 50cents, making for a profit of \$531 which was donated to Major Projects.



**Colonie Lodge 2192** - The Easter Bunny visited recently at the annual Bunny Breakfast. The event is sponsored by the lodges Ladies Auxiliary and proceeds go to Major Projects. Greeting a guest are (l-r) Exalter Ruler Carol Sponable, the Bunny, Barbara Castaldi PP ladies Auxiliary and Ann Tribley, Auxiliary VP.

**Staten Island Lodge #841** held it's 108th Charity Ball with proceeds to benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Children's Program. Sandra Lotz, Leading Knight chaired the event making the decision that in lieu of souvenirs a donation would be made in the names of the 118 attending guests. Have a Heart Foundation, an Island based 501c3 dedicates itself to the needs of those who must undergo surgeries and procedures providing pre and post op needs from medications and therapy to emotional support for patients and their families. Having viewed a news clip about a young boy requiring a heart transplant and the assistance "Have a Heart Foundation" provided, a donation of \$500.00 was made in honor of our Exalted Ruler Richard Ryan who has had to overcome the challenges put before him, as he too deals with a heart malady similar that of the young boy who inspired this donation. The Elks as an organization, are dedicated to the needs of the community, and recognize Have a Heart Foundation for all they do.

**MAJOR PROJECTS REPORT  
SPRING CONVENTION  
MAY 21, 2011**

This has been an interesting year to say the least but the Elks of New York State have come through in outstanding fashion as you will hear throughout the report. I want to thank each of you for the work you did to make this happen. Please take this message back to your Lodges and thank the many members who are not present today for a job well done.

Prior to my assuming the Chairperson of Major Projects Committee the decision had been made to have multiple Ambassadors. The number agreed on was three located geographically where the most Ambassador activity occurred. A good game plan was developed with the assistance of the Home Service Directors, CP of New York State and the NYS Elks Association Major Projects Board and the State Chair.

It was anticipated we would have the Ambassadors in place by the time we came back from the National Convention in Orlando. For a variety of reasons, that did not happen. I talked with several families and we could not find a match. Additionally, my wife and I made several trips to visit families face to face and again, no match.

By late August, we had changed the criteria somewhat for our Ambassadors and found a match. Caitlin Schuler was 16 and presented new opportunities for us to spread the message of our work throughout the State. She attended the Fall Convention and took an active part in the workshop that focused on the responsibilities of the Home Service Directors.

The workshop was well received and has served as a catalyst for our work throughout the year.

Shortly after the Fall Conference, we found our second Ambassador, Joseph Cali. Many of you met Joseph this morning at our workshop and you will meet Joseph and his parents in a few minutes.

After months of hard work we could not identify a third Ambassador and the decision was made to go with two.

We changed the format of the Ambassador's poster to include a biography of each Ambassador. This has been well received. The posters were not developed until the Holiday season and distribution was later than we anticipated or wanted.

Before we could schedule the Ambassadors for visitations at functions in the state, it was determined they both needed surgery to aid their physical problems.



Caitlin had major reconstructive surgery in early January to straighten her legs and relocate her kneecaps. This was planned surgery that came a little earlier than anticipated. She grew several inches as a result of the surgery and is learning to walk again.



Joseph had both hips fixed and as you have or will see is progressing nicely.

Caitlin and Joseph had the same doctor perform their surgeries and ironically he is the same doctor who performed surgery on a previous Ambassador, Jacob Dyson.

Surgery put a huge strain on the families and both were fortunate to have family and friends close by to help as needed. The other source that was invaluable were the Home Service Directors who helped obtain a multitude of assistive devices and worked through many other details needed to get these young people on the road to recovery. In my opinion they are the unsung heroes of the process.

In addition to the new poster design we have revised the Crutch mailer to give more information on the back pertinent to our mission.

We have redesigned, in conjunction with CP of NYS, a brochure explaining our working relationship as teams helping those with disabilities obtain a more successful life style.

Distribution of these items will be forthcoming. At the Major Projects workshop this morning many awards were passed out to deserving individual and Lodges for their devoted effort to raise money for our program.

I will not read all these award winners due to time constraints but they will be made part of these proceedings.

Certificates for Lodges or individuals donating under \$500.00.

Ladies Elks Webster-Fairport #2396, Ladies and Officers Bath Lodge# 1547, Lisa Minnich, Saranac Lake # 1508, Robert Wademan, Camillus # 2367, Rocco Arcaro, Camillus # 2367, Vernon and Lois Singleton, Owego # 1039, Gerald Krans, Port Jefferson # 2138 and Richard Dytman, Elmira # 62.

Plaques were given for the following categories: Lodges achieving over \$10.00 per capita: Utica # 33, Boonville # 2158, Peekskill # 744, Beacon # 1493, Yorktown # 2324, Wappinger # 2609, Glen Falls # 81, Rensselaer # 2073, Saugerties # 2574, Mechansville-Stillwater # 1403, Greenwich # 2223, Scotia-Glenville # 2759, Liverpool # 2348, Mamaranock # 1457, Scarsdale # 2056, Johnson City # 2821, Staten Island # 841, Elmira # 62, Penn Yan # 1722, Esperance # 2507, Lockport # 41, Niagara Falls # 346, Amherst # 1941, Rochester # 24, Lyons # 869, Canandaigua # 1844, Webster-Fairport # 2396.

Lodges achieving over \$15.00 per capita: Islip # 2533, Pearl River # 2041

Lodges achieving over \$20.00 per capita: Ellenville # 1971

Lodges achieving over \$30.00 per capita: Mount Vernon-Yonkers # 707, Bronx-New Rochelle # 756

Lodges achieving over \$ 50.00 per capita: Ossining # 1486

Ladies Groups donating \$500.00 to \$3,000.00: Brunswick Ladies Auxiliary # 2556, Rensselaer Ladies Auxiliary # 2073, Ladies Auxiliary Liverpool # 2348, Ladies Elks Club Peekskill # 744, Does Club #2107, New Hyde Park # 2107, Ladies Auxiliary Saratoga-Wilton # 161, Colonie Ladies Auxiliary # 2192.

Individual Donations of over \$500.00: Timothy Belloma, Elmira # 62

This afternoon we will continue to honor Lodges, organizations and individuals for their outstanding efforts on behalf of Major Projects.

The first category is for Ladies Groups with donation over \$3,000.00. They are: Rotterdam Lore # 1971

\$3,500.00

Ladies Club Haverstraw # 877 \$5,000.00

Ladies of the Elks, Ellenville # 1971 \$5,500.00

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