



Patchogue Lodge #1323, Leading Knight Scott Salimando presents a check for \$2,350.00 to Gail Mileto, accepting on behalf of JDRF-Suffolk County. The funds represent the proceeds of the Lodges Winter Breakfast and a \$1,000.00 Gratitude Grant from the Elks National Foundation. The Lodge also presented Certificates of Appreciation to Ginna Mileto, Lauren Sweeney, Samantha Caladra and Angelina Caroli who volunteered their help in setting up tables and clearing table for breakfast.



Pictured are Jordan Cimilluca and Exalted Ruler Michael Loughrey of the **Oswego Lodge #271**. Jordan was chosen Teen of the Month for February from Mexico High School. Jordan plans on attending college for Biology and Anthropology.



Auburn Lodge #474 ER Valerie Parsons and her husband lodge trustee and Drug Awareness chairperson Al Parsons deliver dictionaries, drug awareness coloring books and book marks to the third grade classes at Casey Park Elementary in Auburn, NY. The donations made by the members of the Auburn lodge enabled every third grader in three Auburn city schools to receive dictionaries.

Haverstraw Lodge #877 distributed 800 dictionaries in North Rockland County to 3rd. graders in four public schools and two parochial schools. Each student received a dictionary and was very pleased. They will use them in class and at home to write their reports and do their homework. In a community like ours, that has a large immigration population, these dictionaries are greatly needed.



Ticonderoga Lodge #1494 - Marjorie Hurlburt, Esteem Lecturing Knight is the Lodge's Drug Awareness Chairman. Marjorie is also Recreation Supervisor for the Town of Ticonderoga Youth Commission. Marjorie takes pride in our community and youth by taking action against youth substance abuse. Marjorie is going over some of the brochures with members of the Ticonderoga Youth Center.



Southampton Lodge #1574 had the privilege of having Riley Tupper represent our Hoop Shoot in the 8 – 9 year old age bracket in the finals at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield. Riley was successful in the District and Northeast Central Regional competition and qualified her for the finals. Our Riley gave her all in the final competition but, sadly, she did not win. More important her grace when it was over was priceless. She is a great competitor and an inspiration to all around her. Riley is still in the race for next year and we are extremely happy to be here for her entry in the Hoop Shoot Contest. You go Riley, we're so very proud of you.

State Hoop Shoot Director, John Edinger's report at the NYSEA Convention.

I am here to present my final report to you as State Director of the largest non commercial youth event in the United States, the Elks National Hoop Shoot. I am happy again to report that Hoop Shoot is still going strong in New York State. We had 120 Lodges out of 127 participate in the program last year and again 15 out of 17 Districts obtain 100% Lodge Participation in 2010-11. Our participation slightly increased to over 72,000 participants in comparison to 69,000 last A great big thank you to all of my District Directors for your effort in this and I encourage all again to keep this up for the new director.

Nationally, it is with bit of regret that I announce that we have gone below the 3 million mark in participants. National Director Cam Cronk is asking all Lodges to step up their efforts this next year to have more students get involved throughout the country.

Our State Contest was hosted by Poughkeepsie Elks Lodge #275 on February 26th. The contestants checked in Friday evening at the Hampton Inn in Poughkeepsie. The Poughkeepsie Elks then hosted a pizza party at the hotel and after a good night's sleep and breakfast at the hotel; the contestants boarded school buses and were transported to Arlington High School for the contest. After the contest, the Poughkeepsie Elks Lodge hosted the award ceremony luncheon afterward. We also had a featured speaker this year; a past 4 time State and National Champion Tom Meyerson gave an inspirational speech directed to the contestants. I would like to thank Mid-Hudson District Sponsor Joe Petriello for his support in allowing the contest to be held in the

District; the Poughkeepsie Elks Lodge for their hospitality in hosting the contest and all the volunteers.

And last but certainly not least great big thank you goes to my coordinator Richard Long. There are many supporters of this program, but none can compare to Dick. I want to thank him for helping coordinate the contest and also for being one of my biggest supporters during my time as your State Chairperson. Dick is not present today but I would like to have Exalted Ruler James Gordon to please stand and be recognized on behalf of Dick. Thank you very much Jim and please pass this along to Dick when you return back to Poughkeepsie.

Our State Finalist moved onto the Northeast Central Regional Finals in Wilkes-Barre, PA on March 26th, at this contest, three of New York States finest shooters were victorious and move onto the National Finals in Springfield, MA on April 30th, The three contestants that moved onto the National Finals were Riley Tupper representing Southampton Elks Lodge #1574 and the East District, Jackson Watson from Olean Lodge #491 and the Southwest District and Grace Thomas from Oswego Elks Lodge #1039 and from my home district of the South Central. They did not bring back the Gold, Silver or Bronze, but they did bring back a huge sense of accomplishment to make it that far and they all represented the great state of New York with great pride and sportsmanship.

As this is my last year as Hoop Shoot Director I just want to make mention 2 things. First to the Lodges that have not participated in Hoop Shoot, this is a great program for our kids and for your community as well. I ask you to get on board with Hoop Shoot. As I said when I started as State Director, you may have a potential State or National Finalist in your community. The only way to know is to hold a contest. The second thing is to the Lodges that still are struggling with the program and seem not to get the cooperation that they should from their schools or communities, please don't get discouraged! Keep supporting Hoop Shoot. This is a fantastic program that we provide for the youth and your efforts are needed to succeed.

Protocol does not allow me to make mention the name of my successor, but at today's Youth Activities Clinic, which will be held at the Carlson Room at 3:00, I will introduce the new State Director for Hoop Shoot program. I would like to wish him well and to keep the progress moving upward for this program.

Before I end, I would like to thank my sponsor, PSP and PGELK Ernie Southworth, my state advisors for Hoop Shoot, PSP Don Fischer and PSP William Smith, and to my Regional Director Frank Bonner of Wilkes-Barre—Scranton, PA Lodge #109 for their guidance and support. I also would be remised not to thank State Youth Activities Director Tim Welpé for all of his help throughout my past three years as well. Thanks as well to Matt Intrieri, State Website Coordinator and to Jack "Tex" McClurken, State Empire Elk Editor for all of their help with publicity. Thanks to all of the District Directors that have also served during the past three years and I hope you keep on supporting this great program. This is one of the best things I have done in Elkdom and I would like thank all of you and the Advisory Board for allowing me the opportunity to be State Director of this great program. This is something that I will remember fondly and miss.

