

Oswego Lodge #271 recently held their annual Jack Haynes Memorial Golf tournament. The Oswego Elks had 20 teams participating in the golf tournament. The golfers enjoyed a steak dinner at the Oswego Lodge following the tournament. All money raised will go to the Elks National Foundation.



Massapequa Lodge # 2162 hosted a Ritual Clinic for the East District and the South East District. The participants were honored to be schooled by Area I Ritual Chairman Steve Ondrick and State Ritual Chairman Frank Bauer. The meeting started with a minute of silence for the passing of PGLC and PDDGER John Murphy of Catskill Lodge # 1341. John was to have taken over as Area 1 Ritual Chairman.

Pictured; L – R Southeast District Ritual Chairman PER Timothy Kuhn, Area 1 Ritual Chairman Steve Ondrick, NY State Ritual Chairman Frank Bauer and East District Ritual Chairman PER William Schmidt

“For those that think judging the Ritual is a breeze, let me put your mind at ease It takes a bundle of nerve and you can’t mark it on the curve So you have to watch the precision before you make your decision The best will come out on top and the bubbly cork will deservedly pop and the judges can finally rest knowing that they did their best”

Many hours of testing, Ritual demonstrations and more testing shows that the Elks Ritual is alive and well.

2012	
May Spring 17-20 Convention	Crowne Plaza Ten Eyck Albany Plaza State & Lodge Streets Albany NY

**STATE PRESIDENTS
HOMECOMING**

Homecoming will be April 21st, 2012 at the Sidney Elks Lodge # 2175. Information to follow.

DRUG AWARENESS

The Elks’ involvement in the war against illegal drug use had its beginnings in 1981, when the federal government cut back spending on many domestic programs. A call went out to all Americans for volunteerism to make up for these cuts in federal funding, and the Elks responded.

In 1982, the Elks contacted more than 2,000 mayors across the country, asking them to identify their greatest community

problem in which volunteers could effectively help. The answer was resounding. More than 70 percent -- from all regions of the country and from cities, villages and rural communities -- said that drug use was their greatest problem and that volunteers could most certainly help.

With this knowledge, the Elks took on the task of developing an effective, community-based drug-prevention program. Although much progress has been made since the Elks Drug Awareness Education Program was first announced in 1983, the need for volunteer programs to help combat drug use still exists.

The Elks program is intended to reach children in elementary and junior high school, particularly fourth- through ninth-grade students, whose attitudes and behavior can still be influenced. The objective is to increase their awareness through education of the adverse consequences of drug use, so that they decide for themselves to avoid drugs.

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO REMEMBER when submitting articles for publication in the Empire State Elk

- **Proofread carefully before sending material to our state editor.** Don’t hesitate to check your copy with your sources. Spelling and grammar should be 100% correct. Double-check lodge numbers, spelling of names and accuracy of phone numbers.

- **Never use the word “CLUB” in lieu of “LODGE”.** A lodge bar, dining room, etc. is run by the Lodge House Committee. A preferable reference to the bar would be lodge lounge.

- When you act in official capacity as a representative of your district, your article should instill pride in Elkdom. Never send material to the State Editor that expounds on negative or personal matters or opinions. Make sure the lodge editors in your district fully understand this and reject any such material.

- **Never provide pictures which display use of alcoholic beverages or gambling activities.**

- Spell out all numbers from one to ten and use figures for numbers above ten.

A Message from the State DAE Chair

It was so great meeting those of you that attended the NYSEA Fall Conference in Albany last month. It was refreshing to see your enthusiasm and dedication to the Drug Awareness Program. I also want to thank all of the District Chairs that responded to my questionnaire for the Grand Lodge Annual Report. The consensus was that better communication would surely improve all of our programs. My plan is to reach all District and Lodge Chairs and other interested parties with this publication and therefore improve our communication. This will be an e-mail publication only so if there is a District or Lodge Chair with no access to e-mail I will send it to the Lodge e-mail and hope it gets to the Chair. I will also include some of the

information that I handed out at the Conference. One of the most important sections in this newsletter will be Lodge and District input, events, programs, questions...all will be shared in the Newsletter. My hope is to have enough information to publish monthly. I am very excited to share what you are doing in your DAE

Guidelines for Poster and Essay Contest 2011-2012

Poster Contest for:
 Group I Kindergarten
 Group II First and Second Grades
 Group III Third and Fourth Grades
 POSTER SIZE: Minimum 8 ½ x 11 inches
 Maximum 22 x 28 inches
 Essay Contest for: Group IV Fifth and Sixth Grades
 Group V Seventh and Eighth Grades
 ESSAY SIZE: No more than 200 Words
 THEME: “I CHOOSE NOT TO USE” for Poster & Essay
 Judging criteria: Closeness to theme
 Originality
 Neatness
 All Posters and Essays must have the Identification Label affixed to the back
 Winners submitted must have the Hold Harmless Waiver attached.
 Deadlines: Lodge January 15, 2012
 District February 15, 2012
 State March 15, 2012
 State Prizes for each Group are: 1st place \$500 Savings Bond
 2nd place \$300 Savings Bond
 3rd place \$100 Savings Bond

The following is an excerpt from a **Grand Lodge Program Update**

We all knew the challenges we have to face as a program when we left Phoenix. We cannot always get what we want and things are not always perfect but because we are resourceful we can meet those challenges and still continue to grow. The D/A Program has set some very high standards and I am confident that all of us will work hard to meet those standards and continue to take this program to even a higher level. It is going to take a lot of dedication but I am confident we are able to set even a higher standard of service to our children and to the Elks. I am asking you to remember that we answer to the "person in the mirror," who we see in the mirror knows the truth about our dedication and the resolve we all need to continue to be the best there is.

Thanks
 Kent Gade
 Elks Drug Awareness - National Director

Literature Orders

I speak from experience when I say, please do not order more literature than you need. When I became my Lodge DAE Chair, I ordered everything I could get from Grand Lodge, after all it was FREE. Well after years of housing cases of Literature in my house because I had a problem finding appropriate places to display and hand it out. Not to mention that some of the literature is updated and old pamphlets become obsolete. I had to purge all the outdated information. What a waste! It is easy to distribute coloring books and bookmarks, Kids Love Them! But some of the other information is intended for adults and they are not always grabbing them up. One of our District Chairs does it right. She orders 1 case of each and splits it among her Lodges, so everyone has some of everything but not full cases. More can always be ordered if needed. Grand Lodge does an amazing job with the Literature program, but it is not cheap. The printing and shipping costs are increasing. They have cut back on quantities as much as they can but when Lodges order excessive quantities it hurts the program. Please be sparing and only order what you think you will need. Do Not Stockpile!!

Thank you all, Kathleen