



Esperance Lodge # 2507 once demonstrated the true meaning of "Elks Care, Elks Share". Located in Schoharie County, New York, lodge members witnessed firsthand the destruction of tropical storm Irene and the subsequent flooding and destruction the storm brought to the county. Designated as a Red Cross distribution center, the lodge sprung into action to help the community. In the first three weeks following the devastation, the lodge has given aid to over two thousand people who have felt the storms effects. Lodge members have prepared and delivered over 1400 meals, collected and distributed over 2 tons of food and over 4 tons of bedding, cleaning and personal care items. Additionally, over 2 tons of clothing was sent to other agencies assisting with the recovery.

Having dodged the wrath of tropical storm Irene, the town of Cobleskill, NY received a "one two" punch from the rains from tropical storm Lee just days later. The already swollen water ways overflowed their banks and caused major flooding within the town.

Cobleskill Lodge #2040, opened their doors to FEMA staff aiding the flood victims. The lodge provided ice to FEMA staff, refrigerated food stuffs and the lodge kitchen was used to prepare meals. In addition, donations of bottled water, coffee and paper products were made to aid FEMA and the flood victims. Lodge members also held events such as a breakfast, spaghetti dinner, chicken BBQ and a bake sale to raise funds for the community.

Hudson Lodge #787 held a clambake fundraiser to benefit Joplin Lodge # 501 that was totally destroyed during the May tornadoes that ravaged Joplin, Mo. The Grand Lodge immediate appealed for help from it's members but Hudson Lodge, in the true meaning of Elks Care Elks Share, was already making plans for the fundraiser. Plenty of food and entertainment was provided and the Lodge was able to collect over \$800.00 for the event. Additional money in the form of donations were collected and it was all sent to the appropriate contact. Hudson Lodge #787 wishes our brothers and sisters in Joplin Lodge #501 a speedy recovery.

The Past Exalted Rulers of **Guilderland Elks Lodge #2480** held their seventh annual "Police Appreciation" roast beef lunch and dinner on November 3, 2009. In appreciation of local Police Officers, the Elks provided free lunch and dinner to our on-duty Police Officers. Also, for a nominal price lunch and dinner was available to the people of the local community.



Please consider supporting The Drug Quiz Show The Drug Quiz Show was developed by an insightful middle school student that saw the need for a drug

prevention program in her school. The Drug Quiz Show was formed in 1986 and has continued growing for 25 years.

The program encompasses 32 regions thorough out New York State involving 200 schools and over 30,000 middle school students every year. The Drug Quiz Show is a jeopardy style game show competition with 32 regional competitions, winners advance to the playoffs and the top 4 teams go on to the finals which are televised on PBS. The Drug Quiz Show supplies study materials and questions for competition to the schools involved. The study materials are scrutinized for accurate, up to date and nonthreatening information. Subjects not only contain illegal and prescription drug abuse, alcohol and tobacco use, but include information on bullying, grief, conflict resolution, tattoos and body piercing, just to name a few.

The Drug Quiz Show lost their major sponsor and is currently looking for funding. They have approached the New York State Elks Association for help. Not only is financial help needed but volunteers are also necessary for the continuation of this program.

The South Central District Elks Lodges have held a Drug Quiz Show Regional competition for 8 years and is very concerned about the loss of this program. I have encouraged the Regional Coordinators to contact their local Elks Lodges to see if there might be help through you. Please, if you are approached regarding this very successful and vital program give consideration to getting involved. It is an innovative, exciting and worthwhile program. Thank you. Kathleen

If you are interested in getting involved in the Drug Quiz Show, contact me for a list of Drug Quiz Show Regional Coordinators in your area.

Jan Burling (Central District Chair) printed this Great Information for her Lodge Newsletter

As the newly appointed Central District Drug Awareness Program (DAP) Chairperson, I've been busy familiarizing myself with the resources available from the State and Grand Lodge. I had seen brochures and coloring books at our lodge, however I was very pleasantly surprised at the other offerings.

For example, did you know that the Elks Drug Awareness Program teamed with Marvel Entertainment and the federal government's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services to create the *Hard Choices* comic book featuring Marvel Super Heroes and Elroy the Elk in a battle against underage drinking? This comic is designed to educate fourth thru eighth graders about the dangers of underage drinking. To see a digital copy of this comic go to

http://marvel.com/news/story/1735/spiderman_and_the_fantastic_four_in_the_elks_drug_awareness_program_video_comic.

For parents there are pdf files and videos available <http://www.elks.org/dap/parent.cfm> with subject matter on a variety of subjects, including "How Can I Tell If My Child Is Using Drugs" and "A Parent's Guide to Preventing Inhalant Abuse". For educators, there is a Teacher's Guide pdf available at <http://www.elks.org/dap/pdfs/teachersguide.pdf> Or . There are essay contests open to grades sixth through eighth. There are poster contests open to grades third through fifth. For more information, please see: <http://www.elks.org/dap/contests.cfm>.

There is an interactive Drug Quiz available at (<http://www.elks.org/dap/quiz.cfm>).

It's interesting to find out what you do or don't know about drug and alcohol abuse. Our children are this nation's greatest resource. Please take advantage of the vast amount of information our Order has to offer to educate and protect them.

Sincerely,
Jan Burling
Central District DAP Chairperson

Do You Have Input??

If you have anything you would like to share with the DAE Chairs of New York State, feel free to email it to me. Events, programs, ideas, questions...anything goes!! This should be where we connect to improve our programs and share our successes.

Thanks to all of you. Kathleen
nyseadaechair@stny.rr.com

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Elks are active in their local communities in almost as many ways as there are Elks Lodges. Some of the activities are:

- Raising money for a van for a disabled youngster.
- Supporting Little League, Teener League and other youth sports by providing space for the activity, being coaching personnel and with money for uniforms.
- Opening their facilities in times of disaster for emergency shelters, aid distribution centers and food preparation sites.
- Putting on Christmas parties for underprivileged youngsters of the community, providing entertainment, cookies and candy, and a gift from Santa.
- Providing footwear for every needy child in the community.
- Making their facilities available to other fund-raising organizations for breakfasts, dinners, sports events, entertainment and dances.
- Providing drug-free after-prom party arrangements to help keep our youth safe.
- Bringing Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets to the elderly and shut-ins of the community.

While many of these activities cross over to Drug Awareness, Youth and Veteran's Activities, they each add to the community.

The Dictionary Project was founded in 1995 by Mrs. Mary French of Charleston, SC. The sole mission of this non-profit organization – which we as Elks, share – is to distribute dictionaries to as many third graders as possible in the 50 United States and our environs. In 1999, 10,295 dictionaries were distributed. Varying service clubs were the main thrust of sponsorship.

In the 2004-2005 Lodge year, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks became involved. Dictionaries have been distributed to every State of the Union, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. At this point in time close to 7 million children have received a dictionary thanks to the generosity of sponsors who have participated in the Dictionary Project.

The Dictionary Project is a wonderful community service project. It is a wonderful literacy project; an opportunity to be involved in a hands-on-project that does not require a great deal of time; relatively inexpensive; an opener of doors into the schools of your community paving the way for other Youth Projects - scholarships, essay contests, sponsorship of scouting, an Antlers Program, etc.; lends itself to media coverage, to let the community know of the good works we do, of our concern for our nation's young people.

