

**Mechanicville Stillwater Lodge**

**#1403** was very proud to honor its' two New York State award winners for the 2010-2011 Drug Awareness Program at a dinner on October 16, 2011. Sykler Higgins, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at Mechanicville Middle School, received a \$500 savings bond for her 1<sup>st</sup> place award in the essay contest. Sydney Reichart, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Stillwater School, received a \$100 savings bond for her 3<sup>rd</sup> place award in the poster contest. Both students attended the dinner with their families and teachers to receive their bonds.



**Brewster Lodge #2101** recently attended a Court of Honor for newly made Eagle Scout, 18 year old Robert Barrett. In the photo are: front row: younger brother, Joseph Barrett, Tenderfoot; Mother, Jane Barrett; back row: PER Peter Priolo, Youth Activities Chairman, Grandfather, Robert Madsen, Eagle Scout, Robert Barrett, Father, Bruce Barrett and Cristane Autorino, E. Leading Knight.



Brewster Lodge also recently presented Eagle Scout, Alexander R. Andalia, with a Certificate and a US Flag at his Court of Honor. For his project, Alex researched the history of the Putnam Bike Trail and the Old Putnam RR that once ran where the bike trail does today. He built a two sided kiosk made of pressure treated wood. On one side is information about the bike trail and information about the Old Putnam RR on the other. Pictured are Alex's Father, Eagle Scout Ralph Andalia, his Mother, Leticia, his Sister, Gold Award Scout, Priscilla, his Sister, Gold Award Scout, Candice, Eagle Scout, Alex, Cristane Autorino, E. Leading K. and PER Peter Priolo, Youth Activities Chairman.

**Newark Lodge #1249** and the Newark Rotary recently distributed 130 dictionaries to 3<sup>rd</sup>. graders at Kelley Intermediate School. Handing out the dictionaries is only one of the many ways that the organizations show their support of area youth. Following the distribution Brad Whittaker and several other helpers aso gave each student a Drug Awareness Bookmark. The children were delighted with their new gifts.

**Vestal Lodge # 2508** visited each elementary school in the Vestal School District to distribute free dictionaries on November 21, 2011. Third graders at African Road, Clayton Avenue, Glenwood, Tioga Hills and Vestal Hills Elementary schools will each receive their own dictionary from the Elks. Media representatives are invited to attend

the 10:30 a.m. distribution at Clayton Avenue Elementary, 209 Clayton Avenue. This is the ninth year that the Vestal Elks has provided dictionaries to Vestal's third-grade students. In a community that has recently lost so much, and with their own facility damaged in the recent flood, this act of kindness means even more. The Elks work in conjunction with The Dictionary Project, a nonprofit organization with the goal of assisting all students in completing the school year as good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing them with their very own dictionaries. By working with civic organizations all over the country, such as Vestal Elks Lodge # 2508, the Dictionary Project has helped over 16.5 million children to date. Last year 2,461,342 dictionaries were given to students as a gift from people who live in their town.



**Watervliet Lodge #1500** recently provided free dictionaries to each third grader at the Watervliet Elementary School. The dictionary giveaway is part of the local Elks' annual participation in the Dictionary Project, which also sees third graders in Menands and Green Island receive the free reference books. On Tuesday, Nov. 22, Elks Johanna and Edward Baniak were on hand to distribute the free dictionaries and discussed the features and special sections contained in them. The dictionaries are given to the students to keep as their own personal dictionaries. Lodge # 1500 states, the money comes from our bingo and bell jar accounts at the lodge. Our Ladies Auxiliary also contributes. They have 3 people to distribute the dictionaries as well as the Ladies Auxiliary. The lodge has participated in project for eight years. Donating to 3 schools, a total of 1,680 books have been donated overall.



Elks invest in their communities through programs that help children grow up healthy. One program is the Dictionary Project, in which its primary focus is to promote literacy to children in third-grade as they transition from learning how to read to identifying and using information. Elks joined the movement to provide dictionaries to third-grade students and their teachers as sponsors of The Dictionary Project. Dave Crowley, pictured above and Jack Hall, members of the Lodge, presented all third graders and their teachers with the dictionaries. "The reception we receive here at Byron-Bergen – from the students, teachers and staff – is the most welcomed and appreciated," said Crowley. Crowley spent time explaining to students some of the features and benefits of the dictionary. "This dictionary will help you improve your vocabulary," Crowley told the

**Brockport Lodge #2110** - Third graders and their teachers at Byron-Bergen Elementary School each received an American English language dictionary as part of the Brockport Elks Lodge's annual sponsorship with The Dictionary Project, November 22 at Byron-Bergen Elementary School.

students. "One fun item is on the very last page, and this is the longest word in the American English Dictionary!"

**BPO Elks**



The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, established in 1868, is a fraternal order with nearly a million members, a network of more than 2,000 lodges in communities all over the country, a generous charitable foundation, an inspiration to youth, a friend to veterans, and more. Its mission is to live the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare of its members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; and to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, demonstrating that 'Elks Care and Elks Share.'

This organization has donated 1,877,605 books. They have been implementing the project since 2002-2003, with at least 967 clubs/sections participating in the project. They have donated to over 7,469 school(s) nationwide!

So far in 2011-2012, they have donated 286,585 books, giving to students in over 3,721 schools, and with about 454 clubs participating. The top five state donating books are:

State	Total Books Donated
California	563,461
New York	241,809
Massachusetts	196,360
Alabama	98,990
Iowa	83,762



The newest program in Elkdom is an old one! Yes, it is the Junior Elks Program called "the Antlers." It is a chance for young people in our communities to get involved with the Elks in the many service-related projects our Lodges sponsor.

The program was initially organized in the late 1930's and went well for several years as an active arm of the Elks. However, by the 1960's interest in the program had waned and was ended. Recently, a few Lodges have restarted the program with great success.

The Antlers of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America has as its major objective the following:

- To quicken the spirit of American Patriotism
- To teach respect for parents and love of home
- To inculcate the fundamentals of good citizenship
- To aid in a worthy cause
- To establish foundation of character
- To promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members
- And to respect the conviction of others in the matters of worship and religion is true Americanism

Membership in the organization is open to any individual who has passed their twelfth and not yet reached their twenty-first birthday, who is a citizen of the United States of America, of good character and who believes in the existence of God.

Today's Youth are Tomorrows Leaders