



Empire State Elk

Official Publication of the New York State Elks Association and the New York Elks Major Projects, Incorporated Winter 2013 Issue



State President's Message

I have visited six districts in our great State so far and let me tell you that Elkdom is alive and flourishing. Yes there are problems here and there but the SPIRIT among the members and Lodges through out New York State can not be matched.

I know the work we do with Veterans, youth, handicap, communities and people in need from my experience with my Lodge and District but it is mind boggling the extent of what we do through out our State is truly remarkable.

November is Veterans Remembrance Month and I had the pleasure of visiting two BEAUTIFUL VA Hospitals and I can tell you first hand what a great job our VAVS Representatives are doing. A special treat was meeting an 87 year old veteran who is also an Elk that comes from the East District. One of the most rewarding trips was a Stand Down who served between 450 and six hundred Veterans and their families and had the pleasure of being part of it.

Be Proud Of Elkdom I know if you were with me in my travels you definitely would be.

Two weeks ago at a Lodge visitation I was presented with a resolution from the New York State Legislature by Assembly Lupinacci declaring November 2013 is Veterans Remembrance Month in the State of New York.

Are we Proud yet. Martin I. Rosenthal, SP NYSEA



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Syracuse Lodge #31 partnered with the Onondaga County Veterans Council to package and donate personal hygiene kits for a number of their program participants to assist them in their needs. It was found that numerous male and female veterans in the community were in desperate need of these items and the Lodge stepped in to help alleviate this and will continue to provide these kits in the future.



In a recent sunny Saturday morning, the State Capital District ENF Chairman PER Edgar Quackenbush, **Watervliet Lodge #1500** presented Camp Bravehearts a check for \$600.00 to continue the work they do for women in the State Capital District. This money was raised through the sale of mugs at the Fall 2013 Conference. Below is a little about Camp Bravehearts.

Pictured in photo from left to right are: Sue Vazal (wife of Bill Vazal, ER, Esperance Lodge #2507); Karen Haag, Founder Camp Bravehearts; Eva Ofcharsky, volunteer; State Capital District ENF Chairman PER Ed Quackenbush, Watervliet Lodge #1500; and Exalted Ruler William Vazal, Esperance Lodge #2507.

Camp Bravehearts is a non-profit organization that offers women dealing with cancer a variety of weekend retreats, with each weekend a different theme. Bravehearts has provided over 2,500 women with weekends of education, challenge, pampering, inspiration and support. Camp Bravehearts provides scholarships to all campers, charging only a nominal fee of \$100/\$150 for the weekend, and fully funding those with financial hardship. This ensures that the retreats are accessible to all regardless of financial circumstance. It also provides motor coach transportation from Northeast PA and the Capital Region of New York to each of the events at a distance. The camp staff is 100% volunteer. For more information visit: www.braveheartscamp.org



Elk member Rev. Joe Vatter, and **Lockport Lodge #41** Exalted Ruler Susan Griffith, pass out dictionaries to the 3rd grade students at DeSales Catholic School. This year the Lockport Elks delivered 960 dictionaries to 8 schools in 5 different districts and to two local literacy programs.



At the **South District** Annual Christmas Party attended by approximately 150 people each guest was requested to bring a gift for Toys for Tots, a United States Marine Corps program. The response was fantastic. Every guest contributed to this worth cause. Pictured above; R to L; event chairs PDD Guilio Vedovino, & PER Frank Pezzella, PSP Anthony Gilberti, Marine Corp representative Corpal Pete Parente, who served in the Middle East and Youth Committee Chairman Bob Sollazzo. This is an annual event attended this year by New York State Elks Association State President Martin Rosenthal and his wife and First Lady Theresa from Islip Lodge #2533. Also accompanying the State President were his traveling companions Jerry Shook and his wife Abby, from Kinderhook #2530



Potsdam Lodge #2074 donated \$1000 to support the St. Lawrence NYSARC 6th Annual Autism Awareness Walk fundraiser. The Lodge also made arrangements to have the North Central District Drug Awareness Trailer and Elroy the Elk available at the event. Elroy the Elk visited with those participating throughout the event and over 100 children and participants had their picture taken with Elroy. Elroy was present with WWNV TV7 news commentator Jeff Cole, the NYSARC Autism Mascot and several of the participating children prior to the start of the walk. The Potsdam Lodge has donated more than \$4000 to support the Autism Awareness Walk since it began in 2008.



Auburn Lodge #474 Member Robin Jackson recently presented a check in the amount of \$359. to Rick Hansinger, Executive Officer of the E. John Gavras Center. The money donated was due to the hard work of Robin and several other members who made and sold baked goods at a recent chicken BBQ held at the lodge. The bake sale, organized by Robin, was for the H John Gavras Center is the Cerebral Palsy The North Street location houses the Administrative Team, Early Childhood Programs, Therapeutic Services, Training and Development, and the Compliance Program. Cranebrook site is home to the Day Habilitation Program, Community Habilitation and Waiver Respite Program, Medicaid Service Coordination, and Quality Assurance. Their vision is to be an innovative leader in the provision of person centered services and supports, primarily for those individuals of all ages with special needs, and their families, through an array of quality programs and services.

More than 600 people attended **Liverpool Lodge #2348's** 25th annual Music Fest to benefit CP. Four bands played music throughout the course of the day. Plenty of food was available as well as raffles and games. There was face painting and activities for the young. Enable had one of their Home Service Vans present and set up a very informative display. CP Ambassador Ally mingled with the participants throughout the day. A large contingent of people from Rotterdam Lodge boarded a bus and traveled approximately 130 miles in one direction to support Liverpool Lodge as well as our State's Major Project. Lodges throughout the Ontario District and the entire area had a visible presence. It was wonderful to see the support from members along with the public.

Rochester Lodge #24 hosted the eighth annual Music Festival to benefit CP Rochester. This annual benefit raises money to purchase rehabilitation equipment for individuals in the Rochester community with cerebral palsy. The day was filled with music from four different bands, food, raffles, face painting, a dunk tank, and, of course, dancing! In attendance were over 150 people. In addition to the public, those attending were clients of CP Rochester, CP Rochester staff members, and Lodge members, families, and friends.



West District Annual Charity Ball / Major Project State Chair Irene Pashley is presented with a check. Also pictured, District Sponsor Larry Haas, SVP Dan Bodenstein, State President Martin Rosenthal and Emcee for the evening Ken Perry. Pictured left; Niagara Falls ER Dave Robertson with Major Projects Ambassador Allie Comfort.



JAMESTOWN LODGE #263 HOST ASPIRE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Over 30 members of Jamestown Elks Lodge #263 prepared and served 270 free turkey dinners to individuals with disabilities and their families associated with Aspire, Inc. recently at St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Jamestown.

The lodge prepared over 22 turkeys and donated \$1,200 to Aspire, Inc. to buy gifts for all. Other donations included: Lakewood Rod and Gun Club \$500, Byrne Dairy, milk, McDonalds Corp., coupons for ice cream and orange drink, Jamie Henderson and Randy Graham, band music and Maplevale Farms, two large turkeys. Lodge members baked and donated 30 dozen cookies. Elk member Bill Rollinger was Santa Claus and passed out gifts to all.

"I am proud that the Jamestown Elks have been doing this wonderful event for over 50 years," said Walter Gaczewski, Lodge Exalted Ruler. "This event is very heartwarming for both our Elk's members and the Aspire clients."

"The Jamestown Elks is such a generous organization for providing this annual Christmas Party for over 50 years. They bring joy to so many people and it is such a privilege for Aspire Western New York to collaborate with them for this event," said Gail Saunders, Aspire Home Services Director. "We appreciate this organization and their generous support at Christmas and throughout the year."

The annual dinners were begun 57 years ago in 1956 in collaboration with the Easter Seal organization and were the original idea of Fran Johnson, Kay Parker and Kay Crossley, widow of the late (1959) Elk Exalted Ruler and local attorney Howard Crossley. The association with Aspire, Inc. began about 30 years ago. Pictured above: Aspire dinner participants: From left rear, Carole Johnson, representing the Lakewood Rod & Gun Club, Paul Hill, Esteemed Leading Knight, Richard Dixon, lodge secretary, Carrie Haas, and Pat Long, Data Management Specialist, Aspire, Inc. In front is Joe Osterhout.



Potsdam Lodge #2074

donated proceeds from the Lodges annual golf tournament to the Jules for Life Foundation. The Foundation was created by Carmen and Blake Gendebien of Canton who recognized the needs of local families challenged with the

travel and financial expenses of receiving pediatric cancer care. Proceeds from the foundation stay local and are used to fulfill make a wish requests, pay for hotel accommodations and gas expenses, and miscellaneous unexpected needs that families encounter when going through courses of treatments. Past State Vice President Mary Charleston, Trustee Sally Boslet and NYSEA Public Relations Chair Tim Welpé are pictured presenting a \$1,100.00 donation to Jules for Life co-founder Carmen Gendebien. This is the second consecutive year the Lodge has donated proceeds from the golf tournament to the Foundation.



A Message from New York Elks Major Projects Board Chairman, PSP Jamie Peace

Happy New Year!!

2013 was a very good year and 2014 will be a bigger and better year. All of our chairmen are working hard to make their programs the best that they can be. Congratulations to our soccer winners, and good luck to our Hoop Shoot participants as they work toward the state, area regional, and national finals. Our essay contests are all in full tilt, and every year our youth seem to astound us with their words and thoughts. Good luck to all of the scholarship applicants, as this money is a major boost to help many students pay for their college education.

Our Major Project chairman Irene Pashley is working hard to promote this program throughout our state. Many of you have had the opportunity to meet our two Ambassadors and their families. Kimberly (Kimmie) Kennedy, along with her parents, attended our Fall Conference in White Plains. Allie Comfort and her parents have attended two events where many of our members had the pleasure of meeting them. Our Ambassadors are very eager to meet all of our members, but, if you would like them to attend your lodge or district event, please know that the arrangements must be made through our State Chairman Irene Pashley.

As chairman of the Major Projects Board, there is more than just presiding over our semi-annual meetings. As chairman, I am a member of the Cerebral Palsy Association of New York's Board of Directors. I am also on Standing Committees; the number one being the Program Service Committee. The Cerebral Palsy Board meets seven times a year; five times in New York City; once in Albany or Saratoga Springs, and once via teleconference. Attending all of their meetings has been very educational. For example, when I have to report to the Cerebral Palsy Board on all of the good things that our New York State Elks do, the board members cannot say enough to praise all that you do for the Home Service Program.

As the federal government and our state government cut budgets, the New York State Elks Major Projects always comes through. Cerebral Palsy of New York and the Home Service Program knows that we have been there for them for the past fifty years. We continue to support this program with our commitment of \$426,730 and we help purchase three vehicles annually with an additional \$30,000 – for a total of \$456,730. We also now have the \$5,000 yearly grant to help many of the Affiliates with special projects within their local areas.

So, because of all of your hard work and dedication, all of the individuals with developmental disabilities have a chance to live a better life.

Again, **THANK YOU** for all that you do.



Webster-Fairport Lodge # 2396 held their 5th Annual Car Show at the Lodge. Proceeds from the show, approximately \$ 1000.00, will be split between the United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State and the local UCPA affiliate CP Rochester. UCPA is the New York State Elks Major Project.

Two Fire Trucks from the West Webster Fire Company and the Ridge Culver Fire Company were at the Show parked close to each other and with the trucks ladders extended high displayed a large American Flag.

The Show began at 11:00 A.M. and at Noon a Memorial Ceremony was conducted by Firefighters from the two Fire Companies standing in front of the West Webster Fire Truck. Pictures of Firefighter Michael Chiapperini and Firefighter Tomasz Kazowcka, both West Webster Firefighters, who died December 24, 2012 while responding to a fire were displayed in front of the Fire Truck.

A moment of silent prayer was then conducted to honor all Firefighters who lost their lives while performing their duties. This moment included the two Firefighters from the West Webster Fire Company and the nineteen Firefighters in Arizona as well as the eleven Firefighters in Texas who recently lost their lives.

Forty four (44) cars were entered in the Show. The oldest car was a 1923 Ford T Bucket and the newest was a 2012 Ford Mustang.

AWARDS were presented for Car Club with the Most Participants, Crowd Favorite, Best in Show, Furthest Distance Traveled, Ladies Choice, And many more. DJ " DUKE OF EARL " provided the music for the entire Show. Hots/Hamburgers/Sausage/Soda were served. Cold Stone Creamery provided the ice cream treats. Prizes/giveaways & 50/50 Raffles were also available. The show closed at 3:00 P.M.

The Firefighters in the attached photograph are I.D. L-R as: William Dinse, Webster-Fairport Lodge Exalted Ruler. Robert Dennary, Firefighter, Point Pleasant Fire Co. Luke Burkovich, Firefighter, Ridge Culver Fire Co. Kevin Moynihan, Firefighter, Ridge Culver Fire Co. Jeff Serenati, Firefighter Ridge Culver Fire Co. Phil Vanderlee, Firefighter, West Webster Fire Co. Lt. Syed A. Mustafa, Firefighter, West Webster Fire Co.



Port Jefferson Lodge #2138 helps a little Angel in need who has a rare disease Erin Brenner is a four year old with Angelman Syndrome, a rare neurological condition that causes people to have no speech, difficulty walking, difficulty using their hands, seizures and intellectual impairment.

Port Jefferson, NY Lodge #2138 recently came to her aid through a fundraiser they were running for Veterans. Her plight was brought to the attention of the lodge by one of its members who is aware of her situation. Because her father is a veteran, the committee talked it over and deemed it worthy of making a donation to the family. Recently, the Lodge donated \$1000.00 to help the family in their time of need.

Erin lives with her parents and her older sister Marron. She recently learned to walk, but can often be found with no shoes or socks because she has become an expert in pulling them off! She is a very happy little girl who loves going to school, playing with baby dolls and bouncing on her mini-trampoline.

Erin attends multiple therapies every day and works very hard to try to learn to feed herself. In addition, she tries to learn to communicate with all those around her who she loves so much! Her speech therapist recently started working with Erin to begin using an iPad as a tool for communication

She has recently had some safety issues, which have caused her family to modify her home to try and keep a safe environment. Erin has to travel out-of-state several times per year to see specialists in the disorder, but she enjoys those trips with her parents.

Anyone wishing to help Erin please get in contact with Anthony Florio, the Exalted Ruler of Port Jefferson NY #2138. Pictured above is (l.) Anthony Florio, ER of Port Jefferson # 2138, Erin and her dad Sean



At the Fall Conference held in White Plains, NY on September 21, 2013. After receiving the 2012 - 2013 Grand Lodge Five Star Award for the NYSEA State publication, The Empire State Elk, State Editor Jack McClurken presented the award to PDD Tim Welpe, District Editor from the North Central

District for his outstanding work. Tim a member of Potsdam Lodge #2074 has been the District Editor for the past several years. Pictured left L to R: PDD Jack McClurken, State Editor, SP Martin Rosenthal, PSP Tim Kelly, North Central District co-sponsor, PDD Tim Welpe and Grand Exalted Ruler Millard C, Pickering.



Major Projects Board of Directors, from L to R; SP Martin Rosenthal, PSP Rick Wunder, PDD Tony Thanopoulos, PSP, Jamie Peace (Chairman), PSP Tim Kelly, PSP Anthony Gilberti and PSP Charles Noonan.

New York State Elks Association

Martin L. Rosenthal – President
42 Keswick Drive
East Islip, NY 11730-2808
631-650-9394
(NYSEA First Lady – Theresa)
per8384@optonline.net
[Islip #2533]

Paul G. Erkkinen – State Secretary
33 Holcomb Road
Averill Park, NY 12018
(Sue – Admin. Asst.)
Office # (518) 674-0290
Fax # (518) 674-0291
E-Mail: nysea@verizon.net
[Rensselaer #2073]

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The Empire State Elk is published quarterly (bi-annually on newsprint and bi-annually in electronic format) and financed by the New York State Elks Association and the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc. and circulated to all members of New York State Elks Lodges to promote our program goals and objectives by reporting on lodge, state and national programs developed to enhance patriotism and give assistance to our veterans, the handicapped, youth, elderly, victims of disasters and others in need.

This publication will take no partisan stands or furnish space for political, sectarian or personal prejudice.

Photographs accompanying articles may be rejected for poor quality, poor contrast, etc. and will not be returned. Photos of or references to alcohol use, gambling and non-Elk activities are not acceptable. **Photos printed on personal computer printers are not suitable for newsprint reproduction.** Photos sent in JPEG and PDF formats to tex-elk1@hotmail.com and your District Editor are acceptable.

Members who do not receive the **Empire State Elk** should contact their lodge secretary. **ADDRESS CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS** should first be sent to your **SUBORDINATE LODGE SECRETARY**, who should correct the Lodge records

and then inform the Grand Lodge of the change. **The Editor of the Empire State Elk publication has no authority to make changes to the mailing list.**

NY ELKS MAJOR PROJECT

Our Major Project Home Service is strictly a New York State Elks Association Program which consists of 27 Home Service Directors and the vans that the directors use to provide individualized services to disabled people and their families. We began to support this program in 1966 and annually contribute about \$500,000 for salaries and vans.

Funding for our State Major Project comes from individual donations, Lodge donations, the Elks National Foundation, and from various other groups such as Ladies' Auxiliaries and PER Associations. We have a goal this year of \$8.00 per member.

Our State Chairman is Louis Withiam, of Ithaca Lodge #636. Our State Major Project is administered by the **NY Elks Major Projects, Inc.**, a 501(c)(3) corporation, and contributions are tax exempt. The Corporation also supervises funding provided by the **Elks National Foundation** for

- Educational purposes in the form of scholarships.
- Charitable activities and programs including, but not limited to, Americanism, Community Projects, Veterans, Hoop Shoot, Other Youth Programs, Drug Awareness, Scouting and Disaster Relief as may be recommended and approved by the Board of Directors.

The members of the Board of Directors are:

PSP James Peace, Chairman,
PDD Anthony Thanopoulos,
PSP Anthony Gilberti,
PSP Timothy Kelly
PSP Charles Noonan
SP Martin Rosenthal
PSP Richard Wunder

State Public Relations Chair

Tim Welpé, PDDGER
54 Waverly St.
Potsdam, NY 13676
(H) 315-265-8480
timwelp@northnet.org
Potsdam #2074

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

The Empire State Elk

State Editor - Publisher

Jack McClurken, PDDGER

10 Richard Street
Ansonia, Ct. 06401
(H) 203-732-8676
Cell 203-893-8692
texelk1@hotmail.com
Mid Westchester #535

District Editors/PR Staff

Conrad Dönhaniak -Central Dist. ESE & PR

124 Park Ave.
Herkimer, NY 13350
(H) 315-985-9091
Cell 516-360-5615
RADCON1439@hotmail.com
Herkimer #1439

Gerald J. Kraus - East Dist. ESE & PR

46 Janet St.
Port Jefferson Sta., NY 11776-3617
(H) 631-473-9105,
(Cell) 516-658-7637
geraldkraus76@gmail.com
Port Jefferson #2138

Richard Steers - East Central Dist.

PO Box 195
Kerhonksen NY 12446
(H) 845-626-7892
drsteers@aol.com
Ellenville #1971

Michael A. Ayotte – Mid Hudson Dist. ESE & PR

320 Sprout Brook Rd.
Garrison, NY 10524
(H) 845-736-4000
MAyotte@optonline.net
Peekskill #744

Randy Pray - North Dist. ESE & PR

PO Box 383
Keeseville, NY 12944
(H) 518-314-1242
(W) 518-569-3421
r_pray@keesevilleelks.org
Keeseville #2072

Tim Welpé - North Central Dist ESE & PR

54 Waerly Street
Potsdam, NY 13676
(H) 315-265-8480
timwelp@northnet.org
Potsdam #2074

John H. Minners- North Hudson Dist. ESE & PR

440 Route 66L – 27
Hudson, NY 12534
(H) 518-828-4929
Cell 518-369-9373
johnnyM@mhicable.com
Hudson #787

F Milo Jose - Northeast Dist. ESE

108 1st. Ave..
Mechanicville, NY 12118-2201
(H) 518-664-5182
(Cell) 518-265-9156
PinHigh4@aol.com
Mechanicville-Stillwater #1403

Sheila McCallum - Ontario Dist. ESE & PR

1202 Cold Springs Rd
Liverpool NY 13088
(H) 315-451-2256
rmccallum@twcny.rr.com
Liverpool #2348

Stephen Spodnik - South Dist. ESE

260 South Broadway, Apt. 8H
Yonkers, NY 10705
(H) 914-476-6828
Cell 914-646-1785
sspods@aol.com
Mt. Vernon-Yonkers #707

Hope Woodcock- S. Central Dist. ESE

82 Pixley Road
Chenango Forks, NY 13746
(Cell) 607-222-8412
hope-mw@hotmail.com
Johnson City #2821

Frank Kohler - Southeast Dist. ESE & PR

51 Lenox Ave
Lynbrook, NY 11563-4040
(H) 516-593-7285
Cell 516-578-6689
frankkohler@verizon.net
New York #1

Yvonne Peace - Southwest Dist. ESE

PO Box 134
Westons Mills NY 14788-0134
(H) 716-373-3457
ypeace@sbu.edu
Olean #491

Robert Halliday - Southern Tier District ESE

159 W. Sullivanville Rd.
Horseheads, NY 14845
(H) 607-739-8393
(C) 607-731-5742
GOLOSPRINTING@AOL.COM
Horseheads #2297

Michael Jones - State Capital District ESE & PR

11 Algonquin Rd.
West Sand Lake, NY 12196-2000
(cell) 518-441-1845
mikey64@nycap.rr.com
Guilderland #2480

Scott Abel – West District ESE & PR

141 Fleetwood Terrace
Williamsville, NY 14221
(H) 716-531-1998
saabel@verizon.net
Niagara Falls #346

John Baron – West Central District ESE

77 Orlando Rd.
Rochester, NY 14622
(H) 585-474-6024
Jbaron2@rochester.rr.com
Webster-Fairport #2396

Thomas Rursue - West Central District PR

6464 E Port Bay Rd.
Wolcott, NY 14590
(H)315-294-6464
topjocktom@hotmail.com

It is imperative that all Empire State Elk articles as well as public relation newspaper articles be submitted to the designated district appointees. If articles are being submitted but do not appear in the state publication, I ask that the District Editor please contact the lodge to notify them as to the reason.

Articles may be rejected due to not meeting the guidelines which can be found on the New York State Elks Web Site.

If the lodge Empire State Elk editor or Public Relations editors are not satisfied with the explanation give by the district editor, do not hesitate to contact myself: Jack McClurken Editor Empire State Elk or Tim Welpé State Public Relations Chairman.

One of the most important ways of spreading the news of the work we do as Elks is through our publications. Unfortunately, our lodges don't let us know about their fund raising activities and the other activates they do to help their community.

In the past few years some articles are appearing in both the electronic and printed issues. This is due to the fact that not all of our members have computer access. I would ask that the lodge secretaries print a copy of the electronic issue and leave in the lodge for their members who do not have access to a computer. Thank you for your cooperation.

Jack McClurken, PDDGER,
State Editor, Empire State Elk



Mid Westchester Lodge # 535 - In the last four years Mid Westchester Lodge has received a \$ 10,000.00 National Foundation Grant. The grant money has been used to start a CP Cub Scout Troop and a CP Youth Group. The Youth Group has attend baseball games, plays, and concerts in NYC as well as monthly picnics at the lodge.



Mid Westchester Lodge 532 Cub Scout Troop 535 celebrates Christmas with lodge Youth Chairman Bob Sollazzo.

Mid Westchester Lodge 532 Cub Scout Troop attend for the first time a scout Jamboree.



Photos to left and above Scouts visit Muscoot Farm

Muscoot Farm was originally a "Gentleman's Farm" founded by Ferdinand T. Hopkins in 1880 and operated as a dairy farm until Westchester County acquired the property in the late 1960s. Today, Muscoot Farm is a Westchester County Park that strives to preserve and interpret its agrarian past. Visitors may stroll through the original barns, visit with the animals, participate in educational programs or hike the many miles of trails. There is something for everyone on Muscoot's 777 acres!

Our Mission

The purpose of Muscoot Farm is to preserve and interpret, For the public benefit, the agricultural, cultural and natural heritage of a Westchester County farm, circa 1880 - 1930

It is Hoop Shoot Season!

The weather has started to get colder but the sounds of basketballs bouncing have just started for everyone involved in the Hoop Shoot Program. The local Hoop Shoot programs are going on now. I know we are all working hard at achieving our goal of 100% participation; it's not too late to get things started. If you are unfamiliar or are having trouble hosting a Hoop Shoot please reach out to other lodges in your area to assist you. This is a great program and remember there may be a champion in your area just waiting to participate. Below are the dates for NY States District, Regional, State, Tri State and National contests.

District

North Central District-Lowville Central School, Lowville NY-1/18/14

North Hudson District- Hudson High School, Hudson NY-1/11/14

Northeast District-St. Mary's Academy, Amsterdam NY-1/11/14

Ontario District-Oswego Middle School, Oswego NY-1/25/14

South District-Ossining Recreation Center, Ossining NY-1/11/14

South Central District-Homer High School, Homer NY-1/11/14

Southeast District-Memorial Jr. High, Valley Stream NY-1/11/14

Southwest District-St. Bonaventure University, Allegany NY-1/4/14

Southern Tier District-Penn Yan Elementary School, Penn Yan NY-1/25/14

State Capitol District-Watervliet Elementary School, Watervliet NY-1/11/14

Central District-Herkimer County Community College, Herkimer NY-1/25/14

East District-Islip Village Hall, Islip NY-1/26/14

East Central District-Sullivan County Community College, Loc. Sheldrake NY-1/18/14

Mid Hudson District-Arlington High School, La Grangeville NY-1/18/14

North District- Saranac Lake High School, Saranac Lake NY-1/18/14

West District-St Francis Assisi School, Tonawanda NY-1/25/14

West Central District-Webster High School, Webster NY-1/25/14

Regional

West-Olean High School, Olean NY-2/8/14

Central-Lowville Academy, Lowville NY-2/8/14

East-Glens Falls High School, Glens Falls NY-2/9/14

South-Arlington High School, La Grangeville NY-2/1/14

State Finals

Le Moyne College, Syracuse NY-3/1/14

Tri State

Wilkes-Barre PA-3/22/14

National Finals

Springfield MA-4/26/14

Please check then NY State Elks website for any changes.

A big thank you, to all that are involved. I know this year will be one of our best. Any questions or suggestions please reach out to your Local, District and State Hoop Shoot Directors. We are always looking for ways to improve our program and reach out to more participants.

Fraternally, William J. Reedy Jr., NYSEA Hoop Shoot Director

Potsdam Lodge #2074 sponsored an NFL Punt, Pass and Kick contest. 36 area youth between the ages of 6-15 participated in the contest. Seven of



the contestants earned championships in their age divisions and advanced to a regional contest. The NFL Punt, Pass and Kick contest has been a part of the Potsdam Lodge youth activity program for the past four years. Co-chairs Dave Dorothy and Tim Welpé, along with contest volunteers John Keleher, Mary Charleston and Terry Davis are pictured with the boy's 12-13 age group following the awards presentation.

Ellenville Lodge #1971 held a fundraiser for a Two year old girl. She has been diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, a very aggressive disease which requires intensive chemotherapy. She is presently at the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital Columbia Presbyterian, N.Y.C. for up to 6 months of treatment. The Roast Beef dinner hosted by the Elks raised over \$4700.00, for this very worthy cause.



On September 28th the **South Central District** held it's Soccer Shoot at the Johnson City Lodge #2821. Pictured are John Edinger, DD,PSVP, Suzanne Whalen ER and winner of the 10 year old division Reagan St. Clair, daughter of



Lecturing Knight Leona St. Clair.

Massena Lodge #1702 sponsored a 50's and 60's sock hop dance fundraiser to support the Back the Pack Program. The fundraiser included a silent auction of several items, a trivia contest and an Elvis impersonator entertainer. Thanks to member support, the Lodge raised \$3000 for the program. Exalted Ruler James Root is pictured presenting the donation to Back the Pack Program Director Julie Paquin.

Cobleskill Lodge #2040 recently presented a check of \$250.00 to Girl Scout Troop #2345. The Girl Scout troop assists in various Major Project fundraisers at the lodge including Lobster Fest and dinners. Exalted Ruler James Suschinski, presented the check to troop leader Jacqui Hauser, Girl Scout Troop #2345. Cobleskill Lodge would like to thank all of the young ladies of Troop #2345 for their hard work throughout the year.

Johnson City Lodge #2821 elves went to Mom's House with gifts and a lasagna lunch for 24 children and staff. It's a not for profit daycare for single parents going to high school, college or business school full time. They also provide education to the parents on CPR, checkbook/finances, etc. Each parent also has to volunteer at the center 4 hours a week. They celebrated their 25th year anniversary in October.



Lyons Lodge #869 recently held its Father's Day awards ceremony for Father of the Year at a recent dinner at the Lodge.

In cooperation with the Lyons Elementary School, many entries for the Father of the Year essay contest were submitted. The essay winners were Zoe Frey and Jenna Bott.

Jenna is in the 2nd grade in Mr. Verdine's class. She is the daughter of Keith and Terrie Bott. She has

brothers, Jacob and Justine.

Zoe is the daughter of Jeremy Frey and is in the 5th grade in Ms. Boardman's class. She has brothers, Dillon and Konlee.

Exalted Ruler Julie Wunder presented each of the fathers with a framed copy of the winning essay and an engraved plaque recognizing their selection as Father of the Year. Pictured (L-R): Mr. Bott and Jenna, Elks Leader Wunder, Zoe and Mr. Frey.



For the 21st consecutive year, **Watertown Lodge #496** sponsored an annual Harvest Dinner. The dinner was a huge success. The Lodge enjoyed serving about 270 senior citizens to a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings. The Lodge extended an invitation for senior citizens from the Watertown community to the complimentary Thanksgiving Dinner that is held at the Lodge. The Lodge provided busing to senior citizens that reside in senior housing. The Harvest Dinner is made possible by the generous donations of the Lodge members. Some of the many that attended are pictured enjoying the dinner.



Massena Lodge #1702 has established community partnerships with the Shriners Children's Hospital and Massena Rotary to benefit several charitable causes. The Lodge hosted a clambake fundraiser with the Shriners and raised \$1237 for the Children's Hospital. Past State President Tim Kelly, PER Wayne Durant and ER James Root are pictured as they prepare to serve at the clambake. The Lodge also combined efforts with the Massena Rotary and hosted an Annual Holiday Wine and Beer Tasting to benefit local food pantries. Gourmet foods were served including meat carving stations and assorted hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. Beer and wine vendors provided for a variety of tasting. 100% of the proceeds from the event were divided between the Salvation Army, St Vincent DePaul and the Neighborhood Center food pantries. There was also a 50/50 raffle to benefit the local Meals on Wheels program. Musical entertainment was provided.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 members Tim Welpé left and Bill LaPoint right and Canton-Potsdam Hospital volunteers Doris LaPoint and Eileen Horton have been honored with the President's Volunteer Service Award. Each has been recognized with a lifetime award for committing over 4000 hours of community volunteer service. In recognition of their accomplishments, each received a Service pin, letter from President Obama and recognition certificate. They are pictured showing their certificates following an award presentation for Mrs. Horton at the Canton-Potsdam Hospital.



Port Jefferson Lodge #2138 recently attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony for Pedro Peguero, Jr of Boy Scout Troop # 229. PSVP Henry Ross of the lodge was on hand to present a congratulatory letter from GER Pickering to the Scout as well as an American Flag and a Certificate of achievement from the lodge.

His Eagle Scout project was to renovate the signs for Our Savior Lutheran Church of Centereach, NY. In addition, he had added a new banner and constructed a new cement base. He also included a sprinkler system as well as beautifying the signs with perennials and other flowers.

For the fifth consecutive year, **Carthage Lodge #1762** and the Carthage Lions Club combined their efforts and held a community Thanksgiving feast. Nearly 200 people attended the dinner that was free and open to anyone in the public. The dinner was held at the Carthage Lodge. The dinner began with a family conversation among Exalted Ruler Adam Fuller, his sister Diana Clement, a former Lions Club President, and their mother Jeanne Fuller, also a Lion Club member. It has now become both a family tradition and community event for many others associated with the Carthage Elks and Lions. This year's dinner was featured on WWNY TV 7 News. Exalted Ruler Adam Fuller and Craig Brennan, a 41-year Elk, were interviewed as part of the news feature.



Johnson City Lodge #2821 stepped out to help find a cure for Juvenile Diabetes by supporting Team Justin's Wish Team. The lodge members raised \$ Pictured is Team Captain Justin, Elroy, Sue Whalen, ER and Scott Dow, Trustee.

PER Russ Ryan proved Elks will do anything for charity when he ran in the Pink Dress for Breast Cancer Run on September 28th in Binghamton, NY.



Horseheads Lodge #2297 recently organized an Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver's Retreat. Eighty five participants listened to medical and legal experts discuss the issues that pertain to them. The speakers included Dr. Brian Heppard, a board-certified geriatrician, Donald Mustico, an attorney specializing in elder law and estate planning, and Rhoda Meador, Director of the Ithaca College Gerontology Institute. The day included breakfast, games, chair massages, door prizes and lunch provided by The Olive Garden Restaurant all provided at no cost to attendees. The retreat was funded with the proceeds of the Lodge's annual Golf tournament.



Malone Lodge #1303 celebrated the Lodges 100th anniversary with a Gala dinner celebration at the Lodge. The dinner was attended by 175 members and guests. Dignitaries in attendance included PGER David Carr and his wife Penny, State President Martin Rosenthal, Past State President Tim Kelly, DDGER Ron Novak and his wife Helen, State Vice President Joe Spriggs and his wife Gayle, State Trustee Scott Hirst, State Public Relation Chair Tim Welpé and his wife Mary and State ENF Chair Jennifer Neaton and her husband Mike. Several of the Lodges Past Exalted Rulers were in attendance as well as current Officers. The evening began with Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres that were graciously provided by the Ladies of Lodge #1303. Many of the guests took the opportunity to view a historical display of pictures and news articles about the Lodge that was compiled by member Martha Gardner. A ceremony followed the dinner. John. D Mahoney, PDDGER served as the Toastmaster. Lodge member Tim Lashomb provided highlights of the Lodges 100 year history. PGER Carr, State President Rosenthal, PSP Kelly, DDGER Novak and SVP Spriggs spoke to those attending and offered congratulatory remarks. The Lodge presented special gifts to PGER Carr and State President Rosenthal. PGER Carr (pictured) presented the Lodge a commemorative plaque recognizing the Lodges historical 100th year anniversary that was accepted by Exalted Ruler Terry Fisher. State President Martin Rosenthal also presented the Lodge a recognition award on behalf of the NYSEA. The celebration concluded with dancing and musical entertainment from "Slab City" that featured PDDGER Jeff Larch, Lowville Lodge, on Drums.



Elks Association State President Martin Rosenthal at the Fall Conference Banquet.



Past Grand First Lady Ginny Bristol, New York State First Lady Theresa Rosenthal, Grand Lodge First Lady Susanne Pickering and Past Grand First Lady Penny Carr at the Fall Conference Banquet.

Olean Lodge #491 - Members of Olean Lodge distributed 25 Christmas baskets to families in the greater Olean area. Because the Lodge applied for and received a \$2,000 Beacon Grant from the Grand Lodge, as a special addition, movie tickets from the local Carmike 8 Cinema were included. Food for the baskets was purchased from Ried's Food Barn, a locally owned grocery store. Gift certificates from the Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce were included in the food baskets. Several baskets were given to recently placed families who had lived at Genesis House in Olean. Genesis House provides temporary housing for families. Members were able to identify a diversified list of recipients, due to members' employment in local/state agencies. Several members gathered on Dec. 23rd to assemble the baskets for delivery. A special thanks to: Lori Yardman, who applied for the grant and coordinated the purchases/basket deliveries; Frank Aloï Sr., PDDGER, who contacted the Greater Olean Area Churches for basket recipient names; Penny Lyman, who wrapped all food boxes in festive Christmas wrapping paper; Pete Cavana, who picked up the food purchases at Ried's Food Barn and delivered everything to



Olean Elks Lodge members (from left) Terri Peterson, Di Kaspersci, Stacie Davis, Lori Yardmen, Frank Algi and Yvonne Peace help prepare 25 Christmas food baskets to greater Olean area families.

the lodge. This annual project is a favorite for members who have participated for the past few years, and a new favorite for members who joined in for the first time this year.



Elmira Lodge #62 This year marks the 70th year of a wonderful partnership the Elmira Elks Lodge #62 has enjoyed with the Chemung County Nursing Facility. Because so many of their life members have been and currently are residents of the facility they have worked each year to put on a Christmas Concert and Party for the residents to enjoy. The Lodge works with the employees of the facility each year to find that special need of the residents which is not provided by the government and make that need the Lodge's special gift to them, which is presented at the party. The annual Turkey Party is our fund raiser for the Nursing Facility and this year's event raised over \$700, which the Lodge used to help out the residents. People shown in the photo left to right are- Santa (Cliff Havens), Tammy Bailey, Bob Petzke, ER April Bates, Tim Beloma(Trustee), Jeff Bailey (Loyal Knight), Marilyn Bixler, Fred Bixler (Trustee), Angie Sprague, Jim Sprague (SVP, PER).

Oswego Lodge # 271 helped the Oswego Salvation Army collect money for the needy families of Oswego. Members of the Lodge took turns ringing the Salvation Bell at the Oswego Big M grocery store. —>



Watertown Lodge #496 annual Coats for Kids Program was again a huge success. As a result of generous donations from Lodge members, the Lodge was able to donate 200 winter coats to the Community Action Planning Counsel. The coats were distributed to area children in need of warm clothing for the upcoming winter months. The coats were delivered to the C.A.P.C. by Lodge members Dave Nicol, Todd Murrock, Sherry Rafferty, Rick Barrisford, and Shane Wisner. They are pictured at right showing some of the many coats that were donated. —>





Members of **Newark Lodge #1249** and the Newark Rotary Club partnered in distributing dictionaries to 153 third graders at Kelley Intermediate School.

Following a welcoming statement to all of the students and guests by Principal Theresa Prinzi, James Sadler, Newark Elks Exalted Ruler, explained to the students how his organization supports a variety of youth programs within the community, state and nation. He went on to elaborate on the Annual Hoop Shoot Competition, the Drug Awareness Program, which includes alcohol and tobacco as well as illegal drugs and the Elks Scholarship Program which awards over two million dollars nationally and three hundred thousand just in New York State.

Rotary President, John Zornow, pointed out to the students that they could keep their new dictionaries at their desk or in their backpacks to be useful anytime and anyplace. They could even mark newly discovered words in their books and watch their vocabulary grow over the years. Zornow emphasized that, "The goal is that all students would leave school as good writers, active readers and creative thinkers". The assembly ended with each of the third graders receiving a new dictionary.

For additional information on youth, veteran and various other programs supported by the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks (B.P.O.E.), call 315-331-1249 or visit elks.org. Contact John Zornow at 315-945-5881 if interested in the Rotary.

Newark Elks and Rotarians distributed dictionaries to 153 third graders at Kelley Intermediate School. Pictured front row, left to right: Kelley Intermediate School Principal, Therese Prinzi; third grade students, Alexis Szymonek, Sara George and Morgan Miller; Volunteer, Chrissy Kent and Community Chairperson David Doebler. Back row volunteers: Carol Nary, Jan Hence, Marlene Donk, Elks Exalted Ruler James Sadler and Rotary President John Zornow.



On August 17, Scout Nicholas Bellomy was awarded with Scouting's highest honor, Eagle Scout. Nicholas is a member of Boy Scout Troop #24, chartered by **Guilderland Lodge #2480**. Shown in picture congratulating Eagle Scout Bellomy is Exalted Ruler Michael Jones, Guilderland Lodge.

Liverpool Lodge #2348 recently provided 360 Dictionaries to 3rd grade students in the Liverpool Central School District, Liverpool, NY. Students receiving the dictionaries were from Liverpool Elem, Elmcrest, Chestnut Hill, Donlin Drive, Morgan Road and Nate Perry schools. Teachers as well as students were thrilled with the gift received from Liverpool Elks Lodge.

Giving the Gift of Life

I want to thank "The Elks Magazine" for giving me the opportunity to speak to fellow Elks.

The Elks are for Education and the Elks are for Charity. Please allow me to share my knowledge of a certain kind of charity, live organ donation, the gift of life.

First, I'll talk a bit about the people who need a kidney transplant; Next, I'll talk a bit about the kinds of transplants available; Then, I'll talk a bit about the donors; And last, I'll talk about how you can learn more on this subject.

There are about 100,000 people in the United States waiting on a transplant list to receive a kidney. These people have severe kidney problems, known as kidney failure, which can be caused by many different diseases. One of the treatments for kidney failure is dialysis. A patient on dialysis spends several days a week in several hour sessions hooked up to a machine which removes waste products from the body. The machine does the work the damaged kidneys no longer do effectively. Their mobility, strength, prognosis and life expectancy is generally lower than those patients who receive kidney transplants.

Most kidney transplants are from cadavers. The donor is brain dead waiting for life support to be removed. Shortly before disconnecting life-support, a physician will remove the kidneys and any other organs suitable for transplantation, store them appropriately, and ship them to the operating theater of the recipient where another physician connects them to the recipient's body. Cadaverous transplants are determined by a list controlled and scheduled by UNOS (unos.org). The main determinant in who gets the kidney is waiting time on the list; there are other factors too. Sometimes a recipient has a spouse, relative or friend who is willing to be a live donor. The donor designates his recipient and the waiting list is not applicable. Kidney donor and recipient have to be matched. If a direct match isn't there, then transplant centers organize swaps and swap-chains so that living donors and their designated recipients can be done all at once. Lastly, some altruistic donors give their kidneys to designated people they know only by way of stories such as this. Compared to receiving a cadaverous kidney, receiving a live kidney significantly increases the health and life expectancy of the kidney patient.

Is it dangerous for the donor to give up a kidney? All surgeries have a certain risk. Yet each year, several thousand live donations are performed. According to one web page, (optn.transplant.hrsa.gov) living donations compose nearly half of all kidney donations. I have been to many patient support group lectures and seen lots of statistics. At one of these, the presenter told us kidney donors have a greater life expectancy than non-donors the same age. That unexpected fact is not because donation makes one live longer, but because people who pass the rigorous selection tests to be a donor are healthier to begin with than non-donors their age.

Many websites describe more about this subject, among them: unos.org, and kidney.org.

About me. I am a member in good standing of **Mamaroneck Lodge #1457** who has been on the kidney transplant list for more than three years. I now have stage five kidney failure. My wife and two friends tried to be living donors but were rejected for health reasons. My wife and I like to travel. In the last few years we visited Russia, China, Israel, Australia/New Zealand and Spain. A few months ago my nephrologist suggested all my travel should be in the US now because I may need dialysis on short notice. I'm multi-listed at several states, all of which have waiting times of about 6 and a half years. Lately, staff members at these centers have made me aware that I should become more pro-active in managing my prospects for receiving a live kidney. I truly appreciate all those who have listened to my story and I hope that perhaps at least one of you might seriously consider giving the gift of life, if not for me, at least for someone near you. Thank



On Saturday August 24th Stephen G. Mengler from Troop 1 Brewster was awarded Eagle Scout. His project was to building an arbor around the statue of the Blessed Mother in front of St. Lawrence O'Toole church in Brewster. The picture includes his parents and present and past officers of **Brewster Lodge #2101**. Front Row: John P. Autorino, PER; Cristane Autorino, PER; John Pancaldo, PER; Ann Mengler; Eagle Scout Stephen G. Mengler; Steve Mengler; John Calbo, PER Back Row: Sheriff Don Smith; Hon. John Sweeney; William R. Miller III, PDD; Richard Walz, PER; Andrew Chastant, Exalted Ruler; Peter Priolo, PER; E. Lecturing K., Steve Kaufman.



Newark Lodge #1249 recently hosted a Christmas Party for over 30 children ages 3 months to 10 years and their parents and grandparents. Everyone enjoyed the homemade goodies, presents, games and especially their time with Santa. Pictured is Santa (Bernie Henson, Elk) holding 3 month old Leah Godkin, who's uncle, Jeremy Godkin, has been in the Army for 6 years and is serving his second tour in Afghanistan.

Elks Care Elks Share



Lyons Lodge #869 recently donated dictionaries to every third grade student at the Lyons Elementary School. Elks Lodge Officer Julie Wunder, a retired Elementary School teacher, made the presentation at an assembly for the students.

As part of the presentation the Elks explained the donation to the students and how the dictionaries could be used by them. The dictionaries will be used by third grade teachers to help the students throughout the school year with their many educational programs.

Also during the presentation the Elks members spoke to the students about the dangers of alcohol and drug use and distributed to the children activity books, book marks and other information to remind the students of what they were taught. *Pictured: Mrs. Wunder, Mrs. Place and several students.*



During Drug Awareness week Oct 21-29-2013 the **Peekskill Lodge #744** donated red ribbon pins to the city of Peekskill Police Department to wear. Our Exalted Ruler Ray Matheson presented the ribbons to Chief Eric Johansen. The Elk Lodge was decorated with red ribbons by Edward Schuka, Mary Schuka and Michael Ayotte. The Drug Awareness Pamphlets were handed out at the lodge and also given to the Peekskill Field Library for children there.

Camillus Lodge No. 2367 recently conducted an Elks Youth Golf tournament at the Westvale Golf Club. The tournament was offered to youth in the greater Camillus area including Jordan, Elbridge, Solvay, and Westhill. Twenty boys and four girls completed in two age categories. Winners and runners-ups received trophies and all participants received lunch at the golf course as guests of the Elks. The tournament was organized and led by PER Jay Mason with assistance from PSVP Dick Flaherty, PER Tom Kinsella and good member John Carter.

Potsdam Lodge #2074 donated \$250 to support the St. Lawrence Seaway Polar Plunge. The Polar Plunge is a statewide fundraiser sponsored by Special Olympics New York. Thanks to contributions from the Potsdam Elks and community members, the event raised over \$30,200.00 to benefit Special Olympics. In addition to the donation, the Lodge created a picture video featuring photos from prior year plunges that was enjoyed by those participating. Tim Welpé is picturing presenting the donation on behalf of Potsdam Lodge to Michelle Mumma, Special Olympic Development Specialist, the Polar Plunge mascot and event chair Brian Ashley.

Member Mary Scarson from **Camillus Lodge # 2367** was inducted into the Town of Camillus Hall of Fame on Saturday, November 2, 2013. Mary was recognized for her nearly 40 years of participating and leading the Camillus Elks Youth bowling program.. The Camillus Elks Youth Bowling League bowls every Sunday at Solvay Alleys. Participation is encouraged for children ages 8 through High School. The Elks sponsor the league through pizza parties, trophies and an end of season banquet.

The 7 State Area 1 Soccer Shoot Competition was held this past weekend in Auburn Massachusetts and we are pleased to report that New York did outstanding with 3 first place finishers and 2 Frances Joyce Award winners, for highest scores!

Here are how each of our representatives placed:

- U-8 Girl, Selena Maldonado from Hornell, 6th Place
- U-8 Boy, Todd Verburg from Red Creek, 4th Place
- U-10 Girl, Megan Guay from Lockport, 1st Place and Joyce Award Winner***
- U-10 Boy, Alex Wyant from Wappingers Falls, 4th Place
- U-12 Girl, Samantha George from Baldwinsville, 1st Place
- U-12 Boy, John Schroth from Remson, 6th Place
- U-14 Girl, Chloe Antelek from Wappinger Falls, 6th Place
- U-14 Boy, Mathew Wyant from Wappinger Falls, 1st Place and Joyce Award Winner**

*this was the 3rd consecutive year Megan walked away with the top honors!

It was another fine showing by our state and it was wonderful that Past Grand Exalted Ruler David Carr was able to be on hand for the competition and festivities. The entire weekend was a great success!

Soccer - It's a Kick!
Mike Neaton,
State Soccer Director and
Jeff Smaldon,
State Youth Activities Chairman



Workplace Giving - Support the ENF While You Work

Designate Your Gift

A designated gift directly supports the ENF program you select, helping build stronger Elks communities today. You can choose to designate your gift to one program or select all programs and make an immediate difference in the lives of youth, veterans and Elks communities. Selecting the ENF Endowment Fund means your donation will be invested in a permanent fund where its interest will be distributed over time, ensuring the ongoing success of the ENF.

Many corporations and government organizations offer convenient ways to help employees support charitable organizations through workplace giving campaigns. You may be able to support the ENF, a 501c3 organization, through automatic payroll deductions. Some employers will even match your donations!

Matching Gifts

Many employers will match gifts given to non-profit organizations by employees and spouses, meaning that for every dollar you donate to the ENF, your company will donate another dollar! Some employers even match gifts from retirees. **Double the impact of your gift today!** To find out if your company sponsors a matching gift program, check with your employer's human resource department to find out more.

Be sure the matching donation sent by your employer includes your full name, address and Lodge number if possible.

Ellenville Lodge #1971 distributed 360 Dictionaries to third graders in 3 schools this year, this makes a total of about 3000 since the Lodge started the program. In more news from the Lodge, 75 complete meal food baskets were distributed to the needy for the Holiday's



During his visit to the North Central District, State President Martin Rosenthal visited **Watertown Lodge #496**. The Lodge sponsored a meet and great reception to welcome State President Rosenthal to the District. During the visit, State President Rosenthal had his photo taken with several of the members in attendance. From left to right: Stephan Loonan, Lecturing Knight; Keith Anderson, Loyal Knight; Pat Hickey, Treasurer; Ray Cooley, Leading Knight; Tim Kelly, Past State President; Martin I. Rosenthal, State President; Paul Nutting, Exalted Ruler; Deborah McCabe, Inner Guard; Tim Griffith, Trustee; Sylvia Buduson, Chaplain; Tom Hodge, Trustee; Don Reid, Tiler; Todd Murrock, Esquire, and Dave Converse, Trustee.



Newark Lodge # 1249 hosted a special evening which honored over 100 volunteers and auxiliary members of Newark Wayne Community Hospital and DeMay Living Center. Marie Burnham, Manager of Volunteer Resources, highlighted the fact that in 2012, 242 volunteers donated a total of 23,827 hours which saved the hospital an estimated \$650,960 in labor costs. Many of the honorees received awards as they were acknowledged for reaching milestones. Pictured far left is Paul Staples who is a 100 hours volunteer at the hospital. Staples also holds the title of 2012 Elk of the Year at Newark Lodge. Next to Staples is 6,000 hours volunteer, Beverly Williams, 2,000 hours volunteer, Shirley Fries and Manager, Marie Burnham. Will Trout entertained the guests with guitar playing and songs while all enjoyed a special dinner put on by the Lodge.



New York State Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci was at the **Huntington Lodge #1565** to honor local veterans and presented a proclamation from the New York State Assembly to Martin I. Rosenthal, President of the New York State Elks Association at the recent District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Visitation.

November is "Elks National Remembrance Month" which focuses on the Elks commitment to uphold the pledge to "...never forget our veterans " and to show gratitude and appreciation for the men and women who have served and who presently serve our country.

'Elks National Remembrance Month' serves a vital role as part of our ongoing philanthropic efforts in support of our country's veterans. It is extremely important to our organization and supports our work and our pledge that 'So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them,' explained Huntington Lodge Exalted Ruler Peter Demodovich. **PHOTO CAPTION:** Pictured from left to right are Ronald Carman, New York State Elks Vice President; Frederick Follett Jr., District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the East District of NY; New York State Elks President Martin Rosenthal; NYS Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci and Huntington Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Peter Demodovich.



Newark Lodge #1249 helped raise over \$1,000.00 at a dance that they hosted for Tracy Elliott, COPD patient in need of a double lung transplant. Tracy (seated) said that, "The support of everyone is just great and it is really appreciated by me and my family." She thanked Elk members Brad Whittaker, Past Exalted Ruler (left) and Steve Wickman, head of host band, 'Country Magic', for their part in making the event successful. A special thanks was also given to 'Country Smoke' and 'Common Ground' for donating their time to benefit the cause. A variety of baskets were raffled off and two 50/50 drawings were also included in the donation to Tracy.

Photos of Travel with SP Marty Rosenthal and 1st Lady Theresa



North Hudson District - Hudson Elks Lodge 787



Hudson Fireman's Home Museum



**Happy 50th.
Wedding
Anniversary
to NYSEA
State President
Martin Rosenthal
and First Lady
Theresa Rosenthal**



Peekskill Lodge #744 hosted a dinner for veterans. Over 45 veterans showed for the dinner and were greeted by great speech from Major Stephen Flagan. The Major is a Special Forces Instructor from Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. We also had the pleasure of Jeanette Pousada PDDGER and Her husband lending a helping hand. Dinner was enjoyed by all and served by the lodge and their helpers.



The Ontario District Elks marched along with their District Float in the annual Veterans Day Parade held at the NYS Fairgrounds on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013. Our group consisted of fellow Elks along with some Veterans who marched with us and carried the Flags of all of our Armed Forces. Our Float was decorated with the complete set of Flag Day Flags as well as the emblems of every branch of service as well as DOD and Homeland Security. The District has been involved in this Parade for many years and will continue to honor our Veterans in this event in the future.



New Paltz Lodge #2568 donated \$ 1,000.00 to the Pinebush, NY Catholic War Veterans. Pictured above from L to R; PER Miller, PER Wheeler, Treasurer Gills, Exalted Ruler Lenny Zapka, CWV Post Commander Peterson and PER Traphagen.



Staten Island Lodge #841 continued its celebration for our Veterans by participating in a Memorial Ceremony held the Staten Island Mall center court hosted by the American Legion. County Commander and Elks member Dennis McCloon and over 200 men and women stood together proudly saluting our Flag, remembering the sacrifices our military has made and continues to make to protect of great nation. We as Elks remember that as long as there are veterans the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks we will never forget them. Pictured in photo L-R: Members Don Sarno, Otto Havell, III, John Petsch, Trustee Joe Bilotti.



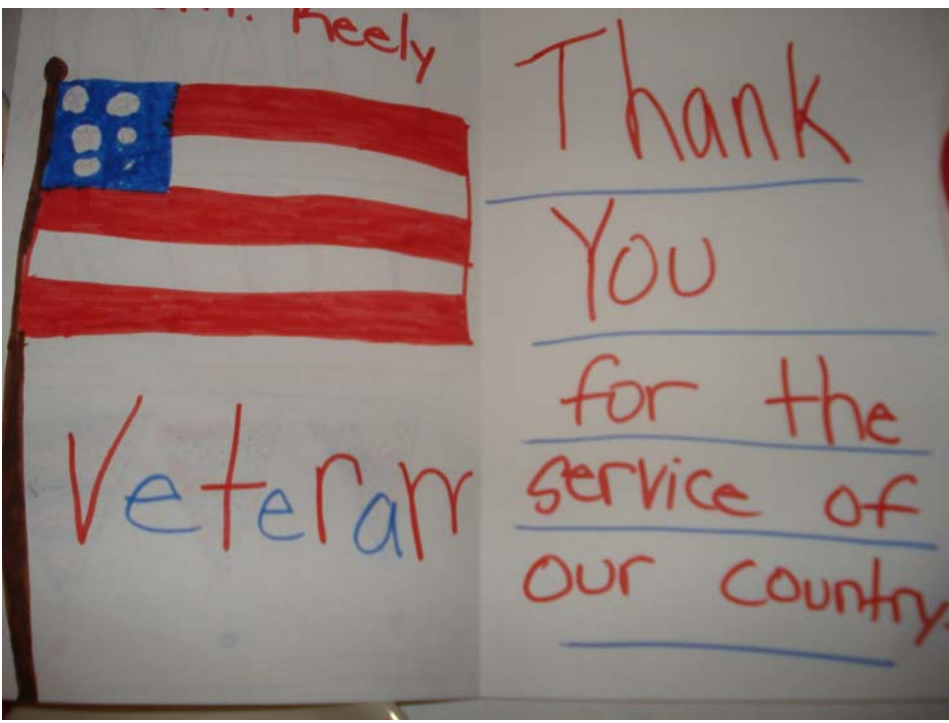
Veteran's Christmas Luncheon at **Port Jefferson Lodge # 2138** - A luncheon for approximately 70 veterans from 3 local Veteran's hospitals and Homes was held on December 11th, 2013 at the Port Jefferson, New York Lodge. The event was organized and run by Past Exalted Ruler Nicholas Feliciano. Lunch was Turkey, mashed potatoes, vegetables and all the fixings. Music was provided by DJ Randy Berliant, who has been performing at this annual Event at the Lodge for many years. A visit from Santa was included, including distribution of gifts to the attending veterans. Pictured above on the right are two representatives of the Northport Veteran's Hospital along with Lodge Secretary Douglas Haeffner and Per Nicholas Feliciano. Heffner's wife Jeanne had crocheted 8 Afghans for the Veterans.

Scarsdale Lodge #2056 escorted the South District State Vice President, VAVS Representative, Carole Castello to the Wartburg and Regency nursing homes. Forty seven Veteran residents were presented with gifts decorated with American flags. Both residents and Elks sang patriotic songs led by vocalist Mercedes Torres and refreshments were served.



Camillus Lodge #2367 held their 1st annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast at their Lodge. This event was an All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast that was free of charge to any and all Veterans and active duty military personnel. The event was a huge success, treating over 110 Veterans to breakfast and serving an additional 120 attendees. The local Boy Scout Troop 60 assisted with prepping, serving and cleanup for the event and attendees

included a group from the Syracuse Veterans Outreach Center and participants, residents and staff from the Syracuse V.A. Hospital. Organizers of both the Rochester and Syracuse branches of the Honor Flight Organization were also on hand and spoke to the crowd about their experiences. NYS Elks Association National Service Veterans Chairman Herb Flint was also present to experience first hand the camaraderie of the event and was duly impressed. Shown in the picture is Exalted Ruler Diane Daniels and Lodge Veterans Chairman Bob Marao along with one of the Boy Scouts helping to serve members from the V.A. Hospital and their staff. Picture is the group of dignitaries in attendance with Honor Flight Organizers, Boy Scout Troop advisors, ER Diane, PSP Dan Capella, NYSEA Chairman Herb Flint .



Potsdam Lodge #2074 used a Beacon Grant and sponsored a second annual Wounded Warrior Veteran's Dinner. Approximately 150 area Veteran's, family members and Lodge members attended the dinner. Past State Vice President Ernie Charleston and Leading Knight Deb Morchell organized the dinner. PSVP Charleston provided Introductory and closing remarks. Lecturing Knight Mary Evans-Welpe provided the invocation and Jessica Charleston, daughter of PSVP's Ernie and Mary Charleston, sang the National Anthem. Special guests included Mike Bultry from the Veteran's Service Office, Mrs. Jamie Permie from the Norwood American Legion and PER Jerry Reed from the Ogdensburg Elks Lodge. Mr. Bultry spoke about services available through the Veteran's Service Office. Mrs. Permie provided information on a Holiday for Hero's Program and noted area schools were involved in donating cards. She reported Senator Patti Ritchie had provided Special Veteran's Appreciation Cards made by 5th grade students from Potsdam Central School that were placed upon each table for the occasion. PER Reed proudly provided a rendition of "The Ragged Old Flag". A USO fundraiser was conducted throughout the evening. Pictured is one of the many Veteran thank you cards that were displayed on tables for those attending to view.



Staten Island lodge #841 had the distinct honor of presenting the Medal of Valor to the family of Army Staff Sgt, Michael Ollis. Sgt. Ollis, a native Staten Island was killed when insurgents attacked his platoon. While in high school he was in the U.S Air Force Junior ROTC with PER Tim Kuhn from Staten Island, as his instructor. During a meeting of the Vietnam Veterans Exalted Ruler Sandra Lotz, representing the Grand Lodge, presented the Medal of Valor to Michaels parents, Robert and Linda Ollis. It was an honor to do so, recognizing the ultimate sacrifice of Sgt. Ollis. As a nation we are thankful for his service protecting our country and as Elks we will never forget.

Liverpool Lodge 2348 supplied a chicken bbq for team RWB of the Syracuse Chapter. The RWB is a national organization of veterans that help acquire funds, to help support the integration of disabled veteran back into society. This year Syracuse Chapter RWB put on a bike rally which consisted of 10 mile ride, 40 mile ride, or 62 mile ride. The majority of the riders completed the 62 mile ride. The ride started and ended at Jamesville Beach Park in Jamesville, NY.

Team RWB is transforming the way that America supports its veterans as they transition from service member to civilian. We are creating communities of veterans, their families, and American citizens that enjoy authentic interaction through physical and social activities.

As a result of the generosity of the members of **Auburn Lodge #474**. The Elks National Foundation provided a grant of \$2,000 to apply to purchase items to send to local soldiers serving overseas in the military. There were over 40 boxes shipped which held snacks, personal care items and a "thank you" for their service to our country. Items sent included 300 bars of soap, 300 Bic razors, 350 bottles of lotions, shampoos, 425 chap sticks, and 160 tubes of toothpaste. Some snacks that were sent which we are all familiar with but are sadly in short supply overseas included Slim Jim's, Oreos, assorted candy, cheese crackers and Chips Ahoy cookies. Beyond the ENF grant was a generous donation of personal hygiene items by Welch Allyn in Skaneateles, NY; the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) of Genoa, NY for their financial donation, and the additional financial donation from Wal Mart in Seneca Falls.



PER, Valerie Parsons has never actually met any of the Fort Drum soldiers who have lost their lives in combat, but over the last seven years she has made a personal, emotional connection with every single one of them.

Past Exalted Ruler of **Auburn Lodge #474** and owner of a small, home based business, Designs in Glass, has been making stained glass pieces for over 20 years, displaying and selling at craft shows.

In January 2007 Valerie was asked to create something a little different from the typical blue service star banner pieces she had been making. They asked her to make a gold star. Parsons was unaware of the significance of the gold star. A gold star signifies that a Soldier has been killed in combat. It is presented to Family Members in recognition of this ultimate sacrifice.

Parsons refused to accept any compensation for materials, time or the shipping of the gold star service banner. She also decided that she wanted to continue to provide these banners, at no cost, to the Families of all of Fort Drum's fallen Soldiers. Parsons has also made and presented gold stars to the families of fallen Cayuga County soldiers during the past several years.

Parsons said she hasn't missed a single family of a local or Fort Drum soldier who has died, and has now made more than 200 stained glass gold stars - sometimes two for one family, if that's what they ask for. She said it takes her about an hour to make a star, but never makes them until she gets word from the Protocol office that one is needed. Her gold star service banners are presented to all Families attending Mountain Remembrance ceremonies on Fort Drum. If Families are unable to attend, gold stars are carefully packed and shipped to them.

Recently, during a private ceremony in his office, Major General Stephen J. Townsend, Fort Drum and 10th Mountain Division (LI) commander having learned of Parson's gift. After passing out the pieces, Townsend asked where they came from. He was surprised to learn that Parsons provided these items at no cost to show her appreciation, and that she had provided such a large quantity. He felt it was just amazing to me, this gift that she gave.

Parsons was presented with the Outstanding Civilian Service Award for exceptionally meritorious service to the Families of the 10th Mountain Division Soldiers who have fallen in combat during the global war on terrorism. She said that she intends to continue to provide these stained glass pieces for Family Members of the fallen. She wants to support the Families of these Soldiers.

Photo above from left to right, Past State President Timothy Kelly, Commander General of Fort Drum, Stephen J. Townsend, PER Auburn Lodge Valerie Parsons, husband and Trustee Auburn lodge 474 Al Parsons, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Auburn Lodge Michael Gleason.



Newark Lodge #1249 held their 10th Annual Plant Sale and successfully raised close to \$1,700.00 to be used to benefit veterans, youth groups and charities supported by the lodge. They thanked all those who helped make this event possible and everyone from Wayne County and the surrounding areas who purchased hanging baskets, assorted flowers and plants. Pictured left to right: Roger Vandermortel, Elk; Sue Farabell, customer; Don Wiltsie, Elk Coordinator of the event; Lynn Lasken, Elk, and Richard Gaines, Elk.

God Bless American and our Troops at Home and Abroad



Elks Representatives from the **West Central District** gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Langdon in the hamlet of Lock Berlin, New York, to pay honor and tribute to Mr. Langdon for his military service. During WWII, Mr. Langdon served in the Air Force in the Pacific Theatre under General Douglas MacArthur. During his term of service, Veteran Langdon was on a number of islands as the American Forces advanced northward to the final confrontation with Japan.

Because of recent health changes, Veteran Langdon has the need for a ramp so as to continue to be able to live in his home with his wife which was built by them right after the war. The Elks presented Mr. and Mrs. Langdon with a contribution from the West Central District Veterans Fund to help with the expense. The Elks were able to raise monies to assist Veterans through the generous contributions to the collection of deer hides by area hunters under what is known as the Deer Hide Project. **Elk Lodges in the West Central District are from the communities of Rochester #24, Lyons #869, Seneca Falls #992, Newark #1249, Canandaigua #1844, Webster-Fairport #2396 and Wolcott #1763.**

Presenting the donation to Veteran Langdon and his wife were Elks National area Representative Gary Rogers (PDDGER), Elks State Vice President Scott Seltzer and Elks Veteran Committee Member Thomas Gowan (PDDGER). Pictured L – R: Gary Rogers, Mrs. Langdon, Mr. Langdon, SVP Scott Seltzer and Thomas Gowan.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

February 2014 GRAND LODGE NEWSLETTER MESSAGE

ADOPT-A-VETERAN

In 1983 the Elks National Veterans Service Commission implemented the Adopt-A-Veteran Program. With over 30,000 Veterans adopted last year, the Adopt-A-Veteran program has become one of our most popular programs. It is a program that every Lodge should be participating in today. The question often arises, which Veterans are adoptable?

1. Veterans in State or Federal Veterans hospitals
2. Veterans in assisted care facilities, nursing homes, convalescent homes, retirement and senior living centers.
3. Any Veteran with limited, or no family contact who is lonely or shut in.
4. Veterans in homeless shelters.

More than one Lodge can adopt Veterans, feel free to adopt from afar.

How does the program work?

The VAVS Representative at a state facility secures the names of veterans without family or friends nearby from the hospital or facility and forwards the list to the state National Veterans Service Chairman. Nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and some senior facilities have activities or social directors who can give you a list of Veterans who reside there. It is often helpful to contact local churches, Veteran groups, the American Legion, VFW posts or even your Lodge Secretary to get a list of Veterans nearby who are lonely and unable to get around on their own.

IMPORTANT: Due to privacy laws it is highly recommended that written permission is granted by the Veteran, stating that they would like to receive cards, invitations, and visits. Under no circumstances are the names and birthdates of Veterans to be published in Lodge bulletins or websites. This information must be held in confidence and only given to those who will actually make contact with the veterans.

2. The state chairperson will divide the list among the Lodges in close proximity to the facility and forward the names to the appropriate district chairperson.

The district chairman will determine how many Veterans each Lodge wishes to adopt and provide the Lodge with their names.

In addition to visits and greeting cards, gifts of personal-care items, reading material, games and similar items should be considered. Luncheons and dinners at a restaurant or the Lodge are highly recommended.

Now is the time to make a difference. Now is the time to get active in your Lodges program or help your Lodge start an Adopt-A-Veteran program if they don't already have one.

Fraternally,
Robert M. Hennings, Director
Elks National Veterans Service Commission



Malone Lodge #1303 used an ENF grant to assist the D.A.V. with the purchase of a new van. The Lodge donated \$1000 that is to be used towards the purchase and upkeep of a new vehicle that will be used to transport Franklin County Veteran's to medical and doctor appointments at no cost to the veterans. Commander Lori Fernandini of the Disabled Americans Veterans, along with Nikolaos Egging, Senior Vice Commander Chester Wisensky, Giles Glazier, Gene Marlow and Lester Trombly are pictured receiving the donation from Leading Knight Mary McQuinn-Fisher and Lodge Secretary Tamara Murphy.



Gouverneur Lodge #2035 celebrated Veteran's Day by providing a free Turkey dinner on Veteran's Day. The dinner was well attended by area Veteran's and their families. The Lodge received plenty of help with the meal preparation and serving table from members Jr Swem, Richard Wainwright, Nancy Garrand, Al Garrand, Ron Prespare, Bill Lamere and his wife Kathy, Ricky Newville and Phil McCarthy. The Veteran's dinner is an annual Lodge Event. As part of the Veteran's Day Dinner, the Lodge sets up a symbolic POW-MIA Table for those that did not return home. PER Al Garrand, PER Nancy Garrand, Trustee Bill Lamere and his wife Kathy Lamere are pictured preparing to serve our Veterans and their families.

Liverpool Lodge #2348 recently hosted over 40 veterans from the Syracuse VA Medical Center and Veterans Outreach Center for a picnic lunch. Due to inclement weather the well attended event was moved inside. Lodge members fought the cold and raindrops manning the outdoor grill ensuring our men and women vets had a scrumptious meal. Each veteran was given a patriotic shirt.

Remember | Honor | & Teach



Our mission, Remember, Honor, Teach, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies a specified Saturday in December at Arlington, as well as veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states, ceremonies at sea, and 24 national cemeteries on foreign soil. **Remember the fallen** who gave up their tomorrows with family and loved ones, so that we can enjoy our todays. **Honor those who serve**, the men and women of the armed forces who put themselves in harm's way to protect. **Teach our children about the freedoms we enjoy each day, and the great cost at which they were purchased.**

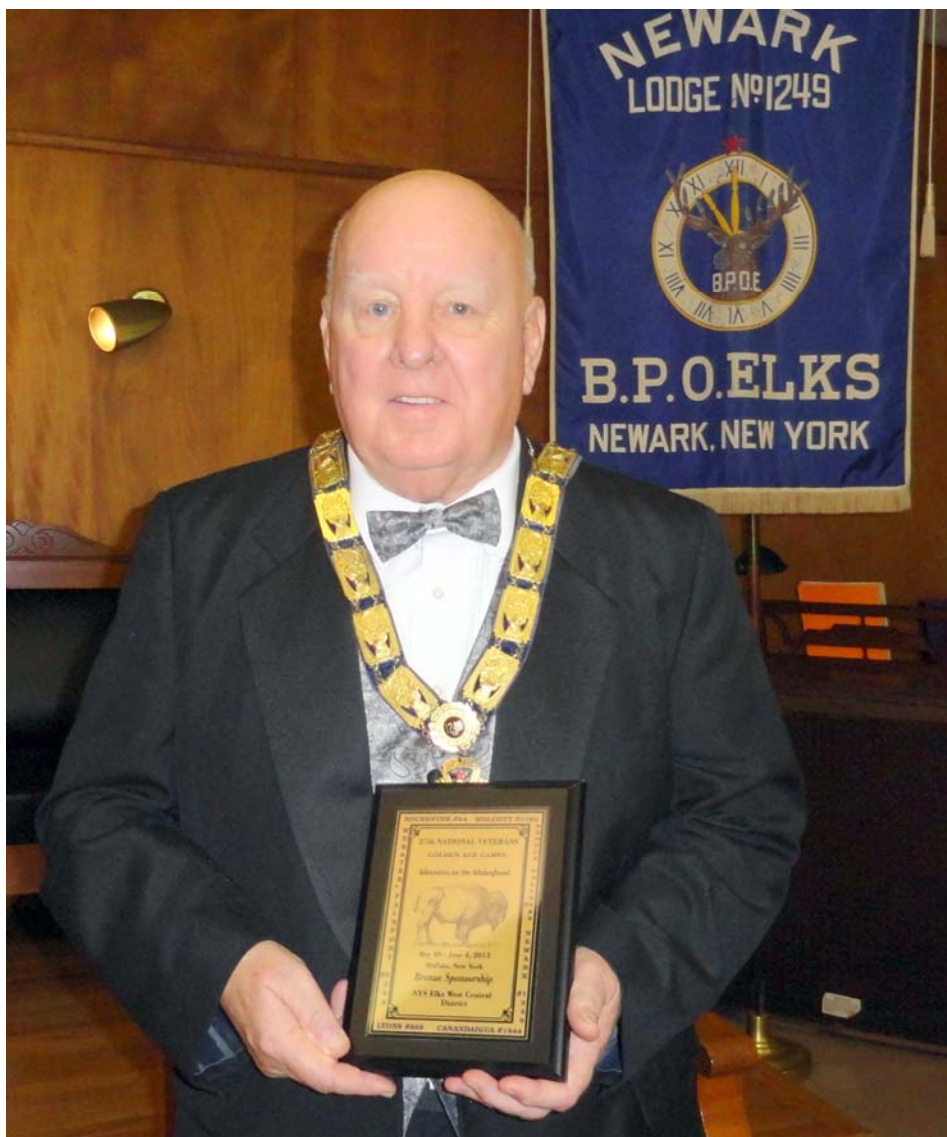


Members of **Syracuse Lodge #31** along with Santa and Mrs. Claus visited the Syracuse V.A. Hospital to share some Holiday spirit with the Veterans and their visiting families, who are residents of the facility. Santa and his 'helpers' handed out individual gift bags to about 75 residents who are housed in the Hospital through this Christmas season. They also provided the Recreation Therapy unit with cases and cases of various individual snack items for distribution to all the residents for their pleasure throughout the season. Syracuse Lodge #31 has been making this visit for years and will continue as long as there are Veterans to care for. Pictured: Lodge Inner Guard Kyle Merriam with carts full of snack items for the Rec. Therapy Unit.

Rochester Lodge #24 went Kayaking with Veterans from the VA hospital in Canandaigua, NY. The lodge provided granola and protein bars, along with water, and sports drinks.



The **Camillus Lodge 2367** hosted a Memorial Day pizza luncheon for 40-50 residents and staff at the Syracuse VA Medical Center. The Lodge also teamed with Wegman's grocery store to support of the V.A.'s dedication of their new spinal cord building; a large sheet cake and fruit/veggie trays were served to 50 local, state, and national dignitaries.



Esperance Lodge #2507 Held a BBQ event at Albany VA on September 8th. In the photo, ready to serve are, from left to right, PDDGER George Manor's wife Ellen, PER Dominic Giuliano's wife Louise, Melanie Munger and PER Dominic Giuliano. Also in attendance, at the pits, was PDDGER George Manor, PER Charlie Schoeffler, Lecturing Knight Donny Schoeffler, Member Charlie Hurst and Volunteer John Turner. Photo by Exalted Ruler Bill Vazal, also in attendance. This was our 17th year of the BBQ. Those that could not make it outside, had their meals delivered to them. Another way of Elks helping out the nation's veterans.



Johnson City Lodge #2821 held it's annual Java for Joe's Car show. Over 60 cars participated. Part of the funds raised were sent to the USO at Fort Drum to purchase coffee for the Troops.



On December 15th the **Johnson City Lodge #2821** traveled with Santa and Mrs. Claus to the Oxford Veterans Home for a party and gifts. Cub Scouts from Appalachian and Daisy Troop from Norwich volunteered with the Elks to hand out gifts, food and play Christmas charades.

On 12/10 the lodge held a Christmas party with crafts, roast beef dinner, Santa and Mrs. Claus and a bag full of gifts for eight Achieve adult residents to take home to open Christmas morning.

Johnson City Lodge #2821 delivered 100's of homemade cookies made by lodge members to the USO @ Fort Drum.

**'So long as there are Veterans,
the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.'**

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

JANUARY 2014 GRAND LODGE NEWSLETTER MESSAGE

Our Veterans were there for us, now it's our turn...

While traveling throughout this free and beautiful country of ours, it's difficult not to notice those young men and women walking through the airports, dressed in their fatigues, and you can't help but wonder if they are returning home or if they are being deployed for another tour of duty? In either situation, you know they have one common thought to endure and that's the pain of not being home or with their families and friends. You hope they're on their way home and that their main concern is "Who will be there to greet me?"

All too often our soldiers are traveling along side of us as they ready themselves to again, carry out their uncommon assignments in places we've never heard of or can't even pronounce. They too have similar questions in mind and they are, "Who will be there to greet me? What really lies in store for me this time" or maybe even that ultimate question; "Will I ever get to see my family and home again"? The cost of "our freedom" is the competence and dexterity of a warrior. The price we pay for "our freedom" is with their perpetual vigilance. The gift of "our freedom" provides us is a Veteran... The rewards that many of our Veterans receive are unemployment lines, homeless shelters and those wonderful memories of watching their buddies being taken out by an IED. Don't you think they just might deserve a little better treatment?

We as Elks are blessed with one of the most profound, beautiful and unique mottos in the Land, "**So long as there are Veterans the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them**" and I know of no other organization or institution that's even close in sharing those same principles and standards. But those aren't just some catchy words; that's a statement that we need to live up to! It's the least we can do is to show our Veterans how proud we are of "our freedom" that they so courageously provided for all of us. We need to help our local Veterans with a strong budgetary support program! Our Veterans served our country well and have provided us with the independence to live and worship freely. **Our Veterans were there for us, now it's our turn...**

As we look forward to the new Lodge year and its many challenges, each chairman must plan his or her year's program and thus a suitable budget to support these programs. While all of our programs are equally important, maybe it's time we pay a little more attention to our National Veterans Service Committee. There are many different ways to achieve this goal. Your Lodge can bring veterans from local hospitals and nursing homes to the Lodge for a dinner or party, or bring the event to the hospital when possible. Purchase 'comfort care kits' or small gifts for hospitalized veterans during the holiday season (or any time). Participate in a VA sponsored 'Stand Down' for homeless and at-risk veterans by collecting clothing and other necessities. Work with local military bases and family assistance centers to discover the needs of our troops at home and abroad and their families. If your Lodge does not have a budget large enough to carry out a veterans' related program, be creative. Turn a Lodge dinner or other event into a fundraiser, or apply for grants from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission and the Elks National Foundation.

Each year, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission awards 125 'Freedom Grants' of \$2,000 each to Lodges which create programs designed to assist veterans, the active military, and their families. The Elks National Foundation offers Beacon Grants of \$1,000 each, Gratitude Grants of \$2,000 (for Lodges meeting the GER per capita donation goal of \$4.50) each, and Impact Grants of up to \$10,000.

I encourage you to plan your programs, prepare your budgets, and put the appropriate teams in place to allow your lodge and its members to show our veterans that we care. Give a little bit of your time now and it will go a long way as you prove throughout the year that we as Elks will never forget them.

Faternally,

James C. Varenhorst, PGER, Member
Elks National Veterans Service Commission

Help Support the Elks Veterans Memorial Building - Donate Online

Donations are [now being accepted online](#) for the Elks Veterans Memorial Building.

Originally dedicated in 1926 to the memory of the fallen Elks of World War I, the Veterans Memorial Building is at the heart of Elkdom. Magnificently constructed a mile from Lake Michigan in Chicago, it is a breathtaking structure representing the values Elks cherish. It has since been rededicated to the memory of all American Veterans who have died for our great nation. It is our duty, in the name of these Veterans, to ensure this Memorial remains an extraordinary symbol of their bravery and patriotism.

Your donation will be used for the perpetual care and continued restoration of this Memorial. As an impressive structure with sculptures and murals by notable artists, continual upkeep is necessary for its preservation. It is our objective to sustain the interior and exterior beauty this building had at its dedication over 80 years ago. [A donation to the Elks National Memorial Trust](#) is tax-deductible under the 501c3 tax law.



"Salute to Freedom" for Wounded Warriors of America

Ossining Lodge #1486 partnered with members of the Cortlandt Yacht Club in Montrose, NY to host an outing for the "Hope for the Warriors" organization and Gold Star Families. This was the second year that the two groups got together to conduct a "Salute to Freedom" to help to honor those people who have served our country.

The event started with a breakfast at the yacht club. This was followed sailing trip up the Hudson by a 17 yacht flotilla. The veterans and their guests were honored along the way by numerous civic groups including the Verplanck Fire Department, the Peekskill American Legion #274 and the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps. There was also a "fly-over" by the New York Air National Guard.

Upon their return to the yacht club, the veterans, their families and guests were treated to a barbeque dinner prepared by members of the Ossining Lodge. Over 70 veterans and guests attended the event. The twelve Elks from Ossining were joined by District Deputy John Reidy and State Vice President, Carole Costello, in recognizing the honored guests.

The event was very successful and was reported by local media. The two groups plan to host another gathering during the summer of 2014. Caption for attached picture: From left, Exalted Ruler Michael Picariello, Captain James Van Thach with his guide dog "Liz," DDGER John Reidy and SVP Carole Costello.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 was honored to assist with the sponsorship of a "Dining Out" Event for the 366th Engineer Company (MAC) Christmas Party. The Lodge donated \$750 towards the dinner that was held at the Lodge. 142 members of the 366th Engineer Company and their guests were served a prime rib dinner. The "Dining Out" Event included a Posting of Colors, the "History of Dining Out", Toasts, a Fallen Soldier Ceremony and Awards, Promotions and other Acknowledgements. Honored Guests included retired Lieutenant Colonel James Hassett, PDDGER, and his wife Kay representing Potsdam Lodge, 479 BN Commander LTC Truss, 479 BN CMS Jacques, Juddy Plumb from the 444th Adopt A Platoon, Chaplain John Saucier, and Dave Pearson representing VFW Post 1231 from Canton, NY. During the ceremony, LTC/PDDGER James Hassett accepted a recognition certificate awarded by the 366th Engineer Company to the Lodge that read "Presented to the Elks Lodge #2074 for outstanding service and support to the 366th Engineer Company's dining out. Your dedication and contributions have established a positive relationship between the 366th and BPOE#2074. Your support to the 366th is keeping with the highest standards of military service and brings great credit upon BPOE #2074. The Elks Lodge and its members are a great asset to the 366th Engineer Company and the United States Army Reserve". LTC/PDDGER Hassett spoke on the Elks commitment to our Veteran's. An unexpected highlight of the evening was Private First Class Besaw's marriage proposal before the entire company. Prior to the dinner, Tim Welp, Lodge member/NYSEA Public Relation Chair met with approximately 75 of the 366th Engineer Company Troops at the Army Reserve Center in Canton, New York and presented the Lodge donation to Captain Martin, Company Commander. He had opportunity to thank the Company Troops for their dedicated service to our country and to extend holiday greetings on behalf of the Potsdam Lodge.