



# Empire State Elk Spring 2013

Spring Issue 2013

Elks Care



## State Presidents Message

**"Cherish Elkdom,"**

Brothers and Sisters of the New York State Elks Association,

As I write this, my last message to you for the *Empire State Elk* as President for 2012 - 2013, I want to express my enormous gratitude for the warm welcomes I have received everywhere I have been in the State. As you

may know, the NYSEA President travels to each of the seventeen districts and to the vast majority of our 135 lodges. Your generosity and hospitality are boundless and unmatched, and this experience of seeing Elkdom in every far-flung corner of NYS renders one uniquely prepared for membership on the NYSEA Advisory Board.

At this juncture, as I put pen to paper, I will have but two district visitations left to make, and it puts me in a position with a perspective that I want to pass along to you. Little did I dream at the beginning of this long, wonderful trip how apropos my slogan for the year, "Cherish Elkdom," is and was. I have witnessed first hand the good that we do and the pleasure we provide for ourselves and others.

In my travels I have visited some of the twenty-five NYS CP Centers sprinkled throughout the districts, and the work that we help fund and graduate is extraordinary, going far beyond the Major Project vans. These Centers receive people, young and old, with every kind of affliction, with doctors who specialize in many areas of medicine. They all do brilliant work to relieve suffering.

My visit to numerous Veterans Administration locations - Canandaigua, Bath, St. Albans, etcetera - shows me that the Veterans Programs of the NYSEA see to it that, in many and all-encompassing ways, "As long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." Congratulations are in order to George and Anitra Butler, NYSEA Vet Volunteers of the Year.

At Fort Drum, the USO Center is beautifully furnished and provided for by your contributions, and our support of active military personnel in these troubled times of ours is vitally needed. I saw Fort Drum, but this applies everywhere in NYS where we find our troops. Let us continue to expand our appreciation to those in the military on active duty. At Fort Drum I saw every branch of the Service in the cafeteria: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. There is nothing we should neglect in showing our appreciation.

The beauty and majesty of New York is hardly to be believed unless you see it in a year as I have done. From the lodges along the St. Lawrence River, to those far out on Long Island, to the western lodge outposts that approach the mid-west - New York State Elkdom is alive and well. Would that we can continue to make it grow and prosper! Thank you all for this unique opportunity to serve, and let's continue to "Cherish Elkdom," for few things in life more richly deserve it! God Bless you all, and the very best of congratulations and luck to the endorsed candidate for the NYSEA Presidency for 2013-2014, Martin I. Rosenthal, PDDGER.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Lawrence Contratti, NYSEA State President

### Hurricane SANDY Relief donations

\$2,500 NYSEA MP, \$500 Seattle, WA #92, \$300 New Hyde Park #2107, \$500 Southampton #1574, \$300 Rio Rancho, NM #2500, \$500 Rochester #24, \$300 Potsdam #2074, \$505 Seattle, WA #92, \$1,000 Watertown #496, \$50 Marcia Emmerich, \$25 Michael Emmerich, \$1,000 W. Central Dist. #6560 \$50 Liberty Elks #1545, \$500 FLORIDA State Elks, \$160 BPOE PER Assoc. West Central District, \$601 Utica #33, **\$8,791.00 TOTAL THRU NYSEA SO FAR**

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### A LETTER FROM STATE PRESIDENT CONTRATTI

November 26, 2012

Catherine Cash, Secretary  
Seattle Lodge No. 92, BPOE  
301 Queen Anne Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Secretary Catherine:

I am sure that all 54,000 Elks of the NYS Elks Association will be deeply moved by your lodge's generous and compassionate contribution, and there can be no better example of "Elks Care, Elks Share" than this.

Hurricane Sandy hit mostly in our East and Southeast Districts, where we have fifteen lodges. Thank God, other than downed trees and power losses, none of the lodges was devastated. Shortly before I received your letter with the thoughtful donation, I spoke to the NYSEA Secretary about our own donation to the Salvation Army to help in Hurricane Relief, because many communities were absolutely devastated. I can assure you that this noble gesture on the part of your lodge will immediately go to help those who were not as fortunate as many of your Brother and Sister Elks over here in New York!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,  
Sincerely and fraternally,  
Lawrence Contratti, SP  
NYSEA



Yorktown, NY seniors are benefiting from a recent \$2,000 grant donation by the **Yorktown Lodge #2324**. With the help of the Elks members, three new insulated containers were replaced for the home bound seniors, PSVP Mary De Silva said. These containers are insulated and along with hot packs, they keep the meals up to temperature code. Emergency meals were also purchased and will be delivered to the home-bound seniors for use during the winter months. "These meals will have a note on them saying that the Yorktown Elks are responsible for them receiving this emergency package," De Silva said. By making a donation, ELK members can provide such services to the residents.

Elks Share



Major Projects Board Message

Dear Members,

First, the Major Projects Board would like to thank all of the chairmen under the umbrella of the Major Projects Corporation for the great job they have all done this past year. It is because of **you** the chairmen that these programs are a success. Starting with Community Activities, each chairman makes sure that all of the local lodges' programs are recorded and filed with our State and National offices. We would like to also recognize all of the remaining committees – Americanism/

Flag Day, Drug Awareness, *Empire State Elk* newspaper, Hoop Shoot, National Foundation, National Veterans Services, Public Relations, our Scholarships and Academic and Emergency Grants, Youth Activities and Soccer Shoot. This is the last year for a Soccer Shoot chairman; this committee will be incorporated into the Youth Activities committee. This year was also the last year New York will compete in the Area 1 shoot. Everything else will stay the same; just ending with our State champions.

Our Major Project is coming to a close for another year. Again, I would like to thank Lou Withiam for another great year. Every year this becomes more difficult to continually raise funds for our Home Service Program. With all of the proposed cuts in the State and Federal budgets, it is us, the members of the NYS Elks Association who come through so that the Home Service Directors can continue to provide assistance to those with developmental disabilities. We are also saying goodbye to our two ambassadors, Caitlin Schuler and Joseph Cali. Both Caitlin and Joseph, along with their families, have been wonderful Ambassadors for our Major Project.

Again, **thank you** for all of your hard work and dedication in making all of these programs such a success. I, along with the entire Major Projects Board look forward to seeing all of you at our Spring Convention in Albany.

Sincerely and Fraternaly  
PSP, Jamie Peace,  
Chairman of the NYS Major Projects, Inc.



**Johnson City Lodge #2821** held a roast beef dinner and Christmas Party for residents of the Handicap Children's Association. Santa came to handout gifts to the residents to take home and put under their



**Beacon Lodge #1493** brought gifts to 22 disabled children at Abilities First of Beacon. Santa (Trustee Jack O'Toole), Mrs. Claus (Ladies Aux President Nancy Musacchio), the Christmas Mouse (Cathy Oken), Frosty (Tonya Caban) and Alan Schrock PDDGER. was Rudolph. Twelve members helps make the day grand. The children put on a concert for the Elk Members.

**Determination and Generosity Help CP Rochester Acquire Innovative New Device**

*Agency Now Offering Enhanced Mobility for Children with Disabilities*

**Rochester, NY – December 3, 2012** Utilizing a wheelchair due to his cerebral palsy, four-year old Joshua Nodine's physical limitations never allowed him the opportunity to explore his world in the same way as other children. But thanks to a determined member of a local Rochester Elks Lodge #24 and the generosity of a California-based manufacturer of standers and adaptive equipment, Josh and countless other children will get to experience independence in a way they never imagined. Josh is one of many children receiving services from CP Rochester, a not-for-profit agency serving individuals with physical and developmental disabilities. A partner agency of the Al Sigl Community of Agencies, CP Rochester has supported tens of thousands of adults and children with disabilities in choosing and accomplishing successive individualized life goals for the past 65 years.

Lacking full functionality of his legs due to his CP, Josh cannot walk without being held by his parents, physical therapists, or some sort of bulky supportive equipment. While these solutions may allow Josh to stand and walk for brief periods, they tend to be awkward and tiresome. The therapists at CP Rochester actively looked for a new way to help children like Josh strengthen their legs, improve mobility, and gain independence. They found a device called a 'KidWalk' manufactured by Prime Engineering in California which they believed would enable the children in their care to experience independent exploration, a key component in a child's development. The KidWalk functions as a gait trainer, independent mobility system, and standing frame. At the therapists' request, a Rochester-based representative of Prime Engineering loaned a KidWalk to CP Rochester and the results have been spectacular. Combined with the expertise of the physical therapists, the KidWalk has dramatically helped children with disabilities develop neural and motor skills, and provided an opportunity for them to explore their world in a way similar to children without similar physical limitations. Its wheel configuration and small turning radius allow increased accessibility and inclusion opportunities, a critical part of CP Rochester's mission. Josh's mother is thrilled with her son's newfound mobility.

"Not only has Josh improved physically, but his independence has improved as well," said Jamie Nodine. "With all of the KidWalk's mechanics behind him, Josh can move around freely and get closer to his desk and friends."

**Big Results Mean a Big Cost**

The therapists at CP Rochester knew they couldn't keep the loaned KidWalk forever, but purchasing one for \$6,000 seemed unlikely with the agency's tight budget. They placed the device on their 'wish list.' However, it wasn't long before CP Rochester volunteer Frank Seiler took notice of the wish list item and resolved to find a way to purchase the piece of equipment for the agency.

Frank has a long history with CP Rochester. He was first introduced to the organization as a child in 1952 when he began receiving services for his cerebral palsy; and has been an integral part ever since. Utilizing a wheelchair himself, Frank volunteers at CP Rochester and sits on the agency's Consumer Services Committee. He is also an active member of the Rochester Elks Lodge #24. The Elks have been long-term benefactors of CP Rochester starting with a \$5,000 donation to help the agency open its first location on East Avenue in 1946. Over the years, the Elks' contributions through fundraising events have been significant, and a much-needed source of income for CP Rochester. As the 2012 Chair of the annual Elks MusicFest fundraising



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Prime Engineering generously agreed to donate any difference in money from what the MusicFest brought in. Frank achieved his goal of doubling MusicFest revenues to \$4,300 and Prime Engineering stood by its commitment to make up the difference. But Frank had a different idea. He approached Prime Engineering with the \$4,300 and asked if the company would accept it as payment not just for one KidWalk, but for two. Seeing Frank's commitment to the children of CP Rochester, Prime Engineering agreed to sell the agency two KidWalks for \$4,300 and donate the remaining \$7,700. CP Rochester was delighted. "Frank's lifelong dedication to the mission of our agency is inspiring," said CP Rochester President Brian Klafehn. "His determination, along with the generosity of Prime Engineering, will undoubtedly help children like Josh, and so many others, live their lives to the fullest."



Josh Nodine (r) happily reacts to using the KidWalk Gait Trainer while CP Rochester Physical Therapist Linda Brown looks on.



Frank Seiler (r), CP Rochester volunteer and Elks member, plays with Josh Nodine, one of the first children to use the KidWalk Gait Trainer, at a gifting ceremony at CP Rochester.

**Auburn Lodge #474** held a benefit for Kyle Casler, a 23 year old US Army Specialist First Class and Union Springs High School (New York) graduate. He was injured in Afghanistan on May 23. He lost part of his left leg when he came in contact with a road side bomb. The pig roast was attended by several friends and relatives of Kyle along with Auburn Elk members and friends. Auburn lodge was able to raise \$2,282. The money was presented to Kyle's parents, Mark and Lori Casler and will help with the costs incurred traveling to and from the medical center where Kyle is rapidly getting used to his new limb. This benefit was a success due to those attended as well as the businesses that donated door prizes and the help from the cooks and prep crew to prepare the food and convert the lodge parking lot to a picnic area. A check was presented to Kyle's parents, Mark and Lori Casler by Leading Knight, Mike Strube.

## EMPIRE STATE ELK



**Poughkeepsie Lodge #275** - ENF presentation given to DDGER Raymond Strohm of Mid Hudson District #6180 for reaching a goal of \$2000.00 plus presented by PER Dorothy Shaffer, ENF District Chairperson. They are both members of Poughkeepsie Lodge #275.



During his visit to the North Central District, NYSEA President Lawrence Contratti had opportunity to visit all eight District Lodges. Both **Massena Lodge #1702** and **Carthage Lodge #1762** sponsored dinners in honor of State President Contratti's visit. These dinners were attended by District members and dignitaries. During his visit to Massena Lodge, he was presented with an Elks framed and monogrammed time piece. He is pictured receiving the gift from Exalted Ruler Bridget LaVigne.



Representatives from **Auburn Lodge #474** met at St Joseph's Cemetery, Auburn, NY to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passing of Frank J Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds was the Founder of the New York State Elks Association, a Past Exalted Ruler, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Auburn Lodge #474 and passed away at the young age of 45, in 1912.

His grave marker was donated by the New York State Elks Association on or about 1935. The State Association felt it appropriate to mark the grave site. It is one of the places visited (weather permitting) when the sitting New York State President comes to visit the Auburn lodge in February each year.





**Beacon Lodge #1493** - Charles D'Alessio Leading Knight presents a check to Dave of the Wounded Warriors for \$1875 which was raised from a bike run and lodge donation on Veterans Day. Pictured with them are State Vice President Arthur Roggow and Carl Oken

Exalted Ruler. Lunch was also provided to 19 veterans of the lodge. Everyone was supplied with stars from a retired American flag which the boy scouts properly retired.



**Lowville Lodge #1605** was the proud sponsor of an annual Veterans Recognition Day luncheon. This year the luncheon featured guest speakers from different Veterans organizations. The speaker topics included challenges faced by Veterans. District Deputy Tim Welpé briefly addressed those attending and thanked them for their personal sacrifices to our country. Following the luncheon, the Lodge held a Flag Raising Ceremony. WWII Veterans in attendance assisted with the flag raising. Some of the WWII veterans are pictured with Exalted Ruler Troy Clark and PDDGER Mike Nuffer in front of the Lodges Flag station.



**Beacon Lodge #1493** hosted 15 Disabled Hudson Valley Rehabilitation Veterans to lunch and bingo at the lodge. Pictured above is Richy a veteran of the Vietnam War, helpers from the Hospital, Jack O'toole Veterans Chairperson and Carl Oken Exalted Ruler.



**Norwich Lodge #1222** recently held a dinner to officially dedicate their POW/MIA Remembrance table. Their newest addition to the dining room will be displayed 24/7 to honor and remember those that are still Missing in Action and Prisoners of War that either lost their lives or paid their price and returned in the service our country. The Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks motto is "For as long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks will never forget them", the same goes for MIA's and POW's. The event was attended by over 40 people and also raised \$600 in donations that will help fund their Veterans Activities Committee. Pictured above from left to right are: Herb Flint, State Chairman elect and current South Central District Chairman of the National Elks Veterans Service Commission; Lex & Donna Danyluk, Patriot Guard Riders representatives; Guest of Honor Hoyt Adsit, WWII Veteran and former POW; John Edinger, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the South Central District; Jeff Cola, Norwich Lodge Exalted Ruler."

**Gouverneur Lodge #2035**

honored area Veteran's with a complimentary dinner on Veteran's Day. 105 Veteran's and family members attended the dinner. Pictured are volunteer servers Helen Hartle, Nancy Garrand and Past State Vice President Bill Vinton. The Veteran's Day dinner is an annual Lodge event.



**Norwich Lodge #1222** donated \$500 to Winter Challenge Corporation. For the past 8 years, they have sponsored the Winter Challenge Camp held at Greek Peak Ski Area every year which through fund-raising and the enormous donation of time from volunteers provides a week long

camp for blind, amputee and paraplegic adults including wounded/disabled vets. The money will be used to purchase more equipment. More information about this program can be found at [www.winterchallenge.org](http://www.winterchallenge.org). Pictured from left to right are: Jeff Cola, Exalted Ruler of Norwich Lodge; Robyn King, Winter Challenge Representative; and Bill Aitken, Norwich Lodge member."



**Oswego Lodge #271** recently held a fish dinner to honor the veterans in the Oswego area. Over 150 attended the dinner. Members of the lodge were assisted with serving by Girl Scout troop 1027. Pictured is Fred Thurston a Veteran of World War 2 with his sister Sue Batchelor at the Oswego Elks Lodge # 271 and Katelyn Clary of Girl Scout Troop # 1027.

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### Hoop Shoot

With the Local, District and Regional Hoop Shoots behind us it is now time for the NY State Hoop Shoot.

A big thank you to all the directors for your help and support this year. A special thanks to our Regional Directors, John Rinaldo, Dave Gload, Willy Schmidt, Jack Stein and Jeff Becker. They faced some challenges this year with the weather and had to make numerous phone calls and in some cases reschedule there event. They all went the extra mile to make sure every contestant was notified and did so with utmost professionalism, GREAT JOB! Please find below this list of our NY State contestants. Please make sure you check our NY State Elks website for updates and pictures. The NY State Hoop Shoot is March 2, 2013 and many thanks to the West Central District and Chris Maddock our State Coordinator for all their hard work to schedule a great event for us all.

#### Boys 8-9

Mitchell Pike  
Ryan Bushey  
Cameron Orr  
Bradley Buban

#### Lodge

Watkins Glen #1546  
Utica #33  
Glens Falls #81  
Brewster Lodge #2101

#### Girls 8-9

Liberty Wendt  
Clair Broderick  
Sophia Phillips  
Megan Hannon

Lockport #41  
Fulton #830  
Greenwich Lodge #2223  
Pearl River Lodge #2041

#### Boys 10-11

Brian Ramarge  
Will Amica  
Rece McClements  
Sebastian Cano

Olean #491  
Camillus #2367  
Saratoga/Wilton #161  
Yorktown Lodge #2324

#### Girls 10-11

Jourdan Machuga  
Lauren Skibitski  
Kathryn Tenney  
Riley Tupper

Bath #1547  
Oneida #767  
Colonie #2192  
Southampton Lodge #1574

#### Boys 12-13

Michael Limoncelli  
Declan Porter  
Joseph Girard III  
Benjamin Lubowitz

Horseheads #2297  
Potsdam #2074  
Glens Falls #81  
Mamaroneck Lodge #1457

#### Girls 12-13

Jadyn Abrams  
Kylee Rosbrook  
Madison Harrington  
Valerie Potenza

Bath #1547  
Watertown #496  
Mechanicville/Stillwater #1403  
Yorktown Lodge #2324

Thanks again for all the support of Hoop Shoot and check out the website for an update on the NY State Hoop Shoot.

Fraternally,  
Bill

William J. Reedy Jr.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES



**Lowville Lodge #1605** sponsored the 2013 North Central District Hoop Shoo contest. Lodge and District members volunteered at the contest. District champions and 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishers are pictured with District Deputy Tim Welpé, District Hoop Shoot Chair Thomas Compo, Past State President Tim Kelly and NYSEA Hoop Shoot Chair Bill Reedy. Following an awards ceremony, Lowville Lodge provided a complimentary luncheon for the contestants and their families.



**Potsdam Lodge #2074** recently made a \$500 donation towards the Garrett Phillips Memorial Fund. The donation was presented during the Garrett Phillips 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kick Ball Tournament. The Memorial Fund is a scholarship fund that is set up in loving memory of Garrett John Phillip's, a bright eyed, athletic boy whose life was tragically taken on October 24, 2011. The scholarship fund will benefit school programs, organizations and individual students in the A.A.K. Middle School and High School at Potsdam Central School that are in need of funding. Potsdam Elk member Tim Welpé, DDGER, is pictured presenting the donation to event organizer Tandy Cyrus. Assisting with the presentation were Elk members Jim Love, Sherri Love, Lisa Evans, Laurie House, Zack Love, Marcus Keleher, Tyler Keleher, Corey Lavoie, John Jones, Mike Manor, Matt Carista and Jerrid Lavoie. Also pictured are event committee members Debra Thomas and Renee Seymour. Thanks to the generous support of family, friends, area businesses and the greater Potsdam community, approximately \$ 4367 was raised in support of the scholarship program.

**Horseheads Lodge # 2297** presented a check for \$500 to the Arctic League. The 101 year old organization purchases, wraps, and distributes gifts to needy children in Chemung County. Gifts were distributed to 3670 children on Christmas morning. The money was raised through various fundraisers and individual contributions.



Here below is a story as told by District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Richard T. Smith of the East District, which comprises most of Long Island.

I was initially contacted by Southeast District DD Tom Griffiths and given contact numbers for the Red Cross. I then called the Bulk Storage Manager for the Red Cross, Dorothy White, and she stated her target was to find lodges that had parking facilities large enough to house several of their distribution trucks. I contacted the lodges within the East District that met that criteria. Massapequa, Huntington, Smithtown, Riverhead, Port Jefferson and Southampton Lodges were all making their facilities available.

I was also in contact with Red Cross Representative Frank Connolly who had request Lodges with facilities that were able to accommodate sleeping quarters for their volunteers. Massapequa, Huntington, Smithtown, Port Jefferson and Southampton lodges offered their lodges for sleeping quarters for the Red Cross volunteers. I will list the good deeds that the lodges of the East District did for the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Freeport/Baldwin Lodge # 1323 - They had a serious power failure but members of the lodge joined forces with the Freeport Rescue Unit and spent days on the shore line distributing food and clothes to victims of the Hurricane.

Massapequa Lodge #2162 - Their lodge stayed open and they collected donations of clothing and food for the victims and opened their doors as a staging area and distributed bottled water and ice to those needing it.

Hicksville Lodge #1931\_- Joined forces with the VFW and collected clothing and food donations to distribute to the victims of the Hurricane.

Huntington Lodge 1565 - After cleaning up their damages and getting rid of their spoiled food in preparation of Red Cross arrival. The lodge set up a staging area and started to collect clothing and food for the families in need. They also distributed water and ice to the community members that need it.

Islip Lodge 2533 - did not have the facilities to provide a staging area but members of the lodge joined forces with the local community efforts to collect clothing and food and helped to distribute to the victims of the Hurricane.

Port Jefferson Lodge #2138 - Collected massive amounts of clothing and other needed article for the victims of the Hurricane. They made their lodge available as a staging area, a collection depot and they also distributed water and ice to the local community.

Patchogue Lodge # 1323 - Made their lodge available as a staging area and a clothing drop off for the victims of the Hurricane. they also distributed water and ice to the community.

Southampton Lodge #1574 - They had limited damage at their lodge and opened their doors to the community for their every need. A charging station for cell phones, distribution of water and ice to the community. Feeding families in need. they also collected clothing and food for needs of the community.

Riverhead Lodge #2044 - over \$500 worth of food to the Salvation Army Emergency Services to be used for victims of Hurricane Sandy and Thanksgiving family Turkeys.

Smithtown Lodge #2036 - In the days following the Super Hurricane Sandy, Exalted Ruler Freddy Badgett and the motorcycle committee of Mount Airy Lodge #2061 in Mount Airy, North Carolina collected over 175 winter coats for shipment to Long Island to assist in the efforts to provide relief for victims of this disaster. They contacted PER George Boyd of the Smithtown Lodge to coordinate the arrival of the shipment. The coats were then transported by truck to Pennsylvania's Ephrata Lodge # 1933 and Exalted Ruler Bill Newell made arrangements to deliver them to Smithtown. When they arrived Smithtown Lodge, with the help of the Smithtown Presbyterian Church relief committee, distributed the coats to the victims of Hurricane Sandy. This is a great example of Elks in action, seeing a need to assist our fellow citizens in and emergency, being proactive and working together in the spirit of Charity.



Smithtown photo; L-R – Trustee Bob Leake, Trustee Ed Gura PER Betty Boyd and PER George Boyd and kneeling in front if ER Ken Donato gathered around the donated coats.



**Watertown Lodge #496** Coats for Kids Program was again a huge success. As a result of generous donations from Lodge members, Watertown Lodge donated 200 winter coats to the Community Action Planning Counsel. The coats are distributed to area children in need of warm clothing for the upcoming winter months. Through their generosity, Lodge members have shown that "Elks Care ~ Elks Share". Pictured, from left to right are Sherry Rafferty, Family Center Administrative Assistant, Elk Member Shane Wisner, Rick Barrisford, Coats for Kids Committee Chairman and Todd Murrock, Lodge Esquire.



**Potsdam Lodge #2074** partnered with the Potsdam Police Department, the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Department and Lawrence Avenue Elementary School to bring the Operation Safe Child Program to the school. 287 students participated in the program that establishes an information data base on the student and provides a photo ID of the student. The information can be used for an Amber Alert situation. The Elks provided a \$550 donation to cover costs for digital ribbons that produced the ID cards. Elk's member Tim Welpe, DDGER, presented the donation on behalf of Potsdam Lodge to Officer Kyle Fink of the Potsdam Police Department. Also pictured are Lawrence Avenue Elementary School Principal Larry Jenne, St. Lawrence County Sheriff Department Deputy Suzanne Williams and two participating students. Officer Fink and Deputy Williams serve their respective Departments as Juvenile Officers and coordinated the program.



Riverhead photo l to r - ER Lew Welsh, PER Diane Allen, Patty Judd and PER Theresa Hubbard

## New York State Elks Association Soccer Shoot Report

Michael R. Neaton, Chairperson

Soccer – IT's a KICK! The 2012 Season of SOCCER SHOOT, by most all accounts, was a Great Success! Starting with the most recent news first, we traveled to Smithfield Rhode Island with a full contingent of shooters, even though Superstorm Sandy had us worried. In fact, the Detota family from Long Island were thrilled to make the trip as they thoroughly enjoyed the running hot water at the hotel! This, of course was in addition to all the hospitality, camaraderie, and accommodations the Elks offered that all the eight families enjoyed during the course of the early November event. The Soccer Shoot itself resulted in the following placements:

### U8 BOYS

1. Brody Keefe ME
2. Ryan Viana MA
3. Killian Boyle CT

### U8 GIRLS

1. Paige Rooney MA
2. Lauren Kohs CT
3. Jenna Shaffner NY

### U10 BOYS

1. Michael Van Nest MA
2. Miles Lavoie NH
3. Desmon Degraca RI

### U10 GIRLS

1. Megan Guay NY
2. Jessica Carter MA
3. Jillian Plante RI

### U12 BOYS

1. Jamie Stoness NY
2. Sam Wheeler MA
3. Theo Strid ME

### U12 GIRLS

1. Mari Detota NY
2. Myah Croze CT
3. Kayla Donlin ME

### U14 BOYS

1. Jason Dumais ME
2. Bradley Davis MA
3. Keanan Kelley VT

### U14 GIRLS

1. Jenna Healy NY
2. Eva Belanger ME
3. Davina Kirk VT

### Joyce Award Recipients

Grid Goal Boy Jamie Stoness (NY)  
Grid Goal Girl Jenna Healy (NY)

5 Goal Boy Michael Van Nest (MA)  
5 Goal Girl Megan Guay (NY)

Check out those results again - could New York State do any better than that? What tremendous representation, achieving more than half of the 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes in a seven state competition and taking three of the four special honors! However, what was most remarkable were the smiles on ALL the kids faces, regardless of their final standing, as they all had a wonderful experience!

The same could be said for a great experience two weeks prior when the Mid-Hudson District Soccer Chairman Carl Oken and a wonderful crew of assistants at the beautiful Beacon Elks Lodge, #1493 hosted the New York State Championship. All areas of our great state were represented on a glorious day in an outdoor setting with mountain views second to none! Many took advantage of dinner the prior night, as well as recommendations for local attractions on the day of the Shoot. All participants received Trophies. Special thanks go out to Beacon Lodge. Here are the State Champions and the Lodges they represented:



### U-8 Boys

1st - Jonathan Lyndaker - Lowville Lodge (unable to advance due to family commitments) 2nd- Harry Rubenstein - Mechanicville/Stillwater  
3rd - Zachary Musso - Bath  
4th - Tristan Hardy - Port Jefferson (no show)

### U-10 Boys

1st - Nicholas Amodeo - Mechanicville/Stillwater Lodge  
2nd- Richard Tofte - Brewster  
3rd -Brodie Amidon - Corning  
4th -Troy Butler - Canajoharie/Ft. Plain

### U-12 Boys

1st - Jamie Stoness - Lockport Lodge  
2nd- Aaron Davis - Beacon  
3rd - Garrett Engstrom - Massena  
4th - Isadore Dupuis - Greenwich

### U-14 Boys

1st - Michael Brussel - Camillus Lodge  
2nd- Seth Granger - Saratoga/Wilton  
3rd - Brandon Reid - Lockport  
4rd - Devin Leblank - Port Jervis

### U-7 Girls

1st - Jenna Schaffner - Boonville Lodge  
2nd- Jill Zehr - Webster/Fairport  
3rd - Isabella Vecchio - Cohoes/Waterford  
4th - Jameson Druckenmiller - Beacon

### U-10 Girls

1st - Megan Guay - Lockport Lodge  
2nd- Amanda Horgan - Patchogue  
3rd - Rebecca Samuel - Cobelskill  
4th - Emma Hennessey - Boonville

### U-12 Girls

1st - Mari Detota - Camillus  
2nd- Chloe Antalek - Beacon  
3rd - Quinlan Gowett - Mechanicville/Stillwater  
4th - Madeline Horst - Corning

### U-14 Girls

1st - Jenna Healy - Islip Lodge  
2nd- Mackenzie Bowie - Mechanicville/Stillwater  
3rd - Erin Nicholson - Fulton  
4th - Sarah Riedel - Webster/Fairport (no show)

As you can see, all four state regions were represented and the reports indicated that the districts were fairly well represented at the regional levels.

For those interested in participation levels across the state, I wish I had better news. Some problems may be due to inaccurate reporting, but the Lodge and Contestants Participation reported by District Chairpeople, did not increase this past year. It really is a shame especially considering the fantastic results we get on the other end! For those who realize what a great program the Soccer Shoot is, please keep up the enthusiasm and do what you can do to improve New York State's results!



## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



### Carthage Lodge

**#1762** has hosted a Shoe Party for local children. This year, approximately 400 needy children from the Carthage community were given a new pair of shoes and socks. Each child was individually fitted with socks by Carthage Lodge members and family and then staff from Avon Shoes of Watertown, who are themselves members of Watertown Lodge, measured each child's foot size to ensure a proper fit. The Shoe Party is made possible through generous donations from the Carthage Lodge members and local businesses sponsors. While awaiting their new socks and shoes, the children were entertained by a movie, a clown/ balloon artist, face painting and coloring. Volunteer students from the local high school assisted with the face painting. A large contingency of Lodge members volunteered and contributed towards the success of the Shoe Party. Exalted Ruler Wayne Moore is pictured with Avon staff Mike and Bobby Martini prior to the distribution of the shoes.



**Gouverneur Lodge #2035** sponsored a Senior Citizen Christmas Dinner that was attended by more than 100 senior citizens from the Gouverneur area. In addition to those served at the Lodge, the Lodge members delivered 37 dinners to seniors at a local nursing home or at their homes that were unable to travel to the Lodge. This is an annual event at the Gouverneur Lodge. Some of those attending



### Southampton Lodge #1574 donates \$10,000.00 of Annual Golf Tournament proceeds to Hamptons Health Society

At a presentation ceremony held at Southampton Elks Lodge on Sunday, November 25th, a check in the amount of \$10,000.00 was presented to Hamptons Health Society, a donation from the proceeds of the lodge's 2012 Golf Tournament.

The afternoon commenced with a discussion by Dr. Peter Michalos, Director, of the makeup of his organization (local medical professionals and citizens) and its goals - by functioning as a "think tank" made of knowledgeable physicians and concerned local people, to assess and fulfill needs to supply quality health care in our area - whether those needs be equipment, staff education or otherwise. And they perform these functions on a voluntary basis. Also on hand was Dr. Howard Sklarek, Vice-Chairman of the Society.

Exalted Ruler Linda Follett then spoke about one of the primary goals of the Elks organization and our lodge - service to the community, which parallel those of the Society, and how pleased we were to assist the Society in its works for the local community's health and welfare. She expressed the appreciation of the lodge to Golf Chairman Jack Cassidy, Co-Chairman PER Tom Daily, volunteer members and friends who staffed the Golf Tournament for their hard work which made this donation possible.

Golf Committee Chairman Jack Cassidy then addressed those assembled along with his Co-Chairman. They expressed their appreciation for the fine work done by the Health Society, and recognized the hard work of their volunteers at the tournament, along with their appreciation of the support of our fine sponsors, donors and golfers. He thereupon presented the \$10,000.00 to the very pleased recipients.

**Owego Lodge #1039** distributed 320 dictionaries to 3rd graders five schools, Owego-Appalachian Elementary, Owego Elementary, Newark Valley Elementary, Candor Elementary, St Patrick's Catholic Owego and Zion-Lutheran Owego.



**Kinderhook Lodge #2530** hosted the first of what they hope will be many more parties for developmentally disabled people from the northern Columbia County area. Mixing it up on the dance floor with the rest of them (left to right) are Gage Hildebrandt, Bobby Aiello and Amy Jonas.

"This is what the Elks do, to give back to the community," Exalted Ruler Charles Contsonas said. He volunteered the party room at the lodge. Fourteen of his fellow members volunteered their time to cook, serve and chaperone.



**Watertown Lodge #496** has established a partnership with the South Jefferson Central School District and their Backpack Program. As the result of a Promise Grant that the Lodge received Elks National Foundation (ENF), Watertown Lodge has been able to help support the South Jefferson Backpack Program by purchasing items and, more importantly, by members of the Lodge assisting each week in the packing of the backpacks. Exalted Ruler Michael Forceir is pictured presenting a \$2000 donation to South Jefferson Food Services Manager Cindy Overton, Also pictured are Leading Knight Paul Nutting, David (a South Jefferson Student), community member Kara Hayes, and Loyal Knight Ray Cooley. The *South Jeff Backpack Program* is currently feeding 150 children every weekend. Backpacks filled with food are sent to the enrolled children's homes every Friday on school buses. A typical backpack will contain peanut, butter, jelly, English muffins, instant oatmeal, instant macaroni & cheese, canned fruits & vegetables, etc, and this selection changes weekly.

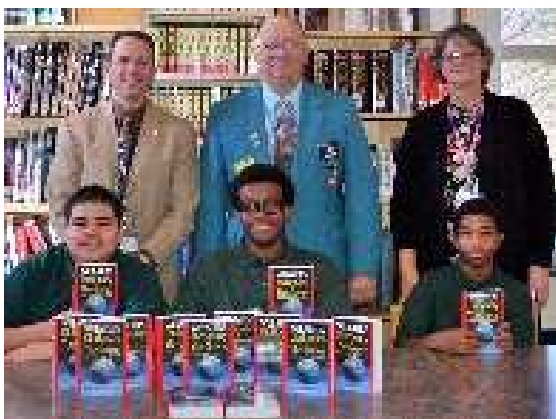




**Lowville Lodge #1605** sponsored the 2012 **North Central District Soccer Shoot**. The contest was held at the Lodge field. Twenty children sponsored by District Lodges competed for top honors. Following the contest, Lowville Lodge provided a complimentary luncheon for the contestants and their families. District Deputy Tim Welpé and State Vice President Tom Portolese assisted State Chair Mike Neaton and District Chair Bill Wooding with the award presentations. District Champions along with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers are pictured with North Central District Deputy Tim Welpé, State Soccer Shoot Chair Mike Neaton, State Vice President Tom Portolese and District



**Massena Lodge #1702** held an annual community Children's Christmas Party for deserving children. This year the Lodge provided gifts to 35 area children. Each child received a large gift box from Santa that contained toys and clothing items. Lodge members provided transportation for the children needing a ride. The Lodge has established a partnership with the local school and received assistance from the school nurse in identifying gifts for each child. In addition to the gift box, each child and their family received a turkey dinner. Santa (AKA Trustee Dave Root), Elf Aleighya Smith and Leading Knight James Root are pictured with the children as gifts are distributed. The event is made possible through generous volunteer efforts and financial contributions from Lodge members.



**Kinderhook Lodge # 2530**- Deb Minners, PER from Hudson Lodge #787 wanted to extend the Orders' Dictionary Program to the Berkshire Farms Center and Services for Youth school located in Caanan, NY.

Discovering that her home Lodge had already completed its Dictionary Program, she turned to neighboring Kinderhook Lodge # 2530 for Kinderhook Exalted Ruler Charles E. Cotsonas and the members of the Lodge agreed to sponsor the program and ordered 110 Dictionary/Thesauri which were delivered to the school and distributed by Jerry Shook, PDD. School Administrator Mr. Bruce Potter was astounded that the Elks would extend this gift to the school and was very grateful to receive the Dictionaries. Pictured with some of the students is L. to R. Mr. Potter, Jerry Shook, PDD of Kinderhook

**Cortland Lodge #748** has donated 360 dictionaries to 10 private, parochial, and public elementary schools in Cortland County. Cortland has donated 2,140 dictionaries in the past 10 years.



**Beacon Lodge #1493** brought Elroy the Elk to the New Windsor Elementary School supplying drug awareness information to the parents and students.

**Johnson City Lodge #2821** in coordination with the Johnson City Rotary Club purchased and distributed dictionaries to the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders of the Johnson City Intermediate School. Thank you to Elks Alicia and Leanna Beck, Jerry Smith, ER Dino Christopher, Kathy and Doug Neiss, along with Bob Olcott, Ron Hebner, and John Moynihan from the Rotary Club for delivering and presenting the Dictionaries.

The students were so excited to receive the dictionaries and many of them couldn't wait to look up some words. It was a fun and moving experience for all who attended.

Donna Converse, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher who coordinated the presentation said in e-mail: "Thank you, thank you, thank you.... The kids were beyond thrilled with their books and were so excited to share the wealth of information they provided. The teachers were very appreciative too. I was so pleased to see members of both organizations there for the presentation."



**Poughkeepsie Lodge #275** hosted a Free Youth Bowling Tournament on Sunday, February 17, 2013 at Mardi-Bob Bowling Lanes in Poughkeepsie, NY. This Free Bowling Tournament was attended by 90 area youth ages 11-18.

The tournament was made available by a Elks National Foundation Grant and sponsored by Poughkeepsie Elks Lodge #275. Three free games of bowling, as well as free pizza and soda were provided to the attendees. The bowling categories consisted of ages 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, and 17-18 for boys and girls. Each winning category bowler was presented with the appropriate trophy at the end of the event by the Exalted Ruler - Allan Wheeler. Members of the Poughkeepsie Elks Lodge #275, Arnie Rosenberger, John Donegan, John Kesselmark coordinated, hosted and assisted in scoring the event.



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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

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### 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

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