

The Empire State Elk

Official Publication of the New York State Elks Association
& The New York Elks Major Projects Corporation



Phillip Holowacz
State President's Message

First and foremost Suzanne and I want to thank all of you for the wonderful time we've had visiting Lodges and touring around the Empire State. What a beautiful state we live in! More importantly, what an amazing group of people the NYS Elks are! They call us the "Best People on Earth" with good reason. The hospitality extended to Suzanne and I and our traveling companions along with the wonderful food was outstanding. Thank you all!

I've have been honored to speak to firemen, policemen, and first responders. These men and women are truly everyday heroes, and we do a great job reminding our communities what an important job these individuals do. I've spoken at Flag Day Ceremonies and Memorial Services that were moving and breathtaking. I've shook hands with some Junior Elks who are doing some wonderful things. I can promise you that Veterans in New York State are definitely not forgotten. I've seen where our Major Projects money goes, and it's doing great things.

Fate sure presented us with some challenges this year. From devastating fires to disastrous flood waters, we experienced some tremendous losses. Keep these Elks and the Lodges they call home in your thoughts and prayers. In happier thoughts, I have had the opportunity to celebrate 100 years with Norwich and Newark Lodge. I visited the new Saranac Lake Lodge and the new home of Newburgh Lodge. I spoke at the tenth anniversary of Johnson City Lodge 2821, still the newest Lodge in New York. I had the opportunity to visit the new home of Lodge 1, and the memories and history maintained there are spectacular.

Thank you for the incredible gifts. The unique mementos of this journey will decorate our home for years to come, and remind Sue and me of all the wonderful people we met. Hopefully the weight from the great food won't stick around!

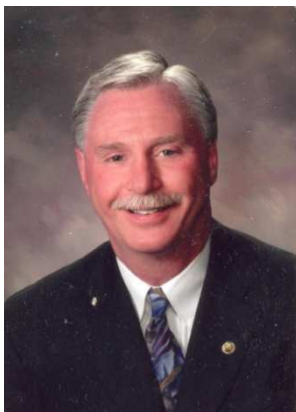
Finally my most sincere thanks to the State Advisory Board and my sponsor PSP Ernest Southworth for their faith in me and the honor bestowed upon me. Thank you, the State Vice Presidents, District Deputies, State Trustees, State Committee Chairs, and all the State Officers for all they've done to make this a great year for me and for Elksdom. Thank you, also, to all the members in the South Central District

for everything they did to make this year a success. It was your hard work that made this possible. Finally, thank you to Suzanne for making this journey that much more incredible and being a beautiful First Lady. Yes, Johnson City #2821 you can have your Leading Knight, ENF Chair, and House Committee Chairperson back now!

Elks Keep the Unity in Community. God Bless Our Troops. God Bless the USA.

New York Elks Major Project, Inc. Board Chairman's Message.

It's hard to believe that another fiscal year is coming to a close. I would like to thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to our program. Without all of you none of our programs would be successful. And a special thank you for working so hard to make your lodge's per-capita for our Major Project. Again, you amaze me, along with your Major Projects Board for every year you make this successful. As this issue goes to print we will be making a final push to make our per-capita goals that are due by April. I have had many of our members give advice on how to help raise more money for our state. We have had ideas on what other states do and what is successful. The Major Project Board will discuss all of these ideas and report them to you. Bath Lodge artist Brian Buckley will be at the State Convention in Albany to sell his print "The Calling". Remember – all proceeds are donated to Major Projects. Thanks again Brian for your donation!



Looking forward to seeing everyone in Albany and to hear all of those great reports to be read by our State Vice Presidents and to see that, again, we go over our per-capita!

Again, your Major Projects Board thanks you, our members for all that you do!

PSP Jamie Peace, Board Chairman.



Massapequa Lodge #2162 had over 250 parents and children with cerebral palsy and challenged children sharing the day filled with hot dogs, chicken fingers, balloon making, face painting and dancing. Santa and Mrs. Claus gave each of the children a Christmas present from the North Pole. Lodge Chairwoman Gina Munsey makes it better year after year.

On November 19, 2011, the **Rensselaer Lodge #2037** held its 21st Annual Cerebral Palsy Auction. In addition to over fifty local businesses donating goods and

services, many Lodge members personally donated items, including beautifully hand-made items. Final winners for the 20-Week Club were also drawn that evening. Through the assistance of dozens of members, Ron Barner, Chairman, and Lodge Est. Leading Knight announced a total net income of \$6,581, demonstrating that truly "Elks Give from the Heart."



The seven lodges of **State Capitol District** manned the phones for the fifteenth straight year at the Center for Disability Services Telethon broadcast on WXXA television held in late January of 2012. In addition to lending a hand at the telethon answering telephone calls, the District donated \$48,926 dollars to the fundraiser. The seven lodges raised the money by having events such as dinners, breakfasts and a car show. The State Capitol Districts lodges have donated over \$400,000 in the past seven years. Pictured above; R-L WXXA personalities 2nd from left DD Wayne Slingerland Middle SVP Pedro Rosa 2nd from right PER Dennis Whittemore, District Major Projects Chairman



Jamestown Lodge #263 members prepared and served 300 free turkey dinners to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families associated with Aspire, Inc., Dec. 11 at St. John's Church in Jamestown. The lodge provided 33 turkeys and donated \$1,100 to Aspire, Inc. to buy gifts for all. The Lakewood Rod & Gun Club donated \$500 toward the dinner. The Lodge is happy to partner with Aspire, Inc., to provide individuals with a nice Christmas dinner and gifts," said Leading Knight Greg Noon. "We are so appreciative of the incredible generosity of the Elk's Lodge year-after-year providing music, decorations, meals and generous gifts," said Aspire, Inc., Home Services Director Gail Saunders. The annual dinners were begun 55 years ago in 1956 in collaboration with the Easter Seal organization and was the idea of Kathryn Crossley, widow of the late Exalted Ruler (1959) and local attorney Howard Crossley. The association with Aspire, Inc., began about 30 years ago.