

**Elks and Marines join forces for kids - The South District Elks Association**

of New York held its annual Christmas Party on Friday evening, December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Davenport Country Club. Almost 200 Elks and guest attended this gala affair. Each guest bought a toy, which was presented to Marine Lieutenant Brendan McIntyre for the Marines "Toys for Tots" program. New York State President Phil Holowacz and his wife Sue was the guest of honor for the event. This is the tenth year the South District has been holding this District party. The South District consist of seven Lodges: Pearl River Lodge No. 2041, Ossining Lodge No. 1486, Mamaroneck Lodge no. 1457, Bronx/New Rochelle Lodge No. 756, Scarsdale Lodge No. 2056, Mt. Vernon/Yonkers Lodge No. 707 and the Mid Westchester Lodge No. 535.



Pictured above; L to R: Bob Sollazzo, Youth Chairman, SVP John Reidy, Tony Gilberti, PSP, NYS Elks Association President Phil Holowacz, Marine Lt. Brendan McIntyre, Dick Moore, PSP event Co Chairman Giulio Vedovino, PDD and Frank Pezzella, PER in presenting the toys to the Marine Lieutenant



**Potsdam Lodge #2074** Youth Activities Committee hosted a Children's Christmas Party for community children. Over 70 children attended and each child had the opportunity to share their Christmas "wish list" and received a gift from Santa. A complimentary lunch was provided to the children and their family members. While waiting to visit Santa, children were entertained with games that included candy cane limbo and bobbing for donuts. The party is an annual youth event.



**Watertown Lodge #496** donated 135 winter coats to the Community Action Planning Council (CAPC) to be distributed to children in the Watertown community. Ray Cooley, Lecturing Knight, Paul Nutting, Loyal Knight, Michael Forcier, Leading Knight, and

Kathy Converse, Exalted Ruler, are pictured assisting with the distribution of the coats. The Elks also made another donation of food to the CAPC food pantry.



**Potsdam Lodge #2074** donated \$250 to support PJs 4 X-MAS, an area organization that strives to provide each needy child with Christmas pajamas. NYSEA Sgt. at Arms Tim Welpé and North Central District State Vice President Mary Charleston are pictured presenting the donation to PJs 4 X-MAS organizers Camille and Abigail Marshall. Additionally, the Potsdam Lodge supported nine other seasonal community projects supporting disadvantages families with donations totaling \$ 2,650.00.



**Ossining Lodge #1486** continued its Community Activities program by again presenting dictionaries to local schools. PER's Edward Turenchalk and John J. Girolamo and the current ER, John B. Brown, distributed over 320 Student Dictionaries, each with a drug awareness bookmark, to the fifth grade students at Roosevelt Elementary School in Ossining, NY. The Lodge plans to donate 180 books to the Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School in Croton-on-Hudson, NY and 30 books to the Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, NY in early 2012.



**Colonie Lodge # 2192** - Joseph Rynasko, of Boy Scout Troop 279 is Colonie's newest Eagle Scout. Joseph was presented with his Eagle rank at a ceremony held on January 7, 2012. Colonie Lodge Americanism Chairman Jim Rubino presented Joseph with a gift from the lodge and Exalted Ruler Carol Sponable presented a certificate citing his accomplishment. For his Eagle project, Joseph completed work on a informational kiosk at a boat launch on the Mohawk River and also worked to clean the excess plant growth from the launch area.



**Huntington Lodge #1565** Lecturing Knight Peter Demidivich proudly presents Daniel Hussey a certificate recognizing his Eagle Court Award for Boy Scout Troop 125. Daniel's Eagle Project was to make interpretive signs for the Smithtown Historical Society at their historical museum properties.



**Haverstraw Lodge #877** Exalted Ruler Kevin Reilly and Past State Vice President Scott Taylor presented a plaque and certificate to new Eagle Scout Daniel Green. Daniel along with help from the IBEW 363 redid the electrical wiring at St Joan of Arc Church in Slootsburg New York to complete his Eagle Scout Badge. Pictured from left to right is Exalted Ruler Kevin Reilly, Past State Vice President Scott Taylor and Eagle Scout Daniel Green.



**Newark Lodge #1249** hosted youth from seven West Central District Elks Lodges who participated in the 2012 Hoop Shoot Competition. Pictured (l to r, front) Ed Miller, District Hoop Shoot Chairman; T. Nolan Kennedy; Meredith Conklin; Caiden Crego; Horace Betts IV; and Michael Thompson, Newark Lodge Exalted Ruler. In the back (l to r) Don Williams, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler; Braelin Scott; Emily Schultz; Kayla Battle; Hannah DelGatto; Justin Bott and Vern Thompson, State Vice President. Missing from picture are Tanner Kimball, Lucas DeVitto and Jarrett Benedicks.