



Beacon Lodge #1493 was pleased to be able to donate through the dictionary project 244 thesaurus have been given to the 6th grader students of Rombout Middle School. Over the past years Beacon lodge has been able to donate 1493 dictionaries.



Beacon Lodge was also pleased to be able to donate through the dictionary project 244 dictionaries to the 4th grader students of Forrestal Elementary School. Over the past years Beacon lodge has been able to donate 3072 dictionaries. Pictured from left to right are Carl Oken, Jack O'Toole, Greg Tavano, Dorothy McArthur, Al Schrock



Watervliet Lodge #1500 – PER, ER Pat Moran, PER Johanna Baniak, Dictionary Project Chairperson, PSVP Edward Baniak, and Nancy Caswell, Publicity Chairperson visited Heatly School in Green Island to hand out twenty seven dictionaries to third graders. Watervliet Elementary received 108 dictionaries, and Menands received 26 dictionaries. The program has been visiting schools for eight years distributing dictionaries. Pictured above, L to R, ER Pat Moran, student, Illiana Pcoque, PER Johanna Baniak and teacher, Miss Nicole Cioffi .



The **State Capital District** started the new year off by holding it's District Hoop Shoot in early January. The districts seven lodges had shooters competing for top honors in the district. A total of thirty two hoopsters participated in the event along with fifteen Elk volunteers.

The top shooters were:
8-9 yr. girl- Sheleya Rizie,
 Albany Lodge #49
8-9 yr. boy Nicholas Benton,
 Rotterdam Lodge #2157
10-11 yr. girl- Kimberly Michalski,
 Albany 49
10-11 yr. boy- Pryce Wasula,
 Watervliet Lodge #1500
12-13 yr. girl- Emilie Benton,
 Rotterdam Lodge #2157
12-13 yr. boy- Joshua Martin,
 Cobleskill Lodge #2040.

Picture at bottom of column one, L-R: PDDGER Joe Benoit, Shooter Pryce Wasula from Watervliet Lodge #1500 and Distric Hoop Shoot Chairman, PER Eric Lewis.



Huntington Lodge # 1565 - member Woody Ryder and his wife Joyce coordinate the Lodge and the Girl Scouts in collecting donated clothing which in turn they give to the homeless shelters and economically challenged in the greater Huntington area. They also collected donated, items which they packaged, with a letter, and sent to our troops in Afghanistan. Pictured above are the girl scouts from Junior Scouts #3696 and the cadet troop #3838 with their leaders, Amy Gross Front and Joyce Manley Ryder right.



Smithtown Lodge #2036 Drug Awareness Poster Contest winners, 1st place winner for the Smithtown Lodge was Paige Diecidue, 2nd place winner for the District was Alyse Portela, 3rd place winner for the District Alexandra Nieto. The girls are all fifth grade students at Accomsett Elementary School. This year's theme was "I Choose No To Use". Each of the girls did an exemplary job with their contest posters. Pictured above with the students, L to R, Exalted Ruler Andy Wolke and Drug Awareness Chairwoman Marlene Wolke.

Utica Lodge #33 is now the proud sponser of Boy Scout Troop #111. This troop has been helping out the lodge in various activities along with the Flag Day ceremony. The lodge was presented with the charter at a ceremony held at the lodge with parents and members looking on.



Islip Lodge #2533 has been involved in this "Just say no to Drugs" basketball Sharpshooter contest for the past 26 years. With the help of the ENF Gratitude Grant the Lodge donated \$600.00 to purchase Trophies and Tee Shirts for all the finalists. This program is run every year by the Town Recreation Department and includes as many as 8,000 students in forty elementary schools in the Township of Islip. Pictured above l to r – Islip Town Supervisor Tom Croci, Gene Collein, PSVP Bruce Trezise, PER Norman Newkirk, Town Councilman Anthony Senft with all the winners.



Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161 – Harry Sears became an Eagle Scout during a ceremony at the VFW in Saratoga Springs. Harry is a member of Boy Scout Troop #46, also sponsored by the local VFW lodge. Harry's Eagle Scout project was the planning, setting up, lining, and repaving of a basketball court in the hamlet of Gansevoort, in the Town of Northlunderland. Two new goals with nets and rims were also installed for the basketball court. The court is now a big part of the activities of the local youth of the area. Pictured above l to right; parents Thomas & Carol Sears, Eagle Scout Harry Sears and Est. Leading Knight Thomas Klotz.



During a Eagle Scout Ceremony held on Feb 12 the **Ilion Lodge #1444** presented the Scout Master Rick Rotundi with the Citizen of the Year Award. Rick has been the scout master for 32 years during that time he has had over 40 Eagle Scouts. This presentation was made while Troop 9 was also celebrating it 100th anniversary with over 200 people in attendance. Ilion Lodge also presented to the troop with an American Flag, Flag Certificate and Saving Bond to the the two newest Eagle Scouts. Pictured above L to R is DDGER Lee Maley, Scout Master Rick Rotundi, and Per Donald R. Thomas.