



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



**Lawrence Contratti  
State President's Message**

We are saddened by the loss of two fine Elks, PSPs Richard T. Moore or the South District and Jay Amodeo of the North Hudson District. They will be greatly missed. Gone, too, during the time of Hurricane Sandy is Mary Steinbrecher, widow of PSP William Steinbrecher of New Hyde Park Lodge No. 2107. My time spent with PSP Jay in the North Hudson District was a very pleasant one, and I was glad to participate in the charity auction held there during my visitation. May he rest in peace.

This late October hurricane was a disaster of epic proportions which adversely affected many of us. I received calls from two officials of the Red Cross, asking to use Elk parking lots for bulk emergency supply distribution and for some place for out-of-state volunteers to stay at night. Lodges of the East and Southeast Districts - perhaps others - stepped forward and offered to help in these troubled times. The Red Cross greatly appreciates our being there for them.

I was touched by all the calls and emails from so many people throughout the NYSEA asking how I made out during the storm. Naturally, my being in New York City was a reason for concern. I am happy to say now, as I said then, that I was not without electricity, the Internet, telephones or anything else, which is in itself something of a small miracle. People in Manhattan and on Long Island did not get off so easily.

As I write this, more than a week after Hurricane Sandy, some people are still waiting for the electricity to be restored, and with it everything else that depends upon it, principally heat. The storm, however, forced the cancellation of my trip to the West District. At this writing I am planning to go out at 2 AM on the chance that the gas lines are not quite so long, but I did not have to boil water on the stove for five days to heat the house.

My recent visitations - to the State Capital, North, South Central and Northeast Districts - have all been memorable and quite remarkable, proving with every step that Elks are undoubtedly the Best People on Earth. To look down from on high on Fort Ticonderoga and a large portion of Lake Champlain is to have the conviction "Now I am really getting to see the State of New York!" When I saw the bocce courts of Rotterdam Lodge - three outside and three inside - I almost asked for the dimit papers! I was absolutely delighted to have had the opportunity to see every one of the South Central District's ten lodges. If you want to see Elkdom at its height, carefully and lovingly preserved, you need look no further than Owego Lodge No. 1039. It was also a great pleasure to see some of the early lodges and their early treasures as in the Northeast District with Amsterdam No. 101 and Saratoga-Wilton No. 161. There are few things in Elkdom I love to see more than really old Elk meeting rooms with benches instead of folding chairs, and the original stations, carefully preserved. Having known Monsignor White and PSP Bert Harkness well in the early days, it was moving to see that Plattsburgh No. 621 has rooms dedicated to their memory.

By perhaps foolishly mentioning some of the wonders and wonderful lodges of my recent trips, I know I run the risk of offending somebody whose lodge I did not mention. Suffice it to say that every single lodge is extraordinary in its own way, and you just have see these things to believe it, the wonder of it all.

As we head towards the holiday season I wish everyone joy, and a great 2013. I am seeing with my own eyes how NYS Elks "Cherish Elkdom," and I hope you do your part to see to this as well!



**Past Grand Est. Loyal Knight, Past State President, Richard T. Moore**

In 1964 Richard T. Moore went to work for the City of Yonkers as a bookkeeper in the Water Bureau. During that same year, he was initiated into the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in the JFK Class, in Yonkers Lodge #707. Thus began two distinguished careers with one common goal. For the next thirty-five years, Richard dedicated himself to the service of others through local and state government and through the fraternal Order of Elks.

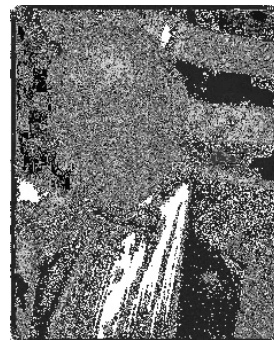
He remained with the City of Yonkers, becoming the first appointed Record Control Supervisor until 1978 when he

joined the staff of State Senator John E. Flynn. This position afforded him the flexibility to begin his twenty-two year career as State Secretary for the New York State Elks Association.

His remarkable career with the BPOE started immediately upon his initiation. He served his lodge as Est. Loyal Knight in 1964, Est. Leading Knight in 1965 and Exalted Ruler in 1966-67. In 1968 he took over the position of Lodge Secretary, a position he held until Yonkers and Mount Vernon Lodges merged in 1993. He was elected State Vice President for the NY South District in 1975 and served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1978. That same year he became State Secretary, where he served until his retirement at the 1999 State Convention. In addition, in 1987, he was appointed to the Grand Lodge Credentials Committee where he served for four years. During this period, he was instrumental in putting the Convention Registration on computer. His service as State Secretary was interrupted for one year when he accepted the honor of serving as President of the New York State Elks Association during the year 1990-1991. Richard served the Grand Lodge as Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight in 2001-2002.

Richard also distinguished himself in service to his community in many other capacities. He was a three-time Commander of St. Mary's Post, Catholic War Veterans. He served as a trustee of the Yonkers Historical Society and contributed frequently to its newsletter. He was awarded their "Key to History" award in 1993. He served as Chairman of the Veterans Day and Memorial Day Parades in the City of Yonkers. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Yonkers YMCA and served as its President in 1994 and Treasurer until 1998. He was a member of the Hudson Valley Bank Business Development Board from 1982 until 1998. He also served as a member of the Landmarks Preservation Board.

Richard remained active as a member of the New York State Elks Association Advisory Board until his passing. He dedicated his life to "Caring and Sharing", and will be missed by Elks throughout the nation.



**Past State President Jay Amodeo.**

Jay F. Amodeo, 68, of Castleton died Wednesday, October 31, 2012 at Albany Medical Center. Jay was born in Albany the son of the late Frank and Katherine (Kittle) Amodeo. He was a fine wine and spirits salesman for Service Liquor Distributor, in Schenectady, worked as the special assistant to the Counsel for Governor Mario Cuomo. Jay also retired as an administrator for the East Greenbush Town Court after 12 years. He served as Past Exalted Ruler for Rensselaer Elks Lodge #2073 and District Deputy and Past State President of the NY State Elks Association, and recently sat on the Advisory Board of the NYSEA. He dedicated his life to "Helping Hands and Open Hearts" and will be missed by Elks throughout the great state of New York.

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