

EAST DISTRICT LODGES AID IN HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

The Lodges of the East District are all located on Long Island which was one of the hardest hit areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. They follow the motto of "Elks Care - Elks Share" and are helping aid those affected by Sandy through the collection of food, clothing and other necessities. Riverhead 2044, Huntington #1565, Massapequa #2162, Patchogue# 1323 and Smithtown #2036 are working directly with the Red Cross. Hicksville #1931 is in a joint effort with the local Hicksville VFW group to assist the Red Cross. Port Jefferson #2138, along with the United States Veterans Motorcycle Club of Long Island are both collecting items that will be delivered to local relief organizations. Islip #2533, Freeport/Baldwin #1253 and Southampton #1574 are pitching in by assisting local relief organizations in their areas.



Norwich Lodge #1222 recently held their 3rd Annual Civil Servants Appreciation Dinner. The dinner is free and opened to Norwich Firefighters, County Fire Police, City Police Department & Chenango County Sheriff's Department members, employees, retirees and their families. This year's turnout was over 100 people. The dinner included Spaghetti, Baked Ziti, and Bread/Butter & Beverages along with a DJ/Karaoke. The Elks also donated \$100 to each of the organizations fund of choice: Norwich Volunteer Fireman's Association, Policeman's Benevolent Association, Chenango County Fire Police & Chenango County Sheriff's Children Camp. The Elks would also like to thank their friends at: D'Abbraccio's, Norwich Walmart, Save-A-Lot, Price Chopper & Frank Goodrich of Port-A-Party DJ Service that helped make this function successful. Pictured from left to right: Sgt. Steve Zieno, Norwich Police Dept; George Finch, Chenango County Fire Police; Jeff Cola, Norwich Elks Exalted Ruler; Jim Fowlston, Norwich Volunteer Fireman's Association; Chenango County Sheriff Ernest Cutting."



Lyons Lodge #869 together with Wayne County Sheriff Barry Virts recognized three local police officers for their life saving actions. Earlier this year a Town of Galen homeowner, Kelly Vergilia, found herself trapped on the second floor of her home due to a fire in the residence. Police officer David Demchuk together with Sergeant Aaron Disanto and Investigator Mark Loveless of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department immediately responded to the residence. Upon arrival, the officers found the homeowner had retreated to the roof of her home. Shortly after the rescue, Ms. Vergilia was taken to Newark Wayne Hospital by ambulance for minor injuries and smoke inhalation; she was home alone at the time of

the fire. Several of her pets, however, died in the fire. It was later determined that the fire was accidental in origin due to a malfunctioning appliance. The home was determined to be a total loss.

Lyons Elks Leader Emily Wunder together with Sheriff Virts presented each of the officers with a plaque recognizing their professionalism and service to duty in assisting and saving the homeowner from serious injury. Pictured bottom first column (L-R): Elks Leader Wunder, Sgt. Disanto, Sheriff Virts, Kelly Vergilia, Inv. Loveless and Officer Demchuk.



Newark Elks Lodge #1249 hosted its Annual Recognition Banquet to thank all Newark Wayne Community Hospital volunteers and members of the NWCH Auxiliary. Exalted Ruler, Brad Whittaker (far left), welcomed over one hundred guests to the dinner and thanked them for their time and dedication in serving the community. Special recognition was given to Walter Hedgepeth (2nd fr left), for 3,000 hours of service, Chloe Metzger for 1,000 hours, Gerald Peelen, 14,000 hours and Beverly Williams, 5,000 hours. Marie Burnham (far right), Manager of Volunteer Resources at NWCH and DeMay Living Center, was applauded for the tremendous job that she does at organizing the volunteer program and keeping it running smoothly and efficiently throughout the year. The 223 volunteers donated 23,164 hours of service during 2011.



Lyons Lodge #869 - At a recent gathering of Elks from throughout the West Central District, local District Chairman Thomas Gowan presented a donation to The Elks National Foundation through National Elks local representative Gary Rogers. District Deputy Rogers represents lodges within the West Central District as part of the New York State Elks Association. The Elks National Foundation supports a wide variety of programs including veterans, persons with disabilities, scouting, college scholarships and many other youth activities.

Lyons Elks Lodge #869 has long been known for significant contributions in this fund raising effort. Visiting Elks from throughout the area from Lodges which comprise the West Central District included Rochester, Lyons, Seneca Falls, Canandaigua, Newark, Wolcott, and Webster-Fairport.

Pictured above L - R: Lyons Elks Leader Rogers and District Chairman Gowan.



Newark Lodge #1249 held its 8th Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale to benefit charitable activities supported by the Elks. A variety of over 300 hanging baskets, geraniums, and unique cone baskets were quickly purchased by local residents as well

as by visitors from surrounding counties. Pictured above are Don Wiltsie (left), coordinator of the event, along with Elk, Richard Gaines, who assisted customer, Kathy DeJohn, in making her selection. Many thanks went out to the several volunteers who worked to make this event a success.



State Capital District Elks assisting in the annual Holiday Hunger Appeal held at Crossgates Mall on November 25, 2012 in Guilderland. The all day event raised \$900.00 which the State Capital District matches for a total of \$1800.00 donated to the Regional Food Bank of Upstate New York. Pictured from Left-Right are James Suschinski, District Soccer Chairman, Cobleskill #2040; PER Dennis Whittemore, District Major Projects Chairman, Rotterdam #2157; Nancy Caswell, Trustee, Watervliet #1500 & PER Patricia Moran, Watervliet #1500.



Ticonderoga Lodge #1494 - A long time Ticonderoga community leader has been honored. Adolph Diskin was recognized recently by the Ticonderoga Elks for his 70 years as a member. Diskin accepted the award from Elks Exalted Ruler Marge Hurlburt as family looked on. Also representing the Elks were Stella Kolysko, David Carr and Richard Nadeau. Diskin, who will be 97 years old on Dec. 23, is a 1933 Ticonderoga High School Graduate. He owned and operated Diskin Scrap Company - scrap metals recycling from 1934 to 1993. He was also very active in Local politics, serving as a Ticonderoga Republican Committee member for more than 50 years. Diskin served as Ticonderoga village trustee and was town supervisor 1982 - 1987. He was Essex county "Republican Election Commissioner 1989 to 1999. He received the Harry McDougal Award from the Essex County Republican Party for meritorious service to the party. Diskin was also involved in many community activities. He served on the Moses-Ludington Hospital board of directors and chaired the fund raising campaign when the new hospital was built in the 1980's. He is a 60 year member of the Mount Defiance Lodge Masonic #794 and served as Essex County Masonic District Deputy. He is a member of the Oriental Shriners Temple and the Royal Arch Masons. He is a 50 year member of the Ticonderoga Eastern Star. Diskin received the Liberty Bell Award from the Essex County Bar Association for outstanding service to his community and Essex County.

The Elks National Foundation's Community Investments Program

Invests \$ 6.5 million in Elks communities through Lodge grants that help Elks meet local needs. These grants offer your Lodge an opportunity to [serve your community](#) in ways that will [raise the Lodge's profile](#), energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to [be part of an organization](#) that's doing great things.