

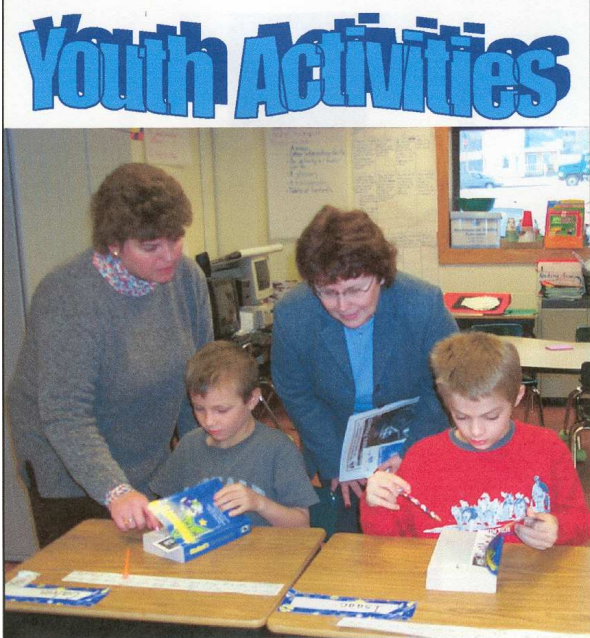


Sparks, the Dalmatian Fire Dog, and his trainer, Tibbie Dell, captivated an audience consisting of members of Cub Scout Pack 122, their parents and Scout leaders during a fire safety presentation held at the Newark Elks Lodge No. 1249.

Sparks is a celebrity in his own right. Dell, who has worked with him since he was 6 months old said, "Sparks is a champion show dog, an AKC Canine Ambassador & Canine Good Citizen, as well as a Certified Therapy Dog with Therapy Dogs International. He is a "Tail Waggin' Tutor" at the local library where children practice their reading skills by reading to a therapy dog. He was recently the dog in the Grange tent for Empire Farm Days where we gave a daily program about Responsible Dog Ownership and Therapy Dogs."

Dell explained that the fire safety program is geared for young children and is a free educational service. She began by introducing Sparks, explaining how Dalmatians became firehouse mascots and telling the history of the "Fire Dog". She went on to demonstrate how a smoke alarm works and what it should sound like. Escape plans, a designated outside meeting place and the proper procedure of 'Stop, Drop and Roll' were all part of the program. A special impression was made on the spectators due to the amazing role that Sparks played in each lesson. Learning how to dial 9-1-1 for emergencies and the importance of not playing with matches were both stressed. The children were encouraged to participate and ask questions. Two books were displayed for them to look at, "Sparkles The Fire Safety Dog" and "Sparky The Fire Dog" and stickers that said, "Practice Fire Safety Every Day" were distributed for them to take home as a reminder of what they had learned.

"This fire safety program is put on by the Dalmatian Club of the Finger Lakes and Tibbie Dell is a participating member of the program.



"No person stands so tall as when bending over to help a child."

Message from State Drug Awareness
Chairperson: Kathleen Neiss

Guidelines for Poster and Essay Contest
2012-2013

Poster Contest for: Group I Kindergarten
Group II First and Second Grades
Group III Third and Fourth Grades

POSTER SIZE: Minimum 8 ½ x 11 inches
Maximum 22 x 28 inches

Essay Contest for: Group IV Fifth and Sixth Grades
Group V Seventh and Eighth Grades
ESSAY LENGTH: No more than 200 Words

THEME: **"The Choice 4 Me is Drug-Free"**
for poster & essay

Judging criteria: Closeness to theme
Originality Neatness
All Posters and Essays must have the Identification Label affixed to the back of entry. Winners submitted must have the Hold Harmless Waiver attached. Labels and waivers can be found at
<http://nyselks.org/DAENewsOctNov2012.pdf>

Deadlines: Lodge January 15, 2013
District February 15, 2013
State March 15, 2013

State Prizes for each Group are:
1st place \$250 Cash Award
2nd place \$150 Cash Award
3rd place \$ 50 Cash Award



Norwich Lodge #1222 recently held a Chicken BBQ to benefit The Place / Big Brother – Big Sister of Norwich. The Elks Lodge presented a check to them for \$500. Pictured from left to right: Norwich Elks BBQ organizer & Trustee Chairman John Newton, Paula & Alyshia Crawford from The Place, and Norwich Elks Exalted Ruler Jeff Cola.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 distributed 700 dictionaries to third grade students at Norwood-Norfolk, Madrid-Waddington, Parishville-Hopkinton, Colton-Pierrepont, Canton, Lawrence Avenue Elementary School and St. Mary's of Canton. The Lodge also distributed dictionaries to the St. Lawrence NYSARC educational program. PER William LaPoint served as the Dictionary Project Chairperson. Students from Lawrence Avenue Elementary School proudly display their new dictionaries. Pictured with the Students are Inner Guard Paul Covey, District Deputy Tim Welpel and PER/Dictionary Chair William LaPoint

Dictionary Project Mission Statement

The goal of this program is to assist all students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary. The dictionaries are a gift to each student to use at school and at home for years to

come. Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn, so we encourage our sponsors to give dictionaries each year to children in the third grade.



Watertown Lodge #496 - Beginning October 22nd to November 5th, the Watertown Elks Lodge distributed dictionaries to 3rd Graders as a part of their annual Dictionary Project. Accompanying the dictionaries are drug awareness bookmarkers and coloring books. The Elks distributed 1,440 dictionaries to 68 third grade classes in 12 area school districts. The above photo shows Elk members Bob Overtown, Tim Kelly, and Tony Verne distributing dictionaries during a recent visit at the Calcium Elementary School.



Lowville Lodge #1605 Annual Father and Son Banquet was once again a high success. Sons attending elementary school through college joined their fathers for this annual Lodge tradition. This year's guest speaker was Syracuse University Men's Basketball Assistant Coach Mike Hopkins. Coach Hopkins provided an inspiring and energetic speech that contained a message for the entire audience. Following his presentation, door prizes were provided to the many youth attending. This was followed by an autograph and photo opportunity with Coach Hopkins. Exalted Ruler Troy Clark and his sons are proudly pictured with Coach Hopkins during the autograph/photo session.



Massena Lodge #1702 sponsored its first even Children's Halloween Party. The party was described as a "blast". The children and their parents were treated to a complimentary lunch with plenty of treats. The children participated in several fun activities that included bobbing for apples, breaking a piñata, making a mask, making a mummy with toilet paper and face painting. Some of the children are pictured enjoying the piñata breaking contest. The Lodge would like to make this an annual children's event.

Dictionary Project – Vision

With the support of local sponsors and volunteers, we want to provide a dictionary to every student in the United States. In this way we hope to help them to improve their communication skills and make the most of their education. Many of our sponsors are also taking the Dictionary Project beyond the United States, to help improve literacy worldwide.