

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Dale Maida, Trustee from the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, **Boonville Lodge #2158** presented the Village of Prospect Library a check for \$1000 on behalf of the Boonville Elks Lodge. The proceeds from the donation benefited the Youth Reading Program. The Village of Prospect Library is part of the Mid York Library system. Pictured is Dale Maida, Boonville Elks Trustee, Alta Delong, President of the Library Board and Betsy Mack, Library Director.



Lancaster Lodge #1478 held their twelfth annual Trench Trophy Award Banquet and Hall of Fame Induction on Tuesday, December 2. The award recognizes the best high school football lineman in Western New York and encompasses over 70 schools and almost a 1,000 eligible players. The ten inductees were honored in front of a crowd of over 250 people including Lodge members, coaches, players, local and national dignitaries, and media. Guest speakers included Jim McNally, a famed NFL Offensive Line Coach, and Joe DeLamielleure, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Each inductee receives a trophy and their name is added to the Hall of Fame, while one winner, deemed to be the Lineman of the Year, receives a \$1,000 college scholarship. This year's winner was Joe Mistretta from Jamestown. A 6'2, 290 pound offensive and defensive lineman, who helped lead his team to a State Championship, plans to attend Edinboro or Syracuse University. The award, started in 2003 by members Carl Kuras and Len Kuhn, has become a highly publicized youth program for the Lodge. Local media including television, print, and radio cover the award on a weekly basis throughout the year with the crescendo at the annual banquet. Multiple Hall of Fame Inductees have gone on to play in the National Football League and colleges now utilize the award as a scouting tool for potential recruits. The other 2014 inductees were: George Attea (Williamsville North), Chandler Baker (Maple Grove/Chautauqua Lake), Michael Bowers (Randolph), Keyshawn Crawford (Cleveland Hill), Mike Kelleher (Maryvale), Evin Ksiezarczyk (West Seneca East), Matt Rymarczyk (Kenmore East), TJ Wheatley (Canisius) and Rob Wilson (Cheektowaga). Joe Mistretta is pictured proudly displaying his award with member Carl Kuras.



Cohoes-Waterford Elks Lodge #1317 recently sponsored a breakfast fundraiser for five (5) families who lost their homes to a devastating fire in Cohoes on October 8th of this year. More than 200 Lodge members as well as several Cohoes firefighters and the general public attended. Proceeds from the Benefit, along with a donation from the North East District Charity Fund, totaled more than \$5,000 which was divided equally among the five families. The members of the families affected by the fire are pictured.

Wolcott Elks Lodge #1763 recently donated \$2074 to the Upstate NY ALS Association. The proceeds were collected from West Central District Elks from Wolcott, Seneca Falls and Lyons, along with Elks from Liverpool, Oswego, Bath, Auburn and Watertown NY Lodges. The donation was made in memory of Past Exalted Ruler Michael Forcier from Watertown Lodge #496. Michael was diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) in April of 2012 while he was Exalted Ruler of Watertown Lodge #496. Michael fulfilled his obligation as Exalted Ruler and became close friends with many Elks from the West Central District especially the Wolcott Elks Lodge members. Michael lost his battle from ALS in June 2014. His wife Elaine and other Watertown Elk members were there to witness the Elks motto "Elks Care - Elks Share". The donations were collected through a Chinese Auction. Penny Snyder and Alice Resue from "Wolcott Elks Starlites Auxiliary" made a gift basket with about \$200 worth of merchandise. Alice auctioned off the basket and in 20 minutes the auction was over and \$2074 was collected. Around 75 people were at the Wolcott Lodge for this ALS challenge and many participated in the auction. Others donated money without participating in the auction.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 proudly provided a \$250 donation to support the 5th Annual Shawna's Walk for Wishes. The walk was held at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. The event raises funds for the Make a Wish Foundation. The Lodge has made a donation each year. Lodge members Tim Welpé and Shane Morrill are pictured presenting the donation to Shawna Cummings. Also pictured are Shawna's mother Melissa and event volunteers. This year's donation helped to sponsor a child named Tess. Her wish to go to Hawaii became a reality when she had the chance to swim with dolphins, snorkel and parasail. In a thank you letter to the Lodge, Debbie Simon, Event Manager for Make a Wish noted Tess will never forget "how cool it was to swim with a dolphin and that her mother will never forget how the wish "took the realities of fighting the disease out of ALL our minds".

Massena Lodge #1702 has established a long standing partnership with the Shriners. On behalf of the members of Massena Lodge 1702, ER Jim Root is pictured presenting a check for \$1,490 to the Shriners' on behalf the Lodge. The donation supports the Children's Hospital in Montreal Canada. Members of Massena Lodge and the Shriners' crews are also pictured (picture to the left) during the check presentation.

