



EMPIRE STATE ELK

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State President's Message

John E. Jacques

2015-2016

“ELKS STEP UP”



State President Elect John Jacques is pictured with Reverend Michael Martini moments before being sworn in as the New York State Elks Association President for 2015-2016.

In 1867 when a young entertainer passed away, leaving his family destitute, his friends “STEPED UP” and took the matter in hand, forming the BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS.

In World War One, when the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA “STEPED UP” to make the world safe for democracy, the ELKS also “STEPED UP” and provided two field hospitals in Europe for our troops. When the war was over and many troops returned home injured and disabled, the ELKS “STEPED UP” and provided the first two state side hospitals dedicated solely for the care of our Veterans, known today as the VETERAN’S ADMINISTRATION hospital system.

During any number of natural disasters, from the Oklahoma City tornado to hurricane Katrina, the ELKS “STEPED UP” to assist with labor and monetary assistance.

The ELKS “STEPED UP” in 1828 by creating the “ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION”, the great Heart of ELKDOM. Over the years the ELKS have “STEPED UP” by spending millions of dollars on such programs as Scholarships, Youth Activities, Veterans and the Hoop Shoot to name a few.

In New York State a need was identified to bring health care services into the home of children afflicted with CEREBRAL PALSY. The NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION “STEPED UP” and partnered with UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY to sponsor the Home Visitation Services and has become the NEW YORK STATE MAJOR PROJECT.

Today our challenges are greater than ever. Through our time, dedication and charity, every Lodge and every ELK is asked to “STEP UP” in our communities. Unlike the Jolly Corks, we must be more than a social organization. It is up to us, as ELKS, to recognize the specific needs of our communities, identify solutions and provide skilled labor and resources to become the driving force for improvement in our communities.

John E. Jacques, President, New York State Elks Association



State President John Jacques and State Trustee Chris Maddock are pictured, along with State Vice Presidents and Trustees taking the Oath of Office. Also pictured looking on is Grand Lodge and State Association Chaplain Reverend Michael Martine.



State President John Jacques is pictured receiving a gavel from Past State President Phil Holowacz during the Spring Convention ceremony. Pictured to the right is Past State President Jerry Shook.



State President Elect John Jacques of Poughkeepsie Lodge #275 is pictured as he addresses the members of the New York State Elks Association during the business session. His motto is “ELKS STEP UP”.



New York State Elks Association President John Jacques is pictured as he presents his first speech to the Association members.

“ELKS STEP UP”