



EMPIRE STATE ELK

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State President's Message

“GET HOOKED ON ELKDOM”

It has taken a little longer than normal, but the weather has finally warmed up and the crocuses and daffodils have broke thru the frozen ground. Spring has arrived in all its splendor and all of our Lodges have new officers bracing for the busy and adventurous year to come. As the new lodge year unwinds, now is the time when the new and old officers need to join forces and establish the programs and committees for the upcoming year. The new officers can learn much from their retiring counterparts. Use them for the valuable resource they are. Their experiences and knowledge can help set you off on the right path. Listen to them; decide what you feel is best; and choose wisely. And remember they are there if you need additional help down the road.

The first lady and I, along with our various traveling companions, have traveled to and from all four corners of this great State and have been amazed by the places we have seen and the people we have met. Our experiences have been solidly and indelibly etched into our memories. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for everything you did, and continue to do, as Elks. It is obvious that you are all “Hooked on Elkdom”.

As wonderful as the past year has been, this year has also made us realize that we are not invincible. We have lost three of our esteemed Past Presidents and their legacies will be remembered every time the 11 o'clock chimes ring. Past State President and Past Grand Inner Guard Jack Flannery, Past State President William Smith and Past State President Nelson Navarra are no longer with us. Their ships have sailed to far way shores and their memories will forever be etched in the sands of time. Our condolences go out to each family and their surviving spouses.

And don't forget that our Spring Convention will be held in Rochester in late May. I encourage as many Exalted Rulers and new/old officers to attend the scheduled workshops to learn as much about running your lodge as possible. Of special interest will be a three-hour seminar about good accounting practices by the Area One Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committeeman James Sabio.

His workshop on how to properly maintain your finances should prove invaluable. Finally, one last sincere thank you to everyone who made my year as your State President as memorable and special as it was. Abby and I will always cherish the friendships we made and the times we spent traveling across the State. It has been a remarkable journey; one that started out as a dream and developed into a reality. Together we have all gotten “Hooked on Elkdom”.

State President Shook's Final Travel Schedule

State President Jerry and First Lady Abby have traveled throughout New York State the past year and there is one last trip to take. They will conclude their travel schedule May 1-3, 2015 when they travel to the East District.

State President Jerry in Action



March 21, 2015 saw the opening of the 68th Annual NYS Elks Bowling Tournament, being hosted by Watervliet Lodge #1500. State President Jerry Shook was on hand to welcome all the bowlers. He is pictured with State Capital District State Vice President Helen Blais of Guilderland Lodge and Exalted Ruler Patty Gardner of Watervliet Lodge.



State President Jerry Shook is pictured above as he bowled the first ball to open the 68th Annual NYS Elks Bowling Tournament. He is pictured below with first lady Abby, State Capital District District Deputy Mel Oliveria of Rotterdam Lodge #2157, and State Vice President Helen Blais of Guilderland Lodge #2480.

