



EMPIRE STATE ELK

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State President's Message

John E. Jacques

2015-2016

"ELKS STEP UP"

MEMBERS

A gracious good day to all. I hope that the holidays were kind to each and every one of you, the weather was certainly favorable in our wonderful state. But as of this writing, that is changing quickly. So keep the faith, spring is coming.

I would like to share with ALL of you some of the most wonderful experiences that I have had and the people that I have met while visiting to date 12.5 districts. I cannot begin to express to you the warmth, fellowship, hospitality and generosity that I have received and looking forward to the 4.5 districts I have yet to visit.

Let me start by expressing my sincere appreciation to the District Sponsors, District Deputies, State Vice Presidents, Exalted Rulers, Officers and Members for taking time out of your lives to be with me and yes my companions too. "LOL"

One item that I would very much like touch upon is volunteerism. Because of the members that have stepped up to volunteer their time and effort have made those lodges a success. A few hours weekly or monthly goes a long way. To our members, new and old, I say get involved, the rewards are endless.

Thank you for your continued support in the programs and work that makes our wonderful order so worthwhile such as ENF, MAJOR PROJECTS, and all of the charities that the individual lodges support and promote. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

PLEASE KEEP THE "ELK CAN DO ATTITUDE" and THANK YOU ALL FOR "STEPPING UP" AND DOING WHAT YOU DO SO VERY WELL.

YOURS IN ELKDOM,

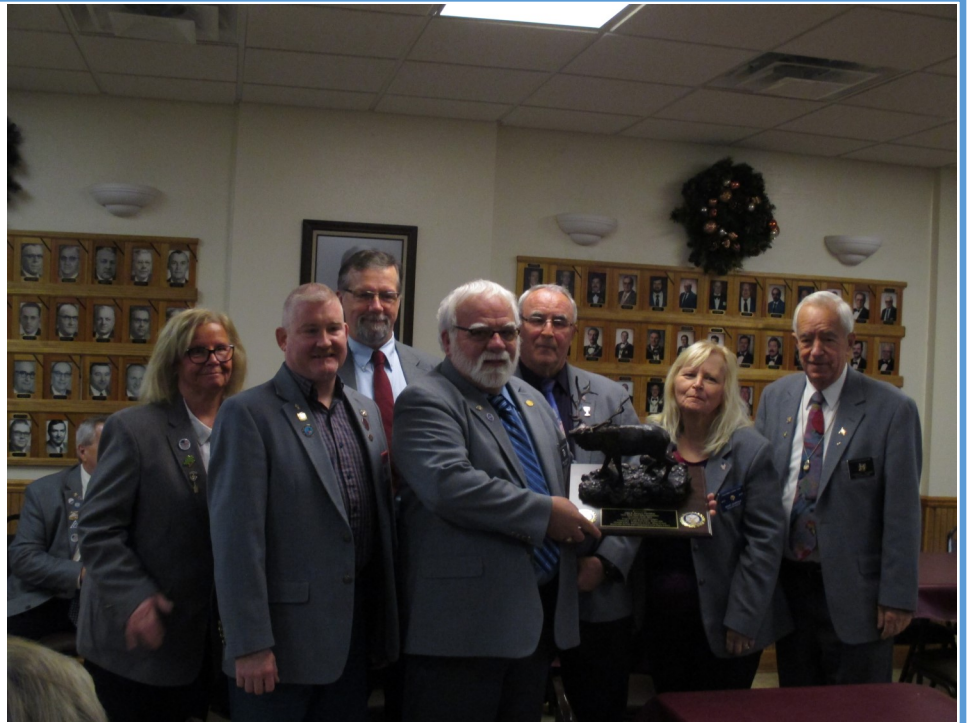
JOHN E. JACQUES, STATE PRESIDENT

STATE PRESIDENT'S JACQUES 2016 TRAVEL SCHEDULE

Ontario District	February 12-14, 2016
East Central District	February 19-21, 2016
Southeast District	February 26-28, 2016
NYSEA Bowling	March 25-27, 2016
East District	April 29-30, May 1, 2016
Spring Convention	May 29-31, 2016

During his visit to the State Capital District, State President John had the opportunity to be present as **Watervliet Lodge #1500** celebrated the Lodges 90th Birthday. Also present for the celebration were Past Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr, Past State President Paul Galarnau and Past State President and Area One Government Relations Committeeman Bruce Hidley. They are pictured displaying a 90th celebration cake along with State Vice President and Watervliet member Ed Quackenbush and his wife, Exalted Ruler and Past Exalted Ruler Coleen Quackenbush.

"ELKS STEP UP"



When State President John Jacques made his official visit to the **Central District** he was presented a Elks statue from all the lodges in the district. Shown here in the picture is Leading Knight Beth Konowich from Rome Lodge #96, the Central Districts DDGER Bob Dyer, Leading Knight Jon Waldo of Ilion Lodge #1444, State President Jacques, State Vice President William Proni, Exalted Ruler Mary Burdick of Herkimer Lodge #1439 and Past State President Charles I Noonan.



Fort Drum USO Visit

State President John Jacques visited the Fort Drum USO during his visit to the North Central District. State President John was accompanied by State Elks National Foundation Chair Dorothy Shaffer and North Central District representatives that included Past State President Tim Kelly, Empire State Elk Editor Tim Welpé, State Vice President Jimmy Jackson, Past State Tiler Harry Wilson, Past State Vice President Henry Schabb and Watertown member Joe Navarra. During the visit, USO Director Karen Clark provided a tour of the USO facility and provided an overview of the services provided by the USO program. Prior to touring the Fort Drum Base, State President John presented USO Director Karen Clark with a \$4038 donation on behalf on the NYSEA. Following the check presentation, Mrs. Clark provided a tour of Fort Drum Base that included the Old Camp Drum/Pine Camp grounds and the Fort Drum Community. The group had lunch at Busters located at the Fort Drum Commons.

