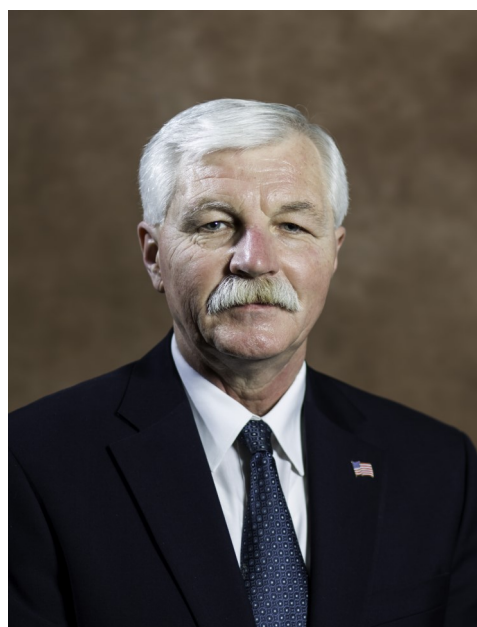




# EMPIRE STATE ELK

Official Publication of the New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc.  
SPRING 2018 Issue



## STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Philip E. Conaty**  
**2017-2018**

“Elkdom:  
Fellowship Through Giving”

My Fellow Elks,

I really find it hard to believe that this is my final message to you as State President. When I was first sworn in and saw my travel schedule, I did not know how I was going to manage it. But the Spring Convention is upon us and shortly my successor will be sworn in.

This year has really flown and what a wonderful and busy year it has been. As your roving goodwill ambassadors, among other things, Betsy and I have visited all 17 Districts, some two and one District even three times. We visited 117 out of the 121 Lodges in the State. We have driven thousands of miles (not counting the thousands of miles we were driven once we were in a District). We have visited two National Cemeteries, three other cemeteries, three VA hospitals, and two CP Centers. We have attended three Police/First Responders Dinners, two Veterans lunches and made a presentation at the Fort Drum USO. We went to one telethon, visited two light houses. We presented trophies at a regional soccer shoot and the State Soccer shoot. We attended one Division I NCCAA basketball game, went to one track meet and visited the FASNY Museum of Firefighting. We attended one 100th Anniversary Gala and one 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. I installed the officers in one Lodge and the officers of an entire District. I can't not mention – the ride on the Ferris wheel.

As you know, my motto this year was **Elkdom - Fellowship through Giving**. Traveling throughout the State this year, it really summed up, what we experienced, what we were shown and what we observed. The fellowship, that is so central to what we are as Elks and why we are Elks, was outstanding. We shared good times with so many old friends and we made so many new friendships. We witnessed so many of the wonderful things that you do to make your communities a better place to live – the scholarships, the Police and First Responder Recognition nights, the shoe programs, the Veterans programs, and what you do for our youth and for our Major Project. Betsy and I can proudly attest that Elkdom is alive and well here in the State of New York, where it all began 150 years ago.

Lasting memories were made at each and every lodge that we visited. Memories that we will cherish for the rest of our lives. We learned so much from you this past year. Each Lodge is unique in its own respect and each district operates a little differently. However, the common thread is that our Lodges are filled with outstanding, caring and committed individuals all united in one common goal – to make a difference in the lives of others and in your respective communities. You should all be proud and we thank you. Because of all that you do, Betsy and I are prouder than ever to say we are a part of our great order and the New York State Elks Association.

In the coming years, I look forward to continuing to serve you and our Association on the Advisory Board. Please continue to do the good work of Elkdom. Betsy and I look forward to seeing you all again.

Fraternally,

Phil Conaty



During their visit to **Auburn Lodge #474**, State President Phil and his wife Betsy received a stained glass replica of their respective pins. The stained glass artwork was magnificently crafted by Valarie Parsons.,



State President Phil and his wife Betsy are pictured at **Seneca Falls Lodge #992** with Past State President Rick Wonder, Past State President Dan Capella and his wife Barb and Past State President Bill Reedy and his wife Lisa.



State President Phil and his wife Betsy are pictured while visiting **Canandaigua Lodge #1844** with traveling companions State Vice President Mike Gagliardi and Annie, and escorts State Vice President Bob Erway and Past Exalted Ruler Ed Gnau



State President Phil and his wife Betsy attended the 150th Anniversary celebration at **New York Lodge #1**. They are pictured with, From L-R: Past State President/GL Government Relations Committee Bruce Hidley and his wife Helen, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Zellen and his wife Donna and Past Grand Exalted Ruler Dave Carr and his wife Penny.

“Elkdom: Fellowship Through Giving”