



EMPIRE STATE ELK

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



STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STUART RISHE
2018-2019

“Elks—
Champions of Charity”



Stuart Rishe is pictured above being escorted to the Dias by Past State President Jerry Shook and Past State President Tim Kelly following his election as State President at the Spring Convention. A few minutes later, he delivered his acceptance speech for State President.

I'd like to start by congratulating Phil & Betsy on a terrific job this past year. Your leadership and guidance has been inspiring and I will certainly be looking for continued help in the coming year. Thank you to my sponsor PSP Tim Kelly and to the entire advisory board for your confidence, continued encouragement, and guidance. A special thank you to my wife Nancy and my children for all their support and encouragement over the years. Lastly a huge thank you to my Committee. You know who you are. Nancy and I could not have done this without you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Through their tireless fundraising we have a wonderful show for you tonight. The band Ambrosia and Peter Beckett of the band Player are here all the way from California to perform for you. The concert is free to all convention attendees so please join us right here in this room at 9pm tonight.

It is with great pride that I gladly accept the position of State President for the ensuing lodge year. I certainly never expected to be here accepting this nomination and I am overwhelmed and humbled to represent all of you as I travel across the great state of New York for the next 12 months. I look forward to visiting with many of you throughout the coming year and seeing and learning about all the wonderful programs you run that benefit so many truly needy people.

My motto for this year is, Elks— Champions of Charity”

Whether you love this organization because of our charitable giving to our Veterans, our youth, our elderly, or the destitute we are clearly all about giving to those in need. With the help of the Elks National Foundation and the CIP grants we're able to make a tremendous impact on our communities. Through our State Major Project we are able to help so many in need of assistance who otherwise might go without. We are able to change so many peoples lives and give them hope in an ever changing world.

With all of these programs there is one common thread. They are all made possible through the generosity of our members. All of the Elks in this room, the rest of the members across the state and the rest of the members across the greatest country in the world.

So, this year while we celebrate our 150th anniversary I want to celebrate you, the members of this great organization who are the true champions of our Order. Without all of you this organization quite simply would not exist. It is because of all of you that we have hands down the greatest organization in the World. This year while running all of the tremendous programs that we as Elks perform, take the time to celebrate the members of your lodge and thank them for their dedication and service throughout the years.

Use the Champions of Charity motto to promote our Organization. Promote the good works we do. Promote it to potential members but most importantly to our current members. Reminding them why they joined. Remind them of all of the great veterans programs we have for those who have served our country and sacrificed so much. Remind them of the youth programs and drug awareness programs we proudly have that do so much for the future of our country and our future Elks. Last year we lost far to many members to lapsation of dues many of which were 10, 15, 20 year members. For one reason or another they lost touch with their lodge. Reach out to your members with a personal phone call or stop by to see them. Invite them to come work the next function at your lodge whether you know them or not. Make them feel the way we feel here, as one big family. That is how we fix our lapsation problem.

Lavish gifts are not necessary. A heart felt thank you, a pat on the back, a feeling of inclusion and pride in belonging to this amazing organization is necessary. Thank your members for everything they do as I thank each of you for being the heart and soul of this organization and the true Champions of Charity. Thank you



New York State Elks Association First Lady **Nancy Rishe** is pictured as she is escorted to the Dias by Past State President Bill Reedy Jr. and Past State President Daniel Capella.



Stuart Rishe of Ogdensburg Lodge #772 is pictured as he delivers his acceptance speech for New York State Elks Association President for the Fraternal Year 2018-2019.



New York State Elks Association President elect **Stuart Rishe** is pictured with State President Phil Conaty and Past Grand exalted Ruler David R. Carr following the Friday Business Session.

“ELKS—CHAMPIONS OF CHARITY”