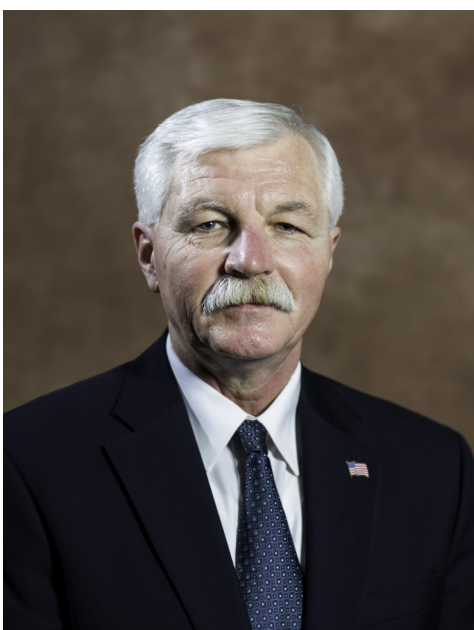




# EMPIRE STATE ELK

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



### STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Philip E. Conaty**  
2017-2018

“Elkdom:  
Fellowship Through Giving”

### NYSEA State President Philip E. Conaty Upcoming Visitation Schedule

|                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Ontario District</b>       | <b>February 16-18, 2018</b>  |
| <b>East District</b>          | <b>February 23-25, 2018</b>  |
| <b>Southeast District</b>     | <b>March 2-4, 2018, 2018</b> |
| <b>NYS Bowling Tournament</b> | <b>March 30-31, 2018</b>     |
| <b>East District</b>          | <b>May 5-7, 2018</b>         |
| <b>Spring Convention</b>      | <b>May 31—June 3, 2018</b>   |

My Fellow Elks,

The holidays are now behind us and yet another new year has begun. I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Betsy and I wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

When I was first installed as your President in May and as Betsy and I embarked upon our travels throughout our great State, I wondered how I could possibly make it to this point in our year. Yet, incredibly, we are now staring at the end of the fraternal Elks' year and the remaining months of my term. We wish to thank you for all the fellowship that we have shared when we visited your District and we look forward to the fellowship that we will share in the Districts we have yet to visit. We are absolutely in awe at all that we have seen, the way that we have been treated and all the great things that you are doing to make a difference in your communities. We are prouder than ever to be Elks.

On February 16, we will celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Membership continues to be a challenge. We must stand united in our goal to have a membership gain on our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Membership is the lifeblood of our Order. We currently have 503 candidates waiting to come in. We must move on these candidates with great urgency. Initiate. Initiate. Initiate. We currently have 3,483 delinquent members. Please make a concerted effort to contact them and bring them back into the fold. State Membership Chair Carl Oken and Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing Manager Rick Gathen have been working extremely hard. Please work with them so that New York can have a positive gain in membership in this very important year.

As the year comes to a close, please make sure that your lodge has made its per capita. Our Major Projects per capita is \$8 and our ENF per capita is \$4.75. It is extremely important that each Lodge meets these goals. Major Projects money supports our Major Project Home Service Program. Betsy and I have had the opportunity to tour several rehabilitation facilities. It is absolutely incredible to see how they are helping the disabled and how we, as Elks, here in New York are contributing to the tremendous difference that they are making in their lives. Our ENF donations support Drug Awareness, Hoop Shoot, the Scholarship Program, Youth Activities, Veterans programs, Americanism and various community activities. These charitable works constitute the “Giving” part of my motto. New York currently ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the Order for ENF per capita. Shouldn't the State where the Elks began be ranked higher than that?

The time for nominations of new officers and elections is upon us. Please remember that strong and enthusiastic leadership is vital to a successful Lodge. Your PER Association can give valuable insight in the selection of new officers and provide guidance for them as the year progresses to ensure that they are successful and that your Lodge prospers.

I thank you for all that you do. Keep up the good work of Elkdom. Continue to make a difference in your communities and the lives of others and enjoy the fellowship while you are doing it.



**Hornell Lodge #364** presented State President Phil Conaty with a very generous donation to the Monticello Fire Department on State President Phil's behalf. Inner Guard Jeff Johnson is pictured presenting the donation on behalf of the Lodge and his wife Carla who is the Exalted Ruler and was unable to present due to illness.



During their visit to the Southeast District, State President Phil Conaty and His wife Betsy attended a dinner in their honor at **Massapequa Lodge #2162**. They are pictured at the Lodge with State Vice President Pat Carroll and Past Exalted Ruler Willie Rodriguez



New York State Elks Association  
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, U.S.A.

**MICHAEL A. GAGLIARDI**  
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Homecoming for NYSEA President  
**Philip E. Conaty**  
April 21, 2018  
**5 p.m.**

**The Sullivan**  
Event Center  
Reservation By Phone Only!  
845-796-3100  
\$129.99/night  
Multiple night booking available  
Mention the Homecoming When Booking

Please contact Michael Gagliardi with your dinner choices

Entrée Choices  
Mustard Crusted Salmon with Dill Cream Sauce  
Eggplant Rollatini with Spinach and Cheese  
Chicken Franchise  
Prime Rib Carving Station

## “Elkdom: Fellowship Through Giving”