



New York State
Elks Association

Michael J. Blossr – President
9 Plaid Place
Clifton Park, NY 12065
(Wife-Pat)
[Clifton Park #2466]

Paul G. Erkinen – State Secretary
33 Holcomb Road
Averill Park, NY 12018
(Sue – Admin. Asst.)
Office # (518) 674-0290
Fax # (518) 674-0291
E-Mail: nysea@verizon.net

GRAND LODGE SPONSORS

Hon. Dr. Leonard J. Bristol PGER
PSP (1968) [Saranac Lake #1508]
Hon. Peter T. Affatato - PGER
PSP (1965) [Hicksville #1931]

NYSEA ADVISORY BOARD

- PSP Ernest Southworth, Chairman (1992) PGELK [Cortland # 748]
- PSP Paul Galarneau, Vice Chairman, (1999) GL Tiler [Cohoes-Waterford #1317]
- PSP Lucian A. Masur (1975) [Niagara Falls # 346]
- PSP Dominick Napolitano (1978) [Middletown #1097]
- PSP George Malekian (1979) [New York # 1]
- PSP John B. Flannery (1980) PGLIG [Webster-Fairport # 2396]
- PSP Lawrence J. Haase (1981) [Dunkirk #922]
- PSP Michael J. Valentin (1985) [Catskill # 1341]
- PSP Daniel J. Capella (1987) [Oswego # 271]
- PSP Joseph Petriello (1989) [Yorktown # 2324]
- PSP Richard T. Moore, (1990) PGELK [Yonkers #707]
- PSP Nelson Navarra (1991) [Watertown # 496]
- PSP William H. Smith, Jr., (1995) [Keesville # 2072]
- PSP Frank Melino (1997) [Hudson # 787]
- PSP Ron Olson, Chairman (1998) [Colonie #2192]
- PSP Donald J. Fischer (2000) [Horseheads # 2297]
- PSP Charles I Noonan (2001) [Herkimer #1439]
- PSP James A. Barrie (2002) [Patchogue #1323]
- PSP Anthony Gilberti (2003) [Mount Kisco # 1552]
- PSP James Peace (2004) [Olean # 491]
- PSP Timothy E. Kelly (2005) [Watertown # 496]
- PSP Richard C. Wunder (2006) [Lyons # 869]
- PSP Bruce Hidley (2007) [Watervliet #1500]
- PSP Jay Amodeo (2008) [Rensselaer #2073]
- PSP David R. Carr (2009) PGTrustee [Ticonderoga #1494]

The Empire State Elk is published bi-annually on newsprint and bi-annually in electronic format and financed by the New York State Elks Association and the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc. and circulated to all members of New York State Elks Lodges to promote our program goals and objectives by reporting on lodge, state and national programs developed to enhance patriotism and give assistance to our veterans, the handicapped, youth, elderly, victims of disasters and others in need.

This publication will take no partisan stands or furnish space for political, sectarian or personal prejudice.

Photographs accompanying articles may be rejected for poor quality, poor contrast, etc. and will be returned only if requested. Photos of or references to alcohol use, gambling and non-Elk activities are not acceptable. **Photos printed on personal computer printers are not suitable for newsprint reproduction.** Photos sent in PDF format to texese@optonline.net (new email address) are acceptable.

Members who do not receive the **Empire State Elk** should contact their lodge secretary.

ADDRESS CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS should first be sent to your **SUBORDINATE LODGE SECRETARY**, who should correct the Lodge records and then inform the Grand Lodge of the change.

NY ELKS MAJOR PROJECT

Our Major Project Home Service is strictly a New York State Elks Association Program which consists of 27 Home Service Directors and the vans that the directors use to provide individualized services to disabled people and their families. We began to support this program in 1966 and annually contribute about \$500,000 for salaries and vans.

Funding for our State Major Project comes from individual donations, Lodge donations, the Elks National Foundation, and from various other groups such as Ladies' Auxiliaries and PER Associations. We have a goal this year of \$8.00 per member.

Our State Chairman is Louis Withiam, of Ithaca Lodge #636. Our State Major Project is administered by the **NY Elks Major Projects, Inc.**, a 501(c)(3) corporation, and contributions are tax exempt. The Corporation also supervises funding provided by the **Elks National Foundation** for

- Educational purposes in the form of scholarships.
- Charitable activities and programs including, but not limited to, Americanism, Community Projects, Veterans, Hoop Shoot, Other Youth Programs, Drug Awareness, Scouting and Disaster Relief as may be recommended and approved by the Board of Directors.

The members of the Board of Directors are:

PSP James Peace, Chairman,
PDD Barry Klipsch, PSP
Dominick Napolitano, PDD
Anthony Thanopoulos, PSP
Anthony Gilberti, PSP
Timothy Kelly and PSP Charles Noonan

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

The Empire State Elk
State Editor - Publisher
Jack McClurken, PDDGER
10 Richard Street
Ansonia, Ct. 06401
(845) 505-9854
Texelk1@hotmail.com
Poughkeepsie #275

District Editors/PR Staff

Charles Sullivan, PDDGER – Chairman –Public Relations, Central District
21 Shull St.
Ilion, NY 13357
(H) 315-894-2805
Herkimer #1439

Richard Smith - East District
22 Ceil Place.
Bethpage, NY
(H) 516-827-1462
Rtsmith7@optonline.net
Massapequa #2162

Richard Steers - East Central District
PO Box 195
Kerhonksen NY 12446
(H) 845-626-7892
drsteers@aol.com
Ellenville #1971

Vacant – Mid Hudson District

Lisa Minnich - North District
48 Tyler Rd.
Vermontville, NY 12989
(H) 518-891-5265
mminnich@capital.net
Saranac Lake #1508

Tim Welpe - North Central District
10 Elm Street
Potsdam, NY 13676
(H) 315-265-8480
timwelpe@northnet.org
Potsdam #2074

John H. Minners- North Hudson District
440 Route 66L – 27
Hudson, NY 12534
(H) 518-828-4929
jminners@mhcable.com
Hudson #787

Tom Waring - Northeast District
3 Conner Dr.
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
(H) 518-587-3978
tpw144@aol.com
Greenwich #2223

Sheila McCallum - Ontario District
1202 Cold Springs Rd
Liverpool NY 13088
(H) 315-451-2256
rmccallum@twcny.rr.com
Liverpool #2348

Stephen Spodnik - South District
260 South Broadway, Apt. H
Yonkers, NY 10705
(H) 914-476-6828
sspods@aol.com
Mt. Vernon-Yonkers #707

Paul Reger – South Central District
150 Hardy Rd.
Johnson City, NY 13790
(H) 607-797-8761
preger@stny.rr.com
Johnson City #2821

Thomas Leme - Southeast District
337 Yale Rd.
Garden City South, NY 11530-5223
(H) 516-565-5216
Tom.lemme@gmail.com
New Hyde Park #2107

Yvonne Peace - Southwest District
PO Box 134
Westons Mills NY 14788-0134 (H)
716-373-3457 ypeace@sbu.edu
Olean #491

Henry Corp, Jr - Southern Tier District
206 William Lane
Horseheads, NY 14845
(H) 607-739-4135
Horseheads #2297

Paul Sponable - State Capital District
34 Loralee Dr.
Albany, NY 12205
(H) 518-464-4441
capsrus2@nycap.rr.com
Colonie #2192

Scott Abel – West District
141 Fleetwood Terrace
Williamsville, NY 14221
(H) 716-633-2998
saabel@verizon.net
Niagara Falls #346

John Baron – West Central District

77 Orlando Rd.
Rochester, NY 14622
(H) 585-730-7527
Jbaron2@rochester.rr.com
Webster-Fairport #2396

Elks National Home

Nestled among Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, Bedford, one of the early settlements in America, is a city filled with beauty and a rich tapestry of history. Any visitor will marvel at the numerous sights that Bedford has to offer, including the National D-Day Memorial and Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest retreat.

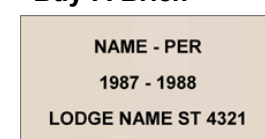
Of all the fascinating and interesting places to visit in Bedford, the Elks National Home and Retirement Center for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is definitely a center of attraction, especially at Christmas time. Thousands of visitors drive through the grounds during the Holiday season to witness the beautiful displays of colored lights and decorations.

Elks National Home and Retirement Center residents are all proud members of Elks National Home Lodge No. 8081. They actively support many charitable, youth, veterans and other community programs including the Dictionary Project.

The Elks National Home was first established in 1903 and has since undergone many renovations. Today, in order to comply with new regulations, there is need to renovate several units. Presently there are several rooms that cannot be used because they do not meet today's standards. The only financial support the Elks National Home receives is a \$1.00 Elks membership assessment and voluntary gifts from lodges, members and friends. With the existing economic conditions, a decline in Elks membership, rising operating costs, and the ongoing need for renovations, the Elks National Home has initiated a **"Buy-A-Brick" program** to raise badly needed funds. We hope you will join us in this effort to make the Elks National Home self-sustaining.



"Buy-A-Brick"



Sample brick layout

Any individual or organization, Elks members, Lodges, Districts, State Associations, etc. can now purchase 4" x 8" laser-engraved bricks @\$100.00 each. Each brick includes three lines of print with twenty characters per line (letters, spaces, periods, etc., all count as characters) as in sample above.