



New York State  
Elks Association

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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](mailto: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.

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*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.

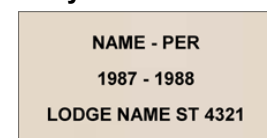
Of all the fascinating and interesting places to visit in Bedford, the Elks National Home and Retirement Center for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is definitely a center of attraction, especially at Christmas time. Thousands of visitors drive through the grounds during the Holiday season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