



Empire State Elk

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the New York State Elks Association and the New York Elks Major Projects Corporation for allowing me to hold the position of Editor for the Empire State Elk for the past sixteen years. It has been a labor of love.

I have traveled all over this great state covering events that put our Order in the news. The District Editors have been doing a fantastic job and I thank them for their dedication.

I would also like to thank PSP Joe Petriello and PSP Tony Gilberti for their support. A special THANK YOU to PSP Ernie Southworth and PSP Jamie Peace who have been my liaisons. They have always guided and supported me in this endeavour.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our State Sponsors, PGER Dr. Leonard J. Bristol, PGER Peter T. Affatato and PGER David R. Carr, for their trust in me.

To my successor, I think you are taking on the greatest job in Elkdom. You should enjoy hearing and writing about what TRUE Elks do to make their communities a better place to live in. To help our children enjoy their youth with all the programs the Elks support. And to help our veterans who stepped forth when their country ask them to serve.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Jack 'TEX' McClurken,
PDDGER



State President's Message



How do I begin to express the great joy, being your State President this year, has brought me? I will be forever grateful for this amazing opportunity and for the chance to experience the true extent of our brotherhood.

The hospitality I received from all of you throughout my travels within the great State of New York, was overwhelming. The experiences I encountered were heartwarming and I will carry them with me always. I thank you for friendships and for allowing me to be part of your Elk families.

The impact you have all made within your respective communities reflected the true spirit of what we stand for. They truly exemplified the reason for my motto, "Be Proud of Elkdom". I could not be prouder for the things that you have accomplished and I can assure you that many of your unique programs will be shared with the other Districts in within the State.

I sincerely hope that there will be many other opportunities to see you all again. You have made this year, unforgettable. On behalf of my wife Theresa, as well as myself, thank you for sharing your time with us. You have all made this journey one that we will never forget.

Martin I. Rosenthal,
NYSEA, StatePresident

Elks
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SPRING 2014 ISSUE



Mid Hudson District State Vice President Dot Shaffer presents Past District Deputy Ray Strohm, both of **Poughkeepsie Lodge #275**, recognition of reaching a \$2000 donation to Elks National Foundation.



On Jan. 21, 2014 The Five Rivers Council of New York, Thunderbird District of The Boy Scouts of America held their annual Eagle Recognition dinner for scouts who achieved the rank of Eagle in 2013. **Hornell Lodge #364** presented each boy with an Achievement Certificate and an American Flag to recognize their achievement.

Thirteen boys in all were recognized with over 125 people in attendance. The dinner and ceremony was hosted by The First Baptist Church in Hornell, NY. Pictured are: L-R: PER, Trustee Chair Brian Mehlenbacher, Eagle Scout 1995; Jacob Williamson, Greenwood, NY; Stephen Ermer, Alfred, NY; Zachary Ermer, Alfred, NY; Benjamin Pollinger, Hornell, NY; PER, Lodge Secretary Howard Nisbet, Eagle Scout 1971.



As part of the Lodges Community Activity Program, **Potsdam Lodge #2074** participates in the Relay for Life walk that is held in Louisville. This past year, the Lodge raised \$1217 that was donated to the Relay for Life. Members and friends that participated in the 2013 walk included Rob Wilson, Sandy, Exalted Ruler Sheila Guerin, Trustee Dennis Guerin, DDGER Tim Welpé, Shelley Vebber, Jim Vebber, Paul Labrake, Kylie McKinley and Jane Amolotte. This is an annual Lodge event. PSVP Mary Charleston serves as the Lodges Relay for Life chair. Since becoming involved in the Relay for Life event, the Lodge has donated over \$10,000 to support the local Cancer Society.

Liverpool Lodge #2348 recently held an annual food drive to help those in our community less fortunate than we. Local Grocer Mike Hennagan (Nichols Supermarket) again allowed us use of a portion of his parking lot for our food collection. This food drive was held in very cold weather, but members of the lodge braved the elements to help their community. All food collected was donated to the food pantry of a church in our community.

Since 2009 we have collected...
4,546 canned goods
3,824.65 in cash
69 turkeys 57 hams

SPRING 2014 ISSUE

Oswego Lodge #271 helped make 12 families in the city of Oswego happy by providing a basket with Turkey and all the fixings for a Christmas Dinner. They also bought toys for each child. The Ladies Auxiliary donated clothes to the 12 families. The members of the Oswego Elks delivered the food and gifts to each of the thankful families. (the cost was approximately \$ 3,500.00)



ELKS DONATE DICTIONARIES

Lyons Lodge #869 recently donated dictionaries to every third grade student at the Sodus Elementary School. Elks Lodge Officer Julie Wunder, a retired Elementary School teacher, made the presentation at an assembly for the students.

As part of the presentation the Elks explained the donation to the students and how the dictionaries could be used by them. The dictionaries will be used by third grade teachers to help the students throughout the school year with their many educational programs.

Also during the presentation the Elks members spoke to the students about the dangers of alcohol and drug use and distributed to the children activity books, book marks and other information to remind the students of what they were taught.



On Monday April 7th 2014, there was a Student and Writer of the Quarter

awards night held at the **Brewster Lodge #2101**. The students and their families were invited to the lodge for dinner and certificates were awarded to the deserving students from Henry H. Wells Middle School. They were selected by their teachers for scholarship, work ethic, writing ability, leadership, and citizenship. Our lodge does this every quarter. Pictured are as follows: Front row left to right: Maggie DePaoli, Tara Regan, Isabella Mancini, Nicole Olszewski, Jessica Perisnaka, Gabrielle Monaco, Back row left to right: Joan Haye (Exalted Ruler), Peter Arnold, Andrew DiFabbio, Alexander Pantea, Ryan Gergley, Andrew Mitchell, Austin Beal, Fran Ott (Chaplain), Peter Priolo (Youth Activities Chairman)



Several years ago the not for profit organization Parents of Special Children looked to rent the Lodge hall room of **Fulton Lodge #830** for a breakfast with Santa. They inquired about the Lodge catering the event. The great heart of Elksdom sprang to life and the Lodge and Auxiliary offered to put this event on for these special children and their families.

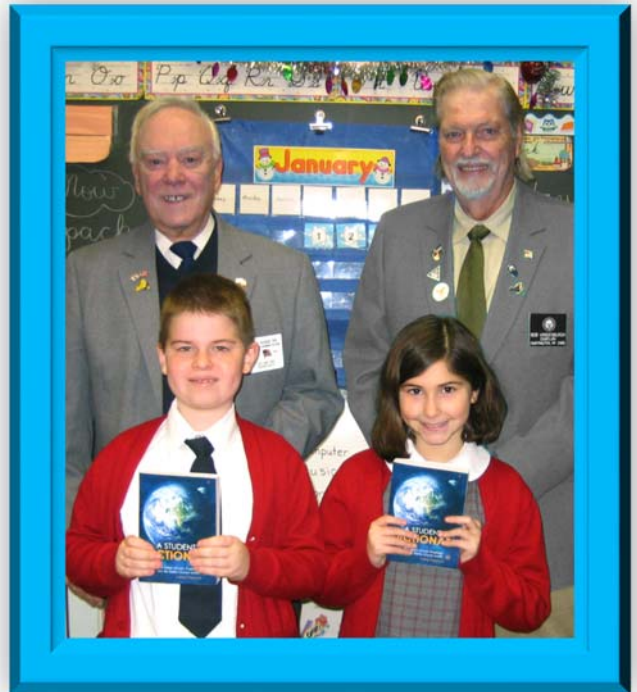
This event was held again this year with about 40-45 children and their families in attendance. The Lodge members ordered and cooked the food. The Auxiliary paid for the food, served, provided gifts for each child, and arranged for Santa to arrive. The organization provided crafts for the children.

This event is such a blessing to these families. These children are not able to wait in line for Santa and are often not able to sit in a restaurant for a family meal. The families are blessed by being waited on at their tables where they are able to sit and relax and enjoy their time. The children are given an opportunity to see Santa on their terms and to get a photo taken for the family to remember for years to come.



On a recent very cold January morning, Three hardy Elks from **Guilderland Lodge #2480** loaded a trailer and hauled 237 deer hides to a tannery in Johnstown. There they were given a check for \$2370.00 This money will go directly to the Stratton Veterans Hospital in Albany. The Deer Hide Committee of the State Capital District saw their biggest year in 2014. Many thanks to the 7 lodges in the State Capital District and local sporting clubs. From left to right in photo: Jim Taylor, Jr.; PDDGER Wayne Slingerland, Deer Hide Committee Chairman SCD; Bob Bergeron. All are members of Guilderland Lodge #2480.

Forty one veterans from the Bath VA Medical Center were treated to a fish fry, complete with homemade desserts at the **Horseheads Lodge #2297**. After dinner, the veterans were guests at the First Arena for the minor league Elmira Jackals hockey game courtesy of *The Hilliard Corporation*, a local manufacturer. The veterans were announced at the game where they received a standing ovation. A local candy company donated candy bars and a local law firm donated soft drinks and popcorn. One of the veterans won a jersey in the team's "Chuck a Puck" contest after tossing a puck onto the ice and came closest to center ice.



Huntington Lodge # 1565 recently donated more than 70 dictionaries to third graders at the Trinity Regional School located in East Northport. This is part of their ongoing support of the Grand Lodge Dictionary Program. Shown in the front row of the picture is Trinity students Peter Szewczyk on the left and Natalie Ceonzo on the right. In the back row is Past Exalted Ruler John Safarik on the left and Bob Vandenburg, Lodge Chaplain from the Huntington Lodge



Port Jefferson Lodge #2138 recently delivered 474 Dictionaries to the Jericho Elementary School, a part of the Middle Country School District in Centereach, New York. This is the fourth and latest delivery to schools in the lodges' area and totaling 1232 dictionaries donated to three school districts in the last 12 months. Pictured above (l. to r.): Exalted Ruler Anthony Florio, PER; Mr. Glenn Rodgers, Principal of the Jericho Elementary School and PDDGER Edward M. Lee.



On February 18, 2014 the PER association of **Kinderhook Lodge #2530** cooked and served community dinner to over 100 communicants at St. Lukes church in Valatie. The cost of the food while generally paid for by the church was donated by members of the PER Association. Pictured from left to right; PDD Leo Buell, PDD Carman Esposito, and PDD Jerry Shook. Missing from the picture is PER Chris Akers.



Lowville Lodge #1605 sponsored the 2014 North Central District Hoop Shoot. The contest was held at Lowville High School with Lodge members serving as event officials. Children representing the eight district Lodges competed for top honors. District champions and 2nd place finishers are pictured with Past Exalted Ruler Troy Clark and Past State President Tim Kelly. An award presentation and a complimentary luncheon for the contestants and their families was held at Lodge #496 following the competition.

Major Projects

Mid Westchester Lodge #535 The Cerebral Palsy Youth Group which is sponsored by The lodge recently enjoyed a day of fun in the sun and snow. Pictured with the group is lodge youth committee member Deidre Vedovino.



Leaving our wheelchairs behind for some fun in the snow with our friends.



Major Projects

Mid Westchester Lodge #535 The Cerebral Palsy Cub Scout Troupe 535 which is sponsored by The lodge recently enjoyed a day of fun hosting the Pinewood Derby for all the area scout troupes. This two day event at the Cerebral Palsy of Westchester facility concluded with hotdogs being served to the Cub Scouts and their families by members of the Lodge. Deidre Vedovine purchased and delivered the food, while State Trustee Robert Comstock, Exalted Ruler Ed Flynn and PDD Jack McClurken cooked and served the families.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Lowville Lodge #1605 sponsored the 2012 **North Central District Soccer Shoot**. The contest was held at the Lodge field. Twenty children sponsored by District Lodges competed for top honors. Following the contest, Lowville Lodge provided a complimentary luncheon for the contestants and their families. District Deputy Tim Welpé and State Vice President Tom Portolese assisted State Chair Mike Neaton and District Chair Bill Wooding with the award presentations. District Champions along with 2nd and 3rd place finishers are pictured with North Central District Deputy Tim Welpé, State Soccer Shoot Chair Mike Neaton, State Vice President Tom Portolese and District Chair Bill Wooding.



Beacon Lodge #1493 Past Exalted Ruler Carl Oken presents Eagle Scout Anthony Erik Monroe of Troop 41 with the Elks Eagle Scout Recognition and an American Flag at a ceremony performed at the Beacon Elks Lodge. The young man rehabilitated a church's garden area and resting sight.



Guilderland Lodge #2480 having met their ENF quota, used their Gratitude Grant to help Ronald McDonald House Charities in Albany, NY with a donation of \$500.00. Ronald McDonald House gives a helping hand to families whose children are undergoing treatments or long stays at hospitals in the area. Pictured in photo from left to right are: Debbie Ross, House Director, Ronald McDonald House Charities; Stephen Frankoski, PDDGER, Guilderland Lodge #2480 & John Blais, PSVP, Guilderland Lodge #2480.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 third annual Hockey Shoot was a huge success. Thirty-seven children, ages 14 and under participated in the contest, the youngest competitor was two years old. The contest consists of a boys and girls division and there are four different age groups in each division. The Division winners, along with other competitors, are pictured with event volunteers Mary Charleston (PSVP), Dave Dorothy and Bruce Wells. Ms. Charleston and Mr. Wells served as co-chairs for the

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Guilderland Lodge #2480 having recently been given a Gratitude Grant, used part of the grant for use by the Guilderland Town Senior Services Heap Program. This program helps senior citizens pay their home heating costs during the winter. Pictured in photo from left to right are: Stephen Frankoski, PDDGER, Guilderland Lodge #2480; Mary Ann Kelley, Senior Services Coordinator, Town of Guilderland; and John Blais, PSVP, ENF Chairman, Guilderland Lodge #2480.



NYS Elks Association President Martin Rosenthal recently visited **Oswego Lodge #271** and the Ontario District. Oswego Lodge held a Public Service Awards Dinner and honored Katelyn Clary for her achievement of the Gold Award through the Girl Scout's of America. Pictured Martin Rosenthal, NY State Elks Association President, Katelyn Clary and Elizabeth Malone, PER.



New York Lodge #1 presented Eagle Scout awards. Pictured above from Left to right; Anitra Butler-Loyal Knight-Scout Chairman, Matthew DiCarlo, Eagle Scout# 127, Joseph W. Brocovich-Eagle Scout #128, Marc A. Levine, Eagle Scout # 129, Frank T. Hunt Exalted Ruler. The 3 scouts are from troop 332 of East Rockaway.



On Sunday March 23rd. at the VFW on Peacable Hill Rd. in Brewster, the **Brewster Lodge #2101** presented an Eagle Scout Award to Karl Rosenfeid from BSA Patterson Troop 440. His project was for the Brewster Public Library to build a new bookcase for the Spanish children's books and desks for the Children's library. Pictured from left to right; Richard Walz PER, Bill Miller PDDGER, Harry Sherblom Loyal Knight PER, Cris Autorino PER, John Autorino PER.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Beacon Lodge # 1493 sponsored a night of music at the lodge to benefit the Breezy Point Fire Department on Long Island which was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. With the help of the bands "The Costello's", "Carla Springer and the Nomads" and "Boomkat" the lodge was able to raise \$ 1000.00. Pictured from left to right is organizer and member of Glenham Fire Dept. Kevin McGarry and Breezy Point Chief Kevin Hernandez.



Jamestown Lodge #263 - recently made their annual donation to the Saint Susan's Center Soup Kitchen in Jamestown, NY. Lodge members donated \$2,000 to help the center in its mission to provide free meals to the needy. Last year the lodge gave \$1,000 and proposes yearly donations for the foreseeable future.

" St. Susan's is a great asset to our community," said Exalted Ruler Paul Hill. "The work that they do helps many in need. For the Elks to be able to help even just a little is a great honor."

This year is the 30th anniversary of the kitchen's founding. In 2013 it provided 108,000 meals. The center is open Mon.- Fri. 11am-4pm and Sat.-Sun. 2 pm.-4pm. Pictured above: Left to right, Charles Holder, President, St. Susan's Board of Directors, Sue Colwell, Director of St. Susan's, Paul Hill, lodge Exalted Ruler and Dan Dominick, lodge Inner Guard.



Guilderland Lodge #2480, having recently received their Gratitude Grant for meeting ENF quota, donated \$1000.00 to Make-A-Wish of Upstate New York. Make-A-Wish grants wishes to seriously ill children for a once in a lifetime experience. Pictured in photo are: Stephen Frankoski, PDDGER, Guilderland Lodge #2480; John Blais, PSVP, ENF Chairman Guilderland Lodge #2480 & William C. Trigg III, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, Make-A-Wish Foundation Upstate New York.

Kingston Lodge # 550 and The American Sewing Guild Kingston Neighborhood Group, held a Sew for the cure program at the lodge to benefit cancer patients in the area. We had 25 women sewing Comfort Caps, Pillowcases and Pillows. These items are distributed to the local Hospital oncology unit and given to cancer patients. Over 600 items were distributed.



Malone Lodge

#1303 Used proceeds from an ENF grant to support the Jr. SADD Program

at the Malone Middle School. The Lodge donated \$500 to the program. The donation was used by the school to purchase T-shirts for students from financially challenged families. Lodge Secretary Tamra Murphy (left) and Leading Knight Mary McQuinn-Fisher (right) are pictured presenting the donation to SADD Program Representative Lisa Lawrence.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Wellsville Lodge #1495 - The 52nd annual Variety Kids Telethon was held the first weekend in April. \$1,225,777.00 was raised during the 12 hour telethon held at the Adams Mark Hotel and broadcast on News Channel 7, WKBW in Buffalo. Proceeds from this telethon benefit the Women's and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, the Dr. Robert Warner Rehabilitation Center and a host of other children's charities. Locally, The Wellsville Area Satellite once again partnered with the Wellsville Elks Lodge 1495 in hosting fund-raising activities. A total of \$7,050.70 was collected in telephone pledges, walk-in donations and year-long fund-raising. A team of 12 Wellsville High School Students manned the telephones from 7am to 7pm on Sunday during the telethon's broadcast.

This brings the 34 year total generated from the Wellsville and surrounding communities to \$320,682.00. Plans are already underway to start raising money for next year's telethon. The 5th Annual "Golf for the Kids" has been scheduled for Saturday, August 9th at the Wellsville Country Club. Satellite Chairman, Tim Colligan, PDDGER of Wellsville Lodge 1495 thanked all who participated in various ways to help the sick and handicapped children of Western New York and Northern Pennsylvania, with a special thanks to the student volunteers.

Home Service a Vital Part of CP of the North Country Service Options

What does John Graham have to say about Jim Williams? Jim is the Home Service Director for Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country and has been available to assist John, due to the support from the NYS Elks Major Projects. John says, "Jim helped me get places, he helped me get to physical therapy so I could get a new wheelchair. When a Medicaid driver could not get me somewhere, Jim was there to help and get me where I needed to go. He has been more like a friend than just case manager. Even though he has a lot to do, I am not just a number. He really wants to see people get ahead.

John is a fiercely independent man who has taken what life has given him and made the most of his opportunities. Some others would say that John had been dealt a tough hand in life; he was given up for adoption by his birth mother but was welcomed into the home of Avis and Worth Graham. Even though John was born with cerebral palsy and has always used a wheel chair, this was never a reason for John to be excused from the same expectations held for other members of his family. John was expected to attend school as well as help as he could with all the other chores required of a family living on a farm in a very rural section of St Lawrence County.

After the death of his parents, John continued to live in the family home with an older brother. His brother tended to shelter John and not offer him many opportunities to get out and pursue the life John knew was out there for him. When his brother needed to enter a nursing home John found himself living on his own. He had friends nearby who would take him bowling on Friday nights and to church on Sundays. It was about this time that Jim Williams met John. John was determined to maintain his independence, wanting as little assistance as possible but wanting to get as much out of life as he could get.

John had an all-terrain, four wheeler and snowmobile that he used to get around his remote neighborhood to see his friends and run to the store to get supplies. John also used an older wheel chair to bring in wood for his woodstove. Jim did help John access some assistance such as applying for food stamps and heating assistance. Jim was able to assist John in pursuing employment, which John was able to acquire. John was also able to get new windows and weatherization done on the home.

As time went on however, John started to realize that he could not always rely on friends and family for transportation to work or even to run errands into the nearby towns. In order for him to have more accessible opportunities available John realized that he was going to have to move to where there were more opportunities. This would seem to be a challenge to a self-described "dyed in the wool red neck", to move into a larger town. With the use of the "Elks van" Jim helped John apply for housing options in Canton and Potsdam where he would be able to get around town on his own and have more employment options. Eventually John decided to look in Watertown, and he applied for a subsidized apartment. His timing could not have been better because there was a fully accessible apartment becoming available within a couple months. Jim made it possible for John to get to Watertown so he could see the apartment and complete the lease application. John took care of business, selling his four-wheeler and snowmobile and settling the family estate with his siblings and even finding a home for his dog. John now is living in an affordable apartment, in an area with public transportation and nearby stores. Though he has not found a job yet, he is volunteering at the apartment complex and becoming an active member of the community.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES NATIONAL HOOP SHOOT RESULTS

Name	Lodge	Final Score (shoot-off)
Ages 8-9 boys		
Cole Pentelute	Provo, Utah, Lodge No. 849	23/25
Drew Cook	Brazil, Ind., Lodge No 762	23/25
Micah Naranjo	Paducah, Ky., Lodge No. 217	22/25
Jacob Axmaker	Silverton, Ore., Lodge No. 2210	22/25
Bryce Berlau	Creston, Iowa, Lodge No. 609	22/25
William Otto	Raleigh, N.C., Lodge No. 735	21/25
Court Gonzalez	Worland, Wyo., Lodge No. 1908	21/25
Kyler Card	Holley-Navarre, Fla., Lodge No. 2787	21/25
Kamdyn McClain	Olean, N.Y., Lodge No. 491	20/25
Matthew Fraleigh	Windsor, Conn., Lodge No. 2060	19/25
Joseph Lucas	Garland, Tex., Lodge No. 1984	17/25
Matthew Bock	Dickinson, N.D., Lodge No. 1137	11/25
Ages 8-9 girls		
Ava Wentworth	South Kingston, R.I., Lodge No. 1899	9/25
Bailey Finn	Livingston, Mont., Lodge No. 246	23/25
Shaylynn Hahn	Woodward, Okla., Lodge No. 1355	21/25
Hannah Archer	Marietta, Ohio, Lodge No. 477	20/25
Maggie Smith	Tri-Cities, Wash., Lodge No. 2755	18/25
Marlee Kochman	Indiana, Pa., Lodge No. 931	18/25
Averi Kroenke	Benton County, Mo., Lodge No. 2783	16/25
Britiya Curtis	Calhoun, Ga., Lodge No. 1883	16/25
Lily Miller	Ottawa, Ill., Lodge No. 588	16/25
Zoe Canfield	Abilene, Kans., Lodge No. 1675	16/25
Elizabeth McConkie	Bountiful, Utah, Lodge No. 2442	11/25
Lindsay Maggio	Washington-Rockville, Md., Lodge No. 15	11/25
Ages 10-11 boys		
Jayden Trawick-Junta	Milwaukie, Ore., Lodge No. 2032	22/25
Taurion Sullivan	Enid, Okla., Lodge No. 2104	22/25
Jayden Jerger	Defiance, Ohio, Lodge No. 147	22/25
Kobe Norris	Cass County, Mo., Lodge No. 2791	22/25
Matthew Mors	Yankton, S.D., Lodge No. 994	20/25
Zocko Littleton, Jr.	Atlanta/Northlake, Ga., Lodge No. 78	20/25
Noah Groshan	Janesville, Wis., Lodge No. 254	19/25
Cooper Gierhan	York, Neb., Lodge No. 1024	19/25
David Gratton	Newport, Vt., Lodge No. 2155	18/25
Bradley Jamison	Egg Harbor Twp., N.J., Lodge No. 2563	17/25
Jordan Jones	Clarksburg, W.Va., Lodge No. 482	17/25
Benjamin Stephenson	Provo, Utah, Lodge No. 849	14/25

Ages 10-11 girls	Ages 10-11 girls	Ages 10-11 girls
Madeleine Wegner	Kearney, Neb., Lodge No. 984	9/25
Kyla Jamison	Salem, Ohio, Lodge No. 305	24/25
Mackenzie Boone	Bismarck, N.D., Lodge No. 1199	22/25
Kyli Nelson	Red Wing, Minn., Lodge No. 845	20/25
Emma Boslet	Edison, N.J., Lodge No. 2487	19/25
Jayd Laughlin	Mangum, Okla., Lodge No. 1169	18/25
Alexa Eaton	Brunswick, Maine, Lodge No. 2043	17/25
Mayci Torgerson	Richfield, Utah, Lodge No. 2420	16/25
Audrey Jennings	Huntington, W.Va., Lodge No. 313	15/25
Hannah Corcimiglia	Poplar Bluff, Mo., Lodge No. 2452	14/25
Lauren Thompson	Dothan, Ala., Lodge No. 1887	14/25
Lilly Richins	Weiser, Idaho, Lodge No. 1683	14/25
Ages 12-13 boys		
Robert Burries	Pinal Mountain, Ariz., Lodge No. 2809	25/25
Kyle Taylor	Kansas City-Northland, Mo., Lodge No 2376	24/25
Joseph Girard	Glens Falls, N.Y., Lodge No. 81	23/25
Ryggs Johnston	Libby, Mont., Lodge No. 2231	23/25
Jackson Porter	Macomb, Ill., Lodge No. 1009	23/25
Jacob Cady	St. Johnsbury, Vt., Lodge No. 1343	22/25
Joe Bultman	Overland Park, Kans., Lodge No. 2395	22/25
Justice Kidwell	Fredericksburg, Va., Lodge No. 875	20/25
Luke Applewhite	Katy, Tex., Lodge No. 2628	20/25
Josh Young	Salem, Ohio, Lodge No. 305	19/25
Jordan Brown	Albany, Ga., Lodge No. 713	19/25
Jonas Nauman	Snake River, Idaho, Lodge No. 2807	18/25
Ages 12-13 girls		
Sophia Palladino	Bedford, Va., Lodge No. 2844	23/25
Micah Oldacre	Cullman, Ala., Lodge No. 1609	22/25
Hannah Pfeifer	Mountain Home, Ark., Lodge No. 1714	22/25
Lindsey Eimers	Dubuque, Iowa, Lodge No. 297	22/25
Grace Thomas	Owego, N.Y., Lodge No. 1039	21/25
Koryn Playford	Hillsdale, Mich., Lodge No. 1575	20/25
Crystal Bell	Bangor, Maine, Lodge No. 244	20/25
Jannell Soto	Artesia, N.M., Lodge No. 1717	16/25
Lindsey Thiele	Fairbury, Neb., Lodge No. 1203	15/25
Mallory Beck	Rupert, Idaho, Lodge No. 2106	15/25
Madison Eckelberg	Dickinson, N.D., Lodge No. 1137	15/25
Sage Dutson	Ely, Nev., Lodge No. 1469	14/25

Islip, NY Lodge 2533 and their "Just Say No Sharpshooter Contest"

Thousands of students from more than 40 area schools participate yearly in this exciting event. Thanks to the collaboration of the Islip, New York Elks Lodge #2533 and The Islip Housing Authority, the Islip Sports and Aquatics office and the local school districts, students have the opportunity to compete in this great event.

Islip's Drug Awareness Chairman, PER Dennis Casey and Exalted Ruler Harold Thompson presented Awards and Islip Elks T-shirts to the winners in the various categories. 2014 saw 8,000 competitors in the event. Islip Lodge 2533 has been supplying the Tee shirts and Trophies for this Drug awareness Basketball contest since its inception 22 years ago.

An Action basketball contest that starts on a school by school basis involving about 20,000 fourth and fifth grade students in 40 schools and culminates at The West Islip High School where 200 of the top competitors, boys and girls take their turn at the finals.

The Islip Elks Lodge has donated various amounts of money to this worthy event over the years. This past year we were able to donate \$700.00 with the help of The ENF Promise Grant. The funds are used to fund the event and purchase Tee shirts and trophies for the finalists. The Elks attend the event for photos and to help present the trophies. The Lodge also displays and hands-out "Drug Awareness" brochures and various give-aways.



Huntington Lodge #1565 holds Chili Cook-off as Scout fundraiser It was an evening filled with fiery, festive fun, food and fundraising at the Nickolas Demidovich Memorial Fund's Chili Cook-Off Contest which recently took place at The Huntington Elks Lodge 1565. Enthusiastic "Chili Cook-Off Contestants" were smokin' and abundant, excited to show off a taste of their "secret" recipes and to compete for the best "Chili Honors." Local Celebrity Judges that lent their discriminating palates to the event included WBAB's Fingers, Long Islander's Danny Schrafel and Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci. In addition, guest that attended the cook off became Public "Tasters" and had an opportunity to not only taste all of chili recipes from Long Island's best Chili Chefs but to also cast their vote for their favorite chili While every entry was unique, several Chili Chefs received special honors and recognition from the Judges and Public "Tasters".

Award categories included: Spiciest, Most Creative, Healthiest, Best Decorated Chili Station and Best Overall Chili. There were two opportunities to win each category – the guest favorites and the "local celebrity" judge favorites – but since each entry was special, prizes were awarded to all contestants. This year the winners for Best Overall Chili were Mike Terrone, whose "Sweet Heat" chili caught the favor of the Judges, and Chris McKeown whose entry captured the attention of the crowd and won the People's Choice award. But this Chili Cook-Off was not just about the Chili and the fun. It was about helping others. Proceeds from the contest support local area boy scouts. "Our annual Chili Cook-Off Contest makes a difference for disadvantaged boy scouts in our area. Those participating in our Annual Chili Cook-Off have enabled The Nickolas Demidovich Memorial Fund to send several Boy Scouts to summer camp," said Peter Demidovich, co-founder of the Fund as well as the Exalted Ruler of the Huntington Lodge. "The proceeds from this contest will allow these deserving boys to attend boy scout camp as well as participate in scouting activities that would otherwise be unaffordable for their families," he added.

Exalted Ruler Peter received his Eagle Scout rank at a Court of Honor ceremony held at the Hunting Lodge in 1986. He attributes the closeness of the Elks and the Boy Scouts as a contributing factor in his becoming involved as a member of the Lodge and his going through the Chairs.

Aside from the Chili Cook-Off, the evening's event also included a Live DJ and Dancing, a Silent Auction and Raffle Baskets. "It was a wonderful event and we are already planning for our next Chili Cook-Off. So, dust off those aprons, start perfecting those recipes and plan to join us next year for this fun-filled evening.

The Nickolas Demidovich Memorial Fund Inc. is a non-profit organized by his family to honor the memory and legacy of Nickolas Demidovich – a husband, father, grandfather and member of the Huntington Elks Lodge No. 1565. Nickolas was also the Committee Chairman of Boy Scout Troop 106 for almost 30 years.

Shown in the picture are the winners of the cook-off held at the Huntington, New York Lodge # 1565. To the far right is Exalted Ruler Peter Demidovich.



January 26, 2014 saw the **State Capital Elks** come out in full force to answer phones for the first hour of the Cerebral Palsy Telethon at the Holiday Turf Inn in Albany. The Elks have a tradition of answering phones and taking pledges for the first hour of the telethon. On hand to present the Center for Disability Services a check for \$42723.00 were from left to right: Stephanie Grady, WTEN 10 News; PDD Tony Thanopoulos, Watervliet #1500; PER Stephen Sellie, Rotterdam #2157; PSP Bruce Hidley, Watervliet #1500; Lydia Kulbida, Fox23 News; SVP Ed Rice, Watervliet #1500; DD Donna Bauer, Colonie #2192



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SPRING 2014 ISSUE



Boonville Lodge #2158 held a benefit on 11/23/13 for Patrick Greene their Adopt-a-Vet. Mr. Greene is a member of the Special Forces - Green Beret and 18 Charlie Jumpmaster. Recently Patrick has been diagnosed with kidney failure and needs a kidney transplant. The benefit raised \$500.00 to aid in his medical needs. Pictured are Mr. Greene and Daniel Rundle, ER.

Liverpool Lodge #2348 recently hosted over 11 veterans from the Syracuse VA Medical Center for a spaghetti dinner. The Veterans along with Lodge members fought the cold and snow ensuring our men and women vets had a scrumptious meal. Each veteran was given a Syracuse University inspired Sweatshirt. They were given admission to Lights on the Lake which is a several mile long Spectacular of Christmas displays. They were unable to attend that specific evening due to inclement weather.

Haverstraw Lodge # 877 distributed 700 dictionaries to every 3rd grade student in North Rockland, New York, including four public schools and a parochial school. The dictionaries were very well received by the students, since many are from immigrant families and don't have their own dictionaries at home. The Ladies Club of Haverstraw Elks Lodge # 877 under the Chairwomen Terry Mayer Gamboli has collected over 400 hats and gloves for needy children. They were greatly needed this winter.



Elks Help Veterans Celebrate Christmas

Lyons Lodge #869 recently held a holiday dinner for Veterans of the Armed Services including those veterans who reside at the Canandaigua VA Hospital. Over 40 veterans from the hospital and surrounding areas were in attendance. Elks Exalted Ruler Julie Wunder welcomed the veterans. A large number of Elks Lodge members together with family members and friends helped with the celebration dinner. Following the dinner, Santa Claus arrived and presented each veteran with several gifts from the Elks Lodge. Another highlight of the dinner was a group of 4th and 5th grade students from the Lyons Elementary School Chorus who entertained those present with Christmas Carols. Above; the Chorus students were led by Teacher Ms. TaNisha Barrigar.



SPRING 2014 ISSUE



NYS Elks Association President Martin Rosenthal recently visited **Oswego Lodge #271** and the Ontario District. Oswego Lodge held a Public Service Awards Dinner to honor law enforcement as well as fire fighters in the City of Oswego as well as the surrounding communities. The Chief of each recipient read the nomination letters. Here are the honorees in order from Left to Right: NYS Elks Assoc. President Martin Rosenthal, Oswego Lodge #271 Leading Knight Tom Milam, Oswego State University Police Officer Thomas Marrone, Oswego Town Vol. Fire Dept. Capt. Brian Katzman, New Haven Vol. Fire Dept. Trustee George Smart, Oswego City Fire Dept. Firefighter James Bernys, Oswego County Sheriff's Dept. Investigator Carmen Rojek, Oswego City Police Dept. Patrolman Stephen Carroll, City of Oswego Mayor Thomas Gillen and Oswego Elks Lodge #271 Public Safety Awards Chairman, PER Michael Coad.

Mid-Westchester #535, Ossining #1486 and Scarsdale #2056 Lodges visited the veterans at the Montrose VA Hospital. We held a pizza party with thirty five of the veterans and everyone enjoyed themselves. At the end of our visit, as we were shaking hands before departing, one of the veterans said to me that "it's nice to know we are remembered" and I told him the Elks will always remember them. On April 10th the Mid-Westchester and Pearl River Lodges went to the Montrose VA Hospital to visit with fifteen veterans that are members of the "Greatest Generation". We shared pizza and played bingo with the veterans who were all between the ages of 80 to 100 years old. I noticed one veteran was sitting at a table by himself so I went over and sat with him and we had a very enlightening conversation. He told me that he was in the Army and had been a heavy equipment operator during WW II. While serving on Luzon he had been captured by the Japanese. As a prisoner of war his first detention was in Manila working on the airport, then he had been shipped back to mainland Japan where he had labored in four different cities there. To listen to the veterans share their first hand experiences that they endured during World War II while protecting our liberty and freedom back home is just incredible.

Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317 Veterans Service Committee held its 16th annual veterans fundraiser, Bowl for Vets 2014, on Saturday, February 22, 2014. 65 bowlers participated. Raffle prizes, 50/50s, awards, food & DJ music was offered at the after-bowling party at the Lodge. Proceeds of \$1,565 were raised to support hospitalized, homeless, active-duty military & their families and those who served. Each participant donated a comfort item/non-perishable food item for troops stationed in Kuwait. Five boxes were sent to the NY Army National Guard, HHC, 42nd. CAB.



Elmira Lodge #62 - A Donation of \$188.00 to CareFirst from their "Buck-a-Bowl" Fundraiser facilitated by Herb and Brenda Wild! Pictured: Development Coordinator Mary Arnold receives a check from April Bates, Exalted Ruler.

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