



EMPIRE STATE ELK

Official Publication of the New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc.
Summer 2021 Issue



STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Barry Griffith
2021-2022**

“Elks... Now More Than Ever”

My Fellow NY State Elks,

Without a Spring New York State Elks Associations Convention this past May, I feel like I should start by introducing myself. My name is Barry Griffith from Lockport Lodge #41 (in the beautiful, picturesque West District #6520), and I am humbled to be your New York state Elks Association President. My wife Susan, also a PER from Lockport Lodge #41, and I are thrilled to have the opportunity to tour New York and get to meet so many of you. I Thank my sponsor Larry Haase and the entire Advisory Board for this once in a lifetime opportunity. We have made a few District visits, and have been overwhelmed by the hospitality shown to us and truly impressed by all of the great things that Elks are doing across New York State.

Let me start by congratulating Paul C. and Kristen Galarneau for a GREAT year. Boggled down by challenges that could not be imagined a couple of years prior; they endeavored to travel and spread the message and comradery of Elkdom during the 2020-2021 year. Your leadership and perseverance are a model of action in conflict and an example for all to follow.

This year I chose the motto Elks.....Now more Than Ever. As I kept kicking around ideas for our year, I kept going back to the same thing. America Needs Elks, Now More Than Ever. They need our charity, they need our Justice, and they certainly need our Brotherly Love! Every time I watched the news I thought, America Needs Elks, Now More Than Ever. The Veterans, the vulnerable and the very young need Elks, now more than ever. The hungry, the homeless and the hopeless need Elks, Now More Than Ever. Our Lodges, our members, and our neighbors need Elks, now more than ever.

So many Lodges in New York are doing so many great things! When old ways were prohibited by the pandemic, many lodges found new ways! This led to new community impact, new funding streams, new relationships, and NEW MEMBERS. Last year hurt our membership, it was bound to, lodges were closed and activities were cancelled. While 2020 was about survival, 2021 is about growth, hope, and new opportunities. Now we have to jump back onto the membership bandwagon. Right now (mid-August), New York State has 498 candidates awaiting initiation, let's get them in, let's get them involved, and let's get them productive. We have done so much for our communities but, we have so much more to do.

I want to thank everyone who made the New York participation at the Grand Lodge Convention in Tampa so wonderful. I was so very honored to carry the New York state Flag and represent our nearly 50,000 members during the opening ceremonies. Special thanks to PSP Tim Kelly (the ticket hawk), PSP Tony & Mary Gilberti, PDD Tony Thanopoulos, PDD John & Helen Blais for continuing the NY tradition of outstanding hospitality and Grand Lodge participation. I would also like to give a special thanks to Jeff and Melanie Largeteau who helped Susan and I getting around Tampa. All of your hard work and attention to detail is truly appreciated. This year we reverted to volunteer bartenders who donated their tips to ENF and NYS Major Projects. I am happy to report that ENF received \$637.00 and NY Major Projects received \$274.00.

I had the great opportunity yesterday evening (August 19) to tour our own Camp Bristol and to welcome the participants, organizers, and Camp Board members to our first Wounded Warriors Campfest. What a perfect time to hold it with so much going on in Afghanistan, where so many served. I was honored to represent our Association and have a chance to chat with so many fellow Veterans. As Winston Churchill said about Veterans "Never was so much owed by so many, to so few." The Camp has improved so much since we acquired it, thanks to an active board, hardworking volunteers, and a proactive Executive Director. I would encourage each and every one of you to drop by for a visit, when you are in the area.

As summer drifts away and we reach the autumnal equinox, we welcome the fall colors and the DD Clinics and DD/SVP visits. Use these as an opportunity to toot your own horn about your successes and also as an opportunity to help some of the lodges who are not doing so well. As I said in my acceptance speech, "We need to work together to see that ALL of our lodges are still intact when this crisis is over. Some were in better shape than others going into this pandemic, and some are certainly in better shape coming out of it. We're not all in the same boat, but we certainly have all been in the same storm. We need to see what we can do to help our neighbors. Our strength is in our numbers, and we can ill-afford to lose anybody."

Cherish the volunteers that work for Elkdom every day. They are certainly our most valuable asset! An unknown author said "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in". Without our volunteers and their wonderful programs, most of our .

Lodges wouldn't even make a decent place to store boats. Appreciate them, support them, and recognize them.

I hope to see many of you at the Fall Conference in Albany. It will be a great time for you to meet our new Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills from Idaho. I have met him and I'm sure you will like him. We are going back to the Desmond, but they have invested huge money into upgrades, improvements, and modernizations. I think you will be impressed. Get your reservations in as it is filling up.

Well, enough key strokes for this issue. Thanks again for all of your kind words and thoughts. I hope that enjoy what is left of your summer.

Be Safe and God Bless!

Fraternally,

Bear

Barry Griffith, President

New York State Elks Association

NYSEA State President Barry Griffith Upcoming Visitation Schedule

South Central District	September 10-12, 2021
Fall Conference	September 23-26, 2021
North District	October 8-10, 2021
Northeast District	October 15-17, 2021
North Hudson District	October 29-31 2021
West District	November 5-7, 2021
Southwest District	November 12-14, 2021
North Central	November 19-21, 2021
Southern Tier District	December 3-5, 2021
South District	December 10-12, 2021
Central District	December 17-19, 2021



New York Elks Association President Barry "Bear" Griffith is pictured with Past State President Paul C. Galarneau, Past Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr and Grand Lodge Trustee Bruce Hidley prior to the start of the 2021 Grand Lodge Convention Opening Ceremony in Tampa, Florida. Past State President Paul C. Galarneau served as the escort to State President Griffith during the State Flag presentation.



New York State Elks Association President Barry "Bear" Griffith is pictured as he proudly waves the New York State flag during the flag presentations at the Grand Lodge Convention Opening Ceremony that was held at the Tampa Convention Center. .



NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION MAJOR PROJECT



**PAST STATE PRESIDENT
JAMIE PEACE
Major Project Message
Summer 2021**

Dear Members,

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer.

It seems good to be able to attend events again. Chairman David Brown and I recently visited Herkimer for their annual Car Show and it was great to see members of the Central District, especially without face coverings!

We've come so far since this health emergency was declared in March 2020. Let's hope that with the new COVID variants, we do not regress as a society,

As you know, the New York State Elks have partnered with the Cerebral Palsy Association of New York for the past 57 years, with all of your donations made to the Major Project going directly to the CP of NYS Home Service Program,

This has been a challenging year for all of us, but I know the NYS Elks will rise to that challenge. We are looking forward to hearing about all of your lodges' districts' events that are scheduled.

The Home Service Directors have been hit particularly hard during the pandemic and continue to 'reinvent the wheel' to serve their consumers. Usually, the grants are used for things like community gardens, music programs, or recreational equipment, but this past year your donations have been used to support the more essential aspects of CP's services. The Elks have supported Home Service Directors in addressing food scarcity, anxiety and depression during the pandemic.

The vehicle grants continue to be a very important part of the Home Service Program. From food delivery, to home visits and necessary transportation, NYS Elks vehicles have been instrumental in serving people with disabilities.

The Major Projects Corporation Board has announced a new Bequest and Living Trust Program. Many other states and organizations have instituted these as well and have had great success.

The way a Bequest and Living Trust (BLT) Program works is a bequest in a donor's will allows them to retain full control of their assets during their lifetime, and to receive an estate tax deduction. A bequest may be a percentage of the estate or a percentage of the remainder of the estate, and may be unrestricted or restricted for a specific purpose. There are four types of bequests that a donor can leave to a nonprofit **OT**

Residual - The remainder of the donor's estate after providing for their loved ones.

Percentage or Fractional - A gift expressed as a percentage or fraction of the donor's estate,

Specific- A specified gift of money, property, or stocks and shares.

Whole Estate - Comprises a donor's entire estate. This is usually left by those without beneficiaries or those wanting: to achieve very significant impact.

The BLT allows for a few other ways in which donors can support the new Major Projects Board resolution:

Retained Life Estate A donor may make a gift of their home by deeding it to an organization while continuing to live there. The donor continues to be responsible for maintenance, insurance, and property taxes. In return, the donor receives an immediate tax benefit based on market value and IRS tables accounting for life expectancy, depreciation, and minimum tax rates.

Gifts from IRAS

Naming an organization as the beneficiary of an IRA, 401k, or defined contribution plan is an effective way to make a charitable gift. This avoids double taxation at the donor's passing.

Life Insurance There are two ways to make gifts of life insurance to an organization. A donor may transfer ownership of a policy, or purchase a policy with the organization as owner or beneficiary (this entitles the donor to tax deductions). Alternatively, a donor maintains ownership of the policy and their estate receives the tax deduction.

I would like to thank our entire membership for all of your support for the past 57 years, and look forward to a long future working with Cerebral Palsy Association of New York to make all of the people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families' lives better.



Vestal Lodge #2508 recently held their annual Major Projects Golf Tournament at Traditions Golf Club in Johnson City. 128 players (32 teams) came out to support this event. After a day of golf, players came back to the Lodge to enjoy food, beverages, and raffles. \$7374 was raised for the Lodge's Major Projects charities.



Staten Island Lodge #841 hosted the 2021 Southeast District Major Projects Carnival and BBQ. Over \$1,000 was raised for the district's Major Projects efforts. The event was well attended. There were hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni salad, pulled pork sandwiches, slides, games, crafts and a rock wall. The event was blessed with perfect weather. Pictured are the many district members and family members that attended the Carnival.



The BRIDGE School at Cerebral Palsy of Westchester (CPW) and **Mid-Westchester Lodge #535** recently celebrated the grand opening of the Memorial Garden at the BRIDGE School with a dedicated ceremony that was followed by a BBQ for students, administrators, Lodge members, families and friends. CPW's adaptive Scouts opened the ceremony by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Speakers at the ceremony included Exalted Ruler Jay Singer and Bob Sollazzo of the Mid-Westchester Lodge #535 along with CPW Executive Director Linda Kuck and BRIDGE School Principal Barry Wasser. Mid-Westchester Lodge created the Memorial Garden to remember the BRIDGE School students who passed away before they could graduate from the program. Lodge member Bob Sollazzo, who initiated the garden project said, "After seeing similar memorial gardens in Florida, I wanted to create a "Living Memorial" to those students attending the BRIDGE School. Our Boy and Girl Scout Troops at CPW will plant, water and maintain the Garden as a living tribute to all the students here who passed away much too soon. In this way, their friends and loved ones will know that they are not forgotten but live on as part of our community". Lodge members built four planter boxes, filled them with top-soil, and installed the Memorial Garden sign. Together with the students and staff, Lodge members helped with the selection of plants, and the preparation and planting of the boxes. They planted one garden box of perennials, two boxes of annuals, and one large vegetable garden. Since late spring, the students have been watering and weeding the gardens and looking forward to harvesting the vegetables and enjoying gardening for years to come. Exalted Ruler Jay Singer and Lodge member Bob Sollazzo are pictured with CPW Executive Director Linda Kuck at the grand opening ceremony.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Through the use of \$100 from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant, the members from **Huntington Lodge #1565** delivered 10 bags of non-perishable food to St. Elizabeth's food pantry. Although their facility was closed at the time due to the pandemic, arrangements are made available by placing boxes for donations in their lobby, which were then delivered to parishioners in need. Pictured is then Past State Vice President Jack Stein, as he delivered the parcels of food.



Oswego Lodge #271 recently received a \$2,000 Spotlight Grant from the Elks National Foundation. The grant is used to shine a light on issues facing local communities. This year, the Oswego Elks have used the grant monies to purchase food for the nutritional services program at Oswego County Opportunities. Eighteen volunteers gathered at the Oswego Elks Lodge to fill 500 bags of food that will be distributed to residents across Oswego County. Volunteers include Bill and Mary Kerfien who shopped for the food. Oswego County Opportunities will also be purchasing fresh meat products from Davis Meats with monies from the grant.



The members of **Port Jefferson Lodge #2138** used \$1000.00 from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and a \$50.00 gift card donated by Walmart, and purchased 26 backpacks which were then filled with a full variety of school supplies for children ranging from grades K-3, 4-6 and 7-12. The backpacks then delivered to the Lighthouse Mission in Centerreach, NY and distributed during a food distribution day. Pictured as the backpacks were delivered are: (l-r) Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Tony Florio, the Pastor of Lighthouse Mission Howie Mann, Trustee Rick Seifts, Esteemed Leading Knight Joan Brigante, Past State Vice President John Brigante, State Vice President Ted Farkas, and Esteemed Loyal Knight Deborah Farkas.



Sidney Lodge #2175 used an Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant to support the Save-a Vet organization. The organization is under the direction of Mr. Charlie Piper. The \$2,000 grant is being used by Save-A-Vet for emergency needs of local Veterans. Emergency needs could be assistance for lodging of a homeless vet, clothing, gas money, payment of electricity, heating fuel, that may be disconnected, as well as medical equipment and ramps. Pictured during the donation presentation are (left to right); Charlie Piper – the Director of Veterans Services for Delaware County NY and administrator of Save A Vet, Lodge Esteemed Loyal Knight and Veterans Chairperson Toni Gardner, Lodge Treasurer and ENF Grant Coordinator Sharon Harris and Lodge member and the President of Sidney Veterans Memorial Park Tom Ruff.



Vestal Lodge #2508 used a \$2500 from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to buy 9 electronic therapy dogs and 9 comfort baby dolls for the residents in the Oxford Veterans Home. Due to the strict guidelines set forth by NYS during the COVID pandemic, staff at the veterans home were forced to throw out all of the residents' electronic therapy pets and comfort baby dolls and start anew. The staff and residents were very excited and grateful to receive the new therapy pets and dolls from the Vestal Lodge members. Pictured (l to r) as the donations were delivered are Vestal Lodge Veterans Committee member Chris Albeck, Lodge Veterans Committee chairman George Light, Esteemed Leading Knight Mindi Moniz, Jennifer Tyler-Scheuer, Oxford Veterans Home Activities Director; and Veterans Committee member Muchaelene Demko.

Johnson City Lodge #2821 used a \$3500 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to support their local Catholic Charities Reading and Backpack Program. This program provides nutritional meals throughout the summer months for children who received reduced or free lunches during the school year.



Staten Island Lodge #841 used the proceeds from a Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and made a monetary donation to the Holy Rosary Parish on Staten Island in the amount of \$2000. Father Michael Martine accepted the check for the food pantry associated with the parish. The donation was made to the Parish because they do not receive any funding from the State or City, so this is helpful for the low-income families in need. The Parish will purchase non-perishable foods and personal essentials for the needy. Pictured as the donation was presented are Bill Bungarz, Father Michael Martine and Linda Bungarz..

Community Activities Elks—Now More Than Ever



Camillus Lodge #2367 held a Chicken BBQ to benefit the Central New York Ronald McDonald House Charities for their Christmas in July fundraiser. With the help from Craft Creations and Direct Sales of CNY, the Camillus Lodge members, Past Exalted Rulers and Lodge Auxiliary we were able to fulfill their Wish List. The Lodge donated \$1000 worth of items and gift cards. Camillus Lodge has been active in the Camillus community for over 50 years. Pictured during the BBQ are members Don Beaudry, Debbie Morrell, Jen Andrews, Jeannette Carter, and Diane Daniels.



Elks Lodges from the **Central District**, with the assistance of other local organizations, come together to assist laid off Remington Arms employees. Herkimer Lodge member Doug Christman had the idea to have a turkey dinner for these employees. Doug brought the idea to Exalted Ruler Roy Henry. Roy assembled a committee comprised of Herkimer, Ilion and Rome Elks Lodges, Herkimer County Hunger Coalition, Herkimer Lions Club and the Frankfort Kiwanis Club. Doug Christman purchased the turkeys and with additional donations the committee was able to purchase a 5 pound bag of potatoes, stuffing mix, candy canes and carry bags. Remington Employees that signed for the giveaway totaled 218, the committee decided to purchase 225 turkeys, potatoes and stuffing mix with the overage to be donated. At the end of the event 17 turkeys, bags of potatoes and stuffing mix were donated to the Veterans Outreach Mission in Utica. The excess donations totaling \$2,625.00 was sent to the Food Bank of Central New York to be placed in the accounts of Herkimer-Mohawk Food Pantry (\$1,000.00), Ilion-Frankfort Food Pantry (\$1,000.00) and the Dolgeville Food Pantry (\$625.00).



Camillus Lodge #2367 Elk of the Year and Lodge Steward Bob McIntyre is pictured as he presented a donation on behalf of the Lodge to Jean and Roy Whipple of the United Methodist Church of Camillus. The Camillus Lodge has been helping out the Church for over ten years with their brown bag lunch program

Potsdam Lodge #2074 recently supported the following community organizations and events with donations; 4 H Camo Overlook, Potsdam Humane Society, Potsdam Central School Sandstener Foundation Military Scholarship, NYSAHPERO, Seaturtles Internship Opportunity, St. Lawrence Central School All Night Graduation Party, Helping Hands, Potsdam Youth Soccer Association, Addie Oakes Cancer Fundraiser, Potsdam Back to School Snack Pack Program, First Annual Camp Bristol Wounded Warrior Weekend, St. Lawrence County Volunteer Appreciation event, Potsdam Chamber of Commerce and the Potsdam Central School Hall of Fame. These donations totaled \$5210.



Elmira Lodge #62 recently held a "Pie in the Face" fundraiser to earn money for the Lodges our Dictionary Program. Seven Members, most being Past Exalted Rulers, could be pied in the face for a \$5 donation. Jennifer Donovan (PER), Floyd Smith (PER), Heather Kosty (PER), John Smith (ER), Jeff Bailey (PER), Jenne Jarvis (Leading Knight), Paul Jones (Member) raised \$1,965 with some taking more than 50 pies to the face! The proceeds will be used to purchase Dictionaries for the Lodges local school district.



Lowville Lodge # 1605 conducted a clothing drive in partnership with the Recovery Coordination Program Education and Employment Initiative to support veterans and transitioning service members in the area. This clothing drive garnered tremendous support from Lodge members and the Lowville community. As a result of the drive, the Lodge was able to provide a sizable clothing donation to the Watertown NY Vets Peer to Peer Outreach Center. On hand to present the donations were Current Lowville Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler and Army veteran Bob Lanier, Past Lowville Lodge Exalted Ruler and Education and Employment Initiative Northeast Regional Coordinator and Army veteran Luis Figueroa. Accepting the donation were Veteran Resource Outreach Coordinator for the VETS Peer to Peer Outreach Center veteran Tim Cryster and Center Volunteers Gary Andrew and John Dashnaw, both veterans themselves. The Vets Peer to Peer Outreach Center is a Not-for-profit organization in Watertown, NY that provides services to area veterans in the form of care management, advocacy, employment resources and services, peer mentoring services, coordination with community partners, and mobile outreach resources to surrounding counties.



The Members of **New York Lodge #1** supported a book signing by Brett Blumquist, son of long time member Brian Blumquist. Brett has taken all his notes and poems of his life time and has been able to publish his "Love Book of Poems by Brett". With the help of Sofia Lee the book was completed. The Lodge donated the main hall of the Lodge for Brett's Book Signing. Brett raised over \$3,200.00 during his signing, including extra donations. All the proceeds from Brett's Book signing are going directly to Long Island Sled Hockey, a great organization that has been supported by the Lodge Elks for many years. Pictured at the book signing are; Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and Trustee Chair Frank T Hunt, Lodge Trustee Joseph Serafino, Sofia Lee, Phil Derenze Head Coach LI Sled Hockey and members Lodge #1, Renee Choe-Lee, Ann Roller, Crystal Albert, Bryan proud Dad and Coach Brett Blumquist, Exalted Ruler Lisa Moldovan, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler John M Nuzzi Sr, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Mark E. Stuparich and Harold Roller. This is a few of Lodge 31 members that were present when asked to have Photo op, many other Lodge members athletes and families stopped by during Brett's signing

Community Activities Elks—Now More Than Ever



Past Exalted Ruler Joyce Bunce and Secretary Michelle Hickey of **Camillus Lodge #2367** are pictured as they provided a food donation to the Samaritan Center on behalf of CNY Concessions and the Camillus Lodge.



Owego Lodge #1039 held a "Spring Food Drive Challenge" between the Lodge and other charitable organizations in the community to collect food and monetary donations from their membership. A total of \$4135 in food and monetary donations were collected for Tioga County food pantries. Teams from the Owego Elks lodge, Owego Rotary Club, Owego Moose Club, and Tioga Opportunities participated in the challenge....with the Owego Rotary Club being the winner by collecting the most donations. The food and the monetary donations were equally divided and given to the following food pantries: Open Door Mission; Tioga County Rural Ministries; Catholic Charities of Tioga/Tompkins County; Red Door Waverly; the Lockwood Food Pantry; Park Terrace Food Pantry; Lounsbury Food Pantry; Spencer-VanEtten Community Food Cupboard; Newark Valley Project Neighborhood; and Berkshire Helping Hands Food Pantry. Pictured at the drive are (left to right) Betsey Bulshwiet, Carolyn Wright, Abbey Hendrickson, Jane Woody, Lodge Secretary Tim Sayers, Orville Wright, Kevin Malar, and Melissa Tourtellotte



While visiting several local food pantries, it became apparent that donations have waned over the past few weeks. This was all the more reason for the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** to keep up the pace as the demand has not declined. District Deputy Jack Stein is pictured with Ruth McDade of the Suffolk County United Veteran Administration, Health and Well Center, as 15 parcels of a variety of healthy items were delivered.



Oswego Lodge #271 donated \$ 1000.00 to Kristina's House of Hope to purchase a utility shed to store bikes and over flow items of the tenants while there. Kristina's House of Hope located in Oswego is dedicated to provide immediate assistance to displaced /homeless women who are struggling with drug / alcohol dependence. Pictured are Exalted Ruler Vickie Rowe, Ladies Auxiliary President Carol Lamson, Kristina's House of Hope Founder Shelly Spaziano and Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Carol Dillabough.



Massapequa Lodge #2162 held their first Community and Cars event in the lodge parking lot to help raise awareness for drinking and driving. 12 classic cars participated, with a total of 32 participants. The Lodge Drug Awareness Committee handed out drug awareness material as well as served coffee and water to all that attended. The coffee and the water was donated from Lodge members and a portion of the proceeds went to the Lodge drug awareness program in the amount of \$56. Pictured at the event are; from left to right; Leading Knight Nancy Parente, Nancy Black and Jean Brennan,



Recently forty (40) campers attending the North East Westchester Special Recreation Day Camp at St. Theresa School enjoyed a carnival atmosphere thanks to **Mid-Westchester Lodge # 535** of White Plains, New York. The morning was complete with carnival games and activities and a magic show including elaborate balloon animals and toys, and many prizes thanks to a donation from the Lodge. Members from the Lodge joined in the fun by helping to run the various activities. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. For over seven years (7) the Mid-Westchester Lodge has supported North East Westchester Recreation by funding and participating in their annual camp carnival. North East Westchester Special Recreation is a community-based program of therapeutic recreation for children, teens and adults with developmental disabilities residing in Westchester County, NY. The agency conducts year-round programming for approximately five hundred residents of the County.

Community Activities Elks—Now More Than Ever



Camillus Lodge #2367 recognized several individuals at the Lodges community tonight that was held at their monthly lodge meeting. New York State Association recipient Victoria Holzhauser receives certificate and American flag pin for her accomplishments. Pictured holding their certificates are Officer Thomas Skardinski and Detective Anthony Gucciardi of the Camillus Police Department with Exalted Ruler Jay Mason as they received medals for their service giving back to the community along with a Certificate of Service and an American Flag pin.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 has remained a proud supporter of the St. Lawrence County Law Enforcement Torch Run since the event began in St. Lawrence County 20 years ago. Recently the Lodge donated \$500 to support the 2021 run. The Torch Run supports Special Olympic New York athletes. Additionally, **Ogdensburg Lodge #772** hosted a pizza luncheon following the run. Ogdensburg Lodge also hosted a luncheon following last year's run. Past Exalted Ruler Rick Powell Jr. and Exalted Ruler Patricia Redden-Sargent are pictured during the luncheon with Torch Run Coordinator Theresa McCarger of the NY State Police, Shawn McCarger of the St. Lawrence County Sheriff Department, along with and two of the athletes representing Special Olympics of North Country.



New York Lodge #1 presented the proceeds from a \$2000 Spotlight Grant to The Autism Society. The Autism Society services more than 2500 families in both Nassau and Suffolk counties. They provide more than 100 social recreational activities each year so that families affected by autism can get out into the community and become fully participating members. Pictured during the donation presentation are, from left to right: Past State Vice President Brian Steckler, Past District Deputy Mark Stuparich, Lodge Exalted Ruler Lisa Moldovan, Past Exalted Ruler Paul Schneller, Autism Society Executive Director Suzanne Reek, District Deputy Michael Boller, Past Exalted Ruler Amy Schneller, Lodge Sponsor, Past District Deputy Ron Hansen and Past District Deputy John Nuzzi.



Celebrating 97 years of service to Ticonderoga and its surrounding communities, members of the **Ticonderoga Lodge #1494** recently marked the milestone with a little token of appreciation for the area residents. Lodge #1494 members spent a day in July celebrating the organization's anniversary by greeting customers and offering free cups of coffee at the Stewart's Shop in town. Members thanked the community for their continued support and looked forward to many more years of service. Pictured at the event are L-R Past Exalted Ruler/Trustee Peggy Lamb, Past Exalted Ruler/Trustee Richard Nadeau, Leading Knight Pam Moser. Seated are Loyal Knight Nancy Horner and PSDGER Secretary Stella Kolysko



Oswego Lodge #271 recently held a chicken barbeque in partnership with Walmart to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network. To help reach Walmart's goal of a \$15,000 donation for the Children's Miracle Network, Oswego Elks Lodge made a donation of \$1,000. Pictured are Bill Kerfien, PDDGER Oswego Elks Lodge, George LaPage, Cherie Allen and Erin Jones from Walmart and Oswego Lodge Exalted Ruler Vickie Rowe.

New York Lodge #1 Standing Chair Officers Lead by Exalted Ruler/ Past Exalted Ruler Lisa Moldovan, Leading Knight/Past Exalted Ruler Amy Schneller, Loyal Knight/Past Exalted ruler Roland Costan, Lecturing Knight Carol Finnegan, and Past State Vice president/Lodge Esquire Brian Steckler performed the Presentation of the making of The Floral Bell of Liberty. The ceremony was open to the public. The Lodge has been performing the new Floral Bell ceremony since 2013, Past District Deputy Mark E. Stuparich, now Lodge Secretary, and his wife, the late Elaine Stuparich, supplied and made all the tiers as well as the topper necessary for the Lodge to be able to perform and share the beautiful ceremony with members and guests for the past 8 years. (Picture to the Right)



Community/Veteran Activities Elks—Now More Than Ever



Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317 Veterans Service Chairperson, Past Exalted Ruler PER Regina Hogan, took a veteran transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing on his shopping trip for needed household items thanks to the Freedom Grant. This is the 3rd of 12 Veterans she will personally take shopping. This veteran was very thankful to the Elks for the funds to get the items he needed for his new apartment and very proud of his service in the Coast Guard.



Mechanicville-Stillwater Lodge #1403 presented IBI Semper Training with the proceeds from the Freedom Grant. Several Lodge members have volunteered at the training classes, and worked with the instructor Sonya and various veterans and their service dogs. The Lodge has volunteers that have gone at least twice a month since the end of May. Recently, District Deputy Renee Bott of Cohoes-Waterford Lodge, joined Past Exalted Ruler Linda DeVito, Trustee Joe DeVito, Past Exalted Ruler Jim Duncan and Veterans Service chairperson Justine Crowley-Duncan. The class lessons focused on buffering, leave it, look at me, and stay. Those volunteering found the experience quite rewarding to know they have a hand in helping veterans and their service dogs become bonded Teams.



New York Lodge #1 has sent two large boxes to James Kassenbaum, a deployed member of Glens Falls #81, and his troop overseas in Kosovo. They recently received these packages full of all types of goods and things like t-shirts, drink mixes, hot sauce, socks, Nerf, jerky, snacks and so much more.



Staten Island Lodge #841 worked closely with "Backpacks for Life" who had collected for homeless and at-risk veterans and their families. The Organization works with veterans who are homeless, struggling and often unaware of the resources available to them. Recently the Lodge donated 15 completely full backpacks that were filled with essentials for men, women and children. This was made possible through the funds from the Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. Lodge Grant Coordinator Linda Bungarz is pictured donating the backpacks.



Each year, **Patchogue Lodge #1323** member Maria Capone donates the proceeds she receives from various Lodge gatherings, to a Foundation of her choice. This year, Maria chose "Tunnel to Towers" as her recipient. Pictured as the donation of \$1000 was provided to the Foundation are: (l-r) Member Maria Capone, Andrew McClure, a representative from "Tunnel to Towers", Exalted Ruler Katherine Rosavitch, and Neil Foley, Brookhaven Town Councilman,



The **Penn Yan Lodge #1722** Veterans Committee provided a donation to support the Town of Torry/Village of Dresden Veterans Memorial.



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



Veterans Service Chairperson/Past Exalted Ruler Regina Hogan of **Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317**, delivered *Help Heal Veterans* wood, leather and fabric therapeutic craft kits to the male veterans Vet House and the female veterans Guardian House homeless shelters. Pictured is Veterans Service Chairperson/Past Exalted Ruler Regina Hogan, Guardian House Case Manager Christine Burns and a female veteran resident at the Guardian House, Everyone was extremely pleased and grateful to the Help Heal Veterans and the Cohoes-Waterford Elks Lodge for providing the kits.



Officers and Members of the **South East District** are very involved with taking care of our Nations Veterans. The Lodges of the district recently returned St. Albans and hosted a BBQ, after a long spell of not being able to be on premise or have contact with our Veterans due to the Covid situation. The South East District Lodges that participated were New York Lodge #1, Brooklyn / Queens Borough Lodge # 878, Hicksville Lodge #1931, New Hyde Park North Shore Lodge # 2107, and Massapequa Lodge # 2162. The Lodges supplied everything to put on a great BBQ; grilled Hot Dogs and Hamburgers, cold salads, bananas, assorted bags of chips, and from the ice coolers were assorted Sodas, Drinks and bottled Water, as well as all needed condiments. All items were individually wrapped and were delivered to 144 veterans by hospital staff members on carts to 7 wings of The Hospital. The District had 17 members in attendance representing the participating Lodges. Pictured are the many district members that volunteered at the BBQ. They are; John Haffey Lodge 878, Past District Deputy Robert Giglio Lodge 2107, Nancy Parente Lodge 2162, Past State Vice President Brian Steckler Lodge #1, Richard Rung Lodge # 1, District Deputy Michael J. Boller Lodge #1, Sylvia Wanser Lodge #1, Exalted Ruler Steve Stubbs Lodge # 1931, Treasurer Kim Stein Lodge #1, Herb Hoffman Lodge #1, Past State Trustee/ VAVS Rep South East District Veterans Committee Anitra Butler Lodge #1, Richard Muniak Lodge #1, Past District Deputy Peter J. Roach Lodge #1, Past District Deputy Donald C. Rood Lodge # 2107, Past District Deputy/District Veterans Treasurer John M Nuzzi Sr Lodge #1. Not pictured were Mathew Cordray Lodge # 2107 and Robert Miller Lodge # 2107.



The **East District #6120**, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and VAVS District Chairman Jack Stein made special arrangements for the delivery of several items to the Northport VA Hospital. The much needed items included PJ's, underwear, slip free socks, extra- large print playing cards, puzzles, toothpaste, efferdent, fixodent and face masks. All the items purchased were from the hospital's "wish list". Pictured here during the delivery are: (l-r) Volunteer Service Assistant Jennifer Pohl, District Deputy Jack Stein and VAVS Director Ritchie Kitson.



Superior Plus Propane of Lowville New York provided the **Lowville Lodge #1605** with a \$1000 sponsorship to support the Camp Bristol Wounded Warrior Retreat. Exalted Ruler Robert L. Lanier is pictured as he received the donation from Superior Plus Propane representative Jamie Nakan.



Penn Yan Lodge #1722 donated 21 tablets to the Veterans at the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center. Throughout the pandemic, veterans have relied on technology to attend virtual therapy appointments and classes. Now, the Veterans have the resources to stay connected and focus on their health!

Every night, as many as 40,000 veterans are living on the streets. Each with a different story, they all shared a common pledge: to support and defend this country. Their service is done. Now, it's the Elks' turn to serve. In partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission has pledged to help end veteran homelessness, and ensure that every veteran has the safe, stable home they deserve. To accomplish this goal, we need your help! Rally your Lodge members to get involved. Together, we can end veteran homelessness.

To learn more about the **Welcome Home Program**, visit the Elks Grand Lodge site at Elks.org, open Our Programs and click on Elks Veterans Services. .

YOUTH ACTIVITIES/SCOUTING



Camillus Lodge #2367 received a helping hand from the Warner's Boy Scout Troop 60. The Troop members completed work around the Lodge that included weeding, mulching, cleaning up, and building a cabinet in one of the Pavilion bathrooms. The scouts that participated are pictured.



Huntington Lodge #1565 Boy Scout Committee Chairperson Peter Demidovich, PER, attended a special Eagle Scout presentation for the 100th scout receiving this status from Troop 106, which is sponsored by the Lodge. Eagle Scout Kevin Siegall is pictured as he was being honored by his fellow scouts along with his family members as the Eagle Scout presentation is made.



Catskill Lodge # 1341 Lodge proudly announces a statewide winner in this past year's Americanism essay contest, "How Can Patriotism Be Demonstrated?". Kevin Feeney, Division II from the Cairo Durham Middle School, was awarded second place at the STATE LEVEL for his essay. Pictured is District Deputy Tim Reed presenting Kevin with his award, which also came with an Amazon gift card! Congratulations to Kevin!



Norwich Lodge #1222 donated the use of their dining room to their local Girl Scouts Troop #30187 to hold their monthly meetings. Due to the strict meeting size guidelines set by New York State during the COVID pandemic, the local girl scouts had to find a new monthly meeting place. Norwich Elks Lodge #1222 learned about their plight, so they stepped up and donated the use of their dining room for the scouts to hold their meetings. In appreciation, the girls made a "thank-you" poster in which each scout wrote a special heartfelt thank-you message to the Norwich Lodge members. Pictured are: Arianna Scott; Isabelle Scott; Arya Keene; Taylor Pollock-Wakefield; Molly Burlingame; Morina Patterson; and Lydia Annesi



Hornell Lodge #364 hosted the lodge sponsored Elks Little League Team to a year end gathering to recognize their season representing the Lodge. The team had a fine second place finish in their league. Pizza, soda and homemade desserts were served. Five (5) of the players were recognized for making various age related All-Star Teams that are continuing play thru the summer. Pictured left to right: 1st row: Hunter Wietzel, Devon May, Dennis Rudenauer, Ethan Dieter, Tyler Rankl, Dylan Ridout; 2nd row: Anthony Winant, Julian King, Patrick Wing, Eli Santelli-Gay; 3rd row: Paul "Trey" Schoeder, Brady Flaitz, Coaches: Justin Gay, Head Coach Kyle Flaitz, Bob Rankl, Brian May, and PDDGER/ Lodge Secretary Howard Nisbet,



Islip Lodge #2533 has sponsored and supported Islip High School's Post Prom Breakfast for the past several years. After last year's prom was canceled, due to Covid 19, Islip High School was now able to bring it back this year as the restrictions have been relaxed. The Islip Elks helped with sponsoring this event under the umbrella of Drug Awareness, along with the Town of Islip's Drug Education Awareness Program (IDEA), using \$1500 from their general fund. Pictured here are several members of the Lodge as they manned the table.

The members of the **East District 6120** are proud to announce the following recipients of the Most Valuable Student Scholarship Awards of \$1000 for the following exceptional students; James Connor, sponsored by Huntington Lodge #1565, Saoria Scully, sponsored by Southampton Lodge #1574 and Aryan Sharma, sponsored by the Port Jefferson Lodge #2138. The district extends congratulations on a job well done!

Potsdam Lodge #2074 supported the Potsdam Central School 2021 Prom/After Prom Committee fundraising efforts with a \$1,920 donation. The Lodge also supported the St. Lawrence Central Class of 2021 All Night Graduation Party with a \$750 donation.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES/SCOUTING



The Officers and members of **New York Lodge #1** were honored to be present when the Past Exalted Rulers Association presented the Lodge PER \$1,000.00 Scholarship award to Isabelle M. Gaudet. District Deputy Michael J. Boller, who also serves as Lodge Trustee and Scholarship Chairman, presented the award on behalf of the Lodge. Isabelle is a hardworking Student athlete playing Volleyball, Lacrosse, and Bowling earning varsity letters in each sport. While participating in sports she has been able to keep up the high grades. Isabelle has also participated in several extracurricular clubs such as Key club, Friends Club and Students against Drunk Driving. Isabelle has also received National academic awards such National Honor Society, National Math, National Science, and National Arts society. She plans to attend Virginia Wesleyans University and Wesleyans Batten Honors College where she and only 39 other students were accepted as incoming freshmen. She will Major in Biology with hopes of becoming a Doctor. Isabelle mom is a member of Lodge #1, She is also the grand daughter of Robert Becker, a Life Member who recently passed on. Pictured at the award presentation are District Deputy Michael J. Boller, Peggy Becker, the Grandmother of the Isabelle as well as wife of Past member Robert Becker her proud Father Jerry Gaudet, Isabelle Gaudet Scholar winner, brother Luke, her very proud Mom, Elizabeth Gaudet, and Exalted Ruler/PER Lisa Moldovan.



Liverpool Lodge #2348 Exalted Ruler Phil Spenser and Past District Deputy Robert McCallum welcomed Boy Scout Troop 840 from Stafford Virginia to their lodge. The Scout troop was traveling from Stafford Virginia to Massawpie Scout Camp in Tupper Lake, New York. They spent the night camping out in the Banquet Hall of the Lodge. The scout's visited Heid's of Liverpool and Vicky's Tasty Treats, two well know local establishments. The Lodge treated them to breakfast pizzas, muffins, OJ and milk before they left the next morning for the remainder of their trip to Tupper Lake. The Lodge noted It was an honor to assist these young men and their adult leaders on their journey.



The members from **Southampton Lodge #2036** recognize and congratulate the three Lodge scholarship winners. From (l-r) are: Most Valuable Student winner Lucia Ibrahim, the Joseph Ciochetti Memorial Scholarship winner Maximillion Eberle, and James Renner Scholarship winner Melissa Fallo, Congratulations to these fine academic scholars for a job well done!



The members from **Southampton Lodge #1574** participated in a recognition ceremony for High School Seniors from Southampton, Westhampton and Hampton Bays School Districts, who will be entering the military after their graduation. In attendance were local political leaders, local veterans, parents, friends and Exalted Ruler J. Darby, who presented each enlistee with a Certificate of Appreciation, an American Flag, a flag pin and lodge pin.



Showing their support for two local collegiate baseball teams, members from **Southampton Lodge #1574**, prepared and served over 65 dinners for the Southampton Breakers and Riverhead Tom Cats. The meals were served alongside the baseball field by Leading Knight Kathleen Miller, members Fred Kirst and Joe Riccadi and Secretary Gene Scanlon. The Lodge members are strong supporters of this ongoing Summer Program.



Watkins Glen Lodge #1546 hosted a chicken BBQ to support the My Place Daycare. \$700.00 was raised from the chicken barbecue and was donated to My Place Daycare. Pictured in the first row: several of the My Place Daycare children with Director, Kristine Morseman on the bottom left and Assistant Director, Noel Wheaton. Second row: Lodge members Elizabeth Gossett (PER), David Waite (House Committee), Charles Franzese (PER and Secretary), Gordy Perry (House Committee), Stuart Field (PER), and Exalted Ruler Chuck Fitch.



The **Watkins Glen Lodge #1722** house committee donated \$900.00 from a recent chicken barbecue to the Schuyler Head Start Helmets for kids program this morning. Lodge members are pictured with staff from Schuyler Head Start and some of the children as the donation was presented.

And in Other News



Each lodge in the **South Central District** worked together all summer to collect golf balls and equipment for the Bunkers in Baghdad/Wounded Warriors Programs. All 10 lodges in the district participated in this endeavor. All in all, the district collected over 35,000 golf balls and dozens of clubs for an estimated value of over \$20,000! Vestal Lodge #2508 collected the most with a total of over 19,000 golf balls. This was a fun and easy way for lodge members to participate together in helping our beloved veterans and soldiers.



Staten Island Lodge #841 recently donated linens to the Animal Care Center. This event was organized by Donna LaDolcetta. Special thanks to Vivian Potter for all of her help separating the donations and for storing the items in her office. Lodge members Catherine Orosz DeGaetano, Martin King, Cathy Groussman, Gary Gatens, Elizabeth Castro, Francisco Castro and Mark LaDolcetta assisted with deliveries. for helping with the delivery.



The Officers and members of **New York Lodge #1** were honored to participate in the Eagle Scout Court of Honor Awards for six members of Troop 40. These six award recipients have all joined the scouts at a very young age. Past State Trustee Anitra Butler, who serves as the Lodge Scouting Chairperson, made a formative speech recognizing their accomplishments and presented each scout with a framed American Flag along with an Elks Scouting Certificate of Achievement, and a Check for \$ 50.00. Scout projects included; **Mathew Baxley**- his Scout Project was working with the Sandel Senior Center as well as the RVC Community Center . Building a lending libraries for both locations. With approval of Directors he was able to design, build, and install Libraries at both locations; **Mathew Friedman** - Matt held many leadership positions Bugler, Scout Guide, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, as well as Senior Patrol Leader assisting the younger scouts. Mathews Scout Project was as he led a group of volunteers to deconstruct and re-landscape the grounds for a Garden and Memorial at Temple B' nai Sholom Beth David. The project had many challenges weather, workers, the project had been completed by the High Holy Holidays his hard work truly showed off the end result, true Beautification. Mathew is also a Lodge Scholarship recipient; **Luis Jimenez- Franco** - for his Scout Project he organized and led a group of volunteers to build and install a Kiosk at Hempstead State Lake Park, he loved his project because he loves fishing at the lake. He wanted to make all visitors aware of all the Park has to offer with general information including type of fish, and events, he raised monies by selling chocolates; **Jack Kelly** - Jacks Scout Project as he led a group of volunteers to empty out, clean, and refurbish the Lofts area in the gym at St. Agnes Cathedral Parish. He also supplied two recycling containers in the gym area that he had found abandoned in the loft, he also collected funds from the empties to purchased needed foods for St. Agnes pantry; **Thomas Norton** - Thomas chose his project to build a Gaga Ball Pit at Hempstead State Lake Park, he believes the game was easy for all to learn and would bring people of all ages and back grounds together for fun and exercise Thomas raised all needed funds by overseeing yard sales as well as donations; **Daniel Varney Dan's** - his Scout Project was the beautification and needed repairs to St Marks Church. Dan was honored to crossover to Troop 40 with the told memories of his grandfather receiving his Eagle Scout award in 1931 along with his dad being scout master since 1970. They were all honored at St. Agnes Parish of Rockville Centre,

RITUAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I'm pleased to announce that the NYSE Ritual Committee will be hosting a Grand Lodge Certification Clinic at this year's Fall Conference in place of the usual Ritual Workshop. Grand Lodge Ritual Chairman Ken Rice will be joining us and will be conducting the Clinics.

Date: Friday, September 24, 2021
Location: Colonie Elks 2192
Time: 09:00am

Please join us!!!!

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time.
Fraternally,
Brian J. Scott
NYSEA Ritual Chairman



District Deputy Jack Stein of **Huntington Lodge #1565** was recently invited by Oyster Bay Town Supervisor, Joe Scaladino to open the Town Board meeting with the Pledge to the Flag. Jack, a Vietnam Veteran, was very honored to represent the Elks as a member of Huntington Lodge #1565. He is pictured at the Town Board meeting



Watkins Glen Lodge # 1546 held a Chicken BBQ at the Lodge to benefit 8 year old Mitchell Blaha, a Schuyler County youth suffering with cancer. The BBQ raised \$700 that was used to offset non-covered medical expenses incurred by the family. The Lodge presented Randy Nilson, Mitchell's Grandfather, with a check for the \$700. Pictured at the check presentation ceremony was Secretary Charles Franzese, Randy Nilson, Stewart Field, David Waite and Gordon Perry, House Committee Members. The BBQ Committee consisted of Past Exalted Rulers Beth and Tom Gossett, Leading Knight Lou Debolt, Mike Beach, Steve Acquire, Dan Paradiso, John Callanan, Erick Thorpe, Exalted Ruler Chuck Fitch, John Norman, Sandy Reams and Gordy Perry.

NYSEA Endorsed Candidate for President Cam Ricci Campaign Raffle

Tickets are \$50 each and will be drawn in December.

First prize is \$5,000
2nd prize is \$2,000
3rd prize is \$1,000
4th prize is \$500
5th—14th prizes is \$100 each

Tickets are available in each District Throughout the State.
Thank you for your support
(All proceeds to Ricci Campaign)

Camp Bristol Update

Greetings from Camp Bristol:

This has been quite an exciting summer at Camp Bristol! Thank you to all the volunteers who have spent time helping with the ongoing list of projects at camp. Camp Bristol has been blessed with volunteers who have come for the day, spent an weekend or in the case of SVP John Pidcock and his wife Wendy – “moved” into the RV Park for 12 days to help out. (John worked remotely using the camp WiFi by day and did projects in the evenings and on the weekends.)

With the help of our volunteers, the picnic tables have been stained, A-frames repaired and camp sites cleared, debris and limbs removed making pavilions usable, all the beds have been assembled and mattresses rolled out, the kitchen has been inventoried with all the pots and pans washed and stored. There has been painting, plumbing, landscaping, mowing and trimming, cleaning all the ongoing needs of camp life. We now even have five benches that were stained, assembled and placed throughout camp thanks to a weekend project by Laroy and Ginger Burgess. During your next visit to camp, you will see the American Flag flying by the Dining Hall – another project that has recently been completed by volunteers.

This inaugural Wounded Warriors Campfest Weekend held August 19 – 22, 2021, hosted at Camp Bristol was a huge success. Thank you to State President Barry Griffith attending to give his heartfelt opening remarks setting the tone for the weekend. The participants only had positive comments about the weekend, our camp and the Elks as an organization committed to the needs of Veteran’s, youth and the community. Veterans came from all over the state from Buffalo to Staten Island and one from Pennsylvania. They began arriving Thursday afternoon and settled into their tents and began to enjoy what Camp Bristol has to offer. Friday was a day of Camp activities and leisure – kayaking, fishing, hiking, cardplaying, Ping-Pong and Corn Hole; the day ended with a BBQ cookout and campfire under a full moon. Saturday morning every left camp for a day of trail riding. Side by Sides and Four Wheelers were donated for a guided ride on the trails about 30 minutes from camp. The group arrived back to camp in the early evening – tired and muddy but thankful for a great outing. Saturday evening was one last campfire before heading home Sunday morning.

Thank you to Alain Moran, Lowville Lodge and Wounded Warrior for his vision of this weekend and spearheading the collaboration that brought it together. Thank you also to Bob Lanier (ER Lowville Lodge) and Robert Lumpkins (PER / Secretary Clifton Park Lodge and Camp Bristol Rep. Northeast District) for their help during the weekend, your assistance made the weekend run without a hitch. Thank you to Mark DeWitt from Rochester Lodge for the use of his two Kayaks for this weekend and to Dave and Pam Durrant from Rochester Lodge for their donation of a canoe to camp. These items were actively used throughout the weekend and are support of camp is greatly appreciated. Thank you to all the Lodges and individuals who supported this Veterans Weekend event through your donations – your support helped make this a truly memorable experience. Plans have begun for the Second Annual Campfest weekend next year, the third weekend of August.

It has been exciting to have the RV sites being used by our members. We have had weekend campers from Lodges from across the state as well guests from as far away as San Antonio Texas. While staying at Rochester Lodge, Hank and Shirleen Smith from Maryland Lodge #2474 (reside in San Antonio) members at the told them about Camp Bristol, they called and made a reservation and stayed for four days. With Hanks help, Camp Bristol is now listed as a campground for Elks on the RVillage website! (RVillage.com)

If you have not had a chance to spend time at Camp Bristol September is the time to do it! For the month of September, Elks who are Veteran’s camp for FREE and all other Elks members camp for HALF price. Reservations are on a first come first serve basis and include buildings as well as RV sites. Before you end your camping season – make a trip to Camp Bristol. Camp is open for camping through Columbus Day Weekend.

In September, Camp Bristol will host its first Scouting group for a camping weekend. Troop 7 from Henrietta NY will have their monthly camping trip at Camp Bristol in the area behind the pavilion by the Dining Hall. Along with their themed activities, they will also be conducting a service project for our camp. If your Lodge has a Scout Troop or you are connected with a Troop, consider Camp Bristol while planning program. I will gladly work with your group to meet your camping and program needs.

At the Fall Conference we will introduce the Camp Bristol Summer 2022 Camp for Kids. Camp will include swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, sports, archery, arts and crafts, and nature activities. We will also have a technology center and provide education utilizing the Elks Drug Awareness Program. Be sure to attend the Camp Bristol Break-out Session to learn all the happenings at camp.

The Annual Golf Tournament is a great way to support Camp and have fun doing it! Saturday October 2, will be the Third Annual Golf Tournament. Teams of 4 are welcome to register, and you don’t need to be an Elks to participate. After the tournament you will return to Camp Bristol for a banquet and awards. If you are interested in spending the night in an RV site or cabin, be sure to make your reservation. Spots are available on a first come, first served basis.

The Buy A Brick program is a great way to add to the footprint of camp. Purchase a brick to recognize, honor, or memorialize someone. Your gift will leave a lasting legacy and help us Pave the Way to Camp! Ordering camp happen right on the Camp Bristol website –

www.NYElksCampBristol.org. Orders can also be placed at the Fall Conference.

Camp Bristol Founders Pins (\$100) or Camp Bristol pins (\$10) are available at camp or by contacting me by email: BElliott@NYElksCampBristol.org. Founder Members will have their name engraved on the Founders Plaque that will be hung at Camp. The Camp Bristol Founders Pins will only be available for a few more months – act now to make your donation and be recognized as a Founding Member of NY Elks Camp Bristol.

Purchase Camp Clothing at the Fall Conference! The website has a variety of clothing selections – T-shirts both long sleeve and short sleeve, hoodies, polos, and golf wind shirts are available for purchase. There is an inventory of sizes and colors always available at camp but we will have the full inventory at Fall Conference for purchase; wearing camp clothing helps promote camp (and they are comfy, too!)

This is our camp ... together we are going to be making a huge difference in people’s lives through the programs and activities of NY Elks Camp Bristol. Get involved.... the adventure is just beginning!

In Service,

Brett

Brett S. Elliott, PER

BElliott@NYElksCampBristol.org



Oswego Lodge #271 supported the Camp Bristol inaugural Wounded Warrior Campfest with a \$500 donation. The donation from Oswego Lodge will go toward helping a group of warriors and their spouses to enjoy a fun and relaxing weekend in the quiet space of the camp. Pictured during the donation presentation are Jen Longley, Camp Bristol Board of Directors, Exalted Ruler Vickie Rowe and Past State President Dan Capella, Camp Bristol Board of Directors.



Fulton Lodge #830 has made a \$500.00 donation to Camp Bristol for their inaugural Campfest that took place August 19-22. These funds were used to provide a fun and relaxing weekend for Wounded Warriors and their spouses. Pictured presenting the donation are Fulton Lodge Past Exalted Ruler Joyce Coady, Past State President Daniel Capella, and Exalted Ruler Ryan Wallace.

Camp Bristol Inaugural Wounded Warrior Campfest Sponsors

The following Lodges provided a donation towards the Camp Bristol Wounded Warrior Campfest; Fulton Lodge #830, Oswego Lodge #271, Potsdam Lodge #2074, New Hyde Park North Shore #2107, Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317, Ontario District PER Association), Ontario District PDD Association, Rochester Lodge #24, Lockport Lodge #41, Clifton Park Lodge #2466, Penn Yan Lodge #1722, Pen Yan Lodge #1722 Veterans committee, Watertown Lodge #496, Lowville Lodge #1605 plus Lowville Lodge Cornhole Fundraiser, Davidson Auto, (Article continues on Page 3)

Camp Bristol Reservations/Rates/Merchadice

New York Elks Camp Bristol						
Camping Rental	Weekend Rate Fri-Sun	Weekday Rate for First Night Sun-Thurs	Rate for Additional days	Sites Available	Amenities Included	
RV site with hookups	\$ 70.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 25.00	10	50 Amp	Water
Tent / pop-up camper sites - no hookups	\$ 45.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 20.00	6		
A-Frame Camping (Sleep 4)	\$ 100.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 35.00	6	beds with mattresses	

Camping Reservations from Memorial Day Weekend through Columbus Day Weekend
Reservations Based on COVID Restrictions
CHECK IN 3:00 PM / CHECK OUT 11:00 AM

1.25% of rate for Elk Sponsored Guests traveling with an Elk when requiring additional camping location
Dump Station included with site fee
Showerhouse with restrooms open 24/7.

Building Rental	Weekend Rate Fri-Sun	Weekday Rate Sun - Thur	Additional days	Cabins Available	Amenities Included	
Bunk House - (sleep 12)	\$ 325.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 125.00	2	additional room	Restroom
Staff Cabin (sleep 6) (half building)	\$ 260.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 100.00	2	heat/ac	Restroom / shower

Showerhouse with restrooms open 24/7.
Daytime Rental Check in 8:00 AM / Check out 10:00 PM
Overnight Check in 3:00 PM / Check out 11:00 AM

Camp Bristol camping rates for RVs, cabins, tents etc. Reservations are now open. The new Camp Bristol phone number is 315-625-8145. Rate schedule is available on Camp website as well and we would appreciate your sharing with all your fellow members. Volunteers are always needed if you have some free time. From odd jobs to skilled tasks, everyone can help with one of the many available camp projects. Please contact Brett at 315-625-8145 to set up an individual or group volunteer opportunity.



NOW AVAILABLE!

CAMP BRISTOL CLOTHING

ITEM	PRICE
	\$12.00
	\$15.00
	\$25.00
	\$30.00

Available colors: Hunter Green, Navy, Red


Please Note: There will be an Additional \$2.00 charge for sizes XXL and Above

Apparel is available from the Camp Director and will be sold at future events

Donate to Camp Bristol by Purchasing items from our Amazon list. You can have your donated item sent directly to the Camp at the Following address:

NY Elks Camp Bristol
54 Elk Way
West Monroe, NY 13167

Mail to:
 NY Elks Camp Bristol
 Buy-A-Brick Program
 c/o PDD Mel Oliveira
 512 Tony Drive
 Rotterdam, NY 12306



Buy - A - Brick Program

\$100 for 4" x 8" Brick -- \$150 for 8" x 8" Brick
 Min. \$500 donation for 12" x 12" Capstone Brick
Capstone Bricks are in limit supply

Donor Information

Name: _____


Address: _____

eMail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

District: _____

Make checks payable to: NY Elks Camp Bristol, Inc.



Select Brick Size

4x8

8x8

12x12

Select Graphic

Elk Head

Flag

Vet. Ribbon

Enter Message (two lines maximum - graphic is included with 8x8 or 12x12)

L1 _____

L2 _____

14 characters per line, counting spaced and punctuation

New York State Elks Association

Camp Bristol Lapel Pins

Founders Pin

\$100 Donation*



*With purchase your name will be Permanently Recorded and Displayed in Main Lodge at Camp Bristol. Pins are available through Camp Bristol Board Members & Directors and at Conventions & Conferences. Limited Quantity Available.

Camp Bristol Pin

\$10 Donation



Camp Bristol Lapel Pins are available at Conventions and Conferences. If interested in purchasing a pin we encourage you to send funds along with your Local Lodge Officers attending. Thank you for your support.

Proceeds will benefit the Youth and Veterans serviced by Camp Bristol through NYSEA programs.

<http://nyelkscampbristol.org>

Camp Bristol Updates

ELKS VETERANS CAMP FOR FREE IN SEPTEMBER!

1/2 PRICE CAMPING FOR
NON-VETERAN ELKS

COME ENJOY THE FOLIAGE AND FALL
WEATHER AT CAMP BRISTOL! RV SITES,
A-FRAMES AND CABINS ARE ALL AVAILABLE.

CALL 315-625-8145 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

PLEASE NOTE: CAMP BRISTOL WILL BE **CLOSED** FROM
SEPTEMBER 23-26 FOR THE NYSEA FALL CONFERENCE

Camp Bristol Corporate Directory

Brett Elliott (Camp Exec)
belliot@nyelkscampbristol.org
315-625-8145

Corporate Board Members

PSP **Richard C. Wunder** (Chair) - Lyons 869
rcw1law@rochester.rr.com
(C) 315-521-3145

PSP **Daniel J. Capella** (Secretary) - Oswego 271
dbcapella@gmail.com
(C) 315-598-0654

PSP **Michael C. Bloss** - Clifton Park 2466
mbloss.cp2466@gmail.com
518-779-5589

PSP **Philip E. Conaty** - Monticello 1544
philconaty54@gmail.com
845-798-7231

PSP **Stuart Rishie** - Ogdensburg 772
stuart@rishesflooring.com
315-323-2202

PSP **Brian Greene** - Glens Falls #81
chevyturn4@yahoo.com
518-307-3617

PDDGER **Chris Maddock** - Lyons 869
vest13735@yahoo.com
315-946-6581

PDDGER **Scott Hirst** - Watertown 496
scotthirst95@yahoo.com
315-804-3512

PDDGER **Mel Oliveira** - Rotterdam 2157
2157er50@nycap.rr.com
518-522-5760

Jennifer Longley - Oswego 271
jenner980@gmail.com
315-529-4526



Camp Bristol

THIRD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
GREENVIEW CC, 20 WHIG RD,
WEST MONROE, N.Y. 13167

Proceeds from the tournament will support
youth and veterans activities at Camp Bristol.

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 2

10:00 A.M.
SHOTGUN
START

Please mail payment to:
PSP Mike Bloss
34 Cypress Street
Ballston Lake, N.Y. 12019

\$80.00 per person (\$320 per
team) includes:

Golf (including skins)
Cart
Steak Dinner at Camp Bristol
Cash Prizes

Make checks payable to
NYS Elks Camp Bristol

Payment appreciated
by September 25

RV sites and cabin rentals will be available. Reserve your spot early!

For questions or more information,
contact Scott Hirst at 315.804.3512

MEMBERS WELCOME!!!



Camp Bristol belongs to all Elks! If you
are in the area, give Camp Director Brett
Elliott a call at 315.625.8145. He will greet
you and give you a tour of the camp!

Camp Bristol Fall Conference Workshop

The NYSEA Annual Fall Conference will be held at
the Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY beginning Thursday
September 23 through Sunday September 26, 2021.
There will be a Camp Bristol Workshop on Friday,
September 24, 2021 from 9AM to 10:30AM at the 2
King Street Conference Room. Members are cordially
invited to attend to receive current information on the
progress at Camp Bristol and future events.

Camp Bristol Inaugural Wounded Warrior Campfest Sponsors

(Continued from Camp Bristol Page 1)

Joan Carlo-Watertown Lodge #496), Richard Sawyer of VFW Post
8766 of Napeles, NY, Raymond and Anita Hawkins of Rochester
Lodge #24, Barbara Markowitz-Kuipers of Rochester Lodge #24,
and Superior Plus Propane. The Camp Bristol Committee extends
a sincere thank you to everyone that donated to the 2021 Wounded
Warrior Campfest.

Camp Bristol Update

Pictured below are some recent pictures taken at Camp Bristol that illustrate the scenic views at the camp grounds. To view additional pictures from Camp Bristol, please visit the New York Elks Camp Bristol website or the NY Elks Camp Bristol Facebook page. The Camp Bristol website contains an archive of pictures taken at Camp Bristol. When visiting the website, just click on Gallery in the menu to view the pictures. Thank you for your support of Camp Bristol.





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



Tampa, Florida

The 157th Grand Lodge Session of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was held July 4th-July 3th, 2021 in Tampa, Florida. The 158th Grand Lodge Convention is scheduled for July 3rd-July 6th, 2022 in Atlanta, Georgia. Following the cancellation of the 2019 Grand Lodge convention, the State Association members in attendance enjoyed this years convention and the opportunity to re-connect with friends from around the state and country. The convention activities began with the Opening Ceremony on Sunday, July 4th. During the opening ceremony, Past Grand Exalted Ruler and his wife Penny were introduced along with other Past Grand Exalted Rulers and spouses that were attending the convention. State President Barry Griffith had the honor of carrying and presenting the New York State Flag during the flag presentation ceremony. Past State President Paul C. Galarneau served as his escort during the flag presentation. At each session, Reverend Michael Martini, Grand Lodge Chaplain, delivered the Invocation and Benediction.

Our State Association had several highlights during the convention. Past Exalted Ruler Edgar Manwaring of Oswego Lodge #271 once again served as Session Coordinator. This marked the 28th year that Edgar has worked at the Grand Lodge Convention. State Association Awards announced during the GL Business sessions were; Empire State Elk with a Five Star Award for Publication Excellence, Vestal Lodge #2508 for 3rd place in the Division 3 of the Community Project Contest, The following State Association members will represent the NYSEA as Grand Lodge representatives during the in 2021-2022 Fraternal Year; Past State President Bruce Hidley—Grand Lodge Trustee and Special Representative, Past State President Dan Capella— Area 1 Government Relations and Reverend Michael Martini—Grand Chaplain. The Honorable Vito Caruso was recognized with a Resolution honoring his retirement as Grand Forum Chief Justice. The Resolution was featured in the Newsletter on Tuesday, July 6, 2021. Also, Reverend Michael Martini was recognized in a Resolution of Appreciation that was also featured in the Grand Lodge Convention Newsletter on Tuesday, July 6, 2021. During the closing session on Wednesday, July 7th, 2021, newly installed Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills installed the following State Association members as a District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler: David Barr (Central District), Jack Stein (East District), Edward J. Wilhelm (East Central District), John Lawless (Mid-Hudson District), Lee Pray (North District), Joseph Spriggs (North Central District), Timothy Reed (North Hudson District), Renee Bott (Northeast District), Thomas Kanaley (Ontario District), Cristane Autorino (South District), James Russell (South Central District), Michael J. Boller (Southeast District), Jamie Sisson (Southern Tier District), Norman Biegaj (Southwest District), Edward J. Rice (State Capital District), Donald Hoy (West District) and Robert P. Erway (West Central District).

In addition to Past Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr, Grand Forum Chief Justice Vito Caruso, Grand Lodge Trustee Bruce Hidley, Government Relations Committeeman Daniel Capella and State President Barry Griffith, several NYSEA Dignitaries attended the Grand Lodge Conventions. They were; Past State President Jerry Shook, Past State President Tim Kelly, Past State President Tony Gilberti, Past State President Ron Olson, Past State President Phil Holowacz, Past State President William Reedy, Past State President Stu Rishe, Pat State President Paul Galarneau, Past State President Paul C. Galarneau, Empire State Elk Editor Tim Welpé, Accident Prevention Chairperson Cam Ricci, Americanism/Flag Day Chairperson Randy Pray, Community Activities Chairperson Jamie Sisson, Elks Memorial Day Service Chairperson John Lawless, Hoop Shoot Chairperson Michael Sage, Lodge Activities Chairperson Tania DeFrank, Membership Chairperson Jeffery Largeteau, Academic Scholarship Chairperson Jay Mason, Soccer Shoot Chairperson Edward Zuzick Jr., State Convention Chairperson Edgar Manwaring, Internet/Website Chairperson Mel Oliveria, and Grand Lodge Convention Chairperson Tony Thanopoulos.

A sincere thank you is extended to our Grand Lodge Convention Committee members for their efforts prior to the convention and for organizing a very successful Hospitality Room during the convention. They are: Past State President Tony Gilberti, PDDGER Tony Thanopoulos, Past State President Tim Kelly, and Past District Deputy John Blais. And a special thank you to Helen Blais for her assistance with the Hospitality Room



NYSEA President **Barry Griffith** is pictured with then Grand Exalted Ruler Paul Ryan. State President Griffith had the honor of meeting Grand Exalted Ruler Ryan prior to the start of the Grand Lodge Convention Opening Ceremony.



NYSEA President **Barry Griffith** is pictured with his wife, First Lady Susan in front of the Dias prior to the Opening Ceremony at the 2021 Grand Lodge Convention



Reverend **Michael Martini**, Grand Chaplain, is pictured with his mother, Eileen Martini, at the Grand Lodge Convention Hall prior to the Opening Ceremony.



Past Grand Exalted Ruler **David R. Carr** and his wife Penny are pictured as they were introduced to the members in attendance at the Opening Ceremony in Tampa, Florida.

“Meeting the Challenge”



GRAND LODGE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Tampa, Florida



New York State Elks Association President **Barry Griffith** is pictured with Past Grand Exalted Ruler **David R. Carr**, Grand Lodge Trustee/ Special Representative **Bruce Hidley** and Past State Present **Paul C. Galameau** prior to the Opening Session at the Grand Lodge Convention.



Grand Lodge Trustee/Special Representative **Bruce Hidley** and his wife **Helen** are pictured with Past Grand Exalted Ruler **David R. Carr** and his wife **Penny** following the Opening Ceremony at the Grand Lodge Convention.



Past State President **Paul C. Galameau** is pictured with Reverend **Michael Martini**, Reverend Michaels mother **Eileen Martini** and his parents, Past State President **Paul Galameau** and his wife **Cathy Galameau** following the Opening Ceremony at the Grand Lodge Convention .



New York State Elks Association Convention Director **Edgar Manwaring** has served as a member of the Grand Lodge Convention Committee for 28 years, as a Session Coordinator. He is pictured prior to the start of the Opening ceremony.



Vestal Lodge #2508 took third place honors in the 2020-2021 Grand Lodge Community Project Contest. Lodge member **Michael Sage**, who serves as State Hoop Shoot Chairperson, is pictured accepting the award on behalf of the Lodge from Michael B. Bryant, Grand Lodge Activities Committee, Area 3.



The Members of the **Northeast District** had the honor of having a group picture taken with Grand Exalted ruler T. Keith Mills and his wife, First Lady Amy following the General Business Session on Tuesday, July 6, 2021. Prior to the picture, Grand Exalted Mills signed membership cards and he and his wife provided their respective pins to the members .



During the Grand Lodge Convention, Past District Deputy **John Nuzzi**, Past District Deputy **Mark Stuparich** and Exalted Ruler **Michael Boller** had the opportunity to meet and have a picture taken with Past Grand Exalted Ruler **David R. Carr** and his wife Penny and Past Grand Exalted Ruler **Michael Zellen**.



Grand Lodge Convention Housing Director **Tony Thanopoulos**, Reverend **Michael Martini**, Grand Chaplain and Grand Lodge Trustee/Special Representative **Bruce Hidley** are pictured in front of the Dias prior to the Grand Lodge Convention Closing Session.



GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY

TAMPA, FLORIDA





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY

TAMPA, FLORIDA





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY

TAMPA, FLORIDA





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY TAMPA, FLORIDA



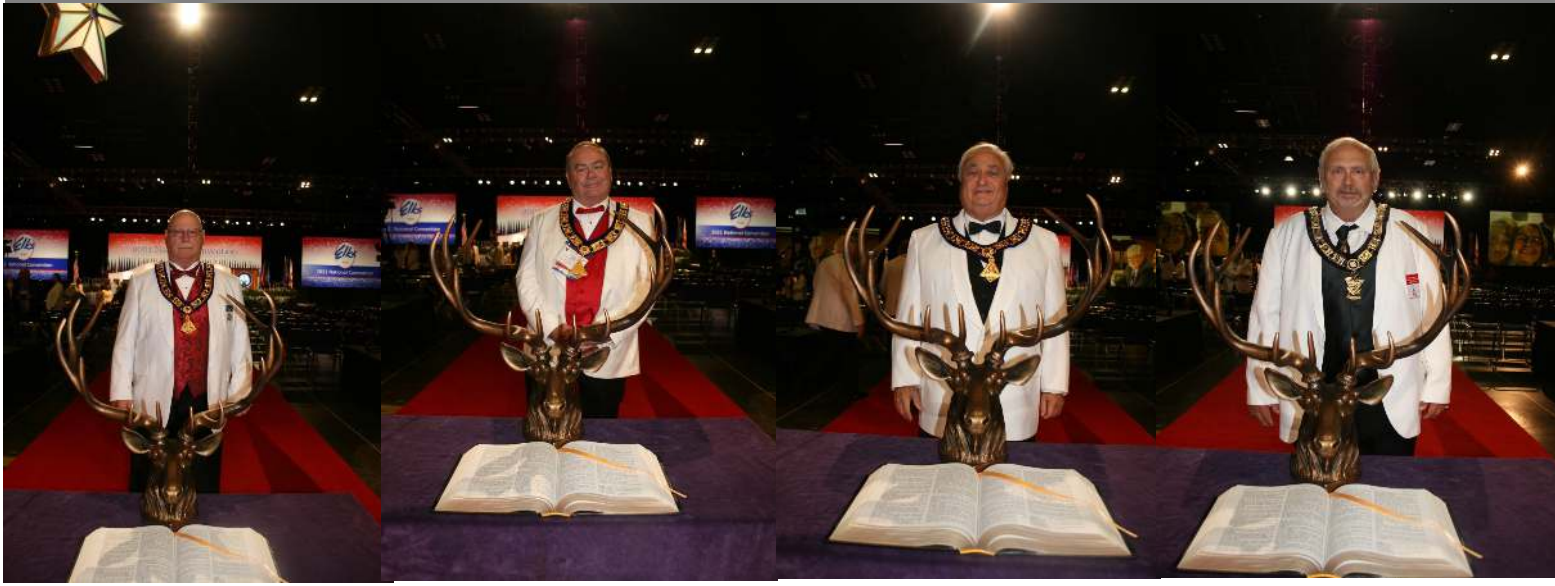


GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY TAMPA, FLORIDA





**NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION
DISTRICT DEPUTIES**



**EDWARD WILHELM
EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**EDWARD RICE
STATE CAPITAL DISTRICT**

**JACK STEIN
EAST DISTRICT**

**NORM BIAGAJ
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**

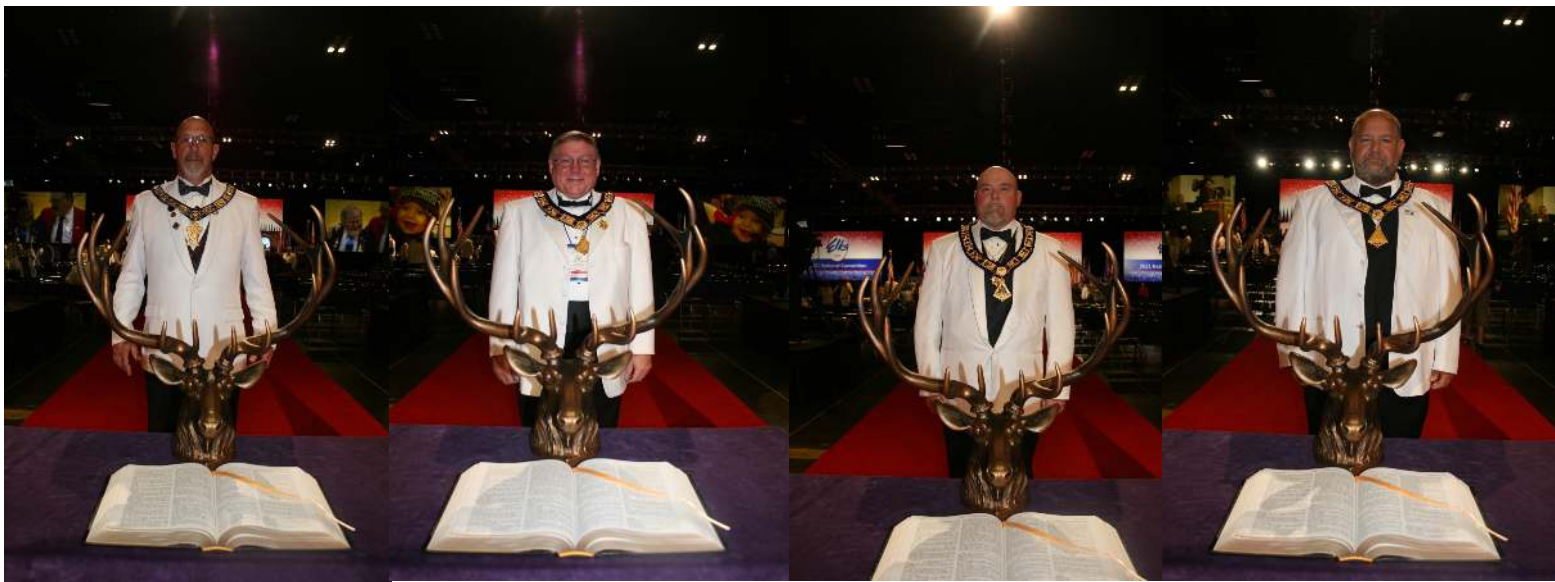


**LEE PRAY
NORTH DISTRICT**

**ROBERT ERWAY
WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**JAMES RUSSELL
SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**JOSEPH SPRIGGS
NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT**



**JAMIE SISSION
SOUTHERN TIER DISTRICT**

**DAVID BARR
CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**JOHN LAWLESS
MID-HUDSON DISTRICT**

**DONALD HOY
WEST DISTRICT**



**TIMOTHY REED
NORTH HUDSON DISTRICT**

**RENEE BOTT
NORTHEAST DISTRICT**

**MICHAEL BOLLER
SOUTHEAST DISTRICT**

**THOMAS KANALEY
ONTARIO DISTRICT**

“Meeting the Challenge”



NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION DISTRICT DEPUTIES



CRISTANE AUTERINO
SOUTH DISTRICT



The NYSEA District Deputy Designates for the Fraternal year 2021-2022 took time for a group picture just prior to the Installation Ceremony with Grand Lodge Trustee and Special Representative Bruce Hidley. A short time later they took the oath of office as a District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler



T. Keith Mills
GRAND EXALTED RULER
2021-2022
"Meeting the Challenge"



John Lawless of Haverstraw Lodge #877 (Mid-Hudson District), **Michael J. Boller** of New York Lodge #1 (Southeast District) and **Jack Stein** of Huntington Lodge #1565 (East District) are pictured prior to the District Deputy Installation at the Grand Lodge closing ceremony in Tampa, Florida. A short while later they were installed as District Deputies.



Edward Wilhelm of Ellenville Lodge #1971 (East Central District), **Norm Biagaj** of Olean Lodge #491 (Southwest District) and **Thomas Kanaley** of Syracuse Lodge #33 are pictured having a casual talk prior to the District Deputy Installation at the closing ceremony, Florida.



Renee Bott of Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317 (Northeast District) and **James Russell** of Homer Lodge #2508 (South Central District) are pictured as they take their oath of office as a District Deputy during the District Deputy Initiation at the closing ceremony.



Cristane Autorino of Brewster Lodge #2101 (South District) and **Timothy Reed** of Catskill Lodge #1341 (North Hudson District) are pictured as they take their oath of office as a District Deputy during the District Deputy Installation at the closing ceremony.



Lee Pray of Keeseville Lodge #2072 (North District), **David Barr** of Utica Lodge #33 (Central District), **Tom Kanaley** of Syracuse Lodge #33, **Edward Wilhelm** of Ellenville Lodge #1971 (East Central District) and **Norm Biagaj** of Olean Lodge #491 (Southwest District) are pictured as they take their oath of office as a District Deputy during the District Deputy Installation at the closing ceremony.



Joseph Spriggs of Ogdensburg Lodge #772 (North Central District), **Robert Erway** of Seneca Falls Lodge #992 (West Central District) and **Jamie Sisson** of Penn Yan Lodge #1722 (Southern Tier District) are pictured as they take their oath of office as a District Deputy during the District Deputy Installation at the closing ceremony.

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(Glens Falls #81)
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(Cohoes-Waterford #1317)

THE EMPIRE STATE ELK PUBLICATION

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Photographs that accompany submitted articles may be rejected for poor quality, poor contrast, ect. Photos that reference or display alcohol, gambling and non-Elk activities will not be considered. Photos printed on personal computer printers are not suitable for newsprint reproduction and thus will not be considered. Photos sent in JPEG and PDF formats are acceptable. Please send photos and articles to your District Editor.

Members who do not receive the Empire State Elk should contact their Lodge Secretary. Address changes or corrections should be sent to your Subordinate Lodge Secretary. The Lodge Secretary should correct the Lodge records and inform the Grand Lodge of the change. Please note the Editor of the Empire State Elk has no authority to make changes to the mailing list.

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