



EMPIRE STATE ELK

Official Publication of the New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc.
Summer 2020 Issue



STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PAUL C. GALARNEAU
2020-2021
“Making a Difference In Our Communities”

My Fellow Elks,

This year has definitely been a different year for all us. I hope that you and your family are safe and finding your way through these difficult and unprecedented times. COVID has taken away so many things from our personal and professional lives already, that doesn't mention what it has done to our lives with the Elks.

Unfortunately, both our State Convention in the spring and our Fall Convention in the fall needed to be cancelled for this year, as well as our National Convention. Our State Officers, State Vice Presidents and State Trustees, all needed to be installed in their local districts and not as a group as we had hoped. Our District Deputies were installed via a Zoom meeting and not on the floor of the Grand Lodge. Our Local Lodge Officers needed to be installed with social distancing enforced and no celebrations could be had. I was installed in my District and it was shown live on Facebook, my message was given in front of the few guests that were able to attend in person, but was able to be viewed by many more.

Although our Installations were not as planned, this doesn't diminish the accomplishments of these Officers or the work that needs to be accomplished this year by them or our Lodges. Our communities need our Lodges more than ever before and it is so encouraging to see the work that you are all putting forth and getting assistance out to those who need it most.

My motto for this year is **“Making a Difference in our Community”**. To me, this is the main purpose of our Lodges, giving back and helping where needed. Our communities are hurting and our neighbors need to know that we are there for them. Be the shining light for all of them to see!!

This year will have is sure to be unique, but our programs must continue move forward. Our State Major Project per capita is still \$8.00 per member and we are looking to see all our Lodges achieve this goal. Although we cannot operate as “business as usual”, we can think innovatively and come up with new ways to reach all of our goals.

The work at Camp Bristol is proceeding nicely, the camp committee has done a fantastic job with fixing up the property and getting it ready for campers. Please take the time to see the progress and look to your Lodge or District to host a fundraiser to help the Camp get up and running.

The Elks National Foundation has raised the Per Capita goal to \$4.80 per member this year. They have also changed some of the requirement for the Grants they give out. Lodges, please use these Grants in your community, this is an extremely easy way to **“Make a Difference in our Community”**.

“As long as there are Veterans, the Elks will never forget them.” I believe that says it all. I know that due to the virus we are unable to visit the VA Hospitals and Homes, but that doesn't mean that there isn't work to be done. Again, think of new ways to be there for our Veterans, they need to know how appreciated they are and that we are still here for them.

Although our Hoop Shoot and Soccer Shoot programs are postponed this year, reimagine these important events and bring new life to them for next year. How can we improve these events, make them more attractive to our youth and their parents? How can we bring some excitement to them? What can we add to it?

That brings me to membership. At the moment of this message, our state-wide delinquency rate is over 16%. We have to find a way to bring that number way down. These are our members, we got them to become members, now we need to do the work together to get them on our rolls. The mandated shutdown at our Lodges didn't help and the lack of activity is a cause, but as we are able to slowly open our Lodges back up, it is time to bring our members back home. Let them know how much they are missed and how much they are needed.

There is an opportunity for our Lodges to see an influx of membership from our communities. People are looking to get out of their homes and become more active. We should again look to be innovative and find ways to connect with these potential members of our order. There is something in all of our programs or our events that everyone can find interesting, it is up to each one of us to promote the Lodge in an attractive manner and bring in new membership. New membership can bring new life and energy into our Lodges.

While some of our District visits have been postponed, it does look like some will be happening as scheduled. Whenever we get the chance, Kristen and I look forward to meeting all of you, visiting your Lodges and Districts. We look forward to seeing the great work you all do and we look forward to learning about how your Lodge is **“Making a Difference in our Community”**.

I hope that enjoy what is left of your summer and we will see you soon!!

Fraternally,
Paul C Galarneau



On Saturday, May 16th at 4pm, **Paul C. Galarneau** was installed as the NYS Elks State President along with State Vice President Robert Lumpkins and State Trustee Thomas Waring at the Clifton Park Elks by Past Grand Tiler Paul A. Galarneau. District attendees arrived in a car parade lead by Exalted Ruler Richard Hogan and his wife Regina. During the ceremony, Past State President Brian Greene received his past state president pin from Grand Trustee Bruce Hidley. Past State President Michael Bloss served as Master of Ceremonies. **Paul C. Galarneau** is pictured, with gavel in hand, as he proudly receives a congratulatory handshake from his father, Past State President and Past Grand Tiler Paul Galarneau after being sworn in as the New York State Elks Association President for the 2020-2021 Fraternal Year. State President Paul is a member of Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317. The Initiation Ceremony for State President Paul was coordinated by the members of the Northeast District.. The installation ceremony was broadcast live on the NYSEA Facebook page. NYSEA President Paul's motto is “Making a Difference in Our Communities”. He is pictured below with NYSEA First Lady Kristen.



Paul C. Galarneau & First Lady Kristen
New York State Elks Association
President 2020 - 2021

Making a Difference In Our Community



“MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY”

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(Monticello #1544)
PSP Stuart Rische (2018)
(Ogdensburg #772)
PSP Brian Greene (2019)
(Glens Falls #81)

THE EMPIRE STATE ELK PUBLICATION

The Empire State Elk is published quarterly (bi-annually on newsprint and bi-annually in electronic format) and is financed by the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc. The Empire State Elk is circulated to all members of New York State Lodges to promote our program goals and objectives by reporting on lodge, state and national programs developed to enhance patriotism, and provide assistance to our veterans, the disabled, youth, elderly, victims of disaster and others in need. This publication will take no partisan stands or furnish space for political, sectarian or personal prejudice.

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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Notice to All Members:

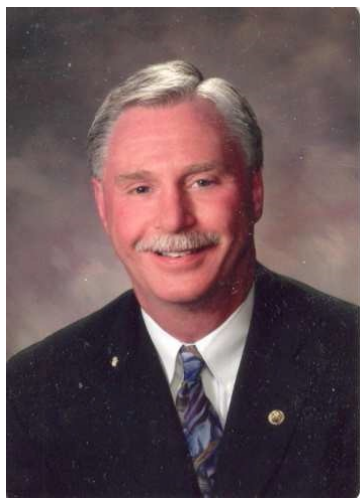
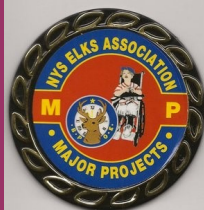
The 2020 NYS Elks Tournament Bowling Committee has sent checks to all lodges to refund in full those who paid for bowling in the cancelled tournament. Individuals will need to contact their lodge to arrange for their refund. We thank you for your patience during this unusual and difficult times. Hopefully, we will be able to get together again in 2021 when Oswego hosts the tournament.

Fraternally yours,

New York State Elks Bowling Committee



NEW YORK STATE ELK ASSOCIATION MAJOR PROJECT



**PAST STATE PRESIDENT
JAMIE PEACE
Major Project Message
Summer 2020**

I hope everyone is staying safe during this incredible upheaval. As New York Elks, it has changed how we will meet the need of our membership, and all of the people and youth we assist. Our Major Project Home Service Program is working to help and make sure the consumers that they serve have the support that they all need during the pandemic. The Home Service Directors have been working around the clock helping the developmentally disabled under their agencies. As we all know this is very difficult for us but think how difficult this must be for the disabled. The Home Service Directors are there to help not only the consumers but their families as well. This is why your per capita donations of \$8.00 are so important. Many of the duties that the Home Service Directors perform would not be possible as government dollars are not permitted for many of their duties. State Major Project Chairman David Brown is working tirelessly to help assist all District and Lodge chairpersons to make our state goal of \$400,000 for the 2020-2021 Lodge year. Chairman Brown, along with the Major Projects Board know that with many fundraisers cancelled, your lodges will have to find new and creative ways to raise money for our Major Project. With the cancellation of our Spring Convention in May, Chairman Brown could not announce to our membership that we did meet our goal by raising \$400,000. Thank you to the entire membership and State Chairman Brownie for making this possible to help make lives better for our developmentally disabled within our affiliates.

Despite the cancellation of our Fall Conference in Albany, the Major Projects Board still met via teleconference and awarded nine special grants to our affiliates and one to a disability program in Ticonderoga. Unfortunately, the Board was unable to award two affiliates' grant requests due to incomplete submissions. The Board received eleven grant requests, with nine grants being awarded. Each year at least one grant request will receive the total asking amount for a maximum of \$5,000. This year the Major Projects Board awarded four grants for the total amount requested. Here are the Grant Award winners and the amounts awarded:

Access CNY	\$2,500
CP of Westchester	\$3,225
Adapt Community Network	\$3,500
*CP Unlimited	\$5,000
*UCP of Long Island (Suffolk)	\$3,800
Prospect Center	\$600
*Empower	\$2,500
*Gavras Center	\$1,000
Ticonderoga Program	<u>\$2,875</u>
TOTAL	\$25,000

In addition to the \$25,000 in Special Grant Awards, the Major Projects Corporation provides the funding for the Home Service Directors' wages of \$426,730. We also provide \$30,000 annually to assist with the purchase of three vehicles. With the Grant Awards, wages, and funding for vehicles, we give \$481,730 annually to help people with developmental disabilities. None of this would be possible without the participation from the entire membership with fundraising efforts.

The New York Elks Major Projects, Inc. is continuing to work on our Planned Giving opportunities to ensure the long-term commitment of our agreement with the Cerebral Palsy Association of New York, Inc. through the Home Service Program. The Planned Giving program will also keep our commitment to our Veterans and youth. The Bequest and Living Trust Program (BLT) will help to make sure these programs are here for our future. There are many ways this will be made possible through:

Bequests: Including the New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc. in your will can be a very simple process. You retain control of your assets during your life and at the same time, make a significant future gift.

Charitable Trusts: Trusts can be a very good way to make a gift to the New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc. and also benefit your heirs.

Life Insurance: An excellent way to make a significant and typically low-cost long-term gift to the New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc. is through a gift of life insurance.

Retirement Assets: By designating the New York Major Projects, Inc. as recipient of any benefits remaining in your retirement plan.

There are a number of ways to make a gift to the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc. a part of your legacy. Many of these options will not only benefit the New York State Major Projects, Inc., but can also provide benefits to you and your loved ones in the form of tax incentives, income in your retirement years, or a number of other advantages. We hope that through careful financial planning, you will find the option that will work best for you and the New York State Major Projects, Inc.

In keeping with State President Paul's motto "*Making a Difference in our Community*", let's all get creative and make sure that all of our programs continue, even with all of the current upheaval in our lives. Stay safe and smart.



In April, after not being able to get a haircut, PDDGER and Hornell Lodge Secretary Howard Nisbet III came up with an idea to raise money. In what he called the 'Covid-19 Haircut Challenge', he decided to not get a haircut of any kind or shave until a phase came about whereby our Elks Lodge could reopen. Howard asked for \$20.00 pledges to be split between ENF and NYS MP. He personally pledged \$100.00 to treat all at the haircut party with pizza and wings from the lodge kitchen. Not only did this raise money, it also generated interest in the lodge and kept some members engaged in what was going on. This added to them buying takeout meals when we were allowed to that. During the challenge time, Howard received dues from twelve members who came to pledge money for the fundraiser, six membership applications and two reinstatement forms. So this fundraiser was successful in several ways. The grand total raised was \$500.00, with ENF and NYS MP each receiving \$250 donations. Howard is pictured above before and after the haircut and getting his hair cut by Christina Kuhn, who is the Hornell lodge treasurer as well as a professional hairdresser.



Guilderland Lodge #2480 recently held a food/pet food/essentials drive to support the Guilderland Food Pantry. Due to the generosity of Members and the community, Guilderland Lodge was able to donate over 800 lbs of food, pet food and household essentials plus \$550 in monetary donations. In conjunction with the food drive, another drive was held for bottles and cans, with those proceeds going to Major Projects. Still counting bottles/cans but it should be in the neighborhood of \$300 for Major Projects. Pictures are of just a small amount of the food donated.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



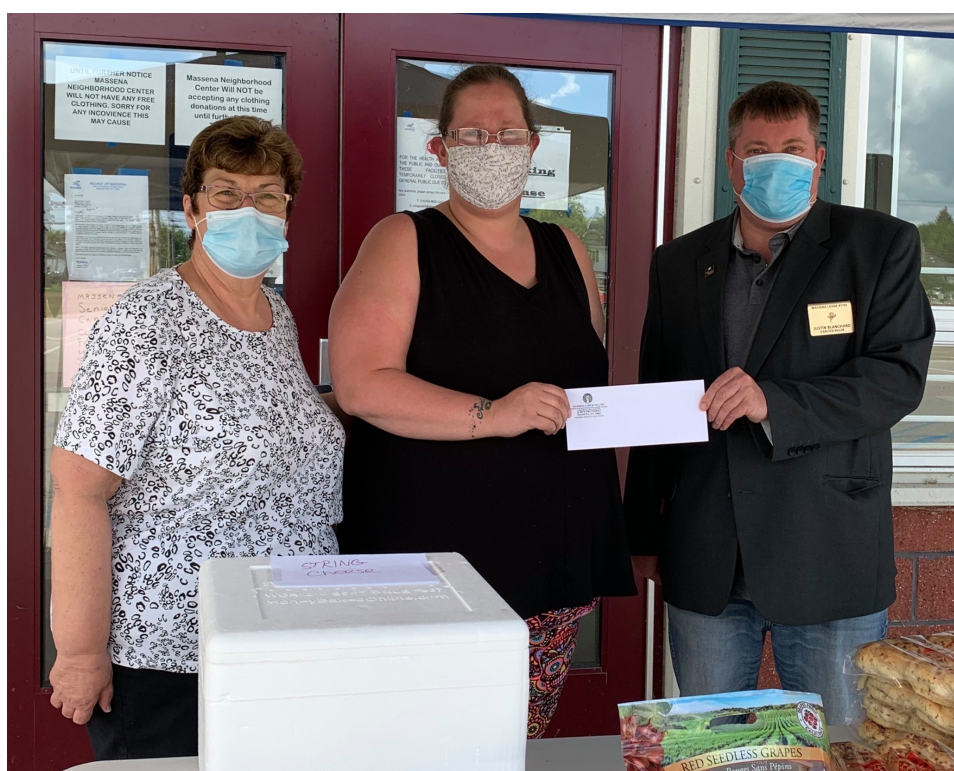
Corning Elks Lodge #1071 used the Spotlight Grant, in memory of Charlie Warunek, PER, who passed away in April from Covid-19. The grant was given to All Saints Parish, of which Charlie was a devoted and a very active member for a number of years. Working with All Saints Parish, we were able to identify four families in our community who have been impacted directly by COVID-19. Lodge members and members of Charlie's family, shopped for clothing and food items for each of the four (4) families. They included; Michelle Rease, Laurie Baravalle, Tim Wilson, CC Wilson, Mary Warunek, Dave Warunek, Sharon and Russell Miller and Bob and Marianne Kosty. After the shopping exercise, Corning Lodge members met the four families in the Lodge parking lot to transfer the goods over to each of the families. To say they were astounded and grateful is beyond anything you could imagine. All cars were filled to the rim with packages of food and clothing items identified as a need by family members.



Boonville Lodge donated \$2,500 to the Utica based Feed Our Vets program. Exalted Ruler Jody Lynn Henry announced that the Boonville Elks Lodge #2158, under the direction of Lodge Grant Coordinator Gary Dubinsky, was able to secure a "Freedom" Grant "from the Elks National Foundation. Boonville Lodge chose to use the grant in support of local Veterans in need. Army Veteran and Lodge member Rich Kaufman is pictured as he presented the check to the leaders of the group. The Feed Our Vets program has provided free food assistance up to area Veterans and their family members. Feed Our Vets mission is to help Veterans in the United States and their spouses and children, whose circumstances have left them on the battlefield of hunger. 100% of their funds come from private donors. The Boonville Elks is proud to support this organization that assists Veterans in their local area. Pictured L to R: are Carl Davis Army Retired; Joe Ancona, FOV Pantry Director and Army Retired; Rich Synek, FOV Director, and Navy Veteran; and Rich Kaufman, Elk Member and Army Veteran.



Using a Gratitude Grant, **Massena Lodge #1702** was able to donate \$2500 to local food pantries that have seen a significant increase in requests for families needing supplemental food since the onset of COVID-19. Exalted Ruler Justin Blanchard and grant author Roxanne Roberts are pictured as they presented a check for \$1250 to Pete LaFrance, President of Saint Vincent de Paul.



Massena Lodge #1702 used proceeds from an ENF (Elks National Foundation) Gratitude Grant and donated \$2500 to several local food pantries that have seen a significant increase in requests for families needing supplemental food since the onset of COVID-19. Exalted Ruler Justin Blanchard and grant author Roxanne Roberts are pictured as they presented a check for \$1250 to Emily LaShomb, Executive Director of the Massena Neighborhood Center. .

NYSEA 2019-2020 Division Per Capita Winners

- Division 1—Webster-Fairport Lodge #2396 \$23.51 per member**
- Division 2—Camillus Lodge #2367 \$18.69 per member.**
- Division 3—Rensselaer Lodge #2073 \$21.12 per member**
- Division 4—Bath Lodge #1547 \$8.03 per member**
- Division 5—Rotterdam Lodge #2157 \$12.90 per member**

GRAND LODGE NEWS BEACON GRANTS

On August 1, Beacon Grants became available to every Lodge in the amount of \$3,500—a 40 percent increase over last year's grant amount.

Typically, Beacon Grants must be used for active projects. But, since nothing is what it was, we've built in flexibility for Lodges to meet pressing needs in their own backyards. Here's how we are relaxing Beacon Grant guidelines.

Keep on keepin' on. If the Lodge can continue its regular Beacon Grant project with safety precautions, fantastic.

Nope, not safe. If an active Elks-led project isn't feasible, donations will be considered to the partner organization the Lodge usually works with, or to an organization providing COVID relief.

Change it up. If a Lodge would like to pause its regular Beacon Grant project to do a COVID-19 relief project, we're all for it.

Split it up. From the beginning, the Beacon Grant has only been allowed for one annual project. This year, it can be split between up to two projects.

Merge it. With just the click of a button on the Grants Dashboard, the Lodge can opt to merge their Spotlight Grant with their Beacon Grant, making a total of \$5,500 available for a Beacon Grant project.

Grand Lodge announced back in the pre-pandemic days of late February that the Beacon Grants were set to be \$3,000 for FY2021. However, by suspending both Promise Grants and new Impact Grants, Grand Lodge can offer Beacon Grants at \$3,500. With the increased grant amount and built-in flexibility, Grand Lodge is confident that Lodges will continue to rise to the occasion and help communities where it's needed most.

If your Lodge is using a Beacon Grant to serve veterans and military members in need, it must focus on one of these five areas of increased need.

- Employment
- Homelessness and Housing
- Military Families
- Health
- Educational Support

Please visit the veterans webpage for more information.

Binghamton Lodge #70 used a \$2500 ENF Gratitude Grant to help several of their local nonprofit organizations. They donated \$1000 to Mercy House of the Southern Tier, which is a community care shelter which provides a home and a supportive family to people with terminal illnesses who can no longer remain at home; \$1000 to the Binghamton Rescue Mission, which provides affordable housing for homeless men & women; and \$500 to the Binghamton Boys & Girls Club. The lodge also used a \$2500 Freedom Grant to help their local veterans. Part of the grant was used to buy a canopy for the residents in the Memory Care Unit at the Oxford Veterans Home. The remainder of the grant was used to help fund several activities for the residents. In other news, the lodge hosted a Red Cross community blood drive. With a total of 19 donors, 57 lives will be saved!



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Members of **Beacon Lodge #1493** visited the City of Beacon Fire Company to donate a check of \$300.00 from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. The monies donated are going specifically to a Stuffed Animal program that they have. The BFD has a small stuffed animal giveaway program for children at emergency incidents. These small stuffed animals can make a difference during a critical time to them or someone on the scene. Pictured during the donation presentation are (left to right): Fire Fighters Eric Schmidt, Matt Smith, Robert Simmonds Jr., Ronald Arrigno, Past Exalted Ruler/State Trustee Barbara Farber, Exalted Ruler Ron Piga, Fire Chief Gary Van Voorhis and Past Exalted Ruler Atilano Rivers Jr.

Beacon Lodge #1493 used part of a \$2500 Gratitude Grant to donate \$250 to Abilities First School. Their goal is to provide people with disabilities and their families support to attain independence, self-determination, integration, and acceptance by others through education, exploration and experience. Pictured are: center Melissa McCoy, Chief Advancement Officer Abilities First, to her left Ron Piga Exalted Ruler, and to her right ENF Lodge Chairman and PER Atilano Rivera, Jr.



Historic **Peekskill Lodge #744** recently donated the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to The Pantry at Mt Carmel- Enough is a Feast in Verplank, New Yprk. These funds will help sustain the Pantry for an entire year. Exalted Ruler Michelle Denault and Lodge ENF chair Kathleen Spencer are pictured as they presented a donation in the amount of \$3,500 to several Pantry Volunteers.

Rochester Lodge #24 used proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Grant to support a local food bank in need. Member Jim Holman is pictured as he presented a \$2000 check on behalf of the Rochester Elks Lodge to Jessica Sund, Director of Development and Communications for Channel 1 Food Bank.



Peekskill Lodge #744 used an Elks National Foundation Spotlight grant to purchase 51 complete sets of dinnerware to be distributed to recently homeless Veterans by the My Brother Vinny organization. Lodge members shopped for and recently delivered all the sets. Pictured delivering the set of dinnerware are (from left to right): Esteemed Lecturing Knight Mary Sokerka, Exalted Ruler Michelle Denault and ENF chairman Kathleen Spence

Johnson City Lodge #2821 used a SPOTLIGHT Grant from the Elks National Foundation to make a \$2000 donation to C.H.O.W. (their local food pantry), which was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Lodge members Alicia Beck; Jim Sicignano, ER; Scott Dow; and ENF Chairman Russell Ryan made a check presentation to CHOW Director Les Alsworth.

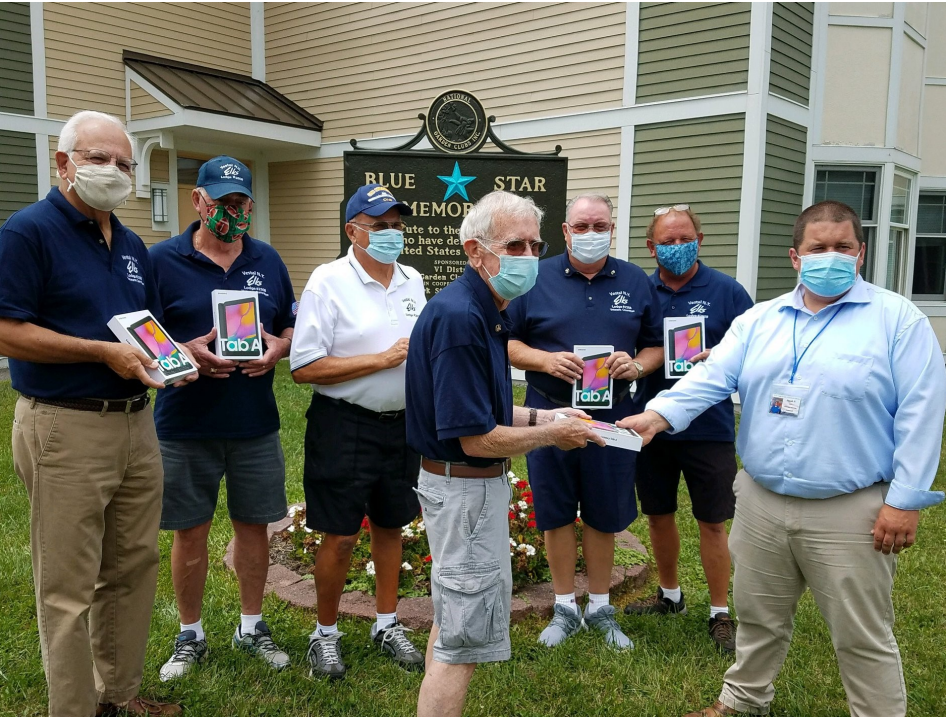
Lodge volunteers from the **Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161** Senior Outreach Committee delivered food to 41 seniors living at both the Embury Senior Apartments and Stonequist Senior Apartments. In total, 492 meals were delivered. This was made possible through proceeds the Lodge used from an Elks National Foundation Impact Grant. Pictured is Past Exalted Ruler David Waghorn during a delivery.

NYSEA 2019-2020 ENF Division Chair Challenge Winners

- Division 1 Timothy Sayers Owego Lodge #1039 431.00**
- Division 2 Paul C. Galarneau Cohoes-Watford Lodge # 1317 630.50**
- Division 3 Jelena Barnes Homer Lodge #2506 837.50**
- Division 4 Vicki Rowe Oswego Lodge #271 389.50**
- Division 5 John Lawless Haverstraw Lodge #877 706.00**



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Vestal Lodge #2508 used a \$2500 Freedom Grant to buy 16 tablets for the residents at the Oxford Veterans Home. This donation will enable the Veterans to communicate with loved ones during the ongoing pandemic shutdown. Pictured are Lodge Veterans Committee Members Chuck Yoko, Fuzzy Fowler, Duane Horton, Ernie Miscione, Bob Liberty, along with Exalted Ruler John Pooler as they presented the tablets to Noah P. Davis, Assistant Administrator for Oxford Veterans Home.



Ogdensburg Lodge #772 used the proceeds from a \$2000 Gratitude Grant to assist area food pantries. The grant was procured by Past Exalted Ruler Val Testani. North Central District Deputy Joe Spriggs is pictured presenting a donation on behalf of Ogdensburg Lodge to Captain Mark DeVanney of the Ogdensburg Salvation Army.



Scotia-Glenville Lodge #2759 donated proceeds from a \$2000 Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant to the Schenectady Inner City Ministry. The grant will be used to assist the organization with carrying out their daily work in a safe and CDC compliant setting. Pictured is Lodge grant chair Deb Kruk with staff at SICM during the donation presentation.



Ogdensburg Lodge #772 used the proceeds from a \$2000 Gratitude Grant to assist area food pantries. The grant was procured by Past Exalted Ruler Val Testani. North Central District Deputy Joe Spriggs is pictured presenting a donation on behalf of Ogdensburg Lodge to Andrew Miller of the Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center,



Massena Lodge #1702 used proceeds from a Spotlight Grant made a \$2000 donation to the Free Lunch Program sponsored by the First United Methodist Church. The program offers a free takeout lunch to people facing family hunger which has worsened through the economic impact of COVID-19. The program started in April and continues to serve over 400 lunches weekly. ER Justin Blanchard and grant author Roxanne Roberts are pictured as they presented the check to Methodist Church Volunteers Becki Glover, Karen Murray, Kathy Perry and Sue Plante.

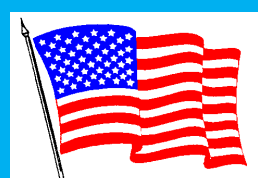


Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 used proceeds from a Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to support local food pantries. Exalted Ruler Ron Piga kept busy visiting local food pantries in this time of need. He is pictured with Lodge volunteers Anthony Spaziani and Lenny Kulk along with Mid-Hudson District VAVS Deputy Atilano Rivera, Jr. as they dropped off a trunk full of supplies for the food pantry at Castle Point Veterans Medical Center.



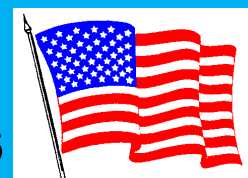
Beacon Lodge #1493 used proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to support the Beacon Community Kitchen. Exalted Ruler Ron Piga, Mike Shabanie, Nubia Gomez, Irish Dangelo, and Tina Kelliher are pictured at the Beacon Community Kitchen. The lodge also used the Gratitude Grant to present funds to the Fishkill Food Pantry. (Picture to the left)

Vestal Lodge #2508 used a \$2500 Gratitude Grant to donate \$1250 each to the "Lourdes Foundation" and to the "UHS COVID-19 Community Response Fund" to help those affected by the COVID-19 virus. Lodge members formed a "Project Sunshine" group that sent out cards and called members on a weekly basis to those members who were alone or elderly. The group also helped out by dropping off groceries, supplies, and medical prescriptions to members who were considered "high risk" or weren't able to get out.



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

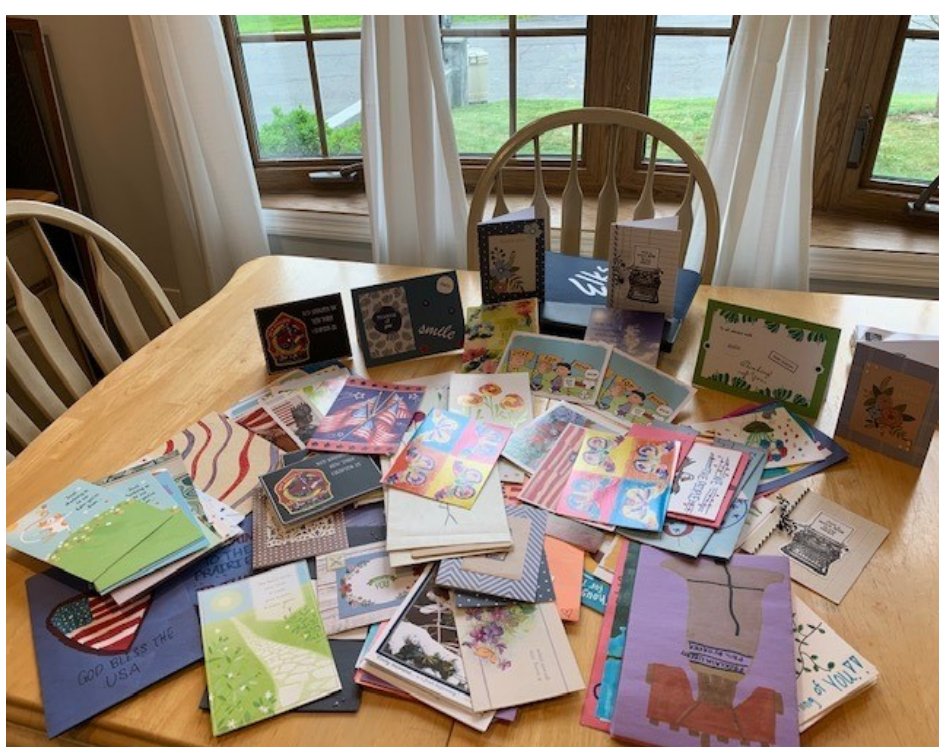
SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



The members of **Huntington Lodge** have continued to present local residents with Flag Flying Awards in anticipation of Labor Day Weekend. Pictured here are members of the O'Connor family of Melville, as they are presented with their award, along with a small gift of appreciation that they received for routinely flying their well-lit flag every day.



The **Poughkeepsie Lodge #275** Veterans Service Committee recently donated \$1,000.00 to the MHA Dutchess Veterans Programs (Vet2Vet) and \$2,000.00 to the Hudson Valley Veterans Alliance. Both organizations directly assist local veterans and their families. Due to the pandemic, these are the first real donations either has received all year. Pictured presenting the two checks are: Past District Deputy and Veterans Service Committee Chairman Ray Strohm, and Elk member and Veteran Anthony Kavouras, who is heavily involved with both organizations.



The Veterans Service Chairpersons in the **Northeast District** helped collect "Thinking of You" cards from members, friends of members, community members and Girl Scouts. The cards were then delivered to the VAVS Representative Ed Baniak, who in turn provided the cards to the Veterans at the Albany Stratton VA Hospital. \$250 was also collected to purchase canteen books to be handed out with the cards.



Recent Southamptton High School graduates were recognized by the members of **Southamptton Lodge #1574** during a recent Military Enlistee Presentation Ceremony. 4 students who will be entering the military in the Fall were honored. Lodge members were pleased to present them with a 3X5 American Flag, a Lodge pin, a Certificate of Appreciation and each received a personal pocket size U.S. flag to carry with them during their service.



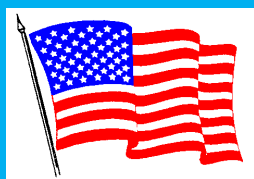
Members of **Oswego Lodge #271** took part in the placing of flags on the graves of veterans at St. Paul's Cemetery. The Lodge members have placed flags in this cemetery for the past few years on the Saturday of the Memorial Day weekend. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and not being able to gather in groups exceeding ten people, the group was smaller than in the past and were not able to have the assistance of the local Girl Scouts. Pictured at the cemetery are Exalted Ruler Tom Milam, PDDGER Dave Longley, PDDGER Jan Pashley, PER Jim Burnell, Members Debbie Burnell, Bill Ravas, Sandy Sweich and Lodge Veteran's Committee Co-chair Jim Dillabaugh,



Yorktown Lodge #2324 presented grocery gift cards to three local Navy Veterans in need. The Veterans used these gift cards to purchase needed groceries and personal items. Presentation of the gift cards was recently held at the Freedom Gardens for the Handicapped in Mohegan Lake, New York. The gift cards were arranged by Lodge Veterans Chairman Mike Adamovich and Exalted Ruler Steve Brawitsch. Pictured is Exalted Ruler Steve Brawitsch (back row third from left) along with the 3 deserving Veterans.

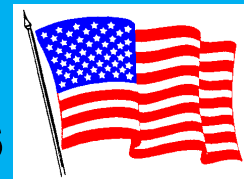
Poughkeepsie Lodge #275 Veterans Service committee donated \$300.00 worth of gift cards to the local Vet2Vet service organization. The cards will be given to local Veterans and their families experiencing hardship during the Covid-19 shutdown.

ADOPT a VETERAN—Many older veterans in hospitals, VA homes, nursing homes and care centers have limited or no family nearby. Without social engagement and positive interaction, veterans' health can suffer. The Elks family is all over the nation, and Elks volunteers can support local veterans by participating in the Adopt-a-Veterans Program and providing friendship and assistance. **Eligibility:** This program is targeted toward any veterans that are lonely or isolated. Veterans in VA hospitals, assisted care homes, community living center, retirement homes, homeless and transitional shelters, and hospital domiciliary programs are all eligible. Individuals can adopt more than one veteran, and Lodges can adopt certain floors, units or even whole facilities. **Getting Started:** VA hospitals have strict privacy laws. You may have to physically visit the hospital and make up your own list. Or, try contacting the facility's Activities Director or Social Services representative for the names of veterans. Additionally, churches, veterans groups, American Legions, VFWs or similar organizations may know a veteran in need of support.



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



Cohoes-Waterford Elks #1317 held a beautiful Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony outside of their Lodge at the Flag Poles and Monument. Exalted Ruler Richard Hogan lead the Ceremony. Lodge Esquire and PER Margaret Kehn lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Esteemed Leading Knight Jeff Matthews and Veterans Service Chairperson PER Regina Hogan carried the wreath and placed it beside the Monument. Chaplain Kevin Lysogorski said a beautiful prayer which was followed by TAPS. All of the Officers attended along with our District Sponsor. Exalted Ruler Rich Hogan and his wife Regina donated the beautiful wreath and the flowers that were planted next to the monument. Member Debbie Matthews painted the beautiful patriotic rocks and placed them near the monument. Esteemed Lecturing Knight Harold Felt's son was kind enough to take the group photo so included is a picture of him as well. Please know that we normally march proud in the Cohoes and Waterford's Memorial Day Parades, but due to the pandemic, the parades were cancelled and we knew we needed to do something to honor the military personnel who had died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.



Carthage Lodge #1762 hosted a Military Pinning Ceremony for member Tristan Hancock. As 2LT Hancock was commissioned, his father, member Adrienne N Jason Hancock, pinned on his bars. His mother, SMSGT Samantha Barker, delivered his first salute via Zoom.



The members from **Esperance Lodge #2507** put flags on the Esperance Cemetery Veterans graves. Lodge 2507 has done this every year since 2014 when Eagle Scout Logan Largeteau (son of Past District Deputy Jeff Largeteau and Exalted Ruler Melanie Largeteau) mapped out the entire cemetery and made maps of where all the Veterans graves are located. He then raised money to purchase the Veterans Cemetery markers to hold the flags. Lind Feuz from the Cemetery Board and PDDGER Jeff Largeteau and his wife ER Melanie have worked together keeping the maps and markers updated as veterans pass. Thank you to the Elks that showed up tonight to show your respect and helped place the flags. Pictured are PDDGER and Lodge Advisor Jeff Largeteau, Randy Brown, Lyza D'Eercio, Gina and John Ganther. Setting Linda Feuz (Cemetery Board), Tina Chapman, ER Melanie Largeteau. Everyone practiced social distancing and wearing our masks.



At the request of the Recreational Therapy Unit from the Northport VA Hospital, books, magazines, crayons, sketch pads and pencils, along with patriotic banners for Memorial Day, were happily delivered by members of **Huntington Lodge #1465**. Unfortunately, since the hospital is currently closed to visitors, the residents need interesting projects to entertain them. These items were requested specifically for that purpose and the Lodge members we were happy to supply them. Pictured delivering the items is Past State Vice President Jack Stein.



Past State Vice President and VAVS District Chairman Jack Stein of **Huntington Lodge #1565**, attended the dedication of a POW/MIA chair, donated to The Town of Oyster Bay Town Board. Joseph Saladino, Town Supervisor presided, along with several local veterans and other town officials. This event was very dear to Jack's heart as a Vietnam veteran himself and he was honored to be in attendance.



In celebration of Labor Day, **Huntington Lodge #1565** arranged for a holiday BBQ for the veterans of VFW Post 5942. Over 20 local veterans attended, observing proper social distancing, as they enjoyed tasty servings of hot dogs, hamburgers and several side salads, on a perfectly sunny day outside of their Post. Pictured here are some of the vets along with Past State Vice President Jack Stein. Past State Vice President Stein coordinated the event. (Picture to the left)

Sidney Lodge #2175 donated \$400 in food and supplies to the Catskill Veterans Outreach Center in Stamford. They also donated a freezer and contents of a home (inherited to a lodge member) to the center. Lodge members sorted and delivered the furniture and housewares. The center serves veterans in need for 8 surrounding counties.

Making a Difference in our Communities



New York Lodge #1 had been requested by Our Lady of Peace School for the use of the Lodge's facility for their 2020 Graduates. The NY Lodge members approved the Graduation celebration for Our Lady of Peace eight grade class and the graduation took place in the Lodge Parking lot. There were approximately 140 graduates and their guests were in attendance and twenty plus vehicles were decorated for the graduating students. Pictured at the graduation ceremony are Principle Karen Von Braunsberg, 8th Grade Teacher Ann Szalai, John M. Nuzzi Sr District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Southeast District and member of Lodge #1, as well as Exalted Ruler Lisa Moldovan and Lodge Secretary Louis H. Mohr Jr.



Guilderland Lodge #2480 with the help and donations from Lodge members, recently donated over 200 lbs of non-perishable food items and household items plus a check for \$250 from Lodge funds to the Guilderland Food Pantry to be used in these overwhelming times for local food pantries.



Lodge Officers and members of **New York Lodge #1** raised over \$1,700.00 in items that were delivered to Mount Sinai South Nassau Hospital. The items purchased were \$1,388.00 worth of goodies including nourishment bars, jerky, nuts, gum, mints, crackers, cheese its, and much more, as well as Chap Stick for all the shift workers at the Mount Sinai South Nassau Hospital. The Lodge also donated four-color pens to the staff bringing our total donations to over \$1,700.00. The idea for the fundraiser was spear headed by Past Exalter Ruler/Exalted Ruler Lisa Moldovan. Pictured during the fundraiser are Past District Deputy Frank T Hunt, Past District Deputy Mark E Stuparich, Pat Nuzzi, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler John M Nuzzi Sr., Past District Deputy Ron M. Hansen, Special Events Manager Lynne Nordone, State Vice President Brian Steckler, Lodge Secretary Louis H. Mohr Jr., Jean Hunt, Mark Head Vice President External Affairs and hospital representative and Past Exalted Ruler/Exalted Ruler Lisa Moldovan.



Homer's Elks Lodge #2506 hosted a drive-through chicken barbeque on Main Street in Homer to raise funds for the Lodge's Toys for Tots and Scholarship programs. The fundraiser was set up with COVID-19 health guidelines in mind. Customers drove up in their cars, gave their orders and had the food brought to them. "It's good," said Jeff Shatteck of Homer. "I just like how you come in your car, grab your chicken and go." Shatteck said that he liked supporting the Elks because his son used to attend their Hoop Shoot program, which teaches kids to persevere and build confidence. "They're just very good in the community," he said. "Any cause for anything, it's just important to help everybody," said Cathy Wetterer of Groton. "No matter what the cause is, you should help." She said that the way the event was set up was a good thing during the pandemic. "COVID's got everyone scared, obviously, and you've just got to protect your friends, your family and your community," she said. Leah VanDonsel is pictured as she talked with Cathy Wetterer during the Barbeque.



Elmira Lodge #62 recently donated snacks, toiletries, thousands of can tops and a cash donation of \$894 to the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester. Pictured are some of the donated supplies that were delivered. Some of the supplies collected are pictured.

Malone Lodge #1303 recently donated \$9,270.00 to their local community thanks to a very large Queen of Hearts Jackpot. Thanks to the proceeds from the Queen of Hearts, the Lodge provided donations to the Adult Centers in St. Regis Falls, Fort Covington, Malone, Brushton - Moria, Catholic Charities who help families in need with child care items, North Country Honor Flight, Homeward Bound Veterans Program, American Legion #219, Amvets Post Malone, and the 46-4-22 Veterans Program with Ret Sgt. Mike Fouse and Matt Dumas.

Auburn Lodge #474 generously donated to the St. Alphonsus Food Pantry. The Lodge recently received donations totaling over \$150.00 from members and the community during their monthly Chicken BBQ. All of these donations allow the Food Pantry to serve the Food Insecure in our community and provide them the nutritious foods they need to keep their families healthy.

Making a Difference in our Communities



Colonie Lodge # 2192 held a food drive to supplement the Regional Food Bank of Upstate NY. In addition to food donations, monetary donations were also given, enough to provide 540 meals! Pictured during the food drive collecting donations are PDDGER's Frank Bauer and his wife Donna. Also participating in the drive were House Chair Marianne Gula, Exalted Ruler Mark Loucks and Esquire Pam Hamilton. .



Massapequa Lodge #2162 held a Grab and Go fundraiser and asked members to donate non perishable items. The Lodge collected \$800 of goods which were delivered to St Rose of Lima's Food Pantry. Not only members from Massapequa Elks Lodge came to enjoy the event. DD John Nuzzi, SVP Brian Steckler and 12 others from New York Lodge #1 came to support the lodge fundraiser.



Monticello NY Elks Lodge #1544 donated 25 boxes of food to the Sullivan County Emergency Community Assistance Program. Past Exalted Ruler (PER) and Leading Knight Mike Brennan says the food is being distributed to senior citizens, the disabled, and others who cannot shop for food and other necessities. The donation is from the second food drive to fight the impacts of Covid-19. Pictured from left are: PER Danielle Jose-Decker, Martha Rojas, Roy Rojas, Loyal Knight Maggie Jaycox, Past District Deputy Jim Sheerer, PER Mike Brennan, Susie Landis, Mike Landis, Meagan Galligan, Past New York State Elks President Phil Conaty and Elisa Mendels. Not pictured are District Deputy Jim Gerrard, Elizabeth Bringle and Ryan Walker. Elk Brud Decker snapped the photo.



Staten Island #841 held a Food Drive that was organized by member Helen member Fontanarosa, The Lodge held the drive to restock St Paul's diminished supplies. Trustees, members and Staten Island Lodge sponsor, PDD Tom Griffiths, lent helping hands. They collected 4 trunk loads of food to donate.

Potsdam Elks Lodge #2074 recently delivered dictionaries to Colton-Pierrepont Elementary School, Madrid-Waddington Elementary School and Potsdam Lawrence Avenue Elementary School. Past District Deputy Tim Welpé delivered the dictionaries on behalf of the Lodge. A total of 305 dictionaries were delivered to the schools. The Dictionary Project is an annual youth activity at Potsdam Lodge.



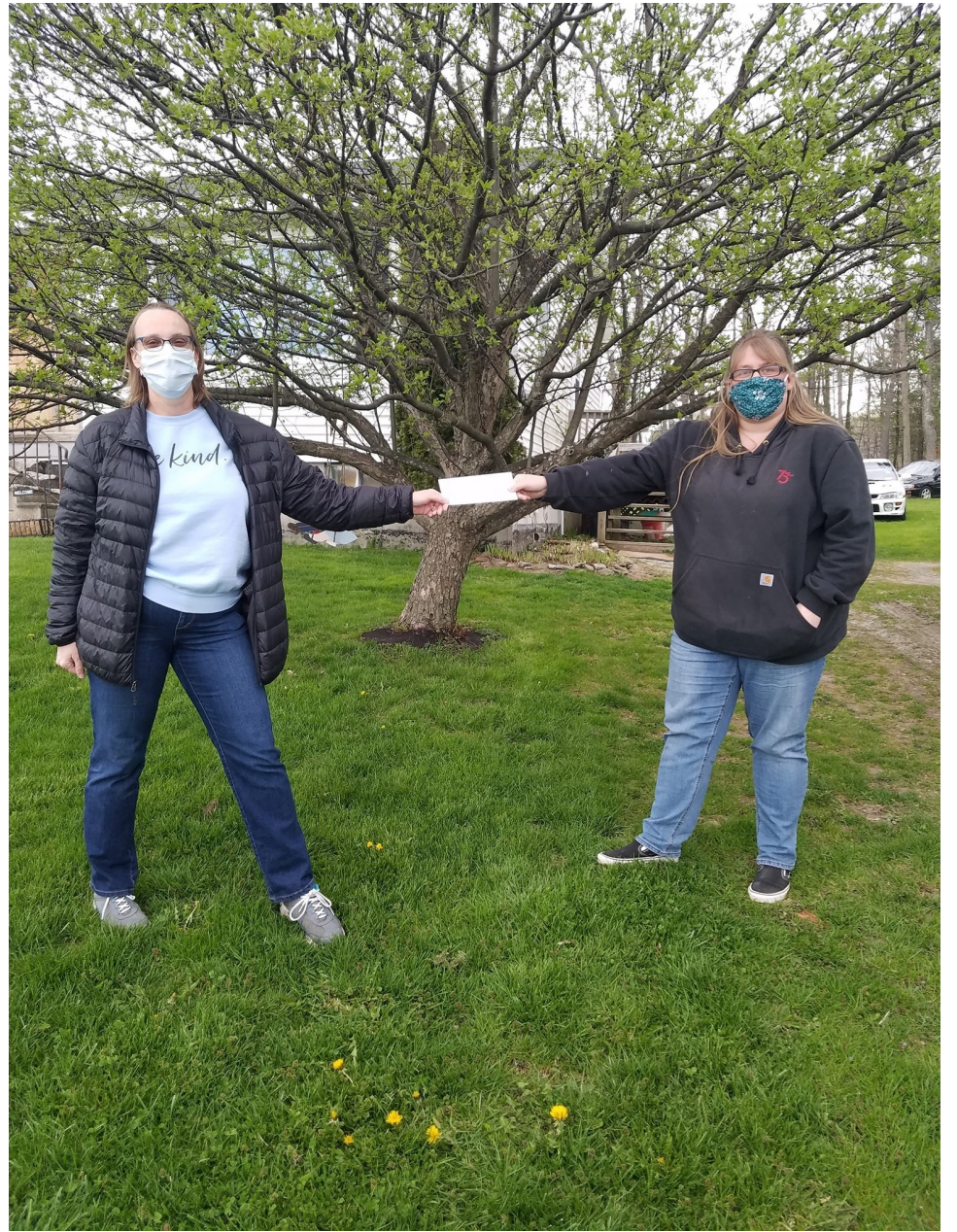
Watertown Lodge #496 presented a check for \$2000 to the Community Action Planning Council to support their efforts to provide food through their food pantry. Pictured are: Mary Mathewson, CAPC Family Center Director; Dennis Brady, Watertown Elks Exalted Ruler; Melinda Gault, CAPC Executive Director; and Linda Lepper, Lodge Tiler and the Grant Coordinator.

The **Southwest District** presented Dick Nelson, of Bunkers in Baghdad in Jamestown, 2,700 new and used golf balls. The value of the recent donation was \$1,400.00. Since 2017 the Southwest/Southern Tier Districts have donated \$18,754.00 in new and used golf equipment to Bunkers in Baghdad. The NYSEA has donated \$37,650.00 in the same time frame for a grand total of: \$56,404.00!!! The number of new and used golf balls donated by the Districts and the NYSEA is a whopping 93,020!!! The district is in the process of planning their next collection and donation.

Making a Difference in our Communities



Poughkeepsie Lodge #275 set up a drop off station in the Lodge for "Sew Masks Hudson Valley" an organization mobilizing those with sewing skills to make medical masks for local Healthcare workers. Donations of material and completed masks were dropped off at the Lodge by the members and the public and delivered to the organization for distribution. Pictured are (L-R) Kim Elizabeth Kiernan from Sew Masks Hudson Valley and Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and Lodge Secretary Ray Strohm.



Esperance Lodge #2507 provided a donation to Schoharie Central School to assist with the purchase of banners honoring the Schoharie Central School Class of 2020. Exalted ruler Melanie Largeteau is pictured presenting a check donation to Jennifer Scheuer.



The members of **Southampton Lodge #1574** were pleased to present the Southampton Village Volunteer Ambulance Corp. with a "Heroes Work Here" banner in appreciation for the great work they do for the community.



Ken-Ton Lodge #1942 members were delighted to present the Kenmore Police Department with a check in the amount of \$1,300.00. The Police Department was very thankful to receive this donation which will be used for the Police Juvenile Bureau Aid Department. Exalted Ruler Linda Paul-Beutner of Ken-Ton Lodge is pictured presenting the donation to Detective Doug Rich Captain Fred Vaccaro, Kenmore Police Department.



"The Book Fairies", located in Freeport, N.Y., is a not-for-profit organization that collects reading material for children, as well as adults, throughout the Metropolitan area. After contacting the Program Coordinator, Sherry McGrath, the members of **Huntington Lodge** brought a case of dictionaries provided by the Elks Dictionary Project, to their warehouse. Lodge members Sherry McGrath and Past State Vice President Jack Stein are pictured as they deliver a case of dictionaries in preparation for the new school year.



The **Kinderhook Lodge #2530** Backpack Program supply effort was a huge success. Lodge members collected school and hygiene supplies and food for the children in the new Lebanon, Ichabod Crane, and Chatham schools. The goal of the Lodge program was to make sure that no student worried about their next meal or the supplies they need to do their homework. The Lodge managed to raise a good amount of items as well as cash donations. The Lodge received a monetary donation from American Legion Post #47 and a bag of masks from Sheriff Dave Bartlett for the community members who needed them.

In two shipments made during the spring of 2020, **New Paltz Lodge 2568** donated over \$1700 worth of personal hygiene products, single serving snacks, and puzzle books, and hand-written cards and letters to United for the Troops, a nonprofit that ships items to active-duty personnel in all branches of the United States military. New Paltz Lodge continues to work with UfT to collect and distribute these types of items that are not available to troops any other way.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES



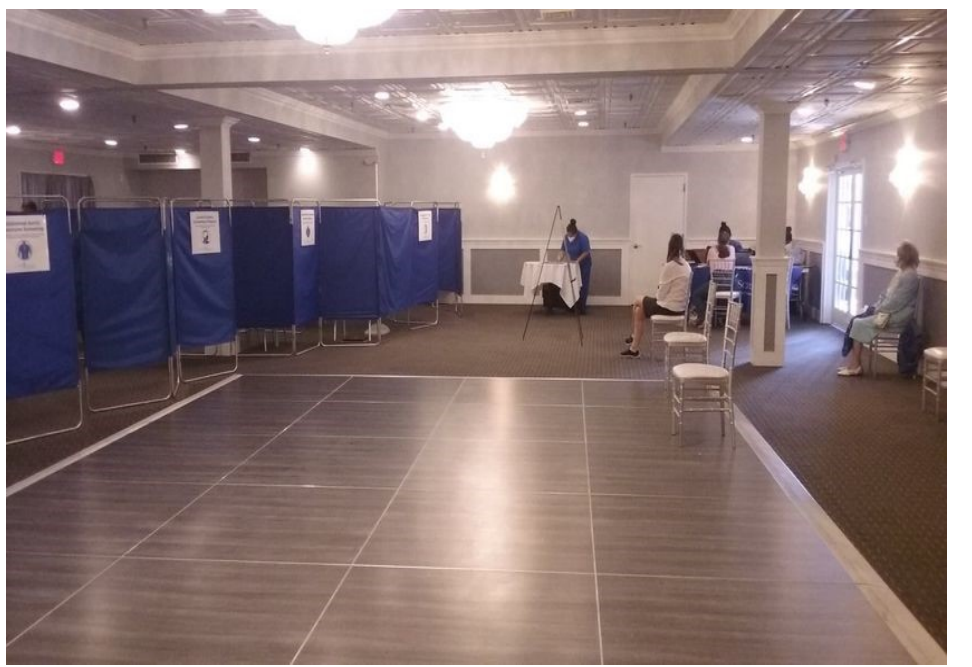
New York Lodge #1 was recently recognized with a Proclamation acknowledging the Lodges efforts in aiding the community. Through the pandemic, the Lodge donated thousands of dollars in needed funds, merchandise and man-hours to support area First Responders and Local Food Pantries. New York State Senator Todd Kaminsky presented The Proclamation to the Lodge during an Outdoor Grab N Go Dinner. More than 70 people were served. Exalted Ruler Lisa Moldovan, Jean Hunt (wife of Frank T. Hunt PDD) and Inner Guard Ann Roller worked the kitchen. Past District Deputy Frank T. Hunt manned the door. District Deputy John M Nuzzi Sr, State Vice President Brian Steckler, Past District Deputy Mark E Stuparich, Lodge Secretary Louis H Mohr Jr, Trustee Fred Vetter, Past Exalted Ruler/Esquire Paul Schneller, and Past Exalted Ruler/Leading Knight Amy Schneller all worked hard to make this all come together. The Lodge received assistance from the Officers and Lodge members of Massapequa Lodge # 2162. Pictured during the Proclamation presentation are (Left to Right): Joseph Serafino- Chairman Board of Trustees, Louis H Mohr Jr. -Lodge Secretary, New York State Senator Todd Kaminsky, Lisa Moldovan- Exalted Ruler and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler John M Nuzzi Sr.



Members of **Huntington Lodge** joined with the Veterans of VFW Post 5942 in a Memorial Day Ceremony. Delivering the first prayer was Lecturing Knight and past Chaplain of the Lodge Connie Olson. Past State Vice president Jack Stein conducted the balance of the service and Past Exalted Ruler Alyssa Nightingale provided the closing remarks with much appreciation from the members of the VFW Post.



During the Lodges first chicken barbeque of the season, **Auburn Lodge # 474** donated 15 BBQ Chicken Dinners to the A Platoon Crew at the Auburn Fire Dept. Lodge Trustee Al Parsons is pictured as he delivered the dinners to Lt. Pysnack and FF Brandon Harvard of the Auburn Fire Department.



Huntington Lodge #1565 hosted a day, which was set aside specifically for residents in the Huntington area, to receive "life line screening". With social distancing in mind, over 50 residents took part in this safe and convenient way to have more than just their average medical check-up. Appointments were set up, in advance, so that participants were able to attend without being subjected to large crowds. Pictured here shows the private examination rooms designated for the event.



Guilderland Lodge #2480 recently held a food/pet food/essentials drive to support the Guilderland Food Pantry. Due to the generosity of Members and the community, Guilderland Lodge was able to donate over 800 lbs of food, pet food and household essentials plus \$550 in monetary donations. In conjunction with the food drive, another drive was held for bottles and cans, with those proceeds going to Major Projects. The Lodge was Still counting bottles/cans and anticipates the donation should be in the neighborhood of \$300 for Major Projects. Pictured is just a small amount of the food donated.



Huntington Lodge #1565 provided a donation to "Hounds Town". This is a doggie day care center that is currently being used by an out-of-town doctor, Dr. Doni Marie Rivas. She is assisting at Northwell Hospital in Huntington throughout the pandemic. To show our appreciation for the work she is doing voluntarily for our community, a check for 3 days' care of her two dogs, was presented to the owner of the facility by members of the Lodge.. Pictured (l-r) is: Jack Stein, PSVP, Owner Maria Gillen, Alyssa Nightingale, PER with Ziggy, volunteer Marcy B. and Lynne Stein, PSVP.

A message from Past First Lady **Tonia Balfour** - With my donations from my pins I was able to raise a total of \$4000 for my 3 charities. \$2000 for Autism, \$500 to Dana Farber, \$500 to a local 2 year old that has the same cancer than I'm sending to help with research at Dana Farber and \$1000 to Albany Medical center NICU. Thank you to all that donated! Past First Lady Tonia is pictured to the right ias she presented the donation to the members of Upstate NY Autism .



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161 used proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Impact Grant to support the St. Clements Food Pantry. Pictured are Saratoga Springs High School Junior Isabel Pecora (granddaughter of Member Dave Waghorn) and Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge #161 Member Marie King as they assisted Past Exalted Ruler PER Dave Waghorn with the delivery of food from the St. Clements Food Pantry to 22 Seniors at the Embury Senior Apartments.



Members of the Auxiliary of **Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge #161** have been busy for countless hours making "mask extensions" for front-line medical staff. These are crocheted individually and then buttons are sewn on to hook the straps of a medical mask behind their neck, so the staff's ears do not become raw from wearing the masks for long periods of time, also creating a snugger mask fit. Past Auxiliary Treasurer Donna Gundersen has been working on the project for several weeks now, and with the help of Past Auxiliary President, Penny Roberts, friend Melanie Doyle and her sister Janet Swears, 100 of these mask extensions were donated to the Saratoga Hospital Donation Center and 25 to the Infectious Disease Center at Saratoga Hospital. In addition, 100 of the mask extensions were made and donated to the Saratoga Naval Base Hospital Unit, 100 for the Fort Hudson Nursing Home in Fort Edward, 100 to the Dialysis Center at the Glens Falls Hospital and 300 to the Glens Falls Hospital Emergency Room. More of these mask extensions were also sent out of state. Pictured above wearing masks that were donated are Nurses from Roanoke Hospital in Virginia.



The first week in May is usually a time when we celebrate the contributions of our youth to communities where Elks live. At Clifton Park Lodge #2466, it is a tradition to hold a pizza party for Scout Troop 246, the scout unit that is sponsored by the Lodge. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the pizza party was cancelled this year. However, thanks to Life Scout Leo Coons there was still a way to celebrate youth week - a food and bottle drive hosted by Clifton Park Elks Lodge #2466 on Saturday, May 9. Leo approached lodge members Ted Ross (who also serves a Troop 24 Scoutmaster), Bob Lumpkins and Chris Gersey with his idea and they thought it was a terrific way to give back to the community. The scouts designated Shenendehowa Central School District Bountiful Backpack program as the beneficiary of the food donations. This program is designed to meet the needs of hungry children at times when other resources are not available, especially on weekends. It provides backpacks filled with food that is child-friendly, shelf-stable and easily-consumed. Thanks to the Clifton Park Elks food drive, Lodge members and the community donated eighteen boxes of food and hygiene products to the Backpack program. In addition to the food donations, the scouts collected approximately \$500 in bottles and cans that will be used to help fund Leo's Eagle Scout project to construct a new 20 foot bridge at the Clute's Dry Dock, a designated open space that is part of the Vischer Ferry Preserve in Clifton Park, NY. Elk members also donated \$125 in cash which will be split between the Bountiful Backpacks program and the Eagle project. The food and bottle drive was successful in part thanks to the town of Clifton Park which helped promote the drive and donated cones to help direct traffic at the Lodge. Scouts wore masks and practiced social distancing as members drove through the parking lot to drop off their donations. Many Lodge members were able to wave at other members who were donating at the same time. The event was a terrific success all around.



The members from **Smithtown Lodge #2036** collected several bags of canned goods and supplies, which were delivered to the St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church food pantry in Smithtown. This effort is planned to continue throughout the upcoming Holiday Season and beyond. Pictured here are some of the deliveries made by the members of the Lodge.



The Hope Mission Baptist Church, in Central Islip, has not yet reopened and their pantry is currently closed. However, a church volunteer had offered to delivered pre made bags of groceries to their parishioners in need and the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** were quick to respond. 15 large parcels were delivered to the church parking facility where they were turned over to Joe Ladolcetta. Pictured are Joe Ladolcetta with Jack Stein, PSVP. The Lodge also supported a drive through food collection drive to support the Y Jewish Community Center with 12 bags of assorted items. Pictured to the left during the delivery are PDD Lynn Stein, PSVP Jack Stein and two volunteers from the Center.



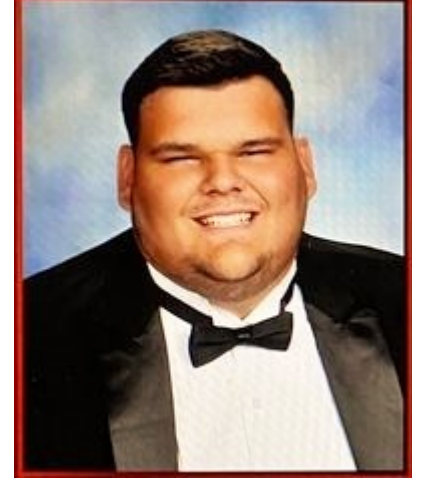
The members of **Southampton Lodge #1574** were happy to donate \$500.00 to the "Heart of the Hamptons" food pantry, which is the 2nd such donation made by the Lodge in the last three months. Due to restrictions made by the pandemic, the members of the Lodge were unable to enter the pantry. As a result, a check was forwarded to the Heart of Champions food pantry to be used specifically for much needed essential items.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES/SCHOLARSHIPS



Hornell Elks Lodge #364 awarded twelve scholarships to graduating seniors of Lodge members. \$3,000 was awarded in scholarships. This continues a tradition that has been ongoing for many years to help the students of our members. All twelve students are continuing to the next level of education at various colleges throughout New York State, one in Pennsylvania, one in West Virginia and the University of Florida. Most of the students are graduates of Hornell High School, with one from Rush Henrietta, one from Bath Havering and one from Canisteo-Greenwood. Students and their families were treated to pizza, wings, soda and bottled water after the scholarship award ceremony. The scholarship recipients that attended are pictured with Exalted Ruler Steven Freeland. They are L-R: Matthew Oyer, Chase Freeland, Connor O'Rourke, Chelsie Freeland, Dominic Coddington, Rylee Button, Tanner Stutzman, Noland Harold, Joshua Heafey, and Exalted Ruler Steven Freeland. Unable to attend the ceremony were: Erin Sparro, Viviann Spitulnik and Colin Buisch



Patchogue Lodge #1323 recognized seniors John Salerno, Natalia Batista and Brayan Reyes-Ochoa as recipients of the C. John Wolfarth Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$500.00 each. The three recipients were graduating seniors from the Patchogue-Medford High School. This scholarship fund was established approximately 50 years ago in memory of C. John Wolfarth, a Past Exalted Ruler from Patchogue Lodge. Pictured above are scholarship recipients Natalia Batista and John Salerno.



The members of **Southampton Lodge #1574** continue to be extremely active in their support of their local youth programs and scholarships are clearly in the forefront. During a recent scholarship awards ceremony, the Lodge was proud to acknowledge two Grand Lodge recipients of the Elks Most Valuable Student Awards. Pictured above is Lily Candelaria and pictured below is Kevin Nguyen, along with Kathleen Miller and Exalted Ruler R. James Darby, as they receive their Certificates for their achievements.



Islip Lodge #2533 awarded Purnava Zakaria, a senior from Deer Park High School, with a \$500.00 scholarship. Purnava will be attending Stony Brook University in the fall, majoring in Pre Med. She was recognized by the College Board's Advanced Placement Program as one of 45 Deer Park High School's AP Scholars, which is an honor granted to college level achievement in AP courses and exams. She is pictured receiving her scholarship award.



Islip Lodge #2533 was pleased to present Brandon Navarro, a senior from Islip High School, with a \$500.00 Lodge Scholarship, for his scholastic achievements. He will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall where he will be majoring in Business Administration. Lodge Treasurer and Scholarship Committee member John Tramosch is pictured presenting the scholarship award to Brando Navarro.



Haverstraw Lodge # 877 awarded scholarships to local high school graduates, totaling \$15,450. The Bill Keyser Award for \$4,000 was awarded to Jenna MacMillan. The George Wright Award was presented to Olivia Csernecky, and the Gregory Sokolohorsky Award was presented to Emily Howard. 23 additional scholarships were also awarded.

LEGACY AWARDS

Legacy Awards are \$4000 scholarships available to children and grandchildren of Elks members. Great-grandchildren are not eligible. The 2021 Legacy Awards Contest runs from September 1, 2020 to February 5, 2021. The applicant must be a high school senior and an applicant must apply online only.

The members of **Southampton Lodge** proudly presented Hampton Bays High School Graduate Julia Hemming with the Lodge's Joseph Ciocchetti Memorial Scholarship for \$1000.00. A presentation ceremony was held outdoors on the grounds of Southampton Lodge on a glorious sunny day. Julia will be attending Stony Brook in the Fall where she will be majoring in Journalism. Pictured during the presentation are (l-r): Kathleen Miller, Graduate Julia Hemming along with Exalted Ruler R. James Darby.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES/SCHOLARSHIPS



The members of **Southampton Lodge #1574** were pleased to present Andrew Smith, a recent graduate from Southampton High School, with the Lodge's James A. Renner Scholarship, valued at \$1000.00. Andrew will be attending Queens College in the Fall where he will be majoring in Law Enforcement. Along with his certificate and scholarship, Andrew also received a cooler filled with an assortment of snacks and an Elk Travel Mug. Pictured (l-r) are: Kathleen Miller, Andrew Smith, Graduate and Exalted Ruler R. James Darby as they conduct the presentation.



Huntington Lodge #1565 provided a case of dictionaries from their dictionary project supply to the Tri Community Youth Agency in Huntington, New York. As the Agency was in hopes that their educational division would be opened soon, they were anxious to receive the dictionaries. Upon arrival, Lodge members were greeted with a familiar smile and the case unpacked by Martin, his assistant and Past District Deputy Lynne Stein. The donation was made earlier this summer.



The members of **Port Jefferson Lodge #2138** extended congratulations to Danielle Rose, a Miller Place High School senior and recipient of the Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship Award. Danielle is member of the National Honor Society, Captain of the Varsity and Cross-Country track Teams, member of the National Foreign Language Society and Miller Place High School band. She will be attending the University Of Pittsburg in the Fall.

Elks DAP is Zooming along in 2020

By William J. Bryan
Assistant National Director

After a very successful on-line training for Elks Drug Awareness Program State Chairs, the directors of the program have decided that virtual meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic are the way to go.

While the CDC and various states are working to reopen, the work of the DAP needs to continue. According to National Director, Kent Gade: "The DAP has always been on the cutting edge of technology and recent events have made it necessary for us to communicate now more than ever."

GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The Most Valuable Student scholarship contest opened on August 5. If you have a high school senior in your life, encourage them to visit enf.elks.org/MVS to learn more and apply! The deadline is November 15, 2020. You can help promote the contest in your community, too. You may not be able to visit a school to share more about the MVS scholarship, so we've made it easy and prepared a social media ad for you to download and share with your network.

The Legacy Awards contest kicks off on September 1. Legacy Awards are only open to the children and grandchildren of dues-paying Elks. Give your kids or grandkids—and your fellow Lodge members—a heads-up that the contest starts soon! Learn more about the Legacy Awards contest at enf.elks.org/Leg.

In the meantime, catch up on *20 For 20*. In the most recent episode, MVS scholar Nick Sayegh, sponsored by Oklahoma City, Okla., Lodge No. 417, shares his passion for serving his community. Watch and share all the episodes of *20 For 20* at enf.elks.org/20For20.



Liverpool Elks Lodge #2348 recognizes a student of the month from Baker High School in Baldwinsville each month during the school year. The recipients are chosen by their guidance counselors. The students are chosen both by their academic success as well as their community activities. Exalted Ruler Dale Hazen and Laura Richards, Chairperson for Student of the Month, made home visits to recipients of the Student of the Month Awards. Typically, the Students of the Month are invited to the lodge for a presentation, however, due to COVID-19 that was not possible. Exalted Ruler Dale and Chairperson Laura met a wonderful group of graduating students. They congratulated each of them and presented a check for \$125 and a certificate of achievement. They wished them good luck on behalf of the members of Liverpool Elks Lodge as they head off to college. March's Student of the month from Baldwinsville was Jacqueline Boutlier. Jacqueline is planning on attending St. Lawrence University to obtain a degree in Education to be a History Teacher. She is pictured above with Chairperson Laura Richards, Jacqueline and ER Dale Hazen. In April, Kimberly Rivera Cotto was recognized. She is heading to Cornell University in the fall to pursue an Economics and Business Management degree. Nora Penhollow was recognized as Baldwinsville's May Student of the month. She will be attending Binghamton University in the fall to major in Evolutionary Biology.



The members of **Patchogue Lodge #1323** are pleased to announce that Miranda Garcia-Cassani, a Senior at Sachem High School North, received a \$1000 New York Elks Association Allocated Award. This is a one-time scholarship based on the ENF Most Valuable Student application. Miranda was an attendee at the Long Island Brain Bee Competition which gives students a venue to explore disciplines associated with the study of the brain. Pictured (6th from the left) is Miranda Garcia-Cassani.

~~DAP CONTINUED~~ Gade said that he and Frank Burr, Tim Jaeger, and Bill Bryan have established Zoom accounts and meet on a weekly basis. "Communications has always been the key to our success and now with Zoom we can have regular discussions with our State Chairs, their District Chairs, and even Lodge Chairs."

He further advised that the DAP is putting together programs for District Deputies as well. "The virus has changed a great deal of things, but we have decided that it is not going to change our mission," Gade said.

In other news, the DAP has been very busy creating virtual lesson plans for teachers to use in school regarding drug and alcohol education. A manual is being produced to assist teachers and Elks for how to use this newly developed program. Many thanks to Elks Members Donna and John McEntire for working on the manual.

Camp Bristol Update

Great news all around for Camp Bristol. The Corona Virus may have slowed the project down a bit due to the inability of the contractors being able to even get parts and supplies, and of course no labor at the camp for several weeks due to government regulations. But the contractors are almost done now. After long delays in getting the needed "parts" to complete the water treatment equipment, they are now on site being installed. Of course there can be no extensive use of the camp without the Department of Health approval of the water treatment process, but that process will occur just as soon as possible after the last equipment is assembled and tested (hopefully very soon). The DOH has been very understanding and helpful during the delays caused by the virus. We are hoping for testing and review soon.

Construction of the new building and renovation of existing structures is all done. Installation of infrastructure water and septic is complete (all underground). Electrical Installation (again all underground) is expected to be completed within the next week or two. Wi Fi by Spectrum is completed. The Recognition Wall structure has been ready for weeks. The bricks already purchased by so many members, lodges, districts and others are on site and ready for installation in the very near future. It is never too late to "buy a brick". If you have any questions, just connect with your District Chair for more information.

On August 1 the Camp Committee hosted the District Chairs at the Camp. PGER David Carr and his wife Penny were also able to attend. The Chairs were given a complete "tour" of the camp structures and grounds. Now all the District Chairs that were able to attend have a "first hand" overview of the Camp and the many aspects, features and opportunities that the Camp has to offer.

During the August 1 event at the Camp, PER Brett Elliott was introduced as the Executive Director for Camp Bristol. Brett is a member of Rochester Lodge #24. Brett has extensive experience and background with "camping" both personally and also with campground management and campground usages. The Camp Committee was hoping to introduce Brett to the membership at the Fall Conference, but of course we all know how the Virus ended that possibility.


Camp usages are really limitless (of course within the limits of government regulations due to the Virus—let's all hope that changes as soon as possible). Use by Elk members... The Camp has 10 complete RV sites (full electric and water at each site). There is an RV "dump station" for when the RVs leave the Camp. Tent camping will be allowed. We are renovating 3 A frame buildings which are located very close to the RV sites for overnight lodging. Veteran usage... all buildings are ADA compliant by design from the onset. Hiking, fishing, swimming, campfires are all possibilities. So, if you know of a Veterans group or organization that may be interested in "getting away" just let any District Chair or Camp Committee member know. Youth Camping...as soon as the state regulations allow (hopefully next summer) we are ready to go. So again, if you know of a youth group that may be interested please reach out to a District Chair or a Camp Committee member. Right now the Executive Director and Camp Committee are looking into computer software that will help with camp site reservations. We are really trying to have this "up and running" by early 2021.

The annual Fall Clean-up took place on Saturday, September 19th. The Camp Committee extends a thank you to the members that traveled to Camp Bristol to assist with the clean-up.

Past State President Rick Wunder

Watertown Lodge #496 member Ed Branch of Edge Civil recently provided Camp Bristol with a playground equipment donation. Ed and his company has the infrastructure contract at Camp Bristol. He was hired to remove playground equipment from a nearby school district that was doing a major upgrade. Instead of scrapping the equipment it was donated and will be reassembled at Camp Bristol. A section of the playground equipment is pictured to the left.

Watertown Lodge #496 Exalted Ruler Dennis Brady and Leading Knight Ed Massa recently picked up and delivered a pool table. The table was donated by Past Exalted Ruler Joan Carlo. Exalted Ruler Brady and Past Exalted Ruler Carlo are pictured to the right with the pool table that was donated.




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.*

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



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

Camp Bristol

2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday, October 3rd

Greenview Country Club

20 Whig Hill Road
 West Monroe, NY 13167

\$300 per foursome
Sign-in at course at 10:00
Shotgun start at 11:00

Four-player Scramble Format
Entry fee includes golf, cart, lunch on the course, dinner and cash prizes

Dinner and prizes at Camp Bristol following golf
Hotels at I-81 Cicero Exit, 11 miles from course and Days Inn at Brewerton Exit, 6 miles from course

Contact: PSP Mike Bloss
email: mbloss.cp2466@gmail.com
34 Cypress Street
Ballston Lake NY 12019

Payment must be received by Saturday, September 26th
Make checks payable to NYS Elks Camp Bristol

Information: Scott Hirst - 315-804-3512



