



EMPIRE STATE ELK

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



STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BRIAN GREENE
2019-2020
Elkdom—A Team Effort

As I sit here writing this letter I realize how fast this past year has gone. Lodges are preparing for the new lodge year. New officers will be installed while we strive to bring new members into this great Order. We are within reach of being a plus one in New York State. State Chairman Carl Oken has been working day and night with National Chairman Rick Gathen and lodges throughout the State to help insure a positive outcome. The final push should be going on to make sure that every lodge is meeting their obligation to New York State Major Projects and Elks National Foundation. David Brown and Paul Galarnau really work hard in helping lodges meet their per capita, make sure your lodge is among the lodges that meet their per capita. New York State also has another very important undertaking which is Camp Bristol. The Camp Bristol Committee is working very diligently getting the camp up and running. In doing so they are also raising money to insure the Camps success. So if you can buy a brick, a sweatshirt, or any other fundraising opportunity the camp provides, please do so. June 20th is there 2nd annual golf tournament so save that date and enjoy a great tournament for a great cause.

This time of year our Hoop Shoot Program led by State Director Sheila O' Connor is well under way. Good Luck to all the participants in the New York State Hoop Shoot and good luck to all the State Champions in Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania.

Tonia and I have visited well over half the lodges at this time and we want to say how proud we are to represent such a great group of Elks that are in New York State. We have witnessed many different ways the members of New York State support our Youth, our Veterans and the communities that their lodges reside in. We are making sure that people realize what Elks do and by participating in the programs the Elks provide, we insure that the people in our communities are aware what a great organization the Elks are.

As new officers prepare for a new lodge year, outgoing officers please help them with the transition into their new position. Your Lodges success will depend on the officers guiding your lodge throughout the year and all of us working together increases the chances of a very successful lodge year.

Tonia and I look forward to visiting the remaining lodges in New York in the remaining months and we will continue to be honored and proud to represent the Elks Of New York State. Remember all of you are the greatest asset of the New York State Elks Association and without your dedication and hard work our organization does not exist. God Bless our Troops, God Bless the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and God Bless America

Brian J. Greene
NYSEA President

NYSEA State President Brian Greene Upcoming Visitation Schedule

- NYS Bowling Tournament** Mar. 27-29 1, 2020
- Homecoming** April 25, 2029
- East District** May 1-3, 2020
- Spring Convention** May 16-19, 2020



New York Lodge #1 hosted a Sunday morning breakfast during State President Brian Greene's recent district visit. Special guest was Major Project Ambassador Charles Dieteman. Pictured at the breakfast are NYS President Brian Greene and First Lady Tonia, NYS Major Projects Chair David Brown, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Vicki Brown, New York Lodge #1 Exalted Ruler Paul Schneller, Mother of Ambassador Tara McLellan, Grandmother of Ambassador Paula Lively, Ambassador Charles Dieteman and Southeast District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler John Nuzzi.



NYSEA President Brian Greene recently traveled to Syracuse, New York to attend the NYSEA Hoop Shoot Championship. He had the honor of presenting awards to the Hoop Shoot contestants along with Past State Presidents Don Fischer, Tim Kelly, Dan Capella and Bill Reedy. A highlight of the presentations was the opportunity for State Present Greene to present the Championship Trophy in the Girls 12-13 Division to Haley Stafford. She represented State President Greene's home Lodge, Glens Falls Lodge #81.



During their visit to the Central District in December, State President Brian Greene and Fiancée Tonia Balfour had the opportunity to visit Boonville Lodge #2158. Boonville Lodge gifted State President Greene with a Amish made hand crafted rocking chair. First lady Tonia is pictured as she takes a moment to relax in the chair. They are pictured with Boonville Exalted Ruler Greg Fitts. They were joined at the Lodge visit by Past State Presidents Dan Capella and Bill Reedy, NYSEA Government Relations Chair Jeff Smaldon, NYSEA Accident Prevention Chair Cam Ricci, State Vice President Charles Panko and District Deputy Richard Jakajtys.

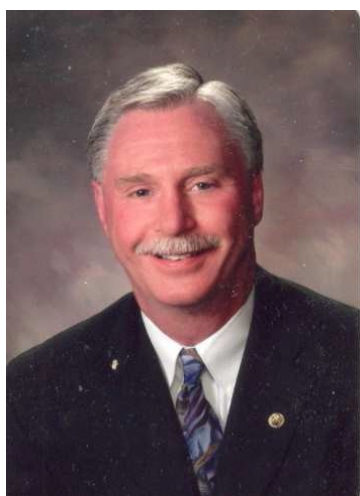
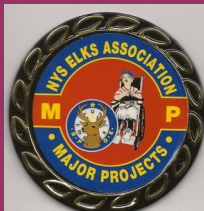


During their visit to the South Central District, State President Brian Greene and First Lady Tonia Balfour had the opportunity to visit Oneonta Lodge #1312. They are pictured at Oneonta Lodge with Lodge and District members that include Past State President Phil Holowacz, State Vice President Michael Sage District Deputy Charles Monroney.

“ELKDOM—A TEAM EFFORT”



NEW YORK STATE ELK ASSOCIATION MAJOR PROJECT



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

Dear Members,

State Major Project Chairman David Brown (Brownie) will be making his final push for all members, lodges, and districts to make their per capita of \$8.00 per member. Without your donations, he would have a much tougher job. With all of the state and federal regulations handcuffing the Home Service Directors, the portion of their salaries that we provide, makes it possible to assist so many people with developmental disabilities. Your donations also assist with the annual purchase of three vehicles for the Home Service Directors. Each year the New York Elks Major Projects has a goal of \$400,000 to raise for our Major Project. But, in return, we give Cerebral Palsy of New York Home Service Directors \$456,700 annually in addition to our \$25,000 Grant Program. Also, keep in mind that you can process your donation online with a credit card. This is not only for Major Project, but also for your Elks National Foundation (ENF) donation. This is just a click away on the New York State website.

The Major Projects Board is working to implement a new program for the long-term sustainability of our commitment to the Home Service Program, our veterans, and youth programs. This new initiative is the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc. *Bequest and Living Trust Program (BLT)*. The Major Projects Board will be working to have a brochure in place in the coming months. The idea behind the BLT program is to motivate all New York Elks, spouses, family members and friends to name the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc. BLT fund in their wills, trusts, insurance policies, annuities, or in any similar document suggested by their financial advisor or personal lawyer. Thank you all for any consideration that you give to this endeavor.

We are in the final few months of our lodge year; Exalted Rulers are now on the downward side of their year-long term. I hope that each of you has been gratified in serving as your Lodge's leader during the past year and have benefited from the support of your lodge officers and committees. The BPOE absolutely appreciates and needs the commitment of the local lodges in every state in the USA. Thank you for taking on this commitment for your lodges.



The LORE Sweetheart Ball for Cerebral Palsy was recently held at **Rotterdam Elks Lodge**. Pictured at the Ball are State Capital District Deputy Colleen Quackenbush, NYS Major Projects Chair David Brown, State Capital District Major Projects Chair Patricia Gardner, Event Co-Chair Jackie Oliveira, Rotterdam Lodge Exalted Ruler Josh Roy and State Capital District State Vice President James Rubino, and New York State Elks Association Ambassador Amanda Canaday.

New York Lodge #1 hosted a Sunday morning breakfast during State President Brian Greene's recent visit to the Southeast District. A Special guest attending the breakfast was Major Project Ambassador Charles Dieteman. Pictured at the breakfast are NYS President Brian Greene and First Lady Tonia, New York State Elks Association Major Projects Chair David Brown, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Vicki Brown, New York Lodge #1 Exalted Ruler Paul Schneller, Mother of Ambassador Tara McLellan, Grandmother of Ambassador Paula Lively, Ambassador Charles Dieteman and Southeast District Deputy Grand exalted Ruler John Nuzzi. (Picture to the right).



Seneca Falls Elks Lodge #992 held their 3rd Annual Car Show to Benefit Cerebral Palsy (NY State Major Projects). The event was held on the grounds of the Seneca Falls Lodge. The show had 150 entrants. There was a flea market, crafts, food, music and raffles. We had a great crowd that included past State VP Rick Wunder and his wife. Elks from other lodges came as both spectators and show entrants. Pictured is current State VP Dave Porter (center) receiving a check for \$4000.00 from Seneca Falls Lodge ER Mike Bellone on the left and Benefit Chairperson John Velte on the right.



Jim Williams, a staff member of the Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country, was selected as the CP Person of the Year. Jim is the coordinator of an Outdoor Recreation Program supported by the Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country. The purpose of the program is to offer people with disabilities, including those with more involved physical disabilities who may require assistance, the opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities. He is pictured after receiving the award with Past Major Project Chair Jan Pashley, at right, NYSEA Major Project Board Chairman Jamie Peace (2nd from right), past Lou Withiam Award winners Cheryl Garlock (3rd from right), and Jennifer Frank (2nd from left), and Al Shibley, Vice President of Communications, CP of NYS (left)



Camp Bristol Update

CAMP BRISTOL UPDATE

Winter 2020 Edition

Winter, such as it is this year with temps up, then down, then up and down again. Then snow, or no snow, or snow again, or no snow. Or maybe rain, or not. Just like at your home this winter. All buildings were closed in for the winter, before the snows arrived. So all the general contractor has to do is actually get to the buildings: and then deal just with the cold--or not so cold depending on the day. Wow, what a winter. Crazy. The general contractor though does have his crew on site weather permitting to do interior work on the buildings. National Grid has installed a new utility pole on site and our electrical contractor has received approval of his work on installing the necessary equipment at that location so as to energize the individual buildings. Our contractor is now actually going building to building and making the necessary "connections" so that each building is "energized". Another giant step forward. Kitchen equipment is on order and when received the general contractor will begin installation (weather and snow accumulation permitting of course). Our engineers are working with the State Dept. of Health for approvals of final plans for water treatment. The wells were earlier approved along with the installation of the underground water/septic lines. Now the DOH has to give final approval of the actual treatment of the water itself for human use.

Important dates are now scheduled:

1—Spring Cleanup is May 31, we are hoping that this time the work load will be a bit easier. Sure hoping so. Great time for getting together for a great time. Start at 9 ish. We should be done (hopefully) by 1 ish.

2—Golf tournament is scheduled for June 20. Same location. Awards, food and such back at the camp

3—Grand Opening/Dedication is scheduled for August 1. Past Grand Exalted Ruler Dave Carr will be present. All members of the New York State Elks Association---that means YOU---are invited.

District Reps will have more information on the 3 activities as the dates draw closer. However, put these dates in your calendars now.

Thanks for your continued support of Camp Bristol.

Richard Wunder
Past State President
Camp Bristol Committee

Camp Bristol
2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament
Saturday, June 20th
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, June 13th
Make checks payable to NYS Elks Camp Bristol

Information: Scott Hirst - 315-804-3512



Pictured to the immediate left and the right side of this page are some recent pictures taken at Camp Bristol that illustrate continued progress with facility construction.





ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Southampton Lodge #1574, under the direction of Exalted Ruler Bill Hughes, organized a donation of 156 winter coats to local agencies that work with children and people in need. They were then distributed to Maureen's Haven of Riverhead, Hampton Bays School District, The Retreat, a facility for abused women, the Tuckahoe Common School District and The Church of St. Rosalie of Hampton Bays. The coats were obtained through a Grant from the Elks National Foundation for \$2,500 and an additional donation from the Lodge for \$500.00. They were purchased from "Operation Warm" which provides winter coats at a greatly reduced price, to charitable organizations. Pictured: Back Row: Tuckahoe Principal Arlette Sicari and Guidance Counselor Angela Parisi and Front Row: Secretary Gene Scanlon.



Sidney Elks Lodge #2175 was a recipient of a \$2,000 Beacon Grant, solicited from the Elks National Foundation by Sharon Harris. The Grant monies were used to supply 4 local school districts Backpack Programs with clothing, shoes, boots and toiletries. Schools receiving donation were Bainbridge-Guilford, Gilbertsville-Mt Upton, Unatego and Sidney Elementary schools. Lodge members are pictured with Backpack volunteers from Brainbridge-Guildford school. Pictured L to Rare Nancy Peck school employee and Elks Ladies Auxiliary President, Exalted Ruler Patrick Dedman Lodge Treasurer Sharon Harris, Heather Amatuccio, Bainbridge Guilford



Scotia Glenville Lodge #2759 used their Spotlight Grant to donate to a local Stand Down held on October 5, 2019 at the Schenectady Armory. The Lodge donated \$2000 in women's undergarments, leggings and socks to needy veterans. The lodge also served lunch to 155 veterans in addition to 30 to 40 of the many volunteers who spent the day serving our veterans, including Red Cross volunteers, members of local Veteran's agencies, first responders, medical and dental staff and youth volunteers from local scout troops. Pictured are New York State Elks President Brian Greene, PSVP and Grants Coordinator, Past State Vice President Debra Kruk, Veteran's Chair Jeff Lodge, Esteemed Loyal Knight Terri Bacchi, Past Exalted Ruler and Lodge Trustee Bradley Harkness and Organist Rich Kruk



Through the use of \$2500 from the Beacon Grant, **Smithtown Lodge #2036** held its' annual Christmas Party for the residents of 6 group homes run by United Cerebral Palsy of Suffolk County. Lodge Committee Chairwoman, Past Exalted Ruler Elizabeth Boyd, purchased 36, hand picked "wish list" gifts with the information obtained by UCP Suffolk County. Santa arrived in all of his glory to entertain and distribute gifts. The day included a keyboard player and a singer, dancing, dinner, cookies, candy, ice cream and cake. Gifts were also given to the group homes including a 65" TV, a stereo system and gift baskets of candy. Approximately 16 members were in attendance to help cook, serve, clean up and socialize with their guests. The results of this annual event were absolutely heartwarming.



Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161 was working hard again packing and delivering bags stuffed full of food for 39 Seniors thanks to the Elks National Foundation IMPACT Grant! 22 seniors from Embury received food from Franklin Community Center and 18 seniors from the Wilton Commons received food from Saint Clement's. Pictured above are Lodge Members involved with the Senior Outreach Committee; Peter LaVenia, Lillian Miles (one of the Lodges newest Members) and Past Exalted Ruler David Waghorn with packing food from the orders placed by the Seniors.



Peekskill Lodge #744 used proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to aid the Mt. St. Camel Society Food Bank. 10 members of the Peekskill Elk Lodge #744 shopped and deliver three truck loads of food the Mt. St. Carmel Society food bank in Verplank, New York. The participating members are pictured with some of the items purchased for the food bank.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Through the use of the Beacon Grant, the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** purchased "wish list gifts" provided by the Northport VA Hospital for their "Secret Soldier Santa" program. These gifts are being distributed to the children of Veterans from the hospital well in time for the Christmas Holiday. This years' gifts included decorative shoes, matching slacks and tops for the children and various toys. Approximately \$180.00 was utilized for this project. Pictured (l-r) are Santa's helper Tom Ferenholz along with VAVS Joseph Sledge, VA Hospital Director, and Past State Vice President Jack Stein.

Scotia Glenville Elks Lodge #2759 used part of their Gratitude Grant to provide duffel bags to our local foster care unit. The Lodge purchased 30 duffel bags and filled them with socks, a blanket, pajamas, personal care items, books and a small toy/comfort item. The bags will be used when a child is taken into foster care and will provide not only some items of their own but a means to transport their belongings. The bags were assembled and donated to Schenectady County foster care unit. Pictured are Lodge members that assisted with the duffel bag project.



Riverhead Elks Lodge #2044 used funds received from the Gratitude Grant and presented a check for \$250.00 to a very grateful LT. Richard Boden from the Riverhead Police Athletic League. It will be used for the Bike Rodeo they have in the spring for kids in the Riverhead area. Lodge Secretary Diane Allen is pictured presenting the donation to LT. Richard Boden.



Through a \$2000 Freedom Grant, along with \$500 donated by Lodge members, **Islip Elks Lodge #1323** delivered a car load of non-perishable food to the Beacon House for homeless veterans in Bay Shore, Long Island. It was quite a long day of shopping and unloading the items purchased, headed by Past Exalted Ruler Norman Newkirk, but well worth the time spent. Past Exalted Ruler Norman Newkirk is pictured with a resident of the Beacon House.

Vestal Elks lodge# 2508 used a \$2500 Gratitude Grant to host a spaghetti dinner to honor and thank the Western Broome County Meals on Wheels volunteers for their dedication to helping others. Over 100 volunteers came out to enjoy the dinner, including special guest Senator Fred Akshar. During a special presentation, Exalted Ruler John Pooler, Past Exalted Ruler Tom Butchko, and Esteemed Loyal Knight Mindi Moniz presented Meals on Wheels Director Jackie Pangilinan with a check for \$2000. Senator Akshar, in part, stated; "...two remarkable organizations that make a difference in our community coming together to celebrate their services to others."



Homer Elks Lodge #2506 delivered Christmas packages to needy families at the local Spafford Food Pantry located in the Scott United Methodist Church in Scott, NY. A total of 14 packages, containing several presents and gift cards each, were delivered serving 9 total families in need ahead of the holiday. This program was made possible through the \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant that was awarded to the Lodge from the Community Investments Program (CIP). Pictured (from left to right) are: Jelena Barnes, Lodge ENF Fundraising Chair and Debbie Brown, Food Pantry Director.



Cohoes-Waterford Elks #1317 received a \$2000 Freedom Grant in 2019 to support homeless Veterans and Lodge Veterans Service Chairperson, Past Exalted Ruler Regina M. Hogan, took two Veterans on personal shopping trips for needed house hold items as they transition from homelessness to permanent housing. Pictured is one of the Veterans during a shopping trip.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Johnson City Elks Lodge #2821 had a very busy Christmas time season. The Lodge used an ENF grant to purchase gifts for Mom's House for 21 children of single moms going to college or school full time. Santa, Exalted ruler Scotty Dow and elves delivered gifts and lunch. The Lodge participated in the annual Johnson City Business and Professional Women's Holiday parade. Thirty children and staff members of HCA and Elks made Whoville come alive for the annual parade. The Lodge then hosted 25 HCA adult residents for a Christmas dinner and presents, bought with an ENF grant. Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand for pictures with each resident. In addition the lodge sent home a turkey dinner to be made on Christmas day at the five residential homes. The Lodge also had their annual visit to the Apple Court at Oxford's Veterans Home. Gifts for 41 Veterans were delivered by Elks and Girl Scout troop members. Carols were led by the Girl Scouts, and snacks and punch were available. Lastly, Lodge members delivered over 30 dozens Christmas cookies, candy and coffee to the USO at Fort Drum in Watertown NY.

Cohoes-Waterford Elks Lodge #1317 packed and delivered over 120 boxes of food to families in the Cohoes and Waterford Community. The efforts were made possible through the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant, tips collected from fish fries during Lent along with two additional fundraisers, plus donated food items from members and non-members and several monetary donations. The shopping started in September. The lists were obtained shortly after Thanksgiving from the Food Pantry in Waterford and through Pastor Moore in Cohoes who coordinated with the Cohoes School District. Lists were compiled and set up for packing and delivery. All of the food was picked up on 12/19 and unpacked and organized by our members and Girl Scout Service Unit #161. Packing began at 9AM on 12/21 and all food was delivered between 10AM-Noon. Channel 10 conducted 4 Live Interviews with our Event Coordinator and Channel 6, 10 and 13 showed up to take video and do interviews. We are thrilled with our partnerships in our Community and we are so happy to help those in need. We had a large group of volunteers for this event as you can see from the picture; they include our members, our members children, Scout Troop 632 and Service Unit #161.



Cohoes-Waterford Elks Lodge #1317 presented a \$1000 check to the Waterford-Halfmoon School District to help underprivileged students purchase school supplies. This donation was possible from the \$2500 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. Pictured (L-R) is Past District Deputy Paul C. Galarneau, Principal Christopher Scanlan, Exalted Ruler William Rosenberger, School Superintendent Patrick Palmerville, Past Exalted Ruler John Lord, and Assistant Principal Joel Richardson.

Members of **Middletown Elks Lodge #1097** held a Bike Day at the Town of Wallkill Boys and Girls Club Summer Day Camp. With the assistance of a Beacon Grant from the Elks National Foundation, Elroy the Elk shared his Drug Awareness message. Over sixty bike helmets were distributed and six bikes were raffled to campers.



Scotia Glenville #2759 used a portion of their gratitude grant for their Adopt a Family project. Along with grant funds and Lodge member donations, the lodge was able to fulfill all requests and provide food for the holiday meal and provide staple food items to the families. Due to the generosity of the members, the Lodge was able to provide Christmas to 3 families.

Through the use of monies received from the Promise Grant, the members of **Islip Elks Lodge #2533** donated \$1500 to the Islip High School POST PROM Committee to help provide a drug and alcohol free event for the graduating seniors and their guests. Lodge members Bob Romano, Leading Knight Dennis Casey, Carmine Pagano, Luanne D'Angelo, Exalted Ruler Joe D'Angelo and Lodge Secretary James Kachadourain volunteered to check in and register the students prior to the event.

A group of members from **Sidney Elks Lodge #2175** traveled to the Catskill Veterans Outreach Center in Stamford NY. The Lodge used proceeds awarded through the Spot Light Grant and Gratitude Grant to provide a complete room for homeless veterans or veterans in transition. Additionally, hygiene products and food for the food pantry were provided. The group also enjoyed a lunch with the residents and staff of the center.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Thanks to the funds received through the Gratitude Grant, **Huntington Elks Lodge #1565** purchased 150 dictionaries that were distributed to all third grade students at the St. Patrick's Elementary School in the Huntington area. As always, the reception received was overwhelming by both the students and faculty members. Pictured are several grateful students showing their enthusiasm, along with Past Exalted Ruler Jack Safarik.



Cohoes-Waterford Elks Lodge #1317 hosted a Community Baby Shower and Literacy Event. The Lodge applied for and received the Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant which was \$2000. With the Grant and member donations, an enormous amount of baby supplies were purchased which included diapers, wipes, bibs, blankets, lotion, cereal, and much more. The local churches and schools donated new and slightly used books which were displayed throughout the Elks Lodge for attendees to take for free. Approximately 20 families joined us and left with full baskets of baby supplies and books. Juice and donuts were provided to all attendees. Pictured (L-R) is member Paula Rosenberger, PSVP Renee Bott, Lodge Secretary Valerie Ridgeway, member Debbie Kirkland, Esteemed Lecturing Knight and Event Chairperson Lorraine Hobart, her daughters Emily and Alexa and member Bob Cavosie.



In its effort to promote and sustain early literacy development, members of **Hornell Elks Lodge #364** helped place free books into the hands of small children through the nationwide Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The Elks partnered with United Way of Steuben County in the signing up of children who are from one day old to one month before they turn five years old and start school. The Lodge was awarded a Spotlight grant of \$2,000 through the Elk National Foundation, enough to ensure that 80 children in the greater Hornell area each receive in the mail a free book each month until they age out of the program. Lodge members were busy throughout Fall, 2019, hosting sign-up tables for the parents of the lucky children at events such as the October Trunk or Treat, Best Western's Santa Claus visit, and Canisteo's Christmas in the Village. They also signed up children at the Hornell Children's Home and places such as Wal Mart. With the help of United Way, this project has been truly rewarding and enjoyable. Past Exalted Ruler Jeanne Gore and Lecturing Knight Cindie Harrington, pictured above, enjoyed talking to the parents about the Dolly Parton Imaginary Library and signing up their children for the program. They are both members of the Lodge Grants Committee.

Cortland Elks Lodge 748 held an adoptathon event in coordination with the Lodges ENF gratitude grant efforts. The event was successful with two purrfect kittens finding their forever home, and many others getting the socialization they need. Pictured: Natalie Funk - daughter of Exalted Ruler Amanda Funk and Secretary David Funk as she gives socialization cuddles to a kitty candidate.



Binghamton Elks Lodge #70 continues to put its Beacon Grant to good use assisting the Knight Pack Program. Knight Pack and Binghamton Elks Lodge #70 have teamed up over the last 6 years to provide food packs to students on weekends and breaks through the year. Members purchase food, pack the bags, and deliver them to the school. Binghamton Elks Lodge #70 is excited to continue this partnership. Lodge members that assisted with the Knight Pack Program are pictured as they display some of the bags they packed for students.



Each year **Fulton Elks Lodge #830** prepares and delivers Christmas boxes to needy families in our community. Thanks to a Beacon grant received from the Elks National Foundation, they were able to almost double the number of baskets donated from 25 last year to 43 this year! Each basket receives a ham and turkey, potatoes, onions, milk and eggs, a gift for each child in the family and additional food to help families get through the recent holiday season.

Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161's Senior Outreach Committee is at it again...making the second and fourth weeks of the month very special for Seniors in our Community. Volunteers have packed and delivered bags of food to approximately 200 seniors living in the Saratoga and Wilton areas thanks to the Elks National Foundation Impact Grant. The Lodge has partnered with Pitney Meadows Community Farm, Franklin Community Center, Wilton Food Pantry and St. Clement's Food Pantry. These partnerships have contributed to the success and growth of the program. The committee recently met in August at the Wilton Food Pantry and prepared a total of 38 bags. Embury received 19 bags, 18 bags went to Wilton Commons, and 1 bag was delivered to Northern Pines. Each bag contains food for the seniors to prepare approximately 12 meals each. Pictured are Members and friends of Saratoga-Wilton Lodge at the Food pantry

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Auburn Elks Lodge #474 held their Annual Children's Christmas Party with Santa. The children enjoyed making a candy cane craft. Pizza, cookies and popcorn were available for all to enjoy. A very special Thank You to Santa & and their helpers who made the day special for the children. 10 children were in attendance.



Carthage Lodge #1762 distributed 233 dictionaries to third grade students at Augustinian, West Carthage, Black River and Carthage Elementary Schools. Loyal Knight Elizabeth Gamble is pictured with some of the students as they proudly display their new dictionaries.



Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 is the proud sponsor of the new troop. Scouts Troop 41G is pictured as the Troop is installed as a new Scouts troop for girls.



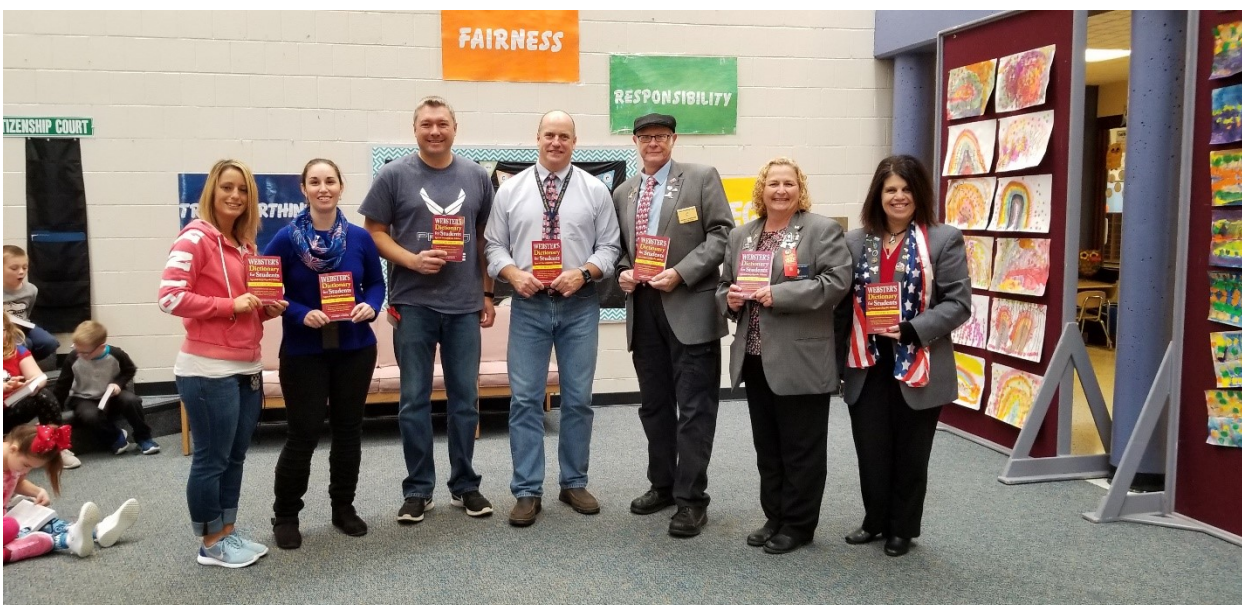
This year's **'Breakfast with Santa'** at the Catskill Elks Lodge, held on December 15th, was a huge success once again. The younger kids enjoyed visiting with Santa and receiving their goodie bags. 65 kids of all ages enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Santa's 'elks'. Thanks to all the lodge members who helped make this a magical day!



Auburn Elks Lodge #474 recently distributed dictionaries to the 3rd grade students at Casey Park, Genesee, Herman, Seward and Owasco Elementary Schools. 336 Dictionaries were distributed. Drug Awareness coloring books and bookmarks were also handed out. Lodge Trustee Al Parsons, ER John Chick Lecturing Knight Janel Smith & School Resource Officer Officer Morrissey are pictured here with Kelly Garback the Principal of Casey Park Elementary School The Dictionary Project is an annual Youth Activity.



Haverstraw Elks Lodge No. 877 held an annual Haunted House. The Lodge banquet ballroom was overflowing with families, friends and neighbors from all over the community. Several weeks prior to the event members and volunteers begin the task of converting two floors of its Victorian styled clubhouse into a scary haunted house for kids of all ages. John Lawless, PER, SVP, Lodge Secretary, stated that the "Haverstraw Elks have been holding the haunted house event for well over 30 years." The Lodge also offered attendees chicken fingers, French fries, sodas, ice cream and, of course, candy.



Cohoes-Waterford Elks Lodge #1317 delivered 223 dictionaries to 3rd graders in the Waterford-Halfmoon and Cohoes School Districts. The dictionaries were purchased with the remaining \$500 from the Gratitude Grant. Prior to delivery, the lodge ordered patriotic labels that said, "Donated by: Cohoes Waterford Elks #1317," and a High School Student from Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) put labels on the inside cover of the 300 dictionaries. The dictionaries were delivered to Waterford-Halfmoon Elementary School, and Harmony Hill, Abram Lansing, and Van Schaick Elementary Schools by members of our Lodge. The children were so appreciative as well as the school teachers and principals. "Our Youth of today is our leaders of tomorrow". Pictured (L-R) Harmony Hill Elementary in Cohoes 3rd Grade Teachers, School Principal Mark Perry, Lodge Exalted Ruler William Rosenberger, Lodge Secretary Valerie Ridgeway and PSVP Renee Bott

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Binghamton Elks #70 took part in its 5th Annual Letters To Santa as part of the Town of Kirkwood's Hometown Christmas. The Lodge opened up its doors to the families in their community to enjoy a Letters To Santa Station with letter templates, pencils, markers, envelopes, etc. Each child received a personalized letter in return from Santa with the help of a Lodge #70 Elf! While attending families also enjoyed lunch and soft drinks. Members and families look forward to this event each year!



The Thunderbird Scout District of New York State held its annual Eagle Recognition Dinner on January 21, 2020. One hundred and twenty Scout Leaders, Scouts, family members and guests were in attendance for the dinner hosted by the Hillside Baptist Church. The **Hornell Elks Lodge #364** presented each Eagle Scout with the Grand Lodge Certificate, Grand Lodge Letter of Congratulations, the Elks/Scouting pin and an American Flag. Presenters from Hornell Elks Lodge #364 were PDDGER Howard W. Nisbet, III and PER Brian Mehlenbacher. They are pictured with Scouts, kneeling in front: Jacob Brizzee (Canistota Troop #83), Ethan Hart (Dansville Troop #38) Standing from L to R: Caleb Mills (Greenwood Troop #62), Brian Mehlenbacher (PER Hornell Elks), Nathan Smalt (Dansville Troop #38), Matthew Oyer (Hornell Troop #1009), Nicholas Haraty (Arkport Troop #16), Westin Perry (Canistota Troop #83), Marshall Barron (Dansville Troop #38), Howard Nisbet (PDDGER Hornell Elks) 2019 Eagle Scouts not pictured: Conner Griffin (Alfred Troop #19), Camden Hayes (Avoca Troop #32), Jacob Cotton (Dansville Troop #38), Jason Burg (Bath Troop #59), John Bentley (Bath Troop #59), Dekota Ritter (Bath Troop #59),



Fulton Elks Lodge #830 presented Walmart gift cards to the winners of their annual Americanism Essay contest, which was open to all 5th, 6th 7th and 8th grade students in the Fulton School District. This year's theme was "What Freedom of Speech Means to Me." Winning essays will go on to be judged at the District, State and National level. The students are pictured with Elks essay Judges Peter Bailey, Exalted Ruler Joyce Coady Chris Scoville.



The members of **Islip Lodge #2533** delivered approximately 65 student dictionaries to the third grade classes at the "Our Lady of Providence Elementary School". Lodge members received a very warm welcome from both the students and faculty members. Pictured, from one of the classes, is Past Exalted Ruler Norman Newkirk. During the dictionary presentation he answered some questions the students had about the Elks.



Hudson Elks Lodge #787 held an Eagle scout ceremony for Eagle Scout Collin Jackson. Past Exalted Ruler Dan Shaughnasy presented Eagle Scout Jackson with a certificate, United States Flag, and a check for \$50 during Collins Court of Honor Ceremony held in Germantown, NY. Collin received the rank of Eagle Scout at age 18. His Eagle scout project was overseeing the construction of raised vegetable and flower gardens in the Germantown Central School for the Students.



Mid-Westchester Elks Lodge #535 participated The Dictionary Project by providing dictionaries to the 3rd grade class at Columbus Elementary School, Thornwood, NY. Mid-Westchester Elks Lodge #535 Exalted Ruler Robert Lent and Leading Knight Jay Singer are pictured with Principal Michael Cunzio and some students after the dictionaries were distributed. The School held an assembly where the 3rd grade class received their own personal dictionary. (Picture to the right).

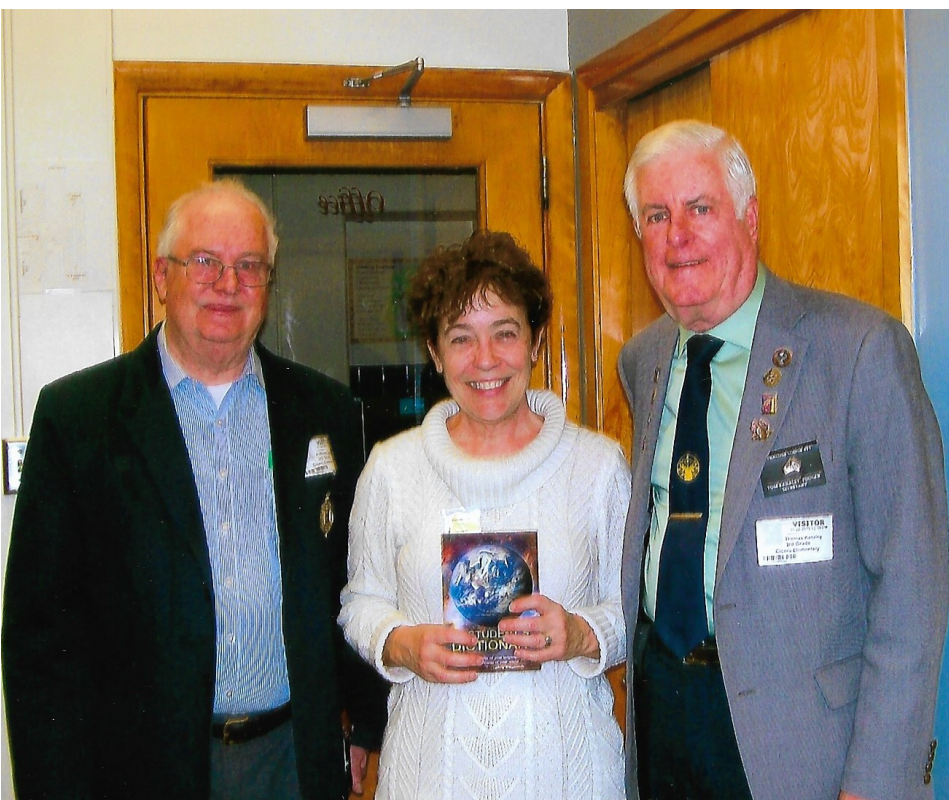
YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Watervliet Elks Lodge #1500 recently gave out 160 dictionaries to 3rd graders in Menands, Heatly and Watervliet Elementary schools. The teachers at these 3 schools look forward to the dictionary project every year. Pictured following the distribution of dictionaries at one of the schools is Past State Vice President Ed Baniak of Watervliet Lodge and two of the third grade teachers.



Southern Westchester Lodge # 707 hosted an annual Christmas Party for disabled children the Fern Cliff Manor. The Lodge presented gifts and provided food for about 70 disabled children. Pictured are Santa (Joseph De Rosa) with his helpers Ida Lamberti and Eleanor Ferreiro.



Syracuse Elks Lodge #31 recently visited Cicero Elementary school to present dictionaries along with unique bookmarks created by Lodge member Tony Zallnick. Dictionaries were presented to 121 third grade students. Lodge members Tony Zallnick, and Past District Deputy and Lodge Secretary Tom Kanaley are pictured with School Principal Kathy Wheeler.



Riverhead Elks Lodge #2044 invited children within their community, along with their parents, to a day of crafts, a visit from Santa and presents galore. The Lodge is well known throughout the surrounding area and the children play a large role in much of the charitable work they do. Pictured here are some of the children after receiving their hand chosen gifts.



Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161 Chaplain Jean Brunelle and her planning committee hosted a wonderful Children's Christmas Party for the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of Lodge members. There were 35 children in attendance along with their family members. There were about 100 in attendance all together. Lunch and crafts were provided by the Lodge. The kids decorated ornaments that they made and played games and won prizes with our DJ Patti and her son. Santa arrived and each child received a personal gift selected just for them from Santa, as well as a book and candy cane.

Vestal Lodge #2508 members helped to raise the flag at the Vestal Little League opening ceremony. The Lodge has held this honored tradition for over 15 years. The flags are acquired by Ted Baker and thru the request of Honorable Anthony Brindisi, member of Congress. These flags are flown in honor of past and present veterans. There is a certificate certifying that these flags have flown over the United States Capitol. Exalted Ruler John Pooler presented the flags to the little league president. Veterans Chuck Yoko, Richard Fowler and Past Exalted Ruler Tom Butchko, raised the flag during the playing of the National Anthem.



Earlier this past year, **Potsdam Lodge #2074** partnered with the Potsdam High School Positivity Project students and jointly collected Candy Bars for the Soldiers stationed at Fort Drum. Since the Candy Bar Drive, the Positivity Project students have assisted at Lodge events that have included the Veterans Dinner and recent Children's Party. Recently the Positivity Project was honored to have members of the Clarkson ROTC Team as quest presenters. The ROTC members shared their Military experiences with the 27 Positivity Project Students and Project Advisors that attended the event at the High School Library. The ROTC Team answered several questions from the students and teachers regarding the ROTC and life as a soldier deployed in Iraq and Afganistan. During the presentation it was announced that Positivity Project Students Destiny Covey and Emily Robar will be taking a lead with the 2020 Fort Drum "Sweet Treats for Soldiers" candy bar drive as part of their senior project. Their goal is to raise over 20,000 candy bars during the upcoming drive. Lodge members Mary Charleston and Tim Welpé attended as guests and Mary provided a history on the "Sweet Treats for Soldiers" candy bar drive.

Cortland Elks Lodge #748 held a successful pancake breakfast to kick off the pancake breakfast season. The event had 184 attendees and raised \$736 for the Cortland Girls Soccer Team. 30 student athletes from Cortland High School volunteered at the event. The event had 10 Elks lodge volunteers to make it a success.

Massapequa Elks Lodge #2162 held its 6th annual PDDGER Richard T. Smith Golf Outing at Timber Point Golf Course in Great River, NY. Event Chairman Tom Harrington (Lodge Treasurer) and Co-Chairman Kathy Harrington hosted the outing. Thanks to funds raised at the event, the Lodge awarded "The PDDGER Richard T. Smith Scholarship" of \$1000.00 to a local High School senior toward her college education, as well as \$500.00 to N.Y. Major Projects.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Yorktown Elks Lodge #2324 held a Christmas Party for the homeless children of the Coachman Family Center in White Plains, NY. The children each received toys and also hats, gloves, and scarves knitted and donated by several of the Lodge members. This was followed up by a meal of chicken nuggets, French fries, hot dogs and various cookies, cupcakes and ice cream for dessert. And a visit from Santa! The children that attended are pictured with Lodge members who volunteered at the Christmas Party. Picture to the left.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 was one of many area organizations that participated in the Potsdam Back to School Fair, sponsored by the Potsdam Snack Pack Program. The Lodge donated backpacks to support the fair that benefited students from Potsdam Central School. Exalted Ruler Peter Dangremond, Esquire Tracy Green and Event Coordinator Larci Collins are pictured receiving a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Lodge from Laurell Braut, Potsdam Snack Pack program Coordinator.



The members of **Patchogue Lodge #1323** attended a Court of Honor for Scout Shawn Wrobel from Troop 40 of Medford and presented him with a pocket size American flag, a certificate of Recognition from the Lodge, along with a congratulatory letter, Certificate of Merit and a Feather Pin from Grand Exalted Ruler Robert L Duitman. Shawn's project was a mailbox to deposit flags for proper retirement in front of their local VFW. He is pictured with Exalted Ruler Dan Brooks.



Patchogue Elks Lodge #1323 members were honored to present the winners of the December "Students of the Month" awards to fifth, tenth, and 11th grade scholastic achievers at their December general assembly. The students are pictured with Exalted Ruler Dan Brooks following the award presentations.



Owego Elks Lodge #1039 distributed dictionaries to the 3rd grade students at Candor, Apalachin and Owego Elementary Schools. The kids were great. The Lodge recognizes Suzanne Peacock Newswanger for doing all the real work and making the distributions interesting and exciting for the students. Exalted Ruler Steve Gregory had the honor of presenting a dictionary to one of his grandsons who is in the 3rd grade at OES. Pictured are Past Exalted Ruler Suzanne Peacock Newswanger and Lodge Exalted Ruler Steve Gregory with 3rd grade students.



Islip Elks Lodge #1323 members took students from the West Islip Middle School on a field trip to the Islip Clam Hatchery after meeting with Town Officials. The day concluded with a pizza party which all enjoyed. It was a terrific day's outing which will be long remembered. This, in concert with their Drug Awareness Program, participation in the district Track Meet, Scholarship Awards and Dictionary Program, has truly enhanced the relationship between the Lodge and the students and faculty within their school district. Picture to the left)

Cortland Elks lodge hosted a pancake breakfast for the Cortland Youth Hockey Team - The Cortland Flames. The event featured 296 attendees that enjoyed a breakfast meal, over 60 volunteer athletes and parents and 8 Lodge volunteers. The event raised over \$1200 for the Youth Hockey Team to aid in equipment, uniform and ice rink time expenses.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



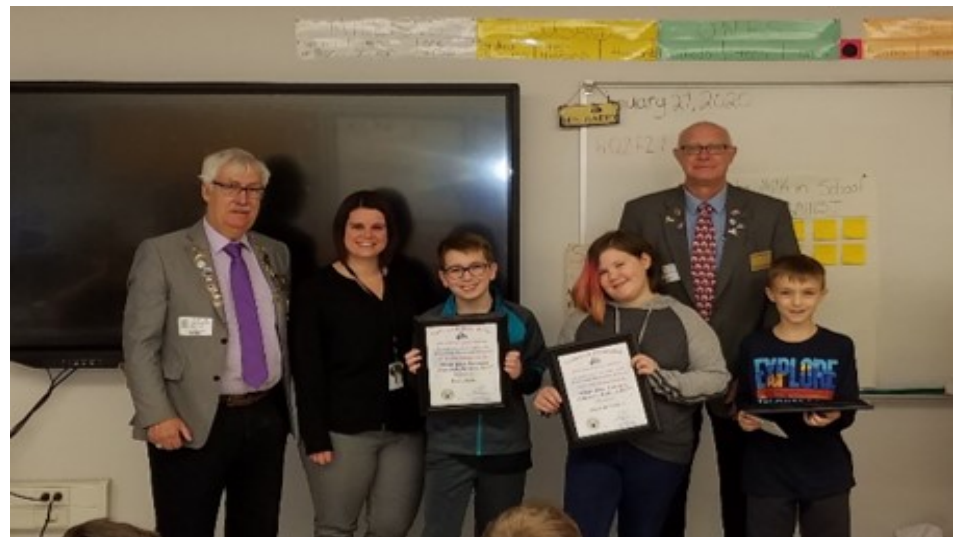
Islip Lodge #2533 Dictionary Project drew quite a lot of excitement at St. Mary's Elementary as seen in the attached photo. 46 students were presented with their dictionaries by Past Exalted Ruler Dennis Casey and Past Exalted Ruler Norman Newkirk. After spending some time with the students and faculty, they left with a round of applause from the students.



Fulton Elks Lodge #830 held their annual Special Needs Breakfast with Santa, in conjunction with the non-profit organization Parents of Special Children. Lodge members cooked and served breakfast to those of all ages from the community with developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers. Santa met with each individual and gave them a gift. Pictured are the Lodge members that assisted at the breakfast.



The members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** proudly presented the third grade students from St Patrick's Elementary School with dictionaries provided by funds received from the Gratitude Grant. Approximately 100 dictionaries were distributed throughout the day. Pictured are students after receiving their very own dictionary through the efforts of Jack Safarik, PER and Bob Vandenburg.



Cohoes-Waterford Elks Lodge #1317 presented Framed Certificates and Movie Pass Packs (2 movie passes and a gift card) to each of the Americanism Essay Contest Winners who wrote about "What Does Freedom of Speech mean to me?" Over 70 essays were received and were read and graded by a team of members. Pictured below is Exalted Ruler William Rosenberger, Past Exalted Ruler John Lord, the 8th Grade Waterford-Halfmoon Winners, their teacher Mr. Stein and Assistant Principal Richardson. All winners will be invited to read their essays at the Lodge Flag Day Ceremony in June.



Beacon Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Robert Lanier presented two students with a Student of the Month Award. He is pictured above as he presents a 7th grade student with a student of the month award at the Rombout Middle School. He is pictured below as he presented the Student of the Month Award to an 8th Grade Student. Each student received a certificate and a gift certificate to Glazed over Donut.

Cohoes-Waterford Elks Lodge #1317 hosted a Breakfast with Santa/ Toys for Tots Breakfast for Girl Scout Service Unit 161. Members of the Lodge ran the kitchen and raffles. The Girl Scouts served the breakfast and cleared tables. Two full boxes of toys were collected. Approximately 110 people were served, and the Girl Scouts cleared approximately \$500 to use for upcoming Troop events. The Marine Corp. presented a Certificate to the Lodge and to the Service Unit. Pictured (L-R) Timothy Forbes, Marine Corp Representative, Santa (Exalted Ruler William Rosenberger), Girl Scout Event Coordinator Sue Hankamp, Lodge Secretary Valerie Ridgeway and two of the helpers from the Girl Scouts

Potsdam Elks Lodge #2074 recently held it's annual Hockey Shoot at the Pine Street Arena in Potsdam, NY. 20 area youth participated in the Hockey Shoot. Awards consisted of Hockey pucks, 2 game tickets to upcoming St. Lawrence University or Clarkson University Men's Hockey games, duffle bags, hoodies and bottles. In addition to the Hockey Shoot, the Lodge donated \$300 to the Potsdam Recreation Department to sponsor a week of free public skating at Pine Street arena during a recent school recess.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Huntington Lodge #1565 hosted an Eagle Scout Ceremony for two Eagle Scout recipients from the Lodge sponsored Troop 106. Exalted Ruler Alssa Nightingale and Americanism Chairman and Past Exalted Ruler Peter Demidovich are pictured with Eagle Scouts Christian Terrone and Daniel Renter during the ceremony. It was an exciting evening that was attended by a huge, enthusiastic crowd.



Patchogue Lodge #1323 kicked off the new school year, presenting accomplished 9th, 10th and 11th grade students from the Patchogue-Medford High School, with their "Students of the Month" Awards. The students are pictured proudly showcasing their certificates with Exalted Ruler Dan Brooks.



Liverpool Elks Lodge #2348 held its annual Children's Halloween Party. The party included crafts, coloring, snacks and a costume parade. Each child received goodie bag filled with various small gifts. A great time was had by the 30 children who attended the party. State Vice President Robert Culican is pictured at the event with his two granddaughters Korey and Kaleigh.



The members of **Patchogue Elks Lodge** sponsored a gaming tournament for local students in the Patchogue area. The tournament featured competition on three games, including "Call of Duty Modern Warfare", "Super Smash Bros." and "Street Fighter". A poster board was prominently displayed during the day's activities showing all of the programs the Elks have for students. Pamphlets were made available to all attendees including our Hoop Shoot. Prizes were awarded to the winners at the conclusion of the event.



Oswego Elks # 271 had their annual flag retirement ceremony at Fort Ontario with the help of Boy Scout Troop 888 and Girl Scout Troop 10567. Exalted Ruler Carol Simpson provided the scouts education on how to properly cut up a flag before burning. Pamphlet's and American flag pins were handed out during the ceremony.

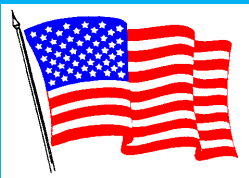


Liberty Elks # 1545 held their annual Trick or Treat at the lodge . Elroy Elk made his debut at the event with an overwhelming delight from the trick or treaters who took many photos with him. Drug awareness packets as well as chips, cookies, candy, fruit snacks and juice boxes were also handed out. Over 20 members of the Lodge were in attendance to help pass out goodies to over 400 kids.



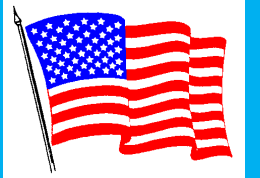
Auburn Elks Lodge held an annual Children's Halloween Party. The children made crafts, ate pizza and ice cream and each child was given a Halloween goody bag. The 10 children were in attendance had a great day.

Cortland Elks lodge #748 hosted a pancake breakfast for the Cortland High School All Night Party (after prom). Over 130 people attended the breakfast- raising over \$500 to support drug free after prom events. In other news, Cortland Elks lodge #748 used proceeds from a Beacon Grant and delivered care packages to four Veterans at Cedar Wood Assisted Living Center.



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



Auburn Elks Lodge #474 recently donated \$200 to support the Vietnam Memorial that will be placed at the Aqueduct Park in Weedsport NY. The Memorial will list the men from Cayuga County who died in the war as well as a map of Vietnam, a time line of the war and pictorials. Exalted Ruler John Chick is pictured presenting the donation on behalf of Auburn Lodge to Retired Cayuga County Sheriff David Gould. David is a Vietnam Veteran.



Three members of **Catskill Elks Lodge #1341** (Emily Gallo, Don Fisher and Maria Impastato) served as this year's Santa's Helpers. They packed and delivered gift bags to veterans at area nursing homes. A total of 65 bags were delivered. The bags contained handmade lap robes made by members of the Cairo Crafters and also other goodies. (Picture to the left)



Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 hosted 30 Veterans from Castle Point VA , Montrose VA and The Veterans Community Foster care program to a Chicken Dinner with all the fixings. Everyone enjoyed Bingo and left with crafts Kits and leather wheelchair gloves from the Elks National Veterans Commission.



Members of **Cohoes-Waterford Elks Lodge #1317** served ice cream to hospitalized veterans at the VA Hospital in Albany. They also gave out canteen books, patriotic magnet calendars & Stars for our Troops packets to the hospitalized veterans. Extra canteen books were donated for a Veteran haircut. Pictured (L-R) at the VA Hospital are member Christine McAllister, Veterans Service Chairperson, PER Regina Hogan, Trustee Carol Bronakowski and member Barbara Hebert.



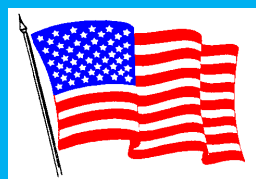
Carthage Lodge #1762 hosted a Veterans dinner at the Lodge. 30 veterans braved a storm so that they could attend the dinner that included turkey and all the fixings. 12 Honor students from Carthage High school served the dinner to the Veterans. Elaine Clark, a Veteran and spouse of Chaplain Paul Clarke performed the POW/MIA service. The tables were decorated with poppies, American Flags, and service flags. The Carthage High JROTC presented the flags before the meal. Additionally, 5 meals were delivered to the Carthage Nursing Home. SSG Christina Bamberg (retired) spoke to those attending about veterans and their stories. Lodge Exalted Ruler Sean McHale is pictured welcoming the Veterans to the Lodge.



Guilderland Lodge #2480 members delivered fourteen handmade lap blankets to Veterans at the Stratton VA Hospital in Albany. These were handmade by Guilderland Lodge #2480 member and Lodge Tiler Denise Ware. Included in this batch of lap blankets were one for each branch of the service including the Coast Guard. These were delivered by State Capital District Deputy Collen Quakenbush, State Vice President James M Rubino, VA Service Chairman PSVP Bill Vazal and his wife Sue along with PSVP Ed Baniak, NYSEA Sergeant At Arms and VAVS. The Veterans were extremely pleased to receive these very special handmade gifts.

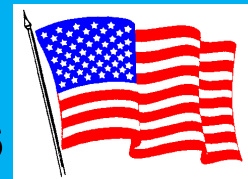
Officers and Members of **Haverstraw Elks Lodge No. 877** attended a Veteran's Day Ceremony conducted by American Legion's Leo Laders Post 130. Over 100 people were gathered at the Calico Hill Veteran's Memorial including Haverstraw Town Supervisor Howard Phillips and Village of Haverstraw Mayor Michael Kohut. Pictured at the ceremony (left to right) are Exalted Ruler John Downs, Esteemed Lecturing Knight Chris Schaub, Inner Guard Tom Schaub, Esteemed Loyal Knight Tito Crespo, and past Exalted Ruler Joe DePalma. (Picture to the right)





VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



Vestal Elks Lodge #2508 held their annual veterans dinner with 74 veterans in attendance. Over 150 people attended this event and enjoyed great food, music, raffles, and fellowship. During a special presentation, 92 year old navy veteran Thomas D'Angelo received a specially framed photo of his 1931 Model A car.....which he had on display at the Vestal Elks lodge's veteran's car show earlier in the summer. Local Senator Fred Akshar also attended the dinner and spoke a few words of praise to all the veterans in attendance and thanked them for their service. The event ended with everyone singing the armed services songs. In other news, on Veterans Day, the lodge partnered up with WBNG-12 news at the Lodge and held a donation drive for the Lodge's soldiers care packages program. 12 lodge members, most of whom were themselves veterans, braved the bitter cold for 14 hours to accept donations brought in by over 200 Vestal community members. \$4808 and approximately 7 months' worth of snacks and necessities were generously donated to the care packages program.



The **South East District #6400** Veterans Committee continues to give of themselves, after a full night of wrapping gifts at New York Lodge #1. The committee wrapped over \$3,000.00 worth of Holiday Gifts for the Hospitalized Veterans of Our Country. The South East District Elks celebrated and remembered our Veterans, during the holidays, at a recent Holiday Bingo at St. Albans Extended Care Facility. The committee handed out over \$100.00 canteen books to the Veterans present. The committee also provided the Veterans with cakes, cookies, donuts, coffee and soft drinks. The special hand wrapped gifts of sweatshirts, hats, tee shirts, socks, under ware, slippers, shower shoes, shampoo, and other assorted items. were given out to all the Veterans that attended the Bingo session. The total donation given that night was \$1,030.00, plus the time and travel donated by Elk members. The District also had the honor of being present with a Special Veteran, a recipient of The Purple Heart, He will be turning 100 years of age shortly. He served the United States during Pearl harbor. Pictured at the event were Richard Muniak, Past VAVS Rep. of Lodge #1, Anitra Butler NY State Trustee and New VAVS Rep of the South East District, member of Lodge #1, Herb Hoffman of Lodge #1, and Rich introduced John M. Nuzzi Sr. District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of The South East District, and member of New York Lodge #1, John represents our District Lodges, of New York Lodge #1, Staten Island # 841, Brooklyn-Queens Borough # 878, Hicksville # 1931, New Hyde Park #2107, and Massapequa #2162



Syracuse Elks Lodge #31 members recently visited the Veterans Wellness and Recovery Center to share pizza, wings, snacks and soda with 22 veterans. Pictured are members that visited the Center – from L-R Lodge Chaplin David Merriam, Mario Panetta, V A Recovery coach, Past District Deputy and Lodge Exalted Ruler Sheila O'Conner PDD, ER, and Past District Deputy and Lodge Secretary Tom Kanaley,

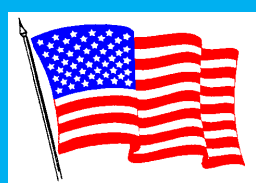
Through the efforts of the **Southampton Elks Lodge #1547** House Committee and Trustee John Renner, and Lodge Veteran's Activities Chairman Bobby Shea, several boxes of requested items were collected for the Northport VA Hospital. Items included essentials such as socks and underwear, which were then delivered to the VA-hospital for distribution. Bobby Shea makes several trips a year to the Veteran's Hospital and helps coordinate the Veteran's Activities with the Lodge. Trustee and Veteran Jim Renner is pictured to the right with this trip's gifts.



Sidney Elks Lodge #2175 delivered 114 personal gifts to the residents of the Oxford Veterans Home in Oxford New York. This gift drive provides gifts and holiday cheer to more than half the residents living at the home. Pictured with some of the residents of the Oxford Veterans Home are Lodge Trustee Greg Peck, Esteemed leading Knight Toni Gardner, Lodge Secretary Marge Johnson and Esteemed Lecturing Leading Knight Jim Johnson.

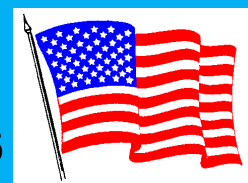


Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge #161 Officers and Members attended the 4th Annual Veterans Ball for their commitment to the VCHC and the local community. During the event Exalted Ruler Gerry Conboy and Al Sommer – Chairman of the Car Show, presented a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the proceeds of the 3rd Annual Car Show held at the Lodge earlier in the year to Cheryl Hage-Perez, Director of the Veterans and Community Housing Coalition. Cheryl Hage-Perez quoted: "To all of the Saratoga Wilton Elks...it's not just about the donations which truly help us help our veterans, it's also with the spirit in which you all give so selflessly and care about those in need! Elks care and Elks share!!" Pictured during the check presentation are (l-r): Exalted Ruler Gerry Conboy, Al Sommer – Car Show Chairman, Cheryl Hage-Perez – Executive Director of VCHC, John Safford – Lodge Veterans Services Chairman and Member Susan Waghorn PER.



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



Four members of **Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161** Veterans Services Committee visited the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center to serve ice cream to approximately 125 patients who are staying at the hospital at this time. It was a great way during the month of November to remember our veterans during Veteran's Remembrance month! Pictured left to right are Gerry Ketcham, Gary Wilcox, Dora Lee Stanley and John Safford – Veterans Services Chairman.



Patchogue Lodge # 1323 member Maria Capone, who Waitresses at the Patchogue Elks social gatherings and events, decided to save whatever tip money that she accumulated over the year and donate it to a cause to benefit Veterans. As such, she presented Sons of AMVETS Squadron 111 with a \$500 donation. Impressed with Capone's generosity and benevolence, the Sons 111 membership voted to match her contribution and present it to the Long Island State Veterans Home at Stony Brook University in support of the Recreational Therapy Program. At the January meeting of the Sons, Jonathan Spier accepted the \$1,000 check on behalf of the State Veterans Home. Pictured during the donation presentation are (l-r) are: Exalted Ruler Daniel Brooks, member Maria Capone, who originated the \$500 donation, Arnie Mendelsohn, Sons of AMVETS Squadron 111 Commander, Jonathan Spier, Deputy Executive Director of the Long Island State Veterans Home at Stony Brook University and Sons member Dennis Smith.



The Veterans Service Committee of **Poughkeepsie Lodge #275** held a Veteran's Breakfast to celebrate Veterans Day. 52 Veterans enjoyed a free Buffet breakfast including a very popular S.O.S. and 98 Civilians also paid to attend the breakfast. All net proceeds went to the Committee's efforts to assist local Poughkeepsie area veterans and veteran families in need. Pictured on the Buffet Line are Committee members (L-R) Pat Horan, Joe and Maureen Giorgi, Chris Hillerud, and a volunteer from Boy Scout Troop #275.



Christmas baskets and toys were delivered to the Salvation Army for families from the Oswego NY area. The baskets were provided thru the generosity of the members of **Oswego Elks Lodge #271**. Pictured with a room full of the baskets are Dave Longley, Past District Deputy Bill Kerfien, Rich Merritt, Kathy Somers, Don Turner and Past State Vice President John Rinaldo,



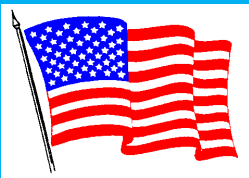
The members of **Port Jefferson Elks Lodge #2138** held their Annual Veteran's Dinner for 70 very grateful Veterans along with their aides. A complete turkey dinner was served while a DJ entertained the crowd. At the conclusion of the festivities, Santa (a.k.a. State Vice President John Brigante) arrived in all his glory, toting gift bags of toiletries and various sundries, which were then distributed to all. The veterans were bussed from Northport, Stony Brook and Pilgrim's State Hospitals and escorted into the Lodge by Lodge members. Pictured at the event are Past District Deputy Ed Lee volunteer and contributor from Costco, Santa (State Vice president John Brigante, contributor from Costco and Past State Vice President Nick Feliciano.



Recently **Northeast District** Veterans Service Chairperson Justine Crowley-Duncan and District Deputy Carmella Gillis traveled a short 3 hours to Fort Drum to deliver donated new books to the USO at Fort Drum to help stock the Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program Room. The Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program provides the supplies and space for soldiers to come and make a recording of them reading a book, and once they have left for deployment or training, they send the book and recording to their little loves ones. Donating books to this program is extremely simple. Any children's books they receive are put in the shelves for the soldiers to use. The only requirement is that the books are new. Although not a requirement, multiple copies of the same book are encouraged so multiple soldiers can read it. Each of the 8 Lodges in the Northeast District #6280 donated funds to assist in purchasing the 250 books that Justine and Carmella delivered.

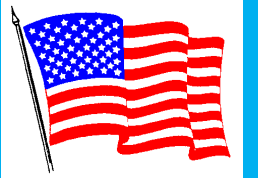
Vestal Elks Lodge #2508 Veterans committee hosted a Christmas party at the Oxford Veterans Home for 23 residents in Alzheimer's unit. Eight lodge members, lead by Exalted Ruler John Pooler, handed out presents for each resident. Everyone enjoyed the food, music, and fellowship.

Thanks to the funds received through the Beacon Grant, the members of **Huntington Elks Lodge #1565** were pleased to present a check for \$250.00 to the Recreational Therapy Unit for the Northport VA Hospital's bowling league. This program continues to be a favorite of the outpatients in terms of socializing, exercising and comradery. Pictured are (l-r): Lynne Stein, PDD, Jack Stein PSVP, Kathryn, VA Recreational Therapy Unit Representative and Judie Warden, Lodge Esquire.



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 donated 30 turkeys and over \$500 worth of assorted food to the Castle Point VA food pantry which services 136 families in the Mid- Hudson Valley. Pictured L-R are Elks Veterans Rep. Carl Oken and Veterans Howard and Jim. As they display some of the items that were donated to the food pantry.



Jamestown Elks Lodge #263 recently served their 101st breakfast to over 50 veterans! A Lodge crew of 15 Elks members served pancakes, sausage, made to order eggs, juice and coffee. Some of the Veterans that attended are pictured, in uniform, at the breakfast.



Haverstraw Elks Lodge No. 877 hosted 29 veterans and 2 staff members from Montrose V.A. Hospital for our annual Veterans Holiday Luncheon. The attendees were treated to a roast beef dinner and everyone won at bingo. Winners received \$10 worth of canteen books! A great time was had by all! Tom Carroll spearheads our Veterans Program. As a result of a schedule conflict, Rich Younger stepped in to run the event and was joined by 16 other Elk members.



Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530 served 100 dinners to area Veterans and their guests. The complimentary dinner was prepared and served by Lodge members that volunteered at the dinner. Some of the Veterans and guest in attendance are pictured at the dinner.



The members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** hosted their Annual Veteran's Dinner to the delight of residents from the Northport VA Hospital and local veterans within the community. The resident veterans from the VA were bussed to and from the Lodge, along with their helpers, for the evening. Dinner, dessert and refreshments were served with ongoing entertainment provided by "Pazzaz", a local singing group. All veterans received VA approved slip free socks and bags of snacks to be taken home at the conclusion of the event. Pictured standing at back (l-r) are: Judie Warden, Esquire, Jack Safarik, ST, member Joe Niemcyck, Robert T. Ryan, Lodge Sponsor, Connie Olson, Loyal Knight with friend and helper Tom, Past State Vice President Jack Stein. Sitting are: member George De Santos and Exalted Ruler Alyssa Nightingale. Not pictured is: Lynne Stein, PDD



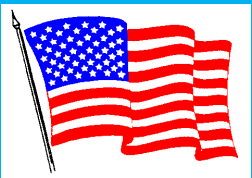
Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530 members Tom Miglio and David Rifley, along with their wives, went on a Patriot flight to Washington D.C. Davis was a member of the Coast Guard and Tom was a Paratrooper in the 101st Airborn Division. Pictured at the WWII Memorial are Debbie and David Rifley Carol and Tom Miglio. During the trip, they visited all the memorials including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.



Members from **Huntington Elks Lodge #1565** attended the Standdown at the Freeport Armory with a car load of sundries, shirts, playing cards, leather kits and slip free socks, for distribution. Headed by Past State Vice President Jack Stein, the reception was tremendous with over 500 Veterans in attendance.

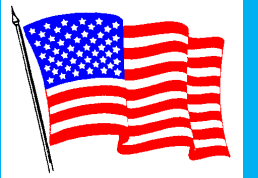


Patchogue Elks Lodge #1323 hosted Congressman Lee Zeldin's nominations for the United States Service Academies for students from the 1st Congressional District. The awards allow the recipient to apply to West Point, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force and the U. S. Merchant Marines, for admission. Pictured are the recipients receiving their awards.



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



Vestal Lodge held a donation drive for their lodge soldiers care packages program. Pictured is 9 yr old Kelsey Brewster who saved all her egg money from her chickens to buy snacks for the soldiers. Also pictured are veterans committee members Chuck Yoko, Fuzzy Fowler, and Bob Liberty.



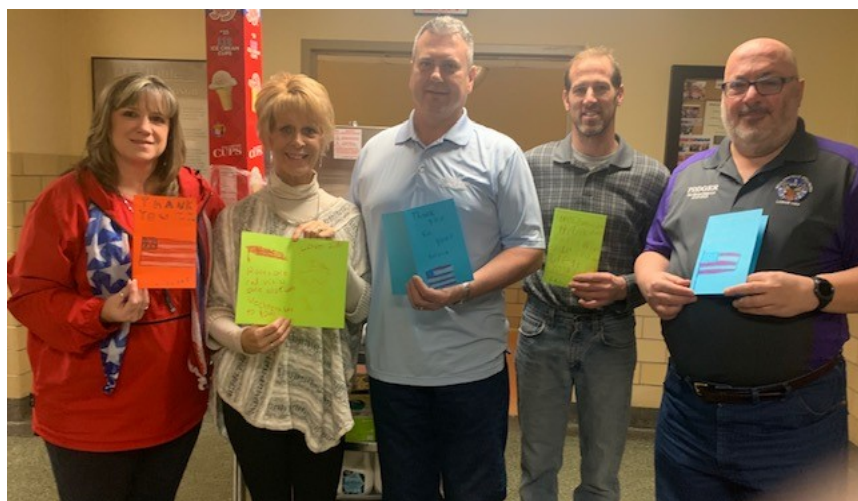
Through the efforts of the members from **Southampton Lodge Elks Lodge #1574**, a raffle was organized in support of the Pearl Harbor Museum Restoration. A total of \$305.00 was raised for the project with the raffle winner receiving an American flag which was flown over the USS Arizona in honor of Pearl Harbor Day. Pictured (l-r) are: Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Jim Darby with member Andrew Smith, winner of the flag, and Secretary Gene Scanlon.



New York Elks #1 celebrated and remembered our Veterans in the month of November/ The Lodge hosted a Pancake and French Toast Breakfast to raise money for the Lodges Veterans projects. This year the breakfast made about \$900 for upcoming Veterans Service activities. Pictured at the event are PER Pete Maffucci, Lisa Moldovan, PSVP/Lodge Trustee Michael J. Boller, PER/ Lecturing Knight Amy Schneller, Exalted Ruler Paul Schneller, Judy Griffins NYS, PDDGER Al Hoffman, DDGER John Nuzzi, PDDGER William A. Bock Jr. and PDDGER Ron Hansen.



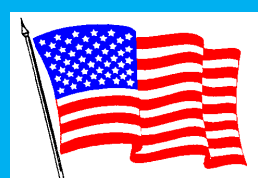
Middletown Elks Lodge #1097 teamed up with the Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force to hold our first Veteran Stand Down, funded in part by an ENF Spotlight Grant. The event began with an opening ceremony where the local Naval Junior ROTC presented the colors, the national anthem was sung by member Samantha Baggatta and signed by member Talia Scioli-Scott, and an invocation offered by Lodge Trustee Heidi Schumacher. Attendees were provided a complimentary breakfast and received services from a dentist, barber, and hairstylist, and were able to consult with representatives from various veterans service agencies. They also received clothing and toiletries. Games and live music were offered for the veterans' entertainment during the event. Through Middletown NY Lodge 1097's ongoing partnership with the Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force and the availability of ENF Freedom Grants, the Lodge has also distributed roughly 100 backpacks of supplies and new sleeping bags to homeless veterans across the Mid-Hudson Valley. Trustee Chair and ENF Chair Kim Mahoney and Trustee Heidi Schumacher have become deeply involved with the HVVTF, and we look forward to teaming up more with them in the future.



Members from **the Mechanicville-Stillwater Elks Lodge #1403** braved nasty weather to spoil the Veterans and staff at the Albany Stratton VA Memorial Hospital to hand out ice cream to over 100 Veterans and Staff. Each hospitalized Veteran received a hand-made card for Veterans Remembrance Month! One brilliant child, unknowingly made the day extra special by making a Navy specific card. Pictured (l-r) Northeast District Veterans Service Chairperson Justine Crowley-Duncan, Members Lois LaBelle and Chris LaBelle, Past Exalted Ruler Jim Duncan and Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Tom O'Neil.

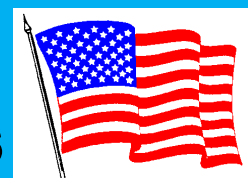
Several members from **Islip Lodge #2533** attended the Town Of Islip's Veterans Day Ceremony at their Town Hall. Past Exalted Ruler Dennis Casey was honored to lead the crowd in prayer at the Ceremony's commencement which was also attended by Past Legislator Dennis Dunne and Past Hempstead Town Supervisor, Kate Murray. (Picture to the right)





VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



The **Homer Elks Lodge # 2506** Veterans Committee, as part of its service recognition program, honored a local veteran for his contributions and service. Former Army 1st Staff Sargent Robert Grummons, who served our nation in Korea, was selected to be honored with a service recognition pin and certificate to acknowledge his achievements and service to our Nation. Robert passed away in 2005. His son Jeff, a long time Elks member, accepted the award on his behalf. There were 62 attendees to witness this important recognition of one of our country's service members. Pictured during the award presentation are Exalted Ruler Walt Nichols, Lodge Veterans Committee Chair Jelena Barnes, Jeff Grummons who accepted on behalf of his father and Lodge Veterans Committee members MB Kingsley and Mike Steger.



Members of **Massapequa Elks Lodge #2162** honor our nations Veterans by attending the funeral of five Veterans that had no families or were homeless. The funeral was held at the Long Island National Cemetery. The Lodge recognized these veterans made tremendous sacrifices for our country and deserve to be honored. The members that attended were grateful to be able to do our part in honoring our nation's veterans during their funeral service. In attendance were Richard Milhaven, Greg Vogel, Margaret Motis, Al Motis, Margaret Schuchmann-Keogh, James Josephson and Rose Buysing-Josephson, Carol Fischer Popowytsh and Cate Wuertz



Saratoga-Wilton Lodge # 161 recently supported Operation Adopt A Soldier during a time of need. This past summer, the non-profit Operation Adopt A Soldier, located in Wilton, New York suffered a devastating fire that destroyed much of their building, including more than 200 packages and donations marked for troops overseas in Afghanistan. The Lodge made a donation of \$500.00 to help Operation Adopt A Soldier. Exalted ruler is pictured presenting the donation to Operation Adopt A Soldier Founder Cliff Sequin.

Liverpool Lodge# 2348 recently hosted local veterans from the Syracuse VA and Veterans Outreach Center for a fall outdoor cook-out. Approximately 11 vets and 6 staff members chaperons were served Hamburg's, Cheeseburgers, Kielbasa with sauerkraut, Hot dogs and Sausage sandwiches with onions and peppers as well as salt potatoes and corn on the cob, macaroni, tossed and fruit salads, homemade zucchini bread and cake. They all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon filled with great food, sunshine and new experiences. Many of them mentioned looking forward to their Christmas



Members from **Sidney Elks Lodge #2175** donated and delivered a new gas grill to the Catskill Veteran's Outreach Center in Stamford, NY. This was greatly needed because the director there had limited resources to cook food for our Veterans in need. Hamburger and hot dogs with all the fixings were also donated to the Veterans Outreach Center. Lodge Treasurer Sharon Harris, Tiler Gail Ostrander, Secretary Marge Johnson, member Charlene Taylor, are pictured with two Outreach Center Veterans and Jason Veterans Outreach Director with the new grill. Other Lodge members that assisted with the delivery were Esteemed Leading Knight Jim Johnson and Lodge Trustee Ken Taylor.



Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge #161's Veterans Service Chairman John Safford teamed up with an organization called Freedom Machines NY to host our 3rd Annual Elks Ride for Vets on Sunday, July 28th. It was a great ride that included approximately 19 riders and a bike giveaway. Holly Ganotes (former Marine) donated an orange specialized bike that was given to Michael Meneely (former Marine) the day of the ride. The lodge received support with the event from several community partners that Included Jim Stine of Crank Case Designs, Tomhannok Bicycles, the Saratoga Cycling Club, New York State Police, Ben and Jerry's, Jason Cramer of State Farm, Mike Roma, Specialized Bicycles, U.S. Marine Corps, The Lagoon, Rt. 9 Mini Storage, and ONE Fitness and Wellness.

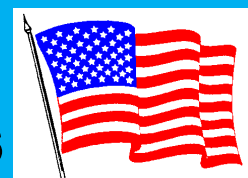


Cohoes-Waterford Elks #1317 recently held a Veterans Appreciation Breakfast at the Lodge. 26 veterans and staff from homeless shelters in Albany and Ballston Spa were special guests who received a complimentary breakfast. There were 10 additional veterans who attended, with a total of 66 attendees. Lodge Veterans Service Chairperson, Past Exalted Ruler Regina Hogan, gave each veteran a USA lapel/hat pin. Five Veteran Lodge members served on the buffet line along with Veteran Members in the Kitchen cooking. Pictured are Tyrone Alexander, Senior Case Manager – Albany Housing Coalition Vets, Veterans Service Chairperson PER Regina Hogan, Adam Simpson, House Manager – Veterans and Community Housing Coalition of Saratoga Co. Also pictured are some Veterans and staff from homeless shelters, ER Bill Rosenberger, and Veterans Service Chairperson Regina Hogan.



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



Massapequa Elks Lodge #2162 members collected and put together care packages for our country's bravest. Six boxes of treats and various necessities were shipped out to our "adopted" Active Duty Troops, totaling \$545. These care packages contained items specifically requested by the troops - coffee, laundry detergent, chocolate bars, Girl Scout Cookies and Cup O Soup!



Boonville Lodge #2158 members visited the Syracuse VA Hospital on Sunday, November 3rd and distributed lap robes and homemade pies. Local Boonville community members crocheted and knitted over 165 lap robes. Additionally, volunteers donated 36 homemade pies which were passed out and delivered to patients and residents on various floors. The members also played Bingo with winners receiving canteen coupons as prizes. Pictured displaying the lap robes are Kathy Connelly, District Deputy Rich Jokajty, Cathy Duncan, Donna Kline, Rosemary Fitts.



Members of **Massapequa Elks Lodge #2162** visited the VA Hospital in Northport, The members met with the female veterans during their monthly meeting at the Community Living Center to create Fourth of July decorations. The lodge provided the crafts from funds raised throughout the year. Pictured at the visit are members Margaret Keogh and Kathy Harrington showcasing some of the decorations that were made.



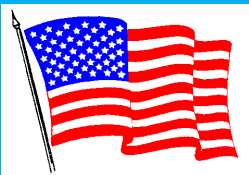
During events run by **Patchogue Elks Lodge # 1323** for their members throughout the year, donations were requested by Lodge Chair Maria Capone, to help support several of their charitable causes. She has, single-handedly raised \$500 so far this year and, after careful consideration, it was agreed that these funds should be used to help support the efforts of the "Sons of AMVETS" Hammond Biggs Squadron 111 whose motto is "Sons Serving Veterans". They will be using the money raised to purchase much needed personal items for the Veterans at the L.I. State Veteran's Home in Stony Brook and assisting returning soldiers with money for groceries through the "Hungry Heroes Program". Pictured (l-r) is Ed Rosavitch, PDD, Elk Member Maria Capone along with Sons of AMVETS Commander Arnie Mendelsohn, presenting Maria with a Certificate of Appreciation after receiving this much needed check.



State Veterans Chair **Barry Griffith** recently had the opportunity to meet with the United States latest Medal of honor awardee SSG David Gregory Bellavia. During their meeting, they discussed the Elks National Veterans Service programs and some of the great things Elks are doing for Veterans right here in New York State. SSG David Gregory Bellavia is a former United States Army soldier who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Second Battle of Fallujah, in Iraq. Bellavia has also received the Bronze Star Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals and the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross. On June 25, 2019, he was awarded the Medal of Honor, making him the sole living Medal of Honor recipient from the Iraq War.

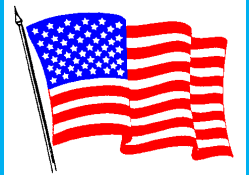


Mechanicville-Stillwater Elks #1403 held their Annual Veterans Breakfast to say Thank You for their service all Veterans. Veterans were treated to a free breakfast by prepared and served by volunteer Veterans of the Lodge. During the event a check was presented to the Capital Region Veterans Memorial The Legacy Project for an amazing \$3,251.00. The money was raised from this year's Walk to the Heroes in which 56 walkers came out to support the Capital Region Veterans Memorial The Legacy Project. The walk started at the Saratoga Historical Battlefield and concluded at the Gerald B H Solomon National Cemetery. Pictured at the breakfast are Larry Zeglen, Vietnam Veteran, Mary Brandt Air Force Veteran and member of the Legacy Project, Elks Veteran Chair Justine Crowley-Duncan, and Members Vanessa Derway, Cindy Wood, Laure Harrington



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



Canandaigua Elks Lodge #1844 had the privilege of hosting a birthday party for the Marine Corps in November. The party was organized by Past Exalted Ruler Rob Coe. The Lodge provided complimentary food and a cake to celebrate the occasion. Pictured at the event are, from left to right; Don Vorhees—HMC, US Navt; Robert Coe—Sgt. E5; Pete Monroe, Cpl. E4; Dave Bell—Master Sgt. E8; Dick Personale—LCpl. E4; Ben Melville—Cpl. and Jim Stine—Cpl E4. All served as a member of the United States Marine Corps.



Lyons Elks Lodge #869 honored member William Lunney for his dedicated service during the Korean War. Mr. Lunney was a Sargent in the United States Marine Corp. Lunney and his wife, Norma, reside in Lyons. The Lodge presented Mr. Lunney with a recognition Medal signifying his service to our country during a ceremony at the Lodge. In addition to being a life member of Lyons Lodge #869, he is also a proud member of the VFW, American Legion and Disabled American Veterans. Lyons Lodge is honoring veterans of WWII and the Korean War through the American Remembrance Program. Mr. Lunney is pictured with Exalted Ruler Christine VanDeWalle after receiving his recognition medal.



Northport VA Hospital's "Patriot's Cafe" was wild with excitement as free lunches, purchased by members of **Huntington Elks Lodge #1565** and gift bags of sundries, donated by The First National Bank of Long Island, were distributed throughout the early afternoon. Pictured is Jack Stein, PSVP along with several veterans, enjoying the holiday festivities.



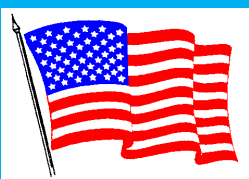
Liverpool Elks Lodge #2348 recently hosted our Annual Veteran's Spaghetti Dinner. It was a gala event with patients, their family members and traveling staff from the Syracuse VA hospital in attendance. The evening started with the acapella group Harmony Katz singing all our favorite Christmas songs while our guests were served a delicious spaghetti dinner with all the fixings. After dinner and while our VA guests were having desert, we served dinner to our musical guests. The Veterans in attendance were each given a gift by Santa.



Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 members donated 53 coats for the Veterans who are serviced through the Castle Point VA Hospital clothing pantry. Pictured L to R are Anthony Carson Air Force Veteran and Carl Oken Lodge Veterans Chair as they display some of the coats that were donated. Additionally, the Lodge purchased \$1500 worth of underwear and therapeutic socks for the clothing pantry at Castle Point VA. Castle Point VA serves 156 families from the Mid-Hudson region. (Picture to the left.)

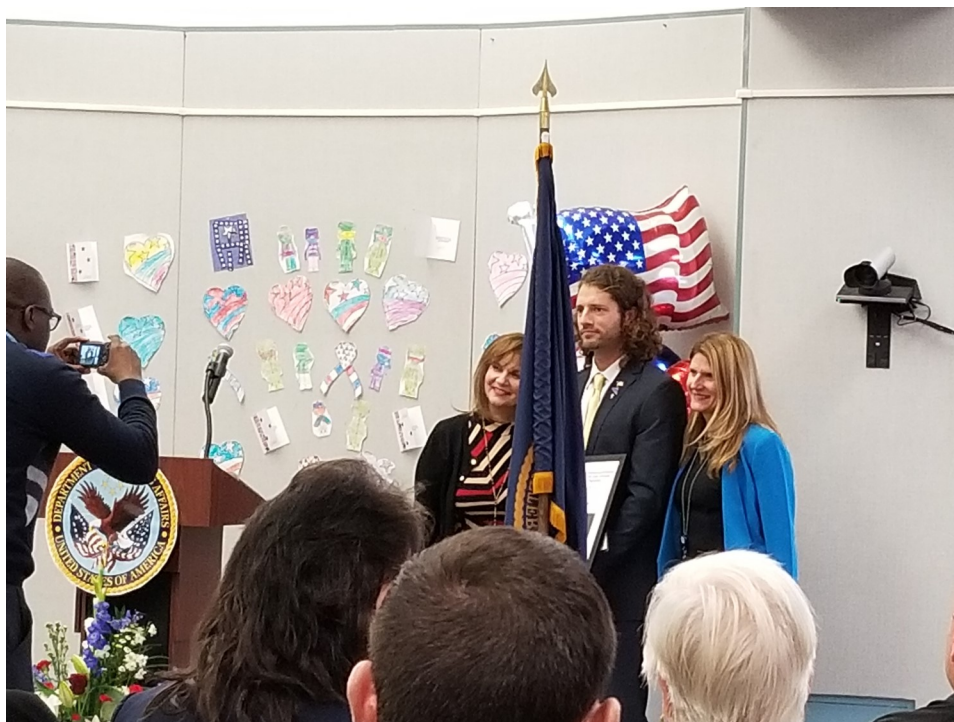
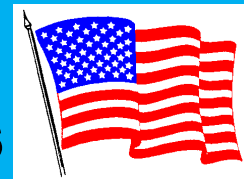


Mechanicville-Stillwater Elks Lodge #1403 had the distinct honor of donating the use of their banquet hall for the Commissioning Ceremony for Svetlana Morrell, into the United States Air Force. In attendance, along with over 30 family members and friends, were PDDGER Tom O'Neil, PER James Duncan and Chaplain and Lodge Veteran Services Chairperson Justine Crowley-Duncan. A reception followed the ceremony for family and friends. Svetlana is the granddaughter of Trustee, PDDGER and Lodge Sponsor, Vincent Morrell of Mechanicville-Stillwater Lodge #1403. Svetlana is a 2013 Graduate from Stillwater High School and was a recipient of an Elks scholarship her Senior year. She attended MCLA in Massachusetts and graduated with a double major in 2017. She currently attends Medical School at Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Parker, Colorado. Because she is a medical student, she is now ranked a 2nd LT in the United States Air Force during her Commissioning. Svetlana will continue to attend medical school and during her summer break she will report to the Air Force where she will attend Officer Training School. Svetlana was sworn in by Matthew Woolums, a LTC in the United States Air Force. After Svetlana's swearing in, she immediately proceeded to her grandfather, PFC Vincent Morrell, and performed the traditional Bicentennial Silver Dollar Salute. PFC Vincent Morrell enlisted in the Army from 1956 to 1958. This was the first Commissioning Ceremony held at the Lodge, and a privilege to be included in this momentous occasion.



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



Beacon Elks Lodge recognized member David Lionheart during a Veteran's Day Ceremony at Castle Point VA. David Lionheart is the founder of "Play for your freedom", a program which is dedicated to helping PTSD Veterans thru sports and camaraderie. David was recognized for his efforts in supporting Veteran's through the program.



Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317 held the Lodges 22nd Annual Veterans Day Luncheon/Flag Retirement Ceremony. 91 veterans and guests attended as well as 13 Lodge members who volunteered either in the kitchen or serving the meal. Guest Speaker Fawn Dalton from the Albany Housing Coalition spoke about her time served in the Navy stationed in Coronado, CA, how she was referred to the Albany Housing Coalition for help when she became a single mother with no means to find an apartment and how she was encouraged to seek a position with the Albany Housing Coalition by the staff and residents of the House. She also spoke about what it means to work for an organization that operates as one big family. After the guest speaker, an outdoor Flag Retirement Ceremony was conducted by Veterans Service Chairperson, PER Regina Hogan & Lodge Officers. More than 100 American Flags were properly disposed of by burning. Photo (L to R): ER William Rosenberger, Guest Speaker – Navy Veteran Fawn Dalton and Lodge Veterans Service Chairperson PER Regina Hogan



Twelve members from **Cohoes-Waterford Elks Lodge #1317** visited The Veterans House in Albany, a transitional shelter for homeless veterans, for our annual Christmas visit. This was the 20th year that Lodge members chose an ornament from the Give to a Vet Tree, purchased and wrapped the gift item requested by each of the 40 veterans from The Veterans House. Gifts purchased were valued at more than \$1,000. We enjoyed an afternoon of food, fun, conversation and the singing of Christmas carols. The highlight of our visit was the arrival of our own Santa Elk to distribute the gifts. Each veteran sat on Santa's lap to have their photo taken. Pictured (Back L-R), Members Scott Murray, Maureen Murray, Deb Matthews, Loyal Knight Jeff Matthews, Secretary Valerie Ridgeway, Member Deb Kirkland, PSVP Renee Bott, and Trustee Carol Bronakowski. Pictured (Front L-R) PER Regina Hogan, Lodge Veterans Service Chairperson, Santa Dave (PER Dave Foldi), Members Barb Normile, Heidi Foldi and Jane Haier.



Jamestown Elks Lodge #263 has teamed up again with Operation Homefront and the local Dollar Tree's to help out local veterans. The Dollar Tree's collected toys in December and the Jamestown Elks Lodge distributed them to local veterans and their families! Over 2900 toys, hats, scarves and socks were collected! The Jamestown Elks Lodge also donated items to the Local chapter of the Blue Star Mothers and they mailed them out to deployed veterans in Christmas packages. The Jamestown Elks also teamed up with the Joseph P. Dwyer foundation and donated items to some of those families. Both projects were a wonderful, huge success. Pictured with some of the many gifts that were provided to the Joseph. P. Dwyer Foundation are Jamestown Elks Lodge #263 Exalted Ruler Abraham Rosenberg, Patrick, Felicia and Aurora Lambert and Cindy Reidy of the local Joseph P. Dwyer foundation.



Homer Elks Lodge #2506 donated 36 care package boxes for Veterans at the Tompkins/Cortland County VA Outpatient Clinic located in Freeville, NY. The boxes contained snacks, a blanket, an Elks National Veterans Service Commission draw string bag, an American flag pen and a pad of paper. (Pictured from Left to Right: Nancy McKeon, RN Administrator, MacKenzie Barnes, Future Elk and Jim Johnson, Lodge Veterans Committee Member. (Picture to the left)

The members of **Riverhead Lodge #2044** were anxious to participate in the Pearl Harbor Museum Restoration Project and, as a result, held a fundraiser at their Lodge with dinner, music and raffles. Many of the raffle prizes were donated by local merchants, while others were donated by their members. A total of \$3,080 was raised from this event and \$2580 was ear marked for the Museum, with the balance of \$500 being donated to Major Projects. It was a memorable evening for all.

The faculty from the Plainview/Old Bethpage Middle School requested that **Huntington Lodge #1565** member and Vietnam Veteran Jack Stein, PSVP, conduct a Question and Answer session about the importance of Veteran's Day and Civic Responsibility. The students were all very impressed with the work that the Elks, throughout the country, do to benefit the lives of our veterans. At the conclusion of this event, the students each gave Jack greeting cards that they designed, thanking a veteran for their service. These cards were then distributed at the Veteran's dinner hosted by the Lodge.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



More than 100 people came out to the **Smithtown Elk Lodge #2036** for a fundraiser to aid a neighboring family in need. Bob Bagnasco has faced many challenges derived from a disabling illness and the Smithtown Elks stepped in, without hesitation, to assist him along with his family by providing friendship, care and financial assistance. Dinner was provided and over 80 raffle baskets were donated by local merchants and Elk members. Over \$10,000 was raised at this event.



Sidney Elks Lodge #2175 made a generous donation to the Sidney United Way to help fight hunger. The donation will be used to help pilot a new program called "Food Farmacy", this is in partnership with the local hospital. The new program is designed to help low income patients with special dietary needs and food insecurities. These patients are written a prescription by their health care provider for the "Food Farmacy". They will receive fresh wholesome healthy foods to fit their dietary needs and medical conditions, as well as education and navigations services. Pictured during the donation presentation were Jim Johnson (Esteemed Leading Knight) Dennis Porter Unite Way Chairperson, (also a member), Patrick Dedman (Exalted Ruler), Marge Johnson (Secretary) and Toni Gardner (Esteemed Loyal Knight).



Prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, the members of **Rotterdam Lodge #2157** gathered to assemble food baskets for 43 local in need families. Turkeys were donated by event Chair Dave Biernat's employer, Cool Insuring Agency. Each basket contained a turkey and fixings for a full dinner. Lodge members then delivered each basket to the needy family. The lodge works with several local agencies to find needy families in the area.



Poughkeepsie Elks Lodge #275 members participated in the Arlington Holiday Festival by building a float and marching in the parade. Elroy, along with Mrs. Clause entertained the children while Members passed out candy canes and Drug Awareness information. Elroy was played by member Todd Jicha and Mrs. Clause by Lynne McCarthy, wife of a member.



The members from **Riverhead Lodge** delivered turkeys, canned fruit and vegetables to the food pantry at the St. John's Church in Riverhead, which will then be cooked and served by their volunteers at The Congregational Church on Thanksgiving Day. Pictured is member Patty Judd gathering the turkeys for distribution.



Potsdam Elks Lodge #2074 continued the Lodges tradition of supporting area Special Olympic athletes by providing a \$500 donation at the 2019 St. Lawrence Seaway Polar Plunge. Potsdam Lodge has proudly supported the St. Lawrence Polar Plunge with a donation each year since it's beginning. Community Activities Committee member Tim Welpé is pictured presenting the donation to event Chair Brian Coakley and Special Olympic New York representative Carolyn Braunius prior to the Polar Plunge that was held at Hawkins Point in Massena, New York.



Mechanicville Stillwater Elks Lodge #1403 adopted 2 families for Christmas this year with the MACSC's holiday assistance program. Thanks to the Lodge members, both families wishes were fulfilled! All the gifts were delivered to the community center for distribution by the Lodge Elves (AKA – Lodge Officers). Lodge Officer and members are pictured with the many gifts that were donated to the families. (Picture to the left).

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Potsdam Elks Lodge #2074 was again a proud sponsor of the Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence Autism Awareness Walk that was held at Canton Park. The Lodge supported the event with a \$500 donation. The Elks Drug Awareness Trailer and Elroy the Elk were at the event. Elroy greeted the more than 400 walkers with high fives as they began and completed the walk.



Patchogue Elks Lodge #1323 Exalted Ruler Daniel Brooks presented a \$500 donation to the East District Youth Chairman and current East District State Vice President John Brigante, thanks to the Gratitude Grant. The funds will be used to help pay for Section XI Referees at the Annual Invitational Track Meet in May. Pictured during the donation presentation are: (L/R) - Lodge Member James Joyce, Trustee Eric Carlson, John Brigante, Exalted Ruler Daniel Brooks and Lodge Member Bob Bronsveld.



Oswego Elks Lodge #271 donated canned goods and a check for \$1,325.00 to the Human Concerns Center of Oswego to help with the huge demand they are currently experiencing. The center provides emergency food for individuals in need. They supply 3 days of food, 3 meals daily, for each person in the household. They also provide clothing for winter and hygiene items when available. Joann Locy, the Director of Human Concerns was very grateful and overwhelmed with the generosity of Oswego Elks contribution. Pictured during the donation presentation are Ron Rookey, Exalted Ruler Carol Simpson and Joann Locy, Director of Human Concerns.



Liberty Elks Lodge #1545 held a "Pet Photos with Santa" fundraiser to benefit Catskill Animal Rescue (CARE). House Committee Ernie Feasal dressed as Santa and posed with pets and their owners. Two bins of pet supplies and \$150 cash were collected to support CARE's work to shelter and place pets in homes.



Liverpool Elks Lodge #2348 conducted an annual Christmas food drive. The food drive was held at Nichols Super Market. The Lodge extended a special thanks to Mike Hennigan for allowing the Lodge to set up in his parking lot. 306 non-perishable items were collected and \$681.21 was raised enabling us to purchase 31 hams. Since December 2009, Liverpool Elks has collected 8,611 non-perishable items and \$9,987.11 in cash for our local food pantries. Pictured during one of the 8 shifts that weathered the rain that day are (Left Jason Humphrey) and (Right) Exalter Ruler James Humphrey.



Johnson City Elks Lodge #2821 participated with the Broome County Sheriffs Department for a Drug Take Back day. A total of 7 large boxes of medications were collected to be taken to be destroyed. Later in the day Gayle Klein, PER, Treasurer and Liz Laughlin volunteered at the YMCA of Broome County to hand out Drug Awareness coloring books and candy at their annual Trunk or Treat party. Over 1000 children participated.

Liverpool Elks Lodge #2348 Ladies Auxiliary adopted three families this Christmas. There was a total of 6 children and 4 adults. Each child received a coat, hat, mittens and boots, 2 outfits and 2 toys. Each parent received boots, coats, gloves, scarf, and an outfit. Everyone received socks, underwear and personal items. Every family received a box of food as well as a gift card to Wal-Mart and Aldi's. They also received a pass to Lights on the Lake (a two-mile light display on Onondaga Lake). One of the auxiliary sisters knit a blanket for every family member. A member of the lodge and his family adopted an additional family of a mother and daughter on his own.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Special Olympics held their Capital District Regional Softball Tournament at Veterans Park adjacent to the **Clifton Park Elks Lodge**. The event is organized for individuals with disabilities and gives them an experience to remember. Seventy-five players on six teams from the Albany NY area competed. The teams practice for most of the summer in preparation for the tournament. Exalted Ruler Craig Masterson had the honor of kicking off the event by throwing out the first pitch. The Lodge hosted over 120 athletes, coaches and fans for lunch in the pavilion. Exalted Ruler Craig Masterson (left) and Leading Knight Bill Tierney inspect the fields prior to the softball tournament.



Lyons Lodge #869 recently held a ceremony honoring Mrs. Carol Bailey. Mrs. Bailey recently retired as Lyons Town Historian after more than 25 years of protecting, preserving and providing a large variety of local Lyons and area history, artifacts and topics. Mrs. Bailey regularly presented historical topics to area groups and gatherings about the rich history of Lyons and the surrounding area for many years. Mrs. Bailey has been an active member of the Grange organization for over 60 years in the Lyons, area and statewide level. Her rich history of the Grange and agricultural background as a farm family member of several generations intertwined beautifully with her position as Town Historian. Lyons Elk Lodge officer Ed Gnaou presented Mrs. Bailey with the President's Volunteer Service Award and medallion from the White House in Washington, DC. Mrs. Bailey also received a letter from President Trump recognizing her countless hours of volunteer service. The President's Volunteer Service Award is a joint program between the federal government and the Elks Association to bring recognition and awareness to the local communities of those citizens who have provided over 4000 hours of volunteer service to make their local communities a better place to live and grow a family.



Liverpool Elks Lodge #2348 Ladies Auxiliary recently hosted their annual Fashion Show. Fashions were provided by Christopher and Banks. The volunteer models were from the Auxiliary as well as e community. Refreshments were served and numerous gift baskets were raffled during the evening. This fashion show is a major fund raiser to ensure the charitable work of the Ladies auxiliary continues. The Liverpool Elks Ladies auxiliary present a \$1000 scholarship to both Liverpool and Baldwinsville schools. In addition they make a \$100 donation monthly to various charities throughout the community. They also make numerous other donations throughout the year.



Newburgh lodge #247 organizes many fundraising events throughout the year. The Lodge recently held its 5th annual 10K Picnic and Drawing at its pavilion in which the Lodge raised money for Miles of Hope, a local breast cancer foundation. Approximately 100 Elks and 250 non-Elk attendees were present. At this event, the Lodge presented a donation of \$2000 to the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation and local supermarket ShopRite of Newburgh presented an additional donation of \$500. Trustee John Giudice presented the donation to Pari Forood, the Executive Director of Miles of Hope, who was on hand to receive the donations. The band Rocksllyde performed throughout the afternoon.



Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161 presented proceeds totaling \$9,945.00 to the Performing Arts and Music Departments of four areas schools. Each school received a portion of the proceeds. The funds were raised from the Celebration of the Music of Chuck Mangione Concert. The High School Jazz Ensembles and the Avant Garde Alumni Drum Corps played to a packed house of approximately 500 people at the Lake Avenue School Auditorium in Saratoga Springs, New York with Chuck Mangione in attendance. Exalted Ruler Gerry Conboy is pictured presenting a donation to Mr. Joe McGee of the Saratoga Central Catholic School Arts Department. Also pictured during the presentation is Ms. Pat Douglass, Performing Arts and Past Exalted Ruler and parade Chairperson Susan Waghorn.



Staten Island Elks Lodge #841 presented the Atlas Cops and Kids Boxing Club with a \$1000 donation. Lodge grant committee members Vivian Potter – Trustee, Cathy DeGaetano – Leading Knight, Gary Gatens – Exalted Ruler and Liz Castro – Loyal Knight, are pictured with Pat Russo, the Director of Atlas Cops and Kids Boxing Club, and members of the club following the donation presentation. The boxing program helps keep kids off the streets as well as keeping them motivated to succeed in school. (Picture above to the left)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Members of the **Auburn Elks Lodge #474** volunteered as bell ringers for the Salvation Army to collect donations that will benefit the community. Exalted Ruler John Chick and Lodge Trustee Lee Brew are pictured as they volunteered at the Bass Pro in Auburn during the Holiday season.



Binghamton Elks Lodge #70 held the Lodges 3rd Annual Christmas Celebrations for Broome Developmental Center Residents. Members of the Lodge donated to a "Bakeless Bakesale" to raise money for the event. Residents enjoy a Spaghetti Dinner once a month put on by the lodge, however for the Christmas Holiday, they enjoy a little bit more. Each resident is served a dinner, dessert, a visit to Santa and Mrs. Clause including an individual picture and a special gift. Members of the lodge provide music entertainment including karaoke. Binghamton Elks Lodge #70 plans to continue this celebration for the years to come.



Auburn Elks Lodge #474 donated \$100 to the Chapel House. The Chapel House is a homeless shelter located in Auburn that serves homeless men and woman from all of Cayuga County as well as homeless veterans. Exalted Ruler John Chick is pictured presenting the donation to Chapel House Case Manager Michael Brennan.



Liberty Elks Lodge #1545 participated in the Town of Liberty Halloween Parade. Leading Night David Graham dressed as Elroy Elk while Trustee Joe Davis, Treasurer Samantha Davis and Lodge member Shannon Graham participated in marching and handing out candy. Elroy the Elk made many new friends! With over 15 floats and 100 plus marchers, the event was a hit!



Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 donated \$1000 to the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corp. to help equip their new ambulance. Representing the Lodge during the donation, on the left, is Exalted Ruler Robert Lanier and on the right BVAC President Andy Diluvio (who is also a lodge member).



Exalted Ruler Gerry Conboy of **Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge #161** presented over \$300.00 in gift cards that were collected over the holidays by the Lodge and Members to Maggie Fronk, Director of WellSpring. WellSpring is an organization that strives to create a safer community by increasing abuse awareness and helping survivors impacted by domestic or sexual abuse.



Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 donated \$500 worth of food to the Dutchess Community Outreach in Beacon, NY. The donation consisted of Pasta, Soup, Bread, Bacon, Canned Chicken and Tuna Fish. Pictured L to R during the donation presentation are Lodge member Shirley Maloney and Community Outreach Employee Jordan Schnilla.

Tony Florio DDGER, along with several members of **Port Jefferson Elks Lodge #2138**, organized a winter coat drive, collecting over 200 coats for needy families in their local area. The coats were then delivered to the Infant Jesus and St. Gerald churches for distribution.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Elmira Elks lodge sponsored their 7th annual college fair. The fair was free and open to the entire Twin Tiers. Over 40 colleges, trade schools, armed forces, banks for financial assistance participated and the event drew over 300 visitors. This has been the fairs largest turnout to date. Some of the many students that attended are pictured during the fair.



Potsdam Elks Lodge #2074 presented a donation in the amount of \$1500 to the Potsdam High School Hall of Fame. The proceeds for the donation were from a Lodge Sponsored Golf Tournament. Past District Deputy and Lodge Secretary James Hassett and Past State Vice President Ernie Charleston are pictured presenting the donation to Hall of Fame Committee member Sarah Fiacco.



Middletown Lodge 1097 PER Sal Ciulla and Exalted Ruler Brian Minerly issued a challenge to the Middletown lodge: Raise \$2500 before their ENF Charity Ball on October 19, 2019 and PER Sal will shave Brian's head. When attendees sat down to dinner at the Charity Ball, the amount collected to date was \$2100. When the dinner was over, the last \$400 had been contributed and the \$2500 goal had been reached! The following weekend, at their Adult Halloween Party, the head-shaving took place! An additional \$600 was raised that night, including a raffle for getting to make the first pass of the clippers on the ER's head, which was won by a delighted Trustee Chair Kim Mahoney. The funds raised will be contributed to ENF and Major Projects.



The Members of **Scotia Glenville Lodge #2759** donated school supplies to The City Mission of Schenectady to be distributed to needy children in their transitional housing program and others in need. Pictured are some of the supplies that were donated by Lodge members.



On the last day of each month, the members of **Patchogue Lodge #1323** host a Burger Night for members and their families. As he has done for many years, member James Vuturo takes a day off from his business to grill burgers in order to raise funds to help local veterans. Jim's wife Leslie, along with her friend Laura DeCarlo, volunteer as waitresses. This year, Jim donated \$500 to both the Patchogue AMVETS Post 111 and the American Legion Post 269 for them to disburse to those veterans in need. American Legion Cmdr. Jonathan Ralph is pictured as he received the donation from Jim Vuturo. Also pictured is Exalted Ruler Dan Brooks.



Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161 Senior Outreach Committee added a new partnership with Saint Paul's Church's Food Pantry for the Elks National Foundation Impact Grant. Every Thursday Lodge members pick up Panera pastries from their food pantry and then deliver these items on a rotating basis to each of the grants Senior Apartments. The Lodge welcomed Saint Paul's as their fourth food pantry partner.



Islip Elks Lodge #2533 honored Paula Hallal with the Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award for her organizing a group called "Jamming for the Community". The organization meets once a month to make over 1,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to feed the elderly and those in need. The Islip Elks donated over \$1,000 in peanut butter and jelly this past year, which amounted to over ten cases of peanut butter and ten cases of jelly. Exalted Ruler is pictured presenting the Citizenship Award to Paula Hallal. (Picture to the left)

Cortland Elks Lodge #748 held a successful pancake breakfast to kick off the pancake breakfast season. The fundraising event had 184 attendees and raised \$736 for the Cortland Girls Soccer Team. 30 student athlete from Cortland High School volunteers at the event. The event had 10 Elks lodge volunteers to make it a success.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



For the past 30 years, the Town of Islip has hosted a Sharp Shooter program for all of the elementary schools within the town. In addition to the tournament, they incorporate a Drug Awareness Program in concert with this event, which is primarily sponsored by the **Islip Elks Lodge**. Pictured (l-r) Past Exalted Ruler Norman Newkirk, Exalted Ruler Joseph D'Angelo, and Past Exalted Ruler Dennis Casey manning the Drug Awareness table during the event. This event brings in approximately 1400 elementary school children.



Volunteers from a group entitled "Jamming for the Community" make the nearly 1,000 peanut butter and jelly on whole wheat sandwiches on the first Monday of each month to help feed the elderly and those in need. Recently, the members of **Islip Elks Lodge #2533** delivered 2 cases of peanut butter and 2 cases of jelly for the volunteers, who were waiting with excitement, for this month's donation. Pictured are: the volunteers from "Jamming for the Community" as they got to work on their latest donation from the Islip Elks.



New York Elks Lodge #1 sponsored a Movie Day at the Merrick Cinema for members of the Autism Society of Nassau Suffolk. With the aid of \$1000 of our ENF Gratitude Grant, the Lodge sponsored the movie tickets, popcorn, candy and sodas for 160 Individuals with autism along with their family members. The group had taken up three different movies, according to age. It was a great morning and more so a great feeling for the Elks present to take part in such a worthy cause. Pictured are; new member Thomas Marcy ,Past State Trustee/Lodge Esquire Brian Steckler, Past Exalted Ruler/Lecturing Knight Amy Schneller ,Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler/Lodge Treasurer Mark E. Stuparich, Past Exalted Ruler/Exalted Ruler Paul Schneller, District Deputy Grand exalted Ruler John M. Nuzzi Sr. and sitting at sign in table is Suzanne Reek, Executive Director of Autism Society.



New York Elks Lodge #1 officers and members had a wonderful time at The 23rd Annual Sock Hop for Long Island Sled Hockey, a Differently-Abled Ice Hockey Team. Each year the lodge donates complete use of the hall and lounge as well as the soda for this fundraising effort. The event is 50s themed each year and the sounds of Liquid Gold and the renowned Acapella group The Tribunes made for a great evening. All working this event donated their time for these special athletes. Long Island Sled Hockey's goal is for their athletes to play at no cost to themselves or their families. Money raised go to purchasing all the equipment and pays for travel expenses. This year, with help from ENF and the Gratitude Grant New York Elks Lodge #1 was able to donate \$1,000.00 to this wonderful organization, which was presented the night of the Sock Hop. Pictured at th event Left to right: PDDGER/ Treasurer Mark E. Stuparich, PDDGER/Trustee Frank T. Hunt, PER/ Leading Knight Lisa Moldovan, PER/Lecturing Knight Amy Schneller, PER/Exalted Ruler Paul Schneller , DDGER John M. Nuzzi , Bryan Blomquist President and Coach, Mitch Mertz, Treasure of organization, Coach Phil Derenze and Trustee Joseph Serafino. .



The members of **Huntington Elks Lodge** honored two student volunteers who worked tirelessly at the Lodge's recent Veteran's Dinner. Madeline and Ruby Meidenman received their Community Service Awards for greeting, serving and assisting our local Veterans throughout the evening and helped the members with various tasks at the completion of the event. Pictured (l-r) are: Past District Deputy Lynne Stein, Exalted Ruler/ PER Alyssa Nightingale, Ruby Meidenman, Madeline Meidenman, Past State Vice President Jack Stein and Inner Guard, Seth Meidenman.



Hicksville Lodge #1931 sponsored their annual Special Olympics hockey tournament at Nassau Community College. 195 athletes from the NY area participated, along with 17 elk members and 20 volunteers from the local community. Lodge members and volunteers also assisted with the setup . Hicksville Lodge works closely with the Special Olympics of New York and also sponsors a Special Olympics bowling event in the spring. These events are made possible by ENF Beacon grants.

Haverstraw Elks Lodge No. 877 joined with Cub Scout Pack No. 17 to participate in its Annual Rocket Derby. The event was held at the North Rockland High School Soccer Field. Haverstraw Elks Lodge donated \$500 for materials such as engines for the rockets and snacks for the event. Pictured at the event (l to r): Cub Scout Pack No. 17 with Den Leader Brian Shorlin, and Haverstraw Elks Lodge Officers Tom Schaub, Inner Guard, Chris Schaub, Lecturing Knight and John Downs, Exalted Ruler. (Picture to the left)



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



The Lodges of the **South East District** hosted a BBQ and picnic for the residents at the St. Albans Extended Care Facility. Elk members lite up the grill and cooked hamburger and hotdogs, served chips and drinks and provided watermelon and ice cream for dessert. Veterans come out to the garden area to enjoy a day outside. For those unable to come out of the facility to enjoy the picnic, the District Elk members delivered food to each veteran indoors. Music and entertainment was also provided by Mitch Lidowsky PDDGER of New Hyde Park –N. Shore Elks Lodge 2107 and his band members. The 30 Elk members attending had the pleasure of serving 110 Veterans and friends.



Unable to work for a time as a result of an accident, Vietnam Veteran John Lada had difficulty meeting expenses. Anxious to assist a neighboring veteran, the members of **Riverhead Elks Lodge #2044** got together and raised \$1650 to help get him back on his feet. They are happy to report that John is now back to work and relieved that many of his debts are now paid. In return, John has volunteered to help with some landscaping at the Lodge in the spring. Pictured is Vietnam Veteran John with several of the members from the Riverhead Lodge as he received the Lodge donation.



Watertown Elks Lodge #496 donated \$2500.00 to CAPC that was used to buy boots, hats and mittens. Pictured with the check donation are Lodge Exalted Ruler Joan Carlo, Trustee and Chair of "Warm Feet, Warm Heads, Warm Hands" Committee Kathy Converse and Mary from CAPC.



Hornell Elks Lodge #364 sponsored a day of a unique and well attended sale of beautiful Christmas home decorations. Hosted by Lodge Esteemed Lecturing Knight Cindie Harrington and with assistance from Past Exalted Ruler and grant coordinator Jeanne Gore, tables were loaded with ceramic light-up snowy villages, along with their accessories and little people. Visitors snapped up these items, as well as votive luminaries and dozens of window, table, and tree ornaments, many of them collectibles. The proceeds from this sale will be used by the Lodge to purchase additional winter coats for needy children in the Hornell community. This winter coat effort is part of the 2020 Gratitude Grant made available through the Elks National Foundation (ENF). Hornell Elks Lodge qualifies for this grant each year because of their major fundraising events. Lecturing Knight Cindie Harrington is pictured as she supervises and talks with visitors as they check out the holiday treasures at the indoor yard sale.



Recently, Ellee Borho, and Marjorie Hurlburt, of **Ticonderoga Lodge #1494** had planned to attend the Fundraiser/Basket Raffle by Baby Connor; an 18 month old who was burnt on Christmas Eve, 2019. Baby Connor was transported to Boston Children's Hospital for severe burns. Due to the degree of the burns, Connor had to have a skin graft. Connor will be headed back to Boston Children's Hospital again several more times to check on his progress. Ellee and Marjorie decided that such a precious little fellow would be afraid of the trip, hospital, and things that would be happening. Thus Ellee came up with the plan to purchase the Leap Frog Snuggle animal called Scout. Scout can play music, games, and be personalized, and Ellee had her own version as a toddler so it came fully recommended. North Central District State Vice President Marjorie Hurlburt had the honor to hand deliver "Scout" to Baby Connor. As you can see in the photo Connor truly enjoyed his gift from The Ellee Care Project sponsored by the Ticonderoga Elks Lodge # 1494.



Members from **Huntington Elk Lode # 1565** surprised some very hungry Veterans from the Northport VA Hospital, by paying for their lunch which was ordered at the Hospital's "Patriot's Cafe". Thanks to an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant, the Lodge was able to purchase \$600 worth of canteen books. \$80 during this visit and the balance will be used during several upcoming events. Past State Vice President Jack Stein is pictured providing a set of canteen books to a Veteran at the VA Hospital.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Auburn Elks Lodge # 474 recently distributed dictionaries to the 3rd grade students at Casey Park, Genesee, Herman, Seward and Owasco Elementary Schools. 336 dictionaries were distributed. Drug Awareness coloring books and bookmarks were also handed out. Lodge Trustee Al Parsons, ER John Chick, Lecturing Knight Janel Smith & School Resource Officer Officer Morrissey are pictured here with Kelly Garback the Principal Of Casey Park Elementary School



Monticello Elks Lodge #1544 sent boxes of food including complete ham dinners to 50 local veterans for the holidays thanks to a \$2000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. Elks and friends packed 50 boxes on December 19th. Pictured are (from left): Jules Blackstone, Jean Gallagher, Aileen Gunther, Frank Sanderson, Elena Sanderson, Ava Sandersen Schark, Past District Deputy Jim Sheerer, Lecturing Knight Maggie Jaycox, East Central District Deputy Jim Gerrard, Past Exalted Ruler Bob Linzer and Matt Monroe. Also present but missing from the photo were: Liz Bringle, Lodge Treasurer Sue Mapledoram and Past Exalted Ruler Bill James.



Members of the **South East District Veterans Committee** met at New York Elks Lodge #1 to wrap holiday gifts for Veterans at the St Albans Veterans facility in Queens, NY. The more than 100 wrapped gifts included items such clothing, socks, slippers, shower flip flops, playing cards and toiletries. Committee members and friends came to help out in wrapping items that were donated by all the Lodges in the Southeast District. Joining the committee for this event were District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler John M. Nuzzi Sr. and his wife Patricia. They are pictured at the gift wrapping with Ny Lodge Veterans Chairman Lisa Moldovan NY of NY Lodge #1, NYSEA District Trustee Anitra Butler of NY Lodge #1 and District Veterans Chair, George Irwin District Veterans Committee Treasurer NY Lodge # 1, Richie Rung NY Lodge #1, Chaplain and Veterans Committee Secretary John Haffey of Brooklyn-Queens Borough Lodge #878, Exalted Ruler Steve Stubbs of Hicksville Lodge #1931, and Herb Hoffman of NY Lodge #1.



Ogdensburg Elks Lodge #772 used proceeds from a Gratitude Grant and presented a check and gifts to Veterans at both Saint Josephs and the United Helpers nursing homes. The Lodge received community support from local car dealership, Blevins Brothers, who donated a van to deliver gifts. Past Exalted Ruler Val Testani shopped for and wrapped the gifts. Exalted Ruler Joe Sprigs, Garth Ryan and Past Exalted Ruler Valerie Testani are pictured presenting the check donation on Christmas eve. (Picture to the right)



Scout Troop 632 helped **Cohoes-Waterford Elks Lodge #1317** with packing boxes for the Holiday Food Drive and then loading the vehicles so the drivers could deliver. The Scouts have been helping the Lodge since the Holiday Food Drive began approximately 6 years ago. The Lodge is extremely thankful for their hard work, and presented the Troop with an appreciation donation for \$100. Pictured (L-R) during the donation presentation is Past District Deputy Paul C. Galarneau, the Scouts and their Troop Leaders, Scoutmaster Gerald Cherniwchan and Past State Vice President Renee Bott.



The employees from the First National Bank of Long Island have worked closely with the members of **Huntington Lodge's #1565** Veteran's Programs, particularly during the Holiday Season. They supplied over 100 gift bags of sundries which was added to the Lodge's supply of canteen books and slip free socks and then delivered to the Northport VA Hospital for distribution. Shown here are employees Colleen and Cassandra with Jack Stein, PSVP, proudly gifting these much needed supplies.

Malone Elks Lodge #1303 hosted an Annual Veterans Day Dinner at the Lodge for area Veterans. The dinner Ceremony featured a presentation of Flags by a local Scout Troop #61 and members of Malone Amvets Post #8. Exalter Ruler Tamara Murphy and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Sheila Hargrave are pictured with several of the attendees following the dinner. (Picture to the left)

Dunkirk Elks Lodge #922 members Myra Thomas, Carl and Sue Liz and Andrea Snyder visited Veterans at the Chautauqua Nursing and Rehabilitation Center during the Holiday Season. While there they visited with 25 resident Veterans. Various gifts were presented to all the Veterans along with refreshments.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Hornell Elks Lodge #364 hosted a day of a unique and well attended sale of beautiful Christmas home decorations. The event was coordinated by Esteemed Lecturing Knight Cindie Harrington. She received assistance from Lodge Grant Coordinator, Past Exalted Ruler Jeanne Gore. Display tables at the event were loaded with ceramic light-up snowy villages, along with their accessories and little people. Those visiting quickly purchased these items, as well as votive luminaries and dozens of window, table, and tree ornaments, many of them collectibles. Esteemed Lecturing Knight Harrington announced that the proceeds from this sale will be used by the Lodge to purchase additional winter coats for needy children in our community. This winter coat effort is part of the 2020 Gratitude Grant made available through the Elks National Foundation. Lecturing Knight Cindie Harrington is pictured at the event as she supervises and talks with visitors as they check out the holiday treasures at the indoor yard sale.



Under the supervision and organization of Past State Vice President Jack Stein, 15 musicians from the Selden Cadets Alumni Corp, including the drummer Jack, entertained approximately 40 residents at the Northport VA Hospital. While playing their renditions of Paul Simon's songs, Ray Charles rendition of "Georgia on my Mind", several military tunes and other patriotic melodies, **Huntington Elks Lodge #1565** Esquire Judie Warden, Past District Deputy Lynne Stein and volunteer Marcy Berkal handed out bags of sundries and canteen books to the residents. It was a real "toe tapping" event which all enjoyed. Pictured are the musicians at work along with Esquire Judie Warden, Past District Deputy Lynne Stein, and Past State Vice President Jack Stein in the center.



Jamestown Elks Lodge # 263 served a Thanksgiving Dinner for the residents of Aspire. Jamestown Lodge has hosted this annual dinner for disabled individuals in their community for over 40 years. The Lodge used proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to support the dinner. The Lodge served the dinner to over 200 people in 9 minutes. A special guest at the dinner was Santa. He provided each individual with a gift.

Webster-Fairport Lodge #2396 presented a WCD Patriot Medallion to WWII Veteran and Lodge member Norm Mitcelltree. Exalted Ruler Jerry Hurley had the distinct honor of presenting the award to Mr. Mitcelltree. (Picture to the right).



Massena Elks Lodge #1702 member Patrick Frary, Past Exalted Ruler, cleaned the three known dedicated memorials that are dedicated around Massena that honor our service men and women of the United States Armed Forces. He is pictured cleaning one of the monuments.



Huntington Elks Lodge #1565 hosted the Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leaders Business Competition's Awards Night with over 150 residents and political leaders in attendance. Each year, the Chamber of Commerce provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge and capabilities in a business environment. Students display their work and are given five minutes to talk on everything from sports marketing to entrepreneurship. Business leaders from the Chamber of Commerce then judge their work and the winners are declared at the Awards Night. Pictured (l-r) are: Exalted Ruler Alyssa Nightingale, Ellen O'Brien, Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce Executive Director and Vita Scaturro, Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce Vice-Chair.

Auburn Elks Lodge #474 members adopted a family this Christmas. A total of 30 gifts were collected for a Single mother and her child. Lodge members generosity assisted in gathering the gifts. The Lodge extended a thank you to Cayuga County Sheriff Brian Schenck who assisted in the family in need.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Ogdensburg Elks Lodge #772 donated Duffle bags to support the St. Lawrence County Foster Care Program. Past Exalted Ruler Val Testani is pictured as she is presenting the duffle bags to a representative of the Foster Care Program.



10 members from **Sidney Elks lodge# 2175** participated in the local Jolly Holly Parade. Elroy was a big hit at the parade as he spread the spirit of Elkdom along with throwing candy and custom Elk sports water bottles to the children along the parade route. Pictured at the parade is Elroy (Inner Guard Kirk Gardner) and Esteemed Loyal Knight Toni Gardner.



Sidney Elks lodge #2175 donated 75 sports water bottles to the local community youth football team. Lodge Esteemed Loyal Knight Toni Gardner is pictured with volunteer football coach for the Sidney youth team, John Debieu as they display samples of the sports bottles that were donated.



Mechanicville-Stillwater Elks Lodge #1403 hosted the Military Moms in Action Care Package Event. 85 volunteers (16 elks from Mechanicville-Stillwater, Saratoga-Wilton Ballston Spa, and Amsterdam) filled 1,875 Christmas stockings and packed 1950 snack bags to be shipped to the deployed troops all over the world. Pictured volunteering at the event are District Veterans Chairwoman Justine Crowley Duncan and Past Exalted Ruler James Duncan of Mechanicville-Stillwater Lodge.



Potsdam Elks Lodge #2074 was the recipient of two Corn Hole Board sets that were constructed by students at a local BOCES program. The sets we used recently and will continue to be used at future Lodge events. The students are pictured with their Instructors, Mr. Ashley, and Mr. Plumb.



Under the direction of Past State Vice President Jack Stein of **Huntington Elks Lodge #1565**, and his assistant Chet Deboe (a professional drummer), the "Drumming for Vets" program was hosted by Huntington Elks Lodge #1565 with 8 states represented including New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode island and Georgia. This event is run to help raise funds to purchase a service dog for a Vet. and consistently brings in a great crowd of people anxious to contribute and participate. This is the 4th event of its' kind held. Drummers dedicated each of their performances in honor of a specific veteran, bringing in huge applause. Over \$5000 was raised. The 200 plus+ attendees included Ed Rosavitch, PDD, Lynne Stein, PDD, John Brigante SVP, Dan Brooks, ER and Larry Kessler, ER. Additionally, many volunteers (too numerous to mention) were there to help set up, cook, serve and collect funds. Pictured is one of the Drum Lines that participated with a "Paws for Wars" companion dog at work with his owner looking on.