



# EMPIRE STATE ELK

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



### STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

My Fellow Elks,

As this Elk year comes to a close, I would like to thank and congratulate all of the Officers who served their Lodge during the past year. With the difficulties of running a Lodge under normal circumstances, the added restrictions and health considerations running one during this pandemic, you all should be commended. It has been truly inspiring to see how our Lodges have reimagined the many different ways to run our programs and how many Lodges have gotten out into their communities to help in new ways. You have lived up to my motto this year, “Making a Difference in our Community” and I couldn’t be more proud to be a part of this fantastic organization! You all have earned the right to be called the Best People On Earth!!

After a slow start and many postponements Kristen and I have begun in earnest, visiting our districts. Without a doubt, meeting all of you is the highlight of our year. We have enjoyed visiting our Lodges and hearing about the programs that you all run in your communities. To me, that is what being a part of the Elks are all about.

I have been extremely honored and proud to have served the New York State Elks Association as its President during this past year. The memories that Kristen and I have made are lifelong and cherished. The friends we have made and the times we have spent are the same. Thank you to each of you for making us feel welcome and bringing us into your Lodges.

There is no doubt that the Lodges of New York are “**Making a Difference in our Community**”. Keep up the great work and we look forward to seeing all of you in the future!!

Fraternally,

Paul C Galarneau  
NYSEA President



During his visit to the Southeast District, State President **Paul C. Galarneau** had the opportunity to visit Massapequa Lodge #2162. He is pictured at the Lodge with Past State President Anthony Gilberti and his wife Mary, and Southeast State Vice President Brian Steckler of New York Lodge #1.



State President **Paul C. Galarneau** is pictured with District Deputy Patricia Carroll (Brooklyn Queensborough Lodge #878), State Vice President Brian Steckler (New York lodge #1) and State Trustee Guillermo Rodriquez (Brooklyn Queensborough Lodge #878). This picture was taken during his visit to the Southeast District.



While visiting the South District, State President **Paul C. Galarneau** and his wife, first Lady Kirsten) had the opportunity to visit Ossining Lodge #1486. They and their traveling partners were treated to breakfast and a Lodge tour while visiting. State President Paul and First Lady Kirsten are pictured with Exalted Ruler Gregory Perry during the visit. .



While visiting Auburn Elk Lodge #474, State President **Paul C. Galarneau** had the honor of presenting the Auburn Lodge 2021 Citizen of the Year Award. The award was presented to Michele Andreassen, a Register Nurse for her volunteering to join the International Medical Corp. Once she arrived she would be helping the Brooklyn Medical Center for 2 weeks. State President Paul is pictured after presenting the award to Michelle Andrassen. Also pictured are Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Mindy Johnson and Exalted Ruler Mike Damazyn.



During his visit to the Southeast District, New York State Elk Association President **Paul C. Galarneau**, and his traveling companions were welcomed guests at New Hyde-North Shore Lodge #2107. State President Paul, along with his travel companions, Past District Deputy Renee Bott and her husband, Past Exalted Ruler Brian Bott are pictured at New Hyde-Northshore Lodge #2107 after receiving gifts from Exalted Ruler Robert Giglio.

## “Making a Difference In Our Communities”

Please join us for the Homecoming of  
**State President Paul C. Galarneau**

**Saturday, April 17, 2021**

Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge, 1 Elks Lane, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

6:00 PM – Cocktail & Hors D'oeuvres

7:00 PM – Dinner

**\$60**

Per Person. Price includes Hors D'oeuvres, Dinner, Dessert,  
Coffee & Open Bar during the cocktail hour.

**Dinner  
Choices**

Prime Rib, Boneless Stuffed Chicken Breast or Salmon  
Dinner includes soup, salad, twice baked potato, mixed vegetables, rolls & butter

Hotel Accommodations can be made at (please contact the hotel directly by 3/20/2021):

**Holiday Inn, 232 Broadway, Saratoga Springs (Host Hotel)**

518-584-4550

\$139.00 plus 13% tax (Code for Booking is EPH or Key Words for booking is NYS Elks State President)

or

**Embassy Suites, 86 Congress Street, Saratoga Springs**

518-290-9090

\$149.00 plus 13% tax (Key Words for Booking is Cohoes-Waterford Elks)

or

**Courtyard by Marriott, 11 Excelsior Avenue, Saratoga Springs**

518-226-0538

\$139.00 plus 13% tax (Key Words for Booking is NYS Elks State President Homecoming)

Please detach below & mail response with payment by 4/1/2021 to

Renee Bott, 17 Linda Lane, Waterford NY 12188

Please make check payable to NYS Elks President 2020-2021

For State President Paul's Homecoming (\$60.00 per person):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ How many attending \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Choices: \_\_\_ Prime Rib \_\_\_ Boneless Stuffed Chicken Breast \_\_\_ Salmon

For First Lady Kristen's Ladies Lunch (\$25.00 per person):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ How many attending \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch Choices: \_\_\_ Lemon Chicken Francais \_\_\_ Herb Marinated Sliced Steak \_\_\_ Roasted Veg Ragout



*NYS Elks First Lady  
Kristen Galarneau's  
Ladies Lunch*

*Saturday, April 17, 2021  
11:30AM-1:30PM*


*Longfellows Hotel & Restaurant,  
500 Union Ave., Saratoga Springs*

*Lunch Served with Caesar Salad, Dessert, Coffee  
or Tea & Soda - Choices are: Lemon Chicken  
Francais-Egg Batter Dipped and Pan Seared  
with a Light Lemon Garlic Beurre Blanc or Herb  
Marinated Sliced Steak with a Deep Demi Glace  
Sauce or Homemade Roasted Vegetable Ragout  
with Parmesan Polenta*

*\$25.00 Per Person*

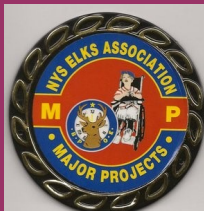
*RSVP Form is on State President Paul C.  
Galarneau's Homecoming Flyer -*

*If you have questions about the lunch, please contact  
Vicki Brown at 518.428.5413*





# NEW YORK STATE ELK ASSOCIATION MAJOR PROJECT



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

Dear Members,

### **We need you!**

All of our affiliates and the entire community of disability providers have been hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions on the opening of programs has resulted in the closure of many programs and support for people with disabilities. Despite this, they continue to operate programs 24/7, 365 days a year. Their employees support the most vulnerable population during this time of COVID – in fact, it should be noted that the people supported by the agencies are twice as likely to die from COVID as the general population. Many workers have put their own health and safety at risk to care for them. Also, the entire disability field was in severe financial crisis before COVID. New York State has worked with the federal government and provided some assistance to disability agencies to ensure continued services and employment of the workforce, but much of that support ended in early July. In the midst of the pandemic, in October, NYS added cuts to services that will remove almost 5% of the funding from providers across the State and impacting almost 9,000 people with disabilities – in addition, the state has also implemented a 20% holdback of funds for providers.

CP Affiliates are committed to the people they support and recognize the critical role their staff play in ensuring the delivery of services to people in need of assistance. Due to social distancing, the length of visits has had to decrease; however, the Home Service Directors have played a critical role in visiting families and getting required documents completed and signed.

The Home Service program has helped tens of thousands of New Yorkers with developmental disabilities access and maintain needed services, helping them lead a life of their choosing.

For over 56 years the Elks have chosen to support the CP organizations because of our aligned values and commitment to the vulnerable population who receive services and their families. Our support is invaluable to CP affiliates across New York State! We all have been affected by the pandemic and many lodges are struggling to make ends meet. If reaching per capita is a concern, please note that **ANY** help you can give is appreciated! Members can log on to [www.nyselks.org](http://www.nyselks.org) and click on the Major Project link to make your donation. Your lodge will receive credit and your donation will count toward your lodge's per capita.

Let's all hope and pray that we can be together as soon as it is safe to do so to have the events that we have come to cherish; Music Fests, Golf Tournaments, Car Shows, Auctions, etc.

Please – let's all work together to make our lodges' per capita to assist our entire developmentally disabled community.

Stay safe everyone!



**Guilderland Lodge #2480** held a virtual Facebook live Storytime with Santa. Parents were asked to send in a small donation with their child's name. During the Santa story time, the child's name was mentioned by Santa. Great fun was had and monies were raised for the NYSEA Major Projects.



**Auburn Elks Lodge # 474** held a Take Out Chicken and Biscuit Dinner to benefit the Elks Major Projects. The members of the Lodge donated all of the items needed to make the dinner possible. The event raised \$370 for major Projects. Pictured at the dinner are Lodge volunteers Mindy Johnson Leading Knight PDDGER, Mario Campanello Lecturing Knight and Janel Smith Loyal Knight



During his visit to **New York Lodge #1**, new member Ashley won the 50/50 Major Project Raffle. and donated her half back to the lodge so the total donated to Major Projects was \$300. Ashley is pictured presenting her raffle winnings to State President Paul C. Galameau. Also pictured as she presented the donation are State Vice President Brian Steckler, Exalted Ruler Lisa Moldovan and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Patricia Carroll.



# ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



**Amsterdam Lodge #101** donated \$6,000 in relief to support local foster children. This year, the Lodge partnered with a local organization called Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth that helps place children in foster care. Using an Elks National Foundation (ENF) Community Investment Program Grant, obtained by our ENF Coordinator, PER Chuck Torres, \$6,000 worth of gift cards were donated that will go far to support children and their immediate needs from the very moment their care begins with a new foster family. Under 'normal' circumstances, the Lodge members are very hands-on and enjoy being involved in a project to help the community, especially for the youth. With safety being a top concern, the Lodge had to think outside the box to figure out how they could impact their community and minimize exposure to all involved. The partnership with Berkshire Farms was the perfect opportunity to do phenomenal work, and to focus attention on a segment of the population often overlooked.



**Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317** presented a \$2000.00 Check to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. The Lodge applied for and received the Elks National Foundation (ENF) Spotlight Grant and chose to donate it to the Food Bank. The Regional Food Bank has been helping to feed the poor and hungry in our communities since 1982. It is the only organization of its kind in northeastern New York. The Food Bank collects large donations of food from the food industry and distributes it to charitable agencies serving hungry and disadvantaged people in 23 counties. From Plattsburgh to Newburgh, in urban, rural, and suburban communities, the Food Bank provides over 35 million pounds of food a year to 1,000 agencies. Pictured (L-R) during the donation presentation are Kathy Samaniuk-Hayes, Administrative Assistant, NYS Elks State President and Lodge ENF Chairperson Paul C. Galarneau, Deanna Zuzick, Director of Finance, Exalted Ruler Richard Hogan, Colleen Bryar, Director of Agency Services and Renee Law, Controller.



**Binghamton Lodge #70** used a \$3500 Beacon grant to help community families at Christmas, as well as to help their local Knight Pack Program. \$1000 of the Beacon Grant was used to fill 75 food baskets with fixings for a Christmas dinner (Turkey, potatoes, gravy, veggies, fruit) for impecunious families in their local community. Several of the Lodge members, along with volunteers from St. Mary's Church in Kirkwood, N.Y., put together and handed out the baskets. Lodge members also helped to deliver some of the baskets to Bell Elementary School in Kirkwood, N.Y. for families in need during the holiday season. \$2500 of the Beacon grant was donated to their local Knight Pack Program, which provides food to students on the weekends and holidays. Pictured: (top row from left to right): Lodge members Karen Krasowsky and Bill Krasowsky (Bottom row left to right): Lodge member Deb Eldridge; lodge Secretary Crystal Stone; and Exalted Ruler Sue Doolittle

**Endicott Lodge #1977** used a combined Beacon and Spotlight Grants to donate \$2750 each to Mercy House and to Meals on Wheels of Western Broome County. Mercy House of the Southern Tier in Endicott, New York is a community care shelter that provides a home and a supportive family to people with terminal illnesses who can no longer remain at home. Meals on Wheels of Western Broome County in Endicott, New York is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing seniors nutritious home delivered meals and daily contact to enable healthy independence.

**Sidney Lodge #2175** used a \$1000 Beacon grant to provide 25 care packages to local senior citizens in their community that were in need. A \$2000 Spotlight grant was also used to put together and donate 46 care packages to local veterans in their area who needed some extra help. All of the care packages contained such items as: blankets, scarves, gloves, hygiene products, snack items, laundry & dish soaps, toilet paper, paper towels, and a gift card to their local Great American supermarket.



Thanks to the efforts of the Beacon Grant, the members from **Islip Lodge #2533** donated a total of \$1500 for much needed items directed toward providing holiday meals. They will be distributed at the Central Islip Civic Center Food Pantry. Local food pantries are in dire need of donations, as their shelves were nearing empty during the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic. This contribution was greeted with much enthusiasm. Past Exalted Ruler Dennis Casey and Exalted Ruler/PER Joe D'Angelo are pictured presenting the donation to 3 volunteers from the pantry



**New York Lodge #1** is honored to announce that Exalted Ruler/PER Lisa Moldovan has joined the special group of Elks, for her dedication to The Elks National Foundation. Lisa has received The Elks National Foundation Honorary Founder Award for donating over One Thousand Dollars that will further The Elks National Foundation purposes and ideals. Pictured as he presented the ENF Founders Award to Lisa is Lodge ENF Chairman and Past District Deputy and Lodge Trustee Frank T. Hunt.

**Canajoharie Fort Plain Lodge #2621** used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and donated \$2500 to the Gram Lorraine project at the Fort Plain Central School. The money helped to enable the project to help 53 families and 135 children during the holiday season. Gifts were purchased for children for Christmas including toys, games, clothing and coats.



# ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



**Brooklyn-Queens Borough Lodge #878** used the proceeds from a \$2000.00 Spotlight Grant and donated 100 jackets and 8 cases of diapers to HeartShare St. Vincent's Service – Family Treatment and Rehabilitation program this past holiday season. The jackets and diapers went to families in need in the supportive service that's supplied by HSVS.



**Fulton Lodge #830** donated \$2,000 from an ENF Grant to the Oswego County Opportunities Services to Aid Families (SAF) domestic violence program. These funds came from a Spotlight Grant received from the Elks National Foundation. In addition to the cash donation, members donated adult and children's coloring books, colored pencils, puzzles and other items to help those served by the SAF Program. Pictured above during the donation presentation are, from left to right, Lodge Treasurer Silvan Johnson, Lodge Exalted Ruler Joyce Coady, Stacie France, Community Response Coordinator for OCO, Inc. SAF Program, Lodge Bar Steward Dawn Gibbs and Grant Coordinator Rene Ormsby.



**Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317** was 1 of 325 Elks Lodges in the Nation and 1 of 20 lodges in New York State to receive a \$2500 Freedom Grant. The Lodge utilized the grant for 12 male & female veterans who transitioned from homelessness to permanent housing to personally shop for needed household items. Lodge Veterans Service Chairperson and PER Regina Hogan, picked up the veterans at home and drove to the department store of their choice. Each veteran greatly appreciated that the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) provided the Grant funds and opportunity to choose specifically what they needed for their new residence. Pictured are some of veterans on their shopping trip with Veterans Service Chairperson Regina Hogan.



**Guilderland Lodge #2480** used part of their Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant in the amount of \$675.00 to enable WMHT/Rise Radio to purchase 14 receivers for blind/vision impaired people to use for their programs. As Bob Yager, PER and a 30 plus year volunteer of WMHT/Rise Radio explains, the receiver shown, allows blind/vision impaired persons to receive the programming that volunteers use to read newspapers, magazines, obituaries, sports news and the like. Pictured during the donation presentation are; from left to right: Exalted Ruler Bob Ballerstein, Past Exalted Ruler Bob Yager, and Past State Vice President Michael Jones, Lodge Trustee and grant writer



**Fulton Lodge #830** had unexpended funds from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and used the funds to purchase additional DVD players, head phones and large button telephones for the Syracuse VA Hospital's Spinal Cord Unit. Suzanne Hawes, Lead Recreational Therapist and Becky Ross, Recreational Therapist from the Syracuse VA, are pictured receiving the donation from Rene Ormsby, Grant Coordinator, Dawn Gibbs and Exalted Ruler Joyce Coady of the Fulton Lodge.



**Ossining Lodge #1486** made great use of a Spotlight Grant and handed out 1,050 (yes, that's correct, 1,050!!!) meals to those less fortunate. The Lodge received additional support when a passerby stopped and provided a generous \$125 donation which the Lodge used to buy pies that were added to the meal package.



# ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



**Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317** members delivered Dictionary's and Bookmarks to the Waterford-Halfmoon Elementary School for their 3rd Graders. Last year, we were able to deliver to the students directly, but this year, we met the School Principal for the delivery. Inside each dictionary is a label that says, "Donated by the Members of Cohoes-Waterford Elks". The Dictionaries were purchased with funds the Lodge received from the Elks National Foundation (ENF) Gratitude Grant. Pictured (L-R) is Exalted Ruler Richard Hogan, Elementary School Principal Joseph Siracuse, District Deputy Renee Bott and Dictionary Project Co-Chair and NYS Elks State President Paul C. Galarnau.



**Homer Elks Lodge #2506** hosted its third annual Operation Warm program. For this event the Lodge provided 245 coats for youths in need of warmth heading into the cold winter days. This event was made possible through securing \$3,500 from the Beacon Grant provided by the Elks National Foundation's Community Investments Program and its partnership with Operation Warm. Pictured is a Pre-K student picking out a new coat.



**Guiderland Lodge #2480** made use of their Spotlight Grant and presented a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 to the Guiderland Food Pantry. With the ongoing and unrelenting effects of COVID-19 and the pandemic crisis the need for help from food pantries for the needy has never been greater. Executive Director Mac McDonnell states that this donation could not have come at a better time, as the food pantry has started their holiday meal prep and have started helping with the 6 schools in the Guiderland area with their backpack program. In conjunction with the schools, the food pantry provides 50 backpacks filled with food every Friday to help students get through the weekend with food. Pictured during the check presentation are, from left to right, Treasurer Dwight La Du, Past State President/Lodge Trustee/NYSEA Public Relation Chairman Michael Jones, John "Mac" McDonnell, Executive Director Guiderland Food Pantry; Exalted Ruler Bob Ballerstein, and Leading Knight Dan Butzer,



**Hornell Elks Lodge #364** provided a donation \$5,500 to the Hornell Fire Department to purchase PPE supplies to meet the extraordinary needs of the department during the COVID-19 crisis. Recently, Cindie Harrington and Jeanne Gore, Elks Grant co-coordinators, turned over a Beacon Grant check for \$3,500 to Fire Chief Frank Brzozowski. Earlier that month, Chief Brzozowski accepted a \$2,000 Spot Light grant check from the Elks as the first installment of the PPE funding. The personal protection equipment is considered crucial in keeping both patients and first responders safe during the deadly pandemic. Chief Brzozowski had stated the fire department is grateful for the donations, while Hornell Lodge officials stated they are proud the organization can assist the Canisteo Valley community.



**Huntington Lodge #1565** used proceeds from a Beacon Grant to assist the Tri-CYA Food Pantry in Huntington Station. During a visit to the Tri-CYA Food Pantry, a list of the most needed items was obtained. In the interim, however, 8 bags of canned soup and vegetables, along with snacks, were dropped off to help stock their depleted shelves. Thanks to the funds received through the efforts of the Beacon Grant, approximately \$100.00 worth of items were delivered by Past District Deputy Lynne Stein. She is pictured with Josephine R., a volunteer at the pantry, as she welcomes the donation. (Picture to the left)

**Ken-Ton Lodge #1942** used a \$3500 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to donate \$1750 to Haven House, which provides shelter, counseling and court advocacy to victims of child abuse and domestic violence, and \$1750 to Friends of the Night, which provides meals and essential support to homeless people.



# ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



**New York Lodge #1** continued efforts to fully support our Nations Veterans by donating \$2500 from an Elks National Foundation Spot Light Grant to the Veterans Health Alliance of Long Island. The donation will support area Veterans. Lodge members proudly presented the donation at The Veterans Alliance of Long Island Facility. Pictured at the donation presentation are the Director of Peer and Veteran's Services Brent Russell Lodge Exalted Ruler/PER Lisa Moldovan, Audrey Lewis Program Manager Veteran's Department, Past District Deputy John M. Nuzzi Sr., and South East District State Vice President Brian Steckler.



Through the funds received from the Gratitude Grant, the members of **Patchogue Lodge** donated \$1250 to the "Angels of Long Island" to be used to help support their community outreach center. Established in 2015, "Angels of Long Island" has evolved from a social media platform. They provide supplemental support and resources for people who are struggling through a crisis. Exalted Ruler Dan Brooks and Inner Guard Neal Keating are pictured presenting the donation on behalf of Patchogue Lodge to Brittany Loesch, President of Angels of LI.



The **Oswego Elks Lodge # 271** Gratitude Grant for 2020, was awarded to Victory Transformations, Inc. This organization serves as an outreach within our community to reach those who are homeless and in need of love, hope and encouragement. Victory runs a code blue warming shelter that opens its doors and takes in the homeless when Oswego temperatures dip to 32 degrees. Victory Advocates for their clients with emergency services in housing, food, heat, medical and anything that compromises their basic/safety needs. The program provides an Emergency Housing Initiative that provides short term, immediate housing to individuals who are homeless with the goal of safe and affordable permanent or transitional housing within 35 days. Victory provides an Employment Program, a Give-A-Way Closet, their Victory Roadhouse Caffe and Coffee house and the Victory Drop-in Center. Victory is a Christian Based Program that help those of all faiths who are not currently using or dependent on drugs/alcohol. The Oswego Elks Lodge chose Victory to be this year's recipient due to the crisis our country is facing. The number of families in our own community needing help is increasing drastically each day. Victory is moving into a larger facility, the previous Vale Haven Home which will increase the number of people they can serve. Pictured Left to Right: Carol Simpson, Past Exalted Ruler; Daun Whittaker Founder and Executive Director; Vickie Rowe, Leading Knight and Tom Milam Exalted Ruler



With funds received through the Beacon/Spotlight Grant, the members from **Riverhead Lodge #2044** donated \$2,750 to the "Church of the Harvest". The donation was earmarked for their food pantry supplies. This house of worship, located in Riverhead, N.Y. is a nondenominational Church which provides cultural and educational programs in addition to housing a very active food pantry. Lodge Secretary Diane Allen is pictured presenting the donation on behalf of the Lodge to Gwen Mack, Church Associate.



The members from **Southampton Lodge #1574** used proceeds from a Gratitude Grant to support the Lodges coat donation project and donated various coats totaling approximately \$500 to Maureen's Haven for the homeless. Secretary Gene Scanlon is pictured, along with 2 recipients from the Haven, as they happily accepted these much needed items. Funds used for this project were received from the Gratitude Grant. The Lodge also purchased warm winter coats totaling approximately \$500, which were then donated to "The Retreat" for distribution to residents in need

**Middletown Lodge #1097** used a \$2000 Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant and worked with 12 Veterans service organizations to hold a stand down for homeless Veterans. The event, which was attended by 41 Veterans, included breakfast, a take-away lunch, haircuts, health and dental screenings, and guidance from a financial advisor. Each Veteran received clothing, toiletries, snacks and a water bottle.

## ENF Loyalty Club

Ongoing support ensures stronger communities well into the future. The ENF Loyalty Club encourages and celebrates long-term annual support by honoring donors who give annually for 10 or more consecutive fiscal years. The membership is based solely on consecutive annual giving regardless of donation amounts.





# ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



**Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161** used approximately \$500.00 of their Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to provide personal hygiene products to the Mother Susan Anderson House in Saratoga Springs. The Mother Susan Anderson House provides 12 beds for homeless women and children on an emergency basis. The Mother Susan Anderson shelter, named for one of the women who helped start the church in 1961, was once the parsonage and sits adjacent to the house of worship at the corner of Caroline and Henry streets. It can house between 12 and 17 people depending on how the rooms are set up. Unlike other shelters, there is no time limit on how long the clients can stay. It is often a last resort for women who violated the rules at another shelter or overstayed their welcome, the Rev. Sheila Byrd said. She interviews each woman who asks to stay. No men are allowed inside the shelter, and the house monitor, Gloria Neidrauer, keeps track of the clients, such as who is at a doctor's appointment, a job interview or a counseling session. Neidrauer discovered the shelter when she was homeless in 1994 after a job-related injury and she could no longer work. Pictured, (l to r) are Members Lillian Miles, Loyal Knight Dora Lee Stanley, Donna Nolin, ER Gerry Conboy and Gloria Neidrauer at the Mother Susan Anderson Shelter.



**Saugerties Lodge #2574** received an Elks National Foundation grant for \$2000 which was donated to the Saugerties Boys and Girls Club adopt a family Christmas. This donation allowed the Boys and Girls Club the opportunity to provide gifts for 25 families. Exalted Ruler Debbi Lawrence, and Lodge ENF Coordinator and Past Exalted Ruler Debbie Venerri are pictured presenting the donation to Linsey Quick, Director Saugerties B&G Club,



**Guilderland Lodge #2480** made use of their Spotlight Grant and presented a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 to the Guilderland Food Pantry. With the ongoing and unrelenting effects of COVID-19 and the pandemic crisis the need for help from food pantries for the needy has never been greater. Executive Director Mac McDonnell states that this donation could not have come at a better time, as the food pantry has started their holiday meal prep and have started helping with the 6 schools in the Guilderland area with their backpack program. In conjunction with the schools, the food pantry provides 50 backpacks filled with food every Friday to help students get through the weekend with food. Pictured from left to right are Past State Vice President and grant administrator Michael Jones, John "Mac" McDonnell, Executive Director Guilderland Food Pantry; and Exalted Ruler



The members from **Patchogue Lodge #1323** donated a check for \$1250 to the "Excel Disabled Equestrian" Therapeutic Program as a result of funds received through the Gratitude Grant. This program uses horses as a therapy for children in need of physical and emotional support. Pictured are (l-r) Inner Guard Neal Keating, Kathleen Kotler (Excel Representative) and Exalted Ruler Dan Brooks as the check was presented at their Lodge.



**NY Lodge #1** supported the Town of Hempstead Annual Camp Anchor Dinner and Dance through an Elks National Beacon Grant. Lodge Officers and Members honored that they were able to present to Camp Anchor a check in the amount of \$3,000.00 of the Elks Beacon Grant, The Lodge have had great times in past years' serving hot meals to approx. 175 special needs adults, handing out all types of goodies to those in the Gym dancing to the beat of our supplied DJ, taking their pictures in the photo booth, all supplied and taken care of by the Elks. Presentation had taken place in Lodge #1 Heritage Room, Pictured during the donation presentation are PDDGER/ Trustee Frank T. Hunt, PDDGER /Treasure Mark E. Stuparich , PER /Lodge Esquire Paul Schneller, PER Lodge Leading Knight Amy Schneller, Susan Cuoccio President of Anchor Program Fund Inc., Mary Ann Hanson Supervisor Anchor Program, PER /Exalted Ruler and Lodge ENF Grant Writer Lisa Moldovan, PDDGER /Lodge Chaplain John M Nuzzi Sr ., PER Lodge/ Loyal Knight Roland Costan and Lodge Inner Guard. Ann Roller

### ENF—Individual Annual Recognition Program

The Foundation Fellowship is the ENF (Elks National Foundation's) annual individual recognition program. The Foundation Fellowship recognizes six levels of giving ranging from \$50 to \$10,000. The Leading Knight's charge in the initiation ritual inspired the names for each giving level. Each level represents one of the mythical goddesses of noble virtue who were present at the Olympus feast where Charity appeared. The highest level of the fellowship is Charity, the greatest of all virtues.



# ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



**Homer Lodge #2506** wrapped gifts for needy area families and then delivered them to the local Spafford Food Pantry, located in the Scott United Methodist Church in Scott, NY, the next day for distribution to the families. This "wrapping party" was a culmination of the Lodge's Christmas program, purchasing gifts and serving a total of six families who were not fortunate enough to have the means to provide presents for the holiday. This program was especially significant this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has left many more families struggling in the area. 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 with the gifts purchased are (from left to right) Tommy Barnes, Future Elk and Debbie Brown, Food Pantry Director.

The Officers and Members of **New York Lodge #1** are proud supporters of the Long Island Sled Hockey Team, known as The Long Island Rough Riders, handicap young adults as well as men and women, facing all different type of challenges of life. New York Elks Lodge #1 has supported and donated to these very special individuals for the past 23 years. Over the past 23 years the lodge has donated its Lodge Hall for numerous events as well as for their fund raisers. These athletes on the Rough Riders pay for nothing, uniforms, supplies, trips, room stays, and the most expensive is the Practice Ice Time and this is serious note from the president and coach of this organization Bryan Blomquist, these athletes will never pay for anything. New York Elks Lodge #1 has donated over the years approx. \$ 68,000.00 as well as past grants. This year the Officers and Members presented The Team with the Lodge ENF Gratitude Grant in the amount of \$ 2,500.00. The Elks hold a great part of support for the Rough riders last year the team Fund raiser at the Lodge helped raise \$ 384,729.00 The team won the National Title in 2019 and presented that Championship Banner to the Lodge, the banner, was presented to the Team, in Tampa, Florida. Rough Riders had the only goal in a phenomenal 1-0 win, Claiming the Title as the of United States National Champions.. Since December of 2003, when this amazing group incorporated, they have competed in tournaments from Ontario, Canada to the southern tip of Florida, with mid-Atlantic and mid-west America included; a total of 53 tournaments. The Team now has team medals ranging from 15 Bronze Medals, 7 Silver Medals, and 20 Gold Medals, including the National Title and 42 medals in 53 tournaments. The Lodge Officers and Members are Honored and Proud to be part of the teams history. Pictured are team players on the Ice in front of Lodge Offices as well as team president and coaches. Pictured with the banner are Lisa Moldovan Exalted Ruler, Bryan Blomquist team President and Coach, John M Nuzzi Sr. PDDGER Lodge Chaplain, Ann Roller Lodge Inner Guard, and Brian Steckler, New York State Vice President of the Southeast District.



The members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** continue to assist the 2nd Police Precinct in Huntington Station with their drive-through food giveaway for Project Hope. During a recent visit, 17 bags of assorted items were delivered which were added to donations made by local vendors. Cars were already lined up upon our arrival, spanning many blocks surrounding Manor Park. The Lodge used the proceeds received from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant, totaling approximately \$200, to purchase parcels that included various breakfast foods, soups, pasta and sauces and rice with beans. Past State President Jack Stein, is pictured with Officer Claudia Delgado as they get the parcels ready for pick-up.

The cold and snowy weather, along with the pandemic quarantine needs of local residents, was a concern for the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565**. In view of this, the Lodge used over \$200 from a Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to purchase 10 bags of non- perishable food and 4 bags of assorted winter hats, gloves and scarfs that were delivered to St. Elizabeth Church in Huntington. Past District Deputy Jack Stein is pictured next to the overflowing drop off box provided by the St. Elizabeth's Church located in their Lobby.

**Poughkeepsie Lodge #275** donated a \$3,500.00 ENF Beacon Grant to the Lutheran Care Center (LLC), which is a re-hab nursing home to purchase iPads to allow their residents to connect with loved ones, family and friends. These virtual visits are the only contact residents are allowed to have with family members due to Covid. Pictured during the donation presentation are (L-R) Trustee Brian Mallet LCC, Exalted Ruler Lynn Strohm, Susan Chowdowski LLC, Chaplain and Past Exalted Ruler Jane Anderson, Leading Knight Christine Hillerud, Kim Zimmerlee LLC, Patricia Ludington LLC, Andrea Vignoa LLC, Jade Romer LLC, Kathy Ryder LLC, and Robyn Tauss LLC. (Picture to the right)



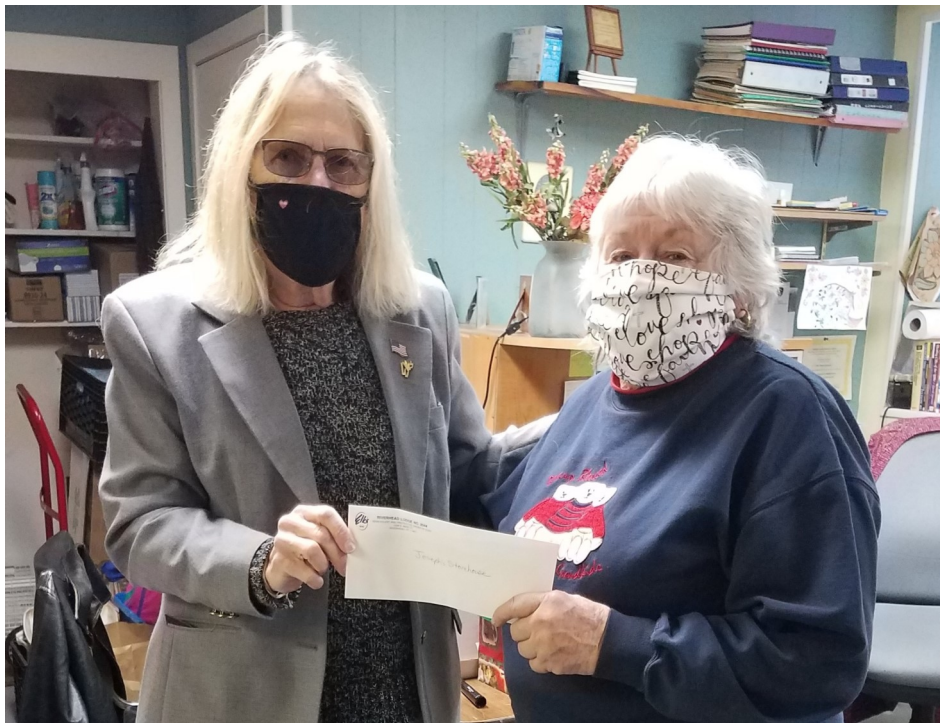
**Homer Lodge # 2506** used a \$2500 ENF (Elks National Foundation) Gratitude Grant to provide holiday gifts to six needy families from the Homer community. The gifts were distributed through the Spafford Food Pantry.



# ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



After speaking with Social Worker Samina Lopez-Johnson from the Dolan Family Health Center, the members from **Huntington Lodge #1565** learned about a family in need of both children's gifts and Holiday food, for Christmas. Without hesitation and with help from the funds received through the Elks National Foundation Beacon and Spotlight Grants, the Lodge purchased items for the family. Samina Lopez-Johnson is pictured displaying 6 bags of Holiday goodies that were donated by Huntington Lodge.



**Riverhead Lodge #2044** presented Joseph's Storehouse, located in Aguebogue, with a check for \$2,750, to be applied to purchasing much needed essential items for their food pantry. Thanks to the efforts of the Elks National Foundation Beacon and Spotlight Grants, these funds will supply many local families in need with a marvelous Holiday Season. Lodge Secretary Diane Allen is pictured presenting the donation on behalf of the Lodge to Pat Scianti from Joseph's Storehouse.



Through the use of the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant, the members from **Huntington Lodge #1565** purchased approximately \$150.00 worth of non-perishable food and kitchen supplies which were then delivered to the LI Cares food pantry. This wide variety of items covered breakfast, lunch and dinner meals, as well as cleaning supplies. Pictured Past State Vice President Jack Stein as he delivers over 20 bags of pre-packaged, hand-picked items to several volunteers at the pantry.



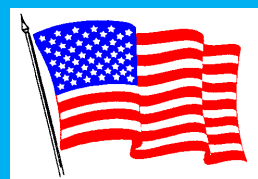
**Sidney Lodge #2175** used a \$2500 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to help several of their local schools with their backpacks program. The schools were Gilbertsville-Mount Upton, Bainbridge-Guilford Central, Sidney Elementary and Unatego Central school. Each school received backpacks, clothes, sneakers, toiletries, and more. Pictures during one of the donation presentations are (from left to right): Heather Wilcox, GMU Principal; Treasurer and ENF Grant Administrator Sharon Harris, and Raquel Norton, Librarian/backpack Program Coordinator.

## ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

FROM JIM O'KELLEY

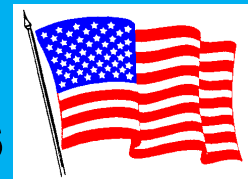
Below you will find information and useful resources regarding the Elks National Foundation. Please share this information with your constituents to promote the ENF.

- **CIP Grants Break Records!** The Community Investments Program Grant numbers are in! We distributed nearly \$11.5 million to Elks communities like yours. See how Lodges provided pandemic relief and more in this infographic.
- **Weekly Content on YouTube:** We're releasing content weekly on our YouTube channel. Check it out and encourage members of your Lodge to watch as well.
  - On the February episode of *Hoop Shooting the Breeze* Daylee Dunn a 2016 National Finalist joins the show. She's now a two-sport collegiate athlete, catch the episode here.
  - Hear from Assistant Director Debbie Doles and CIP-ster Doug Wise on Episode 49 of the *Midday Minute*. They announce the 2020-21 Impact Grant Renewals and share how Lodges with Impact Grants adapted to the pandemic.
- **Fiscal Year Deadline:** We're less than two months away from the 2020-21 donation deadline. All donations are due into the ENF offices by **Wednesday, March 31**. If Lodges have donations to send into the ENF, encourage them to do it sooner, rather than later. Members can donate at [enf.elks.org/MyLodge](http://enf.elks.org/MyLodge).
- **Use these resources** to promote the ENF:
  - o News to Use and Speaking Points *Here are things to say when you have the opportunity to speak about the Elks National Foundation.*
  - o State Detail Report *Use this report to find Per-Member-Giving Totals, organized by state and district.*
  - o Summary of Donations *Use this report to see summarized donation totals by state.*
  - o Reports and Standings *The Reports and Standings is a comprehensive list of reports providing information on personal, Lodge and overall donations to the Foundation.*
  - o ENF in Your State *Each year, the Elks National Foundation strives to grant more money back to each state than it received from that state in donations.*



# VETERANS ACTIVITIES

## SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



**Beacon Lodge #1493** teamed with the VFW and hosted a Veteran's day Ceremony. VFW Commander and Beacon Elk Lodge member Harold Delamaterhe is pictured as he leads the Beacon Veterans Day festivities. Harold is in the back row, fifth from the left.



**Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317** members personally donated gifts to 27 veterans residing at The Veterans House, a homeless shelter in Albany, New York. Each veteran was given a \$30 gift card, a fleece blanket, a pair of socks, a Christmas card & a candy cane all tucked nicely in a Christmas stocking. An ornament for the Christmas tree at The House was also presented to Lee Vartigian, Director of Veterans Services. A holiday message video was recorded by Lodge Officers and members and was sent to them via email. Pictured (l to r) Veterans Service Chair Regina Hogan, Lee Vartigian, Director of Veterans Services at The Veterans House and Exalted Ruler Richard Hogan.



**Brooklyn-Queens borough Lodge No.878** hosted a Veterans Day Celebration and Support-A-Soldier Program Fundraiser. The event raised over \$250 dollars for the Lodge's Veterans Charities. The event included each member and guest receiving a "Red Ribbon Soldier" (a novelty figurine with a red ribbon attached) created by the daughter of our House Committee member Joanne DiMaggio. 23 guests attended and enjoyed a Pizza Party atmosphere and a lot of camaraderie. The event began and finished with a toast to our veterans and all stood to sing our National Anthem, as led by Lodge Esquire, Richard Reichert. Exalted Ruler, Gerry Storms hosted the night and a special salute was given to the veterans in attendance.



**East District 6120** Veterans Chairman and VAVS Rep. Jack Stein, PSVP, along with Connie Olson, (Huntington Lodge #1565) and VAVS Deputy, delivered a car load of canned and non-perishable food to the East Meadow Nassau County Veterans Administration, for their very active food pantry. These items were collected from members during the East District's DD Visitations. In addition to these items, blankets were collected from VFW #6394 which were made by their local Girl Scout Troop and delivered along with the District's food pantry donations. Pictured here are: Past State Vice President Jack Stein, Esteemed Loyal Knight Connie Olson, along with Ralph Esposito, NC Veterans Administration Representative. Ralph Esposito.

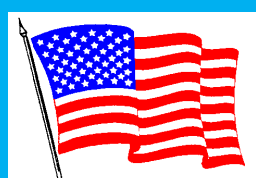


With the help of a \$1500 grant from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, the **Catskill Lodge #1341** was able to purchase, wrap and deliver holiday gift bags to 48 veterans in our three local nursing homes; The Pines, The Elliot and Green Meadows. Each gift bag contained a neck pillow, hygiene products, picture frames, note pads and other activity related items, as well as a lap robe handcrafted by the Cairo Crafters. Santa's helpers Maria Impastato, Emily Gallo and Don Fisher (not pictured) delivered these much appreciated gifts.



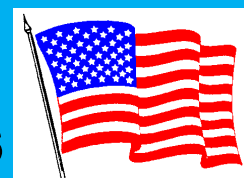
**Fulton Lodge #830** donated \$1,155.00 worth of items to the Syracuse VA Hospital. These funds are part of an ENF Beacon grant that the Lodge received. The items donated, including portable DVD players and 250 DVD's, sound machines, speaker phones and a table top video game, were requested and are to be used for veterans in the VA Spinal Cord Unit. Pictured during the donation presentation are (l to r) Grant Coordinator Rene Ormsby, Loyal Knight and Army veteran Dave Ormsby, Becky Ross from the Syracuse VA and Exalted Ruler Joyce Coady.

PDDGER Nancy Swartz of **Canajoharie Lodge #2621** presented a \$1000 donation on behalf of the Lodge to Pastor John Dutcher of Mountains to Miracles Veterans Foundation, Inc. The Lodge used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to support the donation. The donation was used to help local Veterans to obtain clothing and other essentials.



# VETERANS ACTIVITIES

## SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



**Brooklyn-Queensborough Lodge #878** had the pleasure of adding a helping hand to the American Legion of Forest Hills, NY, in their efforts to provide essentials to our returning veterans. Exalted Ruler Gerry Storms represented the Lodge in Donating \$250 dollars raised through the Lodges Support-A-Soldier fundraising program. This donation will aid the American Legion's efforts to re-acclimate our brave and fearless warriors as they return home from service.



**Greenwich Lodge #2223** presented a check for \$2,000 to Cliff Seguin, Chairman of Operation Adopt A Soldier. The funds for this donation were made possible with a grant from Elks National Foundation, Community investment program. Adopt A Soldier supports active military troops from the Greenwich area serving around the world with care packages and special request to help them in their deployment. The organization also assist veterans and military families in need in Greenwich community area. Pictured during the donation presentation are (L to R), Greenwich Lodge Veteran Chairman Ray Abbott, Cliff Seguin and Past District Deputy and Lodge Trustee Tom Waring.



**Homer Lodge #2506** held an annual Veterans appreciation event in the form of a spaghetti dinner. This event was conducted to honor all our veterans in recognition of both Veterans Day and Veterans Month. The Lodge Veterans Committee reached out to the community as a whole and took reservations for all veterans and their families who were then served a free meal to recognize their contributions to our country. The Lodge served around 40 veterans, family members and friends during which there was much camaraderie exchanged and many stories told. The Lodge received from Exalted Ruler John Pooler of Vestal Lodge #2508, who brought a crew with him to assist in the preparation of the meal. John's participation and delicious sauce recipe contributed to the success of the event. Pictured at the event are Andrew VanDonel (ER-Homer Elks), Al VanDonsel (Veteran-Cortland Elks #748 Member), Kevin Vandonsel (Veteran-Homer Elks Veterans Committee Member), John Pooler (ER-Vestal Elks #2508) and Jelena Barnes (Veterans Committee Chair-Homer Elks).



**Liverpool Lodge # 2348** recently donated 40 Syracuse sweatshirts to the inpatient Veterans at the Syracuse VA hospital. Although the lodge was unable to do many of the festive activities normally held this time of year, these sweatshirts will keep the residence warm and comfortable. Pictured delivering the sweatshirts are Exalted Ruler Dale Hazen, Grant Chair Jean Giuseppli, and National Service Chair Mike Kaltenborn,



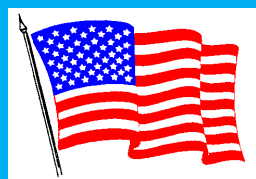
The Mental Health and Wellness Center at the Suffolk County United Veterans Association in Ronkonkoma, was in dire need of supplies for their food pantry. **Huntington Lodge #1565** members have worked with this organization several times in the past and after learning that their shelves were depleted, the Lodge was quick to respond. Pictured here receiving a dozen bags of carefully selected non-perishable food is Ruth McDade from the Center along with Past District Deputy Lynne Stein, PDD and Past State Vice President Jack Stein as the delivery was made.



All the Lodges of **Mid-Hudson District #6180** (which consist of Beacon #1493, Poughkeepsie #275, Peekskill #744, Haverstraw #877, Yorktown #2324, and Wappinger #2609) ran toy collection campaigns for the U.S. Marine Toy for Tots. At the end of the District's effort, members and officers from all district lodges gathered at the Beacon Lodge to turn over all toys to U.S. Marine representatives. The attached picture shows the collection of toys (300-400) that were gathered, members and officers of the district that were present, along with U.S. Marines from MAG 49, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. Also in attendance at the event were Veterans from the Carmen Ramputi Detachment 861, Marine Corps League.

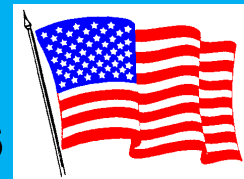
**Jamestown Lodge #263** partnered with a local retail store chain and held a donation drive and collected nearly 200 Christmas gifts for a local chapter of Blue Star Mothers, which shipped the gifts to deployed active-duty service members.

**Staten Island Lodge #841** donated \$1000.00 to a US Coast Guard stationed in Hatteras, NC to assist US Coast Guard families who suffered a fire in that area.



# VETERANS ACTIVITIES

## SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



**Ossining Lodge #1486** supported their area Veteran's during the holiday season. Lodge members assembled Christmas stockings for the military veterans at the Montrose VA. Pictured are Lodge members that assembled the stockings.



**Rochester Lodge #24** members prepped, cooked, and delivered a holiday dinner to the Veterans Outreach Center's Richards and Otto House for homeless Veterans. The meal included turkeys, hams, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, corn, and gravy. With funds raised through our Adopt-A-Vet program and our "R.E.D." T-shirt sales, the Lodge purchased the ingredients for the meal and gift cards for the veterans. Rochester Lodge started this tradition several years ago. Normally, members would stay, serve the dinner, and chat with the residents, but this year the Lodge members had to drop off the meals due to COVID protocols. Despite this, the Lodge still managed to brighten the Veterans holidays!



**Vestal Lodge #2058** members bought and delivered presents for 16 residents of the Pine Lodge Alzheimer's unit at the Oxford Veterans Home. Pictured from left to right as the presents were delivered are: Lodge Veterans committee member Chuck Yoko, Oxford Veterans Home Recreation Director Kristen Slate, Exalted Ruler John Pooler, Lodge Veterans committee member Duane Horton, Oxford Veterans Home Assistant Administrator Noah P. Davis, and Lodge veterans committee member Bob Liberty,



### American Legion Continental Post #1424, Forest Hills NY 11375



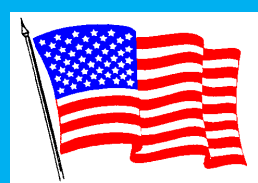
**Brooklyn-Queensborough Lodge #878** had the pleasure of adding a helping hand to the American Legion of Forest Hills, N.Y. in their efforts to provide essentials to our returning veterans. Lodge Exalted Ruler Gerry Storms represented the Lodge in donating \$250 dollars raised through the Lodges' "Support-A-Soldier" fundraising program. This donation will aid with the American Legion's efforts to re-acclimate our brave and fearless warriors as they return home from service.



The members of **Brooklyn-Queens Borough Lodge # 878** were honored to have issued the B.P.O.E. "Certificate of Honor" to a group called "Flags Across Howard Beach & Beyond" for properly displaying the American Flag. Founded by Ex-Marine Eddie Earl, their organization has taken the idea of Americanism and Patriotism to an outstanding level. Their mission is to supply and secure an American flag to any home or business in the Queens N.Y. area that requests one. They are a true inspiration and the Lodge is proud of their dedication, not only to Our Flag and Our Veterans, but also their inclusion of our city's first responders in their endeavors.

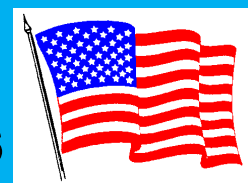
**Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161** was not able to host a stand down with its Freedom Grant this year. Instead, the Lodge had participating veterans fill out a wish list. The Lodge then used proceeds from the Freedom Grant and local donations, to purchase items requested. Lodge volunteers delivered winter outerwear, hygiene kits, socks and sweatshirts to the veterans. When making the deliveries, the Saratoga-Wilton volunteers were also able to provide jackets, boots, hats and mittens to children of the veterans. (Picture to the left)

As of November 30, Elks have raised \$505,603.78 in support of the **Pearl Harbor National Memorial**. These contributions will help honor the service and dedication of Americans whose profound contributions to our nation should never be forgotten so that the generations to come will know and appreciate the enormous sacrifices of the Greatest Generation.

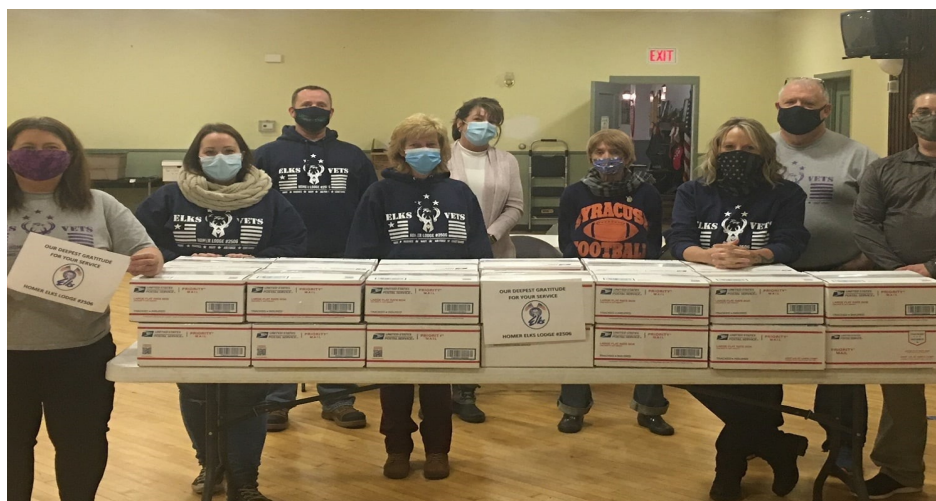


# VETERANS ACTIVITIES

## SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



**Beacon Lodge #1493** and **Mid-Hudson District Elks #6180** teamed up to run a drive thru Christmas celebration for 15 Veterans from the Castle Point Medical Foster Care. Pictured is one of the cars transporting the veterans.



The **Homer Lodge #2506** Veterans Committee packed and sent 27 care packages to a local resident's troop which is currently stationed overseas for the next several months. The care packages contained lots of goodies, personal notes, a pair of socks and games were included in each package in support of our brave who are currently actively serving. Pictured are the Lodge volunteers who assisted with the care packages. They are (from Left to Right): Jelena Barnes (Lodge Veterans Committee Chair), Leah VanDonael (Veterans Committee Secretary), Jim Johnson (Veterans Committee Member), Judi Houppert (Veterans Committee Member), Margaret Lambrecht (Veterans Committee Member), MB Kingsley (Veterans Committee Member), Joy Foster (Veterans Committee Member), Steve Stowell (Veterans Committee Member) and Matt Barnes, PER - Veterans Committee Member)



**Horseheads Lodge #2297** has supported the Bath VA with a \$6300 donation. Pictured presenting the donation on behalf of the Lodge to the representatives of the Bath VA are Past Exalted Ruler/Trustee Preston Perry, Hanna Aspenwall and Travis DeLong.



Members from **Islip Lodge #2533** spent a day delivering breakfast groceries to 3 Beacon Houses, each serving approximately 25 veterans, in Bay Shore and Islip. Putting funds received through the Freedom Grant to good use, the members purchased and delivered bacon, sausage links/ patties, muffins, danish and orange juice to each home. Pictured are member John Tramosch, along with 2 Beacon House volunteers as a car load of items were brought in.



The Past Exalted Rulers Association of **New York Lodge #1** supported the Lynbrook Village Veterans Parade with a \$100 donation. The Parade is dedicated to Commemorating the end of WW 11, on its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Pictured are PDDGER Al Hoffman, PDDGER/ Lodge Trustee Frank T Hunt, PER and Lodge Exalted Ruler Lisa Moldovan PER and Lodge Loyal Knight Roland Costan, PDDGER Peter J. Roach PDD, PDDGER and Lodge Treasure Mark E. Stuparich, PDDGER Association Secretary Ron M. Hansen, PDDGER Association President and Lodge Chaplain John M Nuzzi Sr. PER and Lodge Esquire Paul Schneller , PER and Lodge Leading Knight Amy Schneller and Brian Steckler NYSEA Vice President for the South East District



**Beacon Lodge #1493** members help prepare dinners for Veterans. State Senator Serino (she is a member of Poughkeepsie Lodge #275), the county's Vets to Vets program and the Lodge teamed up to serve 118 drive by dinners of spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread and dessert for Veterans Appreciation in November. Thank you to Elks - Allison MacAvery, Mary Burns, Helen Reynolds, Joan Healy, Julia Richards, Paul Thompkins, and Carl Oken. Lodge members are pictured preparing takeout dinners.

### SOME VETERANS NEED A HELPING HAND—YOURS!

By **David R. CARR, PGER**  
**ENVSC Past Chairman**

Many veterans, despite a successful tour in the military, return to find that their war experiences make it difficult to adjust to civilian life. Drug abuse and social, marital, and psychological difficulties are more common among veterans than any other identifiable group in society. On any given night, thousands of homeless veterans are sleeping on the streets in the United States. It's estimated that 11% of the homeless population are veterans .Because the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is recognized by the Veterans Administration as receiving veterans support in their communities, the VA has asked us to expand our outreach to veterans in need. The Elks Welcome Home Program is a terrific way to do just that! The program is aimed at ending veteran homelessness. Lodges everywhere work closely with veteran organizations, community leaders, and medical workers to combine efforts to serve this population. And this year, we're expanding Welcome Home to give Lodges even more resources. Starting April 1, the Welcome Home Kit program will grow! The ENVSC will reimburse the Lodge up to \$300.00 per kit and up to \$500.00 for kits that include a bed. These kits include essential supplies for normal household use: bedding, cleaning supplies, pots and pans, etc. Lodges can work with the veteran to find out just what is needed to set up their new home. We are also adding two new cities of focus to the program! Lodges in Las Vegas and San Francisco are now eligible to apply for Focus Grants to address veteran homelessness. And, veterans receiving care at VA facilities in these cities can now apply for the Elks Emergency Assistance Program to help them prevent or exit homelessness. Even if you're not in these cities, you can get involved. Lodges can use grant funds or organize clothing drives, supply drives and anything else needed to assist these veterans in your community. You can also invite veterans into your Lodge for a free meal at some point after you deliver the kit to the veteran. Above all, thank them for their service, make them feel welcome and always remember: "All gave some, some gave all." Thank you for your support and demonstrating once again that Elks Care—Elks Share.

**Staten Island Lodge #841** held a donation drive and collected 100 bags of clothing for the Vietnam Veterans of America.

# Community/Youth Activities

## Making a Difference in our Communities



**Auburn Lodge #474** held their annual Harvest Dinner. Due to Covid- 19 the dinner was served as a Take Out Only. 60 dinners were served. The food for the dinner was donated and prepared by members of the Lodge. All proceeds from the dinner (\$600) were donated to the Elks National Foundation. Pictured is Past Exalted Ruler John Chick as he carves the turkey. In other news, the Lodge adopted a family for Christmas. This is an annual event. The Lodge members donated 40 gifts for the family. The Lodge received support from Cayuga County Sherriff Brian Schenck who has helped find a family each year.



**Liverpool Elks Lodge #2348** held a food drive at Nichols Supermarket. During the drive, the lodge was able to collect \$658.58 cash, 415 canned goods and 34 hams. These items were donated to the local food pantry. Pictured are two young Elks in Training who assisted with the drive. It's never too soon to learn about community service.



**Clifton Park Lodge #2466** sponsored an Adopt-A-Family. The Lodge was able to deliver 10 Gifts for each of the three girls, which included "Needs" such as winter boots, gloves, and clothes and "Wants", like a Miami Dolphins Hoodie, specific toys, books and more. Lodge members also collected 5 gifts for Mom, board games, arts and craft supplies for the whole family, various stocking stuffers, wrapping supplies and more. The Lodge also raised enough funds for a \$500 Price Chopper Gift card to further assist the family.



**Mechanicville-Stillwater Lodge #1403** held their First Holiday Parade to spread some holiday cheer to the communities of Stillwater and Mechanicville. Lodge members adorned their cars and trucks with lights and decorations. Arvin Hart, Newland, City of Mechanicville, and Hillcrest Fire Departments joined in with lights and sirens a blazing. In the lead, Stillwater Police, Mechanicville Police, and the Saratoga County Sheriffs added to the light show and kept Santa, Mrs. Claus and all the elves safe. The parade contained 19 emergency vehicles and 26 light displays in all.



**Esperance Lodge #2507** supported the Bramans Corners Food Pantry with a \$500 donation. Also donated were 3 large turkeys and 8 bags of groceries. A box was set up at the Lodge to collect food donations and a can was placed behind the Lodge counter for members to contribute a monetary donation. Exalted Ruler Melanie Largeteau is pictured as she presented the donations to two volunteers from the Bramans Corners Food Pantry.



**Monticello Lodge #1544** collected food items for the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless in time for the holidays. Federation Program Administrator Kathy Kreiter thanked the Elks in a letter to food drive chair Past Exalted Ruler Danielle Jose-Decker. Kreiter wrote in part, "You are making a difference in the lives of those we serve here at the Federation. Donors are always the backbone of all we do here. But right now, with all we are facing, it truly means the world." Pictured from left: PER Danielle Jose-Decker, Leading Knight PER Mike Brennan, Elk Elisa Mendels, State Senator-elect Mike Martucci, Federation Program Administrator Kathy Kreiter and Elk Sam Wohl, who is also the Federation Chairman of the Board. Jose-Decker thanked Elks Bill Sipos and Alan Kesten for their extra generous donations of food.



The Woodbury Synagogue sponsored a drive-through food collection for Island Harvest, making donations during this event extremely easy and safe. In anticipation of this effort, the members from **Huntington Lodge #1565** assembled individually packaged bags of non-perishable food which were then delivered by Past State Vice President Jack Stein. Past State President Stein is pictured, along with 3 volunteers from Island Harvest, as the delivery was completed.

**Binghamton Lodge #70** and the local Lions Club hosted a drive-through Halloween event, during which Lodge members gave hot dogs, treat bags and dollar bills to approximately 200 children.

**Potsdam Lodge #2074** did it's best to support local charitable causes during the recent holiday season. The Lodge made donations to the Colton Community Christmas Dinner Program, Adopt a Platoon #444, Parishville Ladies Auxiliary, the Jo Ella Craig Children's Fund, Parishville-Hopkinton Year Book, the Salvation Army of St. Lawrence County, Trees for Troops, Potsdam Holiday Fund, Pierrepont Fire Department, West Stockholm Fire Department, the Parishville-Hopkinton Backpack Program and the Norwood Community Lunch Program. These donations totaled \$4330.

**Potsdam Lodge #2074** participated in the Dictionary Project and 470 dictionaries were distributed to students at 5 area schools. The Dictionary Project is an annual Lodge Youth Activity. Dictionaries were distributed to third grade students at Colton-Pierrepont Elementary School, Banford Elementary School in Canton, Madrid-Waddington Elementary School, Norwood-Norfolk Elementary School and Lawrence Avenue Elementary School I Potsdam. Lodge Community Activities member and Past District Deputy Tim Welpé delivered the dictionaries on behalf of the Lodge.



## Community/Youth Activities

### Making a Difference in our Communities



**Cohoes-Waterford Elks #1317** presented a \$1000 check to the Cohoes City School District to help students with their educational needs. This donation was possible from the \$2500 Elks National Foundation (ENF) Gratitude Grant. Pictured (L-R) is the NYS Elks State President and Lodge ENF Chairperson Paul C. Galarneau, Erin Hill, Director of Special Programs and Exalted Ruler Richard Hogan.



The Mary Brennan INN, located in Hempstead, NY, is a not-for-profit, volunteer based organization that provides essential services to assist those challenged by hunger, homelessness and profound poverty. After having visited their facility during the height of the pandemic, the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** were very impressed with the work they were doing and made it a point to revisit them with a car load of necessary items for their pantry. Using approximately \$200 from the Beacon Grant, individual packages were delivered containing breakfast, lunch and dinner items. Past State President Jack Stein is pictured with Kioki and Michelle who co-manage the soup kitchen.



**Esperance Lodge #2507** purchased \$200.00 worth of food pantry meal cards at the Esperance Hannaford. Pictured during the purchase at Hannafords are (left to right) Past District Deputy and Lodge Advisor Jeff Largeteau, Hannaford Manager Joel, Exalted Ruler Melanie Largeteau and Past Exalted Ruler and Esquire William Fink.



The members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** continue to maintain an outstanding relationship with the Administration from The Dolan Family Health Center. During their last visit, Samira Lopez-Johnson, Social Worker, had mentioned that there were several new Mothers who were in dire need of baby supplies, primarily consisting of diapers. In view of this and thanks to funds received through the Beacon Grant, the Lodge purchased \$100 worth of various size diapers and promptly delivered them to the Center. They were greeted with open arms. Past District Deputy Lynne Stein is pictured with volunteer Marcy B. and Samira Lopez-Johnson as they began to safely bring in the much needed requests.



**Monticello Lodge #1544** donated \$3500 worth of winter coats, hats and gloves to elementary school students in the Fallsburg and Monticello school districts. The funding is from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant. From left are: Fallsburg Guidance Secretary Kristen Meyer, Lodge Exalted Ruler and Past District Deputy Jim Sheerer and Past Exalted Ruler and Leading Knight Mike Brennan.



**Fulton Lodge #830** member Dawn Gibbs is pictured as she presented a \$200 donation check to Daun Whittaker of Victory Transformation. Victory Transformation, located in Oswego, serves people throughout Oswego County who are homeless and may suffer from addiction. (Picture to the right),

## Community/Youth Activities

### Making a Difference in our Communities



The **Auburn Lodge #474** members held a Canned Food Drive. The food was donated to the Salvation Army of Auburn. The Salvation Army in Auburn has continued to minister to the local community throughout the pandemic. They are serving over 300 meals per week. Pictured is Auburn Lodge Exalted Ruler Michael Damazyn and Terry Clifford from the Salvation Army.



**Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317** distributed 150 Boxes of Food items to families in their local Community. The Food Drive was possible due to the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant (\$3500), member donations, and fundraisers that were held prior to the Pandemic. Approximately \$4500 worth of food was purchased. Each family received a fresh ham, 1lb butter, biscuits, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix, syrup, assorted canned vegetables, soups, chips, pasta, sauce, etc. A Holiday Flyer was placed in their box along with a coupon for a half gallon of milk. Due to the pandemic, a limited number of Lodge members packed the food boxes prior to the distribution dates, and a limited number of members placed boxes in the recipients vehicles, and 8 members delivered boxes to those families who could not pick up. The event chairperson worked closely with contacts in Cohoes and Waterford to receive the names of the recipients. The Lodge received a generous donation of milk coupons from Stewart's, a generous box donation from Mohawk Paper, as well as support from Market 32 in Latham and the Regional Food Bank.



**Fulton Lodge #830** recently donated \$200 to the Volney Volunteer Fire Department. Pictured here are Brandon Arizo and Jessica Hayden from the fire department receiving the check from member Dawn Gibbs of the Fulton Lodge.



The members of **Greenwich Lodge #2223** did their best to spread the Christmas Spirit. Lodge members put together 100 Holiday Food Baskets for members of the local community. Pictured are some of the members that assisted with the food baskets.

**Southampton Lodge #1574** provided approximately \$500 worth of winter coats for the residents who frequent the pantry the Hampton Bay Food Pantry. In other news, additional coats totaling \$500 were also delivered to the Hampton Bays School District which were distributed prior to the recent Christmas holiday.



As the Long Island Cares-Harry Chapin Food Pantry volunteers Dolly and Louis, dig out after the storm, the members of the **Huntington Lodge #1565** were quick to deliver 10 parcels of canned and boxed food for their upcoming week's deliveries. At the time their shelves were almost completely depleted and they were expecting a surge of local families in need, prior to the Christmas Holiday. Pictured are volunteers Dolly and Louis as they assisted us in unpacking the car which was loaded with goodies.

## Community/Youth Activities

### Making a Difference in our Communities



The **Webster-Fairport Lodge #2396** Lady Elk's sponsored an Angle Tree and made a food donation to the Little Food Pantry. The total Lodge donation was \$324.00 in food, gift cards and items. Lodge members are pictured with the donations that were collected to support the Angle Tree Project.



**Staten Island #841** members were busy during the holiday season donating much needed toys to the Toys for Tots Marine Corp project. Trustee Vivian Potter coordinated this with Bob Geronimo and Paul Russo, both Elk and Marine Corp League members. Four huge boxes (about \$2000 worth of items) were collected for underprivileged children. Bob and Paul were overwhelmed by everyone's generosity. Pictured displaying the items that were collected are Trustee Michael Russel, Exalted Ruler Gary Gatens, Trustee Vivian Potter, and Elk and Marine Corp members, Bob Geronimo and Paul Russo.



**Watervliet Lodge #1500** presented a \$3,500 check to Arsenal City Kids. The donation was used to provide the students at the Watervliet Elementary School a backpack filled with school supplies. Pictured as the donation was presented are Past State Vice President Ed Rice, Exalted Ruler Bob Passonno, Elks National Foundation Chair Becky Shevy, Arsenal City Kids President Frank Gilchrist, Board of Grand Trustees



Members of **Auburn Lodge #474** volunteered ringing the Salvation Army bell to collect donations that will benefit the community. Pictured as they volunteers at the Bass Pro in Auburn are Past State Vice President /Lodge Chaplain Edward Darrow and Lecturing Knight Mario Campanello.



**Vestal Lodge #2508** members bought Christmas presents for over 130 local needy children. For 14 years, the lodge has helped to buy presents and bring smiles to the faces of over 2000 local children thru their Christmas charities program. To fund this program, the lodge holds several fund raisers throughout the year. Funding is also helped thru the generous monetary donations from lodge and community members. Pictured: (kneeling) Exalted Ruler John Pooler. Back row (left to right) Beth Palmieri, Catholic Charities family pier advocate; Cindy Woodruff, Lodge Christmas charities chairwoman; Sara Braman, Catholic charities family pier advocate; Stephanie Dold, Catholic charities family pier advocate; Rachael Tripp, Catholic Charities family peer advocate and Amy Wilson, Catholic Charities family peer advocate



**Vestal Lodge #2508** members held a "cookie exchange" at the lodge. 8 members brought the cookie ingredients to the lodge then assembled at different stations to make a huge assortment of cookies, which were then baked in the lodge kitchen. 195 bags of the cookies (2 cookies for each of the 150 residents and 45 staff members), along with 250 signed Christmas cards, were delivered to Willow Point Nursing Home in Vestal. Lodge members, Amber Davidson, Secretary, and Ryan Geisenhof, Chaplain, also hand delivered 300 signed Christmas cards to Castle Gardens Assisted Living Facility in Vestal. Lodge Secretary Amber Davidson is pictured handing the donations to Veronica Diamond, Willow Point Activities Director

Each year, **Fulton Lodge #830**, in conjunction with Oswego Industries (OI) and Parents of Special Children, hosts a "Breakfast with Santa" for those in the Fulton community with developmental disabilities. Due to Covid-19, it was not possible to hold a traditional breakfast indoors. The Lodge knew it couldn't disappoint the many people who look forward to and attend each year, so the Lodge found a way to hold a drive through event. The Lodge provided 90 breakfasts to go, consisting of a breakfast sandwich, tater tots, French toast sticks and sausage, and 50 gifts from Santa, provided by Oswego Industries. The drive through had two stops. The first stop was to check in with Theresa Familo and Erica Giblin of Parents of Special Children and receive breakfast. The second was to see Santa and receive gifts.

# Community/Youth Activities

## Making a Difference in our Communities



**Huntington Lodge #1565** members compiled a dozen bags of assorted non-perishable food items which were happily received by the volunteers at Tri Community and Youth Agency. A list of most needed items are taken each time the members deliver their parcels so that the Lodge can provide the Agency with exactly what their residents are requesting. Making good use of funds received through the Beacon Grant, this visit contained primarily breakfast and dinner meals, in addition to various cleaning supplies. Approximately \$150 was utilized for this delivery. Past District Deputy Lynne Stein is pictured with Ms. Debbie, TRI-CYA representative, as she delivered the items.



**New York Lodge #1** presented a \$500 donation to the Village of Lynbrook in support of a planned Veterans Celebration parade commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of WWII. Past District Deputy and Lodge Village parade Liaison John Nuzzi Sr. is pictured as he presented Joseph Serafino with a \$500 Commemorative Bond on behalf of the Lodge. Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic, the parade has been postponed. The Lodge's Past Exalted ruler Association also supported the Veterans parade by donating a \$100 Commemorative Bond.



**Monticello Lodge #1544** donated eight American Flag to the Village of Monticello for flying outside municipal buildings. Pictured during the flag donation presentation are, (from left), Lodge Treasurer Sue Mapledoram, Lodge Tiler Elisabeth Bringle, Past Exalted Ruler and Leading Knight Mike Brennan, Monticello Mayor George Nikolados, village Department of Public Works Superintendent Jay Sherb, Elks Exalted Ruler and Past District Deputy Jim Sheerer and Lodge Loyal Knight Maggie Jaycox. Not pictured is Past State Vice President Peter Scannell who took the photo. .



**Oswego Elks # 271** provided Blessings in a Backpack with a \$1500 donation. Blessings in a Backpack is a national organization that helps feed elementary students on the weekends during the school year. They began the Oswego/Fulton Chapter in 2013 feeding 100 students in both cities. As the years passed they grew to feed 250 students. In July 2016 Oswego and Fulton decided to split in hopes to feed more children. Both cities still continue to feed students. They are always looking for monetary donations, food donations, and volunteers to help pack, deliver, and help with fundraising and spreading the word. Exalted Ruler Tom Milam and Esteemed Leading Knight Vickie Rowe are pictured as they presented the donation on behalf of Oswego Lodge to Missy Russell and Beth Hallinan.



The Officers and Members of **New York Lodge #1**, along with request by Exalted Ruler Lisa Moldovan collected Tables of food during this Food drive. We know as Elks there are many locations in need of restocking their Food pantries, for our local residence. The donations that were collected Food and funds will be distributed to 3 needed locations, Pictured are members of New York Elks Lodge #1 that were present at time of Photo, along with many members that were not in photo, all working towards one goal helping those with greater needs.



**Port Jefferson Lodge #2138** sponsored a "Adopt a Family" fundraising event and as a result, the members of the Lodge provided 14 restored bicycles, 2 new bikes, toys, warm clothing and coats to 16 children in the local area. Pictured with donations that were collected are Exalted Ruler Ted Farkas, Vicky Ryback, Outreach Program Director; Trustee Rick Seifts, Trustee Chris Roche, District Deputy Tony Florio, State Vice President John Brigante, Lecturing Knight and Adopt a Family Chairperson Joan Brigante, and Esquire Debra Farkas.



**Oswego Lodge #271** delivered food to Menter, the Oswego Police Department, the Oswego Fire Department and the Oswego County Health Department. The donations were made to express the Lodges gratitude and thanks to the area first responders for all they do . PDDGER Bill Kerfien, Esquire Mary Kerfien, Inner Guard Kathy Somers, Past Exalted Ruler Carol Simpson, Secretary Lolly Malone and Leading Knight Vickie Rowe prepared and delivered these tasty treats. Pictured are Lodge members making a delivery to local first responders. (Picture to the left)

## Community/Youth Activities Making a Difference in our Communities



**Beacon, Lodge #1493** provided Pandemic relief to 44 children and grandchildren with a drive thru Christmas Celebration at the Lodge. Pictured are the Lodge volunteers who conducted the festivities.



According to a few of the long-standing members of **Haverstraw Lodge No. 877**, the Lodge has a program that celebrates the Christmas Season for over 30 years. Due to the pandemic, like so many organizations service communities all over the country, Haverstraw Elks had to scale back their usual program. Part of the program included inviting children from the community and their families to watch a Christmas play written by one of our members, Brendan Moran, visit with Santa, enjoy some snacks, and take home a gift. Unfortunately, constraints associated with the COVID-19 virus force the Lodge to cancel that program. The leadership of Haverstraw Lodge, however, was determined to celebrate the Holidays with a visit from Santa for all the children and grandchildren of members of the Lodge. The question was how to do so while adhering to social distancing and face-mask wearing requirements. For the first time ever, Haverstraw Elks Lodge No. 877 proudly presented a "Drive Thru Santa". The usually busy parking lot was closed for a few hours. Each child, 10 years old and younger, received a toy and a sweet treat directly from Santa Claus and his elves. Cars were lined up for a short time, but the kids were overjoyed to meet and greet Santa in person. It was a beautiful day filled with love and the Christmas spirit. Santa Drive Thru at Haverstraw Elks Lodge No. 877. Pictured are members of Haverstraw Lodge and the Ladies Auxiliary, including Exalted Ruler Tito Crespo, Leading Knight and Past Exalted Ruler Joe DePalma, Past Exalted Ruler John Downs, Brendan Moran, and Raul Santiago.



**Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317** presented a \$100 check to Boy Scout Troop 632 to help with funding for the Scouts to attend Rotary Scout Reservation Camp in the Summer to earn merit badges and awards. Pictured (L-R) is District Deputy Renee Bott, Scoutmaster Gerald Cherniwchan and Exalted Ruler Richard Hogan.



**New York Lodge #1** hosted an annual Pancake/French Toast Breakfast fundraiser to support the Lodge's Veterans Program. Pictured are the kitchen cooks, workers and servers that volunteered at the event. They are Exalted ruler/PER Lisa Moldovan, Past State President/Lodge Trustee Michael J. Boller, Past District Deputy Peter J. Roach, Lodge Secretary Louis H. Mohr Jr. visiting member Anthony Santino, Town of Hempstead Councilman, Past District Deputy/Chaplain John M Nuzzi Sr. and Past District Deputy and Lodge Sponsor Ron M. Hansen.



**Esperance Lodge #2507** held Drive through with Santa. Santa and his elves welcomed children while practicing social distancing protocol. Each of the children that participated received a gift from Santa. Pictured are a family with Santa after the children received their gifts.



Santa and Mrs. Claus set up a tent in the **Oswego Lodge #271** parking lot area in hopes of seeing a lot of little boys and girls. The cars drove up to the tent to say hello and were given candy from Santa and Mrs. Claus.



**Staten Island Lodge #841** supported a local business; Call it a Wrap, with a \$1000 donation. Call it a Wrap was recently robbed and destroyed. The owner, Donna Tillman always supported and helped the Staten Island Lodge lodge. Exalted Ruler Gary Gatens, Leading Knight Catherine DeGaetano and Trustee Bill Bungarz are pictured presenting the donation to Donna Tillman.

## Community/Youth Activities

### Making a Difference in our Communities



**Beacon Elks Lodge #1493** conducted a trunk or treat Halloween event which was attended by 38 children from the community. Pictured is one of the children that participated dressed as the Flash,



The students of Rombout Middle School have been nominated by their teachers and approved by the Assistant Principal for the Elks Award of Student of the Month. A criteria of character, respect, humanity and effort has been designed by **Beacon Lodge** and the School Administration for this award. Awards are given to students who are attending school and attending virtually for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Pictured are the students selected for the November Student of the Month with Exalted Ruler Ron Piga and Youth Activities Chair Shana Oken. Elks Student of the month certificates and a gift certificate from Glazed Over Donuts were presented to each student selected. Glazed over Donuts owners Ron and Lisa Tompkins have teamed up with the Lodge to make this difficult year a little brighter and sweeter for the student's commitment and hard work.



**Liverpool Lodge #2348** recognizes a student of the month from the Liverpool High School and Baldwinsville High school each month during the school year. They are chosen by their guidance counselors. The students are chosen both by their academic success but also their community service. Chairperson Laura Richards and Exalted Ruler Dale Hazen are pictured as they presented the February Student of the Month awards to Courtney Perrin from Baker High in Baldwinsville, and Hahmier Williams-Borges from Liverpool High School.



**New York Elks Lodge #1** is a proud supporter of Cub Pack # 20 from Cedarhurst New York. The Lodge supports Pack 20 with donations and use of the Lodge Room for Pack meetings. Recently the Lodge supported a special night for Pack 20 as they were allowed to use the Lodge room and sponsor the groups box car derby. This was a very exciting night for the youngsters, as they raced their cars down the track. Pictured during the event are Kevin Gebaver Bear Den Leader, Kajah Gebaver Bear Cub Scout, Kevin Gebaver Welos 1 Cub Scout, David Dorsey Pack 20 Cub Master. They are pictured with Lodge representatives John M Nuzzi Sr. Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, NY Lodge 1 Chaplain



**Vestal Lodge #2508** received \$6231 from the Dick's Sporting Goods organization. The lodge will use the monies towards their local charities and continued support for their local community. Pictured from left to right during the donation presentation are Dick's Sporting Goods Tournament Director John Karedes, Lodge Veterans committee member Chuck Yoko; Lodge member Chris Battaligni, and Broome County Charities President Albert Nocciolino,



**Rensselaer Lodge #2073** held a drive through and presented a gift and candy bag to children. The children had an opportunity to meet Santa as he provided each child with a gift. Some of the children are pictured after receiving their gifts from Santa. Santa received assistance from Lodge Elves.

**Beacon Lodge #1493** is proud to Sponsor Troops 41B and 41G. The Lodge was recently hosted the Troops cold weather camp out on the Lodge property. With the regular Scout Camps closed, they were able to complete their Klondike Derby Skills and work together in unison. There were Four Eagle Scouts from this great Troop during 2020. (Picture to the left).

## Community/Youth Activities

### Making a Difference in our Communities



**Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317** sponsored a Martin Luther King Day Celebration for the Nursing Home Care Unit at the VA Medical Center in Albany, New York. The Lodge donated a \$200 supermarket gift card to purchase beverages and snacks. Exalted Ruler Richard Hogan and Lodge Veterans Service Chairperson/PER Regina Hogan dropped off the gift card in early January. Some of the money was used for this celebration and the remaining was used to purchase items for a February Superbowl and Valentine's Day party. Michele Ferraiulo, VA Inpatient Recreation Therapist, stated "The residents enjoyed the party and look forward to the next."



**Fulton Lodge #830** presented a check in the amount of \$400 to the Phoenix Area Food Pantry, which serves families who live in the Phoenix, NY school district. Lodge member Silvan Johnson is pictured presenting the donation on behalf of the Lodge to Cathy Colville, Director of the Phoenix Area Food Pantry

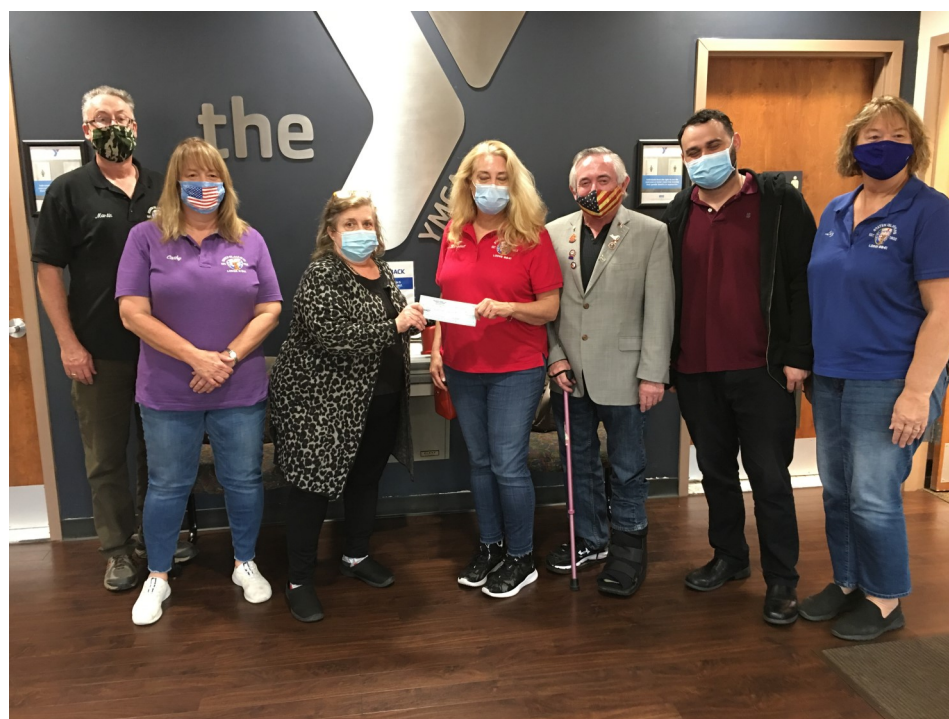


**Oswego Lodge #271** held a Toy Drive for children in the Oswego County Community. 50 toys were collected and \$270 was also raised for the Christmas Basket Program. Donations were received from members and community. Pictured with the toys that were collected is Member Ron Rookey

**Vestal Lodge #2508** held a Halloween trunk-or-treat event, during which Lodge members dressed in costumes, decorated their cars, and gave candy to more than 100 children. In other news, the Lodge also donated more than 270 dictionaries to six local elementary schools.



**New York Lodge #1** and district members pieced together 120 clear goodie bags to be presented to the hospitalized veterans at the St. Albans Extended Care Facility by their in house recreation department supervisors. All the items were donated by members of the Lodge and total approximately 750. Included in each bag were Canteen books for the Veterans to purchase items at the in-hospital canteen store, other goodies all manufacture sealed items, including a Holiday card for each of the 120 veterans. Pictured packaging together the goodie bags are NY 1 member Sylvia Wasner, Past State Trustee and District Veterans Chair/VAVS Representative Anitra Butler, Esquire/PER Paul Schneller, Leading Knight /PER Amy Schneller, member Herb Hoffman, Inner Guard Ann Roller, and Past District Deputy/District Veterans Committee Treasurer/ Lodge Chaplain John M Nuzzi. In other news, the South East District Veterans Committee recently donated 5 New, 45" Samsung Smart Flat Screen TVs at a cost of \$1,482.00 to the Local Veterans St Albans Extended Care, taken care of from The VAVS Reps Account and also donated I Pads for the Veterans to use for virtual viewing to family and friends at a cost of \$495.



**Staten Island Lodge #841** donated \$500 to Daytop Village \$500 and \$500 to the local YMCA to support their wonderful drug awareness and counseling programs that have a great impact on the Staten Island community and were much appreciated. Lodge Drug Awareness chair person/ Chaplain Margaret Chorman, Exalted Ruler Gary Gatens, Leading Knight Catherine DeGaetano, Esquire Elizabeth Castro and member Martin King are pictured as they presented checks to each organizations' representative on behalf of the Lodge.



The members of **Riverhead Lodge #2044** purchased over \$200.00 worth of canned and packaged food which is being delivered to the Nassau County Veteran's Service Agency's food pantry by the East District VAVS Chairman, Past State Vice President Jack Stein. Riverhead Lodge member Patty Judd presented him with an entire car load of carefully chosen items which were selected by the members from the Lodge. This overwhelming donation is one of several of Riverhead's Lodge activities geared specifically for Veterans in need. Pictured are Past State Vice President and VAVS District Chairman Jack Stein, and Riverhead's hard working member, Patty Judd.

## Community/Youth Activities

### Making a Difference in our Communities



Members of **New York Lodge #1** held the Lodge's first 2021 food drive that included Food for Ruff House Rescue. Lodge members went out of their way to donate needed Doggie Style food items for the local Rescue facility. Pictured is Lodge Member Kim Stein who has committed hours of her time at the local rescue.



The Officers and members of **New York Lodge #1** were honored to recently celebrate the Lodge's 153<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary on February 16, 2021. The first Lodge of Elksdom has proudly fulfilled the required duties and reached the goals set forth by the New York State Elks Association and Grand Lodge over these many years. Exalted Ruler Lisa Moldovan is pictured as she is preparing to cut the Lodge's 153<sup>rd</sup> anniversary cake. As the Lodge celebrates its 153<sup>rd</sup> anniversary, the Lodge extends congratulations to all Elks across our Great State and Nation.



**Owego Lodge #1039** donated \$6000 to 3 of their local food pantries. Tioga County Open Door Mission, Catholic Charities of Thompson/Tioga Counties, and Tioga Rural Ministry each received \$2000. \$1,000 was raised from community donations, the lodge donated \$5,000. Pictured during the donation presentations are, (left to right): Past Exalted Ruler Tim Sayers, Lodge committees chair Anita Martin, Lodge committees chair Patrick Aquilio, Barb Kotasek Catholic Charities; Sister Mary O'Brien, Tioga County Rural Ministry; Past Exalted Ruler Vern Singleton, Dustin Root, Tioga County Open Door Mission; and Exalted Ruler Steve Gregory.



An Empire State Elks Lodge Recognition Award was recently presented to **New York Lodge #1** and to Lodge Publicity Chairman John M Nuzzi Sr PDDGER for their dedication to promoting their Lodge's publicity. Due to the cancellation of the Fall Conference due to Covid, the presentation was conducted at a recent Lodge Meeting. Pictured during the ESE award presentation are Past District Deputy and Lodge Sponsor Ron M Hansen, State Vice President Brian Steckler, Past District Deputy John M Nuzzi Sr and presenting the award is Past State President and Southeast District Sponsor Tony Gilbert.



Natalie and Thomas Goodelle had a friendly in-family competition to see who could raise the most non-perishable food items as a part of their Hoop Shoot Serves Scorecard projects. They collected more than 160 food items for the Veteran's Outreach Center through **Utica Lodge #33**. The Hoop Shoot Scorecard project information and scorecard download is available at [enf.elks.org/ServiceSC](http://enf.elks.org/ServiceSC). #HoopShoot

**Potsdam Lodge #2074** recently provided \$2400 in donations to help support the following: Hospice (Annual), St. Lawrence Steel Girls U19 Hockey Team, Helping Hands Annual Golf Tournament (Annual) and the Norwood Village Green Concert Series (Annual).



The Empire State Elks District Recognition Award was recently presented to Lisa Moldovan of the **Southeast District** Chairperson. Lisa has been recognized for all she has done promoting the Southeast with exceptional contribution to the Empire State Elks Publication during the 2019-2020 Fraternal Year. Pictured during the award presentation are: State Vice President Brian Steckler, ESE Chairperson and NY #1 Exalted Ruler Lisa Moldovan and making the presentation to Lisa is Past State President Tony Gilbert.



# Camp Bristol Update

## New York Elks Camp Bristol

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

### Camping Reservations from Memorial Day Weekend through Columbus Day Weekend

Reservations Based on COVID Restrictions

**CHECK IN 3:00 PM / CHECK OUT 11:00 AM**

*1.25% of rate for Elk Sponsored Guests traveling with an Elk when requiring additional camping location*

Dump Station included with site fee

Showerhouse with restrooms open 24/7.

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

Showerhouse with restrooms open 24/7.

Daytime Rental Check in 8:00 AM / Check out 10:00 PM

Overnight Check in 3:00 PM / Check out 11:00 AM

**Camp Bristol** camping rates for RVs, cabins, tents etc. Reservations will be accepted beginning April 15th. We will update with the Camp phone number in a few weeks once it's activated. Rate schedule is available on Camp website as well and we would appreciate your sharing with all your fellow members.



As preparations are underway to open the camp, members can help support the camp with a donation of a item or two from our Amazon Wishlist. You can have your donated item sent directly to the Camp at the following address. NY Elks Camp Bristol. 180 Geneva St./ P.O. Box 376. Lyons, NY 14489. We thank you for your support. Pictured above are some of the donations already received.



**SAVE THE DATE**—The 3rd Annual Camp Bristol Charitable Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, October 2nd, 2021.



The **East Central District** donation will hang in Spruce Lodge above the fireplace. Camp Bristol District chair Joe Maxwell delivered the Elk on behalf of the District in December. The generosity of the East Central District will be on display for years. Thank you!!

### New York State Elks Association Camp Bristol Lapel Pins Founders Pin

\$100 Donation\*



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

### Camp Bristol Pin \$10 Donation



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

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

<http://nyelkscampbristol.org>

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(Ogdensburg #772)  
PSP Brian Greene (2019)  
(Glens Falls #81)

## THE EMPIRE STATE ELK PUBLICATION

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