



EMPIRE STATE ELK

Official Publication of the New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc.
Winter 2022 Issue



STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Barry Griffith
2021-2022
"Elks... Now More Than Ever"

NYSEA State President Barry Griffith Upcoming Visitation Schedule

NYS Bowling	March 25-27, 2022
Homecoming (Niagara Falls)	April 9, 2022
East	April 29-May 1, 2022
Spring Convention	May 12-15, 2022

As Susan and I have traveled our beautiful state we have met so many dedicated Elks and seen so many wonderful Lodges. We have had so many discussions and received so many questions. We have been asked about everything from Covid-19 to taxes to redistricting to recruiting younger members. One thing we have been asked over and over is how to recruit and retain volunteers. The old adage that 10% of the people do 90% of the work still rings true in many of our lodges. An unknown Author said, "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in".

Our problems with recruiting and retaining volunteers is certainly not isolated to the Elks, organizations throughout our communities are have the same problems. Just as we are having problems with volunteers, so are volunteer fire companies, other philanthropic organizations, Veteran's clubs and others. Where, in the past, many Americans did community service works throughout the lives, from scouting and 4-H to the PTA, church organizations, and various clubs and activities; today many do not begin their volunteerism careers until children are grown and they are approaching retirement. Lately I have been reading some of the experts in the volunteer field. I was amazed how much information is available out there. There are even conventions and conferences just dealing with volunteers and how to recruit, retain and reward them. In no particular order, here are some of the things that I have learned.

Recruit volunteers for tasks, not for positions. Although many times it's just a matter of semantics, it seems much less daunting to volunteer to sell admission boards for BINGO than it does to volunteer to be on the Lodge BINGO committee. Recruit for the short term in hopes that it will become long term. Asking for help at a specific dinner or specific event may be easier than finding someone to join the team for dinners every week. When a member approaches you to volunteer, never ever turn them away. It's easy to tell them that you don't need anyone right now, but they may never volunteer again. There's always room for one more on the team!

The best recruiter you have are not your Lodge Officers or PERs, it is your volunteers, the ones actually doing the tasks now. If you are to utilize these best recruiters, the key is that after they have been recruited and retained through your dedicated efforts to keep them "up" on what is happening, to constantly help them see what a difference they are making in operation of the Lodge, to involve them in decisions that affect them, to have a clear understanding of what is expected of them and to recognize them for their unique contributions.

Speaking of recognition, there are so many ways to recognize and show your appreciation for these hard working volunteers. A handwritten card or note of thanks is one of the most heartfelt and meaningful ways to express gratitude. If you are at a loss for words, believe it or not, you can google "Thank you for helping" or "what to write in a thank you note". One example is "Thank-You Messages: What to Write in a Thank-You Card" which is on the Hallmark web site. We also have volunteer appreciation days, Elks of the Month awards, articles in newsletters, and many other ways to show our appreciation.

Always consider the value of your volunteers. The independentsector.org which tracks the value of volunteer manpower placed the value in April of 2021 at \$28.54 per hour. Without these unselfish members donating their time and talents we could not conduct the programs we are so proud of. We have great programs supporting our Veterans, our youth, our communities, our Major Project, and our members. Without these programs, we wouldn't be a charitable Lodge. We would be no more than a corner gin mill.

In closing, I encourage each and every Elks member to find a way to volunteer at your lodge. There are so many choices and opportunities. I also encourage each of you to thank those who are working so hard at our Lodges to make America a better place. Remember what Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Be well, stay safe, care for the less fortunate, and by all means HAVE FUN!

Bear



During his visit to Herkimer Lodge #1439 of the Central District, NYS Elks Association President Barry Griffith recognized and congratulated the members of Herkimer Lodge #1439 for 100 years of service. He is pictured as he presented Herkimer Lodge #1439 Exalted Ruler John B. Lynch with a Centennial Achievement Award on behalf of the NYSEA.



During his visit to Iliion Lodge #1444 of the Central District, NYS Elks Association President Barry Griffith recognized and congratulated the members of Iliion Lodge #1444 for 100 years of service. He is pictured as he presented Iliion Lodge #1444 Exalted Ruler Scott C. Hendrix with a Centennial Achievement Award on behalf of the NYSEA.



During his visit to the North Central District, State President Barry Griffith and First Lady Susan had an opportunity to visit the Fort Drum USO. Following a tour of the USO, State President Griffith along with Past State President Tim Kelly presented a \$5700 donation on behalf of the New York State Elks Association to the USO. The donation funds were raised during the basket raffles at the Fall Conference. Pictured with State President Griffith and Past State President Kelly are Watertown Exalted Ruler Dennis Brady, State Vice President Rod Pryce and his wife Sandy, District Deputy Joe Spriggs and his wife Gayle, First Lady Susan Griffith, State Trustee Scott Hirst, Lowville Exalted Ruler Robert Lanier and his wife Tina, Empire State Elk Editor Tim Welpel and National Veterans Service Chair Justine Crowley Duncan.

"Elks...Now More Than Ever"

Please Join Us For The Homecoming Of

State President Barry "Bear" Griffith

Saturday, April 9, 2022

DoubleTree by Hilton, Niagara Falls, New York

Hospitality Room Friday night, Saturday afternoon and Saturday night after dinner

NYS President Barry Griffith's Homecoming Dinner \$65.00 per person

- Dress Code: Jacket and tie (NYS Grey Jacket), sport coat or female equivalent -
- Open Bar during Cocktail Hour 6 -7 p.m. Cash Bar thereafter
- Sit-down dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Dinner Choices

Pork Cutlets - Pan seared pork loin with Maple Chipotle Glaze

Aloha Chicken - Braised Chicken thighs topped with grilled pineapple and scallions in sweet sriracha reduction

Vegetarian Option will be available

All dinners include light appetizers, roasted red jacket potatoes, Green beans almondine, dessert, coffee and tea

(Any questions please contact Diane Few at Lockport Elks Lodge #41 at 716-434-2798)
If you wish to make a presentation at the dinner please contact **PDDGER Ken Perry** at **716-523-1835**.

Rooms are available at the DoubleTree by Hilton

Rooms are available at the group rate of \$129.00 plus applicable taxes.
Parking fee has been waived. Each guest should make their own reservations.
Reservations can be made at this hyperlink: <https://group.doubletree.com/tu39sv>
or call 716-524-3333 and make your reservation using code **ELKS**.

Please detach below and mail with payment by March 17, 2022
to: **NYS President's Homecoming, Lockport Elks Lodge #41, 6791 N. Canal Road, Lockport, NY 14094**
Please make check payable to: **Lockport Elks Lodge #41**

For State President Barry's Homecoming Festivities (\$65.00) per person

Name: _____ Elk Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Lodge Name and No. _____ Number Attending: _____

Dinner Choices: Pork Cutlets ____; Aloha Chicken ____; Vegetarian ____.

For First Lady Susan's Ladies Luncheon (\$35.00) per person

Name _____ Email: _____

Phone Number: _____ Number Attending: _____

Lunch Choices: Chicken ____; Sirloin ____; Vegetarian _____. (See attached luncheon flyer)

New York State
Elks First Lady
Susan Griffith's
Ladies Luncheon

Saturday, April 9, 2022

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton,
Niagara Falls, New York

Lunch Served:

Grilled Glazed Honey Mustard
Chicken Breast and Wild Rice

or

Grilled Sirloin served with Garlic
Butter and Pomme Frite

or

Vegetarian Option

All lunches are served with
Fresh Rolls and Butter,
Coffee, Tea, and Dessert Table
Cash Bar Available

\$35.00 Per Person

RSVP NYS President's Homecoming
c/o Lockport Elks Lodge #41
6791 North Canal Road
Lockport, New York 14094

(Dress code business casual, no jeans)

Reminder: The Lodge's P.O.Box is no longer active.
Please make checks payable to Lockport Elks Lodge #41





NEW YORK STATE ELK ASSOCIATION MAJOR PROJECT



**PAST STATE PRESIDENT
JAMIE PEACE
Major Project Message
Winter 2022**

Dear Members,

We've completed two thirds of our giving year. The Major Projects Board knows that in these trying times of COVID 19, and the new variants that are popping up, it is more difficult to schedule events that support our partnership with Cerebral Palsy Association of New York, Inc.'s Home Service Program. This partnership began in 1964, and the New York State Elks have been working to help make the lives of the people with intellectual and developmental disabilities better.

We would like to thank all of the members, lodges, and districts that have reached your per capita of \$8/member. Well done!

For the Lodges who haven't yet reached their per capita goal, there's still time! You have March, April and May to reach your goals.

Many of our members are not completely familiar with the role of the Home Service Directors. Their main job is advocacy for their consumers. They lead the consumer (the intellectually or developmentally disabled person) through many types of red tape and stumbling blocks that the Government, at every level, can throw in their path leading to the types of services needed by the consumers;

Advocacy

- The Home Service Director can assist individuals and their families to become more informed and educated about their options, thus providing them with the tools needed to become more independent and productive and more effective in advocating for the supports and resources needed to do so.
- This could involve attending school meetings to help parents in ensuring their child is getting the individualized services at school.
- Helping people to speak up for themselves in various situations.
- Helping families and individuals navigate the complex and sometimes frustrating world of red tape and bureaucracy within systems and agencies.

Home Visits

- The ability for the Home Service director to reach out to families and individuals in their own environment. (This is where having access to the Home Service vehicle is so valuable).
- This is an opportunity to begin the process of gathering and discovering what their particular situation is.
- The Home Service Director gets to see the environment of the people , which helps assess their life at home, which can provide information not seen in an office visit.
- Some people, for various reasons, have difficulty getting out and into the community and others are simply unable to get out at all, and end up not receiving the services needed.

Information and Referral

- Assisting people with getting the benefits and services they are entitled to.
- Making the linkage to community supports, programs, and benefits.
- The Home Service Director can be the person to call when they just aren't sure who to call or what to do next.

Direct Services

- Having the Home Service Director as the point person for any questions or concerns as they arise in their life
- Due to the viability in operations between affiliates, a Home Service Director may function differently in different locations. This has allowed the program to evolve over the years to provide what is needed at the time.
- May involve informal counseling and just having someone to talk to about their own situation.

Public Education

- Having the Elks Logo on the Home Service vehicle provides an opportunity to spread the word about the program and the involvement of the New York State Elks.
- Home Service Directors present information about the program to agencies and people in the general community at schools, health fairs, agency fairs, and conferences..
- This allows the Home Service Director to raise awareness of the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and ultimately realizing true community inclusion.

Vehicle Utilization

- The opportunity to access the community and families with the use of the Home Service vehicle has been an invaluable and tremendous asset to all involved.
- Considering the times we are living in, and the cuts in funding and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the vehicle has allowed the Home Service Directors to continue the mission to access and help others.

Why it Works!

- The Home Service Program has been successful for decades and continues to be successful.
- It allows the Home Service Director flexibility to provide what is needed.
- It has been a consistent resource over the years that families and people have been able to depend upon.

Without your help and donations to help fund your State Major Project, literally hundreds of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities would fall through the cracks. It is a wonderful privilege to help people that are less fortunate than we are, given the challenges that they face on a daily basis, and that is exactly what you are doing.

Please make our Major Project an integral part of your Indoctrination program with your new members. Help them to understand that it is a **privilege**—not a right to be an Elk, and that our mission is benevolence and charity, especially with those less fortunate than us.



The **Southeast District** hosted a Major Projects Fundraiser Dinner at Massapequa Lodge # 2162. The event was held during State President Barry Griffith recent visit to the Southeast District. The event was well attended by District members. The event was coordinated by District Major Project Chair Patricia Carroll. She received support from the districts Major Project Committee and Massapequa members Richard Milhaven, James Popowich, Nancy Mackey Parente, Greg Vogel, Brooke Motis, Linda Reindina, William McCabe, Thomas Coll, Erika Schuchmann Coll, Thomas Harrington, Kathy Harrington, Eileen Jackson, Bill Krick, Carol Popowysch and Margaret Mottis. The District Lodges donated 60 baskets that were raffled during the event. Pictured above is State President Barry Griffith and New York State Major Projects Chairperson David Brown. Pictured below are some of the District members that attended.



Camp Bristol Update

Greetings from your snow-covered Camp Bristol!

The snow is falling at Camp Bristol, North Pond is frozen over, and all is quiet. The stillness of winter will melt away in just a few months when camp emerges from hibernation and the camping season begins again! The year 2022 brings great excitement to Camp Bristol with the first summer of Youth Residential Camping, the Second Annual Wounded Warriors Campfest and the return of member camping.

Residential Summer Camp

Camp Bristol seeks to provide high quality camping, adventure-based learning and recreational experiences and activities that promote physical well-being, celebrate patriotism, foster collaboration, and cultivate lifelong friendships.

The Camp has as its major objective the following:

- To quicken the spirit of American Patriotism
- To teach respect for parents and love of home
- To inculcate the fundamentals of good citizenship
- To aid in a worthy cause
- To establish foundation of character
- To promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its campers

Would YOU do us a favor and please take a moment and think of people in your life who might like to spend the summer on camp staff. It might be you, or a college student or school employee with the summer off. We are looking for a nurse or EMT, cabin and activity counselors, lifeguards, cooks, and maintenance staff. Direct them to the website to find out more and to complete an application. Do you know a youth who would enjoy a week of adventure? Sign them up for camp.

As a member of the Camp Bristol Staff, you gain the incredible opportunity to change lives—the lives of your campers and your own life as well. You will experience the joy of teaching a child a new skill, making him laugh, or helping her learn to be a good friend. If enjoying the outdoors, caring for children, learning useful skills, and gaining incredible experience for your future sound like a great way to spend the summer, and if you are willing to give your best each day, Camp Bristol is for you!

Camper information, Staff information, job descriptions and Applications can be found on the camp website.

Second Annual Campfest Weekend

Planning is underway for the Second Annual Wounded Warriors Campfest Weekend in August. Building on the excitement of last year's success, ideas are being discussed that would expand the event by one day and enhance the trail ride experience. Stay tuned for details to be announced at the May Convention!

The Camp Veterans Committee is actively looking to add a new event at camp for the fall. Discussions include a day or weekend event for active military families, a motorcycle rally or a Band and BBQ. Stay tuned!

Campsite Rental for 2022 at Camp Bristol

Building and campsite rentals will be available at Camp Bristol again this summer! With the Youth Summer Camp this season, building rentals will be available from the opening of camp on Memorial Day Weekend through June 12th and then again from September 1st through closing weekend on Columbus Day.

Campsite and RV sites will be available from Opening through Columbus Day Weekend. However, from June 24th – September 1st reservations will only be accepted for weekend use – Check-in at 4 PM Friday and Check-out at 11AM Sunday.

Camp Visits and Tours

Camp is an Elkdom resource that needs to be shared! Camp is engaging in dialog with surrounding schools and organizations about the opportunities and possibilities available at Camp Bristol to support their program needs. This spring we will be scheduling tours for individuals, groups or organizations that would like to consider holding an event or program at Camp Bristol.

You are welcome to call and schedule a tour of camp, I'd love to show you around; or encourage an organization you are affiliated with to consider Camp Bristol for an event or gathering. We'll work with you to make that happen!

This is our camp and together we are making a dramatic difference in people's lives through the programs and activities of NY Elks Camp Bristol. Get Involved.... the Adventure Continues!

In Service,

Brett

Brett S. Elliott, Camp Director

www.NYElksCampBristol.org

Email: BElliott@NYElksCampBristol.org

Camp Phone: 315.625.8145

Gift-a-Kid to Camp Bristol!

Lodges and Districts, here is an opportunity to give a child a week of summer fun and learning. For \$350, you can sponsor one week at camp for a child, ages 10-13. The youth camping season will begin in July 2022, with registration opening on January 1, 2022. If you know of a child who would enjoy weekend in the great outdoors making new friends and new memories, consider sending them to Camp Bristol.

Your adventure is just beginning!



TUITION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE!

If you are interested in registering a camper for Camp Bristol. but need financial assistance, tuition assistance is available. You will need to register for camp prior to filling out the application for assistance.

All information for registering for camp and tuition assistance can be found at nyelkscampbristol.org.



**NY Elks Camp Bristol
Residential Summer Camp Staff
June 25 - August 14, 2022**

**Medical—Camp Nurse or EMT (21+)
Waterfront Dir. (21+) Head Cook (21+)
Cabin Counselors • Lifeguards (19+)
Activity Counselor (18+)
Cooks • Maintenance Staff (18+)**

**Employment period varies 7-10 weeks
Room and Board Included
Friday Evening and Saturdays Off**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR JOB DESCRIPTIONS
AND LINK TO THE STAFF APPLICATION**

www.NYElksCampBristol.org

Office Phone: 315-625-8145

Email:

info@NYElksCampBristol.org



JOBBERS WANTED

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

SAVE THE DATES!

CAMP BRISTOL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Greenview CC

10:00a.m.
shotgun start

3rd Annual Tournament

(make-up from the
October 2021 date)

**Saturday, May 21,
2022**

4th Annual Tournament

**Saturday,
September 10, 2022**



Camp Bristol Update



JOIN US FOR

SPRING WORK DAY!

Saturday, May 7 beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Lunch will be provided

Many hands make light work! Join us as we prepare camp for the youth and member camping seasons!

SPONSOR TWO CAMPERS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO GIVE TWO KIDS THE BEST SUMMER OF THEIR LIVES! IF YOU SPONSOR ONE YOUTH CAMPER (10-13 YEARS OLD) FOR \$375.00, ANOTHER CAMPER WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND CAMP BRISTOL AT NO COST!

PLEDGES FOR CAMPER SPONSORSHIPS ARE DUE BY MAY 15. CAMPER NAMES ARE DUE BY JUNE 1.



SEND PAYMENT TO:
NY ELKS CAMP BRISTOL
PO BOX 376
LYONS, N.Y., 14489

QUESTIONS: CALL 315-625-8145

Camp Bristol Update

What is Camp Bristol like?

While at Elks Camp Bristol, campers are divided into cabin groups and assigned to any one of three camper cabins. Cabins have restrooms and bunk beds and sleep up to 20 youth. There is a shower facility with individual shower rooms with secure doors for privacy. Meals are carefully prepared to be tasty and nutritious and are served in a family style setting. Health staff is on the property or on call at all times.

Camp is co-ed and all youth have access to the same traditional and special camp programs. All camp activities are under the supervision of trained camp counselors, which assures more personal care. Campers are encouraged to participate in camp activities. There is plenty of opportunity for campers to develop friendships and enjoy the quiet beauty of nature.

All Camp programs are conducted with concern for the campers needs and with safety in mind. Every camp activity is conducted with respect for the environment and campers are encouraged to be good stewards of the earth and of Camp Bristol property.

While at Camp Bristol you can take a hike in the woods, catch a glimpse of deer roaming through your campsite, enjoy boating and fishing on North Pond, or play ball in the field. At night, watch the International Space Station traverse the starry sky as you enjoy a campfire with new friends and your favorite camp staff member. It's time to sign-up for camp... **your** adventure awaits!

Camp Bristol Mission Statement

NY Elks Camp Bristol provides high-quality camping, adventure-based learning and recreational experiences for individuals and groups.

Throughout the year, youth, families, veterans and members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks engage in activities that promote physical, emotional and social well-being, celebrate patriotism, foster collaboration, and cultivate lifelong friendships.

54 Elks Way
West Monroe, N.Y. 13167
Phone: 315-625-8145

Email: info@NYElksCampBristol.org
Website: NYElksCampBristol.org
facebook.com/nyecampbristol

A 501(c)(3) Corporation



New York Elks Camp Bristol

Residential Youth Camp
Ages 10-13



While at Camp Bristol, campers should ...

- Experience support and belonging through positive adult and peer leadership relationships.
- Feel empowered through opportunities to serve others, plan, choose and lead in a safe environment.
- Experience consistent boundaries and high expectations with positive peer relationships, opportunities to excel and improve, and clear rules and consequences.
- Learn and experience more opportunities for constructive use of time through programs that are interesting, fun, and challenging.
- Increase their desire to learn and experience new skills and activities.
- Increase their social competencies through positive decision making, improved friendship skills, and the ability to choose socially acceptable forms of behavior.
- Increase their sense of positive self-esteem through opportunities for demonstration of achievement, recognition, and competency.
- Campers will feel physically and emotionally safe and comfortable at camp.
- Experience positive role models that will be examples of the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity
- HAVE FUN!!!

Camp Activities

Sports, Technology Lab, Canoeing, Kayaking, Archery, Arts and Crafts, Nature Center, Outdoor Living Skills, Campfires, Choice Time Activities, STEAM Activities, Swimming, Fishing, Fitness/Games ... and much more!

A Day at Camp

6:30 AM Polar Bear Club
7:00 AM Rise and Shine
7:45 AM Flag Raising
8:00 AM Breakfast
8:30 AM Morning Cabin Cleaning
9:00 AM - 12:15 PM Morning Program /Activity Sessions
12:30 PM Lunch/ Siesta after Lunch
2:00 PM - 5:15 PM Afternoon Program/ Activity Sessions
5:45 PM Retreat
6:00 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Evening Camp-wide activity
8:45 PM Campfire
9:30 PM Evening Cabin Time - Group time, celebrate today and plan for tomorrow
10:00 PM Lights Out

Sessions

Session 1 July 3-8
Session 2 July 10-15
Session 3 July 17-22
Session 4 July 24-29
Session 5 July 31-Aug 5
Session 6 Aug 7-12

Campers arrive Sunday afternoon (2:00 PM) dinner is the first meal.

Campers depart Friday afternoon (3:00 PM) after lunch.

Sign Me Up!

- Registration will begin on 1/1/22.
- Early bird pricing of \$350.00 (1/1/22-3/31/22.)
- Regular pricing of \$375.00 begins on 4/1/22.
- Spaces each week are limited to a first to register basis.
- Register for camp by visiting NYElksCampBristol.org and clicking on the "Sign Me Up for Camp" link.



Scan here for pictures and more information on NY Elks Camp Bristol



Camp Bristol Update

Camp Bristol

Third Annual Golf Tournament

(makeup from 2021 Tournament)

Saturday, May 21

10:00 Shotgun Start

**Greenview CC, 20 Whig Road
West Monroe, N.Y. 13167**

**\$80/person (\$320/team) includes golf, skins, cart,
lunch at the turn, steak dinner at Camp Bristol, and prizes**

Team Captain: _____

Team Captain Phone: _____

Player #2: _____

Player #3: _____

Player #4: _____

Please mail payments to:

PSP Mike Bloss
34 Cypress Street
Ballston Lake, N.Y. 12019

Make checks payable to
NYS Elks Camp Bristol

Payment appreciated
by May 14

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


For questions or more information, contact Scott Hirst at 315.804.3512



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Past Exalted Ruler Joan Carlo of **Watertown Lodge #496** was recognized by the Grand Lodge as an Honorary Founder for her contributions to Elks National Foundation. She is pictured receiving her recognition award from District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Joe Spriggs following an initiation at the Lodge. She was recognized for achieving over \$1000 in contributions.



PGER David R. Carr and PGER Michael F. Zellen proudly announce the Area 1 Selection of Board of Grand Trustee Bruce A. Hidley as the Endorsed Candidate for Grand Exalted Ruler for the year 2022-2023

In order to raise the funds necessary to cover the many costs associated with the endorsement to this high office, Elks members throughout Area 1 and other Areas can support Bruce's nomination and installation during the July 3-6 Grand Lodge Convention in Atlanta, Georgia by making a personal donation and/or by purchasing our fund raising pins/pendants.

Members planning to attend the 2022 GL Convention and who have purchased a \$100.00 pin or pendant, or \$150.00 combination of 2 pins or 1 pin and 1 pendant will receive a written invitation to attend a special nomination reception to be held on Monday evening, July 4 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. Reminder to bring and wear your pin/or pendant to the reception if you are attending the GL convention.

To contribute or order pins, please see the designated person(s) designated by your Area PGER Sponsor or the PGER Sponsor to make payment and fill out a slip.

Please make checks payable to NYS Elks GER Fund

Area Sponsors or their designee(s) will mail slips and checks to

Timothy Kelly, PSP, NYSEA Elks Association
23900 NYS Rte 12, Watertown, NY 13601

Tim's contact info: Phone 315-788-5461 and elkpddtim@aol.com

Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone ()	_____
Email	_____
Lodge/Position	_____
# Pins	_____ # Pendants _____



Massena Lodge #1702 used an ENF Beacon/Spotlight grant to make a \$2,500 donation to Wounded Warriors Outdoor Adventures. Exalted Ruler Steve Hunt, Jeff Root and Grants Committee Chair. John Root, are pictured as the donation was presented to Scott Walrath of the Wounded Warriors Outdoor Adventures.



The members of **Riverhead Lodge #2044** continue to make excellent use of funds received through the combination Beacon/Spotlight Grants. Open Arms Care Center Food Pantry in Riverhead was a very grateful recipient of funds obtained through these Grants and pictured here receiving the Lodge donation of \$2750 is Nancy Troefenuk, (pantry volunteer), Patricia Judd, Zona Stroy (pantry volunteer) and Lodge Secretary Diane Allen. These funds were used to restock their pantry with much needed items for the more recent Holiday season.



Monticello Lodge # 1544 utilized a \$3500 Elks National Foundation grant to purchase over one hundred winter coats and distributed them to children in the Monticello and Fallsburg School Districts. The lodge also used a \$2500 grant to supply 50 local veterans with boxes of food, and made a \$2000 donation to the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless. Pictured (L to R): Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell, Exalted Ruler Mike Brennan, Queen of Hearts Chair Maggie Sheerer.



Through the use of funds received from the Gratitude Grant, **Southampton Lodge #1575** members Fred Kirst and Secretary Gene Scanlon arranged for a special delivery to the VA Medical Center in Northport. This delivery included \$3500 worth of various gift cards such as UBER, STOP and SHOP and Target to be utilized for patient transportation to and from the medical facility, food items and clothing for veterans in need. These cards, along with personal care products were donated to the VA and were met by Voluntary Service Assistant Director Jennifer Pohl, as seen in the photo with Fred Kirst and Gene Scanlon.

Vestal Lodge #2508 members held a ham & turkey event at the Lodge to raise money for Elks National Foundation. 140 Lodge and community members came out to enjoy food, music, raffles, games, and fun. The event raised \$4272 for the Elks National Foundation.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Thanks to grants from the Elks National Foundation and a healthy membership totaling 350, 2021 was a good year for the **Ticonderoga Lodge #1494**. The Lodge received a total of \$8,000—all of which was donated directly to several humanitarian efforts benefitting the greater community. One grant, totaling \$3,500, went entirely to five local fire departments: Ticonderoga received \$1,500; and Hague, Putnam, Ticonderoga, Crown Point, and Chilson each received \$500. The funds will help these first responders purchase new equipment. As usual, the Lodge also donated to the Ticonderoga Backpack Program, their Christmas Program, numerous individual veterans and veterans organizations, the Lodge kids Fishing Tournament, as well as their perhaps more widely known Dictionary Project. Pictured during the donation to fire departments are: Seated (L-R), Ticonderoga Elk Officers: Stella Kolysko, PER, Lodge Secretary; Exalted Ruler Marge Hurlburt; Peggy Lamb, PER, Elks National Fdn Chairman. Standing (L-R): Ticonderoga Fire Dept. Chief Jason Parent; Crown Point Fire Dept. Chief Travis Tabor; Putnam Fire Dept. Chief Doug Thatcher; Chilson Fire Dept. President Jim Davis; Chilson Fire Dept. Chief Mike Trybendis; Hague Fire Dept. Chief Bill Gourley.



As the cold winter days approached, the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** shopped for winter hats, socks, scarves and gloves to be delivered to the CYA Food Pantry in time for the Christmas Season. Shown in the picture attached is Linda, a volunteer from CYA, along with District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Jack Stein, as the members delivered approximately \$50.00 worth of goodies through funds received from the Gratitude Grant. Included in the delivery was also several boxes of tea and cans of hardy soup.



Massena Lodge #1702 used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation grants at provided a to Meals on Wheels. Exalted Ruler Steve Hunt and Grants Committee Chairman John Root are pictured as they presented the donation on behalf of the Lodge to Meals on Wheels Board member Patricia Raiti.

The members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** shopped for and prepared two bags filled with winter hats, gloves, socks, scarves, soups and tea to be donated to one of the most active food pantries in the local area. Pictured during the delivery to the Helping Hands Mission is District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Jack Stein along with Mission's volunteer, Drew. Over \$50.00 received through the Gratitude Grant was utilized for this visit.



Thanks to the efforts of the Gratitude Grant, 22 Thanksgiving Gift Baskets were arranged for donation to the Connect Church in Centereach by the members of **Port Jefferson Lodge #2138**. Lodge Trustee Ted Connelly is pictured as he organizes the supplies for this donation.



Port Jefferson Lodge #2138 used an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to purchase items for Thanksgiving Gift Baskets that were donated to various houses of worship in the Port Jefferson area. Eight members of the Lodge gathered to prepare an additional 22 Thanksgiving baskets for the Christ Church United Methodist in Port Jefferson Station and 22 baskets for the o St. Joseph's in Ronkonkoma. Pictured, diligently working, are: Chaplain Tom Rivoli, Past District Deputy Henry Ross, Lecturing Knight Joe Guidice, Past District Deputy and Lodge Treasurer Tony Florio, Trustee Ted Connelly, State Vice President Ted Farkas, Past State Vice President John Brigante and Leading Knight Joan Brigante.

The **Elks National Foundation** allocated \$14.9 million this year to fund community investment programs, Lodges met local needs through grants that offer Elks opportunities to serve their communities in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize the membership encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain notice of people who want to be part of an organization doing great things. To learn more, visit elks.org/cip.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Auburn Elks Lodge #474 used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Beacon and Freedom Grants and donated \$5,500 to their local Scat Van Program. Pictured during the donation presentation are: Trustee and Scat Van Volunteer Driver Lee Brew, Past Exalted Ruler and Board of Directors for Scat Van Peter O'Connor, Past Exalted Ruler and Co-Chair for the Lodge Grant Committee Phyllis Allen, Sue Van Epps, Director of the Scat Van, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, State Trustee and Co-Chair for the Lodge Grant Committee Fritz Allen, Past Exalted Ruler John Chick, Past Exalted Ruler and State Vice President Frank Saya, Exalted Ruler Mike Damayzn, and Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and State Americanism Chair Mindy Johnson.



As a result of funds received through an Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant, the members of Port Jefferson Lodge, sent 6 \$50.00 gift cards to the St. Gerard Majella Roman Catholic Church as part of the Lodge's "Adopt-A-Family Program. This donation was discussed with the Church prior to the donation, to insure that they were distributed to families with the most need. Ten \$50.00 gift cards from the Spotlight Grant were divided between the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church Outreach and Connect Church Outreach, both in Centereach, NY, St. Anthony of Padua Church's Community Outreach Center, in Rocky Point, continues to be extremely active, as the result of the hardships developed due to the pandemic. After speaking with the members of the "Adopt-a-Family Committee" it was determined that gift cards would be the most useful donation this year as utility and food prices are soaring. With this in mind and in concert with funds received through the Spotlight Grant, **Port Jefferson Lodge # 2138** donated five \$50.00 gift cards to the Outreach Program, for their distribution.



Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317 applied for and received the \$3500 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant which was used for our Christmas Food Box Donations. The Lodge efforts for the Holiday Food Drive started back in February of 2021 with tips from Fish Fry, and most recently the Elks National Foundation Grant which was applied for and received, and several monetary donations from members and non-members. Before Thanksgiving, 3 Food Pantries in Waterford were contacted and Pastor Moore from Vineyard Church in Cohoes coordinated the Cohoes list with family's name, address, and phone number given. Delivery sheets for every family were created for those who couldn't pick up. Mohawk Paper was contacted for box donations, By-George and Reliable for Spaghetti donations, Freighofers for bread donation and Stewarts for milk coupon donations. The food was ordered from Price Chopper and Aldi's. Lodge members called every family to ensure they would be home for delivery or given the time-frame for pick-up. Food was picked up and sorted, and then on Friday, 12/17 and Saturday, 12/18, 150 boxes were picked up and/or delivered in our Community. Each family received a fresh ham, plus much more. We are very proud to run such an event. Pictured are (L-R) House Committee Chairperson Stan Malamut, Lodge Exalted Ruler Jeff Matthews, and District Deputy Renee Bott, Food Drive Chairperson.



Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317 presented a check for \$1200 to the Waterford-Halfmoon School District to be used to support school programs that benefit their students. This generous donation was from the \$3,000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant that the Lodge received. \$1200 was donated to the Cohoes School District and the remaining \$600 was used to purchase Dictionaries for the 3rd Graders in the Cohoes and the Waterford Elementary Schools. 198 Dictionaries were distributed back in November. Pictured (L-R) is Superintendent Palmerville, Junior/Senior High School Assistant Principal Richardson, District Deputy Renee Bott, PSP Paul C. Galarneau, and Junior/Senior High School Principal Scanlon.



Working in concert with the Woodbury Synagogue's WJC Cares Program, the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** donated 3 new winter coats and 12 wool hats, gloves and scarves which will be delivered to the Walter H. Crowley School of Leadership in Queens, NY. Many of the students attending this school are living in shelters and there is a great need for these items which will be included in the "Winter Warm-Up Kits" assembled and delivered. Approximately \$150, received through the Gratitude Grant, was utilized for this purchase. Past District Deputy Jack Stein is pictured with Volunteer Marcy B. as the delivery is made.



Scotia Glenville Lodge #2759 used their Gratitude grant to make a \$2500 donation to the Schenectady City Mission. Members also donated school supplies coats and clothing to the organization. City Mission serves nearly 700 meals daily and provides thousands of nights of shelter to those in need including children, the elderly and Veterans. During the COVID restrictions, additional burdens have been placed but the City Mission has continued to serve anyone in need. Pictured is Lodge Grants Coordinator, Deb Kruk with City Mission Executive Director Michael Saccocio and City Mission Volunteer Coordinator Nicole Amedore during the donation presentation.

As of 2/21/22, **New York State Elks Association** Lodges has contributed \$298,113.36 to the Elks National Foundation for a per capita of \$6.386. **Islip Lodge #2533** is leading the way with a per capita of \$24.799.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Through the use of funds received from the Gratitude Grant, **Huntington Lodge #1565** used \$100 to provide the Tri County CYA with much needed non-perishable food that was requested during the Lodge's last visit to their food pantry. Director Ms. Debbie is pictured along with Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Lynne Stein as several parcels filled with soups, teas, pasta, sauces, canned vegetables and breakfast items were delivered in individual family bags ready for distribution.



Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317 presented a \$1500.00 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 a large portion to the Food Bank with designation of funds to the Food Pantries in Cohoes and Waterford. 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. The Lodge is very proud to donate to this wonderful organization. Pictured (L-R) are Past State President Paul C. Galarneau, Lodge ENF Grants Chairperson, Joanne Dwyer, Director of Food Industry Relations and Business Development Representative and Exalted Ruler Jeff Matthews.

Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317 presented a check for \$1200 to the Cohoes City School District Superintendent Dan Martinelli to be used to help students in need. This generous donation was from the \$3,000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant that the Lodge received. \$1200 was donated to the Waterford-Halfmoon School District and the remaining \$600 was used to purchase Dictionary's for the 3rd Graders in the Cohoes and Waterford Elementary Schools. 198 Dictionaries were distributed back in November. Pictured (L-R) during the check presentation is Past State President Paul C. Galarneau, Lodge ENF Grants Chairperson, Superintendent Martinelli and Exalted Ruler Jeff Matthews.



Sidney Elks Lodge #2175 was awarded the \$2,500-dollar Freedom Grant. The grant was used to provide care packages to 70 area Veterans. The care packages contained items of warmth, hygiene, household, and food supplement. One of the recipients was Chris Bickos, who is a charter member of the Lodge. Chris, a very active 95 year old WW2 Veteran still enjoys gardening and doing yard work. Past Exalted Ruler and Trustee Jan Gorshack is pictured presenting Chris Bickos with his care package.

Fulton Lodge #830 donated boxes of food and Christmas gifts to 43 families in need in our community. Forty-three boxes, including turkeys, hams, bread, eggs, milk, many canned goods and age appropriate gifts and books for children were disbursed this year. Some of the items were generously donated by Lodge members and some were bought with funds from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant.



As part of the **Camillus Lodge #2367** Spotlight Grant, the lodge was able to purchase \$2000 of items desperately needed by the Vet Center on Pine Street in Syracuse. Items purchased included cleaning supplies, toiletries, socks, t-shirts, underwear, blankets, and snacks. Pictured are Lodge Exalted Ruler Jay Mason, Camillus Elks Veteran's Chair Bob Maraiio, and Veteran's Director Steve Lockwood. (Picture to the left)



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Thanks to the efforts of the Beacon/Spotlight Grants, the members of **Riverhead Lodge #2044** were pleased to present Gwen Mack of the Church of the Harvest, a check for \$2275.00. These funds were used to purchase items for local residents in need during the recent holiday season. Pictured during the donation presentation are: Peter Fludgate, Patricia Judd, Gwen Mack, Diane Allen and Exalted Ruler Jackie Karlin. The check presentation was made at the Lodge.



Scotia Glenville Lodge #2759 donated their combined \$5500 Beacon and Spotlight Grant to the City Mission food services Program. The City Mission serves nearly 700 meals daily and only made possible through donations. The food services program has endured increased costs due to Covid restrictions and limited volunteers. \$1500 of the grant was used to support the School Backpack program. Each week from September thru May, members of the lodge deliver 95 weekend food packs to a local school. The donation also helped to support the City Mission new hydroponic freight farm project, providing healthier meal choices to residents and the community they serve. Pictured in front of the freight farm is Lodge grants coordinator Deb Kruk with City Mission Executive Director Michael Saccocio and City Mission Volunteer Coordinator Nicole Amedore.



Homer Lodge #2506 hosted its annual Winter Coat Event. The Lodge was able to distribute over 250 coats to children in-need within the Homer Community. The Lodge also partnered with the Homer Phillips Free Library who collected new hats and gloves to be distributed to the children in addition to their new coats. The Lodge purchases the coats through the non-profit Operation Warm Organization. The Lodge used the proceeds from a Elks National Foundation's Beacon and Spotlight Grants to support the event.



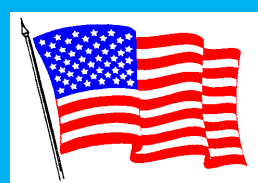
New York #1 Received a Special Certificate of Recognition for all Lodge #1 has done with funds that passed through the Lodge from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant of \$ 3,500.00 that was given to Camp Anchor. Camp Anchor serves individuals with various disabilities, children as well as adults. The lodge supported the camp by making all of the needed arrangements for a beautiful Valentine dance for almost 100 campers. The Lodge applied for and received \$8000 in grant monies that were used to support various community needs. Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler John M Nuzzi Sr. is pictured with Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and Board of Trustee Chairman Frank Hunt during a presentation at a recent Lodge meeting.



St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Melville NY collected non-perishable food items for the Thanksgiving Holiday through their "Thanksgiving Bag of Blessings" program. It was requested that each of the donated bags contain specific items for a family of 4. With this in mind, the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** donated 8 individually packaged parcels and delivered them to a pre designated area in the lobby of the Church. Approximately \$100 obtained through the Gratitude Grant was used for this delivery.

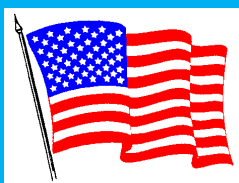


Each December, the members from **Port Jefferson Lodge #2138** sponsor the "Adopt-a-Family Program" in concert with the Infant Jesus Community Outreach Center. This year, along with over 120 slightly used coats, refurbished bicycles and children's toys, six \$50.00 gift cards were purchased through the use of the Spotlight Grant. These gift cards are utilized to purchase clothing and to help pay for utility bills during the long winter months. Pictured as the donations were presented are member Debra Farkas, Vicki Rybak of the Infant Jesus Community Outreach Center and member Joan Brigante. (Picture above right)



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



The Great Members of **Brooklyn-Queensborough Lodge 878** held their 1st Annual "Voices For Veterans" Fundraising Concert. The Lodge members created a DVD Holiday Greeting for the Veteran friends at St. Albans Facility that included performances of their favorite artists and commentary of the love we have for all our veterans around the nation. Many members attended and performed, it was truly inspirational. Led by Exalted Ruler Gerry Storms and PDDGER Patricia Carroll, the membership was able bring in over one thousand dollars and a lot of joy for our beloved veterans.



Arrangements were made by members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** to meet with the Voluntary Services Director at Nothport's VA Hospital, to deliver much needed personal care items. This delivery was made along with UBER gift cards and underwear purchased by the Jack Stein, East District VA Volunteer Services Representative. District Deputy Stein is pictured with Jennifer Pohl, Voluntary Service Director and Richard Kitsen, Director of VAVS at Northport VA Medical Center as the delivery was presented.



The **Mid-Hudson District #6180** members donated 30 Turkeys and 12 Hams to the food pantry at the Castle Point VA food pantry. Pictured L to R is Army Veterans Rich Brilla, Jim Mullen and Grand Lodge VAVS Representative Carl Oken PDDGER.

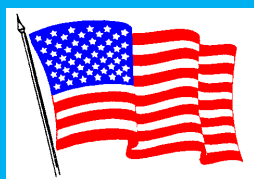
Many older veterans in hospitals, VA homes, nursing homes and care centers have limited or no family nearby. Without social engagement and positive interaction, veterans' health can suffer. The Elks family is all over the nation, and Elks volunteers can support local veterans by participating in the Adopt-a-Veterans Program and providing friendship and assistance.



Camillus Lodge #2367 made a large donation to the Gregory Harris Military Room. Lodge Secretary Michelle Hickey along with Elk of the Year Bob McIntyre, Past Exalted Ruler Tom Kinsella, and Veterans Chair Bob Maraio are pictured as they presented Military Room worker Ron Marvar with carts full of snacks, drinks, toiletries, and paper products for our service men or women when they stay at the Military Room. Camillus Elks is proud to give back to those that protect our country.

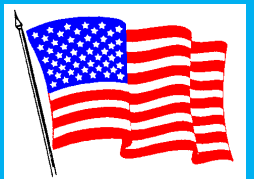


Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317 members and past State Vice President Edward Baniak, State VAVS Representative from the Watervliet, Lodge Veterans Service Chairperson, Past Exalted Ruler Regina Hogan for an Annual Christmas visit to The Veterans House, a veterans transitional shelter in Albany, NY. This was the 25th year that the Lodge visited the homeless veterans at Christmas time. Due to Covid protocols in place at the shelter, Lodge members gathered outdoors with the Veterans to sing Christmas Carols with the help of the Lodges Santa Elk. Members delivered a department store gift card for each of the 25 homeless Veterans, which totaled \$1,250. These gift cards were chosen from a decorated Give to a Vet Tree in the Lodge and purchased by Lodge members. A Lodge member also purchased and gift-wrapped warm hats, gloves, socks, toothpaste and toothbrushes for each of the 25 homeless veterans. A military Santa figurine was presented to Lee Vartigian, Director of The Veterans House. Past State Vice President Baniak gave each Veteran a \$25 grocery gift card. The Veterans greatly enjoyed the holiday sing-a-long, and they were very excited to receive the Christmas gifts. The Veteran's are pictured with Santa (PER David Foldi) and Lodge Veteran's Service Chairperson and Past Exalted Ruler Regina Hogan.



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



Fulton Lodge #830 donated several items in support of patients at the Syracuse VA Medical Center Rehabilitation unit. Items included models and crafts, 20 DVD movies, \$100 credit for the commissary to pick up gifts. The Lodge also provided \$675 worth of gift cards to purchase additional items as needed. Becky Ross of the Syracuse VA is pictured as she accepted the donations from the Fulton Lodge #830's Grant Coordinator Rene Ormsby and Veteran/Past Exalted Ruler Dave Ormsby.



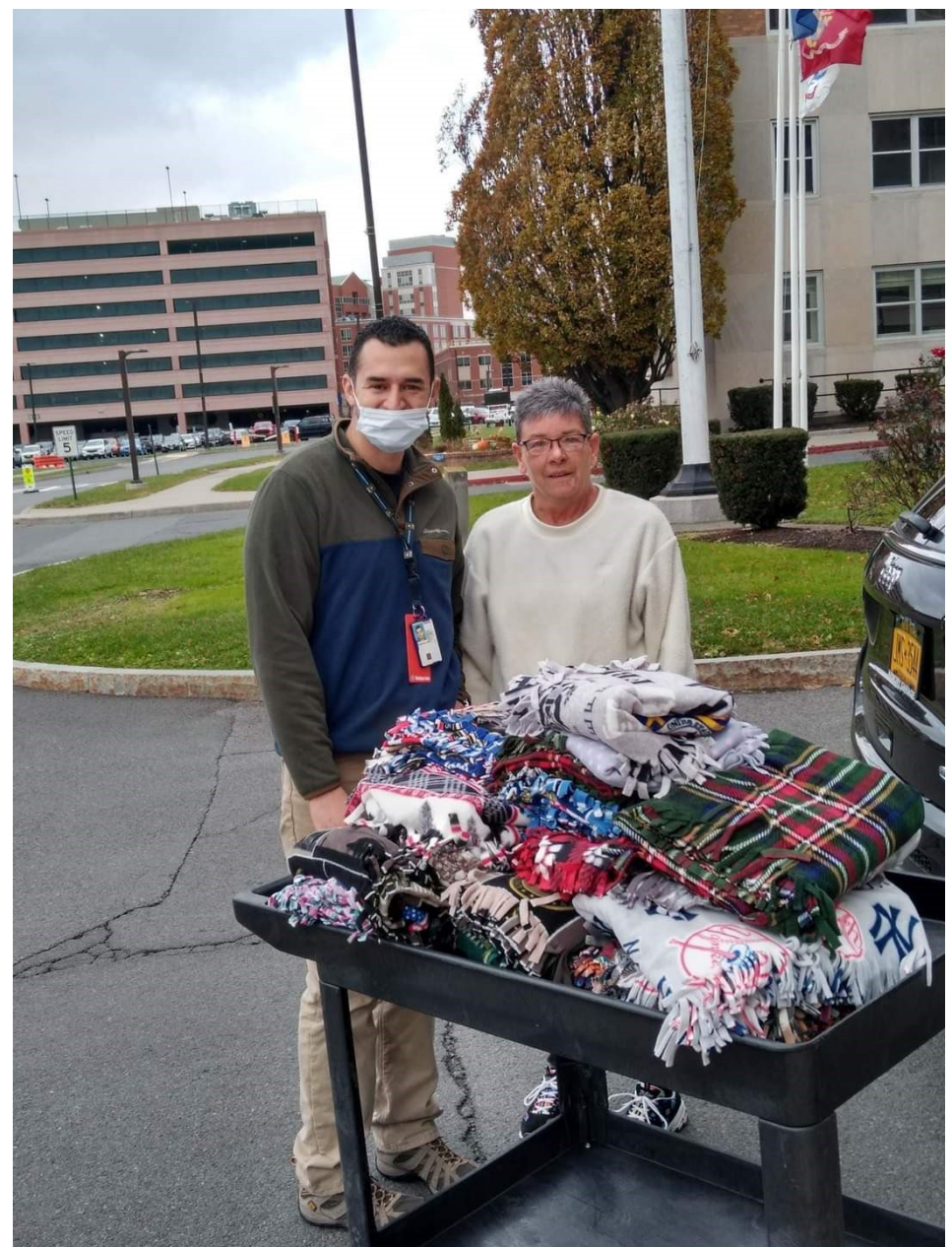
The **Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317** Veterans Service Committee sponsored a Veterans Day Dinner. 153 dinners were served, including 65 Veterans who received a free dinner. Each Veteran also received a 2022 Pocket Planner thanking them for their service. Although this was not a fundraiser event, \$475 was raised for Lodge Veterans Programs through a 50/50 drawing and Red, White, Blue and More Basket raffle. Member Susan Pigott donated muffins for the Veterans. An 88 year old Korean War veteran gave a Thank You card and wooden patriotic ornament to Veterans Service Chairperson Regina Hogan, in appreciation of the Dinner and gift. Pictured are workers and members of the Vets House in Albany along with Past Exalted Ruler Regina Hogan, Lodge Veteran Service Chairperson.



Islip Lodge #2533 used the funds received through an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and purchased 60 fleece jackets, totaling \$1000.00, for residents of the Northport VA Hospital. Due to the COVID-pandemic, all visits to the VA must be carefully scheduled in advance. In view of this, Lisa Hernandez, Lodge Chaplain, scheduled her visit along with District VAVS Chairman, Jack Stein, DDGER. His delivery included blankets, cleaning supplies, pajamas, socks and underwear. They are pictured being greeted by Kewan Potts, a VA Hospital Representative.



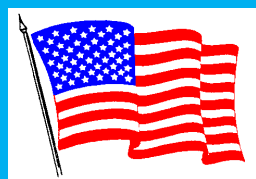
On December 7th **Sidney Lodge #2175** held their annual Pearl Harbor remembrance dinner. This dinner has been established by the Lodge to honor all area Veterans and their guest. 75 guests attended this year's dinner and they were served a delicious lunch. Door prizes went out to some lucky winners. Guest speaker was Assembly Joe Angelino. Pictured are some of the Veteran's that attended.



Guilderland Lodge #2480 Tiler Denise Ware hand- made and donated 25 lap blankets for Veterans at the Stratton VA Hospital in Albany. Many were made using fabrics containing the various Armed Forces insignias. The Vets were extremely happy to receive them. Due to current COVID restrictions the drop off was made in the hospital parking lot. Denise is pictured with a hospital volunteer during the drop off.

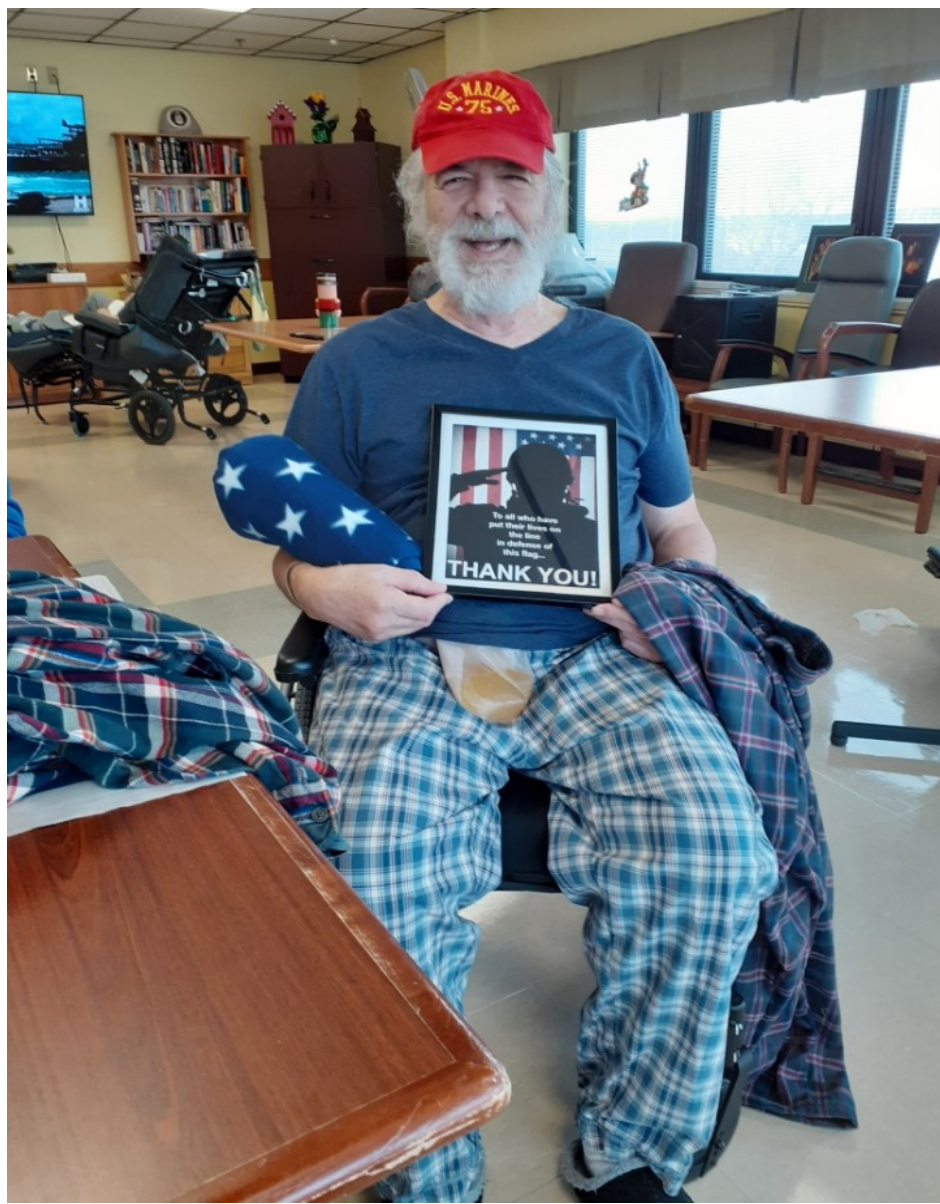
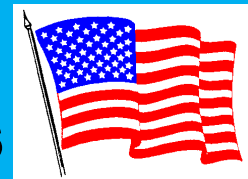


Homer Lodge #2506 held a Fish Fry and honored area community Veterans with a free meal in recognition of Veteran's Day. The Lodge was able to serve around 25 Veterans that evening. Pictured at the dinner are, From Left to Right; Greg Harvey (Air Force Veteran), Don Hay (Air Force Veteran), Walt Kasperek (Navy Veteran), Leah VanDonsel (Lodge Veterans Committee Member) and MB Kingsley (Veterans Committee Member). (Picture to the left).



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



The **Mid-Hudson District #6180** provided pajamas, a blanket and a framed Veteran Thank You photo for each Veteran at Castle Point VA center for Christmas. We may not have been able to visit in person but, with the help of the Voluntary Service and Recreation staff, the Veterans were happy to know they are remembered. (Look at that smile). Pictured is Mr. Oswald (who is a Marine Veteran).



Fulton Lodge #830 recently donated a truckload of items for the Veteran Hospital's 'End Hunger and Homelessness' campaign. Pictured receiving the donation is Recreational Therapist Becky Ross. Delivery was made by Past Exalted Ruler and Army Veteran Dave Ormsby (not shown) and his wife and member Rene Ormsby. The event coordinator, Social Worker Christina Campbell, expressed her sincere appreciation for the donation and what it will mean to veterans in need.



The **Southeast District** Veterans Committee members were touched by Gerald Snell, the President of the Long Beach Waterfront Warriors who was a Guest Speaker. Mr Snell provided his explanation of all that the organization does for our Nations Veterans. Pictured at the event are John Haffey - Chaplain Lodge #878, Richard Muniak - Inner Guard Lodge #1, Herb Hoffman #1, Past State Trustee Anitra Butler— VAVS Rep and Veterans Chairperson, Gerald Snell - President Long Beach Waterfront Warriors, Past District Deputy John M Nuzzi Sr.—District Treasure Lodge #1, Robert Giglio - PDDGER Lodge # 2107, Lisa Moldovan—Exalted Lodge #1, and Sylvia Wasner Lodge #1.

The **Vestal Lodge #2508** Veterans Committee held their annual "Veterans Day Dinner at their lodge to honor the Lodge Veteran's. Approximately 100 veterans and guests enjoyed a spaghetti dinner with all the trimmings, music, and goodies. Local New York State Senator Fred Akshar was one of the guest speakers and servers at the dinner. Each veteran was given a special veterans baseball cap, along with their choice of a wooden craft item to take home. In other news, the lodge veterans committee held their 2nd annual "veterans donation drive" at the lodge, which benefited the veterans in the Oxford Veterans Home; Willow Point Nursing Facility; and Absolut Nursing Facility. The lodge partnered with WBNG-12, one of their local television stations, to host the one day, 14 hour donation drive at their lodge. Prior to the event, a list of needed items was sent out to the community...asking the public to drop the items off to the lodge during the event. The lodge's veterans committee, as well as other lodge members and local boy scouts were stationed in the lodge parking lot to receive the items at a "drive thru" during the event. Several local businesses generously donated food thruout the event for the hard working volunteers. Some of the requested items were: puzzles, sensory toys, search find books, razors, socks, sweat pants and shirts, and blankets. The goal was to fill one full sized pick-up truck full of donations for each of the nursing facilities. The response from the community was overwhelming! The veterans committee not only met their their goal but they exceeded it by collecting over \$10,000 in items and monetary donations during the event.



Homer Lodge #2506 provided goodie bags to the workers at the local Veterans Clinic in Freeville, NY as a thank you for caring for our Veterans. These workers are essential for our Veteran's Community and we wanted to make sure that they were recognized for that service. Twenty bags were distributed to the facility containing candies, mixes for muffins, cookies, pancakes and of course, maple syrup.



Through the use of the Elks "Welcome Home Kit Program", the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** supplied five veterans, who recently received housing from the Suffolk County United Veterans Association., with their wish list items. These items included flannel sheets, mattress covers, towels, toiletries, a chest of drawers and a small computer desk. The five recipients included 2 Army Veterans, 1 Marine Veteran, 1 Air Force Veteran and 1 Navy Veteran. Pictured are: (l-r) Ruth McDade, Director, Dan Salatti from the Mental Health and Wellness Division, Veteran Will O., Past District Deputy Lynne Stein and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Jack Stein.

This year, Lodges will have two options when applying for a **Freedom Grant**. Lodges can apply for a \$3,000 grant to hold an active project that directly serves veterans in need, or Lodges can apply for a \$1,000 grant to hold a smaller project with more flexibility. There will be 200 Freedom Grants available for the Classic option, and 400 available for the Spark option. Freedom Grants become available on April 1.

Community/Youth Activities Elks...Now More Than Ever



After placing a call to the Social Worker at the Dolan Family Center, the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** were surprised to learn that food for their pantry was far more in demand than Holiday children's gifts. With this in mind, the members quickly shopped for 5 families associated with the Center, purchasing soups, rice, beans, packaged tuna, pancake mix, canned vegetables and beef broth. Pictured as the first of several deliveries were made are Samira Lopez-Johnson, Social Worker and district Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Jack Stein.



Ogdensburg Lodge #772 members participated in a community "Light up the Night" parade. Members Elsa and Anna were on hand, along with Santa and Mrs. Claus for photos. There was free food and drink for all that attended. This is a community appreciation event and is generously sponsored by the Lodge membership.



Mid-Hudson District #6180 members donated 30 hams to the Castle Point VA food pantry for the Christmas Holidays. The food pantry serves 135 families in the Hudson Valley. Pictured L to R is US Army Veteran Jim Mullen and Elks Veterans Representative Carl Oken PDDGER.



Sidney Lodge #2175 donated and delivered school supplies to several of their local public schools, nursery schools, and to "Operation Merry Christmas" which is a local organization that helps indigent families in the Delaware, Chenango, and Otsego counties. Ten pallets loaded with school supplies, such as notebooks, folders, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, glue, scissors, backpacks, etc were generously donated from a local business to the lodge for distribution. Lodge Treasurer Sharon Harris and Past Exalted ruler Jim Johnson are pictured as they delivered items on behalf of the Lodge to Dr. David Richards/Superintendent of Schools for Unatego School.



Mid-Hudson District #6180 Lodges of Poughkeepsie #275, Peekskill #744, Haverstraw #877, Beacon #1493, Yorktown #2324 and Wappingers #2609 worked together gathering new unwrapped toys for the 4th Marine Air Wing Toys for Tots Program. Pictured from left to right are Exalted Ruler Mary Colleen Sokerka of Peekskill, State Trustee Barbara Farber State Vice President Atilano Rivera, Exalted ruler Ron "Piggy" Piga of Beacon, Exalted Ruler Steve Brawitsch of Yorktown, Corporal Bryant, Lance Corporal Wilson, Past Exalted Ruler John Downs of Haverstraw, Lecturing Knight Rich Smith of Haverstraw and Corporal Sayegh.



The **Vestal Lodge #2508** Veterans Committee bought and delivered presents, candy, and homemade Christmas cards made by elementary students from the BOCES school in Broome County to 23 residents with Alzheimers at the Oxford Veterans Home Pine Unit for Christmas. Pictured (from left to right) Andrea Bird/veterans committee member; Dick Bird/veterans committee member; Mindi Moniz/Esteemed Leading Knight and veterans committee co-chair; Heidi M/Oxford Veterans Home nurse; Joelle K/Oxford Veterans Home nurse; George Light/Veterans Committee Chairperson

Potsdam Lodge #2074 recently donated \$500 to support the Norwood Community Lunch Program for Kids, \$250 to support the Madrid Volunteer Fire Department, \$500 to sponsor the Potsdam High School Swim Team end of season party/awards and \$400 to support the Parishville-Hopkinton High School Prom.

Community/Youth Activities Elks...Now More Than Ever



Vestal Lodge #2508 partnered with their local Red Cross to hold a blood drive at the Lodge in which 120 lives were saved. The blood drive was put on in memory of Lodge member Tom Vajentic who received many blood and platelet transfusions while battling illness. Tom always felt the need to "give back" in every aspect of his life and wanted to host a blood drive at least once a year to give back. Pictured is Lodge member and Program Leader Karen Pooler who coordinated the event. To date, Karen has hosted 49 blood drives that has garnered 1780 units of blood that equals to 5340 lives saved! Karen has personally donated 5 gallons of blood to date.



Vestal Lodge #2508 partnered with their local Firehouse Subs to raise money to support their local police department k-9 unit. Lodge members, community members and officers from several of the local police departments all came out throughout the week to help support the event. \$1027 was raised and given to the Vestal Police Department's K-9 unit. Pictured is Vestal Police K-9 Officer Katirae Smith with "Grizz" and Vestal Police Department Chief John Butler.



Watertown Lodge # 496 donated left over food from the Lodges annual Harvest for Seniors and canned foods from the Lodges canned food drive to the Veterans Peer to Peer Outreach Center.



Auburn Lodge #474 recently held the Lodge's annual Eggs Benedict President's breakfast honoring NYSEA State Elks President Barry (Bear) Griffith and his wife Susan. Following breakfast, State President Griffith and Lodge Exalted Rule Mike Damazyn presented "Outstanding Service Awards" to members Ed Kustyn and Linda Bettis in recognition for their dedicated service to Auburn Lodge. They also recognized Marty Keogh was an "Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award". Marty Keogh is pictured with State President Griffith after receiving his award.



In the spirit of giving, **Amsterdam Lodge #101** adopted 10 families (24 people to buy for) in order to give them a very merry Christmas. Besides buying toys and clothing, small appliances such as crock pots, air fryers, popcorn makers were purchased. A sofa sleeper was also donated to help improve their comfort and quality of life. To further improve the lives of those struggling in our community, food and clothing was also donated to the Office for the Aging, Amsterdam's Homeless Shelter, and the Haven for Hope House (a domestic violence home). Toys were also collected and donated to Centro Civico, a local Human Service Agency.

Vestal Lodge #2508 held their annual "Old Timers Brunch", which is a special luncheon to honor the Lodges Past Exalted Rulers and Honorary Life Members. Over 50 guests enjoyed a sumptuous lunch and fellowship. In other news, the Lodge helped over 150 children plus several families with their "Christmas Charities Program". Local needy children in the following schools received presents from the lodge members thru this program: Clayton Avenue; Glenwood Elementary; Vestal Hills; Tioga Hills Elementary; African Road Elementary and Middle Schools; and BOCES. Lodge members held fund raisers during the year, as well as received donations from Lodge and community members to fund this program. In still more news, the Lodge's Ladies Auxiliary held a children's Christmas party at the Lodge. Over 50 children from the community and their families, enjoyed food, goodies, crafts, and music. Santa Clause and the Grinch were at the party to greet the children and pose for photos. A great time was had by all.

Community/Youth Activities

Elks...Now More Than Ever



The members of **Smithtown Lodge #2036** arranged to have several hundred dollars' worth of a variety of toys sent to Kentucky in time for Christmas. After the devastating effects of the Tornado that blanketed the state, the Lodge purchased and sent the toys in an effort to bring some joy to the children during a very difficult time. Pictured are some of the many items that were purchased prior to the shipment.



Oswego Lodge #271 donated a complete Christmas dinner with all the fixings to 22 families in the community. Additionally, the Ladies Auxiliary donated clothes for all the children in the household and the each child was provided toys donated toys that were donated by the Lodge. The members that assisted with the meal are pictured.



The members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** continue to work closely with the volunteers from the Outreach Center at St. Elizabeth's Church located in Melville, NY. Their program has several urgent needs as the demand for assistance, in terms of food and clothing was very high during the cold winter months. To assist them, the members of the Lodge delivered a case of canned corn and green beans, potatoes, oatmeal, pasta and a large bundle of diapers. The Lodge will continue to keep in close contact and deliver additional items as needed throughout the winter season. Pictured as the items were delivered are Past District Deputy Lynne Stein and Outreach Volunteer Mary Ann Giannottino.



Guiderland Lodge #2480 delivered their latest load of food/personal care items/pet food to the Guiderland Food Pantry. Over 500 pounds of food and \$200 in cash donations were gathered at a food drive held at the lodge on Nov. 13th. This brings Guiderland Lodge's donations to the food pantry over the past year and a half to well over 2,500 lbs of food, personal care items and pet products and almost \$1,400 in cash donations. Pictured outside the food pantry are Lodge Inner Guard Deb Piccirilli (who along with her mother Lodge Chaplain Liz Mack spearheads 3 food drives a year) and Guiderland Food Pantry Executive Director Mac MacDonald.



Mechanicville Stillwater Lodge #1403 hosted a Pet pictures with Santa to provide the Saratoga County Animal Shelter with much needed items. In 2 hours the Lodge collected enough to provide the shelter with over 400 lbs of cat litter, over 200 lbs of kitten food, 30lbs of dog food and treats, 255 cans of cat food, 72 cat broth packets, 8 large dog kongs, and cat treats and toys. Pictured with the donations is member Cindy Wood.

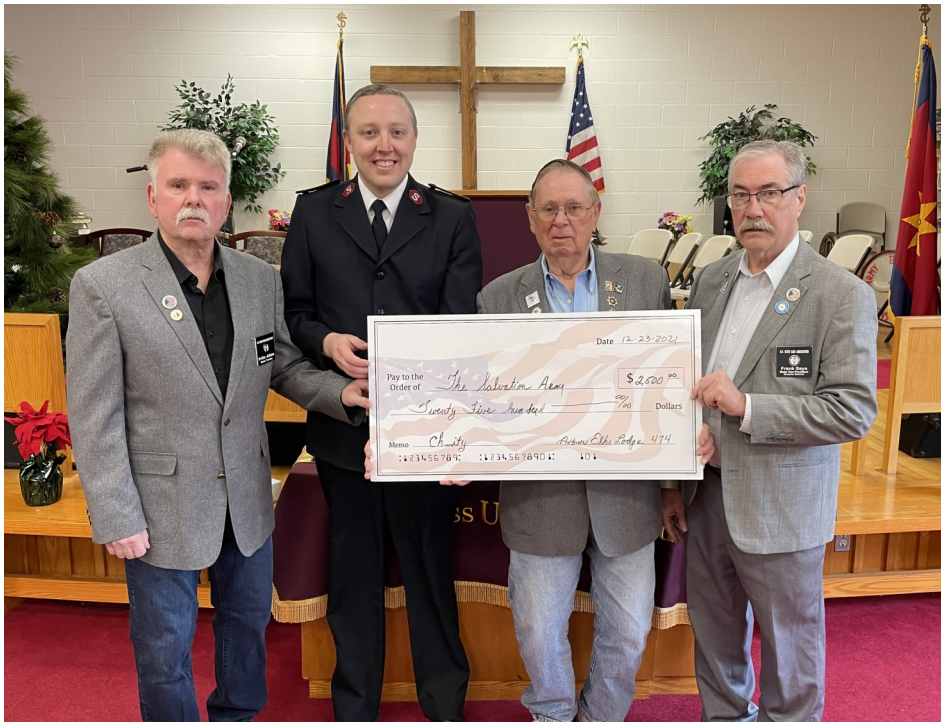


Camillus Lodge #2367 held a month-long drive for the Salvation Army of Syracuse where they donated over \$1000 of goods for individuals in need. Pictured are Director Gina Lazara with Past Exalted Ruler and Chaplain Frank Legg, member Jon Plochko, Ladies Auxiliary Member Jan Barry, and Secretary Michelle Holzhauser Hickey.

Liverpool Lodge #2348 donated \$300 worth of food to Durgue Jr High School and CW Baker High School in the Baldwinsville School District for the "Backpack Food Program ". The Backpack Food Programs offer families free groceries for weekends and school breaks. Food backpacks include healthy, easy-to-prepare food for kid-friendly meals. Pictured are Lodge members Martha Hess and Laura Richards as they presented the donation on behalf of the Liverpool Lodge to Guidance Assistant Laurie Micale. (Picture to the right)



Community Activities Elks...Now More Than Ever



Auburn Lodge #474 presented to their local Salvation Army a check for \$2500.00 to help with their charities. Pictured left to right are Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler/State Trustee and Auburn Lodge Grant Chairman Fritz Allen, Captain Johnson of the Army, Past Exalted Ruler John Chick, Past Exalted Ruler and Ontario District State Vice President Frank Saya.



Mechanicville Stillwater Lodge #1403 adopted 2 families this year for Christmas with the Mechanicville Area Community Center. Both families' lists were fulfilled with extras. The Lodge also donated money to the Adopt a Family program in Stillwater. Past Exalted Ruler Linda DeVito, member Joe DeVito, Past District Deputy Ed Zuzick Jr., Exalted Ruler Deanna Zuzick, Past Exalted Ruler Milo Jose, Past District Deputy Tom O'Neill, and members Joanne Wells, Lynn Pratt and Victor Wood.



Camillus Lodge #2367 ran a month long food drive for St. Lucy's Church. As a result of the drive, the Lodge was able to donate over \$500 worth of food to help those in need. Past Exalted Ruler and Chaplin Frank Legg, Past Elk of the Year Bob McIntyre, and Past State Vice President Jim Roe are pictured with volunteers from St. Lucy's Church as items were delivered.



Vestal Lodge #2508 members held their 2nd annual "Cookie Exchange" in which members made several dozen cookies to exchange with each other and to also donate to local nursing facilities. Eleven Lodge members participated to make 110 dozen of a variety of cookies. The members donated 100 homemade cookies, 150 signed Christmas cards, and candy to each resident and staff at the Willow Point Nursing Facility in Vestal. The residents at the Castle Gardens Facility in Vestal received 100 cookies, candy, and 114 signed Christmas cards. Pictured with some bags of cookies is Lodge Secretary Amber Davidson.



The Faith Missionary Baptist Church, located in the heart of Huntington Station, maintains a small congregation that is currently starting their first food pantry. This pantry serves the local residents including those affiliated directly with the Church. After meeting with Pastor Timothy Flythe, the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** delivered over \$80.00 worth of non-perishable food which will be distributed upon receipt. Additional Lodge deliveries have been planned which will include items discussed with the Pastor as those most needed. Past District Deputy Lynn Stein is pictured with Pastor Timothy Flythe as the first delivery is made.



Huntington Lodge #1565 used \$175 received through the Beacon Grant to support the Fountainhead Congregation. Each Friday, the Fountainhead Congregation hosts a drive-through food pantry for their parishioners and local residents and the need for donations has definitely not diminished. In view of this, and thanks to the efforts of the funds received through the Beacon Grant, the members of the Lodge were able to supply the Church with cases of canned vegetables, rice, peanut butter and jelly, tea, oatmeal, canned tuna and pasta. Chris, a volunteer from the Church is pictured as the items were delivered.

As part of its Christmas Charity Program, **Homer Lodge #2506** adopted five families coordinated through the local Scott United Methodist Church to provide Christmas Gifts to. Gifts were wrapped and delivered to the church ensuring presents for 28 total kids in our community that may not otherwise have received them.

Riverhead Lodge #2044 delivered over 4 boxes of personal care items to the District's VAVS Chairman, Jack Stein. The boxes were delivered during a District Deputy visitation at Southampton Lodge. The items were then hand delivered to the Northport VA Hospital. The items were donated by Riverhead Lodge members over a period of time and set aside for this specific purpose.

Community/Veteran Activities Elks....Now More Than Ever



Homer Lodge #2506 donated various snacks to the Military Courtesy Room located within the Syracuse Hancock International Airport. Around \$250 worth of snacks were donated by the Lodge to help keep their supplies stocked. Exalted Ruler Jelena Barnes (Veterans Committee Chair) is pictured with Courtesy Room Volunteer Joanne as the snacks were delivered. .



Liverpool Lodge #2348 donated \$500 to the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau to assist with the food portion of the program. Each family receives approximately one week of food during the holidays. Christmas Bureau Chairperson Lauri Bernstein and Co-Chair Janet Therrien are pictured with Lodge Treasurer Janice Luce as she presented the donation on behalf of the Lodge



Oswego Lodge #271 hosted a Veterans Day Breakfast at the Lodge. The SUNY Oswego Lakers Softball Club served breakfast. Veterans Chair Jim Dillabough and Past District Deputy Carol Dillabough are pictured at the breakfast.



Liverpool Lodge #2348 conducted an annual Christmas food drive at Nichols Super Market. The Lodge recognized Mike Hennigan for allowing them to set up in his parking lot. The Lodge was able to collect 358 non-perishable items, 30 hams and \$440 during the food drive. These items were donated to the Baldwinsville United Methodist Church food pantry. Pictured at the event are volunteers Thomas Glauberman, Martha Hess and Rick Deland.



The Elks from the **Mid-Hudson District #6180** (including Beacon, Poughkeepsie, Wappinger lodges and the NYS Elks Association State chair Justine Crowley Dunc) sing Christmas Carol's to the Veterans living in Castle Point VA from outside the building. Veterans enjoyed the Carol's from inside the CLC H-1 unit. Escorting the Elk members was Santa Claus and his team of firetrucks and members of Castle Point FD, New Hamburg FD, New Hackensack FD, Dutchess Junction FD, Glenham FD and Chelsea FD.



Members from **Oswego Lodge #271** placed 77 wreaths on the graves for the Veterans at the Fort Ontario Cemetery as part of the Wreaths Across America Program. Wreaths Across America coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 2,500 locations across the United States, at sea and abroad. Pictured placing a wreath at a grave site are Past Exalted Ruler Carol Simpson and Don Simpson.

Community/Youth Activities Elks....Now More Than Ever



Huntington Lodge #1565 members donated 1 case of dictionaries, purchased through the "Dictionary Project", to the "Book Fairies" located in Freeport NY. Since its inception nine years ago, the "Book Fairies" has donated over 3 million books to high need schools and community outreach programs across the Metropolitan area. These dictionaries will help impact literacy rates in our local neighborhoods and were gratefully accepted by one of the workers on hand. Pictured receiving the donation is Jeff of the "Book Fairies".



New York Lodge #1 held a successful Lodge Hoop Shoot at Freeport Recreation Center. The six Lodge winners advanced to the District contest in new Hyde Park. Four of the shooters representing the Lodge took top honors at the District Level. They were Westley Hernandez 8-9, Caroline Rogers 8-9, Blake Vuotto 10-11, and John Esposito 10-11. They advanced to the South Regional Hoop Shoot contest in Bardonia, NY where Caroline Rogers and Blake Vuotto took 1st place honors and the opportunity to advance to the NYSEA Hoop Shoot Championship that will be held in Glens Falls. Blake Vuotto was awarded as the Best Overall Shooter among the girls at the Regional Hoop Shoot. Pictured following the award presentations at the regional contest are; Past State Vice President Brian Steckler, Joseph, Victoria, and Blake Vuotto, Past District Deputy John M Nuzzi Sr. and Past Exalted Ruler and New York #1 Lodge Hoop Shoot Chairman Paul Schneller.



Beacon Elks #1493 acknowledged the hard work of students at the Rombout Middle School grades 6 thru 8 with awards for student of the month for December. Pictured left to right is Nicole Morano, Lodge Youth Activities Chair, the three students receiving awards and Exalted Ruler Ron Piga.

The members of **Port Jervis Lodge #645** sent \$300 in clothing and \$200 in toys to Madisonville KY Lodge #738 for individuals affected by recent tornadoes. Port Jervis' Esteemed Leading Knight Erin Morrissey reported this was a new outreach of their annual Christmas Project to make the recent holidays brighter for those in need. The Lodge donations were coordinated with Madisonville Secretary Terri Fletcher, and items were purchased online and shipped directly to the Madisonville lodge for distribution.

The members of **Patchogue Lodge #1323** joined with the Patchogue Lioness Lions Foundation to collect non-perishable food for "Angels of Long Island", located on Main St. in Patchogue. Their mission is to assist and advocate for people in need of help within their Long Island Community. It was estimated that over \$500 worth of food was collected and over \$185.00 in monetary donations were collected during this joint venture.



New York Lodge #1 as well as family members have been supporting the Long Island Sled Hockey for the Differently Abled Athletes for more than 25 years. A great Lodge of Thanks and Appreciation goes out to Long Island Sled Hockey Organization for all they do for their Athletes, as well as letting the Elks be part of their ongoing success. The Lodge Officers and members, made a worthy Donation to The Organization during their annual Holiday get together. The Lodge was honored to be able to present \$2,500.00 to Long Island Sled Hockey Organization, to continue their excellent work with those with disabilities. The Lodge used an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to support the donation. Pictured during the donation presentation are; LISH Secretary Anthony Ficarrotta, Past Exalted Ruler/Chaplain Paul Schneller, Past Exalted Ruler/Leading Knight Amy Schneller, Exalted Ruler/ Past Exalted Ruler and Lodge Grant Writer Lisa Moldovan; LISH President Frank Martin, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler John M Nuzzi Sr. and LISH Head Coach Phil Derenze.



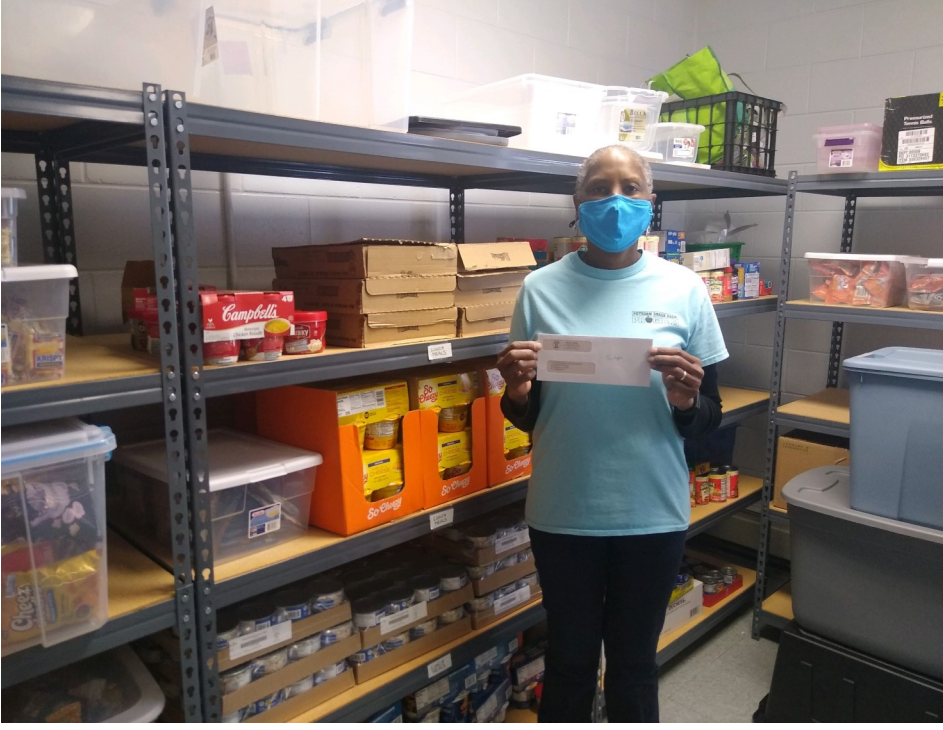
The **Ontario District** Hoop Shoot was held at the YMCA in Oswego. Following the shoot everyone, Oswego Lodge #271 hosted an awards ceremony and complimentary pizza lunch. The District winners advanced to a Regional Contest in Iliion, New York. At that contest, Mia Browngardt, representing Oswego Lodge #271, took 1st place honors in the girls 8-9 division and earned the opportunity to compete at the NYSEA Hoop Shoot Finals in Glens Falls, New York. The District Division winners and 2nd place finishers are pictured with Past State President William Reedy and District Deputy Tom Kanaley.



Syracuse Lodge #31 attended the On My Team 16 Foundation 3rd Annual Fundraiser. The Fundraiser benefits pediatric cancer patients in the Syracuse area. The Lodge was represented by District Deputy Tom Kanaley, Lodge Treasurer Pam Allen and Lodge Chaplain Dave Merriam. The Lodge made a donation of \$500 to the organization. Individual Lodge Members made a separate donation of \$520. District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Tom Kanaley and Lodge Chaplain Dave Merriam are pictured presenting the donations to Jordan Sheridan Zapisek, founder of the OnMyTeam16 organization.

Community/Youth Activities

Elks...Now More Than Ever



Potsdam Lodge #2074 supported the Potsdam Snack Pack Program with a \$650 donation. The program provides a minimum of eight items, including one lunch meal, to more than 430 students from Head Start to the high school level. The program provided 13,412 snack packs to local students in 2021. Snack Pack Program Coordinator Laurell Brault is pictured after receiving the donation from Lodge Community Activities Chair Tim Welpé, who presented the donation on behalf of the Lodge.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 donated \$500 to the Norwood-Norfolk Snack Pack Program during the recent holiday season. Lodge Trustee Rick Robar is pictured as he presented the donation on behalf of Potsdam Lodge to Snack Pack Program representative Mary Ellen Todd.



It is a tradition for **Clifton Park Lodge #2466** to prepare Thanksgiving Dinner for the men's and women's Veteran's homes in Ballston Spa. State Vice President Bob Lumpkins was the lead chef on this initiative and he was assisted by members of the Lodge. Boy Scout Troop 246 traditionally makes dessert for the meal as one of their community service activities. The team of Lodge members prepared two complete dinners and delivered them to the Veteran's homes. Pictured at the event are Ray Hera, State Vice President Bob Lumpkins, Julia Holcomb, and Past Exalted Ruler Bill Tierney.

Liverpool Lodge #2348 was finally able to hold the Lodge annual Children's Christmas Party. The children made Hats, Door Knockers and Stockings. There was lots of Christmas Music. The highlight of the day was a visit by Santa. Santa had candy canes and a gift bag with Christmas themed goodies for each of the children who attended. Although a much smaller gathering than in the past a great time was had by the 25 children who attended the party. Pictured with Santa (Paast Exalted Ruler Art Van Gelder) is Korie and Kallie Culican. Of course even the Grinch stopped by. (Picture to the right).

Homer Lodge #2506 distributed Drug Awareness materials to the children from the Homer Community. This was done in conjunction with the Lodge's Winter Coat Event.



Mechanicville Stillwater Elks lodge #1403 held a Narcan Training class. The class was instructed by the Saratoga County Sheriff's office. Participants were informed what an overdose looks like, how to administer the Narcan, and what needs to be done after administering the drug. Each person in attendance was given a box containing 2 Narcan sprays. The Sheriff Department also offers personal training. The class was attended by 15 lodge members, community members, and local law enforcement. Pictured: Drug Awareness co-chairs, Past Exalted Ruler Linda DeVito, and Lodge member Ian Foard.



Liverpool Lodge #2348 recently held the Lodge annual Winter Olympics. They held indoor and outdoor events throughout the day. Although there had been very little snow in the area, Mother Nature co-operated with a snowstorm that week. The participants took part in numerous activities such as a tug of war, golfing, corn hole, etc. There was a chili cook off. It was a great day of fun and companionship for all. During the event, the lodge was able to raise \$800 for the ENF.



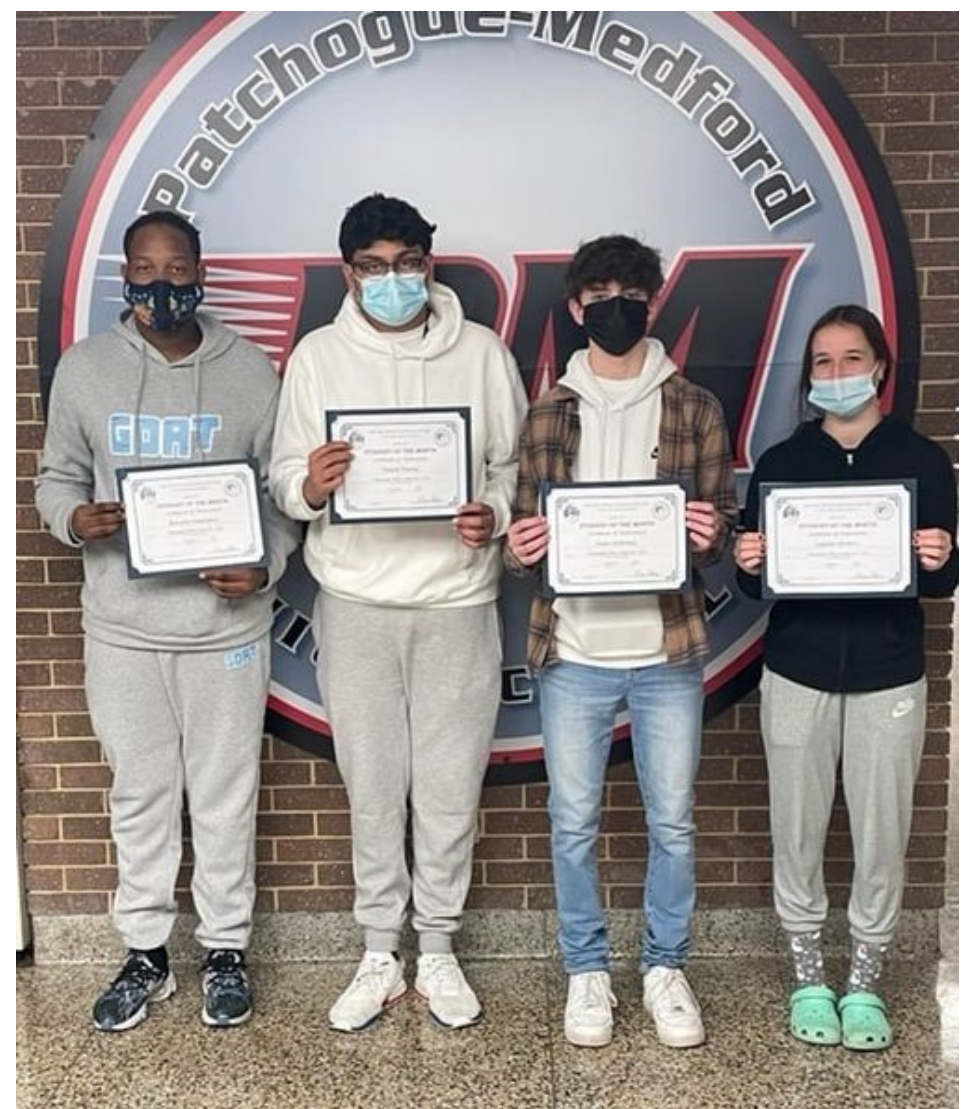
Community/Youth Activities

Elks....Now More Than Ever



Huntington Lodge #1565 received and responded to a special needs request from the Tri-CYA food pantry in Huntington. The Lodge used \$150 from a Gratitude Grant to purchase a list of items that included peanut butter, jelly, personal care items, soups, ramen, tuna, pasta, sauce, parmalat milk, canned vegetables and boxed mac and cheese. The items were quickly purchased and delivered, were sorted and handed out to families the following day by the agency's staff. Pictured are: "Kat" (CYA helper), Victoria (CYA helper), Marcy B. Volunteer, Past District Deputy Lynne Stein and Alicia (CYA helper).

Keeping in touch with local food pantries gave the members from **Huntington Lodge #1565** an opportunity to shop for and deliver the most needed items for the recent Holiday Season. Long Island Cares bundled family packages for Thanksgiving, using non-perishables items which were added to a frozen turkey on the day of distribution. Past District Deputy Lynne Stein is pictured with a shopping cart full of stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, cream corn, cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes and hot chocolate mix etc. Thanks to the efforts of the Gratitude Grant, approximately \$70.00 was utilized during this delivery.



The members of **Patchogue Lodge #1323** were busy during the Month of December as they resumed their very active Student of the Month Awards Program. Taking advantage of the Patchogue/Medford School's reopening, the members of the Lodge were pleased to present several students with their well earned "Student of the Month" award for their high scholastic achievements. Pictured (l-r) are: Kervens Lesperance, Hasbeeb Forooq, Justin Morrissey, and Isabel DeNeve, as they proudly display their recognitions.



Liverpool Lodge #2348 recognizes a student of the month from 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 Michael Halko are pictured with students Olivia De Fazio from Baker High in Baldwinsville, Madison Pierce from Liverpool High School, Jacob Works from Liverpool High School and Landon Arcadi from Baker High in Baldwinsville after an awards presentation.



Islip Lodge #2533 Dictionary Project is back in full swing! Since schools have been working remotely for the greater part of the school year, the Lodge's Dictionary Project was placed on hold. Pictured are students from third grade classes from the Commack Avenue Elementary School in Islip. They were happy to gather in the school's auditorium to receive the long awaited dictionaries from the members of Islip Lodge. A total of 114 dictionaries were distributed during this visit.



Liverpool Elks Lodge #2348 recognizes a student of the month from 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 Leading Knight Craig Rosen are pictured presenting the Student of the Month awards to Brendan Rice from Liverpool High School and Maon Hallenbeck from CW Baker High in Baldwinsville.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES/SCOUTING



The 30th Eagle Scout Dennis Mann from Scout Troop 41B, sponsored by **Beacon Lodge #1493** was recently presented a Grand Lodge Eagle Scout Certificate and Elks Pin. Pictured from left to right are Troop Scout Master Larry Wood, Exalted Ruler Ron Piga, Eagle Scout Dennis Mann and Assistant Scout Master Mark Shekitka.



The **South East District Hoop Shoot** was recently held at New Hyde Park Memorial High School. The contest was organized by District Chairman Donald Rood PDDGER of Lodge # 2107. Don had chaired the District Hoop Shoot for a number of years. The members of New York Lodge #1 helped Don setting up the courts, as well as breaking down the gym after the Hoop Shoot was concluded. After the awards were announced, pizza and soft drinks were provided for all those in attendance. The District winners advanced to a Regional Contest hosted by Pearl River Lodge #2041. District Hoop Shoot winner's representing New York Lodge #1 are; Caroline Rodgers of Lynbrook, Westley Hernandez of Lynbrook, John Esposito of Lynbrook, Blake Vuotto of Lynbrook, Shooters representing New Hyde Park N. Shore Lodge # 2107 are; Leonardo Valdivia, Ivan Tandon, Kayden Erazo. Pictured with District winners are District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Michael J. Boller, Past Exalted Ruler and Lodge Chaplain Paul Schneller, Past Exalted Ruler and Leading Knight Amy Schneller, Past District Ron Hansen, Past District Deputy and NY Lodge #1 Hoop Shoot Chairman John M Nuzzi Sr, NY Lodge #1 Exalted Ruler Lisa Moldovan, her Officers and members, and Past District Deputy and District Hoop Shoot Chairman Donald Rood of New Hyde Park N. Shore Elks Lodge #2107.



Huntington Lodge #1565 made arrangements for Elroy the Elk (aka District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Jack Stein) to assist Santa at the Kringeltown Christmas celebration in Copiaigue NY. It was clearly announced that a prerequisite to getting on Santa's "good" list is saying no to drugs. Elroy the Elk appeared throughout the evening's event, handing out bookmarks and greeting the children. He was also seen playing the drums on stage as the band played popular Christmas toons.



The 2022 **North Central District Hoop Shoot** was hosted by Carthage Lodge. The contest was held at Carthage Central School. Congratulations are extended to this year's District Champions. They are: 8 -9 Boys: Harper Spaulding Lowville, NY Lodge No. 1605; 8-9 Girls: Brynn Leclerc Malone, NY Lodge No. 1303; 10-11 Boys: Toran Zehr Lowville, NY Lodge No. 1605; 10-11 Girls: Joelle Gravelle Watertown, NY Lodge No. 496; 12-13 Boys: Russell Hazard Watertown, NY Lodge No. 496; 12-13 Girls: Lily Green Watertown, NY Lodge No. 496. The District Champions advanced to the Central Regional contest that was hosted by Ilion Lodge.



Vestal Lodge #2508 donated 280 dictionaries to 3rd graders in five of their local schools that included : Glenwood Elementary; African Road Elementary; Clayton Ave Elementary; Tioga Hills, and Vestal Hills. The students were pretty excited to receive the books. Esquire Chuck Moniz, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler John Gardner and Leading Knight Mindi Moniz are pictured with third grade students from Glenwood Elementary School after presenting them with dictionaries.



It's been quite a long time since the members of **Patchogue Lodge #1323** have been able to conduct their "Student of the Month" ceremony at the Patchogue/Medford School, due to the restrictions placed as a result of the pandemic. Fortunately, an opportunity arose this past fall, the members took full advantage of this occasion to present 10 students representing the Sophomore, Junior and the Senior classes, with their certificates for exceptional achievements. Pictured are the students accepting their awards and enjoying their public recognition.

Isabella Rapp and Gavin Gass, both competing in the 8-9 age group , will continue to represent the **Port Jervis Lodge #645** at the New York State Hoop Shoot Competition after taking top honors at the Regional Hoop Shoot in Middletown, New York. They are pictured to the right.



Watertown Lodge #496 hosted a spaghetti dinner and Eagle Scout ceremony for Watertown Troop 496 which is sponsored by the Lodge. During the ceremony, Exalted Ruler Dennis J. Brady, Esteemed Leading Knight Ed Massa and Secretary Melissa VanBrocklin had the distinct honor of presenting the Grand Lodge's Eagle Scout Certificates to Zachary Main and Mason Rumble.



A huge round of applause goes out to Mia Leeper who placed 2nd in her age group and Krystina Orby and Benjamin Rivera who both placed 3rd in their age groups on Saturday February 5th at the Regionals in Middletown, New York.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES/SCOUTING

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



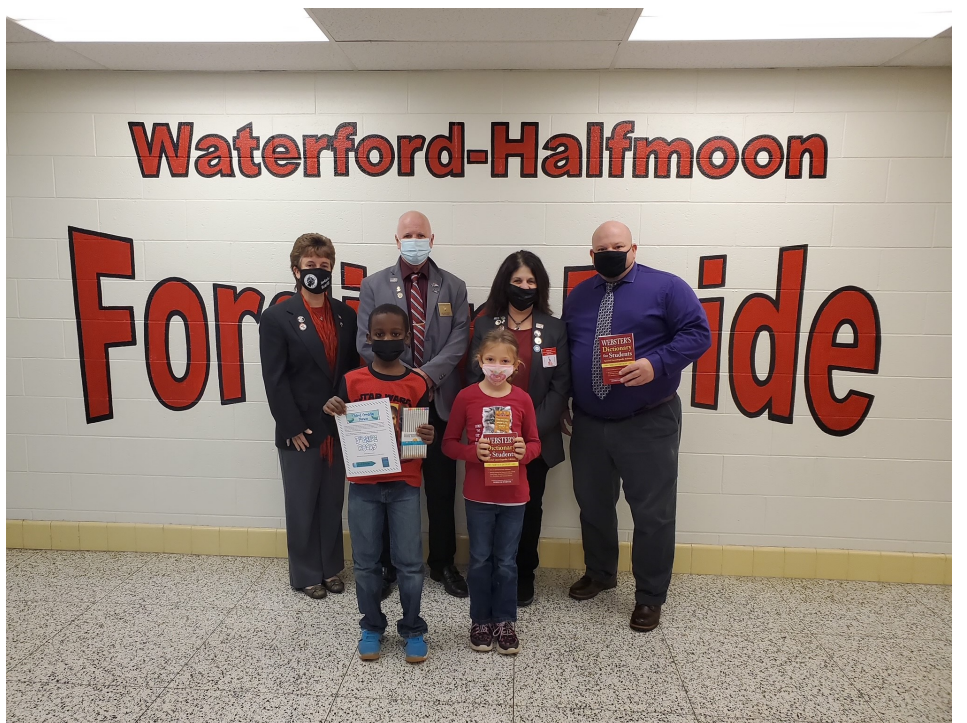
The members of **Islip Lodge #2533** arranged a visit with the staff and the students of the St. Mary's Elementary School and presented a dictionary to 29 3rd grade students. This visit was the first scheduled in class meeting since the outset of the pandemic and the students were thrilled. Lodge Secretary John Tramosch delivered and distributed the dictionaries. He is pictured with some very excited children as they held up their very own dictionaries.



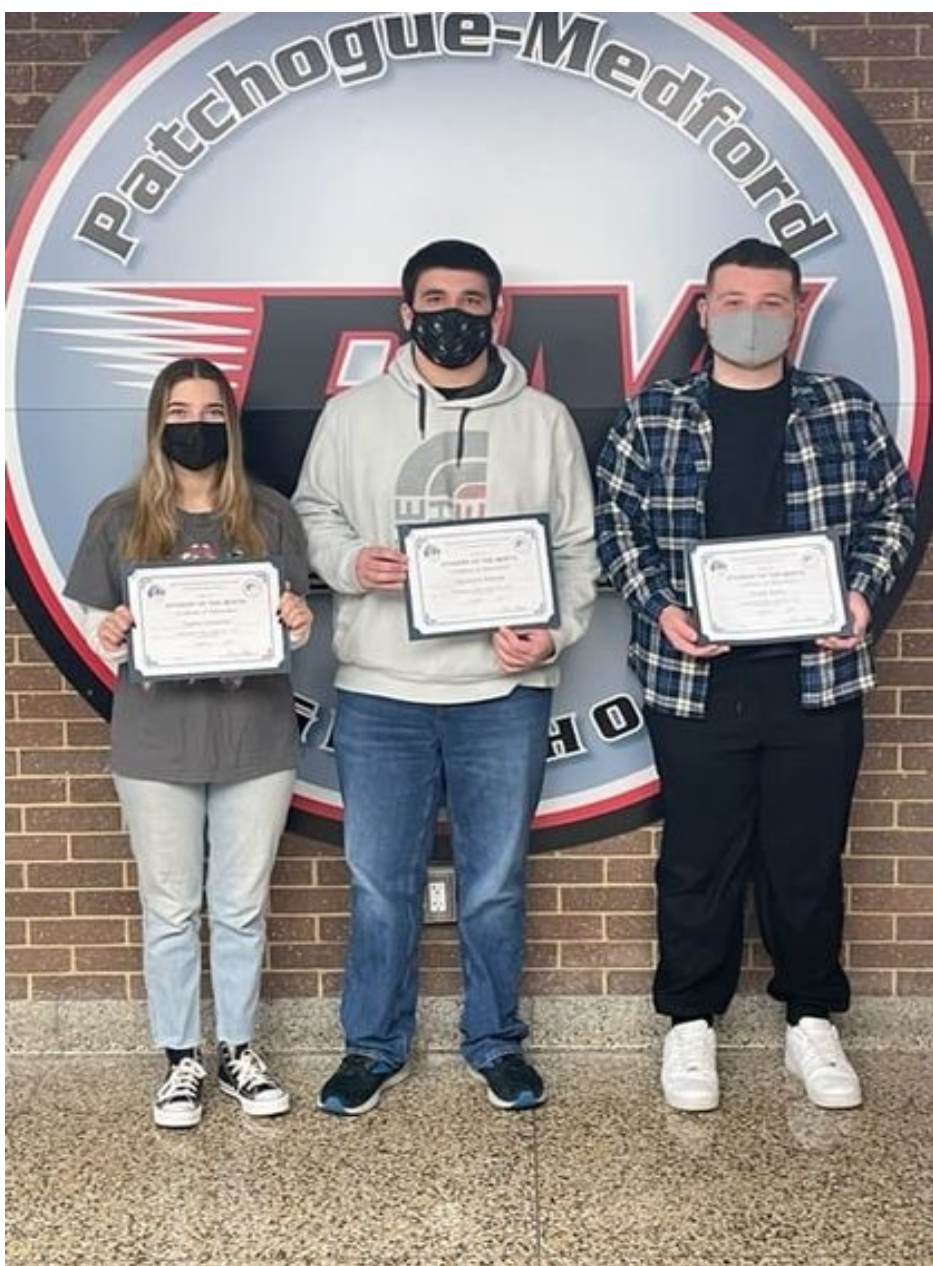
Auburn Lodge #474 held their Annual Children's Christmas Party with Santa. The children enjoyed making an ornament craft. Pizza and Treats were available for all to enjoy. Santa and his helpers made this a special for the children. A total of 15 children were in attendance. The children are pictured with Santa.



Liverpool Lodge #2348 recognizes a student of the month from both Liverpool High School and Baldwinsville High school each month during the school year. They are chosen by their guidance counselors. These students are chosen both by their academic success but also their community service. Lodge Exalted Ruler Mike Halko and Chairperson Laura Richards are pictured as they presented January awards to Samantha Tanquay from CW Baker in Baldwinsville and Rose Springhall from Liverpool High School.



Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317 delivered 198 Dictionary's to the 3rd Graders in Cohoes and Waterford. Inside each dictionary was a label stating who the dictionary was donated by, and a drug awareness bookmark was also included. In addition, each student received a sharpened pencil to write their name in their dictionary. A letter was handed to the 3rd grade teachers to read to their students. The Dictionary Project was funded (\$600) by a portion of the Gratitude Grant. Pictured L-R is member Debbie Matthews, Exalted Ruler Jeff Matthews, District Deputy Renee Bott, Dictionary Project Co-Chair, School Principal Mr. Siracuse and two of the 3 grade students.



Patchogue Lodge #1323 recognized three additional students at the Patchogue/Medford School were thrilled to be back in class, in person with their friends and teachers. However, on this day, it was particularly memorable as they were recognized by the members of Patchogue Lodge, for their outstanding scholastic achievements.. Pictured (l-r) are: Sophia Salamone, Dominick Ribaldo and Jordan Keller, representing another class, as they each received their "Student of the Month" Award.



Potsdam Elks Lodge #2074 recently hosted their 11th Hockey Shoot at the Potsdam Pine Street arena. Following a two year absence due to the pandemic, there was a good turnout with 37 area youth competing for top honors. The contest consisted of five age groups. Each contestant had 3 practice shots on goal before taking five shot that counted towards scoring. A straight ice level shot resulted in one point, an ice level corner shots resulted in three points and an upper goal corner shot resulted in five points. In the event of a tie, each finalist took 5 shots. There were shootouts for 2nd or 3rd place finish in the boys 5-6, boys 11 and boys 12-13 divisions. Gavin Coffey achieved the highest overall score of 15 First Place winners were; Girls 6-8 Avery Kotz; Girls 9-10 Sophia Kotz; Boys 5-6 Dominick Dodd; Boys 7-8 Brodee Desrosies; Boys 9-10 Jacob Hayes; Boys 11 Years Jackson Thomas; Boys 12-13 Gavin Coffey. .

Elmira Lodge #62 delivered 508 dictionaries to the third grade classes at the Elmira Schools.

Potsdam Lodge #2074 delivered 362 dictionaries to third grade students at five area schools; Madrid-Waddington Elementary School, Norwood-Norfolk Elementary School, Canton Banford Elementary School, Colton-Pierrepont Elementary School and Lawrence Avenue Elementary School in Potsdam.

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