



EMPIRE STATE ELK

Official Publication of the New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc.
Summer 2023 Issue



STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kevin Connolly
2023-2024
"Elks...Feel the Energy"

NYSEA State President Cam Ricci Upcoming Visitation Schedule

West Central District	September 15-17, 2023
Fall Conference	September 21-24, 2023
Camp Bristol	October 1, 2023
Colonial District	October 6-8, 2023
Mohawk Valley District	October 13-15, 2023
South Central District	October 20-22, 2023
State Capital District	October 27-29, 2023
North Hudson District	November 3-5, 2023
North Central	November 17-19, 2023
South District	December 8-10, 2023

The Empire State is full of wonder and surprises. As an Elk from the Hudson Valley, I am impressed with the talents and dedication of the People I have made contact with. The Pride expressed in each of the 5 districts have been nothing short of spectacular!

Each District has a unique character They are proud to represent their part of our State.

To date I have visited 44 lodges and at each lodge I have been greeted with a sense of warmth and style. Each Lodge provided me with a renewed sense of purpose as they espoused their commitment to the programs of our Great Association!

A special thanks to the State VP's Mary, Rob, Preston, Steven, & Denisha who made me feel as part their district families.

For the Elks who were not at our Spring convention let me introduce myself I am Kevin Connolly from Pearl River Lodge 2041 and I am your NYS Elks President for 2023-2024. My message this year is "Elks...Feel the Energy!"

It is a simple, direct slogan that recognizes that whenever Elks gather – the collective energy in any room or event rises to the occasion! It is the Energy that drives our NYS Elks Programs like our Major Project – our home service program – Cerebral Palsy, Our State Scholarship program, The Hoop shoot, Camp Bristol and of course our laser focus on maintaining and growing our Membership in the Elks; to name a few.

My pin also carries a message, it carries the logo along with the empire state building – a strong symbol of our state that carries our state nickname. Embedded in the center is the Elks logo and at the base is the number 2041, which represents my lodge, the lodge where I started by Elk journey in the order, the lodge that is supporting me for the past 37 years. Thank you, Pearl River.

By the time you read this half the elk year will be over but the hard push for the years goals will be shifting into high gear. It is the job for each member to help their lodge to reduce delinquency, grow membership. Support the lodge officer core who do the heavy lifting on a daily basis and to get involved in the event or program they enjoy. By doing this you will be strengthening your lodge and you will feel better because your involved!

Remember, it is not up to someone else to build a strong Lodge; it's up to you!

Stay focused and have fun with each other.

Thanks for your dedication.

Fraternally
Kevin



New York State Elks Association President **Kevin Connolly** of Pearl River Lodge #2041 is above pictured as he proudly waves the New York State flag during the State Association Flag presentations at the Grand Lodge Convention during the opening ceremony in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



New York State Elks Association President **Kevin Connolly** is pictured with Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley prior to the start of the Grand Lodge opening ceremony in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



New York State Elks Association President **Kevin Connolly** is pictured with Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley and Past State President Cam Ricci following the closing session at the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



New York State Elks Association President **Kevin Connolly** of Pearl River Lodge #2041 and Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley of Watervliet-Colonie Lodge #1500 and his wife Helen Hidley, are pictured with several members of the State Capital District, and Past State President Cam Ricci and his wife Jo-Anne following the closing session. (picture above left)

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(Herkimer #1439)

THE EMPIRE STATE ELK PUBLICATION

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

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

Members who do not receive the Empire State Elk should contact their Lodge Secretary. Address changes or corrections should be sent to your Subordinate Lodge Secretary. The Lodge Secretary should correct the Lodge records and inform the Grand Lodge of the change. Please note the Editor of the Empire State Elk has no authority to make changes to the mailing list. Families of deceased members no longer wishing to receive a copy must make a request through the Secretary of the Lodge where the deceased was a member.

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2022-2023

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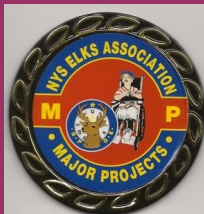
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NEW YORK STATE ELK ASSOCIATION MAJOR PROJECT



**PAST STATE PRESIDENT
JAMIE PEACE
Major Project Message
Summer 2023**



The New York State Elks Association Major Project booth had many visitors from throughout the country during the Grand Lodge Convention, including Past Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr and his wife Penny. They are pictured while visiting the booth with Major Projects Board of Directors Chairman Jamie Peace, his wife Yvonne Peace, Major Project Chair David Brown and his wife Vicki.

Our National Convention is now behind us. Our Major Project Chairman, David Brown, along with his Vicki did a tremendous job, once again. Our Major Project booth was awarded a 5 Star Award! This is due to the hard work and dedication of Brownie and Vicki. Thank you to all the attendees who visited and volunteered at the booth. A special thank you to all the new Exalted Rulers for visiting the booth and trying to learn more about our Major Project, so that they could go back to their Lodges and help to educate their members on all of the good work that our partnership with CP State and the Home Services Program does to help all the people with I/DD.

The Major Project giving year begins on June 1st of each year. All Major Project donations that are received with a members dues payment must be forwarded to State Secretary Renee Bott. This will help assure that your Lodge and district receive the proper credit towards your member per capita. Many Lodges or districts have held events and many more are being planned to help make our per capita of \$8.00 per member and \$400,000 yearly goal. All funds received for the per capita go directly toward the Major Project Home Service Program.

The Major Projects board continues to work on the Bequest and Living Trust Program initiative. All Bequests and Trusts are dedicated to the Major Project to ensure its longevity. The dedicated funds go directly to these programs:

- Cerebral Palsy Home Service Program
- Our Veterans programs
- Our Youth programs

There are a number of ways to make a gift to the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc. One option is Legacy Giving. We hope that through careful financial planning, you will find an option that works best for you and the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc. You can add a bequest to your will or Living Trust with a simple sentence:

A sampling wording to show your attorney:

I give the sum of \$ _____ or _____ % to the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc. to be used or disposed of for the Bequest and Living Trust Program.

Thank you for all of the good work being done by the New York Elks membership.



New York State Major Project Ambassador **Charles Dietzman** was a special guest at the Spring Convention. Charles attended the Major Projects workshop, along with family members and assisted with the presentation of numerous Major Project Per Capita awards. CP Home Services Director Cheryl Garlock spoke about the Home Services Program and thanked the NYSEA for their support. Ambassador Dietzman also spoke briefly. Charles and his family members are pictured following the Major Project workshop with CP or Rochester Home Services Director Cheryl Garlock, State President Cam Ricci, Major Project Chair David Brown and his wife Vicki and Major Projects Board Chairman Jamie Peace and his wife Yvonne.



The New York State Elks Association **Major Project Booth** earned a 5 Star Award at the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley is pictured displaying the award along with Major Projects Board Chairman Jamie Peace, his wife Yvonne Peace, Major Project Chair David Brown and his wife Vicki.



State Vice President's **Brian Diaz** (above) of the South District and **Joe D'Angelo** (Below) of the East District were presented with a State Vice President's Award during the closing business for his outstanding support of the NYS Elks Major Projects during the 2022-2023 fraternal year. They are pictured receiving the award from Major Project Chair David Brown.





NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION SPRING CONVENTION 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



The 109th Annual Convention of the New York State Elks Association and Spring Meeting of the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc. was held at the Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon, New York from May 18, 2023 to May 21, 2023. The convention was attended by members and guests representing Lodges from throughout the State. The convention began with an Opening Ceremony and Memorial Ceremony on Thursday evening, May 18th, 2023. The opening ceremony consisted of an invocation by Past State President Jamie Peace, the Pledge of Allegiance which was lead by East Central District SVP Merrill Connor, the Star Spangled Banner was song by Past District Deputy Mark Stuparich of New York Lodge #1, an introduction of Dias Dignitaries by provided by Past State President Tim Kelly, a welcome from East Central District Deputy Thomas Howley, a State Association welcome from State President Cam Ricci and remarks from the Honorable David R. Carr with closing remarks from Past State President Tim Kelly. The Memorial Ceremony immediately followed the opening Ceremony. During the Memorial Ceremony, Ninety (90) Past Exalted Rulers who passed away from 2022-2023 were remembered. The ceremony featured a Lighting of Candles, an Invocation and Benediction from Past state President Jamie Peace, the Eleven O'clock Toast by District Deputy Stephen Dorsey of Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161, a Necrology by State Secretary Rena Bott and Past State President Barry Griffith, a General Eulogy by Past District Deputy Tania DeFrank of Liberty Lodge #1545 and a Eulogy for Past State Presidents Martin I. Rosenthal delivered by Martin I, Rosenthal Jr. Two musical selections "Amazing Grace" and "Let There Be Peace on Earth" were song by Past District Deputy Mark Stuparich of New York Lodge #1,

On Friday morning, May 19th, State President Cam Ricci called the Opening Business session to order. An Invocation was provided by Past State President Jamie Peace, the Pledge of Allegiance by State Trustee Fritz Allen of Camillus Lodge #2367 and the National Anthem was song by Past District Deputy Mark Stuparich of New York Lodge #1. State President Ricci then introduced the Advisory Board members in attendance followed by remarks from Past Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr. This was followed by reports from the different committee chairs. Each outgoing Chair was presented a Recognition Award. Following the committee reports, there were nominations for State Vice Presidents, Trustees and State President. Kevin Connelly of Pearl River Lodge #2041 was elected as State President for the 2023-2024 fraternal year and shortly thereafter provided his introductory speech. The convention featured workshops on Friday and Saturday that were well attended by Association members. Workshop included National Veterans Service, Government Relations/CONPOR, Community and Lodge Activities, Drug Awareness, Membership/Membership Retention (featuring Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing Manager Rick Gathen), Elks National Foundation, Youth Activities/Soccer, Scholarship and Emergency Grants, Americanism/Flag Day, Empire State Elk/Public Relations/Internet-Website, Major Projects, Camp Bristol, Accident Prevention/Insurance and a Secretaries and Business Practices/Treasurers workshop.

During the convention workshop and business session, numerous members and Lodges were recognized with awards for the 2022-2023 fraternal year. Significant Awards were presented to; Past District Deputy Roy Henry of Herkimer Lodge #1439—CP Person of the Year, Vicki Brown of Ballston Spa Lodge #2619 —Irene Pashley Memorial Major Project Award; Herb Flint of Johnson City Lodge #2821 —Veterans Volunteer of the Year, Joe D'Angelo (East District) and Brian Diaz (South District—Major Project State Vice President Awards. The Haverstraw #877 Ladies Group was recognized for having the largest ladies donation and over per capita awards were presented to Clifton-Park Lodge #2466 (\$5000 over per capita), Rensselaer Lodge #2073 (over \$6000 per capita) and Liverpool Lodge #2348 (over \$7000 per capita). First Place NYSEA All American Lodge Awards were presented to Ken Ton Lodge #1942 (Division 1), Scotia-Glenville Lodge #2759 (Division II), Southampton Lodge #1574 (Division III), Keeseville Lodge #2072 (Division IV), Rensselaer Lodge #2073 (Division VI and Vestal Lodge #2508 (Division VI). Past State President Rick Wunder was recognized for his long term as Camp Bristol Advisory Board Member.

The Spring 2023 convention concluded with a Gala State Banquet and closing ceremonies that included the Installation of State Officers, including Kevin Connelly as new State President for 2023-2024; Renee Bott of Cohoes-Waterford Lodge 1317 as State Secretary, Chris Maddock of Lyons Lodge #869 as State Treasurer, Michael Manahan of Penn Yann Lodge #1722 as Sergeant—At—Arms and Raymond Slingerland of Rotterdam #2157 as Tiler. The following were installed as State Vice Presidents; Clifford Gillis (Mohawk Valley), Therese R. Rosavitch (East), Denisha Goodman (East Central), Steven Brawitsch (Hudson Valley, Jason Lloyd (Colonial), Joan Carlo (North Central), Ronald Barner (North Hudson), Mary A. Bielby (Central), Jay Singer (South), Paula Holowacz Decker (South Central), Preston Perry (Southern Tier), Patricia Lennox (State Capital), Susan M. Griffith (West) and Rob Taylor (West Central).



Past District Deputy **Roy Henry** of Herkimer Lodge #1439 is the recipient of the 2022-2023 CP Person of the Year Award. The award was presented during the closing Business Session at the Spring Convention. Roy Henry is pictured accepting his award from Major Projects Chair David Brown, Major Projects Board of Directors Chairperson Jamie Peace, NYSEA President Cam Ricci and Major Project Ambassador Charles Dieteman.



Past District Deputy **Vicki Brown** of Ballston Spa Lodge #2619 is the 2022-2023 recipient of the Major Projects Irene Pashley Memorial Award. She is pictured receiving the award from Major Projects Board of Directors Chair Jamie Peace.



Herbert J. Flint Jr., of Johnson City Lodge #2821 is the recipient of the 2022-2023 Elks National Veterans Service Volunteer Award. He is pictured receiving the award for Past State President Phil Holowacz and National Veterans Services Chair Justine Crowley Duncan.



Past State President **Rick Wunder** was recognized for his commitment as a Camp Bristol Development Committee Member. He is pictured receiving a recognition plaque and congratulations for his efforts as a Camp Bristol Committee member and Chair from Past State President and Camp Bristol Committee Chair Michael Bloss.

National Veterans Chair **Christine Crowley Duncan** set up a Memorial Display during the Spring Convention at the Villa Roma. The display was visited by numerous members that were in attendance throughout the weekend. Many members visited several times and remembered and shared memories of many of our fallen New York hero's. The display was also visited by family members. (Pictures to the right and below)





NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION SPRING CONVENTION 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



State President Kevin Connolly Installation Speech

GER Hidley, PGER Carr, Members of the Advisory Committee, fellow Elks, friends and family: I accept with humility the honor which has just been conferred upon me. I accept it with a resolve to do all that I can for the welfare of the New York State Elks Association and of the great Order of which we are a part.

In performing the duties of my office, I need the help and the prayers of every one of you. I ask for your encouragement and for your support. The tasks that many of our Lodge's face are difficult. We can best accomplish them by working together.

Each period of our history has had its special challenges. Those that confront us now are as considerable as any in the past. Today marks the beginning not only of a new set of officers, but of a period that will be eventful, and perhaps decisive, for us. Today, as I stand before you, I make the promise that I'm here to support the Elks that do the work that make Elks great.

My motto for this year is – Elks...Feel the Energy! Let me share what it means.

When I joined the Elks, I received a bizarre admonition from a cynical member, who, in retrospect, was probably feeling left out. I'll share that with you, *"the faults of our members we write in concrete, their virtues we dump in the sand"*. What that statement did was alert me to the battle of attrition that we must all resist.

Since hearing that, I've always held the belief that when you belong to an organization like the Elks, it's important to check your ego at the door. Embrace compassion and, when it comes to matters of the Lodge, never put yourself ahead of the Lodge.

Yesterday, you heard my father recall the time when he installed a punching bag in the basement of our family home. That punching bag became a metaphor for the fighting spirit he installed in me from that day forward. What makes me tick is I'm a fighter, and I will fight for you with every breath in my body, and I will never, ever give up.

Tonight, we stand at the birth of a new era for Elks; for we have begun to grow this Order and this Association again. It's a time to let pride in our achievements stir our love for the Order of Elks. It's a time to remember that, as Americans, we all enjoy the same freedoms, and we all salute the same American Flag. And whether you were born in the south Bronx or the Southern Tier, in the Adirondack mountains or the shores of Long Island, in Brooklyn, Binghamton or Buffalo, as Elks, we hold dear the Cardinal Principles of our Order – Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity!

Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, Fidelity: these four respected words dictate what we ought to be, what we can be, what we will be. They bind us together as Elks. They are what we have, and they are all that we need! They encourage us to work together.

When we work together, we succeed. Inside this Association are many fine examples of working together. Service up to the highest level in our Order; Scholarships and activities for youth; service and assistance to Veterans; our amazing Major Projects Corporation and much, much more. Let's have a show of appreciation for all the volunteers that make the NYS Elks Association what it has become. I encourage every member here tonight to be involved in the success of their Lodge, the NYSEA and of the BPOE.

Every Lodge is unique and special – local lodges make things happen. Strong Lodges make a strong state association.

In the words of the Leading Knight, *"...the influence of a good deed, honestly and promptly performed, lasts forever..."* As we turn our thoughts to Membership and Lapsation, in other words - giving encouragement to each other to invite new members and their families into the 'living rooms' of our Lodges; and, as importantly, to encourage each other in the work of the Order and of the State Association. When we do these 2 things, we connect 2 of the most important things we do as Elks – Charity and good deeds. Invite them in – get them involved. By eliminating the disconnect we move ahead. Simple, but effective.

Growing up, you might imagine that I had a few challenges to overcome. You might also say that I came up through the College of Hard Knocks. As I matured, I grew to understand what it takes to endure and persevere.

For this reason alone, and others which I'll share in the future, I am deeply committed to our Major Projects – it's important because helping others is a tenant of the Elks. When you help others, you feel good about yourself. When you help others, it changes lives for the better – it gives purpose & meaning, a hand-up. You pay it forward; and the benefits multiply many times over. Let's keep this important work at the front and center of all that we do together! **ELKS FEEL THE ENERGY!**

I have always loved the Fellowship enjoyed by all Elks. I could share my sense of humor, self-deprecating, I can laugh at myself & I don't take myself too seriously. These past 3 years the world has changed – let's be enthusiastic about bringing the fun back; get back to doing what we're good at. Let's use the kind word – say thank you – before the harsh word. Always remembering that our actions speak louder than our words.

The BPOE and America itself were built not by people who relied on someone else to take care of them. They were built by American citizens who took charge of their own lives and had the courage to forge ahead with a sense of fairness. They did it with an unbeatable determination and enough boldness to take the necessary risks. Some would call this resourcefulness, individual enterprise, or backbone; whatever it may be called, that self-reliance is what characterizes Americans as Americans.

As we return to our Lodges and prepare for Flag Day, let's remember that it is our privilege to assert our American Patriotism and inspire it in others. Let it be visible in a way that encourages the next generation of leaders!

Thank you for the honor of serving you as President of the Association. May God bless the NYSEA and the Order of Elks; and may God bless the United States of America!



Kevin Connolly of Pearl River Lodge #2044 is pictured at the Spring Convention at the Villa Roma Resort as he is being escorted to the Dias by Past State President Anthony Gilberti and Past State President Phil Conaty after being elected and announced as New York State Elks Association President for the 2023-2024 Fraternal Year.



State President elect **Kevin Connolly** is pictured as he delivered his acceptance speech during the Spring Convention Business session at the Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon, New York. Pictured proudly looking on is Past State President Anthony Gilberti.

“Elks... Feel the Energy”



NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION SPRING CONVENTION 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Past State Presidents **Dan Capella** (Central District), **Paul A. Galameau** (State Capital District), **Donald Fischer** (Southern Tier District) and **Anthony Gilberti** (South District) are pictured as they await the opening of the Memorial Service at the Spring Convention. Also pictured is 2022-2023 State President **Cam Ricci** (Mohawk Valley District).



Edward Zuzick Jr. of Mechanicville-Stillwater Lodge #1403 served as New York State Elks Association Soccer Shoot Chairman from 2020-2023. He is pictured receiving a plaque of appreciation for his service as Soccer Shoot chair from Past State President Paul A. Galameau.



Sheila O'Connor of Camillus Lodge #31 served as the New York State association Sgt-At-Arms during the 2022-2-23 Fraternal Year. She is pictured receiving a plaque of Appreciation for her service from State President Cam Ricci.



Fritz Allen of Auburn Lodge #474 served as a New York State Elks Association State Trustee for the Ontario and Central District from 2020-2023. He is pictured receiving a plaque of appreciation for his service as a State Trustee from Past State President Dan Capella and State President Cam Ricci.



John Lawless of Haverstraw Lodge #877 served as Elks Memorial Service Chairman from 2019-2023. He is pictured receiving a plaque of appreciation for his service from Past State President Dan Capella and State President Cam Ricci.



James Kenny of Pearl River Lodge #2041 served as a New York State Elks Association Trustee for the South District from 2018-2023. He is pictured receiving a plaque of appreciation for his service from Past State President Tony Gilberti and State President Cam Ricci



Jeff Drake of Wolcott Lodge #1763 served as the New York State Drug Awareness Chairman from 2014-2023. He is pictured receiving a plaque of appreciation for his long term service as Drug Awareness Chairman from past State President Richard Wunder and State President Cam Ricci.



William Hayes served the New York State elks Association as State Tiler during the 2022-2023 fraternal year. He is pictured receiving a plaque of appreciation for his service as State Tiler from State President Cam Ricci.

“Elks...Feel the Energy”



NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION SPRING CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY





NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION SPRING CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY





**NEW YORK ELK ASSOCIATION
MAJOR PROJECT
PER CAPITA AWARDS 2022-2023**



Major Project Per Capita Awards for the Fraternal year 2022-2023 were awarded at the Spring Convention. Lodge, Group and Individual Awards were presented during the Major Project Workshop. Some of the many awards presented are illustrated on this and the following page. Major Project Ambassador Charles Dietzman, State President Cam Ricci and Major Projects Board Chairman Jamie Peace presented the awards.



New York Lodge #1—\$10 per capita.



Port Jefferson Lodge #2138—\$10 per capita



Glens Falls #81—\$10 per capita



Whitehall Lodge #1491—\$10 per capita



Brewster Lodge #2101—\$10 per capita



Monticello Lodge #1544—\$10 per capita



Herkimer Lodge #1439—\$10 per capita



Greenwich Lodge #2223—\$10 per capita





**NEW YORK ELKS ASSOCIATION
MAJOR PROJECT
PER CAPITA AWARDS 2022-2023**



Kinderhook Lodge #2530—\$10 per capita.



Horseheads Lodge #2297—\$10 per capita



Olean Lodge #491—\$10 per capita



Rotterdam Lodge #2157—\$10 per capita



Camillus Lodge #31—\$15 per capita



Fulton Lodge #830—\$15 per capita



Liverpool Lodge #2348—\$15 per capita



Saratoga Wilton Lodge #161—\$10 per capita





**NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION
STATE VICE PRESIDENTS**



**CLIFFORD GILLIS
AMSTERDAM #101
MOHAWK VALLEY DISTRICT**



**THERESE R. ROSAVITCH
PATCHOGUE #1323
EAST DISTRICT**



**DENISHA GOODMAN
KINGSTON #550
EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT**



**STEVEN BRAWITSCH
YORKTOWN #2324
HUDSON VALLEY DISTRICT**



**JASON LLOYD
GREENWICH #2223
COLONIAL DISTRICT**



**JOAN CARLO
WATERTOWN #496
NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT**



**RONALD BARNER
RENSSELAER #2073
NORTH HUDSON DISTRICT**



**MARY A. BIELBY
ROME #96
CENTRAL DISTRICT**

“Elks...Feel the Energy”



NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION STATE VICE PRESIDENTS



JAY SINGER
MID-WESTCHESTER #535
SOUTH DISTRICT



PAULA HOLOWACZ DECKER
SIDNEY #2175
SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT



PRESTON PERRY
HORSEHEADS #2297
SOUTHERN TIER DISTRICT



PATRICIA LENNOX
ALBANY #49
STATE CAPITAL DISTRICT



SUSAN M. GRIFFITH
LOCKPORT #41
WEST DISTRICT



ROD TAYLOR
CANANDAIGUA #1844
WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT



Ronald Piga (Hudson Valley, Merrill Connor (East Central), Mark Whitney (Colonial), Charles Pemburn (State Capital), Gary Millard (North Central) and Tim Sayers (South Central) are pictured at the Spring Convention. Minutes later, they were sworn on as State Vice President for their home District.

William Mellan Jr. (Hudson Lodge #787) and Joseph D'Angelo (Islip Lodge # 2533) are pictured as they are sworn in as a State Vice President at the spring Convention. William will represent the North Hudson District and Joseph will represent the East District.

“Elks...Feel the Energy”

Camp Bristol Update



VOL. 1 ISSUE 3
AUGUST 2023

SPRUCE NEWS

Official Newsletter of NYS Elks Camp Bristol



Golf Tournament

On Saturday September 30th, Camp Bristol will host it's 5th annual golf tournament to be held at Greenview Country Club in West Monroe, NY. Golf is \$80 per person and includes golf, skins, cart, lunch at the turn, dinner at Camp Bristol and prizes. The tournament begins at 10am with a shotgun start. Sponsorship opportunities include a \$100 hole/tee sponsorship, a \$300 lunch sponsorship and a \$500 dinner sponsorship. For more information, please contact Scott Hirst at 315.804.3512.

Memorial Wall

The memorial wall located just outside of Spruce Lodge has been growing over the years thanks to the 'Buy-a-Brick' program and all the generosity of donors across the state. Recently, a bluestone centerpiece and banner were added. The banner is engraved with 'Elks Care Elks Share' and the central stone is engraved with the symbol of our Order as well as 'Fun Through Participation'. This phrase was the motto of Past State President, Kevin M. Bristol and is a fitting motto for camp goers and members.

Veteran's Programs

While we were looking forward to hosting the 3rd annual Wounded Warriors Campfest, the WW organization has decided to temporarily suspend the program. We look forward to continuing with our own Veteran's camping opportunities. Our coordination of these events will better serve our members in easing the participation requirements. We have begun discussions and will be available at the Fall Conference for any member who may be interested in joining or assisting with these programs.

Family Fun Day

Also on Saturday September 30th, Camp Bristol will host it's 2nd annual Open House & Family Fun Day. The event will take place at Camp from 11am-3pm with a lunch of hamburgers & hotdogs served at 12:30pm. Youth activities will be organized and run by our camp staff. Additional activities include a fishing derby, cornhole, camp crafts, tours, S'mores and more! Come by anytime between the hours of 11am-3pm and see what camp is all about. We look forward to hosting our members and their families!



To Sign Up For Our
Newsletter & More...

Camp Rentals!
Youth Camping!
Getting Involved!



OR VISIT:
NYELKSCAMPBRISTOL.ORG

Camp Bristol Update

Sponsorship Opportunities for the 5th Annual
New York Elks Camp Bristol

GOLF Tournament

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

10:00AM Shotgun Start
Greenview CC, 20 Whig Rd., West Monroe, NY 13167

Sponsorship Opportunities



- ___ \$100 Hole/Tee Sponsorship
- ___ \$300 Lunch Sponsorship
- ___ \$500 Dinner Sponsorship

For more information:
Scott Hirst
315.804.3512

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

Please Make Checks Out To:
New York Elks Camp Bristol
If You Have a Logo, email to:
mbloss.cp2466@gmail.com

JOIN US FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL
NEW YORK ELKS CAMP BRISTOL

GOLF Tournament

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

10:00AM Shotgun Start
Greenview CC, 20 Whig Rd., West Monroe, NY 13167



\$320/foursome includes:
golf, skins, cart, lunch at the
turn, dinner at Camp Bristol,
and prizes.

Team Captain: _____ Player #3: _____
Team Captain Phone: _____
Player #2: _____ Player #4: _____

For more information:
Scott Hirst
315.804.3512

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

Please Make Checks Out To:
New York Elks Camp Bristol

Camp Bristol Open House & Family Fun Day!

Saturday, 9/30/23 11am-3pm
54 Elks Way West Monroe, NY 13167
Come See What It's All About!

Lunch of hamburgers, hotdogs & sides will be served at 12:30pm



Activities For All Include:

Youth games & activities with camp staff
Fishing Derby
Cornhole, Bumper Pool, Ping Pong
Kayaking
Camp Crafts
Camp Tours, S'mores & More!

RSVP's & Volunteers
Welcome!

Please email
elbristol@gmail.com or
Call/Text (315)625-8145



GRAND LODGE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



Minneapolis, Minnesota

The 158th Grand Lodge Session of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was held July 2, 2023—July 5, 2023 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The 159th Grand Lodge Convention is scheduled for July 2nd—July 5th, 2023 in Austin, Texas. This years convention activities began with a State Association Breakfast on Sunday morning, July 2nd, 2023 and was well attended by New York State Elks Association members and Grand Lodge guests. Past State President Tim Kelly served as the Master of Ceremonies. Grand Lodge Chaplain, Father Christopher Ford, provided a benediction. Following an introduction by State President Kevin Connolly, Past Grand Exalted David R. Carr introduced Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley and First Lady Helen. Grand Exalted Ruler Hidley thanked the NYSEA Elks for their support and for the cards and thoughts that helped him get through his illness, stating the members “Helped in a way we will never, ever forget”. He also thanked Past Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr and his wife Penny, along with Past Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Zellen and his wife Donna, for their support and love. Past Grand Exalted Ruler Hidley concluded his speech by stating “New York State Elks, you are the best”. Past Grand Exalted Ruler Carr introduced the Grand Lodge members and special guests in attendance that included Past Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Zellen, Father Christopher Ford, Chief Justice Francis Olivieri, Pardon Commission member Robert Vancampen, Special Deputy Leo Blanchette, Auditing Committee Chair William Chinn, Special Deputy Andrew Constantine, Grand Lodge Fraternal committee member Mark Eaton, and Public Relations committee member Craig Shurtleff. Judiciary Committee member Alan H. Sunukjian of Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317 was introduced as the Aide to Grand Exalted Ruler Hidley. Following the introduction of Grand Lodge members, State Association President Kevin Connolly introduced the State Association dignitaries in attendance. The Opening Ceremony was held the afternoon of Sunday, July 3rd. During the opening ceremony, Past Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr and his wife Penny were introduced along with other Past Grand Exalted Rulers and their spouses that were in attendance. State President Kevin Connolly had the distinct honor of carrying and presenting the New York State Flag during the flag presentation ceremony. Special guest and National Hoop Shoot Champion Thomas Goodelle, representing Utica Lodge #33, was introduced by Makenna Cannon, Youth Programs Manager. Prior to the opening ceremony, Thomas greeted members at the Elks Hoop Shoot display and signed autographs. Thomas was also mentioned in a “Resolution of Appreciation” for being a Getty Powell winner in the Tuesday, July 4, 2023 Grand Lodge Convention Newsletter.

Our State Association had several highlights during the convention. Past State President and Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley of Watervliet-Colonie Lodge #1500 presided over the business sessions. And in one of his final public appearances as the Grand Exalted Ruler, Bruce Hidley had the honor of throwing out the first pitch at the Twins vs. Royals game on Tuesday, July 3, 2023. Past Exalted Ruler Edgar Manwaring of Oswego Lodge #271 once again served as Session Coordinator. This marked his 32 year of service at a Grand Lodge convention. Grand Lodge recognition Awards included Justin Jones, representing Port Jervis Lodge #645, who took second place honors in the sixth grade American Essay Contest (theme was “What is your American Dream”), the NYSEA Major Project Booth earned a Five Star Award at the convention. Ken Ton Lodge #1942 earned a Five Star Award in the Grand Lodge Website Contest while Oswego Lodge #271 and Scotia-Glenville Lodge #2759 achieved a Four Star Award and Camillus Lodge #2367, Rensselaer Lodge #2073 and Southampton Lodge #1574 earned Three Star Awards. In the All American Lodge contest, Rensselaer Lodge #2073 earned All American Lodge Honors in Division V, while Gouverneur Lodge #2035 (Division III), Beacon Lodge #1493 (Division IV) and Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161 (Division V) were top ten finalist in the All American Lodge contest. Carthage Lodge #1762 represented the NYSEA in the National Ritual Contest and posted a very competitive score of 96.7709 to finish third in the Eastern Division. Carthage Lodge team member Kody Heukrath earned All American honors as Inner Guard and Tyler Clemons took national third place honors in the Ritual Flag Charge contest. Past Exalted Ruler Gregory Collins of Rensselaer Lodge #2073 was recognized during the Grand Lodge Membership presentation as the top proposer in Area One with 52 new members. During the closing session on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, newly installed Grand Exalted Ruler Randy P. Shook installed the following NYSEA members as a District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler: Conrad Dowhaniak (Mohawk Valley District), Richard J. Milhaven (East District), Joseph P. Maxwell (East Central District), Atilano Rivera (Hudson Valley District), Jeffery P. Lamountain (Colonial District), Adam J. Fuller (North Central District), John Piddock (North Hudson District), Jay Mason (Central District), Brian Steckler (South District), Timothy J. Sayers (South Central District), Steve M. Crozier (Southern Tier District), Eric R. Shevy (Sate Capital District), Bernard Payne (West District) and Edward R. Baxter (West Central District).

In addition to Past Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr, Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley and State President Kevin Connolly, and State Secretary Renee Bott, several NYSEA Dignitaries attended the Grand Lodge Conventions. They were; Past State Presidents Tim Kelly, Tony Gilberti, William Reedy, Paul A. Galarneau, Jamie Peace, Michael Bloss, Jerry Shook, Barry Griffith, Cam Ricci, Dan Capella and Stu Rishe. State Chairs attending included Empire State Elk Editor/Chair Tim Welpé, Community Activities Chair Jamie Sisson, Lodge Activities Chair Tania DeFrank, Membership Chair Jeffery Largeteau, Public Relations Chair Michael Jones, State Convention Director Edgar Manwaring, Internet/Electronic Media Chair Mel Oliveria, Elks National Foundation Chair Howard Nesbit, Major Project Chair David Brown, National Veteran’s Service Chair Justine Crowley-Duncan, Ritual Chair Brian Scott, Scholarship Chair Jay Mason, Scholarship/Emergency Grants Chair Colleen Quackenbush, Drug Awareness Chair Peter Lazier, and Grand Lodge Housing Director Tony Thanopoulos. A special thank you is extended to our Grand Lodge Convention Committee members for their efforts prior to the convention and for again organizing a very successful Hospitality Room during the convention. They are: Past State President Tony Gilberti, GL Housing Director Tony Thanopoulos, Past State President Tim Kelly, and Past District Deputy John Blais. And a special thank you to Helen Blais and Mary Gilberti for their assistance with the Hospitality Room



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



Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley of Watervliet-Colonie Lodge #1500 and First Lady Helen Hidley are pictured as they are introduced to the members during the opening ceremony at the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



GRAND LODGE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



Thomas Goodelle, representing Utica New York Lodge #33 and **Morgan Miehle**, representing Wheeling MV Lodge #28, were the 2022-2023 National Hoop Shoot Getty Powell Award winners. They earned the Getty Powell Awards for having the best overall performances at the National finals in the boys and girls divisions. As Getty Powell winners, they and their families had the opportunity to attend the Grand Lodge Opening Ceremony as honored guests. Prior to the opening ceremony, Thomas and Morgan greeted Elk members at the Hoop Shoot Booth and signed photo cards and had pictures taken with numerous Elks that visited the Hoop Shoot booth that day. They are pictured with Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley following the Opening Ceremony.



Exalted Ruler **Tyler Clemons** of Carthage Lodge #1762 participated in the National Ritualistic Flag Charge Contest. Tyler achieved 3rd place honors at the contest. Tyler is pictured receiving his National 3rd place award during the closing business session. Tyler took top honors at the NYSEA Ritual Contest to earn an opportunity to compete at the national contest.



Grand exalted Ruler **Bruce A. Hidley** is pictured with National Hoop Shoot Champions and Getty Powell Award winners **Thomas Goodelle** and **Morgan Miehle** and their families following the Grand Lodge Opening Ceremony in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Kody Heukrath of Carthage Lodge #1762 achieved All American honors as Inner Guard in the Eastern Division. He is pictured receiving his All American Award from Area 1 Ritual Committee member Bruce Brunelle during the closing business session.



Grand Exalted Ruler **Bruce A. Hidley** and NYSEA President **Kevin Connolly** are pictured at the Grand Lodge Convention Hall prior to the Opening Ceremony in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A short time later, State President Connolly had the honor of showcasing the New York State Flag during the presentation of state flags.



State Associations that achieved a significant increase in membership were recognized during the Membership and Retention presentation at the closing business session. New York State Elks Association Membership Chair **Jeffery Largeteau** of Esperance Lodge #2507 and Past State President **Cam Ricci** of Herkimer Lodge #1439 are pictured as they proudly accepted a Grand Lodge Membership Award on behalf of the New York State Elks Association.



At the State Association breakfast on Sunday, July 2, 2023, **Watervliet-Colonie Lodge #1500** gifted Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley with a gavel to be used during a business session. PDD Ed Rice presented the gift on behalf of the Lodge. (Picture above). Grand Exalted Ruler Hidley later used the gavel during the closing business session. (Picture above).



GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



Minneapolis, Minnesota

Major Project Booth





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



Minneapolis, Minnesota

Major Project Booth



REMEMBER

New York State Elks Association • Past Major Project Ambassador

Joseph Cali • 2010-2013

AND NOW

Joseph Cali

Joseph Cali is now a 28 year old young man. Joseph served as Major Project Ambassador from 2010-2013. He was very young, but he was very dedicated and very hard working. He was very young, but he was very dedicated and very hard working. He was very young, but he was very dedicated and very hard working.

REMEMBER

New York State Elks Association • Past Major Project Ambassador





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



Minneapolis, Minnesota State Association Breakfast





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



Minneapolis, Minnesota State Association Breakfast





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



Minneapolis, Minnesota State Association Breakfast





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



Minneapolis, Minnesota State Association Breakfast





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



Minneapolis, Minnesota

State Association Breakfast





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



Minneapolis, Minnesota

Business Sessions





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



Minneapolis, Minnesota

Business Sessions





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



Minneapolis, Minnesota

Business Sessions





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



Minneapolis, Minnesota

Business Sessions





GRAND LODGE CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY



Minneapolis, Minnesota State Association Breakfast





**NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION
DISTRICT DEPUTIES**



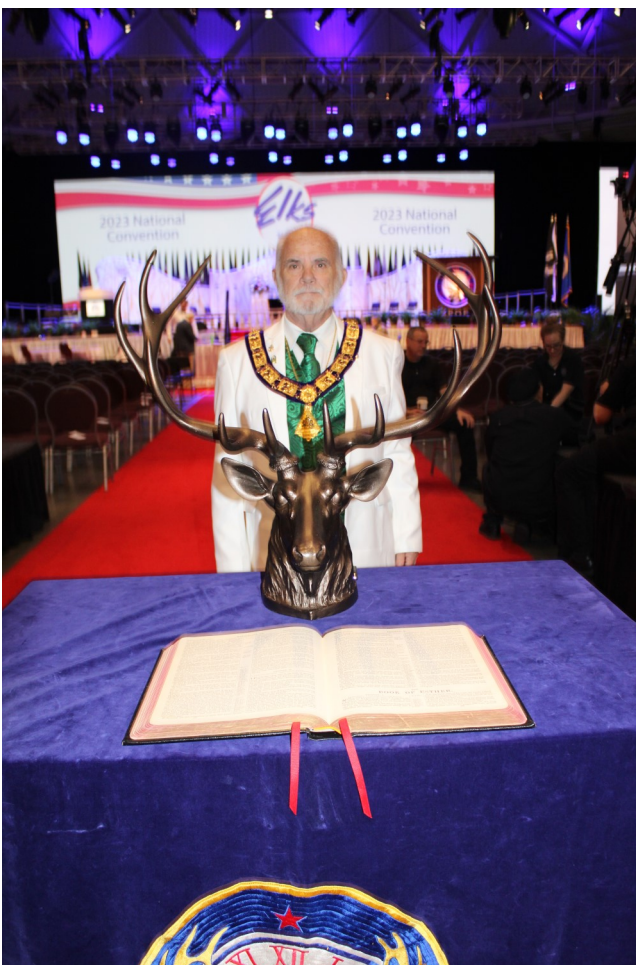
**ATILANO RIVERA
BEACON #1493
HUDSON VALLEY DISTRICT**



**JOSEPH MAXWELL
LIBERTY #1545
EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT**



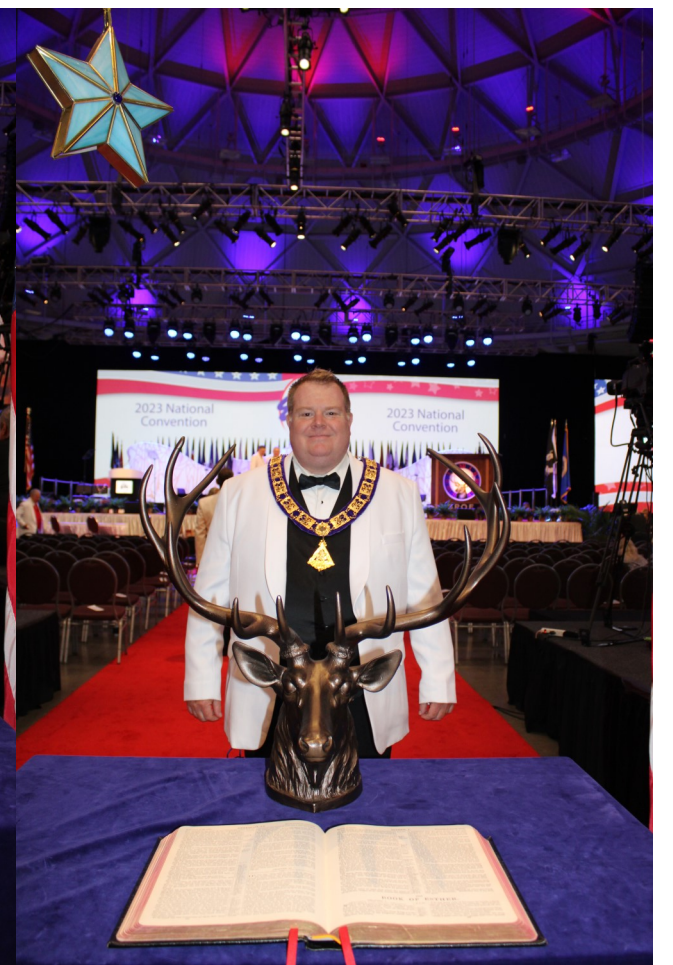
**STEVE CROZIER
HORSEHEADS #2297
SOUTHERN TIER DISTRICT**



**CONRAD DOWHANIAK
HERKIMER #1439
MOHAWK VALLEY DISTRICT**



**EDWARD BAXTER JR.
ROCHESTER #24
WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT**



**ADAM J. FULLER
CARTHAGE #1762
NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT**



**RICHARD J. MILHAVEN
MASSAPEQUA #2162
EAST DISTRICT**



**JOHN PIDDOCK
KINDERHOOK #2530
NORTH HUDSON DISTRICT**



**JEFFERY LAMOUNTAIN
KEESEVILLE #2072
COLONIAL DISTRICT**

“We Are THE Elks”



NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION DISTRICT DEPUTIES



JAY MASON
CAMILLUS #31
CENTRAL DISTRICT



TIMOTHY J. SAYERS
OWEGO #1039
SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT



BERNARD R. PAYNE JR.
DUNKIRK #922
WEST DISTRICT



BRIAN STECKLER
NEW YORK #1
SOUTH DISTRICT



ERIC R. SHEVY
WATERVLIET-COLONIE #1500
STATE CAPITAL DISTRICT



RANDY P. SHOOK
LAWRENCEBURG #2206
GRAND EXALTED RULER



NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION RITUAL CONTEST 2023

CARTHAGE LODGE #1762 TOOK TOP HONORS AT THE 2023 STATE RITUAL CONTEST, FINISHES THIRD IN EASTERN DIVISION PRELIMINARY ROUND, HEUKRATH ACHIEVES ALL AMERICAN AS INNERGUARD, CLEMONS EARNS NATIONAL AWARD IN THE FLAG CHARGE CONTEST

The NYSEA 2023 Ritual Contest was hosted by Rotterdam Lodge # 2157 on Saturday, April 29, 2023. There were two Lodges and three District teams competing for state honors with the winner of the Lodge team advancing to compete in the Grand Lodge contest. With the team score of 96.5200, Carthage Lodge # 1762 won over Watervliet-Colonie Lodge # 1500 and represented the New York State in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the site of the Grand Lodge convention that was held in July of this year.

Individual winners in the Lodge contest were:

Inner Guard: Kody Heukrath PER Carthage Lodge # 1762

Chaplain: Brendan Dooley of Carthage Lodge # 1762

Lecturing Knight: Michael Rohr of Carthage Lodge # 1762

Loyal Knight: Jason Hancock of Carthage Lodge # 1762

Leading Knight: Andrew Smith of Carthage Lodge # 1762

Esquire: Robert Sligar of Carthage Lodge but due to being a repeat, that award went to Eric Shevy PER Watervliet-Colonie Lodge # 1500.

Exalted Ruler: Tyler Clemons of Carthage Lodge # 1762

Coach: NYSEA Ritual Chairman Brian Scott PDDGER from Carthage Lodge # 1762

Candidate: PSVP Patricia Gardner of Watervliet-Colonie Lodge # 1500

This year, there were three District teams that competed for state honors. North Central District # 6240, Hudson Valley District # 6180 and Colonial District # 6200. The North Central District team won that honor with a team score of 95.0299 with Hudson Valley District becoming the runner-up with a team score of 92.4593. Colonial District had a team score of 90.7787.

Individual winners for the District contest were:

Inner Guard: Eric Luther from North Central District # 6240 (member Carthage Lodge # 1762)

Chaplain: Dan Shannon of North Central District # 6240 (PER Lowville Lodge # 1605)

Lecturing Knight: Dennis Brady of North Central District # 6240 (PER Watertown Lodge # 496)

Loyal Knight: Tom Forsythe of Hudson Valley District # 6180

Leading Knight: Jeremy Thesier of North Central District # 6240 (PER Carthage Lodge # 1762).

Esquire: Brittney Doyle of North Central District # 6240 (Lowville Lodge # 1605)

Exalted Ruler: Ron Rockwood of North Central District # 6240 PDDGER from Carthage Lodge # 1762

Candidate: Gary Millard, SVP of North Central District # 6240 (Lowville Lodge # 1605)

Coach: Brian Scott PDDGER from Carthage Lodge # 1762

Carthage Lodge # 1762's Tyler Clemons won both the Charles I. Noonan 11th Hour Toast and the Flag Charge Presentation contests.



The **Carthage Lodge #1762** Ritual Team is pictured following their performance at the 2023 Grand Lodge Ritual contest in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Carthage Lodge #1762 team members included Inner Guard Kody Heukrath, Chaplain Brendan Dooley, Loyal Knight Andrew Smith, Esquire Robert Sligar, Inner Guard Brian Scott, Lecturing Knight Ron Rockwood and Exalted Ruler Tyler Clemons. Connor Ashlaw was the Candidate. The Carthage Ritual Team Coach was New York State Ritual Chair 31 Brian Scott..