

EMPIRE STATE ELK

Official Publication of the New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc.
Fall 2024 Issue



STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tania DeFrank
2024-2025
"Elks-United in Service"

My greetings to each and every New York State Elk! Marren and I wish you a wonderful holiday season and may your new year be blessed with good health, peace and happiness.

What an amazing year so far! I have visited 87 of 116 lodges at the time of writing my message and 7 more upcoming in December in the South District. I have been amazed in every district by the dedication of each officer and member. It is both enlightening and humbling to see the extent of the impact of Elks in our communities. I have had experiences that I will never forget and will cherish always. I thank you for the opportunity to meet with you all, it has been completely my honor. Meeting Elks in 'their own back yard' never fails to amaze me. Seeing the pride in your own lodges is inspirational.

I have seen not only your successes but you have shared your struggles, frustrations and challenges. It has given me an understanding of your concerns. I appreciate your trust in confiding in me. We can and should all learn from each other. Running a lodge is never easy. Those in leadership carry the burden of continued success against some against seemingly insurmountable odds. Many have old money pit buildings, declining membership, members unwilling to take officer positions, not enough volunteers, increasing bills and decreasing revenue and weather-related issues. We all face the same challenges. I know as my own lodge has experienced all of these at some point. Despite this, what about all the reasons we stay committed through and through? Do you see the faces of underprivileged children at your holiday event getting maybe their only gift for the season? Do you see the gratitude of families with food insecurities that we help? And the pride on other Elks faces when we are able to serve our active service members and Veterans? Yes it can be a struggle, but think about where would our communities be without Elks? I thank you all for the sacrifices you make.

As I travel and speak to each lodge I have shared my own personal story of how my pathway led me to be a US citizen, an Elk and now your NYS President. The American way of life, the way of life I chose, inspires me every day. I am grateful that fate led my path from England, coming for summer when I was 18, 38 years ago. I am not US born, but I believe in everything being a US Citizen and what being an Elk means. I will protect the honor of being both as my life's mission. I never knew back then how my life would change and how the impact of a quick decision at 18 for the summer all those years ago has led me to a life that I would never have imagined or dreamed of. Not only do I have a loving and amazing family, I have our Elks family that I am honored to be a part of and I strive every single day to do whatever I can to serve you and enable our organization to continue to flourish and be the force of good in our communities. Our work extends from providing immediate aid and long term help to those in need but also to uplift and empower individuals, to create a lasting legacy of kindness and volunteerism. Whether it's through local youth programs, initiatives for veterans, or other charitable endeavors, the Elks work tirelessly to ensure that New York's communities remain strong and resilient. I am proud to be United in Service with you.

I would like to speak to you about membership. We all know it is our life-blood and we must maintain and grow it to continue our good works and thrive and honor the legacy of those before us. I know when I ask people to join, more often than not, I am told they are too busy. I am sure you have the same responses. So let's try and think about this a little differently. Those folks surely are busy- they could be volunteering already with other organizations or if they have children they likely have them in every sport and activity known to mankind. And we certainly don't want them to sacrifice family, but how about we encourage them to join anyway?

Remind them that we still need dues paying members, it's a small donation to a cause that gives directly to their community. They can also support their lodge by buying a dinner here and there or maybe a raffle ticket. I know we are the few doing the most and it can be frustrating but let's think long term. Those same parents can maybe come for Hoop Shoot and see what the Elks are doing, maybe they can have date night and come have dinner and enjoy the benefits of the lodge. Their children need community service hours and scholarship opportunities. One day their children will spread their wings and the parents will have time on their hands. Maybe 10 years from now or even 20, they will consider a new phase of their life and they already have friends and membership in their local lodge. As frustrating as it can be, not everyone is able to volunteer at every level but we must still welcome them to our order. Your dues paying members of today may well be your officers of tomorrow.

On another note, consider the initiation of members at times other than meeting nights. I know many of us don't want to use up another evening or day but I did hear one compelling argument from GL Membership/Public Relations Manager Rick Gathen that compelled me to start thinking differently. We all know after a long regular business meeting including initiation, many members leave immediately following the meeting. If you have the initiation on a different day, it's a short meeting and then you can encourage your lodge officers and chairpersons to meet and greet the new members immediately after and this will be a time to recruit and welcome them. You can also orientate the candidates the same day, prior to the initiation, so they will be impressed not only by the information received there (don't forget to show them a couple of the great inspirational Grand Lodge You Tube Clips) and then by your Initiation. Thank you to all the lodges that initiated in November and December as part of the President's Challenge. I look forward to the presentations recognizing you at the Spring Convention.

As we have travelled we have taken donations for CP Home Services for card signing and we have been amazed at your generosity and look forward to announcing the final amount raised at the Spring Convention. We also raised money for Marren's charity which is Fearless!Hudson Valley. This is an organization that services my local counties to assist victims of domestic violence and abuse. Unfortunately this organization is overly busy in helping in both emergency situations and helping survivors gain and keep independence. As we have shared this with lodges, the reaction has been overwhelming. I have heard that many have been prior victims or knew someone near or dear to them who have been abused and even killed. I have heard from far too many of the impact of DV and how they now felt safe and loved in the Elks. Just another layer of why I love the Elks and their unending dedication to brotherly love. You are all such very special people. Remember to tell those you love their value and merit every single day.

In closing I thank you for your support, generosity and kindness this year and pray for our continued journey of strengthening our communities.

May God Bless our Troops, God Bless the Elks and God Bless the United States of America.

NYSEA State President Tania DeFrank Upcoming Visitation Schedule

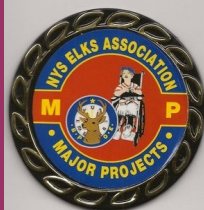
South District	December 13-15, 2024
Central District	February 14-16, 2025
East District	March 14-16, 2025
West District	April 25-27, 2025
Homecoming	May 4, 2025
Spring Convention	May 15-18, 2025



During her more recent visit to the North Central District, State President **Tania DeFrank**, and her travel companions, Ed and Cindy Wilhelm and Denisha Goodman, visited the Fort Drum USO Program. State Present DeFrank had the honor of presenting a \$7,600 donation on behalf of the NYSEA to USO Center Operations Specialist Phoebus Lazaridis and his assistant Chris Page. Chris is a member of Carthage Lodge #1762. The donation funds were made during the Fall Conference basket raffle. Also pictured during the donation presentation are Past State President Stu Rishe and his wife Nancy, Past State President Tim Kelly, District Deputy Bill Schaab, State Vice President Jody Lynn Henry and Past State Vice President Joan Carlo. Present and not pictured was ESE Editor Tim Welpe.



NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION MAJOR PROJECT



**PAST STATE PRESIDENT
JAMIE PEACE
Major Project Message
Fall 2024**

It's hard to believe that summer is over and fall is coming to a close, with the long winter looming ahead.

This past October, I attended the CP State Annual Conference along with State Major Projects Chairman David Brown, New Major Projects Board Member PSP Kevin Connolly, and PGER Bruce Hidley. I was honored to present the CP Person of the Year Award to PSP Kevin Connolly of Pearl River Lodge #2041.

Since 1964, our commitment to our Major Project has been the CP State Home Service Program, and the CP State conference is one of the two times a year that I meet with all of the Home Service Directors. I really wish our members could be in attendance, as our Home Service Directors and their Affiliates can't thank the New York State Major Projects enough. The Home Service Directors expressed that without our continued financial support, they would be unable to provide help and assistance to all the families they serve.

One of the highlights of the CP conference was a video from all the Affiliates and Home Service Directors embracing the commitment for the past 60 years. I hope that our entire membership has the opportunity to watch this very special video. You can find the video on the CP State website (cpstate.org), or on their Facebook page.

We are now over six months into our Major Project giving year. **Thank you** to all our lodges that have made their per capita of \$8 per member. But as you look at the district totals, there are far too many zeros. At this time in our year, every lodge should have made a donation. All Major Project donations that are received with a member's dues payment must be submitted to State Secretary Renee Bott before December 31. This will help ensure that your lodge and district receive the proper credit toward your per capita. Many lodges and districts have held events, and many more events are being planned to help make our annual goal of \$400,000. I would like to remind our membership that all the funds raised for your Major Project per capita go directly toward the CP State Home Service Program.

This is the final year for our current Ambassadors, Charles and Amanda. State Chairman David Brown and his wife, Vicki, will be working with our affiliates to look for Ambassadors and their families for the next three years. If you would like to schedule an ambassador for your event, you are required to make your request through David.

Your donations to the Elks National Foundation help to support all of the programs that fall under the umbrella of the NY Elks Major Projects, Inc. Those include:

- Community Activities
- Americanism
- Disaster Relief
- Drug Awareness
- *Empire State Elk* publication
- Major Project
- Hoop Shoot
- Elks National Foundation
- National Veterans Services
- Public Relations
- Scholarship
- Soccer Shoot
- Youth Activities

To help make sure the Major Projects Home Service program, our Veterans Services program, and our Youth programs are viable for many generations to come, the New York Elks Major Projects Board has begun a Benefactor Program. The idea behind the Benefactor Program is to motivate all Elks, their spouses, and their families and friends, to name the NY Elks Major Projects, Inc., in their will, living trusts, insurance policies, annuities, or similar documents suggested by their financial advisor or attorney.

Giving is encouraged in any amount an individual can afford. The Major Projects Board acknowledges that, for Elks, their priority is to their families. They are asked only to consider donating surplus funds or holdings as a gift of love to the Major Projects. The Benefactor Program is designed to make it easy and affordable for everyone to give. With tax benefits to the donor and immeasurable benefits to our Major Project Home Service program, our Veterans and our Youth.

Will you consider becoming a benefactor today?

Anyone can add a bequest to their will, trust, or insurance policy with a simple sentence such as:

I give the sum of \$ _____ or _____ % to the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc.

I, along with the entire Major Projects Board, would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season, and a tremendous new year.

Jamie Peace, CEO

NY Elks Major Projects, Inc.



During the Major Project workshop at the Fall Conference, **Liverpool Lodge #2348** presented two check donations to support the New York Elks Association Major Project. One donation was in the amount of \$20,000 (Music Fest fundraiser and the other in the amount of \$813 (member contributions). With the donation, Liverpool established a \$28.51 per capita for 2024-2025. Exalted Ruler Dennis Seeber is pictured as he presented the donations on behalf of Liverpool Lodge #2348 to Major Project Chair David Brown and his wife, PDDGER /State Trustee Vickie Brown.



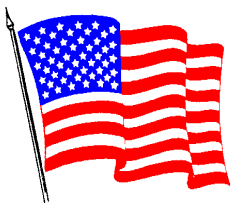
Keeseville Elks #2072 recently conducted a Turkey Raffle, with a portion of the fundraising proceeds being donated to the New York State Elks Association Major Project. Exalted Ruler Edward R. Kirby is pictured presenting a check in the amount of \$2,000 to State Major Project Chair David Brown. With the donation, Keeseville Lodge #2072 has achieved an over \$10 per capita for 2024-2025.



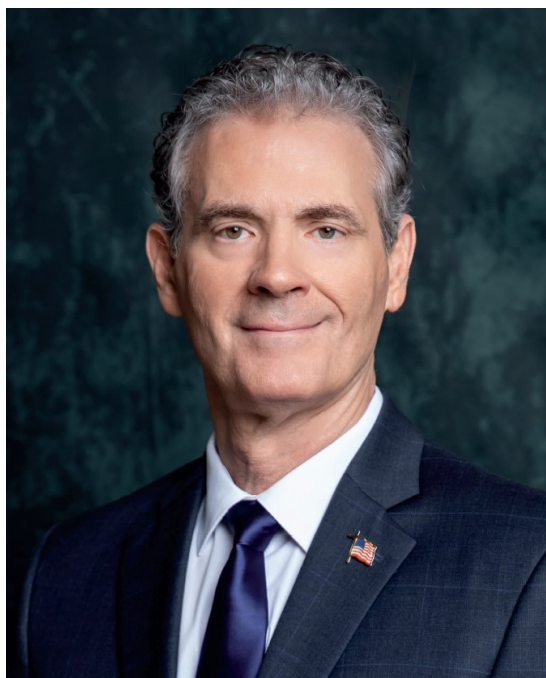
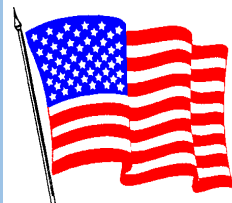
At a recent District Deputy and State Vice President visitation, **Potsdam Lodge #2074** Exalted Ruler Ernie Charlestown announced that Potsdam Lodge has donated \$8,000 in 2024-2025 to support the New York State Elks Association Major Project. He is pictured with North Central District State Vice President Jody Lynn Henry with a check reflecting the total donations. With the donations, Potsdam has established a per capita of 8.98 per member.

MAJOR PROJECT DONATIONS 2024-2025

The state total in donations through November, 2024 is \$237,046.49 with a member per capita of \$5.13. Thank you to everyone for your support of the New York State Major Project.



GRAND EXALTED RULER NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION VISIT



Douglas A. Schiefer
Bucyrus Lodge #156
Ohio
Grand Exalted Ruler
2024— 2025

“Elkdom’s Heart for America”

The New York State Elks Association was honored to have 2024-2025 Grand Exalted Ruler **Douglas A. Schiefer**, of Bucyrus Lodge #156, Ohio, and his wife Julia, as special guests at the Fall Conference in Albany, New York. During his visit, Grand Exalted Ruler Schiefer spoke at both the General Business Session and the Gala State Banquet about his Program and Goals during his year as Grand Exalted Ruler and his theme “Elkdom’s Heart for America”. First Lady Julia Schiefer also spoke at the Gala Banquet. During their visit, Grand Exalted Ruler Schiefer and First Lady Julia greeted and conversed with many of the New York State Association members that attended the Conference. They signed many membership cards, were available for numerous individual and group photos and provided members with their respective pins throughout their weekend visit. Grand Exalted Ruler Schiefer visited and briefly spoke at several workshops, had a business meeting with the District Deputies also visited the hospitality rooms and participated in Karaoke when visiting the East Central hospitality room. He and Julia also had the opportunity to tour the New York State Capitol Building. The New York State Elks Association extends best wishes and safe travels to Grand Exalted Ruler Schiefer and First Lady Julia as they continue their travels.



Grand Exalted Ruler **Douglas A. Schiefer** and **First Lady Julia** are pictured with New York State Elks Association President Tania DeFrank and her husband Marren, Past Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr and his wife Penny, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley and his wife Helen, Area One Judiciary Committee Member Alan H. Sunukjian and Past State President Tony Gilberti and his wife Mary. Following the photo, the group toured the State Capitol Building in Albany, New York.



Following the Gala Banquet and their respective speech presentations, State President Tania DeFrank, Major Project Board Chairman Jamie Peace, Past Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr and Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley presented Grand Exalted Ruler **Douglas A. Schiefer** and **First Lady Julia Schiefer** with a gift on behalf of the New York State Elks Association members. The gift is a Cutco Cutlery Knife Set that is American Made in Olean, New York. They are pictured displaying the knife set following the Gala with State President Tania DeFrank, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley, and his wife Helen, Past Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr his wife Penny and Major Project Board Chairman Jamie Peace and his wife Yvonne. Grand Exalted Ruler Schiefer and First Lady Julia were also gifted a basket filled with items representing New York State and a quilt.



Senator **Jake Ashby** of the New York State 43rd District, was a guest speaker at the opening business session. Senator Ashby is a member of Rensselaer Lodge #2073. Senator Ashby serves as a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs. During his speech he spoke about the importance of our youth programs, referencing the Antler Program, as a step towards our future success. He thanked the Elks for their efforts noting that “Elk’s bring our communities together”. Grand Exalted Ruler **Douglas A. Schiefer** is pictured presenting Senator Ashby with his GER pin and a First Lady pin following his speech.



Grand Exalted Ruler **Douglas A. Schiefer** and First Lady **Julia** were provided a tour of the State Capitol during their stay in Albany, New York. They are pictured with State Capitol building in the background.



Grand Exalted Ruler **Douglas A. Schiefer** and First Lady **Julia Schiefer** are pictured during a quiet moment prior to the start of the Gala State Banquet. Following the dinner, both presented messages to the New York State Association members attending the Gala State Banquet.



During their visit, Grand Exalted Ruler **Douglas A. Schiefer** and First Lady **Julia Schiefer** greeted, signed cards, shared their respective pins and had photos taken with many members. They are pictured meeting District Deputy Atilano of the Hudson Valley District as they met members

Camp Bristol Update



VOL. 2 ISSUE 4
NOVEMBER 2024

SPRUCE NEWS

Official Newsletter of NYS Elks Camp Bristol



Elks Camping 2024

Camp Bristol hosted many visiting members this past camping season. Traveling Elks with RV's enjoyed our fully equipped sites, members spent weekends at our waterfront cabin, as well as our many renovated camper cabins. There was even a camp-wide rental complete with a member wedding!

It was a great summer with consistent reservations utilizing the full breadth of our rentals. Stay tuned for new 2025 season rental information coming soon!



Camp Wedding

Two members from the Oswego Lodge said their 'I do's' on Camp Bristol grounds this fall. This was a camp-wide rental with some DIY design/set-up by the couple & their crew. The event was catered by a local restaurant & a wonderful weekend was had by all.

For more information on how to host your event at Camp Bristol, please email nyselkscampbristol@gmail.com.



New Construction

Construction on a new 22 person dormitory began this fall with completion expected before the end of the year. This new building is divided to house both girl & boy campers and is an exciting addition for our 2025 overnight youth & member camping season.



Camp Bristol Update



2024 WRAP UP

2025 Youth Day & Overnight Camp

The dates for next season's youth camping sessions are set. In addition to our youth day camp with extended care hours, we are excited to announce that CB will be offering a full season of day/overnight youth camping next year.

Youth Day Camp- Ages 8-14

(5) week-long sessions/Mon-Fri
Standard hours/ 8:30am-3:30pm
Extended care hours/ 8am-4pm
Camp Sessions:
7/7-7/11
7/14-7/18
7/21-7/25
7/28-8/1
8/4-8/8

Youth Overnight Camp- Ages 8-14

(5) week long sessions
Sun- Fri
We will be giving (2) week-long overnight camping sessions to each NYS district. Additional information regarding these sessions will be communicated by your Camp District Reps. For additional information on youth camp, please contact Camp Director Keeghan McSweeney at (315)317-2573

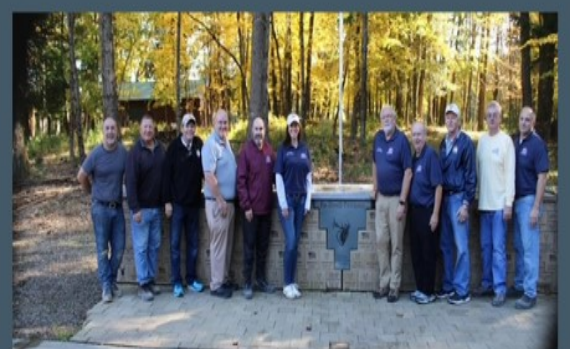
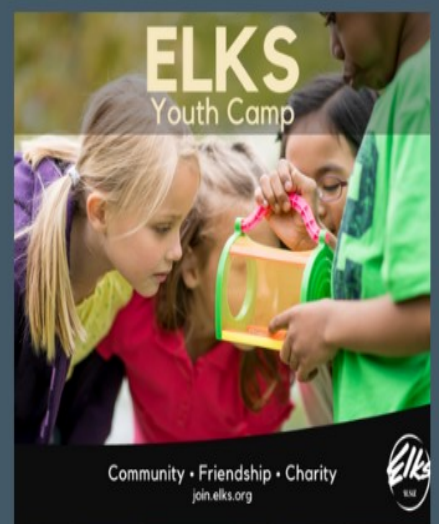
Fall Golf Tournament & State Soccer Shoot

The 6th annual NYE Camp Bristol Golf Tournament was held on 9/28 in West Monroe, NY. A delicious steak dinner followed at Camp with all winning teams donating their prize money back to Camp. Thank you to all of our participants, sponsors and volunteers for a successful event! The BOD is looking to move future fall tournaments to other locations across our great state. Please contact Scott Hirst at (315)804-3512 to become involved with the golf committee.

Camp Bristol was proud to host the NY State Soccer Shoot on 10/20. We were blessed with incredible weather, an amazing turnout & the kids had an absolute blast. We had wonderful volunteers that prepared & served hot chocolate, fresh made popcorn and pizza to all of the guests. We are excited to be the home of the State Shoot and are grateful for all the helpful hands that make events like this possible. Looking forward to next year!

District Rep Monthly Call

Beginning this November, Camp BOD will be hosting monthly calls with our District Reps to ensure the timely flow of information to our Lodges & members. The first call will be held on 11/12/24. Please contact your Lodge Chair or District Rep if you have any questions or topics you would like to bring up. If you are unsure of who your District Rep is, please consult the State Directory or contact nyselkscampbristol@gmail.com and we will ensure you get the proper information.



NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION
CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION TO NYSEA MAJOR PROJECTS/ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION
2023-2024

	Major Projects		Elks National Foundation	
	Total Given	Per Capita	Total Given	Per Capita
Central District				
Auburn #474	\$1,330.81	\$6.72	\$1,146.75	\$5.79
Camillus #31	\$6,841.00	\$15.91	\$5,472.245	\$12.72
Fulton #830	\$4,799.89	\$19.35	\$1,390.00	\$5.60
Liverpool #2348	\$18,270.69	\$26.40	\$5,634.50	\$8.14
Oneida #767	\$793.25	\$3.97	\$2,148.00	\$10.74
Oswego #271	\$6,600.00	\$8.70	\$8,721.00	\$11.49
Rome #96	\$1,201.36	\$2.13	\$766.30	\$1.35
Utica #33	\$2,074.13	\$6.91	\$2,779.00	\$9.26
PDD Association	\$200.00	NA		
Central District Totals	\$42,011.13	\$12.39	\$28,057.80	\$8.27
East District				
Hicksville #1931	\$2,768.89	\$39.56	\$811.30	\$11.59
Huntington #1565	\$1,102.89	\$9.76	\$599.00	\$5.30
Islip #2533	\$1,548.88	\$25.39	\$865.00	\$14.18
Massapequa #2162	\$6,049.88	\$22.66	\$4,451.28	\$16.67
Patchogue #1323	\$1,165.89	\$8.90	\$846.00	\$6.46
Port Jefferson #2138	\$2,130.89	\$15.33	\$710.00	\$5.11
Riverhead #2044	\$2,005.89	\$13.28	\$870.00	\$5.76
Smithtown #2036	\$740.89	\$5.49	\$230.00	\$1.70
Southampton #1574	\$2,576.89	\$10.27	\$2,195.00	8.74
East District Totals	\$20,090.99	\$15.24	\$11,577.58	\$8.78
East Central District				
Ellenville #1971	\$3,826.50	\$11.85	\$2,223.00	\$6.88
Greenwood Lake #2067	\$1,575.00	\$8.04	\$1,195.00	\$6.09
Kingston #550	\$1,192.36	\$8.00	\$1,749.82	\$11.74
Liberty #1545	\$2,200.85	\$4.91	\$3,180.00	\$7.10
Middletown #1097	\$5,000.00	\$5.12	\$5,787.00	\$5.93
Monticello #1544	\$4,450.00	\$14.22	\$2,433.00	\$7.77
New Paltz #2568	\$1,430.00	\$6.78	\$2,426.00	\$11.50
Newburg #247	\$300.00	\$1.11	\$1,350.00	\$5.00
Past District Deputy Association	\$400.00	NA	NA	NA
Port Jervis #645	\$2,400.00	\$4.72	\$2,520.00	\$4.95
Saugerties #2574	\$2,335.00	\$11.91	\$3,230.00	\$16.48
East Central District Totals	\$24,909.71	\$6.94	\$26,096.82	\$7.26
Hudson Valley District				
Beacon #1493	\$4,404.69	\$7.92	\$7,726.52	\$13.89
Brewster #2101	\$3,251.92	\$7.18	\$3,404.75	\$7.51
Haverstraw #877	\$14,900.29	\$10.03	\$16,037.00	\$10.79
Ossining #1486	\$654.57	\$6.68	\$1,265.00	\$12.91
Peeksville #744	\$994.29	\$3.26	\$1,984.00	\$6.50
Poughkeepsie #275	\$4,525.71	\$5.12	\$1,389.00	\$1.57
Yorktown #2324	\$3,655.00	\$8.40	\$4,549.00	\$10.46
Hudson Valley District Totals	\$32,386.47	\$7.68	\$36,355.27	\$8.62
Colonial District				
Ballston Spa #2619	\$4,608.13	\$15.95	\$2,227.10	\$7.70
Glens Falls #81	\$8,680.15	\$12.80	\$7,740.00	\$11.41
Greenwich #2223	\$3,614.89	\$10.10	\$1,806.50	\$5.04
Keeseville #2072	\$5,031.14	\$10.00	\$3,144.00	\$6.25
Saratoga-Wilton #161	\$7,656.15	\$15.40	\$6,287.00	\$12.65
Ticonderoga #1494	\$2,925.14	\$8.38	\$2,828.00	\$8.10
Whitehall #1491	\$4,908.21	\$8.05	\$3,409.44	\$5.59
Colonial District Totals	\$37,423.81	\$11.40	\$27,442.04	\$8.35
North Central District				
Boonville #2158	\$236.05	\$0.36	\$4,303.20	\$6.52
Carthage 31762	\$6,536.00	\$8.06	\$4,965.96	\$6.12
Gouverneur #2035	\$2,144.00	\$8.06	\$1,919.00	\$7.21
Lowville #1605	\$1,000.00	\$0.80	\$6,037.78	\$4.81
Malone #1303	\$5,982.60	\$10.46	\$3,480.80	\$6.08
Massena #1702	\$1,873.00	\$3.07	\$7,910.00	\$12.94
Ogdensburg #772	\$1,334.00	\$3.98	\$914.00	\$2.73
Potsdam #2074	\$4,021.00	\$4.35	\$5,095.00	\$5.51
Saranac Lake #1508	\$51.00	\$0.34	\$968.00	\$6.45
Watertown #496	\$1,000.00	\$0.76	\$8,101.00	\$6.17
North Central District Totals	\$24,177.65	\$3.51	\$43,694.74	\$6.33
North Hudson District				
Brunswick #2556	\$2,123.75	\$9.11	\$1,301.50	\$5.58
Catskill #1341	\$3,781.75	\$8.33	\$2,654.50	\$5.84
Hudson #787	\$3,441.75	\$8.19	\$2,666.00	\$6.35
Kinderhook #2530	\$3,368.75	\$10.12	\$2,480.50	\$7.45
Red Hook-Rhinebeck #2022	\$1,101.75	\$10.20	\$186.50	\$1.72
Rensselaer #2073	\$10,581.75	\$12.45	\$9,519.50	\$11.20
North Hudson District Totals	\$24,399.50	\$10.17	\$18,808.50	\$7.84



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CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION TO NYSEA MAJOR PROJECTS/ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION
2023-2024

	Major Projects		Elks National Foundation	
	Total Given	Per Capita	Total Given	Per Capita
Mohawk Valley District				
Amsterdam #101	\$2,225.00	\$12.36	\$1,190.00	\$6.61
Canajoharie-Fort Plain #2621	\$2,125.75	\$10.03	\$2,051.00	\$9.67
Clifton Park #2466	\$10,630.50	\$21.18	\$8,135.17	\$16.20
Cobleskill #2040	\$1,521.00	\$13.11	\$2,673.00	\$23.04
Esperance #2507	\$3,684.00	\$10.68	\$4,788.00	\$13.88
Herkimer #1439	\$4,097.08	\$15.82	\$2,486.00	\$9.60
Ilion #1444	\$5,045.38	\$10.40	\$3,110.00	\$6.41
Little Falls #42	\$1,411.88	\$5.29	\$1,830.00	\$6.85
Scotia-Glenville #2759	\$2,406.25	\$12.47	\$2,993.00	\$15.51
PDD Committee	NA	NA	\$300.00	NA
Mohawk Valley District Totals	\$33,146.84	\$12.95	\$29,557.17	\$11.55
South District				
Brooklyn-Queensborough #878	\$2,264.40	\$10.15	\$1,237.50	\$5.55
Mamaroneck #1457	\$2,274.00	\$13.07	\$1,782.00	\$10.24
Mid-Westchester #535	\$4,404.00	\$45.40	\$1,183.00	\$12.19
New Hyde Park-North Shore #2107	\$5,197.20	\$12.64	\$4,686.00	\$11.60
New York #1	\$11,246.21	\$25.79	\$8,175.38	\$18.75
Pearl River #2041	\$8,872.00	\$10.01	\$6,138.00	\$6.93
Southern Westchester #707	\$2,750.00	\$24.34	\$1,255.00	\$11.10
Staten Island #841	\$4,478.00	\$10.82	\$4,863.00	\$11.74
South District Totals	\$41,395.81	\$15.07	\$29,319.88	\$10.67
South Central District				
Binghamton #70	\$2,195.34	\$12.47	\$721.75	\$4.10
Cortland #748	\$1,150.00	\$4.83	\$1,425.00	\$5.98
Endicott #1977	\$3,316.00	\$15.50	\$1,075.00	\$5.02
Homer #2506	\$5,490.00	\$10.00	\$7,168.12	\$13.05
Johnson City #2821	\$1,827.00	\$10.88	\$809.00	\$4.81
Norwich #1222	\$858.00	\$4.64	\$903.00	\$4.88
Oneonta #1312	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,045.00	\$5.50
Owego #1039	\$1,288.00	\$8.00	\$4,414.65	\$27.42
Sidney #2175	\$2,920.00	\$8.09	\$2,926.80	\$8.11
Vestal #2508	\$9,108.64	\$12.56	\$6,430.21	\$8.87
South Central District Totals	\$28,152.98	\$9.49	\$26,918.53	\$9.07
Southern Tier District				
Bath #1547	\$5,220.00	\$8.01	\$3,890.00	\$5.96
Corning #1071	\$1,076.44	\$3.15	\$3,040.00	\$8.89
Elmira #62	\$6,921.66	\$10.15	\$6,830.00	\$10.01
Hornell #364	\$4,900.00	\$10.06	\$5,581.00	\$11.46
Horseheads #2297	\$12,360.00	\$20.36	\$3,188.00	\$5.25
Olean #491	\$3,269.00	\$14.21	\$3,914.00	\$17.01
Watkins Glen #1546	\$1,000.00	\$2.60	\$600.00	\$1.59
Wellsville #1495	\$843.00	\$1.21	\$3,893.00	\$5.60
Southern Tier District Totals	\$35,590.10	8.72	\$30,936.00	\$7.58
State Capitol District				
Albany #49	\$8,164.04	\$14.48	\$3,197.00	\$5.67
Cohoes-Waterford #1317	\$7,136.91	\$22.30	\$2,825.00	\$8.83
Guilderland #2480	\$5,781.43	\$9.32	\$3,525.80	\$5.68
Mechanicville-Stillwater #1403	\$3,304.00	\$8.00	\$544.00	\$1.31
Rotterdam #2157	\$12,531.43	\$10.69	\$10,844.54	\$9.25
Watervliet-Colonie #1500	\$9,280.43	\$8.80	\$5,729.24	\$5.43
State Capitol District Totals	\$46,199.14	\$11.15	\$26,665.58	\$6.43
West District				
Albion #1006	\$100.00	\$0.36	\$626.00	\$2.27
Brockport #2110	\$1,500.00	\$6.91	\$1,450.00	\$6.68
Dunkirk #922	\$132.00	\$0.82	\$150.00	\$0.94
Jamestown #263	\$100.00	\$0.35	\$1,454.00	\$5.08
Ken-Ton #1942	\$1,738.16	\$14.98	\$3,638.32	\$31.36
Lancaster #1478	\$100.00	\$0.32	\$2,110.00	\$6.65
Lockport #41	\$2,388.00	\$4.08	\$3,635.00	\$6.21
Niagara Falls #346	\$1,647.00	\$8.76	\$1,520.00	\$8.08
Twin Cities #860	\$900.00	\$10.59	\$700.00	\$8.23
West District Totals	\$8,603.16	\$3.86	\$15,283.32	\$6.85

NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION
CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION TO NYSEA MAJOR PROJECTS/ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION
2023-2024

	Major Projects		Elks National Foundation	
	Total Given	Per Capita	Total Given	Per Capita
West Central District				
Canandaigua #1844	\$4,750.00	\$10.82	\$3,162.89	\$7.20
Ithaca #636	\$2,520.00	\$8.03	\$3,375.00	\$10.75
Lyons #869	\$1,186.00	\$10.05	\$1,097.05	\$9.29
Newark #1249	\$1,000.00	\$3.50	\$1,690.00	\$5.91
Penn Yan #1722	\$5,050.00	\$10.00	\$2,928.00	\$5.80
Rochester #24	\$3,026.00	\$8.25	\$1,882.00	\$5.13
Seneca Falls #992	\$1,144.45	\$4.83	\$657.46	\$2.77
Webster-Fairport #2396	\$1,200.00	\$8.16	\$6,490.00	\$44.15
Wolcott #1763	\$530.00	\$1.62	\$2,943.00	\$9.00
West Central District Totals	\$20,406.45	\$7.45	\$24,225.40	\$8.84
State Association Lodge Totals	\$449,801.74	\$9.66	\$374,938.63	\$8.05

NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024—SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

The New York State Elks Association Fall Conference was held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, New York from September 19, 2024 to September 22, 2024. The New York State Elks Association was honored to have Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer of Bucyrus Lodge #156, Ohio, and his wife Julia as honored guests. Throughout the conference, both signed cards, were available for photos and provided their respective pins to members. The conference consisted of a full schedule that included the following workshops; Bowling, Membership/Retention, Camp Bristol, National Veterans Service, Ritual, Americanism/Essay, Elks Memorial Day, Lodge Development, Drug Awareness, Charitable Records, Empire State Elk/Public Relations/Internet, Elks National Foundation, Major Projects, Scholarship/Emergency Grants, Secretary/Treasurer/CLMS, Youth Activities/Hoop Shoot, and Elks Training. Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer and State President Tania DeFrank visited at several of the workshops. The New York State Elks Association was honored to have Senator Jake Ashby of the 43rd District as a special guest speaker during the opening business session. Senator Ashby is a member of Rensselaer Lodge #2073. Other special guests included Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing Director Rich Gathens, who presented at the Membership/Retention workshop and Lonnie Sherman, President and Founder of General Need, who presented at the Veterans Service workshop.

Several awards were presented at the various workshops. Empire State Elk Editor Tim Welpé presented District Contribution Awards to district chairs Matt Lacy (Mohawk Valley), Janel Smith (Central), Lynne Stein (East), Alan Schrock (Hudson Valley), and Lisa Moldovan (South), Lodge contribution awards were presented to Beacon Lodge #1493, Huntington Lodge #1565, Mid-Westchester Lodge #535, New York Lodge #1, Boonville Lodge #2158 and Scotia-Glenville Lodge #2759. An Editor Excellence Awards was presented to Lynne Stein of the East District. Public Relations Chair Michael Jones presented Best Lodge Bulletin Contest Awards to Auburn Lodge #474 (Division II), Saugerties Lodge #2574 (Division III), Mechanicville-Stillwater Lodge #1403 (Division IV), Middletown Lodge #1097 (Division V) and New York Lodge #1 for Best in State Brochure. Memorial Service Chair Roy Henry presented Memorial Service Contest Excellence Awards to Oswego Lodge #271 (1st place), Mechanicville-Stillwater Lodge #1403 (2nd place) and Middletown Lodge #1500 (3rd place).

National Veteran's Service Chair Jack Stein coordinated a successful basket raffle that raised \$7,600 for the Fort Drum USO. Thirty-seven (37) baskets were donated. A sincere thank you is extended to the Districts and Lodges that donated a basket. State President Tania DeFrank subsequently had the distinct honor of presenting the donation to the USO during her more recent visit to the North Central District.



Oswego Lodge #271 took top honors in the 2024-2024 Memorial Day contest. Elks Memorial Service Chair Roy Henry is pictured presenting the first place award to Ken Ellsworth who accepted on behalf of Oswego Lodge #271. The award was presented during the Elks Memorial Service workshop. During the workshop, Mechanicville-Stillwater Lodge #1403 was presented a second place award and Middletown Lodge #1097 was presented with a third place award.



New York Lodge #1 was recognized a Best in State for the 2023-2024 Lodge Bulletin Contest. Public relations chair Michael Jones is pictured presenting the award to a Lodge member who accepted on behalf of New York Lodge #1. Other Lodges recognized with First Place Bulletin Awards were Auburn Lodge #474 (Division II), Saugerties Lodge #2574 (Division III), Mechanicville-Stillwater Lodge #1403 (Division IV) and Middletown Lodge #1097 (Division V).



Matt Lacy, Mohawk Valley District ESE Chair, was recognized with a District Editor Award for his contribution during 2023-2024 to the Empire State Elk publication. He is pictured receiving his award from State Editor Tim Welpé. Other District Editor awards were presented to Lynne Stein (East District), Alan Schrock (Hudson Valley District), Lisa Moldovan (South District) and Janel Smith (Central District).



Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer and New York State Elks President Tania DeFrank are pictured with ESE Editors **Lynne Stein** of Huntington Lodge #1565 and **Lisa Moldovan** of New York Lodge #1. Moments before the picture, Lynne was awarded an Editors Excellence Award and Lisa was awarded a District Editor Excellence Award. Both were recognized for their outstanding contributions during 2023-2024



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Massapequa Lodge #2162 used \$423.00 from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to make a significant donation of essential items such as diapers, baby wipes, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, dish washing liquid, bar soap, toothpaste and deodorant to the pantry of Our Lady of Assumption. The donation is enhancing the lives of 187 families in need. Past Exalted Ruler Members Nancy Parente, Eileen Jackson and Margaret Motis delivered the items. They are pictured with Our Lady of Assumption Outreach Coordinator Cathie Martens who happily and gratefully accepted the delivery.



Penn Yan Lodge #1722, used a \$3,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to support Living Well by purchasing items for their food pantry and presenting a check in the amount of \$2,500 for future needs. The Living Well provides emergency food services to any county resident in need. Pictured, left to right, during the donation presentation are Past Exalted Ruler/Trustee Jamie Sisson, Secretary Ginny Turner, Kim Lyons, Assistant Director at the Living Well Mission; and Exalted Ruler Steve Neuberger.



Elmira Lodge #62, in collaboration with their local community, hosted the 8th annual Stacy's Soap Drive. This program collects soap and toiletry items for victims of domestic violence. In the last year this program has served 391 men, women, and children domestic violence victims in Chemung and Schuyler Counties. Elmira Lodge has served as a drop off site for all eight years of the event and hosted it for at least the last three years. With their collaboration with the community, the Lodge has donated over 25,000 items in the last eight years. Valerie Colunio, the committee chairperson for this event presented the donations collected from Lodge members as well as several community drop off sites. Valerie and Exalted Ruler Rich Mathews also presented Lauren Lovett, Catholic Charities Victim Services and Housing Program Supervisor, with a donation of \$2000 from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant. A large number of donations received are pictured on tables in the background.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and donated \$500.00 to the Parishville-Hopkinton Panther Paws Project, previously the Snack Pack program. The donation will be used to support the Panther Paws Program with food and school supplies. Chelsea Johnson, who assists with the coordinator of the Panther Paws Program, and first grade students are pictured accepting the donation from Exalted Ruler Ernie Charleston.



Rochester Lodge #24 used funds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and donated \$2500 to support the Henrietta Food Cupboard. Past Exalted Ruler and Lodge Grant Writer Ada Baxter is pictured as she presented the donation on behalf of Rochester Lodge #24 to Jodie Day, Director of the Henrietta Food Cupboard. The donation will be used to help those in the Rochester who need help with groceries



Huntington Lodge #1565 used \$800.00 from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and members delivered hope to 20 preschool children from the Morgan Center, who are battling cancer, by gifting them backpacks filled with special supplies and topped off with an Elk dictionary. The backpacks represent more than just school essentials. They also symbolize the power of community and the promise of a brighter tomorrow. In addition to backpacks, the Lodge included a check for \$500 for the immune-compromised children who cannot attend school in person but can participate in the TMC Program provided by the Center. This program is a virtual learning experience that nurtures their cognitive and social growth while they remain safe in the hospital. With this gift, each child received an educational box filled with educational materials, crayons, markers, glue, a toy and a puppet. Past Exalted Ruler Alyssa Nightingale is pictured with Head Teacher Carrie Sheerin as they display backpacks that were delivered.



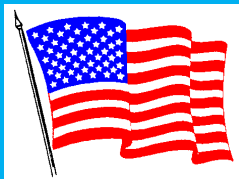
Liverpool Lodge #2348 donated an Elks National Foundation Freedom Grant of \$1,000 to support Clear Path for Veterans. The donation will be used to provide holiday meals to Veterans. Pictured during the donation presentation are Chief Community Officer Alex Behm, Exalted Ruler Dennis Seeber, Lodge member Mikelene Cherniak and Director of Development at Clear Path for Veterans Adrienne Kelley, (Picture to the left).

Lyons Lodge #869 used the funds from a \$3000 Gratitude Grant and presented three donations to Ceasar Ortiz, Director of the Lyons Community Center. The donations will benefit three youth oriented program in the Lyons community including youth football, youth baseball and Community Center summer activities.



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



New York Lodge #1 donated \$250 worth of Apple Bees Gift cards to Veterans at the St. Albans CLC. VA Facility. The donation was one of four donations totaling \$1000.00 that was spaced out over the 4 month period. The cards are used to take Veterans at St. Alban's out to lunch. Apple Bees also donated ten \$10.00 gift cards to support Veteran lunches. Pictured as the gift cards were delivered are Past District Deputy and VAVS Representative John M Nuzzi, Recreation Therapist Elaine Schiebel, Veteran Mr. Park, Past District Deputy Al Hoffman, Veteran Mr Piloto, Veteran Mr. Shadd, Veteran Mr Bruce, Loyal Knight Rich Muniac, and Past District Deputy and Lodge Sponsor Ron M. Hansen.



During a **Mid-Westchester Loge #535** meeting, The Daughter's of Liberty's Legacy surprised member Tom Geary with an official "Certificate of Honor" from the US Dept of Defense to recognize and remember the loss of Tom's brother, Marine Pfc Robert Francis Geary, Jr, who was killed in Vietnam in 1966. Tom has been a member of the lodge and is the most recent Past Exalted Ruler but very few members knew of the profound loss his family suffered when he was just 14 years old. Elk members all stood in silent respect as member, Debra Palazzo, recounted that Marine PFC Robert Francis Geary, Jr., served with Company M, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, and the Third Marine Amphibious Force and was killed during Operation Hastings in the Quangtri province of So Vietnam on July 23, 1966. He was just 19 years old. Debra then presented Tom with the US Government issued "Gold Star Family" lapel pin and member Marcus Castro read the Certificate of Honor and then presented it to Tom on behalf of a grateful nation. These items represent a symbol of the nation's appreciation for his family's sacrifice and Robert's honorable and faithful service with our assurance that we will not forget. Pictured during the presentation are Past Exalted Ruler Tom Geary, Chaplain Debra Palazzo and Marco Castro.



Members of **Catskill Lodge #1341** visited the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany, New York. Members enjoyed serving ice cream and popcorn to the residents, as well as presenting cookies and greeting cards to the staff. Pictured at the VA Medical Center are Exalted Ruler Tim Reed, Leading Knight Bob Near, Lecturing Knight Robyn Reed, Chaplain Mike Archambault, Tiler Jeff Winters and members Martha McPartland, Margaret Graham and Eleanor Sloyan.



Beacon Lodge #1493 used funds from an Elks National Foundation Freedom Grant to host a Free Lunch for Veterans and their loved ones. The luncheon was attended by 42 Veterans and their loved ones. The lunch was served by the Lodge Veterans Committee and several Lodge Volunteers. New York State Senator Rob Rolison was a guest speaker. He spoke about Veterans related discussions in the Senate today.



Liverpool Lodge #2348 recently hosted their Annual Meat Raffle. As a result of the raffle, the Lodge was able to donate \$1000 worth of items to the Syracuse VA Recreation Center. Items included an Amazon Echo Studio and subwoofer, Christmas tree and \$200 Amazon gift card along with other items the VA Recreation Department requested. Member Mike Kaltenborn and Exalted Ruler Dennis Seeber as they presented the donated items on behalf of Liverpool Lodge to VA Recreation Specialist Erin Popcup



The southern lodges of the **South District** were on hand at the St Albans VA CLC facility for the Elk sponsored Bingo Night. They presented 55 canteen books to bingo winners and served coffee and donuts to all present when the games were done. Lisa Trento and Lisa Capulong of New York Lodge #1 called the games. Pictured at the event are left to right, Leading Knight Tony Vitale of New Hyde Park Lodge #2107, Past District Deputy Patricia Carroll of Brooklyn Queensborough Lodge #878, Lisa Capulong and Lisa Trinto of New York Lodge #1, Past District Deputy and VAVS Representative John M Nuzzi of New York Lodge #1 and Loyal Knight Rich Muniac of New York Lodge #1. Other Elk members present during the Bingo night were Chaplain Carmela Narducci and Frank Cappa of New Hyde Park Lodge #2107, Past District Deputy Al Hoffman of New York Lodge #1, Lodge Veterans Chair Lois Anderson of New York Lodge #1, and New York Lodge #1 members Tiler Sylvia Wanser, Denise Creighton and Diane Smith.



The **East District #6120** VAVS Committee continues to be extremely active. During the most recent visit to the Northport VA Hospital, District Deputy Joe D'Angelo joined State Veterans Chairman Jack Stein as they delivered approximately \$700 worth of items. The items included assorted sundries, craft items, Elks playing cards, coffee, body wash and body lotion. Additionally, a dozen leather wheelchair gloves were provided thanks to the Elks Leather Program. Pictured at the donated items were delivered are, left to right, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Joe D'Angelo, Northport VA Volunteer Service Assistant Director Christin Butcher and NYSEA Veterans Chairman Jack Stein.

Community and Youth Activities



Hicksville Lodge #1931 partnered with The Little Saint Nick Foundation, along with the Girl Scouts of Nassau County, to assemble and deliver gift bags for the pediatric unit at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, NY. The gift bags contained coloring books, stuffed animals, various toys and a special handmade card made by the Scouts. A total of \$1000.00 of funds raised by the members of the Lodge was utilized for this effort. The Little Saint Nick Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to create a positive attitude for kids receiving inpatient care. In attendance were members Pamela Marcinek and Phyllis Knox, Exalted Ruler Carmine Asparro, Girl Scout Co-Leaders Jessica Tymecki and Kathy Alvino, Lodge Chaplain Richard O'Neil, Leading Knight Gordon McDaniel and numerous enthusiastic Scouts.



Brewster Lodge hosted a quarterly Student/Writer of the 1st Quarter awards dinner. The students were selected by Henry H. Wells School to receive Student/Writer honors for their outstanding achievements. There were 36 students selected. They are pictured proudly displaying their awards. Pictured from left to right are: Front row: Lesley Gomez, Jacob Rivera, Benjamin Paradiso, Claire Brondo, Juliet Juarez, Second row: Dylan Ross, Brandon Fisher, Nicolas Iacoviello, Joseph Langlois, Grace Wyda, Kaysen Diaz Third Row: Mayori Lucas, Joseph Biancamano, Anabella Velardo, Olivia Brenes, Gianna Carpanzano, Alessandra Addo Fourth Row: Charlene Posadas, Daniel Mangome, Jack Fox, PJ Nichols, Mark Tallerico Fifth Row: Youth Activities Chairman Peter Priolo, Exalted Ruler Chris Kelly, David Chen, Sawyer Whitehead, Brian Romero, Grace Rogers, Loyal Knight Melissa Dinkler and Leading Knight Dan Giordano.



Glens Falls Lodge #81 recently held a fundraiser breakfast at the Lodge to benefit Operation Santa Clause. The Lodge raised \$2,500 at the breakfast. Colonial District State Vice President Gordie Kalisz, Glens Falls Lodge #81 Exalted Ruler Frank Farrell, Operation Santa Claus Vice President Christina Blanchard, Glens Falls Lodge #81 Leading Knight Paul Reece Jr and District Sponsor and Past State President Brian Greene are pictured at the event.



Massapequa Lodge #2162 members collected and delivered 56 coats to the Saint Francis de Chantal Youth Group in Wantagh for their distribution. The donation also included hundreds of gloves, mittens, scarves, hats and headbands. The total number of donations will cover the needs of approximately 200 parishioners and other individuals within their community, including Our Lady of Loretto Outreach, Beacon House, Prontod Outreach and 10 "Hope for Youth" Group homes. Past Exalted Ruler Nancy Parente, and member Chris Mackey are pictured with Margaret Obregon, Outreach Representative from St. Francis, as the items were delivered.



Auburn Lodge #474 partnered with Booker T. Washington Community Center for a winter coat giveaway beginning with Genesee St Elementary School. The coats, hats and mittens will be then be taken to other schools and centers in the Auburn area. The Lodge used funds from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to support the donations. Pictured with the girls and ladies selections are Brandon Wakeham from BTW, Lodge volunteers Stephen Colella, Past Exalted Ruler Mike Damazyn, Exalted Ruler Valerie Parsons, Tracey Leonard, Bill Guyle, Dejuan Wilson from BTW, and Lodge volunteer Jessica McDonald.



New York Lodge #1 celebrated Red Ribbon week by distributing 1600 red ribbons to schools in their area. District and Lodge Drug Awareness Chair, PDD Brian Steckler, made his way to local school throughout the week, distributing Elks Red Ribbons. He is pictured, along with Principal, Dr. Scott Cormis, during his visit to Brooklyn Avenue School.



Hudson Lodge #787 used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Grant to provide food items to the DSS Food Pantry. The Pantry benefits many in need of food. Leading Knight Barbara Troy along with members Michael Troy and Michele Troy-Ryder are pictured with members of the homeless and adult services units as they delivered the food items on behalf of Hudson Lodge #787.

Riverhead Lodge #2044 members raised funds and donated approximately \$300 worth of unwrapped toys. The toys were delivered to ABATE (American Bikers for Awareness, Training and Education) to support their 34th St. Mary's Church Outreach Toy Drive in Hampton Bays. Pictured, left to right with the toy donations are representative Deb from L.I. ABATE and Lodge Members Tommy Grodski, Pat Judd and Diane Allen. (Picture to the right)



Community and Youth Activities



Beacon Lodge #1493 recently recognized Haldane Middle School October Students of the month. The student's were chosen for their participation, leadership and academics. The students each received a certificate and gift card for their achievements. Students Amy Paute (6th Grade), Olive Allebrand (7th Grade, and Caelan McDermott (8th Grade) are pictured with Youth Activities Chair Cathy Oken and Esteemed Loyal Knight Sharon Haviland as they proudly display their certificates of achievement.



The **Western Central District** Lodges honored 71 living veterans from the WWII, Korean and Vietnam Eras. District Lodges are Ithaca, Rochester, Lyons, Seneca Falls, Newark, Penn Yan, Wolcott, Canandaigua and Webster-Fairport. The ceremony, now in its sixth year, took place at the Seneca Falls Lodge and was presided over by Jeff Drake. Medals listing the name, rank and branch of service were presented to each veteran in attendance. Past State President Richard Wunder presented the medals. The recipients included 6 from WWII, 13 from the Korean War and 46 from the Vietnam Era. 6 other medals were awarded to various veterans including one to keynote speaker, NYS Assemblyman Brian Manktelow, who served in the US Army. Past State President Richard Wunder is pictured above as he salutes a Veteran before presenting his medal.



For the past 5 years, **Hudson Lodge #787** has conducted a "Clynk for Cerebral Palsy" can drive fundraiser from April to October. The fundraiser is coordinated by Past District Deputy Deb Minners and her husband, Past District Deputy John Minners. Since the fundraiser began, 51,664 cans and bottles have been collected with \$2,583.20 being raised. The can tabs are donated to the VFW with the proceeds donated to the Ronald McDonald House. They are pictured with several bags of donated cans/bottles.



Canandaigua Lodge #1844 hosted 1st Annual Cornhole fundraiser for Cancer. With 24 teams participating and several spectators attending, the event raised \$1,750 for a local family battling cancer. The event was made possible thanks to Rob and Renee O'Dell, Jessica Nagel, Josh Parsons, Kyle Cooper, Kenny King, Brandon Adams, and Penny McMillian, who volunteered their time to ensure the event ran smoothly. Backyard BBQ catered the event providing a chicken dinner. All Party No Pants provided musical entertainment. The event featured a 50/50 raffle in which the winner donated back his winnings.



As part of their "Care and Share" program, the **Oswego Lodge #271** Elks Ladies Auxiliary has given a monetary gift to local schools to assist with families in need during the holiday season. Participating schools include Fitzhugh Park, Kingsford Park, Leighton, Minetto and Riley Elementary Schools along with OMS, and OHS. Pictured during the donation presentation to Kingsford Park School are Pam Watters and Pam Watters of the Ladies Auxiliary, Kayli Moody from Kingsford Park School and Holiday Gift Coordinator Carolyn Slobodian.



Auburn Lodge #474 delivered this year's Gratitude Grant check for \$2500 to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Auburn NY chapter. They are working on the 1000th bed from this location since their opening in March of 2020. Pictured during the donation presentation are, from left to right, Past State Vice President Frank Saya, Lodge Esquire Andrew Saya, Exalted Ruler Valerie Parsons, SHP Auburn Chapter Co-Presidents Peg Parker and Drew Scharoun.



Hicksville Lodge #1931 members donated \$400 to the Levittown Girl Scout Troop #3280 to cover their cost of crafts and to support their other community service activities. Pictured during the donation presentation are Girl Scout Troop Co-Leader Kathy Alvino, Exalted Ruler Carmine Asparro, Chaplain Richard O'Neill, Girl Scout Troop Co-Leader Jessica Tymecki, along with all of the scouts in attendance for the presentation.

Monticello Lodge #1544 used an ENF Beacon Grant worth \$4000 to purchase coats, hats and gloves for 100 elementary school children. The Lodge also used an ENF Gratitude Grant worth \$2000 to present boxes of food to 54 veterans. In other news, the Lodge used a Spotlight Grant to donate \$2000 to the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless.

Haverstraw Lodge #877 used the funds from an Elks National Foundation Freedom Grant to purchase \$1,000 worth of toiletry items that members delivered to the Community Living Center of Veterans Village, Freedom Center and Home of Heroes at the Montrose, VA campus.

Bunker in Bagdad Update

Golf Clubs—1907 Golf Balls—183,719 NYSEA Monetary Value—\$81,294 SW/ST District Total—\$37,921.65 Grand Total—\$119,215.65 Total with Miles and Hours added—\$227,800.79.



2024 STATE SOCCER SHOOT



The 2024 State Soccer Shoot was held at Camp Bristol on Sunday, October 20, 2024. Twenty-nine contestants from around the state competed in four age divisions for top state honors and an opportunity to advance to the Area One Regional Championship in St. Albans, Vermont. The contest was coordinated by New York State Elks Association Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon. Those attending were treated to a competitive contest that featured a two point margin victory by **Lilliana Jones** in the Girls U14 division a one point margin of victory by **Milana Vesely** in the Girls U12 division, At the conclusion of the contest, the State Champions were; U8 Girls—**Sloan Fuller** representing Carthage Lodge #1762, Girls U10—**Natalee Houghtaling** representing Vestal Lodge #2508, U12 Girls—**Milana Vesely** representing Rotterdam Lodge #2157, U14 Girls—**Lilliana Jones** representing Carthage Lodge #1762, U8 Boys—**Drew Lucas** representing Lowville Lodge #1605, U10 Boys—**Chase Wheeler** representing Lowville Lodge #1605, U12 Boys—**Bryan Kinmartin** representing Twin Cities Lodge # 860 and U14 Boys—**David Lopez** representing Brewster Lodge #2101. **Bryan Kinmartin** (Boys U12) achieved the highest score in the Boys Division and **Natalee Houghtaling** (Girls U10) had the highest score in the Girls Division and highest overall score with a score of 50. Overall results are as follows:

GIRLS U8 1st- **Sloan Fuller**—31 (Carthage 1762); 2nd- **Jaslyn Garcia**—26 (Monticello #1544), 3rd—**Marianna Fasciano** —14 (Twin Cities #860); 4th—**Amelia McGrouty** —11 (Watervliet #1500).

BOYS U8 1st—**Drew Lucas**—45 (Lowville #1605); 2nd—**Adrian Bucknam**—37 (Wolcott #1763); 3rd—**Raymond Kearney**—35 (Rotterdam #2157); 4th—**Stephen Pan**—16 (Middletown #1097)

GIRLS 10 1st—**Natalee Houghtaling**—50 (Vestal #2508); 2nd—**Adeline Kron**—31 (Rochester #24); 3rd—**Annabelle Howell**—19 (Middletown #1097).

BOYS U10 1st—**Chase Wheeler**—46 (Lowville #1605); 2nd—**Jayden Enyehihi**—41 (Middletown #1097); 3rd—**Parker Wood**—37 (Wolcott #1763); 4th—**Benjamin McGrouty** - 34 (Watervliet #1500)

GIRLS U12 1st—**Milana Vesely**—45 (Rotterdam #2157), 2nd—**Kennedy Munn**—44 (Lowville #1605), 3rd— **Madalyn Garcia**—38 (Monticello #1544), 4th—**Kaylyn Criss**—29 (Hornell #364).

BOYS U12 1st—**Bryan Kinmartin**—48 (Twin Cities #860), 2nd—**Caleb Martel**—44 (Beacon #1493); 3rd—**Griffin Peacore**—43 (Oswego #271); 4th—**Hunter Adams**—24 (Rotterdam #2157)

GIRLS U14 1st—**Lilliana Jones**—34 (Lowville #1605); 2nd—**Annabelle Luckey**—32 (Wolcott #1763)

BOYS U14 1st—**David Lopez**—38 (Brewster #2101); 2nd—**Benitt Berube**—33 (Vestal #2508); 3rd—**Isaiah Miles**—22 (Twin Cities #860); 4th—**Landon Sullivan**—20 (Greenwich #2223)

Following the contest, the contestants and their families attended a luncheon and awards ceremony. A team photo of the NYS Champions with State Soccer Chair Dan Shannon, Area One Director Patrick Mansfield and Past Grand Exalted Rulers Carr and Hidley appears on Page 15 of this publication.



Sloane Fuller, Girls U8 State Champion, is pictured receiving her first place award from State Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon. Sloan achieved a score of 31 to take championship honors in her division. She was sponsored by Carthage Lodge #1762.



Drew Lucas, Boys U8 State Champion, is pictured receiving his first place award from State Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon. Drew had a score of 45 to take championship honors in his division. He was sponsored by Lowville Lodge #1605.



Natalee Houghtaling, Girls U10 State Champion, is pictured receiving her first place award from State Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon. Natalee had a score of 50 to take championship honors in her division. She was sponsored by Vestal Lodge #2508.



Chase Wheeler, Boys U10 State Champion, is pictured receiving his first place award from State Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon. Chase achieved a score of 46 to take championship honors in his division. He was sponsored by Lowville Lodge #1605.



Milana Vesely, Girls U12 State Champion, is pictured receiving her first place award from State Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon. Milana had a score of 45 to take top honors in her division. She was sponsored by Rotterdam Lodge #2157.



Bryan Kinmartin, Boys U12 State Champion, is pictured receiving his first place award from State Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon. Bryan achieved a score of 48 to take top honors in his age division. He was sponsored by Twin Cities Lodge #860.



2024 State Soccer Shoot



Lilliana Jones, Girls U14, is pictured receiving her first place award from State Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon. Lilliana achieved a score of 34 to take championship honors in her division. She was sponsored by Carthage Lodge #1762.



David Lopez, Boys U14, is pictured receiving his first place award from State Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon. David achieved a score of 38 to take championship honors in his division. He was sponsored by Brewster Lodge #2101.



Jazlyn Garcia, Monticello Lodge #1544, finished 2nd in the Girls U8 Division. She achieved a score of 26.



Marianna Fasciano, Twin Cities Lodge #860, finished 3rd in the Girls U8 Division. She achieved a score of 14.



Amelia McGrouty, Watervliet Lodge #1500, finished 4th in the Girls U8 Division. She achieved a score of 11.



Adeline Kron, Rochester Lodge #24, finished 2nd in the Girls U10 Division. She achieved a score of 31.



Annabelle Howell, Middletown Lodge #1097, finished 3rd in the Girls U10 Division. She achieved a score of 19.



Kennedy Munn, Lowville Lodge #1605, finished 2nd in the Girls U12 Division. She achieved a score of 44.



Madeline Garcia, Monticello Lodge #1544, finished 3rd in the Girls U12 Division. She achieved a score of 38.



Kaylyn Criss, Hornell Lodge #364, finished 4th in the Girls U12 Division. She achieved a score of 29.



Annabelle Luckey, Wolcott Lodge #1763, finished 2nd in the Girls U14 Division. She achieved a score of 32.



Adrian Buckham, Wolcott Lodge #1763, finished 2nd in the Boys U8 Division. He achieved a score of 37.



Raymond Kearney, Rotterdam Lodge #2157, finished 3rd in the Boys U8 Division. He achieved a score of 35.



Stephan Pan, Middletown Lodge #1097, finished 3rd in the Boys U8 Division. He achieved a score of 16.



Jayden Enyehihi, Middletown Lodge #1097, finished 2nd in the Boys U10 Division. He achieved a score of 41.



Parker Wood, Wolcott Lodge #1763, finished 3rd in the Boys U10 Division. He achieved a score of 37.



Benjamin McGrouty, Watervliet Lodge #1500, finished 4th in the Boys U10 Division. He achieved a score of 34.



2024 State Soccer Shoot



Caleb Martell, Beacon Lodge #1493, finished 2nd in the Boys U12 Division. He achieved a score of 44.



Griffin Pecore, Oswego Lodge #271, finished 3rd in the Boys U12 Division. He achieved a score of 43.



Hunter Adams, Rotterdam Lodge #2157, finished 4th in the Boys U12 division. He achieved a score of 24.



Benitt Berube, Vestal Lodge # 2508, finished 2nd in the Boys U14 division. He achieved a score of 33.



Isaiah Mills, Twin Cities Lodge #860, finished 3rd in the Boys U14 division. He achieved a score of 22.



Landon Sullivan, Greenwich Lodge #2223, finished 4th in the Boys U14 division. He achieved a score of 20.



Girls U8 Division.



Boys U8 Division



Girls U10 Division



Boys U10 Division



Girls U12 Division



Boys U12 Division



Girls U14 Division



Boys U14 Division



Welcoming Banner sponsored by Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley.





AREA ONE SOCCER SHOOT 2024

Houghtaling, Wheeler, and Jones Place Second

Lucas and Kinmartin Place Third



The Area One Soccer Shoot was held November 1-3, 2024 and was hosted by the Vermont State Elks Association. The contest featured the State Soccer Shoot Champions representing the States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. In total, 54 contestants competed in the Area One Soccer Shoot. Many of the contestants arrived and registered on Friday, November 1, 2024 at the Hampton Inn in Colchester, Vermont. Following registration, the contestants, their families and guests were treated to a Pizza Party. As they registered, the New York State contestants were gifted a state association warm-up jersey, personalized bottle, and state association pins for trading. The Area One contest was held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at the Collins Perry Sports Complex in St. Albans, Vermont. Prior to the contest, the contestants and their families were treated to a complimentary breakfast buffet at Hampton Inn before heading to Sports Complex for the competition.

New York State was represented by State Champions **Sloan Fuller** in the Girls U8 Division, **Natalee Houghtaling** in the Girls U10 Division, **Milana Vesely** in the Girls U12 Division, **Lilliana Jones** in the Girls U14 Division, **Drew Lucas** in the Boys U8 Division, **Chase Wheeler** in the Boys U10 Division, **Bryan Kinmartin** in the Boys U12 Division and **David Lopez** in the Boys U14 Division. At the completion of the contest, **Sloan Fuller**, representing Carthage Lodge #1762 finished 6th in the Girls U8 Division, **Natalee Houghtaling**, representing Vestal Lodge #2508, finished 2nd in the Girls U10 Division, **Milana Vesely**, representing Rotterdam Lodge #2157, finished 7th in the Girls U14 Division, **Lilliana Jones**, representing Lowville Lodge #1605, finished 2nd in the Girls U14, **Drew Lucas**, representing Lowville Lodge #1605, finished 3rd in the Boys U8 Division, **Chase Wheeler**, representing Lowville Lodge #1605, finished 2nd in the Boys U10 Division, **Bryan Kinmartin**, representing Twin Cities Lodge #860, finished 3rd in the Boys U12 division and **David Lopez**, representing Brewster Lodge # 2101, finished 6th in the Boys U14 division.

The Area One event concluded with a dinner buffet and awards ceremony that was held at Burlington Lodge #916 with approximately 320 people attending. Prior to the dinner, Area One Chairman Patrick Mansfield introduced the State Association teams and Soccer Shoot Directors. State Soccer Shoot Directors included Chris Hall of Vermont, Kevin Lincoln of New Hampshire, Dan Shannon of New York, Tom Kraemer of Rhode Island, Mike Canfield of Massachusetts, Nikole Nadeau of Maine and Thomas Matthews of Connecticut. During team introductions, a contestant from each state carried the respective State Flag and lead their State team into the reception hall. Following the introduction of state teams, Grand Chaplain Christopher Ford provided an invocation and Patrick Mansfield led the Pledge of Allegiance. An awards ceremony commenced immediately following a dinner provided by Burlington Lodge #916 volunteer members. Prior to the awards being presented, Past Grand Exalted Bruce Hidley introduced Past Grand Exalted Ruler David R. Carr. Past Grand Exalted Carr congratulated the contestants and thanked family members for their support of the Soccer Shoot Program, thanked the Vermont Elks Association for hosting the contest and thanked the volunteer members of Burlington Lodge #916 for hosting the dinner and awards ceremony. Following his remarks, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Carr was gifted a soccer ball that was signed by each contestant. As awards were announced, each State Chairman presented awards to the contestants from their respective state. New York State Elks Association Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon, of Lowville Lodge #1605, had the honor of presenting the Girls U10 2nd place award to **Natalee Houghtaling**, the Girls U14 2nd place award to **Lilliana Jones**, the Boys U8 3rd place award to **Drew Lucas**, the Boys U10 2nd place award to **Chase Wheeler** and the Boys U12 3rd place award to **Bryan Kinmartin**.



Drew Lucas, representing Lowville Lodge #830, took 3rd place honors in the Boys U8 Division. He is pictured as he received his 3rd place trophy from New York State Elks Association Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon during the awards ceremony.



Natalee Houghtaling, representing Vestal Lodge #2508, took 2nd place honors in the Girls U10 division. She is pictured receiving her 2nd place trophy from New York State Elks Association Soccer Chair Dan Shannon during the awards ceremony.



Chase Wheeler, representing Lowville Lodge #830, took 2nd place honors in the Boys U10 Division. He is pictured as he received his 2nd place trophy from New York State Elks Association Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon during the awards ceremony.



Bryan Kinmartin, representing Twin Cities Lodge #860, took 3rd place honors in the Boys U12 Division. He is pictured as he received his 3rd place trophy from New York State Elks Association Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon during the awards ceremony.



Lilliana Jones, representing Carthage Lodge #1702, took 2nd place honors in the Girls U14 Division. She is pictured as she received her 2nd place trophy from New York State Elks Association Soccer Shoot Chair Dan Shannon during the awards ceremony.



During the awards ceremony, Past Grand Exalted Ruler **David R. Carr** was gifted a soccer ball that was signed by each contestant. Contestants signed the ball during registration. He is pictured with his wife Penny wife as they showcase the ball.