

# EMPIRE STATE ELK

Official Publication of the New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc.  
Winter 2025 Issue



### STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

I know the power of kindness. When I finally left a bad marriage after 10 years with my 2 young children, we had no home and probably less hope, only a will to survive. I thought I had no one. I had no family here and I thought no one cared. Well, people at work helped me, friends took us in until I could get a place. I had hope. Two days out and my car broke down. I had to get to work. It was our only chance to stay on our feet. I had \$8 in my pocket. A local mechanic I barely knew, he was a friend of a friend, fixed it without charge as he had heard we were having hard times. He was an angel when I needed it the most. It made me believe once more in the love and care of a community. I will spend the rest of my life giving back whenever I can. By the way, I found out years later that mechanic was an Elk. Rest In Peace Liberty Elks member Danny Thalmann.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your dedication to the order and to each other. I am forever grateful for the trust you have placed in me and I intend to serve you and this organization as long as the Lord keeps me able to do so.

God bless our troops, and God bless the United States of America and God Bless the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

### NYSEA State President Tania DeFrank Upcoming Visitation Schedule

<b>Central District</b>	<b>March 7-9, 2025</b>
<b>East District</b>	<b>March 14-16, 2025</b>
<b>West District</b>	<b>April 25-27, 2025</b>
<b>Homecoming</b>	<b>May 2-4, 2025</b>
<b>Spring Convention</b>	<b>May 15-18, 2025</b>

Hello New York Elks! What a year I have had so far! I have thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated every single moment of this year. Meeting old friends, making new friends and learning first hand the very depth of your dedication is humbling. As of the time of writing this message to you, I have visited 95 lodges and have only 21 lodges left to visit in the Central, East and West District. February showed us a real NYS winter this year and we had to reschedule my second visit to the Central District to March. I have enjoyed this year so very much and can not even begin to tell you how many memories and friends I have made. I am incredibly proud to be your State President and thank each and every one of you.

I had the pleasure to attend the NYS South Regional Hoop Shoot in New Hyde Park, the contestants were incredibly talented. I am looking forward to the finals in Utica next month too. I will also have the pleasure of throwing out the first bowling ball for the 76th NYS Bowling Tournament on March 29th in Troy. Thank you to Watervliet-Colonie # 1500 for hosting and congratulations on their 100th Anniversary! I am also looking forward to attending the NYS Ritual competition in Poughkeepsie in April. I also hope to see many of you at my homecoming during the weekend of May 3rd in Kingston.

It's that time of year for Exalted Rulers and Officers to take on new and continuing leadership for this year. It can be daunting to take on that responsibility but your members have chosen you to lead. Your dedication to the Elks has already made you worthy of their faith in you. Be sure to follow your statutes, bylaws and manuals. These rules and guidelines are there to protect you and assist you. Don't be afraid to ask questions, especially of those who have been leaders in your lodge and other lodges. It's also important for officers and members alike to travel within your district, and when possible, beyond. For many new Elks, it's natural to stay close to their own lodge, and that's completely okay. However, let's encourage our new members to join us at DD clinics, visitations, and other district events. These experiences broaden their horizons and deepen their connection to our larger Elk family.

For over 16+ years, I believe I have attended every state convention, and every single time, I leave with something valuable. Sometimes it's a fresh idea that I can't wait to bring back to the lodge; other times, I realize we've been doing something wrong, and I rush back to make those changes! It's always the right time to correct what you have unwittingly been doing wrong. Conventions are vital—not only for learning, but also for networking and building friendships across the state. I'm always amazed when I run into a friend I've only ever seen at conferences, and then I get to visit them at their home lodge now. I have just loved it. We are all so different but very much the same.

The NYSEA convention booking form is now available for reservations at the Villa Roma. Just a reminder, your hotel reservation includes all meals, which is something I truly appreciate—it's always a joy to sit down and share a meal with friends. It's a great atmosphere there and I am looking forward to it. And of course I hope to see many of you at the Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City, MO. If you ever doubt the effect you are having locally go there and see thousands of like minded Elks doing what you are doing and together we are making a huge difference. My pride at conventions is beyond words.

I read an article just a short while ago and it rang so very true I want you to hear it. It was an article by Gary Fields, an award winning Associated Press journalist. He had tried to adopt his 13 year old orphaned nephew years ago from the inner city of Atlanta. The child's grandma wouldn't give him up as she was receiving a government check. Fields wondered how that child's life would have been different. That boy was shot to death by age 30 in the same ghetto he grew up in. Fields wrote, "I think about him often and the decision that kept him from reaching escape velocity, the things you need to go right to lift the weight of your birth circumstances off of you. Those include family, education, jobs, friends, neighborhoods, adult interventions, hard work and good luck. Even if they make it one step, a car repair, a missed day at work or a high utility bill can begin a downward spiral." He added, "I can't say for certain everything would have been OK but I believe we could have given him more options to a different path. What I want remembered is that changing his path would also have changed the lives of anyone he may have wronged, too".

That is powerful. That's what volunteerism does. It creates possibilities. It offers people the chance to change their story. You never know who you're going to impact — but you are impacting someone. A kind word to a senior who's isolated and lonely. A moment of time spent with a veteran who feels forgotten. A young person who sees a different path in life because you took the time to listen. Your service ripples out, affecting not just the person you directly help, but everyone they come into contact with.



During her visit to the Hudson Valley District, New York State Elks Association President Tania DeFrank had the opportunity to visit the City of Hudson Volunteer Fire Department. This is the oldest volunteer Fire Department in our state. State President Tania noted "I got to go in the fire truck and it was one of the best experiences ever! I literally held my breath when I got to push the button on the Q2B siren. What a thrill!!!! Thank you VP Christine. Volunteers are the best. Thank you City of Hudson FD". State President Tania is pictured below with members of Staten Island Lodge #841 during her visit to the South District.





Please join the East Central District for the

# HOME COMING

of NYSEA President 2024-2025

**Tania DeFrank**

**May 2-4, 2025**

**Best Western Plus Kingston Hotel and Conference Center**

503 Washington Ave, Kingston, NY 12401

**Friday Evening May 2, 2025**

Complimentary Hospitality after check in and Light Supper from 6pm at Best Western Kingston

**Saturday Day May 3, 2025**

Hudson Valley Boat Tour for Ladies & Gentlemen

Followed by Lunch at Kingston Lodge #550

*Dress Code Casual*

Transportation departs at 9:45 am

Transportation, Hospitality and Lunch are included

Return by 3pm to Best Western

\$30 per person

**Saturday Dinner May 3, 2025**

6:00 pm Cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres

7:00 pm Dinner and Event Program

*Dress Code is Jacket and Tie and ladies equivalent*

\$75 per person

All hospitality and gratuities are included

If you have any questions or if you would like to make a presentation at the dinner, please contact Samantha Davis at 845-701-9207 or email to [sam.mercer42@gmail.com](mailto:sam.mercer42@gmail.com)

Guests should make their own hotel reservations with this [link](#) or call the hotel directly at (845) 338-0400 and let them know you need the NYS Elks Association discount.

One King Bed \$209.00 max. plus tax per night

Two Queen Beds \$199.00 max. plus tax per night

Free parking

Complimentary Hotel Breakfast 7am - 10am

# State President Homecoming Reservation Form

Guests should make their own hotel reservations with this [link](#) or call the hotel directly at (845) 338-0400 and let them know you need the NYS Elks Association discount

## Friday Evening May 2, 2025

Complimentary Hospitality after check in and Light Supper from 6pm at Best Western Kingston

**Cost: \$0**

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

## Saturday Day Event

Hudson Valley Boat Tour and Lunch (for ladies and gentlemen). Depart from the hotel at 9:45 am  
Includes: Transportation, Boat Tour and Lunch at Kingston Elks Lodge #550, return at 3:00 pm  
All Hospitality and gratuities are included

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost is \$30 per person**

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Saturday Night Dinner and Event Program

Best Western Plus Kingston Hotel and Conference Center,  
6 pm Cocktail hour and 7 pm dinner. All hospitality and gratuities are included

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost is \$75 per person**

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation Deadline: March 31, 2025

Please make check payable to:

Liberty Elks Lodge 1545  
21 John Street  
Liberty NY 12754

**Elks- United in Service**



# NEW YORK STATE ELK ASSOCIATION MAJOR PROJECT



**PAST STATE PRESIDENT  
JAMIE PEACE  
Major Project Message  
Winter 2025**



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.

It's hard to believe that we're in the final quarter of our lodge year. March is upon us, and our lodges will be nominating and electing their lodge officers for the upcoming year. I would like to thank all of the Exalted Rulers for all of their dedication and hard work during their terms.

Remember, it's not too late to make donations for your lodge's per capita for ENF and the NYS Elks Major Project. The final day for ENF is March 31<sup>st</sup> and for Major Project, May 31<sup>st</sup>. In order to receive many ENF grants, your lodge must have made its per capita. Also, please keep in mind that for your lodge to be eligible for future ENF grants, each year there are required forms to be completed and submitted to Grand Lodge for all grants received. As Major Project chairman David Brown works toward the \$400,000 goal, and lodges \$8.00 per capita, many lodges and districts are having events to help reach these goals. One upcoming event is being planned by Charles, one of our Ambassadors. Charles, along with his family, is sponsoring a meat raffle to help meet our goal. Last year Charles raised \$12,500 on this one-night event. Many lodges may want to take notice, as, unfortunately, we still have many lodges in the state that have zero per capita. Charles and his family understand how important the per capita is and want to do their part to ensure the Major Project is a success.

As was announced last year to help bring awareness to our membership, the New York Elks Major Projects awarded \$50,000 to NY Special Olympics. This award was distributed in all nine regions of New York state to support their regional and state programs. I will be attending the Special Olympics winter games in Rochester on February 21st and 22nd, as well as many Western Regional games this spring.

The Major Projects Boards's Benefactor Program is to make sure that the following programs are viable for many generations to come:

- Major Project Home Service Program through CP State
- Veterans Service Program
- Youth Programs

The idea behind the Benefactor Program is to motivate all Elks, their spouses, families, and friends to name the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc. in their will, living trust, insurance policy, annuities, or similar documents suggested by their financial advisor or attorney.

Giving is encouraged in any amount an individual can afford. The New York Elks Major Projects Board acknowledges that, for Elks, their first priority is to their families. They are asked only to donate 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?

Thank you to all of the state, district, and lodge chairpersons, along with the lodge officers for the job you have all done this year. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events and our spring convention at the Villa Roma in May.



**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.



Lt. James Comstock from the Stamford CT Police Department and **Mid-Westchester Lodge #535's** Esteemed Lecturing Knight visited the scouts at the Bridge School at Cerebral Palsy of Westchester to put on a First Aid / EMS demonstration. The scouts participated in the first aid program called Stop the Bleed. Stop the Bleed is the result of a collaborative effort led by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS COT) to bring knowledge of bleeding control to the public. The ACS COT, and specifically the EMS subcommittee with its many collaborative relationships, provided the perfect environment for this program to grow into the critical success that it is today. Learning to stop the bleed is a lifesaving skill. The number 1 cause of preventable death after injury is bleeding. With 3 quick actions, you can be trained and empowered to save a life. The scouts learned how to apply tourniquets and other life-saving skills to Stop the Bleed. Participating in the demonstration were 12 Cub Scouts and 12 Girl Scouts from Cerebral Palsy of Westchester's Bridge School. Members of our lodge arranged the program and helped the scouts with doing the first aid skills.



At a recent District Deputy and State Vice President visitation, **Potsdam Lodge #2074** Exalted Ruler Ernie Charleston announced that the 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 2024-2025 STATE TOTALS

As of 3/1/25, \$325,602.47 has been raised for the New York State Major Project. The member per capita is \$7.04. Thank you to everyone for your continued efforts in supporting the NYSEA Major Project. For further information on 2024-2025 donations, please visit the New York State Elks Association Website. Go to Programs and then open the Major Projects file, click Major Project News and open the link Major Project Reports.



# ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



**Potsdam Lodge #2074** used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and donated \$500 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.



**Massapequa Lodge #2162** utilized a \$2000 Spotlight Grant to donate 400 pairs of insulated gloves and 800 pairs of Hot Hands Warmers to the Veterans participating in the November Stand Down at the Freeport Armory, located in Freeport NY. The gloves were individually packaged and labeled which were placed on each package with a "Thank You for your Service" message and Elks Logo with a Massapequa Lodge #2162 identifier. These gloves were packaged in boxes by Veterans Chair, Fran Ward and Co-Chair Anne Williams (pictured).



**Brunswick Lodge #2556** graciously donated \$1,500.00 from their Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to the Pittstown, New York Food Pantry. This generous contribution will provide food supplies for over a month. Pictured from left to right are Exalted Ruler Rick Seguin, Food Pantry Director Constance Madigan, and Past State Vice President Dale Loucks.



**New York Lodge #1** received a \$2000 Spotlight Grant to be spent on the Lodges community for hunger relief. Twenty families referred by Our Lady Of Peace Food Bank each received \$100+ worth of food for the holiday season. Food items included bacon, butter chocolate, holiday treats, fresh onions and potatoes, oranges, ham, Pillsbury rolls, cheese and more. Seven members shopped for the food and nine were on hand for the food distribution which occurred at the Lodge prior to the Christmas Holiday. Members from the Lodge donated shopping carts and insulated bags in which the food was distributed. The carts were decorated with tinsel and a holiday card, signed by each cart's sponsor. (Bags, carts, cards and decoration totaled \$960). Shoppers at a local BJ's (in Freeport) saw what the Lodge members were doing and donated an additional \$45 to the cause, which was used to purchase more food. Picture shopping at the store are, Left to right, Past District Deputy/ Exalted Ruler Bill Bock, Past District Deputy John Nuzzi, members Diane and Bob Smith, Tyler Sylvia Wanser, and Past District Deputy Al Hoffman.



**Huntington Lodge #1565** used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and donated \$250.00 worth of an assortment of winter coats and accessories to the Outreach Program of St. Hugh's R.C. Church. Pictured here receiving this donation are James Calero, Director of the Church's Outreach, along with his assistant Cedith.



**Staten Island Lodge #841** partnered with the Natural Resources Protective Association and used a portion of the Beacon Grant to fund a Beach Clean-up at Lemon Creek. There were students from Tottenville High School, Wagner High School, IS7 and Scouts Troop 6 who helped and earned service credits for their work. The grant was able to be used to purchase items necessary for the cleanups the organization has throughout the year as well as to provide refreshments to all of their volunteers. It was the Lodges first time working with this organization and the Lodge is looking forward to continuing the relationship and helping to keep Staten Island beautiful, safe and clean.

**Smithtown Lodge #2036** used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Freedom Grant and hosted a day with the Paws of War Mobile Veterinary Clinic. This mobile clinic provided free veterinary care to 18 service animals serving as companion animals of military veterans and first responders. While the pets received medical care, the Smithtown Elks provided the veterans, first responder and the Paws of War Staff with a free BBQ lunch. Both people and pets enjoyed a relaxing afternoon under the shade trees on the beautiful grounds of the Lodge.



# ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



**Huntington Lodge #1565** received notifications from Island Harvest regarding their need for donations, and the members quickly responded by delivering approximately \$150 worth of a variety of non-perishable foods to their local warehouse. Pictured accepting this delivery is "Kenny" as the trunkload of food is dropped off thanks. The Lodge utilized funds received from the Beacon Grant to support the donation.



**Staten Island Lodge #841** utilized Elk National Foundation grand monies and hosted a Baby Shower. Approximately 40 attendees honored 10 women/ families of the Crossroads Foundation of Staten Island. The Crossroad Foundation was created to assist women and families experiencing unplanned pregnancies by providing them with accurate information about their options and by offering them ongoing support. Member Donna LaDolcetta coordinated the event and reached out to this organization and developing an ongoing relationship. Lodge members donated their time decorating and culinary expertise. Games, trivia, prizes, luncheon and desserts were enjoyed by all and the children were occupied with coloring books.



Past Exalted Ruler Gary Gatens of **Staten Island Lodge #841** has been recognized for becoming a member of the Elks National Foundation Honorary Founder cumulative level of giving, meaning he has donated a generous total of \$1,000 or more to the, Elks National Foundation Lodge Secretary Donna La Dolcetta is pictured presenting Gary with a certificate and an Honorary Foundation Pin.



**Clifton Park Lodge** obtained a \$2500 Gratitude Grant from the Elks National Foundation to support CAPTAIN Community Human Services (CHS): Homelessness Prevention and Intervention Programs. This program operates the Runaway and Homeless Emergency Youth Shelter located in Malta, New York. Opened in 1998, the Runaway & Homeless Youth Shelter is a temporary shelter serving youth under age 18 who are homeless, runaway, or in an otherwise unsafe situation. Youth can stay for up to 30 days or as long as is necessary, and know that they will be safe and find refuge in a home-like environment. The Shelter celebrated its 25th anniversary in September 2024. Lodge Secretary Anne Shelton, District Deputy Bob Lumpkins and Trustee Daniel Mathias are pictured as they presented the donation on behalf of Clifton Park Lodge to Fern Hurley, CAPTAIN Associate Executive Director.



**Oneonta Lodge #1312** used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation grant to purchase food for 40 families in the Oneonta area. 14 families received gifts for their children. (47 children within the 14 families) Both members and non-members helped get everything together. Those who helped were Judy Sweet, Charlene Donnell, Laurie Neander. Making the deliveries to Family Services were Pat Pidgeon, Judy Sweet, Tom Cisco, with Kim DeFalco and Eilene Mumford, both from Family Services.



**Monticello Lodge #1544** utilized a \$4000 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to provide winter coats, gloves and hats for 100 students in the Fallsburg School District and 100 students in the Monticello School District. The grant was made possible by donations from members of the Monticello Elks Lodge. Pictured with the coat donations, from left to right, are Past Exalted Ruler Mike Brennan, Fallsburg Guidance Secretary Kristen Meyer and Elks Trustee Brian Johnson.

The members of **Islip Lodge #2533** donated a Prime Rib Dinner for Veterans at 4 Beacon Houses of Islip. Member John Tramposch and East District Deputy Grand Exalted ruler Joe D'Angelo, happily made the delivery. Each of the four houses received a boneless Prime Rib, Lobster Bisque, string beans, carrots, potatoes and, for dessert, Apple Pie. The funding for the donation was achieved through an Elks National Foundation's Freedom Grant and donations made by the members of the Islip Elks Lodge #2533. Over \$1000 was utilized for this effort.

# Camp Bristol Update

VOL. 3 ISSUE 1  
FEBRUARY 2025

## SPRUCE NEWS

Official Newsletter of NYS Elks Camp Bristol



### Youth Camp 2025

Camp Bristol is excited to announce the 2025 Youth Summer Camp sessions! Camp Bristol is offering both overnight & day camp weeklong sessions beginning July 7th. Weeks 1-4 are open to all campers in addition to the 2 CamperShips designated per each NYS Elks District. Week 5 is reserved for family members of active military & Veterans.

Overnight Camping Sunday 5 pm - Friday 4 pm	Daycamp Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4 pm	Daycamp Extended hours Monday - Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm
\$350 per camper per week.	\$125 per camper per week	\$150 per camper per week
July 6-11	July 7-11	July 7-11
July 13-18	July 14-18	July 14-18
July 20-25	July 21-25	July 21-25
July 27 - August 1	July 28 - August 1	July 28 - August 1
August 3-8	August 4-8	August 4-8

### Summer Camp Staff

Camp Bristol is welcoming back some wonderful staff members from past summers and has begun hiring for the upcoming summer season.

Positions include counselors, lifeguards, waterfront director, nurse, and kitchen help. Overnight camp staff positions include room & board, as well as meals.

For more information or to apply, please contact Camp Director, Keeghan McSweeney, at (315)317.2573 or apply directly using the QR code below.



### Camp Counselor

**GET PAID A SALARY OF \$475.00 PER WEEK FOR 6 WEEKS OF FUN!**

*Are you kind, caring, and compassionate?*

We are seeking applicants at least 18 years of age to apply to work with our campers in small groups, plan fun and engaging activities for campers of all ages and ability levels.

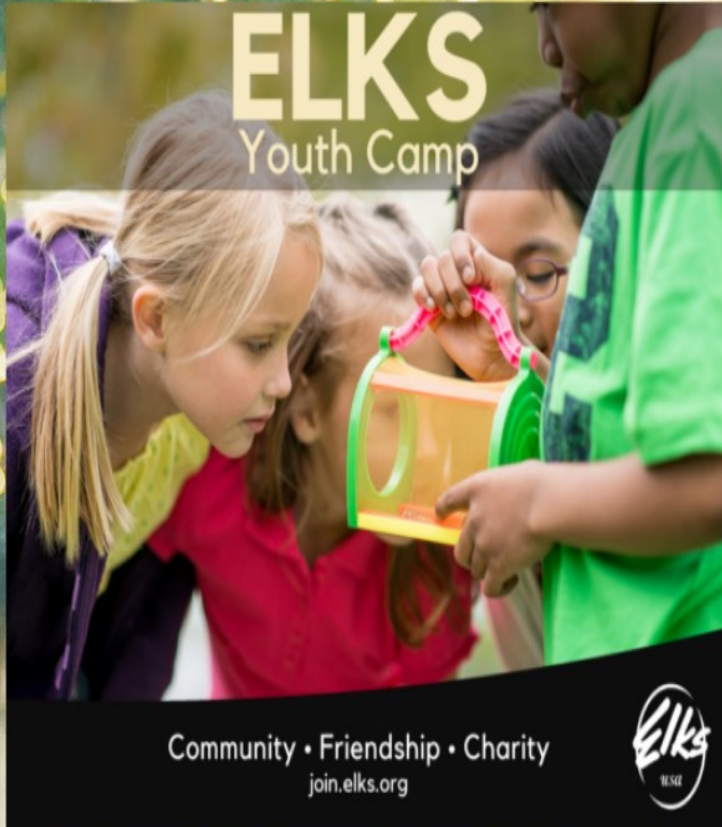
*Apply Today!*

Scan the QR code with your smart device to fill out a staff application.

Have any questions? Contact your Youth Camp Director at (315)317-2573



# Camp Bristol Update



## 2025 YEAR AHEAD

### District CamperShips

At the 2024 Fall Conference, Camp Bristol announced the 2025 NYS District CamperShips. Each district receives 2 weeklong overnight session CamperShips to be awarded to 2 campers of their choosing. The district schedule and submission form has been provided to your Camp Bristol District Representatives. The deadline for submissions is May 15th. This form can also be found on the Camp Bristol Facebook page.

Our final week of camping is reserved for children & grandchildren of active military and Veterans. Be on the lookout for additional information and submission form! We look forward to welcoming these new campers from across the great state of New York this summer!

### 2025 Camp Bristol Golf Tournaments

The spring Camp Bristol Golf Tournament will again be graciously hosted by the East Central District. It will be held on 5/14 at the Villa Roma Resort Golf Course. Sponsor and golfer registration forms have been provided to your District Reps and are also available on the Camp Bristol Facebook page. Details for the Fall Golf Tournament to be held in September are ever evolving as we are looking to hold the tournament in different areas of the state each year. If your district has a great course you would like to recommend, please contact Scott Hirst at (315)804-3512.

### District Rep Monthly Call

The most recent monthly District Representative call was held on January 29th. In addition to this newsletters contents, updates were provided on the new camper cabin construction, Camp Bristol Mega-Raffle and more. Thank you to all of our District representatives that take time out of their busy schedules to attend these meetings and share the information. The next call is scheduled for 2/24 at 7pm. Please contact your Lodge Chair or District Rep for updates or 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](mailto:nyselkscampbristol@gmail.com) and we will ensure you get the proper information.

NY Elks Camp Bristol 2025 District Summer Youth Camperships		Each NYS District has been provided with 2 weeklong overnight camperships. Assigned weeks are listed below. Deadline for camper submissions is May 15, 2025.
Week 1 South East East Central Hudson Valley	July 6-11	Camper 1 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Camper 2 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Alternate Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Camper 3 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Camper 4 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Alternate Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____
Week 2 North Hudson State Capital Colonial	July 13-18	Camper 1 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Camper 2 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Alternate Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Camper 3 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Camper 4 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Alternate Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____
Week 3 Southern South Central West West Central	July 20-25	Camper 1 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Camper 2 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Alternate Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Camper 3 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Camper 4 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Alternate Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____
Week 4 Mohawk Valley North Central Capital	July 27-Aug 1	Camper 1 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Camper 2 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Alternate Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Camper 3 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Camper 4 Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____ Alternate Name: _____ Parent Name/Contact: _____

Camper submissions are to be determined by each District (i.e. office, contact etc.)  
 CamperShips include weekday stay with Sunday afternoon check-in. Friday afternoon pick-up. 1 meal/day + snack. Transportation is not included. Please send questions & submissions to: [nyselkscampbristol@gmail.com](mailto:nyselkscampbristol@gmail.com)

**ELKS SPRING CONVENTION GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
**EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT #6160**  
**GOLF "FORE" CAMP BRISTOL**  
 ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CAMP BRISTOL

**\$90.00/PERSON**  
**MAY 14, 2025, 1:00 SHOTGUN START**  
 11:00: REGISTRATION; 12:00: LUNCH

**CART/TEE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:**  
**\$100.00**  
 CART/TEE SPONSOR SIGNS WILL CONSIST OF THE NAME OF THE SPONSOR ON THE TEE SIGNS ALONG WITH A SPONSOR BROCHURE ON EACH CART.

**LUNCH SPONSORSHIP : \$250.00**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:** MIDDLETOWN ELKS BPOE 1097

**SEND CHECKS TO:** Merrill Conner  
 8 Ella Street  
 Naparoch, NY 12458

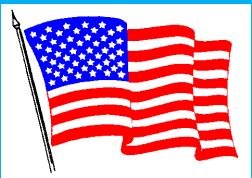
**CHECKS DUE BY MAY 5**

for questions, contact:  
**MERRILL CONNER**  
[mconner8@yahoo.com](mailto:mconner8@yahoo.com)  
 645-594-2673

**TOURNAMENT LOCATION** Villa Roma Resort  
 356 Villa Roma Rd.  
 Calicoon, NY 12773

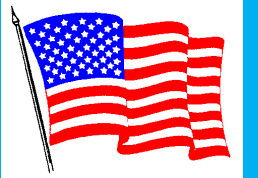






# VETERANS ACTIVITIES

## SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



**Watertown Lodge # 496** Veterans Committee members, Past Exalted Ruler Ed Massa and Renee Cook, made a delivery to Joseph P Dwyer Vets Peer-to-Peer Outreach Center on State Street in Watertown, NY. On behalf of the Lodge, they donated items totaling about \$600 worth to the Lodge's Vets Christmas Gift Giving Tree. Past Exalted Ruler and Veterans Committee chair Ed Massa, on behalf of the committee, would like to thank everyone for their generous donations.



The VAVS Committee of the **East District #6120** works closely with the Volunteer Service Division of the Northport Medical Center and continues to receive their "wish list" each month for items most requested and needed for their residents. During a scheduled visit in November, arrangements were made by VAVS Representative Jack Stein, State Chairman and Volunteer Service Representative, Christen Butcher of the Northport VA Hospital, for a pick-up of \$645 worth of men's underwear and Government accepted slip free socks. Pictured is Christen as the donation was received.



The **East District 6120** continues its support of "Drumming for Vets". Now in its' 7th year, "Drumming for Vets", founded by Chet Deboe of the "Hip Pickles" and State Veterans Chairman, Jack Stein of Huntington Lodge #1565, was once again held at Long Island's Levittown Hall. Coming from 6 different States, performers donated their time and talent, generating over \$6000 which will provide Northport Veterans Hospital and Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook, with much needed supplies. 100% of the proceeds received by both performers and attendees will be evenly divided between the 2 facilities. A great time was enjoyed by all who attended.



**Beacon Lodge #1493** visited with Veterans at Castle Point VA for Christmas. Pictured during the visit are; left to right, Veterans Larry, Grace, Dan, Robert, Exalted Ruler Micheal, Jenn, Cathy, Stephanie, Jim, Teresa, Carl, John and Gretchen (Recreation) escorted Santa (Dave) and Elroy (Dominic) handing out gifts and singing Christmas songs to all the Veterans. Seated are Veterans Howard, Charlie and Patty who enjoyed the visit. Prior to going on the unit, local Volunteer Fire Departments from Chelsea, New Hackensack, Dutchess Junction and Glenham Fire Department (carrying Santa and Elroy) with members of the Lodge conducted a drive through the campus with sirens, lights and horns blasting away.

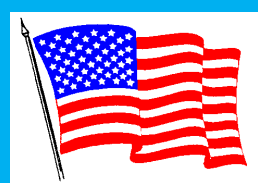


The south lodges of the **South District** had their annual Holiday Wrapping Party at New York Lodge #1 to prepare 125 presents (total value \$4250) for the Veterans in St Albans VA. Twenty Six members were in attendance, including Past District Deputy John Nuzzi (VAVS Rep and District Veterans Chair from New York Lodge #1), Rich Muniak (1st Deputy Representative and New York Lodge #1 Loyal Knight, State Trustee Lisa Moldovan, New York Lodge #1 Exalted Ruler and Past District Deputy Bill Bock, Past District Deputy and New York Lodge #1 Sponsor Ron Hansen, Exalted Ruler Lisette Morales, Lodge Sponsor and Past District Deputy Patricia Carroll from Brooklyn Queensborough Lodge 878, and New Hyde Park North Shore Lodge #2107' Esteemed Leading Knight Tony Vitale. New York Lodge #1 Veterans Chair Lois Anderson shopped for all extra items that were also needed. After packing the gifts, all enjoyed Pizza, salads, donuts and cake.

Eight **Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317** members and Veterans Service Chairperson, Past Exalted Ruler Regina Hogan, spent an afternoon with Veterans from the Albany Veterans House in December at their 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmastime visit. They shared lunch, conversation, and sang Christmas carols until Santa Elk arrived. Lodge members had purchased \$1,600 in Walmart gift cards for 32 Veterans residing at The House. Treat bags filled with assorted chocolates, ballpoint pens and a Christmas card were also given to each Veteran.

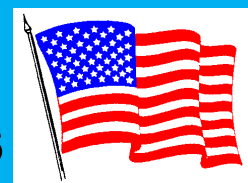


The VA New York Harbor Healthcare System of The St Albans Campus Celebrated Veterans Day with a wonderful program. As always, the Elks of the **South District** were there to honor them. The celebration was called to order by Vitoria Townes, Specialist CDCE in charge. On this very special day, VAVS Rep and Past District Deputy John Nuzzi rallied members from three southern South District Lodges to attend. One hundred flags were distributed to those in attendance at this event, overseen by VAVS 1st Deputy Representative Rich Muniak of New York Lodge #1. Pictured are Elk members present at the event. They are Past District Deputy and New York Lodge #1 Sponsor Ron Hansen, Peter Guadagno of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge 2107, Rich and Noreen Super of New York Lodge #1, Loyal Knight Rich Muniak of New York Lodge #1, Tiler Sylvia Wanser of New York Lodge #1, Regina Vitale of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107, Secretary Kathy Lang of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107, Inner Guard Rosa Morales of Brooklyn Queensborough Lodge #878, Frank Cappa of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107, Alina Valdes of Brooklyn Queensborough Lodge #878, Tony Vitale of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107, Treasurer Kim Marie Stein of New York Lodge #1, Past District Deputy Al Hoff of New York Lodge #1, and Ralph Scherillo of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107.



# VETERANS ACTIVITIES

## SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



**Watertown Lodge # 496** hosted an amazing Veterans Dinner. Nearly 100 people attended the Turkey dinner. Dinner included: turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, vegetables, salad, dinner rolls, and desserts. Meals were all donated and prepared by amazing volunteers. The evening included honored guest speaker; Eric B. Soluri, Retired United States Air Force Chief Master Sergeant. The evening was introduced by our Veterans Committee chairman, Past Exalted Ruler Ed Massa. Exalted Ruler Mike opened the evening and introduced Reverend Linda Taber for invocation. Star Spangled Banner was performed by a singer from Fort Drum. Esquire Karen Miller and the Boys Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance. Before close of the evening, the Veterans Committee presented a check for \$1,000 to Joseph P Dwyer Veteran Peer Support Center in Jefferson County. The \$1,000 was received from Freedom Grant from the Grand Lodge. Reverend Linda Taber and her husband also presented a check to the Veterans Committee in gratitude of the committee's commitment and support to the local veterans' programs.



After learning about a Navy veteran in need of assistance, the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** quickly shopped for warm winter clothing that he so desperately needed. Working his way through difficult times, this Veteran was grateful for not only receiving these carefully chosen articles of clothing, but more importantly, seeing that Elks do sincerely care for his well being. Approximately \$200 received through the efforts of the Beacon Grant was utilized to support this Veteran in need.



Several Members of **Brooklyn-Queens Borough Lodge #878** attended a Veteran's celebration at the Manhattan VA in November. The Veterans celebration was attended by approximately 40 veterans and numerous volunteers. Lodge members donated money to offset the cost of the event.



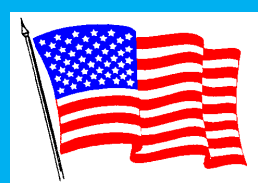
**Oswego Lodge #271** used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Grant to support the Military Veterans Program. The Military Veterans Program is designed to provide skills training and equipment to ease the transition of Fort Drum active-duty soldiers to civilian careers as carpenters and millwrights. Pictured during the donation presentation are Alexander Cary, Instructor Mike Bedard, Landon Cuevas, Exalted Ruler Carol Simpson, Jeffery Kittle, Richard Lee, Thomas Merrill, Instructor Jim Vascera, and Loyal Knight George Baldwin.



Members from the **East District 6120 VAVS** Committee delivered \$240.00 worth of toiletries, laundry detergent, fixodent, floradent, soft drink mix and slippers to the Northport VA Hospital for their immediate use. Pictured during the delivery are State Veterans Chairman and District VAVS Chairman Jack Stein, along with his Deputy Lisa Hernandez from Islip Lodge #2533 and Michael Garrity V1, a representative from Stony Brook's Veterans Integrated Service Network Michael Garrity, V1.

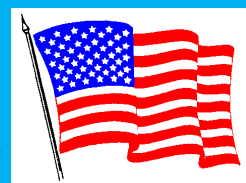


**Utica Lodge #33** supported the FEED OUR VETS of Utica, New York with a \$3000 donation. Pictured during the donation presentation were, in back row: Robin Carson, Paul Carson, and Joe Synek, founder of Feed Our Vets and a Navy Veteran. Seated is Joe Ancona, Manager of Utica Feed Our Vets Food Pantry and Army Veteran, Lisa Rosinski, Kathy Kraus, Roger Kraus and Veterans Committee Chairman Cory O'Connor,



# VETERANS ACTIVITIES

## SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



**Kingston Lodge #550** prepared and donated 60 take-home meals to veterans in honor of Veterans Day. Members Betsy Mills and Pat Cooney are pictured at the event.



The VA New York Harbor Healthcare System of The St Albans Campus Celebrated Veterans Day with a wonderful program. As always, the Elks of the **South District** were there to honor them!. The celebration was called to order by Vitoria Townes, Specialist CDCE in charge. On this very special day, VAVS Representative, Past District Deputy John Nuzzi rallied members from three southern South District Lodges to attend. One hundred flags were distributed to those in attendance at this event, overseen by VAVS 1st Deputy Representative Rich Muniak of New York Lodge #1. Pictured are Elk members present at the event. They were Past District Deputy and New York Lodge #1 Sponsor Ron Hansen, Peter Guadagno of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107, Rich and Noreen Super of New York Lodge #1, Loyal Knight Rich Muniak of New York Lodge #1, Tiler Sylvia Wanser of New York Lodge #1, Regina Vitale Lodge of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107, Secretary Kathy Lang of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107, Inner Guard Rosa Morales of Brooklyn-Queensborough Lodge #878, Frank Cappa of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107, Alina Valdes of Brooklyn-Queensborough Lodge #878, Tony Vitale of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107, Treasurer Kim Marie Stein of New York Lodge #1, Past District Deputy Al Hoffman of New York Lodge #1 and Ralph Scherillo of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107.



The Elks once again sponsored and supported St Albans VA CLC facility for the Elk December veterans bingo night. District members were State Vice President Guillermo Rodrigues, Past District Deputy and Lodge Sponsor Patricia Carroll of **Brooklyn Queensborough Lodge #878**. The members of **New York Lodge #1** attending were Lisa Capulong, Lisa Trinto, Ellen Leyh, Past District Deputy John M Nuzzi, Loyal Knight Rich Muniak, 1st Deputy Veterans Representative, Lois Anderson, Veterans chair of Lodge #1, Inner Guard Sylvia Wanser, Chaplain John Costello, Treasurer Kim Stein and her Mom Linda Matsko was also on hand as a guest to help. Veteran Cruz had his music box and those attending had a sing along and a few dance steps. Keeping in the spirit of the holiday season, those attending played more games and gave away more canteen book. 120 canteen books were presented to 18 veterans that attended. The Lodge supplied Coffee and Donuts to all present after Bingo Games. A great time and conversations were had by all attending. The Veterans enjoyed the ladies calling Bingo numbers, thanks to members Lisa Trinto and Lisa Capulong.

Working closely with Emily Fullan, Director of Recreation Therapy at the Central Island Healthcare Center in Plainview New York, **East District #6120 VAVS** Representative and State Veteran Chairman Jack Stein, assembled 14 parcels of a variety of sundries that were distributed to local Veterans in need. The items covered included body wash, deodorant, shaving essentials and body lotions totaling approximately \$300.00. State Veteran Chairman Jack Stein is pictured with Emily Fullan from the Central Island Healthcare Center as she received the donated items. (Picture to the right).

### An Incredible personal story from Elmira Lodge #62 Esquire Lisa O'Connor

An incredible thing has happened in my family. My Fathers older brother Isreal, who was a 19-year-old Sgt 1st Class, was one of the very first MIAs of the Korean War. My father and the family always believed he was alive, but his remains along with 6 others were found in a cave in South Korea. Testing his DNA with those of his remaining siblings proved he was indeed their long-lost brother. He was finally flown home today with full Military Honors to be buried amongst his brothers and military brothers Friday October 11, 2024, again with full Military Honors. My father spent many years looking for his brother. My Grandmother and father were watching a documentary where they swear, they saw him alive and living as a POW Prisoner. I guess we will never know the full story, but we can close this chapter on my uncle whom I've never met but only heard stories. Rest Easy Uncle and Welcome Home.



Utilizing approximately \$350 from funds received through the **East District #6120 VAVS**, craft supplies, including packaged canvases and knitting items, along with various sundries were purchased and delivered to the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook. Pictured during the donation presentation are (l-r) Michelle Cheslak, the Director of Therapeutic Recreation, Fran Ward, VAVS Deputy from Massapequa Lodge #2162 and State Veterans Chairman and VAVS Representative Jack Stein,



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES/SCOUTING



**Beacon Lodge #1493**, recognized Haldane Middle School December Student's of the month. The students were chosen for their hard work, and leadership. Students received a certificate and a gift card for their accomplishments. Cold Spring Pizza co-sponsored the event. Pictured at the award ceremony are (l-r): Youth Activities Chair Cathy Oken, Esteemed Loyal Knight Sharon Haviland, and Lucy Merriman (6<sup>th</sup> grade), Oscar Pisano-Simonyi (7<sup>th</sup> grade), Edie Coleman (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and Esteemed Leading Knight Jeanine McAuley,



**Brooklyn-Queensborough Lodge #878** donated 125 books and 320 red ribbon book marks to The Bronx School of the Arts. Some of the students participating are pictured with their favorite book and a red ribbon book mark.

**Islip Lodge #2533** hosted a very successful annual Hoop Shoot and proudly announced that 2 participants will be competing in the upcoming NYS South Regional contest in February. Pictured are Tyler Deutsch who took 1<sup>st</sup> place honors in the Boys 10-11 category and NiMora Dacosta who took 1<sup>st</sup> place honors in the Girls 12-13 category. Each winner received gold medals and certificates which were presented to them by District Deputy Joe D'Angelo, Exalted Ruler Jim Hernandez and Past State Vice President John Brigante,



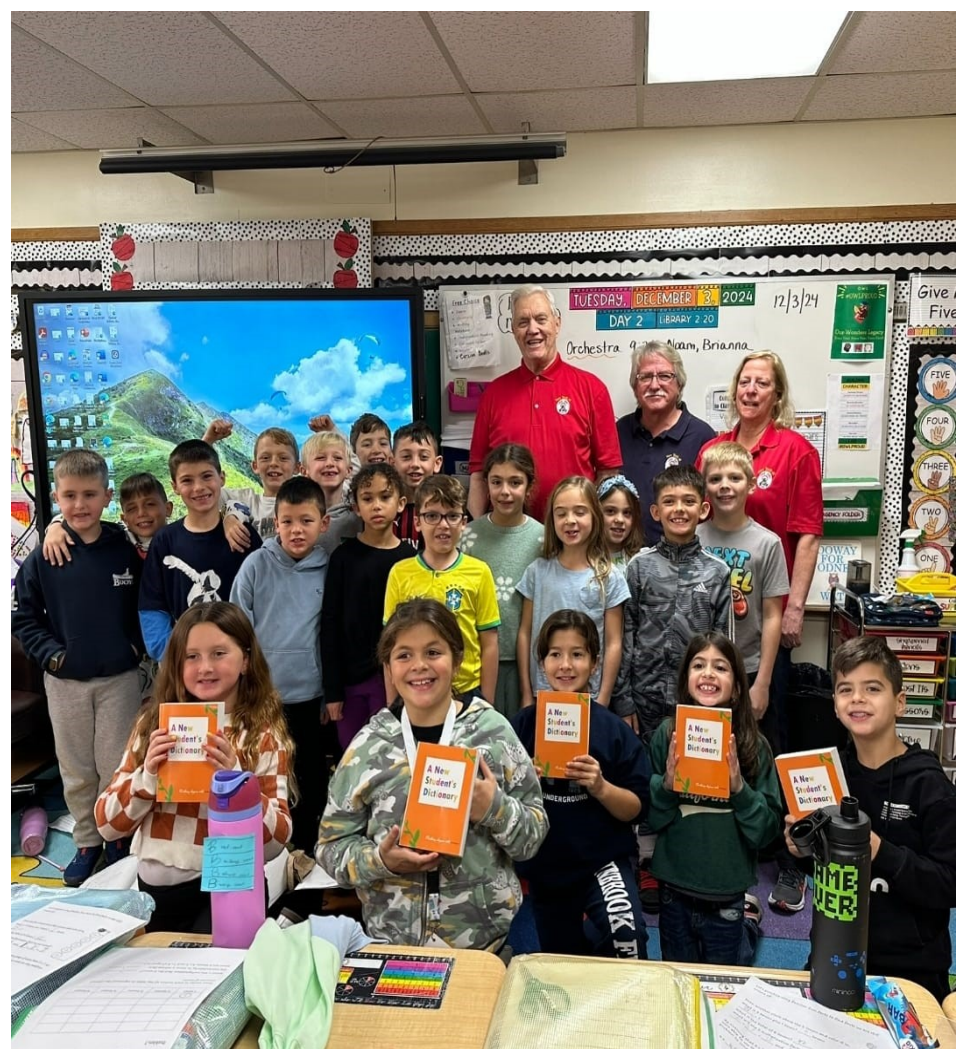
**Beacon Lodge #1493** distributed 288 dictionaries to third grade students at Gayhead Elementary, Fishkill Plains Elementary, Fishkill Elementary and South Ave Elementary schools. The Lodge used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to support the donation. Pictured are 3rd grade students at Gayhead Elementary and Principal James Daley with Youth Activities Chair Cathy Oken, Esteemed Leading Knight Jeanine McAuley and Lodge member Nancy Birkler.



**Beacon Lodge #1493** recognized Wappingers Junior High School December Student's of the Month. The students were chosen for their participation, hard work and helping their peers. Students received a certificate and gift card for their accomplishments. The event was co-sponsored by Giacomo's Pizza Café. Pictured in front row (l-r) are Teacher Mrs. Hansen, Maeve Cassidy (8<sup>th</sup> grade), Tyler Schwartz (7<sup>th</sup> grade). In back row (l-r): Esteemed Loyal Knight Sharon Haviland, Teachers: Mrs. Liberta, Mrs. Perri Siena, Mrs. Coelho, Mr. Coelho, Youth Activities Chair Cathy Oken, and Esteemed Leading Knight Jeanine McAuley,

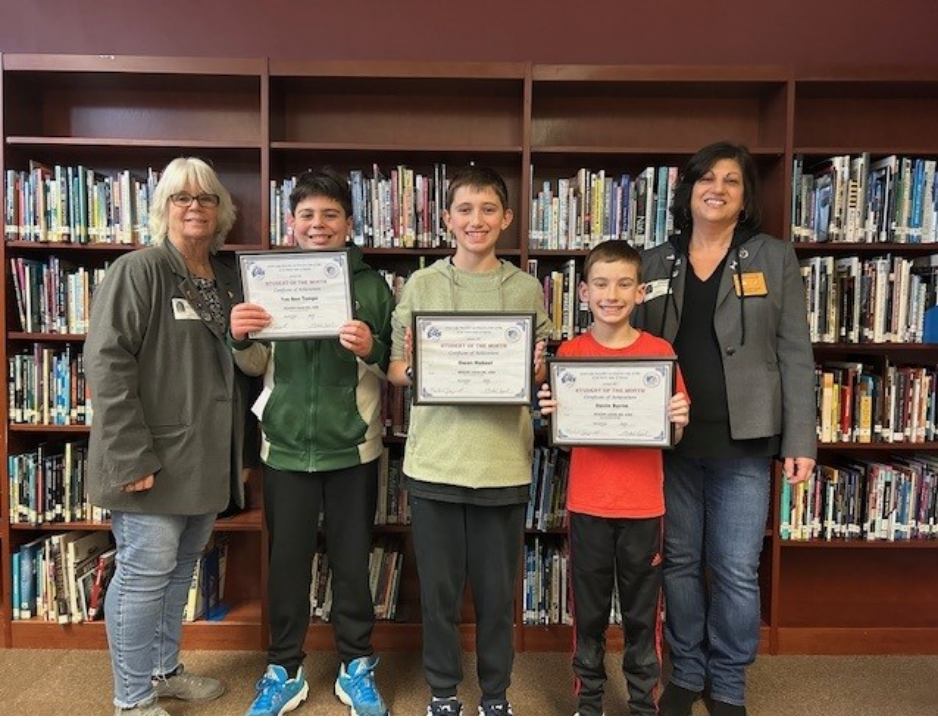


**Yorktown Lodge #2324** hosted a children's Christmas party. 35 Children from the Coachman Family Center in White Plains enjoyed hot dogs, chicken nuggets, fries, soft drinks and various games until Santa showed up. Each child was able to sit with Santa and received a gift.



**New York Lodge #1** delivered 48 dictionaries to the 3rd grade classes of Waverly Park School in East Rockaway in December. The dictionaries were presented to the students by Exalted Ruler Bill Bock and Past Exalted Ruler's Paul and Amy Schneller. They are pictured with the 3rd grade students after distributing a dictionary to each. Also present was Trustee Don Kolman (not pictured).

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES/SCOUTING



**Beacon Lodge #1493** recognized November Students of the month at Haldane Middle School. The students were chosen for their hard work, helpfulness and leadership. Students received a Certificate and gift card, for their accomplishments. Cold Spring Pizza co-sponsored the event with the Beacon Elks. Pictured during the award presentation are (l-r): Youth Activities Chair Cathy Oken, Teo Bon Tempo, (8<sup>th</sup> grade), Owen Mekeel (7<sup>th</sup> grade), Devin Byrne (6<sup>th</sup> grade) and Esteemed Leading Knight. Jeanine McCauley.



Past Exalted Rulers Paul and Amy Schneller of **New York Lodge #1** recently attended an Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony for Quincy Velez of Troop 485 At Destiny Cathedral in Hempstead. Quincy's project included clearing two areas at his church and turning them into reflection areas where a person can sit quietly. The gardens are a memorial to person's lost during Covid and also dedicated to our veterans.

## READING AREA



Members of **New York Lodge #1** visited Waverly Park Elementary School to recognize three fifth graders who competed in the Elks 2024-2025 Americanism essay contest. This year's topic was "What Does Patriotism Mean to Me?" The students earned Certificates of Achievement and were awarded \$25 gift cards for scoring in the top three in their grade and will now advance to compete at the District Level. This annual essay contest is geared towards students in 5th through 8th grades to promote patriotism among young people. Pictured (Left to right) are Exalted Ruler William Bock PDD, Winners Gianna, Travis and Aiden, Trustee Donald Kolman, and Americanism Chair and Inner Guard Michael Director.



**Beacon Lodge #1493** recently recognized Haldane Middle School January Students of the Month. The students were chosen for their Leadership, Helpfulness and greeting everyone with a Smile. The students received a certificate and gift card for their accomplishments. Cold Spring Pizza sponsored the event along with the Beacon Elks. Pictured during the award presentations are, left to right, Esteemed Loyal Knight Sharon Haviland, Henry Budney (6<sup>th</sup> grade), Michael Beglan (7<sup>th</sup> grade), Everett MacIntyre (8<sup>th</sup> grade), Esteemed Leading Knight Jeanine McAuley and Youth Activities Chair Cathy Oken,



**Beacon Lodge #1493** recognized seventh and eighth November Student of the month at Wappinger Junior High School. The students were chosen for their excellence in and out of the classroom, their sportsmanship and musical accomplishment. Students received a Certificate and gift card for their accomplishments. Giacomo's Pizza Cafe co-sponsored this event with the Beacon Elks. Pictured during the award presentations are; first row (l-r) Mrs. Talaben, Mrs. Armas, Mrs. Siena, Jonas Morgan (8th grade.) and Leah Johnson (7th grade). Back row (l-r) Mr. Thompson, Principal, Youth Activities Chair Cathy Oken, and Esteemed Leading Knight Jeanine McAuley.

Troop 6 of **Staten Island Lodge #841** recently held an Eagle Court of Honor for the Troop's 63rd Eagle Scout, Matthew Crawford. Matthew celebrated with family, friends and his fellow Scouts. Matthew was praised by his peers for his Scouting experience and reminisced of past camping trip stories. He was recognized for his commitment in Scouting and his achievement in receiving the Highest Rank of Eagle. Loyal Knight Martin King had the honor of opening the ceremony.



**New York Lodge #1** hosted the Lodges 2025 Hoop Shoot at Lynbrook Middle School in January. Members in attendance were: Exalted Ruler/Past District Deputy Bill Bock, Past District Deputy Al Hoffman, Past District Deputy and Hoop Shoot Chair John Nuzzi, Past District Deputy Brian Steckler, Esquire/Past Exalted Ruler Paul Schneller, Past Exalted Ruler Amy Schneller, Loyal Knight Rich Muniak, Joe Whitney, Anthony Nuzzi, Mike Stuparich, and guest Allison Roger. Competing were 35 1st place shooters from 8 schools. New York Lodge #1 sponsored the winners as they advanced to compete in the South District Hoop Shoot at New Hyde Park. Contest results were as follows; Girls 8-9 Maeve O'Neil (Boys 8-9) Arjun Tandon (Girls 10-11) Rylee Bylskal (Boys 10-11) Denys Festso (Girls 11-12) and Ivan Tandon (Boys 10-11). Ivan had the best overall score, shooting 20 out of 25. The following teachers assisted the Lodge with the Hoop Shoot contest; Jenna Crimmins, Danielle Marquardt, Sherri Bowes, Joshua Berlin, John Woska and special guest Allison Rogers. All were given certificates of appreciation.

## Community Activities—"Elks-United in Service"



**Massena Lodge #1702** hosted a spaghetti dinner fundraiser that raised \$1,500 to support Operation Northern Comfort's hurricane relief efforts in Asheville, North Carolina. This heartfelt effort was made possible by the incredible support of the community and the dedication of the lodge's volunteers and house committee. "We are deeply grateful to everyone who came out to support this worthy cause," said Nathan Lashomb, Exalted Ruler of the Massena Elks. "Hurricane Helene has left so many people in Asheville and the surrounding areas struggling to rebuild their lives. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we can help provide much-needed supplies to ease their burden." The evening featured additional ways to give back, including raffles. Congratulations to Joe Brown, who won the handmade wooden beer mug, and Christopher Hooper, who won the 50-50 raffle and generously donated his winnings back to the cause.



**Watertown Lodge #496** presented a check for \$1,808.17 to CAPC of Jefferson County at Davidson Street, Watertown, NY for the Warm Hands, Warm Feet project. The Community Action Planning Council purchased several boots and mittens for the Head Start children at CAPC. The money was raised by members of Lodge #496 with such giving hearts. Each year, members of Watertown Elks Lodge #496 send monetary donations towards Harvest Dinner for Senior Citizens, Warm Hands Warm Feet project and Children's Christmas Party as part of the Lodge's Magical Holiday giving (November through December). Past State President Tim Kelly, Past State Vice President Joan Carlo and Lodge Secretary/Past Exalted Ruler Dennis Brady were on hand to present the check to Caroline Feasler, Family Center Director of Community Action Planning Council.



**Potsdam Lodge #2074** supported the Potsdam Holiday Fund with a \$1,000 donation. The Lodge used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to support the donation. Exalted Ruler Ernie Charleston and Inner Guard Steve Myers are pictured presenting the donation on behalf of the Lodge to Potsdam Holiday Fund President Staci Giffin and Holiday Fund volunteers.



**Glens Falls Lodge #81** donated \$200 of cleaning supplies to the WAIT House. Wait House offers emergency shelter to homeless youths age 16-25, as well as long term transitional living facilities, street outreach, case management services, life skills training, mentoring, education, and follow up and support for youths leaving the shelter. Since the opening of its door in 2003, WAIT House has provided 27,000 bed nights to more than 1,800 area youth and young adults. Colonial District State Vice President Gordon Kalisz of Glens Falls Lodge #81 is pictured with the supplies that were donated.



**Saranac Lake Lodge #1508** presented a check to the Saranac Lake Adult Center to support their ongoing work in the community. The Lodge used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to support the donation.



**Kingston Lodge #550** recently held a Meatball Madness cooking contest. Over 15 contestants submitted entries using their best meatball recipes to win prizes and (more importantly) bragging rights. Twenty-four Elks and ten guests paid to sample the contending submissions and voted for their favorites. Over \$100 was raised by the event to support NYS Elks Major Projects. Pictured (Left to Right): Second Place participant Michael Arduce, First Place participant Sean Sullivan, and Third Place participant Pat Cooney.

**Horseheads Lodge #2297** hosted a Seafood Boil fundraiser to raise funds for the Bath, New York VA for Homeless Veterans and for America's Vet Dogs. The event raised \$20,260 for these two causes. The Lodge donated \$10,630 from the event proceeds to support the VA for Homeless Veterans and \$9,630 to America's Vet Dogs, an organization that places service dogs with disabled Veterans.

## Community Activities—"Elks -United in Service"



As part of their ongoing efforts to support Veterans, the **Little Falls Lodge #42** recently held a fundraiser to benefit Clear Path for Veterans. Clear Path helps veterans, service members, and military-connected family members locally through multiple programs, such as Canine Companions, Employment, Counseling and Peer and Family Support. The Little Falls Elks used a Lottery Tree raffle and 50/50 raffle, with 100% of the proceeds benefiting Clear Path For Veterans. Pictured making the \$2,000 donation presentation are (right to left) Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Bob Dyer, Dave Cox Master Sgt (Retired), Adrienne Kelly, Director of Development, Past State Vice President Paul Trzepacz, Master Sgt (Retired), and Sue Virgil, Development Manager.



**Watertown Lodge #496** made a delivery of the donated groceries collected during the month of October to the local Urban Mission on Factory Street in Watertown, NY. Urban Mission is a local non-profit organization that provides support for local individuals struggling with various issues such financial set-back from job loss or illness, homelessness, mental behavioral health issues, etc. Pictured making the delivery are Exalted Ruler Mike Cummings and Trustee PER Anne Fleming.



**Massena Lodge #1702** recently culminated in a successful Adopt-a-Platoon program, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the Veterans Committee and the generosity of the community. Boxes filled with delicious baked goods were shipped out to servicemen and women currently deployed, bringing a taste of home to those who sacrifice so much for our country. This initiative was spearheaded by the Lodge's dedicated Veterans Committee, chaired by Norm Lazore, whose leadership ensured its success. "The outpouring of support from our community has been truly heartwarming," said Nathan Lashomb, Exalted Ruler of Massena Elks Lodge #1702. "These baked goods are more than just treats; they are a tangible reminder to our troops that they are remembered and appreciated."



**Auburn Lodge #474** member Carl McNabb presented a check for \$200 to Brenda Zook, Development Coordinator for Hospice and the representative of Hospice of the Finger Lakes. Exalted Ruler Valerie Parsons is on the right and worked with the charity committee to donate to Hospice after the support they provided to Carl's wife who was terminally ill. The \$200 donation came from the generous donations of Auburn Elks members in answer to the annual charity letter.



**Potsdam Lodge #2074** has supported the Norwood Norfolk Central School Snack Pack Program with a \$700 donation. The NNCS Snack Pack Program provides a weekend snack pack to 193 students. The Lodge used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to support the donation. Exalted Ruler Ernie Charleston is pictured presenting the donation on behalf of the Lodge to Mary Ellen Todd from the NNCS Snack Pack Program.



Fulton Junior High School students collected toys which were donated to the **Fulton Lodge #830**, to assist with the Lodges annual Christmas baskets. Pictured delivering the toys are Hanna Platt, FJHS Assistant Principal, member Dawn Gibbs, FJHS Principal, Eric Koproski and Student Council Advisor Liz Gardner.



**Huntington Lodge #1565** provided approximately \$150 of pasta, sauce, breakfast item and canned vegetables to Long Island Cares. Long Island Cares/Harry Chapin Food Bank's mission is to bring together all available resources for the benefit of the hungry and food insecure on Long Island. This facility is one of the most well known and utilized food banks in the area. The members of Huntington Lodge take great pride in being a dedicated contributor to their initiative. The Lodge used funds from a Beacon Grant to support the donation. Long Island/Harry Chapin Food Bank volunteer Anita is pictured accepting the donation. (Picture to the left)

## Community Activities—"Elks-United in Service"



Members of **Port Jarvis Lodge #645** coordinated multiple drives to collect much-needed supplies, including propane cylinders and heaters, and deliver them to Statesville NC Lodge #1823 to distribute to victims of Hurricane Helene and the subsequent flooding. **Middletown Lodge #1097** added to the latest shipment with 75 coats, as well as hats, gloves, and propane collected from its members. Port Jarvis Lodge members Dorothy and Mike Barth are pictured with supplies that they delivered.



After a 5- year absence, the St. Lawrence County Polar Plunge to benefit the athletes of Special Olympics New York returned with a plunge at Lisbon Beach. 50 individuals braved the chilly waters of the St. Lawrence River to raise funds for Special Olympics New York. This included Past State President Stu Rishe, Empire State Elk Editor Tim Welpel and Past District Deputy Tim Richard and Liverpool member Laura Richards. Past State President Rishe and Past District Deputy Richards were two of the top individual fundraisers. Empire State Elk Editor Welpel was one of the event organizers. Over \$7500 was raised with more funds coming in. The event was sponsored by the Riverview Correctional Facility and **Potsdam Lodge #2074**. Prior to the plunge, Potsdam Elks Lodge #2074, Riverview Correctional Facility and NYSCOPBA each presented \$500 donations to Special Olympics New York representative Chris Hughes. Dawn Merz of Yes FM 96.7 served as the events Master of Ceremonies. **Ogdensburg Lodge #772** provided a lunch following the plunge. A sauna was provided by Mobile Sauna Rental. The Brier Hill Dive Team and the NYS Police Dive provided in- water safety support and members of the Lisbon Rescue Squad were on site for emergency support. Members of the New York State Police, Troop B, were also at the event to provide support. Past State President Stu Rishe, Past District Deputy Tim Richards and Empire State Elk Editor Tim Welpel are pictured prior to the plunge.



**Auburn Lodge #474** Exalted Ruler Valerie Parsons presented a check for \$200 to Captain Daniel Johnson, Commanding Officer and the Pastor of the Auburn Salvation Army. Also pictured on the far right is Captain Holly Johnson, Commanding Officer and Pastor. The \$200 donation came from the generous donations of Auburn Elks members in answer to the annual charity letter.



**Mid-Westchester Lodge #535** joined together with **Mamaroneck Lodge #1457** to remember our Absent Members. Elks Memorial Day 2024 was held on December 1, 2024. The lodge invited families and friends of our Departed Members to join our lodge members for the ritual held at T & J's Pizzeria and Restaurant in Port Chester. The Memorial Service was followed by the lodge's local holiday party and toy drive. Ninety-One (91) members, family and friends joined the Lodge for the celebrations. The annual toy drive collected 61 toys with a value of approx. \$1,250.00 which was donated to the Don Bosco Community Center for their Santa Breakfast.



The members of **Hicksville Lodge #1931** donated approximately \$1200 worth of toys to the St. Raphael Church, located in East Meadow, NY, well in time for the Holiday Season. These hand-picked toys will be distributed to children in need from their Parish. Pictured delivering the toys are: (left to right) Past Exalted Ruler Robert Coffin, Trustee Fred Wedin, Exalted Ruler Carmine Asparro, St. Raphael Church Director of the Parish's Social Ministry Anne Lederer, Lodge Sponsor Peter Roach, Chaplain Richard O'Neill and Trustee Dennis Darcy.

**Horseheads Lodge #2297** hosted a Seafood Boil fundraiser to raise funds for the Bath, New York VA for Homeless Veterans and for the America's Vet Dogs. The event raised \$20,260 for these two causes. The Lodge donated \$10,630 from the event proceeds to support the VA for Homeless Veterans and \$9,630 to the America's Vet Dogs, an organization that places service dogs with disabled Veterans.

**Kingston Lodge #550** provided a service dinner for a local nonprofit organization called O+. O+ offers a collaboration of equitable access to art and medicine for underprivileged community members. The dinner celebration featured a buffet dinner, music by Lara Hope and great conversations. Those attending represented all members of the Kingston community, with 70 volunteers celebrating their commitment to the program. Additionally, the Lodge conducted a Marine Corp. Toys for Tots drive to benefit children during the holiday season.



# Community Activities—"Elks-United in Service"



**Potsdam Lodge #2074** used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and donated \$800 to support the Potsdam Snack Pack program. Exalted Ruler Ernie Charleston, who serves as the Lodges ENF chair, secured the grant for the Lodge. He presented the donation on behalf of the Lodge to Lynzie Shulte of the Potsdam Snack Pack Program and Snack Pack volunteers. The Snack Pack program provides weekend food assistance to 300 Potsdam School District and Headstart students.



**Riverhead Lodge #2044** donated approximately \$300 to the St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church. The Lodge purchased and delivered a variety of non-perishable food for distribution to their local parishioners. Amongst the items delivered were cereals, canned vegetables and assorted soups. Loyal Knight Debbie Farkas is pictured as she made a most welcomed delivery.



**Hicksville Lodge #1931** used money raised by the Lodge members and donated approximately \$1200 worth of very popular toys to the Holy Family Parish Social Ministry's Food Pantry, located in Hicksville, New York. The toys were targeted for the children of families in need within their community in an effort to add more joy for the Holiday Season. Pictured (left to right) are: Lodge Trustee Frank Marcinek, Lodge Chaplain Richard O'Neill, member Pamela Marcinek, Lodge Treasurer Anthony Dominick, member Phyllis Knox, Aura Gordon, the Director of the Parish Ministry and Food Pantry of Holy Family Church, Exalted Ruler Carmine Asparro, Past District Deputy and Lodge Sponsor Peter Roach, and member Dennis Shelrick.



**Huntington Lodge #1565** made arrangements with Social Worker Samera Lopez-Johnson of the Dolan Center in Huntington Station, and approximately \$175.00 worth of diapers and baby wipes were delivered to assist new Moms with much needed supplies for their newborns. This effort was made possible through the funds received through the Beacon Grant. Also, included in this delivery were new boots for young girls that were donated to the Lodge from "General Needs" as a goodwill gesture.



The members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** partnered with General Needs, whose primary mission is to assist homeless and transitioning veterans and their families. This initiative provided two area veterans with basic necessities as they transition into a home of their own. Using \$400 from the funds provided through the efforts of the Elks Welcome Home Kit Program, the Lodge purchased a toaster oven, air fryer, flatware and dishes for each veteran. Pictured are Laura Kuramoto, a volunteer at General Needs and Veteran Chairman from Smithtown Lodge #2036, along with State Veteran Chairman and Past District Deputy Jack Stein from Huntington Lodge #1565.



**Potsdam Lodge #2074** presented the Madrid Washington Central School District Snack Pack Program with a \$500 donation. The Lodge used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to the donation. The school's Snack Pack11 Program provides approximately 25 students with a weekend snack pack and approximately half the students with school day snacks. Exalted Ruler Ernie Charleston is pictured presenting the donation to Elementary School Principal Nicole Weakfall and third grade student Natalie Brothers, Kindergarten student Brynlie Huntley and fifth grade student Alisa Callahan. School Nurse Amber Murphy coordinates the program.

Members of **Ogdensburg Lodge #772** delivered \$2300 worth of much needed food and supplies to the Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center and food bank. (Picture to the right)



## Community Activities—"Elks-United in Service"



**Potsdam Lodge #2074** used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and donated \$500 to the St. Lawrence Central School Snack Pack Program. Lodge Secretary James Hassett is pictured presenting the donation on behalf of the Lodge to St. Lawrence Central Snack Pack coordinator Terry Rios.



**Auburn Lodge #474** Chaplain Theresa Wenzel Denson recently delivered non perishable food and personal products to Calvary Food Pantry. The food and personal products donations were made possible by the generous members of Auburn Lodge, collected during the Christmas season. Theresa is pictured with the donations and presented a check for \$200 to Nancy Sheffield, Executive Director of Calvary Food Pantry. The \$200 donated came from the generous donations of Auburn Elks members in answer to the annual charity letter.



The cold winter days have certainly accelerated the need for warm clothing which has become evident by the high demand made at our local pantries and Outreach Centers. With this in mind, the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** spent several days shopping for coats, hats, sweatpants and flannel shirts which were earmarked to be promptly delivered to several of our local facilities. Pictured is Helping Hands Mission volunteer Renee in Huntington, as \$200 worth of a variety of flannel shirts and hats were gladly accepted for distribution to local families in need.



**Monticello Lodge #1544** filled 80 boxes of food, including canned hams, for local veterans in time for the holidays. Pictured from left are Sullivan County Veterans Coalition Chair Howie Goldsmith and Past Exalted Ruler Mike Brennan. Veterans from across Sullivan County who picked up the boxes at the lodge for delivery included: Al Russell, Zachery Jones, Vinny Iannacone, Matt Kleman, Hugo Ramirez, Art Flynn, Bill Pearson, Helmut Wilhelm and George Haas. Al Russell and Elk Robyn Watwood placed a 3 lb. canned ham in each box. An additional 16 hams were donated to the Caring Hands Food Pantry at St. John's Episcopal Church in Monticello.

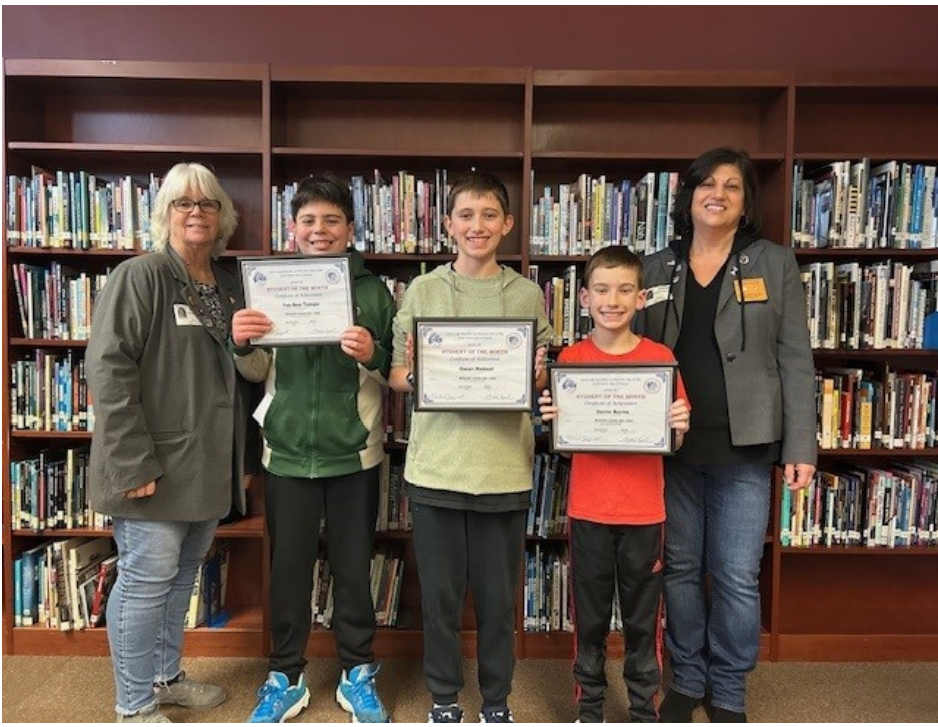


**Beacon Lodge #1493** donated winter coats, socks, underwear, hats and gloves, valued at \$1400, to the Clothing Pantry at Castle Point VA and to the Veterans living at the facility. The donation was provided through the Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant. Pictured are Past Exalted Ruler and ENF Grant Coordinator Scott Birkler, Nicole Embry VA Chief of Volunteer Service, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler/Veterans Committee member Carl Oken, US Navy Veteran/Veterans Committee member Robert Haight and US Army/Veterans Committee member Duane Kronk.



Throughout the year of 2024, the **Liverpool Lodge #2348** Bingo Committee had weekly 50/50 during bingo, raising \$3135. These proceeds were donated to REACHCNY for infant beds and toddler beds. Pictured during the donation presentation is Bingo co chair Karen Williams, Kathleen Harter of REACHCNY, Bingo chairperson Laura Richards. and Bingo co chair Jennifer Halko.

## Community Activities—"Elks-United in Service"



**Beacon Lodge #1493** recognized November Students of the month at Haldane Middle School. The students were chosen for their hard work, helpfulness and leadership. Students received a Certificate and gift card, for their accomplishments. Cold Spring Pizza co-sponsored the event with the Beacon Elks. Pictured during the award presentation are (left to right): Youth Activities Chair Cathy Oken, Teo Bon Tempo, (8<sup>th</sup> grade), Owen Mekeel (7<sup>th</sup> grade), Devin Byrne (6<sup>th</sup> grade) and Esteemed Leading Knight. Jeanine McCauley.



**Auburn Lodge #474** Exalted Ruler Valerie Parsons is pictured presenting a check for \$200 to Amy Heinz, Case Manager of the Auburn Rescue Mission. Auburn Rescue Mission assists families with temporary housing and needed supplies for start up in their new residence. They also offer after school support for young kids. The \$200 donated came from the generous donations of Auburn Elks members in answer to the annual charity letter.



**Auburn Lodge #474** Leading Knight Rew VanAtta presented a check for \$200 to Jim Young of the Western Cayuga Food Pantry in Union Springs. The \$200 donated came from the generous donations of Auburn Elks members in answer to the annual charity letter.



Members from **Liverpool Lodge #2348** prepared and served a Christmas meal to seniors at St Mary's Apartments. Lodge Secretary Pam Seeber, member Ken Light and Exalted Ruler Dennis Seeber are pictured serving at the event. Past Exalted Ruler Jaime Melfi prepared the meal.



**Kingston Lodge #550**, along with members from a local Kiwanis, collaborated with KUBA and the YMCA in giving 50 bicycles and helmets to local children in need at the annual Snowflake Festival. Kingston Lodge #550 is proud to be part of this wonderful holiday tradition in the Kingston community. Pictured at the festival are members Donna Rosenberg, Rhoda Higby, Karen Prince, Pat Cooney and Past Exalted Ruler Cam Rylance.



**Staten Island Lodge #841** kicked off Red Ribbon Week with a seminar performed at PS 46. On deck representing the Lodge were Exalter Ruler Catherine Orosz DeGaetano, Loyal Knight Martin King, Esquire Elizabeth Castro and Secretary Donna LaDolcetta. The students were receptive and engaged with Lodge members us and were full of questions. They were gifted with DAP coloring books, bookmarks, crayons and red ribbon chocolates, hand- made and wrapped by Cathy. It was a feel good event and Lodge members were invited to the school yard to watch as the students drew inspirational messages to surprise and encourage the younger grades.

## Community Activities—"Elks-United in Service"



**Kingston Lodge #550** participated in the 2024 Ulster County Toys for Tots Gift Drive by donating over \$1000 worth of toys. The Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program provides toys and sends a message of joy and hope to underprivileged children in local communities at Christmas time. Since its inception in 1947, the program has provided 677,000,000 toys countrywide. Kingston Elks Lodge #550 is very proud to support this community program. Pictured with toys for the drive are Mike Binns, Ray Radel, Roger Steltz, Exalted Ruler Craig Sickler, Past State Vice President Denisha Goodman, Tim Luxner, Paul Vanbarcum and Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Bill Pine.



**Southern Westchester Lodge #707** hosted a Community Turkey Meal Give Awa. The Lodge distributed 10 frozen turkeys as well as Shoprite gifts cards for each recipient. The charitable organizations they donated to include members from the Church of St. Eugene of Yonkers, New York, St. Mary's of Mt. Vernon, New York and Oneness Rehoboth Apostolic Church of Mt. Vernon, New York. Members on hand who assisted with the distribution were Exalted Ruler Rosemarie Cornacchio, Past Exalted Ruler Ken La Blanc, Past District Deputy/Lodge Trustee Marty Gasparino, Member Patrick Gormley, Lecturing Knight Ray O'Hara and Loyal Knight Michael Baligrocki



**Mamaroneck Lodge #1457** presented a check to the Ronald McDonald's house as part of a grant they received. The grant donation will pay for 263 days that family members can stay at the hospital while there family member is under hospital care. Pictured (left to right) during the donation presentation are Robert Hoffmann Chairman of Grants, Brittany Moretti, Ronald McDonald House, and Exalted Ruler Vincent Keck

**Beacon Lodge #1493** recently honored seven First Responders from the Beacon community for years of service, commitment to the Beacon community, development of a centralized Fire Department and development of Jr. 1st Responders Programs. Additionally, the Lodge was able to make a \$200 donation to each one of the community Volunteer Fire Departments. Pictured during the donation presentations are, (left to right) Past District Deputy Carl Oken, 1st Responders Committee Chair/ Lecturing Knight and Commissioner of Glenham Fire Department Debbie DiRubbio, Lodge member and the Chief of Dutchess Junction Fire Department Brendon Barry, the Chief of Rombout Fire Department Jeff Marino and Exalted Ruler Michael Zanzarella. (Picture to right).



**Kingston Lodge #550** donated \$1000 of a Spotlight Grant to Angel Food East and provided fresh baked cookies for those in need in Ulster County. Three volunteers from Kingston Lodge participated in the cookie baking and the Lodge donated all the ingredients for the cookies. Angel Food East provides assistance to over 250 neighbors in need by bringing nutritious, delicious food and friendship to their doors. Angel Food East often fills the gap, serving those who do not qualify for assistance or may need some help for a short period of time. Kingston Lodge #550 is proud to be part of this mission. Pictured during the donation presentation are (L to R): Leading Knight Rob Vella, Jamie Anson of Angel Food East and member Erin Pascerreti.



## Community Activities—"Elks-United in Service"



**Huntington Lodge #1565** members met with the members of St. Hugh of Lincoln Outreach Program and learned of the desperate need for fresh meat and poultry. In view of this, the Lodge purchased and delivered chopped meat, chicken, pork chops London broil, steaks and corned beef. Outreach representative Lydia is pictured from the Outreach Program as she gratefully accepts these much needed items. Approximately \$180 received through a Beacon Grant was utilized for this initiative.



**New York Lodge #1** used the proceeds from a \$4000.00 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and recently hosted an annual Valentine's themed February dinner dance at Camp ANCHOR in Lido Beach. Camp ANCHOR is a comprehensive, year-round program that serves thousands of children and adults with special needs who live in the Town of Hempstead, Nassau County Long Island. The evening started off listening to a great local band, Beyond Fab. The 5th party held at Camp ANCHOR had a new addition; BEACH BALLS! Campers had a great time hitting them around while dancing to the music. After some dancing and fun, those attending were treated to a fabulous meal catered by Antonio's in Malverne with dessert from the Malverne Pastry Shop. Sixteen Elk members were on hand to serve food and party with the guests! Campers then went back for some more dancing and to get their souvenir pictures, taken by Partshots. On their way out, each received a red Elks water bottle, donated by the Lodge.



After consulting with the Outreach Program volunteers at St. Elizabeth R.C. Church in Huntington, the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** learned of their desperate need for warm winter coats and hats which have been requested by many of their parishioners. It became quickly apparent that the frigid temperature had taken its toll on their usual highly stocked pantry, particularly as it pertained to warm clothing and our delivery of adult and children's coats and hats were graciously welcomed. Volunteers Marianne and Denise are pictured as they displayed these most needed items. Approximately \$600 from funds received through the efforts of the Beacon Grant was utilized for this donation.



**Potsdam Lodge #2074** recently sponsored a free week of public skating at the Potsdam Pine Street Arena. Lodge members Mike Pinckney, Mary Charleston and Stephen Charleston are pictured presenting a \$300 sponsorship donation to Richard Bradshaw of the Potsdam Recreation Department. This is an annual sponsorship by the Lodge. Additionally, the Lodge sponsored a Hockey Shoot contest in which 27 area students competed in different age divisions.



With the cold winter temperatures upon us, the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** found that our local pantries have learned that the need for warm winter coats were in unusually high demand. With this in mind, over a dozen coats were delivered to the Tri-CYA facility for their most needed distribution. Approximately \$322.00 from funds received through the Beacon Grant was utilized for this effort. Pictured here are Marie, Ms. Debbie and Michael as they quickly prepared these items for their upcoming deliveries.

**Johnson City Lodge #2821** celebrated Christmas by using an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to buy gifts for three families at Mom's House, which provides childcare for single parents going to college. An Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant was used to buy gifts to buy for three homes which serve, approximately 18 adults with disabilities. Lastly, Santa and a crew from Johnson City Lodge visited the Oxford Veterans Home in Oxford, New York. The Lodge bought gifts for Apple Court with 36 residents. The gifts purchased are pictured in the photo to the left).

# New York State Elks Association Annual Spring Convention



**VILLA**  
**ROMA**  
RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER



*Villa Roma Resort & Conference Center*  
**May 15-18, 2025 (Thursday through Sunday)**

### *Your Stay Includes:*

- Accommodations & Meetings
- Full American Plan beginning with Dinner on arrival day evening and ending with Breakfast on departure day.
- Nightly music and top variety entertainment with a different show each night plus dancing each night in Marty's Lounge
- Complete daily schedule of daytime activities, games, competitions, and prizes for all ages led by our Award-Winning Social Staff led by Social Director, Doc Holiday!
- Cocktail Party Reception
- Indoor sport complex with Bocce & Shuffleboard courts, Ping-Pong, Table & Video Games, Pickleball, Billiards
- Indoor Pool/Jacuzzi/5,000 sq. ft Fully equipped state of the art fitness center
- Also available.....Rock-climbing wall, Inflatables, Bowling\*, Spa Services\*, Horseback Riding\*, Racquetball\*, Hiking Trail, OTB Lounge, 18-hole PGA Rated Golf Course\*, Gaming Arcade, and much more! \*additional fees apply



We look forward to hosting your event at the Villa Roma Resort!

[www.villaroma.com](http://www.villaroma.com)

356 Villa Roma Road Callicoon, NY 12723

845-887-4881



NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL SPRING CONVENTION



RESERVATION FORM

In order to make your reservation process more efficient, please complete this reservation form and return it to the hotel either by mail, e-mail or fax. We will return a confirmation to your attention. Please note that reservations must be received prior to the cut-off date in order to receive the discounted group rate. Otherwise, reservations will be taken only on a space and published rate basis. Main Hotel requests are a First Come First Serve Basis.

**Thursday to Sunday (4 days/3 nights)- May 15-18, 2025**

Traditional Room

**Main building or Non-Connecting**  
(Two Double or Two Queen Beds)  
Single Occupancy \$787.78 per person  
Double Occupancy \$540.29 per person

One Bedroom Suite

**Main Building or Non-Connecting**  
(Two Beds & Living Room)  
Single Occupancy \$824.18 per person  
Double Occupancy \$562.89 per person

**Wednesday to Sunday (5 days /4 nights) May 14-18, 2025**

Traditional Room

**Main building or Non-Connecting**  
(Two Double or Two Queen Beds)  
Single Occupancy \$1,016.96 per person  
Double Occupancy \$696.38 per person

One Bedroom Suite

**Main Building or Non-Connecting**  
(Two Beds & Living Room)  
Single Occupancy \$1,053.36 per person  
Double Occupancy \$718.98 per person

The above three-night and four-night packaged rates are per stay per person and includes lodging and meetings; all meals beginning with dinner on arrival through breakfast on departure day; cocktail party; state & local taxes and gratuities. \*\*\*Main Building Room requests are on a first come first serve basis.\*\*\*

*Optional "Room Only" early arrival rate for Tuesday or Wednesday: \$169.00 per room plus tax and gratuities*

CUT-OFF DATE: **April 4, 2025**  
CHECK-IN TIME: **4:00PM** CHECK-OUT TIME: **12:00PM**  
TO MAKE RESERVATIONS: A \$150.00 per room deposit is required for each reservation; please send this reservation form with your deposit by April 4, 2025 by FAX to 845-887-4824 or e-mail to KMullally@villaroma.com or Hbauer@villaroma.com  
CANCELLATION: Individual cancellations will be accepted until 12:00pm on Monday, May 12, 2025 without penalty. A cancellation after this date will result in a charge in the amount of a "one night stay" being charged.

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First & Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Guests in Room \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

CC# \_\_\_\_\_ Type \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

OR: Note other form of payment: \_\_\_\_\_

Room Type Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests/Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

District Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge Name & # \_\_\_\_\_

# 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Watervliet-Colonie #1500 is proud to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by hosting the 76<sup>th</sup> New York State Elks Bowling Tournament. The tournament is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup> - March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> - April 6<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup> - April 13<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup> - April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup> - May 4<sup>th</sup>.

We will have a pub menu every Friday and dinner specials every Saturday. There will be a Vegas Night every Saturday starting at 8pm. We will also have 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary souvenirs, brackets at the bowling lanes along with 50/50s. Join us at the lodge for more with NYS lottery, pull tabs and more. Please join us and your fellow bowlers for a refreshment at the lodge.

The Watervliet-Colonie #1500 Tournament Bowling Committee apologizes for the lateness of this mailing. We hope you understand and will join us in 2025 and celebrate with us.

Fraternally,  
Susan Denué  
Co-Chair  
Edward Rice PDDGER  
Co-Chair





ANNIVERSARY

PRESENTS

0

**NEW YORK STATE ELKS 76<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT**  
March 29<sup>th</sup> – March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup> - April 13<sup>th</sup>,  
April 26<sup>th</sup> – April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup>

Watervliet-Colonie #1500 has the honor of hosting the 2025 NYS Elks Bowling Tournament. Each team will be receiving a program and we hope that your Lodge District Association or Business would consider advertising in it. You can make any of the following donations:

**\_ 1/4 Page - \$30.00    \_ 1/2 Page - \$50.00    \_ Full Page - \$100.00**

Just complete the form below and attach a copy of your ad or email it to the address below. Your ad should be submitted as a word document. If you wish to donate without an ad, you may do so and we recognize it in the program. Thank you for your support!

Fraternally,  
Edward Rice PDDGER  
Susan Denué Treasurer  
Co-Chairs

**Must Be Received By 3/01/2025**

\*\*\*\*\*

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Watervliet-Colonie #1500

Mail to:  
Watervliet-Colonie #1500  
501 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Watervliet NY 12189

Email Logo to:  
edrice001@gmail.com  
Subject Line: Bowling Ad



TOURNAMENT SPONSORED BY THE N.Y.S. ELKS ASSOCIATION - CO-SPONSOR BY USBC

# NEW YORK STATE ELKS 76<sup>th</sup>. ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

## DATES OF TOURNAMENT

March 29th - March 30th and April 5<sup>th</sup> - April 6th and April 12th - April 13th and April 26th - April 27th and May 3rd - May 4th

### Hosted By:

Watervliet-Colonie #1500  
501 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Watervliet NY 12189  
518-273-8016

### Team Event

Green Island Lanes  
4 Lafayette St  
Green Island NY 12183  
518-273-2322

### Doubles & Singles

Uncle Sam Lanes  
600 Fulton St  
Troy NY 12180  
518-271-7800



\*\*\* RESERVATIONS CLOSE 12/30/2024 - ENTRIES CLOSE 3/01/2025 \*\*\*

### Four Man Team

Team Name in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Lane Blank	USBC #	Team Lineup (Must Bowl in Position Entered)			Sex	2022-2023	2023-2024
		First Name	MI	Last Name	MF	Highest Average	Highest Average
		Membership					
		Membership					
		Membership					
		Membership					

### RESERVED DATES/TIME TEAM:

DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2025  
TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

### DOUBLES AND SINGLES

DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2025  
TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
If no reservations enter preferred date below

1<sup>st</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

### Official Use Only

Entry Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Received: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### DOUBLES AND SINGLES - YOU MUST BOWL IN BOTH EVENTS

Lane Blank	USBC #	Team Lineup (Must Bowl in Position Entered)			Sex	2022-2023	2023-2024	Check Box if Paying Fee to Enter All Events
		First Name	MI	Last Name	MF	Highest Average	Highest Average	
		Membership						\$5.00
		Membership						\$5.00
		Membership						\$5.00
		Membership						\$5.00

ALL EVENTS  
OPTIONAL

NO RANDOM  
LANE ASSIGNMENTS  
SQUAD TIMES  
AND 80%  
HANDICAP RULES  
ON REVERSE  
SIDE

Mandatory Confirmation Information: Team Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Verification: I hereby certify that all participants are bonafide members of lodge # \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Secretary's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Captain's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_