

EMPIRE STATE ELK

Official Publication of the New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc.
WINTER 2026 ISSUE



**STATE
PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**
**John Lawless
2025-2026**
**"Together Elks
Achieve More"**

****T.E.A.M. – Together Elks Achieve More****

At the beginning of our journey, crafting a motto proved challenging. The words we chose represented an informed hypothesis about the enduring spirit of Elkdom—one that is alive and thriving within the New York State Elks Association.

As of this writing, we have visited 98 Lodges across the state. Through repeated confirmation, thorough observation, and careful analysis, our hypothesis has been proven and embraced. We can now state with genuine enthusiasm: by working together, the Elks of the New York State Elks Association are achieving far more than we ever imagined.

The winter of 2025–2026 brought significant challenges to our state—frigid temperatures, icy conditions, heavier snowfall than in recent years, and, of course, abundant potholes. Despite these difficulties, our Lodges and Districts continue to push forward with determination.

Since the last edition of the *Empire State Elk*, we have visited an additional 22 Lodges and attended numerous functions, fundraisers, and gatherings. We had the great honor of touring the USO at Fort Drum—a place I hadn't visited since my Army Reserve days in the 1980s. We were truly impressed, not only by the unwavering dedication of the USO volunteers but also by the state-of-the-art facilities designed for rest, relaxation, and comfort for the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division, the most actively deployed division in the U.S. Army for more than 20 years.

Along the way, we were proud to present the Citizen of the Year Award to a dedicated School Resource Officer at Oswego Lodge for his outstanding service to the schools and community he serves. At the same ceremony, we recognized his daughter, who was advancing to compete in the NYS Hoop Shoot Finals. We also enjoyed Italian Night at Rotterdam Lodge, an event that highlighted not only the Lodge's warmth but also the continued dedication and culinary talents of Past Justice of the Grand Forum Hon. Vito Caruso.

One of the highlights of our recent travels was participating in a special recognition event at Camp Anchor with New York Lodge No. 1. Camp Anchor (**Answering the Needs of Citizens with Handicaps through Organized Recreation**) is an extraordinary facility dedicated entirely to its inspiring mission. The grounds and amenities are beautiful, and New York Lodge's use of an ENF grant to honor and promote the citizens who use the facility was truly spectacular. We felt deeply honored to take part.

Looking ahead, in the coming weeks we will attend the Regional Hoop Shoot in Wilkes-Barre, PA, followed by the NYSEA Bowling Tournament in Syracuse.

As the new Elk year approaches, we extend heartfelt congratulations to all the newly elected Exalted Rulers and Lodge officers, and sincere thanks to the outgoing officers for their dedicated service. This is the season when Lodges prepare for transitions, revise committees, and manage end-of-year processes. Please also remain mindful of upcoming deadlines for budgets, audits, taxes, ENF contributions, and Major Project donations.

We are eagerly looking forward to the remaining time we have to share with all of you. Our year is winding down, and we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Our homecoming is approaching quickly, and soon we will be at the Spring Convention, passing the torch to our very well-qualified and deserving endorsed candidate, Mike Sage, and his wonderful wife, Staci. They are truly dedicated Elks who share a clear vision for our future, and we know they will leave a lasting, positive impact on our Association and Lodges.

Before we close, I would be remiss if I did not mention the passing of our beloved Past State President Tim Kelly. Tim was not only a friend and mentor but also a passionate Elk, deeply committed to his country, his community, and our Order. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten. In his honor, and until the hour of eleven once again rings clear:

*****"To Our Absent Member."*****

We truly thank you all for your support and encouragement.

All our love,

John & Maureen

During their visit to the North Central District, New York State Elks Association President **John Lawless** and **First Lady Maureen** visited the Fort Drum USO. They had the honor of presenting a \$8,055 donation on behalf of the NYSEA to Fort Drum USO, received a tour of the USO facility and received an overview of the Fort Drum USO Programs. They are pictured during the tour in front of the Fort Drum USO banner. (Picture to the right)

NYSEA State President John Lawless Upcoming Visitation Schedule

Homecoming	April 17-19, 2026
West District	April 24—26, 2026
East District	May 1-3, 2026
Spring Convention	May 13-17, 2026



During his visit to the Central District, New York State Elks Association President **John Lawless** had the honor of awarding a Certificate of Appreciation to Christian Scoville. The certificate was in recognition of Christian's support of the New York State Elks Association Programs during the 2025-2026 Fraternal Year as the State Vice President of the Central District. State President Lawless is pictured with Christian Scoville and Past State President Dan Capella following the award presentation. The award was presented following a dinner in honor of State President Lawless that was held at Oswego Lodge #271.



New York State Elks Association President **John Lawless** recently attended the Northeast Central Regional Hoop Shoot Championship in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He is pictured prior to the contest with State Hoop Shoot Chair Steve Dorsey, District Deputy Tim Sayer, endorsed 2027-2027 Presidential Candidate Michael Sage, Past State President Brian Greene and Past State President Cam Ricci. Following the contest, State President Lawless had the honor of presenting awards to New York State Hoop Shoot winners.



STATE PRESIDENT JOHN LAWLESS TRAVEL PICTURES



STATE PRESIDENT JOHN LAWLESS TRAVEL PICTURES



STATE PRESIDENT HOMECOMING

Please Join us for the Homecoming of John Lawless



APRIL 17 - 19, 2026
BEAR MOUNTAIN INN
3020 SEVEN LAKES DR
BEAR MOUNTAIN, NY 10911

RSVP BY MARCH 31, 2026



Transportation from hotels to /from all destinations will be provided. Details to follow

Friday Evening April 17 - 5:00pm

Cocktails with the State President at Bear Mountain Inn

Saturday Morning April 18

Walk the grounds of Beautiful Bear Mountain or
Enjoy a West Point Museum Self-guided Tour

12:30 pm Lunch at Haverstraw Lodge #877

4pm return to hotel

Saturday Night April 18

Homecoming Dinner at Bear Mountain Inn

6:00 pm Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres

7:00 pm Introductions and Dinner



Bear Mountain Inn

3020 Seven Lakes Dr,
Bear Mountain, NY 10911
Phone: 845-786-2731 extension 1001
Rate: Stone Cottage \$179++

Holiday Inn Express & Suites - West Point

(1 Mile North of Bear Mountain Inn)
1106 Route 9 W, Fort Montgomery NY 10922
Phone: 877-864-0138 MENTION NEA
Rate: \$160++

Link: [Click Here to Book Directly](#)

Guests should make their own reservations using the link above or call the hotels directly

STATE PRESIDENT HOMECOMING

RSVP BY MARCH 31, 2026

Reminder...

Guests should make their own reservations using the links on page above or calling the hotels directly (BMI via phone only)

Return Reservation Form Along with Dinner Check To:

Maureen Hyatt
Cell: 914-424-6692
Email: MHyattLCSWR@yahoo.com
Haverstraw Lodge 877
877 Elks Drive
Haverstraw, NY 10927
(Check Payable to Haverstraw Lodge 877)

Attendee Information

Name:

Email:

Phone #:

Lodge Name & #:

Events

Transportation from hotels to /from all destinations will be provided. Details to follow

Saturday Morning April 18

Tour Bear Mountain Grounds

Number of People Attending: ____

Complimentary

[Bear Mountain Venues](#)

Saturday Morning April 18

West Point Museum Self-Guided Tour (complimentary)

Number of People Attending: ____

Complimentary

[Museum Info](#)

Saturday Afternoon April 18

12:30 pm Lunch at Haverstraw Lodge #877 (complimentary)

Number of People Attending: ____

Saturday Night April 18

Homecoming Dinner at Bear Mountain Inn

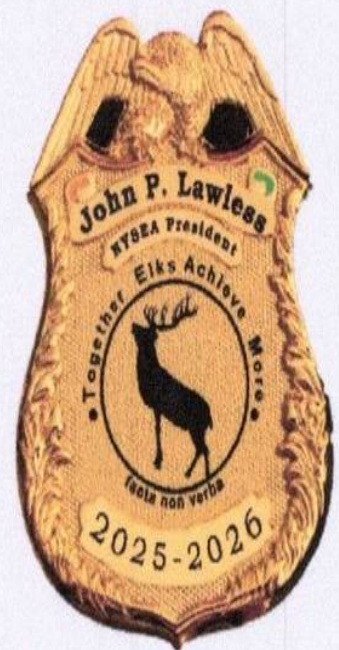
6:00 pm Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres

7:00 pm Introductions and Dinner

Open Bar Throughout

\$100/person (check payable to Haverstraw Lodge 877)

Number of People Attending: ____





NEW YORK STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION MAJOR PROJECT



**PAST STATE PRESIDENT
JAMIE PEACE
Major Project Message
Winter 2026**

As we close out the 2025 fraternal year, it is both an honor and a privilege to reflect on what we have accomplished together. The strength of our Major Projects program has never rested in one individual or one board — it rests in the dedication of our membership across this great state.

First and foremost, I would like to recognize and sincerely thank all outgoing Exalted Rulers and lodge officers for the outstanding leadership you have provided this year. Your commitment has helped strengthen not only your individual lodges, but every committee and charitable effort within your lodges, districts, and state. Because of your guidance, encouragement, and support, our programs continue to thrive and expand their reach. You have helped make our state organization powerful within your lodges, and for that we are deeply grateful.

At the same time, I extend heartfelt congratulations to all newly elected Exalted Rulers and officers for the 2026–2027 fraternal year. Leadership within the Elks is both a responsibility and a tremendous opportunity. We look forward to working closely with you to ensure a successful year ahead. Together, we will continue to strengthen our programs and uphold the proud tradition of service that defines the New York State Elks.

One of the most important ways our members demonstrate their pride and commitment is through their support of New York Elks Major Project donations and contributions to the Elks National Foundation. These contributions go a long way — far beyond what many may realize.

Our Major Projects program remains steadfast in its mission to assist individuals with cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities, helping them lead fuller, more independent lives. Through our Cerebral Palsy Home Service Program, we support families across New York State, offering resources, advocacy, and care that make a meaningful difference every single day. We also continue our strong commitment to veterans programs and youth initiatives, ensuring that our service spans generations.

Likewise, the Elks National Foundation plays a vital role in supporting committees and charitable initiatives throughout the state. When lodges support both Major Project and ENF, they are reinforcing a structure of service that benefits countless individuals and communities.

We are also proud to announce an exciting new chapter for our program. For the first time, New York State Elks Major Project will have three official ambassadors serving a three-year term to help promote our mission across the state. Please join me in welcoming Matthew Graham of Disability Services of Albany, Caden Astridge of Aspire of Western New York, and Devin Hamilton of CP Rochester.

These ambassadors have already begun attending events and representing our Major Project with enthusiasm and professionalism. They will serve as powerful voices for the individuals and families we support, helping to share firsthand the impact of our Cerebral Palsy Home Service Program and related initiatives. We encourage lodges and districts to invite our ambassadors to upcoming events. To request an ambassador appearance, lodges must coordinate through State Chairman David Brown to ensure proper scheduling and availability. We look forward to seeing our ambassadors active throughout the state in the years ahead.

Looking forward, we are excited to gather at our upcoming State Convention at the Villa Roma Resort. This year marks a special milestone as we unveil our new Major Project booth. For the past 25 years, our previous booth has proudly represented our programs at conventions across the state, as well as the Elks National Convention. As we introduce this new display, we are not simply updating our presentation — we are reaffirming our commitment to promoting and strengthening our programs for the future. I encourage every member attending convention to stop by, learn more, and help share our story.

I am also pleased to announce that the Major Projects Board has officially launched the New York Elks Bequest and Trust Foundation as part of our Bequest and Living Trust Program. There are several meaningful ways to make a gift to New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc. Through careful financial planning, members may find an option that works best for both their families and our organization.

You can add a bequest to your will or living trust with one simple sentence directing a sum or percentage to New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc., to be used through the Bequest and Living Trust Program. We encourage members to speak with their attorney or financial advisor about this opportunity. This initiative is designed to ensure the longevity of our Cerebral Palsy Home Service Program, our veterans programs, and our youth initiatives for generations to come. Planned giving is not simply about a contribution — it is about legacy.

Another tremendous point of pride is our continued partnership with Special Olympics New York. Each year, we proudly provide a \$50,000 donation supporting all nine regions across New York State. This partnership reflects who we are as Elks — committed to inclusion, dignity, and opportunity for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We look forward to continuing this relationship long into the future.

As we reflect on the 2025 fraternal year, there is much to celebrate. Our accomplishments are measured not only in dollars raised, but in lives improved, families supported, veterans served, and young people encouraged. The collective efforts of our 46,000 members create an impact that reaches every corner of our state.

On behalf of the New York Elks Major Projects Board, I thank each of you for your dedication, generosity, and unwavering support. You are the reason New York State Elks Major Projects continues to grow stronger each year.

As we begin a new fraternal year, let us move forward together — united in purpose, proud of our mission, and committed to serving those who rely on us for many years to come.

Fraternally,

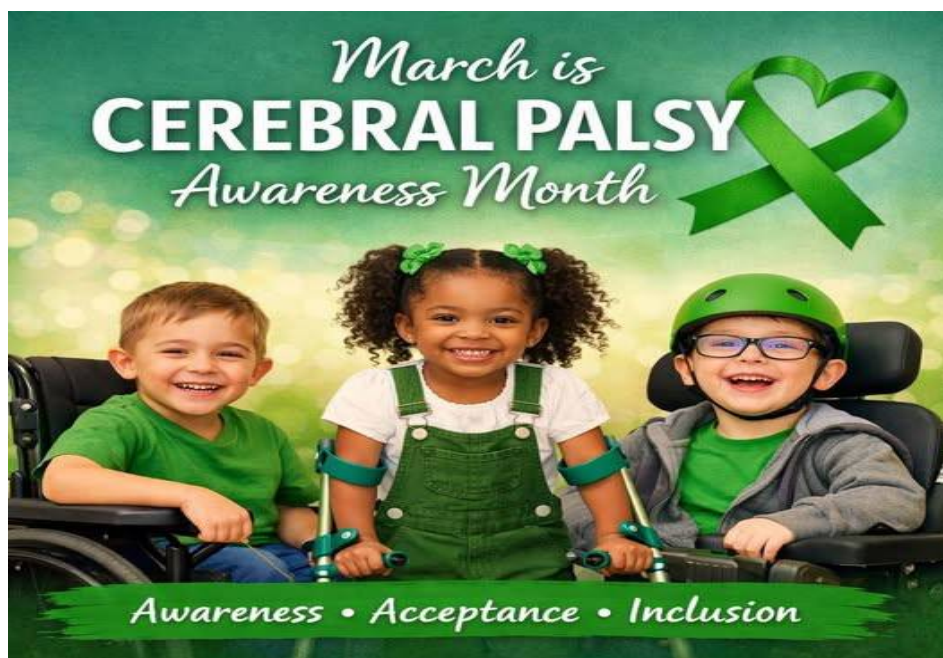
Jamie Peace
Board Chairman & CEO
New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc.



The **Colonial District** hosted a Basket Raffle at Glens Falls Elks Lodge #81. New York State Elks Association **Ambassador Matthew Graham** and his mother Leslie Porterfield-Spence attended the event. They are pictured during the event with are pictured in the center. Others pictured include Past State President Brian Greene, Major Project Chair David Brown, State Trustee Vicki Brown and Area One Soccer Chair Pat Mansfield, and many more district members. The Colonial District raised just over \$8,000 at the raffle.



New York State Elks Association **Major Projects CEO Jamie Peace** traveled to the NY Special Olympics Polar Plunge in Buffalo, New York to present a \$50,000 donation from the NY Elks Major Projects, Inc. This donation will be distributed among the 9 regions in New York State for Special Olympics athletic events. He is pictured with several special Olympic athletes during the donation presentation.



March is
CEREBRAL PALSY
Awareness Month

Awareness • Acceptance • Inclusion

Camp Bristol Update

2026 SEASON



Staff Update

2026 Staffing

We are now hiring enthusiastic, responsible leaders for our summer camp team. Spend your days outdoors, build leadership skills, make lifelong friends, and get paid to have fun! Positions include lifeguards, senior & junior counselors, nursing staff, kitchen staff, activity leaders, and more. Training provided and memories guaranteed!

Visit our website to apply today!
nyelkscampbristol.com

Add to Calendar

Don't miss the wonderful events we have coming up!

Work Weekends

4/24-4/26 & 5/1-5/3...or when the snow finally melts!

Contact PSP Stuart Rishe at stuart@rishesflooring.com

Spring Golf Tournament 5/13

Villa Roma Resort Golf Course
Hosted by the East Central District

Camping Season Opens 5/22

Visit our website for rentals
nyelkscampbristol.com

Youth Fishing Derby 6/27

Camp Bristol Waterfront
Contact Youth Activities
Chair/PDDGER John Piddock @
jpiddock1111@gmail.com

Veterans Fishing Derby 6/28

Camp Bristol Waterfront
Contact ScottHirst95@yahoo.com

Spring Family Fun Day/Open House

Camp Bristol
TBD...waiting on that snow again!

Youth Camping Season 7/6-8/7

Camp Bristol

Veterans CampFest 8/13-8/16

Camp Bristol

Fall Golf Tournament 9/23

State Capitol Hosts

State Soccer Shoot 10/18

Camp Bristol

Join the Parades

Camp Bristol will be joining the music, color, communities and smiles of both the Oswego and Camden St. Patrick's Day Parades this spring.

Oswego Parade
3/7-set up location TBD

Camden Parade
3/21-set up location TBD

All are welcome to walk and hand out candy and Camp Bristol swag! Interested Elks can message LuAnn Boone-Isherwood on the Camp Bristol Facebook page or the camp cell phone 315-317-2573, call or text

Camp Bristol Update

2026 SEASON



Michael J Bloss Memorial Garden

While the beginning of 2025 brought with it a lot of promise for Camp Bristol, it also brought the loss of our dear friend & Board President, PSP Michael J. Bloss. As we have continued to make improvements to our facilities, we have been ever mindful of finding a spot to make an appropriate dedication to his leadership and loyalty to the camp. To that end, we have begun grading the area in front of our main building, Spruce Lodge. In this area we will be creating the Michael J. Bloss Memorial Garden. This will be an impressive visual as members and campers approach our camp.

The area will consist of a circular garden that is 40' in diameter with small retaining walls in the front and at the back and will have a bronze Elk statue in the middle that will be flanked by Our Country's Flag, the Elks Flag, and the POW/MIA Flag. In addition, there will be a concrete sidewalk within the garden and there will be landscaping consisting of small trees, shrubs, and flowers. In a conspicuous area there will be a bronze plaque dedicating the area in memory of Mike Bloss. The plaque will read "This memorial garden, dedicated to the memory of Michael J. Bloss, was made possible through the generous donations of the following members:

\$500 giving level:

\$1,000 giving level:

Thank you for your continued support of Camp Bristol and for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact PSP Stuart Rishe at your convenience.

PSP Stuart Rishe

315-323-2202

stuart@rishesflooring.com

On behalf of NY Elks Camp Bristol



Camp Bristol Update

VOL. 4 ISSUE 1
FEBRUARY 2026

SPRUCE NEWS

Official Newsletter of NYS Elks Camp Bristol



NY Elks Camp Bristol Program

Take a look at a day in the life of our campers!

Camp starts with an hour of breakfast time to hang with friends and enjoy an assortment of great breakfast items. We take this time to make sure our day campers are dropped off and have a chance to eat, also. Once all of the campers are grouped according to age ranges, we begin with the raising of the American flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The children will then be off to enjoy a day of sports, hiking, swimming, canoeing, arts & crafts, team building games, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts & math), and fishing.

Lunch is served mid-day as a break to get together with all the campers and hang out. After our afternoon activities, we lower the flag as a group and get ready for the evening activities and dinner while our day campers are getting picked up.

Our overnight campers are treated to camp-wide activities during the evenings to include an opening night bonfire with s'mores, camp songs and camp stories, scavenger hunts, movie nights under the stars, tent sleep out, talent night, camp dance and an end of week awards ceremony!

Whether day camp or overnight camp, children will be engaged, supervised and disconnected from modern technology to enjoy a week-long adventure in nature with new friendships to be made!



Camp Bristol Update

VOL. 4 ISSUE 1
FEBRUARY 2026

SPRUCE NEWS

Official Newsletter of NYS Elks Camp Bristol



New Director

We are extremely excited to welcome LuAnn Boone-Isherwood as our new Camp Director. LuAnn brings her contagious energy and tons of experience from both the YMCA and Camp Nazareth. She has spent the last 16 years as Camp Director and Waterfront Director in the Adirondacks, and was previously the Aquatics Director at the Rome YMCA. LuAnn's love of working with kids and camp life shines through in everything she does.

Singing camp songs at the top of her lungs, swimming & kayaking, and—of course—roasting s'mores like a pro, top her favorite things about camp.

We are thrilled for the new camp season and the robust camp program we are offering with LuAnn at the helm!

ABOUT US

Located on beautiful North Road in West Morris, NY, Elks Camp Bristol is a co-ed summer camp for children ages 8-14. Our camping program focuses on nature & includes boating, field games, fishing, & sports in addition to team building & leadership activities. Our S.T.E.A.M. Program encourages critical thinking & problem solving skills ensuring your camper will grow physically & socially all while having a blast!

Elks Camp Bristol is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to educate youth groups in a spirit of patriotism, benevolence, and charity.

CONTACT US

(914) 657-2447

54 Elks Way (Formerly Girl Scout Drive)
West Morris, NY 12147

nyselkscampbristol@gmail.com

APPLY TODAY!

Scan the QR code or visit www.nyelkscampbristol.com

WELCOME TO NY ELKS CAMP BRISTOL

Join us for a fun-filled summer of learning, exploring, and growing at our youth day and overnight camp!

NYELKSCAMPBRISTOL.COM

Youth Camp 2026

Registration for Camp Bristol's Summer Youth Day and Overnight Camp 2026 season is now open!

Camp Bristol provides a space where every camper can find the confidence to try something new and make new friends while enjoying outdoor adventures, team-building activities, and just having plain old fun!

CamperShips available! Overnight spots are limited, so register soon!

You can visit our website at www.nyelkscampbristol.com or email us at nyselkscampbristol@gmail.com for more information.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN OVERNIGHT CAMPER

7:00 am - Wake-up/Cabin clean up
8:00 am - Flag Raising
8:05 - 9:00 am - Breakfast
9:05 - 9:50 am - Activity Rotation 1
9:55 - 10:40 am - Activity Rotation 2
10:45 - 11:30 am - Activity Rotation 3
11:35 - 12:30 pm - Activity Rotation 4
12:35 - 12:50 pm - Wash up for lunch
1:00 pm - Rest time
2:05 - 2:50 pm - Activity Rotation 5
2:55 - 3:40 pm - Activity Rotation 6
3:45 - 4:45 pm - Cabin Re-group
4:45 - 4:45 pm - Group 1 Free swim (OR cabin group time/showers)
4:45 - 5:45 pm - Group 2 Free swim (OR cabin group time/showers)
5:45 - 6:00 pm - Wash up for dinner
6:00 - 7:00 pm - Dinner
7:00 - 8:00 pm - Night Activity 1
8:00 - 8:15 pm - Snack
8:15 - 9:15 pm - Night Activity 2
9:15 - 9:30 pm - Flag retreat
9:30 - 10pm - Cabin wind-down
10pm - Lights out

2026 CAMP SESSIONS

Summer youth camp consists of 5 week-long sessions:

Overnight Camping	Overnight	Overnight
Start	Start	Start
Friday	Friday	Friday
8:30 am	8:30 am	8:30 am
4 pm	4 pm	4 pm

\$100 per camper per week
\$125 per camper per week
\$150 per camper per week

July 5-10	July 6-10	July 6-10
July 12-17	July 13-17	July 13-17
July 19-24	July 20-24	July 20-24
July 26-31	July 27-31	July 27-31
Aug 2-7	Aug 3-7	Aug 3-7

BEST MOMENTS



Discover ▼ Participate ▼ News and Photos ▼ Support Us ▼

Welcome to New York Elks Camp Bristol!

NY Elks Camp Bristol seeks to provide a patriotic, non-denominational camping experience for children and young adults.

[Youth Camp](#)

Join Us for Day and Overnight

[Our Programs](#)

Youth Fishing Derby Youth Soccer Shoot

[Volunteer](#)

Become Part of Our Staff

Camp Bristol Update

CAMP BRISTOL 2026 SEASON



4/24-26

Spring Workday and Cleanup

5/13

Golf Tournament at Villa Roma.
Sponsored by East Central District.

5/22

Members' Camping Opens
RVs • Cabins • Waterfront

5/30

Open House, noon - 6 p.m.

6/27

Youth Fishing Derby

6/28

Veterans' Fishing Derby

6/28-7/4

Staff Training Week

7/5 - 8/7

Youth Camping Session

8/13-8/16

Veterans' Campfest

9/23

Fall Golf Tournament
sponsored by State Capital District

10/18

NYS Elks Soccer Shoot

Camp Bristol Update

NY ELKS CAMP BRISTOL SUMMER CAMP



OPEN HOUSE

MAY 30TH 12-6PM

Come visit Camp Bristol and explore our beautiful campus. We offer both overnight camp and day camp for children ages 8-14! Employment opportunities are available.

JOIN US FOR A GREAT TIME!

**TOURS
GAMES FOOD FUN**

**NY ELKS CAMP BRISTOL
54 ELKS WAY
WEST MONROE, NY**



www.nyelkscampbristol.com

315-317-2573

Camp Bristol Update



Camp Bristol Veterans Fishing Derby

June 28, 2026

Free to Participate!

Registration: 8 - 9 a.m.

Fishing: 9 a.m. - noon

Cookout for participants: 12:30 p.m.



This event is limited to the first 24 participants.



Non-Motorized watercraft are allowed (canoes, kayaks, row boats.) You may also fish from shore.



It's Free Fishing Weekend in NYS. No fishing license needed!



There will be two prize divisions: Bass and Pan



Entrants will need to bring their own fishing gear and camping chair. Bait (worms) will be provided.



Overnight dormitory accommodations or limited RV sites will be available at no charge.

**For information, contact Bob Wheeler at
wheels1949@gmail.com**

Camp Bristol Update



Camp Bristol Veterans Fishing Derby

June 28, 2026

Free to Participate!

Registration: 8 - 9 a.m.

Fishing: 9 a.m. - noon

Cookout for participants: 12:30 p.m.

- This event is limited to the first 24 participants.
- Non-Motorized watercraft are allowed (canoes, kayaks, row boats.) You may also fish from shore.
- It's Free Fishing Weekend in NYS. No fishing license needed!
- There will be two prize divisions: Bass and Pan.
- Entrants will need to bring their own fishing gear and camping chair. Bait (worms) will be provided.
- Overnight dormitory accommodation or limited RV sites will be available at no charge.

Name:

Phone Number:

Branch of Service:

Accommodation Request:

Type of Watercraft Being Brought:

Email entries to Bob Wheeler at wheels1949@gmail.com.
Entry must be confirmed.

Camp Bristol Update



New York Elks Camp Bristol, Inc.

a 501 (c) 3 Corporation
54 Elks Way
West Monroe, NY 13167

Dear fellow NYS Elks,

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the New York Elks Camp Bristol Board. As you know, we have faced many obstacles throughout the years in our endeavors to create a magnificent summer experience for children in New York State. Not the least of which was losing our friend and dedicated Camp Bristol board member, Past State President Michael J. Bloss. As we have continued to make improvements to our facilities, we have been ever mindful of finding a spot to make an appropriate dedication to his leadership and loyalty to the camp. To that end, we have begun grading the area in front of our main building, Spruce Lodge. In this area we will be creating the Michael J. Bloss Memorial Garden. This will be an impressive visual as members and campers approach our camp. The area will consist of a circular garden that is 40' in diameter with small retaining walls in the front and back, and will have a bronze Elk statue in the middle that will be flanked by Our Country's Flag, the Elks Flag, and the POW/MIA Flag. In addition, there will be a concrete sidewalk within the garden and there will be landscaping consisting of small trees, shrubs, and flowers. In a conspicuous area there will be a bronze plaque dedicating the area in memory of Mike Bloss. The plaque will read "This memorial garden, dedicated to the memory of Michael J. Bloss, was made possible through the generous donations of the following members:

\$500 giving level:

\$1,000 giving level:

We are certainly appreciative of donations in any amount. However, due to space constraints and cost, we are only able to recognize those giving at the \$500 level or above.

Thank you for your continued support of Camp Bristol and for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

PSP Stuart Rishe

315-323-2202

On behalf of the Camp Bristol Team

Please make all checks payable to "NY Elks Camp Bristol" & mail to:

Bill Reedy Jr.

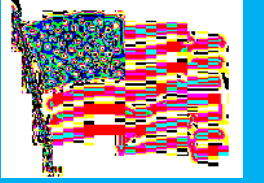
8631 Honeycomb Path

Cicero, NY 13039



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



The **East District #6120 VAVS** held its 8th annual "Drumming for Vets" fundraiser event at Levittown Hall, raising over \$5500 from this effort. This very successful event was supported by drummers from 6 states and Canada, each volunteering their time and talent to help raise money to benefit the lives of our veterans residing at the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook and the Northport VA Hospital. Approximately 225 attendees enjoyed a day filled with drumming excellence. Many thanks go out to the founders of this event, Chet DeBoe, professional drummer, and NYS Veterans Chairman, Jack Stein for their tireless efforts and dedication.



Utica Lodge #33 supported the Feed Our Vets Food Pantry with a donation. The Lodge used the proceeds from a Lottery Board and Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to support this donation. Pictured during the donation presentation are left to right: Utica location Manager Joe Ancona, Karl Yaddow, Feed Our Vets Founder and Executive Director Rick Synek, Lisa Rosinski, Ron Rosinski, Roger Kraus, Robin Carson, Kathy Krause, Earl Jones and Paul Carson.



After receiving 4 "Welcome Home Kit" requests from HUDVASH, **Huntington Lodge #1565** purchased Coffee Makers, Microwave ovens, and Bathware for 4 Veterans transitioning into permanent housing. The total for this purchase was approximately \$650 and was promptly delivered to the veterans transitioning into permanent housing. Pictured with the items purchased are (l-r) Barbara Chadakoff and Marsha Knopp (volunteers from General Needs) with State Veterans Chairman Jack Stein.



The **East District #6120 VAVS** utilized \$750.00 from funds received through the District's VAVS, and purchased and delivered the following items to the Northport VA Hospital, for their distribution: 4 animatronic pets for the hospital's dementia unit, 2 High Chairs for the Women's Wellness Center, and a case of jewelry supplies for their craft classes. Pictured as the items were being delivered are State Veterans Chairman Jack Stein, Northport VA Hospital Volunteer Service Assistant Christin Wawrzonek and VAVS Deputy Connie Olson.



Massapequa Lodge #2162 Veteran Chairman Fran Ward, and Cindy Aquina, attended a special luncheon of Chick-fil-A which the Lodge provided for 50 residents of the Long Island State Veterans Home at Stony Brook. Residents enjoyed chicken sandwiches, chips, chocolate chip cookies, ice cream, and soda. The meal was more than just food. It was a symbol of appreciation for the men and women who have served our Nation. Veterans enjoyed the gathering not only for the meal but also for the camaraderie and recognition that came with it. In addition, "Wish List" items such as phone charges, headsets, lighted magnifying mirrors, adult coloring books, and colored pencils were delivered to the facility along with a 15 pound bag of candy for the residents, staff, and volunteers. The funds (\$1,280) that were provided for this event were the result of various fundraising events held by the Lodge. Pictured as the donations were presented are veterans Committee member Cindy Aquina, Director of Therapeutic Recreation Michelle Cheslak, Veterans Committee Chair Fran Ward and Therapeutic Recreation Assistant Theresa Dell'Orto.



Working in partnership with "General Needs" and a local HUD VASH center, the **East District #6120 VAVS** delivered a "Welcome Home Kit" valued at approximately \$1100 to the local HUD VASH peer support unit for delivery to a qualified veteran. The donations were directly received as follows: "General Needs", \$500, East District 6120 VAVS, \$350, and "Drumming for Vets" \$250. These funds were used to purchase a coffee maker, toaster oven, cleaning supplies, air fryer, dinnerware, bedding, cutlery, and a TV. State Veterans Chairman, Jack Stein is pictured as he delivers the requested items to the HUD VASH unit.



NYS Veterans Chairman and Past District Deputy **Jack Stein** was a Guest Speaker at the Manhattan 23rd. Street Veterans Hospital's Tree Lighting Ceremony. During his presentation, he spoke about the programs the Elks bring to the hospital through the efforts of VAVS Representative Patricia Carroll. (Picture to the left).



VETERANS ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS



The **East District #6120 VAVS** purchased and delivered \$480 worth of personal hygiene items such as shampoo, conditioners, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, slip-free socks, underwear, Elks playing cards, wheelchair gloves, and puzzle books to the Northport VA Hospital. These items were requested by Christen Butcher, Representative from the Therapy Unit of the VA, who is pictured with State Veterans Chairman and VAVS Representative Jack Stein as the items were delivered.



New Hyde Park-North Shore #2107 had two pin presentations at a regular Lodge meeting. Vietnam Veterans George Newman and John Rohe were presented with Vietnam Veteran pins along with a Presidential Certificate by fellow Vietnam Veteran Frank Cappa who thanked them for their service.



Hicksville Lodge #1931 collaborated with American Legion Post 1711, the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service, and the AMVETS and held a BINGO event for the residents of the Community Living Center, located on the campus of the Northport VA Medical Center. Each Veteran was wheeled from their room and into the multipurpose room where they were assisted with completing their BINGO cards. Pictured at the event (l-r) are: Lodge Treasurer/PER Anthony Dominick, Volunteer Terry Dominick, William Sheremela from the Sons of the American Legion Post 1711, Exalted Ruler Carmine Asparro, Volunteer Kathleen Asparro, Northport VAVS Deputy Representative and First Vice Commander of American Legion Post 1711 Peter Silvestri, Lodge Member Pamela Marcinek, American Legion Post 1711 member Douglas Dervin, Inner Guard Phyliss Knox, AMVETS member Paul Engle, Department of the New York State AMVET First Vice Commander Loretta DiBriano, AMVET Veteran Steven Cantante, William Bailey the First Vice Commander AMVET Post 88, Son of AMVET Post 88 Thomas Chiaro and Northport VAVS Deputy and Lodge Trustee Francis Marcinek.



Pearl River Lodge #2041 held a raffle to help supplement the costs for the 250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball, which recently took place in Philadelphia, PA. The Marines have to pay out of pocket to make this event happen. With the Raffle proceeds and a donation by the Lodge, Pearl River Lodge was able to present a check for \$2500. This donation provided assistance to the Marine Unit with their costs for the Birthday Ball. The daughter-in-law of Lodge Tiler George Clarke, US Marine Corporal Salina Clarke, is currently assigned to the Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion, stationed in Maryland. Pictured during the donation presentation are Corporal Clarke with 2 of her Marine Colleagues, Trustee Gene Tavormina (left) and Tiler George Clarke (right).



Mid-Westchester Lodge #535 members Deb Palazzo and Cindy Kaufman held a 250th anniversary celebration for the formation of the US Army, Navy and Marines. Ceremony was held in White Plains, NY at the American Legion Post 135. There were approximately 48 attendees. There was a George Washington reenactment by Mike Grillo. There was also a Marine cake cutting ceremony performed by Robert Wynn.



While conducting his regular visit to the James J. Peters VAMC Bronx, South District VAVS Representative **James Shute** and his wife Linda had a surprise visitor. While walking through the halls of the hospital they met Doug Collins, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Director of the hospital introduced them to the Secretary. James explained what he was doing for the Elks. Mr. Collins stated that he was very familiar with the Elks and how their efforts had helped the Veterans. He thanked James and Linda for the work they were doing. James and Linda are pictured as they met Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins.

VETERANS SERVICES

The Elks are committed to the mission "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them". To learn more about the Elks Veterans Services please visit elks.org/vets.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES/SCOUTING



Brewster Lodge #2101 hosted a second quarter Student/Writers award ceremony. The students are selected from the 6-8 grades from the Henry H Wells School in Brewster for writing skills, academic achievements, effort, and other attributes. The students and their parents are invited for dinner and the students and writers of the quarter receive certificates for their achievement. Pictured from left to right are: First - fourth rows are the student winners, Back row: Exalted Ruler Donato Giordano, Leading Knight Melissa Dinkler, Secretary Rose Lavelle and Youth Activities Chairman Peter Priolo.



New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107 and Masons Floral Park Lodge #1016 once again joined together to host their annual Children's Christmas Party. For over 25 years, children from the NYC Children's Center - Queens Campus have visited the Lodge to enjoy a morning filled with holiday cheer. The children were treated to popcorn, cotton candy, pizza, and ice cream, creating a festive atmosphere from the moment they arrived. A photo booth gave each child the chance to take a special picture with Santa, capturing memories they can treasure. Before heading home, every child received a Christmas gift chosen for them. This year, a special moment was added to the celebration: a plaque of appreciation was presented to both organizations in recognition of their dedication and commitment to this cherished tradition.



Liberty Lodge #1545 hosted their annual Children's Christmas Event. 20 volunteers served over 300 members in the community, 170 of them children. There was a DAP table and Elroy the Elk mascot greeted the families as they entered the lodge. Each child/family received a gift, a framed photo with Santa, a hot lunch, a bag of shelf stable food items, a matching set of hat & gloves and memories that will last a lifetime. The event was partially funded by an Elks National Foundation Beacon grant of \$3000. Pictured (L to R): Liberty Elks Ernie Feasel as Santa, Michael Cruz Jr as Elroy, and Maureen Crescitelli as Mrs. Claus.



New York Lodge #1 members visited Willow Road Elementary in Franklin Square and distributed a dictionary to each third grade student at the school. Lodge Trustee Don Kolman serves as the Dictionary chair. Lodge members are pictured with the third grade students as the students proudly display their personal dictionary.



Mid-Westchester Lodge #535 hosted an annual Santa Breakfast at the Don Bosco Community Center. The event benefits underprivileged families in Port Chester, New York. Scouts from Scouts BSA Troop 2 Rye assisted members of the Lodge and members from the Port Chester Community cooked breakfast for over 800 people, including adults and approximately 500 children. All the children under the age of 18 received gifts from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Ray Sculky, Mid-Westchester Lodge #535 Secretary, coordinated the event. Toys were donated by members of the Westchester Country Toys for Tots Collection including \$1,600 worth of Toys donated by members of Mid-Westchester Lodge # 535 and Mamaroneck Lodge # 1457 during their annual Memorial Service and Lodge Holiday Party. Exalted Ruler Tom Nardi, Past District Deputy Bob Comstock, Mammoreck Exalted Ruler Vincent Keck and District Deputy Jay Singer are pictured showcasing some of the toys that were donated.



State Vice President Paul Schneller of **New York Lodge #1** was on hand to represent the Lodge as Abigail Guiheen, Alexa Kosinski and Nina Munafo of Troop 99 received their Eagle Scout Honors. The ceremony was held at Holy Name of Mary in Valley Stream. Each Eagle Scout was presented a framed certificate of accomplishment.



Southern Westchester Lodge #707 held a Christmas party for Fern-Cliff Manor, who provides innovative and integrated support to individuals with developmental, intellectual and physical disabilities, and their families. Each year the Lodge provides Christmas gifts, snacks and juice for the individuals to enjoy. There were 80 children ages from 9 to 19 at the vent and each had the opportunity to choose any gift from the table. Pictured are Lodge members that participated at the event. They are Erin Anderson, Martin Gasparino, Joseph De Rosa, Thomas Auleta and Ken LaBlanc.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Catskill Lodge #1341 was awarded \$2000 in grant monies from Grand Lodge in support of New York's Greene County Senior Angels Program. This program is administered by the Dept of Human Services, in partnership with the Healthcare Consortium, and provides emergency financial assistance and provision of services and goods to our county senior citizens. The focus of this year's Spotlight Grant was to purchase personal essential products and food items in direct support of the seniors in need. Pictured (left to right) is Lodge member Debbi Traficante and Executive Director of the Healthcare Consortium, Claire Parde, with a small sampling of the goods purchased under the grant. The additional photos are snapshots of the various items donated, including products to assist with personal hygiene, incontinence, wound care, and nutrition, as well as sweatshirts and outdoor jackets, winter socks and hat/glove/and neck warmer sets. The county is planning on displaying an array of the various products in its resource room, which will be available to seniors when they are receiving counseling or assistance with other needs.



Massapequa Lodge #2162 utilized \$800 from funds received through an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and purchased and delivered both fresh and non-perishable food, along with personal hygiene items, to the Outreach Food Pantry from St. Martin of Tours Church, located in Amityville, Long Island. Pictured during the delivery of items are (l-r) Anne Williams, Cindy Aquina, and Fran Ward, members of the Massapequa Lodge's Grant Committee.



Massapequa Lodge #2162 demonstrated its commitment to community service, directing its 2025-2026 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant funds toward helping Long Island residents facing hardship this past winter. As part of their outreach efforts, Lodge Grants Chairman Fran Ward, along with Committee members Anne Williams, Cindy Aquina, Kathy and Tom Harrington, purchased and delivered \$1000 worth of new winter coats and \$500 worth of non-perishable food to the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless. These contributions will directly support individuals and families who rely on the organization's services for basic necessities. The Lodge also extended its impact by donating \$2,500 to Long Island Cares, one of the region's largest and most respected hunger-relief organizations. With L.I.C.'s highly efficient 6-to-1 spending ratio, every dollar donated translates into six dollars worth of food and resources. Pictured (l-r) are: Exalted Ruler Doug Doxey, Committee Chair Fran Ward, John McKeown, LIC Hope for the Homeless Coordinator, Dali Boczek, LIC Director of Satellite Services, Max Luff, LIC Program Associate Mary Pat Beirne, LIC Philanthropy Manager, Tom Harrington, Anne Williams, and Kathy Harrington.



Penn Yan Lodge #1722 utilized a \$2,000.00 Spotlight Grant to purchase life-like robotic pets for distribution to two local nursing homes. These provide comfort and companionship for residents in their memory care units. Pictured (L-R) at The Homestead are Lodge member Wayne Martin, Lodge Secretary Ginny Turner, The Homestead Activities Director Heather Reed, Director of Nursing Carrieann Colf, Exalted Ruler Heather Neuberger and Lodge ENF Chair Jamie Sisson.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 recently donated \$500 to the BFUMC Snack Pack Program. The Lodge used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Grant to support the donation. The BFUMC provides weekly snack pack to approximately 150 children in the Brasher Falls School District. Potsdam Lodge Exalted Ruler Ernie Charleston is pictured as he presented the donation to Terri Rios who accepted on behalf of the BFUMC Program.



Riverhead Lodge #2044 utilized \$2000 from funds received through an Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant, and made two to RISE Life Services, located in Riverhead, Long Island. The first visit included ham dinners specially arranged for a festive Christmas meal. The second delivery included non-perishable food such as canned tuna, breakfast cereal, canned vegetables, beans, and rice, toiletries, blankets, and towels. Pictured are Lodge Treasurer Patty Judd and Secretary Diane Allen, along with several RISE Life employees.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Liverpool Lodge #2348 used an Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant to support a Weekend Backpack program through New Life CNY at Liverpool middle schools. There are approximately 185 children that would benefit from the program each month. The Lodge provided \$1000 in ready to eat meals plus a \$1000 check donation. Grant Coordinator Mikelene Cherniak is pictured presenting the check donation on behalf of the Lodge to Sheri Meier from the backpack program.



The members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** have enjoyed a delightful relationship with the Social Workers and volunteers from Tri-CYA over the past several years, and in doing so, have learned of their immediate needs and wishes when assisting local students. In this case, it became apparent that warm winter clothing, including sweats and coats, was at the top of the list. Using \$250.00 from funds received through the efforts of an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant, the members of the Lodge purchased over a dozen coats, and sweatshirts with matching sweatpants, which were promptly delivered. Pictured during the delivery here receiving this delivery are Juliana (on the left) and Ms. Debbie (on the right) of Past District Deputy Lynne Stein.



Huntington Lodge #1565 used \$245 from funds received through an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and purchased and delivered warm winter coats and sweatsuits to the Helping Hands Mission, located in Huntington Station, New York. As the extremely cold winter has not given up its strong hold, the need for warm clothing continues to be in very high demand. With this in mind, the members of the Lodge have been working diligently to fill the many requests received. Past District Deputy Lynne Stein is pictured with "Robert" who was most grateful for this "warming" donation.



Fulton Lodge #830 recently donated over \$8,000.00 worth of food to three local backpack programs, Erin's Angels of CNY, Hannibal Backpack Program and Blessings In A Backpack #1764 of Fulton New York. The funds for these donations were from ENF Beacon and Gratitude Grants and will help provide food bags for over 500 children. The Lodge extends a big thanks to Mirabito's Save A Lot for helping coordinate the food orders. Lodge members helped pick up and deliver food and pack bags for each of the programs. Lodge members who assisted are pictured with some of the food that was distributed.



Working closely with the volunteers from the St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church, located in Massapequa, New York, the Lodge Grant Committee from **Massapequa Lodge #2162** learned that there was a tremendous need for both fresh and non-perishable food being expressed by many of their parishioners. As a result, \$800 worth of supplies were quickly delivered by the Grant Committee Members of the Massapequa Lodge. This donation was made possible through the efforts of an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. Pictured as the items were being delivered are (l-r) Cindy Aquina, Sister Carol from St. Rose, Fran Ward, and Joe Motis.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 recently donated \$1000 to the Potsdam Holiday Fund. The Lodge used proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Grant to support the donation. Exalted Ruler Ernie Charleston and Lodge Community Activities Committee member Tim Welpé are pictured with Holiday Fund volunteers Susan Dillon, Janice Adderley, Jody Tosti, Fonda Adderley, Traci Griffin (Holiday Fund President), John Collins, Julie Helenbrook and Debbie Peck during the donation presentation. In addition to a financial donation, Lodge members, along with other community members donated over 300 coats, along with hats and mittens, that were gifted to children. The coats were gathered during a coat drive that was coordinated by Lodge member David Cotey. This past holiday season, the Potsdam Holiday Fund provided support to 262 children and 125 seniors.



Over the past few months, **Guilderland Lodge #2480** has been busy giving out Elk National Foundation grant monies. The Lodge has given a total of \$10,500.00 to local charities and organizations, including Guilderland Senior HEAP program, Ronald McDonald House of Albany, and the Guilderland Food Pantry to help support their children's backpack program and the Albany Stratton VA Hospital to support their food pantry for the homeless and at risk Veterans. Members are pictured presenting a \$2000 donation to the Ronald McDonald House. (Picture to the left)



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION—GRANTS IN ACTION



Over the past couple of months, **Guilderland Lodge #2480** has been busy giving out Elks National Foundation grant monies. The Lodge has given a total of \$10,500.00 to local charities and organizations, including Guilderland Senior HEAP program, Ronald McDonald House of Albany, the Guilderland Food Pantry to help support their children's backpack program and the Albany Stratton VA Hospital to support their food pantry for homeless and at risk Veterans. Members are pictured providing a donation of \$3500 to Guilderland Food Pantry.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Grant to support a \$500 donation to Parishville- Hopkinton Panther Paws Program. The donation will be used to support the program with food and supplies. Approximately 350 students benefit from the program. Guidance Counselor Chelsea Johnson, along with Mrs. Wilkes and her Kindergarten class, are pictured accepting the donation from Exalted Ruler Ernie Charleston.



Oswego Lodge #271 used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and donated \$2,000.00 to Victory Transformation. The donation will be used for upgrades to their security system. Pictured, left to right, during the donation presentation are Esteemed Leading Knight Jim Oldenburg and Mary Curcio, Executive Director of Vicky Transformation.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 has supported the Norwood-Norfolk Snack Pack Program with a \$1000 donation. The Lodge used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Grant to support the donation. 180 students currently participate in the program. A small group of volunteers meets each Friday to pack bags with food for students to take home on week-ends and holiday breaks. The Norwood-Norfolk Snack Pack Program is completely donation based and run by volunteers. Potsdam Lodge Exalted Ruler Ernie Charleston is pictured presenting the donation on behalf of the Lodge to Snack Pack Program volunteers Mary Ellen Todd and Laurie LaPoint and Norwood-Norfolk Central School Superintendent Brooke Ashley.



Mid-Westchester Lodge #535 used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and donated \$2,000 to The Pantry formerly Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry. The donation will be used to purchase food and grocery supplies for their weekly food bank distribution. Pictured during the donation presentation are L to R: Trustee Ray Partelow, District Deputy Jay Singer, Chaplin Norma Hill, The Pantry Director Toby Pidgeon, Leading Knight Dan Cooke, and Grand Leading Knight Anthony Gilberti.



Huntington Lodge #1565 used \$135 of proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and provided the Helping Hands Mission in Huntington Station with non-perishable food to be prepared for school lunches and breakfast supplies. The supplies included tuna, juices, snacks, cereals, peanut butter, pasta, and health bars. Helping Hands volunteers Julia and Donna are pictured accepting this delivery.



Monticello Lodge #1544 presented a \$2000 donation to the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless. The donation was funded by an Elks National Foundation. Pictured during the donation presentation are from left to right (front row): Trustee Sue Mapledoram, Federation Program Administrator Kathy Kreiter, Past District Deputy/ENF Chair Jim Sheerer and Past Exalted Ruler /Secretary Ronni Scannell. In Back row are Past Exalted Ruler/Trustee Mike Brennan, Past District Deputy/ Treasurer Jim Gerrard, Lecturing Knight James Rodriguez, Exalted Ruler Lis Bringle, Past Exalted Ruler/Chaplain Bob Linzer, Loyal Knight Julie Brennan, and Leading Knight David Welsch. (Picture to the left)

Community Activities



Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317 presented St. Mary's School in Waterford with a donation of \$4000 which was the net proceeds from the Spaghetti and Meatball Fund-raiser the Lodge hosted to support school projects. Lodge members were excited to see the new Pre-K Room that was affected by a flood in December. Lodge members were happy to help. Special thank you to local businesses and to the Lodge members for their many donations and to everyone who joined us. Pictured (l-r) are Event Co-Chair Bill Rosenberger, Event Chairperson Renee Bott, Principal Ms. Morazan, Pre-K Teacher Miss Senecal, and Exalted Ruler Herb Kennedy. (Picture to the left)



As a result of the holiday season's high demand for both food and clothing, many local food pantries have now found themselves with empty shelves. In view of this, the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** joined forces and shopped, sorted, and delivered some basic necessities to Island Harvest, located in Melville, New York, and to the Helping Hands Mission, located in Huntington Station, N.Y. Island Harvest received \$225 worth of canned tuna, soups, canned vegetables, condiments, and sugar. Additionally, \$250 worth of warm clothing, including winter Pajamas, bathrobes, and flannel shirts was delivered to the Helping Hands Mission for their immediate distribution. Pictured are: (l-r) Joe, Victor, and Troy from Island Harvest and Robert from the Helping Hands Mission as the deliveries were completed.



Riverhead Lodge #2044 members donated 50 winter coats for infants and toddlers to the Infant Jesus Church Outreach Center, 14 new, warm coats to the Pulaski Street Intermediate School, and 32 coats that were delivered to the Riley Avenue Elementary School. These coats were anonymously donated by an individual whose only provision was that the coats would be distributed to those families in need. Pictured as coats were delivered to Riley Ave. Elementary School are: (l-r) District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Ted Farkas, Principal Gary Karlson, two Social Workers and Exalted Ruler Debra Farkas,



Potsdam Lodge #2074 recently presented the Potsdam Youth Hockey Association with a \$500 donation in memory of David Grant. The donation will support scholarships in honor of David. Lodge members Mike Neaton, Mike Pinckney and John Jones presented the donation to a group of players representing the Potsdam Youth Hockey Association.

Riverhead Lodge #2044 donated and delivered both non-perishable food and clothing to the East End Farm Workers Association for their distribution. The items donated by members were collected during the Lodges Fall/Winter food and clothing drive. Pictured as the items were delivered are (l-r) Exalted Ruler Debbie Farkas, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Ted Farkas, along with an employee at the East End Farm Workers Association.



Staten Island Lodge #841 hosted a successful winter coat drive benefiting the Teddy Atlas Foundation. It's all thanks to the generosity of the Lodge members. Lecturing Knight Jeannette garnered a connection for the Atlas Foundation. Several Lodge members helped sort through the coats. Exalted Ruler Martin, Lecturing Knight Jeannette and Member Rory assisted with loading up a truck with all the donations to deliver to the foundation. Past Exalted Ruler Cathy and Secretary Donna assisted with distributing the donations to the Lodge contacts at the foundation.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 supported the 2025 St. Lawrence Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics New York with a \$500 donation. The Lodge has supported the event each year that the plunge has taken place. Lodge member Tim Welpe is pictured presenting the donation to Special Olympic Representative Chris Hughes.

Community Activities



Brunswick Lodge #2556 used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Spotlight grant and provided coats to ARC. The Lodge was pleased to support ARC and the exceptional services that they offer their clients. This collaboration represents a valuable community partnership.



Using \$1200 from funds raised by **Hicksville Lodge #1931**, new toys were delivered to the St. Raphael Roman Catholic Church's Parish Ministry Food Pantry, located in East Meadow, New York. These specially chosen toys will be distributed to those families in need from their Parish. Pictured (l-r) are: Past Exalted Ruler Nancy Parente, Lodge Treasurer Tony Dominick, St. Raphael R.C. Church Director of Parish Social Ministry Program Anne Lederer, Lodge Trustee Fred Wedin, Past Exalted Ruler Carmine Asparro and Past District Deputy Peter Roach.



Catskill Lodge #1341 used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to purchase, assemble and deliver 46 gift bags to area veterans residing in local nursing homes. The bags contained sweatsuits, socks, hats and gloves, blankets and activity items. Santa's helpers and lodge members Emily Gallo and Dawn Seeley (with behind the scenes assistance from Donna Fisher), brought holiday cheer and gifts to veterans at Green Meadows, The Pines, Home Sweet Home and The Eliot. Members Emily Gallo and Dawn Seeley are pictured with veteran William during a delivery.



Huntington Lodge #1565 used \$150 from funds raised at a Lodge event and donated care packages to 11 veterans at Central Island HealthCare, located in Plainview, New York. Each package included playing cards, pill boxes, diabetic body cream, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and a surprise holiday necklace. State VAVS Chairman Jack Stein and Emily Fullan, Director of Therapeutic Recreation at Central Island HealthCare, are pictured as items were delivered.



Fulton Lodge #830 recently donated \$500.00 to the Fulton Fury Travel Baseball Program. This program is comprised of young, talented baseball players and helps teach not only the skills of the game, but the importance of teamwork, academics and community involvement. Pictured are Fulton Fury players Quinn Riley and Ryker King, Team Manger Kaylea Morse, Head Coach Larry King, Fulton Elks Trustee, Past Exalted Ruler and Past State Vice President Charlie Diefenbacher and Treasurer Silvan Johnson.



The **Kinderhook Lodge #2530** Past Exalted Rulers Association recently hosted an annual Community Dinner at the Valatie St. Luke's Lutheran Church. The menu was Roast Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans with Bacon, Applesauce and Pork Gravy; as well as salad and dessert provided by the church. Over 120 residents were served. The members assisting with the dinner were Past District Deputy Chris Akers, Past Exalted Ruler Association President Anne Leiser, Past District Deputy Carman Esposito, Frank Masten, Past District Deputy Leo Buell, Past District Deputy John Piddock, Chuck Cotsonas, Chaplin Sharon Deck, Joyce Harkowa, Ben Lasher, and Tom Miglio (North Hudson District Veteran's Chair).



Utica Lodge #33 used the proceeds from a Elks National Foundation Beacon and Spotlight grant and donated \$3,000 to the Utica New York Chapter of "Sleep in Heavenly Peace." Currently four Lodge members have become volunteers, helping to build beds for kids who do not have them. Since the Utica Chapter of "SHP" was formed five years ago, they have built and delivered approximately 2,800 beds in Oneida and Herkimer counties. Pictured during the donation presentation are, (L to R) Exalted Ruler Vickie Ford and Kathy Kraus. Row 2, (L to R); John Felski, Ron Mikus, Roger Kraus, Janet Butler. (Row 3, (L to R:)) Mark Butler, Chris Ford, Mike Butler.

Community Activities



Huntington Lodge #1565 hosted a children's Christmas Party for the sons, daughters, and grandchildren of veterans and their families from VFW Post 5942. Each child was given a special gift from "Santa" which was provided by the child's parent, and a bag of goodies to take home that was provided by the Lodge. Mac and cheese, chicken fingers, meat-loaf, and BBQ chicken were served to approximately 70 attendees and children. \$650 from Lodge funds was utilized for this event. Pictured here is "Santa" portrayed by NYS Veterans Chairman Jack Stein, PDD, and his helper, Exalted Ruler Alyssa Nightingale. A great time was had by all!



Some years ago, the New York State Elks Association West Central District began a new program called The Patriot Ceremony. The District Lodges search for WWII, Korean Conflict and Vietnam era Veterans and then invites them to a special ceremony. At this ceremony, the Veterans each receive a Patriot Medal for their service to our country. On behalf of the West Central District, **Wolcott Lodge #1763** had the privilege and honor to present 99 year old Navy Fireman First Class Allan Mitchell with the West Central District's Patriot Medal, recognizing his service in both WWII and the Korean Conflict. He is pictured at the ceremony with Past Exalted Ruler Greg Van Deusen and his son Duke Mitchell.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 recently presented the Madrid Waddington Snack Pack Program with a \$500 donation. The Lodge used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to support the donation. The Madrid Waddington Snack Pack Program benefits approximately 320 students. Exalted Ruler Ernie Charleston is pictured with Snack Pack coordinator Amber Murphy and students Addie Sharlow and Marlee St. Thomas during the donation presentation.



Members of the **East District #6120 VAVS** recently visited the Northport VA Medical Center. During the visit, Jack Stein, State VAVS Committee Chairman, along with his Deputy Lisa Hernandez, delivered canteen books to both in and outpatients, paying for their lunches as a special surprise. Each of the 9 patients visiting the Cafe at that time received \$10.00 worth of coupons along with a sincere thank you for their service. Pictured during this visit are (l-r) unnamed Vietnam Veteran, VAVS Deputy Lisa Hernandez, State Chairman Jack Stein and unnamed Vietnam Veteran.



Mid-Westchester Lodge #535 Lodge Members participated in the annual 4 Chaplains program at the White Plains American Legion Post 135. The ceremony included a candle lighting where each chaplain's bio was read, a wreath laying and TAPS. The 4 Chaplains were WWII heroes who sacrificed their lives by giving up their life jackets to soldiers when the Dorchester was torpedoed and sunk in the icy North Atlantic by a Nazi sub. Including the 4 chaplains, 672 soldiers were drowned and killed during the sinking. Mid-Westchester Lodge # 535 donated a new flat screen TV to the post.



Oswego Lodge #271 presented a check \$250.00 to the Warm Meals, Warm Hearts project. This year is the second annual event that brings Leadership Oswego County alumni, in partnership with Lasagna Love, and Citi BOCES students to prepare lasagnas for families in need and build meaningful community connections. Esteemed Leading Knight James Oldenburg is pictured presenting the donation on behalf of Oswego Lodge to Ms. Sarah Ingerson, Associate Director Office of Professional Development, Division of Extended Learning



Utica Lodge #33 used the proceeds from a Elks National Foundation Beacon and Spotlight grant and donated \$3,000 to the Utica New York Chapter of "Sleep in Heavenly Peace." Currently four Lodge members have become volunteers, helping to build beds for kids who do not have them. Since the Utica Chapter of "SHP" was formed five years ago, they have built and delivered approximately 2,800 beds in Oneida and Herkimer counties. Pictured during the donation presentation are, (L to R) Exalted Ruler Vickie Ford and Kathy Kraus. (Row 2, (L to R)); John Felski, Ron Mikus, Roger Kraus, Janet Butler. (Row 3, (L to R): Mark Butler, Chris Ford, Mike Butler.

Community Activities



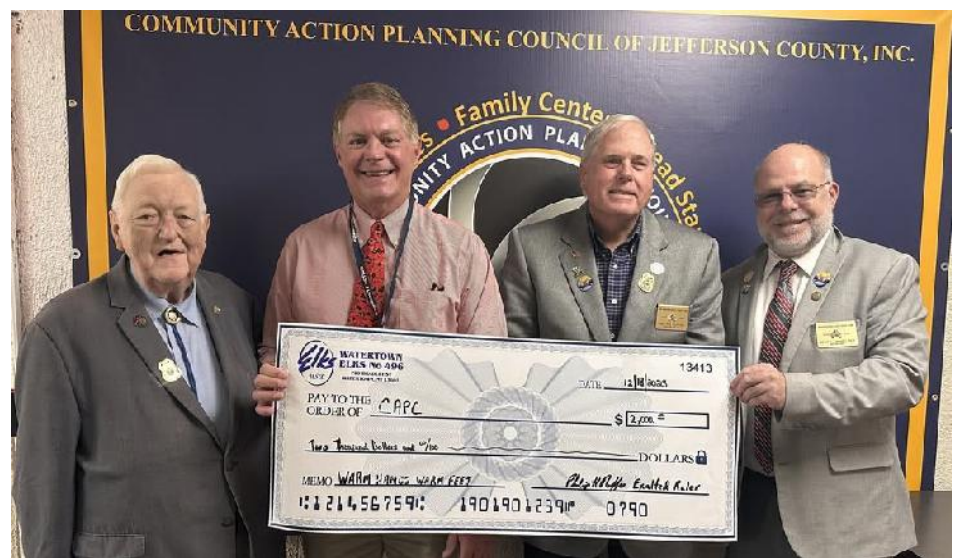
Huntington Lodge #1565 utilized \$450.00 from an Elks National Foundation Beacon and Gratitude Grant and purchased and delivered a dozen new winter coats to the St. Elizabeth of Hungary R.C. Church. The coats were distributed to parishioners in need in the upcoming week. Pictured receiving the donation are Denise and Marianne, Outreach volunteers at the Church.



Rensselaer Lodge #2073 used \$2,000.19 from an Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant to purchase food/canned goods, personal care items and toiletries from Walmart Supercenter #1940 in Rensselaer to further assist those families in need on behalf of the Nassau Resource Center (NRC) Food Pantry. Pictured are Lodge members that assisted with the food pantry program - Becky, Chris, Lafonso, Mike, Ryan, Scotty G, Patrick, Adam, Cori and Angie. .



Kingston Lodge #550 partnered with People's Place to collect and distribute coats and cold weather items for underprivileged members of the community. Over 100 coats and accessories were collected. Pictured (L to R): showcasing coats that were collected are members Tara Chando and Chaplain Betsy Mills.



Watertown Lodge #496 presented a \$2000 donation to the CAPT Warm Hand, Warm Feet program. Past Exalted Ruler Phil Nuffer, Lodge Secretary Dennis Brady and Past State President presented the donation on behalf of the Lodge to Craig Cashman, Chief Executive Officer for CAPC. After collaborative effort between Lodge Secretary and Caroline Feasler (Family Center Director for CAPC), the CAPC purchased mittens and boots for children of financially strapped families. The \$2,000 donation was made possible by many caring and giving members of Lodge #496.



Liberty Lodge #1545 hosted a Narcan Training workshop. Members of the Sullivan County New York Public Health team provided an educational presentation to approximately 20 members in attendance. All attendees received a Narcan kit including two dispensers, a pair of disposable gloves, and instructions. Pictured (L to R): Past Exalted Ruler Kim DiLorenzo, Past Exalted Ruler Marta Illing, District DAP Chair April Rodriguez-Walsh and Sullivan County Public Health team members Hunter and Samantha.



Mid Westchester Lodge #535 Leading Knight Dan Cooke participated in the Feeding Westchester Food Bank food drive event at DeCicco & Sons in Sleepy Hollow, New York. This is the 10th year Dan has supported this great cause.



Working closely with the volunteers from the St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church, located in Massapequa, New York, the Grant Committee from **Massapequa Lodge #2162** learned that there was a tremendous need for both fresh and non-perishable food being expressed by many of their parishioners. As a result, \$800 worth of supplies were quickly delivered by the Grant Committee Members of the Massapequa Lodge. This donation was made possible through the efforts of an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. Pictured making the delivery are: (l-r) Cindy Aquina, Sister Carol from St. Rose, Fran Ward, and Joe Motis.



Huntington Lodge #1565 used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and purchased and delivered \$150 worth of fresh food to the pantry of St. Elizabeth's Roman Catholic Church of Hungary, located in Huntington, Long Island. Pictured is Maryann who happily accepted the donations.

Community Activities



Mid-Westchester Lodge #535 participated in placing wreaths for the National Wreaths Across America even on December 13th. The lodge helped sponsor the event by purchasing 30 wreaths (value - \$500.00 Donation) and actively 6 members actively participated in this solemn ceremony. The ceremony began at 12 noon with a full minute of silence coordinating with the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington Natl Cemetery and with thousands of other participants around the world. We honored our war heroes and over 100 volunteers placed honor wreaths on the graves of over 500 service members many of which were killed in action. This is the 11th year that the ceremony is hosted by the Daughters of Liberty's Legacy which was founded and run by Mid-Westchester Elks Members Cynthia Kaufman and Lecturing Knight Debra Palazzo. Pictured at the event are, L to R: Past Exalted Ruler Tom Geary, Heidi Tahiraj and Leading Knight Dan Cooke.



Southern Westchester Lodge #707 hosted a Thanksgiving Basket program. The baskets included a turkey and a \$50.00 gift card to cover the cost of items for a complete Thanksgiving dinner. The Lodge gave out 10 turkeys and 10 gift cards to five churches in Mt. Vernon, Yonkers, Mount Olive, St. Mary's, Bowen United, Rehovot Baptist, and St Eugene, churches. The turkeys came from Stew Lenard Turkey's Brigade (free Turkeys) and the gift cards from the Lodges general funds.



New York Lodge #1 members conducted a food drive for Our Lady of Good Council. Past District Deputy Mark Stuparich and Past District Deputy Bill Bock, along with members Ray Flaherty and Lynne Williams, delivered the food that was collected throughout the month of November to Our Lady Of Good Council Food Pantry in Inwood, New York. More than \$3000 worth of food was donated preceding their holiday food pick up. The food pantry informed the Lodge that there hasn't been much in the way of cereal donated lately and so the Lodge used the \$350 in monetary donation collected to buy 75 boxes of cereal for children. Lodge members are pictured with Lena Artusa from the pantry and Father Henry from St Josephs in Hewlett who present to accept the delivery.



Huntington Lodge #1565 used the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Grant and donated \$350 worth of winter clothing to the Northwell/Dolan Health Center for toddlers and their moms. The Lodge also assisted the Northwell/Dolan Health Center recently with a baby shower for 40 mothers-to-be whose babies are growing quickly. Social worker Samera Lopez is pictured as she displays the donation.



Huntington Lodge #1565 used approximately \$400 from the funds received through an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and purchased "back to school" clothing for students. As the staff from Tri-CYA maintains an excellent rapport with the parents of those children in need, appropriate styles and sizes were purchased by the members of the Lodge. In addition to clothing, a box of dictionaries from the Elks Dictionary Project were also included in our delivery. Pictured during the delivery are Michael and Carly (volunteers at Tri-CYA), as they happily display the donated apparel.



Mid-Westchester Lodge #535 used the Lodges 2025 – 2026 Beacon Grant for to support Operation Teddy Bear. Thirty-Five (35) individuals from Mid-Westchester Lodge #535, Mamaroneck Lodge #1457, Heavenly Productions Foundation, Inc and guests helped to stuff 400 Teddy Bears. Each Teddy Bear was lovingly stuffed, given a heart and lovely hugged goodbye. The finished Teddy Bears were donated and hand-delivered to Maria Fareri Children's Hospital (Valhalla, New York), Ronald McDonald House (Valhalla, New York), White Plains Hospital and Pediatric Clinic (White Plains, New York), Neighbors Link (Mount Kisco, New York) and local Police Departments in our service area. The proceeds from the \$4000.00 Beacon Grant along with an additional \$500 coming from the lodge's charity account for a total of \$4,500. It is the Lodges heartfelt hope that the Teddy Bears will serve as a beacon of love, comfort, and hope for the children who receive them—especially those enduring medical treatments such as chemotherapy, radiation, and surgeries, as well as those navigating difficult life circumstances.

Community Activities



The **East District #6120 VAVS** used approximately \$250 from funds received through the Elks VAVS and provided patriotic decorations, health/hygiene items/ puzzles, crafts, and sundries to the therapy unit of the Northport VA Medical Center. Pictured during the delivery of items are (l-r) Christen Butcher, Representative from the Northport VA Therapy Unit, State Veterans Chairman Jack Stein along with Northport volunteer Mike.



Smithtown Lodge #2036 hosted a Holiday Party for the residents of United Cerebral Palsy Long Island that included music, food, and a special visit from Santa. Each resident was given a gift donated by the Lodge members to fill their holiday wish list. Several very appreciative guests are pictured as they enjoyed the festivities.



Staten Island Lodge #841 Exalted Ruler Martin King, along with Past Exalted Ruler Cathy DeGaetano with Rory King and Lecturing Knight Jeannette Wilkinson, had the honor of delivering full Thanksgiving Dinners to 10 families. Lodge members donated the turkeys and Lodge Trustee Thomas Aiello and his business firm TA Express Trucking LLC, generously provided the trimmings.



New York Lodge #1 hosted a 9/11 Remembrance ceremony on the front lawn of the Lodge. Eighty-eight people were in attendance for the ceremony. Several Elks dignitaries were on hand to commemorate this solemn occasion including Father Michael Martine, State President John Lawless, District Deputy Jay Singer, Grand Esteemed Leading Knight/ Past State President Tony Gilberti and South District State Vice President Paul Schneller. Lynbrook Mayor Alan Beach and his Board of Trustees, Lynbrook Police Chief Brian Paladino, Head Fire Chief Clayton Murphy and Assemblywoman Judy Griffin were also in attendance. State Sergeant at Arms John Nuzzi coordinated the event.



Staten Island Lodge #841 conducted an annual Marine Corp Toys for Tots drive. This drive was spearheaded by Trustee Vivian Potter. Past Exalted Ruler Cathy DeGaetano, Frank Albrizio and Jeannette Wilkinson dropped off the collection of toys at Floyd Bennett Field. Vivian worked diligently with Staff Sergeant Gavin Sun, Assistant Coordinator to ensure a successful drive. Gunnery Sergeant Trevor Hilgendorf provided Lodge members VIP treatment, providing members a tour of the facility/ warehouse, and running the entire operation.



Beacon Lodge #1493 members donated 53 new and used coats with a value of \$1000 and Thanksgiving related food valued at \$500 to the food pantry at Castle Point VA Facility. Pictured (L-R) displaying items are Lodge Veterans Committee Members Dwayne Kronk, Dan Orea, Exalted Ruler Jeanine McAuley, Alan Rios VA Representative, Sharon Haviland and Rick Lloyd.



Canajoharie Fort-Plain Lodge #2621 participated in the Fort Plain School Trunk or Treat during Red Ribbon Week. Lodge members handed out candy, Red Ribbon bracelets and drug awareness packets to over 300 children. Pictured (l-r) at the Trunk or Treat are, Ronnie Parker, Past Exalted Ruler Michele Whiteman, Past Exalted Ruler Nicole Hubal, Debbie Eckler, Carter Hubal, Past District Deputy Nancy Swartz, Colleen Hurteau, Karen Shibley, Julie Slaper and Exalted Ruler Sarah Gray. (Picture to the left)

Community Activities



Beacon Lodge #1493 recognized Rombout Middle School October students of the month. The students were chosen for their participation, kindness, compassion and positive attitude. The students received a Certificate and Gift card for their achievement. The Beacon Elks would like to thank Glazed Over Donuts for sponsoring this event with them. The students are pictured with Youth Activities Chair Cathy Oken, member Nancy Birkler and Exalted Ruler Jeanine McAuley as they display their awards.



Islip Lodge #2533 used funds received through an Elks National Foundation Beacon and Gratitude grants and purchased \$3231 worth of Scholastic books, Drug Awareness materials, and school supplies, for the Mulvany Elementary School K-6th grade Literacy Day. Each student received 2 Scholastic books, coloring books, crayons, pencils, and rulers. In addition, Blue Martin, a local publishing company, heard about the Lodge's event and, as a result, contributed an additional \$7400 worth of books totaling 600. The grand total for the day amounted to 1200 books netting a total value of \$10,631.



Hicksville Lodge #1931 assisted with stocking the food pantry shelves of St. Raphael Roman Catholic Church. The members of Hicksville Lodge #1931 purchased and delivered turkeys and non-perishable food in anticipation of the Holiday Season. The value of this donation was approximately \$250.00, which was raised by the members of the Lodge. Pictured are: Lodge Trustee Fred Wedin, Anne Lederer, the St. Raphael Roman Catholic Church Director of Social Ministry and Past Exalted Ruler Carmine Asparro.



Mid-Westchester Lodge #535 recognized Jazlyn Fernandez, an Eagle Scout from Troop 420 Port Chester, New York, at her Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony. The ceremony was held at AJ Posillipo Community Center in Port Chester, New York. Esteemed Loyal Knight James Comstock of Mid-Westchester Lodge # 535 presented Jazlyn with an Elks Eagle Recognition Certificate and American Flag framed for display. Fernandez's Eagle Project was to build and refurbish park benches at Crawford Park in Rye, New York.



Huntington Lodge #1565 provided the Coalition for the Homeless with approximately \$350 worth of non-perishable items to assist in refilling their depleted needs on the pantry list. Included in this list were cereals, soup, pasta, sauce, ketchup, mustard, snacks, tuna juices, canned vegetables, toilet paper, paper towels, and cleaning supplies. Pictured during the delivery of the items are (l-r) are State VAVS Chair Jack Stein, Past District Deputy Lynne Stein, and a volunteer from the Coalition.

Potsdam Lodge #2074 supported the Parishville - Hopkinton Central School Junior -Senior Prom with a \$840 donation.

Members and friends of **Wolcott Lodge #1763** made and donated several bake goods: fresh baked apple pies (Wayne County New York grows the most apples in New York State), brownies, cookies, cakes, loaves of bread and other items, raising \$425 for New York State Elks Association Major Projects.

Hudson Lodge #787 conducted a raffle at the Lodge and used the raffle proceeds to purchase a commercial freezer that the Dwyer Program Veterans Food Pantry needed.



The members of **Hicksville Lodge #1931** recognized Grace Andino as one of the 2025 Allocated Scholarship Award Winners for \$1000. The Lodge members also presented her with a plaque along with well-deserved congratulations. Pictured during the scholarship presentation are (l-r), Grace Andino, mother of Grace, Exalted Ruler Carmine Asparro, and Allocated Scholarship Award Winner Grace Andino.

Community Activities



South District members representing New York Lodge #1, Brooklyn-Queensborough Lodge #878 and New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107 had the honor of being invited to and attending the first Veterans Oktoberfest at St. Albans VA. NYSEA Sgt at Arms and South District Veterans Service representative John Nuzzi, 1st Deputy Representative Rich Muniac of New York Lodge #1 and 2nd Deputy Representative Tony Vitale of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge # 2107, were honored when asked to be part of the First Veterans Oktoberfest. The members treated the Veterans to 16 six packs of Non-alcoholic assorted 0.0 Beers. Pictured at the event are St Albans Veteran Mr. Carl, United States Air Force, 2nd Deputy Tony Vitale, VAVS Representative John Nuzzi, 1st Deputy Rich Muniac, Frank Cappa of New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107, and New York Lodge #1 members Sylvia Wasner Tyler, Loyal Knight Lisa Capulong, Diane Smith and Lisa Trento.



The members of **Hicksville Lodge #1931** donated \$400 worth of a variety of toys to Jake's Steakhouse, located in East Meadow, N.Y. This local restaurant organized a fundraiser to support 200 homeless families during the upcoming holiday season. The lodge members were more than happy to contribute to this worthy cause. Pictured: (l-r) during the donation presentation are Lodge Treasurer Anthony Dominick, Past Exalted Ruler Carmine Asparro, and Jake's Steakhouse Manager Kate Mintz.



Staten Island Lodge #841 donated \$300.00 to PS 46 School in Staten Island. The donation was to support the purchase of pumpkins for the children and fall festivities at the school. Two of the students are pictured with some of the pumpkins.



The members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** fully enjoyed their first visit to the St. Joseph's Home for the Aged facility in Huntington NY, which is fully run by the Benedictine Nuns of the Parish. This is an assisted living home, located on a beautifully landscaped property surrounded by trees and flowered gardens. There, the residents enjoy a full schedule of social, educational, and entertaining activities, helping them to maintain a high quality of life. After speaking with a representative from the Parish, we learned that personal hygiene items were most needed, leading the members to purchase body wash, hand soap, deodorant, razors, Q-Tips, shampoo, and adult diapers. A total of \$150 from funds received through the Beacon Grant, was used for this effort. Sister Anushka is pictured as she gratefully accepted this donation.



Beacon Lodge #1493 recognized Haldane Middle School October students of the month. The students were chosen for their kindness, helpfulness and offering support to classmates. Students received a Certificate and Gift Card. The Beacon Elks thanks Cold Spring Pizza for sponsoring this event with them. The students are pictured with Youth Activities Chair Cathy Oken and Exalted Ruler Jeanine McAuley as they proudly display their awards.



East District #6120 VAVS Chairman, Jack Stein met with Samantha Calandrino of the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook, and delivered \$650 worth of items specifically requested by the staff of the Therapy Unit at the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook. Some of the items included in this donation consisted of Easels for their painting program, Jewelry making essentials, Elks leather wheelchair gloves, assorted candles, unit approved candy, sundries, socks, t-shirts, and coffee pods. Samantha is pictured with VAVS Chairman Jack Stein as the many items were delivered.



The members of **Islip Lodge #2553** assisted in sponsoring the Islip High School's Post Prom Party for their class of 2025, by generously donating \$1,500 to this event. Approximately 215 students were in attendance. This Post Prom event has become an Islip tradition to keep their students safe during this exciting time. Pictured here are several members of the Lodge with students as they checked in the attendees.

Community Activities



Huntington Lodge #1565 held their Annual Veterans Dinner, hosting 15 veterans and their families in honor of Veterans Remembrance Month. Utilizing approximately \$1200 from funds raised by the Lodge, a complete dinner, cooked by our resident chef, NYS Veterans Chairman Jack Stein, PDD, and his talented helper Past District Deputy Richard Mulhaven, from Massapequa Lodge #2262, included soup, chicken a l'orange, sliced ham, mashed potatoes, stuffed shells, mixed vegetables, and dessert. Also, as a special surprise, each veteran received a hat displaying their branch of service, donated by member Lonnie Sherman of General Needs. Music was provided by John Deboe, who performed a variety of tunes, including those from Elvis, the Beatles, and Elton John (costumes and all!). Pictured are the visiting veterans as they displayed their gift.



Potsdam Lodge #2074 has supported the Potsdam Youth Basketball Association with a \$350 donation. Lodge Community Activities member Tim Welpé presented the donation on behalf of the Lodge to PYBA Coaches and players.



Massapequa Lodge #2162 Veterans Chairman Fran Ward, along with Co-Chair Anne Williams, delivered much-needed household items, valued at \$1400, to the United Veterans Beacon House in Bayshore, New York. This organization, a 501c3, provides homeless Veterans with short-term, long-term, and transitional housing in addition to employment assistance. Also, food is provided from their food pantry for food insecure Veterans and their families. Items provided included 4 microwaves, 4 vacuums, 2 sets each of flatware, glasses, coffee mugs, and bath towels. \$1000 of the funds was obtained from a Freedom Grant, with the balance of the cost previously raised by the Lodge. Pictured with the donations (l-r) are: Anne Williams, UVBH Development Associate Sarah Merzali and Fran Ward.



Riverhead Lodge #2044 held their Annual Lobster and Chicken Festival to help raise funds for their charitable endeavors. This year, approximately 200 attendees enjoyed music provided by an outstanding DJ, delicious food, numerous raffle prizes donated by the members, and a good old-fashioned picnic atmosphere.



Mid-Westchester Lodge #535 distributed over 1,300, "A Student's Dictionary and Animal Gazetteer" to stimulate 3rd Grade student's interest. Each dictionary was stamped with Mid-Westchester Elks Lodge logo. The dictionaries cost \$4,500.00. Past Exalted Ruler Bob Lent chaired this project for the Lodge. The Lodge presented a dictionary to each third-grade student at the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District: JFK, Edison, King Street and Park Avenue Schools; the Mount Pleasant Central School District: Columbus Elementary School; the White Plains City School District: Church Street, George Washington, Mamaroneck Avenue, Post Road and Ridgeway Schools. Past Exalted Ruler Bob Lent and Past Exalted Ruler Jay Singer are pictured with students during the presentation of the dictionaries at Columbus Elementary School in Thornwood, New York.



Thanks to funds received through an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant, the members of **Huntington Lodge #1565** purchased \$230 worth of underwear, slippers, socks, and t-shirts for the homeless men who utilize the bathing facilities run by the Family Service League. Due to the lack of storage space, the Family Service League needs to limit the number of items donated at any given time. However, we were assured that our donation will certainly go a long way. Pictured is Melissa from the League, as she unpacks the parcels.

Community Activities



Mid-Westchester Lodge #535 helped support and remember Veterans during November, which is Veterans Remembrance Month. Lodge members, in conjunction with the White Plains American Legion Post 135, participated in three ceremonies on Veteran's day. The day began with the Veterans Day ceremony that was held at the White Plains City Hall. The next ceremony took place at the White Plains American Legion Post 135, where Lodge members Cindy Kaufman and Debra Palazzo spoke to the audience about the meaning and importance of the day. That ceremony was followed by the annual taking down of the American flag that flies at the post all season from when it is hung at their Memorial Day ceremony. Lastly, Lodge and Legion members took part in a ceremony that was held at the White Plains armory. After all the ceremonies had taken place, Lodge and Legion members welcomed the public back to the Legion Post for light refreshments while spending time with veterans. Pictured are Mid-Westchester Elks Lodge 535 members that helped with some or all of the ceremonies and festivities; Debra Palazzo, Cindy Kaufman, Hiedi Tahiraj, Rocco Solano, Past State President Tony Gilberti and Dan Cooke



The members of **Riverhead Lodge #2044** purchased \$300 worth of non-perishable food, which was promptly picked up by a representative from Rise Life Services of Riverhead, for distribution. Rise Life Services is a residential program for the developmentally disabled, and this delivery came just in time for their Thanksgiving Holiday. Pictured is Tracy Rugolo, a representative from Rise Life, as she gratefully accepted this donation, thanks to the funds the Lodge received through their fundraising efforts.



Massapequa Lodge #2162 used the proceeds from a Gratitude Grant to purchase fresh, frozen, and non-perishable items to the United Beacon House. Members also delivered the items. Also included in this delivery were a variety of personal hygiene supplies that were desperately needed. Pictured during the delivery are, (l-r) VAVS Deputy and Massapequa Lodge Grant Committee Chairman Fran Ward, Kathy and Tom Harrington, volunteers from United Beacon House with their assistant.



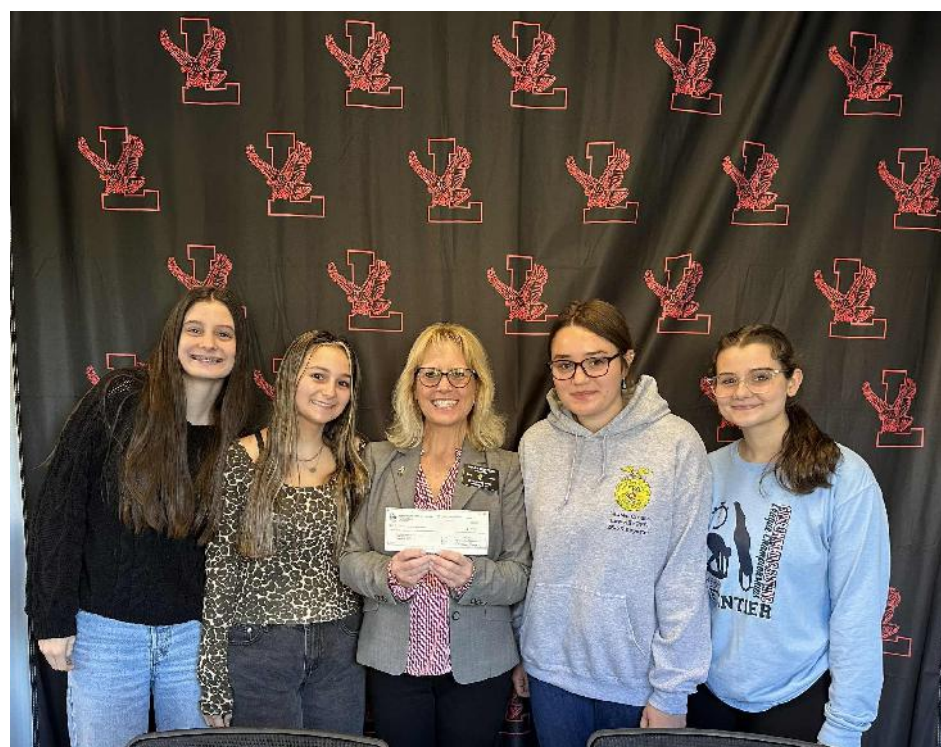
Huntington Lodge #1565 utilized \$200.00 from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and supported Long Island Cares located in Huntington, New York with t-shirts, socks, slippers, and men's and women's undergarments. Lodge members delivered the items. Harrison, a volunteer at the pantry, is pictured receiving the items on behalf of Long Island Cares.



Huntington Lodge #1565 used \$125 of the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant, and purchased much-needed fresh food for the pantry established by the Outreach Program of St. Hugh of Lincoln, located in Huntington Station. Jim and James from the St. Hugh Outreach Program are pictured accepting the items upon delivery.



Lowville Lodge #1605 continued the Lodges tradition of supporting the Dictionary Project. State Vice President Dan Shannon had the honor of distributing a dictionary to third grade students at South Lewis Central School. He is pictured with the students as they proudly show their dictionaries.



Lowville Lodge #1605 shared the proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant and donated \$600 to five area schools. The grants were awarded to the Beaver River, Lowville, South Lewis, Copenhagen, and Harrisville Backpack Clubs. The donations will support each school in their efforts to provide students with food on weekends and school breaks. Lodge member Marie Western is pictured as she presented a donation on behalf of the Lodge to student representatives from Lowville Central School.

MEDIA ALERT

FAX: (773) 755-4905



PHONE: (773) 755-4904

Email: RickG@elks.org

MEMBERSHIP/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Rick Gathen
Director

A Fraternal Organization

2750 N. Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614-1889

MEDIA ALERT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Elks Celebrate 158 Years of Service, Charity, and Community Impact

Founded February 16, 1868 – A Legacy of Giving Continues

Chicago, IL – February 16, 2026 — The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks proudly celebrates its **158th anniversary**, honoring a legacy built on **service, patriotism, and compassion in action**. For more than a century and a half, the Elks have stood shoulder to shoulder with their communities—answering the call, lifting up neighbors, and proving that real charity is not a slogan, but a way of life.

This milestone year also leads to a once-in-a-century celebration: on **July 4, 2026**, the Elks will commemorate the **100th Anniversary of the Elks National Memorial and Headquarters Building** in Chicago—an American landmark that embodies the heart of the Order.

Dedicated in **1926**, the Elks National Memorial rises **96 feet above Lake Michigan** as a breathtaking tribute to those who served our nation and to the Elks who made its creation possible. In 2026, thousands of Elks from across the country will gather in Chicago to honor a century of history—and renew a promise that still matters: to serve, to give, and to lead with purpose.

That promise continues today with impact that is measurable and undeniable. Elks Lodges nationwide award **\$5 million annually in scholarships**, and through the **Elks Community Investment Program**, the Order will deliver **\$17.6 million in grants** to strengthen neighborhoods, support seniors, fight hunger, and improve community safety. In **2024**, Elks volunteers generated more than **\$531 million in charitable impact**, reflecting the strength of a mission that never stops moving.

With nearly **800,000 members** and close to **1,800 Lodges nationwide**, the Elks continue to welcome American citizens age 21 and older who believe in God and share a commitment to serving others.

To learn more, visit www.elks.org.
For membership information, visit Join.Elks.org.

SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT



**ELKS SPRING CONVENTION
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT #6160

GOLF "FORE" CAMP BRISTOL

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CAMP BRISTOL

\$100.00/PERSON (INCLUDES LUNCH, GOLF, CART)

MAY 13, 2026, 1:00 SHOTGUN START

11:00:REGISTRATION; 12:00:LUNCH

CART/TEE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

\$125.00

**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:**

LIBERTY ELKS LODGE #1545

SEND CHECKS TO:

Liberty Elks Lodge #1545

21 John St.

Liberty, NY 12754-1805

CHECKS DUE BY MAY 5

For questions, contact:

MERRILL CONNER

mconner81@yahoo.com

845-594-2673

**TOURNAMENT
LOCATION**

Villa Roma Resort

356 Villa Roma Rd.

Callicoon, NY 12723

SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT



**ELKS SPRING CONVENTION
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT #6160
GOLF "FORE" CAMP BRISTOL**

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CAMP BRISTOL

\$100.00/PERSON (INCLUDES LUNCH, GOLF, CART)

MAY 13, 2026, 1:00 SHOTGUN START

11:00:REGISTRATION; 12:00:LUNCH

**MAKE CHECKS
PAYABLE TO:**

LIBERTY LODGE #1545

SEND CHECKS TO:

Liberty Elks Lodge #1545
21 John St.
Liberty, NY 12754-1805

PLAYER #1

LODGE NUMBER

PLAYER #2

LODGE NUMBER

TEAM YOU WISH TO PLAY WITH:

For questions, contact:

MERRILL CONNER

mconner81@yahoo.com

845-594-2673

**TOURNAMENT
LOCATION**

Villa Roma Resort
356 Villa Roma Rd.
Callicoon, NY 12723

SPRING CONVENTION REGISTRATION



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 14-17, 2026

Traditional Room

Main building or Non-Connecting
(Two Double or Two Queen Beds)
Single Occupancy \$864.78 per person
Double Occupancy \$594.04 per person

One Bedroom Suite

Main Building or Non-Connecting
(Two Beds & Living Room)
Single Occupancy \$937.06 per person
Double Occupancy \$642.63 per person

Wednesday to Sunday (5 days /4 nights) May 13-17, 2026

Traditional Room

Main building or Non-Connecting
(Two Double or Two Queen Beds)
Single Occupancy \$1,139.82 per person
Double Occupancy \$780.82 per person

One Bedroom Suite

Main Building or Non-Connecting
(Two Beds & Living Room)
Single Occupancy \$1,197.45 per person
Double Occupancy \$819.24 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: \$199.00 per room plus tax and gratuities

CUT-OFF DATE: **April 3, 2026**

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 3, 2026 by FAX to 845-887-4824 or e-mail to reservations@villaroma.com

CANCELLATION: Individual cancellations will be accepted until 12:00pm on Monday, May 11, 2026 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 & # _____