



New Jersey State Elks

**Sue Dupas, PDDGER
State Secretary
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Cedar Grove Lodge #2237**

November 2025

State President Bill:

The New Jersey State Elks Association, which is now in its 112th year of service to our State, is comprised of 107 hardworking and dedicated Elks Lodges. Our current membership is over 57,300 members.

All monies have been receipted and forwarded to Treasurer Ken Low for deposit and all requests for payment have been reviewed for completeness, vouchered, and submitted for payment. The State Association received \$1,877.37. This represents pro-rated dues for new members and reinstatements for the first 6 months of the Lodge year.

State Chairmen are reminded that a blank voucher is available for download on the State Secretary's page on njelks.org. All requests for payment must be submitted with a completed voucher and receipts attached.

This is very important: Exalted Rulers are asked to remind their Lodge Secretaries that a member's highest title should be indicated on the Contact Page of their record in CLMS in the "Elk Title" box. This information is used for data sorting purposes when voting lists are prepared, State Association Cards are printed, and verification of names for the Annual Memorial Service.

On behalf of our State Treasurer, I would like to thank everyone for ensuring that all checks made out to the association are made payable to NJSEA and use the memo line for committee designation.

On Sunday March 1, 2026, the Association will be holding its annual elections. Resolutions have been received from PDD Don Tonachio, Lacey Lodge #2518, and PDD Rich Poole, Brigantine Lodge #2428 for the position of State President. There was one resolution for the position of State Secretary – Sue Dupas, PDD Cedar Grove Lodge #2237; and one resolution for the position of State Treasurer - Kenneth Low, PDD Elmwood Park-Paterson Lodge #60. The positions of State Secretary and State Treasurer are uncontested.

***"New Jersey Elks Compassionate,
Touching Lives and Changing Tomorrows"***

Any qualified member interested in running for District Vice President should have their resolution submitted to myself, their District Vice President, and State President Bill Dow, Jr., no sooner than December 1, 2025, and no later than January 5, 2026. The resolutions must be sent via Certified Mail, return receipt requested or by email. Any resolutions that are not in compliance with the State By-laws will not be accepted and returned for re-submission.

There will also be elections for State Trustee in the East, Northeast, South, and West Central Districts. The rule for submission of resolutions is the same as Vice President.

Current Vice Presidents are requested to contact Past Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Francis J. Decibus to confirm the location of their district's voting location. The State Association will be mailing postcards to all eligible voters, based on the list updated January 2026.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

Sue Dupas,

Sue Dupas, PDDGER
State Secretary

**“New Jersey Elks Compassionate,
Touching Lives and Changing Tomorrows”**



New Jersey State Elks

Kenneth G. Low
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FALL CONFERENCE 2025

I am pleased to report that the Books and Records of the New Jersey State Elks Association and all related committees are up to date and in balance. All requests for payment have been processed and all deposits have been made with their respective banking institution.

State Chair-people should approve all of their committee invoices for payment and submit the required vouchers and related supporting invoices to our State Secretary who in turn will forward them to me for payment. All Deposits for the State Association must be made through our State Secretary who will forward them to me for depositing with our Bank. She will provide you with a proper receipt for your records.

If any State Chairperson has questions regarding the amount of dollars your committee has raised or spent during the fraternal year, please contact me and I will provide you with a detailed budget comparison. Please make every attempt to turn in bills for payment and receipts for deposit in a timely manner.

Please be sure all checks are made payable to the New Jersey State Elks Association, or NJSEA, and not the related committee or an individual. Use the Memo section to list the committee and/or event.

I would like to thank our State Secretary Sue Dupas and the Board of Trustees for all their hard work and dedication to our State Association. It is a pleasure to work with this hard working fiscally responsible group of Elks.

Fraternally yours:

Kenneth G. Low
NJSEA State Treasurer
2025-2026

**New Jersey Elks Compassionate, Touching Lives and
Changing Tomorrows**



New Jersey State Elks Association State Trustees

3

Trustees

Arleen Hickman

Chairman, South District

Elizabeth Bellanca

Secretary, Central District

Patrick Maher

East District

Jayne McLaughlin

Northeast District

Bruce Totten

West Central District

Barbara Brennan

East Central
District

Richard Rheinhardt

North Central District

James Dugan

Southeast District

Paul J. Burke

Northwest District

Mary T. McPaul

South Central District

George Tencza

Southwest District

Ex Officio Members

William (Bill) Dow

State President

Sue Dupas

State Secretary

Kenneth Low

State Treasurer

October 23, 2025

Grand Exalted Ruler Bryan, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm, Members of the dais and members all,

The State Trustees held a meeting on September 23, 2025. The purpose of the Trustees is to ensure the State Association has a balanced budget and that Director and Officer insurance is in place.

To this end we have started preparations to send out the forms requesting the incomes and expenses of all committees. Each Trustee will have the responsibility of contacting State Chairmen for their current income and expenses.

A cover letter will accompany each preparation sheet explain the process required to make this a smooth and easy process. This must be filled out completely and approved by the respective advisors to the committee. If you are unable to secure a written signature, an email by the advisor to the Trustee, Trustee Secretary or myself will suffice as approval.

Any questions or concerns can be presented to the Trustees and will do our best to answer in a timely manner.

The D and O insurance is also up for renewal and is being presented to the Trustees for review.

Respectively Submitted by:

Arleen Hickman

NJSEA State Trustee Chairman

Convention Committee

2025

By Maureen Whalen, Convention Committee Chairperson

As 2025 comes to a close, we look back on another great convention year. As we prepared for our annual Wildwood Reunion, the sales of the state t-shirt, state pin and pre-registration badges was exceptionally good and we received a lot of positive comments on the t-shirt design. Wildwood went off without a hitch and everyone seemed to enjoy their yearly stay at the Jersey shore.

Next, we were on to Kansas City, Missouri for our Grand Lodge Convention. The Kansas City Marriott Downtown Hotel was great, conveniently located across the street from the Kansas City Convention Center. The people at the Marriott were great to work with and they did a wonderful job with our events. Many people commented that the Banquet food was the best we had ever had at a Banquet. The city was easily accessible and everyone enjoyed exploring the local sites.

Last but not least, is our upcoming Fall Conference at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa. We have booked approximately 200 rooms and will have over 330 people in attendance at our State Banquet. We will be hosting our Grand Exalted Ruler, Bryan Klatt and First Lady, Susan and I am sure they will be impressed by what New Jersey does and how loud we do it.

Plans have already begun for the 2026 Convention Year. I have submitted our needs and estimates for rooms in Chicago, Illinois for our 2026 Grand Lodge Convention this upcoming year and we are waiting to hear from Grand Lodge to tell us which hotel we have been assigned to. When we get the word, we will make plans to go to Chicago to visit the hotel and make all the necessary arrangements for next year's convention.

We hope everyone who attended a convention, or two, or all three, had an enjoyable time being with our fellow New Jersey Elks and we hope you are planning to join us next year. If you need any information, forms, or applications, please see your District Convention Representative. They are there in your District to provide you with everything you need and help you to plan your attendance at any or all conventions. We hope you enjoyed the conventions in 2025 and we look forward to seeing you in 2026!

**NJSEA CONVENTION COMMITTEE
PROPOSED 2026
BUDGET SUMMARY**

	Projected 2025	Budget 2025	Budget 2026
Income			
5001 - Wildwood	142,000	150,000	150,000
5002 - Committees	71,000	76,000	73,000
5004 - Grand Lodge	234,000	205,000	230,000
5005 - Fall Conference	150,000	155,000	162,000
Total Income	<u>597,000</u>	<u>586,000</u>	<u>615,000</u>
Expenses			
6001 - Wildwood	72,000	77,500	81,500
6002 - Committees	59,000	70,000	68,000
6004 - Grand Lodge Convention	230,000	205,000	225,000
6005 - Fall Conference	189,000	190,000	197,000
6020 - G.E.R. Visit	2,500	3,500	3,500
6025 - Administrative Expenses	15,000	15,000	15,000
6030 - Transfer to State Association	25,000	25,000	25,000
Total Expense	<u>592,500</u>	<u>586,000</u>	<u>615,000</u>
Net Income/(Loss)	<u>4,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

2

5

Fall Conference 2025
Americanism Committee

NJ State Americanism Committee Chair Ellen Quinlan PER

Cell: 908 227 7329

Email: egquinlan2@gmail.com

The first State meeting was held on August 5, 2025, at Jamesburg Lodge #2180 and was well attended.

Each district received a complete copy of the GL Essay contest package including an intro letter from GL Administrator; Summary of the Contest rules; Essay Cover Sheet and the Contest summary sheet to be given to the student. This year's topic is "What Does Service to Your Country Mean to You?" The packet also included the Entry form for the NJSEA Americanism Challenge. We reviewed judging criteria for the Challenge which awards two \$500 prizes, to a lodge in each Region 1 and Region 2. We also discussed the difference between the Challenge and the All-American Lodge Contest.

Anticipated expenses and potential fundraising opportunities were discussed. Individual districts were encouraged to conduct events for donations to the state committee. We plan to run a Super 50/50 Raffle, but it has been delayed due to the slow response of the State in issuing the permit. The winner will be drawn on the March 8, 2026, Committee Meeting.

I have sent Half-Mast Flag notifications to Region Co-Chairs and all District Chairs when received.

I was able to attend the Flag Retirement ceremonies of two Districts.

The next meeting is a Zoom meeting scheduled for November 5, 2025, which has not taken place as of the writing of this report. The agenda includes review of Essay contest due dates and judging criteria and promotion of Americanism programs such as Fly the Flag recognition and the Americanism Challenge.

The final meeting, when we will judge essays for advancement to the Grand Lodge national contest and pick winners of the raffle, is scheduled on March 8, 2026, at Jamesburg Lodge #2180.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Quinlan PER

NJ State Americanism Chair

PGER Malcolm, State President Bill and Members all,

The Auditing and Business Practices committee has received and reviewed the district accounts maintained throughout the state. We thank everyone for their attention to this process particularly our regional co-chairs Mark and Kevin.

At this time we remind all local lodges that their respective audit committees by the end of October should have completed two required financial reviews and inquired whether lodge treasurers are up to date with the FRS reporting.

Our committee along with the Grand Lodge Area Chair of Auditing and Accounting will be speaking on various upcoming financial topics that should be of interest to the administration of the local lodges. We will be available following the breakout session for any further questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Troutman

State Chair

Auditing and Business Practices

7

CLMS
STATE REPORT
FALL CONFERENCE 2025

The CLMS Coordinators and team work together with our lodges to help correct any issues with CLMS.

At this time, we have 14 lodges with an "out of balance" issue. We, as a team, will work to try and get all lodges back in balance.

We also have 5 lodges who are missing information. All District Coordinators are working to get this information submitted.

I continue to reach out to our Team on a monthly basis, and we will continue to monitor all "out of balance" issues or any other issues in CLMS.

I would also like to remind all lodge secretaries, that they need to run CLMS2PC (at least monthly,) and to also due a full sync monthly.

Any secretary who needs additional help with issues with CLMS can reach out to me or one of our Region Coordinators.

Respectfully Submitted,
Connie Cantwell, PDD
NJSEA CLMS Coordinator

FALL CONFERENCE DRUG AWARENESS REPORT 2024

The Drug Awareness Committee is continuing to get the word out about our program. Many Districts and Local Lodges have participated in events partnered with their communities. Drug Awareness literature has been handed out at these events. More and more requests for literature for use in school programs have been received.

Our Drug Awareness Poster, Essay and Video Contests have begun. This year's theme is "Drugs are a Grave Mistake". Information has been sent to schools throughout the state. Our Poster Contest is open to students grades 3 through 5. Our essay contest is open to students grades 6 through 8, and our Video Contest is open to middle and high school students. The contests run through January 2026. State winners will be announced at the NJ State Convention in Wildwood where awards will be presented. Our contests play an important part in increasing awareness in our schools and to aid our students in making positive and healthy lifestyle choices.

Nominations for the Enrique Camarena Award are due to me by November 30, 2025. This prestigious award is presented to a member of the law enforcement community that goes above and beyond in their duties and dedication to drug awareness. At our Wildwood Convention last June, myself and my Advisors had the honor of awarding Corporal Jayme Higgins of the Howell Twp Police with the Enrique Camarena Award for the state of NJ. His nomination was submitted by Howell Lodge 2515.

As you are aware, the Walk Out on Drugs is the state's largest fundraiser for Path to Leadership and Peer Leadership. This year, all 12 districts have held a Walk Out on Drugs in one form or another. Walk Outs are to be held each year between April 1 and November 1. As of this report, total funds from our Walk Outs are \$42,339 with 9 Districts reporting. Once again, a shout out to the SED for raising \$12,600 this year. The funds raised at our Walk Outs are used to send students to the Path & Peer Conferences. Lodges who donate a minimum of \$1,000 can send one student for free. Support for our Walk Out is crucial for the continuance of our programs. In addition to the Walk Out on Drugs, Districts and Lodges throughout the state have been working all year holding various fund raisers for Drug Awareness and the Walk Out on Drugs.

8,9,10

The 7th Annual Gerry Cook Golf Out took place at the Farmstead Country Club in Lafayette on October 9th. \$10,000 was raised for Drug Awareness and Peer Leadership.

Our Path to Leadership and Peer Leadership Conferences will once again be held at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa in Long Branch, NJ. Our one day Path conference for Middle School students will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2026 and our 36th Peer Leadership Conference for High School Students will be held from February 6th thru the 8th, 2026. As of this report, we have received 170 applications for Peer and 50 for Path. Our Peer Leadership Committee works very long and hard during the year to ensure that our students have the best possible experience and education to choose the right path in life. Applications are available on line for both conferences on the State Website, Peer leadership Facebook and Instagram Pages. How to apply has been sent to all lodges, schools and municipal partners throughout the state. We are looking forward to another life changing conference in February 2026.

The state of NJ is working very hard at communicating our mission of “saving one life at a time”!

Fraternally Submitted,
Mary Ellen Lawrence PER
NJSEA State DAP Chair

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Government Relations
Ronald Subrizi State Chairman

Government relations is the most important committee in Elksdom. Without it we would not be a charitable organization.

Write down the charitable events you attended.

Now write down who went with you, how many hours you all spent going, attending and returning home, don't forget time if you helped run the event set up or cleaned up.

Now record the mileage to and from the event for each one that went with you. Lastly how much did you spend for the event, at the event and any tolls getting to the event.

This report gets handed in to your secretary or your lodge Government Relations chair.

Recording order is as follows.

Lodge members you hand in your report to your lodge secretary or lodge Government relations committee chair.

District chairs, you report to either the region 1 state chair Jamie Gill
(jgill102178@gmail.com)

or the region2 state chair Pat Maher (patrickmaher99@icloud.com)

State chairman, region chairs, DDs and VPs report to me the State chairman.

Ronald Subrizi (rjs316@aol.com)

I've included a list of some charitable events

Let me leave you with 3 important words of advice.

REPORT, REPORT, REPORT

CHARITABLE AFFAIRS

Lodge meetings

VP & DD Clinics

District meetings

Grant Writing

Bingo

Pull Tabs

Bingo w/ vets

Flag Day

Flag Retirement

Veterans Day

Grand Lodge

Wildwood Convention

Fall Conference

Parades

Army of Hope Picnic

Army of Hope Golf Outing

Golf Outings

Boy Girl Scouts

Food Banks

Lending Hall to others

Picnic at Camp Moore

Cleaning Camp Moore

Sending Kids to Camp Moore

kids to Peer Leadership

DA night out

SC Canteens at your Lodge

Charity Balls

Hoop Shoot / Soccer Shoot

Little League / Jr. Football

Miracle Run / Miracle Plunge

Youth Tournament

**THINK OUTSIDE
YOUR
COMMITTEE**

FALL CONFERENCE REPORT

TO: William Dow Jr., NJSEA State President
FROM: Jeff Bryant
SUBJECT: Fall Conference 2025 Report
DATE: 10/25/2025
CC: *District Advisors, State Secretary, State Internet Chair, Admin. Assistant*

Since the 2025 Wildwood Convention, the NJSEA Historical Committee has continued its efforts to capture, document, and provide information and exhibits of the State Association and its history. Currently, the Committee shares this information primarily at the State Museum at Lacey Lodge #2518.

New exhibits of artifacts and images donated to the Committee are being prepared, such as a three foot long 1931 photograph of Newark Lodge #21 parade marchers. The photo was donated by Livingston Lodge #1855. In addition to the Committee's already existing inventory, even more artifacts, like two 1909 and 1921 Convention broach pins donated by State President Dow, are being received. All such new pieces will be catalogued and prepared for future display. An exhibit for the State project of Camp Moore (via TV monitor) shows now in the museum along with our Past State President display. Other boards or displays (i.e. - State Veterans Services history; NJ Lodge picture compilation) are also in the works.

The Committee investigation of "Elk Rests" within the state has been positive. It is now confirmed that there are Rests for Camden, Lakewood, Trenton, and Hoboken lodges, making a total of seven of these dedicated, special places within NJ where fellow Elks repose. The Committee hopes to foster or further the relationships of the cemeteries that contain an Elks Rest with their host lodge, or through NJSEA when the host lodge no longer exists. Additional graphics and boards for display, or posted online, about our NJ Rests are in development.

The State website pages of the Historical Committee were recently refreshed (July) and are current. Expanding our reach of historical exhibits is planned with future updates for the website.

At the recent Army of Hope event (Sept. 2025) the Committee estimates that upwards of 100 visitors came through the museum doors that day alone.

For Fall Conference 2025, the Committee will display boards of the Committee and museum.

If there are questions for the Committee, or if additional information is needed, please contact the NJSEA Historical Committee at njseahc@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Bryant
NJSEA Historical Committee chair 2025-2026



New Jersey State Elks

13

Joe DeBonis
State Chairperson – Internet Operations
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Jamesburg Lodge #2180

Internet Operations Committee Fall Conference Report, 2025

The Internet Operations team has a lot of work to accomplish this year – to make it easier for district authors to update to the state website, to provide general refresh of njelks.org, and to upgrade the infrastructure to enable the running of the latest versions of our web software.

We had a district author meeting in early July to get everyone on the same page. This year we have six new district authors, so an overview of the responsibilities was in order. We had a good discussion and a productive training session. We will probably have two more of these meetings during the rest of the year.

I've met with the Region Co-chairs (Dan Boesman from Manahawkin #2340 and Louis Lusquinos from Nutley #1290) somewhat regularly over Zoom – to discuss both current issues and future plans. I've also learned a lot from them – particularly about how and why decisions have been made in the past – since they've been on the committee longer than I have. Many of our meetings involve the committee advisors – Bob Mauro of Red Bank #233 and Joyce Powell of Hasbrouck Heights #1962 – whose guidance, strategy, and advice is invaluable.

I have my wish list for the state website that I'm using as my to-do list:

- Self-serve password resets: users who have forgotten their password, should be able to easily reset it. Right now, the process involves too many steps.
- Upgrade versions of Joomla and PHP: the website runs on software called Joomla; we're running an outdated version of that software. I'd like to get it updated to a supported version. Likewise, the Joomla software uses the PHP scripting language, which is out of date. I want to get that software updated as well. One potential problem is that the update of Joomla might require a redesign of large sections of the website – and one of the longer-term goals is to have the website redesigned – so we might want to skip the updates and redesign the entire website sooner and skip upgrading Joomla on the existing site.
- Easier posting: the process of posting information on the website is not as easy as I feel it should be. Part of this is because of the older version of Joomla, so it's possible that this gets resolved by any upgrade or redesign. I'd also like to standardize the way that calendar posting of events is done across districts.
- Create policy and process on website account activation/deactivation: the process of creating user accounts on the state website is a manual process and typically happens by user request. I'd like the account creation process to occur in an automated manner – based on an individual's role and responsibility for the current year. Similarly, we should be able to automatically deactivate a user's account when special access is no longer needed.
- Mobile-friendly: the current website is not mobile-friendly or optimized for access on the screens of a mobile phone. It's 2025 and smart phones are ubiquitous. The state website should be easily readable from a smart phone. Again, part of the issue is the older version of Joomla. An update or website redesign should remedy this issue.

The committee has a lot of work to do in the upcoming months, and not all changes will be immediately visible. But hopefully, everyone's experience on njelks.org will improve over the second half of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe DeBonis

Joe DeBonis

*"NJ Elks Compassionate, Touching Lives and Changing
Tomorrows"*

REPORT OF LAWS COMMITTEE – November 15, 2025

By Robert F. Binetti, PGLC, PSP, State Chairman

Good Morning. There are three legal issues to bring to your attention this morning. First, supplementing the position on the possession of Marijuana on Elks property, addressed at the Annual Convention in Wildwood, I refer you to the letter sent by Tom Zisa to each Lodge. Some Lodges have asked if they can post a notice at the Lodge advising that possession of Marijuana on Elk owned property is not permitted under Federal and Elk Law, and after consultation with our Sponsor, you are advised that each Lodge is free to do so.

Second, you are reminded that each Lodge must have a general revision of their By-Laws and House Rules passed by the Lodge no later than the 5th year following the adoption of their latest By-Laws and House Rules, as required by Grand Lodge Statute 17.060.

Third, each Lodge must make sure that the Lodge complies with the requirement of Grand Lodge to have their IRS Tax Form 990 filed with Grand Lodge no later than August 1st, irrespective of the fact that the IRS allows it to be filed at a later date. The failure to do so will incur monetary penalties to the Lodge that fails to file by August 1st.

This completes my report on drugs, By-laws and taxes and I move for its adoption.

LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT – FALL CONFERENCE 2024-2025

15

Our goal as the Lodge Activities Committee is to promote participation in both Member & Community services. The Lodge Activities Contests encourage the annual recording of these services and provides a historical record of each Lodge's efforts.

Additionally, Grand Lodge Activities contest information and forms for All-American Lodge as well as the Elk, Officer & Citizen of the year are now also available at the NJ Elks Lodge Activities website.

We want to thank all the lodges for their continued strong participation in the Lodge Activities programs. We are dedicated to provide assistance and guidance to each Lodge to maximize their participation. Please feel free to contact your District Lodge Activity Chairperson – we are all here to help.

This Year we doubled the points on the table of contents for the Memorial Service Contest and the Community and Service Image Contest.

Following is the 2025-2026 Contest deadline:

The Lodge Bulletin/Newsletter Contests as well as the Memorial Service Contests are due to your District Lodge Activities Chairperson by February 3rd 2026.

The Community Service & Image Contest is due to your District Lodge Activities Chairperson by March 3rd 2026.

Last – but not least, the prestigious 2025-2026 Grand Lodge Contest for the All- American Lodge is due to your District Deputy by April 1st 2026.

This morning, we will be presenting the New Jersey All American Lodge winners for 2024-2025 Park Ridge and Cedar Grove with special State Awards.

The Lodge Activities Committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support and look forward to everyone's participation in this year's contests. I would like to thank Rose Romaine Region 1 Co- Chairperson and Gene Schnaidt Region 2 Co- Chairperson for all their help.

Also want to thank PGLC/PSP Ron Mangone PGLC/PSP Richard Bard and PSP Mike Penchenski III for all their help and guidance

Fraternally,
Jayne McLaughlin
Lodge Activities Chairperson

New Lodge Development

What seemed to start as a journey into welcoming a new lodge in Ventnor, Atlantic County has stalled. The individual interested had made contact with a few dozen people earlier this year that were interested in the formation of a new lodge, the summer season hit this shore community and the interest seemed to wane. Hopefully, we can get the interested individuals back and move forward to welcoming a new lodge into our great state and continue the wonderful programs that Elk's do in another community.

Respectfully submitted.
Doug Freund, PDDGER
Chairperson, New Lodge Development

Fall Conference 2025 Membership Report

As we head into November, NJ is still growing. The membership committee is working hard on every level. In our meetings we are getting great feedback from district chairs as to what successful lodges are doing to bring in new members as well as getting our delinquent members paid up. This truly has become a team effort with no holding back on giving everyone the tools they need to succeed.

This year we have pivoted our approach to membership. Instead of just growing for the sake of growing, we have been pushing on the need for membership to keep any local lodge financially secure.

In June we explained how healthy membership growth can reduce the need for fundraisers to pay bills. When growth is consistent not only can a lodge pay their fixed expenses with membership dues, but you will also see more members coming to your lodge consistently. Whether it be at events, meetings, or just to come and enjoy the grille room.

The committee set a goal of 1,000 members to be initiated in the months of September and October. As this report is being written the final numbers are not in yet but we are very close to hitting that goal.

Lodges all over the state are also taking a new approach on how to run a membership committee. This is thanks to Lacey Lodges Membership Chair Gloria Mako. She took the time to talk about how not only her but the entire membership team in Lacey goes about doing more than just applications and delinquency lists. Her program has changed the look and idea of what a lodge membership committee should be. This has been shared with NJ. As always, new ideas and concepts take time to bloom. But the seeds are planted, and changes are already happening. This is nothing short of an amazing.

We also have decided to honor the Lodges with awards for those who have initiated the most members in those months in their respective membership size category.

Here are the current numbers for NJ from Elks.org

Year Starting membership – 54,975

Total Gain – 3,322

Total Loss – 982

Delinquency – 4,549

Respectfully Submitted,

Chuck Crerand PVP

NJSEA Membership/Retention Chair



Memorial Committee Report

State President Bill,

The Memorial Committee did an outstanding job preparing the Memorial Service at the Fall Conference. All the PER's, PVP's, and PDD's, who sadly passed away this past year were eulogized at the ceremony. I would like to thank everyone who attended the Memorial Service. I am also grateful to State Secretary Sue Dupas for contributing by putting the list of names together for the Program, as well as the printing of the program for the Memorial Service. Finally, I would like to thank my Advisor, PSDGER Francis J. Decibus, for his guidance and leadership during this process.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Veth
State Chairman
Memorial Committee

Elks National Foundation Report

Fall Conference 2025

- **NJSEA President William Dow's goal is \$6.00 Per Capita, 2 Community Investments Program Grants per Lodge and increased membership in the Fidelity Club!**
- NJSEA Total ENF Donations \$256,110.57
\$4.659 Per capita. We are well on our way to achieving Grand Exalted Ruler Brian's goal of \$5.15 per member and with 5 months left in the year our State President's goal is very attainable.
- Fidelity Club- 161 Members throughout the State with 564 total donors
- NJSEA has received \$633,100 in CIP Grants
- Out of the 106 Lodges in the State, 13 Lodges are not in compliance.
- You can increase your grant money in the following ways:
 1. By meeting Fidelity Club membership
 2. Fifteen percent or more of your Lodge Membership donates to ENF
 3. Your Lodge has donated ten percent more than previous year
 4. Participates in the Chair Challenge

Four easy ways that your Lodge can obtain an extra \$500.00 in grant money. Or more!

- We have held both Region one and Region two meetings recently and have had representation from every District in the State.
- In order to increase participation throughout the State we will be holding two fundraisers in 2026. Region one fundraiser will be held on March 8th 2026 at New Egypt Lodge #2457 and Region Two's will be held on February 1st at Passaic Valley Lodge #2111. Details will follow on the NJSEA website.
- Finally, encourage the ongoing collections for ENF. Let's keep that leaky bucket full!

Respectfully submitted,
William H. Hartman PDD
State Chairperson
Elks National Foundation

Nation Veterans Service Commission

Your National Veterans Service Committee has shown remarkable dedication this year, making a significant impact on the lives of veterans. You have been instrumental in helping veterans with bills, food, and shelter, ensuring their essential needs are met. Members have participated in Stand Down events, distributing backpacks filled with personal hygiene items, socks, and underwear to veterans living on the streets.

When new facilities open, your committee steps in to provide furniture, creating a comfortable environment for veterans. For those transitioning into housing, you offer Welcome Home kits and furniture, covering everything they need.

We had an Open House at NJ State Elk's Veteran's Annex on Sunday, June 1, 2025. It gave Elk members to see and hear what we do as a committee.

During this special event, we will unveil WCD Vice President, Kevin Storm's mural, Givers of Hope, a tribute to the enduring spirit of generosity and support.

Since Jan 1, 2025, we have helped 75 veterans with welcome home kits and deliveries.

Other things we have helped with are:

- 5 hotel rooms stay. Hotel rooms total was \$3000. One room we helped a single mother with children and then a kit and furniture when they moved into an apartment. We help a veteran who lost everything in a fire.
- 4 air conditioners for a total of \$450.
- 1 cell phone bill for \$310.
- 2 food deliveries for a total of \$300.

I want to thank the Jim Hall committee for putting on an amazing event. I want to thank all the lodges, NJSEA and our state sponsor for their donations. This is our only major fundraiser. This year's event raised \$189,001.00. Thank you!

Cost of items in Welcome Home kits and furniture continually goes up. The continuous support from NJ Elks' members has been crucial in enabling these initiatives. Lodges are encouraged to apply for grants to further support veterans with Welcome Home kits and furniture.

Your dedication to improving veterans' lives is commendable. Thank you for your ongoing support!

We are the Givers of Hope!!

Ed Leib

NJ State NVSC Chairperson

20

**NJSEA VETERANS COMMITTEE
2026 BUDGET**

	<u>2025 PROJECTED</u>	<u>2025 BUDGET</u>	<u>2026 BUDGET</u>
National Service Veterans			
NSV Committee Income			
Donations	3,500.00	12,000.00	3,500.00
Interest	15,000.00	10,000.00	12,000.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	400.00	300.00
	<u>18,500.00</u>	<u>22,400.00</u>	<u>15,800.00</u>
Homeless Vets Income			
Donations	35,000.00	40,000.00	35,000.00
Grants	10,000.00	17,500.00	12,500.00
Jim Hall Run	197,000.00	180,000.00	200,000.00
Cornhole Tournament	0.00	2,500.00	2,000.00
Merchandise	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Miscellaneous	100.00	500.00	500.00
	<u>245,100.00</u>	<u>243,500.00</u>	<u>253,000.00</u>
Annex - Storage Building			
Donations	0.00	200.00	200.00
Total Income	<u>263,600.00</u>	<u>266,100.00</u>	<u>269,000.00</u>
Expenses			
NSV Committee Expense			
Donations	2,000.00	4,000.00	5,000.00
Scholarships - Rutgers University	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Stockton University	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Accountant Fee	0.00	0.00	250.00
Bank Charges	300.00	100.00	350.00
Miscellaneous	1,000.00	2,000.00	3,200.00
	<u>5,300.00</u>	<u>8,100.00</u>	<u>10,800.00</u>
Homeless Vets Expense			
Public Storage	4,200.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
U-Haul, Gas & Moving Costs	500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Beds, Kits & Supplies	118,000.00	200,000.00	195,000.00
Jim Hall Run	4,600.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Assistance & Relief	4,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Donations	5,000.00	5,000.00	7,500.00
Merchandise	4,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Trailer	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Postage	50.00	100.00	100.00
Bank Charges	75.00	50.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	750.00	3,250.00	3,500.00
	<u>142,175.00</u>	<u>246,400.00</u>	<u>244,200.00</u>
Annex - Storage Building Expense			
Repairs & Improvements	500.00	4,100.00	4,500.00
Utilities	7,000.00	6,500.00	8,500.00
Lease	1.00	1.00	1.00
Miscellaneous	99.00	999.00	999.00
	<u>7,600.00</u>	<u>11,600.00</u>	<u>14,000.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>155,075.00</u>	<u>266,100.00</u>	<u>269,000.00</u>
NET INCOME	<u>108,525.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

Fall Conference report for NJ State Army of Hope November 2025

Grand Exalted Ruler Brian Klatt, PGER Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., State President Bill, dignitaries and members all – Good morning. Our Army of Hope committee has broken and set quite a few new totals at this years “Day of Remembrance and Patriotism” at Lacey Lodge #2518. We had over 1500 friends and members attend, sold over \$15,500.00 in merchandise and received over \$200,000.00 in donations and still counting. Thank you Sponsor McPherson, for the \$30,000.00 check from the Elks National Foundation, it is always appreciated! For all of you that happened to attend this beautiful and moving event for our Gold Star Families, Severely Injured Veterans’ along with their families and friends, we sincerely Thank You for all your support! Please keep up the good work!

On October 6th we held our 20th Arthur “RT” Mayer, Jr. Golf Outing at Stanton Ridge Country Club in Whitehouse, NJ. With only 87 golfers, many golf Tee supporters, and our getting bigger every year, Tricky Tray we netted close to \$10,000.00! We also had a hole in 1 from a nice member of Watchung Hills Lodge #885 and their team. Thank you to “Murph” for yet another FANTASTIC job! I can’t wait until next year!

In a couple of weeks we will be sending out our Holiday checks for all of the Veterans children which we have increased to \$750.00 per child. Well in excess of \$45,000.00 total. Also, for the Gold Star and Severely Injured families we will be sending checks of \$250.00 each, to hopefully make their Holidays a little bit brighter.

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts to make these and many other things we do throughout the year possible.

I would like to make a motion that my full report be accepted as published on the State website.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Helly
NJ State Elks Army of Hope Chairperson

NJSEA ARMY OF HOPE 2026 BUDGET

	<u>2025 PROJECTED</u>	<u>2025 BUDGET</u>	<u>2026 BUDGET</u>
Army of Hope			
Income			
Picnic Donations	135,000.00	180,000.00	170,000.00
Picnic Ticket Sales	38,000.00	30,000.00	40,000.00
Picnic Merchandise Sales	15,250.00	14,500.00	16,000.00
Picnic 50/50s	4,600.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Donations	13,000.00	16,000.00	18,500.00
Golf Outing	22,500.00	24,000.00	24,000.00
Merchandise Sales	9,900.00	3,500.00	10,000.00
Interest	10,000.00	7,000.00	9,000.00
Miscellaneous	-	500.00	500.00
	<u>248,250.00</u>	<u>280,500.00</u>	<u>293,000.00</u>
Expenses			
Picnic	13,500.00	11,500.00	13,500.00
Golf Outing	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,500.00
Military and Family Relief	45,000.00	90,000.00	72,500.00
Gold Star Families	8,500.00	9,500.00	9,000.00
Back to School Disbursements	54,000.00	44,000.00	54,000.00
Holiday Disbursements	54,000.00	44,000.00	54,000.00
Merchandise	20,000.00	7,000.00	18,000.00
Donations	75,000.00	52,000.00	52,500.00
Trailer	-	1,000.00	250.00
Shipping Costs To Servicemembers	2,750.00	5,000.00	3,000.00
Bank Charges	350.00	250.00	350.00
Miscellaneous	500.00	2,500.00	2,000.00
Accountant Fee	250.00	250.00	-
Office Supplies	200.00	250.00	200.00
Postage	100.00	250.00	200.00
	<u>287,150.00</u>	<u>280,500.00</u>	<u>293,000.00</u>
NET INCOME	<u>(38,900.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

New Jersey Run for the Fallen Fall Conference Report

What is the NJ Run for the Fallen?

The New Jersey Run for the Fallen is an organization of military runners and support team whose mission is clear and simple; to run 1 mile for each New Jersey service member who has died during the Global War on Terror. 1 Mile ~ 1Flag ~ 1 Hero

The Event started on September 24th at the Naval Air Station and Wildwood Aviation Center in Cape May. This is where the Opening Ceremony with Gold Star Families, the Run Team, Support Team and other supporters, takes place followed by a dinner, which was paid for by the NJ State Elks Association. Advisor PSP Victoria Watson was there to say a few words on behalf of the NJ State Elks Association.

Day 1 started Thursday morning, at Greater Wildwood Elks #1896 with breakfast then to Sunset Beach for the start of the actual run. There were more than 12 active military running over 238 miles over the 4 days! This day runs from Cape May and ends in Ocean City.

Day 2 started Friday morning in Somers Point and ended at Manahawkin Lodge #2340.

Day 3 started Saturday morning at Manahawkin Lodge #2340 with breakfast, and the day ended at the American Legion Post #129 for dinner.

Day 4, the final day started at Brick Lodge #2151 with breakfast; lunch at Long Branch #742; this final day ends up at Holmdel, at the Veterans Memorial and Gold Star Monument for the Closing Ceremony.

As always, the Elks play a big role in hosting Hero markers, providing meals to the Team and donating money to fund this year's effort.

*Clayton Elks Motorcycle Committee held a fundraiser that raised \$700.

*Brick Lodge held a fundraiser that raised \$2685.

*Elk members purchased more than 250 NJRFTF Support shirts

*Elk Lodges hosted many Heroes markers

Greater Wildwood Lodge #1896 (2)

Galloway Lodge #2845 (2)

Bayville Lodge #2394 (1)

Brick Lodge #2151 (2)

Manasquan Lodge #2534 (1)

Lacey #2518 (2)

*Elk Lodges provided meals to the Team

Greater Wildwood Lodge #1896 (breakfast)

Manahawkin Lodge #2340 (breakfast)

Brick Lodge #2151 (breakfast)

22

Long Branck Lodge #742 (lunch)

***Many Lodges donated to the Run**

Brigantine Lodge #2428, New Milford Lodge #2290, Brick Lodge #2151, Greater Cape May Lodge #2839, Clayton Lodge #2132, Greater Wildwood Lodge #1896, Lacey Lodge #2518, Manahawkin Lodge #2340

The weather was cooperative this year, making it a smooth and enjoyable run and ride!

This year's support for the NJ Run for the Fallen included:

More than 1600 Elk Hours

More than 3200 Elk Miles

More than \$4500 in non-cash donations

More than \$6200 in cash donations

I would like to thank Advisor PSP Victoria Watson, District Coordinators, Thomas James, PVP Greg Sheehan, and PVP Nick Figaro, for their support and dedication to this Mission. I would also like to thank all the NJ Elk Motorcycle Committees that either helped escort the Team or gave support at a Heroes marker.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Russo
NJSEA Liaison
NJ Run for the Fallen 2025**

B



New Jersey State Elks

Dina Zacek

District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler
East Central District #5520

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E-mail: Erdina1213@gmail.com
Springfield/Hillside Lodge # 2004

Parades Committee Fall Conference

History was made at the 2025 New Jersey State Elks Parade, as we were the first parade to march down the Boardwalk. The theme was "Pride-Passion-Patriotism", which exactly sums up the parade. It was a learning curve for all of us. I truly want to thank every lodge for participating in and making the parade a success.

Changes to the 2026 Parade are currently underway and we working with the Wildwood Convention Center and the local police department and we will keep you all informed.

I would like to thank the Parades Committee for all their hard work, the countless hours, and their dedication that go unnoticed. You are truly amazing. At this time, I would like to give a special thanks to our Advisors, PSP Diego "Dick" Tabbachino and PSP Vicki Watson for their guidance and support.

The 2026 Theme will be announced at the Fall Conference.

Fraternally,

Dina Zacek

State Parades Chairman

State Report November 2025
State Newspaper- Publications

The 2025 Fall Edition came out wonderfully. I would like to thank my committee advisors PSDGER/PSP Francis Decibus and PSP Joyce Powell for their help and dedication. Additionally, I would like to thank my committee members Kelly Miller, Nancy Rochford, Rose Romain, Liz Sorensen and Maureen Whalen who have dedicated and donated many hours to editing our newspaper.

The next deadline for submission for the Spring Edition will be February 15, 2026.

For local lodges: If you are submitting a picture, it needs to be sent as an attachment. All people in the picture must be properly identified with their title and full names, as needed. Articles need to be sent to njelkpublication@gmail.com.

We are always in need of submissions of articles and pictures of events, fundraisers etc from our local lodges. Please continue to submit your wonderful work. Again, all people in the picture must be properly identified with their full name and their title, as needed.

We carefully selected our centerfold focus for each edition and for the spring edition we showcased the Special Children's Committee- Special Ambassadors. The 2025 Fall edition centerfold will be dedicated to Batter's Up. We would like to highlight this committee and all of its hard work.

For each edition we choose one winner for the best photo submission. This year's Fall Edition "Eileen Brennen Watts Best Photo Submission Award" goes to: _____

I make a motion to accept my report as read and posted on the website.
Respectfully submitted,
Richard Poole PDD, State Publication Chairperson

Public Relations/Marketing
Paul Burke State Chair

Compassion in Action – New Jersey Elks Lead with Purpose

Highlights from June through October 2025

The NJ State 2025–2026 Elk year began with renewed enthusiasm, history in the making, and a spirit of service that continues to inspire. For the first time, the New Jersey State Elks Convention Parade proudly marched along the Wildwood Boardwalk, a symbolic step forward blending tradition and progress. The installation of State President William W. Dow Jr. set the tone for the year ahead, guided by his theme:

“New Jersey Elks – Compassionate, Touching Lives, and Changing Tomorrows.”

From the boardwalk to lodge halls across the state, New Jersey Elks embraced that message with purpose. The early months of the year brought renewed commitment to community outreach, youth engagement, and veterans’ services—reminding all that compassion in action remains central to Elkdom. Strengthened by the Grand Lodge’s call to “Be the Difference” and “Elevate Your Lodge,” members worked together to enhance visibility, expand charitable programs, and deepen community connections.

As autumn arrived, remembrance and resiliency took center stage through 9/11 memorial observances, Suicide Prevention Awareness initiatives, and support for veteran mental health. Events such as the Army of Hope Picnic at Lacey Lodge reaffirmed the Elks’ enduring promise to stand beside the families of those who serve our nation. The season continued with the celebration of Elks National Foundation Month, honoring the power of scholarships, grants, and local charitable giving to transform lives throughout New Jersey.

Across every district, New Jersey Elks continue to demonstrate that compassion, unity, and service define who we are—proving that together, we truly can touch lives and change tomorrows.

We are the New Jersey State Elks – Compassionate, Connected, and Committed to Being the Difference.

26

Fall Conference Ritual Committee Report 2025

Judge's certification clinics have been held in July, September and October. Additional clinics will be held in the spring of 2026 with dates to be determined later. All district 11 O'clock Toast and Flag Charge contests have been completed and the winners will be competing in the state contest today at 4:00PM. The winners of today's contests will represent our state at the Grand Lodge convention in Chicago. Please come out and show your support.

All judges for today's contest should report to this room at 3:15 and contestants should be here by 3:30.

The state contest for team competitions will be held in Long Branch on February 21st. The winning team will also compete in Chicago.

I want to thank the Exalted Rulers, officers, advisors, chairmen and judges who have helped keep the Ritual strong in our state.

State President Bill, I make a motion to accept my report as read.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Fistori,
State Ritual Chair

State Safety Report Fall Conference 2025

Safety Committee

Advisors - P.G.L.C. / P.S.P. Anthony Alfonso - P.S.P. Micheal Penchenski
Region I - Steven J Heldt - Region II John Middleton

The Safety Committee is in constant contact this time of year; we review all twelve of the District Deputies safety reports from each of their visits to all the various Lodges in the state. Our main objective is to help to each and every lodge that has any type of safety concern or question. Our goal is avoiding any potential hazards before they happen. Happy to report New Jersey State Elks has been having very safe year with very few issues so far. We have a zoom meeting scheduled for Wednesday October 22nd with the Safety Committee.

We are always pushing accident prevention and getting in a habit of weekly inspections of their Lodges. The service of alcoholic beverages is one of the biggest concerns we have, we stress the importance of all members involved with the serving of alcohol must be T.A.M. certified through the NJ Elks. We will now be turning to Fall and Winter safety reminders to all of our New Jersey Elks Lodges. We will again remind every Lodge of the ease of use the Elks.org web page the safety/insurance page for any questions that their lodge may have as well as our committee.

Thank you to my advisors and my region chairs

Respectfully submitted
Ken Reynolds
State Safety Chairperson



New Jersey State Elks

**Jen Appaluccio
State Scholarship Chair
319 Stanhope Road
Sparta, NJ 07871**

Cell: 973-222-4547
jenappaluccio@gmail.com
Lake Hopatcong Elks # 782

November 15, 2025

Dignities, and members all,

Here are the updates concerning the completion of the 2025-26 Scholarship season. The 2025 New Jersey State Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship the top 90 applicates were award with checks of \$700 each and a congratulatory letter have been sent out to all the winners. The top two winners have also been sent their checks for \$1000. The eight winners of the New Jersey Elks Vocational Scholarship have also been sent their checks. 77 winners of the New Jersey Elks Family Scholarship have been identified and their congratulatory letters and \$900 award checks have been sent.

The student response in terms of applications received last year for all our scholarships, each district was well represented. Thank you to both our region chairs – Region 1 Karen Imperatrice & Region 2 Marguerite Aisenstock along with all the district and local lodges chairs.

The Elks National Foundation gives out over 2.5 million dollars in scholarships each year and the 2025-26 Scholarship season is now underway. The Most Valuable Student scholarship contest will close on Wednesday, November 12th (before fall conference). It was open to any high school senior who is a US Citizen. Applicants will be judged on academics, leadership, and financial need. Applications for the 2026 contest are available online at Elks.org. The student are able to choose which lodge will receive the application from a list of five which are closest to their home. There will be 500 four-year scholarships given out ranging from \$4000 (\$1000/year) to \$50000 (\$12,500/year). The top 24 applications from New Jersey will pass onto the national level of judging and will receive at least a \$4000 scholarship, the next 96 top applications from New Jersey will receive a onetime \$700 award from the New Jersey State Elks.

The Elks National Foundation Legacy Awards scholarship program offers 350 college scholarships worth \$4,000 each to the children and grandchildren of Elks members. Eligibility: College-bound high school seniors who are the children or grandchildren of dues-paying Elks

Elks. the heart and best part of vou community



New Jersey State Elks

**Jen Appaluccio
State Scholarship Chair
319 Stanhope Road
Sparta, NJ 07871**

Cell: 973-222-4547
jenappaluccio@gmail.com
Lake Hopatcong Elks # 782

are welcome to apply. Applicants compete against other children and grandchildren from the state of their sponsoring Elks Lodge. They are judged on the core values of the Elks National Foundation: knowledge, charity, community service and integrity. Applications are available online at Elks.org and the deadline is February 7, 2026, at 11:59 a.m. Central Time. New Jersey families will be eligible for 10 awards. An addition 103 at-large scholarships will be awarded to the best-scoring applicants, regardless of state.

The 2026 New Jersey Elks Family Scholarships will be available to children, grandchildren, and greatgrandchildren (stepchildren, step-grandchildren and step-greatgrandchildren) of New Jersey Elks. The scholarships are open to high school seniors as well as college freshman, sophomores, and juniors. The contest will run from April 15, 2026, to June 30, 2026. Applications will be available online April 15, 2026, at NJElks.org. This year winners will be awarded \$900 each.

Also in review, the New Jersey Elks Vocational Scholarship is available to students within 4 years of graduating high school who are United States citizens that will be enrolling or are enrolled in an accredited vocational school or program. There will be 2 awards in each of our 12 districts throughout New Jersey. Applications will be available at schools throughout New Jersey as well as online at NJElks.org on March 1, 2026. Applications may be submitted from March 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026. Applications should be sent to the local Elks Lodge where the applicant resides.

We encourage Lodge Chairs to present the winners of any of the Elks Scholarships with a certificate at the student's high school awards nights. These presentations will showcase the winning student's accomplishments and the Elks Scholarship programs.

Our Scholarships programs not only help students with the cost of their education but get the Elks "brand" out into our communities. Elks Scholarship Programs can also be used as a valuable aid in cultivating new members.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Appaluccio - State Scholarship Chair

Elks. the heart and best part of you community



**Special Children's Committee
2025 Fall Conference Report**

On behalf of the State Special Children's Committee, we want to thank all the lodges and districts for your continued support and dedication to our Special Children and our State Major Project, Elks Camp Moore. Your tireless fundraising and generous donations, as well as volunteered hours allow us to continue our programs and revitalization projects.

This year the Magical Musical Park was added and was a big hit during camping season!

We had another successful camping season thanks to Camp Director Todd and his staff. We are now ramping up for the 2026 season, as the applications will go live November 7, 2025, at noon. Once again, the entire process will be submitted electronically. If you know anyone that's eligible and interested in attending, please have them reach out to your lodge chairs.

Thank you to all lodges that participated in our Scholarship Program; Congratulations to the 2025 winners sponsored by Manville-Hillsborough Lodge #2119, South Plainfield Lodge #2298, Rutherford Lodge #547 and Toms River Lodge #1875. Applications will be available early next year for the 2026 program.

A BIG Congratulations to our 2025-2026 State Ambassadors and Alternate Ambassadors, who were formally introduced at our Annual Meet and Greet on October 19, 2025, at Woodbridge Lodge #2116. Our Ambassador Program allows the children, their families and chaperones to attend many events hosted by lodges and districts throughout our Great State of New Jersey. These events are memorable to both the Ambassadors and all Elks involved. We encourage all lodges to promote this program by contacting schools in your community or speaking to families at your

events, to inform them about what Elks do for Special Children. Congratulations again to all the Ambassadors, Chaperones and sponsoring Lodges.

We would also like to thank all who supported our Bi-Annual Calendar Raffle as well as the Clothing Drives, which were also a great success. Calendars for the January cycle will be available in a few weeks; and Lodges are in the process of scheduling their Spring Clothing Drives.

Our continued success is possible with your support and dedication, as we work together for our Special Children.

In closing, I would like to thank advisors PSDGER Francis J. Decibus, PGLC Bob Binetti, PGLC Ron Mangone and PGLC Anthony Alfonso for your continued support and guidance; thank you to our Trustees, and our entire Special Children's Committee, for your hard work and dedication.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elyse Russo, PER
State SCC Chair

Elks Camp Moore Board of Trustees Fall Conference Report

11/15/2025

The Trustees have completed proposed amendments to the Special Children's By Laws which were revised on 9/12/22 and amended at Fall Conference on 11/12/2022. The amendments were approved by the Board of Trustees on 7/28/25 and by the Special Children's Committee on 9/12/25 to proceed to the membership. I am seeking a motion for its adoption.

We have completed our second camping season of zero-dollar cost to the lodges to sponsor a child for our camp sessions. This was made possible because of the donations made to the Miracle on the Mountain. Without the generosity of our lodges and membership, zero dollar cost would not be a possibility. Elks Camp Moore depends on continuing donations to keep the costs of sponsoring a child at zero.

Thanks to Camp Director Todd Thompson and his staff for all the great work they do in putting smiles on our campers every year. We are fortunate to have such a great staff for our State Major Project.

The camp's website, njelkscampmoore.org, has been instrumental for perspective counselors to learn about the camp along with families who are looking for information for their child.

The Revitalization of our State's Major Project, is continuing with Cantoli Hall undergoing revitalization. Plans include adding a second floor along with an elevator to this cornerstone camp building which should be ready for the 2026 camping season.

This year, our State Major Project display at Grand Lodge was awarded a Five Star recognition for excellence in State Major Project Display. Thanks to those members who worked at the display table and thanks to you the members for your continued work and donations to make Camp Moore the premier state project in all of Elksdom.

If you have not been to Camp Moore I encourage you to join your lodge or district when they visit next camping season to see your State Major Project..

The Trustees continue to work on making sure that all of the insurance policies for the camp are current and complete as a result of the ever-expanding camp.

The health policy for the camp has been reviewed. There were many considerations to focus on as our primary concern is always on the campers, their families and our counselors. The policy is noted on-line with the camp application and we look forward to welcoming more campers especially with the completion of the McPherson Jernick Residence Hall.

As the camp revitalization continues, so do the necessary repairs and maintenance. The pool has been replastered and retiled and will be ready for the campers. We appreciate the continued support from our districts, lodges, and members who volunteer their time and talent to repair and maintain our State's Major Project. The dedication shown in keeping Elks Camp Moore maintained and beautiful is greatly appreciated and also helps keep expenses down.

A special thanks to our Advisors PSDGER Francis Decibus, PGLC/PSP Bob Binetti, PGLC/PSP Ron Mangone and PGLC/PSP Anthony Alfonso for their input and guidance.

Lastly, thanks to our member's fundraising and donations to Camp Moore and Miracle on the Mountain, our financial condition remains strong. Your continued support is what puts smiles on the faces of our children attending camp every year.

Our complete report is on the NJSEA website and I seek a motion for its adoption.

Respectfully submitted.

Vince Ditta, PDDGER

Chairman, SCC Board of Trustees

**NEW JERSEY STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION
SPECIAL CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE
BY-LAWS**

Revised: September 12, 2022

and

Amended at: Fall Conference

Date: November 12, 2022

ARTICLE 1 – OFFICERS

Sec.1. Place. The New Jersey State Elks Association Special Children's Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Corporation, shall maintain a principal office within the State of New Jersey at such place as may be determined by motion at any meeting of the members.

Sec. 2. Other Places. The Corporation may have other offices at such other places as may from time to time be determined by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 2 – MEETINGS

Sec. 1. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Committee shall be held at the principal offices of the Corporation, or at such other place within the State of New Jersey as the State Chairperson may designate, on the third Sunday of October of each year. The Administrator shall notify each member not less than ten days before the meeting date.

Sec. 2. Other than annual meetings, the Committee may be called at any time by the Chairperson of the Committee at such place within the State of New Jersey as they may designate.

Sec. 3. Quorum. The presence in person of 30% of the Committee at the annual or any other meeting regularly called shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Sec. 4. Voting The Committee eligible to vote shall consist of the State Chairperson, the five (5) Trustees, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Region 1 and Region 2 Co-Chairpersons, twelve (12) District Chairpersons, Miracle on the Mountain Coordinator, Miracle on the Mountain Region 1 and Region 2 Coordinators, Miracle Run Liaison, Building & Maintenance Chairperson, Challenger Sports Program Coordinator, Challenger Sports Program Region 1 and Region 2 Coordinators. (Total of 30 Members). At all meetings of Members, a vote of the majority of the Members present shall be sufficient to decide all questions.

Sec. 5. Meetings. The Committee shall meet monthly, at a time and place designated by the Chairperson, and at such other times as deemed necessary by the Chairperson, this includes meetings held electronically via Zoom or a similar platform when deemed necessary. Should any Member of the Committee absence themselves from any three (3) meetings without sending a communication to the Chairperson or Executive Secretary, noting the reason for absence, or for just cause during the New

Jersey State Elks Association Calendar Year (June – May), such Member may be removed from the Committee by the State President.

ARTICLE 3 – OFFICERS

Sec. 1. Members. Members of the Corporation shall be those delegates or members of the New Jersey State Elks Association who are appointed members of the New Jersey State Elks Special Children's Committee by the President of the aforesaid Association. Such Delegates or Members thus appointed shall remain Members of the Corporation for one year or until a new State Elks Special Children's Committee is appointed, unless sooner relieved of such committee assignment by the President of the aforesaid Association.

Sec. 2. Officers. The officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President designated as State Chairperson, Region 1 Co-Chairperson, Region 2 Co-Chairperson, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and the Board of Trustees.

Sec. 3. Appointment. All officers of the Corporation shall be appointed by the President of the New Jersey State Elks Association.

Sec. 4. Term. The term of office of each of the officers shall be one year, and thereafter until their successor has been appointed.

Sec. 5. Vacancies. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by appointment of the President of the New Jersey State Elks Association.

Sec. 6. Duties of Officers. The duties and powers of the officers of the Corporation shall be as follows:

~ STATE CHAIRPERSON ~

The State Chairperson is the Executive Officer of the Corporation and shall preside at all State Committee Meetings.

A. Shall present at each annual meeting of the members a report of the condition of the Corporation.

B. Shall call all regular and special meetings of the members in accordance with these By-Laws.

C. Shall enforce these By-Laws and perform all the duties incident to the position and office, and which are required by law.

D. Shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees without vote.

~ CO-CHAIRPERSON ~

During the absence and/or inability of the State Chairperson to render and perform their duties or exercise their powers, as set forth in these By-Laws or in the acts under which this Corporation is organized, the same shall be performed and exercised by the Co-Chairpersons; and when so acting, they shall have all the powers and be subjected to all the responsibilities hereby given to or imposed upon such State Chairperson.

~ ADMINISTRATOR~

The Administrator shall be the custodian of the minutes from the meetings of the State Committee Meetings and from the meetings of the Board of Trustees in appropriate books.

A. Shall give and serve all notices.

B. Shall be custodian of the records.

C. Shall attend to all correspondence and perform the entire duties incident to the office of the Administrator as determined by the Board of Trustees.

~ RECORDING SECRETARY ~

The duties of Recording Secretary are to record the minutes and correspondence from the State Committee Meeting and forward to the Administrator.

~ TREASURER ~

The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of and be responsible for all the funds and securities of the Corporation, and deposit all such funds in the name of the Corporation in such bank or banks, trust company or trust companies or insured savings and loan associations or savings and loan associations as the Trustees may designate.

They shall present all bills against the Corporation to the Board of Trustees and /or at the State Committee Meeting for approval/rejection. They shall disburse funds only upon approval of the Board of Trustees and/or by the voting committee at State Committee Meetings.

They shall render a statement of the condition of the finances of the Corporation at each regular meeting of the Board of Trustees and at the State Committee Meeting or at such other times as shall be required to provide a full financial report at the annual meeting of the members. They shall do and perform all duties pertaining to the office of Treasurer as determined by the Board of Trustees.

~Building and Maintenance Chairperson~

The Building and Maintenance Chairperson shall have the responsibility to oversee all new construction at the camp; solicit bids for construction projects; repair and replacement of equipment at the camp; ensure the camp is in proper state of repair. They shall submit all bids for construction, repair, or replacement at the camp to the Board of Trustees for approval.

~ MIRACLE ON THE MOUNTAIN FUND COORDINATOR ~

The Miracle on the Mountain Fund Coordinator shall receive all monies designated for the fund and deposit same with the Treasurer; keep all records of income and expenses to the fund; design and implement promotional programs to publicize and solicit funds and present bids for same to the Board of Trustees for approval; with the approval of the Board of Trustees, order all supplies needed to administer the fund; ensure invoices for yearly subscriptions are sent out in a timely fashion.

ARTICLE 4 – TRUSTEES

Sec. 1. Number and Appointment. The affairs and business of this corporation shall be managed by a Board of Trustees composed of five (5) Members who shall be appointed by the President of the New Jersey State Elks Association, after considering the recommendations and advice of the State Chairperson and Advisors of the Committee.

Sec. 2. Duties of the Board of Trustees. The property, affairs, business, and concerns of the Corporation shall be vested in the Board of Trustees. The Board shall control the investments, funds, real and personal property of the Corporation; execute all leases, contracts or other paper when ordered by the Corporation. The Board shall review and approve/reject all bills against the Corporation; present bills to the Committee for vote and payment of same; have the power to incur bills and disburse the funds of the Corporation; hire employees and agents, devise and carry into execution other measures as they may deem proper and expedient to protect and promote the interest of the Corporation. The Trustee Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Trustees. The Board shall set all policies for the Corporation with the approval of the Committee.

Sec. 3. Term. The term of office of the Trustees shall be one year through five years and thereafter until their successor has been appointed. The initial Board of Trustees appointed under this provision shall be appointed for a one-, two-, three-, four-, and five-year term such that in each subsequent year, a vacancy on the Board shall occur and a new Member to the Board of Trustees shall be appointed by the incoming State President. Each year, at their first meeting in June, the Members of the Board of Trustees shall elect a Chairperson of the Board and Recording Secretary from among the Members of the Board.

Sec. 4. Vacancies. Vacancies in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by appointment of the President of the New Jersey State Elks Association.

Sec. 5. Meetings. The Board of Trustees shall meet monthly, at a time and place designated by the Chairperson, and at such other times as deemed necessary by the Chairperson, including electronically. Should any Member of the Board of Trustees absence themselves from any three (3) meetings without sending a communication to the Chairperson or Recording Secretary, noting the reason for absence, or for just cause during the New Jersey State Elks Association Calendar Year (June – May), such Member may be removed from the Board by the State President.

Three (3) Members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Sec. 6. Compensation. No member of the Board of Trustees shall receive any compensation for their service as Trustee.

ARTICLE 5 – COMMITTEES

Sec. 1. Committees. The State Chairperson may appoint such committees as the members or the State Chairperson may determine shall be advisable to carry out the purposes of the Corporation as set forth in its Certificate of Incorporation.

ARTICLE 6 – Camp Moore Sessions

Sec. 1. Camp Moore Sessions. The Summer Sessions (Sunday – Saturday) will consist of eight weeks of campers between the ages of 7 through 18. The camper must obtain the age of seven (7) to be eligible to attend Camp and cannot exceed the age of Eighteen (18) when attending. There will be one week (Sunday – Saturday) of campers between the ages of 19 through 21. The camper must obtain the age of nineteen (19) to be eligible to attend this session and cannot exceed the age of twenty-one (21) when attending Camp.

The Respite Weekends will consist of six sessions. Three (3) in the Spring and three (3) in the Fall. The Respite Weekends cover Friday through Sunday and the camper must obtain the age of Nineteen (19) to be eligible to attend and all session dates are to be determined, pending the availability of all essential staff members and counselors, and shall be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 7 – SEAL

Sec. 1. Seal. The seal of the Corporation shall be as follows:

ARTICLE 8 –By-Laws

Sec. 1. Revisions. During the fifth year following the adoption of its original By-Laws, or general revision thereof, the Chairperson shall prepare and present a current general revision of the By-Laws to the members for adoption.

Sec. 2 How Amended. These By-Laws may be altered, amended, repealed, or added to by an affirmative vote of a majority of the eligible voting members of the NJSEA present at an Annual Meeting (Wildwood Convention) or (Fall Conference) or at a Special Meeting called for that purpose, provided that a written notice shall have been sent to each member, which notice shall state the alteration, amendments or changes which are proposed to be made in such By-Laws.

ARTICLE 9 – DISSOLUTION

Sec. 1. Dissolution of Corporation. In the event of dissolution of this corporation, the assets shall be distributed only to Charitable or Educational Organizations provided said Organizations enjoy Exempt Status in accordance with provisions of Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The New Jersey State Elks Association Charities, Inc. would be the beneficiary of assets if there was a dissolution, and only if this 501 (c)(3) corporation or its successor no longer exists, should the Board of Trustees look for other 501 (c)(3) organization for distribution. The distribution of the assets of the Corporation shall be the responsibility of the Corporation's Board of Trustees.

**Proposed Amendments
to
Approved 2022 By Laws**

(Pg.1) ARTICLE 2 - MEETINGS

Sec. 1. Annual meeting. The annual meeting of the Committee shall be held at the principal offices of the Corporation, or at such other place within the State of New Jersey as the State Chairperson may designate, on the third Sunday of October of each year. The Administrator shall notify each member not less than ten days before the meeting date.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

The annual meeting of the Committee shall be held at the principal offices of the Corporation, or at such other place within the State of New Jersey as the State Chairperson may designate, on the third Sunday of October of each year. The ~~Administrator~~ **Bookkeeper/Executive Assistant** shall notify each member not less than ten days before the meeting date.

Sec. 2. Voting. The Committee eligible to vote shall consist of the State Chairperson, the five (5) Trustees, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Region 1 and Region 2 Co-Chairpersons, twelve (12) District Chairpersons, Miracle on the Mountain Coordinator, Miracle on the Mountain Region 1 and Region 2 Coordinators, Miracle Run Liaison, Building & Maintenance Chairperson, Challenger Sports Program Coordinator, Challenger Sports Program Region 1 and Region 2 Coordinators. (Total of 30 Members). At all meetings of Members, a vote of the majority of the Members present shall be sufficient to decide all questions.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

The Committee eligible to vote shall consist of the State Chairperson, the five (5) Trustees, Recording Secretary, ~~Treasurer~~, Region 1 and Region 2 Co-Chairpersons, twelve (12) District Chairpersons, Miracle on the Mountain Coordinator, Miracle on the Mountain Region 1 and Region 2 Coordinators, Miracle Run Liaison, Building & Maintenance Chairperson, Challenger Sports Program Coordinator, Challenger Sports Program Region 1 and Region 2 Coordinators. (Total of ~~30~~ **29** Members). At all meetings of Members, a vote of the majority of the Members present shall be sufficient to decide all questions.

Sec. 5 Meetings. The Committee shall meet monthly, at a time and place designated by the Chairperson, and at such other times as deemed necessary by the Chairperson,

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

The Committee shall meet monthly, except for the months of **July** and **December**, at a time and place designated by the Chairperson, and at such other times as deemed necessary by the Chairperson,

(Pg.2) ARTICLE 3- OFFICERS

Sec. 3 . The officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President designated as State Chairperson, Region 1 Co-Chairperson, Region 2 Co-Chairperson, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and the Board of Trustees.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Sec. 3 . The officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President designated as State Chairperson, Region 1 Co-Chairperson, Region 2 Co-Chairperson, Recording Secretary, ~~Treasurer~~, and the Board of Trustees.

(Pg.3) ADMINISTRATOR

The Administrator shall be the custodian of the minutes from the meetings of the State Committee Meetings and from the meetings of the Board of Trustees in appropriate books.

- A. Shall give and serve all notices.
- B. Shall be custodian of the records.
- C. Shall attend to all correspondence and perform the entire duties incident to the office of the Executive Administrator as
determined by the Board of Trustees.

1.

2.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

~~ADMINISTRATOR~~ BOOKKEEPER/EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The **Bookkeeper/Executive Assistant** ~~Administrator~~ which is a paid position, shall be the custodian of the minutes from the meetings of the State Committee Meetings and from the meetings of the Board of Trustees in appropriate books.

- A. Shall give and serve all notices.
- B. Shall be custodian of the records.

C. Shall attend to all correspondence and perform the entire duties incident to the office of the **Bookkeeper/Executive Assistant**

~~Administrator~~ as determined by the Board of Trustees.

The **Bookkeeper/Executive Assistant** ~~Treasurer~~ shall have the care and custody of and be responsible for all the funds and securities of the Corporation, and deposit all such funds in the name of the Corporation in such bank or banks, trust company or trust companies or insured savings and loan associations or savings and loan associations as the Trustees may designate.

He/She They shall present all bills against the Corporation to the Board of Trustees and /or at the State Committee Meeting for approval/rejection. **He/She They** shall disburse funds only upon approval of the Board of Trustees and/or by the voting committee at State Committee Meetings.

He/She They shall render a statement of the condition of the finances of the Corporation at each regular meeting of the Board of Trustees and at the State Committee Meeting or at such other times as shall be required to provide a full financial report at the annual meeting of the members. **He/She They** shall do and perform all duties pertaining to the office of Treasurer as determined by the Board of Trustees.

RECORDING SECRETARY

The duties of Recording Secretary are to record the minutes and correspondence from the State Committee Meeting and forward to the Administrator.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

The duties of Recording Secretary are to record the minutes and correspondence from the State Committee Meeting and forward to the **Bookkeeper/Executive Assistant** ~~Administrator~~.

TREASURER

The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of and be responsible for all the funds and securities of the Corporation, and deposit all such funds in the name of the Corporation in such bank or banks, trust company or trust companies or insured savings and loan associations or savings and loan associations as the Trustees may designate.

They shall present all bills against the Corporation to the Board of Trustees and /or at the State Committee Meeting for approval/rejection. They shall disburse funds only upon approval of the Board of Trustees and/or by the voting committee at State Committee Meetings.

They shall render a statement of the condition of the finances of the Corporation at each regular meeting of the Board of Trustees and at the State Committee Meeting or at such other times as shall be required to provide a full financial report at the annual meeting of the members. They shall do and perform all duties pertaining to the office of Treasurer as determined by the Board of Trustees.

The proposed amendment would be as follows

1. The word Treasurer is being deleted.
2. The duties of Treasurer are to be included with the duties of the Bookkeeper/Executive Assistant as shown above under **Bookkeeper/Executive Assistant**.

(Pg.4) MIRACLE ON THE MOUNTAIN FUND COORDINATOR

The Miracle on the Mountain Fund Coordinator shall receive all monies designated for the fund and deposit same with the Treasurer; keep all records of income and expenses to the fund. The Coordinator shall design and implement promotional programs to publicize and solicit funds and present bids for same to the Board of Trustees for approval; with the approval of the Board of Trustees, order all supplies needed to administer the fund; ensure invoices for yearly subscriptions are sent out in a timely fashion.

3.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

MIRACLE ON THE MOUNTAIN FUND COORDINATOR

The Miracle on the Mountain Fund Coordinator shall receive all monies designated for the fund and deposit same with the **Bookkeeper/Executive Assistant** ~~Treasurer~~; keep all records of income and expenses to the fund. The Coordinator with **the assistance of the Region 1 and Region 2 Co Coordinators** shall design and implement promotional programs to publicize and solicit funds and present bids for same to the Board of Trustees for approval; with the approval of the Board of Trustees, order all supplies needed to administer the fund; ensure invoices for yearly subscriptions are sent out in a timely fashion.

ARTICLE 4- TRUSTEES

Sec. 5. Meetings. The Board of Trustees shall meet monthly at a time and place designated by the Chairperson

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Sec. 5. Meetings. The Board of Trustees shall meet monthly, **except in the month of December** at a time and place designated by the Chairperson

(Pg. 5) ARTICLE 6.

The proposed amendment would read as follows

CAMP MOORE SESSIONS

Sec. 1 Sessions. The Summer Sessions (Sunday – Saturday) will consist of eight weeks of campers between the ages of 7 through 18. The camper must obtain the age of seven (7) to be eligible to attend Camp and cannot exceed the age of Eighteen (18) when attending. There will be one week (Sunday – Saturday) of campers between the ages of 19 through 21. The camper must obtain the age of nineteen (19) to be eligible to attend this session and cannot exceed the age of twenty-one (21) when attending Camp.

Sec. 2 Respite Weekends. The Respite Weekends will consist of six sessions. Three (3) in the Spring and three (3) in the Fall. The Respite Weekends cover Friday through Sunday and the camper must obtain the age of Nineteen (19) to be eligible to attend and all session dates are to be determined, pending the availability of all essential staff members and counselors, and shall be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees.

(Pg. 6) ARTICLE 8 –By-Laws

Sec. 2 How Amended. These By-Laws may be altered, amended, repealed, or added to by an affirmative vote of a majority of the eligible voting members of the NJSEA present at an Annual Meeting (Wildwood Convention) or (Fall Conference) or at a Special Meeting called for that purpose, provided that a written notice shall have been sent to each member, which notice shall state the alteration, amendments or changes which are proposed to be made in such By-Laws.

The proposed amendment would read as follows:

Sec. 2 How Amended. These By-Laws may be amended by the following procedure:

- 1. All proposed amendments are first approved by the Board of Trustees. The proposed amendments shall be voted upon by the Trustees at a regular meeting of the Trustees, provided that each Trustee and each Committee Advisor is given a copy of the proposed Amendment at least 10 days prior to the meeting at which the Amendment is to be discussed and approved. An affirmative vote of at least four of the five Trustees is required for approval.**

2. A copy of the proposed Amendment is sent to each Voting Member of the Committee and each Committee Advisor, at least 10 days prior to the Meeting at which the vote is to be taken, such vote to be taken at a regular meeting of the Committee. At this meeting the amendment must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Voting Members eligible to vote.

3. Upon approval of the Amendment by the Members of the Committee, it shall be published in the New Jersey Elk for a vote of the New Jersey State Association at either the Annual meeting of the New Jersey State Elks Association or the Fall Conference. At such Annual meeting or Fall Conference, a majority vote of the members present shall be required for approval of the Amendment.

MIRACLE ON THE MOUNTAIN

STATE COORDINATOR

MICHAEL DICKIE

STATE PRESIDENT BILL,

The Miracle on the Mountain has been handing out brochures explaining the wall murals located in the dining room at Camp Moore. These brochures explain how all donations from individuals, groups, Lodges, Districts, or Corporations can donate to this effort. While one-time donations are preferred you can make a pledge every year for five years.

Your donation may honor a relative, friend, family, group or corporation or in memory of a loved one.

Also, Lodges are encouraged to do a Clothing Drive. It's a simple fundraiser and easy. Which then can be donated to M.O.M.

I would also like to thank my advisor's PSDGER Francis Decibus, PGLC/PSP Robert Binetti, GLC/PSP Ronald Mangone, PGLC/PSP Anthony Alfonso, State Chairman Elysse Russo, Area Coordinators Deborah England from Manahawkin Lodge #2340, Maureen Quinn from Tenafly Lodge #2271. Most of all Thank You to all the Lodges that have donated and continue to support M.O.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Dickie

State Coordinator

**Report for Fall Conference
Challenger Sports Program**

After being rescheduled due to inclement weather, our Annual Challenger Batter-Up Contest was held on Saturday, June 28, 2025, at the Old North Wall Little League Fields. Unfortunately, Mother Nature was not on our side for the rescheduled date either, but that didn't stop our dedicated participants from giving it their all on the field. The three young men who competed have been part of our event for many years, and it was a pleasure to see them again and catch up. Their enthusiasm and sportsmanship continue to embody the true spirit of the Challenger program. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all our volunteers who braved the rain to support Challenger Sports. Your time, energy, and commitment make these events possible, and I am truly grateful for each of you. Special thanks as well to Asbury Park-Wall Lodge for once again hosting our awards ceremony. Each year, they generously donate their space and provide refreshments for our volunteers, athletes and families — your continued support is deeply appreciated.

Looking ahead, we hope to see an expansion of Challenger Sports events across New Jersey. With the guidance of our dedicated advisors, we aim to create even more opportunities for our friends with special needs to participate in the wide variety of Elks sporting events available to their neurotypical peers.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our advisors — Francis Decibus, PSDGER; Ron Mangone, PGLC; Bob Binetti, PGLC; and Anthony Alfonso, PGLC — for their guidance and continued encouragement; and to State SCC Chairwoman Elyse Russo for your unwavering support and direction.

Lastly, I want to recognize my Co-Coordinators: Joe Reese, PVP (Region 1), and Jon Joshua, PVP (Region 2). Thank you both for your dedication to keeping smiles on the faces of our special children.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Schoener
State Coordinator, Challenger Sports

MIRACLE RUN COMMITTEE

33

N.J. STATE ELKS FALL CONFERENCE REPORT

November 15, 2025

Mr. President, Members All,

Our committee faced numerous challenges this year. From the beginning it seemed like things just were not going our way, with missed opportunities early in the winter months. The weather was totally against us! If we had an event scheduled it would rain. It rained every weekend for 5 or 6 weeks. We even had a cancelation due the heatwave this year. So, we had to come up with a plan to make up some of the losses, so we asked one of the locations where our ticket sales are really good, if we can come a few extras times and we squeezed in a couple of other events.

We lucked out for the Miracle Run event too, held at Old Bridge Elks #2229 there was rainy weather north and south of us. We had decent weather in Old Bridge and eventually turned into a nice day, despite the weather everywhere else around us. We surprisingly had an attendance of 975 people. The event really turned out to be a wonderful day for our kids and Camp Moore.

We would like to thank Old Bridge Elks lodge once again for hosting our event and all the help from the membership. Please relay that to your membership. Excellent job as always and we thank you all!

On behalf of the Miracle Run Committee I would like to thank all the lodges, with or without a motorcycle committee, for your continual support throughout the years. Thank you!

I also would like to thank everyone that helped in any way during the year.

I personally would like to thank the members of the Miracle Run Committee for their dedication and commitment to our cause; it takes a tremendous amount of time, out of our personal lives to be on our committee. We are certainly a rare breed!

To all the motorcycle committees and their lodges for all their support throughout the years.

On behalf of the Miracle Run committee we would like to thank you all!

The upcoming year has a positive beginning. The Miracle Run will be held at New Egypt Lodge on July 26, 2026. Our featured raffle prize will be a 2025 Brilliant Red Street Glide, equipped with a fully blacked-out motor and pipes. We had our Miracle Madness kick off party last week at Woodbridge lodge. Thank you for hosting, Great job!

Lastly the Miracle Run committee would like to thank you all for all the support in helping us present this year donation of \$ xxx,xxx.xx

Respectfully submitted

Miracle Run Committee Chairman

Frank F. Bingert



Anthony J Perrone
 State Chairperson – Youth Activities
 489 Henley Ave
 New Milford NJ 07646
 (201)914-8524
AntJP@aol.com

NJ Elk – Fall Conference 2025

Good morning.

The YAC committee had another successful Batters-Up program. The state finals were on August 18th at Deerwood Park in Howell followed by the awards ceremony at Howell Lodge #2515. Contest winners were awarded trophies, tickets to Elks Day at the Somerset Patriots ball park and BBQ lunch. State President Bill Dow Jr threw out the first pitch and our contest winners were honored in a ceremony on the field prior to the start of the game. The new format was a success as attendance was one of the best yet.

Tee It Up committee also switched to a new format hoping to increase participation in the program. The participants competed in a skills competition involving Driving, Chipping and Putting. The State Finals were held in Bayville at Cedar Creek Golf Course. Awards and hospitality after the event were held at Lacey Lodge.

With the end of summer, the Youth Activities committee starts its school-based activities. Every fall is the time lodges should be working with the schools in their jurisdiction to re-establish their Student of the Month programs – or start an additional program. Lodges can run multiple programs – for instance, one in the high school, one in the middle school, and one for each elementary school. Winners can be given a certificate or a small gift to recognize their achievement.

The Youth Activities Committee continues to support the Karen Minutella Reading Initiative. If your lodge didn't participate last school year, now is the time to start working with the schools to get approval to read *Freckle Juice* to the 3rd grade classes in your area. District Youth Activities chairpersons can provide your lodge with all the information needed.

We are actively running Youth Activities fundraisers thru out the year – Keep an eye out for the next event.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Anthony Perrone, PDD
 NJSEA Youth Activities Chairman

I make a motion that my report be accepted as read and published on the web site.



ANTLERS REPORT

FALL CONFERENCE 2025

It's truly an honor to be the State Antlers Chair and celebrate the New Jersey Antlers that are close to my heart and to all Elks. They represent not only the future of our Order but the true spirit of what it means to be an Elk.

Today, I'm proud to share that the New Jersey Antlers are stronger than ever. We have 25 active Antler Lodges and more than 650 members who embody the spirit of service, fellowship, and leadership.

Our Antler Lodges are stepping up and giving back in countless ways:

- Organizing Fundraisers such as pancake breakfasts, car washes, dine to donate, game and trivia nights to name a few.
- Making donations from these events and others to Special Children, Drug Awareness, Veterans, and Army of Hope as well as charities that are close to their hearts or just donate their time to these causes.
- They participate in their Lodges or Districts Flag Day Ceremonies, Flag Retirements and participate in the State Army of Hope Picnic serving our Gold Star Families.
- They support Youth Activities by assisting at Lodge Hoop Shoots and Soccer Shoots.

This year, six new Lodges are preparing to join the Antler family, and four Lodges are preparing to rejoin the family. That is not just progress; it is growth, renewal, and proof that when we invest in our youth, they are willing to rise to the occasion.

Of course, this success would not be possible without the unwavering support and guidance of the New Jersey Elks. Thank you to my State Advisors Tom Zisa and Ron Magnone as well as my Region I Co Chair Mike Veth and Region II Co Chair Lisa Rovito. Through your mentorship, encouragement, and example, you help shape the next generation of leaders. You show them what it means to live a life of service, compassion, and brotherhood.

Together, we are Building a Brighter Future, One Antler at a Time.

State Antler Chair

Tom Boyce

Batter's Up Committee Fall Conference 2025

All,

The Batters Up program which I took over started in April. My team of Region 1, Shean Opie along with Region 2, Bruce Lockwood. We attended the State Youth Activities meeting in Metuchen. At the meeting it was discussed that each District if they choose could run a Batters Up and then bring their winners to Howell Little League on August 17th for the Batters Up State Final. While attending these meetings it was also brought up about getting away from the old traditional flags in the ground and replacing them with number orange cones in all the different zones. This was a huge success over the old flags. Several Districts completed their district competitions and send their winners to Howell.

On August 17th, starting at 7:30am all Regional, District, and Chairpersons from Elk Lodges showed up to help me setup the two fields at Howell LL. Maureen Chapman and her team of Ladies did a great job with all the Paperwork. Several Dignitaries such as SP William Dow, PSP Peggy Berry, PSP Diego Tabbachino, PSP Bob Mauro, and State Youth Activities Chair Anthony Perrone were in attendance, along with other Dignitaries. The day kicked off with a pledge and Flag Salute before the competition started at 8:25 am. Both Fields were manned by Elks and all (55) kids had fun participating in this event. The winners of each age group along with all contestants were told to return the Howell Elks for food and awards. A wonderful day was had by all. After lunch and awards tickets were handed out to all winners to come out to Somerset Patriots Stadium for a baseball game and a picture on the field.

On September 6th, all winners participated in an on the field picture at the Somerset Patriots Stadium. Everyone had an awesome day. We also got to see SP William Dow throw out the first pitch and it actually made it to home plate. But a little inside!!

Respectfully Submitted
Mark Niro, PVP
State Batters Up Chair

Fall Conference Report

November 15, 2025

President Dow, Distinguished Guests, Members All:

The New Jersey State Hoop Shoot Committee is made up of twelve district directors, four advisors, two regional co-chairs and a chairperson. We have been meeting monthly and will continue to do so until March of next year. Our goal is to run successful, safe and fun Hoop Shoots for kids at the local, district and state level. To that end the committee is always seeking new volunteers to rebound, score and referee.

Each local lodge is required to hold a Hoop Shoot Competition per Grand Lodge statute. These local shoots are underway, and ten of the twelve districts have scheduled their district shoots, which will begin in December and finish in January 2026.

The New Jersey State Hoop Shoot will be on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at South Plainfield High School in South Plainfield, NJ. The shooting times for the individual age groups will be announced closer to the event. The contestants will wear uniforms issued by the committee, Past Grand Lodge Committeeman/Past State President Pete Smith will emcee, a local scout troop will participate in the opening flag ceremony, and the Star-Spangled Banner will be performed live.

The winners of this contest advance to the Regional Competition in Wilkes-Barre, PA, on March 14, 2026; these winners advance to the National contest in Chicago in April of 2026. It's worth noting that New Jersey has sponsored several shooters at the national level in recent years.

I look forward to another successful state Hoop Shoot and thank everyone involved in this valuable program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B. Sorenson, PDD, NJ State Hoop Shoot Director

State Soccer Shoot Committee

The State Soccer Shoot Committee meets once a month from July through March. It is a competition for youth soccer players to test their skills at scoring goals. The contest is broken down by groups of Boys and Girls by age (January 1st, 2025, is the qualifying date). The youngest group are the U8 (7 and under age group) they will shoot at the small goals for score. The next groups U10 (8- and 9-year-olds), U12 (10- and 11-year-olds), U14 (12- and 13-year-olds), U16 (14- and 15-year-olds) will shoot at a regulation size goal with a grid attached to score points.

The competition starts at Lodge level, then the winners move on to the district contest in November and December. Those winners will move on to the State contest to be held in Manasquan on January 10th, 2026. The State winner will move on to the Mid Atlantic National Regional in York Pa. on March 7th, 2026.

FALL CONFERENCE 2025

TEE IT UP

For the year 2025, the State Tee It Up Competition was reduced from four events throughout the State to one. The NJ Elks Youth Activities State Championship was held at Cedar Creek Golf Course in Bayville on October 18th. There was a total of 10 competitors ranging in age from 4 to 17 with 18 volunteers and State Photographer Peter Namen in attendance.

This is a skills competition that consists of Driving, Chipping, and Putting. The age brackets range from 6U to 18U. The children were very impressive and enjoyed themselves immensely as their parents cheered them on. After the event, all the contestants and their families were invited back to Lacey Lodge for hospitality. Trophies were awarded and all competitors received medals, gift cards and their choice of Golf giveaways. We are hopeful to increase the participation in the future for this event.

Golf is not the only youth sport that promotes courtesy, etiquette, manners, and traditions, but it is the only sport that a child can pick up at any age and play for the rest of their life.

I would like to thank Our Youth Activities Chairman Anthony Perrone, Region I Coordinator, John Gaven, Region II Coordinator, Hank Bedlivy Jr. and our Advisors Rich Bard, Bob Morrow and Dick Tabachino for all their help in making this a good year.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Finney
State Tee It Up Coordinator

Members,

The NJ Elks Youth Tournament will continue this year. We have discussed changing some of our strategy for this upcoming year to holding a competition in both Reg-1 and 2, a Northern and Southern tournament. We hope this will encourage more lodges to sponsor youth and open it up to more participants. Our goal is to get kids excited about healthy competition and in the process help some of them with funding for school whether it be college or a trade school. We need our members to pass the word that we have this tournament consisting of tennis, bowling and golf. Please remember we ask each lodge who can, to please make a donation of \$100.00 to this tournament so we may hold the event and provide the winners with scholarships. Our event this year be held on Monday June 29th with the venues to be announced after the New year. Remember sports keep our youth healthy, occupied with positive activity and skills that will be used their whole life.

Thank you all

Don Tonachio PDD

Youth Tournament Chairman

TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT
FALL CONFERENCE 2025

As of this writing, the State Training committee has sessions scheduled for October 28th at Toms River and October 29th at Union. I am sure that these sessions will have been informative and productive for all in attendance. If any Vice President or District Deputy needs any specific trainings for their district, please reach out so that we can do our best to accommodate. As the calendar year concludes, the committee will be looking into scheduling additional sessions for March 2026.

Thank you

Mark Dunnder

State Chairman-Training

42

TAM COMMITTEE REPORT FALL CONFERENCE 2025

Good morning all,

In 2025 we have had slightly under 600 Elks and Elk employees attend and pass our Elk TAM training course. 47.6% of these took the class for the first time. This is tremendous news as it shows our "more eyes in the room the better" initiative is growing and helping in "keeping the drunk off the road" which is our primary goal. I say to all of our graduates use the tools and methods that you have learned to always protect yourself, your lodges, your brothers and sisters, and guests. Be a hero!

The 2026 training schedule is now or shortly will be on the state website. My thanks to the vice presidents for their help in assembling it.

My eternal gratitude and appreciation goes out to all members of the TAM training committee for their initiative, sense of urgency, and commitment to our program.

Respectfully submitted,
Marc-Allyn Gloriande PDDGER
NJSEA TAM Training Chairperson