



# NJ State Army of Hope

BY SANDY HELLY, STATE CHAIRPERSON



**O**ur NJ State Army of Hope Committee has been very busy doing what we do best: taking care of our severely wounded veterans and their families, as well as the families of our fallen.

Within the last 3 months we have provided approximately \$43,600 to assist these families with rent, mortgage payments, HVAC units and utilities. We also disbursed an additional \$38,000 in back-to-school checks for the children heading back to school.

On August 4th, we held our annual golf outing at Fox Hollow Country Club. We had 91 golfers and netted a profit of \$11,800. What a wonderful way to further our cause.

Sunday, September 10th, we had our 19th Annual Army of Hope Picnic "A Day of Remembrance & Patriotism" at Lacey Lodge. With a very wet start Sunday morning, we still managed to have a fantastic and emotionally moving day for our families.

As of Monday morning, we had raised \$192,443.50 and funds were still coming in! This was, without a doubt, our best picnic yet.



## On Behalf Of A Grateful Association

Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., PGER, State sponsor presented a medal to Diane Fenton. Diane's son Sgt. Matthew Fenton was killed in action on May 5, 2006. She was the first Gold Star Mother to be invited to attend our Army of Hope Picnic. Pictured left to right: PGELK Roy R. DeRitter, Diane Fenton, PGER Malcolm McPherson, Jr., Past First Lady Janet DeRitter, and Sandy Helly, State Chairperson Army of Hope.



## Gold Star Mom

PGELK Roy R. DeRitter and Past First Lady Janet are pictured with Gold Star Mother Patricia Bye.

## Father Escorts Son

Each year NJSEA dignitaries and members of the Army Of Hope Committee escort in our Gold Star Families and our wounded heroes. This year,

for the first-time, a father escorted in his son. Pictured is PDD Rich Hamilton along with his son and daughter-in-law, Richard Hamilton, Jr and Kim. Richard served in the Marines from 2000-2017.



## A Tribute in Sand

In honor of the NJ State Army of Hope picnic being held at Lacey Lodge No. 2518, lodge member Bette Ann Schlueter and her partner, Eddie, created this sand sculpture and constructed its enclosure. It is located inside the entrance to the lodge.



# The Many Faces of the NJ Elks Making a Difference Across the State

BY STATE PRESIDENT JOSEPH PEDONE, STATE PRESIDENT

**O**ur year has started out with our association lodges making a difference in the communities we serve and I couldn't be prouder.

Every day we post the great work we do on our social media pages and get coverage in the papers across this state. This type of publicity is as strong a marketing campaign as we've ever had. We are letting the communities and the people we serve know we are there for them.

This not only advances our causes throughout the state but encourages non-elks to think about the elks when considering joining an association.

Since the beginning of 2023 our work and our effort to support our programs is nothing short of outstanding.

So, what do we need to do to meet our goals? Improve our delinquency numbers now. Reducing these numbers to below 6% helps ensures a great year for our state. Initiating new members and assigning them to work immediately ensures we are building a stronger group of workers for the road ahead and our future.

Make a promise to receive at least one grant. It's money in the bank



for a lodge and the communities you serve, so why waste this golden opportunity for free money?

Our Army of Hope picnic was a tremendous success honoring our Gold Star families and our wounded heroes and their families. This is one of the biggest events we have and we can really showcase our work and gain new members as they view one of our three big events each year. Let's try to always remember our Homeless Veterans Picnic and our Miracle Run when we showcase each of these to the public.

Lastly, join us in our effort to be the face of real change for the drug epidemic we face daily. Our Drug Awareness team could use more volunteers to work our program. As we grow more volunteers, we become a very visible face for change and as an Elk we embellish our image.

These are just a few of the great programs you can be a part of. The many faces of the New Jersey Elks will continue to spread its good will and, with your support, increase the effort and our visibility in the communities that need us.

"We work for a Cause..Never for Applause"

## New Jersey Welcomes Grand Exalted Ruler Randy P. Shook and First Lady Wanda

**N**ashville, Tennessee is the birthplace of country music, bluegrass, and Randy Paul Shook who was born in its rolling hills on the 25th of November. Completing school in 1974, Randy worked in the family farming operation until 1977 when he joined the team at Genesco, a shoe manufacturer in nearby Pulaski. His career advanced while at Genesco, as he was promoted to Assistant Department Manager in 1980 and Department Manager in 1982. Randy's time at Genesco is significant for another reason: in 1981, this is where he met the love of his life and his soulmate, Wanda. They have been partners in life, love, and laughter ever since.

In 1984, Randy discovered his vocation while studying Real Estate, Banking, and Economics at Columbia State Community College and became an affiliate real estate broker. After continuing to take courses through the Tennessee Real Estate Educational System and graduating from the Nashville Auction School, Randy became a licensed Real Estate Broker and Auctioneer in 1986. He served as President of the Southern Middle Tennessee Board of Realtors in 1989.

Randy was proposed and initiated into Lawrenceburg Lodge No. 2206 in 1993 and continues to this day to be an active and dedicated member serving as Exalted ruler in 1996-1997. Randy was named Lawrenceburg Elk of the Year in 2008-2009.

Randy began his service to the Tennessee Elks Association in 1998-1999 as Vice President-Elect and 1999-2000 as Vice President. He was elected President-Elect in 2004-2005 and served as Tennessee State President in 2005- 2006. He was named Tennessee Elk of the Year in 2007-2008 and was inducted into the Tennessee Elks Hall of Fame in 2012-2013.

At the Grand Lodge level, Randy was appointed Esquire to District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2000-2001 and in 2001-2002, served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Middle District of Tennessee. Randy was named Area 3 Grand Lodge Government Relations member from 2007 through 2009. He was elected Grand Treasurer for 2009-2010. Randy was named Area 3 Public Relations and Marketing Member from 2014 to 2018. In 2018, he was elected to represent Area 3 on the Board of Grand Trustees, serving as Building Applications-West Member in 2018-2019; Pensions and Benefits Member in 2019-2020; Secretary of the Board in 2020-2021; and Chairman of the Board in 2021-2022.



Randy and Wanda were married on March 19, 1982, and together they have two sons: Brad and Billy. When Brad was 21 years old, Randy had the honor of initiating him into the Elks. When Billy was 21, Randy was the District Deputy of Tennessee's Middle District and was present as Billy was initiated into the Order. Tragically, Brad died in 2021 after a brave fight against pancreatic cancer. Randy and Wanda continue to reside in Lawrence County, Tennessee where they are surrounded by extended family, friends, and most importantly, their four wonderful grandchildren: Madison, Jacob, Griffin, and Vaida.

Randy and Wanda are looking forward to the adventures ahead and are thankful and humbled to represent the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America as Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady. We welcome the opportunity to meet new friends and let our communities know that: WE ARE...THE ELKS!

# Grand Lodge Message

BY MALCOLM J. MCPHERSON, JR., PGER, STATE SPONSOR

**O**ur Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook and his wife Wanda, from Lawrenceburg Tennessee Lodge No. 2206, will be joining us at our Fall Conference. Our Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady will be arriving Thursday. We will be able to take them to several sites highlighting the New Jersey Elks. They are looking forward to meeting and seeing each of you in Long Branch.

I would like to congratulate our State President Joseph Pedone and his committee people, our District Deputies and Vice Presidents for all of their hard work this year. All of our committees have been working very hard and at the Fall Conference we will hear their accomplishments to date. Remember that we have been emphasizing for each committee when an event is being held to invite the public relations and membership/retention committees to the event. We want everyone to know the great things we are doing and the activities we are sponsoring for our Veterans, the Homeless Veterans, our Special Children, our Youth programs, our Drug Awareness programs and our Scholarship programs and at the same time attracting new members. I would like to congratulate all of the Lodges that participated in the National Night Out, it was a tremendous success for the Drug Awareness Committees.

I would also like to congratulate Lisa Rovito Exalted Ruler and her Officers of Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 782 in representing New Jersey in the National Ritual Contest and finishing second in our Order. All of the Officers of Lake Hopatcong Elks Lodge No. 782 made New Jersey proud. I would also like to congratulate Charles Graham, New Milford- Teaneck Lodge No. 2290, who represented New Jersey in the National Flag Charge Contest and Liz Sorenson, Bound Brook Lodge No. 1388, who represented New Jersey in the National Eleven O'Clock Toast Contest. Both Liz and Charles did an outstanding job.

Through the Elks National Foundation, the Beacon Grants, Promise Grants, Impact Grants, Lodge Assistance Grants, Gratitude Grants, Freedom Grants and Spotlight Grants are available. I urge each lodge to apply for and take



advantage of each grant. We want to make our communities aware of the great work we are doing. From your generosity we are able to make substantial donations to our scholarship programs, our State Major Project "Elks Camp Moore", Miracle on the Mountain, NJEDDA, Somerset Children's Center, CTC Academy, and our Veterans and Army of Hope Committees. Thank you for your generosity to ENF and keep it up this year.

I need to re-emphasize that each of our committees should be truly proud of everything they have done and will be doing this year, including the Special Children's Committee, Miracle Run, Peer Leadership, Walk Out on Drugs, National Veterans Services, Army of Hope, Hoop Shoot, Sports & Youth Tournament, Scholarship, Internet, Parades, Publication, Public Relations/Marketing, Ritual, Lodge Development and Antlers. All of our committees deserve congratulations for their hard work.

Once again we had a very successful Miracle Run held on July 30th at New Egypt Lodge No. 2457. The Miracle Run had a tremendous turnout and the money raised will definitely help support our Special Children's Committee. Thank you for all of your hard work and support.

If you have not done so recently, you must visit our "Elks Camp Moore." The renovations and improvements are almost complete and truly our Camp is the premier camp in our Order.

The Army of Hope held its annual picnic on September 10th at Lacey Lodge No. 2518 for the families that lost a family member or was severely wounded. It was a tremendous event and everyone should be extremely proud of the manner in which the New Jersey Elks take care of the families of our veterans.

Finally, I ask each of our lodges that whenever your lodge is holding an event to make sure we are letting the people in our communities know the great work we are doing. We want the people in our communities to become members and assist us with our charitable work.

Pat and I are looking forward to seeing each of you at our Fall Conference in Long Branch.

## The New Jersey Elk Submission Deadline

Submission Deadline: **March 15, 2024**

Send e-mail articles and photos to:  
**njelkpublication@gmail.com**

### Photograph Policy

Photographs are to be sent electronically and must be in JPG, TIF or EPS format ONLY and a minimum of 300 dpi at 100%, (no photocopies or reproductions).

Please make sure to identify who is in the pictures.



### Bergenfield Lodge No.1477

Bergenfield Lodge No.1477 had four winners of this year's Americanism essay contest called "What Is Your American Dream?" The winners proudly showed their certificates of acknowledgement. The winners who also received a \$100 gift card are (from left to right) Samantha Castaldo, Justine Diane DeVera, Allison Wahl and Don Martin.



## Ritual Committee

BY JACK FISTORI, STATE CHAIRPERSON

**T**he Ritual Committee is on track for another great year. The clinics and meetings have been very well attended, showing that our love for the ritual is alive and well in our state.

The Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee has made some changes to the Flag Charge and 11 O'clock Toast. These changes have already been passed along to all region and district chairs and disseminated to their subordinate lodges. This ensures that all first year Exalted Rulers should be well prepared for their district competitions. The winners from each district will of course be competing at the state competition held at 4:00pm Saturday afternoon during Fall Conference in Long Branch. Though the changes are relatively minor, they will no doubt be noticeable to those witnessing the competition. Everyone is encouraged to come out and show their support.

Also, a shout out is in order to Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 782 who once again represented our state at the National competition held during the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis. Their dedication to the ritual, and our Order, cannot be overstated. The ritual is quite literally our heritage and our identity. As new members we all heard, "What made you an Elk?" We also all know the answer, but too many of us forget the full meaning of it. The Ritual made us Elks! I encourage the new and future Exalted Rulers to embrace their heritage and show their dedication to their officers, their members and their Order by practicing the Ritual. Show that you are truly a leader of your lodge and worthy of its highest position!



Area 2 Grand Lodge Ritual Committeeman Robert Ricker, PSP presents the Eastern Division All American Exalted Ruler award to Lisa Rovito.



Lake Hopatcong Ritual Team

## Requirements for Seeking Elective Office in This Association

BY FRANCIS J. DECIBUS, PSDGER  
ELECTION COORDINATOR

Article VI Section 3D – Elections  
(District Vice President & Trustee)

Section 3: Any Member of this Association may seek an elective office in the Association provided:

(A) They are a Member in good standing in their Lodge and a Past Exalted Ruler

(B) Their Lodge is a Member Lodge in good standing in this Association and is located in a District in the electing Region or the District is eligible for the office sought.

(C) For the position of Vice-President and Trustee, they shall have filed by **certified mail, return receipt requested or by email**, with the President, their District's Vice President and the Secretary of this Association, not before December 1 and no later than January 5th, a Resolution of endorsement adopted by their Lodge, at a regular Lodge session. Said resolution must be signed by the Lodge Exalted Ruler and **certified** by the Lodge Secretary. If they elect to file by sending an email, it shall only be effective upon receipt of a return email from the President, Secretary and/or Vice President, acknowledging receipt of the Resolution. A local Lodge may only endorse one candidate for the position of Vice President or Trustee.

The Districts which will have Trustee Elections in 2024 are: Central, East Central, North Central, and South East.



## A Special Initiation

Red Bank Lodge No. 233 held an initiation in August for 23 new members. One of the new members, Kirk Mannor, was the first President of Red Bank Antlers No. 33.



## Lodge Activities Committee

BY MICHAEL TRAVIS, STATE CHAIRPERSON

The goal of the Lodge Activities Committee is to foster lodge 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.

During the 2022-23 year we introduced newly updated and revised contest materials for our three NJSEA Lodge Activity Contests - the Lodge Bulletin, the Memorial Service and the Community Service and Image Contests. These include updated and revised Contest Description Sheets and Contest Judging Forms. They now provide invaluable tools and guidelines for both our lodges as well as our judges. They are readily available on our web page at NJELKS.org.

Participation with the new contest materials went well. After final State judging, 30 NJSEA Lodge Activity Plaques were presented to the winning lodges at the Business Session in Wildwood.

Our committee reviewed our State submissions for the Grand Lodge All American Lodge Contest. The top three from each of 5 divisions were forwarded to Grand Lodge for final judging.

In the July Grand Lodge Newsletter, the judges listed the top 10 lodges in each division - 60 top ten lodges in total. New Jersey had 7 lodges with this designation. They are:

### **Division I- 150 members**

Elmwood Park-Paterson No. 60

### **Division II - 151-225 members**

Cedar Grove No. 2237

### **Division III - 226-300 members**

Kearny No. 1050

### **Division IV = 301- 450 members**

Middletown No. 2179

### **Division V - 451-700 members**

Lake Hopatcong No. 782

### **Division VI - 701 members and up**

Manahawkin No. 2340

Manasquan No. 2354

The announcement of the first, second, and third place winning lodges in each Division were announced during the Tuesday July 4th morning Business Session at the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis. Three of our State lodges were chosen.

### **Division II -151-225 members**

2nd Place

Cedar Grove No. 2237

### **Division III - 226-300 members**

1st Place

Kearny No. 1050

### **Division VI - 451-700 members**

3rd Place

Manasquan No. 2354

Our NJSEA All America Lodge Awards will be presented to Cedar Grove, Kearny and Manasquan at our Fall Conference. Finally, the Lodge Activities Committee would like to thank all those who took the time to prepare an entry for our State and Grand Lodge contests. We are most grateful for your hard work and dedication. Every entry is appreciated - and a winner in its own way - because it shows your commitment and dedication to your membership and your community.

## Americanism Committee

BY CONNIE CANTWELL, STATE CHAIRPERSON

Once again, three years in a row, New Jersey had a 1st place winner on the Grand Lodge Level for the Americanism Essay Contest. The Division 5 winner was Cameryn Boots, sponsored by The South District. I would like to share her essay.

"What is your American Dream."

"My American Dream is that women and men who serve in the military do not come home homeless. This may be a non-traditional American Dream because most of the time the American Dream is focused on how someone wants to better their own personal life. I think we take for granted the sacrifices made by these fellow Americans who make our "American Dream" a reality.

These men and women risk their lives for our freedom and peace. They leave their comfort of their homes to protect America and leave their loved ones often for months and years at a time. They miss important milestones and holidays to protect people who they have never met before. They shouldn't leave home only to come back to a life of uncertainty.

There is notion more selfless than what they give to us and in return they should not have to come home and worry about where they will live or what they will do to earn income. I know there are programs that are in place but there are still holes in the system and more that can be done for our Veterans. I personally know a veteran who went through his own homelessness and there was little help for him.

This is my "American Dream" and I am hopeful that one day there will be easier and more accessible help to the women and men to make our dreams possible."

The upcoming theme for 2023-2024 is "What does the Bill of Rights Mean to Me?"

Please continue promoting our programs: Flag Day/Flag Retirement, Fly the Flag Program, and Patriotism Week.

Pictured Left To Right: PDD Arlene Hickman, PSP Vicki Watson, and PVP Marty Brennan with Grand Lodge 1st Place Essay Winner, Cameryn Boots.



## Celebrating Americanism

Each July 4th, Long Branch Lodge No. 742 participates with the city of Long Branch on the oceanfront by handing out flags to the passerby patrons. This year the Americanism Committee was assisted in giving out approximately 2000 flags with the help of our Antler Lodge No. 21 and Boy Scout troop No. 148 and Pack No. 113, along with our lodge members.





State President Joseph Pedone, last year's State Membership Chairperson; and Past State President Vicki Watson receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the Nation for membership gain for the 2022-2023 year.



Closing out this year's Grand Lodge Session was the installation of this year's District Deputies. Once again New Jersey positioned themselves in the front row to be installed by Grand Exalted Ruler Randy P. Shook. Congratulations and good luck to our District Deputies.

## Convention Committee N.J. Elks Get "All Shook Up"

BY THOMAS M. ZISA, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE GRAND FORUM

**T**he NJSEA Fall Conference will be held on November 10th – 12th, 2023. We will, again, be staying at the beautiful Ocean Place Resort and Spa in Long Branch, New Jersey. Our Grand Exalted Randy P. Shook of Lawrenceburg Lodge No. 2206, together with his lovely wife Wanda, will be joining us. To quote Elvis, N.J. Elks are going to get "All Shook Up" during their visit.

Your Convention Committee has made all the arrangements for a fantastic conference. We will begin the weekend on Friday evening with the annual Memorial Service to honor those Past Exalted Rulers we lost during the previous year. After the Memorial Service it will be time to relax, enjoy each other's company and have some fun at our Picnic Party, complete with food, music, & dancing. The dress for the party is casual.

On Saturday morning, starting at 7 AM, there will be a continental breakfast for all attendees. Registration of members will open at 8 AM and the Business Session will begin at 8:30 AM sharp. The State Association Luncheon will be held at noon, following the Business Session. The State President has arranged for a very informative afternoon breakout session. The State Flag Charge and 11th Hour Toast Contest will also be held Saturday afternoon. Be sure to attend to support your district's contestants. Saturday evening, we will hold our State Association Banquet honoring our Grand Exalted Ruler and his wife to close out the conference. Without question this year's Fall Conference will be a great weekend filled with fun, food, friendship, and a whole lot of New Jersey Elks charity.

At the Fall Conference, many of our State Committees will have exhibits set up in the foyer adjacent to the hotel ballrooms. The Convention Committee will have shirts, ties, scarves, and other apparel available for purchase. Please be sure to visit all the committee exhibits.

For those of you who want to plan ahead, the 2024 Grand Lodge Convention will be held June 30th – July 3rd in Austin, TX. Austin is the state capital of Texas and is known as the Live Music Capital of the World. Austin has many one-of-a-kind breweries, great restaurants, music and nightlife. Austin is also the home to many amazing murals, unbelievable shopping, a ballet, world-class museums, and beautiful outdoor spaces.

As always, your Convention Committee is working hard for you, the members. It is and has always been our main goal to make each Convention, Conference or Reunion better than the one before and a memorable one for everyone that attends.



State President Joseph Pedone stood ready to participate in Opening Ceremonies of the Grand Lodge Session in Minneapolis. State President Joe continued the tradition of signing the state flag and placing his pin on the flag pole.





Vice Presidents for 2023-2024 pictured left to right: Dan Erickson, West Central District; Terri Haremza, Southwest District; Frank Scotto, Southeast District; Kevin Pent, South Central District; Jerry Krause, South District; Gail Ricart, Central District; Joseph Pedone, President; Patricia "Sissy" Stuart, East District; Hank Bedlivi, East Central District; Ken Hensley, North District; Michael Corbosiero, North Central District; Arthur Andreano, Northeast District; and Jennifer Appaluccio, Northwest District.



State Officers for 2023-2024 at Saturday's Installation of Officers. Pictured left to right: Ken Reynolds, Sergeant-At-Arms; Ken Low, Treasurer; Dan DeZaio, Inner Guard; Elyse Russo, Chaplain; Sue Dupas, Secretary; Joseph Pedone, President; Rita Massimi, Administrative Assistant; Frank Petrucci, Organist; and Peter Appaluccio, Tiler.



State Trustees installed are pictured left to right: Patrick Maher, East District; Arlene Hickman, South District; Joseph Pedone, State President; Jayne McLaughlin, Northeast District; and James DePalma, North District.

## Parade Committee

BY STEPHEN HOLLER, STATE CHAIRPERSON

**T**he New Jersey Elks held a great parade in Wildwood! This year there were 12 floats and 24 bands. The 63rd Army Band led the parade. The parade committee would like to congratulate all the award winners, especially Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 782 for winning the Governor's Trophy 3 years in a row. Below are the 6 places for the Governor's Trophy:

- 6th Place - Millville Lodge No. 580
- 5th Place - Greater Wildwood No. 1896
- 4th Place - Clayton Lodge No. 2132
- 3rd Place - New Egypt No. 2457
- 2nd Place - Bordentown No. 2085 (Wildwood Cup)
- 1st Place - Lake Hopatcong No. 782 (Governor's Trophy)



New Jersey Elks...The Cornerstone of Charity was the theme selected for this year's parade. The theme was beautifully depicted by float entry for Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 782.



The New Jersey State Elks Association was honored to have the 63rd Army Band of the New Jersey National Guard lead our Parade on Saturday.

The 2024 parade will be another great parade. The parade committee is committed to having well trained Marshalls. We hope to have 3-4 Marshalls per District. Training will be provided by our Marshall Coordinator, Pat DeLuca, in early Spring 2024.

The parade raffle was a great success and I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our lodges and districts for their support. The next parade theme will be announced at Fall Conference. All new 2024 parade forms will be posted on our NJSEA website. I am looking forward to a successful 2024 parade!



# Membership

BY CHUCK CRERAND, STATE CHAIRPERSON

In 2023-2024, we are pushing for a third year of 3,000+ new members. It would be our first time in NJSEA history to do so. I have complete confidence in our state to pull it off.

This year, more than in years past, we have so many tools at our disposal, starting with Grand Lodge Shareables. These are social media artworks for all of us to use on all social media platforms and they are updated monthly. You can also have them personalize for your needs. I love seeing the creativity at so many of our Lodges.

Next, we have the Grand Lodge Billing Program. When lodges participate in this program, Grand Lodge sends out the dues notice mailings for the lodge. You can use this to your advantage and time your phone calls to your delinquent members as follow ups to the letter.

Finally, we have a new tool at our disposal. The CLMS Candidate Report. This is a report based on the information that the lodge secretaries input into CLMS. This helps all levels of our membership focus on where we are needed most.

By now you probably have seen my weekly short videos on membership. I'm no "Joe on the go", but these really seem to get everyone focused and feeling great about what the Membership Committee is all about. Watch the videos and you may learn a few tricks to help your lodge or district to get the numbers up. Also, you never know when I'll pop into your area ready to film.

I am proud and excited to be the State Chairperson of Membership and even more so with this stellar team of Region and District Chairs.

Remember Initiate, Initiate, Initiate  
Ready, Set, Grow, 3 in a row!

# Public Relations & Marketing

BY MARYANN APPLGATE, STATE CHAIRPERSON

Grand Lodge has been reporting that it has been at least 40 years since our Order has had a gain in membership three years in a row. Through our successful Membership and Marketing (public relations) Committee, the NJSEA has accomplished a gain in membership for the past two years!!

If we continue our current trend by recruiting new members, there is no reason that our state won't achieve a membership gain for three years in a row.

Our social media pages provide all the tools and inspiration needed to assist you in attracting your friends and family into becoming a member of our Order. The Public Relations Committee regularly posts MEME's, Facebook posts, Sharable Sundays, Membership Monday, Thankful Thursday, Famous Elk and Wear RED Fridays. When the committee sees one of your events posted on Facebook, we will post the corresponding Grand Lodge approved MEME, to complement your event. Please remember to use only Grand Lodge approved or internally created MEMES on social media platforms. Should a MEME posted not be acceptable by Grand Lodge standards, the Lodge will receive a gentle reminder to remove the post. Grand Lodge approved MEMES can be found at: <https://virtualmanuals.elks.org/sharables/?category=all> or scan the QR code to take you right to the site.

If you know a famous Elk and would like them to be recognized, please submit their name. If you need graphics created for your events, please contact us and we will try to get them created as soon as possible for you.

Do not forget to follow 'Jolly Cork' on Facebook to get your new member initiation frame at <https://www.facebook.com/bpoejollycork>.



MEMES



Jolly Cork



# A Family Rooted in Elkdom

Deborah and Jamie England are mother/daughter Exalted Rulers of their respective lodges this year. Deborah is Exalted Ruler of Manahawkin Lodge No. 2340 and Jamie is Exalted Ruler of Hackensack Lodge No. 658.

Jamie and Deborah have similar goals and challenges this year, specifically growing membership and raising money for drug awareness, veterans, and peer leadership. This is a family truly rooted in Elkdom. Deborah's husband, Kim England PER, passed away in December 2021. Ever since then, members have reached out to both of them to check in on them and make sure they were okay. Jamie said it best "The Elks support everybody and everything. When my father passed, the Elks supported us the most. That just proved we were in the right spot."

Deborah and Jamie were featured in the Grand Lodge Sunday Convention News. This is certainly a first in New Jersey to have mother and daughter Exalted Rulers at the same time and it probably is true for the Order as a whole.



# Lacey Lodge Continues To Grow

On a Sunday afternoon in June, 38 brothers and sisters became members of Lacey Lodge No. 2518. Exalted Ruler Michael Zummo and his team of officers conducted the initiation.

Lacey's successful membership drives are spearheaded by Gloria Mako, Membership Committee Chairperson, who gives her tireless efforts to bring in large numbers of new Elks who look forward to infusing new ideas and also supporting current activities at Lacey Lodge.

The ceremony was followed by a relaxing afternoon in the pavilion, as the new Elks became acquainted with other members as well as the many terrific programs and activities that take place in one of the largest Elks lodges in New Jersey. Lacey Lodge's membership is now 2,590!





Members of the Lyndhurst Lodge at their booth with Lyndhurst Chief Of Police Richard Jarvis.



PGER Malcolm J. McPherson Jr. and Elroy

## Lyndhurst Lodge No. 1505

On Tuesday, August 2nd, Lyndhurst Lodge No. 1505 participated in the Lyndhurst Police Department's National Night Out. Members of the Lyndhurst Elks handed out over 125 Lyndhurst Elks bags filled with Drug Awareness coloring books, Drug Awareness book marks and crayons. Members of the community enjoyed meeting Elroy and learning more about the Elks and our Drug Awareness Program.



## Drug Awareness Committee

BY LISA ROVITO, STATE CHAIRPERSON

**T**he Drug Awareness Committee continues to work hard to promote our programs and to educate the youth in our communities about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

The Drug Awareness trailers, tents and Elroy costumes have been visible throughout the state along with lodges distributing literature, coloring books and DAP materials at Community Events and Fairs, most recently at our National Night Out Events.

Most Districts will be holding their Walkout on Drugs Events in the fall. Please support your District's Walkout as it is our state's only major fundraising event for the Path and Peer Leadership Conferences.

On October 1st we will begin the Drug Awareness Poster, Essay and Video Contests and this year's theme is "Be Kind to Your Mind, Live Drug Free". The poster contest is open to third, fourth and fifth grade students; the essay contest is for sixth, seventh and eighth graders; and the video contest is open to all ages through High School. The contest runs through January 31st. State judging will take place during the Peer Leadership Conference in February.

The Path to Leadership one day conference for Middle School students will be held on Thursday, February 1st and the Peer Leadership Conference will be held from February 2nd through 4th. Both will once again be held at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa in Long Branch, NJ. The committee has been busy planning the conferences and has selected powerful speakers for these outstanding and inspirational conferences. Applications will be available and distributed in September.

The Drug Awareness Committee held the 5th Annual Gerry Cook Drug Awareness Golf Outing on Friday October 13th at Farmstead Golf and Country Club. Thank you to everyone who supported that fundraiser.

Please feel free to contact me for literature or more information about our program.

## National Night Out

On August 1st, Bound Brook Lodge No. 1388 set up at the 40th National Night Out hosted by the Bound Brook Police Department. Members distributed over 100 goodie bags complete with Elks Drug Awareness (DAP) coloring books, crayons and educational materials to the families and residents of the community.

Pictured from left to right: Trustee Jennifer Slotterback and Exalted Ruler Gina Hector





## ENF, Elks National Foundation — Is Your Lodge Missing Out?

BY MELISSA COLVIN, STATE CHAIRPERSON

**E**NF offers our lodges the information, guidance, and grant money to pursue our Elk goals. We can make an impact on our communities by following their lead. CIP grants are available to all lodges. Only the Gratitude grant is based on a lodge meeting the GER per-capita of \$4.80 per member. Missing or late final reports make lodges ineligible for future grants. Please make a strong effort to get your reports in on time. If assistance is required, please reach out.

Scholarship applications are now open for the Most Valuable Student and Legacy Scholarships. If a student is close to you, please encourage them to apply. Applications are available on-line at [Elks.org](http://Elks.org).

New Jersey has a very good record of scholarship awards. Legacy scholarships are open to children and grandchildren of an Elk members.

Always think of ENF when you are making personal donations. The scope of ENF touches many. By donating, you are ensuring that our New Jersey lodges and our New Jersey State Projects receive great returns with just a \$10 donation per year. See your lodge representative, donate on-line, mail in a check, or sign up for the Fidelity Club, which is our ENF automatic donation system. Our youth, veterans, communities, and members thank you!



## Spotlight Grant Warm Welcome

Bound Brook Lodge No. 1388 sponsored a “Warm Welcome to the Library” at the Bound Brook Memorial Library. Using funds from their ENF Spotlight Grant, the members of the lodge distributed hats, gloves, scarves as well as ponchos, umbrellas, blankets and school supplies to over 100 children and their families.

Pictured left to right: a member of the Memorial Library and our Elks mascot Elroy aka Past Officer Alfred Maj Jr.



Pictured left to right: Bill Slossar, PER; Msgr. Richard Arnholds, Pastor; and Mary Ann Pindulic, PER, Exalted Ruler.



Pictured left to right: Kara Gilbert, head of the library's youth services; Tammy Malizia, PER and head of the lodge's ENF committee; Albert Bright, Esquire and head of the train project; Allison Ballo, library director; and Denise “Dee” Gonzalez, PER.

## Beacon and Spotlight Grants At Work

Bergenfield Lodge No. 1477 used \$2,000 of their Beacon Grant to assist the food pantry at St. John The Evangelist Church in Bergenfield. The also used their \$2,000 Spotlight Grant to support Bergenfield Public Library's plan to purchase train-themed wall fixtures for the Children's Activity Room.

## Back To School

Lyndhurst Lodge No. 1505 used a portion of their Beacon Grant for their 2nd Annual School Supply Drive Thru. Members passed out over 100 backpacks filled with school supplies to the community.

Pictured left to right: Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., PGER; Meghan McPherson, PDD; Kathryn Kittridge, Trustee; Mallory McPherson, PER, and Clair Hoyt, Exalted Ruler





## ENF Grants Make A Difference

Vineland Lodge No. 1422 donated \$1,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Vineland; \$1,000 to the Vineland Police Athletic League and \$1,000 for the Spirit & Truth Ministries for their Soup Kitchen.

In addition, Vineland Lodge also donated \$500 to the Area 8-Special Olympics and \$4,000 to the NJ Veterans Memorial Home.

These donations were made possible by the Gratitude Grant, Spotlight Grant, and Beacon Grant from Elks National Foundation.

Photo from the NJ Veterans Memorial Home presentation-(left) Joseph Romano, with Gregory Miller, President of Veterans Council, and Lisa Williams, Activities Director.



## South Amboy Lodge No. 784

National Foundations award committee selected Sayreville's Morgan First Aide Squad to receive their Spotlight grant for \$ 2,000. The grant will be used to replenish the supplies used during Covid-19 pandemic.

Photo Caption: left to right is Elks Nationnall Foundation Chairman Valentine Tarr, Exalted Ruler Mellisa Bobbins, First aide volunteer, Vice President Jesica Guarrera, and member Jose Toribi.



## Supporting our First Responders

West Orange Lodge No. 1590 donated a "FAST" fire rescue board to the West Orange Fire Department. This equipment is designed for rescue in situations including hazardous materials, confined spaces, and active shooter. The board will also be used by the Fire Department's Rapid Intervention Team as a training device to help maintain the department's proficiency in all potential rescue situations.

The \$3,000 cost of this equipment was financed through a grant obtained by the Lodge from the Elks National Foundation Community Investments Program.

Pictured in the photo are (l-r) West Orange Fire Captain Omar Guzman, Chief Anthony Vecchio, Lodge ENF Chairman James Cowan, Captain Philip Johnson, Captain Joseph Matullo, Deputy Chief Douglas Johnson, and Lodge Secretary Debbie Wahlers



## Food Pantry Donation

With the assistance of an ENF Gratitude Grant, Mount Holly Lodge No. 848 was able to donate \$1,000 in food including over 40 cases of canned goods, peanut butter, soup & tuna fish, and over 600 rolls of paper products to St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. The food pantry will use these items to help their community in need of assistance with food insecurities.

Pictured left to right: Mary Miller, Lodge member; Hank Cruse, St. Vincent de Paul Volunteer; Kathy Steinberg, St. Vincent de Paul Volunteer; and Howard Davis, Lodge member.

## Kick Into High Gear

On August 4th, Millstone Lodge No. 2613 presented Special Strides with a check for \$4,000 in addition to the money raised at the lodge during the Country Dancing and BBQ event. The lodge was awarded \$6,000 from their combined Beacon and Spotlight ENF grant. \$4,000 went to Special Strides to help pay for hay, horse feed and other items needed to run their facility.

Special Strides is a non-profit dedicated to improving the lives of people with special needs by providing physical, occupational and psychological therapy services as well as adaptive equine-facilitated programs.

They used the remainder of their grant, \$2,000 to host a Back to School, backpack and supply drive. More than 250 backpacks were filled with supplies so that kids can start school with the tools that they need. They partnered with 5Help, a local non-profit, to collect, assemble and distribute these backpacks to area schools.





# NJSEA GIVERS OF HOPE

**N**ovember is National Veterans Remembrance Month. In New Jersey, every month is National Veterans Remembrance month. A key component of the National Veterans Service Committee is the Homeless Veterans Program. This program started in 2017. Last year, the Grand Lodge National Veterans Service Commission sent a film crew to New Jersey to put together a video about our program. At that time, we were given the name, "Givers of Hope". This video was shown at the Sunday opening of the Grand Lodge Session in Minneapolis.

In December of 2022 the NJ State Elks helped their 2000th veteran. To date we have just surpassed 2200. The NJSEA Veteran's Committee raises money to be used to help veterans who are homeless, to prevent homelessness and assist at need Veterans. The committee lives out the creed: As long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.

Our lodges help veterans who were homeless and moving into new housing by providing a "Welcome Home Kit". The lodges both fundraise and use Beacon and Gratitude ENF grants to purchase needed items for the kit. The kit has over 30 different household items which are needed when moving into a new housing such as dishes, bath towels, sheets, bed in a bag, pots, knife sets, cleaning supplies and non-perishable food. The committee also provides brand new furniture to the veteran (bed, couch, end table, coffee table, table with chairs, dresser, night stand, lamps, microwave and air conditioner when needed). The value of all items given to the veteran is approximately \$2000. Elk volunteers load the trucks and deliver and setup the furniture.

The Veterans Committee also helps prevent homelessness by assisting with rent or mortgage payments, paying electric, water and gas bills. Assistance is also provided in the way of hotel rooms while veterans are waiting for housing. They have helped with car repairs and storage unit bills so veterans would not lose their belongings as well as provide food and clothes to veterans in need.

To assist the members of our District Veteran's Committee, there are storage units located throughout the state. There are two units at Marlton Lodge, one 40-foot unit at Old Bridge Lodge, two 20-foot units at Brick Lodge and a storage shed at Lacey Lodge. The committee's main building is in Stirling. The NJSEA Veteran's committee receives all donated items at the Stirling facility and then sends them out to the other units.

The pictures on these pages represent only a small number of the elks in every one of our Districts that have stepped up time and time again to give hope to a veteran. The committee estimates that over 550 elks have participated in at least one move-in while others have been on every one in their District. The National Veterans' Service Committee could not continue to give hope to our homeless veterans without these dedicated volunteers. For additional information please check out the website for information about our program is [www.njelksnvsc.com](http://www.njelksnvsc.com). You can email the committee at: [njelksnvsc@gmail.com](mailto:njelksnvsc@gmail.com).



## Thank you NJSEA Givers Of Hope

There are no words needed for this picture of a Veteran in his apartment.



### Northwest District

Pictured left to right: Jim Keating, Rick Periu, Michael Outer, Ashley Outer, and Steve Clark, Sussex Lodge; John Middleton, Sparta Lodge; Helene Walsh and Sharon Sullivan, Hackettstown Lodge.



### North District

Pictured left to right: Beverly Mancini, PER Park Ridge Lodge; Mark Morelli and Peter Thiele, Park Ridge, Veteran; Janet DeRitter, Past First Lady and Roy R. DeRitter, PGELK, Passaic Valley Lodge; and Ken Reynolds, PDD Park Ridge Lodge.



### South District

Pictured left to right: First Row - Bill Flick, Cape May Lodge; Veteran Reaves; Shaner Brown, Egg Harbor Lodge. Second row - Walt Lesyk, Jr. South District Veterans Chairperson; Denay Marino, Cape May Lodge; and Veteran's wife.





### North Central District

Pictured left to right: Rich Reinhardt Jr and James Bolen, Greater Essex Lodge; Chris Pasquarelli PER, Kearny- Belleville Lodge; Richard Reinhardt PDD, Greater Essex Lodge; Veteran-Richard, William Dow Jr PDD, Kearny-Belleville Lodge; Jeff Bryant, So. Orange Lodge; Don Lodge PER, West Orange Lodge; and Melanie Pasquarelli, Kearny-Belleville Lodge. Kneeling- David Armstrong, ER Greater Essex Lodge; James Walsh PDD, So. Orange Lodge; and Mike Corbosiero, Cedar Grove Lodge.



### East Central District

Pictured left to right: Donna Gomez, Cranford Lodge; Adam Smith, Cranford Lodge; Rocco Dipiano, Summit Lodge; Doreen Duffy, PDD Rahway Lodge; Veteran Bruce, Mike Kukan, Mountainside Lodge; Ed Romeo, Stirling Lodge; Annie Bergin, Cranford Lodge; and Melissa Hoffman, Cranford Lodge.



### Central District

Part of the District Team left to right: Dan Larsen and David Lewis, Watchung Hills Sharon McGreevy, NJ Re-entry Program; and Veteran.



### Southeast District

Ryland Berry, Howell Lodge; Charlie Willever, Point Pleasant Lodge; Don Tonachio, Lacey Lodge.



### East District

Front row left-right: Stephanie Conti-Lazauskas, ER Tenafly Lodge; Pam Flaim and Joey Losauer, Greater Palisades. Standing Second Mark Brownlee, Tenafly Lodge; Raeann Hemple, ED Veterans Chair Bayonne Lodge; Maria Veteran; Ray Kingsbury and Kim Kingsbury, PDD, Weehawken Lodge. Back row Mark Wrinngton, ER, Greater Palisades; Helen Lyons, Anthony Mac, and Sean Genero, Tenafly Lodge.



### West Central District

Pictured left to right: Mike Forristel, Manville-Hillsborough Lodge; Tom Pelican, Somerville Lodge; Rich Turner, Ed Leib, Manville-Hillsborough Lodge; Tim Burns, Somerville Lodge; and Patty Yanotta and Joe Hanover, Manville-Hillsborough Lodge.



### Southwest District

Pictured left to right: Margaret Powell and Stan Reynolds, New Egypt Lodge; Cris Huling, Hightstown Lodge; Gina Melon, New Egypt Lodge; Veteran Alfred; Hank Elmer, Bordentown Lodge; Rose Romaine, Bob Mel, and Joe Hawkins, Hamilton Lodge; and Bruce Forcier, Marlton Lodge.



### Northeast District

Pictured left to right: Josephine Gagliano, PER, Mike Cellitti, Cory Hoefling, and Richard Tabuchuk, PSP/ Grand Trustee, Rutherford Lodge; Greg Cross, Stirling Lodge; and Jessica Rodriguez, Rutheford.



### South Central District

Pictured are members of the South Central District. Freehold Lodge: Mary M., Annemarie, Mikey Bones; Long Branch Lodge: Mike Veth; Jamesburg Lodge: Tom C, Bob M, Ellen Q; Keyport Lodge: Kim, Rich and Dawn Brady, and Mike R; Old Bridge Lodge: Frank B, Michelle Z, Julie H, Steve N, Christine P and Mike F.





## Bingo!

After almost three years, the East District held their first Bingo since Covid-19 at the Paramus Veterans' Home on July 25th. Members of Greater Palisades, Ridgefield Park, and Tenaflly lodges along with Steve Daly DDGER, Dick Tabbachino, PGLC/PSP, and Patricia Stuart, VP assisted with Bingo. Everyone was so thankful to spend time with our Veterans.



## Picnic Fundraiser to aid Homeless Veterans

Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 Veterans' Committee recently ran a very successful Pig Roast and BBQ in spite of the constant rain. The delicious fresh pork, burgers and hot dogs, along with many delectable salads and desserts, were enjoyed by the generous patrons who ate comfortably inside the lodge. Most of the food and desserts were donated by members which help the Veterans Committee to achieve a healthy profit for the event.

Proceeds will be used to purchase needed home supplies (small appliances, cleaning tools and liquids, along with bedding, towels, dishes, etc.) adding to furniture bought by other lodges in the North Central District. The furniture and supplies were donated to previously homeless veterans in NJ who finally got housing through the VA Hospital in East Orange, NJ.

Pictured is Veterans Chairperson Michael S. Corbosiero giving his approval of the successful cooking of a fresh pig.



## Supplies For Veterans

Mount Holly Lodge No. 848 Veteran's Committee traveled to the Vineland Veterans Home to donate \$1,000 worth of much needed supplies such as batteries, slippers, personal grooming items and snacks thanks to funds received from the Gratitude Grant.

Pictured Left to Right: Maria Rodriguez (supervisor of recreation), Mary Miller, and Howard Davis, Veterans Chairperson.



## ENF Goes to the Dogs

Bordentown Lodge No. 2085 Veteran's Committee recently presented a check for \$2,000 to Alpha Bravo Canine at Strolling for Service Dog fundraiser event.

Pictured left to right: Charlotte Elmer, Hank Elmer, Sandy Schemelia Veterans Committee Chairperson, Jennifer Green - Founder and Director of Training for Alpha Bravo Canine (Stryker) in the middle, Cindy Groffie, Jody Turner and Jim Turner.



Al and Charlie. Roommates at VVMH. Charlie is the 100+ young veteran and Al not far behind.



Left front is Wayne Walker and right front John McCallum. Others are Craig, Bob, Charlie and Chip.

## Fishing and Friendship

Manahawkin Lodge No. 2340 recently held their annual Veterans' Fishing Trip aboard the Miss Barnegat Light, sailing from Viking Village in Barnegat Light. This event was made possible through the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and the Lodge's charity fund. The guests were from Vineland Veterans Memorial Home, Veterans Haven South, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, MA22 Operation Hook-It and Wild Jaeger Veteran Adventures. Lunch was provided on board while our 54 guests enjoyed the beautiful day on the water. Many of the veterans enjoyed the fun Fishing Tournament and had entries of skate, junkfish, fluke, flounder, dogfish and others. All guests returned to the lodge for hospitality and friendship.





## Jim Hall Homeless Veterans Fundraiser

BY CHRIS RUSSO

**T**he 9th Annual Jim Hall Memorial Event for Homeless Veterans was held in June. The event started out with a scenic ride to Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Upon arrival at the cemetery, a wreath was placed at the Elks Veterans Monument and a ceremony was led by our State Chaplain, Elyse Russo, PER.

Once the ceremony ended, everyone met back at Brick Lodge No. 2151, where a few hundred members and guests gathered for the barbeque. This year was the first year that there was a donation line at the event and it was extremely overwhelming with the generous donations from across our great state. At the end of the day, a tentative amount of about \$160,000 was collected. With many donations still coming in, we will have a grand total to announce at Fall Conference in November.

We thank all that made these donations, bought shirts, attended the main event as well as the kick-off parties held in both North and South. Without your support to this legacy left by our dear friend PSP Jim Hall, we could not be as successful and continue to be The Givers of Hope.

## National Veterans Service

BY DON TONACHIO, STATE CHAIRPERSON

**T**he National Veterans Service Commission has grown by leaps and bounds, and we are just so proud! Just a few short years ago this state committee helped a few Veterans in need, but the emphasis was providing commissary and incidental needs of those housed in state and VA homes. We have taken on a new role over the last few years and have grown into a National award-winning committee with help coming from most of our lodges either through donations, grants or just raw muscle.

We help veterans in need with home repairs, paying bills, providing food, emergency assistance and our main mission, working with the VA to house former homeless veterans and their families. We started with our rehousing mission about 5 years ago with 4 people and our own vehicles traveling the state, picking up used furniture and redelivering it to veterans with nothing in their home. We now have, I estimate, over 100 volunteers from our lodges who pick up, assemble and deliver brand new furniture, beds and our Welcome Home Kit which contains over 50 items including microwaves and air conditioners when needed.

Most deliveries in just items are valued at over \$1800.00. Unlike most things we do in Elksdom making deliveries can be very labor intensive at times walking up 3 flights of stairs with furniture and kits. I never hear our members complain about that, they just tell the stories of veterans who for some reason have fallen on hard times and are so very appreciative of our help. We just finished a delivery to a Vietnam Veteran who had received a bronze star and a purple heart. He was living in his car, but now has a home. I am proud to say we are about to pass 2200 veterans and families helped. The first 15 days in August alone had us helping 23 veterans.

I would be remiss to not thank our great committee with so many wonderful leaders and our fantastic members who constantly step forward, giving up their time to make these deliveries to those who really need our help. You truly are the “Givers of Hope”.

## Menlo Park Vets Visit Lodge

Piscataway Lodge No. 2414 recently hosted a dinner for our veterans from Menlo Park Veterans’ Home. The Lodge was honored to have PSP Vicki Watson (a veteran herself), PDD Arleen Hickman, PVP Sal Malinconico, and Central District National Veterans Services District Chairperson Dave Lewis in attendance.

After a welcome by Exalted Ruler Jami Gill and Lodge National Veterans Services Chair, Bill Kleeman (a veteran himself), dinner was served.



Following dinner, the veterans enjoyed several games of Bingo and prizes were awarded to the winners. As our guests prepared to leave, they were presented with a gift bag containing a sweatshirt along with an assortment of snacks and personal items.

Everyone enjoyed the night out and feedback from Menlo Park staff was very positive.

Pictured left to right: NVS District Chairperson Dave Lewis, a veteran, PSP Vicki Watson, and PDD Arlene Hickman.





## Youth Activities

BY JOE DEBONIS, STATE CHAIRPERSON

**T**his was the breakout year for the Tee It Up program. We had four qualifying contests – double the number in previous years – leading up to the state finals at Cedar Creek Gold Course on October 21st. We also had a record number of participants compete in the driving, chipping, putting competition.

The committee had another successful Batters-Up program as well. The state finals were on August 19th at Deerwood Park in Howell followed by the awards ceremony at Howell Lodge No. 2515. Contest winners were awarded trophies and tickets to the Elks Day at the Somerset Patriots. State President Joe Pedone threw out the first pitch and our contest winners were honored in a ceremony before the game. This year's game was our best-attended game with over 300 tickets distributed.

With the end of summer, the Youth Activities Committee starts its school-based activities. Every fall, lodges should be working with the schools in their jurisdiction to reestablish 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 middle school, and one for each elementary school. Winners can be given a certificate or a small gift to recognize their achievement.

Another school-based program is the Karen Minutella Reading Initiative. Last year was the first year that the Youth Activities Committee promoted this program. 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.

Finally, we'll be running another Youth Activities fundraiser this year – tickets should be available soon. Your support will help us raise money to supplement the Batters-Up pitching machine and provide prizes to our various contest winners.



## Celebrating Youth Week

On May 7th, during Long Branch Lodge No. 742 celebration of Youth Week, Leventer Burnley lodge member and scoutmaster for Pack 13 and Troup 148 accepted a proclamation from The City of Long Branch, signed by Mayor John Pallone for the guidance, inspiration and encouragement that our Lodge provided along with character essential for future leadership.

Also, on behalf of NJ State Senator Gopal a resolution of recognition was presented to the Lodge by Michael Illiano, Policy Director for Senator Gopal, for observing Elks National Youth Week with an open house, a chess tournament, a dance party, and a demonstration with information provided by NJ Snake Man. This celebration was attended by over 50 adults and children.



## A Home Run For The Children

Great things are always happening at Greater Essex Lodge No. 21! Recently, they held a barbecue party for the Little League teams they sponsor. It was hard to determine who had more fun – the lodge members or the families. The officers and members were up bright and early setting up and preparing delicious food and treats for the kids including snacks, nachos, freshly baked soft pretzels, burgers, hot dogs and lemon ice. In addition, each player was also given a gift card to Holstens Ice cream shop. It was so rewarding to watch the smiling faces as lodge members played wiffle ball with them in their parking lot.





Members of the newly re-activated Boonton Antler Lodge No. 11. We look forward to seeing what they will accomplish for the lodge and community in the future.

## ANTLERS

BY SHEAN R. OPIE,  
STATE CHAIRPERSON

The New Jersey State Antlers Committee has been working hard all year. The committee had several lodges march in the annual parade in Wildwood. We instituted Paramus Lodge No. 38, reinstated Long Branch Lodge No. 21, and Boonton Lodge No. 11 adding approximately 50 new antlers to our membership. Antlers lodges from across the country have been working hard as always. They have held different fundraisers from bakes sales to car washes that help support what their local community does as well as the Elks.

The state committee has had some antlers be initiated in our order including Red Bank's first Antler President. This is what we, as the committee, strive for and the end result is for Antlers to become Elks.

When it is time to have your local hoop shoot, soccer shoot, and batter up, use your antlers or ask a lodge near you that has antlers to see if you they can assist as well as participate.

As always, if you are interested in starting an Antlers program, the State Committee is here to assist and inform you on how to proceed.



On August 26th, Red Bank Lodge No. 233 initiated 23 members, among those was the first President of Red Bank Antler Lodge 33, Kirk Mannor. It is always great to celebrate an Antler becoming a member of our Order. Pictured is Kirk Mannor with his mom, Chemayne Myers, PER.



Long Branch Lodge No. 742 has reactivated their Antler Lodge No. 21 and recently initiated 10 new antlers. Our Antler program is continuing to grow and we are very excited to hear their ideas and see what events they have planned in the future.



Welcome to the newly instituted Paramus Antler Lodge No. 38.



## Serving Those That Served

Antlers from Hackensack, Manahawkin, Brick, Howell, Long Branch, and Lacey lodges along with their advisors attended the Army Of Hope Picnic. In addition to forming an honor guard for our special guests, the Antlers assisted with serving food and aided the AOH committee throughout the day. There were a total of 52 Antlers in attendance at the picnic.



## Hoop Shoot Committee

BY BARBARA MULLER, STATE CHAIRPERSON

The NJ State Hoop Shoot contest was held on Sunday, February 12th at South Plainfield High School. There were approximate 65 competitors from around the state with over 50 volunteers assisting.

The 6 New Jersey State Champions went on to compete at the Regional Competition held at the Penn State Campus in Wilkes Barre, PA in March. Three of those competitors were from Westwood Lodge with Bayonne, Union, and Somerville Lodges each having 1 competitor. From those six, we are proud to announce that 2 competitors advanced to compete at the National Finals in Chicago, Illinois in April.

Our NJ competitors and their scores at Nationals were:

- Thomas Koch, Boys 10-11 – Westwood Lodge No. 1562– Score 16/25
- Amanda Ciser, Girls 12-13 – Somerville Lodge No. 1068 – Score 19/25

The competition in Chicago was very intense with 3 competitors shooting a perfect score of 25. This was Thomas's first National Competition and Amanda's third. Amanda has one more year to reach her goal of being a National Champion and getting her name in the Basketball Hall of Fame and we look forward to watching Thomas in the future.

Our success starts at the lodge level with the many volunteers who give of their time to support this program. We can do a better job of promoting this program within the schools and communities. This is where the Lodge and District Chairpersons come in. We also need to better educate our Hoop Shoot volunteers so that all contests are run correctly and uniformly.

Lodge Contests should be completed by mid-December 2023 with District Contests completed by mid-January 2024. The schedule for the next level of competition is as follows:

- NJ State Competition to be held at South Plainfield High School on Sunday, February 11th (snow date – Saturday, March 2nd).
- NE Regional Competition to be held in Wilkes Barre, PA on March 15th-16th.
- National Finals Competition to be held in Chicago, IL on April 20th.

The Hoop Shoot Committee is looking forward to another successful season!



## Soccer Committee

BY ALLEN PINDULIC, STATE CHAIRPERSON

**T**he State Soccer Shoot is looking to build on last year's success! We are hoping to increase the participation with the lodges this year. If your lodge is unable to host a soccer shoot, please reach out to your District Chair or Vice President and they will be able to direct you to a lodge that is participating. Just because your lodge is not hosting, does not mean the youth from your community can't participate. They are able to participate at any shoot in your district and your lodge will get credit as long as your paperwork is filled out correctly.

Our Mid-Atlantic Shoot is Scheduled for March 1st - 3rd in York, PA.

Our State Program looks to continue its great success this coming year. If anyone has interest in assisting with our soccer program they can reach out to me directly.

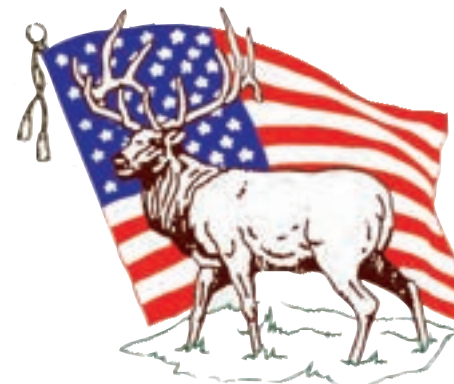


## Answering A Call For Help

Millstone Lodge No. 2613 organized a fundraiser in August for a local mom, fighting a very aggressive form of cancer. Together with support from New Egypt, Marlton, and Woodbridge Lodges along with the Motorcycle Committees, they were able to help raise almost \$5,000. The money raised will help pay Suzy's household and medical bills.

This event brought our Elk community together, doing what we do best, helping someone in our community! From the birth of the idea to execution, Millstone Lodge pulled this amazing event off in less than 3 weeks!

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First Row left to right: Nick Cosimano (Charity Begins At Home Scholarship), Rose Reyes Lopez and Christian Zito (Proud To Be An American Scholarship). Back row left to right: Lodge Scholarship Co-Chairpersons Richard Gallo and Sue Gallo, Exalted Ruler James Gallo.

## Scholarships Awarded

Long Branch Lodge No. 742 presented scholarships to graduating high school recipients on June 21st. Each student was given a scholarship award and a check for \$1,000.

Pictured on right: Alyssa Ruggiero for Community Hero Scholarship.



## Scholarship Committee

BY CHRISTINE SAUER, STATE CHAIRPERSON

### New Jersey Elks Family Scholarship

The application deadline for the 2023 NJ Family Scholarship has passed. The State Judging is in the process of completing their review of the applications and the results will be finalized by the end of August. Applicants will shortly thereafter receive their award of \$900.

### New Jersey Elks Vocational Scholarship

The New Jersey Elks Vocational Scholarship is in the final stage of completion. Recipients of this scholarship award will receive their check at the end of August or the beginning of September, in the amount of \$1,000.

### Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Contest

The 2024 application opened on August 1st. The 2024 application deadline is November 13th. This contest is open to current high school seniors, citizens of the United States and do not need to be related to an Elk member. Male and female compete separately and there will be 500 four-year scholarships to the top-ranking applicants in 2024. Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership and financial need.

### New Jersey Elks Most Valuable Student Contest

The top 24 MVS applications from New Jersey go to the national level and will be awarded \$1,000 a year for four years, this award can be higher if any of these applicants go on to Leadership Weekend. The next 96 runner-ups from our State (48 girls and 48 boys) will be awarded \$700 by the NJ State Elks Association.

### Elks National Foundation Legacy Awards

The 2024 contest and applications will be available on September 1st. For the 2024 contest any child, or grandchild (or step-child, step-grandchild or legal ward) of a living Elk who joined the order prior to April 1, 2021 or a charter member of a lodge that was formed on or after April 1, 2021 is eligible. ENF Legacy Awards for 2024 available to the State of New Jersey is 10. All applications can apply online until February 5th, 11:59 a.m. Pacific Time. For further information and eligibility rules please visit [www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/Legacy.cfm](http://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/Legacy.cfm).



## Recognizing Academic Excellence

Bergenfield Lodge No. 1477 presented five graduating Bergenfield High School seniors with a shared total of \$7,000 in scholarships. Winners holding the sign are, from left, Rebecca Van Tine, Christopher Budiman, Ashlee Juarez, Janecia Bygrave and Sara Valencia.

## Investing in Their Futures

Edison Lodge No. 2487 presented \$1,000 in Scholarship Awards and the Ladies Auxiliary presented \$300 in Scholarship Awards. The awards were presented to Grandma Joy accepting the award for Brady H, Ryan B, Dad John accepting the award for Allison B, Brandon S, Kaitlyn L, Matthew S and the proud parents next to the kids. Back row far left our Exalted Ruler Nick Pelagreno. Not present: Charles T., Madeleine T., and Matthew Y.







<b>Central District</b>	Weehawken #1456			Millville #580	Lakewood #1432
Carteret #2236	<b>East Central District</b>			Penns Grove #1358	Manasquan #2534
Colonia #2282	Cranford #2006	Harrison East Newark #2326	<b>Northwest District</b>	Vineland #1422	Toms River #1875
East Brunswick #2370	Rahway #1075	Kearny-Belleville #1050	Boonton #1405		
Edison #2487	Springfield-Hillside #2004	Lyndhurst #1505	East Hanover #815	<b>South Central District</b>	<b>Southwest District</b>
Metuchen #1914	Stirling #2392	North Arlington #1992	Hackettstown #2331	Eatontown #2402	Bordentown #2085
New Brunswick #324	Summit #1246	Nutley #1290	Lake Hopatcong #782	Freehold #1454	Deptford #2708
Piscataway #2414	Union #1583	South Orange #1154	Livingston #1855	Jamesburg #2180	Hamilton #2262
South Amboy #784	<b>North District</b>	West Orange #1590	Madison #1465	Keyport-Matawan #2030	Marlton #2514
South Plainfield #2298	Mahwah #1941		Parsippany-Troy Hills #2078	Long Branch #742	Mount Holly #848
Watchung Hills #885	Oakland #2167	<b>Northeast District</b>	Sparta #2356	Middletown #2179	New Egypt #2457
Woodbridge #2116	Passaic Valley #2111	Bergenfield #1477	Sussex #2288	Millstone #2613	
	Park Ridge #2234	Clifton-Garfield #1569	<b>South District</b>	Old Bridge #2229	<b>West Central District</b>
<b>East District</b>	Pompton Lakes #1895	Dumont #2593	Brigantine #2428	Red Bank #233	Bound Brook #1388
Bayonne #434	Wayne #2181	Elmwood Park-Paterson #60	Clayton #2132	<b>Southeast District</b>	Clinton #2434
Closter #2304	West Milford #2236	Hackensack #658	Deerfield #733	Asbury Park-Wall #128	Manville-Hillsborough #2119
Greater Palisades #2475	Westwood #1562	Hasbrouck Heights #1962	Egg Harbor #2563	Brick #2151	Princeton #2129
Hoboken #74	<b>North Central District</b>	New Milford-Teaneck #2290	Galloway #2845	Howell #2515	Somerville #1068
Ridgefield Park #1506	Cedar Grove #2237	Paramus #2001	Greater Cape May #2839	Jackson #2744	
Tenafly #2271	Greater Essex #21	Rutherford #547	Greater Wildwood #1896	Lacey #2518	
<b>THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!</b>					



## Auditing & Business Practices

BY MEGHAN MCPHERSON, STATE CHAIRPERSON

**T**he New Jersey Elks State Auditing and Business Practice Committee would like to thank the current District Vice Presidents and District Chairpersons for successfully submitting the first quarter reports. All Committees within each District of the New Jersey State Elks Association (NJSEA) are to report to the Vice President and the District Chairperson of the NJSEA, the Auditing and Business Practices Committee, a quarterly financial reconciliation of all funds, including all cash, in the custody of the District Committee. The second quarter reports will be due on December 15th.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Laws of the Order, all lodges must be in full compliance with the Grand Lodge Financial Reporting System. Compliance requires every Lodge to fully implement and maintain FRS, including use of the current Grand Lodge Chart of Accounts and the submission of the lodge budget, the Lodge Form 990 filed with IRS, a balance sheet that matches the Form 990 filed with the IRS, a starting balance for FRS as of April 1, 2021 and a timely submission and acceptance of the monthly financial reports to Adaptive. The monthly financial results are to be submitted to the FRS by the 3rd Friday of every month.

As a reminder, any lodge that fails to submit its data monthly is subject to a fine of \$100 for each month or portion thereof that the submission is late up to a maximum fine of \$500. Payment of the fine does not relieve the lodge of its duty to file the monthly submission and continued refusal to file will be considered contumacy.

The members of the committee are available to assist your lodge with any questions or concerns.

## TAM Training

BY MARC-ALLYN GLORIANDE, STATE CHAIRPERSON

**A**s of August 1st, we have trained 478 members and employees in 2023.

In early September, all the 1,570 NJSEA TAM certified graduates will be listed on our webpage. The only information appearing will be the date you passed the course and its expiration, your name, and lodge. This is being done as an aid to all Exalted Rulers, House Committees, officers, bartenders, and servers so everyone knows their current status. If someone is not on the list then they are not certified.

In September you will also see the formulation of the 2024 TAM training schedule which will be emailed to the Vice Presidents for their designation of the class location for their district.



## Training Committee

BY MICHAEL PENCHENSKI, STATE CHAIRPERSON

**W**e have entered training season. Our District Deputy and Vice President Clinics as well as the State Training Sessions have begun.

All of us want to do the “right thing.” Respect for each other is entwined with our obligation to Brotherly Love. Let us mentor our new members and teach them our treasured protocols and traditions. Sadly, however, it seems some traditions are slipping away.

Just as a local Lodge Officer meeting can build teamwork, attending training motivates and equips us to be better Leaders. There is so much that separates the B.P.O.E. from other fraternal organizations. We are unique in what we do and how we do it. Since 1868, the 11 O'clock Toast has impressed us and instilled pride in our ranks.

Our Training Committee stands ready to assist District Deputies, Vice Presidents, and District Training Chairpersons with a custom-designed Power Point presentation for your Clinics. Please contact me to add yours to our schedule.

Let's work together to keep our lodges, districts, and state the best they can be.

## Historical Committee

BY TOM GARDNER, STATE CHAIRPERSON

**W**E HAVE A NEW HOME! The new NJ State Historical Museum will be moving to Lacey Lodge No. 2518. After a long search, we were given a very generous offer to host all our displays. We will need a lot of help because our memorabilia has been in storage in multiple locations throughout the state.

We will be meeting to discuss the renovations needed with PGLC/PSP Rich Bard and PDD Don Tonachio to accommodate our museum. Thank you to Rich, Don, and the members of Lacey Lodge for making this happen. This will be an excellent location for our members to come and check out the displays. Lacey Lodge hosts the annual Army of Hope Picnic, John Sentner Last Man Standing fundraiser, and many other lodge, district, and state functions. Hopefully many will come and learn of our state's history while walking away a little bit prouder to be an Elk.

There will be a Grand Re-opening when the museum is ready, and we hope for a great turnout that day. We are still asking lodges for pictures of their buildings and their great Elk works so we can put them on a rotating display on our state website.





## Special Children's Committee

BY ELYSE RUSSO, STATE CHAIRPERSON

**T**hank you to all lodges and districts that donated to Camp Moore and the Miracle on the Mountain Fund at our Wildwood Convention; also to those that provided meals for our campers or a work day or weekend. We also welcomed the opening of the newly renovated Jernick/McPherson Residence Hall. We would like to recognize and thank the John Sentner Memorial Plunge for their generous \$145,000 donation.

Camping season has come to an end. Thank you to Camp Director Todd and Staff for another great season. The 2024 applications will be available soon and will be filed electronically. Please file promptly since there is limited availability. Work volunteers are needed for Fall clean-up weekends.

Each year one male and one female special needs scholar is chosen to receive a \$10,000 scholarship (\$2,500 over 4 years) The 2023 Scholarship Winners are: Joseph Duarte sponsored by South Plainfield Lodge No. 2298 and Sabrina Hughes sponsored by Deptford Lodge No. 2708. The runners-up will receive \$1,000 a year for 4 years. Winners are: Colin Burns sponsored by Deptford Lodge No. 2708 and Erica Dines sponsored by Greater Essex Lodge No. 21. Congratulations to all!

In July, the 24th Annual Miracle Run Event was held. Thank you to those that attended this outstanding event. The 2023-24 Area Ambassadors were introduced and the Committee presented each with gifts.

### Area 1

- Ambassador Quinn Estelle sponsored by Lakewood Lodge No. 1432
- Alternate Olivia Papageorgiou sponsored by Toms River Lodge No. 1875

### Area 2

- Ambassador Paisley MacIntosh sponsored by West Milford Lodge No. 2236
- Alternate Ava Finelli sponsored by Rutherford Lodge No. 547

### Area 3

- Ambassador Angela (Austin) Skolar sponsored by Kearny-Bellville Lodge No. 1050
- Alternate Alyssa Melindra sponsored by South Orange Lodge No. 1154

### Area 4

- Ambassador Liam Donovan sponsored by Rahway Lodge No. 1075
- Alternate Nevaeh Rios sponsored by Carteret Lodge No. 2235

Congratulations Ambassadors, chaperones and sponsoring lodges.





Thank you for supporting the calendar raffle fundraiser and clothing drives which benefits our special children.

Success is possible with your support as we work together for our Special Children.

New Jersey State Elks Association

## SPECIAL CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

### Ambassadors 2023-2024

 <p>Area 1 <b>QUINN ESTELLE</b> Sponsoring Lodge Lakewood #1432</p>	 <p>Area 2 <b>PAISLEY MACINTOSH</b> Sponsoring Lodge West Milford #2236</p>
 <p>Area 3 <b>ANGELA SKOLAR</b> Sponsoring Lodge Kearny-Bellville #1050</p>	 <p>Area 4 <b>LIAM DONOVAN</b> Sponsoring Lodge Rahway #1075</p>

### Elks Help Special Children

- ★ ELKS CAMP MOORE
- ★ EQUIPMENT
- ★ SCHOLARSHIPS
- ★ PROSTHESES
- ★ TREATMENT CENTERS
- ★ TREATMENTS

— HELP US TO HELP THEM —



## SCC Trustees Report

BY DOUG FREUND, SCC TRUSTEE CHAIRPERSON

**A**s we transitioned into our new year of Elksdom, we welcomed Vince Ditta as the new five-year Trustee to the Board for the Special Children's Committee. We also had to bid farewell to outgoing Trustee Bill Applegate. We thank him for his time spent with us and the countless hours he put into making the camp and committee run as smoothly as it does.

Elks Camp Moore continued to see a lot of activity since our last submission. As we continue to revitalize our State's Major Project, it was a welcome sight to see the newly renovated and reconstructed Jernick/McPherson Residence Hall completed in time for the new camping season. The renovations at the camp are truly making the experience more memorable for our children. Once this season concludes we look forward to the start of the Cantoli Hall renovation and the final phase of the revitalization. We are excited to be able to showcase the camp for our special children to our Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady in November. There are always projects and repairs at the camp that need to be completed in the off season, please contact our Property Maintenance Supervisor, Anthony Alfonso Jr., to see how you can help.

We thank the camp staff we had this year. What an amazing job they did putting smiles on the faces of our children. The social media postings of the campers and our smile makers were welcoming. The excitement we saw this year through the photos is truly a blessing and put smiles on our faces as well.

The online camper registration process that was implemented last year has proven to be invaluable in registering campers for the upcoming season. The electronic process eliminated incomplete applications, misplaced applications, and records them in the order that they are received. This software easily follows the previous paper application process and still requires local lodge sponsorship. It was a new process for the local lodge SCC Chairpersons, and with some guidance seemed to work well. It is recommended that each lodge should have at least one person who can provide support with the online application process. If your lodge needs assistance, please reach out to your District Chairperson for guidance.

At the conclusion of every camping season the Board of Trustees start working on the health policy for the next camping season. When the Board completed the health policy for this year's camp sessions, it was decided that vaccinations were still required for all campers, staff, and visitors to the camp and as always, any visitors to the camp needed to be pre-arranged with Camp Director Todd Thompson and have had a recent Covid-19 test. Realizing it was becoming increasingly harder to find a facility to provide free or low cost Covid-19 tests for our families, the board decided that the camp would be providing free Covid-19-Antigen tests for the campers and their immediate family during their arrival.

We continue to work on making sure that all insurance policies for the camp are always up to date and complete as a result of the ever-expanding camp. This year we needed to make sure that our coverage was adequate for our increased footprint in cyber space as a result of the online campership process. Please be assured that the information of our special children and the lodge remains protected and secure.

The Special Children's Calendar Raffle continues to be a wonderful way to support our beloved Elks Camp Moore. Thank you for participating in this fundraiser and congratulations to all. The real winners of this program are our children that we support and the difference that is seen at the camp.

Thank you for all that you do in support of Elks Camp Moore, our Miracle On the Mountain, and our special children. We hope to see you at a fundraiser soon so we can keep putting those smiles on the faces of our special children.

## BBQ Send Off For Camp Moore Campers

Piscataway Lodge No. 2414 holds an annual send-off barbecue for campers attending Camp Moore, their parents and siblings. This year the lodge held the barbecue on Saturday, June 24th. This informal event allows the campers an opportunity to get together and meet other campers sponsored by the lodge who will be attending the camp.

Parents in attendance share their stories about the good times and experiences their child experienced during their time previously at Camp Moore. The barbecue also provides feedback to the Special Children's Committee in order to assist the planning of future events. In addition to the barbecue send-off, the committee sponsored an on-site pizza party at the camp on Sunday, July 30th. The campers and staff were extremely excited and appreciative.



In addition to the barbecue, the committee donated ten iPads to the Bright Beginnings Learning Center located in Piscataway. Members of the committee and lodge delivered the iPads to the Learning Center on Monday, July 31st. The center has been in operation since 1998 and offers two special programs: The Program for Students with Autism and The Program for Students with Multiple Disabilities. The programs provide services to children ages 3 through 13. The iPads are given to each student individually and are used as a communication and learning tool. These iPads are extremely beneficial and aid in each child's development and proficiencies. The students use the iPads while attending school as well as at home. The committee was given a tour of the facility. The faculty and staff were overjoyed and very appreciative of the donation.

Pictured left to right are: Christine Buchek, lodge member; Jami Gill, Exalted Ruler; Dan Pencak, PER; Dave Lindsay, Lodge and District SCC Chair, Rita Massimi, PDD, Ettie Luban, Bright Beginnings Learning Center Speech and Language Pathologist; and Kate Johnson, BBLC Principal.

## Miracle on the Mountain

BY DOMINICK ANNUZZI, JR., STATE COORDINATOR

**T**he Miracle on the Mountain Fund continues to grow due to the dedication from lodges, districts and careful fund management! My Co-Coordinators, PDD Michael Dickie, PER Beth O'Toole and myself, will be attending Vice President Clinics to explain the Mural Project.

Our plan is to educate the members about the Mural Project process and thank them for supporting MOM. Pledges of \$1,000, \$5,000, \$7,500, \$10,000 and \$25,000 can be donated and memorialized on the mural wall located in Buch Hall at Elks Camp Moore.

The MOM Committee will be hosting a Poker Tournament on March 9th at Hasbrouck Heights Lodge No. 1962. Additional information will be available after the Fall Conference. If you need assistance with your new or current pledge information, please reach out to our MOM State Coordinator or your District Special Children's Chairperson.

## New Wheels For School

The Middletown Lodge No. 2179 donated a motorized wheelchair to their past lodge Ambassador, Ethan Tucker. Ethan was accepted to NYU and will need this chair to get to and from his classes. Pictured from left are Michael Dickie, PDD; Ethan Tucker; Colleen Tucker; and Donald Anderson, PER/Exalted Ruler.







## South Central District Donation

The South Central District had a pizza and dance party on August 20th for Adult Week at Camp Moore. With all nine of our district's lodges participating, they were able to present Camp Director Todd Thompson and Elks Camp Moore with a donation of \$1,700!



## Ambassadors Enjoy Miracle Run

Area 3 Ambassador Angela and Alternate Ambassador Alyssa and their families attended Miracle Run in July.

Pictured left to right: Back Row: Wayne McDonnell, PER/Reg 2 SCC Co-Chairperson; William Dow, PDD/Alternate Chaperone for Kearny-Belleville Lodge No. 1050, James Walsh, PDD/Chaperone for Alternate Ambassador. Front Row: Ambassador Angela and Alternate Ambassador Alyssa

## One Fish, Two Fish

Ridgefield Park Lodge No. 1506 recently held their Annual Fishing Day for special needs families and friends. Every lodge in the East District came out to show their support and help bait the lines. Region 2 Antlers Co-Chairman Tom Boyce, PER brought members of the Bergenfield Antlers Lodge No. 35 to help with the event.



## Elks Camp Moore Day At The Beach

Each year, Point Pleasant Lodge No. 1698 hosts the campers, counselors, and staff from Elks Camp Moore for a Day At The Beach. One of the highlights of the day is the First Responders Parade of Trucks. Fire apparatus from surrounding towns descend on Point Pleasant Lodge and assist our special campers onto the trucks. The parade travels through the surrounding towns, complete with sirens. Truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our special children.



## Swing Into Spring For Special Children

Passaic Valley Lodge No. 2111 SCC Chairperson, Alice Filipelli, hosted a Swing Into Spring Event in April. The lodge was decorated with spring décor. Lunch was salad, pasta and meatballs and the afternoon was filled with dancing and fun pictures in the photo booth. It was a great turn out of our membership and most important the families.

When leaving, the special children and adults were given a goody bag. The best part of the afternoon was NJ Elks Region 2 Past Special Children Ambassadors seeing each other for the first time since Covid-19 hit our great country. In attendance was Luis Monje with his mom and dad, Penny and Luis, JJ Howard with his caretakers Francesca and James Cynwar; and Arizona Hal with her mom Sherry. JJ stated my friends Luis is here and then he said Arizona you are so pretty today, It was PRICELESS!!!

Pictured left to right: Luis Monje Sr., Luis Monje Jr., JJ Howard, Francesca Cynwar, Arizona Hal and Sherry Hal.