New Jersey State Elks

Sue Dupas, PDDGER
State Secretary
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Cedar Grove Lodge #2237

November 2026

State President Don:

The New Jersey State Elks Association, which is now in its 113th year of service to our State, is comprised of 104 hardworking and dedicated Elks Lodges. Our current membership is over 58,000 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.

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 7, 2027, the Association will be holding its annual elections. There was one resolution received for the following positions: State President PDD Lisa Rovito, Lake Hopatcong Lodge #782; for State Secretary – Sue Dupas, PDD Cedar Grove Lodge #2237; and for the position of State Treasurer - Kenneth Low, PDD Elmwood Park-Paterson Lodge #60. The positions of State President, State Secretary and State Treasurer are uncontested.

Any qualified member interested in running for District Vice President should have their resolution submitted to myself, their District Vice President, and State President Don Tonachio, no sooner than December 1, 2026, and no later than January 5, 2027. 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.

"Givers of Hope"

There will also be elections for State Trustee in the Central, East Central, North Central and Southeast 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 2027.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

Sue Dupas,

Sue Dupas, PDDGER
State Secretary

New Jersey State Elks

Kenneth G. Low
State Treasurer
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Haskell, NJ 07420

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FALL CONFERENCE 2026

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
2026-2027

State Trustee Report

Fall Conference

November 14, 2026

Grand Exalted Ruler Tim, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm, State President Don, Dignitaries, members all,

The State Trustees responsibility is to compile and present a balanced budget as well as confirm that the Director & Officers Insurance is in effect.

The Trustees held our first meeting on Monday Sept. 21st at the Carteret Lodge. We reviewed the paperwork necessary to complete the Budget for the fraternal year 2027-2028. At our next meeting, we will assign Committees to respective Trustees to contact the State Chairperson for their income and expenses.

A cover letter will accompany the budget forms, explaining how to complete them. Each form must be signed off by the advisors for that committee. If the State Chair is unable to get the advisor to sign the form, a letter from the Advisor sent to the Trustee Secretary and myself will suffice.

The D & O Insurance was renewed in April of 2026.

Respectfully submitted

Betty Bellanca, PDD

State Trustee Chairman

Convention Committee

2026

By Maureen Whalen, Convention Committee Chairperson

As 2026 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 and the different color. Wildwood went off without a problem, and everyone seemed to enjoy their yearly stay at the Jersey shore.

Next, we were on to Chicago, Illinois for our Grand Lodge Convention. The Marriott Marquis Chicago Hotel was conveniently located across the street from the McCormick Convention Center. The people at the Marriott were difficult to work with and the prices were quite high. The city was accessible and everyone seemed to enjoy 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 340 people in attendance at our State Banquet. We will be hosting our Grand Exalted Ruler, Timothy Jaeger and First Lady, Sandy 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 2027 Convention Year. I have submitted our needs and estimates for rooms in Denver, Colorado for our 2027 Grand Lodge Convention and we just heard from Grand Lodge telling us which hotel we have been assigned to. We will soon make plans to go to Denver 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 2026 and we look forward to seeing you in 2027!

NJSEA CONVENTION COMMITTEE
PROPOSED 2027
BUDGET SUMMARY

	Projected 2026	Budget 2026	Budget 2027
Income			
5001 - Wildwood	130,000	150,000	140,000
5002 - Committees	67,000	73,000	71,500
5004 - Grand Lodge	265,000	230,000	280,000
5005 - Fall Conference	158,000	162,000	165,000
Total Income	620,000	615,000	656,500
Expenses			
6001 - Wildwood	67,500	81,500	79,000
6002 - Committeees	50,500	68,000	64,000
6004 - Grand Lodge Convention	278,000	225,000	285,000
6005 - Fall Conference	180,000	197,000	185,000
6020 - G.E.R. Visit	2,500	3,500	3,500
6025 - Administrative Expenses	13,000	15,000	15,000
6030 - Transfer to State Association	25,000	25,000	25,000
Total Expense	616,500	615,000	656,500
Net Income/(Loss)	3,500	0	0

State President Don, honored dignitaries, members all.

The State Americanism Committee continues its efforts to foster the spirit of American pride, patriotism, and civic responsibility through the hard work of our Local Lodge and District Committee chairs. Key highlights and upcoming events include:

- 250th Anniversary Banner Fundraiser Sale: I want to thank the almost 100 Lodges, 4 Districts, and 8 Antler Lodges who participated in the sale which netted a $1,130 profit for the committee.

- Patriotic Ceremonies: Flag Day was celebrated at the Lodge or District level in June. Many Lodges also held or participated in community ceremonies for the 4th of July, as well as memorial services commemorating Patriots Week and 9/11.

- Grand Lodge Essay Contest: The event is currently underway for students in 5th through 8th grade. This year's theme is "Explain a Constitutional Right or Privilege and How It Affects You and Your Family." Essays (up to 300 words) are due to the sponsoring Lodge by December 15 for judging. Top district and state winners will be selected in early 2027. Additionally, as the home state of GL Committee Member, PSP, and Grand Lodge Essay Contest Administrator Vicki Watson, we will have the honor of judging the national winners.

- Americanism Challenge Contest: Sponsored by the NJSEA, this contest recognizes a Lodge from each region for their outstanding program support. The 2025 winners were Brick #2151 (Region 1) and Kearny-Belleville #1050 (Region 2). Please note that there have been changes to the contest dates and additional information that will be posted on the State website shortly.

I'd like to conclude by thanking SP Don for the honor to serve as Chairman of this Committee and to my Advisors, Vicki Watson GLC/PSP, John Szczomak PGLC/PSP and Joe Pedone PSP for their time and wise council.

State President Don, I move that my report be accepted as read and posted on the state website.

Charles Stecher, PVP
State Americanism Committee Chair

New Jersey State Elks

Kevin Pent

State Chairperson – Auditing & Business Practices

The Auditing and Business Practices committee continued the quarterly financial reporting process for all District Charitable Committees. These reports include opening balance, credits, debits, and closing balance. They should be submitted using the formatted excel template that has been provided. It is the responsibility of each District Committee that maintains any cash/bank accounts to submit this report to the District Vice President, and District Auditing and Business Practices Chairperson no later than the 15th of each month. The 2nd Quarter Reports for the months of September, October, and November are due December 15th. I would urge the District Chairperson to be proactive and complete these upon receiving bank statements so the Region and State reports can be completed and submitted in a timely manner for discussion and review by the advisory board.

Each year the IRS Form 990 must be uploaded to the Grand Lodge Website by August 1st. Grand Lodge requires that the Lodge's Federal and State returns be uploaded to elks.org no later than August 1st following the close of the Lodge fiscal year. Grand Lodge does not recognize the Application for an extension. The fiscal year for lodges ends March 31 leaving 4 months to prepare and complete, which should be more than adequate. In addition, please ensure that your lodge Form 990 agrees with FRS Adaptive prior to submission. Failure to file on time with Grand Lodge will and has resulted in the imposition of penalties starting at $100.00 per month or portion thereof that the return is late up to a maximum of $500.00.

After submitting your lodges Form 990, the lodges will receive a report from the Grand Lodge Auditor to the Lodge for fiscal year ending March 31, 2026. If your Lodge's Form 990 does not agree with FRS, your report will be delayed until it agrees. The Lodge Auditing and Business Practices Committee should review the report and address any issues or questions that have been raised by the GL Auditor. During your District Deputy's annual inspection, their auditor will have this information, and you should be prepared to show what corrective actions have been taken.

As a reminder, Monthly submissions for FRS must be e-mailed to Adaptive by the third Friday of the month for the previous month. Lodges not in compliance can and will be fined $100.00 per month fine, up to $500.00 and be required to have a full Audit or Review performed as directed by the State Sponsor.

The State Chairpersons and the District Chairpersons are available for assistance to any District Deputy, District Vice President and/or Lodge, upon their request. I'd like to thank Tom Troutman (Region 1), Mark Wrightington (Region 2), and the District Chairpersons for all their hard work and our State Advisor, John Szczomak,PSP, PGLC, for his support and guidance. Also, a special debt of gratitude to Meghan McPherson, Grand Lodge Auditing and Business Committee Member Area 2 for all her help and support since I became involved with this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Pent - State Chairperson

CLMS
STATE REPORT
FALL CONFERENCE 2026

Our District CLMS Coordinators and team continue to work with our Lodges to resolve outstanding CLMS issues.

On October 14, Advisor Joyce Powell hosted a CLMS Zoom training session for the entire CLMS team. Our goal is to help our Lodges remain in balance . The informative session gave the team practical experience identifying and correcting CLMS errors.

Currently, 12 Lodges remain "Out of Balance," which is one less than last month. Of those, 5 Lodges cannot be corrected until after April 1st, when the final report is submitted, leaving 7 Lodges to address.
I expect this number to decline following our Zoom session.

I will continue contacting the CLMS team monthly and monitoring all "Out of Balance" and other issues requiring correction.

Any secretary needing assistance with CLMS may contact me, Region 1 Coordinator Rita Massimi, or Region 2 Coordinator Laura Cofrancesco.

Once again, I thank my advisors, GLC/PSP Joyce Powell and GLC/PSP Rick Gathen, for their guidance, support and knowledge.

Respectfully Submitted,
Connie Cantwell
NJSEA State CLMS Coordinator

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FALL CONFERENCE DRUG AWARENESS REPORT 2026

The National Drug Awareness Program is thriving in NJ. Our commitment to spreading awareness of the dangers facing our youth today has become evident in our communities through participation with local police, Municipal Alliances, schools and other organizations working toward the same goal!

Our Drug Awareness Poster, Essay and Video Contests have begun. This year's them is "A Healthy Me is Drug Free". Our districts have sent contest information to their schools and also their Antler lodges. Contests run through January and will be judged on Saturday, February 6th, 2027. State winner will be announced at NJ Elks Wildwood Reunion and awards will be presented at that time. Our DAP Contests play an important role in educating our youth and enabling them to make positive life choices.

Nominations for the Enrique Camarena Award are due to me by November 30, 2026. This prestigious award is presented to a member of law enforcement that goes above and beyond in their duties and dedication in the field of drug awareness and prevention. This year's winner is Detective Lieutenant John P. Lesica of the Garfield Police department. Presentation will take place at our business session at Fall Conference following this report.

The State's largest fundraiser for Path to Leadership and Peer Leadershiip is the Walk Out on Drugs. Walk Outs, Cook Outs, Dance Outs, etc., are held each year between April 1 and November 1. As of this report, the State's total is $38,611 and still counting. These funds are used to send students to our Path and Peer Leadership Conferences. Each lodge donating $1,000 provides a scholarship for a student to attend for free. Support for this event is crucial for the continuance of our programs.

Our Path to Leadership and Peer Leadership conferences will be held Feb 4th for Middle School students and Feb 5th thru 7th for High School Students. As of this report we have received 259 Peer Leadership applications for High School Students and have received 86 applications for Path to Leadership. We anticipate another banner year with over 1,000 students attending both conferences combined. Applications are on line for both Path and Peer. The deadline for Peer Leadership is December 15th and the deadline for Path to Leadership is Jan 15th, 2027. For more information on our conferences, please

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visit our Facebook page, Instagram and NJElks.org. Our conferences are paid for by Opioid funding, ENF Gratitude Grants, District, Lodge and member donations. This all makes it possible for the youth of NJ to experience a life changing weekend and in some cases, a life saving weekend!

Respectfully submitted
Mary Ellen Lawrence PER
NJSEA State DAP Chair

Government Relations Report
Fall Conference – November 14, 2026

Every year, New Jersey Elks contribute millions of dollars in time, money, goods, and services to communities throughout our state. Accurate reporting of these charitable contributions is essential to maintaining our tax-exempt status. Today, I want to focus on one important responsibility: **reporting our good works.**

Every lodge should have a Government Relations chair working together with the Exalted Ruler and lodge secretary to ensure all charitable activities are entered into CLMS promptly and regularly. One best practice is for the lodge secretary to provide the Government Relations chair with access to CLMS, allowing that chair to assist with reporting and helping ensure nothing is overlooked.

Our District Chairs, Region Co-Chairs, and I are always available to answer questions and offer guidance.

For the 2025–2026 Elk year, our charitable contributions totaled **$49,563,817.62, ranking second in the nation!** That is an outstanding achievement, and we are well positioned to meet or exceed that amount this year. With consistent reporting and continued dedication, I believe we can surpass **$50 million**.

I want to thank my Region Co-Chairs, Jami Gill and Rick Periu, for their hard work and timely reporting, as well as our committee advisors, Grand Lodge Committeewoman Past State President Peggy Berry and Past Grand Lodge Committeeman Past State President Anthony Alfonso, for their continued support and guidance.

Let's keep up the momentum, record every good deed, and make every contribution count.

I leave you with three words:

Report, report, report!

Respectfully Submitted,
Evelyn D'Antoni, PVP
State Government Relations Chairwoman

12

FALL CONFERENCE REPORT

TO: Donald Tonachio, NJSEA State President

FROM: Jeff Bryant

SUBJECT: Fall Conference 2026 Report

DATE: 10/30/2026

CC: *District Advisors, State Secretary, State Internet Chair, Admin. Assistant*

NJSEA Historical Committee — Summary of 2026 Activities

Based on the January – October 2026 monthly reports and the Wildwood 2026 year-end report, the NJSEA Historical Committee focused on preserving New Jersey Elks history, improving museum exhibits and artifact management, documenting and promoting organization traditions.

- Revived the Floral Bell of Liberty ceremony for Flag Day 2026. Researched the historic 1926 Grand Lodge Ritual of Special Services and obtained a version of the ceremony script from Staten Island Lodge #841. Distributed a revised script (at Wildwood) and encouraged New Jersey lodges to incorporate the optional ceremony into their respective 2026 Flag Day observances and for future years.

- Collected and preserved historical artifacts. Received numerous donated items, including pins, photographs, convention ribbons, brochures, plates, mugs, and lodge anniversary programs. Loaned a ceremonial marching-band drum from Freehold Lodge #1454 for museum display. Acquired additional artifacts from various benefactors throughout the year, including items from closed Wayne Lodge #2181.

- Received a significant collection of Elks magazines. Accepted 57 leather-bound volumes of Elks Magazine dating from 1922 to 1980, donated by Michael Moroney of Lake Hopatcong Lodge #782 in honor of Bud Lotterman of Paterson Lodge #60. The Committee subsequently publicized the generous donation in an article in the Fall 2026 NJ Elks newspaper.

- Advanced the Lodge Pictures initiative. Continued soliciting photographs from New Jersey lodges for the 2025–2026 initiative. The goal is to organize submitted photographs into district-level boards for museum display and create a binder collection. Responses from lodges remained limited.

- Continued investigation and documenting Elks Rests throughout New Jersey. Confirmed seven Elks Rests, photographed the Rests associated with Hoboken, Jersey City, Asbury Park, Lakewood, and Paterson/Elmwood Park, and obtained burial lists for some. The Committee will continue coordination with cemetery administrations, and is planning updated display boards. Home lodges are aware of their respective Rests.

- Staffed public-facing historical displays and events and maintained and improved the State Elks Museum at Lacey Lodge #2518. Refreshed exhibits while staffing the museum for the May "Last Man Standing" event, maintained the museum's displays and facilities, and prepared the museum for the fall and winter seasons. At the June 2026 NJ Reunion in Wildwood, the Committee staffed a display table at the Convention Center, featuring Elks artifacts and distributing commemorative 250th-themed can/bottle holders. Prepared for and staffed the Army of Hope September event. Featured newly received Wayne Lodge artifacts during the event.

The museum continues to welcome visitors with Lacey Lodge's support.

- Organized and safeguarded historical records. Have made artifact inventory and cataloging a principal 2026–2027 objective, beginning with district-level grouping. Purchased two portable hard drives and began backing up Committee digital files.

- Maintained the Historical Committee's online presence. Kept the Committee's pages on the NJ Elks State website current and identified additional pages and features for future development.

- Completed administrative and planning responsibilities. Submitted the 2026–2027 Committee budget, held formal meetings in February and April and informal or telephone-based discussions during other months, and continued reviewing priorities and upcoming activities.

- Supported the preservation of lodge traditions and local history.

Overall:
The Committee's principal accomplishments in 2026 were expanding the historical collection, maintaining the State Museum, advancing documentation of New Jersey Elks Rests, and encouraging the preservation of lodge traditions. Its continuing priorities heading into 2027 are to complete the artifact inventory and digital backups, expand the Lodge Pictures displays, continue Elks Rest research, and develop additional museum and website content.

13

New Jersey State Elks

Joe DeBonis
State Chairperson – Internet Operations
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Jamesburg Lodge #2180

Internet Operations Committee Fall Conference Report, 2026

We're in our second year of trying to get the state website revamped. It's been a larger undertaking than I imagined. We decided that upgrading the underlying content management system that the website is built on not worth the effort, and that we should build a completely new website. It was at last year's fall conference that I asked for the names of any Elks to design websites professionally to reach out to me. I spoke to a handful of people over the last year, and we've finally managed to decide on the functionality that we'd like to have on the new website. We also have worked out the sequence that we should be adding that functionality (i.e. what's necessary, what's nice to have, what would be great to have one day). One of the pieces that every agrees on is that we should have functionality similar to that of the PA Elks website's members-only area which has an online directory for lodge, district, and state committee contacts – essentially everything that is available in the state book.

In the meantime, we've used some artificial intelligence tools to replicate the njelks.org website to a modern Wordpress platform as a proof-of-concept. You can see the work at https://njelks.bd-client.com. The website is not a live production site, so it might be unavailable from time-to-time, but the login accounts from the production site should work on that site. Seeing that what could be done has made us consider using a basic Wordpress CMS and then customizing the appearance and adding custom functionality as needed.

We had a district author meeting in October, and I'd like to hold them more regularly to keep everyone on the same page as we move forward with the new website. We need to make it easier for district authors to add content to the state website.

We updated the link on the website for new account creation. Until the new website is running, if you need an account for NJElks.com, click the link which will open an email message to accounts@njelks.org. Sending that email will open a ticket and notify the team that a new account needs to be created.

The entire Internet Operations team is working hard to disseminate New Jersey Elks information over the state website. Region Co-chairs Dan Boesman and Louis Lusquinos continue to work well together. The committee advisors, Bob Mauro and Joyce Powell continue to be a source of advice, guidance, and enthusiasm for how we can promote the charitable work of the NJ Elks using the internet.

My goal for this year is to stand at the business session in Wildwood in June and talk about what we've accomplished with the new website.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe DeBonis

Joe DeBonis

REPORT OF LAWS COMMITTEE on November 14, 2026
Submitted by Robert F. Binetti, PGLC, Chairman

Good Morning. We will be voting on a Resolution under New Business, which was printed in the State Newspaper, to amend the By-Laws of the New Jersey State Elks Association, amending the Duties of the Elks Youth Tournament Committee to have the term of all committee members continue until June 30, 2026, rather than end in early June upon installation of the new State Elks President, to be voted under new business.

Additionally, our Order is blessed to have many dedicated members with strong commitment and ideals with regard to Elkdom, to the extent that disagreements are sure to occur. When this happens, any disagreement should be resolved without having to seek House Committee sanctions or Local Forum Complaints. Each member and Lodge should always strive to resolve disputes and only resort to House Committee or Local Forum punishments as a last resort.

Lastly, Lodges are reminded that no later than the fifth year following the adoption of By-laws and H ouse Rules, the Lodge must prepare and file a current general revision of Lodge By-Laws and House Rules. The Lodge needs to follow the procedure outlined in Grand Lodge Statute 17.060.

This completes my Report and I respectfully move that it be accepted as presented.

LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT – FALL CONFERENCE 2026-2027

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 providing 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.

Following is the 2026-2027 Contest deadline:

The Lodge Bulletin/Newsletter Contests as well as the Memorial Service Contests are due to your District Lodge Activities Chairperson by February 2nd 2027.

The Community Service & Image Contest is due to your District Lodge Activities Chairperson by March2nd 2027.

Last – but not least, the prestigious 2026-2027 Grand Lodge Contest for the All- American Lodge is due to your District Deputy by April 1st 2027.

This morning, we will be presenting the New Jersey All American Lodge winners for 2025-2026

Elmwood Park Paterson #60 Cedar Grove #2237 Kearney Bellville #1050 Rutherford #547 Middletown #2179 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 Ronald Mangone Michael Penchenski III PSP, Victoria Watson GLC/PSP

Fraternally,
Jayne McLaughlin
Lodge Activities Chairperson

New Lodge Development does not have much to report, but since the beginning of the Elk's year we did have a few verbal discussions of possibly starting a lodge in South NJ. Nothing transpired passed a few conversations with some PSP's in the area.

Please let the members in attendance know that the New Lodge Development Committee is always willing to hear ANY suggestions of new locations in NJ to start New Lodges.

Fraternally,

Michael A. Corbosiero, PDD

State Chair, New Lodge Development

Membership Report

There are many reasons that make the Elks the greatest charitable organization on the planet. Our service to the men and women in uniform is second to none, our dedication to our special children and our State project Camp Moore is a model for others to follow and our long standing in the communities that we serve make each lodge a pillar of hope to all who's lives we touch. All this gets accomplished through a strong and growing membership. These are the building blocks of our order and membership is the foundation upon which it is all built. This is why I have said before that membership is the beating heart of our Order.

How do we grow a strong membership foundation… by working each day to make it a reality. First, we need full participation and cooperation of the lodge officers and every member of the lodge. Members not only must actively recruit their friends and neighbors to join the lodge and hopefully get involved, but along with the officers make the lodge a place where people are comfortable. The lodge should be clean, friendly and have a atmosphere that makes people feel like it is a second home. Remember first impressions are the most lasting! If the first experience is a favorable one members and guests will want to come back and possibly volunteer and bring with them fresh new ideas for your lodge to work with.

Membership grows not only with a great environment but with an easy, smooth and timely process from application to initiation. We need to move the candidates through the process in a reasonable amount of time. Plan initiations on a regular schedule so when the candidate is ready to be initiated, so is the lodge.

Signing up new members is half the battle, now we must keep them active. No lodge wants delinquent members but every lodge has them. Always try to make personal contact with these members and see if the reason they didn't pay their dues can be remedied or if there is a financial or medical problem see if the lodge can be of assistance. Let them know you care and want to help and keep them part of our Elk family, EVERY member is important.

Grand Lodge has so many great programs available to make the job easier all you need to do is check them out and use what works for you. Make the whole experience simple and enjoyable, use the direct billing program to save money and easier to collect dues. Easy is always better.

Thank you for all you do and remember when you walk alone, they hear your footsteps, but when we march together, they hear our thunder. Together we can make NJ the State to beat

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Eglentowicz, PDD

Chairperson State membership and Retention

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

REPORT

The Memorial Committee did an outstanding job preparing the Memorial Service at the mid winter conference, where all the PER's, PVP'S, and PDD'S who passed away this past year, were eulogized.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Memorial Service, as well as the members of the Memorial Committee. I would also like to thank State Secretary Sue Dupas for putting together the names for the Memorial program and the printing of the programs for the Memorial Service.

Finally, I would like to thank my advisor PSDGER Francis J.Decibus for his guidance and leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Veth
State Chairman
Memorial Committee

ENF

Good morning members of the dais and good morning, New Jersey Elks.

Our New Jersey Elks are well on the way to achieving our Grand Exalted Ruler Tim Jaeger's goal of $5.25 per member and will exceed our State President's Don Tonachio's goal of $6.00 per member!
As you know, The Elks National Foundation is the engine behind everything we do. It powers our scholarships, supports our veterans, strengthens our communities, and gives every Lodge the ability to turn compassion into action.
Through ENF grants, our Lodges are feeding families, supporting veterans, investing in our youth and showing our communities exactly who we are.
Last year alone, New Jersey Elks saw $968,000 come back to our Lodges. This year our goal is to receive ONE MILLION DOLLARS in grant money. I encourage all of our grant writers to apply for as many grants possible.
That's not by chance, it's because of you. When you give to ENF, you're not sending money away, you investing right here at home.
And here's the truth-ENF grants fuel membership growth.
They create visibility, relevance and connection. People join what they see and they stay where they feel purpose. When a lodge is visible, engaged and making an impact, people don't just notice, they want to be a part of it. That's the difference.
And it's why Fidelity Club matters.
Five dollars a month, that's it. A small commitment that fuels a big impact, and stronger lodges, across this entire state.
If you are already a member, Thank you. If you're not, what are you waiting for? Join!
Because every dollar fuels a grant, every grant fuels impact, and every act of impact fuels membership.
This is how we lead. This is how we serve This is how we grow. And through the ELKS National Foundation.....
We are the Givers of Hope.
We are the difference!
Ready, Elks, Lets Go!
In closing I hope to see everyone at our Region One and Region Two fundraisers to be announced soon!
I move that this report, as presented and submitted be accepted as read.

Nation Veterans Service Commission

Fellow Elks, I'm proud to share the work of our National Veterans Service Commission in serving Veterans across New Jersey. This year, our volunteers have delivered Welcome Home Kits and furniture and provided assistance when Veterans needed a helping hand. I could not be prouder of this committee and the dedication our members bring to this mission. Your support has made another outstanding year of service possible.

Our largest fundraiser of the year was the 12th Annual Jim Hall Homeless Veteran Ride & Picnic, held on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Brick Elks Lodge 2151. Thank you to the Jim Hall Committee for the time, teamwork, and dedication that make this event a success year after year.

We also introduced a new fundraiser this year: "*A Day at Yankee Stadium*," held on Sunday, June 21, 2026. The Yankees sent us a check for $600.

None of this would be possible without you—our New Jersey Elks members. Your generosity and willingness to volunteer make every delivery, every kit, and every act of assistance possible. We encourage Lodges to apply for grants to help provide Welcome Home Kits and furniture to Veterans. From January through March this year alone, Lodges applied for grants totaling $80,000. Thank you for stepping up to support this work.

We currently provide an average of 10-15 Welcome Home Kits each month, while also responding to requests for financial and hands-on assistance. Including Welcome Home grants, our monthly expenses exceed $30,000. As costs continue to rise, a kit and furniture set for one Veteran now costs $1,600. Your continued support helps us meet these needs and bring hope to the Veterans we serve.

Here are a few examples of what your support has made possible:

Since January 1, 2026, we have completed 115 deliveries to Veterans.

We provided hotel accommodations for a Veteran at a total cost of $1,214.82.

We assisted Veterans who needed air conditioners.

We paid a Veteran's electric bill of $1,578.28.

We distributed backpacks to Veterans.

We paid $4,365.63 for sewer repairs for a Veteran.

We provided water for a Veteran.

We paid the remaining $1,800 in funeral expenses for a Veteran who had no family. He was laid to rest at Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veteran Memorial Cemetery.

Because of you, the New Jersey Elks National Veterans Service Commission remains one of our state's leading nonprofit efforts dedicated to Veterans. Hundreds of members contribute their time, energy, and financial support, helping us respond quickly and make timely deliveries to those who need us most. To every Lodge, every volunteer, and every supporter: thank you for keeping this mission moving forward.

Together, we are the Givers of Hope!

Ed Leib

NJ State NVSC Chairperson

NJSEA VETERANS COMMITTEE
2027 BUDGET

	2026 PROJECTED	2026 BUDGET	2027 BUDGET
National Service Veterans			
NSV Committee Income			
Donations	7,000.00	12,000.00	10,000.00
Interest	15,000.00	10,000.00	15,000.00
Miscelleaneous	0.00	400.00	300.00
	22,000.00	22,400.00	25,300.00
Homeless Vets Income			
Donations	45,000.00	40,000.00	50,000.00
Grants	0.00	17,500.00	10,000.00
Jim Hall Run	140,000.00	180,000.00	185,000.00
Cornhole Tournament	0.00	2,500.00	2,000.00
Merchandise	7,200.00	3,000.00	4,000.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	500.00	500.00
	192,200.00	243,500.00	251,500.00
Annex - Storage Building			
Donations	0.00	200.00	200.00
Total Income	214,200.00	266,100.00	277,000.00
Expenses			
NSV Committee Expense			
Donations	1,000.00	4,000.00	3,000.00
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	250.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Charges	200.00	100.00	300.00
Miscellaneous	1,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
	4,450.00	8,100.00	7,300.00
Homeless Vets Expense			
Public Storage	3,500.00	5,000.00	4,000.00
U-Haul, Gas & Moving Costs	2,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Beds, Kits & Supplies	110,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00
Jim Hall Run	3,500.00	6,000.00	5,500.00
Assistance & Relief	15,000.00	15,000.00	25,000.00
Donations	1,000.00	5,000.00	6,500.00
Merchandise	7,400.00	6,000.00	6,500.00
Trailer	100.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Postage	0.00	100.00	100.00
Bank Charges	100.00	50.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	750.00	3,250.00	2,500.00
	143,350.00	246,400.00	256,200.00
Annex - Storage Building Expense			
Repairs & Improvements	500.00	4,100.00	4,000.00
Utilities	6,400.00	6,500.00	8,500.00
Lease	0.00	1.00	1.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	999.00	999.00
	6,900.00	11,600.00	13,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	154,700.00	266,100.00	277,000.00
NET INCOME	59,500.00	0.00	0.00

New Jersey State Elks Association
Army of Hope Committee
2026 Fall Conference Report

State President Don, distinguished guests, and fellow Elks:

The Army of Hope continues to support Gold Star Families, Severely Wounded Soldiers and their families, and Active Military and their families. Since Wildwood, your generosity has provided assistance with school expenses, temporary hardships, family programs, and opportunities for personal growth.

Our back to school assistance totaled $54,000, providing $1,000 for each of 54 children. The committee also approved holiday gifts of $1,000 per child and increased the holiday gift for each Gold Star Family from $250 to $500.

We provided $5,000 in bereavement assistance, $1,652.50 in one time rental assistance for an active duty service member facing a brief financial hardship due to unexpected circumstances, and $2,918.04 toward an overdue electric bill. These payments addressed immediate needs while respecting the dignity and privacy of those receiving assistance.

In July, we funded the opening dinner for the New Jersey National Guard Family and Youth Camp. We also provided $4,000 for the Benjamin Moore memorial event and scholarship and approved up to $5,500 for the Gold Star Family dinner associated with the New Jersey Run for the Fallen.

Through A Write to Heal, we continued supporting drone training for Severely Wounded Soldiers. Close communication with the program helps ensure that participants meet our eligibility requirements and that assistance supports our mission while giving recipients opportunities to develop useful skills.

Our 22nd Annual Army of Hope Picnic, held September 13 at Lacey Elks Lodge No. 2518, recorded $169,163 in receipts and 1,335 tickets sold in the October 12 financial summary. The Treasurer reported that additional donations continue to arrive, further strengthening the support generated by this year's picnic. We sincerely thank Lacey Lodge, our District Chairs, participating lodges, donors, volunteers, and Antlers for their contributions.

Lodge and district fundraisers continue to sustain our work. We also shared overseas mailing contacts with lodges preparing care packages for deployed service members.

Please bring requests to your Army of Hope Lodge Chair, District Chair, or State Chair. Your awareness, involvement, and generosity help us reach families who need assistance.

Thank you to our State Association leadership, advisors, committee members, and every Elk who makes this work possible. Together, we continue to honor sacrifice through meaningful action.

God bless the families we serve and the United States of America.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Joyce
State Chair, Army of Hope Committee

NJSEA ARMY OF HOPE
2027 BUDGET

Army of Hope	2026 PROJECTED	2026 BUDGET	2027 BUDGET
Income			
Picnic Donations	130,000.00	170,000.00	170,000.00
Picnic Ticket Sales	34,000.00	40,000.00	38,500.00
Picnic Merchandise Sales	9,900.00	16,000.00	14,000.00
Picnic 50/50s	3,400.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Donations	25,000.00	18,500.00	30,000.00
Golf Outing	20,000.00	24,000.00	22,500.00
Merchandise Sales	10,000.00	10,000.00	12,000.00
Interest	7,000.00	9,000.00	10,000.00
Miscelleaneous	-	500.00	1,000.00
	239,300.00	293,000.00	303,000.00
Expenses			
Picnic	14,000.00	13,500.00	14,000.00
Golf Outing	8,500.00	13,500.00	9,000.00
Military and Family Relief	57,000.00	72,500.00	65,000.00
Gold Star Families	33,000.00	9,000.00	33,000.00
Back to School Disbursements	56,000.00	54,000.00	56,000.00
Holiday Disbursements	56,000.00	54,000.00	56,000.00
Merchandise	20,000.00	18,000.00	15,000.00
Donations	50,000.00	52,500.00	50,000.00
Trailer	100.00	250.00	250.00
Shipping Costs To Servicemembers	1,400.00	3,000.00	2,500.00
Bank Charges	400.00	350.00	450.00
Miscellaneous	-	2,000.00	1,000.00
Accountant Fee	-	-	250.00
Office Supplies	100.00	200.00	250.00
Postage	250.00	200.00	300.00
	296,750.00	293,000.00	303,000.00
NET INCOME	(57,450.00)	0.00	0.00

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 23rd 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. State President Don Tonachio 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. 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 and Day 4 were canceled for the first time, due to severe weather conditions. The Team found a safe place to "run" and honor the Heroes of Day 3 and 4; they did video each marker and post to the Run for the Fallen Facebook page to share.

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.

*Brick Lodge held a fundraiser that raised $1500.
*Elk members purchased more than 200 NJRFTF Support shirts
*Elk Lodges hosted many Heroes markers
Greater Wildwood Lodge #1896
Galloway Lodge #2845
Bayville Lodge #2394
Brick Lodge #2151
Manasquan Lodge #2534
Lacey #2518
*Elk Lodges provided meals to the Team
Greater Wildwood Lodge #1896 (breakfast)
Manahawkin Lodge #2340 (breakfast)

*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
This year's support for the NJ Run for the Fallen included:
More than 800 Elk Hours
More than 1800 Elk Miles
More than $2500 in non-cash donations
More than $3000 in cash donations

I would like to thank Advisor GLC/PSP Victoria Watson, District Coordinators, James Prendergast, 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 2026

23

New Jersey State Elks

Dina Zacek
New Jersey State Chairman Parades

(732) 713-7701 - Cell
E-mail: Erdina1213@gmail.com
Springfield/Hillside Lodge # 2004

Parades Committee Fall Conference

Grand Exalted Ruler Bryan, Past Grand Malcolm, State President Don and all,

I want to thank you all for making the 2026 Parade a success. The committee feels that the Parade is moving in the right direction and this year will be even better than last. The committee is working to make a few changes to the 2027 Wildwood Parade.

The updated the rules can be found on the website.

I have a few awards to give out for the Antlers for the 2026 Parade. If your lodge is mentioned, please have a representative. meet me in the back after this report.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the **Parades Committee** for their hard work, countless hours, and dedication—much of which goes unseen. A special thank-you goes to our Advisors, **PSP Diego "Dick" Tabbachino** and **PSP Vicki Watson**, for their invaluable guidance and support.

The **2027 Parade Theme** will be:
"New Jersey Elks – True Americans Serving those in Need."

If anyone has any questions, please reach out to Myself, or any member of the committee.

Fraternally,

Dina Zacek

NJ ELKS 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 been dedicated and donated many hours to editing our newspaper.

The next deadline submission for the Spring Edition will be February 15th 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 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

Fall Public Relations & Marketing Committee Report

Coming home from our Order's July homecoming in Chicago, the energy is still with us.

Grand Lodge reminded us just how large, connected, and proud this organization is. New Jersey Elks were loud and proud—representing our Lodges, our State Association, and the work we do every day.

The 100th Anniversary of the Elks National Memorial was a powerful reminder that the Elks story did not begin with us, but it is ours to carry forward.

One small moment in the Grand Secretary's office captured that perfectly. A blank whiteboard became an impromptu national roll call as Elks added Lodge names and numbers. One signature led to another until it was filled with Lodges from Alaska to New Jersey. Many NJ Lodges proudly left their mark.

That is what it means to be an Elk. You do not simply join a local Lodge. You become part of a nationwide community of nearly 800,000 people, bound by Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity.

And that is our story to tell.

Across New Jersey, Elks support veterans, create opportunities for children, help families, fund scholarships, and strengthen communities. We do not just talk about hope. We put it to work.

NJ Elks: Givers of Hope.

But here is the challenge: too often, our best work is our best-kept secret. If the only people who know what happened are the people already in the Lodge room, we missed an opportunity—to recognize our members, thank our community partners, attract new members, and show our neighbors that the Elks are the premier charitable organization in their community.

Today, people often meet us online before they attend an event, ask about membership, or walk through our doors. Our website, Facebook page, Google Business Profile, online calendar, and email newsletter are our digital doors. Current information, recent photographs, and timely responses say, *We are here. We are active. You are welcome.* Outdated information says something else.

Our job in Public Relations and Marketing is to connect the work with the people who need to see it. Show real Elks doing real work—not just a line of people holding a check. Get the names. Name the Lodge. Tell us who was helped and why it mattered. Numbers tell us the scale of the impact; people give it a heart. And tell the story while it is still news.

Our NJ State Association social-media themes—**We Are the Difference Wednesdays**, **Thankful Thursdays**, **Red Fridays**, **ENF Saturdays**, and timely posts recognizing community needs, historic milestones, and socially significant observances—give every Lodge a ready-made opportunity to tell that story. They also help us spotlight veterans initiatives, youth programs, Red Ribbon Week, holiday outreach, and the many ways Elks show up year-round.

Use the Grand Lodge shareables, but make them local. Add your Lodge photo. Recognize your members and community partners. Invite people to participate. The national message may get attention; the local connection gives people a reason to care.

And please, keep public-facing materials clean, accurate, welcoming, and easy to act on. Use approved Elks logos from logos.elksonline.org for anything the public will see. For internal communication, we already know we are Elks. We do not need an Elks logo on every sheet of paper, and we do not need to turn every flyer into a Picasso-inspired design.

Keep it simple: **Who, What, When, Where, and Why.** Add clear contact information. Use a QR code when it gets someone where they need to go—whether that is registration, tickets, donations, or more information.

Technology is useful. Screens, event boards, social media, and QR codes can keep members connected and help tell our story. Artificial intelligence can help organize a draft, clean up a caption, adapt a press release, or help move a story from one platform to another.

But it needs boundaries. Verify every name, date, quote, and fact. Protect personal information. Do not use AI to create, alter, recreate, or stylize Elks trademarks, emblems, or official imagery. Use the approved files as they were provided.

AI can fix the commas. It cannot understand the handshake, the smile, or the moment someone realizes the Elks showed up for them.

That part still belongs to us.

The Chicago whiteboard reminded us that we are part of something much larger than ourselves.

Technology can open the door. Our stories give people a reason to walk through it.

Find the story. Capture the moment. Name the impact. Share the hope.

NJ Elks: Givers of Hope.

Ready, Elks? Let's go—and let's tell the story.

RITUAL

I would like to start by thanking all the districts for performing our 11 o'clock and flag charge contests. All 12 districts are represented.
We will have the state contest in the Monmouth Ballroom at 4 PM sharp. Please everyone be in the room by 3:45. All contest performers please be in the room by 3:30 pm.
I want to Thank all the district chairs my region 1 and region 2 chair people for keeping our Ritual alive in NJ.
Special thanks to my advisors Past Grand Lodge Lecturing Knight Robert Ricker and Grand Lodge Committee Peggy Berry for their help and guidance.

Rich Zacek
NJ Elks State Ritual Chairman

STATE SAFETY REPORT FALL CONFERENCE 2026

State Safety Committee

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

The Safety Committee is in constant contact this time of year; we review all twelve of our District Deputies safety reports from each of their visits from the various lodges throughout the State. The Safety Committee's main objective is to maintain the highest level of safety for all of our members, guests and employees. Our goal is avoiding any potential hazards before they happen; we stress safety awareness to the lodges and make ourselves available to them for any help or guidance each lodge may need. Happy to report that to date the NJ Elks Association District Deputies have been handing in their DD visit reports with no major issues to this point.
As always, we stress weekly inspections to be done in house by every lodge in the state; we feel safety can be a contagious good habit to all the members in each lodge. The service of alcoholic beverages is one of the biggest concerns we have; we stress the importance that all members involved with the serving of alcohol MUST be T.A.M certified through the NJ Elks. As we head into Fall and Winter months, we will push safety reminders of clearing wet slippery leaves and remove snow and ice, to avoid slip and fall injuries.
I would like to share with all the lodges the ease of use of the Elks.org website page safety/insurance page for any questions that their lodge may have as well as any questions for our safety committee.

Thank you to my Advisors and my Region Chairs

Respectfully submitted
Ken Reynolds
State Safety Chairperson

28

New Jersey State Elks

Karen Imperatrice
State Chairperson – Scholarship
56 Mercury Avenue
Colonia, NJ 07067

Cell: 908-472-8649
Email: Adele319@aol.com
Woodbridge Elks #2116

November 1, 2026

State President Don, dignitaries, and members all,

Here are the updates concerning the completion of the 2026-27 Scholarship season.

For the 2026 New Jersey State Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship, the top 92 applicants were awarded with checks of $700 each and congratulatory letters have been sent out to all the winners. The top two winners have also been sent their checks for $1000. The 11 winners of the New Jersey Elks Vocational Scholarship have also been sent their checks. 55 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 this year for all our scholarships, each district was well represented. Thank you to both our region chairs – Region 1 Heather Pagano & Region 2 Melanie Pasquarelli, 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 2026-2027 Scholarship season is now underway. The Most Valuable Student scholarship contest will close on Thursday, November 12th, 11:59 pm (Pacific Time). 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 students 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 400 college scholarships worth $6,000 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 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 1, 2027, at 11:59 a.m (this is noon mid-day Pacific Time). New Jersey families will be eligible for 10 awards. An additional 103 at-large scholarships will be awarded to the best-scoring applicants, regardless of state.

28

New Jersey State Elks

Karen Imperatrice
State Chairperson – Scholarship
56 Mercury Avenue
Colonia, NJ 07067

Cell: 908-472-8649
Email: Adele319@aol.com
Woodbridge Elks #2116

The 2027 New Jersey Elks Family Scholarships will be available to children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren (stepchildren, step-grandchildren and step-great grandchildren) 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, 2027, to June 30, 2027. Applications will be available online April 15, 2027, at NJElks.org. This year winners will be awarded $900 each.

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, 2027. Applications may be submitted from March 1, 2027 to May 15, 2027. Applications should be sent to the local Elks Lodge where the applicant resides.

The New Jersey Elks State Antler Scholarship is available to New Jersey Antler Lodges. Two $1,000 Scholarships will be awarded per district, one male and one female member. The Scholarship is open from February 15th to March 31st. The completed Scholarship Application needs to be submitted to an Antler Advisor and the form needs to be sent with the application. Student needs to be an Antler member for more than one year. Complete information is on the application. This year 21 scholarships were awarded at $1000 each.

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,

Karen Imperatrice
State Scholarship Chair

"Strengthening Elkdom Through Community Awareness"

29

Special Children's Committee

Fall Conference Report 2026

A special thank you to all the lodges and districts for their support and dedication of our State Major Project, Camp Moore and the Miracle on the Mountain Fund. Hours of fundraising and generous donations, and tireless hours of volunteering allow us to continue our programs and revitalization projects.
Having completed the 2026 camping season, a great round of applause to Todd and his Staff. The 2027 applications will be available soon and will be filed electronically. Please file as soon as possible, due to limited capacity. Also a big shout out to the Lodges and Districts that provided meals and entertainment to the campers and staff.
Every year one male and one female special needs scholar are selected for a $10.000 scholarship ($2,500 over 4 years). The Scholarship Winners this year are: Michael Thomas sponsored by Toms River Lodge No. 1875 and Jessica Theobald sponsored by Hackensack Lodge No. 658. The runners-up will receive $1,000 a year for 4 years. Winners are Jace Gibson sponsored by South Plainfield Lodge No. 2298 and Sophia Arbreit sponsoring lodge Manasquan No. 2534. Congratulations to our winners. Applications will be available early next year for the 2027 program.
On July 26th the Annual Miracle Run event was held at New Egypt Lodge. Thank you to all those who attended. Miracle Run Committee presented each Ambassador and Alternate with gifts. Our 2026-2027 Ambassadors and alternate Ambassadors were introduced at the Annual Meet and Greet on October 18,2026 at Woodbridge Lodge #2116. Congratulations to those selected. The Ambassador program allows children, their families and chaperones to attend many events and fundraisers throughout the great State of New Jersey. Many lasting memories and friendships are created by both Ambassadors and Elks. Lodges should be encouraged to promote this program by contacting schools and holding events and speaking to the community to inform them about what Elks do for Special Children.
Thank you to all the sponsoring Lodges, families of the Ambassadors and Chaperones for their continuing promotion of our program.
A big thank you to all who supported our Bi-Annual Calendar Raffle as well as the Clothing drives which are always a big success. Calendars for the January cycle will be available soon. Lodges are in the process of preparing for next round of Clothing Drives.

Continuing success of our programs is only possible through the support and dedication of all of our members, as we work together to keep the smiles on our Special Children.
I would like to thank the advisors to the committee, PSDGER Francis J. Decibus, PGLC Robert Binetti, PGLC Ron Mangone, and PGLC Anthony Alfonso for all their support and guidance.
Thank you to the Special Children's Committee Trustees, and our entire Special Children's Committee, for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arleen Hickman, PDD, State SCC Chair

30

Elks Camp Moore Board of Trustees
Fall Conference Report

11/14/2026

We have completed our third camping season of zero-dollar cost to the lodges to sponsor a child for our camp sessions. Without the generosity of our lodges and membership, the zero dollar cost would not be a possible.

With the major revitalization coming to an end and the reopening of Cantoil Hall we saw an increase in the numbers of campers attending the summer sessions. Weekly attendance grew by 15/20 camper per week, more than in recent years. There were also over 100 first time campers enjoying what Camp Moore has to offer.

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

The camp's website, **njelkscampmoore.org**. continues to be instrumental for perspective counselors being able to learn about the camp along with families who are looking for information for their child.

The Trustees are in the process of revising the Camp Visitation Letter due to lodges not following Camp rules. Specifically as they relate to food service, food preparation and following the menu regarding dietary needs and allergic awareness. Additionally, unacceptable behavior by members towards staff, counselors and campers has once again been reported. The revised letter will go into greater detail and will be distributed to the District Chairs for further distribution to the lodges.

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

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 date for the annual golf outing fundraiser has been set for Monday April 26th at the Bunker Hill Golf course in Princeton. Thanks to past State President Mike Penchenski for offering his Jamesburg Lodge to hold the luncheon this year. Unfortunately this is due to the fire that destroyed the Edison lodge where the luncheon was previously held.

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

Lastly, thank you for your continued fundraising and donations to Camp Moore and Miracle on the Mountain. As a result our financial condition remains strong, enabling us to put 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

Miracle on the Mountain

This past year, we were fortunate to add 14 blocks, balloons, and other commemorative items to our Wall Mural Project located in the dining hall at Camp Moore. These additions were made possible through the generous donations received at the Fall Conference and in Wildwood.

We currently have additional items waiting to be ordered and are looking forward to seeing what donations are received at this year's Fall Conference so we can continue expanding the project. We also continue to promote clothing drives throughout our Districts and Lodges to raise funds for future donations.

Emails were recently sent to Lodges that have made donations to verify donation amounts and to determine whom they would like to honor or memorialize on their sponsored item.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our advisors for their leadership and guidance, as well as to our Administrative Assistant, Paula, for her dedication and hard work. Special thanks also go to our Region Coordinators, Maureen Quinn, and Greg Scarlato for their continued support and commitment.

Most importantly, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of our Districts and Lodges for their ongoing support of Miracle on the Mountain (M.O.M.) and Camp Moore. Your generosity and dedication help ensure that countless children continue to experience joy, happiness, and unforgettable memories.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickie

INTERNAL - Vertage

Report for Fall Conference - 2026
Challenger Sports Program

We held our Annual Challenger Batter-Up Contest on Sunday, May 31, 2026, at the Old North Wall Little League Fields.

Perhaps I am a bit biased, but I truly believe Challenger Batter-Up is one of the best events the New Jersey State Elks Association offers for our friends with special needs. Each year, regardless of how many participants attend, our athletes take the field and give it their all. Their enthusiasm and sportsmanship embody the true spirit of the Challenger program.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all the volunteers whose time, energy, and commitment made this day possible. I am grateful for each of you. Special thanks also go to Asbury Park–Wall Lodge for once again hosting our awards ceremony and generously providing space and refreshments for our athletes, families, and volunteers. Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

My co-coordinators and I are currently working to secure a location for a Challenger Soccer Shoot in January or February. We are also exploring opportunities to expand the Challenger Sports Program, with the goal of offering our athletes the same range of sporting events available to their neurotypical peers.

Lastly, I would like to recognize my Co-Coordinators: Joe Reese, PVP, of Region 1, and Jon Joshua, PVP, of Region 2. Thank you both for your dedication to this program and for helping us create opportunities, build confidence, and bring smiles to the faces of our athletes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Schoener
State Coordinator, Challenger Sports

MIRACLE RUN COMMITTEE

Fall Conference Report

November 14, 2026

State President Don Tonachio, members all,

This last Miracle Run held at New Egypt lodge. We could not have had a better day for the event, and everything went great throughout the day. Thank you, New Egypt!

But for the last two years with the higher economy, we have been seeing our attendance and raffle ticket sales have been lower than usual, but after you add it all together with our clothing sales and generous donations from the lodges and their MC's. We had decent year!
We would like to thank New Egypt Lodge for hosting the event once again. Thank you to your membership and the members from other lodges who also helped us out. New Egypt it was a pleasure working together with you once again. On behalf of the Miracle Run committee we thank you. Great Job!

Well on to next year, Miracle Run 28! We voted on next year's location, which will be at Old Bridge Lodge #2229. We purchased next year's raffle bike. It is a Denim Blue Harley Davidson Road Glide. Our raffle license application was sent in last week for approval. We usually get our raffle license and RA number in about two weeks, and our printer has our tickets ready to go, as soon as we that number comes in. Our first event to start off the year was on November 7th at Woodbridge Lodge #2116 who hosted our Miracle Madness event once again, excellent job as always! Thank you.

On behalf of the Miracle Run committee we would like to thank all the lodges, with or without a motorcycle committee, for your continual support throughout the years. The crews that come out every year to help us out with the cooking of those famous cheesesteaks, French fries and the burgers and dogs Thank you! and I personally would like to thank everyone that helped in any way throughout the year. To all the motorcycle committees who come help us set up or stay late to help us pack it all up Thank you!

And especially the members of the Miracle Run Committee for your dedication and commitment to our cause, it takes a lot of time out of our personal lives to doing what we do, You guys are the best! Thank you!

Lastly, the Miracle Run committee we would like to thank you all for all the support in helping us present this year's donation to Camp Moore of $ XXXXX

Respectfully summitted

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 2026

Good morning Grand Exalted Ruler Jaeger, PGER, State Sponsor Malcolm, State President Don, Dignitaries, Members and Guests.

The Youth Activities Committee and the Batters-Up program held the State Finals on Saturday August 1st at Deerwood Park in Howell. This year we tried a new format where the awards ceremony and hospitality were held at the field. Everything worked out well and with a few adjustments next year should be even better. Thank you to Howell Lodge #2515 for manning the grills, donating the food and all the supplies needed to make it happen. Contest winners were awarded trophies and tickets to Elks Day at the Somerset Patriots ballpark. State President Don Tonachio 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 Tee It Up committee also held their State Finals on Saturday October 17th at Cedar Creek Golf Course in Bayville. The participants competed in a skills competition involving Driving, Chipping and Putting. Even with the questionable weather, a dozen families still came out with their kids and had a great time. Awards, giveaway items and hospitality were held after the event at Lacey Lodge #2518. Thank you for providing a warm dry place to relax and the food and supplies for lunch.

With the end of summer, and school back in session, lodges should be starting to concentrate on school-based activities. 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, meal at your Lodge or a small gift.to recognize their achievement.

The Youth Activities Committee continues to support the Karen Minutella Reading Initiative. If your lodge is not yet participating, now is the time to start working with school administrators to get approval to come read to the 3rd grade classes in your area. Contact myself or your District Youth Activities chairperson and we can provide your lodge with all the information needed to get started.

Fundraisers are in the planning stages so keep an eye out for the next event.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony Perrone, PDD
NJSEA Youth Activities Chairman

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

The State Antlers Committee is proud to announce that we will awarding 24 $1000 Scholarships again this year to deserving graduating Antlers. We are excited to continue to support our Antlers as they take the next steps in pursuing their educational goals and their future dreams. These scholarships recognize their academic achievements and their dedication to community service, leadership and the Antler core values.

The New Jersey Antlers continue to make a meaningful difference in their communities through service, leadership, and commitment to helping others. Throughout the year, the Antlers have dedicated their time, energy, and talents to a variety of charitable projects, community service initiatives, and activities that encourage leadership, teamwork, and personal growth. Through these experiences, our Antlers are learning that even the smallest act of kindness can make a lasting impact on someone's life.

The Antlers embody service by supporting local organizations, collecting donations for our Veterans, Active Military, and Special Children, serving our Gold Star Families at the Annual Army of Hope Picnic, and assisting at Lodge Soccer Shoot, Hoop Shoot, and Batters Up events. Each project lets members work together, build lasting friendships, and see the importance of giving back to the community. Their dedication and enthusiasm reflect the values of service, charity, and fellowship that are at the heart of the Elks and Antlers organizations.

These accomplishments would not be possible without the continued guidance, encouragement, and support of our dedicated Antlers Advisors, Elk leaders and Lodge members. Their commitment provides our young people with the resources, direction, and opportunities they need to grow into confident, responsible, and compassionate leaders. By investing their time and sharing their knowledge, they help ensure that the spirit of volunteerism and community service continues to thrive and stay true to our motto Antlers Today, Elks Tomorrow.

The New Jersey Antlers program stands at over 700 members across 27 Lodges and is growing every year. The program is about building character, inspiring leadership, creating connections, and empowering young people to recognize the difference they can make in the world around them. Every project completed, every person helped, and every hour volunteered represents another step toward a stronger and more caring community.

With the continued dedication of The New Jersey State Antlers Committee Advisors Tom Zisa and Ron Mangone and Region I Co-Chair Marty Bradley and Region II Co Chair Lisa Rovito, we are only an email or call away we will continue to inspire the next generation of community leaders and Building a Brighter Future, One Antler at a Time!

Respectfully submitted

Tom Boyce, PVP
State Antlers Chair

NJSEA Fall Conference Report

November 2026

The New Jersey State Hoop Shoot Committee has been holding monthly meetings since August. Our goal is to run successful, safe and fun basketball free throw contests for boys and girls ages 8 to 13 at the local, district and state level. Since our program is required by Grand Lodge Statute, one of our other goals is one hundred percent participation by all local lodges.

The Grand Lodge mailed Hoop Shoot materials to each local lodge and district director. Local shoots are underway, and the twelve district directors are scheduling their district shoots, which will commence in December and finish in January 2027. Volunteers are needed at all levels of competition.

The New Jersey State Hoop Shoot will be on Sunday, February 21, 2027, at South Plainfield High School in South Plainfield, NJ. 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 the NJ state contest advance to the Regional Competition in Wilkes-Barre, PA, in March 2027; these winners advance to the National contest in Chicago in April of 2027. Last year New Jersey sponsored 4 contestants at the national competition in Chicago, one of them taking the 8- to 9-Year-Old Girls National Championship.

To conclude, I believe the program will have a productive 2026-2027 year, and New Jersey will have a very good chance of repeating last year's successes in Chicago.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

State Soccer Shoot Committee

The State Soccer Shoot Committee meets on the last Monday of the month, July through February, at the Asbury/Wall lodge. The contest measures the ability of the contestant to score goals. U8 will shoot at small goals, and U10 to U16 will shoot at a regulation-size goal with a grid attached for point calculation.

The Lodge contests are held in September through October, followed by the district contests in October through December. 11 of 12 Districts are scheduled to hold contests this year.

The State contest will be held in Manasquan in early January. At the Manasquan High School Fieldhouse, the awards are given out at the Manasquan lodge after the shoot. The State winners moved on to the Mid-Atlantic National Regional in York, Pa., which will be held on March 6th, 2027.

Mike Walsh, State Soccer Shoot Chair.

NJSEA Youth Sports Tournament 2026 Fall Conference Report:

November 1, 2026

1) NJSEA Youth Sports Tournament had two very successful 2026 events…the Reggie Craig Charity Golf Tournament on June 4, 2026, at the Avalon Golf Club. The Wednesday before our Wildwood Reunion Weekend, and our primary event the Youth Sports Tournament which took place on Monday, June 29, 2026.
2) The committee has met regarding an analysis of our noteworthy successes during this Elk year and planning improvements for our 2027 events. The improvements are being implemented and will continue to be implemented going forward during the remainder of CY 2026 and during CY 2027.
3) The Committee profusely thanks all the individuals and Lodges who supported our events in 2026 and look forward to continuing support from our Elk family during CY 27.
4) We will be disseminating 'save the date's' flyers regarding our CY 27 events in the very near future.
5) Please disseminate these 'pre-flyers' to all your Lodge members and to the communities we serve throughout NJ.
6) The Committee welcomes any member of our Association to join our committee.
7) We particularly thank our incredible Advisors, Rich Bard-PSP of our Lacey Lodge 2418 and Bob Binetti PSP of our Rutherford Lodge 547 . Their outstanding guidance and incredible patience (particularly with me…lol…) made our 2026 events as successful as they were and their continuing efforts will make our 2027 events even more successful.

President Don, I put forth a motion that our report be accepted as presented and published on our State Website.

Respectfully submitted:

Hank Bedlivy-PDD

NJSEA YST Chair

Training

The State Training committee held sessions on October 26th in Toms River and October 27th at Union. The topics for the evenings were ABC, Legalized games of chance, Trademarks/logo usage, Electronic membership cards, Protocol and Marijuana. Total attendance for the sessions was over 180 members, thank you to those who came out for either session. 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 addition sessions for 2027.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Dunnder
State Chairman-Training

40

To: Don Tonachio, State President

Jamie England Administrative Assistant

CC Robert Mauro PGLC, PSP, Advisor

Michael Penchenski III PSP

William Dow Jr PSP

From: Barbara Monti, Chairman

Committee report: TAM, Fall Conference

The primary goal of the TAM committee is to support the Lodges in promoting responsible alcohol service within the social quarters and at Lodge events. Along with offering tools and techniques, we emphasize the importance of Leadership working alongside the bartenders to address disturbances as a team and ensure a comfortable, welcoming atmosphere for all members and guests.

2026 Stats: We held 12 training sessions, **certifying 706 Elks**

What's New

TAM 2.0: We've welcomed eight new Instructors to the program and updated the overall training format. The registration process has been streamlined, and early feedback has been positive. More Instructors allow greater flexibility in scheduling TAM training.

2027 Schedule We are finalizing the 2027 schedule at the time of this report. Your District class will be held around the same time it has been in previous years.

Look for two evening courses (one in each region) prior to Wildwood. Please ensure all servers and Officers are TAM certified. Evening class registration begins at 6:00 PM, with the class starting promptly at 6:30 PM. TAM certification is a three-hour course.

TAM on Demand In addition to the regularly scheduled District classes, we are offering "TAM on Demand," a training held outside the standard schedule. **A minimum of ten students is required.** If your Lodge needs a class, please contact your Vice President. Vice Presidents should secure a venue and coordinate with the Region Chair to schedule the training.

We look forward to improving this program.
Respectfully Submitted
Barbara Monti, PDD
Chairman, NJSEA TAM program