New Jersey State Elks

Sue Dupas, PDDGER
State Secretary
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Minutes of Wildwood Reunion Business Session
Friday, June 5, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by State President William Dow, Jr.

State President Bill introduced Robert Ricker, Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Lake Hopatcong Lodge #782, Thomas M. Zisa, Associate Justice Grand Forum, Hackensack Lodge #658, Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., Past Grand Exalted Ruler, State Sponsor, Lyndhurst Lodge #1505

The invocation was given by State Chaplain, Alison Fistori. The Colors were presented by Lacey Lodge #2518, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by State Americanism Chairperson Region 2 Diane Sinclair.

Grand Lodge Officers and Committeemen were introduced by State President Bill Dow.
Benjamin Braden Washington State Elks Association State President Elect from Bremerton Lodge #1181 was also present.

A welcome was given by Debbie Sweeney, Exalted Ruler Greater Wildwood Lodge No. 1896. Words of welcome were also given by Toni Fuscellaro, Commissioner of Wildwood Crest and Louis Belasco, Executive Director of the Wildwood Convention Center.

Vincent Solomeno, NJ Commissioner of Veterans Service gave a presentation and presented State President Bill Dow with a Commendation.

Roll Call of Officers was done by State Secretary Sue Dupas. Minutes for the Fall Conference November 15, 2025, Meeting was approved as submitted by State Secretary Sue Dupas, PDD. State Secretary Sue Dupas presented her report. As of May 20, 2026, all 106 Lodges have remitted their State Association Dues. All State Association Cards have either been handed to the Exalted Ruler or mailed to the Lodge Secretaries for distribution to their Lodge PER's. To all Exalted Rulers, if there is a change in your Lodge's Secretary during the Elk year, please email me with the new information. Congratulations State President Mike on a very successful year.

State Secretary Sue Dupas made a motion to accept her report which was Seconded and Approved as printed.

State Treasurer Kenneth Low presented his report which was Seconded and Approved as printed.

State Trustee Chair Arleen Hickman presented her report and the NJSEA Budget for 2026-2027. A motion was made to accept the NJSEA Budget as submitted which was Seconded and Approved. The report for the State Trustees was motioned, seconded, and approved as presented.

The reports of the State Chairpeople were all presented and on the NJSEA Website and were seconded and approved as presented. All donations were read by Administrative Assistant Melanie Pasquarelli. All Committee reports and budgets are on the NJSEA website.

Vince Ditta presented the Camp Moore Trustees Report and the NJSEA Budget for 2026-2027. A motion to accept the Camp Moore Budget as submitted which was Seconded and Approved

PGER Malcolm J. McPherson presented checks from NJ Charities Inc as follows: $120,000 to Camp Moore, $25,000 to Miracle on the Mountain, $125,000 to NJEDDA, and $15,000 to the CTC Academy.

Donations for the Elks National Foundation totaled $50,922.00 and donations to our State Major Project totaled $112,500.00.

The final Credentials Report was given by Chairperson Barbara Monti.

There were no communications to be read.

Good of the Order: Congratulations to Francis J. Decibus Past Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler on his many years of service to the NJSEA.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Association:

A presentation was made to Officer Jayme Higgins, Howell Police Department as the recipient of the Enrique Camarena Award.

The 2025-2026 Awards for Drug Awareness, National Veterans Service, Americanism, Elks National Foundation, Bulletin Contest, Memorial Service Contest, Community Service and Image Contest, Special Children's Committee Awards, and Membership Awards were read and given to the winners.

The State Vice President's presented State President Bill Dow with his Past State President Jewels.

The State Secretary read a resolution which was approved and is attached to the minutes. The State Secretary Sue Dupas also announced the receipts of the session. Total Receipts of the session: $737,840.00.

PGER Malcolm McPherson, State Sponsor: Welcomed Benjamin Braden Washington State Elks Association State President Elect from Bremerton Lodge #1181 and his wife. Thank you to the Lodges for their generous donations. This year we received $1.70 back for every dollar NJ donated. The Charities Inc., committee is made up of 5 Past State Presidents and they oversee the funds. We are second in the nation next to California and Hawaii in membership. They beat us by 100 members. Trought the ENF Grants we received over $1,000,000. Thank you to the Convention Committee for all that they do. Installation is this afternoon and the Parade is tomorrow. We had 1,000 students attend the Peer and Path to Leadership Conferences. The 990 is due by August 1, 2026, please make sure this is submitted or your Lodge will receive a fine. $100.00 per month up to $500.00 maximum. Out of 106 Lodges only one Lodge has not filed, and they are close to having their charter pulled. Please look at your flyers before posting them. AI can change the emblems. Proofread and use common sense. Thank you to each of you for your hard work and dedication carrying out the programs for Grand Lodge. NJSEA is the premier Association in the Country.

State President Bill Dow: Thank you for being the crew out there doing the work. I will have more tonight at the banquet.

Benediction by Frank Tevis, State Chaplain.

President Bill asked for a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Dupas

Sue Dupas, PDDGER
NJSEA State Secretary
Attachment: Wildwood Reunion Resolution 2025

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New Jersey State Elks Association
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
United States of America

Resolution
June 5, 2026

WHEREAS, THE NEW JERSEY STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION is celebrating its 113th Year in 2026-2027; and

WHEREAS, the permanent records of the Association should reflect, in addition to the activities and information set forth in the reports of the various committees, certain honors, events and expressions of gratitude and best wishes.

Now therefore be it resolved by the New Jersey State Elks Association:

That congratulations are extended to the following for the awards and honors:

To the State Membership Committee and all the Exalted Rulers for 2025-2026 for working tirelessly to deliver a plus in membership placing the New Jersey State Elks Association in 2nd place in the nation.

To Hoboken Lodge No. 74 Debra Sikora proposed 66 members #1 in the State. To Coady Brown, Mountainside Lodge #1585 who proposed 39 members #2 in the State. To Henrik Patel, Summit Lodge #1246 who proposed 26 members #3 in the State.

To the members of our Association with total National Foundation contributions of $546.249.29 for the year 2026-2027 ranking us 2nd in the Nation in total dollars contributed.

To the Lodges of our Association who wrote and received over $1,034,100.00 in Elks National Foundation Grants in 2026-2027 allowing them to serve the needs of their communities.

To Boonton Lodge No. 1405 for leading the State Association with a Per-Capita of $81.76.

To Cranford Lodge No. 2006 and Greater Cape May Lodge No. 2839 for tying in the State ENF Chairman's Challenge for 2023-2024. Both with a perfect score of 1000 points.

To the members of our Association for donating $49,225.00 today to the great heart of Elkdom – Elks National Foundation.

To the 92 Most Valuable Student Scholarship recipients from 51 Lodges across our State who will receive $1,750 per year for a total of $7,000. To the 21 Winners of the Antlers Scholarship recipients who will each receive $1,000 for a total of $21,000.00.

To the New Jersey State Elks Association NJ Elk Publication Committee, on receiving a 5 Star rating in the nation.

To The New Jersey State Elks Association Internet Committee on receiving a 5 Star rating in the nation for our State website.

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To the members of the New Jersey State Elks Association for donating $106,250.00 today towards our State Major Project.

To the Officers of Brick Lodge #2151 for their 1st place finish in the State Ritual Contest. Our thoughts and best wishes go with you as you compete in the Grand Lodge Ritual Competition in Chicago, Illinois.

To Exalted Ruler Thomas Flannagan, Long Branch Lodge #742 for his 1st place finish in the State 11 o'clock Toast Competition and to Exalted Ruler Jessica Boudreau Union Lodge #1583 for her 1st place finish in the State Flag Charge Competition. Our thoughts and best wishes go with them as they compete at Grand Lodge in the 11 o'clock Toast and Flag Competition in Chicago, Illinois.

To our National Hoop Shoot Competitor: Marina Abou-Daoud group 8-9 girls sponsored by Lambertville Lodge #1070 for shooting 23 out of 25, then breaking the tie shooting 9 out of 10 at the National Hoop Shoot

To all New Jersey State Elks Association members that received awards today and at the upcoming Grand Lodge Convention in Chicago, Illinois: we extend our heartfelt congratulations to you and your lodges for their exemplary and dedicated service to the Order of Elks.

Now therefore be it further resolved by the New Jersey State Elks Association:

That special thanks and appreciation also be given:

To Our State Sponsor Past Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., and Past First Lady of Elkdom Pat for their leadership, care, and compassion extended to the members of the New Jersey State Elks Association.

To State President Bill Dow, Jr., Kearny/Belleville Lodge No. 1050 for his untiring and dedicated leadership as President of our Association, during the fraternal year 2025-2026.

To our Grand Lodge Committee people: PSP Tom Zisa, Associate Justice of the Grand Forum; PSP Robert Ricker Grand Esteemed Leading Knight, PSP Peggy Berry, Grand Lodge Ritual; PSP Ronald Mangone, Grand Lodge Activities, PSP Joyce Powell, Grand Lodge Public Relations, and Past District Deputy Meghan McPherson Grand Lodge Auditing and Business Practices; for their outstanding work, dedication, and untiring efforts to further the works of our Grand Lodge Programs.

To Lacey Lodge No. 2518 Color Guard, for their most impressive presentation of the colors at this Wildwood Reunion.

To Maureen Whalen, State Convention Committee Chairman and her entire committee for planning and implementing an excellent Wildwood Reunion.

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To Dina Zacek, State Parades Committee Chairman and her entire committee for their efforts with planning our Wildwood Reunion Parade.

To the Past State Presidents of our Association who share their knowledge, guidance, and leadership with our various committees furthering the work of Elkdom in our State.

To the 2025-2026 State Officers, State Chair-People, and District Chair-People for their outstanding work, dedication, and untiring efforts in furthering the goals of the New Jersey State Elks Association and the Grand Lodge Programs.

That the membership of the New Jersey State Elks Association supporting the programs of the State and Grand Lodge under the leadership of Bill Dow Jr., during the Association year 2025-2026, while serving as President of our State Association.

That the hour of eleven will serve all Elkdom with moments of love and memory of our departed members and our sympathies are extended to the families of our members that have passed. May their virtues be written upon the tablets of Love and Memory.

Finally, our deepest appreciation to all the members of our Association who, with their spouses and families, have pledged allegiance under God to the Flag of the United States, the Emblem of our Order and this great Country and the Symbol of Freedom and Liberty throughout the World.

Respectfully submitted for adoption by:

Sue Dupas

Sue Dupas, PDDGER
State Secretary
Dated: June 5, 2026

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