PISCATAWAY LODGE NO. 2414 TAKES FIRST PLACE IN STATE RITUAL CONTEST

Congratulations to the officers of Piscataway Lodge No. 2414 for placing 1st in the NJSEA State Ritual Contest held in February. The team will represent our State Association at the Grand Lodge Ritual Contest in St. Louis, Missouri during the 2019 Grand Lodge Session.

Another year and our Parade Committee is working hard and traveling up and down the Parkway and Turnpike to put together another great parade. The New Jersey State Elks Parade will begin promptly at 12 noon on Saturday June 8th. The Miracle Run will again lead the parade and will be stepping off at 11:50 a.m. In case of bad weather the Police Department will contact us. Please make sure your District Chairperson has a contact number for your lodge so they may get the information to you.

The float judging will be on Saturday June 8th at 8:00 am at the convention center. Don’t forget to bring your resumes. This is the best time to see all the floats. Our live streaming will start here.

Thanks again to Rick and Linda Gathen for streaming the parade on Facebook. It is a great way to see the parade for those who are marching and don’t get to see the floats, hear the bands or watch their friends come down to the parade route. After watching be sure to vote for your fan favorite.

The Award Ceremony will be at the Convention Center also on Saturday June 8th. We will be presenting awards purchased in honor or memory of deserving members of your lodge. The ceremony will begin at approximately 5:00 pm, immediately after the judges finish tabulating the scores. There is plenty of parking and all are welcome to attend.

This year the Antlers from Lake Hopatcong Lodge have volunteered to make district signs. These signs will be posted at the line-up locations to help direct lodges to their proper line-up assignment. Please be at your street assignment at your scheduled time.
New Jersey Elks...where the remarkable happens
Ron Mangone, 2018 – 2019 State President

A year ago, I stood before you and asked you to join me on this once in a lifetime journey. Looking back, I realize that a lot can be accomplished in a year and for that I am thankful to ALL New Jersey Elks. Together we have proven that the remarkable does in deed exist in New Jersey.

I am stepping down from the role of New Jersey State President with a wealth of knowledge, an unbelievable number of new friends, and tons of memories that I will always treasure. This past year has been a fantastic learning experience for which I am thankful for. I have also learned to be more open-minded and to value and consider other ideas resulting in outstanding results.

The passion exhibited in your committee work certainly has made a difference in the lives of others. Together, smiles have been put on the faces of many of our Special Children, whether they were spending time at Camp Moore or enjoying events at our lodges throughout the state. We have continued to separate two words that should never be put together by enabling many of our Veterans to no longer have the word homeless in front of their honorary title. The opening of our Veterans’ Annex is another example of how New Jersey has stepped up this past year and for that I am grateful. Sadly, this year we will be adding to our Run for our Fallen and our Army of Hope list of families with two new markers. Hopefully, their families will know that the Elks will never forget their loved ones.

On another note, this has been a remarkable year for our youth with all of the programs that we as Elks sponsor. The beginning of our TEE it UP Golf skills event and the Youth Tournaments, our Path/Peer Leadership Program, our Public Relations Committee along with their Billboard project, our Americanism Committee, Batters Up Program, Challenger Sports Programs, Drug Awareness, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, and Scholarships. All of these committees helped to shape and encourage our association and those that we serve. Our Elks’ National Foundation has continued to grow and I would be remiss if I did not thank all the lodges that met my goal.

We had a great showing at the 2018 National Convention and I was honored to represent New Jersey as Malcolm took on the role of PAST Grand Exalted Ruler. In addition, I was filled with pride as I watched Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 782 Ritual Team finish nationally in second place. This year, I would like to wish Piscataway Lodge No. 2414 Ritual Team the very best.

Thank you for sharing this year's accomplishments with me. Together, our local communities have flourished and reaped the rewards put forth by the New Jersey Elks. Special thanks to…

…PGER Malcolm and Pat for their encouragement and support.
…the Vice-Presidents, I can't thank you enough for your dedication to promoting our programs and your support.
…the State Officers, thank you for your dedication, loyalty, and support this past year.
…my Administrative Assistant, Hank Elmer, and his wife Charlotte, for all your hard work and companionship.
…all the Past State Presidents for their leadership and guidance this past year.
…all New Jersey Elk members and their families for the kindness, friendship, and courtesies extended to my family. Your enthusiasm and encouragement were greatly appreciated and I am grateful for all your hard work.
…my family for encouraging me and sharing in this once in a lifetime journey.

Lastly, Theresa, Kevin, and I would like to wish State President Elect Anthony Alfonso best wishes for a great year as he travels our great state.

As always, God bless the members of the New Jersey Elks, our Troops, our First Responders, our Special Children and Ambassadors, and God bless America!

Lynda Mayer
Past First Lady of Elkdom
February 15, 1944 – March 26, 2019

Lynda Mayer passed away on Tuesday, March 26, 2019. She was a graduate of Northern Valley Regional High School in Demarest, NJ in 1961. Lynda married Arthur Mayer, Jr formerly of Bergenfield, NJ on October 12, 1963. She was a devoted supporter of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Lynda accompanied RT during his term as State President in 1985-86 and faithfully supported him during his continued service to Elkdom and Grand Lodge serving as First Lady of Elkdom, 2001-2002 during RT’s term as Grand Exalted Ruler.

Loving mother to Jim Mayer and wife Sue of North Attleboro, MA; Lori DeRosa and husband Terence; and David (PER Bergenfield Lodge No. 1477) and his wife Jennifer all of Bergenfield, NJ. Loving grandmother to Rachel and Christian Mayer and Hailey DeRosa. Lynda is also survived by sister-in-law Janet Komisar and husband Andrew of Surf City, NJ. She worked for New York Telephone, Centrac, Bergenfield Lighting and held positions at other small businesses.

Lynda taught Sunday School at the First Congregational Church of Haworth, NJ and was a member of the Bergenfield Emblem Club, Zonta International, and Forked River Garden Club. Her many interests included painting, beach going and sun bathing, avid novel reading, shopping and fashion, boating and fishing with her husband, and spending time with family and friends. The sympathies of the New Jersey State Elks Association are extended to her children and grandchildren.
Grand Lodge Message

By Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., PGER, State Sponsor

Well eleven months have passed and Pat and I are thrilled to be home in New Jersey. I am extremely happy and proud to be the Sponsor of the Best State Association in our Order. We had an unforgettable year serving as Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady. We hope we represented New Jersey the way it should be represented.

The invitations to attend your special events mean a lot to us, however there has been many times we have had to say no, due to multiple events on the same day. We will try our best to attend as many events as we possibly can in the future. However please know that we wish we could be there for all of your events; we are thrilled and proud to see your charitable work and fundraising efforts along with your lodge social events going so well.

While we travelled the country, we tried letting members know that we are accessible, we love meeting and getting to know as many Elks as we can, please don't hesitate to introduce yourself and say hello to us.

On a sad note we must recognize the passing of Lynda Mayer, wife of PGER and our Past State Sponsor Arthur Mayer. RT and Lynda were dedicated to the Elks and were wonderful Ambassadors to the Order and our State. Our sincerest sympathy is extended to their children Jim and Sue Mayer, Lori and Terence DeRosa and David and Jennifer Mayer and their grand children Rachel Mayer, Christian Mayer and Hailey DeRosa. May we remember them always, and those memories be a reminder of the good work we have done, do now and will continue to do in the future.

RT was always proud to be an Elk but even Prouder to be an Elk from New Jersey.

I must congratulate our State President Ronald Mangone, all of his committee people, our District Deputies and our Vice Presidents on another great year in Elkdom. All of our committees worked extremely hard this year, and the results show. Ron and his committee people should be proud of their accomplishments. I would like to personally congratulate and thank our State President Ron and his wife Theresa and their son Kevin for representing the New Jersey State Elks Association.

I would also like to welcome and congratulate our new State President for the fraternal year 2019-2020 Anthony Alfonso. I wish Anthony a wonderful year. I know he will represent us well.

Each of our committees should be truly proud of everything they have done this year, including the Peer Leadership, Walk Out on Drugs, National Service, Army of Hope, Hoop Shoot, Special Children, Sports & Youth, Tournament, Soccer Shoot, Scholarship, Internet, Publication, Public Relations, and Lodge Development. All of our committees deserve congratulations for their hard work and for promoting Elkdom.

I also want to congratulate Amanda Ciser, sponsored by Somerville Lodge No. 1068 on winning the Regional Hoop Shoot Contest in the girls 8/9 years age group and will be representing the State of New Jersey at the Hoop Shoot Finals in Chicago, Illinois.

We must congratulate our Membership Retention Committee. Through the Committee's hard work and each of our members, the State of New Jersey again achieved a gain in membership. As of the date of writing this article, the State of New Jersey had a gain of over 700 members. It is truly a remarkable result. Congratulations to State Chairman Michael Penchenski and the committee for making sure New Jersey achieved a gain in membership. We need to work on membership each day and not wait to the end of the year. Remember, while we are attempting to increase our membership, we must retain the members we have. I ask each of our lodges that whenever you are holding an event to make sure that the Public Relations and Membership Retention Committee are present at the event. We must let the people in our communities know the great work we are doing.

I would also like to congratulate Aneekah Uddin sponsored by Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 on being in the top ten female finalist for the Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship. Aneekah will attend the Leadership Weekend in Chicago, Illinois and will receive a scholarship of at least $20,000.00 to support her college dreams.

Pat and I must personally thank Roy and Janet DeRitter, Francis J. Decibus and the Past State Presidents for all of their assistance and especially their friendship. Pat and I can not thank you enough.

Pat and I are looking forward to seeing you in Wildwood and St. Louis.

Nutley Elks No. 1290 Exalted Ruler Contest Winner

Nutley Lodge No. 1290 Exalted Ruler Michael DiPiano was the winner of the NJSEA Flag Charge and 11 O’Clock Toast Contests held at Fall Conference.

Pictured L to R; Lawrence Bennett, State Vice President, NCD; Robert Britton PDD; Michael DiPiano, ER, Robert Mulligan District Deputy NCD.

Lodge Anniversaries

Brigantine No. 2428 - 50 years
Clinton No. 2434 - 50 years
New Jersey Elks...Building Stronger Communities
Anthony Alfonso, State President Elect

I am honored to serve as the New Jersey State Elks Association President for the 2019-2020 Elk year. I would like to thank our current President and First Lady, Ron & Theresa Mangone, in assisting with a smooth transition and congratulate them on a successful year.

In 2001 when I witnessed my friend and advisor, the late State President Reggie Craig, carry in our State Flag at the Grand Lodge Opening Ceremonies, I knew someday I would serve as State President. So much of what I do in our great Order is from what Reggie had taught me. He will be guiding me in spirit during the coming year.

I have had the honor to serve on many committees over the past 31 years including serving on the State Special Children’s Committee and Elks Camp Moore for 20 years. Whether we are putting smiles on the faces of our Special Children, supporting our Veterans and their families, encouraging our youth through sports or academics… we, the New Jersey Elks Family, are making a difference one Veteran, one Child, one Family, and one Community at a time.

We will be promoting the importance of having such a Premier Charitable Organization in our Communities through our success, while growing Membership.

Serving as State President, I am confident that we as a team will make positive changes to our existing programs, which will initiate new Member involvement, institute new programs that fit the needs of our current times, and always keeping in mind the importance of our principals and traditions.

I want to thank everyone that made this possible, especially my family and home Lodge Sparta No. 2356.

In closing, together the New Jersey Elks will Build Stronger Communities.

Run For Fallen Starts Off In Cape May
Starting point of the Run for the Fallen in Cape May NJ on Wednesday September 26th 2018.

Pictured are: NIRFTF Greg Sheehan, NJSEA State President Ron Mangone and the Freeman family.
PARADE REPORTING TIMES AND STREET ASSIGNMENTS

NEW JERSEY STATE ELKS PARADE ROUTE JUNE 8, 2019

REPORT @11:15 A.M. ON 25TH STREET.
BACK TO 23RD IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

ESCORTS AND POLICE, MIRACLE RUN
COMMITTEE(STEPS OFF @ 11:45), @12:00, MILITARY
BAND, STATE CHAIRPERSON, DIGNITARIES AND
CARS, PAST STATE PRESIDENTS AND STATE
OFFICERS, HOST LODGE WILDWOOD.

PARADE ROUTE SAME AS LAST YEAR PROCEED
DOWN ATLANTIC AVE.
PARADE ENDS BY TURNING LEFT ON ANDREWS
AVE PROCEED TO OCEAN AVE AND DISBAND. BUSES
FOR MARCHERS AND BANDS WILL BE IN THE
CONVENTION CENTER PARKING LOT. FLOATS AND
VEHICLES WILL CONTINUE STRAIGHT ON ATLANTIC
AVE.

REGION 2
NORTH WEST DISTRICT:
Report @ 11:30 am
ON ATLANTIC AVE. FROM 23 – ST. TO 21ST ST.

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT:
Report @ 11:45 am
ON 20TH ST. EAST & WEST OF ATLANTIC AVE.

NORTH EAST DISTRICT:
Report @ 11:55 am
ON 21ST ST. EAST & WEST OF ATLANTIC AVE.

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT:
Report @ 12:10 pm
ON 23RD ST. EAST & WEST OF ATLANTIC AVE.

NORTH DISTRICT:
Report @ 12:25 pm
ON 24TH ST. EAST & WEST OF ATLANTIC AVE.

EAST DISTRICT:
Report @ 12:40 pm
ON 25TH ST. EAST & WEST OF ATLANTIC AVE.

REGION 1
SOUTH DISTRICT:
Report @ 12:55 pm
ON ATLANTIC AVE FROM 22nd ST. TO 20th ST.

CENTRAL DISTRICT:
Report @ 1:10 pm
ON 20TH ST. EAST & WEST OF ATLANTIC AVE.

WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT:
Report @ 1:25 pm
ON 21ST ST. EAST & WEST OF ATLANTIC AVE.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT:
Report @ 1:40 pm
ON 23rd ST. EAST & WEST OF ATLANTIC AVE.

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT:
Report @ 1:55 pm
ON 24th ST. EAST & WEST OF ATLANTIC AVE.

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT:
Report @ 2:05 pm
ON 25th ST. EAST & WEST OF ATLANTIC AVE.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

By Thomas Zisa, GLC/PSP

Our 2019, State Association Wildwood Convention will be held Thursday, June 6th through Sunday, June 9th. The weekend festivities will begin with our annual Member’s Appreciation party on Thursday night, beginning at 9 p.m. The party is free of charge; however, to gain admission you must have a NJSEA 2019 Wildwood Registration Badge. Registration badges can be purchased in advance through your district convention committee representative for $5. The registration badges will also be sold in Wildwood; however, the cost of the badge will be $8.00.

In addition, arrangements are all set for the Friday morning business session, the Friday afternoon Awards Ceremony and State Association Installation of Officers. Friday night we will hold our annual “Inaugural Ball” honoring our newly installed State President, Anthony Alfonso from Sparta Lodge No. 2356 and the new State Association Officers and Exalted Rulers. There is no charge for Exalted Rulers; tickets for spouses or guests are $45 each. At the Banquet, we will draw the winner of our super 50/50 raffle. Exalted Rulers have tickets for the raffle, or contact your district Convention Committee representative. All of these events will be held at the Wildwood convention center. Regardless of whether you are attending the business session, banquet or other events be sure to visit the convention center to visit the committee displays and vendor booths in the grand Concourse. If you haven’t pre-ordered them, be sure to stop by and purchase this year’s state Association commemorative pin and T-shirt.

A “Commemorative Ad Journal” is being produced, for the Friday night banquet. It is our hope that every lodge will want to be included in this Commemorative edition of the journal book. To place an ad, see your district Convention Committee representative.

This year’s Grand Lodge Convention will be held Sunday, June 30 through Wednesday, July 3, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri which is a city on the banks of the Mississippi River filled with great things to do and see. Be sure to take the trip to the top of the Arch and see a view like no other. The New Jersey contingent is staying at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel by Hilton, all arrangements have been made for the Sunday night hospitality party, the Monday night State Banquet, Tuesday dance party and Wednesday Hospitality events.

For all the incoming Exalted Rulers, Vice Presidents, District Deputies, State Committee Personnel and Officers, the convention committee also has available State Association jackets, ties and the embroidered State Association Name badges. These items make up the official State Association uniform.

If you need help with any of the items I have mentioned simply contact your district convention committee representative they are always ready to help. All convention committee order forms can also be found on the state Association website njelks.org.

Government Relations Committee

By Stephen A. Holler, Sr., State Chairperson

Our New Jersey State Elks Association Government Relations Committee appreciates all monthly Government Relations Charitable Reports. Our total Charitable reporting for 2018-2019 is $45,231,801, however this doesn’t include all our 112 Lodges. Our State is ahead from last year of $8,490,854.10, increase of 23.1%.

All Lodges please continue to update your CLMS Charitable Reporting in a timely manner. It is crucial for each Lodge to document their Charitable Reporting, in order to demonstrate to our Government Officials that we are continuing to volunteer and donate throughout our Communities. Also, most important, that your Lodge receives the credit it deserves. If you have any questions about Charitable Reporting, please contact your District Chairman, Ron, Bill, or myself. Our Committee is to here to help serve our New Jersey State Elks Association.

Please continue to put only positive information on your Lodge Websites or Social Media, and keep updating on a regular time frame. Be very careful, how to post you’re Lodge Events; NJ Division of ABC does monitor Facebook.

Also, continue to invite your local, county, state, and federal Lawmakers to a Lodge Social Event. Explain at that Event, what your Lodge does for Charity. All information to our Lawmakers should be accurate and respectful. Please continue to monitor the Legislation and Laws that could affect your ABC Laws, Bingo, Raffles, and Games of Chance.

Our New Jersey State Elks Association Government Relations Committee will have a Booth at our State Convention, please stop at the Booth. Our Committee will be glad to answer any questions or concerns. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Wildwood.
Training Committee
By Leonard Tarnowski, State Chairperson

By the time this Publication comes out, our Spring Training session will be over. I want to thank Linda Tabachuck, Region 2 Chair for all her continuous help. A special thanks to Tom Troutman, Region 1 Chair for putting together the last Training Session. It covered a number of subjects under the umbrella of, “How to keep your Lodge Financially Healthy.” This is something we all have issues with. Some lodges ignore what we should be doing, then wonder why we struggle. Some may think it’s too hard to do and some create short cuts which may develop into big problems. As the training indicates, if we develop good practices and routinely use them, Life is better for all.

Now I want to cover a few things moving forward. Our Training Team tries to educate to make your life easier. This season we will be venturing out to lodges with hopes of becoming more convenient to all who seek information. Soon the incoming Vice Presidents will be choosing District Training Chairpersons, so the State Training Committee will be offering a special program called, “Train the Trainers.” We hope this will help get the guidance to more Elks by keeping it close to home, and unify the information being disseminated. Those who attend will be educated in all the courses we have available and how we intended to present them. Those completing the workshop will have access to all the training material we have along with the State Training Committee as backup for information. We also will be encouraging the District Trainers to help develop new programs and updating old ones as needed. So keep your ears open and as always, Every Elk is welcome to any session.

Membership/Retention Committee
By Michael Penchenski, III, State Chairperson

The members and leaders of the New Jersey Elks are nothing short of amazing! As I write this article the final membership numbers have not been tallied. If we restate as many as possible before the end of May, we will have a significant gain, the final number will be much larger when the Elks of New Jersey embrace this challenge.

As I travelled around the State speaking at the training clinics, initiations, V.P. and D.D. clinics I had the honor of meeting so many of you. You are the workers and leaders who keep our Order thriving. The Elks are the very best and the Elks of New Jersey are the best of the best! A must read is Grand Lodge Membership Manager, Rick Gathen’s National Elks magazine article, “Bricks and Clicks”. Rick is rolling out the New Membership & Marketing “living” Manual. This initiative was recently launched in April. The orientation video and ONLINE Membership applications are just the beginning. On our website elk.org, you can now sponsor a friend and applications are just the beginning. On our website elk.org, you can now sponsor a friend and the website is your portal to find the members you want to sponsor. On our website elk.org, you can now sponsor a friend and the website is your portal to find the members you want to sponsor.

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Public Relations & Marketing Committee
By Heidi McDonnell, State Chairperson

The Public Relations Committee is pleased to report that our Billboard Letter Project is nearing completion. I would like to thank my Region Co-Chairs as well as the District PR Chairpersons, Vice Presidents, District Deputies, and District Advisors who helped in obtaining the letters from the various lodges around the state. So far 85% of the lodges have participated, and more letters are coming in each week. The letters that have been submitted are an incredible wealth of knowledge and send a powerful message to those we are reaching out to in our communities. You are showing everyone what a unique and varied group we are and that we have something for everyone who is interested in joining the Elks. These letters can be found on the NJ State Elks website on its own page. The link is in the bottom, right hand corner on the front page of the website, that link will take you to the page where you will see every lodge in the state listed. Those listed in blue have a link to a letter, and those in red are still missing. Please take a little time to read through the letters and see what other lodges are doing. If you notice that your lodge letter is not listed, use these letters as a guide to showcase your own lodge. In the coming months we will have a link posted on the billboard showing interested parties where to go to view information on their respective local lodge. Our hope is that Public Relations and Marketing will help the membership committee in their effort to grow our great state association.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have been extremely instrumental in this project; Committee Advisors, Pete Smith, PSP & Rick Gathen, PSP, Internet Relations State Chairperson Nick Figaro, and Joe Pedone, DD. This has been no small feat and each played a role in making this project happen. Organizing letters and disseminating information is one thing, but their efforts to create the pages, and work with the billboard company directly has been immeasurable.

The New Jersey Elk Submission Deadline
Submission Deadline September 1, 2019
Send e-mail articles and photos to: njelkpublication@gmail.com

Photograph Policy
Photographs that are sent electronically must be in a JPG, TIF or EPS format ONLY and a minimum of 300 dpi at 100%, CD’s or original photos (no photo copies or reproductions)
Auditing and Business Practices
By Michael J. MacFeeters, State Chairperson

The Committee emphasizes the area of Business Practices. All Lodges should be following and adhering to Grand Lodge recommended accounting and management practices. This helps the Lodges to be prepared for the year-end audit.

All lodges should be preparing their annual financial report for submission to the Grand Lodge Auditor for the fiscal year 2019. It is important for the lodge Audit Committee and officers to read the findings and recommendations of the Auditor. These recommendations will help the lodge improve its business operations.

The NJSEA Advisory Committee has requested the Auditing and Business Practices to implement a quarterly financial reporting process for all District level Committees. The report will include the open balances, revenues, expenses, and closing balance. It will be the responsibility of each District Committee that maintains any checking/cash accounts to submit this form to the District Vice President and Auditing and Business Practices Chairperson. All Committees will be held responsible for this quarterly reporting process.

A detailed procedure was developed and issued on the preparation on the quarterly report. The Committee developed an Excel spreadsheet which is to be completed by each District Committee. The spreadsheet will compile the data entered and give the preparer a balanced presentation.

The Committee continues to respond to issues brought to our attention through the District Chairpersons. The Committee has offered guidance when called upon on various issues facing the lodges. Members of the Committee are available for assistance.

State Ritual Committee
By Mark I Dunnder, State Chairperson

...0046...it’s a very insignificant number when it stands alone, but when it describes the difference between two numbers it cannot get much closer. This was difference between the first and second place teams in this year’s state ritual contest that was held at Long Branch lodge. Let’s congratulate Piscataway lodge on winning this year’s contest with a score of 97.355. They will represent our state in the Grand Lodge ritual contest this year and they know that the entire state is behind them. Hats off to Nutley lodge for making a great effort finishing in second place with a score of 97.3504. We also all need to thank Lake Hopatcong lodge for their efforts over the past fifteen years in which they have represented our state with pride and dignity at Grand Lodge and brought our state a National Championship. If this doesn’t show that ritual is alive and well in our great state, I don’t know what could.

Congratulations to all the Exalted Rulers for the new fraternal year. You now have the ability to help continue in the strengthening of the fraternal foundation of our order, the ritual. The ritual provides the first impression to our new members and being able to recite the ritual with the proper heart and feeling can go a long way.

In closing, I would like to challenge all of the Exalted Rulers for this fraternal year to memorize the Eleven O’clock toast. At each meeting or function as Elks we all stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance from memory to honor our great country. Why can’t we all do the Eleven O’clock toast from memory to honor our absent members with the same respect? Had it not been for them, we would not be where we are today as Elks. I know it can be done and cannot wait to see and hear about everyone’s success.
National Veterans Services Committee

By George Yusko, State Chairperson

The New Jersey Elks National Veteran Services is working extremely hard to get our Veterans what they need when moving into an apartment. With Veterans moving in homes around New Jersey, we now have our main storage annex located in Stirling which is a converted American Legion Hall. We have over $30,000 worth of items available to distribute to our Veterans in need. There are also two additional storage units—one in Marlton and the other at Old Bridge Lodge which will cut down response time. We are pleased to report that the NJSEA Veterans Committee and the AOH now have a 501c3 tax status. Since June, we have helped 263 Veterans, 178 spouses and 110 children with clothes and beds. We spent over $131,500 on Welcome Home Kits, $14,000.00 on U-hauls to transport the items, $18,450 on beds and have given over $40,000 in furniture. This does not include the food, blankets, and other items that need to be purchased. As you are reading this, we have already surpassed the amounts and aided more Veterans and their families.

We have just received a donation of over $100,000 worth of clothing which will be delivered to our Veterans and other organizations that need our help.

Our major fundraisers are The Jim Hall Homeless Veterans Run, which will be held at Jackson Lodge No. 2744 on June 22nd and the Army of Hope Picnic, September 8th at Lacey Lodge No. 2518. There will be donation lines at both events. Please make checks payable to NJSEA Veterans and in the memo put General Fund or Homeless Veterans.

Ridgefield Park Lodge No. 1506 Gives To Veterans

On February 10, 2019 Ridgefield Park Lodge No 1506 hosted a cocktail party to raise monies for homeless veterans. On March 14th a check for $3,367.17 was presented to Dave Cathcart Director of Vet Center in Secaucus. Pictured from left to right — MaryAnn Applegate VP, Dave Cathcart, Barbara Powers, Bob Sinclair PER Lodge Veteran Committee Chair

Luminary Lighting-Brick Elks Lodge No. 2151

On September 30th at sunset, Brick Elks lodge lit Luminary Gold Star bags along with many Americans across the U.S. Some members who could not attend lighted luminaries at home for National Gold Star Family Day. Each bag was labeled with the name of a Fallen Hero from Brick dating back to the Civil War. In addition, we included the names from the New Jersey Run for the Fallen markers located in Brick. All Elk members attending participated including our Antlers, lighting and placing the bags around the corral creating an aura-borealis of flickering lights in the evening sky to pay a respectful and appreciative tribute to our Fallen Heroes.

Special Delivery From The North Central District

The NCD Veterans committee delivered furniture and a welcome home kit to a Veteran in Newark NJ. He received new couches, a bed with night stands, mattress and box spring.

Pictured is William Dow PDD, member Glenn King, Chris Pasquarelli, Trustee, Larry Bennett NCDVP, James Walsh NCD Veterans Chair, Chris Brown PER, Rich Reinhard NCD PVP, Rusty Gerstenmier PSP
Army Of Hope Committee
By Brian Murphy,
State Chairperson

The Army of Hope continues our passion along with membership in supporting our Fallen Heroes Families, their children and severely injured. Unfortunately we recently had to add two Heroes on our roll call. PFC Jamie Riley US Army on January 23, 2019 of Fair Haven NJ. and Paratrooper SPC Nicholas Peter DiMona III from Medford Lakes on March 30, 2019. Both died in live training accidents.

Our Holiday Despersments continued to our Gold Star families totaling $50,000. The thank you notes and cards we receive from our families are heartwarming and reinforce that as Elks we are making a difference in many lives. Our Freedom Tree program continues to grow and helps get our membership involved, which reminds us of the many sacrifices our military men and women have made for our country.

Our major fundraising events are right around the corner, so mark your calendars and look out for our flyers coming to your lodges. Our golf outing is slated for August 2nd at SunEagles Golf Club in Eatontown NJ. Our Picnic “A Day of Patriotism” will be held on September 8th at Lacey Lodge No. 2518.

Since the New Year we have distributed $10,000, in military relief for those having trouble meeting financial obligations, and adjusting to life after they return to civilian life. A donation of $5,000 was presented to help the cost of 300 members of the 114th Infantry being deployed from McGuire AFB on January 15th.

During our Government shutdown, we supported our Coast Guard Stations located along our coast line with a $15,000 donation to help with everyday needs and to purchase goods for their pantry shelves.

Our success is driven by our members and their fundraising efforts throughout the year. We need to support these events and continue to educate and guide our membership to jump on board for some rewarding work in our order. We sometimes have to take a step back from our busy lives and say how we can make a difference in someone’s life who has given so much and asked for so little.

God Bless our troops.

Manahawkin Lodge No. 2340 Helps Homeless Veterans

On Tuesday, December 18th, the Manahawkin Elks Lodge No. 2340 held its annual “Pack a bag for a homeless Veteran event”. The project is funded through the ENF Anniversary Grant and the Manahawkin Elks Charity Funds. Elk members also donated items and we received reduced costs from local vendors. Monies were used to purchase backpacks, imprinted with the Manahawkin Elks logo, and personal care items, gloves, hats, scarfs, socks, towels. Twenty-eight Lodge, Veteran Committee, and family members managed the project by negotiating prices, ordering, shopping, and finally packing the care packages. The backpacks will be delivered by Veteran Committee members to VetGroup, Inc., Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau, and Vet Haven for confidential delivery to veterans in need of emergency or supportive services. Group shot. 21 packers comprised of Manahawkin Elks Veterans Committee, Lodge members and their families.

Bayonne Lodge No. 434 Annual BBQ Benefits Army Of Hope

The Bayonne Elks Lodge No. 434 would like to thank all that attended their annual Labor Day Weekend Army of Hope BBQ. This effort allowed the lodge to donate $3,600 to our NJ wounded and fallen soldiers fund that benefits military families of fallen, wounded and deployed soldiers. Our Veterans’ Committee and Motorcycle Committee each donated $500 to our State Homeless Veterans Fund at the NJSEA Army of Hope Picnic.

Left to Right: Martin Hickey, Louis Santiago, Raeann Hempel, Michael Wulfen, Walter Schember, PDD, and Miguel “Santa” Torres.

Point Pleasant Lodge No. 1698 Hosts Dinner for Local US Coast Guard

Point Pleasant Elks Lodge No. 1698 along with other NJ Lodges and State Association Committees extended their hospitality and volunteer services on February 16, 2019 to the US Coast Guard Station personnel and their families during the Government shutdown. In addition to collecting money for gift cards for gasoline and food staples, Lodges conducted Food drives and acted as drop off points for the local communities.

Attendees in the photo include US Coast Guard Personnel and their families from the Manasquan Inlet USCG Station in Point Pleasant Beach. NJ. and members of the Point Pleasant Elks Veterans Committee.
By Lois Pagano, State Chairperson

Elks National Foundation

Thanks to the continued hard work and dedication of all who support ENF’s mission, we had another banner year! Together we have exceeded the State President’s Per Capita goal of $5.75, reaching over $9 per person which totals over $396,000 in donations. More than twice that amount will be returned to NJ to continue to fund Camp Moore; the Army of Hope, Drug Awareness Program, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Scholarship programs, Scouting programs, and Veterans programs.

Community Investment Program “CIP”: Grant applications opened April 1 and will close December 31. There are a couple of changes to look out for this year. First, the Beacon Grant, which is open to all Lodges, has increased to $2,500. The Anniversary grant is no longer available; however, the new $2,000 Spotlight Grant is. This grant is designed to help Lodges focus on serving veterans experiencing homelessness and improving literacy. ENF provides an additional $1.3 million for the Welcome Home Initiative to aid homeless veterans. The $4,500 Focus Grant helped hundreds of veterans transition to homes by providing furniture, beds, home supplies, and food.

Visit elks.org/CIP to learn more about this year’s grant opportunities.

The NJ State Association Wildwood Convention, June 6–9, Wildwood, New Jersey. Don’t forget to stop by the ENF Booth; post and share your Lodge’s ideas and successes with us.

The 2019 Most Valuable Student Scholarship Contest. This contest ran through November 18th 2018 and was open to any high school senior who is a US Citizen. Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership, and financial need. Through the contest, the ENF will award 20 top scholarships ranging from $20,000 to $50,000. The remaining 480 runners-up will receive $4,000 scholarships. The 50 national winners will be announced in April 2019, after the top 20 finalists participate in the Leadership Weekend in Chicago, April 11–14.

The 2019 Legacy Awards. This contest provides educational assistance to children and grandchildren of Elk members who are high school seniors, going on to college, and exhibit the core values of the Elks National Foundation. The winners will be notified and available online late April.

Emergency Educational Grants. These grants provide undergraduate college financial assistance to children of deceased or totally disabled Elks in the form of renewable, one-year grants of up to $4,000. These grants are available upon request between May 1 and October 31 of the academic year for which assistance is desired.

The Gunther & Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship

The Gunther & Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarships are $24,000 scholarships offered to Elks scholars (current or alum) entering their first year of medical school in 2019. The scholarship was established through the generosity of the late Lee Weigel, widow of Gunther Weigel. This year, eight (8) $24,000 scholarships are offered exclusively to Elks scholars. Applications will be due by May 15.

The Biggest Heart Contest. The contest rolled out from January 1st through February 15th. There were some very creative ways that the Lodges decorated their Hearts! Brick and Lacey Lodge decorated their Christmas Trees! I am proud to announce NJ collected over $5,000 this year! The Lodge with the Biggest Heart will be announced at the Wildwood Convention Awards Ceremony.

Kenneth V. Cantoli Contest. 1st Place ENF Total Per-Capita Award. It is presented to the Lodge that achieves the 1st place ENF total per-capita each year.

The Chair Challenge Contest. The contest recognizes Lodges for having a broad-based fundraising program in support of the ENF. This contest encourages Lodges and ENF Fundraising Chairs to recruit new donors, retain last year’s donors, and reanimate lapsed donors.

All the awards will be presented at the Wildwood Convention Awards Ceremony.

Super-Sized Grant Used For Vests In Woodbridge

Woodbridge Lodge No. 2116 used the Anniversary and Gratitude grants to donate $3,500 for three bullet proof vests to the Woodbridge, NJ police department.

Weehawken Lodge No. 1456 hosted another Youth Night for Drug Awareness made possible through an ENF Gratitude Grant.

Rahway Lodge No. 1075

ER Doug Temple presents a Gratitude Grant contribution to members of Sea Scouts Ship 243 “Sea Horse”. Other Grant recipients are RHS Marine Corps Jr. ROTC, Rahway PAL and the Rahway Bandits, a Special Olympics basketball team.

Hackettstown Lodge No. 2331 used their ENF Promise Grant to go bowling with with parents, siblings, teachers, and students of the special needs classroom of the Oxford Central School. The group met at the Oakwood Lanes in Washington for lots of bowling fun. For some of the children, it was their first time bowling. The Elks received many thanks from the participants. Pictured is one of the students using a special adaptive bowling ramp that was purchased by the Lodge.

The Watchung Hills Lodge No. 885 used their Gratitude Grant to purchase new shoes for school aged children and food for The Food Bank Network of Somerset County.
Hasbrouck Heights Lodge No. 1962 Receives Gratitude and Freedom Grants

Hasbrouck Heights Lodge No. 1962 received a $2,500 Gratitude and $2,000 Freedom Grant this year to further their work with our Veterans.

With their Gratitude Grant, they supported the Paramus Veterans Home by purchasing six televisions, donated 36 sets of sweatpants and tops for men and women at Christmas, and delivered individually wrapped Valentine's Days cookies. They also adopted five active duty military for Christmas by sending gift baskets to them as well as delivering handmade afghans and ShopRite gift cards to a veteran husband and wife. A luncheon was held in November for 45 members and aides from the Paramus Veterans Home at the Lodge.

With their Freedom Grant, the lodge purchased 4 full size beds, as well as beds in a bag sets, pillows, blankets, towels, glasses, dish sets, and cutlery sets. All of the supplies were delivered to the NJ Elks Veterans Annex to be delivered to veterans as they transition into housing. The lodge also purchased yarn and Lodge and NJSEA Secretary Joyce Powell, PDD crocheted 7 afghans to be delivered with the kits. Each afghan was wrapped and included a handwritten “Thank You for Your Service” card.

Vineland Lodge No. 1422 Supports M25

On January 31, 2019, the Vineland Elks Lodge No. 1422 donated $1,700 to the M-25 Initiative to support Code Blue in Vineland.

The funds were made possible through the Elks National Foundation (ENF) Anniversary Grant of $1,500 and $200 from the ENF Gratuity Grant issued to the Vineland Elks via membership contribution to the ENF. These monies will aid in the supply of shelter, food, clothing, toiletries and other essential items. Monies will also support the M-25’s newest initiative to help secure necessary medications to those who cannot afford them; such as life saving diabetic medication for the homeless.

Caption: Cathy Gardner, Code Blue Coordinator for Vineland; Joseph E. Romano, Vineland Elks Exalted Ruler; and Carlos Mercado, Vice President for M-25 Initiative.

Attendance Wins Bikes In Eatontown

Eatontown Lodge No. 2402 donated their $1,500 Anniversary Grant to four Eatontown Public Schools to encourage students to improve attendance. The four winners won a bicycle which they picked out at Peddlers Bike Shop in Long Branch, NJ.

From back left: ER Richard Brand, Member Amie Miller, Owner Michael Schiavo, and winners.

Millville Lodge No. 580 Serves Up Christmas Dinner

Millville Lodge No. 580 hosted the 4th annual Coast Guard Recruit Dinner on Christmas Day. A traditional dinner was served to 145 recruits. Pictured are South District Vice President Bill Mieschke, Seaman Justin LeBreck, Seaman Steven Holtz, NJSEA Chaplain Victoria Watson, Seaman Daniel Plascencia, Seaman Leandra Smallwood and Exalted Ruler Arleen Hickman. A $2,000.00 grant was used to fund the occasion.
Thank you Ambassador

Area 1 Ambassador
Our Area 1 Ambassador is Carlie Evans and she is sponsored by Manahawkin Lodge No. 2340. Area 1 covers the South, South Central, South East and South West Districts. Pictured left to right: Escorts Kim and Deborah England, Carlie, and parents Charles & Sandy Evans.

Area 2 Ambassador
Our Area 2 Ambassador is Taylor Redondo and he is sponsored by Bayonne Lodge #434. Area 2 covers the East, North and North East Districts. Pictured left to right: Grandpa Louis Redondo, Escorts Kathy & Mike Collins, Taylor, Mom Melissa Redondo, and Grandma Mary Redondo.

Area 3 Ambassador
Representing Area 3 as our Ambassador is Tyler Nelson and he is sponsored by Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 784. Area 3 covers the North Central and North West Districts. Pictured left to right: Escort Heidi McDonnell, Chip Nelson, Tyler, Wayne McDonnell, and Cheryl Nelson.

Area 4 Ambassador
The Special Ambassador for Area 4 is Arizona Heskeyahu Acevedo and she is sponsored by Union Lodge No. 1583. Area 4 covers the Central, East Central, and West Central Districts. Pictured left to right: Escort Howard Proctor, Mom Sherri Heskeyahu, Arizona, and Escort Mary Ann Harmon.
SCC Ambassadors
Teri Payton, State SCC Chair
Lisa Nazzaretto, Co-chair Region II/Ambassador Program Coordinator

Each year the New Jersey State Elks Special Children’s Committee Selects four children (male or female) as Special Ambassadors, each representing multiple Districts in an area of our State. The four areas are as follows:

Area 1: South, South Central, Southeast, Southwest Districts
Area 2: East, North, Northeast Districts
Area 3: North Central, Northwest Districts
Area 4: Central, East Central, West Central Districts

An Alternate Ambassador for each area is also selected. It is hoped that if the Ambassador is unable to attend an event the alternate may be available. The Ambassadors help spread our mission to bring light, sunshine and happiness into the lives of a physically or developmentally disabled child and help to develop their recreational and social skills. The smiles on their faces put smiles on our hearts.

Lodges are encouraged to submit an Ambassador application. Applications are emailed to District and Lodge Chairs, Elks and Secretaries, VPs and DDs in early February and are due back to the State SCC Headquarters by the beginning of May. The Ambassador term starts after the Wildwood convention and goes through the convention the following year.

These four children, one from each of the four areas, are introduced and honored at various Charity Balls, Holiday Parties, and Picnics for one year. We encourage Lodges and Districts to invite their Area Ambassador along with the Chaperone to events. The expectation is that each Ambassador will attend at least 12 Elk events during their term and each Alternate Ambassador should attend at least six. Events are anticipated to be on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays. This represents a time commitment as well as costs for gas, tolls etc. from the families and from the Chaperones from the sponsoring Lodges. The sponsoring Lodge is also expected to host the Ambassador family at the Wildwood Convention at the end of their term where the State SCC presents a thank you gift of $1000. Alternate Ambassadors are sent a $500 gift from the State SCC.

Why would an Elk volunteer to be a Chaperone? The year, or two if an Ambassador has also been an Alternate, is a journey together with the Ambassador and their family. It’s a time to witness the generosity of heart of Lodges in and beyond the District and experience first-hand the Ambassador’s growth, social ability and the increasingly broad smiles and big Ambassador hugs. Per Elyse Russo “A child with special needs will inspire you to be a special person.”

The families are asked to share their special children with us for the year. The benefit to the families comes from both the gifts that can help offset the costs associated with a special needs child as well as the friendship and support that is shown for their special child. Per Keira Scott’s Grandma Karen “I get by with a little help from my friends.” Carlie’s mom Sandy shares with us that “The love and support for Carlie from the Elks is so genuine. From the Special Children’s Committee to the MC we will be forever grateful for making Carlie feel so special! It takes a village to raise a child, well our village is the Elks Organization! Carlie has grown physically, mentally and socially and is very proud to represent the Elks! She tells everybody she’s the State Ambassador!”

For us as Elks, the benefit is not only to show we care but to have our hearts melt as these special children smile their contagious smiles. Open your heart. Be part of the Ambassador program. Sponsor a special child, invite the selected Ambassadors to your Lodge and District events and make a difference in their lives and yours!

Area 1 Alternate Ambassador
Our Area 1 Alternate Ambassador is Keira Scott and she is sponsored by Brick Lodge No. 2151. Pictured left to right: Escorts Chris & Elyse Russo, Keira and her Grandma Karen Scott.

Area 2 Alternate Ambassador
Our Area 2 Alternate Ambassador is John “JJ” Howard and he is sponsored by Passaic Valley Lodge No. 2111. Pictured left to right: Escort Jeanne Gademan, Mom Joanne Howard, Escort Jody Szczomak, JJ, and PSP John Szczomak.

Area 4 Alternate Ambassador
Our Area 4 Alternate Ambassador is Brett Berardi and he is sponsored by Carteret Lodge No. 2235. Pictured left to right: Parents Angelo and Nicole Berardi, Brett, Escorts Patti Golino and Anne Marchitelli.
Drug Awareness Committee
By Pete D’Antoni,
State Chairperson

The Drug Awareness Committee has been working tirelessly to spread the word about our program. We believe the only way to fight the opioid epidemic is get out there and educate on the dangers of drug use. It is imperative you have an active drug awareness committee in your lodge. If you need anti-drug literature or guidance, please contact me directly.

We have kept the starfish as our emblem, and as I travel around the state, I have seen more and more starfish pins and members who are happy to tell you the story behind it. Our trailers and Elroy costumes are only a phone call away and we have purchased a high-quality tent along with a table cover that can be used with the trailer or in place of it. This is a sturdy piece of equipment that will help you stand out at any event. If you are interested in purchasing one give me a call. To borrow ours contact, Dave Glaser in Region 1 or Lou Desocio in Region 2, they will make all the arrangements to deliver the trailer or tent.

Our contests have reached thousands of kids in our schools statewide. Our Essay winner was from Howell Lodge No. 2515, the poster winner was from Jersey City Lodge No. 211 and the audio video winner came from Freehold Lodge No. 1454. Thank you to all that participated.

We had an incredible Path to Peer Leadership and Peer Leadership conference in February. We had almost 500 students for the path program and over 425 students for the peer conference. For the last two years we have joined with the Drug Enforcement Administration and local law enforcement agencies in the DEA 360 program. New Jersey will have two cities, one in South Jersey and one in North Jersey. The South Jersey program kicked off in January 2018 in Camden County, the North Jersey program will begin in Newark this spring. We will then move onto the Walk-Out on Drugs. This is our fundraiser for our Peer Leadership conference so please make sure your lodges and districts are getting involved. Did you know that for every $1,000 your lodge raises for the walkout, you can send a student to the Peer Leadership Conference for no extra charge? Please take advantage of this opportunity and get out there, raise some money and walk with us. This program SAVES LIVES and I have seen it first-hand. If you need some assistance or would like more information, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Brick Lodge No. 2151 Announces Winner Of Poster Contest

Congratulations to Dennis Haines Brick Lodge No. 2151 Lodge Drug Awareness Poster contest winner. Dennis is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Osbornville Elementary School. His poster was selected from over 60 entries. Pictured are Principal Mrs. DeGrigoli, Teacher Mrs. Yerboe, Tony Alfano, Dennis Haines, and Parents Dennis and Erica Haines.
Spring 2019 • The New Jersey Elk

Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237
Path to Leadership 2019

On January 31, 2019 Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 sponsored 6th grader Izzy Lopez, her mom Elk Kristin Lopez and her Grandmother Elk Dawn Reimer who attended the Path to Leadership Conference. The motivational speakers spoke on various topics such as being yourself, social media and bullying. Izzy enjoyed the speakers and expressed that it was very informative. There were approximately 500 students and advisors that attended.

Photo L to R: Kristin Lopez, State President Ron Mangone, Dawn Reimer, Past Grand Exalted Ruler and Grand Lodge Sponsor Malcolm McPherson, Jr. and in front Izzy Lopez.

Helping Neighbors
In Hamilton

The Hamilton Lodge No. 2262 hosted a fundraiser for the daughters of Tika Justice, who died tragically during the collapse of their home. The event, presented by Mortgage Network Solutions in cooperation with Saint Phillips Church, featured games, prizes, arts and crafts, music and dancing. Pictured at the event are, left to right, Hamilton Elks Trustee Ken Schulte, Hamilton Mayor Kelly Yaede, Debbie Maxwell of Mortgage Network Solutions, and Hamilton Elks Exalted Ruler Rose Romaine, who presented a $500 donation from the lodge.

West Milford Lodge No. 2236
Sends Two Students to Leadership Conference

West Milford Elks No. 2236 Drug Awareness Chairperson Vicky LoScalzo is flanked by Colin and Collin who were selected by the lodge to attend NJ’s Peer Leadership Conference held in Long Branch NJ.

West Milford Lodge No. 2236

In Hamilton

The Hamilton Lodge No. 2262 hosted a fundraiser for the daughters of Tika Justice, who died tragically during the collapse of their home. The event, presented by Mortgage Network Solutions in cooperation with Saint Phillips Church, featured games, prizes, arts and crafts, music and dancing. Pictured at the event are, left to right, Hamilton Elks Trustee Ken Schulte, Hamilton Mayor Kelly Yaede, Debbie Maxwell of Mortgage Network Solutions, and Hamilton Elks Exalted Ruler Rose Romaine, who presented a $500 donation from the lodge.

On January 31, 2019 Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 sponsored 6th grader Izzy Lopez, her mom Elk Kristin Lopez and her Grandmother Elk Dawn Reimer who attended the Path to Leadership Conference. The motivational speakers spoke on various topics such as being yourself, social media and bullying. Izzy enjoyed the speakers and expressed that it was very informative. There were approximately 500 students and advisors that attended.

Photo L to R: Kristin Lopez, State President Ron Mangone, Dawn Reimer, Past Grand Exalted Ruler and Grand Lodge Sponsor Malcolm McPherson, Jr. and in front Izzy Lopez.

West Milford Lodge No. 2236
Sends Two Students to Leadership Conference

West Milford Elks No. 2236 Drug Awareness Chairperson Vicky LoScalzo is flanked by Colin and Collin who were selected by the lodge to attend NJ’s Peer Leadership Conference held in Long Branch NJ.
The Lodge Activities Committee had another successful year with many entries in all the contests.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND IMAGE CONTEST
Lodge membership 0-300
1st place – West Milford No. 2236
2nd place – Passaic Valley No. 2111

Lodge Membership 301-500
1st place – New Milford/Teaneck No. 2290
2nd place Middletown No. 2179

Lodge Membership 501-700
1st place – Manahawkin No. 2340

Lodge Membership 1501 and up
1st place – Lacey No. 2518

MEMORIAL SERVICE CONTEST
Lodge Membership 0-300
1st place – Cedar Grove No. 2237
2nd place – Passaic Valley No. 2111
3rd place – Park Ridge No. 2234
4th place – Pompton Lakes No. 1895

Lodge Membership 301-500
1st place – Ridgefield Park No. 1506
2nd place New Milford/Teaneck No. 2290

Lodge Membership 501-700
1st place – Lake Hopatcong No. 782

Lodge Membership 1101-1500
1st place – Toms River No. 1875
2nd place – Manasquan No. 2534

ALL AMERICAN LODGE CONTEST
Division I Lodge Membership 0-300
1st place – Cedar Grove No. 2237
2nd place – Marlton No. 2514
3rd place – Howell No. 2515

Division II Lodge Membership 301-500
1st place – Middletown No. 2179
2nd place – Carteret No. 2235
3rd place – Jamesburg No. 2180

Division III Lodge Membership 501-700
1st place – Manahawkin No. 2340
2nd place – Lake Hopatcong No. 782

Division IV Lodge Membership 701-1100
1st place – Brick No. 2151
2nd place – Union No. 1583

Division V Lodge Membership 1101-1500
1st place – Manasquan No. 2534
2nd place – Toms River No. 1875

Division VI Lodge Membership 1501 and Up
1st place – Lacey No. 2518

Congratulations to all the Lodges that participated and Thank You to all the District Chairpersons and Region Chairpersons for your hard work this year.

Dictionary Project
Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237

The Annual Dictionary Project has become a tradition with the Youth Activities Committee at Cedar Grove Elks. The lodge donated a total of 115 thesauruses to St. Catherine's of Siena, North End, and South End Schools. These books are provided for all the third-grade classes in Cedar Grove. There is an Elks label that is added to the inside cover of the thesaurus. The Dictionary Project's Mission Statement: The goal of this program is to assist all students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary.

L to R Past District Deputy Sue Dupas handing a thesaurus to the 3rd Grade Students at St. Catherine's of Siena Collin O'Connor, Gia Bekier and Principle Miss Celine Kerwin.
Elmwood Park-Paterson Lodge No. 60 Gives Aid During Emergency

There was a large fire in the Marcal Paper Company beginning on Wednesday, January 30th in the town of Elmwood Park, NJ, which was in very close proximity to Elmwood Park-Paterson Lodge No. 60. The Lodge was opened as a “warming station” for the Firefighters and First Responders. They were battling the blaze and keeping the citizens safely away from harm while we were having record freezing temperatures and high winds. The blaze took several days to contain.

They opened the Lodge throughout the week from early morning to very late in the evening. We also received donations of water, coffee and food from local vendors and private citizens alike. The Lodge became the focal point for the Firefighters and First Responders as a respite to warm up and fill up before returning to the blaze. On Sunday the Lodge held their monthly scheduled breakfast and invited the Firefighters and First Responders to attend and have breakfast before returning to the Marcal site.

Pictured: PER Dennis Orosz with the Deputy Fire Chief from Carlstadt Fire Department.

Gift Cards For Coast Guard From Manahawkin Lodge No. 2340

Manahawkin Lodge No. 2340 donated 41 Shop Rite gift cards to our friends at the Barnegat Light Coast Guard. The Coast Guard had not been paid for several week’s during the Government Shutdown. They take care of us when we need them. We take care of them.

From Left – Right: Dan DiGregorio, Veterans Committee; Dan Boseman, PER; Bill Logan, Elk and Coast Guard Auxiliary; Tom Don, Coast Guard Auxiliary Vice Commander and Ombudsman – 35 years of service; John Peters, Veterans Committee; Jack Milne, Veterans Committee Chair; Kim England, ER; Brian Bass, Veterans Committee; Deb England, First Lady; and Denise Peters, Veterans Committee.

Freehold Raffle Benefits Charitable Committees

Freehold Lodge No. 1454 Motorcycle Committee held its 4th Annual Motorcycle Raffle on October 6, 2018. Funds generated from this successful fundraiser enabled the Lodge to make generous donations to the Army of Hope, Miracle Run, BIC Foundation, Homeless Veterans, and also provide college scholarships to High School seniors to their community. The lucky winner of the 2017 Harley Davidson Fatboy was an fellow Elk from Palisades Park-Ft. Lee Lodge.

K9 Protected In Red Bank

Red Bank Police Department K-9 Officer Echo shows off his bullet-proof vest donated by members of Red Bank Lodge No. 233. With him is Red Bank Police Department Patrolman Tanner Shea.
Soccer Committee
By Tom Brown, State Chairperson

The NJSEA Soccer Committee had a great year by all standards. The work done by all of the district chairman from Lodge State Soccer Shoot levels all the way up to including the state was outstanding. We had exceptional attendance for our Local shoots, our District shoots, and the state shoot. New Jersey was represented at the Mid Atlantic regional soccer shoot with great pride and enthusiasm.

The committee would like to thank Manasquan Lodge No. 2534 for hosting our trophy presentation and the Manasquan Elementary school for hosting our State Soccer Shoot.

The committee made great strides this year on equipment. Thanks to a fundraising effort over the past few years, we were able to provide each district with their own set of soccer balls, and there are plans in place to make sure that each District has a fold a goal to make traveling much easier. This will help more Lodges get involved with our great program statewide.

The purchase of equipment was achieved by having several fundraising programs, including selling paper soccer balls at local lodges to hang up around the lodge and making placemats with business cards for each individual district to sell. Each was a very big success netting us around $2,500.

Mid Atlantic Elks Soccer Shoot
By Peggy Berry, Director

The eight NJ State Soccer Champions, along with the Champions from Ohio, Pennsylvania, MD/DE/DC, Kentucky and West Virginia met in Frederick, MD the weekend of March 1-3, 2019 to compete for the title of Mid Atlantic Elks Soccer Champion. This year’s event was hosted by the MD/DE/DC State Association and the Frederick Elks Lodge No. 684. The Mid Atlantic Elks Soccer Competition is over 26 years old and has been held in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland. This program has been and still is organized and run by members of the New Jersey State Elks Association.

The Champions and their families started the weekend off with a pizza party and some relaxing time in the pool of the hotel before gearing up for the exciting competition at the Frederic Indoor Sports Center in Frederick on Saturday morning. The competition was intense and exciting as the Champions, dressed in their state warm ups, approached the goal line to kick the ball with skill and determination. There were many tie breakers within each division. This shows the great talents of our competitors. Each competitor received a trophy at the awards banquet as every child came as a champion and left as a champion.

New Jersey was proud to have three second place winners: Isabella Binetti, Ridgefield Park Lodge No.1506, East District, in the girls U-8 division; Eric Szaro, Woodbridge Lodge No. 2116, Central District in the boys U-8 division and Ava Molan, Passaic Valley Lodge No. 2111, North District in the U-10 girl division after an intense shoot out. The NJ Champions represented our state with great pride and team spirit as well as the other state Champions. It was truly an amazing event where lifelong friendships were made among the Champions, families and fellow Elks.

The Mid Atlantic Elks Soccer Committee would like to thank you for your support of our Annual Ad Journal as these funds are our sole source of funding for this wonderful event for our youth.

Next year’s Mid Atlantic Elks Soccer Shoot Competition is scheduled for March 6-8, 2020 and again will be hosted by the MD/DE/DC Elks Association.

Hoop Shoot Committee
By Bill Reuter, State Chairperson

The State Hoop Shoot Committee worked very hard this Hoop Shoot season. Our State Association has developed an outstanding reputation for the quality of programs that we consistently provide to the youth of New Jersey. The success of our Hoop Shoot program is due solely to the dedication, hard work, teamwork and support on all levels.

All the hours that are put into the preparation leading up to the State Hoop Shoot really come alive the day of the State Hoop Shoot, and I believe that this year was one of our best.

All the participants that day are winners but at the end of the day we can only send 6 to the Regionals, and our State Champions that day were; Girls 8-9 Amanda Ciser Somerville No. 1068, Boys 8-9 Ajay Catania Manasquan No. 2534, Girls 10-11 Macie McCraken Greater Wildwood No. 1896, Boys 10-11 Owen Schilling Somerville No. 1068, Girls 12-13 Carol Escanillas Edison No. 2487, Boys 10-11 Justin Swandrak Flemington No. 1928.

I was unable to attend the Regionals but I was told that all our contestants performed to their best against some tuff competitors from New York and Pennsylvania. After the dust settled, we are proud to have one contestant 8-9 Girl Amanda Ciser representing our Great State of New Jersey at the National Finals in Chicago on April 27th.

Scholarship Committee
By Dan Pencak, State Chairperson

New Jersey Elks Family Scholarships - $30,000 to be Awarded Accepting applications now! There are 40 New Jersey Elks Family Scholarships of $750 that will be awarded to children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren (step-children, step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren) of New Jersey Elks in good standing. Students who are high school seniors or college freshman, sophomores, or juniors can apply. If a student applies and wins each year, they could receive a total of $3,000. Applications are available online now at NJElks.org and must be submitted to the sponsoring member’s lodge before June 30, 2019.
Americanism Committee
By David Maytas, State Chairperson

Our Americanism committee has been busy conducting flag retirements, observing half-staff alerts, attending veteran’s activities, selling raffle tickets, and collecting essays.

The essay topic this year was “What Makes You Proud of America.” There were over 10,000 essays submitted statewide. The winning essays, judged by our 12 district chairs and advisors, displayed excellent grammar and freedom of thought. The first place State Winners have been submitted to Grand Lodge for judging. The 2018-2019 State Essay winners are:

**Division I**
1st Nathan Berk
Egg Harbor Lodge No. 2563
2nd Scott Sullivan
Madison Lodge No. 1465
3rd Ryan Mallen
Egg Harbor Lodge No. 2563

**Division II**
1st Ken Kaur
Carteret Lodge No. 2235
2nd Moksha Patel
South Plainfield Lodge No. 2298
3rd Daysi Santos
Ridgefield Park Lodge No. 1506

They will receive certificates and receive gift cards at award ceremonies coordinated with their respective lodge, district and state chairpersons.

Our successful raffle, which again was supervised by George Reach and the Old Bridge Lodge No. 2229, grossed close to $4,000. We thank them for repeating their untiring efforts and being gracious hosts for our state meetings.

**The raffle winners are:**
1st Mary Ramiccio
Elmwood Park-Paterson Lodge No. 60
2nd Rita Wagenstein
Egg Harbor Lodge No. 1962
3rd Richard Yuyosevich
Lodi NJ

We want to thank everyone who sold, and all who purchased raffle tickets, pins and supported our committee’s fund-raising efforts. We could not have done it without you!

The committee is looking forward to our local lodge submissions for The Americanism Challenge contest and our Wildwood reunion, where the winning lodges will be recognized.

Service Worn Flags Retired With Dignity In Long Branch

On Sunday October 14, 2018, theExalted Rulers of the South-Central District performed the Flag Retirement Ceremony during the District’s Annual Flag Retirement Program, this year hosted by the Long Branch Lodge No. 742. The day’s speakers were; Joseph Miller DDGER, Michael Penchenski PDD, NYPD Officer (Ret.), Robert Mauro PGLC, District Advisor David Maytas PVP, NJSEA Americanism Committee Chair, Eileen Brennan-Watts PDD, SCD Americanism Committee Chair and John Pallone Honorable Mayor of Long Branch. Members of the District Americanism Committee performed 13 folds of the Flag. Local Boys Scout Troops helped dispose of the service worn flags with dignity and respect. Pictured are the SCD Exalted Rulers and Distinguished guests speakers.

Sussex Lodge No. 2298 Honor State Essay Winner

Sussex Middle School eighth-grade student Makayla Nelson was honored September 14 at the Sussex Elks Lodge for achieving 2nd place in the state essay contest. Makayla read her essay, “Why our Veterans are America’s Heroes?”, and was awarded two plaques, along with a prize of $175.

Pictured below (l to r) Northwest District Deputy Frank Petrucci, Americanism Region II Co-Chairperson Bruce Lockwood, Sussex Lodge No. 2288 Exalted Ruler Warren Wisse, Sussex Lodge No. 2288 Americanism Chairperson, Ashley Green, Makayla Nelson and her parents.
# NJ Elk Lodge Boosters

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<th>Central District</th>
<th>Tenafly #2274</th>
<th>Millville #680</th>
<th>Point Pleasant #1698</th>
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**Thank You For Your Support!**
New Jersey Antlers Serve Their Communities

New Egypt Antlers Lodge No. 19 Help In Kitchen

On a recent Sunday afternoon, these members of Antler Lodge No. 19 of New Egypt Lodge No. 2357 spent their time making 100 bag lunches for a local soup kitchen. They also had a great fundraiser making 63 hoagies and selling them shortly after. Plans for this coming year include accepting 6 new members, and making a float for the upcoming Elks convention.

Carteret Antlers Lodge No. 20 volunteered at Elijah’s Soup Kitchen in New Brunswick NJ the week before Thanksgiving. The members helped to set up, serve and clean up.

Antlers Lodge No. 18 Aid The Annual Manasquan Candy Cane Hunt

The Manasquan Antlers Lodge No. 18, along with Manasquan Lodge No.254, handed out gifts at the annual Manasquan Candy Cane Hunt on November 30, 2018. The Manasquan Candy Cane Hunt is a major event in Manasquan each year and a great way for the Antlers to give back to the community. During the event, the Antlers also walk through the crowds in the Elk costume to promote drug awareness.

Carteret Antlers In Action

Carteret Antlers Lodge No. 20 donated 35 backpacks full of school supplies to their community school district for distribution by the Guidance Department. The members shopped for school supplies, assembled the backpacks, and attended a Board of Education Meeting where they presented the backpacks to the Board.
Special Children’s Committee

Trustees
By Peggy Berry, Chairperson

The Board of Trustees are continuing in their efforts to make Camp Moore a five-star experience for everyone attending. Many improvements and updates to the Camp have been made in conjunction with the Camp Moore Revitalization Program including but not limited to; Buch Hall renovation including a new roof, installation of a generator to ensure that power will remain on in the cabins to ensure safety for the campers, a smaller generator is in the works for the Nurses station and Dining Hall, new lighting has been installed as well as security cameras. These are only a few of the updates made this year thanks to the hard work of the Camp Staff and Elk Volunteers. With your continued support of Miracle on the Mountain and Camp Moore we will continue to improve the Camping experience for our Kids.

The Spring Respite Weekends have been held and we await the arrival of our summer campers and staff. Our Camp Director, Todd Thompson, will complete the training of all staff prior to the camp opening.

Thank you to our Camp Caretaker, Anthony Alfonso, Jr. for his enthusiasm and persistence in keeping up with the everyday needs of our camp. We continue to thank all the lodges, districts, and individuals who work hard to ensure our special Kids have a wonderful experience at Camp.

Your continued commitment to our kids and Camp is to be commended.

We would like to thank Anthony Alfonso, Revitalization Chairperson, for all his dedication, hard work and efforts put forth in the revitalization of our Camp. We wish Anthony great success in his future endeavors as State President this upcoming year!

Lastly, the SCC Trustees would like to thank the members of the New Jersey State Elks Association for “putting smiles on the faces of our special children”.

By Thomas Gardner, State Chairperson

Can you believe that the Elks Batters-Up Program was first held 15 years ago? So much has changed since then. In 2011, it was spun off on its own as NJ Elks Challenger Batters-Up and then the NJ Elks Challenger Sports Program which became a part of our State Special Children’s Committee. The spinoff really helped focus the program and it was immediately embraced by many key organizations throughout New Jersey, including Little League Baseball. This really helped bring even more attention to the NJ State Elks Association and all its great works. It has brought us many great relationships with other organizations such as POAC (Parents of Autistic Children) who run an interscholastic Challenger League (including baseball, flag football, basketball, and soccer) and Rally Cap Sports which also runs programs in 12 colleges and universities including Seton Hall University and Ramapo College. It seems whenever a new Challenger League forms or one wants to run an event, they know they can always depend on the Elks to run a contest and provide other support.

Every week at Elks Camp Moore, the counselors run a Batters-Up contest for our campers. This year there will also be a weekly Elks Challenger Soccer Shoot for them. Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 785 is graciously providing the camp a complete set of brand-new skill soccer goals and the children at the camp will decorate them to their liking.

Our State Finals will be held on Saturday June 22 at the North Wall LL Complex with awards immediately after at Ashbury Park Wall Lodge. State President-Elect Anthony Alfonso will be our Honorary Outfielder as per tradition. If you want to get involved, please let us know. We assure, the experience will have a great effect on you.
A Dream Come True

Bernadette Richmond had been trying for years to enter and successfully win a Van Raam Easy Rider Jr. bicycle for Jacob who suffers from Cerebral Palsy but to no avail. Friendship Circle’s Great Bike Giveaway provides an opportunity to win a bike as well as provides a fundraising platform for friends and family members. The Great Bike Giveaway gives a child with special needs the experience, joy, and independence of riding a special bike.

When Stephen Szczepaniak, South Central District Vice President, saw a request from Bernadette Richmond for community support to help Jacob win the bicycle of his dreams, he stepped into action. VP Steve immediately shared the post to the I’m An Elk From New Jersey Facebook page where it was shared over and over and helped record over 179,000 online votes in a nation-wide contest.

On April 20, members of the Keyport-Matawan Elks Lodge No. 2030, along with members of various Lodge Motorcycle Committees and emergency responders, hand-delivered 10 year old Jacob his bicycle. The state-of-the-art tricycle, which retails for $3,980, arrived in the back of a pick-up truck that followed a procession of law enforcement vehicles, fire engines and motorcycles that drove down Jacob’s street in Cliffwood, New Jersey. Members of the motorcycle committee also presented Jacob with his own committee t-shirt, a helmet and other safety equipment.

As for Jacob, the kind gesture left him speechless - “I’m screaming on the inside,” he said.

A Very Special Request

The Northwest District held their Annual Easter Special Children’s Party in April. Forty special children attended the event. During the event, members of the Northwest District helped former Area 3 Ambassador Joey Catalfamo ask Izzy Sotto to his prom. She said Yes!!!

Central District Charity Ball

Central District Charity Ball hosted by Carteret Lodge No. 2232 was held on March 9, 2019. Pictured left to right Harry Newton, PDD & Committee Chairman; Malcolm J McPherson PGER, Patricia Golino Chaperone, Brett Berardi Alt Ambassador, Howard Proctor Chaperone Ambassador Arizona Heskeyahu Acevedo, Sherri Heskeyahu, and Maryann Harman Chaperone.

Mt. Holly Lodge No. 848 Hosts Holiday Parties

The Special Children’s Committee of Mt. Holly Elks Lodge No. 848 held a Thanksgiving Luncheon for more than 65 guest that included all the fixings from turkey to pumpkin pie. Additionally, the committee held their annual Christmas Party for more than 125 guests. Each guest was presented a gift bag from the big guy in red, Santa.

Pictured here is Lodge Ambassador Oscar.
Ridgefield Park Lodge No. 1506 Plunges For Camp Moore

Ridgefield Park Lodge No. 1506 participated in the Annual John Sentner Memorial Polar Plunge and raised $6,100 for our State Major Project Camp Moore.

Piscataway Lodge No. 2414 Anniversary Grant

Piscataway Lodge No. 2414 recently donated their $1,500 Anniversary Grant to purchase a piece of physical therapy equipment to the Piscataway Regional Day School. Members were treated to breakfast, tour of the school, and watched one of the students receive therapy on the “Grasshopper” therapy equipment.

Pictured left to right: Dan Pencak, PER; Dave Lindsay, SCC Chairman; Student Daniel; Rich Recine, PVP; and Harry Newton, FDD.

SCC Sweetheart Dance Held At Bayonne Lodge No. 434

On February 16, 2019, Bayonne Lodge No. 434 held its 2nd Annual Sweetheart Dance raising almost $2,000 for their Special Children’s Committee. The event featured great food, live music and wonderful people. Thanks to all that attended or helped out.

Featured from left to right are: Lisa DiLorenzo, Roe Bond, Lisa Ross, and Toni Severini