Army of Hope...A Day of Remembrance

By Brian Murphy, State Chairperson

As we turn the page on our 15th Annual Army of Hope Picnic, what a great time to say thanks to our association and membership for being in the trenches and supporting your Army of Hope committee year after year. Our picnic, which is labeled a “Day of Patriotism & Remembrance”, is about the support we as Elks show our families. The true take-away from the picnic is how important this day is for our families and those injured. We are truly blessed as an organization to play a role in making this a special day for all.

The generous donations from our lodges allow us to execute our yearly financial obligations to our families and continue the work we are engaged in to support those who need our help.

This 15th year picnic mark is a good time to reflect back on our accomplishments and look towards our future in helping other groups who reach out to help our military personnel and individual’s needs. We need to keep seasoned members and new members energized by feeling good about our direction for the future. It is sad to sometimes hear discussion about what is the role of the Army of Hope. Our message and marching orders need to be clear and positive to educate our members on the Army of Hope mission.

A brief summary of our beginning may put things into perspective. Our committee started after the invasion of Iraq. Under the National Veteran Service umbrella, the NJ State Elks realized there would be a need to support the servicemen & women who were away from home on deployment. Through hundreds of charity events sponsored over the years, an estimated 2.5 million dollars has been raised. The goal was to assist our families with everyday needs and offer help as needed. The committee has paid for burial expenses, home repair, household bills, automobile expenses and supported groups who help our troops when returning home and are having a tough time adapting back to civilian life. Yearly back to school and holiday disbursements for our families children totals $80,000 a year and has not wavered. Holiday gift cards for our Gold Star families are a special tradition and way to let them know we will always remember their loved one. We have also purchased a custom transport bus to shuttle wounded from Fort Dix to Walter Reed Hospital. Just this month, we have supported the Bar X Project on our fourth sponsored trip with New Jersey Marines to help reconnect with their battle buddies through fly fishing in Montana. This has been helpful for veterans to help one another move forward after returning back home.

Our relationship with our corporate sponsor Lord Abbett initiated by member Frank Paone from Summit has been a tremendous partnership, and will motivate us into getting more awareness out to our New Jersey corporate communities, especially after finalizing our 501 (c) (3) status.

Yes we can all be proud, but so many more need our help year after year. As a committee we welcome all to be active in your lodges Army of Hope committees. Our future will be challenging, but exciting, as we reach out to find new avenues to help and support those in need.

God Bless our Troops!

A Grand Lodge Medal of Valor medal was presented to Mary Bowers, Gold Star mother of MSGT Jamal H. Bowers. Mary is surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Grand Lodge Medal of Valor medal was presented to Shirley Parrello, Gold Star Mother of LCPL Brian P. Parrello.


Severely wounded serviceman George Alakpa renders salute as he is introduced.
**New Jersey State Elks…BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES**

**Anthony Alfonso, 2019-2020 State President**

Here’s a snapshot of our first quarter. First off, I need to thank our State Sponsor Malcolm J. McPherson Jr. PGER for leading the installation of Officers of the State Association and Past State President Rich Bard for investing me with my jewels.

When I chose my motto for the year NEW JERSEY ELKS… BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES, I wasn’t expecting such an overwhelming display of it during our annual parade. I, along with my family, had the honor of watching the parade from the reviewing stand. The parade was kicked off by the revving sounds of the motorcycles of the Miracle Run Committee. They were followed by the proud members representing each of our lodges, many dressed in construction attire, and floats with construction equipment on them representing Building Stronger Communities.

After a few weeks of district events we were off to St Louis, Missouri for the Grand Lodge Convention. It’s always interesting to visit the other State Association booths and learn about their Major Projects and brag about our very own Elks Camp Moore. Once again, our Convention Committee outdid themselves ensuring that all NJ Elks had a safe and enjoyable convention. I was honored to represent New Jersey and carry in the State Flag as your State President. Thank you to Piscataway Lodge for your dedication to our Ritual and representing New Jersey in the contest at the National Convention. Congratulations on your accomplishments.

In the first few months of serving our State Association, along with the many meetings that I attended, I have enjoyed the numerous visits to Camp Moore, Homeless Veterans events, Jewel Investitures, Seafood Fest, and Youth Sports Tournaments. We attended a Youth Activities Fundraiser at the Somerset Patriots Game where I had the honor of throwing out the first pitch. There have been picnics, the Sussex County Fair, Camp Moore day trip to the Manasquan Beach, and Camp Moore day trip to Point Pleasant. Point Pleasant Lodge made arrangements for the campers and staff to take boat rides followed by a picnic and a First Responders Parade. Many of the children were able to ride on top of the fire trucks and yes, Diane and I were two of those children. It was an awesome day. It is amazing how each lodge and or district finds a special way to promote our programs.

The Miracle Run Committee once again held a great event, which was hosted this year by Hightstown Lodge who did an amazing job. The State Ambassadors in attendance, all had smiles on their faces as they enjoyed themselves with the music and activities.

Our State Major Project Elks Camp Moore’s camping season has quickly come to an end. I must say this has been one of the best years in my memory, and we owe this to the hard working dedicated Director Todd Thompson, assistant Director Jenna Bado, and Todd’s hand selected staff of counselors, medical staff, and kitchen crew, and of course the one that makes sure the camp is maintained and safe, Anthony Alfonso Jr. Now none of this would be possible without the dedication of the members of the Special Children’s Committee and the ECM Board of Trustees.

I am looking forward to attending the Army of Hope picnic honoring our heroes who have been injured and the families of those who have given their all. Thank you to the many lodges, districts, and individuals for their donations to the Army of Hope and the National Veterans Committee.

Just a reminder that my State President’s ENF per capita is $5.75. This is a goal that each lodge should be able to achieve with some planned fund-raising events. Remember your State Committee is there to assist you in achieving this goal.

We are off to a good start in achieving our #1 in the Nation goal in Membership, but we need to continue initiating new members and getting them active. I urge you to use our State Committee to guide you in this success. I need to thank each district for participating in the food drive program that we teamed up with, The Move for Hunger, to collect tuna fish, which is high in protein for children, along with other foods. I am proud to announce that as of this writing we have collected over 2100 pounds of food that was delivered to local food pantries.

We will now start working on the new Statewide Karen Minutella Reading Initiative. Our goal is to have at least one program in each district where a lodge will go into the school and read a book to the 3rd graders in March, fostering literacy and a love for reading.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for your tireless efforts in promoting our programs. You are making a difference one Community, one Veteran, one Child, one Family at a time.

“New Jersey Elks…BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES”

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**New Jersey Welcomes**

**GER Robert Duitsman and First Lady Beth**


On the Grand Lodge Level, Bob served on the Committee of Judiciary from 2009-2015, serving as Chair the last two years. Prior to his election as Grand Exalted Ruler, he was serving as a Justice of the Grand Forum.

For over thirty-five years, Bob has been an attorney in private practice in the Culver City area, with emphases in the areas of estate planning and parole revocation defense.

GER Bob met the love of his life, Beth in 1982, and they married in 1987. They do not have any children, unless you count their dog, Winston. They live in the Ladera Heights area of Los Angeles County.

Bob enjoys gardening, puttering around the house, spending time with his dog, and is one of 131 people on Earth who have finished all 34 editions of the Los Angeles Marathon, with a best time of 3:52.

Bob and Beth are proud and excited to have the opportunity to serve as National President and First Lady of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America; meeting and making friends during their travels, and talking about their slogan – “Honoring the Past – Embracing the Future.”

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**NJSEA WELCOMES**

**GRAND EXALTED RULER**

**Robert Duitsman**

and First Lady Beth

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**Elks Care — Elks Share • www.njelks.org**
Grand Lodge Message
By Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., PGER, State Sponsor

Our Grand Exalted Ruler Robert L. Duitsman, from Culver City, California Lodge No. 1917 and his wife Beth will be joining us at our Fall Conference. Since our Grand Exalted Ruler and our First Lady will be arriving Thursday morning, they will have the opportunity to tour the North Jersey Elks Developmental Disabilities Centers in Clifton and then the Vietnam Memorial. During our visit to the North Jersey Elks Developmental Disabilities Center we will be presenting a check in the amount of $45,000.00. On Friday we will be traveling to the 9/11 Memorial in New York City before returning to Long Branch. They are looking forward to meeting and seeing each of you in Long Branch.

I would like to congratulate our State President Anthony Alfonso and his committee people, our District Deputies, and Vice Presidents for all of their hard work this year. All of our committees have been working very hard and at the fall conference we will hear all of their accomplishments to date. Remember we have been emphasizing for each committee when an event is being held to invite the Public Relations and Membership/Retention Committees to the event. We want everyone to know the great things we are doing and the activities we are sponsoring for our Veterans, the Homeless Veterans, our Special Children, our Youth programs, our Drug Awareness programs and our scholarship programs and at the same time attract new members. We need new members and I urge and challenge each of you to bring in a new member.

Remember Elks Camp Moore is our State Major Project and I ask that each of you continue to support Elks Camp Moore – remember our special children. We want to always put a smile on the faces of our special children and their families. This year our 21st Annual Miracle Run was held at Hightstown and it was a very successful event – a great job for our Special Children. After meeting with our financial advisors for the Special Children's Committee and our investments, I am pleased to announce the Trustees have voted to reduce the cost of the camperships next year from $400.00 to $200.00. Please continue to make your donations.

Through the Elks National Foundation, Beacon Grants, Promise Grants, Impact Grants, Lodge Assistance Grants, Gratitude Grants, and Spotlight Grants are available to all our Lodges. Last year the Elks of New Jersey donated approximately $400,000.00 to ENF and we are receiving back from ENF approximately $510,000.00. This year at the Army of Hope Picnic we made a donation to the Army of Hope Committee in the amount of $25,000.00 and to the National Veterans Services for the homeless veterans in the amount of $30,000.00. Thank you for your generosity to ENF and keep it up this year. We will be making other donations at our fall conference.

We must congratulate the Army of Hope Committee. The Army of Hope Picnic honoring the families of our wounded warriors and fallen heroes was held at Lacey Elks Lodge on September 8th and it was a tremendous success. Through your generosity and their hard work, the Army of Hope Committee raised over $146,818 and the National Veterans Services for the homeless veterans program received the sum of $55,700. Unbelievable! Our Marketing/Publication Relations Committee through the State Chairman Joseph Pedone, has again arranged for the Elks message to be placed on digital billboards through the state. How great it is to see “Elks” and our programs on the billboards.

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

We must also congratulate our Membership/Retention Committee. Through the Committees’ hard work, the State of New Jersey had a gain in membership last year and is working hard to achieve a gain in membership this year. Remember while we are attempting to increase our membership, we must retain the members we have. Again, I ask each of our lodges whenever you are holding an event, make sure you are letting the people in your communities know the great work we are doing.

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

Requirements for Seeking Elective Office in This Association
By Francis J. Decibus, PSDGER, and Election Coordinator

Article VI Section 3D – Elections (District Vice President & Trustee)
Section 3: Any Member of this Association may seek an elective office in the Association provided:
(A) They are a Member in good standing in their Lodge and a Past Exalted Ruler
(B) Their Lodge is a Member Lodge in good standing in this Association and is located in a District in the electing Region or the District is eligible for the office sought.
(C) For the position of Vice-President and Trustee, they shall have filed by certified mail, return receipt requested or by email, with the President, their District's Vice President and the Secretary of this Association, not before December 1 and no later than January 5, a Resolution of endorsement adopted by their Lodge, at a regular Lodge session. Said resolution must be signed by the Lodge Exalted Ruler, and certified by the Lodge Secretary. If they elect to file by sending an email, it shall only be effective upon receipt of a return email from the President, Secretary and/or Vice President, acknowledging receipt of the Resolution. A local Lodge may only endorse one candidate for the position of Vice President or Trustee.

The Districts which will have Trustee Elections in 2020 are: East, North East, South, and West Central.

The New Jersey Elk Submission Deadline
March 15, 2020

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%, (no photo copies or reproductions)
State Membership chairman, Michael Penchenski PDD, along with a crew of Elks spent each Sunday at Elks Camp Moore greeting parents & families as they dropped their children off for a week of camp. Everyone was given pens, a brochure about the NJ Elks, and told “If they ever thought of joining, we would love to have them.” The pens have “elks.org” and “We give back to our community” written on them. Membership and Marketing & Public Relations would love to have them. The pens have “elks.org” and “We give back to our community” written on them. Membership and Marketing & Public Relations would love to have them.

Public Relations & Marketing Committee
By Joe Pedone, State Chairperson

As we enter this new Elk year, the committee plans on a very aggressive approach to working with each district directly, helping to provide insight and direction as to how each lodge should be marketing themselves.

Our brand is no different than any other consumer-based company or successful non-profit. Today, branding is the key component the Elks need in having our local communities identify and truly understand what the Elks stand for. We will certainly be telling our committee chairs and their districts about some branding opportunities for their lodges. We will also show each district how to utilize the new Virtual Marketing Manual on the Grand Lodge website. We want to provide the lodges with all the tools to strengthen the overall knowledge of marketing and its usage and effect on membership growth.

As our State President Anthony Alfonso has made his theme for the year “Building Stronger Communities,” so must the Elks now focus on strengthening old approaches and adding a few new ones so that our brand is known by all through stronger community involvement.

It is not so much the public relations portion of marketing that will create this awareness for the Elks, but rather a connection that each Elks lodge makes to involve themselves with every community leader especially at events that we are normally not involved with. This is where our committee will be focusing its energy to help each district strengthen its brand awareness within their respective communities.

The dividend for each lodge is increased membership, because people will want to join an organization that is geared towards helping its community.

Until next time, I hope to see each of you down the road where NJ ELKS roam!

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

Congratulations New Jersey Elks! We won 2nd place nationally with a gain in membership of 739! YOU sponsored 7,630 new members. YOU keep our Order growing and thriving! The New Jersey Elks are the best of the best!

The internet is no longer a mystery. We make purchases and pay bills online every day. Please go to Elks.org and register with your name and membership number. Explore the virtual manuals, which are amazing. “Membership and Marketing Living Manual”, “Lodge Brand to Attract New Members”, and “Enhance Your Expertise in Membership and Marketing” are just a few examples of what is on there. The website also has the Orientation video and ONLINE membership applications. Now you can sponsor a friend with a smart phone or tablet!

Put an ad on your lodge Facebook page inviting “stray elks” to come back to the lodge. Many of them would like to return, but may think that they owe years of back dues. There are no back dues.  All they need to pay is a reinstatement fee and prorated dues for that year.

Please call, mail or email our delinquent members. Consider accepting monthly dues payments from members. Members battling health issues may be considered for life membership or hardship. Refer them to the Standing Relief Committee. Let’s reach out to them and take care of our own!

Invest in your lodge initiations or VP and DD clinics. I will work for you. I can speak to your group for the exact time allotted for me. Let’s keep the enthusiasm and momentum going and growing.

As our State President Anthony Alfonso has made his theme for the year “Building Stronger Communities,” so must the Elks now focus on strengthening old approaches and adding a few new ones so that our brand is known by all through stronger community involvement.

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Until next time, I hope to see each of you down the road where NJ ELKS roam!

Clayton Lodge No. 2132 Turns 60

On September 28, 2019, Clayton Lodge No. 2132 celebrated their 60th anniversary at the lodge home with a party attended by Grand Lodge and State Association leaders, members and friends.

The Lodge began its journey in Elkdom, when it was sponsored by its mother Lodge Camden, on July 15, 1959. Over the years, the Lodge grew in members and charitable works. From member No. 0001, A.M. Anderson, to our recently initiated member No. 1482, Dan Burke, we have attracted many patriotic Americans to the Lodge and our Order.

Those members that have been called home by their God will be remembered for their good deeds while their faults are written in the sand. They were the foundation of our home.

Over the years, our Lodge has been honored to have had 1 State President, 1 Grand Lodge Committeeman, 13 District Deputies, 13 Vice Presidents, 6 State Trustees (3 of which were Chairman) and several other state offices. We have had state chairs of Convention, Credentials, Drug Awareness, Parades and Scholarship. This is a great testament to the quality of our members over the years.

Clayton lodge has had many proud highlights over the years. The lodge sponsored the first camper to Elks Camp Moore, John Freundlich, who was brought there by SCC Howard Smith and ER Tom McColligan. The lodge has had 3 State Hoop Shoot winners and 1 regional winner, Kevin Mullen (later All-American) at Princeton, as well as 2 State winners in the Soccer Shoot. The Grass roots program in Gloucester County with Services To Overcome Drug Addiction among Teens morphed into our #1 Peer Leadership Program. Clayton lodge has represented the South District countless times in the State Ritual Contest; including All Star Loyal Knight Tom McColligan and the first female ER to participate, Honey Sawyer. Winning the Wildwood Cup in our most recent parade was just one example of many parade accomplishments. Lastly, one of our own, Carl Halpin, was a direct descendent of George Thompson, A JOLLY CORK, the founders of our great Order.

Happy were the days and looking forward to many more.
Auditing and Business Practices
by Michael J. MacFeeters, State Chairperson

The Committee is devoted to 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 of your financial records.

All lodges should be in the process of receiving their report from the Grand Lodge Auditor for the fiscal year 2019 annual financial report. 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 assigned the Auditing and Business Practices committee the responsibility of securing quarterly financial reports from 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 cash accounts to submit this form to the District Vice President and Auditing and Business Practices Chairperson. All committees are responsible for this quarterly reporting process.

Also, a new Financial Reporting System (FRS) was approved at the recent Grand Lodge Convention. This new system goes into full operation as of April 1, 2020. All lodges will be responsible for full compliance. There will be information and training available throughout the remainder of this lodge year. George Miller PGLC, PSP has been appointed the New Jersey Financial Reporting System State Coordinator.

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 always available for assistance.

Financial Reporting System (FRS)
By George H. Miller, PGLC/PSP

At the last Grand Lodge Session held in St Louis, the delegates voted to approve a new Financial Reporting System, which will now be known as FRS. This system will replace the old lodge financial reporting system and is expected to be in place and operational by no later than April 1, 2020.

The new system will not replace the 990 or 990T submissions to the IRS nor will it replace an audit or review if required by the State of New Jersey. Your lodge will still be responsible for timely filings of payroll taxes and Charitable Registration submission to the State.

Please note our Grand Lodge Sponsor may still require a review or audit, if there are concerns raised by the data in the FRS submissions.

In addition, please note that the Elks FRS does not require lodges to change accounting systems. However, all lodges MUST use the official Elks Chart of Accounts as documented in the recently updated Auditing and Accounting Manual.

Where do the lodges begin? The first steps are to go online and review the Frequently Asked Questions, attend an online webinar and review the training resources.

After reviewing your lodge’s chart of accounts and updating same, including any budget items, please contact me to begin the process. I can be reached by email at ghmiller3@verizon.net or by phone at (908) 337-4840.

I look forward to all of us going on this journey together.

Government Relations Committee
By Ron Subrizi, State Chairperson

We are halfway through our Elk year and we should have had considerable charitable work recorded. Thank you to all the lodges that have been reporting their charitable work on a regular basis! However, unfortunately, there are a lot of lodges that have not yet reported any charitable work to CLMS. Lodge secretaries are required to report monthly to CLMS. By reporting on a regular basis, there is less chance of forgetting any of the great charitable work that the lodge accomplished.

Our Government Relations mission statement states that we need to demonstrate to the government that we are a charitable organization. We can take this information and use it in terms of building membership and positive public relations. Proudly display signs indicating how much your lodge has given back to your own community. Show your friends and neighbors and everyone in your community that we are the number one charitable organization, not just a social club!

Our state president, Anthony Alfonso, will be awarding a plaque in Wildwood to the lodge with the most charitable work in dollars (calculated as time @ $25.69/hr, miles @ .55/ mile, cash and non-cash contributions). There will be a booth at fall conference displaying the top 10 lodges that have reported the most charitable monies to date.

For those that were not at the state meetings, we ask that you “THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!” Some charitable items that were discussed were pull tabs and Instant Wins which includes all the money earned, time spent playing it, taking care of it, paying out the winnings and mileage the players had to drive to play it (to lodge and back home) and don’t forget the bartenders time in paying out the winnings and collecting and maintaining all the tickets. This is a huge amount of charity that a lot of lodges are missing! Does your lodge sponsor an Elks little league team? If so, report the time and mileage for practices, the game time, coaches and kids. Don’t forget the cost of the sponsorship and the money spent on sodas or pizza after the games, and your time setting up the line-up. Batter Up, NJ Tournament of Champions, Soccer and Scouts all qualify for charitable hours. ERs don’t forget to report on Wildwood, Grand Lodge and Fall Conference. Time spent at meetings, miles to and from, cost to stay and of course the time to, from and in the airport. Remember we do so much, let’s get credit for it! We were first in the nation last year, let’s do it again with higher numbers!

Stop by our booth at fall conference. We are open to any suggestions, within reason. Let’s get credit for ALL we do. And just a reminder, there is no time limit on reporting. If you forgot something, you can report it at a later date.

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www.njelks.org • Elks Care • Elks Share
Convention Committee

Grand Exalted Ruler Duitsman to visit New Jersey!

By Thomas Zisa, GLC/PSP, Convention Committee Member-at-Large

This year’s Fall Conference will be held November 8-10, 2019. We will again be staying at the beautiful Ocean Place Resort in Long Branch, New Jersey. Our Fall Conference will be the official visit of Grand Exalted Ruler Robert L. Duitsman from Culver City Elks Lodge No.1917 to our great State. His lovely wife Beth will also be joining us. Let’s be sure to show them just how energetic, enthusiastic and great New Jersey Elks are.

Your Convention Committee has made all arrangements for a fantastic Conference. We will begin the weekend Friday evening with the annual Memorial Service to honor those Past Exalted Rulers we have lost during the previous year. After the Memorial Service it will be time to enjoy each other’s company and have some fun at our first ever Picnic Party complete with picnic-themed food, music and dancing. Dress for the party is casual.

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

At the Fall Conference, many of our state committees will have exhibits set up in the grand hall adjacent to the hotel ballrooms. The Convention Committee will have shirts, pins, ties, badges and other apparel available for purchase. Please be sure to visit the committee’s exhibits.

For those of you who want to plan ahead, the 2020 Grand Lodge Convention will be held July 5 - 8 in Baltimore, MD. Baltimore is rich in history and is the city where Francis Scott Key wrote the Star-Spangled Banner during the war of 1812. Baltimore has a beautiful Inner Harbor area filled with restaurants, bars, historic ships, museums, a world-renowned aquarium and a water taxi system to take you anywhere around the harbor.

Plan now to attend next year’s convention.

As always, your Convention Committee is working hard for you, the members. It is and has always been our main goal to make each Convention, Conference or Reunion better than the one before.
Parades Committee
By Patrick DeLuca, State Chairperson

This year was a busy learning year. Our parade set all kinds of records. We have made several changes. The Antlers Lodge No.4 sponsored by Lake Hopatcong Lodge No.782 made district signs which helped a great deal in getting the districts to their correct line up position. We improved our time of the parade. Our awards this year were a great success. We handed out 157 plaques and were able to go the 5th and 6th place in some categories. Some Lodges took home awards for the first time this year! The enthusiasm was overwhelming. We are working with our independent judging group on ways to expedite the judging process. We still use social media and stream the parade on Facebook. More than 75,000 people all over the United States viewed our parade this year. Our committee is still traveling up and down the state in rain, sleet and snow and that’s dedication. Our monthly meetings are open to any member who wants to submit ideas or constructive criticism. Our theme will be decided at the October State Parades meeting and will be announced at the Fall Conference in Long Branch.

Bordentown Lodge No. 2085 Wins The Governor’s Trophy

Pictured from left to right (Back Row): Ken Jewell - 4 year Trustee - PER, Heather Chessman - 5 year Trustee - PER, Dave Wriggins - Esquire, Bill Drapcak - Chaplin Jess Smith - Lecturing Knight, Karl Swanson - Treasurer, Carmen Adonizio - Three Year Trustee - PER, Terry Vaughan - Tiler. Pictured sitting left to right are Jack Becker - Two Year Trustee PER, Richard DeLuca - Leading Knight, Ed Taddei - Exalted Ruler, Joe Ratajczak - Inner Guard and Tom Ficherello - One Year Trustee.

(Left) Congratulations to the members of Pompton Lakes Lodge No. 1895 for winning the Best Color Guard in the 2019 NJSEA Wildwood Parade.

(Above) Congratulations to the members of Parsippany-Troy Hills Lodge No. 2078 for winning the Best Float in the 2019 NJSEA Wildwood Parade.
Drug Awareness Committee

By Lisa Rovito,
State Chairperson

The Drug Awareness Committee continues to work hard to educate the community about the dangers of drug use and spread the word about our program. With the opioid epidemic continuing to grow in our communities, the importance of what we do becomes imperative. I encourage all lodges to have an active Drug Awareness committee.

We had the Drug Awareness Trailer at the New Jersey State Fair, Sussex County Farm and Horse Show in Augusta NJ from August 2nd to August 11th, where we distributed thousands of packets of Drug Awareness literature to the attendees. I would like to thank the Green Family and members of Sussex Lodge No. 2288 for all of their hard work in making this event possible. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers that traveled from around the State to help out at this wonderful event. We utilized the Fatal Vision Goggles to demonstrate the dangers of driving under the influence.

Districts and lodges distributed materials at festivals, community fairs and National Night Out events throughout the state to get the word out about our programs. This year’s Poster, Essay and Video contests will begin on October 1st, 2019 and the theme will be “Life does not rewind, choose life not drugs”. I encourage all lodges to participate in this Grand Lodge Program.

This year’s Path and Peer Leadership Conferences are scheduled for February 6th through 9th, 2020 at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa in Long Branch NJ.

The Northwest District Drug Awareness Committee will be holding a Golf Outing on October 11, 2019 at Farmstead Country Club, 9am Shotgun start. The price is $130 per golfer and $50 to sponsor a hole.

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

Brick Lodge No. 2151 Takes Part in National Night Out

On Tuesday, August 6th, 2019 at the Brick Township National Night Out event, members of Brick Lodge No. 2151 distributed over 250 hot dogs in Winward Park to the large crowd in attendance. This was made possible by a donation from the Pontoriero Law Firm. Pictured from left to right are members Joanna Crerand, Donna Hanson, Terry McHugh, Anne-Marie Haas, Christina Bradley and Jan Stoll.

Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 Participates in National Night Out

Cedar Grove Elks Lodge No. 2237, along with the Town of Cedar Grove, and other Service Organizations participated in National Night Out on August 6, 2019. The lodge handed out foldable frisbees, pens, drug awareness literature, coloring books, and brochures with information on drug and alcohol awareness. Ronald Werner from North Penn Elks Lodge No. 1979 and his daughter attended the National Night Out. He has been a member of the Elks for 51 years. Photo L to R: Ronald Werner, his grand-daughter and Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 Member Craig Scalera.

Long Branch Lodge No. 742 Participates in National Night Out

The Long Branch Elks No. 742 ran a table with games and prizes for the residents of the city at Long Branch’s National Night Out. The lodge, along with the sponsored Boy Scout Troop 143, distributed flags, and pamphlets on bullying and drug abuse, along with applications for membership. The event was attended by approximately 1000 people. Pictured from lower left is Anne Seleck and Exalted Ruler Michael Veth. Pictured from upper left are chaplain Sue Collin and Mayor John Pallone who is also a member of Long Branch lodge.
2020 Path/Peer Leadership
By William J. Oakley, PGLC/PSP

The 32nd Annual Peer Leadership conference for high school students is scheduled for February 7-9, 2020 at the Ocean Place Resort & Spa in Long Branch, NJ. The theme of the conference "Elks and Youth: For A Better Tomorrow" sets the tone for a meaningful and most necessary opportunity to offer our attendees positive and useful information that will help guide them on their journey without relying on the false promises of drugs, alcohol and tobacco to ease the pressures they will experience along the way. A special program will be offered on the horror and devastation associated with suicide among our teens.

We have engaged the most powerful line up of speakers ever assembled at our conference. The 2020 edition promises to be the best ever. We anticipate a full house and encourage registration as early as possible.

Our Path To Leadership program will be offered to 6, 7 & 8th graders, their parents, guardians and educators on February 6, 2020 at the Ocean Place. We will be adding an extra hour to the program that will begin registration at 8am and end at 3pm. Continental breakfast will be offered on arrival. Included in the program will be lunch and conference materials.

We have excellent speakers lined-up to deal with bullying, cyber-bullying and social media issues as well as the legal aspects associated with these issues. We believe it is vital that as many parents/guardians as possible attend.

The fee for our multi-day Peer Leadership program is $385.00 per attendee. Adult advisors can request single room for $560.00. Fee includes 2 night lodging, all meals, conference materials and some fun entertainment.

The Path To Leadership fee will be $75.00 per student. Parents/guardians and teachers coming with groups of students are FREE OF CHARGE. Adults attending on their own are $75.00 each.

All applications will be available by first week in October via mail, District Chairs or on NJ Elk.org. Deadline for Peer Leadership is December 20th. Applications received after December 20th will be on a space available basis. No applications will be accepted within 2 weeks of conference. Path To Leadership applications will be accepted until January 17, 2020 as space is available. It is advised that Path applications be submitted as early as possible as we anticipate well over 500 attendees. Applications for both must include payment by check to NJSEA or Purchase Order and mailed to NJ ELKS CONFERENCE, PO Box 151, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210.

Questions, concerns can be addressed to Bill Oakley @ 609-972-3454.

Students Take Over The Government For A Day

As part of Elks National Youth Week, Bergenfield High School students took over the reins of municipal government on May 21. In the program sponsored by Bergenfield Elks Lodge No. 1477, students assumed the roles of the governing body during a mock council session. Students (seated, left to right) are Deanna Minano, Elin Santos, Emie Santos, "Mayor" John Mineses, Alyssa Augustin, Jessica Lugo, Isabelle Alvarez and Aurora Madera. Standing (from left) are Bergenfield Elks Bill Slossar, Tom Boyce and Bob Murphy; Councilwoman Ora Kornbluth; Mayor and Bergenfield Elk Norman Schmelz; Borough Clerk and Hasbrouck Heights Elk Marie Quinones; Bergenfield Elk Al Burton; and Borough Administrator Corey Gallo.

Northeast District Walkout on Drugs

Members and friends of the Northeast District gathered in front of New Milford/Teaneck Elks Lodge No. 2290 before walking to Bergenfield Elks Lodge No. 1477 to raise money for the Elks’ drug awareness programs. More than $6,400 was raised on the Sunday, June 2, event.
Elks National Foundation
By MaryAnn Applegate, State Chairperson

At the State re-organization meeting in May, State President-Elect Anthony Alfonso announced that his per capita goal was going to be $5.75. At that meeting, I announced my goal would be to reach $500,000. I truly believe this goal is obtainable!

The initial fundraiser was a Pick Three Raffle and is to be held in both Region 1 and Region 2. I challenged our Region Chairmen, Robert Byrnes (Region 1) and Paul Burke (Region 2) to see which Region would raise more funds.

The NJSEA Fall Conference will be held the weekend of November 8-10 at Ocean Place Resort in Long Branch. While there, please stop by the ENF booth as I’d love to meet you, hear about your fundraising ideas, and how you have successfully obtained and used your grants. Remember Elks Care—Elks Share, show how you help others and more will benefit.

October is ENF month and Grand Lodge has asked us to initiate a class of new members in honor of our GER Robert L. Duitsman. I can think of no better way to honor our GER than to bring in a class and meet the Grand Lodge per capita at the same time. Use October to boost your ENF numbers. During your orientation, introduce the candidates to the Elks National Foundation. Show them a Camp Moore video, bring them to a local Vets home, and/or any Grant funded projects your Lodge has been involved in to show them ENF donations work.

Lodge Officers, if you haven’t already made your ENF pledge, please do so today. Lead by example.

Lodge Grant Coordinators, if you haven’t already done so, please register to watch the webinars and start getting those Grant applications submitted. ENF Grants are still available.

The Most Valuable Student Scholarships are sponsored by ENF. Applications were opened on August 5, 2019 and close on November 5, 2019. Ask your Lodge and/or District Scholarship Chairperson for information, or you can go to Elks.org and read it for yourself.

The Fraternal year ends on March 31, 2020. During February please make a final push to bring in funds. Also, do not forget about the Biggest Heart Contest. This contest starts January 1st and runs through February 15th. Be creative and cover your Lodge walls with hearts of all sizes and a variety of colors. The winner in each category will be announced in Wildwood 2020.

New Jersey has always set the bar high in all aspects of Elkdom. Let’s give our State Sponsor, Malcolm J. McPherson Jr, PGER and our State President, Anthony Alfonso, another reason to smile in Baltimore. How great would it be to have it announced from the podium, that NJ raised half a million dollars for ENF?

WE’RE ON OUR WAY TO $500!

Stephen J. Terrible PGLC/PSP Makes Generous Donation to ENF

Stephen J. Terrible PGLC/PSP was recognized for his generous donation to the Elks National Foundation. He donated $10,000 in the name of his late wife, Hilda Terrible. The money was to be directed to the Elks National Foundation to initiate a class of new members in honor of our GER Robert L. Duitsman. I can think of no better way to honor our GER than to bring in a class and meet the Grand Lodge per capita at the same time. Use October to boost your ENF numbers. During your orientation, introduce the candidates to the Elks National Foundation. Show them a Camp Moore video, bring them to a local Vets home, and/or any Grant funded projects your Lodge has been involved in to show them ENF donations work.

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South Plainfield Lodge No. 2298 Spotlight Grant
South Plainfield Lodge No. 2298 was awarded an Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant to purchase Welcome Home Kits. They purchased items for 10 Welcome Home Kits and everything was delivered to members Eileen and Dan Uken’s home. The kits were picked up by Kelly Mazzocchi, Ray Hopkins, and Luis Morales after they finished moving in a veteran in North Brunswick. The kits will be stored at the Elks Veterans Annex in Long Hill Township until needed. Pictured L-R: South Plainfield Elk Dan Uken, Margaret Williams, Janice Dube, Ray Hopkins, South Plainfield Elk Eileen Uken, Kelly Mazzocchi, and Luis Morales.

ENF Donor Reaches Silver Level
William W. Dow, Jr., PDDGER from Kearny Lodge No. 1050 was presented with a plaque from Elks National Foundation for obtaining the silver level in donations by Marybeth Gerstenmier, Exalted Ruler.
Brigantine Lodge No. 2428 Works To Improve ADA Access To The Ocean

On July 9, 2019, Mayor Andy Simpson, Deputy Councilman Vince Sera and a large group of Brigantine Elks Lodge No. 2428 members dedicated a new beach chair called a Water Wheels Chair. This can be used by individuals with disabilities, senior citizens, veterans and others who may be unstable on their feet, or unable to walk the distance to the ocean. The Water Wheels Chair will enable people with disabilities to get from their car, to the sand, to the ocean, and then to be able to cool off and float in the ocean. This increases socialization, love of the outdoors, and enables them to safely exercise in the ocean as other beach goers can do. The chair was purchased through an Elks National Foundation (ENF) Grant for $2000 that was awarded to the Brigantine Lodge No.2428. It has long been the goal of the lodge to work with the City of Brigantine to make the beach and ocean ADA accessible.

Pictured from left to right: Tom and Josephine Scalfani, Tom Pantalena, Gene Soloman, Dave Biggins, Donna Fulmer, John Doring, Pat Orchard, Karen Geller, Kip Emig, Exalted Ruler Rich Poole, Brigantine Mayor Andy Simpson, Harry McGarrigle III PSP, Councilman Dennis Haney, Veterans Comm. Chair Joe Kelly, Councilman Paul Lettieri; Front row: Councilman Vince Sera, Councilman Mike Riordan.

Clifton Lodge No. 1569 Delivered Donations During Shark Week Food Drive

Exalted Ruler Keith L. Oakley PER HLM and the officers of Clifton Elks Lodge No. 1569 deliver donations collected during the Shark Week Food Drive to St. Peter’s Haven along with other donations. The donations will benefit at risk and under-served families and individuals in the community. This was made possible through the Elks National Foundation Beacon and Gratitude Grants. Pictured from left to right are: Gustavo Orales-Bravo - St. Peter’s Haven Pantry Team Member, Joanne T Stolarz PDD - Lodge Secretary, Frank Kasper - Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Keith L. Oakley PER HLM - Exalted Ruler Michele Oakley - Trustee, Kevin Kurnath - Chaplain, Thomas Haschak PER - Esteemed Leading Knight, and Kevin Donahue - St. Peter’s Haven Executive Director.

Hackettstown Lodge No. 2331 Thanks Veterans For Their Service.

Using part of a Freedom Grant, the Hackettstown lodge No. 2331 prepared 300 packets containing American flag Pocket Flags with accompanying notes thanking the recipients for their service. They will be sent to the lodge’s adopted NJ National Guard Unit based in Hackettstown and now deployed in Africa. Pictured left to right are 102 Calvery Troop C Family Readiness Group President, Leora Brenowitz, Commander, Colonel Bill Morris, and FRG member, Danielle Bracco.

Woodbridge Lodge No. 2116 Spotlight Grant

On Saturday August 31, 2019, members of Woodbridge Lodge No. 2116 participated in Military and Veteran Family Day sponsored by Catholic Charities, Inc. They used their Spotlight Grant to promote literacy and gave away car seats, diapers, baby wipes, and onesies to our Military and Veteran Families. Pictured left to right are Glen Hebbe, Walter Pearson, PER Paulo Koptcho, and PER Judy Galambos.
November is National Veterans Remembrance month. The centerfold feature is a small sample of the dedicated efforts of our Lodges and the members of the National Veterans Services Committee and its work to aid the homeless veterans and recently housed veterans throughout our State. The NVS committee has helped veterans in every county from High Point to Cape May and everywhere in between.

In January 2018, the NJSEA entered into an agreement with Long Hill Township to lease an old American Legion Building and convert it into a storage facility for the homeless veterans’ initiative. After countless hours of volunteer renovation work, the facility was transformed into the NJ State Elks Veterans Annex and an official ribbon cutting was held on April 27, 2019. The NVS committee also has a storage container at Old Bridge Elks Lodge and a storage unit in Marlton to make deliveries easier. A fourth storage unit will be started at Lacey Elks Lodge with a donation from Home Depot.

Through the various ENF grants available, Lodges have been able to purchase items for welcome home kits as well as beds frames, mattresses, and bedding and store them at the Veterans Annex until they are needed. The members of the New Jersey Elks are making a difference in the lives of those who defended our freedoms.

Woodbridge Lodge No. 2116 Focus Grant

Woodbridge Lodge No. 2116 has used their Focus Grant to help Veterans in need. Working with the Middlesex County Veterans Council, they have provided motel rooms to veterans waiting for housing, transportation to jobs and job interviews, welcome home kits, personal products, diapers, food, and cleaning supplies. They even provided an interview suit and the Veteran Got the job! Pictured is member Nancy Mullins with US Navy Veteran Abbygale who is currently in school. Woodbridge Elks provided assistance to her.

Hackettstown Lodge No. 2331 Service to Homeless Veterans

The Lodge has participated in Operation Chillout. They used their Freedom Grant to purchase four winterized tents. Part of their Gratitude Grant and donations facilitated twenty-four backpacks being filled with winter clothing, T-shirts, baseball caps, and 1,920 bottles of water were donated to help veterans through the summer. Welcome Home kits have been donated to Veterans Haven North, the NJSEA Veterans Annex, and local veteran in need. The Lodge also used part of a Gratitude Grant and collaboration with Home Depot to create a lounge for the women at Veterans Haven North for a place to call their own. The project included renovation of a wall, paint, carpeting, purchasing a TV and running in the cable line for it, five pieces of furniture, refrigerator, microwave oven, coffee maker, electric tea pot, wall hanging, stocking the kitchen with coffee, tea, snacks and other treats and a dedication picture recognizing the contribution of the Lodge.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to dedicate the new area. An additional collaboration with Home Depot resulted in a major project at Veterans Haven North. The employees of Home Depot spent a day there doing major renovation work. To support the effort, the Lodge rented a 30 yard dumpster and provided breakfast and lunch for the work crew. There is another major collaboration planned for there in the fall. Using the Spotlight Grant, the Lodge will be providing six evenings of activities, entertainment and food for the residents of Veterans Haven North to include the Elks Flag Day Ceremony, picnic, comedy show, singer, craft night and bingo.

Pictured from left to right: Exalted Ruler Liz Thurrott, veterans Theresa Robertson and Tara Starks, PER Fred Spages at the ribbon cutting for the new women’s lounge at Veterans Haven North.
As Long As There Are Veterans... Never Forget Them!

Clayton Lodge No. 2132 has been actively involved with Camp Salute – a 76 apartment unit complex. A team of 58 Elks have delivered welcome home kits, full meals, complete kitchen accessories, and beds to veterans there. They have helped 39 Veterans and their families with $32,273.74 in items delivered. Pictured above is SPC George Briner, US Army. Surrounding George are Past State President Bill Oakley, District Deputy Ken DeLuca, PER Wayne Bruce, Trustees Lauren Franklin and Rick O’Brien, and Ray Hutchinson. George has also become a member of Clayton Lodge No. 2132 as a result of the Lodge’s work on behalf of our veterans.

On Saturday, August 24, 70 people, mostly Elks from across the state, as well as local volunteers, met at Valley Brook Village to fill 50 apartments with Welcome Home Kit items. All items were delivered within one hour. A few elk members drove longer to get there than it took to get all of the items delivered. Many hands make fast work.

Thank you to everyone who took time out to help at this event. Thank you to the Stirling Elks for using your $10,000 Freedom Grant to purchase all of Welcome Kit items. Thank you to the NJ State Elks NVSC for purchasing the cleaning supplies and thank you to the Manville-Hillsborough Elks who used one of their grants to purchase 50 bed in a bags.

Members of Passaic Valley Lodge No. 2111 have been supporting our State’s Homeless Veteran Initiative. John Szczomak, GLC/PSP and Jody Szczomak, Passaic Valley Lodge No. 2111 Exalted Ruler delivered a Welcome Home Kit to Gerald to complete the start of his new chapter in life in a Paterson apartment building dedicated to Veterans and their Families. Veterans Chairperson Sharon Anderson Forschino dropped off 5 Welcome Home Kits to New Haven Veterans Home. These kits were made possible from their ENF Grant.

NJSEA Members picked up furniture from a Metuchen Elk who is moving and delivered it to a Veteran and his nephew who is a member of the ROTC. They moved into an 18 apartment building for veterans and their families in Paterson. Helping with the move were Kelly Mazzocchi, Ray Hopkins, Greg Cross, and members of Elmwood Park Paterson Lodge No. 60: Exalted Ruler Arthur Andreano, PER Kathy Andreano, and Trustee Bob Muns.

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www.njelks.org • Elks Care – Elks Share
Unloading Supplies for the Veterans Annex

State Veterans Chairman Don Tonachio, Lacey Lodge No. 2518 and James Dugan, Manasquan Lodge No. 2534 unloading a truckload of supplies for the NJSEA Veterans Annex in Long Hill, NJ.

National Veterans Services Committee
By Don Tonachio, State Chairperson

Over the last 3 plus years, we have become two-pronged. Since our inception, our first goal has always been to help veterans who need a hand. This ranges from those hospitalized or in nursing homes to those that have just fallen into hard times. Our newest objective is helping those veterans who are homeless or recently housed. This was started in NJ by our friend, Jim Hall PSP, who aided the local organizations who helped veterans get off the street.

“Two words that should never be said together, Homeless and Veteran.” J.H. 2011

Over the last 3 years, we have helped over 730 homeless Veterans and their families become re-housed. The committee supplied them with every household item they would need to restart including new beds, furniture, etc. We buy it and deliver it to their homes personally. Our cost is approximately $500.00 to $800.00 per family, not including the man hours spent travelling to every part of our state. We have two of our very own food banks one located in Long Hill Twp and the other one in Lacey Twp. I believe that they are the only ones for Veterans like that by Elks in the country! If your lodge wants to start one, please call me. We need a lot more as no family should ever go hungry. In particular, female veterans never seem to ask for help, but 6 out of 10 have children living with them.

We continue to help those Veterans who have fallen through the cracks and need help financially. Our committee offers 2 scholarships for veterans who need an extra hand finishing their education. The committee works with Rutgers New Brunswick and Stockton Universities. Last year, we helped a mother who had to drop out of school because her child was very sick. She lost her VA money and was unable to take classes to finish her degree, but the NVSC was able to pay for her to finish her education! Lodges can get a grant and help us sponsor these vets!

We have dozens of volunteers who visit our veterans. They take them on trips, buy essential items and help to make them feel respected and not forgotten. We do this through you!!

“As long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them!”
Americanism Committee
By Bruce Lockwood, State Chairperson

The Americanism Committee will be conducting the essay contest again this year. This is held each year based on the topic from Grand Lodge. As always, the topic once again is quite thought provoking: “What Does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me?”

Students enrolled in 5th through 8th grade are eligible for this contest. There are 2 divisions. The 5th and 6th grade being division 1, the 7th and 8th grade being division 2. Each lodge chair will be going out to the local schools hoping to get their participation. This has been quite challenging lately. We are asking that any member who might have relatives, neighbors or friends with children that would fall into these two divisions, to urge their participation. They should contact their local Elks Lodge in order to get in touch with the lodge chair. Each essay will first be judged on the lodge level, and then may advance to the district level, the state level and even forwarded on to Grand Lodge.

The top 3 essays in each division on the state level will receive a TD Bank gift card. $500.00 for 1st place, $275.00 for 2nd place and $150.00 for 3rd place. The 1st place essays from the State will then be forwarded to Grand Lodge.

The committee will be selling lapel pins and 50-50 tickets again as fundraisers.

Once again, the committee will be conducting the Americanism Challenge contest. This contest is for each lodge to show the things they’ve done throughout the lodge year, related to Americanism. The top lodges in each Region will receive a plaque in Wildwood along with a monetary award. These forms can be found on the state website under the Americanism Committee page.

Grand Lodge has asked that each lodge participate in a newer program. This program is to recognize local businesses who handle the Flag properly which includes flying it during the day and at night, if illuminated. There is a certificate to be presented on behalf of the Elks. Not only will this show recognition to these businesses, but it may create interest in our programs and possibly generate new members. The certificate can be printed from the Grand Lodge website under fraternal and committee programs. The first selection you will see says “Fly the flag program and certificates.” These can filled out on line and then printed.

Hamilton Lodge No. 2262 Awards Winners of the Americanism Essay Contest

The Hamilton Elks honored the winners of their Americanism Essay Contest in a lodge ceremony. The winners were presented with certificates and monetary prizes worth $100, $75, and $50 for first, second, and third place respectively. Pictured from left to right are Edward Beideman, Americanism chairman, Division 1 first place winner Alannah Gray, second place winner Lois L’Oiseau, third place winner Nathaly DeLeon, Division 2 first place winner Rebeca Tapia, second place winner Alyssa Rauscher, third place winner Keith Tillett and Exalted Ruler Rose Romaine.

Bergenfield Lodge No. 1477 Honors Our Country’s Flag

Members and leaders of Boy Scout Troop No.180 and Cub Scout Pack No.180 join Elks officers in front of Bergenfield Lodge No.1477 following a Flag Day observance at the lodge. The Scouts presented each of the flags during the ceremony.

Brick Lodge No. 2151 Donates a Flag to a Local School.

On Monday June 17th Brick Elks Lodge No. 2151 presented the principal of nearby Osbornville Elementary School with a new flag. Previously they were flying a 3x5 flag on a 30 ft pole. Brick Elks Lodge No. 2151 gave them a 5x8 flag which is the size required for such a pole. Pictured are Brick Elks Exalted Ruler Carolyn Rogers, Principal Mrs. Kathy DiGrigoli, Elk Tony Alfano, Guidance Counselor Brett Novak, Students Primo Bautista grade 2, and Julianna Baughman grade 3.
Youth Activities
By Jim Smith, State Chairperson

The NJ Elks Youth Activities Committee provides programs for our youth to encourage them to become more involved, compete, and succeed.

The BATTER’S UP PROGRAM is a skills competition where kids hit a ball that is pitched to them from a state of the art pitching machine. The committee worked hard to raise funds for the purchase of these machines. They are same ones that college and professional baseball teams use. Wherever the ball lands determines the points received. Both boys and girls can participate and girls have the option to hit softballs instead of baseballs. Kids participate at their lodge level then may move on to the District, Regional, and then the State Championship. The winners are presented with trophies and medals for coming in 1st-3rd place. This program starts in the spring and runs through August.

This year we honored our winners at a Somerset Patriots game where they received two free tickets to the game. They were introduced on the field and the entire state organization was recognized and introduced. Our State Present, Anthony Alfonso, even threw out the first pitch!

Our next program, which we just started last year, is TEE IT UP. This is a golf skills program for all kids where they compete in three areas, Drive, Chip & Putt. Their scores are added up and the winners move on to the State Championship. This is a great program that introduces many kids to a golf course or a driving range and gives them an opportunity to compete against other kids of the same age around the state. Participants compete in their district and move on to the State Championship. While this program is our newest, we see this competition becoming the most attended. Our goal is that all districts in the state will have at least one participant in this for next year. This program can be run anytime from Spring until the Fall. Our State Finals are usually the 3rd weekend in October.

The committee continues to recognize kids that achieve. Students are awarded with Student of the Month awards and Athlete of the Month awards at the Elks Lodge No. 2262. These are simple ways to recognize students for their achievements and let them know that the Elks care about the youth. In addition, dictionaries are still being put in classrooms through the Youth Activities Committee. Schools are always looking for a donation of dictionaries. Lodges continue to purchase dictionaries and we want to encourage more lodges to do the same. It is an easy project to do and one that will bring great results! The kids will use their dictionaries and know it came from the Elks.

It is with YOUR help that our programs will be a success. Please help us make them the best they can be. The kids deserve this and as Elks we have the ability to make these programs great!

Hoop Shoot Committee
By Marguerite Aisenstock, State Chairperson

Welcome to the start of the 2019-2020 Hoop Shoot season. This popular program will enable thousands of New Jersey’s finest contestants from ages 8 through 13 to compete and succeed. It offers contestants the opportunity to develop skills, confidence and to make lasting friendships.

Our committee looks forward to working with each Lodge and District to ensure 100% participation and 100% on-line reporting of participation, which enables the New Jersey Elks to receive credit for our charitable works.

Our success will be due to the support of the Local Lodge Chairpersons, Exalted Rulers, District chairpersons, Regional chairpersons, our team of dedicated advisors, PSP Robert Mauro and PSP Peter Smith, and our State President Anthony Alfonso and his team of Vice Presidents.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or our Region Co-chairpersons. Region I Co-chairperson is V.P. Barbara Mueller of South Plainfield Lodge No. 2298 and Region II Co-chairperson is V.P. Dan McCann of Livingston Lodge No. 1855. We are here to assist each lodge and district to have a successful Hoop Shoot.

Important dates to remember:
December 15, 2019: – All Local Lodges should have their competitions completed and paperwork forwarded to the District Chair.
January 12, 2020: – District competitions should be completed and paperwork advanced to the State Chair.
February 9, 2020: – State competition to be held at South Plainfield Lodge No. 2298 and Region I Co-chairperson is V.P. Dan McCann of Livingston Lodge No. 1855. We are here to assist each lodge and district to have a successful Hoop Shoot.

Elk members ran another successful Area 3 NJ Elks new “Tee It UP” Competition at the Meadows Golf Club in Lincoln Park, NJ on July 19th. Two young lady golfers, Claire & Kate Giletta, competed in the Putting/Chipping/Driving Contest. Kate won the Girls 12 year old bracket over her twin Claire and will advance to the State competition in the Fall. Pictured behind the young ladies are Elks Members (L to R) Neil Visito, PDD-West Orange, John Zelna, PDD-Nutley, Dick Tabbachino, PSP-Ridgefield Park, Rich Vreeland, PDD-Livingston, Chris Clane, current NCD Vice Pres.-No. Arlington, Jim Smith NJ Elks State YAC chair-Clifton, Jay Meglio-Cedar Grove, Vince DiMattia-Tee it Up area 3 chair-Cedar Grove, Mike Corbosiero, PDD-Cedar Grove.

NJSEA Area 3 Tee It Up 2019 Contest
The NJSEA Antlers Program is on the rise once again. With the help of Denise O’Keefe – Region 1 Co-Chair and Ashley Green - Region 2 Co-Chair, as well as our Advisors Tom Zisa – GLC, PSP and Rich Bard – PSP we are excited for the Antlers Program.

We have already seen Lodges restart their inactive Antlers program. We have had a few inquiries from lodges around the state about starting up a program as well. We are looking to get all of the Antler lodges together for some fun. Antlers work hard to fund raise and show their support for what we do and help us. It is time they have fun like we do? However, to do all of this, we need to organize and see which lodges have programs and who the Advisors are. So check your state directory and see if the information for your lodge is correct for the Antlers.

New Egypt Lodge No. 2457 Antlers Proudly Serve at Testimonial Dinner

Pictured are the Antler volunteers from New Egypt Antlers Lodge No. 19 who helped serve dinner at the Testimonial Dinner for outgoing State President, Ron Mangone.

Red Bank Antler Lodge No. 33 Receives Their Charter

On May 23, 2019 the Red Bank Antler Lodge No. 33 was instituted. The Members swore their Obligation and the Officers were duly installed during the event. In attendance was NJSEA President Ron Mangone, who along with several Community Leaders, spoke words of inspiration for these special young people.

Pictured Back Row Left to Right: Joe Fernandes (Trustee), Sophia Hjoraj (Sgt at Arms), Nico Piesco (Trustee), Gianna Hjoraj (Secretary), Tyler Addinissio, Mark Caruso, Al Donato (2nd VP)

Front Row Left to Right: James Gibbons (Trustee), Adriann Piesco (Inner Guard), Kirk Mannor (President), Quincy Edwards (Treasurer), Jack Lackner (Treasurer), Matt Weidman (1st VP), Sienna Kennett (3rd VP)

Antler Lodges Participated in Army of Hope Picnic

Members of Lacey Antler Lodge No. 1, Brick Antler Lodge No. 3, and our newest Antler Lodge Red Bank No. 33 assisted the Army of Hope Committee at this year’s picnic. The Antlers provided an honor guard as the families were escorted in. During the picnic, they helped serve the families of our heroes.

Flag Day Participation

Members of Brick Antler Lodge No. 3 assisted the members of Brick Lodge No. 2151 with their Annual Flag Day Ceremony.
State Ritual Committee

By Mark Dunnder, State Chairperson

First, I would like to congratulate the officers of Piscataway Lodge No. 2414. They had the honor of representing New Jersey in the national contest in St Louis. This time, efforts and attention to detail that has to be present to compete at that level is extremely high. I thank all of the officers and coaches for their efforts.

Ritual season has begun and continues to prosper in our state. Please ensure that when you bring in a new member, it is done in a sincere, dignified and impressive manner. This will provide them with a first impression that they will not forget. Our goal is to keep Elk Ritual alive, which will keep our tradition and fraternal foundation strong.

In Wildwood, I challenged the Exalted Ruler from each lodge to take the time to memorize the Eleven O’Clock toast. As much as I would like to see each ER perform in competition, that was not the goal of that challenge. The purpose was to set an example on how we as Elks should show the proper respect to our absent members. Many members have had friends who have passed, some have had family members and some members who put their heart into a lodge. It is to honor and show respect to them at 11 so that they are not forgotten and given the proper respectful toast.

And what does it cost to do that? $0. It only takes one thing, EFFORT. If we all can stand and recite the pledge of allegiance at every Elk function from memory to honor our country, then we can take the time and make an honest effort to learn this in order to pay the proper respect to our absent members.

Since January, there have been four judge certification clinics and we are in the process of arranging clinics for the upcoming year. Our Ritual Team has been busy visiting districts throughout the State spreading the importance of Elk Ritual tradition. If you would like them to speak at any meeting, please reach out to us.

Our NJSEA Toast and Flag Charge Contest will be held in the afternoon at Fall Conference on Saturday, November 9, 2019 after business sessions have concluded. The State Ritual Contest is currently scheduled for the last weekend in February. Participants in both these contests have taken the time and dedication to perform. It would be great for everyone to show their support by attending the competitions. This contest has had one of the largest crowds, not only in New Jersey, but in the nation! Let’s keep that tradition alive. All Elks are welcome.

Bergenfield Lodge No. 1477 Awards Scholarships

Bergenfield Elks Lodge No. 1477 presented $7,000 in scholarships to graduating Bergenfield High School seniors. Three $2,000 awards were given in memory of Willard Burkart, a Past Exalted Ruler of the lodge and a former Bergenfield police chief. In addition, a $1,000 scholarship was funded by Christine Hubbard, a past recipient of a Burkart scholarship. Pictured from left to right are Ashiya Chaka, Russell Sangalang, Exalted Ruler Bill Slossar, Patrick Villagracia and Zachary Butcher.

Brigantine Lodge No. 2428 Awards Scholarships

Each year Brigantine Elks Lodge No. 2428 makes college scholarships available to graduating high school seniors who are the children and grandchildren of lodge members. Bill Amend, who is a teacher, chairs the lodge scholarship committee and publishes the information and the application for the scholarship on the lodge website. At Seafood Fest, the lodge’s annual fundraiser, the winners were presented with a check for $3,000 to help cover the cost of their upcoming education. Pictured from left to right are Committee Chair Bill Amend, Maeve Faherty, Kelly Elwood, Bradley Collins, William Hoffman, ER Rich Poole and former Brigantine Mayor Phil Guenther. Not shown are Reilly Cisar and Lily Kemler.

Scholarship Committee

By Dan Pencak, State Chairperson

There are many scholarships available from the Elks. The Elks National Foundation (ENF) offers the Most Valuable Student (MVS) Scholarship and The National Legacy Awards. The MVS Scholarship is open to all high school seniors. The National Legacy Awards are just for seniors who are the children, stepchildren, grandchildren and step-grandchildren of Elks. Between these two scholarship programs, ENF gives out $2.7 million each year. Check out Elks.org for all the details and to apply.

The New Jersey State Elks Association also gives out many Scholarships. The state sponsors $700 awards to 96 runner-ups of the National MVS Competition. There are also 24 - $1000 Vocational Scholarships available from the NJSEA each year for graduating students who enroll in vocational or technical training after high school. There are 40 NJ Elks Family Scholarship awards of $750 for the children, step, grand and great grandchildren of Elks who are a senior in high school or a freshman, sophomore or junior in college. If a student applies and wins each year they could receive a total of $3000! Check on NJElks.org for more information about these and other scholarship opportunities provided by the Elks.

Lodge Activities

By Edward Hahn, State Chairperson

This year the committee is asking all the Lodges to participate in the following:
• All American Lodge Contest
• Memorial Day Weekend
• Lodge Bulletin / Newsletter
• Community Image and Service Brochure

We had success in last year’s contests and we are asking all the lodges to help the committee exceed last year’s numbers.

The All - American Lodge Contest is due to the District Deputy no later than March 15, 2020. All the other contests are due to the State Chairman by March 15, 2020.

The State Committee is asking the Exalted Rulers and their lodge to also participate in Grand Exalted Rulers Awards “Honoring the Past-Embracing the Future”. This special citation is for Exalted Rulers who participated in six (6) or more of the following programs this year:
• Elks Hoop Shoot
• Youth Scholarship
• Achieve $4.75 in Elks National Foundation plus the Lodge Officers participating
• All American Lodge Contest
• Drug Awareness Program
• Elks National Youth Week
• Ritualistic Contest
• Student of the Month/Year
• Veterans Service and / or adopt a Vet Program

For the Local Lodges, a certificate will be given if you participate in six (6) of the following:
• Elks Hoop Shoot
• Ritualistic Contest
• Youth Scholarship Program
• Veterans Service and / or adopt a Vet
• Drug Awareness Program
• Every Officer is a subscribing member of the Elks National Foundation
• Mother’s Day Program
• $4.75 per Member in donations to the Elks National Foundation
• Achieves a net membership gain of at least one
• Achieves a level at or below 2 % lapsation
• Every officer elected and appointed (15) sponsors a New /Reinstated Member.

Good luck to all the lodges in the contests and the committee is here to always help.
A Child Shall Lead Them

Area 1 NJSEA Special Children’s Committee Ambassador Keira Scott has taken on a special Ambassador Project. With the help of her Grandma Karen, she has been making hand-painted bookmarks. These bookmarks are being sold to help her sponsoring Lodge, Brick No. 2151, raise money to help purchase books for the Karen Minutella Reading Initiative Program. To date, the sales of Keira’s Original Bookmarks have raised over $600. This Little Girl truly has the Biggest Heart!

The East Central District Collects Food For Shark Week Food Drive

Members of Union Lodge No. 1583 organized tuna fish and other food items collected from lodges in the East Central District during Shark Week. The donations were given to a local food bank in Hillside. Pictured from left to right are Robert Terra, Kelly Reed, Danielle Reed ECDVP, Logan D’Anna, Steve Grote State Trustee, Jo Ann Rieder, Carl Rieder PDD and Exalted Ruler Russell Reed in the back.

Bayonne Lodge No. 434 Holds Third Annual Karen Minutella Memorial Run

On June 15, 2019, the Bayonne Elks Lodge No. 434 Motorcycle Committee held their 3rd Annual Karen Minutella Memorial Run. Thanks to the participation of all that attended either the motorcycle run retracing Karen’s first solo ride to the Scenic Overlook on Route 78, and/or the BBQ held afterward. They were able to raise approximately $1,000.00 for the Karen Minutella Reading Initiative. This program, started by the Bayonne Elks Lodge through Karen’s fiance, Kenny Healey, donates a book to each Bayonne third grade student as well as reading the book to the students.

North Central District Lodges Donate a Wheelchair

On Sunday August 18 a wheelchair was stolen from a yard of a girl in Bloomfield who just had both knees and an ankle operated on. The parents reached out on Facebook with a video of the culprit. Upon seeing the video, Chris Brown PER, NCD Special Children’s Committee Chair reached out to the parents and offered a wheelchair. When her lodge didn’t have one, she reached out to both So Orange Lodge No. 1154 and Newark-Bloomfield lodge No. 21 and they both supplied chairs. The father came and he was given a choice, as they did not know the size of the child. Pictured from left to right are Joanne Aponte ERT Newark-Bloomfield, Chris Brown PER, Kearny SCC Chair, James Walsh PDD, SO Orange SCC Chair and the child’s father Hans Arrunategui.

Winner Of Best Submission Contest Spring Edition 2019 Announced

On behalf of the Keyport-Matawan Lodge No. 2030, South Central District Vice President Steve Szczepaniak receives the award for the winning submission in the NJ Elk Publication “Best Submission Contest”. The winning lodge was announced during the business session at the Wildwood Reunion. The contest theme was Elks Care, Elks Share. Thanks goes to Joram Mushinske and Kim Wilson who served as our impartial judges. Pictured left to right are Eileen Brennan-Watts, PDD NJ Elk Editor-in-Chief Spring Edition, Francis J. Decibus, PSDGER, Committee Advisor, VP Steve Szczepaniak and Joyce Powell, PDD, Co-Editor.
# NJ Elk Lodge Boosters

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## South Central District

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| Lacey | #2518 | Manahawkin | #2340 |  |
| Millville | #580 | Point Pleasant | #1958 |  |
| Vineland | #1422 | Toms River | #1875 |  |
| Freehold | #1454 | Keyport- Matawan | #2030 |  |
| South West District |  |  |  |  |
| Bordentown | #2085 | Mount Holly | #848 |  |

Thank you for your support!
State Soccer Shoot Committee
By Martin Crerand, State Chairperson

Soccer Shoot season is well under way. Lodge shoots are happening or are completed. District Shoots have started and all should be completed by December 8, 2019. District Chairpersons should have their information on winners into the State committee by no later than December 15, 2019.

The State shoot is set for January 11, 2020 at Manasquan Elementary School with a snow date of January 18, 2020. The awards luncheon will follow at Manasquan Lodge right after the Shoot.

There are some new things happening this year. We have asked the lodges and districts to add a U16 group for the boys and girls. Since enough states in our region are adding this group, the Mid-Atlantic Region Director, Peggy Berry, has agreed to add this group to the Regional Shoot. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Shoot is moving to York, Pennsylvania and will be held March 14, 2020.

It was announced at the Grand Lodge Convention this year that Grand Lodge will have a virtual national shoot. How this will work is that each State Association this year will submit their winners name and score. At the State shoots, we are being asked to have our winners shoot the tie-breaking rounds and submit those scores to help determine the National Winners which will be announced at the next Grand Lodge Convention in Baltimore. This is a first step in hopefully having a National Soccer Shoot again at Grand Lodge level just like the Hoop Shoot does.

In closing, your state committee is working hard to keep up the high standards that New Jersey has set as one of the leaders in our Nation for this program. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Fall Conference.

State Training Committee
By Leonard Tarnowski, State Chairperson

We have been very successful with training in New Jersey, and that has to do with you not just attending the training sessions but utilizing what you have learned from those sessions.

Our next session will be some time in the November time frame. The subjects will be rolled out in October. So look for it either on the State Calendar or through your District Trainer.

District Trainer, our programs are available through our Co-Chairpersons for your use in your district session. Almost all of them are in a Power Point format and a number of them come with other printed instructions or handouts. All we ask is that you attend our training to see how we present the subjects and that you stick to the material found in the presentation. We need consistency throughout the state for the training to be effective.

Knowledge is strength if used correctly. It is also a strong defense if needed. Education is that road to Knowledge.

Piscataway Lodge No. 2414 Prepares for Annual Observance of Flag Day and 9/11

For months, Piscataway Lodge No. 2414 had been working closely with members of Boy Scout Troop 67. At the conclusion of the Lodge’s Flag Day Ceremony, a new flag was presented to Exalted Ruler, Jack Harkins, by Troop 67 and the audience was invited outdoors to observe the retirement of the old flag and raising of the new. The flag was donated through the efforts of Boy Scout member Corey Pein, as part of his ongoing Eagle Scout Project. The Lodge’s 9/11 Memorial, located in front of the Lodge, needed to be updated for their annual “9/11 Remembrance Ceremony” and Corey raised funds to improve the current Twin Towers and the surrounding area of the monument. His plans included a new design to include a nearby podium featuring the inscribed poem, “Why?”, and a pledge that Piscataway Elks Lodge No 2414 “will never forget”. He also created a walkway to the monument. With the help of his fellow Troop members and family and friends, Corey completed the project and will receive his well-deserved rank as an Eagle Scout. Pictured from left to right are Exalted Ruler, Jack Harkins; Diane Pein; 9/11 Program Coordinator, Marie Kleeman; Boy Scout Corey Pein; and Leading Knight, Maureen Chapman.

Deftford Lodge No. 2708 Holds Youth Week Fishing Tournament

On Saturday May 11, 2019, Deftford Lodge No. 2708 held their Annual Youth Week Fishing Tournament. With 78 participants this year, there were a whopping 578 total fish caught! Participants and volunteers were served a barbeque lunch and every child received a prize for attending. The top winners were (l-r: Ray McGill (2nd: Most Fish), Tyler Fox (2nd: Biggest Fish), Adrianna Fox (1st: Biggest Fish), Aubrea Thomas (3rd: Biggest Fish), Alex Anderson (1st: Biggest Bass), Shane Sunderland (2nd: Biggest Bass), Matthew Mullholland (1st: Most Fish), Chase Breedlove (3rd: Most Fish). (Not pictured: Parker Wenzel: 3rd: Biggest Bass)
Elks Challenger Batters-Up Has Another Successful Year
By Tom Gardner, State Chairperson

After multiple contests, we held our State Finals on June 22. After six straight days of rain, most of North Wall’s fields were under water. The afternoon before we were informed our location was unavilable. Being that our players have so much support in and outside the Elks, we were offered five other locations. It took a lot of work, but we got the field in shape and everything went as planned.

Thirty-eight competitors from around NJ vied for the title of State Champion. SP Anthony Alfonso continued our long tradition by serving as Honorary Outfielder and Awards Presenter. After some Elk hospitality at Asbury Park Wall Lodge, everyone celebrated Alyssa Hedin’s 18th birthday with a cake and sang Happy Birthday. Later as it turned out, she won her division! As the winners started to be announced, the entire crowd of players, parents, siblings, and coaches came up front to cheer and show support for each of the players. A good time was had by all. Many volunteers were left with a deep and lasting impression of the passion of our athletes. We would like to thank the officials of North Wall LL for all they do for the children to make this happen every year. There were so many Elks on hand that day to thank but we don’t have the room here. Please check out the NJ Elks Photo Gallery on the website to see who we thanked. Also check out the previous “albums” while you’re at it. Good Stuff!

Happy Birthday. Later as it turned out, she won her division! As the winners started to be announced, the entire crowd of players, parents, siblings, and coaches came up front to cheer and show support for each of the players. A good time was had by all. Many volunteers were left with a deep and lasting impression of the passion of our athletes. We would like to thank the officials of North Wall LL for all they do for the children to make this happen every year. There were so many Elks on hand that day to thank but we don’t have the room here. Please check out the NJ Elks Photo Gallery on the website to see who we thanked. Also check out the previous “albums” while you’re at it. Good Stuff!

Lastly, we want to thank our Region 2 Chair, Tina Zaggia, on the terrific job she thanked. Also check out the previous “albums” while you’re at it. Good Stuff!

The New Jersey Elk • Fall 2019

Special Children’s Committee

By Teri Payton, State Chairperson

Thank you to all the Lodges and districts that donated to the Camp and the Miracle on the Mountain Fund at the Wildwood Convention, prepared lunch/dinner for our Campers and participated in cleanup days. Your donations truly helped make the summer camping season memorable for our special campers. We want to recognize a generous donation by Dumont Lodge - $90,000 from the estate of Dumont’s first Exalted Ruler Hobart Fountain; a $100,000 donation from the John Sentner Memorial Plunge, and a $115,000 donation from the 20th Anniversary Miracle Run. The committee is grateful to PGLC/PSP Stephen J. Terrible for his oversight and management of our Miracle on the Mountain investments which coupled with your donations, have enabled the SCC Trustees to increase our annual donation to $200 per camper year.

The camping season is over and was enjoyed by all. Applications for the 2020 camping season will soon be available and must be accompanied by the Lodge campership fee to secure a space. The applications will be emailed electronically to lodge secretaries and SCC chairs. We expect to fill quickly, so please be prepared to send your applications in.

2019 Scholarship Contest - Each year we give one male and one female special needs scholar a $10,000 scholarship ($2500 a year over the 4 years). This year’s awardees were Grace Mariani, sponsored by Mahwah Lodge No. 1941 and Jacob Micheletti, sponsored by Clinton Lodge No. 1569. Grace plans to attend Seton Hall and become a special education teacher. Jacob plans to study Applied Mathematics with a minor in Arabic at Grinnell College and plans for a government job. This year we also provided a $4000 scholarship ($1000 a year over the 4 years) to each runner-up: Amaya McGuire, sponsored by Marlton Lodge No. 2514 and Shane Korygoski, sponsored by Lacey Lodge No. 2518. Amaya plans to attend Rowan University with the goal of becoming a social worker. Shane will attend Atlantic Cape Academy of Culinary Arts and plans to become a Chef and own a food truck or restaurant.

Miracle Run - The Miracle Run Committee had another outstanding success in raising funds to put a smile on the face of our special children. At the Miracle Run, our 2019-2020 Ambassadors were introduced for the first time and presented with a gift from the committee. They are as follows:

Area 1: Ambassador Keira Scott sponsored by Brick Lodge No. 2151
Alternate: Brogan Malmgren sponsored by Millville Lodge No. 580

Area 2: Ambassador John J Howard sponsored by Passaic Valley Lodge No. 2111
Alternate: Maya Rose Dwek sponsored by Rutherford Lodge No. 547

Area 3: Ambassador Aiden Jace Renna sponsored by North Arlington Lodge No. 1992
Alternate: Jacob Brose sponsored by Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 782

Area 4: Ambassador Brett Berardo sponsored by Carteret Lodge No. 2235
Alternate: Brianna Feeney sponsored by South Plainfield Lodge No. 2298

Miracle on the Mountain - Do you shop on-line? Place your Amazon order through smile.amazon.com, select NJ Elks Special Children’s Committee and eligible purchases will benefit our special children. We have also joined with Yankee Candles for a Miracle on the Mountain fundraiser through the end of this calendar year. Purchases can be made on-line and will be delivered directly to your home. Go to www.yankee candle fundraising.com, and enter Group Code 999983042 and a portion of your purchase price will be donated to MOM. One of our major fundraising activities is the semi-annual Camp Moore Calendar Raffle. Only 1000 calendars are available for the donation of $20 each and offer 6 months of opportunities to win. Clothing collections will continue in both the Fall and Spring which raise money for our Miracle on the Mountain as well as provide needed clothing to those in need.

West Central District makes $5000.00 Donation

The West Central District’s Special Children’s Committee donated $5000 to the Special Children’s Center in Somerville, New Jersey. This center provides therapeutic and developmental services to children with special needs from birth to 21 years of age.

Pictured are from left to right, Thomas Valente, PER, Joseph De Scenza, PDD and member of the Board of Directors for the Center, Kristen Lakatos, therapist, Mindy Hoppe, Director and Thomas Lungar, West Central District Special Children’s Committee Chairmain.

Cedar Grove No. 2237 Donates to Miracle Run

The Cedar Grove Elks No. 2237 Motorcycle Committee & Special Children Committee presented a donation to the Miracle Run of $400.00 with the assistance of Future Elks Lilly Clune daughter of North Central District Vice President Chris Clune. Pictured from left to right are Leon Dupas PDD, Lilly Clune, and Rusty Gerstenmier PSP.
Special Children’s Committee

ATV Donated To Camp Moore

Manahawkin Elks Lodge No. 2340 donated a new ATV to Elks Camp Moore. This was made possible by their annual Good Friday Fish Fry. Shown with the ATV are members of Manahawkin Antlers: Trudy Brennan, Erin Barrett and Hughie Brennan.

Special Children’s Committee

Trustees
By Peggy Berry, State Chairperson

The SCC Trustees are excited and pleased to announce that the cost of the youth and adult week as well as the respite weekends for 2020 Camping Season will be $200 per camper! During this past year many improvements and updates to the Camp have been made in conjunction with the Camp Moore Revitalization Program. We continue on with our revitalization plans to ensure that our Camp not only provides the greatest camping experience for our Kids, but will also provide them with updated and modern facilities. With your continued support of Miracle on the Mountain and Camp Moore, we will continue to improve the camping experience for our Kids.

The 2019 Respite Weekends and Summer Camping Season have come to an end. We would be remiss to not thank our outstanding camp staff and our Camp Director, Todd Thompson, for all the fun activities and awesome work and care afforded to our campers. We would like to give a great big thank you to Anthony Alfonso Jr., who in addition to his Camp Caretaker responsibilities, stepped in on many occasions to help Todd and the Camp Staff when needed. Anthony continues to be a valued member of our staff. In addition, we would like to thank all the lodges, districts, and individuals who worked hard to ensure our special Kids would have a wonderful experience at Camp.

We would like to thank Pia Grant, SCC Executive Secretary, for her 21 years of dedicated service to our Committee and wish her the best in her retirement. We would like to welcome April Mayorga, as our new SCC Administrative Assistant. April brings to us new and fresh ideas and will be an asset to our Committee. We would also like to recognize and welcome John DeLois, into his new position taking on the responsibility of the Camp Revitalization Program. John has been involved for many years working with the Camp and has been involved with the revitalization work for the Camp. We are excited and looking forward to working with John in his endeavors to continue the revitalization of the Camp.

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”.

Camp Moore Campers Visit Point Pleasant Lodge No. 1698

For fifty years, the members of Point Pleasant Lodge No. 1698 play host to two busloads of campers and staff from Elks Camp Moore for a fun-filled day “down the shore.” With the cooperation of Comstock Marina, the campers start their day with a boat ride in the bay. This is followed by a BBQ picnic back at the Lodge with games, ice cream truck, and fun for all. The day concludes by giving all the campers a ride on a fire truck thanks to the cooperation of all the surrounding town’s fire departments.

Thank You Pia Grant!

Pia Grant retired after 21 years as SCC Secretary. She was presented with a plaque and gifts, by SCC Trustee Chairperson Peggy Berry at the August SCC State Meeting at Elks Camp Moore.

Our 2019 Elks Camp Moore Staff

A big thank you to Elks Camp Moore Director Todd Thompson and our 2019 Camp Counselors and staff, aka THE SMILE MAKERS. You always make our campers SMILE and create lasting memories for them!
North Central District’s Special Children’s Committee Person of the Year

Tommy Fresco, the North Central Districts Special Children’s Committee Person of the Year is pictured here helping to set the tables for the campers and counselors at Elks Camp Moore, the state major project. He volunteers his time with the SoOrange Elks No. 1154 who cook and serve dinner for the campers and counselors.

Sussex Lodge No. 2288 Helps a Family with a Special Needs Child

Sussex Elks Lodge No. 2288 recently donated necessary personal care items to a local family with a special needs child. The items donated were daily necessities that the family uses for the health and well-being of their child that is not covered by health insurance. Pictured from L to R are Warren Wisse, Jr - Exalted Ruler, Amy Breitenbach & Anthony Alfonso - NJ Elks State President.

North Central District Send Children to Prom

The North Central District donated money to send 3 special needs youth to attend the Special Angels Extreme Prom which was held July 18 at the Bethwood in Totowa. Special Angels had hair dressers and makeup artists that volunteered and provided a party bus to get to the venue. All 3 received corsages and were crowned King or Queen. They enjoyed a full buffet with dancing and a photo booth for pictures. Pictured are the Prom Queens and King from left to right: Chris Brown, District Chairperson, Julie Lashen, Ronise Mayes, and Luke Meyers.

Tom’s River Lodge No. 1875 Starts a Special Children’s Bocce Ball League

The Special Children’s Committee of Tom’s River Lodge No. 1875 decided to try something new. They thought it might be difficult to form a Special Children’s bocce ball league with not knowing whether the children would be interested or not or even able to physically accomplish the sport. However, with a few added devices and a lot of help, the league became a tremendous success! Accompanied by their parents over thirty children played every Saturday, had a blast, and finished with hot dogs and hamburgers. The league will now continue into the Fall. Pictured are Mercedes Urrutia (Patty’s caretaker), Patty Gutierrez, Charlie Evans (Carlie’s dad), and Carlie Evan (State Ambassador from last year).