



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

On March 20th as the result of COVID-19 all of our lodges in our State Association were required to shut down including our lodge's bar/lounge/club and food service operations. The New Jersey State Elks Association has been and is closely monitoring all of the developments of this pandemic and we are extremely concerned about the health and safety of our members and their families.

We have heard over and over that these are unprecedented times; however, it is true we have never dealt with such an epidemic in our lives before and unfortunately it is real. The lodges could not initiate new members, install their newly elected and appointed officers with our traditional respect and fanfare or schedule the events to raise the necessary monies for our charitable work. For the first time in our history, our Annual Reunion in Wildwood had to be cancelled and in all probability the Grand Lodge Convention in Baltimore will also be. Unfortunately, this is not the time for traditions or fanfare. This

NEW JERSEY STRONG

is the time to think outside the box and find new solutions and new ways to spread the cardinal principles of our Order, Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity.

Let's think about what we can do for our members, our communities, our medical personnel, first responders and basically everyone in our community that needs assistance. It may be a simple telephone call to a member or neighbor, a donation to a local food pantry or helping the elderly get a meal.

I am extremely proud of how our lodges have been holding local blood drives with the cooperation of the local police departments, preparing meals for the elderly and medical personal and organizing parades to support home birthdays.

It is truly amazing.

The lodges have been holding meetings via zoom and other online sites and our State committees have been conducting their meetings in the same way.

Together we will get through this pandemic and together we will make a difference and show our communities that ELKS CARE, ELKS SHARE.



Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 782 Takes 1st Place in State Ritual Contest

Bottom Row, left to right: Matthew Winnans, NWD VP/Inner Guard; Michael Tresca, PER/Chaplin; Barbara Pierro, Tiler; Wayne McDonnell, Est. Loyal Knight; Charles Horvath, Exalted Ruler; Roxanne Steffan, Est. Leading Knight; SaliieMae Johnson, PER/ Est. Lecturing Knight; Kathleen Caffrey, PER/Esquire; Linda Gathen, PDD/Ritual Coach. Top row left to right: Robert Ricker, GLC Area 2 Ritual/PSP; Mark Dunnder, PDD/State Ritual Chairman; Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., PGER, State Sponsor; Anthony Alfonso, State President, Roy DeRitter, PGLAA/PSP Advisor to State Ritual Committee; and Rick Gathen, PGLC/PSP and Ritual Coach.

New Jersey Elks... Building Stronger Communities

BY ANTHONY ALFONSO, 2019-2020 STATE PRESIDENT

It has been an honor to serve as the New Jersey State Elks Association's President for the 2019-2020 Elk year.

It was a year ago when I rolled out my slogan to all of our State Association members "NEW JERSEY ELKS... BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES." You surely did exactly that, making a difference one Veteran, one Child, one Family, one Community at a time.

I had asked everyone to continue the hard work that we are known for, while thinking outside of the box to add a few new projects to our success.

All our committees did an exceptional job! Our Veterans Committee has helped more veterans than ever, including the ongoing effort to provide Welcome Home Kits, furniture, and many other items to our homeless veterans. The Army of Hope Committee is stronger than ever supporting our Wounded Veterans and the families of our Fallen Heroes. Our Special Children's Committee was hard at work with all programs and Elks Camp Moore had a successful camping season.

Elks Camp Moore, our State Major Project, is continuing to add new programs and improvements to the facility. The most recent project is the East Central District accepting my proposal of taking on the responsibility and renovation of one of the cabins. The Miracle Run Committee continues to work hard making sure that we can put SMILES ON THE FACES OF OUR SPECIAL CHILDREN.

The future of our Order, the Antlers, or as I like to call them, Junior Elks, have been working hard in our lodges and communities. As of this writing, we expect to be chartering two more Antler Lodges.

The Membership committee has attended more community events than ever, promoting our program ensuring that we continue to grow in New Jersey.

We have had a couple new successes. We added several more lodges to the Karen Minutella Reading Initiative throughout the State. The feedback received from the school districts was extremely positive and they are asking for it to return next year. I am looking forward to watching this program continue to grow. Another success was the partnership with the Move from Hunger helping to provide high protein meals to children in need. Thanks to all of you, we collected over 3,000 pounds of food, which translates to over 2,500 meals.

All our success this year would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our Committee leadership and all our members who volunteer in their lodges. Thank you to everyone for the invitations to visit your lodges and districts and witness the way each of you promote our programs. It has been an honor sharing this dream with all of you.

Thank you to my Vice Presidents, State Officers, and Administrative Assistant. A Special Thank you to PGER, and our State Sponsor, Malcolm McPherson and Pat along with the Advisory Board for guidance. I would be remiss if I didn't thank the Convention Committee for their guidance and support all year.

I would like to wish State President-Elect, Peggy Berry, best wishes for the year ahead.

In closing, I want to thank everyone that made this possible, especially my biggest supporters without them this would not have been possible, Diane, Julianna, and Anthony, and my home lodge Sparta No. 2356.

Together the New Jersey Elks Built Stronger Communities.



NJ State President Anthony Alfonso with his team at the John Sentner Memorial Plunge.

Mount Holly Lodge No. 848 Honors Our Military

On Nov 13th, Mount Holly Lodge No. 848 honored members of the military at PSP Jim Hall's 41st Annual Veteran's Appreciation Dinner.

The guest speaker was Colonel James R (Pepe) Pugh (Retired). In addition, Mount Holly Lodge recently sponsored and handled all the

cooking for the Rancocas Valley Regional High School ROTC annual spaghetti dinner. The generosity of the lodge allowed the ROTC to raise over \$2,000! Pictured from left to right are ROTC members Jeremy Weaver, Cameron Mickey, Col. Pugh (ret.), Nathan Budden, and Joseph Kowalski.



The New Jersey Elk Submission Deadline

Submission Deadline
August 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)

Grand Lodge Message

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

When you receive our newspaper and read this article, you will know that we had to cancel our annual reunion in Wildwood. This is the first time in our state's history that we have not gathered to install our newly elected and appointed state officers. I was and am disheartened that we are not able to gather with our fellow Elks, their families and friends to celebrate this past year's accomplishments and start off the new year with our new State President and State Officers. As the result of the COVID-19 and our state of emergency we were required to close all of our Elk Lodges on March 16th.

Even though the Lodges are presently closed, I must congratulate our State President Anthony Alfonso, all of his committee people, our District Deputies and our Vice Presidents on a great year in Elksdom. All of our committees worked extremely hard this year, and the results show their dedication and hard work. Anthony and his committee people should be proud of their accomplishments. I would like to personally congratulate and thank our State President Anthony and Diane for representing the New Jersey State Elks Association.

I would also like to welcome and congratulate our new State President for the fraternal year 2020-2021 Peggy Berry. I wish Peggy a wonderful year. I know Peggy and her husband Ryland will represent us well. As soon as we are able to reopen our lodges we will have a proper installation of our State President and our elected and appointed state officers.

Each of our committees should be truly proud of everything they have done this year, including the Peer Leadership, National Service, Army of Hope, Homeless Veterans, Hoop Shoot, Special Children, Sports & Youth Tournament, Soccer Shoot, Scholarship, Internet, Publication, Public Relations and Lodge



Development. All of our committees deserve congratulations for their hard work and for promoting Elksdom. Many events had to be cancelled and are still being cancelled, however each of our committees should be extremely proud of their accomplishments.

Through your generosity and donations we are able to lower the cost of our camperships at our state major project Camp Moore to \$200 per camper. Hopefully we will be able to open Camp Moore for our special children this summer.

We must congratulate our Membership Retention Committee. Through the Committee's hard work and the continued support of each of our members, the State of New Jersey again achieved a gain in membership. To date, the State of New Jersey is second in the nation and has a gain of over 500 members. It is truly a remarkable result. Congratulations to State Chairman Michael Penschski and the committee for making sure New Jersey achieved a gain in membership. We need to work on membership each day and not wait to the end of the year. Remember, while we are attempting to increase our membership, we must retain the members we have. I ask each of our lodges that whenever you

are holding an event to make sure that the Public Relations and Membership Retention Committee are present at the event. We must let the people in our communities know the great work we are doing.

I would like to congratulate Richard J. Tabachuk on his appointment to the Board of Grand Trustees and to my former administrative assistant Roy R. DeRitter on being selected to the position of Grand Lodge Lecturing Knight for this upcoming year.

Pat and I are looking forward to seeing everyone again when we are able to reopen our lodges and continue our great work in Elksdom.



Lodge Anniversaries

- New Egypt No. 2457 – 50 years
- Point Pleasant No. 1698 – 75 years
- Boonton No. 1405 – 100 years
- Bound Brook No. 1388 – 100 years
- New Brunswick No. 324 – 125 years



Greater Wildwood Lodge No. 1896 Recognizes a Dedicated Member

Greater Wildwood Lodge No. 1896 recognized a longtime, dedicated member of their lodge. Ned Jones has been a member of their lodge for over 32 years. He has participated on various committees throughout the years and served the lodge as Loyal Knight, Lecturing Knight, and Esquire. He has held the office of Esquire for 30 years, instructing over 6,000 new members upon initiation into the lodge! Pictured left to right are Timothy Mackey Exalted Ruler, Ned Jones Esquire, Ron Mangone Past State President, and Anthony Alfonso State President.

Pride – Passion – Patriotism

BY PEGGY BERRY, STATE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Greetings All! I am honored and humbled to be elected as your State President for the 2020-2021 Elk year! Ryland and I will serve you and the State Association with the Pride, Passion and Patriotism that is deserving of the greatest State in all of Elkdom! We are looking forward to renewing old friendships and making new friendships during our travels throughout our state.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to our current State President Anthony and First Lady Diane for all the help extended to us during the transition period and congratulate you on a successful year!

Together this year we will expand avenues of communication to promote the continued growth of our committees, our community relationships, and our membership. Your commitment to our Special Kids, Camp Moore, our Veterans, our Youth and Elkdom will ensure that we will continue to be the Premier Charitable Organization in our State and Country and setting the example for other charitable organizations to follow. We continue to lead the path of greatness. Thank You!

In closing, I would like to thank the Southeast District and especially the members of Howell Elks Lodge No. 2515 for their support and help over the years. Howell Elks Lodge members and their leadership have been a driving force in my successes in our Association and I cannot express my sincere thanks enough.



The Official Publication of the New Jersey State Elks Association



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Statement of Ownership and Management

Title of Publication –
Published Twice a Year:

New Jersey Elk

Publisher and Owner:

New Jersey State Elks Association

Offices located at:

**18 West Colfax Avenue
Roselle Park, NJ 07204**



1st Annual Past State Presidents' Invitational Golf Outing in the History Books!

The Past State Presidents Association, also known as the Advisory Board, decided to hold their own golf outing with the monies raised going thru NJ Elks Charities Inc., the path through which ENF funds are distributed to the state projects. A committee was formed consisting of PSPs Rich Bard, Bob Mauro and Pete Smith, and some basic organizational rules were set up. It was decided that each foursome of golfers would be representing a Past State President, hence the use of the term invitational. Golfers, numbering 88, came from throughout the state and were organized into 22 foursomes. On the day of the outing, Monday, October 28, 2019, the weather was iffy, but it all came together at the Cedar Creek Golf Course in Bayville, southern New Jersey. Golfers were treated to a continental breakfast at the course. There were multiple golf holes to win prizes, which were awarded at the luncheon that followed at nearby Toms River Lodge No. 1875. The winning foursome was from Long Branch Lodge No. 742 in the South Central District. The team members were: Mike Veth, ER, Pat McCaffrey, Esq., Bob Siedlecki, PST, PDD and Kevin Baxter, PDD.

Pictured are (Front) Mike Veth, ER, Kevin Baxter, PDD, Bob Mauro, PSP, Malcolm McPherson PGER, NJ Sponsor, Pat McCaffrey, Esquire, (Rear) Rich Bard, PSP, Bob Siedlecki, PST, PDD, (Not pictured) Pete Smith, PSP.

Our Summer Reunion Has Been Cancelled

BY THOMAS ZISA, GLC/PSP

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions against large public gatherings the State Association's Wildwood Convention has been cancelled. It is unfortunate that our outgoing State President Anthony Alfonso will not have the opportunity to preside over the final Association meeting of his term. It is likewise unfortunate that our newly elected State President Peggy Berry and her slate of officers will not be able to enjoy their installation ceremony and inaugural ball. However, in light of all the circumstances concerning the current coronavirus pandemic, it was the feeling of our State Sponsor Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., PGER and the Advisory Board members that the health, welfare and safety of our members and their families must be our primary concern. Once the restrictions of the pandemic have been eased and we are able to gather again, appropriate arrangements will be made to celebrate our new State officers, honor those officers who served this past year and conduct all necessary State Association business.

Regarding the annual "Wildwood Commemorative Ad Journal" when the decision was made to cancel the Wildwood convention, the decision was made that the book will be produced and distributed at the NJSEA Fall Conference. Ads can still be submitted to Roy R. DeRitter, PGLAA/PSP.

This year's Grand Lodge Convention is July 5 - 8, 2020 in Baltimore MD and is still scheduled to take place at this time. The Grand Lodge Convention Committee is of course continually monitoring current developments in respect to the coronavirus pandemic and the related public gathering and travel restrictions. A decision will be made by the National Committee in advance of the convention, whether or not the Grand Lodge Convention will be cancelled. With all the arrangements in place for an event as large as the Grand Lodge convention, it is difficult to cancel; however, the National Committee will of course make a decision based on what is in the best interests of our members and their families.

If the convention does take place and you are able to attend, you will truly enjoy Baltimore as it is a city rich in history, the location of Fort McHenry and the birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner.

The New Jersey contingent will be staying at the Renaissance Baltimore Harbor Place Hotel, which is located directly on Baltimore's famous inner harbor waterfront. The hotel is located within walking distance to water taxis, harbor tours, the Gallery Mall, the National Aquarium and Camden Yards, home of the Baltimore Orioles. If conditions permit, all arrangements have been made for the Sunday night hospitality party, the Monday night State Banquet, Tuesday dance party and Wednesday Hospitality events.

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

If you need help with State Jackets & Ties, Name Badges, State Association pins, T-shirts or reservations for Grand Lodge, simply contact your district convention committee representative. They are always ready to help. All convention committee order forms can also be found on the State Association website njelks.org.

The convention committee will keep you informed of any further developments regarding the Grand Lodge convention.

Congratulations to the Elected and Appointed Officers of the New Jersey State Elks Association for 2020-2021.

State President – **Peggy Berry**, Howell Lodge No. 2515
 Administrative Assistant – **Jennifer Hopkins**, Springfield-Hillside Lodge No. 2004
 State Secretary – **Joyce Powell**, Hasbrouck Heights Lodge No. 1962
 State Treasurer – **Ken Low**, Elmwood Park-Paterson Lodge No. 60
 Sergeant at Arms – **Gregory Scarlato**, Howell Lodge No. 2515
 Chaplain – **Heidi McDonnell**, Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 782
 Tiler – **Debra Czech**, South Plainfield Lodge No. 2298
 Inner Guard – **Mark Dunnder**, Springfield-Hillside Lodge No. 2004
 Organist – **Kenneth Salerno**, Toms River Lodge No. 1875

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Central District – **Jeff Van Woeart**, Carteret Lodge N. 2235
 East District – **Brian Turano**, Palisades Park-Ft. Lee Lodge No. 2475
 East Central District – **Doreen Duffy**, Rahway Lodge No. 1075
 North District – **Brian Hamilton**, Wayne Lodge No. 2181
 North Central District – **Meghan McPherson**, Lyndhurst Lodge No. 1505
 Northeast District – **Dominick Annuzzi, Jr.**, Hasbrouck Heights Lodge No. 1962
 Northwest District – **Carol Morokoff**, Boonton Lodge No. 1405
 South District – **Thomas Fox**, Greater Wildwood Lodge No. 1896
 South Central District – **Kelly Miller**, Eatontown Lodge No. 2402
 Southeast District – **James Dugan**, Manasquan Lodge No. 2534
 Southwest District – **Peter DeLucia**, Bordentown Lodge No. 2085
 West Central District – **William Rose**, Somerville Lodge No. 1068

3 YEAR TRUSTEES:

East District – **Steve Daly**, Closter Lodge No. 2304
 Northeast District – **Tammy Malizia**, Bergenfield Lodge No. 1477
 South District – **Richard Poole**, Brigantine Lodge No. 2428
 West Central District – **Richard Lavagno**, Flemington Lodge No. 1928

FRS Due Dates – 2020-2021 Lodge Year

1 ST QUARTER	EVENT	DATE
April	March 2020 PRELIMINARY ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	4/17/2020
May	March 2020 FINAL ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	5/15/2020
May	2020-2021 Lodge Year BUDGET Submission Due	5/15/2020
May	April 2020 ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	5/15/2020
June	May 2020 ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	6/19/2020
2 ND QUARTER	EVENT	DATE
July	June 2020 ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	7/17/2020
August	July 2020 ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	8/21/2020
September	August 2020 ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	9/18/2020
3 RD QUARTER	EVENT	DATE
October	September 2020 ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	10/16/2020
November	October 2020 ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	11/20/2020
December	November 2020 ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	12/18/2020
4 TH QUARTER	EVENT	DATE
January	December 2020 ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	1/15/2021
February	January 2021 ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	2/19/2021
March	February 2021 ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	3/19/2021
1 ST QUARTER	EVENT	DATE
April	March 2021 PRELIMINARY ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	4/16/2020
May	March 2020 FINAL ACTUAL DATA Submission Due	5/21/2020

Other Notes:

- Items are due no later than the third Friday of the month; the dates shown above are the third Fridays
- The submissions noted above must be successfully accepted in FRS no later than the date listed
- If a new account is added during the month, send FRS a new Mapping File before sending the Actual Data
- If a correction is made at the Lodge to a month's actuals already sent to FRS, resend the month's Actual Data
- If the Lodge amends the budget during the year, update the Budget data and resend the Budget Data

Membership & Retention Committee

BY MICHAEL PENCHENSKI, STATE CHAIRPERSON

Hello New Jersey Elks! We have until May 31st to reinstate members. Let's always work towards cutting delinquencies. Call and contact delinquent and lapsed members, not as a demanding bill collector, rather as a concerned friend. Most of the calls you make should result in leaving a short 25 second message. Simply state that you and the lodge are worried about them, because no one has seen or heard from them in a while. Are they OK? Is there a medical or financial issue keeping them away from the lodge and events? Finish by saying that if there is an issue, please let the lodge know. We have programs in place where we might be able to assist them in one way or another. Most people will respond to kindness rather than to a financial demand.

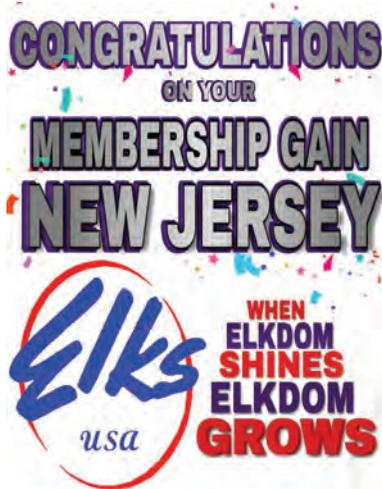
If a member of your lodge is over 65 years of age and has 30 years or more of membership, then why not propose them for Life Membership? They have literally and figuratively "paid their dues". They certainly have earned it; let's take care of our own.

If your lodge isn't working on gaining new members and retaining existing members every single year, then you are inadvertently working towards the merger or closure of your lodge.

If you haven't already done so, please sign up and register on www.elks.org. There is a wealth of information and knowledge on our website to help in almost every aspect of your lodge and district.

Please attend the upcoming mid-June Membership / Retention clinic in Union and Toms River Lodges.

New Jersey can rock all Elkdom this year and next year. We have the tools and we have the talent. You, New Jersey Elks, are the best of the best!



Where Are They Now

In 2017-2018 there were eleven Exalted Rulers under the age of forty. At the 2017 Grand Lodge Session, four of them presented a workshop on how they were getting younger members involved in their lodges. This past December the group got together for a reunion. All eleven continue to be active in their lodges and six of them also serve our Association in additional capacities.

Tina Zaggia currently serves as Region II Chairman Challenger Sports and Northeast District Scholarship Chairman. Dom Annuzzi is Vice President-Elect for the Northeast District and District Americanism Chairman. Chuck Crerand is State Chairman for Antlers. Dan DeZaio served as Central District Vice President 2019-2020. Meghan McPherson is Vice President-Elect for the North Central District, Region II Lodge Activities Chairman and District ENF Chairman. Steven Ditta recently served as the Grand Esquire to the District Deputy. Lastly, Shean Opie is serving as South Central District Army of Hope Chairman.

The New Jersey State Elks Association can't wait to see where they go from here!

Today is their day. They're off and away!

Pictured seated from left to right are Tina Zaggia and Dom Annuzzi. Standing from left to right are Chuck Crerand, Dan DeZaio, Meghan McPherson, Steve Ditta, and Shean Opie.

Public Relations and Marketing Committee

BY JOE PEDONE, STATE CHAIRPERSON

What worked yesterday is not always a guarantee for what will work tomorrow. This is why an active and flexible state committee is important. We are continuing to explore and implement new strategies and opportunities to grow our organization.

The Elks' ability to innovate and reach the community we service effectively is what will keep the State Association viable in the minds of potentially new members. This will help to maintain and/or boost a strong brand awareness presence.

One of the first things you will begin to see in our approach to marketing the Elks is our use of the QR Code. This code is a highly inventive and unique technology that can provide a wide variety of applications. When you start to utilize this application in as many ways possible, you will begin to understand the power the QR code can have for our association and its growth.

With our membership base aging, our second change is approaching how we begin to market to different age groups. Today's market requires a bit more ability to focus on a message that can attract a younger group of Elks, which will build a solid foundation for our future.

Our last change this year has been the introduction of a marketing section on our State Association website. By going to committees, scrolling to public relations and dropping down to marketing, you will find about 8 different ways to advertise the Elks. These can be used in so many ways such as flyers, handouts, e-mails and social media.

Once our QR codes are placed on these images and all images in the future, a person merely will scan the QR code and be directed right to our website for more review of the NJ Elks Association.

Our MARKETING approach has never been stronger! So join us and help grow our image! Let's educate our communities each and every day about the NJ Elks and strengthen our brand and increase membership.

Park Ridge Lodge No. 2234 PERs Step Up in a Moment's Notice

On a very cold Sunday morning in January, a bus filled with veterans from the Menlo Park Veteran's Home wound up in a precarious situation. The veterans of World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars traveled from Menlo Park to Park Ridge Lodge No. 2234 only to find out that they were at the wrong place that morning.

Coincidentally, the Past Exalted Rulers of Park Ridge lodge were meeting that morning. When they realized what happened, they immediately stopped what they were doing. They invited them in, readied their skills and prepared a fresh home cooked breakfast with all the fixings for everyone on the bus. Then they spent the next few hours talking with these heroes.

As veterans any Elk lodge will never forget them, because Elks will always respect and honor the fighting veterans who protect us each and every day.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: As the submission deadline approached and this edition was being prepared for print, the world was under the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic. We decided to feature a sample of what lodges have already been doing to help. We will feature more in the next edition. As always, we are NJ ELK STRONG!

– Nancy Rochford PDDGER, Editor-in-chief



dianegleason© ELKS SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORK

COVID-19 Hero Parade

On Friday April 3, members of Somerville Elks Lodge No. 1068 along with community members assembled in the lodge parking lot for a vehicle parade complete with signs honoring the Doctors, Nurses, First Responders, and RWJ St. Barnabas Medical Staff.

The parade lapped itself with miles of cars and trucks. The front of the parade arrived back to the lodge as the last car in the parade went by on its way over 250 cars and trucks were in the procession. A great way for the community to show support for our front line workers.



Summit Lodge No. 1246 donated 2,000 pairs of latex gloves to Overlook Hospital with the help of Summit EMS.

Princeton Lodge No. 2129 Answers The Call

Members of Princeton Elks Lodge No. 2129 answered the call for much needed supplies during the COVID-19 crisis. Truckloads of prepacked food were made to Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Food Bank Network of Somerset County, Montgomery Emergency Medical Services, and the Jewish Family & Children's Services of Greater Mercer County. In addition, \$300 in Shop Rite gift cards were given to Montgomery Township for distribution to families in need. The Jewish Family & Children's Services posted on Princeton's Facebook Page: Thank you Princeton NJ Elks Lodge No. 2129 for your generous contribution! Your donations will benefit so many in our community. Partnerships provide hope during these challenging times.



Palisades Park/ Fort Lee Lodge No. 2475 Assists During Coronavirus Pandemic

On Wednesday March 18th Palisades Park/ Fort Lee Lodge No. 2475 was contacted by Palisades Park Councilman Paul Kim. He put out a request to the community for help with the residents at the local senior center. There was a need for meals for the upcoming weekend. Without knowing what supplies they would be able to get, they said they would absolutely help out. Lodge members, Brian Turano and Patricia Stuart, got in the car and headed to Restaurant Depot and surprisingly enough found a stocked store. Supplies were purchased and a small team gathered to produce 100 sandwiches, 100 pasta dinners, fruits, and snacks. They delivered the meals to a shocked councilman. If the phone rings, they will answer.





North Central District Donates Holiday Gift Bags to Veterans

The North Central District Veterans Committee visited East Orange VA Hospital to donate holiday gift bags. The bags included t-shirts, toiletries, puzzle books and candy. All items were donated by the 11 lodges in the district. There were bags for 65 male veterans and 10 for the female veterans.

Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 Holds an Appreciation Night for Veteran Members

Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237, in honor of Veteran's Day, held a "Member Vets Appreciation Night" in their grill room. Pictured were honored veterans on hand, who are lodge members (l to r) Conrad T. Allendorf PER,



Rich Kroll and Tom Klemm. They were treated to a wonderful buffet of hors d'oeuvres and their names were posted on a plaque with the other Cedar Grove lodge members who are also veterans. The plaque is honorably displayed in their Grill Room.

Brick Lodge No. 2151 Assists Gold Star Families

Gold Star son, Ryan Duffy, was presented with his annual college fund award from Brick Lodge No. 2151 Army of Hope Chair. Ryan is the son of fallen hero SPC. Christopher M. Duffy, U.S. Army whose life was taken in 2004 Operation Iraq Freedom. Brick Lodge has been contributing to Ryan's college fund, since he was nine months old. As a tribute to his father during the Run for the Fallen, Ryan has run the mile from Brick Lodge to his father's marker with PER Greg Sheehan every September from the age of seven. Ryan is on the Brick High School basketball team as well as the baseball team. He is a serious and determined student whose aspiration is to become an engineer possibly in mechanical or chemical field. The college of his choice is Villanova and the Elks wish him the best.



National Veterans Services Committee

BY DON TONACHIO,
STATE CHAIRPERSON

I am proud to say we are continuing the Elks mission of helping our veterans. The committee's mission has grown over the last several years. Our first goal, from our inception, has been helping veterans who just need a hand. The scope of the committee is from those hospitalized, in nursing homes or have gotten out of the military to those who just need some help. For the past four and a half years, our newest commitment has been helping those veterans who are homeless or recently housed.

"Two words that should never be said together, Homeless and Veteran." Jim Hall PSP 2011-2012

The committee has helped over 1,000 veterans and their families become re-housed. We supplied them with every household item they would need to restart including new beds, furniture, etc. Not only does the committee buy the supplies, but we also deliver it to their house personally. Our cost averages out to be around \$650 to \$950 per family not including the man hours spent travelling to every part of our state.

We continue to help those veterans who have fallen through the cracks and need help financially or physically. Our committee even offers 2 scholarships for veterans who need an extra hand finishing their education. We work with Rutgers New Brunswick and Stockton Universities to make this happen.

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

Recently, the committee has teamed up with Healthy Soles in the Camden area and is helping over 75 veterans a week that are living on the streets. We have donated \$5,000 along with socks, coats, blankets, etc. The VA is overwhelmed and needs support from organizations like us.

"As long as there are Veterans the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will Never Forget them."



Bordentown Lodge No. 2085 Honors Those Serving in Afghanistan

The veterans committee of Bordentown Lodge No. 2085 proudly welcomed members of the 953rd Engineering Detachment for lunch at their lodge on Saturday, February 1st. Committee Chairman, Jim Sharpe, along with members of the committee, had sent care packages to the 953rd in Afghanistan. Captain Mark Caplain, and members of his unit, wanted to personally thank the Veterans Committee. A very good time was had by all as the committee members and guests shared stories of their service experiences.

Army Of Hope Committee

BY BRIAN MURPHY, STATE CHAIRPERSON

The Army of Hope committee continues our mission in making a difference supporting our fallen heroes families, their children, and severely injured. Unfortunately, we had to add another Hero to our roll call. SSgt First Class Green Beret Michael James Goble from Washington Township was killed on December 23, 2019 in Afghanistan. Your Army of Hope committee was able to present the family with \$5,000 to help in anyway needed.

Our holiday disbursements, totaling \$50,000, have continued to our family's children and our Gold Star families. Year after year, the thank you notes received are heartwarming and reinforce our association's role in being a part of their lives. Our Freedom Tree program continues to grow and serves as a reminder of the many sacrifices our men and women have made for our country.

Our major fundraising events are right around the corner. Please mark your calendars and look out for our flyers coming to your lodges. Our golf outing is slated for August 7th at Fox Hollow Golf Club in Branchburg. Our Picnic, "A Day of Patriotism", will be held on September 13th at Lacey Lodge.

Since the New Year, we have distributed \$7,000 in military relief to those having trouble meeting financial obligations, and subsequently needing a little help to get back on track. Although the financial help is important, the real story they echo is that someone cares about them and this far overshadows the check.

While turning the page as your chairman for this special committee, I would like to thank the State Association for the honor to work with the membership, our passionate advisors, and the special group of people on our committee. These past 3 years as chairman have given me many life changing experiences, which I will never forget. Whether sitting with parents in their living room giving them comfort after their son was killed, or waiting in a hospital with parents whose son was on life support after trying to take his life, or fly fishing with a hero who was a double amputee and blinded from his deployment. I can only hope we all can cross the path of such a special person in our lifetime. The many phone calls from military personnel looking for our help on their return will stay with me forever. Although we could not help everyone, we should be very proud of those we did. The work of the Army of Hope committee is vital to our order and all we stand for as Elks. Your support and hard work is the backbone of our success, so be very proud of your role.

I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for making the Army of Hope Committee strong, so we can continue our special journey together. Continue to educate our membership so they too can find our role of helping others. Together we are truly making a difference in the lives of our military families. We must continue to find the passion to help those who have given so much for our county.

God Bless our Troops!

Hamilton Lodge No. 2262 Hosts Veterans Remembrance Day

The Hamilton Elks recently hosted their Veterans Remembrance Day. 150 veterans representing 18 veterans groups from the community were honored with a dinner at the lodge facility. Ceremonies began with the laying of the wreath at the Hamilton Elks Veterans Memorial. Pictured at the memorial are Hamilton Elks Exalted Ruler Rose Romaine, Hamilton Elks Esquire and U.S. Air Force Veteran Brian Summers, Hamilton Elks Treasurer Robert Constantini PDD, and 101 year old U.S. Army Veteran Vincent James Esposito.



Brick Lodge No. 2151 Donates to Army of Hope

The Army of Hope Committee of Brick Elks Lodge No. 2151 presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 to the Brick War Memorial Project. The township has partnered with local organizations to redesign the Veterans Memorial Monument in front of Town Hall. The plan is to refurbish the fountain, update the bronze plaques with the missing fallen heroes' names, add benches, and landscaping to create a more solemn and appropriate place of reflection. The project will be completed in time for the Memorial Day remembrance. Brick Township has always respected and appreciated the dedication and service these men and women have provided, honoring them each year at the annual Veterans Day Remembrance as well as Memorial Day. Brick Lodge also honors them on National Gold Star Family day by lighting over two hundred luminaries with a roll call of all Ocean County fallen heroes, some dating back to the Civil War.

Attending the presentation at the memorial were ER Carolyn Rogers, Leading Knight Elyse Russo, Army of Hope Chair Roxanne Zygmund, and MC committee and lodge members.



East Brunswick Lodge No. 2370 Fundraises for Service Dog

Thanks to East Brunswick Lodge No. 2370 who hosted "Rebuilding Warriors - One Dog At A Time" events at the lodge, the support of other Central Jersey lodges and other organizations, enough funds were raised to provide a new service dog through Rebuilding Warriors. Her name is K9-Elk! She recently received her service dog vest and began her training for a companion in 2020. Rebuilding Warriors is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization that provides service dogs to honorably discharged veterans diagnosed as amputees as well as those with PTSD, (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury). Most of the dogs are bred especially for the mission and have a highly sought after demeanor. Dogs are provided to Honorably Discharged Veterans from any branch of the Armed Forces or from any service area meeting their eligibility standards. Pictured from left to right are Colleen Murphy, veteran Buddy Hackett, K-9 Arson, Veteran and Vice President of Rebuilding Warriors K-9 Zoey trainer Jessica Bidderman, K-9 Elk, Andrea Evans and Beverly Christensen



Mount Holly Lodge No. 848 Used ENF Grants to Fund Annual Food Drive

Mount Holly Lodge No. 848 held their annual Food Basket Drive. Using funds from both a Gratitude & Beacon Grant, they were able to fill 125 baskets with a complete holiday meal! Pictured from left to right are the young future Elks that were eager to help fill the boxes Lorenzo N, Cash N, Morgan P, Trevor A, Cali A, Reds K, and Sydney M.



Bayonne Lodge No. 434 Hosts a Soup Kitchen

Bayonne Lodge No. 434 used their Beacon Grant to host a soup kitchen for several weeks this past year. Each diner also received a reusable tote bag on behalf of the lodge. On the day of this picture, the crew served over 50 people. Pictured from left to right in the back are Carl "Duke" Angermeyer PDD, Martin Hickey, and Erik Clarkin. Pictured in the front are Kathy Nieves, Jessica Matos, Raeanne Hempel, patron Denise Ferry, Dawn Vukovich and Lisa DiLorenzo.

Elks National Foundation

BY MARYANN APPLIGATE, STATE CHAIRPERSON

It's been a great year for the Elks National Foundation, which means, it will be a great year for our lodge and state charities. When writing this article, final numbers for the 2019-2020 fraternal year were not as yet calculated. COVID-19 closed Grand Lodge. Hopefully, those numbers can be reported at our annual Wildwood Reunion.

My goal was to reach \$500,000 for the year. I estimate that our total will be between \$385,000 and \$400,000. As always, the efforts of the Elks from New Jersey was priceless!!!! Our committee started off running and kept a fast pace throughout the year. Under the direction of our Regional co-chairmen, Bobby Burns PVP and Paul Burke PVP, fundraising efforts continued throughout the state.

I am very proud to say that our participation in the Fidelity Club increased 10x from the previous year. We have 100 members from the State of New Jersey that have signed up. The winner of the Fidelity Club challenge is Region I.

Ninety-nine of our lodges met or exceeded our Grand Exalted Ruler's goal of \$4.75 per member and eighty-two met or exceeded our State President, Anthony Alfonso's goal of \$5.75 per member. Pending the final report, I am hopeful these numbers will increase.

Congratulations to Asbury Park/Wall Lodge No. 128 for winning the Biggest Heart contest with a total of \$500 for ENF! At the Fall Conference, you will see the yield from our fundraising efforts, as our State Sponsor presents donations from ENF to our various charities.

Thank you to all of our ENF Chairpersons. It's been a pleasure working with you, and thanks to State President Anthony Alfonso, for giving me the honor of serving the NJSEA for the 2019-2020 Fraternal year. I would like to offer best wishes to the next fraternal year committee chairs.



Bergenfield Lodge No. 1477 Purchases Welcome Home Kits

Welcome Home Kits for veterans were prepared at Bergenfield Lodge No. 1477, made possible through a \$2,000 ENF Spotlight Grant. Vincent Buda of the lodge's veterans committee and PER Tammy Malizia ENF committee chairwoman purchased the home supplies and assembled the kits together. The kits benefited a Marine veteran headed into new housing and the local Disabled American Veterans unit.



Summit Lodge No. 1246 Makes Blankets For Babies

On Sunday, March 8th, more than 40 members and their families came out to help Christ Child Society of Summit assemble soft fleece baby blankets. PER Mike Williams completed the first blanket. After 2 hours of fringe tying, refreshments and conversation, they presented 105 blankets to the Christ Child Society of Summit as well as a check for \$2,200 from an ENF Beacon Grant that the Lodge received, which paid for the blanket supplies. The blankets will be provided to new moms in need at both Overlook and Morristown Memorial Hospital in the coming months. This has become an annual event for the Lodge. PER Mike Williams with Summit ENF Committee Chair Kathy Kloss Preacher presented the check to Christ Child Society with all the volunteers present.



Lyndhurst Lodge No. 1505 Provides a Veteran with a Welcome Home Kit

With the assistance of the Freedom Grant, Lyndhurst Lodge No. 1505 was able to provide a Welcome Home Kit to a local Veteran who was moving into a new apartment. Pictured from left to right are Meghan McPherson PER, Kathryn Kittridge, Local Veteran, Malcolm McPherson PGER, Clair Hoyt, Burt Hoyt, and Sean Frew ER, and Mallory McPherson (Not Pictured).



East Brunswick Lodge No. 2370 Uses Spotlight Grant to Purchase Winter Coats

On November 23, 2019, East Brunswick Lodge No. 2370 used the Spotlight Grant in the amount of \$2,000 to purchase winter coats for children in need. Members did the shopping and distributed the jackets at the North Brunswick Library. The lodge distributed 74 jackets to 30 families for children from sizes 18 months all the way up to 16. They also provided breakfast, snacks and interactive activities. Youth Activities chairperson, Aimee Schneider, oversaw the event. Pictured from left to right are members Steve Sullivan, Mary Tarrant, Joan Scaduto, Jane Saliski, Jeanne Lebosky, Colleen Murphy and in front kneeling are Jim Hancocks and Jim Milner. Also pictured in back center is Barbara Elieff, Head librarian at North Brunswick library.



Kearny Lodge No. 1050 Uses Spotlight Grant to Help Local Children

Kearny Lodge No. 1050 used the Spotlight grant to provide coats and books for local children in need. There were approximately forty families helped that day through the purchase of 50 coats and 500 books. They were even given backpacks to carry the books home in. Pictured from left to right are Nicole Stankus a local teacher, Rusty Gerstenmier PSP, residents Otto and Lilly and Kearny ER Marybeth Gerstenmier.

Lacey Lodge No. 2518 Uses Gratitude Grant to Assist Community Center

Lacey Elks Lodge No. 2518 used their \$2000 Gratitude Grant from the Elks National Foundation to assist the Lacey Township Methodist Church Xodus Recovery Community Center. This support will assist individuals living with substance abuse. Pictured from from left to right are Exalted Ruler Mark Niro, Grant Coordinator & Trustee Bill Kanze, PSP Richard Bard, Recovery Center Administrator Donna Catlow, and Police Chief Mike DiBella.



Youth Activities – Building

25% of our Population = 100% of our Future

Our Youth Activities’ Program includes our Antlers Program, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Soccer Shoot, Hoop Shoot, Batters Up, Tee It Up, Youth Week, and the Dictionary Project. These programs aid in the character development of our young people by recognizing their accomplishments and encouraging them in maturing into tomorrow’s leaders.

State Soccer Shoot Committee

BY MARTIN CRERAND, STATE CHAIRPERSON

The New Jersey State Soccer shoot was held on January 11, 2020 at Manasquan Elementary School. We had participants from almost all our districts shooting in all our age groups. It was a great day for the children and a great day for the New Jersey State Elks Association.

We were honored to have several dignitaries in attendance. The dignitaries in attendance were Our State Sponsor the Honorable Malcom J McPherson PGER, State President Anthony Alfonso, Rich Tabachuck PSP, Gerry Cook PSP, Pete Smith PSP, John Veprek PSP, Bob Jani PSP, Rich Bard PSP, Bob Binetti PSP, Ron Mangone PSP and Mid Atlantic Soccer Shoot Director and State President-Elect Peggy Berry. There were many District Deputies, District State Vice Presidents and Exalted Rulers at the shoot as well.

Thank you to all the district chairpersons who came out for the day and a special thank you to Manasquan Lodge No. 2534 for donating their hall and the food for our awards luncheon.

All of the winners moved on to the Mid Atlantic Soccer Shoot held in York, Pennsylvania on March 14, 2020. The following is the list of winners from the state soccer shoot.

2019-2020 NJ STATE SOCCER SHOOT WINNERS

U8 GIRLS

- 1st — Abby Belthoff (NorthEast)
- 2nd — Aisha Reza (Central)
- 3rd — Allie Fasanella (Southwest)

U10 GIRLS

- 1st — Isabella Binetti (East)
- 2nd — Meagan Martineau (Central)
- 3rd — Lucy Smith (North)

U12 GIRLS

- 1st — Nadia Otuyelu (East)
- 2nd — Makayla Zacchia (Northeast)
- 3rd — Alyson Reynolds (Northwest)

U14 GIRLS

- 1st Kaitlyn Hankins
- 2nd Denise Cosme (Central)
- 3rd Kaitlyn Veltrie (East Central)

U16 GIRLS

- 1st — Lauren Beltran (Northeast)
- 2nd — Marissa Almazi (North)
- 3rd — Saira Lomeli-Roman (South)

HIGH SCORE U8 GIRL

Abby Belthoff

HIGH SCORE U10-U16 GIRL

Isabella Binetti

U8 BOYS

- 1st — Leonardo Olivera (Northwest)
- 2nd — Eric Szaro (Central)
- 3rd — Andrew Goodman(Northeast)

U10 BOYS

- 1st — Hunter Ferreira (Central)
- 2nd — Matt Szary (South Central)
- 3rd — Nicholas Bieltz (East)

U12 BOYS

- 1st — Tyler Puente (South)
- 2nd — Nate Holden (Northwest)
- 3rd — Evan Gibb (Central)

U14 BOYS

- 1st — Anthony Amato (Northeast)
- 2nd — Cristian Ramirez (South Central)
- 3rd — Ricardy Prophete (East Central)

U16 BOYS

- 1st — Kevin Lorenc (Central)
- 2nd — Jacob Hernandez (East)
- 3rd — Jonathan Remache (Northeast)

HIGH SCORE U8 BOY

Leonardo Olivera

HIGH SCORE U10-U16 BOY

Hunter Ferreira



Manasquan Lodge No. 2534 Holds Hoop Shoot Competition

On December 7, 2019 Manasquan Lodge held their Hoop Shoot contest for their local communities. Pictured are ER Melissa Colvin and Lodge Hoop Shoot Chair Paul Herrmann with the 10 & 11 year old winning boys and the 12 & 13 year old winning girls.

West Milford Lodge No. 2236 Participates in District Hoop Shoot

West Milford Lodge No. 2236 was very well represented at the Elks North District Hoop Shoot held at Park Ridge High School on Sunday January 5th. They competed with children from seven other lodges in the district. Pictured are Jake Kelshaw, Laurel Space and John Addice West Milford Lodge Youth Activities Chairperson.



ing Tomorrow's Leaders

Batters Up Awards



Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 Participates in the Annual Dictionary Project

The Annual Dictionary Project has become a tradition with the Youth Activities Committee at Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237. Since there is another club in town that donated the dictionaries, Cedar Grove lodge donated a total of 144 thesauruses to St. Catherine's of



Siena, North End, and South End Schools. These books are provided for all the third grade classes in Cedar Grove. Each child can put their name on the book and the Elks label reminds them that it was donated by Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237. Pictured are the happy children from one of the benefiting classes.

Mount Holly Lodge No. 848 Hosts Hoop Shoot

Mount Holly Lodge No. 848 hosted their Hoop Shoot at Rancocas Valley Regional High School on Dec 21, 2019. Congratulations to Age Group 12-13 winners Matthew Fleming for winning 2nd place and to Timothy Harper for 1st place. All the winners moved onto the next round in New Egypt. Pictured from left to right are Lew Jackson Exalted Ruler, Matthew Fleming, Timothy Harper and James Harper.



Hoop Shoot Committee

BY MARGUERITE AISENSTOCK, STATE CHAIRPERSON

I am happy to announce that the NJ State Elks Association once again successfully hosted the State Hoop Shoot Finals, Sunday February 9, 2020 at South Plainfield High School. New Jersey's finest free throw finalists, ages 8-13, competed for the title of State Champion, representing each district. The finals were exciting throughout the entire competition. Shoot-offs occurred in three divisions for the 2nd & 3rd place spots. Every competitor is a district champion and exhibited great talent and sportsmanship.

2019-20 NJ HOOP SHOOT RESULTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

8-9 YEAR OLD BOYS

- 1st — Evan Papageorgiou, South — Greater Wildwood No. 1896, 23 of 25
- 2nd — Mason Reinert, So. Central — Eatontown No. 2402, 22 of 25
- 3rd — Michael Ferrer, Jr., Central — Colonia No. 2282, 21 of 25 & 5 of 5

10-11 YEAR OLD BOYS

- 1st — Owen Schilling, West Central — Somerville No. 1068, 22 of 25
- 2nd — James Hankowski, South Central — Red Bank No. 233, 21 of 25
- 3rd — Max Biroc, North — Westwood No. 1562, 17 of 25 & 4 of 5

12-13 YEAR OLD BOYS

- 1st — Michael Marcassoli, Central — Metuchen No. 1914, 21 of 25
- 2nd — Krish Patel, South Central — Old Bridge No. 2229, 20 of 25 & 4 of 5 & 5 of 5
- 3rd — Jahquin Harrison, Northeast — Elmwood Park-Paterson No. 60, 4 of 5 & 4 of 5

8-9 YEAR OLD GIRLS

- 1st — Amanda Ciser, West Central — Somerville No. 1068, 22 of 25
- 2nd — Emma Watson, South Central — Eatontown No. 2402, 15 of 25
- 3rd — Samantha Wohltmann, Northwest — Livingston No. 1855, 14 of 25

10-11 YEAR OLD GIRLS

- 1st — Findleigh Tuite, Southeast — Manasquan No. 2534, 17 of 25
- 2nd — Addison Valdez, Northeast — Dumont No. 2593, 15 of 25
- 3rd — Kiran Shusterman, East Central — Cranford No. 2006, 14 of 25

12-13 YEAR OLD GIRLS

- 1st — Kalista D'Elia, North Central — Lyndhurst No. 1505, 22 of 25
- 2nd — Selena Cieszko, North — Park Ridge No. 2234, 21 of 25
- 3rd — Sophia Erickson, East Central — Stirling No. 2392, 19 of 25

Our six State Champions were scheduled to compete at the Regional level Competition in Wilkes-Barre, PA on March 21, 2020 against the State Champions from New York and Pennsylvania. The Regional champions were scheduled to compete in the National Finals competition in April in Chicago. Due to the National State of Emergency and increasing concerns regarding the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Grand Lodge cancelled the Regional competitions and the National Finals competition.

Thank you to the South Plainfield Board of Education for graciously allowing us to use their facilities this year. We would like to specially thank Mickey Wrublevksi from the Athletic staff, the custodial staff and the team of the South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club for their service and support during our State Contest.

Finally, thank you to our Advisors, PSP Robert Mauro, and PSP Peter Smith, our State President, Anthony Alfonso, Past Special Deputy GER Francis J. Decibus, committee members and the many Elk volunteers and Elk friends that came and supported our program. Their continued dedication to this program ensures our continued success and is certainly appreciated.





Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 Participates in Drug Awareness Event

Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 Drug Awareness Committee members Mike Corbosiero and Linda Luongo attended the Annual Essex County Opioid Awareness Walk at Caldwell College. They set up a table at the finish line area full of Drug Awareness flyers printed from Grand Lodge along with some Cedar Grove lodge Drug Awareness Committee nylon frisbees.



Kearny Lodge No. 1050 Helps Make Town Stigma Free

The Drug & Alcohol Awareness Committee of Kearny Lodge No. 1050 were presented with their Stigma Free sign at a town council meeting. Kearny Lodge is part of the group Kearny Cares which holds monthly meetings at the lodge. This group discusses ways to stop drug abuse, deaths by overdosing and more in the community. Back in June, the Elks, the Kearny Prevention Coalitions and Kearny Municipal Alliance, as a result of the mayor and council's resolution making the town Stigma Free, would have signs made up by elks member, Melanie Pasquarelli. All of the groups names would be on the signs and would be placed at strategic areas throughout the town letting everyone know Kearny is Stigma Free. Pictured left to right are Larry Handlin and Kim Luciano from the Kearny Cares Group, William Dow PDD and Kearny Elks D&A chairperson, and Mayor Albert G Santos.



Ridgefield Park Lodge No. 1506 Supports the Peer Leadership Conference

Ridgefield Park Elks No. 1506 was able to send 8 high school kids to the annual Peer Leadership Conference that recently took place at the Ocean Place Resort in Long Branch, NJ. The lodge was able to do so by using funds from the Gratitude and Promise ENF grants.

Drug Awareness Committee

BY LISA ROVITO, STATE CHAIRPERSON

The 2020 Path to Leadership One Day Conference for Middle School students and their parents was held on Thursday February 6th, 2020 at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa in Long Branch, NJ. It was once again a huge success. Approximately 400 students attended and heard three excellent speakers focusing on bullying, cyber-bullying and social media issues along with Drug Awareness education. The program was extended for an extra hour and we were very excited to see more parents attend this year.

The 32nd Annual Peer Leadership Conference was held from February 7th to 9th, 2020 at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa. Over 465 students attended this year's conference. The theme of the conference was "Elks and Youth: for a Better Tomorrow" and included the most powerful speakers we have ever had. Students learned valuable information to help them deal with the pressures of being a teenager, avoiding drug and alcohol use, and assisting their peers in doing the same. All of the attendees had a wonderful experience and plan to take what they learned back to their schools and communities. This year's conference was once again a huge success!

This year, for the first time in several years, we have an Enrique Camarena Award winner from New Jersey, Special Agent Nicholas Kolen from the DEA!

The Drug Awareness poster, essay and video contests have been completed. The NJ State poster winner was Divya Bhatia from Carteret Lodge No. 2235. The essay winner was Eric Pray from Howell Lodge No. 2515. Lastly, the video winners were Lauren Varella and Astrid Tafferello from Weehawken Lodge No. 1456. The winning poster, essay and video were sent to Grand Lodge for national judging.

Districts throughout the state are in the process of planning their "Walkout on Drugs" events. Please support your district's Walkout, as it is the only fundraiser for the Path and Peer Leadership Conferences.

Lodges and districts continue to work tirelessly to educate their communities and youth about the dangers of drug use and are spreading the word about our program. I can't stress strongly enough the importance of each lodge having an active Drug Awareness Committee, with the opioid crisis continuing to grow in our communities.

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



What's Your Word for PEER Leadership Program

At this year's NJ Elks PEER Leadership Conference we included a Word Bracelet Project. The students were given the opportunity to have a word (or 2) stamped on a bracelet. The word had to describe what the conference meant to them.

During the 2 day conference 400 bracelets were stamped! Some of the words chosen by the students were: Love, Hope, Faith, Believe, Courage, Strength, Strong, Inspire, Passion, Brave, Positivity, Culture, Psalm 18:2, RIP Dad, and Worthy.

This project would not have been a success without the efforts of Joyce Powell, Dee Krowl, Moira McCann, Stephanie Green, and everyone else who helped bag and sort them. This project achieved more than the committee could have ever thought possible.

Our hope is that the students will look back on their word bracelets, remember all the moments they experienced during the PEER Leadership Conference and draw continued strength from them. The word bracelet project will be back next year!



Mountainside Lodge No. 1585 Sends Students to Peer Leadership

Mountainside Lodge No. 1585 used its Gratitude Grant to send five students from Westfield High School to this year's Peer Leadership Conference in Long Branch. Pictured are PER Steve Ditta, Class Advisor, Lauren Hauser and PVP, Vince Ditta.



NJSEA PEER Leadership
February 7-9, 2020



NJSEA Path To Leadership Conference Attendees



Sussex Antler Lodge No. 5 Second Vice President, Danielle Penny, Sings the National Anthem during the “All Gave Some, Some Gave All” Poker Run

Sussex Lodge No. 2288 partnered with two local American Legion Posts to hold their third annual “All Gave Some, Some Gave All” Poker Run, to benefit the Northern New Jersey Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery in Sparta, NJ. on September 29th. Over 190 motorcycles participated in the fund-raising event. A brief ceremony to honor veterans was also held at the event.

Mid Atlantic Elks Soccer Shoot

BY PEGGY BERRY, DIRECTOR

The ten NJ State Soccer Champions, along with the Champions from Ohio, Pennsylvania, MD/DE/DC, Kentucky and West Virginia met in York, PA the weekend of March 13-15, 2020 to compete for the title of Mid Atlantic Elks Soccer Champion. This year’s event was hosted by the PA State Association and York Lodge No. 213. The Mid Atlantic Elks Soccer Competition is over 27 years old and has been held in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland. This program has been and is still organized and run by members of the New Jersey State Elks Association.

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

New Jersey was proud to have three first place winners, Abby Belthoff, New Milford/Teaneck Lodge No. 2290, Northeast District, in the girls U-8 division, Hunter Ferreira, Woodbridge Lodge No. 2116, Central District in the boys U-10 division and Anthony Amato, Rutherford Lodge No. 547, Northeast District in the U-14 boy division. NJ also had three second place winners. Leonardo Olivera, Livingston Lodge No. 1855, Northwest District in the boys U-8 division, Lauren Beltran, Hackensack Lodge No. 658, Northeast District, in the girls U-16 division and Kevin Lorenc, Woodbridge Lodge No. 2116, Central District in the boys U-16 division. Abby Belthoff, Northeast District, had the highest overall score for the U-8 girls division and Hunter Ferreira, Central District, had the highest overall score for the U-10 to U-16 Boys division. The NJ Champions represented our state with great pride and team spirit as well as the other state Champions. It was truly an amazing event where lifelong friendships were made among the Champions, families and fellow Elk.

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

Next year’s Mid Atlantic Elks Soccer Shoot Competition is scheduled for March 12-14, 2021 and again will be hosted by the Pennsylvania Elks Association.

Youth Activities

BY JIM SMITH, STATE CHAIRPERSON

As all of you know, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all activities inside and outside of your lodges had to be cancelled with the hope that they could be held at a later time. Youth Activities is no exception. As of now, any of our Batter’s Up & Tee It Up contests that are scheduled for June 15th and after will stay on schedule until we know anything further. Any events scheduled from now until June 14th are cancelled and hopefully can be re-scheduled for a later date.

In the next few weeks, lodges will be asked to fill out their Youth Activities Award sheets for last year. This year the form will be 100% online and can be filled in and submitted online. There will be NO mailing or emailing of these forms. All instructions on how to find the form and how to submit it, will be sent to all district chairs, Vice Presidents & District Deputies, lodge secretaries and Exalted Rulers. The same instructions and form will be posted on the State Web Site. There will be a deadline to submit the form and any sent after that date will not be considered for Youth Awards.

In July & August we once again have some exciting things planned for our Batter’s Up & Tee It Up Programs! We have secured a date for our Batter’s Up Program to have all our winners attend a ceremony at the Somerset Patriots Game. The kids will be awarded a free ticket to attend this fun night where Elks will come out and show their support for these wonderful kids. Our Tee It Up Program also has some exciting things planned with the possibility of a semi pro golfer to come and speak to the Elk Participants and give them tips and insight into golf, sports and life itself. The committee continues to work hard to enhance these programs designed just for the Youth in our communities.

If there are any questions or concerns, please email me at reds0602@aol.com.

Antlers

BY CHUCK CRERAND, STATE CHAIRPERSON

The Antlers were on a roll this year. However, unfortunately, things had to get postponed and rescheduled along with everything else in Elksdom.

This year we planned on having a water bottle drive on Memorial Day. This will still happen at a later date. Keep a look out for fliers with district drop locations and pick up dates.

Since the Walk out on Drugs is now postponed until September, the Antlers across the entire state have a huge opportunity to join in our goal of raising \$10,000 solely by Antlers! If they succeed, I will be jumping in the ocean dressed up in a character that they have already chosen. PLEASE HELP OUR ANTLERS’ LODGES SUCCEED!

Staying on the topic of Drug Awareness, I would like to send a huge thank you to the PEER Leadership staff and Drug Awareness Committee for giving the Antlers a time and space to hold a meeting. A lot gets talked about at this meeting with the Antlers. If your Lodge has Antlers, I strongly recommend sending them to PEER Leadership. Not just for the Antlers meeting itself, but to experience what both Elks and Antlers work so hard to make happen every year.

The committee is seeing more interest in opening new Antlers Lodges. Though there is some great info on Elks.org, please contact one of our state committee members to aid in the process. Prior to starting an Antlers Lodge, there are several things that need to be discussed and completed.

I’d like to thank everyone, especially, the Antlers Committee, for your patience and support this year in helping reorganize and reenergize the Antlers Program. There is still a lot to do, but if we stick to this path this can be one of the most successful youth non profits in NJ. It takes work and patience from the local lodge advisors and support from the State Committee. Keep up the amazing work and I look forward to seeing everyone grow and prosper.

Americanism Committee

BY BRUCE LOCKWOOD, STATE CHAIRPERSON

The Americanism Committee has collected essays from each lodge and judged them on the district level. The top three in each division from each district were then forwarded on to the state level. These were judged at the final State Meeting on March 14th at Old Bridge Lodge No. 2229. The top essays in each category were forwarded to Grand Lodge. Division 1 is 5th-6th grade with 7-8th grade being Division 2. The top three winners in each division on the State Level received TD Bank gift cards.; 1st place receiving \$500, 2nd place receiving \$275 and 3rd place receiving \$150. The winners and their sponsoring lodges were:

DIVISION 1:

- 1st — Sean Pasquarelli — Kearny Lodge No. 1050 — North Central District
- 2nd — Raimee Keels — Vineland Lodge No. 1422 — South District
- 3rd — Payten Santiago — Springfield/Hillside No. 2004 — East Central District

DIVISION 2:

- 1st — Mona Arnous — Passaic Valley Lodge No.2111 — North District
- 2nd — Mia Sullivan — Lacey Lodge No. 2518 — Southeast District
- 3rd — Gianna Giunchini — Paramus Lodge No. 2001 — Northeast District

The Committee has been selling 50-50 tickets as one of our fundraisers. The drawing was held at the state meeting. Each lodge had been given 15 tickets. The committee received 50% of the amount sold. Of the remaining amount, 1st Place drawn received 25% of the amount collected, 2nd Place received 15% and 3rd Place received 10%. The Committee is also selling lapel pins. The funds from the 50-50 and the pins will be used to offset the cost of the essay prizes, certificates, plaques and all other expenses of the committee. See your District Chair for any clarification on these two past fundraisers.

The Americanism Challenge is a report of all the activities done throughout the lodge year. This is an excel spreadsheet which is filled in with any and all the lodge activities throughout the Elk year that can be linked to Americanism. Pictures are encouraged. The spreadsheet is on the state website. It can be accessed on njelks.org. On the website, select "State Activities," "Committees," "Americanism" and page down to see "NJSEA Americanism Challenge." Select this and the spreadsheet will be populated. The spreadsheet is divided into different categories with suggested activities. I'm sure each lodge does so much more than what is suggested. These forms were due by April 15th.

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

Scholarship Committee

BY DAN PENCAK, STATE CHAIRPERSON

There is over \$30,000 to be awarded in New Jersey Elks Family Scholarships! Applications are being accepted now. Forty \$750 New Jersey Elks Family Scholarships will be awarded to children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren (step-children, step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren) of New Jersey Elks in good standing. Students who are high school seniors or college freshman, sophomores, or juniors can apply. If a student applies and wins each year, they could receive a total of \$3,000. Applications are available online now at NJElks.org and must be submitted to the sponsoring member's lodge before June 30, 2020.



South Central District Holds a Flag Retirement Ceremony

A Flag Retirement ceremony was held at Middletown Lodge No. 2179 for the South Central District.

Lodge Activities

BY ED HAHN, STATE CHAIRPERSON

The committee would like to thank all the lodges that participated in the Memorial and the Bulletin contests. We had more entries than we did last year and we hope it continues into next year.

THE WINNERS IN THE MEMORIAL SERVICE CONTEST ARE:

LODGE MEMBERSHIP 0-300

1. Lyndhurst No. 1505
2. Cedar Grove No. 2237
3. West Orange No. 1590
4. Howell No. 2515
5. Park Ridge No. 2234
6. Belleville No. 1123

LODGE MEMBERSHIP 301-500

1. Middletown No. 2179
2. Long Branch No. 742

LODGE MEMBERSHIP 501-700

1. Red Bank No. 233

LODGE MEMBERSHIP 1501-ABOVE

1. Lacey No. 2518

THE WINNERS OF THE LODGE BULLETIN CONTEST ARE:

LODGE MEMBERSHIP 0-300

1. Passaic Valley No. 2111
2. Paramus No. 2001
3. Mahwah No. 1941
4. Hackettstown No. 2331
- Old Bridge No. 2229
- Trenton No. 105

LODGE MEMBERSHIP 301-500

1. Middletown No. 2179
2. Rutherford No. 547
3. Jamesburg No. 2180
4. Edison No. 2487
5. New Milford / Teaneck No. 2290

LODGE MEMBERSHIP 501-700

1. Red Bank No. 233

LODGE MEMBERSHIP 701-1100

1. Manasquan No. 2534

LODGE MEMBERSHIP 1501-ABOVE

1. Lacey No. 2518



Bayonne Lodge No. 434 Donates to Women Rising

As a result of the lodge's ENF East District Pajama Drive, the Motorcycle Committee Lunch with Santa and personal donations, Bayonne Lodge No. 434 was able to donate to Women Rising. Women Rising is a local women's shelter for abused women and their families. Pictured from left to right are Lisa DiLorenzo ENF Chairperson, Margaret Abrams Organizer at Women's Rising and Pamela Hagdorn Lodge Trustee.



Lyndhurst Lodge No. 1505 Donates Winter Coats

Lyndhurst Lodge No. 1505 donated winter coats to the students of Lyndhurst Memorial Campus on December 2, 2019. Pictured are Sean Frew ER, Memorial School Nurse Taryn Paglio and Meghan McPherson PER.

Parades Committee

BY PATRICK DELUCA, STATE CHAIRPERSON

Sadly, the parade this year will not begin promptly at 12 noon on June 6 in North Wildwood.

Due to the health crisis we are facing, the convention has been cancelled for the first time. I would like to send our best wishes to State President-Elect Peggy Berry for a successful year.

I would like to thank State President Anthony Alfonso for entrusting me with this position; my advisors Dick Tabbachino, PGLC/PSP; Bill Oakley, PGLC/PSP; and Rick Gathen, PGLC/PSP; Region I Chairman, Mike Daddetto; Region II Chairman, Gloria Hardy; Marshall Coordinator Thomas Hardy; Judge Coordinator, Stephen Holler; Award Coordinators, Rich and Dina Zacek; and the District Chairmen for all their hard work and support throughout the year. The Parades Committee has set new goals and records. We have live streamed the parade on Facebook and social media thanks to Rick and Linda Gathen.

This committee has been working tirelessly to be ready for this year's parade. They have been coordinating with the lodge chairman and processing all the paperwork needed. Not an easy task when all lodges are closed and meetings have been cancelled.

Special thanks to all the lodges for participating and sponsoring a plaque this year. Your support is what makes our parade a success every year. Since the parade has been cancelled, I have mailed back all sponsorships. I sincerely hope you will continue to support this Committee in the future.

In closing, I have had three great years as the State Parade Chairman, a lot of support, and worked with great committee people. Thank you all so much. I'll miss you all. Be careful and most of all be safe.



Hackettstown Lodge No. 2331 Honors Law Enforcement

In honor of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, Hackettstown Lodge provided lunch for the 15 member staff of the Hackettstown Police Department. Pictured from left to right are Ptl Edward Blas, Sgt Sean Stone, Chief James Macaulay, Hackettstown lodge Loyal Knight Maze Thiele, Lt Brian Filarrd, Ptl Robert Salus.

Government Relations

BY RONALD SUBRIZI, STATE CHAIRPERSON

Government relations is the blood line of our charitable existence. It allows us to exist as a charitable organization. To keep this status, we must report all charitable work to the IRS. We need to report all our people, hours, miles, non-cash and cash contributions. At the end of the year, we report to the IRS just how much charitable work we did in a dollar amount. We receive \$24.69 per hour, \$.55 per mile plus the non-cash and cash that we donate. For over 150 years, we have been a charitable organization and we need to protect our charitable status.

This year we will not be holding a state meeting. We will be coming to each district and explaining to the members what needs to be reported and how to report it instead. Remember, our lodges need to report all their charitable events directly into CLMS. The secretaries can give the government relations lodge chair access to the Grand Lodge website to enter the information. I want to thank our advisors, PSP Robert Jani and PSP Bill Peltier, along with my Region chairs, Joe DeBonis and Paul Haropolous, for all their hard work.

State Ritual Committee

BY MARK DUNNDER, STATE CHAIRPERSON

Congratulations to Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 782 on winning this year's state contest held at Long Branch Lodge No. 742 with a score of 98.8043. They will represent our state in the Grand Lodge ritual contest this year and they know that the entire state is behind them! Hats off to Piscataway lodge No. 2414 for making a great effort finishing in second place with a score of 98.4016.

To all the Exalted Rulers for the new fraternal year, you now have the ability to help continue in the strengthening of the fraternal foundation of our order, the ritual. The ritual provides the first impression to our new members. Being able to recite the ritual with the proper heart and feeling can go a long way. This same effort is needed for all our rituals though. The June Flag Day service and the unfortunate task of having to perform a funeral service are prime examples. These events are the perfect opportunity to show those non-members how dedicated we are to our order and our country.

In closing, I would remind everyone that the Ritualistic committee is there to help any individual or lodge improve in performing our ceremonies. Please don't hesitate to reach out, because the committee will be there to help you succeed.



Exalted Ruler of Long Branch Lodge No. 742 Wins Flag Charge Contest

The Eleven O'Clock toast and Flag Salute contest took place at the Fall Conference held at the Ocean Place Conference Center in Long Branch, N.J. Nov. 8th-10th. Pictured from left to right are Roy DeRitter, PGLAA/PSP and State Ritual Committee Advisor, Robert Ricker, Area 2 Grand Lodge Ritual/PSP and State Ritual Committee Advisor, Anthony Alfonso, State President, Michael Veth, winning Exalted Ruler from Long Branch Lodge No. 742 and Mark Dunnder, State Ritual Chairman.



Ridgefield Park Lodge No. 1506 Supports Friendship House

Anthony Perrone, VP from Ridgefield Park Lodge No. 1506 presented a \$500 check to Mala Spivak from the NJ Friendship House through funds raised from a Tuesday Night Dinner held at the lodge. Friendship House located in Hackensack, NJ provides programs for Adults with Autism. This is a vital program as these individuals are no longer served by school districts and need help living productive lives in the community.



NJSEA Second Place State Ritual Piscataway Lodge No. 2414



NJSEA Third Place State Ritual Middletown Lodge No. 2179



Central District					Lacey #2518
Carteret #2236					Manahawkin #2340
East Brunswick #2370	East Central District	Cedar Grove #2237	Rutherford #547	Greater Wildwood #1896	Manasquan #2534
Metuchen #1914		Harrison East Newark #2326		Millville #580	Point Pleasant #1698
New Brunswick #324	Mountainside #1585	Kearny #1050	North West District		Toms River #1875
Piscataway #2414	Rahway #1075	Lyndhurst #1505	Boonton #1405	South Central District	
South Amboy #784	Springfield-Hillside #2004	Newark Bloomfield #21	East Hanover #815	Freehold #1454	South West District
South Plainfield #2298	Summit #1246	North Arlington #1992	Hackettstown #2331	Jamesburg #2180	Bordentown #2085
Watchung Hills #885	Union #1583	Nutley #1290	Lake Hopatcong #782	Keyport-Matawan #2030	Mount Holly #848
Woodbridge #2116	North District	Orange #135	Livingston #1855	Long Branch #742	
	Mahwah #1941	South Orange #1154	Madison #1465	Middletown #2179	West Central District
East District	Oakland #2167	West Orange #1590	Parsippany-Troy Hills #2078	Millstone #2613	Bound Brook #1388
Cliffside Park #1502	Park Ridge #2234	North East District	Sparta #2356	Old Bridge #2229	Clinton #2434
Jersey City #211	Passaic Valley #2111	Bergenfield #1477		Red Bank #233	Flemington #1928
Hoboken #74	Pompton Lakes #1895	Clifton #1569	South District		Lambertville #1070
Palisades Park-Ft. Lee #2475	Wayne #2181	Dumont #2593	Brigantine #2428	South East District	Manville-Hillsborough #2119
Ridgefield Park #1506	West Milford #2236	Elmwood Park-Paterson #60	Clayton #2132	Asbury Park-Wall #128	Middlesex #1488
Tenafly #2271	Westwood #1562	Garfield #2267	Egg Harbor #2563	Bayville #2394	Princeton #2129
Weehawken #1456	North Central District	Hasbrouck Heights #1962	Galloway #2845	Brick #2151	Somerville #1068
	Belleville #1123	New Milford-Teaneck #2290	Greater Cape May #2839	Howell #2515	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Hamilton Lodge No. 2262 Participates with Toys for Tots

Hamilton Lodge No. 2262 conducted their annual Bikes for Tykes drive, assembling 44 bikes purchased by the Lodge through grants and donations. Hamilton Lodge also collected new toys, which along with the bikes, were donated to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. Pictured from left are Hamilton Lodge Exalted Ruler Rose Romaine, lodge members and Bikes for Tykes coordinators Drew Kieffer, Joe Guadagno, and Bill Kieffer, Marine Corps Toys for Tots representatives Sgt. Charles Communi, Cpl. Jesse Rosenberg, and Lcpl. Angelo Saverino.



John Sentner Memorial Plunge Committee Raises Funds for Camp Moore

On January 17, 2020, the John Sentner Memorial Plunge Committee held their annual Beef and Brew, as the first of 3 events to raise funds for The New Jersey Elks State Project, Elks Camp Moore. This year's Beef and Brew raised \$5,922. On February 1, 2020 the 13th Anniversary of the John Sentner Memorial Plunge was held at Martell's Tiki Bar on Point Pleasant Beach. There were over 200 spectators that watched hundreds of Elks members and friends plunge into the frigid Atlantic Ocean to raise money. The Plunge raised in excess of \$58,000 with additional donations still coming in on-line. The third and final event, Last Man Standing, was to be held on May 16, 2020.

Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 Holds Benefit to Conquer Pediatric Cancer

Sunday March 8th, Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 hosted its 13th Annual St. Baldrick's Foundation "Shave-a-thon" to help Conquer Childhood Cancer. This year's event raised over \$25,000. Cedar Grove lodge has now raised over \$410,000 in the 13 years of sponsoring this fundraiser! Since their inception in 2000, St. Baldrick's has provided over \$258 million dollars in grants to fight pediatric cancer, with 192 grants given to hospitals close by in the Metro North NJ/NY area. Pictured are 5 North Central Past District Deputies who shaved their heads and some beards to help raise funds. Several thousand dollars were raised by the five NCD PDDs alone. From left to right are Leon Dupas, Jim Walsh, Louis Lusquinos (with future DD Lou Jr.), Neil Visito, and Bill Dow.



Ridgefield Park Lodge No. 1506 Supports the Karen Minutella Reading Initiative

On Friday, March 6, 2020 members of the Ridgefield Park Lodge No. 1506 read to the 3rd graders of the Ridgefield Park Schools. This was in support of the Karen Minutella Reading Initiative during Read Across America Week.

Special Children's Committee

BY TERI PAYTON, STATE CHAIRPERSON

It has been my privilege to serve as State SCC Chair over the past 3 years and meet so many wonderful people who give of their time and monetary resources to bring smiles to the faces of our NJ special children. Best of all, I have had the opportunity to spend time with our Ambassadors and their families and learn how important the ambassadorships have been in the development of their special needs child. The children have gained social poise and confidence and the generous gifts have supported needed therapies.

Thank you to all the lodges and districts that donated to Camp Moore and the Miracle on the Mountain Fund at the Fall Conference and had donation lines at their charity balls. Thank you to the Miracle Run for the \$100,000 donation at the Fall Conference. 21 years and still going strong. Please join us at Hightstown Lodge No. 1955 on Sunday, July 26th for the 22nd Annual Miracle Run. It is not only a motorcycle run, but also a fantastic picnic that all can enjoy. Come out and meet our 2020-2021 Special Ambassadors.

Camp Moore is our State Major Project and your donations make it possible to put a smile on the faces of our special children as we get set for our 49th year of camping. Consider a lodge or district trip to the camp to prepare a lunch, dinner, ice cream social or provide entertainment for the campers. Please consider a fall cleanup trip, as we are also in need of volunteers for basic cleanup and refreshing of the camp. Contact Anthony Alfonso Jr. at anthonyalfonso98@yahoo.com to be added to the fall schedule.

Our SCC Scholarship program is completing and winners will be announced in Wildwood.

Our Area Ambassadors are closing out their year. I sincerely thank each of the lodges and districts that have invited the Ambassadors, alternates and chaperones to events. Join us Friday afternoon June 5th in Wildwood to cheer for the four Area Ambassadors as we thank the Ambassadors, their families and their chaperones for sharing the year with us. I continue to be amazed by our Ambassadors. They love their week at Camp Moore and are raising funds to support it. Area 1 Ambassador, Keira Scott, dipped her feet into the cold Atlantic at the John Sentner Memorial Plunge and raised \$600 for a new swing at the camp. Area 4 Ambassador, Brett Barardi, coordinated several fundraisers at Carteret Lodge No. 2235 and used the funds to purchase two karaoke machines for the camp.

Our Challenger Sports Program is in gear with district Batter-Up contests. The State Batter-Up Championship will take place on Saturday, June 27th at the North Wall Little League Complex.

In addition to direct donations, our Miracle on the Mountain Coordinators have set up various other fundraisers. Two football team bicycles (Giants or Eagles) are being raffled off with the winners picked at Greater Wildwood Lodge No. 1896 at 7pm on Saturday June 6th. We are just completing our Spring Clothing collection which raises funds for our Miracle on the Mountain as well as provides usable clothing to those in need. Clothing is not shredded. Thank you to all who have taken the time to clean out closets to support this fundraiser. Do you shop on-line? Order through smile.amazon.com, select NJ Elks Special Children's Committee and eligible purchases will benefit our special children. And, of course, one of our major fundraising activities continues to be the semi-annual Camp Moore Calendar Raffle. Only 1,000 calendars are available for the donation of \$20 each and offer 6 months of opportunities to win.

I sincerely ask you once again to dig deep in your pockets for the SCC donation line at the Wildwood business session. If you are donating to The Miracle on the Mountain (MOM) Fund consider a Mural Pledge. The MOM Fund has reached a level at which the interest and dividends are making a significant contribution to funding the camp, enabling us to reduce the costs to the lodge per camper multiple times over the past few years. The goal continues to be to reach a level at which there is no camper fee to the lodges. Pledge donations may take place over a 5 year period working towards a small building block (\$1,000), balloons (\$5,000 - \$10,000) or a teddy bear (\$25,000). Further information and a donation form may be downloaded from the NJ Elks website. Our success is possible only through the continued support of our membership. Help us to keep a smile on the face of a special child.



Manasquan Lodge No. 2534 Receives NJ Special Olympics Volunteer Organization of the Year Award

On November 22nd, Manasquan Lodge No. 2534 and their special children's committee received the 2019 NJ Special Olympics Volunteer Organization of the Year Award. Manasquan Lodge has supported special athletes from Monmouth and Ocean counties in NJ for 35+ years. The award was recognition for the many years of continuous volunteer and monetary support enabling special athletes to compete in state, national and worldwide competitions.

Elks Challenger Sports Is Getting Ready for 2020

BY TOM GARDNER, STATE CHAIRPERSON

Can you believe that this will be the tenth year since New Jersey State Elks Challenger Sports became a separate program? So much has happened since 2011 and so many players have competed in our contests. Our program is well known in and outside of New Jersey. We are working with dozens of organizations to keep bringing our special children to a State Championship contest of their own, while introducing them to all the great works of a great organization, the New Jersey State Elks.

We will be holding preliminary contests across the state leading to the state championships on Saturday June 27 at the original North Wall LL Complex. This is an excellent move for us, because we will be the only event held at those fields. In addition, everything is situated very close together. These are the old-style fields which drain very quickly no matter how much rain we get. Starting this year, we are inviting all our Ambassadors past and present directly to our state finals. If any lodge or district needs any assistance with their contests, please feel free to contact us. We are in the state directory.

There are Elks Challenger events this year. The Southeast District will be holding their contest at Southern Regional HS on Sunday May 31. It will be in conjunction with POAC's Interscholastic Challenger League End of Year Awards Ceremony and Autism Awareness Walk. On Thursday June 25, Asbury Park/Wall and Toms River Lodges will host Challenger Baseball games at First Energy Park. On Saturday May 30, the lodges will treat their players to a Lakewood Blue Claws game where all will be honored on the field pregame. It is also their Comic Con Night where people will be costumed as various superheroes around the park.



Former Area 1 Ambassador Carly Evans getting ready to bat at Challengers Batters Up.

Special Children's Committee Trustees

BY PEGGY BERRY, CHAIRPERSON

The Board of Trustees are continuing in their efforts to make Camp Moore a five-star experience for everyone attending. Due to your generosity and continued efforts to support the Camp and Miracle on the Mountain, the trustees were able to lower the price of all the camper weeks to \$200 per session! Thank you all!

Many improvements and updates to the Camp have been made in conjunction with the Camp Moore Revitalization Program including but not limited to a smaller generator for the nurses' station and dining hall and repairs and upgrades to the pool. The East Central District has done a great job in renovating bathrooms in the Elizabeth Cabin and sprucing up the overall condition of the cabin. These are only a few of the updates made this year thanks to the hard work of the Camp Staff and Elk Volunteers. There are many exciting plans in the works for the Camp in the near future. With your continued support of Miracle on the Mountain and Camp Moore we will continue to improve the camping experience for our kids.

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

Thank you to our Camp Caretaker, Anthony Alfonso, Jr. for his enthusiasm and persistence in keeping up with the everyday needs of our camp. We would also like to thank John DeLois for his hard work and effort as the Revitalization Chairperson. We continue to thank all the lodges, districts, and individuals who work hard to ensure our special Kids have a wonderful experience at Camp. Your continued commitment to our kids and Camp is to be commended.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Special Children's Committee, my fellow Trustees and all of our Elk members for your support in my tenure as Camp Moore Trustee. The Camp and SCC will always be near and dear to me.

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."



Edison Lodge No. 2487 Receives an Early Visit From Santa Claus

Armani is a 6 year old who spends his days in a wheelchair. All he wanted for Christmas was a bike that he could ride. Despite the help from other organizations, friends, and family members, Armani's grandmother, Donna, was short by \$1,300. She reached out to Exalted Ruler, Karl Pearson of Edison Lodge No. 2487 for help. He worked with several motorcycle committees, special needs committees, the bike company, and lodge membership. At the end of the Edison Lodge's Summer Bash in September, they were able to make Armani's dream a reality! In the presence of the Edison Lodge members, guests, and the Edison Police Department, ER Karl asked Armani to come on up to the microphone. ER Karl presented Armani with a rectangular box wrapped with a bow. He ripped it open to find a leather vest with the Edison MC patch inside. That was followed by the sound of motorcycles by the gates and all eyes turn to see them coming across the grounds. Lead by motorcycle committee Road Captains Tony & Carlo, Santa appeared before Armani. Santa stepped aside to reveal Armani's bike! His eyes lit up even more and right on the bike he went. The Elks made his Christmas wish come true!

Somerville Lodge No. 1068 Sponsors Annual Fishing Derby

Somerville Lodge No. 1068 sponsored the annual Joe Kozlowski Fishing Derby in September. This event was originally founded by departed member, Joe Kozlowski, and is exclusively for children and siblings at the Somerset Treatment Center located at the lodge. It has been held for the last twenty years at a local pond. Fishing gear and lunch are provided. Pictured from l-to-r are Spencer Weidenfeld, Hamza Naveed, Amber Naveed, and Jessica Yang.



Long Branch Lodge No. 742 Holds Fundraiser to Benefit Best Day Foundation

On October 26th, 2019, Long Branch Lodge No. 742 hosted a Haunted Halloween fundraiser. The event was created by Gina Crochet, one of the lodge's members, and was enjoyed by approximately 100 people. The \$1,000 in proceeds from the event was presented to KC Yoon, participant coordinator from the Best Day Foundation. The Best Day Foundation helps children ages 4- 24+ with autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, blindness, cancer, spinal cord injuries and other physical and developmental challenges. They work with special needs youth to build confidence and self esteem through safe, fun, adventurous activities like surfing, bodyboarding, kayaking, snow sports and more. Pictured from left to right are Exalted Ruler Mike Veth, KC Yoon, and member Gina Crochet.





Orange Lodge No. 135 Holds Halloween Party for Special Needs Children

On Sunday Oct 27, 2019 the Special Children's Committee of Orange Lodge No. 135 held a Halloween party with children from Nassan's Place, which is a special needs children's group that the lodge sponsors. There were 86 children in attendance with 74 parents/chaperones. In addition to "trick or treating" within the lodge, the children were treated to a pizza party, ice cream dessert and a DJ to dance to. Pictured from left to right in the front row are Maya holding James, Leticia, Kayla and Armand. In the back row from left to right are Richard Reinhardt DDGER NCD, Matt Mulligan lodge secretary, Susan Reinhardt SCC Chair, and RJ Reinhardt Lecturing Knight.



Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 Initiates a Special Member

Joey Pierce of Verona was recently initiated as a Special Member of Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237. Joey has been involved with Cedar Grove lodge for many years. He was a camper at Elks Camp Moore and also served a year as the NJ State Elks Special Children Committee "Area Ambassador." Now that he is 21, he was able to join the lodge himself! Joey is pictured with the officers who performed the initiation ceremony and behind him is his mom Diane and dad Chris, both lodge members themselves.

Northeast District Holds 54th Annual Charity Ball

On Saturday February 15th, the Northeast District held their 54th Annual Charity Ball at the Royal Manor in Garfield. There were 197 in attendance including our special guests Area 2 Ambassador JJ Howard and Area 2 Alternate Ambassador Maya Rose Dwek.

Over \$23,000 was donated by the Lodges in the District to our Area 2 Ambassador and Alternate Ambassador, Camp Moore, Miracle on the Mountain, NJEDDA, and The Children's Therapy Center.

As a special thank you from Maya's family, Carlo Dini (Maya's Grandfather) treated everyone to special songs. Our Band was even joined by a special guest percussionist, Area 2 Ambassador JJ Howard, who accompanied them on the bongos for a number of songs.

The members of the District Special Children's Committee thanked everyone for continuing the tradition of putting smiles on the faces of our special children.



Hamilton Lodge No. 2262 Hosts Annual Children's Christmas Party

Hamilton Lodge No. 2262 recently hosted its annual children's Christmas party for approximately 50 area children, including 25 children with special needs. Lodge members provided live musical entertainment, including a disc jockey, and even a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. After a luncheon for the children and their families, each child was photographed with Santa and received a gift from him including a drug awareness coloring book. Pictured with Santa is Ariel and her mom, Helen Hafez.



Bayonne Lodge No. 434 Helps a Local Family

On February 8, 2020, Bayonne Lodge No. 434 donated a \$500 ShopRite Gift Card to the family of three-year-old Juliette Stellon. Juliette was recently diagnosed with Guillan-Barr Syndrome, a rare neurological disorder. Pictured from left to right are mom Amy Stellon with 3-year old Juliette, Walter Schember PDDGER, and dad Albert Stellon with 1-year old Vincent, Juliette's brother.