



New Jersey State Elks

Sue Dupas, PDDGER
State Secretary
Cedar Grove Lodge #2237
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**New Jersey State Elks Association
Fall Conference Business Minutes
Saturday, November 15, 2025**

Meeting called to order by State President William W. Dow Jr., Kearny-Belleville Lodge #1050

Introductions:

Kenneth B. Chapman, State President MD/DE/DC State Association, Broadneck Lodge #2608

Robert C. Ricker, Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Lake Hopatcong Lodge #782

Thomas M. Zisa, Chief Justice of the Grand Forum, Hackensack Lodge #658

Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., Past Grand Exalted Ruler, State Sponsor, Lyndhurst Lodge No. 1505

Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Exalted Ruler, DeKalb, Illinois Lodge #765

Escorted by Nick Figaro, State Sgt. At Arms

Invocation – Allison Fistori, State Chaplain

Presentation of Colors: Lake Hopatcong #782

Pledge of Allegiance – Ellen Quinlan, Americanism Chairperson

National Anthem – Diane Lovato, Nutley Lodge #1290

Retiring of Colors: Lake Hopatcong #782

Introduction of Grand Lodge Officers and Committeemen

Peggy Berry, Grand Lodge Ritual, Howell Lodge #2515

Joyce Powell, Grand Lodge Public Relations, Hasbrouck Heights Lodge #1962

Meghan McPherson, Grand Lodge Auditing & Business Practices, Lyndhurst Lodge #1505

Word of Welcome: Thomas Flannagan IV, Exalted Ruler Long Branch Lodge No. 742

Roll Call of Officers was done by State Secretary Sue Dupas. Minutes for the Wildwood Convention June 6, 2025, were approved as submitted by State Secretary Sue Dupas, PDD. State Secretary Sue Dupas presented her report

State Treasurer Ken Low presented his report which was seconded and approved as printed.

State Trustee Arleen Hickman presented her report which was seconded and approved.

Preliminary Report on Credentials – Barbara Monti

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

Credentials – Final Report – Barbara Monti - See Attached

There were no communications to be read.

Unfinished Business None

New Business – Elections – Francis J. Decibus, PSDGER – See Attached

Good Of The Association – Sue Dupas – Resolution and Total Receipts of the Session

Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., Past Grand Exalted Ruler

Thank you, Sue for the Resolution it may take 7 minutes to read, but hours to put together. State President Ken from MD, DC and DE. Thank you for attending our Fall Conference. We have heard all the reports and the money that was raised. You can see we are making a difference in our community with all our hard work. I can say the NJ Elks are the premier State Association in the presence of our GER Bryan Klatt. The Grand Lodge Convention will be in Chicago and that will be our GER's homecoming. July 4, 2026, is the Elks Memorial Anniversary at 9:30 am at the Memorial Building. Details will be coming soon. There will be a lottery to attend this event. There will be buses running to the Memorial Building. At Fall Conference and the Wildwood Convention you hear the name Charities Inc. 5 Past State Presidents make up this Committee. Bob Mauro, Chair, Rob Ricker, John Szczomak, Dick Tabbachino, and Rich Tabachuk. Even though it rained for the parade. The boardwalk was packed with people watching. It will continue to be on the boardwalk. Thank you to all the lodges that applied for ENF grants. 101 lodges received a total of \$900,000.00. We should be 100%. Urge all your lodges to apply for the grants. Some lodges still must complete their 990 that was due 8/1/25. We gave leeway until 9/1/25. These lodges have been fined \$100.00 per month until they are completed or reach a total of \$500.00. I will meet with these lodges today. Area 2 Chair Meghan McPherson has 84 lodges that filed the 990 and audit report. 20 lodges balance sheets do not agree in FRS. If she sends you an email, please respond. I want our state to be at 100% reporting. We toured Camp Moore and NJEDDA with GER Bryan Klatt. GER Bryan has pins and any donations to have your card signed will go to the Memorial Building.

Remarks Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Exalted Ruler

The money you raised today is phenomenal. The reports today were fantastic. Your ENF per capita for the state is \$4.74, which is fantastic. You will be able to pass the goals by the end of the year. We are doing this with 7% of the membership donating. Donate and "Be The Difference". Out of 107 lodges, the following grants were approved. 70 Gratitude, 61 Beacon, 56 Freedom and 56 Spotlight. This is free money for your community. We need to take care of our membership. Be The Difference in our community. Show up for things. If the Elks were not here who would be there to help them. Think about this. Push to be the difference. Thank you for the gifts today. Please follow us on Facebook. You are the premier state; you are at the top.

Remarks-Kenneth B. Chapman, State President MD/DE/DC Association

Thank you to everyone for your gracious hospitality. We are happy to celebrate the good works of the NJSEA. NJEDDA was heartwarming and one of the best parts of the visit. I wish NJ continued success in Elkdom and the upcoming years.

Remarks-William W. Dow Jr., State President NJ State Elks Association
See attached.

Benediction – Allison Fistori, State Chaplain

God Bless America – Diane Lovato

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,



Sue Dupas, PDDGER
NJSEA State Secretary
Attachment: Fall Conference Resolution 2025

NEW JERSEY STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION
BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



ADVISORY BOARD

MALCOLM Mc PHERSON,
JR
Past Grand Exalted Ruler
Chairman

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FRANCIS J. DECIBUS,
PSDGER
Vice Chairman/Secretary

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Good Morning,

Our statewide election for State President, Vice Presidents and State Trustees (as applicable) will be held on Sunday, March 1, 2026, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Old Bridge Elks # 2229 has been designated as our State Headquarters. Thank you to ER Glenn and lodge leadership for accepting this opportunity. Vice President's, District Deputies and State Trustees will be asked to assist in the process within your respective district. All information concerning your duties will be forthcoming through electronic communication.

The candidates for State President are DON TONACHIO – LACEY ELKS # 2518 and RICH POOLE – BRIGANTINE ELKS # 2428

There is no contest for the position of State Secretary or State Treasurer. Therefore, pursuant to the Constitution and By- Laws of our Association; Section 2 letter (i), should there be only one nominee for State Secretary or State Treasurer at the annual Fall Conference business meeting such action to elect these unopposed positions shall take place. Therefore, Mr. President, I make a motion and ask for unanimous consent that by acclamation of the membership that we re-elect PDDGER Sue Dupas from Cedar Grove Elks # 2237 and PDDGER Ken Low from Elmwood Park–Paterson Elks # 60 respectfully to the position of State Secretary and State Treasurer of the New Jersey State Elks Association for Fraternal Year 2026-2027.

Mr. President, this concludes my report and ask unanimous consent for its approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Francis J. Decibus, PSDGER
Election Coordinator

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

**Resolution
November 15, 2025**

WHEREAS THE NEW JERSEY STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION is celebrating its 112th Year in 2025-2026; AND

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

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

To all New Jersey State Elks Association Committees and Lodges that received awards at the Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. We extend our heartfelt congratulations for your exemplary and dedicated service to the Order of Elks.

To Debra Sikora, Hoboken Lodge No. 74 for being the Top Recruiter in the State with 26 new members.

To the New Jersey State Elks Association Publication Committee, for receiving a Grand Lodge 5 Star Award for the NJ Elk Newspaper.

To the New Jersey State Elks Association Internet Committee, for receiving a Grand Lodge 5 Star Award for the State Website.

To the New Jersey State Elks Association Special Children's Committee, for receiving a Grand Lodge 5 Star Award for their Booth at the Grand Lodge Convention.

To Cedar Grove Lodge No. 2237 for taking Second Place in the All American Lodge Division 2.

To Park Ridge Lodge No. 2234 for taking First Place All American Lodge Division 4.

To Hackettstown Lodge No. 2331 for taking Second Place in the Grand Lodge Activities Committee Contest Division 1.

To Cranford Lodge No. 2006 for taking Second Place in the Grand Lodge Chair Challenge Contest Division 4.

To Greater Cape May Lodge No. 2839 for taking Second Place in the Grand Lodge Chair Challenge Division 6.

To Greater Palisades Lodge No. 2475 for sponsoring Kayleigh Kim who finished in 2nd Place in the Seventh Grade Americanism Essay Contest.

**“New Jersey Elks Compassionate,
Touching Lives and Changing Tomorrows”**

To the Lodges of our Association for continuing to be a presence in their communities by supporting our frontline heroes, food pantries, special children, veterans, and our youth.

To the Army of Hope Committee which raised \$187,658.00 at the Annual Army of Hope Picnic for our Severely Injured Soldiers and the families of our Fallen Heroes and to the members of the New Jersey State Elks Association who donated \$189,001.00 at the Jim Hall Picnic to the National Veteran's Service Commission.

To the Charities Inc. Committee for donation \$75,000.00 to the National Veteran's Services and \$25,000.00 to the Army of Hope Picnic.

To the Miracle Run Committee for raising \$100,000.00 for Elks Camp Moore at this year's 26th Annual Miracle Run.

To the Members of the New Jersey State Elks Association for donating \$11,300.00 to the Mircale Run Committee.

To the Members of the New Jersey State Elks Association for donating \$81,050.00 to our State Major Project, Elks Camp Moore.

To the Charities Inc. Committee for donating a total of \$125,000.00 to Camp Moore and Miracle on the Mountain.

To the Members of the New Jersey State Elks Association for donating \$308,131.99 to the great heart of Elkdom – Elks National Foundation.

To the Charities Inc. Committee for donating to NJEDDA \$100,000.00, to CTC Academy \$10,000.00 and The Somerset Building Fund \$10,000.00.

To the Charities Inc. Committee for donating \$146,000.00 to Scholarship Committee.

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

That special thanks and appreciation also be given:

To Grand Exalted Ruler Bryan Klatt, DeKalb, Illinois, Lodge No. 765, and First Lady of Elkdom Susan for their attendance at our Annual Fall Conference. It is our sincere hope that their visit was enlightening and exceeded their expectations of the benevolent and charitable work the Elks of New Jersey contribute throughout our communities.

To our State Sponsor Past Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., and Past First Lady of Elkdom Pat, Lyndhurst Lodge No. 1505 for their leadership and friendship extended to the members of the New Jersey State Elks Association.

To State President William Dow, Jr. Kearny/Belleville Lodge No. 1050 for his untiring dedication and leadership during the 2025-2026 Association Year.

To our Grand Lodge Committeemen: PSP Tom Zisa, Chief Justice of the Grand Forum; PSP Robert Ricker Grand Lodge Esteemed Lecturing Knight, PSP Peggy Berry, Grand Lodge Ritual; PSP Joyce Powell, Grand Lodge Public Relations, and PDD Meghan McPherson Grand

**“New Jersey Elks Compassionate,
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Lodge Auditing and Business Practices; for their outstanding work, dedication, and untiring efforts to further the works of our Grand Lodge Programs.

To Kenneth Chapman, State President of Maryland-Delaware-DC Elks Association and Danelle for gracing us with your presence this weekend. We thank you for your friendship and hope that you enjoyed the hospitality of our Association.

To PDD Maureen Whalen, State Convention Committee Chairman and the entire Convention Committee for planning and implementing an excellent Fall Conference.

To Past Vice President Mike Veth, Memorial Committee Chairman and his committee for an impressive and inspiring Memorial Service for our absent members at this Fall Conference. That the hour of eleven will serve all Elkdom with moments of love and memory of our departed members and our sympathies are extended to the families of our members that have passed. May their virtues be written upon the tablets of Love and Memory.

To the members of Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 782 Color Guard for their dignified and impressive presentation of the colors at this Fall Conference.

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

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

That the membership of the New Jersey State Elks Association will continue to support and promote the programs of the State and Grand Lodge during the 2025-2026 fraternal year demonstrating that nothing can stop the charitable work of the New Jersey Elks.

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

Respectfully submitted for adoption by:

Sue Dupas

Sue Dupas, Past District Deputy
NJSEA State Secretary

Dated: November 15, 2025

**“New Jersey Elks Compassionate,
Touching Lives and Changing Tomorrows”**

Receipts of the Session

Special Children		
Camp Moore	\$ 100,000.00	Charities Inc
Camp Moore	\$ 45,850.00	Lodge Donations
Miracle on The Mountain	\$ 25,000.00	Charities Inc
Miracle on The Mountain	\$ 35,200.00	Lodge Donations
Total	\$ 206,050.00	
Miracle Run	\$ 100,000.00	Picnic
	\$ 11,300.00	Lodge Donations
Total	\$ 111,300.00	
NJEDDA	\$ 100,000.00	Charities Inc
CTC Academy	\$ 10,000.00	Charities Inc
Somerset Building Fund	\$ 10,000.00	Charities Inc
Total	\$ 120,000.00	
VET's		
AOH w/o Charities Inc Donation	\$ 187,658.00	Picnic
Jim Hall Picnic National Veterans Service	\$ 189,001.00	Picnic
National Veterans Services	\$ 75,000.00	Charities Inc
AOH Picnic	\$ 25,000.00	Charities Inc
Total	\$ 476,659.00	
ENF		
	\$ 260,331.99	10/26/2025
	\$ 47,800.00	Lodge Donations
Total	\$ 308,131.99	
Scholarships		
Scholarships	\$ 146,000.00	Charities Inc
Total	\$ 146,000.00	
SED Leading Knights		
Camp Moore		
Total	\$ 1,000.00	
Senter Polar Plunge		
Camp Moore		
Total	\$ -	
TOTAL RECEIPTS OF THE SESSION	\$ 1,369,140.99	

**Grand Exalted Ruler Klatt, State Sponsor and PGER Malcolm,
distinguished members of the dais and members all,**

It is with great pride that I stand before you today as your New Jersey State Elks President. We gather here not just as members of a remarkable organization, but as a family united by a common purpose. As we reach the halfway point of our association year, I am filled with immense joy and gratitude for the incredible work that you have all accomplished. Four months may seem like a short time, but in the world of the Elks, it has been a season of remarkable achievements. Hearing the reports shared this morning by our State Chairmen has been nothing short of inspiring. Each report shines a light on the countless hours you have dedicated to our mission. You are not just members; you are champions of change, advocates for those in need, and beacons of hope in your communities. Let us take a moment to reflect on the impact we have made together. From our Special Children's programs to our unwavering support for Veterans, you have demonstrated what it means to serve. Our commitment to helping those who need it most is at the heart of our organization. The smiles on the faces of the children we support, the gratitude expressed by the veterans we assist, and the joy that permeates our youth programs are a testament to your hard work and dedication. . And let us not forget the vital role we play in drug awareness. Our commitment to saving one life at a time is not just a slogan. It is a promise to children and their families that they are never alone in their struggles. We are here to support them, to guide them, and to empower them to make positive choices. Your voices are powerful, and your actions are making a difference. Together, we are creating a community that is informed, engaged, and supportive. Your commitment to the Elks National Foundation is equally inspiring. The unwavering support you provide, combined with the utilization of grants, has empowered your lodges to build stronger communities. Each dollar raised is a step towards creating a brighter future for those we serve. Together, we are laying the foundation for lasting change. As we look toward the future, let us not forget the importance of growth. Our order is growing, and New Jersey is leading the way. Our growth is fueled by your passion and dedication. Each new member represents a new opportunity to spread our message of service and compassion. Let us continue to reach out, to invite others to join us in this noble cause.

I am proud to say that New Jersey leads the way as the number one association. This achievement is not merely a statistic. It reflects the hard work, the passion, and the resilience of each member in this room. Together, we are not just making a difference; we are creating a legacy that will resonate for generations to come. As we move forward into the second half of our association year, let us take a moment to acknowledge the challenges we have faced. The road has not always been easy. There have been obstacles that have tested our resolve. Yet, it is in these moments that we have demonstrated our strength. We have rallied together, supporting one another and pushing forward. Together, we have shown that we are more than just an organization. We are a

family united in purpose. Let us not lose sight of our mission. As we approach the coming months, I urge each of you to dig deep and reignite that flame of passion that brought you to the Elks. We have the power to transform lives and uplift our communities. We must continue to challenge ourselves to innovate, to reach further, and to dream bigger. We are the voices of change, and our vision can become a reality. As we plan for upcoming events and initiatives, let us engage with one another. Share your ideas, your experiences, and your hopes for the future. Collaboration is key. When we come together, we amplify our impact and create a ripple effect that extends far beyond our lodges. Let us leverage our collective strength to inspire others and bring more individuals into our fold. Let's show them the beauty of giving back, the joy of service, and the power of community. In closing, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. Thank you for your unwavering commitment, your tireless efforts, and your dedication to our order. In the coming months, I challenge each of you to think about how we can elevate our efforts. Together, we are making a difference, and together we will continue to shine. Let's carry this momentum into the second half of our year, with renewed vigor and a steadfast belief in the power of our mission. Let's keep the spirit of service alive, and let's continue to lift each other up. Together, we can achieve greatness. Together, we can make a lasting impact. Together, we are the NJ Elks. Thank you