



New Jersey State Elks

**Sue Dupas, PDDGER
State Secretary
4 Stinson Place
Little Falls NJ, NJ 07424**

**201-738-0408
njstatesec2021@aol.com
Cedar Grove Lodge #2237**

June 5, 2026

State President Bill:

As of May 20, 2026, all 106 Lodges have remitted their State Association Dues. All State Association Cards have been mailed or given to the Lodge Secretaries for distribution to their Lodge's PER's.

I continue to mail our State Treasurer all receipts as they are received. All bills received have been vouchered and sent to our State Treasurer for payment.

All Exalted Rulers, if there is a change in your Lodge's Secretary, please email with the new information.

All State Chairman and Lodges are reminded that all checks must be written to: New Jersey State Elks Association. The memo portion of the check must be used to identify what the check is for. Please do not send cash. State Chairman should not hold checks as our bank is not honoring checks over 90 days. All checks "No Cash" should be sent to me; my address is in the state book.

State Chairmen are reminded that a blank voucher is available for download on the State Secretary's page on njelks.org. All requests for payment must be submitted with a voucher signed by your advisor, and receipts attached.

I want to congratulate State President Bill on a successful year. Thank you to the members of the Advisory Board for their assistance. This year I have had the privilege of working with and assisting our Lodge Secretaries.

In closing, thank you to all of you that have made this year a success.

Respectfully submitted for adoption by:

Sue Dupas,

**Sue Dupas, PDDGER
State Secretary**

**"New Jersey Elks, Touching Lives
and Changing Tomorrows"**



New Jersey State Elks

Kenneth G. Low
State Treasurer
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Haskell, NJ 07420

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WILDWOOD CONFERENCE 2026

I am pleased to report that the Books and Records of the New Jersey State Elks Association and all related committees are up to date and in balance. All requests for payment have been processed and all deposits have been made with their respective banking institution. The State Association has had a good year thanks to all of the hard work of the committees and members involved.

State Chair-people should approve all of their committee invoices for payment and submit the required vouchers and related supporting invoices to our State Secretary who in turn will forward them to me for payment. All Deposits for the State Association must be made through our State Secretary who will forward them to me for depositing with our Bank. She will provide you with a proper receipt for your records.

If any State Chairperson has questions regarding the amount of dollars your committee has raised or spent during the fraternal year, please contact me and I will provide you with a detailed budget comparison. Please make every attempt to turn in bills for payment and receipts for deposit in a timely manner.

Please be sure all checks are made payable to the New Jersey Sate Elks Association, or NJSEA, and not the related committee, Lodge, or chairperson. Use the Memo section to list the committee and/or event.

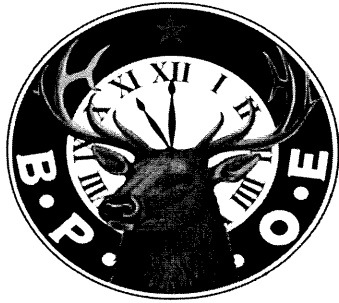
I would like to thank our State Secretary Sue Dupas and the Board of Trustees for all their hard work and dedication to our State Association. It is a pleasure to work with this hard working, fiscally responsible group of Elks. I would also like to thank State President William Dow Jr. for his assistance.

All Vice Presidents please see me immediately after the close of this morning's business session.

Fraternally yours:

Kenneth G. Low
NJSEA State Treasurer
2025-2026

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



Past Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm, Members
of the dais and members all,

The State Trustees have been meeting throughout the past year. The purpose of the Trustees is to ensure the State Association has a balanced budget and that Director and Officer insurance is in place.

We have reviewed the Directors and Officers insurance for the year and the premium has been paid and coverage is secured.

A budget has been prepared and uploaded to the website for review by members.

I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees for their dedication during this past year and to the members for entrusting us with the duties of our office.

Respectfully submitted by,

Arleen Hickman,

State Trustee Chairman

			FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2026-2027
		Contact	CURRENT	PROJECTED	REVISED
	1 CHARITABLE INCOME		YEAR	BUDGET	BUDGET
3011	AMERICANISM	Ellen Quinlan	\$ 6,900	\$ 6,900	
3014	YOUTH SPORTS TOURNAMENT	Don Tonachio	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
3015	HOOP SHOOT	Robert Sorenson	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300	
3015a	SOCCER SHOOT	Michael Walsh	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	
3016	YOUTH ACTIVITIES	Anthony Perrone	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	
3018	DRUG CONFERENCE (PEER LEADERSHIP)	Mary Ellen Lawrence	\$ 253,840	\$ 347,500	
3019	ANTLES COMMITTEE	Tom Boyce	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
3023	SCHOLARSHIP - STATE ALLOCATED (96@\$700)	Jennifer Appaluccio	\$ 69,200	\$ 67,200	
3023a	SCHOLARSHIP - STATE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL (12 @ \$2,000)	Jennifer Appaluccio	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	
3023b	SCHOLARSHIP - ANTLERS (24@ \$1000.00 EACH)	Jennifer Appaluccio	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	
3029	ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION	William Hartman	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000	
3033	CHARITY ACCOUNT	Ken Low	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	
3036	ELKS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP (LEGACY-40 @ \$750)	Jennifer Appaluccio	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	
	TOTAL 1 CHRITABLE INCOME		\$ 444,940	\$ 560,600	
	3 ADMINISTRATIVE INCOME				
3010	LODGE DUES	Sue Dupas	\$ 93,250	\$ 97,241	\$ -
3100	LODGE DUES GER FUND (NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL)	Sue Dupas	\$ 12,000	\$ 14,825	
3012	NJ ELKS PUBLICATION	Rich Poole	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,700	
3013	PARADES	Dina Zacek	\$ 12,500	\$ 17,290	
3027	TAM PROGRAM	Marc-Allyn Gloriande	\$ 10,000	\$ 14,625	
3030	MISCELLANOUS INCOME	Ken Low	\$ 3,000	\$ 27,405	
3031	INTEREST AND DIVIDEND INCOME	Ken Low	\$ 17,301	\$ 23,177	
3032	TRANFER FROM CONVENTION ACCOUNT	Ken Low	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	
3039	HISTORICAL COMMITTEE INCOME	Jeffrey Bryant	\$ 200	\$ 200	
	TOTAL 3 ADMINISTRATIVE INCOME		\$ 170,251	\$ 214,638	
	TOTAL INCOME (ALL CATEGORIES)		\$ 615,191	\$ 775,238	

			FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2026-2027
		Contact	CURRENT	PROJECTED	REVISED
	1 CHARITABLE INCOME		YEAR	BUDGET	BUDGET
	EXPENSES				
	2 CHARITABLE EXPENSES				
4010	ELKS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP (LEGACY)	Jennifer Appaluccio	\$ 36,000	\$ 40,000	
4011	AMERICANISM EXPENSES	Ellen Quinlan	\$ 6,900	\$ 6,900	
4014	YOUTH SPORTS TOURNAMENT EXPENSES	Don Tonacio	\$ 11,600	\$ 9,200	
4015	HOOP SHOOT EXPENSES	Robert Sorenson	\$ 12,819	\$ 13,100	
4015a	SOCCER SHOOT EXPENSES	Michael Walsh	\$ 8,450	\$ 8,500	
4016	YOUTH ACTIVITIES EXPENSES	Anthony Perrone	\$ 12,000	\$ 3,750	
4018	DRUG CONFERENCE (PEER LEADERSHIP) EXPENSES	Mary Ellen Lawrence	\$ 253,840	\$ 347,500	
4019	ANTLES COMMITTEE	Tom Boyce	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
4021	SCHOLARSHIP (YOUTH SPORTS TOURNAMENT) EXPENSES	Jennifer Appaluccio		\$ -	
4022	ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION EXPENSES	William Hartman	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000	
4025	SCHOLARSHIP STATE ALLOCATED	Jennifer Appaluccio	\$ 69,200	\$ 67,200	
4025a	SCHO;ARSHIP ANTLER (24 @ \$1000.00 each)	Jennifer Appaluccio	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	
4025b	SCHOLARSHIP VOCATONAL SCHOOL (12@ \$2000.00 each)	Jennifer Appaluccio	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	
4027	SCHOLARSHIP EXPENSES	Jennifer Appaluccio		\$ -	
4028	CHARITY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		\$ 300	\$ 300	
4421	PRINTING & STATIONARY ALLOCATION 50%	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	
4422	ADMINISTRATIVE ALLOCATION 50 %	Ken Low			
	TOTAL 2 CHARITABLE EXPENSES		\$ 487,109	\$ 572,450	
	4 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES				
4012	N.J. ELKS PUBLICATION EXPENSES	Rich Poole	\$ 51,475	\$ 60,000	
4013	PARADES EXPENSES	Dina Zacek	\$ 12,500	\$ 17,290	
4024	PUBLIC RELATIONS / MARKETING EXPENSES	Paul Burke	\$ 947	\$ 2,000	
4101	PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ALLOWANCE	By-Laws	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	
4102	PRESIDENT'S GRAND LODGE EXPENSES	By-Laws	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	

			FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2026-2027
		Contact	CURRENT	PROJECTED	REVISED
	1 CHARITABLE INCOME		YEAR	BUDGET	BUDGET
4105	PRESIDENT'S MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	By-Laws	\$ 500	\$ 500	
4110	STATE SECRETARY ALLOWANCE	By-Laws	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	
4112	STATE TREASURER ALLOWANCE	By-Laws	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	
4113	STATE SECRETARY - STATE FALL CONFERENCE	By-Laws	\$ 850	\$ 875	
4114	STATE SECRETARY ANNUAL CONFERENCE	By-Laws	\$ 750	\$ 750	
4114	STATE SECRETARY ANNUAL CONFERENCE	By-Laws	\$ -	\$ -	
4117	ADMINISTRATIVE ALLOCATION 50 %	Ken Low	\$ -	\$ -	
4203	ELECTIONS		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	
4204	GRAND LODGE DIGNITARIES EXPENSES		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
4205	STATE PRESIDENT'S GIFT		\$ 450	\$ 450	
4206	GIFT AND FLOWERS		\$ 400	\$ 400	
4301	BANK CHARGES	Projection	\$ 100	\$ 100	
4302	PRINTING AND STATIONARY	N/A		\$ -	
4303	POSTAGE	Projection	\$ 350	\$ 350	
4304	TELEPHONE AND INTERNET	Projection	\$ 500	\$ 500	
4305	OFFICE SUPPLIES	Projection	\$ 500	\$ 500	
4306	SECRETARY'S OFFICE EXPENSES	Projection	\$ 500	\$ 500	
4307	TREASURER'S OFFICE EXPENSES	Projection	\$ 500	\$ 500	
4308	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	Projection			
4309	STATE OFFICER'S BADGES	Projection	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	
4310	STATE DIRECTORY	Projection	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800	
4311	ACCOUNTING AND LEGAL		\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	
4313	INSURANCE - D & O	Projection	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,400	
4350	STATE VICE PRESIDENT'S EXPENSES	By-Laws	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	
4403	RITUAL TEAM	Jack Fistori	\$ 8,000	\$ 13,000	
4404	ADVISORY BOARD		\$ 650	\$ 650	
4405	AUDITNG AND BUSINESS PRACTICES	Meghan McPherson	\$ -	\$ -	
4406	CREDENTIALS	Barbara Monti	\$ 500	\$ 300	
4407	GOVERNMENT RELATIONS	Ron Subrizi	\$ 300	\$ 300	
4408	HISTORICAL	Jeffery Bryant	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	

			FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2026-2027
		Contact	CURRENT	PROJECTED	REVISED
	1 CHARITABLE INCOME		YEAR	BUDGET	BUDGET
4409	TOAST AND FLAG SALUTE COMPETITION WINNER	Jack Fistori	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	
4410	CORPORATE TAXES	Projection	\$ 100	\$ 100	
4411	LODGE ACTIVITIES	Jayne McLaughlin	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	
4412	MEMBERSHIP	Chuck Crerand	\$ 1,600	\$ 6,200	
4413	MEMORIAL SERVICES	Mike Veth	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	
4414	NEW LODGE EXPENSES	Doug Freund	\$ 500	\$ 500	
4415	OFFICER'S TRAINING AND INDOCTRINATION	Mark Dunnder	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300	
4416	RITUAL COMMITTEE STATE	Jack Fistori	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,000	
4417	TAM PROGRAM	Marc-Allyn Gloriande	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,123	
4418	LAWS	Robert Binetti	\$ 100	\$ 100	
4419	NJSEA INTERNET EXPENSES	Louis Lusquinos	\$ 1,310	\$ 25,000	
	TOTAL 4 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		\$ 152,182	\$ 202,788	
	TOTAL EXPENSES (ALL CATEGORIES)		\$ 639,291	\$ 775,238	
	BALANCE		\$ (24,100)	\$ -	\$ -

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Convention Committee

By

Maureen Whalen, Chairperson

As we begin the 2026 convention year, there is much to look forward to. We will begin the year, as we always do, in Wildwood for our Annual Reunion. It begins Thursday night with our Members Appreciation Party at the Convention Center from 8:30pm-10:30pm. Friday is our State Banquet, and Saturday is our parade, which will be on the boardwalk for the second year in a row. Let's hope for great weather this year. Four weeks after we leave Wildwood, we reconvene in Chicago, Illinois for our Grand Lodge Convention. The activities begin Sunday night, July 5, with our Hospitality immediately following the Opening Ceremony. Monday night is our annual State Banquet with a few special guests in attendance. Our Wednesday afternoon Hospitality closes out the events as many people look to travel home. There are several other events happening while we are there so check them out on the website. Chicago is a great city with lots of restaurants, bars, and other places of interest. We hope all of you that are going out there will find time to explore it. We conclude our convention year with our Annual Fall Conference at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa during the weekend of November 13-15, 2026. As always, we will have the pleasure of hosting our Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady.

We thank everyone for your support throughout the year, and we look forward to another great convention year!

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Americanism Committee

The 2025-2026 year's Americanism essay topic was:

“What Does Service to Your Country Mean To You?”

The contest was open to 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The contest starts at the local lodges, progresses through the District and State levels, and ends with the naming of our National Winners at the Grand Lodge Session in Chicago, Illinois in July 2026. This contest gives students the opportunity to thoughtfully evaluate and express their view on the selected theme. This contest is vitally important to us as Elks as it promotes Americanism in our local communities. It encourages 10-13 year old students to thoughtfully consider American values and appreciate the blessings and responsibilities of citizenship.

The rules stated that the essays could be no more than 300 words, legibly printed in ink or typed by the entrant. The essays must be submitted to the nearest Elks lodge for judging.

State awards for each grade are \$500 for first place, \$275 for second place and \$150 for third place. Congratulations to this year's winners.

5th Grade

1st place – Manya Tanwar Rutherford Lodge #547
Northeast District

2nd place – Kate Mulvaney Brick Lodge #2151
Southeast District

3rd place – Greyson Andrescavage Pt. Pleasant #1698
Southeast District

6th Grade

1st place – Ave Pulaski Old Bridge Elks #2229
South District

2nd place – Yara Hassan Greater Palisades #2475
East District

3rd place – Isaiah Shim Bergenfield #1477
Northeast District

7th Grade

1st place - Vicky G Sun Somerville Elks #1068
West Central District

2nd place - Zoila Lucas New Milford/Teaneck #2290
Northeast District

3rd place – Elise Rose Quinn Freehold Elks #1454
South Central District

8th Grade

1st place - Landon Martin Manasquan #2534
Southeast District

2nd place –Lorenzo DaCosta New Milford/Teaneck #2290
Northeast District

3rd place – Melanie Simon Tepoz Lakewood #1432
Southeast District

The national awards for each grade level will be \$1000 for first place, \$500 for second place and \$250 for third place.

The 50-50 this year brought in \$7680 of which half was distributed to the winners as follows: 1st place 35%, 2nd place 10%, and 3rd place 5%. 50% went to NJSEA Americanism committee.

The Americanism Challenge winners will be selected by Region 1 Chairman Madelyn Lenox and the winning submissions will be displayed in Wildwood. There will be one winner from each region each receiving a \$500 prize for their lodge.

I would like to thank all the district chairs, advisors, PGLC/PSP George Miller, PGLC/PSP John Szczomak and PSP Joe Pedone, and also our state President William W. Dow Jr. for attending the meeting and helping with the Judging.

I would also like to thank Joe DeBonis from Jamesburg lodge who stepped in to coordinate the 50-50 after the loss of our beloved State Chairman Ellen Quinlin. Ellen was dedicated to this committee and will be sorely missed.

Fraternally,

Diane Sinclair, Region 2 Americanism Chairman

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The Auditing and Business Practices committee lacks the glamor of most of the other committees . We cannot stand before you and talk about all the money we raised for charitable projects nor can we boast about all the special children, veterans or communities we have served.

In fact, once you get past our quarterly monitoring of district-wide committee accounts you can think of this committee as the nagging parent extolling local lodges to “clean your room”, “do your homework” or “think of your future”. When you hear from this committee we are speaking on the importance of local lodges having operating audit committees among other internal controls, creating and using lodge budgets, uploading financial information to FRS, engaging auditor/tax preparers and most of all MEETING THE AUGUST 1ST FILING DEADLINE! We apologize but that’s our job one!

I would like to thank my regional co-chairs Mark Wrightington and Kevin Pent for all their assistance. And to my committee advisors and State President Bill I thank you for your support and patience throughout the year. Please accept this report.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Troutman

Chairman Auditing and Business Practice Committee

CLMS

Our CLMS team is dedicated to supporting the lodges across the district throughout the year. The team works diligently to ensure that every lodge receives the assistance it needs to maintain accurate records and resolve any issues that arise.

At the start of the year, we had 20 lodges experiencing an Out of Balance Situation. Thanks to the hard work and commitment of our District and Region Coordinators, we successfully reduced this number to just 9 lodges by year’s end. This achievement highlights the effectiveness of our coordinators and their joint efforts.

We continue our partnership with the lodges to help them stay in balance, which is essential for precise and reliable membership reporting. Our team emphasizes the importance of consistent communication and provides guidance to each lodge to resolve discrepancies as quickly as possible.

I regularly stress to every lodge the need to reach out to their district coordinators whenever they face an out of balance problem. Timely communication is key to maintaining accurate records and preventing ongoing issues.

As we begin the new year, we have proactively contacted lodges that may need assistance from the Grand Secretary. This step ensures that any unresolved issues are addressed promptly and do not carry over into the new year.

Currently, there are 9 lodges that remain Out of Balance, and 11 lodges that are missing information in CLMS. Our team is committed to addressing these concerns and working closely with each lodge to resolve them.

To support ongoing progress, I will continue to send monthly emails to the CLMS Team and collaborate with all lodges to solve any problems. Regular communication helps us stay informed and ensures that issues are handled efficiently.

I would like to express my gratitude to Reg 1 Coordinator, Darlene Miller, and Reg 2 Coordinator, Joanne Stolarz, for their dedication and support over the past year. I also wish to thank my Advisors, GLC/PSP Joyce Powell and PGLC/PSP Rick Gathen , for their guidance and assistance whenever I have needed it.

Respectfully Submitted,
Connie Cantwell, PDD
NJSEA State CLMS Coordinator

NJSEA STATE DRUG AWARENESS REPORT WILDWOOD 2026

The NJSEA State DAP has continued to reach out to the communities of NJ forming relationships with organizations dedicated to educating our youth on the dangers that they face in today's society.

Our state has experienced another record-breaking year for DAP. Our largest fundraiser for Peer Leadership, the Walk Out on Drugs, raised \$56,799 this year, exceeding last year's total of \$55,000. Our goal for each lodge is \$1,000.00 donation to our Walk Outs. This contribution provides funds for one student from your lodge to receive a scholarship to attend Peer Leadership for free.

Our 12th Annual Path and 37th Annual Peer Leadership conferences were held on February 5 for Middle School students and February 6th thru 8th for High School students. This year broke all records for both conferences. Combined, both conferences were attended by over 1,000 students state wide. The NJSEA Elks DAP, the availability of opioid funds, and contributions from ENF grants, our Elks family and private organizations made this possible. Over 1,000 students were given the information necessary to choosing the right path in life and to help their peers do the same. On behalf of myself and the entire Peer Leadership committee, I'd like to give special thanks to Ellen Veprek of Pt Pleasant Lodge for acquiring donations for Peer Leadership, \$5,000.00 from M. Kogan Consulting and \$7,000.00 from the Joe Namath Foundation. Thank you to all the lodges and members that contributed this year to send students across the state to these valuable conferences.

The national drug awareness poster, essay and video contests have been judged and awards will be presented during this business session. The winner of the poster contest is Allyah Ferreira submitted by Eatontown Lodge, the essay contest winner is Hawa Arande submitted by Rutherford Lodge and the video contest winner is Elise Dawkins submitted by Weehawkin Lodge. The prestigious Enrique Camarena Award will be presented to Detective Lieutenant John P. Lesica of the Garfield Police Department, also during this session. Congratulations to all! Participation in these contests enhances our presence in the community and raises awareness of our National Drug Awareness Program.

Looking ahead, our National Drug Awareness Program anticipates another record-breaking year in 2026-2027! Your support for all our program does is greatly appreciated and necessary to achieve our goals. Without this, we can not do what needs to be done to educate our communities, our youth and save lives.

Thank you to my Advisors, Tom Zisa, Chief Justice Grand Lodge Forum, Past State President and Bob Ricker, Grand Lodge Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Past State President for all their guidance and support this past year. Also, thank you to Gail Ricart, Region 1 Chair and Jamie England, Region 2 Chair for all their support as well. Working together brings success!

Thank you and God Bless you all!

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Lawrence, PER
NJSEA State DAP Chair

Government Relations

Ronald Subrizi

State Chairman

Well another year of doing charitable work has come to an end.

I can say you all did a great job. According to my calculations we came in one of the top three in the country, I'll know more information for our wildwood convention. Don't forget to continue to report ALL your charitable work. You do the work let's get the credit.

I want to thank my region chairs, Pat Maher and Jami Gill for their hard work. I also want to thank our advisors Peggy Berry PSP and Anthony Alfonso PSP.

Let me leave you with these 3 words: Report, Report, Report!

WILDWOOD REPORT

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TO: William Dow Jr., NJSEA State President
FROM: Jeff Bryant
SUBJECT: WILDWOOD NJSEA HC Report
DATE: 5/8/2026
CC: *Copy your District Advisors*

Since the 2025 Fall Convention, the NJSEA Historical Committee continues its efforts to capture, document, and provide information of the State Association and its history. Currently, the Committee shares this information primarily through exhibits at our State Museum at Lacey Lodge #2518.

Bolstering our existing collection, the Committee has received quite a number of pins (imagine that !), and many other wonderful artifacts that show the pride that Elks have for their lodges and this fraternal organization. Pictures, convention ribbons, brochures, plates, mugs and lodge anniversary programs are just a few of the various items that have been donated to the Committee.

The NJ Elks Lodge Picture initiative continues, as requested of lodges in late 2025, after Fall Conference. Thanks to those lodges that have provided images to date. A reminder to the Lodges for submissions will be made at Wildwood.

"Elk Rests" investigations continue. The Elks Rest of Hoboken Lodge has recently been photographed, along with those of Jersey City, Asbury Park, Lakewood, and Patterson - Elmwood Park. Lists of those interred have been received for some; follow-ups with remaining cemeteries administrations is in progress. Posters / boards about our Rests will be updated in future displays.

The Committee researched the legacy Ritual of Special Services for the Floral Bell Ceremony. Towards encouraging / reviving this older traditional part of all Elks Flag Day observances, the Committee is distributing this optional script so that NJ lodges may include it their Flag Day Ceremony.

State Website pages for the Historical Committee are current. Future pages / features are planned for the State website.

The museum and its exhibits are in excellent shape. Organizing and cataloging of items and artifacts (our inventory) is a primary 2026-2027 goal of the Committee, starting with district-level grouping. Digital backup of files is being conducted using recently purchased storage drives. Of note for a new display is that a ceremonial drum from Freehold Lodge #1454 and their Elks marching band was loaned for the museum. Varied artifacts can be seen from a visit to the museum, including a photographic montage about the State project of Camp Moore, along with our Past State President listing (both displays on TV monitors). Thanks as always to Lacey Lodge #2518 !

The Committee will be represented at this year's Last Man Standing event at Lacey on May 16th.

Committee attendance is planned for the Elmwood Park / Paterson Lodge annual May rededication of their Rest on Saturday, May 24th.

For the Wildwood Reunion 2026, the Committee plans to have a display table in the Convention Center.

Lastly, if lodges have items they would like to donate (or loan) to the Committee or have any questions, pls don't hesitate to contact us at njseahc@gmail.com. We appreciate your interest and the support.

Jeff Bryant
NJSEA Historical Committee chair 2025-202



New Jersey State Elks

Joe DeBonis
State Chairperson – Internet Operations
13 Lenox Avenue
Milltown, NJ 08850

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Home: (732) 846-8067
Email: joedebonis@hotmail.com
Jamesburg Lodge #2180

Internet Operations Committee Wildwood Report, 2026

In the fall, I provided my wish list for the state website. I underestimated the amount of work that it would take to get the current website updated with some basic user-friendly, district-author friendly improvements. Over the course of the year, it became obvious that upgrades to the existing website should be dropped, and we should focus on redesigning and rebuilding the website.

We started taking steps in that direction. I spoke with Kris Benedict from the Pennsylvania State Elks Association in March, and then later that month, I met with my advisors and the region co-chairs to talk about a plan moving forward. We are putting together a list of requirements for the website and will be reaching out to web designers (including all the ones submitted after the fall conference report). My wish list from my fall report will definitely be a part of the requirements.

By fall conference, we will (hopefully) be moving in the right direction and will have selected the vendor to design the website and the project will be underway. By this time next year, I hope to be submitting a report sharing feedback about the wonderful new website.

The committee still has a lot of work to do in the upcoming months, but the end result should be a better experience on, and a more useful njelks.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe DeBonis

“NJ Elks Compassionate, Touching Lives and Changing Tomorrows”

REPORT OF LAWS COMMITTEE ON JUNE 5, 2026
Submitted by Robert F. Binetti, PGLC, Chairman

Good Morning. There are several matters to bring to your attention this morning. The first deals with whether an officer can be an employee of a Lodge. The answer is no. Grand Lodge Judiciary had issued an opinion that an officer cannot be an employee of the Lodge as that would constitute an apparent, potential or actual conflict of interest, in violation of Grand Lodge Statute 9.300.

Second, there have been Grand Forum decisions overruling House Committee suspensions, on procedural grounds, based on failure to abide by Grand Lodge Statute 16.041. Anyone brought up on House Committee charges must be given proper 10 days written notice of the alleged misconduct prior to the hearing. Further, this statute must be followed as to due process and rights of appeal.

Lastly, Lodges are reminded that no later than the fifth year following the adoption of By-laws, the Lodge must prepare and file a current general revision of Lodge By-Laws and House Rules. The Lodge needs to follow the procedure outlined in Grand Lodge Statute 17.060.

This completes my Report and I respectfully move that it be accepted as read.

H

NJ ELKS

LODGE ACTIVITIES 2025-2026

The goal of the Lodge Activities Committee is to record Lodge participation in Membership & Community Services. The Lodge Activities Contests encourages the annual recording of these services and provides an annual record of each Lodges efforts in both Membership & Community Service areas.

The Committee wants to thank all those who took the time to prepare an entry for consideration. We are most appreciative for your hard work and dedication.

We had 46 entries and 40 winners in the Lodge Bulletin/Newsletter Contest Memorial Service Contest Community Service and Image Contest. Those winners will get there plaques later this morning.

The All American Lodge Contest had 9 entries submitted to grand lodge. Those contests winners will be announced at Fall Conference in November.

New Lodge Development

There has been no activity regarding New Lodge Development since my last report at our Fall Conference. The individuals that had hoped to create a new lodge in Ventnor, Atlantic County have abandoned any interest. We look forward to working with anyone interested in creating a new lodge into our great state and continue the wonderful programs that Elk's do in our communities.

Respectfully submitted.
Doug Freund, PDDGER
Chairperson, New Lodge Development

NJSEA Membership 2025-2026 Year and Report

NJ has another successful year in the books. We started off the year with our yearly Regional Seminars. The attendance was outstanding. We focused on understanding the financial gains of growing a lodges membership. As well as a plan of action for lodges to have a successful membership committee and what that does for a lodge.

To rally the lodges, we gave awards out to the lodges with the most candidates initiated in honor of the Grand Exalted Ruler in each district. They were given an award and had their picture taken with the Grand Exalted Ruler during the meeting session. As always, the membership committee is involved in the breakout session. This year we focused on the new online billing program, digital membership cards, as well as the grand lodge billing program.

As the lodge year came to an end lodges had shifted their focus to delinquent members. Again, the lodges rallied and we had 10 out of 12 districts finish in the positive.

NJ once again is 2nd in members gained in the nation. As of this report we do not know the final numbers. But we are hot on tails of the 1st in the nation and have a great opportunity to grab the #1 spot by the end of May.

As of May 11, 2026

Year started – 56,049

Total Gained – 437

Total Loss – 159

Delinquency – 10,556 or 18.8%

Candidates – 780

Sincerely,

Chuck Crerand PVP

NJSEA Membership/Retention Chair

Sincerely,

Chuck Crerand PVP

NJSEA Membership/Retention Chair

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

REPORT

The Memorial Committee did an outstanding job preparing the Memorial Service at the mid-winter conference, where all the PER's, PVP'S, and PDD'S who passed away this past year, were eulogized. I would like to thank everyone who attended the Memorial Service, as well as the members of the Memorial Committee. I would also like to thank State Secretary Sue Dupas for putting together the names for the Memorial program and the printing of the programs for the Memorial Service. Finally, I would like to thank my advisor PSDGER Francis J. Decibus for his guidance and leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Veth
State Chairman
Memorial Committee

ENF REPORT Wildwood Speech

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Good morning, New Jersey Elks.

When we talk about making a difference, this is where it happens.

The Elks National Foundation is the engine behind everything we do. It powers our scholarships, supports our veterans, strengthens our communities, and gives every Lodge the ability to turn compassion into action.

Through ENF grants, our Lodges are feeding families, supporting veterans, investing in youth, and showing our communities exactly who we are.

Last year alone, New Jersey Elks saw \$968,000 come back to our Lodges.

That's not by chance—that's because of you.

When you give to ENF, you're not sending money away... you're investing right here at home.

And here's the truth—ENF grants fuel membership growth.

They create visibility, relevance, and connection.

People join what they see. They stay where they feel purpose.

When a Lodge is visible, engaged, and making an impact—people don't just notice... they want to be part of it.

That's the difference.

And it's why the **Fidelity Club** matters.

Five dollars a month—that's it. A small commitment that fuels big impact—and stronger Lodges—across this entire state.

If you're already a member, thank you. If you're not—what are you waiting for? **Join.**

Because every dollar fuels a grant, every grant fuels impact, and every act of impact fuels membership.

This is how we lead. This is how we serve. This is how we grow.

Elks Care. Elks Share.

And through the Elks National Foundation—

We show up. We give back. We grow stronger. Together.

New Jersey Elks... We Are The Difference!

I move that this report, as presented and submitted on the State website, be accepted as read.

Thank you

Nation Veterans Service Commission

The Nation Veterans Service Commission is proud to continue serving Veterans across our state. This year, our volunteers stayed on the move—delivering Welcome Home Kits and furniture and stepping in wherever a Veteran needed a helping hand. I couldn't be proud of this committee and the heart our members bring to this mission. Because of you, we had another outstanding year of support for our Veterans.

Please join us for our biggest fundraiser of the year: the 12th Annual Jim Hall Homeless Veteran Ride & Picnic, Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Brick Elks Lodge 2151. Enjoy a scenic ride and ceremony leaving at 9 AM from Brick Elks and Jamesburg Elks, followed by a picnic starting at noon. There will be a donation line at this event—please make checks payable to NJSEA (memo: Homeless Veterans). Your participation and support truly make a difference, and you will not be sorry you came. A heartfelt thank-you to the Jim Hall Committee for the time, teamwork, and dedication that made this event such a success year after year.

We're also excited to add a brand-new fundraiser this year: "*A Day at Yankee Stadium*" on Sunday, June 21, 2026. First pitch is at 1:35 PM—Cincinnati Red Vs NY Yankees. Let's make Father's Day weekend unforgettable with a day of baseball and great company. Tickets are still available: Field Level Outfield: \$105 per ticket, and Grandstand: \$50 per ticket.

None of this happens without the steady support of NJ Elks members. Your generosity and volunteer spirit power every delivery, every kit, and every helping hand. Lodges are encouraged to apply for grants to expand this work and continue supporting Veterans with Welcome Home Kits and furniture. From Jan–Mar this year alone, lodges applied for grants totaling \$80,000—thank you for stepping up in such a big way.

Right now, we average 20–30 Welcome Home Kits each month, along with many requests for financial and hands-on assistance. When we include Welcome Home grants, our monthly expenses exceed \$30,000. With costs continuing to rise, each kit and furniture set for a Veteran now runs \$1,600—but thanks to your support, we keep showing up and delivering hope.

The NJ Elks NVSC remains one of the leading non-profit efforts in our state dedicated to Veterans—and that's because of you. With hundreds of members giving their time, energy, and financial support, we're able to respond quickly and make timely deliveries to Veterans who need us most. Thank you to every Lodge, every volunteer, and every supporter for being part of this mission.

Together, we are the Givers of Hope!!

Ed Leib

NJ State NVSC Chairperson



NJ State Army of Hope 2026 Wildwood Convention Report

State President William Dow, Jr., dignitaries and members all, good morning. Our Army of Hope Committee continues to pursue our mission and not only support those who are serving but to also give assistance to our Gold Star families who have lost a family member who made the ultimate sacrifice.

This holiday season the Army of Hope Committee was able to give disbursements of \$73,250 to the children and families of our severely wounded service members and our Gold Star families. We continue to help pay utility bills, fix and in some cases replace cars and take care of rent and mortgage payments for our severely wounded service members.

In addition to the holiday disbursements the Army of Hope Committee supported the NJ Air National Guard 108th Wing with a donation of \$10,000 and the Somerset County Vocational School with a donation of \$20,000 to help offset the expenses for their event to honor two of New Jersey's Fallen Heroes. We recently pledged a \$12,000 donation to a group called "Bridging the Gap" who support our troops by sending coffee pods to those who are stationed in harm's way every month for six months on behalf of our 12 state districts. We were able to help a child of our severely wounded soldier make her dream come true and pay her college tuition for a two year technical school. Most recently we supported a non-profit group called "A Write to Heal, Inc." with a donation to equip six NJ severely wounded Vets to train and receive an FAA certified drone pilot's license and find them employment opportunities.

The Army of Hope Committee continues to support our Gold Star families and our severely wounded and we cannot do all of this without your help and donations. As a reminder, the AOH State Golf Outing this year is August 28th at Warrenbrook Golf Course in Warren. Please join us in golfing and support our cause with tee sponsorships. The Annual Army of Hope Day of Patriotism and Remembrance Picnic is scheduled for September 13th for the at Lacey Lodge. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the September 11th terror attacks and We Must Never Forget.

At this most uncertain time in the world today please keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers. God bless our troops and their families, the NJSEA and God Bless America.

I would like to make a motion that my full report be accepted as published on the state website.

Respectfully submitted,
Mallory McPherson, Region 2 Co-Chairperson

New Jersey Run for the Fallen State Liaison Chris Russo

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What is the NJ Run for the Fallen?

“The New Jersey Run for the Fallen is an organization of military runners and support crew whose mission is clear and simple: To run one mile for each New Jersey service member who has died during the GWOT (Global War on Terrorism). Each mile of sweat and pain, each Flag saluted, is to pay homage to one service member’s life and their family.”

When is the NJ Run for the Fallen?

The Run occurs during the last full week of every September, culminating on Sunday, Gold Star family Day. The Run will begin on Wednesday, September 24th and end on Sunday, September 28th.

What is significant about those days?

These days, regardless of specific dates, were chosen so that the closing ceremony coincides with the National Observance of Gold Star Mother’s Day/Gold Star Family Day; closing ceremony takes place at the NJ Gold Star Family Monument in Holmdel. If you have never visited the GSF Monument, at the Vietnam veterans Memorial, it is a beautiful place for Gold Star Families to reflect upon their loved ones. The monument hosts a pillar with the NJ State Elks Association logo in recognition of its generosity. While those days in September define the actual event, logistics, fundraising, training and support of urgent Gold Star Family needs, is a 365-day effort.

What defines a Fallen Hero?

As the Mission Statement says, we run one mile for each New Jersey service member who has died during the GWOT (Global War on Terrorism). For the most part, GWOT is thought to have begun with the 9/11 attacks on the United States; however, we dedicate hero Markers, either to groups or individual sons or daughters of New Jersey who died in events pre-dating 9/11, such as the bombing of Beirut marine Barracks and the USS Cole. Aside from the focus on the general time period of the Global War on Terrorism and the focus on sons or daughters of New Jersey, we are aligned with the American Gold Star Mother’s in using the criterion “sons or daughters lost in service of the United States Armed Forces”.

What part does the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks play in this?

There are several start-up fundraisers planned prior to the September Run. So far, Brick #2151 will be holding an event on July 11, 2026.

Planned meetings are held monthly. The main agenda for these meetings are to discuss and plan the main event held in September.

I would like to thank my advisor PSP Victoria Watson, District Coordinators PVP Greg Sheehan, PVP Nick Figaro and Thomas, for their support and dedication to this mission.

I would also like to thank State President William W. Dow Jr., for giving me the opportunity, to serve once again as the State Liaison. I would like to thank President-Elect Don Tonachio for his support and enthusiasm to our Order.

**Respectfully and Fraternaly,
Chris Russo
State Liaison
New Jersey Run for the Fallen**

Parade Committee Report

Dina Zacek

State Chairman



The 2026 Parade Theme is “New Jersey Elks A Beacon of Hope”

To date we have 26 Bands, 9 Floats and & 9 Antlers lodges ,
participating in the Parade. The Floats will be judged Saturday morning
at 8:00 A.M. in the Wildwood Convention Center Parking Lot.

Gates to the Parking Lot will open at 7:00 A.M. The Motorcycles will
Start at 11:45 A.M sharp on Juniper.

With the Parade starting at 12:00 Noon. Please make
sure that your Lodges are lined up on time. Each District will have a
District Chairman, along with Parade Committee, and Marshalls to help
assist the Lodges lining up properly. Please be respectful to our
Committee Members. The Parade Committee works hard all year to
have a successful parade. Parade Awards will be Saturday at 5:00 P.M.
at the Wildwood Convention Center. Please make sure the Lodges are
represented. Again, the Parade will be Videotaped and posted on the
Facebook Page, “NJ State Elks Wildwood Parade.”

Let’s have fun and a great Parade. Hopefully the weather will
cooperate.

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State Report June 2026
Publications NJELK Newspaper

The 2026 Spring Edition came out wonderful. I would like to thank my committee advisors PSDGER/PSP Francis Decibus and GLC/PSP Joyce Powell for their help and dedication. Also, I would like to thank my committee members Nancy Rochford, Liz Sorenson, Rose Romaine and Maureen Whalen who have dedicated and donated many hours edition to the newspaper.

The next deadline for submission for the Fall Edition will be August 15, 2026.

For Local lodges: if you submit a picture, it needs to be sent as an attachment. All people in the picture must be properly identified with their title and full names, as needed. Articles need to be sent to njelkpublication@gmail.com.

We are always in need of submission of articles and pictures of events, fundraisers, excreta from our local lodges. Please continue to submit your wonderful work. Again, all people in the picture must be properly identified with their title and full names, as needed. Articles need to be sent to njelkpublication@gmail.com.

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**New Jersey State Elks Association Public Relations & Marketing Committee
November 2025 – May 2026**

- ***“Every post we share tells the story of Elkdom—our service, our values, and the legacy we are responsible to carry forward.”***

From November through May, our focus was clear: tell the Elk story—and tell it well. Across Lodges and statewide platforms, we delivered consistent, mission-driven content that highlights who we are, what we do, and the difference we make every day.

Messaging remained aligned with the Grand Lodge theme, *“Be the Difference,”* and State President William W. Dow, Jr.’s theme, *“New Jersey Elks – Compassionate, Touching Lives and Changing Tomorrows,”* woven naturally into everything we shared.

Our weekly cadence—We Are the Difference Wednesday, Thankful Thursday, and Red Friday—continues to drive a strong, unified voice across the state, giving Lodges an easy and effective way to showcase service, gratitude, and patriotism in a consistent, recognizable format.

Content reflected key moments throughout the year—from Veterans Remembrance and the holiday season to Elkdom’s founding, Autism Awareness Month, Earth Day, and more—keeping our messaging timely, relevant, and rooted in community impact.

We also proudly highlighted the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the Elks National Memorial and Headquarters, to be celebrated this July at the Grand Lodge Convention—a powerful reminder of the legacy we inherit and the responsibility we carry forward. During this time, we also congratulated State President-Elect Don Tonachio as he prepares to lead New Jersey Elkdom into its next chapter.

A continued priority has been inclusion—ensuring our message reflects the full reach of Elkdom, from veterans and youth to individuals with special needs, including the life-changing work of programs like Camp Moore.

Equally important has been reinforcing branding and consistency. Every post and every image reflects not just an individual Lodge, but the entire Order. Clear, consistent communication strengthens recognition, credibility, and trust in our communities.

As digital tools continue to evolve, we reinforced a simple truth: AI can assist—but it does not replace judgment. Every post requires thoughtful review and leadership oversight. The most important reminder we shared throughout this period remains simple: pause before posting. That brief moment ensures accuracy, protects our brand, and upholds the integrity of Elkdom.

This period was defined by consistency, clarity, and a renewed focus on protecting and promoting our legacy. The Elks have built their reputation over generations through service, patriotism, and community impact. Our role is to carry that forward—stronger, more visible, and more connected than ever.

As we move ahead into National convention season, we will continue to support our Lodges with clear direction, unified messaging, and practical tools to help them share their story effectively—ensuring that the work we do every day is seen, understood, and valued across New Jersey and beyond.

The State Flag Charge and Eleven O'clock Toast competition was held during Fall Conference in Long Branch and all Exalted Rulers who participated represented their districts admirably. By competing, they all showed their dedication to their district, their lodges and especially their members. Special mention goes to Jessica Boudreau of Union Lodge #1583 and Thomas Flanagan IV of Long Branch Lodge #742 for placing first in the Flag Charge and 11 O'clock Toast contests, respectively. They are now eligible to compete at the national competition being held during the upcoming Grand Lodge Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

The State Ritual competition was held at Long Branch Lodge #742 on the last weekend of February. Congratulations to the first-place winner, Brick Lodge #2151. They will also move on to represent our state at the national competition held during this year's Grand Lodge Convention in Chicago. My sincere thanks go out to all the officers and teams who competed in any of the competitions. Their dedication to continuing the tradition of ritual cannot be overstated.

I encourage all lodges to start practicing the Ritual with their officers right away. It builds camaraderie among the officers and ensures that your new members are initiated with the level of fidelity and decorum they deserve.

As you know, all first-year Exalted Rulers are expected to participate in their district Flag Charge and 11 O'clock Toast contest. Work with your coach or district chairman to make sure you have all the necessary rules and information. These are both taken right out of the Ritual of Initiation so you should already be doing them in your lodges.

I would like to thank my advisors, Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight Bob Ricker, Grand Lodge Committee for Ritual Peggy Berry and my Region co-chairs Nick Figaro and Rich Zacek.

State President Bill, that concludes my report and I move for its adoption.

State safety Committee Wildwood Business Report 2025/2026

Advisors - P.G.L.C. - P.S.P. Anthony Alfonso / P.S.P. Michael Penchenski
Region I Steven J Heldt
Region II John Middleton

The safety Committee held a meeting in October. We contacted all the District Deputies made sure they all knew to email us their esquire's safety report after each of their District Deputy visits to each lodge. We followed up if there were any concerns after each visit.

The Region chairs kept in contact with the DD'S throughout the year, and informed them and reminded them of seasonal safety hazards.

Happy to report that there was no major safety issues reported from any of the twelve Districts this past year.

I would like to thank my advisors and my region chairs for all their support and hard work throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted
State Safety Chairman
Ken Reynolds



New Jersey State Elks

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**Jen Appaluccio
State Scholarship Chair
319 Stanhope Road
Sparta, NJ 07871**

Cell: 973-222-4547
jenappaluccio@gmail.com
Lake Hopatcong Elks # 782

April 2026 Report

State President Bill,

Vocational Scholarship started March 5th, and the website has been updated.

NJ Family Scholarship, the final application has been posted.

NJ had 32 \$6,000.00 winners for the Lagacy Scholarship.

MVS wrapped up, New Jersey had one top winner of the \$30,000.00 and 25 winners for the \$4,000.00. Emails were sent to the top 96 requesting acceptance forms returned. One did decline (was taking a gap year) three did not replay (there were 3 requests sent). The final 92 information has been sent to the state (5/3) for payment.

I will be meeting with Karen Imperatrice before the DD Trainings to help get her set up with the State Chair.

Fraternally,
Jen Appaluccio State Scholarship Chair

Special Children's Committee

Elyse Russo
State Chairperson

Our Special Children's Committee continues to work with compassion and dedication to service the programs we provide for Special Needs Children and Adults.

With your donations and support, our revitalization program continues to move forward with many projects. This will be the first year we can offer full capacity, with Cantoli Hall being finished and ready to fill with campers. Our Spring Respite Weekends are just about finished; then our Summer Programs will begin in just a few weeks. With so many indoor and outdoor activities our beautiful camp has to offer, there will be many endless smiles made this camping season.

Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, our Annual Camp Moore BBQ was canceled but will be rescheduled at a later date. We look forward to the Annual Miracle Run Event which takes place Sunday, July 26, 2026, at New Egypt Lodge #2457, and we hope many of you will join us. Thank you to the Committee for your dedication over the years. Also, thank you to the John Sentner Memorial Plunge Committee for their fundraising efforts and dedication, as well.

Our Scholarship Program provides assistance for college bound students. Each year we give one male and one female special needs scholar a \$10,000 scholarship (\$2500 a year over 4 years) I am pleased to announce this year's recipients: Michael Thomas, sponsored by Toms River Lodge #1875, Southeast District. Jessica Theobald, sponsored by Hackensack Lodge #658, Northeast District.

We are also proud to provide each runner-up with \$4000 scholarship (\$1000 over 4 years) This year's recipients are: Jace Gibson, sponsored by South Plainfield Lodge #2298, Central District. Sophia Arbreit, sponsored by Manasquan Lodge #2534, Southeast District.

Our Ambassador Program provides social and emotional support for the children and their families. This program engages them to travel throughout the state, attending many events and building lifelong friendships. I am proud to announce our Incoming Ambassadors and Alternates for 2026-2027:

Area 1

Ambassador Aubrey Ibrahim, sponsored by Old Bridge Lodge #2229, South Central District.
Alternate Michael Gaynor, sponsored by Middletown Lodge #2179, South Central District.

Area 2

Ambassador Jaymeson Hayward, sponsored by West Milford Lodge #2236, North District.
Alternate Grayson McTague, sponsored by Elmwood Park-Paterson Lodge #60, Northeast District.

Area 3

Ambassador Luke Bowman, sponsored by West Orange Lodge #1590, North Central District.

Area 4

Ambassador Lonnie Mattox III, sponsored by Union Lodge #1583, East Central District.

Alternate Jack Hamilton, sponsored by South Plainfield Lodge #2298, Central District.

Congratulations to our Scholarship recipients, our new State Ambassadors and Alternates and the lodges and districts, who sponsored each of them.

Lastly, I am very happy and proud to announce, for the first time, we finally sold all 2000 calendar raffles this last cycle! This cycle brought in \$40,000, paid out \$10,100 with a profit of \$29,900! Thank you for your continued support of this fundraiser.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire Special Children's Committee, the Trustees, Region 1 Co-Chair Arleen Hickman, Millville Lodge #580 and Region 2 Co-Chair Beth Toole, Rutherford Lodge #547, for your support, dedication and teamwork. Special thanks to our Advisors: PSDGER Francis J. Decibus, PGLC Bob Binetti, PGLC Ron Mangone and PGLC Anthony Alfonso for your support and guidance over the past 3 years and giving me the opportunity to lead our team, with passion and enthusiasm for our Special Children and Elks Camp Moore.

Thank you, State President William W. Dow Jr., for supporting our Special Children's Committee. To our President-Elect Don Tonacchio, thank you for your commitment and dedication to our Order. I wish you and your Team, a successful year!

Respectfully Submitted,
Elyse Russo
Special Children's Committee Chair

Special Children's Committee Trustees Wildwood Report

06/05/2026

The Trustees have completed the Special Children Committee's Budget for the fraternal year 2025-2026. The proposed budget was presented to the Special Children Committee Board where it was approved on May 8th, to proceed to the membership for its adoption at the Wildwood Reunion in June.

As we enter our camping season, the cost for lodges to sponsor a child for camp sessions remains at zero cost. This continues to be possible because of the donations made to Camp Moore and Miracle on the Mountain. Without the generosity of our lodges and membership, the zero dollar cost would not be possible.

The Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the staffing agency agreements for this year's camping season. Additional agencies were necessary this year so that camp director Todd Thompson would be able to select the best possible staff for our campers. Instrumental in assisting the camp director in this process is the camp's website. The site enables perspective counselors to learn about the camp along with families who are also looking for information about the camp. The address of the website is njelkscampmoore.org. We are fortunate to have such a great staff for our special children giving them a memorable experience at Camp Moore.

The current revitalization of our State's Major Project, is nearing completion with Cantoli Hall undergoing a major renovation. Work includes adding a second floor along with an elevator and other upgrades to this cornerstone camp building. Cantoli Hall will be ready for this camping season!

As the camp revitalization slows, the necessary repairs and maintenance do not. The pool had an unexpected leak in the piping system that was repaired and will be ready for the campers. We appreciate the continued support from our districts, lodges, and members who volunteer their time and talent to help maintain our State Major Project. This dedication in keeping Camp Moore maintained and beautiful is greatly appreciated.

The Trustees continue to work on making sure that all of the insurance policies for the camp are current and complete as a result of the ever-expanding camp. Our policies have increased to reflect the improvements made to the camp.

The health policy for the camp has been reviewed. There were many considerations to focus on as our primary concern is always on the campers, their families and counselors. The policy is noted on-line with the camp application. We look forward to welcoming more campers especially with the completion of Cantoli Hall.

The Board wants to thank Christine Henderson Rose for her dedication and service on the Board of Trustees as her five year term comes to an end.

Special thanks to our Advisors PSDGER Francis Decibus, PGLC/PSP Bob Binetti, PGLC/PSP Ron Mangone and PGLC/PSP Anthony Alfonso for their input and guidance.

Lastly our financial condition continues to be strong thanks to the continued fundraising and donations to Camp Moore and Miracle on the Mountain. This support continues to put smiles on the faces of our campers every year.

Respectfully submitted,
Vince Ditta, PDDGER
Chairman, SCC Board of Trustees



New Jersey State Elks Association
Special Children's Committee
Proposed 2026-2027 Budget

REVENUE:

Investment Income	\$217,274.00
Unused Camperships	\$600.00
Dividends Peapack-Gladstone	\$401.00
Donation Income	\$831,830.00
Cell Tower	\$30,000.00
Property Rentals	\$25,800.00
Merchandise Sales	<u>\$14,750.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,120,655.00

EXPENSE:

ECM - Fees & Permits	\$100,500.00
ECM - Insurance	\$85,000.00
ECM - Program	\$15,000.00
ECM - Property Tax	\$14,000.00
ECM - Repairs & Maintenance	\$75,000.00
ECM - Vehicles	\$14,000.00
ECM - Maintenance Contracts	\$23,000.00
ECM - Utilities	\$89,250.00
ECM - Salaries	\$381,120.00
ECM - Personnel Expense	\$45,700.00
ECM - Supplies	\$102,600.00
GC - Office Expense	\$60,685.00
GC - Payroll Taxes	\$29,200.00
GC - Program Expenses	<u>\$85,600.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,120,655.00

MIRACLE ON THE MOUNTAIN

State President Bill,

Since the Fall Conference, we have been fortunate to expand the wall mural project at Camp Moore, adding five (5) blocks and two (2) large balloons. These additions are a testament to the generosity and continued support of our members and demonstrate that every donation truly makes an impact.

We have continued to encourage Districts and Lodges to engage in fundraising efforts to support this project. Across the state, we have seen a number of successful clothing drives that have contributed to these efforts. To further support awareness and participation, brochures were distributed prior to the Fall Conference and again ahead of the State Convention in Wildwood. These materials were provided to District Chairs for distribution to Lodges, as well as to new Lodge Chairs for the upcoming Elk Year, ensuring they have access to information about the Wall Project.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to my co-coordinators, Deborah England and Maureen Quinn, for their dedication and hard work. I would also like to thank our Advisors for their continued guidance and support, along with State Chair Elyse Russo and Administrative Assistant Paula Kopcho for always being available to assist.

Most importantly, we would like to thank our Districts, Lodges, and members for their generosity and ongoing commitment to this initiative.

**Report for Wildwood Summer Conference - 2026
Challenger Sports Program**

On Sunday, May 31st, we held our Annual Challenger Batter Up State Championship at the Old North Wall Little League Complex. As always, it was a wonderful day filled with friendly competition, fun, friendship, and, of course, smiles!

Following the competition, we were hosted by Asbury Park-Wall, who generously provide not only the space, but also refreshments for our annual award ceremony each year. Thank you to both Wall Little League and Asbury Park-Wall for their continued support year after year. Their generosity ensures we can continue providing this amazing event for our special children.

With the Batter Up Competition now complete, we will begin planning for the Challenger Soccer Shoot. Details will be released once finalized.

I would like to express my gratitude to State President Bill Dow for entrusting me with this committee and congratulate him on a wonderful year.

Lastly, I want to recognize my Co-Coordinators, Joe Reese, PVP (Region 1), and Jon Joshua, PVP (Region 2). Thank you both for your dedication and commitment to keeping smiles on the faces of our special children.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jessica Schoener
State Coordinator, Challenger Sports

MIRACLE RUN COMMITTEE

N.J. STATE ELKS CONVENTION REPORT

June 5, 2026

Madame President, Members All

We have our first meeting of our year, in the second week of September. We start off voting on our donation to Camp Moore, from Miracle run 26. Then we voted on this year's Miracle run 27 location, we're going back to New Egypt lodge #2457. We purchased the new raffle bike a Brilliant Red Street Glide in the middle of October. We applied for our raffle license the second week in November and had our approvals by December 3. Then get our tickets printed for the start of our raffle event season

Also, in November we have our Miracle Maddess event, at Woodbridge lodge, this event helps replenish some funds needed to start off our year. Thank you again Woodbridge.

Our first bike raffle event was at Atlantic City boat show which took place over five days, and we were down here for an RV Show right here at the Wildwood convention center. So far, we were at car shows in Salem County, Buena, Linden and Lake Hopatcong, Street fairs in Stirling, Cranford and Lake Hopatcong Block party. And our usual Bike rallies, swap meets and bike nights. June and July schedule is just as busy. Next weekend with members from Marlton MC we'll be at the Pic-a-Lilli Inn and Columbus market, the following weekend a two-day Monster Truck Festival at NJ motorsports in Millville and the last weekend of June we'll be at Sussex County fairgrounds for a three-day music festival called Rock, Ribs and Ridges.

Our year is going well; we have a couple of new members join our committee. We have our meetings over the next two month with representatives from New Egypt lodge, to go over plans for the event. It is always a pleasure working together with your lodge. Thank you!

We have eight weeks until the big event for Camp Moore and our special needs children. We hope to see you all come out to New Egypt Lodge the last Sunday in July 26th It's for the Kids!

I personally would like to thank the members of the Miracle Run Committee for their dedication and commitment to our cause, it takes a lot time out of our personal lives to be on our committee. To all the motorcycle committee's and lodges for all of their support throughout the years. On behalf of the Miracle Run committee we like to thank you all!

Respectfully submitted

Miracle Run Committee Chairman

Frank F. Bingert



New Jersey State Elks Association

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Anthony Perrone
State Chairperson – Youth Activities
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New Milford, NJ 07646

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Ridgefield Park Lodge #1506

Youth Activities Committee -- Wildwood Report, 2026

As the Youth Activities committee completed another successful year, we are gearing up for a new one to begin.

We continued promoting participation in the Karen Minutella Reading Initiative. Building on the success of previous years, this year, once again we saw more Lodges participating.

We made a change to the State Batters-Up competition last year which went over well. We will be continuing that format this year. Anyone can participate in the State finals in August without competing in a Local or District contest. We still encourage local competitions but are not required to advance to the State finals. We once again will be celebrating our contest winners at the Somerset Patriots game on September 12th 2026. State President Don Tonachio will be throwing out the first pitch before the game, and the contest winners will be acknowledged on the field before the game.

Tee It Up coordinator. Mike Finney continues to work hard to promote this program and is looking forward to more participants. This year the State finals will again be held at Cedar Creek Golf Course in Bayville NJ. A date will be released in the near future

Student of the Month programs continued at lodges. This is one of the most flexible programs that the committee has – it can be run at grammar schools, middle schools, or high schools; it can be run with lodge-suggested or school-provided criteria; the lodges, teachers, or school administrators can pick the students. You can recognize students with gifts, prizes, or recognition at the lodge.

For Elks National Youth Week, Lodges did what they do best by holding Youth Week events – breakfasts or dinners recognizing the participants and winners of all youth programs in the lodge.

As always, I appreciate the assistance we get from Metuchen Lodge #1914. They open their lodge doors to the committee – they ensure that the room is set up, that there is sufficient staff onsite, and that we are well-fed.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to the Youth Activities committee advisors, Dick Tabbachino, Bob Mauro, and Rich Bard, for all their support and guidance to myself and the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Perrone

I move for the adoption of my report as read and published on the web site.

Antlers Today, Elks Tomorrow is more than a slogan it is a commitment to growth, character and community. The journey of an Antler begins as early as 12 and ends when they become an Elk at the age of 21. No matter what age an Antler begins their journey they are learning, growing and discovering their potential alongside their peers. Through shared experiences, community service, and leadership opportunities, they grow not only as individuals but as part of something greater than themselves. Antlers build lasting connections, strengthen their values, and prepare them to become the next generation of Elks and leaders in their community. Thank you to the dedicated Elks that guide and mentor them on their journey from Antler to an Elk.

Our Antler Lodges continue to serve their communities, lodges, and strengthen the Association. They are taking the plunge and leaping into the lake for our special children, while honoring our Gold Star Families at the Annual Army of Hope Picnic and honor our flag on Flag Day or at Flag Retirement Ceremonies to name a few activities

The Antlers love a parade and are always ready to lend a helping hand. They assist with serving food at lodge and district events, and they staff informational tables at community gatherings. Through their dedication and teamwork, they also raise funds by hosting bake sales, dinners, breakfasts, trivia nights, and movie nights.

We began the 25-26 year with 600 members and 24 active lodges and ended the year with close 700 members and 26 active lodges. Our newest lodge Kearny/Bellville Lodge #46 has hit the ground running. The growth reflects the dedication of my Co Chairs Lisa Rovito and Mike Veth, my advisors Tom Zisa and Ron Magnone and our Antlers and Advisory Council members.

As we look ahead, 26-27 is looking to be another year of growth. The NJ Antlers continue to shine in our great state and lead the nation in membership and lodges. Currently we have 6 lodges looking into reinstating and 4 lodges looking into joining the Antler Family. Every new member, reinstated and new lodge represents another opportunity to inspire leadership, encourage service, and build lifelong connections.

Together, Antlers and Elks are making a difference in our communities and building a brighter future, one Antler at a time.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Boyce State Antlers Chair

BATTER'S UP

Hello All,

My report will consist of this year's Batters Up District, Regional, and State Final report.

As of this date 5/7/2026, the Southeast District has run two Batters Up contrast. The first was at Howell Little League, 4/18/2026, which I attended and assisted the Howell Elks Youth activities chair. The day started off at 8:30, with all age groups being represented. A total of (43) kids attended the contest with metals given out to each child that participated.

On 4/24/2026 I attended and help run the second Southeast District Batters Up contest which consisted of Bayville, Lacey, and Manahawkin Elks lodge. We started the contest at 5:30 for registration and the contest began at 6:00pm. All the kids had a wonderful time.

On 4/26/2026, we hosted all the winners of the Batters Up contest back at Bayville Elks Lodge where awards were given out to all First, Second, and third place winners. All contestants of both contests were advised of the August 1st, State Final Batters Up Contest at Howell Little League starting at 8:00am registration.

The Following List Depicts the rest of the Batters Up Contest:

1. Howell Little League Southeast District 4/18/26
2. Berkeley Little League Southeast District 4/24/26
3. Piscataway Little League Central District 5/2/26
4. Marlton Little League Southwest District 5/17/26
5. Keyport/Matawan 6/13/26
6. Metuchen 6/14/26
7. Piscataway LL Central District 6/20/26
8. North District 7/18/26 place TBD
9. East Central 7/19/26 place TBD
10. Howell Little League State Final Registration time 8:00am

Respectfully Submitted
Mark Niro, PVP
State Batters Up Chair

State Hoop Shoot Committee Report

State President Bill, Dignitaries, Members All:

This has been a great year for our committee. Four of the seventy-two National Hoop Shoot contestants came from New Jersey: Marina Abou-Daoud, Lambertville Lodge # 1070; Amaris Tan, Freehold Lodge # 1454; Dylan Bogdanski, Cedar Grove Lodge # 2237; and Noah Murray, Princeton Lodge # 2129. Marina went all the way and took the Girls 8 to 9 Championship.

For those here that are new, the Elks Hoop Shoot Program is required by the Grand Lodge, meaning all local lodges must have a Hoop Shoot Contest.

Fortunately, the Hoop Shoot program is seasonal, running roughly from September, when local Hoop Shoot committees form and get organized through February, when the NJ State Hoop Shoot takes place. This means that this program doesn't require as much time or involvement as some other year-round committees. However, the rewards are just as great, and the committee work is very enjoyable. This program brings families, kids and Elks together and exemplifies the ideals of our order. During the National competition, parents learned even more about our charitable work with veterans, special needs kids and all the other youth programs that we sponsor.

I hope the success of these four kids rubs off on the other lodges in our state. It really is an impressive accomplishment and a source of Lodge pride, especially when you consider thousands of kids compete nationwide and only 72 get to Chicago. Having one of your local kids make it to the finals in Chicago is a great source of pride. Just ask anyone here from one of these four lodges.

So, when your lodge receives its Hoop Shoot packet in the mail during the month of August, please open it up and start forming your committees.

And let the fun begin!

SP Bill, I motion to adopt this report as read.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Sorenson, State Hoop Shoot Director

State Soccer Shoot Committee

The State Soccer Shoot Committee meets on the last Monday of the month, July through February, at the Asbury/Wall lodge. The Lodge contests are held in September through October, followed by the district contests in October through December. 9 of 12 Districts held contests.

The State contest was held in Manasquan on January 10th, 2026. In the Manasquan High School Fieldhouse, the awards were given out at the Manasquan lodge after the shoot. The State winners moved on to the Mid Atlantic National Regional in York, Pa., on March 7th, 2026.

Results: State and regional were U8 Girls Sanaaya Yogesh, Northwest 1st state and 1st regional, U8 Boys Myles Ribet, Southeast 1st state and 5th regional. U10 Girls Central 1st state and 1st regional, U10 Boys Sahir Singh Bhela Central 1st state and 3rd regional. U12 Girls Adrina Cruz North Central 1st state and 3rd regional, U12 Boys Anthony Grubelich East 1st state and 2nd regional. U14 Girls Emilie Gatzemeyer, Southwest 1st state and 2nd regional, U14 Boys Cannen Close, South Central 1st state and 2nd regional. U16 Girls Meagan Martineau Central 1st state and 2nd regional, U16 Boys Ved Parekh Central 1st state and 2nd regional.

District scoring for state competition: 1st Central District, 2nd Southwest District, and 3rd Northeast District. State scoring for Regionals: 1st Pennsylvania, 2nd New Jersey, and 3rd Kentucky.

Mike Walsh State Soccer Shoot Chair.

NJSEA Youth Sports Tournament (YST) 2026 Wildwood Reunion Report:
(May 7, 2026)

Hi everyone...My name is Hank Bedlivy of Union Lodge 1583, and I was fortunate to be asked recently to become the chair of the New Jersey State Elks Association (NJSEA) Youth Sports Tournament (YST) Committee. I am truly proud to chair this long-standing, fantastic Committee of dedicated Elk members. I am especially fortunate to be able to follow in the footsteps of the noteworthy prior leaders of this Committee, particularly my immediate predecessor, our NJSEA President Elect, Don Tonachio. Don did an incredible job guiding this Committee and has remained a wonderful mentor to our committee. I will do my very best to continue in Don's highly successful leadership mode.

The NJSEA Youth Sports Tournament (YST) Committee is an important component of our State Association's efforts to serve the youth of our communities. The YST each year offers high school students throughout NJ the opportunity to participate in a one-day tournament in the sports of either bowling, tennis, or golf. The tournament is free of charge for all participants, and everyone has the chance to win either a \$500 scholarship for first-place or a \$250 scholarship for a second-place finish in each of the three sports. The scholarships are paid directly to the college or trade school that the winners attend, following high school. This year's YST will take place on Monday, June 29, 2026.

The YST is funded by generous donations from our NJSEA Lodges. Each year the NJ Lodges are requested to donate \$100 to assist the YST Committee in covering the cost of the three sports, the complimentary award ceremony that follows the tournament and the subsequent scholarships following the tournament each year. The YST Committee is extremely grateful for all the NJSEA Lodge donations that represent the 'life blood' of the tournament.

(Please note that the Committee is still accepting participant applications as well as Lodge donations for this year's event. If your Lodge has not solicited for participants and/or has not considered a donation to the Committee, please consider both requests...)

The Committee also holds an annual charity fundraising golf tournament for NJSEA members and their guests. The yearly Reggie Craig Charity Golf Outing represents the principal fundraiser for our committee. This year's golf tournament was held yesterday, Thursday, June 4, 2026, at the Avalon Golf Course. It was a great success again this year, with all golfers enjoying a fun day on the links. The Committee must extend special thanks and kudos to the YST golf outing Director, John Zelna, who once again did an outstanding job organizing and running this fundraising event! Great job, John, and thank you so much!

Our committee is extremely fortunate to have two outstanding Advisors, Past State President Rich Bard of our Lacey Lodge 2518 and Past State President Bob Binetti of our Ridgefield Park Lodge 1506. On behalf of our committee thank you Rich and Bob for your incredible support, encouragement and tremendous guidance.

Mr. President, I would like to put forth a motion to accept my report as presented here and as published on the NJSEA website. Thank you!

Fraternally submitted,

Hank

Hank Bedlivy-PDD

NJSEA Youth Sports Tournament (YST) Chair

NJSEA Region 2 YA Co-chair

ECD YA/YST Chair

Union Lodge 1583

908-875-6530

hank.bedlivy@gmail.com

TRAINING

In this past fraternal year the training committee held two successful in person training sessions, one in each region. I would like to thank my committee advisors and region chair people for handling these sessions in my absence as I dealt with a family emergency. With the influx of new officers, it is important for everyone to ask questions if you do not know the proper answer or procedure. Please utilize not only the Training committee, but your district leadership as it can only help lead to future success. The committee would also like to reiterate that if any specific training is required for your district, please have your leaders reach out to us and we will do our best to accommodate. As much as we want to focus on all of our success remember Warren Buffett said " Risk comes from not knowing what you're doing" so take the time to ensure that what you are doing is being done properly. Otherwise it will cause more headaches than it would have to do it right the first time. Like Maya Angelou said " When you know better, you do better"

Thanks
Mark

TAM COMITTEE

Good morning brothers and sisters,

Remember, it should be made clear to all Elks that service of alcoholic beverages is a privilege, not a right; and that each member and their guests should consume responsibly.

Every lodge has the right and the duty for the safety of its members and their guests, to refuse to serve someone approaching intoxication. Each lodge should have a written procedure in place on the steps to take to terminate service.

While it should be the responsibility of the House committee member, ER, or any other person of authority present at the time for ending service, in their absence, it then becomes the server's responsibility to do so, politely but firmly. The server should have assurances that there will be no retaliation, should they need to cease service to anyone, member or guest regardless of their position in the Order.

Marc-Allyn Gloriande PDDGER
NJSEA TAM Training Chairman