



# CONNECTICUT ELKS ASSOCIATION

**Daniel Skiba, President**  
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**Donna Wallace, Editor**  
**Peter Affatato, PGER, Advisor**

Volume 14 No. 1

*Elks Care – Elks Share*

Fall 2009

## State President's Message

By Daniel Skiba PDD

Members of the Connecticut Elks. Summer has passed and we are headed into the fall season and the Holidays ahead. It seems like father time waits for no-one. These days cannot be recalled.

It is my sincere hope that all Exalted Rulers and Chairmen have not let those days pass without instituting the programs that make this organization one to be admired.

During these past months I have attended many meetings and events, not the least being the grand Lodge Convention in Portland Oregon during which I had the privilege and honor to carry the CT State flag on to the floor of the Convention Hall on Sunday night. It is an event that will be with me for a very long time. The business of the grand Lodge acted upon at the four day meeting was informative and in most cases good for the betterment of our Order. All of the Exalted Rulers in attendance received a daily newsletter and have reported the activities to their Membership.



I recently attended all four of the District Deputy Clinics. In conjunction with Clinics held last April, all of the Exalted Rulers should be up to speed in getting their fellow officers and members involved in the Lodge. The bar itself will not support the monetary obligations that have to be met in our everyday activity. Bills have to be paid and we must insure that we have enough left to carry on the charitable works that make us the BPOE. No one individual can do everything alone. Make sure to get every one involved. Have functions whenever possible; let the community know who we are and what we do. It has been said, "You can kiss the most beautiful woman in the world, but if no one else knows about it, it doesn't mean much" Climb to the top of the mountain and shout so that all within hearing distance will know. Even the largest Lodges have many fundraisers. Be one of them!

The Grand Lodge uses our annual membership assessment

to good advantage. Literature is constantly flowing out to the State Committee Chairpersons, to Lodge Secretary's, and Exalted Rulers. Please take the time to read and follow the suggestions. Remember YOU as Lodge members keep this order alive and well. YOU are the engine that drives the vehicle. The grand Lodge and State Association's are only the pilots. I urge those of you that don't use the Website (Grand Lodge and State) to do it now. Look at what other Lodges do, download their Newsletters, call other Exalted Rulers, and attempt to attend their functions. They just might reciprocate and maybe bring a friend or two. Yes it takes a little work and sacrifice but it will make a stronger Lodge and help finance the charitable works that we all believe in.

I recently had the privilege of presenting our annual gift of \$15,000.00 to the Connecticut Special Olympics Volleyball Venue that will be held in New Haven in November. Dennis DiMauro PSP presented the check for \$100,000.00 to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in July. These are two very special organizations that we continue to underwrite. Again the money comes from all of the subordinate Lodges. (That's all of you) Are you starting to get the Idea that YOU are important? I have attended over fourteen functions and visits since July. Just ask and if possible I will be there for you.

On Sunday September 28th Grand Exalted Ruler James L Nichelson and Mary Carolyn visited our State. They were well received by the membership at the dinner in Westbrook that night. Celia and I have met many dignitaries both in Portland and in our travels. Jim and Mary Carolyn are a very gracious couple. They are involved in every way with family, church and this great Order. Hopefully they will return to Connecticut for a longer visit sometime in the future. In the meantime check out their Blog on the [elks.org](http://elks.org) Website.

I would like to thank the Westbrook Elks for the hospitality, the great meal, and co ordination provided on that day. It took many hands and good leadership to get the job done.

In closing, don't forget the Veterans Parade on Sunday Nov. 8, Special Olympics on Saturday and Sunday Nov. 21 and 22 and the Mid- Year conference in Willimantic on Jan. 16, 2010.

As a final note, sale of my State Shirts went well. Thanks to all that purchased one. Many of you purchased the Breast Cancer Ribbon for the sleeve. A donation of over \$ 80.00 has been made to the National Breast Cancer Awareness Coalition.

Celia and I wish you a great Holiday Season, remember our veterans (who make this possible), keep Christ in Christmas and may God bless our troops, this great order, and the United States of America.



Pictured (left to right) Terry Ford-VP Northwest District, Dan Skiba-State President, Laurie-Jean Hannon-VP of Games and Special Olympics CT, PER Frank Defazio, CEA Special Olympics State Chairman, and Steve Ferraro-VP Central District.

# Let The Connecticut Special Olympic Games Begin

By John Paul Simko PER

Every year in November the CT Elks get together and do

## CT ELKS ASSOCIATION STATE OFFICERS

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- SPECIAL DEPUTY GER....Robert W. Hansen PGLCC,PSP, PDD

### DISTRICT DEPUTIES

- CENTRAL DISTRICT - GENE CLODFELTER; COASTAL DISTRICT - JAMES DUDLEY; EAST DISTRICT - RICHARD KOZEK; NORTHWEST DISTRICT - DEBBIE L. ANGELL.

a wonderful thing. They assist the Connecticut Special Olympics in running their Holiday Classic, which is the organizations state volleyball competition. On Sunday September 27 CT Elks Special Olympics State Chairman Frank "Cheech" Defazio presented a check for \$15,000 to Vice- President of Games & Sports Development for Special Olympics Connecticut Laurie-Jean Hannon.

This check will allow the Connecticut Special Olympics to run more than just a volleyball event for hundreds of Special Olympians in Connecticut, it allows athletes, families and friends to compete and partake in on the most rewarding events in this great state. If you have not had the pleasure to attend this event you are missing something very special, there's that word again. Special in the form that it will probably be the most fulfilling reward you can give yourself this year. You will see athletes compete not only with their special physical talents but also with their hearts. An athlete will probably hug you, you will smile when you see them compete and shed a tear two by the time the event is over. I can guarantee you will walk away from these competitions with a good feeling.

Special thanks to ER Harry Olsen PER ,his wife Judy, CT Elks President Dan Skiba for holding the check presentation at their home lodge of **Rockville No. 1359**. After the check presentation ceremony a bountiful lunch was served to many local and state Elk dignitaries.

The CT Special Olympics Holiday Classic presented by the CT ELKS will be held this year at Hillhouse High School on November 21 and 22. Please check the ctelks.org web-site for updates.

## Elks Always Remember Vets

By Amos A. McCallum, PGER  
Past Chairman

Our Grand Exalted Ruler proclaims every year that November is Elks Veterans Remembrance Month, a most deserving and well-earned honor. I believe, however, as Elks, we think about, remember, and work with our Veterans every month of every year, every week of every month, every day of every week and every hour of every day. As Elks, we know we owe our Veterans a debt that can never be repaid for the sacrifices they made to protect our freedom and to give us the opportunity to maintain our way of life.

We pledged 63 years ago, "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." We continue to fulfill that pledge on a daily basis and will continue to do so in the months and years ahead.

This is a special month. Tuesday, November 3rd is Election Day, Wednesday, November 11th is Veterans Day and Thursday, November 26th is Thanksgiving Day. This is an opportune time to invite Veterans into our Lodges for a delicious meal, provide entertainment and show that truly "Care – Share." Many communities celebrate this day with parades and other activities honoring our heroes. I ask and pray that Members in each of our Lodges across this great country put forth extra effort and plan special programs over and above our ongoing activities such as Adopt-A-Vet, Student/Veteran Volunteer, Comfort Care Kits and our Army of Hope.

Our Veterans are everywhere – in VA Hospitals, Veterans homes, in hospices, in our communities – and too many are homeless. Find them, help them and show how important they are to us and to all the people living in the United States of America. Let our Veterans know they are not forgotten and that we truly appreciate the sacrifices they made for us.

Let us not forget our current troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan and deployed in other parts of the world protecting our freedom and helping those who are in need. Our Army of Hope is still an on-going, successful program; therefore, please let's do whatever we can to help the families of these Veterans. Let them know we care and want to help any way possible. In addition, show our service men and women our concern by sending CARE packages of requested items such as prepaid calling cards and nonperishable food items. Let's show our Veterans and military personnel in this month of Thanksgiving how truly thankful we are for all they have done and continue to do because as Elks, we do Care and Share!



Left to Right: DDGER East District Richard Kozak, DDGER Central District Gene Clodfelter, SDGER Robert W. Hansen, DDGER Northwest District Debbie Angell and DDGER Coastal District James Dudley.

## Center Visit An Eye Opener

By Alex Coriaty PER

Thought I'd share this recent experience with my fellow Elks around Connecticut.

Being a Detective with a local Police Department I was assigned to a child abuse investigation and had to respond to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, in Hartford. I went to the CCMC and did what I had to do police wise.

It then dawned on me that The Connecticut Elks Association made a donation to the Center in the amount of \$100,000.00. I was amazed and humbled by how well the Medical Center was organized and maintained. I never like to mix work with the Elks, but I did during this investigation. I took the time to walk around the Medical Center and went to the different floors, and acted like I was lost, just so I could check the Medical Center out.

If you've never had the opportunity to see the Medical Center then you're really missing out. I can see why The Connecticut Elks Association donated so much money, the children within looked well taken care of, and had plenty of things to do. I was honored to have been able to say hello to some of the boys and girls as we passed each other in the hallways. The medical staff appeared to be friendly, and their love for the children deeply showed while they played with some of the children, and cared for the children.

I had a chance to speak with Dennis DiMauro PSP PDD who elaborated on the relationship between the CEA and the CCMC. The Connecticut Elks Association has been donating \$100,000.00 a year for a number of years. It is included in each budget voted on at the Annual State Convention. Also of note, the family waiting area for the emergency room was renovated with a grant that the Connecticut Elks Association provided in the amount of \$250,000.00, and our name is prominently displayed on the wall above the seating area, and the two benches outside the entrance are inscribed with a recognition to the CT Elks for our generosity over the years.

In closing I would highly recommend our Subordinate Lodges, their members, and the Connecticut Elks Association continue with future donations to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

## Manchester Lodge Builds Ramp For Veteran Home



Everyone in attendance from the Elks and VSF, residents of the Dinda house and Mayor Spadaccini on the ramp.

For the last several years, the primary beneficiary of the Veterans Committee from **Manchester Lodge No. 1893** has been the Michael J. Dinda house which is operated by the Veterans Support Foundation or VSF. The Michael J. Dinda house provides transitional housing for homeless and needy veterans. A small group of volunteers from the lodge recently designed and built a handicap ramp for a cost of \$3,000 and 500 volunteer man hours. The ramp was formally opened with a small ceremony. In attendance were Mayor Louis Spadaccini, Joe Sternburg, Executive Director of VSF, Jim Grissom Board Member of VSF, Shannon Fry-Case Manager of the Dinda House and Mae Brown also of VSF, members of the Manchester Elks including Exalted Ruler Phil Stender, the Connecticut Elks Association President Dan Skiba as well as District Deputy Richard Kozek and, of course, the veterans who reside at the Dinda House.

### Lodge Tidbits

**Middletown Lodge No. 771** has a member who has been activated and was sent to Iraq for a second tour. Staff Sergeant Robert F. Chadd, who lives in Durham, CT, was called to active duty. The lodge is adopting Rob's unit for the duration of their tour. During the month of September collections were made to send to Rob and his army buddies.

**Wethersfield-Rocky Hill Elks Lodge No. 2308** presented a check from proceeds from their Bike run to the Rock Hill Veteran's Hospital.

**Groton Lodge No. 2163 and Willimantic Lodge No. 1311** donated eight computers, one laser printer and one color laser printer to the Groton Senior Center.

**New London Lodge No. 360** participated in a Safety Fair at the Niantic F. D. in East Lyme. The weather was rainy and cold so most of the activity was held indoors.

E. R. Michele presented 50 smoke detectors and 20 CO detectors to the East Lyme Fire Marshalls office for distribution in the community. Over 30 bicycle helmets were presented and fitted to children who attended. Materials were handed out about the Safe Kids Program along with coloring material for the children.

Throughout the last year and a half, members of the lodge have contributed their time and materials and business services to the Michael J. Dinda house. Businesses that have donated services include A&A Pest Control and Nuisance Management. Work performed at the Dinda house by volunteers include stripping and waxing floors, painting apartments and miscellaneous plumbing. Meals have been donated for holidays and furniture was donated to a veteran who left the house for their own apartment.

## Veterans To Stay Warm

George Godard, PSP, PDD, brought his mother, Lena Godard, age 88, to the Veterans Home in Rocky Hill to personally donate 40 lap afghans that she had spent over 800 hours over the past year knitting. She wanted to provide the veterans some comfort and donate them in memory of her deceased husband, a veteran and recipient of two purple hearts.



(Left to right: George Godard, PSP, PDD, Kathy Cook, Director of Community Affairs, RH Veterans Home, Lena Godard, and Robert Ferone Sr., PER, State Chairman Government Relations)



## Scouting Awards Presented At Danbury Lodge

By John Paul Simko PER

To steal a phrase from a hit song, "Oh What A Night" it was at **Danbury Lodge No. 120** on September 10th. The Danbury Lodge held its annual Scouting Awards dinner to honor the local area boy and girl scouts who attained high honors in scouting this past year. After ER Suzanne Novaco welcoming message and the Pledge of Allegiance a wonderful meal was served. Fourteen truly gifted and focused young women and men took center stage to receive recognition of attaining for the Girl Scouts, their Silver and Gold awards, and for the Boy Scout his Eagle Rank award.

The Silver award, in Girl Scouting, is the second highest award that can be achieved while the Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout 14-18 years of age may earn. The Eagle Rank of Boy Scouting is the highest a scout may earn. After speaking to a few of the recipients you had a sense that they were all focused and cared about the community they lived in. To achieve these high honors they all had to show leadership and organizational skills paired with a sense of project and time management involving local projects involving a municipality or charitable organization.

## Rockville Lodge Presents Grant

**Rockville Lodge No. 1359** presented the Hathway-Miller American Legion Auxiliary No. 62 with a Gratitude Grant from the Elks National Foundation. This grant will be used to help with the expenses for two girls to attend Laurel Girl State.

I was very impressed with speaking to Dan who became an Eagle Scout last year and listen to him speak of his involvement with a local volunteer Fire Department and his work with them involving clearing a hill of shrubbery and tress while also staining and painting a pavilion. On a side note a young lady receiving her Silver Award, Alyssa, was reunited with Dan after realizing fourteen (14) years ago they were in the same daycare together.

A special thanks to Ellen Russow(Loyal Knight) for chairing this event and for developing the entire evening program. The evening ending with a great dessert which was handed out by the Danbury Lodge volunteers that made this evening very special for the Danbury Lodge officers, family and friends that packed the dining hall to show their appreciation and recognize these very special future leaders on a very special night.

## Hamden Lodge Supports National Night Out

By Sam Guy, Jr.

Drug Awareness Chairman

The **Hamden Elks Lodge 2224** donated to and participated in the Hamden Youth Services and Hamden Police Dept. sponsored National Night Out on August 14. This is a national program to bring together residents in neighborhoods and towns to strengthen community spirit and safety through citizen involvement. The national sponsor is Target Stores. There were refreshments, games and other activities for youth and for adults, all free to the public.



Left to right: Lodge Treasurer Elizabeth Thomas, Lodge Secretary Claire Decker, PER, Exalted Ruler Harry Olsen, and Hathway-Miller American Legion President Cheryl Samborski, along with Ellington First Selectman Michael Stupinski.



Pictured (l to r) Ryan Dann, Robin Dann, Claire Miller and PSP Bill Miller.

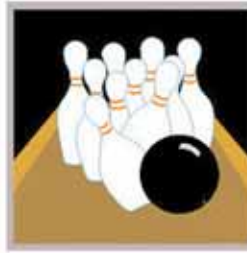
## Miller Time At Danbury Lodge

How proud PSP Bill Miller, a 47 year member, must have felt at a recent initiation held at Danbury Lodge No. 120. There were three (3) generations of his family going through initiation to join him as members of the Danbury Lodge. These family members were his wife of 48 years, Claire, his daughter, Robin Dann and her son (Bill's Grandson) Ryan Dann.

It was Coastal District DD Jim Dudley's visitation night and the Officers of Danbury, led by ER Suzanne Novaco, did not disappoint him or the attendees. In DD Jim's words it was a "Professional and Memorable" initiation, which was done totally by memory.

In attendance along with DD Jim Dudley, for what might be Danbury's last DD visit in this memorable building, was SDGER Bob Hansen, PGLC Rick Palanzo, GLC James Desmarais, Sr, CEA President Dan Skiba, VP Coastal District Bill Chinn and many other GL and State officers.

PSP Bill had a smile on his face throughout the night and perhaps I detected a tear or two. He was a very proud man and justly so. It was a great night for a great him, his family and Elksdom.



CT Elks Association 1<sup>st</sup> Annual  
State Ten Pin Bowling Tournament  
To Benefit the State Major Projects

Sunday, December 13, 2009

Bradley Bowl

Windsor Locks, CT

Registration - 9:15 a.m. until 9:45 a.m.

Bowling will start promptly at 10:00 a.m.

4 Person Teams-The team can be men, women, or both or you can have mixed Lodges bowl as a team- No Handicaps

High 3 Game Total will be Champions

No PBA Card Holders will Be Allowed

Cost: \$30.00 per person

All Money due by December 1, 2009

Makes checks payable to CT ELKS ASSOC.

Send To: Chic Rhodes, Jr., PER  
64 Clover Street  
Windsor, CT 06095

Home: (860)688-9474 • [Chicjr4@att.net](mailto:Chicjr4@att.net)

Awards & Dinner will be served at the Windsor Lodge following bowling.



On September 11th Bridgeport Lodge No. 36 honored two local heroes of the Bridgeport Community: Captain Richard Thode (Fire Fighter of the Year) and Detective Sanford Dowling (Police Officer of the Year) for their contributions to the community and their respective departments. A donation of \$300 from those in attendance was given to the Bridgeport PAL and Firefighters Sick and Death Fund in recognition of the two award winners.

Pictured (l to r) Captain Richard Thode, Exalted Ruler Ed Baranayai, and Detective Sanford Dowling.

## Willimantic Lodge Honors Their Local Heroes

Willimantic Lodge No. 1311 hosted a Public Service Appreciation Day in October. Firefighters, EMT's and Dispatchers from Willimantic Area were treated to a roast beef dinner. State Representative Susan Johnson presented the lodge with a Special Citation from the CT General Assembly commemorating the day.



Front row: (l to r) Ernie Herrick, Chaplain, Susan Johnson, State Representative, Sandy Millerd, Lecturing Knight, Terry L'Heureux, ER, Americanism Chairman Donna Wallace, PER. 2nd Row: (l to r) Willimantic Firefighters, Willimantic EMT, Tom Millerd, Loyal Knight, and Tom White, Leading Knight.



### Elks National Foundation Golf Tournament

October was ENF month and New London Lodge No. 360 ran a golf tournament at the local Par 3. Chairman Shawn Roach reported the event raised \$720 towards ENF putting New London over the GER's goal.

# GER James L. Nicholson Visits Our Fine State

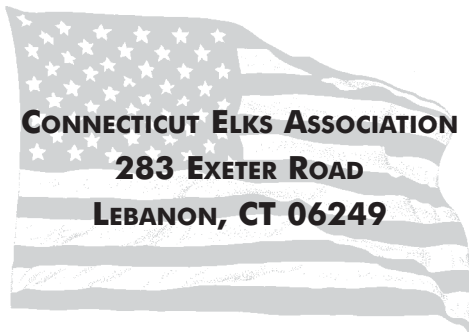


Connecticut State Elks Association President Dan Skiba presented GER Nicholson with a Certificate from ENF for a \$1000 donation made in his honor from the CT Elks Association.



Connecticut State Elks Association First Lady Celia Skiba presents First Lady Mary Carolyn with a crystal decanter on behalf of the members of the Connecticut Elks Association.

A dinner was held at the Westbrook Elks Lodge No. 1784 with over 230 Elks representing the 34 lodges were in attendance.




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**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

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