

# CT **Elks** Association

STEVEN S. FERRARO, PDD, *President*  
 MICHAEL E. TOMASZEK, PDD, *Secretary*  
 PETER AFFATATO, PGER, *Advisor*  
 SIDNEY P. BUTTERMORE, PER, *Editor*



## STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY STEVEN S. FERRARO, PDD

This issue of the CT Elks Association newsletter will be received by you, our members, sometime in early January so the first thing I would like to say is **HAPPY NEW YEAR** on behalf of Sue and myself. I hope that the New Year brings everyone good health and good fortune. I look forward to continued great activities in 2012 on the part of all our Lodges in serving our communities.



*“Work hard but take the time to have fun along the way.”*

STEVEN S. FERRARO

During the months of October – December the District Deputy audits and visits were conducted. While I was unable to make all the DD visits due to scheduling conflicts I did make many and want to thank the Lodges that I visited for the hospitality extended to me and the state officers. Exalted Rulers please take the necessary actions that your District Deputy requests in a timely manner to improve your Lodge. On October 9<sup>th</sup> Sue and I were guests of Hamden Lodge #2224 at their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in North Haven. It was a pleasure to speak on behalf of the State Association regarding Hamden Lodge's fifty years as part of Elkdom and the positive effect this Lodge has had upon the communities of Hamden and North Haven. Again, congratulations to my many friends and fellow Elks of Hamden Lodge on your 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Keep up the good work!

With the fall came our State Soccer Shoot contest in October and the Regional Soccer Shoot in November. It was great to see the children that represent our Lodges compete at the State Soccer Shoot in East Windsor. Also, we did very well in the competition in the Regional Soccer Shoot, taking two first place trophies and four second place trophies. Thank you to Charlotte Stowe, PER and her committee for making the CT Elks Association's Soccer Shoot program again very successful. I encourage all Lodge officers and members who have not attended a state soccer shoot or state hoop shoot contest, please do so since you will see firsthand the positive effect that your Lodge

and our Order has not only upon these children but upon their parents. Remember our youth activities programs remain a great tool to recruit new members.

November was Veterans Remembrance month and the Lodges of Connecticut did their usual great job in honoring our veterans through public ceremonies and dinners. I was able to attend a few of these events and I can tell you that the local, state and federal officials that I met continue to be impressed by our dedication to our veterans. Every Lodge should in November put on some type of public event to honor our veterans and invite your town officials, as well as our state and federal representatives. Thank you as well to those Elks who joined me and the officers of the CT Elks Association

on November 6<sup>th</sup> to march in the Hartford Veterans Parade. It was great to hear the public announcement by the parade's master of ceremonies about our Order and its commitment to our veterans – we do live by the motto that “as long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”

November ended with our annual visit to New Haven for the Special Olympics Sports Volleyball competition on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. It is always a delight for me to see our friends from the Special Olympics at this event. These Special Olympians of all ages truly look forward to seeing the Elks every November. I know that all Elks who come to help or just cheer on these special athletes also look forward to seeing them. Special Olympics Connecticut President Beau Doherty reiterated to me that our partnership with their organization is held in high regard. Congratulations to Frank DeFazio, PER and his committee for another great job.

The Mid Year Convention of the Connecticut Elks Association, scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup> at Hamden Lodge, has not occurred as I am writing this message but needless to say your Association has planned a number of workshops

## 2011-12 CT ELKS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

- State President*  
Steven S. Ferraro PDD
- Vice President Northwest*  
Terence P. Ford PDD
- Vice President East*  
Michael J. Barta PDD
- Vice President Coastal*  
Jan A. Wankowicz, Sr. PDD
- Vice President Central*  
Peter H. Freiler PDD
- State Secretary*  
Michael E. Tomaszek PDD
- Treasurer*  
James Sabio PDD
- Trustee – Chairman*  
John M. Barry PDD
- Trustee – Coastal*  
James J. Money PDD
- Trustee – East*  
Peter G. Nelson PER
- Trustee-At-Large*  
David H. Field PDD
- Trustee – Central*  
Andrew Caporossi PDD
- Chaplain*  
Jonathan Arthur PDD
- Tiler*  
Joseph Trovarelli Jr. PDD
- Sergeant at Arms*  
Gene Clodfelter PDD
- Inner Guard*  
Robert H. Brown Jr. PER
- Organist*  
Jerry Dipietro

**Elks Care Elks Share**



**2011-12 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS & COMMITTEEMEN**

*Past Grand Exalted Ruler and Jurisdictional Head*  
 Hon. Peter T. Affatato  
*Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler*  
 Hon. Robert W. Hansen  
*Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting Committee*  
 James Sabio  
*DDGER Central*  
 David A. Greaves  
*DDGER Coastal*  
 Edward J. Baranyai, Jr.  
*DDGER East*  
 Peter G. Nelson  
*DDGER Northwest*  
 Robert J. Ferone, Sr.

The following **COMMUNITY CHARITIES GRANTS** were announced at the Midyear Convention: 1<sup>st</sup> place was \$1,500; 2<sup>nd</sup> place was \$1,000.

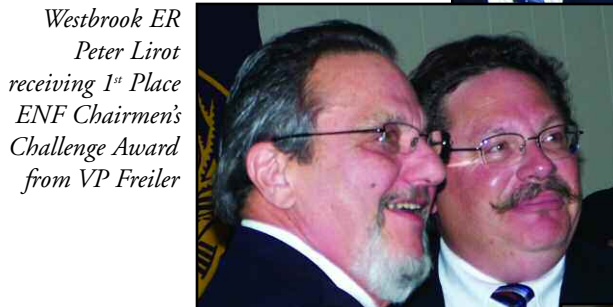
- CENTRAL DISTRICT:**  
 1<sup>st</sup> – Middletown # 771  
 ST. LUKE'S ELDERCARE SERVICES  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Glastonbury #2202  
 HARTFORD COUNTY 4H CAMPS INC.
- COASTAL DISTRICT:**  
 1<sup>st</sup> – Milford Lodge #1589  
 MILFORD NATIONAL LOU GEHRIG LITTLE LEAGUE  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bridgeport Lodge #36  
 HOMES FOR THE BRAVE
- EAST DISTRICT:**  
 1<sup>st</sup> – Groton Lodge #2163  
 MYSTIC AREA SHELTER & HOSPITALITY, INC  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Putnam Lodge # 574  
 TVCCA, RSVP SANTA ANONYMOUS
- NORTHEAST DISTRICT:**  
 1<sup>st</sup> – Naugatuck Lodge #967  
 NAUGATUCK & BEACON FALLS ECUMENICAL FOOD BANK  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Winsted Lodge #844  
 WINCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**CEA Mid-Year Convention** JANUARY 7, 2012



*Hamden Exalted Ruler Karen Forsyth receiving 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Community Image Award from VP Barta*

*PGIG Bob Hansen presenting new jewels to PDD's Donna Wallace, Dennis Claffey and Paul Dubois*



*Westbrook ER Peter Lirot receiving 1<sup>st</sup> Place ENF Chairmen's Challenge Award from VP Freiler*



*Americanism State Chairman David Acanfora receiving 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Americanism State Association Award from VP Barta*



**“Bowling Turkey!”** PETER FREILER, CENTRAL DISTRICT VP

It matters not whether you Win or Lose, what matters is whether I Win or Lose, and when it comes to the **Connecticut Elks Association Family & Lodge Bowling Outing** I am a true loser! I've got the trophies to prove it.

This event has been growing over the past few years and is a fun day; believe me even with my game! All proceeds go to benefit the State's Major Projects. This year the bowling outing will take place on **Sunday, February 19, 2012** at the Bradley Bowl – Windsor Locks. Registration is from 9:15 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. – Bowling will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. Your team can be made up of men, women or mixed in four person teams. The cost is \$30.00 per person due by February 8, 2012. Contact Chic Rhodes, Jr. PER with any questions.

Every year the Connecticut Elks Association donates \$100,000 to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in our continued support of the Safe Kids program and their commitment to reduce the causes of accidental injuries in children. Your participation in the Family & Lodge Bowling Outing will help your state association meet its goal and help to provide all kinds of care to children of all ages. Plus if everything goes 'according to Hoyle' you'll be able to see me pick up trophies for being the worst bowler ever... again!

---

# CEA Special Olympics

BY FRANK DEFAZIO PER, CEA CHAIRMAN SPECIAL OLYMPICS

---

On November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the CT Elks Association sponsored and assisted, for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Special Olympics of CT volleyball competition and awards event. It was held at the New Haven Sports Complex.

One of the many highlights of the event this year was the award given to James Desmarais, Sr., PSP, for opening the door to a great relationship in working with the Special Olympics of CT. The Special Olympics of CT called the CEA, *“a powerful force in helping them run the volleyball competition year after year.”* This year the participants were given a red pin to commemorate the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the CEA has been working with them and helping them compete.

I would like to thank: Hamden #2224: Phil Wilson and Carl Gorman for a great opening ceremony; New Britain #957 for the distribution of food; Fairfield #2220 for registration of all of the volunteers; CEA Committees: Americanism, Public Relations, Scouting, Drug Awareness (Elroy the Elk); CEA President and Officers for giving out the awards; Bridgeport #36: Jim Money for MC-ing the awards ceremony and special thanks to all of the Lodges and volunteers that helped to make this another great CEA event.

The 2012 Special Olympics Volleyball event will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the New Haven Sports Complex, New Haven, CT.

The breakdown of districts and volunteers were: Central, 5 of 8 Lodges (33 volunteers); East, 7 of 8 Lodges (40 volunteers); Northwest, 5 of 8 Lodges (28 volunteers) and Coastal, 8 of 9 Lodges (77 volunteers). ■

## A Very Special Olympic Time in New Haven

BY JOHN P. SIMKO, CEA COASTAL DISTRICT PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

---

Over 178 Volunteers from Lodges across the State of Connecticut merged upon The Floyd Little Athletic Center in New Haven to assist over 250 volleyball athletes of the CT Special Olympics. The volunteers used their efforts to assist, encourage and support these special athletes in anyway possible, from working the registration table, judging the contests, practicing with the athletes, cheering for them, to feeding the athletes.

These were two days of intense volleyball play culminating with the awards ceremony at the end of the second day of competition. Although the awards given to these athletes signify their final position in the competition, the actual award was given from these athletes to the volunteers. The effort, passion and dedication shown by these athletes and witnessed by the hundreds of volunteers and well-wishers will last a lifetime in the memory of all. We were all moved and touched by the athletes sportsmanship on and off the court.

CEA Special Olympics State Chairman PER Frank "Cheech" DeFazio III should be applauded for his efforts with organizing all the Elk volunteers together for these two wonderful days in New Haven. And thanks to Cheech, his volunteers and the Special Olympic Athletes these two days will be remembered by all of us for a lifetime.

To date over \$170,000 has been donated by the Connecticut Elks Association to the CT Special Olympics. ■



## 2012 MEETINGS AND DEADLINES

**VETERAN'S: Veterans Remembrance Report** due to DD by January 15; Nominations for **Veteran Volunteer of the Year** (one female and one male) due January 20.

**DRUG AWARENESS: Poster & Essay Contests** February 14; **President's Volunteer Service Award** ongoing.

**SCHOLARSHIP: Lodge MVS Scholarship:** Qualified applications forwarded to next level of judging, January 9 to District Chair. January 26 – **District MVS scholarship judging completed.** Forward qualifying applications to state Chairs for judging, February 1 – All **Legacy Awards applications** must be submitted online. February 16 – **State MVS scholarship** judging completed. Ship qualifying brochures to ENF Chicago office no later than February 18. February 28 – **National finalists will be notified** by email. Secondary application materials will be available online. March 25 – **National finalists' applications** must be submitted online to the Elks National Foundation. April 10 – **National scholarship judging concludes.** April 15 – **ENF announces winners.** Contest results published online and mailed directly to state and Lodge Chairs.

**AMERICANISM: Americanism essay contest** deadline: February 6, 2012. The deadline for the **Americanism brochure contest** is March 6, 2012. Questions should be directed to the district chair or state Americanism Chair Dave Acanfora. Each lodge is expected to submit at least one essay to the contest this year as well as an Americanism brochure. Do not send lodge brochures directly to the Grand Lodge contest. Send brochures to state chair Dave Acanfora to be entered into the CEA Americanism brochure contest first. The Americanism committee will then forward all Connecticut brochures for competition in the Grand Lodge contest. All information about these two contests can be found on the CEA website at [www.ctelks.org](http://www.ctelks.org)

*For updates, changes and additional information, visit [ctelks.org/programs](http://ctelks.org/programs).*

## Drug Awareness Program

BY LISA BERTHIAUME, PER; CEA STATE DAP CHAIRMAN

### MILTON CREGH – Youth Motivational Speaker Tour happening THIS SPRING!

Renowned youth-motivational speaker and partner of the Elks Drug Awareness Program will be coming back to Connecticut the week of April 30. Venue details are being finalized at this time. Three evening sessions are planned that any and all Elks and their guests are welcome to attend – April 30 at Wolcott High School in Wolcott, May 1 at the New Haven Lodge and May 2 at a Southington location – tbd. Keep checking [ctelks.org](http://ctelks.org) for more details as they develop.

### POSTER & ESSAY CONTEST – 2012 THEME “I CHOOSE NOT TO USE”

This year's contest is underway and the deadline for submission of entries to your Lodge is February 14. Full details of the contest, open to Grade 3-8 students, are available on [ctelks.org](http://ctelks.org). If your Lodge has not begun the contest, it's still not too late. Please contact your district chairman or myself if you need help getting started. Additional material is still available to any Lodge who needs it.



### ELROY A BIG HIT AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Check out the pictures of Elroy at the volleyball Special Olympics held at the New Haven Sports Complex this past November. Elroy is always a hit where ever he goes so remember – Elroy is available for special appearances throughout the state – all you need is an outgoing energetic volunteer to portray Elroy and voila! your event is even more special. Check out Elroy's booking calendar at [ctelks.org](http://ctelks.org) to reserve him today! ■

## Youth Activities

BY PHIL STENDER, PER; STATE CHAIRMAN YOUTH ACTIVITIES

We are over half-way thru our year already, which means we still have a few months left to complete our Youth programs.

We are continuing the “Clubs for Kids” program, we are asking for donations of golf clubs that are no longer used. They will be refurbished and distributed to boys and girls throughout the PGA Jr. Program or Subordinate Lodge Jr. Golf Programs to help these youngsters experience the game of golf. I have already received some and expect to get a lot more. I will be accepting them at Manchester lodge, if you can't deliver them, let me know and I'll make provisions to pick them up. They will be shipped in the Spring.

The Grand Lodge would like more Lodges participating in the Dictionary Project, it is a program directed towards 3rd graders. You can purchase a sample kit for \$20 that has all 7 Dictionaries that are available so you can determine which is best for your Lodge to distribute. All information is available at: [www.DictionaryProject.org](http://www.DictionaryProject.org). January and February is the time the new Lodge budgets get put together, talk to your Trustees and try to get this into your Lodge's budget. Money from the “Gratitude Grants” can be used for this project.

The Elks National Youth Week is the first week of May. It will be here before we know it. Start making plans now. Interest in the “Antlers Program” has been growing, this is a great way to get our youth involved in our Order and to show them that “Elks Care, Elks Share.” I'm asking Lodges to honor students with our Youth Recognition Awards. Information on these and all of our programs is available on [ctelks.org](http://ctelks.org). Contact info on all State and District Chairpersons is also available online. ■



## CT Elks PER Association Meeting

BY JOHN P. SIMKO, CEA COASTAL DISTRICT PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

The CT Elks PER Association met on Sunday, September 25, 2011 at the New Britain #957 for the purpose of the installation of officers and the retirement of American flags. The day started off with a great meal prepared by New Britain Lodge ER Henry Zembko and his officers. The PER's, Elk members and their guests then went outside to the flag retirement ceremony that was led by CT PER Association President DD Robert J. Ferrone. Over 100 American flags were properly and honorably retired.

After the flag retirement ceremony the PER'S retired to the meeting room. A new slate of officers was elected, headlined by new President Richard Kozek, PDD. Phil Wilson, PSP, PDD swore in the new officers.

Four Emeritus Awards from the VP's were presented to CEA State Soccer Chairman Charlotte Stowe, PER; CEA State Communities Charities Chairman J. Greg Benton, PER; CEA State Veterans Services Chairman Richard R. Berthiaume, PER and CEA State Americanism Chairman David Acanfora, PDD.

A few motions were voted on and passed:

- To allow \$500 for the purpose of a donation to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford,
- To form an ad hoc committee for the purpose of donating monies to a Connecticut state charity in addition to the Connecticut School for the Deaf,
- The term "Flag Burning" will no longer be used and will be now be known as "Flag Retirement."

To be an active member of the Connecticut Elks Past Exalted Rulers Association you must be a paid up member in good standing. Dues consist of \$10 for the year. Checks can be made payable to CT Elks PER Association and mailed to Secretary Brian Skonieczny at 34 Rivercrest Drive, Plantsville, CT 06479. Membership cards will be mailed upon payment. If you are not sure if you have paid please email Brian at [bskonieczny@cox.net](mailto:bskonieczny@cox.net) ■

## 2011-12 MEETINGS AND DEADLINES

### LODGE ACTIVITIES

**Citizen of the Year, Officer of the Year, Elk of the Year;** postmarked to Grand Secretary by 3/31/12.

**Contest A: All American Lodge,** completed form to DD by 3/15/12.

**Contest B: Community Image,** postmarked to GL chair by 3/15/12.

**Contest C: Elk Memorial Service,** postmarked to GL chair by 2/15/12.

**Contest D: Lodge Bulletin,** postmarked to GL chair by 1/15/12

**Contest E:** ENF per capita, by 3/31/12.

*For updates and additional information, visit [ctelks.org/programs](http://ctelks.org/programs).*



*L to R: CEA Coastal District Soccer Shoot Chairman John P. Simko, Area 1 Boys U12 and Francis Joyce Winner Sam N. and Fairfield Lodge #2220 ER Frank C. Chizmadia, PDD*

## Soccer Shoot

CHARLOTTE STOWE, PER; CHAIR

The annual Soccer Shoot has been completed. Twenty-six Lodges hosted a total of 969 competitors. Connecticut's contestants were escorted to the regional contest in Syracuse, NY by Marlene and Michael Madzek from Waterbury #265 where they fared very well. Sam N. from Fairfield #2220 won 1<sup>st</sup> place in Boys U-12 division and took home the Francis Joyce Award for top scorer in Boys U-12 & U-14. Another 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Ronan M. from Middletown #771 in Boys U-8. Connecticut also managed four 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes: U-8 Girls - Lauren K. from Middletown #771, U-12 Girls - Jackie L. from Glastonbury #2202, U-10 Girls - Sonia F. from Hamden #2224 and U-14 Boys - Jose G. from Naugatuck #967.





# GER DAVID R. CARR'S VISIT TO CONNECTICUT

SEPTEMBER 26, 2011; MIDDLETOWN #771



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### Attention!!!!

I have requested information from all Lodges on their youth programs to enter into the state brochure. Responses have been sparse. Please forward photos, clippings, etc. to me ASAP.

The deadline is March 23, 2012. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or your District Chairperson. I know Connecticut has put together award winning Brochures in the past and we can do it again.

And as always: **If It Helps Youth, Do It!**

Phil Stender, PER  
State Chairman  
Youth Activities  
Philper1893@charter.net

## A letter from JAN WANKOWICZ, COASTAL DISTRICT VP

Periodically in our roles as CT Elks Association VP's we are asked to try and instill words of encouragement and knowledge to our member Lodges, so here it goes. I think it is very important for ALL CT Elks to try and remember that the success of OUR organization is not an individual effort, we all need to work together to accomplish our goals and ideals.

We have all witnessed over the years a decline in membership. Lodges for a long time have not been the "in" place to be. I sense that there may be a changing trend – one can only hope. I also strongly believe that the reason is due to the tough economic times of our country. We are usually a cheaper option. So, let's get these members involved! We need new functions, new ideas.

Think, like I have said many times before "outside the box."

What is your Lodge doing to retain these members?

Did your management team address their needs?

Have they been made to feel welcome?

Have you stressed involvement?

Have you assisted them in getting involved?

I think by now you get my drift. We need to support our programs make them grow and continue our mission. As I said at our Mid Year Meeting, **WE ARE CT ELKS AND WE WILL NOT FAIL.**

## This issue's featured District:

# The Jewel Shines Bright in the Coastal District

BY JOHN P. SIMKO, CEA COASTAL DISTRICT PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

Within the four districts that form the Connecticut Elks Association, the Coastal District is known as "The Jewel of the Crown." The Coastal District is well known for its charitable work within the community. Well, the jewel could not have shined brighter than it did this past year with the efforts of community involvement from its nine Lodges. The Lodges located in Fairfield and a part of New Haven Counties has always shown the way in its involvement with Youth and Veteran charitable work and also supporting all the Grand Lodge programs. Here is only a snapshot of the efforts of the Lodges that make up "The Jewel of the Crown."

**New Haven Lodge #25** is the oldest Lodge in the Coastal District, having long been a pillar in "The Elm City." A project that the Lodge members continue to support is "The Festival of Lights" at Lighthouse Park in New Haven. This winter wonderland of lights during the holidays is a marvel to see and to drive through. All proceeds benefit Easter Seals Goodwill. The Lodge members also support their Veterans by helping out at the VA hospital, having Veteran recognition dinners at the Lodge, and marching in the Veterans Day parade. The youth of the community is well served when the Lodge holds their Hoop and Soccer Shoots.

**Bridgeport Lodge #36**, 125 years old this past year, has a long history of community activity and a solid stake in "The Park City." The Lodge has a long tradition of serving monthly home cooked meals to the Veterans at the "Home for the Brave" in Bridgeport. Year after year Bridgeport Lodge members can be seen participating in the local Veterans Day and Barnum Festival events and parades. Matt Frankel, PER spearheads the "Wreath across America" campaign. This effort makes sure that a Veteran at a local cemetery has a wreath placed on his/her grave site. Esteemed Loyal Knight Bill Russell III, through Lodge members' donations, has sent well over 2,000 items to our troops overseas.

**Danbury Lodge #120**, located in the heart of "The Hat City," has always been interested in their local youth population. They proved this again this year by distributing dictionaries, GER David Carr's endorsed project, to 3rd Graders at Pembroke School and South Street School. The Lodge also holds an annual awards event to honor Gold/Silver and Eagle Scouts. During the holidays the Lodge offers dinner to the youth and Veterans of the community at their annual Christmas dinner. With angels and Santa Claus attending, who wouldn't want to be a kid for the day?

Chartered in 1900, **Derby Lodge #571**, "The Lodge of the Valley," has been a mainstay in the city for over 110 years. With a long history of participating in the cities Flag Day event, people come from neighboring cities to hear the history of United States flag read by the Lodge officers and to watch the pageantry involved in the event. Having a holiday party with Santa for the special needs citizens of the Valley and the members' children is always a great time at the Elizabeth Street Lodge. The Lodge also assists meal-on-wheels with the delivery of food during the holidays.

**Milford Lodge #1589** has always been the Lodge that gives it support to the youth sports teams of the city. With its support to so many teams the name Milford Elks can be seen on helmets, jerseys, and sports jackets throughout the town. Serving food is one of Milford specialties, having the best food concession at the annual Milford Oyster Festival and at the Lodge's monthly Sunday Brunch. The monies raised supports special projects and ENF. This past year Milford Lodge put its best foot forward in holding a very special event on the Town Green and at the Lodge for our Wounded Warriors of Connecticut.

The **Stamford Lodge #899** this past year alone gave out more than 1,000 bicycle helmets to the children of the community and teaching the kid's safety first. The Lodge members also kept the community safe and sound in their homes by handing out hundreds of carbon and smoke detectors.

The annual Special Olympics Volleyball event in New Haven brings together all the state Lodges with Lodge member and State Special Olympics Chairman Frank "Cheech" DeFazio III, PER heading the effort. This year the CT Elks Association donated \$15,000 to the CT Special Olympics.

The youngest Lodge in the Coastal District, 50 years young, is **Fairfield Lodge #2220**. Registering volunteers for the Special Olympic Volleyball event would not be the same without seeing year after year the members of the Fairfield Lodge #2220 manning the registration table. The Hoop Shoot has a warm spot in the heart of Fairfield Lodge members with their own "Doc" George providing valuable lessons in sportsmanship. Fairfield Lodge always ranks near the top in state lodge donations to the ENF.

Traveling up the coastline of New Haven County we find the Lodges of **West Haven #1537** and **Branford #1939**. West Haven Lodge #1537, having the VA Hospital nearly on its doorsteps, is a leader in getting all the state Lodges involved with the activities of our Wounded Warriors residing at the VA hospital. With John Dillman, PER heading up the VA's monthly bingo, the state's Elks membership always is very active at the hospital, having only to remind us all of the Elk slogan "As long as there are Veterans, the B.P.O.E. will never forget them."

**Branford Lodge #1939** continues to have a long tradition of honoring a youth with special needs as being designated its Lodge's "Poster Child." Having attended this event and having known personally a Poster Child, the Branford members are prime examples of a Lodge that has a heart of gold. For over 20 years the Lodge raises money through dinners and other events to donate \$1,000 to the youth's family to use for what never they need, i.e. summer camp, a special bed, wheelchairs, or medical bills. Another \$100 is given to a previous poster child's family up to the youth's 18th birthday. The Lodge is also very active in holding events honoring the area emergency services personnel, the youth, and the Veterans of the city.

As I said, at the beginning of the article, this is only a snippet of the goodwill that the Lodges of the Coastal District do for the youth, Veterans and all citizens of Connecticut.

Well there you have it, involvement in Youth Activities, caring for and respecting our Veterans, participating in the statewide Wounded Warriors project, involvement in our community activities, educating the young, providing food for the needy, participating in the Grand Lodge Americanism campaigns as well as all the Grand Lodge programs, supporting the Elks National Foundation, marching in Connecticut's annual Veterans Day parade in Hartford and serving whenever anyone needs our assistance. Isn't it great to be part of the best fraternal organization in the United States? I think so and so do over 21,000 members of the Connecticut Elks Association. The jewels of the Coastal District continue to shine bright.

"ELKS care and ELKS share". ■

*Be sure to look for other districts to be featured in upcoming issues of CT Elks News.*



## Supporting Our Troops DERBY #571

On behalf of the Elks National Foundation, Derby #571 was the scene recently for a check presentation to the Support Our Troops organization. The Support Our Troops organization (a non-profit) provides requested items for our troops overseas. Ann Donato, a volunteer for the organization, was on hand to receive a check for \$2,000 from the Elks National Foundation's Gratitude Grant Program which will go toward the \$2,500 needed for postage for the items being

sent to our troops. For more information or how to donate to the Support Our Troops organization, please contact Ann Donato at [adonato5@comcast.net](mailto:adonato5@comcast.net) ■

*Derby Elk members present at the Lodge for the ceremony were front row from left, Frank Marcucio, Peggie Maillet, Treasurer Anita Dugatto presenting the check to Donato, Norma Fitzgerald, Christine Gorlewski and Evelyn Conroy. Back row from left Joseph "Doc" Marmora, Paul Bolton, Bud Baxter, Tony Gorlewski and Spencer John Russo. Photo by: Markanthony Izzo.*



*Wreaths that have been laid on the Civil War soldiers grave sites.*

## Wreaths Across America in Bridgeport BRIDGEPORT #36

BY JOHN P. SIMKO, CEA COASTAL DISTRICT PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN



*Organizer PER Matt Frankel, Sgt Major Veronesi singing the National Anthem, and ER Ed Baranyai.*

On Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon at over 600 cemetery's across America more than 100,000 wreaths were laid at Veterans gravesites in a ceremony named "Wreaths Across America." In Bridgeport, at the Mountain Grove Cemetery the Bridgeport Elks #36 held a ceremony to honor our fallen heroes and laid wreaths on their final resting places. With the assistance of the Catholic War Veteran Post 1466, the Bridgeport Police and Army National Guard Engineering Battalion Honor Guards a brief but solemn ceremony was held prior to having lay more than 400 wreaths across the the cemetery.

Sgt. Major Veronesi led the Elks, Veterans and American citizens in the "Pledge of Allegiance" and the singing of our National Anthem. The flags were lowered as "Taps" was played by a lone bugler.



*Parents and children laying wreaths on the grave sites.*

Bridgeport Lodge PER Matt Frankel organized the event which included gathering donations from Elk Lodges from across the State to pay for these wreaths. He gave a brief but poignant speech about these fallen heroes prior to the laying of the wreaths on their grave site. Matt mentioned that we should take the time to read the name of each fallen hero prior to the laying of the wreath and remember that if it was not for them, by giving the ultimate sacrifice, we would not be here. Also in attendance were CEA PSP's Charles Carroll and Alan Baranyai, CEA Tiler Joseph Trovarelli Jr., DDGER Ed Baranyai Jr., Bridgeport Lodge ER Ed Baranyai, Bridgeport Lodge officers and members. Bridgeport

City Council President Tom McCarthy was also present and spoke. ■

## Honoring Our Veterans and Our Flag HAMDEN #2224

On remaining true to their motto, "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them," Hamden Lodge 2224 recently honored local Veterans. Residents of the West Haven VA Hospital Blind Veteran's Unit, members of the Thames River Chapter of WWII Submarine Veterans which included Hamden Lodge member and Pearl Harbor Survivor Bill Lehr, Lodge and local veterans were guests at the Hamden Elks annual Veteran's Luncheon. All Veterans in attendance were recognized and thanked for their sacrifices and service to our country. Additionally, Hamden Lodge presented a \$1,000 donation to the WHVA Recreation Department in honor and memory of Army PFC Eric Daniel Soufrine, fallen soldier from Woodbridge. Preceding the Luncheon, Lodge officers performed the Flag Retirement Ceremony. Following this solemn ceremony, Veterans in attendance participated in the incineration of these worn flags, often ending with a salute to our great symbol of freedom. ■



*A member of the Thames River Chapter of WWII Submarine Veterans respectfully retires a service worn flag.*

## Honoring POWs and MIAs MIDDLETOWN #771

Over 20 veterans and a host of their closest family and friends gathered at the Middletown Elks Lodge for a special ceremony. The event honored all U.S. veterans who were prisoners of war and missing in action. "Events like this are heartwarming," said Richard Ziors, a 69-year-old Vietnam War veteran. "As a Vietnam vet, I truly cherish these moments, now that they're finally welcoming Vietnam vets." ■



## Veterans Luncheon ROCKVILLE #1359

The Rockville Lodge of Elks held its annual Veterans lunch at the Lodge on November 10<sup>th</sup>. There were numerous Veterans and friends that enjoyed a roast beef dinner and then enjoyed picking out clothes and afghans to take with them.

Chet and Sylvia Morgan led the luncheon and clothing organization along with some dignitaries and members of Rockville Elks that came to volunteer and enjoy the camaraderie of the afternoon.

Some of the dignitaries included State Representative Claire Janowski, State Senator Tony Guglielmo, Frank Hegedus past State President of the Connecticut Elks Association with his wife Loretta, and Rick Berthiaume past Exalted Ruler of the Manchester Elks. ■



*Daniel Morgan, Chet Morgan and Pete Heacox Exalted Ruler Rockville Elks*

## Recognizing Our Finest WATERBURY #265

Waterbury #265 recently held its eighth Police Officer/Firefighter of the Year Recognition Dinner at the Lodge. ■

*Pictured, left to right are Jim Burns of the Waterbury Elks, Waterbury Firefighter of the Year Lt. Anthony Cuomo, Special Recognition Award recipient David Shatas of the Waterbury Fire Department, Vernon Riddick Sr. who accepted the Waterbury Police Officer of the Year posthumously for his son Lt. Vincent L. Riddick, Wolcott Firefighter of the Year Chief Charles Marsella, Watertown Police Officer of the Year Detective Mark Conway and David Knapp, PER of the Waterbury Elks.*





## Halloween That Almost Wasn't MIDDLETOWN #771

Middletown Elks members spent a lot of time decorating Sunday, November 6, for a Halloween that almost wasn't. The Elks' event, as many other Halloween events, was postponed, no thanks to Storm Alfred, which crippled many communities and placed the thought of doubt in many children's minds that this may be the year without a Halloween.



After putting up decorations that were inspired by the *Wizard of Oz* and *It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown* and setting up games, businesses and many volunteers manned tables getting ready for the fun to occur.

"We had about 800 children plus parents show up," said David Greaves, Youth Committee Chairperson and Central District Deputy. "It was a great community event. The kids love that the Elks and local businesses, volunteers, and organizations put this event on every year for the kids of the community," added Greaves. ■

## Golf Tournament Benefits Many HARTFORD #19



On September 29, 2011, Hartford Elks #19, held a charity golf tournament and raised \$2,000 to support and give back to its neighborhood school, the Betances Early Reading Lab on Charter Oak Avenue. Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, Town and City Clerk John Bazzano, Hartford Lodge Exalted Ruler Bob Benigni along with several Lodge officers and trustees, and Betances Early Reading Lab School Principal Dr. Immacula Didier gathered for a check presentation ceremony. Other monies from the golf tournament went to Lodge 19 community services fund and to Portland Oregon Elk Scot King s Remember The Wounded Ride project. ■

*(From Left to Right): Ron Hammar (Trustee and Golf Committee), Robert Benigni (ER), Jennifer Traks (Golf Committee), Drew Piraneo (Trustee and Golf Committee), John Bazzano (Golf Chair), Ray Smith (PER), Honorable Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, Doug Whinnem (Golf Committee), Betances School Principal Dr. Immacula Didier, Rich Curtiss (Golf Committee), Ed Greca (Golf Committee), PJ Sullivan Sr. (Trustee) and Bob Coffey (Trustee)*



## Gift of Life NEW HAVEN #25

On October 20, 2011, Exalted Ruler Bonnie Mullin presented Esteemed Lecturing Knight Eric Parrie a plaque from New Haven Lodge #25 honoring him for the "gift of life." Eric, back in August of this year, donated his kidney in New Orleans to a person who was in kidney failure, preserving his ability to live a long and productive life. ■

## Hosting Community Leaders... HARTFORD #19



On November 8, 2011, several Hartford Elks Lodge 19 members hosted the City of Hartford's Democratic victory party in the Lodge's clubroom. ■

*Picture and caption courtesy of the Hartford Courant: Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra waits to introduce Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman to his supporters as Wyman congratulates newly elected Hartford city treasurer Adam Cloud (center) at Segarra's victory celebration at the Elks Club.*

## “Kids Safety Day” DANBURY #120

On Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> the Danbury Elks Lodge sponsored a “Kids Safety Day” at the Danbury PAL Building on Hayestown Road. The goal for this event was to get information to children and their parents about kids staying safe in all aspects of their lives. The motto for the day was “Knowledge is the power that makes us strong” and each child received a bright yellow t-shirt with the motto printed on it.

Over 150 children from the community visited the eleven information booths set up by local agencies. At these booths they received literature about healthy eating habits, personal safety, Lyme Disease, fishing and fire safety. They were also given various goodies at each booth.

Each child also received an entry for a bicycle raffle and a personal safety alarm. In addition, if the child participated in the Bicycle Rodeo they were fitted with a brand new bike helmet, courtesy of the Safe Kids Connecticut Program. Parents attending the event were able to receive complimentary Smoke and/or Carbon Monoxide detectors and first aid kits for their homes.

The highlight of the day was the arrival of Life Star One helicopter from Hartford Hospital. Landing in the PAL Building’s parking lot it was welcomed by all attendees. After shutting down its engine the helicopter was available for hands on viewing. The four crew members answered any and all questions. Also available for hands on viewing were a State Police Cruiser, Fire Trucks from the Danbury Fire Department and the Marine Patrol watercraft from the Candlewood Lake Authority. The day closed with a demonstration of self defense by the Tiger Schulman Karate School. ■



*Exalted Ruler Ellen Russow greets the crew of Life Star One after its arrival at the Danbury Elks Lodge’s Kids Safety Day. Pictured left to right with the Exalted Ruler are crew members Patrick Dowd, Mike Jasensky, Nick Mancini and pilot Ed Philips.*



## Supporting Our Youth GROTON LODGE #2163

The members of Groton #2163 are called upon annually to donate to the Christmas Charity Program sponsored by the Lodge. This year, they again stepped up and the results are: the Special Education students of Groton and Ledyard were hosted to a Christmas party with all the trimmings, including Santa; Special Olympians had a Christmas Party and "rocked the night away;" and Groton Social Services received a nice donation for their food distribution program. Veterans at Rocky Hill will soon receive Christmas distributions as well. ■



*Esquire John Coley presenting Eagle Scout recognition plaque.*

*Above: Sixty-two Special Education students, with their teachers attended the annual Groton Elks Special Education Christmas Party. They were treated to pizza, gifts, magician and Santa Claus.*

# Upcoming EVENTS



Connecticut Elks Association Family & Lodge **BOWLING OUTING:** **February 9, 2012.** Bradley Bowl, Windsor Locks, CT. 9:15am registration. Bowling starts promptly at 10:00am. \$30 pp, due by February 8. Contact Chic Rhoades at 860 688-9474, [chicjr4@comcast.net](mailto:chicjr4@comcast.net) or [ctelks.org](http://ctelks.org) for more details. Proceeds to benefit Major Projects.

Connecticut Elks Association 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Team Scramble **GOLF TOURNAMENT May 16, 2012.** Traditions Golf Club, Windsor, CT 06095. Reservations by March 8, 2012. Payment due 5/01/12. To benefit State Major Projects. For more information, visit [ctelks.org](http://ctelks.org).

*For updates and additional information, visit [ctelks.org](http://ctelks.org)*

**WANTED:** CT Elks Association is looking for a Scouting Coordinator. If interested, contact Jan A. Wankowicz Sr., PDDVP Coastal District. Membership in the Elks is mandatory.



## STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued from*

for the officers and members of our local Lodges. We will also have important business to conduct at the meeting, including site selections for future Annual Conventions. I will report to you at a future date regarding the activities conducted and decisions made at our Mid Year Convention. We all look forward to seeing our jurisdictional head, the Hon. Peter T.

Affatato, PGER and his lovely wife, Irene, at our Mid Year Convention.

Well, Exalted Rulers, you have three more months to go. On occasion it may have been somewhat difficult, but more often than not I am sure that it has been very rewarding. I encourage you to make the most of the next three months and get done what you and your officers set to accomplish in April. I want to remind all that our Association's financial commitment to the State Major Project, the CCMC Safe Kids Program is among those goals. Meeting the Grand Exalted Ruler's Elks National Foundation goal of \$4.50 per member also is a goal.

My last reminder is about another important subject – MEMBERSHIP. State Membership Chairman Andy Caporossi, PDD and the four district chairmen are here to help you but your Lodge needs to do the leg work. Exalted Rulers and Lodge officers please get your Membership Committee in gear now to reduce the Lapsation numbers and get delinquent members back on the Lodge rolls as members in good standing before March 31st. Contact them personally and remind them that by paying their dues they are, in part, helping your Lodge continue to do the civic, patriotic and charitable activities of Elkdom in your town.

I will end here by telling you that when I became your State President, a Past State President told me to make sure that I had some fun along the way and on occasion I have been asked by members if I am having fun. Often times I too have said the same thing to new Exalted Rulers - "work hard but take the time to have fun along the way." We all are all working hard to make a difference in the lives of the people of Connecticut and just to let you in on something – at the same time I am having fun too!

Steve

It is the intent of the **State Public Relations Committee** to publish this newsletter quarterly. All Grand Lodge and State Officers and committee persons and local Lodges are encouraged to submit any articles and information to the District or State Public Relations Chairpersons. Contact information is as follows:

**Chair:** Sid Buttermore – [buttermore7609@gmail.com](mailto:buttermore7609@gmail.com); **Central:** Josephine O'Neil – [joneilgraphics@yahoo.com](mailto:joneilgraphics@yahoo.com);

**Coastal:** John Simko – [johnpsimko@yahoo.com](mailto:johnpsimko@yahoo.com); **East:** Peter Lebejko – [plebejko@snet.net](mailto:plebejko@snet.net); **Northwest:** Earl Evon – [dukeearl13@att.net](mailto:dukeearl13@att.net).

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT [WWW.CTELKS.ORG](http://WWW.CTELKS.ORG)



*Published quarterly by*

**Connecticut Elks Association**

18 Sachem Road  
Noank, CT 06430-5613  
[www.ctelks.org](http://www.ctelks.org)

