



# CT ELKS ASSOCIATION

DONNA L. WALLACE, PDD, *State President*  
PHILLIP R. STENDER, PDD, *Secretary*  
DAVID R. CARR, PGER, *Advisor*  
JOHN P. SIMKO, PDD, *Public Relations Chair*



<https://ctelks.org/>

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## State President's Message by SP Donna L. Wallace, PDD

Greetings to the Members of the Connecticut Elks Association,

On June 3, 2017, I had the distinct honor as being installed as the President of the Connecticut Elks Association for the 2017-2018 year. I would like to say thank you to my many mentors consisting of Past State Presidents, Past District Deputies, and Past Exalted Rulers from all 4 districts for their guidance, advice, and confidence in my ability to fulfill my duties of the this office and to the membership for electing me.

Kudos go out to the lodges of the East District and to Jennifer Audette of Willimantic Lodge No. 1311 and Brenda Williams of Manchester Lodge No. 1893 for coordinating the hospitality room. I would be remiss if I did not thank Marcel and Lisa Morrisette, PER for making the hummingbird feeder centerpieces. Everyone who volunteered on that weekend did an outstanding job and certainly helped make it a memorable one for me.

I would like to give a special thank you to the installing suite for the evening, the Honorable Robert Hansen, GLTC, and Past State Presidents Leon Zahaba, Frank Hegedus, and Michael Barta. You did a fabulous job in performing the State Association Installation of Officers Ceremony from memory.

I would like to congratulate our outgoing President Jon Arthur for a job well done and to thank Cindy for being a gracious first lady.

In July, I attended the Grand Lodge Session in Reno, Nevada. I had the distinct honor of presenting our Connecticut Flag at the opening ceremonies. This year the Connecticut Elks Association had a booth showcasing our State Major Project, Safe Kids Connecticut. The booth took many months of planning and organizing. Thanks to the following booth volunteers-Peter Nelson, Brenda Williams, Dawn and Phil Stender, Michael and Denise Johnson, Jim Coley, and Luis Rivera, representative from Safe Kids CT. Because of their dedication and knowledge of the Major Project, the booth took the highest honor...5 Stars!

For three consecutive years, the association has had a gain in membership. In Reno, a challenge was put forth to have a substantial gain in membership, 500 hundred members. I am confident that we will be able to attain this number. Please take the time to speak with lapsed members and perspective members. Show enthusiasm when letting them know the good works we do as Connecticut Elks and incorporate "Fun" into your programs. Let's face it, if people don't find something fun and enjoyable, they will tend to seek it out somewhere else. So let's do things to keep our members and officers wanting to stay involved.

The State and District Chairman's meeting was held on July 29th. All of us know that one person cannot do everything on their own and be completely successful. This is especially true in regards to a



volunteer organization such as ours with many moving parts. I am especially thankful for the State and District Chairman who have decided to volunteer their time this year. I know I have the best of the best and the Association will be stronger and more viable because of them and their dedication.

This year the Public Relations and the Government Relations Committees will be striving to promote and publicize the charitable works and programs of the State Association.

I would also like to remind Lodges that there are resources to assist them in promoting charitable activities within their community by utilizing the Community Investment Grants Program. These grants include: Gratitude, Beacon, Promise, Freedom and Impact grants.

*Continued on page two....*

**"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."**

*- Helen Keller*

This year there is a special grant available to all lodges to celebrate the 150th year anniversary of the BPOE. This Anniversary Grant of \$1,500 will offer Lodges the opportunity to do even more charitable work.

With the completion of the District Deputy clinics, it will be time for the official visits of the District Deputies to the lodges in their district. I encourage Exalted Rulers and other lodge officers to attend the visitation of other lodges within their district. This promotes camaraderie and provides opportunity to forge new friendships. It is my intention to attend as many visits as possible!

We are honored to host the new Grand Exalted Ruler, Malcolm J. McPherson and First Lady Patricia on Sunday, September 24th at a dinner held in his honor at the Westbrook Elks Lodge No. 1784. Each lodge should be represented by at least the Exalted Ruler of the Lodge, but all officers and members are encouraged to attend.

One item that I consider very important is fundraising for the Connecticut Elks Charities Inc., the 501c(3). Some of the ideas that are being worked on are endowments, personal and corporate donations, corporate employee matching programs and grants. Currently Thimble Island Brewery has "Jolly Cork" Lager available for sale within the lodges of the state with a portion of the proceeds to be donated to this fund. Another revenue generating idea is if you use Amazon.com to shop, please go to Amazon Smile and select Connecticut Elks Charities as a charity of choice. When you do, a percentage of what you purchase will go to our 501c(3). More information will be sent to the lodges and put on the website as it becomes available.

I would like to encourage each of you mark your calendars and to attend or volunteer in the following events. More information can be found on [www.ctelks.org](http://www.ctelks.org).

- 10/4/17- Hides for Vets Seminar at Middletown Lodge
- 10/14/17-Drug Awareness Seminar with guest speaker Ray Lanzano at Manchester Lodge
- 10/15/17-State Soccer Shoot at Sports World, East Windsor, CT
- 11/18 & 11/19-Special Olympics Holiday Classic Volleyball-New Haven, CT

In conclusion, I believe the motto I selected for this year written by Helen Keller directly relates to our Association...**Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.**

Imagine how much we will be able to accomplish by working together!



## 2017-18 CT ELKS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

<i>State President,</i> Donna L. Wallace, PDD	<i>Vice President Northwest,</i> James Sabio, PGLC, PDD	<i>Trustee East,</i> Joseph Mingoia, PDD	<i>Tiler,</i> Andrea Ruimerman, PER
<i>Vice President Coastal,</i> David J. Acanfora, PDD	<i>Vice President East</i> Michael R. Stewart, PDD	<i>Trustee at Large,</i> John P. Simko, PDD	<i>Sergeant at Arms,</i> Pete Nelson, PDD
<i>Vice President Central,</i> Michael A. Bonini, PDD	<i>State Secretary</i> Phillip R. Stender, Sr, PDD	<i>Trustee Central,</i> Dennis Claffey, PDD	<i>Inner Guard,</i> Kathleen Ackerman, PDD
	<i>Treasurer,</i> James Money, PDD	<i>Trustee Northwest,</i> James Coley, PDD	<i>Organist,</i> Joseph Trovarelli, Jr., PDD
	<i>Trustee Coastal,</i> Matthew C. Frankel, PDD	<i>Chaplain,</i> Darren Lawlor, PER	

# A MESSAGE FROM GRAND EXALTED RULER

GER, MALCOLM J. MCPHERSON, JR.

## Community Awareness is theme for 2017-18



As I begin my journey this year, I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to you, the Elks community, for trusting in me to serve as your next Grand Exalted Ruler. I could not have achieved this honor without

the unwavering support and guidance of many of my fellow Elks, family and friends.

My theme for the 2017-18 fraternal year is "Strengthening Elkdom Through Community Awareness." By definition, community is "a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals."

Elks are community, and it is my hope for the coming year that by working together with the Elks National Foundation and through our more than 775,000 Members and nearly 2,000 Lodges nationwide, we can build both stronger communities and stronger Elks.

With the Elks mission of supporting veterans, aiding special and underprivileged children,

and promoting the growth of our youth through scholarship, Drug Awareness and sports programs, we will ultimately build a bond with each other while making our local communities a better place to live.

For 2017-18, one of my goals is to increase membership. As we begin celebrating our 150th year of Elkdom, I ask that you promote the great work of Elkdom to your communities. To exist for 150 years, the Elks are doing great work. We must continue to inform our communities of our great works to increase membership and continue to strengthen our programs.

I challenge you to identify the specific ways in which you can foster the Elks values of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity in the places you live and work.

Pat and I are looking forward to meeting many of you in your Local Lodges and communities throughout our travels this year. Until then, I leave you with the old Irish Blessing: "May the road rise to meet you; may the wind be always at your back; may the sun shine warm upon your face..."

And may the hand of an Elk always be near.

## BPOE celebrating 150 years

by Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary

The BPOE, which is celebrating 150 years of service over the next year, is asking for your help in uploading on the Elks.Org website, any photographs, newspaper articles, community service projects and any other documents that provide a historical background of your Lodge. We will compile and archive the uploaded documents to show the rich history of our Lodges, membership and accomplishments.

Don't be excluded. Learn more at [www.Elks.Org/History](http://www.Elks.Org/History) on our website

REMINDER: November 5 marks the automatic filing date of our semi-annual Membership Report via CLMS2Web. Lodge Secretaries must make every effort to ensure your Lodge CLMS2 membership records are current by that date.

## 2017-18 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS & COMMITTEEMEN

*Jurisdictional Head,*  
Hon. David R. Carr,  
PGER

*Grand Trustee*  
Hon. Robert W. Hansen,  
PGIG, PGLCC, PSP, PDD

*Special Deputy GER,*  
Richard M. Palanzo,  
PGLCC, PSP, PDD

*Grand Lodge  
Committeeman Auditing  
& Accounting,*  
William J. Chinn, Jr.,  
PSP, PDD

*District Deputy GER  
Central District*  
Vincent Alianiello, Jr.,  
DDGER

*District Deputy GER  
Coastal District*  
Bonnie Mullin, DDGER

*District Deputy GER  
East District,*  
Arthur Brault, DDGER

*District Deputy GER  
Northwest District*  
Donald Woscyna,  
DDGER

It is the intent of the State Public Relations Committee to publish this newsletter quarterly. All Grand Lodge & State Officers, committee persons & local Lodges are encouraged to submit any articles & information to the State or District Public Relations Chair.

Chair: John P. Simko, PDD –  
[johnpsimko@yahoo.com](mailto:johnpsimko@yahoo.com)

Central: Kathleen Ackerman, PDD  
[kackerman56@comcast.net](mailto:kackerman56@comcast.net)

Coastal: Sheila Parizo,  
[sparizo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sparizo@sbcglobal.net)

East: Joshua Gray, [jpg118@gmail.com](mailto:jpg118@gmail.com)

Northwest: Steve Maheu  
[stemahart@gmail.com](mailto:stemahart@gmail.com)

# THE 88<sup>TH</sup> CEA STATE CONVENTION

## By Phil Stender, PDD - CEA State Secretary



On June 2nd - June 4th the Connecticut Elks Association held their 88th Annual Convention at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill, CT. In addition to over 250 Elks and their guests, in attendance were: State Sponsor PGER David R. Carr and his wife Penny, Grand Lodge Trustee Robert Hansen, PSDGER, PGLCC, PGIG and his wife Patricia, Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committeeman William Chinn, PSP, accompanied by Suzanne Novaco, and Special Deputy GER Richard Palanzo PDD, PSP, PGLCC and his wife Karyn. Also in attendance were District Deputies Joseph Mingoia, Kathleen Ackerman, John Simko and James Coley to round out our Grand Lodge Family.

On Friday evening the Convention began with opening ceremonies with the colors being posted by the Boy Scouts from Troops 11, 41, and 121. Memorial Service to our "Absent Members" followed with a general eulogy given by Past State President Jan Wankowicz, Sr., PSP Steve Ferraro gave a eulogy for PSP Gaetano 'Buddy' Patrizzi and Grand Trustee, the Hon. Robert Hansen gave a eulogy for Past Grand Exalted Ruler Peter T. Affatato who was our State Sponsor for 28 years.

After the Memorial Service, awards for the various State

and Grand Lodge Programs were presented, including the presentation of \$100,000.00 check to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, and a \$30,000.00 check to the Connecticut Special Olympics Association.

Awards were given out to District Chairmen individuals who were deemed to be the best by the Vice Presidents, they were: East District- Major Projects- Lysa Molnar from Putnam Lodge #574, Coastal District- Hoop Shoot - Dave Nagy from Derby Lodge #571, Central District- Bowling- Jamie Parr from Wethersfield/Rocky Hill Lodge #2308, and Northwest District- Public Relations- Don Wozcyna from New Britain Lodge #957. The State Chairperson of the Year Award went to Hoop Shoot Chairman Michael Stewart from Putnam Lodge #574. The awards ceremony culminated in the presentation of the State Elk of the Year Award to winner Joann Donnel from Groton Lodge #2163.

On Saturday morning, the Convention was reconvened by President Jonathan Arthur with the main business meeting. Reports were given by the Officers of the Association followed by the various committee chairmen.

Bipasha Phadnis received the Robert T. Curran Girl Scout Gold Scholarship Award and she addressed those assembled.

The keynote address at the Convention was given by Grand Trustee, the Hon. Robert Hansen.

On Saturday evening a gala dinner was held for the Installation of Officers by the past State Presidents. The following individuals were installed as officers for 2017-

2018:

President Donna Wallace, PDD from Willimantic Lodge No. 1311

VP Coastal David Acanfora, PDD from Bridgeport Lodge No. 36

VP Central Michael Bonini, PDD from Wallingford Lodge No. 1365

VP Northwest James Sabio, PDD from Naugatuck Lodge No. 967

VP East Michael Stewart, PDD from Putnam Lodge No. 574

Secretary Phillip Stender, PDD from Manchester Lodge No. 1893

Treasurer James Money, PDD from Bridgeport Lodge No. 36

Trustee Northwest James Coley, DDGER from Bristol Lodge No. 1010

Chaplain Darren Lawlor, PER from Branford Lodge 1939

Tiler Andrea Ruimerman, PER from Meriden Lodge No. 35

Sergeant at Arms Peter Nelson, PDD from Manchester Lodge 1893

Inner Guard Kathleen Ackerman, DDGER from Middletown Lodge No. 771

Organist Joseph Trovarelli, PDD from Bridgeport Lodge No. 36

After the Installation, the Hon. Robert Hansen addressed the outgoing and incoming Officers.

The next meeting of the Association will be the mid-year conference in January 2018.

The next Annual Convention will be held in Sturbridge, MA June 1st - June 3rd, 2018.

CTELKS Association is on



Facebook

Follow us on Facebook. With over 20,000 Elks in Connecticut, let's increase our numbers! FIND US AT [CTELKS.ORG](http://CTELKS.ORG)

Now Open!  
Connecticut Elks Online Store



Visit us through  
[CTELKS.ORG](http://CTELKS.ORG)  
Or scan this QR Code



All proceeds benefit CCMC  
Our State Major Project

# KEEP MEMBERSHIP GAIN YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY!

## By Andy Caporossi, PDD - State Membership Chairman

As a result of the great efforts of members and Lodges, we are proud to report our state has achieved member growth for the third consecutive year!

Connecticut Elks have ended the 2016-17 Lodge year with a net 210 member gain! For the record, 1,467 new members were Initiated and 167 re-instated to give us a yearend total of 20,809 members.

Now the work begins again! In putting membership at the forefront of our endeavors, we can make our goal of continued growth a reality. Recruitment, Re-instatement and

Retention is a proven formula for success.

Continue efforts in recruiting individuals of good character in your community to join us in conducting our patriotic and charitable programs. Check out "50 Recruitment Ideas" by accessing the membership toolkit on [elks.org](http://elks.org).

Approach members who have lapsed- invite them back and re-aquatint them with the programs and social activities your Lodge has to offer.

Make sure existing members are kept aware of what's going on in your Lodge and the presence you have in

your community through your newsletter, web site and social media. Pride in membership keeps members on the rolls!

Let's keep the momentum going and work to give President Donna a 4th straight year of growing Elkdom in Connecticut!

Thanks in advance for your efforts!



*Left to Right: Dottie Wittenzeller; Helen Tötz, Lodge Inner Guard; Liz Thomas, Esteemed Leading Knight; Maureen Kearney, Teacher; Joan Adams, Treasurer and Claire Decker, PER & ENF Chairperson*

The Rockville Lodge of Elks had a backpack stuffing event at one of the teachers homes. The backpack and stuffing items were purchased through the Elks National Foundation Promise grant. The lodge purchased 120 backpacks and had supplies to put 10 items in each backpack. The backpacks will be distributed at Skinner Road School in Vernon CT at the meet and greet later in August.

## GET READY, 2017-2018 CIP GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE HERE!

2017-18 CIP Grant Applications were available starting on July 1, 2017. As your Lodge prepares for the new grant year, here are a few tips for planning a successful project.

Pinpoint a community problem and identify a solution the Lodge can provide. Next, create a budget and strategy for the Lodge's project. Then identify Lodge members who can help put this project in action. After project completion, find ways to publicize the charitable impact of your Lodge's project on Social Media publicize in local media, like the community newspaper. Need some project ideas? Check out the ElksInAction Instagram page for inspiration [instagram.com/elksinaction](http://instagram.com/elksinaction). For help planning a successful project reference the CIP toolkit here: [elks.org/cip/resources/toolkit.cfm](http://elks.org/cip/resources/toolkit.cfm).

This year, the ENF is offering a one-time grant opportunity through the Anniversary Grant. The Elks National Foundation wants to help every Lodge celebrate by doing even more do more for their communities.

Learn More Here: Visit [elks.org/cip](http://elks.org/cip) to find more information about CIP and the Anniversary Grant.

**The Elks National Foundation allocated \$12.53 million this year to fund the Community Investments Program. Lodges meet local needs through Beacon, Gratitude, Promise and Impact Grants. These grants offer Lodges opportunities to serve the community in ways that will**



**raise the Lodge's profile, energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that's doing great things. To**

**learn more about the Community Investments Program, please visit [elks.org/CIP](http://elks.org/CIP).**

# ALL-CONNECTICUT LODGE CONTEST

## In Honor of Peter T. Affatato, PGER

In 1954 Affatato was a founder of The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Lodge #1931, in Levittown, New York. He served as Exalted Ruler in 1957, as District Deputy for Long Island in 1960 and as President of the New York State Elks Association in 1965. His years of service were recognized when he was unanimously elected National President of the B.P.O.E. in Denver, Colorado in 1986. He served for fourteen years on the Board of Education at Island Trees, New York and as President of the Board during his tenure. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Briarcliffe College in Bethpage, New York, the only Chairman in the College's history. This year, the ENF is offering a one-time grant opportunity through the Anniversary Grant. The Elks National Foundation wants to help every Lodge celebrate by doing even more do more for their communities.

The Connecticut State Elks Association has created a new Contest in the honor of Peter T. Affatato PGER who was our State Sponsor for 28 years. The All-Connecticut Lodge Contest will be awarded yearly in Peter's Honor.

Exalted Ruler's it is easy to enter using the Contest form below. Circle the points earned as listed in the point value column.

Where no points are shown in the point value column on the form, please list the points that the lodge earned in that area.

**Be sure to list all the different activities for which these points are being requested on a separate sheet by category.**

If not properly documented, points will not be allowed. Please be careful that activities having a point value stated on the form are not included again for additional



points on the backup material.

Sign and mail form to your District Vice President by **April 15, 2018**

This will be a most prestigious State Association Award. You must, however, enter in order to have a chance to win.

Please find the ALL-CONNECTICUT LODGE CONTEST FORM on the CTELKS.ORG Website.

## HIDES FOR VETS

### By Frank "Cheech" DeFazio, PDD - CEA Veterans Leather Program



On April 18, 2017 the trucking company, appointed by the Grand Lodge, picked up the deer hides we collected for the CEA Veterans

Leather Program. They were shipped to the Coey Tanning Co. in Wartrace, Tennessee. The hides will then be turned into leather for our Veterans to use for their projects.

Last year was the first year that we started this program for our Veterans. We collected 25 hides from Stamford Lodge. This year we doubled the count with 59 hides as other lodges in the state started participating, collecting

and salting them. Special thanks to Middletown Lodge for being the central hub for collecting the hides to be picked up and shipped to the tannery.

Hunters and outdoor members remember this fall that we are collecting HIDES FOR VETS for our Veterans. We would like to double the number of hides again. This is our goal for our Veterans.

**SEMINAR:** The Elks National Veterans Leather Program was formally established 1946, making it our most longest standing program.

A seminar on this program

and how to prepare the hides for the tannery will be held at the Middletown Lodge #771 on October 7, 2017. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon for a small fee of \$6.00 per person. Seminar and videos will start at 1:00 p.m. A question & answer period will be held at the end of the program.

We are looking to double our hide count to over 100 hides. We have to make the hide count grow to make the Grand Lodge shipping worth while for picking them up. We can do it with your help.

If you have any questions, please call "Cheech" at 203-968-6301.

# CONNECTICUT TAKES SECOND PLACE IN AREA 1 PER CONTEST

## By Pete Nelson, PDD State Chairman CEA Ritualistic Committee

On Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> a hand-picked team of PERs, plus one made the two hour trip to Salem, New Hampshire to compete in the Area 1 PER contest against Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts at the Derry-Salem Lodge #2226. As always it was good to see old friends and make new ones.

The Connecticut team included:

Exalted Ruler: Leon Zahaba, PSP, PDD, PGLC

Leading Knight: Deb Barta, PER

Loyal Knight: Frank Hegedus, PSP, PDD

Lecturing Knight: Pete Nelson, PDD

Esquire: Mike Barta, PSP, PDD

Chaplin: Jim Coley, DDGER

Inner Guard: Ed Gumula, PER

Candidate: William Coley

It was an extremely close contest at the end with Massachusetts beating out Connecticut by less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a percent. It was good to see a renewed interest in ritual amongst the Area 1 PERs. It was the first contest of PERs that we've had in a couple of years, with these four states committing to the Roulette contest in the fall in Maine.

But wait, there's more....

Even though Connecticut came in second as a team we did take four first place trophies.

Our candidate in his first Area 1 contest won top honors, along with our Inner Guard, Esquire, and Lecturing Knight. Congratulations to all of the team and my sincere thanks for taking time out of your busy schedules to show Area 1 that Connecticut is keeping ritual alive. Hone up on your parts! September is already here! Again, great job and thanks.



## Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks

**Danbury Lodge No. 120, Inc.**  
A 501(c)8 Fraternal Organization  
36 Sugar Hollow Road,  
Danbury, CT 06810  
Lodge Phone: (203)791-0919  
Website: [DanburyElks.org](http://DanburyElks.org)

## B P O E

By: Ed Kielkucki

I am an Elk and very proud to be, We stand for America from sea to shining sea.  
We work with our vets and all the children too, To make our towns better, It's what we're meant to do.

We honor our flag, as a *symbol* of trust, And defend it's right, Oh yes we must.  
We believe in God and follow his lead, We stand together, for those in need.  
We know what's right and what is fair, And live by our motto,

**ELKS Care, ELKS Share!**

## RETIRE YOUR FLAG WITH HONOR

### Wallingford Elks Lodge #1365

The Wallingford, Connecticut Elks Lodge #1365 partnered with a local funeral home, B.C. Bailey Funeral Home to host a collection barrel for tattered and worn flags that are no longer suitable for display.

These flags are used to drape over the caskets or cremation container of veterans.

The "Retire Your Flag with Honor" program honors the veteran's service while providing a patriotic duty to the flag prior to proper and fitting retirement conforming with the United States Flag Code.



*Left to Right: Matt Bailey, President B.C. Bailey Funeral Home, Provider of Veterans Funeral Care and Julie Goode, ER Wallingford Elks Lodge #1365*

# DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE: MEETING THE CHALLENGE

BY MANUAL C. RODRIGUEZ, COMMITTEE MEMBER

Should a natural disaster hit your area, is your Lodge ready to assist those in need?

Does your Lodge have an active Disaster Relief Committee in place? In the nation's Midwest, South, Southeast and East Coast, these unforeseen acts of nature can hit when least expected, and we need to be ready to assist the victims.

Do you know of the Grand Lodge Disaster Relief Program?

While charitable organizations such as the Red Cross, United Way and Salvation Army provide immediate assistance to disaster victims, the Elks have to be ready to deal with the after effects. By joining forces with these first responders the Elks will be better able to perform whatever needs to be done to aid victims. This is where the Elks can show that "Elks care" about what happens in their community.

Along with winter's beauty comes weather-

related catastrophies, and the Lodge's Disaster Relief Committee should be able to cope with these uncontrollable incidents. When massive snow storms occur, this is when your Lodge Disaster Relief Committee should respond.

Now is an oportune time to get in touch with the first responders in your community to see how the Elks can be of service. To obtain items such as clothing, first aid kits and water, a telephone committee could work together to start a collection.

Let's step up and show that the Elks care about what happens in our communities. By getting involved we can bridge the gap between our Lodges and our communities.

## LOCAL LODGE & CEA HIGHLIGHTS

### Branford Elks Lodge #1939

On Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> the Branford Elks Lodge proudly presented a check for \$1,500 to Kiersten Bjork of Branford. Kiersten, a recent graduate of Branford High School, is the recipient of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Peter Krause Memorial Scholarship. Kiersten, besides being a member of the National Honor Society, was recognized for her dedication to volunteering in the community. Peter Krause was a graduate of Branford High School, class of 1984. He was a retired New Haven Police Officer and a Branford Elks Lodge Officer. Pete passed away after a 9 year battle from brain cancer in 2016.



*Left to Right:  
Ken & Christine  
Bjork (parents),  
Shania Krause (Pete's  
daughter) Kiersten  
Bjork, Sherrye  
Krause (Pete's widow)  
& Darren "Howie"  
Lawler, PER*

### Connecticut Elks Association Charities, Inc.



Did you know by having H&R Block or Block Advisor prepare your taxes will contribute to our Connecticut Elks Association Charities?

This is a great way for you and your friends to contribute to Majors Projects and CT Elks Charities.

To access the referral form to bring to your participating H&R Block or Block Advisors office, click [here](#).

Feel good knowing you helped our organization raise money and you receiving exceptional tax preparation services.

# 2017 GLC IN RENO....WHAT A TRIP!

By JOSHUA GRAY, EAST DISTRICT CHAIRMAN - CEA PUBLIC RELATIONS



This past year I was asked to take on the job of Public Relations Chair of the East District, thinking it would be a good opportunity to ease my way into a state job. Soon afterwards I received a phone call from John Paul Simko PDD, chairperson of that CEA PR state committee who was thrilled to note that I would be attending the Grand Lodge as Leading Knight for the New London Lodge. We met at Westbrook Lodge #1784 prior to the trip where he entrusted me with his Canon Rebel camera. "Josh, this camera will get you anywhere. Your job is to get the best pictures you can for the State. Just act like you're supposed to be there and get me the best shots you can" was his advice. What follows are some of my adventures acting as unofficial deputy CT photographer and newest representative of the New London Lodge at the Grand Lodge Convention in Reno.

Having arrived a day early, the Exalted Ruler from my lodge (Aaron Baldwin) and I made our way from downtown Reno to the Convention Center via taxi. The CC is already busy with people from all over the United States wearing various lodge attire and convention badges. We made our way to the Exhibit Hall and were greeted by an Elk who helped us get our badges and complete registration for the meeting. We then wandered through the exhibits which are made up of various vendors selling all kinds of pins, clothing, and other Elks memorabilia. Like all good Elks who know they can never have too many polo shirts to commemorate an event, we began booth surfing to find the best one. While doing this, we were greeted by people from another kind of booth - the State association type - which is set up to inform Elks from outside their states about the events, activities,

and major project of that state. We eagerly listened to their pitches, buying raffle tickets or pins to support their causes, and answered questions about our own lodge. In return, we got a state sticker placed prominently on our membership badge which was soon so full that our names could barely be seen. We also visited several national project booths including the Hoop Shoot booth where Aaron easily sank a free throw, winning himself a package of Hoop Shoot promotional materials and the Elks National Foundation booth where we gained a few more ribbons for our past contributions as ENF contributors and as a lodge. We also did manage to find our polo shirt - a black polo shirt emblazoned with "Elks National Convention - Reno 2017" sold by the New Jersey Elks, which we later wore and were complemented on throughout the week - mission accomplished!

From there, we made our way to the Grand Lodge Hotel, the Grand Sierra Casino Resort. After dropping off our bags, we stopped by the State Hospitality Suite where we met our fellow CT Elks. We learned about our next challenge - finding the other hospitality suites spread throughout the hotel. It wasn't difficult - chatting with other Elks in the hallways and elevators we made our way to West Virginia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and many more, meeting new Elks and friends along the way and learning about how they run their lodges and states. In the MA room, we met the outgoing GER Michael Zellen who posed with Aaron and happily provided us with some GER pins to take back to other members of our lodge. There was no shortage of social activities to partake in during the week and we never lacked for someone new to talk to.

After going to bed at a responsible hour (most nights, anyway), we returned to the convention center and participated in the program of the Grand Lodge. On Monday, we watched State President Donna Wallace march with the CT state flag during the opening ceremonies and heard

GER Michael Zellen discuss the accomplishments of Elkdom of the past year. On Tuesday, Aaron participated as a voting member of the Grand Lodge, deciding on various resolutions that will affect all of the lodges in the state. On Wednesday, we watched the celebration as Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr from Lyndhurst, NJ Lodge No. 1505 was elected and sworn in as Grand Exalted Ruler for the upcoming year. There were also many different

*Continued on Page 11...*



# REGISTRATION OPEN FOR STATEWIDE INJURY PREVENTION CONFERENCE

## Safe Kids!!

On October 3, 2017, a statewide injury prevention conference will be held at the Radisson in Cromwell, CT. The Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center and the Injury Prevention, Community Outreach & Research department at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital are working collaboratively on this conference to bring together stakeholders from across the state to examine the issues impacting our children and families.

The conference will have simultaneous sessions with two conference tracks, 1) Road Safety and 2) Suicide/Violence/Substance Abuse. Participants will be able to elect to attend sessions in either track.

Registration is open, click [here!](#)



## Use 150<sup>th</sup> to help focus attention on your Lodge

By Rick Gathen, GL Membership, Public Relations Manager

“We are proud to announce the 150th Anniversary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The 150th Anniversary celebration will bring increased visibility to our accomplishments and goals. This should result in additional Members, enhance our community image, and increase our charitable donations. Schedule a 150th Celebration party for February 2018. Go to [Elks.org](#) -> Membership Toolkit -> 150th Anniversary for more details.”

# STAMFORD POLICE RETIRE VETERAN K-9

STAMFORD – Titan hung up his bulletproof harness this week.

The Stamford Police Department retired the 10-year-old German Shepherd after six and a half years on the job.

Titan, who has a custom-fit bulletproof harness, was an expert tracker for the department with his handler, Officer Mark Tymon.

“Titan was an incredible tracking dog for a German Shepherd,” K-9 Unit Sgt. Seth O'Brien said. “People often think the Bloodhound is the best tracking dog, but Titan could track as well as any dog I have had an opportunity to be around.”

O'Brien said police dogs often retire between 8 and 10 years old. O'Brien retired his own dog, Cooper, in November after he turned 10.



“At this point, we have come up with the demarcation line at 10. It would not be fair to subject him to a call that he might not be able to recover from, like jumping a tall fence or getting into a fight with a bad guy,” O'Brien said. “If a dog is

going to be that fortunate to make it to 10, that will be it.”

The department now has eight working K-9s, including a Bloodhound, Labradors and German Shepherds. The department recently added a young German Malinois named Axe, who is being handled by Officer Willie Guilford, to replace Titan.

O'Brien said Titan has helped police track a bank robber in Greenwich, find a car thief in Darien and recently located a suicidal woman who wandered away.

Tymon, who has 20 years with the department, has taken Titan home with him to finish his life as a pet.

“I think he is ready,” O'Brien said.

- Jnickerson@stamfordadvocate.com

# DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM UPDATES

By LISA BERTHIAUME, PER CEA STATE DRUG AWARENESS CHAIR



Ray Lozano, a drug and substance prevention specialist and youth speaker and CEO of Prevention Plus, will once again visit our state on October 11-14.

Ray will be here for a 3-day tour, to visit CT schools to entertain and educate students with information about the dangers of underage drinking and marijuana. Ray has educated and entertained thousands of students in hundreds of schools all over the country as well as internationally. This will be Ray's fourth visit to CT and so far has reached over 8,200 Connecticut students with his talks. Ray's presentations, "Pee, Puke and Pass Out" and "High Expectations", have been well received by students and school faculty.

Ray's fourth day, October 14, will be a very special one indeed. On this date at the Manchester Lodge, the annual Lodge Drug Awareness Program training will take place beginning at 10:00. This is an important session for Lodge DAP chairmen to attend, along with ER's and Est. Leading Knights. Program material for the poster, essay and video contests will be distributed as well as important information about all the components of the Program will be discussed. While this is mandatory training for Lodge chairmen, anyone is invited to attend. Please RSVP to Lisa Berthiaume @ lisabert@cox.net or (860)558-3250 if you are attending. Breakfast sandwiches and pastries will be available beginning at 9:00.

Red Ribbon Week and Enrique Camarena Award nominations: Please begin thinking now about a law enforcement officer who would be eligible for the Enrique Camarena Award. This is a prestigious award granted to an Officer who has gone above and beyond in the help to fight illicit drug abuse among our youth. The award is named after US DEA Agent Enrique Camarena who was brutally tortured and murdered by the Mexican cartel over 30 years ago while undercover fighting against illicit drugs. Nominations are due December 1 to State Chairman Lisa Berthiaume – criteria and the nomination form is on [CTELKS.org](http://CTELKS.org) on the DAP page. Red Ribbon Week – the nation's oldest and largest is celebrated annually the last week of October. By wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events, young people pledge to live a drug-free lifestyle and pay tribute to Agent Camarena who believed that one person could make a difference. The Elks are proud to be part of this tradition. For more information please visit the DAP section on [ELKS.org](http://ELKS.org) and/or [CTELKS.org](http://CTELKS.org).

## 2017 GLC in Reno

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seminars and presentations on Elks programs at the convention. For example, during the Drug Awareness session we heard from a representative of the Drug Enforcement Agency and learned that they would be working with the Elks to support our anti-drug campaign. We also heard Ray Lozano, a fantastic speaker who travels throughout the nation delivering anti-drug and alcohol programs to our youth - Ray has visited our state many years in a row. There were many presentations designed to help you help your lodge succeed in the upcoming year, and we learned as much from talking to other Elks as we did from the presentations themselves.

The trip culminated with our State dinner, held at the beautiful Reno Elks Lodge directly across the street from the convention center. At this event we met our State Sponsor PGER David R. Carr from Ticonderoga, New York Lodge No. 1494 for the first time and we celebrated as our new District Deputies received their jewels. Afterwards, Aaron and I served the last shift of the Connecticut hospitality room and closed for the evening. Our two regrets for the trip were not going with the CT Elks to Lake Tahoe and not planning a mini-vacation to follow the meeting. After a flight delay and a spontaneous road trip to Virginia City where we accidentally bumped into Rich and Olivia Dancose from Willimantic Lodge, we flew home to Connecticut the next day and got back to work.

With over 200 photos of the convention I returned the camera to John last week, mission accomplished. A subset of photos from the week are available on the CT Elks Facebook page, including photos from all of the events I mentioned above. We've now begun plotting, er... planning, our return to the Grand Lodge in San Antonio next year. I won't be able to take pictures because I'll be attending as Exalted Ruler, but if you're interested, let me know because we need an unofficial deputy state photographer. Having a nice camera gets you access everywhere - just act like you're supposed to be there and get the best shots you can. Give me a ring and I'll meet you at Westbrook to tell you what to do...

# DID YOU SAY CHOCOLATE?

By JOSHUA GRAY, CEA EAST DISTRICT PR CHAIR

Chocolate is something Brenda Williams (Manchester, Lodge No. 1893) is known for. Over the past ten years Brenda has made and sold chocolate to raise funds for projects at her local lodge, for the Newtown shooting victims the day after the event, and for the Joplin Missouri Lodge which was destroyed by a tornado. Her chocolate sales have also supported the CT State Major Project, the Safe Kids program supported by the Connecticut Children's Medical Center; this past June she presented the Exalted Ruler of Manchester with \$500 to support Safe Kids. Together with Pete Nelson, PDD (Manchester, Lodge No. 1893) Brenda has been involved with the Safe Kids program since 2000, nearly 25 years ago. When current CT Elks State President Donna Wallace was first elected as Vice President four years ago, Brenda made her a promise, saying, "When you're State President, we're going to create a state booth for you at the National Convention." Together with Phil Stender Sr., PDD and Dawn Stender (Manchester Lodge), they delivered on the promise: the booth won top national recognition, earning five stars in the State Booth Competition, a remarkable success for its first year.

The Manchester Elks have a long-standing association with Safe Kids, holding an annual bike

monoxide safety equipment. As the Major Project for the CT Elks Association, local lodges throughout the state raise funds for the Safe Kids program, having donated over \$1.2 million since 1999. In turn, the Safe Kids program provides lodges in Connecticut with the equipment to give away. Having 31 lodges throughout the state and an army of volunteers at each Elks lodge allows Safe Kids to reach many people in many communities throughout the state. You can read all about Safe Kids at their website, [ctsafekids.org](http://ctsafekids.org).

At the state convention in Rocky Hill, the CT Elks Association presented Luis Rivera, CT Safe Kids Coordinator, with a check for \$100,000, something the CT Elks have done for a number of years. At a later meeting, the Booth Committee proposed that Luis attend the national meeting man the booth at the convention. Luis took the idea to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center which provided giveaways and demonstrations for the booth, which brimmed with pins, wrist bands, heat-activated pencils, reflector pads, and most importantly stickers for the attendees' official credentials. Luis also brought smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, bicycle helmets, car booster seats, and some of the other things that Safe Kids

provides. A blinco game could be played for a dollar, winning a small giveaway, and a raffle was held to give away the TV displaying a Safe Kids video which played all week. Many volunteers, including James Coley, PDD (Bristol Lodge), Mike and Denise Johnson (Southington Lodge), Donna Wallace (Willimantic Lodge), and Brenda and Pete cheerfully manned the

booth, meeting and greeting state and national dignitaries, including PGER Dave Carr and his wife Penny,

Bob Hansen GLTC, and the ENF scholarship winners. Luis himself had so much fun in the company of Elks that he decided to join our organization!

State President Donna Wallace was thrilled when she learned that the CT Major Projects booth earned the prestigious Five Stars from the Grand Lodge. "It was really exciting to see the progression of this idea materialize to reality. The committee and I spent many hours having meetings and discussions of how to best represent our State Major Project. It was quite an accomplishment to witness our volunteers enjoying sharing information regarding Safe Kids Connecticut with other Elks from all over the USA. Words cannot express the pride I felt when we were presented with a Five Star Award." Donna added, "I hope this inspires other committees to not be afraid to try something new."

"My experience at the national convention in Reno brings me to believe that all States should have a booth showcasing their Major Projects. It's a great way to make your state shine. I felt proud in being an Elk and in seeing all the good work that we do throughout the country," said Brenda, reflecting on the team's accomplishments with the CT Major Projects Booth. So what's in store for next year for the CT Elks in San Antonio? When asked whether the CT Elks would have a booth again next year, Pete quickly responded with a hearty "Yes!" "So how are you going to improve on the booth for next year," I asked. And with a smile and a wink, Pete simply said, "You're going to have to wait and see."



rodeo each June where they check bicycles for safety and hand out bicycle helmets, fire and carbon

# YOUTH AWARDS BANQUET

By SHIELA PARIZO



A total of 55 students were honored at a Youth Awards Banquet at Derby Lodge #571 on May 17, 2017. Students were recognized for their accomplishments in the Hoop Shoot, Americanism Essay Contest and the Drug Awareness Poster and Essay Contests. Parents, grandparents, siblings, teachers and the school principal were in attendance and enjoyed a cookout meal. Elroy the Elk was on hand to share his goodie bags with the



children and to congratulate each and every one of them. In addition to celebrating several students progressing and placing on the State level, a special recognition was given to Max Shuart, a 7th grader at St. Mary-St. Michael School in Derby, for placing first at Lodge, first at District, first at State and ultimately "Best in State", moving his Essay "Just Say No!" to the National finals. Principal, Linda Coppola was also honored for her upcoming retirement and received roses from Elroy the Elk.

## *Tips to recruiting new Members, improving Lodge PR*

*By Rick Gathen, GL Membership, Public Relations Manager*

Members initiating or reinstating three Members into the Order will receive the prestigious GER pin award. Members initiating or reinstating 11 or more Members will receive an Elks watch. (Sizes available for both men and women.) To encourage your recruiters, award them with a Thank You! poster that includes their photo. You also could:

- Hand out Thank You! tickets each time a recruiter brings in a new Member. Each ticket offers the chance for a monthly drawing for something as simple as a \$25 gift card.
- List your recruiters in your Lodge newsletter/ website and social media page, and thank them.
- Create a recruiter of the month parking space (or two) at your Lodge.
- Create a special recognition program for great recruiters – because without new Members we can't survive!

Here are tips on improving your Lodge public relations effort:

- All community events should include a strong public relations and membership presence.
- Set up a table with handouts.
- Think of an airplane. Public relations and membership are wings that allow the plane to take flight.
- Earn a good reputation as a premier charitable organization in your community.
- Provide a family- and member - friendly environment.