

CONNECTICUT

Elks

ASSOCIATION CHARITIES, INC.

CT ELKS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Darren "Howie" Lawler, PDD
Bruce Hidley, PGER
Lisa A. Morissette, PER
Richard Palanzo, PSP PDD
Richard Poole, PER
Donna Borzillo

State President
State Sponsor
Secretary
Special Deputy GER
Public Relations Chair
Publisher



STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings my fellow Elks and Happy Halloween!

Where did the Summer go? We had a fantastic turnout at the Hartford Yard Goats game on August 22nd. Kudos to State Major Projects Chairman Justin Fedler, PDD for putting together another great evening at Dunkin Park in Hartford. Year after year Justin has "hit it out of the park" with this fun filled event!

August also brought us two very well attended and informative District Deputy Clinics at the **New Britain #957 and Manchester #1893 lodges**. Thank you to both lodges for hosting these clinics and for your hospitality. We finished August off with the "Over the Edge" fundraising event at the Mohegan Sun for Connecticut Special Olympics. It was rather impressive to see so many of our fellow Elks wanting to raise money for one of our Major Projects to jump off a perfectly fine building! First Lady Amy and I were honored to be invited to the 9/11 Remembrance at the Groton City Hall put together by the **Groton Lodge # 2163**. Tip of the Antlers to East District VP Joann Donnel, PDD for putting together this remarkable and moving ceremony. The GER Luncheon with Grand Exalted Tim and First Lady Sandy Jaeger at **Middletown Lodge # 771** went very smoothly thanks to the

Lodge Officers and Members for their extraordinary efforts. Your hospitality was awesome and noted.

The GER dinner at **Westbrook Lodge #1784** was another very well attended event by our members. We had 193 of us there to show our Grand Exalted Ruler and State Sponsor Bruce Hidley how enthusiastic we are, even with a Nor'easter rolling through the State that we are ready to go! On a personal note, I want to thank everyone for the impressive turnout for our Grand Exalted Ruler Tim and First Lady Sandy. The day after the GER Dinner was filled with showing off with pride our great state to the GER and First Lady with a private tour of the Groton Subbase. Special thanks to Groton PER Peter Berns for enabling our entourage to get onto the USS Texas. That was quite an experience and certainly something that left an indelible impression. From the subbase we stopped at Groton Lodge for lunch. Thank you to the lodge officers and members that went out of their way to make and serve us lunch and for a tour of the lodge. The New England Clam Chowder hit the spot on a cold and rainy day. After lunch We weren't finished showing off our great state. Groton PER Dave Rose, a member of the Friends of Fort Griswold provided us with a private tour of the fort, the scene of a Revolutionary War battle in 1781. The views from the fort overlooking the Thames River into New London was a perfect way for our GER and First Lady to be able to see our next stop, the new National Coast Guard Museum. Our State Organist, Josh Gray, PDD was able to provide us with a tour of the Museum's construction site. We anticipate the museum's Grand opening in 2027. I am extremely grateful to PER Chic Rhodes of Manchester lodge for volunteering to be our chauffeur for the GER visit. Your willingness to help is not taken for granted.

Cont. pg 2

Elks Care - Elks Share

2026-2027 CT ELKS ASSOCIATION STATE OFFICERS

State President - *Darren "Howie" Lawler PDD (Amy)*
 VP East District - *Joann Donnel PDD (Turner)*
 VP Coastal District - *Ray Dunbar PDD (Cindy)*
 VP Central District - *Richard Martyn PDD (Eileen)*
 VP NW District - *Wanda Reiff PDD (Tom)*
 State Secretary - *Lisa Morisette PER (Marcel)*
 Treasurer - *Fred "Jake" Jacobs (Holly June)*
 Trustee at Large - *David C. Robinson, Sr. PDD (Fran)*
 Trustee Central District - *Don Percoski PDD (Lori)*
 Trustee NW District - *Andrea Ruimerman PDD (Mike)*
 Trustee Coastal District - *Joseph Trovarelli Jr. PDD (Julia)*
 Trustee East District - *Shawn Tessier PDD (Mara)*
 Chaplain - *Rev. Fr. Christopher Ford, PGC*
 Tiler - *Elizabeth McKee PER (Kevin)*
 Sergeant at Arms - *Justin Fedler PDD*
 Inner Guard - *Jamie Sienna PDD (Nick)*
 Organist - *Joshua Gray PDD (Miria)*

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS & COMMITTEEMEN

Grand Exalted Ruler
Timothy F. Jaeger (Sandy)
 Past Grand Exalted Ruler and State Sponsor
Bruce A. Hidley (Helen)
 Grand Secretary
Carl T. Seibert (Theresa)
 Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler
Richard M. Palanzo (Karyn)
 Grand Chaplain
Fr. Michael Martine
 Grand Lodge Activities Area 1
Terence P. Ford (Terry)
 Hoop Shoot Director New England Region 6
Michael R. Stewart, PSP R (Sharon)
 Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting
Donna L. Wallace (Michael)
 District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Central District
Ralph Tosto, Jr. (Jane)
 District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Coastal District
Joseph J. Mager
 District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler East District
Diane Robinson (Rhonda)
 District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler NW District
Paul J. Tesz (Kasia)

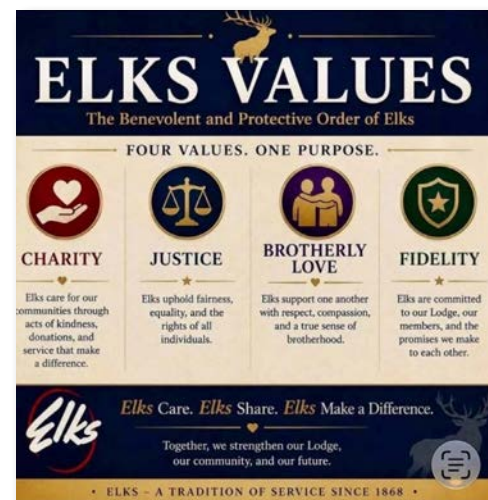
Cont. from pg 1 -State President's Message

Thank you to **Wethersfield/Rocky Hill Lodge # 2308** for hosting the Drug Awareness Workshop on October 8 th. I must acknowledge the hard work and time put together for this very important educational meeting by State Chairwoman Mary Smith, PER and State Inner Guard Jamie Sienna, PDD. I look forward to the State Soccer Shoot at Sports World in Windsor on October 18 th . We will be sure to post pictures on the state Facebook pages. Please remember to update your calendars, the Special Olympics Volleyball Holiday Classic has been moved to Vale Co-Op Berlin (510 Four Rod Rd), November 21 st . As always, remember to check the Special Olympics web page on our website ct.elks.org for more details. Lastly, Exalted Rulers and lodge Secretaries, please remember to send out invitations to anyone you would like to attend any of your functions, President, Vice Presidents, State Officers and Grand Lodge Dignitaries. I will try to attend all that I can! I look forward to seeing everyone this year.

God Bless America!

Darren "Howie" Lawler, PDD

CT State President - CT Elks Association

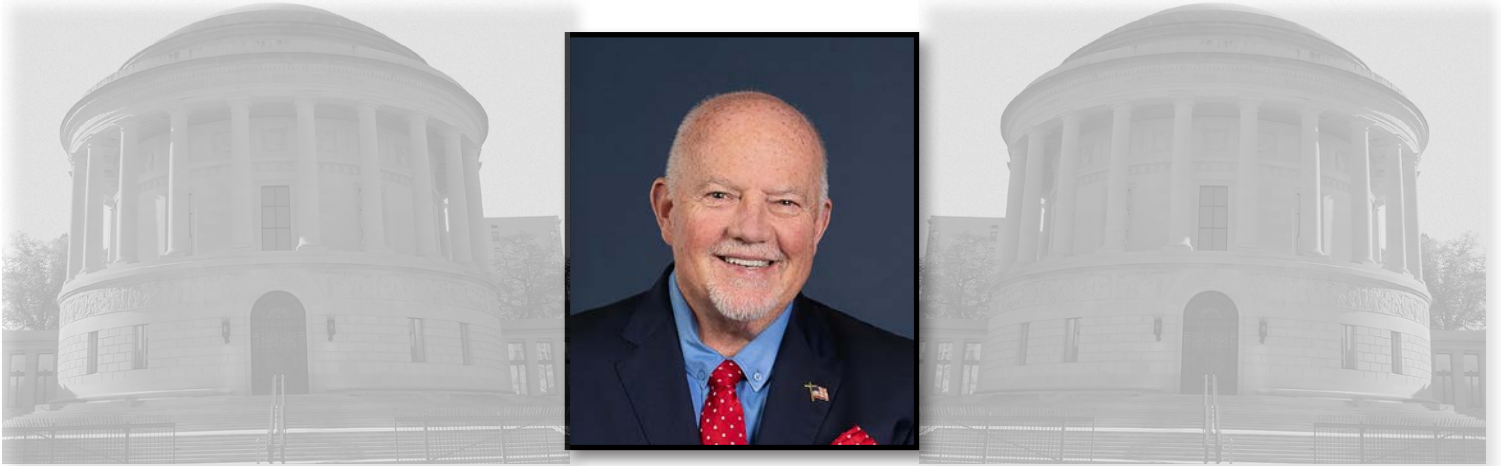


FROM THE PUBLISHER

Hello fellow Elks,
FRIENDLY REMINDERS: Pictures with people cannot go in the newsletter without names to faces. Sending a snap shot of an existing article will not work, please type and send via email. **IMPORTANT:** names and appropriate titles when necessary. If there is a group please list them L-R (left-right) of who is in the picture. It would also be of great help if you please **put as the SUBJECT of the email what the event is and what section it should be placed.** DEADLINES: **12/1** to dborzillo33@gmail.com

Think about FUTURE months regarding any events that will be happening at your Lodge so there is ample time for fellow members to plan ahead. The longer the event is advertised the better the turnout. I love all the pics on Facebook Lodge pages BUT names are a must for me to use.

Respectfully,
Donna Borzillo
Publisher - Branford Lodge #1939



Biography of
THE GRAND EXALTED RULER
TIMOTHY F. JAEGER
2026-2027

Timothy Francis Jaeger was born in Pierre, South Dakota, and grew up in Geddes, South Dakota, where he attended elementary, junior high, and high school all in one building. Tim attended the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1980 and a Master of Professional Accountancy in 1982.

For more than forty years, Tim has worked in the finance profession as a CPA and in various industries performing permanent and interim executive roles. Tim serves on corporate boards as an independent director. He is the resident of CXO Consulting Group and a Director at BPM LLP in the CFO Advisory practice.

Tim's journey with the Elks began when he was initiated into Sioux Falls, SD Lodge No. 262 in 1985. After moving to California, Tim transferred to Petaluma, CA Lodge No. 901, serving in several roles, including Exalted Ruler in 2007–2008. He served as an appointed advisor to Napa, CA Lodge No. 832 from 2011–2013 and ultimately transferred there.

He began his tenure with the California-Hawaii Elks Association in 2010–2011 by serving as Vice President. He has served on several district committees and as the CHEA Drug Awareness Chair from 2011–2013. He served on the CHEA Board of Trustees from 2014–2017 and as the CHEA First Vice President in 2018–2019. Tim then acted as CHEA President from 2019–2021. He has served as the CHEA Northwest District Leader since 2020 and served as a board member of the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. from 2022 until 2025. On the Grand Lodge level, Tim was District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2013–2014. He served as an Assistant Director of the Elks National Drug Awareness Program from 2014 through 2021. Tim acted as a member of the Board of Grand Trustees from 2021 until 2025, including serving as Chairman during his final year.

Tim has received several accolades in Elkdom. He was named an Honorary Life Member by the Napa Lodge and was named Elk of the Year and Officer of the Year by the Petaluma Lodge. He was recognized by the CHEA Elks Luncheon Club as the 2023 recipient of the Roses for the Living Award. Tim met the love of his life, Sandy, in 1981, and they married in 1984. They have three children: Ben, his wife Whitney, and their two children Logan and Conner, who live in Moraga, California; Brittany, her husband Tyler, and their two children Jameson and Trace, who live in Tampa, Florida; and Lizzie, a proud Napa Lodge Member, her husband Bob, a proud Walnut Creek Lodge Member, and their two children Reese and Avery, who live in Walnut Creek, California.

Tim is a member of the Knights of Columbus and a past member of the Petaluma Chamber of Commerce. He coached teams in Little League baseball and Boys & Girls Club basketball. He was a Casa Grande High School Basketball Program Fundraising Chair, a Casa Grande High School Boosters Club member, and a St. James Catholic Church Fundraising and "Giving Tree" Vice Chair. Tim founded the Northbay Chapter of Parrot Heads in Paradise in 2013.

Sandy's love for children led to a 25-year elementary school teaching career, including 10 years as an administrator working with the California Beginning Teacher program. Tim and Sandy are honored and humbled to be chosen as the ambassadors to represent our great Order as the Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady of Elkdom. They are excited for the opportunity to promote the Elks while visiting communities throughout America, sharing the theme:

"READY ELKS—LET'S GO"

SEPTEMBER 11TH CEREMONIES

"We Shall Never Forget"

Derby Elks #571

The Derby Elks Lodge #571 participated in a town wide September 11th Ceremony on the Derby Green. After the ceremony, the Derby Elks hosted a reception for all of the community's and lodge's first responders. The lodge also gave donations to all of the town's fire departments, police department, and ambulance company.

Submitted by: Sarah Maria Blackwell, ER Derby Elks #1571



L-R: Derby Police Chief Brian Grogan, Maria Blackwell, ER- Derby #571, Raymond Sadlick, Paugasset Fire Department, and Brian Tarini, Paugasset Fire Department in Derby.



CEA President Darren "Howie" Lawler, PDD with Joann Donnel, PDD, State VP East District Groton Lodge #2163

PAULIE'S PUSH

Honoring the Flight Crews Lost on 9/11

Milford Elks Lodge #1589

Sometimes timing works out just right! Paulie's Push happened to pass by Milford Lodge #1589 while Exalted Ruler Mary Garfield was outside waiting for the Lodge elevator to be serviced. Paulie's Push is the mission of retired United Airlines flight attendant Paul "Paulie" Veneto, who pushes an airline beverage cart along symbolic routes to honor the flight crews lost on September 11 and ensure their heroism is never forgotten. Mary had the opportunity to meet Paulie, present him with a Milford Elks Riders #1589 coin, and grab a few photos from the unexpected encounter. A meaningful chance meeting and a proud Mighty Milford moment!

Submitted by
Sarah Muoio, Esteemed Leading Knight
Milford Elks Lodge #1589



Milford Elks ER Mary Garfield with Paul "Paulie" Veneto during an unexpected visit from Paulie's Push as it passed Milford Lodge.



"Field of Flags" presented by Groton Elks #2163



2026 GRAND EXALTED RULER VISIT



Middletown Lodge #771 & Westbrook Lodge #1784

September 26-27, 2026

WELCOME TIMOTHY F. JAEGER & FIRST LADY SANDY



GER & Sandy Jaeger, Amy Lawler
& SP Darren "Howie" Lawler, PDD



GER & Sandy Jaeger



Helen & Bruce Hidley PGER and State Sponsor
-GER and Wife Sandy- SP Howie Lawler
and wife Amy



GER; VP Wanda Reiff, PDD
& Sandy Jaeger



Ray Dunbar, SVP, PDD; VP Wanda Reiff, PDD;
GER & Sandy Jaeger, VP Joann R Donnel, PDD;
VP Rich H. Martyn, PDD



GER; Sharon Stewart, Sandy Jaeger;
Mike Stewart PSP HOOP SHOOT
DIRECTOR NE REGION 6



Karyn Palanzo, GER & Sandy Jaeger;
Richard M. Palanzo SDGER



L-R: Susan Buden "CT Elk of the Year", Susan's Father
In-Law Richard Barry, Trustee Chair, Steve Shubat; ER
Patrick J. Buden Sr., District Deputy NW, Paul Tesz and
his wife, Kasia Tesz and the Hon Robert Hansen all
representing New Britain Lodge 957. Missing from the
photo is Robert Martinchek Jr.
Front: GER & Sandy Jaeger



PSP Kathy Ackerman & Craig
Benzi, PER Middletown #771



GER and Sandy Jaeger arriving at
Middletown Elks #771



CEA President Darren
"Howie" Lawler, PDD &
Justin Fedler, PDD

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

ENF Chair Dashboard

A message for Connecticut Elks Lodges,

August was Fidelity Month, and I hope your Lodge was able to encourage more members to join and support the Elks National Foundation. Fidelity Club giving is one of the most meaningful ways we can sustain ENF programs and strengthen the good work being done throughout our communities.

The Foundation's 2026–27 program services budget totals \$53.8 million. That support reaches many major programs, including Community Investments Program grants, State Elks Association Grants, scholarships, Veterans Service programs, the Hoop Shoot, the Elks Memorial Building, Drug Awareness, and other initiatives that reflect our shared commitment to service.

ENF is currently completing its migration from one Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) system to another. Because of this transition, the 2026–27 Chair Challenge contest has been postponed until the migration project is complete. I know the delay has been frustrating and that many of us have felt as though we have been working without the full data we rely on. The good news is that the data has been migrated, and improved reports are now being developed. I have been assured that the project will be completed by the end of summer.

Please stay tuned for the full release and for additional announcements as we look ahead to ENF Month in October. This will be an excellent opportunity for every Lodge to renew its focus on ENF, share the impact of Foundation programs with members, and encourage participation at every giving level.

At this time, the one confirmed goal we have is GER Tim Jaeger's 2026–27 Per-Member-Giving Goal of \$5.25. As more information becomes available, I will share updates so Lodges can plan, communicate, and participate with confidence.

What Lodges Can Do Now

- Encourage members to join or continue supporting the Fidelity Club.
- Share examples of how ENF grants and programs benefit local communities.
- Begin planning Lodge communications and activities for ENF Month in October.
- Watch for updated reports and Chair Challenge information once the CRM migration is complete.

Fraternally submitted,

David M. Russell, ER

ENF Connecticut State Chair

NORTHWEST SOCCER SHOOT

October weather was the perfect setting at Rotary Field in Naugatuck. The best shooting talent was on full display by the kids of the Northwest District Lodges on Oct 3. It was a fun day had by the kids and the officials who participated.

So, now it's on to the State level Soccer Shoot on October 18th. Hard Hittin, New Britain members, the call for volunteers is out to you again to retrieve balls, tend goals, score, make coffee runs, whatever you want to do. I need about 6. This will be an indoor event at Sports World in East Windsor. If you commit, I will advise you of the times to arrive.

From my past experience, it's a real cool event with a huge amount of players. Hope to see you there!

Fraternally submitted,

Patrick S. Buden Sr. , ER - New Britian Lodge #957



CT STATE SOCCER SHOOT

Mary Hill – State Chairman - 860.912.7485

OCTOBER 18

Sports World, 226 Main St., East Windsor, CT

Registration at 9:30 am - Competition at 10:30 am

No outdoor cleats allowed

Visit <https://ctelks.org/projects/soccer/> for more information & forms



ONE MORE STEP TO BE A BETTER LODGE



~Article 3~ Most Valuable Student Scholarships

August 3, 2026

The Elks National Foundation (ENF) has kicked off the 2026 scholarship year. Here are the details!

Most Valuable Student (MVS) Contest:

The 2026 MVS applications open August 1, 2026.

Applications can be found online at enf.elks.org/MVS.

The application deadline is November 12, 2026.

The Elks National Foundation (ENF) awards 500 four-year scholarships based on academics, leadership, and financial need. National awards range from \$1,000 per year to \$7,500 per year. The national awards will be announced in April 2027.

MVS scholarships are for students pursuing a four-year degree on a full-time basis (minimum of 12 semester hours), at a U.S. college or university next school year. Some important applicant details include:

Current high school seniors (or equivalent) who are citizens of the United States are eligible to apply.

Applicants do not have to be related to a member of the Elks.

Male and female students compete separately

Applicants select from a list of the Lodges closest to their home address zip code. Complete details can be found at enf.elks.org/MVS.

Legacy Awards – The Legacy Awards program begins on September 1, 2026. Legacy Awards provide \$4,000 scholarships for children and grandchildren of dues-paying Elk members. The ENF offers a total of 350 national awards. The application deadline is February 1, 2027. Please visit enf.elks.org/Leg for more details and the application link.

For participating in the judging of MVS scholarships, your lodge will earn 25 points toward the All American Lodge Contest. Your lodge also earns 1 point for every \$200 provided in scholarships to students, up to a maximum of another 25 points.

For any questions, please contact me at bdelmastro5@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Bruce DelMastro

Scholarship Chair

Willimantic Lodge of Elks #1311

~Article 4~ District Deputy Clinics

August 10, 2026

The August District Deputy Clinics are here! The Northwest and Coastal District clinic will take place on Sunday, August 16, 2026 at New Britain Lodge #957 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm; the Central and East District clinic will be on Saturday, August 29, 2026 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Manchester Lodge #1893.

The August clinic is a great opportunity for your Lodge leadership to learn about the various programs being promoted by our Grand Exalted Ruler, Timothy F. Jaeger, through our State Association.

Grand Exalted Ruler Jaeger's theme this year is "Ready Elks – Let's Go!" This is an ode to the age-old practice of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, {then the "Jolly Corks"}, being ready to hear the cry of those who had fallen upon misfortune, and coming to their assistance. It is a rallying call to our membership to reinvigorate our great Order's pledge of charity and aid to the less fortunate.

At our clinic, your leaders will have the opportunity to learn about some of the Grand Lodge programs being stressed by Grand Exalted Ruler Jaeger. You will learn about national and state goals concerning youth activities, veterans services, grant utilization and membership.

These meetings are intended to be informative and educational, in addition to promoting good fellowship and a sharing of ideas between brother and sister Elks.

We look forward to seeing the leaders of the great Lodges of the State of Connecticut at our clinic and hope to provide you with additional tools you need to have a successful year.

Ralph Tosto, Jr., DDGER Central District
Joseph J. Mager, III, DDGER Coastal District
Diane M. Robinson, DDGER East District
Paul J. Tesz, DDGER Northwest District

FROM THE RITUAL DESK

This committee helps lodges with ceremonial aspects of the Elks, including proper meeting conduct, introduction of dignitaries, and Elks traditions.

Ritualistic Committee

STATE CHAIR

Peter Nelson PDD

CENTRAL DISTRICT

Peter Freiler PSP

EAST DISTRICT

Turner Donnel PER

On Sunday Oct 18th 2026 at the Enfield Lodge #2222, we will be having a judges clinic put on by our Area 1 Chairman. You must be a PER to take the floor judges test. Computer room and word accuracy test will also be given. You must pass two floor judge test in order to certify. You only need to pass one test for word or computer.

Also on Sunday April 18th 2027 in Enfield we will be hosting the CT/MA combined 11 o'clock toast, flag tribute contests.

If interested in either two, please let me know, my contact info is on the website.

<https://ctelks.org/projects/ritualistic/> Fraternally,
Fraternally,

Pete Nelson PDD

CEA Ritual Chairman



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

I want to congratulate everyone for being a part of Elks in Connecticut history! We are the THIRD PLACE IN THE NATION per capital gain an THIRD PLACE IN THE NATION FOR net gain! What a great accomplishment for Connecticut!

We need to up our gain for 2026-2027. We have a big shoe to fill but I am sure we can manage it.

READY ELKS - LETS GO!

Please have your Membership committee acting now. Call members who have not paid. Do not wait until end of year. Elks are in people business. Our members are our greatest asset.

Grand Lodge has implemented the "I WILL" PROGRAM. Please be sure you hand out the 100 first day as a Elk form to all your new members. This will help them get involved from day one. This can become a tradition of giving back, building their Lodge, and strengthening our Communities.

Fraternally,

Julie Goode, PDD

CEA Membership Chairmen





ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS **SERVICE COMMISSION**

Your state association is now accepting nominations for the State Veteran Volunteer of the Year award, an honor dedicated to recognizing outstanding service to local veterans.

Eligibility: Candidates must be an Elk member in good standing or the spouse of an Elk member.

Core Criteria: Selection is strictly based on current, outstanding volunteer service supporting veterans and its measurable impact within the local community—prior military service and standard lodge/committee roles are not factored into the selection.

Submission Process:

1. Submit completed nomination forms to State Chair Alicia Dunbar, PDD, by January 31st.
2. The Veterans Committee will review submissions and select one male and one female winner by February 28th to advance to the Grand Lodge for national award consideration.
3. State winners will be officially announced and presented with their awards at the upcoming State Convention.

Serving Our Veterans: Elks Welcome Home Kits:

Elks Lodges across the state are invited to help veterans transition out of homelessness and into stable housing by providing essential household supplies. There is no limit on the number of kits a Lodge can assemble.

Kit Basics & Coverage:

Kitchen & Bath: Dishes, pots, pans, towels, and toiletries.

Bedroom & Cleaning: Bedding, laundry baskets, detergent, and cleaning supplies.

Reimbursement Guidelines (ENVSC)

Base Kit Reimbursement: Up to \$400 per kit for well-rounded household supplies.

Bed Inclusion: Up to \$600 if a standard mattress is included (air mattresses do not qualify).

Bed can not be more than \$500 of the kit.

Category Spending Caps: Food is capped at \$50 per kit; electronics (e.g., microwaves, TVs, vacuums) are capped at \$80 per item; gift cards are strictly capped at \$25.

How to Participate:

1. **Partner & Coordinate:** Contact a local VA facility, shelter, or non-profit to identify a veteran in need, then when possible, coordinate directly with the veteran to determine their specific preferences.
2. **Purchase & Deliver:** Buy the supplies (new or used) and deliver them to the veteran's new residence.
3. **Submit Reimbursement:** Complete the online ENVSC reimbursement form with full receipts within 3 months of the purchase date.

Fraternally,

Alicia Dunbar, PDD

State Veterans Chair





For nearly 50 years, the Hoop Shoot has been developing gritty kids. The Elks Hoop Shoot is a free throw program for youth ages 8-13.

The 2026-27 Hoop Shoot Contest Will Begin this Fall

HOOP SHOOT COMMITTEE

STATE CHAIR

Carl Sherman PER

EAST DISTRICT

Rich LoPresti

CENTRAL DISTRICT

George Gilhuly

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Don McCurdy PDD

COASTAL DISTRICT

Rich LoPresti

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

EAST DISTRICT

DECEMBER 13

UConn Avery Point Gym,

1084 Shennecossett Rd, Groton, CT

Time: 12:30 registration, shoot at 1 pm

Contact: Mary Hill - 860-912-7485

imarec2767@gmail.com

STATE HOOP SHOOT CONTEST

January 23, 2027

Mahoney Recreation Center

100 Cedar St., Manchester CT

Time: Registration at 9am

Contact: Carl Sherman - 860-213-0551

cssracing5@gmail.com

Other region hoop shoots are TBD

For more information:

<https://ctelks.org/projects/hoopshoot/>



DD HOMECOMINGS

SAT - OCT 31 - Wethersfield-Rocky Hill

TUES - NOV 3 - Milford

TUES - NOV 10 - Putnam

WED - NOV 18 - New Britain

STATE PRESIDENT EVENTS

SAT - JAN 9 - STATE CONVENTION

Branford Elks Lodge #1939

SAT - FEB 13 - STATE PRESIDENT'S NIGHT



A Real Testament

To the Editor:

I am writing to acknowledge the generous support of the Glastonbury Elks Club to the special needs families in this community. Their support of Camp Sunrise has been numerous over the years.

Camp Sunrise is a special needs camp that serves children ages 3-21 years old from Glastonbury, Rocky Hill, Cromwell, Wethersfield and Newington. The camp, held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Smith Middle School in the summer, provides day camp programming for children with a very wide variety of disabilities. The program includes field trips, arts and crafts, special events, sports activities, swimming and several evening activities.

Elks members have organized and planned a pre-camp fishing derby and BBQ for Camp Sunrise families. They continue to host an end of the summer banquet for over 200 people with support from local farms like Draghi and Sons who provide the corn each year.

The Camp Sunrise Holiday Party is a tradition that has grown to include Santa's arrival on a fire truck and gifts to all the campers in attendance. Additionally, they have provided funds to support campers through scholarships each summer. All of these efforts are a real testament to their dedication and commitment to the special needs families in this community and beyond.

On behalf of Camp Sunrise, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Elks Club for their extremely generous support. We appreciate all they have done and continue to do for us.

Anna Park
Glastonbury Parks and Recreation Department
Recreation Supervisor

From the August 13, 2026, Glastonbury Citizen

LOCAL LODGE SPOTLIGHT

CT VETERANS STAND DOWN Enfield Elks Lodge #1589

We were able to hand out backpacks filled with necessities to all Veterans at the CT Veterans Stand Down in Rocky Hill on September 18th with the John Maciolek American Legion Post 154 in Enfield.

We were able to do this with a \$1k Freedom Grant from the Elks National Foundation and from donations from the American Legion Post 154 in Enfield.

It was great to talk with the Veterans and hear their stories, and we thank them for their service. We also want to thank all active military, and may God keep them safe.

We gave out 100 backpacks which had the following items: combs, brushes, wash cloth, bath towel, hats, gloves, deodorant, wipes, granola bar, refillable water bottle, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, socks, and feminine products. We also had bins on the table with extras of the items that were in the backpacks.

Submitted by
Darlene McCray, ER
Enfield Elks 2222

L-R- Backpack fillers pictured include,
L-R: Pam Townsend, President of
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 154,
Don Cherry, Post 154 Adjutant, Darlene
McCray, Enfield ER, Lucien Lefevre,
Post 154 Commander



L-R: John Maciolek American Legion Post 154; Pam Townsend, President of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 154, Don Cherry, Post 154 Adjutant, David Alexander, Oratorical Coordination Post 154, and Lucien Lefevre, Post 154 Commander. From Enfield Elks; ER Darlene McCray (sitting), Laura Ennis, Five-Year Trustee, Tim Connolly, Chaplin; Kelly Ieronimo, member, and Natalie Moschetti, member.

LOAVES & FISHES Enfield Elks Lodge #2222

The Enfield Elks Lodge #2222 from Enfield, CT. has been volunteering their time once a month at the local **Enfield Loaves & Fishes** for a year now. Sometimes there are 4 members and sometimes 6 members volunteer their time the first Saturday of each month for three hours a day. It has been extremely rewarding for us to give back to the community.

Elks Care...Elks Share!

Submitted by
Darlene McCray, ER
Enfield Elks Lodge 2222

*L-R: Dennis Whalen (Chaplin),
Claudette Whalen, Darlene McCray, ER,
and Barry Zaugg.*



CPR/AED TRAINING Derby Elks Lodge #571

The Derby Elks Lodge #571 partnered with Griffin Health to host a CPR/AED training program at the lodge for both members and the public on August 11, 2026. More than 30 participants attended and received hands-on training in both adult and child CPR, learning valuable skills that could one day help save a life.

The event provided participants with the opportunity to become certified or simply gain the knowledge and confidence needed to respond in an emergency involving a family member, friend, or member of the community. At the end of the training, each participant was allowed to take home their own adult and child practice doll and handbook.

This was a wonderful example of the Derby Elks working together with local organizations to provide valuable programs and services that benefit the community. Through partnerships like this, the Derby Elks continue to fulfill their commitment to helping others, promoting safety, and making a positive difference in the lives of those around them.

Submitted by
Maria Blackwell, ER
Derby Elks #571

L-R- Patricia Graham, from Walnut Hill Community Church in Derby and Joyce Mauro, a Derby Elks member learn the proper way to do CPR on a practice mannequin



LOCAL LODGE SPOTLIGHT

RIB FEST Enfield Elks Lodge #2222

Thank you to all that came out to support the lodge and attend the Rib Fest with entertainment by Night Watch. We raised enough money to meet our State Major Projects quota on behalf of every member of our lodge. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, and attended to make this event such a success.

Submitted by
Darlene McCray, ER

CHILD SAFETY - CAR SEATS Manchester Elks Lodge #1893

Manchester Elks used part of the **Child Safety Commission** grant to purchase and donate ten car seats to Manchester Police Department. The car seats will be used as part of MPD's free child passenger safety seat inspections and installations.

Submitted by:
Jake Jacobs
Major Projects Chair
Manchester #1893

L-R: Jake Jacobs, Major Projects Chair; CEA Child Safety Commission At-Large Holly June Jacobs, PER; MPD Sgt. Doyon; MPD Officer Kind; Kevin Wagner, ER



HELMETS & BACKPACKS Danielson Elks Lodge #1706

In August, Danielson, CT, Lodge held a **Helmet & Backpack Giveaway**, in partnership with Dayville Verizon Wireless Store. The Lodge utilized \$1,700 in funds that were received from the State Child Safety Commission of Connecticut Elks Association Charities, Inc. The funds were used to provide 86 helmets that were given to children, as well as 12 smoke detectors and 6 carbon monoxide detectors that were given away to Dayville, Attawaugan, Danielson, Williamsville, and East Killingly Fire Departments. The Lodge's Drug Awareness Program was also in attendance and gave away 100 each of coloring books, crayons, pencils, wristbands, pamphlets, and stress balls. Verizon Wireless gave away 150-200 backpacks filled with school supplies, as well as hamburgers, hot dogs, and bottled water.

Entertainment provided included a moon bounce, face painting, balloon artists, free reading books, free manicures for children provided by a local nail salon, as well as a local radio station (97.7 WCTY) broadcasting via Facebook Live. Elroy was on hand to greet children, and ride in a fire department bucket truck. Approximately 150 to 200 children attended this event, with 9 Elks volunteers.

Submitted by
Holly June Jacobs, ER
At Large, CT Elks Child Safety Commission



left back are Michael Lee, Engineer; Shane McLaughlin, Scene Support; from left front are James Beaudoin, Engineer; Louise Maynard, PER; Holly June Jacobs, PER, Child Safety Commission At Large; Jasmine Hunt, Scene Support, Fire Fighter Holly Anderson; seated is Miguel Colon, Scene Support)

The Elks
take on the
Mediterranean

September 12, 2027
to
September 19, 2027
ROME TO
FRANCE AND SPAIN

YOUR JOURNEY INCLUDES:

- ROME
- SALERNO
- CATANIA
- LIVORNO
- FLORENCE / PISA
- NICE / MONACO
- MARSEILLE
- BARCELONA

CLUB BALCONY SUITE FOR 2

OPEN BAR

2X 3 NIGHTS SPECIALTY DINING

\$100 ON BOARD CREDIT

SHORE EX CREDIT

150 MINUTES INTERNET PP

ALL GRATUITIES

\$4,393.20
FOR 2 PEOPLE

\$250
DEPOSITS FOR 2 PEOPLE

GROUP NUMBER
A3082206

CALL
ALEX DEMARS
YOUR GROUPS SPECIALIST AT
954 514 4466
WHILE SPOTS ARE AVAILABLE!

LOCAL LODGE SPOTLIGHT

HOMES FOR THE BRAVE Branford Elks Lodge #1939

WOW! We just received an incredible donation of pillows, sheets, blankets, coffee, and toiletries from the Branford Elks Lodge #1939! They hosted a Sunday Funday brunch, and the proceeds helped fund this generous donation!

Thank you, Branford Elks Lodge #1939, for your support and generosity! This donation will help provide comfort to the veterans who stay at Homes for the Brave as they take the next step in their journey toward independence and stability.

Submitted by:
Donna Borzillo



L-R: Vince Santilli, CEO; Dan Perkins, Office Manager; Karri Beaton, Branford Elks Veterans Chair; Michael Beaton, Branford Elks Member.]

VETERANS BOAT TRIP Milford Elks Lodge #1589

Milford Elks Lodge #1589 welcomed approximately 40 local veterans representing multiple generations and branches of the military for its **Annual Veterans Boat Trip** on September 17. Organized by Jeff and Gail Hall, who have led the event for 13 years, the day included a Thimble Islands cruise followed by a prime rib dinner, goody bags and raffle gifts at the Lodge. The event was made possible in part through the Elks National Foundation Freedom Grant, with additional support from Milford Elks Lodge #1589, Milford Elks Riders #1589, Lodge members and community donors. It was another opportunity for Milford Lodge to put the Elks' commitment to veterans into action.

Submitted by
Sarah Muoio
Esteemed Leading Knight
Milford Elks Lodge #1589

Jeff Hall, PER & Veterans Committee Chair, and his wife Gail Hall, who have dedicated 13 years to organizing Milford Elks Lodge #1589's annual Veterans Boat Trip and making it a meaningful tradition for local veterans.



ENF TAG SALE Enfield Elks Lodge #2222

The Enfield Elks Lodge #2222 had our **4th Annual Elks National Foundation tag sale** and all proceeds raised were sent to ENF in the amount of \$4418..We had 350 people come to shop at the tag sale. Donations for the tag sale were from members, family, and friends. Lori Percoski, two-year Trustee, organized this event for the fourth year in a row and this year we raised the most money.

We also set up a Drug Awareness table with Drug Awareness brochures, and handed out Drug Awareness Contest and Americanism contest packets.

Submitted by
Darlene McCray, ER
Enfield Elks #2222



L-R: back row; Lori Percoski (two year Trustee), Terry Pirie (Inner Guard), Darlene McCray, ER. front row; Karen Campo (member) and Laura Ennis, PER.

ELKS GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD Enfield Elks Lodge #2222

We presented the Elks Girl Scout Gold Award certificate and \$50 gift card to Emily Birdsey.

Emily was the only Girl Scout to receive the Gold Award this year. Emily created a mental health and wellness initiative that uses art as a tool for children and teens to express emotions, build coping skills and support well-being. She designed an activity booklet featuring art-based exercises and led hands-on sessions through the Enfield Public Library and Hartford Boys & Girls Club.

Submitted by
Darlene McCray, ER
Enfield Elks #2222



L-R: Darlene McCray, ER, Emily Birdsey, Terry Pirie, Inner Guard

LOCAL LODGE SPOTLIGHT

MILFORD ELKS RIDERS SUPPORT CLOSER TO FREE RIDE Milford Elks Lodge #1589

Members of Milford Elks Riders #1589 spent the day volunteering at the 16th Annual Closer to Free Ride, benefiting Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. Riders provided route safety along portions of the 100-mile course, while others volunteered at the Yale Bowl serving and celebrating returning cyclists. The event brought together nearly 2,000 participants and 800 volunteers, and Closer to Free has raised more than \$37 million since 2011 for cancer research and patient care. The cause hit especially close to home, with two cancer survivors among the Riders' own volunteers. For Milford Elks Riders, it was another opportunity to live their mission: **We Ride for a Cause.**

Submitted by

Sarah Muoio, Esteemed Leading Knight
Milford Elks Lodge #1589



Members of Milford Elks Riders #1589 back at the Yale Bowl after a full day volunteering for the Closer to Free Ride. Pictured left to right: Leading Knight, Sarah Muoio, Anthony Muoio, Dave Raffauf, Dave Amendola, Rob Muoio, PER.

TAKE -A-VET FISHING Branford Elks Lodge #1939

Branford Elks doing what we do best Volunteering for Take-A-Vet Fishing in a Nor'easter by cooking, baking, buying store baked goods and donating clothing for the Veterans. It takes many volunteers and with the generosity of many, we were able to give over 100 Veterans a wonderful picnic! Despite the rain, cold & wind and unable to fish, we had a tremendous turnout with smiling Veterans all around.

Elks care , Elks share !

Submitted by
Donna Borzillo
Newsletter Publisher/Editor
Branford #1939 & CEA



Branford Elk members:
Barbara Cowles, Tiler &
Lynda Meinsen, Chaplin

ATTENTION EVERYONE!

There is a BLOOD SHORTAGE!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Thank you!

American Red Cross

MIDDLETOWN ELKS #771

HOSTS A BLOOD DRIVE!

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
MONDAY	10/5/2026		8AM-2:45PM
MONDAY	10/12/2026		8AM-2:45PM
MONDAY	11/2/2026		8AM-2:45PM
MONDAY	11/16/2026		8AM-2:45PM
MONDAY	11/30/2026		8AM-2:45PM
MONDAY	12/14/2026		8AM-2:45PM

GIVE BLOOD. SAVE LIVES.

BE A HERO IN OUR COMMUNITY!

MIDDLETOWN ELKS #771

44 MAYNARD STREET

Thank you to the "Sunday Night Blood Guys" for set up!
Thank You Bill Currilin!

DONATE TODAY!

DURHAM FAIR Middletown Elks Lodge #771

Look who is in our Durham Fair booth ! Our very own Exalted Ruler Craig and his beautiful wife Lisa !

Elks care , Elks share !

Submitted by
Donna Borzillo
Newsletter Publisher/Editor
Branford #1939 & CEA



FROM YOUR DISTRICT

DD CENTRAL DISTRICT

This message is to highlight some events that happened and will happen in the central district. All lodges invite all Elks to attend and support each other at these events. Please contact each lodge to see how you can help or just attend and enjoy yourselves. **Hartford Lodge #19** held a fundraiser for State Major Projects win conjunction with First and Last Tavern; had a bus trip to Saratoga raceway; also had their Golf tournament on 9/11 and had an Octoberfest meal on 10/3. **Middletown Lodge #771** had a Pig Roast on 9/19 and has Bingo every Monday night. Throughout the summer they held music on their patio which went into September.

Wallingford Lodge #1365 had a back-to-school drive throughout August. They have food every Friday night, held a 'Tent Week' with multiple days of different foods available, and held a Polish Night dinner on 9/25 among many other events. **Glastonbury Lodge 2202** have had many events under their pavilion including a pig roast and a picnic for Veterans. They held a 60th Anniversary dinner on Oct 2, please support them with their many events.

Enfield Lodge #2222 attended Enfield's National Night our with a tent to support Law Enforcement. Among many other events, they had a backpack stuffing event to support the Veterans at the Stand Down Event at Rocky Hill Veterans Hospital on 9/18. **Hamden Lodge 2224** had a car wash to support their ENF goals, as well as ongoing Karaoke and Bingo. They have Food available every Wednesday night. They are holding a Veterans Breakfast on Oct 17 th . **Wethersfield/Rocky Hill Lodge 2308** holds monthly dinners to support the Elks Challenge Plunge that goes to the State Major Projects, CT Special Olympics. They held events including Patriot Party for children 9/11, Craft Fair on 9/13, Magic Show on Sept 26 and will host a Comedy Show on 11/6.

Be sure to utilize the CTElks.org web site as well as Facebook to see upcoming events across the state.

Submitted by

Rick Martyn, Central District VP

DD COASTAL DISTRICT

I want to start by congratulating the many lodge members whose great work was recognized in the last GL Newsletter. **Derby Lodge #571** was recognized for the fishing rodeo held at Osborne-Dale State Park as well as the stuffed animals donated to the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital Toy Closet Program, which provides age-appropriate toys to young patients. Derby held a booster seat distribution event in partnership with Griffin Hospital on September 15 th from 3 pm to 5 pm. This is just one of the many projects the lodge is involved in. Derby also participated in the townwide ceremony commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001.

New Haven Lodge #25 was recognized for a \$2,000 donation to help the Platt Technical High School Information Technology Program. Instructor Edward Martinez and students will travel to NASA Johnson Space Center for the final round of a contest. Students will design and create projects for NASA. The lodge also raised \$22,000 for the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, a Camp for children and young adults who are affected by serious medical illnesses.

Bridgeport Lodge #36 held a COMEDY Night on September 26th; doors opened at 6:30 PM, show starting at 8:00 PM. Great fun was had by all who attended.

Branford Lodge #1939 once again participated in the Take a Vet Fishing event at the Branford Yacht Club in Branford on September 26th . Due to the Noreaster and to be safe this event turned into a picnic. Members cooked, baked, bought store baked goods and donated clothing for the Veterans. This was great time to talk with the many veterans who attended this wonderful event.

*Fraternally,
Raymond Dunbar, PDD
Coastal District VP*



FROM YOUR DISTRICT

DD NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Members all:

The NW district is busy, and I am happy to keep you updated and highlight for you what our lodges have been up to during this fraternal year. I am starting with **Bristol Lodge #1010** who are celebrating 120 years of service to their community. Recently the Bristol Lodge of Elks was Honored at the Bristol-City Council Meeting. Members were present to accept an official proclamation from Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu recognizing their 120th anniversary receiving a mayoral proclamation is among the highest forms of official recognition a city can bestow. Members present were Exalted Ruler Caroline Martin; Past Exalted Rulers Steve Chase, Tom Middleton, and Jay Yuschak; Trustee Bill Cathcart; Esteemed Lecturing Knight Mellissa Dombroski; and member Jane Wright. They lead the City Council meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Here's a fun fact- Their first Exalted Ruler, Thomas Tracy, was the great-uncle of Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. One hundred and twenty years after he helped lead Bristol Lodge at its beginning, his great-niece, as Mayor of Bristol, presented the proclamation honoring this historic milestone.

I wish to extend my Congratulations to **Bristol Lodge #1010** and wish them a Happy 120th Anniversary,

Fraternally,

Wanda I. Reiff, PDD,PER

Northwest Vice-President CT Elks Assn Charities, Inc



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

No matter where you live in the U.S., you can easily access 24/7 emotional support.

Call or text 988 or visit 988lifeline.org/chat to chat with a caring counselor.

We're here for you.



DD EAST DISTRICT

East District ELKtoberfest Fundraiser to Benefit Veterans Base Camp as the District Deputy for the East District, I am proud to share that on October 10th our district is coming together in a big way. **All eight Lodges** are joining forces to host the first-ever East District ELKtoberfest at the **Willimantic Elks Lodge #1311**.

Over the past several months, our Exalted Rulers have been working together to plan this event, which will benefit Veterans Base Camp. Veterans Base Camp is a nonprofit organization that works to support veterans by providing assistance, support, resources, and a helping hand when it's needed most. ELKtoberfest is more than just a fundraiser. It's a great opportunity for the Lodges to build stronger connections across the district and show our appreciation for the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our country. It reminds us that when Elks get together for a common cause, great things happen for each other, our veterans, and our communities.

I am incredibly proud of the collaboration, dedication, and commitment shown by our Lodges, and look forward to seeing the East District coming together for our veterans and celebrating the spirit of Elkdom that makes events like this so meaningful.

Eight Lodges. One District. One Great Cause.

Fraternally,

Diane Robinson

District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler



ELK NATIONAL MEMORIAL Time Capsule is OPEN

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Elks National Memorial and the opening of the centenary time capsule during this year's convention, we are creating a new time capsule telling the story of the BPOE in 2026. Our intention is that it be opened in 2126 for the Memorial's 200th anniversary

We want every Elk to have the opportunity to contribute, and we want a wide range of responses! We are requesting that Members from around the country share their best and favorite memories with the Elks.

Visit forms.office.com/r/DJzELsbgvn to share your story now!

Submitted by

Donna Borzillo, Publisher

Branford Lodge #1939



COMMUNITY SERVICE

How Important is Community Service to Your Elks Lodge?
Our Lodges have a proud tradition of service. Programs like the Soccer Shoot-Out, Hoop Shoot, ENF scholarships, and the Dictionary Project make a real difference for our youth. Our annual veterans' dinners, grave-wreath laying traditions, and 9-11 remembrance services show exactly where our hearts are. We should be proud of these achievements.

But community needs don't stop when the holidays end or a specific event finishes. We have to ask ourselves an honest question: Can we do more?

If most of our collective time and energy goes into managing our social quarters, we are missing the chance to make a deeper, year-round impact. Fellowship and camaraderie are vital parts of being an Elk—we all value that time together. But that fellowship should be the fuel that drives our service, not our only destination.

Through our charitable work, we define our reputation. We want our city to view us as a beacon of goodwill and public service—not just as another private bar in town. To achieve that, we need to match the energy displayed in our social quarters with a renewed commitment to the people who need us most.

How You Can Help Drive Change:

Expanding our reach requires the passion, ideas, and hands of our members. The absolute best way you can help right now is to attend your next Lodge meeting. When you attend your Lodge meeting you can:

- **Encourage Your Lodge:** Be a voice for progress and help advocate for a larger, more impactful community service calendar.

- **Share Your Ideas:** If you see a need in our town—whether it is supporting veterans year-round or fighting local food insecurity—bring your ideas to the table so we can build projects around them.

- **Volunteer to Assist:** A project is only as strong as the people behind it. Whether you can give one hour a month or help lead a new initiative, your hands-on help is vital. Let's turn our fellowship into lasting community impact together.

I hope you will attend your next Lodge meeting!

Submitted by

Richard M. Palanzo SDGER



ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE



The Activities Committee was recently formed to more align us with the Grand Lodge programs. The purpose is to promote, encourage, and to help Lodges implement activities that support our youth, because as we invest our time and effort in these children, we can help to make them stronger and more resilient, and help them to become community members in their own right. The programs in this committee also serve the purpose of demonstrating how Elks are making a difference in the community. This can open the door for new Members, as well as motivate the members that we currently have.

Antlers Program, a fantastic way for young people in the Community to get involved with the Elks, and to become future members of your Lodge. Antlers become involved in the service-related activities that your Lodge does, as an independent group that has its own charter and officers, and even an Initiation.

Connecticut is the birthplace of the **Soccer Shoot**, and it is now a recognized Grand Lodge program! If you don't have enough participants, work together with other Lodges, each having their own winners. The **Junior Golf Program** allows you to help youth build self-esteem and make new friends. Sponsor a foursome of youth golfers and pair them with a foursome of experienced adult golfers at your Lodge tournament. Arrange time at a driving range for youth to practice, or host the new Beat the Bunker, Pitch Up, and Putting 1,2,3 skills competition. More information on this contest can be found on the **Grand Lodge website**.

The **Junior ROTC Award Program** recognizes outstanding Junior ROTC Cadets of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard for their leadership & patriotic work, with a special medal; certificate. The US Military now lists this Elk's medal as one being allowed to wear on a cadet's uniform! Start a Student or Teenager of the Month or Year in your school system to find those students and teens whose accomplishments deserve public recognition and praise, for their character, leadership, service, citizenship, and scholastic achievements. Use your Gratitude Grant and work with **The Dictionary Project**, a 501c3 nonprofit, to get dictionaries, thesaurus, atlases and other reference materials into the hands of 3rd graders – the optimal grade that Educators have found to be when a child transitions from learning to read to reading to learn. This could be a great present for a child, and it is a book that they could keep for themselves.

We as Elks can continue to support the Scouts through the **Elks Scouting Program**. Allow the Elks to use the Lodge facilities, donate supplies, give them the opportunity to be a part of things like Flag Day, and by honoring the Eagle Scouts and Gold Star Girl Scouts with recognition. There is also an Elks Marvin Lewis Award to recognize outstanding Scout Leaders as well.

Grand Exalted Ruler Timothy Jaeger has requested that all Lodges set aside **May 1-7 as Elks National Youth Week**. Have a luncheon or banquet this week as a culmination of all the Lodge's youth programs throughout the year, and honor the winners of any of the aforementioned programs, as well as Hoop Shoot winners, Drug Awareness Poster Contest winners, Americanism essay winners, etc. Recognize First Responders with the Medal of Valor being given to the family of a First Responder who lost their lives in the performance of their duties, or the Medal of Service Award, which recognizes First Responders deemed worthy by your membership as being outstanding in their service to the community.

Be proud of your Lodge's accomplishments and let others know as well by submitting an entry for the **Community Project Contest**. Winners are determined by a simple point system, such as number of volunteers, number of hours, etc. with the National award winners receiving a certificate at the convention in Denver.

Reach out to me for help with any of these programs! <https://ctelks.org/projects/lodgeactivities/>

Ready Elks – Let's Go!

Submitted by

Holly June Jacobs, PER

State Chair of the Activities Committee



The Child Safety Committee is an ad HOC committee dedicated to youth safety in the State of Connecticut. The committee helps local lodges with financial and logistical support to enable them to run youth safety events in their communities. Lodges can request up to \$1700 of supplies this fiscal year to support their programs – for requirements

<https://ctelks.org/projects/child-safety-committee-major-projects/>

MAJOR PROJECTS COMMITTEE

STATE CHAIR

Joshua Gray PDD

AT LARGE

Holly Jacobs PER

AT LARGE

Elizabeth McKee PER

AT LARGE

Kim Greca PDD

AT LARGE

Corey Shanahan

Child Safety Commission is here to support your lodge with your child safety-focused events.

The Child Safety Commission is ready to support your lodge in holding its annual Child Safety event. The choice is yours! You can focus on bike safety by providing bike helmets to children in your area. You can also focus on fire safety by using your funds for smoke and carbon monoxide sensors, reducing the risk of fire injury to children. Another option is to purchase car seats or booster seats so children in your area can safely travel in vehicles with reduced risk of harm.

Perhaps the best way to get involved is to connect with whatever organizations your lodge or its members are most familiar with. If you have fire department members, why not coordinate an event with Fire Safety week which occurs in October each year? If you're more connected to the police department, National Night Out each August is a great time to connect with them for child safety. Or maybe your lodge is most connected with food centers or poverty-focused charities.

Every year, your lodge can receive up to \$1700 worth of supplies to support your child safety event. It doesn't have to be one event - you can split the funds to support multiple events or you can supersize your grant by connecting with the Elks National Foundation Community Improvement Program (CIP) grants to maximize your impact. Our CEA commission is here to help you choose what best suits your lodge's community.

For more information, visit the Child Safety Commission website or contact the Chair, Josh Gray at joshgrayelks@gmail.com

Submitted by

Josh Gray, PER

State Chair of the Activities Committee

USE THE SAFETY WHEEL AT YOUR EVENT!

The Connecticut Elks Association Safety Wheel and its corresponding question book are practical tools designed to educate children and prompt healthy discussions at your child safety event. Children spin the wheel to select a topic, and organizers can use the color-coded book to guide them through the questions, offering encouragement and prizes for participation. For any questions, suggestions, or to report equipment issues, please contact Holly June Jacobs, PER, East District Chair of the CEA Child Safety Commission, at hajajcobs7@gmail.com or 860-338-3464, and ensure the items are returned to their source afterward.

Your lodge can get up to \$1700 to pay for child safety supplies each year! Ask a committee member how to get started.

CHILD SAFETY COMMISSION

Bike Helmets

**Smoke Alarms
CO sensors**

Car seats

Booster seats

- 1** Visit the Child Safety Website at ctelks.org
- 2** Register your Safety Event
- 3** You will be assigned a committee member near your lodge
- 4** Let the Commission know what supplies you need and where to ship them
- 5** Complete Committee Report and Submit After the Event to be Eligible for the Program Next Year

Committee Members

Joshua Gray PDD – State Chair
Holly Jacobs PER – At-Large
Elizabeth McKee PER – At-Large
Kim Greca PDD – At-Large
Corey Shanahan PER – At-Large

Also available to borrow for your event is a Safety Wheel with age-appropriate questions on safety topics such as bike and helmet safety, pedestrian safety, water safety, and more!

REGISTER NOW!

Make safety your priority every day!

MAJOR PROJECTS

The CEA supports two major projects:

CT Special Olympics and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center Safe Transport Program

Our State's Major Projects include Special Olympics and the Safe Transport Program of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

MAJOR PROJECTS COMMITTEE

STATE CHAIR

Melvin Rivera PER

CENTRAL DISTRICT

Kathi Ackerman PSP PDD

COASTAL DISTRICT

Jim Garfield PER

EAST DISTRICT

Patti Spaulding PER

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Theresa Doolittle PER



Justin Fedler, PDD, State Chair for Major Projects presented a check for \$25,000 to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in support of their Safe Transport program at the CEAC annual convention in June, 2026.

This program helps children get safely transported between medical centers and their homes.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES FOR MAJOR PROJECTS

Each year, several fundraising events are held by the CT Elks Association Charities Inc. to raise money for Major Projects.

New signage is up recognizing the CEA in sponsoring the family waiting room at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. In 2003, the CEA made a gift of \$250,000 for the construction of this waiting room which has recently been renovated. Since that time, the CEA has donated \$1.3 million to the Safe Kids program.

BOWLING TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

STATE CHAIR

Louise Maynard PER

CENTRAL

Kim Greca, PDD

COASTAL

Maria Blackwell, PER

EAST DISTRICT

Tami Sherman, PER

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Justin Fedler, PDD

READY ELKS, LET'S GO! LET'S ROLL!

FEB 27, 2027 - Sign Up Now

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Your lane will only be reserved once your money and registration form are received and confirmed by Louise Maynard, PER Bowling Chairman. Please note that lanes are already reserved for the Special Olympics, the State President with the Vice Presidents, and the District Deputies teams, leaving **37 lanes available**.

LANE SPONSORS: We are asking every team to have a lane sponsor, which can be sponsored by a business.

for more info: <https://ctelks.org/projects/bowling/>

Best regards,

Louise Maynard, PER - Bowling Chairman



CONNECTICUT ELKS ASSOCIATION CHARITIES, INC.

SAT. FEB. 20 | 7:15 PM



TICKETS \$34.88

TO ORDER TICKETS ONLINE USE THE URL OR SCAN THE QR CODE



<https://www.gofevo.com/event/CTElksAssoc2627HWP>

A PORTION OF EACH TICKET
WILL GO BACK TO
CT ELKS ASSOCIATION CHARITIES, INC.!

DEADLINE TO ORDER: FRI. FEB. 5TH BY 5PM

THIS OFFER IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THE HARTFORD TICKET OFFICE AT PEOPLESBANK ARENA OR ON DATE OF GAME

FOR MORE INFORMATION & QUESTIONS CONTACT: JUSTIN FEDLER

JUSTINFEDLER35@GMAIL.COM | 860-398-8008

CONNECTICUT ELKS ASSOCIATION CHARITIES, INC.

19TH ANNUAL STATE TEN PIN Bowling TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2027

REGISTRATION 10:00 - 10:45 AM

BOWLING BEGINS 11:00 AM

ONE SESSION 40 TEAMS

CALLAHAN'S BOWL-O-RAMA

2143 BERLIN TURNPIKE
NEWINGTON, CT

COST \$35 PER BOWLER

\$12 LUNCH FOR NON-BOWLERS/GUESTS

ALL MONIES ARE DUE WHEN REGISTRATION FORMS ARE SENT.

Awards Banquet

WILL BE HELD AT
THE HARTFORD LODGE #19
34 PROSPECT STREET
HARTFORD, CT

BENEFITS THE STATE MAJOR PROJECTS OF
CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S
CRITICAL CARE TRANSPORT

Connecticut Children's
CRITICAL CARE TRANSPORT

Special Olympics Connecticut

SEND PAYMENTS/REGISTRATIONS TO:
LOUISE MAYNARD, PER, BOWLING CHAIRMAN

236 WAUREGAN ROAD
DANIELSON, CT 06239

MOBILE 860-377-8658

EMAIL louisefee06239@gmail.com

★ Striking for Charity ★ Supporting Our Communities ★ Making a Difference ★

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Support Your Local Team A CEA Major Project

<https://ctelks.org/projects/specialolympics/>

Mission Statement: To promote, support and engage with Special Olympics and in doing so help further the interests of the BPOE, the Connecticut Elks Association and at the same time, help create meaningful partnerships with local lodges that can have an impact on the Committee, or its core purpose of supporting SOCT and their program of inclusivity of persons with disabilities within the local communities.

The Connecticut Elks Association is a proud sponsor of the annual Connecticut Special Olympics Volleyball Tournament held each November, providing financial and volunteer support. We also sponsor a Soccer Skills event at the State Summer Games each summer. To volunteer, contact your District Chairperson. See below for photos and stories from the past year's events.

Many lodges in Connecticut directly support their local Special Olympics teams by providing space for meetings and events, financial support through grants of fundraisers, inviting them to lodge events, and providing places for the team to have fun as a team. Your lodge might host a holiday party, a cornhole tournament, or some other fun activity for the team. Find your local team <https://www.soct.org/adaptive-sports-programs/find-local-program>

CEA SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMMITTEE

STATE CHAIR

Melvin Rivera PER

EAST DISTRICT

Patti Spaulding PER

CENTRAL DISTRICT

Kathi Ackerman PSP PPD

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Theresa Doolittle PER

COASTAL DISTRICT

Jim Garfield PER

UNIFIED SPORTS HOLIDAY CLASSIC

Join the Connecticut Elks Association in volunteering for this year's Special Olympics Volleyball and Bowling events. Sign up by clicking the ticket link and registering as a volunteer. Half and full day sessions are available for volunteering! Lunch and a T-shirt is included.

For volunteer information, contact your District Chair listed above.

VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION

NOVEMBER 21

JCC of Great New Haven - 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge

BOWLING COMPETITION

NOVEMBER 21 - TRADITIONAL BOWLING

NOVEMBER 22 - TEAM & UNIFIED BOWLING

Bowlero Lanes - 1717 Boston Post Rd., Milford

JOIN US FOR THE

ELKS LODGE PLUNGE CHALLENGE

TO BENEFIT SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONNECTICUT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026
10:30 AM REGISTRATION | 11:30 AM PLUNGE
WESTBROOK ELKS LODGE

\$75 minimum to register with additional fundraising optional for Special Olympics Connecticut. Top fundraising Lodge wins traveling trophy and bragging rights for the year!





SCAN ME



NATIONAL USCOAST GUARD MUSEUM

This supports the construction of the US Coast Guard Museum

Scheduled to open August 4, 2027!

The Coast Guard Museum construction phase achieved two milestones this summer. The first is the placement of a HH-60J Jayhawk helicopter which will hang in the multi-story glass enclosed atrium. This helicopter, manufactured by Sikorsky, is used for search and rescue, law enforcement, and marine protection missions for the Coast Guard. The second is the placement of the glass "sails" which will line the exterior of the building facing the Thames River. The opening of the museum is planned for Coast Guard Day, August 4, 2027.

In August, SDGER Rick Palanzo and Region 6 Hoop Shoot Chair Mike Stewart represented the CEA at a Coast Guard Museum event on the Coast Guard Cutter Eagle. They were greeted by Coast Guard Museum Association Director Wes Pulver (CAPT, USCG retired), the Governor of Rhode Island, and the Mayor of Newport Rhode Island. The Grand Exalted Ruler, Tim Jaeger and his wife Sandy will visit the construction site in September during their visit to the state of Connecticut

*Submitted by,
Joshua Gray PDD
CEA Website Chair*

COAST GUARD MUSEUM COMMITTEE

STATE CO-CHAIR

Joshua Gray PDD

EAST VP

Joann Donnel PDD

PSP REPRESENTATIVE

Donna Wallace PSP

COASTAL VP

Raymond Dunbar, Jr. PDD

NORTHWEST VP

Wanda Reiff PDD

AT LARGE

Joseph Trovarelli PDD

CENTRAL VP

Rick Martin PDD

GER VISITS THE SUB BASE



*L - R - USS Texas Lieutenant, SP Howie,
First Lady Sandy Jaeger, GER Tim Jaeger and CT First Lady Amy Lawler*



*Mike Stewart, Donna Wallace; Rick Palanzo, Karyn Palanzo, ??? Lieutenant,
SP Howie Lawler; First Lady Sandy Jaeger; GER Tim Jaeger, Amy Lawler,
Teri Ford, Terry Ford, Helen & Bruce Hidley, PGER*



IN MEMORIAM

Brother & Sister Elks who were Past Exalted Rulers and who have been reported to the website are posted below. Please understand that the information provided here was that which we happened to have in our archives, or that which was sent in. To submit names or information, please send an email to webmaster@ctelks.org.

PASSING OF:

Walter Birdsell PDD of Derby Lodge #571

March 1, 1942 - September 2, 2026

**Jerome 'Jerry' Coolidge PER
of Derby Lodge #571**

January 17, 1958 — August 11,, 2026

Alex Coriaty PDD of Willimantic Lodge #1311

June 21, 1971 — Jul 17, 2026

ELKS 11 O'CLOCK TOAST

You have heard the tolling of 11 strokes.

This is to remind us that with Elks, the hour of 11 has a tender significance.

Wherever Elks may roam, whatever their lot in life may be, when this hour falls upon the dial of night, the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs.

It is the golden hour of recollection, the homecoming of those who wander, the mystic roll call of those who will come no more.

Living or dead, Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken.

Morning and noon may pass them by, the light of day sink heedlessly in the West, but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall, the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message,

"To Our Absent Members."



DRUG AWARENESS RESOURCES

To educate yourself and your children please visit the following links:

ELKS KIDS ZONE

<https://www.elkskidszone.org/>

EXPLORE - WATCH - COMICS - CREATE - PLAY

Team up with Elroy for facts, stories, games, and creative challenges that help you stay strong and healthy.

ELKS TEEN ZONE

<https://www.elksteenzone.org/>

LEARN - WATCH - LESSONS - GAMES - GET HELP

Real answers for the choices you are making right now.

No scare tactics. No judgment.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Borzillo, Publisher
Branford Lodge #1939

CONTESTS FOR YOUTHS

ELKS MOST VALUABLE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The application process has begun! The application deadline is **November 12th**. Judging will begin on a local level December 2 and close December 21. District Chairs, please have the lodge chairman reach out once again to schools in their area and remind them that students still have time to send in an application. Let's see if we can increase the number of applicants over last year!

Fraternally,

Bruce DelMastro - MVS State Chairman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bruce Delmastro PDD – State Chair

Donald J. Burrier PER – Central District

Mary Garfield – Coastal District

Kelly Martin PER – East District

Wayne Landry – Northwest District

FOR MORE INFO VISIT

<https://ctelks.org/projects/scholarship/>



From Articles and Oratory of Hon. Murray Hulbert, PGER 1928 - NY Elks Lodge #1

"We are taught in Holy Writ that a certain historic character of exuberant and impulsive audacity, when asked by His Master as to the whereabouts of his brother, replied, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Throughout the centuries, since that question was propounded, it has been oft times repeated, but invariably unanswered.

It was on Sunday evening, November 14, 1867, that a number of theatrical professionals and semi-professionals, who were boarding at a house on Elm Street, in New York City, decided that the Puritanical Sunday Law was obnoxious to their enjoyment of the only day of recreation allotted to them. So, in a convivial spirit, they proceeded to regale themselves with song, story and recitation. Some of these men were musicians of no mean ability and their musical instruments added zest to the entertainment. Their success on this occasion provoked a repetition, but added to the discomfort of a sedate landlady, and the second Sunday they were compelled to find new quarters. This they did, and added to their coterie fresh recruits. In a month's time the success that had attended their efforts evoked serious thoughts, and one of their number suggested that they utilize their talent to accumulate a fund for the relief of any member who might be found to be in distress.

Such was the nucleus which crystallized into the formation of a fraternal organization whose doctrine was:

A gospel born of love, charity, justice and fidelity
To soothe life's cares, drive grief away and uplift humanity.

And thus was born an organization destined, for the first time, to answer the interrogatory: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The Order of Elks is a benevolent fraternity, conceived in a spirit of good fellowship, with a view to aiding those of its members, in need, in the hour of adversity. In the practice of its cardinal virtue – charity – it has long since recognized the necessity of going outside the organization and giving succor and comfort to those who, because of the frailties of human nature, are the victims of man's inhumanity to man.

Among the objects set forth, in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Order, is a declared purpose "to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism," which means love of one's country, and this in its last analysis, involves elevating its citizenry.

We can only directly "inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity" into the minds and hearts and lives and the very soul of our obligated membership; "to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members" means but a relatively small percentage of the population of the United States; but "to quicken the spirit of American patriotism" opens up a field of opportunity for the Order to serve the entire Nation, and thus create an influence that will in turn be felt throughout the world...

I shall urge no membership drive, for I believe this practice has brought into the Order men who never really understood, appreciated or attuned themselves to the real spirit of Elkdom. Better that we devote a greater amount of energy toward making real Elks of those who are, as yet, merely members of the Order; to this end, with a view to maintaining the highest standards of membership, I strongly urge that the Exalted Ruler of every Lodge, during the coming Grand Lodge year, endeavor to reobligate each member of his Lodge. It should be our ambition to attain quality rather than quantity....

We are men of divers racial extractions, political opinions and religious affiliations, yet all believing in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, Protestant and Catholic, Jew and Gentile, Republican and Democrat, we have stood before the Altar of Elkdom and taken the same solemn and binding obligation to support the Constitution and Laws of one Nation indivisible and pledged allegiance to the Flag of our Republic; and while each of us treads the road of his own choice to attain his eternal salvation, let me emphasize there is an Elks Lodge on every road."

Submitted by Richard M. Palanzo SDGER - Connecticut