



CT Elks Association

MICHAEL J. BARTA, PDD, *President*
 PHIL STENDER, PER, *Secretary*
 PETER AFFATATO, PGER, *Advisor*
 JOHN P. SIMKO, PER, *Public Relations Chair*



Connecticut Elks Association

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STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY SP MICHAEL J. BARTA, PDD

Members one and all,

This is my last message as your State President. I wish to thank you for making this a very special year for myself and my wife Debbie. While traveling our great state, I was able to reconnect with many old friends and make many more new ones. As my year winds down, I can look back at the many amazing things that we have accomplished.

You have much to be proud of in all of your efforts this year. We once again had 100% in making the GER's goal of \$4.60 per member for ENF. You stepped up and made our goal of \$20,000 for "Where Angels Play," increased our annual donation to Special



"As I finish my last month as your President, let me remind you all to 'Take the Time to Say Hello.'"

Fraternally,
 MIKE BARTA, PDD
 CEA PRESIDENT

Olympics to \$30,000, and still managed to continue your support of our state Major Project, The Connecticut Children's Medical Center. These checks will be presented at our annual convention in Sturbridge, MA. On Friday night, May 30th. I hope that you will join the state officers and all of our members to witness this emotional and fulfilling night.

I will keep this brief so that I have something for my final report. As I finish my last month as your President, let me remind you all to "Take the Time to Say Hello."

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JAN A. WANKOWICZ SR., PDD; COASTAL VP

My fellow Elks,

As we start our new Connecticut Elks Association year I would like to thank president Mike Barta for helping to make a smooth transition.

Forward we go with many new state and district chairpersons. Hopefully we will have some new ideas and methods to achieve our Grand Lodge goals and programs. New ideas are what we, in Connecticut, are noted for! We need to show that we are no longer "our fathers or grandfathers Elks" – we shouldn't even be ours!

We need to be innovative and come to grips with the world we live in. We need to embrace our youth and listen to what they want and what their needs are. Let's change our thinking and how we raise money for our

charitable projects – the days of dances and formal balls don't work anymore.

One of the best ways to move forward is to build a team that works together. Teamwork will make our programs successful and help us stand out in our communities. Our most successful Lodges in all of Elkdom are those that not only have strong leadership but those who work together well as a team.

There is no I in team or Elks – forward we go!

After the New Orleans Grand Lodge convention in July we will be able to give you more updates on the news of the order.

Fraternally yours,
 JAN A. WANKOWICZ SR., PDD;
 COASTAL VP

2013-14 CT ELKS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

- State President*
Michael J. Barta PDD
- Vice President Coastal*
Jan A. Wankowicz, Sr. PDD
- Vice President Central*
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- Vice President Northwest*
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- Vice President East*
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Anthony Roscello PER
- Sergeant at Arms*
Robert Brown PER
- Inner Guard*
Michael A. Bonini PER
- Organist*
Jerry Dipietro



Message *from the* GER: Millard C. Pickering

GL NEWSLETTER, MAY 2014 GER MESSAGE: SCHOOL'S OUT! LOOK FOR WAYS TO OCCUPY THE KIDS

This month brings the end of the typical school year and the start of the season of boys and girls – summer! While school kids literally count the weeks until summer break, parents may have the opposite sentiment as they contemplate the added burden of planning distractions for their now idle kids.

Lodges in my part of the country experience a little down-market during the summer as people spend more time in outdoor activities. It seems to me these factors suggest some real service opportunities for Local Lodges.

What can your Lodge do for school kids to help them celebrate their accomplishments or occupy their time productively? What events are planned for the whole family to enjoy?

One of the first things I remember about the Elks was when I was invited to a dinner hosted by the Lodge honoring all the senior boys. There was a guest speaker I don't remember and great food – BBQ as I recall – and each boy was assigned an Elks escort to host and introduce him that evening. That same dinner still goes on today, a tradition more than 60 years strong. Many of the Members of my home Lodge have similar fond memories of that event.

Picnics, fishing derbies, golf tournaments or lessons, baseball leagues, pool parties, bowling nights and cookouts are all events within the reach of most any Local Lodge. What a great service to your Members or, better yet, a wonderful way to reach young families who might be future prospects.

If your Lodge has the facility space available, subject to state and local regulations, plan a similar experience for local kids this summer. With proper supervision and parental approval, such an event would give busy parents a needed break and one more benefit for their membership dollars. A little extra attention and business for the Lodge is a good thing too.

See you down the road! ■

“What a great service to your Members or, better yet, a wonderful way to reach young families who might be future prospects.”



The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available. ■

Elks National Veterans Service Commission

APRIL 2014 GRAND LODGE NEWSLETTER MESSAGE, JAMES L. NICHELSON, VICE-CHAIRMAN

MEDAL OF VALOR

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission is proud to provide local Lodges the opportunity to present a Medal of Valor to the families of members of our armed services who have given their all. The Medal of Valor is presented posthumously in recognition of the great loss the recipients have suffered. It tells the families the members of the local lodge and all Elks have immortalized their loss in their hearts.

Your lodge can make a Medal of Honor presentation a part of a Veterans Day or Memorial Day Program. Additionally, the family presentation could be made part of a special program in your community. Some lodges integrate the presentation into a Veterans' Dinner. Others work jointly with veterans' organizations to locate and recognize deserving families.

The Medal of Valor is very attractive, comes in a presentation case, and can be engraved with the name of the deceased. The cost is \$8.00 per medal and shipping is included. It can be ordered from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, 2750 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-1889, or by E-mail at vets@elks.org.

Elks remember veterans. It is what we do. What better way to do this than to present a Medal of Valor to deserving family members of those who have made the supreme sacrifice. ■



Connecticut Elks Bowl for the Children

BY JAMES PATCHELL, PER, CEA BOWLING COMMITTEE STATE CHAIRMAN

112 Connecticut Elks participated in a fun filled morning of bowling as part of the CEA Bowling Committee's annual fundraiser at the Wallingford Colony Lanes, which was followed by lunch and presentation of awards at the Wallingford Elks Lodge #1365. \$2,440 was raised for the CEA State Major Project fund, the Connecticut Children Medical Center. Thanks to all that participated and made this a very successful event, especially Colony Lanes manager Mike Lettick and his staff for the great job they did hosting the tournament, and Wallingford Lodge ER Cliff Pascarella and the members of the Wallingford Lodge for the great lunch. My thanks also to the District Chairs: Mary Ellen Patchell, PER, John Romano, DDGER, Louise Lee, and Tom Reiff. ■

Elks Attend Special Olympics Event

BY JOHN P. SIMKO, PER/CEA STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

Members of the Connecticut Elks Association (CEA) attended the recent Special Olympics Connecticut (SOCT) Hall of Fame Dinner — “Celebrating 46 Years of Memories” — at the Aqua Turf Country Club in Plantsville. The annual Hall of Fame event “honors extraordinary athletes, volunteers and supporters who demonstrate leadership, spirit and selflessness, inspire joy through sport and promote inclusion and respect for individuals of all abilities.” In 2013, the CEA was the recipient of the SOCT Community Leadership Award for their annual work at the SOCT Holiday Classic, as well as the \$15,000 donation the CEA has made to SOCT each of the past 14 years. 2010 SOCT Unsung Hero Award recipient Dudley Jenkins PER (Stamford Lodge) and the Connecticut Elks Association and were inducted into the SOCT Hall of Fame in prior years. The CEA voted at this past Mid-Year Convention to increase the CEA's donation to the SOCT to \$30,000. ■



2013-14 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS & COMMITTEEMEN

Past Grand Exalted Ruler and Jurisdictional Head
Hon. Peter T. Affatato

Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler
Hon. Robert W. Hansen

Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting Committee
James Sabio

DDGER Coastal
Matthew C. Frankel

DDGER East
Alex Coriaty

DDGER Central
John F. Romano

DDGER Northwest
Michael E. Gannon

DISTRICT NEWS

A Farewell Message FROM ALEX CORIATY, DDGER EAST DISTRICT

As my year as District Deputy rapidly comes to an end I was happy to have held my final District Deputy Clinic in Willimantic on April 14th. During the clinic many of the Grand Lodge Programs were touched on by our State Chairman. I also recapped 2013-2014 year and thanked the East District Lodges for all their hard work that they put in over course of this past year. I also recognized for the final time my audit team that did an exceptional job this past year in auditing the Lodges in the east district. I recognized all of our Elks Veteran's that were in attendance and they rightfully received a standing ovation for serving and protecting our Nation.

The East District proudly presented our Special Deputy GER Robert Hansen with a plaque and wished him well when he becomes a member of the Board of Grand Trustees. Mr. Hansen announced that Richard Palanzo will be the new Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. Also it was announced that my friend Michael Stewart PER of Putnam Lodge #574 will be the new District Deputy in July. This is another great recommendation from our Past State Presidents & a better confirmation from our Jurisdictional Leader the Honorable Peter Affatato. I'm happy that Putnam Lodge has an opportunity to have a District Deputy because their Lodge hasn't had one in 40 years. ■



Drug Awareness Program

BY LISA BERTHIAUME, PER; CEA STATE DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM CHAIR

POSTER & ESSAY CONTEST : "DOWN WITH DRUGS, UP WITH AWARENESS"

Judging is complete and the results are in. Check CTELKS.ORG for a complete list of winners. The state's No. 1 essay winner is Liya S. from HALS Academy submitted by New Britain #957 and the state's No. 1 poster winner is Liliana T. from Pond Hill Elementary School submitted by Wallingford Lodge No. 1365. Congratulations to these two young ladies – their entries have been forwarded to Grand Lodge for national judging and the results will be known when I get to Grand Lodge in July.



** NEW AND IMPROVED ** DRUG AWARENESS WEB SITE FOR KIDS...

ELKSKIDSZONE.ORG/Visit this wonderful web site intended for young children where they can see and hear Elroy give good advice about making the right choices. The site consists of music videos, Life Lessons by Milton Creagh, online coloring books and online comics and so much more. For example, the 'Avengers' are helping the Elks combat bullying, underage drinking and the abuse of pharmaceutical drugs and to help spread the word that you are 'Never Alone' and someone will always be ready to help them lead a safe and drug-free life. Spider Man and the Fantastic Four in "Hard Choices" help children see the dangers of underage drinking. Spread the word about this amazing web site. ■

Danielson Team to Represent Connecticut

BY PETER NELSON PDD, STATE RITUALISTIC CHAIRMAN

For the eleventh consecutive year, the officers of Danielson Lodge #1706 will be going to Grand Lodge (this year in New Orleans) to represent Connecticut in the Grand Lodge Ritual Contest. As of now they will be performing at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 13th. (If for some reason a team performing on Saturday should back out, then Danielson might go on Saturday instead of Sunday; check the schedule posted in the convention center for Danielson's day and time.) I urge everyone attending the convention to go and support the dedicated men and women who make up the Danielson team. Nothing else is going on at the convention at this time on Sunday morning; we hope to see everyone from Connecticut there — I know that the officers from Danielson will appreciate it. Watch and see how the ritual should be performed. Congratulations and the best of luck to the officers from Danielson Lodge! ■

Liability Claim Form Revised as of January 2014

BY MICHAEL A. JOHNSON, PDD, CEA ACCIDENT PREVENTION CHAIRMAN

Lodges that need to report a liability claim will find a newly revised and fillable claim form available at www.elks.org/resources/accident/. When a liability claim is reported, a Lodge officer or manager now has the option of completing the claim form online and submitting it directly to Gallagher Bassett Services with a click of the mouse. Lodges are asked to send any supporting claim documentation—including time-sensitive materials—to Gallagher Bassett Services by email: GB-Oakbrook_Terrace-Mail@gbtpa.com or by fax: 1-800-223-7006. ■

Freedom Grants BY RICK BERTHIAUME, PER; CEA STATE VETERANS CHAIR

Freedom Grants are intended to provide financial support to local Lodges with programs assisting and enhancing the lives of Veterans, the active military and their families. One hundred and twenty-five Freedom Grants of \$2,000 each were awarded for 2013-14.

Local Lodge Secretaries or designated grant coordinators are able to submit applications online between August 1 and August 31 of 2014. A panel of judges selects the best 125 applications based on the programs expected impact on the lives of the veterans. The level of Lodge involvement is also taken into consideration.

Freedom Grants are used to clothe, feed and house homeless Veterans and provide necessities, therapeutic equipment and recreation to hospitalized Veterans. Grants allow Lodges to take Veterans and the local military units on outings, host dinners at the Lodge, hospital or base, and support the active military by shipping care packages overseas.

Now is the time to plan how your Lodge might utilize a \$2,000 Freedom Grant – put your ideas and plans together so you'll be prepared when the applications will be accepted this summer. You can also visit <http://www.elks.org/vets/files/freedomgrants2013-2014.pdf> to get ideas on how your Lodge might utilize this grant. ■

Proper Retirement of the U.S. Flag

BY DAVID ACANFORA, PDD; CEA STATE CHAIRMAN OF AMERICANISM

The United States Flag Code outlines proper flag etiquette for everything from properly folding a flag to flying a flag correctly. It even describes in great detail how to retire an American flag respectfully. The U.S. Flag code states that, "the flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." Thus, when a flag is torn and tattered beyond repair, it's time for it to be retired.

When an American flag becomes worn, faded, torn or soiled, it should be retired and replaced with a new flag. There are several ways to respectfully dispose of the American flag without showing disgrace. The most common method is burning the torn or tattered flag in a special ceremony. Chapter one, section eight, item k, of the United States flag code states: "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferable by burning."

The Veterans Department of Affairs suggests starting by folding the flag in a customary triangle manner. Then prepare a large enough fire space to sufficiently burn the flag completely. Next place the flag in the fire and while it burns, individuals at the ceremony should salute or recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Finally, end the ceremony with a moment of silence and bury the ashes once the flag is completely consumed.

Many groups that hold annual or semi-annual flag retirement ceremonies often have their own unique traditions they also follow. But these are the minimum steps everyone should at least follow when they retire an American Flag. Many Elks Lodges have ceremonies throughout the Lodge year to retire U.S. Flags from the members and community.

The Connecticut Elks retire the American Flag twice a year during a ceremony prior to the Past Exalted Rulers meeting. Whatever way or means that you retire your American Flag, it should be done with dignity and please always remember what that flag stands for. If you need more information on this or any other topic concerning Americanism please free to contact me or your District Chair. ■

U.S. Flags being retired at a CEA Retirement ceremony.





Shown from left to right: Amy Potts, Roberta Glomeration, Tim Gravidly, Brian Smith, David Field and Danette Contrás

Milford Lodge Recognition Night

On Saturday, April 26, 2014 **Milford Lodge #1589** held an awards night for their Elk, Officer and Citizen of the Year as well as recognizing the contributions of two members on specific committees. A dinner was held to honor Elk of the Year Amy Potts, Officer of the Year Danyette Contrás and Citizen of the Year Brian Smith. The Lodge also recognized the efforts of two committee members by presenting them with the Grand Exalted Rulers "Making a Difference" Special Citation for their service. Roberta Glomeration and Tim Gravidas were honored for their participation on the House and Lodge Activities committees respectively. A sellout crowd came to thank all these members for their dedicated service to Milford Lodge and Elkdom. ■

Hamden Lodge Community Service Awards Nights



Two annual awards events are sponsored by **Hamden Lodge #2224**, serving Hamden and North Haven. The Hamden Community Service Awards Dinner honored three outstanding men for their service to Hamden. *Shown at the ceremony are, left to right: Mayor Scott Jackson, Hamden Lodge President Alton Hudson, Citizen of the Year Daniel Levy, Police Chief Thomas Wydra, Police Officer of the Year Michael Doherty, Firefighter of the Year Kevin A. Martin, Fire Chief David Berardesca, with Hamden Lodge and CT Elks Association Past President Phil Wilson.* The North Haven Community Service Awards Dinner honored four outstanding men for their service to North Haven. *Shown at the ceremony are, left to right: First Selectman Michael Freda, Citizen of the Year Mark Minotti, Fire Chief Vincent Landisio, Outstanding Firefighter Lt. David Obier, State Representative David Yaccarino, Outstanding Volunteer Firefighter Robert Kovach, CT Elks Association and Hamden Lodge Past President Philip Wilson, Outstanding Police Officer Alan J. Cantele, and Hamden Lodge President Alton Hudson.* ■



The North Haven Community Service Awards Dinner honored four outstanding men for their service to North Haven. *Shown at the ceremony are, left to right: First Selectman Michael Freda, Citizen of the Year Mark Minotti, Fire Chief Vincent Landisio, Outstanding Firefighter Lt. David Obier, State Representative David Yaccarino, Outstanding Volunteer Firefighter Robert Kovach, CT Elks Association and Hamden Lodge Past President Philip Wilson, Outstanding Police Officer Alan J. Cantele, and Hamden Lodge President Alton Hudson.* ■



L to R, above: Derby Little League President Ken Marcucio Sr. with Derby Elks ER Jerry Coolidge standing in front of a donated backstop.

At right: Eagle Scouts with Derby #571 ER Jerry Collidge.

Derby Lodge Donates to Little League...

Utilizing a \$1000 State Charity Grant the **Derby Lodge #571** bought much needed backstops for the Ken Marcucio, Sr. Little League and Youth Sports Complex. Ken Marcucio, Sr. is a member of Derby Lodge and has been President of Derby Little League for Forty years. If you are interested in reading the article please go to:

http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/derby_little_league_honors_marcucio/



...and Housatonic Scout Council

While attending the Housatonic Council Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scouts Award Ceremony, **Derby Lodge #571** ER Jerry Coolidge presented 30 Eagle Scouts with American Flags and with framed certificates. Derby Lodge also donated \$250 to the Housatonic Scouts Council. ■

Enfield's Most Valuable Student's Dream Comes True

BY JOHN P. SIMKO, PER/STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

Congratulations to Lauryn Falcone, **Enfield Lodge #2222's** Most Valuable Student for 2009, for being selected as one of six past Most Valuable Students to win the prestigious Gunther & Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship. This scholarship, offered by the Elks National Foundation, is an exclusive scholarship opportunity just for Elks scholars pursuing a medical or osteopathic medicine degree. Lauryn will receive \$20,000 to help her pursue her dreams of becoming a doctor. Lauryn is attending West Virginia University Medical School, and is specializing in primary care /internal medicine.

"Primary care offers the unique opportunity for a physician to form long-term relationships with his or her patients and really make personal and lasting impacts on their lives," Lauryn says about her chosen field. "As an Elks scholar, I always felt connected to something larger, and I knew that across the country, hundreds of other scholars also worked on a daily basis to make a difference in the lives of those around them. I am very grateful for the confidence, support, and encouragement I received as an Elks scholar."

This year, seven \$20,000 Gunther & Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarships are being offered to Elks scholars (current or alum) entering the first year of medical school in 2014-15. The scholarship established through the generosity of Lee Weigel, widow of Gunther Weigel. Please contact your ENF District Chairperson or State Chairman Jim Money for more information. ■

Fairfield Lodge Utilizes Funds to Assist Those in Need

On Wednesday January 15th, **Fairfield Lodge # 2220** donated \$2,275 from their State Elks Association Charity Grant, funded by the Elks National Foundation, to the Fairfield Adaptive Recreation Program. Fairfield Parks and Recreation's adaptive programs serve over 100 children and adults with special needs, and include an after-school program for children K – 12, a Saturday drop-in program for teens and adults, and a Summer Playground Program. Fairfield Lodge #2220 also donated \$1,000 from their Gratitude Grant to Fairfield P.A.L. and \$1,000 to the town's homeless shelter, Operation Hope.

Fairfield Lodge recently donated two huge boxes of coats worth approximately \$2,500 to the Veteran Services. The ongoing collection filled a second large box and was worth approximately \$1,500 which was donated to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. Although the drive ended on Valentines Day (Have a Heart) we will continue to accept coats, sweaters and gloves for a future donation. Many thanks to former Marine and current House Committee member Harry Scheef, who promoted the coat drive. ■

Naugatuck Lodge Participates in Annual Egg Hunt

Naugatuck Lodge #967 and Elroy the Elk attended the annual event on Saturday, April 19th. The weather was beautiful and a large portion of the community came out to participate in the hunt. Anticipation was evident as each age group awaited their chance to find as many eggs as possible. Eggs contained treats as well as prize certificates for the children. Each child received a gift as well from the town. As Elks, our main focus was to promote Drug Awareness, and we were indeed well received by members of our community. Elroy, along with the Easter Bunny, Sparky the Fire Dog, Ducky the Duck Day mascot arrived in grand style aboard one of the town fire trucks. Elroy was by far the favorite of all the characters; more than the Easter Bunny! Our furry Elk friend made his appearance memorable as he cavorted with the kids, clowned with the adults, and even participated in a Zumba class! ■





New Haven Hosts Yale Scholars

New Haven Lodge #25 recently hosted a dinner for a group of Elk Most Valuable Student scholars that are currently attending Yale University. In addition to being an opportunity to meet one another, they also got to see the Lodge and learn what the Elks are all

about. PER Bonnie Mullins shared the history of New Haven Lodge #25, along with interesting points of Elk history. The students and their home states are: Mike Wolner, Wisconsin; Stephanie Heung, Florida; Ivonne Gonzalez, California; Olivia Valdes, Florida; Jeannie Tran, California; Melinda Becker, Kansas; and Jessinia Khatyat, Pennsylvania. ■

Stamford Lodge Utilizes CEA Grant Money

BY JOHN P. SIMKO, PER/CEA STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN



Stamford Lodge #899 recently held a “doggy social” for the canine friends of members to celebrate the recent award of \$1500 from the Connecticut Elks Association, which was donated to STARelief, a local group who has a long-term vision “to ensure that no pet caretaker will ever have to surrender their pet due to financial hardship, and to ensure that all companion animals are treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve.”

With the assistance of Lodge Esquire Marie Malwitz and Coastal District Chair for Community Charities Lyn Roscia, PER the Lodge Hall was decorated with all donated items such as dog food and treats, and even pads for those dogs that got a little excited. On hand was Lodge member Geraldine Murwaski with her dog Teddy, a dog who came from STARelief when his original owner was very ill and could no longer care for him.

The \$1500 award, along with \$700 raised through raffles and Lodge member donations, was presented to Heather Scutti, STARelief’s Executive Director, and Pam Kelly, Director of Fundraising and Special Events, to “continue their community efforts in providing assistance to low income individuals and families, the physically and/or mentally impaired, U.S. military veterans and their families, the homeless who own pets, senior citizens and retirees on fixed incomes.” For more on this wonderful group, go to www.starelief.org. ■

Bridgeport Lodge Saluted by “Homes for the Brave”

BY JOHN P. SIMKO, PER/CEA STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN



On Friday, May 9th **Bridgeport Lodge #36** will be honored as the first recipient of the “Heroes Salute” Award by Homes for the Brave, an organization with an emphasis on veterans that “provide[s] the housing and services necessary to help homeless individuals return to a productive and meaningful life.” Since opening their doors in 2002, the



organization has worked with more than 780 individuals.” Bridgeport member Matt Frankel PER/DD set out six years ago to find a community cause for the Bridgeport Elks to support, and was instrumental in bringing Homes for the Brave to the forefront for that purpose. For the first two years, Bridgeport Lodge self-funded the effort and then, with the use of a Grand Lodge ENF Impact Grant, the Bridgeport Elks have been serving dinners and providing residents with basic items necessary for daily living including laundry detergent, dishwashing soap, and toilet paper, as well as household items such as plates, cutlery, alarm clocks, towels, etc. For more information about Homes for the Brave, go to <http://www.homesforthebrave.org>. ■

Lodge Block Party & Dance to Benefit CCMC, State Major Project

On Saturday June 14 **Milford Lodge #1589** will be hosting a free block party and dance as part of the city of Milford's 375th anniversary celebration. The Lodge will be raising funds to support our state major project, Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Titled "Game is Peace and Love" with four great local area bands volunteering their time and talent. Featured bands will be The Navels, The Vybrations, The Elwood's, and Toigo Band performing. An interesting is that Laurie, the lead singer for the Navels, spent a large part of her childhood as a patient at Newington Children's Hospital, which is the forerunner of Connecticut Children's Medical Center. The bands will start at 6 PM and play until 11 PM. Food and beverages will be available beginning at 5:00 pm – sorry, no coolers will be allowed, but bring your own lawn chairs. At approximately 9:30 PM the 375th committee will be putting on a fireworks display directly across the street from the lodge. Music and fireworks it doesn't get any better it should be a great time-bring your friends! Remember donations being accepted for Major Projects -let's help the kids!



Upcoming EVENTS

85TH ANNUAL CEA CONVENTION,
MAY 29 - JUNE 1: at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and
Conference Center.

**2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION, JULY 13 -
17:** New Orleans.

For updates and additional information, visit ctelks.org.

Can't find CTELKS.org under your old bookmark? This past year, CTELKS.org found a new home and a new format. You can still find us at CTELKS.org, but due to a new server system you need to check out the "NEW" CTELKS.org website at www.ctelks.org Great job Peter and Team! So, just a friendly reminder if you HAVE NOT changed your bookmark settings for CTELKS.org, you need to!

CTELKS Association is on Facebook

Follow us on Facebook. 300 are so far, but with over 20,000 elks in Connecticut, let's increase our numbers! **FIND US AT CTELKS.ORG**



The Vision and Mission Statement of the CEA Public Relations Committee

BY JOHN P. SIMKO, PER/CEA STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

Within our Vision "To showcase each of the 33 Connecticut Elk Lodges through their benevolent efforts within their community" the Mission of the CEA Public Relations Committee is to "broaden the awareness of the benevolence of the Fraternal Order of Elksdom throughout the State of Connecticut".

The Public Relations Committee, recognizes that each of the 33 Lodges in Connecticut, although unique in its own ways, are common to each other in that we are all a part of a fraternal, benevolent organization that believes in a common mission as stated on the Elks.org website to "help build stronger communities". We fulfill this pledge by investing in communities where Elks live and work. We provide tomorrow's leaders, our youth, with lifelong skills; honor the Elks pledge to never forget our veterans; help the State Elks Associations accomplish their charitable objectives and fund projects that improve the quality of life in local Elks communities. Like all Elks, the belief is that charity is the greatest of all virtues and that by sharing and giving we have the power to replace sorrow and despair with hope and confidence.

We are here to assist your Lodge and Lodge Public Relations Chairperson in whichever way we can to promote your Lodge efforts from the local level up through our Connecticut Elks State Association to the Grand Lodge. Along with your PR chairperson we are going to be aggressive this year with promoting your Lodges efforts. Hopefully an increase in membership will follow with the more awareness your community knows about your Lodge benevolence.

If the Public Relations Committee can be of any assistance to your Lodge please contact me or your District Chair.

It is the intent of the **State Public Relations Committee** to publish this newsletter quarterly. All Grand Lodge and State Officers and committee persons and local Lodges are encouraged to submit any articles and information to the District or State Public Relations Chair. A very special "Thank you" goes to **Ellen Freiler** for taking time out of her busy schedule to assist with copy editing for our CEA Newsletter. Contact information is as follows: **Chair: John P. Simko, PER** – johnpsimko@yahoo.com;

Central: Josephine O'Neil, PER – joneilgraphics@yahoo.com; **Coastal: Nancy Seeley** – nlseeley63@hotmail.com

East: Peter Lebejko, PER – plebejko@snet.net; **Northwest: Brian Belcinski, PER** – cazinct@snet.net