

Antler Antics



Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

Message from The Exalted Ruler, Richard Platt



Back in April, we moved forward with reopening your Lodge. Maintenance had been deferred due to not being open. Bar stock was stored inappropriately. Smoking in the Lodge had been permitted. Staffing needed to be addressed. With your input and assistance, we moved forward. We hired staff, opened the bar and Lodge, restocked rotten items, we are holding meetings, and hosting events. Recently the duty officer noted that only three members were in the bar Saturday evening at nearly six PM, three members who had worked the BBQ that day!

We sing in our opening *ode* may charity be ever in mind, but what about our business, whose income supports the **Lodge**. You vote annually, for those who will hold office. We are stewards, of your money. The business supporting our charity, is now and always will be the BBQ, bar, and food sales, that's it. Your House Committee may very soon, address the low-income numbers from all sales. The BBQ pricing was raised, then halted, then reraised. That first Saturday's BBQ with new pricing, very few questioned, the lunch price. That is one down, more to come.

The Yeti raffle sales generate money for our Charity Ball and more. Eleven Elks received Covid vaccinations, on September 2, 2021. We were able to recruit a new member, from the VCHD crew. A member was able to arrange for VCHDs to go to his home, to provide his wife her vaccination. If, but one member, avoided that dreaded illness, this was well worth the effort it took to make this happen. Thank you to all who helped with this event.

What are we doing or not doing, to cause members, to be willing to proceed to their lodge? Your lodge officers need to hear from you, please let one of us know. I am the 49th ER, look for more to come about our **FIFTY** Year!!!

See you at the BBQ Saturday! Thank you, and if I can be of help, please call me at home (805)380-4101 or email me at rplatt_1998 @ yahoo.com.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Platt

<u>Table of Contents</u>					
Officers Messages	1-3	Activities & Birthdays	7	Continued Articles	11
Officers/Past ERs	4	Pin Contest/Elk of the month	8	911 Ceremonies	12-15
Committees	5	Facing Challenge/First Lady	9	Bunco	16
Elks Share & Care	6	Around the Lodge	10		

**Message from the
Leading Knight**

Terry Gicking



Fall is in full swing, except in Southern California. There might be a slight nip in the air for us old timers, but that just means the overnight lows dipped into the high 50's. October brings us the Christmas Baskets Charity Ball at the #2477. This year we are changing the "Ball" format to a "Sunday afternoon at the #2477". It will be a casual 50's theme. We will be bringing in a guest chef from Ventura Lodge #1430. **Sharon Thompson** will be preparing Chicken Cordon Bleu, mashed potatoes, veggies, salad, roll and dessert. We will also have for your dancing and listening pleasure the tunes of the Generation Gap Band. This band will be playing all our favorites from the 50's and 60's. They do play requests and they love to interact with the audience. All this fun for a low price of \$25 per person. We will also be observing the mandated protocols of the **VCHD** for social distance seating and face masks. There will be a Mask Decorating Contest, bragging rights for: most creative, most bling-bling and ugliest. Dinner tickets will go on sale on October 1 and will be available to purchase at the bar, the Lodge office and through myself. We will also be able to reserve tables for up to 8 people.

Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the **Yeti Cooler Raffle** which is full of top shelf adult refreshments. They are available for purchase NOW through October 24. You can purchase your tickets at the bar, the Lodge office, and the Lodge Officers. The tickets are \$20 each and are going fast. The proceeds of this event are going to our Charity Basket and **ENF** program.

Continued on p. 11

**Message from the
Loyal Knight**

John Betancourt



When I had my interview Not Summittred become an Elk the first question that was asked was why do I want to become an Elk. Simple answer to an important question, to give back to the community in any way I could. This is what makes the Elks a great organization throughout the United States.

At our Lodge we do this by the different activities of the three stations, Leading Knight, Loyal Knight, and Lecturing Knight. These three stations are the backbone in raising the funds that are needed so we can give back to the families that are in need in our community. How do we do this: Saturday BBQ, Friday Night Dinners, The Kampers breakfast on the last Sunday of each month, and our Christmas Tree Lot at the end of November. Another important area is that of the Wood gathering and cutting of trees that are donated to the Lodge, Greg Sweet is in charge and his contact number is 805-427-1681. This is important because it keeps the fire going so we can do the BBQ. All are done by volunteers, THE ELKS. Regarding our Friday night dinners, for those who are concerned with the present health situation and still want to get a great dinner you can either get it to go or you can sit outside in the patio area and also take whatever you are drinking with you. I have been told that we do have a couple of heaters that we can light up to keep you warm. All are important, as well as, attending the Lodge meetings and I thank you for your support.

On a personal note, if by chance you do not happen to see me at the Lodge, on Sept.15th, I had knee replacement surgery. I do hope to be back by the end of the month, if not sooner, if all goes well with my surgery or they boot me out of rehabilitation. Be safe you and your family.

John Betancourt
Loyal Knight.

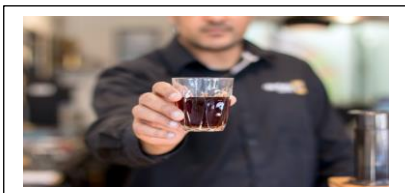


**Message from the
Lecturing Knight
Ron Watkins**

ARTICLE NOT SUBMITTED

Numbers Do Not Lie

We have two streams of revenue supporting your Lodge, one the BBQ, and the other being bar sales. The two bottommost bar sales days of the week are: Monday and Tuesday. With the return of Monday Night Football and our Darts, moving to Monday, those numbers are rising, a good thing! Poor Tuesday, closing is the last option we want, but numbers do not lie. Might I ask, after dining out for Taco Tuesday, please come to your Lodge for a margarita or other libation next Tuesday. We will not be able to stay open, without operating profitably. The numbers will tell! See you at your Lodge.



**Message from the
The Lodge Secretary
David Naccarato**

Around the lodge

The BBQ is the main source of income for the Lodge. It pays the bills and keeps the lights on. We use Oaks to light the flames and give us an edge to our competitors. When a Thousand Oaks resident needs to remove a damaged, old, or dead Oak tree they need a permit from the city to have the tree removed or cut down. When this happens, "What do I do with all this wood?" The city advises them to call the Elks. Now cutting and splitting this wood is not done by osmosis, it is done by Elk members. It is a job that is crucial to the needs of the BBQ. We have a wood lot. We don't sell the wood, we cut, split, stack then wait for Mother Nature to Cure the wood to get it ready to burn. **Greg Sweet** has taken over the chairmanship of the wood lot so if you would like to help with the wood lot, I know he'd be happy to have you.

Another aspect to getting involved, the Lodge has a multipurpose room which means just what says. It's our Lodge meeting room, Friday Night dining room, awards night room and the occasional rental for a birthday, wedding, or anything you can imagine. We have a crew of guys who comes out early in the morning to arrange the room for the upcoming event, then back again to set up for the meeting or dinner or whatever is on the agenda. **Bill Joseph** is chairing the set-up crew. We need help with this. Seems the men and women moving furniture are also the ones cutting wood and working the BBQ. We have 416 members, and we need your help. You don't need to be here every day but find something to get involved with.

Continues on p.11

Officers 2021-2022

Exalted Ruler: Richard Platt
Leading Knight: Terry Gicking PER
PDDGER
Loyal Knight: John Betancourt
Lecturing Knight: Ron Watkins
Esquire: Adam Smith
Chaplain: Rita Dacorsi
Treasurer: Bill Joseph
Inner Guard: Gregg Miraglia
Tiler: Lyssa Wright
One Year Trustee: Kathy Moye
Two Year Trustee: Dan Hoffman*
Three Year Trustee: Reem Agel
Four Year Trustee: Steve Kerman
Five Year Trustee: Ed Lees

*Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Crying Towel

August 11th 1st capsule drawing \$500 **Bob Adams** not present 2nd capsule drawing \$50 **Gregory Charles** not present.
Lucky 13 **Lyssa Wright** \$15 pulled the ace, Winner!!!!
August 25th 1st capsule drawing \$500 **Inger Hogan** not present 2nd capsule drawing \$75 **Bill Sternberg** not present.
Lucky 13 \$15.00 **Dan Hoffman**, no winner.

Past Exalted Rulers

1972-73	Marvin D. Smith *	2001-02	John D'Ambrogio
1973-74	Erie Pittman, PDDGER	2002-03	Don Booker
1974-75	Richard Flake *	2003-04	Greg Metzgas, PDDGER, DL
1975-76	Bill Wagner *	2004-05	Jay Blockc *
1976-77	John E Henry *	2005-06	Sally Claunch *
1977-78	Robert McKee, PDDGER*	2006-07	David Naccarato
1978-79	Frank J Rindone PDDGER*	2007-08	Catherine Koeritz
1979-80	Edward F Stogsdell *	2008-09	George Meehan *
1980-81	Frank "Tex" Hastie *	2009-10	Terry Gicking, PDDGER
1981-82	Robert Hardy *	2010-11	Harry Brockwell *
1982-83	A John Nichols *	2011-12	Steve Smith
1983-84	John Nau	2012-13	Leo Rodriguez
1984-85	Vern Ogden *	2013-14	Terry Baker
1985-86	Dan Snyder *	2014-15	Dan Martyn
1986-87	Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, PDL, PSP	2015-16	Jim Moye
1987-88	John E Henry *	2016-17	Mike Flannery
1988-89	Ted Lipka *	2017-18	Jean Miraglia
1990-91	Don Ansell *	2018-19	Karen Martyn
1991-92	Gary Sleigh *	2019-20	Dan Hoffman
1992-93	Tom Ryder, PDDGER	2020-21	Dan Martyn
1993-94	Jim Wallace *		*Deceased
1994-95	George Pekow *		
1995-96	Gil Riding, PDDGER	By Affiliation	
1996-97	Jack Loughran *	1981-82	Robert Thornton*,
	PDDGER		
1997-98	John Kelly *	2001-02	Bill Sternberg
1998-99	Chet Kozlowski *	2009-10, 13-14, 18-19	Grace Vega
1999-20	Richard Goldner, PDDGER	1999-00	Ralph Vester *
2000-01	Jacob Panczak	1983-04, 02-03	Harold Constantine

Lodge Hours

Monday-Friday	3PM to 8 PM
Saturday-Sunday	Noon – 6PM
Office Hours	Mon-Thurs 10AM-3PM

Committees for the 2021-2022 Year

Please volunteer for a committee or lead one. Please note openings.

Responsible to the Exalted Ruler

Antler Antics
Editor: Gayle Platt
Proofreading: Gayle Platt & Mary Woodlief
USPS Mailing: David Naccarato
Website: Kira Wagner PER
Grants Coordinator: David Naccarato PER
BBQ: Steve Kerman
Photography: Jill Williams
Protocol: Terry Gicking & David Naccarato PERS
Presiding Judge: John Moran
Lodge Room Setup: Bill Joseph
Youth Appreciation Night: Reem Agel

Membership: David Naccarato PER
Investigation: John Betancourt, Alex Rogers,
Diane Jones
Orientation: Terry Gicking PER, PDDGER
Auditing & Accounting: Art Garcia
Lapsed and Strayed Elks: PERS
Maintenance: Dean Reichle
Grounds: Brian Williams & Richard Ibarra
Facilities: Dean Reichle & Jeff Conyers
Greeters: Dorothy Murray & Kathy Moye
PER Association: Jim Moye PER

Responsible to the Leading Knight

Bar Liaison: Dan Hoffman PER
Community Activities: Terry Gicking PER, PDDGER
Major Project/Purple Pig: Dan Hoffman PER
Bequests & Living Trusts: Art Garcia
Elks National Foundation: Grace Vega PER

Christmas Tree Lot: Carlos Muzquiz
Christmas Baskets: Terry Gicking PER, PDDGER
Sickness & Distress: Alex Rogers
Charity Matters: Terry Gicking PER, PDDGER
El Konejo Kampers: Shirste Gessler

Responsible to the Loyal Knight

Kitchen Operations: John Betancourt
Lodge Activities:
Flag Day/Flag Retirement: John Betancourt
Government Relations: John Betancourt
Elks Memorial Service: Rita Dacorsi
Veteran's Services: Tom Ryder PER PDDGER

Calendar: John Betancourt
Mediator: Rick Rodgers
Mother's Day: Rita Dacorsi
Inaugural Ball: **Needed**
Law Enforcement/Fire fighters: Paul Stein
Public Relations: Lyssa Wright

Responsible to the Lecturing Knight

Youth Activities: Ron Watkins
Hoop Shoot: Duke Kopacz
Drug Awareness: **Needed**
Scholarship: Reem Agel

Scouting: Greg Metzgas
Americanism: **Pending**
Dictionary Program: Steve Woodlief
Youth Appreciation: Reem Agel

**HELP Us Serve Our
Community Better**

Elks Care – Elks Share

Sickness and Distress

Alex Rogers, Committee Chair,
Home number: 805-492-3280,
Cell: 805-427-3013

John Betancourt had knee replacement surgery on 9/15. **Art Garcia** is not feeling well. **Harold Constantine** is at home recuperating from a trip to the hospital. Keep these Elks in your prayers and good thoughts.

Applications for Membership

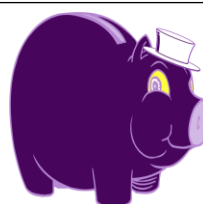
<u>Name</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
Barbara Marx	Tyson Flynn	realtor
Christine White	Lynn Rodriguez	self employed

Other Donations

Scouting
Greg Metzgus
Jim Moyer
Meeting of 8/25/21
Scholarship
\$100 from Bill Joseph

Memorial Fund
Ruth Townes

thank you!



*A Coin a Day so they can
Walk, Talk, See and Play!*



Purple Pig Honor Roll

Monday Dart Teams
\$80.00
Bill Joseph *
Jean and Greg
Miraglia *
Paul Stein *
Roger Markel
Marvin Gregory
Darryl Kopacz
Trudy Smith
Billy Williams

*Century Club
Members



Recurring Donors

Reem Agel
Dave Anderson
John Betancourt
Rita DaCorsi
Art Garcia
Terry Gicking
Gerry Gillies
Peter Gordon
Brenda Hagen
Dan Hoffman
Inger Hogan
Sheryl Holloway
Diane Jones
Ed Lees
Greg Metzgus
David Naccarato
Richard Platt
Alexandra Rogers
Greg Sweet
Lyssa Wright

Lodge Activities for October

10/1 Spaghetti Dinner
 10/2 BBQ
 10/4 Quilters
 Darts
 Football
 10/5 Quilters
 10/6 Bunco
 10/7 \$3 Chili Dogs
 Football
 Calendar Mtg
 10/8 Pork Chop Dinner
 10/9 BBQ
 10/11 Quilters
 Darts
 Football
 10/12 Quilters
 10/13 Lodge Meeting 7PM
 10/14 \$3 Chili Dogs
 Football
 10/15 Fish Fry
 PERS Nite at the Races
 10/16 BBQ
 10/17 Rotary Street Faire
 10/18 Quilters
 Darts
 Football

10/19 Quilters
 10/20 House Meeting 6PM
 Trustee Meeting 7PM
 10/21 \$3 Chili Dog
 Football
 10/22 Grill Own Steak Dinner
 10/23 BBQ
 10/24 Charity Ball/Yeti Raffle
 10/25 Quilters
 Darts
 Football
 10/26 Quilters
 Orientation 6PM
 10/27 Steak Dinner 5:30PM
 Initiation 7PM
 10/28 \$3 Chili Dogs
 Football
 10/29 Taco Dinner
 10/30 BBQ
 10/31 Kamper's Breakfast
 10-12
 Happy Halloween



October Birthdays

Doug Brown-01
 Dave gates-01
 Ben Rieger-02
 Tommy Tyler-02
 Jack Paulson-03
 Timothy Hinsche-04
 Daniel Parrot-04
 Trudy Smith-04
 John barr-06
 Forrest Godfrey-07
 Ray Laraway-08
 Dennis Shankel-10
 Kenneth Kolde-11
 Gregg Miraglia-11
 Dennis Angelini-12
 Maree Contreras-12
 Mike Arkelini-14
 Farida Merchant-14
 John Puckett-15
 Christopher Vrakelos-16
 James Porter-18
 Joseph Gosland-22
 Mike Becker-24
 Betty Lou Vega-25
 Dennis Gillette-27
 June Leadam-27
 Richard Wohl-29
 Larry Cummings-30
 Bryan Gicking-30
 Winona Kreiger-30
 Grace Vega-30
 Joseph Buckhout-31
 Gregory Charles-31
 Chris Metz Gus-31

Thank You to Our Lodge

Claire Smithers, granddaughter of **Mary and Steve Woodlief**, for a Legacy Scholarship. **Braves Baseball Academy** plaque, **John Betancourt's** grandson, for \$100 Lodge donation allowing boys to compete in an out of state tournament. **Support our Youth**

Happy
Birthday

**THOUSAND OAKS ELKS LODGE
IS TURNING "50" YEARS OLD**

The Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge charter is dated March 25, 1972. So on March 25, 2022 our lodge will be 50 years old. The members of Lodge 2477 have been serving the Order of Elks and our community for 50 years.

This calls for a celebration!

First item on the celebration agenda is the need for a newly designed Lodge pin. The PERs suggested to the Exalted Ruler an idea for the PERs to chair and run a contest where the members could submit their proposed designs for a new pin. Richard agreed and requested the PERs to press on!



First Thousand Oaks Lodge Pin

Thousand Oaks first lodge pin was not made in China, but in the tack room, in a horse barn, in Lynn Ranch by charter member and a prime mover in the establishment of the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge, John Farhat. This pin was made of wood from a Thousand Oaks oak tree!

Ok members! It is now up to you to submit your proposed design for the Lodge's 50 year pin. All proposed pins will be reviewed by the membership with one being selected. The new pin design will be selected in December and presented to the members.

Please submit your proposed design to the Lodge Secretary, **ASAP**.

Fraternally
Tom Ryder PER

Elk of the Month

This Elk of the month is long overdue, **Carlos Murquiz**. First, **Carlos's** BBQ team just sat our highest total sales amount ever. Getting ten to twelve Elks, to come to the Lodge, on a Saturday, some from 7am, then work until around 3pm, over Labor Day weekend is, grueling, not to mention 100-degree heat. When I visited with the crew, **Carlos's** radio was playing "We are Family." When most of his team members, walked into the kitchen, many joined in the singing. **Carlos** was training a potential BBQ chief and grilling member for us that day, pointing out this and that, as safety and service issues. Many crew members remarked, that working the BBQ (**Carlos's** Crew), was enjoyable. His team's weekend was the first Saturday for our new pricing, not a word of discontent was heard. What really got me was, major colleges kicked off their football season that weekend, both Blue and Gold and Crimson and Gold clad members worked side by side, giggling and smiling about upcoming weddings and camping trips, must be more of that, we are family stuff. **Carlos** has cooked for important events, our Lodge's Christmas Tree Lot Chairman, assisted with so many things. His leadership, friendship, and that " *Let's get it done attitude,*" is why he is Elk of the Month. Thank you, Sir!

Thank you: **Jill Williams, Kathy Moye and Gerry Gillies** for your photos of August and September Events. Thank you, Bing, for supplying graphics used in this issue of the **Antler**. Thank you, **Tom Ryder** for the PERs New Pin Article

Facing the Challenge

It is that time of the year that we need to identify likely candidates for the Officer Corps and Committee Chairs, along with Committee members.

Terry Gicking is our Leading Knight and as so, he operates the Christmas Charity Program, our Tree Lot, and bar and BBQ duties. **Terry**, Chairs our Lodge Ritual Committee. Thousand Oaks just happens to host our District's Ritual Contest for 2021-2022. Our lodge historically participates in the Ritual Contest. My sense is working on the Lodge ritual team, builds a strong bond within our Officer Corp. Plus, you will meet many other Elks.

In addition to the Ritual Contest, next year is our **fiftieth year** as a Lodge. How many times in your life, will you turn fifty, again? Yes, indeed, **Terry** does a lot, but he cannot, do it all. Your Lodge needs help, meeting the many challenges and tasks.

The time is like never before, the needs are certainly significant, but not unsurmountable. If not this challenge, what? If not you, who? If not now, when? With your help and support, tomorrow can be grand. Any member with interest in resolving the uncertainties posed, please talk with **Terry Gicking or Richard Platt**, for more information,

Thank You.

Richard Platt, Exalted Ruler

First Lady's Thoughts

We are entering the holiday season with the end of this month's celebration of Halloween. All the kids are getting pumped and looking forward to one of their favorite holidays. Candy everywhere. We need to start thinking of those who have been extremely hard hit by Covid and its repercussions in the business sector.

We will be putting up a Christmas tree in the Lounge this month. Yes, its early. We need to start early for this holiday season. Please bring an unwrapped toy, gift card (There will be a box for them with Reindeer on it), or article of new clothing (leave tags on), new backpacks, school supplies, etc. for children in need. Please stay between the ages of birth and 14. Multiples are appreciated. All toys must be sealed in plastic to comply with Health Department regulations for Covid. Please no stuffed animals.

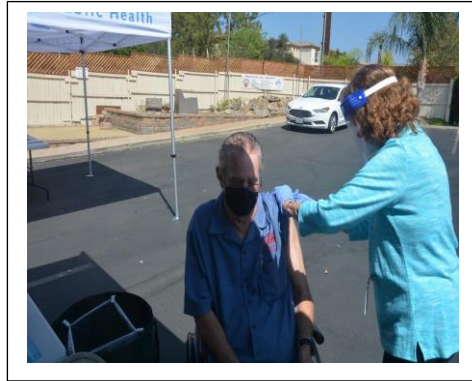
We will be wrapping them in the beginning of December for the families receiving food boxes at Christmas. All packages will read from the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge. Please feel free to donate grocery gift cards for the elderly. They do not seem to desire food baskets as the food items are usually size inappropriate for elderly single adults.

Ladies, Elks or wives, we will be asking you to come and assist with the wrapping. Time will be announced in the future. Always bring scissors, a pen, and tape. It's a fun time that warms your heart.

I am personally thanking you for your contributions and efforts. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.



Around the Lodge in September



Vaccinations Thursday 9/2 and 9/23, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson



New Members from August



Continued from p.2 Gicking

Did you notice we have installed a new fence between our parking lot and the picnic table area? It provides a little more privacy and gives us the opportunity to use the area for outdoor seating for our functions. We have heaters for the area to help knock down the chill. We also have more indoor seating in the game room area to accommodate more distance seating if needed. The Lodge is doing its part to make it safe for you to come down and enjoy yourself. We look forward to seeing you here soon.

Also in October is the baseball playoffs and **World Series**. We will be having drink specials throughout the month during the games. Specials will be announced by the weekly Callmultiplier. Please come down and cheer your favorite **DODGER** or whatever team on to the title.

See you at the #2477 Lodge SOON!
Fraternally,
Terry

Ventura County Health Dept

VCHD has ordered through **October 19, 2021**, that all persons unless **actively** eating or drinking must wear masks indoors even if vaccinated. This not only includes staff, but members in the Lounge area, Lodge Room, Kitchen, and Game Room. The transmission rate in Ventura County is considered high by the **CDC**. Be considerate of your fellow members. Thank you for your cooperation.

Continues from p.3 Naccarato

This Lodge is for the members, run by the members, supported by the members. No one is being paid to move furniture, cut wood, or work the BBQ. We do it for the Lodge. We do it for the camaraderie. The making of new friends. If we make a few bucks along the way, we can help one of our many Charities. Each charity is funded by the members and by the events we hold at the Lodge. When you see an advertisement for an event buy a ticket and support the Lodge.

Charter Members

Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge opened March 25th 1972 with 255 Charter Members. We have **#2 Erle Pittman, #14 George Vivlamore, #29 Jerry Gilmore, #100 Dennis Gillette, #134 Robert Huffman, #174 Jan T. King, #255 Anthony Federico** all still paying dues. If you'll allow me, let me touch on **#100 Dennis Gillette**. **Dennis Gillette** served 6 years in the Marine Corps, 37 years as a Ventura County Deputy Sheriff. Has an AA degree in Police Science, BA in Psychology, MS in Administration of Justice. If that's not enough. Dennis served 12 years on the board of Conejo Recreation and Parks District. 14 years on the city council, Served as mayor of Thousand Oaks 1999-2000, 2005-2006, 2009-2010. **Dennis Gillette** was married to his wife Terri for 51 years, a retired teacher with Conejo Valley Unified School District. They have moved up to Spokane, Washington to be near family, where his daughter, Kristine is the director of the Spokane Eye Clinic Surgery Center. These were the caliber of men who started this Lodge. Big in the community, each having something to add to Elkdom. **Dennis** dedicated himself to his family, his career, the Elks Lodge and Community Service.

Submitted by
David Naccarato,
Secretary

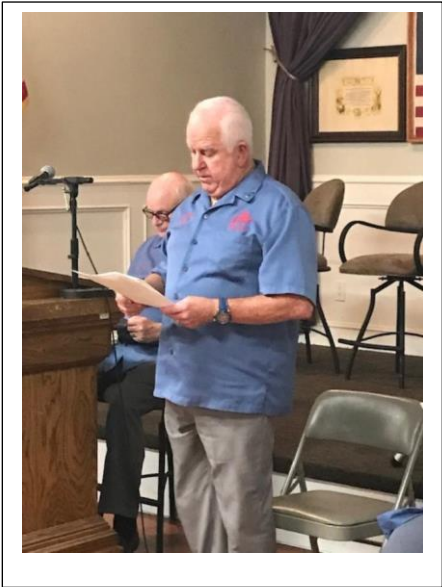
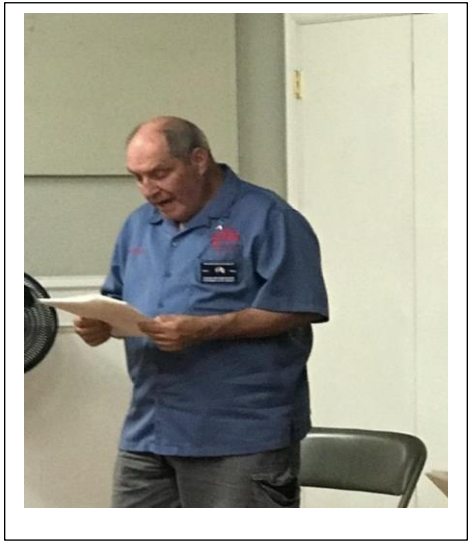
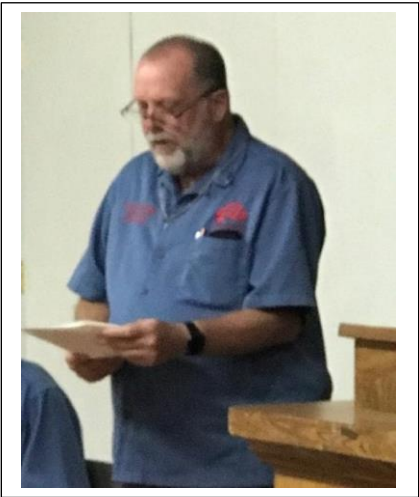


Lowering of the flag at the time the first plane hit the North Tower





**Ceremony at the Lodge
We Shall Never Forget**





On the 20th Anniversary of 9/11, the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 paid their respects honoring the loss of Americans on September 11, 2001. At the time the first plane crashed into the North Tower, the Lodge raised the flag outside the Lodge, then lowered it to half-staff. Later in that day at 3PM the Lodge held a ceremony as not to forget.

The Ceremony was led by Exalted Ruler Richard Platt; assisted by Terry Gicking, Leading Knight; John Betancourt, Loyal Knight; and Trustee Chairman Dan Hoffman. The following was said:

“Good afternoon, welcome to the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge # 2477. My name is Richard Platt, I am the Exalter Ruler of the Lodge, today I am joined by our Lodge’s Chaplain, and Lodge Officers. We are here today to honor, all who were struck down, September 11th, 2001, and subsequent actions. Please stand, if you can, our Chaplain will lead us in prayer.”

“Almighty God, unto thy love and mercy we remember the many souls lost twenty years ago, on September 11, 2001. May light perpetual shine upon them till the mourning breaks and the shadows flee away. May we realize that we are thy children... and may we so live, that when our day is done, we may face the eternal change that comes to us in faith and confidence through thy redeeming grace and power. May the peace of the God which passes’ all understanding abide with us forevermore...Ahmen.”

“Twenty years ago, September 11, 2001, we the people, our lifestyle as well as the Government of the United States were suddenly and dastardly attacked by a coordinated group of nineteen radical al-Qaeda terrorists. The extremists seized control of American Airlines Flight #11, with 87 souls aboard, that was flown into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. United Flight #175, with 59 souls onboard, was flown into the South Tower, a few minutes later. On that day, working within the WTC were 2,676 souls, sadly all were lost, when both towers collapsed. The American citizens onboard those aircraft, as well as those working within the WTC, only sin was travelling aboard those particular flights or simply working in the WTC.”

“345 NYFD, and 99 NYPD members, rushing to save all they could at the WTC collapse, also were killed. And yet al-Qaeda was not finished. American Airlines Flight #77, with 59 souls aboard, was flown into the Pentagon, killing an additional 126 innocent souls. United Flight #93, with 40 souls aboard, was destined to be flown into the US Capitol Building. When advised of

the other three attacks, the patriots aboard Flight #93 decided to fight for themselves, and our way of life and caused their plane to crash into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. To date an additional 500 citizens and 190 members of the US Armed Forces, have died of injuries sustained during the attacks. There are still well over 1000 souls reported as missing, from the WTC, whose remains have not been identified as of today. This was the largest single loss of life, to rescue personnel, in US history.”

“Today the 9/11 Memorial and Museum sits where so many were lost. Included within the Memorial, are 6 innocent souls, lost during the bombing of the WTC, earlier in 1993. The Memorial Section pays honor to those who will come no more, and the Museum Section holds exhibits and artifacts from that terrible day. This attack marked a departure from the tactics used by al-Qaeda, in prior attacks. Now nearly all extremists’ groups target, first responders in conjunction with other targets, of opportunity. “

“The attacks of September 11th, 2001, triggered the most expensive, add the lengthiest combat, in our country’s history. Thousands of young men and women died in that combat, along with the many now permanently injured, defending you and me. We today honor, every single one of the numerous Americans, who so bravely answered, their call to arms, in defense of our Country and our way of life.”

Several members spoke of that day and what it meant.

“In vain we call, for those who have passed into the light, which is beyond the valley of the shadow of death. The places that have known them, shall know them no more, but their virtues are written upon the tablets of love and memory. We shall never forget September 11th, 2001. Much of the information for this service, was obtained from the September Issue of the Elks Magazine and other public information sources.”

“Join us after this observance, for some wonderful BBQ. We are asking for a five-dollar donation, that will be used to offset the cost of our upcoming Fire & Police Appreciation Dinner. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a dinner we have not been able to hold for two years. This concludes our service, on behalf of the Order and the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge # 2477, we thank you and please *never forget.*”

The ceremony concluded with an outstanding BBQ late lunch, early dinner.

We made the front page of the Acorn



*** SAVE THE DATE ***

ENF DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday - November 13, 2021- \$25 – 6pm

Miraglia's famous chicken parmesan, pasta, salad, roll & dessert

Please RSVP: Office 805-496-2477 or Lounge 805-496-4550

Bunco Party

Hello to all from the Bunco Party, we played Wednesday, September 1st this month with a fantastic turn out! Pizza was available and of course our Bartender took great care of us taking orders and delivering our drinks to the tables! This month the Raffle winners were, **Carol Stewart, Christine Harrison, Reem Angel, Lynn Rodriguez, Cheryl Shulman, Evie Bystrom, Marian Anderson, Karen Abbitt and Grace Vega!** A big shout out and many thanks to those who donated the prizes. The games winners were **Karen Abbitt** for the most games won; a 4-way tie for the most Buncos were **Lynn Rodriguez, Winona Kreiger, Richard Ibarra and Marian Anderson;** the last Bunco of the evening went to **Winona Kreiger;** and finally, the “Booby” prize for the most games lost went to **Bev Reis.** The group decided to give a donation from the game toward the new sound system in the Lodge Room. Our next party will be Wednesday, October 6th, we start at 6:00 pm, but ask that you come a little earlier to sign in. We promise an evening of great games, great fun, and great people. Come to the Lodge and join us for an evening of Bunco. Any questions and to RSVP please contact **Lynn Rodriguez, 805-559-0909 or 805-449-4282 or Bev Reis, 805-341-7823** so we can be sure to set up for all that want to play!

