







ANTICS

VOLUME 32, NO. 1

Editor, Jerry Serota

April 2003

Thousand oaks Elks lodgE #2477 Inaugural Ball april 5th, 2003

Clarion palm gardEn hoTEl

(Formerly the Holiday Inn)

495 n. VEnTu park road

rECEpTion and CoCkTalls 6:00pm

dInnEr 7:30pm

Choice of Chicken florentine or

orangE roughy plCCaTa

grand marCh 9:00pm

music By dJ Chris BouChEr

\$40.00 per person

Tickets can be purchased from Lodge Officers or from behind the bar Tickets on sale beginning Feb. 16th Chairpersons Jay and Myrna Block — (805) 492-4016

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ANTLERANTICS: Jerry Serota, Editor
NEWFACILITIES: TomRyder, DDGER
HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK: Jerry Serota
GREETERS: Jack Loughran, PER
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jerry Serota
BUILDING MAINT.: "Mac" McDonald



PARLIAMENTARIAN: BillLloyd, PDDGER, DL LODGE VISITATIONS: Jack Loughran, PER BBQ WAGON: Lee Grindle

AUDITING: TomRyder,DDGER
ELKS TRAINING: John D'Ambrogio, PER

BEQUESTS & LIVING TRUSTS:

Chet Kozlowski, PER

We would like to start by thanking all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Exalted Ruler. This is a position I never intended to rise to when I first committed to Jacob Panczak to be his Esquire. Once involved in the officer corps and found out how much help I was given by our wonderful members, it seemed only natural to stick around for a while. One position lead to another and, here I am, very proud and honored to have been chosen as your Exalted Ruler and will strive to be the best that I can be.

By the time you read this, the second phase of our patio improvement should be complete, the installation of new wainscoting and wall covering. This will improve the appearance and hopefully cut down on some of the noise. A second exhaust fan has also been added. A new ceiling in the patio and a glass door between the lounge and patio will be installed soon. We are still in the process of getting bids on the improvements in our main lodge room. These improvements are being done under Operation Face Lift. This work is not to be confused with Lodge Beautification or New Facilities.

Our New Facilities campaign will be getting a lot of attention in the upcoming year. Some decisions have to be made if we want to see a new lodge in our lifetime. A lot of members have different ideas on what should be done and how to finance it. Everyone's input is important but what is needed is to form one plan of action and pursue it.

As you can see, I am very committed to improving our lodge facility. You will all be called upon to help in one form or another in the upcoming year. We have an active membership, all of our prescribed programs are in place and we are receiving the community recognition and respect we deserve, now we just need a lodge building that reflects the values and commitment of our members.

Once again, thank all of you for your support. Barbara and I are looking forward to working with you in the upcoming year.



FIRST LADY'S CORNER Barbara Metzgus, FL

The new lodge year has arrived and all of a sudden I am the First Lady.

Our thanks to so many great friends here at our lodge that have helped us in so many ways in the preparation for our new lodge positions. A special thanks to all of the ladies for your suggestions and the "don't forgets" and "make the phone calls Barbara".

Looking forward to your continued support in the coming year.

First Lady Barbara Metzgus



IN MEMORIAM

THE CLOCK OF THEIR DAY HAS STOPPED AND ACROSS ITS DIAL A MOTIONLESS SHADOW MARKS THE HOUR OF ELEVEN, WITH US ---

"THE GOLDEN HOUR OF RECOLLECTION"

James D. Doyle
Born: September 16, 1917
Initiated: September 25, 1996
Died: February 13, 2003



EDITORS CORNER jserota497@earthlink.net



SW2 Tam, Michael NCFSU-2 APO AEO 9855

How many of you can hearken back to the time you were in the service? Close your eyes and think back to when you were overseas and felt that clutch of loneliness grip your heart as you thought of home and loved ones

Our Lodge Brother Michael Tam who is a member of the SeaBee Reserves was called up and is now stationed in Kuwait. It is time for us to reach out to him with cards and letters to let him know that in these troubled times he is not alone. That there are over 500 members in his Elk extended family who are thinking about him and his family.

There is no special extra postage required, just a first class stamp will send your care, concern and brotherly love his way. It will help chase the blues and loneliness he may be feeling right now.

ELKS NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK



The week of May 4 through May 10, 2003 is designated as Elks National Youth Week to honor and promote the youth of our country. There are many activities that can be planned that would be attractive and of interest to the

boys and girls of our communities: events such as banquets to honor scholastic award winners, Hoop Shoot and Soccer Shoot winners, ball teams sponsored by the Lodge. As Elks National Youth Week occurs so soon after the election and installation of Officers for the new Lodge year, special termspanning plans are required for a successful program.

Governors of States, Mayors of Cities and other community leaders should be asked to proclaim Elks National Youth Week or issue a special message to the citizens.



TRUSTEES CORNER Jack Malone, 5th Year Trustee

Thanks to all the members for electing me as your new Trustee. I am committed to serving you faithfully and with great energy.

This is an exciting time for our Lodge. Brother Don Booker has gotten a good start at improving our lodge facilities. Now Exalted Ruler, Greg Metzgus is accelerating the process. Major new improvements should be completed within two years in my opinion.

I propose to submit a financing plan to the Board of Trustees. The basics were worked out with Brother Dick McCann a few years ago; but were shelved for later use. The plan calls for 100% financing from member investment. All members can invest in Bonds and Notes that will pay attractive interest rates probably much more than you are earning on your savings accounts and cd's. That would be an incentive for you to transfer funds from your other accounts into a safe investment in our Lodge and secured by Lodge property.

I intend to work closely with all the Trustees in furtherance of Brother Greg's plans and under his leadership.

Jack Malone

The Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee sponsors a contest for National Youth Week for the Subordinate Lodges to enter, with recognition and awards for the best and most constructive Youth Week Program. All contest material should be attractively prepared in brochure form with publicity, photographs and a detail of the manner in which the program was conducted. Winning brochures will be displayed at the Grand Lodge Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. First-Place Winners will receive their awards during the Youth Activities Committee Report to the Convention.

IMPORTANT!! This contest is based on activities taking place during National Youth Week. Contest rules and details of the brochure preparation are in the Youth Activities Manual. If you need assistance, please contact the Youth Activities Committee Member assigned to your Area and listed in the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Manual. The brochure must be postmarked no later than May 29, 2003, and sent to Michael L. Bailey, Member, Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee, 214 Van Buren Drive, Dalton, Georgia 30721.

By participating in National Youth Week and this contest, you will clearly demonstrate that "Elks Care — Elks Share."

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LEADING KNIGHT Jay Block

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLEPIG:

Dave Naccarato
SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch
INVESTIGATION: George Meehan
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION: Jay Block
CHRISTMAS BASKETS: Jay & Myrna Block



INDOCTRINATION: Jack Loughran, PER MEM. CONTROL. COM.: Darren Zigler CVAC: Tom Hartin COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Jerry Serota OFFICERS ROUND TABLE: Jack Panczak CHARITY DINNERS: Jay & Myrna Block

I can't believe how fast this year has passed, here I am writing my last article for the Antler Antics as Loyal Knight. To say that it has been an interesting year is probably the height of understatement. Before I go further, I want to GIVE SPECIAL THANKS to my wife Myrna who along with all of the cooks and their able helpers prepared one fine meal after another all year long. Also to the great team of Lodge members who helped clean, paint and in general spruce up the kitchen. There is still work to be done, like putting in a new floor, but all will be accomplished in due time.

The Super Bowl Party was a smashing success, thanks to the efforts of Dave and Annie Pearson and Tommy and Sally Claunch.

Scott Dool again out did him self as Host to the Law Enforcement/Fire Fighters Recognition dinner, which was attended by Councilmen Fox and Del Campo as well as County Supervisor Parks.

Up coming events which you should mark on your calendars are:

- The Ladies Installation of Officers on the 11th
- Our 4th Annual St. Patty's Day Gala put on by Joe Smith, with featured entertainment by the charming Irish Dancers on Sat. the 15th
- The election of the Lodge Officers for the coming year on the 19th
- Installation of Officers on the 2nd of April
- The Inaugural Ball at the Clarion Hotel in Newbury Park on the April 5th

I can't end this article without saying special thanks to our great ritual coaches Gil Riding, Richard Goldner, Jack Loughran, and Jacob Panczak, whose patience and guidance will lead us to glorious victory in the upcoming contest in Lompoc.

***We would like to give a belated thanks to Albertsons Grocery Store in Newbury Park for donating the Candy Canes and smiling stickers to Gymie-Jo the Clown for the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge Childrens Christmas Party.

ENOUGH SAID!



The mission of the Girl Scouts: to help girls develop to the fullest potential and become competent, resourceful women — is as vital today as it was in 1912, when the organization began. Their message: "Become your best — set your

sights high — you can make it happen."

Girl Scouting has been sending that message to girls for more than 80 years, and it is as essential today as it was in the beginning. The problems of drug abuse, child abuse, homelessness, and teen pregnancy threaten healthy development. Girls need an organization that will help them cope with and resist these threats — an organization for every girl, of every race, religion, and neighborhood, that puts the girl first, an organization called the Girl Scouts.

The Boy Scouts were incorporated in 1910 and were chartered by Congress in 1916. Their purpose is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness. Their mission is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Scouting, by emphasizing ethics and moral values, addresses many of the social concerns of parents and youth in our Country. Scouting prepares youth to be leaders, to accept responsibility, and to care about principles and causes beyond their own self-interest. Enough Said! Can you help America's Youth?

Steven R. Smith, Member G/L Public Relations Committee



EL KONEJO KAMPERS

By Pat Von Witternburg

FEBRUARY ATOAK PARK



First things first – Would all you Kampers please be sure that Donna Hardy has your current address, telephone number, if you choose, your cell phone number and e-mail address, PLEASE.

Also – we have some openings for Wagonmasters – come on people – as you know this ain't brain surgery, let's step up to the plate and take your turn.

I've heard that life is like a roll of toilet paper – the older you get, the faster it goes! I cannot believe it's February 2003 already and that we hadn't seen Mike and Mary Ferragamo for more than a year. **More about these two later.**

Most of the ten Kampers had arrived on Thursday despite the prediction of rain – which never materialized. Tommy Claunch is having a run of bad luck. He bet Gene Ewald it was going to rain and was offering anyone money to sprinkle the asphalt around the Ewald rig early in morning so he wouldn't lose his bet.

Don and Doris Newcomer did a magnificent job as wagonmasters. Doris, however, got so involved playing poker she was running around like the proverbial chicken when it came time to put her lasagna together thinking she had forgotten the pans, which she later discovered in her shower. It was truly delightful. That woman really knows her way around the kitchen – when Doris is going to cook for a campout, my advice is – DON'T MISS IT!

The Hardys were obliged to attend a function away from the campground, leaving their dear Gidget in the care, custody and control of one Bob Cissell. Poor choice. Bob hadn't been advised that Gidget has been on a strict, special diet for some time. He allowed the dog to consume something inappropriate and guess where the poor dog chose to up-chuck. You got it – right at the front door of the von Wittenburg's rig. Thanks a whole lot Cissell.

As long as we have been members of the Kampers, we have always bought a \$100 square in the Lodge Super Bowl Pool. To my recollection, we've considered this a donation to the fund. This year we bought two \$100 square and lo & behold – we won \$250 for the half-time score. At our meeting – the motions and seconds were flying so fast and furious I couldn't record what was happening – the Kampers donated our win back to the Lodge for Operation Facelift. Good going Kampers!

We do have a new campsite scheduled for August – Piru. Steve and Molly Chiszar have been there numerous times and believe it will be a good experience and have volunteered to be wagonmaster for this campout. As I recall, Steve has also

volunteered to have his pontoon boat there also and I think I heard something about a port-a-pottie on board. Doris was ecstatic. Eat your heart out Frank. Sounds good to me!

Now back to the Farragamos. As I said before – they haven't been around for a year, perhaps more. We have really missed them, but would you believe Mike came in taking poor Tommy's poker money (others too I suppose), they took so many raffle prizes Mary had to go back to the campsite to get the Jeep to bring down Mike's money and to load up their loot and was overheard to say, "Gee, maybe we shouldn't stay away so long!"

At least Doris Newcomer won the 50/50 – after her terrific lasagna that seemed more than fair.

Marilyn Cissell, usually known for her prayers, nearly put everyone on the floor as co-sheriff with Bob. The woman has a sense of humor that I haven't seen in all these years Bob wasn't too bad either – but Marilyn was in incredible form, especially when she tore off on her own bad memory – with the hoots of laughter, I'm surprised the camp host didn't ask us to quiet down.

Sunday morning, the Farragamos prepared their "guilt" breakfast for all us "losers". Pancakes, bacon and sausage. Of course Mary (aka Martha Stewart) is an awesome cook also. Her blueberry concoction was out of this world. (You guys do know this is all tongue in cheek – right?) We were told it was only because their daughter, Lisa, called to see if "Dad" was making pancakes. If, in fact, that's true, thank you so much Lisa.



I do love the small campouts – we learned that Mike and Mary's daughter coached soccer at UCLA, Mike worked with Frank for nine years and they're still friends [that's funnin' too].

Don't forget you can always see what's happening with the Kampers by logging on to http://elkonejokampers.netfirms.com.

UPCOMING CAMPOUTS:

APRIL11-12	FAR WEST RESORT (Steckel Park)
	Santa Paula)
MAY 16-17	KENNEY GROVE Fillmore
JUNE 13 – 14	LAKE CASITAS - need wagonmasters
JULY 18-19	FLYING FLAGS - Buellton - need
wagonmasters	

TECKTIPS -- COOLING SYSTEM

I know I've mentioned this before – however Mr. Bill believes this is a topic that merits reiteration because several of our campers have had to have their radiators replaced and it ain't cheap. It is good preventive maintenance to have your cooling system completely flushed and thoroughly cleaned at LEAST once per year and certainly every eighteen (18) months, completely replacing the coolant. This avoids the hard water deposits that begin to collect throughout the system and especially along the seams of the radiator eventually causing the seams to rupture.

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LOYAL KNIGHT Sally Claunch

ANTLER ANTICS

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Lee Grindle LODGE ACTIVITIES: Dave Naccarato SCOUTING: Greg Metzgus/Gary Holton

HOOPSHOOT: Heather Maddox

WED. NIGHT DINNERS:

DRUG AWARENESS: Tom Ryder, DDGER

STRAY ELKS: David Pearson MOTHERS DAY: George Meehan



ENTERTAINMENT: Joe Smith
WED. NIGHT TICKETS:
George Meehan\Sally Claunch
LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE FIGHTER
APPRECIATION: Scott Dool
DISTRICT PICNIC: Tom Ryder, DDGER

PRESIDING JUSTICE: Dick McCann YOUTHACTIVITIES: Heather Maddox

Coming to you this year as Loyal Knight, I'm still the same columnist as before. I will be reporting on sickness and distress and Operation Facelift's (accelerated) progress. Only the committee responsibilities have changed.

The new twist is I will now be **CALLING ALL COOKS** for Sunday breakfasts, Wednesday and Friday night dinners. If you have a specialty dinner or want to be chef of the week, this is your opportunity to shine. Menus will be posted in the Lodge featuring the chef of the week and their bill of fare. Give me a call to become one of the featured few.

During the month of March you will have seen many improvements to the patio and Lodge room. Especially on March 27th a big blue tent engulfed the building to terminate the termites. Thus the facility was closed from March 27 to March 29 (no Friday nite dinner). It reopened on Saturday the 29th after 3:00 p.m. On the patio a glass door will have been installed and the walls soundproofed with drywall and wainscoting. The next step in April will be flooring for the kitchen and patio.

Each year our Lodge participates in Conejo Valley Days by running a food booth, manning the gates and assisting with Special Kids Day. These activities provide us opportunities to help our community in the Elk tradition. If you would like to volunteer your time for these projects, sign up sheets will be posted in the Lounge.

See you at the Lodge for dinner or activities!!!

TERMITE ERADICATION ELKS LODGE CLOSED for TENTING

March 27 to March 29 (no Friday nite dinner). It will reopened on Saturday the 29th by 3:00 p.m.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

Sally Claunch, Com.Chair. 495-0577

OUR CONDOLENCES TO: The family of Jim Doyle on his passing; ER Don Booker and FL Barbara on the passing of her mother; Brothers Paul Di Nubilo and Toni Sheridan on the passing of his mother and her grandmother; Brother Bill McIntyre and his wife Annie on the passing of her mother.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Brother Tom Hardin's mother who is hospitalized; PER Bugsy Ansell who is having cancer tests; Elk Lady Sunshine lady Pat Smail who is having colon surgery; Bob Riebe is also hospitalized; Verna Jean Cairns recuperating form Knee surgery at home in LaQuinta.

ON THE MEND: Brother Kirk Keeler's daughter and Ken Keeler's granddaughter from a viral infection; Dick Flittner is home from the rehab center; Kay Riebe from a fall; Brother Kevin Metzgus from a mountain bike accident; and Jay Block sprained fingers.





CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT Patti Serota, Com. Chair. Sunday May 18th Sign up 12:00 Noon Play begins 1:00 p.m. \$25.00 Entry 805 497-1197

BROTHERLY LOVE

By Elizabeth Bell and Mallory Andrade

Hello Friends!

While visiting in Arizona over the Thanksgiving holiday we took the opportunity to visit some of our Elks Brothers Lodges. Much to our surprise, in Mesa we found the Buckhorn Lodge #2656. Talk about snobs! When we walked in we were carded to make sure we were members. Once they found out not only that we were members, but guest visiting the area, we were treated like dog dodo. (That's putting it nicely) After giving them a second chance and coming back the following day, the same people, this time including the Exalted Ruler, were so cold we left after giving them over 30 pounds of tab tops (for the Boy Scouts), for which we weren't even thanked.

The only good experience there was meeting a couple who advised us to forget that lodge and check out the Apache Junction Lodge # 2349. They were right. WOW!! Night and day!! What a nice facility and great people! Talk about feeling welcomed somewhere new! Their ER Bill Knapp was delighted to have us at the Lodge. Lodge member Brian Sturdevant not only gave us a tour of the lodge, but also an amusing commentary about a lot of it's history. We met Dick Jepsen, the lodge secretary who gave us pins and amused us with more stories.

We told them of our experience at lodge #2656 and no one was surprised. In fact, lodge #2656 is known as the Black Sheep Lodge (what ever that is worth)? Their loss not ours!! We want to thank Bill, Dick Bran, his wife Debbie and Robin the bartender for being so hospitable. We can't wait to come back for another visit. And #2349, start saving those tab tops because lodge #2656 has seen the last of us! If you're out traveling, looking for a lodge that exstends Brotherly Love the Apache Junction lodge off of Hwy 88 near Mesa deserves a peek. We'll be back!!

IF YOU ARE READING THIS IN

MARCH

YOU'RE NOT TOO LATE

FOR THE PER'S

BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY

MARCH 26TH

NO MAGIC BEANS!



In a fairy tale we all know, a somewhat quirky individual named Jack (who didn't like his "home" arrangement and lifestyle) made a

"bean connection" and ended up in the middle of a hairraising adventure that in the real world would have slapped him with a prison sentence for breaking & entering, grand theft, flight to evade capture, destruction of TWO rare species (one "giant" type plus one "magic" stratospherereaching vine), not to mention getting a resounding "F" for his business skills in Cow Selling 101. That he survived all this mayhem and escaped any form of official prosecution only proves this was indeed a fairy tale.

But what relates to the real world in Jack's story is that many of us are dissatisfied with where we are and how we're using up our lives in ways that don't make us happy. When we're young, we have almost unlimited possibilities for change. However, with every passing decade, the menu of options becomes progressively shorter, until the course of our lives seems to be carved in granite – as inescapable and unpleasant as a Grimm's Fairy Tale.

Now, having depressed just about everybody, we're going to wave Elkdom's MAGIC WAND and open a mystical doorway for Senior Elks who don't have access to a beanmerchant but still want to get out of their ruts and start enjoying life again. While you've all been concentrating on that cold bowl of porridge you call life," your friends in the Order have been building a castle for you where you can live "happily ever after." No, it's not in the clouds; it's a retirement community in beautiful, balmy Bedford, Virginia, surrounded by acres of breathtaking countryside, and you can visit before you make any decisions for 15 days in any month for only \$40-/day plus tax (meals included). If you want more information without leaving your humble cottage, just contact your State Association's Home Coordinator or the Elks Home Executive Director Bill Pickett, 931 Ashland Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523 (phone: 1-800-552-4140). He'll gladly spill the beans so you can stop feeling like a giant stepped on you!

FIRST OF THE YEAR

Jr. Elks Car Wash

Sunday April 6th

\$5.00 Car - Vans etc. \$10.00

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LECTURING KNIGHT Dave Naccarato

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

AMERICANISM: Raven West
FLAGDAY/FLAGRETIREMENT:
Dave Naccarato
SCHOLARSHIP: Rick Herrera
GOVT. RELATIONS: Marilynn Harding
MEMORIAL SERVICE: George Meehan
NATIONAL SERVICES: Jim Kellogg



KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER GOLFTOURNEY: Dave Pearson Tommy Claunch LODGEPICNIC:

MEMBERSHIP: Darryl Vadnais CHRISTMAS TREES: Bob Hardy, PER ELKONEJO KAMPERS: Bob Hardy, PER

David Naccarato here. Your Lecturing Knight for 2003-2004. What that means is if you need a Lecture I'm the one to give it to you. Having not been involved with my committees that I am in charge of I don't have any reporting to do but I promise a report next month.

It is my article and it is tax time. Tax season is rolling into view. For most of us tis not the season to be jolly! Whether you do the taxes yourself or gather input for a CPA, the task can be over whelming, finding scattered receipts; pouring through canceled checks; locating the right forms and schedules. Taxes may be inevitable, but with a little time and organization, the stress associated with April 15th is avoidable.

Take a minute today, save hours at tax time. As you prepare your income tax return this year, get organized for future years. Are your files in disarray? Take a few minutes today and establish one spot to keep all tax deductible and tax reporting items. Label separate envelopes or folders to hold receipts for each category or account. Are you required to track mileage or other expenses? Take a few minutes each month to add them up, and you will be less likely to overlook an important deduction. Having a dozen monthly subtotals will save hours of year-end calculating. Ask yourself; What can I do throughout the year to relieve the pressure of pulling together a years worth of data at one time? How can the job be simplified? Use your answers to implement changes today that will make the next year less taxing. With Internet access and a printer every form from the IRS inventory is yours for the clicking. Need advice, answers? In spite of it's reputation the IRS web site is surprisingly user friendly. Check it out at WWW.IRS.GOV. Hope that helps

"Do good onto others for we pass this way but once"!

AMERICANISM Raven West, Com. Chair

For the first time in the history of Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477, the first place

winner of our Americanism essay contest went on to WIN FIRST PLACE in the West Coast Central District and will now go on to compete at the California/Hawaii state level!

Lani Helm is a 13 year old 8th grader from La Reina High School. Her life story could be a movie of the week. Her mother was a diabetic, and sufferred from a number of serious conditions, any one of which could have been fatal to her unborn child. Lani wasn't expected to survive birth. Doctors told her mother if she went through with the pregnancy, Lani would have physical and mental problems her entire life. But Lani fooled them all. She was born totally healthy and perfect in every way.

Unfortunately, her mother wasn't as lucky and she died soon after Lani was born. Lani was raised by her grandparents, her grandmother Rochelle graduated from Purdue by working part time at the local ELKS.

Lani writes, produces and directs plays which are performed by students at La Reina. She's an honors student and an extraordinary young woman!

> SPECIAL HAMBURGER NITE Thursday, April 17th \$1.00 Jim Rochford & Crew

SCHOLARSHIPS

Bob Holm, Committee Chairman

Announced that the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge 2477 Scholarship Winners will be honored on Wednesday May 7th, 2003 during an open meeting at the Elks Lodge #2477 located at 158 Conejo School Rd. and the public is invited to attend.

All Elks Lodges in our district are entitled to send one scholastic winner for State judging by the California-Hawaii Elks Association. Since there are 12 Elks Lodges in our District it was also learned that all 6 of our honorees will advance and vie for Most Valuable Student status by the California-Hawaii Elks Association.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks the largest contributer of scholarship grants next to Uncle Sam will distribute more than 2 million dollars in Elks National Foundation scholarship money toward Most Valuable Student grants. The highest scholarship is a \$50,000 four year grant

The winners are:

Males

Scott A. Bartlett *2nd Place District

\$300 Oak Park High

Charles A. Carriere *7th Place District

\$200 Oak Park High

Brian M Lindberg *8th Place District

\$100 Thousand Oaks High

Females

Jacquelyn Chou *1st Place District

\$300 La Reina High

Jill J. Savla *2nd Place District

\$200 Thousand Oaks High

Lilian H. Doan *4th Place District

\$100 Oak Park High

*There will be additional grants from the District to be announced later. Last year it was:

\$700 First \$400 Second \$200 Third.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Jerry Serota, Public Relations

Raven West our Americanism Chairperson conducted a successful Americanism contest in which her first place winning student, 8th grade, Lani Helm from La Reina School went on to win the District contest and now her essay "What Freedom Means to Me" is being judged at the State level.

We had a rare opportunity of witnessing *Elks Care - Elks Share* in action. Going one step beyond duty of just conducting an Americanism essay contest, she came to Lori Peter's 5-6 Grade class at the Conejo School Rd. Elementary School and addressed the students on being a professional writer. She imparted to the students the magic of creative writing and story telling. Raven is an editor and published author of *Red Wine For Breakfast* and *First Classs Male*.

She lent her expertise on the self fulfillment of writing to the students. Its creation, its rewards and disappointments. We watched the rapt attention of the children as she was speaking. We are sure she touched the hearts of more than one budding artist who yens to put their secret thoughts and aspirations on paper.

Raven is the daughter of Ruby Cohen, PER, of the Ellenville, New York Lodge #1971. Who knows, maybe 20 years from now they could say after achieving success as a best selling author they were inspired by a member of the Elks who first got them interested in an Americanism Essay contest and further inspired them in pulling the heroes and heroines out of their imagination and putting them down on paper for all of us to read and love.

This is what Elkdom is all about. Going the extra mile in making *Elks Care - Elks Share* have extra meaning.



THE SWEET HEART DANCE



Standing, Sally Claunch, Melinda Pekow and Phyliss Riding



Sweethearts Angie and Carmine Prizzi



Our Hostess Karen Naccarato did a great job.

HOW DO YOU ROAST A JUNIOR PER?>>>>



Just ask Tom Ryder



and Bob Hardy



And Frank Coley

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>



And John Behne'



And Dave Pearson



And Tom Hartin



Never burnt the bread!



And Jack Loughran



Larry and Coleen Morris fixed a magnificent Pot Roast

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

THE ELKS LADIES Melinda Pekow

2002-03 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Karen Naccarato 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Alice Kennedy 3RD VICE PRESIDENT: Ginnie McCaleb

SECRETARY:/Carol Neuner TREASURER: Donna Hardy AUDITOR: Kathy Ryder TELEPHONE: Patti Serota



PARLIAMENTARIAN: Shirley Kozlowski CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell

MAJOR PROJECTS:
Gladys Ennis/Anne Ogden

CVD: Dee Swanson & Marilyn Cissell

HISTORIAN:

SUNSHINE: PatSmail

Greetings! I would like to start this new year with special thanks to Myrna Block for her fine leadership of the Elks Ladies this past year. The Ladies have helped the Lodge by donating money going toward the chair recovering, lodge beautification, the 30th anniversary of the lodge, major projects and the list goes on. The contributions of their time, skills and hard work have made the many events at the lodge wonderful to attend and a pleasure for the eyes as well. For everyone who helped (I wish I had the space to name you all) a round of applause goes to you.

Now we are entering a new year under the leadership of Melinda Pekow. What an exciting and fun year this should be! I urge all of the ladies and especially those who have not come out and been active with the Elks Ladies to give it a try. I believe you will enjoy yourself more than you can imagine.





LIFE IS TOO SHORT FOR PETTINESS

Marilyn Cissell

Eternity is forever, God, in years to come we'll be with you, This time on earth destined now with still so much we want to do.

Life is too short for pettiness with family, friends or working place. Please keep us strong in thoughts and words we all are here by your sweet grace.

Amen



APRIL

- 2. Nancy Holton
- 8. Madeleine Brockwell
- 14. Elvira McNaboe Mertice Nichols
- 15. Roxanne Horning
- 21. Theresa Kingsland

ATTENTION: WANTED PULL TOP CAN TABS!

Everyone save those tabs.
They are being collected for Breast Cancer Research.
The tabs can be turned in at the bar or to Carol Neuner.

HONOR ROLL



Raven West Don Booker, ER **Greg Metzgus** Jay Block **Rick Newkirk** Joe Smith **Leading Knight** Vern Jossy Norman Panczak **Tommy Claunch Scott Dool Bar Purple Pig** Melinda Pillsbury-Foster **Louis Wolff** Jim Wallace, PER John D'Ambrogio, PER **Bob Hardy, PER**



2.	Robert MacFarlane
4.	2100011120111020110110
	Greg Metzgus
3.	Leo Rodriquez
4.	Roman Perrotta
5.	Peter Ingolia
6.	Don Peterson
	Henry Vega
	Roger Mortenson
7.	Joe Urbina
	Gary Holton
9.	Ken Krabel
	Neils Glickman
10.	Robert Foley
	Ray Taylor
13.	Jim Hamilton
14.	Jim Beaty

APRIL

Richard Dahse 16. Chuck Busch 17. John Waddell 19. Mitch Strunk 20. Bill McKenna 21. Jim Bammer 22. Richard DeLorenzis **Jeff Harriott** Harris Wasser Frank Pavone 24. Wallace Boggess Steve Chiszar 25. **Alfred Battles** Michael Vince 28. Jerry Case 29. Anthony Myszka Jim Basile **30. Dick Conant**

Harold Calvin

FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE PROPOSED AND WILL BE NOMINATED ON

Date: April 9, 2003

NAME OCCUPATION SPONSOR

Maleah C. EarleSales ManagerAbe GambleGeorge E. EstokRetiredEdward AyralKevin RobichauOwner Robichau AutomotiveJay BlockPhilip E. LaFataRetiredDon Booker, ER

CRYING TOWEL



February	5	\$225.00	#1778 Robert Travalthan	
Lucky 13			No Winner	
February	12	\$250.00	#1930 John Harris	
Lucky 13		No Winner		
February	19	\$275.00	#56 Everett Boyce	
Lucky 13			No Winner	
February	26	\$300.00	#1777 Michael Smith	
Lucl	ky 13		No Winner	

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Carol Neuner

On behalf of our Jr. Elks, Heather and I want to give a very heartfelt "THANKS" to all of you for supporting the Spaghetti Feast, which was a resounding success! Also we want to give a special THANK YOU to Gymie Jo, Bugsy & Ken for sponsoring the event, all their time and hard work that went into making the event a success, THANK YOU guys again! And, we want to THANK our Lodge Officers for their donation towards the Entertainment.

For those of you that weren't able to attend, you missed a wonderful evening and a terrific entertainer, "Ned Rifken," who is a good friend of Gymie Jo. Ned flew in from Las Vegas that evening, to help support our Jr. Elks Program. Thank you Ned!!! Remember everyone, next time you're in Las Vegas, go and see one of Ned Rifken's shows. Listening to Ned sing "Fly Me To The Moon" you'd think "OLE Blue Eyes" himself was there, and when he sang "That's Amore".....Dean Martin would have been proud, thanks again Ned, you are terrific! Ned also helped out with our "Free Car Wash Drawing," by pulling the 5 lucky winners, as follows: Zelda, Herb Jellander and his wife Pat, Jim Rochford (and yes, Jim we might wash that big dually of yours), and Dave Naccarato. Dave just happens to be cooking breakfast on the Jr. Elk's "FIRST CAR WASH" for this year. So mark your calendar and come on down for breakfast on Sunday, April 6th. The Car Wash hours will be: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., same prices as last year: \$5.00 for cars; & \$10.00 for trucks/vans! We are looking forward to seeing all you and your dirty vehicle(s)!!!!

We also want to thank Dick Flittner for donating 100 Avocados, that we sold using the "On your Honor" system, Jay Block for introducing and making announcements. The, Jr. Elks 50/50 drawing raised \$184.00, and the Lucky Winner of 50% was "Patti Serota and the other 50% was donated to the Lodges 'Major Project Fund/Purple Pig."

A "Big Thank You" to all, for making it a wonderful evening!!!!

Just in brief, in January, our Jr. Elk's served the "Firemen/ Policemen Appreciation Awards Dinner" which was their One Year Anniversary. In February, the Jr.'s made about 50 homemade Valentine Cards for the Vets, that Jim Kellogg delivered for them, they wanted to deliver them, themselves but unfortunately they had to attend school that day. Over the course of the year(s), the Jr.'s have donated to the Lodge "Beautification/Operation Uplift Fund," the "Charity Christmas Baskets," they had a car wash for our Grand Marshal candidate "Joel Erickson," to name a few. Their picture made the California-Hawaiian Elks Newspaper and also the Elks National Magazine. And we went on a field trip to Hurricane Harbor. We are very proud of all the kids and we hope that you are too. We're looking forward to this year, with a few new Jr. Elks joining, our headcount is approximately 13 at this point. The kids have some wonderful projects in the works.

MAKING A HUGE DIFFERENCE WHERE IT COUNTS

Richard Goldner CHEA Public Relations



Thanks to the phenominal help of several dedicated CHEA volunteers (separate memo of commendation), the ELK booth at the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) Conference [2/21-24] was a clear success. With over 2,000 attending, we were able to

meaningfully convey the ELK message to over 200 individual principals; acquainting them with our youth-oriented programs and specifics of where to go and who to contact at Elk Lodges in their respective communities. All were made more aware of the benefits of having an active ELK Lodge in their areas. That was then; this is now!

VOLUNTEER BOOTH ASSISTANCE IS AGAIN SOLICITED FOR TWO (2) OTHER UPCOMING APRIL CONFERENCES; the National School Boards Association in San Francisco [4/5-8] and the National Association of Elementary School Principals in Anaheim [4/12-15].

Themes conveyed are Scholarship, Americanism, Drug Awareness, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Scouting, and Youth Activities. It is truly amazing how little our target audiences know about ELK programs and CHEA has a great oppoprtunity to MAKE A DIFFERENCE ... with your help.

President Gene Chambers whole-heartedly supports this program and has encouraged every State / District / Lodge Committee Chairman in the Anaheim and San Francisco area to actively participate.

Elks Care - Elks Share

AND TO OUR Thousand Oaks, Jr. Elks #2477 All of you have done A GREAT JOB!!! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!

And a Special **THANK YOU**, to all of the adults, who have helped in making our Junior Elks a success for our Lodge, we need not mention names, they know who they are!

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ANTLER ANTICS

INNER GUARD CORNER

Raven West, Inner Guard

Long before the "Mouse" began his takeover of Anaheim in 1954, long

before Universal Studios revved up their first tram ride in 1964, and even before Six Flags put the "Magic" in the "Mountain" of Valencia in 1971, there was "Conejo Valley Days".

Originating in the late forties, Conejo Valley Days began as a "Community Circus" located on the old Jungleland compound site where the Civic Arts Plaza now stands. In the early fifties, a community parade was added to the circus festivities. Almost all area residents participated in the short parade route which ran from Conejo School Road to the Jungleland site. It didn't take long before small groups of enterprising individuals began setting up fund raising food booths to raise money for specific causes.

Every other year, Thousand Oaks Lodge 2477 sponsors a Grand Marshall candidate and our entire membership experiences the spirit of that very first Conejo Valley Days when we help magically transform the cold, barren vacant lot into a spectacular wonderland of lights, rides, laughter and fun. All who pass through the gates are transported back in time to a simpler era before cell phones, email and traffic jams. Before multimillion dollar amusement parks, whose admission prices for a family of four are as much as a car payment, sprang up across the countryside. A time when we celebrated the spirit of an American community.

The aromas emanating from the vide variety of food booths, including our famous Bar-B-Que wagon sell everything from cotton candy to Indian fry bread, entice even the most health conscious consumer to indulge. Forget the cholesterol and the calories. This night is for fun!

Hypnotic lights of the Ferris wheel turn parents into children as they remember when it was their small hand being held by their parent's, as they waited their turn on line, the same way they hold their own child's hand this night. For one magical moment, the demands of daily life fade away in the spinning and twirling of the carnival rides. Game booths beckon with huge prizes and enticing barker calls. Even though everyone knows their chances of taking home one of the enormous stuffed animals is small, they don't really care because they also know all the money spent will go, not to some huge anonymous corporation, but directly to one of the several hundred charities the carnival participants sponsor.

Except for small operating costs, every nickel collected at each and every game or food booth goes to support the many non-profit organizations in the community, who in turn provide needed assistance to a wide range of charities.

WELCOME ABOARD OUR NEW ELK MEMBER



Frank Lussier was initiated by our PER team



Frank Lussier and sponsor Bob Hardy, PER

Eat a hot dog, feed a needy family. Take a chance on that cute teddy bear, help an abused woman and her children find safe shelter. And while it my be true that Magic Mountain has the fastest roller coasters, and Universal has the best tram ride, and Disneyland has...well, Disneyland, they don't have the one thing the Conejo Days Carnival has had from the very first day of its existence: a commitment to help local charities and non-profit groups raise much needed funds to help enrich the lives of less fortunate individuals here at home, and around the world.

What began as a small "Community Circus" has grown into the nation's largest all-volunteer community event. According to 1999 CVD Chair, and our NEW MEMBER Francois Rene Lussier, "Conejo Valley Days provides more than two hundred local clubs and organizations an annual opportunity to come together and celebrate our small town heritage.

We can't get more American than that!

"Let my words give you sustenance, nourish your spirit, take you places you've never imagined. Not just for today when you've read them, but for whatever forever we have in this life. Or the next."

* * *

RAVENWEST

****Take this opportunity to honor a dear Brother who gave so much to this Lodge and to Elkdom.

Frank Rindone Memorial Table Order Form



Past Exalter Ruler, Thousand Oaks Lodge #2477

Past State Vice President

Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler

Past State Sergeant-at-Arms

Past State Trustee

Past District Leader --West Central Coast District

Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 is establishing a dedication in the lounge honoring the memory of Brother Frank Rindone, who contributed many years as an Elk to fortify the future of our great District. Frank believed in the strength of our great organization and what it could do to advance the growth of young minds and future Elks. The proceeds gathered from this project will be placed in a restricted fund to provide educational grants for the continuing education of promising students in the community.

To be a part of this memorial of respect for Frank, please reserve your or your organization's brass plate along side of his picture.

Checks should be made payable to: Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 – Frank Rindone Memorial

Examples

Jane and John Smith Lodge 92477 In Memory of Frank

\$25 = 1"x 2"

Name/Organization for the year of 2000 - 2001 Thousand Oaks In Memory of Frank

\$50 = 2"x 3"

- > (3 lines maximum)
- (20 Characters per line; this includes spaces)
- □ \$50 = 2"x3"
 - > (5 lines maximum)
 - (30 Characters per; line this includes spaces)

Please Print all information

Line1:

Line2:

-

Line4:

Line5:



POETS CORNER
By: Ken Muellerleile

Life's Cycle

It started out with just us two, then came a son marriage did persue.

Three years later blessed with a girl, the family did grow it's now in a whirl.

Many years have passed nieces and nephews, with family of their own relatives grew and grew.

Family outings are an affair with new, and still growing, larger and larger they become with more new faces still showing.

We are in need of a picnic ground park to accommodate all of the new and the

as they grow it became clear there's more merrient to be with all that are dear.

Support Elkdom In LOVING MEMORY



Support Elkdom In LOVING MEMORY



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By Affiliation: 1981-82

Robert L. Thornton

*Deceased

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