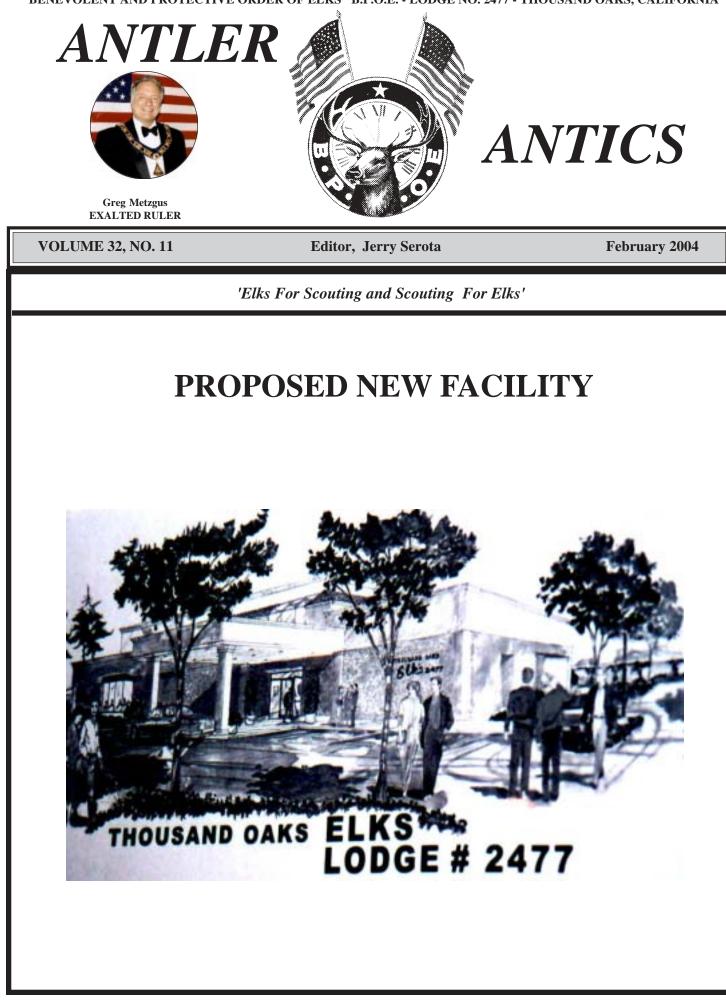
BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS B.P.O.E. - LODGE NO. 2477 - THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA



February 2004

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ANTLER ANTICS: Jerry Serota, Editor NEW FACILITIES: Tom Ryder, DDGER HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK: Jerry Serota GREETERS: Jack Loughran, PER PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jerry Serota BUILDING MAINT. : Wayne Flittner



2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



PARLIAMENTARIAN: Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL LODGE VISITATIONS: Jack Loughran, PER BBQ WAGON: Eddie Rice AUDITING: Tom Ryder, DDGER ELKS TRAINING: John D'Ambrogio, PER BEQUESTS & LIVING TRUSTS: Chet Kozlowski, PER

Subject to Grand Lodge approval bonds will be on sale for our new building. Our goal is to sell \$1,000,000.00 of these bonds as rapidly as possible so that construction can begin. The city preliminary permitting process is underway and when we are confident that the required funds can be raised, we will begin the detailed drawings required for construction.

The question that I get asked almost daily by our members is "when will the actual construction begin?" I can only make an educated guess at this time. When the city gets involved, we are at their mercy. We have had a face-to-face meeting with every section of the city that will be involved in the permitting and inspection of our project. They stated that the city will help in every way they can to expedite this project. They want to see our corner property improved as much as we do. My best guess at this time is that the production of the blue prints will take about 3 months and the permitting process will take at least that. The actual construction will take in excess of 1 year. This timetable will start as soon as we are confident that the \$1M can be raised. That is where our members can speed up the process. Decide what you can afford to commit and put in your request for bonds immediately.

Our new Bar Manager has already made some changes. A jukebox for the lounge and a golf game for the smoking area are probably already in place by the time you are reading this. You will probably note also that there are a couple of new faces behind the bar. Our new Bar Manager of course and also a young man that grew up down the hall from me, Kevin Metzgus. Please introduce yourselves to them and make them feel at home. The entertainment on Friday nights has been fantastic. It is indeed a joy to see the paved parking lot and the dirt parking lot filled with members cars. If you haven't been to the lodge on a Friday night lately you should make it a point to stop by.

Thanks again to everyone for all of your support. Again let me remind you that our biggest project since the initial purchase of our lodge is taking place and now is when your support is needed most.



FIRST LADIES CORNER

Barbara Metzgus, FL The year has gone by so fast for ER Greg and myself. It is hard to realize that this is my last 2 months as our lodges First

Lady. As I reflect back on everything that has taken place this year I wonder how our lodge ever accomplished so much. I know the answer, with the help of all of our fine and generous members.

Now there is our biggest challenge yet ahead of us. Building our new lodge building. Please support our bond effort to the fullest of your ability. The sooner we raise the funds, the sooner we can raise the walls.

Remember, burger night, ER Greg and I will be assisting the preparation and serving. Each month the crowd is getting larger and we will continue to serve shrimp cocktail as an appetizer.

Thanks again to everyone for your help and support.

First Lady, Barbara Metzgus



Elks Memorial, first Sunday in December, George Meehan, chaplain; Sally Claunch, Loyal Knight; Tom Ryder, PDDGER, Esquire; Jack Loughran, PER, Lecturing Knight; Exalted Ruler, Greg Metzgus; Leading Knight, Jay Block

February 2004

ANTLER ANTICS



EDITORS CORNER

jserota497@earthlink.net

My friends it is with great sorrow that we report that our Secretary, Dee Swanson,

suffered a grevious loss with the passing of her son David Bruce Swanson. The fraternity of Elksom is like an extension of our own family and when one of us suffers a loss it is felt by all of us. She has our utmost deepest and heartfelt sympathy at this time of grief and sorrow.

On Wednesday December 18th Santas favorite helpers the Thousand Oaks Elks Ladies started wrapping gifts for 93 boys and 84 girls ranging in age from 1-16 years of age.

On Saturday, December 20th seventy six families will enjoy a better Christmas because the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge delivered to less fortunate families over \$5,000 worth of turkeys, milk, eggs, vegetables and other staples, enough food to last a family for a week plus the toys for all the children. Four big palates of food came from (not crossing picket lines) the Navy commissary in Oxnard.

Moneys were generated by the Charity Ball, Christmas Tree sales, BBQs, Elks Ladies, and the El Konejo Kamper Klub plus personal donations from caring Elks. The Charity Basket program is Chaired by the Elks Leading Knight, Jay Block and his sidekick (wife) Myrna.

Innumerable number of volunteer hours went into this project and we wish to thank the community and sponsors for their support.





FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

By now the new year should be a reality to most of us, and we should all have settled down to

accepting it, whether it be good, mediocre, or getting off to a bad start. We have gotten off to a good start with lapsation by having it reduced to zero. Of course the down side to that is that we had to drop a number of members to get it to that figure. Let's hope that next year we can start off the new year with a lapsation of zero without having to drop any members.

By now our permit to sell bonds should have been approved by Grand Lodge, and we are well on the way to making a new facility a reality. This has been a dream for decades, and maybe now it will come true. But it still needs the cooperation of each member, and don't forget that widows of our departed brothers are included in this. Bonds are sold in \$500.00 and \$1,000.00 increments, so that should make it pretty much available to everyone. If you wish to purchase bonds, please see me in the office during normal working hours. I will be more than happy to accommodate you.

As most of you know by now, there has been a change in bar management. I would like to thank Bob Cissell for the many years of dedicated service to our lodge by serving as bar manager. You're a hard act to follow Bob, and you'll be sorely missed by the many thousands of patrons that have come through our doors in years passed. May I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors. I would also like to congratulate our new management. I know you will do your best to make our club facility a success and be prosperous.

Nominations and election for incoming officers for lodge year 2004-2005 will be held in February. If you wish to run for an elective office in the lodge, you must have a nominator and be present when nominated. If you wish to hold an appointed office (Inner Guard, Chaplain, Esquire), please contact incoming Exalted Ruler Jay Block for possibilities of an appointment to the office desired. Nominations for office will be opened at regular sessions of the lodge on February 3rd and 10th. Election of officers will be held at a regular session of the lodge on February 17th.

Finally, our lodge is starting to grow and income is booming. This is all because we have some very hard-working members who have stepped up to the plate and accepted the responsibility of seeing that we flourish. But it is going to take a lot of hard work by everyone to make us successful in the coming years. We are going to have interest on bonds to pay along with other rising costs. And that's no small thing. The more members we get involved, the more members we bring in, and the harder we work will surely cause us to reap the rewards of our efforts.

And that's 30 for this month

Bill

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LEADING KNIGHT Jay Block

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG: Joe Smith SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch INVESTIGATION: George Meehan ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION: Jack Malone CHRISTMAS BASKETS: Jay & Myrna Block



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

Now that all of the figures are in for the Christmas Basket Program, its time to congratulate ourselves on the wonderful year we had in our Charity giving. The Lodge started the year (1/03) with a little more then \$6,000, and through several fund raisers and 50/50's, ended up with almost \$14,000 (12/03). The only expenditures that are still to be determined, is the air fare and car rental costs for our winners of the Maui Trip. So if any of our members has any "in" with people in the travel business, and can get a good deal for the Lodge (remember this would be deductible), let me know ASAP.

Here are some of the statistics from the XMAS Baskets:

Families provided for	76
Children	139
Single Mothers	14
Senior Citizens	25
Alzheimer care givers	5
Presents wrapped for Kids	300+ (A real heartfelt

Thanks to the Elks Ladies)

To bottom line it, if we put in reserve the same amount as we started with one year ago, the Lodge has a goodly amount to help increase our per capita Purple Pig and ENF figures.

Because of business concerns and family health problems, the Lodge is looking for both an Inner Guard and a Lecturing Knight for next years Officer Corp and Ritual Team. Last year we came very close to winning it all, and this year the Lodge is looking very, very well to do it again. So if you want to join a winning team, and or just have a meaningful say as to how the Lodge is run, contact me.

Just as a reminder, we still are looking for a few GOOD people to help form another BBQ team so that we can provide our BBQ every Saturday. ER Greg has put up a couple of Signup sheets around the Lodge, so if you care about what we do, use this as an opportunity to really help ourselves and acquaint people with what Elkdom is all about.

AND REMEMBER......ELKS CARE......and.....ELKS SHARE

NOMINATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Due to the interruption of meetings during the Christmas and New Year Holidays, the election of Richard Dahse to life membership in the order has necessarily been delayed. Brother Richard will be elected to life membership at a regular session of the lodge to be held on February 11, 2004. All members are encouraged to come out and elect this 30-year member into life membership.

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

A special mention of appreciation to all the volunteers who helped make the Xmas tree lot a success. A special thanks to all our members and friends who patronized our lot and to our friends the Carlsons Building Materials Center for allowing us to use their lot for our charitble endeavors.



Just two of the many volunteers who spearheaded and made the Xmas tree lot a success were Herb Jellander and Bob Hardy, PER

Your Leading Knight Jay Block

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CHRISTMAS BRUNCH WITH THE KAMPERS - 2003

Pat von Wittenburg



As it has been in the past – the attendance was terrific at the Grande Vista. Although we enjoy our campouts, it is always interesting to see how the Kampers clean up for social gatherings. That's a tease, folks. It is always a pleasure to see the people who do not

camp, but do attend the brunch so that we have an opportunity to visit with them.

The activities did seem to go according to schedule this year – even Marilyn Cissell was on time to deliver the opening prayer and the hungry hoard lined up!

The food available continues to be excellent and the choices seem to be limitless. Numerous people were observed making several trips to the buffet – and who could blame them. There is no way a person could cover the "range" without making several trips. One dare not forget the champagne flowed and at the corner table where Katherine Koertz was celebrating



her birthday – it seems to have flowed freely. Everyone was having a REALLY good time – and isn't that what it's all about?

There was the usual business to be attended to –

such as outgoing President, Walter Ogden thanking his officers for their help during the past year and seemingly delighted to be turning over the reins to the incoming officers. Bill von Wittenburg, President; Cheryl Templeton, Vice President; Pat von Wittenburg, Secretary; and Donna Hardy, Treasurer. Yeh, I know – those last two names keep popping up each year – but no one seems to want these jobs and we are constantly told we "do such a good job. Does this sound like a con job to you?

The raffle sales were brisk and it seems there were quite a few items that numerous people wanted. Cracked me up cause I'd made this fleece throw with some silly fish on it – I'm not absolutely certain whether it was popular because of the feel of the fabric or because of the movie "Finding Nemo". I do know a young man at Cheryl's table was offering MONEY if anyone there won it (didn't happen) and Barbara Metzgas was really happy with it.

Then there was the infamous 50/50 ! Those of you who are not Kampers probably didn't understand the loud groan when Charlie Henry's number was drawn as the winner. Let me explain – Charlie has won the 50/50 the last THREE out of four MONTHS. Guess the only reason she didn't win the October 50/50 was cause SHE WASN'T THERE! The standing joke for some time was the Marva D'Ambrogio wouldn't be allowed to buy 50/50 tickets – guess who is on that list now? If we could only figure out a way - - -

All the Kampers truly appreciate the fact that Jay Block took the time and made to effort to acknowledge the Kampers'



Bill von Wittenburg El Konejo Kampers President for the Year 2004 and a happy \$475 smile from Charlie Henry big 50/50 winner

support of the Lodge in general and of the Christmas Basket project in particular. Thank you for noticing Jay! TECK TIPS:

Since so many of us have become dependant (attached) to our cell phones, I had heard of similar problems – but had no "real" information. I'm passing this along in hopes that no one I know will ever have an experience like these:

The Shell Oil Company recently issued a warning after three incidents in which cell phones ignited fumes during fueling operations.

First case, the phone was placed on the car's trunk lid during fueling; it rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car and the gasoline pump.

Second, an individual suffered severe burns to their face when fumes ignited as they answered a call while refueling their car.

Third, an individual suffered burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in their pocket, rang while they were fueling their car.

You should know that:

Cell phones can ignite fuel or fumes

Cell phones that light up when switched on or when they ring release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition

Cell phones should not be used in filling stations, or when fueling lawn mowers, boat!, Etc.

Cell phones should not be used or should be turned off around other materials that generate flammable or explosive fumes or dust, i.e. solvents, chemicals, gases, grain dust, etc.

KAMPERS – REMEMBER YOUR DUES FOR 2004 ARE NOW DUE!!! 15 BUCKS TO DONNA HARDY ASAP OR IN AN ENVELOPE APPROPRIATELY MARKED AT THE BAR

UPCOMING CAMPOUTS:

FEBRUARY Oak Park – Simi MARCH Travel Village – Valencia

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Ed Rice LODGE ACTIVITIES: Tom Hartin SCOUTING: Jacob Panczak, PER HOOPSHOOT: Tom Hartin WED. NIGHT DINNERS: DRUG AWARENESS: STRAY ELKS: MOTHERS DAY: George Meehan

LOYAL KNIGHT Sally Claunch

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



ENTERTAINMENT: Pete Padilla WED. NIGHT TICKETS: Raven West LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE FIGHTER APPRECIATION: Scott Dool DISTRICT PICNIC: Tom Ryder, DDGER PRESIDING JUSTICE: Dick McCann YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Heather Maddox

Random Thoughts from Claunch

Every February across the country flowers, candy and cards are exchanged all in the name of St. Valentine. This February in the name of Loyal Knight, I would like to send valentines in the name of gratitude to members who have shown love and commitment to our Lodge:



Cornelia Meehan- for making the aprons for the B-B-Q teams

■ Robert Jones- for donating a karaoke machine to the Lodge

■ Joe Smith- for making the trophies needed at the Lodge

■ Dick McNeal - for ordering for the B-B-Q teams

Herb Jellander- for spearheading the JV B-B-Q team

The cooking crews -for making the kitchen run smoothly

Sharon and Terry Baker-for always lending a helping hand

- Bob Cissell- for his years as bar manager
- Dave Pearson- for chairing Megabucks

Dining and Entertainment

Enchiladas, kielbasa, tamales, and, lasagna are some of the international foods being prepared this month in the kitchen. Call it a global dining experience at the lodge.

On February 1st after eating a Power Harley, David Naccaroto breakfast, stay for the Super Bowl Party. Jacob Panczak will set up a monster 5 foot TV screen for our viewing pleasure. Partygoers will bring appetiz-

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS 495-0577

OUR CONDOLENCES TO: Dee Swanson on the untimely passing of her son David. **KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Bob Riebe; Mac McDonald

ON THE MEND: Eve Davis is home from the hospital.



ers to share. And Annie Pearson will organize the games. On February 6th The Two guys, Dennison and Neuner, with the help of The Gal, Carol, will prepare lasagna, Italian style. In the lounge after dinner Rob Rio will delight us with his boogie-woogie music. Not to be outdone the following Friday, February 13th Ed Bianchi and Joe Landry promise to excite our taste buds with their Mexican dinner complete with homemade tamales. But bring your dancing shoes, because Silver Ridge is back for your dancing pleasure.

Fish King Cooper answers the culinary challenge on February 20th by frying the fish and chips. It is always a sellout. In the lounge performing that night will be Leila Rose at the keyboard. Speaking of sellouts, the Kozlowskis, on February 27th always sellout their annual Polish dinner. Come early for the food and stay for the Officers' Night at the Races and Megabucks.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Pete Padilla, Com. Chair

Hi Guys:

Well here we are in February and the line-up for this month is some oldie and goodie entertainers that that you have asked me to bring back. As always, I WELCOME any suggestions, requests or comments from you regarding our Friday night entertainment. As I have mentioned in previous articles, this is YOUR lodge and, hopefully, the entertainment is geared towards your pleasure.

Our first Friday of the month, Feb. 6th, will feature Rob Rio, "THE BOOGIE WOOGIE MAN". I have had so many of you asking for a repeat performance that we lucked out and he will return on this date. You will not be able to control your body from jumping to his sounds.

On February 13th, yes that is FRIDAY THE 13th, we will make this a lucky day with the return of "SILVER **RIDGE''.** This husband and wife team created many fans the night of our Christmas tree trimming party and we are looking forward to having them back.

Our third Friday of the month, the 20th, will feature "LEILA ROSE", a sweetheart on the keyboard. This is the lady we love to listen and dance to. If you have any requests, please bring them to her attention.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THESE **IMPORTANT DATES:**

1. Feb. 6th Rob Rio "THE BOOGIE WOOGIE MAN" 2. Feb. 13th Steve and Carolyn Carr "SILVER RIDGE" 3. Feb. 20th Leila Rose "SWEETHEART OF THE KEY-BOARD"

4. Feb. 27th PER'S Night at the races and Mega Bucks.

This brings you up to date on the plans for the month of February.

Let's keep the spirit going regarding the place to be on Friday nights; our own Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge!

Respectfully,

Pete Padilla, Entertainment Chairman

THE BOOGIE WOOGIE MAN



COMING TO THE THOUSAND OAKS LODGE FRIDAY FEB. 6TH





STEVESCAROLYN FRIDAY FEB 13TH IT'S A LUCKY DAY AT THE ELKS LODGE MUSIC TO SING AND DANCE TO

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

AMERICANISM: Raven West FLAG DAY/FLAG RETIREMENT: David Naccarato SCHOLARSHIP: Rick Herrera GOVT. RELATIONS: Denise Goldstein MEMORIAL SERVICE: George Meehan NATIONAL SERVICES: Jim Kellogg

LECTURING KNIGHT David Naccarato

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER GOLF TOURNEY: Dave Pearson TommyClaunch LODGE PICNIC: MEMBERSHIP: Every Lodge Member CHRISTMAS TREES: Bob Hardy, PER EL KONEJO KAMPERS: Walter Ogden

With the fall season upon us, and considering the time we'll be spending indoors, I want to pass along some very important information to you in this months antler article regarding household mold, and the ill effects it can cause. Mold has become a big issue in the housing industry because people have fallen ill and been forced to move. As a result home owners are becoming more concerned. Mold problems have also been reported in office environments and schools.

If your not storing quilts, and other bedding or clothes in a cedar-lined chest, but in heavy plastic bags, check them periodically for moisture. If the stored material feels moist to the touch, remove the items immediately, treat them first by washing or dry cleaning, then store them in vacume-sealed space bags that will eliminate moisture and insects.

Mold is often the culprit for books slowly rotting. If you have a book collection, you might want to ensure that the books are not stored on a shelf that rests against an outside wall. The moisture from the wall-even though it probably has a layer of sheetrock will eventually produce enough moisture to dampen the books, causing slow decaying of the pages.

Check around the house for any telltale signs of mold. If your are buying a new home have a professional mold specialist check out the home before a transaction takes place.

There are approximately 40 known variations of mold, and they cause a myriad of health risks, such as; allergy attacks, arthritic aching, asthma, bloody nose, bronchitis, coughing, chronic headaches, depression, dizziness, fatigue, hearing damage, loss of memory, nausea, pneumonia, restlessness, trouble breathing, watery eyes, stiffness, balance or equilibrium loss. Bad stuff, see me for more information.

BOB CISSELL RETIRES

After many years of service to our lodge, Robert (Bob) Cissell is taking a much deserved rest. Bob, a 56 year Elk Member, came to us from the Lancaster Lodge. Bob has been our bar manager for quite a few years now. Bob's retirement took effect Jan 1st. Bob, enjoy retirement. You did a fine job, we'll see you around the lodge.

Now let me introduce you to Judy Brayman. Most of you know her already for she has been our bartender here at the Lodge for a while now. Judy was born on New Year's Day in Sault Ste Marie Michigan. She started in the restaurant/bar business when she was 16 years old and managed a Bed and Breakfast in Saginaw Mich. When she moved out west and settled in Westlake, she took management positions at both the Westlake Inn and at the Hyatt. Lucky for us, she now is our new bar manager. Judy has jumped in with both feet, for on New Year's Day (her birthday) she worked a double shift at the lodge and did triple the business that was done last New Year's day. on a personal note, Judy was a big help to me on the lodge picnic last year; Volunteering to serve drinks for us at the picnic. Judy will be an asset to our lodge.

David Naccarato(Lecturing Knight)





AMERICANISM

Raven West, Com. Chair.

As Americanism Chair it is my honor and privilege to host the annual Elks National

Americanism Essay Contest. Last year Thousand Oaks Lodge #2477's Division II winner also won first place in our District!

The theme of this year's essay was "Why I Am Proud To Say the Pledge of Allegiance". I received over 130 entries from five schools in the Conejo Valley area. Judging these essays are very difficult and with a 200 word limit, a great deal has to be expressed in a very limited space. The contest is judged in two Divisions: I - 5th and 6th grades and II - 7th and 8th grades.

First, second and third place winners in each Division will receive a United States Savings bond which will be presented at our Youth Awards banquet sometime in May. The First Place winners of each Division will go on to compete at the District level, then on to the State competition, and the final competition will be at the Elks National Convention.

This year, the winning entry came from Ms. Kossler's 8th grade class at Redwood Middle School and was written by Megan M. McHulty, age 13;

I am an American. All American people are proud to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Francis Bellamy wrote the Plege of Allegiance in August of 1892. The words of the Pledge of Allegiance means unity, loyalty, and allegiance. Unity mean people from all over coming together for a common good. For example the recent wild fires, men, women and children had to fleetheir homes to escape the dangers of the fires. The fire fighters came from all over the country to help our state.

"I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of American and to the Republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all." Every day I hear the other kids in my class say the Pledge of Allegiance that is very important because when I say "I pledge allegiance to the flag that means I will stand for my country and let no one take advantage of me. We are one nation that is united under one God that is fighting for our rights to life, liberty, and justice. We may be fifty different states, but we are ONE nation."

Next month: The winning entry in Division I.



Inaugural Ball April 3th 2004 Clarion Palm Garden Hotel Reception and Cocktails 6 p.m. Dinner 7:30 p.m. Grand March 9 p.m. Music by Chris Boucher \$40 per person





Master Illusionist at work, the kids kept him on his toes



Dave Naccarato, the Illusionist and his assistant Karen kept the childrens rapt attention at the Childrens Xmas party



Elf Shirley Kozlowski gives Santa a hand at the Childrens Xmas party



At the Elks memorial , Marie Wagner with rose in hand gets an admiring glance from editor



Richard Case and Wife, Santa's helpers as they led the carolers at the Tree Trimming Party



The Caroler in action, they had a good time entertaining accompanied by Richard Case on the guitar



Dave and Karen always there when the need arrises, ERs Xmas party



Eugene Letourneau , MacMcDonald and Ella checking out the food at the Exalted Rulers Xmas party



Shirley Kozlowski kept the food coming at the ERs party



Eddie Rice stuffing the Xmas Baskets for the needy families



Jeanne Sandt, Santas favorite gift wrapper



Robert Jones checking his grocery list to make sure it is all there

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ANTLER ANTICS

February 2004

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

THE ELKS LADIES Myrna Block, President

2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Karen Naccarato, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Alice Kennedy 3RD VICE PRESIDENT: Ginnie Gabel SECRETARY: Carol Neuner TREASURER: Donna Hardy AUDITOR: Kathy Ryder TELEPHONE: Patti Serota



PARLIAMENTARIAN: Myrna Block CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell MAJOR PROJECTS: Carol Neuner/Deanna Savokinas CVD: Dee Swanson & Marilyn Cissell HISTORIAN: SUNSHINE: Pat Smail



Now is the time for:

THE ELKS LADIES MYSTERY-CASINO NIGHT

You may ask how is this evening going to be any different from all the other special dinners or events that we have had in the past?

Well now, you will be entering a casino with games of chance. You can place your bets at the roulette or craps tables or perhaps you are feeling lucky at blackjack. Is Keno more to your liking? They will be there. You pick the game. You could break the bank or you could go home with empty pockets. Either way you will enjoy the fun "risking" the casino money that you will be given.

Hungry? There will be a buffet at which you can "nibble" your way through the best part of the evening.

Prizes? There will be prizes awarded throughout the evening. They will be given at spaced intervals all night. They will be given out for winning the most money during the evening. They will also be for solving the mystery. How often can you be the detective and find a murderer!!

Some of you will also be a part of the story of foul play! So you can see that this night is not your usual Saturday night. Come and join in all the fun and festivities! It will be quite a night.

Would you like to help give the evening the flavor of the times? Dress as though this is happening in the 30's or 40's or in Hollywood fashion.

Also the election of new officers for the coming year is upon us. If you are interested in becoming an officer, call Patti Serota at 497-1197.



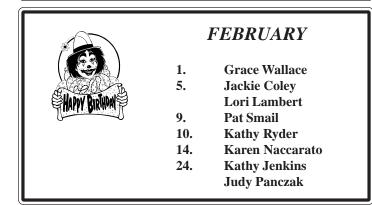
A DIIFERENT KIND OF RESOLUTION

Those many resolutions, God each year we try to make, So easily they slip away and most of them we break.

Not exercize or diets, now, more sleep or even money saved. With mounting good intentions, Lord, our pathes in life are paved.

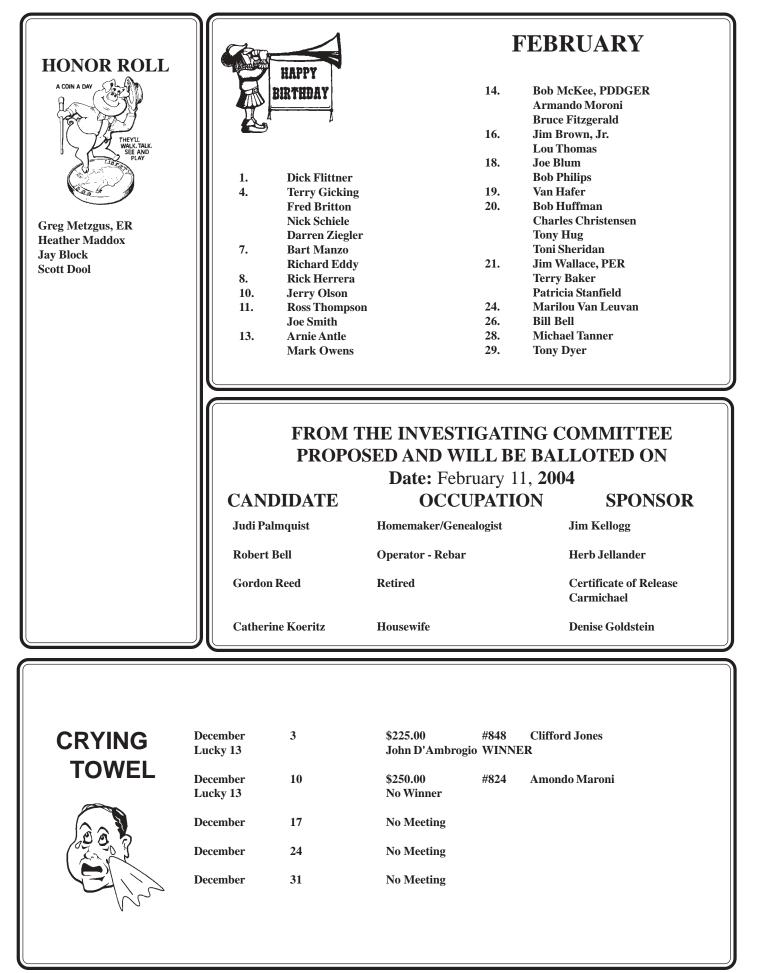
Please help with different things this year, Love patience, kindness and gratitude, Forgiving the wrong, recalling the right and developing a better attitude.

Amen





Elks Ladies give Chet and Shirley a well earned round of applause for their wonderful Christmas Party dinner.



CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

A big thanks to Carlsons Building Materials Center for allowing us to use their lot for our Christmas Tree sales. Without their generosity we would not be able to help so many in our community.



December 29, 2003 Dear members: ant to thank Christmas 3 me It consiste. huge boxe a 2 ca and every one imagine the ed expense that nd deliver ea huge amount. e thank all who t to this, especially uple no lotes. have done. Sincerely, Esther Taylor

files Care - files Share

FUN FAIRE KEY RAFFLE WINNER IS A HAPPY LADY

The Key Raffle started at the Fun Faire this year is finally over. The last of the keys were sold at the New Years Eve party and the lucky winner was Betty Vega. It is to be noted that winning key happened to be the very last key purchased. Gil Riding, our resident lock smith, held the lock while each key was tried and when Betty stepped forward, there was a silence and then a faint "click" as the lock opened followed by yelps from the winner and some words that need not be repeated from the other key holders.

The raffle was a success. Thank you to Pete Padilla for organizing the fund raiser and thanks to all that helped support our lodge through your generosity. There will be more raffles and remember, they all help support our charities in one way or another. Better luck next tim**e**.



L-R Gil Riding, PER; Greg Metzgus, ER; Betty Vega, Fun Faire Key Winner and Pete Padilla, Fun Faire , Chair.





Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

2750 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago IL 60614 Phone: 773-755-4892

Elks Disaster Relief Activated

Responding to the emergency created by California's devastating firestorms, the B.P.O. Elks of the U.S.A. has announced the establishment of the Elks California Fire Relief Fund. To assist victims of the devastation of the Southern California holocaust, the Elks are calling on members to contribute to the tax-deductible reserve that was announced today by Amos McCallum of Saco, Maine, the national president of the 1.1-million-member charitable and patriotic organization.

"We intend to distribute all of what we raise to people who have suffered loss of loved ones, homes and possessions, and whose dreams have been destroyed," said McCallum. "The Elks are continuing a history of disaster assistance in America that began following the Jamestown Flood," he added. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was among the first groups to provide relief to the victims of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire and has continued to fill a need whenever called. Most recently the Order provided assistance to victims of tornadoes in Middle America and distributed over \$1 million to survivors of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Tax-deductible contributions will be accepted at:

B.P.O.Elks California Fire Relief Fund

% Elks National Foundation

2750 North Lakeview Avenue

Chicago IL 60614

Donations can also be submitted online at: http:// www.elks.org/donate/firefund.cfm



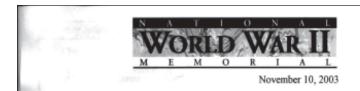
WE WILL NEVER FORGET?

When was the last time you stopped and said "Thank You" to a Veteran? When was the last time you said a prayer for the men and women fighting in Iraq or Afghanistan? You were probably too busy to take the time, and for that...maybe we should all stop and take the time.

One weekend this past November we observed one of the greatest presentations of Patriotism and thank you's that we had ever seen. We spent the last few days in Branson, Missouri for a little "R and R." As we were enjoying the show at the Platters' Theatre, I looked around to see a multitude of elderly men and women in the theatre, some of them wearing caps and jackets depicting the term: "Veteran" on them. Suddenly a nagging thought entered my mind...I hope they say thank you to the Veterans in attendance. With pride and loyalty the Platters asked all Veterans in attendance to please stand up. As they did, a resounding round of applause followed and a standing ovation. What a great moment for those men and women who gave so much to keep us free. Shoji Tabushi not only applauded the Veterans, asking them to stand to a resounding round of applause and a standing ovation, but also thanked them for giving him the opportunity to come to this country and live the American dream. Larry Gatlin and his brothers spent 30 minutes thanking the Veterans, asking them to stand to a resounding round of applause and a standing ovation. They also denounced the entertainers who speak out against the military. Larry Gatlin wrote and sang a stirring song about the men and women who have given the supreme sacrifice or will do so in the future. He also asked for prayers of peace for the Middle East and the rest of the world so he wouldn't have to sing his song any more.

You see, Patriotism is alive and well in this country. Patriotism is alive in Branson, Missouri because the whole town was celebrating Veterans' week and thanking the Veterans in Branson. Everyone greeted, thanked and blessed all of those Veterans. Of course you are thinking this is just a gimmick, but you know what? They didn't have to do it, they didn't have to be nice to the Veterans, they didn't have to give them discount tickets, they didn't have to recognize them at all. But they did!!! We should all follow their example. Thank you to all Veterans and, also, thank you to Branson, Missouri for this patriotic week.

Orville O. Weiss, Member G/L Americanism Committee



Mr. Jerry Serota 110 Siesta Ave. Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-1814

Dear Mr. Serota:

On behalf of the American Battle Monuments Commission and all who have labored to build the National World War II Memorial, I am proud to present you with the official World War II Memorial Calendar for 2004. It was created especially for you and your fellow Charter Members of the World War II Memorial Society.

Thank you for helping to make the Memorial a reality. We have worked for more than ten years to reach this point. Without your support it could not have been built.

I also want to offer you and your family the opportunity to attend the "Tribute to a Generation" dedication celebrations from May 27-30, 2004. There will be a variety of dedication events and related activities you may attend. Two events require tickets—the dedication ceremony and the entertainment salute to WWII veterans. I've enclosed an order form that you can use to request tickets to these two events, or you may order tickets via the internet. Please see the order form for instructions.

We hope to accommodate all who want to attend the ceremony and salute, but we expect great demand for the limited seating available. To ensure that as many World War II generation members as possible are able to attend these events, the number of tickets each individual may receive is limited. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority consideration given to the World War II generation. Please read the information contained in the enclosed newsletter before you order tickets.

Meanwhile, I hope you will use the 2004 Calendar in your home or office. It will remind you every day of the courage and sacrifices made by those who fought and won history's largest and most devastating war. We must never forget them.

Most respectfully,

X KELLEY

General, USMC (Ret) Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission

American Battle Monuments Commission P.O. Box 96766 • Washington, D.C. 20090-6766 • www.wwiimemorial.com



POETS CORNER Ken Muellerlelei

A SPECIAL DAY

A rose in his hand and love in his heart, He's heading to the one from whom he'll never part.

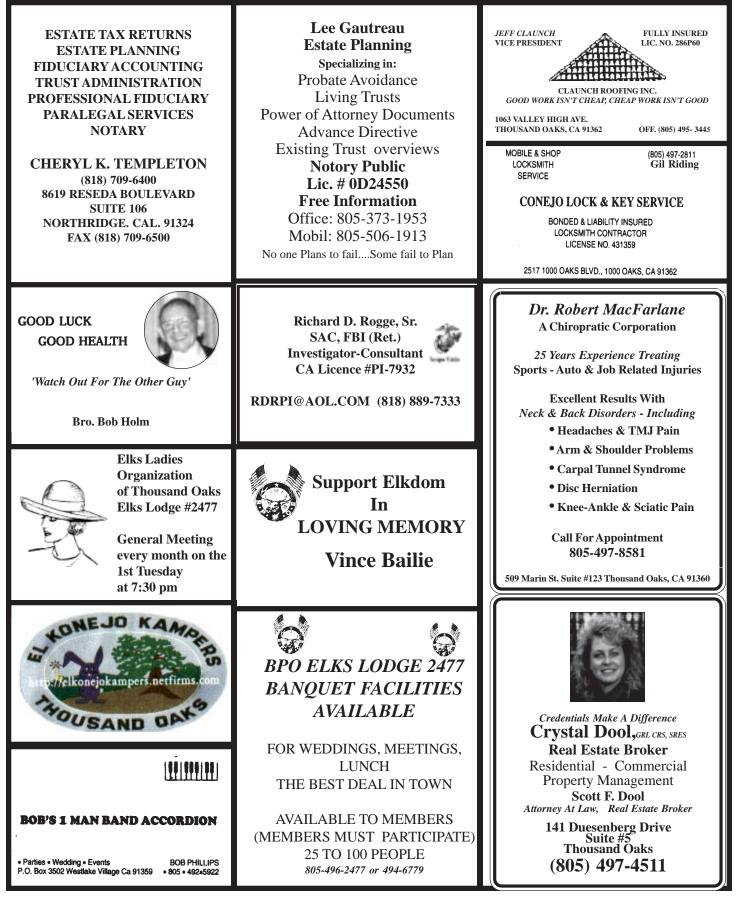
For it's Valentines day a day for all lovers, pledging their love forever and forever.

A simple thing, like one rose can bring her to a tear, for at that very moment she is exuberant, with no fear

Their love is bound together with an embrace and a kiss, that will last and last forever and never go amiss.

		Supporting E In LOVING ME Pat Trou Bill Witn	MORY Da
Won't you be our next sponsor? Our Elk programs needs your participation and helps make our Antler Antics possible For further information call our secretary Dee Swanson, 805-496-2477	Supporting Elkdom In LOVING MEMORY Bernie Swanson	CAR, TRUCK AN 15,000 KEVIN ROBICHAU (818) 922-4371	R.V. REPAIR B. LIFT 7822 Alabama Ave. Canoga Park, 91304

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