

ANTLER



Jay Block
EXALTED RULER



ANTICS

VOLUME 33, NO. 9

Editor, Jerry Serota

December 2004

"Catch the Spirit of Elkdom"

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed Dec. 1
Christmas Trees Arrive
Need Help Unloading

Fri. Dec. 3
Tree Trimming Party

Sun. Dec. 5th
The first Sunday in December
ELKS MEMORIAL

Tue. Dec. 7
Elks Ladies Christmas Party

Friday Dec. 10
Exalted Ruler Party

Sat. Dec. 11
Childrens Christmas Party

Tues. Dec. 14
Set up the Lodge
for Christmas Baskets

Sat. Dec. 18
Deliver X-mas Baskets

Fri. Dec. 31st
New Years Eve Party

**Happy
New Year**

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!!

"A BLACK TIE AFFAIR"

**COME IN YOUR FORMALS AND BRING IN THE NEW YEAR TO
THE SOUND OF THE "STARLIGHTERS"**

**EAT A WONDERFUL ITALIAN CUISINE WITH A
GLASS OF YOUR FAVORITE WINE!**

DATE: December 31, 2004
TIME: 7:30 pm Cocktails
8:00 pm Dinner
9:00 pm Dancing
PRICE: \$25 a person

**PARTY FAVORS INCLUDED!
50/50 RAFFLE**

**EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE**

**Any questions call:
David or Karen Naccarato
375-1089**

A colorful illustration of a champagne bottle with a cork popping out, surrounded by a shower of stars and confetti. A glass of champagne is visible at the bottom right.

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

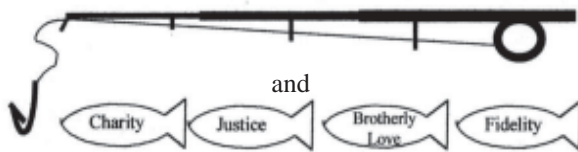

EXALTED RULER**Jay Block**

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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



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

"CATCHING THE SPIRIT OF ELKDOM"

!!! IF YOU HAVE BOUGHT YOUR BOND(S)-!!!
HO HO HO

The Season is again upon us, a time for all to look back and take stock of the blessings we have. It is also a time for remembrance of all who have passed this year. Sunday the 5th of December, is the Elks Memorial Service, a time to remember our Members who have severed the cord to go on high. But this day is also for those who have been left to mourn, and it is our solemn duty as Elks to come and respect the memory of our Brothers and Sisters who have passed with those who remain.

This month is jammed packed with joyful events and Christmas Cheer. Starting off with the opening of our Christmas Tree lot at Carlsons on the 1st followed up by the Tree Trimming Party on the 3rd, the Elks Ladies Party on the 7th, Myrna's and my Christmas Party on the 10th, the childrens Party on Saturday the 11th. The Lodge (not the Lounge) will be closed from the 14th to the 18th to accommodate the Christmas Basket preparation for delivery to the needy families and elderly on the 18th, and the Lounge will close at 6pm on Christmas Eve.

Unlike most Decembers, this one, having five Wednesdays, will see an Initiation preceded by the Candidate and Spouse Indoctrination on the 28th and 29th. This cheerful event will be closely followed by our New Years Eve Party on Friday the 31st.

I hope to see all loyal members and their families at the Lodge to help celebrate the GOOD TIMES.

Yours in Fraternal Brotherhood
 Exalted Ruler Jay Block

**FIRST LADY'S CORNER**

First Lady Myrna Block

Hi:

First I want to say... all is going well, tumor is shrinking.

I would like to thank everyone who stepped in for me at DDGER Richard's Visitation. The Ladies who brought hors d'oeuvres, Pat Jellander, who's presentation on the Reagan Library was excellent, and of course a very special thanks to Marva D'Ambrogio for filling in for me as First Lady. She told me she would take care of the desserts, little did I realize that she would bake up a storm and bring such an array of goodies.

Again, thank you Marva, and everyone who helped out. Jay and I are looking forward to the holidays at the Lodge, with all of the festivities. See you at the ER's Christmas Party.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Love you all
 First Lady and Brother Honey Myrna Block

EXALTED RULERS
Chritmas Party

Join in the Yuletide Festivities



Friday December 10th
 6:30 p.m.
 Featuring:



Food
 Dancing to a Jazz band
 and
 Hot Buttered Rum

**EDITORS CORNER**

jerryserota@earthlink.net

ELKS PARTNERS IN SCOUTING

The Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477, on Sunday, October 17, at 1:00 p.m. conducted their 14th Annual Elks Flag Retirement ceremony along with their sponsoring boys, girls, brownie, cub and explorer venture scouting units. It rained the night before but under threatening skies the weather cleared up enough to conduct an awe inspiring ceremony.

When patriotism is rekindled in our nation and flags flown daily there is a need to retire old and worn flags respectfully. Patriotism is first and foremost with Elks and this is a patriotic colorful inspirational ceremony.

Dick McCann was our emcee and gave a special meaning to the proceedings. Ventura County Councilwoman, Linda Parks was also in attendance. The scouts proudly started the ceremony by presenting the colors and leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. The chaplain gave the invocation. The lodge officers presented the flags to be retired. The Elks conducted the first retirement as Esquire, Robert Jones lowered the first flag into the funeral pyre.

Then the scouting troops that the lodge sponsors conducted their ceremony by cutting away each stripe separately and with a patriotic message placed each one in the fire. The last act was the placement of the blue field of stars to finalize the ritual.

An ice cream social followed the ceremony.

Respect and high esteem

An investment company once had an ad that said *"How do we make money? We earn it!"*

Starting with our Homecoming Party for DDGER Richard Goldner, cooking for 160 guests and culminating with the BBQ for the Street Faire, the next day those magnificent Elks and Elks Ladies earned our respect and admiration for all the long hours, hard work and commitment they gave to our Lodge.

It was not a one man job but our BBQ chairman, Eddie Rice and his fabulous crews filled me with pride just to be associated with them as Brother Elks.

So thank you one and all. You proved once again that Elks make money, *"How do they make money? They earn it."* They also earned our respect and high esteem.

**THANK YOU!**

Please accept our appreciation and thanks to each Lodge in the WCCD for the very nice DDGER visitations, meals, accommodations, flowers, gifts, and great fellowship.

The Homecoming was beyond our expectations, and we thank those of you who attended. A special thanks to each of the following: Phyllis Riding and Sharon Baker for decorating the trellises; Co-Chairs Denise Goldstein and Barbara Booker for their clever Halloween decorations and center pieces, and for the assistance of Tom Hartin and Robert Jones; to David Goldstein for carving out 28 pumpkins; to Rick, Becky and Daryll for their help; to our fine BBQ crew Ed Rice, Dick McNeal, Ken Kellery, Tom Claunch, and Jim Muhlen; to Denise Goldstein for the impressive display of appetizers; to Pete Padilla for the musicians; to the Beefeaters from Westminster Lodge; to Helen Heisler, server extraordinaire; to the Banquet Manager, Judy, and her fine group of helpers who made the event an overall pleasure.

Thank you, Denise, for the beautiful scrapbook. It holds wonderful memories of friends and good times.

Sincerely,

Elaine and Richard Goldner, DDGER

Elks Care - Elks Share**To Our
Absent Members**

**Sun. Dec. 5th the first Sunday in
December
ELKS MEMORIAL**

**Come pay your respects to our members who
joined that Grand Lodge on High this past year.**

Marilyn Harding

Tony Hug

Robert Hummel

Robert Riebe

Sherwood McDonald

Joe Urbina

Ray Spencer

Robert McKee

William Cairns

Robert Cooper

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LEADING KNIGHT Sally Claunch

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG:

David Naccarato

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch**INVESTIGATION:** George Meehan**ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:**

Robert Jones

CHRISTMAS BASKETS: Tom & Sally Claunch**INDOCTRINATION:** Jack Loughran, PER**MEM. CONTROL. COM.:** Herb Jellander**CVAC:** Tom Hartin**COMMUNITY RELATIONS:** Jerry Serota**OFFICERS ROUND TABLE:** Jack Panczak, PER**CHARITY DINNERS:** Sally Claunch**RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM CLAUNCH**

At the lodge, festivities and fun activities for the entire family mark the month of December. Children have two special events reserved for them. On December 4th, as always, the Elk Ladies will sponsor the tree trimming party. Children can help decorate the lodge tree, participate in a sing-a-long and make a holiday craft to take home. The following week on December 11th Shirley and Chet Kozlowski will spearhead the Kids Christmas Party. For their entertainment there will be a visit from Santa and magicians. All these events are open to Elks-their children, grandchildren and neighbors. They provide wonderful opportunities for you to come and meet your fellow Elks who have children.

Nor are we adults overlooked in this holiday season. The Tree Trimming party also features a sumptuous spread provided by the Elk Ladies. The following week the Elk Ladies will host their annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 7th. At this occasion the officers serve us women. For the evening, I play an Elk Lady and not an officer. It's fun having the guys wait on me. I wonder what role I will play next year? On Friday, December 10th, Jay and Myrna will host the ER party. At this event the winners of the Charity Basket raffles will be drawn and announced. Next on December 12th the Kampers' Christmas Brunch at the Grand Vista Hotel is a must. The brunch is a gourmet delight and the raffle prizes are exceptional. Finally on December 31st, Dave Naccarato is planning the annual New Year's Eve Party for all of us.

Yet, the month of December is also a somber time for Elks. The first Sunday in December is the Elks Memorial Service, which culminates with a moving ritual at 11 a.m. honoring our departed Elks and supporting their living spouses. Come down for breakfast and show your support.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS ARE A COMIN'

The list of people needing a Christmas food basket has been compiled. But now we need the Elks Care Elks Share motto in you to come alive. Elk helpers are needed

SICKNESS & DISTRESS**805-495-0577****OUR CONDOLENCES TO:**

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: John Ennis from surgery; Myrna Block from cancer treatment; and Leo Lambert had surgery for colon cancer.

Remember cards and prayers are always welcome.

for a variety of tasks. I have listed below the volunteer opportunities. In addition in the lounge signup sheets are posted. If you are unable to volunteer your time, please support the cause by buying raffle tickets or making a financial contribution.

• **TOYS FOR CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY**-there is a bin in the lounge for depositing the UNWRAPPED toys. When you donate a toy, you will receive a raffle ticket to win the Santa displayed behind the bar. Ask the bartender for a ticket- anytime in late November until December 16th

• **DONATE A FROZEN TURKEY**- keep it at home in your freezer put your name and phone number on the turkey list behind the bar. You will receive 12 extra tickets for the Charity Basket raffle any time before December 10th

• **ROOM PREP**- Tommy Claunch and crew will transfer the banquet room into a mini mart. on Tuesday December 14th

• **FILLING OF THE BASKETS WITH FOOD, WRAPPING TOYS, ADDRESSING CHRISTMAS CARDS** on Wed. December 15th afternoon and Thur.- Fri. Dec. 16-17th in the morning starting at 9 a.m.

• **BUYING RAFFLE TICKETS** -anytime before December 10th.

• **DELIVERING BASKETS TO FAMILIES** on Saturday December 18th starting at 9 a.m. Frank Coley will prepare lunch for all the drivers.

• **DONATING WRAPPING PAPER AND CARDS** anytime before December 15th-drop the items at the office. **Finally I wish you and your family a healthy and fun filled holiday season!!!!**

Point Mugu Has Become A Halloween Tradition

Pat von Wittenburg



This year we had a little added attraction! Oh-h yah! Engine testing - Poor Gary and Peggy got a real blast, no pun intended. Unfortunately they were the closest and the testing lasted WAY longer than usual - but finally ended after on final blast at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday.

There are all these "Principles". Is it the Peter Principle that says the larger the space the more stuff a person will find to cram in it? We all marveled at what Cheryl would unload out of her SMALL motorhome and that was A LOT! Guess what? Bigger motorhome - oh yeh she was so happy she was gonna have more room to MOVE AROUND! NOT - - More room to BRING MORE STUFF! The woman is amazing!

And speaking of Cheryl - and Halloween, I thought she might get her head handed to her J Donna Colleran couldn't relax until all the chicks were in the coop cause she had to go to the gate with the passes - of course - Cheryl was late, way late. Better get it together girl, you might be sittin' long side the road til mornin' next time.

Debi Drake has more fun with this decorating contest - I think she enjoys getting everyone pumped up almost as much as the participants enjoy getting "into" doing their "thing". Veronica Robichau had been talking about the construction of their "Haunted House" for some time and I was really anxious to see this project. The vision I had constructed in my mind was nothing like what took place - but the actual construction was truly awesome. DO YOU KNOW - what you can do with galvanized pipe, duct tape and black plastic? ? ? Fog machines, black lights and a flashing strobe light that gave me vertigo - nearly fell on my behind.

But again, I get ahead of myself. Gene Ewald arrived on Thursday. Somehow it seems he might be enjoying getting away from the women in the office - kicking back - wearing shirts that might not match his shorts, whatever. Carol did arrive Friday evening - and Saturday morning people found various items missing from their campsites. Two of my uncarved artificial pumpkins were gone, but the wind had come up during the night and I had enlisted the aid of Vincent Robichau to search the campground for my missing pumpkins. Later we found these items displayed around the Ewald coach with a sign stating an auction would begin at 11:00. Oh yeh - miss her like Jock Itch!

We had a nice brunch and during our business meeting - an official car and man in uniform stopped by. I brought him into the meeting area and stated I would like to report a thief in our midst! I could hardly keep a



straight face or keep from laughing - I'VE NEVER seen Carol Ewald move SO FAST in my life. She was UP and OUT of her chair as though her seat was on fire. Funny I should say that - cause he's a fireman on base. As a side business he's our gardener (as well as the Ericksons) and a really neat guy. Bill introduced Harry, then Carol felt comfortable returning to her chair. Got big chuckles out of this! ! She's usually the one pulling the jokes on someone else - this time it JUST happened. Gotcha Carol!

Saturday afternoon the really big decorators where very busy putting together their "stuff". I've already described the Robichaus effort will almost - they had the proverbial "pine boxes" eerie music, tomb stones, skeletons - really not much they didn't have. Of course they won 1st prize - well deserved.

The Collerans were close behind - this year they didn't attach it to the motorhome awning. Instead, the used their pop-up which sure made things a lot easier, I would imagine. And did an awesome job. Course Ed as Dracula with a mustache was quite a sight. Their 2nd place was also justified.

Now Cheryl Templeton's 3rd place - I don't know - I think there should have been a special award for this - the imagination that went into this was truly incredible. I believe it was the "History of a Pumpkin". From pumpkin through all stages - a jack-o-lantern - cooked, canned, pies, cookies, etc. It was really very clever. She even simulated an oven. As I said before amazing woman.

Again, between the Drakes and Collerans, (yeh Ed got Security right this time) it was an awesome campout. Fantastic job you guys! ! !

EL KONEJO KAMPERS

Holiday Brunch

December 12, 2004

The Grand Vista Hotel

Simi-Conejo Room

999 Enchanted Way

Simi Valley

10:30AM - 2:00PM

\$22 per Person

Door Prizes * Raffle Prizes

50-50

Tickets Available from:

Cheryl Templeton or the Lodge Bar

(818)999-0200(H) - (818)709-6400(W)

Bring canned and packaged food items for MANNA and you will receive a free ticket for a very special raffle.

Remember, This is an adults only event.

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LOYAL KNIGHT

David Naccarato

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Ed Rice
LODGE ACTIVITIES: Greg Metzger, PER
SCOUTING: Bill Miller
HOOPSHOOT: Tom Hartin
WED. NIGHT DINNERS:
DRUG AWARENESS:
STRAY ELKS:
MOTHER'S DAY: Rusty Kennedy



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

I would like to take a moment and personally thank all the chefs that prepared the wonderful meals at the lodge. Its a big job to plan then prepare and then clean up. Its a lot of Elk hours put in the kitchen. Let the crews know that you appreciate what they do for the lodge. Where else on a Friday night can you go out for dinner without a reservation and not be turned away.

Carol Neuner with the help of her husband Robert and Karen Naccarato cook every first Friday and Carol cooks every day for lunch and one Wednesday a month with Alice Kennedy, Now that's a lot of hours in the kitchen. Thank you. We had Killer pork chops by Bobby Williams and crew it was excellent and last month Mexican Fiesta by Ed Bianci with a wonderful turn out by the lodge members. The Surf and Turf Dinner put on by the Koslowskis was the best in town and Tom Ryder putting on a buffet is top cabin. But to go through all this and not have the turn out of patrons to make it a success is lost revenue for the lodge.

The expenses are still there and the people doing the cooking feel their efforts go unrewarded. So please stop by the kitchen and say hey to the cooks and thank them for their efforts and if you have an idea for a dinner please let me know and I'll sign you up. Remember you won't be alone if you need a crew, we can take care of that also. The lodge needs variety in the kitchen and the kitchen needs you. Do good unto others for we pass this way but once.

MAJOR PROJECT

I must print a retraction. In last months article it was written that Eugene Letourneau owed a bar. What was meant was he owned a bar and when he was paid with pennies he would put the pennies in a beer can to save them and last month he brought in 30 pounds of pennies for the Major Project again thank you Eugene.

WISDOM BY HARLEY DAVE; *Achievement is not measured by heights attained, but by Obstacles overcome.*

CALIFORNIA-HAWAII ELKS MAJOR PROJECT INC. UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

For the academic year 2005-2006 the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project. Inc. Board of Trustees will offer over \$40,000 in undergraduate educational scholarships.

California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, line. Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities to thirty scholarships of \$1,000 - \$2,000 each Scholarship recipients can reapply each year. If qualified, they can receive up to a total of four years of assistance.

This scholarship is a financial needs-based and academic use scholarship. It is intended for undergraduate work at a licensed vocational school, accredited community college, or four-year college The funds are to cover academic expenses, which include tuition, books, lab fees and on-campus room and board only. Applications can be obtained from our web site www.chea-elks.org

Individuals applying must be a United States citizen and a resident of California or Hawaii; have a physical impairment, neurological impairment, visual impairment, hearing impairment, and/or speech-language disorder; and be a senior in high school, a high school graduate, or have passed the General Educational Development (GED) Examination or California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE).

The Scholarship Committee of the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc. will review applications. All persons involved will be notified of the results

Applications for the 2005-2006 academic year will be available after November 15, 2004 from the Elks website at www.chea-elks.org. Please obtain an application packet that is designated for the approaching academic year. The applicant is responsible for properly executing and forwarding the completed application to the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc

Applications must be postmarked on or before March 15, 2005 and received in the office of the California-Hawaii Elks Major Project in Fresno.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL



Another year gone by and as usual nothing seems to get done that really needs it. Yet, this is the season that the entire world waits for whether it be to finish out the past years business or get ready for another. Usually, they tend to mix rather well so that one really can't tell when the old one leaves off and the new one chimes in. It is the one season where all faiths seem to have a commonality no matter what holiday they are celebrating. There are many things for us to celebrate, but the most important I believe are health, prosperity, and in the case of us Elks, knowing that we are constantly giving of ourselves to help the more unfortunate. This trait is not shared by all. The one thing that binds us together in this Order is our continual pursuit of helping our fellow man. And that's some goal. No matter if we give to our State Association's Major Project, which is Disabled Children (commonly known as the Piggy Bank), Elks National Foundation, Veterans, Scholarships, or any number of our charities including the community itself, we are comfortable knowing that we are doing the best we can to help our fellow man.

Next month, we are going to lose a lot of our charity-raising power due to our regular season of dropping lapse members. At this writing, it will be 31 Elks who no longer care to share in our humanitarian work. I have said it many times, that a member joins this organization because they have a need, whatever that need is. If we don't keep our new members busy in lodge work, be it BBQ or other committees we are going to lose them. And statistics bear that out. Each year we lose anywhere from 22 to 32 members, the vast majority of which are 1- or 2-year Elks. We're just not making them want to be a part of us. We do in times of need help long time members with their dues depending upon the circumstances. There is a lapsation list published to let everyone know who hasn't paid their dues. Often times the sponsor of that member knows they are lapse and will do nothing about it. Guess they didn't want them there after all. There are as many reasons for members not to pay their dues as there are members on the lapsation list. Let's start the New Year out the right way and not only bring in new members, but keep what we have.

As required by Grand Lodge Statutes, I have included in this issue a list of all lapse members who will be dropped from our rolls on January 10, 2005. If you know any of them, why not contact them and get them to become current in their dues. We have already paid their Grand Lodge and State Association assessments, so the membership is already out that much in funds. This year our losses amount to nearly \$3,000 in dues and \$500 in assessments. A good chunk of change.

In just a few months it will again be time to elect new officers for the 2005-06 lodge year. If you would like to be a part of the officer corps, please contact Sally Claunch, our hopeful for the upcoming year. I hear she has a few openings and would certainly appreciate your wanting to help. This past year has been really great with a lot of participation and hard work by all. The BBQ teams have given their all to help all they can, but I'm sure they still need help. Contact Eddie Rice or let the office know. We never turn down volunteer help. In the meantime, support in every way you can. And by hook or crook, hopefully

this year we can move into a new facility that we will all be proud of, and that we built, not one that someone else who had an old building that they no longer wanted. From the ground up, it will be ours.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DROP LAPSE MEMBERS

The following members are 1-year delinquent in paying their dues. Numerous notices have been sent urging them to pay their dues in the Order, and have either professed to decline payment or have not responded to the dues notices. Therefore, in accordance with Grand Lodge Statute 14.160, the following named members, having been given 30 days notice will be dropped from the rolls for nonpayment of dues on Monday, January 10, 2005 unless payment is received prior to that date. Any member knowing these brothers should contact them and urge them to stay in the Order.

NAME	MEMB. #
Albert Baca	1775
Mark Barnes	1361
Robert Bell	2041
W.E. Bergfield	1982
Michael Bleahu	1925
James Brown, III	2007
Jerry L. Carraway	1731
Robert H. Clark, Jr.	0158
Lawrence V. Daniels	1599
Leo C. Davis	0819
Richard DeLorenzis	1591
David J. Dennison	1829
Maleah C. Earle	2006
James H. Eaton	1792
Bernard A. Fike	0832
Walter A. Green	1371
Edward R. Hibbert	1974
Robert C. Holm	1358
Philip A. King	2023
James R. Mandich	1721
Raymond J. McCarthy	1205
Anthony Myszka	1352
Craig S. Nilson	2021
Mark Alan Owens	1319
Pat Pipolo	1495
James Porter	1728
Philip Riordan	0316
Terry L. Vineyard	1766
Harris Wasser	1931
James M. Wilkes, Jr.	1858
Mark Ziegler	1983

Flo and I would take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very happy and safe Holidays.

And that's 30 for this month,

William K. Lloyd, PDDGER
Secretary

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LECTURING KNIGHT

Catherine Koeritz

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

AMERICANISM: Raven West
FLAG DAY/FLAG RETIREMENT:
 Robert Jones
SCHOLARSHIP: Rick Herrera
GOVT. RELATIONS: Denise Goldstein
MEMORIAL SERVICE: Rusty Kennedy
NATIONAL SERVICES: Jim Kellogg



KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER
GOLF TOURNEY: Dave Pearson
 TommyClaunch
LODGE PICNIC: Catherine Koeritz
MEMBERSHIP: Every Lodge Member
CHRISTMAS TREES: Bob Hardy, PER
EL KONEJO KAMPERS:
 Bill von Wittenburg

CATHERINE'S COMMUNICATION:

I thought I would suggest a New Year's resolution. We would love to see more of our members at the General Meeting on Wednesday nights. Have a nice meal and come into the meeting. You can get information on upcoming events, vote on matters pertaining to lodge operations, win raffle drawings, get to know your Officers and members, and play a little afterwards. So, join us and get involved.

WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER?

Our lodge has many volunteers. Those you see and those you do not. The obvious ones are the Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairpeople. The numerous volunteers behind the scenes that make our lodge a functioning social and benevolent organization often go unnoticed.

I want to say thank you for the help at last months Flag Retirement Ceremony. Getting the awning, setting up the chairs, and being there at the ceremony was an excellent example of volunteer work. We have many hardworking people who unselfishly devote their time to help in the holiday preparations for the baskets, the tree-trimming, the tree lot, the preparations for each function, the cleanup and behind the scenes for the BBQ crew.

So if you see or know of someone doing a good job, let them know. I'm sure they would really appreciate it.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season!
 They don't call me the Lecturing Knight for nothing!!!



PATTI'S CORNER

Patti Serota

All of us had a good and challenging time at the cribbage tournament held as part of the scholarship fundraiser garden party on Sunday the 24th of October at the home of Rick and Evie Herrera. The day was beautiful, gardens lovely, food delicious and camaraderie was blossoming. We'll do it again.

Congratulations to our winners:

1st Place	Rick Naranjo
2nd Place	Sandra Hamilton
3rd Place	Rick Herrera



TO ELKS LODGE #2477 & FRIENDS

Ella McDonald

This is the time of year for giving our thanks and blessings. My family especially are thankful for all our friends of the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge who visited my husband Sherwood "Mac" thru his recent illness of cancer, who called, sent cards, flowers and attended his standing room service. Thank you one and all for the wonderful show of delicious food.

A special thanks to the Three Musketees, Tom, Keith and Max who helped fix some of the things he used to do and got rid of some of his collections he used in his "Handyman" jobs. Thank you all.

WELCOME ABOARD OUR NEW MEMBERS



Arthur Silver and sponsor Richard Goldner, DDGER



Vincent Schiele and sponsor John D'Ambrogio



Jay Peterson and sponsor David Stull



Carrie Robertson and sponsor Catherine Koeritz



DDGER, Richard Goldner presented to Jay Block, Special Citation Awards from Grand Lodge



Richard Goldner, DDGER and Jay Block going over the committee reports

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY



Bro. Dick McCann, Mcee and Jay Block, ER, did a fine job



Esquire, Robert Jones retires the first worn flag to the pyre



ER, Jay Block retires a flag and Heather Hover, Girl Scout Cadette #12 and Maxmilian Seligman, Cub Scout Pack 3763 pay their respects



Scout Troop #754 retires a flag and Girl Scout Cadettes #12 were attentive



The Seligmans young and old were their to honor our flags

ELKS LADIES SADIE HAWKINS DANCE



Gil Riding, PER engineered a fabulous dinner of Brisket of Beef or Salmon, soup & salad, gets an extra hug from Phyllis and Dee



DDGER, Richard Goldner and Helen Heisler introduce Esquire, Robert Jones to the amenities of the kitchen



The ladies show their appreciation with a check for a job well done by our Jr. Elks for serving their dinner



Co-Chair Dee Swanson gets a big smile from Carol Fredericks as she displays her 50/50 winnings



Sadie Hawkins dancers wore their finest hats and kicked up their heels

2004-05 COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSONS

THE ELKS LADIES

Karen Naccarato

2004-05 COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSONS

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Alice Kennedy
2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Carol Neuner
3RD VICE PRESIDENT: Jeri Miller
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TREASURER: Donna Hardy
AUDITOR: Kathy Ryder
TELEPHONE: Patti Serota



PARLIAMENTARIAN: Myrna Block
CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell
MAJOR PROJECTS:

CVD: Dee Swanson & Marilyn Cissell
HISTORIAN:
SUNSHINE: Shirley Kozlowski



Hello Everyone,

So I heard the ladies Sadie Hawkins Dance in Oct. was wonderful, everyone had a good time. The band was great I'm told. I'm sorry that Robert and I missed it. The Elk Ladies liked to Thank Dee Swanson, Phyllis Riding, Sharon Baker and all that helped you make a Saturday evening in Oct. a fun and successful event. So Thank You!

A Special thank you to the chef's of the night Gil Riding and Richard Goldner the food was fabulous! And to our Jr. Elks for their help, in all; the evening was terrific.

Come get in the Holiday Spirit!

On Friday Dec. 3rd all members of the lodge and their families, are invited to the Elk Ladies Annual Tree Trimming Party and Pot Luck Dinner. It would be Appreciated if you could bring a dish to share for the Pot Luck Dinner. Don't know what to bring?

Please contact: Patti Serota @ (805) 497-1197. So come and enjoy the evening of caroling and good food. (Bring the kids they can make a Holiday Craft. Sponsored by the Jr. Elks)

On Tuesday Dec. 7th the Ladies Meeting night is The Ladies Christmas Dinner. Tickets are \$ 12.00 pp, RSVP to Karen Naccarato @ (805) 375-1089. We would like to see all the Elk Ladies there. And remember to bring an unwrapped TOY for a boy or girl. For every unwrapped toy you can get a raffle ticket from behind the bar. These toys that you donate go to the families we help in our annual Christmas Charity Baskets. To be distributed on Dec. 18th.

A Special note from Annie Pearson and Sally Claunch, to the Lodge Membership their looking for donations of Turkeys to help fill the Baskets if you would like to donate one they would like you to please give them a call or sign up behind the bar. (Keep the turkey in your freezer the lodge doesn't have the freezer space to store them.) For every Turkey you donate you'll receive 12 raffle tickets to be entered in the drawing for a Weekend Cruise to Mexico or Golf for 4 at Tierra Rejada.

Bubble Drawing for the month of November :

Marge Britton	\$100.00	Not Present	
No Winner			
Betty Vega	\$100.00	Not Present	
No Winner			
Flo Lloyd	\$60.00	Present	Winner !!

Remember in order to win you need to be at the Meetings that



MAY THE BEST MAN WIN
Marilyn Cissell

**In our controvertial world
so many issues to combat.
Who best to be our President,
Republican or Democrat?**

**We did each have the chance to vote,
as always, you gave us free choice.
Our countrys future in your hands,
with you, God, may we all rejoice!**

Amen

DECEMBER

5.	Carol Neuner
6.	Colleen MacFarlane
10.	Kay Riebe
12.	Shirley Kozlowski
14.	Catherine Koeritz
15.	Roxy Skinner
19.	Joan Hanson
23.	Mary Ann Swallows
27.	Marilyn Cissell
30.	Sally Calunch



are held on the First Tuesday of every month!

Dates to Remember :

Dec. 3rd	Christmas Tree Trimming Party, and the Jr Elks X-MAS Craft. Bring the kids down and join the fun!
Dec. 7th	Ladies Christmas Dinner
Dec. 10th	ERs Christmas Dinner
Dec. 11th	Childrens Christmas Party
Dec. 14th	Charity Basket Week starts

For more information or need a ride; Please Contact: Carol Neuner (805) 492-6980, Karen Naccarato (805) 375-1089, Alice Kennedy (805) 497-2504

As Always I wish Everyone well and happiness.
Happy Holidays, Carol Neuner

HONOR ROLL



El Konejo Kampers
 Greg Metzgas, PER
 Jerry Serota
 Robert Jones
 Gil Riding, PER
 Richard Goldner,
 DDGER



- | | | |
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| 3. Edward Cassese | 10. Gene Stevens | Alex Work |
| Bruce Cameron | 11. Ray Clayton | Richard L. Goldner |
| 5. Mike Bonner | Dale Smith | Mike Miller |
| Dick Johnson | Raven West | 23. Herb Lampron |
| Gene Ewald | 12. Erich Briggs | Wayne Younger |
| Leo Massicotte | 13. Robert Neuner | Ty Sisson |
| Dick Wixon | 14. Jerry Carraway | 24. Lee Silver |
| 6. Wallace Scolpini | Ron Earl | 25. Bill Sandham |
| Eugene Letourneau | Catherine Koeritz | 26. John Schreyer |
| 7. George Coberly | 15. Jack Malone | George Estok |
| Gerald Feldman | 16. IB Jensen | 27. Mel Baker |
| Vincent Schiele | 17. Bud McDonald | 28. Dick Nebeker |
| | Edward Bianchi | 29. Wayne Trunnell |
| | Scott D. Dool | Susie Ross |
| | 18. James McPherson | Robert R. Jones |
| | 20. Robert Jennings | Nabil Sakla |
| | Harry Isaman | 30. Sally Claunch |
| | | 31. Eddie Bergfield |

FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE PROPOSED AND WILL BE BALLOTTED ON

Date: December 8, 2004

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John Michael	Insurance	Harold Calvin
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CRYING TOWEL



October 6	1st	\$500.00	#1109	Robert Jones "WINNER"
Lucky 13	2nd	\$100.00	891	Terry Gicking
		Jerry Serota "WINNER"		
October 13		\$125.00	#114	Ed Stogsdell, PER
Lucky 13		No Winner		
October 20		\$150.00	#1654	Ronald Maddox
Lucky 13		No Winner		
October 27		\$175.00	#1730	James Riding
Lucky 13		No Winner		



Government Relations
By Chairperson Denise Goldstein

Most people know that the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance came before the US Supreme Court and after its ruling, there was no change in the way we proudly recite it today. What was not highly publicized was the fact that there was no decision on the merits of the case as to the constitutionality of the phrase "under God".

Newdow v. Elk Grove Unified School District (California, 9th Circuit)

Under California law, every public elementary school must begin each day with "appropriate patriotic exercises" and that the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance satisfies this requirement. Students who object on religious grounds are allowed to abstain from the recitation. Despite this provision, Newdow, an atheist and non-custodial parent, filed suit alleging that the phrase "under God" converted the Pledge into a "religious exercise" or prayer for his child, in violation of the Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment of the Constitution. The Supreme Court recognized the two issues before them: 1) whether Newdow had standing as a non-custodial parent to challenge the School District's policy and 2) if so, whether the policy offends the First Amendment.

Standing Issue: Standing is always the first issue any court will evaluate. If a party has no standing to be in court, the case is dismissed and all other issues become moot. While the California Court of Appeals focused on Newdow's parental right of redress in the court system, the Supreme Court applied proper analysis in directing their focus to the actions of the state entity, stating that nothing the School Board did impaired Newdow's rights to instruct his daughter in his religious views and that he does not have the right to dictate to others what they may or may not say to his child respecting religion. That is the blunt ending of this case—the Supreme Court found that Newdow had no standing; with no standing, the second issue of the Pledge of Allegiance became moot.

How does the outcome affect Elkdom? Right now, it doesn't. We can still recite the Pledge of Allegiance in accordance with our Elk beliefs of God. One day, however, a party who does have standing will reach the Supreme Court and the way we believe the Pledge should be recited will be at issue again.

Positions on the Pledge: While the entire syllabus ruling, including caption and footnotes, was 2 short pages, the total number of pages of Opinions on Decision by 4 Justices was around 34--- and that is where we glean the insight on how the Justices would have ruled, had the standing issue been met and the decision of the Pledge before them.

Among the written opinions, the Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clauses were explained. The Establishment clause of the First Amendment states that the government cannot aid or establish religion. The court uses the Lemon test which has three requirements: 1) the law or regulation must be secular in purpose; 2) the primary effect can neither advance nor inhibit religion; and 3) there is no excessive entanglement with religion. Second, the Free Exercise clause states that the government cannot prefer one religion over another. The government must secularize the law or regulation to make it apply to all groups and activities. An "endorsement test" requires the determination of whether a reasonable observer would perceive a government endorsement of any specific religion.

A majority of the Justices found that the current version of the Pledge met the tests and was merely a "patriot observance" without any type of endorsement of religion. It is worth mentioning first that Justice Scalia took no part in the consideration or decision of this case. We know how he would have ruled, as the reason he recused himself was because he already made his position for preserving the Pledge clear as a speaker at a Knights of Columbus meeting.

Justice Stevens delivered the opinion of the Court, in which he

outlined the interesting history of the Pledge of Allegiance, explaining that this "patriot observance" idea was initially conceived more than a century ago. In commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of America, a national youth magazine proposed in 1892 that pupils recite the following affirmation, "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands: one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all." In the 1920's, the National Flag Conferences replaced "my flag" with "the flag of the United States of America." In 1942, in the midst of WWII, Congress adopted and the President signed a codification of the Pledge of Allegiance. It was not until 1954 that Congress added the phrase "under God" to the Pledge as we know it today. The amendment's sponsor said that its purpose was to contrast this Country's belief in God with the Soviet Union's embrace on atheism, but the formal report that accompanied the legislation memorialized a rationale that "from the time of our earliest history our peoples and our institutions have reflected the traditional concept that our Nation was founded on a fundamental belief in God."

Justice O'Connor stated that some references to religion in public life and government are the inevitable consequence of our Nation's origins. For centuries, we have marked important occasions and pronouncements with reference to God and invocations of divine assistance. A reasonable observer fully aware of our national history and practice would not perceive these acknowledgements as government endorsements of any specific religion, or even of religion over non-religion. She found that the category of "ceremonial deism" most clearly encompasses such things as the national motto "In God We Trust", patriotic songs such as the Star-Spangled Banner, and with the words of the marshal of the Supreme Court on each day of its session, "God save the United States and this honorable Court." Their history, character and context prevent them from being constitutional violations. The phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance constitutes an instance of ceremonial deism.

Conclusion: The majority of Justices, Thomas, Scalia, Stevens, Rehnquist, O'Connor and according to the ACLJ, Kennedy, would most likely rule that the Pledge of Allegiance is not a violation of the Constitution. Any case law in the future upholding this position, however, is on shaking ground because Justice Scalia will likely recused himself again, and it is speculated that within the next four years, there will be 1-2 vacancies on the bench. While Presidents come and go, Justices sit for life or until they decide to retire. Justice Rehnquist is the oldest Justice and has been serving for 32 years. Justice Stevens has been serving for 29 years. With these two Justices gone from the majority, and questionable positions of Justices Ginsburg, Souter and Breyer, the door has been opened for the vote to swing the other way in the future. Who the President appoints to the bench of the US Supreme Court is relevant to the Elks' ideals of patriotism.

The US Supreme Court has now announced that it will hear the cases involving the public display of the Ten Commandments, one of which involves a private fraternal organization—which will be an interesting topic for the next Government Relations article.

**DEADLINE FOR
RETURNING
CHARITY
BASKET
RAFFLE
TICKETS
HAS BEEN EXTENDED.**



**WINNERS WILL BE
ANNOUNCED
DEC. 10TH AT THE ER
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !

From the Jr. Elks,

On Dec.3rd the Elk Ladies have their annual Tree Trimming Party and Pot Luck Dinner. The Jr. Elks would like to invite all **Elk members, their children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews ect. to join the Jr's and Make your own Special Holiday Craft.** This will be are 4th year doing this and it's been allot of fun. So come out make a craft or sing a song and Get into the **Holiday Spirit!!!!**

News Bulletin:

The Jr. Elks are having a Talent Show All you can Eat Spaghetti Night on Saturday Jan.15th. This will be a night filled with laughter and amazement. We have a wonderful line up of talented entertainment, by Elks members and even some of our own Jr. Elks. Please come and support this night. All monies raised goes towards funding a room where all children that come to the lodge have a place to go that is safe and fun!

Tickets go on sale Jan.3rd, @ \$12.00 a person
For more info on this event contact; Carol Neuner @ (805) 492-6980 or Heather Maddox @ 805-398-9525 (Jr. Elks Chairpersons: Christine Fitzpatrick and Jessica Neuner)

On Behalf of the Jr. Elks, We Wish Everyone a Very Happy and Safe Holiday!

Jessica Neuner



You're invited
Come to watch the children decorate the Christmas Tree, sing the Christmas Carols, and enjoy the snacks and refreshments prepared by the Elk Ladies.

Friday, December 3, 2004
6 pm at the Lodge.

The Elk Ladies Annual
Christmas Tree Trimming Party

We'll Have A HO-HO-WHOLE lot of fun!

December 11, 2004

11am to 2 pm

Childrens Christmas Party

(all children, grand children, & guests are invited)

Hot Dogs, Refreshments, etc

Magic, Clowns, Sing Along

& Santa

hosted by Shirley & Chet Kozlowski



EL KONEJO KAMPERS Holiday Brunch

December 12, 2004

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\$22 per Person

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Remember, This is an adults only event.



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Tony Hug
Robert Hummel
Robert Riebe
Sherwood McDonald
Joe Urbina
Ray Spencer
Robert McKee
William Cairns
Robert Cooper

“An Elk is never forgotten never forsaken...”

ELKS MEMORIAL SERVICE

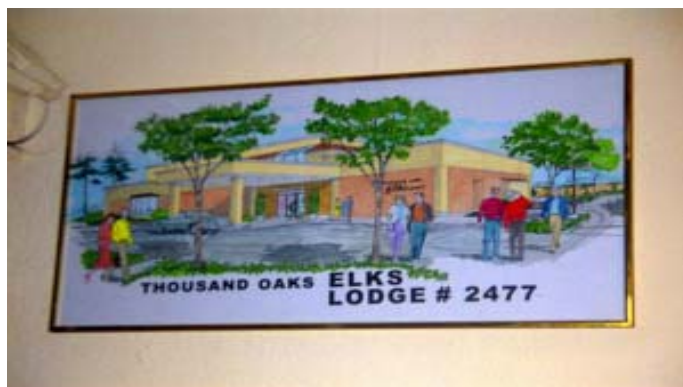
As mandated by the Grand Lodge Statutes

**Paying our respects to our absent Brothers
and Sisters.**

Sunday December 5th, 2004

11:00 a.m.

Breakfast prepared by & crew



grown and bond sales continue to trickle in but as was pointed out in the first paragraph of this article, we are losing \$10K per month for every month we delay construction. For those of you that have purchased bonds, you will be receiving a check this month for interest. Take a good look at the return, where else can you receive a

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



By the time you are reading this our vote to seek additional outside funding for our new lodge building will have been taken. I am writing assuming that this vote was in favor of the proposal. As the flyer sent to each of you pointed out, inflation in the construction industry is between 10% and 15% per year. For a 1 million dollar project, that translates into about a \$10,000 per month increase in building cost.

4% return for an investment for as little as \$500? For those of you that have not joined in our bond effort, please consider that you are not only making a good financial investment, you are helping us build a lodge we can all be proud of. A lodge building that will reflect the enthusiasm and generosity of our membership.

Greg Metzger, PER

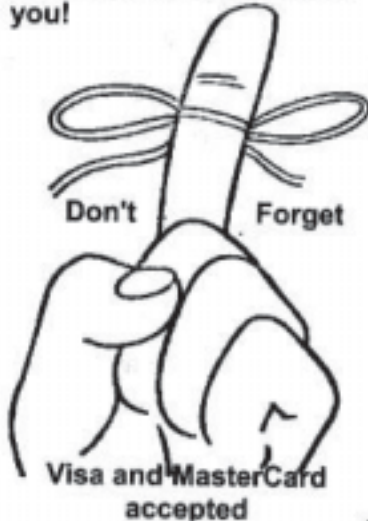
Our architect, Len Cardoni, has met numerous times with the City of Thousand Oaks to try and determine what they will accept for an outside appearance of the new building. Tile roofs and more glass have been added to the original artist's concept and the city seems to like the new drawings but as of this writing, they still have not given final approval for the exterior. Hopefully they will decide what they want and Len can get a new rendering drawn up for all to see.

We are also working with an engineering firm to try and get our land survey costs down to a reasonable level. Our neighbor to the south of us is developing his property and will have to establish a property line between his property and ours but the rest of the survey for our project is up to us. This is further complicated by the city as they are in the process of changing the streets to the north and west of us. The end result of this street alteration will be a net gain in property for our lodge and we need every square inch we can get.

Money continues to be our biggest deterrent in starting construction. Our new facilities fund has



Dues are due for some of you!



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CHRISTMAS TIME

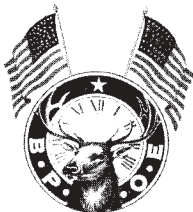
Again the end of another year
drawing closer to the time,
when the Ho, Ho, Ho's do arrive
and the Xmas carolers sing in rhyme.

A very great time for the children
with all the excitement that occurs,
and there hopes and dreams for gifts
that are on their list of prefers.

Mom and Dad have gotten the tree
all the children help to decorate it,
but especially the older children
they do the most, I'll have to admit.

Mainly it is the time for kids
but really not only for them ,
but for all the young at heart
and it's time to give thanks, Amen

**Written By:
Ken Muellerleile**



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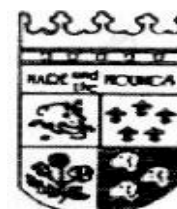
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Bunk Beds	Bedroom furniture	Dressers									
Day Beds	Youth Groups	Head Boards									
Bed Frames		Coffee Tables									
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Auto Electric	Engines	Tune-Up									
Air Conditioning	Transmissions	Brakes									
 <p>Denis Doucette Owner</p> <p>Phone: 805-339-0426 Toll Free: 866-368-2388 Fax: 805-339-0538</p> <p>Email: denis@doucettesecurity.com State Lic. PPO 14176</p> 	<p>Serving the Community's Legal Needs Since 1962</p> <p>Scott F. Dool, Inc. Attorneys At Law</p> <p>Emphasis On:</p> <p>Real Estate & Business</p> <p>Estate Planning</p> <p>Wills & Trusts</p> <p>Mediation/Arbitration</p> <p>Trial</p> <p>Scott F. Dool Attorney at Law</p> <p>Crystal Dool Real Estate Broker</p>	<p>PLANT: (805) 529-1323 WAYNE J. JONES SALES & DISPATCHER</p> <p>Wayne J. SAND & GRAVEL, INC.</p> <p>SAND 0 GRAVEL 0 DEL-RIO PEBBLES</p> <p>OFFICE: (805) 529-1355 P.O. BOX 27 FAX: (805) 523-1805 MOORPARK, CA 93020-0027</p>									
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ANTLER ANTICS

OFFICERS 2004-2005

EXALTED RULER - Jay Block
 LEADING KNIGHT - Sally Claunch
 LOYAL KNIGHT - Dave Naccarato
 LECTURING KNIGHT - Catherine Koeritz
 SECRETARY - Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL
 TREASURER - Bob Hardy, PER
 TILER - Tom Klomparens
 ESQUIRE - Robert Jones
 CHAPLAIN - Rusty Kennedy
 INNER GUARD - Terry Baker
 ORGANIST - Jim Wagner
 OFFICER AT LARGE - Jack Loughran, PER

TRUSTEES

Herb Jellander-	1 Year
John D'Ambrogio, PER-	2 Year
Denise Goldstein-	3 Year
Jim Rochford	4 Year
Greg Metzgas, PER-	5 Year

PAST EXALTED RULERS

1972-73 *Marvin D. Smith	1993-94 Jim Wallace
1973-74 Erle Pittman	1994-95 *George Pekow
1974-75 Richard Flake	1995-96 Gil Riding
1975-76 Bill Wagner	1996-97 Jack Loughran
1976-77 John E. Henry	1997-98 John Kelly
1977-78 *Robert McKee	1998-99 Chet Kozlowski
1978-79 *Frank J. Rindone	1999-00 Richard Goldner
1979-80 Edward F. Stogsdell	2000-01 Jacob Panczak
1980-81 *Frank "Tex" Hastie	2001-02 John D'Ambrogio
1981-82 Robert Hardy	2002-03 Don Booker
1982-83 *A. John Nichols	2003-04 Greg Metzgas
1983-84 John Nau	
1984-85 Vern Ogden	By Affiliation:
1985-86 Dan Snyder	1981-82
1986-87 Bill Lloyd	Robert L. Thornton
1987-88 John E. Henry	Howard Wullschleger
1988-89 Ted Lipka	1976-77
1989-90 Don Skinner	Ralph Vestor
1990-91 Don Ansell	
1991-92 Gary Sleigh	
1992-93 Tom Ryder	

*Deceased

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