

ANTLER



Jay Block
EXALTED RULER



ANTICS

VOLUME 33, NO. 11

Editor, Jerry Serota

February '05

"Catch the Spirit of Elkdom"

SUPERBOWL PARTY



Where: Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge
When: February 6th
When: 3pm
(Come early to sign up for the games)



FOOD - PRIZES - GAMES

BRING AN HORS D'OEUVRE AND GET A CHANCE TO WIN \$100.00



**LARGE SCREEN TV
IN MAIN LODGE ROOM**



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
David Pearson (H) 805-492-3707
(W) 805-278-6580
Tommy Claunch 805-495-3445

Superbowl Party at the Lodge will be held February 6th...kickoff time 3pm. All guest should arrive early enough to get into games. Bring a hors d'oeuvre and get a chance to win \$100. Cupid's Hot Dogs will be there serving hot dogs for \$1.00 with all proceeds and tips going to the Scholarship Fund.

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



EXALTED RULER
Jay Block

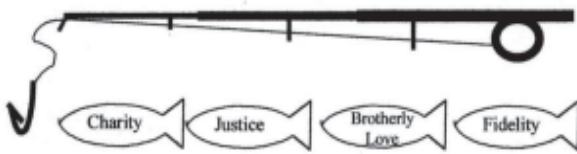
2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ANTLER ANTICS: Jerry Serota, Editor
NEW FACILITIES: Greg Metzgas, 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”



and
!!!! Buy Bonds!!!!

As I reported last month, our Lodge has had a good year with respect to membership growth. And this made me realize that most of our members do not attend the weekly Wednesday meetings (which are really only structured business meetings) and therefore do not hear the reports from the Secretary or the Treasure. Therefore, I wish to report that the Lodge finances like the membership, are in great shape also. From the 1st week in January, 2004 to the 1st week in January, 2005, the non-bond Lodge assets have increased almost 32%. Again this increase DOES NOT include the New Facility Bonds. The increase is due totally from the outstanding efforts of many groups here in the Lodge. Not the least from the work of our BBQ teams headed by Eddie Rice, Jim Rochford, and Herb Jellander. Credit must also be given to the successful campaign for CVD Grand Marshall Annie Pearson, the Konejo Kampers and the Elk Ladies, but most of all to the general membership which as always shown genuine support at all times.

I'm also pleased to announce that at our monthly Officers Meeting, the New Facilities Chairman, JUNIOR PER Greg Metzgas informed the Officers and Trustees, that all we need to start the building process is a mere \$200,000 more, in either direct contributions or bonds. With this increase over what we have now, WE CAN START BUILDING the new Lodge. So lets go.

Your Leading Knight Sally and Lecturing Knight Catherine have some special efforts planned to address the shortfall, and I'm confident that all the membership will support them.

Yours in Fraternal Brotherhood

Exalted Ruler Jay Block

FIRST LADY'S CORNER

First Lady Myrna Block



Hi:

I can't believe its February already. Time goes so fast. What with the Holidays and the Lodge activities, our term is almost over. I found another little tidbit for you all to share, this time about Valentine's Day...

Once upon a time, Feb.14th was the feast day of not one but two Roman Martyrs, both named Valentine. They lived and died in the third century A.D., and their identities became so intermingled we can no longer separate them now, so they both have merged into one and we celebrate the two of them as the Saints of Lover's and Romantics. But we really know they were the original founders of Hallmark.

So don't forget your sweethearts, send a card, buy a box of candy, give them flowers....

First Lady and Brother Honey Myrna Block



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”**

Paul D. Johnston

Born: June 25, 1943
Initiated: June 24, 1992
Died: December 27, 2004



EDITORS CORNER

jerryserota@earthlink.net

As we start to close out our Lodge year it is time to start thinking about passing on the torch for the year 2005-06.

A new slate of officers and committee chairman will soon be taking over to lead our Lodge for coming year. They are going to need all our energy and zeal in order to exceed the marvelous progress we have experience this past year. My hat goes off to our current Officer Corp for giving us a great year.

On a personal note we were dissappointed by the lack of response from the media and not giving our Lodge credit for our Christmass Basket program. I take responsibility for this by letting too many things get in the way of doing a good public relations job. The one redeeming factor is we touched the hearts of the less fortunate and charity was well served.

It is time to think about passing the torch to someone who has an interest in public relations. It is a very rewarding committee especially when you read in the Elks Magazine or the local papers of our good works. We welcome anyone who would like to be a member or chair this important committee.



In order to get free flyers printed and as a courtesy to our benefactor, a lead time of three weeks pryor to press time is required. We go to press the 10th of the month. Thank you for helping make the Antler Antics special.

ARTICLE FROM GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEEMAN


The following article is an excerpt from the September, 2004 Grand Lodge Newsletter, and should be passed on to all of our members. This article is written by Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee Member Vincent A. Pingitore, and reinforces the articles that I have occasionally submitted in the past on the subject. Although the elections are over, its value is still important as a tool to reinforce Grand Lodge, State, and local ordinances governing visiting non-members.

"With the elections just months away, now is the time to question your legislators and judges to determine which ones deserve your vote. We all must vote for individual candidates who will preserve our right of free association and enable our great Order to continue its works of charity and aid to humanity, while allowing our Lodges to remain truly private organizations.

One way that we, as individuals, can help to protect our "private" status" is to enforce a "closed-door policy" at our local Lodges. Challenging everyone who enters, making all guests sign the guest book, not allowing guests to buy drinks, and other such methods, while they might seem overly burdensome, will ensure that your Lodge will not be labeled with the designation of "place of public accommodation," rather than "private organization."

Many states, as well as the federal government, have created an exemption from the definition of "place of public accommodation" for bona fide clubs which are distinctly private in nature. You should be familiar with the requirements of your state or locality as to what constitutes a private organization. Recently, the Supreme Court of Vermont issued a ruling which was devastating to a local Lodge and sends a warning to all Lodges in our Order! The court stated "Courts have commonly applied and weighed several factors to determine whether a club is private or public including: a) whether the group's membership is genuinely selective; b) the amount of control the existing members have over the club's operations; c) the history of the organization; d) the use of club facilities by non-members; e) whether the organization advertises or directs its publicity to anyone other than members; f) the purpose of the organization; and g) any profit motive, "along with: "the selectiveness of the group in the membership procurement program, offered incentives, such as watches, cruises and free dinners, that the Lodge had no limit on the number of members it allowed, and that the lodge accepted 99.3% of all applicants as members, the Lodge was not truly selective in nature, and therefore did not meet the criteria for a "private organization."

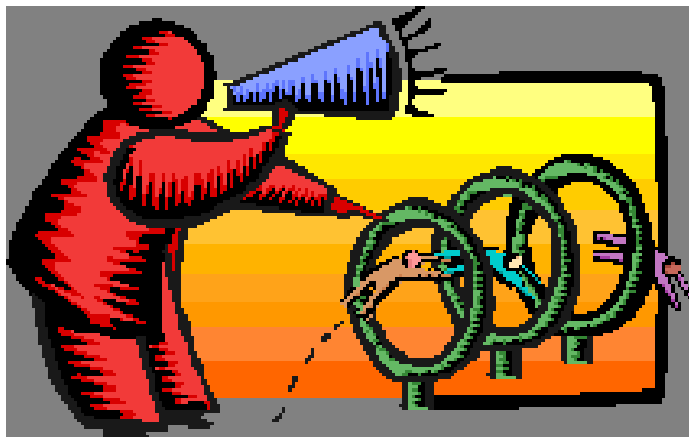
The only way to prevent all of our Lodges from meeting the same fate is to elect individuals who are sympathetic to our rights as private organizations, and to enforce the "closed door" policy at our Lodges. Members, the tide is turning against us, so we should look to protecting our right of selectivity by initiating members who share our common values, belief in God, and are of good moral character. Only then will we be able to continue the great traditions of Elkdom in our communities and prove that "Elks Care - Elks Share."

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

“I do it because it is lots of fun,” answered Scott Dool as to why he chairs the annual Law Enforcement and Firefighter Awards program at our Lodge. It must be!! He has chaired the event for the past twenty-seven years. Again this year, on January 26th his organizational skills and connections with top officials in the community will produce a professional top notch affair attended by many dignitaries including the Mayor of Thousand Oaks, Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks, and Sheriff Brooks. As always the highlight of the evening will be the presentation of awards by the Elks, city, and county honoring the best of the best peace officers and firefighters in Ventura and Los Angeles County. Naturally preparing and serving the meal will be our BBQ team and Junior Elks.

The selection process for the awards starts with each county organization submitting potential candidates for consideration. After reviewing the applications, the final seven selections are made by Scott. Because of his work in the District Attorney’s office in the 60’s and his longtime business standing in the community, it has given him a unique opportunity to have many peace officers and firefighters as both friends and clients. According to Scott this the reason he was asked to chair the event 27 years ago. Also he gives much credit to Carolyn Fleury, his assistant for coordinating the many details of the evening.



SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

805-495-0577

OUR CONDOLENCES TO: the family and friends of Paul Johnston on his passing.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Roxanne Horning from cancer surgery; Ernie Pacheco’s wife had her foot amputated, and Harold Calvin is undergoing chemo therapy; Steven Ogden broke his arm on vacation in Texas;

ON THE MEND; Tom Klomparens’ daughter from open heart surgery.



Christmas Baskets a huge success thanks to Sally and Tommy Claunch

COMING ATTRACTIONS: SUPER BOWL PARTY

February 6th -Big Screen TV-Raffles-Drawings-Bring an appetizer to share and receive a ticket to win \$100. The fun starts at 2 pm

COSMIC BOWLING

March 19th Harley Bowl, Simi Valley-6-9 pm- \$20-snacks-prizes- 50/50 raffle-call Annie Pearson 492-3707 or Sally Claunch 495-0577 for reservations- no bowling experience needed



HOPEFULLY A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!!

Pat von Wittenburg

First, my sincere apology to Gladys Ennis. She sent a lovely note asking that it be read at the Brunch.

However, since we had just returned and I do mean JUST RETURNED, having been away for 7 days, getting through our mail had not been a priority. So Gladys - here it is to share with all.

Dearest Friends and Family,

Just a quick note to thank all of you for your kindness, cards, flowers, and prayers during John's illness. Words alone cannot express how much we appreciate knowing that you were all available to us at our time of need and your presence made us stronger everyday. We always knew, but somehow feel it more deeply than before, that we are very fortunate to have your friendship and love. John is growing stronger every day thanks to all of you. As we enjoy the sunrise each morning at our home in Camarillo, we understand completely that "every day is a gift". We hope that you too will cherish each day from this day forward as we do.

We want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year full of good health and happiness. All our love, John and Gladys

Second, Cheryl specifically and all of us secondly owe Donna Hardy a debt of gratitude in that some of us who should have been taking care of business, took off for seven days, returning Saturday late afternoon, before the Brunch. Donna took over making calls for increased ticket sales and handling a weeks' worth of last minute details.

Possibly the most noticeable thing, upon entering the room this year, were the awesome table decorations. The Most Creative - Debi Drake designed and supervised the construction (yes I mean construction), painting and decorating of these incredible pieces. She did have assistance in construction from husband Jeff, Ed Colleran and Wayne LaFarr. Decoration assistants were Debbie LaFarr, Donna Colleran and Debi's friend Lorraine. Beverly Erickson says she was "there" a couple of time but really didn't participate in the decoration too much.

Debi also devised the method by which the centerpieces would be distributed! I REALLY wanted one. It was not to be. She picked a month and date during the month - if that was your birthday or yours was the closest to that date, you got the centerpiece. You know what - I THINK - I'm not absolutely certain, every one went to a man.

So you ask - what is she in such a lather about? The centerpiece was a sizeable gingerbread (wooden) house. Each individually decorated. The roof was removable and inside were goodies, among which was Bob Hardy's infamous peanut brittle. I've seen people nearly come to blows over the peanut brittle alone! ! (Don't touch my candy! ! !)

There was an abundance of raffle prizes also - several of which I REALLY WANTED. There seems to be something about the table in the back corner. I recall numerous winners there and I believe there were money winners there also. Next year, I'm gonna get there REAL early and throw my body across that table, and camp there, maybe I will be a winner too. Yeh RIGHT!

I think my memory serves me correctly, don't hold my feet to the fire on it - but I believe Jackie Coley again this year won an item she donated and was absolutely thrilled to pieces. That woman is a real piece of work J. She wasn't the only one. The Drakes, Collerans and LaFarrs together donated the great portable Weber B-B-Q and Jeff Drake won it. Close your eyes - what do you see - that's exactly what I won!

Despite the fact that both Marva and Charlie were there, the money went to David Pearson, Eula McKee and Christa & Cody Harper (the Ewald off-spring & spouse). Excuse the inside joke, it seems that whenever Charlie Henry or Marva D'Ambrogio are around BIG money it navigates toward them. Perhaps that spell is broken (I can only hope).

Sometime ago Beverly Erickson asked me to mention she has numerous items, among which is a nice, small lantern she had left from this Thanksgiving campout. Other items she's had in her possession for quite a while and will eventually be disposed of if not claimed. I FORGOT!

Like everything else - if you really want me to act on it, give me a NOTE.

2005 CAMPOUTS

February 18 & 19	Oak Park - Simi
March 11 & 12	Valencia Travel Village
April 15 & 16	Far West Resort (Steckel Park) - Santa Paula
May 20 & 21	Kenney Grove - Fillmore
June	Santa Maria Elks Rodeo - date to be announced



2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LOYAL KNIGHT David Naccarato

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Ed Rice
LODGE ACTIVITIES: Greg Metzgas, 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

The New Year's Eve celebration at the lodge was one of a kind. Many heartfelt thanks go out to John and Marva D'Ambrogio for an outstanding 5 course Italian dinner. With help in the kitchen by Jim and Ruth Mullen, dinner was served hot and in a timely fashion, which was part of the ambiance of the evening. Elk member Ed Lafata and his band were excellent and the decorations by Elk member Donny Long and Donna a.k.a. ABC Balloon were a picture postcard. If you didn't see it, you missed out.

Many Thanks go to Sharon Baker and Angie Prizzi for setting the tables and thanks to our bar manager Judy for putting together the servers for the evening. Her coordinating efforts paid off greatly.

Our Esquire, Robert Jones, stayed late after the meeting on Wednesday to help me with the tables. It was an effort by many Elk members. Johnny D' even came down the next Sunday to help me prep for the Sunday morning breakfast.

John and Marva thanks again I could not have done it without you.

The first breakfast at the lodge in 2005 brought in 43 patrons. We had 10 chicken fried steaks available and they were gone in the first hour. Call me crazy, but we are going to have a:

CHICKEN FRIED STEAK AND EGG BREAKFAST SUPER BOWL SUNDAY \$7.00

Come for breakfast and stay all day.

It's not too early to be planning this year's 2005-2006 Inaugural Ball. This year marks a milestone for the lodge. Our first Lady Exalted Ruler will be feted. Plan to attend this very special event. It is to be held April 9th at the:

THOUSAND OAKS INN 75 W. THOUSAND OAKS BLVD.

With a 17 piece band, good food, good friends, please plan to attend. There will be more on this event in a later Antler Antics.

After Fish Fry in February, starting at 5:30 p.m. we will offer a fundraiser for our Scouting program called Scoops for Scouts. We will be offering Ice Cream Scoops at \$1.00 per scoop. A banana Royal is \$4.00 and a Banana Split is \$6.00. Syrup, Nuts and Cherries are all included. Our Boy and Girl Scout Troops will benefit and we get a most delicious desert.

NOMINATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The following member, having met the requirements outlined in Grand Lodge Statutes Section 14.260 by having been a member of the Order for at least 30 consecutive years, a member of Thousand Oaks Lodge for at least 10 years, and 65 years of age or older has requested nomination for Life Membership in the Order.

John Harness, Membership #0152

This member will be nominated at a regular session of the lodge to be held on February 9, 2005, and will be balloted on at a regular session of the Lodge held on February 16, 2005.



THOUSAND OAKS ELKS LODGE #2477
APPLICATION FOR PURCHASE OF NEW FACILITIES BOND

NAME _____ DATE _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

ADDRESS _____ APT./SUITE _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____ FAX NO. _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ MEMBERSHIP NO. _____

BENEFICIARY _____
(Name)

(Address)

PHONE # () _____

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I AM A (MEMBER) (WIDOW OF A MEMBER) (SPOUSE OF A MEMBER) OF THOUSAND OAKS ELKS LODGE #2477 AND AM ELIGIBLE TO PURCHASE BONDS (DEBENTURES) IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW FACILITIES BOND PROGRAM.

I REQUEST BONDS BE ISSUED TO ME IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____ IN THE DENOMINATIONS OF _____ \$500.00 BONDS AND _____ NUMBER OF \$1000.00 BONDS. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT THESE BONDS BRING AN ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE OF 4%, PAID ON DECEMBER 31 OF EACH YEAR.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

(Attach check with application)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
DATE RECEIVED:	_____
CHECK(S) NO.	_____
AMOUNT:	_____
RECEIVED BY:	_____

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
 Tommy Claunch
LODGE PICNIC: Catherine Koeritz
MEMBERSHIP: Every Lodge Member
CHRISTMAS TREES: Bob Hardy, PER
EL KONEJO KAMPERS:
 Bill von Wittenburg

I hope everyone is enjoying the New Year. If your New Year's Resolution is to quit procrastinating, you may want to begin by filing your tax forms early, or finding a professional to do the job for you. Those deadlines come up quicker than you think!

If one of your Resolutions is to volunteer more, than come on down to the Lodge!!! We're always looking for a few good men/women.

Speaking of a good people, please continue to read the New Facilities Construction Update articles by Greg Metzgs, PER. He continues to keep us up-to-date on construction concerns and he needs our help. This gives us more reason for establishing a New Facilities Fundraising Committee. As Greg puts it, "the more money we raise through fundraising and our bonds, the less money we have to borrow from an outside source".

Our goal is to raise \$200,000.00 (in a very short time) so we can proceed towards getting the loan for our New Lodge. The funds can be from fundraisers or even purchasing more bonds. If you are interested in chairing an event, have an idea, want to volunteer, or have connections to help us, please contact me at (805) 492-4851.

Try not to break those Resolutions!!!

Cath's Quips:

Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, but she did it backwards in high heels.

How is the Elks National Foundation Helping California-Hawaii?

When you give to the Elks National Foundation, you're doing more than funding the Elks National Drug Awareness and "Hoop Shoot" programs. You're doing more than supporting the Elks National Veterans Service Commission and the Elks National Home. You're doing more than providing Emergency Educational Grants to the children of deceased or totally disabled Elks. You're doing more than maintaining the Elks Veterans Memorial.

You're doing all that, and you're supporting Elkdom in your state. During the 2003-04 Lodge year, the Elks of California-Hawaii donated \$576,479.07 to the Elks National Foundation. This

year, the Foundation will give back the following:

A State Charities Grant of \$341,720.00. The bulk of this grant will go toward your state's major charitable project. But portions will be used to fund your state Drug Awareness, "Hoop Shoot" and Soccer Shoot programs.

A Special Projects Grant of \$346,800.00. We've authorized your state to use this grant to enhance its educational programs, as well as other charitable and philanthropic programs.

A total of at least \$292,000.00 in "Most Valuable Student" scholarships to 73 high school seniors from your state. (Click here to check out your recipients.) In addition, we will award 38 Legacy scholarships-a total of \$38,000.00-to children and grandchildren of Elks who have been members for at least two years. (Click here to check out your recipients.) That's a total grant of at least \$1,018,520.00, which represents a ratio of 1.767 for every dollar the Foundation received from your state last year.

And if you'd like to know what the Elks National Foundation has done for California-Hawaii in the past, since inception in 1928 through March 31, 2004, the Foundation has granted a total of \$23,985,923.97 to your state, compared with your state's total donations of \$22,312,061.43. That's a ratio of 1.075 for every dollar the Foundation has received from your state.

The Foundation's past support includes:

\$11,347,034.00 in State Charities Grants
 \$3,060,000.00 in Special Projects Grants
 \$5,759,356.25 in "Most Valuable Student" Scholarships
 \$444,212.00 in Emergency Educational Grants to the children of deceased or totally disabled Elks
 For more information about the Elks National Foundation, contact your local chairman or write us at Elks National Foundation, 2750 N. Lakeview Ave., Chicago, IL 60614, enf@elks.org.

[State by State Per-Capita Donations] [CA Lodges]



AMERICANISM

Raven West

At the Grand Lodge Convention in 1961 at Miami Beach, the committee on Americanism was created and charged with "implementing the patriotic activities of the Order and its subordinate Lodges."

The creation of the Elks Americanism Committee in 1961 met an important need in a critical time in our history. The Committee provided our Lodges with constructive and definite programs for strengthening the spirit of American patriotism in their communities, and vigorously promoting their use. The response of our Lodges was both prompt and enthusiastic, and the result has been a tremendous expansion in the Order's patriotic activities... and a major contribution to the security of this nation.

Our Government has, time and again, enlisted the aid of the Order in patriotic undertakings where civilian cooperation was deemed essential.

Membership in the Order of Elks is a "badge of citizenship", for none but an American can be an Elk. "Love of Country, home and Mind" are its principal tenets, and our country's flag is raised in silken benediction over the Altar of every Elks Lodge.

With its all pervading spirit of good will, the Order makes an irresistible appeal to men and women who deeply love their country, cherish fraternal association, and welcome an opportunity to serve their communities

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

The theme of this year's essay was "What Does OLD GLORY Mean To Me". 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 in May. First Place winners in both divisions receive \$300 bond, Second Place receives a \$200 bond and the Third Place receives a \$100 bond, plus a beautiful plaque engraved by Joe Smith and an awards certificate. In 2003 Thousand Oaks Lodge #2477's Division II winner also won first place in our District!

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.

Winning essays will be published in next month's Antler Antics.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



We are all anxious to get our new lodge building started and everything is now in place with one exception. Yes, we are still short of funds. After going over financial operations of the lodge, both past and future, it is apparent that we need to raise an additional \$200,000 before we go out and borrow the balance required to build. We do have several offers to loan us the additional funds but we are concerned with our ability to make the payments each month for the next 30 years. In addition, each of the financing options we have looked at will require us to refinance after 3 or 5 years. The additional \$200,000 we need to raise will insure we are in a stable financial position when the time comes to renegotiate the loan.

With that said, here is what we are planning to do to raise the additional funds:

- A new appeal for our members and associates to purchase bonds is going out. Bonds are still being purchased but we need to turn up the heat a bit to finance this project as much as possible from within our own lodge.
- A group is being formed to concentrate only on raising money for our new facilities fund. This group will not be concerned with bonds but with appealing to local businesses to support our efforts.
- Naming opportunities will be available to corporate or individual sponsors so that their names will be visible to all that enter our new lodge.
- The fund raising group will also be putting together events such as golf tournaments, bowling events and raffles/games that will be devoted to building up our new facilities fund.

What we need from each member is your support. The faster we raise this money, the sooner we can break ground. I don't need to remind you that our building costs are rising every day. Please, buy bonds. Support the fund raising efforts and help us move this project off of paper and into the construction phase.

Greg Metzgas, PER

WELCOME ABOARD OUR NEW MEMBERS



Charity Event Raffle



(L-R)
Robert Iritano, sponsored by Harold Calvin,
John Michael, sponsored by Harold Calvin,
Michael Stark, sponsored by Tom Corrigan,
Standing in for their sponsors is Exalted Ruler, Jay Block



Tommy Claunch keeps track of the winners as Esteemed Leading Knight Sally Claunch draws the winners



William Finnegan, sponsored by Ed Rice, and standing in for Ed Rice is Herb Jellander



And the winner of the Mexican Cruise is Jim Horning



Richard Goldner, DDGER with his certificate for the Presidents 100 Club presented by ER, Jay Block



A new addition to Bro. David MacFarlane family held by proud Mother Tracy and getting initiated into Santas lap is Kaylee Jean

EL KONEJO KAMPER CHRISTMAS PARTY



The new officers for 2005 (R-L) Gene Ewald, Sheryl Templeton, Pat von Wittenburg, Donna Hardy, Marilyn Cissell and Charlie Henry



Gene Ewald, President 2005 and bride Carol enjoyed the brunch



Walter Ogden and Sheryl Templeton raffle vendors



Dave Pearson winner of the 50/50 big prize



Cody Harper was also a winner



Eula McKee was also a winner

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	<h2 style="margin: 0;">THE ELKS LADIES</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Karen Naccarato</p>	2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
<p>1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Alice Kennedy 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Carol Neuner 3RD VICE PRESIDENT: Jeri Miller SECRETARY: Annie Pearson TREASURER: Donna Hardy AUDITOR: Kathy Ryder TELEPHONE: Patti Serota</p>		<p>PARLIAMENTARIAN: Myrna Block CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell MAJOR PROJECTS:</p> <p>CVD: Dee Swanson & Marilyn Cissell HISTORIAN: SUNSHINE: Shirley Kozlowski</p>



Hello Everyone,
 The year 2004 has come to an end and were already into the 2nd month of 2005!
 The Elk Ladies would like to once again welcome our New Member Kim Finnegan. She joined the Elk Ladies in January. The Elk Ladies held nominations for officers in January, for the year 2005-2006.

Nominated Ladies for office are:
 Alice Kennedy for President
 Carol Neuner for 1st Vice President
 Jessica Stull for 2nd Vice President
 Geri Miller for 3rd Vice President
 Diane Isaman for Secretary
 Carole Saynay for Treasurer
 If there is anyone else that would like to be nominated for office February is your last chance. Nominations will be closed at the end of the February Meeting.


I'd like to on the behalf of the Elk Ladies give much Appreciation and Thanks to our out going Treasurer, Donna Hardy. Donna; Thank You for all the time and years that you were are continuing Treasurer.

Dates to Remember:
 Feb. 1st Elk Ladies Meeting, closing of nominations for officers
 Feb. 15th Elk Ladies Board Meeting
 Mar. 1st Elk Ladies Meeting
 Apr. 9th Inaugural Ball

Guess who's names were drawn for a Hundred dollars each in the January Bubble Drawing and were not there?
 Bubble drawing for the month of January:
 \$100.00 Annie Pearson Not Present No Winner
 \$100.00 Flo Lloyd Not Present No Winner
 \$20.00 Jeannie Sandt Present Winner

Be Sure to attend the February Meeting and you could be the Lucky Winner!
 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,
 Carol Neuner




YOUR GIFTS TO US, GOD

Marilyn Cissell

**To use or not to use your gifts,
 Dear Lord, why do we hesitate?
 In your big coupon book of life,
 is there an expiration date?**

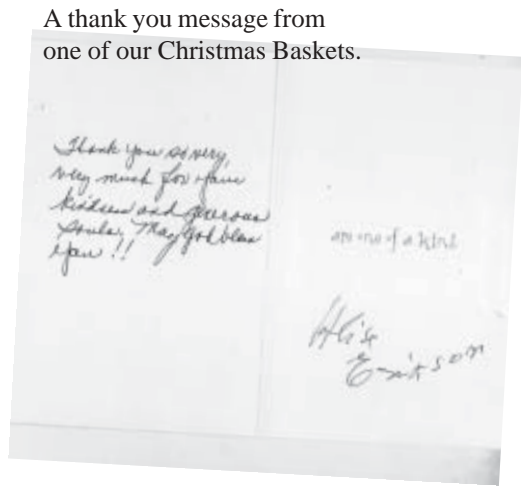
**You give each one of us a gift,
 should we pursue or throw away,
 Those skills and talents we posses
 are lost when we forget to pray.**

Amen

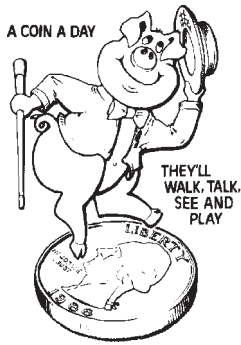


FEBRUARY

1. Grace Wallace
5. Jackie Coley
- Lori Lambert
9. Pat Smail
10. Kathy Ryder
14. Karen Naccarato
16. Margaret Thornton
24. Kathy Jenkins
- Judy Panczak



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 Lee Hess
 Larry Brown
 Bill Miller
 Sally Claunch
 Bar Purple Pig
 Greg Metzgus
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 Catherine Koeritz
 Robert Jones
 Dick McCann



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4. Terry Gicking
Fred Britton
Nick Schiele
Darren Ziegler
7. Bart Manzo
Richard Eddy
8. Rick Herrera
10. Jerry Olson
11. Ross Thompson
Joe Smith
13. Arnie Antle
Mark Owens
Charles Rees
Richard Whitmire

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 14. Armando Moroni | 23. Kevin Gullick |
| Bruce Fitzpatrick | 24. Marilou Van Leuven |
| 16. Jim Brown, Jr. | 26. Bill Bell |
| Dean Reichle | 28. Micharl Tanner |
| Lou Thomas | 29. Tony Dyer |
| Charles Pederson | |
| Larry Lawhon | |
| 18. Joe Blum | |
| Bob Philips | |
| 19. Van Hafer | |
| 20. Bob Huffman | |
| Charles Christensen | |
| Toni Sheridan | |
| William O'Shea | |
| 21. Jim Wallace, PER | |
| Terry Baker | |
| Patricia Stanfield | |
| C. George Wolters | |

FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE PROPOSED AND WILL BE BALLOTTED ON

Date: February 9, 2005

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Judy Brayman	Bartender	John Peterson



CRYING TOWEL

December	1	#1953	Dale Smith	\$275.00
		Lucky Thirteen No Winner		
December	8	#1506	Bob Adams	\$300.00
		Lucky Thirteen No Winner		
December	15	No Meeting - Charity Baskets		
December	22	#1045	Donald Dittman	\$325.00
		Lucky Thirteen No Winner		
December	29	#2076	Harry Isaman	\$350.00
		Lucky Thirteen No Winner		

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Denise Goldstein, Com. Chair

Back in December, the US Supreme Court announced that it would accept the cases involving the issue of the government's public display of the Ten Commandments due to the inconsistent rulings by various state courts. Interestingly, a number of these cases involve the Fraternal Order of Eagles, a private organization, whose mission is to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills, and by promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope; and whose motto is "People Helping People." They raise millions of dollars each year to combat heart disease and cancer, aid disabled children and the aged. In the 1950's and 1960's, local Eagle Orders donated monuments to municipalities as a nationwide practice.

A number of these monuments still stand today, approximately 6' x 3 1/2' size. A large panel displays a nonsectarian version of the text of the Ten Commandments. Above are two small tablets of ancient Hebrew script, an American Eagle grasping the American flag, and an eye inside a pyramid closely resembling the symbol on the \$1 bill. Below the text are two small Stars of David, as well as a symbol representing Christ, and two Greek letters, Chi and Rho. Below that is an inscription of dedication.

These monuments have been standing for decades, and now, with the religious sensitivity in recent history, lawsuits have surfaced involving government violation of the First Amendment. In order for a display to survive the constitutional challenge, the court uses a three-part Lemon test, whereby the display must have a secular purpose and that a reasonable observer would not view the display as establishing, endorsing, aiding, or otherwise be an excessive entanglement with religion.

Here are just two cases involving the Fraternal Order of Eagles that show the differences in court analysis and outcomes.

Van Orden v. Perry, 5th Circuit--Texas

The monument challenged as described above has the inscription, "Presented to the People and Youth of Texas by the Fraternal Order of Eagles of Texas 1961." Plaintiff Van Orden filed suit that such a display was an advancement and endorsement of religion favoring the Jewish and Christian faiths, in violation of the First Amendment.

The Court found that the monument was secular in purpose, as it was a commemorative display of significant events of Texas history, as well as an expression of appreciation for the work of the Eagles with the American youth. Further, a reasonable observer would not find the display to convey that a religious belief was being favored or preferred, since the State Capitol was declared a national historical landmark, and it has 16 other monuments on its grounds, the array of monuments depicting both the secular and religious history of Texas from a historical standpoint. The Court ruled the display was not in violation of the First Amendment.



This next case is more interesting, as the governmental entity creatively attempted to make a First Amendment challenge moot by selling the land on which the monument stands to a private party, to which the First Amendment Lemon tests would not be applicable.

Mercier v. City of La Crosse, 7th Circuit--Wisconsin

The City of La Crosse placed the donated monument by the Eagles in a public park with no other monuments. After the lawsuit was filed, the City then sold the monument and a 20' x 22' plot of land surrounding it back to the Eagles, who then fenced the parcel and placed signs on each side indicating that the parcel was now privately owned. The Eagles argued that the purpose in donating the monument was to preserve the moral and religious heritage of the United

States and further, now that they owned the land with the monument, an order to remove it would be a violation of their organization's free speech as a private organization, also one of the rights enumerated by the First Amendment.

The court found that unlike Van Orden, where the monument was part of a larger display with an overall secular message, the monument in this case was by itself in a public park and was sufficient to create a perception of endorsement from the standpoint of a reasonable observer. Therefore, the Court would have to infer a religious purpose unless the government takes proactive measures to show that its purpose was secular. Further, the City had the burden to show

it took steps to obviate the monument's religious purpose, but did nothing to diminish the monument's religious character.

With regard to the sale of the land, the court found that the only purpose of the sale by the City was to maintain the location and preserve this "religious message" in a public park. The City had alternatives to sale of the land, including an offer to move the monument, but chose to approach and sell the land to the Eagles. The court reasoned that the sale was invalidated by the violation the Establishment Clause and upheld the prior ruling for the monument to be removed.

Conclusion

There are number of cases involving monuments with religious overtones. Research did not reveal any of them being donated by Elk lodges, but should there be any with a biblical display, they could be brought to Constitutional challenge.

Each monument is judged on a case-by-case basis. For the most part, monuments found to be "historical" in nature can still stand. It will be very interesting how the US Supreme Court will analyze the issue of whether the sale of land of a monument to a private organization eliminates the government establishment or endorsement of religion; and whether, in the absence of a historical display, the court must make an automatic inference of religious purpose whereby the governmental entity has to take sufficient steps to secularize the monument in order to display it.

These issues are scheduled to be heard in March of this year, with Opinions to issue months later. Favorably, Justice Rehnquist still retains his position on the bench. Although physically challenged, he is active and keeping up with writing opinions.



PARTY OF

5



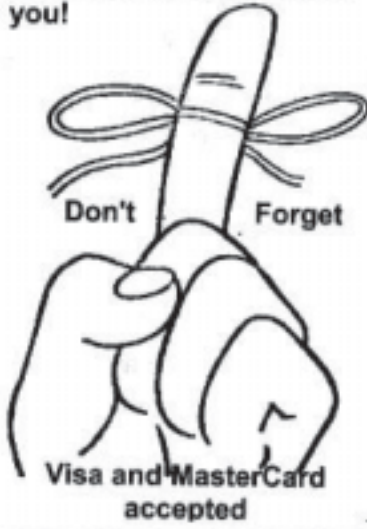
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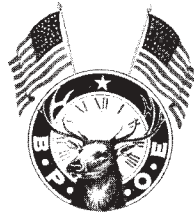
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making it a day to intertwine.

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For these two, it's the expression
to recall where love began.

Along the shoreline, two storks stroll
as if they too, shared love the same way,
Who knows, maybe they did
as they end their soiree.

The lovers watch as they fly away
the memory is sweet as it fades away,
And so it dissolves to be awakened,
again another Valentines Day.



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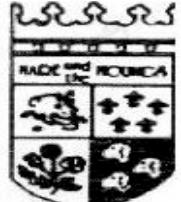
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