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





2005-06 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



2005-06 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ANTLER ANTICS: Jerry Serota, Editor NEW FACILITIES: Greg Metzgus,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: John D'Ambrogio, PER BEQUESTS & LIVING TRUSTS: David Naccarato

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 2ND, 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 10th Shirley and Chet Kozlowski will spearhead the Kids Christmas Party. For the childrens entertainment there will be a visit from Santa and magicians. All these free events are open to all Elkstheir children, grandchildren and neighbors. They provide wonderful opportunities for you to come and meet your fellow Elks who have children or grandchildren.

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 6th. At this occasion the officers serve us women. For the evening, I play an Elk Lady and not the Exalted Ruler. It's fun having the guys wait on me.

On Friday, December 9thth I will be hosting the traditional ER party. All members are cordially invited to an Italian buffet and a music program featuring Don Newcomer and his group. It is my thank you to all you wonderful members. Next on December 11th 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 Catherine Koeritz has planned 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.

On a personal note, I wish everyone a fun filled and healthy holiday season.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS 805-495-0577

OUR CONDOLENCES TO: the family of PER John and Mitzi Nau on the passing of her mother; Bill Lloyd, PDDGER on the untimely death of his cousin.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Dick McNeal is home from the hospital with heart problems.

ON THE MEND: Doris Newcomer from foot surgery; Paul diNubilo from knee surgery; Roy Cooper from prostate surgery; Rick Spampinato from surgery to remove liver tumors; Walter Ogden from a pancreatic attack: Jim Kellogg from pneumonia; Dave Pearson had his gaul bladder removed; Dick McNeal home from the hospita and had his debibrulizer imobilizedl; Myrna Block had an MRI on shoulder.

REMEMBER CARDS AND PHONE CALLS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME



Exalted Ruler, Sally Claunch retires a flag at our 14th Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony

Pag



BONDING jerryserota@earthlink.net

Read an article of 13 middle aged women bonding together to

buy a 118 diamond necklace originally valued at \$37,000 as a joint venture. They named the necklace Jewelia in memory of Julia Childs. They meet once a month and take possession of the diamonds on their birthday for one month then pass it on to the next in line.

The necklace has changed their lives in one respect for the necklace had magical powers that has enhanced their lives. When they wear it they feel special and glamorous. They plan charitable endeavors and the necklace is the centerpiece of the evening. They have found a special friendship in bonding this way. They even stipulated that during their month of ownership they should take the necklace for an adventure and make love wearing only the necklace.

The Calendar Girls of England bonded together to create their calendar to help the Leukemia Fund. Being middle aged women they were able to overcome the obsticle of posing nude and raised enough money to build a new cancer wing onto their local hospital.

We as Elks do not sport expensive jewelry but we have known since February 16, 1868, thats 137 years the magic of bonding with friends for the greater good and less fortunate.

The month of December is upon us and it is a time for celebration and reflection. We celebrate our favorite holidays and ring in the New Year with hope and optimism. We reflect on our blessings and never lose sight of the less fortunate. In the month of December we have our Christmas Basket program which will benefit many families. This is accomplished by our bonding and working together for the less fortunate and the greater good of our community.

Just as the necklace has enriched these ladies lives for the good of their favorite charities so has Elkdom enriched and changed our lives by bonding together and making our world a better place.

You can receive the Antler Antics on line as a .PDF file and be put on our early mailing list by sending me an Email at: jerryserota@earthlink.net

Sun. Dec. 4th the first Sunday in December ELKS MEMORIAL

Come pay your respects to our members who contributed so much to our Lodge and joined that Grand Lodge on High this past year.

As we approach the holiday season the widows and loved ones deserve our love and comfort in their time of sorrow.

> Ron Dourlain Edward Stogsdell, PER Bobby Clark Rolla "Tommy" Thompson Harold Calvin Bob Hardy, PER Bruce Fitzpatrick Pete Marston



NEW FACILITIES Greg Metzgus, PER

We will be voting shortly to raise our dues to build a new lodge building. This is a vote that will

either allow us to realize the dream of a new building or to watch it pass us by. The plain and simple and truth is that if dues are raised to \$240 per member, we can have a new lodge. If the vote is not favorable, we will probably never have a new lodge. It is that simple.

Raising our dues will guarantee that we will be able to make our mortgage payment or bond interest payment every month. We are confident that within a short period of time, the revenue generated by the new lodge will allow us to lower the dues back to a level some where between what they are now and \$240. It needs to be mentioned here that dues are going to have to be raised even if we don't build a new lodge. The amount we are charging now is only about 1/3 of what each member costs us each year to belong.

Continued Page 18



		o Kampers Brunca			Dass Giub Meeting		
Sat. Dec. 31 - New Y	í ear	s Eve Party		,		DUTY OFFICER - 7	forn Klomarens
ELK MEMORIAL SERVICE 11:00 a.m. Breakfast \$6:00 By Jim Rochford 9:00 a.m12:00 p.m	4	Investigation 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm Calendar Meeting 7:00 p.m. Officers & House 7:30 pm	6 Elks Ladies Christmas Party 6:00 p.m. \$13.00	7 Balloting GENERAL MEETING 7:30 PM Spiral Cut Pork Dinner \$6.00 Boyd Lindquist	8 Radio : Club	for members Catered Italian Buffet & Entertainment Bring Unwrapped Gift	10 BBQ Wagon at the Lodge Eddie Rice & Crew Childrens Christmas Party 11a.m 2 p.m.
						DUTY OFFICER -	Catherine Koeritz
1 El Konejo Kamper Brunch \$27 Grand Vista Hotel	n	12	13 VFW Meeting 7:30 pm	14 no meeting	15 Veterans Visitation 2:00 pm IBEW 4:30 PM	16 No Dinner	Deliver X-mas Basken 9:00 a.m. BBQ Wagon at the Lodge Herb Jellander & Crew
Simi Valley	- 1					DUTY OFFICER -	John D'Ambrogio
Jazz Club			*****	<lodge 2<="" closed="" for="" room="" td=""><td>K-mas Basket Preparation</td><td>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>></td><td>Baskets Dec.17, 9:00 a.m.</td></lodge>	K-mas Basket Preparation	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	Baskets Dec.17, 9:00 a.m.
El Konejo Kampers or Brite Lites BREAKFAST	8	Atom Club 19 Meeting & Dinner	20 Elks Ladies Board Meeting 7:30 pm	GENERAL 21 MEETING 7:30 PM Pot Roast Dinner \$6.00	22	23 Hamburgers & Fries ER's in training	24 BBQ Wagon at the Lodg Eddie Rice & Crew Lodge Closes 4:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m12:00 p.m.				D'Ambrogios Vote to build New		DUTY OFFICER	im Wagner
\$6.00				Lodge to raise dues			
2 MERRY CHRISTMAS Lodge Closed	25	26	27	28 GENERAL MEETING 7:30 PM Chicken Dinner \$6.00 Dave & Karen	29	30 Bartenders Pizza By Sand Trap &Eagle	31 Happy New Years Eve Party \$35 6:00 p.m. See Flyer
						DUTY OFFICER -	010

Elk Ladies Annual Holiday Dinner Meeting

Dec. 6th 6:00 pm \$13.00 a person

Dinner and Holiday Entertainment

<u>Please get your Tickets Early for</u> you and your guests !

Tickets on sale behind the bar or Call: Carol Neuner @ (805) 300-7248

Last Day for tickets is Dec. 1 st

Please bring a unwrapped toy to donate to the Christmas Charity Baskets and you will receive a ticket to be in the drawing !





ANTLER ANTICS

WELCOME ABOARD OUR NEW MEMBERS



Mike Flannery and sponsor Ed Bianchi



Mitch Strunk, welcomes new member Gary Clarke with sponsor Dave Pearson



Pat and Toni Hartin with new member Bob Souza and sponsor Catherine Koeritz



Jim Steele and Catherine Koertiz standing in for sponosor Bob Adams



Bill Knott and sponsor Larry Morris



Porter Ellis and standing in for sponsor Dan Johnson is Catherine Koeritz and Sally Claunch





Catherine Koeritz with new member Kay Wolfe and ER, Sally Claunch standing in for Larry Lawhon



DDGER, Gil Riding and Greg Metzgus, PER with ER, Sally Claunch who presented them with certificates as members of Presidents Club



Don Skinner, PER & Roxy, Greg Metzgus, PER & Barbara, Phyllis and Gil Riding, DDGER at home Lodge visitation



EXALTED RULER'S HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 9TH 6 PM- ??? ITALIAN BUFFET DINNER DON NEWCOMER AND GROUP FOR YOUR LISTENING AND DANCING PLEASURE AT 7:30 PM OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS PRICE OF ADMISSION -AN UNWRAPPED TOY FOR THE CHARITY BASKETS

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LEADING KNIGHT David Naccarato

MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG: David Naccarato SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch INVESTIGATION: George Meehan ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION: Myrna Block 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: David Naccarato

KATRINA RELIEF

It's December- there are big going- ons at the lodge. Come on down and participate. Ladies it is a good time to join the Elks Ladies Christmas party and meet some new people. Also there is ER's Christmas party and the childrens party and the delivering of the food baskets on December 17th. Check the calendar and schedule all the events on your calendar. I have filled my Chaplain's position for next year. We do still need an Inner Guard and Lecturing Knight. Please come see me for more information on these positions. It's very rewarding being an officer of the lodge.

I would like to give the official report on the Charity Poker Run. I wrote last month that it went off without a hitch, which was correct. Except it hadn't happened yet. When we write our articles they are 60 days ahead, so this is real time. The Poker run was to benefit the Charity Baskets this year. We had 10 bikes and 12 riders participate. We had Jack Paulson on a Honda who also won the prize money with the best hand; Leo Rodriguez on a Suzuki (yes, he rides); Joe Laney on a Harley Mark Lowe-Honda; Fred and Rachel Davis-Harley; Dave and Patti Dry- Honda; Skip Trombley- Buell; David Naccarato-Harley; Gary Watkins- Honda Cobb Oxford-Harley. We had a good time and raised monies for the baskets. Thank yous go out to Terry Baker for being my chef of the day for preparing lunch for our returning riders, and thanks to Bobby Williams for passing on the word of our ride to some friends that participated.

Monday October 10, 2005, the ever-generous Elks of Thousand Oaks once again rose to the occasion and donated a whopping \$1,600 for the members of Lodge #2321 in Slidell, Louisiana. During Hurricane Katrina in late August, many of the members of that Lodge (30 miles north of New Orleans, and in the direct path of the eye of the storm) lost everything and are still living at the R.V. hookups the Lodge has on-site within their 14-acre grounds.

The proceeds from the Cajun-style eats were used to purchase gift cards for Wal-Mart and Home Depot. Slidell's E.R. Lee Guillory was thrilled to receive and distribute the gift cards that the Koeritz's generously shipped via FedEx. We served about 60 dinners and could have sold another 10 or so bowlfuls. Thanks to the many generous helpers (Amanda Skoczek, Kiley Milner, Ashley Clancy and John Peterson) for cooking, transporting and serving the gumbo and jambalaya. Special thanks to Ruth and Jim Mullen who donated the Marie Callender's pecan and key lime pies and pot-washing services!

As a relatively new member to the lodge, it was truly heartwarming to see the turnout and wonderful donations for the lodge members in distress from my hometown.

Cherri Skoczek



Leo Rodriguez prepared for the motorcysle Poker Run



Amanda and Cherri Skoczek and John Peterson on Monday Nite Football fund raiser for Slidell Louisiana Elks Lodge #2321

Dec. '05



IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE A GOOD TIME -IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT Pat von Wittenburg

Jeff and Debi Drake, wagonmasters for the Halloween Campout, were absolutely awesome. I've seen arrays of Raffle Prizes before, but none quite like the ones these guys had. Seems Debi's employer was redecorating their office(s) and auctioned off some pretty spectacular items. Although Bill and I spent a bit more than usual on Raffle prizes, I got the ones I REALLY wanted - which was a surprise in and of itself. But I'm way ahead of myself. Thursday, everyone who was coming was in place, except for the Robichaus who couldn't get there until Friday. But even at that, they got there as soon as Nikki was out of school.

It was great to have Peggy and Gary Mullenaux with us - although they took off for parts unknown on Friday. (Got fined for that too). In fact, we had several Kampers with us who haven't been out for a while. Deb and Wayne LaFarr were out for the first time since last Thanksgiving. Great the have all of you back! (Big Grin) Friday was pretty ordinary, but after the meeting on Saturday morning things really started jumping. Again cart before the horse, Tom and Kathy Ryder came up just for the meeting and a few hours of socializing.

There were two categories for judging the decorations this year. One was for the "haunted house" and the other just for decorating in and around your motorhome. The Robichaus, Collerans and Drakes were VERY busy constructing their "haunted houses" I say the Drakes using the term rather loosely. Seems the Debbies were the ones most involved in that project. Debi Drake's theme was "Beetle Juice" and what a job that was. I think Debbie LaFarr did most of her decorating on Friday with her collection of M&M people, houses, etc, which earned her second place for motorhome decoration. Joel and Beverly Erickson's daughter, Janice, and grandchildren Kevin and Lizabeth, were very busy creating the first place winner. How did the von Wittenburgs fare - don't ask. First my Chihuahua wanted to EAT everything I was using for cobwebs, and what he didn't eat the wind played havoc with, and my glow in the dark spiders - DIDN'T. Oh well, maybe I'll do better next year. Nonetheless, it was a LOT of fun. The Robichaus, again, won first place for their haunted house (Kevin was popping out of the coffin - but got a bit of a surprise when Pete Padilla put his foot on the lid, giggle). Donna Colleran couldn't resist purchasing a pretty impressive "witch" I think, which was the entrance to their haunted house. Donna and Ed's efforts were pretty darned spectacular - earning them second place. Several of us were rather conflicted on the votes for the haunted houses. Debi Drake got third place for both her Beetle Juice concoction and her motorhome decorations - great effort there girl! We had people from all over the campground that came to view, appreciate and participate in the voting on the decoration.

Have you ever heard of "Moon snakes"? Pete Padilla and Gene Ewald got the Erickson's grandson, Kevin, all involved in this "man thing" of protecting the group from moon snakes. They had the poor little guy putting his tennis shoes in the refrigerator over night on Friday. Apparently, just to be sure, Kevin put his shoes in the freezer. Of course, he couldn't divulge the meaning of this "man thing" to his sister or Nikki Robichau and her friend, Molly, or any female. Come Saturday morning, Kevin was allowed to remove these frozen shoe, had to put them on, and run around the campground three (3) times, to protect us all from "moon snakes". Now I ask you ??? The guys thought this was priceless - saying Kevin would NEVER FORGET this experience. I fined (yup I was sheriff as last resort) them good. I told them the only thing the little guy would PROBABLY remember was going camping with his grandparent and running into these two lunatics who told him about "moon snakes", having him go through all sorts of ridiculous things!

We did have the pleasure of the company of Johnny D. and Marva for dinner. Great to see you guys again. Understand their motorhome is being used by one of their kids in Las Vegas while waiting for his home to be completed, or something like that. It's been gone a LONG TIME - tell him to move into a motel - we miss you people!

DON'T FORGET THE KAMPERS CHRISTMAS BRUNCH - DECEMBER 11, 2005



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ANTLER ANTICS

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Ed Rice LODGE ACTIVITIES: Judy Brayman SCOUTING: Bill Miller HOOPSHOOT: Tom Hartin WED. NIGHT DINNERS: Catherine Koeritz DRUG AWARENESS: STRAY ELKS: Herb Jellander MOTHER'S DAY: Terry Baker



2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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

Catherine's Communication:

The Elks have adopted a program called the Dictionary Project. Started by Mary French out of South Carolina, she has promoted her project to organizations such as the Elks and the Rotary. In a letter written by French, she stated "I want to give recognition to the Elks for all of their help in introducing it (the Project) to their membership nation-wide. The program is intended to provide a dictionary for every third grade student in the organization's area schools to aid third grade teachers in their goal to see all their students leave at the end of the year as good writers, active readers and creative thinkers". Mary French, Dictionary Project Founder and Director.

PDDGER Richard Goldner will donate 5 cases to our local schools through this program. At the present time, we will have distributed a total of 1,735 dictionaries to schools in the Conejo Valley School District and we are working on authorization for adjacent School Districts as well. If you would like more information on this project, please ask me or come to a Wednesday night meeting.

The Halloween party was a blast. I love to decorate for Halloween! I think my mother, Arlene Tellez, has competition when it comes to moving, talking, and making noise toys. Robert Jones kept on coming up with more toys and decorations. Thank you Judy Brayman and Toni Hartin for organizing the events. Please read Judy's Article for a recap of the evening.

New Year's Eve Party is coming!!!

This year's theme will be "Dancing through the Decades". I have the greatest entertainer in T.O. booked for the night. Many of you have seen him perform at our Lodge several times. The great Phil Birdsell will entertain us. And we have a show for you. Besides the wonderful dinner I have planned, we will be dancing to a new decade each hour, so come dressed in your favorite decade! Tickets will be on sale starting December 1st. Please purchase your tickets and get your reservations in by Dec. 26th. Flyers will be posted in the Lodge and the flyer for this Antler is on the front page.

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

New members are always welcome. Don't be shy. We'd loved to see you again.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO ATTEND MARK YOUR CALENDARS

12/4	MEMORIAL SERVICE - Buffet on Sunday
12/6	LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY - Tuesday
	Evening
12/10	CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY - Saturday
12/11	KAMPERS BRUNCH

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS & EVENTS

- 12/2 LADIES TREE TRIMMING PARTY Buffet provided by the Ladies
 12/9 ER CHRISTMAS PARTY - Catered Italian (bring wrapped gift for admission) Entertainment by Don Newcomer.
 12/16 LODGE IS CLOSED
 12/23 HAMBURGERS & FRIES by the Future ER's
 - 12/23 HAMBURGERS & FRIES by the Future ER's (Dave and Catherine)
 - 12/30 BARTENDER PIZZA NIGHT



Tip a Scout night at Ciscos restaurant

LOYAL KNIGHT Catheerine Koeritz



Dec. '05

ENTERTAINMENT

Judy Brayman, Com. Chair.

Hi Everyone,

December is here which means a busy month for the Lodge with the Christmas baskets to get ready and Christmas trees to sell. If anyone has an hour or two to spare please call Tommy Claunch for the preparations of the baskets and call Herb for the Christmas tree lot. I hope for all those who joined us for Thanksgiving enjoyed their meal and left with a full belly. I would like to say thank you to Carol Neuner for volunteering her time for the second year in a row helping in preparing the buffet we served.

For a little pre Christmas celebration for all the members who would like to exchange names for a small Christmas gift please call the lounge and give the bartender your name by Dec 11th your name will be added into our basket and on Sunday Dec 18th everyone will draw a name out of the basket. Friday the 23rd. we will exchange gifts at our Christmas gathering after dinner and before our entertainment starts we will exchange our gifts in the Lodge room. The limit to spend will be \$15.00 or under it doesn't have to be a serious gift it can be anything. This is just to have a little Christmas sharing with each other, so all those who would like to take part in this call the lounge and give your name to the bartender.

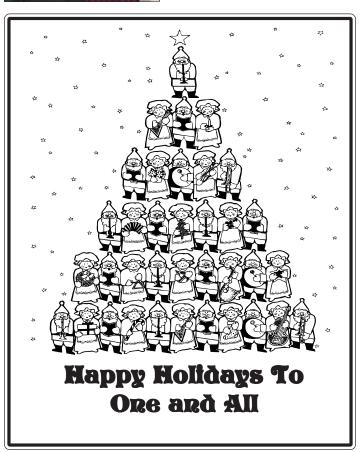
Regarding the holidays this year New Years Day follows on a Sunday on this day there will be no breakfast served. Worse yet there is no football games all the games start on January 2, 2006 and the Rose Bowl is on Jan. 4th. The Lodge will be closed on New Years Day. Everyone can rest up from all the celebration they did on New Years Eve and we will see everyone on the 2nd. I am sure everyone has noticed in the hallway across from the kitchen window a new poster board has been put up, another job well done by Mr. Tom Hartin this poster board is to be used for all INSIDE Lodge activity announcements. The poster board next to the kitchen window which as been there forever is for all OUTSIDE announcements. We will not be posting flyers; calendars etc. in the bathrooms, the bar, or the patio please read all new announcements and activities from the poster boards in the hallway or from the outside board left of the entrance door to the lounge. We are trying not to have items posted all over the Lodge, if all items are in one central location our Lodge will look a lot neater.

With the holidays here please be careful with drinking and driving all of us Glenn, Marc, Kevin and myself as your bartenders and also as one of your brothers we will be responsible for serving each of you. Please respect your bartenders if in fact one of us feels we have to stop serving you. I'm asking each of you to respect the judgment call we make. Understand that as your brother we do care about you and your safety. If you have a ride home and do not have any car keys in your possession of course this will make a difference. For those who live close by and want to walk home especially if you are near a main street keep in mind if you are intoxicated you can get drunk in public. This has happened to a customer from another lounge when a man got on his bicycle and went down Moorpark road he was followed by the police and was pulled over for driving under the influence and was booked for a DUI (Driving Under the Influence). In California a bicycle is considered a vehicle.

LUNCH ARE STILL BEING SERVED anyone who works on the Christmas tree lot during the day will get 30% off.



Toni & Patrick Hartin, best costumed couple at Halloween Party



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ANTLER ANTICS

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

LECTURING KNIGHT Robert Jones

2004-05 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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



KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER GOLF TOURNEY: Dave Pearson TommyClaunch LODGE PICNIC: Robert Jones MEMBERSHIP: Every Lodge Member CHRISTMAS TREES: Herb Jellander/Terry Baker EL KONEJO KAMPERS: Gene Ewald

14TH FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

On Sunday October 23rd the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge performed their 14th Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony. It was a warm sunny day and there were 100 members and guest in attendance.

In conjuction with the 12 Boys, Girls, Cubs and Brownie troops all that the Lodge sponsors, an impressive retirement ritual was first performed by the Lodge and then the Scouts did their unique retirement ceremony. First they removed the stripes one stripe at a time and placing them in the funeral pyre a patriotic passage was intoned by a scout. Finally the Flag is retired when the Blue Field Of Stars are committed to the flames.

An Ice Cream social followed the ceremony.



(L-R) Cub Scout Leader, Howard Seligman, Cub Scout, Max Seligman and Brownie, Lexi Seligman pay respects as a proud, couragious breast cancer survivor, Exalted Ruler, Sally Claunch retires 'Old Glory'



SCOUTING Bill Miller, Com.Chair

Hi All of you:

I visited the GSA office in Camarillo yesterday afternoon and filled out sponsorship forms for all EIGHT units that T.O. Elks Lodge 2477 is now sponsoring. We're very happy to be your sponsors and want you to know that we are available to help you in any way possible. I took some photos of the Flag Retirement ceremony and if you have a high speed Internet connection, I'll be happy to e-mail them to you. Michelle, I have several pictures of your girls and will get you a disk copy one of these days because they are big files. I wouldn't be at all surprised to see some of these photos in the Acorn and possibly the National Elks magazine. Jerry Serota is very adept at publicity.

AND speaking of publicity - PLEASE send me any news items regarding your units. Pictures would be wonderful too. I want to update our Lodge posters and need the info. Thanks for all your work with the girls. I learned from Scout office yesterday that many many girls' applications are just not answered because there are no leaders available for them. You ladies are really important in the lives of these kids. I also picked up a book on the Gold Award process - did you know that the Elks offer a college scholarship that only Gold Award Girls are eligible to apply for???????? And 161 girls - don't forget the music tryouts at the T.O. Lodge on Saturday that Sally told you about. Tell your band friends and take them along too.



Special colage created by Cub Scout Pack 3763 to our Lodge, (L-R) Bill Sternberg, ER, sally Claunch, Jerry Serota, Max & Howard Seligman and Bill Miller

VOTE FOR DUES RAISE

On December 21st, 2005 a vote will be taken by those members present to erect a new facility. The members have approved everything needed thus far to go ahead with our building plans. Your support has showed that a new lodge is both wanted and needed. Now it is time, as the cliché goes, to fish or cut bait. With approval of this measure we should be able to start grading in January or February 2006. When that happens, the dream has come true.

Our request for an amendment to the existing Grand Lodge permit to enable us to raise funds by a combination of bond sales and outside financing has been approved. It now remains that in order for us to fully fund our new facility, a raise in dues will be necessary. In July a meeting was called for all members to meet and discuss the possibilities of building a new facility. At that meeting, it was the feeling of the vast majority of those present that they wanted a new facility, and would support a dues increase to help pay for it. In October a survey was mailed to all members, and the majority of those responding also supported a dues increase. As such, at the same session of the lodge to be held on December 21, 2005 a vote will be taken to approve an increase in dues from \$65.00 per month, to which \$15.50 is added to include Grand Lodge and State assessments to a new rate of \$225.00 with \$15.50 added to include assessments. This will make the total dues payment of \$240.50. It should be stated here that the lodge has had no increase in dues for many years. We are operating our lodge in 2005 on 1980s money. The present dues do not even cover our bills, so an increase is necessary not only to build a new facility, but to survive as a lodge. In conjunction with the raise in dues for members, a vote must be taken to increase Life and Honorary Life membership dues. This increase will be half of the regular dues, or a total of \$120.25.

A few years ago, Grand Lodge required all lodges to separate their dues from assessments. At that time the lodge voted to have all dues be paid at one time rather than semiannually as was done previously. In order to ease the burden of paying the entire \$240.50 at one time, the lodge can vote to go back to the semi-annual payment plan. A motion can be made and voted on to that extent at the same meeting on December 21st. With respect to reinstatement fees, a motion will be made to raise them from the present \$50.00 to \$120.00, plus pro-rated dues. All of these motions require a By-Laws change, which must be approved by Grand Lodge. In accordance with Grand Lodge Statutes the earliest that the increase in dues and fees payments and methods can be implemented will be April 1, 2006. If passed, the results will become effective on that date. Please come to the lodge on December 21st and vote for these most important changes. It is felt that after our new facility is built and running, there is a distinct possibility that a decrease in dues could be effected. The raise now is needed to fund the raising of the building and get operations running. A lot is going to be happening on December 21st, so mark that date on your calendar of things that must be done.



PATTI'S CRIBBAGE COR-NER Patti Serota

Sunday October 16th, I

knew it wouldn't rain although a few drops did fall, nothing dampened the spirits of the 12 dedicated players. We play seven games changing partners for each. My score sheet showed 6 wins and a total of 154 points. Don't ask about the 7th one.

Yours truly came in 1st, Brian Kearney came in 2nd.

How about one tournament at the Lodge next April?

SCHOLARSHIP

Rick Herrera, Com. Chair.

A day for cribbage and deep fried turkey has again come and gone at la casa de Herrera -Rick Herrera's home.

Patti Serota was this years winner of the cribbage tournament over many seasoned veterans. In between pegging and counting we made room for the great tasting, juicy deep fried turkeys. An all you can eat is the type of function we always present.

Talk and camaraderie were the orders of the day. Along with the talk was ping pong and horse shoes. There was a silent auction had numerous baskets; hair stylists cuts; plant consultations and a plethora of other items.

Close to \$1,000 was raised at the function to benefit our local high school winners. Last year two of our students were \$1,000 winners of the Elks National Foundation four year Scholarships. Thanks to you that donated and those who supported the function, we hope to see you next year.

Fraternmally, Rick Herrera



ANTLER ANTICS

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE LODGE



(L-R) Tommy Claunch, Vern Noell, and ER, Sally Claunch, Saturday at the BBQ



Al Lenahan, Tommy Claunch and Steve McKee at the BBQ



The bartenders put on their true faces for Halloween,, Kevin, Judy, Glenn, Valerie and Mark



Judy Brayman gets a donation of wine glasses from Denise Goldstein



Floyd Lindquist and Patti Serota at cribbage Tournament



Paul DiNubillo playing Don Dauro from Simi Valley

ANTLER ANTICS

THE VISITATIONS OF GIL RIDING, DDGER





Santa Ynez Valley Lodge 2640 Visitaiton (L-R) Auditor, Greg Metzgus, PER, DDGER, Gil Riding & Esquire, Don Skinner, PER



Santa Barbara Lodge 613 visitaiton, Richard Gonzalez, ER, Don & Roxie Skinner, Greg & Barbara Metzgus, Phyllis and Gil Riding, DDGER





Ventura Lodge1430 visitaiton, Esquire, Don Skinner, PER and DDGER , Gil Riding



Atascadero Lodge 2733 visitaiton, Bob Brown & Sue, ER, Don & Roxie Skinner, Greg & Barbara Metzgus, Phyllis and Gil Riding, DDGER



Maria Lodge 1538 visitaiton Kim & Donna Newman, Loyal Knight, Santa Maria



Simi Lodge 2492, visitation, Don Skinner, PER & Roxie, Phyllis & Gil Riding, DDGER, Beverly & ER, Nick Nickson, Barbara & Greg Metsgus, PER

Dec. '05

2004-05 COMMITTEE **CHAIRPERSONS**

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Carol Neuner 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Jessica Stull 3RD VICE PRESIDENT: Jeri Miller SECRETARY: Diane Isaman TREASURER: Barbara Metzgus **AUDITOR: Kathy Ryder TELEPHONE:** Patti Serota

THE ELKS LADIES Alice Kennedy

2004-05 COMMITTEE **CHAIRPERSONS**



PARLIAMENTARIAN: CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell MAJOR PROJECTS: Pat Peterson/Carol Neuner CVD: Dee Swanson & Marilyn Cissell **HISTORIAN:** SUNSHINE: Shirley Kozlowski



ITS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR...

It's the day after Halloween and I'm thinking about the holiday season. Gosh, there

are so many good things that happen this time of the year. Of course, gaining weight, extra stress, less sleeping and more commitments are the down side. But forget that stuff for a minute. Let's focus on the positive. At our November meeting the calendar nearly filled up with activities at the Lodge. There are so many choices.

There is a tree trimming party on December 2nd. Sounds like a lot of fun. Brings back memories of childhood with all the kids trying to get the most beautiful ornament and put it in the perfect place.

I'm really looking forward to the Elk Ladies Christmas Party since this will be my first. All we have to do, I'm told, is bring an unwrapped toy that will help to fill the Christmas baskets that go to needy families in our community. The party will be on December 6th for all members. Look for flyers around the Lodge for more details.

Another activity that President Alice has put together is a trip to the Reagan Library and lunch on December 8th. Our own Pat Jellander, a Docent at the Library, is arranging for our visit. We're currently working on a flyer for that one too, so keep your eyes open. It should be a hoot – I hear we are being joined by those wonderful Red Hat Society ladies! Get ready for lots of purple and a glorious array of red hats.

Perhaps the activity I am looking forward to the most involves the Christmas baskets. A flurry of activity takes place over several days when the Lodge closes down and becomes Santa's very own workshop with "Here an Elf... There an Elf... Everywhere an Elf Elf (no that's not a Christmas song). Turkeys, hams, and all the trimmings along with toys, gifts and comfort items are carefully packed with love and the Christmas spirit. The Head Elf then checks on the day of delivery to make sure everything is as it should be. Last year Pat Peterson and I volunteered to distribute some baskets. It was our first time and we didn't know what to expect. Though we both would have loved being involved in the wrapping, packaging and other Elf work, we were working and could not get away during the day. This year is different – I'm retiring from my career on December 1st and plan to earn my Elf ears (just go with it – its like Angels earning their wings). But, back to the distribution. It was a very

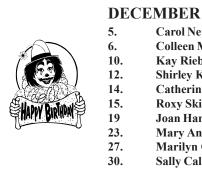


YOU HAVE ALL OUR ANSWERS, GOD Marilyn Cissell

We are ready for a talk, Lord, why do we wait so long? Same old search for hidden answers useless methods going wrong.

When facing almost anything that we feel we cannot do. No more spinning wheels and getting nowhere, first, dear God, we'll turn to you.

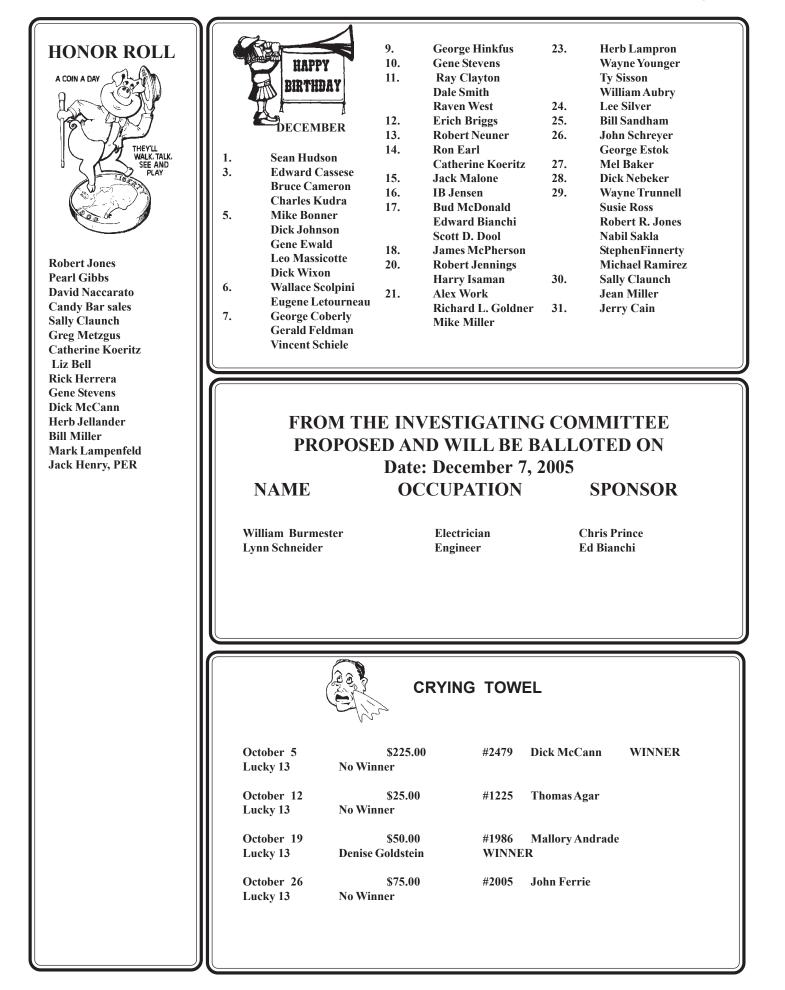
Amen



Carol Neuner Colleen MacFarlane Kay Riebe Shirley Kozlowski **Catherine Koeritz Roxy Skinner** Joan Hanson **Mary Ann Swallows Marilyn Cissell** Sally Calunch

organized event with maps, names and tallied boxes of goods. We took off with everyone else, kind of like a road rally only there's no rush to get back first. We had three families to see. The first family was 3-4 adults and they were most grateful. We offered to put the milk in the refrigerator and turkey in the freezer. They invited us in and we were having just a delightful time before we realized they spoke no English except "Thank you." The smiles on their faces and the warmth in their eyes melted our hearts as we bid them Feliz Navidad! On to our second stop – we had a mother with two children. On the surface that may sound simple, but the apartment they lived in was





ANTLER ANTICS



NOTICE OF INTENT TO DROP LAPSE MEMBERS

William K. Lloyd, PDDGER, Secretary

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 9, 2006 unless payment is received prior to that date. Any member knowing these members should contact them and urge them to stay in the Order.

NAME	MEMB. #	NAME	MEMB. #
Allison, William L.	1884	Oberle, Jerry	956
Boals, Brian	757	O'connell, Susan	2017
Canavan, Bill	2068	Olson, John	1626
Carroll, Ken	2061	Ough, John	243
Dennison, David J.	1829	Peck, Rusell	1973
Ely, David	1882	Pugh, Isabelle	2030
Eslick, Jon	2046	Reed, Gordon	2043
French, Kevin	2065	Ross, Douglas	1237
Graham, David	2079	Savokinas, Larry Jr.	1873
Guy, Ronald W.	1869	Sebra, Wayne C.	1828
Hehmann, Robert	1618	Shaw, Stacy	1900
Hess, Lee A.	2036	Smith, Richard O.	1170
Hinkfus, George	1197	Taylor, Raymond I.	1927
Ingolia, Peter J.	1390	Trunell, Wayne U.	1297
Kolb, John H.	1259	Turnham, Todd	2084
Lowman, Marc W.	1786	Watts, John P.	1657
Montenegro, Mark	1827	Zabaglo, Stanley A.	691
Newton, Gene	1795	Ziegler, Darren	1914

These members, when dropped have 30 days to reinstate their membership Without paying the reinstatement fee of \$50.00. Should they not choose to reinstate within that time period, they must pay the \$50.00 to reinstate their membership.

NEW FACILITIES CONT.

There are those that say once dues go up they will never go down. Not true. All it takes is a motion on the floor by any member and a vote of the membership to set the dues to what ever the majority of the members want them to be. Once the lodge is able financially to lower dues, I will be the first to make the motion. Wouldn't it be nice if income taxes worked that way?

I know there are members that will be hard pressed to absorb a dues increase of any kind. It may take an adjustment somewhere else in their personal budget to be able to afford the new dues. There is always standing relief, payment of the dues by the lodge, for those that are truly good Elks and are unable to pay for one reason or another. Now for an update on what is occurring next door. It looks quite a bit different over there. The good news is that we will most likely be seeing a new wall to our south. The bad news is that at last report, our BBQ pit is build about halfway onto our neighbor's property. If it isn't there one day when you visit, you will now know why. I guess we got our money's worth out of it. To those of you that are still around who helped build it, thank you. It served us well.

When I write next month I am in hopes that we can give a ground breaking date. That will all depend upon our membership. Vote yes on the dues increase to \$240 per member and we will all share equally in the realization of our dream. We need a lodge building that will reflect the generosity of our members to our community and charities.

ELKS LADIES CONT.

tucked away so securely, we passed it several times. Once parked, we had to climb a daunting hill carrying boxes with milk and a turkey, can good... you get the picture. Once we made it to the top we looked for the apartment number. Naturally it was upstairs! Humming our Christmas carols we scaled the stair and were invited into the home by a woman with a boy of about 8 years at her side. We could tell that the family had cleaned up the place so nice and they had a little Christmas tree in the corner with a precious few lumpy packages (probably things the kids had made at school). Out of breath we helped unload the goodies and were about to leave when mom asked if we could wait. She told us her daughter was in the bathroom and would be right out. A few minutes later a little girl of about six rushed into the kitchen with arms extended and an infectious smile on her cherub face. She hugged both Pat and I as mom introduced her. Then her brother and mom hugged us too. It was all I could do to keep from bawling right there. It was so touching as the little girl asked us to thank all the Elks. On to our final stop – a senior in a park near the lodge. We had one small box to deliver. Despite being fearful that we would be ticketed for parking illegally, we decided that we should both go to the door anyway. A dog the size of a grizzly bear with a white haired lady behind him answered the door. After my heart resumed beating I realized that the dog was just as happy to see us as the lady, though I'm not sure why, we had no dog biscuits. Squeezing past Goliath (or whatever his name was), Pat and I barely fit into the living room. Our host was a little hard of hearing and with some definite mobility problems, so once again we offered to put things away. The kitchen was so small that bending to get into the refrigerator, I both bumped my back on the opposite wall and stepped into and dumped Goliath's water bowl. The lady told me not to worry, that her granddaughter was coming over and would take care of everything. She was delighted as she looked at the comfort items and perplexed as she examined a holiday CD. We tried explaining it was music, but with her poor hearing and our shouting, we gave up not wanting to be arrested for elder abuse AND illegal parking. She nodded, and smiling said she would ask her granddaughter. We bid her adieu all waves and smiles and headed back to the Lodge. Delivering Christmas cheer and food was such a rewarding and uplifting experience, Pat and I vowed we would do it again the next year. I thank God for bringing me here and allowing me to be part of this wonderful tradition. I encourage you to make your own Elk tradition. My best wishes for a safe, happy and memorable Holiday Season.

DONATE YOUR UNUSED VEHICLE TO THE LODGE



- $\sqrt{}$ Get the tax write-off
- know that you are helping
- Major Projects and ENF charities
- ✓ Be living the motto---
- Elks Care Elks Share

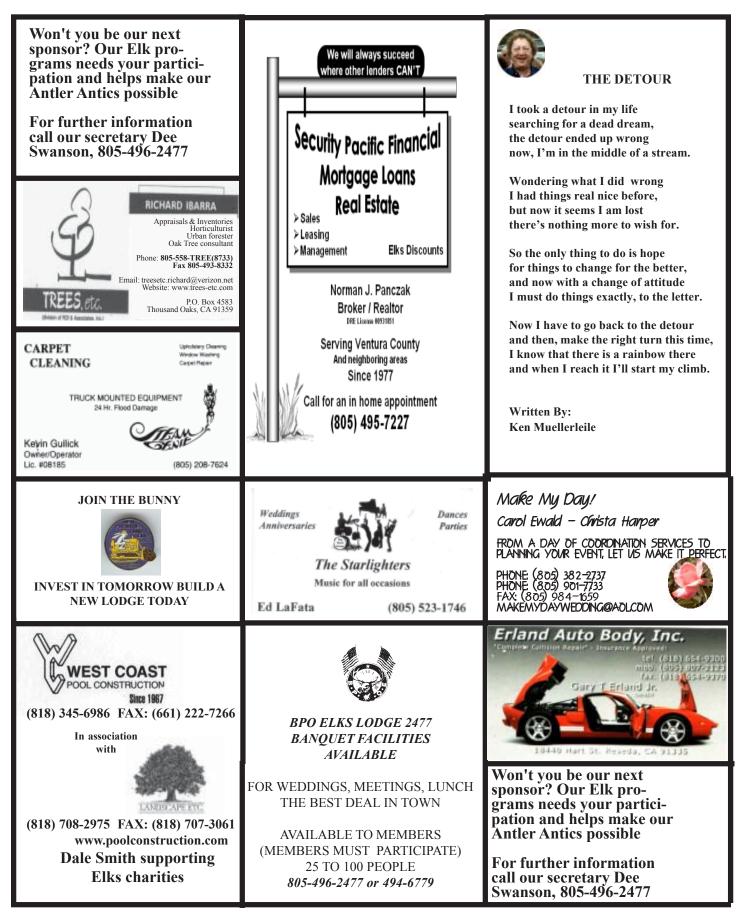
IS YOUR GROUP LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HAVE A LUNCHEON MEETING????

Your search is over

 $\sqrt{}$

 $\sqrt{}$ The newly painted and carpeted banquet room is available

 $\sqrt{}$ Call Banquet Manager Judy Brayman 496-4550 for menus and a tour of the facility



Sponsors .



Page 22

ANTLER ANTICS





ESQUIRE - George Meenan1982-83 *A. John Nichols1981-82 Robert L. Thornton, PDDGECHAPLAIN - Terry Baker1983-84 John Nau1999-00 Ralph VesterINNER GUARD - Liz Bell1984-85 Vern Ogden2001-02 Bill SternbergORGANIST - Jim Wagner1985-86 Dan Snyder1986-87 Bill Lloyd, PDDGER,DLOFFICER AT LARGE - Jack Loughran, PER1988-89 Ted Lipka1989-90 Don SkinnerTRUSTEES1989-90 Don Skinner1989-90 Don Skinner	Page 24 AN	TLER ANTICS	Dec. '0
LEADING KNIGHT - Dave Naccarato LOYAL KNIGHT - Catherine Koeritz LECTURING KNIGHT - Robert Jones SECRETARY - Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL TREASURER - Bob Saynay1973-74 Erle Pittman 1974-75 Richard Flake 1975-76 Bill Wagner 1976-77 John E. Henry 2002-03 Don Booker 2004-05 Jay BlockTILER - Tom Klomparens ESQUIRE - George Meehan CHAPLAIN - Terry Baker INNER GUARD - Liz Bell ORGANIST - Jim Wagner OFFICER AT LARGE - Jack Loughran, PER1973-74 Erle Pittman 1976-77 John E. Henry 1976-77 John E. Henry 1976-77 Howard Wullschleger, PDDGE 2004-05 Jay BlockTRUSTEES1976-77 Howard Wullschleger, PDDGE 1981-82 Robert Hardy 1988-89 Ted Lipka 1989-90 Don SkinnerTRUSTEES1989-90 Don Skinner	OFFICERS 2005-2006	PAST EXA	LTED RULERS
Denise Goldstein- Jim Rochford- Greg Metzgus, PER- Jay Block PER-2 Year 3 Year 4 Year1991-92 Gary Sleigh 1992-93 Tom Ryder, PDDGER 1993-94 Jim Wallace 1994-95 *George Pekow 1995-96 Gil Riding, DDGER 1996-97 Jack Loughran 1997-98 John Kelly	LEADING KNIGHT - Dave Naccarato LOYAL KNIGHT - Catherine Koeritz LECTURING KNIGHT - Robert Jones SECRETARY - Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL TREASURER - Bob Saynay TILER - Tom Klomparens ESQUIRE - George Meehan CHAPLAIN - Terry Baker INNER GUARD - Liz Bell ORGANIST - Jim Wagner OFFICER AT LARGE - Jack Loughran, PER TRUSTEES John D'Ambrogio, PER- 1 Year Denise Goldstein- 2 Year Jim Rochford- 3 Year Greg Metzgus, PER- 4 Year	1973-74 Erle Pittman 1974-75 Richard Flake 1975-76 Bill Wagner 1976-77 John E. Henry 1977-78 *Robert McKee, PDDGER 1978-79 *Frank J. Rindone 1979-80 *Edward F. Stogsdell 1980-81 *Frank "Tex" Hastie 1981-82 * Robert Hardy 1982-83 *A. John Nichols 1983-84 John Nau 1984-85 Vern Ogden 1985-86 Dan Snyder 1986-87 Bill Lloyd, PDDGER,DL 1987-88 John E. Henry 1988-89 Ted Lipka 1989-90 Don Skinner 1990-91 Don Ansell 1991-92 Gary Sleigh 1992-93 Tom Ryder, PDDGER 1993-94 Jim Wallace 1994-95 *George Pekow 1995-96 Gil Riding, DDGER 1996-97 Jack Loughran	 1999-00 Richard Goldner, PDDGER 2000-01 Jacob Panczak 2001-02 John D'Ambrogio 2002-03 Don Booker 2003-04 Greg Metzgus 2004-05 Jay Block By Affiliation: 1976-77 Howard Wullschleger, PDDGER 1981-82 Robert L. Thornton, PDDGER 1999-00 Ralph Vester

Official Publication of: 1000 Oaks Elks Lodge NO. 2477 B.P.O.E. P.O. Box 2110 Thousand Oaks, CA 91358

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The ANTLER ANTICS is published monthly in Thousand Oaks, California as the official Bulletin of the Thousand Oaks Lodge no. 2477 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of the United States of America, 158 Conejo School Road, P.O. Box 2110, Thousand Oaks, 91358. Publication of the ANTLER ANTICS is an activity of the Lodge and contributions and interesting and pertinent reading material and photographs are welcomed. Photographs MUST be identified and captioned or they will not be published. Deadline for receiving ALL material for publication is the 5th of each month.