



Catherine Koeritz,
Exalted Ruler



ANTLER

ANTICS

Vol 36, No. 10

Editor, Sally Claunch, PER

January '08

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIREFIGHTERS APPRECIATION NITE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2008

SOCIAL HOUR 6:30 P.M.

DINNER 7 P.M.

BABY BACK RIBS & CHICKEN \$12

PRESENTATION 8 P.M.





OPERATION FACELIFT

Tom Ryder, PDDGER

With the vote not to proceed with the building of a new lodge building at our current location, it becomes necessary to do some updates and “make nice” work on our current facilities. Our Exalted Ruler has set up the “OPERATION FACELIFT” committee to prioritize, recommend and oversee programs and work required to make our current facility more appealing to our members and their guests. Some of the currently being considered programs are as follows.

Lodge Rugs Cleaning – House Committee authorized funds for professional cleaning of all rugs in the Lodge. Corrine Richeson Coordinating.

Repair Lodge Building Roof. Roof under the air-conditioners is leaking badly and stopgap measures will not solve leaking problem. Maintenance item – Max Maxwell getting estimates for and coordinating rework required.

Update Ladies Lounge – Need a major upgrade to this area. Looking for someone to come forth with some ideas and to coordinate the effort.

Operation Green Up – There is a need to make our outside area greener and more presentable! Rick Herrera, Liz Bell and Carol Stewart have done some work to date. More to happen, Rick Herrera coordinating.

Update Lodge Electrical Wiring – The Lodge electrical wiring is old, overworked and tired. The Officers and House committee has approved getting in contact with outside electricians for their review of the current wiring with recommendations and estimates for work required to update lodge electrical system. Boyd Lindquist Coordinating

Property Line Stabilization – When the neighboring property owner cleaned up his property and removed our fence he made our property line area unstable and dangerous for our use. It is necessary for us to stabilize this line. Once stabilized we intend to build a new garbage disposal bin area and recycle area on this property line next to our BBQ pit. Tom Hartin coordinating.

Outside Painting Of Facilities – An offer has been made for the painting of our buildings. Getting a proposal and estimate for work to be done. Tom Hartin coordinating this effort.

Saturday BBQ Area - Fence and Gate. - Our outside patio and eating area is a success with the Saturday people that come down and partake in our BBQ offerings. An effort is in progress to make this area less visible to the road so people will feel more at ease while eating. Also it will make our patio more private to members wanting to use this area for their happenings. Tom Ryder coordinating

New Front Entry Door – Door to Lobby narrow and needing fixing. Terry Gicking is coordinating new wider door installation.

The Exalted Ruler asked me to chair this committee. A few good Elks have already volunteered to assist in getting these proposed programs in progress. Need more committee persons and ideas. Need your suggestions and comments. Have heard rumors as to other projects for upgrading our facilities. Please contact me with suggestions and offers of help. This is a committee that is not restricted in numbers of members; all are welcome and all ideas will be considered.

If there is something that you feel that you would like to help with, call me or get in touch with the person coordinating the effort and let us know that you are interested!

It should be noted that before any project is started it would be reviewed and approved by the Officers and House committee.

2007-08 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS



**EXALTED RULER
Catherine Koeritz**

2007-08 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ANTLERANTICS: Sally Claunch, PER, Editor,
Jerry Serota, Assoc. Editor/Photographer
Calendar: Tom Ryder, PDDGER
NEWBEGINNINGS: Jerry Serota, Myrna Block
HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK: Jerry Serota
GREETERS: Dorothy Murray
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jerry Serota
OPERATION FACELIFT: Tom Ryder, PDDGER



BUILDING MAINT.: Max Maxwell/Tom Hartin
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL
LODGE VISITATIONS:
BBQ WAGON: Al Lenahan
AUDITING: Tom Ryder, PDDGER
ELKS TRAINING: Catherine Koeritz
SHOE TOURNAMENTS: Mike Budenski
BEQUESTS & LIVING TRUSTS: Robert Jones
PLANNING COMMITTEE:

WE'VE BEEN BUSY

We had a very nice Veterans brunch. Thank you to Jim Kellogg for organizing the event, Judy Palmquist who handed out Poppies and greeted the Vets as they arrived and to Gary Erland who made everyone feel welcome with his wonderful display of flags in the front.

We were open on Thanksgiving Day, thanks to Raven West and crew. The next day we had a bus load of Elks (about 45) from the Orange Coast district choose our lodge to have lunch. Special thanks goes to Bob Arbetman, Mryna Block and Tom Hartin for preparing the hamburgers/hotdogs. Maybe this year (2008) we can organize an event like that for us!

Thank you Greg Metzgus and Bill Sternburg for the non-glare glass and wood frame for our flag behind the stage. Now Jerry can take pictures without a reflection in the picture.

NEW FACILITIES VOTE

On Tuesday, November 27th, we held an information meeting. The purpose of that meeting was to present all known facts and figures relative to the building of a new facility. Construction, business plan and the current finances of the lodge were discussed.

The Special Meeting on December 3rd was to vote yes or no on whether the Lodge wishes to enter into any and all contracts: financial, structural, or otherwise, to build a new facility at this site. Given the information previously, the only order of business at this meeting was to vote. The votes were cast in writing with a simple yes or no. A "yes" vote (or a favorable vote) meant that we would proceed with the new facility and enter into any and all contracts for building a new facility at this site. A "no" vote meant that we would not proceed with the proposal to build a new facility at this site. The votes were counted by Jack Henry, Joanie Roper and Dick McCann. Because the vote did not pass (it needed a 2/3 majority vote), the Lodge voted not to enter into any contracts for building a new facility at this site.

This does not mean that we stop

pursuing other opportunities. The Officer Corps along with the new committees will re-assemble and present new opportunities or options. These can include leasing, purchasing somewhere else, determining the status of the Bonds and new facility accounts. We are on a roll and do not want to stop this forward progression. It is our goal to have another plan of action to present to the members within 60-90 days.

COMMITTEES

Until further notice I have disbanded the following committees: Funding, New Facilities, Steering and Finance Committee. I have established new committees; (1) New Beginnings Committee, which will be involved with creating plans for reinstating and soliciting new members; (2) Operation Facelift Committee to make small improvements to our current facility and make it more appealing and functional; and (3) Planning Committee which will investigate opportunities, explore options and make recommendations for a new lodge. If you have ideas, please join one of the committees so that we can work together.

I wish everyone a Happy and prosperous New Year!

In January

Your Lodge Serving the Community

Monthly Bingo Party for the Vets by Jim Kellogg and Crew

Distribution of Dictionaries to 3rd Graders in Conejo Schools by Bill Miller & Committee

Americanism Essay Contest for 5th-8th Graders by Grant Thistle and Committee

Be an Elk volunteer, call the office with your name and phone number



EDITOR'S CORNER
 Sally Claunch, PER
claunchsally@gmail.com
 articles due 5th of month
 send as Word attachment



Trustees Dinner

Yes, there is such a thing as a free lunch or in this case a free dinner. In keeping with the tradition started by Denise Goldstein last year the trustees will again provide a free spaghetti dinner for all members. It is our way of saying thank you to the membership. Guests will be a mere \$6.

The spaghetti fest is January 18, 2008

OFFICERS HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Corinne Richeson discussed the state of the lounge operations

ER, Catherine announced the formation of new committees

Plans were discussed as to how to spruce up the appearance of the Lodge

TRUSTEES REPORT

Ongoing review of the budget to develop strategies on cost savings

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

At the December 5, 2007 meeting a motion was made and seconded to lower the annual membership dues to \$120 + assessments for 2008-2009.

A vote will take place on January 9, 2008.

Please plan on attending this important meeting and give your input.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS 805-495-0577

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Dean Nash from complications from chemo; Gus Chinnery from hip surgery

ON THE MEND: Marva D'Ambrogio

**REMEMBER CARDS AND CALLS
 ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!!!**



COMING ATTRACTIONS

January 11-13 Kampers at Valencia Travel Park

January 12-Legends in Concert

January 23-Firefighters/Peace Officers Dinner

January 26-Potluck Saturday & Karaoke


February 8-9 Kampers at Lancaster Elks Lodge

February 9 Elk Ladies Event for Major Project

April 12 Inaugural Ball

**House Committee meets the first Tuesday
 of the month at 7:30 p.m. Trustees
 meet the first Tuesday at 7 p.m.**

**Your input is valued. Your attendance is
 welcome**

2007-08 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	LEADING KNIGHT George Meehan	2007-08 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
MAJORPROJECT/PURPLEPIG: David Naccarato SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch INVESTIGATION: George Meehan ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION: Liz Bell		CHRISTMAS BASKETS: George Meehan INDOCTRINATION: Dave Naccarato, PER MEM. CONTROL. COM.: Herb Jellander CVAC: Tom Hartin COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Jerry Serota CHARITY DINNERS: George Meehan

The Charity Bash was held on Saturday, November 17 and it was a huge success. The lodge room was full and everyone had a good time for the evening. The Original Renegades did their usual good job and played appropriate music for the evening. The decorations reflected the theme of "The Way We Were" in the 1950's.

The raffle tickets which were sent out to all members were drawn —And the Winners ARE!!!!

- Hawaii Vacation—Joan Roper
- Sunset Hills Golf—Mike Asadurian
- Los Robles Golf—Buggs Ansell
- Liquor Basket—Stephen Pence
- Wine Basket—Tom Tyler
- Wine Basket—Jack Loughran
- Jafrá Skin Care Products—Betty Hug

I want to thank everyone who helped my wife, Cornelia and me put on this event, for without them it would not have been a success. Gayla Lindquist for loaning us her personal stash of decorations and for working so hard to decorate. June & John Leadam, Angie Prizzi & Tom Hartin for their work in decorating the lodge. Myrna Block, the Leadams, Carol Fredricks for working at the soda fountain selling root beer floats and milkshakes. Jessica & David Stull for decorating, set up and anything we asked them to do. Carol & Bob Saynay for tickets and other administrative work. Jay Block for flyers. Sharon Baker, Marva D'Ambrogio & Liz Bell for providing baskets and Sharon for wrapping them so beautifully. Dave Naccarato for being our master of ceremonies. Chuck Busch and Marc Kennedy for cooking and serving the dinner. Last but not least to all the people who helped sell door prize tickets throughout the month before the dance and to Barbara Booker who filled in on the night of the event.

As I write this article for the January issue of the "Antics", I am in the midst of gathering names for our Charity Baskets, which will be delivered on Dec. 22. There have been donations from Jack Malone, The Conejo Campers, Tom Tyler, John Peterson, Jack Loughran and others. To all of you good people, I say thank you for making this event a success.

As I write this article and thank everyone, I remember that it all comes down to our wonderful motto. "ELKS CARE-ELKS SHARE

The calendar is enclosed for you to check and see what activities you would like to get involved with. This is the month that we have the dinner for our police and firefighters honorees. It is a fine event to attend.



George Meehan, Leading Knight receiving toy\ donations from the Conejo Valley Professionals L-R- Linds Liptin, George, Barbara Haussman



Loyal Knight, Raven West and husband Bill along with Dave Naccarato, PER arrived in costume for the Sock Hop

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Tom Hartin, & Barb and Don Booker for decorating the Lodge room
 Bill Sternberg, PER and Greg Metzgas, SVP for making the frame and non glare plexiglass over the flag in the Meeting room
 Again Bill Sternberg for making the lending library cabinet in the Lounge

2007-08 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	LOYAL KNIGHT Raven West	2007-08 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Ed Rice LODGE ACTIVITIES: Dave Naccarato, PER SCOUTING: Bill Miller HOOPSHOOT: Dave naccarato, PER WED. NIGHT DINNERS: Bob Arbetman DRUG AWARENESS: Robert Jones STRAY ELKS: Herb Jellander		MOTHER'S DAY: Robert Jones ENTERTAINMENT: Corinne Richeson WED. NIGHT TICKETS: Terry Gicking LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE FIGHTER APPRECIATION: Scott Dool PRESIDING JUSTICE: Dick McCann YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Robert Jones

It is a bit difficult writing a column which won't be published for another four weeks. By the time you read this, December 2007, in fact the entire year of 2007, will have faded into yet another memory.

Being the eternal optimist, I will look into my crystal ball and predict that we all had a fantastic holiday with our friends and family. Some received the perfect gift from Santa, others maybe were a bit disappointed, but we all experienced the holiday spirit of the season.

We saw the glow of joy in the faces of the children who decorated our Lodge Christmas tree. We felt "good will towards men" from the families who received our Christmas baskets.

Our New Year's Eve "Under the Big Top" was a fantastic mix of fun, food and entertainment. My thanks to "The Magical" Robert Jones and decorator extraordinaire Karen Naccarato for the participation in making this New Year's Eve party a huge success.

As we all do at the beginning of a brand new year, we make a list of resolutions that we hope will improve our lives. Somehow we feel a special renewed commitment to quit smoking, lose 50 pounds, among others which, unfortunately rarely make it to the end of the week let alone the end of the year. Perhaps they are a bit unrealistic, or perhaps we like ourselves just the way we are and only make these resolutions out of habit with no real intentions of following through.

The tradition of the New Year's Resolutions goes all the way back to 153 B.C. Janus, a mythical king of early Rome was placed at the head of the calendar.

With two faces, Janus could look back on past events and forward to the future. Janus became the ancient symbol for resolutions and many Romans looked for forgiveness from their enemies and also exchanged gifts before the beginning of each year. The early Babylonian's most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment. (So, please return the tractor on Jan 2!)

Whatever your personal resolutions may be this year, or how successful you are at keeping them, one which I believe every member of Thousand Oaks Lodge #2477 can make and KEEP is to attend at least ONE regular meeting a month. Including the last Wednesday, which is the night we initiate new members, there are approximately four opportunities every month, or 48 every year, of which you only need to "resolve" to attend 12.

Last month we had 117 members attend a vote on the new building. When the pledge of allegiance was recited, the walls of the building resonated with the voices of so many of our members. Quite a difference from the usual 25 or so regulars who attend each week, and we all thought the same thing; wouldn't it be great if we had a full house every week?

Unlike most unrealistic resolutions we make the first of the new year, and break soon after, let's make one we can all keep; to attend at least one Wednesday night meeting a month. Let's make it GREAT in 2008!



Dave Naccarato, Byan Gicking, Terry Gicking, Grant Thistle, Catherine Koeritz, Terry Baker, Bill Sternberg, Jay Block, Karen Naccarato, Myrna Block, the Hoop Shoot crew

ENTERTAINMENT



Jan. 4-Karaoke with Robert Jones
Jan. 11-Bingo with PER, Dave
Jan. 25- One Last Dance-band



Corinne Richeson
Bar Manager



November Bingo was our smallest crowd to date, but the liveliest. Small crowd but it was a devoted crowd. We had Century Club presentations and Dave Pearson's monthly drawing. Some of our players also won. Remember our Major Project fund grows with each Bingo game. 20% of the proceeds go to fund our program and the rest goes back to our players. Come on out in December and play with the other lodge members. It's fast, it's fun, it's easy and we have a good time. It's all about having fun raising money for Elkdom. Elks Care Elks Share.

Dave Naccarato, PER
Major Project Chair

SOMETHING NEW POT LUCK SATURDAY JANUARY 26 BRING A DISH TO SHARE OR \$5



**POT ROAST QUEEN
COLEEN MORRIS
IS BACK
IN '08**

**JANUARY 11, 2008
\$10**

EXPERIENCE A REGAL MEAL



Kitchen Rambling
Bob Arbetman

First of all I really want to thank Chuck Busch, Marc Kennedy and Freddy T. for stepping in and doing everything during my illness. Thank you, Corinne for coordinating everything for me. Great team work!! I want to thank everyone for their well wishes. It really helped my spirits getting the phone calls. I AM BACK!

January marks another month of great food. Sundays are going to be a little different. Super Stars are no more, retired. The team taking over will be Traps Stars. You will see a lot of familiar faces with on going great Breakfast Specials- Breakfast Tacos? The first Friday I will be cooking roast pork or roast chicken with some of your favorite sides like red cabbage. Coleen Morris is back with her wonderful pot roast. Thanks Coleen, you are the greatest. The following Friday will be the Trustees Membership Appreciation Dinner. Wow a FREE spaghetti dinner for paid up members. Bring a friend, or spouse or a friend's spouse and it will only be \$6. The final Friday of the month. Chet Kozlowski and family will be showing off their wonderful salmon or steak dinner for only \$12. One of the important events of the year is Scott Dool's Annual Firefighters and Police Officers Dinner where we recognize all of their efforts. Scott tells me that maybe this year we will be able to bring some sort of parity to the size of rolling equipment.

Hopefully we will be seeing you at several of these events. Remember that when you pay for your dinner the price includes tax, tip, and any monies left over goes to the Lodge for their many activities.



PER, Dave Naccarato
HOOP SHOOT REPORT



Thousand Oaks Elks held the Hoop Shoot on November 10th. We had 58 participants. Many thanks go to Jay and Myrna Block for assistance in sign up and scoring. Terry Baker and Terry Gicking with their help in scoring. Terry Gicking and his son put up new nets at the school..

Big time thanks to Bill Sternberg and Grant Thistle for coming out again second year in a row to assist in this event. Only first place winners advance to district competition which will be held January 20th in Goleta

I also would like to thank my wife for all her help and support. I volunteer for the Elks functions because I like to do them and Karen is always there to help me be successful.

HAPPENINGS AROUND OUR LODGE



Kids Christmas Party, Santa surrounded by children and adult friends-Myrna Block, Rick Eddy and Sally Claunch



Kids Christmas Party chair, Shirley Kozlowski helping Santa with his chores



Thanksgiving Dinner, chef Chuck Busch and Susan Montgomery stirring the pots



Bill and Pat Smail, John & June Leadam, Robert Jones and sister enjoying the Thanksgiving meal



Rich and Niki Case with the help of Beth Kozlowski leading the carols at the Tree Trimming Party



Matriarch, Colleen McFarlane and family at the Elk Memorial Service



The newest member of the Century Club, Barb Metzger with Major Project Chair, Dave Naccarato



Officer Corp performing the Memorial Ritual I-r-Terry Gicking, Steve Smith, George Meehan, Robert Jones, Bob Saynay, and Catherine Koeritz



Gerry Gillies and granddaughter selling at the tree lot



Veterans Brunch served with smiles by June Leadam, Beth Kozlowski, Jessica Stull, George Meehan and Jeanne Sandt



Mel's Diner with Myrna Block and John Leadam at the Sock Hop



Vets retelling stories at the Veterans Brunch with Catherine Koeritz



Dirty Dave and Jessica Stull at the Sock Hop



Cornelia Meehan and Jay Block pose with their favorite idols at the Sock Hop



EL KONEJO KAMPERS

Pat VonWittenburg

THANKSGIVING FEST – KENNEY GROVE – 2007

And a good time was had by all!

Joel and Beverly Erickson, again, took on the task doing a marvelous job. Although we had no rain, thank you "Camping Gods" it is quite nice to have the pop-ups over the tables. Seems to provide an ambiance lacking – without them.

A big thank you to all the people who pitched in to help Joel and Beverly. It appears recognition of the huge amount of work required has registered with others. Gratefully, we had a bunch of "worker bees" and I hope relieved some of the mental and physical stress from the Ericksons.

It was wonderful to have Wayne and Debbie Garrison out with us again, what a delightfully funny pair they are. Last time they came to Kenney Grove, poor Debbie developed severe back pain and they had to leave - - almost before they had their campsite set up.

Oh yah, we had the infamous Jack Henry among us again. The way that man's mind functions is a total mystery, but a real kick to observe.

We also had our moteling campers, the Claunchs and Dools. They are always a great addition to the mix, and a mix it really is. John Peterson's brother Don and his wife were in attendance also. Don't know this to be fact, but it appeared that Don egged Ed Bianchi on so much – Ed was nearly - - totally outta control. (Or is this the norm?)

When the cooking "tent" was being set up (and I use the term loosely) Don became very disillusioned with his "man team" and marveled because just a few of US GIRLS set up several pop-ups in less time than it took his whole gang to do ONE. Perhaps, cause there were all Chiefs and no Indians in his group. (Laughing out loud) He continually "fired" Jack Henry - - to no avail!

This was a particularly awesome campout for me. I had a friend, Deb Sharp, (lovingly known as Crash") from Missouri flying in cause we were leaving for a quilting retreat in Cambria the Wednesday following the campout. I had Roadrunner pick her up at Burbank airport to deliver her to Kenney Grove – she thought she was going to my house. She had NO CLUE she would be participating in our campout – was so delighted with the whole concept and awed at the friendly treatment she received from complete strangers. Thank ya'll.

Gene Ewald was in charge of the washer-toss. It's been a while since we had a tournament, and everyone

who played appeared to enjoy it. However, Gene has NO memory of who won and/or placed, I never knew, Joel Erickson is on jury duty, as I write and Sally is waiting for this article. (Bad, bad reporter!)

Some people's luck never ceases to amaze me. I often catch a lot of guff for winning raffle prizes; both Bill and I buy a lot of tickets. HOWEVER in the nearly 14 years we've been camping with the group - - the 50/50 has eluded us. Oh, I forgot, ONCE a number of years ago for \$24. But the COLLERANS - - really have a string of luck when it comes to the 50/50 - -and BIG ones, perhaps several times this year. Oh well, luck sure runs in different veins.

Our dear, very quite, Judy Kudra, was sheriff, exhibiting a lot of creativity to cover this large group - - just anti-up. Good job, Judy.

Again, a delicious, delightful, fun-filled campout.

Hope all of you have had a wonderful holiday by the time you read this - - and sincerely hope to see more of you at the coming year's campouts. We really do miss those of you who come so infrequently. You may not think it matters, but it truly does. Please check the website for the 2008 campouts and REMEMBER - - IF YOU EVEN THINK you might be attending the campout at Malibu RV park - - contact Chuck Kudra immediately for all instructions.

YES, it's early, however, the months from June through October are "prime time" at the beach and it's a lot easier to cancel reservations than waiting till 60 to 30 days prior to the campout date, to decide, and it's more than definite IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN!

Upcoming Campouts

January 11-12	Valencia
February 8-9	Lancaster Elks Lodge
March 9-11	Camp Komfort- Ojai
April 13-15	Lake Piru-Santa Paula
May 18-20	Kenney Grove-Chili Cookoff

VISIT THE KAMPERS WEBSITE

<http://elkonejokampers.oaksdata.com>

for upcoming campouts
& photos of events



to join call Bev Erickson 495-9715

YOUR LUCKY DAY



**LOTTO TICKETS
AVAILABLE IN THE LOUNGE**

1 2 3 4 5

Your Name

Lunch Bunch Card

Please present when ordering food.
It will be initialed by server.
One free entree when card is completed.
Good Monday-Friday
Thousand Oaks Lodge #2477

6 7 8 9 10



Don't Miss

**LEGENDS
IN
CONCERT**

JANUARY 12, 2008

Fundraiser for new sound equipment

**RECEIVE THE ANTLER VIA EMAIL
ONLY-SAVE THE LODGE \$2 PER
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Please notify the office of change of address
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Antlers and timely communications from the office.

**JOIN US
FOR
HOSPITALITY HOUR
EVERY TUE. & THUR.
4 p.m.-6p.m.
APPETIZERS**



Jerry Serota, Public Relations Chair.
Articles posted on: www.YourHub.com

Today's Youth – Tomorrow's Leaders

On Wednesday November 28th the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 donated 72 new dictionaries to the third graders at the Los Primeras School, in Camarillo for their very own to keep.

Making the presentation was Richard Goldner, Grand Lodge Public Relation Chairman for Area 6 which encompasses California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, Arizona and is a member of the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477.

A total number of 864 dictionaries were delivered to the Pleasant Valley Unified School District in Camarillo. Why do the Elks give away dictionaries? At the Grand Lodge Convention it was decided "...Put something in the hands of a third grader other than a T.V remote control. That is how the youth of today will be leaders for tomorrow."



Richard Goldner, GL Public Relations Chair, distributing dictionaries to happy 3rd graders in Pleasant Valley School District

Toy Donations

Dec 5th the Conejo Valley Legal Professionals met at Lupe's restaurant and made toy donations to George Meehan, Leading Knight in support of the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 Christmas Basket charity program. This has been an annual out pouring of generosity by this organization.

The ladies are Co-Presidents of the Conejo Valley Legal Professionals Association (CVLPA) and are presenting toys to the Elks, for distribution to the needy. Toys were donated by members during their November and December meetings.

For the 5th year, CVLPA voted to support the Elks Holiday Charity Basket program. See picture on page 5.

Pearl Harbor Veteran Remembered

On this day 66 years ago December 7, 1941 a young sailor at the age of 22 years old saw a group of Japanese Zeros fly over his destroyer the USS Dewey on the way to Ford Island, Hawaii to bomb Pearl Harbor and to strafe the planes at Hickum Field and his name was Fire Control man, Beau Anderson. His ship was anchored waiting for repairs to one of its boilers.

As fire control man he was in charge of a whole battery of 5 inch 38 guns. He was on duty that day even though with the boiler out of commission the guns were useless because they relied on the boilers for electricity.

Beau bravely served his country for 6 years and 2 months before his discharge. Beau was honored on this day commemorating his service to his country by his brother Elks with a cake beautifully decorated by Dina Richards, bakery decorator for Albertsons Market.



The decorated cake



Beau Anderson admiring his cake before his first big bite

JANUARY 9, 2008

THE VOTE FOR BYLAW CHANGE
TO LOWER DUES



Don't Miss



The following list of members who have not paid membership dues for 2007-2008 will be dropped from the rolls on January 18, 2008:

2052 Kathryn Burns
 2176 Daniel Carpenter
 2085 Michael Clingan
 2160 Kenneth Daly
 2044 Rick Filleman
 2058 Kevin Gullick
 2102 Robert Iritano
 2130 Walter Johnson

2180 Cary Jones
 2135 Manny Machado
 1821 James McPherson
 2186 Joni Melickian
 659 John Nau, PER
 2151 Jeffrey Parsons
 1802 Fred Severo
 2125 Jim St. Ores

POP TAB COLLECTION PROGRAM



The tab of a standard can is made of a high grade aluminum. By itself, it doesn't mean much. When collected, pop tabs can add up to a valuable donation to our local Ronald McDonald House, and that means a lot to the kids. Put your tabs in the collection box, and I will make sure the Ronald McDonald House gets them and that our Elks lodge gets credit for the donation.

Gerry Gillies
 497-2143



ER, Catherine Koeritz showing off the pop tab bank made by Bill Sternberg, PER



**What Is An
 American?**

Essay Contest

Sponsored by Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of
 The United States of America

RULES:


1. Eligible participants must be Students enrolled in the 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grade at the time of the contest.
2. Essay length is now not to exceed 250 words.
3. Essay must be typed or legibly printed in ink.
4. Essay must be submitted for judging to the Elks Lodge nearest to the address of the entrant.
5. Participant must be identified by name, grade, school attending and sponsoring Elks Lodge on the Essay.

Grant Thistle is chair of our local contest, volunteer to read the essays with Grant's committee

Share the Excitement

Sponsor a new member.

Applications are available in the Lounge
 or in the office.

2007-08 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	LECTURING KNIGHT Steve Smith	2007-08 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
AMERICANISM: Grant Thistle FLAG DAY/FLAG RETIREMENT: Robert Jones SCHOLARSHIP: Rick Herrera GOVT. RELATIONS: Scott Dool MEMORIAL SERVICE: Robert Jones NATIONAL SERVICES: Jim Kellogg KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER		GOLFTOURNEY: Dave Pearson LODGE PICNIC: Joe Clancy & Ed Bianchi David Naccarato/Tom Hartin MEMBERSHIP: Every Lodge Member CHRISTMAS TREES: Herb Jellander Bill Sternberg, PER/Terry Baker EL KONEJOKAMPERS: Mike Flannery

For this month's article I've gleaned some items I thought would be of interest from the Government Relations section of the BPOE National web site.

VA Restores Recitation At Flag-Folding Ceremony

The Department of Veterans Affairs quickly rescinded its ban prohibiting members of volunteer honor details from reciting a popular flag-folding ritual at the gravesite of a veteran. The decision, announced by William F. Tuerk, undersecretary for memorial affairs, came after a dozen members of Congress demanded the prohibition be lifted. The furor started in September when a VA official pulled the recitation of "The Meaning of Each Fold of an Honor Guard Funeral Flag" from ceremonies at national cemeteries. The recitation has no official status and the folding ceremony is frequently done in silence, but members of many memorial honor details often recite the meaning ascribed to the 13 folds as the flag is presented to survivors.

Each fold affirms a belief in God, America, family and traditional values. The first fold of the flag is described as a "symbol of life" and the second as a "symbol of our belief in eternal life." Other folds pay tribute to the nation, to veterans, to womanhood, to the Armed Forces, to mothers and fathers. The 11th fold glorifies "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" in the eyes of Jewish Americans, and the 12th glorifies "God the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost" to Christians.

The initial ban came after a complaint was filed after a reader at a California funeral misread the passage and referred to "the gods Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." The new directive, which the VA calls a clarification, says volunteer honor guards are authorized to read the so-called "13-fold" flag recitation or any comparable script. In addition, survivors of the deceased need to provide material and request it be read by the volunteer honor guards who should accept requests for recitations that reflect any or no religious traditions, on an equal basis.

"Honoring the burial wishes of veterans is one of the highest commitments for the men and women of the VA," Tuerk said. "A family may request the recitation of words to accompany the meaningful presentation of the American flag as we honor the dedication and sacrifice of their loved ones."

Legislation Calls for Guarantees Against Dunning Wounded Soldiers

Would you believe that a U.S. soldier would be asked to repay part of his enlistment bonus when he couldn't fulfill his obligation after being wounded in combat? That's what happened to Jordan Fox, a former Army private from Pennsylvania who was dunned by the Defense Department to repay \$2,800 of his \$7,500 enlistment bonus because he completed only a year of his three-year service obligation after being wounded by a roadside explosive in Iraq. An embarrassed Pentagon claimed the request was an isolated mistake and that it would not require any wounded soldier to pay back bonuses.

Some 200 outraged members of the U.S. House want to put that policy into law and already have filed legislation called the Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act. Lead sponsor of the bill, H.R. 3793, is Rep. Jason Altmire, D-Pa

Elks Government Relations Report
November-December, 2007—4

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<p>20007-2008 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p>	<p>THE ELKS LADIES June Leadam</p>	<p>20007-2008 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p>
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LOVE IS IN THE AIR ...

Don't be left out of this year's grand event – THE SWEETHEART'S BALL. It's all happening here at the Lodge on Saturday February 9, 2008. This wonderful event is being coordinated by Niki Case and her team of cupids who are all working hard to make sure this is an evening to remember. My mouth is watering just thinking about the delicious food. It's been a while since we've had a ball, so dust off those cotillion clothes, and put your dancing shoes on! AND... this event is not only for couples, singles are encouraged to come. After all, we love you too. Look for more information on the flyer.

LADIES CHRISTMAS DINNER HAILED A VICTORIAN DELIGHT

Mrs. Horace Swazey of the Ventura Co. Museum of History and Art, accompanied by her personal maid, Phoebe, delighted the audience with her chatter on the latest Victorian ladies' scandalous behavior, all the while she undressed, educating us on the many layers of clothing worn by "moneyed women" of that era. Amidst our lodge decorations including multiple Christmas trees framing the entire scene, candles flickering on the tables, I was magically transformed back into the 1800s.

The dinner was expertly prepared by Tom Ryder and crew including Chet Kozlowski, Tom Walsh, Richard Case, and Kenny Krabel. Dinner was served by George Meehan, Terry Gicking, Robert Jones, John Peterson and, my beloved, David Stull who all looked so handsome with their black bow ties, adding to the ambiance. A crisp green salad featuring two types of olives and a variety of fresh dinner rolls was followed by your choice of salmon or prime rib with asparagus and tiny seasoned potatoes. Tiramisu was the featured dessert. YUMMY. Thank you all for making this evening so special.


President June Leadam extends her sincere appreciation to everyone who attended and especially to Jeri Miller, Angie Prizzi, Pat Peterson, and Jessica Stull (me) for the set up of the room and to all those who remained to help clean up. Thank you, too, June. You were there with us every step of the way! June invites everyone who attended and those of you who couldn't, to



JANUARY

15 Darlene Stogsdell
Carol Fredricks
18 Carole Saynay
22 Alice Wagner
27 Shelia Aitken
Elaine Goldner

**ELKS LADIES CHRISTMAS DINNER
BLESSING 12-11-07**



What better time than Christmas, Lord
To give our love and thanks to you.
Although we're grateful all year long
For everything we know you do.

The deeds, the friends, the miracles,
All gifts-yet not anticipated.
You make things happen silently
Please bless this meal and those who've
participated.

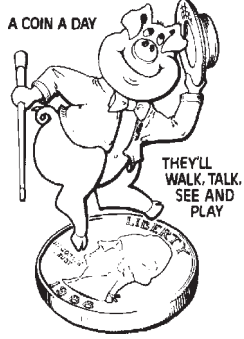
come to The Elk Ladies meetings held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm.

Guests attending, who brought toys for the charity baskets were given tickets for a special drawing for baskets and other prizes. Among the winners were Cornelia Meehan, Frances Bodenhamer, and I won a basket of wine. There were other winners; I just didn't get their names, so congratulations if you won. Even if your name wasn't drawn for a prize, you are still a winner in my book if you brought toys for the children. 'Tis the season for giving, especially to those in need.

Ladies bedecked in festive holiday wear, displayed so many smiles and I heard so many kind words, it warmed my heart. Great memories.

Kudos to those hardworking ladies, June Leadam and Diane Isaman who served dinner on Thanksgiving at the Lodge. You're just one of many things we have to be thankful for.

HONOR ROLL



Ruby Metzgs
 Peter Nolan
 John Peterson
 Cherri Peterson
 Rick Naranjo
 George Meehan's
 grandkids:
 Matthew, Christopher and
 Megan Tenny

JANUARY



- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 Gus Chinery | 15 Tommy Claunch |
| 5 Chuck Morsa | Lou Mages |
| 8 David McFarlane | Mike Markey |
| David Pearson | 17 Leo Lambert |
| Chris Prince | 18 Tony Gomes |
| 9 Tom Heller | Larry Savokinas, Sr |
| Drew Oliver | Sterling Wetzsteon |
| 10 Dale Iddings | 20 Denise Brady |
| 11 Jim Bodenhammer | Heather Maddox |
| Jack Murray | Craig Phelps |
| Ron Schwartz | Bill Sternberg, PER |
| 13 John Michael | 22 John Quinn |
| Jon Preston | 24 Peter Gordon |
| 14 Stephen Pence | 27 Cheryl Templeton |
| | 28 Ted Radabaugh |
| | 30 Patrick Kaltenbach |
| | William White |

**FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE
 PROPOSED AND WILL BE BALLOTTED ON**

January 9, 2008

<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
Bob Wade	Pete Jackson
Judy Kozinski	Liz Bell
Dwight Hower	Bart Vanderlip
Jim Wiens	Scott Dool

Life Membership

George Meehan # 1381 Will be balloted on 1/16/08
 Bernhard Rieger # 1381

CRYING TOWEL



November 7	\$75	# 2169	Mike Burton
Lucky 13			No Winner
November 14	\$100	#1892	Tom Varden
Lucky 13			No Winner
November 28	\$125	#1901	Susie Ross
Lucky 13			No Winner



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We look forward to seeing you!!!
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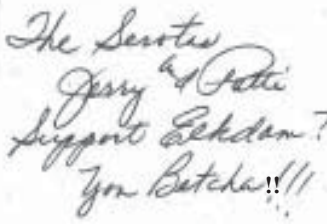










**Drop off at Wed. meetings
or at Sat. BBQ by rear
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**Thanks-
Rich Herrera
Scholarship Chair.**

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