



**George Meehan,  
Exalted Ruler**



# **ANTLER ANTICS**

Vol 38, No. 1

Editor, Sally Claunch, PER

April '08

## **Reaching Out in Elkdom**

### **Meet Our New Exalted Ruler-George Meehan**

George Meehan was born in Waterbury, Connecticut on March 10, 1934 to James and Mary Meehan, the youngest of 5 children. He went through the public school system there and graduated from Crosby High School in 1952. In September of '52 he joined the U. S. Naval Reserve and served two years active duty aboard the USS Chester T. O'Brien. He attained the rank of Teleman 3<sup>rd</sup> class. He was discharged in September, 1960. George graduated from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration in 1961. He worked as a salesman in the printing business for Curtis 1000, Inc. He was New England Sales Manager and then promoted to Division Manager in California in 1986. He retired in 1997.

Over the years George has been a member of five different Elk Lodges starting in Hamden, Connecticut, Lodge #2224, thirty seven years ago. Because of job requirements and family commitments, not too much time was spent with Elk activities until retirement when he became active in Thousand Oaks Lodge. He has served in all the appointed positions and the chairs except Lecturing Knight. He has been involved in the Barbeque Team, Christmas trees, the kitchen and investigation of new candidates.

George met his wife Cornelia on a blind date and they have been together for 47 years. Cornelia is a registered nurse having received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. Joseph College in West Hartford, Connecticut. They have three daughters, Kathleen, Patricia, and Mary Ellen, all college

educated and married, and seven grandchildren ranging in age from five to fourteen years.

Since arriving in Thousand Oaks, George and Cornelia have been golfing at Sunset Hills Country Club. They have been ushers at the Civic Arts Plaza, are members of Saint Paschal Church and are involved in the Shady Brook Home Owners Association.

He, of course, is active in the Elks and she in the Channelaire Chorus of Sweet Adelines. They love California and are happy they chose Thousand Oaks.



## OPERATION FACELIFT

Tom Ryder, PDDGER



The “OPERATION FACELIFT” committee is set up to prioritize, recommend and oversee programs and work required to make our current facility more appealing to our members and their guests. There already have been some comments as to spending money on our current facility. Until there is a definite decision as to what and where we are going, we have to assume that we are staying here and will try to make the best of it!

At this time all funds designated for Operation Facelift have been used up! I have prepared a budget request for submittal to the Trustees for inclusion in the upcoming year’s budget. Also we are looking for donations and some fundraisers to accomplish tasks..

**Repair Lodge Building Roof-** Entire roof replacement is being considered after determination is made as to our next move. It could be either a new facility away from this site or a remodel of our current facilities.

**Update Ladies Lounge-** A major upgrade in this area is needed. Preliminary plans are to move the inside wall, install a full handicapped stall and increase the size of the other two stalls. Leo Rodriquez and Terry Gicking are coordinating this effort. Funding is required.

**Operation Green Up –** Now that dry weather is here, the “shaggy” fence behind the new flowerbed is to be painted so as to blend in with the new apartment buildings on both sides of us. After, it is planned to clean up some of the bushes in front of the rental house so as to gain some more needed parking.

**Update Lodge Electrical Wiring–** The Lodge electrical wiring is old, overworked and tired. Duke Kopacz and Boyd Lindquist have had electricians survey the current wiring. We are waiting for their recommendations and estimates for work required to update lodge electrical system. Boyd Lindquist is coordinating maintenance requirement with funds required.

**Property Line Stabilization –** There is no change in status. It has been suggested we go to the city and find out what the status of the building project for the lot next to us is.

**Outside Painting Of Facilities–**We are talking with a person who volunteered to paint our building for a minimal cost. We are awaiting an estimate of his costs and when he could paint the building. Now that the rainy season is over the only thing impacting our schedule is Conejo Valley Days. Tom Hartin is coordinating. Funding is required.

**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 the area more private to members wanting to use this area for their happenings. Estimated cost \$600. Tom Ryder is coordinating

**New Front Entry Door –**The door to Lobby is narrow and needs fixing. Also it is not up to handicapped standards. Cost estimate is approximately \$900 for a new door including installation. Terry Gicking is coordinating.

**Pick up – Clean Up –** Please help keep your lodge buildings and grounds presentable. There is a lot of loose garbage and litter around the lodge. As you come to the lodge, if you come across any, please pick it up and deposit it in a garbage container. Let’s get some pride in what we have and continue to make our facility more presentable to the members, the neighbors, and the community!

Again, a few good Elks have already volunteered to assist in getting these proposed programs in progress. However, more committee persons and ideas are needed. We need your suggestions and comments. I 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.

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

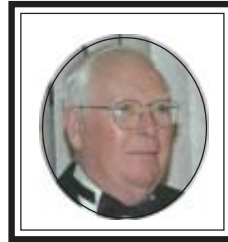
2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS



**EXALTED RULER  
George Meehan**

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**ANTLER ANTICS:** Sally Claunch, PER, Editor,  
Jerry Serota, Assoc. Editor/Photographer  
**Calendar:** Tom Ryder, PDDGER  
**NEW BEGINNINGS:**  
**HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK:**  
**GREETERS:** Dorothy Murray  
**PUBLIC RELATIONS:**  
**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:** George Meehan  
**SHOE TOURNAMENTS:** Mike Budenski  
**BEQUESTS & LIVING TRUSTS:** Robert Jones  
**PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

April 1 starts a new year in Elkdom and I have been chosen to be your Exalted Ruler. Thank you for the honor and privilege. I look forward to a year of change in the lodge, when old members who have left will come back and new people will take an interest in what we do and will join as new members.

Over the past few years we lost quite a few members because of the debate over a new building. The increase in dues and other things that happened in the lodge that members were not happy with also contributed to this situation.

Here are my goals:

1. Make Thousand Oaks Lodge the happy place that it was when I demitted eleven years ago.
2. Make it a pleasant place to come and enjoy with your friends and fellow members and greet each other with smiles, handshakes and all the goodness Elkdom has to offer.
3. Find a building that we can afford and convert it into a comfortable lodge that is within a reasonable distance to where we are presently located.

My motto this year is "Reaching Out in Elkdom"

By this I mean to continue doing the good things we have done in the past.

1. Support all phases of Scouting
2. Support our Scholarship programs
3. Support our Hoop Shoot programs
4. Support Purple Pig and Elks National Foundation
5. Support the Christmas Basket program
6. Support Conejo Valley Days

Now, you know, I could go on but I think you get my point. These wonderful things we support need Elks to step up and get involved. If we, the officers and members of the lodge, can reach out to each other and get you to come and support these programs, it will be a wonderful year. You know, the United States of America needs organizations like the Elks. We show others that we do care about our fellow Americans. The Spirit of Elks lives. Please help to keep it strong and growing.



**In April**

**Your Lodge Serving the Community**

Monthly Bingo Party and outings for the Vets by Jim Kellogg and Crew

Participation in Conejo Valley Days Special Kids Day

Providing food for CVD Kick Off Picnic and Chili Cook-Off

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



Sally Claunch, PER Editor  
 claunchsally@gmail.com  
 articles are due the 5th of the month  
 send as a word document

## HARMONY

According to Webster's New World Dictionary, the word harmony is defined as: agreement in action, ideas, etc., friendly relations. It should be a word that motivates our actions with fellow Elk members. It should be the end result of our interactions with fellow Elks. It should be the guiding principle in promoting trust and respect among groups within our Lodge. Now is the time to take the word to heart and let harmony guide our actions.

### OFFICERS HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bar Manager, Corinne Richeson gave monthly update on status of the lounge.

Committee approved expenditure for new bottle washer.

Terry Gicking is investigating upgrading our phone system

Drink tokens are back in the amount of \$3.

New bartender has been hired.

The Committee recommended to the membership, for a vote to spend up to \$750 to modify the office entrance making it handicap accessible.

**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 welcomed.**

### SICKNESS AND DISTRESS 805-495-0577

**OUR CONDOLENCES TO:** Ben Reiger and family on the passing of his mother and Jerry and Patti Serota on the passing of her brother

**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Dean Nash,  
**ON THE MEND:** Jack Loughran, PER, the cancer has not spread and he will be starting chemo soon; Jim Wallace, PER, is resting at home and he is getting stronger each day; Dick Hardin is recovering from heart surgery.

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



### COMING ATTRACTIONS

April 6-Elk Ladies Breakfast & Book Sale  
 April 11/12-Kampers at California RV Acton  
 April 19-CVD Kick Off Picnic  
 April 27- CVD Chili Cook Off  
 April 25/26 -Ritual Contest-Santa Maria  
 April 30-May 4-CVD Carnival

May 19-Golf Tourament

### TRUSTEES REPORT

Starting budget process for 2008-2009

Bar Manager's contract was signed for the upcoming year

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	<b>LEADING KNIGHT</b> <b>Raven West</b>	2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
<b>MAJORPROJECT/PURPLEPIG:</b> <b>David Naccarato</b> <b>SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch</b> <b>INVESTIGATION: Bob Arbetman</b> <b>ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:</b>		<b>CHRISTMAS BASKETS: Raven West</b> <b>INDOCTRINATION: Dave Naccarato, PER</b> <b>MEM. CONTROL. COM.: Herb Jellander</b> <b>CVAC: Tom Hartin</b> <b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS:</b> <b>CHARITY DINNERS: Raven West</b>

### What is ENF?

The motto of the station of Leading Knight is Charity. Charity is the cornerstone of every Elk structure and the highest virtue of every Elk creed. In addition to the Charity Ball in November, which will fund the Charity food and toys baskets we distribute to needy families in December, the other charitable committee which falls under my station is the Elks National Foundation, ENF.

The mission of the Elks National Foundation is to help Elks build stronger communities. We fulfill this pledge by investing in communities where Elks live and work. We provide tomorrow's leaders, our youth, with a healthy beginning; honor the Elks' pledge to never forget our veterans; help the state Elks associations accomplish their charitable objectives and fund projects that improve the quality of life in local Elks communities.

The Elks National Foundation provides more than \$3 million in college scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors. The Most Valuable Student scholarships are open to any graduating high school senior. Legacy Awards and Emergency Educational Grants are available only to the children of Elks.

Each year, the Elks National Foundation strives to grant more money back to each state than it received from that state in donations. These grants help fund the state Elks associations' major charitable projects, which include aid for people with disabilities, cancer research, children's hospitals, youth camps and safe havens for abused families. The state associations also use these grants to fund their "Hoop Shoot," Soccer Shoot, Drug Awareness and scholarship programs, as well as other charitable and philanthropic projects.

The Elks National Foundation's Community Investments Program invests directly in Lodge communities, and is

designed to have a lasting impact where Elks live and work. The Community Investments program will invest up to \$900,000 this year in local communities through Gratitude Grants, Promise Grants and Impact Grants.

But none of the great work that we do as Elks can be accomplished without help from our members. I've approached several people and asked that they chair the ENF committee. The response has been disheartening to say the least. "I'm too busy", "Let me think about it", "I'm too old." I refuse to believe that this is the attitude of the majority of the members of our Lodge. Is it yours?

Our charitable functions and activities ARE the cornerstone of our organization. The scholarships we had out to our youth, the support we give our veterans and our Scouts, the help we extend to those in need IS added to our own strength and the strength of THIS lodge.

But we cannot accomplish our mission without the support of our members. So, in my very first article as Leading Knight, I am asking your help so that we may help others. Please call the office and donate a few hours of your time for ENF. Become involved with the charities that support our community. I guarantee you will receive ten times more in the thanks and gratitude of those we help and the community in which we live.

**Share the Excitement**

Sponsor a new member.

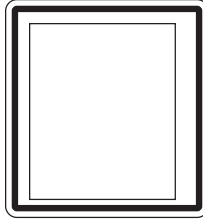
Applications are available in the Lounge  
or in the office.

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

## LOYAL KNIGHT Terry Gicking

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**CONEJO VALLEY DAYS:** Ed Rice  
**LODGE ACTIVITIES:** Dave Naccarato, PER  
**SCOUTING:** Bill Miller  
**HOOPSHOOT:** Dave Naccarato, PER  
**WED. NIGHT DINNERS:** Terry Gicking  
**DRUG AWARENESS:** Robert Jones  
**STRAY ELKS:** Herb Jellander



**MOTHER'S DAY:**  
**ENTERTAINMENT:** Corinne Richeson  
**WED. NIGHT TICKETS:** Bob Arbetman  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE FIGHTER  
 APPRECIATION:** Scott Dool  
**PRESIDING JUSTICE:** Dick McCann  
**YOUTH ACTIVITIES:** Robert Jones

WOW, what a long strange trip it's been. First I would like to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to be the Esteemed Loyal Knight for this lodge. To me, it is a privilege to be in this position. I would also like to say thank you for voting me in, that it was a hard fought election, but we all know I ran unopposed and it's not like I scared anybody away. But it's still nice knowing I've got support.

Sad, but it's more like the position of officer is scaring people away. As long as I have been a member (27+ yrs), I have always looked up to the officers who help run this Lodge, as did the other members. I always admire the way each Exalted Ruler would come into office and guide this lodge, adding their personal touch, yet carrying on the traditions that went with position. Now, and I hate to say this, when you ask someone to help by being an officer, or even chair or help on a committee, we get way more no's than we do a yes! I know that it seems like if you had to give more time to this place, it wouldn't be fun to come here. But the reality is if more members gave of their time, the less everyone would have to do, and viola! We all would have fun! It seems like every time someone comes to help on a BBQ for the first time, after they are done, they say "wow that was fun!" AND YOU KNOW WHAT; IT REALLY WAS FUN BECAUSE WE HAVE SOME OF THE BEST LODGE MEMBERS IN THE NATION! I truly believe that! And I believe we have more out there who really want to help! If you are one of the ones who are waiting to be asked, *I'm asking you, begging you, please join us!* It can only get better if everyone gets involved

I also want to take the time to say congratulations to George Meehan for being Exalted Ruler. It's going to be a great year! You have some great ideas and I know you will be supported! I look forward to working with you. You see, George has been a member longer than me (and he's so much younger), and he is taking the bull by the horns. And he will succeed!

Finally, (I know this was way long. V.O. was my mentor) I would like to start the standing ovation for the new JUNIOR PAST EXALTED RULER CATHERINE KOERITZ and the JPHOER, Robert. Catherine showed me how much *hard work* can be so much fun! (LOL)

Robert and I grew up together in this town 5 houses apart. While we didn't always agree on the same things, we did have some great times together. And when he married Catherine, he only got better! She is such a spark plug of energy that this lodge should be very proud to have had her as our leader! I really mean that! Thank you Catherine (& Robert). Please don't be a stranger!

Ok, now it's off to the kitchen. Hey, what's on the menu?

## NEWEST EAGLE SOARS

On February 17, 2008 Boy Scouts of America, Court of Honor was held for Ryan Steven Leong at the Teledyne Scientific Company in Thousand Oaks, Ca.

Ryan is a member of BSA, Troop 754 and sponsored by the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge 2477. Ryan is the 44th Eagle Scout to spread his wings from this troop.

The relatives came from far and wide for this auspicious occasion. Besides his grand parents from Nipomo and Colorado, there were over 100 friends and relatives in attendance.

Ryan is a student of Newbury Park High School. Played Basketball and Cross country and plans on pursuing a business career.

His Eagle Scout Project was rebuilding six different stations and posted (Planted) along the horse trail at Ride-On Therapeutic Center in Thousand Oaks, benefiting children with special needs.

Thanks to Jersey Mike's in Newbury Park and Panera Bread in Thousand Oaks for donating lunch for the volunteer crew and his relatives who donated funds to help pay for the materials. He organized and supervised the project to its successful conclusion.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MAY 19 ELK GOLF TOURNAMENT**

ENTERTAINMENT



April 18 Bingo  
April 25

One Last Dance Band



Corinne Richeson  
Bar Manager

# Scholarship Program

Rick Herrera, Scholarship Com. Chair, did magnificently for Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 and announced the Scholarship Winners for 2008. Rick Herrera has spearheaded raffles, and recycling in order to generate funds for these scholarships, the El Konejo Kamper Klub donated \$1,000.00 and individual members also made donations.

There are four categories in which students can win-BPOE #2477, West Central Coast District, California-Hawaii Elks Assoc. and the Elks National Foundation. ENF winners will be announced later this year at the Elks National Convention to be held in Anaheim this July. A grand total of all these categories totals \$8,000.00.

Local Winners are:

Sidney R Primas Westlake High School	\$750	BPOE #2477
Justin B. Manduke Agoura High School	\$600 \$800	BPOE #2477 California/Hawaii. Elks Association
Edward M. Kaiping Newbury Park High	\$500 \$800	BPOE #2477 California/Hawaii . Elks Assocaation
Angela X. Tong Thousand Oaks High School	\$750 \$400	BPOE #2477 West Central Coast District
Sabina B. Samed Westlake High School	\$600 \$700 \$800	BPOE #2477 West Central California/Hawaii Elks Assoc.
Danni Xie Buena High School	\$500 \$800	BPOE #2477 California/Hawaii Elks Assoc.

Students who applied and were not awarded a scholarship will be presented \$100 by the Lodge for their effort.



Kim Bish District Scholarship Chairman, presented a certificate of appreciation to Rick Herrera, our Scholarship Chair with Catherine Koeritz, ER,



## Calling All Chefs

to cook a Wednesday  
night dinner for 20 people

Prepare your favorite meal.  
See Terry Gicking or Marc  
Kennedy



**DRINK TOKENS ARE BACK**

IN \$3 AMOUNTS

DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Tokens are available from the bartender

**HAPPENINGS AROUND OUR LODGE**



5 year members receiving pins-l-r-John Peterson, Bill Miller, Steve Smith, Frank Lussier, Toni Hartin, Bob Saynay, Mel Baker and Leo Rodriguez



10 year members-Jack Pauson, Donny Long, Boyd Lindquist, John Ennis and Len Cardoni



20 year members- Larry Stemole, Robert Koeritz, and Jim Allen



25 year member Herb Jellander with ER, Catherine Koeritz



30 year member Scott Dool



Newest Elk of the year Herb Jellander celebrating with wife Pat family, and friends



**HAPPENINGS AROUND OUR LODGE**



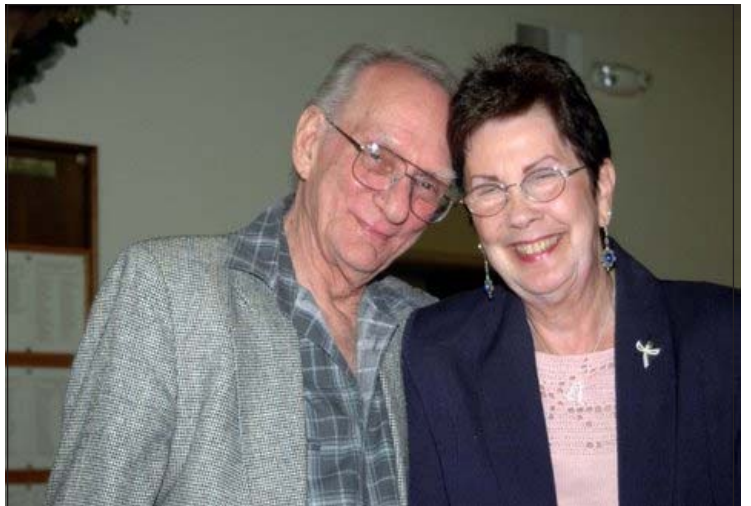
Myrna Block accepting the Elk Ladies Appreciation Award at their installation banquet



New Elk Ladies president, Jessica Stull (left) with outgoing president, June Leadam at the Elk Ladies banquet



L-R Jeanne Sandt, Jeri Miller, Pat Peterson, Jessica Stull and June Leadam being honored as outgoing officers at the Ladies banquet



Jay Block still making Myrna smile after 50 years



Scouting Chair Bill Miller, Eagle Scout Ryan Leong, and Greg Metzgas, SVP at Ryan's Court of Honor



Bill Miller with 3rd graders at Westlake Elementary School for dictionary distribution

## HERB JELLANDER ELECTED ELK OF THE YEAR

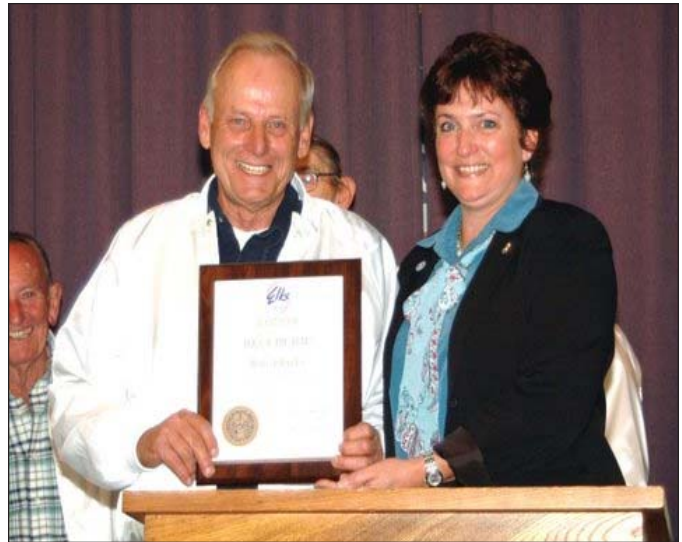
Herb was born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens, New York. The family consisted of Dad, Carl, who worked in sales for a large food distribution company, Mom, Evelyn, a New York City public school teacher for over 30 years and younger sister, Carol, who for many years claimed to be his favorite terrorism target of choice. Although school was not his most preferred activity, he graduated from St. Paul's Prep on Long Island and went on to receive a degree from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Economics and minoring in tournament level bridge and serving as Social Chairman for his fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Although he initially approached the U.S. Marine Corps hoping to be accepted into their (then) six-month active duty program before entering the business world, he was quickly absorbed into their elitist macho man mystique, especially after they asked him if he'd like to fly – in an airplane, that is. Sometime between Officer Candidate School and flight training, he picked up a non-Marine issued wife, Pat, and ultimately became the father of four: Laurie, Karen, and twins Michael and Janine, the last of whom is also a member of Elks Lodge #2477.

During his nine years in the Corps, Herb served in numerous capacities including flight duty on several aircraft carriers, armed forays to “hotspots” such as Cuba and the Dominican Republic, flight instructing and a stint as XO (second in command) of a Marine base in Iwakuni, Japan. He flew a diverse variety of aircraft but gained most of his flight hours in “the last of the single seat gunfighters”, the F8 Crusader. He flew this plane in combat in Vietnam and was awarded numerous medals and citations, but he was at least as proud of coming home a recognized fleet champion in playing Acey Ducey (a form of Backgammon).

Herb left the military as a Major and he and his family came to California in 1969 where he had accepted a position as a pilot for Continental Airlines. All went well until 1983 when Continental pilots were forced to strike and were out for three years. During this time, he first worked for an ill-fated, start-up airline out of Florida, where he shared a “love nest” (their name for their home away from home) with four other similarly displaced pilots. When that airline failed, he signed on with Air Afrique, commuting to Dakar, Senegal, usually via Paris, for the bulk of his hiatus from Continental. His flights throughout Africa gave him new insights into the phrases “emergency condition”, “not possible” and “we represent the government (and our Uzis say so)”. His proudest achievement there was cajoling the French-trained flight attendants into serving coffee to the cockpit in paper cups, not bone china, and hold the wine, please. Herb “retired” from Continental in 1998 but at their request, continued on for several more years as a test pilot.

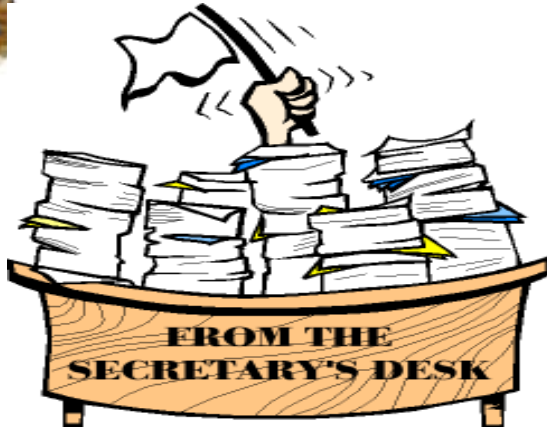
Herb became an Elk in 1982 under the auspices of good friend and fellow Continental pilot, Lee Zerba, then serving as Chaplain to the Lodge. He continues to be active on five Senior Softball teams, including a traveling tournament team, but still finds time to devote to the brotherhood. He survived a five year term as Trustee of the Lodge, including a year as Chairman of the Board, was the founder of the Junior Varsity barbeque team and has served as co-chairman of the Christmas tree lot fundraiser for the past several years.



Exalted Ruler, Catherine Koeritz, presenting Herb Jellander with Elk of the Year plaque from Grand Lodge.



Past Elks of the Year (l-r) Jerry Serota, Dave Pearson, Roy Cooper, Max Maxwell, Tommy Claunch, Chuck Busch, Ken Keeler, Tom Hartin and Marilyn Cissell (widow of Elk of the Year Bob Cissell) are ready to greet the newest member of the group



**DUES ARE NOW DUE..  
WATCH YOUR MAILBOX..DUES NOTICES  
ARE ARRIVING**

When you receive your Dues Notice, PLEASE--return your membership dues now! Membership Cards will be mailed back to you or you can stop by and pay your dues at the Office, between 10:00 a.m. and 2 p.m.. Remember, however, that the new Key Cards will not operate until April 1st, so Save your old card to open the door.

First of all, we have surrendered to your wishes, for better or worse, for the our Lodge. There are times in life when we are called upon to step up to the plate and give it our best effort and this is one of them.

After a few short runs in the office in anticipation of taking over from Bob and Carole Saynay, this Lodge owes them a huge debt of appreciation for the marvelous and efficient way they have carried on the day to day affairs of the Lodge. They are going to be hard to replace.

Our earnest prayer is to be able to carry on in their footsteps. Taking notes during the meeting is a whole new endeavor for me so ladies and gentlemen during the meeting go slow and speak loudly or you won't recognize the minutes of the previous session.

We recognize that you can only pile on so much on a plate before it falls to the floor. With this in mind, we have instructed our incoming Exalted Ruler to seek committee chairman for Public Relations, and a new Historian. Both of these positions have very gratifying rewards. You are able to see the fruits of your labors when an article appears in the newspaper and our Elks Magazine.

There are positions for the coming year that have to be filled in order to continue with the achievements of the past. Please when asked to step up to the plate say yes because the Lodge we love needs you.

Jerry Serota, Secretay Elect

**Congratulations to the newly elected Officers for  
2008-2009:**

- EXALTED RULER - George Meehan**
- LEADING KNIGHT - Raven West**
- LOYAL KNIGHT - Terry Gicking**
- LECTURING KNIGHT - Greg Metzgas, SVP**
- SECRETARY - Jerry Serota**
- TREASURER -**
- TILER - Robert Arbetman**
- ESQUIRE - Robert Jones**
- CHAPLAIN -**
- INNER GUARD - Leo Rodriquez**
- ORGANIST -**
- OFFICER AT LARGE -**
- TRUSTEES**

<b>Sally Claunch, PER</b>	<b>1 Year</b>
<b>John Peterson</b>	<b>2 Year</b>
<b>Boyd Lindquist</b>	<b>3 Year</b>
<b>David Stull</b>	<b>4 Year</b>
<b>Steve Smith</b>	<b>5 Year</b>



**Have you filled your Purple  
Pig this month????**



Pat VonWittenberg  
Konejo Kampers



## FEBRUARY AT THE LANCASTER LODGE - - A HAPPENING EVENT

With nearly perfect weather! We had a bit of wind on Wednesday afternoon, but virtually none after that. During the day - shorts and t-shirt weather for some of us.

Of course, Mike Flannery and his fire building, tending are always appreciated in the "chill of the evening". A couple evenings it was very warm around the fire - thank you Michael!

When we arrived Wednesday afternoon, Beverly Erickson was napping. She was really tired after her second day of 4 hours each taking her motor home driving classes. Of course, she passed with flying colors and I'm not sure who is more proud - - Beverly or Joel. Ya know, in the many, many years we've know Beverly and Joel - - I don't think I've ever heard Joel enthusiastic over as much as Beverly's driving performance.

We had THREE couples out this campout that we haven't seen in sometime. The longest absent was Cliff Jones. It was extremely nice to meet his wife, Linda. What a charming lady.

Next were Margaret and Bob Thornton. After all they've been through in the past while, it was really good to see Bob looking so well and obviously feeling very good. Margaret was the best - - spreading her arms and flying round the campground - - "I'm free, I'm free!" Was great to have them back in more ways than one. Keep in mind that Margaret is an RN - - a very knowledgeable one - - will explain later.

Then, Pete and Carroll Stewart - back after a shorter absence. Great to see them and to see that Pete is looking very well and feeling good, too. They had Carroll's 94 year old mother with them this time, what an amazing lady.

### GOOD TO SEE ALL OF YOU!

After two years of searching, Deb and Wayne LaFarr FINALLY found their new rig. It is REALLY, REALLY nice. Saturday afternoon they did their champagne, wine and get this, tequila. OH yeah, Mike was really diggin' that (giggle). We also had the presence of camp host Rudy and his lovely wife, Gloria. What a delightful couple.

Gloria donated a beautiful fleece throw for our raffle. THANK YOU SO MUCH, Gloria.

We all know what a good cook Doris is and without fail she created an awesome pot of stew. (Her tacos are awesome too, maybe next time, huh?). Mary, I LIKED your green jello dish. As usual, there was no shortage of food!

Fortunately for us Kampers the Lancaster Lodge has a semi-enclosed patio area - quite nice for our brunch, meeting and dinner.

As I mentioned earlier, it was wonderful to have Margaret and Bob Thornton back with us - - for more reasons than one. Margaret had been eyeing that sky-high chocolate cake at Costco, apparently for some time. Knowing full well the two of them could, in NO WAY, consume this monstrosity, she brought it to the campout. I'm telling' ya folks - - it was positively EVIL. Even our most devout chocolate lover, Don Newcomer, couldn't finish a slice and it wasn't a huge slice. It was just TALL. Oh my gosh it was good.

Another reason we were blessed to have Margaret with us! Saturday morning Gene Ewald was experiencing stomach discomfort. Apparently it continued to worsen as the day progressed - so Gene missed dinner. Oh, I might mention in his absence he also won the 50/50. After our EMT's discussed Gene's problem - - I'm thinking, "ya know, maybe an RN's opinion might be in order!" I asked Gene if he was willing to talk to Margaret. He must have been VERY uncomfortable cause I got no argument - AT ALL. SO - - got down to the Thornton rig! - -DARK. Well, crap, what now - - so I knocked on the door and Margaret opened it shortly. Thankfully they had been in the rear of the rig watching TV. What a sweetheart, threw on her robe, slippers and we went to discuss the situation with Gene. After a few pointed questions, Margaret told Gene, in her opinion, he should get to the hospital, sooner than later.

Now here's the amazing thing - - without so much as one word of protest - - HE AGREED.

Poor Mike - he also agreed to drive Gene to the hospital! Well folks, this turned out to be an adventure in an of itself. First, Lancaster Community - - 15 - - that's right FIFTEEN hour wait in the ER. So on to Antelope Valley Hospital - - Mike eventually returned, Gene was staying overnight.

The Ericksons and vW's had planned to stay over Sunday nite, good thing, Gene was released Sunday afternoon, diagnosis "diverticulitis". We all stayed over Monday nite too - making sure Gene was ready to travel on Wednesday. He was - - we said "Good-Bye" and Gene - - is in the wind.

## Upcoming Campouts

May 16-17 Kenney Grove-Chili Cook

June 13-14 Lake Casitas

July 11-12 Flying Flags

August 8-9 Malibu

to join call Bev Erickson 495-9715





**Jerry Serota, Public Relations Chair**

On Thursday February 28, 2008 the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 made a presentation of free dictionaries to all the third grade students at Ladera Elementary School to keep for their very own. There were about 80 in attendance.

Richard Goldner, Elks Grand Lodge Public Relations Chairman and members Bill Miller, Com. Chair and Tom Hartin all of BPO Elks Lodge #2477 captivated and charged the children's imagination of what wonders lie between the covers of their dictionaries

Elks believe it is better to give a child a dictionary instead of a remote control because 'The Youth of Today will be the Leaders of Tomorrow' enforcing 'Elks Care - Elks Share'.



**Back Row L-R**  
 Brian Tash, Ryan Ayers, teachers, Dena Sellers, Principle, Richard Goldner, Grand Lodge Public Relations Chairman

**ELKS PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION**

On Wednesday March 12, 2008 the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 donated free dictionaries to all the third graders at Westlake Hills Elementary School. There were five classes and over 80 students present.

Making the presentation was retired Vice President of Xerox Information Systems and Elks Grand Lodge Public Relations Chairman, who is also a Past Exalted Ruler of Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477, Richard Goldner.

The children were very receptive to learn the longest word in the dictionary and some of the treasures to be found there. They were excited to know that after they sign their names on the cover it was theirs to keep as their very own.

**ELKS LODGE HOSTS BLUE AND GOLD DINNER**

On Sunday February 24 the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 hosted a Blue and Gold dinner for sponsoring Cub Scout Pack 3776 in order to award merit badges and awards for the coming year.

They also earned a check of \$50 for their participation in presenting the colors at the recent Elks Lodge Law and Firefighters Appreciation Night.



**Bill Miller, Com. Scouting Chairman, Catherine Koeritz, Exalted Ruler, Fred Hall, Cub Master, Cheryl Landsberg, Com. Chair, Simon Walshaw, Tiger Leader**

**Front Row -Maxwell Walshaw, Wolf, and Spencer Walshaw, Tiger who participated in the Presentation of the Colors for Elks Law Enforcement and Firefighter Appreciation Night**



**Golf Tournament for our charities**

**May 19th**

**Men and ladies divisions  
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 Contact Dave Pearson for more information 492-3707**

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

## LECTURING KNIGHT Greg Metzgun, SVP

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**AMERICANISM:** Grant Thistle  
**FLAGDAY/FLAGRETIREMENT:**  
 Robert Jones  
**SCHOLARSHIP:** Rick Herrera  
**GOVT.RELATIONS:** Scott Dool  
**MEMORIALSERVICE:**  
**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

I will have to admit, I never thought I would get a chance to serve as Lecturing Knight for our lodge. This is the one chair that I never had an opportunity to fill and it is with mixed feelings that I accepted the nomination this year. I would have rather seen a new face at this station, someone that would move on through the chairs to someday lead our lodge as Exalted Ruler but none of our members were willing to fill this station this year. As a Past Exalted Ruler I feel it is my duty to support our current ER and Officer Corp in any way I can, so here I am. I promise to do the best job I can, and do it gladly, but don't think for a minute that I won't step aside should someone care to join this fine slate of officers in my place. That being said and it won't be my topic every month, I will continue with my first article as your Lecturing Knight.

Committees under this station include Americanism, Scholarship, Government Relations, National Services (Veterans), and Membership. These committees all require reports to be filed to the CHEA State Chairman. I will be contacting each of these lodge chairmen to insure that he or she has received the proper forms from the district chairmen for reporting.

The topic I would like to write about this month is Membership. Our lodge has chosen to reduce the dues and it is the general consensus that this will bring us new members. This is the first month of our new lower dues and I am in hopes that we will have a flood of new members lining up to join our lodge. I think we will all agree that this flood of new members will not occur without some effort on the part of our present members. All of us need to be inviting our friends and neighbors to join. Please keep in mind, we need quality members. A quality member is one that will not only join us socially but will join in the important charity work we do.

For those of you that don't know, I am just finishing my year as the West Central Coast District Vice President and I will have to say that it is the most enjoyable year I have had in Elksdom. Our lodge belongs to a great district and each of the lodges has welcomed Barbara and I as family. Our district is very well known throughout the state for our support

of the various charities and I have been very proud to be the district representative.

I am looking forward to again joining the Officer Corps. Together we can accomplish great things and in



Attached is recent photo taken during our travels with the Grand Exalted Ruler and the First Lady Beth to the Utah Elks Association Spring Conference in Provo, Utah.

It was a wonderful 4-days at the newly constructed Elks Lodge in Provo and a full day tour of at the LDS Church and Tabernacle in Temple Square, Salt Lake City. We also have great daytime and evening photos of the trip to share.

The hospitality was fabulous and GER Lou helped award the latest Best Image of Elksdom Contest winner (Buzz Vigus of St. George "Dixie" Lodge #1743) another new Nikon digital camera.

[Richard](#)

Richard J. Goldner

Elks - USA

National Chairman, Public Relations

<p>2008-2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p>	<p><b>THE ELKS LADIES</b> Jessica Stull</p>	<p>2008-2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p>
<p><b>1ST VICE PRESIDENT:</b> Pat Peterson <b>2ND VICE PRESIDENT:</b> <b>3RD VICE PRESIDENT:</b> <b>SECRETARY:</b> June Leadam <b>TREASURER:</b> Diane Isaman <b>AUDITOR:</b> <b>TELEPHONE:</b> Patti Serota</p>		<p><b>PARLIAMENTARIAN:</b> June Leadam <b>CHAPLAIN:</b> Marilyn Cissell <b>MAJOR PROJECTS:</b> Niki Case <b>CVD:</b> Alice Kennedy &amp; Marilyn Cissell <b>HISTORIAN:</b> <b>SUNSHINE:</b> Shirley Kozlowski</p>

I have written a monthly eight-line prayer, for many years as the Elks Ladies Chaplin, but this column is a first for me.

If you didn't attend the Sweetheart's Ball, you missed an awesome event. Our Niki Case did an outstanding job chairing it for us, as did the rest of her committee. It was truly reminiscent of those February Dinner/Dances way back, when Cupid ruled and romance was in the air. The meal, with Niki's Greek touch, was excellent and something new. Shirley Kozlowski was named Queen and Walter Ogden was King for the evening. People moving about, so many dressed in red, really enhanced the Valentine theme. Speaking of Valentines, wow, imagine a gigantic red heart decoration hung high above the bandstand area, where we were fortunate enough to have "One Last Dance" play our musical choices. That masterpiece of a heart was created by Angie Prizzi. How I wished someone with a camera had been there to film Angie struggling to get a 6-foot piece of styrofoam into her small car. Apparently, she tried every angle and finally accomplished her mission despite her petite size. You think of a Valentine's Dance being mostly a time for lovers, its not. Married couples, significant others, widows, widowers, singles and friends were there, and enjoying the well planned evening. At first I hesitated going, but went with my best friend of 40 years, Louise Lampron. We spoke about a Sweetheart's Ball we had co-chaired, maybe 25 years ago. Not to brag, but it was spectacular. I recall my husband, Bob, begrudgingly cut down a perfectly shaped dead holly tree that we sprayed silver – it was to be as the "Sugar Plum Fairy Tree" decorated with hand made lavish ornaments. Ah, sweet memories.


Now, my dear ladies, please, please, please believe me, we desperately need ALL of you this year to help with tending the gates at Conejo Valley Days. Dee Swanson and I have handled this Elks Ladies fundraiser for seventeen years, but her health will not allow it, so Alice Kennedy has stepped in. I wish her luck keeping me in line as Dee did. We need 64 people to cover two gates, for 2-1/2 hour shifts from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 4. Grab your husbands, friends (do not need Elk affiliation),

APRIL



4 Marleine Brockwell  
14 Elverna McNaboe  
Karen Naccarato  
21 Alice Kennedy

**TO FOCUS ON YOU, GOD**

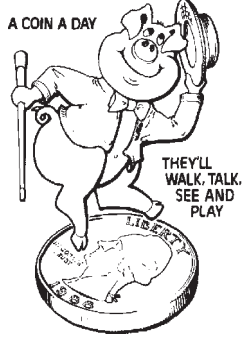


**Marilyn Cissell**  
We're given many chances, Lord  
to strengthen us each day.  
Distracted by temptations,  
good things may slip away.

Because of your amazing grace,  
to focus, God, on you.  
Your plans for us will be revealed  
in everything we do.  
Amen

grown children, teenagers (over 17) and volunteer to cover one or more shifts – you will enjoy yourself. PROMISE. If you don't believe me, ask Diane Isaman, once a skeptic, she is first to volunteer now. It is a rewarding experience and an integral part of Conejo Valley Days. It is the largest fundraiser the Elks Ladies group has. And if that isn't enough enticement, you get free admission on the day you work, a delicious Streaker Dog and a bottle of water. You'll see friends you haven't seen for years, kids who have grown up and so much more. Make it a family day, a tradition. Speaking of that, Bussy and Dee Ansell have made it their tradition to cover the first shift at the front gate on opening day. Thanks guys. There will be a board to sign up in the bar area. Check your calendars and please, please make this a priority. Thank you.  
Love and Blessings,  
Marilyn Cissell

**HONOR ROLL**



Jack Henry, PER  
 Greg Metzgus, PER  
 Rubye Metzgus  
 Peter Nolan  
 David Pearson



**APRIL**

GREGH. METZGUS, PER	2
ROBERT FLEMING	3
LEONZO RODRIQUEZ	3
JAMES BRAGG	6
ALIDA HARTLEY	6
HENRY VEGA	6
NEILS GLICKMAN	9
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GEORGE L. THOMPSON, III	18
MITCHELL C. STRUNK	19
JEF HARRIOTT	22
WALLACE W. BOGCESS	24
STEVE CHISZAR	24
JERRY CASE	28

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

**April 9, 2008**

Transfer Dimit for Wilson Dyer from Auburn Lodge #1691  
 Transfer Dimit for Hubert Offer from Los Angeles #99  
 Transfer Dimit for Dave McClure from Ventura #1443

**CRYING TOWEL**



February 6, 2008 #1954 N.P.	Cap Drawing	\$300.00 Chris Metzgus
	Lucky #13	\$ 15.00 No Winner
February 13, 2008 #1953 N.P.	Cap Drawing	\$325.00 Dale Smith
	Lucky #13	\$ 30.00 No Winner
February 20, 2008 #1800	Cap Drawing	\$350.00 David Stull
	Lucky #13	\$ 45.00 No Winner
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	Lucky #13	\$ 60.00 No Winner





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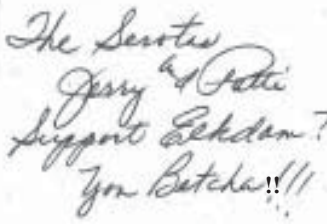










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**Thanks-  
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 OFFICER AT LARGE - David Naccarato, PER

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John Peterson	2 Year
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David Stull	4 Year
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1976-77 John E. Henry	2002-03 Don Booker
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1978-79 *Frank J. Rindone, PDDGER	2004-05 Jay Block
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1980-81 *Frank "Tex" Hastie	2006-07 David Naccarato
1981-82 * Robert Hardy	2007-08 Catherine Koeritz
1982-83 *A. John Nichols	
1983-84 John Nau	By Affiliation:
1984-85 Vern Ogden	1981-82 Robert L. Thornton, PDDGER
1985-86 Dan Snyder	2001-02 Bill Sternberg
1986-87 Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL	
1987-88 John E. Henry	
1988-89 Ted Lipka	
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1992-93 Tom Ryder, PDDGER	
1993-94 Jim Wallace	
1994-95 *George Pekow	
1995-96 Gil Riding, PDDGER	
1996-97 Jack Loughran	
1997-98 John Kelly	

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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.