Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477

January 2016 - Volume 45, Issue 10



Contents

Elk of the Month	2
Duty Officers	2
Message from the Exalted Ruler	3
Message from the Leading Knight	3
Message from the Loyal Knight	3
Message from the Lecturing Knight	4
Message from the Lodge Secretary	4
Blood Drive Announcement	4
Sickness & Distress	5
Calendar Highlights	5
Purple Pig Honor Roll	5
Crying Towel	5
Birthdays	5
Thank You from Tommy Claunch	5
Veterans Services	6
Tommy Claunch Roast	7
Elks Memorial Service	8
Elks Ladies Christmas Dinner	9
Elks Ladies Article	10
New Members	11
Christmas Tree Lot Volunteers	11
Exalted Rulers Dinner	12
Elks Memorial Service Pictures	13
El Konejo Kampers	14
Veterans Services in Action	14
Officers, Trustees & Chairpersons	15
Contact info, PERs & Hours Back Co	ver

Elk of the Month



For the month of January I have selected Sherri Jones as Elk of the Month. Sherri has continuously assisted whoever asks her for help. Whether it is setting up a room for an event, cooking or serving in the kitchen or delivering charity baskets.

Once again she delivered over 60 charity baskets to the Senior Concerns people in her UPS truck.

Thank you Sherri for all you do.

Jim Moye Exalted Ruler

Grand Exalted Ruler Award

The Grand Exalted Ruler award is for members who recruit three or more new members into the Order in a given year.

As of December 1st we have four members eligible to receive the award. They are Robert (Bobby) Williams, Richard Herrera, Jim Lovato, Holly Healy and Shannon Cunningham. They will receive their award pins at our regular meeting on January 6th. If you were one of their candidates plan to be there for support and photos. Rick Herrera is receiving two pins.

Rik Gessler, David Mueller, PER David Naccarato, PPDDGER Greg Metzgus and Chuck Costigan are just one candidate away. We have untill June 15, 2016 to recruit.

Although the Elk year is from April 1st

to March 31st of the following year, recruitment goes from Convention to Convention.

The BPOE has finally started to turn the tide in membership. The loss has slowed with still more work needed to be done. Our West Central Coast District has shown an increase.

Here are some statistics of the BPOE: 1871 membership was 243 1928 membership was 808,658 but dropped during the depression 1933 up to 556,764 1980 1,649.267 the slide begins 1990 1,475.028 2009 955.887 with 2,067 lodges 2014 789,667 with 1,938 active lodges

David Naccarato, PER Membership/Lapsation Chairman

Duty Officers

 12-31 to 01-06
 Billy Sternberg

 01-07 to 01-13
 Jean Miraglia

 01-14 to 01-20
 Mike Flannery

 01-21 to 01-27
 Jim Moye

LODGE ROOM RENTALS

Attention Members: Are you planning a party, banquet, wedding, birthday or other special event? Our renovated Lodge Room is available for rental at very reasonable rates. Catering can be arranged. For more information contact Brooke at 805 496 4550.

2

Upcoming Initiation Schedule

Balloting January 6th February 3rd March 2nd **Orientation** January 26th Feburary 23rd March 22nd **Initiation** January 27th Feburary 24th March 23rd

Candidates for Balloting

<u>Name</u> Patrick Bird Jeff Vargo Russell Miller

Alan Ito

Occupation

Auto Shop business owner Owner of Vargo Physical Therapy Retired Retired Edison employee **Sponsor**

David Mueller David Naccarato Greg Metzgus Ken Kauger, Chico lodge #423

Exalted Ruler Jim Moye



As we move forward into the new year and with the holiday season behind us, let's reflect on our 2015 calendar year.

The completion of the lounge renovation was a great start to the 2015

new year. It was a shot in the arm for our membership that was greatly needed. Thanks Dan.

Our thanks to those who donated their time and efforts to ensure the success of our lodge activities. The success can be measured by the increase in lodge members who are becoming involved in our various projects: those who help Ben at the Christmas tree lot, braving the cold, wind and rain; those who fill food boxes for our charity baskets and those who deliver them; those who continuously work on the BBO teams: those who work in the kitchen preparing meals for members and guests. To all of you, thank you! And let's not forget those who set up and decorate our lodge for the various functions and festivities we enjoy. The return for these services is evident in our lodge's success and in the satisfaction and joy experienced by those individuals who got involved.

Now I would like to ask our membership to help me accomplish one more goal before my term is up. I would like to have a "Parking Lot Sale". For a donation of \$25 or more for the repaving of our parking lot you can get a commemorative piece of our old parking lot to add to your Elk memorabilia. Our lodge, although very successful, does not have the capital to cover expensive maintenance projects like this one and requires us to become creative to accomplish it.

With balloting on the horizon, what's it going to take to get those who are on the verge of stepping up and getting involved? YOU. Those of you who come out and participate make all the difference in the world. Invite new members to come to the lodge for dinner on Fridays. It takes

Leading Knight Mike Flannery



January Article

It is hard to believe a new year is here already. It seems like every month goes faster. I am thankful for all of the support I received for the Charity Basket Program. So many

individuals volunteered their time to help. Veterans of this program explained to me what I was supposed to do and how to do it. I am particularly thankful for the miracles that David Pearson can work with his computer, organizing everything into something that is workable. Support came from the PERs, Kampers and Elks Ladies. And a special thank you goes out to Coleen Morris for her \$1,000 donation.

We are seeing a few more of our recently initiated new members at the Lodge, but we want to see more of them and get them more involved. There are still many upcoming activities that can use their help. Sponsors, remember you brought these people into our Lodge, and you pledged your personal interest in their progress and development in becoming active members. Do not let them slip away.

Thank You,

Mike Flannery Leading Knight



Exalted Ruler's Message Continued

people and involvement to make an Elks lodge work.

Remember "Elks Care and Elks Share"

Fraternally,

Jim Moye Exalted Ruler

Loyal Knight Jean Miraglia



On Sunday, December 5th, the Lodge held its yearly Memorial Service, remembering our departed Members. The Candle Lighting Ceremony is a beautiful addition to the Memorial Service. Spouses and family

members approached the Altar, lit a candle and recalled the name of their loved one. This is an emotional time, a time for all to reflect on happy memories.

Following the service, the spouses, their families, and Lodge members enjoyed a breakfast buffet.

Special thanks to the Konejo Kampers for preparing this delightful brunch, to the volunteers who served at the buffet, and to our First Lady, Kathy Moye and Lecturing Knight, Karen Martyn for arranging the tables. This was a team effort. We could not have asked for a harder working team.

A very special thanks to our Chaplain, David Anderson, for his efforts in coordinating this memorable event

KITCHEN NEWS:

Breakfast is served every Sunday. Every Thursday night Krista prepares Chili Dogs for \$3 or Chili Dogs and Beer for \$5. For Wednesday night dinners, see menu at the Bar. Check your calendar for Friday night dinners. Time and effort are put into preparing these dinners. Don't forget to make your dinner reservations. Reservations guarantee a dinner is waiting for you, and allows the kitchen crews to prepare a sufficient amount of dinners, thereby avoiding waste. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board.

As we begin the year 2016, I want to take this time to wish all of you a "HAPPY NEW YEAR."

Fraternally,

Jean Miraglia Loyal Knight

Lecturing Knight Karen Martyn



With the coming of the New Year, I would like to thank the hardworking chairpersons who report to my station. Our Scouting, Drug Awareness and Scholarship committees are among the strongest

in the District, and that is not an accident, but rather the result of dedication and hard work.

Our dictionary program is well underway. Chairperson Mary Woodlief has obtained the dictionaries and, with the help of her husband Steve, Dave Anderson, Bobby and Paula Williams, Myrna and Jay Block and Kathy Moye, Elks stickers with space identifying the school and child receiving the dictionary were added to each book. Deliveries will be scheduled beginning in January. Thanks Mary for your update.

Finally, one of the most meaningful and important events of the Elk year is the annual Memorial Service which, under our Elk statutes, must be held on the first Sunday of December. This year's ceremony, under Chaplain Dave Anderson, went extremely well with assistance from officers and volunteers, including the El Konejo Kampers, who prepared the buffet. I know first-hand the work that goes into this event, and Dave went above and beyond to make it special. Unfortunately, the attendance this year was disappointing. It is a perfect day to support our fellow Elks honoring their departed loved ones, as well as reflecting on the memory of the special people we have lost in our own lives. Please mark your calendars now for December 4, 2016.

I wish each of you a happy and healthy New Year.

Karen Martyn Lecturing Knight BROTHERLY LOVE



Secretary David Naccarato



"The Elks are American Citizens who want to save it's values, who love others and want to make sure they are happy and healthy: who love life and want to contribute to it, as well as to share it.

It's no secret the Elks have had a long relationship with our nation's veterans. I went to my Mother's house in Salida, Colorado where lodge #808 is located. In downtown Salida at the corner of 2nd St. and F St. sits the Five and Dime. In June of 1942 the south wall of the brick building was dedicated to the veterans from Chaffee County serving in WWII. Each brick had the name of a Veteran who served. Usually a memorial wall is made up of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Here some are still around and remembered.



In 1963 the new owners of the building noticed cracks in the bricks. Worried about safety, they decided to stucco over the wall. Lucky for Salida it was a bad stucco job and when a large chunk fell off it revealed the names of the veterans everyone had forgotten were there. The members from lodge #808 and the VFW joined forces to refurbish the wall to its original condition.



This is just another piece in a long line of Elks who never forget the military veteran. *Continued in next column*

Secretary's Message Continued

From the first hospitals in WWI, when the government was not ready to handle the wounded, the Elks arranged to finance and equip two army base hospitals in France.



The hospitals were managed by alumni from the University of Oregon and the University of Virginia, and were eventually donated to the government. This was the beginning of the Veterans Administration system. 70,000 Elks donned military uniforms. A huge number considering the fact we only had 475,000 members and most were past military age. We are part of a storied past with no sign of letup.

Happy New Year,

David Naccarato, PER Lodge Secretary

Blood Drive

If you missed the December's Antler. January is National Blood Donor Month and our first blood drive of 2016 is on January 16th, from 9:30am to 1:30pm, at the Lodge.

To register, go to www.

unitedbloodservices.org, scroll down the left side to *Find Drive by Zip Code*, enter the Lodge zip 91360, scroll down to *T.O.Elks Lodge*, 01/16/2016, then schedule your appointment. You can also call 800-715-3699, or just show up.

After you give a pint, enjoy one of our famous BBQ sandwiches at our Exalted Ruler's expense.



Sickness & Distress

Coleen Morris, Committee Chairperson 805-241-8928

Condolences:

No announcements

Keep in your prayers:

-Dick McCann

- -Darryl Kopacz Knee surgery
- -Pam Price Recovering from surgery after serious fall
- -Pati Harrod recovering from pneumonia

-Doug Morrison recovering from a broken left femur and spinal fracture

Calendar Highlights

- 01-09 PER's present a "Polish Auction" Lunch at 1pm Auction at 2pm
- 01-15 THE FISH FRY IS BACK!! \$10 by Jill and crew Followed by dancing entertainment by *Gypsy Stew*
- 01-16 Blood Drive 10am to 2pm
- 01-22 Pork Loin by Redgie Fleeman and Liver & Onions by Fred Trzcinski \$10 each
- 01-27 Initiation Night Dinner 6pm to 7pm NY Steak \$12 Chicken \$8 by Tom Ryder & crew
- 01-29 Rice Krispy Chicken by Donna Leary & crew \$12 Chili Dog Thursdays

Chili dogs \$3 - Chili dog and a domestic beer \$5

Elks Care - Elks Share

January Birthdays

James Dills-01 John Moran-02 Mathew Daniels-03 Holly Healy-07 David Mac Farlane-08 David Pearson-08 Chris Prince-08 **Elvis Presley-08** Richard Bean-09 Dew Oliver-09 James Bodenhamer-11 Jack Murray-11 Ron Schwartz-11 Carol Spinner-11 Sam Frankl-12 Gerald Kamm-12 Scott Yeager-12 Jon Preston-13 Nick Cigan-14 Stephen Pence-14 Tommy Claunch-15 Lou Mages-15 Mike Markey-15 Frederick McCord-16 George Stigle-17 Frank Corrigan-18 Carol Fredericks-18 Gary Dean Pruett-20 Bill Sternberg-20 Peter Gordon-24

Purple Pig Honor Roll

Darryl Kopacz Jason Frase Karen Martvn Ray Laraway Scott Dool Mathew Daniels Juanita Feamster Dan Martvn Greg Metzgus PDDGER Diane Scott Jean Miraglia Robert(Bobby)Williams Rick Herrera Alan Hardie Gregg Miraglia Bill Sternberg PER Barbara Ann Gibbs



The Crying towel



November 4th Capsule Drawing Charles Lombard not present

Lucky 13 Brenda Hagen no winner

November 18th

Capsule Drawing to Ed Rice not present.

Lucky 13 Jill Williams. No winner.

A Thank You from Tommy Claunch

Many thanks to all those who attended my roast on November 20, 2015. As I consider the Elks my second family, it was a pleasure and honor to be selected for such an event.

Thanks to all.

Tom Claunch

January Birthdays continued

Yvonne Brockwell-25 Douglas Morrison-25 Kevin McCord-27 Cheryl Templeton-27 Dana Rheaume-29 Ken Stockton-29 Sherri Jones-31

Veterans Services - Carl Lanterman, Chairman

January 17, 1991 – Persian Gulf War began January 27, 1973 – Vietnam Peace Accord sign January 31, 1990 – Panama Campaign Ended (Dates are taken from the VFW Calendar) BINGO @ Sepulveda V.A. - 2nd Friday each month at 1:00 pm 16111 Plummer St., at Woodley, Sepulveda, CA
KARAOKE @ Cal Vet Home - Ventura - 4th Thursday each month at 6:00 pm 10900 Telephone Rd., Ventura, CA

On December 4th, the Cal Vet Home–Ventura celebrated it's 6-year Founders Day. The event was hosted by Administrator Michelle Roulston and was attended by many who were involved with the original opening. The dedication of a 7,000 pound anchor and a POW/MIA memorial were the highlights of the service.

Besides Robert Jones bringing his karaoke system for monthly visits, the lodge also has provided a portable dance floor and member Bill Sternberg (also western region scouting chairman and lodge flag chairman) built an entertainment center and 3 large bulletin boards, still in use at the home. Annually, the residents are invited to attend a brunch and flag retirement at the lodge for Veterans Remembrance Month in November. Bill Sternberg has also overseen occasional flag retirements at the home. Lodge members have provided thousands of dollars in donations of various types over the past five years.

On December 12th, Terry Gicking donned his Santa suit and, with help from his "elf" Jane Watson, made the children of military families happy at Operation Snowflake, put on by the Ventura County Military Collaborative. Sometimes, the call up of the National Guard and reservists poses particularly difficult situations with the families. Our lodge helps these families as part of the "Army-of-Hope" program established by the grand lodge, as implemented by our lodge.

THANKS TO COLEEN MORRIS FOR \$400 IN FOOD & GAS GIFT CARDS

Carl Lanterman	Art Urbano
Chairman-Veterans Service Committee	Vice Chair-Veterans Service Committee
(805) 630-8110 carl.silverstrand@gmail.com	(805) 241-5719 charlene.urbano@verizon.net

The Origin of Veterans Day

In July of 1917, The Order of Elks appropriated \$1-million for the War Relief Fund. This Commission evolved into the Elks National Veterans Service Commission. It organized and equipped the first two base hospitals to reach France during World War I.

In 1918, the Elks built a 700-bed Reconstruction Hospital in Boston and gave it to the War Department The Order also built a 72-roon Community House to take care of families visiting the 40,000 soldiers at Camp Sherman, Ohio.

The Elk War Relief Commission made 40,000 rehabilitation, vocational and educational loans to disabled veterans who were ineligible for Government help or were waiting approval of their applications for assistance. The GI Bill, which makes funds available to veterans for education, had its genesis from this Elk program.

In 1918, when the Armistice ended the fighting in Europe a lifelong Elk, General John J. "Blackjact" Pershing, decided that the Elks 11th Hour Significance (which dates back to the 1066 Battle of Hastings) would be the basis for the signing of the Armistice. He chose the 11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month for the signing of the Armistice ... which is now Veterans' Day.



Pictured below are highlights of Tommy Claunch's Roast



Pictured Highlights of our Charity Basket Deliveries



Pictured below are highlights of the Elks Ladies Christmas Dinner



2015 - 2016 Committee Chairpersons

1st Vice President	Mary Woodlief
2nd Vice President	Marian Anderson
Secretary	Lynn Rodriguez
Treasurer	Karen Naccarato
Auditor	Shirste Gessler
Communications	Mary Flannery
	& Carol Fredericks

January Birthdays

- 15 Darlene Stoggsdell
- 18 Carol Fredericks
- 20 Terrie Barr
- 27 Elaine Goldner
- 27 Sheila Aitkens
- 27 Cheryl Templeton

The Children's Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 5th at the Lodge. With over 100 children in attendance, it was, to say the least, a great success. The children were treated to several crafts projects, writing letters to Santa, decorating their own cookies, making ornaments, as well as a Magic Show by Robert the Magnificent and a sing-along with Niki and Rich Case and Beth and Dan Kozlowski.

Elks Ladies



Beth Kozlowski, President

Each child was then given a gift to take home by none other than Santa himself. Thank you to all who helped make this a fantastic day!

Our annual Christmas Party was well attended and the ladies were as usual very generous in donating toys for the gift baskets which will be wrapped and distributed to families in the community on Saturday, December 19th.

Finally, please make to mark your calendars and plan to attend the Elks Ladies 2016 Major Project Fundraiser on Saturday, February 6, 2016. Our Theme is Dark Shadows "A Vampire Society Bash". Come spend a fun-filled evening in Col-

2015 - 2016 Committee Chairpersons

Parlimentarian	Jessica Stull
Chaplain	Barbara Gibbs
Major Project	Lynn Rodriguez
	Karen Naccarato
Sunshine	June Leadam
Historian	Jeri Miller

linsport, Maine with Barnabas Collins, Angelique and all the others. Tickets are available at the Bar.

January Inspirational

The start of another new year always carries the lure of a new beginning and fresh start and it is a perfect time to take stock of your life and start creating the changes you'd like to see in the future.

Remember, no one can go back and start a beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending!

Happy New Year and may 2016 be filled with happiness, good health and rich in God's abundant blessings.

Elks Memorial Service

Sunday, December 6, 2015, candles were lit in memory of our Lodge Brothers and Sister who died in 2015. Memorialized



were Arnold Antle, Kathleen Ryder, Keith Orr, Leonard Lambert, David Burrows, Chuck Morsa, and Vernon Jossy. Candles were also lit by friends and relatives in memory of Elks departed in previous years.

Brunch was served after the service by the Kampers who had already made breakfast

for the AA. I am grateful for the cooking, cleaning, serving and cleanup they provided.

I also must thank those who quickly reconfigured the room from AA breakfast layout to Elks Ritual setup.

Thanks to the officers who performed flawlessly and a special thank you to





Karen Martyn who guided me through the planning.

Fraternally,

Dave Anderson Chaplain

See pictured highlights of the service on page 13

Meet our New Members



(L-R) Sponsor Jim Lovato with new member Patrick Schultz and transfer from Santa Clarita lodge Jeff Knickerson



(C) Sponsor Holly Healy, (R) new member Mathew Daniels and (L) Mathew's 3rd grade classmate Tom Hartin, both of whom haven't seen each other since, and until Mathew's initiation.



(L-R) Sponsor Rik Gessler, with new members son Andrew and wife Shirste

Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge Christmas Tree Lot Volunteers



New Year Message from Grand Exalted Ruler Ron Hicks

Happy New Year! January and the New Year bring hope for the renewal of all that is good in our lives. It is the time to make a resolution to set and pursue new goals, be stronger, do better and achieve more, and to inspire others.

This New Year, why not resolve to become more active in your Lodge and increase your efforts on behalf of the Lodge and Elkdom? Why not resolve to bring in at least one new Member before the end of this Lodge year? Elks make a tremendous difference in the lives of our Members and the people we serve, and you can be a part of that difference by sharing the pride that comes with active membership and volunteer service.

Lodge Officers, consider a resolution to strengthen your programs for youth, patriotism, Drug Awareness, Veterans and those with special needs, and strive during the coming year to put a "face" on your Lodge and prove yourself a reliable partner in the community. We offer great appeal to those who know who we are and what we do; we just need to let the public know. Make a resolution to be loud and proud, and let your bright light shine throughout the community.

This is also the time to plan for a strong finish for your Lodge year and to identify the capable Lodge leaders for the coming year. You have worked diligently throughout this year to increase membership and to serve your Members and the community, so finish strong and complete the year on a high note. You know where you rank in your support of the Elks National Foundation, so finish strong by achieving the Grand Exalted Ruler's per capita goal in further support of our Great Heart of Elkdom.

We have all enjoyed the rewards of giving to our communities over the past year, especially our recent efforts during the holiday season. While these programs and activities are still fresh in our minds, take a moment to document what improvements can be made in each of them, how you can more accurately document your service to the community through your Charity Reports, and what you can do to publicize your service and accomplishments to let everyone know the value of your service to your Members and the community.

I wish all Elks success with your resolutions for the coming year. And, yes, if we can finish strong, it will be a Happy New Year!

Members attend the Exalted Rulers Christmas Dinner































Pictured below are highlights from the Elks Memorial Service



Wherever Elks may roam, whatever their lot in life may be, when this hour falls upon the dial of night, the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs....Living or dead, Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken. Morning and noon may pass them by, the light of day sink heedlessly in the West, but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall, the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message: **"To Our Absent Members."**



El Konejo Kampers

Tradition and Thanksgiving Weekend

Kenney Grove in Fillmore is the traditional setting for the El Konejo Kampers' pre-Thanksgiving feast. This year was no exception and folks started gathering on Wednesday including the hosts, Joel and Beverly, Joe and Judy N., Ed and Donna C., Jeff and Deb, Carol Spinner and Anne. This group started its weekend with a special treat of Joel and Beverly's award winning homemade chili and cornbread.

Thursday, more of us arrived including Jimmie M. and Patty, David and I, and Pat Von Wittenberg. It would surely win an award. Between the warring stances and the colorful metaphors, it's really quite hilarious. I better stop while I'm ahead as these are my friends and I don't need residual blowback for my comments. Thursday evening, several of us went to La Cabana Restaurant, again one of our traditions while at Kenney Grove.

Friday morning, Jim and Kathy M. and Jim and Diane L. showed up. Jim L. brought more firewood so we were set. A lot of folks took off to do their own thing, shopping, sewing even visiting an alpaca preserve. Of course there is always a poker game should one wish to be fleeced — oh, is that an alpaca barb? That evening we gathered for appetizers and cocktails followed by the traditional campfire conversations. However, there are a whole host of adages that could apply here like "What happens at camping, stays"... and "don't believe most of what you hear and only some of what you see" and on and on. It's all in fun, people.

Saturday morning there was a continental breakfast. We had a few visitors like John P. who stayed long enough to win at... wait, I think he wins at everything he attempts. Not sure if it was just corn hole or corn hole and poker. No matter, we all love John and were glad he showed. Cheryl T. came to bring us money and brussels sprouts - money to pay the campground. Sue O., whose motorhome was still sitting in parts at the repair shop, came with stuffing and an appetite. She was the only day visitor that stayed for dinner. Dinner was delicious as usual since we have so many wonderful cooks. Thanks to the Erickson's for their coordination.

Winners of the free campouts were Jimmie Miller and David Stull. Walking away with \$75 from the 50/50 was Donna Colleran. Congratulations to all our winners.

The campers served 71 breakfasts to the AAs on November 1st and none to the Elks as this was a Veterans celebration day; and on November 29 we broke the bank on breakfasts - 57 AAs and 57 Elks. That's correct, we would have had 59 Elks, but we ran out of food and had to refund 2 people. That's 185 breakfasts for November - no wonder we're so tired! We could use some new blood on the crews too. If you're willing to work a Sunday breakfast, get hold of one of us and let us know.

Election of EKK Officers took place at our November 29th meeting and the following slate of officers was elected: Jessica Stull, President; Beverly Erickson, Vice President; Sue Osgood, Secretary; Cheryl Templeton, Treasurer. Officers will be installed at the Kampers Brunch December 13th. Wishing all our officers a prosperous 2016. Thank you to Sherri Jones, who will be stepping down as VP. It was fun having you!

Happy Holidays,

Jessica Stull, President El Konejo Kampers

Your Veterans Services Chairman in Action

While putting our list of families together for our Christmas Basket program I had a mother of four children call to see if her family could be added to our list. She went on to tell me that they were just in a rough spot at the moment.

I told her no explanation was needed. She then said her husband, who was wounded in the military, was having problems receiving his military benefits. We have heard this plight many times lately. Without promising anything, I sent an email to our Veterans chairman, Carl Lanterman, and explained what the woman told me.

with this update:

1. Last week they received their first call from the VA in five years.

2. December 2nd they received a letter of approval for benefits.

3. Also on December 2nd, they met with the County Veterans service office in Camarillo. Gold Coast Veterans Services will manage their case.

4. Carl was able to arrange refinancing of their home which will produce good results.

5. Carl will meet with Home Depot regarding their Veterans program for home repairs.

All this from a phone call for a box of groceries. Needless to say they will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We will never know whose life will be touched by our efforts unless we reach out to others.

Good Job Carl (you can keep your job another year)

Fraternally,

David Naccarato, PER

On December 3rd Carl emailed the office

Officers 2015 - 2016

Treasurer	Pati Harrod	Officer at Large	Terry Gicking, PDDGER
Secretary	David Naccarato, PER	Organist	Karin Speights
Lecturing Knight	Karen Martyn	Chaplain	Dave Anderson
Loyal Knight	Jean Miraglia	Esquire	Billy Sternberg
Leading Knight	Mike Flannery	Inner Guard	Gregg Miraglia
Exalted Ruler	Jim Moye	Tiler	Christine Harrison

Trustees 2015 - 2016

One Year	Pam Price, COB
Two Year	James Lovato
Three Year	George Meehan, PER
Four Year	Darryl Kopacz
Five Year	Dan Martyn, PER

Elk of the Year	Gerry Gillies
Officer of the Year	Pam Price
Citizen of the Year	Richard Herrera

2015 - 16 Committees reporting to the Exalted Ruler

Antler Antics

Editor & Email Distribution: Steve Smith, PER USPS Mailing: Jessica Stull and Juanita Feamster Calendar: Terry Gicking Website, Blog & Weekly Updates: Steve Smith, PER Auditing and Accounting Commitee: David Pearson Barbeque: Eddie Rice Historian/Scrapbook: Chairperson needed Photography: Jill Williams Forward Planning: Jim Moye Protocol: Karen Martyn Membership: Catherine Koeritz, PER Investigation: Alan Hardie, Dave Anderson, Diane Scott & John Duhig Orientation: Catherine Koeritz, PER, Chair Ofcrs, David Naccarato, PER Lapsed and Stray Elks: David Naccarato, PER Maintenance: Jim Moye Grounds: Ben Rieger Facilities: Tom Hartin, Jeff Conyers & Max Maxwell Greeter: Dorothy Murray PER Association President: Terry Baker, PER Parlimentarian/Presiding Justice: Dick McCann Grants Coordinator: Chairperson needed

2015 - 16 Committees reporting to the Leading Knight

Bar Liason: Mike Flannery Major Project/Purple Pig: Pati Harrod Bequests & Living Trusts: Mike Flannery Elks National Foundation: Donna Leary Christmas Basket Program: Mike Flannery

Community Activities: Mike Flannery Sickness and Distress: Coleen Morris Charity Matters: Mike Flannery El Konejo Kampers: Jessica Stull Christmas Tree Lot: Ben Rieger

2015 - 16 Committees reporting to the Loyal Knight

Kitchen Operations: Tom Ryder Lodge Activities: Jean Miraglia Flag Day, Flag Retirement: Bill Sternberg Government Relations: Chairperson needed Elks Memorial Service: Dave Anderson Veteran Services: Carl Lanterman Public Relations: Lynn Rodriguez Conejo Valley Days: Tom Hartin Mediator: Boyd Lindquist New Years Eve: Jean Miraglia Mothers Day: Dave Anderson Inaugural Ball: Jean Miraglia Law Enforcement/Firefighter Appreciation: Paul Stein

2015 - 16 Committees reporting to the Lecturing Knight

Youth Activities: Chairperson needed Hoop Shoot: David Naccarato, PER Drug Awareness: Don Sabol Scholarships: Rick Herrera Scouting: Bill Miller and Bill Sternberg, PER Americanism: Terry Gicking, PDDGER Dictionary Program: Mary Woodlief Youth Appreciation Night: Karen Martyn Lodge July 4th and Labor Day Activities: Karen Martyn Official Publication of the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 - B.P.O.E. 2330 Los Feliz Drive Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Change Service Requested

POSTERMASTER: DATED MATERIAL: DO NOT DELAY

Office Phone: 805-496-2477 Facsimile: 805-496-9087 Office Email: toelks2477@gmail.com Lounge Phone: 805-496-4550 Website: www.elks2477.com Office Hours: 10am to 2pm Mon-Fri El Konejo Kampers: elkonejokampers.oaksdata.com

Lounge Hours (Unless otherwise noted)

Mon., Tues., Thur.: 10am - 8pm Wed. & Fri.: 10am - Closing Sat.: 10am - 6pm Sun: 9:30am - 6pm

Lodge Meetings

Regular business meetings are every 1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

2nd Wednesday of the Month Trustee Meeting: 6pm House Committee Meeting : 7:30pm followed immediately by Officers meeting

1972-73 *Marvin D. Smith 1973-74 Erle Pittman, PDDGER 1974-75 *Richard Flake 1975-76 Bill Wagner 1976-77 John E. Henry 1977-78 *Robert McKee, PDDGER 1978-79 *Frank J. Rindone, PDDGER 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 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, PDDGER 1996-97 *Jack Loughran

Past Exalted Rulers

1997-98 *John Kelly 1998-99 Chet Kozlowski 1999-00 Richard Goldner, PDDGER 2000-01 Jacob Panczak 2001-02 John D'Ambrogio 2002-03 Don Booker 2003-04 Greg Metzgus, PDDGER, DL 2004-05 Jay Block 2005-06 *Sally Claunch 2006-07 David Naccarato 2007-08 Catherine Koeritz 2008-09 George Meehan 2009-10 Terry Gicking, PDDGER 2010-11 Harry Brockwell 2011-12 Steve Smith 2012-13 Leo Rodriguez 2013-14 Terry Baker 2014-15 Dan Martyn

By Affiliation: 1981-82 Robert L. Thornton, PDDGER 2001-02 Bill Sternberg 1999-00 *Ralph Vester '83-'84, '02-'03 Harold Constantine

*Deceased

The *Antler Antics* is published monthly in Thousand Oaks, California as the official bulletin of the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge No. 2477 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, 2330 Los Feliz Dr., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. Publication of the *Antler Antics* is an activity of the Lodge and contributions of interesting pertinent reading material and photographs are welcome. Photographs MUST be identified and captioned or they will not be published.

Deadline for receiving ALL material for publication is the 15th of the Month