

# Antler Antics



## Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

### Message from The Exalted Ruler, Richard Platt



The California Hawaii Elks Association hosted the Midterm Convention in Riverside, November 4<sup>th</sup> thru the seventh. We were able to hear from several Elks working at both the state and national level on Government Relations. They work to keep us a national charity. Big government always wants that money.

Veterans Services, Scouting, Youth Activities, Americanism, Scholarship, Drug Awareness, and Hoop-Shoot to name a few. As I sat there listening to all this, I thought, if government did a decent job with any one of these items, what a better world it would be! Wills and Trust and so much more. Think about that, the next time you are setting up tables for a dinner or the Quilters. That simple act means so much, to so many.

The high point for me was, the opening speaker Saturday. Megan Macleod is the coordinator for the Elks Therapists. The powerful occurrences we heard about, from the mothers of the children, our therapists help each day. You could of heard a pin drop, in that enormous room. Many of the six-foot, two hundred pounder Elks were crying away. An ER from the Bay Area challenged all the in the room, and an addition \$2100.00 was raised for Purple Pig. The afternoon section drove home the fact that, it is you, the local lodge member, accomplishing the hard works, which support and drive the many good works Elks do.

The Saturday conclusion was The Elks National Foundation Dinner. Our State President, Jay Larkins, introduced the keynote speaker, Past Grand Exalter Ruler Louis J. Grillo. PGER Grillo did an exceptional job, of illuminating the roughly seven hundred Elks, on the mission ENF does every day, throughout the United States of American. Anyone who heard PGER Grillo speaking, not an Elk, would have joined at once. We do belong to an outstanding Order. Keep it up Thousand Oaks.

See you at the BBQ Saturday! Thank you, and if I can be of help, please call me at home (805)380-4101, or email me at rplatt\_1998@yahoo.com. \_

Richard Platt,  
Exalted Ruler

### Table of Contents

Officer messages	1-3
Hoop Shoot	3
Officers, PERS, BBQ	
Committees	4
Chair, Lodge Hours	5
Passing, Birthdays	6
Lodge Activities, Wrap	7
Veterans	8
Around the Lodge	9-10
Memorial Service,	11
Elk of the Month	
Pins	12
El Konejo Kampers	12
First Lady	



**Message from the  
Leading Knight,  
Terry Gicking**

**The Best of the Holiday Season to  
all our Members and Their Families.**

Thanksgiving is over and the most joyous time of the year is here. Please make sure to celebrate responsibly and join us at the Lodge for some holiday cheer. The lounge hours are posted on the calendar for the month of December. We are now open at 2 pm during the week and at 9 am when we are serving breakfast on Sundays. We close at 8 PM on weekdays but have not closed on time much due to baseball, football, soccer, or meetings. Saturday and Sunday closing time is at 6 PM but because of private parties or sports, we have stayed open later. If you are wanting to stop by, call the Lounge at 805-496-4550 and see if it is open.

Esteemed Loyal Knight John Betancourt and I had the great fortune of delivering a check to the Food Share of Ventura County. The \$1750 donation came from a Beacon Grant through ENF. Food Share CEO Monica White and CDO Jennifer Caldwell gave John and I a tour of the 2 huge food warehouses. They showed us the operation of how the food comes into the facility and to how they distribute it out to all the volunteer food distribution centers throughout the county. It was amazing to see how organized and efficient the system was. Our donation will go towards buying the things that are needed. Their buying power will stretch that donation up to 5 times of the amount given. Contact John or myself if you wish to get involved with helping our Lodge help Food Share.

Continued on p. 8



**Message from the  
Loyal Knight,  
John Betancourt**

December is a month that we all look forward too; it is that time of year that we all bring joy and happiness to ourselves and families. For it is Christmas, the best time of the year, but to other families it may not be so. On December 16<sup>th</sup> we will be gathering at the Lodge to start the wrapping of Christmas gifts for the children of families who may not be able to buy that doll or toy that their child wished for. This is what Elks are all about, thinking of others in need.

If you have not had a chance to drop off a toy at the Lodge you still have time to do so before Dec.16, no stuffed animals please.

In keeping with Thinking of Others, I along with the Leading Knight, Terry Gicking, travel up to Oxnard to present a check, \$1750.00, from the Lodge to Food Share.

Food Share is a food bank that is a distribution center for the food pantries located in the county of Ventura. After taking a tour and seeing the two warehouses and meeting staff and volunteers and senior citizens jumping right in with the packing of various food items. Seeing the tons of food that is stored and given out to the various pantries is something that must be seen to know what this means for the families in need thru out the county. This was a great to know that as Elks we are helping in some way to put food on the tables of the families in need.

I wish everyone of our Elk members and their families a Merry Christmas.

John Betancourt  
Loyal Knight.





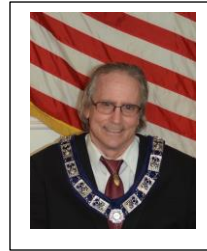
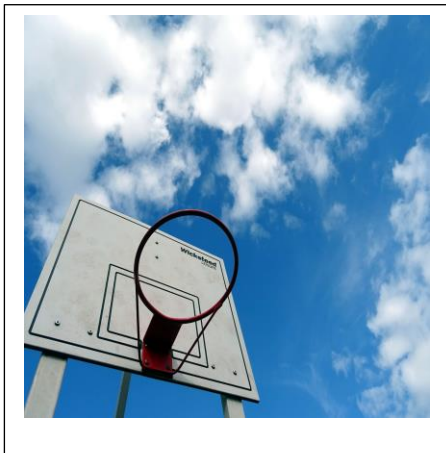
**Message from the  
Leading Knight,  
Ron Watkins**

Holiday Greetings Fellow Elks!

Really glad to see more and more members safely coming back to the lodge! Some great outdoor activities coming up like the Christmas tree 🎄 lot and under my Station the Hoop Shoot 🏀👤👤👤. **Duke** and **Craig Acerboni** have done a **INCREDIBLE** job in collaboration with the Boys and Girls club and it looks like we could have a great turn out! With that being said, we need YOUR help! Calling all Elks! We need 35+ volunteers to run the event. All levels of activity from sitting at a table with signup tables, score keeping or rebounding 🏀 basketballs. The event will be hosted at the Lodge and we will use the basketball courts across the street at the Conejo School.

The event starts at 9am, Saturday, Dec 11th Please call the Lodge to sign up to volunteer or there is a signup sheet at the lodge office and the lounge . Also tell your kids and or grandkids boys and girls ages 8 to 13. There are sign-up sheets available at Elks.org and the lodge website 2477elks.com  
Hope to see you there,

Ron Watkins  
Esteemed Lecturing Knight



**Message from  
the Secretary,  
David Naccarato**

**FYI**

**Inger Hogan**, who was a walk-in applicant had such a great personality. I was happy to get to know her and be her sponsor. **Inger** got involved as much as possible, became a recurring donor for the Purple Pig and supported our dinners has now moved to Fort Meyers, Fl. I will miss her smile and soft-spoken word. She is keeping her membership in Thousand Oaks til getting settled.

**Interesting facts**

San Francisco Lodge #3 has a beautiful indoor swimming pool where Mark Spitz swam as a child for his grandfather was a member. The original altar from New York Lodge #1 is now at Tallahassee Florida Lodge #937. In 1912, New York Lodge was moving into a new building and selling their fixtures. The Leading Knight of Tallahassee, Fl, was visiting and learned of the sell and bought the altar. In 1956 the fourth rap of the gavel was to remove the blind fold during Initiation. (creepy)

The fact that the Elks were founded by entertainers, they were used to late nights. They needed time to unwind from a show and it was the best time to get together. Where we are ready for bed at 9 the **Jolly Corks** were just getting warmed up.

**A reminder**

The Eleven O'clock Toast is not just for Initiation. Anytime the Lodge is open whether it be a private function or not, the Eleven O'clock Toast is to be given by the senior Elk present. You'll find non-Elks will be impressed.

## Officers 2021-2022

Exalted Ruler: Richard Platt  
Leading Knight: Terry Gicking PER  
PDDGER  
Loyal Knight: John Betancourt  
Lecturing Knight: Ron Watkins  
Secretary: David Naccarato  
Esquire: Adam Smith  
Chaplain: Rita DaCorsi  
Treasurer: Bill Joseph  
Inner Guard: Gregg Miraglia  
Tiler: Lyssa Wright  
One Year Trustee: Kathy Moye  
Two Year Trustee: Dan Hoffman\*  
Three Year Trustee: Reem Agel  
Four Year Trustee: Steve Kerman  
Five Year Trustee: Ed Lees

\*Chairman of the Board of Trustees

## BBQ Chair Steps Down

By Richard Platt

We have enjoyed several remarkable Saturdays with our BBQ. Much of that success goes to **Steve Kerman**, our BBQ Chairman. **Steve** has standardized the ordering of supplies needed for the BBQ. To name just one of his improvements. But as in real life, things change, and Steve has said that he will step down as BBQ Chairman on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It would not be appropriate for us, not to take this opportunity to thank him. So, **Steve**, The Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge # 2477, desires to Thank You for your Leadership, Foresight, and Dedication to our Lodge and Order. Fair Winds and Calm Seas; Sir, and may the best, be to your Bow!

## Past Exalted Rulers

1972-73 Marvin D. Smith *	2001-02 John D'Ambrogio
1973-74 Erie Pittman, PDDGER	2002-03 Don Booker
1974-75 Richard Flake * PDDGER, DL	2003-04 Greg Metzgas,
1975-76 Bill Wagner *	2004-05 Jay Block *
1976-77 John E Henry *	2005-06 Sally Claunch *
1977-78 Robert McKee, PDDGER*	2006-07 David Naccarato
1978-79 Frank J Rindone PDDGER*	2007-08 Catherine Koeritz
1979-80 Edward F Stogsdell *	2008-09 George Meehan *
1980-81 Frank "Tex" Hastie * PDDGER	2009-10 Terry Gicking,
1981-82 Robert Hardy *	2010-11 Harry Brockwell *
1982-83 A John Nichols *	2011-12 Steve Smith
1983-84 John Nau	2012-13 Leo Rodriguez
1984-85 Vern Ogden *	2013-14 Terry Baker
1985-86 Dan Snyder *	2014-15 Dan Martyn
1986-87 Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, PDL, PSP	2015-16 Jim Moye
1987-88 John E Henry *	2016-17 Mike Flannery
1988-89 Ted Lipka *	2017-18 Jean Miraglia
1990-91 Don Ansell *	2018-19 Karen Martyn
1991-92 Gary Sleigh *	2019-20 Dan Hoffman
1992-93 Tom Ryder, PDDGER	2020-21 Dan Martyn *Deceased
1993-94 Jim Wallace *	By Affiliation
1994-95 George Pekow *	1981-82 Robert Thornton*,
1995-96 Gil Riding, PDDGER	
1996-97 Jack Loughran * PDDGER	2001-02 Bill Sternberg
1997-98 John Kelly *	2009-10, 13-14, 18-19 Grace
1998-99 Chet Kozlowski * Vega	
1999-20 Richard Goldner, PDDGER	1999-00 Ralph Vester *
2000-01 Jacob Panczak	1983-04, 02-03 Harold Constantine

## Lodge Hours

<b>Monday-Friday</b>	<b>2PM to 8 PM</b>
<b>Saturday-Sunday</b>	<b>Noon – 6PM</b>
<b>12/24 &amp; 12/31</b>	<b>11AM-4PM</b>
<b>Office Hours</b>	<b>Mon-Thurs 10AM-3PM</b>



# Committees for the 2021-2022 Year

Please volunteer for a committee or lead one. Please note openings.

## Responsible to the Exalted Ruler

Antler Antics

Editor: Gayle Platt

Proofreading: Gayle Platt & Mary Woodlief

USPS Mailing: David Naccarato

Website: Kira Wagner PER

Grants Coordinator: David Naccarato PER

BBQ: Jill Williams

Photography: Jill Williams

Protocol: Terry Gicking & David Naccarato PERS

Presiding Judge: John Moran

Lodge Room Setup: Bill Joseph

Membership: David Naccarato PER

Investigation: John Betancourt, Alex Rogers,  
Diane Jones

Orientation: Terry Gicking PER, PDDGER

Auditing & Accounting: Art Garcia

Lapsed and Strayed Elks: PERS

Maintenance: Dean Reichle

Grounds: Brian Williams & Richard Ibarra

Facilities: Dean Reichle & Jeff Conyers

Greeters: Dorothy Murray & Kathy Moyer

PER Association: Jim Moyer PER

## Responsible to the Leading Knight

Bar Liaison: Dan Hoffman PER

Community Activities: Terry Gicking PER, PDDGER

Major Project/Purple Pig: Dan Hoffman PER

Bequests & Living Trusts: **Needed**

Elks National Foundation: Grace Vega PER

Christmas Tree Lot: Carlos Muzquiz

Christmas Baskets: Terry Gicking PER, PDDGER

Sickness & Distress: Alex Rogers

Charity Matters: Terry Gicking PER, PDDGER

El Konejo Kampers: Shirste Gessler

## Responsible to the Loyal Knight

Kitchen Operations: John Betancourt

Lodge Activities: **Needed**

Flag Day/Flag Retirement: John Betancourt

Government Relations: John Betancourt

Elks Memorial Service: Rita Dacorsi

Veteran's Services: Tom Ryder PER PDDGER

Calendar: John Betancourt

Mediator: Rick Rodgers

Mother's Day: Rita DaCorsi

Inaugural Ball: **Needed**

Law Enforcement/Fire fighters: Paul Stein

Public Relations: Lyssa Wright

## Responsible to the Lecturing Knight

Youth Activities: Ron Watkins

Hoop Shoot: Duke Kopacz

Drug Awareness: **Needed**

Scholarship: Reem Agel

Scouting: Greg Metzger

Americanism: **Pending**

Dictionary Program: Steve Woodlief

Youth Appreciation: Reem Agel

**HELP Us Serve Our  
Community Better**

# Elks Care – Elks Share

## Sickness and Distress

**Alex Rogers**, Committee Chair,  
Home number: 805-492-3280,  
Cell: 805-427-3013

**Les Kanawa**, a friend of **Lyssa Wright's** was in a car accident 11/9 and when she got out of her car she was hit by another car which led to her legs being amputated. **Rita DaCorsi** has been ill. **Mary Flannery** fell at home and broke her shoulder. **Michael Callahan** is having a rough time while going through chemo treatments. **Joe Buckout** was admitted to Los Robles. **Paul Campbell** had surgery. **Terry Gicking's** sister, **Ann**, is undergoing radiation treatments for cancer.

**Liz Buckner**, wife of **Rick** passed away on Oct 24<sup>th</sup> of many serious issues. **Rick Herrera** and **Evie Bystrom's** son, **Erick** died of a heart attack. Keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers. May **Erick** and **Liz** rest in peace.

## Applications for Membership

**Kira Wagner** PER of Mojave Lodge #2059 proposes **Denise Lee**, Lives in Camarillo

### Application for transfer demit

**Robert Dominguez** seeks transfer from Gilroy Lodge #1567 and to affiliate with our Lodge

## Crying Towel

October 13<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Capsule drawing **Johnny D Ambrojio** \$500 Not present

2<sup>nd</sup> Capsule drawing **Billy Sternberg** \$25 Not present

Lucky 13 **Kathy Moye** no winner

October 27<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Capsule draw \$500 **Anna Garcia** not present

2<sup>nd</sup> capsule drawing \$50 **John Mutolo** not present

Lucky 13 **Rick Herrera** no winner



A Coin a Day so they can  
Walk, Talk, See and Play!

## Purple Pig Honor Roll

### Purple Pig Honor Roll

Bobby Williams  
Gregg Miraglia  
Catherine Koeritz  
Greg Metzgus  
Darryl Kopacz  
John Puckett  
Jean Miraglia  
Paul Stein  
Bill Joseph (Century Club)

## Recurring Donors

Reem Agel  
David Anderson  
John Betancourt  
Ed and Rita DaCorsi  
Arthur Garcia  
Terry Gicking  
Gerry Gillies  
Peter Gordon  
Brenda Hagen  
Dan Hoffman  
Inger Hogan  
Sheryl Holloway  
Diane Jones  
Ed Lees  
Greg Metzgus  
Richard Platt  
Alexandra Rogers  
Gregory Sweet  
Lyssa Wright



## Repose of the Soul

By Richard Buckner

(Elizabeth Buckner) Liz died October 24th at Los Robles Hospital of Severe Aortic Stenosis, Auto Immune Disease, Respiratory Failure and Systolic and Diastolic Heart Failure; she also had chronic Kidney Failure and Nerve Necropsy in her feet.

Please tell the Lodge and ask them to stop phone messages and emails.

There will be a Memorial service Dec. 12 at 1:00 pm; arrive a little early and all Elks are invited.

Thank you for caring about my wife.

Rick

## December Birthdays

Richard Shaw-01  
John Betancourt-02  
Harold Wankel-02  
Bruce cameron-03  
Charles Kudra-03  
Paul Stein-04  
Richard Johnson-05  
Eugene-Letourneau-06  
Gerald Feldman-07  
David Mueller-07  
Donna Leary-11  
Craig Lopez-12  
Mary McBride-12  
Mark hardie-13  
Richard Harms-13  
Catherine Koeritz-14  
Daniel Picard-15  
Jodi Mannino-16  
Ronald Rue-16  
Scott D Dool-17  
Rhett Searcy-17  
Sandro Cano-18  
Brett Fuchs-21  
Jeffery Weiherer-21  
Nelson Cabello-22  
William Sternberg-22

Brett Fuchs-21  
Jeffery Weiherer-21  
Nelson Cabello-22  
William Sternberg-22  
Frank Lusher-24  
Joseph Loy-26  
Trina Wolf Williams-26  
Adam Hendershot-27  
Jeff Gambino-28



## LODGE ACTIVITIES

12/1	Bunco 6PM	12/15	House Mtg
12/2	\$3 Chili Dogs		Trustee Mtg
12/3	Christmas Tree Lot Opens	12/16	Wrap Toys \$3 Chili Dogs
	Casey's Meatloaf	12/17	Kitchen
12/4	BBQ		Closed
12/5	Breakfast by Smitty	12/18	BBQ
12/6	Darts, Football Mac & Cheese	12/19	Veteran's Breakfast
12/8	D/D Visit Fish Fry	12/20	Darts Football
	Lodge Mtg 7PM	12/24	11-4 Hours
12/9	\$3 Chili Dogs	12/25	CLOSED
12/10	ER Dinner Chicken/Potato Salad/Corn	12/31	11-4 hours
12/11	Hoop Shoot BBQ		
12/12	Kamper's Brunch Wood Ranch Country Club \$45		
12/13	Darts and Football Surprise dinner		
12/14	PERS Dinner Octavio's Camarillo		

## **Ladies, Gentlemen too!**

**We need elves to wrap toys for Christmas giving. Please come and join us on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 10AM until finished. Please bring a pen, scissors, and tape. We have wrapping paper, and tags. All tags will read from the "Thousand Oaks Elks." If questions, contact me at [gplatt2000@yahoo.com](mailto:gplatt2000@yahoo.com)**

## Leading Knight Continued

The Christmas tree lot at Carlsen's Building Materials on Thousand Oaks Blvd is in full swing, and volunteers are always needed to help Carlos, Jill and the rest of the crew. The hours are 10AM to 8PM. There are so many ways you can help, from unloading trees upon delivery (around Dec 1-2), to selling, loading, delivering, watering, lot set-up and tear down, supplying food, snacks, and most of all support! December 1<sup>st</sup> thru the 18th at the latest. Tree prices are up, and supply is down. We might sell out early. Tell your family and neighbors about us and the charities we support with our proceeds and get there early before they are all gone.

Charity Baskets update. Due to Covid and the HEPA laws, our source of finding families in need has been reduced significantly. We will be helping some military families, seniors, and a handful of families in our community. Thank you to all who helped raise funds for our charity basket program. We raised over \$4500 through our Yeti cooler raffle and the Charity dinner. There will be a schedule put together after Thanksgiving once we have secured all the recipients. Further details will be provided by robo-call, text, and email blast

One final note. We **WILL** be having a New Year's Day football party on Saturday, January 1, 2022. Unfortunately, Dan and Karen Martyn will not be hosting the event this year. It will be some big shoes to fill as they have made this event a **HUGE** success, but with the members involvement we can try and achieve close to the same effect as they did for all the years they organized it. More info will be forthcoming but plan your day to be at the Lodge to celebrate the New Year in style.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah! 2022 and our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is right around the corner. Hope to see you soon. Do not hesitate to call, text, or email me about getting involved.

Fraternally, Terry  
805-231-9788 tgicker@gmail.com

### Veterans

By David Naccarato

On the minds of the population are the 9/11 attacks. So many lost in a short time brought on by our enemies to our shores. What is being forgotten is another act "a day that will remain in infamy".

Those words were spoken by President Roosevelt who was an Elk member of Poughkeepsie New York Lodge # 275. After the attack **President Roosevelt** chose **Admiral Nimitz** to take over command of the Pacific Fleet. Most thought he looked more like a banker than the hell-for-leather leader we needed to take over. **Nimitz** asked how long he had, and the answer was till the "war was over". **Admiral Nimitz** arrived in Pearl Harbor on Christmas Day. After his tour of the destruction, he thanked his Lord for what could have been. On our money it states, "In God We Trust" and he didn't let us down. **Admiral Nimitz** pointed out the Japanese failures. 1<sup>st</sup> no second wave of bombers to destroy our dry docks. Ships that could be up righted and repaired at Pearl were and didn't need to be taken to San Diego. 2<sup>nd</sup> we had one and a half million barrels of fuel oil in above ground tanks.

(Underground bunkers were under construction but not yet finished) and the Japanese didn't touch a one. It would have taken years to replenish that fuel oil and it would have lengthened the war. 3<sup>rd</sup>, another mistake was they did not touch our submarine pens. Our subs sunk 75 percent of all Japanese shipping. **Admiral Nimitz** said he sweated everyday till that fuel oil was piped underground.

4<sup>th</sup> The last was be attacked on a Sunday morning where many sailors had stayed in town and not berthing aboard ship or if the attack came while in deep water the loss of life could have been 20,000+. The 3,800 was still a terrible loss. To the Japanese the battleship was the weapon of choice. We preferred the Aircraft Carrier and the battleship. Japanese ships maintained 22 Knots in the water while our ships averaged 18. Plus, without Panama Canal restraints the Japanese could build huge ships. We were restricted on width due to the Panama Canal. Thank you for your service. *"As long as there are veterans the Elks will never forget them."*



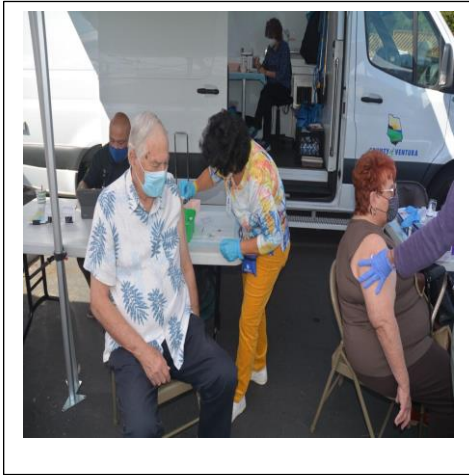
# Around the Lodge

## Charity Dinner



## Vaccine COVID and FLU Shot Clinic

Were held. December 1, 2021, we will be hosting another. You can get Booster, Flu Shots, or start a series. Stay Healthy. Please do not come to Lodge events if ill.



**YETI Winner  
Bill O'Shea**



### **Elk of the Month**

This month choosing our Elk of the Month was extremely easy. Just look around the Lodge, locate a member doing plenty of things well, with a smile. Just look at **Bryan Gicking**. He cooks breakfast, leads a BBQ team, plays darts, and he is usually smiling and leading the way. Bryan has that can do and will do attitude. He is very talented, pleasant, competent and is always willing to step up when needed. Bryan, you have earned the title of Elk of the Month. Thank You and well done.

### **Rita's Frittata Recipe**

By Rita DaCorsi

Many have asked for Rita's Italian frittata handed down for generations so here are the ingredients:

- 5 cups of all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup of grated Parmesan or Romano cheese
- 1 pound of diced mozzarella cheese
- 2 pounds of cooked Italian sausage with skin jacket removed and cut up in pieces
- 5 bunches of scallions, 3 to 4 bunches of asparagus tips
- 6-9 eggs

Mix all dry ingredients together and then add 6 to 9 eggs and 2 ½ cups of water – add slowly. Thoroughly grease a large, large lasagna pan with olive oil. Pour mixture and bake for approximately 45 to 60 minutes at 375 degrees in electric oven and 400 degrees in gas oven. Check with a toothpick or fork to make sure it is cooked through. Yields 20 to 25 servings. Enjoy!



### **Elks Memorial**

The Elk's Memorial is held on the first Sunday in December annually. This year we are going to be a bit different than in the past. There will be a Smitty Breakfast from 9-12. At 11AM, the National Elk's Memorial ceremony will be held. There will also be candle lighting for those who have passed away and are represented by the vacant chair. All food service will cease during the ceremonies and start up again afterwards until noon. We ask that you come and celebrate the lives of passed Elks.

### **Memorial Garden**



### **Credits**

Thank you all for your articles. Bylines are attached to articles. Thank you, **Jill** for all you do at the Lodge. Photos are great! Thank you, **Bing**, for your artwork for the Antler.

**LODGE PIN CONTEST**  
**THOUSAND OAKS ELKS LODGE**

IS TURNING "50" YEARS OLD

On March 25, 2022, the Thousand Oaks Lodge will be 50 years old. The members of Lodge #2477 have been serving the Order of Elks and our community for 50 years. The Past Exalted Rulers, as requested by the Exalted Ruler, are asking the members to design a lodge pin to mark the 50-year celebration.

**HOW GOEZ IT SO FAR?**

We now have three suggestions for a 50-year pin design. Modify the pin designed for the 25th year celebration, design a new pin using the shape and color of the lodge's first pin made of wood, or modify the pin of Past Exalted Ruler Leo Rodriguez. All appear good! Your Choice!



25-year pin



Original Pin



Rodriguez Pin

**NEED MORE INPUT!**

The contest end date is scheduled for December 3rd. The pin designs proposed will be presented to the members at a dinner at the lodge on December 10th for the members to select the pin to be the Lodge 50-year pin.

Please submit your proposed design to the Lodge Secretary,  
**ASAP**

Fraternally - Tom Ryder - PER/PDDGER

## **El Konejo Kampers**

By Rita DaCorsi

Do it again! Do it again! So, yes, we did do it again! **El Konejo Kampers** had such a great time at Flying Flags in October that we did it again in November.

In October we had so many campers wanting to join us that we got four more spots to accommodate the overflow and were blessed with new Elks members joining us at the campout. Thursday we just got together and enjoyed each other's company. Friday we all piled up in cars and went to the **San Ynez Elks** for a special dinner that was prepared for us; Stefan, their ER made sure of that – steak, baked potato, vegetables, salad, and a special blueberry cheesecake dessert. We even received a thank you note from Stefan. Wait. What? Yes, the ER of Santa Ynez sent us a thank you. I think it is supposed to be the other way around. On Saturday, we all joined for an Italian frittata breakfast with pancakes, fruits, coffee and mimosa/champagne. The day was spent with golfing, gambling and some, just sitting and enjoying each-others' company.

Well, we felt so welcome, we reserved another weekend in November. We returned to **Flying Flags** and went to **San Ynez Elks** again on Friday to enjoy a special event in honor of our homeless Veterans. The Lodge lived up to their down-home hospitality with a wonderful dinner and live music and dancing. What a wonderful way to celebrate the brave men and women who have served us in the military. Saturday, **San Ynez** had a parade and booths to once again, celebrate the military and many of the campers enjoyed the event while some went off-road riding and others took a nap.

## **First Lady**

By Gayle Platt

This is my favorite time of the year. I know you hate me; I've got all of my Christmas shopping done. Wrapped too. I want to decorate the house, but our daughter likes it one holiday at a time. So still have fall/Thanksgiving decorations up. Our grandsons (11 & 15) came over to put up Christmas lights. Your Exalted Ruler doesn't do ladders this week, due to medical considerations. Less swearing too.

The Elks will be having a Wrap Party on December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10AM. All are invited to help. Christmas baskets and toy distribution is in the hands of your Leading Knight, **Terry Gicking**. Thank you, **Jill** for the **Toy for Fish Fry** in November. There is still time to donate a gift or two. Remember, **NO STUFFED ANIMALS**. Gift cards are appreciated by the older ones.

We will be giving grocery gift cards to the elderly through Senior Concerns. Food Baskets will be distributed as well to those in need.

**Richard and I** want to wish a very **Happy Hanukkah** and **Merry Christmas** to all of you. Celebrate!!!!

