

Antler Antics



Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Message from the Exalted Ruler, Richard Platt

Happy Holidays All,

Wednesday, December 8, 2021, was the official visitation to our Lodge by the District Deputy Grand Exalter Ruler for the West Central Coast District, David Martin. David’s visitation delegation included the Esquire, Henry Schmitz PER of Paso Robles, and an Auditor, Kaye Bruns PER, of Atascadero, for the District Deputy Grand Exalter Ruler. This was the eleventh inspection, done by David and his team, so by now, they have it down to an art.

Each has specific duties within the audit of the lodges in our District. The Esquire conducts the Lodge’s safety inspection. Our Lodge building started life many years ago, like many of us, and does need some updating.

The Auditor started in our Conference Room, with the table covered with the many files, records, and documents used by BPOE at all levels. After the review of that section, P & L statements, bank deposits and disbursements, RFS documents, the dissimilarity types, and levels, of insurance and taxes, outstanding bills, and investment interest earned.

Then David Martin examined our required Audits of our assets, the lodges programmatic efforts for the year, ENF and Major Project, Officer’s Attendance, to name a few of the arears inquired about.

After two hours, on to the communal part of the inspection, talking to the Thousand Oaks Lodge members, gathered in the lounge. Dinner was next on the agenda, and Jill Williams’s Fish Fry, was a big hit. All said it was excellent, thank you to the members who cooked. After dinner, our December meeting,

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*Message from the
Leading Knight,
Terry Gicking*

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Wow, we made it to 2022! Yippee! Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. Now that the holiday season is behind us, we can start looking forward to our Lodge's 50th Anniversary yearlong celebration. 2022 is going to be a great year. Remember, there is always someone in need and as Elks, it is our duty to try and help in any way we can. Your contributions to **ENF** and the **Purple Pig** do just that. In fact, we are having an ENF fundraising dinner on the second Friday in January, the 14th. **Jean and Greg Miraglia** will be cooking and serving a Chicken Parmigiana dinner. See flyer attached. Reservations are required and dinner is \$15. Looking forward to seeing you there.

The 2477 Christmas Tree lot was a success. **Carlos and crew** did great with less trees and higher prices, and we sold out in 8 days. More details next month.

To start the New Year right, join us on New Year's Day for the "Rose and *other* Bowls" football party, (AKA the "*Fur of the Cat party*"). It's a potluck buffet with all the traditional rivalries and scores that football games can bring. It should be great, at least on paper! No reservations necessary, but you will want to bring something for the potluck to get entered in our drawings for 1 of 2 \$50 gift cards, to be drawn at halftime and the start of the 3rd quarter of the Rose Bowl.

January brings DDGER and Ritual Clinics for the officers of the Lodge, but any member can participate. It's a great way to learn how our lodges operate. We are always needing members to step up to become officers and committee chairpersons and these clinics can help answer any questions you may have. Nominations and elections for Officers are coming on the **second and fourth Wednesday in February at 2477**.

I always look forward to seeing our members down at the lodge and cannot wait to see you in January at one of our breakfasts, dinners, BBQ, fundraisers, or meetings. Please **do not** be a stranger.

Fraternally, Terry Gicking
Esteemed Leading Knight

*Message from the Loyal
Knight, John Betancourt*



Happy New Year

Wishing everyone and their families
a very safe and Happy New Year in 2022.

This past year was a challenge, and I would like to think that as Elks we did one heck of a job in doing what was needed to keep our Lodge open. I look forward in that we will be better, and our Lodge will continue to grow.

I had a chance to go and visit my oldest daughter and the family in Alaska. It has been 2 years since I had gone up to Palmer, Alaska, to be with my grandson and granddaughter and my son-in-law. The weather was great for Alaska, since it was zero at Anchorage airport when I arrived and minus 2 when I arrived in Palmer about an hour later. The sun would come up around 9:45 am and would go down before 4 in the afternoon and it would be anywhere from 3 to 15 above during my visit. The mountains were covered in snow and on the day that I was leaving to come back home it snow, 2-3 inches. I had a great time and just kicked back enjoying my birthday visit with the family.

December is the time of the year when we all come together with family and friends to forget and enjoy life. I wish everyone the very best in life and happiness, on to bigger and better things in 2022.

Loyal Knight
John Betancourt





**Message from the Lodge
Secretary, David
Naccarato, PER**

Elks and our Veterans

As our saying goes “as long as there are Veterans, the Elks will never forget them”. The Elks and our Veterans go way back. During WWI, the United States was poorly prepared to fight a war. Like our namesake animal, Elks take care of their own. The Elks gave first consideration to the sick and wounded on European Battle fields. The order arranged to finance two base hospitals in France. Alumni of University of Virginia staffed one, while the other was staffed from the University of Oregon. We bought the equipment and paid for these hospitals. Worked so well we gave it to the Government and the **MASH** unit was born. 70,000 Elks wore our uniforms well considering we had a membership of only 475,000. 1,000 Elks died in this war. With disabled veterans returning our existing hospitals soon filled. The Elks built and equipped a 700-bed hospital for rehabilitation in Boston, then built a community house for those who are visiting their loved ones.

The government had a program to retrain returning disabled soldiers, but through bureaucracy many fell through the cracks. The Elks stepped in to fill the cracks. The Elks gave 40,000 returning veterans loans for retraining and except for a few cases where death intervened, every dollar was repaid. Worked so well the government took over the funding and the GI Bill was born.

During WWII, our air power was nonexistent Roosevelt wanted to darken the skies with planes. Problem was not enough pilots. 400 lodges entered the “**Keep ‘em Flying program**, where lodges found qualifying candidates to enter the **Aviation Cadet Training Course**. In ceremonies at the White House President Roosevelt mentioned the Elks in national defense. He referred with pride to his own membership in the order at Poughkeepsie, New York #275. The war department wanted 45,000 enlistees; we gave them 97,000 to choose from. The Salvation Army was wiped out financially, so the Elks voted to donate \$60,000 to the Salvation Army.

Soon the Navy was feeling left out and asked us to recruit Seabee’s. In the fall of 1943, the Army and Navy each sent a special tribute to the Elks. The letter stated “full credit for the success obtained” in the recruiting programs.

When war broke out in Korea blood was needed. The government did not mess around this time and asked the Elks to help with a blood drive. They wanted 3 million pints; our Grand Exalted Ruler Howard Davis pledged that we would come up with 1 million pints- one third the total. By July 1952 we hit our goal.

More to follow next month.

Past Exalted Rulers

1972-73 Marvin D. Smith *
 1973-74 Erie 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, PDL
 1987-88 John E Henry *
 1988-89 Ted Lipka *
 1990-91 Don Ansell *
 1991-92 Gary Sleight *
 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 *
 1998-99 Chet Kozlowski *
 1999-20 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, PPDDGER
 2010-11 Harry Brockwell *
 2011-12 Steve Smith
 2012-13 Leo Rodriguez
 2013-14 Terry Baker
 2014-15 Dan Martyn
 2015-16 Jim Moye
 2016-17 Mike Flannery
 2017-18 Jean Miraglia
 2018-19 Karen Martyn
 2019-20 Dan Hoffman
 2020-21 Dan Martyn
 *Deceased

By Affiliation
 1981-82 Robert Thornton*, PDDGER
 2001-02 Bill Sternberg
 2009-10, 13-14, 18-19 Grace Vega
 1999-00 Ralph Vester *
 1983-04, 02-03 Harold Constantine

Officers 2021-2022

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

*Chairman of the Board of Trustees

January Activities

1/1 New Year's Day
 Potluck
 1/2 Smitty Breakfast/Football
 1/3 Football/Darts
 1/5 BUNCO
 1/6 Football
 1/7 Dinner
 1/8 BBQ Appreciation Dinner
 1/10 Football/Darts
 1/12 Lodge Meeting
 1/13 Calendar Mtg
 1/14 ENF Dinner
 1/15 BBQ
 1/16 Football Playoffs
 1/17 MLK – Football/Darts NCAA
 Championship
 1/22 BBQ/Football Playoffs
 1/30 Veteran's/Kamper's Breakfast
 1/24 Darts
 1/25 Orientation
 1/26 Dinner/ Initiation
 1/29 BBQ
 1/30 NFL Conference Championships
 1/31 Darts

Lodge Hours

Monday-Friday	2PM to 8 PM
Saturday-Sunday	Noon – 6PM
Office Hours	Mon-Thurs 10AM-3PM
Lounge Phone	805-496-4550
Office Phone	805-496-2477

Elks Memorial

Our annual **Elk's Memorial** was held on the first Sunday in December and was conducted by the Officer Corps. Many spouses of the of those represented by the empty chair attended. It was held at 11AM during Smitty's breakfast. It was followed by the Candle Lighting ceremony. The event honors those we have lost. Thank you to those who participated.

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 Moye

PER Association: Jim Moye PER

Responsible to the Leading Knight

Bar Liaison: Dan Hoffman PER

Community Activities: Terry Gicking 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 PDDGER

Sickness & Distress: Alex Rogers

Charity Matters: Terry Gicking 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: John Betancourt

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 Metzgus

Americanism: **Pending**

Dictionary Program: Steve Woodlief

Youth Appreciation: Reem Agel

Helping 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

Myrna Block had a heart attack and is at home resting. **Richard Platt**, Exalted Ruler, had a heart attack on December 13th. He is at home. **Joe Buckout** is still in the hospital with kidney failure. **Smitty** had back surgery. Recovering in Arizona. **Rita DaCorsi** thanks you for your prayers for **Debbie** after her stroke. As **Richard** was leaving the hospital, he ran into **Gregg Miraglia** who said **Jean** was in the hospital. Keep these Elks in your prayers and good thoughts.

Applications for membership

Ron W. Watkins sponsored **Ron D. Watkins**
Michael Joe Robinson II sponsored by **Richard Herrera**
these will be turned over to the investigation committee.

Other Donations

Richard Wohl to Elks National Foundation
Darryl Kopacz to Scholarship
Terry Gicking to Hoop-Shoot



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

Purple Pig Honor roll

Anonymous
Robert “Bobby”
Williams
Darryl Kopacz
(Century club x3)
Tom Lucas
Jean and Gregg
Miraglia
Ed Lees
David Naccarato
Richard Wohl
(Century club) (52
club)
BBQ teams
Lyssa Wright
(Century Club) (52

Recurring

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Reem Agel
David Anderson
John Betancourt
Rita DaCorsi
Art Garcia
Terry Gicking
Gerry Gillies
Peter Gordon
Brenda Hagen
Daniel Hoffman
Inger Hogan\
Sheryl Holloway
Diane Jones
Ed Lees
Greg Metzgas
David Naccarato
Richard Platt
Alexandra Rogers
Gregory Sweet
Lyssa Wright

Our Lodge was given and award for Purple Pig donations



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the DDGER confirmed to all gathered, we are in excellent condition. The Officers and I want to thank our members, for their service to our Lodge as well as each other.

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.

<p><u>ELK of the Month</u></p> <p>When this Lodge needs most anything done or finished, there are a few members called upon for help. Carlos Muzquiz is at the top of that list. He cooks, heads a BBQ team, and this year has distinguished himself again, when managing the tree lot. Competent, friendly, and willing to assist. The members of his BBQ team are ferociously loyal to Carlos. After thinking about it, Carlos will give you his opinion honestly, when asked for. Compassionate and caring, willing to join the team, when needed. These are but a few of the reasons, Carlos Muzquiz is the January 2022, Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge # 2477, Elk of the Month. Thank you, Carlos for your Service, to the People of the State of California and your Lodge and Order.</p>	<p><u>Elks Care and Share</u></p> <p>A huge thank you goes out to PDDGER Greg Metzgus. My wheelchair had a broken wheel, I had the part but not the proper tool. Now follow me through here, it's Sunday and Greg was taking a nap, but he got up and fixed my chair. I was using my back up chair which is a monster. Thank You Greg Metzgus, Elks care- Elks Share. David Naccarato PER Lodge Secretary</p>	
<p><u>First Lady Thoughts</u></p> <p>Thank you for your thoughts and prayers for Richard. He had a heart attack December 13th. He actually went down to the Lodge to finish the BBQ inventory. He didn't feel well so he drove himself to his doctor and to the hospital. Men, DO NOT DO THAT! There is no significant long-term damage to his heart. The bypasses went smoothly. Doctors say he is recovering like a 40-year-old. He is at home. He will not be returning to the Lodge until February. He has 90 days of Cardiac Rehab starting this month. People MUST wear masks around him. Thank you again.</p>	<p><u>January Birthdays</u></p> <p>James Dills-01 John Moran-02 Joel McGinnis -05 Derrick Stevens-05 Laurie Fredricks-06 Holy Healy-07 David McFarlane-08 David Pearson-08 Richard Beal-09 Drew Oliver-09 James Bodenhamer-11 Jack Murray-11 Ron Schwartz-11 Carol Spinner-11 Scott Yeager-12 James Barron-13 Bill Joseph-13 Jonathan Preston-13 Jim Ryland-13 Stephen Pence-14 Lou Mages-15 Michael Markey-15 Ernest Escoto-16</p>	<p><u>January Birthdays</u></p> <p>Frederick McCord-16 Frank Corrigan-18 Stephen Dodge-18 Michelle Frappied-18 Carol Fredericks-18 Peter Gordon-24 Douglas Morrison -25 Thomas Consolo-26 Blaine Patton-26 Adam Smith-26 Ted Montoya-27 Cheryl Templeton-27 Gerry Liberman-30 Sherri Jones-31</p>
		

Kampers

The El Konejo Kampers held our Annual Holiday Champagne Brunch on December 12th at Wood Ranch Golf Club. What an amazing event! We all had such a great time. There were 125 people in attendance. We had a lovely brunch. We were entertained by the **Agoura Hills Harmony Chorus**, a wonderful group of ladies who even got the audience participate in singing and dancing to *The 12 Days of Christmas*. We indulged ourselves in lots of sweets including very cute cupcakes made by **Tanya Gessler**. And we gave away over forty raffle gifts. Thank you to everyone who helped make our Brunch such a success and to those that donated raffle gifts. We have included some pictures of the event. During our brunch, we installed the Kampers 2022 Officers.

They are:

Shirste Gessler – President

Betty Vega and Rita DaCorsi – co-Vice-Presidents

Jan Ryland – Treasurer

Sue Osgood – Secretary

We have combined our **Kamper's breakfast** with the **Veteran's breakfast** that **Terry** and **Bryan Gicking** had been cooking. Our combined breakfast is from 10am to 12pm. Veterans are free, for the rest of us the cost is \$10. Please come down to the Lodge and enjoy a **yummy** breakfast! We are looking forward to a very busy 2022. Almost all of our monthly campouts are scheduled, and we plan to continue to do our breakfast on the last Sunday of each month.

Happy Holidays Elks!



Kamper's Brunch at the
Wood Ranch Country
Club



December 14, 2021



Terry Gicking won
the Grand Prize 55" TV