

ANTLER ANTICS

50 Years of Service to our Community



Exalted Ruler Terry Gicking -BPOE - BE PROUD OF ELKDOM

Kwelks Pork Loin Sept 2nd \$10



Baked Potato Bar Sept. 9th \$8

FISH FRY Friday night \$10
09/16th /2022

Cook your own Steak
Sept 23rd prices vary



Gessler's Famous Sub Sandwiches
September 30th \$10



Monday Night Football returns

Watch for Bingo Thursday nights more info coming soon

From the Exalted Ruler

September! Happy Birthday to my sister Ann! Hope your day (12th) is special. I love you and I miss you! Thank God for Skype and Zoom, wait, we don't use that either. So, I'll just use my article as ER to send you this message from me and of course, all our members get to view it as well.

That brings me to Happy September everyone! It's great to be ER. I like the part where I can use my article to send messages of love and happiness to my family, especially my sister. She is an Elk at the Yucca Valley lodge. She joined that lodge the year I was DDGER. (2013-14) I'm embarrassed to say that I have only been to her house a couple of times since. It's only 3 hours away with no traffic, on the other side of the Metropolis (LA). That lack of visiting comes with Me being so involved with the Elks, as I have chosen to do. I do not regret that, but it does cramp my family time. My Father would be proud of all my brothers and sister, along with my son Bryan who has joined the Elks. We all joined for the social side of being an Elk (and of course, Dad said "we are joining"), but I have stepped into the business side of being involved as an Elk. It comes with great rewards also, and I have gotten to see my sister and brother at conventions because the convention was near their homes. Anyway, the whole reason I blabbered on was that I want to let everyone know I **am hosting Thanksgiving dinner at the lodge again**. It will be for the members of our lodge who do not have family close by to celebrate with. Everyone can come down to the lodge and get a Holiday meal and enjoy it with other Elks, AND GET THIS, around 50 Gicking family members. That's right. A Gicking family Thanksgiving dinner. On Thanksgiving Day! There will be more details following next month, but I can guarantee everyone who wishes to join us will have a great Holiday. I do know it will be a traditional dinner, with all the fixings and the bar will be open. Cost will be \$10, with all the profit going to our Elks Memorial fund in memory of my Father.

Ok, let's get back to the business of the lodge. Labor Day weekend, the Lodge is hosting "Band Tree". This is a group of local musicians who have gotten together every 2 years to play with their respected bands from the past in which got started from their love of music.

Some of them still live in the area, but many others hail from all over the USA. They have a setup party on Saturday evening, and the real fun starts at 11am on Sunday going till 10pm-ish. Come down to help volunteer or to enjoy the music. Either way you will have fun. BBQ and Burgers will be available noon to 7pm on Sunday.

We will have a great set of **Friday night dinners**, starting with the Kwelks doing their Infamous pork loin on the 2nd, followed by a fabulous Baked Potato bar on the 9th , fish on the 16th , **CYO and Karaoke** on the 23rd and we finish the month with the **Gessler's doing their Famous Sub- Sandwiches**. You cannot beat that line-up of awesome Volunteer meals. Now let us talk about Breakfasts. On the **18th we will have the Blue Star Moms hosting and cooking breakfast**. Please come down to support these Active Military Moms who work hard to help our Vets and active military. All proceeds of their breakfast will go directly to their causes, and as always, **Veterans eat free!** Our GREAT Kampers group will be doing their **breakfast on the 25th**, with omelets on the menu, in addition to the regular breakfast. And as always again, **Veterans eat free**.

Football begins this month, with College on Saturdays and NFL on Sunday, Monday, and Thursdays. We will be open for the games till the end, providing we have an appropriate number of patrons contributing to the cost of keeping the bar open beyond our posted hours.

Ok, now here comes the good and bad news. On the bad side, because of little to no business on Tuesdays, the House Committee has recommended we close the lounge that day. So, effective September 6th , the Lounge will not be open on Tuesdays any longer. It was a tough decision, with strong points being made for either side, but without participation from the members, we can no longer afford to remain open on Tuesdays. This makes me sad. Without strong membership participation, opening back up on Tuesdays might not happen again. On the positive side for the other days we are open, the House Committee has purchased a Shuffleboard for the game room. Come on down and check it out. It is a start for us to revive the old Patio into a game room and open it up to the regular bar area. More details to follow at the next HC mtg. You will see on the calendar; **Thursday nights is designated as game night**. The members have asked for a night we can play board games or darts or shuffleboard with some competition structure, and we will see if Thursdays will work. It's a work in progress. Once again, we need member support to make it happen. That would be all of you.

As you can see, we have a busy month ahead of us. Your support makes your lodge successful. Please feel free to contact me to discuss any ideas you may have. I am open to well thought out ideas.

Fraternally, Terry Gicking, ER. Member #891 805-231-9788 (call/text) tgicker@gmail.com

Till next month, EIEIO

2022-2023 District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler West Central Coast District #1240

Kris Picard



Kris Picard resides in Ventura County, CA where she raised her family of four children on a small horse ranch in Simi Valley. Kris has been active as an Early Childhood Education Teacher for over 35 years, and in her spare time volunteering became a way of life with community horse show events, 4-H, CCD Teacher, and as a Boy and Girl Scout Leader.

After her children grew up and her first husband of 25 years had passed, Kris left ranching behind, then went on to purchase and build her Montessori schools and join the BPOE. It is where the next chapter of life also began after meeting David Coleman during a local Lodge Visitation while Kris was Lecturing Knight. A few years later in 2015, Kris and David were married, the same year Kris was installed as Exalted Ruler.

After having gone through the chairs and serving as Exalted Ruler, she took on duties as Lodge Trustee before serving as WCCD Grants Chair, District ENF Chair, District Major Project Chair, and most recently as our Association Vice President while continuing as WCCD PER

Association Trustee and has enjoyed judging CHEA MVS Scholarship for 9 straight years at both District and State levels.

For Kris, belonging to an organization that gives back to its community through its State and National programs of charity and support of our Veterans and youth makes her very proud. It is because of her belief in the core principles the BPOE stands for that she makes the commitment to give of her time and effort for her Lodge and the Order. Kris' son was so inspired that he recently joined the order to continue charitable work within our District as well.

Grand Exalted Ruler

The Grand Exalted Ruler for all of Elkdome for the 2022-2023 Elk year is Bruce A. Hidley. His motto for this year is "promoting Elkdome with enthusiasm".

Bruce has a degree in criminal justice.

Bruce worked in the state controller's office in New York for 11 years
City clerk for 22 years.

Elected Albany County clerk 2013, 2017 and still holds that position.
Bruce joined the Guilderland Elks in 1980, transferred to Watervliet lodge and served as chaplain. Went through the chairs and became ER in 1991-1992, served as a trustee from 1993-1997.

Bruce served as District deputy 2001-2002,
served as a trustee at the grand lodge level 2018-2022.

Grand Exalted Ruler 2022-2023.

Bruce and his wife Helen have been married 40 years.



Bruce A. Hidley, Grand Exalted Ruler, 2022-2023

From the Secretary

The Elks have a long history of helping the community. From the Johnstown flood May 31st, 1889, to the San Francisco earthquake on April 18th, 1906. That trend continues today. Over the last two years, catastrophic disasters have ravaged many of the areas of this great nation.

Years ago, the Elks upon a vote at the Grand Lodge convention put together the “**Elk’s Disaster Relief Program Inc.**” Donations made to this program are tax deductible under the 501© (3) IRS code. Following is a list where the Elks have stepped in to help financially.

Oklahoma Tornadoes and Floods (\$25,000) Nebraska Floods (\$20,000) Oregon Fires (\$25,000) Texas Floods (\$25,000) Texas Climate issues (\$25,000) Tennessee Floods (\$25,000) Louisiana Floods and Hurricane (\$25,000) New Jersey Floods (\$25,000) Western Kentucky Floods and Tornado (\$25,000) Arkansas floods (\$10,000) Colorado Fires (\$25,000). Most recently, the program has provided assistance to the Montana Floods (\$25,000) and Eastern Kentucky Floods (\$10,000) to aid those in distress.

Now the order needs your assistance to replenish the program. Without support we may not be able to continue to live up to our motto “**Elks care-Elks share**” by easing the burden and lending a helping hand to the victims of major catastrophes. Go to elks.org to make your donation or a check to the office and it will be forwarded to the Grand Lodge.

If you were wondering what was happening across the street at Conejo Elementary, we have received a letter from CVUSD that the grounds will be open

to the public when school is not in session. That will be an immense help to our Hoop Shoot program. We will not need to pay to use the courts. If any of our members know of a place where we can hold our shoot, that is indoors and on hardwood floors at no charge, give the office a call at 805-496-2477 we would appreciate it.

Did you know there are ways to support Elk-dom by just doing what you are already doing? I am talking about Amazon Smile. If you are already an Amazon customer, the next time you order use smile.amazon.com, search for ENF or California Hawaii Elks and a portion of your purchase will be directly donated to the charity of your choice by Amazon. Between January 1 and March 31st \$1,852.89 has been sent to ENF/CHEA from the qualifying purchases made by our members and others. A total of \$25,259.60 has been sent nationwide by Amazon Smile.

Thank you to member, PER Harold Constantine out of Missouri for this information.

Lastly then I will leave you alone, many members are leaving California, but then want to transfer their membership to a lodge in their new area. You must be a member in good standing to transfer which simply means, paid up at your own lodge before requesting a transfer.

If it has been a few years a certificate of release may be requested for the fee of \$20 which covers the assessment paid by the lodge whether you paid your dues or not, which is \$30 so the lodge is forced to absorb \$10.

David Naccarato Lodge Secretary





New members Robert Harmon and Dee Thomas. In the middle is their sponsor Rick Herrera



Receiving 55 year pin is Rick Herrera with Terry Gicking



Our latest recurring donor Kathy Moyer standing with Esquire "Smitty"



From your Leading Knight

For the good of the order.

What is the true meaning of this phrase? In the six years since I have been an Elk, I have come to learn that what it comes down to is, what is good **for its members**. The members have a say in how the lodge operates. In doing so we have the Exalted Ruler, the Leading Knight, Loyal Knight, and Lecturing Knight, which the members have elected to office every February. These Officers oversee various Committees in which we (the Lodge) raise funds for or to help within the community.

We have members that do step up and volunteer to help out with these committees. The lodge officers are only as good as its lodge members. We need to be thankful in that we have five exceptionally good Trustees that keep the lodge in good financial order. I appreciate David and Karen Naccarato in all they do in keeping up the daily operation of the lodge office. Just because we (the officers) volunteered to

help lead this lodge, we need your (members) help in making what we do a success. So come on down to a lodge meeting (only twice a month) or a house committee meeting to hear what is being discussed or to voice what is on your mind and at the same time you get to interact with your fellow Elks and meet new ones. One person on a committee does not a committee make. Remember, you said you wanted to get involved when joining this great organization.

We all say that is why we joined. So now is your chance. Please pick a committee or investigate becoming an Officer. You will be glad you did! Be safe and always remember Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken.

John Betancourt, Leading Knight



Sickness and distress and recovery

Alexandra Rogers committee chair
805-492-3280 • cell 805-427-3013

Daughter of Darryl Kopacz underwent brain surgery and is recuperating at home.

Barbara Metzger is at Mary Health of the Sick in Newbury Park. Visitors must call first allow only 1 a day

Myrna Block underwent successful cancer surgery August 19th

Brother of ER Terry is winning his bout with brain tumors.

James Jay Cardell dealing with health issues

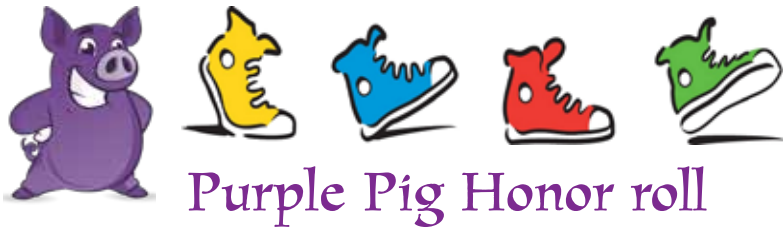
Steve Woodlief recovering from back issues will contact schools about dictionaries

John Duhig successful hernia operation has been seen back at the lodge.

Karen Erickson paralyzed on rt side

Ed DaCorsi, brain bleed, visited the ER after taking a fall.





Purple Pig Honor roll

Gregg and Jean Miraglia
Wednesday night Bunco
Lyssa Wright
David Naccarato



*Darryl Kopacz on rt is Jill Williams
receiving Purple Pig Centry Club Certificates*

Recurring Donors

Reem Agel	Sheryl Holloway
David Anderson	Diane Jones
John Betancourt	Ed Lees
Ed & Rita Da Corsi	Greg Metzgus
Art Garcia	Kathy Moye
Daniel Hoffman	David Naccarato
Terry Gicking	Richard Platt
Gerry Gillies	Alexandra Rogers
Peter Gordon	Gregory Swee
Brenda Hagen	Lyssa Wright



Elk of the year- Robert” Bobby” Williams

Officer of the year- Daniel Hoffman PER, COB

Citizen of the year- Thomas Ryder PER, PSVP,PDDGER

Grand Exalted Ruler Outstanding Members-

Jill Williams, John Betancourt

From your Lecturing Knight

I returned home a month ago from a beautiful vacation in Alaska, and I am getting back into the swing of things here at the lodge. I hope everyone is getting some vacation and relaxation time as well. I am looking forward to the rest of the year's activities. If you have a graduating high school senior this year, have them start looking into our Most Valuable Student Scholarship and Legacy Scholarship programs. The application process for the MVS Scholarship starts August 1, 2022. (See elks.org)

Also, if you have a child or grandchild that will be enrolled in grades 5-8 this coming school year, they are eligible to participate in our Americanism essay contest. The deadline for submissions this year is December 15, 2022. The essay topic is one that all of us can all take some time to ponder, "What is your American Dream?"

Wishing everyone a great few weeks of summer weather and stay safe and well.

JOHN PUCKETT
Lecturing Knight

REEM NICOLE AGEL
Scholarship Chair

LYSSA WRIGHT
Americanism Chair



College Scholarship



Applications have opened August 1st online at elks.org. Closing date is **November 14th, 2022**. Legacy scholarship applications are also available at elks.org. Legacy is for Sons and Daughters or Grandchildren of Elk members. Scholarships for the disabled are available and trade school tuition.

Below are members who donated to the scholarship program when paying their dues. Richard Rogers, Reem Agel, Winona Krieger, Adelaide Wavra, Steve Finnerty, Richard Ibarra, Daniel Hawkins, David Naccarato PER, Paul Stein, Mike Mathews, Richard Shaw, Terry Baker PER, Leslie Smith, Dave Anderson, William Figge, Kenneth Kolde, Allan Gotlieb, Thomas Lucas, Eugene Letourneau, Dennis Shankle, Johnny Gin, Steve Buczynski, Virginia Grindley, Tim Lane, Dennis Albi, Arthur Garcia, Joe Escobar, Alan Van Cleave, Randal Hays, Ken Krabel, Ben Reiger, Bruce Cameron, Terry Gicking PER, Donald Skinner PER, Jay Schmidt, Bobby Williams, Steve Smith PER, and Dennis Shepard.

Any questions contact.

Reem Agel
Scholarship chairwoman

Past Exalted Rulers

1972-73 Marvin D. Smith*
1973-74 Erle Pittman PDDGER
1974-75 Richard Flake*
1975-76 Bill Wagner*
1976-77 John Henry*
1977-78 Robert McKee, PDDGER*
1978-79 Frank Rindone PDDGER*
1979-80 Edward Stogsdell*
1980-81 Frank Hastie*
1981-82 Robert Hardy*
1982-83 John Nichols*
1983-84 John Nau
1984-85 Vern Ogden*
1985-86 Dan Snyder*
1986-87 Bill Lloyd, PDL
1987-88 Jack Henry*
1988-89 Ted Lipka*
1989-90 Donald Skinner
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
2000-21 Jacob Panczak

2001-02 John D. Ambrogio
2002-03 Donald 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
2015-16 Jim Moye
2016-17 Mike Flannery
2017-18 Jean Miraglia
2018-19 Karen Martyn
2019-20 Dan Hoffman
2020-21 Dan Martyn
2021-22 Richard Platt

By Affiliation

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

OFFICERS 2022-2023

Exalted Ruler: **Terry Gicking** PDDGER
Leading Knight: **John Betancourt**
Loyal Knight: **Ron Watkins**
Lecturing Knight: **John Pucket**
Secretary: **David Naccarato**
Treasurer: **Bill Joseph**
Esquire: **Adam Smith**
Chaplain: **Rita DaCorsi**

TRUSTEES

One year: Dan Hoffman*
Two- year: Reem Agel
Three-year: Steve Kerman
Four- Year: Ed Lees
Five year: Kathy Moye
Chairman of the Board*
Tiler: Virginia Grindley
Inner Guard: Lyssa Wright

Crying Towel

07/14 /2022

1st Capsule Drawing \$500

Betty Vega not present

2nd capsule drawing \$250

Dorothy Murray not present

Lucky 13 Jim Moye, no winner

07/27/2022

1st capsule drawing \$500

Richard Herrera not present (in Hawaii)

2nd capsule drawing \$275

John Buxbaum not present

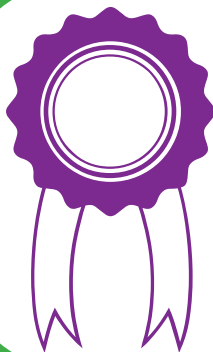
Lucky 13 Kathy Moye, no winner

Elk of the Month, complete with parking and a free dinner!

Sometimes an Elk of the month gets the honor because of their spouse. This month is no exception. Tom is OK, but Mary is the bomb and makes him special. Just kidding! **Tom Baldrige** is our Elk of the Month for September. Tom has stepped up and helped all the BBQ teams when needed and he also helps with the wood lot crew and the lodge table set-up crew. But it's Mary that makes him look great when she puts on one of her Friday night meals for us. Thank you, Tom and Mary. Enjoy the parking spot and the one free meal. You 2 can fight over who gets it. (My money is on Mary)

Officer of the Month

Steve Kerman is my Officer of the Month. Steve has been invaluable as a trustee. His way of looking at the numbers for the finances is incredible. Thank you, Steve



Officer of the month

Steve Kerman

Elk of the month

Complete with meals and parking

Tom Baldrige

COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2022-23 LODGE YEAR

Reporting to Exalted Ruler

Antler Antics: David Naccarato PER

Mailing: David Naccarato PER

Website: Kira Wagner PER

Grants Coordinator: David Naccarato

BBQ: Jill Williams

Photography: Jill Williams

Christmas Tree Lot: Carlos Musquiz

Presiding Justice: **NEEDED**

Reporting to Leading Knight

Bar Liaison: John Betancourt

Major Project: Dan Hoffman PER

Elks National Foundation; Grace Vega PER

El Konejo Kampers; Shirste Gessler

Reporting to the Loyal Knight

Kitchen Operations: Ron Watkins

Flag Day/Retirement; Ron Watkins

Elks Memorial: Rita DaCorsi

Veterans Services; Terry Gicking PPDDGER

Government Relations: Ron Watkins

Reporting to Lecturing Knight

Youth Activities: John Puckett

Hoop Shoot: Craig Acerboni, Darryl Kopacz

Scholarship: Reem Agel

Drug Awareness: Richard Platt PER

Investigation: Alexandra Rogers,
Michael Steger, DaCorsi

Orientation: Terry Gicking DDGER

Audit and accounting: **NEEDED**

Grounds: Jose Arellano

Facilities: Dean Reichle, Jeff Conyers

PER Association: Jim Moye

Membership: David Naccarato

Mediator: Richard Rogers

Community Activities: John Betancourt

Charity Baskets: John Betancourt

Sickness and Distress: Alex Rogers

Bequests and Living Trusts: John Betancourt

Lodge Activities: Ron Watkins

Every lodge member

Mother's Day: Rita DaCorsi

Public Relations: Diane Letulier

Law Enforcement/ Fire Fighters: Paul Stein

Scouting: Greg Metzgas

Dictionary Program: Steve & Mary Woodleif

Youth Appreciation: Reem Agel

Americanism: : Lyssa Wright

Help us serve our community better



50th

*Don't be left out in the cold,
get your 50th anniversary pin
before they are gone forever.*



September Birthdays



1 FREE BIRTHDAY DRINK



Julie Cook -03	Bill Lloyd PER-17
DanielHofman-03	Kirk Keeler-18
John Mutolo-3	John Wendling-18
Juan Lopez Gracia-04	Steve Henderson-21
Thomas Ryder PER-04	Juanita Feamster-22
Geoffrey Garcia-04	Michael Griffiths-22
Len Cardini-06	Stella Violano-23
Edwin Jones-06	Michael Badner-24
Morton Baranic-07	Ralph Davis-24
Dorothy Murray-07	Boyd Lindquist-24
Anna Garcia-07	Karen Rose Martyn-25
Jean Miraglia PER-10	Robert Wylie-25
Larry Zarbnicky-11	Marshall Knowlton-26
Kathee Wilson-12	Richard Rusillo-27
Dennis Anderson-12	Stephen Buczynski-28
James LaRue-15	Doug Carroll-28
Christine Rundle-15	Brian Boals-29
Lisa Teevan-16	John Nau PER-29
	Reem Agel -30



American Essay Contest

The theme for this year's essay contest is

"What is your American Dream?"

Contest is open to 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Essay's must be 300 words or less. Must be typed or written by the entrant. Entries must be turned into the lodge by **December 15th, 2022. Cash awards of \$1,000, \$500, \$250 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each grade level.**

Official entry forms are in the office or can be downloaded at elks.org. Members, get your grandkids or kids in the neighborhood involved.

Lodge Hours

Mon. Wed. Thur. Fri.	3PM-8PM
Tuesday	CLOSED
Saturday-Sunday	12PM to 6PM
SATURDAY BBQ	10am-2pm
SUNDAY BREAKFAST	10AM-12PM
Office Hours Mon-Thurs	10AM – 3PM
Lounge Phone	805-496-4550
Office Phone	805-496-2477
Email	toelks2477@gmail.com
Web address	//2477elks.com/

Applications for Membership

Tim Motey- Film Editor- sponsored by Tyson Flynn.

Michael "Sean" Casey-realtor -sponsored by Kathee two e Wilson



Application for transfer

Edward Hubbart has requested a transfer from Simi Valley #2492 to affiliate with Thousand Oaks.

From the Lounge



Shaken not stirred, the most famous drink order of all time. Let us get serious, shaken not stirred will get you a drink of chilly water with ½ oz dry vermouth, 3 oz of gin and a splash of Vodka(1oz). Add garnish and there you have it. The reason you shake it is to chill it and have the most dilution. To stir would require a special spoon so as not to chip the ice. James's bond is ordering a weak Martini and being snooty about it.

*A special thank you goes out to new member Tommy Bolger who owns a pressure washing business. Tommy brought his craft to the lodge and cleaned off our patio, removed mold from around the office and cleaned the siding of the game room. Tommy even blew out the outside drain that was clogged by debris and would have been a problem at the next raining season. (It never rains in California)
Thank you, Tom*

Kudos to John Puckett for replacing circuit breakers so our meat freezer will not shut down. I got to tell you it takes guts to do it with the power still on. A true professional.



*In
Loving
Memory*



In Memoriam

“TO OUR ABSENT MEMBERS”

AN ELK IS NEVER FORGOTTEN NEVER FORSAKEN

Kirk Keeler

Born 9/18/1954

Initiated 4/26/1989

Passed 8/19/2022



Howard Johnson

Born 6/25/1933

Initiated 10/28/1998

Passed 8/21/2022



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HOUSE COMMITTEE AND DAN HOFFMAN, COB

I can remember the days of growing up where a “Cup of Joe was 2 bits” . Translation, a cup of coffee was .25 cents. Gosh times have changed, especially recently. Inflation is thru the roof. Everything we consume has increased dramatically. Gas for our vehicles, gas for our homes, water, power, home insurance, food, medical insurance, workers compensation, clothing, rentals/housing costs, etc., have all gone up substantially.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the overall change in consumer prices based on a representative basket of goods and services over time. The CPI is the most widely used measure of inflation. The widely quoted CPI is based on an index covering 93% of the U.S. population. From 2016 thru 2022, the CPI has gone up 23.44%. Just this year alone, groceries have gone up 13%.

As you can see, just “turning on the lights” at the Lodge has gone up significantly. Our Saturday BBQ continues to be the “life blood” of our Lodge. As you recall, we recently raised the costs of our BBQ products and started adding on sales tax. While some of us were worried about a possible drop in business, we have received no push back from the community and quite frankly, the general feedback was “What took you so long”?

Our Bar services and the offerings we provide have not been increased for at least 7 years. To be honest, we have been providing Bar services at a loss in the hopes that more members would support the bar and dinners. As we go thru this dilemma, we also recognize that a representative portion of our members are still hesitant to join our activities in a “closed in” environment. We are aware that we are not the only Lodge in our district being challenged by this fact. All Lodges in our district are experiencing the same challenges as is the business. For instance, Regal Theatres just recently declared bankruptcy proceedings in recognition of the current environment. All of us clearly see many local businesses raising their prices or closing operations. This is the reality in the business community today.

Therefore, it was approved at the House Committee meeting on August 17th , that the following increases in regards to the Bar services need to take place on September 1st . These increases also recognize the fact that being a member of the Elks should provide some “relief” in regard to the price of cocktails when compared to our “competitors” in our community. We embraced this model and believed the following increases support this principle. Please understand that these increases are implemented in just trying to break even. They are not instituted with an expectation of making a substantial profit. At the minimum, your House Committee cannot run the Club at a loss.

The following increases will take place on September 1st:

All domestic bottled beer will be \$4.25.

All premium bottled beer will be \$5.25.

All domestic draft beer will be \$4.50.

All premium draft beers will be \$6.00.

Champagne will be \$5.00, served via splits.

House wine will be \$5.00, served via splits.

Premium wines will be \$6.25, served via splits.

Well drinks will be \$5.00.

Call drinks will be \$6.00.

Premium drinks will be \$7.25.

Top shelf drinks will generally be \$8.00.

Drink chips will be a \$5.00 credit towards a drink. No cash value. If you order a beverage less than \$5.00, no change will be made. If you order a drink over \$5.00, you will need to make up the difference.

The costs to open the Lodge bar etc. is challenging. The membership supporting the operation of the bar has resulted in several days of the week operating at a loss. This is even in spite of the fact that we have offered dinners at \$5.00 to \$6.00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Therefore, effective September 1st , the Lodge will be closed on Tuesdays until further notice.

We ask you for your support in understanding the reality of running a business service in the current environment. That being said, we are committed to offering activities at the Lodge that will provide opportunities for your presence at the Lodge. As always, as we go forward, feel free to attend the scheduled meetings at your Lodge to provide your input and suggestions.